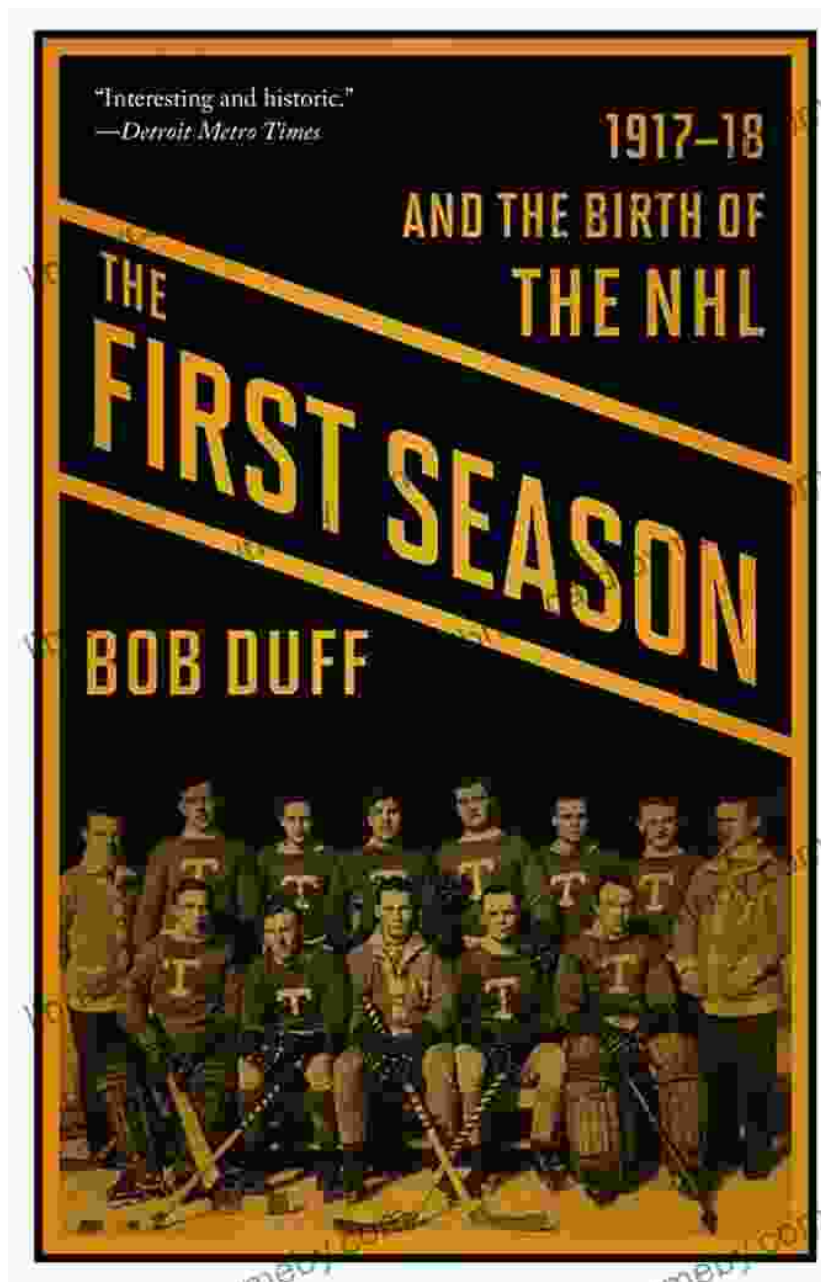


# 1917-18: The Birth of the NHL, a Pivotal Moment in Hockey History

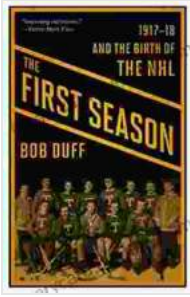


## The First Season: 1917-18 and the Birth of the NHL

by Bob Duff

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 6174 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 171 pages



The National Hockey League (NHL) is undoubtedly one of the most popular and prestigious sports leagues in the world today. But did you know that its origins can be traced back to the tumultuous years of 1917 and 1918?

It was during this period that a group of visionary hockey executives came together to create a new league that would revolutionize the sport. The league they founded would eventually become the NHL, a global phenomenon that continues to capture the hearts and minds of fans around the world.

## **The Genesis of an Idea**

The idea for a new hockey league was first conceived in the aftermath of World War I. With the war raging in Europe, many of the top hockey players from Canada were serving overseas. This left a void in the sport, and several entrepreneurs saw an opportunity to fill it.

In November 1917, a group of businessmen met in Montreal to discuss the possibility of forming a new league. The group included Frank Calder, who would later become the NHL's first president. Calder and his colleagues envisioned a league that would be more structured and professional than the existing leagues in Canada.

## **The Birth of the NHL**

On December 19, 1917, the NHL was officially founded. The original members of the league were the Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Wanderers, Ottawa Senators, Quebec Bulldogs, and Toronto Arenas. These teams were all located in Eastern Canada, and they represented some of the most talented players in the world at the time.

The NHL's first season began on December 26, 1917. The Montreal Canadiens won the inaugural Stanley Cup, defeating the Ottawa Senators in the championship series. The Canadiens were led by superstar forward Joe Malone, who scored 44 goals in just 20 games.

## **Early Struggles**

The NHL's early years were marked by financial struggles and organizational challenges. The league was often overshadowed by the more established leagues in Canada, and it took several years for it to gain a foothold.

One of the biggest challenges facing the NHL was the lack of a stable revenue stream. The league relied heavily on ticket sales, and attendance was often poor. In addition, the NHL had difficulty securing lucrative sponsorship deals.

## **The Rise of the Stars**

Despite its early struggles, the NHL eventually began to gain traction thanks to the emergence of some of the greatest players in hockey history. Players like Eddie Gerard, Cy Denneny, and Punch Broadbent captivated fans with their incredible skills and passion for the game.

One of the most iconic players from the NHL's early years was Eddie Gerard. Gerard was a phenomenal goal-scorer who led the league in scoring four times. He was also known for his fiery temper and his willingness to drop the gloves.

## **The Legacy of 1917-18**

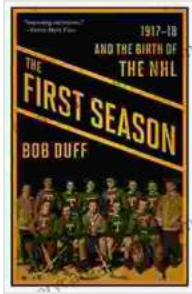
The years 1917 and 1918 were a pivotal time in the history of hockey. The founding of the NHL marked the birth of a new era in the sport, and it set the stage for the NHL to become the global phenomenon it is today.

The NHL has come a long way since its humble beginnings. Today, it is one of the most popular and successful sports leagues in the world. The league has expanded to include teams in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and it continues to attract some of the most talented players in the world.

The legacy of 1917-18 is one of innovation, perseverance, and passion. The founders of the NHL had a vision for a new kind of hockey league, and they were determined to make it a success. Their efforts have paid off, and the NHL is now a beloved sport that is enjoyed by millions around the world.

The story of the NHL's birth is a fascinating one that is filled with drama, intrigue, and triumph. It is a story that is worth remembering, and it is a story that will continue to inspire generations of hockey fans to come.

If you are interested in learning more about the early history of the NHL, I encourage you to read the book *1917-18: The Birth of the NHL*. This book provides a comprehensive look at the events that led to the founding of the NHL, and it features



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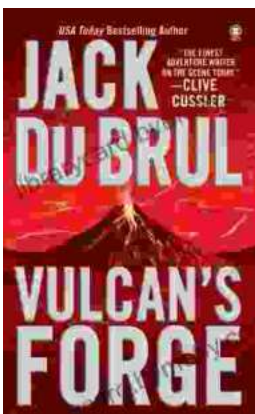
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