



to be played in every part of the country.

There is not a foreseeable chain of events that could bring that about; it's too expensive. There are climate problems. Those that might build rinks are having fiscal problems, they're cutting back on certain areas. They're hardly in the position to make large expenditures that way. There is a huge pile of reasons why hockey will not become a national sport in the US, the way basketball, football, baseball is. If that is going to happen, you're not going to attract the huge audience that networks require.

What you can do, and what is happening to some extent, is to attract a large local audience, and that means cable t.v. So cable tv. can work. There are people in New York that like hockey, that will go to Rangers or Islander games. That would watch a cable telecast of the Rangers and the Islanders. So you can get large contracts that way. But, in terms of something national and network, I simply don't see it at all.

Gateway: What has been the reaction from ex-teammates, ex-coaches and friends, about your book, *The Game*?

Dryden: I have not talked to anybody who I played with on the Canadiens, since the book came out. We have been on our respective roads since then. I haven't really been in Montreal and the two days I was in Montreal, the Canadiens were on the west coast. I'm very interested in finding out their reactions. It is important to me.

"I'm not interested in telling a fudge story, you either tell the story or you don't."

I have heard, indirectly, from people who have played or are playing that they feel pretty good about it. They feel as if it pretty much describes their playing experience if it was in Montreal or if it was somewhere else. They could recognize the game, the life, the individuals involved in it. You

know, that's a tough test and I hope that there are more who feel the same way.

Gateway: What problems did you have in writing the book yourself, instead of using a ghost writer?

Dryden: It was not a problem in that way, but everybody who wants to write a book wants to write a book that they are satisfied with, that is them. It is your own name on the book and you have to be satisfied and comfortable with that. So you write a book that kind of suits your own personality. It is a problem. I mean, I didn't get access to the Canadien's dressing because I was a writer, I was a goalie, but at the same time, I was trying to tell a story and I'm not interested in telling a fudge story you either tell the story or you don't. It does create conflicts along the way, and how do you resolve them? In the end, and it's a sort of unsatisfactory standard, as you express it, but it is, what is fair? Am I right? Am I being fair in making this particular point? People can disagree and people have their own standards of fairness, and you can only use your own.



photo Bill Inglee

Gateway: Who will win the Stanley Cup this year?

Dryden: I don't make predictions that way. The teams are going to decide it themselves. It doesn't matter what I think about it. I think that the teams that I have seen to now, that seem to be the biggest contenders, are the most obvious choices. The Islanders, the Oilers, and the Boston Bruins. I think if any of the other teams, right now, won, I would be surprised. I think either of those 3 could win. I think the Oilers have a chance to become a very special team and can certainly win a Stanley Cup but, they have yet to become that special team. To me, it remains quite wide open, and until there is somebody there to take a Stanley Cup away from the Islanders, I don't sense that the Islanders are going to give it up or give it away, throw it away. Also, they're going to have a couple of additions come the end of February and the end of March with Pat Lafontaine and Pat Flatley and that is a good time to get a little kick for your team. Certainly neither the Bruins, nor the Oilers can depend on the Islanders laying over. Neither the Bruins, nor the Oilers have yet demonstrated that they can go out and take the Stanley Cup.

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