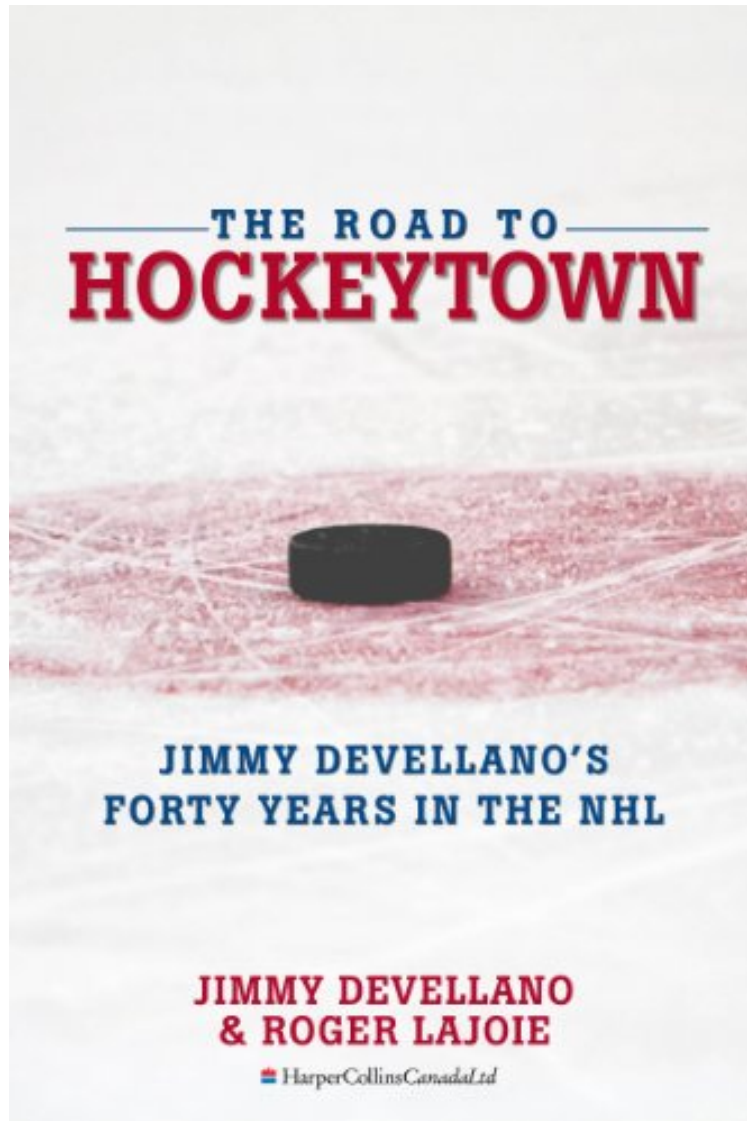


[FREE] The Road To HockeyTown: Jimmy Devellano's Forty Years in the NHL

The Road To HockeyTown: Jimmy Devellano's Forty Years in the NHL

Jim Devellano, Roger Lajoie
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Jim Devellano, Roger Lajoie : The Road To HockeyTown: Jimmy Devellano's Forty Years in the NHL before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road To HockeyTown: Jimmy Devellano's Forty Years in the NHL:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for any Wings fan.By sheldaniaExcellent book by the "real" creator of the Real Wings dynasty (not Ken Holland). Great inside stories of Mr. I and company; particularly on Mr. I's (RIP) early involvement in coaching changes and hiring practices. Easy read, pulls no punches, well-written. I

highly recommend it to any Wings fan. I just read it in 2017, unfortunately the book was written in 2008; so it cuts out after the Wings last cup. Hope he writes an addendum one day. I would love to see what he thinks of the Wings actions from 2009 to present. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Jimmy D is a star. By Ludlum fan. Great book by a very interesting guy. Jimmy is a class act and has done as much for hockey as any one. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but expected more. By Randy Champion. I have always been a big fan of Jimmy D. viewing him and Mike Ilitch as the saviors of the Detroit Red Wings. Having listened to him being interviewed numerous times I know him to be a straight shooter and a stand up guy. Therefore, I don't know whether to blame him or his co-writer Roger Lajoie for the fact that this book leaves out at least several interesting things that I would have liked to know more about. 1. In 1996 Steve Yzerman was nearly traded to the Ottawa Senators. This is not mentioned in the book, though it was being reported by all the news outlets at the time. This probably gives Jimmy D. the cold sweats to think about it today but he should have either commented on it or denied it. Pretending that it never happened is not going to make people like me forget about it, it just makes me think that HE would like to forget about it. 2. According to at least one Detroit newspaper in the spring of 1997, Scotty Bowman was going to be fired after the playoffs and replaced by Butch Goring. Then a funny thing happened. Detroit won the Stanley Cup and Bowman became a deity. No mention of this in the book. 3. Letting Bob Probert walk as a free agent in 1994 caused Red Wing management to take some flak at the time and as I recall, Bowman called Mitch Albom's talk show and told him off on live radio over this very subject but, once again, Probert's ungraceful exit from Detroit isn't even mentioned. 4. While he mentions trading for Jimmy Carson he does not say who he traded for him. I had to look it up in order to remember what a bad trade it was, which is maybe why he left it out. I must say this omission surprises me the most because he discusses the terrible Adam Oates trade in depth. He did have reasons to make the Carson trade, he just doesn't mention them. 5. And what about the weird Bob Essensa trade that Bryan Murray made with Bowman's approval? They acquire Essensa, sign him to a new contract and then Bowman doesn't play him. Did Bowman do that just to make Murray look bad? The Wings ended up stashing him in the minors and eating his contract. What was that all about Jimmy? Maybe he didn't want to step on Bowman's toes but these omissions leave a bad taste in my mouth. I bought the book to get the whole story but instead feel like I only got half of the story. Such things as the "Goose Loonies" incident and how it led to the downfall of Jacques Demers, the near hiring of Mike Keenan and most of the other moves are covered. However, the book is not well written. It repeats its self too much and between the chapters where he leaves the Islanders and joins the Red Wings there is a chapter about owning stock in the Toronto Maple Leafs and a chapter about baseball which are totally out of place. Roger Lajoie is apparently a friend of Jimmy's but he didn't do him any favors in writing this book. Lajoie is a Toronto guy and it shows. Devellano would have been better served by having a Detroit beat writer co-author the book. Someone who would have said, "Hey Jimmy, what about this thing? We can't just leave it out." Instead Lajoie doesn't care, he's not really into the Red Wings. Jimmy, I still think you are great, but maybe you should have waited until you retired and then written the COMPLETE story of the "Road to Hockeytown".

One of the most respected executives in the NHL, Jim Devellano's phenomenal record of 13 championship rings (including three Stanley Cups for both the New York Islanders and the Detroit Red Wings) is also the story of shrewd trades and brave, if not unorthodox, business decisions. His new memoir takes readers behind the scenes into the offices of a general manager and provides an inside look at what players and coaches are really like; how decisions are made on draft day; and how deals and trades are done. He also sheds light on the miraculous turnaround of the Detroit Red Wings and how such decisions as recruiting from behind the Iron Curtain have left their indelible mark on the game.

From the Inside Flap: He's known simply as Jimmy D. He never played or coached, but Jim Devellano has lived his life in hockey and is one of the most respected executives in the game. He is the owner of 14 championship rings, seven of which are for Stanley Cup wins—three with the New York Islanders and four with the Detroit Red Wings—and he has been instrumental in building the teams that won them. From his humble beginnings in the working-class neighborhood of Cabbagetown in Toronto of the 1940s, to the years of glory and parades in Hockeytown, Jimmy D. has seen it all along the way. *The Road to Hockeytown* gives a rare glimpse inside the world of hockey from an unusual perspective—through the eyes of one of the game's greatest executives. This candid, personal account of Jim Devellano's life and his more than 40 incredible years in the game of hockey gives an insider's insight into the business and personalities of the game and a behind-the-scenes look at what the players and coaches are really like; how they are assessed, hired, and fired; how decisions are made on draft day; and how deals and trades really get done. Since he broke into the NHL in 1967 as a volunteer scout with the St. Louis Blues, he's seen the league expand from six teams to thirty, and been at the forefront of the game's development. He was instrumental in hiring talented coaches such as Al Arbour with the New York Islanders and Scotty Bowman in Detroit, and in assembling one of the very first strong European scouting staffs. He was at the center of the wheeling and dealing that brought a crop of talented Russians like Sergei Fedorov, Slava Kozlov, and

Vladimir Konstantinov from behind the Iron Curtain to the NHL. And, as a minority owner of Maple Leaf Gardens stock, was caught in the middle of the very public power struggle for the Gardens after Harold Ballard's death. On his watch with three different teams, he's brought an all-star lineup of players into the NHL, including Denis Potvin, Bryan Trottier, Mike Bossy, Clark Gillies, Bob Probert, Nicklas Lidstrom, Kelly Hradek, Vladimir Konstantinov, Sergei Fedorov, Chris Osgood, and Steve Yzerman (his very first draft pick as GM!). The first person hired by Mike and Marian Ilitch in 1982, he's seen the Red Wings go from the basement of the NHL to the pride of Detroit and been a key part of that amazing turnaround. Jimmy D. has left his indelible mark on the game of hockey everywhere he has gone, from Cabbagetown to Hockeytown. As told to veteran journalist and broadcaster Roger Lajoie, *The Road to Hockeytown* is a fascinating memoir of a life lived in hockey. About the Author Jim Devellano is Senior Vice President and Alternate Governor of the Detroit Red Wings. The first person hired by Mike and Marian Ilitch after they purchased the struggling Red Wings in 1982, Devellano built the team into a four-time Stanley Cup winning franchise as General Manager and then Senior Vice President in charge of hockey operations. After over 25 seasons with the Red Wings and more than 40 years in the National Hockey League, Jimmy D. is one of the most accomplished and respected executives in the NHL. He is the proud owner of 14 championship rings: seven Stanley Cup rings (three with the New York Islanders and four with Detroit), three Calder Cup rings (AHL), two Adams Cup rings (CHL), one Riley Cup ring (ECHL), and one American League championship ring with the Detroit Tigers of major league baseball for whom he also serves as Senior Vice-President. Devellano continues to be a driving force behind the Red Wings' success as well as a strong influence in the evolution and improvement of the league itself, campaigning for opening up the NHL draft to the public in NHL arenas, and for instituting the four-on-four overtime format. Before joining the Red Wings, Devellano helped build the three-time Stanley Cup champion New York Islanders team as a scout and Assistant General Manager. He also served as a scout with the St. Louis Blues and as General Manager of the Indianapolis farm club (CHL), where he was named Minor League Executive of the Year by *The Hockey News*. Devellano has set up two private foundations supporting mainly children's charities in the United States and Canada. He resides in Detroit, Michigan, Toronto, Ontario, and Sarasota, Florida. Roger Lajoie is one of the busiest guys in sports media, operating Triumph Sports Communications (www.rogerlajoie.com). He is best known to Toronto sports fans as a sports talk show host on *The FAN 590*. As a North American sports correspondent for the Reuters News Agency, Roger has covered events such as the Stanley Cup final, the World Series, the NBA finals, the NCAA Final Four, and MLB's All-Star Game. Roger is seen during junior hockey season on Rogers TV's coverage of the Oshawa Generals and Mississauga St. Michael's Majors and has done junior broadcast work on Rogers Sportsnet. He covers the OHL for the Toronto Sun and teaches at the College of Sports Media in downtown Toronto. Roger lives with his wife Rita and family in Courtice, Ontario.