The Detroit Red Wings are a well known and respected ice hockey team based in Detroit, Michigan. The team is one of the Original Six teams of the National Hockey League and are members of the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference of the NHL. The team wears a white and red uniform, with the darker of the two uniforms being worn when the team plays at home. As the Red Wings are one of the more established NHL teams, they are known for their dedicated fan base. Detroit is so well known for its hockey team, that the city has gained the name “Hockey Town”, which was made a registered trademark in 1996.

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As of 2011, the Detroit Red Wings had won the most Stanley Cup championships of any NHL franchise based in the United States, and are third overall in total NHL championships. The team played for 40 years in Olympia stadium, but eventually moved to the Joe Louis arena. The arena, which was cutting edge at the time, seats over 20,000 people. Despite its sprawling size and its well known name, the arena is one of the oldest still in use today, and will be replaced by a new arena in the coming years.

Page 1 history

The Beginning

The Detroit Red Wings were not always the well known and respected team that they are now. They began as a team called the Cougars, which were based in British Columbia. The team was sold to a group from Detroit in 1926, and was later awarded an NHL franchise in 1926. The team had won the Stanley Cup in 1925, and had been finalists in 1926, but they finished last in the 1926-27 season. The team was struggling with $80,000 in debt. The team began to pick itself up when Jack Adams because the team’s coach and general manager the following season, in which the team also adopted its home, the brand new Olympia Stadium. Despite picking up speed and having its own arena, the team was still struggling greatly.

The team went through changes and became the Detroit Falcons in the 1930-31 season. James Norris Sr. purchased the team and saved it from financial issues. Adams and Nick met and agreed that the team would be named the Red Wings, after a team that Norris had once played on. Things picked up quickly for the Red Wings, and they became repeat Cup champions in 1937. The Wings continued to become a considerable foe, and the season that would come to be known as the NHL’s “Golden Age”, which lasted through the 1966-67 season, doubled the number of teams in the NHL to 12 teams.

The Recent and Current History

The Red Wings are still a major contender in the NHL. The Red Wings would go on to become back-to-back Stanley Cup winners in the 1997 and 1998 seasons. In the 2007-08 season, the team finished their third straight season of 50 or more winds, which was enough to capture the team’s sixth President’s Trophy. The team defeated the Pittsburg Penguins in the end of the 2007-08 season, and earned the team’s 11th Stanley Cup. Though the team has not won any Cups since this season, they have a staggering 23 year playoff streak, the longest running streak in the NHL.

Page 2 Notable Players

Gordie Howe (#9)- Howe earned the name “Mr. Hockey”, and is recognized as the greatest all around hockey player in history, and one of the world’s finest athletes. His stats are nothing short of stunning, he boasts: 6 decades, 32 pro seasons, 2589 career points, 1071 goals, 29 all-star appearances, and he is the all time regular season scoring champ. He was one of the top 5 in scoring in the NHL for 20 consecutive seasons. He could shoot both left and right handed, play any position, and was feared as one of the toughest players in history.

Ted Lindsay (#7)- Lindsay was the NHL 1st Team All-star 8 times, the NHL 2nd Team All-star once, and participated in the NHL All-Star Game 11 times. He won the Art Ross Trophy in 1950, and the Memorial Cup in 1944. Lindsay boasts 4 Stanley Cups, and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2002.

Alex Delvecchio (#10)- Delvecchio spent his entire NHL career as a player, coach, and general manager working with the Detroit Red Wings. He was third in all time games played in Detroit. He retired as the overall leader and held the record for 32 years for games played in a career spent with only one team (from 1980 to 2012). He possesses 2 Stanley Cup championships with Detroit, and was named a Second Team All-Star in 1953. He served as team captain for 12 years, a record surpassed only in Wings’ history by Steve Yzerman.

Terry Sawchuk (#1)- Sawchuk was a Calder Memorial Trophy winner in 1951, and played in 11 All-Star Games. He won the Vezina Trophy 4 years, and displays 4 Stanley Cup wins. He won the Lester Patrick Trophy in 1971. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1971, and the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in 1982. In 1998, he was ranked number 9 in the Hockey News’ list of the 100 Greatest Hockey Players, the highest-ranking goaltender.

Sid Abel (#12)- Abel worked closely with teammates Gordie Howe and Ted Lindsay, and the trio became known as the “Production Line”. The group led the Wings to the first of seven consecutive regular season first place finished, a record that remains unsurpassed. Abel tied Lindsay for third in NHL scoring, and led the league in goals. He was awarded the Hart Memorial Trophy as the league’s MVP, and was named to the First All-Star Team twice. Abel also flaunts an impressive 3 Stanley Cup wins.

Steve Yzerman (#19)- Few did more in the last 20 years to revolutionize the sport than Yzerman. He played in the NHL All-Star Game 10 times, and was the first 18-year old to be selected. He won the Stanley Cup 3 times as a player, and once as an executive. He retired as 6th in NHL history in points, 9th in goals, and 7th in assists. He was first in Red Wings history in assists, second in points and goals, fourth in games played, second all-time in seasons and games played with only one NHL franchise. He was the longest serving captain for one team in league history. Inducted to the Hockey Hall of Fame, Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame, the IIHF Hall Of Fame, the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame, and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Nicklas Lidstrom (#5)- Lidstrom became the first European-born and trained NHL captain to win the Stanley Cup. He is the all-time leader in games played with only one NHL team and by a European-born player. He was a World Championship gold medal winner in Sweden, 1991. He won 4 Stanley Cups, and played in the NHL All-Star Team 12 times. He won the Norris Trophy 7 times, and the Conn Smythe Trophy once. Lidstrom won an Olympic gold medal with Sweden in 2006, and played on the Olympic All-Star Team. He was inducted to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, and the IIHF Hall of Fame.

Page 3: traditions

Hockey is a sport filled to the brim with superstition and tradition. Though some of them are a bit quirky, the sense of mystique and magic is part of what makes the sport so amazing. Below are some of these traditions:

Engraving names on the Stanley Cup- the Stanley Cup is the most iconic trophy in all of sports. All members of the winning team (players, coaches, management, and staff) are engraved into the silver alloy of the Cup.

Playoff handshakes- to move on in the playoffs, the teams face off in a best of seven games layout. These games are sometimes savage, with plenty of hits and trips, including the occasional blood loss. Despite the physical aspect of the games, at the end of the series, the teams will line up, remove their gloves, and shake each opposing team member’s hand. This tradition is done without question, and when a player does not partake, it becomes a news story.

Sudden Death Overtime- if the game is still tied after 3 full periods of play, or 60 minutes, sudden death overtime begins. If either team scores, the game is over, and that team wins. This creates quite a bit of suspense and a lot of work for the players, because the game will continue until someone scores. There is no time limit.

Playoff beards- the tradition of not shaving during the playoffs is one of the most well known hockey traditions. It began as a superstition that shaving could cause the team to lose, and has evolved into a full-fledged rule.

Tossing hats- when a player scores three goals in one game, it is known as a “hat trick”. Whenever this happens, there is sure to be a downpour of caps thrown onto the ice. Some players may chose to keep some of the hats, where as some players may donate them to charities.

Octopi on the ice- it original took eight wins to win the cup during the days of the Original Six teams; a win for each leg of an octopus. This logic spurred a tradition that has carried on for nearly 100 years, of raw octopi being flung frequently onto the ice of a Detroit Red Wings game. This is a Detroit only tradition, and is well loved by Wings’ fans.