

## **The Gold Medal Game: Sidney Crosby's Golden Moment**

### **The Match**

It's the 2010 winter Olympics, in Vancouver, the second last day, and the last event for the entire Olympics that year. Canada had started playing their best hockey at just the right time, cruising through Germany after a tough group stage, and dominating the always tough Russians in the Quarterfinals, having a late scare against the Slovaks in the Semi's but still making it through, but they would have to face the USA.

Usually when you talk about hockey, Canada dominates, but this USA team was just incredible, having beat Canada decisively in the group stage and dominating their way to the final. A whole nation was scared of the USA, but our guys were getting hot at just the right time, playing their best hockey, and their best guys were all heating up.

From puck drop, Canada just has that fire in them, taking an early lead thanks to Jonathan Toews first goal of the tournament. In the second Corey Perry would extend that lead to two, and we as a nation felt comfortable, but Ryan Kesler scored late into the second period to cut that lead down to one, but the lead was still ours.

As the third period goes on, Canada has so many chances to bury the game, but they just can't get that extra goal, but there's only 20 seconds left, if we can just kill this off, then we win. Patrick Kane, goal, less than thirty seconds left, and a nation was sick to its stomach, so overtime here we come, it's going to go all wrong, were going to lose, but no, Crosby worked his magic.

He entered the zone, lost the puck but got it back in the corner, pushes it to Jarome Iginla, and we all remember hearing it, he shouted "Iggy" gets the puck back, slides it 5-hole, just starts throwing his gloves and helmet everywhere, the crowd is so loud and Chris Cuthbert's iconic call, "Sidney Crosby, the Golden goal, and Canada has once in a lifetime Olympic Gold, these golden games have their crowning moment, and why wouldn't it be Sidney Crosby."

I was turning 10 that year and had been watching the Olympics for the first time, and this moment cemented my love for the Olympics, sports, hockey, and Canada. I never get more patriotic than when I watch Canada play hockey, especially at the Olympics. I have a feeling this moment had this impact on a lot of people like me.

### **Impact**

After scoring that goal, Sidney Crosby became a hero for me, he made me love hockey, sports, and brought out my competitive nature. Even though I am from Toronto, I always, and still do, cheer for Crosby, even though he plays in Pittsburgh, and routinely scores against the Toronto Maple-Leaf's. there is only one athlete who I love just as much as Crosby, and that is Lionel Messi, but I'll talk about him some other time.

After this I became obsessed with hockey, I started playing it, both on the street and on the ice, I watched it every Saturday on Hockey Night in Canada, and to this day I have poster of that team taking a picture, with their medals on their necks, big smiles, it may be ripped but I will never get rid of it, it is one of the precious things I own.

It's so weird looking back, when Crosby scored that goal, he was 22 years old, I'm now 23...boy does that make me feel old. He was just a kid, at least when it came to being a professional athlete, and yet he felt so large, like a person so far away in age and capability, and while the second part was and still is true, he really wasn't that old. Whenever I watch this moment, I just feel like a kid again, and I don't think there is anything in this life that makes me feel more like a kid than this does.

Sidney Crosby is now entering the final years of his career, and he still amazes me at age 36, he is still one of the best players on the planet, and when he retires from the game, it will lose some of its shine.

This goal, to speak on it beyond myself, is iconic. It is the greatest moment in Canadian hickey history, and probably Canadian sports history. There are videos on the 15 plus different calls on the goal, in multiple languages, in multiple countries. It also capped a historic Olympics for Canada, which started with an Alexandre Bilodeau gold, giving Canada 14 gold medals, the most by a host nation in a single Winter Olympics, and at the time, the most gold medals by any nation during a single winter Olympics.

### **Entertainment**

Obviously, this game is a Canadian sports heritage moment, but beyond that the game was just really good. The game was a rematch, with the Americans coming out on top previously in the tournament, and these two teams were red-hot going into the final. The game was back and forth with so many chances for both teams, Canada taking the lead, USA pulling within one, Canada having so many chances to ice the game, and the USA tying the game in the dying seconds, just a really good game. Its games like this in sports that you wish for, that make you fall in love with the sport, that make you feel tense and fills you with adrenaline.

I had a problem of getting too excited and invested, to the point where in Canada's game against Slovakia, I had trouble breathing when Canada almost blew the game, so imagine how I felt during this game. When USA tied it, I just started bawling, which is honestly hilarious, because it was just a hockey match, but still, in my mind the game was lost, they had it, and they blew it. I think that is why I love Crosby so much, because he saved what would have a devastating loss to 10-year-old me. Obviously, I know he didn't do it for, but still, it felt good.