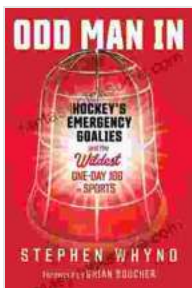


Hockey Emergency Goalies: The Wildest One-Day Job in Sports

Hockey is a fast-paced, physical game, and injuries are a common occurrence. When a goaltender gets injured during a game, everything can change in an instant. The team needs to find a replacement, and that's where emergency goalies come in.



Odd Man In: Hockey's Emergency Goalies and the Wildest One-Day Job in Sports by Robert A. Pelcovits

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Emergency goalies are typically local players who are called up in the event of an emergency. They may be former professional goalies, or they may be current amateur players. Regardless of their experience, emergency goalies have one thing in common: they're ready to step in and play at a moment's notice.

The life of an emergency goalie is a strange one. They may go months or even years without playing a single game. But when they're called up, they need to be ready to perform at their best. It's a high-pressure situation, but it's also an incredibly rewarding experience.

One of the most famous emergency goalie stories is that of Scott Foster. Foster was a Zamboni driver for the Chicago Blackhawks when he was called up to play in a game against the Detroit Red Wings. Foster had never played professional hockey before, but he managed to stop 17 of the 18 shots he faced, including a penalty shot. The Blackhawks won the game, and Foster became a legend.

Foster's story is an extreme example, but it's not uncommon for emergency goalies to play well. In fact, some emergency goalies have even gone on to have successful professional careers. For example, David Ayres was an emergency goalie for the Carolina Hurricanes when he was called up to play in a game against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Ayres stopped all 8 shots he faced, and the Hurricanes won the game. Ayres later signed a professional contract with the Hurricanes and went on to play in several more games.

The life of an emergency goalie is not for everyone. It's a high-pressure job that requires a lot of dedication and sacrifice. But for those who are up for the challenge, it's an incredibly rewarding experience.

What it Takes to Be an Emergency Goalie

There are no specific requirements to be an emergency goalie. However, there are a few qualities that are essential for success:

- **Athleticism:** Emergency goalies need to be in good physical condition. They need to be able to move quickly and react to shots from all angles.
- **Goaltending Skills:** Emergency goalies need to have basic goaltending skills. They need to be able to catch, block, and control

rebounds.

- **Mental Toughness:** Emergency goalies need to be able to handle the pressure of playing in a game. They need to be able to stay focused and calm under pressure.
- **Availability:** Emergency goalies need to be available to play at a moment's notice. They may need to drop everything and travel to a game on short notice.

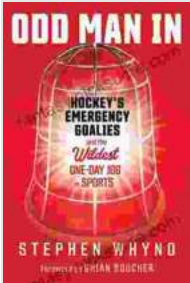
If you have the necessary qualities, becoming an emergency goalie can be a great way to get involved in hockey and make a difference. Here are a few tips for getting started:

- **Contact your local hockey rink:** Most hockey rinks have a list of emergency goalies on call. Contact your local rink and inquire about becoming an emergency goalie.
- **Take some goaltending lessons:** If you're new to goaltending, it's a good idea to take some lessons from a qualified goaltending coach. This will help you learn the basics of goaltending and improve your skills.
- **Practice:** The best way to improve your goaltending skills is to practice. Try to get as much ice time as possible.

Becoming an emergency goalie is a great way to get involved in hockey and make a difference. If you have the necessary qualities, I encourage you to give it a try.

Hockey emergency goalies are a special breed of athlete. They're ready to step in and play at a moment's notice, and they're always ready to give

their team a chance to win. If you're ever lucky enough to see an emergency goalie in action, be sure to give them a round of applause. They deserve it.



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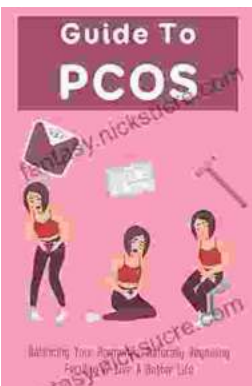
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