

# The True Story Of The First Woman To Play In The National Hockey League

On January 23, 1992, Manon Rhéaume made history when she became the first woman to play in the National Hockey League. She suited up for the Tampa Bay Lightning in an exhibition game against the St. Louis Blues, and played nearly 26 minutes in net.



## Breaking the Ice: The True Story of the First Woman to Play in the National Hockey League by Angie Bullaro

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Rhéaume's journey to the NHL was not an easy one. She was born in St-Jacques, Quebec, in 1972, and started playing hockey at a young age. She quickly developed a reputation as a talented goaltender, and was a member of the Canadian national team at the 1990 and 1992 Winter Olympics.

In 1991, Rhéaume signed a contract with the Trois-Rivières Draveurs of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL). She was the first woman to play in a major junior hockey league in North America. Rhéaume had a successful season with the Draveurs, recording a 3.35 goals-against average and a .892 save percentage in 38 games.

Rhéaume's performance in the QMJHL caught the attention of the Tampa Bay Lightning, who invited her to participate in their training camp in 1992. She impressed the Lightning coaches with her skills and work ethic, and

was offered a contract to play in an exhibition game against the St. Louis Blues.

On January 23, 1992, Rhéaume made her historic NHL debut. She faced 20 shots and allowed three goals. The Lightning lost the game 4-3, but Rhéaume's performance was highly praised.



Manon Rhéaume and Wayne Gretzky shake hands after her historic NHL debut.

Rhéaume's NHL debut was a major milestone for women's hockey. It showed that women could compete at the highest level of the sport, and it inspired a generation of young girls to pursue their dreams of playing hockey.

Rhéaume went on to have a successful career in women's hockey. She played for the Canadian national team for over a decade, and won two Olympic silver medals and two world championships. She also played for several professional women's hockey teams, including the Montreal Stars and the Ottawa Senators.

In 2007, Rhéaume was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. She is the first woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame as a player.

Rhéaume's story is an inspiring example of perseverance and determination. She faced many challenges throughout her career, but she never gave up on her dream of playing in the NHL. She is a true pioneer for women's hockey, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.



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