

Poteet, Lewis J. and Aaron C. Poteet. *The Hockey Phrase Book*. Hanatsport, N.S.: Lancelot Press, 1991. 144 pp., index, bibliography, and 12-page essay by Alyce Cheska entitled "Ice Hockey Then and Now." \$7.95 Cdn.

This book is a kind of glossary of hockey terms and phrases. Evidently it originated with two sound ideas. The first is that North Americans who love hockey represent "a very large speech community" (p. 7). The second is that the values, preoccupations, and history of this community are reflected in words and phrases which have been either invented in the community or more frequently, borrowed from elsewhere and given a new or peculiar meaning.

Some of the entries spark interest in the world of hockey (especially pro

hockey). They also help to educate the outsider. The personalities and styles of play of famous players are illuminated by nicknames such as "Swoop" (Wayne Carleton), "Scarface" (Ted Lindsay), "the Rocket" (Maurice Richard), and "the Roadrunner" (Yvan Cournoyer). The players' no-big-deal attitude toward physical injury and violence is revealed in the use of words such as "zipper" (scars), "ventilated" (cut), "dance" (fight), and "chicklets" (teeth). The athletes' possessive attitude toward women and their occasional animosity toward teammates are suggested in the uses of the phrase "on waivers" to describe, not only "the contractual process by which a player is let go" by a team, but also a player's wife who is "estranged from her husband and therefore available" to others (p. 122).

Though some entries are suggestive, the book as a whole fails to satisfy. The reader is struck by the omission of references to some of the most revealing nicknames in the history of the sport: Fred "Cyclone" Taylor, "Bad" Joe Hall, Bill "the Beast" Juzda, William "Flash" Hollett. The reader is struck also by the large number of factual errors. A few examples can be mentioned. "Battleship" Bob Kelly (not Kelley) was not the same person as Bob "Mad Dog" or "Hound Dog" Kelly (pages 28 and 40). The Detroit Red Wings of the 1950s did not win "four straight Stanley Cups" (p. 40). Boston's Uke Line was composed of John Bucyk, Bronco Horvath, and not Rick Stasiak but Vic Stasiuk (p. 46). The New Jersey Devils were never part of the World Hockey Association (p. 57). The phrase "two on one" is almost always used to describe a situation in which two forwards rush against one defenseman; it is rarely, if ever, used "when two defensemen harry . . . one puck-carrier" (p. 121).

Included in the volume is a competent short essay by Alyce Cheska on the history of stick and ball games. The rest of the book is occasionally stimulating. It could have been really valuable if the authors had done their research more thoroughly.

Brandon University, Manitoba

Morris Mott