

# 'MISFITS TO CHAMPIONS'



**The clock began to wind down in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final. The game had been all but over for an hour already. Vegas led Florida, 9-3, in the final minute of the game, and on the other side of the boards at T-Mobile Arena, the Stanley Cup was being polished for presentation.**

It was the 104th game of the season for the Vegas Golden Knights. It had taken them 22 games to complete the quest for the Stanley Cup after successfully navigating the 82-game regular season.

Game 5 was also the 104th broadcast of the year for Golden Knights radio play-by-play broadcaster Dan D'Uva. With help from Gary Lawless and Darren Eliot throughout the season, D'Uva's voice has carried Golden Knights hockey on the radio since the very first puck drop in 2017. As the dreams of the players were realized, D'Uva had the floor.

## *The Final Call*

A minute to go in the third period of Game 5. Golden Knights 9, Panthers 3. The Knights are this close. We think about that first game in Golden Knights history. We think about that incredible ride that was the inaugural season. Bill Foley had asked the team to get to the playoffs in three years. They had done better than that. The noble charge from Bill Foley was "Cup in six." They talk about dreaming. The Golden Knights are going to make that dream a reality.

A devotion to destiny. Misfits to champions. The Golden Knights win the Stanley Cup in 2023!

The first Stanley Cup championship in Golden Knights history comes in their sixth season. The Silver State is home to the greatest silver trophy in all of sports.

The mob is behind Adin Hill's goal. All the players swarming one another jubilant in celebration. The fans, on their feet, can't stop. The streamers down from the rafters. Sticks and gloves and flamingoes. The Golden Knights are Stanley Cup Champions.

Every player managed to contribute. Each player played his part, and there the honor lies. Final score in Game 5: the Golden Knights 9, the Florida Panthers 3. They defeat Florida in five games to win the Stanley Cup, having knocked out the Stars in six, the Oilers in six, and the Jets in five. The Golden Knights win 16 out of 22 games in the Stanley Cup Playoffs to win the Stanley Cup in their sixth season on this Tuesday, the 13th day of June 2023.



Stanley Cup in year six when Bill said, "Cup in six" was pretty cool.

**JONATHAN MARCHESSAULT** I'm 32 years old, but I was like every kid playing in the street. I fulfilled my dream, and I'm lucky I did it at 32 years old. Some people's dream is own a house, own a boat, or something particular. My dream was to win a Stanley Cup, and I did it. I've won, and you can't take that away. It's hard to explain, but if I retire tomorrow, I've already fulfilled my dream. I've done what I wanted to do on this earth, professionally. Seriously, it's unbelievable. It's just hard to explain.

**WILLIAM KARLSSON** When I was a kid, I wanted to win the Stanley Cup, but I think an Olympic medal with Sweden would have ranked higher – but I don't know. Nowadays, the Stanley Cup means so much to me, and I'm super happy that we won. I think I would rank it the highest, even if I were to ever win a gold medal with Sweden in the Olympics.

**KELLY MCCRIMMON** In the moment, and in the short term, it's the exhilaration of winning a championship. The broader perspective, it was really

validation that so many of the decisions we had made over seven years were the right ones. We were resolute in our vision of what a championship team needed to look like, what type of players it needed to consist of, what type of identity was needed to be a champion, what type of character was needed to be a champion.

We stood by our beliefs and never wavered. We had an unwavering belief that we were making good decisions consistently. It's not just one – it's a series of good decisions over an extended period of time: That's how you get to this point of being a champion.

I've talked many times before about my happiness for all the other people who have worked, in many cases since Day 1, to get here. So that part is meaningful. On a personal level, it's incredibly gratifying that 34 years after my late brother Brad's name went on the Stanley Cup, mine is on the Stanley Cup.

In terms of, what did it mean? I've been in the game a long time. I rode the bus in the Western Hockey

The players waited arm in arm for the presentation of the Stanley Cup.

