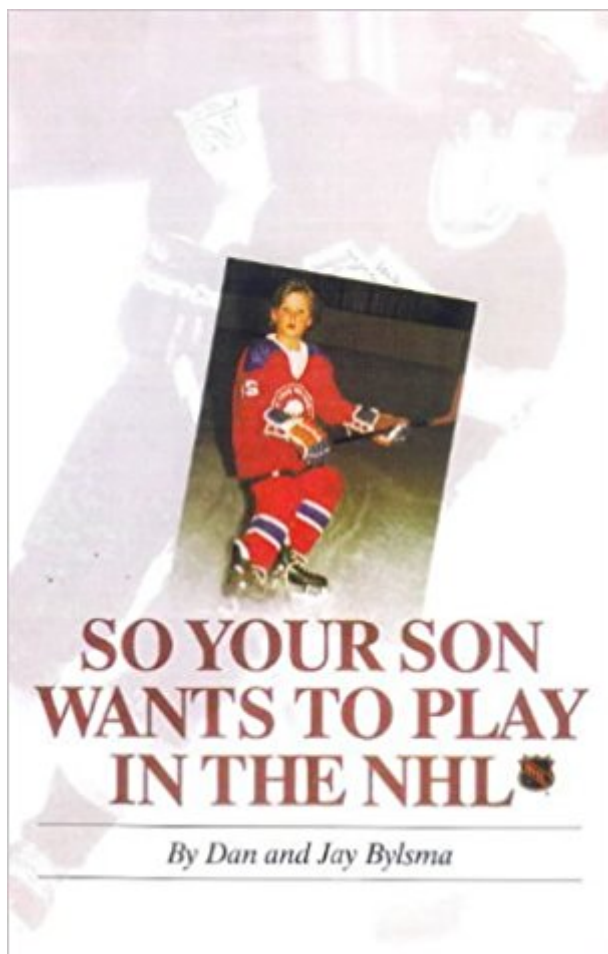


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# So Your Son Wants To Play In The NHL



## Synopsis

Book Description Publication Date: October 1998 This book is about one young athlete's road to the NHL. It is told in two voices. First by Jay Bylsma, the father who flooded the backyard rink, and who encouraged all of his five children to make the most of their talents. The second voice telling the story is Dan Bylsma, the son. A gifted athlete, he chose to leave home in Michigan to play Junior "B" hockey for St. Marys in Ontario. He then took the academic route, graduating from Bowling Green State University in 1992. The next four years Dan, backed by his father and the rest of the family, never gave up on his NHL dream. He played for several minor league teams, attended several NHL camps, and won a contract with the L.A. Kings. Along the way, he, like his father, learned a great deal about hockey and about life. In this book they pass it on. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Hockey is just a goal, but the means of achieving that goal has nothing to do with a puck, a stick, a drill, a team, a coach (unless you count Family as "coach"). It's all about the proper way to raise a family, especially boys. Author Jay Bylsma is father to 4 boys, the YOUNGEST of which is co-author Dan Bylsma, and how their family, life experiences, and good values yielded a result they all hoped for, but was NEVER the PRIMARY objective of their lives. Highly recommended for any father of a son, or even for an older (high school/college age?) son who can understand the purpose of family and why sometimes (many times), when things don't go as planned, you still gotta work hard to achieve ANY goal.

We did love it from start to finish, upfront, clean cut ..... nice family nice person, would love to meet some time ..... we never know. Overseas family from the Netherlands living in Australia. A father / son book to discuss Dan's story .... Must read is our comment.

I e-mailed the seller twice & never got a response either time . When I received my confirmation I saw that the delivery address was not correct, since I wanted it mailed to my son at his college, who needed the book ASAP. I immediately ( within minutes) of buying the item send the seller the correct address. No response! It took 10 days to receive the book from Maryland to New Jersey. The book should have gone to Maryland, where my son goes to school. Instead it came to NJ & I had to ship it to Maryland myself, costing more money & more time . I was not a happy person !

I know Dan personally. Got to know him after reading his books and taking my son to his summer hockey camps for 4 or 5 years. Life changing! This book should be mandatory for every kid, parent and coach in youth hockey. Most will not get it (understand and agree), but if you love your kid...you will get it. I'd like to see him write another one now that he's done playing and coaching the Pens...and his son is playing youth hockey (and other sports!). I bet he's got even more to say now! Good job Dan! Good article here on why Dan is a role model for your kid and even if you don't have the chance to know him personally, you can learn a lot from his books.

It's not easy raising a successful athlete, and it is even more difficult raising a successful adult. Your Son Wants to Be in the NHL shows us a young adult who seems to have become both. It tells the

tale of how Dan Bylsma grew from childhood success to success in the NHL. More importantly, it shows us how a boy can grow into manhood and become a person you would like to have as a neighbor. OK, the first few chapters, when the never ending successes of the Bylsma boys in athletics became almost as difficult to read as the phone book are a bit numbing after a while. Once parental pride calmed down the book turned into a compelling look at how difficult it is for a parent to find balance in their children's lives, to teach life lessons as well as sports techniques and to turn out a good person who also happens to be an NHL player. The struggles Dan had after leaving home at such a young age are dealt with forthrightly, which multiplies the shock you feel at stories of sexual abuse and the physical sacrifice players at the lower minor level make to reach the NHL. That shock is no stronger than when the reader learns that Dan and his wife lost their first child just as he was establishing himself in the NHL. This book gives the parent of an athlete much to think about. In a society where it seems more and more boys go through life without their fathers this book shows you that those boys lose something that may be irreplaceable.

I have a son and two daughters who lettered several times in high school sports. I got caught up in not only the book but in thinking about the opportunities I missed to use sports to teach about life. My kids were home for Christmas and I found myself reading and sharing from this book. I wish I could have read it 20 years ago because I would have been less tied into what the kids were doing for me, and more in tune to struggles my kids were going through. I got choked by the story and was unprepared for the epilogue. The structure of the book was very good. Jay the parent's description of what was happening did not always match what Dan was experiencing. Reading about the something through two view points added to the value of the book. Dan and Jay speak less to the potential pro than to every son or daughter who has suited up. The message of love the kid no matter what happens in a game is a powerful one. The "how to directions" are on the money and help to give structure that parents need. I did not expect to have any emotional reaction to this book. I was wrong and glad of it. Wayne Van Zomeren

Since reading "So your son..." nearly two years ago, through various routes, my son and I have become good friends with both Dan and Jay Bylsma and the rest of the Bylsma family. I can honestly say that these guys really do "walk the talk" by putting into practice what the book says. It's a great read if you're a hockey fan but it's not just about how one of kid made it to becoming a professional sportsman - their emphasis on a moral compass, sound family values and good education really can be used as a practical guide to parenting. Kids don't come with an instruction

manual and most of us parents need all the help we can get! I would suggest to anyone wanting a "how do you do it" guide to practical, commonsense, no nonsense child rearing "GET THIS BOOK!" and read it. Great stuff!

I had a chance to review the galleys before it went to press, it is a wonderful book that shows how values, character and sportsmanship can take you to the highest levels of life. It is a preparation for success in life. A father son team, where the player Dan Bylsma is a great young player, but when he hits college and pros, he has to be a smarter, harder working player. Bylsma is a true role model, especially in today's world. Jay Greenberg of the NY Post writes, "THE BEST ADVICE SINCE DON'T RILE GORDIE HOWE!" For all sports, for kids and parents alike. Inspiration, motivational, I couldn't put it down

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