

Cassie's Blog

A thought on face visors



Sat, 02/28/2009 - 01:16 - Cassie Campbell

Face masks for hockey players were introduced in 1971— a fact I find a little bit chilling, like thinking about cars without seatbelts. In 1980, Hockey Canada was the first organization to make face protection certified by the Canadian Standard Association (CSA) a mandatory requirement for all of its registered players. The AHL has made visors mandatory since their 2006-07 season.

Today, the NHL has allowed each player to choose to wear them or not. All junior age players in Canada, the United States and Europe wear visors, but most choose to take them off when they reach the NHL. A constantly addressed concern for players is that a visor hinders their vision on the ice. Unfortunately, their vision may be more hindered by not wearing a visor. I think with the new technology there are many types of visors to choose from that each player should not have an issue with lack of vision.

Every time a player experiences an injury to the eye area that may have been prevented by wearing a visor, the issue of making them compensatory is revisited. Some commentators have called visor wearing players cowards when actually; recent player statistics show some of the top NHL scoring leaders wear visors. Joe Sakic, Jarome Iginla and Niklas Lidstrom wear visors and all are terrific players and receive plenty of minutes from their coaches – which would not happen if they were not also able to play a physical game.

Our team wore cage type face masks to the Olympic Games, which Canadian Women's Hockey League players still wear. While some players may have argued that we sacrificed a perfect view of the ice, we definitely saved ourselves from suffering potential eye injuries.

1 2 3 4 [next >](#) [last »](#)

Cassie Campbell

Cassie Campbell was the captain of the Canadian women's ice hockey team during the 2002 Winter Olympics and led the team to a gold medal.

International

Cassie won 21 medals with Canada's National Women's teams, including 17 gold medals and four silver medals

Won two Olympic gold medals (2002- Salt Lake City and 2006 - Torino, Italy), and one Olympic silver medal (1998 - Nagano, Japan).

[READ THE FULL BIO](#)

Send Cassie A Question

Use this form to send Cassie questions to answer on her blog.

All fields are required.

Name:

Email:

City:

Question:

I agree to the [Terms and Conditions](#)

Clear Form

Send