National Hockey League
Justin Williams

Stanley Cups, Canadian Gold and Still Playing

Justin Williams **grew up in Cobourg but played minor hockey in Port Hope**. He had his first taste of Junior hockey during the 1997-98 season when he showed great promise with the Junior C *Colborne Colts*. He scored 67 points in 36 games and later joined the *Cobourg Cougars* for 17 games.

Williams was just sixteen when the *Plymouth Whalers* of the Ontario Hockey League chose him 125th overall in the 1998 OHL Priority Selection. That season **he played in 47 games scoring just 12 points. But the next season he led the Whalers in scoring** in both the regular season and the playoffs. They went to the OHL finals losing in 7 games to the *Barrie Colts*.
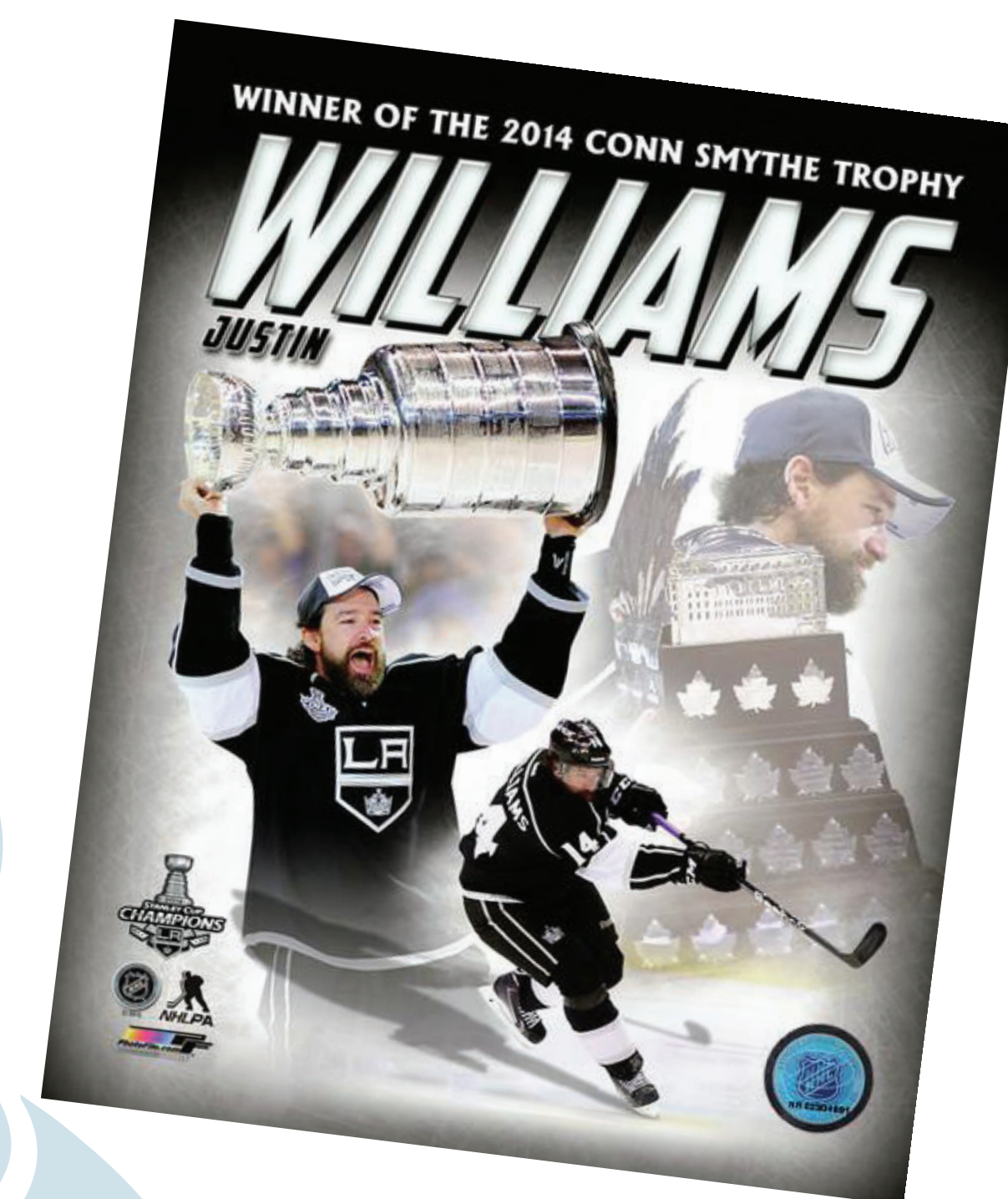
The *Philadelphia Flyers* were Williams' first National Hockey League team, drafting him 28th overall in the 2000 NHL Entry Draft. He played 3 full seasons in Philadelphia before being traded during the 2003-04 season to the *Carolina Hurricanes*. During the 2004-05 NHL strike season, Williams played for *Lulea* in the Swedish Elite League. He returned to Carolina for the next four seasons, **winning a Stanley Cup in 2006.**

During the 2008-09 season he was traded from *Carolina* to the *Los Angeles Kings*. **For the next six seasons Williams became a fixture with the Kings** as they made the playoffs five 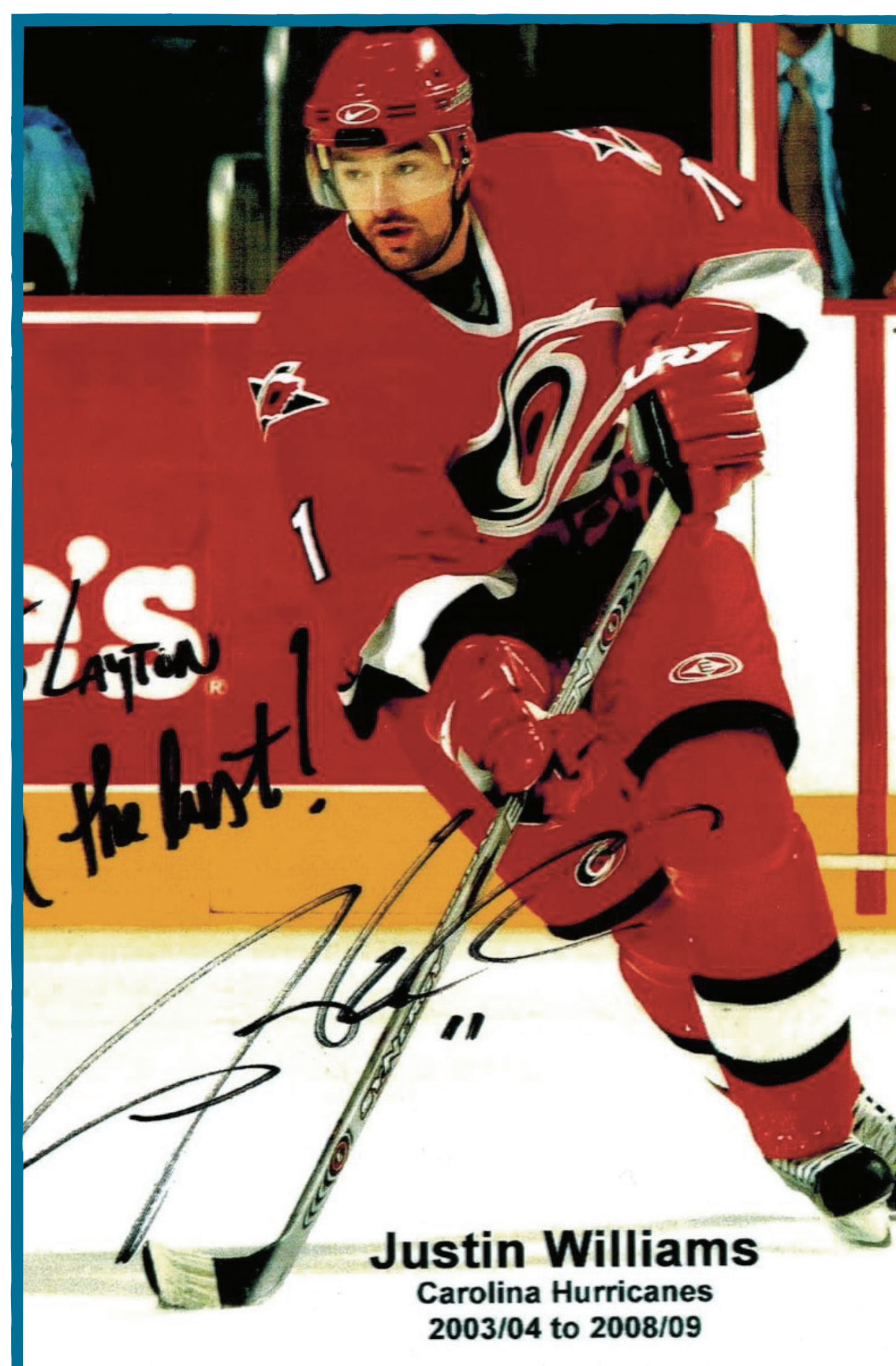times, winning Stanley Cups in 2012 and again in 2014. That year Williams was **awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoff MVP.** He notched five points in the *Kings'* three Game Seven wins and established a new NHL record with 14 career points in Game Sevens. That won him the nickname **"Mr. Game 7".**

Following the 2014-15 season, Williams left L.A. to move back to the east coast and play for the *Washington Capitals* as they sought players with playoff experience and leadership in their own quest for a Stanley Cup.

In the midst of his other successes, Williams joined Team Canada at the 2002 World Championships and **helped Canada win gold in 2004 and 2007.**

Justin Williams now has a home in New Jersey, but in the summer of 2014 he **paraded the Stanley Cup among large crowds through the streets of Cobourg.**

Justin Williams
Carolina Hurricanes
2003/04 to 2008/09

Justin Williams in Cobourg
Photo courtesy of Philip Pritchard@keeperofthecup

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