

# His shining moment

VANCOUVER — He had been quiet through most of this remarkable Olympic tournament, competent but unspectacular.

This was supposed to be his Olympics and, in the end, it was.

Sidney Crosby scored at 7:40 of overtime to give Canada a 3-2 win and the gold medal, a shot from the left-wing circle beating American goaltender Ryan Miller between the pads.

The goal, followed by the split-second of silence that always seems to shroud moments like that, triggered an avalanche of noise from the red clad, flag-waving, overwhelmingly Canadian crowd.

It was an incredible end to a game that will go down as one of the greatest in the sport's history.

After owning a 2-0 lead for the first half of the game, the Canadians saw the young Americans battle back to tie it with 24.4 seconds left in the third period and Miller on the bench for an extra attacker. A shot by Patrick Kane rattled off a leg in front and hit Luongo, allowing Zach Parise to sweep the rebound by him to send it to overtime.

The Canadians went into the third period with a 2-1 lead on goals by Jonathan Toews and Corey Perry. The Americans had been the better team for the final half of the second period and were rewarded at 13:44 when Ryan Kesler, the Vancouver Canucks forward playing in his home rink, got the shaft of his stick on a shot by Kane to beat Luongo.

This tournament was a coming out party for Kesler, the gritty centre who dominated in the face-off circle, chirping and yapping, making the Americans a difficult team to play.

For a game as hyped as this one — perhaps the most anticipated game in Canadian hockey history given that it was the Olympics and taking place on home soil — the players did a



Chris Stevenson  
AT THE GAMES

remarkable job fulfilling the expectations.

That is saying something.

Forget the price of condos or housing here. The costliest real estate was every inch of the ice at GM Place, players on both sides unwilling to give any of it up without making the other guy pay dearly.

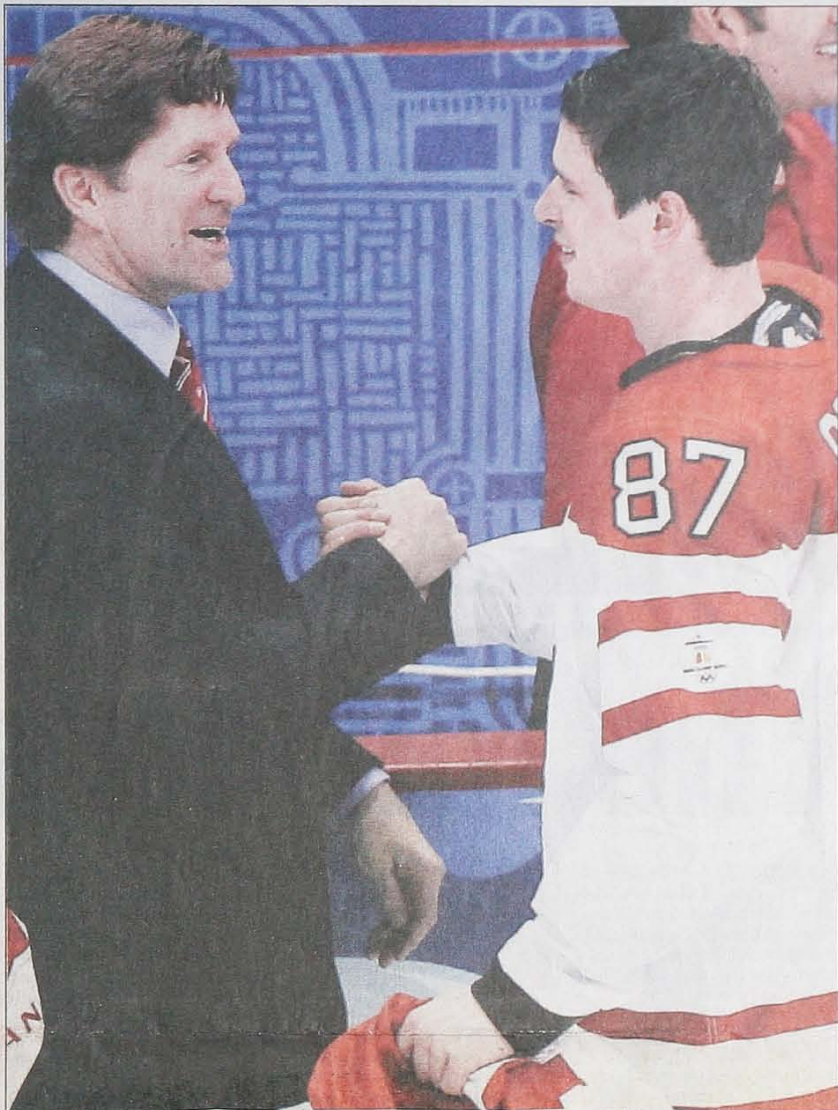
The intensity of each puck battle, fought by remarkably skilled players not particularly known for having heavy sticks or the will to scratch and claw, was off the charts, with sticks chopping and elbows flying.

Canada had the only goal of the first period and it was fittingly scored by centre Jonathan Toews, the youngster who has been Canada's most consistent forward since the first drop of the puck in this tournament.

It came at 12:50 of the first period after a nervous exchange between young American defenceman Erik Johnson and veteran Brian Rafalski, Johnson making an ill-advised move of the puck from behind the net. Canada's Mike Richards lifted Rafalski's stick, spun and got a shot on net and Toews buried the rebound.

Toews dipped down to load an upward fist pump as the crowd exploded.

After both teams had opportunities on the powerplay — two for Canada and one for the Americans — Canada's Corey Perry made it 2-0 at 7:13 of the second after two Americans got caught in the Canadian end on a forecheck. The Americans wound up outnumbered out front and Perry was alone in the slot to fire it by Miller on the glove side.



Sidney Crosby finished the Olympic tournament with four goals and three assists.

[chris.stevenson@sunmedia.ca](mailto:chris.stevenson@sunmedia.ca)

