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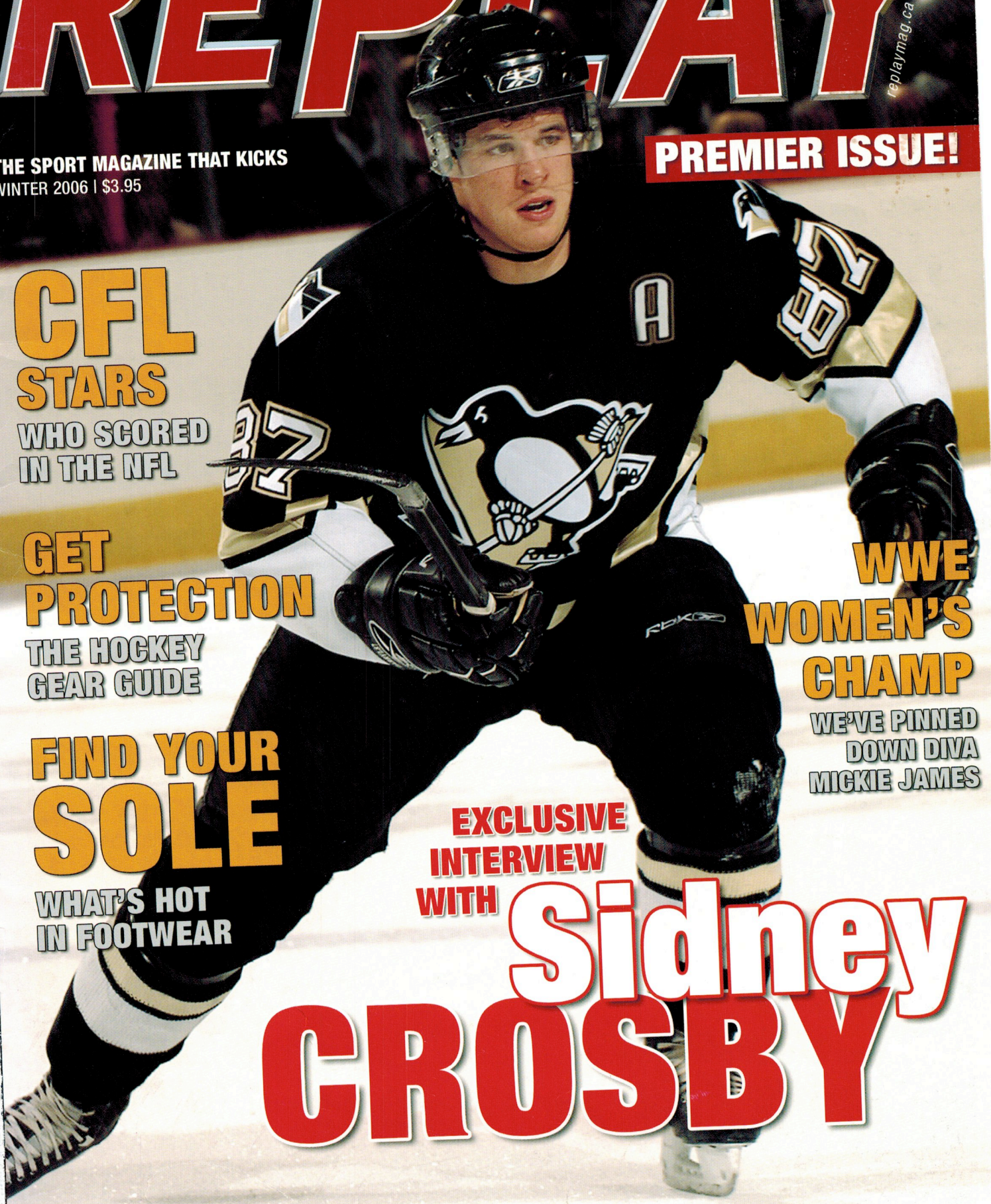
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**Sidney  
CROSBY**







NAME:  
**SIDNEY CROSBY**  
Position: CENTRE  
Shoots: LEFT  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 193 lbs  
Born: AUG 7, 1987  
Origin:  
COLE HARBOUR, N.S.

REPLAY FILE



# EMPEROR PENGUIN

*All Hail Sidney Crosby*

A CANDID ONE-ON-ONE WITH PITTSBURGH'S PRECOCIOUS POTENTATE

Sidney Crosby is one of hockey's brightest stars. Selected first in the 2005 NHL Entry Draft, the Nova Scotia native finished sixth in scoring in his rookie campaign and became the youngest player in league history to score 100 points in a season. All eyes are on him this season as he anchors a Pittsburgh Penguins team loaded with young talent. Correspondent **Randi Druzin** recently spoke to the 19-year-old athlete about his teammates, his superstitions and the women who want to marry him.

*Once he recovers from a dislocated shoulder, Russian Evgeni Malkin [the second overall selection in the 2004 draft] will be joining the Penguins on the ice. You and he are considered two of the best young players in hockey today. What kind of effect does that have on your relationship with him?*

Not much at all. At this point, he's just learning English so we're trying hard to understand each other. [Russian teammate] Sergei Gonchar has been doing a lot of translating. Malkin seems like a great guy though. His English is getting better every day. I'm looking forward to playing with him for a long time, and building some chemistry with him.

*How is your Russian?*

It's like drool. I'm not very good at Russian so, hopefully, Malkin will be able to pick up English.

*The Penguins had the worst record in the Eastern Conference last season. What are the team's prospects this season?*

We have a young team. We have to go out there with the attitude that we want to win every night. If we make mistakes along the way, we have to correct them. But we have to realize that we're young and we're going to make mistakes. We can't be too hard on ourselves. We have to play to our strengths, do what we can and see what happens. But

I don't think it would be good for us to put too much pressure on ourselves because we're so young. If we go out there, have fun and work on getting better, hopefully good things will happen.

*You scored 102 points last season, becoming the youngest player in league history to notch 100 points in a season and breaking the Penguins' rookie assist record set by the legendary Mario Lemieux. How did he react?*

He congratulated me but we didn't discuss it too much. It was a pretty fun ride toward the end of the season. We were getting closer and closer [to making the playoffs]. It was a great honour to be congratulated by Lemieux, and to be in that company.

*Was Mario's pride wounded?*

I don't think so.

*Despite your success last season, you finished second in voting for the rookie-of-the-year award. The Calder Trophy went to Russian Alexander Ovechkin, who scored 106 points for the Washington Capitals. How did you feel about the outcome?*

Ovechkin deserved it. He had a great rookie year. I was just happy to have a good year and be part of that group of rookies. It's hard to say what future rookie classes will look like, but I think ours will be a good candidate for being considered one of the best.





**What do you think of Ovechkin as a player?**

He's a great player. He's fast and strong. He can score goals from anywhere so he's dangerous when he's out there. There's always an element of surprise because he's really creative. It's pretty hard to get a step on him or to read what he's going to do.

**Describe your interaction with him.**

We did a thing with *Sports Illustrated* a while ago. [In an NHL preview, the magazine ran a story focusing on the two players.] Other than that, I've only come across him during and after games. I don't really know him that well.

**There was some controversy surrounding the decision to leave you off the Canadian team that competed at the 2006 Winter Olympics. How did you feel about that?**

I was fine with that decision. I would never second-guess anyone representing the country. Obviously, the team fell short [and was eliminated in the quarter-finals]. The expectations were high. But that kind of thing happens.

**Do you think you could have made a significant contribution to the team?**

It's always easy to say "What if?" I don't think I was the only player people were talking about in that context. I think there are a lot of players who arguably could have been there. But I'm not going to second-guess anything. I'm just looking forward to hopefully getting a chance to play at the 2010 Winter Games.

**I have heard that no one is allowed to touch your sticks once they have been taped. Is that true?**

Yes.

**Has anyone ever touched one of your sticks after it's been taped?**

Oh yeah, lots of guys have. When that happens, I say to them politely: "Could you please not touch them?" But now that I've been playing on a team for more than a year, the other guys are usually quick to stop anyone from touching the sticks.

**So, the other guys have been understanding?**

Yes, it's the same kind of thing with goalies. Some goalies don't like to have their pads touched. So their teammates stop people from touching them.

**With so many players having so many superstitions, it must get a little tricky in the dressing room.**

Yes, it can. But players seem to make allowances for everything. Every player has his thing and others respect that.

**What would you do if Mario Lemieux [who owned the Penguins from 1999 until October 2006] touched your stick after it was taped? Would you bring it up with him after the game?**

It would depend on how I played in that game. You know, sometimes a guy will touch my stick before a game and I play well. So, I use the same stick in the next game and the game after, until the good luck wears off. It's funny how that works. But if a guy touches my stick and I don't play well, he'll probably hear from me in practice the next day.

**Last season, you lived with Mario's family. Describe the experience overall.**

It was great. I came into the league at a pretty young age, so coming into a family atmosphere was pretty nice. It was great to be in a family environment—and to be around Mario.

**Are you living with his family this season, too?**

Yes, I am. I came back for another year—another extension of the contract, so to speak.

**How is it different from the home you grew up in?**

As far as the way a family operates it's pretty much the same. But Mario has four kids so it's a pretty busy house—a little busier than it was in my house with just me and my sister, Taylor.

**What did you like best about living with the Lemieux family?**

Just being in a family atmosphere. As a hockey player, you sometimes go through tough times so it's good to come home to a family environment. Also, you don't want to [dwell on problems] too much. So it's good to be in a setting with a positive atmosphere.

**Which family events did you take part in?**

I watched movies with the kids. I even babysat them sometimes. Mario has three daughters and one son. One time, he and I got stuck watching *Legally Blonde*.

**That must have been torture.**

Yes, it was.

**I understand you used the family clothes dryer as a goal when you used to play hockey in the basement of your parents' home ...**

That's a misconception. I used to shoot on the net and the dryer was *behind* the net. When I missed the net, I hit the dryer.

**So the dryer has a few dents in it.**

Yes, I missed the net a few times over the years.

**Is your mother still using the same dryer?**

No. It broke last year so she has a new one.

**You appeared on the Tonight Show last summer. What is your most vivid memory of that experience?**

Meeting [fellow guest] Rob Schneider. That was pretty cool. Obviously, it was nice to meet Jay Leno, but I wasn't as familiar with him as I was with Schneider. He mentioned that he was a hockey fan. He was on the show to promote the movie, *Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo*.

**Have you seen that movie?**

Yes, I have.

**Did you like it better than *Legally Blonde*?**

Yes!

**What has been the biggest change in your life since joining the NHL?**

In junior, hockey guys are the same age so you spend more down time together. You go to school with them or watch movies with them and stuff like that. In the NHL, there's a bigger age range. When the guys have free time, they spend it with their families. But then, you travel so much you end up seeing your teammates a lot.

**Are you doing much dating?**

Not a lot. It's tough during the season. I haven't done too much dating, to be honest with you.

**It seems that at every one of your games there is at least one young woman in the stands holding up a sign that says, "Marry me, Sidney!" Have you ever considered taking anyone up on her offer?**

No, I haven't. But I have seen a few of those signs.

**You never know. You could meet your wife that way.**

I don't know about that. The chances aren't too good, but we'll see.

**If you could go out for dinner with any female celebrity, who would it be?**

Wow. You put me on the spot with that one. Let me think about that for a second ... I like Eva Mendes.

**And if she wasn't available?**

Jessica Alba.

#### CAREER MILESTONES

**June 7, 2003:** Crosby is drafted first overall in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League by the Rimouski Océanic. He wins the scoring title and sets a new scoring record for 16-year-olds in his rookie season. He tallies 54 goals and 81 assists.

**Dec. 28, 2003:** Crosby scores his first goal of the world junior hockey championship, in a 7-2 win over Switzerland. He becomes the youngest player ever to score for the team, at 16 years, 4 months and 24 days.

**July 30, 2005:** The Pittsburgh Penguins select Crosby first overall in the 2005 NHL Entry Draft.

**Oct. 5, 2005:** Crosby plays in his first NHL game, against the New Jersey Devils. He assists on the Penguins' first goal of the season.

**Oct. 8, 2005:** Crosby scores his first NHL goal, against the Boston Bruins.

**Dec. 16, 2005:** Crosby is named an alternate captain for the Penguins.

**April 13, 2006:** Crosby breaks Mario Lemieux's Penguins rookie assist record by notching one goal and three assists in a 5-3 win over the New York Rangers. Lemieux recorded 57 assists in his rookie year—Crosby finishes with 63.

**April 17, 2006:** Crosby scores his 100th point, becoming the youngest player in the history of the NHL to score that many in a single season. He finishes the season with 102 points, putting him sixth in league scoring.

**June 22, 2006:** Crosby finishes second in voting for the Calder Memorial Trophy, which goes to the league's top rookie.