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Getty Images photographer breaks down Olympic hockey assignment

By Tripp Mickle, Staff Writer

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Getty Images has been the official photo agency of the International Olympic Committee since 1988. The company has a team of 69 photographers, editors and technicians uploading 2,000-plus images a day in Sochi. Staff photographer Bruce Bennett is a member of the team. It's his fourth Olympics, and hockey is his specialty. He photographs the NHL year-round, and in Sochi he will be shooting this weekend's medal round. He spoke to SBJ's Tripp Mickle before the Olympics about his work.

■ **What's the biggest difference between shooting an Olympics and shooting an NHL game?**

BENNETT: We're dealing with a larger ice surface. Anticipating the plays forwards and defensemen will make in games on an international surface takes a little while. There are so many more photographers at these events, and that changes the dynamics as well.

■ **How many more photographers?**

BENNETT: Let's start with the women's games. For a typical (Olympic) women's (hockey) game, you might have 30 or 40 photographers. An NHL game has five to 10. The men's final will have about 100 photographers. For the Stanley Cup final, you might have 30.

■ **Do you get to photograph anything other than hockey?**

BENNETT: In Vancouver, I had some days to walk around the city and shoot some scenics and get some



Each Olympic hockey game that Getty Images shoots produces roughly 1,000 images, according to staff photographer Bruce Bennett.

atmosphere shots, but my sole focus is to make sure the hockey arenas are taken care of.

■ ***How many photographs will shoot in an average day?***

BENNETT: It appears that all the days I shoot there will be two or three games a day, and each game will have almost 1,000 images shot handheld. Within 180 seconds, we can have images out and back to our editors and out for publication. Key moments get out extremely quickly.

■ ***What's the most interesting thing about being a photographer at the Olympics?***

BENNETT: The enthusiasm on players' faces. These players want to participate. They want to play for their country. There are a lot of National Hockey League games where players don't seem completely engaged. But the whole atmosphere — fans, players, camaraderie — it shows in the photos. It's the best hockey you'll see in four years.

■ ***What makes for a great Olympic photo?***

BENNETT: What we look for when it comes our way is the jubilation and dejection in the same photograph. I prefer the ice-level positions so that you can see faces. The best hockey photographs are when you can see players' expressions and the intensity. If you can get celebration and dejection in the same shot, that's a winner for you.

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