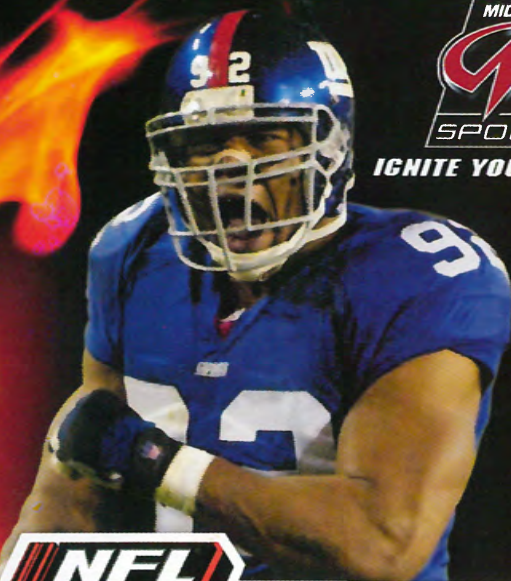


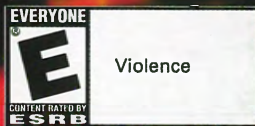
WHAT'S FOOTBALL  
WITHOUT THE BLITZ?  
AVAILABLE NOW



IGNITE YOUR GAME

# NFL BLITZ 2003

MIDWAYSPORTS.NET



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XBOX



CHRIS PRONGER <<



# NHL HITZ 2003



INSTRUCTION MANUAL



**About Photosensitive Seizures**

A very small percentage of people may experience a seizure when exposed to certain visual images, including flashing lights or patterns that may appear in video games. Even people who have no history of seizures or epilepsy may have an undiagnosed condition that can cause these "photosensitive epileptic seizures" while watching video games.

These seizures may have a variety of symptoms including: lightheadedness, altered vision, eye or face twitching, jerking or shaking of arms or legs, disorientation, confusion, or momentary loss of awareness. Seizures may also cause loss of consciousness or convulsions that can lead to injury from falling down or striking nearby objects.

**Immediately stop playing and consult a doctor** if you experience any of these symptoms. Parents should watch for or ask their children about the above symptoms - children and teenagers are more likely than adults to experience these seizures.

The risk of photosensitive epileptic seizures may be reduced by sitting farther from the television screen, using a smaller television screen, playing in a well-lit room, and not playing when you are drowsy or fatigued.

If you or any of your relatives have a history of seizures or epilepsy, consult a doctor before playing.

**Other Important Health and Safety Information** The Xbox Instruction Manual contains important safety and health information that you should read and understand before using this software.

**Avoid Damage to Your Television**

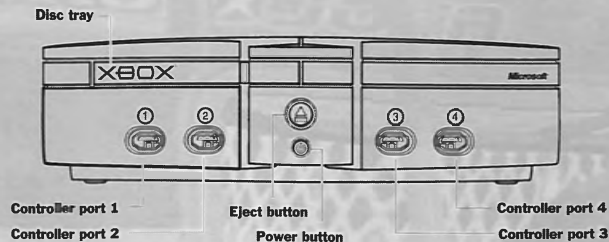
**Do not use with certain televisions.** Some televisions, especially front- or rear-projection types, can be damaged if any video games, including Xbox games, are played on them. Static images presented during the normal course of game play may "burn in" to the screen, causing a permanent shadow of the static image to appear at all times, even when video games are not being played. Similar damage may occur from static images created when placing a video game on hold or pause. Consult your television owner's manual to determine if video games can be safely played safely on your set. If you are unable to find this information in the owner's manual, contact your television dealer or the manufacturer to determine if video games can be played safely on your set.

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## USING THE XBOX VIDEO GAME SYSTEM



1. Set up your Xbox™ video game system by following the instructions in the Xbox Instruction Manual.
2. Press the power button and the status indicator light will light up.
3. Press the eject button and the tray will open.
4. Place the NHL® Hitz 20-03 disc on the disc tray with the label facing up and close the disc tray.
5. Follow on-screen instructions and refer to this manual for more information about playing NHL® Hitz 20-03.

## AVOIDING DAMAGE TO DISCS OR THE DISC DRIVE

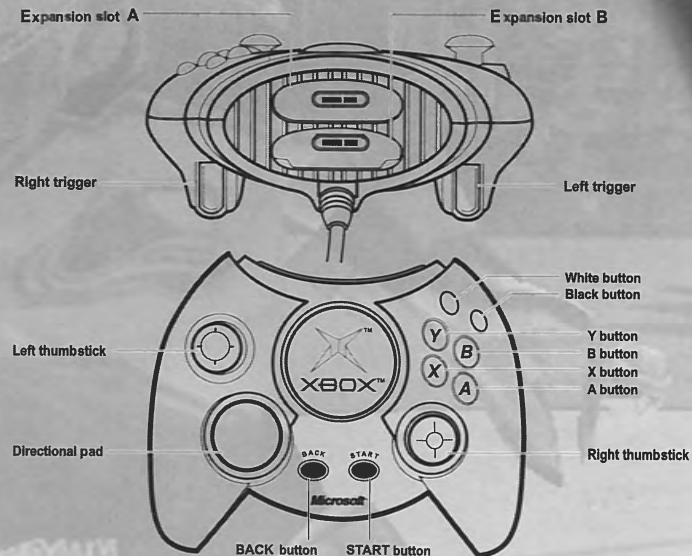
To avoid damage to the discs or the disc drive:

- Insert only Xbox-compatible discs into the disc drive.
- Never use oddly shaped discs, such as star-shaped or heart-shaped discs.
- Do not leave a disc in the Xbox console for extended periods when not in use.
- Do not move the Xbox console while the power is on and a disc is inserted.
- Do not apply labels, stickers or other foreign objects to discs.

## NHL HITZ IN-GAME HELP

On all NHL Hitz menus, you can press the Black button to view in-game help menus that might answer a questions you have about a particular game mode or option. If your question isn't answered using in-game help, we suggest reading through this manual for any questions you need answered.

## USING THE XBOX CONTROLLER



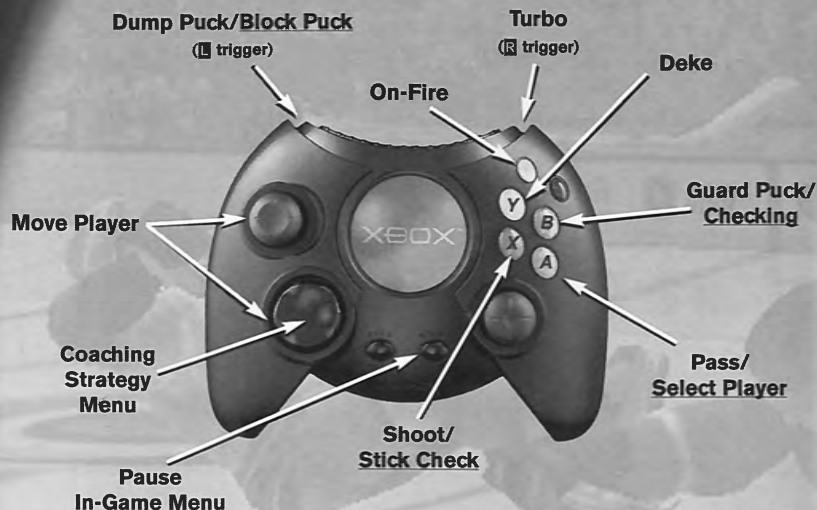
1. Connect the Xbox controller into any controller port of the Xbox console. For multiple players, connect additional controllers to available controller ports.
2. Insert any expansion devices (for example, Xbox Memory Units) into controller expansion slots as appropriate.
3. Follow on-screen instructions and refer to this manual for more information about using the Xbox controller to play NHL® Hitz 20-03.

## MENU/SUB-MENU NAVIGATION

Throughout this manual, ↑, ↓, ← and → will signify pressing Up, Down, Left and Right on the Left thumbstick or Directional pad. To navigate through the game menus (i.e. Options), use the Left thumbstick or Directional pad (↑, ↓, ← or → depending on the menu) to highlight a selection.

## DEFAULT CONTROLS

### WITH PUCK / WITHOUT PUCK



## ADVANCED CONTROLS

Fake Shot = Hold Shoot (X button), then press Guard Puck (B button)

Fake Shot, Pass = Hold down Shoot (X button), then press Pass (A button)

One-Timer = Press Pass (A button), then Shoot (X button)

Fake Shot, Pass, One-Timer = Hold down Shoot (X button), then Pass, then Shoot (A button), then Shoot (X button)

## DEFENSE

Reach for Loose Puck = X button

## MAIN MENU

### EXHIBITION

Play a quick Exhibition game. You'll choose sides (Home or Away), then choose teams and players to take to the ice. For the quickest path onto the ice, hold the R trigger and use the NHL Hitz 20-03 Quickstart feature.



### FRANCHISE

NHL® Hitz 20-03 includes a single team Franchise mode that lets you create a team and attempt to become #1 in the world by winning games. After beating the best 'World' team in the game, the team receives an invitation to join the NHL and is allowed to erect a stadium in the hometown location of their choice. Once selected, you can either create a New Franchise, or Load an already created Franchise.

### NEW FRANCHISE

#### ENTER NAME

You'll first need to name your new franchise. Press the Directional pad ↑, ↓, ← or → to highlight a character, then press the A button. Repeat the process until you've spelled the name, then select End.

#### DIFFICULTY

Select the game difficulty that fits your skills: Rookie, Pro or All-Star.

#### CREATE YOUR TEAM

You can select Manual to create the team yourself, or select Automatic to have the CPU quickly create a team for you.

If you selected Manual, select from these options to create your franchise team:

**NAME** : Name your team (see Enter Name, above).

**NICKNAME** : Scroll through the list of preset team names to choose a nickname for your team. This name will be used by the announcer.

**LOGO** : Scroll through the various logos to select one you like. The logo also dictates the style of your team's uniform.

**HOTSPOT** : The Hotspot can be placed anywhere in the other team's zone. If you take a shot within the Hotspot, your chances to score will increase.

**COACHING STYLE** : Press the Directional pad ← or → to select Offense or Defense, then press ↑ or ↓ to selected the type of offensive or defensive philosophy you'd like your team to have. Press the A button to make your selection (see Coaching Strategies, pg. 19).



## FRANCHISE (CONT.)

### CREATE PLAYER

If you're creating your own team. Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight an option, then press the  $\triangle$  button to make a selection. Create each player using the following options:

- NAME** : Name your player (see Enter Name, previous page).
- NICKNAME** : Scroll through the list of preset player names to choose a nickname for your player. This name will be used by the announcer.
- NUMBER** : Give your player a number.
- PREFERENCES**: Decide your player's Stickhand, preferred Position or Favorite Shot.
- PLAYSTYLE** : Select Style of play, Height and Weight. Your attributes will vary and depend on the options you select.
- APPEARANCE** : You can select various parts of your player's body and make detailed changes. Your attributes will vary depending on the options you select.

Repeat this process for each of the players you'll need to create. You'll be prompted when your team is complete. Choose **Accept All** to go to the Locker Room.

### LOCKER ROOM

The Locker Room is the place to come to edit your team/players.

Choose from these options:

### WORLD MAP

The World Map lets you navigate to go to Junior games, World Games and the Locker Room to modify your team. There are 8 rounds in Franchise mode. Each round has 4 Exhibition style games versus Junior League or NHL Teams. In the first two rounds, you'll play Junior teams, but in rounds 3 through 8, you'll play NHL teams.



### JUNIOR AND NHL TEAM GAMES

Complete Tasks to fill your Experience Bar. Tasks appear on the World Map as you scroll from area to area. Read the tasks. As you complete them, a text overlay will appear on-screen. A full Experience bar earns you bonus attribute points to distribute to your team.

### WORLD GAMES

Defeating a world team earns you Equipment that boosts your player's attributes.

### TEAM

Return to the Edit Team screen to make changes to your team.

### PLAYERS

Return to the Create Player screen to edit your players.

## FRANCHISE (CONT.)

### EQUIPMENT

Equipment boosts players stats, so it's vital to gear them up. Now you can choose from any earned equipment you have in your locker. The default screen (first icon) displays your player's stats. You can **Auto Assign** the equipment or do it **Manually** by pressing the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to select an icon representing a type of equipment. Next, press  $\downarrow$  to access the equipment, then press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$ ,  $\downarrow$ ,  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight the items.

As you highlight equipment, a description will appear below. Look for advanced equipment (+5, +10, etc.), then press the  $\triangle$  button to put it on. The higher the equipment level, the better it is. Press the  $\square$  or  $\times$  trigger to cycle the players.

### CAPTAIN

Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to select your team's captain. The captain will receive a +5 to all attributes.

### EXPERIENCE

Once you've accumulated Experience Points, you can boost your player's attributes using the Experience Screen. Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to select an attribute, then press the  $\triangle$  button to assign points to that attribute. Details regarding your accumulated points and the attributes are displayed to the right.

## SEASON

Play an entire NHL® season using the team of your choice. Once you select this option, you can start a New Season or Load a previously created season. You can use one team for all your season games, or if you like, you can play as the opposing team. You can also import a completed Franchise team into Season mode.



When you start a new season, you'll go to the Season Setup Screen to make adjustments to these options:

- MODE** : Select to play an entire Season or Playoffs Only.
- DIFFICULTY LEVEL** : Select Rookie, Pro or All-star, depending on your experience.
- NUMBER OF GAMES** : Set your number of season games to 14, 29, 58 or 82.
- PLAYOFF LENGTH** : Choose 1 game or Best of 3, 5 or 7 games.
- FANTASY DRAFT** : Select the default NHL roster (OFF) or Fantasy Draft (ON).
- TRADE DEADLINE** : Like the pros, establish a cut-off date to stop trades.
- TRADE LOGIC** : Avoid lopsided, unfair trades with the ON setting.
- ALL-STAR GAME** : Choose the type of All-Star matchup you'd like for your season.

## CHOOSE USER TEAMS



Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$ ,  $\downarrow$ ,  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight a team, then press the  $\times$  button to make it a User team (human controlled). You can make as many User controlled teams as you like.

## MAIN MENU

### SEASON (CONT.)

#### SEASON CENTRAL

The Season Central screen shows your next match-up, and offers several options to adjust prior to your game. Here are the options:

##### PLAY GAME

Hit center ice and get the game started.

##### ROSTERS

Make adjustments to your team's roster using the following options:

**View Rosters :** Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to view each player on your team's roster.

**Create Player :** Create a Player or Goalie (see Create a Player, pg. 11, for details).

**Trade Players :** NHL Hitz allows you to trade players (see Trading Players, pg. 11).

**Free Agency :** NHL Hitz includes several free agent players available for your team. Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight a free agent, then press the **A** button to sign him. If you have no room for a new player on your roster, you'll be asked to drop a player to make room for the free agent.

**Jersey Numbers :** If you don't like the default numbers on your players' jerseys, use this option to pick new numbers. Highlight a number. The player will appear in the above window. Now, press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$ ,  $\downarrow$ ,  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight a number, then press the **A** button to choose the new number.

##### TEAM REPORT

Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to select a team, then press  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight an option. Selected report information will appear to the right.

##### STATS

To view varying stats, press the **L** or **R** trigger to select teams, then press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight players. Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight a category, then press the **A** button to sort. To view the Goalies, press the **X** button.

PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS	SH
BLANCHARD					
CHAPMAN					
FRANK					
FRANK					
FRANK					
FRANK					
FRANK					
FRANK					
FRANK					
FRANK					

##### CALENDAR

The **L** and **R** trigger cycle through the months. Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to select a team, then press  $\downarrow$  to access the calendar. To have the CPU simulate a game, press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$ ,  $\downarrow$ ,  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight a day, then press the **A** button. All games up to and including that date will be simulated. This allows you to speed through the season if needed.

##### STANDINGS

To view standings, press the **L** or **R** trigger to select a Conference, Division or the League, then press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight teams. Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight a category, then press the **A** button to sort.

##### OPTIONS

See Options, pgs. 12 - 16.

##### SAVE SEASON

See Save Options, pgs. 16.

## MAIN MENU

### MINI GAMES

Beat Mini Game Records to unlock Fantasy models. Here are the games:

#### THREE IN A ROW

Play Tic-Tac-Toe by shooting pucks at targets. You'll take on a friend or CPU to see who can get three in a row first. You can block your opponents shots or shoot already hit targets to change them to your own X or O.



#### OWN THE ICE

Grab the puck at center ice and try to skate over all 5 areas before your opponent can take away the puck. The area changes color to match your player indicator. The first player to own the most or all of the areas wins.

#### KING OF THE RINK

Within a circular rink, check or sweep players to gain points. You'll earn extra points for knocking a player out of the rink. The most points wins!

#### KEEP AWAY

A team of 2 players keep the puck away from the opposing team and gain points for time of possession and for each successful pass.

#### SHOOTOUT

Players take turns as the shooter and goaltender to try to score or stop the puck. You'll have five chances. The player with the most goals wins. Ties result in Sudden Death rounds. Goalies can Poke Check and Body Check, and Saves are automatically thrown for you.

#### SHOOTING GALLERY

Take aim at building windows in this 2-on-2 Mini Game. The team that can break the most windows within the time limit wins.

### TOURNEY

Create and play a tournament versus NHL, Fantasy, Unlocked and Created teams. You pick the skill level (Rookie, Pro or All-Star) and number of games you'll play (ie. 1 game or best of 3, 5 or 7 games). You'll select a team, then go to the Tourney Central Screen. Here, you can view Rosters, Stats, the Schedule and Standings. You can also view tournament Options (see Options, pg. 12-16) or Save the tournament (see Save Options, pg. 16). As you win games, you'll advance toward the championship in the Quest for the Midway Cup!

### HOCKEY SCHOOL

The NHL's all-time winningest coach, **Scotty Bowman**, takes you lesson-by-lesson through the various skills you'll need to be successful playing NHL Hitz.



You can manually select a lesson you'd like to take or simply press the **A** button and go through each available lesson. Each lesson includes Scotty Bowman's audio instructions to walk you through. Following each completed lesson, you'll be brought back to the Hockey School Menu.



## CREATING OR ACQUIRING PLAYERS

### CREATE PLAYER

NHL Hitz 20-03 includes a great "Create Player" option for making your own all-star hockey player. Here's how to make it happen:

You can access the Create Player option within Season Mode. Select Rosters, then select Create Player. You can create a player or goalie. Select the type of player you want to create, then press your Directional pad  $\uparrow$ ,  $\downarrow$ ,  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight, cycle and adjust the following options.:



**NAME :** Spell out the name you want to appear on the player's back.

**NICKNAME :** NHL Hitz includes a large library of names the announcer will use in the game. Pick the one you'd like to hear as your created player makes plays.

**NUMBER :** Give your player a number.

**PREFERENCES :** Decide your player's Stickhand, Position and Favorite Shot (Favshot).

**PLAYSTYLE :** You're given 250 attribute points to distribute on top of your player's base play styles. Increase or decrease these attributes to create the type of player you have in mind.

**APPEARANCE :** Scroll through the many distinct physical attributes of your player. Adjust each one to create your player's outward physical appearance.

When you're finished, select CONTINUE to return to Season Central.

### TRADING PLAYERS

Need a player for the Playoff stretch run? You can trade for players in Season Mode using the Rosters option on the Season Central Screen (see Season Central, pg. 9). To do so, press the  $\square$  or  $\boxtimes$  trigger to toggle team rosters. Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to select the teams you'll involve in the trade. At least one of the teams must be human controlled.



Once the teams are selected, press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight a player. Do this for each team, then press the  $\triangle$  button to place him on the trading block. Press the  $\times$  button to make the trade.

**NOTE:** Sometimes trades are rejected if the players being traded have vast differences in their overall rating, play style or what the teams involved in the trade need. Also, Goalies cannot be traded for position players. Keep this in mind when you try to make trades.

### FREE AGENCY

If creating and trading for a player won't help your team, try nabbing one off the waiver wire. Free Agency lets you pick up an available NHL or Franchise player. Here's how:

Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight a player. Their face and attributes will appear to the right. Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to select the team you'd like them to join, then press the  $\triangle$  button to sign a free agent.

**NOTE:** Keep in mind that you won't be able to pick up players and keep the players you have. You'll need to release a current player on a teams roster to pick up a Free Agent. If you try to acquire a player while having a full roster, you'll be prompted to release a player.

## OPTIONS

### GAME OPTIONS

Press your Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight an option, then press  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to adjust these game options:



**GAME SPEED :** Choose how fast you'd like the players to move.

**SKILL LEVEL :** Select Beginner, Rookie, Pro or All-Star.

**PENALTIES :** Choose to have Penalties ON (called) or OFF (not called).

**FIGHTING :** Turn Fighting ON (fights occur) or OFF (no fights).

**TIE BREAKER :** Decide how to resolve tie games: Sudden Death (first goal scored in overtime wins) or Shootout (see Shootout, pg. 10).

If you want to decide during a game, select Choose In Game to make the decision at that time.

**MERCY RULE :** Choose the goal differential you'd like to use to avoid playing a complete game that's become a blowout. You can set the Mercy Rule option from 1 to 10 points or leave it OFF and let the game's final score stand.

**ADVANCED OPTIONS :** If you've created and saved any Advanced Options, you can select them here to apply them to your game (see pgs. 14-15).

### SOUND OPTIONS

Press your Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight an option, then press  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to adjust the volume for these audio options: Music Volume, Sound FX Volume, Crowd Volume and Broadcast Volume.

**BROADCAST SETTING :** Choose Play & Color (Play by play and Color commentary), Play by Play (play calling only) or None (no announcers).

**MUSIC SETTING :** Play Game Sound or the killer NHL Hitz SoundTrack.

**SPEAKER SETTING :** Choose Stereo or Mono sound.

### JUKEBOX

Within the Sound Option menu, press the  $\text{B}$  button go to the Jukebox options menu. Press your Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight a song from the soundtrack, then press  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to turn it OFF or ON. To sample a song within the soundtrack, press the  $\times$  button.







## OPTIONS

### ADVANCED OPTIONS (CONT.)

#### GOALIES

Finding it hard to score? Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to increase or decrease:

**GOALIE FATIGUE** : Goalie Fatigue affects how easy it is to score.

**POSSESSION BONUS** : Be rewarded for dominating time of possession. Opposing goalies will become fatigued.

**SHOT BONUS** : Increase your chances of scoring when attempting more shots-on-goal.

**ATTRIBUTE BONUS** : Shooting attributes will have more or less affect than usual.

**ONE-TIMER BONUS** : Have one-timers pay off more or less frequently.

**OPEN SHOT BONUS** : A wide open shot at the net has more or less chance of scoring.

**HOT SPOT BONUS** : Shooting from the hot spot has more or less chance of scoring.

**BREAKAWAY BONUS** : Breakaways have more or less of a chance of scoring.

#### PLAYER ATTRIBUTES

Player Attributes can be modified to make all players play better or worse. Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to increase or decrease:

**SHOOTING ATTRIBUTES** : Shooting attributes will have more or less effect than usual.

**CHECKING ATTRIBUTES** : Checking attributes will have more or less effect than usual.

**PASSING ATTRIBUTES** : Passing attributes will have more or less effect than usual.

**SPEED ATTRIBUTES** : Speed attributes will have more or less effect than usual.

#### FIGHTING

Getting beat up all the time? Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to increase or decrease:

**FIGHT DIFFICULTY** : Increase or decrease the chances of winning fights versus the CPU.

**FIGHT HEALTH** : Increase or decrease the players' Health Meters.

**PUNCH DAMAGE** : Increase or decrease the amount of damage a punch inflicts.

**BLOCK PUNCH DAMAGE** : Increase or decrease the amount of punch damage inflicted when blocking a punch.

**MAX FIGHTS GAME** : Increase/decrease the maximum amount of fights per game.

#### VISUALS

The Visuals menu allows you to adjust the look and sizes of player heads and the puck:

**PLAYER HEAD MODE** : Set the size of the controlled player's head to Normal, Big or Huge.

**TEAM HEAD MODE** : Choose Normal, Big or Huge head size for both teams.

**PUCK SIZE** : Increase or decrease the puck size.

**PUCK SHADOW** : Turn the puck's shadow ON or OFF.

**PUCK EFFECT** : Add an effect to the puck as it travels. Choose Streak, Trail, Blur or OFF.

**PUCK GLOW** : Choose a color for the puck's glow; Green, Yellow, Red, Blue or OFF.

**SHOW CROWD** : Show the crowd (ON) or remove it (OFF).

## OPTIONS

### USER RECORDS

Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to view the records list. If you did well enough, your User Name should appear on the right. They are separated into 3 sections: Overall, Game and Mini Games.

### USER STATS

When you enter a User Name at the Choose Sides Screen (see page 17), statistics will be accumulated and saved to that user name. You can then select this option to view stats from all the games you play using that user name.

More than one player may enter a user name, so the User Stats screen will display all stats associated with all saved user names.



Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to highlight a name, or press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to highlight a category. The **A** button will sort by the category selected. Because only 20 user names can be stored, you may have to delete one to create another. To delete a selected user name, press the **X** button.

### SAVE OPTIONS

NHL<sup>®</sup> Hitz 20-03 lets you save accumulated data to your Hard-Disk or Memory Card.

Data will be automatically loaded each time you start your console. This prevents you from having to go through the menus to adjust the settings to your liking each time you want to play the game.

The save option appears in several game modes and appears following each game mode (other than Exhibition). Once this option is selected, press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to select the Memory card you'd like to save to (if you have more than one). When you have your Memory card selected, press the **A** button to begin saving.

It is advised that you do not insert or remove peripherals or Memory cards once the power is turned ON. Make sure there is enough free space on your memory card before commencing play. Do not add or remove a Memory card while saving is in progress.

### CREDITS

View game credits of the people who stayed up late nights putting together NHL Hitz 20-03. As credits roll, enjoy a behind the scenes look at various events that took place during the making of this game.

### MOVIES

Check out some extra DVD content created during the making of NHL Hitz 20-03.

## PRE-GAME SETUP

### CHOOSING SIDES

Prior to each game, select whether you want to be the Away or Home team. Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to move your controller icon into a team window. Press the  $\times$  button to enter a User Name, so stats accumulated in that upcoming game will be saved to that user name (optional). There's a maximum of 4 characters per name. Press the  $\times$  button once you've entered the name.



Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to scroll through the letters, then press  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to move to the next letter to spell out your user name.

Up to four controllers are displayed between the Home and Away window. Each player who wishes to play must press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to choose a side, then press  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to choose a team. Once all players have made their selection and entered a user name, press  $\text{A}$  button to go to the Choose Player screen.

### CHOOSE PLAYERS

Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to scroll through the available players, then press the  $\text{A}$  button to select a player. Do this for all three players and the goalie.

If you like, you can press the  $\times$  button to lock that player. When locked, you cannot switch to control any of your teammates. This option is most useful when playing multi-human player games.



To toggle players' stats, press the  $\text{B}$  button.

### CHOOSE JERSEYS



Press the Directional pad  $\leftarrow$  or  $\rightarrow$  to scroll through the available player jerseys for each team. As you play more and more games, new jerseys will unlock, so take some time to find the one you like. Press the  $\text{L}$  or  $\text{R}$  button to toggle control of the teams. When you're finished, press the  $\text{A}$  button to move on to the Stadium Select screen.

### STADIUM SELECT

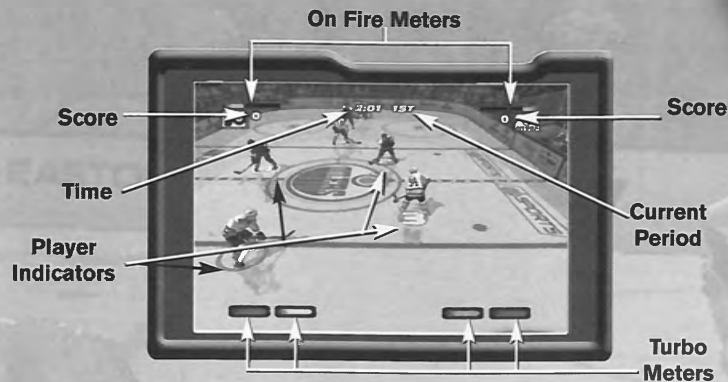
Press the Directional pad  $\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  to scroll through the available stadiums. Each stadium is displayed to the right of the selection window. Stadiums include additional information regarding the weather.



## GAME ON!

### THE HUD

NHL® Hitz 20-03's Heads Up Display (HUD) is simple, so you won't be overwhelmed by on-screen information as you play. Review the illustration below to familiarize yourself with the HUD.



### THE FACE-OFF

Possession of the puck means everything, so you'll want to win as many face-offs as possible. As you're face-to-face with your opponent, press the  $\text{A}$  button,  $\times$  button or  $\text{B}$  button. They each do something different during the face-off. Whether you win or lose is based on the button your opponent selects.

Basically, the  $\text{A}$  button beats the  $\text{B}$  button, the  $\text{B}$  button beats the  $\times$  button and the  $\times$  button beats the  $\text{A}$  button. If you both press the same button, the winner is determined by who pressed the button first.

### THE ONE-TIMER

When executed correctly, this is quite possibly the most difficult shot for any goalie to stop. With a teammate open and rushing (or near) the net, press the  $\text{Pass}$  button, then quickly press the  $\text{Shoot}$  button to execute a one-timer. You can perform this shot from anywhere on the ice, but shooting closer to the net will give you a better chance to score.

### PLAYER INDICATORS

Colored circles appear under each human controlled player. The color is determined by which controller you're using [Blue (1), Red (2), Green (3) and Yellow (4)]. Colors appear at the Choosing Sides Screen before the game. See Choosing Sides, pg. 17).

### TURBO METERS

Turbo Meters are displayed at the bottom of the HUD, and their colors correspond to the colors of the Player Indicators. Turbo ( $\text{R}$  trigger) diminishes fast, but it will completely replenish in 5 seconds when released.

## GAME ON!

### PASSING

As you play, you'll find out that every pass doesn't find its destination. Look for open lanes to avoid having the puck stolen. Use the **A** button to pass the puck.

### CHECKING

If you really want the puck, a nice hard Check should jar it loose from your opponent. Press the **X** button for a Stick Check or the **B** button for a nice Body Check. Add a little turbo to really send them flying.

### BLOCKING SHOTS & PASSES

Take one for the team! Kneel down or lay down your stick to block an incoming shot or pass by pressing the **L** trigger when a player is shooting a puck toward your net or passing to a teammate.

### DEKE-SPIN/GUARD PUCK

Every player on the ice is going to be hitting hard to get possession of that puck, so you'll need some moves to avoid the hits. Try the **Y** button to perform a Deke-Spin move to dodge a body check or press the **B** button to guard the puck against a Stick Check.

### FIGHTING

With enough hard hits on the ice, tensions build up, so you'll likely find yourself squaring off against an opponent. Be prepared, and try to get that first punch in. At the top of the screen is each player's energy bar. You run out of energy, you go down. Here are the fighting controls:

- High Punch . . . . . **A** button
- Grab . . . . . **B** button
- Low Punch . . . . . **X** button
- Block . . . . . **Y** button
- Dodge . . . . . **←** or **→**



**REMEMBER:** The winning fighter and a teammate of the losing fighter serve a 30 second penalty. Teams will then play 2-on-2 until the penalty time is up (see Penalties, pg. 20).

### COACHING STRATEGIES

#### COACHING STYLE ON THE FLY

During play, press the D-pad any direction to view the Coaching Style window. Press the Directional pad **↑**, **↓**, **←** or **→** to access the Offensive and Defensive options, then press any button to make the change. On Offense, choose a Passive, Aggressive or Normal offense, and on Defense, choose Zone, Man-on-man or Cherrypick.



## GAME ON!

### ON FIRE

Hard hitting and defense has its rewards. When you lay some hard hits on your opponent or make some nice defensive plays, your On-Fire meter will increase.



Your On-Fire Meter has two parts. As it fills up, the first half (Blue) will fill, followed by the second half (Yellow). When the blue half is filled, your player will begin to smoke. At this time, you can press the White button to have the smoking player burst into flames.

When you catch fire, all your attributes will increase 20%, so your success rate on the ice will also increase. Listen to the announcer as well. He'll clue you into the fact that a player is ready to go on-fire. You'll be on-fire for 30 seconds. You can also initiate On-Fire during a fight to increase your chances of winning.

### TEAM FIRE



If you resist using the first half of the On-Fire Meter, the second half will turn red and flash, and all your players will start smoking. When they all start smoking, press the White button to watch them all burst into flames.

### PENALTIES

Penalties are administered to players following a Fight or when a player hits the goalie. This penalty results in a Power Play.

#### FIGHTING PENALTY

The winning fighter and a teammate of the losing fighter serve a 30 second penalty. Teams will then play 2-on-2 until the penalty time is up. The losing fighter will be out for the remainder of the game.

#### HITTING THE GOALIE - The Power Play

When Hitting the Goalie is called, play will stop and one player will enter the Penalty Box. The opposing team will then go on a Power Play, giving them a one player advantage over the other team for the next 30 seconds.



# INTERMISSIONS

## SUBSTITUTIONS



Between periods, you'll have an opportunity to substitute one or all players.

If a player has been penalized, the word "Penalized" will be displayed below his picture. If a player loses a fight, the word "Out" will be displayed.

At the Substitution Screen, press the Directional pad **←** or **→** to cycle through the available players, then press the **A** button. If needed, repeat this process for all players.

Press the **B** button to toggle between Attributes and the Overall vital stats (height, weight, handedness).

## FINAL GAME STATS



Once the game has ended, you can go to Stats Central to view Team stats, Player stats and User stats. The Game Stats Screen displays the breakdown of final stats for the game.

## TRIVIA

In all game modes, you can play Trivia to test your knowledge of the game. Read the question, and answer as quickly as possible. The clock is ticking. Correct answers are tracked and accumulated in your personal stats. If you answer correctly, your stats will be updated. Once you've earned enough Trivia points, new items will unlock (see **Unlockables**, pg. 14). The value of trivia points varies. Easy questions are worth 1 point, Medium (2 points) and Difficult (3 points).



# PAUSE OPTIONS

## PAUSE OPTIONS MENU

At anytime during the game, press the **START** button to pause the game and display the Pause Menu.

It contains standard game options to make adjustments to your current game.



## REPLAY



You'll quite likely make some incredible plays that you'll have to look at from all angles. Controls are listed on-screen. Press the **START** button to exit Replay.

## OPTIONS

See Options, pgs. 12 - 16.

## STATS CENTRAL

Press the the Directional pad **↑**, **↓**, **←** or **→** to highlight Team Stats, Player Stats, User Stats, Scoring Summary or the Penalty Summary. Press the **A** button to sort by statistic. Descriptions for abbreviated stats are listed at the bottom of the screen.



## USER CONTROL



The User Control Menu lets you switch teams at any point in the game. Simply press the Directional pad **←** or **→** to move your controller to the new team. This feature is especially useful in the event a friend joins or leaves a game in progress.

If a human player leaves, you can move their controller to the middle of the screen and let the CPU play out the rest of the game. If you move onto a player photo, you will lock to that player.

## CONTROLLERS

See Controllers, pg. 13.

## EXIT GAME

Exit the current game in progress and return to Main Menu or specific Game Mode menu.

# NOTEZ

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NHLPA - Marty McQuaig & Mike Ouellet

Ron Ludlow, Tom Taylor, Doris Lynch, Diane Barton, Xina Matthews, Echo Storch, Ann Denton, David Greenspan, McFarlane Toys, AbFab Inc., Manning, Salvage & Lee, Ayzenberg, Horizon, Visionworks, The Hockey Company, Bauer/Nike Hockey, Easton, Itech, Louisville & Sherwood - Drolet

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**Rob Zombie**

"Feel So Numb"

"Feel So Numb"

(Rob Zombie, Scott Humphrey)

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"Bombshell"

"Bombshell"

Words by Spider

Music by Powerman 5000

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"We Are All Made of Stars"

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"Sinner"

"Sinner"

Written by Dave Williams, Mike Luce, C.J. Pierce, Stevie Benton

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