



## Companion curriculum for GOALS “Hockey Stories”

This week’s feature is focused on the hockey superstar **Mario Lemieux**. He is another of our “hockey stories” that will showcase people or aspects of the hockey community which are



distinctive for many reasons – be they talent, courage, perseverance or leadership – or in most cases ALL of these great attributes. There are lessons to learn from these great players as outstanding people who set examples for all of us. Remember, greatness is not always about being the best player – it is about trying your best, sticking with something and not giving up. Greatness is about overcoming what many may think are weaknesses, but you can turn them into strengths!

If you can print this page out, please do so then fill in the blanks to complete the full summary story. First make sure you watch the GOALS Hockey Story VIDEO though! If you can’t print it, you can still get a sheet of paper and fill out the correct answer when you come to a missing word in the story! Let’s go!

Mario Lemieux is considered to be one of the greatest players in hockey history. In fact some of those who are also considered to among the greatest – legends like Wayne Gretzky and Bobby Orr, openly say that Mario Lemieux was the most talented person to ever play hockey! Lemieux had a couple of fun nicknames. Can you name at least one of them? \_\_\_\_\_ How about the other one that was popular (in French or English!) \_\_\_\_\_.

Mario Lemieux was born in the city of \_\_\_\_\_ which is located in the country of \_\_\_\_\_. As he grew up, his hockey skills were better than anyone. When he was 18 years old he was the #1 draft pick by a team that was struggling in the National Hockey League. That team was the \_\_\_\_\_.

That CITY is located in the STATE of \_\_\_\_\_.

Lemieux proved to even better than people thought he would be. He scored his first NHL goal on his first shift and first shot of his career. He quickly emerged as arguably the best player in hockey at a very young age. In 1987 he was named to a national “Team Canada” and led his team to a unique championship against other national teams in the famous “Canada Cup” series. He scored more than 25% of the goals for \_\_\_\_\_ in this tournament against the best players in the world.

In 1993 at the young age of just 27, Lemieux was diagnosed with a form of \_\_\_\_\_. He underwent medical treatment but returned to play for his team just 44 days later! Amazingly he scored a \_\_\_\_\_ and had two more \_\_\_\_\_ in that game, and he went on to win the scoring title in the NHL!

Finally, by 2005 he retired for good but became the majority owner of the team he had played for during parts of 17 seasons. By then he was ALREADY a legend, voted into the Hockey Hall of Fame and to further cement his legacy, a large statue was placed outside the arena where his team played. Truly a champion in ALL ways, Lemieux continues his inspirational hockey leadership today!