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Sittler's 10-point game now a work of art

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KEVIN MCGRAN
SPORTS REPORTER

HALIFAX—Darryl Sittler's artistry on the ice was never in question.

But now the former Toronto Maple Leafs captain's incredible feat of 10 points in a single game is being recreated as a multimedia form of art by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Graeme Patterson, the artist in residence at the gallery, is creating a massive, electronically controlled table hockey game to make a short film – via stop-motion animation – that depicts the events of that evening, Feb.7, 1976. Sittler will narrate the film.

The work in progress was presented yesterday as part of a hockey exhibit at the gallery. Patterson has sculpted all the players on the ice, including Lanny McDonald and his trademark handlebar moustache. None of the Bruins players had heads yet, nor did Leafs goalie Mike Palmateer.

But 11 pucks were behind Boston goalie Dave Reece. The Leafs won 11-4, with Sittler accumulating six goals and four assists. It was Reece's final game in the NHL.

"He had a bad game, but (Gerry) Cheevers was coming back from the WHA," said Sittler, whose last goal was a pass from behind the net that hit Brad Park's skate to beat Reece. "I just raised my hands and said, 'Geez, what else can happen?' I had 10 shots on goal. That night it all came together."

He's amazed his record still stands, having survived the Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux eras.

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"Gretzky had eight one night, Mario had eight," Sittler said. "But looking forward, you've got Sidney Crosby, he's got the skill and talent. And (Alex) Ovechkin might do it."

The hockey exhibit has a true sense of humour:

There's a loonie in the floor, which stands as a reminder of Canada's gold medal from the Salt Lake Olympics.

A portrait of NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has red devil horns over his head.

And another table hockey depiction of two players, Buffalo goalie Dominik Hasek lying in the crease and Dallas forward Brett Hull standing in the crease. The interactive display allows a viewer to twirl the handle for Hull to score, a reminder of his controversial goal that won the 1999 Stanley Cup.



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