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WEEKENDSPORTS

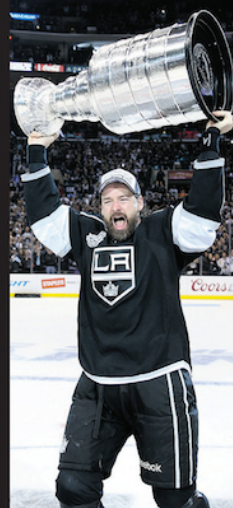
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SATURDAY, JUNE 14 | 2014 | SPORTS COORDINATOR: LIONEL WILD 604-605-2395 | lwild@vancouversun.com

Field of Dreams

If you build it, not only will they come, they'll return. A cornfield-turned-diamond in Dyersville, Iowa, is the venue for a movie reunion with B.C. ties » E2, E3

STANLEY CUP 2014



KINGS CROWNED CHAMPS

CAM COLE:

It took a comeback, an overtime goal and some luck, but L.A. found a way to win Lord Stanley's coveted Cup. » E3



MMA TOTS HIT GYMS

KICKS FOR KIDS:

Tough sport attracts youngsters looking to boost confidence, body strength and self-discipline. » E7



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BASEBALL

Canadian Americana

The iconic baseball and father-and-son movie *Field of Dreams* marks 25th anniversary of release

KEVIN GILLIES
SPECIAL TO THE VANCOUVER SUN

This Father's Day weekend marks the anniversary of one of Hollywood's most notable father-and-son movies ever.

"Hey Dad. Want to have a catch?" *Field of Dreams*'s Ray Kinsella, played by Kevin Costner, says in the film's final scene, after earlier asking, "Can you believe that? An American boy refusing to have a catch with his father?"

This weekend, the iconic fathers-and-son-and-baseball Americana classic celebrates its 25th anniversary at the Dyersville, Iowa, cornfield baseball diamond where most of the movie was filmed. Its theatrical release was in April 1989.

Yet despite its Americana theme, *Field of Dreams* was based entirely on the story penned by longtime B.C. resident W.P. (Bill) Kinsella. His novel *Shoeless Joe*, published in 1982, was the basis for the screenplay adaptation.

"It's kind of nice to have your work become a classic," Kinsella told *The Vancouver Sun*. "I imagine it will be around for another 25 years. I'll be long gone, but it will be (around still)."

"It wasn't anything I ever planned," the grey-haired author said humbly, in his large Yale living room. "My whole reason for writing was to make a living and I didn't care if my work survived or not, as long as I got properly paid for it. But I am very pleased that some of it is going to last."

Shoeless Joe became *Field of Dreams*, which is as much about father-and-son relationships as it is about the all-American pastime of baseball.

Both the novel and the movie tell the tale of how long-dead suspended 1919 Chicago White Sox baseball star Shoeless Joe Jackson and his colleagues find heaven in an Iowa cornfield where they are allowed to play again.

And so this weekend the movie's cast members, fans, retired professional baseball players and an NBC television crew descend on the cornfield to celebrate *Field of Dreams*, baseball and Father's Day.

"I've seen it a dozen times, I suppose," the 79-year-old Kinsella said. "When it came to the White Rock theatre, I went down and set up a table in the lobby and sold books when



W.P. Kinsella, who now lives in Yale, saw his 1982 novel *Shoeless Joe* turned into *Field of Dreams* in 1989.

“The thing is, it's not really a baseball movie. I mean, it's really about a lot of things in life. It's evocative, and it's nostalgic. It wouldn't be the kind of thing that you'd expect they'd make a movie out of because it would be debatable how much commercial success it would have. It was very well done.”

DAVE EMPY
WRITER AND BASEBALL COACH

people came out of the theatre. I'd go in and watch the final scene and listen to everybody in the theatre snuffling, and then sell books."

Kinsella was born in 1935 outside of Edmonton and raised there until he left for B.C. in 1967. In 1970, he started taking writing courses at the University of Victoria where he earned his literature degree. Kinsella would subsequently live in White Rock, Chilliwack and Yale.

"I went to graduate school at the University of Iowa and

I wrote the story that became the first chapter of *Shoeless Joe* while I was at the workshop, the last weeks of the workshop," Kinsella recalled.

It was June of 1978 when he wrote the short story *Shoeless Joe Comes to Iowa*, which character Terrance Mann mentions in *Field of Dreams*' final scene.

"It was a short story and it was published in an anthology," Kinsella said. "The anthology was reviewed in *Publishers Weekly* and an editor in Boston saw the review. (He) wrote to me and said if it was a novel he wanted to see it, and if it wasn't it should be. So that was the point when I started writing *Shoeless Joe*, which would have been sometime in 1980, because it was published in '82."

Shoeless Joe won the Canadian Authors Association Prize, and Kinsella was subsequently awarded the Alberta Achievement Award, the Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship.

Kinsella was named winner of the Leacock Award in 1987 and in 1993 the prolific novelist was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

In 2005, Kinsella was awarded the Order of British Columbia, and in 2009 he was awarded the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award.

But not everyone in Canadian literary circles is as impressed with *Shoeless Joe* or Kinsella's contribution to Canadian literature.

According to Albert Braz, who sits on the executive committee of the Canadian Literature Centre — self-described as the "the western hub of the Canadian literary community" — Kinsella occupies a problematic place in Canadian letters.

"Like other Canadian best-selling authors, from Ralph Connor and L.M. Montgomery to Pierre Berton, he's more popular with everyday readers than with academics," Braz said by email. "While he's generally considered a creator of compelling narratives, there are doubts about his esthetic achievement."

"No matter (how) dexterous, his baseball works are often seen as politically suspect. After all, not only is Kinsella writing about another country's national sport, but about the country that politically, economically and culturally dominates Canada. So, for a number of Canadian critics, it's as if he's contributing to the cultural emasculation of his own country."

Shoeless Joe is less Canadian

literature about Canada, and more reflective of the fact Kinsella finished his postgraduate studies at the University of Iowa, married an Iowan woman and spent a sizable part of his life living there. Kinsella reportedly sold the rights to his book to Hollywood moviemakers for \$250,000, but he says he hasn't seen a penny of royalties from the movie's profits since it was released.

"I theoretically have one-and-a-half per cent of the profits of *Field of Dreams*," Kinsella said, adding he's never seen a penny of it. "Every year they can charge off the bombs that they make against the profits from my movie so that there never are any profits. That's the only thing I'm a little bitter about. I should have gotten many thousands of dollars in my share of the profits."

Kinsella hopes a current project to turn *Field of Dreams* into a Broadway musical will yield a payday for his daughters after he's gone.

Nonetheless, Kinsella said, "I don't see how they could have made a much better movie out of it."

He added: "So many authors are such assholes when it comes to having their work adapted. They don't want to change a comma, or change a character, or change a phrase. I don't give a damn. I just said, 'Do what you have to do' and hope it turns out well."

Kinsella said he gives "whole credit" to director and screen adaptation writer Phil Alden Robinson for capturing *Shoeless Joe*'s story.

"Phil was absolutely in love with the book and he kept in touch with me and sort of kept apologizing, saying, 'You know, there's no way we can get a 320-page novel into an hour-and-40-minute movie. We have to cut characters. We have to telescope time. We have to move this and move that,'" Kinsella recalled with a chuckle.

"But he did a marvellous job with the screenplay and then got to direct it so it didn't get changed. Because you could just see someone getting a hold of that script and saying, 'Yes, this is a nice little movie, but we need a fist fight here and a car chase there and some hot sex here,' and completely destroying it."

For his part, Robinson gushed over Kinsella's novel.

"I've never sat up an entire night and finished a book in one sitting," Robinson said for the film's 20th anniversary. "I mean, it was morning when I finished reading his book *Shoeless Joe*, and I literally couldn't put it down."

Kinsella is legendary among local writers and baseball aficionados.

Dave Empey used to coach the Vancouver Cannons and North Shore Twins of the BC Premier League, where he once coached retired pro player and current Major League Baseball Network analyst Ryan Dempster. Dempster was supposed to take part in the *Field of Dreams* anniversary but had to withdraw for family reasons.

Empey, whose background includes work as a sports writer and newspaper editor, considers Kinsella one of his heroes.

"I've written two novels and five movie scripts and I consider Kinsella to be one of the premier writers of our time," Empey said. "His use of similes and analogies is an education for any writer."

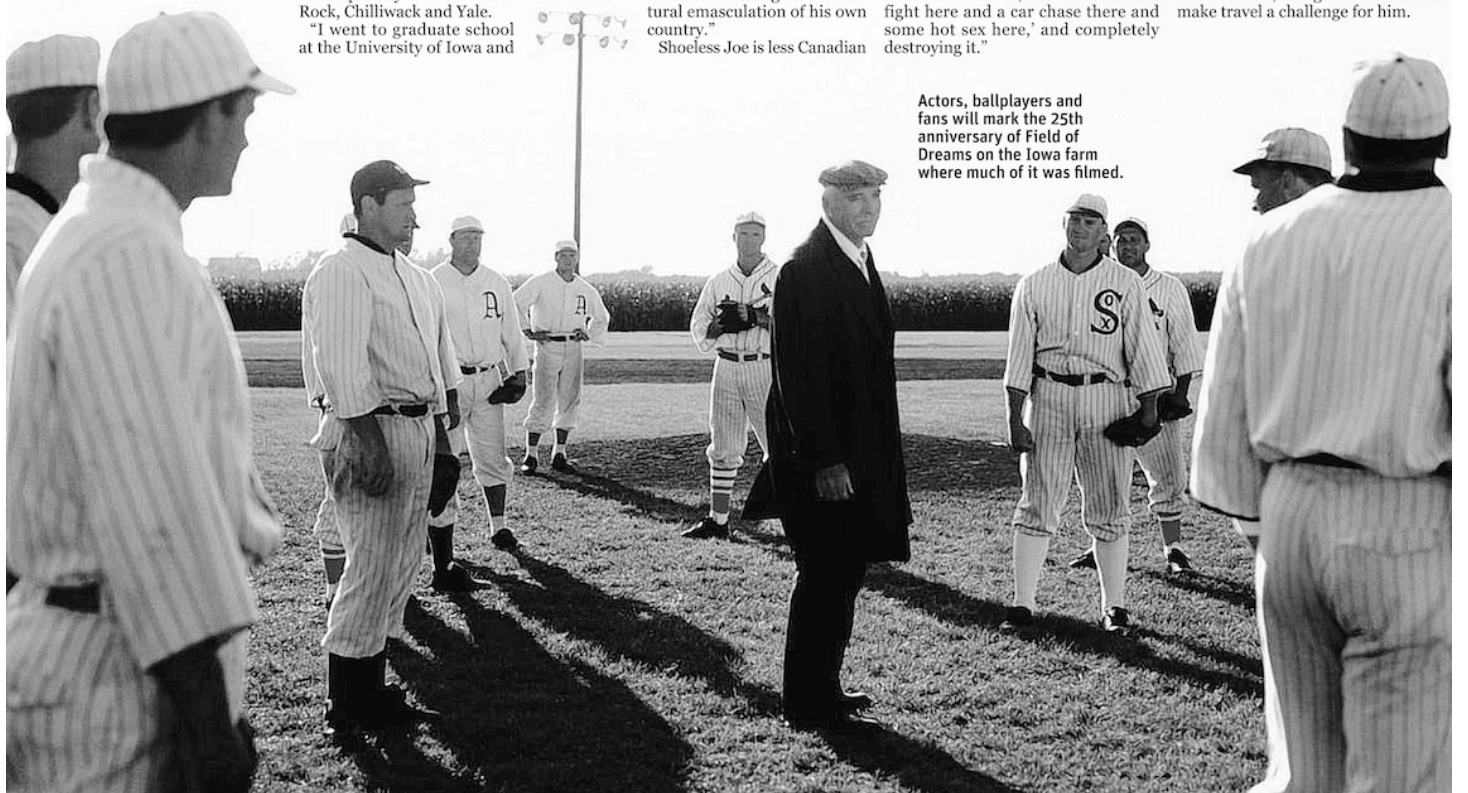
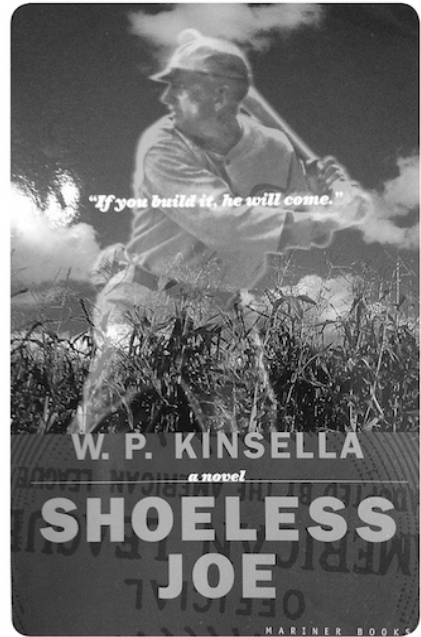
"I read *Shoeless Joe* and I learned a lot about writing while reading him."

Empey also loved *Field of Dreams*. "The thing is, it's not really a baseball movie. I mean, it's really about a lot of things in life. It's evocative, and it's nostalgic," Empey said. "It wouldn't be the kind of thing that you'd expect they'd make a movie out of because it would be debatable how much commercial success it would have. It was very well done."

"Costner did a very good job and it worked. It appealed to a lot of people because so many men grow up with baseball as a nostalgic thing from their youth, and they relate to that kind of stuff. It was good."

To this day, Kinsella continues to write at his Fraser Canyon home and said he was four books ahead of his publisher.

He was non-committal about attending the *Field of Dreams* anniversary this weekend, citing health issues that make travel a challenge for him.



Actors, ballplayers and fans will mark the 25th anniversary of *Field of Dreams* on the Iowa farm where much of it was filmed.

BASEBALL

Field of Dreams is special spot to bond

KEVIN GILLIES

SPECIAL TO THE VANCOUVER SUN

DYERSVILLE, Iowa — Baseball fans from across North America are descending on this quaint farm in outer Dyersville, Iowa, and all of them want to talk baseball or one of baseball's premier movies, *Field of Dreams*.

Enthusiasts from as far as Spokane, Wash., and Vancouver are mingling with folks from Denver, N.C., St. Louis, Boston, New York, Florida and beyond to talk about how much they love baseball and *Field of Dreams*.

Every one of them has a baseball-related story to tell, and they are part of the 60,000 who visit this baseball diamond annually.

They have their ball mitts, baseballs and ball caps as they "have a catch" on perhaps the most storied, non-professional diamond in America.

And they're lining up to buy T-shirts, ball caps, coffee mugs and other trinkets to mark the fact they've made it here.

Field of Dreams has thrived since its theatrical release in April 1989, and has something of a cult following all over North America.

This weekend the movie is being celebrated to acknowledge its impact on father-and-son relationships and celebrities of all stripes are here among the fans.

In media reports out of New York and elsewhere, cast members tell multiple stories of grown men approaching them in tears and talking about how the movie affected their relationships with their fathers or sons.

"Every day I'm out in public, people will mention that movie," actor Kevin Costner, who played protagonist Ray Kinsella in the movie, told the *New York Daily News* in April. "I was at The Grove with my children, and a guy came over to me in a very emotional way. And he just said it allowed him to reconnect with his father, and to get some things said that had not been said."

Retired professional baseball players such as Bret Saberhagen and Glendon Rusch will join with athletes from other sports such as retired National Hockey League player Reid Simpson, here with his son, and Canadian figure skater Lloyd Eisler who is here with his family, too.

Friday evening there was a Q & A session with Kevin Costner and other cast members (Timothy Busfield, Dwier Brown) with Costas and Lauer.

At dusk Friday, *Field of Dreams* was shown on a large screen in the outfield.

Today, families are invited to "have a catch" on the field before VIP and celebrity softball games are played.

Also today, Costner is to hold a news conference in Dyersville, before heading a half-hour's drive east to Dubuque, Iowa where he and castmates will be introduced to the America's River Music Festival this evening. Then his rock band will take the stage.

Sunday there is a father-and-son brunch scheduled on the diamond.

Terrence Mann, a character in the movie played by James Earl Jones, was correct in the movie's final scene when he predicted, "People will come Ray. People will most definitely come."

They continue to come 25 years after the movie was released.

OPINION | STANLEY CUP FINAL

Happy ending in Hollywood

Kings rule: Martinez ends long night with Cup-clinching goal in double OT

LOS ANGELES

It wasn't so much Friday the 13th as Fright Night in the town that gives us all those horror movies.

In fact, where the New York Rangers live, it was already Saturday morning when they stepped onto the ice for the second overtime period at the Staples Center, having put the fear of Game 6 into the Los Angeles Kings.

The very last thing the Kings wanted, after leading the series 3-0, was to have to go back to New York and try to stop the modest little roll the Rangers were threatening to mount.

So along with the joy, there was considerable relief when Henrik Lundqvist, so brilliant all night in the New York nets, kicked out Tyler Toffoli's rebound right onto the stick of Alec Martinez, and the 26-year-old defenceman rifled the puck into the open left side at 14:43 of double overtime for a 3-2 victory and a five-game dismissal of New York in the Stanley Cup Final.

"It was a loose puck in our own end. I just wanted to get it up into the forwards' hands, let them do their thing," said Martinez, who also scored the overtime winner in Game 7 of the Western Conference Final in Chicago.

"Our coaching staff, they always encourage the D to join the rush. That's what I tried to do. I was just fortunate for it to come on my stick and able to put it in. After it went in I think I blacked out. I think I tossed my gear. I'm just so happy for these guys."

At the end of a spectacular evening's entertainment, of a game that had so many traded chances and narrowly missed opportunities, Gary Bettman presented the Stanley Cup to Kings' captain Dustin Brown for the second time in three years, and the fans hardly even booed the NHL commissioner. Justin Williams, the clutch third-line forward who led the Cup final in scoring, was voted winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy.

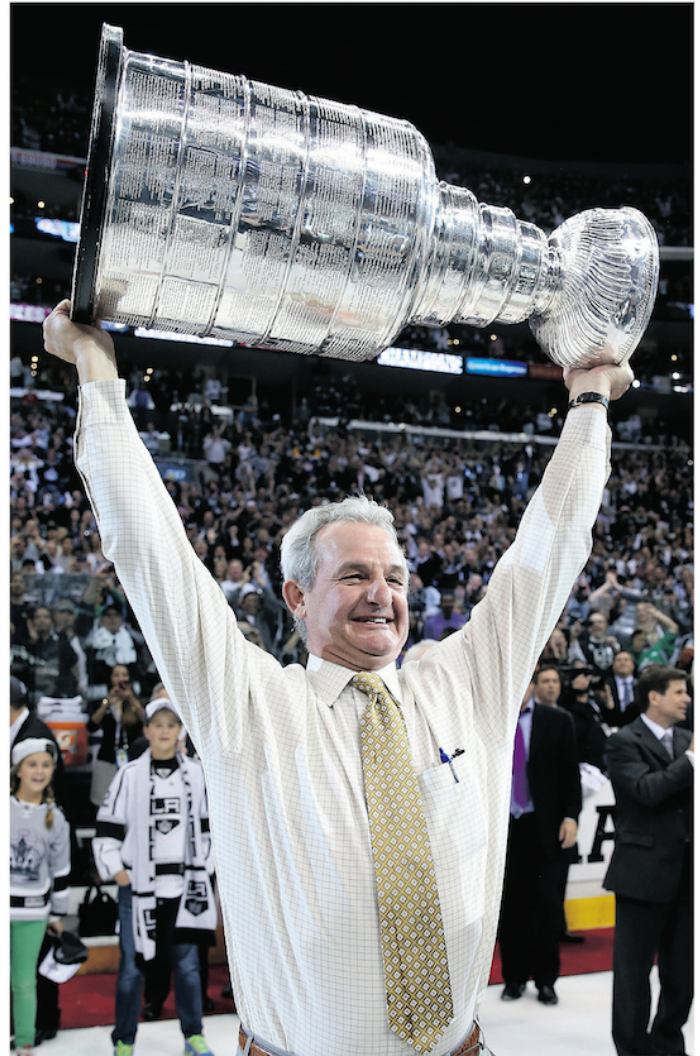
Both goalies were tremendous, and tremendously lucky. In a series in which bounces were so much of the conversation, each got the benefit of their posts and crossbars in a game that left the sellout crowd drained and giddy.

"It was a hard-fought game. I mean, every inch on the ice was contested real hard. Both teams were battling at an unreal level," said Rangers' coach Alain Vigneault. "All three games here, when you look at it, they all went to overtime. Tough loss."

It may not be too early to start whispering the D-word — dynasty — in connection with the Kings, who look to have the ingredients of a powerhouse for some time to come.

They did nothing the easy way all through the season and playoffs, finishing among the lowest-scoring teams in the NHL, needing seven games in each of their first three rounds against San Jose, Anaheim and Chicago, so it was probably no surprise that they needed nearly five periods — and three overtime games out of five — to finish off the Rangers, whom they outshot 51-30.

"Well, we did it a different way in 2011, winning as the road team every time," said head coach Darryl Sutter. "During the Olympics, all I thought



Los Angeles coach Darryl Sutter, not one to show much emotion behind the bench, let loose Friday after his Kings won the Stanley Cup with a thrilling 3-2 double OT win over the Rangers.

about was, 'How are we going to beat Chicago?' Then Dean (GM Lombardi) got Gaborik, we were able to put the kids (Toffoli and Tanner Pearson) in and we went from there."

"It takes a lot of effort and will, but I think once you've done it as a group, as a nucleus, they know how to gut it out ... it showed up again tonight. You've got to give this team a lot of credit. Tonight was their 26th (playoff) game and with all the overtimes, it was probably close to 30 since the middle of April. You got to give these guys full marks."

Lundqvist was blameless on the game's opening goal when he made at least three saves in a mad scramble around the Ranger net before the ubiquitous Williams swooped in and dragged the puck one-handed through the pile. Somehow it slid under and past the New York goaltender, who was being pitchforked backward by Jarret Stoll.

After that, it looked as though the Kings weren't going to be able to get a BB past King Henrik.

"I knew going into this series it was going to end in tears: tears of joy or tears of heart-break," said Lundqvist. "It's extremely tough."

The Rangers played a fast, hard game, matched the home team's tenacity on pucks, and

eventually the hard work paid off. Late in the second period, they scored both on the power play and short-handed.

Defenceman Ryan McDonagh threaded a neat pass through the crease and found Chris Kreider uncovered at the back post with Dwight King serving a high-sticking minor at 15:37, but it was Brian Boyle's goal with 29.6 seconds left in the period that hushed the sellout.

A neutral zone turnover produced a mini 2-on-1, and Carl Hagelin sent the 6-foot-7, 244-pound Boyle away with Drew Doughty alone to defend. Boyle strode to his left and snapped a shot that caught a piece of Doughty's stick and sneaked just inside the crossbar-goalpost junction over Quick's glove.

It looked ominous for the Kings until the puck was dropped for the third period, and then the team DNA kicked in, and in short order they began swarming the New York end.

Lundqvist was magnificent, making consecutive glove saves on Willie Mitchell and Jake Muzzin, but finally a Doughty shot from the top of the right circle — with Mats Zuccarello in the box for tripping Muzzin — handcuffed him and Marian Gaborik pounced on the rebound, slapping it from between the goalie's pads to tie

it at 7:56. The rest of the period was a survival ordeal for the Rangers, who never did figure out how to handle the Kings in third periods.

Or overtimes, for that matter.

The Kings, who won Games 1 and 2 in extra time, thoroughly dominated the first overtime period Friday but also gave up a few five-alarm chances. Each team rang a shot off the iron — McDonagh under Quick's glove and off the post at 4:42, Tyler Toffoli over Lundqvist's shoulder and off the crossbar at 12:50 — and both goaltenders had to be extra good. They traded goalposts again in the second overtime, deflections by Zuccarello for the Rangers and Carter for the Kings.

Martinez, whose overtime goal that dethroned the 2013 champion Blackhawks hit a couple of bodies on the way in, didn't come close to missing this time.

Asked what he saw on the winning goal, Williams said, "I saw a team determined not to go back to New York. I couldn't be prouder of every single one of these guys on this team."

"Marty has scored so many big goals ... he's a huge part of this team."

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Cam Cole

Photos from Friday's Game 5 action at the Staples Center in Los Angeles at: vancouver.sun.com/galleries



GREG BEACHAM

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Justin Williams has won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the Stanley Cup playoffs MVP after cementing his big-game reputation with a post-season full of clutch play for the Los Angeles Kings.

The veteran forward beat out defenceman Drew Doughty for the honour after the Kings' 3-2 double-overtime victory over the New York Rangers in Game

all with Carolina in 2006 and Los Angeles two years ago, and he played his biggest role yet during the Kings' second championship run.

Williams raised his steady game to brilliant heights in the post-season with nine goals and 16 assists, including the Kings' first goal early in the clincher.

Williams led all players with seven points in the finals, including a dramatic overtime goal in the series opener last week. He had three assists in the Kings' double-overtime

Conn Smythe Trophy goes to veteran Williams



Actor Kevin Costner is in Iowa, where he's taking part in the

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Williams also reminded the hockey world why he's called Mr. Game 7.

He had two goals and three assists in the Kings' three Game 7 victories during their resilient playoff run, including timely goals against Anaheim and Chicago. Williams also had a pair of two-goal games when the Kings faced elimination in the first round against San Jose, becoming the fourth team in NHL history to rally from a 3-0 series deficit.

Williams is 7-0 with seven

