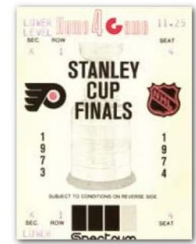
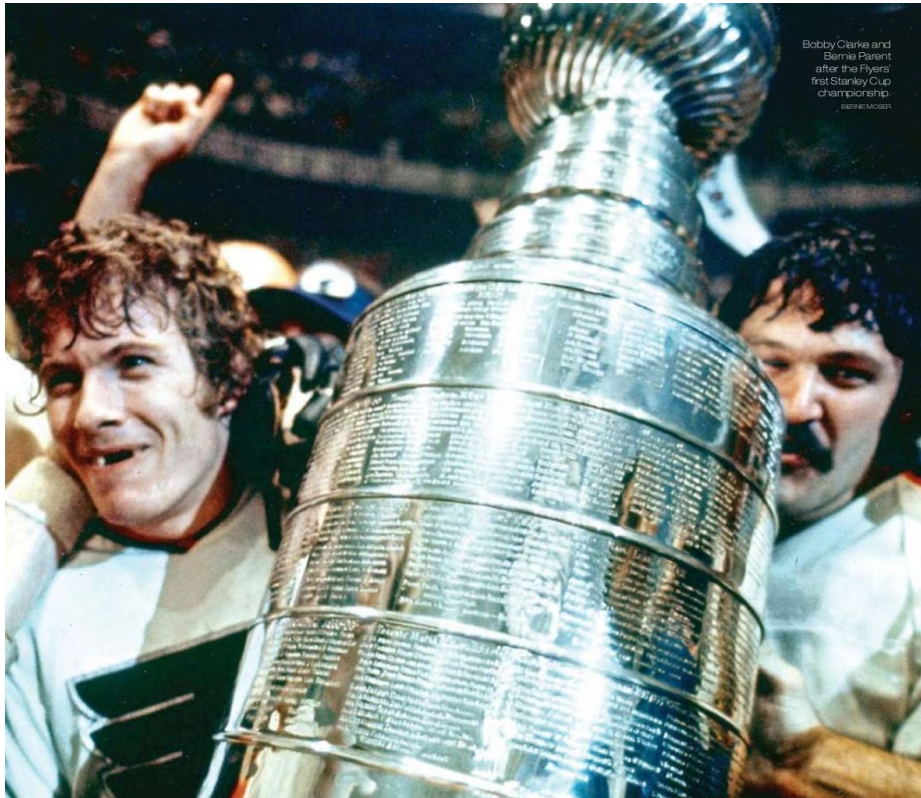
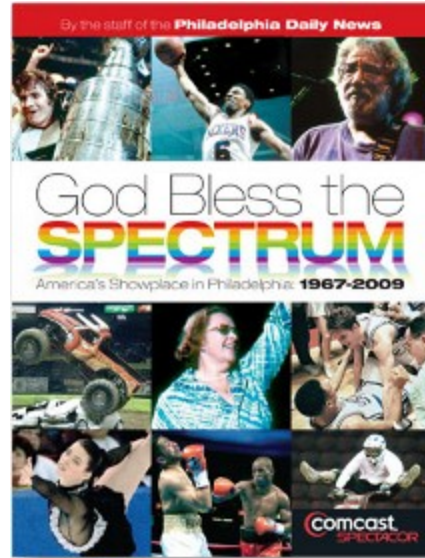


# God Bless the Spectrum

America's Showplace in Philadelphia:  
1967-2009

The Staff of the Philadelphia Daily News



CHAPTER TWO

## The Flyers

In a city where you couldn't buy a puck, the Broad Street Bullies hooked us early and haven't let go.

By Les Bowen

IT SEEMS STRANGE THAT IN A TOWN that values history so much, in the American city that has preserved more of this nation's roots than any other, the building where the Flyers won their first Stanley Cup is about to become nothing but memories and a plaque.

Very soon, you will not be able to see the spot at center ice where Kate Smith stood to belt out "God Bless America," or the perch from which Gene Hart crowed, "The Flyers win the Stanley Cup! The Flyers win the Stanley Cup!"

The birth of the Flyers, in a city that lacked a rich history with the sport, where original Flyers coach Keith Allen has remarked that you couldn't buy a hockey puck back in the mid-'60s, was tied to the birth of the Spectrum. The city already had the Sixers, the NBA franchise that arrived from Syracuse