

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-Winning Author D.J. Wemple Steps Onto the Ice with New Middle-Grade Adventure *Fantasy Hockey Trade*

“The Mighty Ducks Meets Freaky Friday” Story Arrives August 1 from Captivate Press

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (August 1, 2026) — Captivate Press announces the release of *Fantasy Hockey Trade*, an exciting new middle-grade novel by award-winning author **D.J. Wemple**. Written for readers ages 8–12, the imaginative story combines the excitement of youth hockey with an unforgettable body-swap adventure in what has been described as **“The Mighty Ducks meets Freaky Friday.”**

Best friends **Easton and Trevor** love playing hockey with their teammates on the Gladiators, but competing against bigger, tougher players isn’t always easy. After a mysterious chemical spill in a science lab, the two friends suddenly find themselves transformed into their favorite professional hockey stars.

Thrust into the fast-paced world of professional hockey, Easton and Trevor discover that being a superstar comes with pressure, responsibility, and sacrifices they never expected. Along the way, they learn valuable lessons about teamwork, friendship, perseverance, humility, and growing up. Before long, they realize that while life in the big leagues is exciting, they may not be ready to leave childhood behind.

Known for his award-winning Christian novel *Something We Never Imagined*, Wemple brings his signature heartfelt storytelling to a younger audience, delivering an entertaining adventure with meaningful life lessons for young readers.

“I’ve always believed that stories can entertain while encouraging readers to think about what’s truly important,” said Wemple. “*Fantasy Hockey Trade* is a fun hockey adventure, but beneath the action is a reminder that some of life’s greatest victories happen off the ice.”

Reflecting on the release, Wemple added:

“We never, ever know what tomorrow holds. It could be our last breath, or the most incredible dream of our life. That’s why I wait patiently on the Lord. His plans, His path, and His timing are always much better than my own, and God is so good.”

Published by **Captivate Press**, *Fantasy Hockey Trade* will be available beginning **August 1, 2026**, in paperback, hardcover, and eBook editions through major online booksellers and retailers.

About D.J. Wemple

Michigan native **D.J. Wemple** is an award-winning author whose novels blend compelling storytelling with themes of faith, hope, forgiveness, redemption, and the transformative power of love. After spending more than 40 years dreaming of becoming a novelist, he published his debut award-winning Christian novel, *Something We Never Imagined*. Today, Wemple travels throughout the United States sharing inspirational messages while continuing to write. He is currently working on several new novels and enjoys spending time with his three grown children, Elijah, Noah, and Kylie.

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