

Babes in Hockey Land

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by [anarchybeauty](#)

Summary

Leah and Max invited Shane and Ilya on their podcast to get the juicy details now that they're out.

Contains spoilers for The Long Game!

I saw this prompt from Tnw99404 and lined up with something that I thought would happen when I was reading *The Long Game* (I thought they might come out on ESPN, talking about their relationship and the homophobia they faced) - *Shane wants the focus to be on hockey, not their relationship, and he's tired of fielding questions about it every game. Ilya gets it; it was a bit of a shock to the league. So they agree to do one low-key, honest interview, no glossy magazine spreads, no dramatic photoshoots, just a casual, tell-all conversation to get everything out there so people will finally stop asking. They choose their friends from camp, Leah and Max, who run a small but beloved hockey podcast.*

Transcript of episode 236 of *Babes in Hockey Land*:

Ilya: -so then I-

Shane: Ilya! They're recording!

Leah: Good morning, afternoon, or evening to all of you in Hockey Land! By popular demand, we have professional hockey's it couple, Ilya Rozanov and Shane Hollander!

Max: Thanks for being here, guys!

Shane: No problem, it's always a pleasure to see you both.

Max: We're pretty lucky to have you here, it seems like everyone is talking about you two coming out as a couple.

Ilya: Yes, because we're the most beautiful couple.

Shane: Ilya!

Ilya: What? Is true.

Leah: You guys are adorable and also so gross.

Max: But I think everyone wants to know how did it happen? You've been famously rivals ever since you were signed, maybe even since your junior hockey days.

Shane (hushed): Ilya, how much are we revealing?

Ilya: Everything.

Shane: We met at World Juniors but -

Ilya: I wanted to jump on him right away, but I waited until after we were both signed.

Shane: You waited?

Leah: Wait, wait, wait - when exactly?

Shane: The summer before our first seasons. Max: Holy shit! Seriously?

Shane: It wasn't what you think! Actually, maybe it is.

Leah: I want details but -

Shane: Well, um, we saw each other at a commercial shoot, do you remember the one where we're facing off, for CCM?

Max: Oh yes, very well. I remember my friends and I would yell "Kiss!" At the TV when it was on.

Leah: What happened?

Ilya: Shane couldn't contain himself in the shower afterwards-

Shane: Motherfucker, I'm not the one who -

Ilya: Oh you loved it, sweetheart. After that, we met sometimes to have sex.

Max: Like fuck buddies?

Shane: Yeah, I guess that's the best way to say it.

Max: Anything memorable about that time you'd like to share?

Shane: Um...

Ilya: Should I tell everyone about the night I won MVP and we went to my penthouse...?

Shane: Don't you dare!

Leah: And this went on for - ?

Shane: Years. Until -

Ilya: You fell in love with me.

Shane: Shut up, you fell in love with me too, asshole.

Ilya: Hey, I'm handsome and very good at sex, and you are -

Shane: So it was right around when I dated Rose Landry that things seem to change between us.

Leah: Do I sense that there was some jealousy?

Ilya: What?! No! Ok, a little.

Shane: Well, that was when I knew I was gay and also in love with Ilya.

Ilya: Aw, you love me!

Shane: Shut up! You know we're married, right?

Ilya: Yes, but I also know that we haven't really talked publicly about it yet.

Max: Hear that! That's an exclusive!

Leah: Ok, ok, let's get back to you realizing you're in love with your arch rival.

Ilya: That was a strange time for both of us. Rose Landry, my father died, but it was when you get hurt, I knew I needed to have you as mine.

Shane: I think it was when Scott Hunter came out, that changed things. We spent the summer together and made plans to really be together and plan a future.

Max: And you're married now.

Ilya: Yes, for citizenship of course.

Shane: Oh shut up, you love me, and we have a dumb little dog and run the Irina Foundation together. It's hard to believe that the guy I found smoking outside an arena in Saskatchewan would be the love of my life and -

Ilya: Oh Hollander, so sentimental.

Shane: Shut up Rozanov (laughter) Leah: Speaking of sentimental, what's your favourite moment you can share?

Shane: Well, hmmm...

Ilya: That day at the cottage, when your father walked in while we were making out.

Shane: Yeah, that was a good one. I wasn't out to my parents' yet, and um... my father walked in while we were kissing. So I came out to my parents and introduced them to my boyfriend, and my parents were so wonderful about it. It felt like the first day of the rest of our lives.

Ilya: Yes, all that then we had very hot sex.

Shane: Yes, we did.

Max: So to get a bit serious, have you met any backlash?

Shane: (sigh) Yes. That was why I decided to leave Montreal. That hurt a lot.

Leah: I can only imagine.

Shane: I got a lot of heat from management. After the video that Hayden posted went out, I was told not to issue a statement, my teammates were cold. It was all the things I was scared of about coming out.

Ilya: My teammates were good. Very happy for me, but Crowell...

Shane: (sigh) Yeah, Crowell. When he heard the rumour that I was gay, he called me into his office to warn me not to come out publicly.

Max: I want to say I'm surprised but I'm not.

Ilya: Yes, there's a day we babysat for Hayden, and afterward, I thought maybe we could tell everyone and it wouldn't be a problem, but then Crowell talked to Shane and scared him all

the way back in. It was very hard. I never doubted Shane's love but it was very difficult. Shane: Crowell made it very clear that he didn't want another Scott Hunter. He didn't want me to come out, although maybe not in as many words. Of course he didn't know that two of his top players were in bed together, but I'm sure that would have been even worse.

Leah: What was it like being outed the way you were?

Shane: It was...

Ilya: It was- what's the word? Like if someone watched through your window?

Shane: You mean, voyeuristic? Yeah, that's a good word. But then, there was a lot of support too. Some fans were upset, and there was a lot of nasty stuff on social media, but at the same time, there was even more fans who were supportive.

Ilya: Crowell was very angry, but Shane stood up for us, and oh my god it was so fucking hot- Shane: Ilya!

Ilya: What? Is true. (Laughter from everyone)

Leah: So you're both in Ottawa now.

Shane: Yeah, it's amazing playing in my hometown with my husband. You know, I thought I would be a Voyageur for the rest of my career, but the way I was treated after I was outed...

Ilya: Ottawa has become my home and my team, Shane, his family, they are the ones who made it so.

Leah: Awww, that is so sweet.

Max: I think the thing we always need to remember, especially queer people, we need to find our own homes. The most important thing is we find the people who love us and support us.

(Sigh) I'm not saying this right.

Leah: You're doing fine, honey.

Ilya: No one can hear you nodding, Hollander.

Shane: Oh shut up, Rozanov.

Ilya: Make me, Hollander.

Leah: No making out on the podcast!

Max: Do you wish you came out earlier?

Shane: I think that's a complicated question for both of us.

Ilya: I don't know if there's a point in wondering what could have been.

Shane: I think it would have saved some heartache. Sneaking around, hiding things, it took a toll on both of us. There was a lot of fear for a long time. I wish I could have shouted it from the rooftops when Ilya and I finally admitted our feelings, I wish I could just told anyone, really. I'm so in love with with this amazing man and he loves me back just as much, and not being able to tell anyone... It was very lonely.

Max: I can relate to that. Being closeted is so isolating.

Ilya: I remember being at a party and watching all the straight couples dancing. All I wanted was to have Shane there in my arms. Show off my lover just like everyone else was.

Leah: I bet there's a lot of other queer couples who can relate.

Ilya: Yes. I know a few. Therapy helped me and we had a few close friends and Shane's parents knew.

Shane: But I hope things are changing. Hockey seems to be starting to change, and women's hockey certainly has been pretty open with this stuff.

Leah: Yeah, we all keep marrying each other, it's so annoying. (Laughs)

Max: I hope the next frontier is trans people in sports.

Ilya: Definitely.

Max: Can we finish off with some rapid fire questions?

Shane: Sure.

Leah: What's your song?

Ilya: Pony by-

Shane: Ignore him, it's Diamonds by Rihanna.

Max: What's your favourite thing to do together?

Ilya: Oh definitely- (muffled sounds)

Shane: We love to spend our free time at our cottage, swimming, hiking. I finally got Ilya to try kayaking with me, but I think he still prefers the jet ski.

Leah: What's your biggest pet peeve of each other?

Ilya: His ridiculous diet.

Shane: His ridiculous diet.

(Laughter from everyone)

Max: Favourite team?

Ilya/Shane: Ottawa Centaurs! (More laughter from all)

Leah: I think that's another wrap for this episode! Max, final thoughts?

Max: Just thank you for joining us today and I have to say you are both the cutest and grossest couple I know, congratulations on your wedding and I'm so glad we're friends.

Shane: Aw, thanks guys. It was a lot of fun.

Ilya: Yes, and thank you to you both for volunteering with our hockey camps.

Max: Best part of the summer!

Leah: All right everyone, we'll see you next week, and as always, keep your stick on the ice!

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