

- FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE -

**7 ADELAIDE TEENAGERS
STAR
IN TV SPECIAL**

**- THE ICE FACTOR -
THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 AT 6.30PM**

In October last year, a group of troubled teenagers, experiencing difficulties at school and with their peers, took up a challenge to dramatically turn their lives around.



In an Australian education first, the teenagers learned to play ice hockey to help overcome their behavioral problems and provide them with the incentive to make a fresh start at school and at home.

With the encouragement of District Court judge Marie Shaw QC, educator Don Anderson created the ice hockey program, "The Ice Factor", for students at risk who were under his care in an alternative education program at Parafield Gardens High School.

Marie Shaw had noticed Don had successfully used boxing in a crime prevention program for troubled children but suggested he adapt it for ice hockey because it was a team sport.

For eight weeks, the students, boys and girls, first learned to skate, then play ice hockey and, finally, learned to become a team before taking on an established ice hockey team.

The result was a remarkable transformation for the self-proclaimed "scoundrels" as Team Reapers, Adelaide's own *Mighty Ducks*, showed what they could achieve with commitment, dedication and self-belief against all the odds.



Today Tonight filmed the inspiring eight week journey for a one-hour special, **THE ICE FACTOR**, which screens this **Saturday August 19 at 6.30pm.**

Marie Shaw said: *"What you do when you get on the ice is not only do you overcome your fear of the ice but you also overcome your fear of life."*

"They are allocated different tasks during the week which are directed to particular life skills. By the end of it, they not only take responsibility for the team but also take responsibility for themselves for whatever they do."

The inspiring journey did not end with the television special. Team Reapers went on to win the inaugural Ice Factor Challenge Cup and the outlook for some of the team members is also uplifting. Two have returned to main stream schooling and six others now have full time or part-time jobs.

Introduced by **Leigh McClusky**, and produced & directed by local filmmaker **Shane McNeil**, the documentary special is in the style of Seven's *True Stories* with the participants telling their own story.

THE ICE FACTOR **SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 at 6.30pm** **on SEVEN**





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