



SELF MADE

GOALKEEPER

NWHL commissioner **Dani Rylan** has big ambitions for women's hockey—and she's pursuing them one by one. BY ROMY OLTUSKI

When Dani Rylan, 29, founded the National Women's Hockey League last year, the former college athlete borrowed a strategy from her old playbook: Always keep your next goal in sight. First, networking. "There was no outlet for women players other than every four years at the Olympics, so I ran my idea by friends in the hockey world. Everyone was supportive," she says. The league, whose second season began in October, is the first in the United States to give female pros a chance to compete on the ice—and a paycheck. To get there, Rylan had to do everything from drafting players to booking broadcast teams to filling arenas. "There were so many roadblocks," she says. "I've developed a thick skin." Her next mission: to pay players as much as the NHL does. In comparison, she says, "starting the league was the easy part! I just focus on doing one thing at a time."

TIM HOUT: PROF. STYLING, VANESSA BARRANTES AT BERNSTEIN & ANDRIULLI. PORTRAIT: MERON MENGHISTAB.

WHEN I WAS A KID I WANTED TO BE... *In charge.*

MY FIRST JOB WAS... *Lemonade sales.*

THE BEST ADVICE I'VE BEEN GIVEN IS... *"Work hard, have fun."
- Dad before every hockey game.*

MY BEST IDEAS COME FROM... *My 2nd glass of wine.*

MY ATTITUDE IN LIFE IS... *Always positive,
optimistic, and unsatisfied.*

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS... *Seeing the look on little
girls' faces at games.*

THE TOUGHEST LESSON I'VE LEARNED IS... *There are only 24
hours in a day.*

MY NEXT GOAL IS... *To pay NWHL players an
average of \$100,000/yr.*

MY SUPERPOWER IS... *The ability to start every day
with a clean slate.*



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