

Hockey great of three decades



Photo: Public Archives of Canada

Gordie Howe was another phenomenon in Canadian hockey. According to Bill Gadsby, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, "He was not only the best player, but also the longest lasting athlete I've ever seen." Mr. Howe retired from the NHL's Detroit Red Wings in 1971, but came out of retirement to play with his sons. He finally hung up his skates for good in 1980 at the age of 52.

Ambidextrous and extremely precise in his shots, he was one of the fastest skaters in the league. Often the puck would be in the net before the goal tender had a chance to react. A six-time winner of the Hart Trophy, he survived a near-fatal concussion on the ice to be told he would never play again. But this determined man was back with his team mates a year later. His record of most games played — 1 767 — and most points accumulated has never been beaten.

"The Rocket"



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Spectacular hockey player **Maurice (The Rocket) Richard**, was born in Bordeaux, Quebec in 1921. During his career with the Montreal Canadiens from 1942-60 he became the team's top goal scorer. He was the first player to score 50 goals in 50 games. In his NHL career he scored 544 regular season goals and 82 during the Stanley Cup play-offs.

A member of the Order of Canada, Richard received the Hart Trophy and also the Lou Marsh Trophy. Peter Gzowski, Canadian television broadcaster said of Richard that he was the most exciting athlete he had ever seen. "So much has been written about Richard, that for me to offer a flood of new praise would be roughly equivalent of a Ph.D. candidate announcing he is going to prove that Hamlet is an interesting play."

"Little giant" of the 30s



Photo: Public Archives of Canada

Another winner of the Hart Trophy was **Auriel Joliat** in 1934. An Ottawa native who played with the NHL's Montreal Canadiens for 17 seasons, he retired in 1938. Tim Moriarty, author of the book, *Hockey's Hall of Fame*, considers Mr. Joliat to be one of the greatest left-wingers in the history of hockey.

Not a fast skater, Mr. Joliat made up for this shortcoming with his energy, mastery of stick handling and his always superb passes. His coordination with Howie Morenz and Johnny (Black Cat) Gagnon produced one of the most superb trios in the Canadiens' line-up. His personal best season was in 1924-25 when he scored 29 goals in 80 games helping his team end up in first position. His scintillating stick handling helped popularize the game during its first years of expansion into the United States, particularly in New York, Chicago, Detroit and Boston.