

won Rookie of the Year . . . and I decided to grow my hair long and I got into mod suits and bell bottoms."

Derek inspired his fellows and the three-button suits began to open up. He also attracted so much attention, and so many fans, that he was soon lured into the WHA with a ten-year contract for \$2.3 million.

He returned to the Bruins, but since then things have gone less smoothly and Derek is now playing for the Boston Braves in the American Hockey League. His firm admirers are sure that one of these days he will be back in the majors again.

## A Few Words About Gordie

When Gordie Howe was a small boy in Saskatoon, his mother put newspapers on the kitchen floor so he could eat with his skates on.

He stuffed his own stockings with pages from a department store catalogue and in the dim, bitterly cold winter afternoons he skated with his stick (first a broken one), and in the evenings he skated some more on the icy, lighted roadways.

At twelve he was the star of five different teams and at seventeen he was a pro. He scored a goal and lost two front teeth in his first National Hockey League game.

He weighed, at his prime, 205 pounds, was six feet tall and played right wing for the Detroit Redwings. He spent over twenty years in the NHL and was a Superstar for all but the first few. He scored more total points, more assists, more goals than anyone else in the history of the



League. No one else was even close.

In addition to the statistics, he collected a skull fracture, broken ribs, dislocated shoulders, twisted knees, a concussion, a detached retina and the loss of a dozen teeth. He had over 400 stitches taken on his face. By November, 1963, he had tied Maurice "Rocket" Richard's record number of goals, 544. He went on and on

and on, retired and then came back.

Today at forty-five, he and his two teen-age sons are playing for Houston in the World Hockey Association. He remains a modest man. "I am," he said, "just a lucky old farm boy." He is more than that. Bobby Hull put it more precisely: "There are 240 of us in the National Hockey League [at that time Bobby and Gordie were still in it], but Gordie Howe is in a league by himself."

