



Phil Esposito is a legend in Boston, where he famously wore the No. 7, the number he wore to start his career in Chicago before the Bruins acquired him in a blockbuster trade in 1967. But when another big trade sent him to New York early in 1976, Esposito faced a dilemma — his trusty number seven was already taken, by Rangers’ legend, Rod Gilbert. Esposito briefly wore the No. 5 before switching to No. 12 for the rest of the 1976-77 season. The following year, he switched to 77. Boston retired No. 7 in Esposito’s honour in 1987, with Bruins’ star, Raymond Bourque, switching to, you guessed it, 77.

## Phil Esposito

HHOF 1984

Nassau Veterans’ Memorial Coliseum · New York, NY | c.1975-76 | DiMaggio-Kalish | colour · slide · 35mm

One hundred years of hockey have produced some thrilling moments, but a fair share of quirky ones, too. Some of those captured here are wacky gimmicks dreamed up by a photographer, some are naturally occurring oddities, like a funny expression, and others are rarities that only the keenest of fans might pick up on. For example, read on to find out why Espo (Phil Esposito) wore No. 12, and another number, in the same season.

The “coolest game on earth,” to use an old slogan, might just be the fastest, too, so odd things can happen out there on the ice. And so much has changed in the past century that younger fans might be surprised to discover how casually things were done back in the old days, when an opposing player could wander into the photo of a penalty shot instead of being forced to huddle at the bench with the rest of his team.

Indeed, there is plenty here to puzzle the younger fan:

“Dad, why is that referee up there on the boards?”

“Mom, what are all those Maple Leafs doing squatting outside with their arms extended?”

“I thought the Colorado Rockies were a baseball team!”

And then there are the players, like the aforementioned Espo, or the legendary Jacques Plante, who turn up in a strange jersey after years in another. This chapter also contains the only non-NHL photo in the whole book. But there’s a great reason for that.

They say it’s the little things that make it all worthwhile. So enjoy these little quirks of hockey, these rarities and oddities.

Fun memories.



Chicago Blackhawks' right-winger, Bill Mosienko, poses with three pucks after scoring the fastest hat trick in NHL history. In the final game of the 1951-52 NHL season, Mosienko scored three goals in a 21-second span against the New York Rangers. The Rangers led the game 6-2 in the third period when "Mosie" scored at 6:09, 6:20 and 6:30. Mosienko narrowly missed a fourth seven seconds later when he hit the post. Chicago scored twice more to win, 7-6.

## Bill Mosienko

HHOF 1965



After missing the playoffs in their first full season as the Maple Leafs, Conn Smythe's Toronto hockey squad got down to serious business at their 1928 training camp in Port Elgin, Ontario. The team hired physical training expert, Corporal Joe Coyne of the Royal Canadian Regiment (in black), to whip the players into shape. Aside from old school calisthenics and running, the training regimen included golf, tennis, softball and fishing. The team got off to an average start, but a strong finish where they lost only three of their final 15 games.

## Toronto Maple Leafs

Location · Port Elgin, ON | October, 1928 | Turofsky | B/W · glass



Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | c.1964-65 | Harold Barkley | colour · transparency · 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"



Old Leaf and new Ranger, Dick Duff, breaks in on Terry Sawchuk, wearing No. 24 for Toronto, in 1964-65, the first season on these teams for each of them. For most of the NHL's first half century, teams carried one goaltender who always wore No. 1. And when a goalie would leave the game with an injury, his replacement, often plucked from the stands, would wear the same number. That created a dilemma in the mid-1960s when the league mandated that teams dress a second netminder. Sawchuk switched to No. 30 the following season, with other goalies following suit.

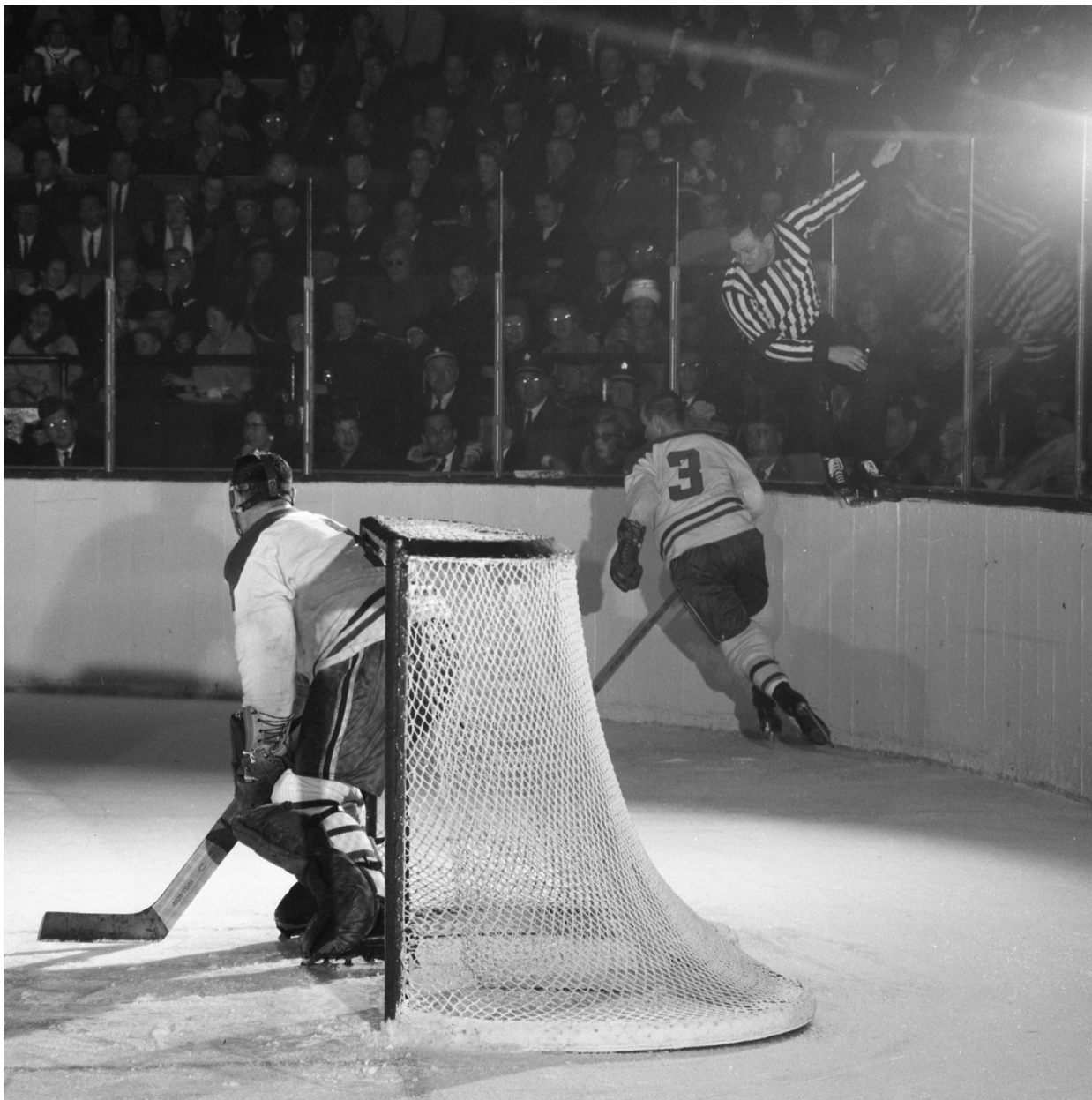
## Terry Sawchuck

**HHOF 1971**



Boston defenceman Johnny "Jack" Crawford, with Toronto's Don Metz, was one of the first NHLers to wear a helmet. In fact, a number of Bruins were among hockey's early helmeted players. The very first may have been George Owen, who wore his Harvard football helmet during the 1928-29 season. In Crawford's case, the leather helmet wasn't entirely for better protection, but rather to cover his bald head.

## Johnny Crawford



Referee, Frank Udvari, scales the glass to make way for Montreal defence-man, J.C. Tremblay, as goaltender Jacques Plante follows the play. The colorful Udvari often perched upon the dasher to avoid interfering with the play. Retired from on-ice officiating since 1966, Udvari laced them a final time, at the age of 54, on December 30, 1978, after referee, Dave Newell, suffered an injury.

*Frank Udvari*

**HHOF 1973**





A trick of the light, or perspective, perhaps.  
Thomas Vanek of the Buffalo Sabres appears to  
get a mouthful of Ottawa Senators' defenceman  
Sergei Gonchar's stick.

Thomas Vanek



Seventeen years before there was a baseball team of the same name, and 19 years before the Quebec Nordiques moved to Denver to become the Colorado Avalanche, the Colorado Rockies made their NHL debut. Born from the ashes of the short-lived Kansas City Scouts, the Rockies struggled for most of their six-year existence. NHL notables who suited up for the Rockies include Lanny McDonald, acquired from Toronto, Joel Quenneville, goaltender Glenn "Chico" Resch and Rob Ramage, the first overall choice in the 1979 NHL Entry Draft. The team became the New Jersey Devils in 1982.

## Colorado Rockies

St. Louis Arena · St. Louis, MO | January 22, 1977 or December 10, 1977 | Lewis Portnoy | colour · slide · 35mm



Northwestern High School Outdoor Rink · Detroit, MI | c.1927-28 | Le Studio du Hockey | B/W · glass · 5" x 7"



George Hay of the Detroit Cougars is shown during an outdoor practice in the 1927-28 season. The Cougars, who joined the NHL in 1926, became the Detroit Falcons in 1930, and the Red Wings in 1932, may have occasionally scrimmaged outdoors that year. With 22 goals and 13 assists, Hay was the team's top point-getter that season. An expert stickhandler, he earned the nickname "The Western Wizard" for playing in the Western Canada Hockey League.

## George Hay

**HHOF 1958**



Simpler times. In today's NHL, for many years, in fact, players from both teams must remain on their respective benches while a penalty shot is taken. Here, an unknown New York Rangers player has a much better view as he, referee Bill Chadwick, and linesman George Hayes watch Tod Sloan of the Toronto Maple Leafs bear down on Rangers' goalie Chuck Rayner. Rayner made the save and New York won the game, 2-0.

## Tod Sloan



Chicago goaltender, Mike Karakas, cranes his neck for a better view while teammate, Earl Seibert, and Gord Drillon of the Toronto Maple Leafs battle for position during the 1938 Stanley Cup Finals. Meanwhile, another Toronto player has fallen...and can't get up in the corner. With Karakas nursing a foot injury, Chicago started minor leaguer, Alfie Moore, in Game 1 of the Finals, which the Blackhawks won, 3-1. Although the win was allowed to stand, the NHL ruled that Moore was ineligible to play. Wearing a protective steel toecap, Karakas returned for Game 2. The Blackhawks took the series, 3-1, for their second Cup.

## Mike Karakas

Chicago Stadium · Chicago, IL | c.1938-39 | Le Studio du Hockey | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"



This intriguing portrait of Reginald "Red" Horner was taken no later than the 1931-32 season, depicting the palpable intensity of the tough-as-nails Leafs defenseman. Horner would help the Leafs to their third Cup in 1932 and become team captain in 1938, but is perhaps best remembered for his willingness to drop his heavy leather gauntlets. Upon his retirement in 1940, Horner was the NHL's all-time leader in penalty minutes with 1,254.

## Reginald Horner

HHOF 1965

# CLASSIC PHOTOS



This photo series captures Bill Barilko's famous goal that night in Toronto, culminating in a classic Stanley Cup-winning smile from the lost hero. As hockey legends go, few match the intrigue and tragedy of the Barilko story. As told, re-told and sung, his overtime winner won the Leafs the Cup in 1951. He was lost in a plane crash that summer, only to have his body recovered from the wreckage 11 years later. The year of the Leafs' next Cup win.

**Bill Barilko**



# CLASSIC PHOTOS

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Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | April 21, 1951 | Michael Burns Sr. | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"

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Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | April 21, 1951 | Michael Burns Sr. | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"