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SPORTS

Murray Oliver, N.H.L. Player and All-Star, Dies at 77

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS   NOV. 26, 2014

Murray Oliver, a five-time All-Star forward in the National Hockey League in the 1960s, died on Sunday at his home in Edina, Minn. He was 77.

The cause was a heart attack, his wife, Helen, said.

Oliver, a left-handed shooter who weighed 170 pounds and was 5 feet 10, played for the Detroit Red Wings, the Boston Bruins, the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Minnesota North Stars from the late 1950s until the mid-1970s. He scored 274 goals and had 454 assists during his 1,127-game career.

He scored 20 of those goals during his rookie season with the Red Wings, 1959-60. He lost that season's Calder Memorial Trophy, the N.H.L.'s award for rookie of the year, to Bill Hay of the Chicago Blackhawks by 38 votes.

Oliver played in N.H.L. All-Star Games in 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967 and 1968. He scored 27 goals, his career high, during the 1971-72 season with the North Stars. He retired from the N.H.L. in 1975.

Murray Clifford Oliver was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on Nov. 14, 1937, and grew up playing hockey and baseball.

He married Helen Murray on Apr. 28, 1962. In addition to his wife, he is survived by their son, Michael; their daughter, Susan Schepers; and five grandchildren.

Oliver was an assistant coach with the North Stars from 1978 to 1986. He served as head coach for 36 games in the 1982-83 season after Glen Sonmor stepped down.

He also worked as a pro scout with the North Stars, the Maple Leafs, the Vancouver Canucks and the Atlanta Thrashers. He retired after the 2004-5 N.H.L. season was canceled because of a lockout.

Correction: November 29, 2014

Because of an editing error, an Associated Press obituary on Thursday about Murray Oliver, a five-time All-Star forward in the National Hockey League in the 1960s, misstated the surname of the player to whom he lost the N.H.L.'s rookie of the year award in 1960. He is Bill Hay, not Hays.

Daniel E. Slotnik contributed reporting.

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