

= Scotty Davidson =

Allan McLean " Scotty " Davidson (March 6 , 1892 ? June 16 , 1915) was a Canadian ice hockey player and soldier . He was considered one of the top wingers of the game 's early years . He led his Kingston junior team to two Ontario Hockey Association championships in 1910 and 1911 , when he moved to Calgary for the 1911 ? 12 season and led the Calgary Athletics senior team to the Alberta provincial championship . Davidson turned professional with the Toronto Blueshirts in 1912 and was among the National Hockey Association 's leading scorers the following two seasons . He captained Toronto to the Stanley Cup championship in 1914 .

Upon the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 , Davidson volunteered with the Canadian Expeditionary Force ; he was the first professional hockey player to do so . He was killed in action while fighting in Belgium in 1915 . Hailed as a hero by his peers , Davidson was said to have been killed after refusing to retreat during a battle . He is commemorated on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial . Davidson was posthumously inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1950 .

= = Playing career = =

Davidson was born and raised in Kingston , Ontario , and learned the game through his coach , James T. Sutherland . He first played in the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) senior division in 1908 ? 09 where , as a 17 @-@ year @-@ old , he led the league with eight goals in four games . He joined the Kingston Frontenacs of the OHA junior division in 1909 where he emerged as a top player in the league . He was known for his shooting ability and considered a strong backchecker . Davidson served as team captain , and led the Frontenacs to OHA junior titles in 1910 and 1911 . He was a standout in the 1911 championship , leading his team back from a 3 ? 0 deficit to win the game .

After leaving the junior game , Davidson moved to Alberta where he played senior hockey for the Calgary Athletics . He scored three goals in four regular season games and added another three goals in three playoff games . The Athletics won the provincial championship , but were defeated by the Winnipeg Victorias for the Allan Cup . He returned to Ontario for the 1912 ? 13 season when he was signed by the Toronto Blueshirts of the National Hockey Association (NHA) . Davidson made his professional debut with Toronto in their season @-@ opening loss to the Montreal Canadiens , and finished his rookie season with 19 goals in 20 games .

The Blueshirts named him team captain for the 1913 ? 14 season , and he responded by finishing in the top ten in NHA goals with 23 and second in assists with 13 . Tied atop the standings with the Montreal Canadiens after the regular season , the Blueshirts faced the Canadiens in a two @-@ game , total @-@ goal series for both the O'Brien Cup , the NHA championship , and control of the Stanley Cup , the Canadian championship . Following a 2 ? 0 loss at Montreal , Davidson played a key role in Toronto 's 6 ? 0 victory in the return match . He scored two goals , including Toronto 's third which clinched the championship . The title represented the first time a team from Toronto won the Stanley Cup .

The Blueshirts then immediately faced the Victoria Aristocrats of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association held in March 1914 . It was considered an unofficial challenge for the Stanley Cup as the Aristocrats failed to arrange the series with the Cup 's trustees . Toronto emerged with three consecutive victories to win the series that was on occasion violent ? Davidson was involved in a fight late in the third game that touched off a melee involving most players for both teams .

= = Military career = =

When World War I broke out in 1914 , Davidson was the first professional hockey player to volunteer with the Canadian Expeditionary Force . He served with the Eastern Ontario Regiment of the Canadian Infantry , and attained the rank of lance @-@ corporal . Davidson earned the respect of his fellow soldiers who wrote of his bravery and fearlessness . He once rescued a wounded officer while fighting in France , and one account of his death asserts that he was shot in the back

and killed while attempting to carry an injured soldier to safety . Another held that he died while on a bombing raid after refusing to retreat until he had spent his ammunition . He was said to have used his final grenade to kill a German officer before being killed himself .

= = Legacy = =

By the time he left hockey to fight in the war , Davidson was considered one of the top all @-@ around players in the NHA . Noted for his skating ability , it was said that he could skate faster backwards than most players could forwards . In 1925 , Maclean 's named him the top right wing when it determined its all @-@ star team of the game 's greatest players , an opinion shared by his former junior coach , who stated that he was " as good as any player to ever patrol a wing position "

Davidson was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1950 , and is honoured by the International Hockey Hall of Fame . The Kingston Frontenacs erected a monument to his memory shortly after his death . He was 23 years old when he was killed , and his name is commemorated on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France .

= = Career statistics = =