

= Paul Henderson =

Paul Garnet Henderson CM OOnt (born January 28 , 1943) is a Canadian former professional ice hockey player . A left winger , Henderson played 13 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Detroit Red Wings , Toronto Maple Leafs and Atlanta Flames and five in the World Hockey Association (WHA) for the Toronto Toros and Birmingham Bulls . He played over 1 @, @ 000 games between the two major leagues , scoring 376 goals and 758 points . Henderson played in two NHL All @-@ Star Games and was a member of the Memorial Cup @-@ winning Hamilton Red Wings team as a junior .

Henderson is best known for leading Team Canada to victory at the 1972 Summit Series against the Soviet Union . Played during the Cold War , the series was viewed as a battle for both hockey and cultural supremacy . Henderson scored the game @-@ winning goal in the sixth , seventh and eighth games , the last of which has become legendary in Canada and made him a national hero : it was voted the " sports moment of the century " by The Canadian Press and earned him numerous accolades . Henderson has twice been inducted into Canada 's Sports Hall of Fame : in 1995 individually and in 2005 along with all players of the Summit Series team . He was inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame in 2013 .

A born @-@ again Christian , Henderson became a minister , motivational speaker and author following his playing career . He has co @-@ written three books related to hockey or his life . Henderson was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2012 and of the Order of Ontario in 2014 .

= = Early life = =

Henderson was born January 28 , 1943 , near Kincardine , Ontario . His mother , Evelyn , went into labour while staying at his father 's parents ' farm in the nearby community of Amberley during a snowstorm . She gave birth to Paul while the family was crossing Lake Huron via horse @-@ drawn sleigh attempting to reach the hospital in Kincardine . His father , Garnet , was fighting for Canada during the Second World War at the time and did not meet his son until Paul was nearly three years old . Garnet worked for the Canadian National Railway following his return and the family ? Paul was the eldest to brother Bruce and sisters Marilyn , Coralyn and Sandra ? moved frequently to different posts in Ontario before settling in Lucknow .

The family often struggled financially , though Garnet was always able to provide the basic life necessities . Paul 's first experiences with hockey came at a young age in the basement of a Chinese restaurant operated by Charlie Chin , an immigrant who settled in Lucknow . Henderson played with Chin 's sons using a ball instead of a puck . The Chin family bought Henderson his first set of hockey equipment ; he had been using old catalogues as shin pads . His father coached his youth teams , and at one minor hockey tournament , told his teammates simply to " just give the puck to Paul and get out of his way " . That incident remained with Henderson throughout his life : while it embarrassed him at the time to be singled out in front of his friends and teammates , he later realized it stood as an affirmation and expression of his father 's pride in him and his abilities .

It was in Lucknow where Henderson met his future wife , Eleanor , at the age of 15 while he was working at a grocery store . They married in 1962 and , wanting to ensure he could provide for his wife , he considered giving up the game to become a history and physical education teacher . His father convinced him to remain in hockey , warning him that he would regret it for the rest of his life if he never tried to make the National Hockey League (NHL) . After considering his father 's advice and talking with Eleanor , Henderson decided to play two additional years , and if he had not reached the NHL by 1964 , he would quit the game and focus on his education .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Junior = = =

Henderson attracted the attention of NHL scouts at the age of 15 when he scored 18 goals and 2 assists in a 21 ? 6 victory in a juvenile playoff game . The junior affiliates of both the Boston Bruins and Detroit Red Wings offered him tryouts . He chose to sign with the Red Wings as their junior teams were based in Hamilton , which was closest to his home . He played the 1959 ? 60 season with the Junior B Goderich Sailors and was the youngest player on the team . Henderson moved up to the Junior A Hamilton Red Wings in 1960 ? 61 where he was an extra forward for much of the season . Returning to Hamilton in 1961 ? 62 , he became a regular player on the team , and recorded 24 goals and 43 points in 50 games .

Hamilton won the Ontario championship that season , then defeated the Quebec Citadelles in four consecutive games to win the eastern Canadian championship . Henderson scored a goal in the clinching game , a 9 ? 3 win , that propelled the Red Wings to their first Memorial Cup final in the team 's history . They faced the Edmonton Oil Kings in the 1962 Memorial Cup final series . The Red Wings won the best @-@ of @-@ seven set 4 ? 1 to capture the national championship . Henderson scored a goal in the deciding game , a 7 ? 4 victory before over 7 @,@ 000 fans at Kitchener , Ontario . He finished with seven goals and seven assists in 14 Memorial Cup playoff games .

Returning for a third season with Hamilton in 1962 ? 63 , Henderson led the Ontario Hockey Association in scoring with 49 goals in 48 games . He added 27 assists to finish the season with 76 points . A bout of strep throat resulted in his missing Hamilton 's playoff games , but he was called up to the Detroit Red Wings late in their season when they were short of players . Henderson played his first two NHL games against the Toronto Maple Leafs , with only one shift in each game . In his first game , Henderson elbowed Dick Duff in the head , sparking a fight . He spent the rest of the game on the bench after several Toronto players threatened retaliation against him . In his second , he incurred a slashing penalty during his only time on the ice . Henderson estimated that he was on the ice for only 20 seconds over the two games , but drew nine penalties in minutes .

= = = Detroit and Toronto = = =

After failing to make the Detroit roster out of training camp , Henderson was assigned to their American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate , the Pittsburgh Hornets , to begin the 1963 ? 64 season . He appeared in 38 games for the Hornets and his speed and aggressive nature helped him score 10 goals and 24 points . Henderson earned a brief recall to Detroit in November , then joined the NHL team permanently early in the new year . He scored his first NHL goal on January 29 , 1964 , against the Chicago Black Hawks . It came late in the game against goaltender Glenn Hall and resulted in a 2 ? 2 tie . In 32 regular season NHL games , Henderson recorded three goals and three assists in 32 games , then appeared in 14 playoff games where he added five points . The Red Wings reached the 1964 Stanley Cup Final , but lost in seven games to Toronto .

Henderson established himself as a full @-@ time NHL player in 1964 ? 65 , though with limited ice time . He was used primarily in a defensive role and to kill penalties , scoring 8 goals and 21 points , while appearing in 70 games . Switching to the left wing in 1965 ? 66 , Henderson played a more offensive role and scored 22 goals . He added three more in 12 playoff games as the Red Wings reached the 1966 Stanley Cup Final versus the Montreal Canadiens . Henderson scored the game @-@ winning goal in the first game of the finals . After winning the first two games in Montreal , Detroit lost four straight and the series .

Seeking to double his \$ 7 @,@ 000 salary from the previous season , Henderson became embroiled in a contract dispute with the Red Wings prior to the 1966 ? 67 NHL season , before the team acceded to his demands . He then spent the year attempting to overcome injuries ; a case of tracheitis forced him to miss several early season games and led the team to consider having him play wearing a surgical mask to protect against the cold air of the arena . Henderson eventually spent time in the dry air of Arizona to cure the ailment , but he also suffered from torn chest muscles and ultimately missed a third of the season . On the ice , Henderson scored 21 goals and 40 points in 49 games .

The Red Wings were in last place of the NHL 's East Division late in the 1967 ? 68 season when , on March 3 , 1968 , they completed one of the biggest trades in league history up to that time : Henderson was sent to the Toronto Maple Leafs as part of a six @-@ player deal , along with Norm Ullman and Floyd Smith , in exchange for Frank Mahovlich , Garry Unger and Pete Stemkowski . Henderson finished the season with 11 points in 13 games for Toronto , then scored 27 goals and 59 points in 1968 ? 69 .

A groin injury plagued Henderson throughout much of the 1969 ? 70 season , but he continued to play at the team 's request . He finished with 20 goals despite playing the entire season with pain . The Maple Leafs offered Henderson only a small raise , arguing that he did not deserve more because his offensive production had declined . The contract offer and the team 's indifference towards his injury left Henderson disillusioned with management 's attitude towards its players . Healthy in 1970 ? 71 , he scored 30 goals and a NHL career @-@ high 60 points .

= = = Summit Series = = =

Canada had long been at a disadvantage in international ice hockey tournaments as its best players were professionals in the NHL and therefore ineligible to play at the ostensibly amateur World Championship and Olympic Games . The Soviets masked the status of their best players by having them serve in the military or hold other jobs affiliated with the teams , so they retained amateur status , even though playing hockey was their only occupational responsibility . The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) promised to allow Canada to use a limited number of professional players at the 1970 tournament but later reneged , causing the nation to withdraw from all international competition . Officials in Canada and the Soviet Union subsequently negotiated an arrangement that would see the top players of each nation ? amateur or professional ? play in an eight @-@ game " Summit Series " in September 1972 between the world 's two greatest hockey nations . Canadian fans and media approached the series with confidence ; many predicted that the Canadian professionals would win all eight games .

Henderson 's 38 @-@ goal season in 1971 ? 72 , a career high , earned him a place on Team Canada 's roster . He scored a goal early in the first game , in Montreal , that gave Canada a 2 ? 0 lead . The Soviet team then humbled the Canadians by scoring the next four goals and winning 7 ? 3 . A 4 ? 1 Canadian win followed in the second game , but the Soviets overcame a 4 ? 2 deficit , the fourth goal scored by Henderson , to tie the third game . Canada lost the fourth game , 5 ? 3 , and were jeered by the fans in Vancouver as they headed to Moscow for the final four games with a 1 ? 2 ? 1 series deficit . Henderson , like most of his teammates , was frustrated by his team 's play and the negative reaction they received from the crowd .

In the first game in Moscow , Henderson scored a goal to help Canada establish a 4 ? 1 lead , but also suffered a concussion when he was tripped into the boards and knocked unconscious . He returned to finish the game , but the Soviets came back to win , 5 ? 4 , and were one victory shy of winning the series . In game six , Canada overcame what coach Harry Sinden called " the worst officials I have ever seen in my life " to take game six by a 3 ? 2 score , with Henderson scoring the game @-@ winning goal . The game was also notable for Bobby Clarke using his stick in a two @-@ handed slash that broke Valeri Kharlamov 's ankle . Henderson later called the event " the low point of the series " during the 30th anniversary celebration , but apologized for his comments after Clarke took umbrage . Canada drew even in the series at three wins apiece , plus one tie , with a 4 ? 3 victory in game seven . Henderson again scored the winner despite being tripped as he took the shot .

By the eighth game , the competition had become more than a battle for hockey supremacy : it was also viewed as a battle between contrasting ways of life , particularly in the Soviet Union , where success in sport was used to promote the superiority of communism over western capitalism . An estimated 50 million Soviets watched the final contest , while in Canada , offices were closed and schools suspended classes to allow students to watch the game on television in gymnasium assemblies . The two teams ended the first period tied at two goals apiece , but Canada trailed at the second intermission , 5 ? 3 , and Soviet officials stated they would claim the overall victory if the

game ended in a draw as a result of scoring more goals throughout the series . Canada rallied in the third period to tie the game with seven minutes remaining .

Sitting on the bench as the game entered the final minute of play , Henderson " had a feeling " that he could score . He convinced coach Sinden to send him out when Peter Mahovlich left the ice . Rushing into the Soviet zone , Henderson missed a pass from Yvan Cournoyer in front of the net and was tripped by a Soviet defenceman . As he got to his feet , Phil Esposito recovered the puck and sent it towards Henderson in front of the net . The first shot was stopped by Vladislav Tretiak , but Henderson recovered the rebound and slid it past the fallen goaltender to give Canada a 6 ? 5 lead with only 34 seconds left to play . It was his seventh goal of the tournament , tying him for the series lead with Esposito and Alexander Yakushev . The goal won the game , and the series , for Canada . The team returned home to massive crowds in Montreal and Toronto , and Paul Henderson had become a national hero .

= = = World Hockey Association = = =

Henderson struggled to adjust to his new @-@ found popularity . While he appreciated the support from fans and the business opportunities it created , he grew increasingly frustrated over time as the attention intruded on his private life . In his autobiography , *Shooting for Glory* , Henderson stated that the fame left him less satisfied than he had ever been . His frustrations with Maple Leafs owner Harold Ballard , who Henderson felt was destroying the team , contributed to his developing an ulcer . (Henderson later admitted he was not mature enough at the time to deal with the acerbic Ballard) . He briefly turned to alcohol as he struggled to deal with his situation . Henderson 's professional career reached its lowest point during the 1972 ? 73 NHL season . He had become depressed , and by December , had scored only six goals . He struggled with a groin injury and played only 40 games for the Maple Leafs , who missed the playoffs .

Prior to the 1973 ? 74 NHL season , Henderson spoke to John Bassett , owner of the World Hockey Association (WHA) ' s Toronto Toros . Bassett offered Henderson a five @-@ year contract worth twice his annual \$ 75 @,@ 000 salary from the Maple Leafs . The deal included a \$ 50 @,@ 000 signing bonus and performance bonuses based on how he played in his final year with the Maple Leafs . Henderson signed the contract , though he said in his autobiography that he regretted doing so before completing his term with his NHL club . A bitter opponent of the WHA , Ballard had vowed not to lose more players to the rival league . When he found out about the deal , he offered Henderson the same contract terms , but without a signing bonus . Upset at how stingy Ballard had been with his teammates , Henderson told Ballard to " take this contract and shove it " . An angered Ballard never forgave Henderson , and never spoke to him again .

Following a 24 @-@ goal campaign in his final season with the Maple Leafs , Henderson officially moved to the WHA where he played in another tournament against the Soviets . While the original series was restricted to players from the NHL , the 1974 Summit Series featured a Canadian team made up of WHA players . The series lacked the intensity of the original , yet Henderson felt that he played well : he scored two goals and an assist , and though Canada finished with one win , four losses and three ties , he felt the WHA had proven itself . Henderson scored 33 goals and 63 points in the 1974 ? 75 WHA season for the Toros while playing 58 games . He missed the playoffs after tearing his knee ligaments in a game against the Phoenix Roadrunners when colliding with Bob Mowat , an opposing player during a line change .

Henderson scored 24 goals and 55 points in 1975 ? 76 , his last in Toronto . Following that season , the Toros relocated to Alabama where they became the Birmingham Bulls . While his contract stipulated he did not have to relocate with the team , Henderson appreciated the chance to move to a city where he could play in relative anonymity . He played the final three years of his contract in Birmingham , scoring 23 , 37 and 24 goals , but made only one playoff appearance during his five WHA seasons , in 1978 .

= = = Atlanta Flames = = =

The WHA merged with the NHL following the 1978 ? 79 season . Birmingham was not invited to join the NHL ; the team instead joined the Central Hockey League for the 1979 ? 80 season and became a minor league affiliate of the Atlanta Flames . Henderson considered retiring , but his family had settled in Birmingham and he knew they could remain in the United States only as long as he was employed . The Flames offered him a spot on their roster , but he preferred to remain with his family . He signed a two @-@ year contract with the Flames on the promise that he would stay in Birmingham unless the team needed his services as a result of injury to other players . He spent the majority of the season in Birmingham , but when Atlanta did struggle with injuries , they recalled him for 30 games where he scored seven goals and six assists . Henderson also appeared in four playoff games . In his final game at Toronto 's Maple Leaf Gardens , Henderson led the Flames to a 5 ? 1 win over the Maple Leafs with a two @-@ goal effort , resulting in his being named the game 's first star .

Henderson intended the 1980 ? 81 season to be his last as a player . He was again offered a spot on the Flames , in part to help develop the team 's young players , but the franchise had relocated to Canada to become the Calgary Flames and Henderson chose to remain with Birmingham , as a player and assistant coach . He missed several games due to injuries but scored six goals in 33 games . However , the Bulls fell into financial difficulty and on February 23 , 1981 , the team ceased operations mid @-@ season . Choosing not to leave his Birmingham home , Henderson retired as a player and spent the remainder of the season as a scout for the Flames .

= = Legacy = =

Though he was not considered a good puck handler , Henderson was a fast skater and was known for his skills at shooting the puck . His career spanned 19 professional seasons during which he played over 1 @, @ 000 major league games in the NHL and WHA . He scored 376 goals and 760 points between the two leagues and was a two @-@ time NHL all @-@ star , playing in the 1972 and 1973 All @-@ Star Games . His career , however , was defined by the goal he scored on September 28 , 1972 , to win the Summit Series for Canada . It is the most famous goal in Canadian hockey history and was the defining moment for a generation of Canadians . Decades later , Henderson remains a national hero . The Canadian Press named Henderson 's goal the " sports moment of the century " in 2000 . The jersey worn by Henderson when he scored the goal was sold at auction for over \$ 1 million in 2010 , thought to be the highest price ever paid for a hockey sweater .

Frank Lennon 's photograph , taken moments after the goal and showing a jubilant Henderson being embraced by Yvan Cournoyer , has been " etched into the visual cortex of every Canadian " . The photo won a National Newspaper Award and has been reproduced by the Royal Canadian Mint on coins . It was also named Canadian Press photograph of the year .

Sportswriters and fans have frequently called for Henderson to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame on the strength of his performance . Commentator and former NHL coach Don Cherry argued that Henderson 's status as hero of the " greatest series in hockey history " was enough to qualify him . Henderson himself does not believe he belongs : " So many Canadians get upset that I ? m not in the Hall of Fame , and I tell them all the time if I was on the committee , I wouldn ? t vote for me . Quite frankly , I didn ? t have a Hall of Fame career . " Henderson has been honoured by Canada 's Sports Hall of Fame on two occasions : he was first inducted as an individual in 1995 , and again ten years later along with his 1972 teammates . The Summit Series team has also been honoured with a star on Canada 's Walk of Fame . Henderson has been inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame (1997) , the IIHF Hall of Fame (2013) and has been honoured by Hockey Canada with the Order of Hockey in Canada as part of its 2013 class . He was named a Member of the Order of Canada in December 2012 in recognition of " his engagement in support of a range of social and charitable causes " along with his achievements on the ice . In 2014 , he was named to the Order of Ontario .

= = Personal life = =

Henderson and his wife Eleanor have three daughters : Heather , Jennifer and Jill . The family remained in Birmingham for a time following his retirement as a player . He had an opportunity to become a colour commentator for Maple Leafs broadcasts in 1981 but Ballard , still upset that Henderson had defected to the WHA , prevented his hiring . In Birmingham , he became a stockbroker , briefly joining brokerage firm E. F. Hutton . However , he was unable to get a work permit in the United States despite a petition signed by thousands of Birmingham residents who fought for him to stay .

Following the high of the 1972 Summit Series and the personal lows that came after , Henderson struggled with a sense of discontentment . He turned to religion , becoming a born @-@ again Christian in 1975 . Unable to work as a broker , Henderson entered the seminary and studied to become a minister . When he finally gave up his efforts to acquire an American work visa in 1984 , he returned to Toronto . Under the auspices of Power to Change Ministries , formerly Campus Crusade for Christ Canada , he founded a men ? s ministry in Ontario called LeaderImpact and travels across Canada giving talks and speeches , particularly to businessmen . He has received an honorary doctorate from Briercrest College and Seminary and an honorary degree from Tyndale University College and Seminary .

Henderson is also a published author . His autobiography , Shooting for Glory , was released in 1992 . With Jim Prime , he co @-@ authored the 2011 book How Hockey Explains Canada , an exploration of the relationship between the sport and Canadian culture . He released a memoir in 2012 called The Goal of My Life with Roger Lajoie .

The death of his father due to heart problems at the age of 49 had a lasting effect on Henderson . He was conscious of his own health , and survived a blockage in his own heart that was discovered in 2004 . He was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 2009 . The disease prevented him from attending 40th anniversary celebrations of the Summit Series in Moscow , but he was responding well to experimental treatment as part of a clinical trial he participated in into 2013 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =