

= Tiny Thompson =

Cecil Ralph " Tiny " Thompson (May 31 , 1903 ? February 9 , 1981) was a Canadian professional ice hockey goaltender . He played 12 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) , first for the Boston Bruins , and later for the Detroit Red Wings . A four @-@ time Vezina Trophy winner , Thompson was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1959 . He was a member of one Stanley Cup @-@ winning team , as a rookie in the 1928 ? 29 season with the Boston Bruins . At the start of the 1938 ? 39 season , after ten full seasons with Boston , he was traded to the Detroit Red Wings , where he completed the season , and played another full one before retiring . During his NHL career , he recorded 81 shutouts , the sixth highest of any goaltender . After retiring from playing , he coached lower @-@ league teams before becoming a noted professional scout . Thompson helped popularize the technique of catching the puck as a method of making a save . A competent puckhandler , he was the first goaltender in the NHL to record an assist by passing the puck with his stick to a fellow player .

= = Early life = =

Thompson was born in the mining community of Sandon , BC . He grew up in Calgary , Alberta , where his brother , Paul ? who also became a professional ice hockey player ? was born in 1906 . As a child , he enjoyed playing baseball and ice hockey . Initially , Thompson was not a goaltender , though he agreed to play the position to get into games . As a teenager playing competitive ice hockey , he acquired the nickname " Tiny " as a joke , as he was the tallest player on the team , standing 5 ft 10 in (1 @.@ 78 m) ; the nickname stuck with him for the rest of his career .

Thompson began his junior career playing for the Calgary Monarchs in 1919 at the age of 16 . He competed for the Memorial Cup , awarded to the Canadian junior hockey champions that year , playing in two games and surrendering 11 goals , a respectable amount in that era . After spending the 1920 ? 21 season playing for Calgary Alberta Grain , Thompson played three seasons in Bellevue , Alberta . In the 1924 ? 25 season , he joined the Duluth Hornets , playing 40 games , recording a shutout in 11 of them . The following season , Thompson joined the Minneapolis Millers of the American Hockey Association (AHA) . In his three seasons with the Millers , he appeared in 118 games , recording 33 shutouts with a 1 @.@ 37 goals against average (average of goals surrendered in a span of sixty minutes) .

= = NHL career = =

= = = Boston Bruins = = =

Thompson began his National Hockey League (NHL) career with the Boston Bruins in the 1928 ? 29 season after his contract was purchased by Boston manager Art Ross . Despite having never seen Thompson play , Ross had heard about Thompson 's good reputation in Minnesota . In his first game he posted a shutout , becoming the only Hockey Hall of Fame goaltender to accomplish this feat . In his first season , he appeared in all 44 of the Bruins ' games , posting 12 shutouts and a 1 @.@ 15 goals @-@ against average , the second lowest goals @-@ against average in NHL history to date , second to George Hainsworth 's 0 @.@ 98 GAA . Hainsworth had set his record that same season . Placing first in the American Division , the Bruins had a perfect record in the playoffs en route to their first Stanley Cup victory , defeating the Montreal Canadiens and the New York Rangers . Thompson recorded three shutouts in the five playoff games , and allowed only three goals .

The following season , Thompson again appeared in all of the Bruins ' 44 games , posting three shutouts and a 2 @.@ 19 goals @-@ against average . The league changed its rules on forward passing , which resulted in a sharp increase in goalscoring . Boston won all but six games , finishing with a 38 ? 5 ? 1 record , the best winning percentage for any team in a season . Surrendering only

98 goals , Thompson bested Chicago goaltender Charlie Gardiner to win the first of his four Vezina Trophies . The Vezina Trophy is awarded to the league 's top goaltender , which was determined prior to the 1981 ? 82 season by number of goals surrendered by goaltenders who had played a minimum number of games . In the playoffs , however , they suffered their first two @-@ game losing streak , as they were swept 2 ? 0 by the Canadiens in the Stanley Cup finals . Earlier in the playoffs , Thompson 's winning streak of seven playoff games was snapped ; it remains , as of 2014 , the longest playoff winning streak to start a career .

In the 1930 ? 31 season , he played all 44 games again , and was named to the Second All @-@ Star team . In the playoffs , Boston lost the semifinals to the Montreal Canadiens ; during game two of the series Thompson became the first goaltender to be pulled for a sixth attacker at the end of a game to give his team a higher chance to score a goal . Even though Boston still lost , coach Art Ross ' maneuver was described as " amazing " the following day , and this technique , known as " open net " , caught on with the rest of the league .

The Bruins missed the playoffs for the first time in Thompson 's career in the 1931 ? 32 season . He won only 13 games while appearing in 43 out of Boston 's 48 games , which was the only time he missed games as a member of the Bruins . The next season , Boston made the playoffs once more , losing to the Toronto Maple Leafs . The final game of the playoff series was described as Thompson 's most memorable . During that game , Toronto and Boston were tied after regulation time and over 100 minutes of overtime proceeded , with Thompson dueling Toronto 's goaltender Lorne Chabot . After the end of the fifth overtime period , managers Conn Smythe of the Maple Leafs and Art Ross of the Bruins asked league president Frank Calder to suspend the game , but Calder refused . Early in the sixth overtime period , a pass from Boston defenseman Eddie Shore was intercepted , and Ken Doraty skated in on a breakaway , cleanly beating Thompson at 4 : 46 of the period . The losing goaltender in the second @-@ longest NHL game , Thompson received a standing ovation from fans at the Maple Leaf Gardens . Thompson finished the playoff series with 1 @.@ 23 goals @-@ against average , despite a losing record .

Thompson became the second goaltender to win his second Vezina Trophy in 1932 ? 33 since its inception in the 1926 ? 27 season , as he recorded 11 shutouts and a 1 @.@ 76 goals @-@ against average . After missing the playoffs in the 1933 ? 34 season , they rebounded to first place in the American Division the following season , as Thompson was named to the Second All @-@ Star team for the second time . In the playoffs , the Bruins won only one of their four games ; their only win was on the strength of Thompson 's shutout , who finished the playoffs with a 1 @.@ 53 goals @-@ against average .

In the 1935 ? 36 NHL season , Thompson recorded 10 shutouts , but Boston managed to win only 22 out of their 48 games . During the season , he recorded an assist , a rarity for goaltenders . At the end of the season , he was named to the First All @-@ Star team for the first time , and won the Vezina Trophy for the third time , tying George Hainsworth 's all @-@ time mark with three victories . The ensuing two @-@ game , total @-@ goal playoff series against the Toronto Maple Leafs was a series of contrasts , as the Bruins lost 8 ? 6 . In one game , the Bruins shut out Toronto 6 ? 0 , while they lost the other game 8 ? 0 . In 1937 ? 38 , his final full season with the Bruins , he won 30 out of the 48 games , but Boston lost to the Maple Leafs once again in the playoffs . Thompson set a new record by winning his fourth and final Vezina Trophy . He was also named to the First All @-@ Star team for the second time .

== = Detroit Red Wings == =

Thompson appeared in only five games for the Bruins in the 1938 ? 39 season , as Boston decided to replace the aging goaltender with the substantially younger Frank Brimsek . Brimsek would go on to lead the Bruins to a Stanley Cup victory that season , earning the nickname " Mister Zero " while picking up 10 regular season shutouts , the Vezina Trophy , First All @-@ Star Team honours , and the Calder Memorial Trophy , which is given " to the player selected as the most proficient in his first year of competition " . To make space for Brimsek , Thompson was traded to the Detroit Red Wings for Normie Smith and \$ 15 @,@ 000 ; Thompson also received a \$ 1 @,@ 000 bonus from Boston .

Boston manager Art Ross predicted that Thompson , now 35 , would play for the Red Wings for at least another five seasons ; however , Thompson remained with the team for only two seasons before retiring from playing . The Red Wings posted a losing record in both of these seasons , although they made the playoffs both times . Overall , Thompson appeared in 85 regular season games for Detroit , recording a 32 ? 41 ? 12 record , seven shutouts , and a 2 @. @ 54 goals @-@ against average , and in 11 playoff games , posting a 5 ? 6 , with one shutout and a 2 @. @ 41 goal @-@ against average .

= = Post @-@ NHL career = =

After retiring from professional play , Thompson became the head coach of the Buffalo Bisons of the American Hockey League (AHL) in the 1940 ? 41 season . He coached 56 games in two seasons . The Bisons missed the playoffs both times . He appeared in one game as goaltender in the 1940 ? 41 season . During World War II , Thompson served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and doubled as the coach of the Calgary RCAF Mustangs of the Alberta Senior Hockey League . He led the Mustangs to the league championship series in 1942 ? 43 against the Calgary Currie Army team where injuries to the Mustangs ' goaltenders brought him back onto the ice in March 1943 . With Thompson in goal , the Mustangs defeated Currie Army 8 ? 4 to tie the best @-@ of @-@ five series at two wins apiece . He played the deciding game , but his team fell short of winning the Alberta title with a 3 ? 1 loss to Currie Army . After the war , Thompson became chief Western Canada scout for the Chicago Black Hawks . He was one of the few scouts at the time who sought to discover a player 's personality along with their playing ability . Thompson often conversed with players as part of an effort to learn about the players he was watching .

= = Playing style = =

Thompson was a stand @-@ up goaltender , rarely falling on both knees to stop a puck . He was one of the first NHL goaltenders to catch the puck with his hand to make a save , and helped popularize the technique . Using gloves that were smaller than those of other players , he was among the best puck @-@ catchers of his era . He stood in the way of the puck with minimal padding , risking being struck when moving to catch it instead of simply deflecting it away from the net . His signature technique , very often featured in photographs of him , involved dropping to one knee with the paddle of his goalstick covering the five @-@ hole , and extending his glove to cover the left side of the net . Although he caught the puck with his glove , he did so without gloves resembling the modern blocker and trapper glove combination . Thompson was described by Johnny Bower , a former goaltender who was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame , as a good puckhandler , and one of the best of his time at forward passing . In the 1935 ? 36 season , Thompson became the first goaltender to get an assist by intentionally passing the puck with his stick to a fellow player .

= = Legacy = =

Thompson 's points percentage in a season of .875 , recorded in the 1929 ? 30 season , still remains a record . His 38 wins during that season was a Boston record that was eclipsed only in the 1982 ? 83 season , by Pete Peeters (who won 40 of 62 games played) ; since then , no Bruins goaltender has had more than 37 wins in a season . Thompson is the all @-@ time Bruins leader for games , wins , shutouts and goals @-@ against average . Throughout his entire NHL career , Thompson accrued 81 shutouts , which is sixth all @-@ time in NHL history , and was second to only George Hainsworth (who had 94) when Thompson retired . He also posted seven shutouts in the playoffs . He is fifth all @-@ time in goals @-@ against average , allowing on average only 2 @. @ 08 per a 60 @-@ minute span . He led all goaltenders in regular season games played 10 times , and in regular season wins five times .

In 1959 , Thompson was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame . He died in Calgary on February 9 , 1981 . He was survived by his wife , Edith , and his daughter , Sandra .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season = = =

= = = Playoffs = = =

= = Awards = =

= = = NHL = = =