

= Roger Crozier =

Roger Allan Crozier ( March 16 , 1942 ? January 11 , 1996 ) was a Canadian professional hockey goaltender who played fourteen seasons in the National Hockey League ( NHL ) for the Detroit Red Wings , Buffalo Sabres and Washington Capitals . During his career , Crozier was named to the NHL First All @-@ Star Team once , was a Calder Memorial Trophy winner , and was the first player to win the Conn Smythe Trophy while playing for the losing team in the Stanley Cup Finals . Also , Crozier is the last goaltender in the NHL to start all of his team 's games during the regular season , doing so in 1964 ? 65 .

From his junior days with the St. Catharines Teepees of the Junior Ontario Hockey Association until his death , Crozier had recurring pancreatitis that plagued his health . Despite his health issues , Crozier helped his junior team win the Memorial Cup in 1959 ? 60 , played in over 500 NHL regular season games and participated in two Stanley Cup Finals ( 1965 ? 66 and in 1974 ? 75 ) . His health problems eventually led to his retirement in 1976 ? 77 and he joined the Capitals ' front office shortly after . Crozier left the Capitals organization in 1983 to work for MBNA bank . In 2000 , MBNA unveiled a new trophy called the Roger Crozier Saving Grace Award which was awarded annually to the goaltender who records the best save percentage during the regular season in the NHL . The trophy was awarded from 1999 ? 2000 to 2006 ? 07 . The Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame posthumously inducted Crozier in 2009 .

= = Background = =

Crozier was born and raised in the town of Bracebridge , Ontario . His mother was Mildred " Austin " Crozier and his father was Lloyd Crozier . He was one of 14 children . At the age of six , Crozier first started playing the position of goaltender , a position that he would grow to " like " . Identified as a " special goaltending talent " by his town 's senior hockey team , the Bracebridge Bears , he was recruited to be their starting goaltender at the age of 14 . In 1958 ? 59 , Crozier helped the Bears become District Champions in the Intermediate C playoffs .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Crozier spent his junior career with the St. Catharines Teepees of the Junior Ontario Hockey Association ( OHA @-@ Jr . ) from 1959 to 1962 . At the time , the Teepees were owned by the Chicago Black Hawks thanks to the National Hockey League ( NHL ) sponsorship system . The sponsorship system gave the Black Hawks the rights to all of the Teepees ' players . In 1959 ? 60 , Crozier helped his team win the Memorial Cup . During his tenure with the Teepees , Crozier developed his first ulcer , a problem that would constantly plague him for the rest of his career .

During the 1960 ? 61 season , Crozier spent the majority of his time in the OHA @-@ Jr . Due to his small frame and size , Crozier was not a favourite with either scouts or critics . Despite this , the Buffalo Bisons of the American Hockey League ( AHL ) recruited Crozier to fill in for their injured starting goaltender , Denis DeJordy that same season . Appearing in three games , Crozier recorded two wins and a 2 @.@ 31 goals against average ( GAA ) . Crozier returned as the starting goaltender for the Teepees for the 1961 ? 62 season . He also had short stints with the Sault Ste . Marie Thunderbirds of the Eastern Professional Hockey League ( EPHL ) , and the Bisons .

While playing in the minors , Crozier adopted the butterfly style of goaltending , which he would later use during his NHL career . This technique was popularized by Glenn Hall and was improved upon by Crozier . Initially , his minor league coaches tried to convince him to abandon this style , thinking that it would never succeed in the NHL . Crozier also added an element of acrobacy in his game .

= = = Detroit Red Wings ( 1963 ? 70 ) = = =

The Black Hawks traded Crozier to the Detroit Red Wings in 1963 . The young goaltender , turned full @-@ time professional , spent the season in the minors with the St. Louis Braves in the EPHL and the Buffalo Bisons in the AHL . The majority of his time though was spent in St. Louis as he played 70 games for them . In 1963 ? 64 , he played 44 games with the Pittsburgh Hornets , Detroit 's AHL affiliate . At the end of the season , Crozier earned numerous accolades , which included the Hap Holmes Memorial Award ( fewest goals against ) , the Dudley " Red " Garrett Memorial Award ( top rookie ) and a spot on the league 's Second All @-@ Star Team . Crozier also made his NHL debut that same season . The Red Wings starting goaltender , Terry Sawchuk , was injured and Crozier was called up as a temporary replacement . Although Crozier played in only 15 games , he impressed management enough that they decided he was going to be their next starting goaltender . This led to Sawchuk being left unprotected by the Red Wings during the intraleague waiver draft in the off @-@ season , and he was subsequently picked up by the Toronto Maple Leafs . This made Crozier the Red Wings ' starting goaltender at the age of 22 .

During his rookie season , Crozier started all of his team 's games , the last goalie to do so in the NHL . He also led the league in both wins and shutouts with 40 and 6 respectively . His 2 @. @ 42 GAA was the second lowest in the league . At the end of the season , Crozier was awarded the Calder Memorial Trophy as the NHL 's top rookie and he was also named to the NHL First All @-@ Star Team . During his sophomore season , Crozier missed the team 's first couple of games due to pancreatitis . He would return and play the team 's remaining 64 games , posting 27 wins and leading the league with seven shutouts . The Red Wings were also able to clinch a spot in the playoffs . Benefiting from Crozier 's strong play in the playoffs , the Red Wings advanced to the Stanley Cup Finals . After eliminating the Black Hawks in the semi @-@ finals , the Red Wings squared off against the Montreal Canadiens in the 1966 Stanley Cup Finals . The Red Wings won the first two games , but the Canadiens came back and won the next two . During the game four loss , Crozier suffered a leg injury . Although Crozier returned for game five , the injury limited his mobility . In the end , the Canadiens won the Stanley Cup in game six . Even though the Red Wings lost the Stanley Cup , Crozier was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy , which is awarded to the most valuable player in the playoffs . He became the first goaltender to win the award and also the first player to win it in a losing effort .

Due to pancreatitis , Crozier played only 58 out of 70 games for the Red Wings in 1966 ? 67 . His numbers were down as he won only 22 games and recorded a 3 @. @ 35 GAA . The Red Wings missed the playoffs . After another bout of pancreatitis at the beginning of the 1967 ? 68 season , Crozier announced his retirement due to stress and depression . His announcement was short @-@ lived as after six weeks , he returned to hockey . Before re @-@ joining the Red Wings , Crozier played five games with the Fort Worth Wings of the Central Professional Hockey League ( CPHL ) as conditioning . Crozier spent two more seasons on a mediocre Red Wings team before being traded to the newly formed Buffalo Sabres in 1970 .

= = = Buffalo Sabres ( 1970 ? 77 ) & Washington Capitals ( 1977 ) = = =

In the 1970 NHL Expansion Draft , Sabres General Manager Punch Imlach drafted Tom Webster from the Boston Bruins and promptly dealt him to the Red Wings for Crozier . Crozier started the Sabres ' first NHL game on October 10 , 1970 against the Pittsburgh Penguins . He stopped 35 of 36 shots to earn the franchise 's first victory , 2 ? 1 . On December 6 , 1970 , Crozier earned the franchise 's first shutout in a 1 ? 0 win over the Minnesota North Stars . By late December however , Crozier was deeply exhausted and the majority of the Sabres ' goaltending duties were transferred to goalies Joe Daley and Dave Dryden . Crozier finished the season with a 9 ? 20 ? 7 record ( win @-@ loss @-@ tie ) and a 3 @. @ 68 GAA . The Sabres also missed the playoffs , finishing fifth in the East Division . Adding to Crozier 's continuing health problems , his gallbladder was removed during the off @-@ season .

The 1971 ? 72 season was even worse for the Sabres as they finished with the least wins in the

league with 16 . Crozier posted a 13 ? 34 ? 14 record and a 3 @.@ 51 GAA . He faced 2 @,@ 190 shots during the season . This remains as the franchise record for most shots faced by a goalie in a single season . The Sabres improved the next season and they were able to make the playoffs for the first time in franchise history . Playing 49 games , Crozier had his first winning record with the Sabres and he posted a much improved 2 @.@ 76 GAA . In the first round , the Sabres were matched up against the Canadiens . Crozier played four games and won two , but his team was ultimately dispatched in six games .

Facing continuing problems with pancreatitis and the new additions of ulcers and gallbladder problems , Crozier saw his playing time greatly reduced . In 1974 ? 75 , Crozier posted 17 wins and two losses , helping the Sabres rank first in the Adams Division . During the playoffs , Crozier played five games including two in the Stanley Cup Finals . After eliminating the Black Hawks and the Canadiens , the Sabres earned a matchup with the Philadelphia Flyers in the Stanley Cup Finals . Game three of the Finals in Buffalo was known as the " Fog Game " . A heat wave in May hit the arena and with no air conditioning inside , the temperature increased . Fog started to develop and soon visibility decreased . Gerry Desjardins was the starting goaltender but after allowing three goals in the first period , he was replaced by Crozier . Crozier allowed one goal during the rest of the game , helping his team win 5 ? 4 in overtime . The series went to a game six with the Sabres trailing the series 3 ? 2 . Crozier was selected to start and he denied the Flyers of any scoring after two periods . The third period saw the Flyers score the only goals of the game . For the second time , Crozier was denied a Stanley Cup championship .

In 1975 ? 76 , Crozier participated in only 11 games due to his persisting ailments , leaving the starting job to Gerry Desjardins . Due to his continuous illness , the Sabres traded him to the Washington Capitals in exchange for cash on March 3 , 1977 . He played only three games with the Capitals before retiring after 14 seasons in the NHL .

= = Post @-@ career = =

After retiring , Crozier served in the Capitals ' front office . He eventually became interim general manager during the 1981 ? 82 season after Max McNab was relieved of his duties . Crozier was also the head coach of the Capitals for one game during the season . Under his watch , the Capitals picked future hall @-@ of @-@ famer defenceman Scott Stevens during the 1982 NHL Entry Draft . Crozier left the Capitals organization in 1983 , and moved to Wilmington , Delaware , to work at MBNA Bank . Working through the ranks , he rose to the level of executive vice president and facilities manager of Worldwide Facilities and Construction .

Roger Crozier died after a battle with cancer on January 11 , 1996 , at the age of 53 . He was survived by his wife Janice , and his two daughters , Katie and Brooke . In 2000 , the NHL unveiled the Roger Crozier Saving Grace Award , which was given annually to the goaltender who posted the best save percentage in each season from 1999 ? 2000 to 2006 ? 07 . The award was co @-@ sponsored by Crozier 's last employer , MBNA . In 2009 , he was posthumously inducted into the Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season = = =

= = = Playoffs = = =

= = Awards = =