

= Pete Muldoon =

Linton Muldoon Treacy ( June 4 , 1887 ? March 13 , 1929 ) , better known as Pete Muldoon , was a Canadian ice hockey coach and pioneer in the western United States , particularly known for bringing a Stanley Cup championship to Seattle , Washington . He is best known for reportedly putting a curse on the Chicago Black Hawks , as well as team owner Major Frederic McLaughlin , after he was fired at the end of the 1926 @-@ 27 season ; however , it has been alleged that a Toronto sportswriter had come up with the " curse " due to a bout of writer 's block in 1943 . Muldoon was the Black Hawks ' first head coach .

= = Early life = =

Muldoon was born in St. Marys , Ontario , as Linton Muldoon Treacy . He played hockey in the OHA in the 1900s before moving to the Pacific coast in order to pursue a boxing career . He changed his name to Pete Muldoon because the pursuit of a professional sports career was discouraged in Ontario at the time . Muldoon won regional titles in both the middleweight and light heavyweight divisions while boxing .

= = Ice hockey career = =

Muldoon was accomplished at other sports , including lacrosse . He played professionally for a Vancouver club in 1911 . He was also an ice dancer who was able to skate , as well as play hockey , while on stilts . In 1914 , he took over as the coach and manager of the Portland Rosebuds . For the 1915 season , he changed teams , and went to Seattle to manage a new team in the PCHA , the Metropolitans . He spent eight seasons coaching in Seattle , and amassed a record of 115 wins , 105 losses , and four ties . The Metropolitans competed several times for the Stanley Cup . The Mets played for the Stanley Cup three times under his leadership , and winning it once in 1917 during their first trip . Muldoon was the first and , at age 30 , youngest coach of a Stanley Cup Championship team based in the United States .

In 1919 , the Metropolitans made it to the finals for the second time in three years , this time against the Montreal Canadiens . The series was to have been a five @-@ game series , but the fourth game ended in a scoreless draw . However , local health officials called off the deciding sixth game just hours before it was due to start when several players on both teams were stricken by Spanish flu . With virtually his entire team either hospitalized or confined to bed and efforts to find replacements vetoed by the PCHA , Canadiens owner George Kennedy announced he was forfeiting the game--and the Cup--to Seattle . However , Muldoon felt it would be unsportsmanlike to accept what would have been his second Cup , seeing as it would have been at the expense of a team decimated by illness . Seattle lost in the Stanley Cup finals in the next year against the Ottawa Senators .

Muldoon returned to the Rosebuds after the Metropolitans folded in the spring of 1924 . He followed most of his players to the NHL when most of the Rosebuds were sold to Major Frederic McLaughlin to start the Chicago Black Hawks . He accepted the position because his wife Dorothy was a Chicago native and pregnant with the family 's second child . After the Black Hawks ended the 1926 ? 27 season with a playoff berth after finishing in third place in the American Division with a 19 ? 22 ? 3 record , he resigned because of constant meddling from McLaughlin .

Muldoon returned to Seattle and became involved in efforts to bring a professional team back to the city , as a new arena was constructed in 1928 . Muldoon , with the help of a group of investors , established the Seattle Ice Skating and Hockey Association , while aiding to establish the PCHL . This new league had its first season in 1928 , and the Seattle team was dubbed the Seattle Eskimos .

= = = Curse of Muldoon = = =

According to a longstanding NHL legend , McLaughlin felt the Blackhawks should have won the American Division in their first season , and fired Muldoon when he disagreed . Muldoon was then reported to have placed an Irish curse on the Hawks that would keep them out of first place forever . As it turned out , the Hawks would not finish first , in any format , until 1966 @-@ 67--their 41st year in the league . It is unknown if Muldoon ever actually cursed the team , as it has been alleged that it was a hoax by a Toronto sportwriter , yet other sources maintain that " 41 years is plenty long enough for any " curse , " real or imagined " .

= = Death = =

In the spring of 1929 , Muldoon went to Tacoma with co @-@ owner and local boxing promoter Nate Druxman to search for a location to build a new rink in order to establish a team . While in Tacoma , on March 13 , 1929 , Muldoon died due to a heart attack . Without their coach , the Seattle Eskimos were able to win a playoff series against Portland , before losing to Vancouver in the league finals . The following season the Eskimos established the Pete Muldoon Trophy , presented to the player " deemed most inspirational by his teammates " . It was awarded for a few seasons , and disappeared from records during the Great Depression years .

= = Coaching record = =