

= Bun Cook =

Frederick Joseph " Bun " Cook (September 18 , 1903 ? March 19 , 1988) was a Canadian professional ice hockey forward and coach . He was an Allan Cup champion with the Sault Ste . Marie Greyhounds in 1924 before embarking on a 13 year professional career . He played for the Saskatoon Crescents in the Western Canada Hockey League (WCHL) and the New York Rangers and Boston Bruins in the National Hockey League (NHL) . Cook was a member of two Stanley Cup championship teams with the Rangers , in 1928 and 1933 , playing on the " Bread Line " with his brother Bill and Frank Boucher .

Cook turned to coaching in 1937 and spent 19 years in the American Hockey League (AHL) , with the Providence Reds for six seasons and the remainder with the Cleveland Barons . His 636 wins as a coach is the most in AHL history and he led his teams to the playoffs in all but one season . Cook was named an AHL All @-@ Star coach on six occasions , and led his teams to a record seven Calder Cup championships . He was posthumously inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1995 and to the American Hockey League Hall of Fame in 2007 .

= = Early life = =

Frederick Joseph Cook was born September 18 , 1903 , in Kingston , Ontario . He was part of a large family , and the second of three brothers , following Bill and preceding Alexander (" Bud ") . Despite their eight @-@ year difference age , Bun frequently followed Bill to new teams and the pair spent most of their careers playing together . Bun joined Bill in playing senior hockey with the Sault Ste . Marie Greyhounds in 1921 , and while Bill had already left the team by that point , Bun was a member of the Greyhounds squad that won the Allan Cup in 1924 as senior champions of Canada . Following the championship , Bun turned professional by signing with the Saskatoon Crescents of the Western Canada Hockey League (WCHL) for the 1924 ? 25 season . Bill had already played two years in Saskatoon by that point and housed his younger brother during their shared tenure with the team .

= = Playing career = =

Cook played two seasons in the Western League . He scored 17 goals in 28 games in 1924 ? 25 and added eight more in 30 games the following season . The league had run into financial difficulty in its final seasons , and after 1926 , ceased operations . The Montreal Maroons intended to sign both Cook and his brother Bill to join their team for the 1926 ? 27 NHL season . While the team 's manager waited in Montreal to meet the brothers , Conn Smythe , manager of the newly formed New York Rangers , travelled to Winnipeg to reach the pair first . Smythe signed both Cook brothers for \$ 12 @,@ 000 . The brothers convinced Smythe to sign Frank Boucher , who also played in the WCHL , and the trio to form the " Bread Line " , one of the early NHL 's most prolific scoring lines .

The expansion Rangers made their debut on November 16 , 1926 . Cook assisted on the first goal in franchise history , scored by his brother , and which stood as the only marker in a 1 ? 0 victory . During the season , Cook earned his nickname " Bun " from a journalist who claimed he was " quick as a bunny " on the ice . He finished the 1926 ? 27 season with 23 points in 44 games then improved to 28 points in 1927 ? 28 . Cook led the Rangers with 14 assists on the year . The Rangers finished second in the American Division that season and defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates and Boston Bruins to reach the 1928 Stanley Cup Final against the Maroons . The Bread Line scored every Rangers goal in the series . The second game was notable for having Rangers coach Lester Patrick play goal after regular goaltender Lorne Chabot was injured . New York won that game , 2 ? 1 , and went on to capture the franchise 's first Stanley Cup championship .

Cook 's offence declined in 1928 ? 29 as he recorded only 18 points . Attempting to defend their championship , the Rangers reached the 1929 Stanley Cup Final , but were defeated by the Montreal Canadiens . The 1929 ? 30 season was statistically Cook 's best in professional hockey . He finished tenth in the NHL with 24 goals and totaled 43 points in 44 games . Following a 35 @-@

point season in 1930 ? 31 , he was named to the inaugural NHL All @-@ Star Team as the second team left wing . Cook scored 34 points the following season . The Rangers won the American Division title and reached the 1932 Stanley Cup Final but lost the series to the Toronto Maple Leafs .

With 22 goals in 1932 ? 33 , Cook finished fourth in the NHL , while his 37 points were seventh best . The Rangers reached the 1933 Stanley Cup Final , and Cook had two opportunities to end the series in the deciding fourth game : He was unable to score on a breakaway late in regulation time , while he and Bill nearly teamed up to end the contest early in overtime . Bill ultimately scored the winning goal in a 1 ? 0 victory as the Rangers won their second Stanley Cup championship .

Cook was a consistent scorer the following two seasons as he recorded 33 points in 1933 ? 34 and 34 points in 1934 ? 35 . However , he missed much of the 1935 ? 36 season due to an arthritic condition . Believing he would not recover , the Rangers sold Cook to the Boston Bruins . The transaction broke up the Bread Line , which had been together for nine seasons . He appeared in 40 games for the Bruins in 1936 ? 37 , his final NHL season , and recorded nine points .

In 531 career professional games , Cook scored 183 goals and 335 points . He was also an early innovator of the slapshot and of the drop pass . According to Cook : " I had a dream about the drop pass one night and at our next practice , I told Frank and Bill about it . They thought I was crazy , but they decided to humour me . By gosh , it worked ! I 'd cross over from left wing to centre as I moved in on defense . I 'd fake a shot and leave the puck behind and skate away from it , with Frank or Bill picking it up . We got a lot of goals off the crisscross and drop pass . " Ed Sullivan , then of the New York Graphic , praised Cook 's creativity : " When Bun Cook is hot , he is one of the most amazing players in hockey . At such moments , he attempts plays that stagger the imagination . " In 1995 , Cook was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame by the veterans committee . Often overshadowed by his linemates , he was the last member of the Bread Line to gain entry into the Hall , as he followed Bill (1952) and Frank Boucher (1958) .

= = Coaching career = =

After retiring from the NHL in 1937 , Cook turned to coaching and became the head coach of the Providence Reds in the International @-@ American Hockey League (IAHF ; later the American Hockey League , AHL) . He guided the Reds to a 25 ? 16 ? 7 record and a first place finish in the Eastern Division , as well as a Calder Cup championship after the Reds defeated the Syracuse Stars . Following the 1938 ? 39 season , Cook was named to the IAHF / AHL All @-@ Star team for the first time of four consecutive seasons . In 1942 , Cook served as coach of the Eastern Division team at the first AHL All @-@ Star Game . He coached the Reds for six seasons , until 1942 ? 43 . The Reds won three division titles and a second Calder Cup in 1940 . Occasionally pressed into playing duty , Cook also appeared in 37 games for the Reds over that time , and recorded what ultimately was his final professional goal , the game @-@ winner in a 3 ? 2 victory over the New Haven Eagles on December 17 , 1942 .

Cook left Providence to become head coach of the Cleveland Barons in 1943 ? 44 . The Barons won their division six times in Cook 's first nine seasons as coach . They reached the Calder Cup Final on six occasions in that time and won three championships : in 1944 ? 45 , 1947 ? 48 and 1950 ? 51 . He was considered a favourite to become head coach of the Boston Bruins in 1950 , but never left Cleveland . In 1952 ? 53 , Cook coached the Barons to both the regular season championship and the Calder Cup as the Barons defeated the Pittsburgh Hornets by a 1 ? 0 score in overtime of the seventh , and deciding , game of the series . Cook coached the Barons to a repeat championship in 1953 ? 54 , his seventh Calder Cup victory . With a record of 26 ? 31 ? 7 , 1955 ? 56 season was the first in 13 seasons with the Barons that Cook coached the team to a losing record . Though the team reached the league championship series , the Barons opted to relieve Cook of his position as coach .

Cook spent one season coaching the Sault Ste . Marie Greyhounds of the Northern Ontario Hockey League , in 1956 ? 57 , then spent three seasons with the Kingston Frontenacs of the Eastern Professional Hockey League until his retirement in 1961 . Cook retired as , and remains , the most

successful coach in AHL history . His seven Calder Cups are four more than anyone else , and his 636 career wins is the most in league history . He was inducted into the American Hockey League Hall of Fame in 2007 .

= = Personal life = =

Bill Cook was given a land grant following the First World War , and became a farmer on a half section of land near Lac Vert , Saskatchewan . Bun followed his elder brother to the prairie province and farmed an adjacent half section . Following his career in hockey , Cook ultimately returned to his hometown of Kingston where he died on March 19 , 1988 .

= = Career statistics = =

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