

= Busher Jackson =

Ralph Harvey " Busher " Jackson (January 17 , 1911 ? June 25 , 1966) was a Canadian professional ice hockey player . Jackson played 15 National Hockey League (NHL) seasons between 1929 and 1944 for the Toronto Maple Leafs , New York Americans and Boston Bruins . He was a member of the famed Kid Line with Joe Primeau and Charlie Conacher , one of the early NHL 's dominant scoring trios . Jackson led the league in scoring in 1931 ? 32 and was member of Toronto 's 1932 Stanley Cup championship team . He was named to five NHL All @-@ Star Teams and played in three benefit all @-@ star games , including the Ace Bailey Benefit Game , the first all @-@ star game in NHL history .

Off the ice , Jackson was well known for his high @-@ spending lifestyle and drinking habit that prompted his trade from Toronto to New York in 1939 . He was remembered as one of hockey 's tragic figures following his retirement , as he struggled with alcoholism and financial difficulty . He was a figure of controversy within the Hockey Hall of Fame selection committee as Jackson 's lifestyle and personal problems were used to block his induction . He finally earned a place in the Hall of Fame in 1971 , five years after his death . Jackson is also an honoured member of Canada 's Sports Hall of Fame , inducted in 1975 .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Junior = = =

Jackson grew up in Toronto , playing his youth hockey at " Poverty Pond " in the city 's east side before playing at the Ravina Rink where he was discovered by Frank Selke , the assistant general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs . Selke signed Jackson to a contract and assigned him to the Toronto Marlboros in the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) ' s junior league for the 1927 ? 28 season . Jackson scored four goals in four regular season games that season , and though the Marlboros were considered a favourite to win the Memorial Cup , the team was defeated in the Eastern final by the Ottawa Gunners . He returned to the team for the 1928 ? 29 season , scoring 10 goals and 14 points in 9 regular season games . He then led the OHA playoffs with seven goals and nine points as the Marlboros won the OHA championship . Jackson was a leading offensive player for Toronto in the 1929 Memorial Cup playdowns , scoring 15 goals and 25 points in 13 games . The Marlboros reached the final , defeating the Elmwood Millionaires in a best @-@ of @-@ three series to win the franchise 's first Memorial Cup championship .

= = = Toronto Maple Leafs = = =

Joining the Maple Leafs for the 1929 ? 30 season , 18 @-@ year @-@ old Jackson was the youngest player in the National Hockey League (NHL) . In his league debut , against the Montreal Canadiens , Jackson knocked over his idol Howie Morenz with a bodycheck . Assessing the youngster 's potential following the hit , Morenz offered , " you 'll do " . Jackson appeared in 31 games for the Maple Leafs , scoring 12 goals and adding 6 assists . He missed some time due to injury , during which he earned his nickname from the team 's trainer , Tim Daly . According to Jackson : " Daly asked me to carry sticks for him . I told him I wasn 't a stick boy , I was a hockey player . So he said I was nothing but a fresh busher [a term for someone who had just been called up from the minors] and the name stuck . "

During his first season , Jackson was placed on a line with two other young players . Charlie Conacher , a teammate of his with the Marlboros , played right wing and Joe Primeau was their centre . The trio formed what became known as the " Kid Line " , one of the early NHL 's most famous scoring trios . Primeau was the playmaker whose passes set up both Conacher and Jackson 's goal @-@ scoring ability .

Following a 31 @-@ point season in 1930 ? 31 , Jackson led the NHL in scoring with 53 points in

1931 ? 32 . At 21 years , 3 months old , Jackson became the youngest scoring champion in NHL history , a record he would hold until broken by Wayne Gretzky in 1980 ? 81 . Jackson 's 28 goals that season was the most he would score in his career , and he was named to the NHL 's First All @-@ Star Team for the first time of his career . He added five goals in the 1932 playoffs , including one of Toronto 's six in the deciding game of the 1932 Stanley Cup Final , a 6 ? 4 victory over the New York Rangers that clinched Toronto 's first Stanley Cup championship since 1922 .

The Kid Line remained Toronto 's top offensive threat for several years ; Jackson , Conacher and Primeau were the team 's top three scorers for four consecutive seasons between 1932 and 1935 . Following his league @-@ leading season , Jackson led Toronto offensively in 1932 ? 33 with 44 points . On November 20 , 1934 , Jackson set an NHL record when he became the first player in NHL history to score four goals in a period , notching four markers in the third period of a 5 ? 2 victory over the St. Louis Eagles . The record has not been surpassed through 2012 , though eleven players have matched it . He was named to three additional All @-@ Star Teams during this time , placed on the second team in 1932 ? 33 and on the first team in both 1933 ? 34 and 1934 ? 35 . Additionally , Jackson played in the Ace Bailey Benefit Game on February 14 , 1934 . Held in support of injured teammate Ace Bailey , it was the first all @-@ star game in NHL history . Jackson scored two goals for the Maple Leafs in a 7 ? 3 victory over the NHL All @-@ Stars .

Following four consecutive 20 @-@ goal seasons , Jackson slipped to 11 goals in 1935 ? 36 . The Kid Line was finally broken up . While they remain consistent offensive performers , they lacked defensive ability and opposing teams began to find success playing their own top scoring lines against the trio . Primeau subsequently retired in 1936 in favour of his business interests . Despite the break @-@ up , Jackson scored 21 goals and 40 points in 1936 ? 37 to earn his fourth and final appearance on the First All @-@ Star Team .

Prior to the start of the 1937 ? 38 season , Jackson played with the NHL All @-@ Stars in the Howie Morenz Memorial Game , the NHL 's second benefit all @-@ star contest . In regular league play , his offence entered a decline as he scored 34 points that season , then 27 in 1938 ? 39 . Following the season , the Maple Leafs traded him to the New York Americans along with Jimmy Fowler , Murray Armstrong , Doc Romnes and Buzz Boll in exchange for Sweeney Schriner on May 18 , 1939 . The five @-@ for @-@ one deal was unprecedented in NHL history at that time .

= = = New York and Boston = = =

Prior to his first season in New York , Jackson played in his third benefit all @-@ star game , the Babe Siebert Memorial Game , on October 29 , 1939 . He represented the NHL All @-@ Stars in a 5 ? 2 victory over the Montreal Canadiens . In NHL play , he posted 12 goals and 20 points for the Americans , then improved to 26 points in 1940 ? 41 . He was unable to come to terms with team manager Red Dutton on a new contract for the 1941 ? 42 season however , and did not join the team at the start of the season . The impasse lasted for half the season , until Dutton sold Jackson 's rights to the Boston Bruins for \$ 7 @, @ 500 on January 4 , 1942 .

Joining the Bruins gave Jackson the opportunity to play alongside his younger brother Art . He played only 26 games that season due to his holdout , just over half of an NHL season of 48 games , scoring 12 points . Though he played the left wing throughout his career , the Bruins switched him part @-@ time to defence when they lost players to injury or the Second World War . He scored 34 points in 1942 ? 43 , and his 19 goals was Jackson 's highest total in six seasons . The Bruins reached the 1943 Stanley Cup Final by defeating Montreal , but lost the series to the Detroit Red Wings in four straight games . Jackson played a final season in 1943 ? 44 , after which he announced his retirement as a player following a 15 @-@ year career .

= = Personal life = =

A handsome man with even features , Jackson lived a lifestyle of a Hollywood actor during his playing career , spending money freely , driving fast cars and attending posh parties . Maple Leafs ' owner Conn Smythe unsuccessfully tried to convince Jackson to save his money for the future ,

even offering to match his player 's savings dollar for dollar . Jackson 's habits , particularly his drinking , ultimately played a role in his trade away from Toronto . Jackson 's lifestyle came crashing down following his retirement as a player as he no longer had the money to fund his pursuits . He unsuccessfully tried to overcome his alcoholism , lost two marriages to divorce , struggled to hold a job , and it was said that he could be found outside Maple Leaf Gardens trying to sell broken sticks of Maple Leaf players to try to make some money . He emerged as one of hockey 's tragic figures .

Jackson suffered a series of injuries and ailments in his later years . In 1958 , he broke his neck after falling down a flight of stairs . His recovery took 18 @-@ months and cost him mobility in his right hand . Two months after his release , Jackson returned to hospital with a bout of jaundice . He was hospitalized again in 1962 following an epileptic seizure .

As Jackson 's health failed , he became the focus of a controversy within the Hockey Hall of Fame selection committee . Though he was considered one of hockey 's greatest left wingers , and he was famed for his offensive , attacking style and backhand shot , Jackson 's personal problems led Conn Smythe to blacklist him from entry into the Hall . Though Primeau and Conacher had gained induction , Jackson died on June 25 , 1966 , without being given the same honour . It would be another five years until the remainder of the selection committee finally overruled Smythe and posthumously inducted Jackson into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1971 . Smythe quit the committee in protest , while Jackson 's son Kim accepted the honour on his father 's behalf . In 1975 , he was inducted into Canada 's Sports Hall of Fame , and The Hockey News ranked him 55th in its 1997 book , The Top 100 NHL players of All @-@ Time .

= = Career statistics = =