

= Doug Bentley =

Douglas Wagner " Doug " Bentley (September 3 , 1916 ? November 24 , 1972) was a Canadian ice hockey left winger who played 13 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Chicago Black Hawks and New York Rangers as part of a senior and professional career that spanned nearly three decades . He was named to four NHL All @-@ Star Teams in his career and was the scoring leader in points and goals in 1942 ? 43 and again in goals in 1943 ? 44 .

Bentley was one of six hockey playing brothers and at one point played with four of his brothers with the Drumheller Miners of the Alberta Senior Hockey League . He made NHL history when he played on the league 's first all @-@ brother line with Max and Reg in 1943 . Injuries forced him out of the NHL in 1951 , but he returned in 1953 ? 54 to play one last season for the Rangers with Max . He spent several seasons as a player @-@ coach for the Saskatoon Quakers , leading the team to the Pacific Coast Hockey League championship in 1952 . Bentley was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1964 .

= = Early life = =

Bentley was born March 1 , 1916 , in Delisle , Saskatchewan . He was the fifth of six boys and one of thirteen children . His father Bill was a native of Yorkshire , England , who emigrated to the United States as a child and became a speed skating champion in North Dakota before settling in Delisle . He became mayor and helped build the town 's covered skating rink . All of the Bentley children were athletes , and all six brothers played hockey .

Bill Bentley believed that all six boys could have played in the National Hockey League (NHL) , though responsibilities on the family farm resulted in the eldest four boys spending the majority of their careers playing senior hockey on the Canadian Prairies . Doug was a small , slender player , weighing only 145 lbs at the peak of his career , but he was an exceptionally fast skater and his father taught him to use his speed to avoid larger opponents . He learned his trade with his brothers as they constantly played street hockey in the summers and on the ice in the winters . Bentley 's father flooded a sheet of ice that was the length of a regulation NHL hockey rink but much narrower , forcing the boys to develop the ability to maintain control of the puck while making fast , hard turns to reach the net .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Senior hockey = = =

Bentley 's early career was spent with several senior teams throughout Saskatchewan . He first played in his hometown of Delisle for the Tigers hockey team in 1932 ? 33 before playing a year in Saskatoon , then another in Regina before settling in Moose Jaw for three seasons beginning in 1935 ? 36 . He led the South @-@ Saskatchewan Senior Hockey League in scoring in 1936 ? 37 with 37 points and added another 14 in the playoffs , also leading the league . In 1937 , Bentley , along with future Hall of Famer Elmer Lach attended the Toronto Maple Leafs training camp ; both were rejected as too small for the National Hockey League . According to Lach , Conn Smythe , manager of the Leafs , saw Bentley and Lach and said ? They were sending me big guys from the West , but instead they ? ve sent me peanuts . ? He moved to Alberta with brother Reg , and joined elder brothers Max , Wyatt and Roy with the Drumheller Miners of the Alberta Senior Hockey League (ASHL) for the 1938 ? 39 season . When not playing hockey , Doug helped run a gas station that the family purchased in Drumheller .

= = = Chicago Black Hawks = = =

The Chicago Black Hawks signed Bentley to a contract in the fall of 1939 . He had previously been

placed on the protected list of the Montreal Canadiens , meaning they were the only NHL team eligible to sign him to a contract . They subsequently dealt his NHL rights to the Boston Bruins for Vic Myles . When he and brother Max went to Boston for a tryout camp , Bruins ' owner Art Ross declared them " among the worst amateurs to come to my camp " . However , by the time Chicago signed him , Bentley had established himself as one of the top forwards on the prairies .

Bentley appeared in 39 games in his rookie campaign with Chicago , scoring 12 goals and 19 points . His brother Max joined him early in the 1941 ? 42 season , and the pair were placed on a line together . After two years of development with the Black Hawks , Bentley emerged as the NHL 's scoring leader in 1942 ? 43 with 73 points , a total that tied Cooney Weiland 's NHL record for points in a season . He was the first Black Hawks player to finish as the scoring leader , and finished second in voting for the Hart Trophy as most valuable player .

World War II had decimated the rosters of all NHL teams , and with the Black Hawks searching for players , Max and Doug convinced the team to sign their brother Reg . The trio made history on January 1 , 1943 , when they became the first all @-@ brother line the NHL had seen . Two nights later , Max and Doug assisted on Reg 's first , and only , NHL goal . It is the only time in league history that a trio of family members recorded the goal and assists on a scoring play . While Max and Doug were established NHL stars , Reg played only 11 games in his NHL career .

In 1943 ? 44 , Bentley again led the NHL in goal scoring with 38 , and was named a First Team All @-@ Star at left wing for the second consecutive season . His career was briefly halted in 1944 when , after playing an exhibition game with Chicago in Canada prior to the 1944 ? 45 season , Canadian officials refused to allow him to return to the United States . He was given permission by military authorities to return to his family farm for the duration of the war , and signed on to play with the Laura Beavers of the Saskatchewan Intermediate Hockey League . The Beavers went on to win the western Canadian intermediate championship , defeating a team from Canmore , Alberta , to capture the title .

Following the war , Bentley returned to the Black Hawks where he was reunited with his brother Max . The brothers and Bill Mosienko formed a line in which each player was small and exceptionally fast ; they were dubbed the " Pony Line " and emerged as one of the top scoring lines in the league . Max led the NHL in scoring with 61 points , while Doug scored 40 points in just 36 games for Chicago . He improved to 55 points in 1946 ? 47 and was named a First Team All @-@ Star for the third time . He played in the first All @-@ Star Game on October 13 , 1947 , for the NHL All @-@ Stars , who defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs , 4 ? 3 .

The Black Hawks , who never iced a strong lineup while Bentley played , made a significant trade early in the 1947 ? 48 season . They sent Max Bentley and a prospect to the Toronto Maple Leafs in exchange for five players . The trade shocked Doug . He thought about retiring following the deal but felt he could give Chicago at least one more good season . He gave them several good seasons , finished the following three seasons with 57 , 66 and 52 points respectively , was named to the Second All @-@ Star Team in 1949 , and appeared in four more All @-@ Star Games in 1948 , 1949 , 1950 and 1951 . Chicago 's Herald American newspaper named him the city 's top hockey player of the half @-@ century in 1950 .

= = = Saskatoon and New York = = =

Injuries , including a pulled groin muscle , plagued Bentley in 1950 ? 51 and limited him to 44 games . He played only eight games of the 1951 ? 52 NHL season before the Black Hawks allowed him to return to Saskatchewan . He was loaned to the Saskatoon Quakers where he took on the role of player @-@ coach for the Pacific Coast Hockey League (PCHL) team . Bentley appeared in 35 regular season games for the Quakers then scored 12 points in 13 games to lead the Quakers to the President 's Cup championship .

Bentley remained with Saskatoon in 1952 ? 53 , appearing in all 70 league games for the Quakers . Following the season , the New York Rangers lured Bentley back to the NHL , acquiring his brother Max , then purchasing his rights from Chicago . In his first game with the Rangers , he scored a goal and three assists . He played 20 games with the Rangers , scoring 12 points , but returned to

Saskatoon to coach the team in their playoffs once the Rangers ' season ended . Bentley continued as Saskatoon 's player @-@ coach until 1955 .

In the midst of the 1955 ? 56 season , Bentley surprised his team by announcing his resignation as a coach . He initially agreed to continue as a player , but when the team announced as his replacement a player who was formerly subordinate to him as coach , Bentley felt it best to leave to avoid embarrassing his successor . The 39 @-@ year @-@ old Bentley immediately received offers from other Western Hockey League (WHL) teams , including the New Westminster Royals . He chose to finish the season with the Brandon Regals .

= = Coaching career = =

Bentley did not play during the 1956 ? 57 season , as he and Max chose instead to operate a new Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League team in Saskatoon . He first served as the team 's manager , and after briefly playing with the WHL 's Saskatoon / St. Paul Regals in 1957 ? 58 , became the head coach of the junior team . He remained in the position until 1961 when he left to become chief scout with the WHL 's Los Angeles Blades for the 1961 ? 62 season .

He was named an assistant coach midway through the year and even played when injuries forced players out of the lineup . Bentley moved on to become the player @-@ coach of the Long Beach Gulls of the California Hockey League in 1962 ? 63 , opposing his brother Max who coached the Burbank Stars . He returned to his Saskatchewan home in 1964 to coach the senior Saskatoon Quakers for one season . He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame that same year . He then moved to the Eastern Hockey League 's Knoxville Knights in 1966 ? 67 , and finally the Edmonton Nuggets of the Western Canada Senior Hockey League in 1967 ? 68 .

= = Personal life = =

Throughout the 1950s , Bentley and his brothers played baseball for both their home town of Delisle and the Saskatoon Gems of the Saskatchewan and later Western Canada senior leagues . He played as an outfielder .

Bentley and his wife Betty had three daughters and one son . Their son , Doug Jr . , was also a hockey player . Much of Doug Sr. ' s time away from the rink was spent at the family farm near Delisle . The family operated a large farm , raising cattle and growing wheat . Bentley battled cancer in his later life , first requiring surgery in Edmonton in 1969 . A second operation followed in 1970 , but he died of the disease on November 24 , 1972 .

= = Career statistics = =