

= Jack Stewart (ice hockey) =

John Sherratt " Black Jack " Stewart (May 6 , 1917 ? May 25 , 1983) was a Canadian professional ice hockey defenceman who played 12 National Hockey League (NHL) seasons for the Detroit Red Wings and Chicago Black Hawks . He won two Stanley Cup championships with the Red Wings and was named to the post @-@ season NHL All @-@ Star Team on five occasions : three times on the first team and twice on the second . Stewart also played in the first four NHL All @-@ Star Games . After completing his NHL career as captain of the Black Hawks , he went on to coach numerous teams at various levels of hockey .

Stewart was regarded as the hardest hitting defenceman of his time , a reputation that earned him his nickname . His style of play routinely resulted in injuries and scars ; he defied expectations by returning to the game after suffering a ruptured disc in his back and later a fractured skull . He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1964 , and is also honoured by the Manitoba Hockey and Sports Halls of Fame .

= = Playing career = =

Stewart played junior hockey with the Portage Terriers of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League in 1935 ? 36 and 1936 ? 37 , where he was discovered by a Winnipeg businessman who suggested that James Norris , owner of the Detroit Red Wings , sign him . He was sent to play his first season of professional hockey for the team 's minor league affiliate , the Pittsburgh Hornets of the International @-@ American Hockey League (IAH) . He recorded one assist in 48 games in the 1937 ? 38 season .

Partway through his second season with the Hornets , the Red Wings recalled Stewart as part of a bid to shake up their team which had been struggling . He appeared in 32 games in his NHL rookie season of 1938 ? 39 , and immediately established himself as a physical presence . He played in all 48 games for Detroit in 1939 ? 40 ; his lone goal on the campaign was the first of his career . Stewart and the Red Wings reached the Stanley Cup final in both 1941 and 1942 , but lost to the Boston Bruins and Toronto Maple Leafs , respectively . In his fifth season , 1942 ? 43 , Stewart was named to the NHL First All @-@ Star Team on defence and helped lead the Red Wings to the NHL regular season title . Reaching the final for the third consecutive season , Detroit defeated Boston to win the Stanley Cup . Stewart scored one goal , added two assists and had 35 penalty minutes in ten playoff games .

Stewart 's NHL career was interrupted by the Second World War in 1943 . He remained in Canada , serving as a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Canadian Air Force and playing hockey for the Montreal RCAF and Winnipeg RCAF teams between 1943 and 1945 . Upon his return to the NHL , Stewart was paired up with Bill Quackenbush on the Red Wings defence . He went on to earn four additional all @-@ star selections : he was named to the second team in 1945 ? 46 and 1946 ? 47 , and to the first team again in 1947 ? 48 and 1948 ? 49 . Additionally , he played in the first four National Hockey League All @-@ Star Games , held between 1947 and 1950 . Not known for his offence , Stewart never scored more than five goals in a season , and his career high of 19 points was set in 1947 ? 48 . He won his second Stanley Cup with the Red Wings in 1950 as they defeated the New York Rangers in double overtime of the deciding seventh game .

Following the championship , the Red Wings dealt Stewart to the Chicago Black Hawks as part of a nine @-@ player trade that was , at the time , the largest in NHL history . Stewart , Harry Lumley , Al Dewsbury , Pete Babando and Don Morrison were sent to Chicago in exchange for Metro Prystai , Bob Goldham , Gaye Stewart and Jim Henry . The Black Hawks named Stewart team captain and assistant coach almost immediately .

Stewart missed the majority of the 1950 ? 51 NHL season and his career was believed over after he suffered a serious spinal injury in a December 14 , 1950 , game against the Toronto Maple Leafs . Doctors diagnosed his injury as a ruptured disc and urged him to retire . He was told following the injury that he was lucky he could still walk without a cane and not to risk further damage on the ice . Instead , Stewart had the disc removed and after completing what Black Hawks ' team doctors

described as a " most remarkable " recovery , he opted to continue his career and signed with Chicago for the 1951 ? 52 season .

Early in the season , Stewart suffered a minor skull fracture after colliding with teammate Clare Martin , an injury that forced him out of the lineup for several weeks . Stewart spent two weeks in hospital , after which he announced his retirement , but he again shocked observers by returning to the ice . However , by mid February 1952 , his injuries led Stewart to ask the Black Hawks for his release so that he could seek a minor league coaching position .

= = Coaching career = =

Stewart was considered as coach of the New Westminster Royals of the Pacific Coast Hockey League , but chose to take the reins of the senior A Chatham Maroons in the Ontario Hockey Association . He served as a player @-@ coach , appearing in 45 games for the Maroons in 1952 ? 53 , where he scored two goals and 29 points while accumulating 129 penalty minutes . Stewart played the final games of his career in 1953 ? 54 , finishing with eight assists in 21 games .

The following seasons saw Stewart move between several teams as head coach . He left the Maroons to guide the Kitchener @-@ Waterloo Dutchmen in 1955 ? 56 , then the Windsor Bulldogs for two seasons between 1957 and 1959 . At one point in 1957 , he was rumoured to become the next coach of the Chicago Black Hawks , a job that went instead to Rudy Pilous . Stewart moved into the professional ranks in 1961 , taking over as the coach of Chicago 's Eastern Professional Hockey League affiliate , the Sault Thunderbirds . One year later , Stewart moved to the Pittsburgh Hornets , an American Hockey League affiliate of the Detroit Red Wings . After winning only 16 games in 1962 ? 63 , Stewart retired after he was dismissed by the Hornets .

= = Playing style = =

During his career , Stewart was regarded as one of the hardest bodycheckers in the National Hockey League . He also carried the heaviest stick in the league , explaining that " I don 't use it for scoring . I use it for breaking arms " . Stewart was known for his large grin when hitting opponents ; teammate Ted Lindsay noted " when he had that smile , it was time for the opposition to look out " . He led the league with 73 penalty minutes in 1945 ? 46 , and in the late 1940s , his rivalry with Milt Schmidt of the Boston Bruins was so intense that their physical interactions occasionally overshadowed the games themselves .

Stewart hated his nickname of " Black Jack " , as he believed it made him out to be a dirty player . Hockey Hall of Fame defenceman King Clancy agreed he was not dirty , but stated he was the " roughest son of a gun you 'd ever want to meet . " Stewart 's style of play resulted in numerous injuries ; he had dozens of scars and required over 200 stitches to close various cuts during his career . At one point he played a full season with a broken hand .

On the ice , Stewart showed good judgment as a defenceman and rarely took himself out of position to throw a hit . His coach in Detroit , Jack Adams , called Stewart " one of the best blueliners in the game " , and claimed he was the best defenceman in Red Wings history . Regarded as a good skater , he was able to clear the puck out of his zone and rarely turned it over to the other team . Clare Martin said he was a " defensive defenceman " and that he " didn 't carry the puck too much ... His job was defence and everybody in the league knew it . "

A charter member of the Detroit Red Wings Hall of Fame in 1944 , Stewart was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1964 . He is also an honoured member of the Michigan Sports , Manitoba Hockey and Sports Halls of Fame . He was named to the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame 's First All @-@ Century Team in 2000 .

= = Personal life = =

Stewart was born May 6 , 1917 , in Pilot Mound , Manitoba , where he learned to play hockey on the community 's outdoor rinks . He had three sisters . In the off @-@ seasons , he returned to his

family farm , work which was said to have given him the strength he displayed in the NHL . An avid sportsman , Stewart was an active curler during his playing career , and played softball in the summer . Though he was regarded on the ice as one of toughest players in the game , he was also quiet . He was known as " Silent Jack " by his teammates , allowing his actions to speak for him .

Upon leaving hockey in 1963 , he focused on a career in harness racing . Stewart 's father built a track on the family farm and held a horse racing meet each year to entertain the residents of Pilot Mound . He also followed and assisted his father when the elder Stewart acted as a race judge at fairs held in Manitoba . Stewart was actively involved in the sport from the time he retired as a player . He worked as a race timer and held various judging roles during the summers . He was a judge with the Ontario Racing Commission for nearly 30 years where his reputation matched that of his playing days .

Stewart retired to Florida but returned to Michigan to undergo treatment for cancer . He died on May 6 , 1983 , at his home in Troy following a lengthy battle with the disease . A widower , he was survived by two children , son Barclay and daughter Jaqueline .

= = Career statistics = =

= = Awards and honours = =