

= Red Dutton =

Norman Alexander " Mervyn , Red " Dutton CM (July 23 , 1897 ? March 15 , 1987) was a Canadian ice hockey player , coach and executive . He played for the Calgary Tigers of the Western Canada Hockey League (WCHL) and the Montreal Maroons and New York Americans of the National Hockey League (NHL) . A rugged and physical defenceman , Dutton often led his team in penalty minutes , won the WCHL championship in 1924 as a member of the Tigers and was twice named a WCHL All @-@ Star .

Dutton coached and managed the Americans and later purchased the team before suspending operations in 1942 due to World War II . He served as the second president of the NHL between 1943 and 1946 before resigning the position after the NHL 's owners reneged on a promise to allow the Americans to resume operations following the war . He served as a Stanley Cup trustee for 37 years but otherwise limited his involvement with the NHL following the Americans ' demise . He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1958 .

A successful businessman , Dutton operated a construction company that built Calgary 's McMahon Stadium in 1960 and he served for a time as the president of the Calgary Stampeders football club and later the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede . He was invested as a member of the Order of Canada in 1981 and is honoured by both the Manitoba Hockey and Alberta Sports Halls of Fame . He was posthumously awarded the Lester Patrick Trophy in 1993 in recognition of his contributions to the game of hockey in the United States .

= = Early life = =

Dutton was born in Russell , Manitoba on July 23 , 1897 . His father , Bill , was a successful contractor who helped build Canada 's transcontinental railway system , and the younger Dutton often helped his father at his work when he was a boy . He had at least two elder brothers , and a sister .

His given name was Norman Alexander Dutton , but his birth names were quickly ignored . A family friend of the Duttons refused to call him Norman as the name had a negative connotation for her , so she instead called him " Mervyn " , a name that stuck . His friends called him " Red " after the colour of his hair , and to most , he was known as Mervyn " Red " Dutton .

Dutton attended school at St. John 's College in Winnipeg . He left school in 1915 to volunteer with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in World War I and served with the Princess Patricia 's Canadian Light Infantry . He lied about his birth date on his CEF enlistment papers as he was not yet 18 , and served for four years . Dutton fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917 where he suffered a shrapnel wound to his leg serious enough that doctors pressed for amputation . Dutton refused and spent the following 18 months working to recover full use of his leg . He played hockey almost constantly to regain strength , at one point playing in seven different Winnipeg leagues at the same time .

Following the war , Dutton sought to build his own contracting business . However , an economic depression in 1920 forced its closure . He then worked in a packing plant in Winnipeg that also ceased operations . Penniless , with only his pride preventing him from asking his father for help , he was met by the owner of a hockey team in Calgary who had sought him out . Dutton was offered \$ 2 @ , @ 500 to play in the Alberta city .

= = Playing career = =

Dutton joined the Calgary Canadians of Alberta 's Big @-@ 4 League for the 1920 ? 21 season , then moved onto the Calgary Tigers of the Western Canada Hockey League (WCHL) in 1921 ? 22 where he scored 16 goals and 21 points in 22 games . Two seasons later , in 1923 ? 24 , Dutton and the Tigers won the WCHL championship . He assisted on the championship winning goal in a 2 ? 0 victory over the Regina Capitals by carrying the puck the length of the ice before passing to Cully Wilson who scored . The team then defeated the Pacific Coast Hockey Association 's

Vancouver Maroons before losing to the Montreal Canadiens of the National Hockey League (NHL) in the 1924 Stanley Cup Final .

Named a WCHL first team all @-@ star on defence in 1922 and 1923 , Dutton played five seasons for the Tigers . Known for his aggressive , physical style , he led the team in penalty minutes in each of those five years , and the league in 1921 ? 22 and 1923 ? 24 . Financial pressures forced the Western League to sell its interests to the NHL following the 1925 ? 26 season , and having suffered a serious knee injury during the season , Dutton was left unsure of his future .

Nonetheless , his rights were sold to the Montreal Maroons , and he made his NHL debut on November 20 , 1926 against the Canadiens . Dutton played four seasons with the Maroons , scoring 15 goals and 41 points . He played in the Stanley Cup Finals for the second time in his career in 1927 ? 28 , but the Maroons lost the best @-@ of @-@ five final three games to two . He led the league in penalty minutes the following season .

Dutton was the subject of trade talks between the Maroons and the Chicago Black Hawks following the 1928 ? 29 NHL season . The teams had been negotiating to send Cyclone Wentworth to Montreal in exchange for Dutton and Babe Siebert before the Black Hawks purchased the contract of Taffy Abel , which ended the Hawks pursuit of Dutton . The Maroons continued to make him available , with the Toronto Maple Leafs showing interest following the 1929 ? 30 season . Finally , he was sold to the New York Americans along with Mike Neville , Hap Emms and Frank Carson for \$ 35 @,@ 000 .

At first distraught at leaving Montreal , Dutton quickly adapted to playing in New York . He maintained his aggressive style of play with the Americans , again leading the league in penalties in 1931 ? 32 . Despite his fiery temper , Dutton became one of the most popular players in New York amongst both the fans and his fellow players . He was not able to turn the Americans ' fortunes on the ice around , however , as the team failed to qualify for the playoffs in his first five seasons with the team .

Dutton was named the coach of the Americans for the 1935 ? 36 NHL season , and in doing so became the second player @-@ coach in NHL history . Under his leadership , the Americans finished third in the Canadian Division with a 16 ? 25 ? 7 record and qualified for the postseason . The Americans then went on to defeat the Black Hawks 7 ? 5 in a two @-@ game , total @-@ goal series to face the Maple Leafs in the league semi @-@ final series . Dutton was unable to play parts of the series against Toronto due to a hip injury , and the Americans lost the best @-@ of @-@ three series two games to one . Dutton retired as a player following the season and turned his focus to coaching full @-@ time .

= = Executive career = =

While Dutton focused on coaching the team , the Americans were facing bankruptcy . Heavily in debt , team owner Bill Dwyer turned to Dutton who lent him \$ 20 @,@ 000 to allow the team to continue operating . When the NHL finally forced Dwyer out and took over ownership of the franchise , the league asked Dutton to take over management of the team .

Though the ownerless team was written off by the press and labeled as being " orphans " , Dutton built an Americans team in 1937 ? 38 that finished with a 19 ? 18 ? 11 record . It was only the third time in the team 's 13 @-@ year history they finished with a winning record . It was also only the third time the Americans qualified for the playoffs . They faced , and defeated , their rival New York Rangers in the first round of the playoffs before losing to the Black Hawks in the league semi @-@ final . Dutton pioneered the use of air travel as the Americans became the first hockey team to fly between games in 1938 .

The Americans continued to defy expectations in 1938 ? 39 . They again qualified for the playoffs , losing to Toronto in the first round , while Dutton was named an NHL Second @-@ Team All @-@ Star as coach . He led them to the playoffs again in 1939 ? 40 , but the loss of players due to World War II took its toll on the franchise . After finishing in last place the season before , the league announced that the Americans had suspended operations for the 1942 ? 43 NHL season though Dutton continued to represent the team on the Board of Governors . Dutton believed that if the

Americans could have held on through the war , his team would become more popular than the Rangers . " A couple of more years and we would have run the Rangers right out of the rink , " he said .

Following the sudden death of Frank Calder in 1943 , the NHL asked Dutton to serve as acting @-@ president of the league . The owners wanted Dutton in the post both because he was popular with the players , and because they felt they could control him . Dutton agreed to take the presidency on the promise that the league would reinstate the Americans following the war . He resigned the position after one year , citing the fact that the role took too much time away from his business interests in Calgary , but reversed his decision on the understanding that he would not always be available to serve the NHL post . Despite this agreement , he again attempted to leave the presidency in December 1944 , and again had to be persuaded to complete the season .

In spite of his earlier reluctance to retain the presidency , Dutton completed a five @-@ year agreement to remain as the head of the NHL in 1945 . He continued to make inquiries on the status of his team , but found in 1946 that the owners had reneged on their promise . Dutton had arranged \$ 7 million in financing for a new arena in Brooklyn and upon being told by the owners during a league meeting that they weren 't interested told his peers " You can stick your franchise up your ass " , and left the meeting . Dutton then resigned the presidency , but remained in the position until he convinced the league to accept Clarence Campbell as his replacement .

Dutton felt that the Rangers were responsible for the league 's refusal to allow the Americans to resume operations , and in a fit of pique , swore that the Rangers would never win another Stanley Cup in his lifetime . His vow became known as " Dutton 's Curse " . Additionally , he never set foot in an NHL arena again until 1980 when , as the last surviving Calgary Tiger , he was asked to drop the puck for the ceremonial faceoff prior to the first game in Calgary Flames ' history . Dutton 's 34 @-@ year separation from the NHL was attributed to the betrayal of the league 's owners , but also because Dutton himself found the lure of the game too strong , and knew he had to step away in order to effectively manage his businesses .

In spite of this , he accepted a nomination in 1950 to become one of two Stanley Cup trustees , a position he held until his death in 1987 . Dutton was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1958 , and was a member of the Hall of Fame 's selection committee for 15 years .

= = Business career = =

Attempting to overcome the failure of his first contracting business following World War I , Dutton operated a second using the money he earned with the Tigers and Maroons . It too failed in 1933 as a result of the Great Depression . In 1938 , he tried again , joining with Reg Jennings and his brother Jack to form the Standard Gravel and Surfacing Company in Calgary . The company proved immensely successful during World War II , building numerous airports within Canada as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan as well as completing highways in northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories . After serving a year as vice @-@ chairman , Dutton was named the chairman of the prairie roadbuilders section of the Canadian Construction Association in 1950 . By 1960 , the company had become Standard Holdings Ltd . , operating 20 different companies that had \$ 70 million in contracts for that year alone , and Dutton had personally become a millionaire .

He remained active in the sporting world as well . When the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League found themselves in financial trouble in 1955 , Dutton led a group of local businessmen in purchasing the team . Named the president of the team , he worked to increase the team 's revenues and to force a greater level of professionalism amongst his peers in Canadian football . He served as team president until 1959 .

Dutton 's company built the Chinook Centre shopping mall , and in 1960 , was contracted to build McMahon Stadium as the new home of the Stampeders . He bet George McMahon , the stadium 's benefactor , \$ 1 @,@ 000 that he could complete the 19 @,@ 000 seat facility within four months . He won the bet with three days to spare .

Also in 1960 , Dutton was named president of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede on a two @-@ year term . He had been a Stampede director for ten @-@ years previous to his appointment . As

head of the exhibition , he also spoke for the Stampeders hockey team of the Western Hockey League , and was its chief negotiator . Through his work and community spirit , Dutton played a major role in helping Calgary and the surrounding area shed its rural image in the 25 years following World War II .

= = Personal life = =

Dutton and his wife Mory had four children . Sons Joseph , Alex and Norman , and daughter Beryl . All three sons fought in World War II ; Joseph and Alex were both killed serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force within six months of each other . In their memory , he funded the Dutton Memorial Arena in Winnipeg which opened in 1967 and was dedicated to developing Canada 's national hockey team . Norman served in the navy during World War II ; he died in 1973 .

He raced thoroughbred horses for decades , and once sponsored a baseball team made up of hockey players known as the Calgary Puckchasers that enjoyed success during the hockey off @-@ seasons . Among his humanitarian efforts , Dutton was a longtime supporter of cancer research and treatment , and made donations of equipment in the memory of his father , who died from the disease . He became the potentate of the Al Azhar Shriner Temple in Calgary in 1953 so that he could help crippled children .

Dutton earned many honours in recognition of his life and career . He was made an honorary Lieutenant @-@ Colonel of the King 's Own Calgary Regiment in 1953 , and promoted to honorary Colonel two years later . He was invested as a member of the Order of Canada in 1981 . In 1993 , the NHL posthumously named him one of four recipients of the Lester Patrick Trophy in recognition of his contributions to hockey in the United States . He was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 , and the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Playing career = = =

= = = Coaching career = = =