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Bill Gadsby



Bill was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1970, a fitting tribute to a man who played 20 NHL seasons, was a 3-time First All-Star Team member, a 4-time Second All-Star Team member, and played in 8 all-star games.

Bill started his career in 1946 with the Chicago Blackhawks where he played eight and a half seasons. He was a big, rangy defenseman with tremendous offensive abilities and who sacrificed his body on every shift to play a strong defensive game. In Chicago, his team made the playoffs only once in an

era of 6 teams. In 1952, doctors diagnosed Bill with polio in 58% of his body (65% means paralysis) but Bill returned to action in only two weeks.

Bill was traded to the New York Rangers in 1954 which meant he moved from sixth place to fifth place. Bill played in New York for 6 and a half years and set a then-record with 46 assists by a defenseman. Then in 1961, he was traded to the Detroit Red Wings where he spent the last 5 seasons of his career.

Bill went to the Stanley Cup finals 3 times in his 20 seasons but never got his name engraved on the cup. Bill went on to coach the Red wings for two seasons and then scouted for the team before ending one of the longest and most distinguished NHL careers.



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