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Charlie Hodge

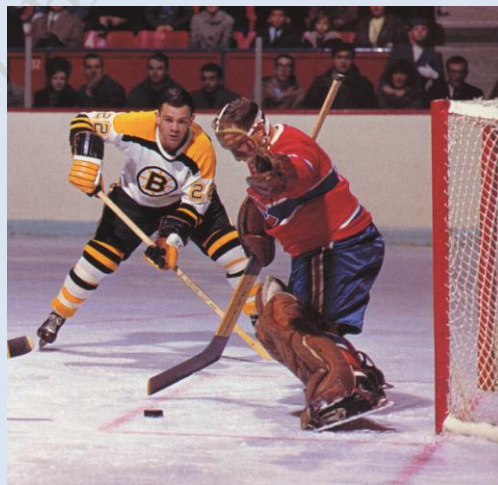


Charlie Hodge might hold the record for being a back-up goaltender longer than any other. And yet, how many players have their name on the Stanley Cup 5 times and has his name on the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's best goaltender twice? Not many goalies are going to push the legendary Jacques Plante out of the Montreal Canadiens net.

Charlie was a part of the Habs' dynasties of both the 1950's and the 1960's. In 1963-64, Hodge led the league with 8 shutouts and a GAA of 2.43 to win his first Vezina Trophy. This was the season after Plante was traded to the Rangers and the season before Gump Worsley took control of the Canadiens net. Charlie was a back-up again. The Oakland Seals claimed Hodge in the 1967 expansion draft and the diminutive 5'6" goalie played 3 seasons in

Oakland before ending his NHL career in Vancouver with the Canucks in 1970-71.

In all, this "back-up" won 5 Stanley Cups, 2 Vezina Trophies, was a Second Team All Star twice, played in 3 all-star games and posted a sterling career goals against average of 2.70.



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