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Eddie Giacomin

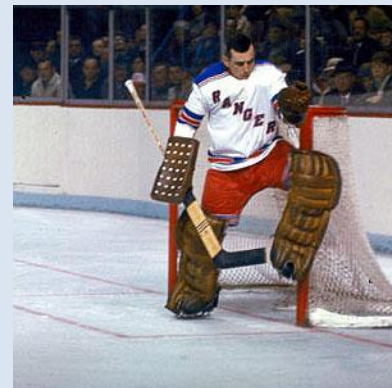


Eddie was one of the most successful and popular players ever to wear the uniform of the New York Rangers. His fiery nature and wandering style on the ice endeared him to the demanding Madison Square Garden fans. Ed also gained fame by taking Jacques Plante's wandering style and extra set further by trying to skate up ice and hit a teammate with a pass. He was often referred to as a "third defenseman" and this exciting style made him an icon in New York.

But Ed was far more than just colorful; he was also a tremendous goalie. In the 1970/71 season, he shared the Vezina Trophy, given to the NHL's best goaltender(s), with Gilles Villemure. He was also named to one of the two end-of-season All-Star teams for 5 consecutive seasons – twice to the First Team and three times to the Second Team. In the 1971/72 season, he led the Rangers to the Stanley Cup finals, where the Boston Bruins edged out the Rangers for the Cup. After 10+ years with the Rangers, Ed was picked up by the Detroit Red Wings where he played for almost 3 seasons. As fate would have it, Ed's first game for the Red Wings came in Madison Square Garden in front of his fans. In a moving tribute to Ed's popularity, the Ranger fans continually chanted "Eddie! Eddie!" even drowning out the national anthem. Twice, Eddie had to raise his stick to the crowd in a plea for silence.

Ed topped the NHL in victories for 3 straight seasons starting in 1966/67. And from 1966/67 to 1969/70, Eddie missed playing in only 6 games in that 4 season span; and he was playing during this time period without a mask! In his career, he won 289 games, posted 54 shutouts and had a stellar 2.82 goals against average.

To this day, Ed remains a very popular sports icon in New York.



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