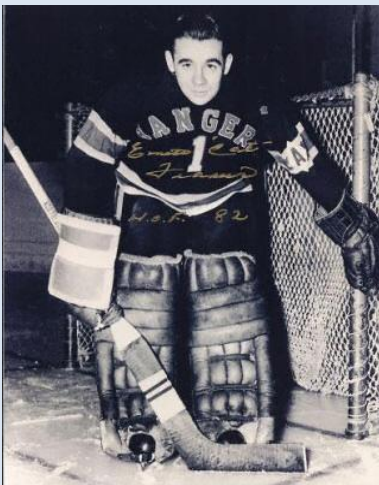




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Emile “The Cat” Francis

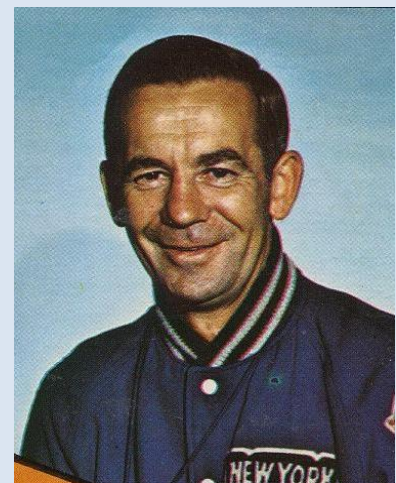


Emile was not only a great goaltender, but also a fine baseball player, during his youth in Saskatchewan. Interestingly, Emile used a version of a first baseman's glove in the 1945-46 season as a trapper playing net. Little did he know at that time that he founded a new style glove that goaltenders use to this day.

Francis made his NHL debut with the Chicago Blackhawks in 1946 where he played for 2 seasons before moving on to the New York Rangers for 4 more seasons. His nickname, “the cat”, came from his lightning-fast reflexes.

Francis' greatest contributions to hockey came during his years in management. He was General Manager and coach of the New York Rangers before moving on to do the same with the St. Louis Blues.

Later, he moved on to the Hartford Whalers where he was team President. He won the Lester Patrick Trophy in 1982 for contributions to hockey in the U.S. and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1982 as well.



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