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Gilles Villemure



For several seasons in the era of the Original Six NHL, Gilles played in the EHL, WHL, AHL and several other "HL's". He played his first NHL games in 1963-64 by playing 5 games with the New York Rangers. He then played a paltry 4 games in 1976-68 and another 4 games in 1968-69. But Gilles finally cracked the line-up in 1970-71 and shared the Vezina Trophy with Eddie Giacomin in the Rangers nets by going 22-8-4.

Gilles continued with the hot hand for the next two seasons as well. Overall, in those 3 combined seasons, Gilles went an amazing 66-27-10 and was named to the all-star team each year. Gilles stellar play led the Rangers to release Giacomin and Gilles became the main man in the Rangers' net. His stand-up, angles-style approach was in contrast to Giacomin's acrobat goaltending.

In 1975, Gilles was traded to the Chicago Blackhawks in exchange for Doug Jarrett. Gilles played sparingly in Chicago behind Tony Esposito and retired in 1976 to pursue a career in harness racing.



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