



## **Bob Baun**

Bob Baun was a defensive defenseman over 17 NHL seasons between 1956-57 and 1972-73. He was one of the strongest players in NHL history. Known for his devastating hip checks and aggressive defensive play, Bob played a pivotal role in four Maple Leaf Cup wins. But he is most remembered for scoring one of the famous goals in NHL history.

On April 23, 1964, in game six of the Stanley Cup finals, Baun was felled by a slap shot during the third period and taken off the ice on a stretcher. It was later determined that Bob had fractured his leg. In the Maple Leafs dressing room, Baun insisted on returning to the game and had his ankle frozen and taped, returning to the game for overtime. At 1:42 of the extra session, he fired a shot that deflected off Detroit Red Wings defenseman Bill Gadsby and past Terry Sawchuk for a 4-3 Toronto victory. Inspired by Baun's heroics, the Maple Leafs were easy 4-0 winners in game seven and claimed their third consecutive Stanley Cup.

Bob was also a leader in the growth of the NHL Players Association. When Baun was traded to the Detroit Red Wings, he discussed salary with the legendary Gordie Howe, a grievous sin according to the overbearing NHL owners. Bob was able to show Gordie that Bob was making more money than Howe! Bob's leadership helped pave the way to better salaries for players of the 1960's and '70's.

In his post-playing career, Bob has been a successful entrepreneur who has at times been the owner of several Tim Horton's locations as well as a farmer. Not only was he successful personally, but he counts many powerful Canadians as his close friends.