



Bill Butters

Bill signed a contract with the WHA's Minnesota Fighting Saints in 1974, appearing in 24 games, scoring twice and collecting four points. He played in 59 games with the Saints during the 1975-76 season before being traded to the Houston Aeros for the last 14 games of the season.

In 1976-77, Butters returned to his home state, signing with the Fighting Saints as a free agent, but once again he was shipped off, this time to the Edmonton Oilers. However, Butters barely had time to get to know his new teammates, before being dealt after just seven games to the New England Whalers. He remained with them until midway through the 1977-78 season, when he jumped to the NHL and signed a contract with the Minnesota North Stars, where he dressed for 23 games.

Bill returned to the North Stars in 1978-79, suiting up for 49 games. In total, he played 72 NHL games, all with the North Stars, scoring one goal and five points. He played one more year of pro hockey in 1979-80 with the Oklahoma City Stars of the CHL, ending his pro career in the city where it began seven years earlier.

Butters has the unique distinction of being linked to a couple of cult classic movie icons, having twice been involved in WHA trades along with Jack and Steve Carlson, who played two of the three Hanson Brothers, in the 1977 hockey cult classic Slap Shot.

Butters' life changed while at a Christian hockey camp in 1980, one that he initially did not want to attend. Bill tells the story. "In one of the large group meetings the song leader looked at me assuming that all of the pro instructors at the camp were Christians and sang, "Oh Billy do you love Jesus?" I was supposed to respond "Oh yes I love Jesus." My face started getting red and my eyes welled up with tears. I was embarrassed, not so much because I didn't know the song, but because I didn't know who the song was about. During the meeting, Chico Resch, a pro goalie, got up and told how Jesus had changed his life. I had never heard anyone talk about a personal relationship with Christ before that time. I went back to my room, got down on my knees and asked Christ into my life. I admitted that I was a sinner and that I needed Him to help me turn away from the sinful life I was living. When I came home from camp, I knew Christ had changed me. I told my wife about my becoming a Christian. I told her that at camp, I had asked God for forgiveness." Bill later led Jack Carlson, one of the players that the Hanson Brothers were based upon, to the Lord.

Sports Celebrity Marketing S.C.M. Inc.
13332 Tenth Line,
Georgetown, ON L7G4S8 Canada
Phone: 647-221-8405

www.sportscelebs.com