



Clark Gillies

Clark Gillies was a leader as well as an amazing athlete. At 6'3" and 215 lbs., Gillies was one of the league's premiere power forwards during the second half of the 1970's and early 1980's. The left winger teamed up with fellow Hockey Hall of Famers Mike Bossy and Bryan Trottier to form one of the decade's most lethal forward lines, nicknamed the "Trio Grande".

Clark was drafted fourth overall by the New York Islanders whereupon he made the team following his first NHL training camp, never playing a minor professional game. As an intimidating presence on the ice throughout his career, Gillies appeared to elevate his level of play when the opposing team raised his ire. He was an efficient NHL scorer as he scored 30-or-more goals six times in his career and assisted on 30-or-more goals five times.

At around the halfway point of Gillies' third NHL season, Eddie Westfall, the New York Islanders captain, removed the "C" from his sweater. After a special dressing room vote, the young Gillies was chosen as the new team captain. After two and a half seasons, Gillies resigned as captain and was succeeded by future Hockey Hall of Famer Denis Potvin. A period of league domination continued in the spring of 1980 as the Islanders won their first of four consecutive Stanley Cups equaling Montreal's achievement in the late 1970's. Nicknamed "Jethro" after the Beverly Hillbillies TV show character by his teammates, Gillies played two more seasons to end his years as a member of the team. His career with the Islanders spanned 12 seasons where he registered regular season totals of 304 goals and 663 points, fourth in all-time scoring for the franchise.

During the summer of 1986 he was obtained by another New York State team, the Buffalo Sabres, in the annual Waiver Draft. He played two seasons with the Sabres, before retiring after the 1987-88 season.

Gillies was a two-time NHL First Team All-Star left wing in 1977-78 and 1978-79. He participated in the 1978 NHL All-Star Game and the following year was selected to play with the NHL All-Stars in the 1979 Challenge Cup.

He retired from the NHL with regular season totals of 319 goals, 378 assists for 697 points. In 147 NHL playoff games he scored 47 and assisted on the same for 94 points. On December 7, 1996, Clark Gillies' number "9" was retired by the New York Islanders as a symbol of his great contribution and significance to the team. Clark was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2002.

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