



## **Ernie Wakely**

Ernie is a true case of real perseverance. He turned pro in 1960 and by 1969 had played a grand total of 2 NHL games, both with the Montreal Canadiens and those 2 games were 6 years apart.

Montreal traded Ernie to St. Louis in 1969 and that season he led the NHL in goals against average after replacing Hall of Famer Glenn Hall in the nets! How's that for sticking with it only to prove yourself! He must have learned a lot as a back-up to the legendary Jacques Plante with the Blues.

The next season, Plante was gone from St. Louis and Ernie had the main role to himself. He played 51 games that season, losing only 14 of them, and played in his first and only all-star game. He led the Blues to the Stanley Cup finals only to lose in four straight games to Bobby Orr and the Boston Bruins.

After one last season with the Blues, Ernie signed with the WHA's Winnipeg Jets in his home province. After two seasons in Winnipeg, Ernie traveled throughout the WHA to teams like the San Diego Mariners, Cincinnati Stingers, Houston Aeros, Birmingham Bulls and Phoenix Roadrunners. He was a WHA Second Team All Star in 1978 with the Aeros.

Ernie was an outspoken Christian during his years in hockey and it was his witness that led teammate and fellow goaltender, Joe Daley, to give up drinking and give his life over to the Lord.

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