



## **Garry Unger**

Garry Unger could not have known what was in store for him when he was interested into the Maple Leaf line-up on February 24, 1968 between Mike Walton and George Armstrong. Coach Punch Imlach had brought up the rookie in an effort to make the playoffs and to fill in for Dave Keon, who had been injured. The centre would stay in an NHL line-up through to the 1979-80 season, smashing the existing iron-man record by 284 games.

In the course of the streak, Unger was traded four times. Unger was part of a package sent to the Red Wings less than two weeks after the streak began. The Red Wings, in turn, moved Unger to the St. Louis Blues in the 1970-71 season, and it was with the Blues that he broke Andy Hebenton's iron-man record on March 10, 1976 in Toronto. Garry Unger moved on to the Atlanta Flames in 1979. On December 22, 1979, Flames coach Al MacNeil finally benched Unger, ending the streak at 914 consecutive games.

During his career, Garry scored 30 or more goals in a season 9 times, including 7 seasons in a row. He also played in 7 all-star games in the 1970's. Unger's consecutive games record has since been surpassed by Doug Jarvis. He didn't win any Stanley Cups but Unger did emerge a complete man.

It was a death of teammate Bob Gassoff in St. Louis that got Unger thinking about where he would spend eternity. A trade to the Flames united Garry with strong Christians Paul Henderson and Jean Pronovost and in 1980, Unger yielded his life to Christ.