



Henry Boucha

Henry came out of the Minnesota hockey system with a flash! He was colourful in that he wore a headband over his long dark hair to accentuate his Ojibwa Nation heritage. Combined with his natural good looks and tremendous hockey skills, Henry was a star in the making.

Henry was drafted in the 2nd round of the 1971 Entry Draft by the Detroit Red Wings. He debuted with the Wings at the tender age of 19 in the 1971/72 season when he played 7 games and scored 5 points. He then spent the rest of the season playing for the U.S. Olympic Team which won a silver medal in Sapporo, Japan.

In his rookie season of 1972/73, Henry electrified the Detroit crowds with his exciting stickhandling and tall, powerful build. He scored 29 points that season followed by 31 points the next. For the 1974/75 season, Henry was traded “home” to the Minnesota North Stars. However, Henry’s season came to a screeching halt on January 4, 1975. After a serving a 5 minute fighting major for a scrap with Dave Forbes of the Boston Bruins, Henry and Forbes came together on the ice whereupon Forbes hit Henry with a vicious butt-end in the eye, fracturing Henry’s eye socket. His career was never the same afterwards.

In 1975/76, Henry spent time with the Minnesota Fighting Saints of World Hockey Association and then came back to play in the NHL briefly with the Kansas City Scouts and the Colorado Rockies. But he couldn’t overcome his eye injury. In 1977, he retired from the NHL at the age of 24 with his tremendous promise unfulfilled. He is a member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

Today, Henry is very active in affairs of the Ojibwa Nation and for all First Nations peoples across Canada and the United States. He is well versed and well spoken about Native issues. And he is a great motivational speaker with children and youth, encouraging them to pursue their dreams and to not let their circumstances limit their hopes. He came from poverty and oppression and now gives back in many forms to people who are in similar situations to what Henry has conquered personally.