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Howie Meeker

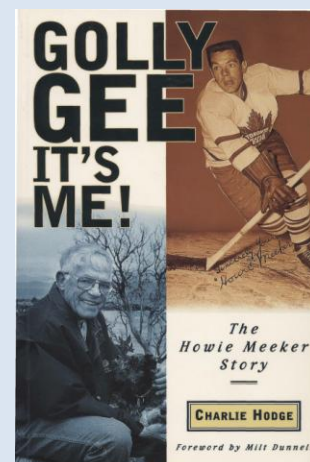


Howie Meeker has a long and storied career in hockey. In the 1946-47 season, Meeker captured the Calder Memorial Trophy as NHL rookie of the year. That season, he scored a record 5 goals in a single game. He was a Stanley Cup winner three times in 1947, '48 and '51 and was also a three time All-Star, gaining those honours in '47, '48, and '49. Unfortunately, a back injury forced Howie into retirement in 1953. However, as great as Howie's hockey career was, that is not what he is remembered for.

Howie began a second career in hockey, as a hockey school instructor, sports director for radio and one of the familiar voices on Hockey Night in Canada on CBC. Howie had a wealth of knowledge and an unbridled enthusiasm for a sport he played coached and preached. From his great one liners, to his genuine care for the game from a learning point of view, Howie Meeker has given back to hockey everything he has gained. A 30-year career in broadcasting came to end in 1998, as a special ceremony was held in Vancouver before a Canucks/Flames game to honour one of hockey's true legends. He was the 1998 recipient of the Foster Hewitt Memorial Award as selected by the NHL Broadcasters' Association.

But there is even more to Howie's story. At the tender age of 18, Howie enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces. He suffered at least one major injury in combat, when a hand grenade exploded at his feet. Three years later he returned from overseas to pursue his dream of playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Also, between his retirement as a player, and his return to hockey as a coach, Howie served 4 years in the Canadian Parliament. He is an accomplished author of several books on hockey basics and in 1999, published his story called "Golly Gee – It's Me" The Howie Meeker Story". Finally, in a tribute to the "100 Most Colorful People in Hockey", The Hockey News, in their December 24, 1999 issue, named Howie as the #76 ranked figure of all-time.

Golly gee whiz, Howie's an excitable guy! In his own words, "you've got to play the man"!



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