



## **Ron Duguay**

With his long flowing hair and natural good looks, Ron was a smash hit with the young females on Broadway and the men liked him because he was an excellent hockey player. In his rookie season with the Rangers, Ron netted 20 goals and assisted on 20 others in the 1977-78 season. Just one year later, the team, led by the likes of 37-year-old Phil Esposito, advanced to the Stanley Cup finals where they lost in five games to the powerhouse Montreal Canadiens.

By now he was firmly entrenched as a fan favourite in New York. The love affair lasted six years, and although Duguay had a 40-goal season in 1981-82, the team was never able to reach the heights achieved during that 1979 run to the Cup finals.

Ron went to the Detroit Red Wings at the start of the 1983-84 season. He played two 80-game seasons with the Wings, and likely would have had a third, but 67 games into the 1985-86 season he was sent to the Pittsburgh Penguins, where he played the final 13 games of the year. He had averaged better than a point per game for the Wings in those first two seasons but the team felt it needed to move in a new direction. It was that trade which seemed to take the steam out of Duguay's career, as he never managed to regain the same scoring touch again, despite the trade happening when he was only 28.

In an attempt to regain some of his past glory, he was sent back to the New York Rangers but managed to score just 13 goals in 82 games over two seasons.

Still not convinced his time had passed him by, Ron wound up on the West Coast playing with the Los Angeles Kings in 1987-88 for 15 games. He returned the following season, playing 70 games, scoring 17 goals and 17 assists for 24 points. That would prove to be his last year in the NHL.

Doogie will always be a matinee idol in New York.