



Tony Esposito

How often do brothers earn election to their sport's Hall of Fame? It doesn't happen often but Tony and Phil Esposito were two of the very best at their positions in the history of hockey.

Tony made his NHL debut with the Montreal Canadiens in 1968-69 and got his name engraved on the Stanley Cup for the only time in his career while playing in 13 games. In those few games, "Tony O" recorded 2 shutouts, shades of things to come.

The Chicago Blackhawks made a great find by taking Tony in the inter-league draft of 1969. For the next 15 seasons, Tony dominated the game as one of the NHL's best goalies. In his rookie season with the Blackhawks, Tony led the league with 38 wins, 15 by shutout. Needless to say, he won the Calder Trophy as the league's rookie of the year.

In 1972, Tony was chosen for Team Canada to play against the USSR and was an integral player in net in Canada's eight game victory. Tony went on to win 30 or more games in a season an incredible 7 seasons in a row as he routinely played 60 or more games a season, an amazing feat. And today's goaltenders have Tony to thank for pioneering the butterfly style that most goalies use today.

When Tony retired in 1984, he was number 3 on the all-time victory list with 423 wins, behind only Terry Sawchuk and Jacques Plante. His 76 career shutouts was a modern day record until Martin Brodeur came along. Following his playing career, Tony became director of hockey operations for the Penguins and then joined Phil in the Tampa Bay Lightning organization.

Tony was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988.

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