



Laurie Boschman

Laurie was the 1st round draft choice of the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1979 and scored 48 points in his rookie season. He skated well between John Anderson and Rocky Saganiuk. But in year two, he was felled with mononucleosis. To add to his woes, he was rushed back too soon after the illness had struck. As such, he skated like a tired hound dog at the end of a long hunt. His situation was further exacerbated when the club's owner, Harold Ballard, suggested that Boschman's Christian beliefs were at the root of his poor play.

Laurie welcomed a trade to the Edmonton Oilers and from there he went on to several excellent seasons with the Winnipeg Jets where he had 4 seasons of over 25 goals. He developed a relentlessly determined style of play that brought him plenty of opportunities to scrap and to score points. Over the seven years that followed, he became a mainstay as a solid, two-way performer who consistently put points on the board and covered his own end of the rink with tenacity. Laurie then spent two season with the New Jersey Devils followed by playing the inaugural season with the Ottawa Senators.

Laurie stayed strong in his faith during his career and ended up playing over 1,000 NHL games with over 300 goals and over 2,200 penalty minutes – proof that his faith didn't make him the soft player that Ballard had claimed him to be.

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