



Yvan Cournoyer

Not many players have their name on the Stanley Cup more than Yvan Cournoyer; his name appears 10 times on the championship trophy.

Nicknamed “The Roadrunner” for his blazing speed, he made his NHL debut in the 1963-64 season for the Montreal Canadiens scoring 4 goals in the 6 games he played. He was a full-time player by the '64-'65 season launching into a career which lasted for 16 outstanding seasons and as a key member of some of the greatest teams in history.

Equally adept at scoring as playmaking, Yvan scored 428 goals and 435 assists in his career for 863 points across 16 seasons. He was named to the Second Team All Star team 4 times (1969, 1971, 1972 & 1973) and played in 6 all-star games (1967, 1971-1974 and 1978). His best season arguably came in 1968-69 when he scored 43 goals and 44 assists for 87 points in 76 games.

In the playoffs, Cournoyer came through in the clutch as well. His playoff stats include 64 goals and 63 assists for 127 points in 147 playoff games. The 1972-73 were outstanding for Yvan and he was rewarded with the Conn Smythe Trophy for the playoffs most valuable players when the Habs defeated the Blackhawks in the Cup finals.

The Canadiens recognized Yvan’s leadership skills in 1975 when they named him captain of the vaunted franchise following the retirement of Henri Richard. Unfortunately, a ruptured disc in his back caused him to miss many games late in his career and ultimately led to his retirement after the 1979 season having played in only 15 games that season. At the time of his retirement, only Maurice “Rocket” Richard and Jean Beliveau had more career points in Canadiens franchise history.

Cournoyer is also remembered by hockey fans as a key member of Team Canada '72 in the legendary series against the USSR. As a winger on a line with Paul Henderson and Phil Esposito, Yvan contributed greatly to the ultimate victory and was on the ice as Henderson scored the series-winning goal and leapt into Cournoyer’s arms.

In 2005, the Canadiens retired his #12 jersey and in 2017, he was named one of the “100 Greatest Players in NHL History”. In 1982 was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

