



## Paul Gardner

Paul was born into a hockey family and helped to carry on the tradition. He is the son of Cal Gardner who played 12 years in the NHL from 1945 to 1957 and has his name on the Stanley Cup twice. In fact, Cal scored the Cup winning goal in 1949 for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Then, older brother Dave was the first round draft choice of the Montreal Canadiens in the 1972 draft. Dave had a 7-year NHL career which spanned 1972 to 1980. Paul joined the famous family three years after Dave and had a 10-year career. The Gardner genes were meant to be on ice!

Paul, like Dave, was a 1<sup>st</sup> round draft choice with Paul being picked by the Kansas City Scouts in the 1976 draft, 11<sup>th</sup> overall. Of course, that summer in 1976, the Scouts relocated to Colorado to become the Rockies. In his rookie season, he scored 59 points on 30 goals and 29 assists in 60 games for a dreadful Rockies team. After two very good seasons with Colorado, he was traded to the Toronto Maple Leafs part way through the 78-79 season. After garnering 9 points in 11 games to end the season in Toronto, he struggled the following season and was subsequently dealt to the Pittsburgh Penguins for the 80-81 season.



It was with the Penguins that Paul had his best seasons. He potted 34 goals and 74 points in 62 games in only his first season in Pittsburgh and followed that with 36 goals and 69 points the next season in 59 games and finally a season with 55 points. In 1983-84, Paul struggled to maintain his form and was sent to the minors. He lit up the minors with points for much of the next 3 seasons earning some time in the NHL with the Capitals and Sabres but retired from playing after the 85-86 season.

Since hockey was in his blood, Paul turned to coaching. He coached for several years in the minors in the AHL and CHL and came back to the NHL as an assistant coach for the Nashville Predators in 2002-03 and also worked as a scout for the team. In years to follow, Gardner coached in Russia, Germany, Scotland and The Netherlands. When you are in a hockey family, you dedicate yourself to the game!