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ECHOES

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS HERITAGE SOCIETY

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DULY RECOGNIZED

James Dooley's Vision Created the Reds

By Vin Cimini
Reds Heritage Society Vice President

In the early 2000s, a masterful watercolor depicting the most famous figures over the 51-year history of the R.I. Reds was created, but with one glaring omission – Judge James E. Dooley – the man who started it all. The fact is there would be no Reds without the Judge who was hugely instrumental in bringing pro hockey to Rhode Island 100 years ago.

James Dooley was born in Hinsdale, Mass., in 1886 and moved with his family to Pawtucket at age 13. It was a new century with new opportunities, of which the visionary Dooley took full advantage.

A graduate of Georgetown Law School in 1911, he was appointed judge of the Rhode Island Eighth District Court in 1916. He served in that post for a year before resigning. But the title "Judge" stuck to him for the rest of his life.

Dooley became a part owner of the legendary Providence Grays baseball team, which featured the great Babe Ruth as a pitcher, in 1914. He acquired part ownership of the Providence Steam Roller pro football team in 1916, 12 years before the team won the National Football League championship in 1928.

When a group of sports entrepreneurs from Canada and New England sought to start a new minor pro hockey league in 1926, Judge Dooley was among the Providence organizers who saw the potential for success here. He helped create the



Judge James Dooley with the 1927 team. Front Row: Roger Cormier, Johnny Gagnon, Jim Gardner (coach), Judge James Dooley (president), Jean Dubuc (manager), Roland Paulhus, Mickey Murray, Charlie Langlois. Back Row: Hago Harrington, Wildor Larochelle, Sky Desy, Armand Mondou, Archie Wilcox, Gizzy Hart, Art Chapman, Steve Davis (trainer).

Providence Reds and the five-team Canadian-American (Can-Am) Hockey League, the forerunner of today's American Hockey League.

It was not easy for the Reds in their first season, but Dooley was optimistic that hockey could survive in Providence, despite having lost a "considerable" amount of money. He blamed small crowds early in the campaign, but was buoyed with the increase in attendance as the season progressed. The mushrooming popularity prompted Dooley to declare that pro hockey had "now taken a firm foothold here" in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts.¹

He served as Can-Am President for six years, beginning in 1929. Over his 12-year tenure as owner of the team, the Reds captured three Fontaine Cup Championships.

As a member of the R.I. General

Assembly, Dooley fought to win approval for horse race pari-mutuel gambling. His bill passed in 1934 and the nationally famous Narragansett Park opened for horse racing just 74 days later. The Judge became president of the Narragansett Racing Association in 1938, a position he held until his passing in 1960.

Dooley's son, J. Alden Dooley, took over as president after his father's death in December 1960 and ran the track until 1975. His son, James A. Dooley, Jr., followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps to lead Narragansett Park until it closed in September 1978.

Judge Dooley was inducted into the Reds Hall of Fame in 1965 and was enshrined in the RI Hockey Hall of fame in 2019.

1. Providence Journal, "Pro Hockey Over for Seven Months," April 14, 1927, p. 7.



AN ORIGINAL RED

Armand Mondou

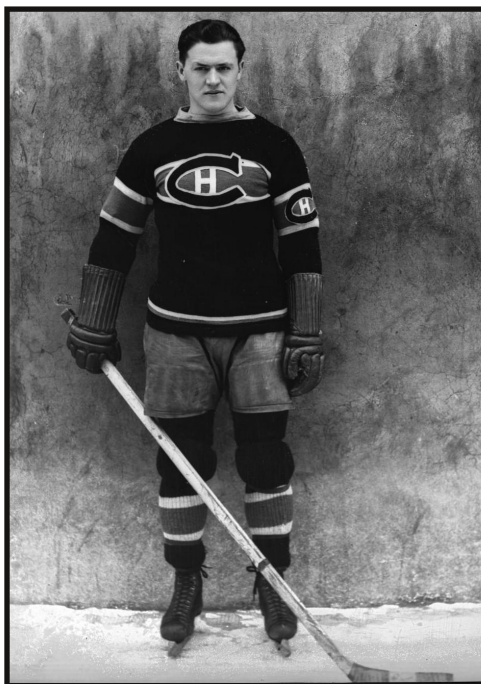
By Wayne Forrest
Reds Heritage Society President

When head coach Jimmy Gardner and general manager Jean Dubuc went to Montréal to build a roster for the Reds' inaugural season 100 years ago, they had the very good fortune of discovering Armand Mondou, a promising 21-year-old center playing for one of the city's top amateur clubs.

Born in Yamaska, Québec, in 1905, Mondou first took the ice as a goaltender at a very young age out of necessity, since he could not skate. He found his balance by age 15 and made his school team as a center. Armand blossomed during his three years at St. Francois Xavier and helped his team win the Quebec league championships in his final two seasons, scoring a gaudy 61 goals in 35 games that final season at age 17.¹

He headed to St. Francois Xavier College for the following 1923-24 hockey season, where he met two future Reds – right wing Roger Cormier and goalie Ildege Gervais.¹ The team joined the Mount Royal Intermediate Hockey League for the next three seasons before Mondou was discovered by Gardner and Dubuc in a tryout for the NHL's Montréal Maroons. The Reds' brain trust was impressed with Mondou, as well as Cormier, Gervais, and Saints' left-wing Wildred "Sky" Desy. All four were signed to play for Providence.²

Armand played in all 32 games and scored seven goals – the second-highest total on the Reds – in the 1926-27 campaign. The 21-year-old captained the Reds for the second year in a row the following season and improved his offensive output to 12 goals in 38 games, third best on the team. The Reds' front office was quick to extol the talents of this rising star.



Above, Armand Mondou with the Canadiens. Photo courtesy of National Library Archives of Quebec. Below, one of the few photos of Mondou wearing Reds colors.



"Give Mondou a few more weeks of experience and he will be the offensive ace of the circuit," Dubuc said after 12 games in December 1927. "This youngster is the pivot of the attack and defense, but his great work is overlooked by most of the fans. He has been improving steadily in his game ever since he joined the club last season and there is no doubt in my mind that he will be in demand in several National League teams at the end of the campaign."³

Indeed, Dubuc was correct. Ten games into the 1928-29 season, Mondou was called up to Montréal where he stayed for the next 12 seasons and helped the Canadiens win Stanley Cups in 1930 and 1931. He returned briefly to Providence for 24 games during the 1932-33 season, when Canadiens' owner Leo Dandurand cleaned house when his team's record sunk to 8-14-2 at midseason. Armand was back in Montréal the next year and stayed for seven more seasons, with an occasional detour to the New Haven Eagles of the International-American Hockey League to skate against his former teammates in Providence.

Before he retired in 1940, Mondou was heralded as having the best slap shot and made history on Nov. 10, 1934, when he took the NHL's first-ever penalty shot against Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender George Hainsworth. Back then, the shooter had to fire the puck from within a 10-ft. circle, 38 ft. from the goal, while the goalie had to stay within one foot of the goal line. Mondou's shot was unsuccessful.

1. *The Gazette (Montréal)*, "From A Rink Side Seat," Feb. 18, 1935, p. 14.

2. *Providence Journal*, "Four Canadian Aces Come to Providence," Nov. 16, 1926, p. 7.

3. *Providence Journal*, "Comment and Gossip," Dec. 24, 1927, p. 6.

Dave Hanson: The Reds' Slap Shot Star

By Vin Cimini
Reds Heritage Society Vice President

The 1977 movie phenom "Slap Shot" includes several notable appearances by professional hockey players with connections to the Reds. Among them are Connie Madigan, who played Ross "Mad Dog" Madison, and Paul D'Amato, the movie's supervillain, Tim "Dr Hook" McCracken, the featured guest at our Reds Heritage Society's 2017 reunion.

However, the most memorable former Red among the cast probably was Dave Hanson, who played one of the maniacal Hanson brothers. He skated for the Reds during the 1976-77 season, the team's final season in Providence. Early in the year, before the movie debuted, he told the story of his dive into acting to Reds' beat writer at the Providence Journal, Ed Duckworth.¹

"I was playing for the Johnstown Jets in the North American League, and Nancy Dowd, the sister of one of the forwards on the team, sold the 'Slap Shot' script to Universal Pictures," Hanson explained. "The next thing I knew, Paul Newman and the Universal people came to Johnstown and asked if we'd be interested in auditioning. At first, we figured they were kidding. But when we realized they were serious, we decided to take the tests."

The film tells the story of the fictional Charlestown Chiefs, a minor league team struggling with a losing season, unmotivated players, and angry fans. The team's owner is looking to scrimp on spending, and he signs the immature Hanson Brothers. The brothers, who are the epitome of hockey goons, lead a resurgence for the team.

The Hanson Brothers – Jack, Steve and Jeff – were based on real-life brothers Jack, Steve and Jeff Carlson, who played for the Johnstown Jets. Another player, Dave "Killer" Carlson, was based on Dave Hanson. And in the movie, the Carlson Brothers were originally hired to play the Hansons, and Dave Hanson was supposed to play Killer Carlson.

But before hooting began, Jack Carlson was called up to the Edmonton Oilers and could not be in the movie. So Dave Hanson was "promoted" to the third Hanson brother, who was then renamed from Jack to Dave, and professional actor Jerry Houser was brought in to play Killer Carlson.

"I had quite a few lines in the picture," Hanson said. "The Carlson brothers are major characters in the story.

"We wear glasses and look like choir boys off the ice," he laughed. "But when the game starts, we become goons."



The Hanson Brothers, played by Steve and Jeff Carlson and Dave Hanson, leave the locker room in a scene from Slap Shot.

In the three months he worked on the film, Hanson discovered that an actor's life is tough. "We'd work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. The director shot some scenes 20 times before he was satisfied. It wasn't easy."

Newman did most of his own skating, but doubles skated the more difficult scenes. "I don't think Newman realized how hard it was going to be to play a hockey player," Hanson added. "But I've got to give him credit. He's a real professional."

"Slap Shot" premiered in New Haven on Feb 25, 1977, and Universal Pictures invited Hanson to attend. "I had a nice time," noted the defenseman. "But when it was over, I was happy to come back. Movies are fun, but I'd rather play hockey."¹

Hanson played four seasons for the Detroit Red Wings and Minnesota North Stars of the National Hockey League, and the New England Whalers, Minnesota Fighting Saints and Birmingham Bulls of the World Hockey Association. In a playoff game for the Bulls, he accidentally knocked off the hairpiece of Bobby Hull of the Winnipeg Jets, who had to take a moment in the dressing room to get a helmet.

And beginning in the 1990s, Dave Hanson and Steve and Jeff Carlson made hundreds of guest appearances appearing in character as the Hansons at charity and promotional events throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

1. Excerpts taken from Providence Journal, "R.I. Reds' Hanson makes acting debut," Feb. 20, 1977, p. 70.

HALL OF FAME HONORS REDS LEGENDS

By Vin Cimini
Reds Heritage Society VicePresident

The R.I. Hockey Hall of Fame will induct five new members into its hallowed club this summer, including two honorees who contributed immensely to the success of the Rhode Island Reds – George Patrick Duffy and George M. Sage.

George Patrick Duffy

George Patrick Duffy was born in Pawtucket in 1922, one of the seven children of Frederick and Emma (Locklin) Duffy. George attended Pawtucket High School where he became a three-sport star. After high school, he served in the Coast Guard during World War II, which he later related he “was lucky to survive.” His ship, the U.S.S. *Minges*, was torpedoed on May 3, 1944, by a German submarine, killing 31 sailors and wounding 75 others. This brush with death remained a vivid memory for George for the remainder of his long life.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Helen Richards, late in 1944. In 1945, at war’s end, George signed on with the Reds to announce the team’s games. For the next 25 years he performed that task with his Irish wit and “gift of gab” both at home in the R.I. Auditorium and at rinks throughout the American Hockey League circuit. George simultaneously served as the team’s publicity director, helping to build the club’s strong and admiring relationship with the press and fans alike. In 2007, these labors of love earned him induction into the Reds’ Hall of Fame.

His tenure with the Reds was interrupted for a time in the late 1950s when George accepted an invitation to promote Eddie Feigner’s famous “King & his Court” four-man softball team and even worked for a while at the building of the Newport Bridge before returning to the Reds’ front office and broadcast booth in the late ‘60s.

For over 70 years, George immersed himself in coaching and mentoring the youth of Pawtucket at St. Raphael Academy, the Boys and Girls Club, or the city’s Little League, where he guided his Darlington neighborhood team to the 1980 World Series in Williamsport, PA. He even coached softball at Bryant College. He was named Ryder Transportation’s “Driver of the Year” for his many years driving local handicapped children back and forth to school. George’s daughter, Susan Leach, observed that “nothing made him feel better than helping those kids.”



George Patrick Duffy, the Voice of the Reds

George died on May 23, 2015, clutching a baseball in one hand, according to an account from his loving family. He was 94 years old and survived by Helen, his wife of 71 years, five children, 15 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

The city of Pawtucket recognized George’s lifetime contributions to his city by naming the baseball fields at Slater Park the “George Patrick Duffy Athletic Complex” and honored him with induction into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame.

George Sage

George Sage was born in Rochester, N.Y., in 1931 and graduated from Deerfield Academy and Babson College before arriving in Rhode Island, where he began a 43-year residence in Barrington.

His major business venture was in the field of transportation, where he parlayed a one-bus route transporting apple pickers to and from work into the very successful Bonanza Bus Co. To make way for the Providence Civic Center/Convention Center complex, George orchestrated the move of the downtown bus terminal from its congested site on Sabin St. to a new, more accessible facility just off Interstate 95 at the Providence-Pawtucket city line where Bonanza’s successor, Peter Pan Bus Lines, has operated since 2003.

An avid sports enthusiast and tennis player, George purchased the Rhode Island Reds in 1969 and operated the club until 1976.

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Two Reds Legends Honored

From Previous Page

To give the hockey team a brighter and more modern home and Rhode Islanders a state-of-the-art civic and entertainment facility, he helped spearhead the construction of the Providence Civic Center (now the Amica Mutual Pavilion) on the site of the old Sabin St. bus terminal.

George was also a dedicated philanthropist whose business success proved to be a “bonanza” for local schools and charities. His lifetime service with the United Way Organization included several years as the treasurer of United Way International and a year as chairman of the board in 1987. He was a trustee of St. Andrews School in Barrington and chaired two successful capital campaigns, for which a gymnasium there has been named in his honor. George also left a \$4-million bequest to St. Andrew's – by far the largest gift the school has ever received.

Despite his public persona, George's family was the centerpiece of his life. He was the beloved husband of Barbara (Humphrey) Sage and the father of Anne Sage and George 'Jim' Sage Jr. upon his passing in 2006. In 2009, George was inducted into the R.I. Heritage Hall of Fame. George held his adopted state in such high esteem that he established a fund at the Rhode Island Foundation with his children as its advisers. Truly it may be said that George's generous heart continues to beat for the benefit of his fellow Rhode Islanders.

FRIDAY NIGHTS WITH DAD

By Jim Sage
Reds Heritage Society Board

Friday nights defined my childhood. During hockey season, they meant one thing: Providence Reds games with my family. Those evenings became the foundation of some of my most cherished memories with my dad, George Sage.

I started going to Reds' games around the age of 4 or 5 and I fell in love with the sport. Watching goaltender Ross Brooks sparked something in me. His presence in the net fascinated me, and he ultimately inspired me to become a goalie myself. A few years later, I even had the opportunity to attend his hockey school, where he helped shape my early understanding of the position.

My connection to the team ran deeper than fandom. My father owned the Reds from 1969 to 1976. Though I was only 10 or 11 when the team was sold, those years left a lasting impression. Being part of that world was something I would come to appreciate more with time.

We arrived early for every Friday home game and headed straight to the Royal Roost restaurant in the Civic Center for dinner. We always sat at the same table by the window, watching players warm up below before making our way to our seats just beneath the restaurant. The routine never changed, and that was part of its magic. My mother Barbara brought energy to every game. Cowbell in hand, she celebrated every goal, blending into the roar of the crowd. She had one favorite shout – “SIT ON IT!” – which she directed at the goalie after a save. My father, by contrast, was understated. A quiet fist pump or a subtle nod said everything about how he felt in any given moment.

During intermissions, fans often approached my father. Some asked for autographs or shared their admiration for the team, while others offered advice about how to run it. He listened to everyone with patience and respect. Occasionally, my mother would step in, ushering me away for popcorn when conversations grew too spirited. Sportswriters would sometimes stop by our seats. My father loved those



George Sage

conversations. Hockey and baseball were his passions, and he relished every chance to talk about them.

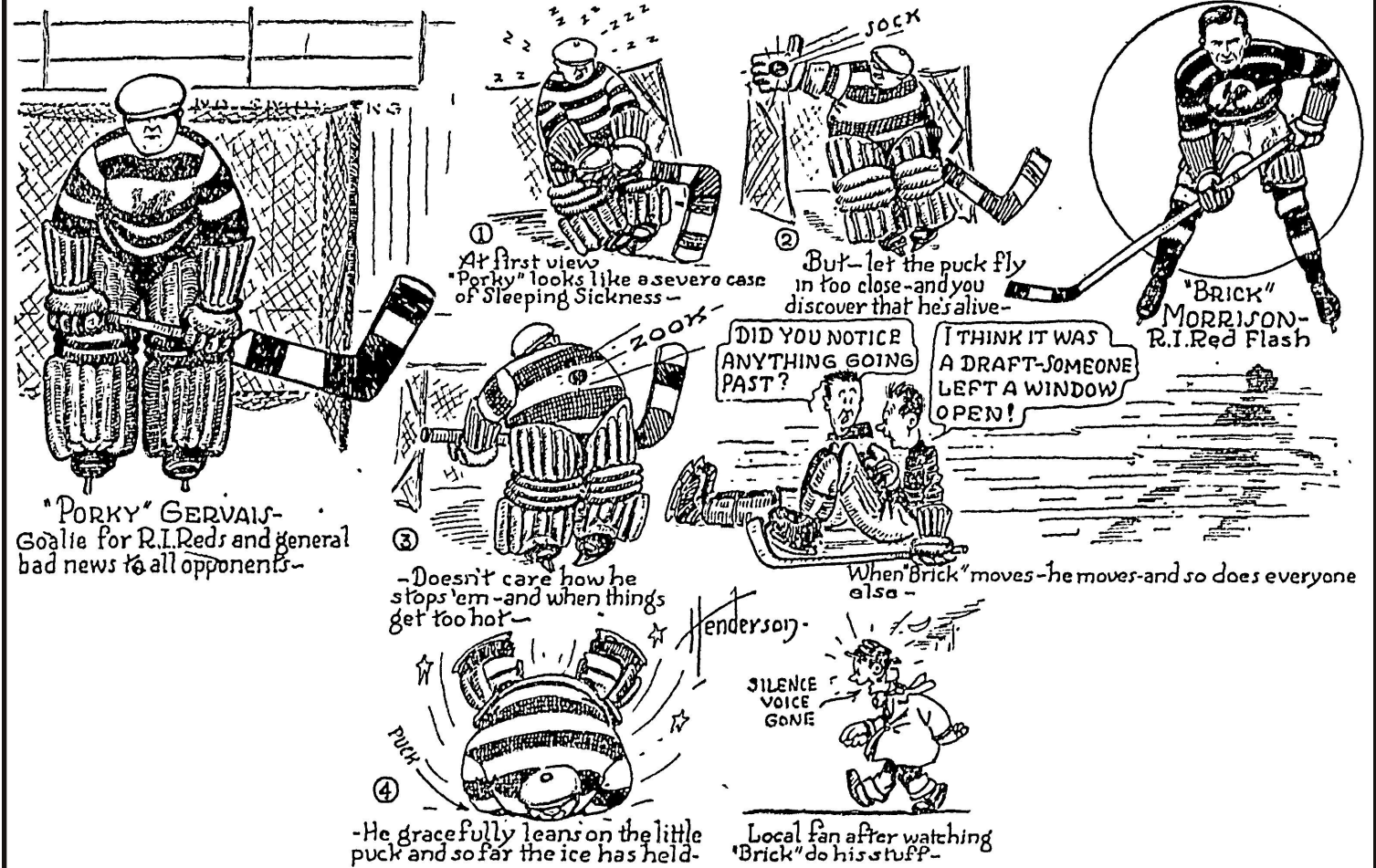
After games, we went upstairs to the team offices, where my father handled postgame business. Meanwhile, I turned the hallways into my own arena, playing floor hockey with personnel. I still remember skating – well, running – alongside names like Roy Mlaker, Mike Gilbert, Eddie Ellsworth, and John Muckler Jr. One unforgettable moment was playing against Eddie Shore, who, I suspect, went easy on me.

After wins, my father often brought me into the locker room. While he spoke to and congratulated coach John Muckler, I wandered among the players, talking hockey – especially with the goalies. Despite the intensity of the game, they were always welcoming. Those brief interactions left lasting impressions and made the team feel like an extended family.

Years later, I reconnected with several former players, and their reflections confirmed what I had witnessed as a child. They spoke not just of the game, but of my father's character – his kindness, respect, and genuine care for the people around him. He created an environment where players felt valued, and that meant everything.

Looking back, those Friday nights were about far more than hockey. They were about family, community, and the relationships built through a shared love of the game. My father's time with the Reds brought him lifelong friendships, and it gave me memories I will always hold close.

Henderson's Impressions of the Reds



The Artistry of James Henderson

Long before Frank Lanning became a fixture at the Providence Journal illustrating the exploits of local and New England sports teams, James Henderson creatively sketched the athletes at the newspaper from 1919 to 1927.

He sharpened his talent as the comic cartoonist for the former Life Magazine, and later received accolades from President Harry S. Truman who requested and received the original Henderson cartoon titled

"You Made Me What I Am Today," drawn just after Truman's 1948 re-election to president. It showed the President staring fondly at a picture of Thomas E. Dewey, who Truman defeated in the election. The work was widely reproduced by other newspapers. At the time of his passing in 1949 at age 66, Henderson was the editorial page cartoonist for the Providence Journal.

This drawing appeared in the newspaper's sports section on Feb. 16, 1927, and featured two Reds' stars

from the inaugural season. Ildege "Porky" Gervais played goal in all 32 games and recorded five shutouts. The 22-year-old rookie from Montréal was nicknamed "Porky" because of his rotund 5-ft.-7-in., 175-lb. frame. His teammate Clarence "Brick" Morrison established a reputation as an aggressive 25-year-old amateur defenseman during his three seasons with the Boston Maple Athletic Association and amassed 65 penalty minutes in 30 games for the Reds.



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Did You Know?

Be Like Iron Mike and Eat Your Wheaties

Mike Karakas, known as "Iron Mike," played seven seasons with the Reds and settled for a time in Narragansett after his playing days. In 1936, he became the first NHL player to appear on a Wheaties cereal box. Three other athletes appeared with Mike: Bob Kessler, basketball star; Kit Klein, women's speed skating champion; and famed ski jumper Alf Engen, who was named to the US Olympic team. However, just before he was scheduled to leave for Germany, Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic Committee and a zealous supporter of amateurism, ousted Engen from the team, because his picture had appeared on the box. He declared that Engen's image on the cereal box made him a professional, no longer an amateur. My, how times have changed.



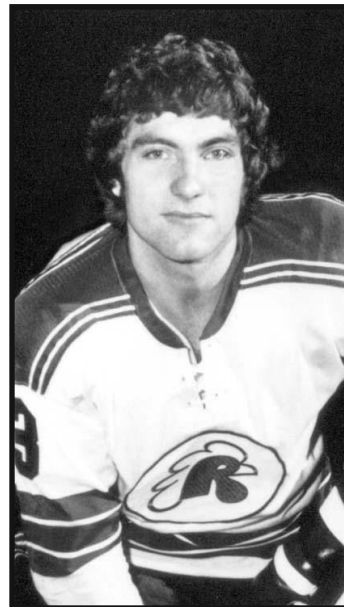
McVicar was the Reds' First All Star

Jack McVicar – known as "Slim" or "Pop" – starred on the D-line for the 1929-30 Providence Reds team that captured the first of seven league championship over 51 years of play. That season – the fourth year of the Reds' franchise in the Canadian-American Hockey League – Jack also became the very first Reds player to be selected to a league All-Star Team.



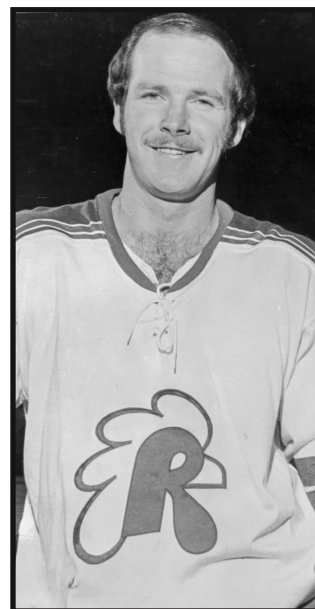
Sacharuk Set a Record for Defensemen

Larry "Boom Boom" Sacharuk's 27 goals with the Reds in the 1973-74 season set an AHL record for defensemen. It came as no surprise that he earned first team AHL All-Star honors in a vote by AHL coaches. Larry arrived in Providence at age 20 the year before and "tickled the twine," as they say, for 14 goals, tops on the team for defensemen and fourth in scoring on the Reds that season. In the 1971-72 campaign, the year before he came to Providence, Larry set a major Canadian Juniors record when he scored a record 50 goals in 65 games as a defenseman for the Saskatoon Blades of the Western Canadian Hockey League. Amazing!



'Sheecat' Sheehan Used a Fake Name

As a youngster in Weymouth, Mass., Bobby Sheehan played under the name of Bobby Terry during his high school days to circumvent the restriction of being able to play only for his school team (14 games/season). Nicknamed "Sheecat," Bobby skated in just 36 games overall in a Reds' uniform during the team's final season of 1976-77. In those 36 games, the speedster scored a whopping 28 goals and 56 points and was on a pace for a 62-goal season. Bobby played the remaining half of the season with the Detroit Red Wings.



Rhode
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Heritage Society Store

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