

2001 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

Bill "Red" Hay

After hitchhiking to Colorado Springs from his home in Regina, Saskatchewan in the late 1950s, Bill "Red" Hay quickly established himself as one of the greatest players in the storied history of Colorado College ice hockey. Hay played two seasons for Colorado College, earning All-Conference and NCAA First Team All-America honors in 1956-57 and 1957-58. He registered 154 points during his two-year playing career and helped lead the Tigers to the NCAA Championship in 1956-57.

Following his career at Colorado College, Hay became the first college player to successfully make the jump to the National Hockey League. From 1959-67, he played for the Chicago Blackhawks, centering the "Million Dollar Line" that included wingers Bobby Hull and Murray Balfour. In 1959-60, Hay captured the Calder Memorial Trophy as the NHL's Rookie of the Year. The following season, he led Chicago in scoring with 59 points and helped guide the Blackhawks to the Stanley Cup Championship - the team's first in 23 years.

Hay retired from the Blackhawks and the NHL following the 1966-67 season, and spent the next 23 years working in leadership positions in the oil industry in the Canadian Province of Alberta. He would retire from the oil industry in 1990 and join Hockey Canada - the organization that oversaw Canada's Olympic and National hockey teams - as president and chief operating officer. After one season with Hockey Canada, Hay was named president and chief executive officer of the NHL's Calgary Flames, where he spent the next five seasons before joining the newly formed Canadian Hockey Association.

Along with his numerous positions in hockey, Hay was a member of the Canadian Special Olympics Advisory Board and the Hockey Hall of Fame Selection Committee. In 1999, he was elected president of the Hockey Hall of Fame, a position he continues to hold today.