

NHL® ORIGINAL SIX™: A CELEBRATION OF LEGENDS PROOF TRIBUTE COLLECTION



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A CELEBRATION OF LEGENDS



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Establishment of the *Original Six*™

On November 26, 1917, within the modest confines of a "plain and simple room, rented for the occasion," as Montreal Herald sportswriter Elmer Ferguson described it, history was made in Montreal's Windsor Hotel. After an evolution of nine other professional hockey leagues formed and folded shortly thereafter throughout the opening decade of the twentieth century, the future was one of uncertainty. Facing ongoing disputes with one of their own in the National Hockey Association (NHA) and with a sixth team, the Northern Fusiliers (better known as the Toronto 228th Battalion) now at war in Europe, team owners of the Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Wanderers, Ottawa Senators and Quebec Bulldogs met in the Windsor Hotel and voted collectively to remove themselves from the NHA and form the National Hockey League (NHL®).

The future of the new league seemed dim at first. Four teams dwindled to three when the Montreal Wanderers disbanded early in the first season. Soon the Toronto Arenas filled the gap as a permanent team in 1917, becoming the first NHL® franchise to win the Stanley Cup® the following season. Four teams increased to six when two expansion teams—the Montreal Maroons and the Boston Bruins®, which extended the league's reach into the United States—joined the NHL® in 1924. Throughout the next two decades, the NHL® expanded to as many as ten franchises, some successful, others disbanded by the devastating effects of the Great Depression and the Second World War.

The New *Original Six*™

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1942, the NHL® found itself once again a league



of just six teams. Following the disbanding of the Brooklyn Americans, the league now consisted of the Montreal Canadiens®, Toronto Maple Leafs®, Detroit Red Wings®, Boston Bruins®, New York Rangers® and the Chicago Blackhawks®. Throughout the era of the *Original Six*™—a moniker used by sports writers to differentiate the existing teams from the new expansion teams formed in 1967—Montreal and Toronto proved themselves the dominant franchises in the league with a combined 19 Stanley Cup® victories between 1942 and 1967.

For 25 years, the *Original Six*™ continued to resonate with a rapidly growing fan base. Demand was high for further team expansions, especially in the United States, so by 1967 six more teams represented more large cities across America.

This unprecedented Proof Tribute Collection is a celebration of the history and heritage of the fabled *Original Six*™. Each represents something special, drawing upon every fan's passion for the game and the legends of the ice who inspire them.

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Montreal Canadiens®



As the oldest established team in the NHL® and one of the illustrious *Original Six*™, no professional hockey team in history has celebrated more victories than the Montreal Canadiens®. Dominating the NHL® as its winningest Stanley Cup® Championship team with a record 24 Stanley Cup® Championships between 1916 and 1993, they were an unbeatable dynasty between 1953 and 1960, winning six Championships. Between 1956 and 1960, they brought the Stanley Cup® home for a record five consecutive seasons.

The Canadiens® have been led by some of the greatest players in history like Jacques Lemaire, Guy Lafleur, Henri Richard and so many other Hall of Famers who have worn La Sainte-Flanelle, whose will to win was second to none.

The passion Quebec has for the Canadiens®, the only professional hockey team in the province, goes far beyond dynasty and legend. As francophone ambassadors to a city that is the epicenter of French-Canadian culture, the bilingual connection the team has with their continuously growing fan base attests to their international appeal.

Every Stanley Cup® Championship the Montreal Canadiens® have celebrated since 1916 speak to the renowned history of one of professional hockey's most celebrated teams. Generations of devoted fans have cheered them on for more than a century, true to their team win or lose. And in Canada's game, glory on and off the ice defines these unsung heroes.



When it comes to achieving playoff season victories, no other American team in the NHL® compares to the Detroit Red Wings®. Hoisting the Stanley Cup® 11 times between 1936 and 2008, the Red Wings® remain one of the most beloved NHL® franchises in history by generations of fans in Hockeytown® and beyond.

Established in 1926, the franchise played professionally as the Detroit Cougars until 1930, then changed its name to the Detroit Falcons until 1932 when they officially became the Red Wings®. For much of the last century, the franchise has been an indomitable force on the ice.

Throughout the franchise's eminent history, champions and Hall of Famers have worn the revered red and white and thrilled the fans of Detroit, including the "Production Line" consisting of Gordie "Mr. Hockey" Howe, Sid Abel and Ted Lindsay.

Nearly a century of Red Wings® victories as one of the *Original Six*™—includes winning four Stanley Cup® championships in a span of six seasons throughout the 1950s—makes this franchise a dominating force. And to Hockeytown®'s devoted and ever-growing fans, that's the kind of team that creates legends.



Detroit Red Wings®

NHL® ORIGINAL SIX™: A CELEBRATION OF LEGENDS

Chicago Blackhawks®



With a rich and illustrious history as one of the Windy City's most beloved professional sports teams, the Chicago Blackhawks® have been a force to be reckoned with since this storied *Original Six*™ franchise was founded in 1926. The Blackhawks® have won six Stanley Cup® Championships between 1934 and 2015, cementing a legacy that continues to inspire generations of fans.

With a prestigious roster of superstars and Hall of Famers through the decades like Glenn Hall, Stan Mikita, and the "Golden Jet" Bobby Hull, Chicago was home to players second-to-none. And no era was such superior talent on the ice more prevalent than the 1960s, long-considered the period

of renaissance for the Blackhawks®. The legendary prowess of Hull, Mikita, Hall and defenceman Pierre Pilote advanced the team to three Stanley Cup® finals throughout the decade.

Beginning in 2010, the era of the "Dynastic Decade" began as the Chicago Blackhawks® dominated the ice, lifting the coveted Stanley Cup® that year and again in 2013 and 2015. Driven by skill and an intense will to win, the near-century long legacy of the Blackhawks® remains the same; one that thrills and inspires one of the most passionate fan bases in professional sports.



Since 1917, Conn Smythe's Toronto Maple Leafs® have been the pride of Ontario's professional sports history. One of the illustrious *Original Six*™, the Maple Leafs® have been a truly dynamic team throughout their history, replete in both dynasty and legend.

As the second-oldest established team in the NHL®, Toronto won Stanley Cup® Championships as the Arenas in 1918 and as the St. Patricks in 1922. Renamed the Maple Leafs® by owner Conn Smythe, who purchased the franchise in 1927, the team celebrated eleven more Stanley Cup® victories between 1932 and 1967.

The Maple Leafs® celebrated two Championship dynasty eras between 1940 and 1967. Under coaching icons like

Clarence "Hap" Day and George "Punch" Imlach, the Maple Leafs® became one of the NHL's® most storied franchises. And they fostered some of professional hockey's greatest players to ever wear the famed blue and white colours. Names like King Clancy, George Armstrong, Dave Keon, and other Hall of Famers who dominated the ice have earned the admiration of both fans and fellow athletes over the course of the last century.

Each Stanley Cup® Championship the Maple Leafs® have won since 1918 remains a testament to the distinguished history of one of professional hockey's most revered teams.



Toronto Maple Leafs®

NHL® ORIGINAL SIX™: A CELEBRATION OF LEGENDS

Boston Bruins®



The pride of Boston since 1924, the Bruins® are a team with a proud heritage and winning tradition. Having won six Stanley Cup® Championships between 1929 and 2011, the Bruins® are that rare team that can point to sustained success, featuring a roster of some of the biggest stars to ever play the game, each possessing a fiery determination to be the best—exactly what Boston fans expect.

The first American franchise to join the NHL® in the *Original Six*™ era, the Bruins® won their first Stanley Cup® in 1929. Throughout the decades, some of professional hockey's greatest players to ever wear the esteemed black and gold colours, transformed the

Bruins® into a force to be reckoned with each and every night.

It was the era of the "Big, Bad Bruins®" led by head coach Don Cherry that saw Boston play in five Stanley Cup® Finals between 1970 and 1978, turning powerhouses of speed and scoring prowess like Phil Esposito, Johnny Bucyk, Gerry Cheevers and Bobby Orr into New England royalty.

For nearly a century, the distinguished history of the Boston Bruins® makes them one of professional hockey's highest regarded teams. Their legacy truly remains one for the ages.



A storied expansion team founded in 1926, the New York Rangers® became one of the *Original Six*™ under the ownership of boxing promoter and Madison Square Garden president George Lewis "Tex" Rickard. He and the legendary Conn Smythe assembled the original team members, nicknamed "Tex's Rangers" by the local sportswriters, a moniker Rickard adopted as the team's official name.

In their second season, the Rangers®, under the coaching of Lester Patrick, beat the Montreal Maroons to win their first Stanley Cup® in 1928, the first NHL® franchise in the United States to do so. Five years later, they won their second Cup victory, this time against the Toronto Maple Leafs®. Their third championship came in 1940.

For nearly a century, generations of loyal Rangers® fans have congregated upon multiple incarnations of Madison Square Garden, the "World's Most Famous Arena," season after season to watch their heroes in blue, red and white. Legends like Brian Leetch and "The Great One," Wayne Gretzky, who played his final three seasons for the Rangers® before retiring in 1999—hold a special reverence for Rangers® fans of every age.

After the team's fourth Stanley Cup® victory in 1994, Rangers® faithful were reminded of the indelible history of this iconic franchise. And today, the devotion they hold to their beloved "Broadway Blueshirts" remains as strong as ever.



New York Rangers®

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

This document guarantees that
issues in your

NHL® ORIGINAL SIX™:
A CELEBRATION OF LEGENDS
Proof Tribute Collection



Walter J. Kole
Chief Numismatist
On Behalf of our Employee-Owned Company
American Numismatic Association
Membership #3155185

SPECIFICATIONS

Year of Issue:	2021
Plating:	Issues 001-006 - .999 silver plated Issue 007 - 22K Gold-plated features a gleaming goalie design
Diameter:	38.6mm. Complete proof is 14mm
Condition:	Proof
Obverse:	Commemorative "Original Six™" Vintage Hockey markings
Reverse:	Dynamic hockey markings featuring team name, establishment year, colours and official team logo

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

MONTREAL CANADIENS®

The oldest established team in NHL® history and the most victorious, holding a record 24 Stanley Cup® Championships since 1909.

DETROIT RED WINGS®

The pride of Hockeytown® and beyond, the celebrated history of the Red Wings® includes celebrating 11 Stanley Cup® victories, the most of any US-based NHL® franchise.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS®

True legends of the game formed the foundation of this storied franchise, which has been the talk of the Windy City throughout the decades. Throughout the last century, they've earned a nationwide following that spans generations.

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS®

The Leafs™ are one of the most victorious teams in NHL® history with two Championship dynasty eras between 1940 and 1967 and a roster of some of history's greatest players.

BOSTON BRUINS®

Founded in 1924 and the first American franchise to join the NHL®. Home to professional hockey players and coaching legends alike, the Bruins have hoisted the Stanley Cup® six times since 1929.

NEW YORK RANGERS®

Formed as an expansion team in 1926 by Madison Square Garden owner George Lewis "Tex" Rickard, the Rangers® were the first American franchise in the NHL® to win the coveted Stanley Cup®.



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