

Hicke was a

L6317

Red Wing — Not!

You may have seen it and wondered what it is. Well, it's a 1971-72 O-Pee-Chee hockey card showing Bill Hicke in a Detroit Red Wings uniform.

Actually, that's not right.

It shows Hicke's head on someone else's body and that body is encased in a Red Wings jersey.

You see, Hicke played in a lot of places during his pro hockey career, but he never made it to the Motor City.

And you guessed it — there's a story behind this.

At this point in time, Hicke's NHL rights were owned by the Pittsburgh Penguins, who had purchased them from the California Seals on Sept. 7, 1971.

It was about then that the Detroit Red Wings were trying, again, to put the wheels back on their organization. Which is why they brought in Ned Harkness, a hotshot coach out of Cornell University, to lead the way.

It was Harkness who called Hicke one day late in 1971 to inform him that the Red Wings had purchased his rights from Pittsburgh.

It was, said Harkness, part of a youth movement that was taking hold in Detroit. Except that Hicke was already 33 years of age.

Hicke, in retelling all of this, is laughing by now. He says perhaps Harkness thought he was talking to Hicke's brother, Ernie, who is younger by nine years.

No matter. Hicke declined the offer to join Detroit. He rehabilitated an injured shoulder on a beach near Norfolk, Va., before playing for two Detroit farm teams — the AHL's Tidewater Wings and the CHL's Fort Worth Wings.

It was some season. There was some R and R on the beach in Virginia, then, Hicke recalled, lots of golf in the Fort Worth area, where he played some at the same golf club as Ben Hogan.

By the next season, he was into the World Hockey Association with the Alberta Oilers.

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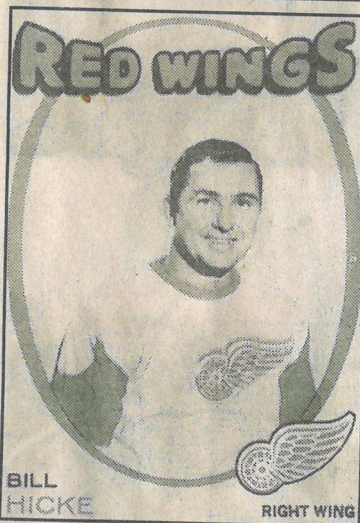
AROUND AND ABOUT: At a recent auction in Salt Lake City, a game jersey worn and signed by **Shaquille O'Neal** went for \$55,000. One from **Michael Jordan** brought \$25,000 . . . At another auction, this one a charity deal put on in Chicago by some tennis people, a poster autographed by the late **Arthur Ashe** was bought for \$10,000. The buyer? **Billie Jean King** . . . Don't forget the Queen City Sports Card Classic. It goes April 25, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the

Memorabilia

The Collector



By Gregg Drinnan



Seven Oaks Motor Inn. Admission is free . . . If you're interested in attending the Sport Card and Memorabilia Spring Expo '93 in Toronto (April 30 to May 2), you may want to contact VIP Tours at 545-1011. They're putting together a tour to what is billed as Canada's largest sport card and memorabilia event.

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WHAT'S NEW: For the third consecutive year, Action Packed sponsored the NFLPA banquet honoring stars from the 1992 season. As the sponsor, Action Packed will produce a limited-edition commemorative 17-card set in honor of those players selected by their peers as the best at their positions. The banquet, to benefit the District of Columbia Special Olympics, was held March 4. The set comes in a special black box on the back of which is embossed the Special Olympians' oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." . . . Pro Set is introducing *Finish Line Racing*, its new line of Winston Cup cards which replaces Pro Set Racing. The 180-card set is to be released next week. It will feature all of the drivers, some foil-stamped cards and 5,000 hand-numbered driver-of-the-year holograms honoring **Davey Allison**. They'll produce no more than 16,500 12-box cases, with 36 foil packs per box and 12 cards per pack.

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