

## Joseph Reginald Leach the “Riverton Rifle”. (b. 1950)

Reggie Leach is a Metis from Riverton, Manitoba where he was raised by his paternal grandparents. Leach was a team mate of Bobby Clarke in the WCJHL/WHL. After an outstanding junior hockey career with Flin Flon Bombers where he scored 188 goals over three seasons, he broke into the NHL, picked third in the draft by the Boston Bruins. He then played two seasons with California where, in 1972-73 and 1973-74, he recorded consecutive 20 goal seasons. In the second of these years, he formed the team’s top line with Walt McKechnie and Joey Johnston.

The following eight seasons he was with Philadelphia where he was teamed with Bobby Clarke and Bill Barber. While helping the Flyers repeat as Stanley Cup winners, Leach scored eight goals in 17 post-season games. During the 1975-76 season he scored 61 regular-season goals and his post-season 19-goal effort in 16 games earned him the Conn Smythe Trophy. He scored 80 combined goals (regular-season and playoffs) to break Phil Esposito's standard set in 1970-71. In 1979-80 Leach scored 50 times and helped the Flyers set an NHL record by going undefeated in 35 consecutive games from October 14 to January 6.



He finished with Detroit in 1982-83 and scored 60 goals during his last two seasons. His playoff record of 19 goals in 16 games (1976) stood until 1985. This included five goals against the Bruins on May 6<sup>th</sup>. In 1983-84, he played a final two seasons with the Montana Magic of the Central Hockey League. He finished his career with 666 points.

Jamie Leach (b. 1969), son of Reggie Leach, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Jamie was selected by Pittsburgh in the 1987 NHL entry draft and later played as a right-winger for the Hartford Whalers and Florida Panthers. From 1997 to 2001 he was playing in Great Britain.



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