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Orr praised by former minor hockey teammates

PARRY SOUND - "The only reason those mistakes are more noticeable to you is that you don't make them as often as the other boys," were words uttered to a 12-year-old Bobby Orr, by his minor hockey coach Bucko MacDonald. It was true, no matter who you talk to in this town, the same words are agreed to by all. Former teammates, Bob Cardy, Jim Beatty, Simon Stanley, and even opponents like Terry Campbell would all agree, as they saw it first hand, he made fewer mistakes and was always undoubtedly the best on the ice. Orr would never tell you he was, not then and not now. While many have the chance to view Orr now as the retired player turned player agent,



Pictured above are the members. Pictured above are the members of the 1957 All-Ontario Squirt level hockey champions. Located sitting down in the third seat from the left is Parry Sound's very own hockey legend Bobby Orr.

and see him no different than the modest player who once tore up the ice for the Boston Bruins and briefly for the Chicago Blackhawks. The question remains, as a child was he aware, or was anyone else aware, of what he might, and would, become. The answer appears to be "no." If Orr was aware of how great a player he was it was almost as if he made it his duty not to let anyone else know it. "Bobby would just go out there and do it no questions asked," said former squirt, peewee, and bantam level teammate and friend Bob Cardy. "He was never boastful, he would just play the game at a higher level than us, we knew he was, we just never thought of it as that big of deal. We would just watch and be like, "there goes Bobby up the ice again." A real team player "Orr was always a great player, but he made the team better by including everyone, he made sure we were all made apart of the team," said another former squirt, peewee and bantam teammate, Jim Beatty. "I was really on the lower end of the totem pole, yet Bobby made everyone feel like a part of the team. I really appreciated that a lot." Bobby Orr was a classy player during his professional career, often burying his chin to his chest after making the opponents look ridiculous in an amazing rush up the ice for a goal. He was a true professional during his pro days. The mark of a true professional Joe Paterno a famous football coach once said: "You have to perform at a consistently higher level than others. That's the mark of a true professional." If that is the true definition of a professional than Orr was indeed one during his pro days, and also for many years before his first big league contract was ever signed. Orr's character played a significant role in his achievements in hockey, but his skills as a player couldn't be matched by any other defenceman to play the game. "I don't remember much about that era, but I do remember Bucko telling Bobby that we needed a goal. Then Bobby would go out and get us a goal by himself or setting up a teammate," said former goaltending teammate at the bantam level, Simon Stanley. "He was just that good."

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