

# Don Cherry

Don Cherry is known to Canada as a beloved hockey commentator. Don Cherry, also known as Grapes, worked as a hockey commentator, a coach, played minor league hockey, and played one game in the NHL. Grapes was on Coaches Corner for a long 37 years, from 1982 to 2019. His long career ended when he was fired on November 11th, 2019, for controversial comments about immigrants not wearing poppies. Did you know that you can visit a statue of Don Cherry in Mortlach, Saskatchewan?

Donald Stewart Cherry was born on February 5, 1934, in Kingston, Ontario. He grew up with his younger brother Dick, playing hockey and baseball. He was above average at both, but only played one game at the top level. In 1955, he played his only NHL game for the Boston Bruins in a playoff game against the Montreal Canadiens. Although he lost his only NHL game, he went on to coach the Colorado Rockies and Boston Bruins for 250 NHL wins. Did you know that Don Cherry has his own TV miniseries about his AHL career and NHL coaching careers? Don Cherry is also an author and has written many books about his career as a player and a coach. He also writes about other people and parts of their careers. Don Cherry was also awarded the Coronation medal in 2025 by command of the king for his contributions to Canada.

Rock 'em Sock 'em is Don Cherry's hockey highlight show, which ran for 30 years. Sadly, the 30th edition was his final before he quit making them, because he was fired from Hockey Night in

Canada after his controversial comments on his segment, Coach's Corner. Don Cherry was the first to make hitting montages and was the best at it. In total, Don Cherry's Rock'em Sock'em hitting montages sold over 2 million copies, not including rentals or digital views. And the even crazier part is he only made 30 of them, even after people started buying them and loving them. These videos were made to encourage people/NHL players to throw bigger hits, fight more, and make the NHL more physical. He did this because he believed that the NHL was going soft, and that whenever you throw a big hit, you need to fight instead of people taking the hit and respecting you for it. He believed that the game was way better with more hits, and that's what made the game fun.

Coach's Corner was a segment that happened during the first intermission in a game on Hockey Night in Canada (HNIC). On Coach's Corner, Don Cherry and Ron Maclean would analyze game film/highlights, and give their often controversial opinions, which were usually about soft players, big hits, or highlight plays made by big-name players. Believe it or not, but Don Cherry often talked about Wayne Gretzky and the records he was setting before Gretzky retired in 1999 after playing 20 seasons in the NHL (National Hockey League).

In 1973-1974, Don Cherry was given the coach of the year award while coaching the Rochester Americans in the AHL. In 1975, he won on the Jack Adams Award for the Coach of the Year in the NHL. Don coached the NHL for 2 different teams, including the Boston Bruins and the Colorado Rockies. Fun fact: the Colorado Rockies changed their name to the Colorado Avalanche, because they moved from Quebec to Denver, and the Colorado Rockies name was already being used by an MLB team. While coaching

the Bruins, he made it to the Stanley Cup final twice and lost both times to the Montreal Canadians.

Don Cherry's professional career was long, and he played for many teams. In total, over 16 professional years, he played for 4 different teams as a defenceman, racking up 1118 games, 1175 penalty minutes, and getting many points. His coaching record is impressive as well, boasting 480 coaching appearances, 250 wins, 105 losses, 64 ties,

Overall, Don Cherry is known as one of hockey's most colourful personalities. After 30 years of Rock em' Em Sock em' Em, 16 years in the pros, and six years of coaching, Don Cherry has solidified his place in Canadian history.

**Sites:**

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