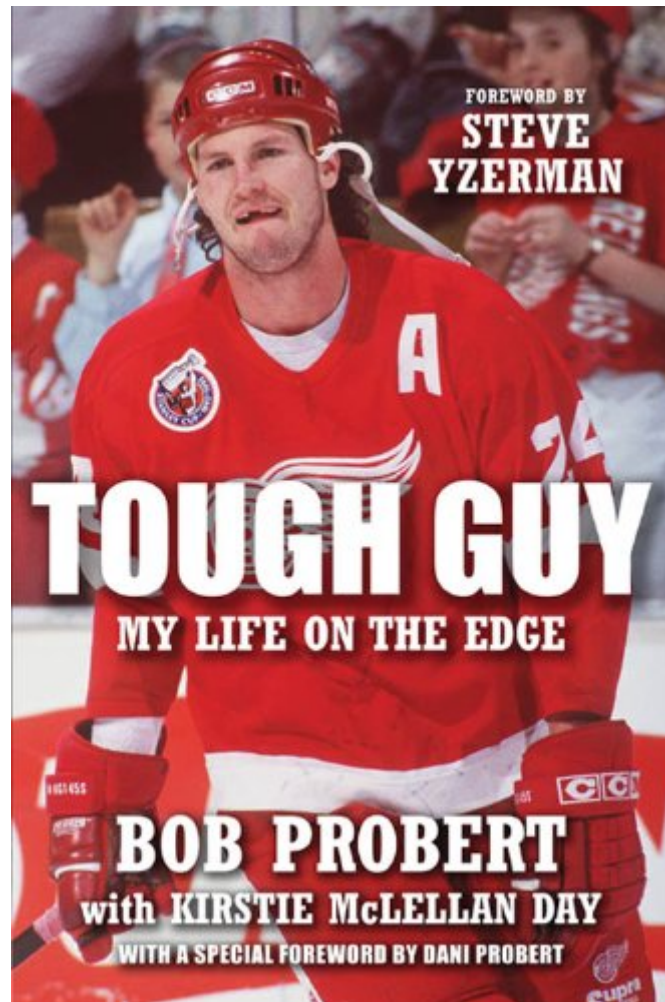


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# Tough Guy: My Life On The Edge



## Synopsis

In a notorious career with the Detroit Red Wings and Chicago Blackhawks, Bob Probert racked up points, penalty minutes, and bar bills, establishing himself as one of the most feared enforcers in the history of the NHL. On the ice, he was a fan favorite. He backed up his teammates 100 percent, taking on the toughest guys of his era. Off the ice, Probert played hard as well. Over his pro career he went through rehab 10 times, was suspended twice, was jailed for carrying cocaine across the border, and survived a near fatal motorcycle crash. When he died unexpectedly of a heart attack at the age of 45 on July 5, 2010, he was hard at work on his memoir. Probert wanted to tell his story in his own words to set the record straight. *Tough Guy* is a gripping journey through the life of Bob Probert, with jaw-dropping stories of his on-ice battles and his reckless encounters with drugs, alcohol, police, customs officials, courts, and the NHL, told in his own voice and with his rich sense of humor.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bob Probert was cuffed with his hands behind his back. He was facedown on the ground with a cop's knee on his neck. Probert told him he was probably the fat kid in school that was always picked on, and that's why he became a cop. Probert's face was a mess after that comment. The

worst part was that the cop took his \$600 sunglasses. Tough Guy is the no nonsense expose that's part Animal House and part Slap Shot. This is a story of a time in sports that is so different from today that it's hard to believe that it was only a couple decades ago. Probert was such a hard party machine that he would stay out all night, till 7 A.M. dress for practice and play that night. He was a smoker. He microwaved his urine to fool the testers into thinking it had just come out of his body and yet he occupies some interesting spots in the record books. The book opens with an emotional narrative of that last day of Probert's life. Kirstie McLellan Day stirs the emotional soup by quickly shifting the book to Probert's voice and taking us back in time to a fight with Tie Domi. Probert tells us of Domi's first shot at fighting him, filling the page with four letter words, you are suddenly jolted out of the opening passage of the book. You know you are in Probie's world now. Probert's ability to party was stunning; it's amazing he had time for hockey. An example of Probert's thought process: when meeting the press with fellow draft pick, Steve Yzerman, Probert assessed him as "fairly serious...and not someone you would expect to be sitting next to in a jail cell, laughing off a hangover." But he did have time for hockey. In the 1988 Playoffs he broke Gordie Howe's playoff record of 21 points. Probert held that record until 1995.

There can be no doubting that Bob Probert was the toughest, greatest and most feared fighter to ever lace on a pair of skates. It's true, ask anyone who has ever played the game or any knowledgeable hockey historian. It all came down to his influence and aura. Who did every hockey player who ever dropped the gloves try to emulate? 9 times out of 10 they will say, Bob Probert. No other fighter had more of a charisma and intimidation factor to this level before or since than ol' 24. The dynamic of the game changed once he hit the ice because Probert could do so much more than just be the reigning NHL heavyweight Champion, he could play the game. The most interesting thing about Probert was that he didn't have to do a ton of steroids to become a good enforcer (see Tony Twist) and didn't practice and train to the level of most players. His best way to train was to booze, party and bar room brawl all night long and then go out on the ice the next day and let his natural ability lead him to greatness. Can you imagine how good he could have been if he had his life together??? He went to rehab for drug and alcohol abuse, survived car and motorcycle crashes and was fined and suspended countless of times and still the NHL would always take him back!! Why??? Because he was that good!! Now that's amazing if you really look at how he lived his life!! Surely, all this abuse broke his body down and lead to his eventual downfall (especially when he went to Chicago in the 1995-96 season after being suspended for a year) because although feared and still a great fighter, he was never the same as he was in Detroit. Reading this book will explain

to you just what was going on in the world of Bob Probert and at times it may be funny but it is also a testimony of self-destruction in a violent sport.

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