

Steve Staios

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Steve Staios was born on July 28, 1973 in Hamilton, Ontario. He grew up in a

Macedonian family where his parents taught him great morals and goals. From a young age he showed great skill in the sport of hockey and eventually competed in the National Hockey League. His parents saw his potential and became the typical hockey parents. Staios kept up with his dream to make it to the big league and never gave up. He is now married to his wife, Susannah, with two children, Nathan and Ella. (Cole, 2006)

Steve started with the Hamilton Huskies in 1988 and the Hamilton Kilty Bs before signing up with the Niagara Falls Thunder of the OHL for the 1990-91 season. After a three-year career in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) with the Niagara Falls Thunder and Sudbury Wolves, Staios spent several years in the International Hockey League and the American Hockey League with the Blues' minor league. From 1993 to 1996 he was playing on the Peoria Rivermen, which was a part of the IHL and then Worcester Ice Cats and the Providence Bruins which was from the AHL. (Ecklund Marketing Group, 2009)

The NHL Entry Draft is an annual meeting where every franchise of the National Hockey League (NHL) in order select the rights to all the available amateur ice hockey players who meet the draft requirements (North American players 18-20 years old and Europeans of all ages entering the league for the 1st time, all others enter league as unrestricted free agents). The NHL Entry Draft is held once every year, generally within two to three months after the previous season. During the draft, teams take turns selecting amateur players from junior, collegiate, or European leagues. Draft order is determined by final standings for the most part. The five teams with the worst record are put into a lottery, which determines the first five teams to select, the rest of the teams

are in order of how they finished with the Champions being last. (Simon, 1991)

His NHL career began when he was drafted 27th overall in the second round of the 1991 draft to the St. Louis Blues. But he never played with them. Following his draft he played for the International Hockey League and the American Hockey League. He was traded to the Boston Bruins on March 8, 1996, along with Kevin Sawyer for Stephen Leach. He made his NHL debut with the Bruins on March 21, 1995 against Ottawa and appeared with the Boston Bruins in 12 games to finish the 1995 - 96 season. He scored his first NHL goal on December 21 against Washington. (Calgary Flames Limited Partnership and the National Hockey League, 2011)

The next season, on March 18, 1997 the Vancouver Canucks acquired him after he was put on waivers. During the season of 1996-97 he scored a career high 17 assists for Boston and Vancouver. He stayed with the Vancouver Canucks and played defence and right wing until the end of the 1998-99 season when the Atlanta Thrashers as part of an Expansion Draft acquired him on June 25, 1999. (Calgary Flames Limited Partnership and the National Hockey League, 2011)

On June 12, 2000 Steve Staios was traded to the New Jersey Devils in trade for a 9th round pick named Simon Gamache. He was traded back to the Thrashers not even a month later for future considerations. (Calgary Flames Limited Partnership and the National Hockey League, 2011)

During the 1999-00 season he missed 26 games with a groin injury from February 16 – April 9. He also set an Atlanta Thrashers career team record with 21 penalty minutes against the Tampa Bay Lightning on November 17. He was also second in scoring within

the Thrasher's defensemen and first in goals. On October 5 he was named the second captain in Thrasher's history. (Calgary Flames Limited Partnership and the National Hockey League, 2011)

A year later on July 12, 2001 he was signed by the Edmonton Oilers as an unrestricted free agent. In the 2002-03 season, Staios lead all NHL defensemen in shorthanded goals with 3. He was the Oilers nominee for Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy, and was named Oilers outstanding Defenseman. (Calgary Flames Limited Partnership and the National Hockey League, 2011)

During the 2004-05 Lockout, Staios went to play with the Lulea HF of the Swedish Elitserien. After the lockout, Staios was part of the 2006 Oilers that made it to the Finals of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. During this season Staios scored his 100th career NHL assist against Anaheim on February 6, he also played in his 600th career NHL game at San Jose on March 9. The Edmonton Oilers lost to the Carolina Hurricanes in game seven of the Stanley Cup Finals. During this playoff run, Staios scored one goal and had five assists. (Calgary Flames Limited Partnership and the National Hockey League, 2011)

Staios also had the privilege of playing for Team Canada at the IIHF Hockey Tournament. In 2003 and 2004 he won the medal gold, and in 2008 he won silver.

On March 3, 2010 the Edmonton Oilers to the Calgary Flames traded Steve Staios for Aaron Johnson and a 3rd round selection from the 2010 or 2011 draft. During this season he has played his 900th career game on October 19, he scored his first point of the season (assist) on November 12, his first goal of the season (game tying goal) was

scored on November 26 but he was injured on December 5 and has not played since. Currently Staios is in the last year of his contract with the Calgary Flames getting paid 2.7 million per year. (Calgary Flames Limited Partnership and the National Hockey League, 2011)

Throughout his entire career Steve Staios has endured many injuries. At the end of the 2006 season he missed about four months with a knee injury and ended up not being able to finish the season. Just recently Staios has suffered two fractured ribs and a fractured AC joint in his shoulder. He describes these injuries in an article called "Staios takes a Ribbing and keeps on Ticking" from the Calgary Herald. He says: "Honestly, I can't remember anything being as sore as this one," he said. "It was one of the most painful injuries I've been through. And I've been through everything." (Hall, 2011)

It is obvious throughout the article "Staios takes a Ribbing and keeps on Ticking" that Staios is well known throughout the league as a tough and veteran defenseman that has earned and deserves the respect of his peers. He is described in the article as "an experienced and respected leader". (Hall, 2011) Through the way that he talks it is obvious to the reader that he is a player that is one hundred percent committed to not only his team but helping them become the best that they can be. "I'm just focused on every day. I feel I can come back and help the team. I'm hoping to get back and help the boys out." He states in "Staios takes a Ribbing and keeps on Ticking", "We want to make this an epic story for us," he said. "We believe we can do that. So my focus is totally committed on this team." (Hall, 2011)

He has not only shown his commitment through his words and actions but many have

noticed his leadership. He was named captain on the Atlanta Thrashers, assistant captain on not only the Edmonton Oilers but also in three of his appearances when playing for team Canada in the IIHF Hockey Tournaments.

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