Canuck Captains

Featuring Vancouver Canuck Captains

Orland Kurtenbach - Vancouver Canucks Captain 1970 - 1974
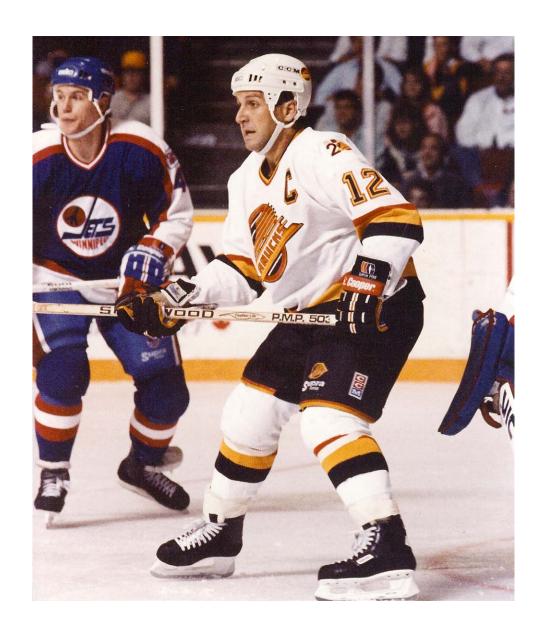
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Stan Smyl - Vancouver Canucks Captain 1982 - 1991

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Trevor Linden - Vancouver Canucks Captain 1991 - 1997

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Markus Naslund - Vancouver Canucks Captain 2000 - 2008

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Roberto Luongo - Vancouver Canucks Captain 2008 - 2010

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Henrik Sedin - Vancouver Canucks Captain 2010 -

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Orland Kurtenbach: 1970-74 Vancouver Canucks

Orland Kurtenbach was born in Cudworth, Saskatchewan in 1936. His first break into professional hockey came in Vancouver in 1958 when his 54 points in 52 games earned the WHL's rookie-of-the-year award. After two more seasons with Vancouver, Kurtenbach made the jump to the NHL in 1960-61 with the New York Rangers and carved out a gritty career with the Rangers, Bruins, and Maple Leafs as one of hockey's better defensive forwards and toughest fighters.

After the awarding of an NHL franchise for the 1970-71 season, Kurtenbach was the Canucks' second choice in the expansion draft and immediately named the team's inaugural captain. Particularly during the Canucks' first NHL season, Kurtenbach carried the team of cast-offs and misfits on his back and had the club in playoff contention before a mid-season injury forced them out of the playoff picture. His leadership and fine play earned him the Cyclone Taylor Trophy as team MVP in each of his first three seasons. In 639 NHL games, he compiled 332 points. After a stint as Canucks coach, Kurtenbach has remained active with the Canucks alumni. He was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 1997.
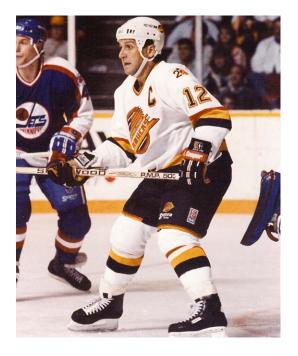
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Stan Smyl: 1978-91 Vancouver Canucks

Stan 'The Steamer' Smyl was born in Glendon, Alberta in 1958. As a junior player, he led the New Westminster Bruins to two straight Memorial Cup championships. Drafted 40th overall by the Canucks in 1978, most observers pegged Smyl as too small to make any NHL impact. The naysayers were quickly proved wrong. During his first training camp, he picked out the Canucks' largest defenseman, Harold Snepsts, leveled him with a devastating hit, and was respected by all thereafter for his grit, tenaciousness, and leadership. He was named sole team captain in 1982—a position he would hold until his retirement in 1991—after leading the towel-powered Canucks to their first Stanley Cup Final appearance against the New York Islanders, the defining moment of his career.

Smyl retired as the Canucks' leader in games played, goals, assists, and points and is still regarded as one of the Canucks' most popular players of all-time. His number twelve jersey was raised to the Pacific Coliseum rafters in 1991, the first number retired in Canucks history. Since leaving the ice, Smyl has served as a Canucks assistant coach. He was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

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Trevor Linden: 1988-98, '01-08 Vancouver Canucks

Trevor Linden was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta in 1970. Drafted by the Canucks second overall in 1988, Linden quickly developed into the big, scoring centre the Canucks had coveted, scoring 30 in his rookie season. Five more times Linden reached the thirty-goal plateau notching a career-high 80 in 1995-96. At the age of twenty-one, he was appointed the youngest Canucks captain in team history.

As dependable and durable as Linden was during the regular season, it was during the playoffs where his play always rose a level or two. No better example is the Canucks' cinderella run to the 1994 Stanley Cup Final, battling the New York Rangers to within a goalpost of taking the deciding Game Seven. Wracked by injury, Linden scored both Canuck goals in the final game. After being controversially traded in 1998, Linden returned to the Canucks in 2001. Upon his retirement in 2008, Linden stood as the Canucks' all-time leader in games played, goals, assists, and points. Noted for his community work off the ice, Linden's number sixteen was the second jersey retired by the Canucks.

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Markus Naslund: 2000-2008 Vancouver Canucks

Markus Naslund was born in Ornskoldsvik, Sweden in 1973. A first round draft choice by the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991, Naslund was traded to the Canucks in 1996 for Alex Stojanov in one of the most lopsided trades in NHL history. A smooth left winger with one of the hardest, most accurate wrist shots in the game, after struggling his first few seasons in Vancouver, Naslund emerged as one of the NHL's most dangerous offensive players. In 2000, he was named the Canucks' eleventh team captain, their first European-born. He retained this position for eight years, the longest serving captain in club history.

Playing beside linemates Todd Bertuzzi and Brendan Morrison, the trio formed the NHL's most feared forward line, known as "The West Coast Express." Beginning in 1998-99, Naslund scored at least 20 in ten straight seasons. His best came in 2002-03, scoring 48 goals and 104 points, finishing third in league scoring. Second in voting for the Hart Trophy as the NHL's MVP, he won the Lester B. Pearson Award as the league's best player as voted by his fellow players. Naslund remains the Canucks' career leader in both goals and points.

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Roberto Luongo: 2008-2010 Vancouver Canucks

Roberto Luongo was born in Montreal, Quebec in 1979. After being drafted by the New York Islanders and establishing himself as one of the world's best goaltenders playing for the Florida Panthers, in 2006 Luongo was traded to Vancouver along with Lukas Krajicek for Todd Bertuzzi, Bryan Allen, and Alex Auld. His arrival immediately solidified a position that had been consistently unstable since the departure of Kirk McLean.

Since that time Luongo has solidified his reputation as one of the world's best, leading the Canucks to three playoff appearances in four seasons, as well as three Northwest Division titles. In 2007, he shattered McLean's club record of 38 wins in a season, posting 47 and finished second in voting for the Hart, Pearson, and Vezina trophies. In 2008, Luongo was named the Canucks' twelfth team captain in club history, only the seventh goaltender in NHL history to be chosen and the first in over sixty years. Prior to the 2010-11 season, Luongo relinquished the captaincy to teammate Henrik Sedin.

Luongo represented Canada at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver and was in goal when Team Canada captured the dramatic gold medal over the USA in overtime.

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Henrik Sedin: 2010 -

Henrik Sedin was born in Ornskoldsvik, Sweden in 1980. Drafted with his twin brother Daniel by the Canucks in 1999, Henrik has developed into one of the top players in the NHL. The Sedin twins are known for their remarkable passing plays in the offensive zone, many times seeming to find one another intuitively with blind, no-look passes.

For the last three seasons Henrik has lead the Canucks in scoring. The 2009 - 2010 campaign stands as one of the greatest ever by a Canucks player. Playing without his injured brother for an extended period for the first time, Henrik went on a scoring tear and only continued when Daniel returned to action. he finished the season with 29 goals, 83 assists and 112 points to capture the Art Ross Trophy as the league's MVP, the first Canucks player to win either trophy.

A key part of the Swedish ice hockey team that captured hte 2006 Olympic gold medal, Henrik has also won two bronze medals representing his country at the World Championships. On October 9, 2010, Henrik was unveiled as the Canucks' thirteenth captain in their forty-year history.