

= Miikka Kiprusoff =

Miikka Sakari Kiprusoff ( Finnish pronunciation : [ ?mi?k?? ?s?k?ri ?kiprusof? ] ; born October 26 , 1976 ) is a Finnish former professional ice hockey goaltender who played for the Calgary Flames and San Jose Sharks during his National Hockey League ( NHL ) career . He was selected in the fifth round , 116th overall , by the Sharks in the 1995 NHL Entry Draft , and has also played professionally for TPS of the Finnish SM @-@ liiga , as well as for both AIK IF and Timrå IK of the Swedish Elitserien .

Kiprusoff represented Finland several times on the international stage , earning silver medals at the World Ice Hockey Championships in 1999 and 2001 , as well as leading the Finns to a surprise second @-@ place finish at the 2004 World Cup of Hockey . He also helped the Finnish national hockey team win the bronze medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver .

Kiprusoff began his professional career with TPS in 1994 , and was named the best goaltender and best player of the playoffs in 1999 as he led them to the SM @-@ liiga championship . He then moved to North America in 1999 , and after two All @-@ Star seasons in the American Hockey League ( AHL ) , made his NHL debut with the San Jose Sharks , where he served primarily as the team 's backup . A trade to the Calgary Flames in 2003 ? 04 brought Kiprusoff into a starting role , and he set a modern NHL record for lowest goals against average ( GAA ) at 1 @.@ 69 as he helped the Flames reach the 2004 Stanley Cup Final . He won the Vezina Trophy as the best goaltender in the NHL in 2006 along with the William M. Jennings Trophy for giving up the fewest goals in the League . He played in his first NHL All @-@ Star Game in 2007 and is the Flames ' franchise record holder in both wins and shutouts .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Europe = = =

Kiprusoff was sponsored by his hometown team , TPS , playing two seasons in the Finnish junior league for them between 1993 and 1995 . He was then selected by the San Jose Sharks in the fifth round , 116th overall , at the 1995 NHL Entry Draft . He made his professional debut in 1994 ? 95 , and won three of four games played for TPS . After playing 12 games for TPS in 1995 ? 96 , he moved to AIK IF of the Swedish Elitserien , playing two seasons as their top goaltender before returning to TPS in 1998 ? 99 . He dominated the SM @-@ liiga that year , finishing the season with a record of 26 ? 6 ? 6 and a GAA of 1 @.@ 85 , and led TPS to the Finnish championship . For his efforts , he was named the winner of the Urpo Ylönen trophy as the best goaltender in 1998 ? 99 and the Jari Kurri trophy as the best player of the playoffs .

= = = San Jose Sharks = = =

Kiprusoff moved to North America in 1999 , joining the Sharks ' AHL affiliate , the Kentucky Thoroughblades . He finished fourth in the League with a 2 @.@ 48 GAA and was the starting goaltender for team PlanetUSA at the 2000 AHL All @-@ Star Game as he helped Kentucky win its first division title . He began the 2000 ? 01 season with Kentucky , where he posted a record of 19 ? 9 ? 6 with two shutouts in 39 games . He then started his second @-@ consecutive AHL All @-@ Star Game before earning a call @-@ up to San Jose on March 5 , 2001 . He earned his first NHL win on March 29 , 7 ? 4 over the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim , in relief of starting goaltender Evgeni Nabokov . He made his first start on April 8 , again against Anaheim , and earned his second win .

The flu sidelined Nabokov for Game 4 of the Sharks ' 2001 Stanley Cup playoff series against the St. Louis Blues . Making just his second career start , Kiprusoff made 39 saves in a 3 ? 2 victory . In doing so , he became the first Finnish born goaltender to win an NHL playoff game . Kiprusoff struggled to start the 2001 ? 02 season , however , and was sent to the Cleveland Barons on a conditioning assignment after playing in only four of the Sharks ' first 21 games . He was named the

AHL Player of the Week during the assignment after winning all four games he played in Cleveland . He finished the season with a 7 ? 6 ? 1 record for the Sharks , and recorded his first NHL shutout in a 6 ? 0 win over the Florida Panthers on January 5 , 2002 .

Nabokov entered the 2002 ? 03 season as a holdout player without a contract , giving Kiprusoff a chance to become the starter . Despite the opportunity , Kiprusoff struggled , losing his first three games and posting a 5 @. @ 65 GAA in that time , forcing the Sharks ' hand , as they quickly agreed to terms with Nabokov on a new contract . Relegated to the backup role , Kiprusoff continued to struggle , winning just five of 22 games played before his season ended with a knee injury . Despite his poor season , the Sharks offered him a new contract for one year at US \$ 800 @, @ 000 .

Kiprusoff began the 2003 ? 04 season competing with Vesa Toskala for the backup spot behind Nabokov , leading to speculation of a trade . Ultimately relegated to third @-@ string status , Kiprusoff grew increasingly frustrated , as he did not play in any games through the first quarter of the season . He was then finally traded to the Calgary Flames in exchange for a second @-@ round draft pick on November 16 , 2003 , after Calgary starter Roman Turek suffered an injury .

= = = Calgary Flames = = =

The trade provided immediate dividends for the Flames , as Kiprusoff recorded 22 saves in a 2 ? 1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens in his first game with Calgary on November 20 . He won 12 of 17 starts between November 20 and December 29 , giving up one goal or fewer 11 times in that stretch . He was named the defensive player of the month for December by the League , but suffered a sprained medial collateral ligament ( MCL ) in his knee at the end of the month that forced him out of the lineup for four weeks .

Kiprusoff 's play remained strong upon his return , as he was counted on to lead the Flames to the playoffs for the first time in eight years . A 1 ? 0 victory over the Phoenix Coyotes clinched a berth in the 2004 playoffs for the Flames , an achievement which earned Kiprusoff a standing ovation from the Calgary fans . He finished the regular season with a modern NHL record @-@ low GAA of 1 @. @ 69 . His stellar play continued into the playoffs , as he won 15 games , five of them via shutout , leading the Flames to within one victory of a Stanley Cup championship . He was named a finalist for the Vezina Trophy , awarded to the best goaltender in the League , and was given a one @-@ year , \$ 2 @. @ 95 million contract for 2004 ? 05 by an arbitrator , an increase in salary of nearly four times his previous contract .

As the 2004 ? 05 lockout led to the cancellation of the season , Kiprusoff chose to play in Sweden . He played 41 games for Timrå IK , recording five shutouts and a 2 @. @ 14 GAA . He remained a top goaltender for Calgary when NHL play resumed in 2005 ? 06 , breaking Mike Vernon 's franchise record when he recorded his 40th win of the season against the Minnesota Wild on April 8 , 2006 . He was not only touted as the top goaltender in the League , but also argued to be a candidate for the Hart Memorial Trophy as the most valuable player in the NHL . Finishing the season with a 42 ? 20 ? 11 record and a team @-@ record 10 shutouts , he was named a first team all @-@ star and awarded the Vezina Trophy , as well as the William M. Jennings Trophy for being the goaltender on the team that gave up the fewest goals in during the season . He was also named a finalist for the Hart , though the award was won by Joe Thornton .

Kiprusoff struggled to begin the 2006 ? 07 season , winning just four of his first 12 decisions , and giving up nearly three goals per game . He rebounded to finish the season with 40 wins , won his 100th career game , and played in his first All @-@ Star Game . He recorded his 21st shutout in a Flames uniform in a 1 ? 0 win over the Wild on March 27 , 2007 , to break Dan Bouchard 's franchise record . Kiprusoff was outstanding in the 2007 playoffs , keeping the overmatched Flames close to the top @-@ seeded Detroit Red Wings despite the Flames giving up nearly 50 shots per game in their first two contests . He led them to consecutive wins in Games 3 and 4 to even the series , and gave the Flames hope they could win the series , but the Flames were unable to parlay his performance into a series win , losing the best @-@ of @-@ seven series 4 ? 2 . In Game 5 , he was pulled after giving up five goals , but was forced to come back in only 18 seconds later when his backup , Jamie McLennan , was thrown out of the game for deliberately slashing the Red Wings '

Johan Franzén . Kiprusoff earned his third consecutive nomination for the Vezina Trophy , ultimately won by Martin Brodeur .

Nicknamed " Captain Hook " for the way he handled goaltenders , the Flames decision to hire Mike Keenan as head coach in 2007 ? 08 created speculation that Kiprusoff might choose to leave Calgary when his contract expired at the end of the season . Nonetheless , he agreed to a six @-@ year extension worth \$ 35 million that would keep him in Calgary until the end of the 2013 ? 14 season . He struggled at times , as his GAA and save percentage fell outside of the top 30 goaltenders in the League by mid @-@ November . His play improved throughout the season , however , and he finished the season third in the NHL with 39 wins .

Hoping to rebound in 2008 ? 09 , Kiprusoff arrived for the start of the season in better shape , but continued to struggle as he was questioned on whether his heavy workload the previous three seasons ? he played 76 , 74 and 74 games of a possible 82 ? were taking a toll on him . He won his 200th career game on March 18 , 2009 , in a 2 ? 1 victory over the Dallas Stars , but questions about whether he was playing too many games continued throughout the season . Although he led the League with 45 wins , his statistical averages had deteriorated for the fourth consecutive season as he admitted he struggled .

New head coach Brent Sutter promised that Kiprusoff would face a lighter schedule in 2009 ? 10 , he played 76 games in 2008 ? 09 , while Kiprusoff hired a personal trainer and set aside his previously indifferent attitude towards off @-@ season training . His efforts appeared to pay dividends early in the season , as he lost only three of his first 17 decisions , leading his teammates to compare his early performance to his first years in Calgary . He finished in the top ten in the League in wins , save percentage and GAA and while considered a potential candidate for the Vezina Trophy , he was not named a finalist in part due to the fact the Flames failed to qualify for the 2010 playoffs .

Kiprusoff , as well as the entire Flames team , struggled early in the 2010 ? 11 season , and during a period of struggle late in January , he became a target of the fans ' jeering . He admitted that he had struggled and was trying to focus on returning his play to where he felt it should be . Kiprusoff 's fortunes improved in February , as he won his 250th game as a member of the Flames in a 9 ? 1 victory over the Colorado Avalanche on February 14 . Six nights later , he became the first goaltender in NHL history to record a shutout in an outdoor game with a 4 ? 0 victory over the Montreal Canadiens at the 2011 Heritage Classic . In a March 4 game against the Columbus Blue Jackets , he became the first goaltender in 25 years to stop two penalty shots in one game to preserve a 4 ? 3 victory .

On February 8 , 2012 , Kiprusoff became the 27th goalie to record his 300th career win . He reached the mark with a 4 ? 3 victory over his former team , the San Jose Sharks . A knee injury forced Kiprusoff out of Calgary 's lineup for a month of the 2012 ? 13 season , but a victory in his return ? a 4 ? 1 decision over the Sharks on March 6 , 2013 ? marked his 300th win as a member of the Flames .

At the 2013 NHL trade deadline , the Toronto Maple Leafs reportedly attempted to acquire Kiprusoff , but he elected not to waive his no @-@ trade clause amid speculation that he intended to retire at season 's end . Finnish news agency STT @-@ Lehtikuva reported in June that the goaltender had informed the Finnish national team that he had decided to end his playing career , and the Flames formally announced his retirement on September 9 , 2013 . He ended his career as the Flames ' franchise leader in wins ( 305 ) , shutouts ( 41 ) and games played by a goaltender ( 576 ) .

= = International career = =

Kiprusoff made his international debut with the Finnish junior team at the 1994 European Junior Ice Hockey Championships , where he played in three games . He was also a member of the team at the 1995 and 1996 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships , where Finland finished fourth and sixth , respectively .

Kiprusoff first played with the senior team at the 1999 Men 's World Ice Hockey Championships , where he recorded a 1 @.@ 16 GAA in four games to help Finland win the silver medal . He

rejoined the team for the 2001 tournament , again leading the Finns to a silver medal .

Kiprusoff was offered a spot on the Finnish team for the 2002 Winter Olympics , but declined citing a desire to focus on his professional career in North America . Kiprusoff was named the starting goaltender for the 2004 World Cup of Hockey , and earned a shutout against the Czech Republic . He posted four wins and a tie , including a second shutout , and a 1 @. @ 18 GAA to lead the upstart Finns into the championship game against Canada . In spite of his 30 saves , the Finns were defeated by Canada 3 ? 2 . Kiprusoff did not play his best game in the final , according to Finland Head Coach Raimo Summanen , though he expressed pride in his team 's effort .

Kiprusoff again declined an invitation to play at the 2006 Winter Olympics , citing the need to rest a hip injury . His announcement generated considerable controversy in Finland , where the fact that he did not miss a game with the Flames due to the injury led some to question if he was injured at all . Country @-@ mate Teemu Selänne questioned the goaltender 's lack of interest in playing for the national team , a comment that stung Kiprusoff . When considered to play for the Finns at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver , Kiprusoff said he would join the team , but only if he felt healthy and if he was named the starting goaltender for the team . Kiprusoff was named the starter and allowed only four goals in his team 's first four games , leading the Finns to a semifinal game against the United States . The Americans blitzed Kiprusoff early in the game , as he gave up four goals on just seven shots in the first minutes of the game before being replaced in net by Niklas Bäckström . He returned to the net for the bronze medal game , however , leading Finland to a 5 ? 3 victory .

= = Personal life = =

Kiprusoff and his wife Seidi have two sons , Aaro and Oskar , and call Calgary home . His older brother , Marko , is a defenceman who last played for TPS in 2009 , and previously played in the NHL with the Montreal Canadiens and New York Islanders . Kiprusoff is a spokesman for the Rainbow Society of Alberta , an organization that aims to grant wishes for children with chronic or life @-@ threatening conditions . He donated \$ 10 for each save he made in an NHL game , which totalled \$ 18 @, @ 720 in 2009 ? 10 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = International statistics = = =

= = = All @-@ Star Games = = =

= = Awards and honours = =