

= Jesper Fast =

Jesper Fast ( formerly Fasth ; born December 2 , 1991 ) is a Swedish professional ice hockey forward currently playing with the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League ( NHL ) . Fast was drafted by the Rangers in the sixth round ( 157th overall ) of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft and joined the Rangers organization in 2013 .

A Nässjö native , Fast started his career with two seasons in the J20 SuperElit junior hockey league , leading his team in goals in his final season . He started his first extended season with the Swedish Hockey League in 2010 and spent three full seasons with the HV71 , tying for the team lead in goals in 2012 ? 13 and earning the Rinkens riddare for most sportsmanlike player .

Fast made his North American professional debut with the Connecticut Whale in April 2013 , but injured his knee during the match and did not play another American Hockey League ( AHL ) game that season . He made the New York Rangers roster out of training camp two consecutive years , but spent most of 2013 ? 14 with the Hartford Wolf Pack of the AHL , where he recorded 34 points in 48 games .

Fast has spent much of 2014 ? 15 with the Rangers , and recorded his first NHL career goal on November 29 , 2014 , against Ray Emery of the Philadelphia Flyers . Internationally , Fast has represented Sweden in several tournaments , including the 2011 IIHF World U20 Championship .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Junior hockey ( 2007 ? 2010 ) = = =

A native of Nässjö , Sweden , Jesper Fasth was born on December 2 , 1991 . He changed his last name to " Fast " in 2012 . Fast began his hockey career with the HV71 U18 team in Sweden 's J20 SuperElit junior hockey league . He debuted in the 2007 ? 08 season , tallying 26 points ( 15 goals , 11 assists ) in 30 games . The next season , as a 16 @-@ year @-@ old , Fast played in 37 regular season games and seven playoff matches for HV71 's U20 team . He scored 17 points ( nine goals , eight assists ) and had 24 penalty minutes , including two goals , one assist and eight penalty minutes in the postseason . In 2009 ? 10 , Fast recorded 49 points ( 23 goals , 26 assists ) , the highest he had scored in all three categories during his SuperElit league career . He led the team in goals and placing second in points and third in assists . He tied for fifth in the overall league for regular season points , and also had two assists in three playoff games .

Fast also made his Swedish Hockey League debut in 2009 ? 10 , playing in two games with HV71 , although he failed to record a point in either match . He returned to the SuperElit league for the start of the 2010 ? 11 season , scoring 10 points ( three goals , seven assists ) in six games with the HV71 U20 team , before permanently joining the Swedish Hockey League .

= = = Swedish Hockey League ( 2010 ? 2013 ) = = =

At age 18 , playing in a limited role for HV71 during the 2010 ? 11 season , Fast scored 16 points ( seven goals , nine assists ) in 36 games , with a + 6 plus @-@ minus , six penalty minutes and two power play goals , exceeded most observers ' expectations . Fast credited playing alongside Johan Davidsson as part of the reason for his success and growth in confidence . He was held scoreless with a -3 plus @-@ minute in three postseason games as the first @-@ place HV71 was swept from the first round of the playoffs by Allmänna Idrottsklubben ( AIK ) in an upset . In the 2011 ? 12 season , Fast had three multi @-@ point games , including a career @-@ high four assists and five points against AIK on October 4 . That game started a streak of 10 points ( one goal , nine assists ) over six games , which continued to an October 20 match against Frölunda HC . However , Fast 's season was cut short after he suffered a fractured ankle during a November 29 game against Brynäs IF . He missed three months as a result , but nevertheless recorded 16 points ( five goals , 11 assists ) in 21 games for the season , matching his Swedish Hockey League career high in points

and establishing new career highs in assists and plus @-@ minus ( + 9 ) . He also scored two goals and one assist in five postseason games .

In December 2011 , Fast signed a two @-@ year contract extension with HV71 , which included a 900 percent raise to 5 million krona annually . Fast had a strong start to his 2012 ? 13 season , scoring six points ( four goals , two assists ) in the first 10 games . He finished the regular season with 35 points ( 18 goals , 17 assists ) in 47 games , exceeding the 32 points ( 12 goals , 10 assists ) he had scored in 57 games during his first two Swedish Hockey League seasons . Fast tied for HV71 lead in goals and ranked third on the team in points , behind Jason Krog ( 43 ) and Rhett Rakhshani ( 39 ) . Fast also had a career @-@ high + 13 plus @-@ minus . Despite ranking third in the league , HV71 was eliminated from the playoffs in five games against Linköpings HC , during which Fast recorded five points ( 1 goal , 4 assists ) , and a + 4 plus @-@ minus . He tied with Rakhshani for second on the team in postseason points and assists .

At the conclusion of the 2012 ? 13 season , Fast was awarded the Rinkens riddare ( Knight of the Rink ) award , which is bestowed by the Swedish hockey journalists ' association each season to the most sportsmanlike player . He was also voted favorite HV71 player of the year by readers of the Swedish publication Jnytt .

= = = New York Rangers ( 2013 ? present ) = = =

Fast was drafted by the New York Rangers in the sixth round ( 157th overall ) of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft , having obtained the sixth round pick from the Carolina Hurricanes earlier in the day in exchange for defenseman Bobby Sanguinetti . Fast was the fifth of six players the Rangers drafted in 2010 , along with Dylan McIlrath , Christian Thomas , Andrew Yogan , Jason Wilson and Randy McNaught . On May 29 , 2012 , the Rangers announced Fast had been signed to a two @-@ way , three @-@ year entry level contract , valued at \$ 2 @. @ 145 million , with a \$ 900 @, @ 000 annual cap hit . Since HV71 was eliminated from the 2012 ? 13 playoffs earlier than expected , Fast had the opportunity to go to the New York Rangers organization sooner than originally planned . The Swedish Hockey League initially voiced objections , but eventually agreed to loan him to the Rangers .

Fast practiced with New York for the first time on April 2 , 2013 , although he did not play with the team that season . He made his North American professional debut on April 5 , 2013 , with the Connecticut Whale , the Rangers ' American Hockey League minor league affiliate , during which he scored a power play goal against Springfield Falcons goaltender Curtis McElhinney in the Whale 's 4 ? 3 victory , and was the Third Star of the Game . However , he injured his knee during the match and did not play another AHL game that season .

= = = 2013 ? 14 season = = =

Fast participated in the Rangers ' training camp that preceded the 2013 ? 14 season , during which he impressed New York 's head coach Alain Vigneault , and head European scout Anders Hedberg . Although it was his first North American professional training camp , Fast made the Rangers roster , partially because the team needed a right @-@ handed shot to replace the injured captain Ryan Callahan . Fast made his NHL debut on October 3 against the Phoenix Coyotes , taking one shot on goal in 10 : 13 of ice time . Fast played in eight of the Rangers ' first 10 games of the season , playing on the fourth line and recording no points and a -5 plus @-@ minus , before returning to the AHL to make room for Carl Hagelin 's return from a shoulder injury . Observers said Fast needed to adjust to the smaller North American ice surface , and did not get sufficient minutes to do so quickly enough to remain in the NHL .

Fast recorded two assists during his October 30 debut with the Rangers AHL team , now called the Hartford Wolf Pack . However , he suffered a high ankle sprain after going into the boards during a November 2 game at Springfield . He missed the next 14 games as a result , not returning until December 20 , but was given enough minutes upon his return that he was quickly able to get back into shape . Fast scored his first goal of the season on December 26 , notching the game winner on

the power play against Bridgeport Sound Tigers goalie Anders Nilsson . The game was part of a four @-@ game point streak ( two goals , two assists ) that stretched from December 21 to December 29 . Fast also set a team record on January 24 for fastest goal to start a period , scoring in the first seven seconds of the game against Springfield , beating Hartford 's previous record by two seconds .

Fast had a season @-@ high five @-@ game point streak from January 24 to January 31 , recording six goals and two assists . That included his first North American professional multi @-@ goal game on January 25 , in which he scored two goals against the Falcons . Fast followed that the next day with a second straight two @-@ goal game , this time against the Adirondack Phantoms . Fast had another two @-@ goal game , both on the power play , against the Phantoms on March 22 , which marked the start of a run of seven points ( four goals , three assists ) in seven games up to April 6 . Fast marked a North American single @-@ game career high with three points ( 2 goals , 1 assist ) in Hartford 's 3 ? 2 win over the Norfolk Admirals on April 6 , earning him First Star of the Game . Fast recorded a total of 34 points ( 17 goals , 17 assists ) in 48 games for the 2013 ? 14 Hartford season , along with 30 penalty minutes and a + 14 plus @-@ minus . Despite missing time from his injury , Fast ranked seventh on the team in assists , fourth in goals , and second in plus @-@ minus with + 14 . His eight power play goals led the team and tied eighth place in the league among AHL rookies , and his six game @-@ winning goals tied for first in Hartford and fourth in the overall league . Fast was a staple on the Wolf Pack 's penalty kill unit , and played most of the season on a line with J. T. Miller and Ryan Bourque .

Fast was called up to the Rangers in April 2014 to replace Chris Kreider , who suffered a left hand injury . Playing on a line with Hagelin and Brad Richards , Fast played in New York 's last three regular season games , as well as three post @-@ season matches . He recorded his first career NHL playoff point with an assist in Game 1 of the Metropolitan Division Semifinal against the Philadelphia Flyers on April 17 . At the conclusion of the season , the Rangers coaching staff told Fast to add strength , so he worked on his upper body and leg strength during the off @-@ season , adding 10 to 15 pounds of muscle , bringing him to 20 pounds heavier than when he was drafted in 2010 .

== = 2014 ? 15 season = = = =

Fast scored three goals during the Rangers ' 2014 preseason , including a game @-@ tying goal in a September 22 loss to the New Jersey Devils , and two goals in a 6 ? 3 victory over Philadelphia on September 28 . For the second consecutive year , he made the Rangers roster out of training camp , with Vigneault calling him one of the most consistent players throughout the camp . But he again struggled once the regular season began , and on October 17 was sent back to the Hartford Wolf Pack , along with J. T. Miller . Fast had nine points ( one goal , eight assists ) over the next 11 matches for Hartford , including two 2 @-@ assist games on October 24 , and November 8 , notching his sole goal in a 4 ? 3 win over the Worcester Sharks on November 2 . He was recalled by the Rangers on November 10 .

Fast scored his first NHL regular season career point on November 23 with an assist on Dominic Moore 's goal against the Montreal Canadiens . He scored his first NHL goal on November 29 , three days before his 23rd birthday , against Ray Emery of the Philadelphia Flyers . Miller , his long @-@ time AHL teammate , assisted on the goal , and Fast assisted on a Miller goal that same game . Fast recorded his second goal in as many games on December 1 , scoring against Ben Bishop of the Tampa Bay Lightning . Fast has played most of the season on the fourth line , often with Moore and Tanner Glass , or with Hagelin and Kevin Hayes , and has been an occasional healthy scratch . He has seven points ( three goals , four assists ) on the season so far .

= = International play = =

In 2009 ? 10 , Fast skated in ten international matches for Sweden at the U18 and U19 levels , but did not participate in the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship tournament . He scored one goal

and one assist in four games for Sweden at the U20 USA National Junior Evaluation Camp in Lake Placid , New York . At age 18 , Fast represented Sweden in the 2011 IIHF World U20 Championship , where he tied the team lead with four goals in six tournament matches , also recording two assists and a + 4 plus @-@ minus . Sweden took fourth place in the tournament . In 2011 ? 12 , Fast represented Sweden in the Karjala Cup portion of the European Trophy tournament in October . He scored two assists in three games , which tied the Swedish team lead in scoring , and tied eighth scoring for the overall tournament .

= = Playing style = =

Fast is considered a skilled forward with good skating ability , hockey sense , and speed , the latter of which gives him an edge in retrieving pucks along the boards . He excels on the forecheck , is a reliable defensive forward , and plays well in the offensive , defensive , and neutral zones . Alain Vigneault has praised his work ethic and dependability , and teammate Tanner Glass has noted his ability to make responsible decisions and skillful plays with the puck along the defensive zone wall . One of Fast 's drawbacks is he lacks the ideal frame for National Hockey League play , but his physical game improved after he added muscle in the 2014 offseason .

= = Personal life = =

Fast is the cousin of fellow hockey players Adam and Anton Bengtsson , who play in the Swedish Hockey League . Adam has said Fast was " supernaturally good " at hockey as a youth and he was not surprised by his future success . Fast also enjoys playing golf . Fast 's teammates have given him the nicknames " Quickie " , and " Fasty " .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = Awards = =