

= Lee Sweatt =

Walter Lee Sweatt (born August 13 , 1985) is an American former professional ice hockey player . Sweatt played four years of professional hockey in Europe and North America . Sweatt played three games in the National Hockey League (NHL) in 2011 , before retiring to work in the financial industry . His younger brother , Bill , was drafted by the Chicago Blackhawks in the 2007 NHL Entry Draft .

After a one @-@ year stint with the Junior A Chicago Steel of the United States Hockey League (USHL) , Sweatt played four seasons in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) with the Colorado College Tigers . During his senior year with Colorado , he served as team captain and received All @-@ WCHA Third Team honors . Graduating with a degree in mathematical economics , he was named the WCHA Student @-@ Athlete of the Year in 2007 .

Undrafted by an NHL team , Sweatt played in Europe for four seasons with TPS of the Finnish SM @-@ liiga , Dinamo Riga of the Kontinental Hockey League and EC Red Bull Salzburg of the Austrian Hockey League . After winning the Pekka Rautakallio trophy as the SM @-@ liiga 's best defenseman and the Kanada @-@ malja as league champions with TPS in 2010 , he returned to North America , signing with the Vancouver Canucks . He played the subsequent season with the Canucks ' American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate , the Manitoba Moose , while also debuting in the NHL with the Canucks . In July 2011 , he signed with the Senators .

Sweatt has also played inline hockey at the international level , competing for the United States ' national team at seven consecutive IIHF InLine Hockey World Championships from 2002 to 2009 . At the 2008 tournament , he earned the Best Defenseman award . He has also played for the United States national select team on two occasions , once in 2007 and another at the 2009 Deutschland Cup .

= = Playing career = =

Sweatt played junior in the United States Hockey League (USHL) for the Chicago Steel before joining the college ranks for the Colorado College Tigers . He recorded 16 points over 37 games as a freshman in 2003 ? 04 . The following season , he improved to a college career @-@ high 27 points while helping Colorado to a MacNaughton Cup as the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) regular season champions (shared with the Denver Pioneers) . Serving as team captain in his senior year , he scored a career @-@ high 9 goals , while adding 15 assists for 24 points . In addition to being his team 's leading defenseman in scoring , Sweatt was named to the All @-@ WCHA Third Team .

He joined the American Hockey League (AHL) immediately after completing his senior season with Colorado , signing an amateur tryout contract with the San Antonio Rampage on March 22 , 2007 . Appearing in 11 games for the remainder of the 2006 @-@ 07 AHL season , he registered 1 assist . Also in 2007 , Sweatt debuted with the United States ' national select team in international competition .

Undrafted and unsigned by an NHL team , Sweatt joined Finnish club TPS of the SM @-@ liiga for the 2007 ? 08 season . Competing in his first full professional season , he recorded 15 goals and 33 points over 56 games , second in team scoring to Teemu Laine . Spending the 2008 ? 09 season with EC Red Bull Salzburg in the Austrian Hockey League , Sweatt scored 36 points over 52 games , second among team defensemen to Mario Scalzo .

In the off @-@ season , he signed as a free agent to a one @-@ year contract with Latvian club Dinamo Riga of the Kontinental Hockey League on July 13 , 2009 . He took a break from club play in November 2009 , making his second appearance with the United States ' national select team for the Deutschland Cup . Returning to Dinamo , Sweatt was released from his KHL contract after a slow start to the 2009 ? 10 season , recording 7 points in 37 games . Sweatt returned to TPS on January 18 , 2010 , and completed the regular season with 16 points in 21 SM @-@ liiga games . In the playoffs , he added 13 points over 15 games , helping TPS win the Kanada @-@ malja as league champions . For his efforts , he was named to the SM @-@ liiga All @-@ Star Team and

also won the Pekka Rautakallio trophy as the league 's best defenseman .

Returning to North America , Sweatt signed a one @-@ year contract with the Vancouver Canucks on May 31 , 2010 . Nearly three months later , the Canucks also signed Sweatt 's brother , Bill , from Colorado College . Following the pre @-@ season , the Canucks assigned both Sweatt brothers to their AHL affiliate , the Manitoba Moose . Joining the Moose , Lee and Bill became the first pair of brothers in the team 's history to play for the club at the same time . After recording 14 points in 41 AHL games , the Canucks recalled him on January 23 , 2011 . Filling in for injured defenseman Alex Edler , he made his NHL debut three days later against the Nashville Predators . He scored his first NHL goal that night , a game @-@ winner in the third period against goaltender Pekka Rinne ; the Canucks won the game 2 ? 1 . The following shift , he blocked a shot from Predators defenseman Shea Weber with his foot ; a post @-@ game X @-@ ray diagnosed him with severe bruising . After resting the foot over the All @-@ Star break , he played in two more games for the Canucks , before being reassigned to the Moose . On the morning of his scheduled flight back to Manitoba , he blocked another shot during a Canucks practice , breaking his foot . Sweatt was consequently retained on the NHL team 's roster and placed on the long @-@ term injured reserve list (injured players are not eligible to be sent down to the minors) . Unable to skate on his injured foot until mid @-@ June , Sweatt was sidelined for the remainder of the season .

Set to become a restricted free agent in the off @-@ season , Sweatt did not receive a qualifying offer from the Canucks , making him an unrestricted free agent on July 1 , 2011 . Ten days into his free agency , he signed a two @-@ year , two @-@ way contract with the Ottawa Senators . However , on August 12 , 2011 Sweatt retired prior to playing for the Senators organization .

= = = Inline hockey = = =

Sweatt began playing inline hockey at the age of eight in order to improve his skating for ice hockey . He began competing in the IIHF InLine Hockey World Championships with the United States national team in 2002 . Playing seven straight years in the annual tournament , Sweatt won two gold (2004 , 2006) , one silver (2009) and two bronze medals (2003 , 2005) . At the 2008 IIHF InLine World Championships in Slovakia , Sweatt was named the tournament 's Best Defenseman . He registered four goals and four assists in six games , ranking ninth among tournament defensemen in scoring , as the United States finished fourth in the competition , losing to Germany in the bronze medal game .

= = Playing style = =

Sweatt is known as an offensive defenseman , possessing a good shot and a tendency to join plays deep in the opposing zone . He has played the role of powerplay " quarterback " on teams throughout his career ? controlling the play by either passing or shooting the puck . Defensively , he is known to play aggressively , hitting opposing players . Due to his offensive capabilities at a comparatively small size for a defenseman at 5 feet and 9 inches , he has been compared to former NHL player Brian Rafalski .

= = Personal life = =

Sweatt was born in Elburn , Illinois , a village west of Chicago . He played minor hockey with his younger brother Bill Sweatt , in Highland Park , Illinois . In addition to hockey , Sweatt played football as a child , following after his father .

While enrolled at the Colorado College , Sweatt maintained a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3 @. @ 0 while majoring in mathematical economics , qualifying for the WCHA All @-@ Academic Team as a sophomore , junior and senior hockey player (freshmen are not eligible for the distinction) . In his junior year , he was honored as a co @-@ recipient of the Paul Markovich Award as the Colorado College Tigers ' top student @-@ athlete . He also received WCHA Student @-@ Athlete of the Year honors after graduating with a 3 @. @ 8 GPA in 2007 .

In an interview with CBC Sports , Sweatt explained the reason for his retirement . Sweatt intends to work as a financial advisor and expects to make more money than if he were playing in the AHL . " I didn 't need to prove myself all over again . I didn 't want to be a bubble guy again . I didn 't want to be the guy in the still living the dream at age 30 and sacrificing my goals outside the game . "

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International (InLine) = = =

= = Awards = =