

= Christopher Tanev =

Christopher " Chris " Tanev (born December 20 , 1989) is a Canadian professional ice hockey defenceman who is currently playing for the Vancouver Canucks of the National Hockey League (NHL) . Unselected in the NHL Entry Draft , he was signed by the Canucks as a free agent after his freshman year with the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers . In his only college season , he was named Atlantic Hockey 's Rookie of the Year , in addition to receiving All @-@ Tournament and Third All @-@ Star Team honours , while helping the Tigers to a conference championship . Prior to college , he played three seasons in the Ontario Provincial Junior Hockey League (OPJHL) .

= = Early life = =

Tanev was born in East York , Ontario , to Sophie Meredith and Mike Tanev . He has two brothers , Brandon and Kyle , and is of Macedonian descent . Playing minor hockey within the Greater Toronto Hockey League , he competed with the Toronto Red Wings . After being cut from seven midget @-@ level teams at age 16 due to a lack of size (he was less than five feet and roughly 120 pounds at the time) , Tanev resorted to playing for his high school 's team and took up roller hockey in the summer . After graduating from high school at the East York Collegiate Institute , he enrolled in the Rochester Institute of Technology as a finance major while playing college hockey .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Junior and college = = =

Tanev played in the Ontario Provincial Junior Hockey League (OPJHL) for three seasons . Starting off with the Durham Fury in 2006 ? 07 , he recorded no goals and nine assists over 40 games . He split the following season between Durham , the Stouffville Spirit and the Markham Waxers , combining for 17 points (2 goals and 15 assists) over 49 games between the three teams . Playing the 2008 ? 09 campaign with Markham , he led all team defencemen in scoring with 41 points in 50 games , while serving as an alternate captain ; he was named the team 's top defenceman at the end of the season .

In 2009 ? 10 , he joined the NCAA Division I ranks with the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Tigers of the Atlantic Hockey Conference . Placed on the team 's top defensive pairing with team captain Dan Ringwald , he recorded 10 goals and 28 points over 41 games , while leading his team with a + 33 plus @-@ minus rating . After being named Atlantic Hockey Rookie of the Week on three occasions during the season , he received Rookie of the Year honours and was named to the conference 's All @-@ Rookie and Third All @-@ Star Teams . In the 2010 playoffs , Tanev helped the Tigers to a conference championship , defeating the Sacred Heart Pioneers in the final . He was named to the All @-@ Tournament Team . Advancing to the NCAA tournament , RIT was eliminated in the national semifinal by the Wisconsin Badgers . Tigers head coach Wayne Wilson described him during his freshman year as a " late bloomer " , having grown six inches in his final year of junior , while praising his offensive skills .

= = = Vancouver Canucks = = =

During the NCAA tournament , Tanev was scouted by Vancouver Canucks director of player development Dave Gagner , who was previously acquainted with Tanev as his childhood roller hockey coach . The Canucks scouting staff collectively identified him as " the smartest player on the ice " in the East Regional segment of the tournament . On May 31 , 2010 , Tanev signed as an undrafted free agent with the Canucks , foregoing his final three years of college hockey eligibility . He had received interest from at least three other teams , including the San Jose Sharks , Ottawa Senators and Columbus Blue Jackets , but ultimately chose Vancouver .

Beginning the 2010 ? 11 season with the Canucks ' minor league affiliate , the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League (AHL) , he scored his first professional goal against the Rochester Americans on November 13 , 2010 . He received his first call @-@ up to Vancouver on January 16 , 2011 , after injuries to Canucks defencemen Andrew Alberts and Aaron Rome . Making his Canucks debut two days later against the Colorado Avalanche , he became the first RIT alumnus to play in the NHL . He later recorded his first NHL point on January 24 , a second assist on a Dan Hamhuis powerplay goal , the final Canucks tally in a 7 ? 1 win against the Dallas Stars . He remained with the NHL team for an extended period as Canucks defencemen continued to suffer injuries .

On March 31 , 2011 , Tanev had to be helped off the ice during a game against the Los Angeles Kings after opposing forward Kyle Clifford pushed him head @-@ first into the end @-@ boards . While recovering from the upper @-@ body injury , he was returned to the Moose on April 7 , as several regular defencemen returned to the Canucks line @-@ up from injury at that time . Averaging 13 minutes of ice time per game over 29 NHL contests with one assist , Tanev was commended by Canucks head coach Alain Vigneault for being " very dependable ... making the high @-@ percentage plays . " Vigneault also added that he had a good chance of playing with the Canucks " on a regular basis down the road . " Completing the 2010 ? 11 regular season with the Moose , he finished with 1 goal and 8 assists over 39 AHL games . Tanev added a goal and 2 assists in 14 playoff games as the Moose were defeated in the second round . Following Manitoba 's elimination , he was called up to the Canucks for their playoff run as a reserve . In the Canucks ' Game 3 contest against the San Jose Sharks in the third round , defencemen Christian Ehrhoff and Aaron Rome were both injured . Tanev was inserted into the line @-@ up for the following game and made his NHL playoff debut on May 22 , 2011 . As the Canucks moved on to the Stanley Cup Finals against the Boston Bruins , Ehrhoff and Rome returned to action , temporarily sending Tanev back to the sidelines . Following injuries to Dan Hamhuis and Rome 's suspension , Tanev played in the final three contests of the series , which the Canucks lost in seven games .

Following his professional rookie season , Tanev trained in the off @-@ season particularly to increase his strength . Entering the Canucks ' training camp with an added 10 pounds , he made the Canucks ' opening line @-@ up for the 2011 ? 12 season . After dressing for three of the team 's first five games , he was reassigned to the Chicago Wolves , Vancouver 's new AHL affiliate (the Moose were relocated to St. John 's , Newfoundland , after the Winnipeg Jets returned to the NHL) . Vigneault explained that the organization wanted Tanev receiving more ice time than he could receive in Vancouver while competing for the " No. 5 to No. 8 spots on [the] team . " In his first game with the Wolves , he injured an oblique muscle after receiving a hit and was sidelined for a month . After returning , he formed a top defensive pairing on the team with Kevin Connauton . In late @-@ January 2012 , he was called up by the Canucks for one game , then again in mid @-@ February until the end of the season . In 25 NHL games , he recorded two assists , while also recording 14 assists over 34 AHL games in 2011 ? 12 . Tanev also competed in all five of the Canucks ' playoff games in 2012 without registering a point .

His first NHL goal was scored on February 4 , 2013 , in an overtime win against Devan Dubnyk of the Edmonton Oilers . On March 24 , 2015 Tanev signed a 5 year contract extension with the Canucks .

= = International play = =

Tanev played a major role in the 2016 IIHF World Championships team which captured gold against Finland . He was praised for his composure and defensive play by Team Canada head coach Bill Peters , and was named the best player of the game in Canada 's 7 @-@ 1 victory over Hungary . In the tournament semifinal versus the United States , Tanev robbed a scoring chance from the Americans late in the third period , which would have resulted in the tying goal . After accidentally breaking his stick in the American zone , he raced back to the Canadian end , intercepting a pass and blocking a shot without the use of his stick .

Tanev 's biggest moment came in the tournament final against Finland , playing 21 : 38 in ice time , including a team @-@ high 8 : 37 in the third period as Canada defended their one goal lead . Team

Canada held on to win the gold medal for a second consecutive year .

According to many observers , including Ray Ferraro and teammates Brendan Gallagher and Connor McDavid , Tanev was perhaps the best defenceman in the tournament in terms of his defensive play - he and his defence partner , Morgan Rielly , were not on the ice for a single goal against at even @-@ strength . Tanev also played a major role on Canada ? s tournament @-@ best penalty kill that allowed just two goals against in 29 opportunities . He registered one assist during the tournament .

= = Playing style = =

Tanev is a defenceman lauded for his " hockey sense " and puck @-@ moving ability . Upon being scouted out of college by Canucks personnel , his style of play was compared to offensive defenceman Christian Ehrhoff . Not aggressive , Tanev relies primarily on his positioning to check players . Following his performance in Game 5 of the 2011 Stanley Cup Finals , teammate Kevin Bieksa also highlighted his calm on @-@ ice demeanor , quipping that " he could have played with a cigarette in his mouth . "

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = Awards = =