

= David Booth (ice hockey) =

David Jonathan Booth (born November 24 , 1984) is an American professional ice hockey player who is currently playing for Admiral Vladivostok of the Kontinental Hockey League , having last played full @-@ time for the Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League . Following his second year with the Michigan State Spartans , he was selected 53rd overall by the Florida Panthers in the 2004 NHL Entry Draft . He spent four years playing college hockey before turning professional with the Panthers organization in 2006 ? 07 . After recording career @-@ highs in goals , assists and points , as well as being voted the Panthers ' most valuable player by the team 's fans in 2008 ? 09 , he suffered two concussions the following season . Midway through his sixth year in the league , Booth was traded to the Vancouver Canucks in a four @-@ player deal .

Known as an offensive forward and a fast skater , Booth has reached the 30 @-@ goal plateau once in his NHL career . Representing the United States in international competition , he has won gold medals at the 2002 IIHF World U18 and 2004 IIHF World U20 Championships . He has also competed in the 2008 IIHF World Championship .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Amateur career = = =

After playing minor hockey with the Fraser Falcons , then the Detroit Honeybaked of the Midwest Elite Hockey League , Booth moved on to the Junior A level with the Detroit Compuware Ambassadors of the North American Hockey League (NAHL) . He recorded 30 points (17 goals and 13 assists) over 42 games in 2000 ? 01 , earning him NAHL All @-@ Rookie Team and Rookie of the Year honours . The following season , he joined the United States National Team Development Program and competed for their junior and under @-@ 18 teams in the United States Hockey League (USHL) and NAHL , respectively .

During his time with the Development Program , he committed to an athletic scholarship with the Michigan State Spartans of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) . Joining the Spartans in 2002 ? 03 , he recorded 36 points (17 goals and 19 assists) over 39 games , ranking fourth in team scoring and 13th in the CCHA overall . His freshman year included two CCHA Rookie of the Week distinctions and a hat @-@ trick , recorded on January 10 , 2003 , in a 5 ? 2 win against the Alaska Nanooks . His efforts as a freshman earned him Spartans Rookie of the Year and CCHA All @-@ Rookie Team honours . Although Booth was eligible for the 2003 NHL Entry Draft , National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) rules stipulated that players under the age of 19 could not opt into the draft without foregoing their college eligibility .

Early the following season , Booth sustained a knee injury that forced him out of the lineup for several games . He finished his sophomore year with 18 points (eight goals and ten assists) over 30 contests . Despite his decreased offensive production , he remained highly ranked by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau (CSB) at the end of the season for the upcoming 2004 NHL Entry Draft . He was listed at 27th among skaters playing in North America by the CSB , while The Hockey News ranked him 33rd overall . During the draft , Booth was selected in the second round , 53rd overall , by the Florida Panthers . He was scouted as a player with size and toughness , while a USA Today article declared that he " would have gone much higher if he opted into the draft [the previous] season . "

Following his draft , Booth returned to Michigan State to complete his four @-@ year tenure with the school . During his junior year , he and teammate Bryan Lerg set a Spartans record for the fastest two goals scored in a game (five seconds apart) . Their goals came in a 6 ? 5 overtime loss to the Alaska Nanooks in February 2005 and surpassed the previous record by one second . Later that month , Booth sustained a cracked rib and was sidelined for several games . He finished the 2004 ? 05 season with 16 points (seven goals and nine assists) over 29 contests .

In the first month of his senior year , Booth played in his 100th career college game in a contest

against the North Dakota Fighting Sioux on October 16 , 2005 . He recorded a short handed goal in a 3 ? 0 win . Booth later missed some playing time due to injury before returning to the lineup in late @-@ November 2005 . After struggling to score in the first half of the 2005 ? 06 season (he recorded nine points in the first three months) , Booth finished with 35 points (13 goals and 22 assists) over 37 games . His strong offensive production in the second half included an 11 @-@ game point @-@ scoring streak that was broken on the last regular season game against the Miami RedHawks . In the 2006 CCHA playoffs , Booth helped the Spartans to a Mason Cup as league champions . Facing the Miami RedHawks in the final , Booth scored the game @-@ winning goal six minutes in the second period , securing a 2 ? 1 win for Michigan State . Moving on to the 2006 NCAA Tournament , they were eliminated in the regional final by the Maine Black Bears 5 ? 4 . Booth scored a goal and an assist in the losing effort . Over four years with the Spartans , Booth finished his college career with 105 points in 134 games .

= = = Florida Panthers (2006 ? 2011) = = =

On July 20 , 2006 , Booth signed with the Panthers . Joining the organization , he was assigned to the Panthers ' American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate , the Rochester Americans , to start the 2006 ? 07 season . Within two months , he was called up to the Panthers on November 20 . Making his NHL debut that night against the Boston Bruins , he registered 11 @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half minutes of ice time in a 3 ? 2 win . After being returned to the AHL six days later , he received another call @-@ up the following month . During his second stint with the team , he recorded his first NHL point on December 12 against the Anaheim Ducks . Booth drew the first assist on the game 's first goal by Drew Larman ; the Panthers went on to lose 5 ? 4 . Sent back down to Rochester and recalled one more time in December , he remained with the team for the remainder of the campaign . Booth later scored his first NHL goal on January 4 , 2007 , against Jamie McLennan in a 5 ? 4 overtime loss to the Calgary Flames . In the final month of the season , he registered his first game @-@ winning goal in the NHL on April 6 in a 7 ? 2 win against the Tampa Bay Lightning . Booth completed his rookie season with 10 points (3 goals and 7 assists) over 48 NHL games , while also recording 14 points (seven goals and seven assists) over 25 AHL games . As the Panthers failed to qualify for the 2007 playoffs , ranking 12th in the Eastern Conference , Booth was returned to the AHL for the Americans ' post @-@ season . He recorded two assists over six playoff games as Rochester was eliminated in the first round by the Hamilton Bulldogs .

Early in the 2007 ? 08 season , Booth was injured after receiving a check from behind during a game against the Ottawa Senators on October 20 , 2007 . While playing the puck , he collided with Senators defenceman Anton Volchenkov , causing his head to hit the boards . Volchenkov received a five @-@ minute major penalty and a game misconduct on the play , while Booth was taken off the ice in a stretcher . He was brought to an Ottawa hospital for precautionary measures and returned home the same night with a sore neck . While a suspension for Volchenkov was suggested in the media following the game , the league chose not to hold a hearing regarding the incident . Senators head coach John Paddock was quick to dismiss the notion of a suspension , asserting that Booth turned into Volchenkov , as opposed to the Senators defenceman forcefully initiating contact . Booth missed one game due to the injury . Later in the campaign , he missed eight games with a knee injury . Missing nine games total , he recorded 40 points (22 goals and 18 assists) over 73 contests , ranking fourth in team scoring . Becoming an integral part of the Panthers ' lineup , he also led the team with six game @-@ winning goals . As a team , the Panthers remained out of the playoffs in 2008 , finishing 11th in the East .

The following season , Booth recorded his first career NHL natural hat trick against the Anaheim Ducks on November 9 , 2008 . He scored all the Panthers goals against Jean @-@ Sébastien Giguère in a 3 ? 1 win over the Anaheim Ducks . The following month , he sustained a left shoulder injury that sidelined him for eight games . After returning , he began an eight @-@ game point @-@ scoring streak that lasted from December 27 , 2008 , to January 10 , 2009 . Later in the season , he recorded another hat trick in a contest against the St. Louis Blues on March 7 , 2009 . Scoring all three goals against Chris Mason , Booth helped the Panthers to a 5 ? 3 win . His efforts made him

the fourth player in team history to register two hat @-@ tricks in one season , after Pavel Bure , Ray Sheppard and Olli Jokinen . He also added an assist for a four @-@ point game . Booth bettered that single @-@ game total during the last contest of the regular season , scoring two goals and three assists for a personal best five @-@ point effort in a 7 ? 4 win against the Washington Capitals on April 11 , 2009 . Booth finished the season with career @-@ highs of 31 goals , 29 assists and 60 points over 72 games . While leading the Panthers in goals , powerplay goals (11) , game @-@ winning goals (5 ; tied with Nathan Horton , and shots (246) , he finished one point behind team @-@ leader Stephen Weiss (who played six more games than Booth) . Booth 's efforts helped the Panthers compete for a playoff spot late in the season for the first time in his tenure with the club . They finished the season tied for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East with the Montreal Canadiens at 41 wins and 93 points each . The Canadiens earned the spot over the Panthers by virtue of having won the season series between the two teams .

During his breakout season , Booth became a favorite among team followers ; home fans at BankAtlantic Center were known to cheer " Boooth " when he touched the puck during games . At the end of the campaign , he was chosen by the fans as the team 's most valuable player in an official online vote . Set to become a restricted free agent in the off @-@ season , Booth was tendered a qualifying offer by the Panthers on June 29 , 2009 . Two days later , he signed a six @-@ year , US \$ 25 @. @ 5 million contract . Upon announcing the contract , Panthers General Manager Randy Sexton heralded Booth as " undoubtedly an important part of [the] club 's future ... [and] a role model for other players , " while embodying " every attribute of what a true Panthers player stands for . "

During the first month of the 2009 ? 10 season , Booth sustained a concussion after being hit by Philadelphia Flyers forward Mike Richards during a game on October 24 , 2009 . Skating up to the Flyers ' blueline , Booth had shot the puck into the offensive zone when Richards hit him in the head with his shoulder . Rendered unconscious , Booth was taken off the ice on a stretcher and brought to a Philadelphia hospital . In addition to his concussion , he sustained a cut above one eye that required stitches ; he was released from hospital the next day . While Richards received a five @-@ minute major penalty for interference and a game misconduct for intent to injure , he was not suspended for the play . The decision not to further penalize Richards proved to be a highly contentious issue . Panthers General Manager Randy Sexton and defenceman Keith Ballard voiced their opinion that Richards ' hit was directed at the head while knowing Booth was in a vulnerable position , warranting a suspension . The Flyers captain expressed concern for Booth 's health both in the media and to Panthers Head Coach Peter DeBoer personally , but asserted that he was not intending to hurt him . Another concern was the timing of Richards ' hit , as Booth had already released the puck . In response , NHL Vice President Bill Daly explained that the hit was not late enough to justify a suspension .

Booth was not cleared for full @-@ contact practice with the team until January 25 , 2010 . Six days later , he returned to the lineup for a game against the New York Islanders after being sidelined for 45 contests . During his absence , the Panthers and Flyers played each other on December 21 , 2009 , for the first time since Richards ' hit . The game included four fights , including one between Panthers defenceman and captain Bryan McCabe and Richards . The teams met again with Booth in the lineup on March 3 , 2010 . After fighting Richards in the first period (one of four fights in the game and Booth 's first in the NHL) , Booth scored a goal and three assists (completing a Gordie Howe hat trick) to help the Panthers to a 7 ? 4 win .

Although the NHL had not suspended Richards for his actions against Booth , the incident was instrumental in the League 's newfound efforts to eliminate hits to the head , particularly against players who cannot see the oncoming checker approaching (as was the case with Booth) . Several months after Booth 's October 2009 concussion , Boston Bruins forward Marc Savard was hit by Matt Cooke in a similar fashion on March 7 . Later that month , on March 25 , the NHL Board of Governors and NHL Players ' Association 's executive board voted in favour of a rule penalizing " blindside hits " (bodychecking a player after having skated laterally towards him undetected , an idea similar to one 's " blind spot " while driving) . That same night , Booth suffered his second concussion in five months during a game against the Montreal Canadiens . While reaching back to

retrieve a loose puck , Booth was hit in the head by opposing defenceman Jaroslav Pařík 's shoulder . No penalty was called on the play , while Booth was helped off the ice and taken to hospital . The hit did not receive suspension and did not spark controversy as Booth 's previous concussion had . Following the game , Panthers forward Nathan Horton asserted that " It wasn 't a dirty hit " ; Pařík expressed concern for Booth , but explained that " when he turned I was standing right there and basically he just ran at me . " Sidelined for the remaining nine games of the season , Booth finished the campaign with 16 points (eight goals and eight assists) over 28 games . After pushing for a playoff spot the previous season , the Panthers ranked second @-@ worst in the East with 32 wins and 77 points .

While Booth 's hockey @-@ playing future was initially in doubt following his second concussion , he returned for the 2010 ? 11 season and played all 82 games . Averaging 19 minutes of ice time per game (second among forward behind Weiss) , he led the Panthers with 23 goals while ranking third with 40 points (behind Weiss and Mike Santorelli) . With 280 shots , including a 14 @-@ shot effort against the Bruins on November 18 , 2010 , he led all Panthers ' players and ranked 12th in the NHL overall . As a team , the Panthers continued to struggle and General Manager Dale Tallon began trading away many of their veteran players towards the end of the season ; they finished with the worst record in the East .

= = = Vancouver Canucks (2011 ? 2014) = = =

Less than a month into the 2011 ? 12 season , Booth was traded to the Vancouver Canucks on October 22 , 2011 . The Panthers sent him , along with forward Steven Reinprecht and a third @-@ round pick in the 2013 draft , to Vancouver in exchange for forwards Mikael Samuelsson and Marco Sturm . Tallon described the deal as a performance @-@ based trade ; Booth had registered one assist over the first six games of the season and had a team @-@ worst ? 6 plus @-@ minus rating while being demoted to the third line . Booth was saddened and admittedly surprised at the trade . Booth had also been reportedly sought after by Vancouver for six months prior ; the team conferred with alternate captain Ryan Kesler regarding Booth 's character on and off the ice (the two grew up playing minor and junior hockey together) . Joining Vancouver , he switched his jersey number from 10 to 7 , in honour of his younger sister , Rachael , who also wears the number as a hockey player .

Playing on the second line with countrymen Ryan Kesler and Christopher Higgins , the scoring unit was immediately nicknamed the " American Express " line . The unit has been occasionally shuffled , however , with Cody Hodgson replacing Higgins in some instances . Booth scored his first goal as a Canuck 15 days after the trade , opening the scoring in a 6 ? 2 win against the Chicago Blackhawks . The following month , Booth suffered a right medial collateral ligament (MCL) injury after a knee @-@ on @-@ knee hit from Colorado Avalanche forward Kevin Porter during a game on December 6 , 2011 . Porter received a five @-@ minute major and game misconduct for the play , while a subsequent hearing with NHL disciplinarian Brendan Shanahan resulted in a four @-@ game suspension . Booth was sidelined for 18 games over six weeks with the injury , returning in mid @-@ January 2012 .

Booth finished the regular season with 16 goals and 30 points over 62 games . Having never qualified for the playoffs with the Panthers previously in his career , Booth made his post @-@ season debut in 2012 . Playing against the Los Angeles Kings , he recorded one assist over five games as the first @-@ seeded Canucks were eliminated in the first round . Booth told reporters prior to the playoffs that he was struggling with his diminished role with the Canucks , in comparison to his time with the Panthers , alluding to his ice time . The previous year , he was averaging nearly 19 minutes per game , which dropped to 15 minutes as a Canuck .

On June 17 , 2014 , the Canucks placed Booth on unconditional waivers , and the following day after he cleared waivers the Canucks used their final compliance buyouts on him and Booth became an unrestricted free agent .

= = = Toronto Maple Leafs (2014 ? 2015) = = =

On July 22 , 2014 , the Toronto Maple Leafs signed Booth to a one @-@ year contract worth \$ 1 @. @ 1 million . He scored the only shootout goal in the first preseason game on September 22 , 2014 , which led the Toronto Maple Leafs to victory .

On November 21 , 2014 , Booth was sent down to the Toronto Marlies of the AHL for a conditioning stint . He would finish with one goal in his two @-@ game tour with the Marlies . On November 29 , Booth played his first game as a Maple Leaf in a 6 ? 2 win over the Washington Capitals . Booth recorded no points but enjoyed his first game in Toronto . However , Booth would record his first point as a Leaf three games later , an assist on a goal scored by line @-@ mate Richard Pánik in a 5 ? 2 victory over his former team , the Canucks . His first goal as a Maple Leaf would come on December 16 , where he scored the game winner in a 6 ? 2 victory over the Anaheim Ducks .

Booth would finish the season with 13 points (7 goals , 6 assists) in 59 games .

= = International play = =

During his tenure with the United States National Team Development Program , Booth competed at the 2002 IIHF World U18 Championship , held in Trnava and Pie??any , Slovakia . Playing Russia in the last game of the final round , Booth scored the United States ' first two goals of the game . A win against Russia placed the United States in a tie for the gold medal with four wins and one tie each . In order to beat Russia on the goal @-@ differential tiebreaker , they needed to win the contest by two goals . Leading 2 ? 1 with a minute remaining , the United States pulled their goalie and Zach Parise scored with 30 seconds left to capture the gold medal . Booth was named MVP of the gold medal game . Booth finished the tournament with two goals and two assists over eight games .

Two years later (now a member of the Michigan State Spartans) , Booth moved on to the under @-@ 20 level , competing at the 2004 IIHF World Junior Championships , held in Helsinki and Hameenlinna , Finland . He recorded his lone assist of the tournament on Dan Fritsche 's game @-@ winning goal in the semifinal against Finland . Booth and the United States went on to win the gold medal with a 4 ? 3 win over Canada in the final . With a goal and an assist over six games , Booth tied for 12th in team point @-@ scoring . In a 2011 interview for Canucks.com , Booth recalled his IIHF U18 and U20 gold medals as his first- and second @-@ best hockey memories , respectively .

Following Booth 's second season in the NHL with the Florida Panthers , he was named to his first United States men 's team for the 2008 IIHF World Championships , held in Halifax and Quebec City , Canada . He scored his lone goal of the tournament (also his first international goal and point at the men 's level) in a 5 ? 1 preliminary round win against Slovakia . In the quarterfinals , the United States lost 3 ? 2 to Finland and finished the tournament in sixth place .

The following year , he was invited to the national team 's summer orientation camp in anticipation of the 2010 Winter Olympics . Booth later recalled that making the Olympic team was his goal at the start of the 2009 ? 10 season . During the first month of NHL play , however , Booth suffered a concussion and was sidelined long @-@ term . When the final Olympic roster was announced on January 1 , 2010 , Booth was still recovering from the injury and he was not selected .

= = Playing style = =

At 6 feet (1 @. @ 83 metres) and 212 pounds (96 kilograms) , Booth 's size enables him to play in the style of a power forward . Along with his physical stature , he is a fast skater , both of which allow him to retain the puck and contribute to his offensive skills .

= = Personal life = =

Booth was born in Detroit , Michigan , and grew up in the nearby Washington Township of Macomb County . His father 's name is Mike . Booth has two brothers and one sister , Rachael . During Booth 's career with the Panthers , he lived with his younger brother in Florida . Raised in a Christian household , Booth has publicly professed his faith into his professional career . Growing up , he was

a fan of the Detroit Red Wings and attended home games as his family owned season tickets . He has listed favorite players as a child as Red Wings forwards Steve Yzerman and Brendan Shanahan , as well as Keith Tkachuk , who played for the Phoenix Coyotes franchise , St. Louis Blues and Atlanta Thrashers .

During Booth 's minor hockey career , he was linemates with fellow Michigan @-@ native Ryan Kesler for two years , beginning at age 12 . The two went on to become teammates with the US National Team Development Program , the U.S. national junior team and the Vancouver Canucks . In addition to hockey , he also played baseball and golf growing up .

Booth earned his secondary education at Lutheran High School North in Macomb and Huron High School in Ann Arbor , Michigan . He moved to and graduated from the latter to facilitate his participation with the US National Team Development Program , which was based out of Ann Arbor . During his tenure with the Development Program , he made the choice to play NCAA hockey , opting against the major junior Ontario Hockey League (OHL) in order to attend college . The decision was encouraged by his father , who valued Booth 's education . Enrolled at Michigan State University while playing for the school 's hockey team , he studied dentistry before switching to general management .

An avid hunter , Booth posted a YouTube video in May 2012 of him baiting and killing an American black bear . Though the practice is legal in Alberta , it is banned in 18 American states , as well as British Columbia , the Vancouver Canucks ' province . Booth 's actions were widely criticized among the public causing him to remove the video within days .

Booth married model and former beauty queen from Tennessee , Ashley Durham , on June 14 , 2014 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = Awards and honours = =