

= Jacob Josefson =

Jacob Peter Josefson (born 2 March 1991) is a Swedish professional ice hockey centre , currently with the New Jersey Devils in the National Hockey League (NHL) . After Josefson began playing hockey at the age of five , he was acquired by Djurgården 's youth organization at the age of ten , where he also began playing junior hockey in 2005 . Josefson made his Elitserien debut on 28 February 2008 , against Timrå IK , and became a regular member of Djurgården 's senior team . His achievements in the Swedish Elitserien drew attention from NHL and he was selected in the first round of the 2009 NHL Entry Draft by the New Jersey Devils , 20th overall . Josefson played with Djurgården for an additional season , before signing on for the Devils in May 2010 .

Josefson has represented Sweden at four International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) sanctioned junior events , winning the silver medal at the 2009 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships and the bronze medal at the 2010 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships . He also participated in the 2008 IIHF World U18 Championships , but only played three of Sweden 's six games , and the 2009 IIHF World U18 Championships .

= = Early life = =

Josefson was born on 2 March 1991 , in Stockholm , Sweden , to Annika and Peter Josefson . He is the youngest of three brothers . At the age of two , Josefson began skating and joined IK Göta at the age of five . His older brothers had played for the same club . He played with Hammarby IF for a year before he was acquired by Djurgårdens IF at the age of ten , playing for the 1991 team . He also played football until the age of 13 , before deciding to focus entirely on hockey . Josefson attended high school at Vittra Gymnasium in Sweden while playing for Djurgården .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Djurgårdens IF = = =

Josefson started to play junior hockey in 2005 for Djurgården 's under @-@ 18 team . During the 2006 ? 07 season , he helped Djurgården 's under @-@ 16 team to win the Swedish championship . The 2007 ? 08 season began with the national junior hockey tournament TV @-@ pucken . Josefson 's team Stockholm / Vit reached the final which ended with a 2 ? 1 defeat to Småland . He made his Elitserien debut on 28 February 2008 , against Timrå IK . This proved to be the only appearance Josefson would make in the Elitserien during the 2007 ? 08 season . Josefson played for the J20 @-@ team during most of the season scoring 14 goals and 31 points . His team reached the playoffs , but were defeated by Brynäs IF in the semi @-@ finals . After the loss , he joined the under @-@ 18 team during the playoffs where he helped the team defeat Färjestads BK to capture the Swedish championship .

He signed a two @-@ year contract with Djurgården in May 2008 . The club 's initial plan for Josefson was to move him up to the senior team when regular players were out of the lineup with illness or injuries , while his usual team would be the J20 @-@ team . He scored his first goal in Elitserien on 23 September in his third game , a 4 ? 1 win against Brynäs IF . Ultimately , Josefson played almost every game of the regular season , and usually played along with Carl Gustafsson and Henrik Eriksson on the 4th line . At the end of the season , Josefson had scored 5 goals and 16 points , a record for players 18 or younger playing with the senior team . Josefson was ranked third in the midterm rankings among European skaters by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau for the 2009 NHL Entry Draft . He was selected in the first round of the 2009 NHL draft by the New Jersey Devils , 20th overall . Josefson was also drafted in the third round , 61st overall , in the 2009 KHL Junior Draft by SKA Saint Petersburg . He participated at the Devils rookie camp in July 2009 . He has been compared with centres Nicklas Bäckström and John Madden .

At the beginning of the 2009 ? 10 season , Djurgården participated in the Nordic Trophy pre @-@

season tournament . In the second game , Josefson scored a hat trick and added two assists against the Malmö Redhawks . At the end of the group stage , Josefson was the scoring leader with five goals and seven points . He scored his first points for the regular season , three assists , in the Elitserien premiere away against HV71 . Djurgården lost the game 7 ? 6 , but on 20 October , Josefson would get his revenge when he scored the game @-@ winning goal in the 3 ? 2 victory over HV71 20 . This was also his first goal of the regular season . Josefson missed six Elitserien games due to the World Junior Hockey Championship , but was back in the roster against Timrå IK on 9 January . He recorded an assist against Rögle BK on 30 January , which was his 17th point of the season , putting him ahead of last season 's total . At the end of the regular season , Josefson had scored 8 goals and 20 points in 43 games . The 2009 ? 10 playoffs were Josefson 's first Elitserien playoffs , and he played almost every game missing the first two semifinal games against Linköpings HC due to illness . Djurgården lost the finals 4 ? 2 to HV71 . Josefson re @-@ signed with Djurgården for another year on 27 April . Despite this and an oral guarantee the club received from Josefson 's agent Peter Wallén that Josefson would stay , Josefson signed with the New Jersey Devils on 14 May 2010 .

= = = New Jersey Devils = = =

Josefson participated in the pre @-@ season camp with the Devils in September , but was assigned to their American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate , the Albany Devils after the camp . Josefson was called up to the Devils on 14 October 2010 , and made his NHL debut the next day , in a 3 ? 2 victory against Colorado Avalanche at the Prudential Center . Josefson was slashed on his left hand and later fell on the same hand during the game against San Jose Sharks on 27 October , this caused a ligament in his thumb to tear , and forced him to undergo surgery . At last , Josefson returned from his injury on 7 January 2011 , when the Albany Devils played against the Charlotte Checkers . Josefson scored his first NHL goal against Al Montoya of the New York Islanders on 12 March 2011 . The Devils failed to reach the playoffs and Josefson ended up with three goals and ten points in 28 regular season games .

In the fifth game of the 2011 ? 12 season , Josefson broke his right clavicle after crashing shoulder first into the boards . He underwent surgery the following day on 22 October 2011 , and was expected to be sidelined for three or four months . On 3 April 2012 in a game against the Islanders , Josefson bumped awkwardly into Jay Pandolfo resulting in a broken left wrist . He returned to the lineup on 21 May 2012 in the fourth game of the Eastern Conference Finals against Rangers and played a total of six games in the 2012 Stanley Cup playoffs , scoring one point .

= = International play = =

Josefson played in his first IIHF sanctioned tournament when he was part of Sweden 's team at the 2008 IIHF World U18 Championships. He managed to score a hat @-@ trick in the first game against Belarus . He left the team in the morning before the fourth game due to an accident in which his father and uncle had been exposed to carbon monoxide poisoning . He made his second appearance at the U18 Championship the following year , at the 2009 IIHF World U18 Championships , where he also took the role as alternate captain . He managed to score three goals and seven points in six games . Josefson was a part of Sweden 's national junior team at the 2009 World Junior Championships . He played in all of Sweden 's six games but did not score any points . A few months later he yet again played for Sweden in the U18 Championship but could not help his team go further than fifth place in the tournament .

Josefson participated in the World Junior Championship for the second time when he was named for Team Sweden by head coach Pär Mårts for the 2010 World Junior Championships , along with fellow Djurgården team @-@ mates Daniel Brodin and Marcus Krüger . He scored his first goal of the tournament and the first goal of the game against Austria in the preliminary rounds . He scored two additional goals in Sweden 's 7 ? 1 victory over Finland in the last game of the preliminary rounds . Josefson , who also had three assists in the tournament , had six points in total .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =