

= Manny Malhotra =

Emmanuel " Manny " Noveen Malhotra (born May 18 , 1980) is a Canadian professional ice hockey centre , who is currently an unrestricted free agent who last played with the Lake Erie Monsters in the American Hockey League (AHL) on a try @-@ out basis . He previously played in the NHL for the Montreal Canadiens , Carolina Hurricanes , Vancouver Canucks , San Jose Sharks , Columbus Blue Jackets , Dallas Stars and the New York Rangers . Malhotra is known as a two @-@ way forward and for his faceoff proficiency .

= = Playing career = =

Malhotra was drafted in the first round as the seventh overall pick of the 1998 NHL Entry Draft by the New York Rangers . He joined the NHL after a two @-@ year career in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) with the Guelph Storm , with served as captain in his final year . Winning a J. Ross Robertson Cup championship and subsequently appearing in the 1998 Memorial Cup with the Storm , Malhotra also earned a Bobby Smith Trophy , George Parsons Trophy and Memorial Cup All @-@ Star honours as a junior .

He played with the Rangers from 1998 to 2002 . During this time he was assigned on numerous occasions to the team 's AHL affiliate , the Hartford Wolf Pack , with whom he won a Calder Cup championship in 2000 . At the 2001 ? 02 trade deadline , he was dealt to the Stars and spent parts of three seasons with the club . Beginning in 2003 ? 04 , Malhotra began to see increased offensive production , marked by his acquisition off waivers by the Blue Jackets . After four seasons in Columbus , he signed a one @-@ year contract with the Sharks in September 2009 . He recorded a career @-@ high in goals with San Jose , before joining the Canucks on a three @-@ year deal . In his first season with Vancouver , Malhotra suffered a major injury to his left eye , requiring several surgeries . Despite having lost a significant amount of his vision , he returned the same year to compete in the 2011 Stanley Cup Finals . He struggled to play with the injury until Canucks management placed him on the injured reserve for the remainder of the 2012 @-@ 13 season in February 2013 .

Internationally , Malhotra has represented Canada in under @-@ 18 competition , two World Junior Championships and one World Championship . Serving as team captain at the 2000 World Junior Championships , Malhotra led Canada to a bronze medal .

= = = Guelph Storm = = =

After playing minor hockey with the Mississauga Reps of the Metro Toronto Hockey League (MTHL) , After being selected in the first round (17th overall) of the 1996 OHL Priority Selection , Malhotra played two seasons in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) with the Guelph Storm , beginning in 1996 ? 97 . He scored 16 goals and 44 points over 61 games in his rookie season . In the 1997 playoffs , he added 14 points in 18 games as Guelph lost in the semifinals to the Ottawa 67 's . The following season , he improved to 16 goals and 51 points over 57 games . He served as team captain while being assigned the primary role of shutting down opposing team 's top forwards . Guelph advanced to the OHL Finals , where they defeated Ottawa in five games to capture the J. Ross Robertson Cup . Malhotra had 13 points in 12 games in the championship @-@ winning playoff season . Earning a berth into the 1998 Memorial Cup , Guelph made it to the final , where they lost to the Portland Winter Hawks 4 ? 3 in overtime . Malhotra ranked third in tournament scoring with a goal and seven points over five games . He was named to the Memorial Cup All @-@ Star Team and was awarded the George Parsons Trophy as the tournament 's most sportsmanlike player .

= = = New York Rangers = = =

In the off @-@ season , Malhotra was drafted by the New York Rangers in the first round , seventh

overall , of the 1998 NHL Entry Draft . The Rangers scouted him as a strong , physical player with good hockey sense and character , comparing him to Adam Graves . He was surprised to have been selected by the Rangers , as they were one of the only teams to have not interviewed or met with him prior to the draft . He anticipated being drafted by the Calgary Flames at sixth overall , as the team 's general manager , Al Coates had previously drafted him into the OHL as general manager of the Storm .

With the 1998 ? 99 approaching , Malhotra had not yet signed an NHL contract with the Rangers by October . League rules stipulated that if he did not sign by October 8 , 1998 , he would be required to return to junior for the entire campaign . The night before the deadline , Malhotra and the Rangers agreed to a three @-@ year deal worth the rookie @-@ maximum of \$ 975 @,@ 000 with performance @-@ based incentives that could have increased his salary to \$ 2 million . Making the immediate jump from junior to the NHL at the age of 18 , he became the second player of Indian heritage to play in the NHL . Malhotra recorded eight goals and 16 points over 73 games as a rookie .

During the season , the Rangers were interested in acquiring Vancouver Canucks forward Pavel Bure . It was reported that Canucks general manager Brian Burke had requested Malhotra to be involved in a trade that would have sent him along with Niklas Sundstrom , Dan Cloutier and the Rangers ' first @-@ round pick in the 1999 draft in exchange for Bure . However , Rangers general manager Neil Smith refused to include Malhotra and the deal never materialized .

The following season , he struggled to earn a regular spot on the Rangers ' roster and was often a healthy scratch . Rangers head coach John Muckler publicly declared before the beginning of the Malhotra 's second NHL campaign that he would be nothing more than a career third @-@ liner . Malhotra 's potential was often at the centre of an ongoing dispute between Muckler and Smith .

Malhotra suffered an ankle injury in November that sidelined him for four games . Upon his recovery , his play was judged by team management to have suffered and he began to be benched . Meanwhile , the Canadian national junior team wanted the Rangers to loan him to them for the 2000 World Junior Championships . On December 12 , 1999 , general manager Neil Smith obliged and assigned Malhotra for the international tournament . He was then sent for a two @-@ week conditioning assignment with the Rangers ' American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate , the Hartford Wolf Pack . On March 14 , 2000 , he was sent back down to the OHL on March 14 , 2000 , in order to retain his eligibility for later AHL assignment in the season . Malhotra had dressed for only four games in the two months between his return from the World Junior Championships in early @-@ January and his junior reassignment . He was pointless in the 27 games total he played with the Rangers that season .

Returning to Guelph , he played in five regular season and six playoff games . Upon his junior club 's first @-@ round playoff elimination , he was reassigned to the Wolf Pack where he recorded a goal and six points over 12 games to finish the regular season . He then added three points in 23 post @-@ season contests , helping the Wolf Pack to the franchise 's first Calder Cup championship .

Malhotra returned to the Wolf Pack the following season after failing to make the Rangers ' roster out of training camp . With New York deep at the centre position , his AHL assignment was predicated on him learning to play wing . He received numerous call @-@ ups to New York and finished the 2000 ? 01 campaign with 11 points over 28 games in the AHL and 12 points over 50 games in the NHL . The season also marked a management change as Glen Sather took over as general manager , marking the departure of Smith , who had drafted Malhotra and regarded him as untradeable during his tenure .

Fifty @-@ six games into his 2001 ? 02 season with the Rangers , Sather dealt Malhotra to the Dallas Stars at the trade deadline , along with winger Barrett Heisten , in exchange for forwards Martin Rucinsky and Roman Lyashenko . Although he had established himself as an effective forechecker and defensive forward , Malhotra did not materialize into the offensive player the Rangers hoped he would be .

= = = Post @-@ New York = = =

Malhotra welcomed the trade to Dallas as an opportunity for more playing time , as he was sparsely used with the Rangers . However , he saw limited success with the Stars . Following his trade , he recorded one point , a goal , in 16 games to finish the 2001 ? 02 season . He was re @-@ signed by Dallas to a two @-@ year contract on June 27 , 2002 . In 2002 ? 03 , he recorded 10 points over 59 games . He appeared in his first Stanley Cup playoffs as the Stars qualified for the 2003 post @-@ season as the top seed in the Western Conference . They were eliminated in the second round by the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim .

After going pointless in nine games early the following season , the Stars waived Malhotra on November 19 , 2003 . Two days later , he was picked up by the Columbus Blue Jackets . Malhotra improved with the Blue Jackets , notching 12 goals and 25 points over 56 games following the trade . He missed the final six games of the regular season with a bruised ankle . His ice time rose from an average of nine minutes a game with Dallas the previous season to 14 minutes in Columbus .

Due to the NHL lockout , Malhotra spent the 2004 ? 05 season overseas in Europe . He initially signed with HDD Olimpija Ljubljana of Slovenia on October 8 , 2004 , and recorded 27 points over 26 games (including both Slovenian league and inter @-@ league play) . On December 12 , he signed with HV71 Jönköping of the Swedish Elite League . He notched seven points in 20 games with the club .

Returning to Columbus as NHL resumed play the following season , Malhotra spent 2005 ? 06 centering Columbus ' third line . Despite missing 24 games due to injury with back spasms in November and a shoulder injury in January , he improved his points total for the second straight NHL season with 10 goals and 21 assists . The Blue Jackets re @-@ signed him in the off @-@ season to a three @-@ year contract on June 20 , 2006 . In the first year of his new contract , he tallied nine goals and 25 points over a full 82 @-@ game season .

Malhotra missed 11 games with a recurring knee injury in December 2007 . Late in the 2007 ? 08 season , on March 17 , 2008 , he recorded a career @-@ high three points in one game (two goals and an assist) in a 4 ? 3 win against the Detroit Red Wings . He finished the campaign with 11 goals and 29 points . Early in the 2008 ? 09 season , Malhotra missed five games with a lower @-@ body injury . He recorded a career @-@ high 24 assists and 35 points over 77 games during the campaign . As Columbus was plagued with numerous injuries over the course of the season , Malhotra was used on various lines while also in a shutdown role , playing against top opposing forwards .

His contract was not renewed by the Blue Jackets in the 2009 off @-@ season and he became an unrestricted free agent . After failing to sign with an NHL team , Malhotra accepted an invitation to the San Jose Sharks ' training camp on September 17 , 2009 . Five days later , he signed a one @-@ year , \$ 700 @,@ 000 deal with the team . He went on to record a career @-@ high 14 goals and plus @-@ 17 rating , along with 19 assists for 33 points , in his only season with the Sharks . He centred the team 's third line and earned time playing wing on the powerplay . The Sharks did not re @-@ sign him , however , and he became an unrestricted free agent for the second consecutive summer on July 1 , 2010 . Looking back on his time in San Jose , Malhotra called it the " most enjoyable season [he 's] had as a pro , " being able to play for a winning team and have a long playoff run for the first time in his NHL career .

= = = Vancouver Canucks = = =

On his first day of free agency on July 1 , 2010 , Malhotra signed a three @-@ year , \$ 7 @.@ 5 million deal with the Vancouver Canucks that included a no @-@ trade clause . Malhotra was named an alternate captain during away games for the Canucks before the season began . He scored his first goal as a Canuck on October 22 , during a 5 ? 1 win against the Minnesota Wild . Malhotra settled into to the Canucks ' lineup as the team 's third @-@ line centre , often playing with wingers Raffi Torres and Jannik Hansen , while playing significant time on the penalty kill and matching up against opposing team 's best forwards . His success as a defensive specialist earned him early consideration for the Selke Trophy as the league 's best two @-@ way forward . In an

article on the NHL 's website , he was chosen as the front @-@ runner for the award at the mid @-@ way point of the campaign . He was also credited with allowing the team to use Ryan Kesler in a more offensive role (Kesler was the team 's previous shutdown centre) ; as a result , the second @-@ line centre recorded career @-@ highs in goals and points .

Near the end of the season , Malhotra was struck in the eye by a puck during a game against the Colorado Avalanche on March 16 , 2011 . He immediately left the ice and underwent eye surgery the following day . It was announced on March 21 , 2011 that Malhotra would not be returning to the lineup for the rest of the regular season and the playoffs , without further comment on Malhotra 's condition . Eight days later , he underwent a second successful surgery on his eye . Limited to 72 games , Malhotra recorded his third consecutive 30 @-@ point season with 11 goals and 19 assists , while playing on the Canucks ' third line with Raffi Torres and Jannik Hansen . His 61 @. @ 7 % faceoff percentage ranked second in the league behind David Steckel . The campaign also included the 100th goal of his NHL career , scored in a 3 @-@ 0 win against the Anaheim Ducks on March 6 , 2011 .

On a team @-@ basis , Malhotra 's first season with the Canucks saw them earn the Presidents ' Trophy for having the best regular season record in the league . In the midst of his recovery , Malhotra made an appearance during the team 's pre @-@ game ceremony at Rogers Arena , co @-@ accepting the trophy with captain Henrik Sedin . Despite original statements from the team that he would not return for the playoffs , Malhotra began working his way up from light practices with the team in May 2011 . By the end of the month , he was cleared by doctors to play in the Stanley Cup Finals . Though he remained out of the lineup for Game 1 , he returned for the following contest and played the rest of the series as the team 's fourth @-@ line centre (late @-@ season acquisition Maxim Lapierre filled in for Malhotra on the third line) . Playing against the Boston Bruins , the Finals went to a seventh game , which the Canucks lost . Malhotra 's regular season performance earned him six first @-@ place votes out of 125 for the Selke Trophy . He ranked fifth in balloting , as teammate Ryan Kesler won the distinction at the year @-@ end Awards Ceremony .

Having lost a significant amount of his vision in his left eye , Malhotra struggled in his first full season since the injury in 2011 ? 12 . He was supplanted as the Canucks ' third @-@ line centre by rookie Cody Hodgson and later Samuel Pahlsson . Canucks head coach Alain Vigneault assessed Malhotra during the season as " not the same physical player he was before , " adding that " He 's still contributing but not maybe to the degree that he was before he got injured . " Playing left wing on the fourth line , he remained an integral part of the team by playing on the penalty kill and taking important defensive zone faceoffs . Near the end of the campaign , Malhotra was chosen as the Canucks ' nominee for the Bill Masterton Trophy , an annual NHL award for perseverance , sportsmanship and dedication to hockey . With a diminished offensive role , Malhotra finished his second season in Vancouver with 7 goals and 18 points over 78 games , as well as a -10 plus @-@ minus rating . He remained among the league 's elite in terms of faceoffs , however , ranking fourth with a 58 @. @ 5 % percentage .

Continuing to struggle with his eye injury , Malhotra was put on the injured reserve a month into the 2012 @-@ 13 season . Fearing for his long @-@ term health , Canucks general manager Mike Gillis took him out of the lineup for the season , a decision that he described as the " hardest thing [he has] done in [his] job . " Malhotra had appeared in nine games without recording a point .

= = = Carolina Hurricanes = = =

At the end of the 2013 NHL season , Malhotra became an unrestricted free agent . After being unsigned by an NHL team at the start of the 2013 ? 14 season and looking to continue his playing career Malhotra signed a 25 @-@ game professional try out (PTO) contract with the AHL 's Charlotte Checkers . The Carolina Hurricanes signed Malhotra to a one @-@ year two way contract on October 31 and he made his Carolina debut against the New York Rangers on November 2 . On November 6 , Manny scored his first NHL goal in 19 months , scoring a game winner in overtime against the Flyers . As a measure of the amount of respect he has earned in the locker room in just

a few weeks , Manny was selected to be an interim Assistant Captain while Tim Gleason is out with an injury . After Gleason was traded to the Toronto Maple Leafs , Malhotra was officially declared Alternate Captain for the remainder of the season .

= = = Montreal Canadiens = = =

On July 1 , 2014 , Malhotra signed as a free agent to a one @-@ year deal with the Montreal Canadiens . In the 2014 ? 15 season , Malhotra was primarily used as the Canadiens fourth line center and face @-@ off specialist . On February 28 , 2015 , Malhotra scored his first and only goal with Montreal in his 53rd appearance in a 4 @-@ 0 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs . Malhotra completed the season registering only 4 points in 58 contests .

On May 15 , 2015 , it was announced by Canadiens GM Marc Bergevin , that Malhotra would not return to the Montreal Canadiens next season . In July 2015 , Malhotra officially became a Free Agent and proceeded to go un @-@ signed over the summer . Two months into the 2015 ? 16 season , Malhotra returned within the Columbus Blue Jackets organization by signing a professional try @-@ out contract with American Hockey League affiliate , the Lake Erie Monsters on December 3 , 2015 .

= = International career = =

In the summer of 1997 , Malhotra captained Canada 's under @-@ 18 team to a championship at the 3 Nations Cup in the Czech Republic . Canada finished as tournament champions , going undefeated over six games against the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the three @-@ country competition .

The following year , Malhotra was named to the Canadian national under @-@ 20 team for the 1998 World Junior Championships , held in Finland . He was the second @-@ youngest player on the team , behind Vincent Lecavalier . Malhotra was pointless in seven games as Canada was defeated in the quarterfinal by Russia 2 ? 1 . The following year , he was not available for the tournament as he was playing in the NHL with the Rangers . In 2000 , however , he was loaned to Team Canada by the Rangers ' organization , as he was still eligible as a junior . Serving as team captain , he notched two assists over seven games in the tournament , held in Sweden . Canada earned the bronze medal , defeating the United States 4 ? 3 in a shootout .

Malhotra debuted with Canada 's men 's team at the 2002 World Championships in Sweden . He recorded no points in seven games as Canada was eliminated in the quarterfinal by Slovakia .

= = Personal life = =

Malhotra was born and raised in Mississauga , Ontario . His father , Shadi was born in Lahore and worked as a research chemist for Xerox . He holds over 110 patents and is now retired . His mother , Lise , is a French @-@ Canadian and was a stay @-@ at @-@ home mom . His parents both hold doctorate degrees from the Université Laval in Quebec City ? his father 's in polymer chemistry and his mother 's in biochemistry ? and prioritized education for Malhotra . Due to his mother 's French background , he spoke both French and English at home . Malhotra has three siblings , two brothers and a sister .

Malhotra started playing organized hockey at the age of seven . He attended John Fraser Secondary School in Mississauga before graduating from Our Lady of Lourdes in Guelph , Ontario . Malhotra moved to Guelph to begin his OHL career with the Guelph Storm , during which time he was awarded the Bobby Smith Trophy as the OHL 's scholastic player of the year in 1998 . He has referred to it as the award he is most proud of in his hockey career . In 2009 , he received the National Leadership Award in a ceremony at his former high school in Guelph .

In his initial years with the Rangers , the organization arranged for him to live with former player Doug Sulliman and his family . In September 2007 , Malhotra married Joann Nash , sister of National Basketball Association (NBA) star Steve Nash and former Vancouver Whitecaps FC

midfielder Martin Nash . Malhotra and Joann had their first child in the summer of 2008 , a boy named Caleb . Their second son , Isaiah , was born on September 30 , 2012 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = Awards = =