

= Mikael Samuelsson =

Karl Mikael Samuelsson (born 23 December 1976) is a Swedish former professional ice hockey right winger . Samuelsson began his career in Sweden , starting with Södertälje SK as a junior in 1994 . He went on to also play for Swedish teams IK Nyköping , Frölunda HC and Brynäs IF . After being selected 145th overall in the 1998 NHL Entry Draft by the San Jose Sharks , he moved to North America for the 2000 ? 01 NHL season . Samuelsson spent short stints with the Sharks , New York Rangers , Pittsburgh Penguins and Florida Panthers , before returning to Europe during the 2004 ? 05 NHL lockout . As NHL play resumed , Samuelsson signed with the Detroit Red Wings , where he enjoyed individual and team success , winning the Stanley Cup with the club in 2008 . After four seasons in Detroit , he signed with the Vancouver Canucks in July 2009 . He enjoyed the two most successful individual seasons of his career with Vancouver , recording back @-@ to @-@ back 50 @-@ point campaigns in 2009 ? 10 and 2010 ? 11 . In his third year with the club , he was traded to the Panthers for his second stint in Florida . At the end of the season , he re @-@ signed with the Red Wings in July 2012 .

Internationally , Samuelsson is a member of the Triple Gold Club . In addition to his Stanley Cup championship , he has won gold medals with the Swedish national team at the 2006 Winter Olympics and 2006 World Championships .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Swedish career (1994 ? 2000) = = =

Samuelsson played junior with Södertälje SK of the J20 SuperElit , beginning in 1994 ? 95 . Scoring at a point @-@ per @-@ game pace at the junior level the following season , he was called up to the club 's professional club , scoring five goals and an assist in 18 games . He helped Södertälje SK earn a promotion from the second @-@ tier HockeyAllsvenskan to Sweden 's premier league , the Elitserien , for the 1996 ? 97 campaign . Debuting in the Elitserien , Samuelsson recorded six points over 29 games . While improving to 16 points in 31 games the following season , he also played in ten games for IK Nyköping in the Allsvenskan . During the subsequent off @-@ season , Samuelsson was selected in the fifth round , 145th overall , by the San Jose Sharks in the 1998 NHL Entry Draft .

Upon being drafted , he remained in Sweden for two more seasons . As Södertälje SK was demoted back to the Allsvenskan for the 1998 ? 99 season , Samuelsson remained in the Elitserien by joining Frölunda HC , playing with both teams over the course of the season . While scoring 23 points over 18 games with Södertälje , he managed five points over 27 games with Frölunda . The following season , 1999 ? 2000 , Samuelsson transferred to Brynäs IF of the Elitserien and recorded seven points in 40 games . He helped the club to the second @-@ best record in the regular season , before losing in the semifinals to Modo Hockey . He ranked second in team @-@ scoring with nine points in 11 post @-@ season games .

= = = Early NHL career (2000 ? 05) = = =

Samuelsson moved to North America in 2000 ? 01 to begin playing within the San Jose Sharks organization . He was assigned to the club 's American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate , the Kentucky Thoroughblades , out of training camp , where he spent the majority of the season . He had 32 goals and 78 points over 66 games in the AHL to finish seventh in League scoring . Called up to the Sharks on two occasions over the course of the season , he appeared in his first four NHL games , recording no points .

In the subsequent off @-@ season , Samuelsson was traded to the New York Rangers , along with fellow prospect Christian Gosselin , in exchange for veteran forward Adam Graves on June 24 , 2001 . He began the 2001 ? 02 season with the Rangers ' AHL affiliate , the Hartford Wolf Pack , but

after notching nine points in eight games , he was recalled to the NHL on November 5 . He scored his first two NHL goals on November 20 against goaltender Patrick Roy in a 5 ? 3 win against the Colorado Avalanche . Samuelsson 's first goal came short @-@ handed and broke Roy 's three @-@ game shutout streak , which was in contention to tie the modern @-@ day NHL record at the time of four games . Samuelsson remained with the Rangers for the rest of the season and recorded six goals and 16 assists over 67 games as an NHL rookie . He was utilized in primarily defensive roles during his time in New York , playing on the penalty kill and matching up against opposing teams ' top offensive lines .

In the off @-@ season , Samuelsson was re @-@ signed by the Rangers and made the club 's opening roster for the 2002 ? 03 campaign . Late in the season , he was dealt to the Pittsburgh Penguins in an eight @-@ player trade on February 10 , 2003 . Along with Samuelsson , the Rangers sent Rico Fata , Joël Bouchard , Richard Lintner and cash to the Penguins in exchange for Alexei Kovalev , Dan LaCouture , Janne Laukkanen and Mike Wilson . Samuelsson scored two goals in 22 games with the Penguins to finish his second NHL season with a combined 10 goals and 24 points between Pittsburgh and New York . Looking to move up in the 2003 NHL Entry Draft , the Penguins traded him on draft @-@ day , along with their first- and second @-@ round picks (used to select Nathan Horton and Stefan Meyer , respectively) , to the Florida Panthers in exchange for the first overall selection that year (used to pick goaltender Marc @-@ André Fleury) and a third @-@ round pick (Daniel Carcillo) on June 21 , 2003 .

Samuelsson spent most of his time with the Panthers on the injured reserve list , beginning with a fractured jaw after receiving a high @-@ stick from Branislav Mezei on November 22 , 2003 . He did not return until January 2004 , missing 22 games . That same month , Samuelsson fractured his hand , missing another 21 games . After finishing the campaign with nine points in 37 games , he was not tendered a qualifying offer by the Panthers and subsequently became a free agent .

As it became apparent that the following NHL season would be suspended due to a lockout , Samuelsson initially signed with Genève @-@ Servette HC of the Swiss National League A in September 2004 . He appeared in 12 games for the club , recording six points . A month after signing in Switzerland , he returned to Södertälje SK of the Elitserien in late October . He recorded 20 points over 29 games as the club qualified for the eighth and final playoff spot , where they were defeated by Färjestad BK in four @-@ straight games . Samuelsson notched six points in ten post @-@ season games .

= = = Detroit Red Wings (2005 ? 2009) = = =

With NHL play set to resume following the lockout , Samuelsson was contacted by Håkan Andersson , director of European scouting for the Detroit Red Wings , in the summer of 2005 . Still in Europe , he was loaned from Södertälje SK to the Swiss Rapperswil @-@ Jona Lakers for two games in early @-@ September . Samuelsson competed in one game for the Lakers before signing a one @-@ year contract with the Red Wings . Joining Detroit marked a turning point in his career . Playing mainly on the third line , he was used on the power play and emerged as a legitimate offensive player in the NHL . During his first season with the Red Wings , he recorded 23 goals , 22 assists and 45 points in 71 games . He missed nine games late in the campaign due to a wrist injury , but returned for the playoffs . Seeded first overall in the Western Conference , Detroit was eliminated in the opening round by the Edmonton Oilers . Samuelsson notched an assist while appearing in the first six NHL playoff games of his career .

In March 2006 , Samuelsson signed a three @-@ year contract extension with the Red Wings . He recorded 34 points in 53 games the following season , while missing 18 games to a broken right foot . Finishing first overall in the West once more , Detroit advanced to the Conference Semifinals , where they were eliminated by the Anaheim Ducks . Samuelsson contributed 11 points in 18 post @-@ season games .

After a 40 @-@ point campaign in 2007 ? 08 , Samuelsson helped the Red Wings to a Stanley Cup championship . He recorded 13 points in 22 post @-@ season games , including the first two goals in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Finals against the Pittsburgh Penguins . Helping the Red Wings

defeat the Penguins in six games , the victory made Samuelsson a member of the Triple Gold Club , having won gold medals at the Winter Olympics and World Championships two years prior . Also accomplishing the feat were teammates and fellow Swedes Henrik Zetterberg and Niklas Kronwall .

The following season , Samuelsson recorded a second consecutive 40 @-@ point campaign . In the ensuing playoffs , he scored the overtime @-@ winning goal in Game 2 of the Semifinals against the Chicago Blackhawks . He advanced with the Red Wings to the 2009 Stanley Cup Finals , where they met the Penguins for the second consecutive year . Detroit was defeated in seven games , missing out on back @-@ to @-@ back championships . Samuelsson contributed 10 points in 21 playoff games .

= = = Vancouver Canucks (2009 ? 11) = = =

Becoming an unrestricted free agent in the off @-@ season , Samuelsson signed a three @-@ year deal with the Vancouver Canucks on July 3 , 2009 , worth an annual average value of \$ 2 @. @ 5 million . He signed with the Canucks anticipating an expanded offensive role with more ice time , while also commenting that Detroit 's efforts to re @-@ sign him " came up too short , too late . "

He scored his first goal as a Canuck in the 2009 ? 10 season opener against the Calgary Flames in a 5 ? 3 loss on October 1 . On March 9 , 2010 , Samuelsson scored his first career hat trick in a 6 ? 4 win against the Colorado Avalanche . All three goals were scored in the second period and assisted by countryman Henrik Sedin . He later earned NHL First Star of the Week honours on March 15 for notching six goals and four assists in four games . The following day , Samuelsson injured his shoulder in a game against the New York Islanders . He missed eight games , returning in time for the 2010 playoffs . He reached the 30 @-@ goal plateau for the first time in his career and added 23 assists for a career @-@ high 53 points . Then @-@ Head Coach Alain Vigneault played Samuelsson primarily on the second line with Ryan Kesler and Mason Raymond , while he also earned time on the top unit of Henrik and Daniel Sedin .

Facing the Los Angeles Kings in the opening round of the playoffs , Samuelsson tied two Canucks playoff records . With seven goals in six games , he tied Pavel Bure for most goals in a series and with goals in the first five games of the series , he tied Cliff Ronning for longest goal @-@ scoring streak . The Canucks advanced to the second round , where they were defeated by the Chicago Blackhawks in six games . Samuelsson finished the post @-@ season with eight goals and 15 points in 12 games to lead the Canucks in scoring .

The following season , Samuelsson suffered a mild concussion after colliding with St. Louis Blues forward Vladimír Sobotka on December 5 , 2010 , causing him to miss one game . Two months later , he was named the NHL 's Second Star for the week ending February 6 , 2011 . He scored two goals and six points in three Canucks victories to earn the distinction . While his goals total decreased to 18 in 2010 ? 11 , Samuelsson recorded his second consecutive 50 @-@ point campaign with a career @-@ high 32 assists . Ranking fourth in team point @-@ scoring behind the Sedins and Kesler , he helped the Canucks to the franchise 's first Presidents ' Trophy as the team with the NHL 's best regular season record .

Samuelsson struggled in the 2011 playoffs , as he returned from a lower @-@ body injury that kept him from the six games near the end of the regular season . Recording three points over 11 games against the Blackhawks and Nashville Predators in the first two rounds , he was demoted at one point to the Canucks ' fourth line in the second round against Nashville ; it was suspected he was playing through an injury . In Game 5 of the second round against Nashville , he fell to the ice while stretching to retrieve a loose puck and needed to be helped off the ice . Twelve days later , on May 19 , he underwent surgery for his adductor tendon and a sports hernia , sidelining him for the remainder of the playoffs . With Samuelsson out of the lineup , Vancouver advanced to the 2011 Stanley Cup Finals , where they were defeated in seven games by the Boston Bruins .

Recovering in time for the start of the 2011 ? 12 season , Samuelsson played six games for Vancouver before being traded away on October 22 , 2011 . He was sent back to Florida for his second stint with the Panthers , along with fellow veteran forward Marco Sturm , in exchange for forwards David Booth and Steven Reinprecht , as well as a third @-@ round draft pick in 2013 . In

an interview with HockeySverige.se at the end of the season , he told Swedish reporters that while he enjoyed playing in Vancouver , competing alongside countrymen Alexander Edler and the Sedins in particular , he " didn 't think very highly of management . " He also criticized Alexandre Burrows for his actions during the Finals , when he bit Patrice Bergeron 's finger after the Bruins forward had put it in his mouth , citing it a rallying point for the Bruins in their defeat of the Canucks .

= = = Returns to Florida and Detroit (2011 ? 2014) = = =

Samuelsson did not make his Panthers debut until December 8 , 2011 , missing the team 's first 20 games following the trade due to a groin complications that had not fully healed in the off @-@ season . In his first month with the team , he suffered another lower @-@ body injury after being checked by Phoenix Coyotes forward Shane Doan during a game on December 20 ; he missed five games . Upon returning , he scored his first goal as a Panther since the 2003 ? 04 season on January 6 , 2012 , in a 5 ? 2 loss to the New Jersey Devils . Samuelsson finished the campaign with 14 goals and 31 points over 54 games , split between Vancouver and Florida . His points @-@ per @-@ game ranked fifth on the Panthers .

Becoming an unrestricted free agent in the off @-@ season , Samuelsson signed a two @-@ year , \$ 6 million deal to return to the Detroit Red Wings on July 1 , 2012 . The deal included a full no @-@ trade clause .

= = = Djurgårdens IF (2014 ? 2015) = = =

After two injury plagued seasons with the Red Wings , Samuelsson agreed to a one @-@ year contract with Djurgårdens IF of the Swedish Hockey League (SHL) on July 29 , 2014 . Samuelsson 's season in Djurgården began with the premiere season of the Champions Hockey League . In the three group stage games he participated in , Samuelsson scored two goals and three points . He scored his first goal for Djurgården in the sixth round of the SHL regular season , a 4 ? 5 loss against Örebro HK . He then injured his knee on October 16 and was out of play until October 28 . Samuelsson was again out of the lineup between January 10 and February 19 due to a groin injury , missing 11 games . At the end of the SHL regular season , Samuelsson had scored 13 goals and 26 points in 37 games . He announced his retirement from professional hockey on March 26 , 2015 .

= = International play = =

Samuelsson debuted for the Swedish national team at the 2005 World Championships in Austria . He recorded five points in nine games as Sweden finished in fourth place , losing the bronze medal game to Russia . The following year , he competed in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin . He contributed four points in eight games , while playing on a line with future Canucks teammates Henrik and Daniel Sedin . Samuelsson recorded an assist against Finland in the final , helping Sweden win gold . Later that year , he played for Sweden at the 2006 World Championships in Latvia , a tournament in which Sweden defeated the Czech Republic 4 ? 0 in the final . Sweden became the first team in hockey history to win the Olympic gold and the World Championship in the same year . He recorded an international career @-@ high nine points over eight games to tie for second in team scoring , while also leading Sweden in shots on goal .

Four years later , Samuelsson attracted media attention after being left off the Swedish roster for the 2010 Winter Olympics . He told reporters , " I pretty much have one comment and maybe I 'll regret it . But they [Team Sweden officials] can go fuck themselves , " adding that he was not interested in being later added to the roster in the event of an injury . His omission was highly publicized by Swedish media as he was in the midst of a career season with the Canucks (he went on to record the second @-@ highest goals total among Swedish NHLers that season in 2009 ? 10 , with 30) . Sweden went on to lose to Slovakia in the quarterfinal , failing to medal .

= = Playing style = =

Samuelsson 's primary offensive attribute is his shot . Rather than relying on stickhandling in the offensive zone , his primary tendency is to direct the puck towards the net , hoping for a rebound . Before becoming an offensive threat later in his career , he established himself first as a defensively responsible forward in the NHL , earning time on the penalty kill and against opposing team 's top players . Strong on his skates , he is also noted to play aggressively , as well . As a result , Samuelsson is known as a versatile , two @-@ way player .

= = Personal life = =

Samuelsson was born in Mariefred , a town 65 kilometres (40 mi) from the Swedish capital of Stockholm . He and his wife Sandra have two children , a son , William , and a daughter , Stina . In the off @-@ seasons , Samuelsson returns with his family to the Stockholm area , where he owns a home in Nykvarn . After the Red Wings ' championship victory in 2008 , he brought the Stanley Cup with him to Nykvarn and had a civic reception with the Cup in Mariefred on July 29 , 2008 . Aside from hockey , Samuelsson is an avid golfer .

In September 2010 , Samuelsson posted an online charity auction for fans in Sweden to benefit minor hockey in Mariefred . The highest bidder at \$ 6 @,@ 500 , won an all @-@ expenses paid trip for two to Vancouver , featuring tickets to two Canucks games at Rogers Arena , access to the team 's locker room and a five @-@ night stay in Samuelsson 's personal home . Samuelsson has also been involved in the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) ' s Goals and Dreams program , which provides equipment to minor hockey teams around the world , including Mariefred .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

Statistics taken from Eliteprospects.com

= = Awards = =