

= Aaron Miller =

Aaron Michael Miller (born August 11 , 1971) is a retired American professional ice hockey defenseman . Over the course of his fourteen @-@ year career in the National Hockey League , Miller played for four teams : the Quebec Nordiques , who eventually relocated and became the Colorado Avalanche , the Los Angeles Kings , and the Vancouver Canucks . In 2002 , he was selected as a member of United States hockey team at the 2002 Winter Olympics , where he won a silver medal . Prior to making his professional debut , Miller earned a degree in business from the University of Vermont .

= = Early life = =

Miller was born and raised in Buffalo , New York . After playing forward at St. Francis High School and the Niagara Scenics in Buffalo , Miller was given a scholarship to the University of Vermont . Prior to attending the university , he was drafted 88th overall by the New York Rangers in the 1989 NHL Entry Draft . Miller was named team captain at the start of the 1992 @-@ 93 season . He scored four goals and 13 assists in 30 games over the year , and was named to both the ECAC First All @-@ Star Team and the NCAA East Second All @-@ American Team . After four years at Vermont , he graduated with a degree in business . He finished his university career with 11 goals and 62 points in 122 games , later being named to Vermont 's All @-@ Time Men ? s Hockey Team , " The ECAC Years . "

= = Professional career = =

= = = Quebec Nordiques and Colorado Avalanche = = =

Though he was drafted by the Rangers in 1989 , Miller opted to go to university and complete his degree . It was while he was at university that Miller was traded by the Rangers . On January 17 , 1991 , he was sent to the Quebec Nordiques along with the Rangers 5th round draft choice (Bill Lindsay) in the 1991 NHL Entry Draft for Joe Cirella .

After graduating from university , Miller made his professional debut in 1993 for the Nordiques minor league affiliate , the Cornwall Aces of the American Hockey League . On January 15 , 1994 he made his NHL debut in Quebec against the Washington Capitals . Miller 's first professional season ended with one NHL game , and 64 AHL games , where he scored four goals and 10 assists . The next season he appeared in nine games for the Nordiques , earning three assists . Miller also played 76 games for the Aces , finishing with totals of four goals and 22 points .

On June 21 , 1995 , the Quebec Nordiques transferred to Denver and became the Colorado Avalanche . Miller joined the team in Colorado , and split the 1995 ? 96 season between Colorado and Cornwall . In 62 games with Cornwall , he had four goals and 23 assists , while going scorless in five games with the Avalanche . Because he didn 't appear in enough games , Miller was not considered as part of the Stanley Cup winning Avalanche team .

The 1996 ? 97 season was Miller 's first full season in the NHL . In a game against the Chicago Blackhawks on October 11 , 1996 , Miller scored his first NHL goal . He finished with five goals and 17 points while appearing in 56 games for the Avalanche , and his plus @-@ minus was a + 15 , the best in the NHL for rookie players . It also marked the NHL playoff debut for Miller , who had a goal and two assists in 17 playoff games . The following season , he had four points in 55 games for the Avalanche , while going pointless in seven playoff games . Miller had his most productive season in 1998 ? 99 . After scoring a career @-@ high 18 points in 76 games , Miller participated in 19 playoff games , with a career best five assists and six points . He would only play in 53 games the next season , but did suit up for every playoff game , scoring a goal and an assist in 17 games .

After 56 games with the Avalanche during the 2000 ? 01 season , where he had 13 points , Miller was traded for the second time in his career . On February 21 , 2001 Miller was sent to the Los

Angeles Kings by the Colorado Avalanche with Adam Deadmarsh , a player later to be named (Jared Aulin , who would be traded on March 22 , 2001) and Colorado 's 1st round choices in the 2001 (Dave Steckel) and 2003 (Brian Boyle) Entry Drafts for Rob Blake and Steven Reinprecht . Miller was not originally meant to be traded , but the Kings insisted he be part of the deal .

= = = Los Angeles Kings and Vancouver Canucks = = =

Miller would finish the 2000 ? 01 season with the Kings . In the final 13 games of the regular season , he had five assists , finishing with a career @-@ best 14 assists and matching his career high of 18 points in one season . He contributed an assist in 13 playoff games as the Kings played the Avalanche , Miller 's former team , who defeated Los Angeles as they went on to win the Stanley Cup for the second time .

In his first full season with the Kings , Miller played in 74 games for the team , scoring five goals and adding 12 assists during the 2001 ? 02 season . At the conclusion of the regular season , Miller was named the winner of several Kings team awards : best defenseman , best defensive player and the teams unsung hero . During the playoffs , he went pointless while playing in all seven of the Kings ' games . Abdominal surgery and a broken foot limited Miller to 49 games with the Kings the next season , recording one goal and five assists for six points .

In a game against the Atlanta Thrashers on December 10 , 2003 , Miller injured his neck . It would lead him to miss most of the 2003 ? 04 season , appearing in 35 games and scoring one goal and two assists . The 2004 ? 05 NHL lockout resulted in a cancelled 2004 ? 05 season . Unlike many other players , Miller did not play in a different league . He returned to play for the 2005 ? 06 season and earned eight assists in 56 games . For the first time in his career , Miller played in all 82 games during the 2006 ? 07 season , again scoring eight assists .

As an unrestricted free agent , Miller signed a one @-@ year contract for \$ 1 @. @ 5 million with the Vancouver Canucks on July 9 , 2007 , ending his time with the Kings . On December 18 , 2007 , Miller scored a goal against Martin Brodeur of the New Jersey Devils , his first goal in 193 games , a span lasting over four years . The goal , the game @-@ winner , marked the longest stretch of Miller 's career between scoring goals . In a game on March 6 against the Nashville Predators , Miller injured his shoulder and ended up missing the remainder of the season . Following the conclusion of the 2007 ? 08 season , in which he had eight assists in addition to the goal , Miller retired from hockey . In 2000 Miller had his first child , Grace Miller

= = International play = =

Aaron Miller has appeared for the United States in several international tournaments . His first appearance was at the 1991 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships . He scored a goal and an assist in eight games . Miller was also chosen to play in the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City . In six games , Miller went pointless as the Americans won the silver medal , and experience he referred to as " best part of [his] career . " Two years later , he joined the bronze medal @-@ winning American team at the 2004 Men 's World Ice Hockey Championships . He contributed an assist in nine games . Later that year he participated in the 2004 World Cup of Hockey , and appeared in 5 games . Miller made a return to the World Championships in 2005 , playing seven games and scoring two assists . He was named to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin , but pulled out due to back problems .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

All stats taken from NHL.com

= = Awards = =

= = = NCAA = = =

= = = Los Angeles Kings team awards = = =

= = Post @-@ Playing Career = =

Miller resides in Burlington , Vermont and is the owner of six Buffalo Wild Wings franchises with his business partner in Burlington , Concord , NH , Waterbury , CT , Plattsburgh , NY and Southington , CT . He also provided color commentary for select Vermont Catamounts men 's ice hockey radio broadcasts from 2009 to 2010 on AM 620 , WVMT .