

= Maxim Lapierre =

Maxim Lapierre (born March 29 , 1985) is a Canadian professional ice hockey forward currently playing for the HC Lugano of the NLA . Drafted out of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) , he was selected 61st overall in 2003 by the Montreal Canadiens . He spent parts of his first three professional seasons with the Canadiens ' minor league affiliate , the Hamilton Bulldogs of the American Hockey League (AHL) before playing his first full NHL season in 2008 ? 09 .

Lapierre spent five @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half seasons in the Canadiens organization before being traded to the Anaheim Ducks in December 2010 . Two months later , he was again traded , moving to the Vancouver Canucks , and helped the team to the 2011 Stanley Cup Finals , where they lost to the Boston Bruins . On July 5 , 2013 , Lapierre signed with the St. Louis Blues as a free agent . On January 27 , 2015 , Lapierre was traded from St. Louis to the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for Marcel Goc .

= = Early life = =

Lapierre was born in Saint @-@ Léonard , Quebec and grew up in Repentigny , Quebec . Beginning to play hockey at age nine , Lapierre 's midget team was based out of Cap @-@ de @-@ la @-@ Madeleine , Quebec . One of his teammates , Jean @-@ François Jacques , went on to play with him on the Hamilton Bulldogs , as well .

= = Playing career = =

= = = QMJHL = = =

During the 2001 ? 02 season , Lapierre made his Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) debut with the Montreal Rocket , appearing in nine games , during which time he scored two goals . Playing in his first full QMJHL season in 2002 ? 03 , Lapierre scored 22 goals and 43 points over 72 games . He added four points in seven playoff games . Following his rookie year in the juniors , Lapierre was selected in the second round , 61st overall , of the 2003 NHL Entry Draft by the Montreal Canadiens . Following his draft , Lapierre was returned to junior hockey early in the Canadiens ' 2003 training camp . Upon returning , his QMJHL club had relocated to Charlottetown , Prince Edward Island , to become the P.E.I. Rocket in 2003 ? 04 . Lapierre recorded a junior career @-@ high 61 points over 67 games in his third season with the Rocket . Remaining in junior ranks for a fourth season in 2004 ? 05 , he recorded 52 points over 69 games .

= = = Montreal Canadiens = = =

In the off @-@ season , he was signed by the Canadiens to a three @-@ year , entry @-@ level contract on July 28 , 2005 . Lapierre played his first professional season in the American Hockey League (AHL) with the Canadiens ' minor league affiliate , the Hamilton Bulldogs . He was called up to the NHL in November 2005 for a five @-@ day stint , playing his first NHL game on November 15 against the Florida Panthers . He registered three minutes of ice time in 4 ? 3 Canadiens win , his lone NHL game during the 2005 ? 06 season . In the AHL , Lapierre recorded 13 goals and 36 points over 73 games with the Bulldogs .

During the 2006 ? 07 season , Lapierre received four separate call @-@ ups from Hamilton . Playing in the first game of a call @-@ up in December , he registered his first career NHL point in a 4 ? 3 win against the Boston Bruins , earning the first assist on the game @-@ winning goal by Guillaume Latendresse on December 12 , 2006 . The following game , he scored his first NHL goal in a 4 ? 2 win against the Tampa Bay Lightning , tipping a Mike Komisarek shot past goaltender Marc Denis . In late @-@ January 2007 , he received his last call @-@ up of the campaign , remaining with the club until the end of the NHL regular season . Over 46 NHL games , he recorded

six goals and six assists , while also tallying 24 points over 37 games in the AHL .

With Montreal not qualifying for the 2007 Stanley Cup playoffs , Lapierre was sent back to the Bulldogs for their 2007 playoff season . Hamilton advanced to the Calder Cup Finals , where they defeated the Hershey Bears in five games . Lapierre scored a goal and an assist in Hamilton 's 2 ? 1 win in the championship @-@ deciding game . He totaled 12 points (six goals and six assists) in 22 playoff games .

After competing for a Canadiens roster spot in the 2007 NHL pre @-@ season , Lapierre was returned to the Bulldogs to start the 2007 ? 08 season . On December 5 , 2007 , he was recalled to the Canadiens , earning a role as the club 's third or fourth line centre . His time with the Canadiens increased as he spent 53 games in the NHL with seven goals and 18 points , while registering 14 points over 19 games in the AHL .

By the 2008 ? 09 campaign , Lapierre had established himself as a full @-@ time NHLer and earned a roster spot with the Canadiens out of training camp for the first time in his career . Just over a month into the season , he was elbowed in the head by opposing forward Jarkko Ruutu during a game against the Ottawa Senators on November 11 , 2008 . Lapierre was not injured on the play , while Ruutu received a two @-@ game suspension for the infraction . The following month , Lapierre recorded a Gordie Howe hat trick (a goal , an assist and a fight) in a 6 ? 2 win against the New York Rangers on December 4 , 2008 . Later that month , on December 29 , 2008 , Lapierre recorded his first career NHL hat @-@ trick during a 5 ? 2 win against the Florida Panthers . Lapierre had a career year in 2008 ? 09 , finishing with 15 goals and 13 assists for 28 points over 79 games . After going scoreless in four playoff games , as the Canadiens were eliminated in the first round by the Boston Bruins , it was revealed that Lapierre had played the majority of the season in pain with an ankle injury . He underwent surgery in the off @-@ season , recovering in time for the 2009 training camp .

Lapierre 's offensive production decreased to 14 points in 2009 ? 10 , his lowest total in the NHL since his rookie season . On March 5 , 2010 , Lapierre was suspended four games for a hit against opposing forward Scott Nichol during a game against the San Jose Sharks the previous day . Nichol left the game injured after Lapierre pushed him from behind , causing him to crash into the end boards . In addition to the suspension , Lapierre lost approximately \$ 14 @,@ 000 in pay , which went to the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) ' s emergency fund . In the 2010 playoffs , Lapierre helped the Canadiens advance to the Eastern Conference Semi @-@ finals , scoring goals in Game 6 of the first round against the Washington Capitals and the second round against the Pittsburgh Penguins , both elimination games . The Canadiens , however , were eliminated in the third round by the Philadelphia Flyers ; Lapierre finished the playoff season with three goals and one assist in 19 games .

= = = Anaheim and Vancouver = = =

After five @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half seasons playing within the Canadiens organization , Lapierre was traded to the Anaheim Ducks in exchange for defenceman Brett Festerling and a fifth @-@ round draft pick in 2012 on December 31 , 2010 . He made his Ducks debut on January 5 , 2011 , in a 4 ? 1 loss to the Nashville Predators . The following game , he recorded his first point as a Duck , assisting on a goal by Matt Beleskey in a 6 ? 0 win against the Columbus Blue Jackets . Lapierre played 21 games with the Ducks , recording three assists in that span , before being dealt again prior to the NHL trade deadline on February 28 , 2011 . He was sent to the Vancouver Canucks , along with forward MacGregor Sharp , in exchange for minor @-@ league forward Joel Perrault and a third @-@ round draft pick in 2012 .

Canucks Head Coach Alain Vigneault had reportedly recommended Lapierre to General Manager Mike Gillis , having coached Lapierre in the QMJHL . Upon his arrival in Vancouver , Lapierre 's reputation as an agitator was addressed by Vigneault and he was asked to reduce activity in between whistles , such as trash talking and unnecessary hits . Lapierre scored his first goal as a Canuck on March 16 , 2011 , in a 4 ? 2 win against the Colorado Avalanche . While the Canucks originally acquired Lapierre with the intention of playing him on the fourth line , he soon moved up to

the third with the injury of Manny Malhotra late in the season . Between Montreal , Anaheim and Vancouver , he finished the season with six goals and six assists over 78 games . Centring the third line with wingers Raffi Torres and Jannik Hansen during the 2011 playoffs , Lapierre added three goals and five points over 25 games . He helped Vancouver reach the Stanley Cup Finals for the first time in 17 years . During the Finals , Lapierre scored the only goal of Game 5 against the Boston Bruins , helping Vancouver to a 1 ? 0 win . With a 3 ? 2 lead in the series , the Canucks went on to lose the next two contests , losing the Stanley Cup in seven games . Set to become an restricted free agent in the off @-@ season , Lapierre was re @-@ signed by Vancouver to a two @-@ year , \$ 2 million contract on June 27 , 2011 .

= = = St. Louis Blues = = =

Lapierre agreed to a two @-@ year , \$ 2 @.@ 2 million contract with the St. Louis Blues . On October 15 , 2013 against the San Jose Sharks , Lapierre checked Dan Boyle into the boards , hospitalizing him and causing a fight between the two teams ; Lapierre was ejected from the game . He was subsequently suspended , and a disciplinary hearing was held . Lapierre was suspended for five games by NHL Director of Player Safety Brendan Shanahan on October 18 , 2013 .

= = = Pittsburgh Penguins = = =

On January 27 , 2015 , Lapierre was traded from the Blues to the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for Marcel Goc . Lapierre played a key role during the 2015 playoffs , getting under the skin of the New York Rangers by drawing penalties , instigating fights , taunting and most notably doing play @-@ by @-@ play towards the Rangers ' bench . He played an important role on the face @-@ off dot and on the penalty kill , frustrating the New York Rangers and his former head coach in Vancouver , Alain Vigneault .

= = = Europe = = =

On September 1 , 2015 , Lapierre sign a one @-@ year contract with Modo Hockey of the Swedish Hockey League . The contract comes with an option for a second year . On January 20 , 2016 Lapierre 's asked for his contract to be terminated with Modo Hockey . After beginning the season with coach Larry Huras who was later relieved of his duties as Modo coach . Andreas Johansson the new coach brought in a system that was not favourable for Lapierre 's style of play . Maxim Lapierre who was leading Modo in scoring posting 8G , 11A , 19P in 34 games asked for his contract to be formally terminated . Lapierre was the third NHL player to leave Modo during the 2015 ? 16 season , both Ryan Whitney and Kyle Wilson left prior to Lapierre 's departure as well . On January 25 , 2016 , he signed a contract with HC Lugano of the Swiss NLA for the remainder of the season .

= = Playing style = =

Lapierre is known primarily as a checking forward , centring either the third or fourth line . He has a reputation as an agitator , distracting and provoking opposing players to take penalties . He plays with an aggressive edge and led all Canadiens forward in hits in his last full season with the club . Defensively responsible , he earns time on the penalty kill . In 2008 ? 09 , he ranked third on the Canadiens in average short handed time on ice per game .

= = Career statistics = =