Michael Grabner

Michael @-@ René Grabner (born 5 October 1987) is an Austrian professional ice hockey player for the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League (NHL) . Grabner grew up playing for the local team in Villach , EC VSV . He moved to North America at the age of 17 and joined the Spokane Chiefs of the major junior Western Hockey League (WHL) to further his hockey career . After his second season with the Chiefs , he was selected 14th overall by the Vancouver Canucks in the 2006 NHL Entry Draft . Grabner played one more season in the WHL before moving to the American Hockey League (AHL) , where he played two seasons in the Canucks ' farm system . He was traded during the 2010 NHL Entry Draft to the Florida Panthers , but was claimed by the New York Islanders after Florida placed him on waivers with the intention of assigning him to their AHL affiliate . Grabner spent five seasons with the Islanders before being traded to the Maple Leafs in 2015 . Internationally Grabner has appeared for Austria in both junior and senior tournaments , and played in the 2014 Winter Olympics .

Playing career

Early career

Born in Villach , Grabner began playing hockey at the age of five . He joined his EC VSV 's junior team , scoring 10 points over 13 games in 2002 ? 03 . The following year , he improved to 32 goals and five assists over 23 games , while also debuting with EC VSV 's men 's team in the Austrian Hockey League . In the subsequent off @-@ season , he was selected 22nd overall by the Spokane Chiefs in the Canadian Hockey League (CHL) Import Draft . Grabner believed that playing major junior in North America would help his goal of making it to the NHL . He had been exposed to Chiefs general manager Tim Speltz through a connection with his head coach in EC VSV , Greg Holst .

Grabner left Austria to join Spokane for the 2004 ? 05 WHL season , but suffered a broken collarbone in his first exhibition game . He missed approximately a month with the injury and scored his first WHL goal on 29 October 2004 , in a 4 ? 2 loss against the Seattle Thunderbirds . He went on to record 13 goals and 24 points in his rookie season .

The following season , he improved to 36 goals and 50 points . Playing in his NHL draft year , he competed in the CHL Top Prospects Game and scored a goals and two assists . Shortly thereafter , he notched his first WHL career hat trick on 4 February 2007 , in a 7 ? 5 win against the Tri @-@ City Americans . Grabner 's draft stock went up significantly in the second half of the season , as he scored 22 goals in the final 23 games of 2005 ? 06 .

He entered the 2006 NHL Entry Draft having been ranked 23rd overall among prospects playing in North America by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau . He was chosen 14th overall by the Vancouver Canucks . Grabner was admittedly surprised to be chosen in that position of the draft , as he was projected to be a late first @-@ round to early second @-@ round pick . He had been scouted as highly skilled offensively with his speed and his shot his strengths .

He participated in his first NHL training camp in 2006 , before being returned to the Chiefs for the 2006 ? 07 season . Early in his third WHL season , he suffered a hip pointer after receiving a slash . Due to lingering pain from the injury he was in and out of the lineup for several games before being sidelined for a month in November and early @-@ December . In mid @-@ February , he recorded six goals in a span of three games to be named WHL and CHL Player of the Week (12 ? 18 February 2007) . Grabner with 39 goals and 16 assists in 55 games for a point @-@ per @-@ game pace over the course of the season . However , he was criticized by his coach for his lack of physical play .

Manitoba Moose and Vancouver Canucks

After the Chiefs were eliminated from the 2007 WHL playoffs , Grabner joined the Canucks '

American Hockey League affiliate , the Manitoba Moose for their final two games of the regular season and the playoffs . Grabner joined the Moose for his first full professional season in 2007 ? 08 , recording 44 points in 74 games as a rookie .

The following season , on 26 February 2009 , Grabner was recalled by the Canucks to replace Pavol Demitra who suffered a fractured finger the night before . However , later that day , Grabner was reassigned to Manitoba after Demitra was deemed fit to play . He finished his second season with the Moose improving to 30 goals , tied for the team lead with Jason Krog , and 48 points in 66 games , helping the Moose to the league 's best regular season record . After eliminating the Toronto Marlies and Grand Rapids Griffins in the first two rounds of the 2009 playoffs , Grabner scored the series @-@ clinching goal in the sixth game of the semifinals , a 3 ? 1 win over the Houston Aeros . Grabner finished with 17 points in 20 games as the Moose finished as Calder Cup runners @-@ up .

Coming off a successful second AHL season , Grabner was expected to challenge for a roster spot at the Canucks ' 2009 ? 10 training camp , but was sent back down to the Moose before the start of the regular season . After a quick start with the Moose , however , scoring four goals in five games , he was called up by the Canucks on 14 October 2009 , to replace injured star winger Daniel Sedin . Grabner then scored his first NHL goal on 21 October on the powerplay against Antti Niemi in a 3 ? 2 win against the Chicago Blackhawks . Nine games into his initial stint with the Canucks , however , he injured himself during a pre @-@ game warmup on 1 November . Grabner was kicking a soccer ball around with teammates before a game against the Colorado Avalanche when he rolled over his ankle .

Upon recovering , he returned to the Moose on 27 December 2009 , until being recalled on 17 March 2010 , following an injury to Canucks forward Mikael Samuelsson . On 2 April , Grabner scored his first NHL career hat trick in a 5 ? 4 shootout win against the Anaheim Ducks . Remaining with the club for the 2010 playoffs , Grabner notched his first career NHL post @-@ season goal against Antti Niemi (the same goaltender he scored his first regular season goal against) on 1 May 2010 , in the opening game of the second round against the Chicago Blackhawks .

= = = New York Islanders = = =

On 25 June 2010 , during the 2010 NHL Entry Draft , Grabner was traded , along with Steve Bernier and the Canucks first round choice in the draft , the twenty @-@ fifth selection (used to select Quinton Howden) to the Florida Panthers for Keith Ballard and Victor Oreskovich . Grabner attended the Panthers training camp , where it was expected he would compete for a position on the team , but failed to do so . On 3 October 2010 , it was announced Grabner was placed on waivers by the Panthers , who intended to assign him to their AHL affiliate , the Rochester Americans . However he was claimed by the New York Islanders two days later .

He played his first game with the Islanders on 11 October 2010 , against the New York Rangers . His first point with the Islanders came on 13 October . Grabner 's first goal with the Islanders came against Craig Anderson of the Colorado Avalanche on 16 October . In January 2011 Grabner was selected to participate in the 2011 SuperSkills as one of twelve rookies in the competition , winning the fastest skater competition with times of 14 @.@ 061 and 14 @.@ 238 . In February Grabner led all rookies in scoring with 10 goals and 16 points . He also had a six @-@ game goal scoring streak which was the longest rookie streak since the 2006 ? 07 season when Evgeni Malkin also scored in six straight . For his efforts Grabner was named rookie of the month . He finished his rookie year with 34 goals and 52 points , his goal total led all rookies , as well as the Islanders . Ranking third in points by a rookie Grabner earned a Calder Memorial Trophy nomination for NHL rookie of the year . Following his successful rookie year the Islanders signed Grabner to a five @-@ year , $ 15 million contract extension on 13 May 2011 , backloaded to start at $ 1M and then increase by another $ 1M each year .

On 21 October 2013 , Grabner was suspended for two games for an illegal check to the head of Carolina Hurricanes forward Nathan Gerbe .

= = = Toronto Maple Leafs = = =

On 17 September 2015 , after five seasons with the Islanders , he was traded to Toronto Maple Leafs in exchange for Taylor Beck , Carter Verhaeghe , Matt Finn , Tom Nilsson , and goaltender Christopher Gibson and made assistant captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs .

= = = New York Rangers = = =

With his freedom from the Maple Leafs obtained , on July 1 , 2016 , Grabner signed as a free agent to a two @-@ year deal with the New York Rangers .

= = International play = =

Grabner made his international debut with Austria in Division I play of the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championships in Minsk , Belarus . Underaged for the tournament at sixteen @-@ years @-@ old , he scored three goals and an assist in five games . The following year , he competed for Austria in Division I of the 2005 World Junior Championships , held in Great Britain . He recorded three points in four games as Austria finished third in Group A. Several months later , he was named to his second under @-@ 18 team for the 2005 IIHF World U18 Championships , where Austria again competed in Division I play . Grabner tied for second in team @-@ scoring with four goals and an assists over five games . Austria finished in fifth place out of six teams in Group A , coming within a loss of being relegated to Division II for the next year . He joined Austria in their qualifying tournament for the 2010 Winter Olympics in early 2009 and led the four team tournament in scoring with five goals ; Austria finished second to Germany and failed to qualify for the Olympics .
It was during the 2012 World Championships that Grabner first played for the Austrian national team . Austria participated in Division IA , the second tier of the World Championships , and earned a promotion to the elite level for 2013 .
He also represented Austria in the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi , where he scored five goals and made one assist . He scored a hat @-@ trick against Finland . He finished tied for first in goal @-@ scoring and tied for fifth in points . He led Austria in scoring .

= = Personal life = =

On 31 March 2011 , Grabner and wife Heather , whom he met while playing in Spokane , welcomed a son .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = Awards and achievements = =

NHL Rookie of the Month - February 2011
NHL All @-@ Star Game Skills Fastest Skater 2011
Named as a 2011 finalist for the Calder Trophy as NHL rookie of the year .
NHL All @-@ Rookie Team ? 2011
2014 Winter Olympics ? Goal Scoring Leader (5) (tied)