

= Teemu Selänne =

Teemu Ilmari Selänne (Finnish pronunciation : [ˈte̞mu ˈilmɑri ˈselæ̌nɛ]) , nicknamed " The Finnish Flash " (born July 3 , 1970) , is a Finnish former professional ice hockey winger . He began his professional career in 1989 ? 90 with Jokerit of the SM @-@ liiga and played 21 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Winnipeg Jets , Anaheim Ducks , San Jose Sharks and Colorado Avalanche . Selänne is the highest scoring Finn in NHL history , and one of the highest overall ; he retired in 2014 11th all @-@ time with 684 goals and 15th with 1 @,@ 457 points . He holds numerous team scoring records for both the Winnipeg / Arizona franchise and the Anaheim Ducks . His jersey number 8 was retired by the Ducks in 2015 .

Selänne was a first round selection of the Jets , tenth overall , at the 1988 NHL Entry Draft , but initially remained in Finland . He led the SM @-@ liiga in scoring as part of Jokerit 's Kanada @-@ malja winning team in 1991 ? 92 before moving to North America . He broke into the NHL by scoring 76 goals in 1992 ? 93 . It remains the league record for most goals by a rookie and earned him the Calder Memorial Trophy as the top first @-@ year player in the NHL . He has scored 50 goals in a season three times and topped 100 points on four occasions . He played in 10 NHL All @-@ Star Games , was named to four post @-@ season All @-@ Star Teams and won the inaugural Maurice " Rocket " Richard Trophy in 1998 ? 99 as the league 's leading goal scorer . He was named recipient of the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy in 2005 ? 06 for perseverance and dedication to the game and was a member of the Ducks ' 2007 Stanley Cup championship team .

Internationally , Selänne was a long @-@ time member of the Finnish National Team . He played in five World Championships , winning a silver and bronze medal , and in three Canada Cup / World Cup of Hockey tournaments . A six @-@ time Olympian , Selänne helped Finland win three bronze medals and , in 2006 , a silver medal . He is the all @-@ time leader in scoring at the Olympic ice hockey tournament with 43 points . A national star in his native country , Selänne is the subject of a top grossing biographical documentary in Finland .

= = Early life = =

Selänne was born on July 3 , 1970 , in Helsinki , Finland . He has a twin brother , Paavo and another brother , Panu . He was raised by his mother Liisa Viitanen and father Ilmari Selänne until they divorced in the late 1980s . The family lived for a time in Rauma before settling in Espoo around the time Teemu was 10 years old .

Selänne played three sports as a youth : hockey , bandy and association football . He played hockey and football with and against Paavo , though his brother ultimately gave up on both sports in favour of field hockey , where he was a member of numerous Finnish and European championship teams . Teemu was small as a youth , creating in him a competitive spirit and drive to improve his skills . Focusing on hockey , he eventually joined the junior squad of Jokerit in Helsinki .

As a young adult , Selänne attended business school for two years and served a mandatory one @-@ year stint with the Finnish Defence Forces . During his tenure with Jokerit , he also spent three years as a kindergarten teacher . His experiences visiting kids at Helsinki 's children 's hospital led to him co @-@ founding the Godfathers ' Foundation , an organization that raises money for ill children .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Jokerit = = =

Selänne played three years of junior hockey in Jokerit 's development program , culminating in 1987 ? 88 with a 43 @-@ goal , 66 point season in 33 games and a Finnish Junior A championship . His performance prompted the National Hockey League (NHL) ' s Winnipeg Jets to select him with their first round pick , tenth overall , at the 1988 NHL Entry Draft . Selänne attended training camp

with the Jets , but returned to Finland owing to his military service .

After graduating from junior hockey , Selänne joined Jokerit 's senior team in the 1 . Divisioona in 1988 ? 89 and scored 69 points in 35 games . Jokerit moved up to the SM @-@ liiga in 1989 ? 90 , and while Selänne missed the majority of the season due to a leg injury , he scored 12 points in 11 games played . Playing a full season in 1990 ? 91 , Selänne scored 33 goals and 58 points in 42 games . He was named the recipient of the Raimo Kilpiö trophy as the league 's most gentlemanly player . Selänne 's best season in the SM @-@ liiga came in 1991 ? 92 when he recorded 62 points in 44 games . With 39 goals , he won the Aarne Honkavaara trophy as top goal scorer . He added 17 points in ten playoff games , and scored the winning goal as Jokerit won the Kanada @-@ malja as SM @-@ liiga playoff champion .

= = = Winnipeg Jets = = =

The Jets ' organizational philosophy at the time was to allow their European draft picks to develop in their native countries , but by 1991 , the franchise was working to bring him to Winnipeg . As Selänne had not yet signed a contract when he chose to play in North America for the 1992 ? 93 season , he was considered a restricted free agent . The Calgary Flames signed him to an offer sheet on a three @-@ year contract worth \$ 2 @. @ 7 million , \$ 1 @. @ 5 million higher than what the Jets had been offering . Though concerned about paying such a high salary , Winnipeg exercised its right to match the offer . Selänne made his NHL debut on October 6 , 1992 , and recorded two assists in a 4 ? 1 Jets victory over the Detroit Red Wings . He scored his first career NHL goal two nights later against goaltender Jeff Hackett of the San Jose Sharks .

Selänne scored his first career hat @-@ trick in his fifth contest and had 11 goals in his first 12 NHL games . He finished the season with 16 multi @-@ goal games , including four hat @-@ tricks and a four @-@ goal game , en route to breaking the NHL record for goals by a rookie . He surpassed Mike Bossy 's record of 53 goals on March 2 , 1993 , against the Quebec Nordiques and on March 23 , scored his 110th point , against the Toronto Maple Leafs , to break Peter ??astný 's rookie points record . Selänne finished the season tied for fifth in scoring with 132 points , and his 76 goals tied with Alexander Mogilny for the League lead . His offensive exploits helped pull the Jets into the 1993 Stanley Cup playoffs , where they lost a first @-@ round matchup to the Vancouver Canucks . In recognition of his season , Selänne was voted the recipient of the Calder Memorial Trophy as rookie of the year , was named to the First All @-@ Star Team and played in his first of ten career NHL All @-@ Star Games .

Unable to maintain a similar pace in 1993 ? 94 ? indeed , his rookie totals in goals and points would both prove his career high by more than 20 ? Selänne 's offensive production declined by 30 percent midway through the season . He scored his 100th career goal on January 12 , 1994 , against the Buffalo Sabres , reaching the milestone in his 130th game , the second @-@ fastest in NHL history and only one game later than Bossy . Selänne finished the season with 54 points in 51 games , but missed the final 33 games of the season after suffering a severed Achilles tendon in a January 26 game against the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim . The 1994 ? 95 NHL lockout resulted in Selänne splitting the season between Jokerit and the Jets . While playing in Finland , Selänne was named to the tournament all @-@ star team as Jokerit won the 1995 European Cup .

Selänne 's career in Winnipeg came to an end midway through the 1995 ? 96 season . He was leading the Jets with 72 points when , on February 6 , 1996 , he was traded to Anaheim . The Mighty Ducks sent first @-@ round draft picks Chad Kilger and Oleg Tverdovsky , along with a third @-@ round selection at the 1996 NHL Entry Draft , in exchange for Selänne , Marc Chouinard and a fourth @-@ round draft pick . Selänne was upset when notified of the deal during practice and left the Winnipeg Arena without speaking to anyone .

= = = Anaheim , San Jose , and Colorado = = =

Following a period of adjustment , Selänne gained an appreciation for his new team ; he quickly came to call the deal the best thing that ever happened to him . He was paired with Paul Kariya ,

whom he met at the 1996 NHL All @-@ Star Game , and the duo were counted on to lead the young franchise to a post @-@ season berth for the first time . Selänne scored 36 points in 28 games with the Ducks , and combined with his Jets totals , finished the 1995 ? 96 season with 108 points . He followed it up with a third 100 @-@ point season in 1996 ? 97 , finishing with 109 , including 51 goals . He was named to the First All @-@ Star Team for a second time , while he and Kariya led the Mighty Ducks into the franchise 's first playoff appearance in 1997 . Despite being criticized as being a " one @-@ line team , " Anaheim defeated the Phoenix Coyotes in the first round before being eliminated by the Detroit Red Wings .

The 1998 All @-@ Star Game was Selänne 's fifth , and after scoring a hat @-@ trick , he became the first European player to be named the MVP in the All @-@ Star Game 's 46 @-@ year history . He finished the 1997 ? 98 season with his third career 50 @-@ goal season ; his total of 52 tied Peter Bondra for the NHL lead , and he scored his 500th career point on January 12 , 1998 , with an assist against the Los Angeles Kings . He was a finalist for both the Hart Memorial Trophy as the League 's MVP (finishing third) and the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy for gentlemanly conduct (as the runner @-@ up) , and was named to the Second All @-@ Star Team . The NHL created the Maurice " Rocket " Richard Trophy in 1998 ? 99 to be presented to the League 's leading goal scorer ; Selänne became its inaugural winner following a 47 @-@ goal season .

An 85 @-@ point season followed in 1999 ? 2000 , and he was the Mighty Ducks ' leading scorer with 59 points through 61 games in 2000 ? 01 . Anaheim , however , sat in last place in the Western Conference , and on March 5 , 2001 , chose to make a trade . Selänne was sent to San Jose in exchange for Jeff Friesen , Steve Shields and a second @-@ round selection in the 2003 NHL Entry Draft . Selänne 's debut with the Sharks was delayed by two weeks as he underwent minor surgery to remove loose cartilage in his knee the following day . After finishing the season with 13 points in 12 games with San Jose , Selänne led the Sharks with 29 goals in 2001 ? 02 . He also led the team in both goals (28 ; tied) and points (64) in 2002 ? 03 . As the Sharks fell out of the playoff race , they looked to make changes ; the New Jersey Devils sought to acquire Selänne , but he exercised a no trade clause in his contract and blocked the deal .

Selänne then declined an option in his contract that would have paid \$ 6 @. @ 5 million in 2003 ? 04 and instead opted to sign a one @-@ year , \$ 5 @. @ 8 million contract with the Colorado Avalanche , where he was joined by former Anaheim teammate Paul Kariya . The pair chose to sign with the Avalanche together in the belief it was their best chance at winning the Stanley Cup . Their hope failed to materialize , however , as Selänne endured a disastrous season in which he scored only 16 goals and 32 points ? the lowest totals of his career to that date ? and was ultimately relegated to Colorado 's fourth line , but was also held out of the lineup as a healthy scratch during a playoff game . He struggled throughout the year with knee problems that ultimately required surgery , his third such procedure , and with the 2004 ? 05 season canceled by a labour dispute , took the time off to recover .

= = = Return to Anaheim = = =

A free agent when the NHL resumed play in 2005 ? 06 , Selänne returned to Anaheim by signing a one @-@ year , \$ 1 million contract with the Mighty Ducks . During a resurgent season , he scored his 1,000th career point on January 30 , 2006 , with a goal in a 4 ? 3 victory over Los Angeles . Selänne completed the season with 40 goals and 90 points , both of which led the Mighty Ducks , and he was named the recipient of the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy for dedication and perseverance .

After reaching the Western Conference Final in the 2006 playoffs , the newly renamed Anaheim Ducks entered the 2006 ? 07 season with high expectations ; the team brought Selänne back with a one @-@ year , \$ 3 @. @ 75 million contract . He reached several milestones during the season : Selänne became the 36th player in NHL history , and second Finn after Jari Kurri , to score 500 goals , on November 22 , 2006 , against Colorado . On December 31 , he played his 1,000th NHL game . As part of a season in which he again led Anaheim in goals (48) and points (94) , Selänne played in his tenth All @-@ Star Game in 2007 , and scored his first hat @-@ trick in six years (the

19th of his career) on January 12 , 2007 . It was the same day he spoke with a friend in Finland with terminal cancer and whom asked to be sent the game puck if Selänne had a three @-@ goal game . Finally , he scored his 301st goal as a Duck on February 18 , 2007 , to break Paul Kariya 's franchise record .

Early in the 2007 playoffs , Selänne became Anaheim 's all @-@ time leading playoff scorer when he recorded his 30th point as a Duck with an assist on April 13 against the Minnesota Wild . The Ducks defeated the Wild , Vancouver Canucks and Detroit Red Wings to reach the Final ; it was the first time in Selänne 's career that he played in the NHL 's championship series . As the sentimental favourite to win the Stanley Cup , his teammates motivated themselves to win the title for his benefit ; Ducks goaltender Jean @-@ Sébastien Giguère noted , " We don 't have any better teammate . He 's a guy who always has fun . He deserves this and if we can help him along the way , that would be great . I 'd just love to see Teemu win this thing . " Selänne finished the playoffs with 15 points in 21 games , and after 14 NHL seasons , the 36 @-@ year @-@ old Selänne raised the Stanley Cup with his teammates after defeating the Ottawa Senators in five games .

Following the Cup win , Selänne contemplated retirement . He remained undecided on a return ? and as a free agent , out of the Ducks lineup to begin the 2007 ? 08 season ? until he finally chose to return and signed a one @-@ year contract with Anaheim on January 28 , 2008 . He made his return on February 5 against the New York Islanders , and the Ducks posted the League 's best record from that point to the end of the regular season by winning 20 of 26 games . In his third game back , Selänne scored his 670th point as a member of the Ducks with an assist in a 4 ? 2 victory over the Calgary Flames . With it , he broke Kariya 's franchise record of 669 .

Selänne returned to the Ducks in 2008 ? 09 and signed a two @-@ year contract . He missed several weeks of the season due to a quad muscle injury suffered when he was cut by his own skate following a hit by Denis Grebeshkov of the Edmonton Oilers , but appeared in 65 games and scored 54 points . He played his 1,100th game during the season , became the sixth European player to score 1 @,@ 200 career points and appeared in his 100th career playoff game . Selänne reached additional milestones in 2009 ? 10 , as he became the 18th player in NHL history to score 600 goals , accomplishing the feat on March 21 , 2010 , against the Colorado Avalanche and upon scoring his 602nd goal on April 2 against the Vancouver Canucks , surpassing his childhood idol , Jari Kurri .

Selänne finished eighth in NHL scoring in 2010 ? 11 with 31 goals and 49 assists in 73 games . His 80 points was the third @-@ highest in NHL history by a player over the age of 40 (Gordie Howe , 103 and Johnny Bucyk , 83) . He also scored his 1,300th point , achieving the mark with a two @-@ goal performance on January 16 , 2011 , against Edmonton . Questions about whether Selänne would return for another NHL season had become an annual topic of discussion , and his decision to return for 2011 ? 12 was delayed by a knee operation that left him uncertain if he would be capable of playing . Nonetheless , Selänne appeared in every game for the Ducks and became the oldest player in NHL history to play an entire 82 @-@ game season while leading the team with 66 points . Sixteen years after the original Jets relocated , a new Winnipeg Jets franchise joined the NHL , and fans in the Manitoba capital continued to view Selänne as a local hero . In his first return to Winnipeg , he was cheered by exuberant fans who booed every other Ducks player . Selänne was named to the Western Conference roster for the 2012 NHL All @-@ Star Game , but declined his invitation and asked the League to instead send his teammate Corey Perry .

Following a 24 @-@ point effort in the lockout @-@ shortened 2012 ? 13 season , Selänne announced that 2013 ? 14 would be the 21st and final season of his NHL career . He missed several games early in the season after he was struck in the face by an errant stick that knocked out several teeth and required 40 stitches to close cuts . Selänne recorded 27 points in 64 games for the Ducks ; his final regular season game , a 3 ? 2 victory over Colorado , was a celebration of his career . He wore the captain 's " C " in place of Ryan Getzlaf for the game and as it neared conclusion , received standing ovations from the Anaheim crowd each time he took a shift . Selänne was named the game 's first , second and third star following the game and took a celebratory lap with Colorado goaltender and former Anaheim teammate Jean @-@ Sébastien Giguère , who was also contemplating retirement .

Selänne 's made his final post @-@ season appearance during the 2014 playoffs . He had six points in 12 games , but was also held out of the lineup for one game against the Dallas Stars , a decision that angered Ducks fans . He played his final game on May 16 , 2014 , as the Ducks were eliminated by Los Angeles . Following the contest , Selänne was saluted by fans , teammates and opponents alike , and took a final lap around the rink .

= = = International = = =

Selänne 's international debut came with the Finnish national junior team . He recorded 16 points in six games at the 1988 European Junior Championship and was named to the tournament all @-@ star team . After participating in the 1989 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships for the sixth place Finns , Selänne made his debut with the senior team at the 1991 World Championship where he finished third in tournament scoring with 11 points for the fifth @-@ place finishers . After playing in the 1991 Canada Cup , he made his Olympic debut at the 1992 Albertville Games . Selänne tied for the tournament scoring lead with seven goals , and was tied for fourth in overall scoring at 11 points .

It was four years before Selänne returned to international play ; he appeared in the 1996 World Championship and the 1996 World Cup of Hockey and averaged over one point per game in both tournaments as Finland finished fifth each time . At the 1998 Winter Olympics , Selänne finished with ten points in five games . He was the tournament 's leading scorer on a Finnish team that he described in 2003 as the best he ever played on and the best in the tournament , but lost the semifinal , 7 ? 4 to Russia . He suffered an abdominal muscle injury that prevented him from playing in the third place game , which Finland won 3 ? 2 over Canada ; Selänne and his teammates ended the tournament as the bronze medal winners .

The Finns finished one position higher at the 1999 World Championship ; The tournament 's medal round was conducted in a two @-@ game series format followed by a ten @-@ minute sudden victory overtime if the each team wins one game . Finland and Sweden split their semifinal , but the Finns advanced to the final in the overtime period after Selänne set up Marko Tuomainen 's winning goal . The Czech Republic defeated Finland to capture the gold medal , also in a sudden victory period . Selänne finished the tournament with 11 points , was named to the all @-@ star team and was voted the most valuable player of the World Championship .

Selänne served as the Finnish captain at the 2002 Winter Olympics and led his nation to an important preliminary round victory over Russia , however he had only three goals and no assists in four games as the Finns finished in sixth place . The World Championship was held in Finland , and the hosts were hailed as the favourite to win the title . Though Selänne led the tournament with eight goals , Finland lost their quarterfinal match against Sweden and finished fifth overall .

The 2004 World Cup of Hockey was played after Selänne 's difficult NHL season with Colorado . For Selänne , the tournament was about recovering his joy at playing hockey . The Finns went undefeated to reach the final , but Selänne and his teammates had to settle for second place after losing the championship game to Canada , 3 ? 2 . Returning to the national team for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin , Selänne joined Jere Lehtinen and Saku Koivu on what The Hockey News called the best team Finland has ever produced . The Finns outscored their opposition 19 ? 2 in the group stage , then defeated the United States and shut @-@ out Russia in the semi @-@ final . The Finns , however , were overcome in the final by Sweden , 3 ? 2 , and were relegated to the silver medal . Selänne scored six goals and 11 points in the tournament , was named to the all @-@ star team and received the Directorate Award as top forward .

Selänne stated he would retire from international competition after a bronze medal @-@ winning performance followed at the 2008 IIHF World Championship . However , he returned to play in his fifth Olympic tournament at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics . Selänne became the all @-@ time leading scorer in Olympic hockey history on February 19 , 2010 , as he recorded his 37th point in competition in a game against Germany . The Finns won the bronze medal with a 5 ? 3 victory over Slovakia in the third @-@ place game .

Selänne was named to the Finnish team for the 2014 Sochi Olympics , which marked his sixth

appearance at the tournament . In the quarterfinals , Selänne scored a goal and an assist as the Finns ousted the host Russians from the tournament , then added two goals in the bronze medal match in a 5 ? 0 victory over the United States . The 43 @-@ year @-@ old Selänne became the oldest player to win a medal in Olympic hockey . He was named most valuable player of the Olympic tournament as selected by the media , and added six points to his Olympic record career total of 43 .

= = Playing style = =

Selänne 's primary attribute is his skating speed . Nicknamed the " Finnish Flash " , he uses his speed to evade opposition defenders . According to defenceman Nicklas Lidström , " He 's one of those snipers that can put the puck on net because he finds openings and he knows where to be on the ice . Former teammate Jean @-@ Sébastien Giguère added , " He 's just a very elegant player . He 's got a very nice stride to his skating , he plays with a lot of energy , a lot of enthusiasm ... with the skill he has , it just makes for a heck of a great player . "

An elite offensive player , Selänne is the highest scoring Finnish @-@ born player in NHL history . He ended his career with 684 goals , 11th all @-@ time in NHL history , and 1 @,@ 457 points , 15th best . His 110 game @-@ winning goals tied him with Brett Hull for fourth all @-@ time . Selänne is one of eight players to score 70 or more goals in one season . He holds numerous records , including most goals , 76 , and points , 132 , by a rookie . Both totals are also single @-@ season records for the Winnipeg Jets / Phoenix Coyotes franchise . The holder of most major franchise records for the Ducks , Selänne leads the team at 457 goals , 531 assists , 988 points and 966 games played . He also holds single season records with 52 goals and 109 points . Even before his playing career had ended , the Ducks announced that Selänne 's number 8 would be the first number retired by the franchise . The team formally retired his number on January 11 , 2015 , prior to a game against the Jets .

= = Personal life = =

Selänne and his wife Sirpa have four children : sons Eemil , Eetu and Leevi , and daughter Veera . They are residents of Coto de Caza , California , a gated community in southern Orange County . Selänne is the primary partner in a restaurant in nearby Laguna Beach which he started with longtime friend Jim Shumate , an Orange County restaurateur ; He had previously owned four restaurants in Finland and intends to be involved in the business at the conclusion of his hockey career .

Selänne is known for his fun @-@ loving personality and is known to make an effort to sign autographs and shake hands . He is well @-@ respected in the NHL by players , coaches , and fans , including those of opposing teams . Selänne considers Paul Kariya and Joe Sakic to be the best friends he earned in the NHL , and both attended his final regular season game against the Avalanche .

An avid car collector , Selänne has entered the World Rally Championship (WRC) twice , finishing the Rally Finland 33rd overall in 1997 and 24th in 1998 . He raced under the pseudonym " Teukka Salama " (" Teddy Flash " in English) . In 1999 Selänne was involved in a crash while practicing for a rally race in his native Finland , an incident that was national news in the country . Due to Finnish laws that set fines based on an offender 's salary , Selänne received a \$ 50 @,@ 000 fine for the incident .

A popular figure in Finland , Selänne 's success in the NHL has been credited with aiding the growth of hockey in the country . He was once named the sexiest man in Finland by fashion magazine Eeva , and is the subject of the 2013 documentary film Selänne , directed by JP Siili , and which chronicles his life . The film became the highest grossing documentary in Finnish history within a month of its September 27 release , and was the third highest grossing locally produced film of the year .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = Awards and achievements = =

= = Records = =