

= Shutouts ; GAA =
Goals against average

= = Awards and honours = =

Listed at five feet , nine inches tall by NHL Central Scouting , defenceman Gary Suter was considered too small for the NHL and went unselected at both the 1982 and 1983 NHL Entry Drafts . Suter moved on to the University of Wisconsin where Flames scouts noted that he had grown two inches and was a leading player for his team . Calgary selected him with their 9th round selection in 1984 . He joined the Flames in 1985 ? 86 and quickly established himself as the team 's top defenceman in the eyes of his coaches and teammates . Suter finished the season with 18 goals and 68 points and was awarded the Calder Trophy as the NHL 's top rookie in addition to being named to the All @-@ Rookie Team . Additionally , Suter was the Flames ' lone representative at the 1986 All @-@ Star Game . Suter 's 68 points was the second highest total by a rookie defenceman in league history , behind Larry Murphy 's 76 .

= = Transactions = =

The draft @-@ day trade that sent franchise scoring leader Kent Nilsson to Minnesota , along with a third round selection , for second round draft picks in 1985 and 1987 was immediately controversial in Calgary as players and fans were divided on the merit of dealing Nilsson . While some players felt the trade was inevitable , others expressed their disappointment at the move , including co @-@ captain Lanny McDonald , who wondered how the team would replace Nilsson 's offensive production . Former teammate Willi Plett supported the trade , noting Nilsson 's inconsistency : " Maybe I shouldn 't be saying this , but trading a player like him , it never hurts you . "

The Flames completed a second significant trade in February , acquiring scoring forward Joe Mullen along with defencemen Terry Johnson and Rik Wilson from the St. Louis Blues in exchange for Ed Beers , Charlie Bourgeois and Gino Cavallini . The Flames had targeted Mullen , who had scored 40 + goals each of his previous two seasons and had 28 for the Blues at the time of the deal , believing he could be a game breaker for them heading into the playoffs .

= = = Trades = = =

= = = Free agents = = =

= = Draft picks = =

The 1985 NHL Entry Draft was held in Toronto , Ontario on June 15 . The Flames used their first round pick , 17th overall , on American defenceman Chris Biotti . The team was surprised that he had fallen to them , believing Biotti to be the best defenceman available and expressing confidence he would be a star in the NHL . Their predictions ultimately proved unfounded . After spending two seasons at Harvard University , Biotti played three seasons for their minor league team in Salt Lake and another two in Europe before retiring . He never appeared in a National Hockey League game .

With the second round pick acquired from Minnesota in the Nilsson trade , Calgary selected East Coast Athletic Conference rookie of the year Joe Nieuwendyk from Cornell University . Labeled " Joe who ? " by media and fans unsure of his potential , Nieuwendyk ultimately had the longest NHL career of any Flames ' selection in this draft . He appeared in 1 @,@ 257 games , scoring 1 @,@ 126 points and won the Stanley Cup with Calgary in 1989 , the Dallas Stars in 1999 and the New Jersey Devils in 2003 , in addition to a gold medal at the 2002 Winter Olympics . He was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2011 .

