

= Valeri Bure =

Valeri Vladimirovich " Val " Bure (Russian : ??????? ?????????????? ????, / va @-@ Lare @-@ ee / ; born June 13 , 1974) is a Russian @-@ American former ice hockey right winger . He played 10 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Montreal Canadiens , Calgary Flames , Florida Panthers , St. Louis Blues , and Dallas Stars . A second round selection of the Canadiens , 33rd overall , at the 1992 NHL Entry Draft , Bure appeared in one NHL All @-@ Star Game , in 2000 . He led the Flames in scoring with 35 goals and 75 points in 1999 ? 2000 , a season in which he and brother Pavel combined to set an NHL record for goals by a pair of siblings with 93 .

Bure left his home in the Soviet Union in 1991 to play junior hockey in the Western Hockey League (WHL) for the Spokane Chiefs . A two @-@ time WHL all @-@ star , he was the first Russian player in the league 's history . Internationally , he represented Russia on numerous occasions . He was a member of the bronze medal @-@ winning squad at the 1994 World Junior Championship and was a two @-@ time medalist at the Winter Olympics . Bure and the Russians won the silver medal in 1998 and bronze in 2002 .

Back and hip injuries led to Bure 's retirement from hockey in 2005 . He now operates a winery in California with his wife , Candace Cameron . Bure paired with Ekaterina Gordeeva in 2010 to win the second season of the figure skating reality show Battle of the Blades .

= = Early life = =

Valeri Bure was born June 13 , 1974 , in Moscow , Soviet Union . He is the younger son of Vladimir and Tatiana Bure . Vladimir , whose family originated from Furna , Switzerland , was an Olympic swimmer who won four medals for the Soviet Union at three Olympic Games between 1968 and 1976 . Bure 's family had a noble history : his ancestors made precious watches for Russian tsars from 1815 ? 1917 and as craftsmen of the imperial family , were granted noble status .

Bure was around nine years old when his parents separated . In 1991 , he joined his father and brother , Pavel in moving to North America as his elder sibling embarked on a National Hockey League (NHL) career with the Vancouver Canucks . His mother arrived two months later . They settled initially in Los Angeles where Vladimir continued to train and coach both Valeri and Pavel in hockey and physical conditioning . However both became estranged from their father , along with his second wife and their half @-@ sister Katya , by 1998 . Neither brother has explained a reason for the split .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Junior = = =

Bure played three games during the 1990 ? 91 season with HC CSKA Moscow of the Soviet Championship League prior to leaving the Soviet Union . As a 17 @-@ year @-@ old , Bure was eligible to play junior hockey upon his arrival in North America , and joined the Spokane Chiefs of the Western Hockey League (WHL) . In doing so , he became the first Russian player in the league 's history . He joined the team one year before the Canadian Hockey League , of which the WHL is a member , instituted an import draft .

Bure recorded 49 points in 53 games in 1991 ? 92 for the Chiefs , his first season in the WHL . The Montreal Canadiens selected him with their second round pick , 33rd overall , at the 1992 NHL Entry Draft . The NHL Central Scouting Bureau praised Bure as being a good skater . In its assessment , the Bureau added : " very smart around the net ; good passer , playmaker . Good shot , quick release . Will take a hit to make the play . Good competitor . " He returned to Spokane for the 1992 ? 93 season where Bure led his team and finished second overall in WHL scoring with 147 points . His 68 goals that season remains a Chiefs ' franchise record . He was named to the WHL 's West Division First All @-@ Star Team . Bure attended Montreal 's training camp prior to the 1993 ? 94

season , but was again returned to his junior team . He recorded 102 points in his final season in the WHL and was named to the Second All @-@ Star Team . In three seasons with Spokane , Bure recorded 298 points and stands fourth on the Chiefs ' all @-@ time scoring list .

= = = Montreal Canadiens = = =

Upon turning professional in 1994 ? 95 , Bure spent the majority of the season with Montreal 's American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate , the Fredericton Canadiens . He had 23 goals and 48 points in 45 games for the club . Bure earned a recall to Montreal late in the season and made his NHL debut on February 28 , 1995 , against the New York Islanders . His first goal came two weeks later , on March 15 , against goaltender Wendell Young of the Pittsburgh Penguins . In 24 games with Montreal , Bure scored 3 goals and added an assist . Playing in his brother 's shadow ? Pavel had become a superstar in Vancouver ? Valeri struggled to live up to the expectations placed on him . He scored 22 goals and 42 points in his first full season in Montreal , 1995 ? 96 , but scored only 14 goals the following season . He battled injuries that season ; two concussions and a kidney injury limited him to 64 games , 13 fewer than the previous season .

At five feet , ten inches (178 cm) tall , Bure was a smaller player in the NHL . His linemates Saku Koivu (five foot ten) and Oleg Petrov (five foot nine) were similarly diminutive , and the trio were known in Montreal as the " Smurf line " . After playing 50 games for the Canadiens in 1997 ? 98 , Bure was traded . He was sent to the Calgary Flames in a February 1 , 1998 , deal in exchange for Jonas Höglund and Zarley Zalapski . The deal was welcomed by Bure , who appreciated both the ability to play closer to his family on the west coast as well as increased opportunity by joining a young Flames team . He recorded his first career hat trick in one of his first games in Calgary , against the Edmonton Oilers . Bure appeared in 16 games with the Flames that season and scored 38 points in 66 games combined between Montreal and Calgary .

= = = Calgary Flames = = =

Bure 's offensive ability emerged in Calgary as he became one of the team 's leading scorers . His totals of 26 goals and 53 points in 1998 ? 99 were both third best on the team ; at one point of the season , Bure scored the game @-@ winning goal in four consecutive victories for Calgary . The departure of Flames ' star Theoren Fleury added pressure on Bure to be an offensive leader in 1999 ? 2000 , and he responded to become one of the NHL 's early scoring leaders . He used his speed and skating ability to good effect and was eighth in league scoring by mid @-@ December . Bure was named to the World team at the 2000 All @-@ Star Game where he played on a line with his brother . Pavel was named most valuable player of the game by scoring three goals , two of them assisted by Valeri , in a 9 ? 4 victory over North America . Bure completed the season as the Flames leader in goals (35) and points (75 , 14th overall in the NHL) and was the only player on the team to appear in all 82 games . Pavel Bure scored 58 goals for the Florida Panthers , and the brothers ' combined total of 93 goals set an NHL record for a set of siblings .

Though his offensive production declined in 2000 ? 01 , Bure 's 27 goals was second on the team to Jarome Iginla 's 31 and he finished third with 55 points . He became embroiled in a power struggle with his coaches , first Don Hay who was dismissed mid @-@ season , and then Greg Gilbert , as both wanted him play a more defensive @-@ minded game . Bure struggled to adapt and at one point was held out of the Flames lineup by Gilbert in response . Bure was rumoured to have asked for a trade out of Calgary , and the Florida Panthers (who had acquired Pavel) , Buffalo Sabres and New York Rangers were among the teams who showed interest in his services . On June 24 , 2001 , the Flames traded Bure , along with Jason Wiemer to the Panthers for Rob Niedermayer and a second round draft pick .

= = = Florida , St. Louis and Dallas = = =

As his contract had expired , Bure was a restricted free agent . Initially unable to come to an

agreement with the Panthers on salary , Bure did not sign until late September . The delay resulted in his being a brief hold @-@ out from Florida 's training camp in advance of the 2001 ? 02 season . Injury interrupted the start of Bure 's Panthers career as a knee ailment that began bothering him before the season worsened as he played the first games of the campaign . Tests revealed damage to his right knee that required arthroscopic surgery to repair ; Bure missed 37 games while recovering . A second knee injury ended Bure 's season in mid @-@ March as the Panthers had fallen out of playoff contention . His brother had already been traded by that point , and the Panthers were also making Valeri available in potential deals . He appeared in only 31 games and recorded 18 points .

Bure remained with the Panthers as the 2002 ? 03 season began , but his year was marked by an offensive slump . He was also hampered by a hairline fracture to his wrist after Keith Primeau slashed him during an early December game against the Philadelphia Flyers . With only 5 goals and 26 points in 46 games for Florida , Bure was traded on March 11 , 2003 , to the St. Louis Blues in exchange for defenceman Mike Van Ryn . Another knee injury , this time a sprained ligament , kept Bure out of the Blues lineup for much of the remainder of the season . He recorded two assists each in five regular season and six post @-@ season games for St. Louis . After the season , the Blues placed Bure on waivers , and he returned to Florida upon being claimed by the Panthers .

Free of injury for the first time in two seasons , Bure was one of the Panthers ' offensive leaders in 2003 ? 04 . He reached 20 goals for the fifth time in his NHL career , and as the season 's trade deadline approached , was Florida 's leading scorer with 45 points . However , as the Panthers were out of playoff contention , they traded Bure to the Dallas Stars on March 9 , 2004 , in exchange for Drew Bagnall and a draft pick . Bure was placed on the Stars ' top line with Mike Modano and Jere Lehtinen , and he recorded 7 points in 13 games to conclude the regular season . Bure added three assists in five playoff games .

An unrestricted free agent following the 2004 playoffs , Bure did not play anywhere in 2004 ? 05 as the entire NHL season was canceled due to a labour dispute . He signed a one @-@ year contract with the Los Angeles Kings for the 2005 ? 06 season when the league resumed operations . He never played a regular season game for the Kings . A back injury suffered during the pre @-@ season , initially just described as " soreness " , kept him out of the regular lineup . The injury ultimately required surgery , and a second surgery on his hip caused Bure to miss the entire season . At the age of 31 , he opted to retire following the surgeries .

= = = International = = =

Bure made his debut internationally with the Russian national junior team at the 1994 World Junior Championship . He was the leading scorer of the bronze medal @-@ winning Russians with eight points in six games and was named to the tournament 's All @-@ Star Team . That same year , Bure first played with the senior team as he scored three goals in six contests at the 1994 World Championship in a fifth @-@ place effort .

After appearing in one game at the inaugural World Cup of Hockey in 1996 , Bure played in his first of two Olympic Games in 1998 . The tournament marked the first time he played with his brother Pavel since they were briefly teammates with CSKA Moscow in 1991 . Valeri scored one goal in the tournament , and Russia advanced to the gold medal game . They settled for the silver medal after being shut out by Dominik Ha?ek and the Czech Republic . Bure returned for the 2002 Salt Lake Games . He scored a goal in the tournament as Russia won the bronze medal . Russia invited him to play at the 2004 World Cup of Hockey , but as he was without an NHL contract at the time , Bure declined to play due to a lack of proper insurance in the event of injury .

= = Personal life = =

Bure married actress Candace Cameron in 1996 . They were introduced by Cameron 's Full House cast mate Dave Coulier at a charity hockey game . The couple has three children : daughter Natasha and sons Lev and Maksim . Bure became an American citizen in December 2001 . Bure

cited his family as the reason he retired from hockey in 2005 . He felt he could return from his surgeries , but wanted to spend time with his children and allow his wife to return to acting . The family are devout Christians .

In 2007 , Bure and his wife opened a Florida restaurant called " The Milk and Honey Café " , but closed the business when the family moved to California . They operate a Napa Valley , California winery , Bure Family Wines . Bure developed an interest in wine early in his NHL career that he described as growing into a passion : " I fell in love with the behind @-@ the @-@ scenes work and being able to start from the vineyard and put it into a bottle . It 's an amazing process . " Bure modified the Russian imperial seal his great @-@ grandfather stamped on his watches to use as his company 's label .

Bure returned to the ice in 2010 as a contestant on the second season of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation 's figure skating reality show Battle of the Blades . The series is a competition that pairs a former professional hockey player with a figure skater . Bure 's partner was Ekaterina Gordeeva . The pair won the competition and shared a \$ 100 @,@ 000 prize donated to charities of their choice . Bure 's donation was made to Compassion Canada .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = Awards and honours = =