

= Mattias Öhlund =

Kenneth Mattias Öhlund ( born September 9 , 1976 ) is a Swedish former professional ice hockey defenceman who last played for the Tampa Bay Lightning of the National Hockey League ( NHL ) . Prior to joining the Lightning , he played eleven seasons with the Vancouver Canucks . Öhlund played two seasons in the Swedish Allsvenskan , the second highest tier of hockey in Sweden , with Piteå HC before being selected by the Canucks thirteenth overall in the 1994 NHL Entry Draft ; he then joined Luleå HF of the Elitserien , the highest league in Sweden , winning the Le Mat Trophy as league champions in 1996 . He began his NHL career with Vancouver in 1997 ? 98 , the start of an eleven @-@ year tenure with the club . A serious eye injury before his third NHL season was the first of many injuries Öhlund has sustained over his career , and he has only played a full season twice in eleven years . A four @-@ time winner of the Babe Pratt Trophy as the team 's best defenceman , Öhlund is the Canucks ' all @-@ time leading goal and point @-@ scorer among defencemen .

Internationally , Öhlund has represented Sweden in numerous tournaments , beginning with three World Junior Championships that included Best Defenceman honours as part of a silver medal effort in 1996 . He has since competed in three World Championships , earning gold in 1998 , and three Winter Olympics , earning gold in 2006 .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Sweden = = =

Öhlund began his playing career with Piteå HC in his hometown , playing two seasons with the team . As a large , mobile defenceman , he was heavily scouted by scouts from several NHL teams during his final season with Piteå . He was the Vancouver Canucks ' first pick , thirteenth overall , in the 1994 NHL Entry Draft . Rather than join the Canucks , Öhlund stayed in Sweden as a result of a dispute over his contract with the team . He joined a new team , Luleå HF of the top Swedish league , the Elitserien . In his first season in the premier league in Sweden , Öhlund scored 16 points in 34 games . The following season Öhlund had 14 points in 38 games as Luleå won the Le Mat Trophy as champions of the Elitserien , their first league championship . Appearing in 47 games with Luleå during the 1996 ? 97 season , Öhlund scored seven goals and had an additional nine assists .

= = = Vancouver Canucks = = =

Four years after being drafted by the Canucks , Öhlund was set to be eligible to re @-@ enter the NHL Entry Draft when he signed a contract with the Toronto Maple Leafs on August 1 , 1997 . Worth US \$ 10 million over five years , including a signing bonus of \$ 7 @.@ 5 million , it was considerably more than the maximum rookie contract of \$ 850 @,@ 000 per year the Canucks , as the team that drafted Öhlund , were allowed to offer . Under league rules , the Canucks were given one week to either match the contract or trade Öhlund 's NHL rights to the Maple Leafs . Rather than lose him , the Canucks agreed to the contract on August 7 .

As part of a promotion for the 1998 Winter Olympics , the first to allow NHL participation in the ice hockey tournament , the Canucks opened the 1997 ? 98 NHL season with a pair of games against the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim in Tokyo . Öhlund thus played his first NHL game in Japan on October 3 , 1997 . He scored his first goal against Felix Potvin of the Toronto Maple Leafs on October 9 , as well as earning his first assist in that game . Playing 77 games as a rookie , he tied Jyrki Lumme for the team lead in scoring among defencemen with seven goals and 30 points . In recognition of his play during the season , he was awarded the Babe Pratt Trophy , given to the Canucks ' best defenceman . In addition , Öhlund was nominated for the Calder Memorial Trophy as the best rookie in the league , finishing second in voting to Sergei Samsonov of the Boston Bruins with 11 first @-@ place ballots to Samsonov 's 43 . His 30 points , the fifth best total among first year players and

highest by a rookie defenceman , helped him earn a position on the NHL All @-@ Rookie Team .

In his second season in the NHL , Öhlund was selected to the annual NHL All @-@ Star Game as a replacement for an injured player . Playing for the World team , composed of NHLers from outside North America , Öhlund scored one goal and had an assist as the North American team won , 8 ? 6 . With nine goals and 35 points in 74 games , Öhlund led the Canucks ' defencemen in scoring and placed fifth overall on the team .

Prior to the start of the 1999 ? 2000 NHL season , in a pre @-@ season game against the Ottawa Senators on September 21 , 1999 , a puck deflected off Öhlund 's stick and struck him in the right eye . The injury forced Öhlund to miss the first 38 games of the season . He underwent surgery to correct his vision and returned to the Canucks the same season and scored 20 points in 42 games , again winning the Babe Pratt Trophy as the Canucks ' best defenceman . The following year , he missed an additional 17 games after undergoing surgery once more to relieve building internal pressure on his eye . Playing in his first game back in the lineup on November 28 , 2000 , Öhlund scored the game @-@ winning goal for the Canucks in a 4 ? 1 win over the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim . Öhlund played the final 65 games of the season , scoring eight goals and 28 points . He also made his NHL playoff debut , recording four points in four games .

The 2001 ? 02 season saw Öhlund play 81 games and record a career @-@ high 36 points , with an additional two points in six playoff games . A knee injury during the 2002 ? 03 season led Öhlund to miss several games ; while he only scored 2 goals in the 59 games he played in , Öhlund set a career @-@ high in assists with 27 . That was followed by appearing in a career @-@ high 13 playoff games , where he had three goals and four assists for seven points . In 2003 ? 04 , Öhlund tallied a career @-@ high 14 goals and played in all 82 games with Vancouver for the first time in his career . For his efforts , Öhlund was named the winner of the Babe Pratt Trophy ..

The 2004 ? 05 season was cancelled due to the 2004 ? 05 NHL lockout . Like many other NHL players , Öhlund played in Europe , joining his former team , Luleå HF , on December 21 . However eight days later , after playing two games with the team and scoring one goal , Öhlund left the team . As well as briefly playing in Sweden , Öhlund took part in a charity hockey match set up by Canucks teammate Brad May and held in Vancouver on December 12 , 2004 . Including several NHL players , the game raised nearly \$ 1 million for charity . The NHL resumed play for the 2005 ? 06 season ; Öhlund recorded 33 points in 78 games , including leading Canucks defencemen with 13 goals , winning the Babe Pratt Trophy for the fourth time in his career .

Early in the 2007 ? 08 season , Öhlund received a four @-@ game suspension , the first of his career , for an incident near the end of a November 16 , 2007 , game against the Minnesota Wild . In the third period , Wild forward Mikko Koivu hit Öhlund in the head with his elbow , and Öhlund retaliated by slashing Koivu in the leg with his stick , breaking Koivu 's fibula . After returning from the suspension , Öhlund became the Canucks ' all @-@ time leader in goals among defencemen , scoring the game @-@ tying goal against the Edmonton Oilers on December 15 , 2007 , to pass former teammate Jyrki Lumme with 84 goals . After bone chips were detected in his knee in early March 2008 , Öhlund underwent knee surgery on March 13 and missed the remainder of the season . The leading scorer amongst Canuck defenceman at the time of the surgery , Öhlund finished second amongst defenceman with 24 points in 53 games .

With the departure of Markus Näslund in the 2008 off @-@ season , Öhlund became the longest serving player on the Canucks ' roster . Before the beginning of the 2008 ? 09 season , Öhlund was named , along with Ryan Kesler and Willie Mitchell as alternate captains to goaltender Roberto Luongo , who replaced Näslund as captain . Due to the limitations of having a goalie as captain , Öhlund was designated the captain 's traditional duty of taking ceremonial faceoffs . Beginning the season 22 points behind Jyrki Lumme and Dennis Kearns for the franchise 's all @-@ time point @-@ scoring record for a defenceman , Öhlund surpassed the mark on March 15 , 2009 , with an assist in a 4 ? 2 win against the Colorado Avalanche for his 322nd point as a Canuck . He played all 82 games for the second time in his career , and finished tied for third on the team for points by a defenceman with 25 .

Over 11 seasons with the Canucks , Öhlund registered team records of 93 goals and 325 points as a defenceman . His 232 assists ranked fourth among all @-@ time Canucks defencemen , while his

770 games played was second among defencemen and fifth overall . In his latter years with the Canucks , Ohlund served as a mentor while being paired with fellow defenceman and Swedish native Alexander Edler , who was beginning his NHL career .

= = = Tampa Bay Lightning = = =

Becoming an unrestricted free agent in the off @-@ season , Öhlund signed a seven @-@ year , \$ 26 @. @ 25 @-@ million contract with the Tampa Bay Lightning on July 1 , 2009 . Brought in as a mentor to fellow Swedish defenceman Victor Hedman , whom the Lightning drafted second overall in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft , Öhlund was named an alternate captain of the Lightning . His first game with the Lightning was on October 3 , 2009 , against the Atlanta Thrashers ; Öhlund had one assist in the game . The following month , he suffered an ankle injury after catching his skate into ice during a game against the Los Angeles Kings on November 14 , 2009 . He returned after missing 7 games . He re @-@ injured the ankle in March 2011 after colliding with Christian Hanson during a game against the Toronto Maple Leafs , causing him to miss an additional 8 games . Öhlund finished his first season with the Lightning with no goals and 13 assists in 67 games . Offensively , it marked the lowest point total of his career and the first time he did not score a goal during the regular season during his NHL career up to that point . Despite his reduced offensive statistics , he remained a key defenceman on the Lightning roster , leading the team with 22 minutes and 47 seconds of average ice time per game and 116 blocked shots .

In the off @-@ season , Öhlund underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee . Though he aggravated the knee at the beginning of the Lightning 's training camp in September 2010 , he continued to play in pre @-@ season games . Due to inflammation and fluid build @-@ up in the knee , however , he was sidelined for the first 8 games of the 2010 ? 11 season . Later in the season , he began suffering from a deep bone bruise on his left knee that he continued to play in spite of . In late @-@ February and early @-@ March 2011 , he was subsequently sidelined two games with a lower @-@ body injury . Öhlund failed to score a goal for the second consecutive regular season in 2010 ? 11 , recording 5 assists in 72 games , a career @-@ low . His ice time reduced significantly as he ranked sixth among team defencemen with an average of 18 minutes and 43 seconds per game . After finishing 12th overall in the Eastern Conference the previous season , the Lightning qualified for the 2011 playoffs as the fifth seed . In Game 2 of the opening round against the Pittsburgh Penguins , Öhlund registered his first goal as a Lightning , scoring into an empty net in a 5 ? 1 win . He added two assists over the course of a career @-@ high 18 post @-@ season games as Tampa Bay was eliminated by the eventual Stanley Cup champion Boston Bruins in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals . In an interview the following year , Ohlund recalled the 2010 ? 11 season as " the most fun [ he ] had playing hockey , ever . "

Prior to the start of the 2011 ? 12 season , Ohlund began experiencing inflammation in his right knee . The Lightning placed Ohlund on injured reserve on October 4 , 2011 ; a week later , he underwent arthroscopic surgery on both knees . After there was optimism he was close to returning to the lineup in December , he suffered a setback with his left knee and underwent further surgery in February 2012 . During his recovery , he told reporters with Swedish newspaper Expressen that he was unsure he could continue playing .

His contract with the Lightning expired July 1 , 2016 . He was until that date listed on the team roster but was on injured reserve since 2011 , with hockey experts citing him alongside Chris Pronger and Marc Savard as players who have not officially retired while letting their contracts continue , but who will not play in the NHL again .

" For a long period of time I 've been trying to get better and better , but clearly the longer you don 't play , the likelihood of playing again gets smaller and smaller each day , especially at my age , " Ohlund told the Tampa Tribune in April 2013 . " I don 't know long term what my situation will be , but I 'm sure it will be figured out shortly . "

Ohlund is set to be a part of the Canucks ' Ring of Honour on 16 December , 2016 .

= = International play = =

Early in his career , Öhlund was selected to play in three World Junior Championships for Sweden . Beginning in 1994 , he contributed two assists in seven games as part of a silver medal effort . As the medals were determined by a round @-@ robin format , Sweden fell one point short of Canada , losing 6 ? 4 to them in their final and deciding game . After a bronze medal in 1995 , Öhlund returned for a third straight World Junior tournament in 1996 to record five assists and was named the tournament 's Best Defenceman . He was additionally named to the Tournament All @-@ Star Team as he captured his second World Junior silver medal .

He made his debut for the Swedish senior national team in 1997 at the World Championships , his first of three appearances in the tournament . Öhlund scored two goals and added an assist in 11 games as Sweden captured a silver medal . He returned the following year in 1998 to match his previous statistical output while earning his first gold medal with Sweden . In his third World Championship appearance , the 2001 World Championships , Öhlund tallied five points to help Sweden to a bronze medal .

The 1998 Winter Olympics was the first of three consecutive Olympic games Öhlund appeared in . He played in all four games for Sweden and registered one assist as Sweden finished in a tie for fifth place , out of medal contention . Four years later , Öhlund was selected for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City . However , in pre @-@ Olympic drug testing by the International Olympic Committee ( IOC ) , Öhlund tested positive for the banned substance acetazolamide . The substance was inadvertently ingested after Öhlund took Diamox , a drug he had used previously while undergoing eye surgery . As the ingestion was unintentional , he was cleared to play . After a dominant round @-@ robin , Sweden was eliminated by Belarus in the quarter @-@ final game ? considered one of the biggest upsets in international hockey history and the darkest moment in Swedish hockey history . Öhlund finished the tournament with two points in four games .

In the following Olympics , Öhlund helped Sweden to the 2006 gold medal in Turin . After earning two assists in six games , Öhlund was forced out of the tournament after getting hit into the boards and fracturing his ribs during a game against Switzerland . Unable to play in the final against Finland , he nevertheless received a gold medal from the IOC . Canucks teammates , Daniel and Henrik Sedin , who also played on the championship team , offered to give Öhlund one of their gold medals if the IOC would not give him one , while his replacement on the team , Niklas Kronwall , made the same offer .

Additionally , Öhlund competed in the 2004 World Cup of Hockey , which preceded the 2004 ? 05 NHL lockout . In four games , he recorded one goal and one assist .

= = Personal life = =

Growing up in Piteå , Öhlund idolized fellow Swedish defenceman Börje Salming , who played 17 seasons in the NHL . He is married to wife Linda and has a daughter , Hannah , and a son , Viktor . They reside in Tampa during the hockey season , and return to Öhlund 's hometown of Piteå , Sweden , in the summer .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = International = = =

= = = All @-@ Star Games = = =

All stats taken from NHL.com

= = Awards = =

= = = NHL = = =

= = = International = = =

= = = Vancouver Canucks team awards = = =

= = Records = =

Vancouver Canucks ' franchise goals leader among defencemen - 93

Vancouver Canucks ' franchise points leader among defencemen - 325