

= Adam Oates =

Adam Robert Oates (born August 27 , 1962) is a retired Canadian professional ice hockey player , former co @-@ head coach for the New Jersey Devils and former head coach for the Washington Capitals . He played 19 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Detroit Red Wings , St. Louis Blues , Boston Bruins , Washington Capitals , Philadelphia Flyers , Mighty Ducks of Anaheim and Edmonton Oilers . Known as an elite playmaker , his career total of 1 @,@ 079 assists was the fifth highest total in NHL history at the time of his 2004 retirement . After retiring as a player , he served as an assistant coach for the Tampa Bay Lightning and New Jersey Devils prior to joining the Capitals as their head coach for two seasons between 2012 and 2014 .

As a college player , Oates was a standout forward for the RPI Engineers . He set single @-@ season school records for assists and points and was named an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) all @-@ star and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) All @-@ American in both 1984 and 1985 . He was named a tournament all @-@ star in helping RPI win the 1985 national championship , and in 1990 ? 91 , the NHL included him in its Second All @-@ Star Team ; he played in five All @-@ Star Games . He holds the record for most points all @-@ time of any NHL player who also played NCAA Hockey . Oates was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame on November 12 , 2012 along with Joe Sakic , Pavel Bure , and Mats Sundin .

= = Early life = =

Oates was born August 27 , 1962 , in Weston , a neighborhood in Toronto , Ontario . As a youth , he played both hockey and box lacrosse , favouring the latter sport . He played five seasons with the Etobicoke Eclipse of the Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) Junior A Lacrosse League . An offensive standout , Oates ' total of 181 points in 19 games in 1981 was the 11th highest total in OLA junior history at the time . As the league 's leading scorer , he won the Bobby Allan Award and in one game that season , set OLA Junior A single @-@ game records of 19 assists and 29 points . Oates played one season of Senior A with the Brampton Excelsiors of Major Series Lacrosse but left the game in 1984 to focus on his hockey career .

Describing his younger self as being a " punk " , Oates said he partied frequently . He dropped out of high school to focus on hockey and ended up working as a gas station attendant at 19 . Oates played two full seasons and parts of a third with the Junior A Markham Waxers of the Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League (OPJHL) . He scored 89 points in 43 games during 1980 ? 81 , and 159 points ? including 105 assists ? in 1981 ? 82 . He went unselected in the NHL Entry Draft , however , as scouts considered him too slow to play in the National Hockey League (NHL) . He returned to high school to complete his diploma when he was recruited to play for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) .

= = Playing career = =

= = = College = = =

RPI 's assistant coach Paul Allen noticed Oates during a 1982 OPJHL game while scouting a different player and offered him a position on the school 's team . Consequently , Oates played three seasons with the RPI Engineers , leading the team in assists each year . After scoring 42 points in 22 games in his freshman season of 1982 ? 83 , he spent the summer working with a skating instructor to improve his foot speed . In 1983 ? 84 , he set school records in points with 83 and assists with 57 . He was named to the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) second all @-@ star team and became the first RPI hockey player to earn a berth on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) All @-@ American team since 1965 .

In 1984 ? 85 , Oates broke his own school records by recording 60 assists and 91 points . His career total of 150 assists remains a school record As of 2012 . Again named an NCAA All @-@

American , he was voted to the ECAC first all @-@ star team , and was a finalist for the Hobey Baker Award as the top hockey player in the NCAA . After helping RPI win the 1985 national championship , he was included in the all @-@ tournament team . In his three years with RPI , the Engineers recorded an 85 ? 19 ? 1 record and won the ECAC championships in 1984 and 1985 . Oates was voted to the ECAC 's all @-@ decade team of the 1980s . He was inducted into RPI 's Athletics Hall of Fame , and was named the inaugural member of the hockey team 's Ring of Honor in 2004 .

= = = Detroit and St. Louis = = =

NHL teams took interest in Oates following his junior season ; at least five teams attempted to sign him . Choosing to forgo his final year of college eligibility , Oates signed a four @-@ year , \$ 1 @. @ 1 million contract with the Detroit Red Wings that made him the highest paid rookie in the NHL in 1985 ? 86 . He made his NHL debut on October 10 , 1985 , against the Minnesota North Stars , scoring his first goal that night on goaltender Don Beaupre and added an assist . After this , Oates struggled offensively and was pointless in his following 16 games ; the team subsequently demoted him to the Adirondack Red Wings of the American Hockey League (AHL) . Oates split the remainder of the season between Detroit and Adirondack , finishing his first NHL season with 38 games played , 9 goals and 11 assists . In the AHL , he scored 18 goals and 28 assists in 34 games . Having finished the NHL season in Detroit , he was returned to Adirondack for the AHL playoffs which the team won to take the Calder Cup championship .

Oates established himself as a full @-@ time NHLer in 1986 ? 87 , scoring 47 points in 76 games . He improved to 54 points in 63 games the following year despite missing a month due to a groin injury , and finished third in team scoring with 78 points in 1988 ? 89 . However , Detroit made changes following a first round loss in the playoffs ; Oates , along with Paul MacLean , was traded to the St. Louis Blues on June 15 , 1989 , in exchange for veterans Bernie Federko and Tony McKegney . The deal , which is now considered one of the worst in Red Wings ' history , left Oates " heartbroken " to leave his first NHL club .

The Blues made Oates their first @-@ line centre and played him alongside Brett Hull . The pair , dubbed " Hull and Oates " as a play on the band Hall and Oates , put up prolific offensive numbers . In 1989 ? 90 , Oates topped the 100 @-@ point mark for the first time in his career with 102 points . He improved to 115 in 1990 ? 91 NHL season . He helped Hull score 72 and 86 goals those seasons , the latter the third highest in single @-@ season total in NHL history . Oates was named to the second all @-@ star team following the season and played in the 1991 All @-@ Star Game .

Oates signed a four @-@ year , \$ 3 million contract extension with the Blues prior to the 1991 ? 92 NHL season , but after the team signed Brendan Shanahan , Garth Butcher and Ron Sutter to significant deals , felt he was underpaid . After playing in his second career All @-@ Star Game , he threatened to walk off the team following the all @-@ star break if the Blues did not renegotiate his contract , prompting a negative reaction from St. Louis fans who booed him loudly . The conflict was resolved on February 7 , 1992 , when the team dealt him to the Boston Bruins in exchange for Craig Janney and Stéphane Quintal .

= = = Boston and Washington = = =

Oates ' best individual season came in his first full year in Boston . He led the league with 97 assists in 1992 ? 93 and finished third in overall scoring with 142 points . At the 1993 All @-@ Star Game , Oates set a record by recording four assists in one period as part of a 16 ? 6 victory for the Wales Conference . Oates played in his fourth consecutive All @-@ Star Game in 1994 and again finished third in league scoring with 112 points in 1993 ? 94 . In a five @-@ year period between 1989 and 1994 , Oates was the second highest point producer in the NHL . His average of 114 points per season over that time was second to Wayne Gretzky 's 124 .

A finger injury suffered during the 1994 Stanley Cup Playoffs hampered Oates throughout 1994 ? 95 and required surgery at the season 's conclusion . Despite the injury , Oates finished fourth in the

NHL with 41 assists in a season disrupted by a work stoppage . The Bruins signed him to a five @-@ year , \$ 10 million contract extension late in that season , but Oates once again became frustrated with his salary relative to the rest of the league by 1997 . With the Bruins struggling on the ice and out of playoff contention late in 1996 ? 97 season , Oates publicly berated team management : " You go on a [road] trip and everyone says it 's a big trip . For what ? So we can win five games because we 're lousy and we get in the eighth spot and lose four straight and get embarrassed and then get shelled all summer ? It 's upstairs , baby . That 's their job , not ours Are we rebuilding ? What are we doing ? What direction are we going in ? "

Less than two weeks after his tirade , on March 1 , 1997 , the Bruins dealt him to the Washington Capitals . In the trade , Oates , Bill Ranford and Rick Tocchet went to Washington in exchange for Jim Carey , Anson Carter , Jason Allison and a draft pick . Oates initially refused to report to Washington , demanding that his contract be renegotiated , but chose to join the team after a four @-@ day holdout . He continued to demand a new contract in the offseason , while his agent claimed that Oates would retire before playing for the Capitals again . After several months of contentious negotiations , the two sides agreed to a three @-@ year deal worth around \$ 2 @. @ 9 million per season with an option on a fourth year .

Oates became the 47th player in NHL history , and the 15th fastest , to score his 1,000th career point on October 7 , 1997 against the New York Islanders . He reached the milestone by scoring a hat trick and adding two assists for the sixth five @-@ point game of his career . He finished the 1997 ? 98 season as the team leader with 56 assists , and second to Peter Bondra in team scoring with 78 points . The Capitals reached the 1998 Stanley Cup Finals , which they lost to the Detroit Red Wings , the only finals appearance in franchise history .

The Capitals named Oates the ninth captain in franchise history prior to the 1999 ? 2000 season , following the departure of his predecessor , Dale Hunter . He led the team in scoring with 71 points and played his 1,000th NHL game on December 22 , 1999 , against the Vancouver Canucks . He led the league in assists the following two seasons , at the ages of 38 and 39 , with 69 in 2000 ? 01 and 64 in 2001 ? 02 . On January 14 , 2002 , Oates became the eighth player in NHL history to reach 1 @, @ 000 career assists when he set up Dainus Zubrus ' overtime winning goal in a 1 ? 0 victory over the Boston Bruins .

= = = Philadelphia , Anaheim and Edmonton = = =

With Washington out of playoff contention late in the 2001 ? 02 season and with his contract expiring following the season , the Capitals dealt Oates to the Philadelphia Flyers on March 19 , 2002 , in exchange for goaltender Maxime Ouellet and the Flyers ' first , second and third round selections in the 2002 NHL Entry Draft . The Flyers hoped that bringing Oates in would solidify their playoff chances . The move did not work , as the Flyers were defeated in the first round by the lower ranked Ottawa Senators , losing the series in five games . The team scored only one goal in regulation time and were shut out three times by Ottawa 's Patrick Lalime .

The Flyers chose not to offer Oates a new contract following the loss , making him an unrestricted free agent . He signed a \$ 3 @. @ 5 million contract for the 2002 ? 03 season , with an option for 2003 ? 04 , with the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim on July 1 , 2002 . He scored 45 points in 67 games with the Mighty Ducks , and added 13 points in 21 playoff games . Anaheim reached the 2003 Stanley Cup Finals , where in the third game of the series against the New Jersey Devils , Oates assisted on Ruslan Salei 's overtime winning goal . It was Oates ' ninth career playoff overtime point , tying him with Joe Sakic and Doug Gilmour for the NHL all @-@ time lead . The Ducks ultimately lost the series in seven games .

The Mighty Ducks declined their option on the 41 @-@ year @-@ old Oates ' contract , again making him a free agent . He remained unsigned six weeks into the 2003 ? 04 season , until he agreed to a one @-@ year contract with the Edmonton Oilers on November 17 , 2003 . He appeared in 60 games in Edmonton , scoring 2 goals and 16 assists . The Oilers were eliminated from playoff contention in their final game of the season with a 5 ? 2 loss to the Vancouver Canucks on April 4 , 2004 . Oates announced his retirement as a player immediately after the game .

= = Playing style = =

Oates was one of the NHL 's great playmakers , a style that he credits his father as encouraging : " It was just kind of our family talks : ' If you can be unselfish , your teammates will always like you . ' And it just kind of became my role , where I was obviously trying to please my dad , growing up and becoming a playmaker out of that . " Oates ' father , a British immigrant , idolized Stanley Matthews , considered one of the greatest soccer players of all time and hoped that his son would adopt a pass @-@ first mentality similar to Matthews .

He led the NHL in assists three times ? 1992 ? 93 , 2000 ? 01 and 2001 ? 02 ? and finished in the top ten on 12 occasions . He is also the only player in NHL history to centre three 50 @-@ goal scorers , helping Brett Hull , Cam Neely and Peter Bondra reach the mark . His teammates praised his consistency , noting that Oates continued to score points at an elite level when he did not have star players as linemates . Boston teammate Raymond Bourque suggested in 1994 that Oates was underrated : " I think a lot of people take what he does for granted . He does it in a quiet way . He 's not a flashy guy . He 's not looking for attention , he just goes out and does it . He 's the best centerman I 've been around . I never knew he was this good playing against him because I didn 't see him this much . " Oates was able to score himself , reaching the 20 goal mark five times , including a career high 45 in 1992 ? 93 , a season in which he led the league with 11 game @-@ winning goals .

At the time of Oates ' retirement , his 1 @,@ 420 points was the 13th highest total in NHL history , and his 1 @,@ 079 assists ranked 5th . He played in a total of five NHL All @-@ Star Games and was a six @-@ time finalist for the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy for sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct on the ice . The Markham Waxers retired his jersey number 10 in 1999 . Oates was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame as part of its 2012 class .

= = Coaching career = =

= = = Assistant coach = = =

The Tampa Bay Lightning hired Oates as an assistant coach in the 2009 ? 10 season where he worked with the team 's offense . Under his guidance , the team 's power play finished ninth in the league and he was credited with playing a significant role in Steven Stamkos 's offensive development . Oates then joined the New Jersey Devils in 2010 where he served an additional two years as an assistant coach , helping the team reach the 2012 Stanley Cup Finals , which they lost to the Los Angeles Kings in six games . New Jersey 's General Manager , Lou Lamoriello , praised Oates ' work with the team : " He did an outstanding job for us . I wish him well . He 's very communicative , very intelligent , he explains things very well . He has the resume behind him as a player and having the success he had ? all the credentials are there for having the kind of respect players have for him . "

= = = Washington Capitals = = =

The same day that he was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame , June 26 , 2012 , Oates returned to Washington , where he was named the 16th head coach in franchise history , succeeding Dale Hunter who had decided not to renew his contract . Oates ' former teammates praised his appointment as head coach , calling him a " detail @-@ oriented players ' coach " with excellent communication skills . While the 2012 ? 13 NHL lockout delayed Oates ' debut with the Capitals , he acted as co @-@ coach with Mark French for Washington 's AHL affiliate , the Hershey Bears .

When the NHL resumed for an abbreviated 2012 ? 13 season , Oates and the Capitals struggled initially and won only two of their first 11 games . The team improved throughout the season , however , and went from last place in the Southeast Division to first ; they won 15 of their final 19

games to win the division title . Oates ' players praised his positive outlook and willingness to work closely with them as a primary reasons why the team was able to turn its season around . The Capitals were defeated in the first round of the 2013 Stanley Cup playoffs , however , losing to the New York Rangers in seven games .

The Capitals struggled throughout the 2013 ? 14 season and faced increasing discontent from the fans as the team had failed to advance far into the playoffs in 16 years . The team finished with a 38 ? 30 ? 14 record , but finished ninth in the Eastern Conference and missed the playoffs . As a consequence , the Capitals opted to dismiss both Oates as head coach and the team 's general manager , George McPhee .

= = = New Jersey Devils = = =

On December 27 , 2014 , Oates was hired by the New Jersey Devils to become what the team referred to as a " Co @-@ Head Coach " following the team 's firing of head coach Peter DeBoer . Oates split coaching duties with former Devils captain Scott Stevens , with each coach responsible for a specific group of players ; Oates was responsible for the forwards while Stevens was responsible for the defensemen . Oates and Stevens were assisted by team general manager Lou Lamoriello , who had served as the team 's interim head coach previously . On June 1 , 2015 , John Hynes was named the new full @-@ time head coach .

= = Personal life = =

Although Oates left RPI after three years to begin his professional hockey career , he continued his studies during the off @-@ seasons . He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in management from the school in 1991 . While a member of the Bruins , Oates also worked for a brief time with the investment firm Boston Capital Partners . He is a co @-@ founder of sporting apparel retailer Old Time Hockey , a company that donates a portion of all sales to the NHL emergency assistance fund .

His parents are David and Loretta , and he has two sisters : Michelle and Laurel . Oates was once engaged to model and actress Darlene Vogel , however the couple cancelled their planned 1998 marriage at the last moment . Oates and his wife , Donna , spend their summers in California .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Regular season and playoffs = = =

= = = Coaching = = =

= = Awards and honours = =