

= Paul Stastny =

Paul Stastny ( born December 27 , 1985 ) is a Canadian @-@ born American professional ice hockey center currently playing for the St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League .

Of Slovak lineage , Stastny is the son of Hockey Hall of Famer Peter Šťastný , who played for the Avalanche 's predecessor , the Quebec Nordiques , and finished his career with the St. Louis Blues . His older brother Yan has played for the Boston Bruins , Edmonton Oilers and St. Louis Blues . His uncles Anton and Marian Stastny both played in the NHL during the 1980s , also for the Nordiques . His surname pronunciation is " shtyahstnee " .

Stastny began his junior hockey career with the River City Lancers of the United States Hockey League before moving to the University of Denver Pioneers in 2004 . He won the NCAA Men 's Ice Hockey Championship in his first season playing for the Pioneers . He remained at the University of Denver for one more season . He signed a contract with the Avalanche before the 2006 ? 07 NHL season , scored 78 points in 82 games in his rookie season and was nominated for the Calder Memorial Trophy . In 2007 ? 08 he was named to his first NHL All @-@ Star Game , but didn 't play because of an appendectomy . As a dual citizen , Stastny has chosen to play for the U.S. in international hockey competitions , which have included the 2004 Viking Cup , the 2007 IIHF World Championship , and the 2010 , 2014 Winter Olympics .

= = Early years and family = =

Stastny was born in Quebec City , Quebec , to Peter Šťastný ( anglicised to Stastny ) and his wife Darina , while Peter was playing for the Nordiques . Paul spent his early years in Québec and New Jersey , following his father 's career . Peter joined the St. Louis Blues in 1993 and settled there after finishing his player career , working as a scout for the team . Paul has numerous family relatives who have played in the NHL . He is the son of Czechoslovak defector and Hockey Hall of Fame inductee Peter Šťastný ( surname later anglicised ) , the first European @-@ trained player to reach 1 @,@ 000 points in the NHL , and the nephew of retired NHL players Anton and Marian . Peter and Anton were the first two out of the three brothers to come to North America , in 1980 ; they were smuggled , along with Peter 's pregnant wife with the help of the Québec Nordiques ' owner Marcel Aubut and chief scout Gilles Léger out of Czechoslovakia to Austria . Marián arrived a year later , after Peter and Anton raised the \$ 30 @,@ 000 needed to bribe officials of the Czechoslovak government . All 3 played for Quebec from 1981 ? 1985 , which was only the third time that 3 brothers played for the same team in the NHL at the same time . The first three brothers who had played for the same team were Reg , Doug and Max Bentley . Followed by the three Plager brothers , Bill , Barclay and Bob who played with the St. Louis Blues from 1968 ? 72 . Paul 's older brother Yan has played for the Boston Bruins , Edmonton Oilers , and St. Louis Blues . He currently plays for HC CSKA Moscow in the KHL . Peter and Paul Stastny currently rank fourth all @-@ time in total scoring by a father @-@ son combination in the NHL .

Paul played high school hockey for Chaminade College Preparatory School in St. Louis , Missouri during his freshman and sophomore years in high school , but he left the high school team to play for the Tier III Junior B St. Louis Jr . Blues . He then moved to Omaha , Nebraska to play Tier I junior hockey for the River City Lancers of the United States Hockey League during this last two years of high school , graduating from Millard North High School in Omaha .

Born in Canada to a mother with American citizenship , Stastny and his brother Yan have dual Canadian / U.S. citizenship . Paul has two sisters , Katarina and Kristina ( married to Mike Nash ) . He has mentioned " religion , education and the importance of family " as important values in his upbringing , and has spoken about his father 's help in making him a better player .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Amateur career = = =

Paul Stastny began his junior ice hockey career in 2002 with the River City Lancers of the United States Hockey League , playing with the team for two seasons , scoring 107 points in 113 games . In 2002 ? 03 , the Lancers finished the regular season fourth in the West Division and progressed to the playoffs . After advancing two rounds , the Lancers lost in the Clark Cup final against the Lincoln Stars . In 2003 ? 04 , the Lancers finished third in the West Division and lost in the first round of the playoffs against the Sioux City Musketeers . Stastny 's 77 points in 56 games ranked him second in the league behind teammate Mike Howe .

Stastny entered the University of Denver to play for the Pioneers in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 2004 . Despite entering college hockey younger than the usual USHL player , he scored 45 points in 42 games in his first season in Denver to help the Pioneers win the MacNaughton Cup and Broadmoor Trophy . He then helped the team win its second NCAA Men 's Ice Hockey Championship in a row by scoring two power @-@ play goals in the final game at the 2005 Frozen Four tournament against North Dakota . Stastny won the award for WCHA Rookie of the Year and was part of the WCHA All @-@ Rookie Team and the NCAA Championship All @-@ Tournament Team .

In 2005 ? 06 , Stastny scored 53 points in 39 games and finished 7th overall in the NCAA scoring list , tied with Matt Carle for the Pioneers ' scoring lead . He scored 44 points in 28 conference games to win the WCHA scoring title .

He was part of the WCHA First All @-@ Star Team and the NCAA West Second All @-@ American Team , as the Pioneers finished the WCHA regular season in second place and lost in the first round of the playoffs against the Minnesota @-@ Duluth Bulldogs . At the end of the season , Stastny left the University of Denver as a business major .

= = = Colorado Avalanche = = =

Stastny was draft @-@ eligible in the 2004 NHL Entry Draft , but opted out of the draft . Prior to the draft , the NHL Central Scouting Bureau ranked him as the 49th best North @-@ American skater available . Ranked by CSB as the 74th best in the 2005 NHL Entry Draft , he was drafted by the Colorado Avalanche in the second round , 44th overall . Before moving to Denver in 1996 , the Avalanche were the Quebec Nordiques , the team for which his father played from 1980 ? 1990 and had his jersey number retired . Stastny signed a multi @-@ year contract with the Avalanche on July 24 , 2006 , and began his professional career in the 2006 ? 07 NHL season .

Before training camp , it was not expected he would start the season with the Avalanche , but rather for an affiliate team of the Avalanche . However , Steve Konowalchuk 's career @-@ ending heart problem opened a roster spot and Stastny 's play impressed Avalanche coach Joel Quenneville . Stastny started the season with the jersey number 62 until his teammate John @-@ Michael Liles ( switching to # 4 ) changed his to let Stastny use # 26 , the same his father wore when he played for the franchise while it was in Quebec . Stastny had his first NHL assist on a goal by Wojtek Wolski in his third NHL game , on October 8 against the Vancouver Canucks . On October 21 , in his eighth NHL game and first wearing number 26 , Stastny scored his first NHL goal in Montreal against David Aebischer of the Montreal Canadiens .

On February 21 , 2007 , Stastny scored two goals and passed Alex Tanguay 's total of 51 points to set a new Avalanche record for points by a rookie . His father holds the franchise record with 109 . Between February 3 and March 17 , he had a 20 @-@ game scoring streak , breaking not only his father 's franchise rookie record of 16 games , but also the NHL rookie record of 17 games that belonged to Teemu Selänne . He scored 11 goals and had 18 assists during that period and became the third @-@ youngest player in NHL history to record a 20 @-@ game scoring streak , following Mario Lemieux and Wayne Gretzky . At the start of the season , Wojtek Wolski was the Avalanche player seen as favorite to contend for the Calder Memorial Trophy ; however , the scoring streak put Stastny into contention as well . Stastny 's play was one of the reasons the Avalanche experienced their best run of the season towards the end , winning 15 of their last 19 games but missing the playoffs by one point . Stastny ended his rookie season with 78 points , finished second

to Pittsburgh Penguins' Evgeni Malkin in the voting for the Calder Memorial Trophy and was named to the 2006 ? 07 NHL All @-@ Rookie Team .

Coming into his sophomore season , Stastny admitted the pressure would increase during the year . He continued the strong finish of his rookie year , by scoring his first career hat @-@ trick against Marty Turco of the Dallas Stars in the season 's first game and scoring five points for the first time four days later , against the San Jose Sharks . He scored 15 goals and had 28 assists in his first 34 games of the season , and had his 100th NHL point in his 99th NHL game . At the same time , Stastny hit a slump , during which he had one point in eight games . With the Avalanche having lost top players Joe Sakic and Ryan Smyth to injuries , Ryan Kennedy of The Hockey News pointed to Stastny 's inconsistency and wrote it was time for Stastny to step up and be a leader in all aspects . Despite being on the longest scoreless streak of his career , which lasted 10 games , on January 11 , 2008 , the NHL announced Stastny would play at the 56th National Hockey League All @-@ Star Game . He scored two goals and three assists in three games before the Colorado Avalanche announced six days later that Stastny would miss approximately 2 ? 3 weeks , including his first All @-@ Star Game to have his appendix removed . After recovering from the surgery and returning to skating , he suffered a groin injury during a practice , delaying his return . Stastny ended up missing 15 games , but he scored a goal on his comeback against the Phoenix Coyotes on February 22 . He scored seven goals and had 15 assists until the end of the regular season , missing a game due to flu on March 20 . With 71 points scored , he finished the regular season as the team 's scoring leader and the Avalanche finished 6th in the West , progressing to the playoffs to play against the Minnesota Wild . Stastny failed to score a point until the fifth game , when his game @-@ winning goal gave the Avalanche the lead in the series . Colorado ended the series by winning the sixth game and progressed to meet the Detroit Red Wings in the Western Conference Semifinals . Stastny scored a goal and an assist in the first game of the series , but a depleted Avalanche team was swept in four games . Stastny missed the last game of the series after he injured his knee during the first period of the third game .

On November 17 , 2008 , Stastny signed a US \$ 33 @-@ million , five @-@ year contract extension with the Avalanche . The contract began in the 2009 ? 10 season and runs through 2013 ? 14 ; he will be paid an average of \$ 6 @. @ 6 million a year . Stastny earned \$ 710 @, @ 000 during the 2008 ? 09 season .

In a December 23 , 2008 game against the Phoenix Coyotes , Paul suffered a fractured forearm after being struck by a shot from Phoenix 's Olli Jokinen in the last regulation minute of the game . He successfully underwent surgery on his arm and missed 24 games , but also his chance to play in the 2009 All @-@ Star Game in Montreal . This was the second consecutive season that he missed such an opportunity . He was injured again later in the season when he broke his foot while blocking a shot during a March 17 , 2009 game against the Minnesota Wild , putting him out of play for the rest of the season . He scored 36 points in just 45 games that year .

The 2009 ? 10 season proved successful for Stastny and the Avalanche . He stayed uninjured the entire season , and only missed one game as a healthy scratch after the Avalanche clinched a playoff spot the previous evening . His 79 points ( 20 goals , 59 assists ) was a career best , and he led the team in points and assists . Tied with Alexander Ovechkin , only five players in the league ended up with more assists . Stastny 's second career appearance in the post season ended after the San Jose Sharks eliminated the Avs in the first round . On January 26 , 2011 , Stastny was named to his 2nd NHL All @-@ Star Game . He and his father became the 8th father @-@ son duo in NHL history to both play in an All @-@ Star Game .

With the delay of the 2012 ? 13 season due to the Lockout , Stastny followed his brother 's footsteps to Germany and signed his first European contract with EHC München of the Deutsche Eishockey Liga on November 15 , 2012 . Stastny appeared in 13 games for Red Bull climbing to third among the team with 18 points before returning to the Avalanche upon the tentative lockout resolution on January 6 , 2013 .

= = = St. Louis Blues = = =

Unable to agree to a new contract with the Avalanche as a free agent , Stastny signed a four @-@ year \$ 28 million contract with hometown club and Avalanche rivals , the St. Louis Blues , on July 1 , 2014 . Skating in 74 games in his first season with the Blues , Stastny scored 16 goals to go with 30 assists .

= = International play = =

Although born in Canada , Stastny is a dual citizen of Canada and the United States . Both he and his brother Yan have chosen to play internationally for the United States . Among the reasons that led him to choose to play for the United States was the possibility to play in an international competition with his brother , who had chosen to play for the United States before Paul . Paul represented the U.S. for the first time in the 2004 Viking Cup , where he won a silver medal playing for the junior team . According to Hockey 's Future , he was one of the most important American talents in the tournament . Stastny played internationally for the United States national ice hockey team for the first time in the 2007 IIHF World Championship . He played seven games , scored four goals and four assists , had two penalty minutes and finished even in plus / minus . The United States lost in the quarterfinals against Finland . Stastny was named the best American player in the 3 ? 0 win against Germany , when he scored two goals and had one assist . He was chosen as one of the three best United States players at the tournament , together with Lee Stempniak and Toby Petersen .

Stastny was selected to play for the U.S. men 's ice hockey team in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver where he won a silver medal . He scored a goal and two assists over six games . Upon completion of a disappointing 2012 ? 13 season with the Avalanche , Stastny accepted an invite the 2013 World Championship event in Finland / Sweden and was selected as Team U.S. Captain . He led the largely unheralded U.S. team , in claiming their country 's first medal at the Championships since 2004 , with shootout victory over Finland for Bronze on May 19 , 2013 . Stastny finished the tournament in second place in individual scoring with 15 points in 10 games , resulting in selection to the World Championship All @-@ Star Team .

= = Style of play = =

Stastny is a left @-@ handed center and was one of the few NHL players known to use a wood stick since 2005 , preferring it through his first four seasons in the NHL . However , he made the switch to a graphite stick to begin his 2010 ? 11 NHL season . He considers himself a playmaker , a characteristic he says he inherited from his father . Former Avalanche captain Joe Sakic , who played with Paul and Peter Stastny , sees similarities between the two , namely their strong skating and ability to see the game . Former Avalanche coach Joel Quenneville , who faced Peter during his playing career , has said Paul plays in a similar way and complimented his hockey sense . George Gwozdecky , Stastny 's coach at the University of Denver , has complimented his intelligence , ability to pass and see the ice . Although it has been said that Stastny is a slow skater , Gwozdecky too feels he is a strong skater . Terry Frei of ESPN has said that " ... his game isn 't flashy and eye @-@ popping as much as it is heady , intuitive and efficient " .

= = Career statistics = =

= = Regular season and playoffs = =

= = International = =

= = Awards and honors = =

