

2011 Pro Hockey Celebrity Hunt Celebrity Bios

BRIAN BURKE:

The current president and general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Brian Burke played three seasons for Providence College (1973-1976) before joining the American Hockey League's Maine Mariners in 1977-78 and helping the squad to the Calder Cup Championship that season. The following year, Burke attended Harvard Law School and graduated in 1981. Burke began his front-office career in the NHL offices as a senior vice president and director of hockey operations (1993-98). Burke was then named president and general manager of the Vancouver Canucks in 1998 and held his post through the 2004 season, helping Vancouver record four consecutive seasons of at least 90 points in his last four seasons with the team. In 2005, Burke was named the vice president and general manager of the Anaheim Ducks and engineered the first-ever Stanley Cup victory for the Ducks in only his second year with the team. Burke stepped down from his position in Anaheim in 2008 and accepted his current role with the Maple Leafs shortly thereafter. Along with his success in the front office of several NHL teams, Burke also served as the general manager for the 2010 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, which won a silver medal in Vancouver, and received USA Hockey's 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award for his efforts.

NEAL BROTEN:

The first-ever recipient of college hockey's top honor, the Hobey Baker Memorial Award in 1981, Neal Broten played 17 years in the NHL with the Minnesota North Stars, New Jersey Devils and Dallas Stars. After playing high school hockey for the Roseau Rams (Minn.), Broten attended the University of Minnesota, where he played under the direction of Herb Brooks. In his freshman season, Broten was named the rookie-of-the-year and helped his team to the 1979 NCAA National Championship. He was a member of the "Miracle on Ice" team that won a gold medal at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, N.Y. Broten then joined his hometown team, the Minnesota North Stars, in 1981, and stayed with the team for the next 13 seasons. In the 1985-86 campaign, Broten recorded 105 points, becoming the first American-born player to surpass the 100-point plateau. He played 15 of his 17 NHL seasons with the Stars' organization and is the team's all-time leader in scoring, assists, games played, shorthanded goals, playoff games and playoff assists. His number was retired by the Dallas Stars in 1998 and he was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2000.

AARON BROTEN:

With a professional career spanning 12 seasons, Aaron Broten logged more than 700 games in the NHL. The second of three Broten brothers to make it to the NHL, Aaron played college hockey at the University of Minnesota, where he set the record for most assists (47) by a freshman. After his rookie campaign, he was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the sixth round (106th overall) in the 1980 NHL Entry Draft. During his sophomore campaign at the University of Minnesota, Broten led the Western Collegiate Hockey Association in goals (47), assists (59) and points (106). Professionally, Broten played for the Colorado Rockies/New Jersey Devils, Minnesota North Stars, Quebec Nordiques, Toronto Maple Leafs and the Winnipeg Jets. He recorded back-to-back 26 goal seasons (1986-88) for the New Jersey Devils, also marking his two highest seasons in points, with 79 and 83, respectively. Internationally, Broten played for the U.S. on nine separate occasions. He played for the U.S. Men's National Team at the International Ice Hockey Federation's World Championships (1981-1982, 1985-87), as well as the 1984 and 1987 Canada Cups. Broten retired in 1992 and joined his brother, Neal, in the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2007.

PAUL BROTEN:

The youngest of the three legendary Broten brothers, Paul was selected in the fourth round (77th overall) by the New York Rangers in the 1984 NHL Entry Draft straight out of high school. Broten played four years at the University of Minnesota before notching 28 goals with the Denver Rangers of the International Hockey League in his rookie campaign (1988-89). In his next two seasons, he spent time in the NHL and in the minors before joining the Rangers as a regular in 1991-92. Broten played the next three seasons with the Rangers before he was picked up off waivers by the Dallas Stars. He played a pair of seasons in Dallas and was traded to the St. Louis Blues prior to the 1995-96 season. After playing 17 games for the Blues, Broten spent most of the next three seasons in the minors. In all, the youngest Broten brother played 322 NHL games before retiring after the 1998-99 campaign with the Berlin Capitals in Germany.

JOHN VANBIESBROUCK:

With a professional career spanning nearly two decades, goaltender John Vanbiesbrouck's 374 wins are the most by an American-born goaltender in NHL history (13th all-time). A 2007 inductee into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and three-time all-star, Vanbiesbrouck posted 40

career shutouts, tying Frank Brimsek for most all-time by an American netminder. Vanbiesbrouck, a fourth round draft pick (72nd overall) by the New York Rangers in the 1981 NHL Entry Draft, played parts of 11 seasons for the Rangers (1981-82, 1983-93) and earned the Vezina Trophy in 1986 as the NHL's top goaltender. He then spent five seasons in Florida (1993-98), leading the Panthers to the 1996 Stanley Cup Finals in the team's third season. Vanbiesbrouck went on to play two seasons in Philadelphia (1998-2000), and played his final full season split between the New York Islanders and New Jersey Devils. Along with a decorated NHL career, Vanbiesbrouck represented Team USA on nine different occasions, ranking him second all-time among American netminders. Highlights of his Team USA appearances include the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, four International Ice Hockey Federation Men's World Championships (1985, 1987, 1989, 1991) and two Canada Cups (1987, 1991). The Detroit native spent a season (2002-03) as the general manager and coach of the Ontario Hockey League's Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. Currently, Vanbiesbrouck works as a hockey analyst for Versus and is a hockey broadcaster for HDNet.

BRIAN LAWTON:

Brian Lawton became the first, and only, U.S. high school player chosen first overall in the NHL Entry Draft when the Minnesota North Stars selected him in 1983. After leading Mount St. Charles Academy (R.I.) to back-to-back state championships, Lawton represented Team USA in the 1983 International Ice Hockey Federation World Men's Championship before embarking on his NHL career. During his ten-year playing career, Lawton played for the North Stars, New York Rangers, Hartford Whalers, Quebec Nordiques, Boston Bruins and San Jose Sharks. He recorded 112 goals and 154 assists in 483 NHL games. Lawton also represented the U.S. in the 1987 IIHF World Men's Championships and the 1984 Canada Cup. After hanging up the skates, Lawton served as the general manager of the Tampa Bay Lightning for two seasons (2008-10).

LEN LILYHOLM:

Len Lilyholm represented the U.S. Men's National Team on six different occasions, including the 1968 Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble, France. He also represented the U.S. in five International Ice Hockey Federation World Men's Championships (1966-67, 1970-71, 1974). Along with a decorated international playing career, Lilyholm played four seasons for the Rochester Mustangs of the United States Hockey League (1965-70) and one season with the Minnesota Fighting Saints of the World Hockey Association (1972-73). He also spent a portion of the 1973-74 season with the Suncoast Suns of the Southern Hockey League. After hanging up the skates, Lilyholm became an architect and a builder, participating in the design of the St. Paul Civic Center, which opened in 1973 and was home to the Minnesota Fighting Saints.

DAVE JENSEN:

After finishing his freshman year at the University of Minnesota, Dave Jensen was selected by the Minnesota North Stars in the fifth round (100th overall) of the 1980 NHL Entry Draft. Jensen stayed at Minnesota for the next three seasons and represented the U.S. National Junior Team at the 1980 and 1981 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championships. He also played for the U.S. Men's National Team at the 1984 Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo and competed for Team USA in the Canada Cup that same year. The defenseman finished out his milestone season by playing eight games for the North Stars and 13 games for the Central Hockey League's Golden Eagles. He spent the majority of the next two seasons (1984-86) with the American Hockey League's Springfield Indians. Jensen retired in 1990 after playing three years in Europe, where he posted 59 points for SV Renon of the Italian League during the 1986-87 campaign and recorded 55 points for the club two years later.

GUY GOSSELIN:

The two-time U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team member (1988, 1992) and three-time U.S. Men's National Team member (1986, 1990, 1991) is currently an assistant coach of the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team. Gosselin played professionally for parts of six seasons, including a five-game stint with the NHL's Winnipeg Jets following the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. In North America, Gosselin skated two seasons (1988-90) with the Moncton Hawks of the American Hockey League and finished his career with the International Hockey League's Kansas City Blades in 1993-94. He also skated in Sweden for two seasons (1990-91, 1992-93) with Skelleftea AIK. The University of Minnesota Duluth graduate played parts of five seasons (1982-87) with the Bulldogs' men's ice hockey team and helped lead them to back-to-back (1984, 1985) Western Collegiate Hockey Association Championships and Frozen Four appearances. Prior to joining USA Hockey as a regional manager of the American Development Model in August 2009, Gosselin served 14 years as general manager of the Ozaukee Ice Center in Mequon, Wis., where he helped found the NCAA Division III Concordia University Wisconsin men's and women's ice hockey teams.

DR. GEORGE NAGOBADS:

For more than half a century, Dr. George Nagobads has committed his life to serving as team physician for multiple international, professional and collegiate teams. A native of Riga, Latvia, Nagobads earned his medical degree in Germany before moving to the U.S. in 1952 to begin his surgical residency at the University of Minnesota's Medical Center. While studying in Minnesota, Nagobads met Herb Brooks, thus starting a lasting friendship that would lead Nagobads to be team physician for the Gophers for 34 years (1958-92). Nagobads went on to

serve as the team physician for 15 U.S. Men's National Teams (1967, 1970-71, 1973-75, 1977, 1979, 1981-82, 1985-87, 1989-90), the first U.S. Women's National Team (1990) and five U.S. National Junior Teams (1974, 1985-87, 1989) over the course of his 23-year international career. He was also the team physician for five U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Teams (1968, 1972, 1980, 1984, 1988), including the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" team. Nagobads was also the team physician for the World Hockey Association's Minnesota Fighting Saints from 1973-76 and the NHL's Minnesota North Stars from 1984-92. In 1984, Nagobads became USA Hockey's chief medical officer, a title he held until 1992. In 2003, Nagobads received the Paul Loicq Award from the IIHF for serving international hockey in an extraordinary manner and promoting ice hockey worldwide. He was also honored by USA Hockey with both its Distinguished Achievement Award and Excellence in Safety Award in 2005.

SHJON PODEIN:

A Stanley Cup champion in 2000-01 with the Colorado Avalanche, Shjon Podein played 11 seasons in the National Hockey League. A native of Rochester, Minn., Podein played his high school hockey for John Marshall High School (Minn.) and college hockey for Minnesota-Duluth. He was drafted 166th overall by the Edmonton Oilers in the 1988 NHL Entry Draft. Over the course of his first four seasons, Podein played in 68 NHL games and he helped Cape Breton of the AHL win the Calder Cup in 1992-93. Podein then signed with the Philadelphia Flyers in the 1994-95 season and had tremendous success with the team for the next five years (1995-99). In his second year with the Flyers, Podein boasted a plus-25 rating and scored a career-high 15 goals. In 1998-99, Podein was traded to the Avalanche where he spent the next four seasons (1998-2002). He helped the Avalanche to the franchise's second Stanley Cup in 2000-01 before being traded to the St. Louis Blues midway through the 2001-02 season.. Internationally, Podein represented Team USA at the IIHF World Men's Championships in 1993 and 1998. As the current head coach of the St. Louis Park (Minn.) High School hockey team, Podein has been very committed to charity work and received the King Clancy Memorial Trophy in 2001 for his efforts.

BRYAN ERICKSON:

A high school linemate and next-door neighbor of Neal and Aaron Broten, Bryan Erickson helped Roseau (Minn.) High School to two state championships and undefeated seasons (1977-79). Their line is still considered to be the best line to ever play in Minnesota. Erickson then played his collegiate hockey at the University of Minnesota and totaled 238 points (109g, 129a) in his four seasons with the Gophers. After starting the 1983-84 season with the Hershey Bears of the American Hockey League, the Washington Capitals called him up to the NHL, where he tallied 29 points (12g, 17a) in 45 games. The following season, Erickson played in 57 games for the Capitals and recorded 28 points (15g, 13a). Erickson was traded to the Los Angeles Kings in 1985-86 and notched back-to-back 20 goal seasons in his first two years with the team. After starting the 1987-88 campaign with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Erickson

was sent to the Winnipeg Jets, where he played parts of four seasons with the team before retiring after the 1993-94 season. Erickson frequently represented Team USA on the international stage, including three appearances U.S. Men's National Team at the International Ice Hockey Federation World Men's Championship (1982, 1986-87) and two appearances on the IIHF World Junior Championships (1979-80).