

2006 Olympic Winter Games – Turin, Italy – Robyn Regehr Profile

While most NHL players spent their childhood years learning to skate and play hockey, standout Calgary defenseman Robyn Regehr was travelling with his missionary parents across Brazil and Indonesia. It wasn't until Regehr was eight that the family moved to tiny Rostherin, Saskatchewan, where the youngster began his initiation into the rough and tumble world of prairie hockey.

It was clear early on that Regehr was special. At 15, he was playing for Prince Albert in the SMHL before moving onto Kamloops of the WHL one year later. After his second season with the Blazers, the young blueliner had turned enough heads to become a first-round draft pick of the Colorado Avalanche, 19th-overall, in the 1998 draft. Incidentally, it was the same draft class that produced Team Canada teammates Vincent Lecavalier (1st-overall to Tampa) and Simon Gagne (22nd-overall to Philadelphia).

Despite his first-round status, Regehr was returned to Kamloops for one more year of junior hockey and ended up being named a First-Team All-Star in the WHL and a Third-Team All-Star in the CHL, courtesy of his 12 goals, 20 assists and 130 penalty minutes.

In 1999, Regehr was traded to Calgary as part of the deal that brought Theoren Fleury to the Avalanche. But later that year, Regehr would face the biggest challenge of his life and it would have nothing to do with hockey. He was involved in a head-on car collision with another vehicle that resulted in two fatalities in the other vehicle. Regehr suffered many injuries, including breaking both his legs. At the time, just walking again would have been considered a major victory. Instead, he approached his rehabilitation with such zeal that he was able to play 57 games for the Flames in the 1999-00 season.

Although Calgary did not have a strong team during Regehr's early years with the club, Regehr he was good enough to be asked to play in the NHL Young Stars Game during the 2001-02 season. And though he was a combined minus-42 after his first four seasons with the Flames, things finally turned around in 2003-04, when he became a key member of the Calgary club that took Tampa Bay to the seven game limit in the Stanley Cup Finals before finally losing.

In 2005-06, Regehr is considered the anchor of a talented Flames blueline, only this time the experience is even more enjoyable now that his younger brother Richie has joined the organization.

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