

nicklas lidstrom

Nicklas Lidstrom is considered the top NHL defenceman of his era, having won the Norris Trophy as the NHL's best defenceman three consecutive seasons from 2000–01 to 2002–03 and again from 2005–06 to 2007–08. He has been nominated for the award a total of nine times in the past ten seasons, the first three times finishing as the runner-up, and has won it in six of the last seven. As of 2008, Lidstrom has played all of his fifteen NHL seasons for the Detroit Red Wings. He has been a member of four Stanley Cup winning teams in 1996–97, 1997–98, 2001–02, and 2007–08.

2003–2009 statistics

Year	Team	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	SOG	SPCT	PPG	PPA	SHG	SHA	GWG	GTG	ATOI	PROD
2003-2004	DET	81	10	28	38	19	18	194	5.2	3	18	1	2	3	1	27:39	58:56
2005-2006	DET	80	16	64	80	21	50	243	6.6	9	41	0	0	2	--	28:07	28:06
2006-2007	DET	80	13	49	62	40	46	224	5.8	10	23	0	3	1	--	27:28	35:26
2007-2008	DET	76	10	60	70	40	40	188	5.3	5	29	0	1	4	--	26:43	29:00
2008-2009	DET	50	9	27	36	21	16	114	7.9	6	15	0	0	3	--	24:55	34:37
Total	--	1302	221	753	974	399	428	3292	6.7	112	390	10	25	32	4	--	--

start

Lidstrom began his career in Avesta, Sweden, playing with Skogsbo SK, before moving on to play with Västerås IK of the Swedish Elitserien. In three seasons with the team, he played in 103 games, scoring 12 goals and 30 assists. Drafted by the Detroit Red Wings 53rd overall in the 1989 NHL Entry Draft, Lidstrom joined the team in the 1991–92 NHL season, though he would return to play for Västerås IK for a brief period during the 1994–95 NHL lockout. Lidström scored 60 points in his rookie season, finishing second to Pavel Bure in voting for that year's Calder Trophy. He was selected to the 1992 NHL All-Rookie Team along with fellow Red Wings defenceman Vladimir Konstantinov.

career

Lidström, during his first season, was captain of the Red Wings. Known for his durability, Lidström consistently ranks amongst the top in the NHL in ice time per game. He averaged 28:07 minutes in the 2005–06 season, a career high. He won three consecutive Norris Trophies, from 2001 to 2003, becoming the first defenceman since Bobby Orr to win three straight. In the 2003–04 season, he played in his 1,000th game of his career, having missed only 17 games in 12½ seasons (1994–95 was shortened to 48 games instead of the usual 84 by a labor dispute).

analysis

Never a big and bruising defender, many experts say that the secret behind Lidström's consistent game is his ability to read the game; this, combined with his excellent skating ability, allows him to be at the correct spot of the ice at the correct time. Instead of delivering a big body check, Lidström prefers to steal the puck and create a turnover. His reliance on brains rather than brawn might explain his lack of injuries, and also his low penalty minute totals. For most of his NHL career, he has studiously avoided drawing penalties, although the introduction of many new rules in 2005–06 saw him rack up his career high (50) in penalty minutes. The 2005–06 season also brought him his career high of 80 points (16 goals, 64 assists).

