

MIKA ZIBANEJAD



SHOOTS: RIGHT
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 202
BORN: APRIL 18, 1993
BIRTHPLACE: STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

#93
CENTER

Zibanejad has emerged as one of the most well-rounded players at his position in the NHL. Acquired by the Rangers in a 2016 trade with Ottawa, Zibanejad collected a career-high 91 points (39G, 52A) in 82 games in 2022-23, leading New York in goals and ranking second in points and third in assists. His 20 power-play tallies paced the team and were tied for third in the league. Since joining the Rangers for the 2016-17 campaign, Zibanejad is the team's leader in goals (204), assists (251), points (455), power-play markers (89) and game-winning tallies (32). A respected voice in the locker room, he has served as an alternate captain since 2018-19. The Stockholm, Sweden native was originally a first-round draft selection (sixth overall) of the Senators in 2011.

ONE TIMERS

Nickname: Miks (pronounced Meeks) and Miklo
Talent he'd most like to have: Ability to sing
What he'd be doing if not playing hockey: Pursuing a career in tennis or soccer
Actor that would play him in a movie: Jake Gyllenhaal
Dinner guest: Kevin Hart
Favorite superhero: Superman
Athlete to watch right now: Zlatan Ibrahimovic
First jersey: A Rivaldo Barcelona soccer jersey
Collects: Hats (about 35-40), and Manchester United jerseys (about 10-15)
Most listened to artist: The Chainsmokers
Meal: Yellowtail Taquitos from Sushisamba
Movies: The Rush Hour franchise
Place to visit: Los Angeles
Animal his teammates would compare him to: Panda

LOOSE PUCKS

- Was the recipient of the Team MVP award in 2022-23 and 2018-19
- Parents are Mehrdad and Ritva. Mehrdad, an IT specialist, grew up in Iran and played soccer and volleyball for the Iranian national team before eventually moving to Sweden. Ritva, a nurse, is originally from Finland
- Has an older brother, Monir Kalgoum, who played professional hockey in Europe through the 2011-12 season
- Chose the #93 because it's his birth year
- Played soccer and tennis growing up in addition to hockey
- Grew up a huge fan of Manchester United and David Beckham
- His first job was working at Stadium, a sports equipment store
- Claims the show Friends helped him learn English. Said Mika: "I've seen every episode about 30 times. I fall asleep to it every night."

THIS SEASON

- Became the Rangers all-time leader in overtime goals (8) on Feb. 9 at Chicago
- Recorded his 500th point with the Rangers on Jan. 27 at Ottawa, becoming the fourth-fastest in Rangers history to notch 500 points with the club behind Mark Messier (406 GP), Brian Leetch (496 GP), and Andy Bathgate (518 GP).
- Had points in 10 straight games from Dec. 10-30 to establish a new career-best point streak
- Named the NHL's Second Star of the Week for the week ending Dec. 24
- Played in his 800th career NHL game on Dec. 27 vs. Washington
- Appeared in his 500th game as a Ranger on Nov. 12 vs. Columbus, becoming the 38th player in franchise history to play in 500 contests with the club

MUSICAL MIKA

One of Zibanejad's greatest passions is creating music, something he has been doing since the age of 18. In fact, Zibanejad released his very first single "Forever" through Elijah Woods Music in May of 2017 and has since released four other songs. Said Zibanejad: "I first started becoming interested in the EDM and DJ scene because I saw my brother doing it when I was younger. I got my own set of equipment and started mixing in my free time. Since then, I've really expanded it into much more from a creative perspective. I really love it and it's definitely more than a hobby for me."

93 SIGNATURE BURGER

Zibanejad launched his "93 Signature Burger" at a restaurant he co-owns in Sweden called Brodernas, which translates to "Brothers" in English. For every burger sold, Zibanejad will donate \$1 to the women's national-hockey program in Sweden. "I felt that it was important because they don't get the same type of resources and that's too bad," said Zibanejad. "And if you can help somehow and see the effect of doing something good that people want to go along with, it's nice."

"QUOTABLE"

"I think anyone you put with him really is going to develop chemistry with him. He knows where everyone is on the ice... with eyes in the back of his head so it's something you can't really teach."

-Rangers teammate Chris Kreider