



# URHO VAAKANAINEN



## STATS

**Shoots:** Left  
**Height:** 6'2"  
**Weight:** 205  
**Born:** 1/1/1999  
**Birthplace:** Joensuu, FIN

## POSITION

**DEFENSEMAN**  
**#18**

## BIO

Acquired from the Anaheim Ducks in a trade on Dec. 6, 2024, Vaakanainen has split his NHL career between the Rangers, Ducks and Boston Bruins. During the 2023-24 season, he posted career-highs in points (14), hits (55) and blocked shots (79). Internationally, Vaakanainen represented Finland at three consecutive World Junior Championships including 2017, 2018 and 2019. He also helped Finland to medals at the 2016 World U-18 Championship (gold) and 2017 World U-18 Championship (silver).

## ONE-TIMERS

**Nickname:** Vaaks  
**Passion outside of hockey:** Soccer  
**Talent he'd want to have:** Singing  
**Hidden talent:** Can wiggle his ears  
**Dream dinner guest:** Steph Curry  
**Favorite superhero:** Deadpool  
**First jersey:** Kamloops Blazers  
**Most listened to artist:** UK rapper, Dave  
**Favorite meal:** Double cheese pizza with ham  
**Favorite movie:** The Greatest Showman  
**Favorite TV show:** Game Of Thrones

## LOOSE PUCKS

- Urho and his fiancée Iina got engaged in 2023 and are set to get married in the summer of 2025
- Is a big soccer fan and FC Barcelona is his favorite club
- As he's gotten older, has become more of a basketball fan. He visited the new home of the LA Clippers, the Intuit Dome, after its opening in Aug. 2024
- Selected as the Ducks' nominee for the 2023-24 Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy. The award is presented annually to the NHL player who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey.