



## Rick Vaive

Rick was a prolific goal scorer throughout his NHL career; he also wasn't afraid to mix it up on the ice to give himself some room to shoot.

Vaive was the first Toronto Maple Leaf in the long & storied history of the franchise to score 50 goals in a season. It is hard to imagine that, with all the great players on the Leafs over their early years that no-one had hit the magical 50-mark until Rick came along. In the 1981-82 season, he scored 54 goals to become the first Leaf to do so. He followed that up with 51 goals the next season and 52 goals the season after that to show that it was his great shot, and not lucky bounces, that made him the sniper that he was. In fact, in Rick's 7 full seasons in Toronto, he never scored fewer than 32 goals in a season.

Vaive started his pro career as one of the "Baby Bulls" with the WHA's Birmingham Bulls as an 18-year old in 1978-79. His 26 goals and 33 assists for 59 points, along with 248 penalty minutes were enough to cause the Vancouver Canucks to draft him #5 overall in the 1979 NHL draft. Part way into his rookie year, the Canucks packaged him up with Bill Derlago and sent him to the Leafs for Tiger Williams and Jerry Butler. Needless to say the trade paid dividends for the Leafs.



Rick's great shot and toughness led the Leafs during some challenging seasons in Toronto. His leadership skills allowed him to serve as captain of the team from 1982 to 1986.

Before the start of the 1987 season, he was involved in another blockbuster trade being sent to the Chicago Blackhawks with Steve Thomas and Bob McGill for Al Secord and Ed Olczyk. His first season in the Windy City, Vaive scored 43 goals, showing that he could still fire the puck. After a season and a half with the Hawks, he was dealt to the Buffalo Sabres where he played until his retirement after the 1992-93 season.

Over his 876 game NHL career, Rick scored 441 goals and added 347 assists for 788 points to go with 1445 penalty minutes to show that talent and toughness can be combined in one player. He was named to the All Star time in 3 consecutive seasons.

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