



## Dave Babych

Dave is a 19 season veteran of the NHL. After an outstanding junior career with the Portland Winterhawks, he was selected #2 overall in the first round of the 1980 NHL draft by the Winnipeg Jets. He stepped into the line-up at age 19 and immediately paid dividends for the team leading the Jets' defense with 44 points. In fact, for each of his first 10 seasons, he led his team's defensemen in scoring. During his 5+ seasons with the Jets, he set team scoring records for defenseman and played in 2 All Star games, 1983 & 1984.

Several games into the 1985-86 season, Babych was dealt to the Hartford Whalers in a highly unpopular trade with Jets' fans. Dave went on to perform extremely well for the Whalers and continued to get All Star and Norris Trophy consideration during his 5+ seasons in Hartford.

In 1991, due to injury in his last year in Hartford, Dave was exposed in the expansion draft and taken by the Minnesota North Stars but quickly flipped to the Vancouver Canucks. His veteran presence over the next 7 seasons steadied the Canucks young defense corps as the team improved under his calming influence. Toward the end of the 1997-98 season with the Canucks out of the playoff picture, Babych was traded to the Philadelphia Flyers to bring stability to their playoff run. Again in the 1998-99 season under a similar scenario, he was traded to the Los Angeles Kings where he ended his career. Over 1195 career games, Dave scored 142 goals and 581 assists for a total of 723 points.

Of course, hockey fans will know that Dave's brother Wayne also had a great NHL career over 10 NHL seasons, mostly for the St. Louis Blues.

In his post-playing career, Dave has coached with the Canucks, the Canadian men's National Team, the Swiss Elite League, and the PCHL. He remains very active with the Canucks alumni association.

