

LEDUC SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Zarley Zalapski

Born in 1968, Zarley Zalapski was named after professional golfer Kermit Zarley. His father, Len Zalapski, moved from Edmonton to Leduc to play for the Leduc Oilers in 1972. Zarley played all his minor hockey in Leduc.

A fast and powerful skater, Zarley began his hockey career with the Alberta Junior Hockey League's Fort Saskatchewan Traders in 1984. In his first season, he achieved 70 points in 67 games, including 17 goals. He started playing for the Canadian National Team in 1985, participating in tournaments across Canada and Europe. He was on the Canadian team at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, which finished fourth.

In the 1986 NHL Draft, the Pittsburgh Penguins picked Zarley fourth overall in the first round. He was on the NHL All-Rookie Team in the 1988-89 season.

Zarley played in the NHL for 11 years as a defenseman with the Penguins, Hartford Whalers, Calgary Flames, Montreal Canadiens and Philadelphia Flyers. In 1993, he played in the NHL All-Star Game. Overall, in 637 NHL games, Zarley had 99 goals and 285 assists for a total of 384 points.

In 2000, Zarley went overseas to play for European hockey leagues. He played in Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Austria. He met his wife in Switzerland, and together they had two sons and moved to Calgary. Zarley retired from professional hockey in 2011, but continued to play for the Heritage Hockey League and Calgary Flames Alumni Association. He also acted as a consultant and mentor for the Calgary Royals.

Zarley passed away in December 2017.

