

LEDUC SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Erik Christensen

Erik Christensen joined Leduc Minor Hockey in 1996 at the age of 12, but he was shooting pucks in his garage long before that under his dad Ivan's tutelage. Drafted at age 14 by the WHL's Kamloops Blazers, he played for five years in the WHL and won numerous accolades, including the Bobby Clarke Trophy for Top Scorer in 2002-03.

In the 2002 NHL Entry Draft, he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the third round, 69th overall, going on to complete a seven-year career in the NHL. Known as a skilled offensive player with exceptional puck control, Erik was considered a shootout specialist and had the second-highest NHL shootout percentage (29 for 55, 52.7 per cent) as of the 2019-20 season. He played a total of 404 games for the Penguins, Atlanta Thrashers, Anaheim Ducks, New York Rangers and Minnesota Wild alongside some of the greatest players in the world.

Erik went on to play for a year in Russia with the Kontinental Hockey League's Lev Prague (53 games), and then for four years with the Swedish Hockey League's HV71 (202 games). After retiring from professional hockey in 2017, Erik and his wife, Kristin, decided to move back to Leduc with their two children Annika and Henrik.

Happy to be settled back in the Leduc community, Erik followed in his father's footsteps and established his own hockey training company, E.C. Hockey Factory Ltd. His father's company has been running in Leduc for the past 18 years. Modelled after European-style training, both their programs emphasize dryland skill development. Erik enjoys helping young hockey players develop their skills and work towards achieving their potential.

