



Lars-Erik “Little General” Sjoberg



Lars-Erik Sjoberg
Honored Member of the WHA Hall of Fame
Defense
Born April 5, 1944 in Falun, Sweden
Died October 20, 1987
Height: 5' 8" Weight: 179 lbs.

Lars-Erik Sjoberg was one of four Swedes to sign with the Winnipeg Jets in the summer of 1974. Sjoberg was coming off a 13-season career in Sweden, most recently with Vastra Frolunda, and chose the Jets ahead of an offer from the NHL's California Golden Seals.

The stocky defender made a quick impact with his new team and became the first European player to be named as a captain of a North American pro team when the Jets tabbed him as the successor to Danny Johnson prior to the 1975-1976 season.

Sjoberg was named the WHA's top defenseman in 1977-1978 and was selected for three mid-season All-Star Games. He was also a WHA First Team All-Star in 1977-1978. Sjoberg helped lead the Jets to three AVCO Cup championships, including 1978-1979, when he missed most of the season due to an Achilles tendon injury. He returned to action late in the year and was the difference propelling the Jets to the WHA's last championship.

Sjoberg remained with the Jets for one season following their entry into the NHL before retiring as a player. He worked as a scout for the New York Rangers and subsequently passed away in October 1987.

Scoring Statistics

| <u>Regular Season</u> | | | | | | <u>Playoffs</u> | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| <u>Season</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>GP</u> | <u>G</u> | <u>A</u> | <u>Pts</u> | <u>PIM</u> | <u>Season</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>GP</u> | <u>G</u> | <u>A</u> | <u>Pts</u> | <u>PIM</u> |
| 1974-1975 | Winnipeg Jets | 75 | 7 | 53 | 60 | 30 | | | | | | | |
| 1975-1976 | Winnipeg Jets | 81 | 5 | 36 | 41 | 12 | 1975-1976 | Winnipeg Jets | 13 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| 1976-1977 | Winnipeg Jets | 52 | 2 | 38 | 40 | 31 | 1976-1977 | Winnipeg Jets | 20 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 22 |
| 1977-1978 | Winnipeg Jets | 78 | 11 | 39 | 50 | 72 | 1977-1978 | Winnipeg Jets | 9 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 4 |
| 1978-1979 | Winnipeg Jets | 9 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1978-1979 | Winnipeg Jets | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Jersey Numbers

| <u>#</u> | <u>Season</u> | <u>Team</u> |
|----------|---------------|---------------|
| 4 | 1974-1975 | Winnipeg Jets |
| 4 | 1975-1976 | Winnipeg Jets |
| 4 | 1976-1977 | Winnipeg Jets |
| 4 | 1977-1978 | Winnipeg Jets |
| 4 | 1978-1979 | Winnipeg Jets |

Transactions

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Details</u> |
|--------------|---|
| May 23, 1974 | Winnipeg Jets sign Lars-Erik Sjoberg as a free agent. |

Draft History

Selected by Toronto Toros in 1973 Professional Draft (Sweden).