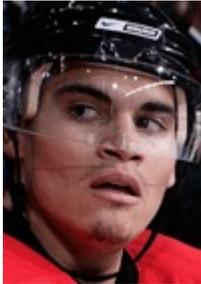


Rene Bourque. (b. 1981)

Rene Gary Wayne Bourque, born December 10, 1981, is the son of Gary and Barbara Bourque. He is a Métis professional hockey right winger who currently plays for the Colorado Avalanche of the NHL. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where he played four seasons of hockey and served as a co-captain in his senior year.



Rene was born on Dec. 10, 1981 at Lac La Biche, Alberta. The 2005 AHL Rookie of the Year, he initially signed with Chicago and after three years moved to Calgary. After a great career playing American college hockey for the Wisconsin Badgers of the WCHA, and a full season in the AHL, as an undrafted player, Bourque was signed by the Chicago Blackhawks as a free agent in 2004. In 2005, playing for the Norfolk Admirals, he was named the Dudley “Red” Garrett Memorial Award winner as the AHL's rookie of the year. He made his NHL debut in 2005-2006. He spent three years in Chicago before a 2008 trade sent him to the Calgary Flames where he established himself as a key offensive player. He was traded to the Montreal Canadiens (2012), then to the Anaheim Ducks in 2014. From the Ducks he moved to the Columbus Blue Jackets (2014-2016) then to the Colorado Avalanche for 2016-2017.

Bourque has played for the Canadian national team at the 2010 IIHF World Championship. Of Métis heritage, Bourque has initiated several charitable causes dedicated to encouraging Aboriginal children and helping youth from rural northern Alberta afford the cost of playing hockey. Bourque has been involved in many charitable endeavours both in Calgary and Lac La Biche. He says this lifestyle was tough growing up, which is why he started the Bourque Buddies charity to help Métis children have something to look forward to and work towards. “You see the effects of stuff that goes on in small towns or even in reserves and it’s a tough life for a lot of those kids,” Bourque says. He started the Rene Bourque Hockey Fund with the goal of providing hockey equipment to underprivileged kids, and has appeared as a spokesman for Native Americans in sport at youth symposiums.

Rene’s first cousin, Wayne Bourque, “The Flurry from Fort McMurray,” has been the North American Native boxing champ three times in the welterweight and middleweight classes, three-time Golden Glove champion, and the World Champion of the Masters Division (2009).

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rene_Bourque



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