A first round draft choice of the Rangers in 2012, smooth-skating Brady Skjei signed a six-year deal with the Blueshirts in 2018 that will keep him in New York through the 2023-24 campaign. Skjei led the Blueshirts in average TOI (21:14) and hits (178) last season, and tied for the team lead in blocked shots (119). He also led team defensemen with a career-high 8 goals. He was named to the NHL’s All-Rookie Team in 2016-17 after recording the most points (39) and assists (34) by a Rangers rookie defenseman since Brian Leetch in 1988-89. The Lakeville, Minnesota, native played collegiately at the University of Minnesota before turning pro.

**ONE TIMERS**

- **Nicknames:** Shazer, Brades
- **Greatest love besides hockey:** His vacation cabin in Minnesota, which has been in his family for over 60 years
- **What he'd be doing if not playing hockey:** Attempting a professional golf career
- **Talent he'd most like to have:** Ability to sing and play guitar
- **Person he'd trade places with for a day:** Harry Styles
- **Actor that would play him in a movie:** Bradley Cooper
- **On his bucket list:** Golf in Ireland and Scotland
- **Most listened to artist:** Jay Z
- **Favorite meal:** Steak and potatoes
- **First jersey bought:** Marian Gaborik Minnesota Wild jersey
- **Book:** “Unbroken”
- **Movie:** The Hangover
- **TV show:** Shark Tank

**FINE NINE**

Skjei was 1 of 9 NYR defensemen in team history to post at least 3 separate 25-point seasons while age 24 or younger (Leetch, Park, Greschner, Maloney, J.Patrick, Ruotsalainen, Beck, Zubov).

**LOOSE PUCKS**

- Named to the NHL’s All-Rookie Team in 2016-17
- Parents are Scott and Michele. Both work as real estate agents in the Minneapolis region. Scott played wide receiver at Augsburg College. Also has an older brother, Ramsey, who attended Minnesota with Brady. The two were hockey teammates in high school
- Brady was his high school’s starting quarterback before he switched to hockey full-time as a junior. He also played on the school’s golf team
- Grew up a fan of the Minnesota Wild
- His favorite personal moment in sports growing up was winning the state championship in hockey as a sophomore in high school
- Brady’s uncle, Barry Karn, is a long-time NHL skating coach who has worked for many teams including the Minnesota Wild, Calgary Flames and San Jose Sharks. Barry was one of the driving forces for Brady playing hockey as he would attend skating clinics that Barry would run in the Minnesota area when he was very young. Brady’s first job was actually working for Barry at his skating clinics
- Majored in business and marketing