An imposing defensive presence on the blue line, Marc Staal is the team's second-longest-tenured player (behind Henrik Lundqvist) since being drafted in the first round (12th overall) in 2003. One of New York's top defensemen and a leader in the locker room over his career, Staal has served as an alternate captain for the team since 2010. He is one of three brothers currently playing in the NHL.

LOOSE PUCKS

• Talent he'd most like to have: Ability to play guitar and sing
• Favorite bands: Kings of Leon, OAR, Need to Breathe, and Mumford & Sons
• TV show: Seinfeld
• On his bucket list: Go on an African safari
• Nicknames: Ginger, 2 percent, Staalsy
• Hobby: Fresh-water fishing
• Meal: Chinese food
• Movie: Gladiator
• Books: “Lone Survivor” and “Unbroken”

ONE TIMERS

Talent he'd most like to have: Ability to play guitar and sing
Favorite bands: Kings of Leon, OAR, Need to Breathe, and Mumford & Sons
TV show: Seinfeld
On his bucket list: Go on an African safari
Nicknames: Ginger, 2 percent, Staalsy
Hobby: Fresh-water fishing
Meal: Chinese food
Movie: Gladiator
Books: “Lone Survivor” and “Unbroken”

STEADY STAAL

Since making his NHL debut in 2007-08, Staal ...

• Leads all players in games played (892)
• Ranks 2nd among team defensemen in hits (1308) and blocked shots (1162)
• Ranks 3rd among team d-men in goals (43), assists (145), and points (188)

• He and his wife, Lindsay, have two daughters, Anna and Emily, and a son, Jack
• Parents are Henry and Linda
• His favorite personal moment in sports growing up was winning the city championship as a 12-year old in hockey
• Ranks 4th among defensemen in franchise history - and 6th overall - with 892 games played
• Has played in 107 career playoff games, 3rd in franchise history and 2nd among skaters
• Named the Rangers nominee for the 2012-13 Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy, an annual award given to the NHL player who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey
• An NHL All-Star selection in 2010-11
• Since the Rangers/NHL began to have players wear an ‘A’ on their jersey as an alternate captain, Staal is 1 of 3 players to either wear a ‘C’ or an ‘A’ with the Rangers for 10 or more seasons, joining Mark Messier and Brian Leetch
Marc is one of three brothers currently playing in the NHL, as his older brother (Eric) plays for the Minnesota Wild and his younger brother (Jordan) skates for the Carolina Hurricanes. In addition, his youngest brother, Jared, was a prospect in the Hurricanes organization and is now an assistant coach with OHA Edmonton of the Canadian Sport Hockey League School.

Marc, Eric and Jordan are the only trio of brothers in the history of the NHL, NFL, MLB, or NBA who were all selected 12th overall or higher in the Draft.

Marc’s father, Henry, and his uncle, Gary, own Sunshine Sod Farm in their hometown of Thunder Bay, Ontario. It has been in the family for many years as the two purchased the farm from Marc’s grandfather when Marc was a young child. “My brothers and I spent many long days on that farm,” said Marc. “Whenever we weren’t playing hockey, we were working on the farm laying sod. After school, we’d go to the farm and work. In the summers, we’d wake up early and lay sod all day long. It was not an easy job, we all had different duties. I learned the meaning of hard work at a very early age. It was very good for me and my brothers.”

In 2012, Marc and his family created the Staal Family Foundation, which was inspired to support children and families battling cancer. For more information, please log on to staalfoundation.org or follow on twitter @staalhelps.

“For me, he’s been unbelievable...he’s a guy you really enjoy to coach. You enjoy your interaction with him; he’s a stabilizing force in the locker room. He’s a guy that’s not very loud, but when he speaks, people listen. And we’ve been lucky to have him.”

-Rangers head coach David Quinn