KAAPPO
KAKKOO

SHOOTS: LEFT
HEIGHT: 6’3”
WEIGHT: 199
BORN: FEBRUARY 13, 2001
BIRTHPLACE: TURKU, FINLAND

A first round draft choice of the Rangers in 2019, and second selection overall, highly-talented Kaapo Kakko skated in 45 games with TPS of Liiga last season, registering 22 goals and 16 assists for 38 points. Liiga’s 2018-19 Rookie Of The Year selection, Kakko’s 22 goals were the most any U18 player has registered in one season in the history of Finland’s top league, breaking the record of 21 set by Aleksander Barkov in 2012-13. In addition, Kakko’s 38 points were the third-most in one season by a U18 player in league history, trailing only Barkov (48 in 2012-13) and Mikael Granlund (40 in 2009-10). Kakko was selected higher in the NHL Entry Draft by the Rangers than any other European-born player in franchise history.

ONE TIMERS

Nickname: Kaapeli
What he’d be doing for a career if not playing hockey: Police-man or coach
Hidden talent: “I’m a good chef.”
First jersey ever bought: Team Finland sweater
On his bucket list: Own a sportscar
Collects: Shoes
Most listened to artists: Gettomasa and JVG
Other sport he’d like to play professionally: Stiker in soccer
Game show he’d like to compete on: Who Wants To Be A Mil-lionaire
Most sentimental possession: World championship medal
Favorite meal: Kebab and fries
Movie: The Dirt
Place to visit: Jokiranti in Turku

GOALS GALORE

Kakko leads all 18-year-olds in goals (6) and points (14) this season.

LOOSE PUCKS

• Parents are Petri and Sari. Has a brother, Konsta
• Played soccer, floorball and hockey in high school
• Grew up a fan of Kiekko67 and TPS hockey
• His first job was as an assistant in a sport shop

THE FINNISHER

In a 13-month span from April of 2018 to May of 2019, Kakko helped Finland win a gold medal at the 2018 IIHF U18 World Championship, the 2019 IIHF World Junior Championship, and the 2019 IIHF World Championship. He became the first player in hockey history to win a gold medal at the IIHF World Champi-onship in his U18 season. In addition, Kakko became the young-est player in hockey history to win gold medals at the IIHF U18 World Championship, the IIHF World Junior Championship, and the IIHF World Championship (18 years, 102 days old: Connor McDavid was previously the youngest player to do so).