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 in 2018-19, registering 22 goals and 16 assists for 38 points. Liiga’s 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 Millionaire
- Most sentimental possession: World championship medal
- Favorite meal: Kebab and fries
- Movie: The Dirt
- Place to visit: Jokiranti in Turku

**TO BE 18**

Over the last 20 seasons, among players who never played in a North American league prior to the start of their NHL career as an 18-year-old, Kakko was one of only seven 18-year-olds to record at least eight goals in their first 50 NHL games (Gaborik, Kovalchuk, Barkov, Nichushkin, Pastrnak, and Laine).

In addition, Kakko’s 19 points were the most by an 18-year-old in Rangers history, and his eight goals were tied for the most (Manny Malhotra).