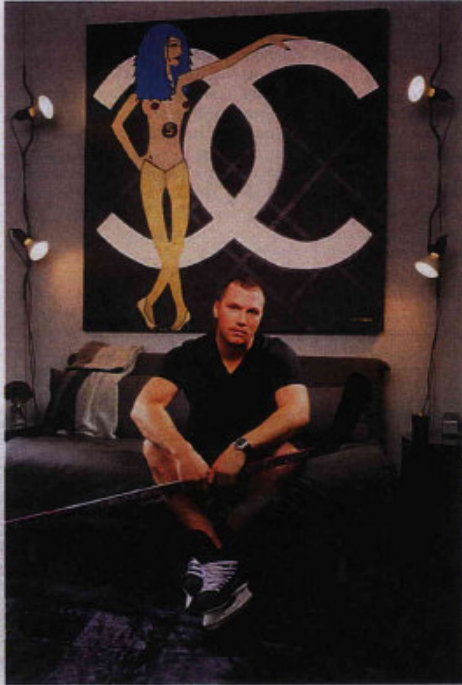


Rinkmaster

Sean Avery, star left wing and on-ice troublemaker for the New York Rangers, recently signed a one-year, \$1.9 million contract and moved into a Chelsea condo.



Least-favorite interview topic: Hockey.

Fantasy career: I'd like to be an editor of a fashion magazine. Creatively and artistically, it is something I'd like to do, and I think I have a lot of ideas that would be good on paper.

Best thing about having money: The only thing I can say without sounding shallow is that it gives you independence.

Cost of living: I know it has that reputation, but I don't find New York too expensive. Everyday living, outside of the apartment, isn't that bad. The cost of owning a home and running it is.

How he spent his first bonus: I didn't come from a wealthy family, so my first signing bonus was a big deal. That said, it wasn't enough to spend on anything worthwhile. I rented an R.V. and took my buddies camping.

Next big purchase: The spring/summer Dior men's collection.

Morning routine: I wake up at 8 a.m., make a cup of coffee, check my e-mail and get in the car and drive to the rink. The Rangers train outside the city in Tarrytown, N.Y. I get to the rink at 8:45 a.m.; I walk out of practice by 1:30 p.m. with workout, practice, massage and lunch all completed.

Procrastination technique: I don't have one. I act on impulse.

Nagging injury: I've got a pulled groin right now that I can't shake.

Most annoying piece of equipment: My helmet. It always feels like it's too tight, no matter how much I loosen it.

Worst attribute in a coach: Dishonesty.

Always stockpiled: Clean towels. It's ridiculous, but once I use a towel, I have to wash it and use a new one. I'm over the top about cleanliness.

Obsolete item he won't part with: My washer-dryer. It doesn't really work that well, but the hockey season is

starting, and I don't have time to get it fixed.

Book he's reading: "Guns, Germs and Steel," by Jared Diamond. A friend recommended it to me, and I think it's a two-read book. I am battling through it the first time, and then I'll go at it again.



Place where he spends the most time: I just stand by the island in my kitchen. I can't sit still. So that's my one grounded spot, where I can see what's going on and my remotes work.



Favorite recent purchase: I'm stoked about my Philippe Starck lamp. It is shaped like a machine gun. It lets you know there's a man living in the house.

Best thing about reputation as a pest: It's better than being known as soft.

Top pest technique: It depends on the team and guy. I say whatever I think is going to disturb them the most. I do a bit of research on people.



Interview by Edward Lewine Photographs by Ben Stechschulte



and you feel it from playing the guy. Some info comes from teammates.

Favorite artwork: It's a photo of Andy Warhol right after he was shot at his studio. He's showing someone his bullet wound. When I got to New York, I wanted to give my apartment a local vibe. I haven't bucked up for a Warhol yet, so this will tide me over.

Obsession: Music is one of the only things that makes me happy, and the more depressing the music, the happier it makes me feel. I love Radiohead, Neil Young and, right now, Kate Nash.

Gadget he can't live without: Apple TV. It's

a system that plays my iPod, movies, computer — anything — on my television.

Greatest hockey moment: Getting traded to New York.

Best thing about New York: I've learned to ride my bike again.

Biggest self-indulgence: Making myself the center of attention.

Person from history he wants to meet: It's a cliché, but Napoleon. He was, like, a rock star-athlete-politician — all put into one. And I think he really enjoyed himself.

Dumbest recurring journalist question: It's not a question, but a lot of them call me Steve,

because there used to be a baseball pitcher named Steve Avery. He played for the Atlanta Braves.

Always in fridge: Grapes, water and some sort of fruit juice.

Least-favorite household chore: Answering the phone.

Personal hero: I haven't found one yet.



Pregame ritual: I always nap from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Then I pick a suit, grab a coffee and walk from my building to Madison Square Garden, listening to Tool on my iPod. The initial walk into the arena is my favorite time during game day. You head into Madison Square Garden, and it just makes you feel like this is the big time.

Between-period routine: Change my shirt. Tape a stick.

What players talk about during fights: Nothing that you could print in a magazine.



Household item that defines him: My Taschen books. I love them and always have them around. They're art books. The pictures are big and colorful. They are works of art as well as books.

Always with him: My iPhone. I always have an iPod and a cellphone with me, so that combines the two. But



I am frustrated with it. You need a special plug for the car. And it freezes occasionally.

Favorite clothing item: My black patent-leather Yves St. Laurent high-tops.

Best recent gift: People don't really buy me stuff. Well, that's not true — I just got a lovely cashmere throw from a friend who works at Calvin Klein, so I have gotten a gift.

Perfect weekend: "The Big Chill." That would be my ideal weekend, minus the fact that we were gathering because of a death.

Home away from home: Before the Rangers, I played for the Los Angeles Kings, and I bought a place in Laurel Canyon. I love going there for vacation. It's just a healthy, soulful place. The house is, like, a hippie haven from the '70s; it's a small cottage with a big backyard.

Best bedtime story: During the big hockey strike, I played in Finland, and their beds are very, very narrow. I had to push two together.

Always by his bed: A beautiful woman. ■