

# PRO HOCKEY DRAFTOLOGY 2016

A collective presentation of:  
**SPORTSOLOGY,**  
**FANTASYDRAFTHelp.COM**  
& **THE FDH LOUNGE** under  
the banner of **THE 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**CENTURY MEDIA ALLIANCE**

June 20, 2016

**RUSS COHEN/RICK MORRIS/  
JASON JONES**



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Cohen all  
throughout NHL  
Entry Draft weekend  
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## PRO HOCKEY DRAFTOLOGY 2016 Overview

Here we go! Some of the most creative new media sports entities in existence today have joined forces to bring you the ultimate guide to the 2016 NHL Entry Draft and offseason. In these pages, you'll read in-depth assessments of top young stars, gain an insight into the thought process of some of them and gain a look at draft aspects within the sport's developmental arena. Additionally, we look at the state of the NHL — including the upcoming free agent class and the awards.

As an added bonus, you can get an early jump on next year's hockey pool with a look at how players fared according to the "Ultimate Quantitative Baseline" statistic in 2015-16. Enjoy your reading and remember the forces who came together for this publication: Sportsology, The FDH Lounge and FantasyDrafthelp.com.

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# Sportsology

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nobody, but nobody, brings it stronger!

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Media Alliance

What initially began in 2009 as a small coalition of like-minded growing New Media organizations has flourished into a well-rounded creative juggernaut of more than two dozen entities that transcends the notion of traditional labeling. The 21st Century Media Alliance is an umbrella of cooperative companies and professionals that is pursuing many synergistic opportunities and projects. Possessed of varying yet often complementary skill sets, Alliance members are bound by their core principles of inventiveness, communication, pragmatism and dedication to their efforts and those of the larger group. In a great many creative areas, if you're looking to have a job performed the right way, chances are that you need look no further than The 21st Century Media Alliance.

## Top 30 Overall Player Rankings

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

1) Auston Matthews – 6-2, 210 – C – When he goes in deep with the puck, nobody stops him and then he can shoot or pass. He's unselfish. Swats away pucks with great force on defense. He's a generational player. I'd rank him ahead of Jack Eichel for future potential.

2) Patrik Laine – 6-4, 209 – LW – He's a big, powerful, dynamic player. He can make the dipsy do dangle and snipe the short side. He can make a slick defensive play and get the puck going the other way. Great wrist shot from long distance too. Attracts the defense and can make a great pass to setup a scoring chance. Can slow down the game for his benefit. Laine's toughness is why I have him ranked slightly ahead of his countryman.

3) Jesse Puljujärvi – 6-3, 203 – RW – He has all the tools. He can fly down the ice and get a goal. Can really stickhandle away from anybody, at that size, and doesn't seem to have a favorite spot. He can score from all of them. Agile, hard to knock off the puck. If you try and block his shot he dangles past, makes a slight adjustment to get the shot off.

4) Matthew Tkachuk – 6-1, 195 – LW – He has rare poise and hockey I.Q. for such a young player. Fast enough, gets to the net. Has a quick release. Can go into traffic with his head down. His skating is better than average. Has a pedigree that I like.

5) Olli Juolevi – 6-2, 183 – D – He has a lot of stick skills. Good stopping and starting speed. Excellent slap shot. Excellent on the power play. Patient waiting to make that first pass from behind the net. Has an active stick. Always has his stick down. Sneaky fast wrist shot. Great on the PK.

6) Pierre Luc-Dubois – 6-3, 201 – C – He has great hands, stick and puck control. Will lay a hit to make a play. Very strong on his skates. He plays solid defense. He has exceptional stamina. He powers well to the net. Coach's kid. Creates scoring chances for teammates.

7) Jakob Chychrun – 6-2, 214 – D – He's come back strong from a shoulder injury. Has a big shot. Can lead the puck up the ice. His speed can be better. He has an amazing point shot and wrist shot. He can split the defense with fancy moves. He has a very fast, hard wrist shot that he can shoot in action.

8) Tyson Jost – 6-0, 194 – C – All-around player. Heading to North Dakota next season. Goal-scorer mentality. Playmaker as well. Captain for the Veers. Great vision. Excellent skater. Got caught off guard on defense because of aggressiveness. Fast skater. Moves up the ice quickly with the puck.

9) Clayton Keller – 5-10, 168 – C – He plays bigger. Good on draws against older/stronger NCAA players. When Keller gets stronger, watch out. He looks like the fastest player on the NTDP. He's a playmaking center. He has great hands and can draw penalties. BU commit. Made solid defensive plays. Keller is faster with the puck than anybody out there. Hard to keep up with and cover. This year with the NTDP has been a record-setting one. His combined games effort make him the single-season assists leader (64) in the program's great history and the all-time points leader, moving ahead of stars like Patrick Kane and Phil Kessel.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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Steve Kallas.com Sports columns from a unique perspective

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## Top 30 Overall Player Rankings

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

10) Logan Brown – C – 6-6, 218 – Excellent passer. Causes matchup problems for the opposition. Lightning fast release on the break. Can make the big hit. Snapping off hard wrist shots. With a head of steam, he's hard to hold back.

11) Alexander Nylander – 6-0, 172 – RW – He can stick-handle through major traffic. Has a rocket of a one-timer. Great on the power play. He's a precision passer and can make the cross-ice pass. Backchecks well. Excellent passing as usual. Left side on power play. Goes to the net. Streaks through the neutral zone. Tied Latvia game with a rocket top shelf one-timer in the U18s.

12) Mikhail Sergachev – D – 6-2, 205 – Long reach, fast, can catch fast players from behind the play. Good passer. Very hard shot. Lays hits. Good under pressure on defense. Can make the long pass with accuracy and speed.

13) Luke Kunin – 6-0, 193 – C – In the All-American Prospects game, he had the second goal of the game and scored three points on six shots overall. Fast shot. He's a goal-scorer first and playmaker second. Gets down the ice quickly for scoring opportunities. He really shined on a bad Wisconsin team.

14) Charlie McAvoy – 6-1, 211 – D – Good shot-blocker and puck mover. Moves up the ice well. Has a sneaky fast wrist shot that he fires off on net with a defender on him. Plays in all situations. Nice block and moved the puck up the ice well. Up high on Team USA power play. Solid slap shot. Makes a good chip pass on the power play. Good wrister in close as well.

15) Michael McLeod – 6-2, 187 C – McLeod is a pivot with a goal scorers touch. He's surprisingly fast on the rush. He can score from the slot with a quick wrist shot. He can play in all situations. He'll bury the one-timer if you give him space. Can score with somebody on him. Has just enough speed to keep defenders at bay. Protects the puck well.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

## 2016 NHL Free Agency Preview

After a few years of underwhelming free agent markets, 2016 is going to pack a real punch. It starts with a true generational talent, Steven Stamkos, who seems likely but not a lock to stay in his extremely promising situation in Tampa Bay. But the top-level attractions extend further than that.

Anze Kopitar has established himself as one of the league's premier winners and this past season his production shot up to a new level, positioning himself to really cash in this summer. Los Angeles would be crazy not to match any price for him, but, again, there are no guarantees. The next two talents available are also very valuable to their own teams, but also to a great many others: Jakub Voracek and Mark Giordano. The others still squarely in their prime who will be out there are Kyle Okposo, Brent Seabrook and Erik Johnson. Others who could be an important part of the core of a winning team include David Backes, Dustin Byfuglien, Eric Staal, Jaromir Jagr, Tomas Plekanec, Ryan Kesler, Alex Goligoski, Brian Campbell, Andrew Ladd, David Perron and Milan Lucic.

There are a number of quality restricted free agents available, but few if any will be moving on, including: Johnny Gaudreau, Seth Monahan, Filip Forsberg, Seth Jones, Aleksander Barkov, Hampus Lindholm, Nathan MacKinnon, Tyson Barrie, Nikita Kucherov, Alex Killorn, Jaden Schwartz, Boone Jenner, Petr Mrazek, Olli Maatta, Morgan Reilly, Sean Couturier, Braden Schenn and Torey Krug.

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## FDH Positional Upgrade Recommendations For Each Team In The Draft

Anaheim: Defense	Montreal: Forward
Arizona: Forward	Nashville: Forward
Boston: Forward	New Jersey: Forward
Buffalo: Defense	New York Islanders: Defense
Calgary: Goalie	New York Rangers: Forward
Carolina: Forward	Ottawa: Forward
Chicago: Goalie	Philadelphia: Defense
Colorado: Defense	Pittsburgh: Defense
Columbus: Defense	St. Louis: Forward
Dallas: Goalie	San Jose: Forward
Detroit: Defense	Tampa Bay: Forward
Edmonton: Defense	Toronto: Forward
Florida: Defense	Vancouver: Defense
Los Angeles: Forward	Washington: Defense
Minnesota: Forward	Winnipeg: Goalie

## Links To Top Prospect Videos

Here are links to some of the best players of the '16 Draft in action.  
Logan Brown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPrIwOcML8>  
Pierre-Luc Dubois: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C2NfA8LtJA>  
Tyson Jost: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSibzYk9U6I>  
Olli Juolevi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8M1tBG7m5I>  
Clayton Keller: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcGMU8K-RA>  
Patrik Laine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiFnpZL0Ch4>  
Auston Matthews: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AiMew4ugX8>  
Alexander Nylander: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jxIF7HZj3I>  
Jesse Puljujarvi: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=895\\_zVVwEwA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=895_zVVwEwA)  
Matthew Tkachuk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxcS4kAfW1k>

## Sportsology

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Check out the main site at [Sportsology.info](http://Sportsology.info) and specific sub-sites for baseball, football, hockey, hoops, pro wrestling, video games, DVDs/movies and music.

## DRAFTOLOGY GUIDES

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## Black Draft Tracking Worksheet

- 1 Toronto
- 2 Winnipeg
- 3 Columbus
- 4 Edmonton
- 5 Vancouver
- 6 Calgary
- 7 Arizona
- 8 Buffalo
- 9 Montreal
- 10 Colorado
- 11 New Jersey
- 12 Ottawa
- 13 Carolina
- 14 Boston
- 15 Minnesota
- 16 Detroit
- 17 Nashville
- 18 Philadelphia
- 19 NY Islanders
- 20 Arizona
- 21 Carolina
- 22 Winnipeg
- 23 Florida
- 24 Anaheim
- 25 Dallas
- 26 Washington
- 27 Tampa Bay
- 28 St. Louis
- 29 San Jose
- 30 Pittsburgh

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## Sergachev Has The Right Stuff

Mikhail Sergachev is a great skater and a precise passer. He has the frame that is almost pro-ready today. At 6-2, around 210 now, he looks like a man. He's wearing the "A" and he showed a lot of leadership in the recent U18 World Championships.

"We didn't play our structure in the defensive zone. We didn't play good. We were trying because everybody was watching in Russia. We were trying to prove ourselves," said the talented defenseman. "I don't feel any pressure. I try to say something on the ice to my guys to show them we can play."

He really wanted to send a positive message, "It was fun to play against the best team in the world."

He is moving up on my own personal list. It's easy to see how players play and react when things are rolling. It's another to see how they are when the bottom falls out. This prospect showed he can handle both.

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## That NBA Lottery Pick

Adam Silver did not authorize this kind of irreverence!

<http://thatnbalotterypick.com>

## Top 30 Overall Player Rankings

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

- 16) Dante Fabbro – 6-1, 185 – D – Stayed behind another year in the BCHL before going to BU next year. Two-way with a ton of offensive upside. Big shot on the power play. Power play quarterback. Plays strong defense. Power play. Good passing. Solid wrist shot.
- 17) Kieffer Bellows – 6-1, 195 – LW – Heavy shot. Fast release. Gets in on the goalie fast. Dominating at the NTDP. Will play at the NHL level like his father. Carries himself like a pro on and off the ice. Laid a nice hit. Skating well. Making sharp passes. Laying out players and then laying out to try and score is in his game. Strong wrist shot.
- 18) Max Jones – LW – 6-3, 201 – Nice goal on the rush. Fast shot. Moves well with and without the puck. Powerful play with skill and determination. Prototypical winger.
- 19) Jake Bean – 6-1, 170 – D – He is a guaranteed first round pick in the upcoming 2016 NHL Entry Draft. Decent skater. PP QB. Jumps into the play to score goals like a forward. Fast with the puck.
- 20) Alex DeBrincat – 5-7, 160 – C – Goal scoring center who buzzes through the crease area. Fast skater. Fearless. Plays solid defense as well. Has dominated at every level in his career so far.
- 21) German Rubstov – 6-1, 179 – C – Big centerman. Shifty skater. Solid stick and puck skills. Fast shot. Will shoot or dish. Decent pursuit on the defensive end. Has a great backhand. Excellent on the power play with a solid shot from the slot. Uses his size and makes good passes to get out of trouble. When he faced a stronger team he wasn't as effective and lost some puck battles on the side wall.
- 22) Julien Gauthier – 6-4, 212, RW – Defensive awareness isn't great. Lethal shot. Good wheels. Scorer. Sets up quickly to score. Looked good in International play. Scored a pretty goal down low proving if you're around the net offensively good things can happen. He has a fast shot. Gets his wrist shot off quickly with force. Plays on the power play. Has a decent one-timer that can improve. Impressive for a late '97.
- 23) Brett Howden 6-3, 190 – LW/C – His older brother Quinton, was selected by Florida in the first round of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft. Big kid. Good offensive ability. Has a frame you can build on. Goal scorer. 2-way. Skates well. Physical. Hockey i.q. is high. Strong. Overpowers defenders to steal the puck. Thinks fast. Scores down low. Good on draws.
- 24) Dillon Dube – 5-10 – 181 – C – Presents the stick well. Works at top speed. Passes with ease. Can turn the corner on defenders to get to the net. Great on the PK.
- 25) Riley Tuft – 6-4 – 205 – LW – Skates well. Very strong down low. Can really work the puck out of the corners and can thread short passes to the crease area for scoring chances. Hard to contain by the lower hash marks. Fast accurate shot from the slot.
- 26) Pascal Laberge – 6-1 – 173 – C – Great shot. Good speed. Playmaker. Likes to shoot. Really fast shot from the slot. Strong forecheck.
- 27) Rasmus Asplund – C/LW – 5-11, 176 – Starred in the WJC. Skates great. Moves well without the puck. Knows where to go. Works well on the walls. Can make the tough passes that become scoring chances and goals. Skates very well. Can score from far out.
- 28) Taylor Raddysh – 6-2 – 198 – RW – Decent speed. Not that physical yet. More engaged on defense. Highly skilled. Can make difficult passes look easy. Plays mainly on Alex DeBrincat's line and some with Dylan Strome
- 29) Samuel Girard – 5-10, 165 – D – Good puckmover. Proficient on the power play. Shoots the puck well. Hard hitter. Good on the PK
- 30) Simon Stransky – 6-0 – 170 – LW – Is from a Czech hockey family and this left winger is hoping to become the first to become an NHLer. Good passer. Accurate shot.

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## Joey Anderson Could Be a Second-Round Steal

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Some guys manage to fly under the radar heading into a draft and Joey Anderson seems to be one of them. This season, the 5-11 right wing had a terrific season, with 27 goals and 57 points in 64 games for the NTDP. Now the funny part is that, even after this, he's still being looked at as only a second-rounder at best.

He can't do anything about his height, which is fine; at 192 pounds, he's very sturdy and can find himself in the dirty areas to score if necessary.

The Roseville, Minnesota native played on the same line as Kiefer Bellows (expected first rounder in the draft) and Clayton Keller (possible Top 10 pick in the draft) for the NTDP and the U18 team as well. At times he made those players better.

The first thing about him that stands out is his heavy shot. At the U18s, he had seven goals and nine points in seven games! Even after that tremendous showing, he still failed to get any publicity.

In one game, he scored one of 12 goals against Latvia.

"I don't know if I imagined 12 goals. After we got a few in, the train really got rolling after that," Anderson stated. "We felt good out there and we weren't taking any crap from them."

Anderson's younger brother, Mikey (2017 NHL Draft-eligible), plays on the blue line and soon the two of them will be playing together again.

"Growing up, we played together and I played a year of high school with him. It will be nice to play with him at Minnesota, Duluth. We've played on the same power play before."

His dad Gerry played some collegiate hockey and his grandfather, Tom, was a UMD forward in the 1950's!

Like most, he's just trying to enjoy himself at the 2016 NHL Draft.

"I think it will be fun," he said.

## Alex DeBrincat: To Some, His Height Is Still An Issue

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Alex DeBrincat is 5-7, he weighs in at 165 pounds and he's scoring at a Connor McDavid clip with the Erie Otters once again. The only difference is that he's doing it without McDavid and he still scored when Dylan Strome was out with an injury as well. He's one of the five best scorers in the 2016 NHL Draft, yet some have him pegged as a Top 15 pick because they can't get past the fact that he's a smaller player. I think it's bunk. Talent is talent.

"Last year was a fun year for sure," said DeBrincat. "I signed as a free agent and I feel like I didn't get too much of a chance until the season started. I just played my game, even though I'm a little undersized."

In high school, he averaged 2.22 points per game, 111 points in just 50 games. Skeptics would shrug that off to "hey it's high school" and the competition in Michigan (sarcasm) isn't that great. Then he joined the Erie Otters. He turned 16 last December and finished the season with 104 points in 68 games. Skeptics said it was his teammates who helped to inflate his numbers.

"Everybody has their own opinion and maybe they just chalked it up as I was too small," he said honestly. "I think they missed the work ethic that I have on the ice."

This year he had 22 goals in his first 15 games. He won the OHL Player of the Month for October. He may be able to open up more eyes on the international stage. But should he have to? That's the big question here. With the success of some smaller players in the NHL (and the numbers are growing), he has the blueprint. Some teams still shy away from players of his size; others don't worry about it. I still think there's a higher percentage of teams who will pass on the smaller player with a high pick and instead hope that this player drops, so that they could possibly get them with a second first-round pick or via a trade of some sort.

"You look at the top scorer the playoffs last year (Tyler Johnson). He's a small guy and he just found a way to get to the net and get points."

Before you worry if he's strong enough, he already answered the pull-up question.

"I've done them a few times; we've done them for our training camp," he chuckled.

He should be a guaranteed first-round pick. Will he be? We'll know in late June.

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# FDH Early Predictions For 2016-17

EASTERN CONFERENCE  
ATLANTIC DIVISION  
X-Tampa Bay 104  
Y-Florida 99  
Y-Detroit 88  
Y-Montreal 87  
Boston 86  
Ottawa 85  
Buffalo 84  
Toronto 74

METROPOLITAN  
DIVISION  
X-Washington 109  
Y-Pittsburgh 107  
Y-NY Islanders 97  
Y-NY Rangers 94  
Philadelphia 86  
New Jersey 80  
Columbus 79-14  
Carolina 76

WESTERN CONFERENCE  
CENTRAL DIVISION  
X-Dallas 112  
Y-Chicago 108  
Y-St. Louis 105  
Y-Nashville 100  
Y-Minnesota 84  
Colorado 83  
Winnipeg 80

PACIFIC DIVISION  
X-Los Angeles 106  
Y-San Jose 103  
Y-Anaheim 102  
Calgary 82  
Arizona 79  
Vancouver 78  
Edmonton 78

CONFERENCE QUARTERFINALS  
Tampa Bay over Montreal in 6  
Florida over Detroit in 6  
Washington over NY Rangers in 5  
Pittsburgh over NY Islanders in 7  
Dallas over Minnesota in 5  
Chicago over St. Louis in 7  
Los Angeles over Nashville in 7  
San Jose over Anaheim in 6

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS  
Tampa Bay over Florida in 6  
Washington over Pittsburgh in 7  
Dallas over Chicago in 7  
Los Angeles over San Jose in 7

CONFERENCE FINALS  
Tampa Bay over Washington in 6  
Dallas over Los Angeles in 7

STANLEY CUP FINAL  
Tampa Bay over Dallas in 6

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## FDH Lounge NHL Awards Picks

Hart Trophy  
Jamie Benn  
Sidney Crosby  
Patrick Kane  
FDH pick: Kane

Lindsay Award  
Jamie Benn  
Braden Holtby  
Patrick Kane  
FDH pick: Kane

Norris Trophy  
Brent Burns  
Drew Doughty  
Erik Karlsson  
FDH pick: Doughty

Vezina Trophy  
Ben Bishop  
Braden Holtby  
Jonathan Quick  
FDH pick: Holtby

Selke Trophy  
Patrice Bergeron  
Ryan Kesler  
Anze Kopitar  
FDH pick: Kopitar

Calder Trophy  
Shayne Gostisbehere  
Connor McDavid  
Artemi Panarin  
FDH pick: Panarin

Adams Award  
Gerard Gallant  
Lindy Ruff  
Barry Trotz  
FDH pick: Gallant

GM of the Year  
Brian MacLellan  
Jim Nill  
Jim Rutherford  
FDH pick: Nill

## The FDH Lounge Top 30 Players In The NHL

NOTE: These players are ranked based not merely on how they have produced this year, but also the past year or two. These are not fantasy rankings, but are based on overall play. Numbers in parentheses indicate where the players ranked on our 2015 rankings, with the ones who fell out of those rankings listed at the bottom.

### TOP TIER

- 1 Patrick Kane (16)
- 2 Sidney Crosby (2)
- 3 Jamie Benn (5)
- 4 Jonathan Toews (1)
- 5 Evgeni Malkin (9)
- 6 Alex Ovechkin (3)
- 7 Steven Stamkos (6)
- 8 Joe Pavelski (28)
- 9 John Tavares (4)
- 10 Erik Karlsson (21)
- 11 Vladimir Tarasenko (13)
- 12 Tyler Seguin (7)
- 13 Anze Kopitar (NA)
- 14 Joe Thornton (NA)
- 15 Johnny Gaudreau (NA)
- 16 Artemi Panarin (NA)
- 17 Evgeny Kuznetsov (NA)
- 18 Kris Letang (NA)

### SECOND TIER

- 19 Aleksander Barkov (NA)
- 20 Brent Burns (NA)
- 21 John Klingberg (NA)
- 22 Nicklas Backstrom (27)
- 23 Nikita Kucherov (NA)
- 24 Braden Holtby (NA)
- 25 Blake Wheeler (NA)
- 26 Duncan Keith (10)
- 27 Ben Bishop (NA)
- 28 Loui Eriksson (NA)
- 29 Corey Crawford (NA)
- 30 Corey Perry (17)

- Carey Price (8)
- Tyler Johnson (11)
- Jiri Hudler (12)
- Max Pacioretty (14)
- Pavel Datsyuk (15)
- Henrik Lundqvist (18)
- Victor Hedman (19)
- Devan Dubnyk (20)
- Pekka Rinne (22)
- Ryan Getzlaf (23)
- PK Subban (24)
- Rick Nash (25)
- Jakub Voracek (26)
- Kevin Shattenkirk (29)
- Claude Giroux (30)

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## Preview Of FantasyDrafthelp.com Ultimate Hockey Stat For 2016-17

This is the FantasyDrafthelp.com statistic, the Ultimate Quantitative Baseline, based on the statistical principle of standard deviation from the mean. For defensemen and forwards, the relevant statistics are points, goals, assists, penalty minutes and plus-minus. For goalies, the relevant statistics are wins, shutouts, goals against average and save percentage (with the categories being weighted extra since there is one less). In each category, a spectrum is calculated from the best performance to the worst (on a per-game basis for forwards and defensemen). The numbers in each category are added together to create our statistic. An additional equalizer is injected to apply more points to each player at the positions of scarcer depth. What this stat truly does is to quantify beyond doubt how the stronger and weaker performances in each category add up to the absolute fantasy value for each player. As such, it establishes a baseline for performance that is more comprehensive than anything ever developed. A number over 300 is considered elite and 375 constitutes a perfect score. We have listed below the top rankings at each position for last season as well as the Top 35 overall.

Forwards		UQB	Defensemen		UQB	Goalies		UQB	Top 35 Overall		UQB
1T	Patrick Kane	375	1T	Erik Karlsson	375	1T	Braden Holtby	375	1T	Patrick Kane	375
1T	Jamie Benn	375	1T	Brent Burns	375	1T	Ben Bishop	375	1T	Jamie Benn	375
1T	Sidney Crosby	375	1T	Kris Letang	375	1T	Brian Elliott	375	1T	Sidney Crosby	375
1T	Joe Thornton	375	1T	John Klingberg	375	1T	Carey Price	375	1T	Joe Thornton	375
1T	Joe Pavelski	375	1T	Oliver Ekman-Larsson	375	1T	Matt Murray	375	1T	Joe Pavelski	375
1T	Evgeny Kuznetsov	375	1T	Dustin Byfuglien	375	6	Jonathan Quick	356	1T	Evgeny Kuznetsov	375
1T	Anze Kopitar	375	7	P.K. Subban	340	7	Corey Crawford	267	1T	Anze Kopitar	375
1T	Alex Ovechkin	375	8	Brian Campbell	295	8T	Cory Schneider	259	1T	Alex Ovechkin	375
1T	Wayne Simmonds	375	9	Drew Doughty	271	8T	Martin Jones	259	1T	Wayne Simmonds	375
10	Connor McDavid	370	10	Shayne Gostisbehere	268	10	Marc-Andre Fleury	234	1T	Erik Karlsson	375
11	Evgeni Malkin	366	11	Colton Parayko	257	11	Roberto Luongo	230	1T	Brent Burns	375
12	Brad Marchand	350	12	Ryan McDonagh	228	12	John Gibson	227	1T	Kris Letang	375
13	Nicklas Backstrom	321	13	Mark Giordano	196	13	Henrik Lundqvist	189	1T	John Klingberg	375
14T	Tyler Seguin	311	14	Victor Hedman	184	14	Thomas Greiss	157	1T	Oliver Ekman-Larsson	375
14T	Tyler Toffoli	311	15	Roman Josi	181	15	Michal Neuvirth	152	1T	Dustin Byfuglien	375
16	John Gaudreau	276							1T	Braden Holtby	375
17	Blake Wheeler	275							1T	Ben Bishop	375
18	Artemi Panarin	255							1T	Brian Elliott	375
19	Vladimir Tarasenko	243							1T	Carey Price	375
20	James Neal	226							1T	Matt Murray	375
21	Jaromir Jagr	211							21	Connor McDavid	370
22	Milan Lucic	204							22	Evgeni Malkin	366
23	Aleksander Barkov	203							23	Jonathan Quick	356
24	Ryan Getzlaf	195							24	Brad Marchand	350
25	David Krejci	192							25	P.K. Subban	340
									26	Nicklas Backstrom	321
									27T	Tyler Seguin	311
									27T	Tyler Toffoli	311
									29	Brian Campbell	295
									30	John Gaudreau	276
									31	Blake Wheeler	275
									32	Drew Doughty	271
									33	Shayne Gostisbehere	268
									34	Corey Crawford	267
									35T	Cory Schneider	259
									35T	Martin Jones	259

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## Keenan Suthers Towering Over The Rest

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Buffalo, NY – – One wonders what it would be like to be so tall that you could see what's happening in a room before anybody else. One such hockey prospect is Keenan Suthers from the NTDP. This Macomb, Michigan native is a 98, so he's going to be ready this June when he hopes to hear his name called by some NHL club in Buffalo.

At 6-7, 220, this left shot plays a tough left wing. And let's face it, at the junior hockey level, he's a big guy to try and hold off. It's a nightmarish assignment for any defenseman to undertake.

At the All-American Prospects game in Buffalo, NY, he got a chance to play for Derek Plante's team and you did notice him on the ice.

"There's a lot of people watching," he said, acknowledging the 150 scouts who were in attendance. "I'll just go out there and do what I can. Get on the forecheck, get in front of the net, play the body and get off some shots."

"Sudzy," as he's known by his teammates, is a Western Michigan University commit who shined in the U17 Five Nations Tournament in Russia. He tied for a team-best two goals in four games and helped Team USA secure a second-place finish.

"Our Team USA team looks good. We just had some preseason games at home. We have our first game in Youngstown which should be good (NTDP won that game 6-4)," Suthers stated. "We're all getting ready for the U18. We're trying to bring home another gold medal."

He has hockey bloodlines. His grandfather, Tom, signed with the New York Rangers before being deployed to defend his country in WWII. His father was an athlete as well: Tom played pro basketball in France, Germany and Holland.

He's a smart kid. When asked about the talent level in the USHL, he gave an interesting answer.

"There are so many 98s and 97s who are really young and doing well. Last year when I came in, it seemed like there were a few 20-year-old players who were really good. There's a lot of young talent in that league and it's very successful."

## Vladimir Kuznetsov is a Wild Card In The 2016 NHL Draft

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Vladimir Kuznetsov has all the tools you'd want in a potential high-scoring hockey player. He's a versatile winger who at 6-2, 214, might appear to be a bit chunky – but when you see him up close, you realize that he just has a big frame and is big-boned. He did a nice job at the U18s, playing with mostly 17-year-olds who were thrown together at the last minute when the U18s had a doping scandal. He had three helpers in five games. At 18, he's nowhere near a finished product, but he has a lot of potential.

"That game against the United States – we didn't know each other," he said earlier in the tournament. "The game wasn't ours."

He plays for Acadie-Bathurst Titan in the QMJHL. He had 25 goals and 58 points in 68 games. In the playoffs, his production dropped off to just one point in five games. If somebody is going to point to a reason why he's a second- or third-round pick, it's likely his lack of consistency.

"The Canadian Hockey League is faster," Kuznetsov said in comparing the "Q" to the U18s. "In Russia, you have more time, you can move more. I do like to play physical."

He's not related to the Capitals' Kuznetsov. In 2015, he was the first overall pick in the CHL import draft. He's fast, strong, he blocks shots and looks to create offense when he's on defense. He has a pro shot, but he's not always completely visible throughout an entire game.

"I like a fast game where I can shoot a lot," he revealed.

This draft can be an interesting one as far he's concerned. Wherever he goes, that team is banking on his potential and they'll be hoping they hit a home run where they grab him.

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## Logan Brown Could Shoot Up The Charts

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Logan Brown is a 6-6 center. Normally, that alone would garner a lot of attention. He's also a fast skater and he has a knack of putting the puck in the net.

"I didn't want to be the big slow guy," said Brown, who doesn't want to be known as a guy who's fast for a big player. "I'm a big guy and it takes a lot to get it going, but when I do, I think I'm not exceptionally fast but I do OK. It's something I've worked on my entire life."

When the puck is on his stick, it's hard to get it from him, partially because he can shield off defenders and he can skate around some of them as well.

"Any time that you can hold on to the puck down below the circles, I try and use my size and find open guys," Brown added.

Logan's dad Jeff had a terrific career in the NHL. He's 6-2. When Logan passed him, it was a pretty big day in the Brown household.

Brown is a real wild card in the draft. He's been listed in a lot of different spots.

## Elia Riva Shined For Team Switzerland In the U18 World Championships

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Elia Riva, who played on the top pairing for Team Sweden at the U18 World Championship, showed a lot of promise.

"I can play either side," said Riva. "My best side is the right side in the defensive zone. I'm a lefty, but I prefer that. I think that way first."

"We have to get faster every game. For us being an older team, we have to skate faster and faster every game."

When asked if his team could rise to the occasion against some of the other highly ranked teams, he quickly replied "Yes." And then he talked about how he plays in tight games and overtime situations.

"We have to play easy. Play the system and then we don't have the mistakes."

He thinks the game quickly, especially in the offensive zone.

"I'm an offensive defenseman. I also block shots," he smiled.

He knows what teams are looking for in order to get drafted. He also is a player worth watching. I like his skating, his defensive zone awareness and his offensive flair.

## Notes From The 2016 NHL Scouting Combine

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Here are some various thoughts that I have about some of the prospects.

- 1) Auston Matthews – He's classy, he doesn't say he's the best, he lets his play do the talking. This is what sets him apart. He was the center of attention, for sure.
- 2) Alex Nylander – The left winger is already a rock star in Toronto and the Maple Leafs may never get a chance to draft him. The Canadian media loves him. I think he's better than his brother, William but time will tell.
- 3) Olli Juolevi – The Finnish defenseman will be the most boring, terrific defenseman in this draft. There's nothing flashy about this prospect but his talent is tremendous. He doesn't need the best abs to be considered the best in this draft class.
- 4) Vladimir Kuznetsov – The "Russian Tank" looked fit, he answered every question. The problem was that a lot of the media ignored him and not enough teams spoke to the talented right winger. Years down the road, this will be looked at as a mistake. He really has something to prove.
- 5) Luke Kunin – He could have played in Samia, but instead he chose to stay in Wisconsin. His talent is evident, but the pivot may have had gained a few more profile points in the OHL since his NCAA squad had a bad season. Somebody will be getting a great player.

I heard some rumblings that players who are destined to be in the Top 3 may not take place in the combine going forward. The worry is about getting hurt. They have nothing to prove. What? How about this: they have something to prove to themselves. They're competitors, and at the end of the day, they always want to be challenged. Most hockey players don't duck out of competitive situations. They want to be the best and the best will test themselves in combines and games.

My last thought is the Harbor Center is an amazing place. The combine should be held there every year. It's easy to get to and the facilities are perfect for the prospects and the media. I do think that this should be televised more in the U.S. If you don't want to watch, then don't watch. But for young hockey players, it would be great for them to see these players giving it their all. For viewers who want to see the next generation stars before the draft, they should have that opportunity. SportsNet had it on. There is a way to do this and not have to show the entire day's action.

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