

PRO HOCKEY DRAFTOLOGY 2021

A collective presentation of:
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CENTURY MEDIA ALLIANCE

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



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PRO HOCKEY DRAFTOLOGY 2021 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 2021 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 2021 NHL Expansion Draft.

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 2021-22. Enjoy your reading and remember the forces who came together for this publication: Sportsology, The FDH Lounge and FantasyDrafthelp.com.

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Top 32 Overall Player Rankings

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

1. Owen Power – Defense – Michigan – NCAA
2. Matty Beniers – Center – Michigan – NCAA
3. William Eklund – Left Wing – Djurgarden – SHL
4. Dylan Guenther – Right Wing – Edmonton – WHL
5. Luke Hughes – Defense – USA U-18 – NTDP
6. Simon Edvinsson – Defense – Frolunda Jr. – Sweden Jr.
7. Kent Johnson – Center – Michigan – NCAA
8. Mason McTavish – Center – Peterborough – OHL
9. Jesper Wallstedt – Goaltender – Lulea HF – SHL
10. Brandt Clarke – Defense – Barrie – OHL
11. Fabian Lysell – Right Wing – Lulea HF – SHL
12. Cole Sillinger – Center – Medicine Hat – WHL
13. Chaz Lucius – Center – USA U-18 – NTDP
14. Corson Ceulemans – Defense – Brooks – AJHL
15. Zach Dean – Center – Gatineau – QMJHL
16. Francesco Pinelli – Center – Kitchener – OHL
17. Oscar Olausson – Right Wing – HV 71 Jr. – Sweden Jr.
18. Stanislav Svozil – Defense – Brno – CZRep
19. Aatu Raty – Center – Karpat Jr. – Finland Jr.
20. Mackie Samoskevich – Right Wing – Chicago – USHL
21. Isak Rosen – Right Wing – Leksand Jr. Sweden Jr.
22. Matt Coronato – Right Wing – Chicago – USHL
23. Zachary L'Heureux – Left Wing – Halifax – QMJHL
24. Sean Behrens – Defense – USA U-18 – NTDP
25. Fyodor Svechikov – W/C – Ladia Togliatti – MHL
26. Brennan Othmann – Left Wing – Flint – OHL
27. Dylan Duke – Left Wing – USA U-18 – NTDP
28. Simon Robertsson – Skelleftea Jr. – Sweden Jr.
29. Carson Lambos – Defense – Winnipeg – WHL
30. Zachary Bolduc – Center – Rimouski – QMJHL
31. Red Savage – Center – USA U-18 – NTDP
32. Nikita Chibrikov – Right Wing – SKA – KHL

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Dylan Duke Plays Hockey The Right Way

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Dylan Duke is a 2021 NHL Draft-eligible player who was a top goal scorer with the NTDP last season. He was second to Sasha Pastujov in goals for the U18 squad with 29. That's a nice year for a player who scores tough goals in the dirty areas and sometimes short-handed.

"That's a huge part of my game and something I take pride in," Duke said. "I don't think it's ever going to leave my game. As you move up a level, you always have to find a way to impact games and score goals. Goalies keep getting better, and so do defensemen. I'll keep developing that hard nose, getting pucks out of the corner and to the front of the net."

The Ohio native is keeping track of NHLers from that state, and so far, while getting a fair amount of Zoom calls, he hasn't gotten one from his hometown Columbus Blue Jackets. They hold three first-round picks, so taking Duke with one of them would make sense. "There's guys that are coming up from Ohio. There are already players from Ohio in the NHL, and it's really cool to see," said Duke. "I still have a lot of family there and younger cousins play hockey that are coming up. 'There's been a decent amount of Zoom calls from teams. They kind of pick up all at once. One week I won't have any and the next week two or three. I haven't done any calls with Columbus, but I would hope so. That would be a really cool spot, yeah, I hope so."

Duke is headed to Michigan University, and he's hoping to play with a trio of amazing players, Owen Power, Kent Johnson, and Matty Beniers. "It's going to be an unbelievable experience. I already know Matty well. I'm excited to meet Kent Johnson and Owen Power. They are amazing players, so I think I can learn a lot from them all day, whether it's at the rink or not. They're all great players and great people. I'm excited to see them and play on the same team as them."

Playing in events like the All-American Prospects Game is a lot of fun for the players, and this year it was an opportunity to see some of these players live, possibly for the first time. "I think my year went well. First and foremost, it was a bit of a crazy year, and I was grateful for everything that USA Hockey did for us," Duke stated.

"The season they put it on for us. It went well for me. I developed throughout the year. It was cool that they were able to play that game. Growing up in Northville, Michigan, and being around the NTDP, that game happens every year, and you see the guys go through it. I went to last year's game when the 02's went through it. In previous years I watched it on T.V. It was a great experience."

At the U18s, Team USA didn't get the results they were looking for, but Duke did as he was voted a Top Three player on his team with three goals and four points in five games. There's no doubt that this game helped his draft buzz. "Going into that tournament, it was all about the team. I went in with that mindset and trying to give the team the best chance to win," Duke added. "I feel like you work your hardest for your team. That's when you are also playing your best hockey at the same time. I think I had a strong tournament, and it can definitely help."

All players are competitive but imagine Dylan and his younger brother, Tyler (2022 draft eligible) playing roller hockey during the pandemic stoppage last year. "He was also at the NTDP, so I think that was huge for us to be together," the older brother said. "It was nice to have each other to push each other." Then I stated that I'm a younger brother and that older brother push, can be annoying to the younger brother. "We spent a lot of time together, so we definitely got annoyed with each other," he revealed. "We were playing roller hockey in the street with the mini nets, and we were starting to get a little competitive and our mom had to come out and be the ref. She didn't want anyone to get hurt. We would tell her we had to finish, then we would go inside and kind of go at it about what happened in the game....She would separate us until we calmed down....It would get brought back up at the kitchen table. My dad (Steve, played for Western Michigan and the Johnstown Chiefs) would get home and ask questions, he loves the competitiveness, and it would start again when we would sit down for dinner."

Speaking to Tyler Boucher, he loves Duke's net front presence, but he panned his golf game, and Duke answered back to that. "To be completely honest, my golf game isn't at tip-top shape. I think Tyler hits the ball far, but once he gets around the green and gets putting and chipping, that's where his game falls. He's a little better than me right now but by the end of summer, I think I'm coming for him. He has a lot of power, but he struggles to keep balls in play, around the green, and that's where I feel I can take advantage of him."

Duke is an interesting person. He's a Browns fan and a former Lacrosse player. He holds dual citizenship in the U.S. and Canada but has been playing for USA Hockey, and that's good for their program, as I think he will play for them throughout his career.

Rod Brind'Amour Is Staying In Carolina, So What's Next?

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Carolina Hurricanes general manager had a smile on his face and said the news all Canes fans wanted to hear. "We've reached a contract extension (three years) with Rod Brind'Amour. We truly believe we are heading in the right direction."

Brind'Amour is one of the best guys I've ever covered as a player and a coach. So seeing this happen was great to see. "We have a special group down here, and for me to do my job to the best of my ability, it's important to have the right people around me. I know what's down here, with the coaches and training staff. That's why it took so long we have a lot of people, so we had to figure it out. You go down the list to equipment guys."

Rod, as he likes to be called, is always learning. "We learned a lot. If you don't learn from your failures, if you want to call it that, you are in big trouble," he said candidly. "To be the best team, and beat the best teams, you can't beat yourself, which I thought we did at times. The Tampa series is what I'm referring to. The margins are so tight. We're still a bit of a young group in some ways."

We hear about culture and this seems to be the most important part of the team to Brind'Amour. So not all players fit there. Even a guaranteed 30-goal scorer as one reporter asked him. "If he scores 30 but doesn't fit our group, that's not a guy we're even going to entertain. We are trying to build a culture here. If that guy doesn't fit, we don't want him."

Waddell said something that was telling about Hurricanes owner, Tom Dundon. "I don't know if there's anything he's said no to, from a player standpoint." If that's true, then Waddell has to do better. This is a good group. It has great coaching. There was a nice assortment of young talent, much of which was inherited by the previous regime before he got here and they haven't been able to make big gains. Why? They need a solid, veteran goaltender. Alex Nedeljkovic is a good goalie. I'm not convinced he's a true #1 and Peter Mrazek isn't going to cut it as the guy to win it if he isn't that guy. This team has needed a goalie for two years now and we are going on season three and Waddell never said anything about that position.

Dougie Hamilton was told to see what kind of long-term deal is out there. Here is how Waddell spun it. "There's a difference of opinion right now, we could wait until July 28th and he could walk away for free, if it makes sense, we could trade him, pick up an asset, or we could have the opportunity to sign him," he stated. "The door is wide open here. We love Dougie." So the sign and trade isn't going to happen. If he gets traded, it will be for his negotiating rights, as Carolina has done in the past.

In regards to Andrei Svechnikov, who turned down a long-term deal from the Hurricanes recently, Waddell updated that situation too. "We will be talking every day."

Waddell did lay out how challenging July will be for NHL clubs. "We are having pro meetings now, focusing on our team and seeing how to make us better. We have a lot going on in July with free agency, the draft, and the expansion draft."

After Hamilton, identifying the correct goaltending free agent is the next most important decision facing the franchise. If they go cheap or punt it until deep into free agency, they might get the exact same results next year. They have a solid playoff team. They have a Stanley Cup defense and a Calder Cup goaltending tandem at the moment.

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Links To Top Prospect Videos

Here are links to some of the best players of the '21 Draft in action.
Matty Beniers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=td_HVchdiug
Brandt Clarke <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8dtzp5cf7Y>
Simon Edvinsson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSQDUKQAFUo>
William Eklund <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hadxtlMaok>
Dylan Guenther <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj2QZzykefE>
Luke Hughes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbjZACZKD6U>
Kent Johnson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO91kXdpfP4>
Chaz Lucius <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N6XZyGTlrs>
Fabian Lysell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsO1CQeRxxH>
Mason McTavish <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6bAeUxPIGU>
Owen Power <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwhrplu1CEE>
Jesper Wallstedt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOJencz8nAM>

A List Of U18 Players Who Impressed For Various Reasons

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Here's some observations from the U18s.

Liam Gilmartin – Team USA – Right Wing – I last saw him at the All-American Prospects Game. He can play a heavy game, and he plays on a line that gets the job of puck possession and smart play accomplished along with linemate Red Savage. They played as a combination at the AAP game it has shown. He's been really good on the PK as well.

Charlie Stramel – (2023) -Team USA – C/W – “The Big Rig” moved very well on the breakaway and buried a flip shot for a goal under late pressure.

Nikolaus Heigl – Germany – Center – At first, he was shaky bringing the puck up the ice. That worked itself out, as it may have been nerves. Wins some draws. Works hard behind the net. Showed speed on a breakaway. Has been putting up points.

David Jiricek – (2022) – Czech – Defense – Good power on one-timer. Accuracy not great. Played the point on the power play. Creates offense with smart passes. Good stick on puck. Nice wraparound chance.

Shane Wright – (2022) – Canada – Center – Winning face-offs. Wrist shot goal on PP from the left side. Playing at speed scored on the right side this time. Scored from both sides. Had two goals in a rout against Sweden.

DRAFTOLOGY GUIDES

We publish a series of guides such as this through the year as a partnership between Sportsology, The FDH Lounge, FantasyDrafthelp.com and other entities under the banner of The 21st Century Media Alliance. Fantasy Racing (mid-February), Fantasy Baseball (mid-March), NFL Draft (mid-April), NHL Entry Draft (mid-June), NBA Draft (mid-June), Fantasy Football (mid-July), Fantasy Hockey (mid-September), Fantasy Hoops (mid-October).

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Black Draft Tracking Worksheet

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

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2021 All American Prospects Game Was A Solid Showcase

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Plymouth – – The score doesn't matter. What matters is how the draft-eligible players performed. Here's a list of players to watch for the next few drafts.

Sean Behrens – This 5-9 defenseman played a solid game. He has a good first pass. He knows how to seal players off from the puck. He can disrupt player movement. “Sean does a great job of taking away space. He hasn't gotten the memo yet on how big he is. He just doesn't know...he combines that with great instincts, thinking ahead and great stick detail,” said head coach, Dan Muse.

Chaz Lucius – This pivot got better and better as the game went on. He had an assist, but he created many more scoring chances with great passes. His ability to find space and get good shots is really good. Lucius will try the odd bad angle shot. Won clean face-offs.

Sasha Pastujov – He won player of the game, but that line was rolling. Red Savage could have easily won it as well before Pastujov got his second goal of the game. The right-wing is smart, has excellent skills, stickhandling and shot are all there. He has to get faster and that will be what could see him get drafted in the second round instead of the first.

Rutger McGroarty – The left wing has excellent skating ability and a terrific wrist shot. It can go top shelf in a hurry. He is decisive with the puck and already at 6-1, 192, the strength is above average. He's a 2022 draft pick.

Charlie Stramel – This 6-3 left wing was aggressive and physical. His skating is really good. He has good defensive instincts and he intercepted a puck to stop a scoring chance. He is a 2023 guy as well.

Matty Beniers Rises To The Top Of The 2021 NHL Draft

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Matty Beniers hasn't been hiding. He hasn't come out of nowhere. Nobody is surprised to see him performing at a high level. He's had an interesting path this season, and through it all, the talented center has continued to see his draft stock rise.

Beniers has a great cutting motion in his skating, a lot like a running back who can cut back to find open space on the gridiron. At one point, Beniers was voted the third star for the week in the BIG 10. A four-point game against Minnesota helped to raise his stock. His goal was a game-winner and he had three blocks as well. As a true freshman, Beniers can't take over every game at the NCAA level, not yet, but when he does, it's something to see.

Going into World Junior Camp, the Massachusetts native knew what he was as a hockey player. "Just being a hard-working center. That's what I'm here to do. Just knowing what your strengths are and weaknesses are and playing to your strengths," Beniers added. "It's a different pace going from the USHL to college. Nothing has been changing too much, and I'm just trying to get better. I'm just trying to get bigger and stronger and trying to bury chances with my shot. I think my game is improving the way I skate, the way I think the game, the way I move. I can create space for others. I worked really hard over the quarantine and worked on putting on weight. I can put on weight, and I lose it when I'm on the ice a lot. I just have to add some weight and muscle."

Beniers made the right choice to skip Harvard and go to Michigan. If he didn't, his season would have been lost. It's a tough loss for the Crimson, but that's the way it goes in the pandemic era. Beniers led his team in goals and shot percentage in the regular season. He had ten goals and 23 points in 23 games. Last year, Beniers was part of the NTDP team that scrimmaged the World Junior Championship squad and stood out. "Everyone went into that scrimmage light-hearted, and we knew we were playing the World Junior team, so we were all buzzing around and making plays. I actually played well, which was fun," Beniers stated. "Just after that game reflecting, it was really cool to play them, and that might be next year for some of us. We might have an opportunity to be in their shoes."

Fast forward to camp, and his teammates saw a change in Beniers. "Seeing Matty here in camp, he's really wowed me on the ice seeing how much he has developed in Michigan. He's impressed me," said New York Rangers prospect Brett Berard.

"He is such a hard worker, and his competitive drive, in practice, is above the rest. He is so shifty and has a great shot. He's a great all-around player," said Tyler Kleven, who won a gold medal with Beniers at the 2020 World Junior Championship.

Beniers has a high ceiling. He could go first overall if a team thinks he fills a desperate need at center for their organization. I expect him to go somewhere between 2-7 at the 2021 NHL Draft.

William Eklund Is The Most Versatile Forward In The NHL Draft

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

William Eklund is a very talented forward who will go very high in the upcoming 2021 NHL Draft. One of the biggest reasons why: the shortage of potential top-line centers. Could Eklund become just that? "I like both positions. I feel comfortable at both," Eklund proclaimed. "I think my offense is equal at both positions."

Eklund has terrific two-step quickness, and he was able to show that off this season in the SHL while playing for Djurgardens. "It's all about practicing. I try and practice about better competition," Eklund revealed. "At this level, you have to be quick, or else they will steal the puck from you."

Eklund's dad, Christian, had a solid career also playing for Djurgardens. He was a winger who would play some center as well, sound familiar? "He was more of a grinder. Really good on the forecheck. Really good on the PK and playing big minutes. He had a lot of grit," Eklund said, "He was competitive and told me to be competitive at whatever I do. That's the most important thing I picked up from him."

Christian Eklund is just 14, also playing in the Djurgardens system and he will have the benefit of an older brother who can tell him what it's like to play in North America, among other things. "He's good for his age," William said, like a true older brother. "We always have small competitions at home. They shoot at the net at the house. I'm beating him right now, but he's coming. He's getting better and better."

Every older brother fears that time when the younger brother can start beating him. Does he feel this way? "Yes, absolutely," he laughed.

This season was successful. He scored 11 goals with 23 points in 40 games and got playoff experience to boot. "It was a really fun season for me," said Eklund. "My coaches were trusting me in the beginning and put great players around me. I played top line to start. That gave me good confidence."

This talented Swede knows how to play in space. He uses every bit of it to his advantage, but playing in the NHL means that space will be diminished. Eklund has a quick wrist shot, the puck doesn't stay on his stick for long, and a near flawless one-timer. "Maybe my wrist shot is my best. I always try and work on it to make it better."

Eklund has a high hockey I.Q. and a great understanding of what playing in North America is all about. "I think I'm more into it mentally this year compared to last. You know how it is there now. So, one more year there," Eklund stated. "It's a smaller rink. You get closer to the net. You have to be more aware of everybody around you. When you get the puck, you can have someone on you in a second."

With the upcoming draft, albeit a virtual one, he is looking forward to it. "It's always great having those around you that have been with you since Day One. It will be fun to have them around me," Eklund answered.

Eklund is a wild card in this draft. He could get selected higher than expected. That wouldn't surprise me at all.

Top 10 For The Next 10

The FDH Top 10 for the Next 10 is a list attempting to identify the best players in the league -- not necessarily in a pure fantasy sense -- over the course of the entire next decade. It's not a pure 25-and-under draft, but it skews heavily in that direction because most big-time stars are past their primes in their late 30s. Players who are both very young and very skilled already have the biggest edges.

- 1 Connor McDavid
- 2 Leon Draisaitl
- 3 Nathan MacKinnon
- 4 David Pastrnak
- 5 Sebastian Aho
- 6 Cale Makar
- 7 Mikko Rantanen
- 8 Adam Fox
- 9 Auston Matthews
- 10 Mitch Marner

Mathew Barzal
Alex DeBrincat
Kirill Kaprizov
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2020-21 FDH All-Star Rosters By Division

	Central	East	North	West
LW	Jonathan Huberdeau Ondrej Palat	Brad Marchand Artemi Panarin	Kyle Connor Nikolaj Ehlers	Gabriel Landeskog Kirill Kaprizov
C	Sebastian Aho Aleksander Barkov	Sidney Crosby Patrice Bergeron	Connor McDavid Leon Draisaitl	Nathan MacKinnon Ryan O'Reilly
RW	Patrick Kane Alex DeBrincat	David Pastrnak Kasperi Papanen	Mitch Marner Brock Boeser	Mikko Rantanen Mark Stone
D	Victor Hedman Dougie Hamilton MacKenzie Weegar Mikhail Sergachev	Adam Fox Kris Letang John Carlson Charlie McAvoy	Tyson Barrie Darnell Nurse Jeff Petry Morgan Rielly	Cale Makar Shea Theodore Alec Martinez Samuel Girard
G	Andrei Vasilevskiy Alex Nedeljkovic	Semyon Varlamov Tuukka Rask	Mike Smith Connor Hellebuyck	Marc-Andre Fleury Philipp Grubauer

Team Needs

Anaheim: RW, D, LW, G, C
Arizona: LW, D, G
Boston: D, RW, G
Buffalo: D, LW, RW, G
Calgary: RW, G, D
Carolina: G, D
Chicago: G, D, C, LW
Colorado: G
Columbus: LW, C, D, G
Dallas: RW, D
Detroit: LW, RW, D, C, G
Edmonton: LW, RW, D
Florida: LW, RW, D
Los Angeles: LW, D, RW, G, C
Minnesota: C, D, RW, G
Montreal: LW, D, G
Nashville: LW, RW, C
New Jersey: G, D, RW
New York Islanders: RW, LW, C
New York Rangers: RW, D
Ottawa: G, D, C, LW, RW
Philadelphia: D, RW, G
Pittsburgh: LW, RW, D
San Jose: G, D, RW, LW, C
St. Louis: RW
Tampa Bay: RW
Toronto: G, LW, RW
Vancouver: LW, RW, C, G
Vegas: LW
Washington: LW, C, G
Winnipeg: RW, D

**The FDH
Lounge:
Nothing is
Off-topic.
Nothing.**

Seattle Kraken Will Have Same Expansion Rules As Vegas

The Vegas Golden Knights set the major league sports standard for immediate expansion success by making the Stanley Cup Final in their inaugural season of 2018. The last time any teams came close to this level of success -- Carolina and Jacksonville both making it to the NFL conference championship games in their second seasons in 1996 -- the NFL gave into the whining of their owners and tightened up the expansion rules substantially for Cleveland in 1999. Fortunately for the Seattle Kraken and their fans, the NHL has not changed the rules this time around. They must choose a minimum of 20 players under contract (out of 30 overall, one from each team except Vegas) with an aggregate value of 60-100% of the prior season's salary cap and cannot buy out any of these players before next summer.

^ Teams may protect seven forwards, three defensemen and one goalie or eight skaters (either forwards/defensemen) and one goalie. They may also choose to leave unprotected any pending free agents -- if any are lost in this fashion, then they will not lose another player off of their list of exposed players.

^ Each team must meet the following minimum requirements on their exposed player list: one defenseman under contract for next season with at least 40 games played last season or at least 70 games played in the previous two seasons, two forwards under contract for next season with at least 40 games played last season or at least 70 games played in the previous two seasons, one goalie under contract for next season or an upcoming restricted free agent who has already received his qualifying offer.

^ The following players are off-limits for selection: those who have (and have not waived) no-movement clauses in their contracts, all first-year and second-year players and unsigned draft choices. Players with very severe injuries may only be selected with league approval.

DRAFTOLOGY GUIDES

We publish a series of guides such as this through the year as a partnership between Sportsology, The FDH Lounge, FantasyDrafthelp.com and other entities under the banner of The 21st Century Media Alliance. Fantasy Racing (mid-February), Fantasy Baseball (mid-March), NFL Draft (mid-April), NHL Entry Draft (mid-June), NBA Draft (mid-June), Fantasy Football (mid-July), Fantasy Hockey (mid-September), Fantasy Hoops (mid-October).

The FDH Lounge Top 32 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 2020 rankings, with the ones who fell out of those rankings listed at the bottom.

TOP TIER

- 1 Connor McDavid (1)
- 2 Nathan MacKinnon (5)
- 3 Nikita Kucherov (3)
- 4 Leon Draisaitl (2)
- 5 Auston Matthews (7)
- 6 David Pastrnak (4)
- 7 Mikko Rantanen (28)
- 8 Andrei Vasilevskiy (NA)
- 9 Brad Marchant (8)
- 10 Mitch Marner (20)
- 11 Artemi Panarin (6)
- 12 Sebastian Aho (19)
- 13 Victor Hedman (12)
- 14 Mark Stone (NA)
- 15 Aleksander Barkov (NA)
- 16 Cole Makar (29)
- 17 Alex DeBrincat (NA)
- 18 Steven Stamkos (24)
- 19 Patrick Kane (10)

SECOND TIER

- 20 Dougie Hamilton (15)
- 21 Shea Theodore (NA)
- 22 Jonathan Huberdeau (22)
- 23 Alex Ovechkin (25)
- 24 Ryan O'Reilly (NA)
- 25 Sidney Crosby (11)
- 26 Patrice Bergeron (NA)
- 27 Max Pacioretty (NA)
- 28 Adam Fox (NA)
- 29 Nikolaj Ehlers (NA)
- 30 Mark Scheifele (NA)
- 31 Kyle Connor (26)
- 32 Kirill Kaprizov (NA)

- Roman Josi (9)
John Carlson (13)
Evgeni Malkin (14)
Braydon Point (16)
Jack Eichel (17)
Mika Zibanejad (18)
Jake Guentzel (21)
Ryan Ellis (23)
Alex Pietrangolo (27)
Jamie Benn (30)
Miro Heiskanen (31)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

- X-Florida 112
Y-Boston 107
Y-Tampa Bay 105
Y-Montreal 94
Buffalo 78
Ottawa 77
Detroit 76

Metropolitan Division

- X-Pittsburgh 104
X-Carolina 103
Y-Washington 100
Y-New York Rangers 98
New York Islanders 93
Philadelphia 92
New Jersey 88
Columbus 72

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

- X-Colorado 116
Y-Winnipeg 102
Y-St. Louis 101
Y-Dallas 98
Minnesota 94
Nashville 84
Arizona 82
Chicago 77

Pacific Division

- X-Vegas 106
Y-Edmonton 97
X-Calgary 96
X-Vancouver 95
Seattle 75
Los Angeles 72
Anaheim 68
San Jose 66

CONFERENCE QUARTERFINALS

- 1 Florida over 4 Montreal in 6
2 Boston over 3 Tampa Bay
1 Pittsburgh over 4 New York Rangers in 7
2 Carolina over Washington in 6
1 Colorado over 4 Dallas in 5
2 Winnipeg over St. Louis in 7
1 Vegas over 4 Vancouver in 5
2 Edmonton over 3 Calgary in 6

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

- 1 Florida over 2 Boston in 7
2 Carolina over 1 Pittsburgh in 6
1 Colorado over 2 Winnipeg in 6
1 Vegas over Edmonton in 6

CONFERENCE FINALS

- Florida over Carolina in 7
Colorado over Vegas in 7

STANLEY CUP FINAL

- Colorado over Florida in 6

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2021 NHL Free Agency Preview

By Rick Morris/The FDH Lounge

With the expansion draft looming, there are more players than usual who are unsigned but will almost certainly be coming back to their present teams – but won't be taking up a roster spot when Seattle is making their picks. Such players include Alex Ovechkin, Tuukka Rask, Gabriel Landeskog and Ryan Getzlaf.

The only real franchise player on the market is defenseman Dougie Hamilton. From there, the blue line is much, much thinner, with Tyson Barrie, Adam Larsson, David Savard, Alex Goligoski, Alec Martinez, Mike Reilly, Jamie Oleksiak and Brandon Montour leading the pack.

There's a decent handful of forwards available who profile as Top 6 guys on a championship contender, such as Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Taylor Hall, Phillip Danault, Zach Hyman, Kyle Palmieri, Tomas Tatar, Brandon Saab, Jaden Schwartz, David Krejci, Blake Coleman, Nick Foligno, Mikael Granlund, Mike Hoffman and Paul Stastny.

Goalie is a very shallow position, with Philipp Grubauer really in the right place at the right time.

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PRO HOCKEY DRAFTOLOGY 2021 Page 8

Preview Of FantasyDrafthelp.com Ultimate Hockey Stat For 2021-22

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.

Defensemen		Goalies		Forwards		Top 35 Overall	
1T	Aaron Ekblad 375	1T	Semyon Varlamov 375	1T	Auston Matthews 375	1T	Aaron Ekblad 375
1T	Adam Fox 375	1T	Philipp Grubauer 375	1T	Brad Marchand 375	1T	Adam Fox 375
1T	Cale Makar 375	1T	Marc-Andre Fleury 375	1T	Connor McDavid 375	1T	Alex Nedeljkovic 375
1T	Darnell Nurse 375	1T	Jeremy Swayman 375	1T	Leon Draisaitl 375	1T	Andrei Vasilevskiy 375
1T	Jakob Chychrun 375	1T	Andrei Vasilevskiy 375	1T	Nathan MacKinnon 375	1T	Auston Matthews 375
1T	John Carlson 375	1T	Alex Nedeljkovic 375	1T	Tom Wilson 375	1T	Brad Marchand 375
1T	Kris Letang 375	7	Juuse Saros 365	7	Artemi Panarin 374	1T	Cale Makar 375
1T	MacKenzie Weegar 375	8	Connor Hellebuyck 345	8	Mikko Rantanen 352	1T	Connor McDavid 375
1T	Shea Theodore 375	9	Chris Driedger 335	9	Alex DeBrincat 258	1T	Darnell Nurse 375
1T	Victor Hedman 375	10	Mike Smith 305	10	Mitch Marner 250	1T	Jakob Chychrun 375
11	Dougie Hamilton 372	11	Tristan Jarry 250	11	Patrick Kane 242	1T	Jeremy Swayman 375
12	Tyson Barrie 359	12	Filip Gustavsson 238	12	Aleksander Barkov 232	1T	John Carlson 375
13	Jeff Petry 340	13	Petr Mrazek 232	13	Max Domi 201	1T	Kris Letang 375
14	Alex Pietrangelo 267	14	Jack Campbell 230	14	Sidney Crosby 189	1T	Leon Draisaitl 375
15	Carson Soucy 254	15	Ilya Sorokin 193	15	Jonathan Huberdeau 188	1T	MacKenzie Weegar 375
				16	Brady Tkachuk 181	1T	Marc-Andre Fleury 375
				17	Mark Stone 179	1T	Nathan MacKinnon 375
				18	Max Pacioretty 179	1T	Philipp Grubauer 375
				19	Mark Scheifele 173	1T	Semyon Varlamov 375
				20	Alex Ovechkin 150	1T	Shea Theodore 375
				21	Tyler Toffoli 146	1T	Tom Wilson 375
				22	Sebastian Aho 140	1T	Victor Hedman 375
				23	Blake Wheeler 136	23	Artemi Panarin 374
				24	David Perron 130	24	Dougie Hamilton 372
				25	Jake Guentzel 129	25	Juuse Saros 365

2020-21 Team UQB Rankings

FantasyDrafthelp.com and The FDH Lounge are expanding the UQB concept to team sports. Our rankings are a mashup of the following measures: FDH power rankings, power play percentage, penalty kill percentage, Fenwick For, Fenwick Against, shooting percentage, save percentage, ESG percentage and ESGA percentage.

1 Carolina	17 Los Angeles
2 Vegas	18 St. Louis
3 Tampa Bay	19 Nashville
4 Colorado	20 Calgary
5 Boston	21 Arizona
6 Washington	22 Chicago
7 Pittsburgh	23 Philadelphia
8 Edmonton	24 Ottawa
9 Florida	25 Vancouver
10 Toronto	26 San Jose
11 NY Islanders	27 Columbus
12 Winnipeg	28 Buffalo
13 Minnesota	29 New Jersey
14 NY Rangers	30 Detroit
15 Dallas	31 Anaheim
16 Montreal	

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35T	Tristan Jarry 250
35T	Mitch Marner 250

Ty Gallagher Has A Great Sports Background

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Ty Gallagher is a defenseman who plays for the NTDP and is expected to be selected in the 2021 NHL Draft. He's known for his offensive game. He set a record for NTDP defenseman with 24 career goals. That's from 2019-2021. That's more than Will Butcher and Justin Faulk.

"Growing up in Michigan, you always hear about the NTDP. All the names. You hear about how great it is. The NHL Draft picks and all the players who play college hockey," Gallagher said. "The record was a cool thing for me. It was awesome for me and for the program."

Gallagher skates very well and he has a knack to know when or not to pinch, and when he does, he's usually looking to try and score a goal. His first pass is very good as well. "It's a combination of a lot of things. It's the work I put in every day on my shot, at practice and in the shooting room. I think my shot is one of my strong suits. If it weren't for my teammates, there would be no way that I could capitalize on all those chances. I've always been an offensive-minded defenseman. I've always been able to read the play and know when to jump in on the play to create offense."

Eye-hand coordination in the game of hockey is huge, especially for defensemen who handle the puck more than most. If you're offensive, chances are you've played some sports that require it. He played a lot of sports growing up and his baseball background seems to have helped him. "I was a pitcher and when I wasn't a pitcher, I was playing third base. I was decent. My dad thinks I could have played somewhere in college," said Gallagher. "My dad pitched in college for Western Michigan. He knows what it takes to get to that level. I'm a pretty good athlete."

Gallagher played a big part at the U18s for Team USA and had a very successful tournament with three goals in five games, including a game-winner. "I thought I had a good showing, not the result we wanted as a team," Gallagher added. "I thought I got a lot of opportunities and capitalized on it. I think it boosted my stock and made a name for myself."

Gallagher's defense has improved this season and that's going to help his draft stock. "I think this year was a big year for taking a step with my defense," Gallagher cited. "I've always been a two-way defenseman and I really focused on the defensive side of things. I use my size and stick positioning to my advantage. The good defense leaves the offense for me, if we lock it down on defense and we get the puck back and turn it into offense."

Gallagher has committed to Notre Dame, a program known for its defense. "It's a great coaching staff that stresses defense. I think it will build my defensive game even more," Gallagher noted.

Former NTDP defenseman, Spencer Stastney (Nashville draft pick) plays there. "I definitely took their defenseman into consideration when I was making my decision."

He's had some Zoom meetings with NHL teams already and expects some more. Whoever drafts Gallagher will be getting a smart player with a lot of upside.

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Kent Johnson Is Smart With A Ton Of Upside

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Kent Johnson had a good year at the University of Michigan, albeit a COVID-19 affected season. He can play left wing or center. His year at Michigan was an eye-opener. His nine goals and 18 assists fueled a solid freshman season. The fact that the Canadian forward was named to the Big-Ten All-Freshman team and All-Big Ten Honorable Mention is noteworthy. He is one of the best players in the 2021 NHL Draft.

Some highlights included a five-point game against MSU and the fact that he was ranked third in the nation in rookie points per game. These were all good signs. "Kent and I work well with each other, and we build off each other," said his linemate, Matty Beniers. "He's an extremely skilled player. He sees the ice well. Playing with smart players is great. He wins puck battles. We know where each other is at on the ice, and he can put the puck in the back of the net, and so can I."

At 6-1, 165, it will take some time for him to mature physically, but mentally he may be ahead of the game for his age group. The way that he can cycle the puck in the corner and keep the opposition from getting it bodes well, since that will improve as he gets stronger in the future. "Transitioning to winger at the college level, I just got better with my wall play. I'm trying to get more explosive with my skating. I think I'm a really good skater with good edge work. I think I can be faster in a straight line," Johnson stated.

Puck possession and vision are two key parts of Johnson's game, and he is aware of that. "Those are two assets in my game and things I try to work on. I try to use them every night, and I think it helps," said Johnson.

"I've worked on my vision and problem-solving skills a lot (this can be done off-ice). When I'm out there, I'm not thinking too much about it," Johnson added. "When I watch the game over, I can say 'wow, that was something really good that I did there, and it's definitely rewarding.'"

Johnson can make space for himself on the ice with some dekes that he has in his arsenal. I think Johnson will be a winger at the NHL level and a really good one and also a top-six forward. He can be a 60-75 point player if everything breaks right. This prospect has a tremendous upside, and that's why he's a guaranteed Top-10 selection. He hasn't played in a while, but there's plenty of solid game footage to look at, and that should speak for itself.

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