



2015 NHL DRAFT GUIDE



THE NHL'S GROWING NCAA INFLUENCE

The impact of former NCAA players, executives and coaches continues to grow; the potential for three top-10 picks in the 2015 NHL Draft is just the latest step in a developing trend.

Consider:

- In 2003, 21% of the league had played college hockey. Today that number is 30%.
- In the first 98 years of the NHL, 11 head coaches had experience coaching at the college level. In the last month, three head coaches with NCAA experience have been hired (Dave Hakstol, John Hynes, Jeff Blashill).
- The 2014-15 Presidents' Trophy-winning New York Rangers had the most NCAA players of any team in NHL history (54% of the team's games played). Infographic: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/pages/nyrs-ncaa-influence>
- The Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks have the most prospects playing NCAA hockey, the most alumni in their front office, and drafted the most NCAA players last June (7 of 9 picks)

AN UNPRECEDENTED DRAFT?



Jack Eichel
Boston University



Noah Hanifin
Boston College



Zach Werenski
Michigan

No NHL Draft has ever featured three current NCAA players among the first 10 selections.



THE LAST TIME ...

- Three current or future NCAA players were taken in the top 10: 2006 (Erik Johnson, Jonathan Toews, Phil Kessel, Kyle Okposo)
- Any current or future NCAA player was taken in the top 10: 2012 (Jacob Trouba)
- Three current NCAA players were taken in the first round: 2006 (Toews, Kessel, Mark Mitera)
- A current NCAA player was taken in the first round: 2011 (Jamie Oleksiak)
- A current NCAA player was taken in the top 10: 2008 (Colin Wilson)
- A current NCAA player was taken in the top two picks: 2000 (Rick DiPietro-1st and Dany Heatley-2nd)

TOP 10 AND FIRST ROUND HISTORY

Current | Future NCAA Players Selected

| Year | Top 10 | First Rd. |
|------|--------|-----------|
| 2014 | 0 0 | 0 3 |
| 2013 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 2012 | 0 1 | 0 5 |
| 2011 | 0 0 | 1 1 |
| 2010 | 0 0 | 1 7 |
| 2009 | 0 0 | 1 5 |
| 2008 | 1 0 | 1 3 |
| 2007 | 0 2 | 1 10 |
| 2006 | 2 2 | 3 4 |
| 2005 | 0 3 | 1 7 |
| 2004 | 1 1 | 3 4 |
| 2003 | 1 1 | 7 2 |

| Year | Top 10 | First Rd. |
|------|--------|-----------|
| 2002 | 2 0 | 5 1 |
| 2001 | 1 0 | 4 0 |
| 2000 | 2 0 | 6 1 |
| 1999 | 0 0 | 3 0 |
| 1998 | 0 0 | 1 0 |
| 1997 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 1996 | 1 0 | 2 1 |
| 1995 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 1994 | 0 0 | 1 0 |
| 1993 | 1 0 | 2 1 |
| 1992 | 0 0 | 0 3 |
| 1991 | 2 0 | 2 1 |
| 1990 | 0 0 | 2 1 |

| Year | Top 10 | First Rd. |
|------|--------|-----------|
| 1989 | 0 0 | 1 2 |
| 1988 | 0 1 | 1 1 |
| 1987 | 0 0 | 1 0 |
| 1986 | 1 1 | 3 2 |
| 1985 | 1 0 | 1 2 |
| 1984 | 1 0 | 1 1 |
| 1983 | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 1982 | 0 0 | 1 0 |
| 1981 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 1980 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 1979 | 0 0 | 1 0 |

None prior to 1979 (Mike Ramsey)

MORE ABOUT EICHEL, HANIFIN & WERENSKI

What makes this year unique?

These three players – all members of USA Hockey’s National Team Development Program in 2013-14 – not only chose the college route for development, but each accelerated their high school studies to allow them to play NCAA hockey in 2014-15.

How young were they relative to their class?

They were among the five youngest players in Division I this year (see below), along with two other likely draft picks:

Youngest Players in Division I

7/19/97 – Zach Werenski, Michigan

1/25/97 – Noah Hanifin, Boston College

12/14/96 – A.J. Greer, Boston University

10/28/96 – Jack Eichel, Boston University

10/9/96 – Cameron Hughes, Wisconsin

The average NCAA freshman was 20.2 years old at the start of the season (Oct. 1). These five players were all 17.

How might that help them in the long run?

Competing against older, stronger players can help a younger players’ development and ease their eventual transition to pro hockey. Eichel, Hanifin and Werenski played against competition that, on average, was 21.9 years old, two years older than the average CHL player.

“One of the reasons I wanted to play college hockey was playing against older, stronger guys on a nightly basis,” said Eichel. “I think it’s really going to help me in the long run, making sure I’m competing for every loose puck, moving my feet and avoiding hits when I can.”

How would it help scouts?

NHL scouts had the chance to evaluate these players against older players, more like the opponents they would see in the NHL.

“One of the biggest things watching players at 17 or 18 is that you are trying to project what they will be like as an NHL player,” said Craig Button, former Calgary Flames general manager and current prospect analyst for TSN and NBC Sports. “You don’t get to see them play at that level – no sport does. But for Eichel, Hanifin and Werenski, you get to measure these players against bigger and stronger players who are closer to the NHL game. In my view there’s nothing but positives in that regard.”

How did they stack up to NCAA competition?

Very well. Werenski was first-team All-Big Ten and likely would have been the league’s freshman of the year if not for teammate Dylan Larkin. Hanifin was second-team All-Hockey East and likely would have been that league’s rookie of the year if not for Eichel.

Eichel had one of the best freshman seasons in NCAA history. He joined Paul Kariya as the only freshmen to win the Hobey Baker Award and was Hockey East’s Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year.

Most Points, Last 12 Seasons

80 – Johnny Gaudreau, BC (2013-14)

71 – Jack Eichel, BU (2014-15)

71 – Andy Miele, Miami (2010-11)

69 – T.J. Hensick, Mich. (2006-07)

Most Points, Draft-Eligible Freshmen Since 1992-93

100 – Paul Kariya, Maine (1992-93)

71 – Jack Eichel, BU (2014-15)

62 – Thomas Vanek, Minn. (2002-03)

61 – Zach Parise, N. Dakota (2002-03)

For more: [Class of 2015 on collegehockeyinc.com](http://collegehockeyinc.com)

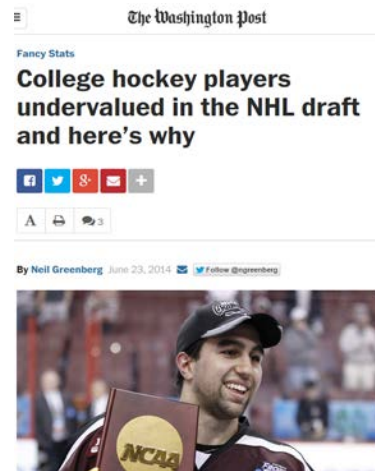
ARE NCAA PLAYERS UNDERVALUED IN THE NHL DRAFT?

At least 60 current/future NCAA players have been selected in each of the last 13 NHL Drafts. Nevertheless, evidence from recent years suggests that NCAA players are undervalued in the draft.

Drafts in Hindsight

A popular pastime among hockey news organizations is to look back at drafts five, 10 or 15 years ago and “re-draft” them – see where the selections should have fallen, given how the players’ careers have played out.

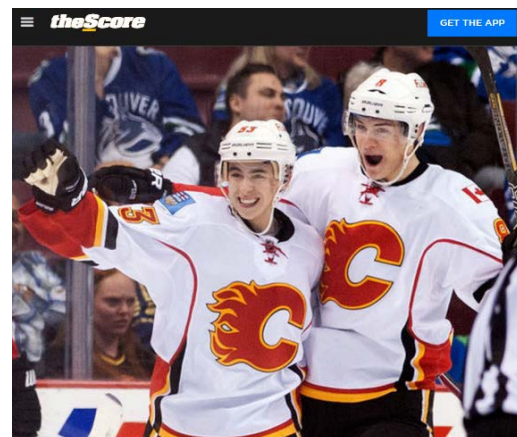
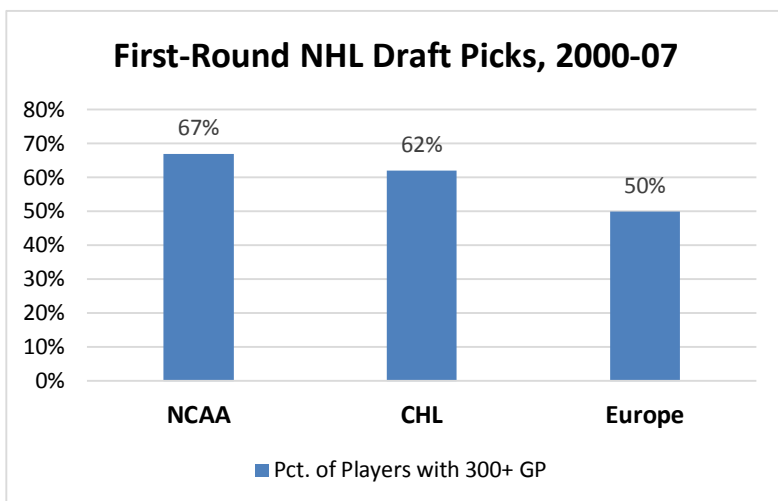
Invariably – no matter the year or the news organization – NCAA players were under-represented in the original draft.



| Source | Original Draft | Re-Evaluated |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1994 Draft, NHL.com | 2 NCAA players in 1st Rd. | 5 NCAA players in 1st Rd. |
| 2000 Draft, NHL.com | 7 NCAA players in 1st Rd. | 8 NCAA players in top 23 picks |
| 2003 Draft, NHL.com | 9 NCAA players in 1st Rd. | 10 NCAA players in 1st Rd. |
| 2003 Draft, Sportsnet | 2 NCAA players in top 11 picks; 9 NCAA players in 1st Rd. | 4 NCAA players in top 9 picks; 11 NCAA players in 1st Rd. |
| 2004 Draft, NHL.com | 5 NCAA players in top 23 picks | 6 NCAA players in top 23 picks |
| 2005 Draft, NHL.com | 8 NCAA players in 1st Rd. | 10 NCAA players in top 27 picks |
| 2008 Draft, ESPN.com | 4 NCAA players in 1st Rd. | 6 NCAA players in 1st Rd. |
| 2008 Draft, NHL.com | 4 NCAA players in 1st Rd. | 6 NCAA players in 1st Rd. |
| 2009 Draft, ESPN.com | 0 NCAA players in top 15 picks | 4 NCAA players in top 15 picks |
| 2010 Draft, NHL.com | 8 NCAA players in top 30 picks | 9 NCAA players in top 29 picks |
| 2010 Draft, ESPN.com | 8 NCAA players in top 30 picks | 9 NCAA players in top 23 picks |

First-Round Draft Study

A study of the 240 first-round draft picks from 2000-07 shows that 67% of those players who developed in the NCAA went on to have a significant NHL career (300+ GP; 100+ for goalies). By contrast, 62% of CHL players and 50% of European players in that time met the same standard.



Why you should hope your favorite team drafts an NCAA hockey player

by Justin Bourne Jun 24, 12:44 PM

WHAT ARE SOME REASONS NCAA PLAYERS ARE VALUED IN THE DRAFT?

Chicago selected seven current or future NCAA players among its nine draft picks last year.

“You generally have a little more time with those players,” said general manager Stan Bowman, a Notre Dame graduate. “You have four or five years. It’s tougher when you have a two-year window to sign a guy. Sometimes they don’t define themselves by that second year and you have to make a decision, do you sign them or not. We like that element that because you have the player for four years – you don’t have to leave them there for four years, but you have a little bit more control over it.”

Full interview, including comments from Director of Amateur Scouting Mark Kelley:

<http://collegehockeyinc.com/articles/blackhawks-draft-7-ncaa-players>

New Jersey’s new general manager, Ray Shero, has a son playing at Boston College this fall. While at Pittsburgh he drafted prospects such as Beau Bennett (Denver) and Scott Wilson (UMass Lowell).

“I really like the idea with college players that you can draft them and they can go for four years,” he said. “You know you are going to get a mature player, a stronger player.”

In most cases, it isn’t a team’s mission to draft NCAA players – though it often works out that way.

“There wasn’t a plan to find college kids,” said Minnesota general manager and Harvard alum Chuck Fletcher, “but it goes to show you how strong American college hockey is now. There are so many more former college players that are playing in the NHL. It’s a great avenue to become a player.”

CURRENT & FUTURE NCAA PLAYERS IN NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING'S RANKINGS

- 31 schools represented (of 60 in Division I)
- 5 uncommitted players
- Full commitment list: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/stats/commitments.php>

North American Skaters

| Rank | Name | NCAA Team | Rank | Name | NCAA Team |
|------|--------------------------|-------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2 | Jack Eichel | Boston University | 149 | Luke Stevens | Yale |
| 3 | Noah Hanifin | Boston College | 152 | Jackson Keane | North Dakota |
| 9 | Zach Werenski | Michigan | 153 | Nikita Pavlychev | Penn State |
| 13 | Kyle Connor | Michigan | 155 | Ryan Shea | Northeastern |
| 27 | Brock Boeser | North Dakota | 158 | Lucas Jaycox | Northern Michigan |
| 28 | Thomas Novak | Minnesota | 164 | Jack Becker | Undecided |
| 29 | Colin White | Boston College | 171 | Brendan Demler | Dartmouth |
| 31 | Jakob Forsbacka Karlsson | Boston University | 173 | Nick Azar | Harvard |
| 37 | Christian Fischer | Notre Dame | 181 | Ethan Spaxman | Merrimack |
| 39 | Jack Roslovic | Miami | 182 | McKay Flanagan | Undecided |
| 47 | Jordan Greenway | Boston University | 183 | Karson Kuhlman | Minnesota Duluth |
| 51 | Erik Foley | Providence | 186 | Jack Poehling | St. Cloud State |
| 53 | Cooper Marody | Michigan | 188 | Carmine Buono | Massachusetts |
| 58 | Dennis Gilbert | Notre Dame | 190 | William Reilly | Undecided |
| 60 | Jeremy Bracco | Boston College | 191 | Nicklaus Poehling | St. Cloud State |
| 62 | David Cotton | Boston College | 192 | Rhett Gardner | North Dakota |
| 63 | John Marino | Harvard | 195 | Thomas Aldworth | Quinnipiac |
| 66 | Brendan Warren | Michigan | 196 | Cameron Hughes | Wisconsin |
| 69 | A.J. Greer | Boston University | 198 | Brett Seney | Merrimack |
| 79 | Jack Sadek | Minnesota | 199 | Liam Finlay | Denver |
| 80 | Jake Massie | Massachusetts | 202 | Ryan Zuhlsdorf | Minnesota |
| 84 | Taggart Corriveau | St. Lawrence | 203 | James Vermuelen | Northern Michigan |
| 87 | Karch Bachman | Miami | 204 | Liam Darcy | New Hampshire |
| 88 | Joseph Cecconi | Michigan | 208 | Jack McNelly | Nebraska Omaha |
| 90 | Grant Gabriele | Western Michigan | 209 | Vincent Desharnais | Providence |
| 94 | Adam Parsells | Wisconsin | | | |
| 100 | Austin Cho | Rensselaer | | | |
| 105 | Brent Gates | Minnesota | | | |
| 106 | John McDermott | Boston University | | | |
| 107 | Troy Terry | Denver | | | |
| 108 | Adam Gaudette | Northeastern | | | |
| 110 | Jacob Jaremko | Minnesota State | | | |
| 113 | Christopher Wilkie | North Dakota | | | |
| 114 | William Borgen | St. Cloud State | | | |
| 117 | Nicholas Boka | Michigan | | | |
| 123 | Chase Pearson | Maine | | | |
| 131 | Marcus Vela | New Hampshire | | | |
| 132 | Matthew Freytag | Wisconsin | | | |
| 133 | Collin Peters | Northern Michigan | | | |
| 136 | Brien Diffley | Boston University | | | |
| 138 | Lucas Michaud | Maine | | | |
| 148 | Casey Fitzgerald | Boston College | | | |

North American Goaltenders

| | | |
|----|----------------------|----------------|
| 5 | Matej Tomek | North Dakota |
| 6 | Ryan Larkin | Miami |
| 8 | Mike Robinson | New Hampshire |
| 10 | Joel Daccord | Arizona State |
| 12 | Luke Opilka | Wisconsin |
| 13 | Michael Lackey | Harvard |
| 15 | Cale Morris | Notre Dame |
| 16 | Adam Huska | Undecided |
| 18 | Christopher Birdsall | Boston College |
| 22 | Ryan Bednard | Bowling Green |
| 23 | Evan Smith | Undecided |
| 24 | Austin Shaw | Princeton |
| 27 | Logan Halladay | Minnesota |
| 29 | Kristian Oldham | Nebraska Omaha |

NCAA IN THE NHL

30% of all NHL players in 2014-15 developed in the NCAA

Full list: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/pages/2014-15-alums-nhl>

49 schools had an alum in the NHL last season

Colleges producing the most 2014-15 NHLers:

Boston College, Wisconsin – 22

Michigan – 19

Minnesota – 17

Michigan State, North Dakota – 15

Boston University, Denver – 12

NHL players by years in school (73% played at least three years)

Four years – 113

Three years – 95

Two years – 57

One year – 21

By position:

159 forwards

104 defensemen

23 goaltenders

By NHL Draft status:

99 were first- (55) or second-round (44) picks

82 were undrafted free agents (55% of all undrafted NHL players)

By nationality:

183 Americans

95 Canadians

8 Europeans

40 schools had at least one NHL Draft pick on their roster last season. Colleges with the most draft picks:

Minnesota – 16

North Dakota – 14

Harvard, Michigan, Notre Dame – 10

Boston College – 9

Boston University, Cornell, Denver, Miami, Nebraska Omaha, Wisconsin – 7

All 30 NHL teams had prospects in college in 2014-15. Those with the most:

Chicago – 13

Minnesota, Winnipeg – 11

Florida – 10

Boston, Buffalo – 9

NY Islanders, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Jose – 8

St. Louis, Washington – 7

Full list: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/pages/nhl-draft-picks-playing-college-hockey>



IN THE NHL

9 NHL general managers played college hockey:

Don Sweeney, Boston (Harvard)
Jarmo Kekalainen, Columbus (Clarkson)
Peter Chiarelli, Edmonton (UMass Lowell)
Dean Lombardi, Los Angeles (New Haven)
Chuck Fletcher, Minnesota (Harvard)
David Poile, Nashville (Northeastern)
Ray Shero, New Jersey (St. Lawrence)
Garth Snow, NY Islanders (Maine)
Brian MacLellan, Washington (Bowling Green)

9 NHL head coaches played college hockey:

Jeff Blashill, Detroit (Ferris State)
Dan Bylsma, Buffalo (Bowling Green)
Jack Capuano, NY Islanders (Maine)
Jon Cooper, Tampa Bay (Hofstra-club)
Dave Hakstol, Philadelphia (North Dakota)
John Hynes, New Jersey (Boston University)
Peter Laviolette, Nashville (Westfield State)
Todd Richards, Columbus (Minnesota)
Dave Tippett, Phoenix (North Dakota)

Many more former NCAA players play key roles on the draft floor. Full list of former NCAA players in NHL executive roles: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/pages/former-collegians-nhl-front-offices>

OTHER RESOURCES

College Hockey, Inc. Media Center: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/media-center>

For additional information:

Nate Ewell

College Hockey, Inc.

newell@collegehockeyinc.com

Cell: 617-780-0295

Office: 617-340-6572