



2023 NHL DRAFT GUIDE

THE NHL'S GROWING NCAA INFLUENCE

The impact of former NCAA players and executives in the NHL continues to grow; the 2023 NHL Draft is just the latest step in a developing trend.

Consider:

- A total of 334 NCAA alumni played in the NHL in 2022-23, including:
 - 2022 Norris Trophy winner Cale Makar (UMass)
 - Fellow 2022 NHL First-Team All-Star Johnny Gaudreau (Boston College)
 - 2022 NHL Second-Team All-Star Charlie McAvoy (Boston University)
 - 2022 NHL All-Rookie Team selections Trevor Zegras (Boston University) and Jeremy Swayman (Maine)
 - 2023 Calder Trophy finalists Matty Beniers (Michigan) and Owen Power (Michigan)
 - 2023 Jack Adams Award finalists Dave Hakstol (North Dakota) and Jim Montgomery (Maine)
- Five of the first 10 selections in the 2021 NHL Draft were college players, the most ever
- More than half (17-of-32) of the NHL's general managers played NCAA hockey
- Just over 40 percent (13-of-32) of the NHL's head coaches played NCAA hockey

The 2023 NHL Draft projects to be another memorable one for NCAA hockey:

- Thirty-six different schools are represented in the final NHL Central Scouting rankings
- Multiple NCAA players could be selected inside the top five
- As many as six NCAA players and recruits could go in the top 10 for the second time in three years
- Six of the top 10 goaltenders in the NHL Central Scouting rankings are NCAA recruits



NHL DRAFT BY THE NUMBERS

- 192** – NCAA players drafted in the first round since 1964 (St. Lawrence’s Alex Campbell was the first)
- 191** – NCAA players selected by the Montreal Canadiens in NHL Amateur/Entry Drafts, the most of any franchise
- 125** – NCAA players taken in the 1987 Entry Draft, the most in any one draft
- 115** – NCAA players and recruits in 2023 NHL Central Scouting’s Final Rankings
- 93.5** – Percentage of Americans taken in the first round of the last five drafts (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022) that played NCAA hockey
- 70** – NCAA players and recruits selected in the 2019 NHL Draft, most in 12 years
- 36** – Schools represented (of the 64 in Division I) in the Central Scouting rankings
- 32** – First-round picks to play for Michigan, the most of any school
 - First-Round Picks by School
 - 32 – Michigan
 - 25 – Minnesota
 - 22 – Boston College
 - 21 – Boston University
 - 20 – North Dakota
- 28** – Schools that have produced a first-round pick all-time
- 27** – Consecutive years with a draft pick for Boston College and Michigan (starting in 1996), tied for the longest such streak for any school in history (Minnesota had picks in 27 straight drafts, 1974-2000)
- 17** – The most NCAA selections in any one round of a draft (fourth round in 2018, sixth round in 2015, ninth round in 2004)
- 15** – Number of draft picks who played for Harvard in 2022-23, most of any school in the country
- 12** – First rounders who played NCAA hockey in 2022-23
- 11** – College players taken in the first round in 2016 and 2007, the most first-rounders in any draft
- 11** – First round picks from Michigan in the last five NHL Drafts
- 9** – The most picks from one school in one draft (Minnesota, 2007)
- 9** – NCAA picks among the first 10 selections of the 2021 NHL Draft, most ever
- 6** – The most first-round picks to play for one NCAA team (North Dakota, 2005-06; Joe Finley, Brian Lee, T.J. Oshie, Drew Stafford, Jonathan Toews, Travis Zajac)
- 5** – The most top-10 picks in one draft to play NCAA hockey (2021: Owen Power, Matty Beniers, Luke Hughes, Kent Johnson, Tyler Boucher)
- 1** – Joe Murphy (1986), Rick DiPietro (2000), Erik Johnson (2006) and Owen Power (2021) are the four NCAA players to be selected first overall in the NHL Draft

NCAA Draft Picks by Year

Year	1st Rd.	NCAA	Total Picks
2022	7	66	225
2021	9	56	224
2020	3	64	216
2019	9	70	217
2018	7	65	217
2017	6	60	217
2016	11	60	211
2015	7	56	211
2014	3	61	210
2013	-	58	211
2012	5	65	211
2011	2	55	211
2010	8	61	210
2009	6	63	210
2008	4	62	211
2007	11	75	211
2006	7	70	213
2005	8	69	230
2004	7	90	291
2003	9	72	292
2002	6	77	291
2001	4	56	289
2000	7	65	293
1999	3	60	272
1998	1	44	258
1997	-	43	246
1996	3	41	241
1995	-	12	234
1994	2	63	286
1993	3	70	286
1992	3	55	264
1991	3	97	264
1990	3	109	250
1989	3	112	252
1988	2	112	252
1987	1	125	252
1986	5	92	252
1985	3	89	252
1984	2	98	250
1983	1	75	242
1982	1	71	252
1981	1	48	211
1980	1	55	210
1979	1	16	126
1978	-	79	234
1977	-	52	185
1976	1	31	135
1975	-	65	217
1974	-	48	246
1973	-	26	168
1972	-	21	152
1971	1	24	117
1970	-	17	115
1969	-	8	85
1968	1	3	24
1967	-	1	18
1966	-	1	24
1965	-	1	11
1964	1	6	25
1963	-	2	21

THE LAST TIME:

- An NCAA player went #1 overall.....2021, Owen Power (Michigan/Buffalo Sabres)
2006, Erik Johnson (Minnesota/St. Louis Blues)
2000, Rick DiPietro (Boston University/New York Islanders)
1986, Joe Murphy (Michigan State/Detroit Red Wings)

- NCAA players went #1-2 overall2021, Owen Power (Michigan) – Matty Beniers (Michigan)

- Four of the top five picks were NCAA players/recruits.....2021, Owen Power, Matty Beniers, Luke Hughes, Kent Johnson

- One school had the first two NCAA players selected2021, Michigan (Owen Power, Matty Beniers)
1988, Michigan State (Rod Brind’Amour, Jason Muzzatti)
1981, North Dakota (James Patrick, Dave Donnelly)
1975, Wisconsin (Peter Scamurra, Brian Engblom)
1974, Denver (Bruce Affleck, Pete LoPresti)
1972, Denver (Bob Krieger, Tom Peluso)

- One school had 2+ *current* players taken in 1st rd2021, Michigan (Owen Power, Matty Beniers, Kent Johnson)
2001, Ohio State (R.J. Umberger, Dave Steckel)
2000, Boston College (Brooks Orpik, Krys Kolanos)
1990, Michigan State (Michael Stewart, Bryan Smolinski)

- One school had 4+ players *or* recruits taken in 1st rd2021, Michigan (Owen Power, Matty Beniers, Luke Hughes, Kent Johnson, Mackie Samoskevich)
2006, Minnesota (Erik Johnson, Phil Kessel, Kyle Okposo, David Fischer)
2016, Boston University (Clayton Keller, Charlie McAvoy, Dante Fabbro, Kieffer Bellows)

SUPERLATIVES BY SCHOOL:

Most players/recruits selected, all-time

- 224 – Minnesota
- 185 – Boston University
- 182 – North Dakota
- 175 – Michigan, Wisconsin

Most players/recruits selected in the first round, all-time

- 32 – Michigan
- 25 – Minnesota
- 22 – Boston College
- 21 – Boston University
- 20 – North Dakota

ARE NCAA PLAYERS UNDERVALUED IN THE NHL DRAFT?

An average of 61 current/future NCAA players have been selected in the last 15 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 media outlet – NCAA players were largely 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.
1997 Draft, NHL.com	0 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	3 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2000 Draft, NHL.com	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	8 NCAA players in top 23 picks
2001 Draft, NHL.com	4 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	4 NCAA players in top 19 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.	11 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2006 Draft, NHL.com	5 NCAA players in top 19 picks	5 NCAA players in top 13 picks
2007 Draft, NHL.com	11 NCAA players in top 29 picks	11 NCAA players in top 24 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.	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2009 Draft, NHL.com	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	7 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 1st Rd.	9 NCAA players in top 26 picks
2010 Draft, ESPN.com	8 NCAA players in top 30 picks	9 NCAA players in top 23 picks
2011 Draft, NHL.com	2 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	4 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2012 Draft, NHL.com	5 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2013 Draft, The Athletic	0 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	5 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2013 Draft, NHL.com	0 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	5 NCAA players in top 26 picks
2014 Draft, NHL.com	3 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2014 Draft, The Athletic	3 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2015 Draft, The Athletic	3 NCAA players in top 10 picks; 7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	5 NCAA players in top 10 picks; 8 NCAA players in top 26 picks
2016 Draft, NHL.com	11 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	9 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2017 Draft, NHL.com	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2018 Draft, ESPN.com	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.

DRAFT RESEARCH

First-Round Draft Picks

A study of the 480 first-round draft picks from 2000-15 shows that 77% of those players who developed in the NCAA went on to have a significant NHL career (200+ games played). By contrast, 63% of all other players in that time met the same standard.

NCAA First-Round Picks

Of those 480 first-round picks from 2000-15, 20 percent were on the NCAA path, fewer than the CHL (58%) or Europe (22%).

College players enjoyed that success despite, on average, being taken later in the first round:

Average Draft Position, 2000-15 First Rounders

CHL	14.8
European	15.3
NCAA	17.3

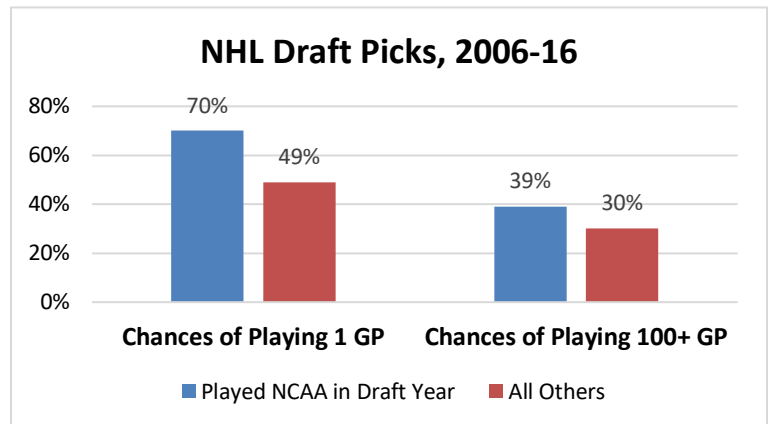
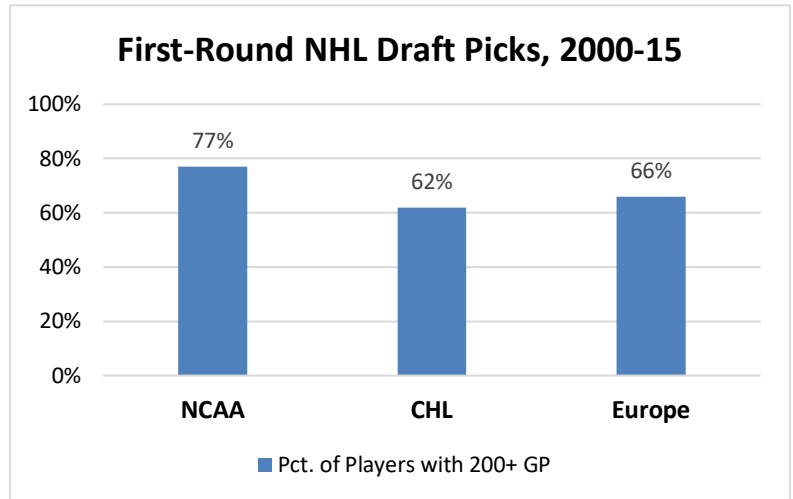
Current College Players

A small subset of the NCAA players taken in the draft – likely six or seven – will be players who spent 2022-23 playing college hockey, a group that could include multiple top-10 selections.

Recent history suggests that those selections may be the best values in the draft.

College Hockey Inc. studied the 11 drafts from 2006-16. In that period 100 players were taken after spending their draft season in the NCAA.

Of those players, a remarkable 70% reached the NHL for at least one game and 39% have appeared in more than 100 games. Those figures are 21 and nine percentage points higher, respectively, than all other players in those drafts.



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

- 36 schools represented (of 64 in Division I)

North American Skaters

Rank	Name	NCAA Team	Rank	Name	NCAA Team
2	Adam Fantilli	Michigan	118	Eric Pohlkamp	Bemidji State
3	Will Smith	Boston College	120	Alex Weiermair	Denver
4	Matthew Wood	Connecticut	122	Philippe Blais-Savoie	Colorado College
5	Ryan Leonard	Boston College	127	Christopher Pelosi	Quinnipiac
8	Oliver Moore	Minnesota	128	Connor MacPherson	New Hampshire
10	Gabe Perreault	Boston College	135	Morgan Brady	Arizona State
17	Bradly Nadeau	Maine	137	Zach Sharp	Western Michigan
22	Danny Nelson	Notre Dame	140	Aiden Celebrini	Boston University
23	Gavin Brindley	Michigan	143	Jackson Nevers	Minnesota
30	Charlie Stramel	Wisconsin	145	Will Vote	Boston College
40	Aydar Suniev	Massachusetts	146	Jack Harvey	Boston University
42	William Whitelaw	Wisconsin	149	Kaden Shahan	Connecticut
43	Jayden Perron	North Dakota	150	Gavyn Thoreson	St. Cloud State
44	Andrew Strathmann	North Dakota	151	Cooper Conway	Colorado College
48	Maxim Strbak	Michigan State	153	Cayden Casey	St. Lawrence
52	Gavin McCarthy	Boston University	157	Ryan Koering	Colorado College
53	Tanner Ludtke	Omaha	159	Sean Keohane	Harvard
55	Jayson Shaugabay	Minnesota Duluth	164	Nicholas Vantassell	Massachusetts
58	Paul Fischer	Notre Dame	165	Matthew Perkins	Minnesota Duluth
59	Zach Nehring	Western Michigan	166	Ty Campbell	Clarkson
60	Drew Fortescue	Boston College	167	Teddy Townsend	Minnesota
63	Aiden Fink	Penn State	169	Warren Clark	St. Cloud State
64	Brady Cleveland	Wisconsin	170	Ethan Gardula	Connecticut
65	Hudson Malinoski	Providence	171	James Clark	Minnesota
66	Brandon Svoboda	Boston University	179	Charles-Alexis Legault	Quinnipiac
67	Beckett Hendrickson	Minnesota	181	Jake Livanavage	North Dakota
73	Larry Keenan	Massachusetts	185	Chris Able	Ohio State
74	Joe Connor	Northeastern	188	David Klee	North Dakota
78	Aram Minnetian	Boston College	189	Chase Pirtle	Cornell
80	Benjamin Poitras	Northeastern	192	Sam Court	New Hampshire
82	Michael DeAngelo	Michigan State	193	Ben Robertson	Cornell
85	Hoyt Stanley	Cornell	194	Sebastian Bradshaw	New Hampshire
86	Owen Beckner	Colorado College	195	Ty Daneault	Merrimack
87	Jake Fisher	Denver	196	Salvatore Guzzo	Harvard
90	Francesco Dell'Elce	Massachusetts	199	Ryan Hopkins	Maine
91	Jonathan Castagna	Cornell	200	Ryan Fine	Harvard
92	Austin Burnevik	St. Cloud State	201	Giacomo Martino	Northeastern
96	Zach Schulz	Wisconsin	202	Brady O'Malley	Bowling Green
97	Luke Mittelstadt	Minnesota	204	Kevin Fitzgerald	Connecticut
98	Matt Copponi	Merrimack	207	Lucas St. Louis	Harvard
99	Chase Cheslock	St. Thomas	211	Ryan MacPherson	New Hampshire
101	Tanner Adams	Providence	212	Nicholas Wolfenberg	Cornell
102	Ty Henricks	Western Michigan	213	Sam Harris	Denver
103	Michael Hagens	Harvard	216	Cade Christenson	Penn State
104	Zaccharya Wisdom	Colorado College	217	Ty Hanson	Minnesota Duluth
105	Cole Knuble	Notre Dame	218	Blake Montgomery	Maine
109	Eli Sebastian	Northeastern	219	Seth Constance	Northeastern
111	Hunter Anderson	Denver	222	Charlie Cerrato	Michigan
112	Ryan Conmy	New Hampshire	224	Gennadi Chaly	Vermont
117	Aaron Pionk	Minnesota Duluth			



International Skaters

Rank	Name	NCAA Team
63	Rasmus Larsson	Northern Michigan
85	Ian Scherzer	Miami
89	Tom Leppä	Penn State
138	Casper Nassen	Miami

North American Goaltenders

2	Michael Hrabal	Massachusetts
3	Trey Augustine	Michigan State
5	Jacob Fowler	Boston College
6	Adam Gajan	Minnesota Duluth
7	Stephen Peck	Michigan
8	Carsen Musser	Colorado College
16	Hampton Slukynsky	Northern Michigan
17	Rudy Guimond	Yale
18	Max Lundgren	Merrimack
20	Cameron Korpi	Western Michigan
21	Daniel Héroux	Vermont
22	Patriks Berzins	Maine

NCAA IN THE NHL

46 schools had an alum in the NHL in 2022-23. Colleges producing the most 2022-23 NHLers:

- Minnesota – 26
- Michigan – 24
- Boston College – 23
- Boston University – 22
- North Dakota – 20

**NHL players by years in school
(66% played at least three years)**

- Five years – 1
- Four years – 89
- Three years – 131
- Two years – 81
- One year – 32

By position:

190 forwards ▪ 120 defensemen ▪ 24 goaltenders

By NHL Draft status:

- 79 – First round
- 43 – Second round
- 35 – Third round
- 31 – Fourth round
- 26 – Fifth round
- 19 – Sixth round
- 16 – Seventh round
- 1 – Ninth round
- 84 were undrafted free agents (49% of all undrafted NHL players)

IN THE NHL

37 schools had at least one NHL Draft pick on their roster in 2022-23. Colleges with the most draft picks:

Harvard – 15

Minnesota – 14

Boston University, Denver, Michigan, North Dakota, Northeastern – 12

Massachusetts, Minnesota Duluth, Providence, Wisconsin – 10

All 32 NHL teams had prospects in college in 2022-23. Those with the most:

Chicago, Detroit – 14

Montreal – 11

Boston, Nashville, New Jersey – 10

NY Rangers, Tampa Bay – 9

Anaheim, Carolina, Philadelphia – 8

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

17 current NHL GMs played college hockey:

Don Sweeney, Boston (Harvard)

Kevyn Adams, Buffalo (Miami)

Craig Conroy, Calgary (Clarkson)

Don Waddell, Carolina (Northern Michigan)

Chris MacFarland, Pace (Colorado)

Jarmo Kekalainen, Columbus (Clarkson)

Bill Zito, Florida (Yale)

Rob Blake, Los Angeles (Bowling Green)

Bill Guerin, Minnesota (Boston College)

Kent Hughes, Montreal (Middlebury)

David Poile, Nashville (Northeastern)

Tom Fitzgerald, New Jersey (Providence)

Lou Lamoriello, NY Islanders (Providence)

Chris Drury, NY Rangers (Boston University)

Mike Grier, San Jose (Boston University)

Kelly McCrimmon, Vegas (Michigan)

Brian MacLellan, Washington (Bowling Green)

13 current NHL head coaches played college hockey:

Greg Cronin, Anaheim (Colby College)

Jim Montgomery, Boston (Maine)

Don Granato, Buffalo (Wisconsin)

Rod Brind'Amour, Carolina (Michigan State)

Derek Lalonde, Detroit (SUNY Cortland)

Jay Woodcroft, Edmonton (Alabama-Huntsville)

Martin St. Louis, Montreal (Vermont)

Peter Laviolette, NY Rangers (Westfield State)

John Tortorella, Philadelphia (Maine)

Mike Sullivan, Pittsburgh (Boston University)

David Quinn, San Jose (Boston University)

Dave Hakstol, Seattle (North Dakota)

Spencer Carbery, Washington (Alaska Anchorage, St. Norbert)

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/former-collegians-nhl-front-offices.php>

OTHER RESOURCES

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

NHL Matchup Tool: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/nhlteams.php>

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