

## Chapter 1 : Hockey, Ice - Want To Play NHL Hockey?

*This new book, "So You Want To Play In The NHL", for kids, and the existing book for adults, "So Your Son Wants To Play In The NHL", set the standards by which all of us in the sporting world should continually strive to achieve.*

There are a few things parents and young players need to know before they begin to plan their NHL career. Like other pro sports, becoming an NHL player is a long, tough road, with many challenges and obstacles that arise along the way. The best way to put this in perspective is to be aware of your odds of making it to "the show". In , a study was done in Ontario, Canada for all 10 year-old hockey players. At this time, there were 22, 10 year-olds playing hockey in Ontario. This means that only out of those 22, made it into the top feeder leagues for the NHL. Of those players, only 7 played in the NHL. Those are astonishing numbers. My Story - Casey Kesselring Turning to my situation , I was about one year older than the young players focused on in the study although I am from Ontario. So what are the best paths to the NHL? I have my theories regarding both of these paths. All my friends in Ontario chose the Major Junior route -- probably because it is the "path of glory" for many young Canadian players. I chose to pursue a Division 1 scholarship, mainly because my father was a teacher and because I simply always wanted to go to school. Be Honest With Yourself Before choosing a path, you have to be honest with yourself and understand how good you really are. Your skills, size and limitations are all relevant factors. After playing Major Juniors, if your skills compliment what you already have -- size -- then you may have an opportunity to be drafted by an NHL club after playing only 2 years. Compare this to the 4 years you may have spent at a Division 1 college. In short, if you are good enough, and big enough you may only have to play two years of Major Junior hockey before being considered by an NHL club. Of course, this does depend upon your performance in the Major Juniors. I have a friend, "Tim", who played 5 years in the Major Juniors and was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings in the fifth round. At this point, Tim decided that he was going to go back to the university instead of playing in the Minors. Tim had been going to the university while playing Junior hockey and had negotiated a "school package" with his Junior team. Tim was able to arrange a buy out of his contract with Detroit and to finish school. A good, hard working hockey agent can help negotiate guarantees, contingency plans, or buyouts. This is important because even highly drafted players may not make it to "the show. For good players, the university or college route may indeed be a better route to the big leagues. Because it gives players more time to develop and demonstrate skills. Plus, they get a college education at the same time. In my case, when I was 16, I only weighed pounds. Physically, I was a late bloomer, which is why I decided to go to school. These four years provide a lot more time to develop as a player. Having options is always a good thing. The Division 1 route can provide them. It is also difficult to dramatically improve your skating. If you are big and you can skate, you should have a shot. With proper advice and guidance, from an honest agent, hopefully you will. However, it is tougher. But the bottom line is: Major Junior Hockey Getting exposure to scouts, general managers and coaches is also very important. Having an agent who can assist in positioning you in the best situation possible to attract interest from big league management may mean the difference between getting a chance to make an NHL, AHL or European elite team -- or not at all. You need to be watching out for number one, yourself, just like in any other career. Accordingly, getting a good contract becomes just as important as how good of a player you actually are. A good hockey agent, particularly one with legal experience, can help to make sure you get the best contract and protections as is possible. Information On Contracts There are a number of different contracts that a player could sign. The best is an NHL "1-way" which guarantees the negotiated NHL rate of pay regardless of whether the player is sent down. Lastly there is the ECHL contract. All of these contracts discussed are all guaranteed, except for the ECHL contract, where you can be waived at any time with only one week of severance pay. These are the very basics. If a competing player has a better i. In this case, the club may decide to cut you simply as a matter of economics. This happened to me. After an exhibition game where we won 5 to 2, where I had a goal and an assist, I was still sent down to the Coast the next day. That is another example of why having a better contract is important in North America. This is not to say you cannot make it to the "show". There are players every year that make NHL teams on a tryout, for instance. A player

that I played with went to the Boston Bruins camp on a tryout and made the team. He played 7 games that year and put himself in a position to stick with the club the following season. It can and does happen! I personally loved the lifestyle and considered it a privilege to be paid to play the game I love with players I respected and cared about. The bottom line is this:

**Chapter 2 : So You Want to Play in the NHL: A Guide for Young Players by Dan Bylsma**

*So You Want to Play in the NHL has 12 ratings and 3 reviews. bookreader said: Required reading for youth hockey players from a retired player/head coach.*

Chris Peters previews the teams ahead of the action, looking at players to watch and how each team stacks up. All college hockey players are required to wear a face mask or shield. Fighting is a no-no; it is penalized with a five-minute major and the offender is ejected from the game -- and must sit for the next game, too. Hand passes are not allowed in the defensive zone. There is no trapezoid in college hockey. If a team scores a goal during a delayed penalty call, that penalty is still served. Three goalies can dress for each game. There is video replay, which can determine offside, among other things. Video replay also can be used to review a penalty involving a potential player ejection. But there is a lot of parity in college hockey. There have been seven different champions in the past seven years. Another note on balance: Yes, Minnesota-Duluth and Notre Dame were semifinalists last season as well, but this is the first time in 10 years that multiple teams have made a return trip to the Frozen Four. Are many of the players American? About 45 percent of NHL players are Canadian, roughly 27 percent are American and the rest hail from elsewhere around the world. Are any locals playing? The Frozen Four is in St. Paul and Minnesota, of course, is a U. Minnesota is also the only state represented on each of the four rosters. Minnesota-Duluth, naturally, leads the way with 17 players born in the Land of 10, Lakes. Wait, since when is Notre Dame in the Big Ten? The Fighting Irish joined the league this year, as a hockey-only affiliate. We always get pumped up when they play. Twelve players in the Frozen Four are still draft-eligible -- highlighted by Michigan defenseman Quinn Hughes, who is eligible for the first time in Yeah, it is -- and it is also a pretty good indicator of future NHL success. Thirty-six former winners of the award have gone on to play in the NHL. That includes some guys you might recognize from NHL rosters this season: What happens if the game is tied after regulation? Here, the rule is the same as in the NHL playoffs. The teams will play sudden-death, 5-on-5, for minute periods. As many as it takes.

**Chapter 3 : NHL playoff bubble teams you don't want to play (and one you do)**

*Along with his father, Jay, he wrote So Your Son Wants to Play in the NHL in Editorial Reviews In today's jaded sports world filled with pampered, trash-talking athletes, perhaps only a hockey player could write a book extolling the value of such old-school customs as practice, teamwork, personal responsibility, hard work, and perseverance.*

Grain tape heel to toe Color Feel Hockey sticks are generally categorized in youth, intermediate, and adult. Hand size is considered in youth sticks the circumference of shaft is smaller. Start by comparing sticks in the right size category. When you grip a hockey stick its shape should feel right in your hands. Shafts can have different contours, so try a few and be sure it feels okay in your grip. Stickhandling requires a closed grip on the hockey stick. Weight Compare the weight of hockey sticks too. Length Length of sticks are categorized in youth, intermediate, and adult. The length of your hockey stick is a relative thing. Relative to your preference, stickhandling body position, your size, et cetera. For starters, stand on the ice wearing skates, holding the top of the stick in your top hand. Still some players like it longer and some shorter. Hope you have a strong back! Shorter hockey sticks are better for tight manoevers and extreme stickhandling moves and dekes. An 85 flex is an 85 flex. No need to break a stick in the store! Choose a hockey stick that is the proper flex for your body weight and strength, and for the type of shooter you are. Slapshots require stiffer sticks. Wrist shots require more flexible hockey sticks. Backhands require straighter blades. Hockey Stick Blades The first thing most players think about on the blade is the curve. Curves can be configured differently. They can start close to the heel, the toe, or in the middle. A curve can be a big hook, or the blade can be straight. Curves are for shooting you say? Curve Size A large curve may seem like an advantage for cupping the puck as you handle it, but that only considers the puck being on your forehand. Stickhandling means both forehand and backhand side of the blade will control the puck equally. Too small of a curve will affect your shot when you get to the goalie, so stickhandlers should look for curves that are somewhere in between. The Face Of The Blade The face is the way the blade tilts and can make the blade lean forward or backward. The face is a strong consideration for different shots, but stickhandlers look out for it because it can affect puck control too. The face of the blade will appear kind of twisted, and that twist can begin near the heel, the toe, or the mid section. The only concern for stickhandlers is not to pick one where the blade twist begins at the middle. This can impede the control of the puck. When in motion and controlling the puck, you want as much of the bottom of the blade on the ice as possible. Laying flat on its bottom edge is best because any tilt up off the ice can allow the puck to roll under and away, and it can allow opponents to get their blades under yours better. A flat lie will keep more of the stick on the puck when stickhandling. Blade Size When comparing hockey sticks, you will notice that some blades are bigger. Obviously adult blades are bigger than youth blades, both longer and taller. One adult blade can even be longer than another, and can also be higher. In fact, it can be not so high at the heel and higher at the toe, or the other way around. The size of the blade will add to the weight at the end of the stick and affect the balance. Toe Shape The toe of the blade can be rounded or more squared off. What kind of deke do you like to use most often? Can Tape Actually Change Stickhandling? Sticky hockey tape will hold the puck better, as will the grain of the tape. Some tapes are stickier on the outside than others for more cohesion, some are even textured. If your tape is not sticky on the outward facing side, then after you use the hockey tape, ball up some tape and rub its adhesive side over the blade tape for grip. This is important because pucks have a knurl around the edge that you contact, and tape can help hold on to that. Therefor it is good to tape the part of the blade that you mostly use to control the puck. That may be the entire blade. Color can affect your stickhandling performance too, because the puck can be camouflaged slightly to trick opponents. Practice Makes Perfect Practice controlling the puck with your stick from multiple angles so you get used to using your stick efficiently from anywhere on the ice. Your on-ice skills will improve with regular hockey stick handling drills. Stick drills will improve your dexterity, speed and puck control. When you have chosen your hockey stick with all uses in mind, you have chosen wisely. Repeat your tricks and dekes until they become second nature. The proper stick choice will help you. Your Final Hockey Stick Choice Go for the configuration that suits your strength flex and weight of stick , hand size circumference of shaft , type of stickhandler you are or

want to be, type of shooter you are slapshot, wrist shot, back hand , and size of wallet you have price. Pick one that does what you need it to do and can be replaced in a week if necessary. Choosing the Right Hockey Stick Players often have a specific brand and model of hockey stick they prefer to use. When you find one that does what you want it to do and works for the style of player you are, take note of the specifics of that hockey stick more than the model name. Hockey leagues have strict hockey stick regulations you must follow. Choose a stick that feels comfortable in your hand with a length that you can manage easily. You must feel confident handling the stick so that you are not thinking about it, but are just using it naturally and efficiently.

*The lowest-priced brand-new, unused, unopened, undamaged item in its original packaging (where packaging is applicable). Packaging should be the same as what is found in a retail store, unless the item is handmade or was packaged by the manufacturer in non-retail packaging, such as an unprinted box or plastic bag.*

Ivan Johnson November 2, When it comes to shopping for hockey sticks, it is naturally to want to get the best of the best. To do this, you certainly would want to know what the pros are using. But how can you know what stick is the best? We picked the brains of hockey experts at Hockey Pursuits , on the best hockey sticks on the market, and they shared their knowledge with us. Types of Sticks There are a few factors that you need to think about when looking at a hockey stick. This means material type, build, and even the flex of your shaft. The decision between a composite or wood stick mostly comes down to preference. Professional hockey players tend to rely on composite sticks because of the control and extra edge that they can add during a game. Professional players might opt for either a one or two-piece stick. Two-piece is more traditional, where the shaft and blade are separate pieces. One-piece sticks are a newer invention, made of a continual piece of composite. One-piece sticks are normally lighter and might need to be replaced more frequently. For the pros, one-piece sticks use less energy and let them be quicker with their hands. One-piece sticks have become more common and the preference of most players. Another feature to think about is the flex of the shaft. The flex rating that you will see listed on a hockey stick in the store is referring to the amount of force that you have to put in order to bend a hockey stick. The pressure is measured in pounds. For example, a flex shaft would require pounds of pressure in order to bend it, whereas a lighter stick would require less. The ideal flex for you should be half of what your body weight is. So if you are a pound person, a flex rating would be ideal. It might not work out perfectly, but it is a great place to start. Since pros are usually on the heavier side, they will have a higher flex rating. The final factor that goes into the makeup of a great hockey stick is weight. The lighter the stick, the less energy you will spend using it to shoot or even simply carrying it around. Heavier sticks provide extra power and can be more durable, but pros usually go with a lighter stick for efficiency. What the Pros are Using? Trigger 2 by CCM While knowing what the pros are using might give you an inkling about the type of stick that you want to use, remember that sticks are a personal preference. You have to consider the position you play, how you play, and even how they feel in your hands before you commit to one stick over another.

**Chapter 5 : So, You Want To Play Pro Hockey! | Total Sport Management, LLC**

*Get this from a library! So you want to play in the NHL: a guide for young players. [Dan Bylsma; Jay M Bylsma] -- Shares the lessons and values Dan Bylsma learned from his parents and from his life, starting from his school days through his professional hockey career.*

Entire article copied below link <http://> Pay particular attention to list of reasons players peak too early I will post an article in the not-too-distant future on this list. The NHL draft was this past weekend. The best of times for a lucky few young hockey players; The worst of times for the rest. Every young hockey player dreams of being drafted and playing in the NHL, so how do you maximize the chances for that to happen? The better the team, the farther it will go not only in your local league, but in regional and national tournaments, too. We played games a year all over the U. We won the pee-wee national championship beating Adray, Mich. There were eight of us who played together from the time we were six years old until we were Seven of us got full or partial hockey scholarships in college. Most of us went to summer hockey camp: Providence College hockey camp to be exact, led by Lou Lamoriello himself. We were on the ice three times a day, with one session devoted entirely to power skating. It was boot camp for hockey players. It kept me out of trouble in the summer and made me a better goalie. It was also lots of fun. One summer, my best friend Perry and I attended the camp for almost two months straight and broke the record for the most weeks spent there. Even at a young age, it pays to get to know the right people. High School Perry and I had talent. We played on a great traveling team growing up and went to hockey camp in the summer. However, in the U. There were no good high school hockey teams on Long Island, so Perry and I knew we had to go somewhere else. At the time, my dad was traveling to Rhode Island once a week for his job, so I either had to go away to prep school or we had to move to Rhode Island. Perry went away to prep school in Connecticut Avon Old Farms. Hockey parents are the best parents a kid could have. This is where you have a choice to make. There is no doubt major junior is the quickest road to the NHL. However, you finish playing at 19 or 20 years old. Canadians can also go the U. Paul Kariya is a good example of this. The greatest benefit of going to a U. Having my degree certainly helped me get into the video game industry. By that age, the guys who played major junior already have a couple seasons of pro hockey under their belts. If you are a good female hockey player, there are many U. Whether you are male or female or live in the U. One of them, my friend Dean, got a scholarship to Denver. Coaches love kids who are proactive, so if you show an interest, they may send a scout to see you play. Also, remember good grades are essential to getting into a good school. If you choose college, do your homework first. Find out which team will give you the most playing time as a freshman or sophomore. I had scholarship offers to a bunch of schools. Two of them, Boston University and Northeastern had great goalies who were going to be sophomores. That meant I might not start for another three years. Boston College had a great goalie who was going into his senior year, which meant I could be a starting goalie in my second year. The choice was easy. Everyone peaks at different times and for different reasons. My teammate in mite hockey years old, Joe, was the best mite player on the East Coast. He averaged three goals a game against the best competition. By the time we hit pee-wee years old, Joe was a bit overweight and was on our third line. Another friend of mine was our best player in pee-wee. He was already being scouted and by the time he was in high school, was a surefire first-rounder. At some point over the next couple of years, he got complacent and fell out of shape. He never excelled in college and went on to play in the East Coast League. The number of goalies picked before me in the NHL draft could populate a small country. Most of them never played pro hockey because they peaked in junior or in high school. Here are some major reasons why guys peak early: Laziness and weight gain.

*So You Want to Play in the NHL Responding To A Promotion? A Promo Code is an alpha-numeric code that is attached to select promotions or advertisements that you may receive because you are a McGraw-Hill Professional customer or e-mail alert subscriber.*

Want your kid to play in the NHL? I was 23 at the time and I soon learned what a relationship with a hockey player was like: I knew that if I wanted this life with him, I would have to acclimate to pro-hockey lifestyle. After two years we were married, and two years later we had our son. Owen was born into the world of hockey, witnessing and experiencing the 5 rules I am about to share with you. Owen is 9 now, and watching him love and play hockey is a thrilling experience. So, after my 11 years in the NHL world, allow Mike and I to share 5 things you might want to consider. Money is a reality when it comes to hockey and my dramatic side wants to say, "Say goodbye to vacations and shopping sprees! Hockey is an expensive sport and definitely not for the faint of heart. The higher levels you play, the more it costs. Ask any hockey mom! Your schedule becomes unpredictable and you have to just go with the flow. This was a tough one for me because it felt like our schedules and plans were always at the whim of the game. Games, practices, and training sessions can appear at the last minute and are mandatory. Say goodbye to sleeping in "now that is a huge sacrifice! Share your time and attention with them and plan for family time together. During the 15 years that I spent playing professional hockey, free time was not always an option. I spent most of my time training, preparing for a game, taking care of my body and rehabbing injuries. Just "being" in the NHL was not enough. I had to live it, breathe it, and dream it. A common denominator for all hockey parents is that we love the game and we love our children more! Hockey is a team sport, above and beyond the players on the ice. When your child loses a game, ask them if they had fun! That is what matters most. Coaches and referees are doing this for the love of the game, too, so remember to say thank you! At the arena, I hear the acronym NHL from parents and kids too often. The future is unknown, so enjoy the gifts this great sport has to offer and watch friendships, confidence and community grow. Be in the moment before the moment is a memory! The NHL is a dream come true, but so are the friendships you make, the confidence you gain, and the joy you experience in the game. So make it one that feels good for you, your children and your family.

## Chapter 7 : So You Want to Play in the NHL

*So you want to play in the NHL: a guide for young players. by Bylsma, Dan, Publication date Topics Bylsma, Dan, , Bylsma, Jay M, Hockey players.*

It must be frustrating for the gang at EA Sports, or really anyone anywhere. We might as well have a little fun with it, though, right? Story Mode The NBA2K series really set the tone, even getting Spike Lee to pen an admittedly derided story mode script, although a greed element has soiled the series. I could easily see them graft a story onto Be a Pro, while maybe pairing down the number of games you actually play in the well-executed third-person gameplay. However they do it, a story mode would really freshen things up. They could even have a mini-game where you try to rack up experience points by filling your interviews with the maximum number of cliches and bland answers. Still smarting over the lack of Charles Barkley Suns, though. The NBA is uniquely suited for such a mode, as games are 5-on-5, and star players make an enormous impact on the game. Most teams only go so deep into their benches, so you can capture the vibe of a legendary team even if you only nab players. Allowing those debates to live out in digital form would be a blast. As someone who loves fantasy drafts in franchise modes, it would be that much more entertaining to put classic players in such situations. And not just because it would be endlessly amusing to create the Quebec Nordiques and force Eric Lindros to finally play for them. But the players themselves are just so ugly. After a lucky Google search, apparently this was quietly added: Stay onside, computer teammates. It would be nice if the NHL titles provided more stats, both from simulation and in-game readouts. Could you overcome a deficit in a limited amount of time? Consider the mods that people could pump out. Granted, EA might not be as thrilled about people essentially warping the NHL games, yet it could allow a passionate community to add value to the titles. As this PC Gamer article notes, such a possibility is at least being discussed. Are there issues, sometimes grating ones, with these games? Hockey has translated to video game forms in a pretty majestic way since the 8-bit era, and it remains that way today.

**Chapter 8 : College hockey - Everything you need to know about the Frozen Four**

*Here, there's always someone next to you so you have to be even more quick." "This is the place I want to play. I want to play in the NHL," he said.*

The defending champs are the late bloomer nobody wants a piece of. Louis, Anaheim or maybe even Montreal or the Rangers, you could be screwed by playing awesome the whole year and having a crummy match up in April. We take a look at the top playoff bubble teams and why they could be a load for some of the top seeds in the upcoming postseason. It means that when the Kings are within one goal or tied in the third period, they ratchet it up a notch to This means the Kings are one of the top groups as far as possessing the puck in the league. This is the same as or , both years Log Angeles won the Stanley Cup, both years they led the league in this category per the NHL. Also, the Kings have a bevy of talented players such as the aforementioned Quick, defenseman Drew Doughty and forward Anze Kopitar. If Los Angeles sneaks into the postseason there are really good odds they will win their first round match up. Their opponents were about 6-foot-1 and weighed pounds according to the game notes. Stronger than usual puck possession for a playoff squeaker? You will get bruised. You win the top seed in the Eastern Conference. Your hard work has paid off to some degree with home ice throughout the east playoffs and the Boston Bruins in the first round. We know, this is not the same Bruins that won the Stanley Cup in and made the Cup Final in They lack a certain "bite perhaps? But it would still blow to have to deal with Boston in Round One. Their shot attempts percentage close ranks sixth in the NHL at Will they win a first round series against Montreal or New York? Story Continues Calgary Flames 89 points, Pacific 3 The Flames keep winning in spite of meager puck possession numbers. And their best player, Mark Giordano, is out the rest of the year. Email him at puckdaddyblog yahoo.

Chapter 9 : So You Want to Play in the NHL | Michael Boyle's theinnatdunvilla.com Blog

*You play a full game schedule (depending which league you're in) against incredible talent and loads of NHL scouts are at every game. However, you finish playing at 19 or 20 years old. If you sign a contract with an AHL or NHL team that's great, but if you haven't, your career could be over.*

Do any NHL superstars share that aspiration? Is the decision as controversial among NHL players? How many stitches do NHL players accumulate? An NHL team in Europe: You can trust one goalie -- not on your current roster -- with your life back there. Whom are you taking? Max Domi , Montreal Canadiens center: Jonathan Toews , Chicago Blackhawks center: He was great in the playoffs. I like him in general. Auston Matthews , Toronto Maple Leafs center: I like him a lot. Click here for the upcoming schedule and to learn how to subscribe. Evgeny Kuznetsov , Washington Capitals center: Just a couple times, we would talk. I tried to do it in a game, and it seems to me that he always has fun and is enjoying the hockey. Tyler Seguin , Dallas Stars center: Good goalie, good guy. Clayton Keller , Arizona Coyotes winger: Anders Lee , New York Islanders winger: Claude Giroux , Philadelphia Flyers winger: Vincent Trocheck , Florida Panthers center: If you could create a new award to give to NHL players, what would it be? Josh Manson , Anaheim Ducks defenseman: Oh, I love Best Guy. It would just be for a good dude. Nobody can say anything bad about him. Good in the room. He does everything for his team, on and off the ice. Guy of the Year. See who either has the most presence or gets the most followers or helps to promote the game. A former player who has really taken that on is Paul Bissonnette. Our team, we love it when something happens, somebody falls on the blue line by themselves, and we always replay it. One time, Sean Couturier was late in a shift, he was on the ice like a minute and a half, and he made a nice play to get a breakaway, but he was absolutely dead tired. So he was further than everyone else, but they all just caught up to him. We watched that a lot. Does a player need to be in the playoffs to win the Hart Trophy? I could see both arguments. The regular season, the whole point is to make the playoffs, so it kind of makes sense for the MVP to be from a playoff team. Seth Jones , Columbus Blue Jackets defenseman: Chris Kreider , New York Rangers winger: Ryan Johansen , Nashville Predators center: Mark Scheifele , Winnipeg Jets center age There are so many opportunities now to innovate to get a little bit of an edge, and I love exploring that.