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First-Overall Pick: Hockey's Most Valuable Resource

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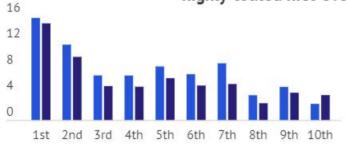
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First-Overall Pick: Hockey's Greatest Resource

Unsurprisingly, a *lot* of research goes into National Hockey League (NHL) teams' draft research, especially in the first round. Since the year 1963 when the NHL draft started, what kinds of statistics have become available about the highly-touted first-overall pick?



205%

On average, first-overall picks are 205% more valuable than other top-ten picks according to WAR statistics.

- WAR (Wins Above Replacement) *
- xWAR (Expected Goals Above Replacement) *

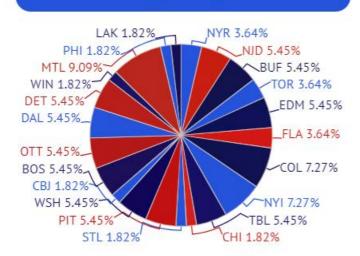
^{*} Advanced hockey statistics belong to evolving-hockey.com

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NHL teams have never had the firstoverall pick

(Anaheim, Calgary, Carolina, Minnesota, Nashville, San Jose, Vancouver, Vegas)

First overall-picks by NHL team



In 1995, the NHL draft lottery was introduced, creating a system in which all teams that did not make the playoffs were in the running for the first-overall pick. The odds of receiving this pick are determined by where in the standings each team ended up. The odds for the 2020 draft are shown in the table below.

Team

Detroit

Ottawa

Sharks

Angeles

Anaheim

Kings

Ducks New

Jersey Devils

Buffalo

Sabres

Los

5

33

Senators San Jose

+

Red Wings

1st

9.5

8.5

7.5

6.5

2nd

13.5 13.0

9.6

8.7

7.8

6.8

3rd

12.3

9.7

8.9

8.0

7.1

18.4 16.5 14.4 50.6

11.5 11.3 11.1 13.2

4th

33.3

2.8

5th

27.9

26.1

8.4

37.7 15.2

34.0 8.3

26.7 4.3

19.4

39.5

19.4

38.9

26.0

34.5

16.2

6th

7th

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

		Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
l•I	٥	Edmonton Oilers	6.0	6.3	6.7					36.8	36.0	7.8	.04	
	0	Florida Panthers	5.0	5.3	5.7						48.8	30.7	4.3	.01
	*	Minnesota Wild	3.5	3.8	4.1							60.5	25.7	2.4
	The state of the s	Nashville Predators	3.0	3.3	3.6								69.6	19.4
	•	New York Rangers	2.5	2.7	3.0									78.0
	P	Pittsburgh Penguins	2.0	2.2	2.4									
l•I	4	Toronto Maple Leafs	1.5	1.7	1.8									

