



NEWS RELEASE



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NHL RELEASES FINAL RANKINGS FOR 2016 DRAFT

Matthews Leads Deep Field of European Skaters, Dubois Ranks First in North America

NEW YORK (April 12, 2016) – Forward **Auston Matthews** (Scottsdale, Ariz.), who averaged more than a point per game (24-22—46 in 36 GP) for Zurich in Switzerland’s top men’s league in 2015-16, has been named the top draft-eligible skater for the 2016 NHL Draft as the NHL Central Scouting Bureau today released its final rankings. Matthews aims to be the seventh U.S.-born player to be drafted first overall, and the first since **Erik Johnson** (2006 by STL) and **Patrick Kane** (2007 by CHI) were selected with the top pick in back-to-back years.

“Auston Matthews is an extraordinary prospect with NHL size, speed and smarts combined with an exceptional work ethic and a relentless compete level,” said Director of Central Scouting **Dan Marr**. “The other players in the mix for the top five selections have all improved their stock, but Matthews is our clear choice as the top prospect available for the 2016 NHL Draft.”

Joining Matthews at the top of a deep field of European skaters are a pair of 2016 World Junior Championship gold medalists who have spent the entire season in the Finnish Elite League: No. 2 **Patrik Laine** (Tampere, Finland), a forward with Tappara, and No. 3 **Jesse Puljujarvi** (Tornio, Finland), a forward for Karpat.

Four of the five top-ranked skaters from North America come from NHL bloodlines: No. 1 **Pierre-Luc Dubois** (Rimouski, Que.), a forward for the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles (QMJHL), is the son of former NHL Draft selection and current QMJHL assistant coach **Eric Dubois**; No. 2 **Matthew Tkachuk** (St. Louis, Mo.), a forward for the London Knights (OHL), is the son of former NHL player **Keith Tkachuk**; No. 3 **Alexander Nylander** (Stockholm, Sweden), a forward for the Mississauga Steelheads (OHL), is the son of former NHL player **Michael Nylander** and brother of Maple Leafs forward **William Nylander**; and No. 4 **Jakob Chychrun** (Boca Raton, Fla.), a defenseman with the Sarnia Sting (OHL), is the son of former NHL blueliner **Jeff Chychrun**. Rounding out the top five in North America is London defenseman **Olli Juolevi**, a tournament All-Star as a member of Finland’s gold-medal team at the 2016 World Junior Championship.

Evan Fitzpatrick (St. John’s, Nfld.) of the Sherbrooke Phoenix (QMJHL) and **Filip Gustavsson** (Skelleftea, Sweden) of Lulea’s junior team (SWEDEN-JR) are the top-ranked goaltenders from North America and Europe, respectively.

The final rankings feature the top 210 skaters and 30 goaltenders in North America as well as the top 150 skaters and 15 goaltenders from Europe.

NHL COMMUNICATIONS

1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036 T: 212-789-2000
50 BAY STREET, 11TH FLOOR, TORONTO, ON M5J 2X8 T: 416-359-7900
MEDIA.NHL.COM • NHL.COM • @PR_NHL

In its 41st year of operation, NHL Central Scouting provides evaluation and scouting of draft-eligible players to NHL member clubs. Headed by Director of Central Scouting **Dan Marr**, NHL Central Scouting employs eight full-time and 15 part-time scouts throughout North America. To report on prospects playing in Europe, the NHL employs the services of **Goran Stubb** and his staff at European Scouting Services based in Finland.

Combined, NHL Central Scouting and European Scouting Services will see in excess of 3,000 games this season.

The full final rankings in all categories are available on NHL.com and media.NHL.com.

The 2016 NHL Draft will be held June 24-25 at First Niagara Center in Buffalo. This will be the third time the event will be held in Buffalo; the city previously hosted the NHL Draft in 1991 (Memorial Auditorium) and 1998 (Marine Midland Arena).

Please see the attached for brief profiles on the top-rated skaters for the 2016 NHL Draft.

(4/12/16)

AUSTON MATTHEWS

Zurich • SWISS

6'1" • 210 lbs. • Center • Shoots: Left

Born Sept. 17, 1997 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Hometown: Scottsdale, Ariz.

No. 1-Ranked European Skater



- Matthews, who joined Zurich of Switzerland's top professional league for the 2015-16 season, averaged more than a point-per-game (24-22—46 in 36 GP) while playing under former NHL head coach and Stanley Cup champion **Marc Crawford**.
- A native of Scottsdale, Ariz., Matthews learned the game while playing in the local minor hockey system – including Bantam and Midget seasons with the Arizona Bobcats – before joining the USA Hockey National Team Development Program in 2013-14.
- In 2014-15, Matthews registered 55-62—117 to set U.S. Under-18 team records for goals and points in one season, surpassing **Patrick Kane's** 52 goals and 102 points in 2005-06.
- A standout internationally, Matthews was awarded USA Hockey's Bob Johnson Award in 2014-15, recognizing excellence in international hockey competition. He is a two-time Under-18 World Championship gold medalist (2014 and 2015), and in 2015 was named tournament MVP after leading all players in goals and points (8-7—15 in 7 GP). Matthews also has represented his country twice at the World Junior Championship (2015 and 2016), leading the 2016 tournament in goals (7-4—11 in 7 GP) to help the U.S. capture bronze.
- A fan of his home-state Coyotes, Matthews began attending games when he was just two years old. His favorite players growing up were **Shane Doan** and **Daniel Briere**.
- Matthews' father is from California and his mother is from Mexico. Recent NHL players of Mexican heritage include **Scott Gomez** and **Matthew Nieto**.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Matthews is an extraordinary prospect with NHL size, speed and smarts. He is the ultimate package when you combine all of that with his exceptional work ethic and relentless compete level."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	ZURICH	SWISS	36	24	22	46	6
2014-15	U.S. UNDER-18	NTDP	60	55	62	117	30
2013-14	U.S. UNDER-17	NTDP	24	12	21	33	10
2013-14	U.S. UNDER-18	NTDP	20	12	5	17	8

PATRIK LAINE

Tappara • FINLAND
6'4" • 206 lbs. • Right Wing • Shoots: Right
Born April 19, 1998 in Tampere, Finland
Hometown: Tampere, Finland
No. 2-Ranked European Skater



- Laine has spent the entire 2015-16 season skating with Tappara of the Finnish Elite League where he registered 17-16—33 in 46 contests to lead the league in goals and points by a rookie. He has also added 8-2—10 in 11 postseason contests.
- On home soil at the 2016 World Junior Championship in Helsinki, Laine helped lead Finland to a gold medal while playing on a dynamic line with **Jesse Puljujarvi** (No. 3-ranked European Skater) and **Sebastian Aho** (drafted 35th overall by CAR in 2015).
- Laine (7-6—13 in 7 GP) tied Team USA's **Auston Matthews** (No. 1-ranked European Skater) for the tournament lead in goals at the 2016 World Junior Championship as part of Finland's gold medal-winning team and was named to the tournament All-Star Team alongside countrymen Puljujarvi and **Olli Juolevi** (No. 5-ranked North American Skater).
- Internationally, Laine also tied Matthews for the tournament lead in goals at the 2015 Under-18 World Championship, registering 8-3—11 in seven games en route to a silver medal and tournament All-Star Team honors.
- A large, powerful forward who likes to score, Laine models his game after his favorite NHL player, Capitals forward **Alex Ovechkin**.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Laine is an extremely skilled winger with size, speed, hockey sense and competitiveness. He is a natural scorer who possesses an NHL caliber shot. Laine is a tough competitor to play against and even harder to check, an offensive threat every time he is on the ice."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	TAPPARA	FINLAND	46	17	16	33	6
2014-15	LEKI	FINLAND-2	36	5	7	12	14
2014-15	TAPPARA	FINLAND	6	0	1	1	2
2014-15	TAPPARA JR.	FINLAND-JR	6	4	1	5	4
2013-14	TAPPARA JR.	FINLAND-JR	40	26	11	37	43
2013-14	TAPPARA U-18	FINLAND U-18	5	5	6	11	2

JESSE PULJUJARVI

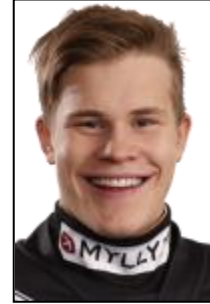
Karpat • FINLAND

6'3" • 203 lbs. • Right Wing • Shoots: Right

Born May 7, 1998 in Alvkarleby, Sweden

Hometown: Tornio, Finland

No. 3-Ranked European Skater



- Puljujarvi spent the entire 2015-16 season with Karpat of the Finnish Elite League, where he has registered 13-15—28 in 50 regular season games and 3-4—7 in eight postseason contests.
- On home soil at the 2016 World Junior Championship in Helsinki, Puljujarvi led Finland to a gold medal while playing on a dynamic line with **Patrik Laine** (No. 2-ranked European Skater) and **Sebastian Aho** (drafted 35th overall by CAR in 2015).
- Puljujarvi (5-12—17 in 7 GP) led all players at the 2016 World Junior Championship in assists and points en route to gold, collecting Most Valuable Player, Best Forward and All-Star Team honors.
- Internationally, Puljujarvi also earned a silver medal with Finland at the 2015 Under-18 World Championship (2-5—7 in 7 GP).
- A regular on successful teams, in 2014-15 Puljujarvi played 21 games with Karpat (4-7—11), who eventually went on to win the Finnish Elite League Championship, and spent 15 games with Hokki (8-5—13), who earned bronze in Finland's second division. He also was a member of Karpat's silver medal junior squad in 2013-14, racking up seven goals in 12 postseason contests.
- Lists Capitals forward **Alex Ovechkin** as his favorite NHL player.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Puljujarvi is the ultimate power forward package. He is a big, mobile, highly skilled, well-rounded winger who is both a scorer and a playmaker. He is a powerful skater with excellent offensive instincts, puck skills and determination."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	KARPAT	FINLAND	50	13	15	28	22
2014-15	KARPAT	FINLAND	21	4	7	11	10
2014-15	KARPAT JR.	FINLAND-JR	11	12	6	18	10
2014-15	HOKKI	FINLAND-2	15	8	5	13	8
2013-14	KARPAT JR.	FINLAND-JR	18	12	11	23	4
2013-14	KARPAT U-18	FINLAND U-18	8	7	7	14	8

PIERRE-LUC DUBOIS

Cape Breton • QMJHL
6'2" • 201 lbs. • Left Wing • Shoots: Left
Born June 24, 1998 in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Que.
Hometown: Rimouski, Que.
No. 1-Ranked North American Skater



- In 2015-16, Dubois finished third in Quebec Major Junior Hockey League scoring with 99 points (42-57—99) in 62 games and has added 5-3—8 in eight postseason contests for the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles.
- After being selected fifth overall by Cape Breton in the 2014 QMJHL Entry Draft, Dubois finished ninth among rookies in 2014-15 with 10-35—45 in 54 games.
- Internationally, Dubois was part of Canada's gold medal entry at the 2015 Ivan Hlinka Memorial (2-3—5 in 5 GP) and earned a bronze medal at the 2015 Under-18 World Championship.
- Dubois recorded 1-2—3 for Team Orr – including the game-winning goal – in their 3-2 victory over Team Cherry at the 2016 CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game in Vancouver.
- His father, Eric, - who was selected 76th overall by the Quebec Nordiques in the 1989 NHL Draft – currently serves as an assistant coach with Rimouski Oceanic of the QMJHL.
- Dubois compares his style of play to Dallas Stars forward **Jamie Benn**, one of his favorite NHL players.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

“Dubois is a highly-skilled power forward who is unique in that he can play all three forward positions. He excels at utilizing his size and strength to his advantage and can play with an edge. A strong skater with deceptive speed and quickness, Dubois is a gifted playmaker with elite hockey sense and puck skills.”

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	CAPE BRETON	QMJHL	62	42	57	99	112
2014-15	CAPE BRETON	QMJHL	54	10	35	45	58
2013-14	COL NOTRE-DAME	QMAAA	40	17	21	38	92

MATTHEW TKACHUK

London • OHL

6'1" • 200 lbs. • Left Wing • Shoots: Left

Born Dec. 11, 1997 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.

No. 2-Ranked North American Skater



- Tkachuk finished fifth in the Ontario Hockey League with 30-77—107 in 57 games while skating mostly on a dynamic London Knights line with Coyotes prospect **Christian Dvorak** (52-69—121 in 59 GP) and Maple Leafs prospect **Mitchell Marner** (39-77—116 in 57 GP). He is currently tied for second in the OHL with 9-9—18 in eight postseason contests.
- In 2014-15, Tkachuk registered 38-57—95 in 65 games for USA Hockey National Team Development Program's Under-18 squad, second on the team to No. 1-ranked European Skater **Auston Matthews'** club record 55-62—117.
- Internationally, Tkachuk earned gold with Team USA at the 2014 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (4-3—7 in 6 GP) and won another gold for his country while leading the tournament in assists at the 2015 Under-18 World Championship (2-10—12 in 7 GP). At the 2016 World Junior Championship, Tkachuk (4-7—11 in 7 GP) tied for the team lead in points (Matthews: 7-4—11) to help Team USA earn bronze.
- His father, **Keith Tkachuk**, played in 1,201 NHL games over 18 seasons with the Jets/Coyotes, Blues and Thrashers, registering career totals of 538-527—1,065. He is one of only four U.S.-born players to reach the 500-goal milestone (**Mike Modano**: 561, **Jeremy Roenick**: 513; **Joe Mullen**: 502).
- Lists Penguins forward **Sidney Crosby** as his favorite NHL player and compares his style of play to Maple Leafs forward **James van Riemsdyk**.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Tkachuk is unique in that he brings both skill and a physical package to game situations in which he consistently finds ways to contribute and make an impact. He possesses elite hockey sense and vision, has a very good scoring touch and makes players around him better. One of the best puck protection players eligible for the 2016 NHL Draft, he is difficult to check and willing to go to the hard areas to score goals."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	LONDON	OHL	57	30	77	107	80
2014-15	U.S. UNDER-18	NTDP	65	38	57	95	119
2013-14	U.S. UNDER-17	NTDP	53	13	19	32	43

ALEXANDER NYLANDER

Mississauga • OHL
6'0" • 180 lbs. • Left Wing • Shoots: Right
Born March 2, 1998 in Calgary, Alta.
Hometown: Stockholm, Sweden
No. 3-Ranked North American Skater



- Nylander, a member of the Mississauga Steelheads in 2015-16, led all Ontario Hockey League rookies with 75 points in 57 games (28-47—75). Adding to his strong numbers in the postseason, Nylander averaged two points per game (6-6—12 in 6 GP) for the Steelheads in their first round loss to Barrie.
- Nylander led Sweden's fourth-place entry at the 2016 World Junior Championship with 4-5—9 in seven games. He assisted on a goal by his brother and linemate, **William Nylander**, before William was injured in the first game of the tournament.
- Internationally, Nylander earned silver while representing Sweden at the 2015 Ivan Hlinka Memorial (2-4—6 in 5 GP) and bronze as the leading scorer for his country at the 2014 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-5—7 in 7 GP).
- His father, **Michael Nylander**, played for seven NHL teams spanning a 920-game, 15-season career and currently serves as an assistant coach with the Steelheads. His brother, William, was selected eighth overall by the Maple Leafs at the 2014 NHL Draft and dressed for 22 games with the club in 2015-16.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Nylander is a dynamic player who is an elite skater with a creative skill-set. He has very good offensive hockey sense allowing him to create scoring chances in a variety of ways while making plays at top speed. His offensive instincts make him extremely dangerous in one-on-one situations and a scoring threat every time he is on the ice."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	57	28	47	75	18
2014-15	AIK JR.	SWEDEN-JR.	42	15	25	40	12
2014-15	AIK U-18	SWEDEN U-18	7	2	13	15	2
2014-15	AIK	SWEDEN-2	3	0	0	0	0
2013-14	SODERTALJE U-18	SWEDEN U-18	17	12	10	22	6
2013-14	SDE HF U-18	SWEDEN U-18	21	9	27	36	2

JAKOB CHYCHRUN

Sarnia • OHL

6'2" • 205 lbs. • Defenseman • Shoots: Left

Born March 31, 1998 in Boca Raton, Fla.

Hometown: Boca Raton, Fla.

No. 4-Ranked North American Skater



- Chychrun patrolled the blue line as an alternate captain for the Sarnia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League in 2015-16, where he recorded 11-38—49 in 62 games. A strong two-way defender, Chychrun produced at a point-per-game clip for Sarnia in the postseason recording 2-6—8 in seven contests.
- After being picked first overall by the Sarnia Sting in the 2014 OHL Priority Selection, Chychrun registered 16-17—33 in 2014-15 – his first OHL campaign – and ranked second in scoring among rookie defensemen. His successful first OHL season earned him First All-Rookie Team and Third All-Star Team honors.
- Posted 16-27—43 in 29 games for the Toronto Jr. Canadiens of the Greater Toronto Hockey League in 2013-14 and then added 5-8—13 in 14 playoff games to help his team secure the Kraft Cup Championship.
- His father, **Jeff Chychrun**, played 262 career NHL games as a defenseman with the Flyers, Kings, Penguins and Oilers. His uncle, **Luke Richardson**, also patrolled the blue line for 1,417 career NHL games with the Maple Leafs, Oilers, Flyers, Blue Jackets, Lightning and Senators.
- Lists his favorite NHL players as Kings defenseman **Drew Doughty** and Penguins forward **Sidney Crosby**.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

“A complete defenseman with the size, strength, speed and puck skills for today’s NHL. Chychrun is an excellent transitional skater who possesses high-end hockey sense, passing ability, a powerful shot and the poise to make plays under pressure. He plays a solid two-way game displaying quick offensive instincts, is responsible defensively and rarely out of position.”

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	SARNIA	OHL	62	11	38	49	51
2014-15	SARNIA	OHL	42	16	17	33	37
2013-14	TOR JR CANADIENS	GTHL	29	16	27	43	28

OLLI JUOLEVI

London • OHL

6'2" • 182 lbs. • Defenseman • Shoots: Left

Born June 24, 1998 in Helsinki, Finland

Hometown: Helsinki, Finland

No. 5-Ranked North American Skater



- In 2015-16, Juolevi finished third among Ontario Hockey League rookie defensemen with 9-33—42 in 57 games for the London Knights. In eight postseason contests, Juolevi has recorded 1-4—5 with a plus-5 rating.
- Juolevi was a key member of Finland’s gold medal-winning team at the 2016 World Junior Championship where he led all defensemen with nine assists (0-9—9 in 7 GP) and was named to the tournament All-Star Team.
- During 2014-15, Juolevi stocked his trophy case while playing with Jokerit’s junior squad (6-26—32 in 44 GP), where he was named the league’s Best Defenseman, Rookie of the Year and selected to the First All-Star Team.
- Juolevi compares his style of play to **Oliver Ekman-Larsson** of the Arizona Coyotes. His favorite NHL player is Nashville Predators captain **Shea Weber**.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

“Juolevi is a smart, smooth skating, puck moving defenseman with excellent poise and composure. He displays elite hockey sense and instincts with and without the puck and plays in every situation.”

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	LONDON	OHL	57	9	33	42	16
2014-15	JOKERIT JR.	FINLAND-JR	44	6	26	32	28
2013-14	JOKERIT U-18	FINLAND U-18	33	7	22	29	63
2013-14	JOKERIT JR.	FINLAND-JR	11	1	3	4	6