

Seattle Kraken Expansion Draft

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How should the Seattle Kraken approach the expansion draft?

Draft Format and Rules:

Rules from 2017 NHL Expansion Draft apply to 2021

- Seattle will select one player from each of the thirty teams (VGK is exempt)
 - Minimum 14 forwards, 9 defense, and 3 goalies
 - Minimum 20 players under contract in the 2020-2021 season
- Each team can protect a certain number of their players
 - 8 skaters and 1 goalie, or
 - 7 forwards, 3 defense, and 1 goalie



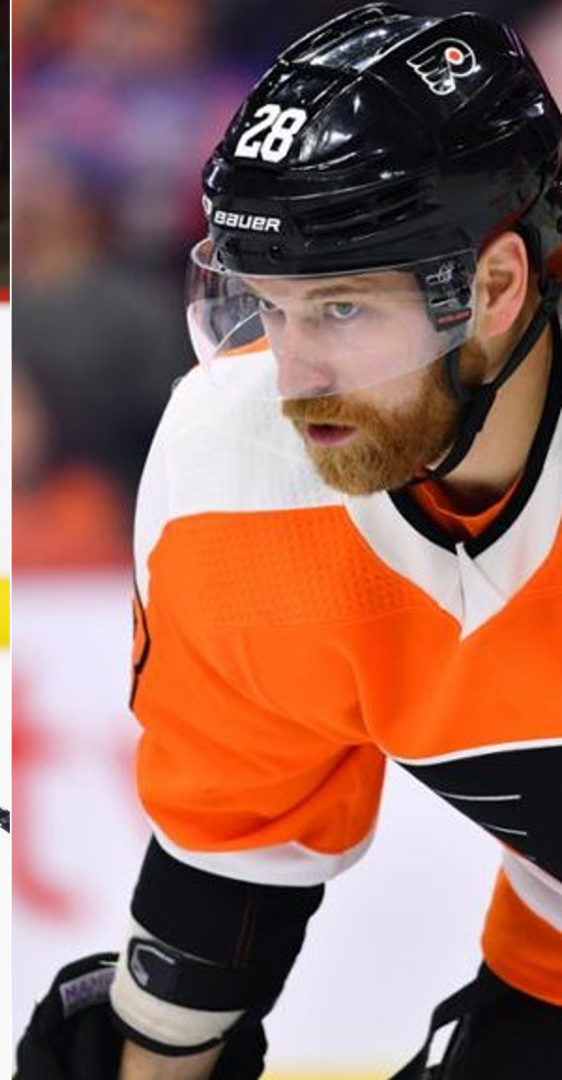
Other Rules

- Players with no move clauses (NMCs) in their contract must be protected with one of the teams protection slots, unless the player agrees to waive their NMC.
- All players who have two or less seasons in the NHL at the end of the 2020-2021 season are exempt from the expansion draft.
- All teams must expose 2 forwards and 1 defence that meet the following criteria:
 - Under contract in 2021-22, and
 - Played in 40 or more NHL games last season, or
 - played in 70 or more NHL games in the last two season
- All teams must expose 1 goalie that meets the following criteria:
 - under contract in 2021-22, or
 - whose contract is expiring & is an RFA in 2020-21
- Players with potential career-ending injuries who have missed the previous 60+ consecutive games due to an injury may be deemed as exempt from the expansion draft.
- Players selected for the Expansion team must have a total cap hit value of between 60% and 100% of the 2020-21 salary cap upper limit.



Who is protected?

We first decided to list all the players on each team that we knew would be protected. This was intended to remove the best players from individual comparisons because that would be unnecessary towards predicting the borderline protected players (which would actually affect who Seattle chose).



Important Stats

We analyzed Protected/Unprotected player stats from the season prior to the Golden Knights expansion draft to find specific stats that correlate well with being protected. Correlations with “Protected” stat:

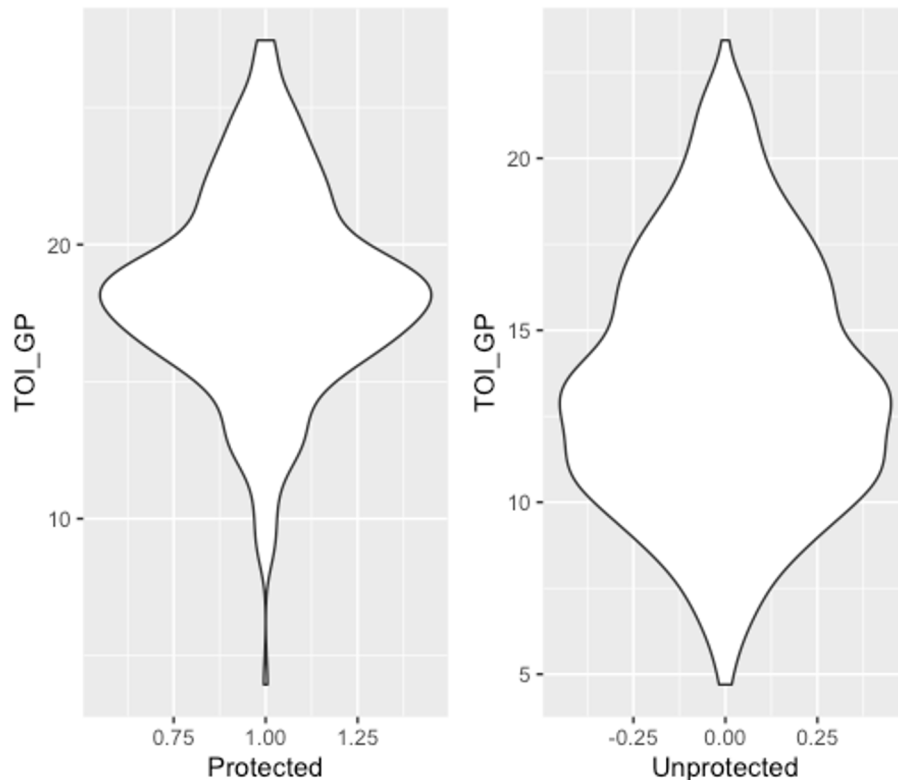
| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| CENTER: | TOI_GP | plus_minus | Shifts | TOI_PCT | PTS | GP | iSF | FO_PCT | xGF |
| | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> |
| | 0.666 | 0.107 | 0.609 | 0.626 | 0.647 | 0.499 | 0.608 | 0.212 | 0.661 |
| RIGHT WING: | TOI_GP | plus_minus | Shifts | TOI_PCT | PTS | GP | iSF | FO_PCT | xGF |
| | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> |
| | 0.547 | 0.274 | 0.553 | 0.569 | 0.620 | 0.477 | 0.622 | 0.0570 | 0.589 |
| LEFT WING: | TOI_GP | plus_minus | Shifts | TOI_PCT | PTS | GP | iSF | xGF | |
| | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | |
| | 0.602 | 0.129 | 0.587 | 0.446 | 0.628 | 0.511 | 0.613 | 0.639 | |
| DEFENSE: | iCF | PTS | iSF | CF | CA | xGA | G | A | TOI_GP |
| | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> |
| | 0.605 | 0.592 | 0.602 | 0.598 | 0.563 | 0.571 | 0.563 | 0.569 | 0.583 |
| GOALIE: | TOI | SA | FA | xGA | GP | GA | GAA | dFSVp | |
| | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | <dbl> | |
| | 0.62 | 0.62 | 0.618 | 0.61 | 0.606 | 0.558 | -0.384 | 0.362 | |



Time On Ice per Games Played

These violin plots show a stark correlation between how much ice time players get and their likelihood of being protected for the VGK expansion draft.

Obviously, players who get more ice time will be considered more valuable to a team's front office than a 4th line grinder would be.



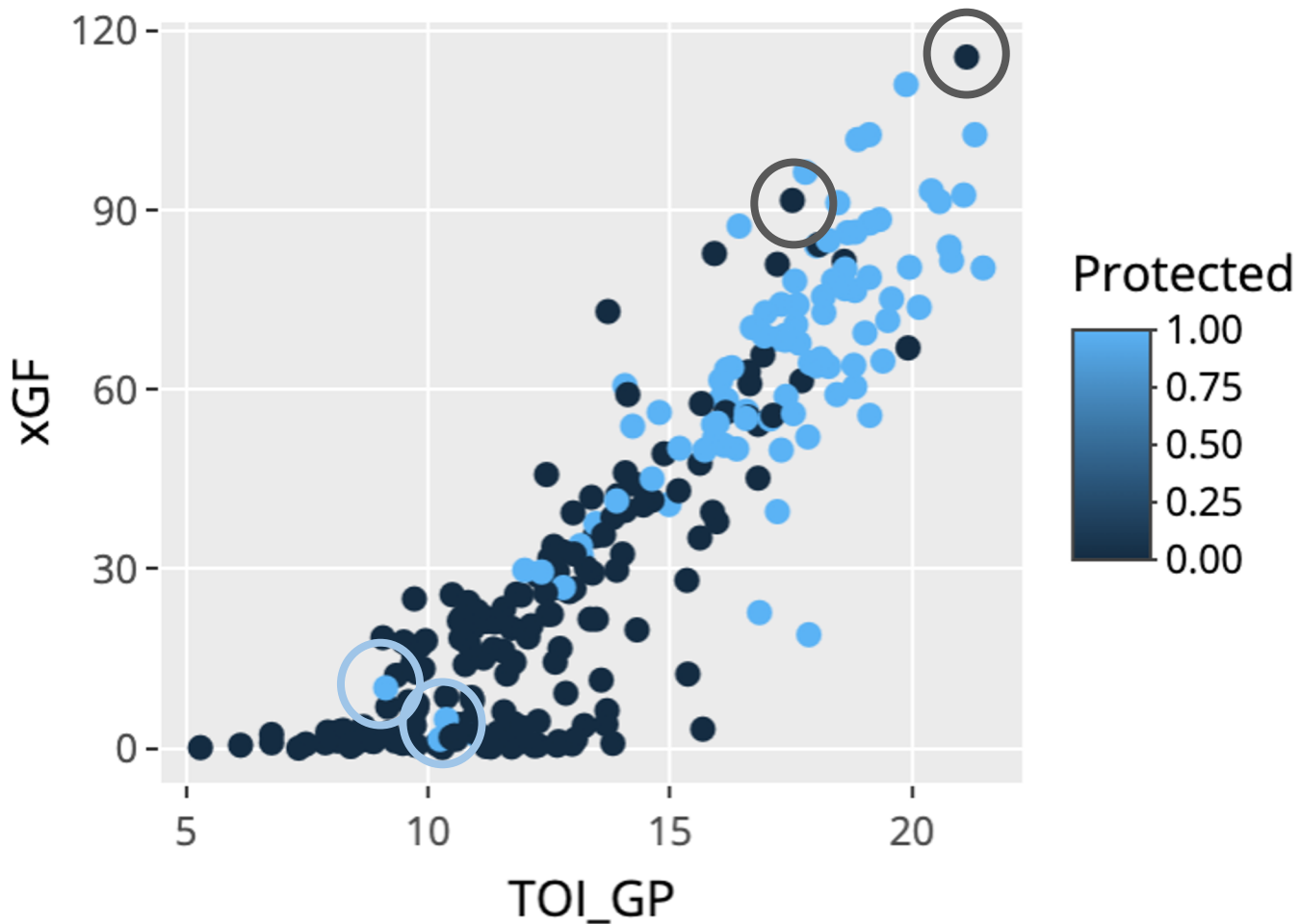


Centers

MOST CORRELATED STATS GRAPH

Time on Ice per Game
vs. Expected Goals For

We used this graph to find the problems with the correlation and the reason for the outliers.



Outliers at Center

Protected Outliers

- Curtis Lazar
- Rocco Grimaldi
- Scott Laughton
- Ryan Carpenter

PROTECTED:

Why?

AHL and Team



Curtis Lazar played in **AHL** for half the season



Rocco Grimaldi played in **AHL** for half the season



Scott Laughton played in **AHL** for most of the season



Ryan Carpenter played in **AHL** for more than half the season

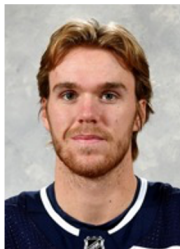
Unprotected Outliers

- Connor McDavid
- Auston Matthews
- William Nylander
- Sam Reinhart

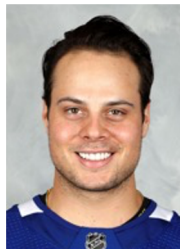
UNPROTECTED:

Why?

1st or 2nd year players



Connor McDavid was a **second year** player in the 2016-2017 season.



Auston Matthews was a **rookie**.



William Nylander was a **second year** player.

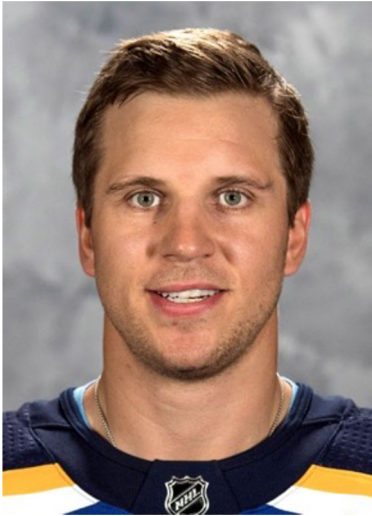


Sam Reinhart was a **second year** player.



COMPARING CENTERS

Brayden Schenn
Schenn is overvalued
compared to Thomas



| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--|--|------------|----------------|
| AGE | 28 | | | 21 | AGE |
| CONTRACT \$ | \$6,500,000 | | | \$925,000 | CONTRACT \$ |
| Free agency | 2028 | | | 2021 (RFA) | Free agency |
| PIM | 44 | | | 18 | PIM |
| GP | 71 | | | 66 | GP |
| TOI/GP | 18:28 | | | 14:34 | TOI/GP |
| PTS | 58 | | | 42 | PTS |
| PTS/60 | 2.65 | | | 2.65 | PTS/60 |
| PDO | 99.1 | | | 99.4 | PDO |
| Protect | NO | | | YES | Protect |

Robert Thomas

If Thomas was given more ice-time, he would have the same stats as Schenn according to PTS/60



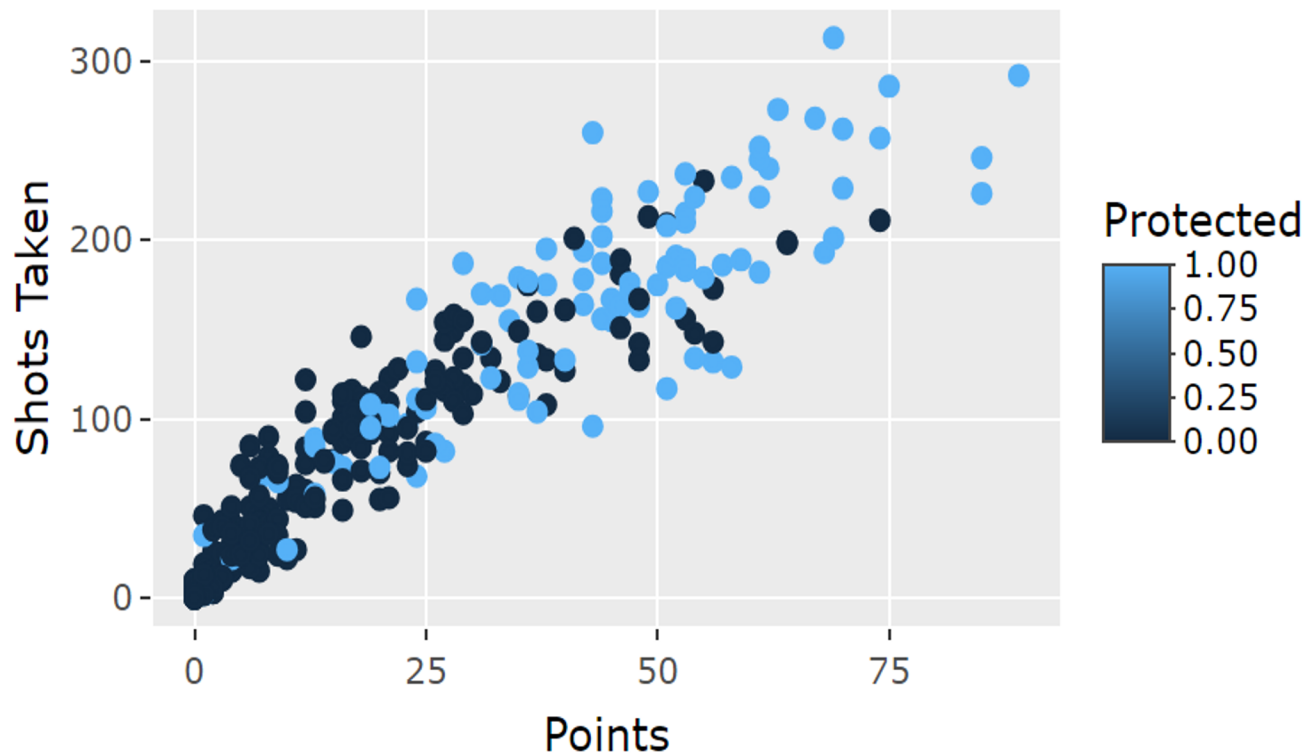


Wingers

MOST CORRELATED STATS GRAPH

Points vs. Shots Taken

We used this graph to find the problems with the correlation and the reason for the outliers.



Outliers at Wing

Protected Outliers

- Vladimir Sobotka
- Josh Leivo
- Tomas Jurco
- Matt Martin

PROTECTED:

Why?

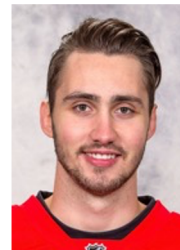
AHL/KHL superstar or enforcer



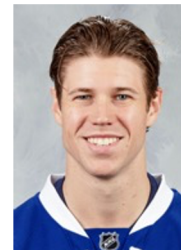
Vladimir Sobotka played almost all the season in the **KHL** where he dominated



Josh Leivo was an **AHL** all star and too **injured** to play in most of the NHL season (controversial).



Tomas Jurco was another exception **AHL** player and was **traded** in the middle of the season.



Matt Martin is an **enforcer** and serves as a protector for the better players, so he doesn't get many points or shots.

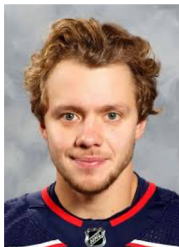
Unprotected Outliers

- Artemi Panarin
- Nikolaj Ehlers
- Richard Panik
- Patrick Marleau

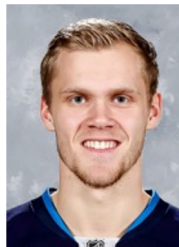
UNPROTECTED:

Why?

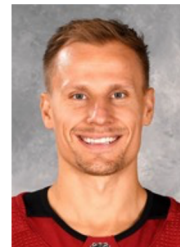
2nd year players or contract expiring



Artemi Panarin was a **second year** player in the 2016-2017 season.



Nikolaj Ehlers was also a **second year** player in the 2016-2017 season.



Richard Panik was on a one year **contract** that expired in the next season and he was a UFA.



Patrick Marleau was on a three year **contract** that ended the next season and he was a UFA.



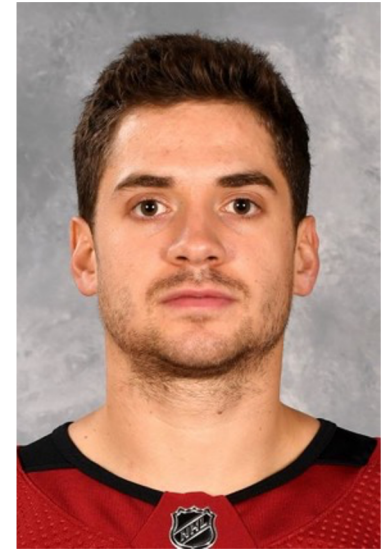
COMPARING WINGS

Conor Garland



| | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|--|--|------------|----------------|
| AGE | 24 | | | 26 | AGE |
| CONTRACT \$ | \$1,500,00 | | | \$1,500,00 | CONTRACT \$ |
| Free agency | 2021 | | | 2020 (RFA) | Free agency |
| SAtt. | 179 | | | 263 | SAtt. |
| PDO | 100.3 | | | 99.8 | PDO |
| GP | 47 | | | 72 | GP |
| TOI/GP | 14:09 | | | 14:23 | TOI/GP |
| PTS | 18 | | | 39 | PTS |
| PTS/60 | 1.79 | | | 2.13 | PTS/60 |
| Protect | NO | | | YES | Protect |

Vinnie Hinostroza



A photograph of two ice hockey players crashing into the boards during a game. The player on the left is wearing a dark blue Winnipeg Jets jersey with the name 'FUGLIEN' and the number '33' on the back. The player on the right is wearing a white Toronto Maple Leafs jersey with red and yellow accents. Both players are wearing helmets and are in a dynamic, crashing position against the glass and boards. In the background, spectators are visible behind the glass, including a man with glasses and a mustache. The word 'NEXUS' is visible on the glass, and the Toronto Maple Leafs logo is also present. The word 'Defence' is overlaid in large black text across the center of the image.

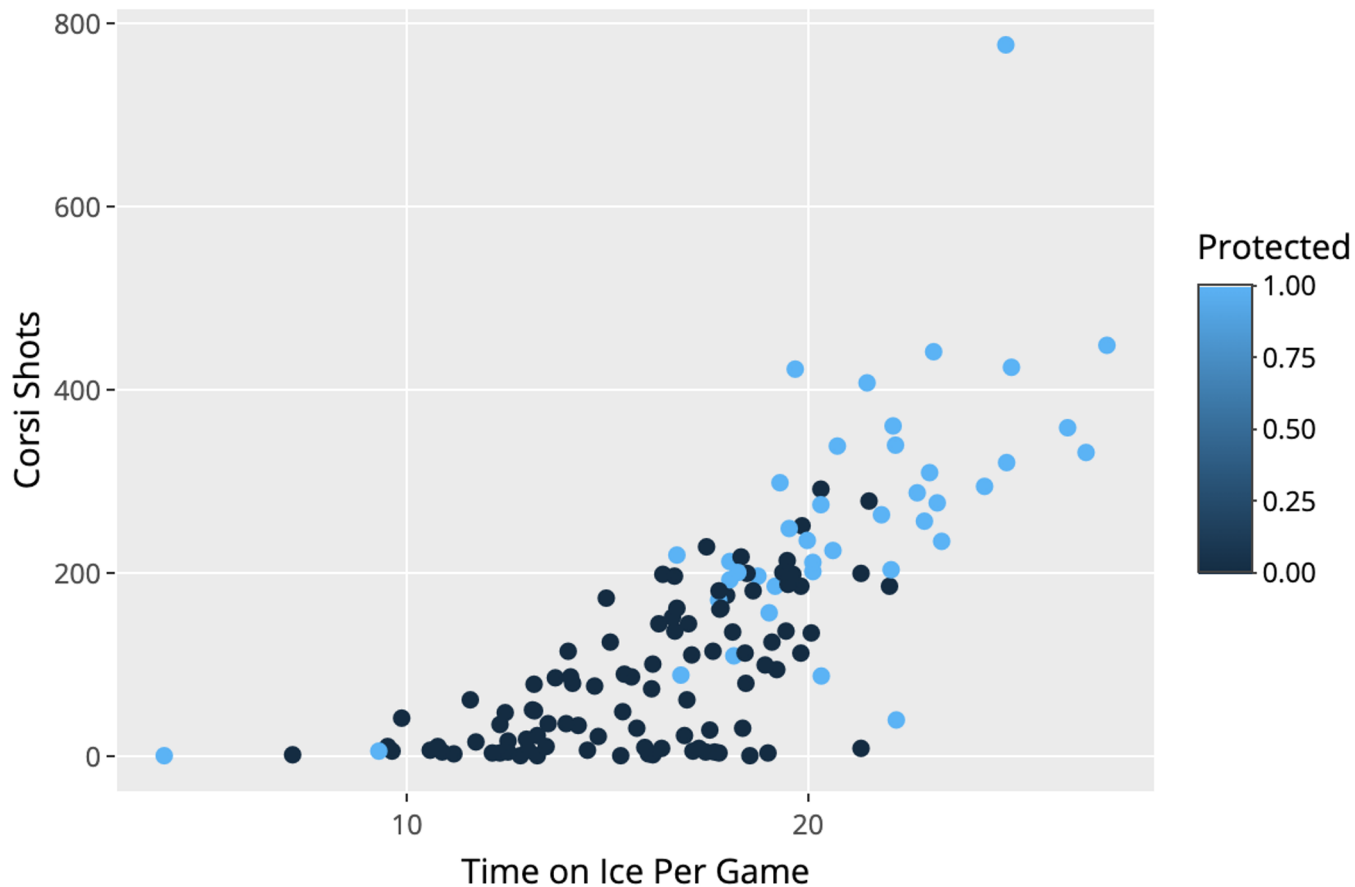
Defence

MOST CORRELATED STATS GRAPH

Time on Ice per Game
vs. Corsi Shots

We used this graph to
find the problems with
the correlation and the
reason for the outliers.

The Corsi statistic
measures shot attempt
differential while at even
strength play.



Outliers at Defence

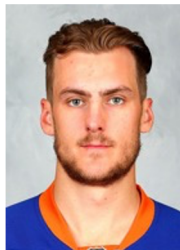
Protected Outliers

- Ryan Pullock
- Mirco Mueller
- Tyler Myers
- Erik Gudbranson

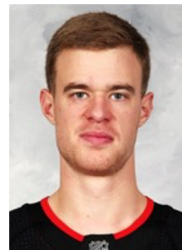
PROTECTED:

Why?

AHL and Injury



Ryan Pullock was an amazing **AHL** player averaging almost 1 ppg at defence.



Mirco Mueller was a great **AHL** player and moved up at the end of the season.



Tyler Myers had a lower-body **injury** that required surgery, ending his season.



Erik Gudbranson had a season ending wrist **injury** that lead to surgery.

Unprotected Outliers

- Matt Dumba
- Francois Beauchemin
- Calvin de Haan
- Brady Skjei

UNPROTECTED:

Why?

Team Depth, Age, contract, and rookie



Matt Dumba wasn't protected due to the **defensive depth** of the Wild and their better defensive prospects.



Francois Beauchemin was quite **old** and was bought out of a NMC clause to protect younger players.



Calvin de Haan was on an expiring three year **contract**. He would become a UFA the next season.



Brady Skjei was on the NHL all **rookie** team in the 2016-2017 season.



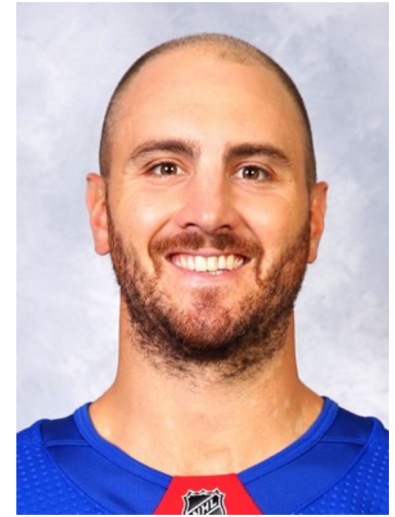
COMPARING DEFENSEMEN

Ryan McDonagh



| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--|--|----------------|----------------|
| AGE | 31 | | | 31 | AGE |
| CONTRACT \$ | \$6,750,000/yr | | | \$1,750,000/yr | CONTRACT \$ |
| Free agency | UFA (2026) | | | UFA (2020) | Free agency |
| +/- | 7 | | | 22 | +/- |
| PIM | 19 | | | 38 | PIM |
| GP | 50 | | | 70 | GP |
| TOI/GP | 20:42 | | | 18:54 | TOI/GP |
| Protect | YES | | | NO | Protect |

Kevin Shattenkirk

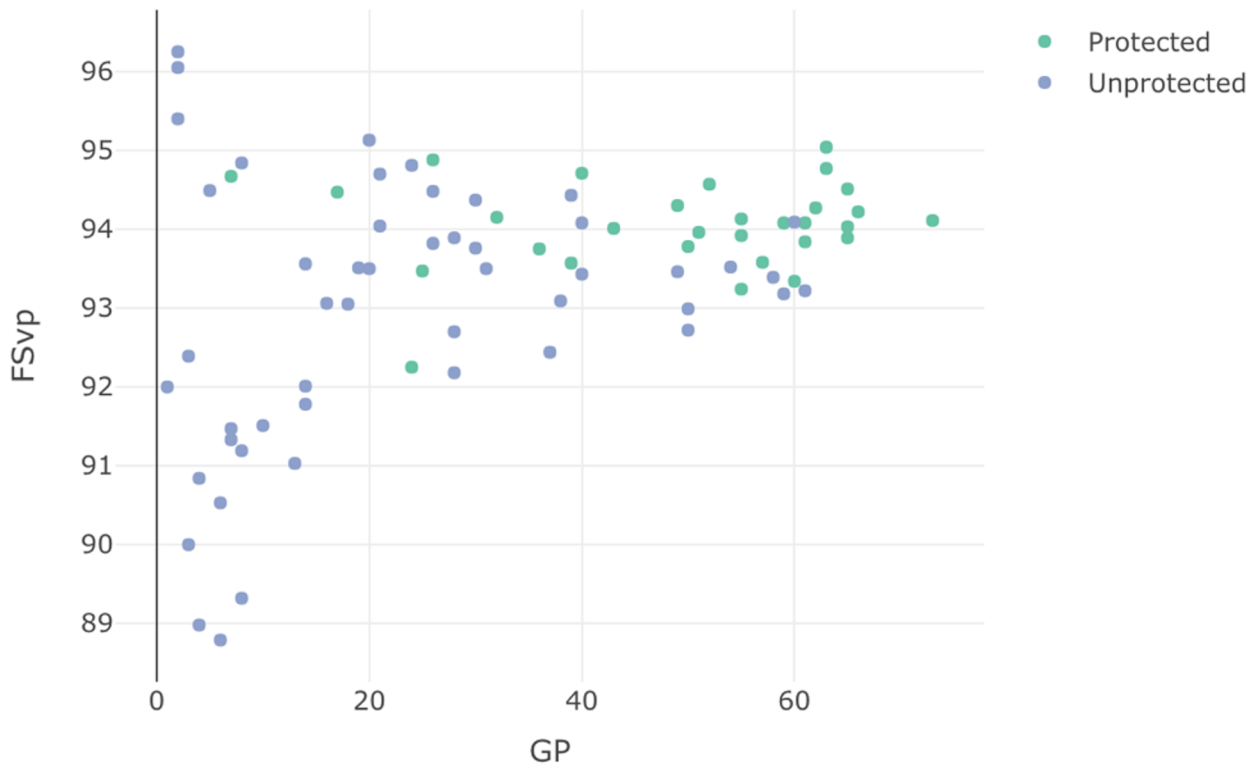


A hockey goalie in a white, blue, and red uniform is in a ready position in front of a goal. The goalie is wearing a helmet with a cage, large leg pads, and a blocker. The word "GOALIE" is visible on the front of the jersey. The background shows a blurred arena with spectators and a banner that partially reads "RLESS".

Goalies

Best predictor

The best predictor of whether a goalie was protected or not was a combination of games played and Fenwick save percentage. There were other statistics with higher correlations, but were mostly due to overlap. For example, shots against had a similar correlations to time on ice, shots against, and Fenwick shots against, but that is because if you play more games, you spend more time on the ice and face more shots.



Outliers at Goalie

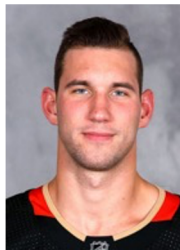
Protected Outliers

- Anthony Stolarz
- Semyon Varlamov
- Jonathan Quick
- Jacob Markstrom

PROTECTED:

Why?

AHL, injuries, and contracts



Stolarz played in **AHL** for half the season, and also had a knee injury



Varlamov was the **veteran**, so he got protected over Pickard



Quick suffered a lower body **injury** in the season opener and missed 59 games



Markstrom played **backup** to Ryan Miller, who went to **free agency**.

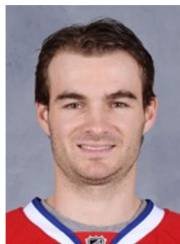
Unprotected Outliers

- Peter Budaj
- Jonathan Bernier
- Mike Condon
- Ryan Miller

UNPROTECTED:

Why?

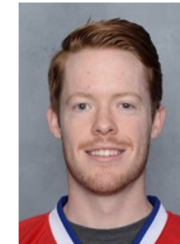
Team, trades and contracts



Budaj was traded to the Lightning near the end of the season. The Lightning protected **Vasilevskiy**.



Bernier was **not as good** as John Gibson, the Ducks **starter**.



Condon was **not as good** as Craig Anderson, the Maple Leafs **starter**.

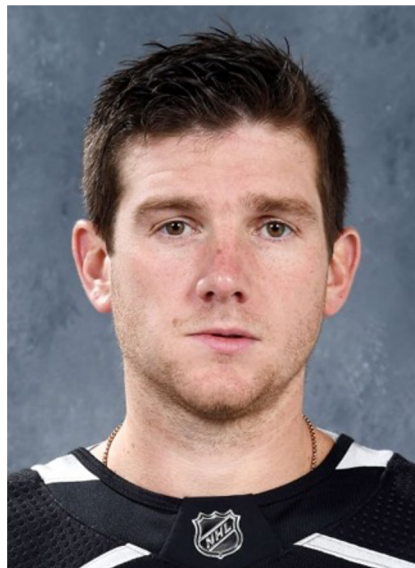


Miller was the starter, but went to **free agency** at the end of the season. He signed with the Ducks.



COMPARING GOALIES for 2021 DRAFT

Jonathan Quick



| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--|--|------------|----------------|
| AGE | 34 | | | 25 | AGE |
| CONTRACT \$ | \$5.8 million | | | \$858,333 | CONTRACT \$ |
| Free agency | UFA (2023) | | | UFA (2022) | Free agency |
| Sv% | 90.44 | | | 92.19 | Sv% |
| FSv% | 93.26 | | | 94.53 | FSv% |
| xFSv% | 93.71 | | | 92.81 | xFSv% |
| dFSv% | -0.45 | | | 1.72 | dFSv% |
| GSAA | -6.35 | | | 3.32 | GSAA |
| PROTECT? | NO | | | YES | PROTECT? |

Cal Petersen



Sv% - Save percentage, FSv% - Fenwick save percentage, xFSv% - Expected Fenwick save percentage, dFSv% - Delta Fenwick save percentage, GSAA - Goals saved above average

Conclusions

- Advanced hockey data is not the best as a general predictor of Protected players because it is often too specific, yet it is very good for comparing players
- For the most part teams protect their best players, but they favor younger players and better contracts
- There are also exceptions due to injury, depth, and AHL prowess
- If Seattle wants to be competitive in their first year (Like VGK), they should draft a group of solid 2nd - 3rd line players that aren't unproven. (then they will always have an advantage over 3rd and 4th lines)
- If Seattle wants to become competitive more slowly they should draft more unproven, risky players that they think teams undervalue. Also, they should try to trade for draft picks and pick some older veterans to influence the younger players



Sources

Hockeyabstract.com - Rob Vollman's 2016-17 NHL Player Data

Hockey-reference.com - Advanced 2018-19 NHL Player Data

NHL.com - 2018-19 General Player Data and [NHL Vegas Expansion Draft Protected Player List](#)

