

LOOKING AHEAD: CONNOR BEDARD IN 2023-24

Connor Bedard is expected to make his NHL debut in October, approximately three months after his 18th birthday (he will be 18 years, 85 days for Chicago's season-opener Oct. 10). A few #NHLStats – all specific to the regular season – to give context on potential achievements as an 18-year-old.

The document is divided into the following sections:

- Youngest to achieve _____ **in NHL debut**
- Youngest to achieve _____ **at any point in NHL career**
- Players to achieve _____ **with the Blackhawks**
- Active players to achieve _____ **in NHL debut or at any point as an 18-year-old**
- Notable 18-year-olds to play in other leagues

NHL DEBUT

345 – Players who have made their **NHL debut at age 18 or younger**, including 284 in the League's expansion era (since 1967-68).

88 – Players who recorded a **point in their NHL debut at age 18 or younger**, including *11 who were age 18 years, 85 days or younger at the time*. Connor Bedard can become the youngest player to record a point in his NHL debut since 2013-14 when Aleksander Barkov (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 3, 2013 w/ FLA; 1-0—1) and Nathan MacKinnon (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 2, 2013 w/ COL; 0-2—2) did so on consecutive days.

44 – Players who have made their **NHL debut at age 18 years, 85 days or younger** (Bedard can become the 45th should he skate in Chicago's opening game Oct. 10).

31 – Players who have scored a **goal in their NHL debut at age 18 or younger**. **Bedard has a chance to become the third-youngest player in League history to score a goal in his NHL debut**; the current top five are Aleksander Barkov (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 3, 2013 w/ FLA), Eddie Olczyk (18 years, 56 days on Oct. 11, 1984 w/ CHI), Bobby Carpenter (18 years, 86 days on Oct. 7, 1981 w/ WSH), Dainius Zubrus (18 years, 111 days on Oct. 5, 1996 w/ PHI) and Rick Nash (18 years, 116 days on Oct. 10, 2002 w/ CBJ).

14 – Players who recorded **multiple points in their NHL debut at age 18 or younger**. **Bedard has a chance to become the second-youngest player in League history to record multiple points in his NHL debut**; the current top five are Nathan MacKinnon (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 2, 2013 w/ COL; 0-2—2), Bobby Carpenter (18 years, 86 days on Oct. 7, 1981 w/ WSH; 1-1—2), Martin Gelas (18 years, 124 days on Oct. 7, 1988 w/ EDM; 0-2—2), Steve Yzerman (18 years, 149 days on Oct. 5, 1983 w/ DET; 1-1—2) and Patrik Laine (18 years, 177 days on Oct. 13, 2016 w/ WPG; 1-1—2).

1 – **The only 18-year-old to score multiple goals in his NHL debut is Dave Archibald** (18 years, 179 days on Oct. 10, 1987 w/ MNS; 2-0—2). To date, the youngest player to record a hat trick in his NHL debut is Auston Matthews (19 years, 25 days on Oct. 12, 2016 w/ TOR; 4-0—4).

0 – The number of players to record **three or more points in their NHL debut at age 18 or younger**.



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AT ANY POINT IN NHL CAREER

248 – Players who have recorded their **first NHL point at age 18 or younger** (at any point). The youngest ever to do so was Bep Guidolin (16 years, 350 days on Nov. 24, 1942 w/ BOS; 1-0—1 in 2nd NHL GP); the youngest in the League's expansion era (since 1967-68) was Patrick Marleau (18 years, 26 days on Oct. 11, 1997 w/ SJS; 0-1—1 in 4th NHL GP).

199 – Players who scored their **first NHL goal at age 18 or younger** (at any point). The youngest ever to do so was Bep Guidolin (16 years, 350 days on Nov. 24, 1942 w/ BOS; 2nd NHL GP); the youngest in the League's expansion era (since 1967-68) was Aleksander Barkov (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 3, 2013 w/ FLA; NHL debut).

146 – Players who have recorded a **multi-point game at age 18 or younger** (at any point), with those players combining for a total of 762 such performances. Only 14 players have had a *multi-point game at age 18 years, 85 days or younger* (last: Nathan MacKinnon, 18 years, 41 days on Oct. 12, 2013 w/ COL; 1-1—2 in 5th NHL GP).

75 – Players who have recorded a **multi-goal game at age 18 or younger** (at any point), with those players combining for a total of 173 such performances. The only players to have a *multi-goal game at age 18 years, 85 days or younger* are Bep Guidolin (4x), Ted Kennedy (4x), Pierre Turgeon (2x), Don Gallinger, Jackie Schmidt, Jordan Staal, Mario Tremblay and Patrick Marleau.

68 – Players who have recorded **three or more points in a game at age 18 or younger** (at any point), with those players combining for a total of 165 such performances. The youngest ever to do so was Bep Guidolin (17 years, 34 days on Jan. 12, 1943 w/ BOS; 2-1—3 in 22nd NHL GP); the youngest in the League's expansion era (since 1967-68) was Brian Bellows (18 years, 37 days on Oct. 8, 1982 w/ MNS; 1-2—3 in 2nd NHL GP).

13 – Players who have recorded a **hat trick at age 18 or younger** (at any point), with those players combining for a total of 18 such performances. The youngest ever to do so was Jordan Staal (18 years, 153 days on Feb. 10, 2007 w/ PIT; 3-0—3 in 54th NHL GP).

2 – The number of players who have scored **four or more goals in a game at age 18 or younger** (at any point): Jack Hamilton (18 years, 185 days on Dec. 4, 1943 w/ TOR; 4-1—5 in 27th NHL GP) and Bobby Carpenter (18 years, 227 days on Feb. 25, 1982 w/ WSH; 4-0—4 in 62nd NHL GP).

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS FRANCHISE HISTORY

1,007 – Players who have made their **NHL debut in a Blackhawks uniform** (912 skaters and 95 goaltenders), including **23 who did so at age 18 or younger**. Notable 18-year-olds to debut for Chicago include Eddie Olczyk, Stan Mikita, Jeremy Roenick, Bobby Hull, Bruce Cassidy, Patrick Kane and Brandon Saad.

86 – Players who have recorded a **point in their NHL debut in a Blackhawks uniform**. The only players who had a **point in their Chicago debut at age 18 or younger**: Eddie Olczyk (18 years, 56 days on Oct. 11, 1984 vs. DET; 1-0—1), Steve McCarthy (18 years, 243 days on Oct. 4, 1999 at SJS; 0-1—1) and Dean McAmmond (18 years, 250 days on Feb. 20, 1992 vs. NJD; 0-1—1) – all did so in what also was their first career NHL game.

40 – Players who have scored a **goal in their NHL debut in a Blackhawks uniform**. The only **teenagers to score a goal in their Chicago debut** are Eddie Olczyk (18 years, 56 days on Oct. 11, 1984 vs. DET), Jonathan Toews (19 years, 164 days on Oct. 10, 2007 vs. SJS) and Ken Solheim (19 years, 258 days on Dec. 10, 1980 vs. PHI) – all three had one goal in what also was their first career NHL game.

6 – Players who have recorded a **multi-point game for Chicago at age 18 or younger** (at any point): Eddie Olczyk (7x), Patrick Kane (6x), Kirby Dach (2x), Everett Sanipass, Bobby Hull and Harold Jackson. Olczyk is the youngest to achieve the feat for the Blackhawks (18 years, 93 days on Nov. 17, 1984 at HFD; 1-1—2).

5 – Playing Oct. 10 would make Connor Bedard (18 years, 85 days) the fifth **youngest in franchise history at the time of his League debut** – he would trail Gord Buttrely (17 years, 228 days on Oct. 31, 1943), Grant Mulvey (18 years, 22 days on Oct. 9, 1974), Eddie Olczyk (18 years, 56 days on Oct. 11, 1984) and Vic Heyliger (18 years, 60 days on Nov. 25, 1937).

4 – Players who have scored **multiple goals in their NHL debut in a Blackhawks uniform** (none did so as a teenager).

3 – A goal by Nov. 22, 2023, would make Connor Bedard the **third-youngest player at the time of his first goal in a Blackhawks uniform** (at any point) – **Grant Mulvey** (18 years, 32 days on Oct. 19, 1974 at STL) and **Eddie Olczyk** (18 years, 56 days on Oct. 11, 1984 vs. DET) and **Don Campbell** (18 years, 129 days on Nov. 18, 1943 vs. BOS) currently hold the top three spots in club history for that stat (all instances were that player's [first career NHL goal](#)).

2 – The number of players who have had a **multi-goal for Chicago at age 18 or younger** (at any point): Kirby Dach (18 years, 300 days on Nov. 17, 2019 vs. BUF; 2-0—2 in 14th NHL GP) and Patrick Kane (18 years, 338 days on Oct. 23, 2007 vs. CBJ; 2-2—4 in 9th NHL GP).

2 – The number of players to score a **hat trick for Chicago as a teenager** (at any point): Jeremy Roenick (19 years, 340 days on Dec. 23, 1989 at TOR; 3-0—3 in 55th NHL GP) and Alex DeBrincat (19 years, 344 days on Nov. 27, 2017 vs. ANA; 3-1—4 in 23rd NHL GP).

0 – The number of players to record **multiple points in their NHL debut in a Blackhawks uniform at age 18 or younger** (11 have done so at any age). To date, the **youngest player to record multiple points for Chicago while making his NHL debut** is Marc Bergevin (19 years, 71 days on Oct. 21, 1984 vs. LAK; 0-2—2).

BEDARD IN CONTEXT ALONGSIDE ACTIVE PLAYERS

All stats below are based on active rosters as of Sept. 19 and are entering the 2023-24 regular season.

245 – Active players who recorded a point in their NHL debut (at any age), including 20 who did so at age 18. Should Connor Bedard make his debut Oct. 10 and record a point, **he would become the fifth-youngest active player to record a point in his NHL debut**; the current top five: Aleksander Barkov (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 3, 2013; 1-0—1), Nathan MacKinnon (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 2, 2013; 0-2—2), Sidney Crosby (18 years, 59 days on Oct. 5, 2005; 0-1—1), Evander Kane (18 years, 62 days on Oct. 3, 2009; 0-1—1) and Jesperi Kotkaniemi (18 years, 89 days on Oct. 3, 2018; 0-1—1).

115 – Active players who scored a goal in their NHL debut (at any age). Of that group, six *did so at age 18* (Aleksander Barkov, Patrik Laine, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Mason McTavish, Jamie Drysdale and Jack Eichel).

76 – Active players who played at least one NHL game at age 18, including five who did so in 2022-23: Juraj Slafkovsky (MTL), Shane Wright (SEA), David Jiricek (CBJ), Owen Beck (MTL) and Marco Kasper (DET).

7 – Active players who scored their first NHL goal at age 18 years, 85 days or younger (at any point): Aleksander Barkov (18 years, 31 days on Oct. 3, 2013 w/ FLA; NHL debut), Jordan Staal (18 years, 32 days on Oct. 12, 2006 w/ PIT; 3rd NHL GP), Nino Niederreiter (18 years, 35 days on Oct. 13, 2010 w/ NYI; 3rd NHL GP), Nathan MacKinnon (18 years, 41 days on Oct. 12, 2013 w/ COL; 5th NHL GP), Sidney Crosby (18 years, 62 days on Oct. 8, 2005 w/ PIT; 3rd NHL GP), Evander Kane (18 years, 67 days on Oct. 8, 2009 w/ ATL; 2nd NHL GP) and Sam Gagner (18 years, 71 days on Oct. 20, 2007 w/ EDM; 7th NHL GP).

7 – Active players who scored multiple goals in their NHL debut (at any age): Morgan Geekie (2-1—3), Ryan Poehling (3-0—3), Jake Guentzel (2-0—2), Auston Matthews (4-0—4), Vladimir Tarasenko (2-0—2), Anze Kopitar (2-0—2) and Alex Ovechkin (2-0—2).

3 – Active players who had a 30-goal season as an 18-year-old: Sidney Crosby (39 in 2005-06), Patrik Laine (36 in 2016-17) and Jeff Skinner (31 in 2010-11). Those are three of nine such campaigns in League history.

1 – The only active player to record 65 or more points in a season as an 18-year-old is Sidney Crosby (2005-06: 39-63—102 in 81 GP). Crosby accounts for *one of seven instances in League history of an 18-year-old posting 65+ points in one campaign*; his is one of two 100-point seasons in NHL history by an 18-year-old (also Dale Hawerchuk in 1981-82: 45-58—103 in 79 GP).



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TEENAGE TALENT

Eighteen-year-old **Connor Bedard**, the No. 1 pick by the Blackhawks in the 2023 NHL Draft, is expected to be the face of the future for the 97-year-old franchise. A few notes on 18-year-olds playing in other Leagues, based on manual research by the #NHLStats team:

* **MLB** – It appears the last time an 18-year-old cracked an Opening Day roster was nearly 50 years ago (**Robin Yount** in 1974 at age 18, according to [this article](#) which appears to still hold true). Notable teenage players in the modern era include **Alex Rodriguez** (18 in 1994), **Bryce Harper** (19 in 2012) and **Ken Griffey Jr.** (19 in 1989).

* **NBA** – **Giannis Antetokounmpo** (18 in 2013) appears to be the last NBA star to debut at age 18. **Kobe Bryant** (18 years, 158 days on Jan. 28, 1997) is the [youngest player in NBA history to start a game](#) (though he didn't crack the opening night lineup). **Lebron James** (18 in 2003) and **Dwight Howard** (18 in 2004) are other recent examples of NBA stars who debuted before their 19th birthday.

* **NFL** – It appears less than a handful of teenagers have played in the NFL, with 19 being the youngest.

* **NHL** – Only 10 NHL players have averaged a point-per-game as an 18-year-old (min. 20 GP), including only two since the late 1980s: **Sidney Crosby** (1.3 P/GP in 2005-06 w/ PIT) and **Patrick Kane** (1.1 P/GP in 2007-08 w/ CHI).

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