SHARKS SELECT CELEBRINI WITH HISTORIC FIRST-EVER NO. 1 PICK AT SPHERE

The Sharks selected center **Macklin Celebrini** (Boston University, NCAA) with the No. 1 pick, making him the first No. 1 pick in franchise history and the first player to win the Hobey Baker Award and go first-overall in the NHL Draft. It also was the second time an NCAA forward went No. 1 overall to any NHL club (**Joe Murphy**: 1986 by DET). San Jose became the 24th different franchise in NHL history to select with the No. 1 pick.

* From North Vancouver, B.C., the 18-year-old Celebrini is familiar with The Bay Area: his father, **Rick**, is the VP of Player Health and Performance with the Golden State Warriors of the NBA – as highlighted by ESPN. After the draft, Celebrini shared a messaged to Warriors fans.

* Celebrini was the first of 19 Canadian-born players selected in Round 1, tied for the most over the past 36 years and two shy of the record. The full breakdown of Round 1 picks by birth country: 19 from Canada, 4 from Russia, 3 from the U.S., 2 from Norway, 2 from Finland, 1 from Czechia and 1 from Belarus.

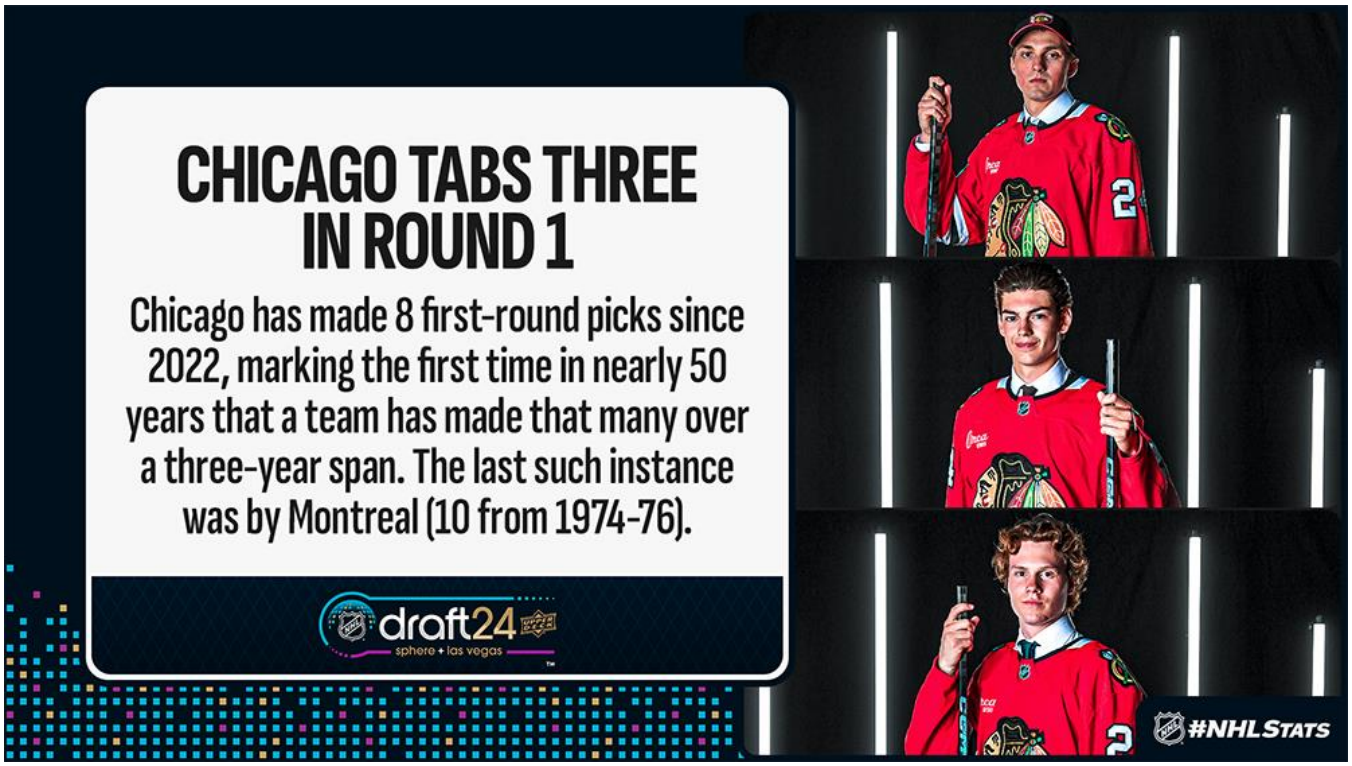


*Each of the highest picks were selected No. 1 overall

TOP TWO PICKS COME FROM NCAA AS BLACKHAWKS SELECT LEVSHUNOV

The second name called in the 2024 Upper Deck NHL Draft was **Artyom Levshunov** out of Michigan State University, with the Blackhawks choosing him at No. 2. It marked the third time in NHL Draft history that U.S. college players were selected with the top two picks in the NHL Draft, with **Macklin Celebrini** (No. 1 to SJS) and Levshunov joining **Owen Power** (No. 1 to BUF) and **Matty Beniers** (No. 2 to SEA) in 2021**,** as well as **Rick DiPietro** (No. 1 to NYI) and **Dany Heatley** (No. 2 to ATL) in 2000.

* Chicago made three picks in the first round, with Levshunov followed by **Sacha Boisvert** (No. 18) and **Marek Vanacker** (No. 27) – the third straight year they have had multiple picks in Round 1.



UTAH SELECTS TIJ IGINLA WITH FIRST-EVER PICK, TRADES UP FOR ANOTHER

Participating in the NHL Draft for the first time, the Utah Hockey Club made a splash by selecting **Tij Iginla**, son of Hall of Famer **Jarome Iginla**, with their-first ever pick. Tij went sixth overall to the League's newest franchise, five picks ahead of his father. They are the sixth father-son duo in League history to both be selected among the top 15 in the NHL Draft.

* Utah later traded up to select another player with NHL bloodlines, center **Cole Beaudoin** (No. 24). His father, **Eric**, was a fourth-round pick by the Lightning in the 1998 NHL Draft and appeared in 53 games with the Panthers from 2001-02 to 2003-04 before a lengthy professional career in Europe. Eric also played 44 games with the American Hockey League's Utah Grizzlies in 2000-01 – one year before the 2002 Winter Olympics and 23 years before the NHL arrived in Salt Lake City.



OTHER DRAFT NOTABLES FROM A SELLOUT NIGHT AT SPHERE

* A sellout crowd of 14,220 attended the 2024 Upper Deck NHL Draft at Sphere in Las Vegas – the world's largest spherical structure boasting the largest LED screen in the world at 580,000 square feet. It marked the first-ever live broadcast from the venue and the first Sphere event held by a major sports league.



* Before Friday, there had never been a Norway-born player selected in the first round of the NHL Draft, but that changed in the span of nine picks when **Michael Brandsegg-Nygard** (No. 15 to DET) and **Stian Solberg** (No. 23 to ANA), who both hail from Oslo, made history for their country.

* **Adam** (No. 16 to STL) and **David Jiricek** (No. 6 to CBJ in 2022) became the first set of Czechia-born brothers to be selected in the first round of the NHL Draft and the fifth set of brothers born outside of North America ever to achieve that feat.

* The first three appearances of the night were all No. 1 picks as **Joe Thornton** (No. 1 in 1997) hit the stage to announce the **Macklin Celebrini** selection, with last year's No. 1 pick **Connor Bedard** then stepping out to make the next selection.

* Other celebrity appearances included **Celine Dion** (No. 5 pick for MTL; **Ivan Demidov**) and **Michael Buffer** (No. 13 pick for PHI; **Jett Luchanko**).



* **Dean Letourneau** (No. 25 to BOS) was picked out of St. Andrew's College to become the first player from a Canadian high school to be selected in the first round of the NHL Draft since 2012 when the Flames chose **Mark Jankowski** (No. 21).

* Round 1 selections by league: OHL (9), USHL (6; including 2 from NTDP), WHL (5), NCAA (3; includes 1 each from H-EAST, BIG10, NCHC), Finland (2), Russia Jr. (2), Czechia (1), Norway (1), Russia (1), Sweden-2 (1) and High-ON (1).

* Round 1 selections by position: 11 centers, 10 defensemen, eight right wings and three left wings.

* Five trades were completed during Round 1. Check out #NHLStats: Live Updates for details, as well as more information on the first 32 selections in the 2024 Upper Deck NHL Draft.


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