

A GRIT HOCKEY RESEARCH REPORT

POINTS

What minor hockey scoring actually predicts
— and what it doesn't

*"Points matter. But a determined player can still find a way
regardless of his knack for generating them —
and there are many ways to contribute to a team
in a meaningful way."*

GRIT HOCKEY · LUCAN, ONTARIO

grit-hockey.ca · @gritcanada

WHY THIS REPORT EXISTS

The question behind every winter

Every minor hockey parent has asked some version of it, usually in the car, usually after a quiet scoresheet: ***my kid doesn't score enough — does he still have a chance?***

This report gives you the answer in real careers instead of opinions: **what do points in minor hockey actually predict about your son's future?**

You'll see **every player** from the biggest U10 tournament in the world — all 235 of them, not just the stars — and where each one ended up. You'll see how many players from that same birth year reached major junior or NCAA Division I *without* ever playing in that tournament. And you'll see the **floor**: the lowest point totals at U15 and U16 among boys who were drafted in the OHL's middle rounds and still built real junior and college careers — including a forwards-only list, because if your son is a forward who doesn't score much, defensemen aren't proof for him.

Every number here comes from a real player's record — Elite Prospects, official OHL draft guides, team and school announcements. How it was put together, and what it can't tell you, is on the method page at the back.

The short answer, before the long one: early performance is a real advantage. The best young players genuinely have the best odds of playing at the highest levels later. But advantage is not fate, and a point total is not a verdict.

FINDING 1 · THE U10 TEST

Early excellence is real. It isn't fate.

The Brick Invitational is the biggest U10 tournament in the world — an invite-only tournament that brings together much of the elite of an entire birth year. Here is what happened to **every player** at the 2014 tournament — 235 kids on 14 teams. Each one was tracked to a simple outcome: did he go on to play major-junior hockey or NCAA Division I hockey? Those are the two doors at the top of the game, and for your son either one is a career most players never get near.

**123 of
235**

**BRICK PLAYERS REACHED
MAJOR JUNIOR OR D1**

52.3% of the entire
tournament. A real edge.

12 of 13

**TOP SCORERS
MADE IT**

The scoring leaders
mostly got there.

7 of 8

**OF THE BIRTH YEAR'S
MJ/D1 PLAYERS**

Were never at the Brick
at all. See reverse count.

If your son is one of the best players in his age group at ten, that means something real. More than half the players at this tournament — 235 of the best ten-year-olds in North America — went on to play major junior or NCAA Division I hockey, and twelve of its top thirteen scorers did. Being elite early is an advantage, and it's a big one. It just isn't a guarantee — as the rest of this page shows.

The names behind the numbers

BRICK #1 · 14 PTS IN 6 GP

Charlie Gollob

Led the biggest U10 tournament on earth in scoring — then took the college road.

Prep school, BCHL, and **57 games of NCAA Division I hockey at Brown**. Never played major junior — and made it anyway. Two doors, not one.

BRICK · 8 PTS IN 6 GP

Shane Wright

Mid-pack in tournament scoring, in a group tied at 8 points.

Went **#1 overall** in the 2020 OHL Priority Selection, then **#4** in the 2022 NHL Draft. The table had him ordinary. He wasn't.

BRICK · 3 PTS IN 6 GP

Adam Fantilli — and Lane Hutson (3 pts), Cutter Gauthier (2 pts)

Three of the biggest names of the entire birth year were quiet that week.

Six games at ten years old didn't rank them then — and didn't hold them back later.

At the same time: **112 of those 235 Brick players did not reach major junior or Division I.** Your son can be one of the best ten-year-olds on the continent — selected, celebrated, ahead of everyone — and the game can still move on without him. Being great at ten raises his odds. It guarantees him nothing.

And most of the elite was never even there.

Now look at that same birth year from the other direction. Roughly **950–1,050 players born in 2004** reached major junior or NCAA Division I. Only **120 of them were Brick alumni.** About **7 of every 8** players who made it were never at the tournament at all — and that's still true if you set aside the European players who couldn't realistically have attended at ten. If your son was never invited to a tournament like this, he is in the company of most of the players who made it anyway.

FINDING 2 · THE U15/U16 FLOOR

How low can you go and still make it?

Forget the stars for a minute. Here's the harder question, and the one that matters to most families: among players drafted in OHL rounds 2–8 from 2021–2023, how low did pre-draft points go for kids who still reached major junior or NCAA Division I? These are 32 cases, sorted by points per game. This is the floor.

0.16

POINTS PER GAME
→ 117 OHL GAMES

Trevor O'Dell: 4 pts in 25 games. 7th-round pick.

0.19

POINTS PER GAME
→ 229 OHL GAMES

Will Bishop: 6 pts in 32 games. London Jr. Knights.

21 of 32

VERIFIED CASES UNDER
A POINT A GAME

Drafted rounds 2–8.
Reached junior or D1.

The lowest rungs

0.16 PPG · 2022 R7 #142

Trevor O'Dell (D)

4 points in 25 GTHL U16 games the year before he was drafted.

Played **117 OHL games** for Sudbury. A real junior career.



0.19 PPG · 2021 R7 #120

Will Bishop (D)

6 points in 32 ALLIANCE U15 games for the London Jr. Knights.

Played **229 OHL games**. Seventh round to four full junior seasons.

0.21 PPG · 2021 R6 #101

Francesco Dell'Elce (D)

7 points in 33 games. Never played a single CHL game.

A regular at **UMass (NCAA D1)**. The college route drafts on different currency.

0.21 PPG · 2023 R5 #83

Haoxi Wang (D)

7 points in 33 GTHL U16 games. 89 OHL games.

Drafted in the **2nd round of the 2025 NHL Draft** (San Jose). Pre-draft scoring said nothing about him.

One honest note so you can weigh these properly: the absolute lowest case found (0.09 PPG) reached the OHL for five injury call-up games — not a career. The 0.16–0.21 band is where genuine 100-plus-game junior careers begin. That thin case is included so you see the whole picture, not just the best of it.

And the pattern you can't miss: **nearly every floor case is a defenseman drafted to defend, not to score** — size, skating, positioning. Points were never their currency, and their draft teams knew it. Which brings us to the forwards.

FINDING 3 · FORWARDS ONLY

What's possible — not just what's common

Defensemen get an excuse: nobody drafts them to score. Forwards don't. So here is the same floor, for forwards only — 12 cases from the same three draft classes. If your son is a forward who doesn't light up the scoresheet, these are his proof that the door stays open.

0.25

POINTS PER GAME
→ 196 OHL GAMESMacgregor Richmond: 7 pts
in 28 games. 6th round.

0.70

POINTS PER GAME
→ NHL 2ND ROUNDShane Vansaghi: 14 pts in 20.
8th round. Never played CHL.

0.94

POINTS PER GAME
→ 252 OHL GAMESEthan Hay: under a point a game.
Memorial Cup + Miami (Ohio).**The cases**



0.25 PPG · 2022 R6 #116

Macgregor Richmond (F)

7 points in 28 GTHL U16 games — a point every four games.

Played **196 OHL games**. No asterisk. Four full junior seasons.

0.70 PPG · 2022 R8 #157

Shane Vansaghi (RW)

14 points in 20 games at U16. The 157th pick. Never played a CHL game.

US NTDP → Michigan State → drafted in the **2nd round of the 2025 NHL Draft** (Philadelphia).

0.72 PPG · 2022 R8 #149

Nicolas Petrut (F)

21 points in 29 games at U16. The 149th pick.

Now **95 QMJHL games** with Gatineau. The late-bloomer's arc, in progress.

0.94 PPG · 2021 R3 #46

Ethan Hay (C)

29 points in 31 ALLIANCE U15 games for the Waterloo Wolves. Under a point a game.

252 OHL games, Memorial Cup champion 2024, now NCAA Division I at Miami (Ohio).

0.94 PPG · 2021 R5 #92

Gabe Perreault (RW)

16 points in 17 games at U14. Fifth round. Zero CHL games.

US NTDP → Boston College → **NHL's New York Rangers**. Same 0.94 as Hay — a totally different road.

Five of the twelve sit under 0.75 points per game. Two are now NHL-drafted. That doesn't mean scoring doesn't matter for forwards — it means **your son's U16 stat line doesn't close doors the way you may think it does.**

THE WIDER TRUTH

The scoresheet is one currency

Look at those floor cases again. Those defensemen at 0.16 and 0.19 points per game weren't broken scorers who got lucky. They were drafted to do jobs that don't pay in points — and junior and college teams kept paying them for years because those jobs win games.

A hockey team runs on more than one currency:

- **Scoring** — the loudest currency, and the only one the scoresheet tracks.
- **Defending** — gap control, stick position, killing plays before they start. Thirteen of the fifteen sub-0.50 cases above are defensemen drafted for exactly this.
- **Special teams** — penalty killers and faceoff men earn coaches' trust in the minutes that decide seasons.
- **Energy and physicality** — finishing checks, winning wall battles, changing a game's momentum without touching the scoresheet.
- **Reliability** — being the player a coach can put on the ice up a goal with two minutes left. That trust is earned in practice, not in points.

When a parent reads their kid's point total as a verdict on his future, they're usually reading the wrong job description. The question isn't just how many points? It's what does this player do that helps a team win — and is he getting better at it?

THE HONEST MIDDLE

Neither extreme is true

You'll hear two versions of your son's hockey, and neither one will help him.

One says hockey at this age should be *all about fun* — that early excellence, real training, and real ambition are somehow bad for kids. The other says his hockey only matters if he's on the path to the NHL, and reads a quiet scoresheet at twelve as the end of that path.

Here is what actually happens to players, in one place:

Early excellence is real, and it is an advantage. The better your son is young, the better his chances of being elite when he's older. Boys at the very top of the age group at ten genuinely do have a better chance of cracking junior, Division I, and pro hockey — you saw it at the Brick, where more than half of an entire tournament got there. If your son is one of those boys, take it seriously. Excellence early often is the first sign of production later.

And it isn't fate. Being great at ten guarantees your son nothing — 112 of those same Brick players never reached major junior or Division I, for many reasons. And if your son is a slow starter, he is not



finished: size arrives, athleticism arrives, and pure determination — the daily, unglamorous kind — puts boys ahead of players who were once the greatest promises in their age group. A defenseman who scored 0.16 points per game played 117 OHL games. A forward at 0.25 played 196. Those aren't rare exceptions. This report is full of them.

So help your son chase excellence — that path is real. The problem was never excellence, or dedication, or a boy who wants more. **The problem is when the chase is enforced by the parent in a way that removes the joy from the game, ratchets up the pressure, and makes hockey feel like a job to a twelve-year-old.** And the answer to that isn't "it's just for fun — he has his whole lifetime to get better." He doesn't. Development has a clock, and what your son builds early is often the foundation everything later stands on.

Pressure kills kids. Support and resources build them up. Know the difference.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

What sport pays every kid

And one more thing — for most families, the biggest thing of all: **sport was never only about a future in sport.**

Most of the boys you've just read about didn't reach major junior or Division I — and they still got paid. Confidence. Teamwork. Resilience — losing, getting cut, working back. Leadership. Discipline. Friendships that last decades. Those aren't consolation prizes handed out when the real thing doesn't happen. They are **guaranteed returns**, paid to every boy who plays — the competitive star and the participation player alike — and for your family they will likely matter longer than any stat line.

So ask yourself one question honestly: **which stream is my child actually in?**

The truly competitive stream. Your child has real ability and — this part is the condition, not a detail — *he* wants to go somewhere with it. In this stream you can push a little harder. Additional expectations are appropriate: extra work, higher standards, honest conversations about what the next level costs. Supported ambition is a gift to a kid like this. Withholding it in the name of "just fun" undersells him.

The participation stream. Your child plays because he loves playing. Expectations still exist in this stream — show up, work hard, honour the commitment to his teammates — but what you are really buying is the fun, the camaraderie, and the guaranteed returns above. Judge the season on those, and it will almost always be worth it. Judge it on performance outcomes it was never for, and you'll ruin a good thing measuring it with the wrong ruler.

Most of the misery in minor hockey is a stream error: a participation player held to competitive-stream pressure, or a competitive player's ambition dismissed by adults who've decided excellence is suspect. Name the stream. Parent to it. The returns follow either way — they're just paid in different currency.

SO WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THIS?

For your player

If you're a hockey parent, here's the constructive version — what to actually do on Monday:

- **Name your stream — and parent to it.** If he's truly competitive and *he* wants to go somewhere, push a little harder and hold the higher expectations without guilt. If he plays for the love of it, hold the expectations that fit that stream — effort, commitment, teammates — and collect the returns that are guaranteed: fun, camaraderie, confidence, resilience, leadership.
- **Stop reading the stat line as a verdict.** Read it as one line on a multi-line report — real information, honestly weighed, not a sentence. Ask what the other lines say: compete level, defending, hockey sense, trajectory. Is he better at *something* than he was in October?
- **If your kid is ahead, let him chase it.** Early excellence is a real advantage — don't apologize for training, ambition, or a kid who wants more. Just remember what the Brick table says: being ahead at ten is a head start, not a finish line, and the kids behind him include some who will pass him if he stops moving.
- **If your kid is a slow starter, develop the whole player.** Find his real job description and build it: reliable, hard to play against, trusted in big minutes — the player teams actually draft in rounds 2–8. Size, athleticism, and determination change rankings every single year. The floor cases in this report are that proof.
- **Know there's more than one road.** Three of the twelve forwards in these pages never played a CHL game — they went the U.S. college route on tools and trajectory, not production. Of the Brick's top 13 scorers, ten made it on the college road alone. Major junior isn't the only door, and it was never the only currency.
- **Support and resources build players. Pressure breaks them.** Fund the development, drive to the rink, show up — and keep the joy his. The moment hockey becomes *your* job performed through *his* childhood, the advantage you were protecting starts working against him. Burnout and quitting end more careers than low point totals ever will.
- **Ask the five-second question:** which kid on your team is better than his stats say — and what would change if someone developed *that* player?

METHOD & CAVEATS

How this was built — and what it can't say

Research rounds, October 2026. (1) **The Brick full-cohort study:** every player at the 2014 Brick Invitational (235 players, 14 teams, 2004 birth year), each classified by whether he played at least one major-junior (OHL/WHL/QMJHL) game or one NCAA Division I game, via Elite Prospects, QuantHockey birth-year tables, league and school sources — plus the reverse count of 2004-born major-junior/D1 players who never played at the Brick. (2) **The scoring floor:** OHL Priority Selections 2021–2023, rounds 2–8, cross-referenced against CHL games played and NCAA Division I rosters —

32 verified cases. (3) **The forward floor:** the same frame, forwards only, with the OHL's official 2022 Draft Guide as a second source — 12 verified cases.

What it can't tell you:

- The Brick is an invite-only, select tournament — its 52.3% is the hit rate of kids already identified as elite at ten, not a typical AAA player's odds. Read it as proof that early excellence carries a real advantage, not as a base rate.
- The Brick success count (123) is a floor: a handful of one-game call-ups can hide in public databases, and an audit of goalie outcomes found exactly that. The true figure is 123 or slightly higher — never lower.
- The reverse count is a range, not a census: roughly 950–1,050 unique 2004-born players reached major junior or Division I. The major-junior side is counted almost exactly; the Division I side depends on the build. The conclusion (~7 of 8 never at the Brick) holds across the whole range.
- The Brick's top-13 cut sits on ties (three more players also scored 7 points; Shane Wright sat in a group tied at 8). "Top scorer" rankings from a six-game tournament are a snapshot, not a ranking of players.
- Three girls played in this Brick cohort and reached NCAA women's Division I and the PWHL. They are not counted in the 123 because this study's criterion is the men's major-junior/D1 ladder — flagging it so the number isn't misread.
- Floor-finding, not a census. Late rounds were worked first and sampling stopped when the floor held; more qualifiers above it certainly exist.
- The absolute lowest case (0.09 PPG) is five OHL call-up games, not a career — printed so it can't be used dishonestly.
- 2021-class pre-draft seasons are COVID-shortened; Ontario's 2020–21 minor season was cancelled outright. Small samples, flagged throughout.
- Elite Prospects' minor-league coverage has gaps; excluded rows may hide lower floors.
- This is about **points and outcomes** only. It says nothing about play style — whether a boy played "the right way" or for himself is a different question, with its own evidence, and it isn't answered here.

Full per-player source lists are kept with the research files. Every number in this report traces to a real player's record — none from memory.

THE SHORT VERSION · KEEP THIS PAGE

The numbers that matter

**123 of
235****BRICK PLAYERS →
JUNIOR OR D1**

Early excellence is
a real advantage.

12 of 13**BRICK TOP SCORERS
MADE IT**

Mostly on the
college road.

7 of 8**OF THE BIRTH YEAR'S
ELITE WEREN'T THERE**

Most paths to the top
skip the Brick.

0.16**PPG FLOOR →
117 OHL GAMES**

The lowest verified
junior career.

0.25**FORWARD FLOOR →
196 OHL GAMES**

A point every four
games at U16.

21 of 32**CASES UNDER A
POINT A GAME**

Drafted rounds 2–8.
Made junior or D1.

Early excellence opens doors — that advantage is real. It just isn't fate. A determined player — one who keeps getting better at something a team needs — finds the doors that being great at ten didn't.

DETERMINED PLAYERS

FIND A WAY.

Early excellence is a real advantage. It just isn't fate.

Support builds players. Pressure doesn't.

GRIT Hockey · GRIT Academy

grit-hockey.ca · @gritcanada

GRIT HOCKEY · LUCAN, ONTARIO

grit-hockey.ca · @gritcanada