



The Best Route to the NHL and Life!

**The NCAA has been developing players for the NHL
at an increasingly impressive rate.**

Fact: Over the past 3 years 25% of NHL players come from the NCAA



North Dakota's Jonathan Toews

Maine's Paul Kariya

Boston's University
Chris Drury

The Challenging Road to the



A Comparison of two different routes: The



and



Every young hockey player has the dream of playing in the NHL. Unfortunately less than 1% of players around the world will ever reach that elusive goal. So, what does that mean? Most of the elite young players who get drafted into the CHL, will never make an NHL roster. What path should you take in pursuit of your goal? Now you may be thinking that you're a highly sought after recruit and you're projected to go in the first or second round in the OHL, QMJHL or WHL, so you should have a much better chance of playing in the NHL, but...

Fact: Less than 2% of CHL 1st and 2nd rounders will ever play in the NHL

As we explore this further, we learn that roughly 50% of NHL first round selections, will make it to the NHL. Only 15% of the second round and only 5% of rounds three thru seven make it to NHL teams. **In fact, of the players who do make it, they average only 2.7 years in the NHL.**

Fact: For the past 5 years, only 3% of all CHL players have made it to the NHL

Fortunately for North Americans, there are two avenues to get to the NHL; the CHL and the NCAA. Major Junior hockey has remained fairly consistent producing players over the years, but college hockey has been gaining momentum over the past decade, developing players for professional hockey at an increasingly impressive rate. **In fact, during the 2007-2008 season, approx 25% of NHL players came from the NCAA.**



Fact: There were 33 NCAA players in the last two Stanley Cup Finals!



Michigan State's Rod Brind'Amour

Vermont's Martin St. Louis

Maine's Dustin Penner

What is the Best Route for my Development?



1-4 year window in which to develop for professional hockey.



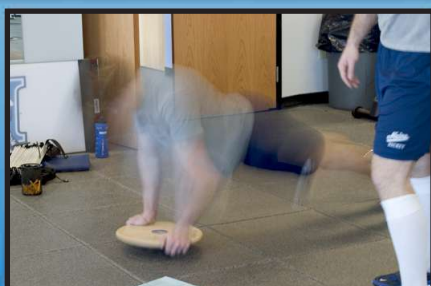
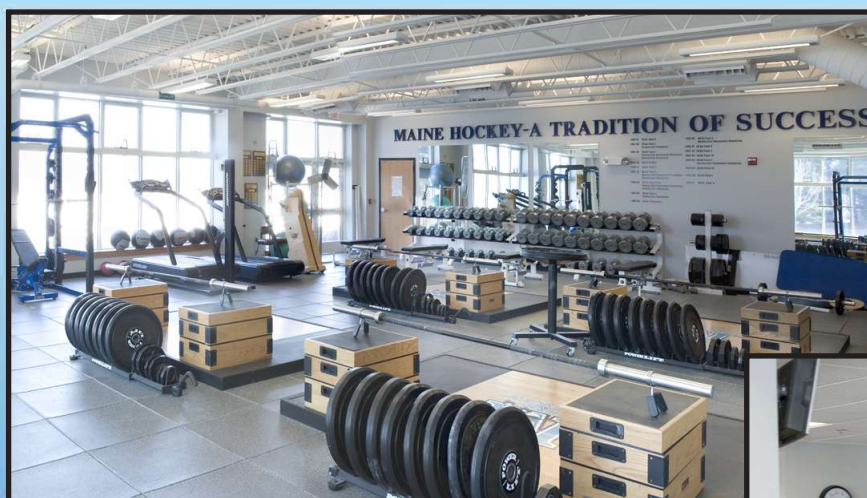
6 year guaranteed window in which to develop for professional hockey.

Considering the short time frame; you are definitely gambling with your future. In fact, note that each CHL team can only keep three 20 year olds on their roster, shrinking your development time for most players, to 2-3 years. Will you be ready to sign a NHL/AHL contract, when your CHL eligibility expires at 19 or 20?

Fact: The majority of 16 year old CHL players will receive limited ice time!

In contrast, the advantage of playing college hockey is the 6 year guaranteed window in which you have to develop. Playing 2 years of Junior or Prep School and then 4 years of college, will give you the best opportunity to make an impact at the next level.

How will the NCAA help me to play pro hockey? The NCAA and CHL have completely different development models. The CHL drafts and trades players in order to win, the NCAA **recruits and develops** the best players to win. What does that mean? It's the practice vs. play philosophy. I'm sure you have noticed the increase of European players in the NHL. Nations like Sweden, Finland and Russia, have a similar philosophy to the NCAA, less games, more time training at an elite level, on and off the ice. Imagine playing a 40 game schedule and practicing 4 days a week, 2 hours a day with some of the best coaches in hockey. You are able to train consistently, with a full time strength and conditioning coach, off the ice and actually gain strength during the season. In comparison, in the CHL you're often playing up to 80 games, have minimal practice time and no opportunity to gain strength off the ice during the year.



Mental, Physical & Emotional Development at a Young Age



Maine's Mike Lundin

Fact: The average age of a signed NHL entry level contract is 22 years old.

Mental and emotional stability are very important factors when it comes to development for a young man. When a player decides to take the NCAA route, he is not forced to move away from home, his family, friends and school. Unfortunately, the CHL does not provide the proper social and academic structure for young athletes. Minimal supervision for academics, very little incentive to do well in school and limited supervision socially.

Tampa Bay's 3rd round pick Mike Lundin, chose college hockey as his best route to the NHL. Mike played 4 years for the Black Bears, graduating with honors (3.4 GPA), with a degree in Business-Finance. After his senior year he signed an NHL contract with the Lightning in 2007. Mike played every game as a rookie with Tampa Bay and was selected for the Young Stars All-Star game.

Fact: in the 03-04 OHL season, 203 of the 290, 16 and 17 year old players were cut or traded.

Fact: In contrast, with the NCAA route, players can choose his college/team and cannot be traded. It is in a college coaches best interest to maximize the development of every player.

2008-09 UMaine Senior Captain, Simon Danis-Pepin. Chicago's 2nd round pick, was drafted during his freshman season at 17. "I chose the NCAA route because I knew I would be in the best place to develop for the NHL and get an education at the same time." Simon states, "After 4 years of consistent training on and off the ice, I know I'll be ready to take the next step. And, I'll have my college diploma in my back pocket!"



UMaine's Captain, Simon Danis-Pepin



16%
of CHL alums
have earned a
college degree.



85%
of NCAA alums
have earned a
college degree.

Fact: The “Best of Both Worlds” educational packages that the CHL promotes, are null and void after playing just one game of professional hockey at any level, ECHL, AHL, Europe or NHL.

Fact: There is no substitute for playing elite hockey at an academic institution!

The numbers above say a lot about the reality of the CHL and NCAA. For the very few elite players who do get guaranteed educational packages after playing pro hockey, ask yourself, how likely is it that when you are in your 30's and finished your hockey career, that you will go to a four year university and earn a degree? The NCAA provides the opportunity to play elite hockey, develop for the NHL and earn a university degree. All NCAA hockey programs have their own academic counselor, who provides the supervision and structure to succeed in school. They meet with each player weekly, administers study hall, schedules free tutors (before there is an issue), and is immediately notified when a player is missing class or does poorly on tests. NCAA student-athletes thrive in this type of structured environment.

Fact: The average NHL career lasts 2.7 years



Fact: New information from the U.S. Census Bureau reinforces the value of a college education: workers 18 and over with a bachelor's degree earn an average of \$55,206 a year, while those with a high school diploma earn \$27,915. Workers with an advanced degree make an average of \$76,602, and those without a high school diploma average \$18,734.

2007 Grads, Josh Soares, Mike Lundin, Keith Johnson, Brent Shephard, Michelle Levielle and Mike Hamilton, played in 3 Frozen Fours and all graduated with a 3.0 or better. All six seniors signed professional hockey contracts.

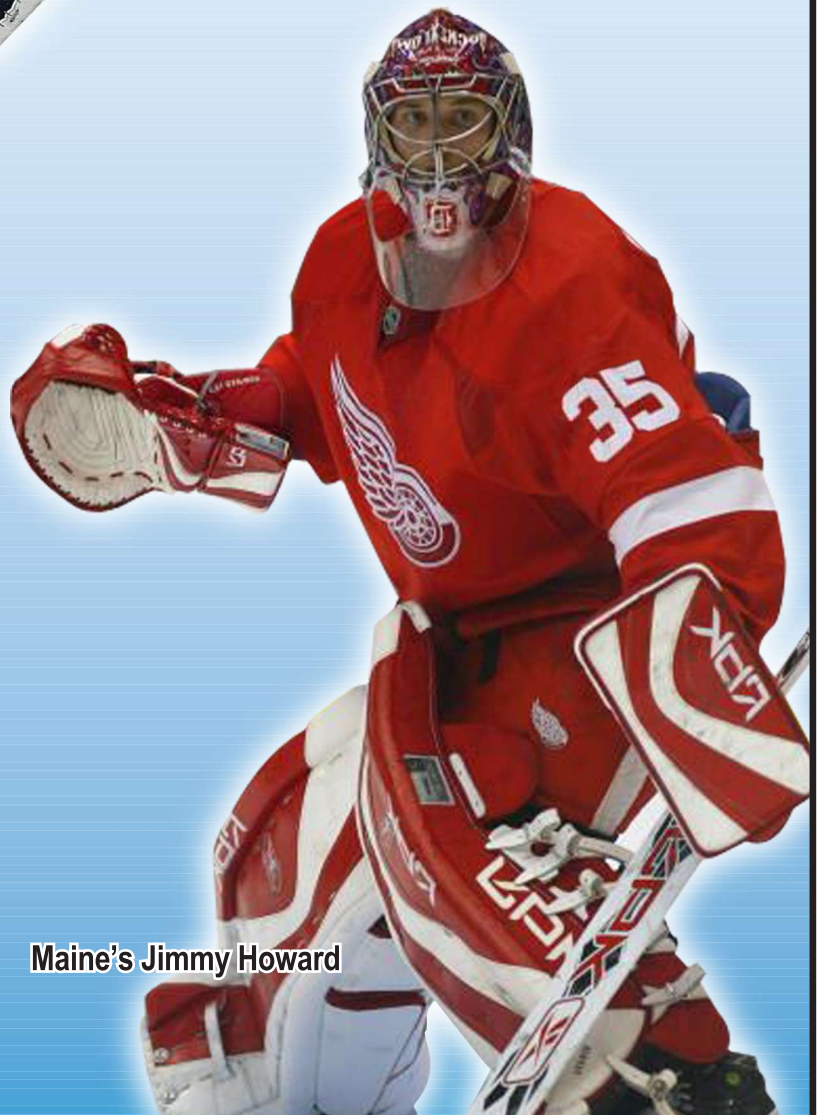


Degree Completion Assistance

What if I do choose the NCAA route and I sign an NHL contract after 2 or 3 seasons, how will I get my degree? Most schools offer **degree completion assistance**. NCAA academic counselors will help you complete your courses as quickly, or slowly, as your schedule permits. If needed, they sometimes offer financial assistance to complete your degree.

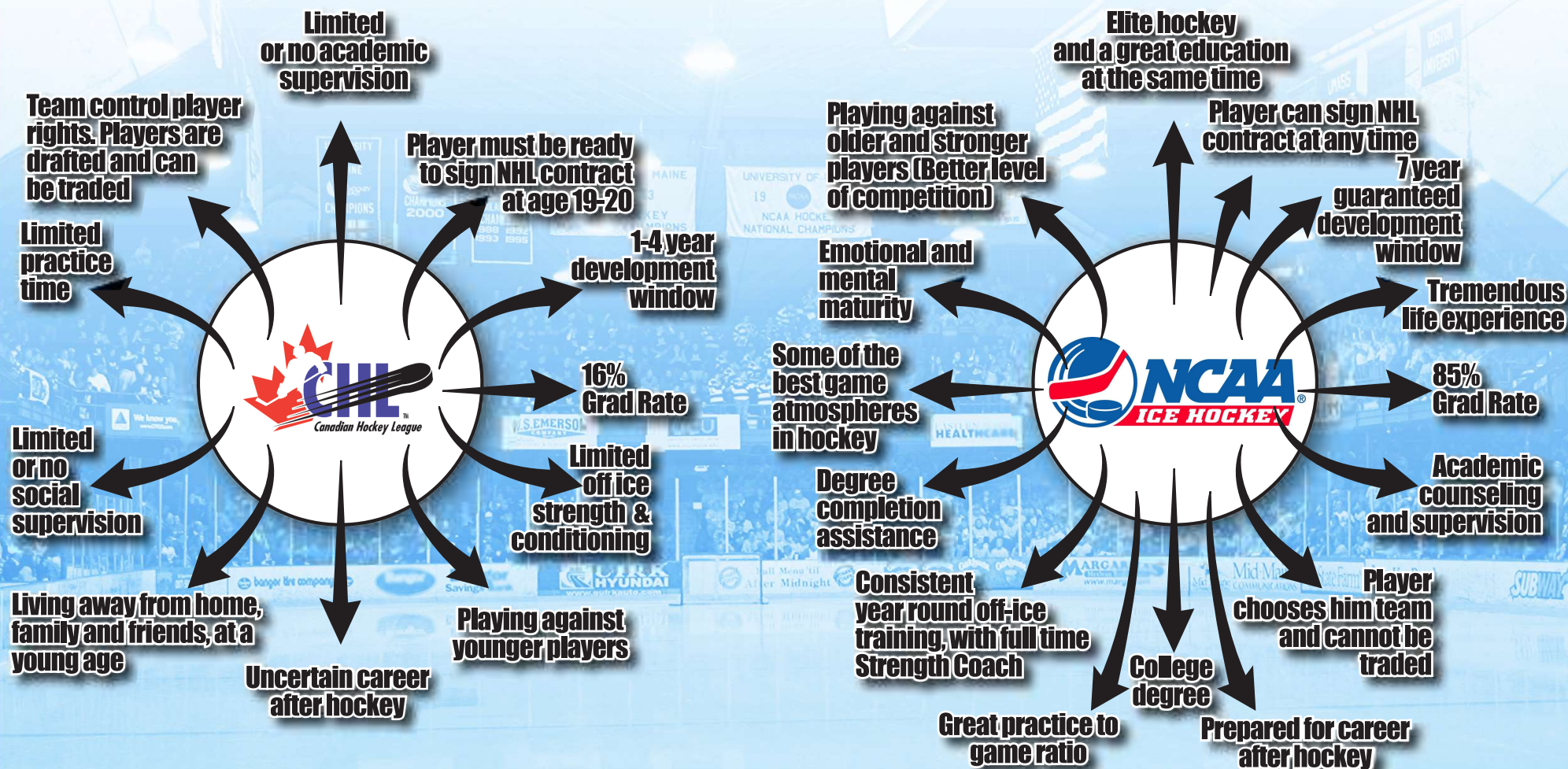


Maine alum and 2008 Stanley Cup Champion Jimmy Howard, holds the single season NCAA record for GAA at 1.84 and Save % at .931. He signed an NHL contract with Detroit in 2005, after playing 3 years at Maine. He is currently working with our academic counselor during the summer to finish his degree.



Maine's Jimmy Howard

It is important that you explore all your avenues when making big decisions in life. Everyone has their own path, but do you want to gamble with yours?



NCAA Hockey; The Best Route to the NHL and Life!

For more information, please visit: www.playcollegelhockey.com - www.ncaa.org