A Detailed Analysis of Player Performance and Development by Draft Round

December 2015

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Introduction

Introduction

My background is in management consulting and private equity investing; as such, this document is in a quantitative 'report' format similar to what you may see in those industries

The objective of this analysis is to investigate 'typical' player performance and development trajectory after being drafted in a given round, hoping to answer the following:

- If a player is drafted in round X, and is ultimately able to make the NHL, by when should they be expected to be a contributing NHL player?
- How well does the typical player perform over the course of his career (on various metrics) after being selected in a given round? Within the first round, how do the top 10 overall picks perform versus those taken 11th-30th?
- How much more valuable is a pick in the first round versus the other rounds? All things being equal, what should a pick from each round be worth in a trade?
- Which teams were the most effective at drafting in the period sampled?

Before getting to the questions above, I start with a quick overview of prior work in the area, the methodology used, the constraints of this analysis, as well as covering some basic context of the draft years in the sample

If you are looking for the 'short version' – feel free to skip to pages 24 and 25 to see a summary of the results of the analysis - or if you want to skip the preamble about prior work, methodology, and limitations of the analysis, you can skip to page 8

Finally, I want to thank Hockey-Reference.com for draft-year data, Hockey Abstract / Rob Vollman for the historical player stats from 1967-2014(!), and Stephen Burtch for answering my general advanced stats questions and for directing me to many useful resources

Draft pick value: Prior work done

Before getting into my analysis, I want to direct readers to two of the more advanced pieces of work on this subject to date, by:

- Stephen Burtch (http://www.sportsnet.ca/hockey/nhl/analyzing-value-nhl-draft-picks/), and
- Michael Schuckers (http://myslu.stlawu.edu/~msch/sports/Schuckers_NHL_Draft.pdf)

Both of these are very good pieces of work and address many of the concepts found here. Schuckers goes quite deep into the value of a pick based on career games played data, and Burtch does a good job adding to this by incorporating points/game into the games played data, and pushing his relative draft pick value metric a bit further

I think the analysis shown in this PDF is entirely consistent with their findings towards relative value, though (hopefully) building on them as well, by:

- Trying to evaluate and visualize data by draft round, rather than pick number
- Incorporating career point trajectory into draft pick value, as well as using this to create an 'absolute' draft value figure
- Assigning relative draft pick value by using career points in conjunction with point thresholds
- Providing the context of the draft years studied, as well as beginning to look at how each team performed in the drafts

Ironically, I actually was introduced to these analyses after having completed this PDF, so I could have saved myself some brain power if my research skills had produced these pieces before doing all of the work

Note – I'm sure there has been much much more work than this done, but these were the ones I have come across / been directed to as two of the more advanced pieces of work out there. If anyone would like to share / pass along others, it would of course be appreciated

Methodology

- In order to answer the questions on the previous page, I looked at the five years of NHL drafts between 2000 and 2004, as well as the ensuing 10-13 years of NHL season data up to 2013-2014
- Thus, the relevant sample sizes are:
  - Players drafted: n=1463, excluding goalies: n=1295
  - Players per draft year: n=293
  - Players per draft round over full sample: n=150-170, players drafted in top 10 overall picks (ex goalies): n=43
  - Players drafted per team: n=average of 49; range=37-64 (thus, somewhat constraining our ability to have clear and accurate team-level findings)
- In all player performance data the top 10 overall picks have been separated out from the rest of the 1st round (e.g. 11th-30th) – top 10 was selected to mitigate sample size issues with top 5, but still represents a relatively small set of players
- Rounds 7, 8 and 9 have been grouped to simplify graphs; also, hopefully this will help to make data more comparable to the current 7 round system
- All season/production data (games, goals, assists, points) excludes goalies
- In order to show player performance over time in a comparable manner, most data has been lined up relative to the year each player was drafted, rather than the actual year the stat was incurred

Limitations of this analysis

As with any data analysis, the methods used have inherent limitations; here are some that you may come across or think of as you read:

- Only five years of draft data are included, in order to both have ~10 seasons of gameplay data for all draft years, while still being relatively recent
- Analysis includes only 'basic' stats, e.g. goals, assists, games played; historical data did not include possession-based or other advanced stats; it also does not include any goalie stats
- Using only 'basic' stats severely limits our ability to evaluate defensive/'shut down' players; as such, this analysis should be seen as something that can hopefully be built upon in this area in the future. I will say this again for emphasis – all of the following pages do no justice to defensively-minded players, who are still very important to their teams
- Draft years shown had 9 rounds, rather than the 7 in the post-lockout period; all draft years used also fell before the salary cap being instated; both of these may have impacted drafting strategies used by teams
- Current data ends at the 2013-2014 season; no season data is currently included for 2014-15 and 2015-16 YTD (year to date)
- Due to evaluating player performance based on the year of their career (rather than calendar year), data shown for later seasons (e.g. career seasons 11-13) will include progressively fewer players (e.g., 2004 picks will have a max of 9(1) seasons)

(1) – Would have been 10, if not for the 2004-2005 season not being played

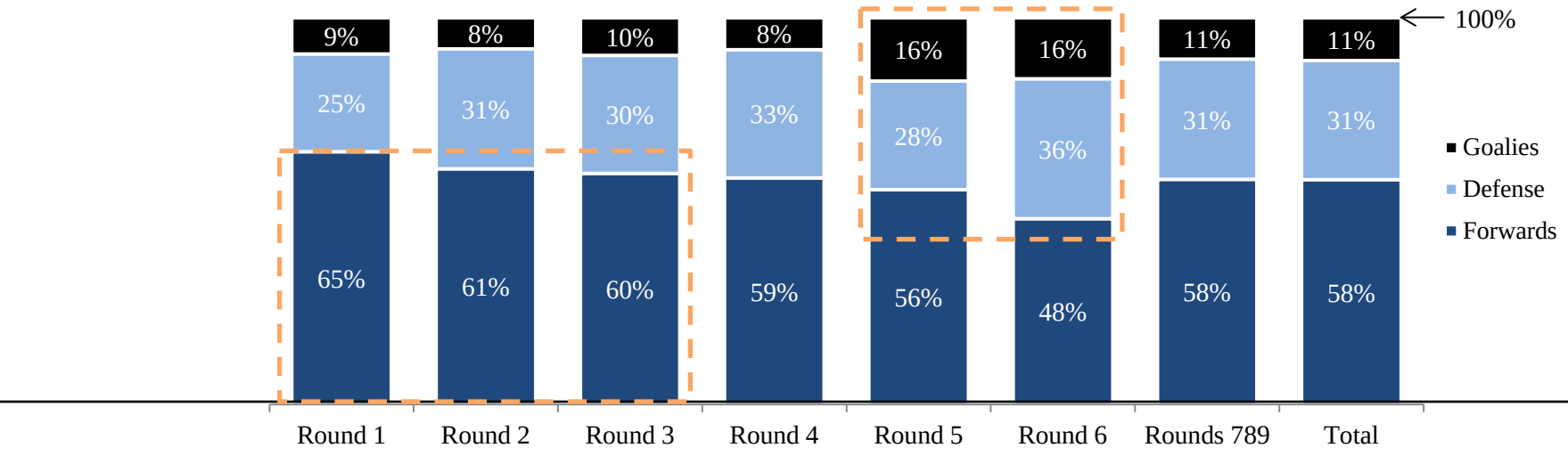
Context: Data Sample/Draft Years

The time period studied shows a clear preference for drafting forwards in early rounds

- Whether due to perceived player value, scarcity, or draft dynamics, teams slightly emphasize drafting top forwards early on, ranging from 60-65% of picks, vs the average of 58% of picks used on forwards across all rounds (and a low of 48%)
- Number of picks used on goalies increases by over 60% in rounds 5/6 (vs earlier rounds)
- Number of picks used on defensemen spikes to 36% in round 6
- However, it is not clear if this is generalizable to current drafting strategies used by teams

Positions Picked by Draft Round

PORTION OF ALL DRAFT PICKS USED EACH ROUND
ON FORWARDS, DEFENSEMEN, OR GOALIES



Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

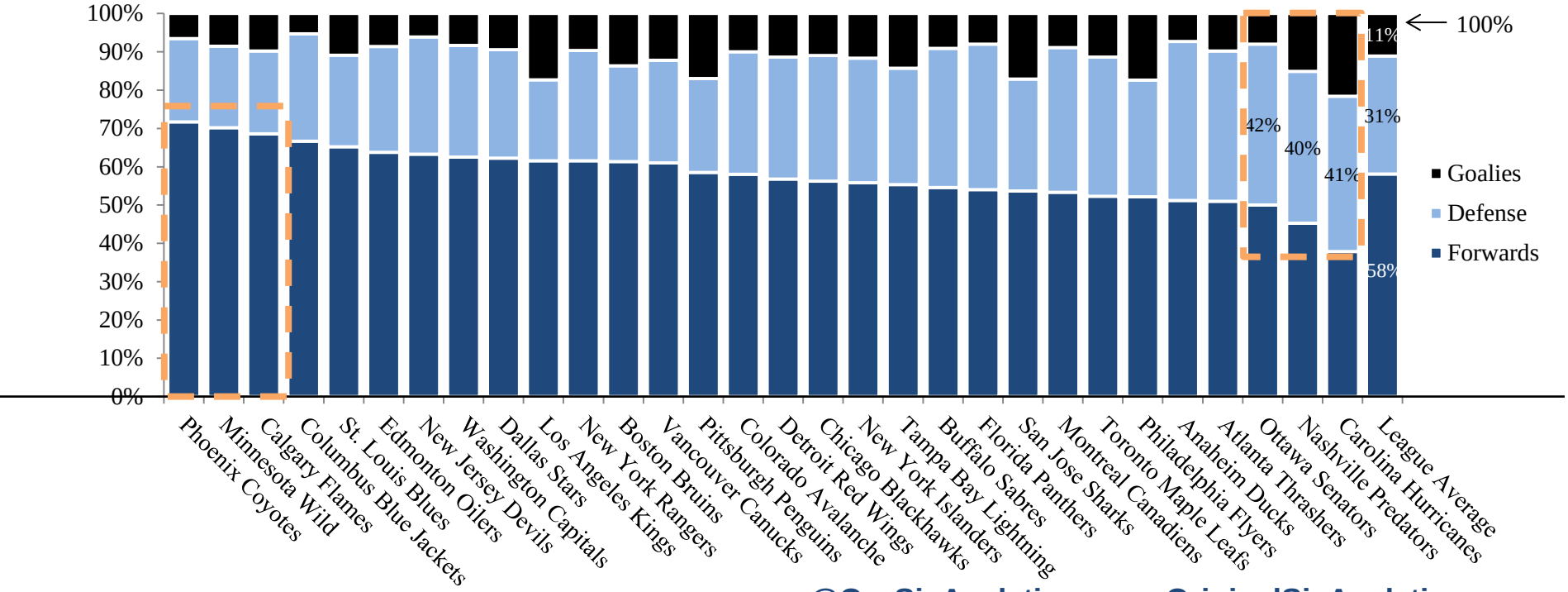
Teams also displayed clear drafting preferences (or needs) during this time period

- Minnesota and Phoenix focused heavily on forwards in this time period, at ~70%, or 21% greater than the league average of 58%
- Carolina, Ottawa and Nashville were the most D-focused, at ~41% of picks, being about 1/3 higher than the league average of 31%

Team	Example Picks
PHO	• Blake Wheeler • Daniel Winnik
MIN	• Marian Gaborik • Mikko Koivu
OTT	• Anton Volchenkov • Andrej Meszaros
NSH	• Shea Weber • Dan Hamhuis • Ryan Suter

Team Preferences by Position

PORTION OF ALL DRAFT PICKS USED BY EACH TEAM
ON FORWARDS, DEFENSEMEN, OR GOALIES



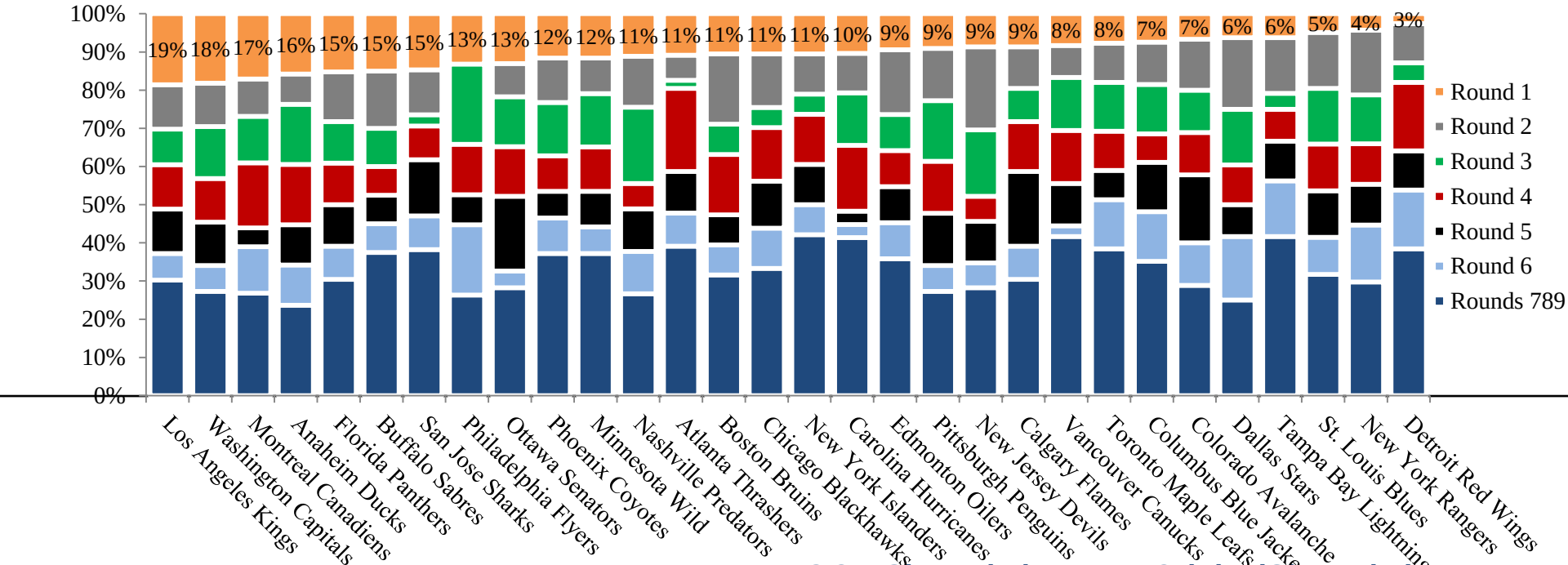
Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

Teams entered the drafts with a wide range of picks, by quantity and quality

- As you would expect, teams entered the 2000-2004 drafts with a wide range of picks
- Teams like LA, Washington and Montreal had a disproportionately large number of 1st round picks, which will of course be the players with the greatest potential to succeed
- This data will play into the last section, where I look at some initial proxies for how 'well' each team drafted over this period – attempting to adjust for the quality of picks they entered with will be a very important factor in assessing if each team over or under performed

Team Draft Picks by Round

PORTION OF ALL DRAFT PICKS EACH TEAM HAD BY ROUND, AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL OF THAT TEAM'S PICKS



Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

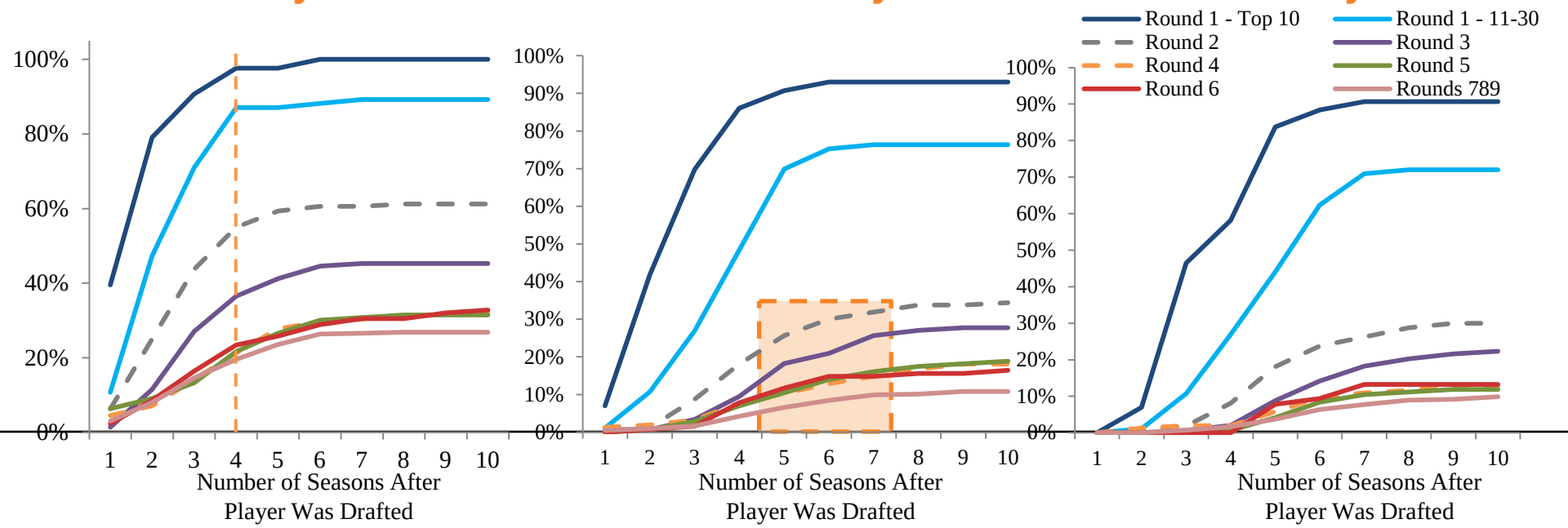
Player Performance/Development

Early round picks have a clear advantage in terms of passing career games played thresholds

- Players drafted in the first 2-3 rounds are much more likely to appear in the NHL; however, the likelihood of a playing one or more full seasons diminishes substantially after the first round
- In terms of player development, the data below suggests that:
  - If a 1st round pick hasn't played a game by their fourth potential NHL season, they likely will never appear in the NHL
  - 20-30% of successful 2nd and 3rd round players only begin to meaningfully play for their franchise between 5-7 years after being drafted (pink shaded area below)
  - All other rounds after the first three appear to have close to equal likelihoods of producing long term NHL players

NHL Games Played Thresholds

PORTION OF ALL PLAYERS DRAFTED THAT PLAY MORE THAN ONE, 80, OR 150 NHL GAMES



Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

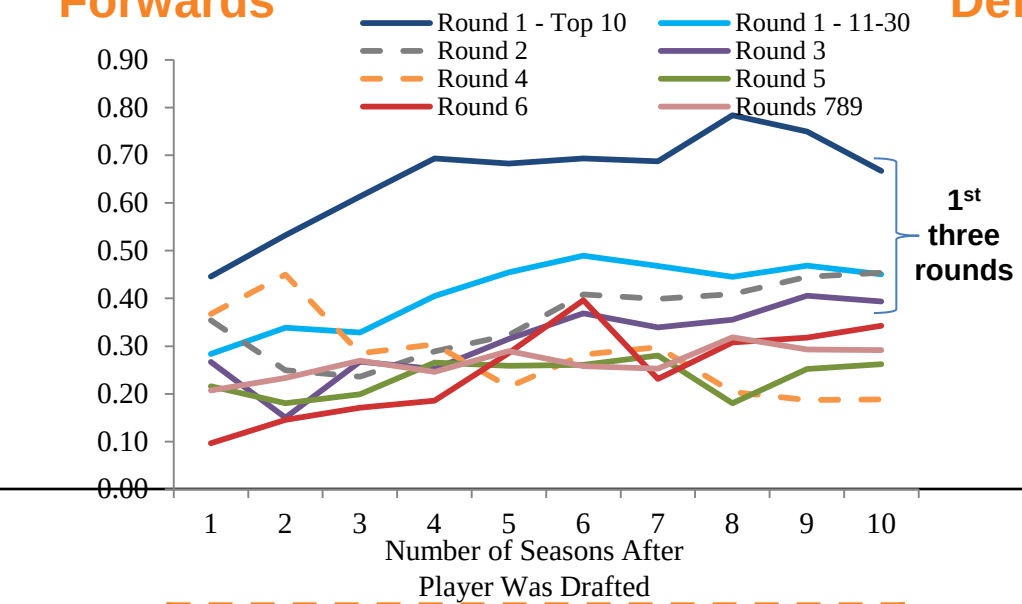
As you would expect, forwards taken in rounds 1-3 outperform in P/GM over their careers

- Both games played and P/GM data begin to show the gap (chasm?) in performance between top 10 overall picks and the rest of the first round – let alone the other ~250 players drafted
- On a P/GM basis, defensemen naturally display a narrower distribution of results, accounting for the fact that a 'strong' defensemen will not always play a significant point-scoring role
- Interestingly, 2nd and 3rd round forwards tend to converge with players picked 11th through 30th over time; however, given this metric is an average of those still playing, there is a survivorship bias (see tables below charts) that in part drives this effect (e.g. low producers will leave the league more quickly, increasing the average of those left)

NHL Per-Game Production

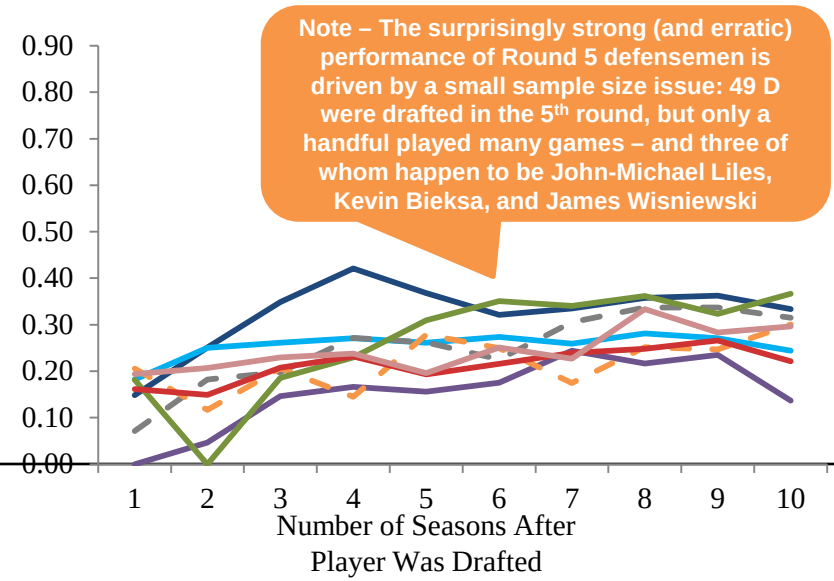
AVERAGE POINTS SCORED PER GAME OF ALL FORWARDS AND DEMENSEMEN DRAFTED

Forwards



# of Players	46	127	208	245	247	240	221	199	180	124
% From Rd 1	43%	45%	36%	33%	32%	30%	33%	32%	34%	40%

Defensemen



# of Players	25	59	95	120	124	119	116	99	89	67
% From Rd 1	28%	32%	32%	26%	25%	28%	27%	30%	30%	33%

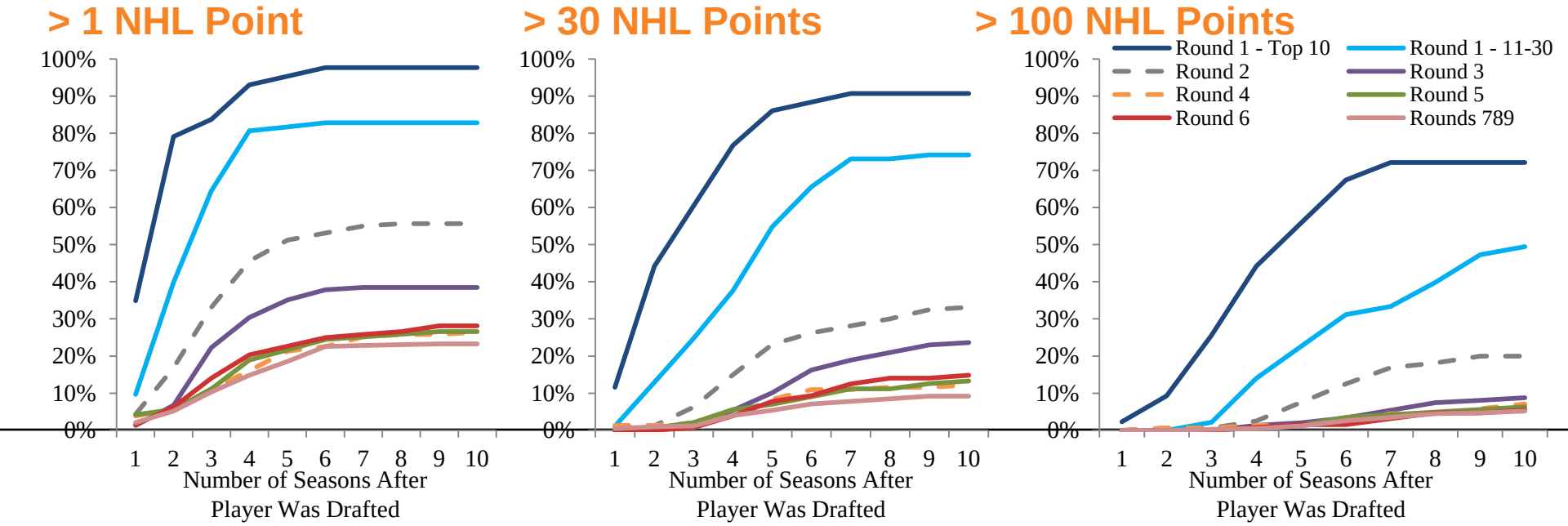
Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

Players drafted in round three fall behind when looking at passing the 100-point career threshold

- Where earlier charts show similarities between the long term potential of 2nd and 3rd round players, being able to break the 100-point career threshold is a clear differentiator between the two
- Second round picks show significantly greater potential to break 100 career points, where third round picks are almost indistinguishable from rounds 4-9 on this dimension
- Based on this, teams may do well to target top scorers in rounds 1 and 2, before moving to defensemen, shut down forwards and goalies in the third round and onwards; recognizing, of course, that all drafting decisions should be based on broader team strategy, needs, and player evaluation, first and foremost
- Again, top 10 overall picks differentiate themselves here as well, with over 70% passing 100 career points

NHL Points-Earned Thresholds

PORTION OF ALL PLAYERS DRAFTED THAT EARN MORE THAN ONE, 30, OR 100 NHL POINTS



Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

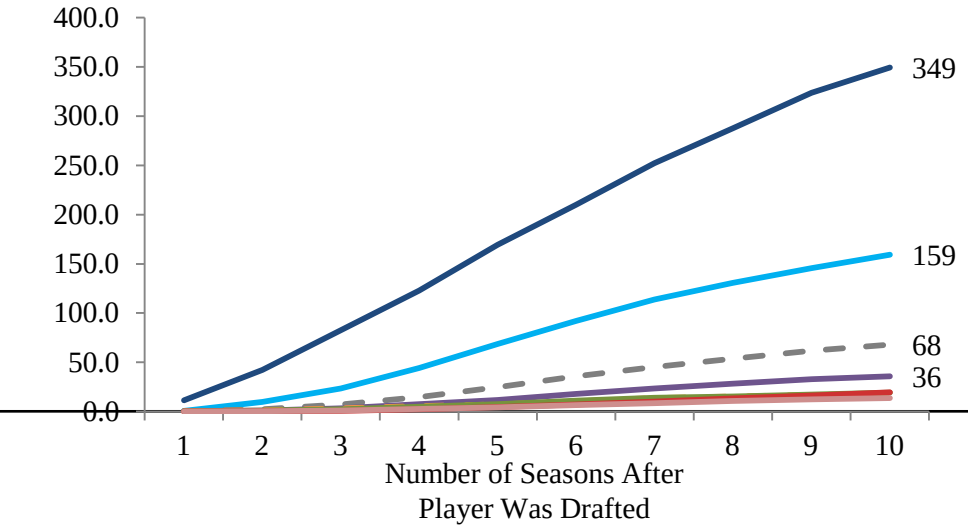
The ideal metric to compare performance by round must be adjusted for players with limited NHL careers

- Thus, the metric of 'Average cumulative career points' per player is arguably the best metric (of those I have shown) to compare draft rounds
- As mentioned earlier, where P/GM will effectively compare those still playing, average cumulative career points per player will be inherently adjusted for the risk that a pick never reaches a significant number of NHL games (as players who are no longer playing are still in the denominator)
- Here, first round picks wildly outperform all others, in both forward and defense positions, showing that the combined skill and typical longevity of even a mid to late 1st round player (11th-30th) will equate to roughly 159 points over 10 seasons for forwards, and 105 points over the same timeframe for defensemen
- Notably, third round forwards also re-assert their value here, showing that – although they will only typically produce a total of 36 points over 10 seasons – they still do meaningfully better than rounds 4-9 in career points

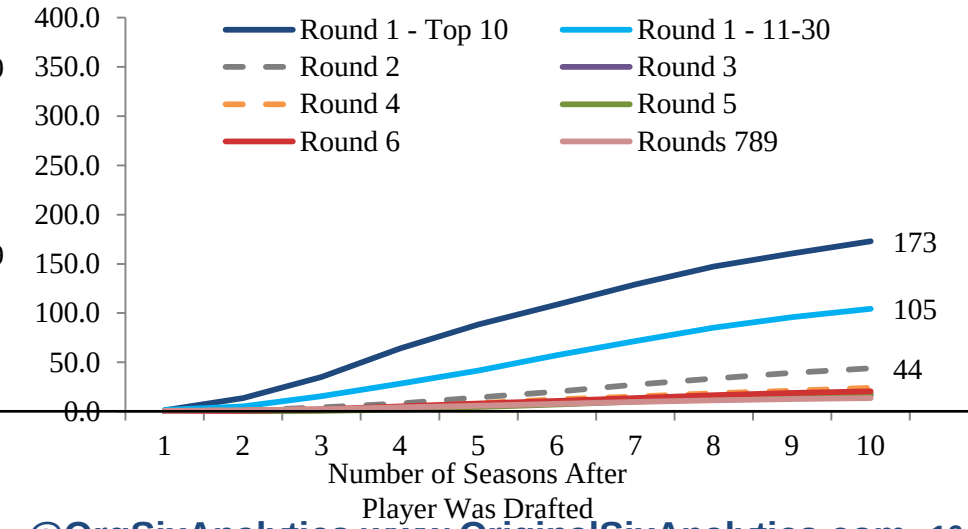
NHL Lifetime Production

AVERAGE CUMULATIVE CAREER POINTS SCORED PER PLAYER OF ALL FORWARDS AND DEMENSEMEN DRAFTED

Forwards



Defensemen



Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

Relative Draft Pick Value

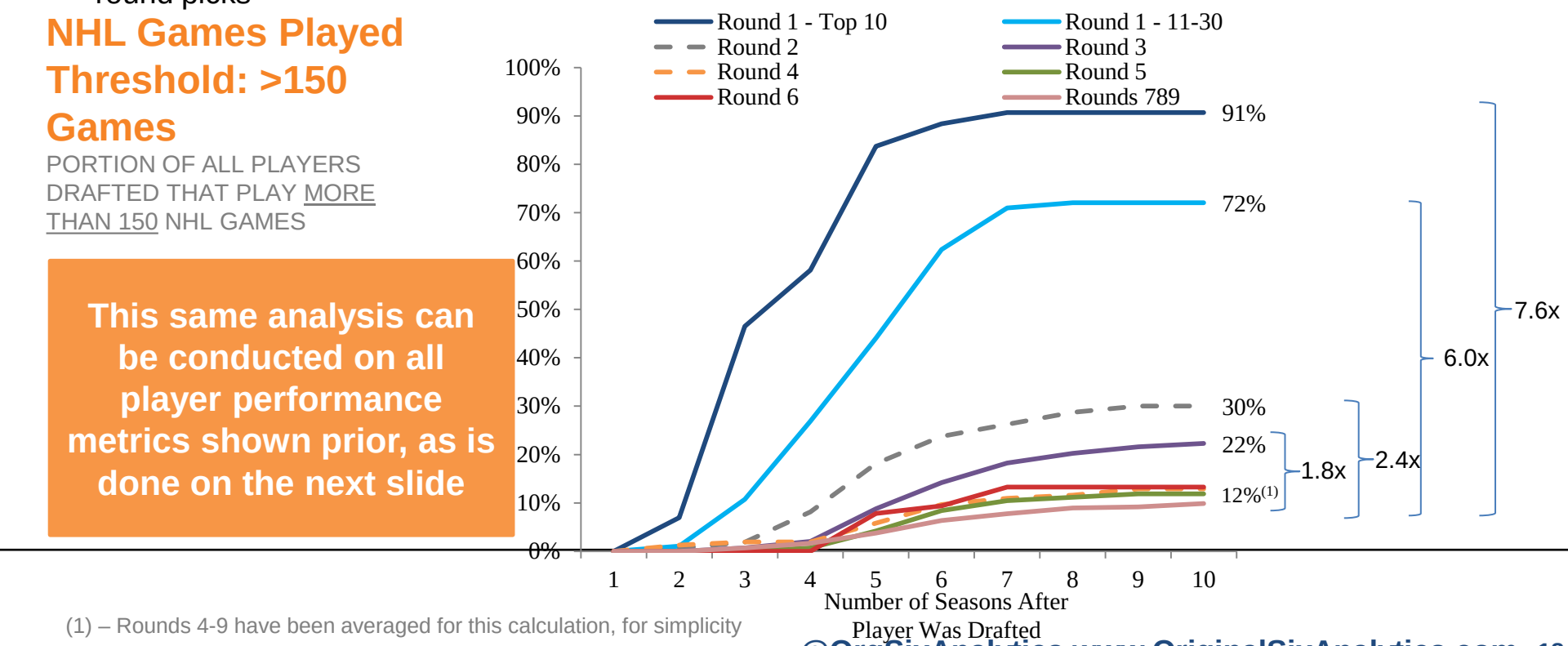
The relative performance of each round (across metrics), will help inform the value of a pick

- Looking at the likelihood of reaching 2+ seasons gives us one potential metric to compare the relative value of each round's picks
  - It is worth noting that the result of this type of exercise will always be entirely dependent on how we 'define success' – and the next slide shown is just one way to begin to assign this type of 'value'
- If we define a pick in rounds 4-9 (who tend to perform comparably)(1) as the 'base unit' (e.g. 1.0 unit), a third round pick is worth 1.8 units, a second round pick is worth 2.4, 11th-30th overall picks are worth 6.0, and a top 10 overall pick is worth 7.6
- As such – on a games played basis, a typical first round pick is worth 2-3 second round picks, or 3-4 third round picks

NHL Games Played Threshold: >150 Games

PORTION OF ALL PLAYERS DRAFTED THAT PLAY MORE THAN 150 NHL GAMES

This same analysis can be conducted on all player performance metrics shown prior, as is done on the next slide



(1) – Rounds 4-9 have been averaged for this calculation, for simplicity

Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

On a relative basis, the value of a top-10 overall draft pick is more than 3.5x that of a 2nd round pick

- The table below shows the potential methods to calculate the relative value of a draft pick (e.g. what is a 1st round pick worth when compared to a 2nd round pick, 3rd round, etc.)
- I have included three metrics to show the 'value' of a pick under each method, based on these metrics being the most meaningful to an NHL team; the far right column shows an average of these methods
- Last, the table below is shown in 'Draft Value Units" (working name) – this is **each round shown as its multiple of the lowest group** (rounds 4-9) – after setting the lowest group to be the 'base unit' of 1.0
- Overall, this data shows that teams should be highly cautious with trading their first, and even second round picks, as they can be many times more valuable than the other rounds; as well – a top 10 overall pick is more than 50% more valuable than any of the other picks in the first round

Relative Definitions of Value:					
		Points Scored Threshold (>30 Pts)	Points Scored Threshold (>100 Pts)	Lifetime Production (Avg Career Pts Scored)	Average Relative Draft Pick Value
"Draft Value Units" / DVU	1st Round – Top 10	7.2	11.7	14.3	11.1
	1st Round – 11th-30th	5.9	7.9	7.3	7.0
	2nd Round Picks	2.6	3.2	3.2	3.0
	3rd Round Picks	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.6
	All Other Rounds (4th – 9th) (1)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

3.5x

(1) – For simplicity, I have used an average of rounds 4-9, due to the comparability of results in the prior analysis; however, in certain categories there are material differences between a 4th/5th round pick and a 7-9th round; as such, breaking this out further may be helpful in any practical application

Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

A top 10 overall pick is worth over 300 career[(1)] points as a Forward, or over 150 pts as a D

- The table below shows the application of Expected Lifetime Production (Cumulative Career Pts Scored) – which can be applied to show the 'expected value' of a draft pick – and what they may be worth in a trade for active players
- The two columns shown below summarize what a 'typical' forward or defensemen taken in each round should be able to achieve over their career
- This data helps to inform what a first round pick should theoretically fetch in a trade, if you can reasonably estimate how that team will place in standings. E.g., in a one-for-one deal, a potential top 10 overall pick should be worth a forward who has at least ~300 career points to come – or a defensemen with at least ~170
- Much like the previous work done by Stephen Burtch and Michael Shuckers, this analysis helps illuminate the **massive** value that should be associated with a top 10 overall pick, which this approach estimates as being ~2x as valuable as a player taken in the bottom 2/3rd of the first round
- Again, however, this analysis is only useful as one element in evaluating any decision; teams of course must consider many factors, such as possession stats, needs, rebuild status, expected draft year skill, etc.

Absolute Definitions of Value:		
	Expected Lifetime Production - Forward (Avg Career Pts/Player)	**Expected Lifetime Production - Defense** (Avg Career Pts/Player)
1st Round – Top 10	**349.3**	**173.0**
1st Round – 11th-30th	**159.2**	**104.5**
2nd Round Picks	**67.9**	**44.0**
3rd Round Picks	**36.0**	**16.6[(2)]**
All Other Rounds (4th – 9th)	**17.5**	**19.1**

(1) – Based on the dataset used, 'Player Career Lifetime' is being calculated using 10 seasons of data as a proxy
(2) - For simplicity, I have used an average of rounds 4-9, due to the comparability of results in the prior analysis; however, as a result, some non-intuitive results occur (e.g. 3rd Rd < 4-9th in the defensemen category) - this speaks to the fact that using strictly points is a crude metric to evaluate defensive players, and should be taken with a grain of salt
Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

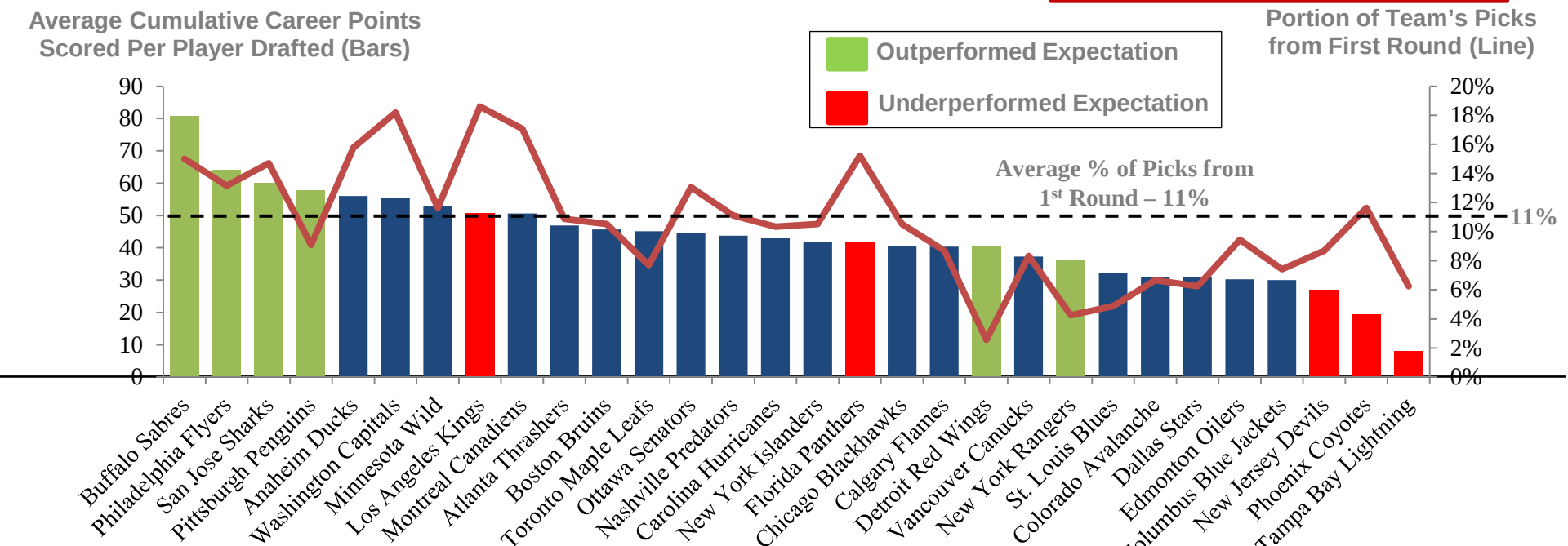
Drafting Success by Team

We can begin to evaluate team drafting performance by comparing expected versus actual results

- Given that teams have different situations, needs and draft strategies, I will start by pointing out that player production is a crude/flawed metric to use to evaluate how 'well' a team drafted, overall – and should be taken with a grain of salt (e.g. it will undervalue defensively-focused picks)
- However - the chart below suggests there is a clear connection between % of picks from 1st round and lifetime production; when put into a regression, the R^2 of this is 35% (meaning % of 1st round picks will predict ~1/3 of a team's success)
- We can use the resulting equation to predict a team's 'expected production', which can then be compared with actual production. Teams shaded green below are examples that did meaningfully better than their proportional 1st round picks would have suggested; teams shaded red did much worse
- After plugging each team's picks into this regression, the next slide shows the result of [Actual – Expected Performance] – e.g., each team's performance relative to the number of high-quality picks they had in the draft

Team Draft Capabilities

PRELIMINARY



Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

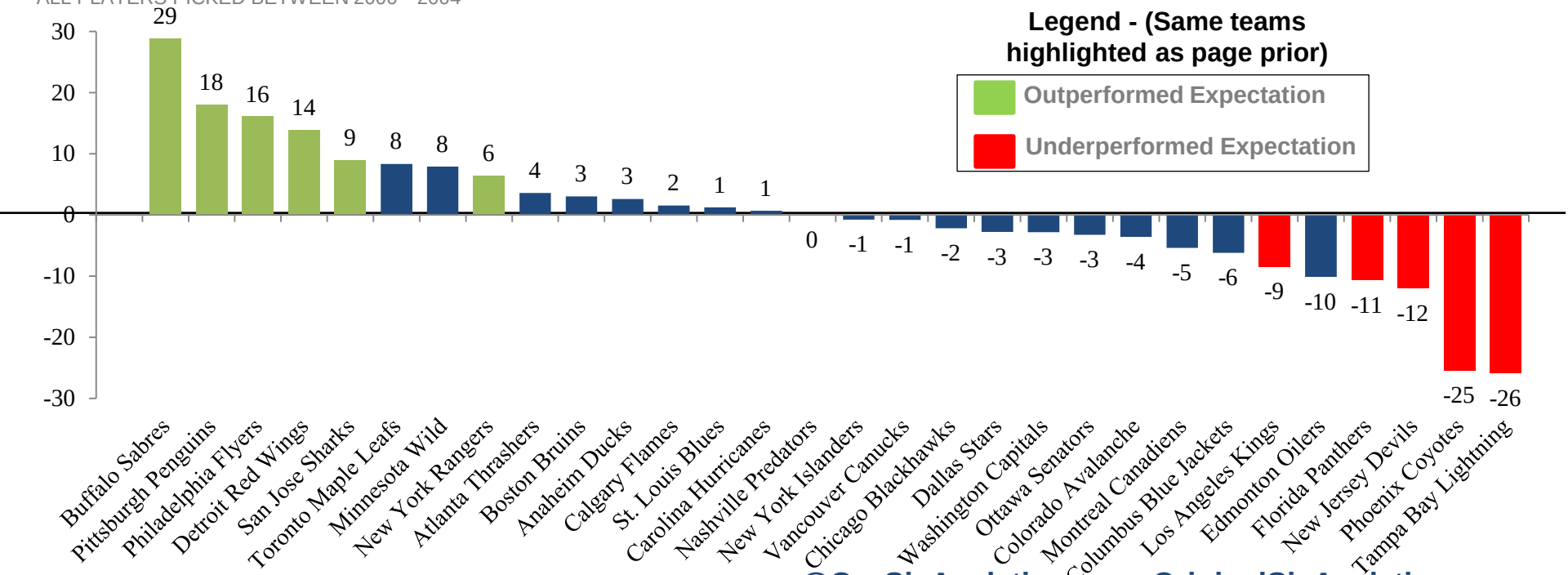
On an expected versus actual basis, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Philly performed the strongest in the years studied

- Much like Stephen Burtch's 'Delta Corsi' – the figure shown below is essentially 'Delta Draft Performance'; the main difference being this metric has a lower predictive capability (~35%), and is based on a single variable (the portion of that teams picks that were in 1st Round) where dCorsi considers many variables, and reaches >50% predictive capability
- As shown below, the teams that were 'visually' outperforming expectations are confirmed to be doing so here, the most being Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Detroit; likewise, a couple teams in particular performed well below what would have been expected: LA, Florida, NJ, Phoenix and Tampa Bay
- In the end, however, this analysis is still preliminary, and should only be seen as a starting point – evaluating point production by player is just one aspect of team drafting 'success', and should not be seen as painting the full picture of what these teams were necessarily trying to draft, or how well they achieved their own goals

Team Draft Performance

"DELTA DRAFT PERFORMANCE" E.G. – [ACTUAL DRAFT PICK PERFORMANCE LESS EXPECTED DRAFT PICK PERFORMANCE] OF ALL PLAYERS PICKED BETWEEN 2000—2004

PRELIMINARY



Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

Conclusions

Conclusions (1 of 2)

	Question	Findings
Player Development / Performance	If a player is drafted in round X, and is ultimately able to make the NHL, by when should they be expected to be a contributing NHL player?	• First round players typically make their initial NHL appearance within 1-2 years, and will usually play their first full season (~80 games) by their fourth year after being drafted • 2nd and 3rd round players take much longer to develop, and many only play a full season by their 5th-7th years after being drafted • Players who haven't played by these general timelines become highly unlikely to ever make serious NHL contributions (>1 season played)
	How well does the typical player perform over the course of his career (on various metrics) after being selected in a given round? Within the first round, how do the top 10 overall picks perform versus those taken 11th-30th?	• Most players drafted outside the first round never make the league at all (2nd/3rd round have 60%/40% likelihood of playing one game, and 35%/28% likelihood of playing a full season in the NHL) • Based on likelihood to play 2+ NHL seasons, score 30+ NHL points, and reach 0.4-0.5 or more pts/gm, 1st, 2nd and 3rd round players have a significant advantage over all other rounds • However, based on the likelihood to score >100 NHL points, 1st and 2nd round players are able to separate themselves from the 3rd round as well • The top 10 overall picks are significantly more capable than others, even versus their first round peers • Over 70% of top 10 overall picks pass 100 career points, typically in ~6 seasons, versus 50% of those taken later in the first round, who often take 9-10 years or more

Conclusions (2 of 2)

	Question	Findings
Draft Pick Value	How much more valuable is a pick in the first round versus the other rounds? All things being equal, what should a pick from each round be worth in a trade?	• Generally speaking, a first round pick is worth roughly 3 – 4 second round picks, or 5 third round picks, on a relative basis • A top 10 overall pick is worth multiple times the value of all other draft picks (including late first rounders), almost regardless of which metric we use to evaluate it • In a trade for active players, a 'typical' top-10 overall pick should be treated as likely reaching >350 career points as a F, or >170 as a D • Given tendencies to pick goalies and defensemen in rounds 5 and 6, a team would do well to instead 'beat the rush' and pick G/D in Rds 3 or 4 (based on the time period studied)
Drafting Success by Team	Which teams were the most effective at drafting in the period sampled?	• Overall – this is by far the most difficult question to accurately answer using strictly basic production data • However, based on career point production versus what could be expected from a similar set of picks, the top teams include Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Detroit, with Phoenix, Tampa Bay and new Jersey having the most area to improve

Potential areas for future analysis

Some areas that could be included in the future, both to improve the accuracy of this analysis and to expand upon it, are:

- Expanding the dataset of draft years included beyond just the five sampled
- Expanding the dataset of performance years included to add the most recent data available (e.g. 2014-2015, 2015 YTD (year to date))
- Combining data sets with TOI data in order to convert Pts/GM to P/20 or P/60
- On top of TOI, addition of advanced or modern statistics available from the range of years sampled - in particular defensive metrics (e.g. CA/60); however, possession stats may not necessarily generalize by draft round
- Diving deeper into the first few rounds, where most of the distribution lies, based on pick number
- Adding variables and rigor to the ‘expected team performance’ regression, in order to increase the predictive capabilities and thus accuracy of the metric
- Expanding the analysis into the area of goaltending in general
- I’m sure there are many others, so please let me know what comes to mind

If anyone has suggestions, comments, areas for further analysis or changes/corrections to anything included, please feel encouraged to contact me directly

You can reach me at @OrgSixAnalytics or OriginalSixAnalytics@gmail.com

Appendix

Appendix: First round picks – 2000 & 2001

2000 Draft Year			
#	Team	Player	Pos
1	New York Islanders	Rick DiPietro	G
2	Atlanta Thrashers	Dany Heatley	LW
3	Minnesota Wild	Marian Gaborik	RW
4	Columbus Blue Jackets	Rostislav Klesla	D
5	New York Islanders	Raffi Torres	LW
6	Nashville Predators	Scott Hartnell	LW
7	Boston Bruins	Lars Jonsson	D
8	Tampa Bay Lightning	Nikita Alexeev	RW
9	Calgary Flames	Brent Krahn	G
10	Chicago Blackhawks	Mikhail Yakubov	C
11	Chicago Blackhawks	Pavel Vorobiev	RW
12	Anaheim Ducks	Alexei Smirnov	LW
13	Montreal Canadiens	Ron Hainsey	D
14	Colorado Avalanche	Vaclav Nedorost	C
15	Buffalo Sabres	Artem Kryukov	C
16	Montreal Canadiens	Marcel Hossa	LW
17	Edmonton Oilers	Alexei Mikhnov	LW
18	Pittsburgh Penguins	Brooks Orpik	D
19	Phoenix Coyotes	Krys Kolanos	C
20	Los Angeles Kings	Alex Frolov	LW
21	Ottawa Senators	Anton Volchenkov	D
22	New Jersey Devils	David Hale	D
23	Vancouver Canucks	Nathan Smith	C
24	Toronto Maple Leafs	Brad Boyes	RW
25	Dallas Stars	Steve Ott	C
26	Washington Capitals	Brian Sutherby	C
27	Boston Bruins	Martin Samuelsson	RW
28	Philadelphia Flyers	Justin Williams	RW
29	Detroit Red Wings	Niklas Kronwall	D
30	St. Louis Blues	Jeff Taffe	C

2001 Draft Year			
#	Team	Player	Pos
1	Atlanta Thrashers	Ilya Kovalchuk	LW
2	Ottawa Senators	Jason Spezza	C
3	Tampa Bay Lightning	Alexander Svitov	C
4	Florida Panthers	Stephen Weiss	C
5	Anaheim Ducks	Stanislav Chistov	LW
6	Minnesota Wild	Mikko Koivu	C
7	Montreal Canadiens	Mike Komisarek	D
8	Columbus Blue Jackets	Pascal Leclaire	G
9	Chicago Blackhawks	Tuomo Ruutu	C/LW
10	New York Rangers	Dan Blackburn	G
11	Phoenix Coyotes	Fredrik Sjostrom	RW
12	Nashville Predators	Dan Hamhuis	D
13	Edmonton Oilers	Ales Hemsky	RW
14	Calgary Flames	Chuck Kobasew	RW
15	Carolina Hurricanes	Igor Knyazev	D
16	Vancouver Canucks	R.J. Umberger	C
17	Toronto Maple Leafs	Carlo Colaiacovo	D
18	Los Angeles Kings	Jens Karlsson	RW
19	Boston Bruins	Shaone Morrisonn	D
20	San Jose Sharks	Marcel Goc	C
21	Pittsburgh Penguins	Colby Armstrong	RW
22	Buffalo Sabres	Jiri Novotny	C
23	Ottawa Senators	Tim Gleason	D
24	Florida Panthers	Lukas Krajicek	D
25	Montreal Canadiens	Alexander Perezhogin	LW
26	Dallas Stars	Jason Bacashihua	G
27	Philadelphia Flyers	Jeff Woywitka	D
28	New Jersey Devils	Adrian Foster	C
29	Chicago Blackhawks	Adam Munro	G
30	Los Angeles Kings	David Steckel	C

Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

Appendix: First round picks – 2002 & 2003

2002 Draft Year			
#	Team	Player	Pos
1	Columbus Blue Jackets	Rick Nash	LW
2	Atlanta Thrashers	Kari Lehtonen	G
3	Florida Panthers	Jay Bouwmeester	D
4	Philadelphia Flyers	Joni Pitkanen	D
5	Pittsburgh Penguins	Ryan Whitney	D
6	Nashville Predators	Scottie Upshall	LW
7	Anaheim Ducks	Joffrey Lupul	LW
8	Minnesota Wild	Pierre-Marc Bouchard	C
9	Florida Panthers	Petr Taticek	C
10	Calgary Flames	Eric Nystrom	LW
11	Buffalo Sabres	Keith Ballard	D
12	Washington Capitals	Steve Eminger	D
13	Washington Capitals	Alexander Semin	LW
14	Montreal Canadiens	Chris Higgins	LW
15	Edmonton Oilers	Jesse Niinimaki	C
16	Ottawa Senators	Jakub Klepis	C
17	Washington Capitals	Boyd Gordon	C
18	Los Angeles Kings	Denis Grebeshkov	D
19	Phoenix Coyotes	Jakub Koreis	C
20	Buffalo Sabres	Daniel Paille	LW
21	Chicago Blackhawks	Anton Babchuk	D
22	New York Islanders	Sean Bergenheim	LW
23	Phoenix Coyotes	Ben Eager	LW
24	Toronto Maple Leafs	Alex Steen	C
25	Carolina Hurricanes	Cam Ward	G
26	Dallas Stars	Martin Vagner	D
27	San Jose Sharks	Mike Morris	RW
28	Colorado Avalanche	Jonas Johansson	RW
29	Boston Bruins	Hannu Toivonen	G
30	Atlanta Thrashers	Jim Slater	C

2003 Draft Year			
#	Team	Player	Pos
1	Pittsburgh Penguins	Marc-Andre Fleury	G
2	Carolina Hurricanes	Eric Staal	C
3	Florida Panthers	Nathan Horton	RW
4	Columbus Blue Jackets	Nikolai Zherdev	W
5	Buffalo Sabres	Thomas Vanek	LW
6	San Jose Sharks	Milan Michalek	RW
7	Nashville Predators	Ryan Suter	D
8	Atlanta Thrashers	Braydon Coburn	D
9	Calgary Flames	Dion Phaneuf	D
10	Montreal Canadiens	Andrei Kostitsyn	LW
11	Philadelphia Flyers	Jeff Carter	C
12	New York Rangers	Hugh Jessiman	RW
13	Los Angeles Kings	Dustin Brown	RW
14	Chicago Blackhawks	Brent Seabrook	D
15	New York Islanders	Robert Nilsson	C
16	San Jose Sharks	Steve Bernier	RW
17	New Jersey Devils	Zach Parise	LW
18	Washington Capitals	Eric Fehr	RW
19	Anaheim Ducks	Ryan Getzlaf	C
20	Minnesota Wild	Brent Burns	RW
21	Boston Bruins	Mark Stuart	D
22	Edmonton Oilers	Marc Pouliot	C
23	Vancouver Canucks	Ryan Kesler	C
24	Philadelphia Flyers	Mike Richards	C
25	Florida Panthers	Anthony Stewart	RW
26	Los Angeles Kings	Brian Boyle	C
27	Los Angeles Kings	Jeff Tambellini	LW
28	Anaheim Ducks	Corey Perry	RW
29	Ottawa Senators	Patrick Eaves	RW
30	St. Louis Blues	Shawn Belle	D

Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463

Appendix: First round picks - 2004

2004 Draft Year			
#	Team	Player	Pos
1	Washington Capitals	Alex Ovechkin	LW
2	Pittsburgh Penguins	Evgeni Malkin	C
3	Chicago Blackhawks	Cam Barker	D
4	Carolina Hurricanes	Andrew Ladd	LW
5	Phoenix Coyotes	Blake Wheeler	RW
6	New York Rangers	Al Montoya	G
7	Florida Panthers	Rostislav Olesz	LW
8	Columbus Blue Jackets	Alexandre Picard	LW
9	Anaheim Ducks	Ladislav Smid	D
10	Atlanta Thrashers	Boris Valabik	D
11	Los Angeles Kings	Lauri Tukonen	RW
12	Minnesota Wild	A.J. Thelen	D
13	Buffalo Sabres	Drew Stafford	RW
14	Edmonton Oilers	Devan Dubnyk	G
15	Nashville Predators	Alexander Radulov	RW
16	New York Islanders	Petteri Nokelainen	C
17	St. Louis Blues	Marek Schwarz	G
18	Montreal Canadiens	Kyle Chipchura	C
19	New York Rangers	Lauri Korpikoski	LW
20	New Jersey Devils	Travis Zajac	C
21	Colorado Avalanche	Wojtek Wolski	LW
22	San Jose Sharks	Lukas Kaspar	RW
23	Ottawa Senators	Andrej Meszaros	D
24	Calgary Flames	Kris Chucko	LW
25	Edmonton Oilers	Rob Schremp	C
26	Vancouver Canucks	Cory Schneider	G
27	Washington Capitals	Jeff Schultz	D
28	Dallas Stars	Mark Fistric	D
29	Washington Capitals	Mike Green	D
30	Tampa Bay Lightning	Andy Rogers	D

Source: 2000-2004 Draft Years, Player n=1463