# HOCKEYSTEVE

## STATS & INSIGHTS

# 2026/27

## SCOUT DECK

FREE SAMPLE

# INTRODUCTION

I have been writing consistently about ice hockey games for 3+ years, creating dynamic, easy to read visuals to add content, present key information and provide analytical insights tailored for the average reader, that will also interest a keen hockey mind.

I have a bachelors degree in sport & exercise science, adept with knowledge, understanding and presentation skills of raw data, metrics, methodology and creating understandable strengths vs weaknesses contexts.

I also co-host an up and coming UK ice hockey podcast, adding to the growing tool box of skills, that present information, accurately curated media and breakdowns, promoting the sport even further in the UK, which ranks consistently as one of the top UK ice hockey podcasts and around the top 5 globally.

I predominantly cover the EIHL, in particular the Cardiff Devils, however, I consistently review players across Europe and the ECHL who might present as opportunities to join this league.

My biggest strength is to break down raw numbers into readable stat lines, content and communicate clearly, with a dose of humour for the casual reader, to producing attractive stat cards and helping to improve the knowledge for those who interact and continue to use my articles and posts as a go-too source.

My skills from the sports science degree help with fundamentals and my own playing experience of over 20 years has helped to blend hockey IQ with analysis.

# METHODOLOGY

## Crafting the process for scouting pro hockey players

Nearly every game I watch in person or via video link, is viewed analytically, even with clickers to track zone entries, hits, puck touches, giveaways, hip angles - I often forget to watch as a fan.

I will be looking for skating, composure, passing, compete, IQ, role fits, puck control, game management, shift management, positioning and zone awareness

Common characteristics that go untracked in the EIHL, such as hits, shot type, zone entries, zone denials, PP usage, will also be detailed

I can curate concise breakdowns, whilst preferring to provide a broad, comprehensive overview of each player/team I observe. This is to guarantee a complete, objective insight to help craft and shape informed decisions

## Evaluation Mehtod

Each player is evaluated across four primary attributes:

- **Hockey Sense**
- **Compete**
- **Skill**
- **Skating**

Scale Definition (1–9): **(Core Attributes)**

- 1–3: Below pro standard
- 4–5: Functional / average for level
- 6–7: Above average / strong contributor
- 8: High-end for league
- 9: Elite trait at this level

**Micro-Skill Grading** (1–5 Scale + Percentage)

Micro-skills break down the finer details of a player's game. Each micro-skill is graded 1–5, then converted to a percentage for database use.
Scale Definition (1–5):

- 1: Poor
- 2: Below average
- 3: Average / functional
- 4: Above average
- 5: High-end / elite for level

**Percentage Conversion:**
*Score÷5×100*
**Purpose**: Micro-skills quantify specific behaviours (e.g., puck retention, zone awareness, transition play) and allow for detailed comparison between players.

**This scout report uses an industry consistent gradign system, utlising available game footage and tracking websites**



# JORDAN SAMBROOK

## FLORIDA EVERBLADES, ECHL SEASON 2025/26

**RHD | 28 | 6'3 | 93KG**

HOCKEY IQ | APPLE COLLECTOR | BIG RIG

### SEASON BOX SCORE

**PP/PK; PP1 PK1 |GP; 72 | G; 9 | A; 38 | TP;47 | +/-; 62**

**Top-four pro defenceman** with strong defensive micro-skills, efficient puck movement, and the physical/mental tools to handle tough matchups. Reliable, composed and consistent. High floor, stable projection across each metric.

| SKATING | SKILL | COMPETE | HOCKEY IQ | PHYSICALITY | SHOOTING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.9 | 7.9 | 8.9 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 7.8 |

# CORE ATTRIBUTES

**Summary:** A strong, reliable, pro-ready defender with above-average sense, compete, and skating.

| ATTRIBUTE | GRADE | JUSTIFICATION |
|---|---|---|
| **Hockey Sense** | 7/9 | Heads-up play, sophisticated first touch, decisive in possession, strong defensive zone awareness, reads space for stretch passes. |
| **Compete** | 8/9 | Aggressive off the puck, marshalls wing, strong hitter, finishes checks, active stick, breaks up entries, excellent net-front defence. |
| **Skill** | 7/9 | Smooth first touch, accurate stretch passes, controlled puck handling, decisive point shot, strong bank-pass execution. |
| **Skating** | 7/9 | Smooth stride, strong crossovers, excellent edges, upright core, efficient movement patterns. |

# MICRO-SKILLS (1–5 → %)

**Summary:** Elite defensive micro-skills, especially zone denial and awareness.

| Micro-Skill | Score (1–5) | % | Evidence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Zone Entries (Defending / Activation) | 4/5 | 80% | Good activation, joins play effectively, confident first touch. |
| Zone Denials | 5/5 | 100% | “Excellent shut down”, long reach, active stick, breaks up entries. |
| Zone Awareness | 5/5 | 100% | “Head on a pivot”, strong net-front defence, reads space well. |
| Puck Retention | 4/5 | 80% | Doesn’t overhandle, absorbs hits, maintains possession under pressure. |
| Puck Handling | 4/5 | 80% | Smooth, controlled, confident touches. |
| Shift Management | 5/5 | 100% | “Quick shifts, good changes”, N = 8/8/8. |
| Game Management | 4/5 | 80% | Decisive in possession, low-danger looks, smart outlet choices. |

## GAME NOTES

- Smooth first touch, heads-up outlet passing
- Aggressive off the puck, strong tracking and poke checks
- Excellent skating posture and edge control
- Strong physical presence, finishes checks, absorbs contact
- High defensive zone awareness, protects net well
- Decisive point shot, confident puck movement
- Excellent stretch passing and bank-pass execution
- Quick, efficient shifts with smart timing

## GAMES SCOUTED

FLORIDA EVERBLADES V ATLANTA GLADIATORS
FEB 4TH 2026

FLORIDA EVERBLAEDS VS SAVANNAH GHOST PIRATES
26TH APRIL 2026

## PROJECTION / SUMMARY

Projection:
A reliable, top-four pro defenceman with strong defensive micro-skills, excellent zone denial, and efficient puck movement. His combination of skating posture, physical engagement, and decision-making suggests a player who can handle heavy minutes and tough matchups.

## STRENGTHS

- Strengths:
- Elite zone denial
- Strong defensive awareness
- Smooth skating + strong edges
- Physical, competitive, finishes checks
- Excellent stretch passing and outlet decisions
- Smart shift management

## CONCERNS

- Concerns:
- None major from this viewing
- Puck retention is strong but not elite — monitor under higher pressure
- Offensive ceiling likely tied to decisiveness rather than creativity

## SUMMARY EVALUATION

A strong, reliable, pro-ready right-shot defenceman with excellent defensive micro-skills, strong skating posture, and high compete level.

Shows mature decision-making, efficient puck movement, and strong defensive zone awareness.

Projects as a top-four pro defenceman capable of handling tough matchups and heavy minutes.

## INDUSTRY CHATTER (VIA EP)

DRAFTED; 2016 round 5 #137 overall by Detroit Red Wings

Smooth-skating two-way defenceman who displays solid creativity and offensive instincts, as well as a strong defensive game.

Can play lengthy shifts due to his conservative style without the puck, and can be relied upon in all situations. Mobile with and without the puck, and could even become a bit quicker.

His size allows him to be physically assertive and protect the puck well. All-in-all, a defenceman who has the potential to become a well-rounded all-around player that can log a lot of ice-time. (Curtis Joe, EP 2016)



# ALEX YOUNG

## ATLANTA GLADIATORS, ECHL SEASON 2025/26

## RH C/W | 25 | 6'0 | 81KG

HOCKEY IQ | FACE-OFF KING | SNIPER

### SEASON BOX SCORE

**PP/PK; PP1 PK1 | GP; 72 | G; 27 | A; 32 | TP; 59 | +/-; 5**

Alex Young profiles as a **high-motor, two-way center** with strong defensive instincts, constant activity and reliable special teams value.
He plays with grit, discipline and anticipation, scanning early and often to stay ahead of developing plays. His game is built on movement, support routes, puck touches under pressure and **smart soft-ice distribution**.

| SKATING | SKILL | COMPETE | HOCKEY IQ | PHYSICALITY | SHOOTING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7.6 | 7.3 |

# CORE ATTRIBUTES

**Summary:** Projects as a top-six, two-way forward with special teams utility and reliable shift-to-shift competitiveness..

| ATTRIBUTE | GRADE | JUSTIFICATION |
|---|---|---|
| **Hockey Sense** | 8/9 | High-end anticipation, strong reads, smart support, PP awareness |
| **Compete** | 9/9 | Elite motor, physical engagement, disciplined intensity |
| **Skill** | 7/9 | Soft hands, quick touches, good passes, strong draws |
| **Skating** | 7/9 | Good lateral stride, reliable pace, strong work-rate skating |

# MICRO-SKILLS (1–5 → %)

**Summary:** "**A high-motor, two-way support forward** who drives play through smart reads with a relentless work rate.".

| Micro-Skill | Score (1–5) | % | Evidence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Zone Awareness | 5/5 | 100% | Constantly scanning", "head on a pivot", strong slot coverage, anticipates space |
| Passing | 5/5 | 100% | Excellent soft ice passes, PP1 seam pass for PPG, finds space consistently |
| Transition | 4/5 | 80% | Keen-eye passer, strong net-front defence, reads space well |
| DZ Play | 5/5 | 100% | Excellent cover for D, strong PK1 reads, anticipates threats |
| Face-off Impact | 4/5 | 80% | Consistent face-off wins, drives OZ possession and PP setups |
| Zone Entires | 3.5/5 | 70% | Functional entries, carries under pressure but not dynamic |
| Special Teams | 4/5 | 80% | Decisive in possession, low-danger looks, smart outlet choices |

# MICRO-SKILLS (1–5 → %)

| Micro-Skill | Score (1–5) | % | Evidence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Puck Management | 4/5 | 80% | Doesn't overhandle, absorbs contact, maintains possession under pressure |
| OZ Play | 3/5 | 60% | Active stick OZ, aggressive forecheck, extends possession |
| Transition | 4/5 | 80% | Highly effective transition support forward — strong exits with clean retrievals , composed outlets, reliable carries under pressure |
| DZ Play | 4/5 | 80% | Good activation, joins play effectively, confident carrying under pressure |
| Puck Handling | 4/5 | 80% | Smooth, controlled, confident touches |
| Compete/Physicality | 4/5 | 80% | Continual scanning, hustle and unafraid of contact |
| Special Teams | 4/5 | 80% | Decisive in possession, low-danger looks, smart outlet choices |

## PROJECTION / SUMMARY

Top-six, two-way center with PK1 utility and PP2/PP1 bumper-style usage.

Reliable, coach-trusted, high-effort forward who drives structure, supports possession and maintains defensive integrity.

Can flex to LW when needed, providing flexibility for roster options

## STRENGTHS

- Elite specialist team contributor
- Strong defensive instincts
- Smooth skating + strong edges
- Proficient 2-way forward
- Dominant on face-offs
- Clever shift changes, reliable for all situations
- Cool head under pressure

## CONCERNS

- Not a net-front player
- Whilst he can carry under pressure, his defense-first mindset can hinder OZ prssure
- Offensive ceiling likely tied to decisiveness to being an option, rather than the main event
- Adept wrist shot, no high end finishing

## SUMMARY EVALUATION

A reliable, versatile forward who provides proactive defensive support and options in transition

With advanced zone awareness, Young will either find or be the option for outlets, support or battles

Dependable for both special teams, he provides consistency, trusted by his coaches and dominates on the draws to establish offensive threats

## INDUSTRY CHATTER

DRAFTED; 2020 round 7 #196 overall by San Jose Sharks

A regular feature for **ECHL** player of the week, recognised for consistency in production

"Alex Young proved to be an efficient offensive contributor after joining the Gladiators in March. In 11 games with Atlanta, he registered four goals, four assists (8 points). His time with the Atlanta Gladiators was valuable, as he added important depth to the forward group. Young showcased his offensive abilities and consistently stepped up when needed, providing a solid spark to the team's attack" (Zehner, 2025) via **Inside the Rink**

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# Understanding the Stat Badges

To include a super fun element, which will be used for future projects and designs, here are the dedicated ‘rewards’ that will feature with player cards going forward



**IRON MAN**



**FACE-OFF KING**



**BRICK WALL**



**CANNON**



**WHEELS**



**SHOW STOPPER**



**HOT ACE**



**BIG RIG**



**HOT GLOVE**



**SNIPER**



**APPLE COLLECTOR**



**HOCKEY IQ**

Unique indicators that help to set apart the core qualities of each player. be it great hockey sense, a consistent puck distributor, a goalie that will flash the leather in the craziest moments, these badges provide additional, quirky insights whilst demonstrating the data

# Accreditation/Sources

For photographes used, photo credit goes to the ECHL (via Website), google sourced went directly to club official websites and the ECHL and all its affiliates.

**This project did not use:**

- API feeds
- Web scraping
- Automated data harvesting
- Third-party analytics engines

All data was manually curated and processed through controlled tools.

## Data Sources

- ECHL/AHL/DEL/DEL2 League published data
- Accesible, public friendly game footage, via YouTube
- Manually curated defensive and transition metrics
- Team-context adjustments (usage, deployment, matchups)

# DATA INTEGRITY STATEMENT

This project is built on a transparent, controlled and fully self-contained data environment. All calculations, rankings and Impact Scores presented in this report are derived exclusively from datasets provided directly by the project creator. No external databases, third-party statistics providers or automated scraping tools were used at any stage.

For Data sources, extraction and mapping, JSON computation, the following websites were used
ECHL
HockeyDB
QUANTHOCKEY
ELITE PROSPECTS
microsoft excel, google sheets
microsoft co-pilot was used to run formulas extensively to erradicate data noise, flushing, computation modelling