



Americans in the NHL

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Here's a look at Americans actually playing in the NHL.

Specifically, it's a look at the 110 U.S. players who were on NHL club's 23-man active rosters on the morning of November 1. (Hence, you won't find, to give one example, Phoenix's '82 defenseman **Keith Ballard**, who was out with an injury at the time, but is back now. But you will find Montreal forward **Chris Higgins**, an '83. He was playing on Nov. 1, but is now out with an injury.)

No matter -- the numbers do tend to even out.

The 110 American players comprise a shade under 16% of the players on NHL 23-man rosters. Of those Americans, 87 came up via the college route, and 25 came through major junior. That number includes the two current NHLers, **Dan Hinote** and **Danny Richmond**, who left college for major junior and saw the move pay off. (Hinote played one year for Army before going to the OHL; Richmond played for a year at Michigan before going to the OHL.)

The most telling point here is how very difficult it is to actually get to the NHL. For purposes of illustration, 41 of the Americans in the NHL are between 26-30 years old ('76, '77, '78, '79, and '80 birthdates). That's an average of eight players for each birth year. Think about that.

And now think about this: last year, a little over 21,500 '90 birthdates were registered with USA Hockey. And out of that number, only eight are likely to make it to the show!

The message? It's simple. Stay in school as long as you can. It beats working.

Note:

We're busy getting the prep pages together so don't have the time to make any kind of full-fledged study on the above. But we'd be really interested to hear readers' thoughts, discoveries, conclusions, theories, numerical breakdowns, etc.

In the list below, we've denoted major junior players with a #.

American players on NHL active 23-man rosters as of November 1, arranged by birth year.

1962 (1)

Chris Chelios, D, Detroit

1963 (0)

1964 (0)

1965 (0)

1966 (0)

1967 (0)

1968 (0)

1969 (2)

John LeClair, F, Pittsburgh

Mathieu Schneider, D, Detroit #

1970 (7)

Sean Hill, D, NY Islanders

Tony Amonte, F, Calgary

Bret Hedican, D, Carolina

Mike Modano, F, Dallas #

Keith Carney, D, Minnesota

Jeremy Roenick, F, Phoenix #

Bill Guerin, F, St. Louis

1971 (5)

Ken Klee, D, Colorado

Doug Weight, F, St. Louis

Bryan Smolinski, F, Chicago

Craig Conroy, F, Los Angeles

Aaron Miller, D, Los Angeles

1972 (3)

Mike Dunham, G, NY Islanders

Derian Hatcher, D, Philadelphia #

Keith Tkachuk, F, St. Louis

1974 (4)

Tim Thomas, G, Boston

Mark Mowers, F, Boston

Kevyn Adams, F, Carolina

Jay Pandolfo, F, New Jersey

1975 (7)

John Grahame, G, Carolina
 Jamie Langenbrunner, F, New Jersey #
 Shawn Bates, F, NY Islanders
 Bates Battaglia, F, Toronto
 Hal Gill, D, Toronto
 Mike Grier, F, San Jose
 Rory Fitzpatrick, D, Vancouver #

1976 (5)

Chris Clark, F, Washington
 Jeff Halpern, F, Dallas
 Chris Drury, F, Buffalo
 Matt Cullen, F, NY Rangers
 Alex Brooks, D, New Jersey

1977 (13)

Erik Rasmussen, F, New Jersey
 Dan LaCouture, F, New Jersey
 Scott Clemmensen, G, New Jersey
 Tom Poti, D, NY Islanders
 Joe Corvo, D, Ottawa
 Mark Eaton, D, Pittsburgh
 Brian Pothier, D, Washington
 Marty Reasoner, F, Edmonton
 Brent Johnson, G, Washington #
 Jeff Hamilton, F, Chicago
 Brian Boucher, G, Chicago #
 Mark Parrish, F, Minnesota
 Dan Hinote, F, St. Louis # (plus NCAA)

1978 (8)

Rob Scuderi, D, Pittsburgh
 Erik Cole, F, Carolina
 Robert Esche, G, Philadelphia #
 Mike York, F, NY Islanders
 Tom Priessing, D, Ottawa
 Ben Clymer, Washington
 Toby Petersen, F, Edmonton
 Pat Rissmiller, F, San Jose

1979 (7)

Scott Gomez, F, New Jersey #
 Paul Mara, D, Boston #
 Brian Gionta, F, New Jersey
 Jim Fahey, D, New Jersey
 Johnny Pohl, F, Toronto
 Tyler Arnason, F, Colorado
 George Parros, F, Colorado

1980 (8)

Adam Hall, F, NY Rangers
 Doug Janik, D, Tampa Bay
 Andrew Hutchinson, D, Carolina
 David Tanabe, D, Carolina
 Ryan Miller, G, Buffalo
 Mike Rupp, F, New Jersey #
 John-Michael Liles, D, Colorado
 David Legwand, F, Nashville #

1981 (8)

Kurt Sauer, D, Colorado #
 Andrew Alberts, D, Boston
 Andy Hilbert, F, NY Islanders
 Paul Martin, D, New Jersey
 Rick DiPietro, G, NY Islanders
 Freddy Meyer, D, Philadelphia
 Ron Hainsey, D, Columbus
 Brad Winchester, F, Edmonton

1982 (7)

Michael Komisarek, D, Montreal
 Paul Gaustad, F, Buffalo #
 Chad LaRose, F, Carolina #
 Jimmy Slater, F, Atlanta
 R.J. Umberger, F, Philadelphia
 Noah Welch, D, Pittsburgh
 Brett Lebda, D, Detroit

1983 (8)

Ryan Whitney, D, Pittsburgh
 Tim Gleason, D, Carolina #
 Chris Higgins, F, Montreal
 Ryan Hollweg, F, NY Rangers #
 Ryan Shannon, F, Anaheim
 Matt Greene, D, Edmonton
 Matt Jones, D, Phoenix
 Lee Stempniak, F, St. Louis

1984 (7)

Zach Parise, F, New Jersey
 Cam Janssen, F, New Jersey #
 Patrick Eaves, F, Ottawa
 Danny Richmond, D, Chicago # (plus NCAA)
 Dustin Brown, F, Los Angeles #
 Matt Carle, D, San Jose
 Ryan Kesler, F, Vancouver

1985 (4)

Danny Fritsche, F, Columbus #
 Paul Stastny, F, Colorado
 Patrick O'Sullivan, F, Los Angeles #
 Ryan Suter, D, Nashville

1986 (1)

Matt Lashoff, D, Boston #

1987 (1)

Phil Kessel, F, Boston

Denotes major junior player