

Will McDavid be the best hockey player of all time?

By Sydney Dietz

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On February 17, 2021, Connor McDavid scored his 500th career point tying Sidney Crosby as the eighth fastest player to reach 500 points. This milestone had me question if McDavid is going to be known as the most talented hockey player of all time. I looked at his accomplishments through his junior hockey and the NHL career and it made me believe that he will be the best hockey player of all time. McDavid has been predicted to be one of the greatest hockey players of all time ever since he was a kid. There was so much anticipation for McDavid to make it to the National Hockey League. Growing up in Erie, I have known about the former Erie Otter of the Ontario Hockey League for years. He was one of the youngest players to enter into the OHL, and he has lived up to the expectations many news reporters, scouts, and avid hockey fans had for him.

McDavid started his hockey career at a young age with being drafted into the OHL at 15. This brought national attention to the hockey community because it was unheard of. Hockey players need to be 16 to be drafted into the OHL, but McDavid was granted exceptional-hockey player status for the league. Throughout his time playing in Erie, Pennsylvania, he achieved many awards for the success that he had with the Erie Otters. Watching him play at such a young age made me notice the talent that McDavid had in comparison to other hockey players. He made skating and stickhandling look effortless and became one of the best captains the Erie Otters Organization has ever had. While he was in Erie, he led the team to a Western Conference Championship game, in which they won in 2015.

The former Erie Otter was named the number one draft pick in the National Hockey League and was drafted by the Edmonton Oilers. This led him to his rookie career on the team, where he unfortunately suffered from a collarbone injury that forced him to miss 37 games his first season. Despite this injury, McDavid was still able to produce 48 points in 45 games. The young hockey star's playing ability and statistics during his rookie season earned him the captain position with the Oilers in the 2016-2017 season, and he was the youngest hockey player of all time to be named a captain. This title was impressive considering that the Oilers management made this decision based off of only 45 games.

Stats from the 2020-2021 NHL season indicate that McDavid scored 12 goals and acquired 25 assists. This assist to goal ratio is common through the seasons with McDavid, even going back to junior hockey when I would watch him play. He is a valuable player who is willing to pass the puck to teammates rather than being concerned about scoring himself. Throughout his career, he has won many awards for his playing. He won the Hart Memorial Trophy, Art Ross Trophy, Ted Lindsay Award, and was named to the NHL All-Star team.

McDavid has had an exceptional career in the National Hockey League and has been placed in a situation where he could surpass the achievements of many hockey greats such as Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Bobby Orr, and Sidney Crosby. According to Wayne Gretzky, McDavid is as good as he's seen in the past 30 years (via National Post.) If there is any truth to Wayne Gretzky's opinion, Connor McDavid only has the present and future to contain. He is still very young and will have time to get more points and grow as a hockey player, which is part of the reason why I think he will become the greatest player of all time. If he can tie records with great hockey players such as Sidney Crosby being so young,

he can only get better as he gets older. He is going to be named as one of the best hockey players in the National Hockey League and will make history in Edmonton just as he did in Erie.