

Title: Evaluating NHL Point Production Forecasting Methods for Russian Skaters

One of the best ways to understand the skills of a prospect is through international tournaments among their age group and skill level as it allows for direct comparison against prospects in more familiar development systems. For recently drafted Russian prospects, this has not been possible for several years for a variety of reasons. This project attempts to simulate the first five years in the NHL of Russian skaters drafted in the first three rounds of the NHL Draft from 2020-2023 by comparing their weighted pre-NHL performance to that of Russian NHL players from 2004-2012 with similar development paths. All data was collected from QuantHockey and analysed in R using the forecast and tidyverse. This resulted in six forecasting models on point production based on position and a logistic regression for likelihood of reaching the NHL. I found that the logistic regression had a McFadden value approaching 1 while the most effective forecasting models for forwards and defenders were within 2 standard deviations from the dataset. This project shows that statistical models can give insight into outcomes from particular development systems in cases where comparative viewing is limited. It does not however, negate the necessity of watching prospects as numbers alone are unable to identify all of the strengths and weaknesses of a particular prospect.