



MONTRÉAL CANADIENS

There's a new regime in La Belle Province, and they'll get to reshape one of hockey's most storied franchises in their image, starting with their pick of the litter in this year's draft. The Montréal Canadiens are on the clock.

How Kent Hughes and Co. handle this draft will determine the strength of their foundation as they rebuild this franchise from the ground up after finishing dead last in the NHL with a 22-49-11 record and 55 points. They've already laid the groundwork, parting with veterans ahead of last year's trade deadline for a bounty of picks and prospects, but now the hard part awaits -- drafting and developing NHL talent with those assets.

That task will largely fall in the hands of co-Dirs. of Amateur Scouting Martin LaPointe and Nikolai Bobrov. They head up a new look amateur scouting department following the dismissal of Trevor Timmons last November, and each will play a critical role in shaping this team's future.

They'll have no shortage of opportunities to prove their quality in this year's draft either. Montréal boasts an embarrassment of riches in their war chest, highlighted by six of the first 75 picks in this year's draft and 14 total.

LaPointe has been with the franchise since the 2012-13 season, and the hope is that he played a considerable role in the Canadiens improved fortunes at the draft in recent years, the last one notwithstanding. The Habs farm

system ranked 6th-highest in the league when our scouts last did our prospect pool rankings articles, and they featured four of the top 75 affiliated prospects outside of the NHL at that same time.

Bobrov only joined the club mid-season to ascend to the co-directorship after six-plus years with the New York Rangers as their Dir. of European Scouting. Now, assigning credit for good and bad results at the draft to individuals is always a fraught endeavour -- it's a group effort, any scout will tell you that -- but his work with the Rangers doesn't exactly leave one brimming with confidence. Most scouts view a passable draft as one that yields two NHL players for every seven picks, and the Rangers have gone two for 19 thus far in the 2016-2019 drafts with players from his region since he assumed the role of Dir. of European Scouting, with some pretty high-profile misses along the way (Lias Andersson, Vitali Kravtsov, etc.).

The Canadiens don't have any glaring needs in their system, short of a franchise centre, and they're uniquely positioned to find one without overextending themselves. They're one of the few teams you can take at their word when they say that they're drafting the best player available rather than chasing a positional need. And if they get it right, they've got this rebuild on the fast track.



GENERAL MANAGER

Kent Hughes

TEAM SCOUTS

Donald Audette
Serge Boisvert
Nick Carrière
Bobby Kinsella
Michal Krupa
Hannu Laine
Tommy Lehmann
David MacLean
Vincent Riendeau
Christer Rockström
Ben Shutron
Reid Simpson
Yannick St-Pierre
Artyom Telepin
Matt Turek



WHAT THEY DO WELL

The Canadiens failings in the drafting and development department are well-documented, but one area where this group has excelled is in mining blue line talent. Jordan Harris, Mattias Norlinder, Jayden Struble, and Kaiden Guhle are as formidable a stable of blueliners as you're likely to find not currently plying their trade in the NHL.

WHAT THEY DO *NOT SO WELL*

Development. This team has struggled in recent years to get players even close to reaching their potential, and that's a great way to undo a lot of good work at the draft. That Jesperi Kotkaniemi turned into a late first-round pick after three seasons with their organization just about says it all.

SYSTEM NEEDS

Centre, Left Wing, Right Wing

2022 DRAFT CAPITAL

1, 29
ROUND 1

33, 54
ROUND 2

65, 94
ROUND 3

97, 121, 122
ROUND 4

129
ROUND 5

161
ROUND 6

193, 216
ROUND 7



1
Rank

A
Grade

7
Skating

7
Shooting

8
Passing

7.5
Puckhandling

6
Hockey Sense

6
Physical

SHANE WRIGHT

CENTRE | KINGSTON FRONTENACS

HEIGHT 6' 1" D.O.B. JAN. 5, 2004
WEIGHT 187 SHOOTS RIGHT

"I take a lot of pride in doing everything right and being able to play in all situations. Just overall being reliable. Go wherever the coach wants to put me and that's been a strength of my game. Doing everything right. I like the center position and the defensive part of that." - Shane Wright, March 2022

SHADES OF: Patrice Bergeron

N/A

2021 XLS

N/A

3Y REGR.
bXLS

N/A

3Y REGR.
iXLS

N/A

SEAL Adj.
PTS/82

LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS
OHL	63	32	62	94
WJC-20	2	0	1	1

Scouting Report

In a draft year shaped by formidable depth rather than overwhelming star power, it's almost fitting that the least exciting option at first overall is the right one. Better still, the Shane Wright one, if you'll allow us that clunky pun.

That Wright would end up in that spot may have seemed like a foregone conclusion a year or two ago, but the gap year that the OHL's lost 2020-21 season forced on Wright (and countless others) left him slow out of the gates. Two months of good-not-great production was enough to make the question of the first overall pick an open one for some, with new answers in the form of Logan Cooley, David Jiříček,

and Šimon Nemec emerging as possibilities.

But just as that conversation started to begin in earnest, Wright reminded the scouting community of his quality, ending many of those conversations emphatically. The 1.15 point per game clip that he ran through October and November turned to 1.36 by the end of the calendar year. From there, it just kept climbing until Wright had amassed 94 points in 63 regular season contests by the season's end, good for a 1.49 point per game clip.

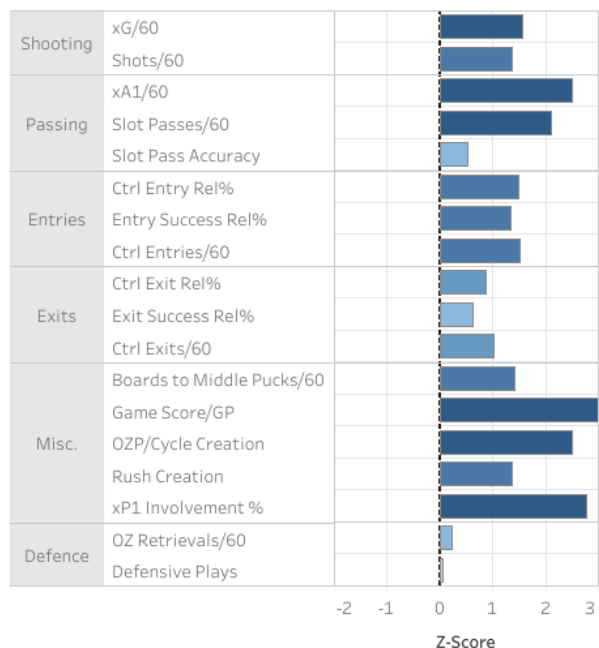
It's still the lowest draft year points per game mark of any CHL first overall pick this side of Rick Nash in 2001, but a more

Shane Wright

F | Kingston Frontenacs | 2022 Eligible

Games Tracked: 13 | Minutes Tracked: 236.1

Data tracked by Mitchell Brown (@MitchLBrown) | 5v5 only



selective and perhaps representative sample from December onward gets Wright to 1.63 points per game. That's more than Nico Hischier in 2017 and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins in 2011.

Shifting our focus from the question of how many to how, Wright is this draft's premier play-connector; an on-ice administrator through which his team's offensive and defensive sequences flow.

By constantly surveying the ice, Wright maintains a mental map of his surroundings with a downright topographical level of detail. He knows the position of his teammates like they're a long-established fact rather than a dynamic, changing set of options on the playing field, and moves the puck to them with a matching level of confidence.

Look-off passes, the give-and-go, one- and two-touch passes, reach-adjusted passing -- Wright's mastered every one of these tools en route to becoming one of the game's best playmaking centres not currently in the NHL.

Not content to be just a one-dimensional scorer, Wright pairs his

cunning as a distributor with a high-level shot (even if it's a little mechanically peculiar) that's especially potent off the pass and some of the best hands in the class. He's the complete package offensively.

We would, of course, feel better about Wright's shot if he used it a little more judiciously rather than settling for low percentage shots under pressure, but that's a minor quibble for as scalable an offensive toolkit as you'll find in this class.

Then there's his play in the defensive zone. Wright's defensive reads, angles, and support play are beyond reproach. There may not be an Art Ross in his future, but the Frank J. Selke seems well within reach. We don't make the Patrice Bergeron comparison lightly, after all.

All of these factors combined to make Wright the consensus first overall pick for the Elite Prospects scouting staff. You just don't come across many players this polished or this well-rounded at 18-years-old, and that's too much to pass up on if you're holding first overall in this July's draft.

Game Reports

Mitchell Brown: April 9th, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Mississauga Steelheads - OHL

Wright did the Wright stuff. The off-puck game remains the selling point. But it's not just defence. It's how he uses give-and-gos, off-puck skating, and positioning to obtain and then extend offensive zone time. The early passes that he makes really pop. Where most players try to beat the defender, he simply passes to the open teammate and lets them manage the space. He's probably the best runway manufacturer I've ever seen at this level.

Now, the shooting decisions are a bit concerning. He doesn't manipulate defenders or consistently play off their heels. When he has opportunities to take the inside, he angles his feet towards the net and shoots. There's nothing wrong with low-percentage shots, but he needs to move parallel to the boards or cut inside to move the goaltender -- right now, he's shooting based on the goalie, instead of dictating the terms of the exchange.

That will hinder his shooting effectiveness a bit in the NHL. Clean it up, and he's an easy No. 1 centre.

David St-Louis: March 25th, 2022

Mississauga Steelheads vs Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

Wright had a lot of occasions to make plays in this game and we saw a bit more of his playmaking potential. He identifies teammates quickly and feeds the puck to them. I also wonder how far his anticipation "extends", as sometimes it seems like he is just throwing pucks to areas, expecting teammates to be there.

There were a few hope plays that were counterbalanced by the other sequences where he leveraged a good opportunity for himself into an even better one for a teammates.

He was still the same off-puck threat, showing an ability to position himself at the right angle, at the right speed to get pucks. He scored. He was left alone in the slot, but also controlled his skating to remain there, free of coverage.

Mitchell Brown: March 16th, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Ottawa 67's - OHL

More incredible plays from Wright in this game, including of the coolest give-and-gos I've seen in a while. On an interception, he dropped the puck back between his legs to a teammate, then turned his head to watch the puck carrier while turning over his inside leg, his preferring shooting leg. The puck came back, he fired immediately off the pass. If it wasn't for the block, it was a goal.

Some classic Wright plays, too: slip passes to get teammates with speed in transition, combining off-puck skating with playmaking, and cutting back to wait for better options. Sometimes, he'd benefit from exploding out of his cutback and cutting inside himself, rather than extending the cycle. Still scored off the latter play, however. His shot's better off the pass than when he's winding up and ripping -- hands in front, elbow up, generating downforce, comfortable shooting with his feet and body misaligned. The form will improve and he already has impressive power and control for a shot with such shoulder lean. There's nothing really more to say about Wright. He's one of the most intelligent, scalable prospects we've seen in the past few years.

Mitchell Brown: February 23rd, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Ottawa 67's - OHL

This was the standard Wright performance: choosing the best play, but executing in the subtlest way possible. At 5-on-5 alone, he took 10 shots, set up seven more, gained the offensive zone seven times, and pickpocketed the opposition six times. There were a couple of ways he could've improved the looks he created: cutting inside earlier to get a better angle on his shot and delaying a second longer before passing. But nothing major. This was a strong performance, and a much more aggressive one than normal. Combination of off- and on-puck skills created two dominant shifts, where he created multiple looks as the puck flowed through him every other touch. Sometimes, Wright needs to keep the puck on his stick and make it happen on

his own. But he plays a highly projectable, adaptable game with some many details that it's tough to see him becoming anything less than a top-six forward.

David St-Louis: February 12th, 2022

Mississauga Steelheads vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

This was one of the better performances I've seen from Shane Wright. Again, I didn't necessarily see any kind of dynamic ability from him, but he got rewarded for his style of game. He created space for himself by controlling his speed off the rush, linked plays together (give-and-goes), and reloaded above the play, making it hard for the opposition to organize a clean attack, especially at the end of the game when Kingston was leading. Puck management can improve (forced passes, too slow on the execution at times), but also some nice, quick, and precise feeds to set up others. This is the game to watch if you want to understand Wright's strengths and weaknesses. It reassures me a bit about his potential.

Lauren Kelly: February 12th, 2022

Mississauga Steelheads vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

I think this was the strongest viewing I've had of Wright all season. Yes, he wasn't on the line that contributed most of the offence tonight, but he still had a very respectable four points (and all primary points, too). Had a great feed on the opening goal, where his shot was looking for the tip the whole way. There was an aggression to his play that I hadn't seen before prior to tonight and it nearly resulted in several breakaways because he was pressuring puck carriers and stealing pucks off of them.

Another sequence he stickhandled through three Steelheads players with another player draped on top of him, and he still managed to get a high velocity shot off. Buried the rebound on the doorstep for Kingston's fourth goal, and then had two solid assists in the seventh and eighth goals to cap off his night. His positioning all game long was solid, his awareness on the ice continues to impress and he was making smart defensive reads as well. I'm hopeful that this level of play can continue from him and silence his (many) detractors, because this is exactly what I was hoping to see from him.

David St-Louis: February 9th, 2022

Peterborough Petes vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

Wright showed his handling skills in tight spaces a bit more in this game, but he's still play-shy, missing occasions to cut inside, attack the net, use his physical potential and physical skills (which are there). He lacked a bit of urgency to repair defensive mistakes. He has the right ideas but can't execute sometimes, too. The story continues with Wright. I don't see any real improvement in his game since the start of the season and the low-pace is starting to

annoy me. He could crush teams and he doesn't do it. I'm starting to have some hockey sense doubts, too, with the infrequent scanning and the same patterns repeated every shift.

David St-Louis: February 3rd, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Barrie Colts - OHL

I still don't know what to make of Wright's shot. I really don't like his form, but maybe it's a good one, a potentially effective one against NHL netminders and I'm just not seeing it. There were more instances of manipulation from Wright in this game, off the rush and in the offensive zone, look-offs and weight shift fakes. I'm always surprised at how little Wright scans, like he always has the game in his mind already and he knows where teammates are. It's probably a good sign as he's still aware. One thing he has to work on: cutting in the space of defenders to attack the slot; he doesn't see his occasions to do it or chooses to not do it.

Lauren Kelly: February 3rd, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Barrie Colts - OHL

Wright's line was dominant all game long, and their efforts were finally rewarded with Wright's goal in the second period. It almost looked like he intentionally adjusted the power and velocity of his release to fool the goalie (sort of like a changeup pitch in baseball?). When Wright would rush the puck up the ice, he had a tendency to drive wide and then pass off, but when he didn't, he would skate straight up the middle and I liked that he wasn't afraid to act as the screen on some shifts. His puckhandling and awareness were far beyond pretty much everyone on the ice, he was stealing pucks, pressuring puck carriers, forcing turnovers, creating shorthanded chances (including a give-and-go one-timer in the slot he got off on one knee). He picked up a secondary assist on Kingston's second goal and probably could have scored more than once, too (he had four shots on goal).

Mitchell Brown: January 28th, 2022

Oshawa Generals vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

This was the perfect game to summarize Wright's season thus far: impressive, but could've been better. His strengths remain the off-puck game: finding ways to get open in every possible scenario, supporting the puck perfectly, and leveraging those two abilities to link defensive stops into offensive chances. Subtle body positioning plays like picks and nondescript off-puck stick lifts to disrupt defenders and create space for his teammates. Fast release, even for inside leg wrister standards, but it comes at the expense of actual power on the shot. And without diversifying the timing of his release (like how Elias Pettersson does), he'll struggle to make that shot work consistently in the NHL. Not a big deal.

But, I question Wright's effectiveness as a playmaker at times.

He's always in the right position to make the next play, and he's clearly a skilled down-low playmaking. But, he fails to identify passes to the trailer and he unnecessarily delays with possession on breakouts, but doesn't show that same desire to delay in the offensive end. The most concerning sequence was a normal rush: Wright obtained the puck with a teammate in the slot and in front of him on the strong side rushing the net. He looked away then threw a pass into the slot – but no one was there. That also highlighted the poor off-puck skating of his linemates, a consistent theme, but a high-level playmaker manipulates the nearest defender to hit the through pass. Will this even really matter in the NHL, a league where players finish their routes? Probably not. His road to a top-six C role in the NHL might as well be an empty 10-lane highway. Could be a 1C? Absolutely, but he'll need to add a better delay game, diversify his shot, and deviate from the script more often.

David St-Louis: January 27th, 2022

Peterborough Petes vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

Wright's off-puck game is still the best part of it. He makes runs to get himself open, slows down, and also moves to areas purposely to drag defenders away from the path of teammates; he's another football player, just like Matvei Michkov, except not as smart or skilled. His spacing is great all over the ice. Defensively, he doesn't overextend, but waits for the right moment to engage, to aggressively go into battle. In breakouts, he draws the right arc to give the largest passing windows to teammates, and he in transition, he looks to involve teammates at every occasion. Unfortunately, this reduces the pace of his game a bit too much.

He was generally low-paced in this game, a bit nonchalant again. We know that motor is the thing that improves the most in prospects in general, so I'm not too worried, but still, a little more energy would go a long way sometimes, without killing his "spider" mentality. With the puck, he passes quickly. He's aware of the next play, of the position of his teammates. He can't really open lanes and his retrievals have to improve. He fails his escapes because he doesn't prepare them well enough. Some creative plays, like a lob net-front when too far from the net and no clear lane to fire. The lob deflected, just like he intended, and luckily, ended up behind the goalie. I've never seen a player do that.

Mitchell Brown: January 23rd, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Oshawa Generals - OHL

Solid, but a wildly inefficient performance from Wright. Failed to connect on a bunch of passes to the inside lane, but it was the ones that he failed to identify altogether that were more concerning. He kept the puck on his backhand to throw a puck into the slot when he should've either move it to the forehand first or gone for a spin. Passed into areas where teammates weren't

(and yes, his teammates probably should've been in those areas). Later on, he missed a pass on the backhand to the inside to extend the cycle needlessly. Forced passes through a defenders, and several times, took low percentage shots instead of cutting inside, delaying, or trying to do, well, anything else. There was the usual great stuff from Wright: the off-puck offence, the defence, the ability to get pucks off the boards in transition. And it's easy to see how his game will scale to the NHL. But will he be a true play-driving 1C? Not sure anymore.

David St-Louis: January 21th, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Hamilton Bulldogs - OHL

The fan base of the team that drafts Shane Wright first overall will be disappointed. There is no flash to his game, no dynamism, no pace, no motor, no significantly high-end technical ability, nothing really interesting to grab on to, except the weird shot. Wright might be effective in the NHL, even next year (I doubt it), and he might become a good second-line center due to his habits, but he won't contribute to making the sports more exciting, to give hope to a fan base, or fuel their imagination. He is quiet. Not much more to add about this performance. He made the good play most of the time; I like the non-forced plays and the high delays when he has nothing open. He was there in the right position. He played defence, but had one really weird angle on a close-out that cost a goal. I mean, get it. I get him. I'm just disappointed that there is not more growth in his game and I'm really checking to see if I'm not keeping him first overall based on imagined stuff, based on my love of the off-puck offensive game (which he is great at), something that I'm not sure holds as much value as I want in the NHL.

David St-Louis: January 18th, 2022

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Hamilton Bulldogs - OHL

More of the same. Most of Wright's plays failed in this one, but he faced overwhelming pressure most of the time. His linemates aren't all that good at drawing defenders to themselves, which makes it very hard for Wright to sneak in open areas. He showed some interesting rush patterns, he's clever about his movements, but his wall-play needs work. He can't seal pucks or shake defenders all that well at the moment, but you see the start of a good technique (tries to cut at the hands, turns back...). With the puck, Wright uses a lot of the same patterns in games. The lack of creativity is a bit concerning.

Lauren Kelly: January 14th, 2022

Sudbury Wolves vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

This was Wright's first game back in Kingston in over a month, and his first since returning from the World Juniors. He looked rusty. Bobbled a couple of passes early on, and his timing on

set plays was just off. He settled in a little more as the game continued, with strong reads off the boards, just pure dominance with puck protection and control on a few sequences where he was impossible to push off the puck or strip possession of. On one instance he stickhandled through the offensive zone with a player on top of him without losing possession, drawing more defenders to him to get his linemates open before passing off.

For what might be the first time this season, Wright was driving play in this game, whether it was carrying the puck over the blueline on zone entries or breaking the puck out of his own end. He was constantly on the puck in the offensive zone and showed off some beautiful vision on passes.

It's unfortunate it didn't end up resulting in any production (the score was woefully lopsided in Sudbury's favour by the end), but this was exactly the kind of performance I was hoping to see from Wright after a couple of quiet games at the World Juniors.

David St-Louis: December 26th, 2021

Czechia vs. Canada - WJC-20

A quiet game from Wright. Once again, he isn't showing anything exceptional in terms of creation abilities, but he is the same possession-driving, supportive forward. He constantly cuts opponents at the hands to seal possession.

I like how that is first goal in puck races. He doesn't gun for the loose disc; he adapts his speed to slip in front of opponents and really make sure he gets first touch. Otherwise, he made a couple of crafty passes through opponents and drove the net. I would have liked him to be a little more fierce in those drives, to really battle for positioning.

David St-Louis: December 5th, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Oshawa Generals - OHL

The effort, the engagement, and urgency were a bit better in this game, but he wasn't scanning as much as I remember defensively and he was not pressing checks as fast as he could. His game really lacks the intensity that makes good shutdown players. I do like his engaging habits though, his desire to establish body positioning, cut opponents at the hands, the way he leads with his stick in battles. He definitely understands the positioning and gap game. It's just a matter of increasing the motor to go along with it all...Not sure it's really in his nature.

Wright is a passive game reader, but the intensity will be drilled into him by a couple of coaches at the higher levels. Wright also scored a couple of points off some clever passing plays. He knows where the puck has to move next and how to move to open the lane and when to feed it. His timing, deception, and precision as a passer are some of the best in the draft. I'm mostly disappointed in my viewings of him overall this season, however. I expected more.

Mitchell Brown: December 2nd, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Peterborough Petes - OHL

Wright was impressive this game, probably the best player in this game. He showed more creativity in the NZ than in previous viewings, beating defenders before even engaging with them through eye deception, weight shifts, and changes of pace. In the NZ, he consistently attacks the inside and changes lanes to get his teammates involved. The shot's one of his many quirks. Shows a strong preference for shooting off his inside leg, almost exclusively by dropping his shoulders over top of his stick. He's very deceptive within that posture – he fires out of quick stickhandles, keeps his blade closed, and uses his hand positioning (unique: very close to his body while setting up the shot, then suddenly drives both hands forward and pulls back; in full speed it almost looks like he's firing from his hip) to mask his release. It's powerful and he has a shocking amount of control over his shot, in a posture that usually reduces both.

Rarely shoots off his outside leg and when he does, it's weak and requires a lengthy set up because he defaults to tilting his shoulders for downforce instead of kicking out his rear leg. Wright's involved so involved because of his combining of scoring movements, supporting reads, and rate of threat/option identification. He's an elite connector who doesn't force many plays, but it often feels like he's playing below his actual skill level. He had opportunities to cut inside in the OZ and didn't take them. He didn't look for teammates through layers, preferring to make the simple pass. Wright clearly has 1C upside, but I don't see him as an elite player.

Lauren Kelly: November 28th, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Mississauga Steelheads - OHL

Just because Wright isn't producing doesn't mean he's struggling or even under-achieving. He may not have picked up any points in this game (and took a holding penalty), but Wright was still finding space, connecting plays with his teammates, closing off players from pucks, and winning key faceoffs. When Wright senses a puck carrier's hesitation, he's able to strip them quite easily and turn play up the other way immediately, and he did it multiple times in this game. He and Ludwinski were back on the same line for parts of this game (likely with multiple teammates at the Capital City Challenge, the team is trying different combinations to find something that works), and I thought that they looked better on separate lines than together. They didn't seem to have much chemistry together and sometimes got in each others' way on the ice. Still Wright seemed to have no problem taking control of the puck himself and firing shots (some of which went wide, two registered as shots on goal). His off-puck play was especially impressive in this game.

Mitchell Brown: November 27th, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Hamilton Bulldogs - OHL

Additional viewings of Wright seem to generate more questions than they answer. He has several obvious high-end prospect details: the off-puck movement and timing, the puck protection, the quick-possession playmaking and rapid option ID'ing, and the well-timed defensive reads. This was a more aggressive game from Wright than I've seen this season, looking to beat players with individual skill, attacking the inside, and winning battles through assertiveness over positioning. There were several awful plays: several breakout passes to no one (failure to scan), a failed deke in the NZ (poor set up), and missed defensive opportunities. He scored with a wicked inside leg wrister – significant lean (bad) but his control of the puck and quickness of his hands inside the shot seem to defy most shooting conventions.

Outside leg shoot looked rough. While he kicks out his back leg, the downforce comes from the dropping of his chest and angling of his hips towards the puck – limiting power, control, and, well, the shot's effectiveness. Nonetheless, he transitions from crossovers and strides into the shot quickly, far faster than the average player. Passed for deflections on the PP, but gets too reliant on the same play to the net (still resulted in 2 goals tonight). Missed some better passing opportunities at 5-on-5, and passed when he should've extended possession. He'll raise his level to his teammates around him (as off-puck, exchange-focused players often do), but the key to Wright reaching another level will be how much more daring he gets with the puck. He often has the right set-up to put himself in a favourable position (give-and-go, delay with the puck), but doesn't make the best play with the advantage he just created.

Lauren Kelly: November 13th, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Mississauga Steelheads - OHL

Wright started off slow at the beginning but got a lot better as the game wore on. He had a pretty bad giveaway early trying to clear the puck that went across the ice to an opposing player. He also got walked around by DelBelBelluz on the first goal against. That seemed to wake him up a bit, because he was a lot stronger afterwards. There were several instances where he was stickchecking in the offensive zone and forced turnovers, and another great steal in the neutral zone to get off a shorthanded scoring chance. Wright showed off some good stickhandling under pressure and was creating in transition, including a nice pass to Hache for the 3-3 goal. He was dominant in overtime, showing off great passes with more space, had a good backcheck on Hardie to prevent a scoring chance, and was stopped on the backhand at the end of the extra frame before scoring the shootout winner.

Lauren Kelly: November 7th, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Peterborough Petes - OHL

Watching Shane Wright on video really doesn't do justice to how truly good he is. The details of his game, which were already quite impressive, stood out even more in person. He was actually really elusive in the offensive zone in this game - you'd think he'd draw most of the attention on the ice, but he was able to find the holes in the offensive zone to create scoring chances, and it paid off with four assists in this one. Wright's vision is incredible to watch - he was finding teammates passes through skates, and if there wasn't an option to pass then he was firing high-danger shots himself (and if the Petes goalie hadn't been so good in the first half of the game maybe he would've scored on one of his seven shots on goal).

His defensive play was equally solid; he read plays well and was never out of position or at fault on goals against. The one thing to note was a slowish backcheck - where someone like Paul Ludwinski is charging back to his own end like there's no tomorrow, Wright was a lot more casual and calm in his retreat back to his own end. But where that behaviour would seem questionable for other prospects, Wright's slow pace seemed intentional and he was never too far behind the play for it to become a problem.

Mitchell Brown: November 3rd, 2021

Mississauga Steelheads vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

Wright looked like more of a connector than a true creator in this game. An elite connector, mind you. He delivers the puck to his teammates at the right time in the right area. Deceives, but never too much, timing his passes immediately with the reaction of the defender.

Never seems rushed into making decisions. Fills space at the right times -- a rare player who consistently occupies dangerous space accessible with an easy pass for his teammates. The shot's weird but explosive, generating downforce by dropping his shoulder over his inside leg instead of generating force with the distance between his feet.

His hands are usually very tight to the body, but he pushes them forward and back inside extremely fast during the release -- weird quirk. He wasn't particularly interested in engaging defensively this game, but was strong in support as usual.

Biggest issue is his lack of dynamic qualities. Several times, he could've changed pace to pull in defenders, and then find the open teammate. Instead, he just dumped the puck in. Sometimes, he had easy options but was so locked into playing a simple game that he failed to spot them altogether. I question the ultimate play-driving upside here, but he looks like a 1C who thrives with a pair of creative linemates.

J.D. Burke: October 22nd, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Peterborough Petes - OHL

Wright managed to play as unremarkable a game of hockey as I've seen from the year's prohibitive favourite for the No. 1 overall pick in the midst of a commanding 6-1 victory over the Petes. He didn't register a single point, only had two shots on goal, and left with an even goal differential in about 14 minutes of mostly toothless hockey. The skill level is undeniable, and there were flashes. Skated into numbers on one entry into the offensive zone, then violently shifted his weight outside to create a shooting lane and must've left three defenders in his dust in the process. Didn't really make much of that opportunity, though. Drew a penalty by keeping his feet moving going for a puck retrieval. His defensive work in this contest was unbelievably strong. Great reads, perfectly timed interventions, and a high work rate. It's only one game, but the lack of any creativity here left a bit of a bad taste in my mouth. Then again, only one game.

David St-Louis: October 10th, 2021

Ottawa 67s vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

Wright understands the game at a deeper level than everyone else on the ice. He doesn't rush himself if not needed and doesn't fall behind the play. He's right where he needs to be most of the time, if not all the time. He foresees the formation of pockets of space and calculates how the play is likely to unfold. He is right more often in those guesses than most. Defensively, he is there. Perfect positioning, above the puck, in support. He connects plays all over the ice. With the puck, he doesn't force passes if something is not open; he knows his options ahead and behind him. And he understands game concept like changes of side and turning feet to create space for the attack and teammates. His pace is medium, but like I said, it is probably a consequence of not having to rush himself. I still want more out of him. He failed most of his one-on-one in this game, lacking the manipulative skills in those situations that usually characterize number one overall picks. He didn't create lanes for shots, but fired at shin pads. I want to see more dynamic qualities. Not sure they are needed to make him an NHL No. 1 C, as teammates could fill that gap, just like Patrice Bergeron (Rachel Doerrie's comparison and a fitting one for me) receives creative help from Marchand and Pastrnak.

EP Rinkside Staff: October 10th, 2021

Ottawa 67s vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

Tonight was a shining example of why Wright will be successful at the next level. Fatigue was clearly an issue given 3 games in 2.5 days, and his details were spot on. He wasn't offensively great, but defensively, he was top notch. He consistently is in the right spots to support the puck all over the ice, made excellent plays to jump start the breakout and won a lot of puck battles by getting

low and digging the puck out to move to a teammate. When his defenceman turned the puck over, he made a diving play to break up what was a 2on0 in his own end. Those are the types of things that win games and his details on the defensive side stood out. Offensively, he generated 5 scoring chances, 3 in the third period - including a great release off the post. On the PP, he used good speed to beat the penalty killer to the outside and get a chance off the rush. He scored right at the net front while falling down and managed to get his stick free through 2 bodies and the goalie - impressive. He set up chances for his teammates as well, with his line leading the way creating 11 chances. Overall, a good two-way showing, which I expect will lead to more crooked numbers on the scoresheet.

Lauren Kelly: October 10th, 2021

Ottawa 67s vs. Kingston Frontenacs - OHL

Fatigue seemed to be an issue in this game, not just for Wright but for the Frontenacs as a whole (understandable given this was their third game in three nights). Wright still landed on the scoresheet with a goal, managing to get off a one-timer at the top of the crease while he was falling. He was still trying to set up teammates when he did have the puck, but either they couldn't receive them properly, or his passes were intercepted (the 67s definitely learned from the season opener because they were much more effective at shutting down Kingston's offence). He drew opponents to him when he had the puck and maintained control. Wright was still effective and honestly quite impressive off the puck, though. He was a fierce competitor in puck battles, using both his stick to free the puck and body to pin others to the boards. He used his stick to force turnovers, and came back to support the play when it was necessary. As a penalty killer, he used an active stick and was positionally sound, disrupted passes and blocked shots. This was a really solid showing for Wright as far as his defensive contributions and strengths go.

Lauren Kelly: October 8th, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Ottawa 67s - OHL

Wright's on-ice habits are just so mature - he's constantly active in the neutral zone, looking to force turnovers. He shoulder checks in the defensive zone and comes back deep to help his defensemen - his second assist in this game came from an outlet pass where he was below the hash marks in his own end. Wright senses openings and opportunities far before they appear. He's always the last forward into the offensive zone if he doesn't have the puck, in case play gets turned over, but he's also unafraid to drive to the net without the puck if he's confident his teammates will maintain possession. His lone goal in this game was just a wicked snipe, and he had all the time in the world to adjust his angle and load up to shoot. Having Wright on the ice is almost like



having a third defenseman on the ice at times, especially when it comes to breakouts. If there's a defenseman who's jumped up or just out of position, Wright will recognize that and come back to help fill that open gap on the ice. Even as the game grew out of reach, Wright never took his foot off the gas pedal. His ability to maintain control of the puck in such small spaces and evade defenders is quite impressive.

David St-Louis: October 8th, 2021

Kingston Frontenacs vs. Ottawa 67s - OHL

I don't think I've ever seen such an elite Junior player so willing to include his teammates in the attack. Wright always looks for the one-touch plays, the give-and-gos, the drop passes...He builds scoring chances as a team. His skills and approach to the game are quite complementary. He is a passer first and foremost in transition and an off-puck threat/shooter in the offensive zone. I don't think he will ever be a "carry" type of player in the NHL due to his lack of dynamic qualities (although his tools project as quite above-average), but he will fit any combination of lines and blend with high-skill teammates, higher-event ones well. One surprising element: the lack of scanning. Wright's shoulder-checking rate is quite low. He anticipates the game so well that sometimes it doesn't matter and the low head movement give him deceptive qualities, but still. I think he will benefit from even more awareness. He made a couple bad decisions this game because his mental map of the ice wasn't updated properly. His

effort on a few plays was also questionable, but it's early in the season.

David St-Louis: May 1st, 2021

Team Canada vs Team Belarus - WJ18

It was a strong positional performance from the projected number one overall pick, offensively and defensively. Wright understands how to support the play, how to control his speed to give passing options and to remain in range to jump in battles if needed, without becoming overaggressive and forfeiting defensive side positioning. The puck didn't stay on his stick very long; he moved it into space as soon as possible, but not before attracting defensive pressure on himself first. He scored two goals, including one on a deceptive and well-timed movement to the slot; he went down the funnel as the puck moved below the goal-line and fired far-side on the goalie on reception, leaving him no chance of making a save. His release has some quirks, but he more than makes it work. He fires quickly (with no drawback, straight out of the stickhandling motion) and deceptively. He times his release (and passes) with screens and he can also fake another play first to surprise the goalie.

I didn't see many great playmaking sequences from him in this game, however. He was mostly an off-puck threat. Wright could scan the ice even more before getting the puck. He was caught anticipating lanes or plays that never manifested themselves a few times. Overall, not an exceptional performance from the 17-year-old, but a very projectable one.