

2012 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Minnesota Players and Minnesota Connections

The **2012 Stanley Cup 2nd Round** has begun and they should be as interesting as the 1st round and hopefully even better but that might be asking a little too much. Since the Minnesota Wild missed the playoffs (for the 4th straight season), I thought I'd put together a list of Minnesota hockey players and players with Minnesota connections to let everyone know there's still a reason to watch the games and cheer for some former Wild players and players from Minnesota.

I also included players that played hockey in Minnesota for at least a whole season meaning their home games were in Minnesota.

I included some interesting facts in there as well.

These are by seed and opponent:

Eastern Conference

#1 Seed New York Rangers vs #7 Seed Washington Capitals

New York Rangers

#/Name	Pos.	GP	2011-12 Stats G A Pts	Birthplace	Connection to MN
#41 Stu Bickel	D	51	0 9 9	Chanhausen, MN	2007-8 Univ. of MN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> undrafted; one season with the Gophers in 2007-8 and he signed with Anaheim 					
#10 Marian Gaborik	RW	82	41 35 76	Trencin, SVK	2000-9 MN Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted by Minnesota in 2000 1st round (3rd overall); Minnesota Wild's All-time Goal Leader with 219, All-time Points leader with 437, Single-season goal leader with 42 (& #2 w/38), Single-season points leader with 83 and All-time Injury leader with 35 (Does that seem high?) 					
#27 Ryan McDonagh	D	82	7 25 32	St. Paul, MN	HS(Cretin-Derham Hall)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted in 2007 1st round (12th overall) by Montreal, Acquired by NYR as part of the Scott Gomez trade; won 2007 Minnesota Mr. Hockey Award; played college hockey at Univ. of Wisconsin 					
#38 Michael Sauer	D	19	1 2 3	St. Cloud, MN	HS (St. Cloud Tech)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted by Rangers in 2005 40th overall, draft pick was acquired by Ranger in the Brian Leetch trade; younger brother of Kurt Sauer (Phoenix Coyotes) and former MN Vikings Linebacker Craig Sauer; made NHL Debut at Madison Square Garden on March 24th, 2009 against....the Minnesota Wild 					
#28 John Scott	D	35	0 1 1	Edmonton, AB, CAN	2008-10 MN Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> undrafted, 6' 8", 270 lbs., played 4 years at Michigan Tech, does this to Canucks 					
#21 Derek Stepan	C	82	17 34 51	Hastings, MN	HS (Hastings)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted in 2008 2nd round (51st overall) by New York Rangers; Dad, Brad, was also drafted by 					

Rangers, in 1985; captain and led 2010 USA World JR Championship team to the Gold with 4 G & 10 A which also led the tourney; 4th player to have a hat trick in his first career game in the NHL

Washington Capitals

#/Name	Pos.	GP	2011-12 Stats G A Pts	Birthplace	Connection to MN
#26 Matt Hendricks	C	78	4 5 9	Blaine, MN	2000-4 St. Cloud State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted in 2000 5th round (131st overall) by Nashville; played High School Hockey at Blaine High School winning the State Championship in 2000; toughed it out in the minors from 2004 to 2009 before getting a chance with Colorado in the NHL 					
#42 Joel Ward	RW	73	6 12 18	North York, ONT, CAN	2006-7 MN Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> undrafted; signed as free agent by Wild in 2006; signed as free agent by Nashville in 2008; had 7 G, 6 A in 12 playoff games in 2011 Stanley Cup Playoffs; signed as free agent by Washington on July 1, 2011 					

#5 Seed Philadelphia Flyers vs #6 Seed New Jersey Devils

Philadelphia Flyers

No Players from Minnesota or connected to Minnesota

New Jersey Devils

#/Name	Pos.	GP	2011-12 Stats G A Pts	Birthplace	Connection to MN
#20 Ryan Carter	C	72	4 4 8	White Bear Lake, MN	2004-6 MN State Mankato
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> undrafted; scored 58 points (34 G, 24 A) in 2 seasons (76 games) at MN State Mankato; signed as a free agent by Anaheim after sophomore season in 2006; won Stanley Cup in 2007 with Anaheim Ducks; claimed off waivers from Florida Panthers on October 26th, 2011 					
#9 Zach Parise	LW	82	31 38 69	Minneapolis, MN	1998-2002 Shattuck-St. Mary's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted in 2003 1st round (17th overall) by New Jersey, New Jersey traded up to get him and the Wild picked 20th that year (Brent Burns); His father, J. P. Parise, played and coached for the North Stars, he was born while his father was an assistant coach for the North Stars so he was probably wearing "the N" since birth, if that doesn't say Minnesotan, I don't know what does; last two seasons at Shattuck, he had 146 G & 194 A in 125 games!; 1st Univ. of North Dakota freshman to be named a Hobey Baker award finalist ((26 G, 35 A in 39 games); led the 2004 USA World JR team to their first Gold Medal with 5 G & 6 A in 6 games and awarded Tournament MVP & Best Forward; scored tying goal in 2010 Olympic Gold Medal game that sent it into OT; free agent on July 1st, expect the Wild to make a HUGE push to sign him! 					
#15 Petr Sykora	RW	82	21 23 44	Plzen, CZE	2009-10 MN Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted in 1995 1st round (18th overall) by New Jersey; 2-time Stanley Cup winner (2000 (NJ) & 2009 (PIT)); In 2008 Stanley Cup Finals Game 5, scored game-winning goal in triple OT, after telling Pierre McGuire (reporter between benches) he was going to score the game-winning goal; only played 14 games with the Wild in 2009-10 season (concussion) and was released on waivers; attended 2011 training camp with New Jersey on a tryout & signed on October 5, 2011 					
#2 Marek Zidlicky	D	63	2 20 22	Most, CZE	2008-11 MN Wild
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafted in 2001 6th round (176th overall) by New York Rangers; traded to Nashville with Rem 					

Murray and Tomas Kloucek in Mike Dunham trade in 2002; in 4 years with NSH, had 35 G (25 on the PP) & 140 A in 307 games; traded to Minnesota for Ryan Jones (& 2nd rnd draft pick) on 7/1/2008; in almost 4 years with MN, scored 25 G (17 on the PP) & 84 A in 200 games; traded to NJ for D Kurtis Foster, F Nick Palmieri, F Stephane Veilleux, 2012 2nd rnd draft pick & conditional 2013 3rd rnd draft pick (if NJ gets to the Eastern Conf. Finals) on 2/24/2012

- Before the 2010 season, he came into the hockey store I worked at and purchased a jock. I asked him, "Is that for you?" which sounds like a weird question but I thought he would've been able to get one from the Wild equipment manager. I wanted to tell him he was traded just for fun but couldn't do it.

Western Conference

#2 Seed St. Louis Blues vs #8 Seed Los Angeles Kings

St. Louis Blues

#/Name	Pos.	GP	2011-12 Stats G A Pts	Birthplace	Connection to MN
#42 David Backes	C	82	24 30 54	Minneapolis, MN	2003-6 MN State Mankato

- drafted in 2003 2nd round (62nd overall) by St. Louis; played high school at Spring Lake Park, MN scoring 77 G and 102 A in 73 games; his high school team also included future Wild player Jarod Palmer; scored 46 G and 73 A in 115 games and 3 seasons at Minnesota State Mankato; On September 9, 2011 he was named the 20th captain in St. Louis Blues franchise history

#15 Jamie Langenbrunner-RW	70	6 18 24	Cloquet, MN	HS (Cloquet)
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- drafted in 1993 2nd round (35th overall) by Dallas; scored 150 points (49 G, 101 A) in 70 games and 3 seasons (1990-3) at Cloquet High School; won Stanley Cups in 1999 (Dallas) & 2003 (NJ); named captain of 2010 USA Olympic team that won silver medal; [2nd in games played](#) of all Minnesotans to play in the NHL

#74 T.J. Oshie	RW	80	19 35 54	Mt. Vernon, WA	HS (Warroad)
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- drafted in 2005 1st round (24th overall) by St. Louis; [scored 104 G and 137 A in 93 games](#) at Warroad High School from 2003-5 winning state titles in 2003 & 2005; scored 142 points (59 G and 83 A) in 3 seasons at the Univ. of North Dakota from 2005-8; signed with St. Louis on May 13, 2008; scored first career goal on October 22, 2008 against against Detroit

Los Angeles Kings

#/Name	Pos.	GP	2011-12 Stats G A Pts	Birthplace	Connection to MN
#33 Willie Mitchell	D	76	5 18 23	Port McNeill, BC, CAN	2001-6 MN Wild

- drafted in 1996 8th round (199th overall) by New Jersey; traded from New Jersey on March 4, 2001 for Sean O'Donnell; traded on March 6, 2006 to Dallas for Martin Skoula and Shawn Belle; I saw his 1st career goal in person on March 25, 2001 going to a game as part of the waiting list for season tickets

#3 Seed Phoenix Coyotes vs #4 Seed Nashville Predators

Phoenix Coyotes

**No Players from Minnesota or connected to Minnesota
Patrick O'Sullivan played for them this season but is in the minors and apparently not on
the playoff roster**

Nashville Predators

#/Name	Pos.	GP	2011-12 Stats	Birthplace	Connection to MN
			G A Pts		
#38 Jack Hillen	D	55	2 4 6	Minnetonka, MN	HS (Acad. of Holy Angels)

- undrafted; scored 130 point in 4 seasons at the Academy of Holy Angels; scored 76 points (19 G, 57 A) in 151 games and 4 years at Colorado College (2004-8); signed by New York Islanders after completing his college hockey career on April 1, 2008; signed as free agent by Nashville on August 8, 2011

Minnesota is well represented in the NHL and the 2012 Stanley Cup Playoffs so fans still have someone to cheer for while they watch the Road to the Stanley Cup! Enjoy the playoffs everybody! There's [nothing better!](#)

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