

TOP 125

2017 PROSPECTS



2 NICO HISCHIER

POS	HT/WT	DOB				
C	6-1/175	4-Jan-99				
YEAR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2015-16	SC Bern Future (Sui Jr)	18	11	17	28	6
2015-16	Bern (Sui)	15	1	0	1	2
2016-17	Halifax (QMJHL)	57	38	48	86	24

The most consistently electric prospect in this year's draft class, the only question about Hischier in the weeks leading up to the draft in Chicago is whether he goes first overall, or second. The chance of any other position is so unlikely, that the question should not even be asked.

Hischier first came to some prominence as a double under-ager on Switzerland's U18 team in 2014-15. He was only able to score once in that tournament, but less than eight months later, he had reached new heights, as a 16-year old representing his homeland at the WJC. Although he had a secondary role at that tournament, he was a more central figure in last year's WU18 and was selected with the sixth overall choice in the CHL import draft last summer by Halifax.

Coming overseas for the first time, he set the QMJHL on fire, leading all league rookies in goals and assists, walking away with the circuit's rookie of the year award. This past season also included a star turn at the WJC (seven points in five games) and a third turn at the WU-18 (six points in five games), leading Switzerland in scoring in both events.

Hischier's offensive package, featuring high end skating and puck handling as well as an astounding shot, portend a future as a top line forward, a true impact NHL'er. Not content to create chaos with the puck, he works hard in his own zone to get the puck back from opponents and push play in the right direction again. While some more conservative coaches could move him to the wing, and let him focus on his offensive game, it would be a waste of a potential puck hound center, as he is someone that can be trusted to play responsibly even while racking up the points.

He is simply a dynamic player with top tier puck control skills. His reach and dexterity allow him to take risks that few others can get away with. He will skate into very tight spaces, leaning in towards double teams, and more often than not, beat both defenders with one move, either getting his own shot off towards goal, or dishing to a better positioned teammate. His shot is equally deadly whether unleashing a slap shot, wrister, or turning to his backhand.

While he does need to fill out his still developing frame a bit more to be able to play his game long term at the highest level, his style of game, including his impressive speed and agility keeps him from spending too much time in the dangerous areas of the ice. Hischier, the best NHL prospect to ever emerge out of Switzerland, should be ready to step into the NHL this October and remain there for a long time.