

# 2026-27 Fantasy Hockey Sleepers, Breakouts & Busts

Draft-day value board • who to target and who to avoid at their price

| BREAKOUTS                                                                                | SLEEPERS (VALUE)                                                                           | BUSTS (DRAFT WITH CAUTION)                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><b>Ivan Demidov</b> MTL RW</div> <div>Elite ceiling with better support</div>       | <div><b>Dylan Holloway</b> STL LW</div> <div>Broke out, still drafted below his line</div> | <div><b>Alex Ovechkin</b> WSH LW</div> <div>Age 40, the goals chase is over</div>               |
| <div><b>Simon Nemec</b> CGY D</div> <div>Path to No. 1 role and power play</div>         | <div><b>Jackson Blake</b> CAR RW</div> <div>Ascending scorer on a deep team</div>          | <div><b>Sidney Crosby</b> PIT C</div> <div>Great still, but a rebuilding roster caps him</div>  |
| <div><b>Brandt Clarke</b> LAK D</div> <div>Primary offensive D, more PP1 time</div>      | <div><b>Logan Stankoven</b> CAR C</div> <div>Volume and PP time trending up</div>          | <div><b>Evgeni Malkin</b> PIT C</div> <div>Age and a thinner cast point to decline</div>        |
| <div><b>Mavrik Bourque</b> NSH C</div> <div>Fresh start, top-six center minutes</div>    | <div><b>Cutter Gauthier</b> ANA LW</div> <div>Young shooter with a rising role</div>       | <div><b>Brad Marchand</b> FLA LW</div> <div>Age and role risk are real at his price</div>       |
| <div><b>Frank Nazar</b> CHI C</div> <div>Runs top line while Bedard is out</div>         | <div><b>Pavel Dorofeyev</b> VGK LW</div> <div>Elite shot volume, cheap goals</div>         | <div><b>John Tavares</b> TOR C</div> <div>Reduced minutes make the price too high</div>         |
| <div><b>Zach Benson</b> BUF LW</div> <div>Playoff surge points to a leap</div>           | <div><b>Gabe Perreault</b> NYR RW</div> <div>Sophomore path to the top six</div>           | <div><b>Steven Stamkos</b> NSH C</div> <div>Bounce-back hope, but last year was a warning</div> |
| <div><b>Jimmy Snuggerud</b> STL RW</div> <div>51-point rookie, room for 30 goals</div>   | <div><b>Marco Rossi</b> VAN C</div> <div>New team, chance at bigger minutes</div>          |                                                                                                 |
| <div><b>Luke Hughes</b> NJD D</div> <div>Steps into the No. 1 D role</div>               | <div><b>Josh Doan</b> BUF RW</div> <div>Opportunity for top-nine scoring</div>             |                                                                                                 |
| <div><b>Tyson Foerster</b> PHI RW</div> <div>Healthy year could mean 30-plus goals</div> |                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |
| <div><b>Alexander Nikishin</b> CAR D</div> <div>Bigger role unlocks his offense</div>    |                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |

Busts denote players likely to be overdrafted relative to value, not bad players. Confirm roles and camp news before drafting.