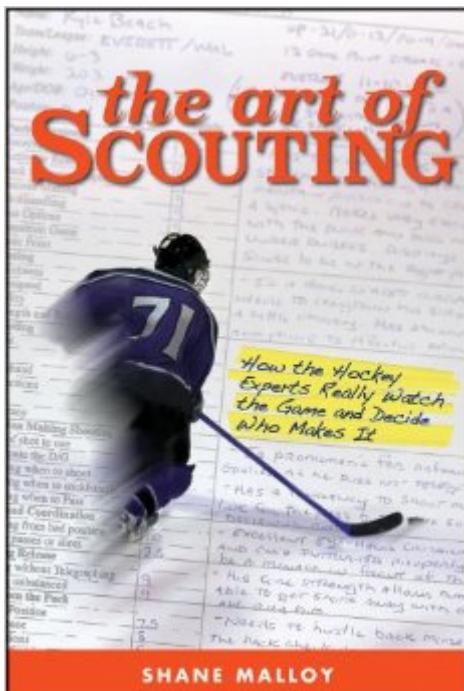


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# The Art Of Scouting: How The Hockey Experts Really Watch The Game And Decide Who Makes It



## Synopsis

The Art of Scouting delves into the secretive world of hockey prospecting, a world more akin to Cold War-era spying than a casual day in the stands. Scouts decide whether a player has the talent to make the final step to the NHL—or not—but what they do and how they do it are a mystery to most fans. Shane Malloy is one of the first media personalities to be welcomed into the world of scouting and brings to hockey fans an enlightening and fascinating narrative that explains the culture, history, science and art of hockey scouting. Malloy's unique experience—combined with interviews featuring scouts, coaches and hockey executives—will give readers a true understanding and appreciation for what scouts do and how they do it, what it really takes to make it to the NHL, and how to watch the game like a scout. Praise for *The Art of Scouting*: "If you love hockey but wonder how teams are built and what goes into scouting, then this book is a gem." — Kelly Hrudey, *Hockey Night in Canada* Analyst "The work that Shane has done is based on knowledge and diligence. We have great respect for this project as it has tremendous substance to it. An excellent source of information." — Doug Wilson, Executive Vice President and General Manager, San Jose Sharks "If you have ever been at a hockey game and seen the scouts in the corner and wondered what they do, how they do it and why they do it, *The Art of Scouting* by Shane Malloy will take you inside their world." — Bob McKenzie, *TSN Hockey Insider* "For anyone fascinated by player evaluation and what goes into it, this is a must-read. Interesting perspectives and a good cast of characters. Thought-provoking and entertaining." — Peter Loubardias, Hockey Broadcaster, *Rogers Sportsnet* "The Art of Scouting provides readers with a behind-the-scenes view of the sport's lifeblood...scouting and the people that do it...A great read for any hockey fan." — Brad Treliving, Vice President and Assistant General Manager, *Phoenix Coyotes*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At this time of the year, I become a prospect junkie, trying to read up on all the top prospects and all the ranking lists. In some cases, a prospects statistics belie the ranking that the experts give him, and I wanted to get an insight how scouts rank players. This book did little to help me understand what made certain prospects better than others. The book contains a bunch of personal reminiscences about which mentors influenced which scouts, generalities about hockey sense, individual instances of what some historical hockey prospects did to distinguish themselves, but I expected more. I expected more info on how the Combine influenced teams' internal rankings, what influence a team's biases and prospect pool influenced its drafting, the factors used to project a 17 year-old to what they would be 5-years later. How do scouts factor in bust potential? Do they check family history to be able to anticipate a future growth spurt? Why do some prospects start falling for no apparent reason? Much is unanswered, mostly a bunch of generalities. I had previously read "Future Greats and Heartbreaks" by Gare Joyce, which also left me wanting more. That book had more insight into the 2006 draft specifically, more name-dropping and gossip, and it had an insider's view from one team's scouting department. But that book also contained a lot of filler which was focused on giving the reader an understanding of the life of the scout. I guess the perfect book on scouting with the idea of having the reader understand how prospects are ranked has yet to be written.

I love listening to Shane Malloy on Sirius/XM Radio, so I was extraordinarily excited to buy this book. Unfortunately, it's not really a book, but a collection of quotes from scouts, thrown into some text. It's organized very poorly, and really doesn't give too much inside information, as the book suggests. It basically gives a very general overview to scouting and some hockey skills, and reads more like an essay than a book. If you're a scouting nerd as I am, I would still buy the book, but if you're casual fan who only reads hockey books every so often, I'd stay away.

This was an enjoyable read to say the least, I always wanted to read something about the lives of hockey scouts so when I saw that this book came out, I bought it immediately. I'll start with the good stuff - Part 3 "How to Tell Who's Got Game" deals with all the things that are looked for in a prospect. It's very detailed, very well described, I liked it a lot. Just one thing - for each

characteristic, there is usually an example of a player, who does it right. However, sometimes it would be interesting to have a negative example as well. I'm thinking of prospects who failed to live up to the hype due to being poor in some part of the game, examples of elite players who lack in the particular skill etc. Other parts of the book are not as detailed as the third chapter and that's a pity, because I believe the author could focus a little more on hockey scouts day-to-day life and work. By far, the weakest part of the book for me was a chapter about influential scouts. It's true what the author notes elsewhere in the book - these men are responsible for critical decisions of the franchise, but they are largely unknown to the public. So it really doesn't do me any good to read unedited thoughts of guys I (mostly) don't know at all on another man I don't know anything about... It would be much better if there was at least always a short paragraph about each of the debated scouts, like whom they worked for, how long, did they convince the organization to make any late round pick that proved to be a gem and so on. Still, I would recommend this book to anyone with deep interest in hockey, because it is a fascinating part of the game and you won't find a lot of books on this topic on the market.

I wanted to find a book that detailed the processes NHL scouts go through in order to determine whether or not they want to draft a particular player. This book does just that. It takes you in the minds of the people who make those decisions, including what they look for, what is important, what isn't so vital, the way the job is done today versus the past, and so much more. It's been an invaluable resource for my research and has given me greater insight into the sport as both a fan and a reporter.

I used to work in the NHL and I think that although this book provides many insights, it is longer than it needs to be. Part 1 has some useful information, but it could be much shorter. Part 2 has virtually no helpful information about how to scout ice hockey (which is what the book is supposed to be about). Part 3, which is over half of the book, has a lot of insights about what scouts look for, but even that could have been improved by cutting it down without reducing the number of helpful pointers about how to scout ice hockey. Significant editing could have made this book much shorter without cutting out any of the many insights on this topic. This would have greatly improved the book. Another way to view this is that I expected many more insights from a book of this size.

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