

# Jews in Sports: Today's Jewish Professional Hockey Players

*by Justice Robert E. Gordon*

Believe it or not, there are nine Jewish hockey players in the National Hockey League (NHL).

The best of the group is Jason Zucker, age 26, a left-winger from Newport Beach, California, with the Minnesota Wild, who last year had 33 goals and 31 assists for 64 points, a +8 rating. This was the third-best season for any Jewish skater in the NHL. Michael Cammalleri, who is now retired, had better point seasons under a different rating system.

Zach Hyman, age 26, is the second-best in the group. He is a center from Toronto with the Maple Leafs. Last year, Zach had 15 goals and 25 assists for 40 points with a +22 rating.

Andre Burakovsky, age 23, is a left wing from Malmö, Sweden, in his fifth season with the Washington Capitals and has been prone to injuries, missing the entire playoffs last year. This year, as of the first of January, he has 12 goals and 13 assists for 25 points with a +3 rating.

Jakob Chychrun, age 20, is a defenseman from Boca Raton, Florida, in his third season with the Arizona Coyotes (owned by Jews). Last year, he mustered 4 goals with 10 assists for 14 points, meriting a +2 rating in 50 games. In November, he signed a 6-year contract extension for \$27.6 million.

Jason Demers, age 28, is a defenseman from Dorval, Quebec, in his second season with the Arizona Coyotes. Last year, his least productive since 2011-12, Jason slapped 6 goals with 14 assists for 20 points with a -4 rating.

Josh Ho-Sang, age 22, is a right wing from Thornhill, Ontario, in his second season with the NY Islanders. Last year, he had 2 goals and 10 assists for 12 points with a -7 rating.

Luke Kunin, age 20, is a forward from Chesterfield, Missouri, who tore his ACL on February 27, 2017, and first came back to play with the Minnesota Wild in December.

Brendan Leipsic, age 24, is a left wing from Winnipeg, Manitoba, with the Los Angeles Kings after being traded by the Vancouver Canucks. Last season, he had 3 goals with 6 assists for 9 points with a -3 rating.

Nate Thompson, age 33, is a veteran center from Anchorage, Alaska, and is a recent convert to Judaism. Nate is in his second season with the Los Angeles Kings. Last year, in 27 games he had 1 goal and 5 assists for 6 points with a -1 rating.

There are 12 Jewish skaters in the minor leagues, including Jake Walman, age 22, from Toronto, a defenseman who donned his first NHL uniform with the Chicago Blackhawks but failed to see any action during his two-day stay. There are two Jewish skaters with Canadian Hockey League, and four in the European Hockey League.

*The Honorable Robert E. Gordon is an appellate court justice in the First District, 4th Division of Illinois and a Decalogue Board member.*