##### MATTHEW WOOD

Team: UConn Huskies NCAA

League: NCAA

Position: Center

Born: **6 FEB 2005**

Height: **6.03ft or 190cm**

Weight: **190 lbs or 86kg**

# Report Card – Excellent: 5, Very Good: 4.5, Good: 4, Above Average: 3.5, Average: 3 Below Average: 2, Poor: 1

#### Size/Strength Very Good: 4.5

##### Skating Below Average: 2.5

**Shot/Scoring Excellent: 5**

**Puckhandling Very Good: 4.5**

##### Physical Play Good: 4

**Offensive Play Excellent: 5**

#### Defensive Play Good: 4

**Hockey Sense Very Good: 4.5**

**Competitiveness Good: 4**

**Strengths**

**1. Pinpoint shot accuracy.**

**2. Good in tight deking with very strong complementary passing.**

**3. Very strong offensive awareness.**

**Area’s For Improvement**

**1. Very sluggish skating.**

**2. Sometimes gets out of position due to his skating**

**3. Start to finish more his checks**

**Skill:**

A big “stationary” center who can score from anywhere on the ice and can be relentless in front of the net.

**Scouting Report:**Overall, Matthew’s game is truly to be desired if teams are looking for that player who can score from anywhere on the ice whether it is a very quick shot in close quarters and having the physicality to do so. When Matthew gets that puck in the offensive zone, there is no stopping him when it comes to shooting as he gets that puck off in a dime. He has very strong puck control and does not lose it very often due to him having a very strong size to help him protect the puck from the opponent. He has very good vision and is always aware of where most of his teammates will gain open space in the offensive zone. Even though he is willing to sacrifice the body a portion of the time and knows where he has to be in position, there can be some difficulties of him becoming a reliability in his own zone. Leading to the worse news, even though he has fantastic assets to his game that may be translatable to the NHL level, his skating does not even come close. His skating is arguable the worst out of all skaters of the 2023 NHL draft class. Yes, he is 6’3, but that is not an excuse that he has very bad lateral movement and has very slow legs. Even though he has strong balance, that is not going to cut it considering his style of play is not fast. In-order to be a worthy centerman in the NHL, he needs to improve majorly in his strides considering he does not finish his strides to his full potential as well as him needing to improve some athleticism to then improve his agility by creating speed in turns and such. That being said, he is very strong physically at withstanding hits, the way he completes checks is not fully up to par with others.

**NHL Potential:**

Top 6 Centerman who has potential to be 1st line material if his skating improves.

**Player Comparison: Leon Draisaitl**