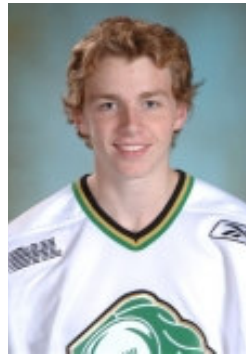


# Patrick Kane

**London Knights • OHL**  
**5'9.5" 160 lbs. Right wing, shoots left**  
**November 19, 1988**  
**Born in Buffalo, New York**  
**Final Ranking: 2**  
**Mid-Term Ranking: 4**



**Central Scouting Report:** A skilled playmaking forward with great hockey sense... high-end passing skill with excellent use of the saucer pass to move the puck... able to fight through checks and protect the puck... is not afraid to take the puck into traffic and can be very elusive... very good at anticipating the play and has a good wrist shot.

**Hockey Profile:** Captured the OHL and CHL scoring titles with 145 points (62-83-145) as a rookie in 2006-07... had nine points (5-4-9) as a member of Team USA's bronze medal-winning team at the 2007 World Junior Championships in Sweden... fellow London Knights' linemate Sam Gagner commented, "he's really blown me away with his talent... he's such a skilled guy with the puck and he has unlimited potential"... named OHL and CHL Player of the Week on Mar. 18, 2007 with 11 points (5-6-11) in two games and on Feb. 14, 2007 after posting 13 points (6-7-13) in three games... named OHL Rookie of the Month in November (9-16-25), February (13-16-29) and again in March (15-17-32) ... member of the Western Conference All-Stars for the OHL All-Star Classic (2-2-4)... competed in the 2007 CHL Top Prospects Game in Quebec City... had 102 points for the U.S. National Under-18 Team in 2005-06 – setting a record for points in a season (previously held by Phil Kessel --98)...won a gold medal at the 2006 World Under-18 Championships – led the tournament in goals (7), points (12) and was named to the Tournament All-Star Team... played for the Honeybaked AAA program in Michigan before playing for the U.S. NTDP in 2005-06, where he lived with former NHLer Pat Verbeek – "he was helping us out as a coach. I remember that he said you can never take a shift off. He drilled that into my head."

**Personal Profile:** Nickname is Kaner... wears # 88 for his birth year... if he could have dinner with any three people he would invite: Wayne Gretzky, Tiger Woods and his grandpa... names his parents as the most influential people in his career because they "helped with the big decisions"... he admires his mom because she "works hard and never lets anyone down"... most memorable hockey game: semi-final game of the World Junior Championships in 2007 with Team USA – they lost in the seventh round of the shootout... most memorable hockey game watched: Game #6 of the 1999 Stanley Cup Final – Brett Hull scored to help Dallas defeat Buffalo 2-1 in the third overtime period to capture the Stanley Cup... favorites include: Buffalo Sabres (NHL team), Ilya Kovalchuk of the Atlanta Thrashers (NHL player), "one handed deke" (shootout move), Prison Break (TV), Wedding Crashers (movie) and Will Ferrell (actor).

## Statistics

Season	Team	League	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2006-07	London	OHL	58	62	83	145	52

## **Kane could stick in NHL next season**

*Ryan Pyette, SUN MEDIA - February 13, 2007*

London forward Pat Kane was pumped to see his first pro basketball game live last night as he and Knights teammate Andrew Wilkins got set to watch the Cleveland Cavaliers face the Toronto Raptors.

But even with the hoops trip on tap, the 18-year-old Buffalo native couldn't help but think about hockey -- especially after London's big 4-3 victory over Kitchener on Tuesday.

"In middle school, I played basketball in Grade 8 and I was kind of the same kind of player that I am in hockey," Kane said. "I was a point guard who scored 20 points a game and my job was to set up plays. In a way, basketball is a lot like hockey. It's five on five and there's a lot of passing."

Based on his recent ice play, there are rumblings the OHL's leading scorer and projected first-round NHL draft pick could be gone after this season. Much like former 18-year-old star Rick Nash, who stayed with Columbus rather than return to London, Kane has an impressive skill set that could see him in the NHL next year.

"I don't know where I'll end up, but you just have to enjoy this process," said Kane, who routinely fields calls from media and visits from NHL scouts. "It would be great to play in my hometown (for the Sabres), but that doesn't look like it'll happen. Right now, I'm just trying to do my best in this league.

"I've been tired a bit lately, but my confidence is high. Anybody who comes back from world juniors will have that and the guys I get to play with here is a big reason (for his point production)."

His departure would seriously hinder the Knights' plans for participating in the 2008 Memorial Cup, but the Hunters have been in that situation before. The Knights owners know how to adapt, which is a major reason why the Knights are chasing a fourth OHL regular season title and looking to get back to the Cup this year.

"We want to win, but we're a development league so you're glad when a player is able to make it to the NHL like that," London head coach Dale Hunter said. "It's like Peterborough with (Jordan) Staal. No one was sure if he'd make it and he has 20 goals this year. That's a credit to Peterborough. When you develop kids like that, other kids want to come play for you. That's the way it works. They want to be developed because every kid's dream is to play pro."

Kane's teammate Sergei Kostitsyn, who was so close to his dream of turning pro at the start of the season, could've sulked and refused to risk injury after being sent back to London. But the popular Belarussian has become the Knights' most important all-around player and has no problem with putting his body in harm's way, as shown by his 30 hard minutes of action against Kitchener.

"Sergei played about the same as (Steve) Downie did for them (Kitchener) -- every team has their top guns," Hunter said. "(Montreal GM) Bob Gainey made it clear he wanted

Sergei to play with us this year and be a key guy. He has killed penalties five-on-three. He has played defence on the power play.

"When he gets to the pros, who knows what will happen -- he could be put in all kinds of different situations -- but he'll have already done it all here and maybe that's how he breaks in. It's hard to jump right onto the first power play in the NHL.

"Defence gets you into the league, then you go on and do your scoring and at the end, it's defence that keeps you in the league when you're older."

It's also defence that keeps a player in the London lineup late in the game. Forward Josh Beaulieu saw some important third-period minutes in his first game back from missing 11 games with a high ankle sprain.

"There's a trust that gets built up over four years with the Hunters," he said. "You'll always see the guys who have been there before out at the end of the game logging big minutes. It's not like our younger guys aren't capable -- they've all been out there at key times in games this year -- and that's why you can't worry about how much ice you're getting."

### **Knights' Kane is top rookie**

*Canadian Press, April 28, 2007*

London Knights forward Patrick Kane has been named Ontario Hockey League rookie of the year.

Kane led the OHL in scoring with 145 points (62-83) in 58 games. He played in the all-star game and helped lead the Knights to the Western Conference final, where they lost to Plymouth in five games.

The 18-year-old Buffalo native won a gold medal for the United States at the world under-18 championship, where he was also the tournament's top scorer with 12 points.

Kane will be a top prospect at the NHL draft in June.

He received 84 points in the voting while Steven Stamkos of the Sarnia Sting was runner-up with 51 points. Alex Pietrangelo of the Mississauga IceDogs finished third with 24 points.

Stamkos, a 17-year-old forward from Unionville, Ont., had 42 goals and 50 assists in 63 regular-season games for Sarnia.

Pietrangelo, meanwhile, was a plus-40 on the IceDogs blue-line. He collected seven goals and 42 assists in 59 games.

## **Raising Kane; South Buffalo hockey prodigy** **Patrick Kane had to leave home to reach stardom**

*Tim Graham, Buffalo News - February 11, 2007*

LONDON, Ontario -- Donna Kane was feeling a mother's remorse. She dropped her son off in a strange city and drove away. He was all of 14 years old, her firstborn. As she headed back to South Buffalo she was torn.

Patrick Kane was a hockey prodigy, and when a boy shows his type of promise, parents sometimes agree to cut the cord. He assured his parents he would be fine in Detroit, living with an NHL overachiever and playing for a respected midget major team. Patrick could learn the game and hopefully land a college scholarship.

All that sounded great to Donna Kane, but she still wasn't sure she and her husband had done the right thing in August 2003. Detroit hadn't vanished long from her rearview mirror when her cell phone went off. It was Patrick. He was heartsick. He wanted to come home.

"He was very upset," said Donna Kane, her jaw still clenching at the memory. "He said, 'I don't think I can do it.' You don't know how much I wanted to turn that car around and go get him, but I stopped myself. I knew Patrick was on his way to living his dream."

The decision to play for the Honeybaked AAA Hockey Club and move in with assistant coach Pat Verbeek was the pivotal moment in Patrick Kane's arrival on stardom's doorstep. Some experts claim the dynamic 5-foot-9 winger should be the first player selected in this summer's draft.

"He needed to go away from home," said Verbeek, who also stands 5-foot-9 but scored 522 NHL goals. He was on the Dallas Stars team that won the Stanley

Cup in HSBC Arena. "That first couple months was tough. But near the end of the year he started to understand. He didn't like it, but he knew he had to do it."

The ultimate rink rat has evolved from C-liner in a Cazenovia house league to blue-chip NHL prospect and likely will become the highest draft choice ever to come out of Western New York. Scouts practically slobber when discussing Patrick Kane's offensive wherewithal.

"He's dangerous," legendary former coach Scotty Bowman said. The winner of nine Stanley Cups scouts for the Detroit Red Wings. "He's got a hell of a hockey head on his shoulders. He's so creative. He makes plays. He goes into the corners. He has a deceptive shot. He's got great vision."

Patrick Kane's 2002-03 campaign with Honeybaked landed him a college scholarship offer while still a high school freshman. More importantly, it led to a spot in the U.S. National Developmental Program in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he received privileged instruction for two seasons and set records against older competition.

Patrick Kane, who turned 18 in November, has been lighting up the Ontario Hockey League with the London Knights. He left the team during the holidays to play in the World Junior Championships in Sweden, where his stock skyrocketed.

"Whatever league he's been in, he's been one of the top scorers," said London coach Dale Hunter, veteran of more than 1,400 NHL games. "He'll go from league to league to league and still be among the

top scorers, including the National Hockey League."

Something to prove

Patrick Kane is soft-spoken and polite. While sitting in the stands of an empty John Labatt Centre before a recent Knights game, he looked like any other unassuming teenager. He was shy in answering questions about himself, nervously wringing his hands and rubbing the peach fuzz on his cheeks.

But beneath that innocent exterior, those close to him say, is a driven soul.

"A lot of people, still to this day, think I still need to prove myself in this game," Patrick Kane said. "Being the best drives me the most. I want to be a top pick in this year's draft and win a championship and win a scoring title in [the OHL]."

"A lot of things drive me. What it comes down to is I want to be the best."

Verbeek, once dubbed The Little Ball of Hate for his relentless style of play, can spot a driven player when he sees one. Patrick Kane didn't need to live in Verbeek's basement for the former All-Star to notice it in him.

"What's really good about the kid is he wants to be The Man," Verbeek said. "That's a special trait because there's a lot of guys who can't handle the pressure. He's not one of those guys."

"Being a good player, you always have to assume responsibility and take control of a team. You look at the great ones in every sport, they all had that and they all wanted it. Pat has that. You can't teach that. It's ingrained."

The difficult decision to schlep their son to Michigan never would have come up if not for Patrick Kane's zeal to skate virtually from the time he could tie his own laces.

Patrick "Tiki" Kane would shuttle his son to as many as four rinks a day, seven days a

week. Tiki Kane would pay \$5 or \$10 tryout fees to get his son on the ice for an hour with no intention of ever playing for the team holding the auditions.

"Sometimes I didn't want to skate," Patrick Kane said. "My dad would push me so hard to get better. I remember one day I had already played three games and I was on my way to the fourth. I said, 'Dad, what team am I playing for right now?' I didn't even know."

The Kanes acknowledged there was a fine line between pressing him too forcefully and helping him to maximize his obvious gifts.

When he was 9 years old and playing in a Wheatfield summer league, the other parents were upset he was scoring too many goals and asked he be barred. From then on he routinely played at a level higher than his age group.

"We thought we saw something early and we pursued it as hard as we can," Tiki Kane said. "There were a couple times we asked, 'Is it really worth it?' "

Stepping back

Tiki Kane is a longtime hockey nut who frequently visited Memorial Auditorium, often with Patrick cradled on his lap. His mother laughed about being in Jim Schoenfeld's fan club.

But those who know Tiki and Donna Kane insist they're not stage parents. They've been lauded in the local hockey community for their patience and diligence in helping their son make career decisions.

Tiki Kane said there came a time when he realized his father-son relationship had grown too contingent upon hockey. Although he sold his partnership in Kane Doyle Jeep to drive to as many of his son's OHL games as weather permits, Tiki Kane

said he's more content to be a fan than a hockey director.

"Being a parent, I might have been hard on him," Tiki Kane said. "You see it in rinks every day. But there comes a time when you know you have to walk away. There had to be that time where I became the father and let somebody else be the coach."

Everything changed between father and son after a wrenching tournament loss three years ago. Patrick Kane had a chance to win the game on a late breakaway but didn't score. The coach sequestered the players in the locker room for an hour, and he could be overheard, as Tiki Kane described it, "crucifying" his son.

"I remember Pat came out, looked at me and says, 'I just want you to be my dad right now,' " Tiki Kane said. "I knew when we got in the car it was a whole new relationship that I had to live up to."

Small size, big stats

Along the way, Kane's size has been a stigma. Nobody could get the puck from him when he zipped around the ice as a mite, but there were the whispers his dominance wouldn't last.

He was all of 10 years old when others began to dismiss his future.

"The word was, 'As soon as checking becomes involved in the game, Kane's not going to be able to score and move in and out of the play,' " Tiki Kane said. "But I knew when he was 8 he was getting roughed up even when it wasn't allowed. He was being checked, shadowed, bumped every chance.

"I knew when checking did become involved he was going to be readier than anyone else out there. As soon checking became involved, it wasn't a factor at all. It was really fun to see that happen."

Patrick Kane still looks slight compared to others on the ice. He's listed at 166 pounds. His legs are spindly.

His stats, however, have always been robust. He tallied 83 goals and 160 points in 70 games for Honeybaked. He then led the U.S. under-17 squad in scoring with 32 goals and 70 points in 63 games.

Last season, he had 52 goals and 102 points in 58 games to break Phil Kessel's U.S. under-18 scoring record. Against much older players, Patrick Kane held his own with 13 goals and 29 points in 22 games against NCAA opponents.

"I think I kind of proved a lot of people wrong and proved to myself I can play this game in this body," Patrick Kane said.

London's calling

If there were any lingering doubts about Patrick Kane heading into this season, they should be eliminated by now.

After turning down scholarships to play at the University of Michigan and Boston University, he chose the OHL because he could play more games and because he thought coach Hunter could prepare him better for the NHL.

"It's turned out to be a real bonanza," Bowman said of the decision to play in London.

Patrick Kane went into Saturday's games locked in a fierce battle for the OHL scoring title. He ranked second with 49 goals and 110 points in only 46 games, six fewer games than leader Tyler Donati (111 points) and five fewer than John Tavares (103 points), who is third in scoring. Kane is the highest scoring player on the league's second-highest scoring team.

Where Kane shined brightest this winter was against the best international

competition in his age group at the World Junior Championships, where the U.S. won bronze. He was voted to the all-tournament team and was named one of the top two stars in three of the seven games. He finished fourth in tournament scoring with five goals and nine points.

Sports Illustrated hyped Patrick Kane as a potential No. 1 draft pick, even though Kane is young for his class. If he doesn't go first overall he'll almost certainly be taken before the seventh slot, where Nichols alum Ryan Sittler was selected in 1992. If that happens he would become the earliest draft pick ever from Western New York. Central Scouting ranks him fourth among North American skaters.

"The key for him is he's driven really hard to succeed," Hunter said. "He's a driven kid that wants to do it every night. He plays hard every night. You combine that with his skill and you got a great player."

That's not lost on the London fans, who honored Patrick Kane with a standing ovation Feb. 2, when he scored his third goal of the game to become only the second Knights rookie to reach 100 points.

Oh, yeah. The goal also tied the game with 1:44 left in the third period, and the first-place Knights went on to win in sudden death.

"I had chills going down my back when they gave me the standing ovation," Kane said after dedicating the game to his father's best friend, P.J. Conley, who passed away that week.

Fan favorite

Among the sellout Labatt Centre crowd of 9,090 that night was Jon Finley, a 28-year-

old season-ticket holder for five years. He waited outside the Knights dressing room with a neatly folded, Patrick Kane, No. 88 jersey, hoping to get the \$195 item signed for his brother in Calgary.

"After watching him all year and at the world juniors, how can you not love him?" Finley said. "He's unbelievable. I've never seen anything like it.

"He's dominant. He's above everybody else, just like [1993 first-round pick] Jason Allison was. Jason Allison, back in the day, he controlled the puck. You couldn't get it away from him and he made plays happen. Same with Kane."

Such passionate fan sentiments, not the goals, are what get to Tiki and Donna Kane.

"We've seen Patrick play over a thousand hockey games," Tiki Kane said. "I've seen him score over a thousand goals probably, but two or three games into the season we saw someone wearing the jersey for the first time. I said to Donna, 'That's one of the top 10 highlights of my life.' I saw the guy about a month ago at an away game and had our picture taken with him."

When asked how it feels to be a budding celebrity when most kids his age are trying to figure out ways to increase the number of visits to their MySpace pages, Patrick Kane smiled and shook his head.

Gone was the shakiness in his voice that day he called his mother to turn around, drive back to Detroit and whisk him back to South Buffalo.

"That's one of the reasons I came here, to become a star," he said. "The fans have been unbelievable to me. You can't even describe it.

## **Team USA's Kane playing like a veteran**

*Shawn P. Roarke | NHL.com December 28, 2006*

Patrick Kane has quickly developed into one of the most dangerous offensive players in a circuit loaded with dangerous offensive players.

Any worries about Patrick Kane's handling the pressure of the international stage at this year's World Junior Championships have surely been dispelled by his play this season with the Ontario Hockey League's London Knights.

Despite being a rookie -- an American-born rookie, at that -- with one of the top teams in junior hockey, Kane has absolutely dominated the competition so far this season.

Playing on the same line in London with fellow rookie Sam Gagner, who is playing for Team Canada at the WJC tournament, Kane has quickly developed into one of the most dangerous offensive players in a circuit loaded with dangerous offensive players. The 17-year-old from Buffalo has 26 goals and 41 assists for 67 points to lead the OHL in scoring as the leagues takes its holiday break.

Coming off a highly successful season with the United States National Team Developmental Program, many expected Kane to hold his own in the OHL after he for surprisingly passed up the college route. But, few expected Kane to be as dominant as he has been in a league acknowledged as a primary feeder system into the NHL. Few, that is, except Kane himself.

"So far, it's been more what I expected," Kane said. "As far as my play coming here, I've done pretty (well). I think me and Sam have surprised a lot of people with our skill, our offensive abilities. For us, it's not really surprising.

"I think the big thing between me and Sam is we are both pretty unselfish. When you put unselfish, talented hockey players together, there's probably going to be some good results with whomever you have. It's going pretty good so far, hopefully, it'll continue."

Obviously, Team USA officials are hoping Kane can find the same chemistry with a few

members of their team. For that reason, they did not hesitate to name him to a squad that is dominated by older players, most of whom are in their first or second year of NCAA competition.

Yet Kane has already shown that he can play with, and against, those types of players. While with the NTDP program, playing as an under-ager on the U-18 team, Kane played a schedule that was heavy on games against Division I college programs, and also featuring its fair share of international competition.

Kane says that those experiences, which included winning a gold medal at the U-18 World Championships, prepared him for the challenges he has faced so far in his junior hockey career.

"It's really similar, actually," Kane said. "The college game, to me, seemed a little faster, but then again I was a year younger and playing with younger guys against older guys. This year, it's more top-end talent than I've seen more than the speed of the game. I think there is more top-end talent here (in the OHL)."

And, Kane has quickly established himself as part of that top-end talent cadre that makes the OHL the special league that it is.

Former NHL player Dave Gagner, the father of Sam and an assistant coach with the Knights, is amazed at Kane's skill on the puck. He admits to being regularly awed by some of the things Kane attempts while in possession of the puck.

Sam Gagner has also been impressed while prospering as the beneficiary of much of the magic Kane has been able to create.

"He's a really skilled player, so smart with the puck," Sam Gagner says. "You really just have to stay moving and get open and, more times than not, he'll find you. I think that's part of the reason we have so much chemistry. We were able to see right from the beginning that we can seem to tell where each other is going. It's a testament to his vision and how smart he is.

"He's really blown me away with his talent. It's hard to imagine, he's such a skilled guy with the puck and he has unlimited potential, as far as I see it. He sees the play so well and he's so gifted."

Gifted enough, in fact, to draw comparisons to Oshawa's John Tavares, the wunderkind that has been the talk of the OHL for the past two years. Tavares almost made Team Canada this year as a 16-year-old, which is testament to his immense talent. Gagner and Tavares were teammates two years ago in the Toronto Marlies Midget program.

"They are similar in a lot of ways," Gagner says of Kane and Tavares. "They are both creative with the puck, have great vision and love to score."

Sam Gagner is not the only one making those comparisons. Scouts have already pegged Tavares as a top pick in the NHL Entry Draft when he becomes eligible in 2009. Many of those same scouts are predicting a similarly lofty draft position for Kane when this year's NHL Entry Draft rolls around in June.

One of the reasons Kane opted for the junior route instead of the college route was that he believed it would better help him in his journey to prepare himself for play in the NHL. London had drafted him a few years earlier in the OHL Priority Draft, so he was forced to go there when he opted to play juniors.

"It was pretty tough and it took me a little while to make the decision," he says. "But, I'm glad I came here. I think it was the best decision for me because I wanted to play hockey, and I wanted to play in games, and that, obviously, suits me better and that's why I am here."

"The national program pretty much preaches college hockey and they don't want you to leave. Being there for my under-17 year, I was like, 'Oh yeah, I'll go to college. I just have to make up my mind where I'm going to go.' Then, I came down here, saw a couple of games and fell in love with the place. When I went to make my decision, I kept on making up excuses for London and not too many for college, so it was a good choice."

There's a lot to love about London.

The team is loaded with talent and plays in the state-of-the-art John Labatt Centre, which is packed with 9,000-plus loyal supporters each and every home game. The franchise is owned and operated by the Hunter brothers, Dale and Mark, both of whom played in the NHL. Dale is the London coach and Mark serves as the GM. And, the organization regularly sends its alumni to the NHL, often in prominent roles.

"It's nice having the Hunters around, especially with Dave Gagner on the staff, too," Kane says. "You have two ex-NHLers that were pretty good in their prime. It's nice to learn from them and see what they have to say about the game. The Hunters seem like they really love their stars. They bring them in here and ride their guns until they die."

But, they also make sure their stars get better during their time in London.

"They try to help us out," Kane says. "Here, at this level, I'm scoring most of my goals from in tight and they say I really have to develop a shot and stuff like that. They help me with that and they are pretty hard on me in the defensive zone and what I have to do to be defensively sound at the next level."

For now, at least, the next level will have to wait. Patrick Kane has an important date with Team USA at the World Junior Championships to attend to first, eager to prove once again that the pressure of the international stage can easily be overcome by his immense talents.

