

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Jan Liehman</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Mgr. Matěj Opatrný</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Do National Hockey League Players Perform Better During Their Contract Years?</b>

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT** (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

### **Contribution**

Jan analyses the validity of the contract year phenomenon in the National Hockey League (NHL). To my knowledge he is the first researcher, who extends the contract year phenomenon to NHL. Therefore, this thesis could serve as a starting point for future research in this field. Given the data about players's contracts he has carefully chosen appropriate method and conduct a rigorous analysis of the dataset. He comes to unexpected conclusion that upcoming unrestricted free agents improve their performance in the second-to-last year of their contract, but there is not enough evidence to suggest that they improve in the final one.

### **Methods**

The thesis uses official NHL statistics as performance indicators. These data are combined with data on players' contract status. Based on the previous literature about the contract year phenomenon Jan used fixed effect model, which well suits his needs. I highly appreciate the methodological part, where student deeply informs about the variables used in the model.

### **Literature**

The literature part is very well structured and provides clear introduction to the topic. Given the limited literature on the contract year phenomenon in NHL, I highly appreciate Jan effort in finding the related literature.

### **Manuscript form**

The manuscript form well suit the needs for Bachelor thesis. I appreciate using advanced editing tools.

### **Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense**

Overall, a student shows a very good practical use of a theoretical knowledge earned during the bachelor studies. The thesis is well structured and a reader is able to understand the main message of the thesis from the beginning. I highly appreciate Jan motivation during his writing of the thesis. For the discussion during the defense I would suggest the question „To what extent is the contract year phenomenon about players in NHL applicable to other occupation“.

## **SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	28

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<i>Methods</i>	<i>(max. 30 points)</i>	25
<i>Literature</i>	<i>(max. 20 points)</i>	18
<i>Manuscript Form</i>	<i>(max. 20 points)</i>	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<i>(max. 100 points)</i>	<b>91</b>
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>(A – B – C – D – E – F)</b>	<b>A</b>

***NAME OF THE REFEREE: Matěj Opatrný***

***DATE OF EVALUATION: 13.8.2019***

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***Referee Signature***

**EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:**

**CONTRIBUTION:** *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

**METHODS:** *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

**MANUSCRIPT FORM:** *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

**Overall grading:**

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F