The St. Louis Blues saw enough in TJ Oshie to select him with the 25th overall pick in the 2005 NHL Draft. Oshie was taken out of Warroad High School (Minnesota). Since that time, has put in a lot of hard work and become one of the better players on the team.

Standing at just 5’ 11” and 194 pounds, Oshie is a feisty player that can hit, score and has great vision on the ice. Oshie went through the University of North Dakota’s hockey program, coached by Dave Hakstol. Regarded as one of the toughest, but best programs in hockey, he made his mark in three seasons with the Fighting Sioux.

2005/2006- 44 GP, 24 G, 21 A

2006/2007- 43 GP, 17 G, 35 A

2007/2008- 42 GP, 18 G, 27 A

The school is best known for producing dynamic winger Zach Parise , but the list doesn't end there. Jonathan Toews , Travis Zajac , Matt Greene , Drew Stafford and even Ed Belfour are all players who went through the program.

Oshie made the rare jump straight from college to pro hockey and finished with an impressive 39 points and plus-16 rating in 57 games. Oshie is also a student of the game and watches a lot of video for a 25-year-old, showing maturity beyond his years. He followed that up with 48 points, 149 hits and 75 blocked shots in 2009-2010, showing his ability to be a complete player in the NHL. He missed time in the 2010-2011 season with injuries, but still put up 34 points, 71 hits and 40 blocked shots.

Oshie played on several different lines in 2011-2012 as you can see below.

16.73%	EV	42 BACKES,DAVID - 74 OSHIE,T.J. - 20 STEEN,ALEXANDER

15.94%	EV	42 BACKES,DAVID - 74 OSHIE,T.J. - 57 PERRO
10.87%	EV	42 BACKES,DAVID - 74 OSHIE,T.J. - 17 SOBOT
6.74%	EV	21 BERGLUND,PATRIK - 36 D'AGOSTINI,MATT
5.29%	PP	42 BACKES,DAVID - 74 OSHIE,T.J. - 57 PERRO
4.79%	EV	42 BACKES,DAVID - 10 MCDONALD,ANDY - 74
2.78%	SH	42 BACKES,DAVID - 74 OSHIE,T.J.
2.53%	EV	21 BERGLUND,PATRIK - 74 OSHIE,T.J. - 25 STE
2.05%	EV	42 BACKES,DAVID - 15 LANGENBRUNNER,JAM
1.92%	SH	74 OSHIE,T.J. - 17 SOBOTKA,VLADIMIR
1.55%	EV	21 BERGLUND,PATRIK - 74 OSHIE,T.J. - 57 PE
1.48%	EV	42 BACKES,DAVID - 74 OSHIE,T.J.

Oshie finished with 54 points, a plus-15 rating, 130 hits and 45 blocked shots.

There’s no doubt he’s a top six forward, but the Blues have a lot of depth and that could hurt Oshie’s value. Once the NHL returns, dynamic Russian forward Vladimir Tarasenko is likely to secure a spot on the team and the same goes for Jaden Schwartz . Those additions will improve the Blues, but won’t necessarily help Oshie.

I think you should temper your expectations with Oshie, anything more than 60 points would be surprising to me. He's become a complete player and I'm sure he would tell you that he'd do whatever it takes to help the team win. That isn't always scoring goals or putting up offensive numbers, it involves playing on the penalty kill, blocking shots and delivering hits.

Oshie is ranked 103rd overall in Yahoo! fantasy leagues, right behind players like Ryan Callahan, Mark Streit and Drew Stafford. ESPN has Oshie at 74th overall in their rankings and CBS puts Oshie at 26th overall amongst right-wingers.

Oshie still has all of the tools to become a very good offensive player and that is evidenced by some of spectacular plays he's made.

Some of Oshie's work on display:

{youtube}cFbb_jQar2w{/youtube}

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