##### ZACH BENSON

Team: Winnipeg Ice

League: WHL

Position: Center/LW

Born: **12 May 2005**

Height: **5.10ft or 178cm**

Weight: **160 lbs or 73kg**

# Report Card – Excellent: 5, Very Good: 4.5, Good: 4, Above Average:3.5, Average:3, Below Average: 2.5, Deficient: 2, Poor: 1

#### Size/Strength Average: 3

##### Skating Very Good: 4.5

**Shot/Scoring Very Good: 4.5**

**Puckhandling Excellent: 5**

##### Physical Play Average: 3

**Offensive Play Excellent: 5**

#### Defensive Play Very Good: 4.5

**Hockey Sense Very Good: 4.5**

**Competitiveness Good: 4**

**Strengths**

**1. Very quick hands and NHL like passing as he gives very hard passes with pinpoint accuracy.**

**2. Very fast and agile skating.**

**3. Great Hockey IQ both offensively and defensively**

**Area’s For Improvement**

**1. He needs to become a bit heavier to withstand the hits**

**2. Even though it is not too much of a concern but depending on his position, he might get a little too deep defensively**

**3. A little a bit of work in the faceoff dot needed but not too big of a concern**

**Skill:**

A silky and smooth playmaking center/winger who has NHL like passing already as well as truly, a very underrated defensive game.

**Scouting Report:**

Overall, Zach is a very skillful player with probably the best playmaking ability of the 2023 NHL draft and currently in the WHL besides Connor Bedard. His vision and his offensive IQ are what makes him truly standout versus the competitors. What is very scary for the opposition however is that he is also a very fast and agile skater. When he puts his effort which is what happens most of the time, Zach is one of the first to backcheck hard to get to the opposition. His stickhandling is super quick and can fool defenders very easily but Zach’s strongest asset, is his passing. Every type of passing that someone can think of, any saucer pass, Zach Benson can make those like no tomorrow. Most of the passes that he makes, creates reminders of Nikita Kucherov due to not only their accuracy, but their deception which is truly key, especially on the powerplay. His shooting overall is good but the release needs to be a little bit quicker than his current shots but that will come with his strength. Zach’s defensive game is probably the most underrated aspect of his game. Similar to Mitch Marner of the Leafs because both Marner’s and Benson’s offensive upside has basically overshadowed their defensive abilities. Even though they are not the type to be blocking shots, the most looked side per say for both of them is how sneaky they are at stealing the puck. Another thing to note, Benson is a super strong penalty killer like Marner considering they do not give many scoring chances. The only small concern that Zach has as Marner did in the beginning of his career was mainly his size. Zach needs to build more muscle in-order to withstand more hits to become a durable player.

**Player type and comparison: Playmaker. Comparison: Multi-positioned version of Mitch Marner**

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| **Year** | **Team** | **GP**  | **G**  | **A**  | **PTS**  | **PIM**  | **+/-** |
| 21/22 | Winnipeg Ice | 58 | 25 | 38 | 63 | 28 | 40 |
| 22/23 | Oshawa Generals | 60 | 36 | 62 | 98 | 49 | 68 |
| **Projection** | **Oshawa Generals** | **67** | **40** | **69** | **109** | **55** | **75** |