

What are scouts really looking for?

Generally speaking, scouts are out there searching for players that may have the potential to go up to professional levels....but they're looking for more than just raw talent.

It seems the higher the level, the more tense and stressed parents can become.

Unfortunately, kids can feel that stress and will react to it. According to [T.J. Clark](#), hockey scout and advisor, unless the player wants the parents input, it's best if parents step back and allow the kids some freedom. That enables a relaxed atmosphere where trust and independence can improve the player, not take away from them. Kids must have quick reactions and be willing to play hard in order to be noticed, so they can't afford to be distracted due to parental stress.

And, according to T.J., "the kids gotta love the game more than I do. If they don't really know hockey or know what the teams are about, then they don't care enough." For an outsider to hear that, it may not seem important, but knowing the reasons, it starts to make sense. As the player develops, he/she is going to experience many distractions along the way. If they don't truly love the game, and want to be there with all of their being, then they'll be swayed off course. The teams that are looking for good players aren't going to put in a lot of time, effort and money to develop someone, if it's not profitable for them. It's a business matter...this isn't just fun anymore.

T. J. Clark says that he'll watch someone maybe four or five times to see their reactions on the ice, and off. If a player acts like a "real jerk" and treats people badly, T. J.'s not interested. 'If someone is disrespectful, that's not acceptable because sooner or later, it will impact me personally.'

"Kids that are on fire...aggressive but controlled... is what I look for. " Every year, they will be playing against bigger, stronger, smarter players and that could be stressful. There's always another level, so trying hard to 'make it' never really ends and kids have to be mentally tough to be able to handle it.

Are you mentally tough? Call now for a free consultation!