



June 21, 2017

## EA SPORTS NHL 18 Reveals Edmonton Oilers Superstar Connor McDavid as Cover Athlete at 2017 NHL Awards

*NHL® 18 Delivers the Action of Today's New NHL with New 3-on-3 NHL® THREES Mode, Creative Attack Controls, League Expansion and More*

View the [NHL 18 Official Gameplay Trailer Here](#)

Register Now for the Public Beta and Experience NHL THREES First

LAS VEGAS--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Electronic Arts Inc. (NASDAQ: EA) today unveiled the first look at *EA SPORTS™ NHL® 18* to hockey fans at the 2017 NHL Awards™ and NHL Expansion Draft™ presented by T-Mobile in Las Vegas, and revealed Edmonton Oilers® superstar center and Art Ross Trophy winner Connor McDavid as the athlete on the game's cover.

This Smart News Release features multimedia. View the full release here:  
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170621006432/en/>



EA SPORTS NHL 18 (Photo: Business Wire)

"Representing *NHL 18* as the cover athlete is an incredible honor," said Connor McDavid, Edmonton Oilers®. "I've played *EA SPORTS NHL* every year since I was kid. To appear on the cover, something that has been done previously by so many players that I respect and admire, is very exciting. I can't wait to play *NHL 18*."

*NHL® 18* is built to deliver the speed, skill, and creativity of today's young new NHL through Creative Attack controls and the all-new Defensive Skill stick. The new 3-on-3 *NHL® THREES* mode introduces fast-paced, arcade-inspired action and, in Franchise Mode, the Expansion Draft feature lets fans be the first to play as the Vegas Golden Knights™, or create and draft their very own 32<sup>nd</sup> NHL team from the ground up. All of these new features are delivered with the most ways to play multiplayer ever in an *EA SPORTS NHL®* game. For the full list of features new to *NHL® 18*, [visit the official website here](#).

Fans can experience the all-new *NHL® THREES* and more in *NHL® 18* first by registering for public beta now. The beta begins July 25, 2017 and will include three modes: *NHL® THREES*, *EA SPORTS Hockey League*, and *Online Vs.* For full details and to sign up now, visit [www.easports.com/nhl/beta](http://www.easports.com/nhl/beta).

"There's a huge shift in the sport of hockey right now, where a new generation of young players are bringing more speed, skill and creativity to the game than we've ever seen," said Sean Ramjagsingh, Lead Producer, *NHL® 18*. "*NHL 18* is all about capturing everything that's great about the new NHL. Creative Attack controls let our players show off all the skill and highlight-reel moves they can imagine, while *NHL THREES* brings the speed and excitement of 3-on-3 hockey to the game."

New Creative Attack skill moves give players the control to execute jaw-dropping plays. On offense, creative dekes include between-the-legs moves, one-handed dekes, back-handed toe-drags and much more -- like the ability to branch moves together for moment-to-moment decision making. On defense, the new Defensive Skill Stick delivers the tools to counter attacks with poke check targeting, extended pokes, and controlled stick sweeps to cover zones of the ice and take away lanes. New Creative A.I. systems mean teammates now leverage the same tools as the player for intelligent decision-making all over the ice, including board passes and through-passing into space.

*NHL® 18* introduces 3-on-3 hockey in two bold new ways. First, *NHL® THREES* is an arcade-inspired experience with fast-paced, over-the-top action that features faster gameplay, bigger hits and high-scoring action. Players can choose modes between fast-fun couch co-op and fully competitive online team play, or dive into the new *NHL® THREES* circuit-style Campaign Mode to compete against different teams and leagues in a circuit-style journey where they can unlock objective-based rewards as they progress through the campaign. Second, *NHL® 18* adds an authentic 3-on-3 online team play option to the fan-favorite *EA SPORTS Hockey League* mode, allowing for more open ice and strategic, risk-vs-reward multiplayer competition.

Additional features include the new Expansion Draft coming to Franchise Mode, Hockey Ultimate Team™ Solo Challenges, and a new Hockey Training Camp designed to ensure players have immediate success on the ice, and much more. *NHL® 18* is also making it easier than ever to play with or against friends, creating more than 64 ways to team up and play on the couch or online, and bringing co-op play to more modes including Hockey Ultimate Team™, Online Vs. and *NHL® THREES*. [See the full feature set here.](#)

*NHL® 18* is available worldwide on September 15, 2017 for Xbox One and PlayStation 4. Starting today, players can pre-order the *EA SPORTS NHL® 18* Young Stars Edition\* and *EA SPORTS NHL® 18* Young Stars Deluxe Edition\*, which each include three days early access to the full game starting September 12<sup>th</sup> and Connor McDavid content, including a Connor McDavid Rookie HUT item, a Connor McDavid celebration, and a custom HUT jersey designed by adidas and Connor McDavid. The Young Stars Edition also features 20 Gold Plus Packs for Hockey Ultimate Team and a Rookie HUT item from a team of the player's choice. The *EA SPORTS NHL® 18* Young Stars Deluxe Edition includes all these perks plus an additional 20 Gold Plus Packs for Hockey Ultimate Team. For more details and to pre-order now, visit [www.easports.com/nhl/buy](http://www.easports.com/nhl/buy). In addition to this, EA Access members can play for up to 10 hours starting September 7<sup>th</sup> with the EA Access Play First Trial.\*\*

## About Electronic Arts

Electronic Arts (NASDAQ: EA) is a global leader in digital interactive entertainment. The Company develops and delivers games, content and online services for Internet-connected consoles, mobile devices and personal computers. EA has more than 300 million registered players around the world.

In fiscal year 2017, EA posted GAAP net revenue of \$4.8 billion. Headquartered in Redwood City, California, EA is recognized for a portfolio of critically acclaimed, high-quality brands such as The Sims™, Madden NFL, EA SPORTS™ FIFA, Battlefield™, Need for Speed™, Dragon Age™ and Plants vs. Zombies™. More information about EA is available at [www.ea.com/news](http://www.ea.com/news).

Ultimate Team, EA SPORTS, Battlefield, The Sims, Need for Speed, Dragon Age, and Plants vs. Zombies are trademarks of Electronic Arts Inc. John Madden, NFL, NHL and FIFA are the property of their respective owners and used with permission.

\*Conditions and restrictions apply. See <https://www.easports.com/nhl/game-and-offer-disclaimers> for details.

\*\*Conditions, limitations and exclusions apply. See <http://www.ea.com/eaaccess> for details.

View source version on [businesswire.com](http://businesswire.com): <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170621006432/en/>

Electronic Arts Inc.  
Jino Talens, 650-628-9111  
Sr. PR Manager  
[jtalens@ea.com](mailto:jtalens@ea.com)  
or  
Danica Stanczak, 650-628-3722  
Publicist  
[dstanczak@ea.com](mailto:dstanczak@ea.com)

Source: Electronic Arts Inc.

News Provided by Acquire Media