Hockey is my biggest hobby, I played hockey for eight years before college and still love it today. I was drawn to hockey at a young age after going to see an NHL game in St. Louis. Hockey is an intense, fast-paced, hard hitting, but also incredibly finesse game; it is like no other sport in the world. The amount of skill it takes to make plays all while balancing and staying standing on ice sets hockey apart as the most challenging sport in the world. No matter what sport they play, other athletes all respect hockey players.

Technology has changed the sport incredibly for the players. In the past hockey was played with sticks made from wood, thin pads, and skates that were all formed in the same exact way. Modern technology has changed the equipment for the players very much. New carbon-graphite composite sticks allow players to get velocity on their shots. Technological advances in protective foam has increased player safety allowing pads to become thicker without becoming heavier and slowing players down. Additionally, skates were at one time all the same, the skate boot was all one material, shaped one way, and the skate blade was sharpened the same way for all players. New carbon-fiber material has allowed skate boots to be made from multiple materials, allowing for further customization in fit and in protection. Advances in technology now allow each player to have a custom way that his blade is sharpened, some players like really sharp blades so that they dig into the ice a lot; while others like a more dull blade so they reduce
friction by digging in to the ice less. Technology ultimately has allowed players to step their
game up to another level by giving them the equipment necessary to do so (Science of Hockey).

Presently technology is changing the way that hockey is watched and analyzed. New
player tracking systems allow fans to follow their favorite players’ every play. Player tracking
can show when a player passes the puck, if the pass gets to a teammate or an opponent, if a
player’s shot goes on the net, and much more. Furthermore, it has changed the way the game is
analyzed. Previously, stats could be kept on how many minutes a player was on the ice, how
many goals they scored or assists they recorded. With modern day technology many more “next-
level” stats can be recorded (Deadspin). These “next-level” stats are things such as; how often
does a player reach maximum stride length, how many goals are scored from secondary shots,
how often do goalies make saves with their glove, chest, or blocker, and other valuable details
(Deadspin).

Technology has allowed the game of hockey to advance, evolve, and ultimately be played
at a higher level. In the past, technology has allowed equipment to evolve and aid players to
perform at a higher level than was ever known possible. Today, the stats that are becoming
available thanks to technology and player tracking allow for the game to be analyzed much more
in-depth. In-depth analysis ultimately results in coaches being able to better develop players’
skills and help players improve to play the game at the highest level possible. Finally, technology
allows for fans to experience the game in an incredibly immersive manner. Fans are able to track
their favorite players’ every play and never miss a single happening. Technology has changed
hockey into something more enjoyable for everyone who plays or watches the sport. All of this
change just grows my interest in the sport, because it is being played better than ever which
makes it more fun to watch and to play. As technology further changes hockey my interest in the sport will only continue to grow.
Works Cited
