

Keeping Score

Young Guns

We picked the top professional athletes age 21 or under in major U.S. sports.

PLAYER/TEAM	LEAGUE	DATE OF BIRTH	TURNE D PRO	CURRENT SEASON EARNINGS
LeBron James/Cavaliers 4,404 career points already ranks in the top 20 in Cavaliers history	NBA	12/30/84	Age 18	\$4.6 million (estimated)
Felix Hernandez/Mariners Opposing batters hit just .203 off of Hernandez in 2005	MLB	4/8/86	Age 19	\$300,000 (MLB minimum)
Shawne Merriman/Chargers Tied for second among NFL linebackers with seven sacks	NFL	5/25/84	Age 21	\$230,000 (base only)
Alexander Ovechkin/Capitals Ranks among the NHL's top 10 in goals (18), shots on goal (141) and power-play goals (8)	NHL	9/17/85	Age 21	\$984,200
Spencer Levin 2004 U.S. Open finish was the highest by an amateur at the Open since 1971	PGA	6/15/84	Age 21	\$78,082
Kyle Busch Raybestos Rookie of the Year in 2005 on the Nextel Cup circuit	Nascar	5/2/85	Age 19	\$4,185,239
Maria Sharapova Has won three WTA tour singles titles in 2005	Tennis	4/19/87	Age 14	\$1,921,283 (prize money)
Freddy Adu/D.C. United Highest-paid soccer player in the U.S.	MLS	6/2/89	Age 14	\$500,000

All stats are through games of Sunday, Dec. 11, when applicable.

Sources: Stats LLC; WSJ Market Data Group