##### AXEL SANDIN-PELLIKKA

Team: Skelleftea AIK

League: SHL

Position: Right Defensemen

Born: **11 MAR 2005**

Height: **5’11ft or 180cm**

Weight: **180 lbs or 82kg**

# 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 Good: 4

##### Skating Very Good: 4.5

**Shot/Scoring Good: 4**

**Puckhandling Very Good: 4.5**

##### Physical Play Above Average: 3.5

**Offensive Play Very Good: 4.5**

#### Defensive Play Very Good: 4.5

**Hockey Sense Excellent: 5**

**Competitiveness Good: 4**

**Strengths**

**1. Super strong skating abilities and transitions**

**2. Excellent Passing**

**3. Great Hockey IQ in all zones**

**Area’s For Improvement**

**1. Needs to build a bit more muscle to start becoming more effective physically.**

**2. Minor inconsistencies when joining up the rush.**

**3. Improve consistency in shot taking to also improve power.**

**Skill:**

A very stable two-way defensemen who has a tremendous offensive game and has incredible hockey IQ.

**Scouting Report:**

Overall, Axel’s game is something truly to be desired when looking for a mobile defenseman who’s game offensively is matched defensively. Even though he still needs some small portions of improvement like his shot power, there are so many wonders that teams look for in a defenseman that Pellikka caries. The best example that is, which is arguably Axel’s best attribute, is his understand of the game and his high hockey IQ. He reads the play like no other and even though he is sometimes smaller, he will use his smarts to his advantage. Whether it seems like there is an open lane for a forward, he seems to close that off in no time. Whether it is also gap control defending the neutral zone, Axel does not let many pass by him very easily considering he has tremendous amounts of awareness when using his stick for poke checking or shot blocking. On the offensive side, he understands what pass to make and when, whether it is a short pass or a long breakout pass, he gets the job done. Even though he does not have the strongest shot, he still has good enough accuracy, but he understands what position to be always in, even in the offensive zone. Even though he becomes physical in any situation needed, there are some inconsistencies on the effectiveness of his physicality which to help that, maybe building some more muscle may help that issue. The last thing that needs to be mentioned, is his skating. Even though Axel has above average speed which is still considered good, it is his lateral movement and transitions that makes him one of the smoothest skaters of the 2023 NHL draft for defensemen which is truly key. Every time he has to turn in reverse, he makes it look like it is nothing considering his lateral movement and pivots are not choppy to the point he looks like he is gliding on the ice and not to mention, he gets into position a lot because of his smooth skating.

**Player type and comparison: Player type: Two-Way/Offensive Defenseman: Comparison: Kris Letang**