



2012 DRAFT GUIDE

BRINGING YOU TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY



KAKISVISION

Managing Editor

Aaron Vickers
aaronvickers@futureconsiderations.ca

Associate Editor

Wade Paterson
wadepaterson@futureconsiderations.ca

Associate Editor

Shereen Abbas

Production Manager/Graphic Designer

Bret Kenworthy
brkenworthy@gmail.com

Contributors

Justin Goldman, Brian Huddle, Wade Paterson, Dan Shrader, Dan Stewart, Aaron Vickers, Andrew Weiss.

Scouting Staff**Scouting Director**

Dan Stewart
danstewart@futureconsiderations.ca

Regional Scouts

Pavol Balaz, James Bradd, Daniel Chan, Mark Farine, Claudia Fortier, Patrik Hall, Zenon Herasymiuk, Brian Huddle, Marcus Hultgren, Igor Kraev, Matt Lafortune, Sean Lafortune, Jason MacIsaac, Jeff McCarthy, Brian McGee, Cody Nickolet, Dan Sallows, Dan Shrader, Randy Stoochnoff.

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Created and developed in the summer of 2007, Future Considerations is hockey's fastest growing prospects-based publication.

But what is Future Considerations?

The new breed.

Sidney Crosby. Alexander Ovechkin. Evgeni Malkin.

But the pipeline of tomorrow's stars today does not end there. A new wave of hockey prospects is trickling into the forefront, grabbing attention for the game's next generation.

Future Considerations was there when the New York Islanders made John Tavares the first overall pick in the 2008 NHL Entry Draft. FC saw Steven Stamkos selected by the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2009. With back-to-back first overall picks, Future Considerations watched Taylor Hall and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins join the Edmonton Oilers.

What does the future have in store for the NHL?



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EDITOR'S NOTE

By Aaron Vickers

Welcome to Future Considerations 2012 NHL Draft Guide!

It's not hard to get optimistic when it comes for the 2012 draft class.

While it's been a difficult one to scout for the staff at FC, it's been an incredibly entertaining one from a storyline standpoint.

The sheer volume of injuries alone has made for one of those stories. From Alex Galchenyuk and Morgan Rielly missing the majority of the season to the impact of the injuries faced by the likes of Nail Yakupov and Mikhail Grigorenko, injuries have played a key role.

But on a personal level, perhaps this year's draft class holds a special place with FC. The 2012 class marks the fifth year Future Considerations has been in existence, and what a ride it has been. Starting from scratch, FC has grown in leaps and bounds over the last half-decade in our abilities to provide you with both the stories each year has to offer, as well as the scouting reports you've turned to us for.

Starting in 2007, FC has grown from a dream into a staff of 18 scouts and a handful of writers who put in nothing but countless hours for the love of the game.

We take a great pride in what we do, and we feel it reflects in our product.

We hope you feel the same.

Thank you for purchasing FC's 2012 NHL Entry Draft Guide and making us your choice when it comes to information headquarters for the 2012 draft.

Enjoy the following pages of information gather by our scouts and writers through what has been both thousands of hours of work and a real labor of love.

Best Regards,

Aaron Vickers

Managing Editor

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SCOUTING DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By Dan Stewart

Welcome to Future Considerations 2012 NHL Draft Guide!

The NHL draft is the one day that brings hope to the fans of the 14 clubs that did not make the post season dance, as well as those dejected fans of the other 15 NHL franchises that did make the playoffs but were not lucky enough to see their hockey heroes drink from the silver chalice that is Lord Stanley's Cup.

The draft also marks the pinnacle of an entire year's work spent in rinks for hundreds of scouts in black jackets, most of whom have small NHL team logos embroidered on the chest for the team which they represent. These are the scouts who put in thousands of man-hours driving to games, sleeping in hotels and sitting in the stands watching young men play a game that we all love.

While it sounds exciting the mental strain and hard work it takes can be too much for some. I would like to thank Future Considerations staff of 18 dedicated scouts who have been a pleasure to work with this season.

Brian Huddle, Brian McGee, Claudia Fortier, Cody Nickolet, Daniel Chan, Dan Shrader, Igor Kraev, James Bradd, Jason MacLissac, Jeff McCarthy, Marcus Hultgren, Mark Farine, Matt Lafortune, Patrik Hall, Pavol Balaz, Randy Stoochnoff, Sean Lafortune and Zenon Herasymiuk have all done a great job providing game reports, input on rankings and various prospect updates throughout the year. There are also countless others behind the sense we need to thank, those who have made invaluable contributions over the season.

The 2012 NHL Entry Draft has been a bit of a roller coaster ride. Going back to last season, there was some strong optimism about the 2012 crop of prospects as a few high-end kids really put on a show and looked on the verge of really breaking out in their draft season.

Fast forward to August where the U18 and NHL Research & Development events showed this draft to have some good depth to go along with some of these high-end talents.

That is about the time where the wheels started to fall off.

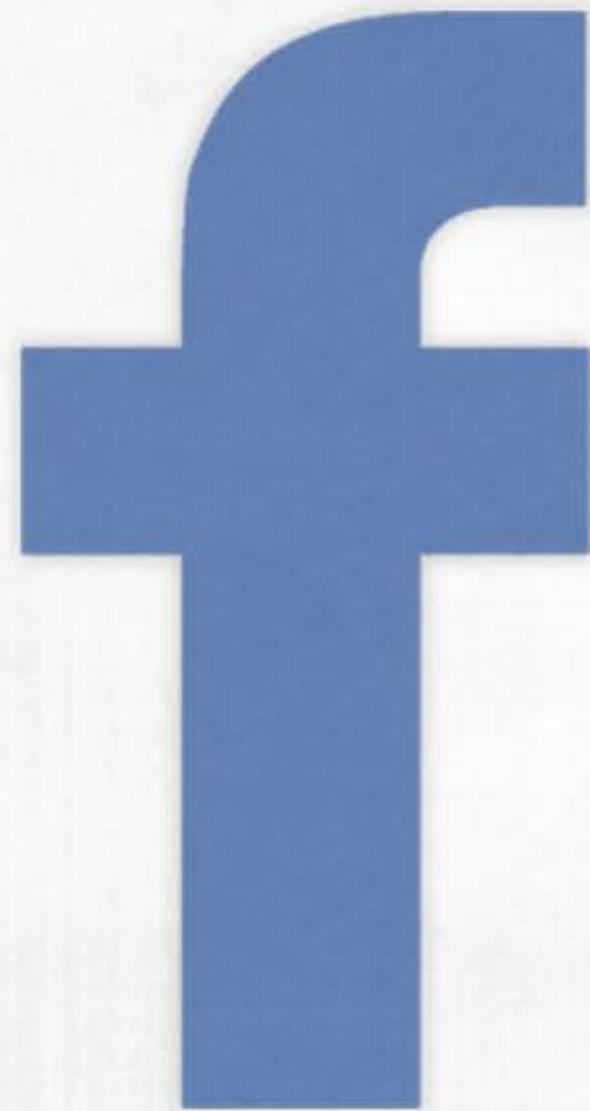
From these late summer tournaments those same depth prospects started slower than projected in their league play, holes started to appear in many strongly regarded prospects game and the much hullabaloo injury curse of 2012 started to take out a few of the higher end prospects.

It has been a chore for FC and many NHL scouts to get multi-views on all the high-end guys that have suffered injury this year and to really dig deep into the depth of this draft. But we at FC feel as though all the hard work has paid off and can confidently say that this draft will eventually boast its fair share of NHL talent.

So without further adieu, thank you for purchasing FC's 2012 NHL Entry Draft Guide. Enjoy the following pages of information gather by our scouts and writers through what has been both thousands of hours of work and a real labor of love.

Best Regards,

Dan Stewart
Director of Scouting



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FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS' TOP 210 DRAFT RANKINGS: TOP 210 PROSPECT RANKINGS

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /

1). RW Nail Yakupov, Sarnia, OHL, 5-10.5, 189
 2). C Alex Galchenyuk, Sarnia, OHL, 6-1, 185
 3). D Ryan Murray, Everett, WHL, 6-0.5, 200
 4). C Mikhail Grigorenko, Quebec, QMJHL, 6-3, 200
 5). LW Filip Forsberg, Leksand, Swe., 6-2, 180
 6). D Jacob Trouba, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6-2, 195
 7). D Griffin Reinhart, Edmonton, WHL, 6-4, 205
 8). RW Teuvo Teravainen, Jokerit Jr., Fin Jr., 5-11, 165
 9). D Morgan Rielly, Moose Jaw, WHL, 5-11.5, 190
 10). D Mathew Dumba, Red Deer, WHL, 5-11.5, 180
 11). D Cody Ceci, Ottawa, OHL, 6-2.5, 210
 12). RW Sebastian Collberg, Frolunda Jr., Swe Jr., 5-11, 175
 13). C Radek Faksa, Kitchener, OHL, 6-3, 200
 14). D Derrick Pouliot, Portland, WHL, 5-11, 185
 15). D Hampus Lindholm, Rogle Jr., Swe Jr., 6-2, 195
 16). RW Colton Sissons, Kelowna, WHL, 6-1, 190
 17). LW Nicolas Kerdules, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6-1.5, 200
 18). C Brendan Gaunce, Belleville, OHL, 6-2, 215
 19). C Zemgus Girgensons, Dubuque, USHL, 6-1.5, 200
 20). C Tomas Hertl, Slavia Praha, Czech Rep, 6-2, 195
 21). G Andrei Vasilevski, Ufa, MHL, 6'-3.5", 205
 22). LW Pontus Aberg, Djurgarden, SEL., 5-11, 195
 23). D Slater Koekkoek, Peterborough, OHL, 6-2, 185
 24). D Ludvig Bystrom, Modo Jr., Swe Jr., 6-1, 205
 25). G Oscar Dansk, Brynas Jr., Swe Jr., 6-2.5, 185
 26). D Matt Finn, Guelph, OHL, 6-0, 195
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 28). D Dalton Thrower, Saskatoon, WHL, 5-11.5, 190
 29). G Malcolm Subban, Belleville, OHL, 6-1, 188
 30). RW Tom Wilson, Plymouth, OHL, 6-4, 205
 31). C Scott Laughton, Oshawa, OHL, 6-0, 180
 32). RW Daniil Zharkov, Belleville, OHL, 6-3, 195
 33). RW Martin Frk, Halifax, QMJHL, 5-11.5, 205
 34). LW Stefan Matteau, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6-1.5, 210
 35). D Jake McCabe, U. of Wisconsin, WCHA, 6-0, 195
 36). C Phil Di Giuseppe, Michigan, CCHA, 6-0, 180
 37). D Brady Skjei, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6'-3, 200
 38). RW Cristoval Nieves, Kent, USHS, 6-3, 185
 39). D Calle Andersson, Farjestad Jr., Swe Jr., 6-2, 205
 40). D Damon Severson, Kelowna, WHL, 6-1.5, 200
 41). G Matt Murray, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 6-4, 165
 42). D Michael Matheson, Dubuque, USHL, 6-1, 180
 43). LW Tanner Pearson, Barrie, OHL, 6-0, 200
 44). C Mark Jankowski, Stanstead, USHS, 6-2, 170
 45). C Henrik Samuelsson, Edmonton, WHL, 6-2, 195
 46). RW Brian Hart, Phillips Exeter, USHS, 6-2, 215
 47). D Jordan Schmaltz, Green Bay, USHL, 6-2, 180
 48). LW Anton Stopyshev, Metallurg Novokuznetsk, KHL, 6-2, 185
 49). C/LW Tim Bozon, Kamloops, WHL, 6-0.5, 180
 50). D Patrick Sieloff, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6-0, 200
 51). LW Brady Vail, Windsor, OHL, 6-0.5, 190
 52). LW Charles Hudon, Chicoutimi, QMJHL, 5-10, 170
 53). G Joonas Korpi, Jokerit Jr., Fin Jr., 6-1.5, 165

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /

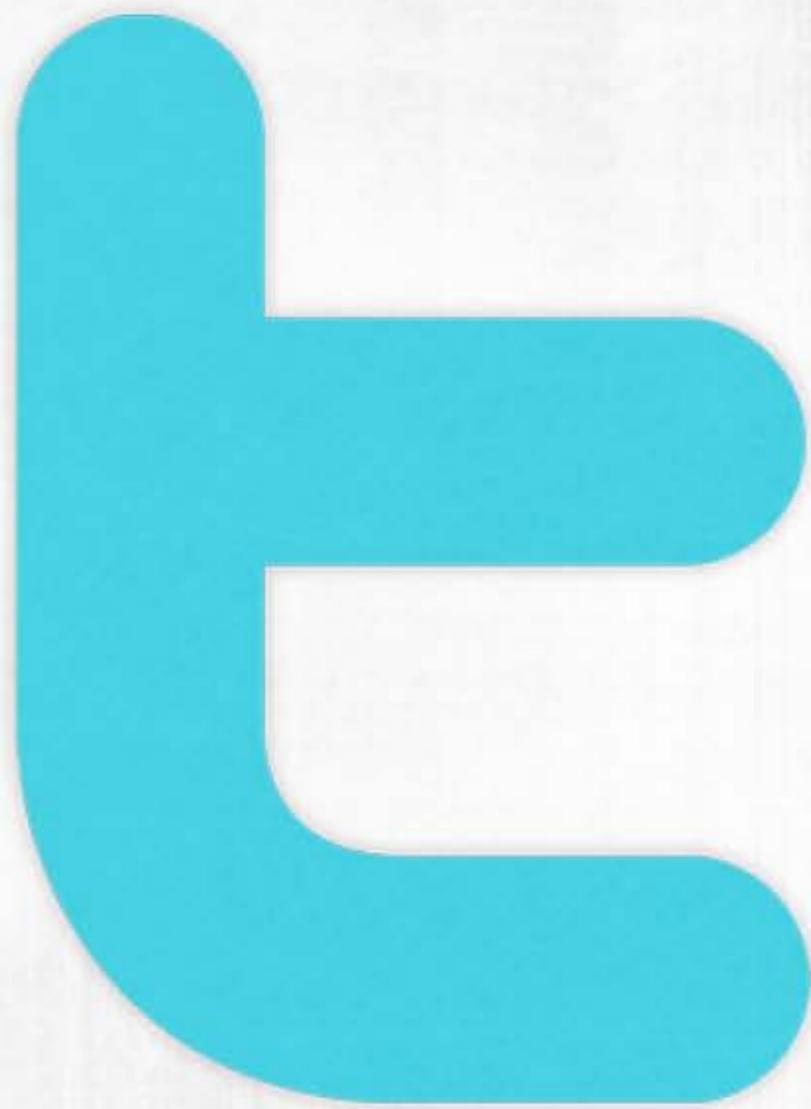
54). LW Coda Gordon, Swift Current, WHL, 6-0.5, 175
 55). D Ville Pokka, Karpat, SM-Liiga, 6-0, 195
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 58). D Mikko Vainonen, HIFK Jr., Fin Jr., 6-3, 205
 59). RW Hunter Fejes, Shattuck St. Marys, USHS, 6-1, 190
 60). D James Melindy, Moncton, QMJHL, 6-2.5, 190
 61). C Jarrod Maidens, Owen Sound, OHL, 6-0.5, 180
 62). D Dillon Fournier, Rouyn-Noranda, QMJHL, 6-2, 180
 63). LW Emil Lundberg, Sodertalje, Swe., 6-3, 205
 64). C Devin Shore, Whitby, OJHL, 6-0, 185
 65). C Mike Winther, Prince Albert, WHL, 5-11, 175
 66). D Cody Corbett, Edmonton, WHL, 6-0, 210
 67). C Lukas Sutter, Saskatoon, WHL, 6-0.5, 210
 68). RW Tomas Hyka, Gatineau, QMJHL, 5-11, 160
 69). RW Branden Troock, Seattle, WHL, 6-2, 175
 70). G Brandon Whitney, Victoriaville, QMJHL, 6-5, 190
 71). D Brett Kulak, Vancouver, WHL, 6-0.5, 175
 72). RW Sam Kurker, St. John's Prep, USHS, 6-2, 200
 73). D Adam Pelech, Erie, OHL, 6-2, 210
 74). D Trevor Carrick, Mississauga, OHL, 6-1.5, 175
 75). LW Nikita Gusev, CSKA, MHL, 5-9, 165
 76). C Gemel Smith, Owen Sound, OHL, 5-10, 160
 77). C Zach Stepan, Shattuck St. Marys, USHS, 6-0, 165
 78). D Gianluca Curcuruto, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 6-0.5, 195
 79). G Jon Gilles, Indiana, USHL, 6-4.5, 210
 80). C/LW Andreas Athanasiou, London, OHL, 6-0, 175
 81). D Esa Lindell, Jokerit Jr., Fin Jr., 6-3, 195
 82). D Dylan Blujus, Brampton, OHL, 6-3, 195
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 84). G Collin Olson, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6-3.5, 195
 85). LW Chandler Stephenson, Regina, WHL, 5-10.5, 190
 86). LW Jake Montgomery, Shattuck St. Marys, USHS, 6-1, 190
 87). LW Troy Bourke, Prince George, WHL, 5-10, 160
 88). C Matia Marcantuoni, Kitchener, OHL, 6-0, 195
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 90). D Nick Ebert, Windsor, OHL, 6-0, 205
 91). D Brian Cooper, Fargo, USHL, 5-10, 180
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 94). C Dane Fox, Erie, OHL, 6-0, 185
 95). G Daniel Altshuller, Oshawa, OHL, 6-3, 190
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 97). C/LW Francis Beauvillier, Rimouski, QMJHL, 6-1, 180
 98). LW Josh Anderson, London, OHL, 6-1, 185
 99). C Steven Hodges, Victoria, WHL, 5-11, 180
 100). G Jake Paterson, Saginaw, OHL, 6-1.5, 185
 101). D Zack Leslie, Guelph, OHL, 6-1, 175
 102). LW Jimmy Vesey, South Shore, EJHL, 6-0, 175
 103). C Gustav Rydahl, Frolunda Jr., Swe Jr., 6-2, 195
 104). C Brendan Leipsic, Portland, WHL, 5-9, 160
 105). C Tanner Richard, Guelph, OHL, 6-0, 185
 106). RW Chris Calnan, Nobles, USHS, 6-2, 195

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /

107). C Robert Baillargeon, Indiana, USHL, 6-0, 175
 108). G Anthony Stolarz, Corpus Christi, NAHL, 6-5, 200
 109). RW Christophe Lalancette, Acadie-Bath, QMJHL, 6-0, 170
 110). G Francois Tremblay, Val-d'Or, QMJHL, 6-2, 200
 111). C/RW Frankie Vatrano, USNTDP U18, USHL, 5-10, 215
 112). D Jaccob Slavin, Chicago, USHL, 6-2, 200
 113). D Mikael Wikstrand, Mora, Swe., 6-1, 185
 114). C/LW Ben Johnson, Windsor, OHL, 5-11.5, 185
 115). D Marcus McIvor, Brampton, OHL, 6-1, 200
 116). C Theodor Blueger, Shattuck St. Marys, USHS, 6-0, 170
 117). LW Ludvig Nilsson, Timra Jr., Swe. Jr., 6-1, 175
 118). C Seth Griffith, London, OHL, 5'-11", 180 Lbs
 119). LW Christopher Clapperton, B-Boisbriand, QMJHL, 5-9, 165
 120). C Logan McVeigh, Kamloops, WHL, 6-1, 190
 121). D Mikko Lehtonen, TPS Jr., Fin Jr., 5-11, 180
 122). D Dakota Mermis, Green Bay, USHL, 5-11.5, 180
 123). D Max Iafrate, Kitchener, OHL, 6-1, 200
 124). RW Tobias Tornkvist, Rogle Jr., Swe. Jr., 6-4, 190
 125). D Petteri Lindbohm, Jokerit Jr., Fin Jr., 6-3, 210
 126). C Tyrel Seaman, Brandon, WHL, 6-2, 200
 127). C Jared Thomas, Hermantown, USHS, 6-1, 190
 128). C Vyacheslav Osnovin, Chelyabinsk, MHL, 6-0, 185
 129). G Marek Langhamer, Pardubice Jr., Czech Rep Jr., 6-2, 180
 130). G Andrey Makarov, Saskatoon, WHL, 6-0.5, 180
 131). C Erik Karlsson, Frolunda Jr., Swe Jr., 5-11, 160
 132). LW Devin Tringale, Lawrence Academy, USHS, 6-0, 195
 133). C Ryan Olsen, Saskatoon, WHL, 6-2, 180
 134). D Niklas Tikkinen, Blues Jr., Fin Jr., 5-11, 170
 135). D Travis Brown, Moose Jaw, WHL, 6-1.5, 180
 136). D Connor Carrick, USNTDP U18, USHL, 5-11, 185
 137). RW Adam Gilmour, Nobles, USHS, 6-2.5, 195
 138). C Kevin Roy, Lincoln, USHL, 5-9, 170
 139). RW Riley Barber, USNTDP U18, USHL, 5-11.5, 195
 140). D Jake Bischoff, Grand Rapids, USHS, 6-0, 175
 141). C Mackenzie MacEachern, Brother Rice, USHS, 6-3, 165
 142). C Logan Nelson, Victoria, WHL, 6-1, 180
 143). D Ian Janco, Bloomington Jefferson, USHS, 6-1, 185
 144). C Matthew Beattie, Phillips Exeter, USHS, 6-3, 175
 145). C Danny O'Regan, St. Sebastian School, USHS, 5-9, 160
 146). C Alexander Kerfoot, Coquitlam, BCHL, 5-9.5, 155
 147). D Jaynen Rissling, Calgary, WHL, 6-4, 220
 148). LW Will Merchant, Eagan, USHS, 6-1, 175
 149). LW Jujhar Khaira, Prince George, BCHL, 6-2.5, 180
 150). D Justin Hache, Shawinigan, QMJHL, 6-1, 190
 151). RW Denis Kamaev, Rouyn-Noranda, QMJHL, 5-11, 175
 152). LW Chris Marchese, Windsor, OHL, 6-0, 210
 153). RW Matt Pohlkamp, Brainerd, USHS, 6-1, 200
 154). D Jake Dotchin, Owen Sound, OHL, 6-2, 205
 155). G Chris Driedger, Calgary, WHL, 6-2.5, 195
 156). RW Dominik Volek, Regina, WHL, 6-0, 175
 157). D John Draeger, Shattuck St. Marys, USHS, 6-2, 185
 158). G Patrik Bartosak, Red Deer, WHL, 6-0.5, 180
 159). C Michael Clarke, Windsor, OHL, 5-11, 185

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160). RW Cody Payne, Plymouth, OHL, 6-2, 200
 161). G Matt Tomkins, Sherwood Park, AJHL, 6-2, 175
 162). D Valeri Vasiliev, Spartak, MHL, 6-1, 200
 163). C Peter Quenneville, Sherwood Park, AJHL, 5-11, 175
 164). RW/C Cameron Darcy, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6-0, 190
 165). LW Carter Rigby, Kelowna, WHL, 6-0, 210
 166). D Brandon Devlin, Windsor, OHL, 6-1, 200
 167). LW Artur Gavrus, Owen Sound, OHL, 5-10, 165
 168). D Rhett Holland, Okotoks, AJHL, 6-2, 220
 169). RW Vladislav Shalimov, Val-d'Or, QMJHL, 6-2.5, 185
 170). C Matthew DeBlouw, Muskegon, USHL, 6-0.5, 185
 171). C/RW Kristoff Kontos, Mississauga, OHL, 6-1, 200
 172). C Graham Black, Swift Current, WHL, 5-11, 175
 173). D Simon Fernholm, Hudding Jr., Swe. Jr., 6-4, 185
 174). C Ondrej Slovacek, VHK Vsetin, Czech, 5-10, 160
 175). D Joey LaLeggia, Denver, WCHA, 5-10, 180
 176). D Jacob Spangberg, AIK Jr., Swe Jr., 6-3, 190
 177). C/LW Chris Tierney, London, OHL, 6-0, 180
 178). C Cain Franson, Vancouver, WHL, 6-1, 175
 179). D Egor Malenikh, St. Petersburg, MHL, 6-4, 200
 180). C Matej Beran, PEI, QMJHL, 6-4.5, 215
 181). D Jesse Graham, Niagara, OHL, 5-11, 170
 182). C Colin Smith, Kamloops, WHL, 5-10, 170
 183). C Thomas Di Pauli, USNTDP U18, USHL, 5-11, 190
 184). D Justin Wade, Fargo, USHL, 6-2, 210
 185). LW Taylor Leier, Portland, WHL, 5-10, 175
 186). D Troy Stecher, Penticton, BCHL, 5-11, 175
 187). LW Martin Prochazka, Sparta Jr., Czech Rep Jr., 6-2.5, 195
 188). RW Anton Zlobin, Shawinigan, QMJHL, 5-11, 195
 189). C Cory Ward, Aberdeen, NAHL, 6-1, 200
 190). D Reid Gow, Spokane, WHL, 5-11, 180
 191). C Marcel Kurth, Mannheim Jr., Ger Jr., 6-0, 190
 192). D Ashton Sautner, Edmonton, WHL, 6-0, 185
 193). LW Ales Kilnar, Vitkovice Jr., Czech Rep., 6-0, 185
 194). D Reece Wilcox, Merritt, BCHL, 6-3, 185
 195). D Dominic Nitti, Cretin-Derham Hall, USHS, 6-6, 180
 196). C Morgan Zulinick, Salton Arm, BCHL, 5-10, 185
 197). RW Alexei Filippov, Chelyabinsk, MHL, 6-3.5, 175
 198). C Matthew Lane, USNTDP U18, USHL, 5-10, 170
 199). C Niko Rufo, Kimball Union, USHS, 6-0, 180
 200). D Patrick McCarron, St. Michaels, OJHL, 6-3, 185
 201). G Etienne Marcoux, Blainville-Boisbriand, QMJHL, 6-0, 155
 202). D Nick Walters, Everett, WHL, 6-2, 190
 203). C Easton Viitala, Marquette AAA, US Midget, 6-5, 190
 204). LW Alex Kile, Green Bay, USHL, 5-11, 190
 205). LW Andrew Ryan, Halifax, QMJHL, 6-2, 200
 206). D Daniel Krejci, Slavia Praha, Czech Rep, 6-2, 205
 207). RW Grant Besse, Benilde-St Margaret, USHS, 5-10, 160
 208). C Alexander Barabanov, St. Petersburg, MHL, 5-10, 170
 209). D Mackenzie Weegar, Nepean, CCHL, 5-11, 185
 210). LW Brendan Collier, Malden Catholic, USHS, 5-9, 170



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RIELLY'S RAPID RETURN

By Brian Huddle

In a draft class so heavily riddled with injury, perhaps none was more devastating than the season-ending knee surgery required by Morgan Rielly.

At least, it was seemingly season-ending.

After missing most of the year, Rielly was hell-bent on getting back into the Moose Jaw Warriors lineup for the playoffs. In the third round of the WHL playoffs he got his wish, tallying three points in five playoff games.

"It was pretty huge to get back," the six-foot defender said. "I was pretty confident that if I put in the hard work, I'd be back and I'd be able to help my team in the playoffs."

"I was very surprised to see how good Rielly looked in the playoffs when coming back from his long injury layoff," Cody Nickolet said, one of Future Considerations' Western scouts. "It truly looked like he hadn't missed a step. His skating was right where it was when he was injured in early November."

"Not only was his skating top notch, but his decision making and defensive play was also a noted strong point of his game. It was nice to see because that was an area of his game that was considered a weakness pre-injury. Clearly the time off with injury, watching his teammates out on the ice, must have helped him and allowed him to see the game in a different way."

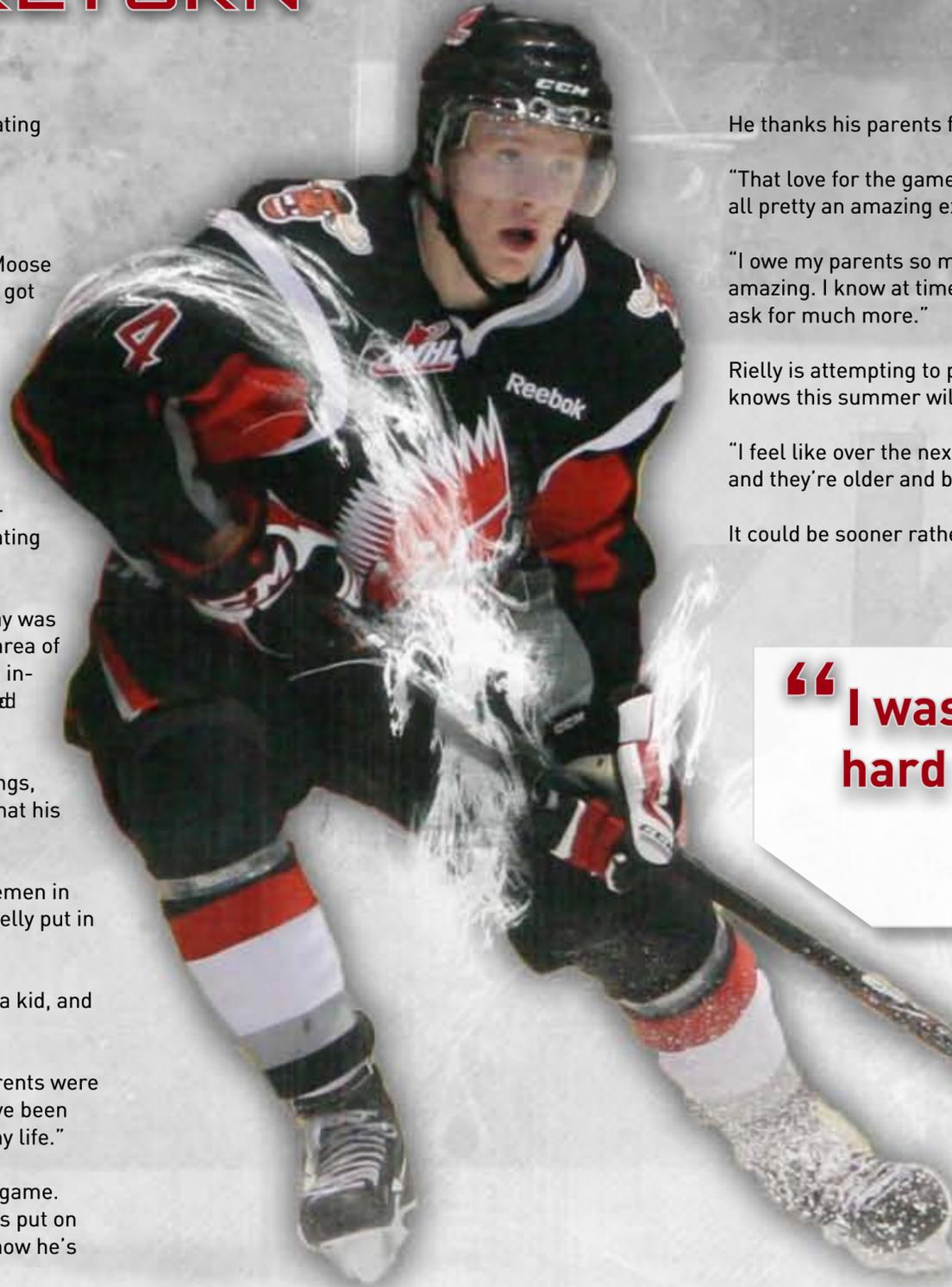
Despite their third round exit to the eventual WHL Champion Edmonton Oil Kings, Rielly's appearance offered a quick showcasing to scouts that he's back and that his knee responded well to surgery following a severe ACL injury last November.

It's a positive step for Rielly, heralded as one of the top pure offensive defensemen in the 2012 draft class. Many have emphasized his graceful skating, a gift that Rielly put in the work to receive.

"(It took) a whole lot of practice," Rielly explained. "I was always on the ice as a kid, and I'm just used to having the blades under my feet."

"When I grew up I had an older brother who always played hockey, and my parents were both athletes, so it was just kind of a part of me, and part of my growing up. I've been playing since I was three years old, so it's just always been a huge aspect of my life."

After almost 15 years in the sport, Rielly was quick to point out his love of the game. With a trend in burning out amongst young athletes growing and the pressures put on them to continue to better themselves, the Vancouver, BC product explained how he's continued to stay focused on his goals.



He thanks his parents for instilling his passion for the game.

"That love for the game, just being on the ice," Rielly said. "Sitting around the change room with the guys, it's all pretty an amazing experience. It's not just playing. It's the whole experience of hockey."

"I owe my parents so much, for wanting to go to my games, and wanting to do that kind of stuff, which is pretty amazing. I know at times it's tough for them, but they've always been great, and came to every games. I can't ask for much more."

Rielly is attempting to pay back his folks with a long and prosperous NHL career. With the draft nearing, Rielly knows this summer will be huge for him to making that next step.

"I feel like over the next few years I'll be prepared to make the jump," Rielly said. "It's a quick game up there, and they're older and bigger, so I'll be preparing for that over the next few years."

It could be sooner rather than later, just like Rielly's return this season.

“I was pretty confident that if I put in the hard work, I'd be back and I'd be able to help my team in the playoffs.”

- Morgan Rielly

1

NAIL YAKUPOV



No. 1

NAIL YAKUPOV

POSITION: Right Wing

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Sarnia (OHL)

BORN: October 6, 1993

VITALS: 5'-11" / 189 Lbs

STATS: 42 GP 31 G 38 A 69 PTS 30 PIM

STRENGTHS: Skating is his best attribute as he has the ability to use short blade pushes to generate impressive speed. When he gets moving he possesses the hands to control the puck and make some impressive head fakes and lateral moves to beat defenders one-on-one. His agility is unreal as he has an ability that maybe only five or six NHLers have to make a cut on a dime. His powerful legs generate outstanding speed, a killer change of direction and two-step acceleration that backs off most defenders. He has great natural scoring instincts as he is elusive, finds open space quickly and seems to get to where the puck is going before it gets there, just in time for a prime scoring chance. His shot is elite as it comes off his blade very quickly and with good velocity. He can surprise many goaltenders with his quick release and has the accuracy to hit the target consistently. His playmaking game has really taken off this year, as well as his elite vision and creativity. Yakupov's drive is through the roof: He does not give up on a play no matter how much he is outmanned. His game, while not ideally suited, has some physical elements like the willingness to take and give body checks as well as the willingness to engage in board battles. Even with all of the offensive pop in his game he is a sound two-way player, often filling gaps defensively and taking care of his own zone.

WEAKNESSES: Being slight in size, especially for the aggressive nature he has, leads many NHL talent evaluators to cross their fingers that he will not have an injury-plagued NHL career. He has great skill level but sometimes tries to do too much on his own. Like most young talents, he will need to understand that his game is best served to utilize his teammates in all situations and make the most of chances that are there, rather than forcing things that are not.

NOTES: Broke current NHL Superstar Steven Stamkos's record for most goals (49) and points (101) by a Sarnia rookie in 2010-11 and came into this season with high projections of what he could accomplish on the scoreboard. He battled some injuries and bad luck this season as his high flying linemate, Alex Galchenyuk, missed the majority of the year with a knee injury. He still managed to impress the scouts in the stands with his high-end skill each game he participated in though. There is no doubt in the minds of all FC scouts that Yakupov is the top prospect available in 2012.

SCOUT QUOTE: "Yakupov is a player who shows you something new every time you see him play; be it a subtle move with the puck or something he does behind the play. His ability to make skilled plays at high speeds is unmatched by anyone else in the league, let alone any other draft eligible players."

NHL POTENTIAL: Franchise offensive winger.

2

ALEX GALCHENYUK



No. 2

ALEX GALCHENYUK

POSITION: Centre

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Sarnia (OHL)

BORN: February 12, 1994

VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs

STATS: 2 GP 0 G 0 A 0 PTS 0 PIM

STRENGTHS: Skating is one of his major strengths as his speed is high-end. He possesses great balance and has very nice agility, especially with the puck on his stick. While not as shifty and daring a skater as Yakupov, Galchenyuk accelerates quickly, usually in three quick steps, with his feet allowing for a sudden change of direction. He has a good frame on him and was hard to knock off the puck last season. He's used this season, while not on the ice, to build up his upper body strength. He utilizes his quick, skilled hands to make highlight reel plays by beating defenders to the net. He has strong positioning and a good reach to protect the puck. Naturally he is more of a playmaker than a finisher, as his vision is off the charts and he can accurately hit a moving target through legs and sticks. He's at his best when he drives the net with the puck—defenders not only need to watch out for his physical presence barreling at them, but also his skill to make a deke and his ability to dish the puck to an open teammate at any second. Alex has that rare ability to slow the game down, make decisions and execute plays before defenders have a chance to read and react. He has a very accurate shot that has a good release, but he needs to utilize it more often. He looks very smooth with the puck and will be an impact NHLer in a couple seasons.

WEAKNESSES: Alex suffered a torn ACL in the OHL pre-season and had reconstructive surgery last fall. Not many NHL teams feel very comfortable spending a top three pick on a prospect that has missed all season with a major injury. The question is whether or not this will drop Alex and allow for some chance-taking team to get a steal or whether his resume from last season will be enough to push a team to draft him in the top three. Due to his injury, he is not considered NHL-ready. Alex is just scratching the surface of his potential and will need to continue to put in more work in over the next couple seasons. He also needs to lose that tentativeness that sometimes holds him back both physically and with the puck on his stick as he does not consistently drive into traffic or go to the net.

NOTES: Scouts will need to make a decision based on limited information with Alex as a torn ACL and the following reconstructive surgery ended up taking his entire regular NHL draft season away from him.

SCOUT QUOTE: "Galchenyuk, last season, was a dominant force for Sarnia as he controlled the pace of the play when he was on the ice. He showed strong two-way skills and really set up a great number of Yakupov's goals by using his slick hands to get into position and his elite vision to dish the puck to his partner in a timely manner for a prime scoring opportunity. Alex's finishing skills are highly underrated as well."

NHL POTENTIAL: Franchise offensive centre.

3

RYAN MURRAY

**No. 3****RYAN MURRAY****POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Everett (WHL)**BORN:** September 27, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-0.5" / 195 Lbs**STATS:** 46 GP 9 G 22 A 31 PTS 31 PIM

STRENGTHS: Murray is a complete two-way player who is capable of playing any type of game. He is an excellent skating defenseman who displays a fluid stride and an elite level of ability to use skating as an offensive weapon. He likes to join the rush, or even lead the rush, carrying the puck. He has great foot speed overall and good lateral mobility defensively. He shows off great passing skills as he can both quarterback a powerplay or make simple and effective breakouts from his own end. He has a very strong point shot that has the velocity to beat the goalie clean, even when the goaltender sees it. His vision with the puck is second to none, both in transition and in the offensive zone. He has the uncanny ability of breaking pucks out under extreme pressure either by passing or skating them out himself. He possesses consistently good one-on-one positioning and excels when it comes to stick-checking. He does all the little things correctly that the average fan does not notice, such as smart reversing flow or getting himself open as an option to take pressure off his defensive partner. He blocks shots and uses his smarts to anticipate lanes and close them off quickly. He has a real influential presence on his entire team and is a leader who can both rally and calm his teammates when needed. He shows his work ethic both during games and at practice.

WEAKNESSES: On a somewhat bad Everett team this year, Murray would sometimes not follow his instincts and try to force plays, which caused turnovers and sometimes goals. He will need to continue to play a safe game within his means to be effective at the next level. The team that drafts Murray will need to understand that he is not a high-end offensive player; rather, a solid all-round contributor. He will need to gain some extra strength over the summer if he wants to join his new NHL club next fall.

NOTES: He was one of the many injured top prospects this season as he battled a high ankle sprain that kept him out of the line-up for over 10 games. In a somewhat unheralded move, Murray was invited to join Team Canada for the spring IIHF World Championships.

SCOUT QUOTE: "Murray is a smooth skating, two-way defenseman with leadership capabilities. He's able to defend well and also quarterback a powerplay. He's very well-rounded in all three zones and a hard worker. Fully expect him to be a top three pick in the draft. In my opinion, he has the ability to step in right away."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top pairing two-way defenseman.

4

MIKHAIL GRIGORENKO



No. 4

MIKHAIL GRIGORENKO**POSITION:** Centre**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Quebec (QMJHL)**BORN:** May 16, 1994**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 190 Lbs**STATS:** 59 GP 40 G 45 A 85 PTS 12 PIM

STRENGTHS: Grigorenko is a player with high-end potential. He has some of the best puck-handling skills in the entire draft and his vision is elite. He dissects the play better than everyone else in the Q this year. He controls the game very well and is a lethal playmaker on the powerplay. He has a strong release on an NHL quality shot and often finds open space in the offensive zone. His mobility is above average, with a strong top speed and quick fluid feet, but his acceleration could use some improvement. His vision on the ice is extraordinary, possibly his best asset; he can make plays that few NHLers can. He seems to see the offensive plays develop a step or two before everyone else and is able to find the open player through heavy traffic or even from behind his back with a perfectly timed pass. His puck protection is very good and it isn't easy to steal the puck away from him because of his long reach. He does not shy away from using his body to protect the puck while maintaining possession in the offensive zone. A lot of his play seems natural and effortless.

WEAKNESSES: He always looks for the pass despite having a very effective shot. Defensively he looks lost, his positioning looks abysmal and he shows little effort unless he has the puck on his stick. There are concerns about his consistency and compete level. He lacks willingness and drive and often is out-muscled by smaller players along the boards or doesn't even bother showing up to the puck battle at all. If you are selecting this high, you really need to weigh the options and make sure the risk is worth the potentially great reward. He has the ability to be a franchise playmaking centre, but his lackluster performance this year, especially in the playoffs, has led to major questions. In our opinion, Grigorenko has not been the same since the WJC injury to his ankle and although he did play with Mono to end his season, that cannot be an excuse for his lackadaisical play earlier in the year.

NOTES: Not only did the talented Grigorenko win a silver medal at the World Junior Championships, he also won a ton of league awards this past season in the QMJHL. He claimed 'Rookie of the Year', 'Top Professional Prospect' and the 'Michel Bergeron' Trophy as the top offensive rookie of the year. He was also named to the all-rookie and first all-star teams.

SCOUT QUOTE: "A boom or bust type who has the potential to be a top line franchise centre with his vision and playmaking skill or a third line coach killer with his work ethic and consistency. His playoff play, specifically in Halifax, left much to be desired and will likely factor into the minds of NHL teams in Pittsburgh."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top line playmaking forward.

5 FILIP FORSBERG



No. 5

FILIP FORSBERG

POSITION: Left Wing

SHOOTS: Right

TEAM: Leksand (Sweden)

BORN: August 13, 1994

VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 190 Lbs

STATS: 43 GP 8 G 9 A 17 PTS 33 PIM

STRENGTHS: Forsberg is the most complete player out of Sweden. He has smarts, powerful skating, excellent two-way skills and nice size, but is not excellent in terms of high-end speed. Forsberg's skating is solid, he is very agile and has good acceleration. He possesses a great pair of hands, a very good shot and a nose for the net. Forsberg has the hockey sense to be a scoring threat any time the puck is in the offensive end. He is willing to use his size to protect the puck and his impressive strength to battle hard along the wall for pucks. He is a very versatile player that can be your leading scorer, shut down winger, top PP threat and top PK option as well. He does not possess Galchenyuk or Grigorenko's dazzling hand skills but he shows a sense of knowing what to do with the puck before it even gets to his stick. Defensively he reads the play well, blocking shots, throwing his body around and closing down lanes and comes back deep into his own zone to help out. He also proves to be a threat by picking the puck up and transitioning quickly to offense. He wants the puck on his stick but without it he can find the creases in the offensive zone and is a danger to get open for a prime scoring chance. His game translates very well to the pro level in North America.

WEAKNESSES: The high-end offensive potential is not quite as high as some of the other forwards who will be taken in the top 15 this year. His game has not translated the way some had hoped while playing against experienced players, or even in the junior circuit, as it had when he previously played against his peers in various U-18 tournaments. There's not a lot of weakness in his game as he is a physical, strong two-way player but he is not huge on offensive projections.

NOTES: His real showcases this year have been while playing for his nation in his own age group as he dominated the Ivan Hlinka, the 5-Nations in February and flashed his domination at the U-18's in April. He also won a gold medal with Team Sweden last January in Calgary at the IIHF World Junior Championships.

SCOUT QUOTE: "The high-end offensive potential in my opinion is not quite up there with the other top prospects, but he's definitely a safer pick. He has shown the ability to dominate a game in both directions and will be the Swede first picked when all is said and done come June."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top line two-way winger