

ACHOOCKEY



2013 DRAFT GUIDE

BRINGING YOU TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY



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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. John Tavares, Steven Stamkos, Tyler Seguin, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. 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 games 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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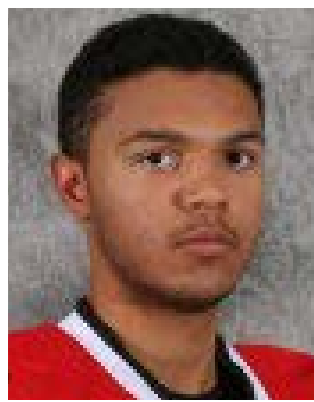
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**SETH JONES****POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Right**TEAM:** Portland (WHL)**BORN:** October 3, 1994**VITALS:** 6'-4" / 205 Lbs**STATS:** 61 GP 14 G 42 A 56 PTS 33 PIM

1

STRENGTHS: Jones is as complete a defenseman you will find in this draft. He has that impressive blend of size, smooth skating ability and finesse with the puck you want in a true franchise blueliner. Jones gets around the ice well with a powerful yet effortless stride. He has impressive lateral agility for such a big guy; the speed to both create problems to defend off the rush as well as get back in plenty of time to recovery off a turnover. He is patient with the puck in the offensive zone and at times is almost like a fourth forward when he pinches down low. Jones has a real offensive weapon in his slap shot as it is extremely hard and he has the ability to get it on net consistently, despite traffic. He does not drive his passes or shots into shin pads but instead find open lanes. The 6-foot-4 defender shows good anticipation in the D zone, strong lateral movement and is calm with puck while being forechecked. He has a very large wingspan which helps with impressive containment and solid gap control. The Portland standout thinks the game with the maturity of a 10-year NHL veteran. He processes the game at a high speed but with composure and calmness to how he acts in pressure situations. Jones transitions the play from the defensive to offensive smooth and quickly. He plays with his head up constantly reading the play and always engaging with either a subtle physical play or by use of his active stick. He can play in any situation, is extremely coachable and can log loads of minutes.

WEAKNESSES: Most of Jones' weaknesses are areas that can be corrected without complication. He will need to add more muscle mass and strength to reach his top potential as well as work on improving his foot speed to continue containing faster forwards at the next level. Jones can go through stretches where he reaches with his stick instead of moving his feet and can get beat with a heady deke or two in those moments. Also, like most top talents, he goes through times where he tries to do too much, often succeeding in his efforts and will need to learn to simplify as he moves up levels and his opponents play at a higher level.

SCOUTS QUOTE: "One play that stood out for me, he smoothly glided to the puck carrier, picked the puck off, angled the man to the boards and was gone the other way. He seemed like he did this with no effort. Almost like a knife going through butter. All this happened in a split second."

NHL POTENTIAL: Franchise Two-Way Defenseman.





NATHAN MACKINNON

POSITION: Centre

SHOOTS: Right

TEAM: Halifax (QMJHL)

BORN: September 1, 1995

VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs

STATS: 44 GP 32 G 43 A 75 PTS 45 PIM

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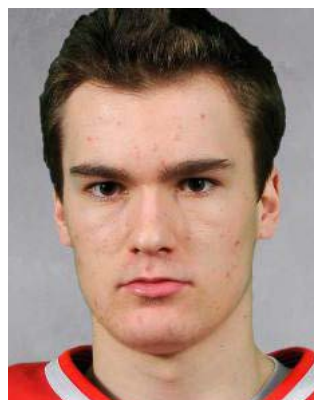
STRENGTHS: MacKinnon, the top forward prospect in the 2013 NHL Draft, is a nifty blend of speed, skill and sense. His skating ability is top notch and while he's not a rocket, MacKinnon has a good first step and above-average top speed. He's always in control of his feet and his low center of gravity makes it hard to knock him off the puck, even at top speed. He can change speeds or lateral direction in the blink of an eye causing some defenders to lose some apparel if they try to keep up to him. He is very strong on his skates, with an imposing lower frame showing very impressive balance. MacKinnon is very creative in the offensive zone and oozes confidence with the puck on his stick. He's very aggressive and likes to initiate contact and will dish out bone-rattling hits on occasion. He is very physical along the boards and often comes out with the puck in those 50/50 battles. MacKinnon's shot is already NHL-ready and his release is very quick and often fools goaltenders. His shot is complimented by great vision and an ability to make a very strong accurate pass that consistently find his teammates tape. He displays great offensive anticipation, consistently creating chances in the offensive zone for himself and his teammates. He shows improved offensive hockey IQ this season, showing the ability to make quick, accurate decisions with the puck even at top speed.

WEAKNESSES: Like most youngsters, MacKinnon's consistency from time to time wavers from dominant to disinterest depending on the shift. He also has a lot of work to do before he will be considered a strong two-way forward as he often jumps the gun and exits the defensive zone early in an attempt to generate scoring chances and leaves his check open. Some questions have been raised by talent evaluators about his offensive projection at the NHL level and if he truly has that 40+ goal potential most see.

SCOUTS QUOTE: "MacKinnon, along with running mate Jonathan Drouin, was the focal point of Halifax's blistering offense this season with their goals often being a thing of beauty. MacKinnon has the ability to take over a game and show what I would expect a 1st overall pick to show. Though he's been more of a sniper this season, he's definitely able to play the role of the playmaker as well showing a well-rounded offensive game."

NHL POTENTIAL: No. 1 Offensive Centre





JONATHAN DROUIN

POSITION: Left Wing

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Halifax (QMJHL)

BORN: March 28, 1995

VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs

STATS: 49 GP 41 G 64 A 105 PTS 32 PIM

3

STRENGTHS: Drouin is one of, if not the most skilled player on the puck in the entire 2013 NHL Draft. He can make plays at top speed as well as keep possession at top speed. He protects the puck very well, especially for a player of his size. Drouin is a good skater, very fast and effortless. He's very agile and shifty and uses this quickness to be very dangerous one-on-one. His balance is impressive for a player of his limited stature and shows high-end mobility every time he skates into the offensive zone, changing up his speed to frustrate opponents with quick cuts and turns. His hockey sense and decision making are top notch. His anticipation was also quite impressive as he instinctually knows when to pressure the puck and where to go for interceptions. There is little doubt that his vision to see seems in play that are not yet open and offensive creativity with the puck are the best in this draft class. Drouin is a natural playmaker, shows the ability to hold up on the half-boards, dissect the play, and find a linemate, all in the matter of seconds. He has high-end vision and very smart with the puck, seemingly having eyes in the back of his head at times. Not an elite defensive forward by any means, but Drouin contributes by always being a presence in the defensive zone and using his hockey sense to anticipate what is coming. His interceptions often lead to odd man rushes in the offensive zone. He shows an impressive ability to quickly stick check an opponent and takeaway puck possession.

WEAKNESSES: Although smarts can compensate somewhat, there are some questions about his adaptability at higher levels because of his lack of functional strength. Currently Drouin is somewhat shy in the corners and utilizes his stick over body positioning. Physical play is not one of Drouin's fortes and it will be a concern for a player like him at the next level. If he doesn't bulk up, there is the potential that he'll get pushed around like a chew toy when playing against men. He also needs to improve his shot velocity before advancing to shoot on NHL goaltenders.

SCOUTS QUOTE: "Jonathan Drouin has really made some significant strides in his development this season as he put the Mooseheads team on his back and carried them offensively for stretches. His creative hands, elite vision and intelligence separate him from most in his class"

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Line Playmaking Winger.





ALEKSANDER BARKOV

POSITION: Center

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Tappara (SM-liiga)

BORN: September 2, 1995

VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 53 GP 21 G 27 A 48 PTS 8 PIM

4

STRENGTHS: A nice blend of size and skill, Barkov produced one of the most impressive draft eligible seasons in SM-liiga history. NHL teams were clamoring to get views of the big playmaker all season long and he did not disappoint. Barkov has good balance on his feet and, while not overly fast, does get to where he needs to go efficiently and keeps his feet moving in the process. With the puck, he's monster on the cycle as opponents just cannot move him or knock him. He's strong on the puck and has really good understanding and anticipation how to position himself to generate leverage and power on his stick. He shows great natural poise with the puck; finds open linemates with ease and makes timely passes. His ability to make plays under pressure without panic is impressive for his age. Barkov shows impressive awareness, vision and anticipation in the offensive zone. He uses his size well to protect and control the puck while knifing his way through the zone. He wants to be a difference maker and is strong not only generating offensive chances but also on the forecheck and disrupting his opponents attack. Makes smart decisions all over the ice; very aware of his options when he has the puck. He shows the ability to get better and learn on the fly as when he makes a mistake, he processes it and does not repeat it. Barkov has unbreakable confidence in his skills. He has very quick hands for a big guy; puck handling is just so easy and smooth no matter whether he is standing still or is at top speed and he rarely mishandled the puck. Decent puck deflection skills when he stations himself in front of the net. Barkov has a quiet toughness to his game; not that he is going to drop the gloves but he consistently plays through tight checks, hacks and whacks, and shows ability to raise level of play when needed.

WEAKNESSES: Barkov's lack of foot speed is clearly a negative factor as he has trouble generating enough speed to skate through opponents or create any separation making space for himself with the puck. His east-west movements are also an issue. While he can bury the puck more often than not, he does lack that killer goal scorers instincts in no time, split-second, situations. His shot, while hard and accurate for the most part, comes off a slow release which will need some work. He lacks any kind of mean streak to utilize his obvious size advantage. There has been some concern as to why his play in the SM-liiga has been so impressive while his play at the other events has not especially when he is essentially playing down a level.

SCOUTS QUOTE: "Barkov can be one of the most dangerous forward within 10 feet of the oppositions net as he has the size to protect the puck and power his way to the net as well as the poise and creative hands to make defenders and their goaltenders look foolish with a quick deke or a smooth pass."

NHL POTENTIAL: No. 1 Playmaking Centre





VALERI NICHUSHKIN

POSITION: Left Wing

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Traktor Chelyabinsk (KHL)

BORN: March 4, 1995

VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs

STATS: 18 GP 4 G 2 A 6 PTS 0 PIM

5

STRENGTHS: Nichushkin is a man-child of a power winger. He has the ability to absolutely run over defenders and opponents when he drops his shoulder and focuses on taking the puck hard to the net. He's hard to stop as he builds up a head of steam and he enters the zone because of his strength, reach and puck protection abilities. He is so strong and near-impossible to get the puck off. He has a strong and balanced skating stride and can generate immense speed and move with excellent agility. Nichushkin has a great change of direction and understands how pace can open up room for him. His leg strength and first couple strides are strong and will only get better as he continues to grow into his mammoth frame. He can handle the puck at top speeds and, while he is not a water bug type of flashy dangler, does have some tricks in the bag that have to be respected by opposing defenders and goaltenders. He is a true goal scorer whose instincts tell him to look for an opening before he even considers a pass to a teammate and has the ability to get pucks up high quickly when in tight with little space and time. A strong backhand and extremely quick wrist shot make him dangerous whenever he has the puck in the offensive zone. To match his frame, Nichushkin's temperament is feisty and not only is willing to battle hard physically but seems to relish that type of contact with opponents. His development trajectory this season has been phenomenal as you saw growth in his games each and every time he played. Able to generate his own chances and create for those around him due to his relentless efforts with the puck.

WEAKNESSES: While Nichushkin has no glaring weaknesses as in his physical skill-set, his hockey sense and vision have come into question this season as his ability or willingness to utilize his teammates has been hit or miss. He tends to put his head down and not see all the opportunities around him but instead want to will the puck into the net or bull it through defenders using his own strengths. At the beginning of the year, his efforts wavered from shift to shift, but as the season wore along his consistency has leveled off to the point where he is not a difference maker on each shift. He, like most youngsters his age, could use some coaching up with regards to defensive play and positioning. His efforts are not nearly the same in the defensive zone as they are when he sniffs out an offensive chance. His most obvious weakness, however, has nothing to do with his game at all. The nationality on his passport along with the fact he has an existing contract in the KHL can be a distraction for teams who are looking for a more immediate impact with fewer questions.

SCOUTS QUOTE: "Valeri has been on a meteoric rise since his showing at the U17's in 2012. From there he has impressed each time he has competed in events and various levels of hockey like the CHL/Russian Super Series, World Juniors, 5-Nations, the Russian junior circuit to their second division (VHL) and even the Kontinental League later in the season and into the playoffs. He has an exciting blend of power and skill that can really take control of the game."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Line Goal Scoring Power Winger



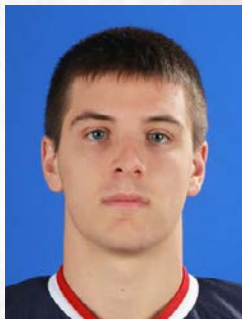


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MADISON BOWEY
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)
BORN: April 22, 1995
VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 69 GP 12 G 18 A 30 PTS 75 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: Bowey is an athletic, strong skating, two-way blueliner who has very good NHL upside. He has fluid movements and smooth feet that allow him to transition without loss of speed. He is at his best when he goes back into his own zone retrieves the puck, take a couple strides up ice and then shoot a crisp first pass to one of his streaking forwards. His vision is solid as is his ability to find his best option and deliver the puck. Has a hard shot -- both slap and wrist -- that he gets on net consistently. He can elude and dodge forecheckers, and displays some creativity in breaking out the pass by using the boards or spinning off players. He is also a very mobile and agile skater, just so smooth and strong with his strides, great balance and strong legs. Bowey has a good feel for the puck and can manage the puck no matter what direction he is moving in. He thinks extremely quickly and knows how to relieve pressure from the defensive zone in an instant. He is an active player that uses his mobility to the fullest; maintains good gap control, keeps rushing forwards in check, and uses a very active stick to win battles. Needs to do better at reading the developing play while defending.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top 6 Two-Way Defenseman



34

STEVEN SANTINI
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Under-18 (US NTDP)
BORN: March 7, 1995
VITALS: 6'-1" / 210 Lbs
STATS: 65 GP 0 G 15 A 15 PTS 46 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: Santini is an old-school, defensive defender whose priority is his own zone above all else. He is a good skater who generates healthy speed but lacks burst in his skating. His stride is powerful and fluid but turns condensed and choppy when he really digs in. He plays with a healthy amount of sandpaper -- he will bury an opponent if he gets the chance, but won't take himself out of position just to blow someone up. He is gritty, physical and not afraid to drop the mitts if needed and uses his body and strength to separate the puck and clear zones. He forces the puck carrier to the outside and whacks and hacks with little slashes and cross-checks to the legs and hips if they wonder into his area. Santini also shows solid gap control and defensive awareness but can get caught chasing the puck at times. Offensively, he sees the ice well and makes strong passes but is not overly creative and likely will not run a power-play. He has decent hands that allow him to control the puck and start a breakout. A heavy shot from the point, good touch on his passes, very good poise under pressure are also in his arsenal. His head is constantly on a swivel with the puck on his stick. Never throws the puck away or forces it into traffic.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top 4 Defensive Defenseman



32

ZACH FUCALE
POSITION: Goaltender
CATCHES: Left
TEAM: Halifax (QMJHL)
BORN: May 28, 1995
VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 55 GP 2.35 GAA .909 SP 2 SO

SCOUTING REPORT: Fucale is a competitive and composed big game netminder. He's athletic and controlled in his movements with good footwork. He gets to the first shot and stops it consistently. He moves very fluidly from side-to-side in his crease and comes out to challenge the shooter when the play calls for it. One of the hardest things for a goalie is to go long stretches without seeing action in your end of the rink and to remain in the game takes strong focus and mental aptitude and Fucale has both in spades. He's able to track the puck very well as it comes down the wing, while it is distributed around his zone and finds it through traffic around the crease. He has a good blocker and quick glove that he does a good job to keep upright and in position. He continues to work hard to improve his game and is very competitive. Despite playing for a powerhouse team in Halifax, Fucale has had to make his share of game changing saves this season and has come through.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



35

SAMUEL MORIN
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Rimouski (QMJHL)
BORN: July 12, 1995
VITALS: 6'-6" / 205 Lbs
STATS: 46 GP 4 G 12 A 16 PTS 117 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: Morin is a big, rangy defender who moves very well for his size and has progressed well this season despite some injury problems. He's an oddity, as the mammoth can keep step with the quickest offensive forward. He has good first step quickness, pivots well and when he is beat by slick move his reach is there to knock the puck to safety. He plays with a good aggression and physicality using his body well to separate the opposition from pucks and stepping up to deliver the odd open ice check as well. Morin shows that he is more than capable at defending himself and his teammates with his fists. He is strong on the PK and will only get better defensively with more seasoning. He also possesses decent hands -- able to make plays with them both defensively and when pinching in the offensive zone -- but is not one to really take the puck and go coast-to-coast. He has decent vision, makes some strong breakout passes and has a developing shot that will get better as he adds strength and the confidence to use it. He's willing to take a hit to shield the puck and flip it out to safety, just plays a real safe, strong, simple, effective game. Perhaps most intriguing, Morin still has so much room to add strength to as he will be a beast in a few years.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top 4 Defensive Defenseman



33

KEATON THOMPSON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Under-18 (US NTDP)
BORN: September 14, 1995
VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 59 GP 4 G 15 A 19 PTS 38 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: Thompson is a smooth two-way defender that when he is on his game plays a virtually mistake-free game. He's really fluid and graceful skater; effortlessly hovers across the ice. He's also a very good directional skater, strong on his edges, very efficient and maintains his speed when changing direction. He is not afraid to jump up in the play on the rush, but knows when to rein it in when the time is not right to jump up or retreat back to the point when his job is done on the rush. Thompson makes a good first pass and sees the ice real well, allowing him to also use his pass as a weapon on the rush. He makes smart little plays to relieve pressure; little touch passes against the grain, etc. and is ridiculously poised with pressure bearing down on him. His passes never rushed in any situation, and he shows some creativity on a long range pass where he can kiss one off the half-wall past an opponent up to a forward waiting for it. He can show some edge with a dirty slash here or there, but is not a physical player overall. His offensive upside is truly an unknown as he is not overly creative with the puck on his stick with hand or head fakes, instead opting for the simple play more often than not. More of an active stick type of defender than a physical one; uses his lateral mobility and reach to defend.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top 4 Two-Way Defender



36

DILLON HEATHERINGTON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)
BORN: May 9, 1995
VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 71 GP 4 G 23 A 27 PTS 80 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: Heatherington is best described as a very mobile and active defenseman. He has very active feet with a smooth stride, good pivots and strong balance. He will get even more balance in his stride once he adds more leg strength. He uses his active mobility to constantly harass opponents in the defensive zone and maintains great defensive positioning and uses his stick extremely well with active play and good positioning. He is very smart with his head always on a swivel and makes decisive quick decisions. He uses his body extremely well to slow down forecheckers and calmly collect pucks with an opponent on his back. Heatherington plays with good physicality in the corners and when clearing the front of the net and puts himself in good position to deliver outlet passes and takes pressure off teammates. Heatherington makes solid breakout passes and gets off hard point shots looking for deflections and rebounds. He does have room to grow and looks as though he has some untapped offensive potential. Overall, he's a smart and efficient player with a large frame to build mass on.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top 6 Defensive Defenseman

1

COLORADO AVALANCHE**1st overall – COLORADO AVALANCHE****The Colorado Avalanche select D Seth Jones, Portland, WHL.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth on the wings and a stud blueliner.**NOTES:** With first pick, the Avalanche get the best talent in the draft and one that likely makes the jump right away to a young NHL roster. With the young core of forward talent already on the big club, this selection is a no brainer.

2

FLORIDA PANTHERS**2nd overall – FLORIDA PANTHERS****The Florida Panthers select C/RW Nate MacKinnon, Halifax, QMJHL.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent on the wings to compliment skilled centers.**NOTES:** With some good young talent already on the roster and more on the way, the Panthers use the second overall pick to grab a future top line goal scorer who could really improve the Panthers future with a Huberdeau and MacKinnon tandem.

3

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**3rd overall – TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING****The Tampa Bay Lightning selects LW/C Jonathan Drouin, Halifax, QMJHL.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every position.**NOTES:** The Lightning have little in the way of blue-chip talent coming up at any position and need to just take the best available talent here with the third pick. They get a kid who might not be NHL ready this next year but will be an offensive generator once he does make the show.

4

NASHVILLE PREDATORS**4th overall – NASHVILLE PREDATORS****The Nashville Predators select C Aleksander Barkov, Tappara, SM-liiga.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a blue-chip talent at any position.**NOTES:** This blue chip center to build around is exactly what the Predators wanted to get out of this draft and they believe Barkov will be able to make the jump to the NHL before too long. He has a contract with Tappara for two more seasons unless he earns himself an NHL job.

5

CAROLINA HURRICANES**5th overall – CAROLINA HURRICANES****The Carolina Hurricanes select C Sean Monahan, Ottawa, OHL.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They need more size and skill up front and a blue-chipper on the back end.**NOTES:** The Hurricanes nab their target at this position as they get not only a big kid who they believe will fill the second line center role nicely as early as next season but also one who will be a team leader and could eventually replace Staal as captain once he hangs them up well down the road.

6

CALGARY FLAMES**6th overall – CALGARY FLAMES****The Calgary Flames select C Elias Lindholm, Brynas, SEL.****DRAFT NEEDS:** After years of poor drafting, they just need talent period.**NOTES:** For a team that needs help at every position, they select who they think has the ability to develop into their top line center. Lindholm will not only produce offense but also plays a good two-way game in a 'Henrik Zetterberg' type mold.

7

EDMONTON OILERS**7th overall – EDMONTON OILERS****The Edmonton Oilers select D Darnell Nurse, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to start building the back end, goaltenders and defense.**NOTES:** Even though another big center is on the wish list and after selecting top end forwards for what seems like the past 10 drafts, the Oilers take a big step in adding a potential building block to their young defense with this pick. While Nurse will not be able to jump into the lineup right away due to his need of strength, this pick should pay big dividends in a year or two.

8

BUFFALO SABRES**8th overall – BUFFALO SABRES****The Buffalo Sabres select D Rasmus Ristolainen, TPS, SM-liiga.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They have a good pool of prospect so BPA on their list is the call.**NOTES:** With size and skill sprinkled throughout the prospect pool, the Sabres go with a big strong mature two-way defenseman who they feel has the ability to step right into their lineup as early as next season and contribute a strong safe game, strengthening a weak defense corp.

9

NEW JERSEY DEVILS**9th overall – NEW JERSEY DEVILS****The New Jersey Devils select RW Valeri Nichushkin, Dynamo Moskva, KHL.****DRAFT NEEDS:** They need size and skill on the wings.**NOTES:** Wanting to make sure they make a good pick in front of the home crowd, the Devils just might have hit a home run as they address the organizations top need. The 'Russian Factor' obviously led to Nichushkin's slight drop here but New Jersey looks to have selected a top-5 talent with this selection.

2014 PROSPECT PROFILES



1
C Sam Reinhart
 Kootenay, WHL
 6-0, 180

Poise, maturity and a high hockey IQ define this player...has very creative hands and excellent vision with the puck...a playmaker first and foremost who can also finish off a play if given the chance...good instincts and solid in his offensive zone positioning...slows things down and dissects the play better than most...decent defensively as he backchecks hard, get into lanes, disrupts with an active stick and gives a solid effort most nights in that aspect...a true team leader...not a burner but does have decent speed and good lateral quickness...battles along the wall for pucks and for positioning using smarts rather than strength...not a physical player by any stretch but will stick up for himself.



3
D Aaron Ekblad
 Barrie, OHL
 6-4, 215

Deemed an exceptional talent on the backend as he entered the OHL a year earlier than normal...has impressive size and strength for his age...mature and confident in all three zones of the ice...makes some strong passes to outlet and start the transition...skates well as he continues to improve his lateral agility...plays the game with poise and a calmness...displays strong hockey sense...defends with a strong stick and outstanding positioning...reads the play well...can dominate physically and really manhandle attackers along the boards...has a rocket of a shot that is one of the hardest in the league...needs to gain more confidence to develop his offensive game further.



5
C Michael Dal Colle
 Oshawa, OHL
 6-2, 180

A big bull of a prospect that uses his natural talents well...strong pro-type frame to grow into...already balanced and strong on his skates...plays a full two-way game...battles for pucks along the wall and goes to the net without the puck looking to bang home rebounds...not afraid of contact and finishing his checks...uses his reach and strength well to shield the puck...has a solid complete level...has quick hands for a guy his size...good vision and passing skills compliment his overall game...in the offensive zone he shows smarts in getting into position to shoot when he doesn't have the puck...more about projection at the next level with this kid than his current production as he will be a load to handle once he packs on some extra strength.



2
C/RW William Nylander
 Sodertalje J20, SuperElit
 5-10, 170

Son of former NHLer Michael...an extremely skilled, dynamic and exciting player to watch...has quick hands and feet that make him dangerous each time he is on the ice...has excellent burst, agility and top end speed...incredible hands and elite vision...can pass the puck through the tightest of spaces...a natural playmaker...thinks the game a step ahead of everyone else on the ice...does not hesitate to shoot the puck either...possesses a quick release and hard wrist shot...has some problems to fix such as his lackadaisical play without the puck and missed assignments in his own zone...not a physical player at all...has the hands, creativity and IQ to become an NHL superstar.



4
LW Blake Clarke
 Brampton, OHL
 6-1, 185

A smart, offensive minded winger...skates well with good straight-line speed although he is not a burner...moves well side-to-side and uses his edges well...very high IQ and seems to learn on the fly...see the ice very well and is equally able to play the passer or sniper roles...has a good shot but could use some added strength behind it...big frame but needs to add additional strength and play with a little more fire...can get knocked off the puck too easy along the wall for a kid his size...not the quickest hands but can carry the puck and protect it effectively in traffic...defensively he seems to know his role but does not always engage...has moments where his raw abilities as a big power winger show through but those are fewer than they should be.



6
LW Nick Ritchie
 Peterborough, OHL
 6-2, 215

The prototypical power forward of the 2014 draft class...impressive blend of size, skill and strength...skates well for such a big load...has agile feet...plays like he knows he is the biggest kid on the playground...possesses very impressive shot velocity but can be a little erratic with accuracy...enjoys the rough stuff including bowling over defenders as he drive the net...unmovable from in front of the oppositions goal...good shot deflection ability...an absolute monster on the forecheck...hard to stop when he cycles the puck...wins the majority of puck battles he engages in...aggressive...had some injury problems that have limited him this season.



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