



**FC's
2009 NHL
ENTRY DRAFT
GUIDE**



MAY 2009

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

2009 NHL ENTRY DRAFT GUIDE



Well its that time of year again that many people including yours truly look forward to as the anticipation of where some of the best young hockey prospects will start their careers as NHL franchises make their lists, examine their needs and make the day one of the best for these young men by welcoming them into their organization as draft picks. This is also a big day for the teams selecting these gems because making the right picks could stem a successful run for the next few years as the draft becomes more crucial than ever before in building a winning team in the salary cap NHL of today. So with that said here are some of the top prospects that you can expect to be additions as to your favorite NHL teams and what they will bring in terms of skill sets. In the below pages you will find FC's top 150, profiles on the top 100, ten snapshot profile interviews from individual prospects, a look at some potential sleeper picks, a two-round mock draft on how FC draft writer Dan Stewart predicts the draft could unfold, a look to the 2010 draft as well as a small glimpse into the distant 2011 selection process and much more to quench even the most avid NHL Entry Draft followers craving. We hope you enjoy.

Dan Stewart

Future Considerations Draft Writer & Head Scout



Tavares vs. Hedman



THE NEXT WAVE

The 2009 NHL Entry Draft's Top 150 Prospects



1 through # 30

1. - John Tavares, C, London (OHL)
2. - Victor Hedman, D, Modo (Swe)
3. - Matt Duchene, C, Brampton (OHL)
4. - Magnus P-Svensson, LW, Timra (Swe)
5. - Evander Kane, C, Vancouver (WHL)
6. - Brayden Schenn, C, Brandon (WHL)
7. - Dmitry Kulikov, D, Drummondville (QMJHL)
8. - Oliver Ekman-Larsson, D, Leksand (Swe)

9. - Jared Cowen, D, Spokane (WHL)

10. - John Moore, D, Chicago (USHL)
11. - Jordan Schroeder, RW, U. of Minn (WCHA)
12. - Zack Kassian, RW, Peterborough (OHL)
13. - Nazem Kadri, C, London (OHL)
14. - Ryan Ellis, D, Windsor (OHL)
15. - Simon Despres, D, Saint John (QMJHL)

16. - Peter Holland, C, Guelph (OHL)

17. - Jacob Josefson, C, Djurgarden (Swe)
18. - Kyle Palmieri, RW, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)
19. - Scott Glennie, C, Brandon (WHL)
20. - Calvin de Haan, D, Oshawa (OHL)
21. - Chris Kreider, C, Philip Andover (USHS)
22. - Louis Leblanc, C, Omaha (USHL)
23. - Jeremy Morin, LW, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)
24. - David Rundblad, D, Skelleftea (Swe)
25. - Dylan Olsen, D, Camrose (AJHL)
26. - Olivier Roy, G, Cape Breton (QMJHL)
27. - Jordan Caron, LW, Rimouski (QMJHL)

28. - Landon Ferraro, C, Red Deer (WHL)

29. - Stefan Elliott, D, Saskatoon (WHL)
30. - Michael Lee, G, Fargo (USHL)

31 through # 60

31. - Tim Erixon, D, Skelleftea (Swe)
32. - Carter Ashton, RW, Lethbridge (WHL)
33. - Ryan O'Reilly, C, Erie (OHL)
34. - Ethan Werek, C, Kingston (OHL)
35. - Charles-Olivier Roussel, D, Shawinigan (QMJHL)
36. - Carl Klingberg, LW, Frolunda (Swe)
37. - Drew Shore, C, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)
38. - Matt Hackett, G, Plymouth (OHL)
39. - Marcus Johansson, C, Farjestad (Swe)
40. - Nick Leddy, D, Eden Prairie (USHS)
41. - Richard Panik, RW, Trinec (Cze)
42. - Eric Gelinas, D, Lewiston (QMJHL)
43. - Cody Eakin, C, Swift Current (WHL)
44. - Philippe Paradis, C, Shawinigan (QMJHL)
45. - Zach Budish, C, Edina High (USHS)
46. - Tomas Tatar, C, Zvolen (Slo)
47. - Brayden McNabb, D, Kootenay (WHL)
48. - Edward Pasquale, G, Saginaw (OHL)
49. - Toni Rajala, RW, Ilves (Fin)
50. - Taylor Doherty, D, Kingston (OHL)
51. - Alex Chiasson, RW, Des Moines (USHL)
52. - Robin Lehner, G, Frolunda Jr. (Swe)
53. - Mikko Koskinen, G, Blues (Fin)
54. - Michael Latta, C, Guelph (OHL)
55. - Taylor Beck, LW, Guelph (OHL)
56. - Alex Hutchings, LW, Barrie (OHL)
57. - William Wrenn, D, U.S. Under-18 (USDP)
58. - Josh Birkholz, RW, Fargo (USHL)
59. - Erik Haula, LW, Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)
60. - Ryan Bourque, C, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)

THE NEXT WAVE



Continued



61 through # 90

- 61. - Joonas Nattinen, C, Espoo Blues (Fin)
- 62. - Jimmy Bubnick, C, Kamloops (WHL)
- 63. - Andrej Nestrasil, RW, Victoriaville (QMJHL)
- 64. - Anton Lander, C, Timra (Swe)
- 65. - Garrett Wilson, LW, Owen Sound (OHL)
- 66. - Ryan Button, D, Prince Albert (WHL)
- 67. - Brandon Pirri, C, Georgetown (OJHL)
- 68. - Tyson Barrie, D, Kelowna (WHL)
- 69. - Simon Bertilsson, D, Brynas (Swe)
- 70. - Ben Hanowski, RW, Little Falls (USHS)
- 71. - Gabriel Lemieux, D, Shawinigan (QMJHL)
- 72. - Jean-Francois Berube, G, Montreal (QMJHL)
- 73. - Anton Rodin, RW, Brynas (Swe)
- 74. - Chris Brown, C, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)
- 75. - Tyler Randell, RW, Kitchener (OHL)
- 76. - Jerry D'Amigo, RW, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)
- 77. - Dmitri Orlov, D, Novokuznetsk (Rus)
- 78. - Seth Helgeson, D, Sioux City (USHL)
- 79. - Gleason Fournier, D, Rimouski (QMJHL)
- 80. - Brian Dumoulin, D, Jr., Monarchs (EJHL)
- 81. - Danny Mattson, C, Holy Angels (USHS)
- 82. - Mac Bennett, D, Hotchkiss (USHS)
- 83. - Jordan Szwarz, RW, Saginaw (OHL)
- 84. - Cass Mappin, LW, Red Deer (WHL)**
- 85. - Jaroslav Janus, G, Erie (OHL)
- 86. - Ryan Howse, LW, Chilliwack (WHL)
- 87. - Patrick Wey, D, Waterloo (USHL)
- 88. - Levko Koper, LW, Spokane (WHL)
- 89. - Tomas Vincour, C, Edmonton (WHL)
- 90. - Scott Stajcer, G, Owen Sound (OHL)

91 through # 120

- 91. - Tyler Johnson, C, Spokane (WHL)
- 92. - Michael Cichy, C, Indiana (USHL)
- 93. - Nathan Lieuwen, G, Kootenay (WHL)
- 94. - Benjamin Casavant, LW, P.E.I. (QMJHL)
- 95. - Guillaume Goulet, RW, B-Comeau (QMJHL)
- 96. - Nicola Deslauriers, D, R-Noranda (QMJHL)
- 97. - Byron Froese, C, Everett (WHL)
- 98. - Brenden Dillon, D, Seattle (WHL)
- 99. - Marcus Foligno, LW, Sudbury (OHL)
- 100. - Martin Stajnoch, D, KK Orange Under-20 (Slo)
- 101. - Sami Vatanen, D, JYP (Fin)
- 102. - Alexander Avtsin, RW, Dynamo (Rus)
- 103. - Adam Polasek, D, Vitkovice Jr. (Cze)
- 104. - Jesse Blacker, D, Windsor (OHL)**
- 105. - Mattias Lindstrom, LW, Skelleftea (Swe)
- 106. - Michal Hlinka, C, Chicoutimi (QMJHL)
- 107. - Brandon Maxwell, G, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)
- 108. - Collin Bowman, D, Kelowna (WHL)
- 109. - Daniel Delisle, C, Totino Grace (USHS)
- 110. - Casey Cizikas, C, Mississauga-St.M. (OHL)
- 111. - David Gilbert, C, Quebec (QMJHL)
- 112. - Jakob Silfverberg, RW, Brynas (Swe)
- 113. - David Gerths, RW, Lincoln (USHL)
- 114. - David Savard, D, Moncton (QMJHL)
- 115. - William Wallen, LW, Mississauga (OHL)
- 116. - Henrik Bjorklund, RW, Farjestad (Swe)
- 117. - Brennan Yadowski, D, Lethbridge (WHL)
- 118. - Kenny Ryan, RW, U.S. Under-18 (USDP)
- 119. - Linden Vey, RW, Medicine Hat (WHL)
- 120. - Marek Hrivik, RW, KK Orange Under-20 (Slo)

121 through # 150

- 121. - Luke Curadi, D, Hartford (ATLH)
- 122. - Brett Flemming, D, Mississauga-St.M (OHL)
- 123. - David Pacan, C, Cumberland (CJHL)
- 124. - Patrik Cehlin, RW, Djurgarden (Swe)
- 125. - Chris DeSousa, C, Niagara (OHL)
- 126. - Matt Clark, D, Brampton (OHL)
- 127. - Burke Gallimore, RW, Saskatoon (WHL)
- 128. - Nick Oliver, C, Roseau (USHS)
- 129. - Kellan Tochkin, RW, Everett (WHL)
- 130. - Alex Vazzano, G, The Gunnary (USHS)
- 131. - Philip Varone, C, London (OHL)
- 132. - Tommi Kivisto, D, Red Deer (WHL)
- 133. - Andrew Agozzino, LW, Niagara (OHL)
- 134. - Steven Anthony, C, Saint John (QMJHL)
- 135. - Marshall Everson, LW, Edina (USHS)
- 136. - Dave Labrecque, C, Shawinigan, (QMJHL)
- 137. - Matt Brown, LW, Moncton (QMJHL)
- 138. - Mike Hoffman, LW, Drummondville (QMJHL)
- 139. - David Valek, RW, U.S. Under-18 (USNDP)
- 140. - Philip Samuelsson, D, Chicago (USHL)**
- 141. - Corban Knight, C, Okotoks (AJHL)
- 142. - Alexander Urbom, D, Djurgarden (Swe)
- 143. - Jeff Costello, LW, Cedar Rapids (USHL);
- 144. - Darren Archibald, LW, Barrie (OHL)
- 145. - Anton Burdasov, RW, Chelyabinsk (Rus)
- 146. - Gabriel Bourque, LW, Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)
- 147. - Stepan Novotny, RW, Kelowna (WHL)
- 148. - Adam Almqvist, D, HV71 (Swe)
- 149. - Reilly Smith, RW, St. Michaels (OJHL)
- 150. - Alexander Fallstrom, RW, Shat St.Mary's (USHS)



Matt Duchene photo courtesy Brampton Battalion



Stefan Elliot photo courtest Saskatoon Blades



Dimitry Kulikov photo courtesy Drummondville



Eric Gelinas photo courtesy Lewiston MAINEacs



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 1

Name: John Tavares

Position: Centre

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: September 20, 1990

Height: 6'-0"

Weight: 200 LBS

08-09 League: OHL

08-09 Team: London

Stats: 56 GP 58 G 46 A 104 PTS

Strengths: Has natural instincts for scoring goals...is dangerous from the circle down in the offensive zone...is smart and the puck seems to follow him around the ice...great hand eye coordination...outstanding vision...has stealth like separation abilities... is an underrated playmaker...strong on his skates...protects the puck well...works hard and is a driven individual... reads the play very well and has the proverbial eyes in his back...his shot is elite...he is a real difference maker.

Weakness: Skating is his main area of weakness...he has heavy boots and does not have the speed to play an effective two-way game...conditioning is also in need of improvement as he often looks tired in the second game when playing on consecutive nights.

NHL Potential: NHL All-Star Forward

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / High Reward. His smarts and natural instincts will make him a top six NHL forward even if his skating holds him back from Superstar status.

Extra Note: Tavares who entered the league four years before being eligible to be drafted has many honors to his major junior career, none more telling of his talent than becoming the all-time OHL points leader.



Photo courtesy London Knights

FC Rank: # 2

Name: Victor Hedman

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: December 18, 1990

Height: 6'-7"

Weight: 220 LBS

08-09 League: Sweden

08-09 Team: Modo

Stats: 43 GP 7 G 14 A 21 PTS

Strengths: Size and mobility are an awesome mix...he skates like he is a five-foot-ten forward...great speed and overall mobility...strength is also an asset...possesses good offensive instincts...smart and makes the safe play more often than not...knows pinch and has great two step acceleration that leaves many checkers flat footed...willing to take punishment to make a play...uses his size and long stick well in the defensive zone...has good vision and a heavy point shot.

Weakness: His aggressiveness and assertiveness is a bit hit or miss...not always willing to play the body or battle it out...head injuries this season have raised a couple red flags...defensive positioning needs work as he is currently getting away with poor gap control because of his immense size and reach.

NHL Potential: Franchise Defender.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / High Reward. Even if his lack of aggressive play causes him to not reach his full potential, he still will play prominent minutes, contributing at worst as a third or fourth defenseman.

Extra Notes: Hedman was voted 2008-09 Rookie of the Year in the Swedish Elite League in a race that included top goaltender and Florida Panthers "Goalie of the Future" Jacob Markstrom.



Photo courtesy Modo hockey



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 3
Name: Matt Duchene
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: January 16, 1991
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Brampton
Stats: 57 GP 31 G 48 A 79 PTS

Strengths: Great skater with blazing speed...possesses nice two step acceleration...plays a positive two-way game and is solid on the forecheck...has a quick stick, nice hand/eye coordination and can really handle the puck even at top gear...has an underrated shot that is both quick and accurate...a natural playmaker who has good vision and sense of timing...can play with a physical edge when the game gets chippy... not afraid to go into the dirty areas...off the ice he is approachable and exudes natural leadership qualities...a complete package.

Weakness: Consistency is an area that will need to be improved as he looks brilliant one shift and somewhat lackadaisical the next...needs to work on defensive positioning without the puck.

NHL Potential: Offensive Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / High Reward. Not much doubt with Matt he will score in the NHL.

Extra Notes: With his speed and scoring ability as well as being the Battalions leading man next season, with Hodgson and Grachev likely graduating to the next level, most expect Duchene to be one of the OHL top scores next season.



Photo courtesy Brampton Battalion

FC Rank: # 4
Name: Magnus Paajarvi-Svensson
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: April 12, 1991
Height: 6'-1"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: Sweden
08-09 Team: Timra
Stats: 50 GP 7 G 10 A 17 PTS

Strengths: He has incredible speed and the size needed to play a power forward game...once he gets going he is almost impossible to stop...will induce many penalties as defenders will need to drag him down or hold him with a free hand to contain him...handles the puck well and protects it effectively with his body...has outstanding vision and is a natural playmaker...played against men this season and looked dominating doing so in some instances...possesses a solid frame to build even more strength.

Weakness: Questions persist as to his finishing abilities...defensively he has some work to round out his overall game...slow to pickup his check and does not possess the same drive coming back as he does on the attack.

NHL Potential: Scoring Power Winger.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / High Reward. When you consider his size, strength and speed he is an incredible prospect however some question his ability to finish.

Extra Notes: Paajarvi-Svensson put up more points than any other player under eighteen years of age in the Elite League this season which is even more impressive when you consider his ice time.



Photo courtesy Timra Hockey



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 5

Name: Evander Kane

Position: Centre

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: August 2, 1991

Height: 6'-1"

Weight: 175 LBS

08-09 League: WHL

08-09 Team: Vancouver

Stats: 61 GP 48 G 48 A 96 PTS

Strengths: Has the size and frame to develop into a strong power forward...displays some natural ability to find open scoring areas...can drag a defender on his back when driving the net...underrated playmaker but is more of a goal scorer...has good drive and determination...can play it extremely physical if needed...plays the body when opportunity presents itself...willing to drop the gloves...protects the puck well and has a nice shot that he can get off quickly...a true battler with excellent offensive skills.

Weakness: Attitude questions have been raised but what 17 year old is not cocky...he will need to add muscle before taking the next step...defensively he needs to commit to being continuously involved and not just observe.

NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Power Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk/High Reward. Kane has the potential to be a high scoring power forward and at worst case a third line physical checking forward.

Extra Notes: Evander was the last cut at the Canadian World Junior Camp in December but eventually made the team when Dana Tyrell was injured. It was that performance which cemented his top five rating by most scouts.



Photo courtesy Vancouver Giants

FC Rank: # 6

Name: Brayden Schenn

Position: Centre

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: August 22, 1991

Height: 6'-0"

Weight: 195 LBS

08-09 League: WHL

08-09 Team: Brandon

Stats: 70 GP 32 G 56 A 88 PTS

Strengths: Plays a nice power forward and finesse style mix...has good on-ice vision and ability to thread the needle with a tape-to-tape pass...possesses a good shot that is both accurate and hard...gets his wrist shot off quickly...handles the puck well with soft hands and solid puck protection...displays solid leadership...plays physical as he looks to play the body and will drop the gloves when pushed...smart instincts as he knows where to be....solid two-way player.

Weakness: His skating leaves room for improvement...has limited lateral mobility and lacks agility...consistency is also lacking in his game, shift in and shift out you would like to see the same level of compete...strength will need to increase if he is too be effective playing his style at the next level.

NHL Potential: Physical Playmaking Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / High Reward. Schenn has the potential to either be a solid offensive force who plays the body and does not mind the rough stuff, or a solid third line NHL checker.

Extra Notes: His brother Luke, who currently plays for the Maple Leafs, and fellow 2009 draft prospect Jimmy Bubnick spent hours on the outdoor rink honing their skills while growing up as they all lived in the same Saskatoon suburb. Brayden won the WHL rookie of the year award for the 2007-2008 season.



Photo courtesy Brandon Wheat Kings



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 7

Name: Dmitry Kulikov

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: October 29, 1990

Height: 6'-1"

Weight: 195 LBS

08-09 League: QMJHL

08-09 Team: Drummondville

Stats: 57 GP 12 G 50 A 62 PTS

Strengths: He is very smart with the puck on his stick...blessed with outstanding vision and ability to find all of his options very quickly...loves to stickhandle with the puck and join the rush...pin point passing accuracy...skates very well and has outstanding overall mobility...has great two-step acceleration that allows him to cheat a little in the offensive zone...walks the line well and has impressive anticipation...has above average hand/eye coordination...shot is accurate...controls the play from the backend...able to stay with his check and maintains tight gaps...smart offensive savvy defenseman.

Weakness: He can get distracted, causing his offensive game to be neutralized when the play turns physical...Has bouts of inconsistent play when he is not challenged...often tries to use stick to check instead of playing the body.

NHL Potential: Franchise Offensive Defenseman

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / High Reward. Kulikov was a bit of a surprise as many thought he would be good his first season in North America but not many expected the season he was able to put together offensively.

Extra Notes: What award didn't he win this season? He was named the QMJHL Defenseman of the Year and QMJHL Rookie of the Year among other awards but the most telling of his pro potential may be that he was named Best Professional Prospect in the Q for the 2009 NHL Entry Draft.



Photo courtesy Drummondville Voltigeurs

FC Rank: # 8

Name: Oliver Ekman-Larsson

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: July 17, 1991

Height: 6'-2"

Weight: 180 LBS

08-09 League: Sweden

08-09 Team: Leksand

Stats: 39 GP 3 G 14 A 17 PTS

Strengths: Incredibly smooth skating defender...has effortless mobility...can accelerate quickly and pivot on a dime...he has awesome vision and can thread pucks through openings that look non-existent...great anticipation...consistently makes solid tape-to-tape passes...is a very impressive PP quarterback because with his vision and ability to walk the blueline he opens the defense up...controls the tempo and creates offensive chances...has soft hands with great puck control...defensively he plays a smart simple game using an active stick and tight gaps...anticipates the attack and actively gets involved...is super comfortable on the ice and poised like a fifteen year NHL vet.

Weakness: He needs to add strength to his frame...not a physical player by any means...shot velocity is weak and needs work...some games he looks complacent and lacking drive to use his full talent and ability.

NHL Potential: Franchise Two-Way Defender

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / High Reward. Ekman-Larsson has the ability to be one of the best player to come out of this draft. His development trajectory and confidence have grown by leaps and bounds this year.

Extra Notes: The highest rising prospect this season, Ekman-Larsson was a solid citizen of the second round after the summer but since Christmas he has really pushed up the charts and ultimately into the top ten.



Photo courtesy Leksand



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 9

Name: Jared Cowen

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: January 25, 1991

Height: 6'-5"

Weight: 220 LBS

08-09 League: WHL

08-09 Team: Spokane

Stats: 48 GP 7 G 14 A 21 PTS

Strengths: Incredible size and reach...has the skating ability, speed, balance and mobility to dominate his position...plays a physical game and absolutely crushed opponents along the boards...closes his gaps quickly and uses his long reach well...gets his body into shooting lanes and disrupts offensive flow....has a good point shot with is both hard and accurate...anticipates the play well...Cowen is a great defensive defender that has the ability to elevate his game.

Weakness: Offensively he is underdeveloped...carries the puck well but lacks confidence with it...shows flashes of a dominant puck rushing game but ultimately gives it up too quickly to his forwards...can get caught trying to do too much and sucked out of position...questions about his physical health persist.

NHL Potential: Franchise Defensive Defender.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / High Reward. Cowan has the potential to be a solid physical two-way NHL defender, however with the highly publicized knee injury that finished his season the potential for long term negative effect has made him a bit of a risk.

Extra Notes: After starting the year as a potential top five selection with thoughts of a successful Memorial Cup still fresh in mind his stock has taken a slight drop as more was expected offensively from the towering defender.



Photo courtesy Spokane Chiefs

FC Rank: # 10

Name: John Moore

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: November 19, 1990

Height: 6'-2.5"

Weight: 190 LBS

08-09 League: USHL

08-09 Team: Chicago

Stats: 57 GP 14 G 25 A 39 PTS

Strengths: Great skater who has a long smooth stride and outstanding acceleration...very mobile and agile with or without the puck...sharp pivots...wide leg stride helps him stay balanced...has good vision and makes smart passes...is poised with the puck and likes to join the rush... knows when to pinch and when to hang back...has a nice shot and gets it off quickly...great transition game ...defensively he is effective...uses his impressive speed to make up for any bad decisions...solid leadership abilities...a solid two-way defender with nice upside as an offensive catalyst.

Weakness: He could improve his defensive reads...can get running around in his own zone trying to do too much...needs to be pushed to play a physical game...needs to utilize his size better.

NHL Potential: Top Four Two-Way Defender.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. His skills are not in doubt but with most USHL prospects the level of his competition is questionable. Moore's offensive game seems to be what will get his to the show but his defensive abilities are underdeveloped at this time and improvement is a must.

Extra Notes: Moore was named the USHL Defenseman of the Year. But some questions were raised after a slow tail end to his season in Chicago.



Photo courtesy Chicago Steel



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 11

Name: Jordan Schroeder

Position: Centre

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: September 29, 1990

Height: 5'-9"

Weight: 180 LBS

08-09 League: WCHA

08-09 Team: University of Minnesota

Stats: 35 GP 13 G 32 A 45 PTS

Strengths: Dynamic skater with excellent first step acceleration... great speed...possesses outstanding vision and creativity with the puck...primarily a pass first mentality but does so very effectively...has an underrated shot that is both accurate and quick off his stick...has an elusiveness about him...strong on his skates...good two-way play as he knows what to do with or without the puck...displays good hockey sense...multidimensional player who has good leadership skills...is strong on the face-offs.

Weakness: Lack of size is ultimately what is keeping him out of the top ten prospects for 2009...he also has a tendency to play more on the perimeter instead of driving into traffic areas...does not play well under any type of physical play and will need to improve upon this to succeed at the NHL level.

NHL Potential: Playmaking Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. Schroeder has the potential to be another Marc Savard, not the Calgary Flame Savard but rather the impressive Savard that has emerged with Boston the last few years.



Photo courtesy University of Minnesota

FC Rank: # 12

Name: Zack Kassian

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: January 24, 1991

Height: 6'-3"

Weight: 215 LBS

08-09 League: OHL

08-09 Team: Peterborough

Stats: 61 GP 24 G 39 A 63 PTS

Strengths: An absolute Bull in a China Shop playing in the OHL... great size and strength package that many teams would love to slip into the line-up immediately after drafting him...has a mean edge to his game...skates well...strong on his feet... looks to make the big hit...willing and able when it comes to dropping the gloves...drives the net and is a beast along the boards...very good vision and nice playmaking ability coming off the wall...decent shot...nice puck protection... has decent enough hands to handle the puck...hard working approach...potentially a 20-30 scorer with 200+ PIM.

Weakness: While he exploded offensively this season his offensive upside is judged to be rather limited...can get caught taking shifts off...shot is not strong but still effective from in close.

NHL Potential: Power Forward

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. His size, speed and strength will make him an NHL player but what is his offensive upside set at? This is the question that begs answering either you have a bottom six forward with size who will muck it up or you have a top six power forward who can contribute on the score sheet consistently.



Photo courtesy Peterborough Petes



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 13
Name: Nazem Kadri
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: October 6, 1990
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: London
Stats: 56 GP 25 G 53 A 78 PTS

Strengths: A very slippery and highly skilled two-way forward... has great hands and a nice arsenal of dekes and puckhandling moves...an explosive skater although not blessed with top end speed...he plays with a drive and determination on the ice...solid in his own zone as well as defensively aware in the offensive zone as well...a smart player...has a good shot with quick release...sees the ice well...incorporates a physical game and hits harder than his average size would suggest...dominant playmaking skills...drives into the high traffic areas and gets his nose dirty.

Weakness: Needs to utilize his linemates better as he too often tries to do things on his own especially when he gets frustrated...plays with a bit of a spoiled attitude at times...physical style may leave him injury prone at the pro level...consistent effort level as is the case with most young athletes is needed.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. The skill set is not in question. The potential for bust is with his do it all himself attitude. Will he be able to shake this negative approach is the questions and that has much to do with his future success.



Photo courtesy London Knights

FC Rank: # 14
Name: Ryan Ellis
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
Date of Birth: January 3, 1991
Height: 5'-10"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Windsor
Stats: 57 GP 22 G 67 A 89 PTS

Strengths: "Offenseman" all the way...he had incredible vision and ability to create plays from the backend...PP specialist with his cannon shot and ability to maintain the line in the offensive zone...sees all his options and distributes the puck deceptively...poised with the puck...his heavy shot is feared around the league...skates very well and has very good speed...has quick feet and great hand to eye to foot coordination (see WJC play)...plays a physical brand as much as his limited size will allow...solid hit checking technique...a quick stick in the defensive zone which he uses to pry pucks away from attackers...decent defensive positioning...a smart player overall who had the work ethic to match.

Weakness: Size and durability are the major questions for Ellis...he has a tendency to get a little sloppy...defensive positioning and gap control are two areas that need correcting although improvements have already been made.

NHL Potential: Offensive Defenseman

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / High Reward. He has the potential to be the next Brian Campbell and also the next Ian White. He may need to find his niche as a PP specialist but knowing his drive, don't limit him to that.

Extra Notes: Ryan Ellis was named OHL defender of the year after producing well over a pint per game and also was a crucial member of the Gold Medal winning Canadian squad at the WJC in Ottawa over Christmas.



Photo courtesy Windsor Spitfires



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 15

Name: Simon Despres

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: July 27, 1991

Height: 6'-4"

Weight: 215 LBS

08-09 League: QMJHL

08-09 Team: Saint John

Stats: 66 GP 2 G 30 A 32 PTS

Strengths: A large and strong defender with good speed...uses his speed well to rush the puck as well as defends his zone...has a good quick stick in his own zone...likes to rush the puck up ice and knows when and when not to do so...is smart and makes hard plays look easy on some nights...has untapped offensive abilities...great passer who hits his mark in stride...very mobile and athletic...reads the play well and knows when to slink deep into the offensive zone for an offensive chance.

Weakness: Battles bouts of bad decision making when his confidence is low...not a physical threat although he has the size to dominate in that regard...shot is weak and often he refuses to use it when he should because of the lack of velocity...a definite project that saw his development stall midway through his season this year.

NHL Potential: Top Four Two-Way Defender.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. Many questions have been raised about his potential and only time will deliver the answers although he is a project that will need much time to fully develop.



Photo courtesy Saint John Sea Dogs

FC Rank: # 16

Name: Peter Holland

Position: Centre

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: January 14, 1991

Height: 6'-2"

Weight: 195 LBS

08-09 League: OHL

08-09 Team: Guelph

Stats: 68 GP 28 G 39 A 67 PTS

Strengths: He has a very intriguing blend of size and skill...skates well and can really explode into openings...has good natural athleticism...shows flashes of dominance at both ends...has a great shot release when flying down the

wing...is creative with the puck and can handle it in traffic...equally adept at making a play by setting a teammate or finishing himself...uses his big frame well to protect the puck and battle down low...works hard on improving his game...has quick hands and good balance...is physically strong...a potential power forward with skill in the pro's.

Weakness: Level of compete night in and night out has been lacking toward the tail end of the season...decision making on the ice is also questionable...consistency in his physical play needs refining...can try to needlessly show-off his puck skills during the game...can get lazy on his defensive assignments...has a tendency to stay on the perimeter too often depending on his linemates to do the dirty work...overall he needs to ramp up the intensity in his play.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Power Forward

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. Holland has the look of a future NHL player, it is his upside is the only question. Will he develop into a consistent scoring threat or top out as a third/fourth line checker.



Photo courtesy Guelph Storm



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 17

Name: Jacob Josefson

Position: Centre

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: March 2, 1991

Height: 6'-0"

Weight: 190 LBS

08-09 League: Sweden

08-09 Team: Djurgarden

Stats: 50 GP 5 G 11 A 16 PTS

Strengths: A strong two-way forward...smart, strong and balanced along the boards...protects the puck well with his feet and body...has a quick stick on both sides of the puck...has great vision, creativity and passing skills that allow him to set-up teammates effectively...patiently hold the puck and shows poise under pressure...plays hard and smartly in all three zones...on defense he reads the play well disrupting the attack with a quick stick or closing off a lane with solid positioning...will come back deep into his own zone regularly...solid in the face-off circle...possesses a strong work ethic...will play physical if game heads that way...overall mobility is good.

Weakness: Not overly large but does have solid strength for his size...skating speed is just average as he just doesn't have that top gear...shot is limited in its effectiveness as it lacks velocity and is slow off his stick...he is predictable as he always looks to pass first...seems a bit injury prone.

NHL Potential: Top Six Two-Way Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. He could be a solid top six playmaking forward or worse case a solid third fourth line two-way player with some offensive spark. Josefson is a very safe pick.



Photo courtesy Djurgarden

FC Rank: # 18

Name: Kyle Palmieri

Position: Centre/Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: February 1, 1991

Height: 5'-11"

Weight: 185 LBS

08-09 League: USNTDP

08-09 Team: Under-18

Stats: 33 GP 15 G 15 A 30 PTS

Strengths: Can play any way you want as an energy checking type or along your top six scorers...has a never give up engine...skates well and has deceptive speed...strong for his size and uses his leverage well against stronger opponents...drives to the net and plays a semi-physically grinding game...forechecks hard...possesses nice hands and can make plays in tight spaces...has a nice shot that he gets off quickly...is smart and reads the play well...plays solid in his own zone...a very coachable player...future captain material...has the knack for scoring clutch goals.

Weakness: No real glaring weakness to his game...his offensive upside is not the highest although a top six forward is still likely...his lack of size and strength can hinder his style of game against larger opponents...

NHL Potential: Top Six Two-Way Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. Like Josefson, Kyle's game is pretty even keeled and he excels in many areas but high offensive output is in question. He should settle into a second line role.

Extra Notes: Was asked to leave the USNTDP at the tail end of the year, reason for this sudden separation was not expressed by either party when asked. Will play for Notre Dame this coming fall.



Photo courtesy USA Hockey



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 19
Name: Scott Glennie
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
Date of Birth: February 22, 1991
Height: 6'-1"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Brandon
Stats: 55 GP 28 G 42 A 70 PTS

Strengths: A great skater both in terms of top end speed and lateral mobility...he accelerates in two powerful strides with the puck which allows him to either beat defenders or draw penalties...handles the puck well in traffic and has nice vision...is more of a natural finisher and has a great shot that is deceptive to keepers with a quick release...drives to the net and works hard to gain possession of the puck...plays a solid defensive game and competes night in and night out...read the play well and maintains solid positioning...his size is also a positive as it allows him to fight through checks...not afraid to stickup for himself or teammates and plays with an element of grit.

Weakness: Strength is needed to help compliment the game he plays when he graduates to the pro ranks...the perceived notion that his impressive play is a direct result of Brayden Schenn's playmaking ability, he needs to continue to prove his own skills will make him a solid pro...defensively he has not been asked to take on much responsibility which has left that part of him game rather underdeveloped.

NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Winger.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / High Reward. His game is solid enough at this level but he is more of a project for the next level as he looks to have a long road still head of him.



Photo courtesy Brandon Wheat Kings

FC Rank: # 20
Name: Calvin de Haan
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: May 9, 1991
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 170 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Oshawa
Stats: 68 GP 8 G 55 A 63 PTS

Strengths: From the out of nowhere category comes this slick two-way defender...skates extremely well Neidermayer like pivots and solid overall mobility...likes to carry the puck and create offensive situations for his linemates...have the vision, creativity and puck distribution skills to make everyone around him better...has outstanding vision and knows where his options are at all times...is poised and has a high panic threshold...smart defensively and plays his angles well...his intelligence and ability to communicate direction are also highly regarded...is masterful at running the powerplay from the point...works hard at improving his game.

Weakness: Physically he is weak and doesn't currently have the ability to play a strong defensive game because of his slender build...his shot could also use help as it lacks velocity.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defender.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. He has the skills and attributes needed to be a successful pro however his size and strength are mild concerns.

Extra Notes: Many thought, including myself, that de Haan's game would stumble a bit after loosing Tavares in a late season trade but while he did endure a slight dip in production it became evident that his impressive game was not due to who he was playing with but rather that he is a strong prospect that can make players around him better.



Photo courtesy Ontario Hockey League



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 21
Name: Chris Kreider
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: April 30, 1991
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: USHS
08-09 Team: Andover
Stats: 26 GP 33 G 23 A 56 PTS

Strengths: Imposing size, speed and a hard working attitude are some of his best assets...he has a long smooth stride that is

powerful...he can get to top gear in just a few strides...he controls the puck with his long reach and protects it with his strong frame...his shot is pro caliber and has the release needed to keep goalies off balance...he has soft hands and can carry the puck into the offensive zone effectively...can be an imposing force coming down the wing...has shown a good willingness to play in dirty areas all over the ice...drives into traffic and takes the puck to the net...defensively he has a good work rate and is aggressive on the puck carrier.

Weakness: The level of his competition is relatively low at the high school level...his game is also underdeveloped when it comes to defensive play.

NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Power Winger.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. His game is elite at this level but he has another year of eligibility left at Andover so finding a bigger challenge would be the hope of any team that drafts him this highly. He is committed to Boston College for the fall of 2010.



Photo courtesy Phillips Andover

FC Rank: # 22
Name: Louis Leblanc
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
Date of Birth: January 26, 1991
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 180 LBS
08-09 League: USHL
08-09 Team: Omaha
Stats: 60 GP 28 G 31 A 59 PTS

Strengths: A two-way threat every time on the ice...he has decent speed and good overall mobility...plays with a hard edge...

will take the puck to the net and battle for any rebounds once there...has good vision and nice hockey sense... makes plays with the puck and can place the puck on his linemates stick with a pin point pass...has a good shot and mixes it up well...is aggressive on the forecheck and pressures the puck carrier effectively disrupting offensive flow...finishes his checks and plays a strong defensive game...will pay the price by blocking shots or taking a hit ...is solid in the faceoff circle and makes himself an outlet for his defense...he plays with a high level of intensity... has a good quick stick in both zones...plays with a mean edge and loves to play the body.

Weakness: His size is not as big as you would want from a player playing his type of game...he also has a bit of a limited offensive upside at the next level...not a lot of glaring weaknesses.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. He is pretty close to a shure NHL player down the road but despite having impressive two-way abilities with some offensive pop, will not be the next Mike Richards.

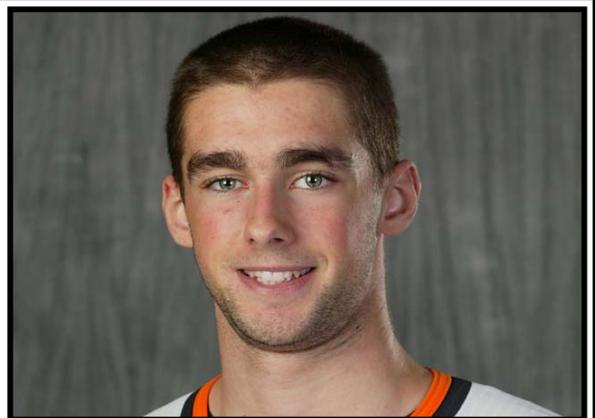


Photo courtesy Lancers Hockey



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 23

Name: Jeremy Morin

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: April 16, 1991

Height: 6'-0"

Weight: 190 LBS

08-09 League: USNTDP

08-09 Team: Under-18

Stats: 46 GP 26 G 22 A 48 PTS

Strengths: Has a choppy skating stride but get to where he is going...

possesses impressive hands and moves well through traffic...owns a great shot that is both accurate and velocity...has natural finishing abilities...not overly big physically but is strong and aggressive in his puck pursuit...his playmaking abilities are underrated as he sees the ice well and will create offensive opportunities for his linemates...is a top ten talent when clicking on all cylinders...possesses many impressive one-on-one moves to beat defenders...not afraid to play physically when play dictates it.

Weakness: Questionable work ethic as he is hit or miss depending on the game...although he is not a selfish player at times he tries to do things on his own and can run himself out of options...plays an inconsistent defensive game as he often forchecks hard and then takes a few consecutive shifts off...does not have great speed.

NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. Morin is the type of prospect that will either make it or he won't. He will likely not make it as an NHL'er in a diminished role because his skill set is as a goal scorer and his defensive game and skating does not lend itself to success as a third or fourth line forward.



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

FC Rank: # 24

Name: David Rundblad

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: October 8, 1990

Height: 6'-2"

Weight: 190 LBS

08-09 League: Sweden

08-09 Team: Skelleftea

Stats: 45 GP 0 G 10 A 10 PTS

Strengths: An offensive catalyst from the backend...has

displayed nice vision...makes a solid outlet pass although he prefers to rush the puck up ice himself...has good poise and patience with the puck allowing his teammates to find open ice for receiving passes...has shown a nice hand skills and a quick stick...he skates well and has good straight line speed...is an added offensive weapon as he regularly joins the rush...impressive power play quarterback with distribution of the puck and also has a good point shot that keeps defenders alert...has good size and strength.

Weakness: Often lackadaisical in his defensive assignments...tends to get caught watching the play and does not show enough constant aggressiveness in his end...loose gap control and a lack of lateral mobility are also considered needing work...often he tries to check an opponent with just his stick...overall consistency needs improvement...development somewhat stalled this year due to lack of ice time.

NHL Potential: Offensive Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. The risk is that although his offensive game is stellar if he does not improve on the other side of the puck he will be a liability that most teams will not be willing to keep on their rosters. The reward is he could run your PP impressively and take a regular shift as well.



Photo courtesy Skelleftea Hockey



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 25
Name: Dylan Olsen
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: January 3, 1991
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 210 LBS
08-09 League: AJHL
08-09 Team: Camrose
Stats: 53 GP 10 G 19 A 29 PTS

Strengths: A physical two-way Phaneufian style defender... reads the play well in the defensive zone...has nice all-encompassing mobility and the speed to angle attackers to the perimeter...shows an athletic side with much untapped potential...plays a punishing physical game finishing his checks and making attackers play a price for space in his vicinity...sees the ice well and makes good accurate, smart, hard passes...plays his angles well and regularly holds tight gaps...offensively he makes smart decisions...possesses a very hard point shot...mans the line well on the PP and distributes the puck efficiently...plays a pro style game that will easily translate to Minnesota Duluth this fall.

Weakness: His game does not have any glaring weaknesses but his offensive potential may be limited...it is hard to get a true read on his upside because of the low level of competition he played at...made some defensive gaffs at the recent U18 in Fargo that were uncharacteristic.

NHL Potential: Physical Two-Way Defender.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / High Reward. Pro style defender's only question mark is how high is his upside.



Photo courtesy Hockey Canada

FC Rank: # 26
Name: Olivier Roy
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
Date of Birth: July 12, 1991
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 165 LBS
08-09 League: QMJHL
08-09 Team: Cape Breton
Stats: 54 GP 2.80 GAA .906 SP

Strengths: Athletic butterfly style keeper has shown great poise and mental strength in the crease...outstanding technique and angles play help him to dominate games even without prototypical size...awesome lateral mobility and reflexive save ability...goes down into his butterfly and pops back up quickly...footwork is excellent and he is able to pickup the puck effectively in traffic...makes himself bigger and covers more net than his size would suggest...reads the play and is aggressive against lone offensive attackers.

Weakness: Obvious lack of size and bulk are areas that have some concerned...tendency to drop into butterfly early is a common concern for youngsters and he is not different...needs to work on his rebound control as some nights he looked solid and others it was an issue...he has been caught playing a little deep in his net...puck handling is not one of his immediate strengths.

NHL Potential: Starting Goaltender.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / High Reward. Another one of those "will he live up to his abilities" type as he is impressive at this level but will his game translate? We think he will be patrolling an NHL franchise's crease for fifteen or so years.



Photo courtesy Cape Breton Screaming Eagles



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 27

Name: Jordan Caron

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: November 2, 1990

Height: 6'-2"

Weight: 205 LBS

08-09 League: QMJHL

08-09 Team: Rimouski

Stats: 56 GP 36 G 31 A 67 PTS

Strengths: A big kid with some solid two-way skills...he has good overall mobility and fine straight line speed...a big frame that he will likely be able to add some weight to and which will take his physical game to another level...plays is not flashy but effective in all three zones...has good hands and can carry the puck...balanced and hard to knock off the puck as well as possessing very solid puck protection skills...gives and takes passes well although he is more of a scorer...willing to play in dirty areas and pay a price for an opportunity...his shot is good with a quick release and he makes the most of the offensive opportunities he has.

Weakness: Lack of consistent effort level is a concern as he is known to take shifts off...offensive upside is not projected to be too high as a pro...a bit of a injury history is a concern especially with his style of play.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Power Winger.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. Caron is likely a candidate to play a solid role on some teams third line and contribute secondary scoring for the next ten to fifteen years but there is a slight chance his development spikes and he lands as a solid scoring top six winger.



Photo courtesy Rimouski Oceanic

FC Rank: # 28

Name: Landon Ferraro

Position: Centre

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: August 8, 1991

Height: 5'-11"

Weight: 165 LBS

08-09 League: WHL

08-09 Team: Red Deer

Stats: 68 GP 37 G 18 A 55 PTS

Strengths: Possesses the same intensity and drive that his father displayed for eighteen NHL seasons...plays a high energy run and gun style...always moving his feet and has good speed...has wizard like hands and protects the puck despite his smaller stature...is creative with the puck and creates loads of offensive opportunities...has a deceptive wrist shot with a quick release...possesses good hockey sense and knows what to do in every situation...will drive the net and pay a price physically...tries to play a hard hitting game...is aggressive on the forecheck.

Weakness: Size is his most obvious deficiency...tends to has issues with inconsistent play like most kids his age...wreckless style has some concerned about potential injury problems down the road...has an emotional side that can get him into trouble.

NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. The size thing is what will determine whether or not he will have a successful NHL career. Although you look at his father and it is hard to doubt he will make his pro hockey dreams come true, in what role is to be determined.



Photo courtesy Red Deer Rebels



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 29
Name: Stefan Elliott
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
Date of Birth: January 30, 1991
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 180 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Saskatoon
Stats: 71 GP 16 G 39 A 55 PTS

Strengths: Does nothing great but everything well...plays a simple offensive game moving the puck up to his forwards with crisp accurate passes...has the ability to carry the puck as well...his skating stride is solid and his mobility is a strength...can handle the puck and walk the line on the PP looking for open lanes where he disguise his intentions of either shot or pass well...showed poise with the puck...defensively he uses an active stick and his mobility to limit opposition chances...will play physical around his net...will block a shot and closes down lanes...closes off attackers quickly.

Weakness: Hockey sense has been questioned by some...in some instances he missed defensive assignments deep in his zone and was also running around out of position creating an opening for the opposition...will need to add more strength...can get caught pinching at the wrong times trying too hard to create offense.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. He has a way to go down the development road and has many unanswered questions which will define whether or not he makes an impact at the pro level.



Photo courtesy Saskatoon Blades

FC Rank: # 30
Name: Michael Lee
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
Date of Birth: October 5, 1990
Height: 6'-1"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: USHL
08-09 Team: Fargo
Stats: 48 GP 2.40 GAA .918 SP

Strengths: Technically sound and strong positioning are his calling cards...deploys a impressive butterfly with few openings...has good foot work and a wickedly quick glove...takes away the bottom portion of net with his outstanding legs and kick saves...looks much larger in net than his size is listed...has good dexterity and tracks the puck very well...is poised and calm even when the play encroaches on his crease...has nice lateral mobility and knows when to be aggressive and when to stay in the blue paint...is clutch as seen this year in his leading Fargo to the finals and much farther than expected in the USHL playoffs...a focused competitor.

Weakness: Perceived lack of quality competition is considered a weakness by some...his size is just average although his quickness and net coverage are good enough to compensate.

NHL Potential: Starting Goaltender.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. Ever since his days dominating Minnesota High School hockey with his home town Roseau Rams and now this season with USHL expansion Fargo Force his game has been questioned because of the level of competition despite dominating every level he has played to date. He is FC's second rated goalie for a reason.



Photo courtesy USHL



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 31
Name: Tim Erixon
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: February 24, 1991
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: Sweden
08-09 Team: Skelleftea
Stats: 45 GP 2 G 5 A 7 PTS

Strengths: A solid two-way defender...possesses good puck distribution skills whether it be a breakout pass or quick touch pass for the point on the PP...has a deceptive shot from the point and nice ability to find shooting lanes...not overly flashy but efficient in his offensive production...skates well with good overall mobility and speed...handles the puck well...solid defensive game that incorporates an active stick and aggressive positioning.

Weakness: Lack of strength is hindering his defensive abilities as he often gets out muscled in the tough areas...defensively he makes some bad reads causing offensive chances for the opposition...not much physical assertiveness to his game...can get caught running around in his own zone.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. His recent offensive outburst at the U18 tournament in Fargo ND leads some to believe that his offensive upside is higher than first thought.

Extra Notes: His father Jan Erixon played ten NHL seasons for the Rangers hence the reason Tim lists Port Chester, New York as his place of birth.



Photo courtesy Skelleftea Hockey

FC Rank: # 32
Name: Carter Ashton
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: April 1, 1991
Height: 6'-4"
Weight: 205 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Lethbridge
Stats: 70 GP 30 G 20 A 50 PTS

Strengths: Size and strength are his biggest assets...plays a power game blended with some decent scoring ability...has a very nice shot and can handle the puck in tight...solid play along the wall and uses his size both there as well as in bulling his way to the net...uses his reach well to protect the puck...throws his body around and has some shifts were he is a wreaking ball on the ice.

Weakness: A lumbering skater who has had a hard time keeping up to the speed in the WHL...offensive creativity is lacking as he is not naturally gifted in that area...game is full of inconsistent effort level and you don't know what product you are going to get...defensive play is non-existent...vision on the ice is questionable...does not handle the puck well on the rush and is more of a north/south complementary winger even at this level.

NHL Potential: Third Line Winger.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. The problem with Ashton is no one, not even himself, really know what type of player he will eventually be. He shows flashes of something special but most time looks like a future checking line winger.

Extra Notes: Carter is the son of former NHL'er Brent Ashton.



Photo courtesy WHL



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 33
Name: Ryan O'Reilly
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: February 7, 1991
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Erie
Stats: 68 GP 16 G 50 A 66 PTS

Strengths: A prospect with loads of character and true leadership qualities...does everything well that is needed

to be successful...outstanding vision and ability to read plays before they happen...knows were to be on the ice in all three zones...plays a solid defense first game where he supports his defense and has an extremely high work rate...is stealth like in his ability to take the puck off an attacker coming through the neutral zone...distributes the puck with authority and like a pro...makes those around him better...is very effective in the faceoff circle...creative offensively...has an underrated shot...handles the puck with poise and has a wealth of slick moves although he is not a flashy player...has the ability to create something out of nothing.

Weakness: Skating is a major concern for his transition to the next level...slow foot speed and poor technique are main areas that need to be worked on...does not shoot the puck enough.

NHL Potential: Second Line Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. The lack of speed has been masked with outstanding smarts at the OHL level but will he be able to improve enough in that area to be a difference maker at the next level.



Photo courtesy Erie Otters

FC Rank: # 34
Name: Ethan Werek
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: June 7, 1991
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Kingston
Stats: 66 GP 32 G 32 A 64 PTS

Strengths: Hard working attitude and a willingness to do whatever it takes to win...not a flashy offensive guy but will fight for loose

pucks and plays a simple dump and retrieve game...is a smart player...has some good abilities in the offensive zone...can shot the puck and has a nice selection of shot all with good releases from in close...lives in traffic areas and fights for positioning when he is most effective...has a quick stick and makes good passes...is solid in the face-off circle...has good hockey sense and displays good positioning on the defensive side of the puck... a feisty puck smart player.

Weakness: Skating is just average although his straight line speed is adequate...he needs to improve his first few steps...has a limited offensive upside, he does not possess flashy skill or many one-on-one moves...his playmaking skills are limited to in-zone passes...limited creativity and looks more like a complementary player at the next level.

NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. He projects right now as a third line layer with some offensive upside but he could really go a bit either way of that projection.

Extra Notes: Decided on Kingston of the OHL after playing for his fathers OPJHL team in Stouffville, Ont., he had earlier committed verbally to Boston College.

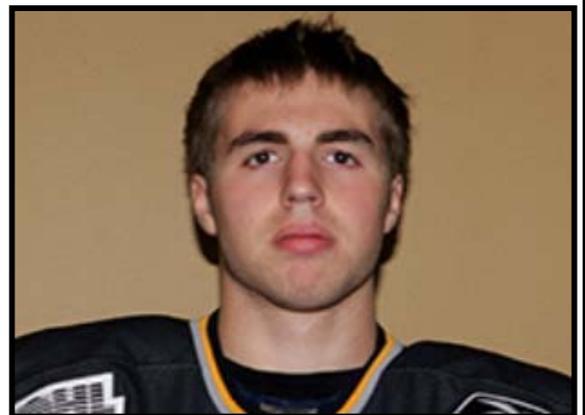


Photo courtesy Kingston Frontenacs



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 35

Name: Charles-Olivier Roussel

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: September 13, 1991

Height: 6'-1"

Weight: 195 LBS

08-09 League: QMJHL

08-09 Team: Shawinigan

Stats: 68 GP 11 G 33 A 44 PTS

Strengths: Plays a game that incorporates everything you want in a defender as he can skate, shoot, play physical and is solid in his own zone...has a fluid skating stride and very good overall mobility...possesses great strength against

opposition at this level...plays with an edge and is a danger to deliver the open ice hit...joins the rush regularly and has underrated puck distribution skills...has a decent shot...defensively he displays solid positioning and angles attackers to the wall or just knocks them off the puck with brute strength.

Weakness: His game has too much inconsistency to it as he never plays the same type of shift consecutively...not blessed with great natural offensive creativity...a little slow in his own zone on some plays...needs to add more strength to his legs...gets caught playing the puck and can be beat with slick moves as his stick is not as quick as his opposition...needs to close his gaps quicker.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. He needs time to fully develop all the tools that will make him a solid pro. He teases you with the potential but questions about his upside persist for some.



Photo courtesy Shawinigan

FC Rank: # 36

Name: Carl Klingberg

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Right

Date of Birth: January 28, 1991

Height: 6'-3"

Weight: 205 LBS

08-09 League: Sweden

08-09 Team: Frolunda Jr.

Stats: 35 GP 13 G 13 A 26 PTS

Strengths: Size and a modest skill set make him an attractive future power forward prospect...plays with good energy and drives to the net with or without the puck...has good speed and uses it to create opportunities in the

offensive zone...has impressive acceleration for such a big guy and hits full speed in only a few short strides...is aggressive on the wall and plays a physical brand against defenders...uses his size and balance to win most puck battles...has a very good shot and can finish from in close...decent passing ability but primarily a natural scorer...does not over handle the puck...has a good work ethic and plays hard in all three zones.

Weakness: Offensive game is underdeveloped and he sometimes seems to lack confidence in his abilities...defensively he needs to mark his man and read the play better...has to add strength to fully reach his PF potential...needs to be better at protecting the puck when he has possession...offensive game is still a question.

NHL Potential: Power Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. Not sure what type of game he will play once he develops, will he be a scoring PF or just a solid third or fourth line guy.



Photo courtesy Frolunda Hockey



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 37
Name: Drew Shore
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
Date of Birth: January 29, 1991
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: USNTDP
08-09 Team: Under-18
Stats: 53 GP 14 G 23 A 37 PTS

Strengths: Has nice blend of size, skill and solid work ethic...plays a complete two way game...he skates well and has good speed as well as impressive lateral shiftiness...owns a nice set of hands and a complementary long reach which he uses to protect the puck...his shot is decent but it is his release that is nice as it is off his blade in a split second...sees the ice well and shows some good puck distribution skills...plays in his own zone and uses solid positioning to take away lanes...a high character player who has natural leadership...solid in the PK role as his reach, size and work rate are all solid.

Weakness: He lacks the top end skating that you would love to see him have and ultimately that may keep him out of the first round...consistency is lacking in his offensive game...his hockey sense has been questioned after the U18 Tournament in Fargo where he played uncharacteristically poor games and many shifts looked lost on the ice.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. His game while full of potential is just as littered with holes that will need attention during his time at Denver University. His upside is that of a second line two-way player that can be a mainstay on your teams top PK unit.



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

FC Rank: # 38
Name: Matt Hackett
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
Date of Birth: March 7, 1990
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Plymouth
Stats: 55 GP 3.04 GAA .913 SP

Strengths: Has impressive size and knows how to use it with solid positioning and impressive angles play...he has improved his lateral mobility and tightened up his stance limiting the daylight a shooter sees this past year...plays aggressively and will come way out to challenge one-on one which is also a change from last season...does not flop around but instead stays in position...stays poised and calm in the net...tracks the puck well and makes saves through traffic...has the ability to make the clutch save.

Weakness: Lack of technique as he can't decide if he is a butterfly or stand-up style keeper...a weak glove and blocker as he holds them too low and lacks quickness...depends too much on his size and does not show the ability to make the second and third save consistently...needs to add more leg strength.

NHL Potential: Starting Goaltender.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. What has scouts excited about with Hackett is his quick improvement for last season. If that trajectory continues his ceiling will go up as his fundamentals improves.

Extra Notes: Matt is the nephew of former NHL'er Jeff Hackett.

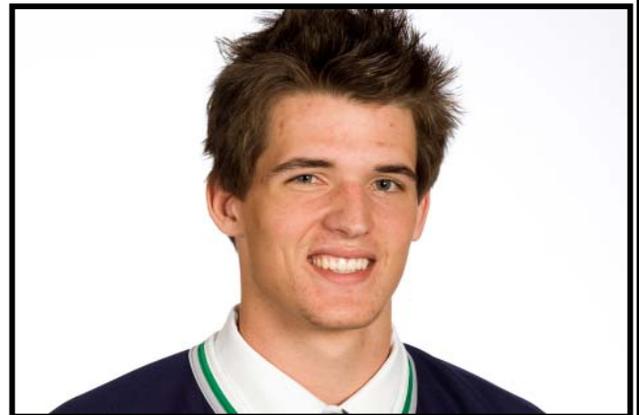


Photo courtesy Plymouth



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 39
Name: Marcus Johansson
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: October 6, 1990
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: Sweden
08-09 Team: Farjestad
Stats: 45 GP 5 G 5 A 10 PTS

Strengths: This two-way threat skates well and has both good speed and fine first step acceleration...he is a shifty player with nice vision and a fine set of hands...he is primarily a pass first player but he can also finish because of his soft hands...very creative in the offensive zone and uses his body well to retain puck possession...has impressive hockey sense in both zones...is very quick to loose pucks and uses a quick stick to separate the opposition for the puck...defensively he plays with good positioning and works hard to play a complete two-way game...tries to use his teammates...fights and wins most of his battles along the wall...his desire to do whatever it takes to win is evident.

Weakness: Lacks the size and strength to be effective at the North American pro level...needs to utilize his underrated shot more as he can become predictable with his pass first mentality...does not play with any sort of physicality.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. It is not a question whether Johansson will be a solid pro but rather what his offensive upside will be.



Photo courtesy IJHF

FC Rank: # 40
Name: Nick Leddy
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: March 20, 1991
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: USHS
08-09 Team: Eden Prairie
Stats: 25 GP 8 G 29 A 37 PTS

Strengths: A high flying offensive catalyst from the backend... Leddy is an outstanding skater who has impressive all-encompassing mobility, a powerful but smooth stride with effortlessly sharp pivots...he has an extra gear that few in his league can match...he has great creativity and the soft hands to compliment...a threat to go end-to-end whenever on the ice...his vision and passing skills are major weapons...always looking to pinch and make a play... defensively he has the recovery speed to play an aggressive offensive game...plays the game with a physical edge... always knows where his options are in all zones.

Weakness: lack of size and strength are not glaring at this level but will be as a pro...defensively his game is underdeveloped and he will need to focus on much improvements like gap control, defensive positioning and his reads.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. Like all high school player the competition level is concerning but his high offensive skill level and skating ability almost guarantee that he will make a smooth transition to the NCAA level.

Extra Notes: Leddy was given the prestigious Mr. Hockey award this year as Minnesota's best high school player. He will play with the Minnesota Golden Gopher's in the fall of 2009.

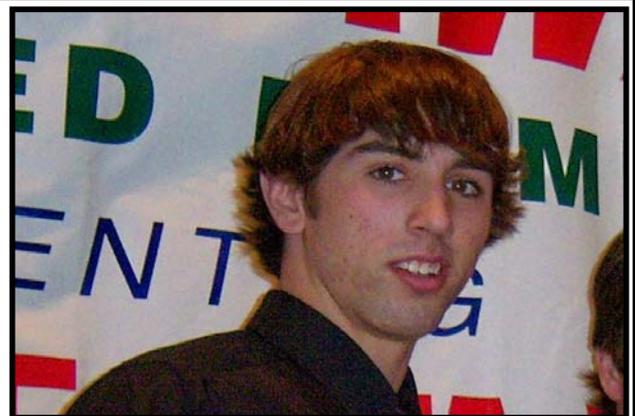


Photo courtesy Eden Prairie



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 41

Name: Richard Panik

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: February 7, 1991

Height: 6'-2"

Weight: 210 LBS

08-09 League: Czech Republic

08-09 Team: Trinec

Stats: 16 GP 10 G 9 A 19 PTS

Strengths: Big with impressive skills similar to a poor mans Marian Hossa...he has a good shot and deadly one-timer... the puck is off his stick in a flash...finds open ice and makes himself available...demonstrates his strength as he

drives the net or peels the puck off a opponent...his skating is decent and he has good first step quickness...often times you will not notice him until he makes his impact by scoring...uses his size and long reach to protect the puck.

Weakness: Tends to skate around the ice making wide turns and not contributing much to the play...he needs to improve his work rate and force himself to get involved on a more consistent basis...opponents are still able to knock him off the puck far too easily for a prospect with his size and strength...he always looks winded and may have poor conditioning habits...defensively he needs much work and better effort level...his physical game is limited.

NHL Potential: Scoring Power Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. Whether or not he has the desire or intestinal fortitude to play an aggressive style game will be a heavy determining factor in his ultimate success as the skills are unquestionable.

Extra Notes: Panik will likely join the Windsor Spitfires for the 2009-10 season where he should be able to develop his game more suited to the North American style.



Photo courtesy Trinec

FC Rank: # 42

Name: Eric Gelinias

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Date of Birth: May 8, 1991

Height: 6'-4"

Weight: 190 LBS

08-09 League: QMJHL

08-09 Team: Lewiston

Stats: 67 GP 10 G 29 A 39 PTS

Strengths: A big body that skates well...possesses great speed for his size and very impressive overall mobility...thinks the game with a defensive first approach but also makes a solid first pass and can make plays with the puck...

outstanding reach and quick hands...has a nice shot from the point and gets it on net consistently...he jumps up into the play when it is safe and he will not get caught defensively...uses his strength and size well in his own zone...controls his gaps like a pro...he reads the play well and anticipates the play to break it up...is dependable and will get the job done...fills lanes well and blocks shots.

Weakness: Needs to add strength as he is tall but gangly...offensively he is not a creative playmaker...needs to ramp up his physical play and be more aggressive utilizing his size...defensive positioning needs to be better as he leaves his post and chases the puck at times.

NHL Potential: Defensive Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. Gelinias will be a solid pro for years although opinions are still split as to if he will contribute much offensively to the team that drafts him.



Photo courtesy Lewiston



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 43
Name: Cody Eakin
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: May 24, 1991
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Swift Current
Stats: 54 GP 24 G 24 A 48 PTS

Strengths: A very fast two-way threat on the ice...plays with high intensity and a never quit motor...skates

exceptionally well with two extra gears and the drive to always keeping his feet moving...makes quick plays and has very fast hands...has a good shot with a quick release which surprises goalies...has some good offensive creativity and underrated vision allowing him to set-up linemates...willing and able to block shots, take a hit and battle in the corners...solid on the PK and is defensively responsible...plays a physical brand, not necessarily a drop the gloves guy but will push and shove for body positioning...is a hard worker...very coachable player.

Weakness: Somewhat on the small side and underdeveloped upper body and legs make him easy to beat in physical battles for larger opponents...injury history is likely due to his smaller stature and the in you face game he plays...has a tendency to develop tunnel vision when the game is on the line and tries to do things himself.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. Injury concerns are what is negatively affecting his status among many scouts. He is projected to play a Kris Draper type role if he makes it.



Photo courtesy Swift Current

FC Rank: # 44
Name: Philippe Paradis
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: January 2, 1991
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: QMJHL
08-09 Team: Shawinigan
Stats: 66 GP 19 G 31 A 50 PTS

Strengths: A forward with immense size and the wherewithal to use it...he drives through opposition defenders with his

balances stride on his way to the net and has a shot that compliments this robust style...is deadly from in close and with his shot as well as dishing to teammates for gimme goals...his skating is not great but adequate and he gets to where he's going just fine...works hard and plays a complete game coming back deep into his own zone on the back check...dishes out hits like a freight train...is a beast along the wall...handles the puck well.

Weakness: Skating although not necessarily a weakness could use improvement in the speed area...tends to over handle the puck which is not his game...his vision is somewhat limited and his puck distribution skills could use refining...looks to have a limited offensive upside.

NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. The risk is that his skating is just average or just below depending on whom you talk to but the reward may be that his shot and determined game bump him to a second line scoring power forward at the pro level.



Photo courtesy Shawinigan



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 45
Name: Zach Budish
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Right
Date of Birth: May 9, 1991
Height: 6'-3"
Weight: 230 LBS
08-09 League: USHS
08-09 Team: Edina
Stats: Injured

Strengths: A big bodied two-way forward with skill best describes Budish...his hands are soft and he can handle the puck in close...sees the ice well and makes solid plays with the puck...is extremely strong possessing an impressive build...drives through defenders...protects the puck very well with his size and strength...smart in all three zones and reads the developing play quickly...his shot is accurate and with good velocity...his release is split second...he finds open ice when he doesn't have the puck and makes himself a viable option for the puck carrier... he is a dependable back checker who marks his man and stays with him...makes himself an outlet for defenders... able to quickly nullify opposition with his reach...strong in the face-off department and has good leadership qualities.
Weakness: Limited offensive upside due to a lack of creativity...skating needs work as he lacks speed and quickness in his mobility...does not have the aggressive attitude to compliment his immense size.
NHL Potential: Two-Way Power Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. Will that off year affect him going forward?
Extra Notes: Unfortunately for Zach his hockey season was ended before it began when he tore his ACL in an Edina HS Football game back in October. He will move on to the University of Minnesota in the fall.



Photo courtesy Zach Budish

FC Rank: # 46
Name: Tomas Tatar
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: December 1, 1990
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: Slovakia
08-09 Team: Zvolen
Stats: 41 GP 4 G 7 A 11 PTS

Strengths: A highly skilled and quick water bug type player... he skates well and has an outstanding burst of acceleration... has good hands and can dangle around defenders...likes the puck on his stick...possesses an accurate shot with a quick release in full stride...is a battler who never gives up on a play or a loose puck...can finish in close very well... creates plays and sees the ice well...is defensively responsible and plays just as tenaciously in all three zones... willing to throw his body around and muck it up...full of energy and always keeps his feet moving...uses a great change of pace in his stride to beat defenders effectively...leads by example...is solid in face-offs.

Weakness: An obvious lack of size and strength...he also has a tendency to get emotional and take penalties...his wrist shot although accurate lacks velocity...hands to over handle the puck and run out of options.

NHL Potential: Offensive Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. Will his game translate to the aggressive style of the NHL or will he be crushed?

Extra Notes: The IJHF WJC in Ottawa was his coming out party as many knew of him but few knew what he was capable of.



Photo courtesy IJHF



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 47
Name: Brayden McNabb
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
Date of Birth: January 21, 1991
Height: 6'-4"
Weight: 205 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Kootenay
Stats: 67 GP 10 G 26 A 36 PTS

Strengths: Thrives in a simplistic defense first role but has the potential for much more...his skating and overall mobility are good and he pivots well for such a big guy...his size is outstanding and he possesses a frame with which to add much strength too...he is aggressive and likes to play the body...can lay an opponent out with a solid hit...the bruising defender is solid in his own zone with a good first pass and solid ability to read the play...he has outstanding reach and good strength that allow him to own the wall...offensively he is not going to run your PP but will contribute with solid breakouts and good transitions.

Weakness: Besides his lack of offensive creativity or puck skills his shot is also relatively ineffective...he needs to add strength to fully reach his potential...he tends to leave his position to go for the big hit even when the opportunity is not there...if he could improve his feet it would make him that much better in his own zone.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Low Risk / Medium Reward. With his mobility, size and aggressiveness he will be a future NHL'er in one role or another, determining if that role is as a two-way defender or more so as a shut down guy is the only question.



Photo courtesy Kootenay Ice

FC Rank: # 48
Name: Edward Pasquale
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
Date of Birth: July 12, 1991
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 215 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Saginaw
Stats: 61 GP 3.02 GAA .911 SP

Strengths: Size and focus are the two main strengths of his game when its on...looks huge in net and does not leave a lot of open net behind him...had nights where an NHL team would be lucky to put one by him...plays a hybrid style of partly stand-up and partly butterfly...his quickness is underrated...flashes a quick glove and uses his stick correctly to close five hole or poke the puck away from attackers...plays with a never give up attitude...his footwork is good in his crease and he plays aggressive when needed...he has good athleticism but correctly lest his big frame do most of the work...he controls his rebounds well.

Weakness: Has trouble with shots around both elbows as they seem to handcuff him...consistency in his game to game focus is also an issue...he goes down too early and has a low stance otherwise causing the top portion of net to often be left open...lateral mobility is an area that needs technical correction as he does not push off with enough strength...conditioning is an area that needs to be addresses over the summer.

NHL Potential: Project Goaltender.

Boom or Bust Potential: Medium Risk / Medium Reward. He needs loads of time to hone his game before he should take it to the next level. His game while showing signs of dominance has also many holes that can be fixed.



Photo courtesy OHL



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 49
Name: Toni Rajala
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 21-Mar-91
Height: 5'-9"
Weight: 165 LBS
08-09 League: Finland
08-09 Team: Ilves Jr.
Stats: 31 GP 14 G 17 A 31 PTS

Strengths: Skates well and has an elusiveness to him where defenders find it hard to stop him...he has good acceleration and quick feet that allow him to change pace and drop a defender in coverage...his hands are quick and he controls the puck like it is on a string...his offensive creativity is impressive as are his vision and playmaking abilities...has good hand eye coordination and is able to finish in close or off the wing...his shot is nice and off his stick with a deceptive release...he creates offensive opportunities with his smarts and playmaking skills making others better.

Weakness: Petit size and not much in the way of heart are his biggest hurdles...he refuses to play in any traffic and only goes to the net when the defender's back is turned...consistency is also lacking..

NHL Potential: Playmaking Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. Similar to Jiri Hudler in his draft year he could see a slid due to his slight stature but his skill will be too much to ignore for too long. He could surprise and be a steal just like Hudler who was taken at the tail end of the second round and is not a solid citizen on one of Detroit's scoring lines.

Extra Notes: Rajala was on fire at the recent IIHF U18 tournament in Fargo where he led all scorers producing over three points per game and was unstoppable especially against some of the weaker competition.



Photo courtesy IIHF

FC Rank: # 50
Name: Taylor Doherty
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
Date of Birth: March 2, 1991
Height: 6'-8"
Weight: 220 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Kingston
Stats: 68 GP 2 G 18 A 20 PTS

Strengths: Not often do defenders come along with the size that this kid has...his aggressive style compliments it so well...

he is mobile and with a wingspan of a 747...he can absolutely crush an opponent with a hit...he clears the crease effectively and will stand up for a teammate or himself and drop the gloves...he is strong and good at angling attackers to the outside...gets his big body in front of shooting lanes...is at his best when he keeps things simple.

Weakness: Hockey sense and smarts with the puck are glaring holes...he passes up opportunities to make the opposition pay the price along the wall instead content with striping the puck and moving it...his recovery speed is non-existent...lack of confidence this season has caused his game to regress somewhat...does not read the developing play well instead playing mostly a reactionary game...his vision on the ice is limited.

NHL Potential: Defensive Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward. It is hard to bet on a prospect who just continually makes bad decisions with the puck but with his size and mobility you are willing to do so. A nice guy that we would like to see make it but important questions do remain unanswered.



Photo courtesy Kingston Frontenacs



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 51
Name: Alex Chiasson
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Right
DOB: 01-Oct-90
Height: 6'-3"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: USHL
08-09 Team: Des Moines
Stats: 56 GP 17 G 33 A 50 PTS



Photo courtesy USHL

Strengths: Immense size...the puck protection skills, great shot and physical play to play the PF game...likes to crush opponents with hits...drives to the net and is also defensively responsible...uses his long reach and fearless style of play to dominate the boards...possesses good vision and solid playmaking abilities.
Weakness: Slow feet and a lack of acceleration...he like most kids his age need to bring it each night consistently...can over handle the puck.
NHL Potential: Scoring Power Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward. He has much growing to do to fill out his slender frame. He could be a good one in a few years.

FC Rank: # 52
Name: Robin Lehner
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
DOB: 24-Jul-91
Height: 6'-3"
Weight: 220 LBS
08-09 League: Sweden
08-09 Team: Frolunda Jr.
Stats: 22 GP 3.05 GAA .903 SP

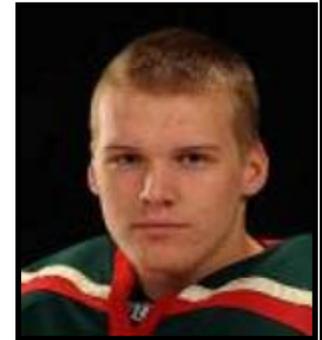


Photo courtesy Frolunda Hockey

Strengths: Butterfly style keeper has good positioning ...flawless technique and a very imposing frame to fill the net...patience to outwait the shooter...has an active stick and can consistently make the first save ...he moves well laterally with great flexibility.
Weakness: Handles the puck poorly and has a hard time controlling his rebounds...he tends to get out of position, loosing his net on second and third chances ...he is not always aggressive enough and has games where he stays back too far in his net.
NHL Potential: Project Goaltender.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward. Will he improve his flaws?

FC Rank: # 53
Name: Mikko Koskinen
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
DOB: 18-Jul-88
Height: 6'-6"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: Finland
08-09 Team: Blues
Stats: 33 GP 1.91 GAA .931 SP



Photo courtesy Blues Hockey

Strengths: The classic late bloomer...has great size and the ability to naturally cover much of the net...his legs are extremely quick...can drop into a butterfly and still cover most of the upper portion of net...has good focus and tracks the puck well.
Weakness: He desperately needs to add mass to his frame...has difficulty in handling shots in his feet...opens the five hole when moving laterally...has a tendency to play a little deep in his net...needs some improvements in his technique.
NHL Potential: Project Goaltender.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. This late bloomer has been very impressive this year but will the improvement continue or will his development stagnate?

FC Rank: # 54
Name: Michael Latta
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
DOB: 25-May-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Guelph
Stats: 65 GP 22 G 35 A 57 PTS

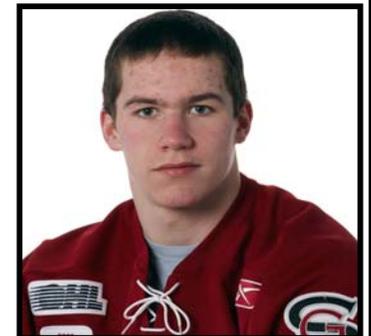


Photo courtesy Guelph Storm

Strengths: A gritty and feisty competitor who plays blends some offensive skills with this edge...he has a hard shot and a quick release...impressive strength and loves the physical game...he possesses nice vision and soft hands...battles it out in front of the net...can deliver pin point accurate passes.
Weakness: Has an underdeveloped skating stride with lots of wasted energy...his straight line speed is only average...plays a high risk game with his passes...tends to let his emotions get him into penalty trouble...needs to play a more consistent game and continue more in his own zone.
NHL Potential: Power Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. Will he control his emotions? Will his skating improve?



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 55
Name: Taylor Beck
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Right
DOB: 13-May-91
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 205 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Guelph
Stats: 67 GP 22 G 36 A 58 PTS



Photo courtesy Guelph Storm

Strengths: A meat and potatoes type of winger...full of drive and intensity...plays with a bull in a china shop mentality...has great hands that allow him to dominate down low...protects the puck well and works hard along the wall...shows smarts in his decisions and a willingness to play a full three zone game.
Weakness: A knee knocked skater who generates limited acceleration and has below average speed... limited success when carrying the puck due to his skating...needs to improve his shooting accuracy.
NHL Potential: Character Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. He needs to see improvements to his skating.

FC Rank: # 56
Name: Alex Hutchings
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Right
DOB: 07-Nov-90
Height: 5'-10"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Barrie
Stats: 63 GP 34 G 34 A 68 PTS



Photo courtesy Barrie Colts

Strengths: The smallish forward has natural finishing abilities...he reads the play well and gets to open ice...very shifty and hard to track...has a great shot that is very powerful for his size...plays a gritty and driven game...has decent passing skills...willing to battle with bigger opponents.
Weakness: Has a tendency to give a solid effort in the offensive zone but not so much in the defensive zone...lacks prototypical size and strength...his playmaking abilities and puck skills are lacking.
NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward. Will he be a solid Junior player and that's all?

FC Rank: # 57
Name: William Wrenn
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
DOB: 16-Mar-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: USNTDP
08-09 Team: Under-18
Stats: 51 GP 3 G 11 A 14 PTS



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

Strengths: A two-way defender with a hard shot and solid defensive positioning...skates well and has good recovery speed...has some offensive upside and can jump into the play as an extra attacker...has a good hard shot...makes good accurate well timed passes... solid defensive smarts...is competitive and battles hard...willing to play physical and lay the body with a well timed open ice hit.
Weakness: Size is not ideal for the way he plays...can run out his options when the puck is on his stick...has been caught running around in his own zone.
NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward. Should be a bottom six defender in the NHL one day.

FC Rank: # 58
Name: Josh Birkholz
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Right
DOB: 28-Mar-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 180 LBS
08-09 League: USHL
08-09 Team: Fargo
Stats: 55 GP 21 G 15 A 36 PTS



Photo courtesy Fargo Force

Strengths: Speed, speed and more speed is what is attractive about Josh...he is a hard forechecker and plays the body...his shot is above average and he fights like hell along the wall...good balance allow him to protect the puck well.
Weakness: Has the Body Devereaux syndrome as he is skilled with great wheels but slow to read the play...not very creative offensively and is more of a support player...he is just average size and will need to get stronger to continue contributing at the next level...has an element of panic around the puck.
NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward. Can he utilize his speed as a third line checker?



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 59
Name: Eric Haula
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 23-Mar-91
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 170 LBS
08-09 League: USHS



Photo courtesy Shattuck-St.Mary's

08-09 Team: Shattuck-St.Mary's
Stats: 49 GP 24 G 55 A 79 PTS

Strengths: The Finnish Import plays a hard nosed game that marries grit and skill...he is not going to beat you with dangles but will puck the puck past you and outwork you to get it back...has a decent shot and a quick release...a never stop motor...tries to play physical with limited success...plays in all the dirty areas and is hard to knock off the puck.

Weakness: Does not have high end skills or soft hands to play an overly creative game...his size is also a concern for his style...limited offensive upside.

NHL Potential: Character Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.
 Is he a top six or bottom six forward at the next level?

FC Rank: # 60
Name: Ryan Bourque
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
DOB: 03-Jan-91
Height: 5'-9"
Weight: 165 LBS
08-09 League: USNTDP
08-09 Team: Under-18



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

Stats: 48 GP 20 G 26 A 46 PTS

Strengths: A quick and active forward with high end skill...he skates well with very impressive all-around mobility...always keeps his feet moving...shifty with the puck and hard to get a body on...very creative offensively and poised with the puck...he is equally skilled at passing as finishing...is smart in his own zone and breaks up plays well with his quickness.

Weakness: Is smurf like in size although he plays bigger...one questions whether he will be durable enough to play against men ...he has a selfish side.

NHL Potential: Skilled Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.
 Will his size ultimately be his demise?

FC Rank: # 61
Name: Joonas Nattinen
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
DOB: 03-Jan-91
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: Finland
08-09 Team: Blues Jr.



Photo courtesy IJHF

Stats: 30 GP 9 G 29 A 38 PTS

Strengths: He is a big forward who can skate...plays a solid two-way game and is defensively responsible... plays a strong game along the wall...has a decent shot and reads the play well...is an opportunistic player...his playmaking abilities stand out.

Weakness: Not enough desire or drive in his game... lacks competitiveness...does not like to get his nose dirty...needs to add strength...offensive potential is a huge questions...he is invisible most games unless you really focus on paying attention to him.

NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward.
 Can he add some much needed intensity to his game?

FC Rank: # 62
Name: Jimmy Bubnick
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
DOB: 19-Jan-91
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Kamloops



Photo courtesy Kamloops Blazers

Stats: 72 GP 25 G 32 A 57 PTS

Strengths: A hard working character player...he is an aggressive player who plays in all the dirty areas... drives the net with his stick on the ice...has good vision and can set-up plays with quick accurate passes...plays a defensive responsible game...gets in lanes and disrupts the attack...has good hockey sense...has untapped offensive upside.

Weakness: His skating is sub standard...his hands are much quicker than his feet...offensively he is not overly creative...his shot release needs work as it is predictable.

NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.
 What kind of upside will he bring?



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FC Rank: # 63
Name: Andrej Nestrasil
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 22-Feb-91
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: QMHL
08-09 Team: Victoriaville
Stats: 66 GP 22 G 35 A 57 PTS



Photo courtesy Victoriaville Tigres

Strengths: A strong two-way player...he battles it out all over the ice...strong on the wall and on the cycle...has good hands and can dangle...his shot is his biggest asset as it is both hard and accurate...plays with a gritty edge ...uses his size to protect the puck and bull his way to the net...he distributes the puck effectively...back checks hard...willing to block shots and plays smart.
Weakness: His skating is a major concern and will need improvement...still learning the impression he can make when he fully utilizes his size...first round skills but many shortcomings come from his lack of poor skating.
NHL Potential: Scoring Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward.

FC Rank: # 64
Name: Anton Lander
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
DOB: 24-Apr-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: Sweden
08-09 Team: Timra
Stats: 47 GP 4 G 6 A 10 PTS



Photo courtesy Timra Hockey

Strengths: His vision and smarts is what make him special...is a good compliment to a scorer with his playmaking abilities...his hands are quick and he protects the puck well in traffic...can score as well as pass...is defensively aware at all times and drives back into his zone shadowing his mark...is deceptively strong and has good balance...is a leader.
Weakness: A sluggish skater with slow feet...he has a tendency to over handle the puck...he needs good players around him to be successful...no physical element in his game.
NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 65
Name: Garrett Wilson
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 16-Mar-91
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Owen Sound
Stats: 53 GP 17 G 18 A 35 PTS

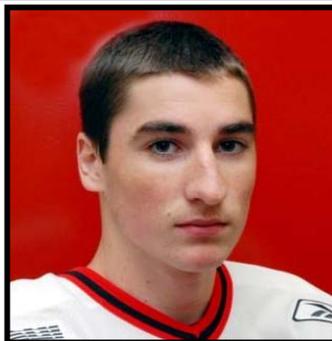


Photo courtesy Owen Sound Attack

Strengths: A big power forward who is a beast down low...he drives the defenders through the wall and protects the puck well while finding an outlet...he loves to hit and will drop the gloves...has the balance and strength to dominate the wall and in front of the net...has a nice hard shot but is more of a complimentary player...a team guy.
Weakness: His game took a hit to his confidence when he was suspended for 15 games on a slew foot charge that was bogus and accidental...he needs to slow his game down and use the vision he showed signs of to make plays instead of going with his first option...has to apply himself better to his defensive responsibilities...his skating is also lacking in quickness.
NHL Potential: Power Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 66
Name: Ryan Button
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 26-Mar-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Prince Albert
Stats: 70 GP 5 G 32 A 37 PTS

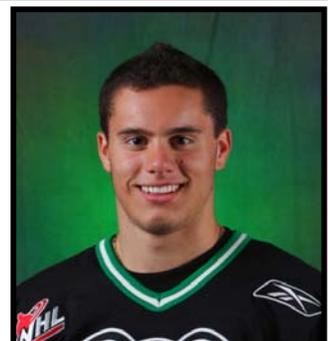


Photo courtesy Prince Albert

Strengths: A mobile two-way defender who has nice offensive skills...reads the play well and pinches when opportunity presents itself...has good hand-eye coordination and holds the line well on the PP...has an elite point shot...has good vision...skates well and has nice all-encompassing mobility...can handle the puck and rush it...sees his options and supports his defense partner...closes in on his man quickly.
Weakness: Has some improvements to make on the defensive side like his positioning and defensive reads ...has times where his brain seems to cramp up...needs to be more patient in his own zone.
NHL Potential: Offensive Defenseman.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.



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FC Rank: # 67
Name: Brandon Pirri
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
DOB: 10-Apr-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 165 LBS
08-09 League: OPJHL
08-09 Team: Georgetown
Stats: 44 GP 46 G 48 A 94 PTS



Photo Courtesy OPJHL

Strengths: A smooth skating forward with loads of skill... he has the speed to beat defenders to the outside and the drive to go up the middle...his shot is heavy and quickly off his stick...his vision is outstanding...he is poised with the puck and has the hands to beat defenders one-on-one ...he is a hard worker and plays with intensity...he has the skill to thread the needle with a pass.
Weakness: His size leaves you wanting move as he gets shoved off the puck and is not very effective in puck battles along the wall...his consistency shift in and shift out needs improvement.
NHL Potential: Scoring Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 68
Name: Tyson Barrie
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
DOB: 26-Jul-91
Height: 5'-10"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Kelowna
Stats: 68 GP 12 G 40 A 52 PTS



Photo courtesy Kelowna Rockets

Strengths: An offensive defender who takes chances in looking to create offense...has good speed and offensive creativity...aggressive on his pinches...solid overall mobility and possesses good speed...makes good tape-to-tape passes...has a decent shot...uses his mobility and an active stick in his own zone.
Weakness: His size is concerning although he is on the stocky side...has some obvious defensive deficiencies...often his lack of effort level in his own zone is glaring...needs to tone down his offensive gambling...some question his hockey sense.
NHL Potential: Offensive Defenseman
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Medium Reward.

FC Rank: # 69
Name: Simon Bertilsson
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 19-Apr-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: Sweden
08-09 Team: Brynas Jr.
Stats: 30 GP 9 G 22 A 31 PTS



Photo courtesy Brynas Hockey

Strengths: A defense first rearguard who makes safe plays...he is not offensively flashy whatsoever...is a calming influence and is strong in his own zone...has great defensive positioning...plays with strong gaps and closes off attackers quickly...skates well and has impressive mobility...able to contain his man and play an effective game along the wall...makes a good first pass and effortlessly clears the zone even in heavy traffic...reads the play well and gets his body into lanes...very dependable.
Weakness: His size is a little on the small side...he doesn't contribute much offensively.
NHL Potential: Defensive Defenseman.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 70
Name: Ben Hanowski
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 18-Oct-90
Height: 6'-1"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: USHS
08-09 Team: Little Falls
Stats: 25 GP 57 G 53 A 110 PTS



Photo Courtesy Little Falls H.S.

Strengths: A developing power winger...his best asset is his shot and release as it is off his stick in a blink of an eye...He can pick the top corners with ease and has natural scorers instincts...he has a long reach and strong legs that help him protect the puck in traffic...will play in dirty areas...an underrated playmaker as well...the Minnesota HS leader in all time points with 405 total points scored.
Weakness: He has a sluggish first few steps and lacks high end speed...has much to learn about playing a complete game but will have time as he joins St. Cloud State next fall.
NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.



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FC Rank: # 71

Name: Gabriel Lemieux

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

DOB: 28-Sep-90

Height: 6'-1"

Weight: 170 LBS

08-09 League: QMHL

08-09 Team: Shawinigan

Stats: 66 GP 6 G 19 A 25 PTS

Strengths: A steady defender...he has some impressive offensive abilities but uses them as a complimentary part of his game...skates well with good overall mobility... sees the ice well and makes good passes...has a nice point shot...plays with solid defensive positioning and quickness...can carry the puck and distributes it well... has a quick stick and uses it well to strip attackers.

Weakness: Is weak and easily thrown off the puck when engaging in battles along the wall...has improved much this season in this regard as he struggled with when to pinch and when not to.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. risk / Med. Reward.



Photo courtesy Shawinigan

FC Rank: # 72

Name: Jean-Francois Berube

Position: Goaltender

Glove: Left

DOB: July 13, 1991

Height: 6'-0"

Weight: 165 LBS

08-09 League: QMJHL

08-09 Team: Montreal

Stats: 20 GP 2.89 GAA .900 SP

Strengths: Has the dexterity and quickness to be special...moves around his crease well enough and flashed a quick glove...showed a good butterfly and solid positioning in our limited views.

Weakness: Not a lot of exposure because of limited games in a back-up role to Jake Allen...hard to develop properly when you only see action every fifth game...looks to continue to only see spot duty next season as Allen returns as starter.....still raw and needing much polish

NHL Potential: Unsure Limited Viewing.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

Will he be moved, will he be the next Steve Mason?

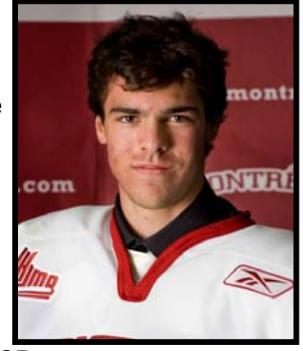


Photo courtesy Montreal Juniors

FC Rank: # 73

Name: Anton Rodin

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

DOB: 21-Nov-90

Height: 5'-11"

Weight: 175 LBS

08-09 League: Sweden

08-09 Team: Brynas Jr.

Stats: 37 GP 29 G 26 A 55 PTS

Strengths: Has the skill and offensive instincts to create plays...he skates well and has a good top end speed as well as first step quickness...has a good change of pace which throws off defenders playing him one-on-one...has a good shot that is accurate and quick...can handle the puck with soft hands and has the patience to draw defender to him before astutely distributing the puck to an open teammate...has good deke moves and can beat a goalie in a number of ways.

Weakness: Lacks size and strength to play against larger opponents and when pushed to the perimeter his game becomes less effective.

NHL Potential: Scoring Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.



Photo courtesy Brynas Hockey

FC Rank: # 74

Name: Chris Brown

Position: Centre/Wing

Shoots: Right

DOB: 03-Feb-91

Height: 6'-2"

Weight: 190 LBS

08-09 League: USNTDP

08-09 Team: Under-18

Stats: 53 GP 15 G 13 A 28 PTS

Strengths: A strong power forward in the making... plays with intensity and competitiveness that is hard to match...skates well going in straight lines...drives to the net and is hard to move once there...is mean and plays with an edge...always looking for the big hit ...the future Michigan Wolverine owns the wall...has a hard shot...is consistent in his effort level.

Weakness: Lacks quickness and agility...not overly creative offensively...shot accuracy needs work... does not handle the puck well...lacks vision...will need to add more strength if he is to continue to play this way against larger opponents next year.

NHL Potential: Power Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.



Photo courtesy USA Hockey



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FC Rank: # 75
Name: Tyler Randell
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Right
DOB: 15-Jun-91
Height: 6'-1"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Kitchener
Stats: 73 GP 24 G 13 A 37 PTS



Photo courtesy Kitchener Rangers

Strengths: A good sized forward with strength in his legs and a powerful skating stride...he drives through defenders to chase pucks...a north/south winger with decent hands...has a decent shot that he can release mid-stride that surprised goalies...quick hands in tight and digs for rebounds...has improved by leaps and bounds this season.

Weakness: His game is still very raw...his intensity needs to be more consistent...not a high offensive upside...needs to improve his puck distribution skills...some wonder about his ability to see the ice.

NHL Potential: Power Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 76
Name: Jerry D'Amigo
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 19-Feb-91
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: USNTDP
08-09 Team: Under-18
Stats: 44 GP 19 G 24 A 43 PTS



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

Strengths: A shifty player down low...creates a lot of offense around the net...has quick hands and works the boards well...protects the puck well and uses his vision to set-up his teammates through traffic...pulls the puck off the wall quickly and drives the net.

Weakness: His skating stride is sloppy and he does not generate enough power behind each push...doesn't have the quickness to effectively carry the puck up ice...his smallish size is also a concern for battling bigger defenders and has some wondering if his game will translate well.

NHL Potential: Scoring Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 77
Name: Dmitri Orlov
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 23-Jul-91
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: Russia
08-09 Team: Novokuznetsk
Stats: 16 GP 1 G 0 A 1 PTS



Photo courtesy IJHF

Strengths: A swift skating rearguard that is offensively savvy...he has a big shot from the point and uses his vision to mark his options well...has a quick stick and is a threat to go end-to-end with the puck...is poised with the puck and calm under pressure...jumps into the play often as a fourth man...very effective on the PP...uses his lateral mobility to evade defenders when carrying the puck.

Weakness: A lack of prototypical defenseman size...he has much to work on in his own zone...often times he is too focused on the offensive aspect...has a hard time against bigger forwards...has poor defensive positioning and doesn't close his gaps quick enough.

NHL Potential: Offensive Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 78
Name: Seth Helgeson
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 08-Oct-90
Height: 6'-5"
Weight: 220 LBS
08-09 League: USHL
08-09 Team: Sioux City
Stats: 58 GP 4 G 12 A 16 PTS



Photo courtesy USHL

Strengths: His size and physical strength are his best assets...he is a defensive defenseman who makes a decent first pass and plays an intimidating physical style...owns the boards in his own zone and causes attackers to go the opposite side of the ice to stay clear of his tenacious hits...plays with solid defensive positioning and his overall mobility is impressive...should be ready to turn pro after one year at Minnesota.

Weakness: He does not have any real offensive upside...tends to take some time identifying his options and lacks hand skills.

NHL Potential: Stay-at-Home Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.



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FC Rank: # 79
Name: Gleason Fournier
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 08-Sep-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: QMJHL
08-09 Team: Rimouski
Stats: 66 GP 3 G 25 A 28 PTS



Photo courtesy Rimouski Oceanic

Strengths: He skates well and is a rangy player...he is a good passer who finds his options quickly and can carry the puck up ice...has nice hands and a good shot...he plays with a calming influence on his teammates...uses his stick and body positioning well to breakup plays...willing to battle it out and take a hit to make a play...he is intelligent.

Weakness: Some think his game is on the soft side and that his game lacks an edge...his size is not suited to play a physical role...looks to h

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 80
Name: Brian Dumoulin
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 06-Sep-91
Height: 6'-3"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: EJHL
08-09 Team: New Hampshire
Stats: 41 GP 7 G 23 A 30 PTS



Photo courtesy EJHL

Strengths: Size strength and a long reach make him a steady defender...an aggressive edge makes him hard to play against...he skates well both forwards and backwards...can handle the puck and make a smart pass...has a cannon of a shot...mean in front of his net when traffic drives through...the sky is the limit with this kid as he has so much potential.

Weakness: He has some mobility issues especially when moving laterally to his left...has trouble with quicker forwards who force him sometimes take penalties...needs a step up in his competition.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 81
Name: Danny Mattson
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
DOB: 20-Nov-90
Height: 5'-10"
Weight: 175 LBS
08-09 League: USHS
08-09 Team: Holy Angels
Stats: 25 GP 22 G 49 A 71 PTS



Photo courtesy Holy Angels

Strengths: Incredible quickness and superior speed will give him a shot at the Pros...he has soft hands and can make plays in tight spaces...sees the ice real well...distributes the puck well...can finish as well but is more of a passer...can beat a defender inside or out with his incredible lateral mobility...showed a willingness to backcheck...showed very good intelligence.

Weakness: Small in stature and sometimes unwilling to pay the price physically...lacks the strength to battle for loose pucks...needs to learn better positioning in his own zone...played against weaker competition this year...will need lots of development time at North Dakota.

NHL Potential: Playmaking Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 82
Name: Mac Bennett
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 25-Mar-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 170 LBS
08-09 League: USHS
08-09 Team: Hotchkiss
Stats: 15 GP 2 G 9 A 11 PTS



Photo courtesy Hotchkiss School

Strengths: He fly's when he skates full speed...has good lateral mobility and uses it to defend by keeping his opposition to the outside...has so much offensive potential because of his smarts and creative puck skills...makes a solid pass...transitions the puck very quickly by moving it up to his forwards...has nice hands...shows solid defensive positioning.

Weakness: Lack of strength for the reed thin defender is very evident...looses most the battles down low where strength is involved...lack of exposure could hurt his draft stock...has much polishing of his defensive game before he joins the Wolverines in 2010.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.



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FC Rank: # 83
Name: Jordan Szwarz
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Right
DOB: 14-May-91
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Saginaw



Photo courtesy OHL

Stats: 67 GP 17 G 37 A 54 PTS
Strengths: A heart and soul type of character player... will do whatever it takes to win including sacrificing his body...has good vision and the ability to make crisp passes...goes to the net and attacks the boards...reads the play well...skates well but lacks top end speed...is quick on loose pucks and makes smart passes to open linemates...handles the puck well...follows the play back and is effective breaking up plays in the neutral zone.
Weakness: Possesses below average size and injury concerns are valid with the style he plays...needs to improve his shot as it lacks velocity and a quick release.
NHL Potential: Fourth Line Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 84
Name: Cassidy Mappin
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 20-Dec-90
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Red Deer



Photo courtesy Red Deer Rebels

Stats: 56 GP 17 G 22 A 39 PTS
Strengths: The muscle on a line full of finesse...he skates well and can plow through opponents to get to where he's going...plays a good aggressive game along the wall and plants himself in front of the net looking for tips and causing a ruckus...uses his strength to protect the puck...has good hockey sense and is smart about his offensive zone positioning.
Weakness: Is a soft defensive player as he is inconsistent in his backcheck and effort level in his defensive coverage...does not have high end puck skills or the moves to carry the puck effectively.
NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 85
Name: Jaroslav Janus
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
DOB: 21-Sep-89
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Erie



Photo courtesy IJHF

Stats: 49 GP 3.24 GAA .908 SP
Strengths: A quick acrobatic goaltender with incredible flexibility...plays an unorthodox butterfly style...moves well in the crease and has the ability to steal games... never gives up on a play and has the athleticism to make difficult second and third saves...is smart and flashes quick pads...has a bit of the old style to him with good pad stacks and kick saves.
Weakness: Has a lack of consistent style and flawed technique...his rebound control is his weakest aspect... needs to work on positioning, angles play when to be aggressive and when to stay patient in his crease.
NHL Potential: Project Goaltender.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 86
Name: Ryan Howse
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 06-Jul-91
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Chilliwack



Photo courtesy WHL

Stats: 61 GP 31 G 13 A 44 PTS
Strengths: He has a quickness on the ice and the ability to get to loose pucks...has decent hands and a good shot...good vision and puck distribution skills that compliment his shot...works hard and goes to high traffic areas...is smart and anticipates the play well...is stronger than he looks.
Weakness: Has less than spectacular size and a hot temper that sometimes flairs up and gives him trouble ...he tends to rush plays with the puck instead of considering all his options...needs to be more consistent as his effort level waver...has has past injury issues.
NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.



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FC Rank: # 87
Name: Patrick Wey
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
DOB: 21-Mar-91
Height: 6'-3"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: USHL
08-09 Team: Waterloo
Stats: 58 GP 7 G 27 A 35 PTS



Photo courtesy Waterloo Blackhawks

Strengths: A solid dependable two-way defender who skates well enough and has good overall mobility...plays solid defensively with good gap control and maintains good defensive positioning...willing and able to play physical and throw the odd big hit...has decent passing skills and a good wrister.

Weakness: His game is some what vanilla for a lot of scouts...is on the average to below side in terms of speed...his vision and hockey sense has been questioned because he leaves viable options open to skate the puck into a dead-end situation...often leaves you wanting more.

NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 88
Name: Levko Koper
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 05-Oct-90
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Spokane
Stats: 71 GP 23 G 36 A 59 PTS



Photo courtesy Spokane Chiefs

Strengths: Has a good skill set and a willing attitude...he skates well and has strength to play a semi-physical game in the offensive zone...he will play in traffic and can carry the puck there...has a decent set of hands and a good shot...he plays defensively responsible and will sacrifice his body by blocking shots or taking a hit...is a decent passer.

Weakness: Limited upside as an offensive player...more of a complimentary player as he lacks creativity with the puck...lacks the hockey sense...does not always give you his best effort each night.

NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 89
Name: Tomas Vincour
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
DOB: 19-Nov-90
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Edmonton
Stats: 49 GP 17 G 19 A 36 PTS



Photo courtesy Edmonton Oil Kings

Strengths: Blesses with incredible size...has nice strength and the ability to hold off a defender and drive the net at the same time...will go to the net and get off a heavy shot...sees the ice well and can deliver tape-to-tape passes...has the abilities to handle the puck in traffic.

Weakness: Consistently lacks effort and is far too passive for a prospect of his size and strength...gives up when the push-back for opponents comes and has a tendency to disappear for long stretches...lacks any type of intensity on defense and will often let his mark skate right by...his biggest problem though looks to be his heavy feet and lack of speed.

NHL Potential: Power Forward.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 90
Name: Scott Stajcer
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
DOB: 14-Jun-91
Height: 6'-3"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Owen Sound
Stats: 35 GP 3.57 GAA .906 SP



Photo courtesy Owen Sound Attack

Strengths: His size and angles play are the two areas that positively stick out the most...he is focused and sees the puck well...shows good aggressive tendencies as he is always coming out to shop long range shots...has much potential.

Weakness: His biggest issues seem to come from a lack of mobility... his lateral push is good but he seems a tad slow...has a hard time making second and third saves because of this issue...tends to stay in his butterfly a little too long...needs to use his stick more effectively...looks to have some balance issues...needs lots of seasoning before he moves to the Pro's.

NHL Potential: Project Goaltender.

Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 91
Name: Tyler Johnson
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
DOB: 29-Jul-90
Height: 5'-9"
Weight: 165 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Spokane
Stats: 62 GP 26 G 35 A 61 PTS



Photo courtesy Spokane Chiefs

Strengths: Skates well and has nice quickness...has a good work ethic...pressures the opposition and causes turnovers...has a quick wrist shot and the vision to set-up his linemates...plays with grit and is a fast pest defensively...uses his speed to get into lanes and close down an oppositions options...has a quick stick.
Weakness: His lack of size is the reason he was passed over last year...might have a low offensive upside at the next level because he has a hard time fighting through traffic...has times where he seems to run around chasing the puck instead of maintaining his defensive positioning.
NHL Potential: Two-Way Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 92
Name: Michael Cichy
Position: Centre
Shoots: Left
DOB: 08-Jul-90
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: USHL
08-09 Team: Indiana
Stats: 56 GP 34 G 42 A 76 PTS



Photo courtesy Indiana Ice

Strengths: An improvement in his skating this year has helped him play an impressive two-way game... has the speed to separate himself from defenders... has the agility and soft hands to carry the puck trough traffic...has great vision and distributes the puck extremely well with crisp accurate passes...has a quick shot with some good velocity behind it.
Weakness: The late bloomer has improved his strength and skating this year but size going forward is still a slight concern...some think the speed of the pro game might be too much for him to handle.
NHL Potential: Playmaking Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 93
Name: Nathan Lieuwen
Position: Goaltender
Glove: Left
DOB: 08-Aug-91
Height: 6'-5"
Weight: 180 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Kootenay
Stats: 37 GP 2.95 GAA .885 SP



Photo courtesy Kootenay Ice

Strengths: His size and ability to move in the crease are his biggest assets...has much unreached potential... covers much of the lower portion of net with his long legs in the butterfly position...has good feet...a decent glove.
Weakness: The biggest question is does he have what it takes between the ears...his focus and mental make-up has been continually questioned...seems to play too passive and stays too deep in his net...goes down far to early and leaves the top corners exposed...needs to add to his slender frame to help with his net coverage...work on his butterfly technique is also needed...much potential but is still very early in his development.
NHL Potential: Project Goaltender.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 94
Name: Benjamin Casavant
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 21-Jan-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 215 LBS
08-09 League: QMJHL
08-09 Team: PEI
Stats: 68 GP 39 G 41 A 80 PTS



Photo courtesy PEI Rockets

Strengths: An opportunistic scorer who is seemingly always around the puck...has the ability to get through defensive seams and create an opportunity...is smart and has great timing...has a good wrister that he gets off quickly...goes to the net and will take punishment to rap home a rebound...finds open ice and makes himself available.
Weakness: Has an underdeveloped skating stride that is choppy and does not generate much speed... is a one-dimensional player as he doesn't venture much past his own blueline when backchecking.
NHL Potential: Offensive Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 95
Name: Guillaume Goulet
Position: Right Wing
Shoots: Right
DOB: 16-Oct-90
Height: 5'-9"
Weight: 165 LBS
08-09 League: QMJHL
08-09 Team: Baie Comeau
Stats: 68 GP 45 G 24 A 69 PTS



Photo Courtesy Baie Comeau

Strengths: A pint sized goal scorer who is fearless and willing to drive into traffic where he does his damage...has a hard wrister that he gets off so quickly...possesses the hands to get around defenders...plays with passion and tries to throw his weight around...he is super fast and has a wicked change of pace...defensively he tries.
Weakness: Very small and weak...can be neutralized by keeping him to the outside...tends to take penalties in a retaliation style...he tries defensively but looks lost in his own zone.
NHL Potential: Goal Scoring Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.
 Does he have the drive to be the next Brian Gionta?

FC Rank: # 96
Name: Nicola Deslauriers
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 22-Feb-91
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 195 LBS
08-09 League: QMJHL
08-09 Team: Rouyn-Noranda
Stats: 68 GP 11 G 19 A 30 PTS



Photo Courtesy Rouyn-Noranda

Strengths: Has a strong defensive first game and blends some solid physical play into it...skates well and uses a quick stick to eliminate offensive flow... gets into lanes and will block shots...has a decent shot that has good velocity...has good strength for his size...is quick to react which allows him to stay with smaller skilled forwards.
Weakness: Needs refinement in his defensive anticipation as he seems to react to plays more so than read them...has limited success in his puck distribution...tries to do too much some times.
NHL Potential: Defensive Defenseman.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 97
Name: Byron Froese
Position: Centre
Shoots: Right
DOB: 12-Mar-91
Height: 5'-11"
Weight: 190 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Everett
Stats: 72 GP 19 G 38 A 57 PTS



Photo Courtesy Everett

Strengths: An opportunistic forward who has a good work ethic...plays solid in all three zones and is willing to do the little things a team needs to win... has decent hands and vision to make plays...is solid coming back on the backcheck and plays a consistently solid checking game...is quick and skates well.
Weakness: Has less than average size and does not always play with intensity...has limited offensive upside because of a lack of vision and creativity...can overhand the puck at times.
NHL Potential: Third Line Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: Med. Risk / Med. Reward.

FC Rank: # 98
Name: Brenden Dillon
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
DOB: 13-Nov-90
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 200 LBS
08-09 League: WHL
08-09 Team: Seattle
Stats: 70 GP 0 G 10 A 10 PTS



Photo Courtesy Seattle

Strengths: A big body who plays a solid safe brand of defense first hockey...skates well and has good all-encompassing mobility...has good first step acceleration...plays the body not the puck and does so with a physical edge...has a health reach to disrupt the opposition along the wall...has a decent shot when he gets the chance to use it...makes strong outlet passes.
Weakness: His offensive game at the next level will be limited out outlet passes and the odd long range shot as he does not have good offensive instincts or much vision...could use some added strength.
NHL Potential: Defensive Defenseman.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Med. Reward.



2009 NHL Entry Draft Guide

The Top 100 Prospect Profiles.

FC Rank: # 99
Name: Marcus Foligno
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
DOB: 10-Aug-91
Height: 6'-2"
Weight: 205 LBS
08-09 League: OHL
08-09 Team: Sudbury
Stats: 65 GP 12 G 18 A 30 PTS



Photo Courtesy Sudbury Wolves

Strengths: Has good size and a willingness to use it... plays a power north/south game... battles along the wall and in front of the opposition net... is dangerous in close and around the hash marks in... is a threat to make the big hit... plays with determination... has decent hands.
Weakness: Lacks the skating needed to be effective in a three zone game... does not have much offensive creativity... needs to work on improving his foot speed first and foremost... will be more of a complimentary play than a frontliner if he makes it to the NHL.
NHL Potential: Fourth Line Forward.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / High Reward.

FC Rank: # 100
Name: Martin Stajnoch
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
DOB: 15-Sep-90
Height: 6'-0"
Weight: 185 LBS
08-09 League: Slovakia
08-09 Team: Bratislava
Stats: 23 GP 3 G 6 A 9 PTS



Photo courtesy IIHF

Strengths: A solid two-way defender that plays with high intensity... plays a physical game and looks to step up and deliver hits... plays with strong defensive positioning... has good vision and passes the puck well... he skates well and has good overall mobility.
Weakness: Has only average size and will need to add more strength... needs to close his gaps quicker on attackers as he often leaves them too much space... his shot is a little below standard with regards to accuracy.
NHL Potential: Two-Way Defenseman.
Boom or Bust Potential: High Risk / Med. Reward.



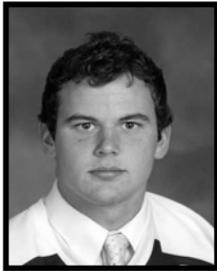
Ethan Werek photo courtesy Kingston Frontenacs

N.H.L.
YEARBOOK
CLUB



THE BEST & THE REST FROM THE
CLASS OF '09

Most Likely to...



Zack Kassian



◀...Become the NHL's new Heavyweight Champion

...Be playing his pro hockey in Switzerland▶



...Be smelling AHL bus fumes for the next ten years▶



Stepan Novotny

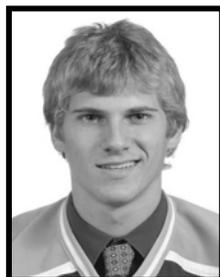


Nathan Lieuwen

◀...Be nicknamed suitcase during his NHL Career.



Brandon Kozun



Marcus Foligno



▲...Be selling cars for a living in five years.

Future award winners...



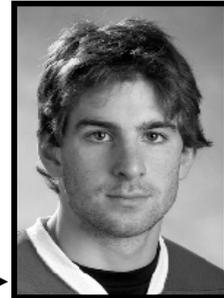
...Be a future Heart Trophy winner ▶



Victor Hedman



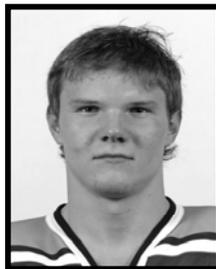
...Be a future Rocket Richard Trophy winner ▶



John Tavares

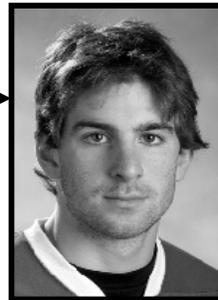


...Be a future Art Ross Trophy winner ▶



Dmitry Kulikov

◀...Be a future Norris Trophy winner



John Tavares



◀...Be a future Selke Trophy winner



Matt Duchene



◀...Be a future Stanley Cup Champion



Kyle Palmieri



...Be a future Vezina Trophy winner ▶



Olivier Roy





Catching some Zzz's

2009 NHL Entry Draft Sleepers.

By Dan Stewart

Ahhh, the draft sleeper - a prospect that every scouts would love to say that they saw the potential in when no one else did. Some scouts hang their hats on being the song bird for a prospect that goes on to NHL success years after the fact while some are able to find a new late round talent almost every June. There are many reasons for a prospect to disguise his potential in his draft year, none more prevalent than a lack of size. Some lesser reasons are lack of exposure because of the league one plays in or possibly injury as well as ones perceived attitude issues also can play a role in a talented prospect being taken later in his draft year. Listed below are a few probable mid-to-late round picks who have the ability to make a potential impact in the NHL someday.

LW William Wallen, Mississauga (OHL) - Ranked No. 115

After getting off to a slow start in the OHL and understandably so, suffering a brain aneurysm early in the year. He came back from the major surgery after recuperating back in his native Sweden until the new year and when he did return he was a motivation not only because of his story but more so because of his fearless play and obvious lust for life. He is small but highly skilled and shifty. Primarily a playmaker he can do incredible things with the puck and makes his teammates better. He has incredible smarts and able to pick apart opposition with his skill and intellect. He did an admirable job with his national team at the U18 tournament in Fargo but was too little spark for an underachieving squad.

D Brett Flemming, Mississauga (OHL) - Ranked No. 122

This offensively savvy defender has played all year under most of the scouting communities radar and only recently did he get any limelight with a nice playoff performance. He skates very well with impressive all-encompassing mobility coupled with smart reads and good puck distribution skills. He is on the smaller size but he plays bigger than many good size defenders. Has a good shot accurate but it lacks power although he uses it more to set-up teammates rather than trying to power it by the keeper. He is also strong in his own zone and uses his smarts and balance well although size becomes an issue against larger opponents. Worth a look in the middle rounds.



RW Patrik Cehlin,

Djurgarden (Swe) - Ranked No. 124

A high energy player who despite his average size likes to play a physical brand, dishing out hits and battling in scrums along the walls. Cehlin is a good skater who has incredibly fast feet and the a nice skill level to compliment. He is a solid playmaker as well as having a decent shot. Defensively he gets lazy on some shifts and doesn't always mark his check effectively. He is hard to knock off the puck because of his speed and is a force along the wall in the offensive zone. Lack of size for the style he plays is his main area of concern but he is well worth a look in the middle rounds.

C Chris DeSousa, Niagara (OHL) - Ranked No. 125

A hard nosed pitbull type player who has a natural ability to fill the net. DeSousa skates well and has strong legs which allow him to get to top speed within just a few short strides. His short but stalky frame also allow him to battle it out with good effectiveness along the wall because of great balance and a low center of gravity. He has a good hard shot that he can get off anywhere on the ice and holds a deceptive release. He will drop the gloves, loves to dish out hits and regularly drives to the net with or without the puck. He could go earlier if a team really has a like for his game.



2009 NHL Entry Draft Sleepers.

Continued...



LW Mike Hoffman,

Drummondville (QMJHL) - Ranking No. 138

Hoffman is a draft re-entry after being passed over last time around. The difference is he has become a consistent goal scoring threat this year and coupled with his already nice skating and speed will likely be on a team radar this time around. He reads the offensive play well, gets to open ice and sets up for one of his scoring chances. He has a good shot that is accurate and quick off his stick. Defensively he has some holes that need to be filled but his goal scoring ability is clearly evident. He also has good separation skills that allows him to consistently make himself an option for his linemates to distribute the puck too. His physical game is not a strength but he does battle for pucks along the wall and goes to dirty areas for a scoring chance.

RW Reilly Smith, St. Michaels (OJHL) - Ranking No. 149

Brother of Detroit's 2007 First Round Pick and current Wisconsin Badger sophomore rearguard Brendan Smith, Reilly Smith has shown a very nice offensive game that he will take to the Miami of Ohio RedHawks for the 09-10 hockey season. He is primarily a swift skating playmaker but he can also finish off plays as well as possessing some feistiness to his game. Reilly could be selected in the top one hundred but likely will fall to the middle rounds as the depth in completion tested talent is so strong this year.

D Dominik Bielke, Berlin (Ger)

This big defender played well all season and really took his game up a notch at the WJC in Ottawa over the prestigious Christmas tournament. He was a rock defensively and showed that he could develop into a solid NHL shutdown defender. His shot blocking, ability to close off lanes and play a physical game are all pluses. He will likely be taken later in the draft due to his lack of offensive upside as well as the ever present possibility he stays in Germany and is content to play his pro hockey over there.

D Stefan Ulmer, Spokane (WHL)

A pint-sized "offense man" in every sense of the word, Ulmer distributes the puck well and likes to use his great speed and mobility to carry the puck up ice on his stick. He sees the ice well and has the no fear approach to gamble which most often works out in his favor. He has an underdeveloped defensive game and is physically weak against bigger opposition but he has learned to use his immense quickness to offset his lack of strength in that regard. He has loads of offensive talent but his shot is not considered one of them. He will need to improve the velocity on his shot if he is going to have a solid career as a PP specialist.





2009 NHL Entry Draft Sleepers.

Continued...



G Igor Bobkov, Magnitogorsk (Rus)

Size and potential are what most see when they look at Bobkov, the best looking Russian Goaltender in years. He has gotten by early on great athletic ability and reflex but has so much potential he could very well be a top one hundred selection as well. His glove and quick legs are probably his best assets after his natural athleticism. His fundamentals will need work similar to Washington's Varlamov when he first surfaced. He was outstanding at the April U18 tournament in Fargo ND where he was named top goaltender.

D Nate Schmitz, St. Cloud (USHS)

One of the most dynamic defenders playing in the Minnesota high school circuit is Nate Schmitz, a force offensively from the backend. He is an average size defender who has some very impressive puck distribution skills and an even better shot that is both overpowering and accurate. His game is not one dimensional though as he is a big hit threat every shift and a player who has the abilities to develop into a solid top four defender at the pro level. Defensively there is much to improve but he has many attractive tools and the time to develop them further.

D Paul Phillips, Cedar Rapids (USHL)

A solid two-way defender who does everything well but nothing great. He is a solid skater who plays a solid overall game, can make an accurate pass and play a good physical brand of defense. The Denver University recruit has only average size but he plays a strong physical game in the neutral zone and in front of his net. Defensively he is normally dependable holding short gaps and displaying solid positioning although he sometimes suffers bouts of bad decision making. He is a calm and poised defender who has the ability to play in any situation and will likely be taken in the middle rounds as well in Montreal.

D Beau Schmitz, Plymouth (OHL)

Many around the scouting community have opinions on Beau Schmitz and whether or not his game will eventually translate to the NHL level. Most think not and site an overall lack of hockey sense. His size is just average but he is thick and strong allowing him to play the body although it is not a consistent part of his game. His shot is decent and his ability to distribute the puck is also positive. Overall he had a solid rookie OHL year this year and looks to build on that foundation as the Whalers look to be getting stronger. His solid skating ability, nice puck rushing ability and aggressive nature make him a sure bet that a team will take a chance on him in hopes that he proves his detractors wrong. He has some defensive holes like poor gap control and defensive positioning but his offensive abilities are unmistakable.





Prospect Snapshot...Taylor Beck

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Guelph Strom

08-09 League: Ontario Hockey League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Steak

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Lacrosse

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Two and a Half Men

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Anchorman

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: Call of Duty

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Taylor Swift

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Denzel Washington

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: The Gagner

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: Scoring overtime goal to win the Gold Medal for Niagara Falls at the All Ontario OHF Championship in Sudbury.

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Brunettes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

TB: My childhood growing up was playing lacrosse all summer and switching to hockey for winter. I grew up in St. Catharines and then Niagara Falls and had a fantastic childhood. My parents have been totally supportive in everything that I have ever tried, they along with my older brother have been my biggest fans. I have also been lucky to have made incredible friends from playing sports.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

TB: I think that the strongest part of my game is along the boards. With the use of my size and strength, I feel that I'm quite successful in winning possession of the puck and then having the ability to make good decisions with the puck once I've got possession. To improve my game, I think that I've got to work on getting stronger and tougher for my game along the boards. Another area for me to work on is my skating which I'm always working on. I see myself as being a power forward who can play all three forward positions.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

TB: My draft year has been an exciting one. My Guelph team was in the mix of things all season long, so that was also exciting. I tried to forget about the Scouts as much as I could and just play as effectively as I could every night. I dealt with it by keep reminding myself that there's pressure at every level, so I might as well get used to it.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

TB: I'd be looking towards some type of business career. I am hoping to get my Business Commerce degree.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

TB: My most memorable hockey moment so far has to be playing for Team Orr and scoring a goal at the Prospects Game.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

TB: My most favorite player growing up was and still is Mats Sundin. As for my favorite team, it'd be Edmonton.

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

TB: Mario Lemieux, Mats Sundin and Jessica Alba. I would enjoy hearing stories and getting tips from Mario & Mats, and I would just enjoy staring at Jessica.

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

TB: There's no way in the world that I can go anywhere without my telephone.

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

TB: A Land Rover.



Prospect Snapshot...Kyle Palmieri

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Under-18

08-09 League: US National Development Program



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Chicken Parm

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Golfing

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: The OC

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Supertroopers

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: Nhl 09

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Brad Paisley

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Will Ferrell

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: Backhand Five-Hole

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: U18 World Championships

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Brunettes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

KP: I grew up in Montvale, New Jersey. It's a small town in northern New Jersey which hockey is not very popular. I started playing hockey because one of my friends had a rink in his backyard, and so i started skating over there with him. I grew up on mt grandparent's small farm, and by my house, there were a lot of open fields. Once i started to like hockey a lot more, my dad built a rink in my yard, and during the winters, I was able to skate just about whenever I want. We kept the rink up the whole winter and took it down in the summer. The winter tradition of building and maintaining this backyard rink stayed strong until about my sophomore year of high school. I started playing hockey at about the age of 6, so there was obviously a lot of support coming from my family. I had two older sisters, who were gymnasts growing up and a younger brother, who played hockey as well. My parents have supported me and my hockey career my entire life, and they would do anything to help me succeed in life.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

KP: I think my strengths as a hockey player are my ability to create offense, play physically, bring energy to the game, and my ability to see the ice. I think the areas I need to improve on are being defensively responsible and my ability to block shots in the defensive zone. As far as what type of player I see myself as, I think I'm a passionate hard-working power forward. defense without losing the offensive aspect.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

KP: My draft year, so far, has been very exciting. Being scouted night in and night out has been a great opportunity for me to try and play the most consistent game possible. I feel the pressure of being scouted so often has allowed me to elevate my game to another level, and hopefully be able to perform at my best to help the team win.

4.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

KP: the u-18 World Championships in Kazan, Russia. I feel like it was an experience that I'll never forget.

5.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

KP: My favorite NHL team growing up has always been the New York Rangers.

6.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

KP: I think it would be Wayne Gretzky, Lance Armstrong, and Will Ferrell.

7.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

KP: When and if I sign a professional contract, the first thing I'd buy would be a home on the beach.



Prospect Snapshot...Jimmy Bubnick

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Kamloops Blazers

08-09 League: Western Hockey League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Chicken Cordon Bleu

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Golfing

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Family guy & King of queens

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Taken

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: Call of Duty

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Rascal Flatts/Jason Mraz/No Reins

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Denzel Washington

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: None.

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: Still waiting for the Canucks to win the Cup

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Brunettes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

JB: My childhood was like most kids. I went to school and couldn't wait to play pond hockey after. I grew up in Esterhazy until I was seven years old then my family and I moved to Saskatoon which I live to the present day. My parent's and brothers both played a large role in my hockey career. The obvious being driving me to and from the rink even in the early mornings and killing their day. Also due to the fact of how much feedback I got from them throughout. My Dad also coached me

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

JB: My strengths as a play would be my shot and puck sense. I feel that I have a good shot and possess the ability to score goals whether it be right in front or from farther out. I'm strong on my skates and have good balance, and can win battles in the corner. I need to become a more consistent, and work on my first three strides. I see myself as a power forward who can win battles and play strong defense without losing the offensive aspect.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

JB: I had a strong year, and you don't really worry about the pressure night in and night out. You just play your game and control what you can control with your on ice play. The pressure doesn't mean much to me because I don't worry about what comes after the game I'm focusing more on my play in between the whistles.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

JB: I would either become an engineer and make a career out of that or get my business degree and become an entrepreneur.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

JB: My most memorable hockey moment to date was winning the gold medal and the Ivan Hlinka Memorial in Slovakia.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

JB: My favorite NHL team was always the Vancouver Canucks and my favorite player was Theo Fleury.

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

JB: I would invite- Tiger Woods: I love golf and he's the best player to ever play. Also he is my favorite athlete. Jason Mraz:great musician and great music, Seth Macfarlane: Family guy is a good show and he's probably hilarious.

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

JB: I-pod. Need to have songs on the bus and before games.

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

JB: A new outfit so I can update the clothes



Prospect Snapshot...Richard Panik

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Trinec

08-09 League: Czech League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Some traditional food of Slovakia

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Tennis and football.

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Ultimate survive

Q: Favorite Movie

A: The longest yard

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: None

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Rise Against

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Adam Sandler

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: Shoot

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: Playing in Ottawa U20

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Blonde

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

RP: My childhood was very great. I played different sport for example tennis football and judo. Then when I was 9 years I started to play hockey. MY parents abed me and when training was early morning my parents always take me.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

RP: My strengths like hockey player are skill, shoot and offensive abilities. I like run in the forest. I think I am an offensive player that has the ability to score.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

RP: My draft year is not very good. I was injury in summer and now I am injuring again with a broken collar bone.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

RP: I would like to play another sport like maybe tennis.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

RP: In Ottawa last year...It was very memorable experience for me and my country because we finished on 4th place. It was one of the best results in the Slovak's ice hockey U20 history.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

RP: When I was young I had favorite team Colorado because there were a lot of great player...for example: Peter Forsberg, Joe Sakic, Ray Bourque and Patrick Roy.

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

RP: I'd take my mum, father and grandma...because It's my family and I love them...

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

RP: I will take my mobile...because when I lost I will call help...

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

RP: I will buy a car..for example BMW X5...because it is my favourite car..



Prospect Snapshot...Taylor Doherty

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Kingston Frontenacs

08-09 League: Ontario Hockey League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Steak, Baked Potatos

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Working out

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: One Tree Hill

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Fast and the Furious 4

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: Call of Duty 4

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Theory of a Deadman

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Bruce Willis

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: Fake shot, go backhand

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: Making Team Canada

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Brunettes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

TD: I grew up and played my entire minor hockey career in Cambridge for the AAA Hawks. My parents and the rest of my family played a huge role in the development of my hockey and me as a person throughout their continued support.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

TD: Strengths- big, strong defenseman, good skater, good first pass, good shot. Areas to improve- always focus on having a good gap

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

TD: My draft year has gone well overall. Dealing with the pressure is always a hard thing to do when in the back on your head you know someone is always watching you. I tried my best to focus on my game and do what I could to help my team and to play my best.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

TD: Doctor or Surgeon.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

TD: Either winning gold at the world under 17 challenge in front of 9000 fans in London, Ont. or winning gold at the Under 18 tournament in Slovakia, having the honor to wear the Canadian Flag and play for my country.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

TD: Favorite NHL growing up-Anaheim. Player- Chris Pronger and Zdeno Chara

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

TD: Tiger Woods, Chris Pronger, Jim Balsillie (from RIM)

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

TD: Cell Phone-keep in contact with everyone

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

TD: A really nice car



Prospect Snapshot...Jacob Josefson

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Djurgarden

08-09 League: Swedish Elite League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: A big steak

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Go skiing and play soccer.

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Friends and Scrubs.

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Miracle.

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: Fifa and NHL.

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Gyllene Tider and Coldplay.

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Brad Pitt and Jessica Alba.

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: Between the legs on the keeper.

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: When Sweden came back against Finland to win on an amazing goal by Forsberg.

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Does not matter!

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

JJ: My childhood was normal. My biggest interests were hockey and soccer. My brothers made me start to play hockey. They played it and then I wanted to play too. My brothers have always been great and I am looking up to them. My parents have meant a lot to me. They always drove me to the practices and always been my biggest fan. I grew up in Stockholm, Sweden.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

JJ: I am a two way center with good split-vision and good skating. I like to set up some plays and am more of a passer than a scorer. I have to improve my shot and be a little bit more selfish on the ice.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

JJ: This year has been great. I took a jersey in Djurgardens IF in the Eliteleague. But in the world juniors I got the flu and throw up all the time, so I couldn't really play. After that I had a great finish of the season with Djurgarden. And the fact that it is a lot of scouts watching doesn't really bother me. I do not think about them when I play. But it is fun to know that they got the eyes on me.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

JJ: I have not thought about that. My goal had always been to play professional hockey but if I would say something, maybe be a coach or something that has something to do with sport.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

JJ: I think when I scored my first goal with Djurgarden. It was an amazing feeling. Or when we won the Swedish championship with Djurgarden u18 team.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

JJ: I have always liked Peter Forsberg and Henrik Zetterberg so I've got to say them.

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

JJ: Peter Forsberg, because he is my idol, Jessica Alba because I like the way she looks, and Johnny Drama of entourage.

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

JJ: My cell phone I think. So I can keep in touch with my friends.

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

JJ: I don't know, maybe something nice to my parents because they have supported me so much!



Prospect Snapshot...Calvin de Haan

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Oshawa Generals

08-09 League: Ontario Hockey League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Steak

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Any other sports

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Sports Center

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Step Brothers

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: none

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Nickelback

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Will Ferrell

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: I dare not say

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: Being named to the Canadian U-18 Team

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Blondes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

CdH: I grew up in of Carp, a little town outside of Ottawa. Spent most of my time playing sports outside. In the winter, I would spend countless hours on the out door rink.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

CdH: My hockey strengths are; my smarts, hockey sense, speed and mobility, puck moving ability and playmaking. I need to work on my physical play.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

CdH: My draft year has been a lot of fun so far and I am not feeling much pressure. I have to focus on my game and try to do my job night in and night out and I have been successful.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

CdH: I would want to be physical education teacher.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

CdH: Being named to the under 18 team for team Canada this year.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

CdH: Ottawa Senators and Scott Niedermayer.

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

CdH: Bobby Orr, probably the best defenseman to ever play hockey; Will Ferrell, provide humor at dinner and he is hilarious and I love his movies; Michael Phelps, because he is so determined and incredible work ethic. He does anything to win. He is just a great athlete.

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

CdH: My hockey stick.

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

CdH: Sports car.



Prospect Snapshot...Zach Budish

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Edina High School. Injured, did not play.

08-09 League: Minnesota High School.



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Buffalo Wings

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Going to the lake

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Sports Center

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Dumb and Dumber

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: NHL 09

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: not sure

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Adam Sandler

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: Come in and shoot low glove

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: High school state tournament

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Brunettes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

ZB: I've been skating since I was 18 months. I have three older brothers who played hockey their entire lives so I basically grew up at the rinks. Many of my youth coaches taught me many things that have helped me get to where I am today. Jeff Johnson, John Donnelly, Jon Hall, Chris Bonvino to name a few. My older brothers were also vital to my development because they have seen many of my games and always let me know things I can improve on.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

ZB: One of my biggest strengths is my size. I use my size both offensively and defensively to control the puck well. I also have good vision and can make nice passes. Also, I have a hard shot with a quick release. I need to work on my quickness, especially my first few strides. I also need to work on my angles on fore checks and other things. Also, I need to work on finishing my checks every time.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

ZB: When I was playing I didn't ever really think about the possibility of many scouts being in the stands. It's intimidating when you know they're there so I always tried to just not look in the stands. I was hurt for the entire regular season so I didn't have to worry about that.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

ZB: I would probably go into commercial real estate. My older brothers are in that profession and both love it and my strengths lie in the same areas as them. I'm going to major in some sort of business and go from there because I don't really know what I want to do yet.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

ZB: My most memorable hockey moment is definitely playing in three state tournaments at the Xcel Energy Center.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

ZB: My favorite team growing up was the Chicago Blackhawk's until the Minnesota Wild came. My favorite player was Mike Modano.

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

ZB: The first person I would invite is My Grandpa Joe. He passed away when I was 7 years old so I never truly met him and have heard stories from my dad and brothers how he knew so much. The second would be Herb Brooks because he is one of the greatest American coaches of all time. The third person I would invite is Wayne Gretzky because he is the greatest player to ever play the game.

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

ZB: I would make sure I packed my mini DVD player. I enjoy watching movies on long bus rides or plane rides.

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

ZB: The first thing I would buy would be a boat. I love spending time in the summer on the lake so I would buy myself a nice speed boat.



Prospect Snapshot...Cody Eakin

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Swift Current Broncos
08-09 League: Western Hockey League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Subway

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Hanging out with the guys

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Entourage

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Marley and Me

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: Call of Duty 5

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Rise Against/Savior

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Will Ferrell & Megan Fox

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: No Answer

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: Winning MVP at the Top Prospects Game

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Brunettes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

CE: I grew up in winnieg, my Dad put me on skates for the first time at his hockey and taught me everything I needed to know from skills to the mental game. My Mom was always right beside me to cheer me on and support me.

2.) In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

CE: My skating and work ethic are my strengths although all parts of my game need to be worked on if i want to continue playing hockey at a high level, if im not improving somebody else will be. I think I am a hard working energetic forward, wanting to be the hardest worker on and off ice at all times.

3.) How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

CE: It has been good, tough at times but that's going to happen, I have learned to deal with it alot through talking to family and friends as well as talking to ex-captains such as Zack Smith who have dealt with the same issues I had throughout the year.

4.) If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

CE: It would be something with a team atmosphere, firefighter, policeman. I am a hands on guy love to build things, drive, possibly learn a trade. So many options its hard to think about the time I would have without playing hockey.

5.) What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

CE: Winning gold medal at U18.

6.) Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

CE: I never had a favorite team, Canadian teams or the old Winnipeg Jets (I was awful young but if they were around they would be) and Wayne Gretzky was the player I remember to be my favorite.

7.) If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

CE: Nikki Sixx- Motley Crue Basist, Bobby Orr- Awesome guy to meet first time, and Denzel Washington- Best actor I think.

8.) If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

CE: Computer, the Net, why else!

9.) When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

CE: Something for my parents and other family members.



Prospect Snapshot...William Wallen

A closer look at a 2009 NHL Entry Draft Prospect.



08-09 Team: Mississauga St.Michaels Majors

08-09 League: Ontario Hockey League



Rapid Fire Q & A

Q: Favorite Food

A: Pasta

Q: Favorite Non-Hockey Activity

A: Playing Golf

Q: Favorite TV Show

A: Friends & Two and a Half Men

Q: Favorite Movie

A: Miracle on Ice and Fired Up

Q: Favorite Video Game

A: NHL '09

Q: Favorite Band/Singer/Song

A: Eminem-One Shot, Europe-Final Countdown

Q: Favorite Actor/Actress

A: Will Ferrell

Q: Favorite Shootout Move

A: The Sam Gagner Move

Q: Favorite Hockey Moment

A: Winning the U18 Championships

Q: Blonde, Brunette or Red Head

A: Brunettes

1.) FC: What was your childhood like growing up? Where did you grow up and what role did your parent(s) and/or youth coaches play in your development as a hockey prospect?

WW: I grew up in a town called Taby, its in Stockholm and thats where I started playing hockey. My parents have always been there for me, driving me to all my practices and they went to see me play every game too. My dad was my coach from age 5-14.

2.) FC: In your best estimation, what do you perceive to be your strengths and what are the areas you need to improve upon as well as what type of hockey player do you see yourself as?

WW: My strenghts are that I always keep my feet moving and my shot has good accuracy. I have quick feet and I'm very shifty. The things that I have to improve to take the next step are I need to get stronger. My shot has to be harder and I just need to keep working hard. I am a goal scorer but can also make plays and I am good at the one on one battles.

3.) FC: How has your draft year been and how have you dealt with all the added pressure involved with being scouted night in and night out?

WW: This year wasn't really what I suspected it to be, I got an anyurism only four games into the season and I came back and started to play again in the end of January. I haven't really thought about being scouted at all cause that was the last thing I need to worry about.

4.) FC: If you were not aspiring to play professional hockey what would your job be?

WW: If didn't play hockey I would probably go for soccer, and if I couldn't do anything that has to do with sports I would probably work with animals.

5.) FC: What has been your most memorable hockey moment to date?

WW: My most memorable hockey moment so far is probably when we won the U18 Championship. Also my first game back from my injury, I scored a goal and had an assist in our 4-2 victory over oshawa at home, that was an incredible feeling.

6.) FC: Who were your favorite NHL team and player growing up?

WW: My favourite player growing up was Pavel Bure. He was just so amazing, his speed, all his moves and the way he scored and the way he played hockey. It was just amazing to see. I have never really had a favourite NHL team though.

7.) FC: If you could invite any three people to dinner, living or deceased, who would it be and why?

WW: Jessica Alba because she is gorgeous. I would invite Wayne Gretzky because its Gretzky, he was unbelievable. The third person I would invite is Tiger Woods, He is probably the best athlete in history if you're asking me.

8.) FC: If you could only pack one thing for a road trip what would it be and why?

WW: If I could pack only one thing it would probably be my friends package. I have a package with all the seasons of the show friends, I cant live without that. When on a road trip I go and look for a television and a dvd player .

9.) FC: When and if you finally sign a professional contract what will be the first thing you buy?

WW: The first thing I will buy when I sign a professional contract, I will take the whole family out for dinner to a nice resaturant. Then I would buy my little brother a jersey of the team I signed with.



The Crystal Ball...

Mocking the first two rounds of the 2009 NHL Entry Draft.

By Dan Stewart

When it comes to guessing as to what an NHL organization will do at the NHL Entry Draft it is nearly impossible to be 100% correct. However, with a little insight into past drafting tendencies, organizational needs and some insider info on whom a team may have had their eye's on throughout the year as well as some help from our crystal ball here is how FC see the first two rounds going down in Montreal.



1st

Overall



New York ISLANDERS

2009 Selection: C John Tavares



Reason for the pick: Top available prospect and fills a need of star power identification for a franchise that currently is without an identity.

Draft Tendencies: The Islanders scouting staff has not always made the best projections in the past but the organization does have some decent prospect depth in the cupboard because of recent trade deadline moves that have helped the team accumulate draft picks. They tend to draft based on best player available but their scouts and management also have a tendency of falling in love with a specific prospect and in some instances over rating them. The organization has also shown a willingness to look at prospects who have been overlooked in previous years, something that might have earned themselves a gem with late developing and OHL overage Sarnia Sting forward Justin DiBenedetto.

Organizational Strengths: Overall prospect pool depth is good and solid size among forwards.

Organizational Needs: Highly skilled offensive forwards, winger who can finish, future top four defensive prospects and a high end goaltending prospect.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Corey Trivino

Defenseman: Aaron Ness

Goaltender: Stefan Ridderwall

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Tim Connolly, F Taylor Pyatt,
D Branislav Mezei & D Kristian Kudroc

2000 – G Rick Dipietro & F Raffi Torres
2001 – NONE

2002 – F Sean Bergenheim

2003 – F Robert Nilsson

2004 – F Petteri Nokelainen

2005 – F Ryan O'Marra

2006 – F Kyle Okposo

2007 – NONE

2008 – F Josh Bailey



The Crystal Ball ... 2009 NHL Entry Draft Mock



2nd



Tampa Bay LIGHTNING

Overall

2009 Selection: D Victor Hedman

Reason for the pick: Help is needed everywhere but no more than on the backend. The mobile Hedman gives the Lightning a potential top defender that can step in right now and build around for the future.

Draft Tendencies: The Lightning scouting staff has been more miss than hit with their brief history of draft selections. Stamkos will be a superstar and was a no brainer, and getting Tokarski, Barberio and Tyrell were astute picks but they have wasted many other picks on high risk projects that just aren't panning out.

Organizational Strengths: Overall prospect pool depth is good and good goaltending depth.

Organizational Needs: Every area needs upgrading. Lack of size at all forward positions, offensive defenseman who can get move the puck up the ice to the forwards and wingers who can finish.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Dana Tyrell

Defenseman: Matt Lashoff

Goaltender: Dustin Tokarski

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – NONE

2000 – F Nikita Alexeev

2001 – F Alexander Svitov

2002 – NONE

2003 – NONE

2004 – D Andy Rogers

2005 – D Vladimir Mihalik

2006 – G Riku Helenius

2007 – NONE

2008 – F Steven Stamko



3rd



Colorado AVALANCHE

Overall

2009 Selection: C Matt Duchene

Reason for the pick: The Avalanche have some nice young talent on their roster but they also have an aging core that will need to be replaced soon. Duchene gives them a sakic like player that will be ready to step into the lineup in the next two years.

Draft Tendencies: Usually picking later in the draft because of perennial on ice success. They have a distinct North American tendency the past five seasons with few European players making their way up through the system.

Organizational Strengths: Depth, they have very good depth at every position.

Organizational Needs: A high end goalie prospect to build the future around and more skilled forwards to take over the reins from an aging core.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Chis Stewart

Defenseman: Kevin Shattenkirk

Goaltender: Trevor Cann

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Mikhail Kulshov

2000 – F Vaclav Nedorost

2001 – NONE

2002 – F Jonas Johansson

2003 – NONE

2004 – F Wojtek Wolski

2005 – NONE

2006 – F Chris Stewart

2007 – D Kevin Shattenkirk

2008 – NONE





The Crystal Ball ... 2009 NHL Entry Draft Mock



4th



Atlanta THRASHERS

Overall

2009 Selection: C Evander Kane



Reason for the pick: Atlanta has had a continual need for top end skilled forwards to play with Kovalchuk but have had very limited success in finding a good match. Kane gives them a skilled scorer with a personality that fans in Atlanta can identify with.

Draft Tendencies: Atlanta has had limited success as a franchise when it comes to drafting prospects. They have had some home run picks but have also made many questionable selections along the way which have crippled the franchises ability to stay out of the NHL's cellar.

Organizational Strengths: Decent depth throughout and quality in between the pipes.

Organizational Needs: Some scoring forwards with size and puck moving defensemen.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Angelo Esposito

Defenseman: Boris Valabik

Goaltender: Ondrej Pavelec

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – C Patrik Stefan

2003 – D Brayden Coburn

2006 – F Bryan Little

2000 – F Dany Heatley

2004 – D Boris Valabik

2007 – NONE

2001 – F Ilya Kovalchuk

2005 – F Alex Bourret

2008 – D Zach Bogosian

2002 – G Kari Lehtonen

& F Daultan Leveille

& F Jimmy Slater

5th



Los Angeles KINGS

Overall

2009 Selection: C Brayden Schenn



Reason for the pick: With a solid looking defense and the goalie of the future already on board Lombardi can now focus on adding top line talent to the forward lines. Schenn adds grit, leadership and skill to a young line-up.

Draft Tendencies: Lombardi is now in the final stage of his rebuild in LA. He can now focus on supplementing what he has and also building up the skill on the front end. He subscribes to the best player available strategy since his days with San Jose and is willing to take from non-traditional markets if the talent is there.

Organizational Strengths: Nice depth at every position and a strong unit of future NHL'ers on the backend.

Organizational Needs: A franchise type forward that can lead both offensively and in the dressing room.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Oscar Moller

Defenseman: Thomas Hickey

Goaltender: Jonathan Bernier

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – NONE

2002 – D Denis Grebeshkov

2005 – F Anze Kopitar

2000 – F Alexander Frolov

2003 – F Dustin Brown,
F Brian Boyle & F Jeff Tambellini

2006 – G Jonathan Bernier & F Trevor Lewis

2001 – F Jens Karlsson

2007 – D Thomas Hickey

& F David Steckel

2004 – F Lauri Tukonen

2008 – D Drew Doughty & D Colten Teubert



6th



Phoenix COYOTES

Overall

2009 Selection: LW Magnus P-Svensson



Reason for the pick: They have some nice finesse centers on board and nice depth on the backend, if their was a top fly goalie he would likely be wearing a Phoenix jersey in this situation but they also need size and skill on the wings going forward and that is were Magnus comes in.

Draft Tendencies: The coyotes have done well the past few drafts with both their first round selections and later in the rounds as well. Look for them to add to their impressive young forward group with the first pick and then go backend later on.

Organizational Strengths: Good depth on the backend and in net with some impressive young NHL'ers already making a positive impact.

Organizational Needs: Some skilled top line forwards with size as well as good hard nosed character wingers.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Brett MacLean

Defenseman: Max Goncharov

Goaltender: Al Montoya

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Scott Kelman

2002 – F Jakub Koreis

2005 – F Martin Hanzal

& D Kirill Safronov

& F Ben Eager

2006 – F Peter Mueller & D Chris Summers

2000 – F Krys Kolanos

2003 – NONE

2007 – F Kyle Turris & D Nick Ross

2001 – F Fredrik Sjostrom

2004 – F Blake Wheeler

2008 – F Mikkel Boedker & F Viktor Tikhonov

7th



Toronto MAPLE LEAFS

Overall

2009 Selection: D Jared Cowen



Reason for the pick: With a big rebuild project ahead of Brian Burke and having one of the weakest prospect pool on defense in the entire NHL it only makes sense for him to give Luke Schenn a future defense partner that will patrol the blueline for the next fifteen years unless a deal can be made with the Islanders for the right to draft Tavares that is.

Draft Tendencies: Burke has one major tendency and that is to take size and a physical presence with his first rounder which will continue this year.

Organizational Strengths: Depth at the forward position is about the only strength they have.

Organizational Needs: Scorers, defenders and a bonified number one goalie prospect is all needed.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Tyler Bozak

Defenseman: Phil Oreskovic

Goaltender: Justin Pogge

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Luca Cereda

2003 – NONE

2006 – F Jiri Tlustý

2000 – F Brad Boyes

2004 – NONE

2007 – NONE

2001 – D Carlo Colaiacovo

2002 – F Alex Steen

2005 – G Tuukka Rask

2008 – D Luke Schenn



8th



Dallas STARS

Overall

2009 Selection: D Dmitry Kulikov



Reason for the pick: The perfect replacement for an aging Zubov is Kulikov who tore up the Quebec League this year offensively. They have some good young defenders on the roster but Kulikov represents the best player available and helps the organizations biggest need going forward, a puck rushing defenseman.

Draft Tendencies: They like the big forwards and defenseman but usually subscribe to the best player available theory.

Organizational Strengths: Nice depth at the forward position with plenty of future NHL candidates.

Organizational Needs: Top end talent at every position as they have much depth but potential difference makers are few and far between.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Fabian Brunnstrom

Defenseman: Ivan Vishnevsky

Goaltender: Richard Bachman

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – NONE

2000 – F Steve Ott

2001 – G Jason Bacashihua

2002 – D Martin Vagner

2003 – NONE

2004 – D Mark Fistric

2005 – D Matt Niskanen

2006 – D Ivan Vishnevsky

2007 – NONE

2008 – NONE

9th



Ottawa SENATORS

Overall

2009 Selection: D Oliver Ekman-Larsson



Reason for the pick: Brian Murray did everything but formally announce this as his teams target earlier in the year with a statement published in USA Today saying that his head Europe scout thinks that there is another Swedish defender who has a similar professional upside as Victor Hedman.

Draft Tendencies: They dip into the European market frequently and usually take the best available prospect regardless of team need which has caused them to be top heavy with character forwards.

Organizational Strengths: Forward depth and some good quality defensemen that look to have NHL futures.

Organizational Needs: Depth as well as a blue chip prospect in goal as well as some forward prospects with finishing potential.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Cody Bass

Defenseman: Erik Karlsson

Goaltender: Brian Elliott

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Martin Havlat

2000 – D Anton Volchenkov

2001 – F Jason Spezza

& D Tim Gleason

2002 – F Jakub Klepis

2003 – F Patrick Eaves

2004 – D Andrej Meszaros

2005 – D Brian Lee

2006 – F Nick Foligno

2007 – F James O'Brien

2008 – D Erik Karlsson



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10th



Edmonton OILERS

Overall

2009 Selection: RW Jordan Schroeder



Reason for the pick: At first this looks like just another small skilled forward that the Oilers have been drafting for years, same old same old, but when you really look at what Schroeder brings his game looks like the ultra playmaking compliment to winger Eberle's finishing skills. Schroeder would need to switch to centre which is not a problem considering he is an ace in the faceoff circle and has speed to burn.

Draft Tendencies: It is no secret that in the past they had an attraction to the small speedy forwards and often times those picks lacked the heart or courage to make an impact at this level. Recently they have extended their search proxy and have mined a few mid-round gems such as Omark and Motin.

Organizational Strengths: Depth at forward and some good young defenders coming through the system.

Organizational Needs: They desperately need a "goaltender of the future" prospect and a blue chipper at forward.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Jordan Eberle

Defenseman: Jeff Petry

Goaltender: Devan Dubnyk

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Jani Rita

2003 – F Marc-Antoine Pouliot

2006 – NONE

2000 – F Alexei Mikhnov

2004 – G Devan Dubnyk

2007 – F Sam Gagner,

2001 – F Ales Hemsky

& F Rob Schremp

D Alex Plante & F Riley Nash

2002 – F Jesse Niinimaki

2005 – F Andrew Cogliano

2008 – F Jordan Eberle

11th



Nashville PREDATORS

Overall

2009 Selection: RW Zack Kassian



Reason for the pick: They have a few smallish skilled forwards who do not play with much grit and only Colin Wilson coming through the organization with any size so they need to add another potential big body and do with this pick. Kassian will join with Wilson this year or next to form one of the most skilled and physically dominant young duos the NHL has ever produced.

Draft Tendencies: The Predators have done a good job not getting pined with any draft habits but instead just take who they believe will fit in best with their organization.

Organizational Strengths: Depth at every position and at least one prime prospect at each position coming up.

Organizational Needs: A blue-chip offensive centre as well as a physically aggressive stay-at-home defender.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Colin Wilson

Defenseman: Jon Blum

Goaltender: Chet Pickard

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – G Brian Finley

2003 – D Ryan Suter

2007 – D Jonathon Blum

2000 – F Scott Hartnell

2004 – F Alexander Radulov

2008 – F Colin Wilson

2001 – D Dan Hamhuis

2005 – D Ryan Parent

& G Chet Pickard

2002 – F Scottie Upshall

2006 – NONE



12th



Minnesota WILD

Overall

2009 Selection: D John Moore



Reason for the pick: They have glaring holes in every aspect as their prospect pool. The GM less Wild make the pick to go with the smooth skating two-way defenseman because he is the best available prospect left on the board and fills a glaring need at the same time.

Draft Tendencies: The Wild like to pick from the backyard tree and have a tendency to take the Minnesota boy if there it is a toss-up between two potential picks although that tendency has deminished in recent years. They are BPA talent evaluators but do put stock into what the franchises needs are as seen with the Gillies pick in '07 when they were looking for size.

Organizational Strengths: Depth at the forward position and some fine young NHL talent already on the roster.

Organizational Needs: They need help everywhere, defense, goaltending, goal scoring, you name it.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Colton Gillies

Defenseman: Tyler Cuma

Goaltender: Anton Khudobin

Last Nine First Round Picks:

2000 – F Marian Gaborik

2003 – D Brent Burns

2006 – F James Sheppard

2001 – F Mikko Koivu

2004 – D A.J. Thelen

2007 – F Colton Gillies

2002 – F Pierre-Marc Bouchard

2005 – F Benoit Pouliot

2008 – D Tyler Cuma

13th



Buffalo SABRES

Overall

2009 Selection: D Ryan Ellis



Reason for the pick: They traded away Brian Campbell last year and Ellis is the perfect replacement to run the PP and feed in stride passes to their skilled forwards. They have some good young defensive prospects but none with the skills set of Ellis.

Draft Tendencies: The video scouting pioneers of the NHL have had limited success with their attempt to save money in that department.

Organizational Strengths: They have outstanding depth throughout the organization as well as some highly skilled centers coming through the system.

Organizational Needs: Size among skilled forwards is lacking and not much NHL potential on the wing.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Nathan Gerbe

Defenseman: Tyler Myers

Goaltender: Jhonas Enroth

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Barrett Heisten

2003 – F Thomas Vanek

2007 – NONE

2000 – F Artem Kryukov

2004 – F Drew Stafford

2008 – D Tyler Myers

2001 – F Jiri Novotny

2005 – F Marek Zagraban

& F Tyler Ennis

2002 – D Keith Ballard

2006 – D Dennis Persson

& F Dan Paille



14th



Florida PANTHERS

Overall

2009 Selection: D Simon Despres



Reason for the pick: With a good stable of young NHL'ers already making contributions at the forward level and the team having its goalie situation seemingly locked up both now and into the future with Markstrom waiting in the wings they add to an area the needs improvement with Despres. A defender who has good offensive upside.

Draft Tendencies: The panthers have a tendency to overrate prospects and have enjoyed only limited success at the draft in their short existence.

Organizational Strengths: They have plenty of prospects with size, some blue-chippers at the forward position and in net and good depth throughout the prospect pool.

Organizational Needs: Skill on the backend and some more finishing ability on the wings. A playmaking centre would do wonders for a team without a true No 1 centre.

Last Ten First Round Picks:

Forward: Shawn Matthias

Defenseman: Keaton Ellerby

Goaltender: Jacob Markstrom

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Denis Shvidki

2000 – NONE

2001 – F Stephen Weiss
& D Lukas Krajicek

2002 – D Jay Bouwmeester & F Petr Taticek

2003 – F Nathan Horton & F Anthony Stewart

2004 – F Rostislav Olesz

2005 – F Kenndal McArdle

2006 – F Michael Frolik

2007 – D Keaton Ellerby

2008 – NONE

15th



Anaheim DUCKS

Overall

2009 Selection: C Nazem Kadri



Reason for the pick: The Ducks lack skilled forwards in their prospect pool so Kadri gives them a prospect who is projected to be a top size forward and also has the grit and physical attitude to mesh well with the current team structure.

Draft Tendencies: Hard to judge tendency since they went from being a primarily European drafting team under Murray to a big bodied physical drafting squad under Burke to now what?

Organizational Strengths: Depth at all positions and a wealth of character type forwards as well as some good defensive defenders coming up.

Organizational Needs: A blue-chip goalie prospect, puck moving defensemen and some skilled forwards.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Logan MacMillan

Defenseman: Mark Mitera

Goaltender: Mattias Modig

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – NONE

2000 – F Alexei Smirnov

2001 – F Stanislav Chistov

2002 – F Joffrey Lupul

2003 – F Ryan Getzlaf

& F Corey Perry

2004 – D Ladislav Smid

2005 – F Bobby Ryan

2006 – D Mark Mitera

2007 – F Logan MacMillan

2008 – D Jake Gardiner



16th



Columbus BLUE JACKETS

Overall

2009 Selection: C Scott Glennie



Reason for the pick: They could have used this pick on a much needed defender with size but opt for the impressive centre with speed, size and skill combo with Glennie instead as the centre position is the weakest in the whole organization.

Draft Tendencies: They have a hit or miss tendency and often in the past have gone for the homerun swing at the draft. They have taken chances on prospects who had glaring issues or questions that have had other organizations steering clear. Don't expect much to change this time around. They like skilled forwards in the first round.

Organizational Strengths: Good skill and size on the wings and a couple high end forwards.

Organizational Needs: Centers with skill and third/fourth line type checking centers as well as a blue chip defender to build around. Goaltending is another weak point and should be addressed.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Nikita Filatov

Defenseman: Cody Goloubef

Goaltender: Dan LaCosta

Last Nine First Round Picks:

2000 – D Rostislav Klesla

2003 – F Nikolai Zherdev

2006 – F Derick Brassard

2001 – G Pascal Leclaire

2004 – F Alexandre Picard

2007 – F Jakub Voracek

2002 – F Rick Nash

2005 – F Gilbert Brule

2008 – F Nikita Filatov

17th



St.Louis BLUES

Overall

2009 Selection: C Peter Holland



Reason for the pick: With incredible depth at all positions and some high end prospects who are earmarked fore the NHL the Blues can draft based on want and fit more than need and as always take the next best available who is Holland.

Draft Tendencies: St.Louis Assistant General Manager & Director of Amateur Scouting Jarmo Kekalainen tends to go off the board at times but the pick usually works out just fine. They are a best player available philosophy team and with bushels

of good draft picks the past five years the organization looks primed for success in the not to distant future.

Organizational Strengths: Everywhere you look they have highly skilled talent coming up.

Organizational Needs: More depth on the wing and some true finishers at the forward position.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Aaron Palushaj

Defenseman: Alex Pietrangelo

Goaltender: Jake Allen

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – D Barret Jackman

2003 – D Shawn Belle

2006 – D Erik Johnson & F Patrik Berglund

2000 – F Jeff Taffe

2004 – G Marek Schwarz

2007 – F Lars Eller,

2001 – NONE

2005 – F T.J. Oshie

D Ian Cole & F David Perron

2002 – NONE

2008 – D Alex Pietrangelo



18th



Montreal CANADIENS

Overall

2009 Selection: C Louis Leblanc



Reason for the pick: The Canadiens have some decent skill in the NHL and also down the pipeline but what they lack is size and grit especially at the forward position. This pick gives them a hard working grind it out type forward with skill that they need because to often the skilled players they have lack of much effort when the going gets physical and that is Leblanc's style of game.

Draft Tendencies: The Canadiens much like the Wild in Minnesota have a lust for local talent and Leblanc is French Canadian which fits like a glove.

Organizational Strengths: Some fine blue-chip talent at all positions and depth throughout.

Organizational Needs: More size at forward and some skilled talent on the wing and in net.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Max Pacioretty

Defenseman: Ryan McDonagh

Goaltender: Cedrick Desjardins

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – NONE

2000 – D Ron Hainsey & F Marcel Hossa

2001 – D Mike Komisarek

& F Alex Perezhogin

2002 – F Christopher Higgins

2003 – F Andrei Kostitsyn

2004 – F Kyle Chipchura

2005 – G Carey Price

2006 – D David Fischer

2007 – D Ryan McDonagh

& F Max Pacioretty

2008 – NONE

19th



New York RANGERS

Overall

2009 Selection: C Chris Kreider



Reason for the pick: The rangers have developed some decent forward prospects lately but each one was lacking in something, size. Not since the Hugh "Huge Specimen" Jessiman experiment have they looked to develop a homegrown physical power forward. They have some big bodies but not the type that play a big game. Kreider gives them a potential skilled PF to develop.

Draft Tendencies: Glen Sather has liked drinking from the European wells and has made multiple trips over the Atlantic just to see one specific prospect in one specific game in the past.

Organizational Strengths: Good depth throughout and solid on the puck moving defenseman prospects.

Organizational Needs: Goaltending prospects and some wingers with size.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Artem Anisimov

Defenseman: Bobby Sanguinetti

Goaltender: Matt Zaba

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Pavel Brendl

& F Jamie Lundmark

2000 – NONE

2001 – G Dan Blackburn

2004 – G Al Montoya

& F Lauri Korpikoski

2002 – NONE

2003 – F Hugh Jessiman

2005 – D Marc Staal

2006 – D Bobby Sanguinetti

2007 – F Alexei Cherepanov (RIP)

2008 – D Michael Del Zotto



20th



Calgary FLAMES *

Overall

2009 Selection: D Dylan Olsen



Reason for the pick: When you think about what type of player the Flames would be looking at and then take into account their location and team needs Olsen is the perfect fit. He adds size, grit and some offensive skill to an organization depleted of prospective defenders.

Draft Tendencies: They tend to trade away a lot of their draft picks in deadline deals but usually retain their first rounders. This leads to some good talent but not much depth. They like them big and nasty just like Anaheim.

Organizational Strengths: They have some good depth at forward and a decent goalie prospect in Leland.

Organizational Needs: They need to add some skilled wingers and some depth to the backend.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Mikael Backlund

Defenseman: Keith Aulie

Goaltender: Leland Irving

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Oleg Saprykin

2003 – D Dion Phaneuf

2006 – G Leland Irving

2000 – G Brent Krahn

2004 – F Kris Chucko

2007 – F Mikael Backlund

2001 – F Chuck Kobasew

2005 – D Matt Pelech

2008 – F Greg Nemisz

2002 – F Eric Nystrom

* Note: At Calgary's choosing, this pick or their 2010 first rounder is owed to the Phoenix Coyotes to complete the Olli Jokinen trade.

21st



Philadelphia FLYERS

Overall

2009 Selection: G Olivier Roy



Reason for the pick: Philly has some nice prospects coming down the pipe at both the forward and defensive position and the prime goaltending prospect in the 2009 is there for them in the first round. They take Roy and hope that he can become their goaltender of the future.

Draft Tendencies: They too like the big bodied prospects although they have taken some smaller fiery guys recently. They have shown that they will pick from any league or country and usually have good success with their first rounders at least.

Organizational Strengths: They have some good blue-chip talent graduating to the pros and still have nice depth.

Organizational Needs: They really need a couple skilled centres in the system and goaltending is lacking quality.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: James vanRiemsdyk

Defenseman: Luca Sbisa

Goaltender: Joacim Eriksson

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – G Maxime Ouellet

2003 – F Jeff Carter

2006 – F Claude Giroux

2000 – F Justin Williams

& F Mike Richards

2007 – F James vanRiemsdyk

2001 – D Jeff Woywitka

2004 – NONE

2008 – D Luca Sbisa

2002 – D Joni Pitkanen

2005 – F Steve Downie



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22nd



Vancouver CANUCKS

Overall

2009 Selection: D David Rundblad



Reason for the pick: The Canucks have only a handful of prospect who have a legit shot at the NHL one day and many positions that will soon need filling on the big club. They pick Rundblad because of an aging defense at the pro level and the untimely passing of top prospect Luc Bourdon left the defensive pool of talent with a glaring hole.

Draft Tendencies: They have a problem with picking boom or bust type prospects or ones who do not ultimately live up to their projected potential. Case in point with Grabner and White, who both have moved down the depth chart considerably since the day they were drafted. Cody Hodgson was a very astute pick last year that will likely have a very long and successful NHL career.

Organizational Strengths: Some high end prospects at centre and goal.

Organizational Needs: They need highly skilled forwards and depth everywhere, especially on the backend. .

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Cody Hodgson

Defenseman: Yann Sauve

Goaltender: Cory Schneider

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Daniel Sedin

& F Henrik Sedin

2000 – F Nathan Smith

2001 – F R.J. Umberger

2002 – NONE

2003 – F Ryan Kesler

2004 – G Cory Schneider

2005 – D Luc Bourdon (RIP)

2006 – F Michael Grabner

2007 – F Patrick White

2008 – F Cody Hodgson

23rd



New Jersey DEVILS

Overall

2009 Selection: D Calvin de Haan



Reason for the pick: The Devils have been on the weak side defensively since both Neidermayer and Rafalski bolted out of town for different reasons. They select a true puck moving defender with de Haan and address a glaring need for the organization.

Draft Tendencies: With one of the best scouting departments in the entire league led by David Conte, the devils have had good success with early as well as later in the draft. Their biggest strength is that they are able to consistently pick first round talent out of the second round.

Organizational Strengths: Forward depth throughout the system with some good top line talent coming up.

Organizational Needs: Lacking size at the forward position and depth in net.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Mattias Tedenby

Defenseman: Brandon Burlon

Goaltender: Jeff Frazee

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – G Ari Ahonen

2000 – D David Hale

2001 – D Adrian Foster

2002 – NONE

2003 – F Zach Parise

2004 – F Travis Zajac

2005 – F Nicklas Bergfors

2006 – D Matthew Corrente

2007 – NONE

2008 – F Mattias Tedenby



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24th Overall Washington **CAPITALS** 2009 Selection: C Jacob Josefson



Reason for the pick: This pick gives the centre position some talented depth as much of what they currently have coming through the system is of the role playing types and not too much in the way of scoring talent.

Draft Tendencies: The Caps have had a spotty track record of picks in the past with only some of their first rounders making much of an impact on the organization. They will need to produce more at the table this time around or risk a short run of success.

Organizational Strengths: Good depth throughout and some bluechip talent breaking into the NHL.

Organizational Needs: Goal scoring wingers and lack of size in talented forwards they do have.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Anton Gustafsson

Defenseman: Karl Alzner

Goaltender: Braden Holtby

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Kris Beech

2000 – F Brian Sutherby

2001 – NONE

2002 – D Steve Eminger,

F Alexander Semin & F Boyd Gordon

2003 – F Eric Fehr

2004 – F Alex Ovechkin,
D Jeff Schultz & D Mike Green

2005 – D Sasha Pokulok

& D Joe Finley

2006 – F Nicklas Backstrom

& G Simeon Varlamov

2007 – D Karl Alzner

2008 – F Anton Gustafsson

& D John Carlson

25th Overall Boston **BRUINS** 2009 Selection: RW Kyle Palmieri



Reason for the pick: With a need to retool the defensive depth a defender would look good here but their board would show that a stretch would need to be made to facilitate such a pick, instead they go with the next best available in Palmieri after they fail to get a move back trade done.

Draft Tendencies: The Bruins have done a good job plucking talent from all rounds and are now starting to enjoy the rewards of that hard work.

Organizational Strengths: Good depth down the middle and on defense as well as back in net. They also have good size to offset some smaller skilled forwards.

Organizational Needs: Depth and skill on the wings and some puck moving defenders to rebuild an aging core.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Joe Colborne

Defenseman: Yuri Alexandrov

Goaltender: Tuukka Rask

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – D Nick Boynton

2000 – D Lars Jonsson

& F Martin Samuelsson

2001 – D Shaone Morrisson

2004 – NONE

2005 – D Matt Lashoff

2002 – G Hannu Toivonen

2003 – D Mark Stuart

2006 – F Phil Kessel

2007 – F Zach Hamill

2008 – F Joe Colborne



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26th
Overall



New York ISLANDERS *

2009 Selection: LW Jeremy Morin



Reason for the pick: What better to start off the John Tavares era than to give him a goal scorer to play on his wing? Jeremy Morin is that goal scorer and he makes a perfect compliment with their second first round pick.

Draft Tendencies: They tend to look at needs and likes more than other teams might but still subscribe to the BPA in most regards.

Organizational Strengths: Overall prospect pool depth is good and they have solid size among forwards.

Organizational Needs: Highly skilled offensive forwards, winger who can finish, future top four defensive prospects and a high end goaltending prospect.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Corey Trivino

Defenseman: Aaron Ness

Goaltender: Stefan Ridderwall

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Tim Connolly, F Taylor Pyatt,
D Branislav Mezei & D Kristian Kudroc
2000 – G Rick Dipietro & F Raffi Torres
2001 – NONE

2002 – F Sean Bergenheim
2003 – F Robert Nilsson
2004 – F Petteri Nokelainen
2005 – F Ryan O'Marra

2006 – F Kyle Okposo
2007 – NONE
2008 – F Josh Bailey

* Note: This pick was originally traded from San Jose to Tampa Bay then to Ottawa and finally to New York.

27th
Overall



Carolina HURRICANES

2009 Selection: C Landon Ferraro



Reason for the pick: Carolina needed a skilled forward with this pick and are ecstatic to see Ferraro still available for selection when their turn came around. He will help to subsidize a NHL core that is getting a little long in the tooth.

Draft Tendencies: Carolina has made some quality picks in the past but often move their mid round draft picks for roster help at the trade deadline.

Organizational Strengths: Decent depth especially on the backend where they have some fine puck moving talent waiting.

Organizational Needs: They have some good third line talent at the forward position but lack a true offensive prospect to develop for the future.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Zach Boychuk

Defenseman: Jamie McBain

Goaltender: Mike Murphy

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – D David Tanabe
2000 – NONE
2001 – D Igor Knyazev
2002 – G Cam Ward

2003 – F Eric Staal
2004 – F Andrew Ladd
2005 – D Jack Johnson

2006 – NONE
2007 – F Brandon Sutter
2008 – F Zach Boychuk



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28th



Chicago BLACKHAWKS

Overall

2009 Selection: RW Carter Ashton



Reason for the pick: Continuing to pick who they see as the BPA in the team mold of big and skilled they grab Ashton to compliment their already strong group.

Draft Tendencies: The Hawks have made some good picks having gone after big skilled players that have helped start the success that they have seen this season. It also doesn't hurt that they have picked fairly high in each of the past six drafts.

Organizational Strengths: Great depth at all positions and good skill up front.

Organizational Needs: Depth of skilled leftwingers, puck moving defenders and a lack of a blue-chip goaltender.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Kyle Beach

Defenseman: Shawn Lalonde

Goaltender: Corey Crawford

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – D Steve McCarthy

2000 – F Mikhail Yakubov & F Pavel Vorobiev

2001 – F Tuomo Ruutu & G Adam Munro

2002 – D Anton Babchuk

2003 – D Brent Seabrook

2004 – D Cam Barker

2005 – F Jack Skille

2006 – F Jonathan Toews

2007 – F Patrick Kane

2008 – F Kyle Beach

29th



Pittsburgh PENGUINS

Overall

2009 Selection: LW Jordan Caron



Reason for the pick: With the late pick and a need for some real high end finishers to play with Crosby and Malkin they opt for Caron who is considered a safe pick and one with some offensive upside.

Draft Tendencies: The Pens consistently pick who they believe will be the best prospect for their system and team and have had recent success with that approach. It also helps that they had some early picks to build a winner on.

Organizational Strengths: They have good depth at every position.

Organizational Needs: A high end goaltending prospect and some finishers on the wing.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Eric Tangradi

Defenseman: Alex Goligoski

Goaltender: Pat Killeen

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – F Konstantin Koltsov

2000 – D Brooks Orpik

2001 – F Colby Armstrong

2002 – D Ryan Whitney

2003 – G Marc-Andre Fleury

2004 – F Evgeni Malkin

2005 – F Sidney Crosby

2006 – F Jordan Staal

2007 – F Angelo Esposito

2008 – NONE



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30th



Detroit RED WINGS

Overall

2009 Selection: D Tim Erixon



Reason for the pick: The Wings mantra has and will continue to be to build the defense up and spend the money to keep that aspect of the team strong. They continue to do so with Erixon as the latest Swedish edition to the team.

Draft Tendencies: They have a scouting genius in Hakan Andersson, their head European scout, and have enjoyed great success picking later in the draft because of his wealth of knowledge when it comes to European talent. Recently they have gone the NCAA route because of the extended development time available to these prospect

Organizational Strengths: Some good NHL quality prospects coming through with specific strength in net.

Organizational Needs: Some highly skilled forward prospects who can finish and more size throughout.

The Top Prospects by Position

Forward: Ville Leino

Defenseman:

Goaltender: Karri Ramo

Last Ten First Round Picks:

1999 – NONE

2000 – D Niklas Kronwall

2001 – NONE

2002 – NONE

2003 – NONE

2004 – NONE

2005 – D Jakub Kindl

2006 – NONE

2007 – D Brendan Smith

2008 – G Thomas McCollum

* Draft placing dependant on Stanley Cup playoffs outcome.



New York ISLANDERS

31st Overall Selection: D Stefan Elliott

Reason for the pick: After going with two highly skilled forwards in Tavares and Morin they look to bolster the backend with a solid puck moving defender in Elliot.

Organizational Need: After addressing the need for skilled forwards the next biggest need is on the backend where they do have some talent but not any blue chip talent coming.



Tampa Bay LIGHTNING

32nd Overall Selection: C Ryan O'Reilly

Reason for the pick: They grab a forward who is hard working and should mesh well with the 2008 No. 1 overall pick Steven Stamkos. They need help everywhere so they go with who they see as the next best on their list.

Organizational Need: Tampa Bay needs skilled forwards, puck moving defenders and some finishing ability on the wings.



Colorado AVALANCHE

33rd Overall Selection: G Michael Lee

Reason for the pick: They see Lee as a potential "goalie of the future" for an organization and he is better than anything they currently have in the system.

Organizational Need: A blue-chip goalie prospect to build around and some skilled wingers to help replace an aging core.



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Atlanta THRASHERS

34th Overall Selection:
RW Richard Panik

Reason for the pick: The Thrashers use their second round pick on another offensive force in the way of potential power winger Panik. Panik adds another first round talent.



Los Angeles KINGS

35th Overall Selection:
C Drew Shore

Reason for the pick: The Kings have built a pretty good future core already and now need to work to supplement it with more hard working skilled prospects who could fill out the remaining roster spots.



Phoenix COYOTES

36th Overall Selection:
LW Carl Klingberg

Reason for the pick: With their first pick they added skill with size and now they have added more of what they needed with Klingberg.



New York * ISLANDERS

37th Overall Selection:
C Zach Budish

Reason for the pick: With multiple picks in the early rounds the Isles go for a homerun with the injured but promising big man.

* this pick was trade to New York Islanders from the Toronto Maple Leafs.



Dallas STARS

38th Overall Selection:
C Ethan Werek

Reason for the pick: Dallas has a lack of high end forward prospects so they take a chance that Werek can fill that hole and develop his playmaking abilities to compliment the teams young scorers.



Ottawa SENATORS

39th Overall Selection:
G Edward Pasquale

Reason for the pick: Although they acquired Leclair from Columbus and have Elliott they still need depth in that area and take Pasquale as he is one of a few good netminders available.



Edmonton OILERS

40th Overall Selection:
RW Alex Chiasson

Reason for the pick: The Oil try to get a big man who can score here and they might just have it in Chiasson who many expected to go to the Habs if available when they pick.



Nashville PREDATORS

41st Overall Selection:
RW Toni Rajala

Reason for the pick: The Preds go for some high end talent with the first of two consecutive picks her. Rajala could replace some of Radulov's missing offence down the road.



Nashville * PREDATORS

42nd Overall Selection:
C Cody Eakin

Reason for the pick: Eakin gives the Preds the exact opposite of Rajala although he is talented he is a muck-it-out hard worker who is not afraid to get his nose dirty.

* this pick was trade to the Nashville Predators from the Minnesota Wild.



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San Jose * **SHARKS**

43rd Overall Selection:
Nick Leddy

Reason for the pick: San Jose is famous for their scouring of HS leagues and pulling picks out of nowhere. They get a potential Boyle replacement in Leddy.

* this pick was trade to the San Jose Sharks from the Buffalo Sabres.



Florida **PANTHERS**

44th Overall Selection:
Marcus Johansson

Reason for the pick: The Panthers addresses two weaknesses by selecting a defender with their first rounder and go with a skilled centre with their second pick.



Atlanta * **THRASHERS**

45th Overall Selection:
Charles-Olivier Rousset

Reason for the pick: They add another piece on the backend and now have two strong two-way defenders in Bogosian and Rousset which should pay off for the future.

* this pick was traded to the Atlanta Thrashers from the Anaheim Ducks.



Ottawa * **SENATORS**

46th Overall Selection:
Ryan Button

Reason for the pick: The Sens needed a puck moving defener to add to their stable and they now have him in the slick footed Button.

* this pick was trade to the Ottawa Senators from the Columbus Blue Jackets.



New York ** **RANGERS**

47th Overall Selection:
Dmitri Orlov

Reason for the pick: The hardest pick in the draft because they are replacing a young man who left us far too early. Orlov gives the Rags an offensive savvy defender for the future.

** this pick was awarded as compensation for the passing of Alex Cherepanov



St.Louis **BLUES**

48th Overall Selection:
Anton Lander

Reason for the pick: The Blues have liked their Swedish pick the last few drafts and they like the two-way Lander as well. He slides in nice behind all the top end talent they have collected recently.



Colorado * **AVALANCHE**

49th Overall Selection:
Seth Helgeson

Reason for the pick: Think Adam Foot "Part Duex" as he is projected to eventually replace the nasty stay-at-home defender.

* this pick was trade to the Colorado Avalanche from the Montreal Canadiens.



Toronto * **MAPLE LEAFS**

50th Overall Selection:
Brayden McNabb

Reason for the pick: The leafs are building a formidable defense and like the physical abilities of McNabb and what he would add to the future Leafs blueline.

* this pick was trade to the Toronto Maple Leafs from the New York Rangers.



Carolina * **HURRICANES**

51st Overall Selection:
Ryan Bourque

Reason for the pick: Carolina needs more skilled forwards as they have some good character guys but not a lot of high end skill, Bourque has that skill level.

* this pick was transferred to the Carolina Hurricanes from the Calgary Flames.



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Tampa Bay * **LIGHTNING**

52nd Overall Selection:
D Tyson Barrie

Reason for the pick: Does the name Len Barrie mean anything to you? It does to Tyson because it is his father and part owner of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

* this pick was trade to the Tampa Bay Lightning from the Carolina Hurricanes.



Vancouver **CANUCKS**

53rd Overall Selection:
C Joonas Nattinen

Reason for the pick: Vancouver loves his size and the ability to play a two-way game. They are hoping for a bit more offence to come as well.



New Jersey **DEVILS**

54th Overall Selection:
G Matt Hackett

Reason for the pick: With Frazee the only goalie in the development pool they needed to grab someone for the future and Hackett is a solid choice.



Washington **CAPITALS**

55th Overall Selection:
Taylor Doherty

Reason for the pick: The Caps have some good defensive depth but don't have a presence like what the towering physical Doherty would bring.



New York * **ISLANDERS**

56th Overall Selection:
Eric Gelinas

Reason for the pick: Continuing to build the backend after taking three forwards and only one defender they take the all purpose Gelinas.

* this pick was trade to the New York Islanders from the Boston Bruins.



San Jose **SHARKS**

57th Overall Selection:
Josh Birkholz

Reason for the pick: Birkholz is just the type of prospect that San Jose is known to develop, ones who skate well and have some untapped upside with the time to develop.



Carolina **HURRICANES**

58th Overall Selection:
Philippe Paradis

Reason for the pick: Paradis gives the Canes a big body who plays hard and could be a Cole replacement for down the line.



Chicago **BLACK HAWKS**

59th Overall Selection:
Simon Bertilsson

Reason for the pick: The Blackhawk's came into the draft looking to add to its defensive depth and with this pick they select a safe defensive presence.



Pittsburgh *** **PENGUINS**

60th Overall Selection:
Taylor Beck

Reason for the pick: The Pens are able to add a prospect who plays big and has a good shot that could be a solid compliment to one of their top flight centers in a couple season.



The Crystal Ball ... 2009 NHL Entry Draft Mock



Detroit ***

RED WINGS

61st Overall Selection:
Tomas Tatar

Reason for the pick: They have been watching Tatar for a couple seasons now and with his coming out party at the WJC in Ottawa and his great play back in Slovakia afterward they think they have found another potential gem in the Hudler/Zetterberg type mold.

*** Draft placing dependant on Stanley Cup playoffs outcome.



Photo Courtesy Claus Andersson



Photo Courtesy Vancouver Giants



Scouts Eye Postseason Performances

By Aaron Vickers

NHL organizations weren't just counting on strong postseason performances from their players.

They were also looking for them out of the top draft eligible prospects for the 2009 NHL Entry Draft.

As any scout will tell you, the best time to evaluate a prospect is when there is something on the line, and the best time to do that is in an elimination situation. Whether it be the OHL, QMJHL or WHL playoffs, a scout's interest is peaked "When the going gets tough and everything is on the line, you learn a lot about a player by the way he responds," identified one NHL scout. "Whether he powers up or fizzles out will let you know worlds about a player in pressure situations."

Interestingly enough, perhaps the player that has increased his draft stock the most is both ineligible for this year's draft and already slated to go first overall in 2010.

Windsor Spitfires forward Taylor Hall, the consensus top pick in the 2010 NHL Entry Draft, has opened eyes even further with his strong play both in the OHL playoffs and the Memorial Cup.

Hall, 17, led all scorers in goals and points with 16 and 36 respectively while leading the Spitfires to their second OHL title. More impressively, though, was Hall's performance in the Memorial Cup, helping Windsor hoist it's first trophy in franchise history.

It's a performance that has scouts scribbling in their notepads.

"You have to pay attention to the performance (Hall) has had over the last two months," said one Ontario-based Eastern Conference scout. "He isn't available until next year, but you can't ignore that performance, especially as a 17-year-old."

Hall's teammate, defenseman Ryan Ellis, has been on scout's radars since a strong World Junior Championships, helping Canada earn gold.

Future Considerations' fifth ranked defenseman in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft, Ellis has further captured the imagination of scouts after posting 31 points in the OHL playoffs.

"It's hard to ignore the big game ability of some of these kids," the same scout said. "Even though Ellis is small, he comes up big when it matters most, and we look hard at that."

It would be difficult to ignore the work that Brayden Schenn did with the Brandon Wheat Kings. Though they fell to the Calgary Hitmen in the WHL's conference final, Schenn still finished top-10 in WHL playoff scoring, averaging 1.50 points-per-game en route to leading all Wheat Kings.

"He is certainly living up to the family name in terms of big game performances," said an NHL Western Conference scout, referencing the past WHL playoff performances of Luke, Schenn's older brother and current Toronto Maple Leaf.

But is a strong playoff performance enough for a prospect to jump significantly?

"Oh absolutely," said the Western Conference scout. "Even more so if that player has won a championship. Success at the junior level breeds success at the NHL level. You want someone in your organization with a championship pedigree, someone who knows how to win."



Hall, Kabanov and Co. look primed for 2010

A look at the early top prospects of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft.

By Dan Stewart

With all the hockey talk focused on the upcoming 2009 NHL Draft and all the talented prospects who will soon be divided up between the 30 NHL organizations, it is never too early to look at the next crop of future NHL players. Taylor Hall and Kirill Kabanov are the early favorites to go #1 with Hall holding a slight advantage for that top spot. He has dominated the OHL for the better part of two years and many observers are expecting a big draft year from the high scoring forward. With regards to Kabanov, it is still not 100% known if he will be crossing the Atlantic to play in the CHL for his draft year. It is widely known that the young Russian's goal is to play in North America but contractual commitments in the motherland are still in question. What is not in question is his skill level and ability to play an up temp offensive game.

C Taylor Hall, Windsor, OHL, 6'-0", 180 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"Skating is his main strength..has a wide legged stride that enables him to maintain good balance..explosive acceleration and great flare offensively..has the ability to either blow by defenders or try and drive through them..great set of hands..can handle the puck at top speed..possesses a pin point accurate shot..his vision is good and he can set-up teammates but will make his money as a finisher..he has an innate ability to know where to be on the ice..Hall has taken a big step in rounding out his overall game this past season..a dynamic offensive force."*



Photo courtesy IIHF

C Kirill Kabanov, Spartak Moscow, KHL, 6'-3", 180 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"Talented Russian has many of the tools to become a future superstar in the NHL plus the attitude to do so..he skates like the wind..has incredible quickness..an electrifying stride..can blow right by defenders both inside and out..has dangerous hands and can make breathtaking moves at top speed..has a very quick shot that gets off his stick in a flash with pin point accuracy..willing to get his nose dirty and play in traffic..sees the ice well and makes impressive well timed passing plays..needs to fill out, be more consistently involved in the play and add consistency to his defensive game."*

C Mikael Granlund, Karpas Oulu, FIN, 5'-9", 165 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"Smallish but highly skilled forward..has outstanding hands especially in and around the net..skates well with nice quickness and an elusiveness that small players much have to be highly effective against bigger stronger opposition..has the ability to beat multiple defenders with his hand skills..he has nice vision and can create plays for his linemates with his playmaking abilities..despite his small size he plays with a big heart and is willing to get involved physically..has a wicked change of pace that throws defenders..plays solid in his own zone and wins the majority of his faceoffs."*



Photo courtesy IIHF

A look at the early top prospects of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft (Continued...)



Photo courtesy IIHF

RW Vladimir Tarasenko, Novosibirsk, RUS, 6'-0", 185 Lbs

Scouting Report: "An offensivley blesses winger..has a nice set of hands that allow him to control the puck as if it were on a string..a serious two diamentional offensive threat..he scores and has the creativity, vision and soft hand to hit a teammate with a sensasional pass..sports a pin point accurate shot that is deceptive at its release point..he uses his balanced frame to protect the puck and drives into traffic or to the slot..has a high intensity level when it comes to battling for offensive oportunities..shows his smarts in his own zone and is consistent in his defensive game."

C John Mcfarland, Sudbury, OHL, 6'-0", 195 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A gritty power forward type..he skates well with a great long powerful stride which can generate great speed..has slick agility and can deke around defenders or plow through them..has a scorers anticipation..his shot is already pro like..a rare blend of hard working plugger mentality with dynamic offensive skills..has good strength and will only get stronger..needs to focus some attention on improving his defensive contribution."



Photo courtesy Sudbury Wolves



Photo courtesy IIHF

RW Teemu Pulkkinen, Jokerit, FIN, 5'-11", 170 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A very creative offensive player..has Datsyukian type puck skills..a natural scorer who outthinks everyone on the ice..has the ability to slow down defenders and then with one quick move make them look foolish..has a great shot that he gets off quickly and seemingly always finds its mark..also anticipates his teammates well and gets to prime scoring ice..makes some brilliant seeing eye tape-to-tape passes through high traffic..needs to get stronger and play a ore defensive responsible game."

C Tyler Seguin, Plymouth, OHL, 6'-0", 180 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A dynamic hard working scorer who plays with a health level of intensity..was heavily relied upon in Plymouth this season as a rookie..has good instincts..carries the puck and protects it well..battles hard for posession of loose pucks..has good hands that allow him to weave in and out of traffic with the puck..goes to where the puck ends up..he is a good skater that uses his speed to create oppotunities..needs to round out his game and add strength."



Photo courtesy Plymouth Whalers

RW Brett Connolly, Prince George, WHL, 6'-1", 160 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A skilled power forward in the making..has nice finishing ability with a great shot the leaves his stick in an instant..has the ability to score in many ways..has a good one-timer..at his best when someone ditributes the puck to him and he has the time to find prime scoring space..his skating stride is fluid and effective..can make a move or two with the puck..needs to add much required weight and strength."

A look at the early top prospects of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft (Continued...)



Photo courtesy IIHF

C Evgeny Kuznetsov, Traktor, RUS, 5'-11", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A goal scoring forward that has a real hunger for seeing the goal light glow..has magician like hands and can beat you while standing still..has a bag of puck tricks for when he's breaking in on a goalie..sees the ice well and while he does have a decided shoot first mentality he does make a solid pass..is very creative with the puck but sometimes overhandles it and runs out his options..he skates very well and has an extra gear that allows him to effortlessly burn by defenders..plays with a flair that you see in most confident goal scorers..needs to add strength and improve on his non-existent defensive game."

RW Tyler Toffoli, Ottawa, OHL, 6'-0", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: "The OHL rookie showed a knack for creating offense..is deadly within ten feet of the net..has loads of raw undeveloped talent but can get over zealous at times causing odd man turnovers..handles the puck well needs to drive into action from the perimeter more consistently...work on his defensive positioning is a must..despite his size he is rarely willing to engage physically..he needs to add strength and round out his game."

C Ryan Spooner, Peterborough, OHL, 5'-9", 160 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A slick and very quick pint sized forward..his mobility is very good and he has a quick two-step acceleration..uses his balance to create a low centre of gravity to help with his puck protection and work through traffic..shows outstanding vision..the ability to make an accurate pass..a good tight shot that hits its mark more often than not..like most youngsters he needs guidance in his own zone.. despite his smaller size he will take the puck to the net..needs more strength to be able to take his game up a level."

C Joey Hishon, Owen Sound, OHL, 5'-10", 165 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A flashy stickhandling genius..he likes to use his feet in protecting the puck..blessed with outstanding quickness and agility..has the patience to make defenders act before deploying a slick move to beat him..his playmaking skills are very mature for his age..his vision and anticipation are outstanding..almost unstoppable with the puck in tight..possesses a quick release that catches goalies off balance..uses a nice change of pace to drive into the slot for a shot..likes to use defenders as a screen..needs to continue to get stronger and round out his game."



Photo courtesy Owen Sound Attack

RW Stanislav Galiev, Indiana, USHL, 6'-1", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: "Offensively blessed winger possesses great vision and the ability to connect perfectly timed passes..has soft hands that allow him the extra time needed to find an open teammate..can carry the puck up ice..his shot has good velocity and he gets it on target..has decent speed and the agility to dance around defenders..get a wicked one-timer off in a split second..has a nice complimentary physical side but he does not play the body consistently."

A look at the early top prospects of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft (Continued...)

LW Jeff Skinner, Kitchener, OHL, 5'-10", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"The speedy forward has a nice set of hands..he skates well and can handle the puck at top speed..uses his quick feet and agility to beat defenders one-on-one..his shot is pro style and he has an exceptional release..he needs to learn to use his teammates more..has a tendency to let his emotions get the better of him in physical games losing focus on his role, scoring goals..he needs to try coming past his own blueline at least once a season."*

C Tyler Pitlick, Centennial, USHS, 6'-2", 190 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"The future Spartan's best asset is his ability to fill the net..he has good hands that he can beat defenders with one-on-one..has many slick moves to use at his disposal..his shot is his bread and butter as it is pro calibre and off his blade in a blink of an eye..likes the physical side of things and despite his slim figure he has decent strength for his level..he needs to work hard when away from the puck as he often floats for whole shifts..needs to add a defensive element to his game as currently he has none."*

RW Guillaume Asselin, Montreal, QMJHL, 5'-10", 170 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A slick skating forward with loads of impressive offensive abilities..he has good vision and incredible anticipation to make plays..his hockey sense is off the charts high..gets to open ice and often plays a pivotal role in the games outcome..despite his slight stature he is involved physically and uses leg strength and a low centre of gravity to compete..is just scratching the surface of his offensive gifts..needs to improve his defensive coverage as he marks his man and then drops out of coverage at the first sight of transition."*



Photo courtesy Montreal Juniors

LW Victor Ohman, Malmo, SWE, 6'-1", 190 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"An all-purpose forward..possesses good size and strength for such a young prospect..has good wheels and once he gets a head of steam built up is hard to knock off the puck..very good vision and uses his strength to own the wall..will engage physically..has a good shot selection and can set-up his teammates equilly well with soft passes."*

C Ben Duffy, PEI, QMJHL, 5'-10", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A bit on the smallish side but all he does is produce offensivley..blessed with ultra quick hands and an even quicker stick..he uses his innate ability create chances by his play away from the puck..finds open ice and goes to where the puck will end up..has a shiftness to his game that allows him to play in tough areas but avoid punishment..skates well but lacks a seperation gear..has great vision and playmaking abilites..plays a relatively complete game that should see continued improvment in his draft year."*

LW Maxim Kitsin, Metallurg, RUS, 6'-2", 185 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"Has the size and skills to be a top talent..uses his size to fend off would be defenders..willing to play with much contact..has good vision and passing abilites that compliment his power game..possesses a decent shot..has the mobility to jump to the inside and attack the net..will not venture into his own zone much..needs an upgrade in intensity without the puck."*

A look at the early top prospects of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft (Continued...)

C Jordan Weal, Regina, WHL, 5'-9", 160 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A slick handed puck wizard..the playmaker has good vision and the ability to thread the needle with a pass..will shoot when the opportunity presents itself..has a nice release on an accurate wrist..likes to hold onto the puck and show poise and patience with it..does not rush plays but sees his options well and waits for the best time to move the puck to them..will draw a defender or two in and then dish off a nice pass to a streaking teammate..like most rookies he needs much rounding out."*

C Steve Shipley, Owen Sound, OHL, 6'-2", 200 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A big body with a fluid skating stride..has good quickness for his size..he has a good shot..is effective in every aspect of the game..plays solid two-way hockey..marks his man and stays with him..has good hockey sense and reads the play well..can make a play but is not overly creative offensively..despite his size he does not use it well enough."*

LW Devante Smith-Pelly, Mississauga, OHL, 5'-11", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A character forward who will do anything to win..has a quick stick..plays hard along the wall and uses his strength..plays a good cycle game that will only get better as he matures..has good smarts..is an opportunistic scorer..plays with intensity and is focused on winning every battle he engages in..does not have real high end skills."*

D Brandon Gormley, Moncton, QMJHL, 6'-1", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A puck moving defender whose best asset is his smarts..skates with a fluid stride and pivots exceptionally well..he has good one-on-one moves..can carry the puck up ice..thrives on the PP..has outstanding vision..makes tape-to-tape outlet passes..has a cannon from the point..employs a quick stick although often he get beat by trying to stip the puck instead of eliminating the man..shows a willingness to learn and get better..has a high panic threshold with the puck..picks his spots well."*

D Cam Fowler, U-18, USNTDP, 6'-2", 195 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A very smooth skating rearguard who excels in a two-way game..has a very fast top gear..very smart with or without the puck..can carry the puck up ice..knows when to pinch and sees the ice well..walks the line to open lanes..backs off defenders and forecheckers because of his skating ability..willing to play a physical game..needs to learn to use his teammates better..work on improving his shot would help..shows good patience with the puck..uses his skating as a tool to defend..needs work on defensive positioning."*



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

D Mark Pysyk, Edmonton, WHL, 6'-0", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A very mobile defender..makes a good first pass and transitions the play well..has good recovery speed..can jump into the play and does so smartly..plays the man and not the puck in one-on-one defensive situations..has a hard shot but looks to pass more than shot..has little panic in his game."*

A look at the early top prospects of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft (Continued...)



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

D Jon Merrill, U-17, USNTDP, 6'-4", 190 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A big defender who skates very well..has great overall mobility..very agile for his size..plays more of a defensive responsible game..reads the play well and uses solid defensive positioning to angle out attackers..has a long reach which he uses along the boards and to help contain smaller forwards..makes a solid outlet pass and can effortlessly lay a stretch pass on a streaking forwards tape..is poised with the puck..uses the boards effectively..needs to add more of a physical element and take the puck more when the opportunity presents itself..the future Wolverine defender looks too have limited offensive creativity."

D Erik Gudbranson, Kingston, OHL, 6'-3", 195 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A big skilled defender with a strong physical game..shows a strong shot on the point of the PP..has good hockey sense and reads the play well..has a long reach with he uses to strip the puck or close down shooting lanes..is poised with the puck..has made some bad desision this year but that has more to do with logging incredible amounts of time as a rookie..finishes his checks..can carry the puck and pinch to maintain offensive pressure..defensively he needs to gain experience and learn the positioning better..has a claming influence on a young Frontenacs team even at such a young age showing his leadership qualities..will be dominant once he adds strnegth."



Photo courtesy Kingston Frontenacs



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

D Nick Mattson, U-17, USNTDP, 6'-0", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: "A solid skater who likes to carry the puck..a big part of the U17 team offense this year..he is a solid passer who has nice vision and timing on his passes..has a quick stick that he utilizes in both ends..the North Dakota recruit played solid in his own zone and is smart about then to pinch or join the rush..he is solid one-on-one with his positioning..plays a physical blend and always finishes his checks..on the PP he sees all his options well..holds the line with his good hand-eye coordination and speed..has untapped offensive potential..needs to get stronger."

D Adam Sedlak, Peterborough, OHL, 6'-1", 190 Lbs

Scouting Report: "One of the oldest draft eligibles for 2010..not much flashy offensive skills here just steady disribution of the puck..has good athleticism..sees the ice well and is able to make some pretty tight passes look easy..needs wotk on his overall defensive game..has no physical element to his game..needs to play with more intensity."

A look at the early top prospects of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft (Continued...)



Photo courtesy Barrie Colts

D Ryan O'Connor, Barrie, OHL, 5'-11", 185 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A potential two-way defender..has some good offensive creativity..has a rocket of a shot..always looks to go on the offence..likes the opuck on his stick and uses his vision and accurate passes to make his teammates better..slips in from the backside for an in-close chance..has a good skating stide with nice overall mobility..not blessed with great size for a defender but he does have good elusivness..plays his best when his confidence is stroked by his coaches..needs to make safer desisitons and add strength to be most effective..has the abilites to be solid defensively."*

D Stephen Silas, Belleville, OHL, 6'-0", 180 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"Solid defender with good offensive instincts..knows when to punch and when not too..plays a physical brand and finishes his checks..skates well although he could improve his first step..reads the play well..when he does pinch it is ususally a one shot and retreat opportunity..his shot is booming..he can make a solid first pass and stays in position defensively..needs to add strength and work on defensive positioning."*

D Martin Marincin, HC Kosice, SVK, 6'-4", 165 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A big tall defender that needs to add strength..has some good offensive skill and upside..likes to carry the puck and has the vision to distribute it effectivly..solid in his own zone..makes smart decisions on when to pinch and when to hang back..skates well for a guy his size."*

G Jack Campbell, U-17, USNTDP, 6'-0", 175 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A techincally strong goaltender..a tight butterfly style and expertly directs shots away from attackers..has an active stick that he uses to poke chaeck and cover openings in his stance..reads the developing play well..remains square to the shooter and shows good aggressive angle play..keeps his upper body posture upright which helps his overall net coverage..very patient..tracks the puck well..future Wolverine flashes a quick glove..his puckhandling is decent..needs to improve his laeral mobility and add strength to help his overall quickness."*



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

G J.P. Anderson, Mississauga, OHL, 5'-10", 165 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A classic standup style tender with some butterfly elements..his lack of size nessesitates that he stay up longer than many of his peers..has ice cold water running through his veins as he rarely makes the first move instead waiting out the attacker with great patience..plays his angles well and has flawlewss positioning..reads the play well..has much postential but needs work on his quickness."*

G Johan Gustafsson, Farjestad, SWE, 6'-2", 195 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"Has the size and solid positioning to stifle shooters..has good mobility both laterally and while quickly coming out to challenge attackers..he reads the play well and stays square to the shot..plays a little too low in his stance which opens the upper portion of net up..has good quickness."*



The Russians are coming!!!

By Alessandro Seren Rosso

The 2010 draft class looks to have the most talented players coming out of Russia in some time. As witnessed by the last U18 WJC, the Russians have some exciting potential coming up from their top end players. The combination of late-91 born and 92 born might see Russia produce many more drafted players than we've seen over the last few years as the top end talent pool seems looks very deep. Remember that Russia-92 won almost every tournament they played, opposite to the 1991 team who wasn't that successful prior the silver medal won one month ago that was highlighted by some dynamic underage players. It's still very early to talk about them, but this is indeed a good start.

Kirill Kabanov, RW, 6'3", 176, Spartak Moscow

The most popular 92-born Russian player, Kirill Kabanov is an effective dangler with excellent skating and an immense talent. Playing the off wing, Kabanov likes to skate toward the net with the puck on his blade hunting for a highlight reel goal or a dangerous opportunity around the crease. He has all the skills required to be a top end talent in the NHL, but he has to improve on the little things that turn a great player into a superstar. That said, Alexander Ovechkin isn't that great defensively... It's worth nothing that he constantly states that he wants to play in North America, even if in the last few months he seemed to do a U-turn, eating his early words, but probably not to lose all his options. At this time though the CHL is still his most probable destination for the 09-10 season, considering his drive toward the American world.

Eugene Belashchenko, the chief editor of the popular website www.russianprospects.com, shared with us his view of the player in question: "Kirill Kabanov is an up and coming player with significant potential. The young prospect has very good size, but also has an impressive skill level and maturity to go with it. At just 16, the young player has already established himself as a leader of the U18 squad, consistently playing on the squad throughout the 2008-09 season, capping it all with a strong U18 WJC performance. Considering that the young player plays for a Moscow-based team, he will likely get plenty of scouting exposure this coming year. Additionally, he has already made his KHL debut with Spartak, though only in a limited role. Since Spartak is known for relying on young players, Kabanov's chances of playing a bigger role next season are quite good."

Vladimir Tarasenko, LW, 6'0", 192, Sibir Novosibirsk

Vladimir Tarasenko is a completely different matter of subject. Not only because he's a different player, but also because of the different perspectives and individual path. Diversely from Kabanov he had an interesting KHL season with Sibir Novosibirsk, scoring seven goals in thirty-eight regular season matches. And diversely from Kabanov he's a more rounded player, also thanks to his KHL experience. Tarasenko, unlike many young Russian players, showed dedication in the own zone, applying hard to backchecking while still remaining mainly an offensive player, not one-dimensional like sometimes young Russians are. But even if the first mentioned aspect of Tarasenko's game was the defense, his top feature is his exceptional skill level with a great skating and a well above the average hockey intelligence and play without the puck. His shot may require some work especially if we think about the pro-level, but in this past U18 WJC he showed that he can put the biscuit in the basket.



Kirill Kabanov photo courtesy IIHF

Belaschenko has this to add about Tarasenko: "Vladimir Tarasenko is a speedy, skilled winger who has been the sensation of the U18 WJC, where he was one of Russia's biggest impact players. Tarasenko's size is a bit of a concern, but his skill and aggressiveness more than makes up for it. He has also made a significant impact in the KHL with the struggling HC Sibir, a club that did not do well during the 2008-09 season, a situation that fortunately gave youngsters like Tarasenko a chance to shine. Despite a highly successful season, it is unclear whether Tarasenko will have a successful next step or fizzle out like so many other skilled Russian forwards such as Dmitry Chernykh. Another issue for Tarasenko is the fact that he was born a few weeks too early, in 1991, and is unfortunately no longer eligible any other U18 tournaments, nor is he eligible for the 2009 Draft. So, unless he can continue his success in the KHL and join U20 Team Russia, Tarasenko is going to have a hard time shining in 09-10."



Vladimir Tarasenko photo courtesy IIHF

Galiev a lot of experience even if he hasn't produced as much as during the regular season, but he did score one goal in the final series against Fargo. Galiev, native of Moscow, moved to North America during the 2008 summer in order to raise his stock towards the draft and probably to earn a spot in the CHL in the 2009/10 season, in a similar way to Alexander Denezhkin, who played for the Des Moines Buccaneers prior getting drafted by Oshawa Generals of the OHL, where he conducted the present season. An interesting prospect with attractive offensive potential, Galiev has to be tested against higher level opponents as he didn't play with the national team nor in the major Canadian junior leagues.

Alexander Burmistrov, C, 5'11", 175, Ak Bars Kazan

A gifted, smart center, Burmistrov is a very good passer with a good wrist and snap shot. He knows both how to set up and how to score goals and this ability makes him a very dangerous player, like witnessed by his eleven points in the last Under 18 WJC, where he assisted on seven goals by his partners. He already played in the KHL, but just a couple of shifts during a non important regular season match. He's committed to play in defense but has to work on his strength and on his physical play.

Sergei Barbashev, RW, 5'11", 160, CSKA Moscow

Yet another gifted winger, who likes to play the off wing, but can be iced on both flanks. A product of CSKA school, he still has to improve his reading of the play and physical presence to get high consideration, but he has all the tools to become a top six forward in the future.

Roman Berdnikov, RW, 5'11", 176, Avangard Omsk

Berdnikov is a quick winger with a high skill level that is more a goal scorer than a playmaker. Gifted with good skating and a good wristshot, he has got interesting size for his age and is stronger than the average Russian players.

Evgeny Kuznetsov, RW, 6'0", 174, Traktor Chelyabinsk

A very talented all around player, Evgeny Kuznetsov is your prototypical Russian forward, a mix of a speed and technique, very hard to contain when the ice opens up in front of him. An aspect of his game that surely intrigued scouts at the last U18 WJC is that he's as good as a playmaker as he is as a scorer. His agility and intelligence allows him to score garbage goals despite his size, while his excellent passing play makes him a perennial thorn in the opponent's side. He's a true natural talent with astonishingly smooth hands, but he needs to work on his strength and on his shoot in order to improve his effectiveness on ice. Differently from Kabanov and Tarasenko, Kuznetsov never played in the KHL and thus he lacks a bit of experience. In the junior leagues you can hide that with talent, but against men it will be much harder.

Stanislav Galiev, LW, 6'1", 177, Indiana Ice (USHL)

The unique player of this list who plays abroad, Galiev played an excellent season with the Indiana Ice of the USHL, who won the league's playoff title. The Ice's playoff run surely gave

Alexander Gogolev, LW, 5'8", 147, Krylya Sovetov

Gogolev is a very fast player with a very good nose for the net but that as far as now looks too little to make it through the North American pro hockey. He plays a poised style and thanks to his excellent technique he scores a lot of points, but he has to bulk up in order to get a chance even in the KHL, let alone the NHL.

Maxim Kitsyn, LW, 6'2", 180, Metallurg Novokuznetsk

If we were writing this article a couple of years ago, Kitsyn would have been the undisputed number one as when he was a tad younger he was considered the front man for the #1 pick mostly because of his big size. But the power forward's stock has been overshadowed by the rise of the three aforementioned guys, especially because of their better play with the national team. Kitsyn is a gifted player with a good size and a good nose for the net. He knows how to make his body an advantage not only along the boards, but also on the open ice and he's not easy to knock off the puck. Despite being not an elegant skater, he has a very good top speed that allows him to out skate defenders with relative ease in the offensive zone, but he has to improve in skating technique and in the first step. Kitsyn has had a good debut season in the KHL where he scored five goals, including a true beauty against Severstal Cherepovets in one of the last regular season matches.

Russianprospects.com described that goal as it follows: "Alexei Chupin launched Maxim Kitsyn in the neutral zone, who schooled Nikolai Lemtyugov (former St. Louis Blues prospects) with a between-the-legs fancy move and put it in the back of the net past Russian hockey veteran Alexander Vyukhin for a highlight reel goal." If he manages to progress and to improve in his weak sides, defensive effectiveness, skating technique and consistency, he might well become a NHL power forward with interesting goal scoring abilities.

Sergei Ilminsky, D, 5'11", 176, Dynamo Moscow

The first defenseman in this pool, Ilminsky is a good offensive defenseman who played very well in the December World Challenge in Canada, even if Russia wasn't the best in that occasion. He reads the play well on the ice and distributes the puck effectively, but has to work on his point shot and overall level of play, gaining more experience.

Roman Lyubimov, LW, 6'2", 180, CSKA Moscow

Lyubimov is among the most underrated player for the 92 class. He is a good player at both ends of the rink with a very good wristshot and a smooth skating stride, but he needs to build more strength to improve his play along the boards. But the offensive awareness is there for sure.

Alexei Marchenko, D, 6'1", 156, CSKA Moscow

Marchenko is an offensive defenseman with PP quarterback potential, but that has to gain physical presence in order to avoid being the next Kirill Koltsov. His good shot and very good offensive instincts are his top features, but he needs to work on the defensive coverage and – as said – in the physical play.



Maxim Kitsyn photo courtesy IIHF



Photo courtesy IIHF



A Glimps into the distant future... **A look at the top prospects of the 2011 NHL Entry Draft.**

By Dan Stewart

RW Sean Couturier, Drummondville, QMJHL, 6'-3", 180 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A big kid who has some decent offensive skill set..has good power behind his stride..lacks top end speed..willing to play in traffic and take abuse in front of the net..is solid along the wall..more of a finesse guy than a power forward..has quick hands and some moves..a solid playmaker..a comitment to defense is needed."*



Photo courtesy Drummondville Voltigeurs

LW Michael St. Croix, Edmonton, WHL, 5'-11", 160 Lbs

Scouting report: *"A skilled forward with high level of compete..willing to do anything to win..he is quick and skates well generation good speed overall..great agility in close and around the net making him a danger to score in tight..low centre of gravity helps his puck prossession..has nice hands and can carry the puck through traffic..sees the ice well and can make a play."*

RW Seth Ambroz, Omaha, USHL, 6'-3", 200 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"Another big body eligible for 2011..he skates well for such a big guy at a young age..likes to play the body and get involved physically..has a good shot that he gets on net regularly..solid on the forecheck and along the wall..needs to continue to develop his skating..has some good offensive potential."*

RW Brandon Saad, U-17, USNTDP, 6'-2", 190 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A strong future power forward with some offensive skills..plays a straight line power game..skates very well and has impressive speed for his size..is unstoppable when he gets going..has a hard and accurate shot that he can release mid stride..quick release..uses his size and quick stick to protect the puck in traffic..looks to have nice hockey sense..could be a top pick in 2011."*



Photo courtesy Red Deer Rebels

C Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Red Deer, WHL, 6'-0", 160 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A nice blend of offence and grit..he sees the ice extremely well..can handle the puck..skates well with a good health speed..accelerates quickly and able to make quick movments to throw off defenders..possesses good hockey sense is a playmaker who makes his linemates better..he needs to add some weight and strength..will drive into traffic and take a beating to make a play..plays with a good level of intensity."*

C Shane McColgan, Kelowna, WHL, 5'-11", 165 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A hard nosed battler who also has a fair amount of skills..he has good intensty and excells in gritty physical competition..sometimes he lets his emotions get him off his game and takes needless penalites..has decent hands and can handle the puck..makes a good pass but is more of a finisher..willing to drop the gloves."*

LW Matthew Nieto, U-17, USNTDP, 5'-11", 170 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A feisty forward who plays a gritty game..skates real well and has some nice offensive skills..keeps his feet moving..goes to the hard areas..shifty mobility..more of an opportunistic scorer..has good hands but needs to work on his shot..sees the ice well and can make a solid pass..is strong on the puck and plays a with a bit of an edge."*



Photo courtesy USA Hockey



Photo courtesy USA Hockey

C Nick Shore, U-17, USNTDP, 6'-0", 185 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"2009 draft eligible Drew Shore's younger brother although they are different players..has good size but needs to add strength..needs to work on his skating although he does have good overall mobility..his vision and playmaking abilities are what set him apart..he is creative with the puck and is not afraid to play in hard areas..needs to improve his work rate..has a good shot awith a quick release but is more of a set-up man..is calm and patient with the puck."*

D David Musil, HC Dukla, CZE, 6'-3", 190 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A skilled two-way defender..is very consistent in his defensive play as he reads the play well and makes good decisions..has some promising underdeveloped offensive abilities..needs an upgrade in overall speed but otherwise moves well..has some decent size for such a young prospect..makes a good first pass and has good poise with the puck..has solid defensive positioning and angles attackers to the outside..he is willing to step up and physically engage."*

D Adam Clendening, U-17, USNTDP, 6'-0", 190 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"An offensively savvy defender..has a choppy stride that needs work..sees the game well but still shows some immaturity in his game..needs to improve his defensive coverage..a real work in progress..needs to grow confidence with the puck and then watch out..makes a good stretch pass and has some obvious skills."*



Photo courtesy USA Hockey



Photo courtesy IIHF

D Adam Larsson, Skelleftea, SWE, 6'-3", 200 Lbs

Scouting Report: *"A big defender who has outstanding two-way abilities..despite his size he has very good feet and skates well, especially for his size..sees the ice well and makes excellent reads..has quick hands and handles the puck well..showed a willingness to take the puck and go on the offensive leading the rush..very fast transition..needs to add more strength and should dominate with the added strength..has much promise and with continued development he could puch for a top pick in 2011."*