



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

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NHL ENTRY DRAFT GUIDE



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Created and developed in the summer of 2007, Future Considerations (FC) is hockey's fastest growing prospect publication. But what is Future Considerations about? The new breed. Sidney Crosby. Alex Ovechkin. Evgeni Malkin. Steven Stamkos.

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



Welcome to Future Considerations' 2011 NHL Entry Draft Guide, our most anticipated offering in our four-year history.

The 2011 draft offers a lot of intrigue.

Will it be Ryan Nugent-Hopkins that the Oilers take? While he is certainly the favourite, there is no clear consensus as to who the draft's top prospect is. Swedes Adam Larsson and Gabriel Landeskog are contenders, as are QMJHL duo Sean Couturier and Jonathan Huberdeau.

In this year's edition, you will find a plethora of features new to FC.

Throughout the issue, you'll notice icons for FC's various forms of social media, including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Clicking any of them at any time will open that outlet in your browser. As well, you'll find various Easter Eggs that you can click on. For example, clicking a player's headshot in our scouting reports will prompt your browser to open to our blog with a list of articles the player has been featured on throughout the year. See how many you can find!

FC's coverage of the 2011 NHL Entry Draft doesn't stop with the 2011 NHL Entry Draft Guide.

Leading up to the draft, FC will be providing features, interviews and reports on the event's most intriguing prospects. During the draft, FC will also be providing round-by-round coverage live from Minnesota. Follow us post-draft for even more coverage of the fallout from the draft weekend.

So enjoy Future Considerations' 2011 NHL Entry Draft Guide and be sure to keep it locked to www.futureconsiderations.ca for all your 2011 draft needs!

Regards,

Aaron Vickers
Managing Editor
Future Considerations Hockey
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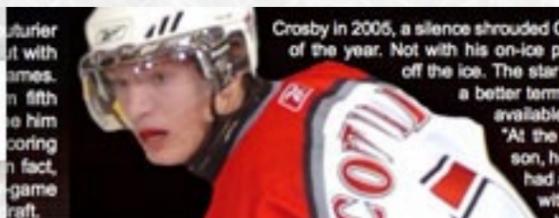
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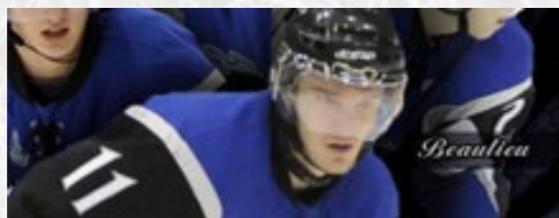


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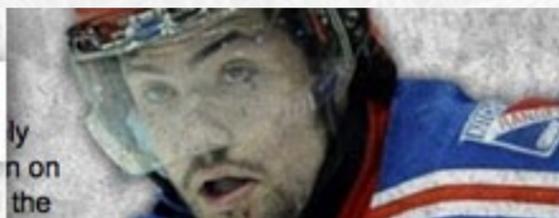
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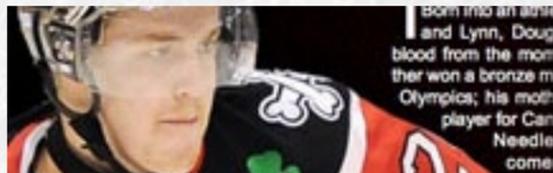


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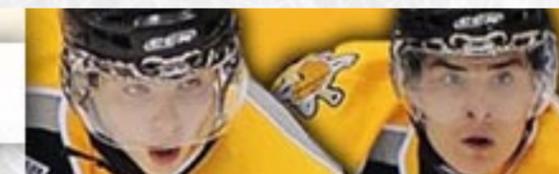
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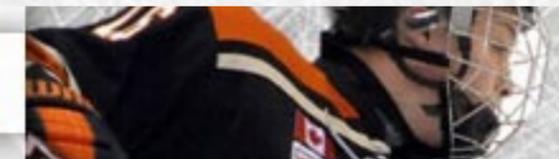
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THE NEXT SUPERSTAR



TOP 200
DRAFT RANKINGS

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
1). C Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Red Deer, WHL, 6'-0", 165 Lbs
2). C Jonathan Huberdeau, Saint John, QMJHL, 6"-1.5", 170 Lbs
3). LW Gabriel Landeskog, Kitchener, OHL, 6'-1", 205 Lbs
4). D Adam Larsson, Skelleftea, Sweden, 6'-3", 200 Lbs
5). C Sean Couturier, Drummondville, QMJHL, 6'-4", 195 Lbs
6). D Dougie Hamilton, Niagara, OHL, 6'-4.5", 190 Lbs
7). D Ryan Murphy, Kitchener, OHL, 5'-10.5", 165 Lbs
8). C Ryan Strome, Niagara, OHL, 6'-0", 175 Lbs
9). D Nathan Beaulieu, Saint John, QMJHL, 6"-2", 180 Lbs
10). C Mika Zibanejad, Djurgarden, Sweden, 6'-1.5", 190 Lbs
11). D Duncan Siemens, Saskatoon, WHL, 6'-2.5", 190 Lbs
12). C Mark McNeill, Prince Albert, WHL, 6'-1.5", 200 Lbs
13). C Mark Scheifele, Barrie, OHL, 6'-2", 185 Lbs
14). C Rocco Grimaldi, NTDP U18, USHL, 5'-6", 165 Lbs
15). D Jonas Brodin, Farjestad, Sweden, 6'-1", 170 Lbs
16). LW Matt Puempel, Peterborough, OHL, 6'-0.5", 195 Lbs
17). D Jamie Oleksiak, Northeastern, NCAA, 6'-7", 245 Lbs
18). RW Joel Armia, Assat, Finland, 6'-3", 190 Lbs
19). C Vladislav Namestnikov, London, OHL, 6'-0", 165 Lbs
20). LW Brandon Saad, Saginaw, OHL, 6'-1.5", 205 Lbs
21). RW Nicklas Jensen, Oshawa, OHL, 6'-2.5", 185 Lbs
22). RW Tyler Biggs, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-2", 210 Lbs
23). G John Gibson, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-3", 205 Lbs
24). D Oscar Klefbom, Farjestad, Sweden, 6'-3", 200 Lbs
25). LW Sven Bartschi, Portland, WHL, 5'-10", 180 Lbs
26). RW Dmitri Jaskin, Slavia, Czech Rep, 6'-1.5", 195 Lbs
27). C Zack Phillips, Saint John, QMJHL, 6'-1", 175 Lbs
28). C Boone Jenner, Oshawa, OHL, 6'-1.5", 205 Lbs
29). D Joe Morrow, Portland, WHL, 6'-0.5", 200 Lbs
30). C Jonathan Miller, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-1.5", 200 Lbs

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
31). C Alexander Khokhlachev, Windsor, OHL, 5'-10", 185 Lbs
32). D Connor Murphy, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-3", 185 Lbs
33). RW Ty Rattie, Portland, WHL, 5'-11", 160 Lbs
34). D David Musil, Vancouver, WHL, 6'-3.5", 200 Lbs
35). C Daniel Catenacci, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 5'-10", 180 Lbs
36). D Adam Clendening, Boston University, NCAA, 5'-11", 190 Lbs
37). D Scott Mayfield, Youngstown, USHL, 6'-3.5", 200 Lbs
38). C Victor Rask, Leksand, Sweden, 6'-1.5", 195 Lbs
39). C Shane Prince, Ottawa, OHL, 5'-10", 175 Lbs
40). RW Tomas Jurco, Saint John, QMJHL, 6'-2", 185 Lbs
41). LW Phillip Danault, Victoriaville, QMJHL, 6'-0", 170 Lbs
42). RW Rickard Rakell, Plymouth, OHL, 6'-0.5", 190 Lbs
43). C Gregory Hofmann, Ambri-Piotta, Switzerland, 6'-0", 175 Lbs
44). RW Brett Ritchie, Sarnia, OHL, 6'-3", 210 Lbs
45). RW Stefan Noesen, Plymouth, OHL, 6'-0.5", 195 Lbs
46). D Myles Bell, Regina, WHL, 6'-0", 210 Lbs
47). C Nick Shore, U of Denver, NCAA, 6'-0", 195 Lbs
48). LW Lucas Lessio, Oshawa, OHL, 6'-0.5", 195 Lbs
49). RW Seth Ambroz, Omaha, USHL, 6'-2", 210 Lbs
50). C Vincent Trocheck, Saginaw, OHL, 5'-10", 180 Lbs
51). C Matthew Nieto, Boston University, NCAA, 5'-11", 180 Lbs
52). G Samu Perhonen, JyP Jr., Finland, 6'-4", 170 Lbs
53). LW Mario Lucia, Wayzata, USHS, 6'-2", 180 Lbs
54). D Stuart Percy, Mississauga, OHL, 6'-0.5", 185 Lbs
55). C Joseph Labate, Holy Angels, USHS, 6'-4", 180 Lbs
56). D Joel Edmundson, Moose Jaw, WHL, 6'-4.5", 190 Lbs
57). G Michael Morrison, Kitchener, OHL, 6'-0", 175 Lbs
58). D Robbie Russo, NTDP U18, USHL, 5'-11.5", 185 Lbs
59). LW Nikita Kucherov, CSKA Jr., Russia, 5'-10", 160 Lbs
60). C Reid Boucher, NTDP U18, USHL, 5'-9.5", 190 Lbs
61). G Christopher Gibson, Chicoutimi, QMJHL, 6'-0.5", 190 Lbs
62). C Mikka Salomaki, Karpas Jr., Finland, 5'-11", 185 Lbs
63). C Colin Jacobs, Seattle, WHL, 6'-1", 195 Lbs
64). D Ryan Sproul, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 6'-3", 175 Lbs

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
65). C Michael St. Croix, Edmonton WHL, 5'-10.5", 175 Lbs
66). D Max Everson, Edina, USHS, 6'-0.5", 185 Lbs
67). LW Adam Lowry, Swift Current, WHL, 6'-3.5", 185 Lbs
68). LW Travis Ewanyk, Edmonton, WHL, 6'-0.5", 180 Lbs
69). D Mike McKee, Kent School, USHS, 6'-4.5", 230 Lbs
70). D Mike Reilly, Shattuck St. Mary's, USHS, 5'-10.5", 150 Lbs
71). C Steven Fogarty, Edina, USHS, 6'-2", 195 Lbs
72). LW Kale Kessy, Medicine Hat, WHL, 6'-2.5", 185 Lbs
73). LW Michael Mersch, U of Wisconsin, NCAA, 6'-2", 200 Lbs
74). G Magnus Hellberg, Almtuna, Sweden, 6'-5", 185 Lbs
75). C Tobias Rieder, Kitchener, OHL, 5'-10.5", 170 Lbs
76). C Alan Quine, Peterborough, OHL, 5'-11", 175 Lbs
77). D Xavier Ouellet, Montreal, QMJHL, 5'-11.5", 175 Lbs
78). D Matt Killian, Delbarton, USHS, 6'-1", 190 Lbs
79). C Seth Griffith, London, OHL, 5'-9.5", 185 Lbs
80). D Scott Harrington, London, OHL, 6'-0.5", 200 Lbs
81). RW Maximilien Le Sieur, Shawinigan, QMJHL, 6'-2", 200 Lbs
82). C Nick Cousins, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 5'-10", 166 Lbs
83). D Andrei Pedan, Guelph, OHL, 6'-4", 200 Lbs
84). LW Max Friberg, Skovde, Sweden, 5'-11", 185 Lbs
85). RW Maxim Shalunov, Chelyabinsk Jr., Russia, 6'-3", 185 Lbs
86). D Michael Paliotta, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-3", 200 Lbs
87). C Markus Granlund, HIFK Jr., Finland, 5'-10", 165 Lbs
88). C William Karlsson, Vasteras Jr., Sweden, 6'-0", 165 Lbs
89). RW Marek Tvrdon, Vancouver, WHL, 6'-1.5", 210 Lbs
90). RW Austen Brassard, Belleville, OHL, 6'-2", 190 Lbs
91). D Rasmus Bengtsson, Rogle Jr., Sweden, 6'-2.5", 185 Lbs
92). D Tyler Wotherspoon, Portland, WHL, 6'-1", 200 Lbs
93). C Ryan Tesink, Saint John, QMJHL, 5'-11", 155 Lbs
94). G Jordan Binnington, Owen Sound, OHL, 6'-1.5", 160 Lbs
95). C Joseph Cramarossa, Mississauga, OHL, 6'-0.5", 185 Lbs
96). LW Olivier Archambault, Val-d'Or, QMJHL, 5'-11", 170 Lbs
97). D Reece Scarlett, Swift Current, WHL, 6'-0.5", 165 Lbs
98). RW Petr Placek, Hotchkiss, USHS, 6'-3.5", 210 Lbs

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
99). C Philippe Hudon, Choate-Rosemary, USHS, 6'-0.5", 190 Lbs
100). RW Andrew Fritsch, Owen Sound, OHL, 6'-0", 185 Lbs
101). RW Logan Shaw, Cape Breton, QMJHL, 6'-3", 200 Lbs
102). D Keegan Lowe, Edmonton, WHL, 6'-1", 175 Lbs
103). C Colin Smith, Kamloops, WHL, 5'-10.5", 165 Lbs
104). LW Michael Curtis, Belleville, OHL, 6'-0", 180 Lbs
105). LW Joshua Leivo, Sudbury, OHL, 6'-2", 185 Lbs
106). D Mattias Backman, Linkoping Jr., Sweden, 6'-2", 170 Lbs
107). D Alexei Marchenko, CSKA, Russia, 6'-2", 185 Lbs
108). C Joachim Nermark, Linkoping Jr., Sweden, 6'-1", 185 Lbs
109). LW Marcel Noebels, Seattle, WHL, 6'-2.5", 195 Lbs
110). C Garrett Meurs, Plymouth, OHL, 5'-10.5", 170 Lbs
111). G Matt McNeely, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-2", 205 Lbs
112). LW Jeremy Boyce-Rotevall, Timra Jr., Sweden, 6'-0", 170 Lbs
113). D Klas Dahlbeck, Linkoping, Sweden, 6'-2", 170 Lbs
114). RW Daniel Pribyl, Sparta Jr., Czech Republic, 6'-3", 190 Lbs
115). C Shane McColgan, Kelowna, WHL, 5'-8", 165 Lbs
116). D Troy Vance, Victoriaville, QMJHL, 6'-6", 200 Lbs
117). LW Zachery Franko, Kelowna, WHL, 5'-10", 160 Lbs
118). LW Jimmy Vesey, Belmont Hill, USHS, 6'-0", 175 Lbs
119). D Patrick Koudys, RPI, NCAA, 6'-2.5", 190 Lbs
120). D Dillon Simpson, North Dakota, NCAA, 6'-0.5", 190 Lbs
121). C Sean Kuraly, Indiana, USHL, 6'-1.5", 190 Lbs
122). D Colin Sullivan, Avon Old Farms, USHS, 6'-0.5", 190 Lbs
123). D Andy Welinski, Green Bay, USHL, 6'-0.5", 185 Lbs
124). D Craig Duininck, Windsor, OHL, 6'-0", 200 Lbs
125). D Zachary Yuen, Tri-City, WHL, 6'-0", 200 Lbs
126). C J-P Leblanc, Val-d'Or, QMJHL, 6'-3.5", 195 Lbs
127). C Destry Straight, Coquitlam, BCHL, 6'-0", 160 Lbs
128). G Niklas Lundstrom, AIK Jr., Sweden, 6'-2", 180 Lbs
129). C Brent Benson, Saskatoon, WHL, 5'-11", 180 Lbs
130). D Victor Berglind, Brynas Jr., Sweden, 5'-11", 180 Lbs
131). RW Dylan Willick, Kamloops, WHL, 5'-9.5", 185 Lbs
132). G Tadeas Galansky, Saginaw, OHL, 6'-3.5", 185 Lbs

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
133). LW David Broll, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 6'-1.5", 215 Lbs
134). G David Honzik, Victoriaville, QMJHL, 6'-2.5", 210 Lbs
135). D Nikita Nesterov, Chelyabinsk Jr., Russia, 6'-0", 185 Lbs
136). LW Yannick Veilleux, Shawinigan, QMJHL, 6'-2", 190 Lbs
137). D Jyrki Jokipakka, Ilves, Finland, 6'-3", 190 Lbs
138). C Kyle Rau, Eden Prairie, USHS, 5'-8", 165 Lbs
139). G Stephen Michalek, Loomis-Chaffee, USHS, 6'-2", 180 Lbs
140). LW Barclay Goodrow, Brampton, OHL, 6'-2", 210 Lbs
141). LW Blake Pietila, NTDP U18, USHL, 5'-11", 190 Lbs
142). RW Sami Salminen, HIFK Jr., Finland, 6'-5", 200 Lbs
143). LW Brent Andrews, Halifax, QMJHL, 6'-1.5", 200 Lbs
144). D Craig Wyszomirski, The Gunnary, USHS, 6'-2.5', 200 Lbs
145). LW Stephen Miller, Nobles, USHS, 6'-1", 195 Lbs
146). D Zakhar Arzamastsev, Novokuznetsk, Russia, 6'-2", 200 Lbs
147). RW Konstantin Komarek, Lulea Jr., Sweden, 6'-0", 180 Lbs
148). D Brennan Serville, Stouffville, OPJHL, 6'-2.5", 185 Lbs
149). D Justin Sefton, Sudbury, OHL, 6'-2", 210 Lbs
150). G Jaroslav Pavelka, HR Karlove, Czech Rep, 6'-1", 165 Lbs
151). C Tony Cameranesi, Wayzata, USHS, 5'-9", 160 Lbs
152). D Gabriel Bourret, Saint John, QMJHL, 6'-0", 170 Lbs
153). LW Zac Larraza, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-2", 195 Lbs
154). D Karl Johansson, Brynas Jr., Sweden, 5'-8.5", 165 Lbs
155). D Brenden Kichton, Spokane, WHL, 5'-11", 185 Lbs
156). D Henri Auvinen, JyP Jr., Finland, 6'-1.5", 175 Lbs
157). D Patrik Noren, Leksand Jr., Sweden, 5'-11", 175 Lbs
158). G Nathan Lieuwen, Kootenay, WHL, 6'-5.5", 190 Lbs
159). C Jean-Gabriel Pageau, Gatineau, QMJHL, 5'-9", 160 Lbs
160). D Joakim Ryan, Dubuque, USHL, 5'-10", 180 Lbs
161). D Peter Ceresnak, Slo U20, Slovakia, 6'-3", 210 Lbs
162). D Albin Blomqvist, Linkoping Jr., Sweden, 6'-3", 195 Lbs
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164). G Michael Houser, London, OHL, 6'-1", 185 Lbs
165). D Sebastian Dyk, Malmo, Sweden, 5'-11.5", 185 Lbs
166). D Sam Jardine, Camrose, AJHL, 6'-1", 185 Lbs

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
167). C Colton St. Clair, Fargo, USHL, 5'-10.5", 190 Lbs
168). D Spencer Abraham, Brampton, OHL, 5'-11", 175 Lbs
169). C Andrej Stastny, Vancouver, WHL, 6'-4", 215 Lbs
170). LW Scott Oke, Saint John, QMJHL, 6'-2.5", 185 Lbs
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177). LW Brendan Woods, Muskegon, USHL, 6'-2.5", 190 Lbs
178). LW Justin Thomas, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 6'-2", 205 Lbs
179). C Adam Reid, NTDP U18, USHL, 6'-3.5", 200 Lbs
180). D Eddie Wittchow, Burnsville, USHS, 6'-3.5", 190 Lbs
181). LW Dylan Wruck, Edmonton, WHL, 5'-7.5", 155 Lbs
182). G Matt Mahalak, Plymouth, OHL, 6'-2", 180 Lbs
183). C T.J. Tynan, Notre Dame, NCAA, 5'-9", 175
184). RW Luke Lockhart, Seattle, WHL, 5'-10", 180 Lbs
185). C Blake Coleman, Indiana, USHL, 5'-10", 195 Lbs
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188). D Frank Corrado, Sudbury, OHL, 6'-0", 190 Lbs
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190). D Albert Yarullin, Kazan, Russia, 6'-0.5", 190 Lbs
191). D Samuel Windle, Chicago, USHL, 6'-3.5", 200 Lbs
192). D Martin Gernat, HC Kosice Jr., Slovakia, 6'-5", 185 Lbs
193). D Pascal Zerressen, Krefeld, Swiss, 6'-5", 195 Lbs
194). C Gustav Bjorklund, Vasteras, Sweden, 5'-8", 155 Lbs
195). LW Mika Partanen, Mississauga, OHL, 6'-2", 190 Lbs
196). LW Mitch Elliot, Seattle, WHL, 6'-5", 215 Lbs
197). G Stefan Steen, Skelleftea Jr., Sweden, 6'-1.5", 170 Lbs
198). D Artem Sergeev, Val-D'Or, QMJHL, 6'-1", 195 Lbs
199). G Alex Lyon, Lake of the Woods, USHS, 6'-0", 205 Lbs
200). LW Anthony Camara, Saginaw, OHL, 6'-1", 195 Lbs

By Aaron Vickers

By no means is he the biggest player in the 2011 National Hockey League Entry Draft.

But he may just be the biggest name.

Touted as a potential first overall pick all season and a mainstay a top Future Considerations' draft ranking since the turn of the calendar year, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins is poised to become the first, first overall pick from the Western Hockey League since Chris Phillips in 1996.

Still, becoming the first, first pick from the Dub in a decade and a half didn't distract the Burnaby, BC native.

"I won't let it serve as a distraction," Nugent-Hopkins vowed earlier in the year. "It can help me play better and add some more determination."

Rebels head coach Jesse Wallin—a former NHLer and first round pick in the same 1996 draft as Phillips—said the attention that his assistant captain gets from being a highly touted pick hasn't been disruptive to his season.

"He's got such a professional approach to things that it's not an issue."

The statistics tell a similar story.

Nugent-Hopkins was third in WHL scoring with 31 goals and 106 points, including scoring 17 goals in his last 20 games. His is a talent that was on display nightly in the WHL and something Wallin had the luxury of enjoying for 69 games this season.

"I wouldn't want him coming down on me or coming out of the corner on me"

—Alex Petrovic

"He's got an uncanny ability with the puck," Wallin said. "His ability to handle the puck in tight corners is incredible. I don't know if I've seen anyone that can handle the feet around his body the way he has."

Red Deer defenseman Alex Petrovic—drafted in the second round by the Florida Panthers

a year ago—got a first-hand look at the skills of Nugent-Hopkins daily in practice.

"I wouldn't want him coming down on me or coming out of the corner on me," Petrovic said with a laugh. "He'll make you look stupid."

But his skills don't end there.

"(He is) obviously a phenomenal hockey player," added Petrovic. "(He) has great hands. He moves the puck well."

But if there's a knock on Nugent-Hopkins it has been his size.

While he displays good height in standing at six-feet, the first overall pick in the 2008 WHL Bantam Draft weighs just 165-pounds.

"I try to use my abilities because I'm not the biggest guy, I'm not the heaviest guy," Nugent-Hopkins said. "I try to use what I have."

What he does have is an arsenal of offensive weapons that have drawn some lofty comparisons.

"I see elements of a lot of different players in him," Wallin said. "I hear the comparison to Joe Sakic a lot. He's got an ability with the puck like Pavel Datsyuk and he can skate like Sergei Fedorov."

And while he hasn't been explicitly been associated with the likes of Steve Yzerman, one aspect of Nugent-Hopkins' game is also similar to the now Tampa Bay Lightning general manager.

"He's got a quiet confidence about him, a special confidence, Wallin said. "He's quiet and humble and down to earth but he knows he's a special hockey player."

Petrovic agreed.

"He's very modest; very down to earth."

Which is nothing short of impressive for the draft's biggest name. 



RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS
AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS

LANDESKOG'S

JOURNEY AN 18 YEAR AFFAIR

By Brian Huddle

It began at the tender age of four years old; watching his brother from the sidelines of his very first practice.

And while Gabriel Landeskog's brother would decide the game of hockey wasn't for him, the Swedish youngster would drag his father out to the area the next day. And the next day. And the day after that.

It was history in the making for the Kitchener Rangers captain, a storybook that is still writing itself years later.

When did things really take off?

"It was probably when I was 10 or 11, when I got to start playing for Hammerby, in Stockholm; one of the top teams in the country at that point. That's really when my coach, Mattias Jonsson, was really emphasizing hard work to take you to the next level, and if you want to, you can get to the next level, and get to the big leagues," Landeskog explained. "I guess that's kind of when I really started to motivate myself, and dedicated myself. I stopped playing soccer, and started really focusing on hockey; I knew that's what I wanted to do."

It's a good thing he did.

The next few years would be critical in Landeskog's life, making the jump to Djurgården by the age of 15, amongst their junior squads. But

it was his international play that really had scouts taking notice.

Donning the 'C' at every international tournament you can think of, Landeskog was able to elevate his play onto the big stage enough to be taken third overall in the CHL's Import Draft in 2009; Gabriel was now 17 and ready to make the move across the pond. It was a decision that would benefit both himself and the Rangers, who would name him captain; their first European captain in franchise history. Though you wouldn't know it; Landeskog's English sounds like any other Canadian teenager.

"I try to be as good as I can; both in my own zone and the offensive zone. Obviously I want to try to create offense, and score some goals," Landeskog explained, in impeccable English. "As a person, I try to be a leader, when I play hockey and in the dressing room; just try to be a good teammate. I show respect to my teammates, and fans, and all those who surround me."

"Oh, Gabes," teammate, Ryan Murphy laughed. "Gabes is a great guy, on and off the ice... He's one of my best friends on the team."

It's a reputation that has any who know the young man, willing to share. The word class comes up on a regular basis when asked to describe him as a person. But even Landeskog knows there's always work to be done.

"I think I'm very aware of what I need to improve in the future. It's been something I've been working on

throughout the season; just quick feet, and try to improve my skating, which is important with the increased pace of the NHL."

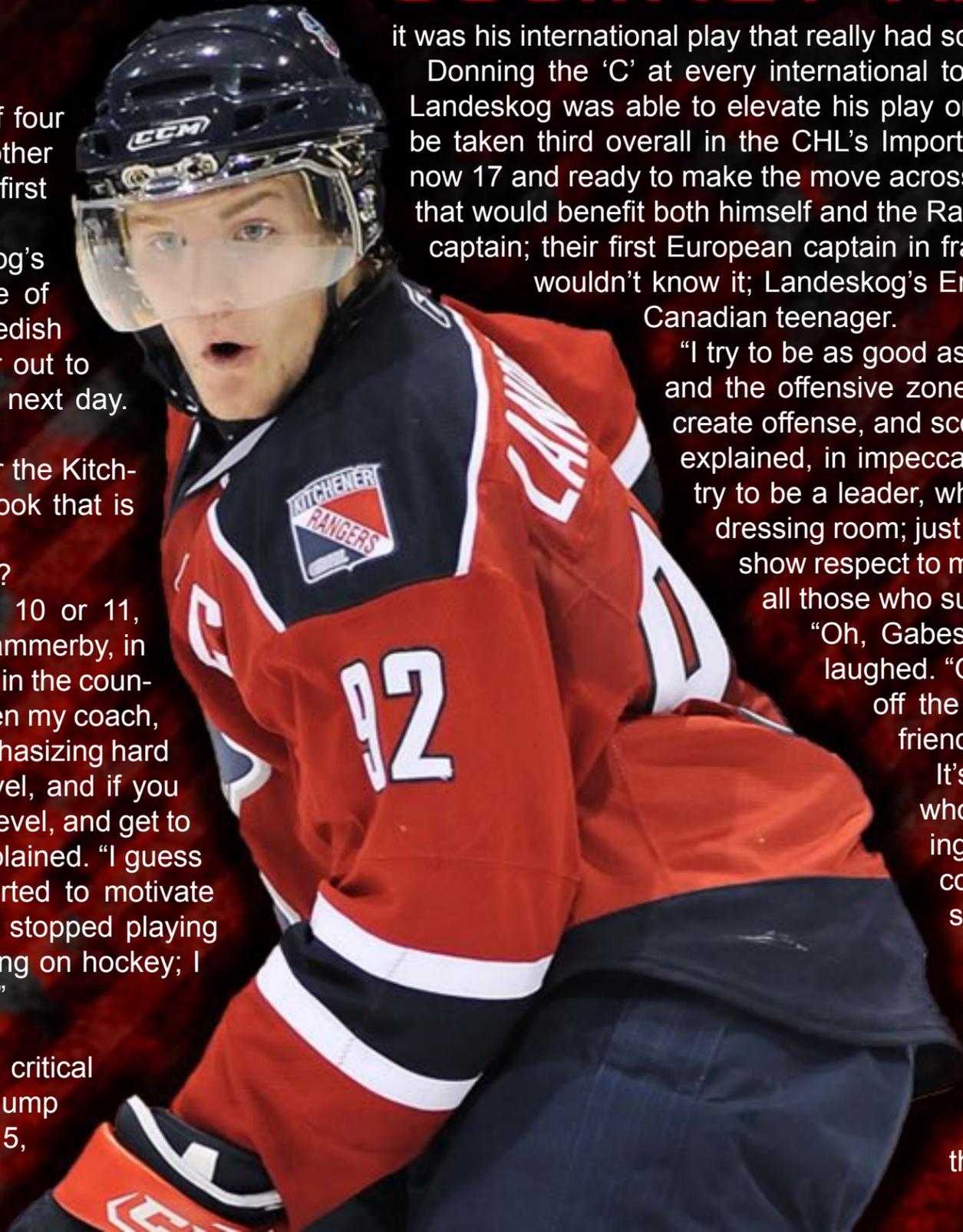
Built in the mold of a power forward, at six-foot-one, 207-pounds, this Stockholm native comes with all the intangibles and skills that fans, and scouts alike, adore in

"As a person, I try to be a leader, when I play hockey and in the dressing room; just try to be a good teammate."

- Gabriel Landeskog

their players.

A powerful skater, Landeskog has great offensive tools with an accurate shot and adept passing skills, to go with his big body. The best thing about him, however, are the qualities inside; a passionate leader with a pure desire to win go a long way to winning over coaches and fans on the National Hockey League stage. 



COUTURIER'S ROLLERCOASTER RIDE



Crosby in 2005, a silence shrouded Couturier in the first half of the year. Not with his on-ice play, but his availability off the ice. The star prospect was, for lack a better term, muted and made unavailable for media interviews.

"At the beginning of the season, he didn't struggle, but he had a little bit of a hard time with the media situation, because he's an introverted guy," Drummondville head coach Mario Duhamel said.

Duhamel continued to

describe his star player as a quiet kid who keeps to himself in the dressing room and prefers to let his play do all the talking.

Eager to ensure that Couturier's discomfort did not become a larger issue, the Voltigeurs chose to step in, as Duhamel explained.

"It's a process we have with our marketing group here and his agent and they all decide which interview he's going to make and all that stuff," he said. "We've been working like this since day one. It's more for him, because Sean is a guy who will be there for everybody and never refuse anybody and so that's why we establish that process: To help him develop. We wanted to make sure that he wouldn't lose his focus because the first point is always to make sure he's ready to play hockey. It's a lot of stuff for a guy who is 17-years-old and now he's learned from that."

While the decision by the Voltigeurs and Couturier's agent was certainly unique, it is hard to argue with the results.

Couturier was not only successful in cracking Canada's World Junior squad, but he played a strong complimentary role as the team earned a silver medal.

Meanwhile, in the QMJHL, Couturier matched his previous season's output with 96 points, while playing in 10 fewer games. Although these numbers placed him fifth in league scoring, it is easy to imagine him winning his second straight league scoring title had he played the full season. In fact, Couturier boasted the best points-per-game of any CHL prospect eligible for the draft.

Despite these accomplishments, most have Couturier slipping out of the top spot as new challengers to the throne appear. Unlike past seasons where there was one or two players widely acknowledged prior to the draft as being head and shoulders above the rest, this season's draft appears to be wide open. It remains to be seen if Couturier's media availability for most of the year will have any bearing on when he is selected on draft day. It is likely that teams will ask him about the situation, both at the Draft Combine and in private interviews, but whatever the case, it definitely puts the phrase 'letting your play speak for itself' to the test. **FC**

By Kevin Forbes

Entering into the 2010-11 season, Sean Couturier was thought by most to be the front-runner to go first overall in the 2011 NHL Entry Draft.

After all, the Drummondville Voltigeurs forward had just come off a season that saw him tie for the QMJHL's scoring lead as an under-ager. As the QMJHL season began, all eyes were on Couturier and not even a fight with mononucleosis over the off-season was expected to slow the six-foot-four centre down.

But with the prospect of being the first QMJHL player selected first overall since Sidney

IT'S A LOT OF STUFF FOR A
A GUY WHO IS 17-YEARS-OLD
AND NOW HE'S LEARNED FROM THAT.

-Marie Duhamel

“We have all nine of those guys ranked in the top five rounds”

-Kim Houston Central Scouting

By Kevin Forbes

At the 2010 NHL Entry Draft, the Portland Winterhawks turned heads by not only featuring two of the first five players drafted, but by also having eight players in total selected from their roster over the course of the draft.

Amazingly, another team looks primed to put a similar stranglehold on the upcoming 2011 NHL Draft. With seven players ranked by Future Considerations and four of those players challenging to be first round selections, the QMJHL's Saint John Sea Dogs are looking to reign supreme on draft day.

Much has already been written about Saint John's 'Big Four', including: Jonathan Huberdeau and Zach Phillips tripling their rookie season output to finish among the league leaders in scoring, Tomas Jurco's highlight-reel shootout goals that have made him a YouTube sensation and Nathan Beaulieu's workhorse play—not just this year as a draft eligible—but also last year as an underager. The presence of these four potential first-rounders, as well as Saint John's dominance of the QMJHL en route to the Memorial Cup Championship, made Harbour Station a must-visit destination for NHL scouts all season long.

But what effect did all this attention have on the other five draft-eligible players on the Sea Dogs? For forwards Scott Oke, Ryan Tesink, Jason Cameron and Aidan Kelly, as well as defenseman Gabriel Bourrett, opinions are mixed on whether playing a smaller role for such a strong and deep team like the Sea Dogs will help or hin-

der them when draft day rolls around.

“I think that if they were playing on another team, they might get more ice time and be more exposed,” said one QMJHL scout. “Right now, I think a lot of the problem with some of those players is that they do have talent, but (they have not been) developed as much as they might (have been) if they were on a weaker team playing a larger role.”

The scout explained further by using Scott Oke as an example.

“He's a big kid, he can skate, and he's got a good set of hands on him. But he (only gets) fourth line minutes and sometimes he's out of the line-up. You can't get a read on a guy that only plays seven minutes in a game.”

Central Scouting's Kim Houston disagrees and is quick to note that playing on a team that already boasts a number of high profile draft-eligible players can only help a player lower down on the rankings. “For one, scouts are going to be at the rink, so they're not just going to looking at those top guys, they're going to be looking at the best players, so you're going to want to go out and have the best game that you can, every single night,” said Houston.

“We have all nine of those guys ranked in the top five rounds and every shift that they're on the ice, you can pretty much guarantee that they are going to be watched closely as to what they can do and what they can't do.”

While there is no guarantee that all nine Sea Dogs will hear their names called on draft day, the extra exposure offered by a long playoff run and playing for the Memorial Cup can only help their chances. **FE**



By Brian Huddle

The name Ryan Murphy became something of a household name amongst hockey fans, thanks to infamous hockey broadcaster, Don Cherry. The spotlight of not only the hockey hotbed that is Kitchener, but prospect and draft nuts everywhere were focused on the Aurora native after Cherry claimed that 'Murph' would go number one.

"It was pretty cool," Murphy remarked. "I was on the bus, coming back from a playoff game in London last year, and I had about 36 messages on my phone from friends and family saying that Don Cherry was saying some stuff about me. This year I got a chance to meet him at the Top Prospects Game, which was pretty cool; he's a hockey god."

Selected third in the 2009 OHL Bantam Draft, the Rangers knew they had someone to be excited about. Murphy had honed his game with the York-Simcoe Express, before a brief stop with the Marlies.

"I had a great coach in Maurice Catenacci. I had a great team, with some fellow OHL Players; Daniel Catenacci, Barclay Goodrow, Steven Janes, Kyler Nixon, the list goes on. We had a great team, and the guys brought a lot of exposure."

Since coming to Kitchener, Murphy has become one of the most dynamic defenseman the Ontario Hockey League has seen in years. On Hockey Night in Canada, Cherry remarked that it was Rangers Head Coach, Steve Spott, who deserves credit.

"Why is he like that? It's because Steve [Spott] lets him go."

When Murphy skates the puck end to end, fans alike can't help but be eerily reminded of Bobby Orr; a likely reason for Cherry's affection on young Murphy. Considered the most skilled in the 2011 draft class amongst defenders, Murphy is a wild card coming into the June draft. With question marks around his size, some scouts wonder about his effectiveness to play a two-way game at the NHL level.

His game breaking skills, however, have him likely going near the top of the pack. A tremendous skater with off the chart hockey sense, Murphy reeks of high end potential for the team that calls his name from the Minnesota podium.

What impresses fans most about Murphy is his continual drive and determination to getting better. After a successful rookie season where Murphy was second only to now-

"I had about 36 messages on my phone from friends and family saying that Don Cherry was saying some stuff about me."

Columbus Blue Jackets blueliner, John Moore, Murphy has led the Rangers from the back end all year, finishing only second to Ryan Ellis in OHL Defenseman Scoring.

"He can really handle the puck and control the pace of the game from the back end. On the power play he's such a tremendous asset for any team, especially for us these past two seasons," teammate and fellow 2011 draft eligible Gabriel Landeskog remarked about Ryan.

"I'm a young player," Murphy explained. "I'm an offensive defenseman; I'm going to have to put a lot of weight on if I want to play in the NHL in the next couple of years."

"You know, off the ice I can't say enough about how great a guy he is," Landeskog once more explained. "He's one of those guys in the dressing room that really puts a smile on our faces everyday;

he has some great jokes for us.

He's been a huge part of our hockey club, so far, and he's a great friend of mine." **FC**



MURPHY CHERRY'S
CHERRY ON TOP

A LOOK AT THE BLUEPRINT OF THE NHL'S NEXT BIOMONSTER

By Aaron Vickers

Keep your head up.

It's what opposing Western Hockey League forwards have learned when coming down the wing against the Saskatoon Blades.

More specifically: Duncan Siemens.

Siemens, ranked 11th in Future Considerations' final ranking for the 2011 NHL Entry Draft, will not hesitate to throw the body around.

"My style is more of a shutdown defenseman, hard to play against, physical," Siemens said. "I like to contribute offensively as best I can but (I'm) definitely more of a shutdown defenseman that plays with an edge."

Or his fists, for that matter.

Siemens dropped the gloves seven times during his draft year. Eight if you count the dust up in the CHL Top Prospects Game against fellow draft eligible David Musil.

"I'm definitely willing to go out there and by all means protect a teammate at any point in time," the six-foot-two, 190-pounder said.

His bench boss agreed.

"He's a player that will never back down," Blades head coach Lorne Molleken said. "He's a player that will always stick up for his teammates."

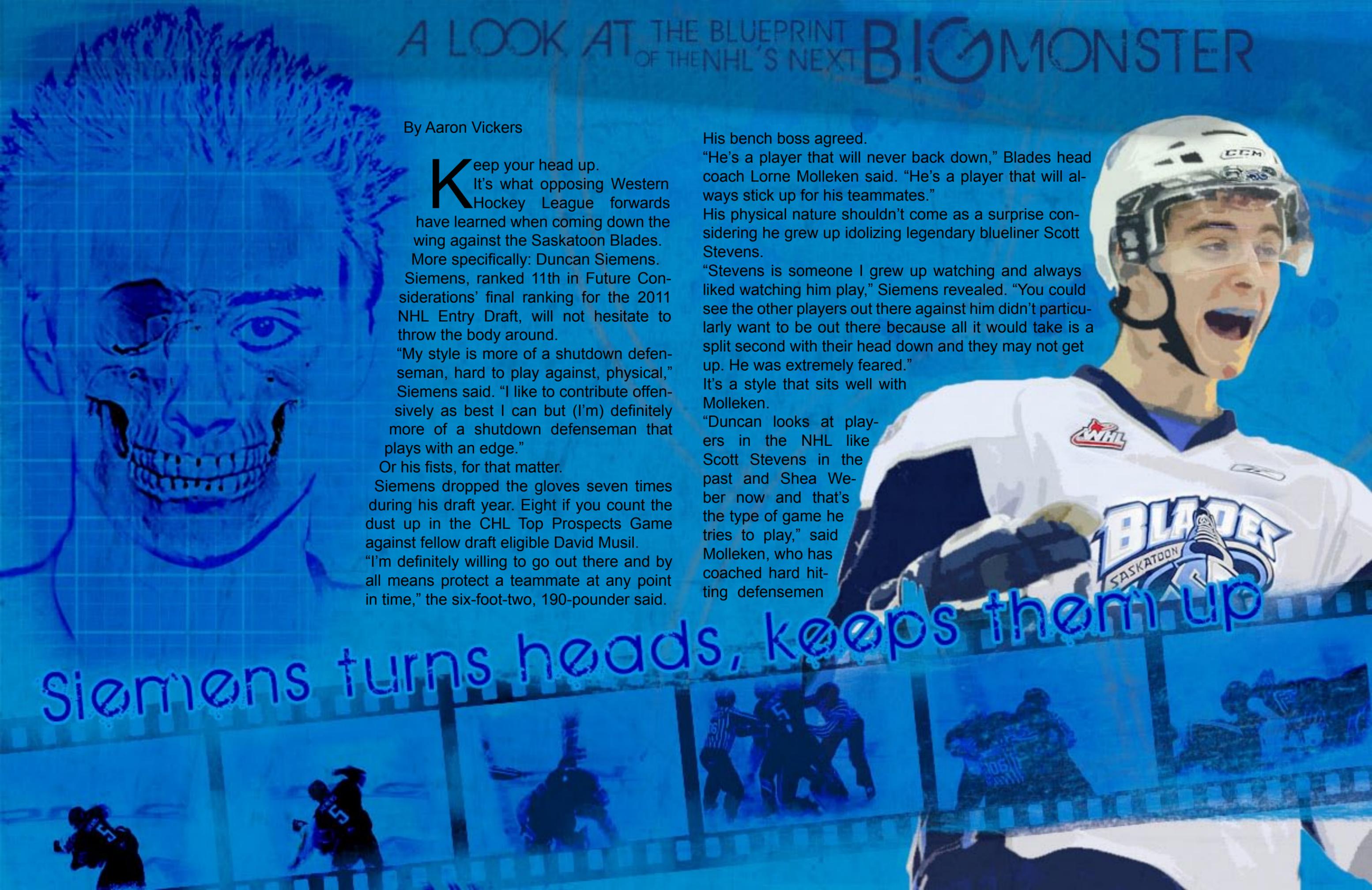
His physical nature shouldn't come as a surprise considering he grew up idolizing legendary blueliner Scott Stevens.

"Stevens is someone I grew up watching and always liked watching him play," Siemens revealed. "You could see the other players out there against him didn't particularly want to be out there because all it would take is a split second with their head down and they may not get up. He was extremely feared."

It's a style that sits well with Molleken.

"Duncan looks at players in the NHL like Scott Stevens in the past and Shea Weber now and that's the type of game he tries to play," said Molleken, who has coached hard hitting defensemen

Siemens turns heads, keeps them up



such as Rhett Warrener, Wade Belak, Cory Sarich and Barret Jackman. "When he does he's very successful."

But the native of Sherwood Park, AB doesn't just lead the physical brigade on the ice. Voted to be an assistant captain in September, Siemens instead handed off the letter to teammate Stefan Elliott, who arrived back in Saskatoon after being a late cut of the Colorado Avalanche.

The idea was automatic for Siemens.

"Stefan is a tremendous leader on this hockey club," he said.

"We weren't expecting him back. We thought he had a

good chance of sticking where he was at and

he was well deserving of being recognized

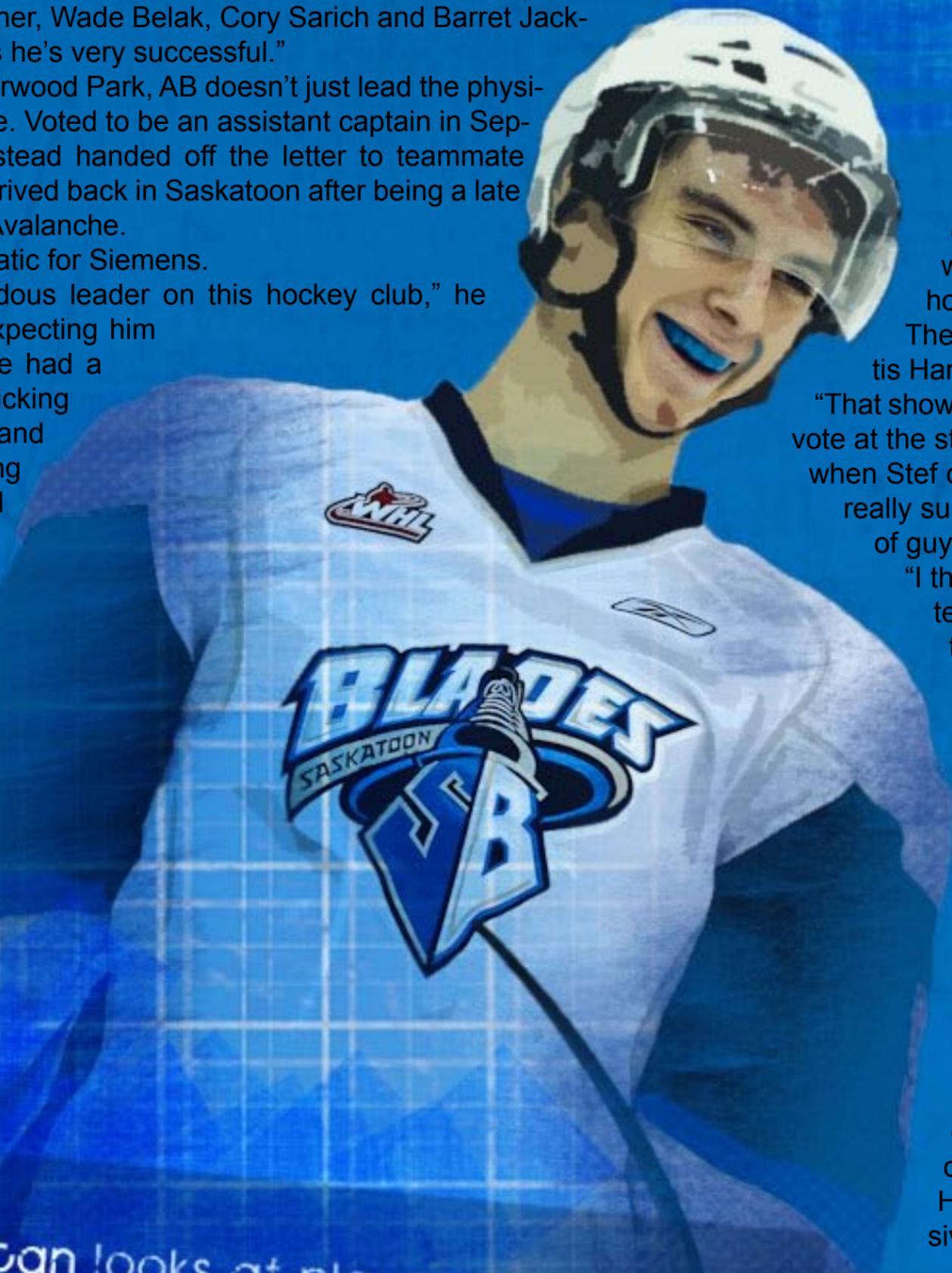
as a leader. Being only 17 I may

have some more time left with

the Saskatoon Blades

and have some time

to represent my



team as a leader. This is a very good chance that this is his last year with the club and in the league so I decided it would be appropriate to give him that honour."

The gesture was not lost on teammate Curtis Hamilton.

"That showed a lot," Hamilton said. "We had a team vote at the start of the year and he was voted in and when Stef came, Dunc stepped up and we weren't really surprised by it because that's just the kind of guy he is."

"I think it speaks volumes about his character," added Molleken. "He's a young guy that puts his team first."

First is where Siemens helped put his team in the WHL regular season standings, and it wasn't based on strong defensive play and leadership alone.

The rugged blueliner recorded 38 assists and 43 points while playing in all 72 games this year. Not bad for a shutdown defenseman.

"We encourage him and the rest of our defensemen to get involved offensively and he's very capable of it, Molleken said. "He can rush the puck. He sees the ice very well. There's areas of the game he needs to work on and he's very committed to that."

He's had an excellent tutor in the offensive end in Elliott, who was named the

My style is
more of a
shutdown
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hard to play against,
physical!

-Duncan Siemens

WHL's top defenseman this season.

"I think this year he's come out of his shell," Hamilton said. "He gets the chance to play with Elliott who is a premiere offensive defenseman. When he gets the chance he's got some good offensive skills too."

Still, Siemens feels there's room for improvement before he can wreak havoc at both ends of the rink.

"Puck handling and offensive skill are something I need to improve in my game," Siemens admitted. "I wouldn't say they're underrated by any means, but maybe it's not as noticeable due to the fact I do play a fairly physical game." And if he's able to round out those skills, he'll force opposing goalies to keep their heads up as well. **FC**

Duncan looks at players in the NHL like Scott Stevens in the past and Shea Weber now and that's the type of game he tries to play

-Lorne Molleken

DRAFT HYPE DOESN'T BOTHER MCNEILL

“I’m a power forward, big body and like to play at both ends of the rink”

-Mark McNeill

Forgive Prince Albert Raiders forward Mark McNeill if he hasn’t got caught up in all the hype surrounding the 2011 NHL Entry Draft.

He’s too busy enjoying it.

Unlike many prospects, the six-foot-one, 205-pound centre hasn’t been kept up late at night worrying about his draft status. In fact, he’s having fun with it.

“It’s something you really get up for, with a lot of scouts in the stands,” McNeill said. “You like to show yourself.”

That’s just what the Edmonton, AB. native accomplished in Prince Albert this season.

Though he wasn’t able to help guide the Raiders out of the first round of the Western Hockey League playoffs, McNeill exceeded everyone’s expectations by finishing with 32 goals and 81 points in 70 games. Not too shabby for a player who went into the season hoping to hit the 60-point plateau.

A potential first round pick in September, McNeill’s play has made him a virtual lock to hear his name called in the upper half of the first round in Minnesota.

It’s already earned him a couple of special invites this season.

In January, McNeill was invited as one of 40 draft eligible prospects to the Canadian Hockey League’s 2011 Top Prospects Game at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto. While his Team Cherry was drubbed 7-1 by Team Orr, the experience was just another that McNeill has savored from his draft year.

“It was definitely a circus but it was a hell of an experience,” McNeill said. “Getting the opportunity to play with the top prospects from all three CHL leagues across Canada and even having Don Cherry as a coach and in the dressing room was a great experience.”

It wasn’t his only experience.

McNeill represented Canada at the World Under-18 Championship in Germany in April.

Though Canada’s fourth place outcome wasn’t as favourable as Future Considerations’ 12th ranked prospect would have liked, McNeill finished with a respectable six assists in seven games.

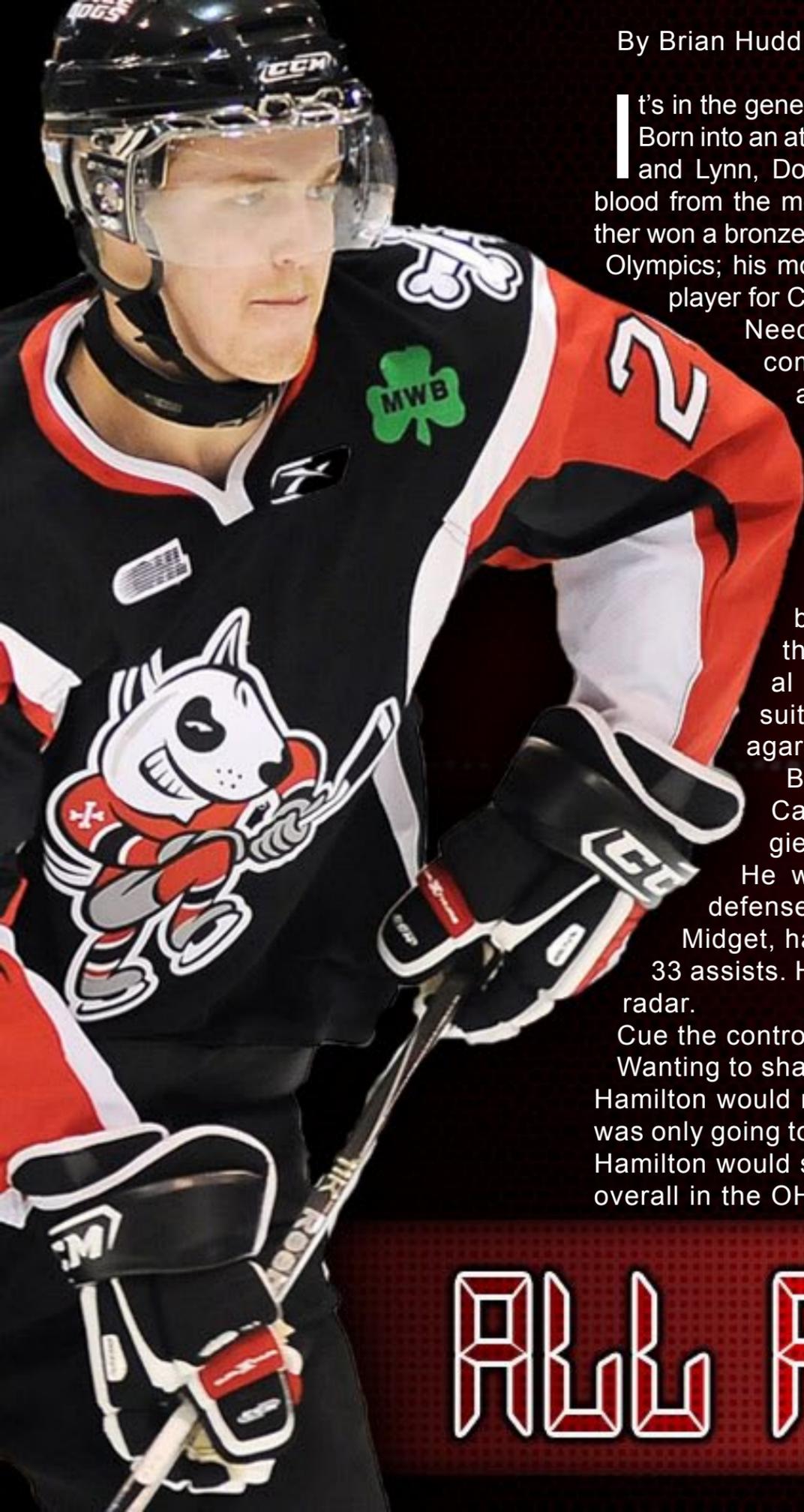
Still, it won’t be a performance McNeill is satisfied with. Regardless of situation, the former Mac’s Midget Tournament MVP is always striving to deliver something extra.

“I always expect more out of myself,” he said earlier in the year.

It’s what he’s delivered all season long. After starting out ranked 30th, the self-described two-way power forward hasn’t been below 15th in 2011.

And that’s something McNeill can have fun with. **FC**





By Brian Huddle

It's in the genes.

Born into an athletic family, the son of Doug and Lynn, Dougie Hamilton had it in his blood from the moment he was born. His father won a bronze medal in rowing at the 1984 Olympics; his mother an Olympic basketball player for Canada.

Needless to say, Hamilton comes from a bloodline of athleticism.

Dougie, and brother Freddie decided to use that background, jumping into Canada's national pastime. All these years later and the two brothers are both well onto their way to their National Hockey League dreams, suiting up nightly with the Niagara IceDogs.

But the journey began in St. Catharines, ON. where Dougie played for the Falcons.

He was a highly sought after defenseman coming out of minor Midget, having scored 20 goals and 33 assists. Hamilton was on the OHL's radar.

Cue the controversy.

Wanting to share the ice with his brother, Hamilton would make it quite clear that he was only going to Niagara. Because of this, Hamilton would slip to the IceDogs at 27th overall in the OHL's Priority Draft. The se-

lection has paid huge dividends in Niagara.

He's garnering a pile of attention in the next draft he'll go through – the NHL Entry Draft.

And with just cause too.

“Big, complete defenseman,” said Hamilton, ranked sixth overall by Future Considerations. “I play well in all three zones. I think I'm a sneaky offensive player, and physical down low.”

Not to mention he's a workhorse.

“Probably the most (impressive thing) is

“Well he's a competitor; he wants to score, he wants to win”

- Mike Van Ryn

just how fit he is and how long he can play,” Niagara assistant coach Mike Van Ryn, added. “His game doesn't seem to trail off. I mean, we play him an awful lot.”

The six-foot-four defenseman draws comparisons to the same blueliner he tries to model his game after - Jay Bouwmeester. A teammate of Bouwmeester's in Florida, Van Ryn can't help but see the similarities

between the two.

And while there are still some questions about his offensive potential at the NHL level, teams still see a defensively solid blueliner in the Toronto, ON. native.

They also see a winner.

“Well he's a competitor; he wants to score, he wants to win,” Van Ryn said. “He takes a lot of pride in taking care of himself.”

Not only physically, but Hamilton also takes good care of his mind.

A smart kid in the classroom, Hamilton won the Ivan Tennant award in his rookie season as the OHL's Top Academic high school student. A year later, Hamilton won the Bobby Smith Award, awarded to the OHL's scholastic player of the year; Hamilton clocked in at a 94 per cent average.

And while that may impress NHL teams, Hamilton knows being selected on draft day will be all about what he can bring on the ice.

And what he's shown.

“It's been the same thing all season long; just keep it simple, be physical, and show my skills,” Hamilton said about his draft season.

Ranked no lower than sixth since November, it is plainly obvious that Hamilton has impressed by keeping things simple and physical.

And rated as one of the top defensemen available in the upcoming draft, Hamilton is giving fellow blueliners a run for their money. **FC**

ALL ABOUT THE HAMILTON

By Dan Stewart

Most promising NHL prospects have certain characteristics in common with each other to aid in their bids to make their dream of playing pro hockey a reality.

Some have athletic genes passed down from a parent or other family member, some have impressive physical size to build upon, many have local trainers and hockey programs at their fingertips from a very early age in and most potential NHL prospects come from a demographic where hockey is a way of life.

For 2011 NHL Entry Draft hopeful Rocco Grimaldi, these blessings were not available to him like they were to so many of his current teammates with the United States Development Program in Ann Arbor, MI.

Grimaldi is a big underdog, which is ironic because it may be the only time he's referred to as big.

Raised in the community of Rossmoor (Orange County) in Southern California, Grimaldi did not live in an area where hockey was seen as a prime sport both professionally and as a youth activity. A warm climate year round, the main youth activities are typically soccer, baseball, football, basketball and volleyball with niche sports like roller hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse not as prevalent.

Couple that with his lack of size at just five-foot-six and the fact that at 17 he is already taller than his parents and the rest of his family, you can take it to the bank that he will not grow into the prototypical six-foot plus frame many top NHL prospects are both blessed with and take for granted.

With these hurdles standing in his way, Future Considerations' nineteenth ranked prospect for the draft does have one thing that has helped overcome all of it.

Heart.

And plenty of it.

Always the hardest worker on every team he has

played on since he first laced up his skates in both roller and ice hockey at the age of four, Grimaldi knows that work ethic, along with his impressive offensive talent, is what will ultimately get him to where he wants to be.

"I work hard every time I hit the ice and try to get my team going with how hard I work," he said.

He partners that hard work with another key characteristic to his success.

Faith.

"Hockey is a great way for me to share my faith as I have had many opportunities to share with teammates, coaches, roommates at camps, etcetera," admitted Grimaldi, a devout Christian.

Teens and young kids can be ostracized when they choose to walk a different road than their peers but the Auburn Hills, MI. native says it is all part of living for God.

"I do get made fun of here and there but its just good and fun. (My Teammates) respect me because of it; they don't understand how I can (live for God), stay clean, pure and everything," said Grimaldi, who aspires to be a pastor upon completion of his hockey career. "When they need help or prayer they always come to me for it. I think its great because I have the answer: Christ."

Grimaldi has had plenty of support from his family both spiritually and in his love for the game over the years. Grimaldi was able to remain with his supportive family while making moves to elite hockey programs that helped his development, a rare situation in the hockey world which often sees young teen boys leaving home and staying with billet families to further their chance at a professional career in the sport.

When Grimaldi was 12, his mother Sue, father Rocco Sr. along with his sister Niccole picked up and moved to Michigan to help their son's chances of playing competitive hockey.

"My parents made the move with me and be there for me so the transition was smooth. Moving to Michigan was the second greatest decision in my life after accepting Christ," Grimaldi offered.

Grimaldi played his Bantam and Midget hockey with Detroit Little Ceasers before joining the United States Development Program and the Under-17 squad last year where he played big minutes and a leading role in multiple international tournaments and against United States Hockey League competition.

The future University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux forward has enjoyed many on-ice successes throughout his young career but really enjoyed his breakout performance at last years World Under-17 Challenge in Timmins, ON. in front of an arena full of NHL scouts. Grimaldi led all scorers in that tournament with 14 points in six contests in helping his American squad take home the gold medal against all the best players in his age group.

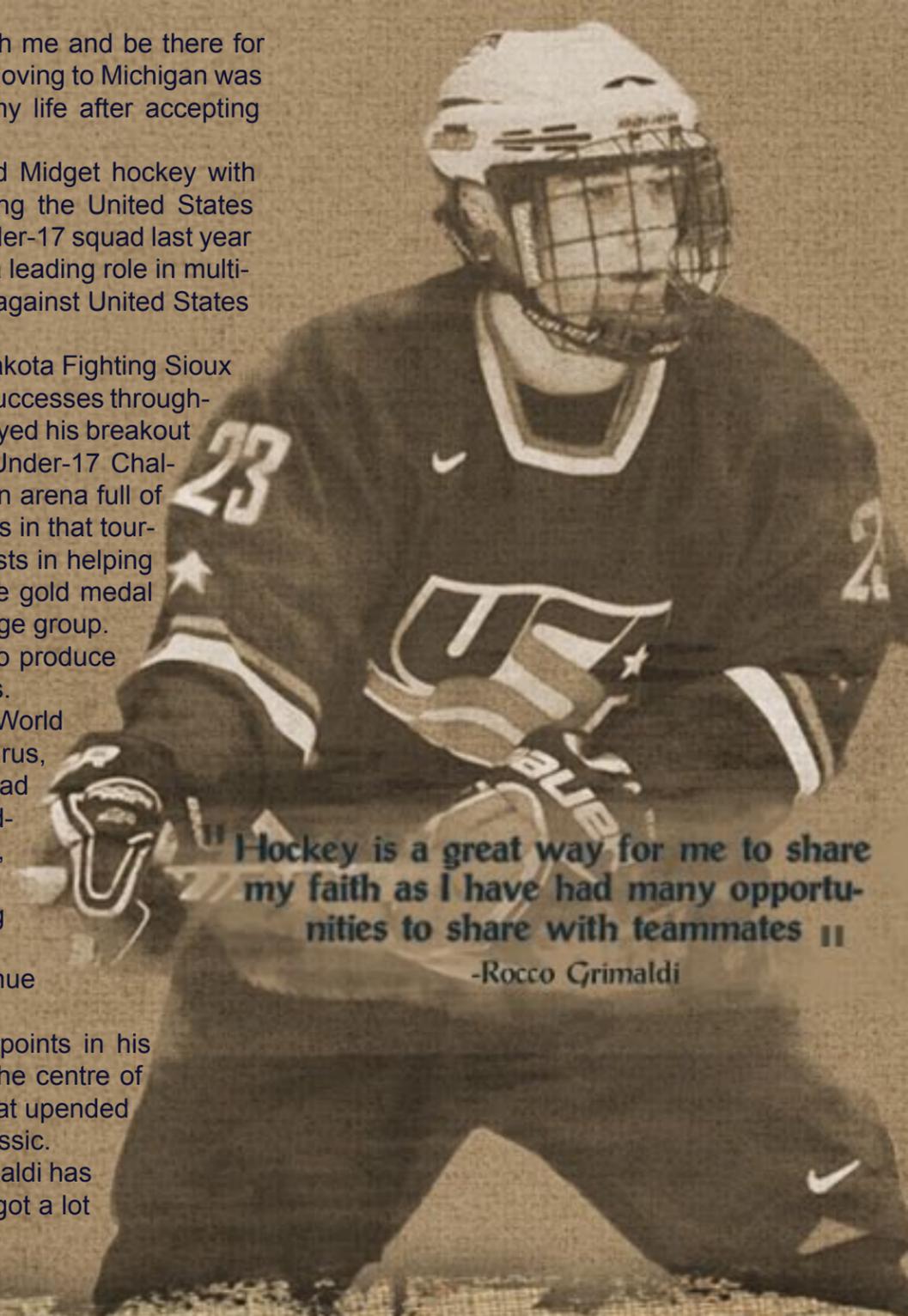
All he's done since is continue to produce internationally for the United States.

As an underager at the 2010 World Under-18 Championship in Belarus, Grimaldi guided his American squad to a second consecutive gold medal. With 10 points in seven games, Grimaldi finished tied for sixth in total tournament points despite being just 16.

A year later and a different venue produced the same result.

Though he recorded just eight points in his second go around, Grimaldi was the centre of attention for an American squad that upended Sweden for gold in an overtime classic.

And with performances that Grimaldi has put forth in his young career, he's got a lot of people believing in him. **FC**



"Hockey is a great way for me to share my faith as I have had many opportunities to share with teammates"

-Rocco Grimaldi

Faith Powers Grimaldi's Draft Dream

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#1



No. 1
RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS

POSITION: Centre

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Red Deer (WHL)

BORN: April 12, 1993

VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 165 Lbs

STATS: 69 GP 31 G 75 A 106 PTS 51 PIM +30



Strengths: Skating is very advanced as he generates loads of speed with his quick feet in just a few explosive strides. Lateral agility and quickness make him elusive to defenders and hard to contain coming off the wall. Has ultra soft hands that are both quick and highly entertaining to watch. A game breaking talent who can take the puck to the net, wire a shot from the outside or draw a defender to himself before dishing a seeing-eye pass through skates to an open teammate. Applies great backpressure defensively and takes away more than his share of pucks in doing so. Has arguably the best vision and hockey sense in the entire draft. Shot is NHL sniper quality as he is highly accurate and has a split second release. Makes strong accurate tape-to-tape passes but can also feather a nice touch pass when needed. Is the prospect with the highest offensive ceiling in the entire draft.

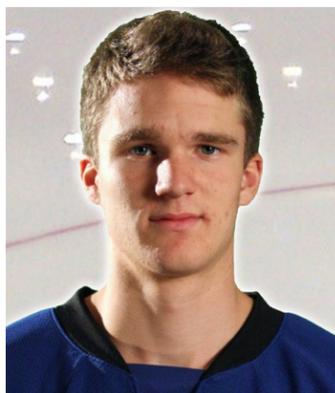
Weaknesses: Will never be a physical forward as his frame is just not going to be able to add that much mass. Slight frame is really the only thing that will likely keep him from playing productive minutes in the NHL next season. The team that drafts Nugent-Hopkins would be best served to show some patience and send him back to Major Junior to allow him to gain strength and fill out his frame.

Notes: Nugent-Hopkins was impressive over the summer at the Ivan Hlinka tournament scoring the only goal in the gold medal game against the Americans to give Canada the championship. Was the top performer at the summer's NHL Research and Development camp as noted by most NHL scouts and GM's in attendance. Started the WHL year by scoring just 14 goals in his first 49 games and had some scouts worried that this sniper was not sniping before Nugent-Hopkins deciding to shoot the puck more and finishing the year off strong with 17 tallies in 20 contests.

NHL Potential: Franchise playmaking centre.

RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS

No. 2

JONATHAN HUBERDEAU**POSITION:** Centre**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Saint John (QMJHL)**BORN:** June 4, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-1.5" / 170 Lbs**STATS:** 67 GP 43 G 62 A 105 PTS 88 PIM +59

Strengths: Has a long smooth skating stride that generated a nice amount of speed and power. Is balanced and strong on his feet and is able to stay on the puck without getting knocked off easily. Has electric hands that can make highlight reel plays through traffic and when engaging defenders one-on-one. Long reach helps him control the puck and he is confident with the puck on his blade. Possesses elite vision, awesome offensive creativity and a dogged drive in pursuit of the puck. Is able to make a seeing-eye pass through legs and sticks look easy. Displays high-end finishing skills and instincts around the net as he drives the puck into high scoring areas. Has a very strong snap and wrist shots that are both accurate and quick off his stick. Is intense, aggressive and always involved in the play. Has unbelievable maturity, character and is consistently one of the hardest working players. Not at all selfish on the ice and is a real team player. Is soft spoken but at the same time shows a willingness to speak his mind and motivate when needed. Can play a confident, effective game at centre or on the wing.

Weaknesses: Skinny as a European runway model. Lacks strength right now but has a good frame to add another 20-30 pounds of muscle too. Tries to play a well rounded game as his maturity and work ethic are strong but lacks understanding of where to be when the opposition has the puck. Not a bruiser physically but has the attitude and competitiveness to play a more physical game, especially in puck battles along the wall, when he gains much needed strength.

Notes: Huberdeau has made a big jump over the past 12 months, going from likely second rounder to ranked second overall. Exploded offensively for Saint John as he put up over two points-per-game and led the Sea Dogs to a Memorial Cup berth.

NHL Potential: Top line offensive centre.

#2

Himo

**JONATHAN HUBERDEAU**

#3



GABRIEL LANDESKOG

No. 3

GABRIEL LANDESKOG**POSITION:** Right Wing**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Kitchener (OHL)**BORN:** November 23, 1992**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 205 Lbs**STATS:** 53 GP 36 G 30 A 66 PTS 61 PIM +27

Strengths: Is a well grounded kid who exudes character and a great work ethic both on and off the ice. Not the biggest or oldest kid on Kitchener but teammates look up to him. Is willing and able to stand up for his teammates physically by dropping the gloves or laying out an opponent with a big hit when required. Shows a veteran discipline and picks his spots. Always finishes checks and plays with a high level of grit, intensity and determination. Skates well with good balance and has a healthy top gear as well as strong, tight turning edge work. Shoots the puck from anywhere with an accurate, quick wrister and has good hands around the net. Makes strong passes that hit the mark more often than not but is a finisher through and through. Physically is the most NHL ready as he already has a pro-style frame.

Weaknesses: Lacks that the high-end ability and offensive creativity that you want in a top line scoring winger. While he will complement a high-end scorer, he will likely never become one himself in the NHL. Will put up points in Major Junior with no problems but is not projected to have similar production in the NHL. Skating could also use some help as his first few steps are on the sluggish side.

Notes: Landeskog has made a few waves in his young career by first becoming the youngest player to ever suit up in the Swedish Elite League as a 16-year-old then as the first import captain for the Kitchener Rangers throughout their storied history.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.

No. 4

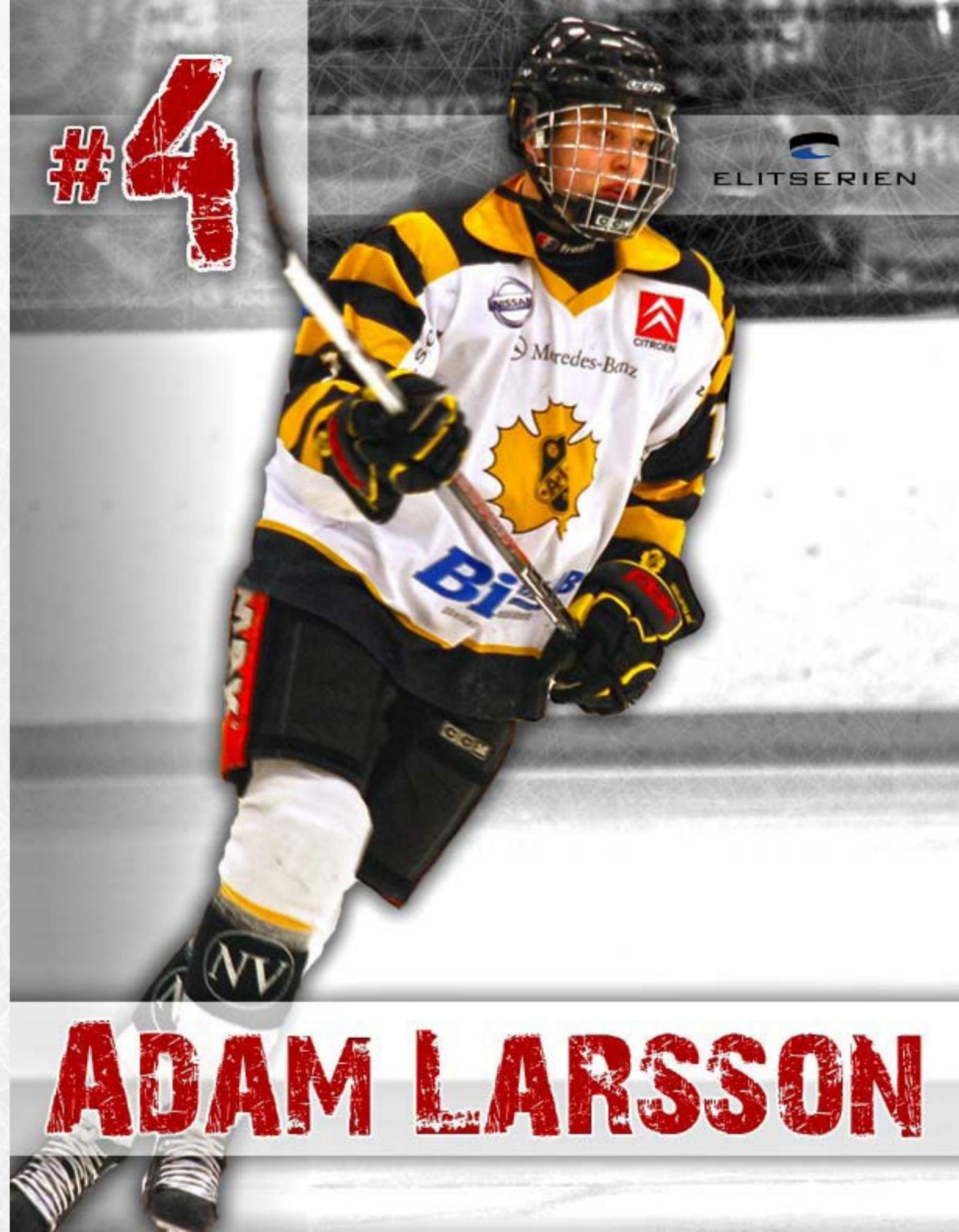
ADAM LARSSON**POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Right**TEAM:** Skelleftea (Sweden)**BORN:** November 21, 1992**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 205 Lbs**STATS:** 37 GP 1 G 8 A 9 PTS 41 PIM +12

Strengths: Has the ability to make the smart, simple and effective plays consistently. Skates well especially for his size and shows excellent all-encompassing mobility. Does not look like he is moving fast or playing with much intensity until he needs to then he can really show off his speed and acceleration. Often when looked beaten in the defensive zone shows that ability to recover using his speed, size and active stick. Handles the puck well and keeps his head up looking for his options when the puck is on his stick. Willing to jump into the play as an offensive weapon but does so when safe and not at the expense of his defensive duties. Has a hard and accurate point shot that he utilizes as either a shot or slap pass. Strong on his man using his size, solid positioning and an active stick to disrupt defensively.

Weaknesses: Consistency has been an area lacking this season. Some games has looked like the all-world defender many think he will be while other times his play looked as though he might end up a fringe NHLer at best. Coughing up pucks in the defensive zone and making bad decisions because of the pressure he was facing from forecheckers. Not a flashy player and will not be a big point producer at the next level nor is he projected to be that physical as his demeanor is that of a gentle giant.

Notes: Many casual observers noted that Larsson's production decreased from his previous season in the Swedish Elite League and assumed that he must have taken a set backwards in his development. Nothing could be further from the truth as his drop in production stems from his power play minutes being cut back in an effort to get the teams offensive rearguard David Rundblad more time on the man advantage.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top pairing two-way defenseman.

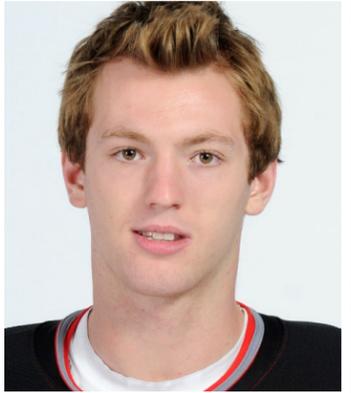


ADAM LARSSON

#5



No. 5
SEAN COUTURIER
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Drummondville (QMJHL)
BORN: December 7, 1992
VITALS: 6'-4" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 58 GP 36 G 60 A 96 PTS 36 PIM +55



Strengths: Possesses very impressive height and an imposing frame to continue to build strength upon. Should top out at about six-foot-five and 225-pounds in the NHL as a two-way centre and top penalty killer. Skating is not as bad as most media have made it out to be. Gets to where he needs to, when he needs to. Protects the puck extremely well with his soft hands and frame. Sees the ice better than most and is a superb playmaker, dishing passes that are accurate and timely. Has nice hockey sense and is very defensively aware even when he goes on the offensive attack. Competes in all three zones and wins most puck battles, offensively and defensively. Shot is an absolute rocket although he tends to gravitate to being more of a set-up guy who looks for the open man before unleashing his cannon as a second option.

Weaknesses: Is slow in transition because of some heavy boots and although his straight line speed is fine, his looping turns and slow acceleration is subpar. Tends to be a little passive at times when others push back. Lacks consistency in his intensity. Offensive game is neither flashy nor explosive.

Notes: Couturier, the only draft eligible player to represent Canada at the World Junior Championship, came away from the QMJHL awards banquet with a plethora of accolades including the Michel Briere Trophy as the league's best player and the Mike Bossy Trophy as the top prospect for the NHL draft as well as being named a first team all-star.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six two-way centre.



SEAN COUTURIER

No. 6

DOUGIE HAMILTON**POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Right**TEAM:** Niagara (OHL)**BORN:** June 17, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-4.5" / 195 Lbs**STATS:** 67 GP 12 G 46 A 58 PTS 77 PIM +35

Strengths: A very large frame and swift feet are a combination that do not always go together, Hamilton is an exception. Skates like the wind with a very long powerful stride that covers loads of ice in a small amount of time. Has great edge work and agility for such a big guy, moving as though he is a 5-6 forward and not a 6-5 defenseman. Is a constant physical presence using his large and still growing body and shows a willingness to throw clean open ice hits now and then. Makes attacker think twice about coming in the zone on his side as he uses a long reach and physical element to stop the rush. Jumps into the offensive zone aggressively and often times becoming that fourth forward. Has a nice shot that is both hard and accurate. Transitions the puck from defense to offense very quickly. Has good character and is a very coachable player. Likes the puck on his stick and is a threat to go end to end at any moment.

Weaknesses: Has a tendency to want to take the game over too much and can start running around his own zone and getting out of position as well as shooting to deep in the offensive zone and getting trapped on a quick transition. Needs to add some upper and lower body strength to his currently wirey frame. Some have questioned his decision making and long range passing ability but really it looks both should will improve as he matures and gets more comfortable in his role on the backend.

Notes: Sports and smarts seem to be two very important things in the Hamilton house. With both mom (Lynn) and dad (Doug) being former Olympic athletes while older brother Freddie is a teammate of Dougie's in Niagara. Hamilton was winner of the Bobby Smith Trophy for the OHL's Scholastic Player of the Year which was also won by brother Freddie two seasons ago.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top pairing two-way defenseman.

#6



DOUGIE HAMILTON

#7



No. 7

RYAN MURPHY**POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Right**TEAM:** Kitchener (OHL)**BORN:** March 31, 1993**VITALS:** 5'-10.5" / 165 Lbs**STATS:** 63 GP 26 G 53 A 79 PTS 36 PIM +22

Strengths: Offensive flash and dash. Uses his smooth fleet feet to get up and down the ice in a flash. Has great lateral agility and quickness that gives him the dash. A dynamic offensive talent who is a threat to go end-to-end each and every time he touches the puck. The draft's best skater is blessed with a smooth strong stride which generates deceptive speed. Can turn on a dime and change pace or direction in a blink. Is an elusive skater who is hard to hit or even get a stick on to contain. Has some outstanding vision and anticipation which allows him to be an extremely dangerous passer as well as puck rusher. Has outstanding offensive creativity and will likely transition to one of the NHL's top puck movers. Works hard and plays the game with fire and intensity. Willing to throw his body around and has delivered some nice open ice hip checks this season. Has a bullet of a point shot that he gets off quickly and consistently puts on net. Defensively he uses his smarts, a quick and always active stick as well as solid positioning to hold off attackers as they enter the zone. Has game changing skills.

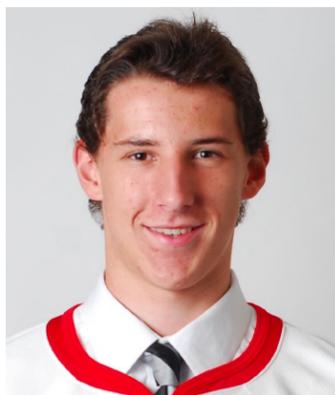
Weaknesses: Small and looks as though he is already close to a finished product physically with not much growth left. He is weak to 'ls weak and it really shows when he is engaged in puck battles along the wall or when he tries to clear the area around the net. You have to wonder about his durability to withstand the beating he will take against NHL sized forwards. Will need to learn that he can't just grab the puck and go at the next level but will have to pick his spots better or become an even more defensive liability.

Notes: After being cut from the Canadian U18 squad for the Ivan Hlinka Tournament in August, despite a dominating performance at the pre-camp in Calgary, Murphy came back and proceeded to play inspired hockey from October to April which earned him a spot with the Spring U18 squad at the IIHF World Championships. He was able to once again show scouts his dominant offensive abilities.

NHL POTENTIAL: Franchise offensive defenseman.

RYAN MURPHY

No. 8

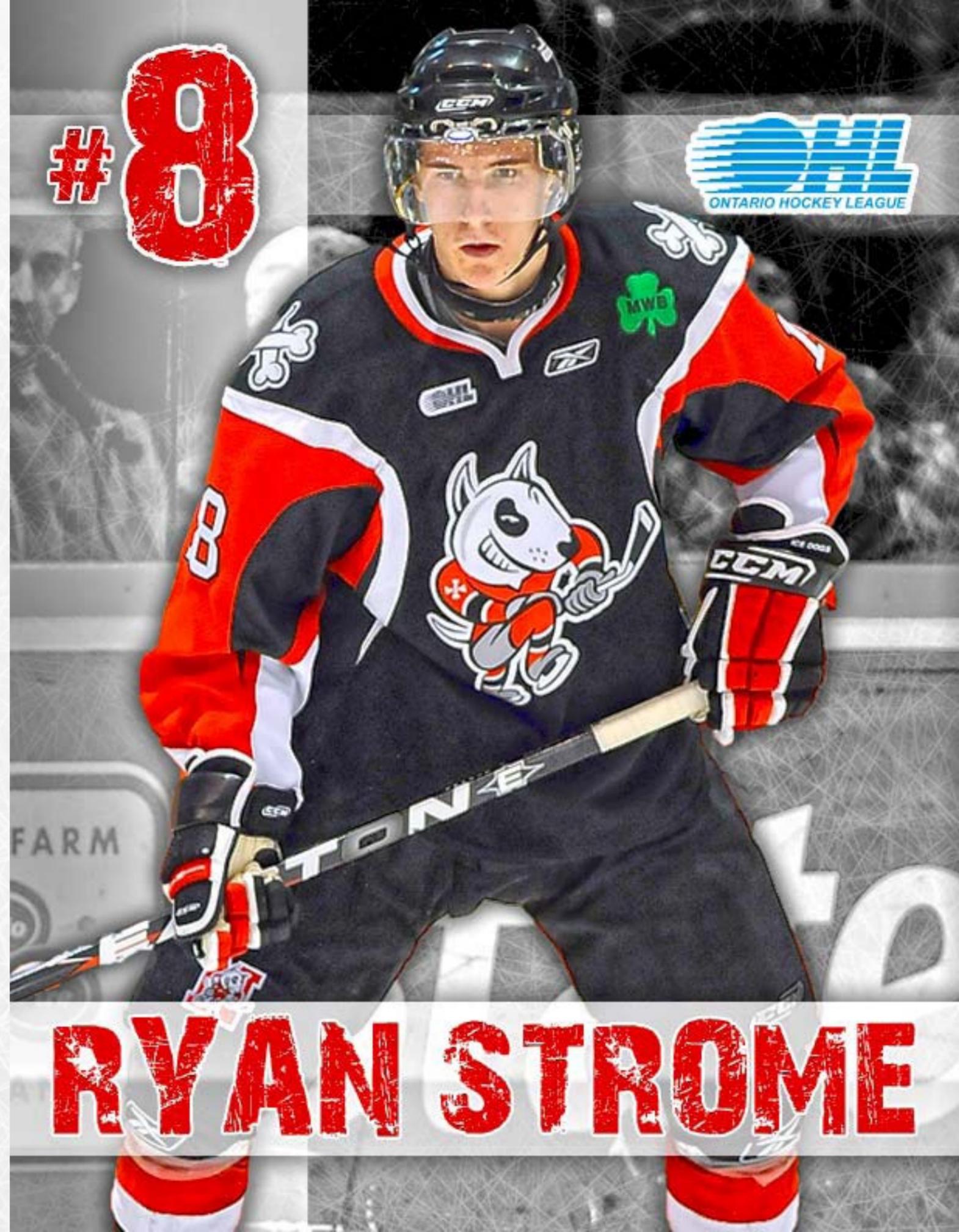
RYAN STROME**POSITION:** Centre**SHOOTS:** Right**TEAM:** Niagara (OHL)**BORN:** July 11, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 175 Lbs**STATS:** 65 GP 33 G 73 A 106 PTS 82 PIM +28

Strengths: A super skilled offensive player who can create his own scoring chance each time he touches the puck. A very solid skating centre and has unbelievable acceleration and can change direction in a blink with nice edge work. Strong lateral agility and change of pace add to his effectiveness when attacking the offensive zone. Has good vision and is a strong passer who has good timing and accuracy. Has very quick hands and is a constant threat to take the puck to the net. Has strong finishing abilities although he is more of a playmaker, but he possesses an accurate shot with a very quick release. Smart at finding lulls in coverage and gets his shots off consistently.

Weaknesses: Consistency in his effort level is an area that many would like to see improve as shift to shift you did not know what effort will be delivered. Despite his offensive outburst in the OHL this season his upside is not projected to be as high as either Nugent-Hopkins and Huberdeau. Needs to continue to pack on the muscle as he is still getting pushed off the puck and losing battles because of his lack of strength. Had a hard time in the playoffs, especially with Mississauga, as he was checked tighter and his production slipped.

Notes: After a summer of weight room training and adding strength to his previously skinny frame, Strome exploded out of the gate in 2010 and never looked back as put up a very impressive 106 points in the OHL. A few of his highlight reel type goals became some of the most watched YouTube videos this year.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top line offensive centre.



#9



No. 9

NATHAN BEAULIEU**POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Saint John (QMJHL)**BORN:** December 5, 1992**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 180 Lbs**STATS:** 65 GP 12 G 33 A 45 PTS 52 PIM +44

Strengths: A very nice two-way defenseman who blends size, skill and toughness. Skating is above average, nothing too special just gets to where he needs to. Has fine overall mobility and does not get burned on transition from backwards to forwards and vice versa. Gets involved at both ends of the ice. Is able to make strong breakout passes but also likes to carry the puck up ice himself. Very quick at transitioning the play from defense to offense. Mans the point well on the power play, specifically finding open lanes for passes and getting pucks towards the net. Likes to play the physical game and hit people especially when they enter his zone with their heads down. Willing to drop the gloves and is quite good in the fisticuffs department. Defensively he gets his body into lanes and uses an active stick. Shows a real willingness to pin his opponent to the board using his strength.

Weaknesses: Some had questioned on ice decision making earlier in the year but those concerns have been laid to rest due to his recent impressive play. Point shot is an area of concern as his backswing is far too long and it takes him a while to get his shot off but when he does he gets some decent velocity. Positioning and willingness to stay in position have been some points his detractors have made as well as his penchant for letting his emotions cloud his judgment on some occasions. Is a solid puck mover but he does not have near the creativity or soft hands that a Ryan Murphy possesses.

Notes: Participated in the World Junior development camp and the NHL's research, development and orientation camp last summer but after getting off to a slow start he missed out on a chance to represent Canada in Buffalo at the World Junior Championship. His father is current London Knight assistant and former Saint John Sea Dog General Manager Jacques Beaulieu.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.



NATHAN BEAULIEU

No. 10

MIKA ZIBANEJAD

POSITION: Centre/Right Wing

SHOOTS: Right

TEAM: Djurgardens (Sweden)

BORN: April 18, 1993

VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 190 Lbs

STATS: 26 GP 5 G 4 A 9 PTS 2 PIM +1



Strengths: A balanced wide leg skater who has a nice top speed that once he get it going is hard to stop or slow down. A power game and uses his strength and size to his advantage in both sides of the puck. Throws hits, has good energy and engages in battles all over the ice, usually coming out ahead. Hard to knock off the puck as he shields it with his reach and body positioning. Sees the ice well and makes chances for himself and his teammates by driving the puck to the net or getting one of his heavy and accurate shots on net. Can handle the puck but is not really a quick stick puck dangler but instead utilizing more of the strong power moves and positioning. Plays with some compete and real desire to win. Defensively he has some room to grow but is aware most of the time and does backcheck effectively. Should be a real beast once he adds another twenty pounds of muscle.

Weaknesses: Largest area that needs work in his game is his foot speed and overall quickness out of the gate. This is not considered something that will hold him back from getting to the next level but more of a small blemish to an overall impressive package and should be easily corrected. Could also use some added leg strength which will help his skating correct itself.

Notes: Born to Finnish and Iranian parents. Started off the year as a solid prospect in the books of most but it wasn't until the month of December that he became a must see prospect. He has been compared to Mats Sundin by some in the scouting community.

NHL POTENTIAL: First line offensive forward.



MIKA ZIBANEJAD

#11



DUNCAN SIEMENS

No. 11

DUNCAN SIEMENS**POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Saskatoon (WHL)**BORN:** September 7, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-2.5" / 190 Lbs**STATS:** 72 GP 5 G 38 A 43 PTS 121 PIM +40

Strengths: Has a smooth fluid skating stride that allows him to constantly be involved and not get beat because of a lack of mobility. Aggressive and intense on the ice, always looking to make an impactful play. Delivers the occasional devastating open ice hit and loves to plaster guys along the wall. Pins his check down and clears the greasy areas of his zone with authority. Has good defensive awareness, strong positional play and likes the hard nosed style of game. Willing and more than able to drop the gloves with anyone who will take him on. Has great size for his style of game and uses it to get into lanes and block shots. Shows good poise when pressured and doesn't get rattled by a hard forecheck. Incorporates his long reach and an active stick to control his side of the ice. Has some offensive upside as well with a strong outlet pass, nice vision and a willingness to join the rush when it is safe to do so.

Weaknesses: Skinny wirey strong frame needs to add another 25-pounds of muscle to reach his ideal playing weight. Point shot is still a work in progress as he takes far too much backswinging allowing his shooting lane to close up. Seems to go through those times where he makes bad decisions with the puck and turns it over which has led to some questioning his upside.

Notes: One of the youngest prospects eligible for the draft as if he were eight days older he would be a top 2012 prospect. Played in the CHL Top Prospects Game where they tell these kids to just play their game. Duncan did just that when he made his biggest impression with his toughness, roughing up Sven Bartschi, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and fighting David Musil.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way physical defenseman.

No. 12
MARK MCNEILL
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)
BORN: February 22, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 205 Lbs
STATS: 70 GP 32 G 49 A 81 PTS 53 PIM -4



Strengths: The big bodied centre has really moved up the rankings quickly this season. Has great size and frame to build even more strength. Already manhandles other Dub kids with his brute strength. Has very good speed and balance on his feet for such a big guy. Protects the puck very well with his body and strength. Exceptional hockey sense and understanding of his role and duties on the ice. Plays the game with hustle and grit each and every shift. Can be almost impossible to stop coming off the wall and driving to the net for a scoring chance. Has a strong two-way game as he is responsible in all three zones. Strong on the faceoff and is the guy you want on the ice in the last minute of a close game to defend the lead. A willing fighter who had a few bouts before word got around that he was not a guy to mess around with. Plays a pretty physical north-south game where he hits hard and battles for loose pucks. Has good offensive creativity and a hard shot that really compliments his game.

Weaknesses: Has not shown a great deal of high-end flashy offensive skill but is more of a consistent meat and potatoes kind of guy. Might be a more ideal expectation to forecast him as a strong second line centre and solid penalty kill guy more so than a first line centre that can carry a team offensively. He is a risk reward type of prospect this high in the draft as he could become the next Ryan Getzlaf or just a really good third liner. Has a slow first few steps that could use some work as he is a little flat off the mark.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.



#13



MARK SCHEIFELE

No. 13

MARK SCHEIFELE

POSITION: Centre

SHOOTS: Right

TEAM: Barrie (OHL)

BORN: March 15, 1993

VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs

STATS: 66 GP 22 G 53 A 75 PTS 35 PIM -22



Strengths: A long powerful skating stride and a great frame to continue to build on are what first jumps out at you. Skates with a very long fluid stride that generates a healthy amount of power and speed. Hard to knock off the puck and can carry a defender or two on his back en route to the net despite being on the thin side. Possesses good hands and can make some pretty skilled plays. Controls the puck well, has good hockey sense and smarts along with a desire to win. Has a nice shot and good backhand that he can roof without much room. A true playmaker who sees the ice well and has good accuracy on his passes but can also finish. Skates well and has some solid straight line speed and agility to beat defenders off the rush.

Weaknesses: One prospect that has no real glaring weakness except for maybe he is not as flashy as some would like him to be or that his skating is not as quick as it could be. Will need to get stronger before he can move on to the next level which is good news for Barrie. There have been stretches this season where his effort level seemed to waver from shift to shift but overall he plays a pretty consistent, mature game.

Notes: This was his rookie season in the OHL and he became just what a rebuilding Barrie Colts team needed after selling the farm in their run for a Championship the year before. Could have been a tad underrated by NHL teams, before a breakout performance with Canada's U18 squad in Germany, as there was not a whole lot to motivate a trip to Barrie this past season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive centre.

No. 14
ROCCO GRIMALDI
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)
BORN: February 8, 1993
VITALS: 5'-6" / 165 Lbs
STATS: 50 GP 34 G 28 A 62 PTS 57 PIM N/A



Strengths: The pint-sized, hard working, uber skilled forward is an excellent shifty skater with great agility and lateral quickness. Possesses a gear that few can boast and uses his elite mobility to create offense. Has some of the draft's most skilled hands and can carve a defender up if he gets caught a half step out of position. Hockey sense and offensive creativity are absolutely dynamic as he sees the play develop before most and makes things happen each and every shift. Has a great shot that is both quick off his stick and accurate. Possesses world class vision and a fire hydrant build which allows him to overcome his lack of size to date. Dynamic, flashy and explosive are the three words that best describe Rocco's game. Has a non-stop motor with lightning quick feet and is always in on every play no matter what zone it is played in. Wants the puck on his stick and is a real playmaker who is well worth the price of admission.

Weaknesses: Real lack of size is only but very daunting weakness. Some think that he will be easily overpowered and lose all effectiveness at the pro level while others, and FC is counted in this category, think that with his speed and determination he will be a pint-sized no matter where he plays or whom he plays against because of his dominating game.

Notes: A Christian, Grimaldi makes no bones about his faith and will share it with anyone who will listen. Born and raised in California before moving to Michigan to further his one-ice endeavors, Rocco plans on retiring and becoming a pastor after his days in the rink are complete.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.



ROCCO GRIMALDI

#15



No. 15

JONAS BRODIN**POSITION:** Defense**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Farjestads (Sweden)**BORN:** July 12, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 170 Lbs**STATS:** 42 GP 0 G 4 A 4 PTS 12 PIM +6

Strengths: A smooth and poised two-way defenseman who exudes calmness and leadership on the ice. Has a very high panic threshold and will hold onto the puck until the last possible second, even taking a hit, to allow his teammates to get open or in a prime scoring area. Skates extremely well with great overall mobility and agility. Very rare that he gets beat one-on-one because of his elite skating and mature patience. Reads the developing play and communicates with his defense partner well. Always makes the right play because of his one-ice smarts and anticipation. Sees the ice well and makes solid tape-to-tape passes from deep in his own zone. Will join the rush or carry the puck himself when it is safe to do so. Does not jump out at you because his style is so calm and calculated. Not a big offensive threat but can add to the attack when he sees an opening. Has an underrated shot that he does not use enough.

Weaknesses: Very physically weak and only because of his positioning and quick reads does this not show up more as a detriment to his game. If he is going to make the jump to the North American game he will need to add some serious muscle to his slender frame. While his offensive game is still developing and more is expected in the future, if you are looking for a defenseman to run your power play or put up loads of points, Brodin will likely never be your guy.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman

JONAS BRODIN

No. 16

MATT PUEMPEL**POSITION:** Left Wing**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Peterborough (OHL)**BORN:** January 24, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-0.5" / 195 Lbs**STATS:** 55 GP 34 G 35 A 69 PTS 49 PIM -33

Strengths: A goal scorer who puts up good offensive numbers. When on his game, is a force on the ice not only offensively but also with a little agitation to the opposition. Skates well with a healthy amount of speed and an extra gear that comes out when he has the puck on his stick and smells blood in the offensive zone. Shows good creativity with the puck and instinctive offensive anticipation. Possesses goal scorers hands that delivers a heavy snap shots and an accurate wrist shot with lightning quick release. Finds the sweet spots on the ice to get open for a scoring opportunity and has a willingness to go to the net looking for rebound opportunities. When he is on his game he is a threat to score every time he is on the ice.

Weaknesses: Consistency is something he will need to improve if he plans on becoming a productive pro hockey player. You never knew what you were going to see in Peterborough or if you would see him at all as he went through stretches of invisibility. Needs to round out his game and work on the defensive aspect as well as his board work to really up his overall effectiveness from shift to shift. Showed that a goal scorer is not much use to a team if he is not scoring goals and that is the rut he fell into a couple times this past season.

Notes: His season was an up and down roller coaster ride as he started the year with a bad back while playing at the Ivan Hlinka U18 Championship before coming on mid-season in the OHL and then missing the final month with a bone chip on his hip which ultimately required surgery to repair. He is not expected to have any long term negative effects from his injury.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six goal scoring forward.

#16



MATT PUEMPEL

#17

NCAA



JAMIE OLEKSIK

No. 17

JAMIE OLEKSIK

POSITION: Defense

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Northeastern (NCAA)

BORN: December 21, 1992

VITALS: 6'-7" / 245 Lbs

STATS: 34 GP 3 G 9 A 12 PTS 51 PIM +13



Strengths: Towering physical imposing specimen of a man and he is still growing! Has NHL teams drooling over the possibility of adding a defenseman whose wingspan practically covers the entire defensive zone. Has unbelievable mobility and powerful stride for such a young big guy and unexpected speed to stay with the little guys when they attack from the outside. Willing and able to play it physical although he is not really a bruiser. Possesses an absolute rocket of a point shot as one would expect with his size and strength. While his game currently based on keeping the opposition from scoring and his skills quite raw, his development trajectory is such that an added offensive element is not out of the question.

Weaknesses: While his skills are just starting to be polished he still has a lot of work to do especially when it comes to his passing game and offensive contributions. Hockey sense and anticipation are questionable and that booming shot is only effective when he has the time and space to get it off his stick which is not too often. Needs to shorten up his shot process and also work on improving foot speed in an attempt to become the next Tyler Myers, unless he is fine aiming for a career similar to Montreal's Hall Gill.

Notes: Came on this season for Northeastern University as a revelation to most with his improved play, especially strong defensive game and overall mobility at the college level against much older, stronger competition. Played the year before in the USHL and really never showed the dominance or upside that his game displayed in his rookie NCAA season for the Huskies.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four shutdown defenseman.

No. 18

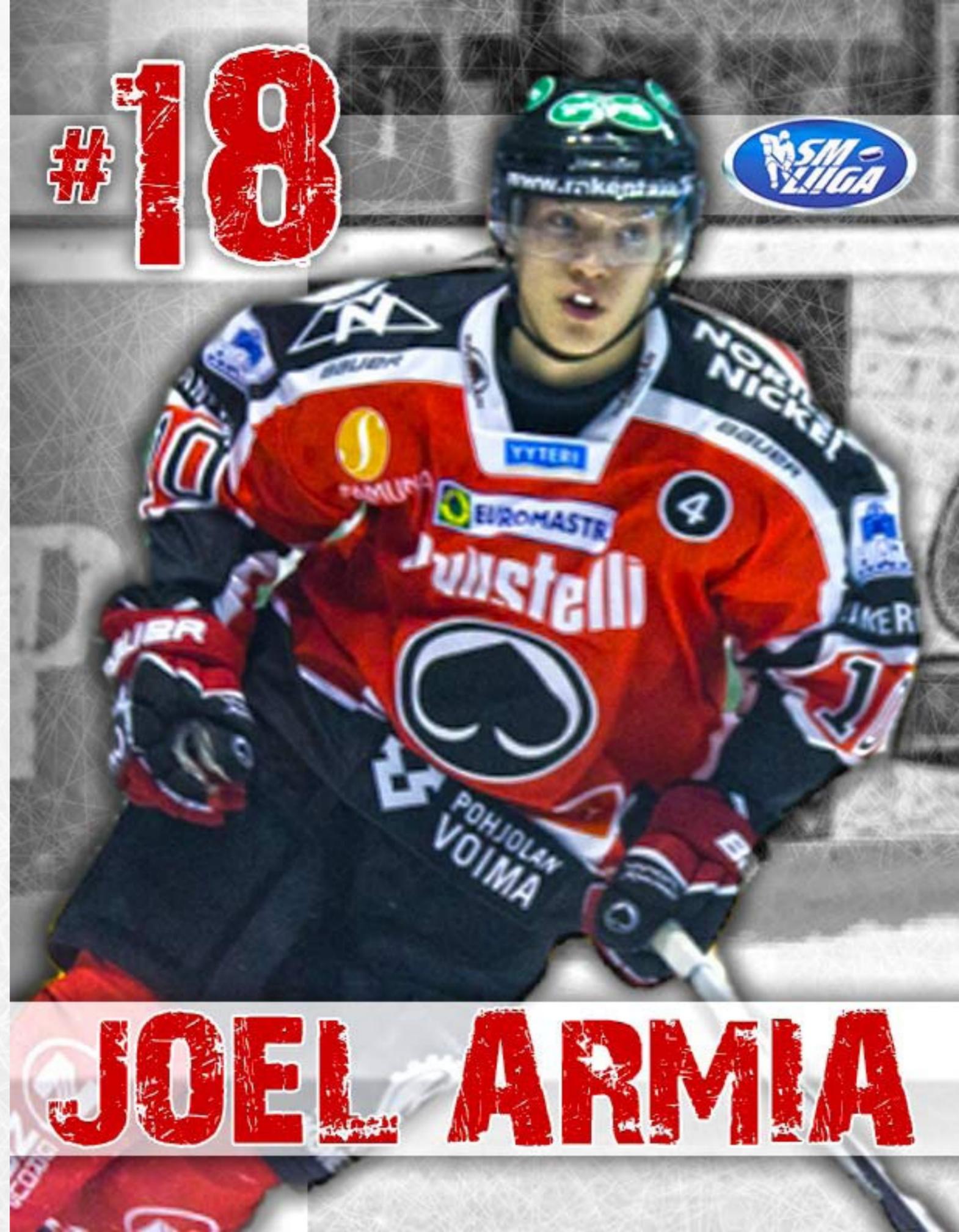
JOEL ARMIA**POSITION:** Right Wing**SHOOTS:** Right**TEAM:** Assat (Finland)**BORN:** May 31, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 190 Lbs**STATS:** 48 GP 18 G 11 A 29 PTS 24 PIM N/A

Strengths: A goal scorer with enviable size and mobility. Has very nice size with more room to grow and can already play an effective game against men because of his frame. Has a long skating stride that is powerful and generates good speed. Handles the puck well, protecting it and shows confidence, always wanting the puck on his stick. Nice creativity and makes plays as well as being a solid goal scorer. Has good vision and offensive awareness. A true finisher with impressive natural instincts. While not a bruiser he does use his size and reach to protect the puck and bull his way to the front of the net.

Weaknesses: While he does have a nice pro-type frame already, he is all limbs right now and needs to fill out somewhat with a good 20 pounds of muscle. Hopefully with added strength his physical game will improve and he can become dominant along the wall. Tends to go through stretches of inconsistent effort levels and can seem uninterested on the ice. A boost to his effort level might be the difference between becoming a solid pro and an all-star offensive contributor. Has slow feet off the mark and needs to pick up a step in his initial two steps.

Notes: Has been talked about in some circles as the biggest thing for Finland since Teemu Selanne or Jari Kurri. Started off the year with impressive point-per-game numbers in the SM-Liiga Men's league before his pace slowed and the expectations came back to earth.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six goal scoring forward.



#19



VLADISLAV NAMESTNIKOV

No. 19

VLADISLAV NAMESTNIKOV

POSITION: Centre

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: London (OHL)

BORN: November 22, 1992

VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs

STATS: 68 GP 30 G 38 A 68 PTS 49 PIM +12



Strengths: A shifty fleet footed skater who is constantly employing a slick change of pace and hard inside outside cuts to throw would be checkers. Has elite vision and creativity in the offensive zone with soft hands and a basket full of tricks. A playmaker at heart, he will always look pass but also has no problem shooting if the opportunity should present itself. Sees the play developing before anyone else does and can thread the needle with a soft loft pass or a rocket slap pass, whichever the situation calls for with equal effectiveness. Opportunistic scorer who possesses a lightning quick wrist shot that is both hard and accurate. Shows no fear in taking the puck to the middle of the ice and going hard to the net despite the potential physical consequence.

Weaknesses: Has a tendency to be out muscled and thrown off the puck when engaged physically because of a very slight frame that desperately needs some added muscle and strength. Also, showed only glimpses of his solid defensive abilities this season but enough to know there is something there to be developed.

Notes: Vladislav has some interesting bloodlines as he is the son of former NHL player Evgeny Namestnikov who played for the Canucks, Predators and Islanders. His uncle, on his mothers side is former Red Wing and Thrasher Slava Kozlov. Because of his father's career, Vladislav spend much of his youth in North America where he learned the language and had no trouble readjusting to the culture coming over from Russia to London this season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 20

BRANDON SAAD**POSITION:** Left Wing**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Saginaw (OHL)**BORN:** October 27, 1992**VITALS:** 6'-1.5" / 205 Lbs**STATS:** 59 GP 27 G 28 A 55 PTS 47 PIM +8

Strengths: Size, skill and speed are Saad's best on ice traits. Skates with a powerful and fluid stride that generates a lot of speed and separation from would be checkers. Strong on his skates with balance and the ability to protect the puck, is nearly impossible to stop when he drive the net. A horse along the wall with his size and strength and impressive in the cycle game. Has a pro-type shot with quick release and high velocity. Handles the puck well and can take it coast-to-coast for a scoring chance and make a goalie look foolish on a break-away. Sees the ice well and can also play the role of playmaker. Has decent anticipation and reads the play well both in the offensive and defensive zones.

Weaknesses: Where was all the expected offense? A disappointing points total and effort level on some nights left a sour taste in the mouths of a few observers this season. Was consistently inconsistent and maddeningly ineffective some games this season. Has all the tools to be a plus player but just needs to work on the between the ears aspect. Has had his hockey sense questioned. Needs to realize what advantage he has with his size and strength and use it more effectively.

Notes: After impressing scouts the past two years as a goal scoring power forward with the United States Development Team's U18 squad, many thought we would see a top-five draft candidate this year emerge with Saginaw of the OHL. The Pennsylvania native was able to produce respectable numbers and work through a few injuries although more was expected. His confidence may have taken a hit when he was cut from the USA WJC squad when many thought he was a shoe-in to make the team.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.



BRANDON SAAD

#21



NICKLAS JENSEN

No. 21

NICKLAS JENSEN

POSITION: Right Wing

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)

BORN: March 6, 1993

VITALS: 6'-2.5" / 185 Lbs

STATS: 61 GP 29 G 29 A 58 PTS 42 PIM +14



Strengths: Has some impressive size and offensive skills that have scouts watching his progression closely. Plays a power game that has him driving into dirty areas with the puck and getting scoring opportunities as well as possessing the skill to set-up a play from the perimeter. When he is on and playing with good intensity he is a hard body to slow down. Skates well with solid power in his stride and solid mobility. Has a hard accurate snap shot and knows how to get to those greasy scoring areas. Not overly physical but uses his frame to protect the puck well and strength to come out of the corner with the puck.

Weaknesses: Has a tendency to not always play with a high level of intensity. Some shifts he looks as though he is just going through the motions and not pushing himself. Needs to grow more comfortable with the physical game if he is ever to become a dominant force at the next level. Physical confrontation usually leads to his shying away from contact or even some puck battles. Tends to coast through the neutral zone and can get comfortable watching at times, just needs to be more consistent in his engaging in the play.

Notes: The son of a Canadian born and trained defenseman Dan Jensen, left Canada and moved over to Denmark to play hockey for a living and soon found a wife and a home in Herning Denmark, where Nicklas was born and raised. Nicklas had not problems adjusting as his father often spoke English throughout his childhood and he also had made plenty a visit to Canada to see grandparents and other family members over the years.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 22

TYLER BIGGS

POSITION: Right Wing

SHOOTS: Right

TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)

BORN: April 30, 1993

VITALS: 6'-2" / 210 Lbs

STATS: 48 GP 17 G 11 A 28 PTS 112 PIM N/A



Strengths: Big, aggressive, mean and nasty are nice qualities to have in a power forward. Has all those and more as he hits like a Mack truck, will drop the gloves and tune an opponent and can contribute some timely offense as well. Skates fine with a powerful stride, good balance, adequate speed and agility for his north-south game. Shoots the puck hard and most effective when he drives the puck through defenders and to the net. Can be a beast on the forecheck, making bit hit after hit and causing defenders to make mistakes with the puck.

Weaknesses: His game does not possess very high offensive upside for the next level. While he may have some ability to finish in the Junior leagues, his ability to consistently contribute at the next level is in doubt. The reason is that he lacks offensive creativity and the hands to make plays. Also has games were he has drifted around all night and not really put forth much effort. Also goes through stretches were his emotions take over and he can get his team in penalty trouble if playing with too much vigor. Reeling in his game to a more consistent approach will go along way towards his effectiveness as a pro.

Notes: The son of former feisty pro hockey player Don Biggs, Tyler plays a lot of the same kind of game as his father but he also brings some offense to the table as well. After having a not so great U18 tournament, falling into penalty trouble and not being too effective on the forecheck, this past April and leaving plenty of questions in the minds of scouts in attendance, Tyler wired the eventual tournament winner in overtime as a bit of a exclamation mark to his up and down season.

NHL POTENTIAL: First line offensive forward.



TYLER BIGGS



JOHN GIBSON

No. 23

JOHN GIBSON

POSITION: Goaltender

CATCHES: Left

TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)

BORN: July 14, 1993

VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 32 GP 2.64 GAA .918 SP



Strengths: A very big frame and solid athleticism make him the top goaltender by a long shot in 2011. Has the size to naturally fill the net and stays square to the shooter. Has a calmness and maturity about him that you do not see often in a tender his age. Goes side-by-side quickly and does not make any unnecessary moments to open holes in his butterfly. Does not get shaken easily and has the big game mentality where he plays up to the level of the game. Focused and shakes off the odd soft goal quickly. Confident in his abilities and has a never give up mentality that you want in your goalie since between the ears has a lot to do with how your stopper performs on the ice. Has game stealing ability and looks like the real deal as a future NHL franchise stopper.

Weaknesses: Not the best puck handling goaltender out there and in today's NHL with defenders being run through the boards on the forecheck, an active puck moving stopper is a luxury many teams covet. His game has been much better in international competition than while playing in the United States Hockey League so some would like to see him bring that consistency level up.

Notes: The University of Michigan recruit was a major part of the American's ability to three-peat as gold medalists at the U18 Championships this past April as he was without a doubt the top goaltender in Germany by a country mile. Named the Best Goaltender by the IIHF with his 2.34 goals-against average and a sparkling .926 save percentage.

NHL POTENTIAL: Franchise Goaltender.

No. 24
OSCAR KLEFBOM
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Farjestad (Sweden)
BORN: July 20, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3.5" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 23 GP 1 G 1 A 2 PTS 2 PIM +1



Strengths: A sizable and skilled puck rushing defender. An excellent skater with multiple gears and solid lateral agility which he utilizes when rushing the puck. Plays a flashy offensively driven game where he becomes a fourth attacker up ice. Shows good smarts and instincts most of the time with knowing when the opportunity is there to attack and join the rush. Has an absolute cannon of a shot and vision to either make an accurate pass to an open teammate or fire away when the shooting lane is open. Soft hands allow him to control the puck in his own zone, while walking the blueline on the power play or when attacking the offensive zone on the rush. Has nice creativity and long reach make it hard for defenders to get the puck from him.

Weaknesses: Has a real problem engaging in physical puck battles despite his nice size and is tentative in his willingness to get his hands dirty. Can be easily knocked off the puck by smaller opponents with body-to-body contact which leads you to the conclusion that not just added strength and weight is needed but also a change in his demeanor. Some question is decision making ability in his own zone and if his defensive game will improve much going forward as right now he is pretty one dimensional as an offensive defender.

Notes: Was named captain for Sweden's U18 squad at the recent World Championship where they claimed silver. His game has been very impressive in the three international competitions FC has watched him compete in (Hlinka, Five Nations and U18's) this past season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four offensive defenseman.



OSCAR KLEFBOM

#25



SVEN BARTSCHI

No. 25

SVEN BARTSCHI

POSITION: Left Wing

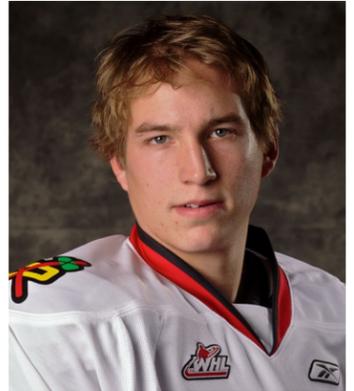
SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Portland (WHL)

BORN: October 5, 1992

VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs

STATS: 66 GP 34 G 51 A 85 PTS 74 PIM +23



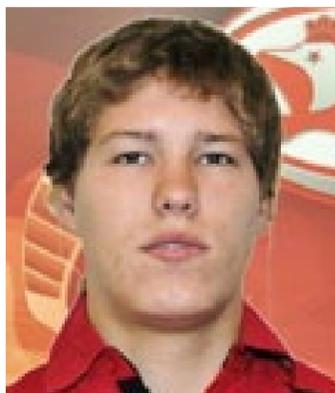
Strengths: A sniper who has a non-stop motor and high compete level. Had a very good first year playing on powerhouse Portland and emerged as a primary threat despite the teams depth. Speedy winger who flies down the wing and crosses over the middle of the ice creates his own scoring opportunities. Is agile and quick off the mark. Shoots the puck with some nice velocity and is usually right on mark. Has a quick slick stick that can beat defenders one-on-one. Has good offensive awareness and compliments his line mates well. Sees the ice very well and can both make and received a pass with his soft hands.

Weaknesses: Does not have the size NHL squads want to see when investing in a first rounder. Physically weak and is shows against some of the bigger Dub defenses. Can play with a bit of feisty attitude but when push comes to shove, he shy's away from contact and will stop venturing into the middle of the ice which drastically reduces his effectiveness. Bartschi is pretty one-dimensional at this point and has a good amount of development left to do. Added strength and dedication to playing a complete game need to be high on his to-do list this summer.

Notes: The 2011 version of the "Swiss can't-miss" came across the Atlantic to join teammate and friend Nino Niederreiter who made the trek for his draft season a year ago and could reap similar rewards at the draft. Competed for Switzerland at the World Junior Championship in Buffalo and showed well as an underager. Absolutely dominant as one of the key offensive cogs in Portland's run in the WHL playoffs.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 26
DMITRI JASKIN
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Slavia (Czech Republic)
BORN: March 23, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 33 GP 3 G 7 A 10 PTS 16 PIM N/A



Strengths: A true highly skilled power forward. Gritty and strong along the wall, protecting the puck and maintaining possession. Uses quick soft hands to handle the puck, sometimes like it is attached to his stick. Willing and able to play physical and drive the puck into dirty areas as well as going hard to the net without it. Has good hockey sense and smarts, sees play develop and gets himself to the right spots on the ice. Good offensive instincts and passing abilities. Possesses hard and accurate wrist and snap shots that are usually labelled to the top shelf and come off his stick in a split second. Real strong balanced kid who can make skilled moves with defenders draped all over him. Hard for defenders to control down low and on the cycle. Has a high compete level, a healthy intensity and good character.

Weaknesses: Skating is a major deficiency for Jaskin to work on as his feet are slow and he has heavy boots out of the gate which makes his mobility questionable. He is below average with his straight line speed but his acceleration is an area that really begs attention. Some conditioning work also needs to be done and improvement in that area just might also help his quickness. Injury concerns, especially when it is a knee injury, like what kept him out of the line-up for a major chunk of games this season leaves some questions in scouts' minds.

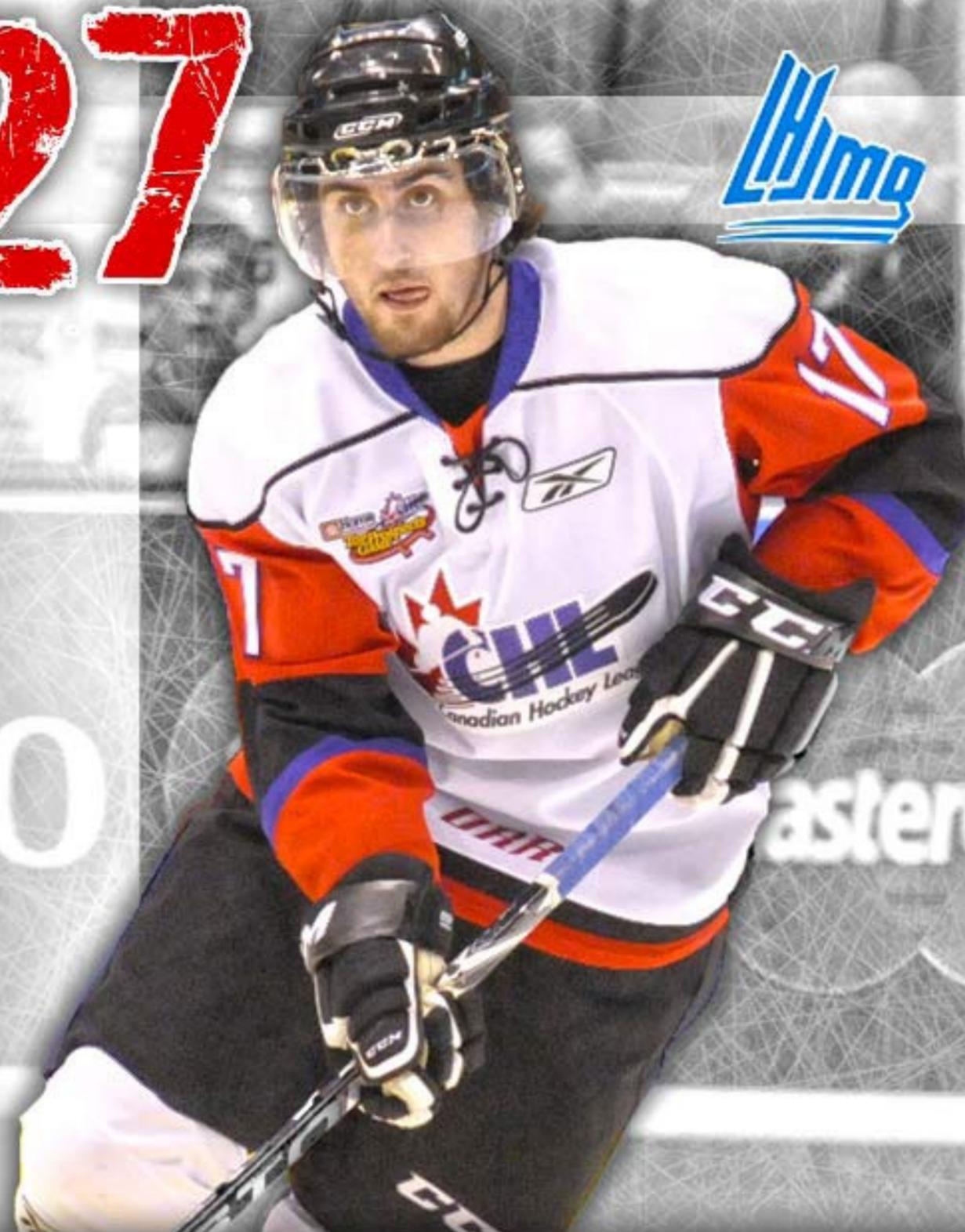
Notes: Jaskin was actually born in Omsk, Russia before his father signed with HC Vsetin of the Czech Extraliga and moved the family to the Czech Republic when Dmitri was still a child. He considers the Czech Republic home and represents them in international play. Was the first player taken in the 2010 KHL draft but has shown no interest in playing in Russia.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.



DMITRI JASKIN

#27

ZACK PHILLIPS

No. 27

ZACK PHILLIPS

POSITION: Right Wing

SHOOTS: Right

TEAM: Saint John (WHL)

BORN: October 28, 1992

VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs

STATS: 67 GP 38 G 57 A 95 PTS 16 PIM +48



Strengths: Offensive ability and goal scoring acumen really exploded this season. Showed a real nose for the net and the ability to be in the right place at the right time to bury a rebound or take a pass in solid scoring position. Willing to play a gritty game and shows some good hockey sense and smarts. Will do many of the little things to make plays happen and take a hit to make a play for a line mate. Has nice hands and a quick shot release which catches goaltenders off guard. Patient with the puck and is an opportunistic scorer who reads his teammates well. Not flashy or overly dynamic but just makes plays.

Weaknesses: His instincts and offensive talent is obvious but some scouts still question whether his impressive numbers are more a product of playing with other skilled players like Huberdeau. Skating and lack of foot speed are real weaknesses in his game going forward and areas that will need to be improved before a jump to the next level can be made. If Phillips can not improve his skating he might end up being one of those highly talented guys that just does not have the mobility it takes to produce consistently at the NHL level but has enough talent to be a AHL all-star.

Notes: Has been a dominant offensive force along with Huberdeau in the playoffs for Saint John. New Brunswick native originally planned on going the NCAA route but came up to the Q after a year playing U.S. prep with Lawrence Academy in Massachusetts.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 28

BOONE JENNER**POSITION:** Centre**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** Oshawa (OHL)**BORN:** June 15, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-1.5" / 205 Lbs**STATS:** 63 GP 25 G 41 A 66 PTS 57 PIM +10

Strengths: A real competitor and leader both on and off the ice. Very mature and hard working player who will play in the NHL based on those traits alone. Smart in his own zone and willing to block shots and take a hit to clear the puck from danger. Battles hard in puck battles and wins the majority of them, forechecks hard and finishes his checks. Skates hard, driving the puck to the net and has nice balance on his skates. Fights through checks and can carry the puck with his decent hands. Not afraid to drop the mitts if needed and is not the most fun to play against. Has a very high compete level and does whatever is needed to win. Not going to wow you but effective in most facets of the game. Will wear a letter on his jersey in the NHL as his teammates respect and listen to him.

Weaknesses: Is a sub par skater with a skating stride that neither generates speed nor quickness off the mark. The team that draft him will need to invest in some power skating training. Work ethic is strong and should see some improvement before too long. His offensive upside is questionable as most agree he is destined to become a third line checking forward.

Notes: A farm boy who built up his strength and character on the family cattle farm in Dorchester Ontario. His father Matt coached Boone in his midget AAA hockey season with the Elgin-Middlesex Chiefs. He has been a real favorite with some NHL teams this year and will likely be selected well before the 28th pick by one of those organizations.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line character forward.

#28



BOONE JENNER



#29 JOE MORROW

No. 29

JOE MORROW

POSITION: Defense

SHOOTS: Left

TEAM: Portland (WHL)

BORN: December 9, 1992

VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 200 Lbs

STATS: 60 GP 9 G 40 A 49 PTS 67 PIM +23



Strengths: A smooth skating puck moving defenseman who sees the ice very well. Has good speed and the ability to rush the puck up ice. Soft hands, makes good breakout passes who can make a quick transition from defense to offense with the puck. Has an absolute rocket point shot that scares those caught in its path. Carries himself with confidence and plays with a gritty edge, showing a willingness to drop the mitts if provoked. Hits his teammates in stride with strong accurate passes and follows up the play becoming an offensive option. Likes the puck on his stick and has nice creativity and vision when it is on his stick. A raw but skilled prospect with very good pro potential.

Weaknesses: Has a ways to go in developing his defensive game and learning to stay in good position. He needs to recognize better when the time and space is there to pinch or join the rush and when he needs to play it more conservative and hang back. While his shot is a real weapon because of its high velocity he tends to take far too long getting it off his blade which has lead to some blocked shots going the other way for scoring chances.

Notes: Joe has had a hard time getting ice time the past couple seasons due to the wealth of talent the Winterhawks can boast but his on-ice production has forced the coaching staff to play him. Has been a solid contributor to Portlands post-season success producing offense at a point-per-game rate in the spring.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 30

JONATHAN MILLER**POSITION:** Centre**SHOOTS:** Left**TEAM:** U18 US NTDP (USHL)**BORN:** March 14, 1993**VITALS:** 6'-1.5" / 200 Lbs**STATS:** 48 GP 11 G 26 A 37 PTS 78 PIM N/A

Strengths: A strong skating two-way power forward who has a nice set of skills. Has very good mobility, balance on his skates with a nice amount of speed. Plays a hard hitting take the puck to the net, willing to take a hit to make a play, honest game. Shows good offensive instincts and a high compete level most shifts. Scores using a quick shot and soft hands especially when fishing for pucks around the net. Can also play the role of playmaker and hit his teammate with strong timely passes. Physically his body is already NHL ready as he is strong as a Ox and dominant against kids his own age, especially in one-on-one battles along the wall. Has the skill to beat defenders with a dangle as well as the power game to manhandle them.

Weaknesses: Left many a scout questioning his upside this year as those watching him could see his ability and potential however the production was never what it should have been. Some think he might top out as a strong third line winger who plays a solid but unspectacular two-way game.

Notes: May have saved his first round status in the draft with a blazing U18 performance in Germany for the Champion American squad. Was 'Johnny on the spot' for offense and finally produced at his skill level after being snake bitten most of the year. Will join current teammate Rocco Grimaldi at North Dakota next year.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.



JONATHAN MILLER

No. 31
ALEXANDER KHOKHLACHEV
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Windsor (OHL)
BORN: September 9, 1999
VITALS: 5'-10" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 67 GP 34 G 42 A 76 PTS 28 PIM +9



SCOUTING REPORT: A gritty and highly skilled Russian forward who brought his game over to North America with the Windsor Spitfires to gain more exposure. Skates very well with good speed but highly impressive burst and lateral jump. Eludes the big hit but does not shy away from going to the net and taking a beating for a chance to score. Has very soft quick hands that make him dangerous whenever he touches the puck. Plays with good overall work ethic and determination on the ice. Is highly creative offensively being highly capable to set-up a play as well as finish it. He is a little small and durability might be concerning at the next level. Needs to round out his game as right now he is pure offense. Played really well in the OHL playoffs with over a point-per-game production and a very good defensive awareness.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 32
CONNOR MURPHY
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)
BORN: March 26, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 14 GP 3 G 3 A 6 PTS 6 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: The son of former NHL player Gord Murphy, plays a well rounded two-way game. Skates well with good overall mobility but does not have great speed, instead taking good angles. Smart and instinctive defensive player, controls his gaps and stays in solid position. Has an active stick and uses his size well to separate the puck from his opponent. Not overly physical but can deliver timely and effective checks as well as move attackers out of the crease. Can be aggressive offensively but does so without when it is safe. Strong as a point man on the power play, good accurate shot and vision to see passing lanes opening up. Can be forced to turning over the puck in his own zone when pressured and has some durability concerns. Has been on the shelf because of different injuries the better part of the past two seasons.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

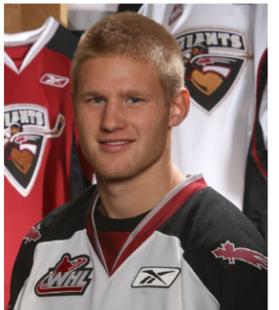
No. 33
TY RATTIE
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Portland (WHL)
BORN: February 5, 1993
VITALS: 5'-11" / 160 Lbs
STATS: 67 GP 28 G 51 A 79 PTS 55 PIM +20



SCOUTING REPORT: A slippery offensively creative playmaker. Skates well but lacks that extra gear, instead uses quick darting moments, change of pace and lateral shifts to keep defenders on their heels. Has some of the best hands in the draft as he can make plays and stickhandle in a shoe box. Very creative with the puck and can really burn defenders who get caught watching the puck. Draws defenders to himself before dishing a soft pass to an open teammate at the last second. Has an accurate shot but is a pass first winger. Sees the ice very well and finds openings in defenses and exploits them. Plays the game with a feisty and agitating style trying to get under the oppositions skin. Defensively, he has improved much from his play of a year ago as now he give a concerned effort.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 34
DAVID MUSIL
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Vancouver (WHL)
BORN: April 9, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3.5" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 62 GP 6 G 19 A 25 PTS 83 PIM +1



SCOUTING REPORT: Son of former NHL player Frank Musil and nephew of ex-NJ Devil Bobby Holik, David is a solid defensive first rearguard. Has good mobility despite possessing some heavy boots that hinder his initial burst. Has good defensive awareness and makes the smart play more often than not. Has great size but not the aggressiveness to really dominate the ice with it. He does separate opposition from the puck well and uses his long reach to clog up lanes. Not consistent enough in his game by game effort levels. At his best when he keeps things simple and safe. Has a very hard point shot and can see the ice well enough to make strong breakout passes. An able fighter when he is provoked but doesn't have the drive to play that way to often. Does not have the offensive upside some thought he would develop when he first came over two years ago. Suffered an injury to his ankle that kept him out of the line-up for a month and led to him missing the World Junior Championship.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six stay-at-home defenseman.

No. 35
DANIEL CATENACCI
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
BORN: March 9, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 67 GP 26 G 45 A 71 PTS 117 PIM -5



SCOUTING REPORT: A small but very quick forward who makes contributions on both sides of the puck. Has explosive speed and handles the puck very well at top gear. Not only that but he has a very quick stick and dynamic hands that allow him to maintain possession of the puck through tight areas. Not physically strong and can get out muscled along the wall but is ever willing to fight it out and battle no matter the size of his opponent. Has good balance, with a wide based stride as well as elusiveness because of his quick pivots and turns. Always involved in the play and has a good steady work rate. His shot is very quick off the blade and pin point accurate. Sees the ice well and makes nice soft tape-to-tape passes. Has some solid defensive abilities like getting in lanes and causing havoc with an active stick. Can be a little selfish with the puck, trying to do too much on his own. Offensive potential is only real question mark for the next level, some project him as more of a solid PK and grinder than scoring threat going forward.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 36
ADAM CLENDENING
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Boston University (NCAA)
BORN: October 26, 1992
VITALS: 5'-11" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 36 GP 5 G 18 A 23 PTS 80 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A smart and talented puck moving defenseman. A very skilled puck distributor who has excellent vision and offensive creativity. Transitions the play very quickly and makes crisp, accurate breakout passes. Likes to skate with the puck and is elusive in doing so despite not possessing great speed. Sometimes he can be caught jumping up when he should be staying back but he competes hard and wants to win. A real effective quarterback on the power play despite lacking the heavy point shot. Has a quick stick and some dangle to his game which is displayed when he tries to enter the offensive zone. Reads the play well and is a danger to create every time on the ice. Has outstanding hockey sense and is one of the best passes available. Lacks strength and can get beat defensively by stronger opponents.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four offensive defenseman.

No. 37
SCOTT MAYFIELD
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Youngstown (USHL)
BORN: October 14, 1992
VITALS: 6'-3.5" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 52 GP 7 G 9 A 16 PTS 159 PIM -18



SCOUTING REPORT: A big and raw defenseman who plays with a real natural aggression to his game. Physical, willing to throw his weight around and able when asked to drop the mitts. Good hockey sense and moves real well for as guy his size. A long powerful balanced stride coupled with solid lateral agility makes it hard to get by him. Has the ability to eliminate his man along the wall with his strength or simply use his long reach to disrupt an opponents attack. Sees the ice well and gets the puck up ice quickly. Makes solid tape-to-tape passes and can rush it himself. Has a big time point shot and some nice untapped offensive upside. The future University of Denver blueliner needs to polish up on some part of his game but has huge potential if given the proper direction. Some boom or bust with this prospect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 38
VICTOR RASK
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Leksand (Sweden)
BORN: March 1, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 37 GP 5 G 6 A 11 PTS 8 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: Was bounced around between levels this year as he never seemed to find a comfortable fit. Skates well enough but lacks jump in his first few steps. Is very creative and smart especially in the offensive zone. Sees the ice well and can play the role of playmaker because of his hands and soft touch. Has a decent shot but it sometimes has a hard time finding the mark. When he is on his game he is a hard force to stop but that is not always the way he plays. Willing to go to the net and play with a bit of grit. Has nice size, hockey sense and flashes some unbelievably quick hands. Needs to work on his feet and adding strength this summer as he has some solid pro potential. Really picked up his play after February and finished strong at the U18's in Germany.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 39
SHANE PRINCE
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)
BORN: November 16, 1992
VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 59 GP 25 G 63 A 88 PTS 18 PIM +43



SCOUTING REPORT: A small but highly skilled playmaker who likes the puck on his stick. He skates real well with both impressive top speed and a nice quick jump to his first couple steps. Has soft hands that enable him to dance around the offensive zone with the puck looking for an opportunity. Excellent vision and timing on his passes. Can not only set-up a play but also shows some nice goal scoring ability as well. Does not have the ideal size and can get crunched pretty good by bigger bodies. Can play a solid defensive responsible game when needed but not always willing, preferring to stay on the attack. If game gets chippy, Prince has the tendency to become invisible and a non-factor. One heck of a good Junior player but pro upside and how his game translates to the next level is the real question.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six playmaking forward.

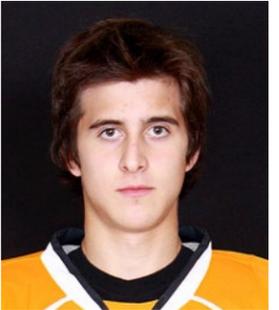
No. 40
TOMAS JURCO
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Saint John (QMJHL)
BORN: December 28, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 60 GP 31 G 25 A 56 PTS 17 PIM +46



SCOUTING REPORT: Slick YouTube sensation for some of the tricks he can do with the puck on his stick. Dynamic hands, accurate shot with a quick release. A bit of a streaky scorer who is either hot or not, which is not good for a one-dimensional player like Jurco currently is. Skates with good shiftiness and agility. Not a blazer but does have decent speed, lateral bursts and can beat defenders off the rush with both his skating and hands. Very creative and can also play the role of playmaker. Defensively he is a work in progress and is still very raw, but shows a willingness to learn and compete. Has been buried a little on the powerhouse Sea Dogs as his talent is much higher than his production this season would indicate. One of a handful of Sea Dogs that have turned it on even more for the post season in the Q.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 41
PHILLIP DANAULT
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Victoriaville (QMJHL)
BORN: February 24, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs
STATS: 64 GP 23 G 44 A 67 PTS 59 PIM +17



SCOUTING REPORT: Grew up cheering for Le Tigre as his father was team PA announcer when Phillip was a young boy. Wears his heart on his sleeve and empties the gas tank each and every shift. Fast skating two-way centre who plays with a high compete level, always keeping his feet moving and shows good aggressiveness. Playmaker who looks pass first but can also finish off a play when given the opportunity. Defensively responsible, coming back deep into his zone and taking his man. Underdeveloped physically and lacking both upper and lower body strength which is a concern because of his smallish frame and if he has much more room to fill out. Smart with good hockey sense and defensive reads, solid on the PK. Awarded the Guy Carbonneau trophy as the Q's top defensive forward this season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line checking forward.

No. 42
RICKARD RAKELL
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Plymouth (OHL)
BORN: May 5, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 49 GP 19 G 24 A 43 PTS 12 PIM +14



SCOUTING REPORT: Not all that big for the type of game he plays, similar to Tomas Holmstrom in his willingness to battle and gutsy determination. Has decent speed, quick off the mark with good agility, a willingness to throw his weight around and compete each shift. Plays an agitating, in your face, aggressive style that you love to have on your team but hate to play against. Can handle the puck, set-up plays as well as finish but lacks the high end offensive talent. Loves to be in the middle of it, digging for pucks and battling with opponents. Plays with good energy, showing some solid work ethic in his own zone. Does not have the best shot nor does he have the ability to beat defenders one-on-one on a consistent basis. Forechecks hard and makes life miserable for opponents with his abrasiveness and can contribute in more ways than on the score sheet.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom six character forward.

No. 43
GREGORY HOFMANN
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Ambri-Piotta (Switzerland)
BORN: November 13, 1992
VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 41 GP 3 G 9 A 12 PTS 2 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: Hard working two-way forward who impressed at the World Juniors this past Christmas. Has average size but plays with a much bigger heart. Skates real well with nice speed, agility and first step quickness. Always keeps his feet moving and draws penalties because of it. Attacks on the forecheck and causes turnovers and scoring opportunities because of his relentless puck pursuit. Loves to throw his limited weight around, especially to separate the puck from his opponent and will also take a hit to make a play. Lacks strength but uses what he does have very effectively. Shows some offensive skills and a willingness to do the heavy lifting, battling for pucks and going hard to the net. His shot is not very strong but he does get it off quickly. Added strength is needed before he can bring his game over and he is a potential draft day slider because of the unknown NHL commitment when drafting a Swiss prospect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom six character forward.

No. 44
BRETT RITCHIE
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Sarnia (OHL)
BORN: July 1, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3" / 210 Lbs
STATS: 49 GP 21 G 20 A 41 PTS 47 PIM -1



SCOUTING REPORT: A big power forward who can shoot the puck. Skates well with some decent top speed but is still working on his balance and first few steps. Hard to control for OHL defenses as he drives the net or works the cycle along the wall. Not a bruising checker nor does he drop the mitts much as his temperament is cool and calm but does stick up for his teammates when needed. Has a good quick stick and a hard accurate shot. Protects the puck well and can be a real threat in the high slot. Can get caught playing a perimeter game some shifts where he is nowhere near as effective. Started to become more physical this year over last but still not a bruiser. Had a rough draft year after coming back from the Ivan Hlinka Tournament to start the season injured and then when he started to find his game coming down with a bad case of mono in January. Full of potential and could really surprise offensively in his third Major Junior season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.

No. 45
STEFAN NOESEN
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Plymouth (OHL)
BORN: February 12, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 34 G 43 A 77 PTS 80 PIM +14



SCOUTING REPORT: A hard working winger with some offensive ability. A good straight line skater who has some trouble with quick turns and his first couple steps. Nothing that will hinder him from developing but should improve with added strength and time. Is a tenacious forechecker who likes to lay the body and disrupt using physical play. Hard along the wall and drives to the net with abandon. A very strong penalty killer who is not afraid to drop in front of shots and take a hit to make a simple clearing play. Has a good quick stick and a nice hard shot. Put up some good point totals as an opportunistic scorer this past season however his pro offensive upside is questionable as he lacks creativity and offensive instincts. The Texas native would love nothing more than to be picked by his hometown Dallas Stars.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line checking forward.

No. 46
MYLES BELL
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Regina (WHL)
BORN: August 19, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 210 Lbs
STATS: 66 GP 14 G 31 A 45 PTS 86 PIM -14



SCOUTING REPORT: A puck rushing offensive minded defenseman. Skates well but lacks high end speed and agility. Can handle the puck, carry it into the offensive zone, sees the ice very well and makes strong passes. Offensively creative and has a very heavy point shot. Defensively he needs much work. Makes bad reads and takes bad angles. His lack of positional understanding leads to some offensive chances for opponents. Extremely strong for his age and uses that strength to his advantage, willing to drop the mitts. Is a constantly jumping up into the play even when he should be hanging back. Goes through games at a time where he looks disinterested.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four offensive defenseman.

No. 47
NICK SHORE
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: University of Denver (NCAA)
BORN: September 26, 1992
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 28 GP 7 G 11 A 18 PTS 14 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A speedy, intelligent two-way centre. US NTDP graduate joined his brother and Florida Panthers draft pick Drew Shore this past year at Denver and after battling some injuries, he started to blossom. Athletic and strong for his size, a great skater with impressive speed and quickness, as well as good first step jump. Works hard and plays the game smartly in both zones. Shows the ability to carry and control the puck at his top speed and play the role of playmaker as well as contribute with a goal or two as an opportunistic scorer. Might not have the biggest pro upside as an offensive player but should be a good useful pro because of his work ethic and hockey sense. You can plug him into your third line and play as a strong checker or on your second line as a complementary offensive player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top nine two-way forward.

No. 48
LUCAS LESSIO
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)
BORN: January 23, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 66 GP 27 G 27 A 54 PTS 66 PIM +8



SCOUTING REPORT: A good sized power type forward that just oozes offensive skill. Skates well with both nice top end speed as well as very shifty lateral quickness. Has very nice hands that allow him to carry the puck into the offensive zone and beat defenders because of their quickness. Has a hard accurate shot and also sees the ice well making him a danger to set-up his line mates. Not afraid to play a hard, in your face style of game and work the boards hard when he is interested. Can be knocked off his game by an agitating opponent or a referees bad call. Has been told his whole hockey playing career that he is great and can show that arrogance on the ice some times. He has the potential to be a solid scorer in the NHL but must dramatically improve his effort level and buy into playing a team game to enjoy success at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.

No. 49
SETH AMBROZ
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Omaha (USHL)
BORN: April 1, 1993
VITALS: 6'-2" / 210 Lbs
STATS: 56 GP 24 G 22 A 46 PTS 89 PIM +3



SCOUTING REPORT: A goal scoring power forward who has some real question marks going forward. Came into the spotlight three years ago as a young prospect with immense size and potential and has failed to progress. Has the same weaknesses as he did as a 15-year-old which include a bad skating stride that limits his speed, mobility and overall effectiveness. Has a cannon of a shot and a very quick release that are appealing along with the willingness to play physical and plant himself in front of the oppositions net. He is willing to drop the gloves as well as shows some good puck skills with those same mitts. However his effort level is wavering and he has limited offensive creativity which hurt his game. Could be a real steal at this spot if he can turn it all around, put in some extra development work or he could very well end up as one heck of a beer league player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Potential power forward.

No. 50
VINCENT TROCHECK
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Saginaw (OHL)
BORN: July 11, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 26 G 36 A 62 PTS 60 PIM +14



SCOUTING REPORT: A gritty hard working two-way forward. Plays the game bigger than his five-foot-10 frame would indicate. Skates well but lacks high end speed, uses shifty jumps and quick bursts to make up ground quickly. Always hustling and skating his bag off in all zones. Plays a physical game while not being a bruiser but just enough to let the opposition know he is there. Willing to get his body in front of shots and take a hit to move the puck. Surprisingly strong in front of the net and he has a good set of hands in close. Has good natural ability and strong hockey sense that drive his game. Can handle the puck and uses a hard shot to contribute offensively. Questions abound about how his game translates to the NHL level and if he even has enough speed or size to be effective even as a third line checker.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line checking forward.

No. 51
MATTHEW NIETO
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Boston University (NCAA)
BORN: November 5, 1992
VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 36 GP 8 G 13 A 21 PTS 16 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A super skilled forward with speed to burn. Skates very well with great first acceleration, a high end top gear with separation ability and nice overall agility. He can really handle the puck and can beat defenders one-on-one with some nice dekes before getting off a quick wrister. Has good accuracy on his shots as well as crisp passes. Can disappear for long stretches, even a couple games at a time and did so this past season; his first with Boston University before finishing the year off strong. With his lack of ideal size and inconsistency from game to game, Nieto has much developing to do before he could move up to the next level. Some teams might like him enough to have him in their top 30 prospects but this is where his real boom/bust draft value lies.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

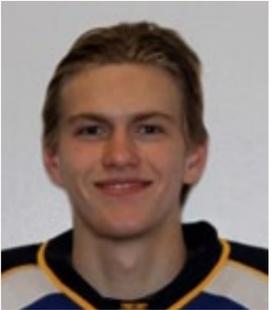
No. 52
SAMU PERHONEN
POSITION: Goaltender
CATCHES: Right
TEAM: JYP Jr. (Finland)
BORN: March 7, 1993
VITALS: 6'-4" / 170 Lbs
STATS: 29 GP 2.71 GAA .922 SP



SCOUTING REPORT: Big and athletically talented butterfly (which is what his last name translates to) style goaltender. Has the prototypical size NHL teams look for. Plays a technically sound game where he keeps his angles tight and takes away a good portion of low net with his leg flair. Keeps his chest out stays upright when in his butterfly. Has a good side-to-side push but could use some work on his glove. At one point this season he was challenging John Gibson as the draft's top goaltender but saw his stock fall over the last month with inconsistent international play. He seemed to lose his confidence and focus allowing multiple juicy rebounds and overplaying angles when his game fell apart. He has some real nice potential for the next level. Helped lead his JYP U20 squad to the league Championship.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting goaltender.

No. 53
MARIO LUCIA
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Wayzata (USHS)
BORN: August 25, 1993
VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 24 GP 25 G 22 A 47 PTS 14 PIM +26



SCOUTING REPORT: A gangly limbed offensive winger who can score goals as well as set-up his line mates. Skates well with nice first step acceleration and lateral busts. Has nice separation speed and can handle the puck making weaving through traffic with his quick hands. Has a nice shot that is both quick off his stick and accurate. Shot will get harder as he adds strength to his weak frame. Thinks the game quickly and has a high hockey IQ. Not much of a punishing player, think more Patrick Marleau type than a true power forward. Will likely never be a franchise player but will likely contribute in the NHL some day. Son of Minnesota Golden Gopher head coach, Don Lucia, Mario is a natural hockey player that just needs some added strength and time to develop his skills.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 54
STUART PERCY
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Mississauga (OHL)
BORN: May 18, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 64 GP 4 G 29 A 33 PTS 50 PIM +50



SCOUTING REPORT: Mr. Dependable plays a safe, take care of your own zone first game. Moves well enough on the ice with a smooth stride to get the job done although he lacks explosive jump in his step. Not a flashy offensive contributor in any way but he does make solid and accurate passes. Can transition the play from defense to offense with a quick breakout pass to his forwards. Uses strong positioning, a quick stick and a willingness to physically engage the opposition to defend effectively. Makes smart decisions consistently and calmly in his own zone and does not try to force what is not there. Shows good smarts and reads the play well. Has very limited offensive upside but should play in the NHL as a solid bottom pairing defensive defenseman.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing defensive defenseman.

No. 55
JOE LABATE
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Holy Angels (USHS)
BORN: April 16, 1993
VITALS: 6'-4" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 25 GP 27 G 22 A 49 PTS 42 PIM +27



SCOUTING REPORT: A big skilled centre with loads of raw potential. Has a very impressive frame and while he is reed thin right now he could eventually be a physical beast as he adds 30-40 pounds of muscle. Skates well with a nice stride that again just lacks strength in his legs for initial burst and straight line power. Willing to play physical and do the dirty work all over the ice. Stand in front of the net and tip pucks or play a hard cycle game along the wall. Has a nose for the net and the hands to be a threat in close. Has a heavy shot that will only improve and can also see the ice well for dishing passes. Can go through the odd game where he looks disinterested and lacks determination. Very raw prospect that will have plenty of time to add strength and further develop his game at Wisconsin.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.

No. 56
JOEL EDMUNDSON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Moose Jaw (WHL)
BORN: June 28, 1993
VITALS: 6'-4.5" / 190 Lbs



SCOUTING REPORT: An enormous physical defensive defender. WHL rookie is another riser up draft boards due to his impressive play in all three zones this season. He plays a real aggressive physical dominant game where he forces attackers to pay a price for challenging his side of the ice. Has a long reach and is pretty athletic despite his skinny frame. Willing to drop the gloves and can handle himself well with the fisticuffs. Sticks up for teammates and is a good character kid. Tries to worry more about keeping the puck out of his zone first and foremost but also has some raw offensive potential. Is still learning all aspects of the game and will likely need considerable time before he is considered pro ready. He will need to add another 40 pounds of muscle to his frame before then.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six physical defenseman.

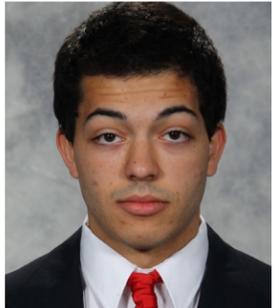
No. 57
MICHAEL MORRISON
POSITION: Goaltender
CATCHES: Right
TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)
BORN: November 7, 1992
VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 27 GP 2.65 GAA .912 SP



SCOUTING REPORT: Plays a strong positional game that incorporates a wicked glove and lightning quick lateral movement. Does not look overly big when standing between the pipes but makes himself look bigger by aggressively playing his angles. Can make the second and third save without much scrambling because of his athleticism, good feet and quick reads. The just average sized tender (6') can get caught too deep in his net when the play is directly in front of his crease. When he goes down there is plenty of high corner to shoot at although you would be hard pressed to put one by his glove. A real difference maker for the Rangers this year as he seemed to build the confidence of his team whenever he was called to play in place of starter Brandon Maxwell.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting goaltender.

No. 58
ROBBIE RUSSO
POSITION: Defenseman
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)
BORN: February 15, 1993
VITALS: 5'-11.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 52 GP 3 G 19 A 22 PTS 23 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A solid two-way puck mover. Skates well, willing to engage physically and use his body to separate the puck from opponents. Sees the ice well and reads the developing play. Makes strong accurate passes with good timing, moving the puck up ice quickly. Plays well with his partner and makes himself an active outlet. More often than not he makes good decisions in his own zone and with the puck. Not overly flashy but steady and effective when he keeps it simple. Can get sloppy when trying to do too much. Displays a good amount of aggressiveness and battle in his game. Came into the U18's in Germany needing to show what he could do after a solid but unspectacular season, he proceeded to contribute at both ends and put up eight points in six games for the eventual Champions. Headed to Notre Dame where can add strength and continue to develop.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six two-way defenseman.

No. 59
NIKITA KUCHEROV
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: CSKA Jr. (Russia)
BORN: June 17, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 160 Lbs
STATS: 35 GP 25 G 28 A 53 PTS 50 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: Russian winger is one of the drafts top talents, full of speed and elite offensive skill. A silky smooth, puck wizard who often looks as though he has the puck taped to his stick. Just knows how to finish, is absolutely lethal around the net but can also dish a seeing-eye pass though sticks and legs equally well. Has loads of natural talent, hockey sense and offensive creativity. Has the ability to lift you out of your seat but also the ability to disappear at times, especially when the play goes into his own zone. He can also become undisciplined and take bad penalties when things are not going his way. Has earned a reputation in multiple International competitions as a diver, with his small size and the Russian nationality; he leaves plenty of questions about his NHL future. Made his biggest jump of the year up the draft rankings at the U18's in Germany where he destroyed the competition to the tune of three points-per-game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 60
REID BOUCHER
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)
BORN: September 8, 1993
VITALS: 5'-9.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 49 GP 24 G 19 A 43 PTS 25 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A smallish deceptive goal scoring forward. Skates fine but lacks high end speed and first step acceleration. Is a tad undersized but doesn't let that stop him from competing all over the ice. Makes smart decisions, gets to open ice and sees the game different than everyone else. Wants the puck on his stick at crucial times. Can get a quick and hard wrister off from anywhere and make it dangerous. His anticipation is elite as he always seems to be in the right place to step into a shot at key moments of the game. Has great hands, good drive and is an underrated playmaker. Needs to improve his skating and add some more strength but this kid has the natural finishing instincts to play in the NHL next year. Future Michigan Spartan (or Sarnia Sting) is likely this seasons Jeff Skinner in that he just scores goals no matter the other warts in his game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six goal scoring forward.

No. 61
CHRISTOPHER GIBSON
POSITION: Goaltender
CATCHES: Right
TEAM: Chicoutimi (QMJHL)
BORN: December 27, 1992
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 37 GP 2.42 GAA .920 SP



SCOUTING REPORT: An average sized butterfly style goaltender who makes himself look bigger than he really is when he gets between the pipes. Subscribes to the JS Giguere puck blocking school rather than making the athletic reaction save, despite possessing good athleticism. Does not get caught scrambling or out of position very often. Carried a weaker Chicoutimi team this year with big game after big game. Comes out and aggressively challenges shooters to get the puck through him. Has good quick pads that can shoot out in a flash. Tends to open up when pushing both directions while going laterally. Has a below average glove that he tends to get beat by. A work in progress that has some good potential, but not overly refined at this time. Some NHL teams like the Finnish/British products potential while others see years of development time. He is a bit of a draft wildcard at this time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project goaltender.

No. 62
MIIKKA SALOMAKI
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Karpat (Finland)
BORN: March 9, 1993
VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 40 GP 4 G 6 A 10 PTS 53 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A gritty and hard working two-way winger. Skates well but lacks that extra gear for separation that you want in smaller forwards. Quickness and agility really make up for his lack of high end speed. Plays with a good amount of energy and determination, especially on the forecheck, feet are always moving. Uses his average sized frame and active stick to block shots, and close off pass or shooting lanes. Strong defensive awareness and offensive instincts allow him to be a threat at both ends. Not afraid of physical battles, engaging with larger opponents and driving into the dirty areas of the ice. Not sure how much offensive potential he has at the next level because he lacks high end puck skill and creativity but he should be a strong PK and defensive specialist at very least.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line checking forward.

No. 63
COLIN JACOBS
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Seattle (WHL)
BORN: January 20, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 22 G 22 A 44 PTS 69 PIM -19



SCOUTING REPORT: A good sized kid who plays a gritty hard working game. Skates well in a north/south role but lacks lateral mobility and jump. Drives the net and works the boards well. Is good with the puck on his stick but not going to beat many defenders one-on-one. Lacks hockey sense and the on ice awareness to be a consistently productive player even at this level. The scouts had high expectations for Jacobs coming into the year but he brought more questions than answers as he failed to produce anywhere up to those expectations. Ultimately he uses his big frame to play a hard hitting, defensively responsible game and has some offensive skill to chip in the odd goal.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line character forward.

No. 64
RYAN SPROUL
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
BORN: January 13, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 61 GP 14 G 19 A 33 PTS 36 PIM -15



SCOUTING REPORT: One of the top draft risers this year, Sproul first gained attention when he started putting up points in early December and continued to produce at an outstanding rate for the remainder of the year. He put up 33 points in his final 44 games. He skates well with a long fluid stride, good agility and solid overall mobility although he currently lacks leg power but that will come and improve his skating even more with added strength. Has a good hard shot that is his biggest offensive weapon. Has some vision and can make some passing plays with the puck. Needs much work on his defensive responsibilities as he is very raw in his own zone. Uses a long reach and his immense size currently to defend but lacks the positioning and understanding of defensive reads which he will need to be taught further.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four offensive defenseman.

No. 65
MICHAEL ST.CROIX
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Edmonton (WHL)
BORN: April 10, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10.5" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 27 G 48 A 75 PTS 48 PIM +28



SCOUTING REPORT: A talented forward who can really make things happen in the offensive zone. Has good overall mobility and can skate with the puck as though it is on a string. Has the elite creativity and vision you want in your top line players. Has a very good shot that is off his stick in a flash. Knows where to be on the ice for a scoring chance and goes through stretches where the puck follows him around the ice. At his best when he is playing a gritty hard working game but that is not always what you get from him. He has a tendency to not give the effort and look disinterested for stretches. After getting off to a slow start and then picking his game up offensively at mid-season, he was almost completely invisible in the four playoff game he played this spring to finish the year.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 66
MAX EVERSON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Edina HS (USHS)
BORN: February 22, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 22 GP 4 G 17 A 21 PTS 20 PIM +1



SCOUTING REPORT: A solid two-way defender who moves the puck well. He can really skate, with and without the puck and has shifty feet. Carries the puck up ice, sees his outlets well and makes crisp passes to them. Has a natural understanding for his #1 defenseman role and plays it well with Edina. Solid defensively using body position and an aggressive stick. Plays the point on the PP and shows off a good hard, accurate slap shot and well as the ability to find open teammates. His style of game, lack of size and strength as well as questions about offensive upside leave some wondering about his game at the next level that might just see him drop on draft day. He will have plenty of time to develop his game at Harvard for the next three or four years.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 67
ADAM LOWRY
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)
BORN: March 29, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 66 GP 18 G 27 A 45 PTS 84 PIM -21



SCOUTING REPORT: Son of former NHL player Dave Lowry is a forward who plays a real gritty game. Works the wall very well and also can disrupt by driving his big frame to the net with and without the puck. A raw project for the NHL team that drafts the big and gangly forward as he will need plenty of time to fill out. Lacks strength in his legs and upper body as he just sprouted up over the last couple years so scouts expect his skating stride and coordination improve dramatically over the next couple seasons. Does not mind the rough stuff despite his current lack of strength and loves to throw his limited weight around. Can handle the puck and has a decent shot as well. Could carve out a nice NHL career as a strong physical two-way winger one day.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 68
TRAVIS EWANYK
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Edmonton (WHL)
BORN: March 29, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 72 GP 16 G 11 A 27 PTS 126 PIM -3



SCOUTING REPORT: A big, hard hitting, grind it out type forward. Plays with a good amount of grit and determination, works the wall and loves the physical play. Possesses solid defensive awareness and is strong on the faceoffs. Makes the right play in all three zones, whether chipping and chasing the puck into the opponents zone or coming back to support his defense down low. Likes to throw his body around and will even drop the mitts when provoked. Has good hustle and energy in his skating stride that despite owning a wide leg stride gets him to where he needs to be. He shoots the puck well and follows it up by driving to the net. Despite the modest stats this year Ewanyk has NHL scouts excited with the extra things that he could bring to a team.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line character forward.

No. 69
MIKE MCKEE
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Kent School (USHS)
BORN: August 17, 1993
VITALS: 6'-4.5" / 230 Lbs
STATS: 27 GP 8 G 15 A 23 PTS 50 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: One of the youngest prospects in the entire draft. Has incredible size and strength for such a young prospect. Skates real well with outstanding overall mobility for such a beast of a man. Not overly aggressive but does play the body and pins his man along the wall easily. Can step up and make some big time hits when he is feeling nasty, destroying his check more so because of his size advantage over the majority of his competition as he does not often fully explode into his checks. Picks the right times to jump up into the play and has a real bomb of a shot but will often defer with a pass to a teammate. When he does take his shot it is hard, keeps it low and placed accurately on net. Makes good outlet passes at short to intermediate range but lacks the vision to push those longer passes. Some question his decision making ability and if he would be more productive as a forward as well as if his development will be hurt by remaining in low level competition like the US Prep system.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 70
MIKE REILLY
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Shattuck-St. Mary's (USHS)
BORN: July 13, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10.5" / 150 Lbs
STATS: 48 GP 13 G 30 A 43 PTS 26 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A smooth two-way defender who can put up some points. Skates well, nothing to get overly excited about but has good overall mobility and speed. Has great offensive instincts and quick decision making ability. Remains calm and poised under pressure, rarely turning over the puck. Can carry the puck and likes it on his stick, solid puck distribution skills and high end vision. Transitions the puck very quickly from defense to offense. Defensively he gets overpowered and at his best in his zone when he keeps it simple. Father was a draft pick of Montreal in the late '70's. Expected to join the University of Minnesota where he will play with brothers Ryan and Connor. NHL teams looking at Reilly know they will need to be patient and let him add some bulk over the next three or four years before they can even think of bringing him to the pro game. Very weak physically and needs to add strength over the summer.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 71
STEVEN FOGARTY
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Edina HS (USHS)
BORN: April 19, 1993
VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 24 GP 23 G 17 A 40 PTS 12 PIM +14



SCOUTING REPORT: Big and athletic two-way forward. Skates well with good straight line speed but lacks first step quickness and ability to make quick directional changes. Balanced and strong on his skates, able to protect the puck. A playmaker who sees the ice and reads the developing play well, able to dish the puck either using a soft touch or a hard, crisp pass. Can also shoot the puck with a nice release and accuracy but lacks the high end goal scorers instincts. Is opportunistic and can be dangerous around the net. Defensive awareness is good as is his desire to compete and win. His main strengths are his work ethic and determination to get better. Needs to add more strength and continue to work on his first few steps. Played well with Chicago of the USHL after his Edina season came to an end.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six playmaking forward.

No. 72
KALE KESSY
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Medicine Hat (WHL)
BORN: December 4, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 65 GP 10 G 14 A 24 PTS 129 PIM +5



SCOUTING REPORT: A hard nosed power forward who intimidates the opposing. Skating is a big of an issue as he is heavy footed. Lacks first step quickness but has decent speed and does not turn like a battleship, but work is needed. Can really look flat footed when playing more mobile opponents. An able fighter who makes room on the ice for himself and his teammates. Likes the physical aspect of the game and playing the body every chance he gets. Can also handle the puck and utilizes a decent shot and a nose for the net to also score some goals. Hard to play against, especially along the wall and in front of the net, and will be even more dominant in those areas when he adds more strength. Scouts were divided on if he has the ability to improve his skating enough to be effective at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line power forward.

No. 73
MICHAEL MERSCH
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Wisconsin (NCAA)
BORN: October 2, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 39 GP 8 G 10 A 18 PTS 30 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A gritty and hard working two-way forward. Has good size and still growing which is good news as he can get bounced around by stronger college opponents. Willing to battle it out and play a hard nosed game along the wall, in front of the net and coming back in his own zone. Used as a pretty decent net front presence on the Badgers power play and is effective. Handles the puck well and can cause some havoc in close to the crease. Skating is his biggest downfall as he has heavy slow feet and lack of jump. Has weak legs and will, or at least is projected to, improve his stride and balance once he adds considerable lower body strength. Some see a potential top six forward with Mersch, but a solid checking winger is likely going to be his eventual role as a pro.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line character forward.

No. 74
MAGNUS HELLBERG
POSITION: Goaltender
CATCHES: Left
TEAM: Almtuna (Sweden)
BORN: April 4, 1991
VITALS: 6'-5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 31 GP 2.04 GAA .936 SP



SCOUTING REPORT: A huge late blooming goaltender who really shot up the rankings this season after some very strong games in Sweden's Allsvenskan division. Incredible size at six-foot-five that allows for the shooter to see very little net with that kind of natural net coverage. Moves laterally well for such a big tender and can rob a shooter with his big trapper. Needs to work on some aspects of his game like being more aggressive and challenging shooters, playing angles better as he can lose his net when he comes out and trying not to drop down too quickly as he tends to do. His focus and rebound control are seen as strengths as is his ability to use his athleticism when scrambling for second and third chances. Hellberg would not be getting this much praise if he were six-feet but with his size NHL teams are seeing some real potential there.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project goaltender.

No. 75
TOBIAS RIEDER
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)
BORN: January 10, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10.5" / 170 Lbs
STATS: 65 GP 23 G 26 A 49 PTS 35 PIM +9



SCOUTING REPORT: A diminutive but highly skilled forward. Has very high skill level and skates well but his size is holding him back. Skates well with good first step quickness and separation speed as well as impressive lateral jump. Has elite hands and can make dekes that the majority of this draft class can only dream of pulling off. Has a accurate shot but it lacks velocity as well as the vision to be a solid playmaker at the next level. Not afraid to go into traffic, take a hit and drive the net but he tends to take games off where he just stays to the outside. Defensively he helps out by coming back and checks his man. Physically he is very weak and gets out muscled by most defenders when he engages in puck battles. Usually plays with a good amount of intensity and work rate but consistency is where the questions abound. Will he get stronger, will be battle hard against bigger tough opponents, will his skill be enough to compensate as a top six forward in the NHL?

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 76
ALAN QUINE
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Peterborough (OHL)
BORN: February 25, 1993
VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 52 GP 22 G 20 A 42 PTS 6 PIM -35



SCOUTING REPORT: A talented and slick playmaking forward. Skates well with good burst, overall speed and some shifty lateral mobility. Not very big and plays a bit of a perimeter game as he avoids traffic. Can engage driving into the slot when he senses a scoring chance developing but does not do so on a consistent level. Displays a nice touch with the puck, ability to handle it and protect it especially along the half boards. Excellent vision and hockey sense but lacks intensity and consistency in his effort levels. Is a excellent playmaker who can get the puck on his line mates stick though heavy traffic and with a nice creative flare. Has a quick snap shot and wrister but both lack velocity because of his lack of strength. Currently shows no interest in contributing in his own zone as he lets his check through more often than not. Is very weak physically and will need plenty of development time before he can move to the next level. Has some untapped offensive upside that should keep NHL teams interested.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 77
XAVIER OUELLET
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Montreal (QMJHL)
BORN: July 29, 1993
VITALS: 5'-11.5" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 67 GP 8 G 35 A 43 PTS 44 PIM +27



SCOUTING REPORT: A playmaking defender who displays great ability to stretch the ice with his passing ability. Has outstanding vision and timing on his passes. Smallish defender has a poor skating stride that will need some work. Has a hard time turning and pivoting as well as slow first steps. Defensively he is at his best when he keeps it simple and plays a strong positional game. You can see that he knows what needs to be done defensively but his feet are holding him back. Does not have recovery ability because of his weak skating. Strong on the PP where he can find open lanes and distribute the puck from the point. With his lack of strength and mobility his professional potential is a real question mark that will dictate where he gets picked.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing offensive defenseman.

No. 78
MATT KILLIAN
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Delbarton (USHS)
BORN: October 20, 1992
VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 28 GP 7 G 19 A 26 PTS 10 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A strong two-way defenseman who can skate. Not going to blow you away with flash and dash but does have the skill to carry the puck, see his options and distribute the puck efficiently. Is mobile in all directions and while he does not possess elite speed he does have some jump and quickness. He can play aggressive when needed and physical as well. Plays a safe and steady defensive game, taking what he is given and not trying to make things happen that are not there. Has good offensive upside as his vision and hockey sense are good. Was able to pick apart his weak prep school competition this year and he needs a bigger challenge which he will get at Yale.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 79
SETH GRIFFITH
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: London (OHL)
BORN: January 4, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 22 G 40 A 62 PTS 28 PIM -1



SCOUTING REPORT: A smallish but speedy and gritty little battler with some nice offensive skills. Skates well with good quickness and top speed. Plays the PK and is a threat to create offense off of turnovers. Handles the puck really well and is ultra creative in the offensive zone. A complete three zone player; Griffith comes back to help out defensively, makes himself available as an option in the neutral zone and then goes to the half boards or the front of the net where he can contribute offensively. Plays bigger than his size and will battle hard with his low centre of gravity. Works his tail off, is hard to knock off the puck, has a great shot and is also a very fine playmaker. Size and durability are questions but some team will likely step up and take him early based on the other positives in his game. Played well in the playoffs for London as he put up seven points in six games.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 80
SCOTT HARRINGTON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: London (OHL)
BORN: March 10, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 67 GP 6 G 16 A 22 PTS 51 PIM -14



SCOUTING REPORT: A smooth skating defensive minded defenseman. Not overly big but solidly built and able to play a physical defensive game where he boxes out opponents, pins checks to the boards and can clear the crease. Uses a pretty quick stick to knock down pass attempts and close off lanes. Has good defensive instincts and can get his body down to block shots and passes. Keeps good gaps as well as communicating with and supporting his partner. You wonder about his size and effectiveness at the next level. Not much in the way of pro offensive upside. Had a hard year that saw his draft stock fall from potential first round pick to a mid-round selection. His playoff performance did nothing but hinder his already wounded status as well.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing defensive defenseman.

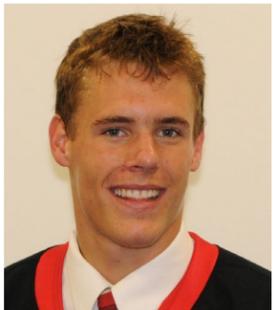
No. 81
MAXIMILIEN LE SIEUR
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Shawinigan (QMJHL)
BORN: September 27, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 16 G 28 A 44 PTS 37 PIM +7



SCOUTING REPORT: A big strong north-south winger with some skill. Has nice hands and the ability to make some high ends offensive plays. Is a heavy footed skater who needs some work on his quickness but likely will improve through progression. Grew about three inches in just under two years, so some of his skating deficiencies can be contributed to short term coordination issues. Plays the game with a healthy amount of grit and determination. Willing to drop the gloves and has the ability to tune an opponent when agitated but doesn't look comfortable in that role. Has a decent shot and ability to make a pass but lacks offensive creativity and the vision to be a top line player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line checking forward.

No. 82
NICK COUSINS
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
BORN: July 20, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 29 G 39 A 68 PTS 56 PIM -14



SCOUTING REPORT: A gritty and skilled offensive forward. Skates real well with good jump, lateral agility and top end speed. Can really control the puck on his stick and has nice creativity as well. Offensively he can shoot the puck and has shown a willingness to go into tough areas for a scoring chance but does not always do so. His size is prohibitive to him playing a physical game but he does show some grit and feistiness. Smart in the defensive zone and can make the subtle play that disrupts the oppositions attack. Sees the ice very well and can make a crisp tape-to-tape pass look easy. Question is can a small and weak forward who looks like he might not be able to add much more strength to his slight frame play a role in the NHL?

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 83
ANDREI PEDAN
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Guelph (OHL)
BORN: July 3, 1993
VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 51 GP 2 G 10 A 12 PTS 89 PIM -11



SCOUTING REPORT: A big hulking two-way defender. Possesses a powerful long skating stride that generates a healthy amount of speed. Solid overall mobility and pivots for such a big body. Has a good hard shot but doesn't use it all that often instead looking to dish the puck first. Can skate with the puck as he has some nice vision, hands and poise. Is physical and willing to drop the gloves or lay an opponent out with a crushing check. Uses his physicality and long reach to shut attackers down. Extremely raw yet and will need to gain both experience, strength and confidence before he reaches his true potential. Exploded in the playoffs for Guelph putting up over a point-per-game and stepping up to the forefront in the minds of some scouts. Played well in Germany with the Russian squad even though he lost his cool.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 84
MAX FRIBERG
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Skovde Div.1 (Sweden)
BORN: November 20, 1992
VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 34 GP 13 G 27 A 40 PTS 6 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A energetic, thick bodied, opportunistic forward. Has a good skating stride that helps keep him balanced but lacks high end speed. More quick than speedy as he darts in and out of traffic looking to gain a scoring chance. Not very big but has a big heart and will go up against larger opponents in puck battles. Hard on the forecheck and will play the body with his strong low centre of gravity. Has some quick hands, a hard shot and can beat defenders one-on-one with his agility and a quick deke. Not the best offensive creativity nor does he see the ice surface that well which leads to the question of his pro offensive upside. Has no problem with his work ethic and intensity in games.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 85
MAXIM SHALUNOV
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Chelyabinsk (MHL)
BORN: January 31, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 38 GP 11 G 13 A 24 PTS 42 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: The classic Russian enigmatic forward. You never know what you will see with this kid, one game he dominates with a non-stop motor while the next he is completely invisible. Has real nice size, soft hands and skates very well. Has a nice top speed, good balance and agility. Possesses a goal scorers shot that are dangerous because of its velocity and firecracker release. Can be hard to handle down around the net or when he is engaged in battles along the wall but his work ethic is poor and his intensity ranges from all in to not interested. Can go through stretches where he can be a liability with undisciplined play. Do not expect him to play in his own zone as he rarely makes it south of his own blueline. Could be a top prospect if he can ever get his ho-hum attitude re-adjusted.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 86
MICHAEL PALIOTTA
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)
BORN: April 6, 1993
VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 52 GP 1 G 12 A 13 PTS 71 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A non-flashy type of mobile defensive defender. Huge and still filling out his frame, has good strength to use at the Major Junior level and while he is not overly physical he does use his size to close off lanes, pin opponents to the wall and clear the net. Uses his stick and smart defensive reads to play an effective own zone game. Not one to drop the mitts or throw devastating checks. Skating is very nice for his size as he pivots well both ways and possesses nice overall speed. Does not have much offensive creativity and can get rushed into making bad decisions with the puck but can also play a calm poised game when he keeps things simple. Makes a good breakout pass but is not one that will pile up points at the next level. Has time to improve his strength further and work on developing his shot at Vermont in the Hockey East.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing stay-at-home defenseman.

No. 87
MARKUS GRANLUND
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: HIFK Jr. (Finland)
BORN: April 16, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs
STATS: 40 GP 20 G 32 A 52 PTS 49 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A small but skilled playmaker. Has some good offensive talent but lacks the offensive sense and elite vision of his brother, Minnesota first rounder Mikael Granlund, although he is definitely the better skater. More of a playmaker than a scorer, he has some soft and quick hands and makes accurate, timely passes. Plays the game a little too much on the perimeter even though his lack of size might dictate it. Gets knocked around when he gets into puck battles and needs to add considerable strength. Would like to see him challenge the middle of the ice more often with his good creativity and go to the net even when defenders are there. Shies away from physical play and despite having a good compete level there are just some prices he is not willing to pay.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six playmaking forward

No. 88
WILLIAM KARLSSON
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Vasteras Jr. (Sweden)
BORN: January 8, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs
STATS: 38 GP 20 G 34 A 54 PTS 45 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A good two-way forward. Skates well with impressive quickness and agility. Has good speed but instead uses anticipation and positional understanding to be in the right place at the right time. Is strong in the faceoff circle and does many of the little things that a player needs to do to be successful. Has nice hockey sense, smarts and an understanding of his role in all zones. Shows good quick hands that can beat defenders one-on-one or control the puck in traffic. Has a good amount of energy and compete in his game. Uses his vision to play the role of playmaker but also can put the puck in the net. Not overly physical but is not afraid to drive the net and pay a price for a scoring chance. Really showed well at the U18's in Germany where he did all the little things for a skilled Swedish team.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six two-way forward.

No. 89
MAREK TVRDON
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Vancouver (WHL)
BORN: January 31, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 210 Lbs
STATS: 12 GP 6 G 5 A 11 PTS 14 PIM +3



SCOUTING REPORT: A big strong forward who can be tough to contain. Skates well for a big guy and can really move well again for his size. Has a slow first couple strides but gets up to speed and can be hard to stop once he gets going. Hard to handle along the wall in the cycle as well as when he drives the net. Has soft hands, good puck protection ability and a nice shot. His game however was very inconsistent from shift-to-shift. Has a horrible draft year as he only saw a dozen games before missing the rest of the year with a bad shoulder which required surgery. Did NHL squads see enough potential to take the chance on the talented Slovakian?

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.

No. 90
AUSTEN BRASSARD
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Belleville (OHL)
BORN: January 14, 1993
VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 67 GP 19 G 15 A 34 PTS 78 PIM -19



SCOUTING REPORT: A power forward with some offensive skills. Skates well with good agility, quickness and balance. Can protect the puck well using his large frame, drive it to the net with a defender on his back, snipe a wrister over the goaltenders shoulder or stickhandle with a nice deke around to beat him. Shows no problem using his strength and size to his advantage and then 'POOF' ...disappears into all aspects of the game for long stretches at a time. Maddening inconsistencies in effort and interest levels along with all the talent he does possess has scouts wondering if he will ever figure it out. So many questions but if he proves critics wrong, he could be a huge steal this low.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six power forward.

No. 91
RASMUS BENGTTSSON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Rogle (Sweden)
BORN: May 14, 1993
VITALS: 6'-2.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 45 GP 2 G 7 A 9 PTS 6 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A big smooth-skating puck moving defenseman. Skates well with nice speed and an all-encompassing mobility. Moves from a frontwards to backwards stride very well and has good recovery ability. Has a howitzer of a shot from the point but misses his mark more often than not. Sees the ice well and can make an accurate breakout pass. Has trouble with long stretch passes as they tend to miss the mark. Defensively, he is a work in progress as his positioning and zone reads are in need of improvement. Has good size and uses it, sometimes. Would like to see him be more consistent in his physical play. Needs to add more strength, as he is on the thin side, and work to round out his game. Could be a solid development project for a NHL squad with some patience.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-to-bottom pairing two-way defenseman.

No. 92
TYLER WOTHERSPOON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Portland (WHL)
BORN: March 12, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 64 GP 2 G 10 A 12 PTS 73 PIM +0



SCOUTING REPORT: A safe and simple defensive defenseman. Skates well enough but with a heavy stride and generates just average speed. Not often beaten off the rush because of his sound positioning. Plays the role in Portland as a shutdown defenseman who can make a safe breakout pass but not much else offensively to get excited about. Not overly big but effective with the size he does possess. Willing to block shots as well as take a hit from the forecheck to make a play. Pins guys to the wall and will push back when engaged physically but not really a true fighter. Plays a smart 'just chip the puck out' game that compliments his higher-skilled teammates. Not overly skilled with the puck, nor does he have much creativity or offensive potential.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing defensive defenseman.

No. 93
RYAN TESINK
POSITION: Centre/Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Saint John (QMJHL)
BORN: May 21, 1993
VITALS: 5'-11" / 155 Lbs
STATS: 59 GP 8 G 27 A 35 PTS 38 PIM +26



SCOUTING REPORT: A small but highly determined forward. Skates well with quick feet, nice speed and great agility. Has outstanding hockey sense and reads the developing play well. Is a playmaker by nature looking to pass first but he also can bury the puck with a quick release on his underrated wrist. Is creative and handles the puck well. Physically he is determined but is weak when engaging in puck battles and is consistently overpowered. Plays hard in all three zones and can be used as a shut down checker as well as an offensive contributor. Blends in with the crowd at Saint John as they are a stacked team full of talent. Bigger things are expected in the next couple years from Tesink.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six playmaking forward.

No. 94
JORDAN BINNINGTON
POSITION: Goaltender
CATCHES: Right
TEAM: Owen Sound (OHL)
BORN: July 11, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 160 Lbs
STATS: 46 GP 3.05 GAA .899 SP



SCOUTING REPORT: A good-sized raw goaltender with potential. Has quick feet and good fundamentals to build upon. Has lacked in consistency this season as we have seen games where we thought he was the top goalie available and then other nights where we question whether to list him at all. When he is on, Binnington controls his rebounds well, plays aggressively and challenges shooters staying square to the shooter. When he is not focused, he opens up gaping holes between his legs, loses his angles and goes down too early relying more on reflex than technique. Binnington needs to add more weight and strength over the summer. Went into the playoffs as the Attacks starter but struggled against London and even lost his spot at one point but earned it back with some solid play.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project goaltender

No. 95
JOSEPH CRAMAROSSA
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Mississauga (OHL)
BORN: October 26, 1992
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 59 GP 12 G 20 A 32 PTS 101 PIM +22



SCOUTING REPORT: A hard working two-way forward with good skill. Skates well with a powerful stride and some jump in his step. Could use a little work on his turns and needs some more leg strength but he should be fine. Has underrated offensive skills as well as good hockey sense and the only thing that kept him from showing them on a nightly basis was being on a team that was loaded with talent. Because of the situation, he has adapted his game to that of a more gritty power centre who can kill penalties and defend a lead as well as chip in the offense when given the ice time to do it. Can drop the gloves and handle himself well to defend himself as well as his teammates. Could be one of those players that scores 80 points in the OHL, eventually.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 96
OLIVIER ARCHAMBAULT
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Val-d'Or (QMJHL)
BORN: February 16, 1993
VITALS: 5'-11" / 170 Lbs
STATS: 65 GP 20 G 33 A 53 PTS 25 PIM -7



SCOUTING REPORT: A small darting forward. Skates well with quickness in his feet and an ability to cut to the middle and change direction easily. Small but hard to get a bead on when bigger checkers are looking. Has nice hands and a quick stick but lacks high-end vision and anticipation. Is creative with the puck and has the tools such as a good shot, passing ability and drive, to succeed at the Major Junior level. Cannot battle with the big boys along the wall due to his lack of strength but does continue to go and try, winning his fair share through sheer determination and hard work. Needs to add more strength. Always seems to be involved in the play but currently lacks the high-end offensive skills to be a scorer at the NHL level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 97
REECE SCARLETT
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)
BORN: March 31, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 165 Lbs
STATS: 72 GP 6 G 18 A 24 PTS 59 PIM -37



SCOUTING REPORT: An averaged size defensive defenseman. Skates well with good speed and excellent four-way mobility. Has a quick jump but could use some extra leg strength going forward. Very underdeveloped physically and needs lots of gym time. Has good defensive awareness and reads the play well. Uses a long reach to close off lanes and has the ability to make short range passes effectively. At his best when he plays it safe and simple. His vision seems to be lacking as does not have any form of offensive creativity. Has some good potential as a smart defensive defenseman but teams should not expect much in the way of an offensive contribution at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing defensive defenseman.

No. 98
PETR PLACEK
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Hotchkiss School (USHS)
BORN: December 28, 1992
VITALS: 6'-3.5" / 210 Lbs
STATS: 8 GP 7 G 6 A 13 PTS 10 PIM N/AV



SCOUTING REPORT: A big horse of a power forward. Has great size and strength which is seen especially against small, weaker prep players. Skates with heavy boots but can generate speed and is hard to stop once he gets it going. Defenders bounce off him when they try to check the big Czech but even with that advantage he still plays on the outside far too much. Has a great wrist shot that is both hard and quick off his blade. Has some questions with his vision as he can miss multiple open options with passes. Is dominant along the wall in battles and when he does go for the net he is impossible to stop. Suffered a knee injury that really hurt his play in the pivotal draft season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six scoring forward.

No. 99
PHILIPPE HUDON
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Choate-Rosemary (USHS)
BORN: April 15, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 22 GP 10 G 10 A 20 PTS 44 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: Power forward with some skill. Skates well with good top speed, outstanding acceleration and strong feet. Has soft hands and the ability to carry the puck up ice. Not going to beat a defender with a bag of tricks but instead powers his way to the net. Works hard and takes care of his own zone. Shows good hockey sense but something is lacking. Might not have the creativity or on-ice vision to be an elite scorer in college. Is more a north-south type player than a typical agile centre which might lead one to think his future will be on the wing. The strong -skating Montreal, QC, native is bound for Cornell. There are questions unto whether his game would be better served in Major Junior or the USHL this past season as he has not really progressed from last season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line character forward.

No. 100
ANDREW FRITSCH
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Owen Sound (OHL)
BORN: March 24, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 60 GP 28 G 35 A 63 PTS 18 PIM +17



SCOUTING REPORT: A bit of a slippery playmaking forward who can score. Has good vision and hands that allow him to carry the puck while scoping the ice for options. Makes crisp tape-to-tape passes more often than not and has an underrated shot. Skates with a healthy amount of speed but lacks a true separation gear. Not a physical player by any means but he does drive the puck to the net and goes there looking for chances. Has a tendency to go through invisible stretches this season. Showed enough skill to get teams looking his way for what he could develop into. A boom or bust as he does not look like he has the tools to be a checker if scoring does not work out.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

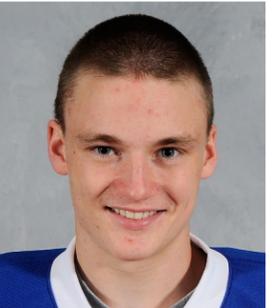
No. 101
LOGAN SHAW
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)
BORN: October 5, 1992
VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 26 G 20 A 46 PTS 37 PIM -18



SCOUTING REPORT: A big but lanky two-way power forward. Skates well for such a big kid but needs to improve his leg strength and initial few steps. Has good agility and straight line speed. Handles the puck well with some ability to dangle around defenders. Has very raw game that is just starting to develop. Has a good Major Junior shot but could use work on his release and upping the shot's velocity. Not overly physical but does well along the wall. Right now he is physically weak and will need to put on around 40 pounds of muscle but once he does, he will be hard to control. Was one of the highlights on a poor team in Cape Breton this year. Some NHL teams might think his game has more upside or potential than others and take him earlier.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line character forward.

No. 102
KEEGAN LOWE
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Edmonton (WHL)
BORN: March 29, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs
STATS: 71 GP 2 G 22 A 24 PTS 123 PIM +33



SCOUTING REPORT: A thin but strong defensive defenseman. Skates well but lacks high-end speed. Uses his smarts to stay in a strong position and read the play. Good at using his stick and body to close off lanes. Stays with his checks and makes them pay a price for venturing towards the net. Not a whole lot of offensive upside with Lowe but he does have the ability to move the puck with a good breakout pass. Is the type of battling gritty D-man team's need in their bottom pairings and PK to win in the playoffs. Has good bloodlines, father is Edmonton Oiler's Stanley Cup dynasty defenseman Kevin Lowe. A real team first player, always willing to drop the gloves and stand up for a teammate or take a hit to make a play.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing defensive defenseman.

No. 103
COLIN SMITH
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Kamloops (WHL)
BORN: June 20, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs
STATS: 72 GP 21 G 29 A 50 PTS 61 PIM -21



SCOUTING REPORT: A small but highly-skilled forward. A beautiful skater with good jump, top speed and darting agility. Can create offense using his speed, aggressiveness and offensive sense. Shows nice vision and can play the role of playmaker or finisher equally well. Has a nice release on a quick wrister and the drive to go to the net. Has good character and will do what is needed to win. Is feisty and will dive right into puck battles all over the ice. Because of his lack of size, Smith has a problem with bigger stronger defenders and will need to add weight and strength to his slight frame. Has a good head on his shoulders, possessing good hockey sense and a strong work ethic. Was awarded the Doc Seaman Memorial Trophy as the WHL Scholastic player of the year.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

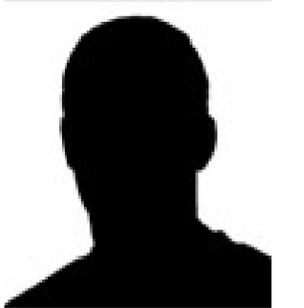
No. 104
MICHAEL CURTIS
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Belleville (OHL)
BORN: January 26, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 58 GP 9 G 9 A 18 PTS 32 PIM -25



SCOUTING REPORT: A speedy two-way competitor. Is hard to contain coming down the wing with good speed and lateral agility. Has quick feet and some nice jump in his first couple steps. Has a very underrated wrist shot that is accurate, hard and off the blade in a flash. Smart and has good vision on the ice. Needs to work on his strength as well as consistently bringing his A game. Might have been downgraded by some NHL teams because of his perceived regression over the last year, but has showed off the tools he possesses to contribute on both sides of the puck. Raw but has very nice potential and upside as long as his head is in it.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 105
JOSHUA LEIVO
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Sudbury (OHL)
BORN: May 26, 1993
VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs
STATS: 64 GP 13 G 17 A 30 PTS 37 PIM -10



SCOUTING REPORT: A big body with offensive upside. Skates pretty well as he gets up the ice quickly and has good agility. Plays with a bit of an edge and will battle it out for loose pucks or drive the puck to the net. Lacks high-end skill and soft hands but shows an opportunistic instinct around the net. Works his butt off and is hard on the forecheck, relentlessly pursues the puck. Defensively, he has some potential going forward as he finishes his checks and shows an understanding of his role at his own end. Did not look like he had much vision or hockey sense until he turned it on for the playoff drive where he exploded with 13 points including six goals in eight playoff games for Sudbury. Is a bit of an unknown with regards to his pro upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line character forward.

No. 106
MATTIAS BACKMAN
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Linkoping Jr. (Sweden)
BORN: October 3, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2" / 170 Lbs
STATS: 27 GP 2 G 18 A 20 PTS 34 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A gritty two-way defenseman with some size. Skates well with a long fluid stride that generates good speed and power with his long legs. Moves very well with pivoting and smooth transitions. Has a wide base and keeps his head up when the puck is on his stick. Has nice vision and the ability to distribute the long stretch pass as well as soft touch passes. Is strong on his skates and gets into lanes to close off options as well as uses a long reach to disrupt attacks. Plays a physical game where he pins opponents to the wall and engages in puck battles. Needs to bring the same effort night after night and add considerable muscle to his slender frame. Shot is a work in progress. An NHL squad will likely step up and draft him early because of his upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle pairing two-way defenseman.

No. 107
ALEXEI MARCHENKO
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: CSKA Jr. (Russia)
BORN: January 2, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 29 GP 4 G 26 A 30 PTS 22 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: An offensively skilled and defensively responsible two-way defender. Has good size and strength and is physically able to rub his checks out along the wall as well as he steps up to make a strong open ice check. Skates well and can generate good speed. Can skate the puck up the ice himself or make an accurate in-stride pass to one of his forwards. Defensively he plays a strong positional game using his stick and strong hockey sense. On the power play he uses his vision, passing ability and has a good point shot. Last season he was on FC's radar but then went down with a serious injury that required surgery. Will need to add considerable strength but does have a mature enough game and could make the jump right to the AHL for the team willing to take a chance on selecting him this year. He has too many positives to ignore a second time around.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 108
JOACHIM NERMARK
POSITION: Centre/Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Linkoping Jr. (Sweden)
BORN: May 12, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 37 GP 8 G 18 A 26 PTS 16 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A smart two-way hockey player. Skates well but lacks separation speed and quick lateral cuts. Has a good amount of sense in all three zones and the vision of a strong playmaker. Can thread the needle with a sharp pass through traffic and can also finish with a strong and quick wrist shot. Has a real nose for the net. Can carry the puck with good quick hands and can beat defenders one-on-one. Shows some flashes of creativity but does not always try to make a play, instead he just takes what is given off of opponents. At his best when playing with drive and determination, which he was not consistently doing this year. Fell down the draft rankings as the season progressed, unable to replicate his offensive performance with 12 points in five games that earned him rave reviews in Slovakia at the summers Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 109
MARCEL NOEBELS
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Seattle (WHL)
BORN: March 14, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2.5" / 195 Lbs
STATS: 66 GP 28 G 26 A 54 PTS 23 PIM -11



SCOUTING REPORT: A big body who shoots hard and drives to the net. Skates well with a wide stride, generating ample speed and agility. Protects the puck well with his large frame and long reach. Drives the net and works hard for loose pucks. Can handle the puck by carrying it up ice or dishing soft passes with a nice touch and solid vision. Has a real heavy shot that is his biggest weapon. Could add more leg strength which might help a slow first few steps. Defensively responsible and shows nice hockey sense. His role will not likely ever be an offensive generator, but rather, a good two-way winger. His coming over and showing his willingness to leave home should be enough for an NHL team to make Noebels their property this June.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 110
GARRETT MEURS
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Plymouth (OHL)
BORN: January 12, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10.5" / 170 Lbs
STATS: 68 GP 10 G 30 A 40 PTS 61 PIM +7



SCOUTING REPORT: A smallish playmaking forward who plays with an edge. Skating is a real deficiency as he has an ugly stride that generates a just adequate top speed. Has no jump or explosiveness in his feet and will need to work on this if he is to advance to the next level. Is somewhat of an invisible player most nights until he makes a very skilled pass or play in the offensive zone. Has nice vision and offensive creativity but lacks the consistent drive to use them shift in and shift out. Will stick his nose in where it doesn't belong and can be a pest to opponents. Has a quick shot but has hesitated to use it to his own detriment. Has the ability to develop into a solid NHL player down the line but needs some real work. After finishing the regular season strong, his draft stock likely took another hit in the playoffs as he had a real hard time getting anything going.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 111
MATT MCNEELY
POSITION: Goaltender
CATCHES: Left
TEAM: U18 US NTDP (USHL)
BORN: February 16, 1993
VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs
STATS: 65 GP 3.82 GAA .893 SP



SCOUTING REPORT: A big athletic butterfly goaltender. Has very quick feet and side-to-side movements. Shoots out his pads with lightning quick reflexes and steers the puck to the corners well. Not as technically strong as some of the other more highly rated goalies but has just as much pro upside. Utilizes his reflexes more than just playing his angles. Has games where his focus is strong and confidence is high, can look all-world and then the next game lets in a few softies. Will draw a lot of interest from NHL squads looking to draft a goalie and let him develop for three or four years. Should have plenty of time to iron out wrinkles in his game at Minnesota-Duluth.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project goaltender.

No. 112
JEREMY BOYCE-ROTEVALL
POSITION: Centre/Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Timra (Sweden)
BORN: April 18, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 33 GP 1 G 2 A 3 PTS 4 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A speedy attacking forward. Skating is his biggest strength as he generates great speed. Has quick feet and jumps from standstill to full flight in two short steps. Not overly offensive in that he doesn't do a whole lot to create plays, but streams down the wing and fires a wicked shot on net, then drives for a rebound. Hockey sense and offensive creativity are questionable. Can make a passing play but tends to want to shoot first. Played with an inconsistent effort level this season in the Elite League but showed some nice upside. Needs work on the defensive aspect and has to ramp up his determination when he doesn't have the puck. Has some work to do, such as adding strength and rounding out his two-way game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 113
KLAS DAHLBECK
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Linkoping (Sweden)
BORN: July 6, 1991
VITALS: 6'-2" / 170 Lbs
STATS: 47 GP 0 G 8 A 8 PTS 12 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A smart defensively responsible defender. Has a decent skating stride that gets him to where he needs to be with an above average top speed. Has quick feet, excellent agility and the jump to cover and close off lanes. Makes a strong accurate outlet pass and can skate well with the puck although he tends to let the more skilled players do so. Has a decent shot but does not use it often. Does not try to do too much or play above his own potential, but instead brings a consistent level of play each and every shift. His performance at the World Juniors in Buffalo was where he really impressed scouts. Not the highest upside but would be a nice bottom pairing 'Mr. Dependable' at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four two-way defenseman.

No. 114
DANIEL PRIBYL
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: HC Sparta Praha Jr. (Czech Republic)
BORN: December 18, 1992
VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 41 GP 27 G 31 A 58 PTS 22 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A big, skilled forward with nice potential. Skating is a weakness at this point as he has fine straight line speed but his first few steps is where it hurts him. Needs to add some lower body strength and improve his foot speed. Has soft hands and can dangle with the puck. Is creative with very nice vision and is a dangerous player in the offensive zone. Has a good shot with a quick release and gets into proper position around the net. Not overly physical but does use his big frame to protect the puck. Needs work on his game in his own zone and when he doesn't have the puck. Thin and could stand to add another 30 pounds of muscle before moving to the North American pro ranks.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top nine power forward.

No. 115
SHANE MCCOLGAN
POSITION: Right Wing
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)
BORN: January 1, 1993
VITALS: 5'-8" / 165 Lbs
STATS: 67 GP 21 G 45 A 66 PTS 62 PIM +3



SCOUTING REPORT: A pint-sized offensive forward. Skates well with nice speed and an excellent jump in his step. Cuts and turns well with elusiveness which he needs to survive against much bigger opponents. Looks as though he is done growing and has not much filling out left. Has high-end offensive skills, vision and creativity. Has a good quick shot and the ability to play the role of playmaker. Handles the puck very well with quick hands and can control it on his stick in and out of traffic. Willing to come of the perimeter but not consistently. Has good energy and can get under the skin of his opponents. Really turned it on at the playoffs where he contributed a point-per-game and made scouts that might have wrote him off again, take note.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 116
TROY VANCE
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Victoriaville (QMJHL)
BORN: August 2, 1993
VITALS: 6'-6" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 23 GP 1 G 3 A 4 PTS 21 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A hard-nosed stay-at-home defenseman. Plays with a good amount of aggression and willingness to get nasty. Skates real well with decent speed for his size but could use some help with footwork as he can get caught on his pivots and turns. Has the eye for lining up opponents for the big hit and can follow that up with tooling the teams enforcer with his big mitts afterwards; although, he does not really want to fight all the time. Makes simple, safe defensive plays and does not try to get too fancy with the puck when pressured. Smart in his own zone, can make a strong outlet pass, but lacks high-end skill. Really raised some eyebrows and earned the scouts attention after he came to the Q from the EJHL's Philadelphia Revolution where he was a point-per-game player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing stay-at-home defenseman.

No. 117
ZACH FRANKO
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)
BORN: March 9, 1993
VITALS: 5'-10" / 160 Lbs
STATS: 72 GP 22 G 31 A 53 PTS 22 PIM +7



SCOUTING REPORT: An ultra-fast and skilled offensive forward. Has very fast feet, elusive cuts and turns with a killer change of direction. Has the hands to match his feet as he can control the puck at top gear and make defenders look silly when they get caught watching the puck. Has the creativity, vision and smarts to be a big point producer but must add considerable strength first. Has a quick wrist shot and the touch to make skilled passing plays. Competes hard for loose puck and shows good intensity in the offensive zone but is still a work in progress defensively. Started slow in his rookie Dub season but soon found his comfort level and started producing numbers.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 118
JIMMY VESEY
POSITION: Left Wing
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Belmont Hill (USHS)
BORN: May 26, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs
STATS: Not Available



SCOUTING REPORT: A goal-scoring forward. Skates well with good speed, but can have games where his feet seem sluggish. Has some good lateral agility and the ability to make defenders look silly with a quick cut. Could stand to add more leg strength and lengthen his stride. Has nice hands and can be hard to knock off the puck despite his lack of size. Sees the ice well with the ability to make a crisp, accurate pass but his real strength is finishing off the play. Has a nice shot that is off his stick quickly. Seems to always be involved in the play and works his tail off. His level of competition was not the best this year and he has a ways to go yet, which will affect his draft ranking but he has the potential to become a very good pro one day and is worth a pick in these middle rounds.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

No. 119
PATRICK KOUDYS
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: RPI (NCAA)
BORN: November 15, 1992
VITALS: 6'-2.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 32 GP 1 G 2 A 3 PTS 14 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A no frills type defensive defenseman. Has a very nice size and frame to add considerable mass to. Skates fine with some decent speed, both forwards and backwards; however, he can get caught when making the transition or when a forward cuts to the middle. Played a safe defensive role this season but does have offensive upside, will likely never be counted on to produce points. Has a real heavy point shot that is a little on the unpredictable size. Makes a strong outlet pass but doesn't have much puck rushing chops or creativity in his game. A raw underdeveloped defensive game but does show the willingness to use his size to his advantage, pinning attackers along the wall and really battling for pucks. Works hard and shows the willingness to be coached which has NHL squads excited about his future.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing two-way defenseman.

No. 120
DILLON SIMPSON
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: North Dakota (NCAA)
BORN: February 10, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 27 GP 2 G 8 A 10 PTS 6 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: An athletic two-way defenseman. Had an up and down first year with North Dakota. Skating needs work as he has an unproductive stride which lacks jump and looks as though he is spinning his tires. Has the vision, hands and smarts to be a solid puck mover although he showed little to no poise with the puck on his stick many times this season. Often made rush decisions with the puck, dumping it off to the first option he identified. Defensively, the son of former Edmonton Oiler, Craig Simpson, showed good understanding of his positioning and the ability to quickly transition the puck back up the ice. Works hard along the wall and clears the crease when needed. Coaches gave him plenty of ice this season and he will have a lot of time to continue developing with the Fighting Sioux.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle pairing two-way defenseman.

No. 121
SEAN KURALY
POSITION: Centre
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Indiana (USHL)
BORN: January 20, 1993
VITALS: 6'-1.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 51 GP 8 G 21 A 29 PTS 45 PIM +5



SCOUTING REPORT: A big strong two-way forward. A balanced skater with nice speed, agility and balance in his stride. Has some offensive creativity and quick hands but lacks the high-end vision to become a real point producer at the next level. Some question his work ethic and effort level from shift to shift. Battles along the wall and engages in hard fought puck battles all over the ice. Still raw in his development as he has just come through a growth spurt and has some coordination issues but should be fine going forward. Needs to round out his game and work at adding strength and understanding of his defensive responsibilities. Does not really have the skill-set to play anything but a two-way complimentary role as a pro.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third line two-way forward.

No. 122
COLIN SULLIVAN
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Avon Old Farms (USHS)
BORN: March 26, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 27 GP 3 G 12 A 15 PTS 14 PIM N/A



SCOUTING REPORT: A raw but highly effective defender. His skating is his biggest plus and he has both a nice high-end speed as well as agility and an explosively powerful quick first step. Hard to beat off the rush because of his elite feet and balance. Very responsible defensively and willing to engage in puck battles where he has won the majority at the prep level. Not flashy but does make a good first pass. Shows good vision and can make a quick defense to offense transition. Will need to add some strength to be as effective at the next level. His offensive creativity and upside are still question marks for the raw product but he will have time as he plans on attending Yale in two years. Will likely make the jump up in competition and move on to the United States league next season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle pairing two-way defenseman.

No. 123
ANDY WELINSKI
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Green Bay (USHL)
BORN: April 27, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0.5" / 185 Lbs
STATS: 51 GP 6 G 8 A 14 PTS 14 PIM +10



SCOUTING REPORT: A strong two-way defenseman with upside. Skates well with good speed and overall mobility. Does not get beaten off the rush much. Has a long reach and uses it to disrupt plays and close off lanes with his stick. Keeps his check in tight gaps and does not run around the defensive zone. Has the vision to make passing plays and the skating ability coupled with soft hands to carry the puck up ice. Offensive game is still quite raw but is coming along, especially toward the end of the year. Shows good on ice reads and hockey sense. Jumps into the rush more than he did before and does so without hurting his defensive game. Has good upside and needs to continue to polish his game and add strength over the next few years at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing two-way defenseman.

No. 124
CRAIG DUININCK
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Right
TEAM: Windsor (OHL)
BORN: April 29, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 66 GP 7 G 15 A 22 PTS 65 PIM +2



SCOUTING REPORT: A strong mobile defensive defender. Not flashy or possessing of high-end offensive gifts but is a meat and potatoes type who will give you honest minutes every game. Strong, despite not being overly big, and willing to use what he has. Uses physical play to check attackers and pin them to the end boards or side wall. Feisty competitor who will get in the face of the competition after whistles and keep everyone honest. Keeps his game simple and plays a strong defensive positional game. Has the skating and mobility to keep up with the fastest OHL forwards. Makes a strong outlet pass and pushes the puck up ice effectively. Likely not ever going to contribute much on the score sheet but will help keep his opponent off it.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing defensive defenseman.

No. 125
ZACHARY YUEN
POSITION: Defense
SHOOTS: Left
TEAM: Tri-City (WHL)
BORN: March 3, 1993
VITALS: 6'-0" / 200 Lbs
STATS: 72 GP 8 G 24 A 32 PTS 65 PIM +41



SCOUTING REPORT: A team-first two-way defenseman. Skates well with quick feet that allow for good speed and overall mobility. Nothing to get too excited about but highly effective. Strong defensively with good in-game reads and instincts. Stays in position and controls his gaps. Despite using his frame to separate the puck from his opponent, he does not always play physical but can have moments where he steps up and will back a teammate by dropping the gloves. Uses his smarts and vision to move the puck up to his forwards effectively. Does not have the biggest point shot but can get it on net. Always gives a good effort and with added strength could become an effective two-way option.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom pairing two-way defenseman.



2011 NHL MOCK DRAFT



Every year draft rankings come out in August and they are discussed ad nauseam among fans and media alike for the next 10 months. Each month new rankings pup up with little tweaks here and there as prospects either rise or fall in the eyes of those watching their every move.

Then, when the big day finally arrives in June, there are always a few surprises with some prospects going earlier than expected.

Others drop like a sack of wet potatoes. Below is our opinion: a mock draft where NHL teams value these prospects based on draft tendency, team need and recent trends.

Joining us in making these selections are NHL.com's deputy managing Editor Adam Kimelman and NHL.com's draft writer Mike G. Morreale: who themselves have become quite the mock draft specialists over the years. They have been kind enough to offer up their

own take on which prospect each team will (or should) select during the first round of the NHL Entry Draft in Minnesota.

Without further ado, the FC 2011 NHL Entry Mock Draft.

Dan Stewart
Scouting Director
Future Considerations
www.twitter.com/StewartFC





ROUND ONE

1

EDMONTON OILERS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Ryan Nugent-Hopkins - Oilers scouts say Nugent-Hopkins’ vision reminds them of No. 99 (Gretzky). Can’t be any more obvious.” Mike G. Morreale

“Ryan Nugent-Hopkins - Drafted goal-scorer last year in Taylor Hall, this year they find his set-up man.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Defensemen and a top line centre.

FC PICK: C Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Red Deer, WHL.

REASON: With the ultra-skilled playmaking pivot, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, and the potential two-way top pairing defender, Adam Larsson, the Oilers see too much upside with the combination of RNH and Taylor Hall on his wing to let the opportunity slip away.

2

COLORADO AVALANCHE

MEDIA OPINION:

“Adam Larsson - Poise, vision and cannon shot would work nicely along the blue line after trade of Kevin Shattenkirk.” Mike G. Morreale

“Gabriel Landeskog – Fearsome forechecker will clear lots of room for Duchene, Stastny.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: D Adam Larsson, Skelleftea, Sweden.

REASON: Colorado is rebuilding and has some nice talent coming through the forward ranks as well as the backend. A potential top pairing two-way defenseman is too much to pass up on especially when they just traded their best D-man prospect this year.



ROUND ONE

3

FLORIDA PANTHERS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Gabriel Landeskog - NHL-ready power-forward had 36 goals, 66 points; would be perfect wing man for future Panthers’ center Nick Bjugstad.” Mike G. Morreale

“Sean Couturier – Panther GM Dale Tallon likes big, talented players, and they don’t get much better than Couturier.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: C/RW Jonathan Huberdeau, Saint John, QMJHL

REASON: They already have some fine young defenders and their goaltender of the future in their stable; they add a future top line scoring forward here. Jonathan gives Tallon versatility as Huberdeau can easily play wing or centre just as he has for the Sea Dogs.

4

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Jonathan Huberdeau - Retooling for new coach starts with a 105-point pivot who might have the best set of hands of the 2011 class.” Mike G. Morreale

“Adam Larsson – Could be best blue liner to play for NJ since Niedermayer left.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Future top defensive pairing and some scoring forwards.

FC PICK: D Dougie Hamilton, Niagara, OHL

REASON: While they need help everywhere, they do already have some high-end forwards tied up long term in the NHL and there is no franchise goaltender to take this early in the draft; they address the team’s biggest need of a potential future #1 defenseman.



ROUND ONE

5

NEW YORK ISLANDERS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Dougie Hamilton - Fits a need along blue line as big, nasty puck mover who hits and skates hard and has the smarts; had 58 pts, 77 PIM in 67 games.” Mike G. Morreale

“Dougie Hamilton - Big, not afraid to get physical and can chip in offensively.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Additional overall depth and a high-end scorer.

FC PICK: RW Gabriel Landeskog, Kitchener, OHL.

REASON: The Islanders, who have drafted at or near the top of the draft for the past few years, are not just adding to an enviable stockpile of talent. They take power winger Gabriel Landeskog, possibly the team's future captain, as the best available player on their draft board.

6

OTTAWA SENATORS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Sean Couturier - Despite dropping in the Draft Lottery, the Sens get a future start at centre; 36 goals, 96 pts while earning league's Best Pro Prospect and MVP.” Mike G. Morreale

“Jonathan Huberdeau - Senators need scoring and Huberdeau knows how to fill the nets.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: A few scoring forwards and a goaltender.

FC PICK: C Sean Couturier, Drummondville, QMJHL.

REASON: With defensive talents like David Rundblad and Jared Cowen as well as goalie Robin Lehner all coming through the system and an aging forward core, GM Brian Murray knows he needs to add some highly skilled forwards to the mix. Couturier adds a big body who can play at both ends.



ROUND ONE

7

WINNIPEG JETS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Ryan Strome - Exciting goal scorer with fantastic puck skills. Had 106 pts, is tenacious (82 PIM) and crafty around the cage.” Mike G. Morreale

“Ryan Strome - Another piece in Thrashers' growing offensive arsenal.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding a top line scorer or two and some depth up front.

FC PICK: C Ryan Strome, Niagara, OHL

REASON: With a solid and semi-youthful 'D', which they have focused on building for years now, the forward ranks desperately need a big time skill guy, preferably a goal scorer, added to the mix of second and third line types already in the system.

8

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Ryan Murphy - A power-play specialist (14 PP goals); led all draft-eligible defenders in OHL with 79 pts (26 goals).” Mike G. Morreale

“Ryan Murphy - An elite puck-mover who has the potential to become a big-time power-play QB.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Goaltending depth and a puck moving defenseman.

FC PICK: D Ryan Murphy, Kitchener, OHL

REASON: After years and years of marginally skilled defenseman trying to fill the void, the Blue Jackets finally get their elite puck moving defenseman and future power play quarterback.



ROUND ONE

9

BOSTON BRUINS

(from Toronto)

MEDIA OPINION:

“Nathan Beaulieu - Top-rated blue liner in the QMJHL is a transitional dynamo possessing speed, poise and a great shot.” Mike G. Morreale

“Nathan Beaulieu - Has good size and high level of offensive skill.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: A future potential top pairing defenseman and defensive depth.

FC PICK: D Nathan Beaulieu, Saint John, QMJHL.

REASON: Boston gets a gravy pick here from Toronto and looks to address the organization's biggest need going forward: a replacement for the aging top defensive pairing. GM Peter Chiarelli adds a strong two-way prospect that plays with a bit of a physical edge.

10

MINNESOTA WILD

MEDIA OPINION:

“Duncan Siemens - Might be the most physical of any top-tier defender; skates well, good mobility; had 43 pts, 121 PIM.” Mike G. Morreale

“Mika Zibanejad - Power forward, lauded for good hands, vision and skating ability.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: A couple high-end offensive forwards and overall defensive depth.

FC PICK: C Mika Zibanejad, Djurgarden, Sweden.

REASON: Minnesota needs productive forwards both now and in the future, Zibanejad give them a scorer as well as some size up front. After years of being starved for offense, they now have a couple high-end point producers in last year's first rounder Mikael Granlund and this pick.



ROUND ONE

11

COLORADO AVALANCHE

(from St. Louis)

“Mika Zibanejad - The most improved European skater brings power, soft hands, vision and speed around the cage; erupted for 4 goals, 8 pts and +8 rating in six games for Sweden at U18 World Championship in Germany.” Mike G. Morreale

“Duncan Siemens - Avs add a big, snarly blue liner with a good helping of offensive skill.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: C Mark McNeill, Prince Albert, WHL

REASON: They already grabbed some help for the backend and now look to add to the forward crop. This pick of an offensively skilled, yet big and tough centre, makes sense as they have recently traded some of their young forwards to shore up other areas.

12

CAROLINA HURRICANES

MEDIA OPINION:

“Sven Bartschi - Switzerland-born winger is being touted as next Nino Niederreiter; had 34 goals, 11 on the power play.” Mike G. Morreale

“Joel Armia - Big forward played major role on first line with one of top teams in Finland.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Forward depth and goaltending depth.

FC PICK: LW Matt Puempel, Peterborough, OHL

REASON: Rutherford adds a potential future NHL goal scorer with this pick as he did last year with young Jeff Skinner, he can only hope Puempel has the same type of impact one day.



ROUND ONE

13

CALGARY FLAMES

MEDIA OPINION:

“Mark Scheifele - Two-way center posted 75 pts, 13 PP goals, against the best checking-line forwards in the league.” Mike G. Morreale

“Sven Bartschi - Flames need to get younger and more athletic up front, and this Swiss star will fill that bill.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: A few top line forwards and depth at every position.

FC PICK: RW Joel Armia, Assat, Finland.

REASON: Calgary needs help at every position but has no bigger need than at forward, they select a big power forward who has some goal scoring potential with this selection.

14

DALLAS STARS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Jonas Brodin - Smarts in the defensive zone, good in one-on-one battles and very poised and mature.” Mike G. Morreale

“Mark McNeill - Stars could be in the market for a big-time centre, and McNeill has big-time potential.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: A few defensive prospects and more skill up front.

FC PICK: D Jonas Brodin, Farjestad, Sweden.

REASON: Dallas has depth up front with some big bodies and some skill as well as their future franchise goaltender all in the system, adding more defensive help is needed. Brodin gives them a potential top four defenseman coming through the pipeline.



ROUND ONE

15

NEW YORK RANGERS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Mark McNeill - A John Tortorella-type, right-handed pivot (six-foot-one, 201-pounds) is tough to play against; good awareness in both ends.” Mike G. Morreale

“Vladimir Namestnikov - Flashy Russian showed no problems adapting in first North American season.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Some skill up front and a couple offensive defensemen.

FC PICK: LW Sven Bartschi, Portland, WHL

REASON: With good depth of potential second and third liners up front, a couple young defenders either in the NHL or working their way up, GM Glen Sather adds a player who he thinks will be a future goal scoring winger for his club.

16

BUFFALO SABRES

MEDIA OPINION:

“Jamieson Oleksiak - Would the Sabres actually pass on the opportunity to have six-foot-seven Oleksiak paired with six-foot-eight Tyler Myers?” Mike G. Morreale

“Zack Phillips - Coach called him Adam Oates-like; finished in the top 10 in the QMJHL in goals and assists.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Just adding depth to all positions.

FC PICK: D Jamie Oleksiak, Northeastern, NCAA

REASON: Keeping with Darcy Regier's theme of 'getting bigger' at the last few drafts, Buffalo addresses their need for defensive depth as well as having the option to have the tallest defense pairing ever to play the game in Tyler Myers and Jamie Oleksiak.



ROUND ONE

17

MONTREAL CANADIENS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Phillip Danault - Versatile forward is perfect fit for Les Habitants; had 23 goals, 4 shorthanded, 67 pts in 64 games.” Mike G. Morreale

“Boone Jenner - Big center is skilled in all phases of the game, from offense to killing penalties.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Some big skilled forwards and defensive depth.

FC PICK: D Duncan Siemens, Saskatoon, WHL.

REASON: Although they lack some size up front, they do have some depth and skill coming through the pipeline: Siemens adds size and fills a hole on the backend.

18

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Boone Jenner - The six-foot-one, 204-pound pivot has a relentless motor, finishes checks and forces turnovers.” Mike G. Morreale

“Tomas Jurco - Hawks fans won't take long to learn Jurco is more than just the guy with the fancy puck skills in all the videos.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Skill up front and goaltending prospects.

FC PICK: LW Brandon Saad, Saginaw, OHL.

REASON: After years of enjoying what seemed like an endless supply of new talent coming up through the system, the well is starting to run dry. Cap pressure and team success have forced trades to take place and now they need to restock the cupboard. Saad has the ability to be a real difference maker for the Hawks eventually.



ROUND ONE

19

EDMONTON OILERS

MEDIA OPINION:

(from Los Angeles)

“Scott Mayfield - A skilled, intelligent blue liner who was named MVP for Team USA at the 2010 World Jr. A Challenge.” Mike G. Morreale

“Christopher Gibson - On a losing team, he led the QMJHL with a .920 save percentage, and was second in GAA and shutouts.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Defensemen and a future franchise goaltender.

FC PICK: G John Gibson, U18 USNTDP, USHL

REASON: The Oiler Brass notes that the goaltending situation is an area that will need to be addressed soon if this team young is going to grow together. They grab their goaltender of the future with this selection and now can boast a balanced stable of prospects coming through the system.

20

PHOENIX COYOTES

MEDIA OPINION:

“Zack Phillips - Time to load up on centres; solid skater with edge was second on one of the most prolific offensive teams in the CHL (Saint John Sea Dogs) with 38 goals, 95 points.” Mike G. Morreale

“Mark Scheifele - Centre's obvious skills only will get better with Hall of Famer Dale Hawerchuk coaching him.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Defensive depth and some scoring forwards.

FC PICK: C Mark Scheifele, Barrie, OHL

REASON: With some balance throughout the system, Phoenix can grab who is next best on their draft board and they get a playmaking centre with size.



ROUND ONE

21

OTTAWA SENATORS

(from Nashville)

MEDIA OPINION:

“Joe Morrow - Could be the steal of the first round; has smarts and good recognition; had 49 points and 67 PIM in 60 games.” Mike G. Morreale

“Brandon Saad - Power forward adds size and skill; scored 27 goals in first OHL season.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: A few scoring forwards and a goaltender.

FC PICK: RW Ty Rattie, Portland, WHL.

REASON: Ottawa see the chance to take another skilled forward with their second first round pick of the night in dynamic Portland offensive forward Ty Rattie. This is a good head start of filling the void of future top line offense-producing Senators.

22

ANAHEIM DUCKS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Nicklas Jensen - The versatile six-foot-two, 187-pounder can play either side; had 29 goals, 58 points and a +14 rating in 61 games.” Mike G. Morreale

“John Gibson - At six-foot-three, the big goalie covers a lot of net; earned Best Goaltender award after leading U.S. to World U-18 gold medal.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: C Jonathan Miller, U18 USNTDP, USHL.

REASON: Anaheim GM Bob Murray goes back to the well (US NTDP) with this pick and grabs a future power forward with nice offensive upside to compliment the Getzlaf/Perry/Ryan trio up front.



ROUND ONE

23

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Brandon Saad - Native of Gibsonia, Pa., is a powerful winger who finished with 27 goals (12 ppg), 55 pts, in 59 games.” Mike G. Morreale

“Phillip Danault - Offensively skilled and defensively reliable; his 4 shorthanded goals tied for third-most in QMJHL.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: RW Dmitri Jaskin, Slavia, Czech Republic

REASON: While there are rumors abounding they are looking at bringing Jaromir Jagr back for one more kick at the can, they do grab another Czech with this pick. With a pretty balanced prospect pool they take best available, which just so happens to fill a semi-need up front. Jaskin has the chance to become the scoring winger they so desperately want to develop.

24

DETROIT RED WINGS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Rickard Rakell - Great work ethic, high-energy Swede who can forecheck hard and is responsible in his own end.” Mike G. Morreale

“Joseph Morrow - Offensive-minded blue liner got more playing time than NHL-drafted prospects.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Future top defensive pairing and some scoring forwards.

FC PICK: D Oscar Klefbom, Farjestad, Sweden

REASON: The Wings like to keep a healthy stockpile of D coming through the system and invest a healthy amount of cap space on the blue line, they hope lightning strikes twice with a Swede coming in as one legendary Swede hangs them up. They like Klefbom because he plays a strong puck skills game.



ROUND ONE

25

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

MEDIA OPINION:
from Philadelphia

“John Gibson - NHL Central Scouting’s top-rated North American goalie was the best at his position in the U18 World Championship (6-0-0, 2.34 GAA, .926 save percentage).” Mike G. Morreale

“Jonathan Miller - Maple Leafs need help up the middle, and Miller is a nice piece to build around.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Defensemen and a top line centre.

FC PICK: D Joe Morrow, Portland, WHL.

REASON: Toronto has invested in some forwards over the past couple season and now must focus on other areas of need. GM Brian Burke is ecstatic that Joe Morrow is still there and Toronto grabs their future puck moving defenseman who can also man the power play.

26

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Alexander Khokhlachev - Skilled Russian with solid positional attack and toughness; had 34 goals (12 PPG), 76 pts and +9 rating in 67 games.” Mike G. Morreale

“Nicklas Jensen - Big, versatile forward skates well and got better as the season went on.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: C/RW Vladimir Namestnikov, London, OHL.

REASON: They have pretty good depth at all positions: both in the minor league system as well as unsigned prospects. They have a Russian-friendly dressing room, which makes them one of the few teams that have no problem making Soviet selections in the first round. They take a Russian who has spent much of his life on this side of the Atlantic, and a forward with very good offensive skills.



ROUND ONE

27

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

MEDIA OPINION:

“David Musil - Solid frame (six-foot-three, 198-pounds), can box out and stands up for teammates; had 25 pts, a +1 rating and 83 PIM.” Mike G. Morreale

“Jonas Brodin - GM Steve Yzerman knows better than most how important a quality Swedish blue liner can be.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: C Rocco Grimaldi, U18 USNTDP, USHL

REASON: Tampa Bay needs help everywhere. They have a handful of promising forwards a couple good defensemen and not much else on the way. Sophomore GM Steve Yzerman goes for the home run pick here and takes likely the drafts most skilled player, undersized centre Rocco Grimaldi, hoping he could learn from fellow mighty-mite and Lightning forward, Martin St. Louis.

28

SAN JOSE SHARKS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Ty Rattie - Produced 28 goals, 79 pts, great offensive skills and instincts and enters the tough areas to score goals.” Mike G. Morreale

“Jamieson Oleksiak - Chara-type size, Sharks will give him time to refine his game in college.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Future top defensive pairing and some scoring forwards.

FC PICK: D Adam Clendening, Boston University, NCAA

REASON: With a dearth of puck moving defenseman in the system and a real need to grow the next Dan Boyle for the organization, they address that need here.



ROUND ONE

29

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

(from Boston)

MEDIA OPINION:

“Vladislav Namestnikov - Good two-way game, accurate wrist-shot and ability to beat defenders wide; 30 goals, 68 pts in 68 games.” Mike G. Morreale

“Tyler Biggs - Big, nasty power forward brings equal parts offensive skill (19 goals in 55 games) and truculence (team-high 161 PIM).” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Defensemen and a top line centre.

FC PICK: C Boone Jenner, Oshawa, OHL.

REASON: After taking their PMD of the future with the selection four sports earlier, Burke is again surprised to find a coveted prospect in future captain Boone Jenner still available. Burke sees Jenner fulfilling the role of ‘Mr. Everything’ - PK specialist, team leader, goal scorer and overall hard worker.

30

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

MEDIA OPINION:

“Matt Puempel - The rich get richer. Despite the fact hip surgery limited him to 55 games, Puempel finished with personal highs in goals (34), assists (35) and points (69).” Mike G. Morreale

“Alexander Khokhlachev - Had outstanding debut season in North America, led OHL rookies in playoff scoring, third in regular season among rookies.” Adam Kimelman

DRAFT NEEDS: Adding overall prospect depth.

FC PICK: RW Tyler Biggs, U18 USNTDP, USHL

REASON: Vancouver finally addresses the size concern with this pick as they have some small but skilled forwards on the way. Biggs adds a dimension to the prospect pool that was sorely missing - size, toughness and some offensive skill all in one.



ROUND TWO

31

EDMONTON OILERS

FC PICK: D David Musil, Vancouver, WHL

REASON: With their third pick in the draft they take a home-grown type of talent in Musil, whose father Frank enjoyed success with the Oilers on ice as well as off of it as a scout. David will bring a sense of defensive stability to the Oilers future blue line.

32

ST. LOUIS BLUES

(from Colorado)

FC PICK: C Zack Phillips, Saint John, QMJHL

REASON: St. Louis takes an offensive contributor with their first pick in 2011. They see Phillips as the next best player and, with a prospect pool that has some good overall balance, their choice is an easy one.

33

FLORIDA PANTHERS

FC PICK: RW Nicklas Jensen, Oshawa, OHL

REASON: Continuing to stockpile future talent the way he did with Chicago a handful of years ago, which ultimately led to a Stanley Cup, GM Dale Tallon grabs a potential top six winger here.



ROUND TWO

34 **NEW YORK ISLANDERS**

FC PICK: C Alexander Khokhlachev, Windsor, OHL

REASON: The New York Islanders, led by GM Garth Snow and owner Charles Wang, hope they have found a future high-end point producer for the top two lines with this pick of the small but hard working and skilled forward.

35 **OTTAWA SENATORS**

FC PICK: D Scott Mayfield, Youngstown, USHL

REASON: GM Brian Murray has taken two talented forwards in the first round and now goes with a mobile two-way defenseman with some huge potential.

36 **CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS**

(from Winnipeg)

FC PICK: RW Brett Ritchie, Sarnia, OHL

REASON: The Blackhawks add to the forward ranks with this big skilled power forward.



ROUND TWO

37 **COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**

FC PICK: RW Tomas Jurco, Saint John, QMJHL

REASON: The Blue Jackets could have used a goaltender here but opt for a skilled forward instead.

38 **NASHVILLE PREDATORS**

(from New Jersey)

FC PICK: RW Rickard Rakell, Plymouth, OHL

REASON: Nashville makes a pretty safe selection by adding a future gritty, hard working, possible second line/third line winger here.

39 **TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS**

FC PICK: RW Seth Ambroz, Omaha, USHL

REASON: Burke loves the big tough guys with skill and get one here who slid because of some questions in the Minnesota Product.



ROUND TWO

40 BOSTON BRUINS

(from Minnesota)

FC PICK: D Connor Murphy, U18 USNTDP, USHL

REASON: Boston continues to build up the organizations future 'D' with this selection of the son of former Bruin Gord Murphy.



ROUND TWO

43 CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

(from Calgary/Toronto)

FC PICK: G Christopher Gibson, Chicoutimi, QMJHL

REASON: GM Stan Bowman identifies an organizational weakness in net with regards to depth and addresses that here.

41 ST. LOUIS BLUES

FC PICK: LW Mario Lucia, Wayzata, USHS

REASON: The Blues add another forward to the prospect cupboard as they are just adding depth with taking the BPA here.

44 DALLAS STARS

FC PICK: RW Stefan Noesen, Plymouth, OHL

REASON: Dallas takes one of their native sons in the Plano, TX native with this pick and also adds skill with grit to the forward prospect pool.

42 CAROLINA HURRICANES

FC PICK: G Magnus Hellberg, Almtuna, Sweden

REASON: Carolina grabs a goaltender for depth, which fills a need in the organization and could push Cam Ward in a couple seasons.

45 NEW YORK RANGERS

FC PICK: D Robbie Russo, U18 USNTDP, USHL

REASON: Sather addresses the need for another two-way on the backend as they were running dry of PMD's coming down the pipe.



ROUND TWO

46 **ST. LOUIS BLUES**

(from Buffalo)

FC PICK: LW Phillip Danault, Victoriaville, QMJHL

REASON: The Blues take the best available here and nab a strong two-way force with good leadership and character.

47 **FLORIDA PANTHERS**

FC PICK: C Daniel Catenacci, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL

REASON: The Panthers add another to the forward crop and this time

48 **CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS**

FC PICK: LW Lucas Lessio, Oshawa, OHL

REASON: Chicago takes a chance on this pick by grabbing a skilled but enigmatic forward who could be special or bust completely.



ROUND TWO

49 **LOS ANGELES KINGS**

FC PICK: RW Matthew Nieto, Boston University, NCAA

REASON: LA takes California native Nieto with their first selection in 2011. He has great wheels and some nice offensive skill.

50 **NEW YORK ISLANDERS**

FC PICK: D Ryan Sproul, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL

REASON: The Islanders continue to add depth to all positions with this pick. They hope the big offensive defenseman continues on his skyward trajectory.

51 **PHOENIX COYOTES**

FC PICK: D Joel Edmundson, Moose Jaw, WHL

REASON: Phoenix adds some defensive depth with this selection as many of the current prospects are primed to move on to the next level.



ROUND TWO

52

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

FC PICK: C Shane Prince, Ottawa, OHL

REASON: Nashville uses their second second-round pick to grab a skilled but undersized play-making forward.

53

ANAHEIM DUCKS

FC PICK: C Joseph Labate, Holy Angels, USHS

REASON: The Ducks grab a development project who is likely four or five years off but also could be a big payday as he has size and skill to develop into a nice NHLer.

54

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

FC PICK: LW Nikita Kucherov, CSKA Jr., Russia

REASON: The Pens make a leap of faith with the elite skills but wavering effort levels Kucherov brings to the table.



ROUND TWO

55

DETROIT RED WINGS

FC PICK: C Victor Rask, Leksand, Sweden

REASON: The Wings go back to Sweden for their second selection and take a forward who has skill but also left many questioning his desire.

56

PHOENIX COYOTES

(from Philadelphia)

FC PICK: C Reid Boucher, U18 USNTDP, USHL

REASON: Phoenix hopes they have just added a top line goal scoring threat with this selection and based on his performance in Germany at the U18's they just might have.

57

NEW YORK RANGERS

(from Washington)

FC PICK: D Andrei Pedan, Guelph, OHL

REASON: Sather likes the size and mobility as well as the edge Pedan plays with and takes the chance on the Russian with his third pick.



ROUND TWO

58

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

FC PICK: G Samu Perhonen, JyP Jr., Finland

REASON: GM Yzerman might have tabbed his goaltender of the future with this selection. Despite having some poor games towards the end of his season, Perhonen might just be the top goaltender to come out of this class.

59

SAN JOSE SHARKS

FC PICK: C Nick Shore, University of Denver, NCAA

REASON: GM Doug Wilson nabs a skilled and versatile forward who could eventually play on any one of their top three lines one day.

60

OTTAWA SENATORS

(From Boston)

FC PICK: C Michael St. Croix, Edmonton WHL

REASON: Ottawa adds another offensively skilled forward to the prospect pool.

61

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

FC PICK: C Colin Jacobs, Seattle, WHL

REASON: Vancouver continues to add size and skill to their forward ranks with this selection.

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**FUTURE
CONSIDERATIONS**

**POTENTIAL
SLEEPERS**

By Dan Stewart

The draft sleepers. Every draft has them; every team desires to find them.

A successful scout can hang his hat after finding a mid-round gem, or two, every few years. Finding a sleeper takes not only luck but the willingness for a regional scout to follow his gut feeling on a prospect and make a case to his boss at the draft table on why they should select the said player, even when there may be a higher profile target still on the

board.

Typically a sleeper can be found in any round: he could be the last pick of the first round—who turns out to have a better career than the first overall selection—or he could even be very last pick of the entire draft.

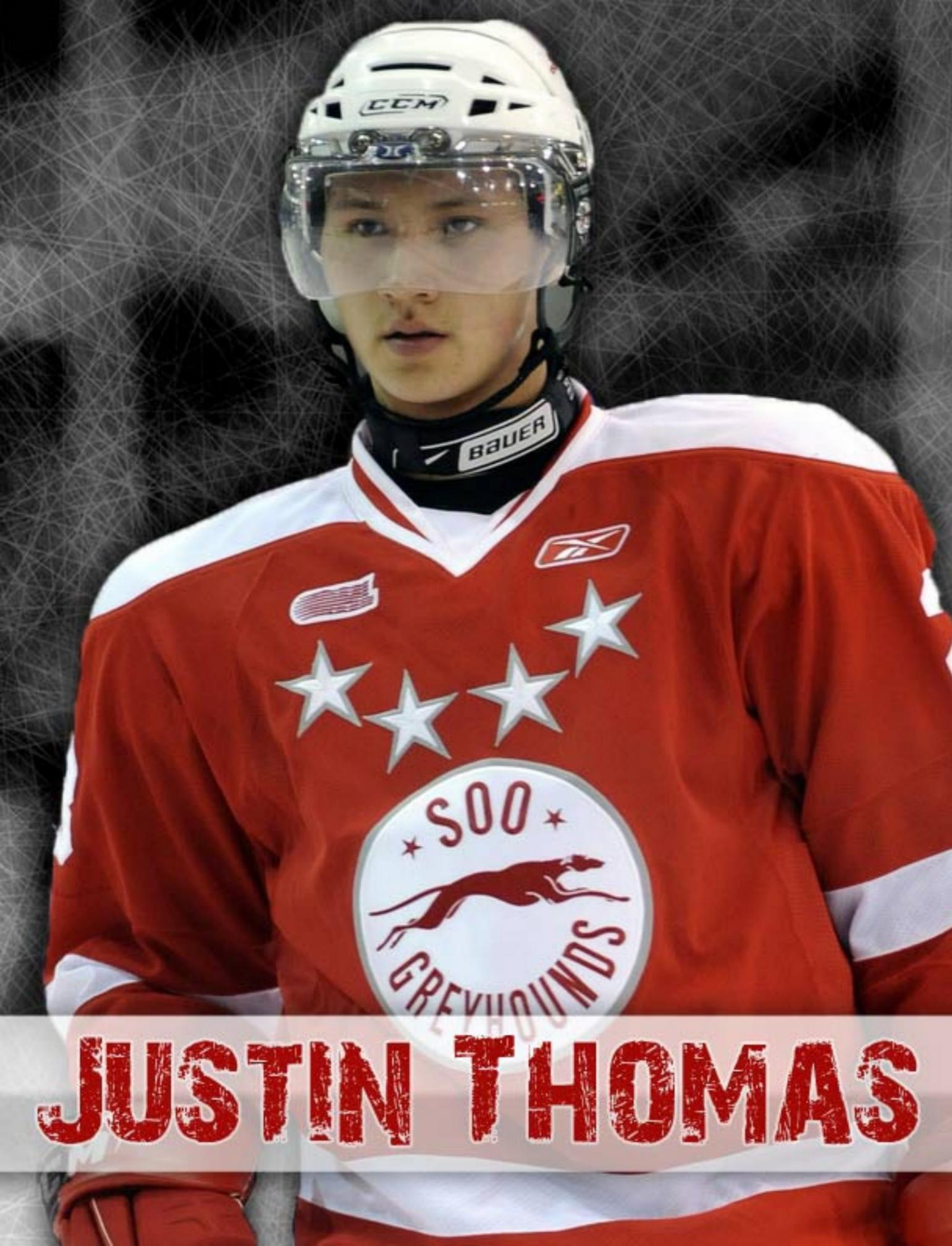
FC profiles ten potential sleepers that could be selected in the mid-to-late rounds of the 2011 draft crop:

D Mattias Backman, Linköping, Sweden, 6'2", 170 LBS – A big Swedish two-way defender suiting up with the Linköping system both for the Junior and Elite League squads this past season. The powerful skater does not play a flashy game but instead exhibits smart decision making, using the assets he has while playing dependable in all areas. His excellent mobility, strong passes and gritty style of defense would translate well to the North American game. He still needs to fill out as he is rather thin and gangly, especially noticeable when getting out muscled as he did earlier this past year with Linköping's SEL squad. Currently rated as a fourth round selection by FC, Backman could go as high as an early third round if a team really thinks his pro-potential is there; if not, he could end up being a great value pick later in the draft and emerge as a sleeper over time.

C Kyle Rau, Sioux Falls, USHL, 5'8", 165 LBS – Named 'Mr. Hockey' in Minnesota this past season, Rau was also a 'Mr. Heroic' both in the State Tournament with his overtime Championship winning goal for his high school team Eden Prairie and also when he joined the United States Hockey League Sioux Falls Stampede this spring, where he proceeded to become the Stampede's offensive catalyst for their deep run through the playoffs. Currently rated as a fifth round selection on the FC board, Rau has a chance to be a steal for a team that thinks he can overcome his lack of size (5-8) and produce at the NHL level. Rau does not play like a five-foot-eight forward, but instead takes the puck to the net and plays with a gritty edge. An expert at finding open ice, he is also very dangerous with the puck on his stick using darting lateral agility to elude defenders and create offensive chances by changing angles and opening lanes. The University of Minnesota recruit plays a well-rounded game as he is quick to back check: helping out in his own zone and dropping in the firing lane to block a shot. Rau is one of those rare players that desires to be a hockey player so badly that he will likely will himself in a long professional career.



KYLE RAU



JUSTIN THOMAS



**FUTURE
CONSIDERATIONS**

**POTENTIAL
SLEEPERS**

LW Justin Thomas, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 6'2", 205 LBS – Listed as a sixth round pick in the FC top 200, Thomas started the year off very well as he was contributing both offensively as well as being a physical presence. He can skate well although he lacks high-end speed and the ability to cut and turn sharply, somewhat the big battleship on skates: he gets to where he's going. His shot is considered a strength and he can be a real thorn when he drives to and plants his butt in front of the net. Unfortunately for Thomas he suffered a couple setbacks, the last being a shoulder injury that required surgery to repair. He can drop the gloves, lay a devastating hit, work the boards and play the prototypical power forward game when he's healthy. Thomas is a classic, not seen much of kid, who has some potential if the injury history is just that: history, as well as if he can stay in the lineup long enough to develop into an NHL prospect so that he could make an NHL team look like, well, Nostradamus.

RW Daniel Pribyl, Sparta Jr., Czech Republic, 6'3", 190 LBS – A big forward who has some high-end skills that dominated in the Czech junior circuit and earned a look against the men. His six-foot-three frame still has plenty of filling out to do and once he does gain that extra muscle he will be a beast. Not overly aggressive but does use his size to his advantage in puck protection bullying his way to the net. Has the offensive game and instincts to really become a solid pro, both in his home country and in North America. He will need to improve a skating stride that lacks explosiveness and agility, but adding leg strength alone should help that. Some noise that he is contemplating a move to the CHL if he is taken in the import draft. Could be a real steal, we currently see his value in the fourth round if his game and intensity level continue to improve.

D Pascal Zerressen, Krefeld, Switzerland, 6'5", 195 LBS – A mammoth-sized defenseman who has played some pretty inspired hockey this year in Germany. Holding down a seventh round ranking on FC's draft board, he is just the type of player that can make a scouting staff look good if selected and then be left to develop overseas for a couple years. Pascal's size is the first thing that jumps out at you as he uses that size to defend well. He controls the point on the power play with a big shot and makes strong passes. His skating needs some refining and added strength is required but both should improve in time. Pascal's game has some real pro upside and undoubtedly a few teams will be putting him on their final lists. The only question is whether the big skilled blue liner will be happy to spend his playing days in Germany or if he intends on coming over to North America.

RW Sami Salminen, HIFK Jr., Finland, 6'5", 200 LBS – Another sizable prospect who has some warts that will likely keep him out of the draft's top 100 selections come draft day. The towering Finnish winger has the soft hands to finish off plays in close as well as the sense of where to be on the ice to get that chance. Has a nose for the net and will fight to get there; however, his game does not really possess much of a physical element to it. Currently ranked in the fifth round with FC, he has an upside if he can improve a rather slow stride and heavy feet. His ability to put the puck in the net should get the attention of NHL squads as a project pick and he could end up becoming a nice surprise as a draft sleeper for the team willing to put in the development time.



**FUTURE
CONSIDERATIONS**

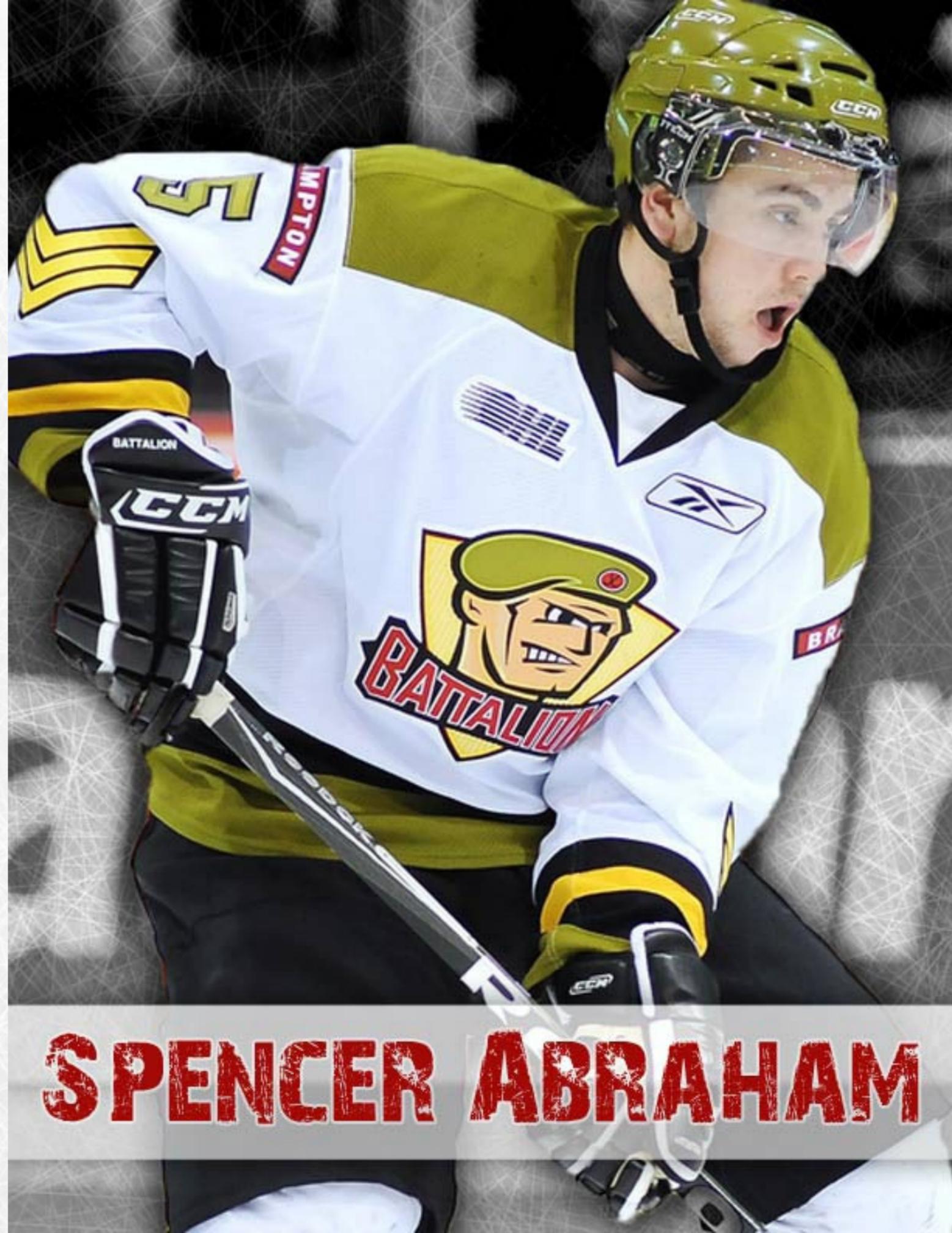
**POTENTIAL
SLEEPERS**

D Spencer Abraham, Brampton, OHL, 5'-11", 175 LBS – Receiving lots of ice time in his OHL rookie season with Brampton, Spencer was able to put up some respectable production in his role as a two-way rearguard. The just below average sized defenseman used his smarts, sound positioning and active stick to bridge the gap between himself and larger forwards in his own zone. The downside is that he often gets overpowered when put into situations where he needs to use his physical strength to win puck battles. Offensively, his game is that of a puck rushing defenseman who keeps his head up, makes smart passes to his line mates and can carry the puck from his zone to the opponents. His transition from defense to offense and ability to set up the quick strike offensive is another asset that should have NHL teams contemplating him as a mid-to-late option.

D Sam Jardine, Camrose, AJHL, 6'1", 185 LBS – His game, while quite raw at the moment, has all the tools to build on and since he has chosen the college route he will have the time to develop those skills. A dependable puck moving two-way rearguard with Camrose this season, Jardine displays the ability to join the rush and contribute on the power play. His defensive zone play is an area that will improve as he adds strength and learns the position. He has no problem moving bodies in the defensive zone and engaging in puck battles despite being beaten often because of a lack of strength. He is able to make an accurate breakout pass as well as handle the puck with poise and patience. The future Ohio State Buckeye has the potential to make a patient NHL team very happy that they selected him in the 2011 NHL Entry Draft.

RW Konstantin Komarek, Lulea, Sweden, 6'0", 180 LBS – One of the more highly skilled talents on this list of sleepers. This swift skating, Austrian winger showed he can play a gritty checking game as well as a top six scoring role this season for Lulea. Currently ranked as a rising fifth rounder, his stock has gone from afterthought to likely becoming a mid-to-late round target for many NHL organizations. Komarek has the skating ability, vision, soft hands and dangerous shot to be a constant threat on the offensive side of the puck. Once he starts to gain strength and consistently plays in a larger role on Lulea, he could make noise and transition himself from a draft sleeper to a top prospect.

D Eddie Wittchow, Burnsville, USHS, 6'3.5", 190 LBS – Another seventh round project with the potential to emerge as a sleeper from this draft in four or five years. The Burnsville high school product will likely join the United States Hockey League before moving on to an NCAA program, which he has not committed to as of yet, giving him plenty of time to refine a promising game. An outstanding skater with good four direction mobility, Wittchow also has good puck skills and sense, but needs to learn more about playing the defensive position. He is aggressive and is willing to throw his weight around, but in doing so, he often leaves himself out of position for defending. 



SPENCER ABRAHAM



THE LATE BLOOMERS

By Dan Stewart

Every draft has a group of prospects who were previously passed over by all NHL teams, some even twice, but have since elevated their games enough to earn consideration in the draft this time around.

Below FC takes a look at five of the draft's top late bloomers who should be high on the NHL team's wish lists this time around.

NATHAN LIEUWEN

POSITION: Goaltender

CATCHES: Left

TEAM: Kootenay (WHL)

BORN: August 8, 1991

VITALS: 6'-5.5" / 190 Lbs

STATS: 2010-11 Regular Season - 55 GP 2.79 GAA .903 SP

NOTES: Big and athletic puck stopper had a couple of unfortunate seasons where concussions played havoc with the young lad's game. Back in 2007, Lieuwen was involved in a car accident that left him with a head injury. He struggled through his next couple seasons playing inconsistently and suffering from the effects of concussions off and on. Things finally started to clear up for the Abbotsford native this season where he was able to stay in the line-up and show the upside that had scouts excited back in 2007 before the injuries that hindered his development. The potential is unquestionable with his impressive natural size and quickness, but he still has work to do to develop his game. He gets caught out of position at times but seems to be able to battle back better than years previous. He will still need some work but the pro upside sure is enticing. This year he has been able to play with more consistency instead of being streaky, helping Kootenay win the Western Hockey League Championship and led his squad to a CHL Memorial Cup berth.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting goaltender.



NATHAN LIEUWEN



THE LATE BLOOMERS

T.J. TYNAN

POSITION: Centre

CATCHES: Right

TEAM: Notre Dame (NCAA)

BORN: February 25, 1992

VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs

STATS: 2010-11 Regular Season - 44 GP 23 G 31 A 54 PTS 36 PIM

NOTES: He managed a nice stats line in the USHL at well over a point-per-game but went unselected. Just too small was the excuse NHL squads used when Tynan slipped through the cracks in Los Angeles. The Orlando Park, Illinois native was named the NCAA rookie of the year this past year as he led all first year performers in points. He has the playmaking skills, elite vision, quick feet with elusiveness, tenacious puck pursuit and high work rate to translate his game to the NHL level. Some NHL teams might have seen enough this time around to have faith that his game will indeed work in the NHL despite his size deficiency.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top line playmaker.

BRENDEN KICHTON

POSITION: Defense

CATCHES: Left

TEAM: Spokane (WHL)

BORN: June 18, 1992

VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs

STATS: 2010-11 Regular Season - 64 GP 23 G 58 A 81 PTS 31 PIM

NOTES: Was bypassed due to his lack of size and marginal offensive production last year but still showed enough to earn a try-out with the Detroit Red Wings after the draft was over. The Spruce Grove, Alberta native was impressive but unfortunately he broke his finger and was returned to Spokane. He came back to a Spokane team that had some holes and used that extra ice time and exposure to become one of the Western Hockey League's best two-way defenseman. With the ability to showcase his vision, puck distribution, smart decision making and effective skating stride this year, he is likely a valuable commodity this time around.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top four offensive defenseman.

MARCEL NOEBELS

POSITION: Right Wing

CATCHES: Left

TEAM: Seattle (WHL)

BORN: March 14, 1992

VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs

STATS: 2010-11 Regular Season - 66 GP 28 G 26 A 54 PTS 23 PIM

NOTES: After playing in Germany with Krefeld Pinguine in his draft year last year, NHL teams were not convinced of his NHL intentions and those who thought he might come over were not sure how his game would translate. The problem with many German-born players is that they are often just as happy to play at home in the Deutsche Eishockey Liga (DEL) than they would be to try and crack an NHL squad. Noebels has shown his willingness and desire to play in the NHL as he came over to Seattle of the WHL this year and proceeded to play a very determined game. His skating is the only question mark as he showed good finishing skills, willingness to go into traffic and drive the net as well as engage in physical puck battles all over the ice. With his size and upside, an NHL squad will likely make him a draft pick in the first five rounds this time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top six offensive forward.

MAGNUS HELLBERG

POSITION: Goaltender

CATCHES: Left

TEAM: Almtuna (Sweden)

BORN: April 4, 1991

VITALS: 6'-5" / 185 Lbs

STATS: 2010-11 Regular Season - 31 GP 2.04 GAA .936 SP

NOTES: Started the year as just another tall kid warming the bench but soon was given a chance and ran with it. Was a back-up for the first part of the year, but this time passed over goaltender showed scouts he had the potential to be a very good goaltender and soon moved up draft lists everywhere. Playing in Sweden's second division for Almtuna, where he used his natural net coverage, surprising athleticism and lateral quickness to put up impressive numbers before moving to Division 1 where his game continued to dominate. He has great potential and should hear his name called within the first three rounds.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting goaltender.



THE LATE BLOOMERS

Some NHL teams have really started to subscribe to bringing in the older talent, even using picks as early as a second round selections on a prospect that was once passed over by the entire league, to make those prospects property of their respective organization.

While we have listed just five potential overage prospects that were previously, there remains a good amount of other potential overage draftees including Russian two-way defenseman, Alexei Marchenko (who suffered an injury riddled year last year), Green Bay Gamblers two-way defenseman, Aaron Harstad (whose game has grown by leaps and bounds), skilled and gritty Indiana Ice forward, Blake Coleman (who led the league in scoring) and freshman goal scoring forward, Mike

Pereira of University of Massachusetts.

Big import forward Andrej Kudrna (who finished up his season with Red Deer of the Western Hockey League) will likely hear his name called as will World Junior Championship hero and Swiss goaltender Benjamin Conz. Western Michigan two-way freshman forward Chase Balisy, Linköping's sturdy defenseman Klas Dahlbeck in Sweden, Ilves two-way defenseman Jyrki Jokipakka (who rose to prominence at the World Juniors in Buffalo), the skilled Westerholm twins in Malmo, Sweden: Patrik and Ponthus, feisty and offensively skilled forward Pontus Netterberg (playing with HV71), as well as London Knights workhorse stopper Michael Houser. **FC**



MAGNUS HELLBERG

SARNIA'S RUSSIAN DYNAMIC DUO

A PREVIEW OF THE 2012 NHL ENTRY DRAFT

Over the years there have been many talented sports duos such as Yankee baseball icons Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig; perennial basketball champs in Chicago, Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen; football's most notorious touchdown connection of Joe Montana and Jerry Rice and of course the hockey dynasty in Edmonton with Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier leading the way to multiple Stanley Cups.

Sarnia's Russian Dynamic Duo is made up of two of the most talented prospects for 2012.

While still light years away from those legends in terms of what they have done, a new dynamic duo is making waves in the hockey world: specifically the Ontario Hockey League. Sarnia Sting forwards Nail Yakupov and Alex Galchenyuk both tore through OHL defenses in each of their rookie Major Junior seasons en-route to what looks like inevitable NHL super stardom.

The RBC Arena in Sarnia has turned into a hotspot for scouts and NHL executives who had not been seen since the Steven Stamkos days. They've come out to get a glimpse of the high-end 2012 prospects.

Galchenyuk has a bit of a different story than most Russian prospects.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

1994, while his Russian father, Alex Sr., played hockey for the AHL's Admirals. He then moved around following his father's career to places like Italy, Germany and Russia before moving back to the United States to play Midget Hockey in Chicago.

The offensively explosive Galchenyuk was the Sting's first overall selection in the 2010 OHL Priority selection out of the Chicago Young Americans midget squad.

He has been, unlike most Major Junior players, lucky enough to have his family follow him wherever his young hockey career has taken him as they again uprooted and moved to Sarnia with Alex.

His father, Alex Sr., took

on the interim assistant coach's role with the team after Dave MacQueen was let go during the season.

Alex enjoyed a productive rookie season as he hit the 30 goal and 80 point mark coming in second only to his highly talented teammate Nail Yakupov in the OHL rookie scoring race with 83 points. Galchenyuk's game is comparable to Chicago Blackhawks superstar winger Marion Hossa,

but with more energy and hand skills.

With his skill level he could be one of the top scorers in the entire CHL next year.

Yakupov, a late '93 prospect born and raised in Nizhnekamsk, a city in the Republic of Tatarstan located in western Russia, came to Sarnia via the second pick in the 2010 CHL Import Draft and made a seamless transition in his first year to North American culture and hockey. It helped to reduce the culture shock that he was able to billet with the Galchenyuk clan in Sarnia.

Nail was dynamic in his first season putting up well over a point-per-game and leading the Sting's offensive attack with highlight reel play after highlight reel play. He is seen as the front runner for the top pick in 2012 because of his monster season and immense talent.

Nail's production of 101 points as an OHL rookie, including 49 goals and 52 assists, led to his obvious and unanimous selection as rookie of the year. Those totals could have a few NHL executives contemplating a "Fail for Nail" slogan for next season as he showed the skills to help turn a bottom-feeding NHL franchise around in a hurry. This is something the Sarnia Sting management is hoping will happen for their team next season: likely Yakupov's last in an OHL uniform.

Nail is the closest thing to a Russian produced super prospect since Ilya Kovalchuk or Alex Ovechkin. While his game does not completely mirror either of those NHL stars, it is better compared to a more feisty and flashy Patrick Kane. Yakupov will one day be a dominant offensive force for the NHL squad that is lucky enough to call his name at the 2012 draft.

For those NHL organizations out there who would refuse to draft Russian trained prospects, they might want to skip the first half-hour of the 2012 event as there looks to be a handful of highly talented Russians headlining the top of the draft board. FC



ALEX GALCHENYUK

NAIL YAKUPOV



NICK EBERT

NAIL YAKUPOV

JACOB TROUBA

2012

A PREVIEW OF THE 2012 NHL ENTRY DRAFT

By Dan Stewart

The Sarnia Sting's electric tandem is just two of the talented prospects making names for themselves a year or two before they are eligible for the NHL Entry Draft. The 2012 Draft as a whole looks to be rich in some of the most exciting high-end talent we have seen in years. Some high scoring forwards and big strong defensemen are available and have NHL scouts excited to hit the road come next fall. The 2012 draft already looks to have great depth well into the third round.



Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
1). RW Nail Yakupov, Sarnia, OHL, 5-10, 170
2). D Ryan Murray, Everett, WHL, 6-0, 185
3). C Alex Galchenyuk, Sarnia, OHL, 6-1, 180
4). D Nick Ebert, Windsor, OHL, 6-1, 190
5). C Mikhail Grigorenko, CSKA, MHL, 6-2, 195
6). D Jacob Trouba, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6-2, 185
7). D Morgan Reilly, Moose Jaw, WHL, 6-0, 185
8). D Griffin Reinhart, Edmonton, WHL, 6-4, 200
9). LW Filip Forsberg, Leksand Jr., Swe Jr., 6-1, 175
10). D Matt Dumba, Red Deer, WHL, 5-11, 165
11). D Derrick Pouliot, Portland, WHL, 6-0, 190
12). C Zemgus Girgensons, Dubuque, USHL, 6-2, 185
13). D Jordan Schmaltz, Sioux City, USHL, 6-2, 180
14). D Cody Ceci, Ottawa, OHL, 6-2, 200
15). C Matia Marcantuoni, Kitchener, OHL, 6-0, 185
16). RW Cristoval Nieves, Kent, USHS, 6-3, 190
17). D Slater Koekoek, Peterborough, OHL, 6-2, 185
18). C Brendan Gaunce, Belleville, OHL, 6-2, 200
19). RW Martin Frk, Halifax, QMJHL, 5-11, 190
20). D Jesse Graham, Niagara, OHL, 6-0, 165
21). C A.J. Michaelson, Apple Valley, USHS, 6-0, 185
22). D Gianluca Curcuruto, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL, 6-1, 185
23). D Michael Matheson, Lac-St.Louis, LHMAAAQ, 6-1, 170
24). C Matthew Campagna, Sudbury, OHL, 5-11, 170
25). C Henrik Samuelsson, USNTDP U17, USHL, 6'-2, 195
26). LW Charles Hudon, Chicoutimi, QMJHL, 5-8, 165
27). D Olli Maatta, JYP Jr., Fin2, 6-2, 190
28). LW Pontus Aberg, Djurgarden Jr., Swe Jr., 5-11, 185
29). LW Nicolas Kerdiles, USNTDP U18, USHL, 6'-1, 180
30). C Scott Laughton, Oshawa, OHL, 6-0, 175

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Rank / Pos. / Name / Team / League / Ht / Wt /
31). C Jarrod Maidens, Owen Sound, OHL, 6-2, 175
32). LW Stefan Matteau, USNTDP U17, USHL, 6'-1, 180
33). C Adam Johnson, Hibbing, USHS, 5-11, 160
34). LW Luca Ciampini, Halifax, QMJHL, 5-11, 190
35). G Oscar Dansk, Brynas Jr., Swe Jr., 6-2, 185
36). LW Brady Vail, Windsor, OHL, 6-1, 190
37). D Jaynen Rissling, Calgary, WHL, 6-3, 210
38). LW Andrew Ryan, Halifax, QMJHL, 6-2, 190
39). G Malcolm Subban, Belleville, OHL, 6-0, 175
40). D Brian Cooper, Fargo, USHL, 5-9, 180
41). RW Sebastian Collberg, Frolunda Jr., Swe Jr., 5-11, 175
42). C Erik Locke, Barrie, OHL, 5-9, 170
43). D Marcus McIvor, Brampton, OHL, 6-1, 200
44). D Damon Severson, Kelowna, WHL, 6-1, 175
45). LW Troy Bourke, Prince George, WHL, 5-10, 170
46). D Brady Skjei, USNTDP U17, USHL, 6'-1, 180
47). C Lukas Sutter, Saskatoon, WHL, 6-1, 205
48). G Collin Olson, USNTDP U17, USHL, 6-3, 190
49). LW Raphael Bussieres, Baie-Comeau, QMJHL, 6-0, 180
50). D Julien Leduc, Val-d' Or, QMJHL, 6-0, 180
51). C Kristoff Kontos, Sudbury, OHL, 6-1, 200
52). G Francois Tremblay, Val-d'Or, QMJHL, 6-2, 190
53). D Dylan Blujus, Brampton, OHL, 6-3, 180
54). D Matt Finn, Guelph, OHL, 6-0, 195
55). LW Andreas Athanasiou, London, OHL, 6-0, 165
56). C Zach Stepan, Shattuck St. Mary's, USHS, 6-0, 160
57). D Adam Pelech, Erie, OHL, 6-2, 200
58). D Alex Gudbranson, Kingston, OHL, 6-2, 205
59). G Brandon Hope, Sarnia, OHL, 6-0, 175
60). D Jake Horton, Benilde-St.Margaret's, USHS, 5-11, 180

**Nail Yakupov / Right Wing****HT: 5-10 WT: 170 LBS / Team: Sarnia (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: October 6, 1993****Stats: 65 GP 49 G 52 A 101 PTS 71 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: First year in North America and has adapted well...dynamic and explosive offensive threat...skates well with explosive speed bursts and outstanding lateral agility...has a great knack for scoring big goals in highlight reel fashion...can make a play but is a finisher through and through...outstanding vision and offensive reads...has a bullet of a one-time shot...quick hands and all the moves to absolutely undress defenders...good compete level and dangerous each and every shift...can get caught shooting the zone at times...has a feisty attitude and is willing to get his nose dirty.

Ryan Murray / Defense**HT: 6-0 WT: 185 LBS / Team: Everett (WHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: September 27, 1993****Stats: 65 GP 5 G 36 A 41 PTS 41 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A poised, offensive puck moving defender...missed the 2011 draft by 12 days...skates well with good elusiveness, especially when rushing the puck...sees his options very quickly and hits them with pin-point accurate passes...has nice offensive instincts and creativity with the puck on his stick...transitions his game very quickly from defense to offense and back to defense...mature beyond his years...strong defensive positioning and communication...has future captain traits...plays a pretty consistent error-free game at both ends of the ice.

Alex Galchenyuk / Centre**HT: 6-1 WT: 180 LBS / Team: Sarnia (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: February 12, 1994****Stats: 68 GP 31 G 52 A 83 PTS 52 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Highly skilled forward with good speed and quick feet...plays both ends of the rink effectively...big frame and is strong on the puck...gets to top speed in just two powerful strides...handles the puck well using his frame to protect and reach to elude defenders' sticks...shoots the puck well with a pin-point accurate wrist shot...a natural finisher but also has the ability to set-up his mates...a scoring threat each time he has the puck...is also feisty and willing to stick up for himself...not comfortable yet physically due to a lack of strength...has good hockey sense and reads the play well.

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Nick Ebert / Defense**HT: 6-1 WT: 190 LBS / Team: Windsor (OHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: May 11, 1994****Stats: 64 GP 11 G 30 A 41 PTS 44 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Notes: A smooth skating two-way defender with strong instincts...consistently makes the right decision on when to pinch and when to drop back...high-end hockey sense...has very good vision and makes strong accurate passes...can carry the puck with the ability to go end-to-end...has a healthy amount of multi-directional speed, excellent agility and good recovery speed...does not panic when pressured...has a good hard shot...can play physical when required although more of a finesse type defender...potential No.1 defender and PP quarterback at the next level.

Mikhail Grigorenko / Centre**HT: 6-2 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: CSKA (MHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: May 16, 1994****Stats: 38 GP 13 G 17 A 30 PTS 22 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Playing for CSKA in the MHL...has good size and uses it well...possesses outstanding vision...strong and balanced skater...quick, soft hands and can dangle through defenders...has improved his finishing ability this year but a natural playmaking ability is more evident in his game...has some impressive vision and offensive awareness...an ultra-skilled power centre in the making...produced 30 points in 38 MHL games over this past season...has said some things that may make NHL teams think twice about his NHL intentions.

Jacob Trouba / Defense**HT: 6-2 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: US NTDP U17 (USHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: February 26, 1994****Stats: 37 GP 6 G 13 A 19 PTS 35 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Big and physical offensively skilled defender...skates real well with strong balance and nice overall mobility...his quick first few steps really make it hard to beat him along the boards...has a real big shot that makes goalies grimace...a willing and effective physical combatant...opponents need to stay aware as he can deliver some solid open ice hits to those who skate with their heads down...has good vision and can make a strong breakout pass...has soft hands...can carry the puck up ice and joins the rush at the correct times.

**Morgan Rielly / Defense**

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Moose Jaw (WHL)

Shoots: Left / DOB: March 9, 1994

Stats: 65 GP 6 G 22 A 28 PTS 21 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: A fleet-footed offensively skilled defender... average size for a defenseman but has decent strength for this level...skates with an excellent stride utilizing quick turns and pivots...distributes the puck effectively...can carry the puck himself or join the rush as an option without giving up much defensively because of his sound decision-making...has a high panic threshold with the forecheck bearing down on him...makes accurate passes and has a nice shot...shows some good offensive creativity...not overly physical but willing to compete in puck battles...looks like a future leader...good all-round defender.

Griffin Reinhart / Defense

HT: 6-4 WT: 200 Lbs / Team: Edmonton (WHL)

Shoots: Right / DOB: January 24, 1994

Stats: 44 GP 6 G 19 A 25 PTS 36 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: Big bruising defender with some offensive skills...has heavy feet that make his skating an area that needs work...has a good top speed and solid edge work despite his weaknesses...has good offensive instincts but lacks offensive creativity...has an absolute howitzer from the point but needs to compact his windup...crushes people with aggressive physical play in his zone and along the wall...has some consistency issues that need to be ironed out but raw talent is evident...missed a good portion of the year due to injury.

Filip Forsberg / Left Wing

HT: 6-1 WT: 175 Lbs / Team: Leksand J20 (Swe Jr.)

Shoots: Right / DOB: August 13, 1994

Stats: 36 GP 21 G 19 A 40 PTS 22 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: An offensively skilled forward...skates well and has a healthy amount of power in his stride for his size...a true finisher as he is always looking to create an offensive chance...has a very impressive shot that will only get stronger with added strength...possesses a quick release and relentless puck pursuit...a physical player who does not shy away from the traffic areas...has a nice set of hands and can dangle...needs to get stronger and work on his defensive game...very creative player with a high offensive ceiling...could be a top pick.

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Matt Dumba / Defense

HT: 5-11 WT: 165 Lbs / Team: Red Deer (WHL)

Shoots: Right / DOB: July 25, 1994

Stats: 62 GP 15 G 11 A 26 PTS 83 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: Scouting Notes: An offensive defender who is both skilled and physically aggressive...skates well but lacks high-end speed...has a rocket of a shot as his primary weapon...has great vision and can send a teammate in with an accurate stretch pass or join that attacker on the rush by carrying the puck himself...is constantly looking to create offense from the backend...needs to add strength and once he does he will become a dominant force in the Dub...received some playing time as forward towards the end of the year because of his immense offensive abilities.

Derrick Pouliot / Defense

HT: 6-0 WT: 190 Lbs / Team: Portland (WHL)

Shoots: Left / DOB: January 16, 1994

Stats: 65 GP 5 G 25 A 30 PTS 38 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: An impressive puck moving defenseman...another WHL average sized defender with high-end offensive skill...skates with an effortless stride and has solid all-round mobility...smart with a high offensive creativity...sees the play develop well ahead of most...likes the puck on his blade and to control the game from the backend...outstanding vision and passing ability...plays with a quiet confidence and leads by example...needs to round out his defensive game a bit...not overly physical but more finesse.

Zemgus Girgensons / Centre

HT: 6-2 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Dubuque (USHL)

Shoots: Left / DOB: January 5, 1994

Stats: 51 GP 21 G 28 A 49 PTS 46 PIM

SCOUTING REPORT: A hard working two-way power centre...skates well with good speed, a powerful stride and impressive agility...hard to contain and protects the puck well using his size...makes his teammates better because of his compete level and playmaking abilities...creative offensively and has the ability to control the game's tempo...can handle the puck very effectively and drive it through traffic...sees the ice and is constantly aware...plays with a healthy intensity to his game and, while not overly physical, will get his nose dirty for a scoring chance...responsible defensively and shows good leadership through his play.

**Jordan Schmaltz / Defense****HT: 6-2 WT: 180 Lbs / Team: Sioux City (USHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: October 8, 1993****Stats: 53 GP 13 G 31 A 44 PTS 22 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A big bodied offensively skilled blue liner...skates very well with solid agility and lateral mobility...loves to have the puck on his stick...carries the puck with his head up analyzing his available options all the way...has incredible vision and poise with the puck...has the size and skill NHL teams love to have in their top pairing...highly effective on the power play as he uses his mobility and vision to open up lanes...consistently makes smart decisions in all aspects of the game...has a nice shot that will only get heavier with added strength...constantly improving his overall play with each game.

Cody Ceci / Defense**HT: 6-2 WT: 200 Lbs / Team: Ottawa (OHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: December 21, 1993****Stats: 68 GP 9 G 25 A 34 PTS 28 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A big strong two-way defenseman...skates well with sound overall mobility...lacks high-end speed but is smart enough to maintain good position to compensate...plays with a physical edge and willing to battle along the boards...instinctively smells out opportunities on when to jump up into the offense and when it is wise to hang back...has a good compete level each and every game...strong defensive positioning and hard to beat one-on-one...not a lot of flash to his game but highly effective dependable overall performer.

Matia Marcantuoni / Centre**HT: 6-0 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Kitchener (OHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: February 22, 1994****Stats: 42 GP 11 G 16 A 27 PTS 26 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: An average sized speed demon with a high amount of talent...skates very well with explosive acceleration and quick lateral jump in his stride...uses his superior speed to create chances for himself and his line-mates...can handle the puck at top speed and shows some good finishing instincts in close to the net...has a good shot but can also feather a nice pass...causes turnovers on the forecheck when he closes gaps quickly and forces defenders to make bad decisions with the puck.

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Cristoval 'Boo' Nieves / Right Wing**HT: 6-3 WT: 190 Lbs / Team: Kent School (USHS)****Shoots: Left / DOB: January 23, 1994****Stats: NOT AVAILABLE**

SCOUTING REPORT: A big body pro-style winger with nice offensive upside...has an impressive skating stride with quick feet and outstanding lateral agility for his size...possesses the hands and offensive creativity to play as a top six offensive forward...makes things happen on almost every shift...still needs to add some strength and fill out his impressive frame...has good vision and sees the developing play before most his high school peers...can play the role of playmaker but looks more natural when driving the net and looking to finish...committed to Michigan in the fall of 2012.

Slater Koekkoek / Defense**HT: 6-2 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Peterborough (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: February 18, 1994****Stats: 65 GP 7 G 16 A 23 PTS 67 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Nice sizeable two-way defender...skates really well with a smooth stride and impressive all-round mobility...very agile for his size...likes to rush the puck but does so while staying within his game...uses his size well in the corners and to angle attackers to the outside...not naturally aggressive physically but will play aggressive when needed...has great vision and mans the point well with a hard, accurate shot and ability to open lanes...has some further untapped offensive upside...makes quick safe decisions and plays well in all three zones.

Brendan Gaunce / Centre**HT: 6-2 WT: 200 Lbs / Team: Belleville (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: March 25, 1994****Stats: 65 GP 11 G 25 A 36 PTS 40 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A nice big frame with a good all-round game...skates well but is not really a burner type...shows nice on-ice vision and playmaking abilities...hard to knock off the puck and is a determined competitor...has a shot that is better than most his age...looks like a future power forward centre...exudes strong leadership traits and an impressive maturity level for such a young kid...willing to play it physical especially when fighting for puck possession...shows creativity with the puck in the offensive zone.

**Martin Frk / Right Wing****HT: 5-11 WT: 190 Lbs / Team: Halifax (QMJHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: October 5, 1993****Stats: 60 GP 20 G 28 A 48 PTS 71 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Not big but still a solidly built winger...plays with a good amount of energy...willing to play physical...protects the puck well...skates with a wide balanced stance...hard to knock off the puck...battles hard along the wall...has good but not elite offensive skills...makes strong accurate passes...has an accurate shot...smart and sees the play develop quickly...makes quick decisions with the puck...solid positioning with and without the puck.

Jesse Graham / Defense**HT: 6-0 WT: 165 Lbs / Team: Niagara (OHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: May 13, 1994****Stats: 63 GP 1 G 17 A 18 PTS 22 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A small sized offensive minded defenseman...skates well with a smooth efficient stride...sees the ice well and has a high hockey IQ...makes accurate tape-to-tape passes to his streaking forwards...loads of untapped offensive upside to come...likes the puck on his stick and to manage the breakout...because of his lack of size he uses an active stick and positioning to defend...quick in transitioning the puck...needs to add strength.

A.J. Michaelson / Centre**HT: 6-0 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Apple Valley (USHS)****Shoots: Right / DOB: February 8, 1994****Stats: 25 GP 29 G 31 A 60 PTS 8 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A quick-footed skilled forward...makes things happen because of his speed and tenacious puck pursuit...tries to beat defenders to the outside and does because of his skating ability...has a good accurate shot but will need to improve its velocity...not afraid to play with a physical element as he drives the net and sticks his nose in other dirty areas...has nice vision and can set-up his teammates with a well timed pass...not sure where he will play next year.

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Gianluca Curcuruto / Defense**HT: 6-1 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: February 25, 1994****Stats: 56 GP 1 G 25 A 26 PTS 26 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A solidly built two-way defender...has quick feet and nice all-round mobility...his stride looks effortless and wide based which gives him added balance...uses his body well to protect the puck as well as separate the opponent from it but not overly physical otherwise...knows how to keep things simple and yet control the tempo of a game from the backend...sees the ice well and has good hockey sense...is poised under pressure...makes strong outlet passes and has a good accurate shot...walks the line well in order to open up lanes when patrolling the point...stays with his man defensively and doesn't get caught running around in his own zone...uses an active stick and solid positioning to defend.

Michael Matheson / Defense**HT: 6-1 WT: 170 Lbs / Team: Lac St-Louis (LHMAAAQ)****Shoots: Right / DOB: February 27, 1994****Stats: NOT AVAILABLE**

SCOUTING REPORT: College bound two-way defenseman...smooth skater with good foot work and solid speed...explosive acceleration aids his game...has the skills to be a high-end puck mover at all levels...sees the ice well picking up his options quickly...has soft hands and can rush the puck...makes good decisions...does not panic with the puck...has consistent effort levels from game to game...has a great work ethic in looking to improve himself...strong on the power play with his ability to walk the line and spot open lanes...needs to add strength to his shot and bulk up his impressive frame...was looking like the top pick in the QMJHL in 2009 but chose the NCAA route.

Mathew Campagna / Centre**HT: 5-11 WT: 170 Lbs / Team: Sudbury (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: March 9, 1994****Stats: 58 GP 7 G 18 A 25 PTS 36 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A speedy and offensively skilled forward...skates well with a healthy amount of speed generated from his stride...this playmaker sees the ice well and can make some pretty impressive passes through traffic...can also finish as he has a nice shot as well...not overly excited about engaging in physical battles...should be has smallish size, easily pushed off the puck...needs to add muscle to his entire frame and improve on his consistency in effort.

**Henrik Samuelsson / Centre****HT: 6-2 WT: 195 Lbs / Team: US NTDP U17 (USHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: February 7, 1994****Stats: 38 GP 12 G 16 A 28 PTS 98 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Big and skilled son of former NHL defenseman Ulf Samuelsson...plays a similar agitating game to his father but has more natural skill...possesses nice size and a frame to grow upon...utilizes good one-on-one skills and can beat defenders with his hands or powerful frame...has an excellent shot with a quick release and knows where he needs to be to score goals...needs to work on his feet as his skating is considered an ongoing area of concern...has decent enough speed but lacks quickness and agility...frustrating opponents runs in the family.

Charles Hudon / Left Wing**HT: 5-8 WT: 165 Lbs / Team: Chicoutimi (QMJHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: June 23, 1994****Stats: 63 GP 23 G 37 A 60 PTS 42 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Pint-sized offensive producing machine...skates very well with elusiveness and darting quickness...shows very creative offensive ability with the puck...possesses the vision to become a high-end playmaker at the next level...gets physically overmatched in battles with bigger opponents almost on a nightly basis...has very quick hands and can control the puck with his incredible dangles...has an underrated wrist shot that is effective especially in close...an opportunistic scorer...has the skill set of a high-end playmaker, only question is his size.

Olli Maatta / Defense**HT: 6-2 WT: 190 Lbs / Team: JYP (Fin 2)****Shoots: Left / DOB: August 22, 1994****Stats: 19 GP 2 G 6 A 8 PTS 8 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A physical shutdown type defender...skating is not elite but could get better over time with some work...acceleration is slow off the draw but gets to where he needs to be...has nice defensive awareness and instincts...consistent in his effort level and ability to make smart plays...has good passing ability and can transition the puck well despite his current skating deficiencies...poised with attackers bearing down on him...good strong reliable defender...not sure what type of offensive contributions he will make at the next level as his upside looks limited at this stage.

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Pontus Aberg / Left Wing**HT: 5-11 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Djurgarden J20 (Swe Jr.)****Shoots: Right / DOB: September 23, 1993****Stats: 41 GP 13 G 17 A 30 PTS 16 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A nifty goal scoring winger...skates really well with both quickness and shifty agility...has the speed and change of pace to drive defenders crazy...has a great shot that he gets off in a blink...not strong or physically able but willing to battle in traffic and along the wall...has great on-ice vision and hockey sense to go along with his physical skills...a hard worker and competitive force...has become more defensively responsible this season but more work is required in that area.

Nicolas Kerdiles / Left Wing**HT: 6-1 WT: 180 Lbs / Team: US NTDP U17 (USHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: January 11, 1994****Stats: 40 GP 17 G 10 A 27 PTS 60 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A decent sized two-way winger...skates well with some good speed and overall mobility...has an effective shot that is especially dangerous when in close around the net...has good hockey sense and ability to think the game...has good hands and can carry the puck effectively...uses his size well to protect the puck and win puck battles but is not a punisher in terms of hitting or fisticuffs...displays a willingness to play a well rounded game...consistently comes back hard defensively...sees the ice well and has sound overall awareness...more of a finisher than a playmaker...still an unfinished product but has a good work ethic and is constantly looking to improve.

Scott Laughton / Centre**HT: 6-0 WT: 175 Lbs / Team: Oshawa (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: May 30, 1994****Stats: 63 GP 12 G 11 A 23 PTS 58 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A mature average sized two-way forward...possesses good speed...has advanced hockey sense and reads the overall play well...always fighting to be in the play in all three zones...plays a hard nosed game and is willing to play physical when needed...is a leader and fierce competitor...does not look to have high-end offensive skill or creativity but can be highly effective in a complementary role...can shoot the puck and make short to medium range passes with precision...willing to pay a price whether in front of the opponent's net or taking a hit to make the right play...consistent in his effort level...a safe draft pick.



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Jarrod Maidens / Centre**HT: 6-2 WT: 175 Lbs / Team: Owen Sound (OHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: March 4, 1994****Stats: 47 GP 10 G 11 A 21 PTS 11 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A big guy who plays a power game...has a strong stride that generates a healthy amount of speed but needs to improve his first step quickness...willing to go to dirty areas and fight for time and space...has a very impressive shot that is both hard and accurate...is driven and involved in the game...willing to play an all-round game as he comes back consistently and tries to play a role in his own zone...more of a natural finisher than play-maker...shows some natural leadership qualities...needs to fill out his frame to be more effective as he is more wiry strong than powerful...some questions about his hockey sense and vision have come up.

Stefan Matteau / Left Wing**HT: 6-1 WT: 205 Lbs / Team: US NTDP U17 (USHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: February 23, 1994****Stats: 45 GP 7 G 11 A 18 PTS 65 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A big two-way power forward...solid skater who gets to where he needs to effectively...good bloodlines as his father Stephane carved out a solid NHL career...plays a real strong physical game along the wall and in front of his opponent's net...smart and aware on the ice...likes to dish out the hits and builds energy off his own physical play...plays with as much passion on both sides of the puck...has a good shot and really elevates his game when needed most...most dangerous offensively around the opposition's net.

Adam Johnson / Centre**HT: 5-11 WT: 160 Lbs / Team: Hibbing (USHS)****Shoots: Right / DOB: February 8, 1994****Stats: 25 GP 34 G 36 A 70 PTS 8 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A slick skilled pivot with tons of offensive upside...skates very well with a nice top speed, great acceleration and lateral jump...hard for defenders to contain because of his mobility...has very quick hands and can control the puck at high gear...beats defenders with his dangles, speed and head fakes...shows a very healthy shot that will get even better with added strength...very hard to check as he squirts past checks consistently...very good offensive creativity...sees the game better than most of his peers and really controls the game's tempo when the puck is in his possession.

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Luca Ciampini / Left Wing**HT: 5-11 WT: 190 Lbs / Team: Halifax (QMJHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: March 8, 1994****Stats: 37 GP 8 G 11 A 19 PTS 12 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A gifted goal scoring forward...skating is fine and will not hinder him going forward although he looks to be lacking separation speed at times...has an NHL type shot and release already...shot has good velocity and accuracy...exhibits a real nose for the net and some impeccable timing...always seems to be in the correct position for a scoring opportunity...finds open ice and is a dangerous finisher especially in close...willing to drive to the net and battle for pucks in high traffic...plays a feisty power type game despite his lack of ideal size for that role...needs to improve his defensive play and effort away from the puck.

Oscar Dansk / Goaltender**HT: 6-2 WT: 185 Lbs / Team: Brynas J20 (Swe Jr.)****Catches: Left / DOB: February 28, 1994****Stats: 21 GP 2.70 GAA .911 SP**

SCOUTING REPORT: A tall and talented athletic goaltender...covers much of the net naturally and will continue to do so as he adds mass to his skinny frame...highly competitive and industrious in his ability to stop pucks...plays a strong technical game and stays square to the shooter on the initial shot...will fight to make the second and third saves...continually looks to move the puck up to his forwards with his good stick handling...came over to play for Shattuck St. Mary's Prep school two years ago to learn the North American culture...not afraid to put in the work to improve his game.

Malcolm Subban / Goaltender**HT: 6-0 WT: 175 Lbs / Team: Belleville (OHL)****Catches: Left / DOB: December 21, 1993****Stats: 32 GP 3.16 GAA .900 SP**

SCOUTING REPORT: An athletic goalie that plays his angles well and has the ability to make the second and third save because of his quickness...reads the play well and follows the puck through traffic...has good lateral agility and a nice glove...does not get rattled but stays calm and focused even after allowing a bad goal...lacks desired size at just six feet, but could still grow more as his physical frame is rather underdeveloped...shows confidence as he aggressively comes out to challenge and make shooters make the first move...needs continued work on closing all holes when going down and maintaining his position.

**Sebastian Collberg / Right Wing****HT: 5-11 WT: 175 Lbs / Team: Frolunda J20 (Swe Jr.)****Shoots: Right / DOB: February 23, 1994****Stats: 35 GP 21 G 23 A 44 PTS 12 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Highly skilled offensive winger...very good skater who has impressive high-end speed and some pretty quick feet...shifty and hard to contain for defenses...drives the net and has an effective shot...sees the ice well and can make some very difficult passes...possesses some soft hands...does not shy away from physical battles; rather, is a willing participant despite his lack of size and strength...needs to work on bringing a consistent effort level each night and to add strength before he will be ready for the next level.

Marcus McIvor / Defense**HT: 6-1 WT: 200 Lbs / Team: Brampton (OHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: May 20, 1994****Stats: 62 GP 1 G 13 A 14 PTS 29 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A strong two-way defenseman...skates well with a strong, balanced and effortless stride...plays an efficient game with excellent gap control where he forces attackers to make quick decisions...has the ability to carry the puck up ice as well as dish a nice breakout pass...hits streaking forwards in stride with his passes...does not lack velocity on both his passes and point shot...looks to stay in position defensively and if he pinches he gets back quickly...has a good understanding of the game and makes good decisions with and without the puck.

Lukas Sutter / Centre**HT: 6-1 WT: 205 Lbs / Team: Saskatoon (WHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: October 4, 1993****Stats: 71 GP 4 G 15 A 19 PTS 179 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Bloodlines, grit and a solid work ethic best describe this forward's ability...a strong balanced skater...plays a defense-first game that also infuses physical play...willing to drop the mitts and stand up for himself or a teammate...plays with a high compete level and makes his office in the greasy areas on the ice...has sound defensive awareness and good hockey sense...money in the faceoff circle...has an effective but not great shot and will likely make his mark as a solid third line contributor at the next level...a true leader both on and off the ice...the kind of player that commands respect and leads by his team example similar to his father Rich.

2012 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Adam Pelech / Defense**HT: 6-2 WT: 200 Lbs / Team: Erie (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: August 18, 1994****Stats: 65 GP 1 G 12 A 13 PTS 27 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Young strapping stay-at-home defender in the making...has some heavy boots but not a bad stride...needs to remember to keep his feet moving...has good defensive awareness and reads the attack coming at him well...uses his frame to angle attackers to the outside and a long reach to jam the puck out along the wall...big frame makes opponents think twice about attacking his side of the ice...closes off lanes well with whatever he can...works well with his defensive partners...makes a decent breakout pass but has limited pro offensive upside.



SEAN MONAHAN

SETH JONES

MAX DOMI

2013

A PREVIEW OF THE 2013 NHL ENTRY DRAFT

By Dan Stewart

Here is a small glimpse at the top prospects for the 2013 NHL Entry Draft, which is still over two years away. Many other highly talented prospects are sure to join this list by the time the draft rolls around; however, this is a good overview of promising players.

**Nathan MacKinnon / Centre****HT: 5-11 WT: 175 LBS / Team: Shattuck-St.Mary's U16 (U.S. Prep)****Shoots: Right / DOB: September 1, 1995**

SCOUTING REPORT: The big name for 2013...has many pro-like aspects already...a heavy accurate shot, smooth skating and pro-work ethic... has quick feet and keeps them moving...outstanding vision and ability with the puck...has great hockey sense and understands the game better than most his age...handles the puck well and is a natural scorer...aggressive and physically willing...still maturing physically...often compared to Sidney Crosby for obvious reasons but is not overly similar on the ice...has the ability to make his teammates better.

Seth Jones / Defense**HT: 6-3.5 WT: 185 LBS / Team: U17 US NTDP (USHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: October 3, 1994**

SCOUTING REPORT: A huge, smooth skating, poised, two-way blue liner...has athletic genes from father and ex-NBA player Popeye Jones...has a calm approach both on and off the ice...calculated in all his movements...he can look slow on the ice until he needs to add some urgency...sees the ice well and has a very high IQ...not overly physical but uses his impressive size to his advantage...handles and passes the puck like a pro...has a deadly point shot...will challenge MacKinnon for the top pick in 2013.

Sean Monahan / Centre**HT: 6-2 WT: 185 LBS / Team: Ottawa (OHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: October 12, 1994****Stats: 65 GP 20 G 27 A 47 PTS 32 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A strong physically mature goal scorer...has a quick and deadly shot release...skates very well with a smooth stride, which generates nice speed...has a quick first few steps and solid overall mobility...possesses nice size already with more room to grow...displays soft hands...can dangle around defenders or bull his way through them to the net...good playmaking skill and is a dual pass/shoot threat...has good character and is willing to work hard.

2013 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Hunter Shinkaruk / Left Wing**HT: 5-10 WT: 160 LBS / Team: Medicine Hat (WHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: October 13, 1994**

SCOUTING REPORT: A highly skilled winger with impressive scoring instincts...a bit on the small side but plenty of growth left in him...skates very well with nice acceleration and impressive top speed...controls the puck with soft hands even at his top speed...sees the ice and has nice hockey sense...has some strong defensive ability as well as being an offensive contributor...goes to the net and uses a quick release to cash in on chances...makes tape-to-tape passes with good timing...just scratching the surface of his overall potential.

Alex Forsberg / Centre**HT: 5-9 WT: 170 LBS / Team: Prince George (WHL)****Shoots: Left / DOB: January 4, 1995**

SCOUTING REPORT: Small but highly skilled forward...skates well but lacks explosive acceleration liked in a diminutive forward...makes up for his skating with vision and playmaking ability... shows a good IQ for the game and ability to control the play...strong in the faceoff circle...has underrated scoring ability due to strength at setting up line mates...a high-end offensive player...will play with brother and 2011 draft prospect Jesse in Prince George next year.

Steve Santini / Defense**HT: 6-3 WT: 200 LBS / Team: N.Y. Applecore Jr. A (EJHL)****Shoots: Right / DOB: March 7, 1995**

SCOUTING REPORT: A big physically imposing defenseman...skates well with very good mobility for his size...strong defensively and able to read developing play...likes to play the physical game and make opponents pay the price for choosing his side of the ice...moves the puck well but is not really offensive minded...makes strong accurate breakout passes...will play in Ann Arbor with the U17 squad of the US NTDP this fall before going off to Boston College for his draft year.



Hudson Fasching / Centre
HT: 6-2 WT: 200 LBS / Team: Apple Valley (USHS)
Shoots: Right / DOB: July 28, 1995

SCOUTING REPORT: Impressive size and physical ability for such a young prospect...generates a healthy amount of speed and power from his stride...can handle the puck at high speed...sees the ice well...solid playmaking ability, can also finish off plays...has good natural athleticism and will be a beast when fully developed...plays well in heavy traffic and will carry defenders on his back en route to the net...needs work on understanding playing without the puck...is a true leader and a great teammate.

Max Domi / Centre
HT: 5-9 WT: 175 LBS / Team: Don Mills Flyers (Midget AAA)
Shoots: Left / DOB: March 2, 1995

SCOUTING REPORT: Son of former NHL tough guy Tie Domi...smallish size at five-foot-nine...electrifying hands and ability to dance through traffic with the puck...feisty but not a fighter like his father...great vision on the ice and good playmaking ability...has a decent shot and creates his own scoring chances because of his speed...accelerates extremely quickly from stop to full speed...has some good strength and low centre of gravity helps him in puck battles...likely going to the University of Michigan after a year with Indiana in the USHL.

Darnell Nurse / Defense
HT: 6-4 WT: 185 LBS / Team: Don Mills Flyers (Midget AAA)
Shoots: Left / DOB: February 4, 1995

SCOUTING REPORT: A towering two-way blue liner...has a great six-foot-four frame to build strength on...skates like a five-foot-nine forward as opposed to a defenseman of his size...very athletic and strong despite his honest 185-pounds...skates well with the puck keeping his head up following his options...works hard both on the ice and in the gym...hard to play against as he is not afraid to move bodies in the defensive zone...not a fighter but will stand up for himself and teammates...has some untapped offensive upside.

2013 TOP PROSPECT PROFILES

Scott Savage / Defense
HT: 6-1 WT: 175 LBS / Team: L.A Selects (Midget AAA)
Shoots: Left / DOB: April 4, 1995

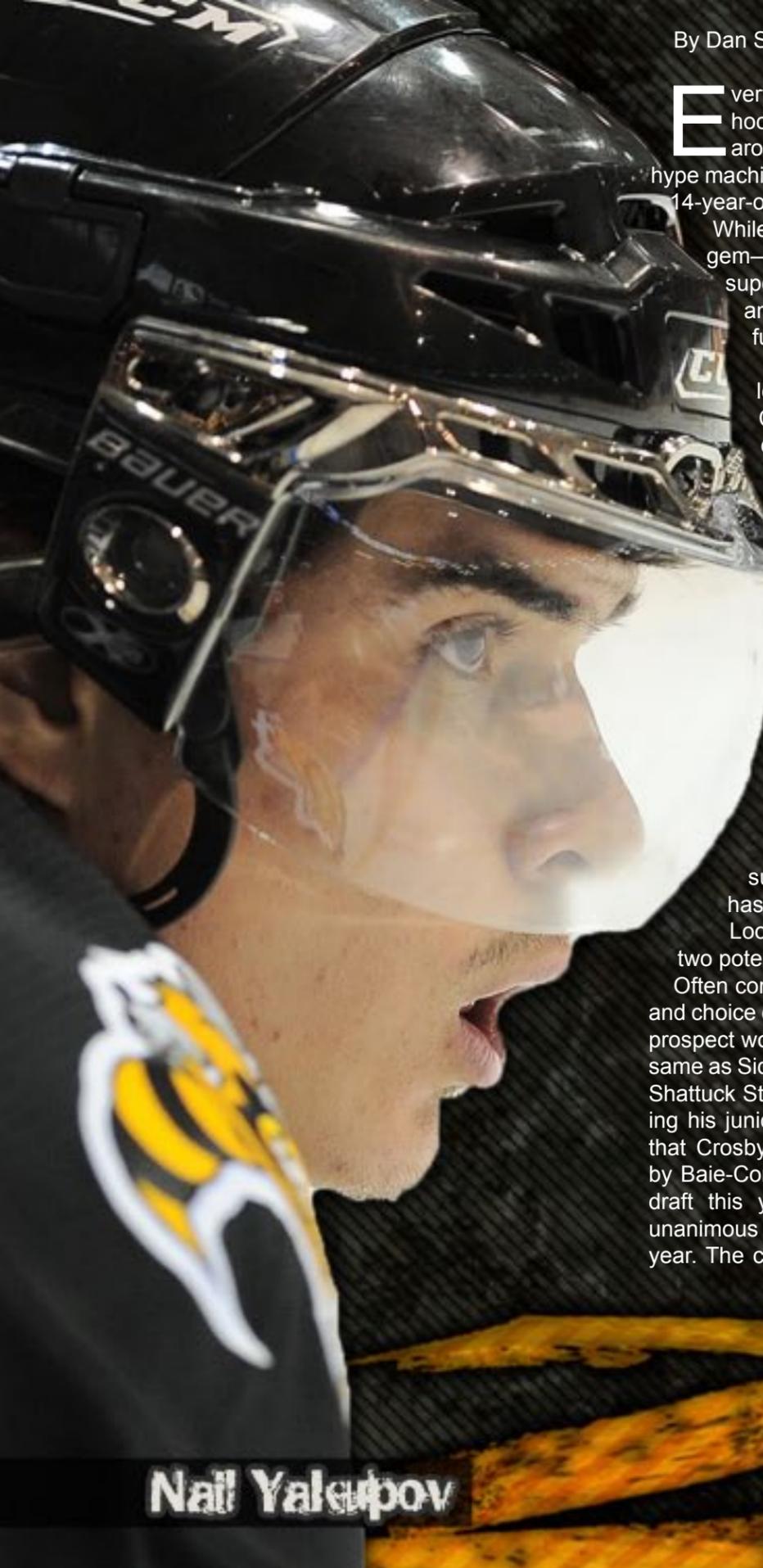
SCOUTING REPORT: A meat and potatoes type defenseman...nothing flashy about his game, just gets the job done...has heavy boots but gets to where he needs to be...safe, calm and physical in his own zone...makes smart accurate passes...has a decent shot...gives a great effort and never takes a shift off each and every game...committed to the U17 squad of the US NTDP for this fall before moving on to Boston College.

Taylor Cammarata / Left Wing
HT: 5-9 WT: 160 LBS / Team: Shattuck-St.Mary's U16 (U.S. Prep)
Shoots: Left / DOB: May 13, 1995

SCOUTING REPORT: A very talented offensive player...small but elusive and hard working...electrifying moves with the puck...skates extremely well with both high-end speed and lateral agility...has an accurate and quick wrist shot...sets defenders back on their heels with his puck skills...has great hockey sense and offensive instincts...sees the ice very well and is a skilled playmaker...was a line mate of MacKinnon...was the first overall pick by Waterloo of the USHL this year.

Markus Soberg / Left Wing
HT: 6-0 WT: 165 LBS / Team: Manglerud U19 (Norway)
Shoots: Right / DOB: April 22, 1995

SCOUTING REPORT: Skilled European talent...has a nice skating stride and generates good speed...has very quick feet and can change direction on a dime...has a very deceptive shot that surprises tenders as it is off his stick in a flash...has good offensive creativity...willing to play a physical game and battle for pucks...feet are always moving and he shows a solid work ethic...needs to work on a few areas but has good potential.



Nail Yakupov

By Dan Stewart

Every year it seems like we hear about the next great hockey talent tearing it up in a rink somewhere around the world. Like clockwork, people start the hype machine rolling on some 13-year-old kid from B.C. or a 14-year-old mastering his craft in Michigan.

While some of these reports have their merit, and a gem—who ultimately goes on to become a future NHL superstar—is found, prospects often end up as just another good hockey player in a vast landscape of future NHL hopefuls.

As we enter the 2011 NHL Entry Draft, there looks to be no sure NHL superstar to speak of. Centre Ryan Nugent-Hopkins does have the best chance out of the pack to become a perennial NHL All-Star and franchise cornerstone, but his potential falls a little short of becoming the next Stamkos, Crosby or Ovechkin.

In 2012 we see a few high-end prospects with the potential to become the next great NHL scorers. The top choice is ultra skilled forward Nail Yakupov who came into the OHL as a rookie this past season and proceeded to put up 49 goals and over a hundred points on a bad Sarnia Sting team. Impressive numbers indeed for a kid not yet draft eligible.

Also, for those looking for something new and shiny in 2012 to patrol the back-end, you will be able to take your pick from a handful of superstars in the making. The year 2012 really has the potential to be the next great draft.

Looking forward towards the 2013 draft, there are two potential gems to keep a close eye on.

Often compared to Sidney Crosby, due to his home town and choice of hockey locals, forward Nathan MacKinnon is a prospect worth keeping an eye on. A Cole Harbour product, same as Sid the Kid, MacKinnon decided to take his game to Shattuck St. Mary's prep school in Minnesota after destroying his junior hockey leagues growing up: the same route that Crosby took. He looks to be drafted first overall by Baie-Comeau Drakkar in the Quebec League draft this year, just as Crosby was the unanimous first selection in his draft year. The comparisons are un-

avoidable no matter how unfair they might be.

This is not where the similarities end as MacKinnon shares the same strong work ethic, competitiveness and a similar frame to the Penguins star. One should not jump to conclusions even with all these similarities because while MacKinnon is a skilled prospect, he is still not the talent that Sidney Crosby was at the same age and will likely not attain the same type of stardom that Crosby has as the NHL's marquee athlete.

What MacKinnon is, however, is strong for his size: a swift skating forward that can put the puck in the net with a shot that is better than most and with a slight nastiness to his game that Crosby does not possess. His natural instincts, hockey sense and vision are what really separate him from the pack. Shattuck St. Mary's director of hockey Tom Ward agrees, "Nathan is a hard working, skillful player and he has chance to be a real good player [at the next level]."

Also eligible for the 2013 draft is a defenseman who might be the best to come along since the 2008 draft when Drew Doughty went second overall to Los Angeles.

United States National Development Team Under-18 squad defenseman Seth Jones has the makings of a high-end two-way defender with a nice blend of skill, size and mobility all wrapped up in a package that includes some impressive bloodlines. His father Ronald "Popeye" Jones was a longtime NBA basketball player and has passed along those athletic genes to his son.

The six-foot-four—but skinny—Jones plays a calm, poised game that exudes maturity where he makes smart plays and does so with a Nicklas Lidstrom-like effortlessness. He skates well with a long and strong stride, sees the ice very well and moves the puck in transition very accurately and quickly.

Former NHL player Danton Cole, now Jones coach in Ann Arbor, also believes he has a special talent developing under his watch. "Seth is an outstanding player with a tremendous maturity for the game for his age. He is an excellent leader and a truly outstanding young man. I can see Seth anchoring a blue line in the NHL for many years."

The Plato Texas native was drafted by

the Everett Silvertips in the Western Hockey League but decided to keep his NCAA eligibility open by playing with the US NDTP. He will be making a decision next year whether to commit to a Division I school or play with the Silvertips.

Even further in the future, eligible for the 2014 NHL draft, we find another prospect that has a chance to be something really special.

Already granted Exceptional Status to the Ontario Hockey League, a year before normal eligibility, and drafted by the Barrie Colts in the 2011 OHL Priority Selection, defenseman Aaron Ekblad has many talent evaluators in the industry sitting up to take notice.

Despite the baby face, Ekblad had the look of a man playing among boys this season with the Sun County AAA minor midgets Panthers. The six-foot-three and far from done growing defender plays the game with a higher hockey sense than most and vision far superior than anyone in his age group.

The Belle River, Ontario (near Windsor) native is a solid two-way defender who plays a strong offensive game without sacrificing anything defensively. His on ice maturity and hockey IQ are off the charts and Ekblad has shown that he knows how to use his large frame to his advantage.

His former coach Frank Evola thinks Ekblad is a special talent. "Aaron has all the tools. He's mature, he's poised and his hockey IQ is off the charts. There are not too many boys of his stature that skate like him. He does everything very, very well in every aspect of the game."

Ekblad is the type of defender who comes along every once in a while that seems to do everything well and has no perceived weakness in his game. His shot is like a rocket and his hands are soft with the puck on his blade. He skates so well with outstanding mobility and recovery speed, especially with his age and impressive size.

Ekblad is definitely one to watch as his draft year is still a couple of years away. He has unbelievable potential especially if his development trajectory continues and his game, as well as his physical abilities, continue to develop between now and June 2014.

One thing is for sure, when you analyze the next few drafts, there are plenty of potential NHL superstars on the horizon. **FC**

Will the next
NHL Superstar
please stand up?

FC