

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS  
FC  
2014 NHL DRAFT GUIDE



KAKISVISION

# ABOUT FC

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# FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to Future Considerations' 2014 NHL Draft Guide.

From July 1, 2013 onward, we at Future Considerations have set our focus on the 2014 NHL Draft and its eligible players and by the time the first round rolls along on June 27th, it'll have been an interesting 362 days, to say the least.

Through the Ivan Hlinka Memorial to regular league play to the World Junior Championship to the World Under-18 Championship and the Memorial Cup, there has been plenty of activity -- and movement -- in the 2014 NHL Draft class.

But one thing sticks out -- and it's a point of pride at Future Considerations.

In FC's 2013 NHL Draft Guide, we provided our preliminary ranking for 2014. In that preliminary ranking, we featured Sam Reinhart (No. 1), William Nylander (No. 2) and Aaron Ekblad (No. 3). All three of those players remain in our top-5 a year later, with Ekblad holding the top spot followed by Reinhart and Nylander.

To extend that thought, seven of FC's top-10 a year ago remain and 20 of 30 overall were identified as having first round talent.

It's an incredible projection from our scouting staff, which has grown to provide you even more in-depth analysis in FC's 2014 NHL Draft Guide. That effort is certainly reflected in our offering this season.

A year ago, your 2013 NHL Draft Guide contained a little over 47,000 words in our 210 scouting reports. This year, you'll enjoy over 61,000 words of text in our profiles -- nearly a third more.

More scouts in more rinks at more games has given us more eyes and more reports to bring you bigger, better, more in-depth reports on members of the 2014 NHL

Draft class.

Those eyes have been needed to score those eligible for the draft.

Outside of Ekblad and Reinhart flip-flopping at the top, there's been plenty of movement throughout our draft ranking all season. Upwards of 50 players have been bandied about as potential contenders for being a first round pick.

That kind of depth lends itself to the idea that the 2014 NHL Draft crop isn't all that weak.

No, 2014 probably isn't going to be talked about in the same breath as the 2003 class that is widely considered to be the benchmark as one of the greatest drafts of all time. After all, all 30 first-round picks and 61 of the first 70 picks did suit up for at least one NHL game.

But there's plenty to be excited about when your favorite team steps to the podium to announce their first pick.

So without further ado, enjoy the following pages of information gathered through the hard work and commitment of our scouts through what has been a long but enjoyable season.

Regards,

Aaron Vickers  
Managing Editor  
@AAVickers



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## FROM THE SCOUTING DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to Future Considerations' 2014 NHL Draft Guide.

It has certainly been an interesting year for our scouts and eyes of National Hockey League teams alike.

Plenty has been made about the depth or quality of the 2014 NHL Draft, but after following these 1996-birth-year prospects for the past couple seasons and intently over the past 10 months, I can tell you that there are some very good NHL players who will be selected when all 30 teams get together on June 27 and 28 in Philadelphia.

The truth of the matter is, while there are no sure-fire 'Next Great NHL Superstar' types of talents available, there are a few kids who project to have very strong NHL futures ahead of them.

Aaron Ekblad, our No. 1 ranked prospect, projects to be at minimum a top-four two-way dependable defenseman who can lead a team, but has the upside to be a true No. 1 franchise guy. Sam Reinhart, our No. 2 guy, projects as a smart and skilled two-way pivot who would contribute as an impressive second-line center at the worst case, but could become a strong top-line center who can play a game similar to Henrik Zetterberg.

And then there are other high-end guys, like Sam Bennett of Kingston, Michael Dal Colle of Oshawa, Leon Draisaitl of Prince Albert or William Nylander of MODO, who all project to make significant noise at the next level.

Sure these prospects all have the potential to bust, but that potential is realized more than a handful of times in every draft class.

There is a reason all these names are part of the top end of the draft though as each has the strong potential to make a substantial impact on an NHL roster one day. But in saying that, there are also plenty of wildcards

sprinkled throughout the draft ranks who could end up being just as important to the teams that select them in the future as any of these top-of-the-heap guys.

The forward prospects are the real strength of this draft class with big power forwards, smaller skilled pivots and goal-scoring wingers deep into the third or fourth rounds. Also, add the odd agitating winger or two-way specialist into the mix and the forward position should be well represented in Philly.

Plenty of strong goaltending prospects are also available this year. The list includes a couple calm and poised technical tenders, the bigger bodies with raw but potentially impressive upsides, as well as the more acrobatic types who are less blocker and more old school reflex stoppers.

Defense is a weak area of this draft as there are very few guys who look like they can be developed into impact NHLers, but instead there appears to be a few blue-chippers and a bunch of guys who could be bottom-pairing contributors or career minor leaguers.

It is important when evaluating a draft class as a whole to not undervalue prospects who might not look like the cookie cutter sure bet NHL prospect as 17-year-olds. The NHL is full of contributing players in all different sizes and styles. Many of the 2014 eligible kids will continue to develop and mature with more than a few going on to enjoy successful NHL careers.

So without further ado, thank you for purchasing FC's 2014 NHL Entry Draft Guide. Enjoy the following pages of information gather through the hard work and commitment of our scouts through what has been a long but enjoyable season.

Enjoy the Draft Guide,

Dan Stewart  
Director of Scouting  
@StewartFC

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- 1). D Aaron Ekblad, Barrie (OHL), 6-4, 215
- 2). C Sam Reinhart, Kootenay (WHL), 6-1, 185
- 3). C Sam Bennett, Kingston (OHL), 6-0, 180
- 4). RW William Nylander, MODO (SHL), 5-11, 170
- 5). C Leon Draisaitl, Prince Albert (WHL), 6-2, 210
- 6). LW Michael Dal Colle, Oshawa (OHL), 6-2, 180
- 7). LW Nick Ritchie, Peterborough (OHL), 6-2, 230
- 8). LW Nikolaj Ehlers, Halifax (QMJHL), 5-11, 165
- 9). D Haydn Fleury, Red Deer (WHL), 6-3, 200
- 10). RW Jake Virtanen, Calgary (WHL), 6-1, 210
- 11). LW Brendan Perlini, Niagara (OHL), 6-2, 205
- 12). C Jared McCann, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL), 6-0, 180
- 13). LW Kevin Fiala, HV 71 (SHL), 5-10, 180
- 14). C Dylan Larkin, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-1, 190
- 15). C Robby Fabbri, Guelph (OHL), 5-10, 165
- 16). LW Ivan Barbashev, Moncton (QMJHL), 6-1, 185
- 17). LW Sonny Milano, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 5-11, 185
- 18). RW David Pastrnak, Sodertalje (Allsvenskan), 5-11, 170
- 19). RW Alex Tuch, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-3, 215
- 20). RW Josh Ho-Sang, Windsor (OHL), 5-11, 165
- 21). RW Conner Bleackley, Red Deer (WHL), 6-1, 195
- 22). G Thatcher Demko, Boston College (NCAA), 6-4, 180
- 23). RW Nikolay Goldobin, Sarnia (OHL), 6-0, 175
- 24). D Jack Dougherty, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-1, 185
- 25). C Jakub Vrana, Linkoping J20 (SuperElit), 5-11, 185
- 26). RW Kasperi Kapanen, KalPa (SM-Liiga), 5-11, 170
- 27). C Adrian Kempe, Modo J20 (SuperElit), 6-2, 190
- 28). D Roland McKeown, Kingston (OHL), 6-1, 200
- 29). D Anthony DeAngelo, Sarnia (OHL), 5-11, 175
- 30). C Eric Cornel, Peterborough (OHL), 6-2, 175
- 31). D Julius Honka, Swift Current (WHL), 5-10, 170
- 32). C Ryan Donato, Dexter School (USHS), 6-0, 170
- 33). G Mason McDonald, Charlottetown (QMJHL), 6-4, 180
- 34). RW Nikita Scherbak, Saskatoon (WHL), 6-2, 175
- 35). RW Anton Karlsson, Frolunda J20 (SuperElit), 6-1, 190
- 36). C Brayden Point, Moose Jaw (WHL), 5-9, 160
- 37). LW Brendan Lemieux, Barrie (OHL), 6-0, 205
- 38). RW Ryan MacInnis, Kitchener (OHL), 6-4, 185
- 39). D Brycen Martin, Swift Current (WHL), 6-2, 185
- 40). D Marcus Pettersson, Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit), 6-4, 170
- 41). RW Vladislav Kamenev, Stalnie Lisi Magnitogorsk (MHL), 6-1, 185
- 42). C Nick Schmaltz, Green Bay (USHL), 5-11, 170
- 43). D Travis Sanheim, Calgary (WHL), 6-3, 180
- 44). C John Quenneville, Brandon (WHL), 6-0, 190
- 45). RW Nicolas Aube-Kubel, Val-d'Or (QMJHL), 5-11, 175
- 46). RW Vaclav Karabacek, Gatineau (QMJHL), 6-0, 180
- 47). G Alex Nedeljkovic, Plymouth (OHL), 6-0, 185
- 48). D Aaron Haydon, Niagara (OHL), 6-3, 200
- 49). D Blake Siebenaler, Niagara (OHL), 6-1, 185
- 50). LW Spencer Watson, Kingston (OHL), 5-10, 165
- 51). D Alexis Vanier, Baie-Comeau (QMJHL), 6-4, 220
- 52). C Chase DeLeo, Portland (WHL), 5-9, 175
- 53). D Jack Glover, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-3, 190
- 54). D Ryan Collins, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-4, 195
- 55). LW Vladimir Tkachev, Moncton (QMJHL), 5-9, 150
- 56). D Josh Jacobs, Indiana (USHL), 6-2, 195
- 57). C Shane Eiserman, Dubuque (USHL), 6-2, 200
- 58). LW Justin Kirkland, Kelowna (WHL), 6-2, 170
- 59). D Gustav Forsling, Linkoping J20 (SuperElit), 5-11, 175
- 60). D John MacLeod, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-2, 200
- 61). D Dysin Mayo, Edmonton (WHL), 6-0, 180
- 62). C Seamus Malone, Dubuque (USHL), 5-9, 165
- 63). D Andreas Englund, Djurgarden J20 (SuperElit), 6-3, 190
- 64). C Jayce Hawryluk, Brandon (WHL), 5-10, 185
- 65). D Sebastian Aho, Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit), 5-9, 170
- 66). D Kelly Summers, Carleton Place (CCHL), 6-2, 185
- 67). D Matthew Berkovitz, Ashwaubenon High (USHS), 6-1, 180
- 68). C Brett Pollock, Edmonton (WHL), 6-2, 170
- 69). D Luc Snuggerud, Eden Prairie (USHS), 5-11, 160
- 70). RW Nick Magyar, Kitchener (OHL), 6-1, 170
- 71). D Jake Walman, Toronto (OJHL), 6-1, 170
- 72). D Nelson Nogier, Saskatoon (WHL), 6-2, 175
- 73). RW Walteri Hopponen, Sioux City (USHL), 6-1, 180
- 74). D Jacob Middleton, Ottawa (OHL), 6-3, 210
- 75). C Clark Bishop, Cape Breton (QMJHL), 5-11, 185
- 76). C Tyler Sheehy, Waterloo (USHL), 5-9, 170
- 77). C Alexandre Goulet, Charlottetown (QMJHL), 5-11, 190
- 78). C Rourke Chartier, Kelowna (WHL), 5-10, 165
- 79). D Emil Johansson, HV71 J20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 195
- 80). RW Ondrej Kase, KLH Chomutov (Czech), 5-11, 165
- 81). RW J.J. Piccinich, Youngstown (USHL), 5-11, 175
- 82). C Daniel Audette, Sherbrook (QMJHL), 5-8, 175
- 83). C Connor Chatham, Plymouth (OHL), 6-2, 225
- 84). D Olivier Leblanc, Saint John (QMJHL), 5-11, 160
- 85). C Reid Gardiner, Prince Albert (WHL), 5-10, 175
- 86). C Julien Pelletier, Cape Breton (QMJHL), 5-11, 175
- 87). D Filip Pyrochta, Bili Tygri Liberec U20 (Czech U20), 6-0, 175
- 88). C Reid Duke, Lethbridge (WHL), 6-0, 190
- 89). D Aaron Irving, Edmonton (WHL), 6-1, 190
- 90). D Julius Bergman, Frolunda J20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 185
- 91). G Kaapo Kahkonen, Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-2, 195
- 92). C Joey Dudek, Kimball Union (USHS), 5-11, 175
- 93). RW Hunter Smith, Oshawa (OHL), 6-6, 210
- 94). D Ben Thomas, Calgary (WHL), 6-2, 190
- 95). G Igor Shestyorkin, MHC Spartak (MHL), 6-0, 185
- 96). RW Beau Starrett, South Shore (USPHL), 6-4, 190
- 97). RW Julien Nantel, Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL), 6-0, 195
- 98). C Tyson Baillie, Kelowna (WHL), 5-10, 180
- 99). LW Dylan Sadowy, Saginaw (OHL), 5-11, 160
- 100). LW Michael Bunting, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL), 6-0, 175
- 101). C Alex Holmstrom, Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 185
- 102). LW Matt Mistele, Plymouth (OHL), 6-2, 190
- 103). RW Austin Poganski, Tri-City (USHL), 6-1, 200
- 104). D Brandon Hickey, Spruce Grove (AJHL), 6-2, 170
- 105). G Ville Husso, HIFK (SM-Liiga), 6-3, 185\*
- 106). D Janik Moser, Muskegon (USHL), 5-10, 185
- 107). D Rinat Valiev, Kootenay (WHL), 6-1, 205\*
- 108). LW Pierre Engvall, Frolunda J20 (SuperElit), 6-4, 200
- 109). D Yannick Rathgeb, Plymouth (OHL), 6-0, 185
- 110). RW Darby Llewellyn, Kitchener (OHL), 6-1, 175
- 111). D Louis Belpedio, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 5-10, 190
- 112). RW Matthew Highmore, Saint John (QMJHL), 5-11, 160
- 113). D Brandon Prophet, Saginaw (OHL), 6-2, 200
- 114). G Hayden Lavigne, Tri-City (USHL), 6-3, 180
- 115). D Brett Lernout, Swift Current (WHL), 6-4, 205
- 116). G Brent Moran, Niagara (OHL), 6-3, 175
- 117). C/LW Alexis Pepin, Gatineau (QMJHL), 6-2, 230
- 118). RW Oskar Lindblom, Brynas J20 (SuperElit), 6-1, 190
- 119). LW Christian Dvorak, London (OHL), 6-0, 165
- 120). RW Juho Lammikko, Assat U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-1, 190
- 121). C Michael Amadio, North Bay (OHL), 6-1, 190
- 122). G Julio Billia, Chicoutimi (QMJHL), 5-11, 165
- 123). RW Richard Nejezchleb, Brandon (WHL), 6-2, 205\*
- 124). LW Ryan Hitchcock, USNTDP U18 (NTDP), 5-9, 170
- 125). RW Pavel Jenys, HC Kometa Brno (Czech), 6-2, 195
- 126). D Stefan Leblanc, Mississauga (OHL), 5-11, 160
- 127). G Edwin Minney, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-4, 190
- 128). D Joni Tuulola, HPK U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-1, 165
- 129). C Tanner MacMaster, Camrose (AJHL), 5-9, 160
- 130). D Dominik Masin, HC Slavia Praha U20 (Czech U20), 6-1, 185
- 131). D Alex Peters, Plymouth (OHL), 6-4, 195
- 132). G Drew Vogler, Topeka (NAHL), 6-1, 195
- 133). LW Warren Foegele, St Andrews (CANHS), 6-1, 180
- 134). D Cody Donaghey, Quebec (QMJHL), 6-1, 185
- 135). D Nikita Tryamkin, Yekaterinburg (KHL), 6-7, 230\*
- 136). D Gavin Bayreuther, St. Lawrence (NCAA), 6-0, 180\*
- 137). D Nick Wolff, Eagan (USHS), 6-4, 190
- 138). LW Liam Pecararo, Waterloo (USHL), 5-9, 160
- 139). C Maxim Letunov, Youngstown (USHL), 6-2, 160
- 140). D Tomas Havlin, Bili Tygri Liberec U20 (Czech U20), 6-1, 175
- 141). RW Jaedon Descheneau, Kootenay (WHL), 5-9, 185\*
- 142). LW Chase Phelps, Shattuck St. Mary's (USHS), 6-0, 170
- 143). C Keegan Iverson, Portland (WHL), 6-1, 220
- 144). LW Andrew Mangiapane, Barrie (OHL), 5-10, 160
- 145). LW Franics Perron, Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL), 5-11, 165
- 146). D Brandon Montour, Waterloo (USHL), 5-11, 170
- 147). G Brandon Halverson, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL), 6-4, 175
- 148). LW Daniel Muzito Bagenda, MODO J20 (SuperElit), 6-1, 200
- 149). D Alex Lintuniemi, Ottawa (OHL), 6-2, 185
- 150). D Johan Gronquist, Brynas J18 (J18 Allsvenskan), 5-11, 175
- 151). D Alexander Mikulovich, Niagara (OHL), 6-3, 180
- 152). C Ryan Foss, Windsor (OHL), 6-3, 185
- 153). D Daniel Walcott, Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL), 5-11, 170\*
- 154). C Luke Philp, Kootenay (WHL), 5-9, 165
- 155). G Jonas Johansson, Brynas J20 (SuperElit), 6-3, 185
- 156). C Charley Graaskamp, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL), 6-1, 175
- 157). C Anders Bjork, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 5-11, 180
- 158). RW Cameron Darcy, Cape Breton (QMJHL), 6-1, 185\*
- 159). RW Matheson Iacopelli, Muskegon (USHL), 6-1, 190
- 160). RW David Kampf, Chomutov (Czech), 6-2, 185\*
- 161). C Hunter Garlent, Peterborough (OHL), 5-9, 170\*
- 162). D Michael Prapavessis, Toronto Lakeshore (OJHL), 6-0, 175
- 163). D Neal Pionk, Sioux City (USHL), 5-11, 170\*
- 164). D William Lagesson, Frolunda J20 (SuperElit), 6-2, 190
- 165). RW Noah Rod, Geneve Jr. (Elite Jr. A), 6-0, 185
- 166). G Logan Halladay, Janesville (NAHL), 6-2, 180
- 167). LW Ryan Verbeek, Kingston (OHL), 6-0, 175
- 168). C/W Lucas Wallmark, Lulea (SHL), 6-0, 175\*
- 169). C Jake Evans, St. Michaels (OJHL), 6-0, 175
- 170). C Daniil Vovchenko, Almaz Cherepovets (MHL), 5-9, 160
- 171). C Shane Gersich, USNTDP U18 (NTDP), 5-11, 175
- 172). G Austin Lotz, Everett (WHL), 6-1, 190\*
- 173). C Steven Spinner, Eden Prairie (USHS), 5-11, 195
- 174). RW August Gunnarsson, Farjestad J20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 175
- 175). G Vitek Vanecek, HC Havlíčkův Brod (Czech U20), 5-11, 170
- 176). D Miles Gendron, Rivers Academy (USHS), 6-2, 175
- 177). LW Henrik Tornqvist, Linkoping J20 (SuperElit), 6-1, 165
- 178). LW Radel Fazleev, Calgary (WHL), 5-11, 175
- 179). G Chase Perry, Wenatchee (NAHL), 6-3, 185
- 180). C Antti Kalapudas, Karpat U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-0, 160
- 181). LW Cristiano DiGiacinto, Windsor (OHL), 5-11, 185
- 182). LW Rihards Bukarts, Brandon (WHL), 5-10, 180
- 183). C Karson Kuhlman, Dubuque (USHL), 5-10, 165
- 184). D Joe Hicketts, Victoria (WHL), 5-9, 175
- 185). D Arvid Lundberg, Skelleftea (SHL), 6-1, 185\*
- 186). G Kasimir Kaskisuo, Minnesota (NAHL), 6-2, 200\*
- 187). RW Joseph Wegwerth, USNTDP U1 (USHL), 6-3, 220
- 188). C Rhett Gardner, Okotoks (AJHL), 6-1, 175
- 189). G Ty Edmonds, Prince George (WHL), 6-1, 175
- 190). RW Nicholas Jones, Sherwood Park (AJHL), 5-10, 170
- 191). C Connor Murphy, Caledonia (GOJHL), 5-9, 165
- 192). D Lukas Bengtsson, Mora (Allsvenskan), 5-11, 170\*
- 193). LW Kevin Labanc, Barrie (OHL), 5-10, 165
- 194). LW Robert Carpenter, Austin Prep (USHS), 5-10, 175
- 195). D Adam Ollas Mattsson, Djurgarden J20 (SuperElit), 6-4, 210
- 196). RW Tyler Bird, Kimball Union (USHS), 6-1, 185
- 197). C Martin Ronnild, Brynas J20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 185
- 198). D Phil Baltisberger, Guelph (OHL), 6-0, 210
- 199). D Luke Davison, Notre Dame Academy (USHS), 5-11, 170
- 200). RW Viktor Arvidsson, Skelleftea (SHL), 5-9, 175\*
- 201). D Tyler Nanne, Edina (USHS), 5-10, 170
- 202). RW Anthony Angello, Omaha (USHL), 6-4, 190
- 203). D Sebastian Moberg, Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 5-11, 160
- 204). D Christian Jaros, Lulea J20 (SuperElit), 6-4, 205
- 205). LW Kevin Elgestal, Frolunda J20 (SuperElit), 6-1, 175
- 206). D Ryan Mantha, Indiana (USHL), 6-4, 225
- 207). RW James Winkler, Portland (USPHL), 6-3, 195
- 208). RW Dylan Malmquist, Edina (USHS), 5-10, 170
- 209). D Mark Friedman, Waterloo (USHL), 5-11, 185\*
- 210). G Thomas Lillie, SonderjyskE (Denmark), 6-0, 165

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- 3). RW William Nylander, MODO (SHL), 5-11, 170 (4)
- 4). C Leon Draisaitl, Prince Albert (WHL), 6-2, 210 (5)
- 5). LW Michael Dal Colle, Oshawa (OHL), 6-2, 180 (6)
- 6). LW Nick Ritchie, Peterborough (OHL), 6-2, 230 (7)
- 7). LW Nikolaj Ehlers, Halifax (QMJHL), 5-11, 165 (8)
- 8). RW Jake Virtanen, Calgary (WHL), 6-1, 210 (10)
- 9). LW Brendan Perlini, Niagara (OHL), 6-2, 205 (11)
- 10). C Jared McCann, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL), 6-0, 180 (12)
- 11). LW Kevin Fiala, HV 71 (SHL), 5-10, 180 (13)
- 12). C Dylan Larkin, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-1, 190 (14)
- 13). C Robby Fabbri, Guelph (OHL), 5-10, 165 (15)
- 14). LW Ivan Barbashev, Moncton (QMJHL), 6-1, 185 (16)
- 15). LW Sonny Milano, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 5-11, 185 (17)
- 16). RW David Pastrnak, Sodertalje (Allsvenskan), 5-11, 170 (18)
- 17). RW Alex Tuch, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-3, 215 (19)
- 18). RW Josh Ho-Sang, Windsor (OHL), 5-11, 165 (20)
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- 20). RW Nikolay Goldobin, Sarnia (OHL), 6-0, 175 (23)
- 21). C Jakub Vrana, Linkoping J20 (SuperElit), 5-11, 185 (25)
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- 24). C Eric Cornel, Peterborough (OHL), 6-2, 175 (30)
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- 28). C Brayden Point, Moose Jaw (WHL), 5-9, 160 (36)
- 29). LW Brendan Lemieux, Barrie (OHL), 6-0, 205 (37)
- 30). RW Ryan MacInnis, Kitchener (OHL), 6-4, 185 (38)
- 31). RW Vladislav Kamenev, Stalnie Lisi Magnitogorsk (MHL), 6-1, 185 (41)
- 32). C Nick Schmaltz, Green Bay (USHL), 5-11, 170 (42)
- 33). C John Quenneville, Brandon (WHL), 6-0, 190 (44)
- 34). RW Nicolas Aube-Kubel, Val-d'Or (QMJHL), 5-11, 175 (45)
- 35). RW Vaclav Karabacek, Gatineau (QMJHL), 6-0, 180 (46)
- 36). LW Spencer Watson, Kingston (OHL), 5-10, 165 (50)
- 37). C Chase DeLeo, Portland (WHL), 5-9, 175 (52)
- 38). LW Vladimir Tkachev, Moncton (QMJHL), 5-9, 150 (55)
- 39). C Shane Eiserman, Dubuque (USHL), 6-2, 200 (57)
- 40). LW Justin Kirkland, Kelowna (WHL), 6-2, 170 (58)
- 41). C Seamus Malone, Dubuque (USHL), 5-9, 165 (62)
- 42). C Jayce Hawryluk, Brandon (WHL), 5-10, 185 (64)
- 43). C Brett Pollock, Edmonton (WHL), 6-2, 170 (68)
- 44). RW Nick Magyar, Kitchener (OHL), 6-1, 170 (70)
- 45). RW Walteri Hopponen, Sioux City (USHL), 6-1, 180 (73)
- 46). C Clark Bishop, Cape Breton (QMJHL), 5-11, 185 (75)
- 47). C Tyler Sheehy, Waterloo (USHL), 5-9, 170 (76)
- 48). C Alexandre Goulet, Charlottetown (QMJHL), 5-11, 190 (77)
- 49). C Rourke Chartier, Kelowna (WHL), 5-10, 165 (78)
- 50). RW Ondrej Kase, KLH Chomutov (Czech), 5-11, 165 (80)

## TOP-30 DEFENSEMEN

- 1). D Aaron Ekblad, Barrie (OHL), 6-4, 215 (1)
- 2). D Haydn Fleury, Red Deer (WHL), 6-3, 200 (9)
- 3). D Jack Dougherty, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-1, 185 (24)
- 4). D Roland McKeown, Kingston (OHL), 6-1, 200 (28)
- 5). D Anthony DeAngelo, Sarnia (OHL), 5-11, 175 (29)
- 6). D Julius Honka, Swift Current (WHL), 5-10, 170 (31)
- 7). D Brycen Martin, Swift Current (WHL), 6-2, 185 (39)
- 8). D Marcus Pettersson, Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit), 6-4, 170 (40)
- 9). D Travis Sanheim, Calgary (WHL), 6-3, 180 (43)
- 10). D Aaron Haydon, Niagara (OHL), 6-3, 200 (48)
- 11). D Blake Siebenaler, Niagara (OHL), 6-1, 185 (49)
- 12). D Alexis Vanier, Baie-Comeau (QMJHL), 6-4, 220 (51)
- 13). D Jack Glover, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-3, 190 (53)
- 14). D Ryan Collins, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-4, 195 (54)
- 15). D Josh Jacobs, Indiana (USHL), 6-2, 195 (56)
- 16). D Gustav Forsling, Linkoping J20 (SuperElit), 5-11, 175 (59)
- 17). D John MacLeod, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-2, 200 (60)
- 18). D Dysin Mayo, Edmonton (WHL), 6-0, 180 (61)
- 19). D Andreas Englund, Djurgarden J20 (SuperElit), 6-3, 190 (63)
- 20). D Sebastian Aho, Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit), 5-9, 170 (65)
- 21). D Kelly Summers, Carleton Place (CCHL), 6-2, 185 (66)
- 22). D Matthew Berkovitz, Ashwaubenon High (USHS), 6-1, 180 (67)
- 23). D Luc Snuggerud, Eden Prairie (USHS), 5-11, 160 (69)
- 24). D Jake Walman, Toronto (OJHL), 6-1, 170 (71)
- 25). D Nelson Nogier, Saskatoon (WHL), 6-2, 175 (72)
- 26). D Jacob Middleton, Ottawa (OHL), 6-3, 210 (74)
- 27). D Emil Johansson, HV71 J20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 195 (79)
- 28). D Olivier Leblanc, Saint John (QMJHL), 5-11, 160 (84)
- 29). D Filip Pyrochta, Bili Tygri Liberec U20 (Czech U20), 6-0, 175 (87)
- 30). D Aaron Irving, Edmonton (WHL), 6-1, 190 (89)

## TOP-15 GOALTENDERS

- 1). G Thatcher Demko, Boston College (NCAA), 6-4, 180 (22)
- 2). G Mason McDonald, Charlottetown (QMJHL), 6-4, 180 (33)
- 3). G Alex Nedeljkovic, Plymouth (OHL), 6-0, 185 (47)
- 4). G Kaapo Kahkonen, Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-2, 195 (91)
- 5). G Igor Shestyorkin, MHC Spartak (MHL), 6-0, 185 (95)
- 6). G Ville Husso, HIFK (SM-Liiga), 6-3, 185\* (105)
- 7). G Hayden Lavigne, Tri-City (USHL), 6-3, 180 (114)
- 8). G Brent Moran, Niagara (OHL), 6-3, 175 (116)
- 9). G Julio Billia, Chicoutimi (QMJHL), 5-11, 165 (122)
- 10). G Edwin Minney, USNTDP U18 (USHL), 6-4, 190 (127)
- 11). G Drew Vogler, Topeka (NAHL), 6-1, 195 (132)
- 12). G Brandon Halverson, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL), 6-4, 175 (147)
- 13). G Jonas Johansson, Brynas J20 (SuperElit), 6-3, 185 (155)
- 14). G Logan Halladay, Janesville (NAHL), 6-2, 180 (166)
- 15). G Austin Lotz, Everett (WHL), 6-1, 190\* (172)



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**AARON EKBLAD**

**POSITION:** Defense

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** Barrie (OHL)

**BORN:** February 7, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-4" / 217 Lbs

**STATS:** 58 GP 23 G 30 A 53 PTS 91 PIM

1

**STRENGTHS:** Ekblad is the complete package, a strong two-way defenseman with better than NHL-desirable size. He gets to where he needs to just fine with a long, powerful stride, and consistently uses his natural gifts such as strength and reach to make the right plays. Ekblad is strong on his skates and is near impossible to move. He battles hard along the boards and in front of his own net, rarely losing a battle. He closes gaps quickly and uses his frame to get into lanes and close off options. Ekblad has no problem staying locked to his man down low. He is physical when he wants to be and can make life difficult on opponents. He is extremely smart, with a high hockey IQ and is able to read the play coming at him quickly, making the simple, effective plays that most his age would not. He is not one to go coast to coast and try to beat the entire opposing team with the puck, but he does carry it well and is able to get by opponents by protecting the puck with his long reach. Ekblad has no problem taking what is there and adapting to whomever his D-partner might be. If he is paired with a puck rusher, Ekblad stays back; if his partner prefers to play it safe, Ekblad will jump up when the opportunity presents itself. He shows a lot of poise and patience with the puck on his stick. Ekblad makes strong outlets and has an outstanding mid- to long-range pass that is typically on the mark. He displays strong vision and timing, confidently making those passes. His point shot is one of his top weapons as it is both extremely hard and accurate, but also he uses it at the right time and places it in proper locations. Ekblad is not one to just drive the puck into shin pads. He is the team Captain in Barrie and a vocal leader on every other team he played on, showing strong leadership qualities that will translate well to the NHL level.

**WEAKNESSES:** While he is a very well-rounded prospect already, Ekblad does have some areas that, with improvement, could push him into that elite-level prospect status. His foot speed and ability to transition his skating can be a little flat as is the case with most big guys his age. While Ekblad's top speed is just fine, he would be well served to improve his initial burst and overall agility. Despite his impressive size and ability to use his strength effectively at times, he does not always do so consistently. Ekblad is at his defensive best playing with a physical aggressiveness and meanness; this is one area where better consistency would go a long way to improve his overall effectiveness.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "He is mature in his thinking, making the right plays with the puck on his stick; poised, creative and effective. I am confident in saying Ekblad should be taken first overall and can very well step right into the NHL next season."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Cornerstone Two-Way Defenseman.





**SAM REINHART**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Kootenay (WHL)  
**BORN:** November 6, 1995  
**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 185 Lbs  
**STATS:** 60 GP 36 G 69 A 105 PTS 11 PIM

2

**STRENGTHS:** The 2014 NHL Draft's top forward prospect has delivered consistently all season for Kootenay. His top asset is his mind as he is always a step or two ahead of his opponents. Because of his intelligence, Reinhart can play a ton of minutes in all situations as your top-line center. His positioning and decision-making skills are elite. While on the surface, he is lacking the flash of a typical top pick, Reinhart seems to always find a way to forward the puck to a teammate and seems to thread difficult passes across the ice with ease. His vision is outstanding and he is creative in a discrete way. The typical Sam Reinhart goal: him sitting back in the play and waiting for a moment to find open ice around the net, and in a split second, striking with a quick wrist shot from that open ice after his teammate found him with a well-placed pass. His usual accurate shot has improved all season both in its release and velocity. He is strong on the draw, and shows poise and composure with the puck. He uses his body well as a shield for the puck. Reinhart has the rare ability to slow the pace down when he gets the puck. Shows very good anticipation in the defensive zone. He looks unassertive in his end at times, but his timing is just excellent. Reinhart always seems to lurk around, but the next thing you know, he has picked off a pass with his quick stick and excellent positioning, and in a flash, has started the transition up ice. Poise with and without the puck is phenomenal and hardly ever panics or gets worked up.

**WEAKNESSES:** While it is not really a weakness--more of his identity--Reinhart is not a flashy kid with an impressive set of wheels and the ability to dangle the puck through defenders for a highlight-reel play. Instead, he is very effective and efficient. Not the typical top-five draft pick in that regard. His skating lacks the burst and explosiveness you want in a top-line type forward prospect, even if he is rarely, if ever, behind the play. He lacks the speed to project as highly effective off the rush. Reinhart looks to be lacking intensity and can frustrate with his perceived lack of urgency. He also does not have a physical element to his game, but instead relies on his hockey sense and smarts to win most battles.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "I'm a big Reinhart fan; the kid is a stud, a truly great prospect. I have him ahead of Draisaitl out west because, while they are both talented offensively, Reinhart uses his thinking ability to be more of an impact player in the defensive zone and is better along the walls. It is close, but Reinhart has showed he is more consistent and equally, if not more, lethal in the offensive zone."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Line Two-Way Center





**SAM BENNETT**

**POSITION:** Center

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Kingston (OHL)

**BORN:** June 20, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 180 Lbs

**STATS:** 57 GP 36 G 55 A 91 PTS 118 PIM

# 3

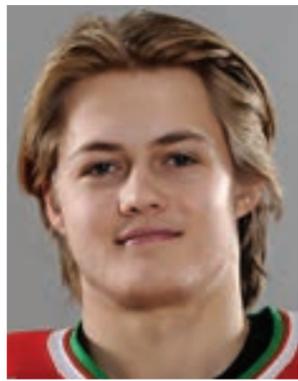
**STRENGTHS:** A very dynamic forward with an all-around great package of tools, Bennett is an extremely quick and powerful skater. He can blow past defenders with his speed and power, then finds his way to the net to score goals or make opportunities for his teammates. Creativity is one of his biggest assets and he is not afraid to try new things. The puck seems to follow Bennett. His shot is already pro-caliber, a quick and hard release that catches goaltenders off balance. He is great at finding open scoring areas, and is not afraid to go to rough areas to score. He has really soft quick hands in tight. Bennett is a natural playmaker. He shows uncanny vision and passing ability. He is constantly looking for open teammates and can put the puck into the smallest of areas. Bennett uses his size and strength to protect the puck on the rush, around the net and in the corners; this ability allows him to be so effective in entry into and staying in the offensive zone. He is a hard worker who likes the physical element of the game. Bennett is aggressive on the forecheck, leading to him cause many turnovers. His hockey sense and smarts are also a developing area that you can see grow with every game he plays. His offensive instincts are very high and he is a threat to score from anywhere in the offensive zone. Bennett is a defensively smart player. More often than not, he is in the right position and shows good awareness. He has a very active stick and gets to a lot of pucks first using his speed. He shows the ability to make smart, simple plays in his own zone. Bennett is strong in the faceoff circle and has developing leadership qualities.

**WEAKNESSES:** He battled the tendency last season and earlier this season to over-handle the puck and try to do too much on his own. He will need to continue to learn how to utilize his linemates as he progresses toward his NHL dream. He will also need to add some considerable strength as his game has the grit and edge, but he could find it a whole new experience if he brings that physical element against men. With his skill and creativity also come some negatives that he will learn to better manage as. At times, he can try to do too much and be too creative, leading to turnovers, when the simple and right play is staring him in the face.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "A game changer. Has high-end skills and plays a 200-foot game. Makes highly skilled passes. Can beat d-men wide with speed and one on one with puck skills. Projects to be a number one offensive center in the NHL and a top pick in the draft this year."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Line Offensive Center





**WILLIAM NYLANDER**

**POSITION: Center/Right Wing**

**SHOOTS: Right**

**TEAM: MODO (SHL)**

**BORN: May 1, 1996**

**VITALS: 5'-11" / 165 Lbs**

**STATS: 22 GP 1 G 7 A 8 PTS 6 PIM**

4

**STRENGTHS:** An impressive dangler with the puck and flashy playmaker. Nylander likely possesses the quickest, most creative hands in the draft and can really dance around the offensive zone with the puck. He sees the ice like few kids his age can and has the ability to distribute the puck through the tightest of lanes. His feet add to his impressive offensive abilities as he is explosive and quick north to south as well as east to west. Nylander has a fast top speed and can maintain that speed with the puck on his stick. His skating gives him the ability to be elusive with the puck in the offensive zone while he awaits the play to set up. He is versatile and can play either center or wing effectively. Nylander is smart and thinks the game faster than most, reading the play and seeing an opportunity arise before the defense can close it off. His hand-eye coordination is superb and he has a high hockey IQ. Nylander's wrist shot is both hard and accurate, and he can really fool the goaltender with his release. He's at his best when using his linemates and making short, clever passes on the offensive cycle to set up a chance. The kid just love to create offensively and has the natural skills to do so. Nylander is always willing to go to the net and play in traffic both with and without the puck.

**WEAKNESSES:** This kid's character has been called into question as he has been painted as a malcontent, a selfish kid who does not buy into the team mentality and full of self-serving attitude. His attitude and entitlement issues were the main reason for his team-hopping drama this past season. Nylander's play on the ice mirrored his off-the-ice attitude as he played the game selfishly many nights. He needs to learn to utilize his teammates more effectively going forward. His size is also a running concern for NHL teams as he still has a young boy's frame with much room to add strength. Nylander currently does not have much of a physical game. His lack of functional strength is most evident when he is playing with the men in the SHL or Allsvenskan. Although he can be strong on the forecheck, he has a way to go defensively as his effort level and positioning in his own zone are nowhere near what they will need to be for him to play in the NHL. His consistency will need to improve as he can have an impressive match one night, making you think this kid needs to be in the conversation for top spot in the draft and the next night, he is ineffective, easily pushed off the puck and only showing a flash or two of the effective game he displayed the previous night.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Overall, I would say that Nylander should be selected top five in the draft. His NHL upside is probably a PPG player, but he likely will never be a great two-way player. His skating, hands and reading of the game at lightspeed makes him a good fit in the modern NHL. He is going to receive a lot of love and hate, but he always will be entertaining."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Line Playmaking Center





**LEON DRAISAITL**

**POSITION: Center**

**SHOOTS: Left**

**TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)**

**BORN: October 27, 1995**

**VITALS: 6'-1" / 210 Lbs**

**STATS: 64 GP 38 G 67 A 105 PTS 24 PIM**

5

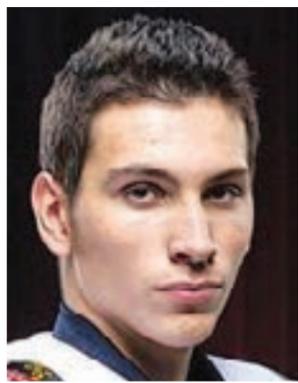
**STRENGTHS:** Draisaitl is a big, puck-protecting playmaker with excellent vision. He shrugs off checks with ease and shows elite-level poise in his ability to distribute the puck under pressure. Draisaitl skates with a wide base, which provides decent straight-line speed and good balance along the boards. He is a very good puck protector as he uses his shoulders and reach to create distance between defenders. Thinks the game at a high level, always seems to find a way to get the puck to his teammates in dangerous areas and brings different looks every time he enters the offensive zone. Very smooth hands in traffic and on the fly. Makes good decisions with the puck and has elite vision. He uses his hands and strength to effectively create space for himself. Draisaitl's passing abilities and vision are at an elite level. He has an innate sense of where his teammates are at all times. He shows great touch and accuracy on all his passes, and he is equally adept on both the forehand and backhand. He shows exceptional creativity and even if his passes can't be made tape to tape, he puts the puck in open space where his teammates will get to it first. He possesses a strong shot, has a quick release and doesn't take long to get the puck off his stick and accurately on net. His play in the offensive zone away from the puck is also impressive. Very subtly can go undetected, fade behind coverage and shake defenders to get himself in an open position.

**WEAKNESSES:** Intensity wanes from shift to shift; if he is to be successful, he will need to bring it each and every night. He will have to learn the small things like finishing checks, keeping his feet moving and becoming a harder player to play against defensively for him to play at the NHL level. While he possesses good size, he isn't particularly physical. He could also show a little more aggressiveness on the forecheck. Draisaitl could stand to improve defensively. He is not the most urgent backchecker, and he can occasionally be caught watching the play. He can have a defeatist/negative attitude, and show poor body language when things get tough and don't go his way or if a teammate fumbles a prime scoring opportunity that he created. Skating isn't a major strength of Draisaitl's. He has an awkward skating style and doesn't have great speed. He does look sluggish quite often, mainly because he stops his forward progress when making a play. Every time he needles a pass to a teammate, he seems to be gliding rather than pumping his legs. That leads us into his lack of lower-body strength and his skinny legs. If he can spend the summer adding some muscle to his legs and hips, he could have a chance at playing in the NHL as soon as next season; otherwise.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Draisaitl is the best player out of the 'Dub', with the exception of Sam Reinhart. With the combination of size, skill and ability to think the game at a high level, it is hard not to salivate over his intangible assets and compare him to some of the high-end playmaking pivots currently excelling at the NHL level."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Line Playmaking Center





**MICHAEL DAL COLLE**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Oshawa (OHL)

**BORN:** June 20, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 175 Lbs

**STATS:** 67 GP 39 G 56 A 95 PTS 34 PIM

6

**STRENGTHS:** A powerful and dynamic winger with high-end offensive skills and vision. Dal Colle is a high-level skater. He has a strong stride, a solid top gear and gets around the ice effectively. He shows great agility and balance by being hard to knock off the puck. Dal Colle has the ability to maintain puck possession, even with defenders draped all over him. He's extremely hard to knock off the puck, and causes headaches for defenders with his balance and reach. He has tight hands in close and the ability to finish in tight. He shows good control at top speed, and possesses the skill to beat opposing players one on one. Dal Colle uses his big frame and solid foundation to be physical in all three zones. Not a guy to drop the gloves often or even scuffle after the whistle, but he will stick up for himself and not be pushed around. He consistently finishes his checks and causes turnovers with a strong forecheck. Has a good mind for the game, and sets up well on the power play. He is always looking to make a play to help his team. He plays the game at a high level and competes hard. Dal Colle has great playmaking skill and is a pass-first player. He shows good vision and passing ability both with short, quick give and goes as well as those long-range dishes. He uses his big frame to protect the puck while looking for open teammates. He has a quick release on his shots and can pick corners, making him dangerous anywhere in the offensive zone. An area of his game that is underrated is his defensive play. Dal Colle is responsible in getting back and generally stays in solid position when the play is in his own zone. He has some room for growth in this aspect, but is far from a liability.

**WEAKNESSES:** One area of improvement for Dal Colle would have to be his skating. He's progressed quite nicely from last year, but he still needs to develop a stronger first few steps as his acceleration in tight needs to catch up to his hand speed. His frame has much room to add considerable strength to it and once he does add that muscle, he will be really hard to handle for opposing defenses as he bursts toward the net. For a guy who scored 39 goals this season, you don't hear this much, but he would be even more effective if he shot the puck more.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Dal Colle is already a dangerous player at the Major Junior level, but what has most scouts excited is that we see so much potential and room for his development that he could become a star of this draft when we all look back 10 years from now."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Line Goal-Scoring Power Winger





**NICK RITCHIE**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Peterborough (OHL)

**BORN:** December 5, 1995

**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 230 Lbs

**STATS:** 61 GP 39 G 35 A 74 PTS 136 PIM

7

**STRENGTHS:** Ritchie is a big power forward who is strong on his feet and is impossible to knock around. He has great acceleration for such a big man, and can change his speed in order to break away from opponents or win races to the puck. From a stationary position, it only takes him a few short seconds to reach his top speed. Ritchie brings tremendous physicality to the game and uses his size advantage regularly. Ritchie is at his best when playing like a runaway freight train, crushing opponents, getting in their face after the whistle and driving the puck to the net. Doing so, he creates a ton of space for himself and his teammates. Ritchie is like a brick wall running at players and when they try to hit him back, they bounced right off. He battles for loose pucks, using his size and speed to get to the right position to win the most battles. He punishes players with body checks and can have a high compete level that makes him impossible for Major Junior defenders to contain. Ritchie does a great job of creating a screen in front of the opposition's net on the power play and he gets his stick in position to deflect the puck. Ritchie has great hockey sense; he sees plays develop and gets into open ice to receive passes. He makes good, quick decisions with and without the puck. Ritchie is extremely competitive and puts in a strong physical effort most shifts; he has offensive instincts knowing when to drive to the net and when to hang back to create a better scoring chance for a linemate. Ritchie uses his body to protect the puck and has quick hands that enable him to get away from opponents when under pressure. Ritchie exhibits tremendous patience with the puck when under pressure and regularly gets the puck on net. He makes good, crisp passes to teammates' sticks, and he possesses a dangerous and extremely hard and quick selection of shots. Ritchie takes charge on the ice and has an air of confidence about him.

**WEAKNESSES:** The big thing for Ritchie is his durability and health. He has had an injury in each of his three Major Junior seasons, keeping him from being in the lineup and playing up to his full potential even when he does dress. NHL teams want their big, nasty power forwards to be durable and his injury history could cause his stock to fall a little on draft day. His effort level and making sure he is engaged from shift to shift are other areas that scouts hope improves as Ritchie had a tendency to be a dominant force both physically and offensively one night and then to only show a flash or two of that same game over the next couple contests. The team that drafts him will have to expect that consistency to come with maturity. His conditioning and his defensive effort are two other areas that need improvement for him to fulfill his NHL dreams.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "The premier physical prospect in this draft, Ritchie can just take over a game and have every opponent looking over their shoulders in fear all night with his nasty, in-your-face, bone-crushing play. The closest thing to a Milan Lucic this draft holds."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Physical Power Forward





**NIKOLAJ EHLERS**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Halifax (QMJHL)

**BORN:** February 14, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 165 Lbs

**STATS:** 63 GP 49 G 55 A 104 PTS 51 PIM

8

**STRENGTHS:** Ehlers is a slick and flashy offensive-minded winger who can change the game in an instant. The “Dancing Dane” as he has been called by some has arguably the best set of wheels in the draft. Dangerous offensive player who keeps his feet moving non-stop. Top-end acceleration and top-end speed. He has breakaway speed and can go from a standstill to top speed as quickly as anyone available to draft this season. His change of pace can be so drastic that he can make just about any QMJHL defenseman dizzy as he blows by them. He plays on his off-wing and creates chances with sharp cuts to the middle complemented by an explosive wrister. His puck skills are flashy and artsy – displays very quick, creative hands. Ehlers has an impressive arsenal of dekes he will pull in traffic, and has great hand-eye coordination, which makes him very fun to watch. Protects the puck well in the offensive zone with his reach and quickness. Has a great shot, both forehand and backhand, which he can lift past a goaltender with very little room needed. Good, short tape-to-tape passes as Ehlers keeps this part of his game pretty simple. He is a dangerous forechecker and solid backchecker using his speed and quickness to disrupt. He has shown some potential on the penalty kill this season as well.

**WEAKNESSES:** Strength and lack of ideal NHL size are his two biggest knocks as this electrifying forward will need to find that balance of added muscle without losing his elite speed or darting agility. Ehlers is not a physical guy and likely never will be a big hitter or drop the gloves, but scouts would like to see him play in traffic on a more consistent basis; something he was doing better toward the end of this season. He will also need to improve his play without the puck and in the defensive zone before taking the next step. Right now, he looks lost in his own zone, not for a lack of effort, but for a lack of knowing what to do, where to be and overall defensive awareness.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** “Oozes skill and creates something every time he touches the puck. Has undoubtedly been better than Drouin at times this season; a very valuable offensive guy for Halifax. Has a few habits that he can get away with only at this level, such as circling in the middle of the offensive zone, but he is simply fun to watch.”

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger





**HAYDN FLEURY**

**POSITION: Defense**

**SHOOTS: Left**

**TEAM: Red Deer (WHL)**

**BORN: July 8, 1996**

**VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs**

**STATS: 70 GP 8 G 38 A 46 PTS 46 PIM**

9

**STRENGTHS:** Fleury is a big, athletic, two-way defenseman who can do it all. He is a world-class skater and just a real athlete for a 17 year old. He shows a smooth stride, great mobility, and quick transitions. He gets around the ice quickly. Fleury shows he can rush the puck, beating opponents with speed as well as using it to get back after joining or leading the rush. Likes to pick his spots when rushing the puck and typically only does so when he knows he can get back and cover his defensive obligations. Has the ability to control the flow of the game when he is on the ice and has the puck in his possession. Fleury sees the ice well and provides a quality first pass. He makes crisp outlet passes and smart decisions when he has the puck. His poise and patience with the puck are good. He doesn't get rattled easily. Fleury has a lot of offensive upside. He has a big shot from the point that has the ability to beat the goalie clean. He is a smart player who understands how to play the game in all three zones. Fleury shows an ability to read plays and make smart decisions. Can be physical in the corners and shows lot of confidence in open ice, whether it is stepping up to take away a passing lane or carrying the puck up ice. Fleury plays a big, physical brand of hockey. He makes big hits without losing position. He makes life miserable for opposing forwards. If he can hit you, he will. Fleury plays with a nasty edge. Fleury is strong in his own zone keeping threats to the outside. He uses his big reach and quickness to win races to pucks, box out opponents and steer the play out safely. Very aggressive in closing gaps and pressuring guys breaking into his zone. He clears the front of his net and gives opposing players no time. Fleury makes smart, simple plays in his own zone. He is an elite defenseman with strong range and the potential to be a major contributor at both ends of the ice at the game's highest level. He is a true leader on the backend and a trustworthy minute-muncher who can be a jack of all trades for his team.

**WEAKNESSES:** Despite being a solid overall prospect, there are times when his play has looked timid and indecisive. He has moments when he gets caught watching the puck or is hesitant to rush the puck, or he has games when his feet aren't moving. Also, there are times when he is prone to being drawn slightly out of position, but these are all areas that should improve with more experience. Consistency needs to improve as he can be tentative, although most of his on-again, off-again play is due to his confidence level.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "I love Fleury's game and even on a quiet night, he impresses me with his poise and maturity. Natural talent, natural smarts. He is a player I would campaign hard to get at the draft table come June. The type of defenseman you need to win."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman





**JAKE VIRTANEN**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** Calgary (WHL)

**BORN:** August 17, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 210 Lbs

**STATS:** 71 GP 45 G 26 A 71 PTS 100 PIM

# 10

**STRENGTHS:** An offensive minded winger with an impressive blend of physicality and finesse. Virtanen is a solid skater with both an explosive burst and high-end top speed. He is also very strong on his feet along the boards, making him difficult to contain due to his combination of speed and strength. Virtanen is a very confident player with the puck on his stick. He displays quick hands in the corners and is a threat to break through defensive coverage with very little time or space needed. He is able to create options for himself by consistently having the puck in a position to either shoot or pass. The ease and speed at which he corrals pucks off the outside edge of his skates is well above his peers. Virtanen is an adequate passer, however there is no question he is a shoot-first player. If he has the puck in a dangerous spot in the offensive zone, he is probably going to shoot. He is dangerous every time on the ice with his speed and an absolute bullet of a shot. He has an exceptionally quick release, and requires little space or time to unleash his cannon. Virtanen is particularly strong when driving to the net and creating havoc. He is very adept at picking corners and finding weak spots in the opposing goaltender. Virtanen is a very physical player. He punishes defenders on the forecheck and explodes into hits. Virtanen also uses his strength to rag the puck in the offensive zone. He is very strong against the boards and rarely loses battles. Virtanen displays elite offensive-zone skills. He can beat you with speed or strength, and is always looking to attack the net. Virtanen consistently drives the play when he has the puck and is not content with simply moving it around the perimeter. He has a solid understanding of defensive assignments and he has good awareness, but certainly his main focus is in the offensive zone

**WEAKNESSES:** Virtanen went through his share of ups and downs this season, with his effort level and willingness to give 100% not being consistent from one viewing to the next. His effort level away from the puck is an area that needs improvement. He has big-league strength and skating abilities, but he doesn't use them enough to win the puck. You see Virtanen get a jolt of energy when he has the puck or it is within his reach, but not often enough when he is backchecking or trying to gain space in the offensive zone. He just isn't great when the puck isn't on his stick. His strength, when he uses it, allows him to dominate at this level, but the fear is he won't be able to create offense off the rush in the NHL like he does in junior. Because he hasn't quite learned to utilize the cycle/possession-style offense, his game might not translate smoothly to the next level.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Just an amazing offensive player who has a rare package of offensive firepower and brute strength. I absolutely love his skating, smarts, creativity, physicality, pretty much everything. This is a player with everything working for him when the effort is there."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger





**BRENDAN PERLINI**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Niagara (OHL)

**BORN:** April 27, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 205 Lbs

**STATS:** 58 GP 34 G 37 A 71 PTS 36 PIM

# 11

**STRENGTHS:** A big, smooth-skating, offensive-minded winger with loads of offensive potential. Perlini is a gifted skater, very mobile and fast on his feet. His speed sets him apart from other players on the ice and he uses it to his advantage effectively. His first step is huge and he accelerates quickly, even from a stationary position. In a flash, he reaches top speed and catches up to opponents. Perlini has top-notch hand speed and his creativity makes him lethal when the puck is on his stick. He is great when the puck is on his stick; he is very effective and knows what to do and where to go to be successful. Even when pressured, with one or two men on him, he manages to maintain possession and dish out smart passes. He protects the puck well against defenders and is effective in doing so when at top speed. Perlini sees lanes before they open, and gets there to receive a pass or to send the puck through to a teammate. His passes are both accurate and sharp. Perlini has a nose for the net and seems to drive the net from wherever he is on the ice, with or without the puck. He has a powerful wrist shot off the rush and it is quick off his stick from in close. Perlini uses his speed to forecheck hard and pressure opponents to turn over the puck. He drives the net hard, protecting the puck with his body and generating chances. He anticipates plays and reacts extremely well, often covering for his defensemen who pinch in the offensive zone. He is patient and does not rush, with and without the puck, allowing him to see lanes and get there for passes and scoring chances. He is constantly moving and challenging the opposing defensemen in hopes of making them turn over the puck. He battles hard along the wall and does not quit on a puck battle. Perlini has tremendous hockey sense and makes very smart plays with the puck. He is competitive and supports his teammates.

**WEAKNESSES:** Perlini is a two-way force who can get caught playing on the perimeter too much as he does not engage physically even though he can hold his own very well with his size. Sometimes you see him lose a puck battle along the wall and think "How did he get outmuscled when he is larger than his opponent?" That goes to show he has a way to go in adding strength to his impressive frame. Perlini looked like he was going through the motions at points over the course of the season. He would become invisible at times, and then pull off a nice move or provide a great outlet pass to a teammate that would catch the opposition off guard. A more conscious effort on Perlini's part when playing in his own end could help further develop his overall game.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "[Perlini] jumped out to a white-hot start this season before coming back down to earth when defenses started to key on him. He has a great deal of NHL offensive upside and NHL teams will be looking at him early."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger





**JARED MCCANN**

**POSITION: Center**

**SHOOTS: Left**

**TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)**

**BORN: May 31, 1996**

**VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs**

**STATS: 64 GP 27 G 35 A 62 PTS 51 PIM**

# 12

**STRENGTHS:** McCann is a very smart player with a good work ethic and great offensive instincts. He has a great first step that catches d-men off balance. Has the ability to go from zero to full speed in just a couple strides. McCann has good agility and is strong on his skates. He has solid hands to protect and control the puck in traffic. McCann has a deadly accurate shot with one of the quickest releases in this draft class. He gets himself into high-percentage scoring areas in the offensive zone. He has great vision and displays impressive passing skills nightly. His ability to find open teammates in traffic is uncanny. A natural playmaker. He battles hard for pucks and shows a willingness to go to dirty areas to create scoring chances. McCann not only is a skilled individual, but he also makes his teammates better, and brings out the best in their games with his impressive communication, vision and passing ability. While not a natural instinct, he plays physical when the chance presents itself and he thrives under the pressure of playing against the opposition's top players. He works well along the boards, which allows him to make plays in the offensive zone. When in the offensive zone, he is consistently able to get to scoring areas and maintain position using his strength. He is rarely out of position. McCann has great instincts and hockey smarts. He sees the play develop far sooner than his counterparts. Has exceptional puck control, which he uses to create space for himself and his teammates. His versatility and ability to play both ends of the rink is impressive. He plays a real smart two-way game. McCann does all the little things well. He leads by example and has a high compete level. Not only is he still able to be an offensive threat for the Hounds, but McCann is taking care of business in his own end, and has been very impressive causing havoc on the forecheck. He's often matched up against the opposition's best offensive players, and he has thrived in that role. He shows he is willing to get into shooting lanes and block shots. He actively uses his stick to deflect pucks. McCann takes his defensive responsibilities just as seriously as his play in the offensive end.

**WEAKNESSES:** McCann takes a lot of punishment from the opposition, and this affected on his overall performance this season. The many hacks and hooks, whacks and slashes, holding and after-whistle shoving from the frustration of his opponents took its toll on the even-keeled McCann and slowed down his game, grinding down his effectiveness over certain points of the season. His durability and need to add considerable strength are concerns that will need to be addressed this summer for his game to take that next step. Not a true weakness per se, but McCann does not have the flashy offensive skills teams will be looking for in a top selection.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Excellent hockey sense, strong skater, amazing shot. This kid has it all. Plays a 200-foot game and definitely controls the middle of the ice. Good all-around package. Top-10 potential."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Center





**KEVIN FIALA**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** HV71 (SHL)

**BORN:** July 22, 1996

**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 190 Lbs

**STATS:** 17 GP 3 G 8 A 11 PTS 10 PIM

# 13

**STRENGTHS:** An ultra-skilled offensive player with quick hands. Fiala is an above-average skater, both in agility and acceleration. He's not the biggest guy, but he has good balance and strength and is hard to knock off the puck. Not afraid of board battles against bigger players. Fiala has a top-notch shot, one of the best among draft-eligibles in Europe -- both hard and accurate -- and off his stick in a flash. His backhand causes all kinds of trouble for goaltenders. Fiala has good vision and is a creative passer. He has awesome hands. He dekes, he covers the puck well, and has good control and stickhandling; always tries to be creative and search for the open areas. He creates offensive opportunities for himself and his teammates with his good hockey IQ and determination. With the puck on his stick in the offensive zone, Fiala plays at a very high pace, making him hard to defend against by combining his fine skating with excellent puck-handling skills. Always finds himself a way to get that extra second with the puck. He never gives up on a play and fights for the puck as long as possible. Top-notch positional play, both offensively and defensively. Uses his body well to shield the puck in the offensive zone and is strong enough to keep most opponents off him. High-level hockey IQ and puts himself in good position to intercept passes. Plays with great poise, always seems to be ahead of the play, first guy to go on offense, but doesn't neglect his defensive responsibilities. Very good confidence; doesn't hesitate to challenge the opponent's defense and he knows where the goal is. Scrappy and likes to agitate his opponents, often delivering small slashes and hacks after the whistle. Feisty, but he does it perfectly, getting under his opponent's skin without taking penalties. He's used to older opponents, so he was able to handle the transition from J20 to SHL very well.

**WEAKNESSES:** Physically, Fiala looks bigger than listed but he doesn't really play physical hockey. Not that you want him out there trying to run everything in a different color jersey, but there are times where he is skating along the boards or toward a prime scoring area, and he just gives the puck up all of a sudden because he wants to avoid contact. He can give his coaches grey hair as he gives up a lot of turnovers trying to be fancy. That is something he'll need to improve and limit before advancing. He is willing to take a risk in the defensive zone, carrying the puck through areas he shouldn't. He would benefit from playing a less complicated game. Scouts also want to see him shoot more often, as he often looks for his teammates and passes up good shooting opportunities when the right play is just to get the puck on net.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Quick skater with surprisingly shifty movements. Loves to have the puck on his stick and handles it well with very quick hands; plays similar to Chicago's Patrick Kane. Unpredictable player who can make moves and find teammates with passes that few other players in this draft class can."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Scoring Winger





**DYLAN LARKIN**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** U-18 NTDP (USHL)  
**BORN:** July 30, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 195 Lbs  
**STATS:** 53 GP 29 G 20 A 49 PTS 52 PIM

# 14

**STRENGTHS:** Larkin is a strong, powerful, two-way forward with a high complete level. He is an absolute rocket in his skates and one of the top skaters in this draft. He reaches his top speed very quickly and he gets end to end in seconds. He has great lateral mobility and top-end agility. He uses his quickness to elude opposing defensemen. Larkin is a high-end possession player with excellent strength on the puck and great balance on his edges to take the puck wide and muscle his way to the net. He isn't huge, but he is very strong and hard to knock off the puck. He is not overly flashy, but is highly effective, quick and deceptive with the puck. Larkin is a highly intelligent player with and without the puck. He makes decisions with the puck, typically the correct ones, almost immediately, and he seems to know what he is doing before he receives a pass. He handles and deals out passes very well. He is a quick, efficient puck-mover with the ability to set up teammates and make plays happen. Larkin has a very good shot with a great release. It isn't just the quickness of his release that's impressive, but it is the deception. He will make you think pass, and you'll be wrong. He has a very good wrist-shot with a good release and he gets into very good scoring positions. He does seem to be a pass-first player, though. Larkin's effort never wanes and he gives his best each shift. He is a high-compete, high-intelligence, three-zone center. He doesn't destroy players with his big, physical hits, but he does a great job riding guys off the puck and outmuscling players to win possession. He battles and competes hard for the puck. His defensive effort is just as good as his effort with the puck. He is smart and gets into great supporting areas, and he does a great job adjusting to the position and decisions of his linemates. He backchecks hard and gets into good areas to help on defense. He supports well down low and impedes with a quick, active stick and aggressive playing style.

**WEAKNESSES:** The biggest knock on Larkin is his limited projected offensive upside. While he does project to be a strong NHL player, it will be in a two-way role that he will make his money, not as a prime offensive point producer. A David Legwand or poor man's Ryan Kesler type of pro upside is the projection for Larkin and one has to wonder if this limitation will cause his stock to drop marginally.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "While many will argue that Larkin doesn't have the offensive explosiveness that someone like Sonny Milano or Nick Schmaltz have, I'd disagree. Larkin has the potential to put up points at the next level, but he is also just a great complete player. Ryan Kesler comes to mind. Larkin has a good shot at being the top USHL player taken in June."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Center





**ROBBY FABBRI**

**POSITION:** Center

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Guelph (OHL)

**BORN:** January 22, 1996

**VITALS:** 5'-10" / 170 Lbs

**STATS:** 58 GP 45 G 42 A 87 PTS 55 PIM

# 15

**STRENGTHS:** A small, but feisty, two-way goal scorer. Fabbri is extremely fast, and sees the ice very well. He anticipates plays and uses his small size to squeeze through holes or around opponents into open areas to give his teammates a passing option. He battles hard and is more than willing to grind it out in the corners and more often than not, comes away with the puck. He jumps on loose pucks and uses his speed to separate himself from opponents in a foot race. Fabbri has tremendous hand speed with the puck and has flashes of creativity, deking defenders one on one. He has the ability to get out of tight quarters under pressure. At top speed, he maintains control of the puck and makes excellent passes. Plays with pace. Fabbri uses his limited size and shifty feet as an asset as he dodges checks to continue with the puck. He is not afraid to take a hit and accepts them regularly to make a play. He has tremendous vision and can see passing lanes across the ice through a swarm of legs and players' sticks. Fabbri makes hard and accurate passes. He plays his part well in the defensive zone and offers support to the defenders, often helping to lead the breakout. He is not bothered by pressure and shows a lot of patience with the puck. He is a high-possession player with a pass-first mentality, but will often unleash a hard shot when he has the chance. Fabbri has a nose to get to the net and great hockey sense, often recognizing opportunities before his linemates do. Once he has the puck, he is very strong and doesn't let it go. He protects the puck extremely well using his strength and has the wiry upper body strength to extend his reach on the puck with one hand if need be. He is a shifty skater and has a ton of mobility. Add that to his overall speed and hockey sense, and Fabbri can change the pace and outcome of the game when he steps on the ice.

**WEAKNESSES:** The biggest negative is the obvious size and strength issue Fabbri faces, not that it matters to him and how he plays the game. It does not matter if he is 5-foot-10 and 165 pounds soaking wet if he proves himself by scoring a goal a game at this level. Some NHL teams who value (or overvalue) size will not even look at this prospect until their second or third pick. It does not matter that he shows a feisty, never-give-up battle level in his game. His size scares these teams as just one hard, square check could knock him out of the game for good. Fabbri also shows a bit of an undisciplined side that will hopefully improve with time and maturity. He has laid some borderline dirty hits and made some questionable decisions that have cost him and his team on the ice. On a few occasions during games, he gets caught cheating his way out of the zone, which can cost him at higher levels of play.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Fabbri is a goal scorer. He has all the skills and talent to be a dynamic scorer at the NHL level. He shows a quick release with accurate results. He doesn't need a lot of space to find the back of the net. He is also one of the fastest players in this draft class."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Goal-Scoring Forward





**IVAN BARBASHEV**

**POSITION: Center**

**SHOOTS: Left**

**TEAM: Moncton (QMJHL)**

**BORN: December 14, 1995**

**VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs**

**STATS: 48 GP 25 G 43 A 68 PTS 27 PIM**

# 16

**STRENGTHS:** Barbashev is a very intriguing prospect who displays a very complete offensive game, combining size with skill and intelligence to make him a threat each time he has possession of the puck in the offensive zone. He is also a responsible defensive player whose compete level is very high. Barbashev moves very well on the ice, especially for someone of his size and strength. His stride is very effective and he does seem to have a fairly speedy top gear once he gets moving. His balance is impressive and combined with his size, he is difficult to separate from the puck when in possession. Barbashev shows excellent poise with the puck. Patience combined with confidence makes him a threat to be dangerous with the puck in the offensive zone. He does not frequently use difficult moves and dekes, but rather uses his reach and body positioning to make it difficult for defenders trying to get the puck from him. He has excellent pass-receiving abilities both on his forehand and backhand, and displays a soft touch while handling the puck. Barbashev likes to get the puck on net and see where things go from there, an instinct that should transition well to higher levels of play. Multiple times a game, he throws it on net from unlikely angles in the hopes of generating rebounds in traffic. Good instincts and hockey sense. His wrist shot has a quick release, strong accuracy and solid power behind it. He has a solid frame and good balance on his skates. Finishes his checks well. He is not afraid to engage in physical play whatsoever and often benefits when the game is more physical due to his preferred style. He is able to use his size very efficiently to protect the puck. A smart player who rarely makes a bad pass, Barbashev's passes are often on the tape with good velocity, and he can move the puck very quickly upon receiving it. He is relied upon in all situations and shows excellent work ethic each time he is on the ice. He plays well in all three zones and is capable of playing whatever style of play the game requires.

**WEAKNESSES:** Barbashev isn't the most electrifying player and will not get you out of your seat with flashy moves or plays often, but where he lacks elite-level skills, he makes up for in his versatility and often with his drive. Acceleration is not a damning weakness per se, but it is definitely something he will need to continue to work on in order to keep up in the professional game. With added strength, his first few steps will get more powerful and quicker. Like most kids his age, he also suffers bouts of inconsistent play and lacking effort away from the puck. With that said, when he is on his game, there are few better scrappy, two-way prospects in this draft. He can cross the line of aggressive and dirty with some of his physical play and gets himself and his team into trouble.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Barbashev's shot has a pro-caliber release. He's as scrappy a Russian as I've seen in the QMJHL. He would be pushing back and forth, challenging the league's tough guys. This guy has no fear and plays like a WHL checker trying to stay out of the press box"

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Center





**SONNY MILANO**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** U-18 NTDP (USHL)

**BORN:** May 12, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 185 Lbs

**STATS:** 52 GP 26 G 49 A 75 PTS 21 PIM

# 17

**STRENGTHS:** Milano is a quick-footed forward with great quickness and agility, and the ability to beat players with flashes of quickness down the wing. He possesses good top speed and the ability to beat guys with flashy moves as he goes end to end with the puck. His hand speed and hand skills are impressive. He has a plethora of tricks up his sleeves and his creativity seems to have no end. Milano is very confident and has a high IQ with the puck, and is a very intelligent passer. While goal-scoring may be his eventual forte, his ability to create chances for his teammates and be a playmaker, as well as a goal scorer, is also very impressive. He is a very quick decision maker and he seems to know where his options are before he receives the puck. He makes a good touch pass, and he has the ability to get the puck in the air to reach a target. His ability on his backhand is probably his most impressive skill that draws his handiness out of the crowd of skill puck handlers in this draft. He has an incredible backhand shot with great accuracy and power. He also has a good wrist shot with great quickness and accuracy, and he knows how to pick the corners. He is a dual threat with the puck. Milano isn't the toughest player, but he also doesn't lack heart and a competitive edge. He competes hard for pucks and is involved in puck battles as he fights for possession on the boards. Milano is a highly skilled winger with a good compete level and urgency when he has or is around the puck. He is a highly intelligent, quick-thinking forward. He makes the smart move and finds his options quickly.

**WEAKNESSES:** Milano can be lazy in his backchecking responsibilities and can get caught leaving the zone way too early on many of his team's breakouts. Offensively, there are not many prospects who can match his creativity and effectiveness at creating chances for himself and his linemates, but if you are looking for someone who works as hard to keep the puck out of his own net as he does to put it in the opposition's you are looking at the wrong prospect. With that said, there have been a few games where we see Milano coming back hard and helping to clear his zone, we just haven't seen it consistently. He will need to become more consistent in his defensive effort and show a willingness to get involved.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Milano is a highly skilled forward with high-scoring potential. He's a very electric player who has some of the best hands out of any draft-eligible in the USHL and quickness to go along with it."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger





**DAVID PASTRNAK**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** Sodertalje (Allsvenskan)

**BORN:** May 25, 1996

**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 170 Lbs

**STATS:** 36 GP 8 G 16 A 24 PTS 24 PIM

# 18

**STRENGTHS:** Pastrnak is a flashy, creative offensive talent who is dangerous every time he touches the puck. His game is a lot about handling the puck at high speed. He's a very quick and agile skater, with a peculiar skating style, balancing far forward on his blade which gives him a great jump to his stride. Uses his lateral agility to elude checks and hits as he enters and circles the offensive zone. He loves to collect some speed in the neutral zone and challenge his defender one on one. Pastrnak is not an overly flashy stickhandler, but he handles the puck well at all times and has a very good success rate on his attempts to carry the puck into the offensive zone. On the power play, he plays the left circle, passes the puck quite well and is constantly looking for the one-timer. His shot is lethal; it's super hard and super accurate, and what's amazing about it is that he doesn't need too much space or time to release it. You just give him a second and a couple of inches, and he can blast one top corner. He's got really smooth hands and, combined with great vision, it makes him a great passer as well. But the shot is even a notch better than his passing. He's not easily knocked off the puck. He uses his speed to separate himself from the opponents and drive to the net.

**WEAKNESSES:** Pastrnak didn't get much done in his own zone, as his defensive game has a way to go. There were games where he played well in his own zone, taking away chances, and then other games where he looked somewhat lost. He seems to have a decent understanding of how to position himself in all zones, and while he might stay a little high looking for a breakaway, he is still a pretty hard-working player overall. Physically, there is not much to his game to write about. He does not like to get hit and rarely throws a big check of his own. He makes mistakes with the puck, i.e. bad passes or giveaways, that he will need to reduce.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "This kid had a great season, starting at the Ivan Hlinka and continuing in the Swedish Allsvenskan and then again at the U18s. He has proved that he's just an amazing performer and I'd sacrifice a top-15 pick to get him. Will be a star."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger





**ALEX TUCH**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** U-18 NTDP (USHL)

**BORN:** May 10, 1995

**VITALS:** 6'-4" / 215 Lbs

**STATS:** 55 GP 29 G 32 A 61 PTS 58 PIM

# 19

**STRENGTHS:** A big-body power winger who can score. Tuch moves well for a 6-foot-4, 215-pound winger. He has strong straight-line speed and acceleration and he is very balanced on his skates. Tuch also shows off the ability to distribute the puck off the rush, using his awareness for his teammates to make strong drop passes and cross-ice feeds. Tuch gives a very strong effort, competing hard in all zones and using his size and strength to make himself an imposing force in the offensive zone. He is very tough to compete against for defenses, including the big guys in both the USHL and college games. Tuch's strength makes him a force with the puck down low and when powering his way by defenders toward the net. He protects the puck well with his size and makes himself nearly impossible to separate from it. Shows a willingness to get mean and throw his weight around on the forecheck. He gives a good board effort, as he uses his intimidating size to beat players in the corners and win puck possession. Tuch is also strong on defense. He is always one of the first back in the play, and uses his reach and his stick to interfere with the opposition's offensive chances. He does an excellent job taking away lanes and he pressures the points very well, not giving much room to shooters at the point. He knows when he should get involved lower in the zone and when to stay high covering the points. He uses his strength to tie players up and help out on the boards. Tuch is a very well-rounded big man.

**WEAKNESSES:** With all the impressive aspects of Tuch's game, there are also areas that leave something to be desired. For all the power and impressive size Tuch possesses, he had the tendency to become invisible and look disinterested in the play at times this season. He lacks consistency in his effort. Tuch also doesn't have the greatest set of hands; he lacks creativity, and relies on shorter feeds, finding nearby linemates before he goes to the net or battles for space. Relies on those around him to handle the puck and be the creative playmakers on his line. A complementary player, but one who does a great job utilizing his strengths. Tuch possesses a shot with some good power and a decent release, though there are times where he should get it off quicker. The majority of Tuch's chances do come from the goal mouth, though, as he uses his strength to gain position and make things happen. He will need to work on his attack off the rush.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Tuch appears to be a prototypical power forward who will likely find success at the pro level. Tuch is a big player with some scoring potential. He certainly has the ability to fill several different roles and should compete to be the first U.S. player taken in June."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Power Winger





**JOSH HO-SANG**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** Windsor (OHL)

**BORN:** January 22, 1996

**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 165 Lbs

**STATS:** 67 GP 32 G 53 A 85 PTS 44 PIM

# 20

**STRENGTHS:** Ho-Sang is a speedy, high-end, offensive forward with elite hands and unlimited offensive upside. He has some of the top individual skills in this draft class. His skating is extremely dynamic, moving side to side very quickly, impressive straight-line speed and the ability to cut through traffic at a high rate of speed. He sends defenders to the infirmary with sprained ankles regularly with his quick one-on-one movements and devastating fakes. Ho-Sang uses smarts and his impressive vision to attack defenders one on one in zone entry and when driving toward the net. He is ultra-creative with the puck, and can turn routine plays into highlight-reel plays in an instant. Ho-Sang is a power play specialist with the ability to quarterback the offense from the half wall with his playmaking ability. He uses his creativity and patience to cycle the puck around the offensive zone. He is very poised for such a young individual. Ho-Sang doesn't look like a second-year player when you see him on the ice; you would assume that he is a veteran. He dictates the play, and teammates look for him to start the breakouts. He has the hockey sense to allow him to be in the right spot at the right times. His playmaking and vision are two of his strongest qualities. Ho-Sang finds open players with direct, crisp passes. He possesses a strong, accurate shot with a quick release, and he has the ability to fool goaltenders.

**WEAKNESSES:** While Ho-Sang has the potential to be an elite offensive talent, his game does have some holes in it. He needs to work on decision making, not trying to make the fancy play all the time, simplifying his game, and working on his defensive game and defensive effort to round himself out more. He was improving all these facets of his game over the last couple months of the year, but still has a way to go. Also, getting bigger and stronger will help him with battling in the corners and around the net area, which he often shied away from during his first two Major Junior seasons. He often had opportunities when he could've taken a quality shot for a scoring chance, but passed up the shot to try to make the play that much more fancy. That rarely works out for the best and he will need to continue to take what is there to grow his game. Despite being poised with the puck, he does lack some maturity, both on and off the ice, and he loves the attention. NHL teams might have a problem with that.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Ho-Sang is quickly emerging as a force in the Ontario Hockey League and a star in Windsor. He has an unbelievable combination of speed, skill and hockey sense that is sure to propel him into the first round of the NHL Entry Draft."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger





**CONNER BLEACKLEY**

**POSITION:** Center

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** Red Deer (WHL)

**BORN:** February 7, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 200 Lbs

**STATS:** 71 GP 29 G 39 A 68 PTS 48 PIM

# 21

**STRENGTHS:** A strong two-way center, Bleackley contributes to his team's success at both ends of the ice. Bleackley is a good skater. He has good agility and strength, and wins puck races. He is a pretty stinky kid, but his quick movements are very impressive. Has some solid on-ice sense. He is a very fast thinker and when he gets the puck under pressure, he can react in a blink to protect the puck from danger and work through a check. Bleackley's quick-thinking skills also come in handy in his own zone, where he flows with the play almost perfectly and manages the breakout. Bleackley uses his size to his physical advantage. His board play is absolutely phenomenal. He dominates along the wall. Bleackley has a very strong lower body that allows him to push through checks. Bleackley shows an instinct for being in correct scoring positions. He will fight through traffic to get to the net and has a big shot with a quick little release. Displays good ability to beat opposing players one on one in the offensive zone, leading to quality scoring chances. He can silk a few nice passes around the offensive zone as well, and had no trouble handling the puck and making proper plays around the net. He is just a true warrior who is willing to go to the ends of the Earth to win every battle on the ice. He's a soldier. Every time he stepped on the ice, he knew his role and just got the job done. He will go to war in the corners every shift and he wins a lot more battles than he losses. Bleackley is responsible in his own zone. His long reach and big body disrupt shooting and passing lanes. He consistently made simple plays to get the puck out of his own zone. Being captain of Red Deer at 17 years of age speaks to the trust his coaches have in him and his maturity to lead.

**WEAKNESSES:** While Bleackley is a strong two-way player, he is not as effective offensively as he could be because he doesn't have the explosiveness or second gear to break away from the pack in the neutral zone or when he has the puck in the offensive zone. He is at his best when playing a hard-working, north-south game, but he has times when he gets away from what he is best at and can overthink a play leading to a turnover. Like all kids his age, he has also had some consistency issues as he looks dominant one game and hardly effective the next. His emotion can also get the best of him at times, especially playing on a bottom dweller and he can take the odd, ill-advised frustration penalty.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "I am a big Bleackley fan. A very good, two-way forward prospect who has a special blend of tools. Can score and stop the other team from scoring. But it's not only his tools, it's his willingness to step on the ice every shift and battle."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward





**THATCHER DEMKO**

**POSITION:** Goaltender

**CATCHES:** Left

**TEAM:** Boston College (NCAA)

**BORN:** December 8, 1995

**VITALS:** 6'-4" / 185 Lbs

**STATS:** 24 GP 2.24 GAA .919 SP

# 22

**STRENGTHS:** Demko is a big, toolsy goaltender with impressive upside. He shows poise with guys in front of him for screens and typically does well on breakaways. He challenges the shooter to make the first move. In traffic, he tracks the puck very well. If he can see the puck, he will usually stop it. He does a nice job of challenging the shot, while not giving away the lateral play. Demko knows how to walk the line between challenging and over-committing. He is a big goalie and naturally takes up a lot of the net, playing his angles and using his big body very well. He has long legs and takes up a ton of the net low. His great athleticism and flexibility for a big goalie also helps him make saves he really has no business making. Being tall not only gives Demko great lower-body stretch, but he also has a nice wingspan and shows the ability to use both glove and blocker effectively. While not everything is always caught cleanly, his glove and blocker are typically in the right position to make the initial save. Demko follows the puck to either side and shows the consistent ability to get every shot off his blocker side to the corner. He does a great job moving laterally, even when he is down on the ice. When he is down in the butterfly, he is never really out of position for too long because of the strength in his lower body and powerful push to get back to where he needs to be. He likes to play the puck with mixed results, but is best when he simply comes out, stops the puck or lays a short-range breakout or two. His mental game is usually an asset for him as well. He is extremely mature and was a great leader for that team, even as a freshman.

**WEAKNESSES:** Like all young stoppers, he does make mistakes, like sitting too far back in his net or mishandling the puck when he should just leave it for his defense from time to time. He does not play the puck that often, and when he does, he does not look too confident doing so. With that said, there really is not much about his game that would be classified as a big weakness. He does not always look comfortable or poised with a lot of people swarming the net while the puck is free and around his crease.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Demko is an amazing goalie prospect and has huge upside. He has all the makings of a top goalie in the NHL for years to come. I would even go as far as saying that he has borderline elite potential, he is that good."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** #1 Starting NHL Goaltender





**NIKOLAY GOLDOBIN**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Sarnia (OHL)

**BORN:** October 7, 1995

**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 175 Lbs

**STATS:** 67 GP 38 G 56 A 95 PTS 21 PIM

# 23

**STRENGTHS:** Goldobin is a fleet-footed offensive forward who boasts one hell of an offensive skill set. He also possesses a very smooth skating stride and a quick first step, which makes him extremely dangerous. He is shifty and really hard to pin down for defenses. He gets into solid position in the offensive zone to capitalize on scoring chances. Goldobin has exceptional vision, creates plays, and can beat defenders by using his combination of speed and elite-level hands. Because of his elite playmaking ability, he makes his linemates that much better when he's out on the ice. He hits teammates with dishes even if they are not in his field of vision. He is the king of the no-look pass. Goldobin possesses some of the smoothest stick-handling skills we've seen at this level in a long time. He routinely makes defenders look silly with his quick hands and moves. He has a relatively hard, accurate wrist shot that he uses to fool goaltenders. He shoots from all different angles in the offensive zone. His one-timer is automatic and already pro caliber. Goldobin's quick release is one of his best assets.

**WEAKNESSES:** The only thing lacking in Goldobin's game is a distinct effort when the puck is in the defensive zone. When his defensive effort level is off, he seems disinterested all around and it shows in his offensive performance as well. He obviously has the talent and skill set to be a real blue-chip prospect, but he just didn't have the effort or drive needed to fulfill his promise. Virtually invisible on the ice until an offensive chance sparks his interest and then he can become unstoppable. Not the most physically intimidating player. When Goldobin works hard along the boards and isn't afraid to chase pucks into the corner on dump-ins, he is still rarely effective due to his timid nature and lack of functional strength.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "An elite offensive playmaker who can change the game in an instant with his high-end playmaking ability, silky smooth hands and quick wrister or one-timer. If this kid brought it every shift, he would be the top pick this season."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Playmaking Forward





**JACK DOUGHERTY**

**POSITION:** Defense

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** U-18 NTDP (USHL)

**BORN:** May 25, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 185 Lbs

**STATS:** 51 GP 5 G 12 A 17 PTS 65 PIM

# 24

**STRENGTHS:** Dougherty is an impressive defenseman in most aspects of the game, playing physically and taking care of business in his own end first, while getting involved offensively with strong puck movement and a good point presence. Dougherty plays a rough defensive game, stepping up aggressively on his man and using his body to take players into the boards and box them into the corners. He makes big hits when stepping up on players taking the outside lane, but he also uses his body effectively when just tying players up and battling for possession. He plays with an edge and isn't afraid of getting involved. He shows a willingness to stick up for his teammates, and gets involved in post-whistle scrums when his teammates or goalie are being mistreated. Dougherty is a competitive player who will battle for the puck in his own end and doesn't like allowing much space to his opposition. Dougherty contains his man well on defense, using his stick and body to take guys wide and keep them off their angle. He is very effective in all defensive situations. Dougherty also shows strong offensive skill in his ability to make strong outlet passes and send his forwards up the ice with quick feeds out of the zone. He is solid under pressure, poised with the puck and quickly finds passing routes leading out of his own zone. He showed the ability to handle the puck at the line in order to keep offensive pressure going. He displays a quick release on his wrist and slap shots that he uses to generate chances for a redirection in front or to create a rebound chance. Dougherty illustrates decent straight-line speed and lateral mobility. Has decent recovery speed as well.

**WEAKNESSES:** Dougherty doesn't have the speed that most NHL teams are looking for in a top pick as a top-four defenseman, but he has improved over the course of the season. He looks to be limited offensively as he does not possess the top-level creativity with the puck needed to generate consistent offensive chances or to lead the rush. He walks the line discipline-wise and sometimes crosses it to the detriment of his team, taking a retaliatory or undisciplined penalty.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Dougherty is an impressive defenseman who has looked very good this season as he contributes on all sides of the puck, plays physical and shows strong leadership qualities. A solid first-round defenseman."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman





**JAKUB VRANA**

**POSITION:** Left Wing/Right Wing

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** Linköping (SHL)

**BORN:** February 28, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 170 Lbs

**STATS:** 24 GP 2 G 1 A 3 PTS 2 PIM

# 25

**STRENGTHS:** Vrana is an offensive-minded winger looking to make a difference on the scoreboard each and every game. He is a pretty good skater, showing an outstanding burst of speed with the puck through the neutral zone and into the offensive zone. Shifty and hard to contain as he is just as quick laterally as he is going forward. Vrana does a good job creating offense away from the puck, utilizing his ability to slink around and get into open position for scoring chances. Grade-A shot, especially the velocity, but accuracy is also good. He has a good backhand, too. However, there's aspects to work on in this department. Sometimes he seems to hesitate when given a good shooting opportunity. Also, he needs to improve his one-timer consistency. He's also inconsistent when it comes to passing. Some days he's really good at it, other days he just can't find an open lane. Vrana can make hard, accurate passes both in the neutral zone and in the offensive zone. His attitude to the defensive game was fine as he supported the defensemen pretty well. Good forechecker, too. Physically, he is not afraid to go to the gritty areas and pay a price for a scoring opportunity. Vrana thrives in a go-to role for his team, but he needs to realize hockey is a team game.

**WEAKNESSES:** Again, Vrana's consistency in effort levels wanes from contest to contest and shift to shift. He looks downright lazy in some contests. He gets stripped of the puck too often. Vrana can be prone to turnovers when he tries to do too much on his own, engaging multiple defenders and trying to beat them to the net with one-on-one dekes and jukes. Needs to read the situations better and realize he cannot do it alone; he will need to learn to utilize his teammates better with give and goes, cycles in the offensive zone and just short, quick passes. Defensively, he shows very little interest in that aspect of the game, only half-heartedly coming back and remaining in the general vicinity of his check. He reacts late in the defensive zone too often. Can get frustrated easily and that really knocks him off his game. He needs to mature in his understanding of the game and his role in it.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Vrana had an outstanding (U18) tournament and really pushed his draft stock back into first-round contention after a decent, yet unspectacular, season shared between the SHL and J20 teams of Linköping. Hard not to think this kid has some star qualities and he could be a steal after he rounds off the rough edges in his game."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger





**KASPERI KAPANEN**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** KalPa (Liiga)

**BORN:** July 23, 1996

**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 170 Lbs

**STATS:** 47 GP 7 G 7 A 14 PTS 10 PIM

# 26

**STRENGTHS:** Kapanen possesses one of the better two-way games in the draft. He has dynamic puck skills, terrific skating ability and hockey sense. He's the total package on offense. Kapanen displays an explosive skating stride, quick off the hop. Very agile and quick laterally. He is a fantastic skater, with a seemingly effortless stride that generates healthy levels of speed. Lulls opponents to sleep with a pedestrian-looking stride before he explodes into a full-on rush toward the net or loose puck. He skates very well with the puck, has good hands and skates with his head up, looking for passing options. He also does not shy away from the physical side of the game. Possesses a creative mind. Kapanen sees the ice well and appears to have a great IQ for the game. He distributes the puck effectively and is able to set up his teammates in a variety of ways. Very good playmaking ability, and he also has a sharp shot and the ability to sneak into deadly scoring areas. Kapanen is very elusive on offense, using his lateral shiftiness and soft hands, and he is also very competitive when it comes to pursuing the puck. He loves to play the body on the forecheck. Has impeccable offensive senses and a shot to complement. His accuracy and release are impressive. Kapanen's one-timer can burn a team in a flash.

**WEAKNESSES:** Kapanen's consistency in his effort level is our main concern, even more than his lack of strength. Kapanen's competitive edge takes a bit of a dive when he reaches his own end, and he can improve his defensive effort and awareness. There are times he looks like a dominant two-way guy, but you know where his heart lies--creating offensive chances. He will also go through self-evoked slumps in when the physical game gets ramped up as he does not mind hitting, but does not like to be hit. That point leads us to his size, or lack thereof. He can get outmuscled pretty easily by average-sized opponents along the wall and loses his effectiveness in grittier matches because of this.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Son of Sami Kapanen has more natural skill than his father had. He has really high upside and has a bright future in the NHL."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger





**ADRIAN KEMPE**

**POSITION:** Center

**SHOOTS:** Left

**TEAM:** MODO (SHL)

**BORN:** September 13, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 190 Lbs

**STATS:** 45 GP 5 G 6 A 11 PTS 12 PIM

# 27

**STRENGTHS:** Kempe is a strong, two-way forward who brings to the table an impressive balance between skill and physicality. He's got both and uses both properly. He is a very fast skater and has quick acceleration. Kempe is a smooth, powerful-looking skater who gains power and speed coming down the wing. He has excellent size and strength, and is very strong on the puck. I was really impressed with the way Kempe used his speed to escape players and take the puck down the outside, and then use his body to protect the puck effectively from defenders. Kempe is smart with the puck and sees the ice well. He displayed decent hand speed and creativity. He distributes it into open seams, and is a quick thinker with the puck. He makes a crisp, effective pass and locates holes in the opposing defense quickly. Kempe also has a quick, hard wrist shot that he'll use coming off the wing. He works hard on the walls and competes endlessly for the puck. Kempe uses his size nicely to battle for pucks and doesn't seem to mind the physical game. He is solid defensively, getting back into the play quickly and working to take chances from the point men. Kempe gets into post-whistle altercations, especially if provoked and during emotional games. Outstanding penalty killer. Knows how to force a turnover. Kempe's a leader and a real handful to deal with. Hits everything in sight and happily initiates contact. Not one you look forward to seeing in the corners if you are a defenseman. He is tenacious on the penalty kill, using his stick and smarts to close off options. He gets his frame in front of shots and in lanes defensively to disrupt the opposition.

**WEAKNESSES:** Kempe does not possess high-end creativity or elite offensive vision that would make you think he will be a big point producer at the NHL level. While he can both score and set up a play for a teammate, he needs to work on both his shot and passing skills as both can be hit or miss (pun intended). Seen by most as a very effective complementary player and not a first-line contributor at the next level. Should work on discipline and skating away from altercations. Can put his team down a man when he lets his emotions get the best of him.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "I was left very impressed by Kempe (at the U18s), and feel that he can be a high first-rounder. He should make an effective pro one day. The big forward impressed me more than any other Swedish player not named Nylander."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward





**ROLAND MCKEOWN**

**POSITION:** Defense

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** Kingston (OHL)

**BORN:** January 20, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 195 Lbs

**STATS:** 62 GP 11 G 32 A 43 PTS 61 PIM

# 28

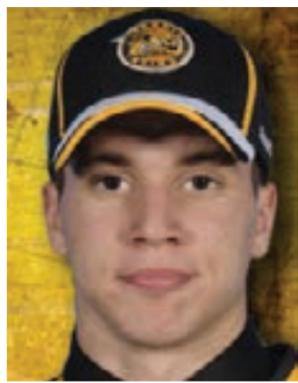
**STRENGTHS:** A solid two-way defenseman, McKeown has tons of power when skating and can accelerate really well. He uses his speed and size well to beat opponents to loose pucks and is very strong on his skates. McKeown is very mobile and is one of the best backward skaters in the OHL. He shows great mobility and his transitions are smooth. McKeown moves the puck well by delivering good passes to teammates, and possessing the ability and poise to deke opponents if necessary. He protects the puck extremely well with strength on his stick and his large frame. McKeown sees the ice well and gets the puck out of his own zone quickly and effectively. He makes crisp and accurate passes with near-perfect timing. McKeown leads the breakout or joins many of his team's rushes up ice. He has a powerful shot that is almost always on target. McKeown has smart offensive instincts, and knows when to jump into the play and when to shoot or pass it off. He executes plays well and puts himself in a position to score by moving around the offensive zone, and he generates scoring chances for himself and for his teammates. He can often be found down around the crease on a pinch or looking for a rebound. McKeown isn't one to lay a big check, but he uses his body effectively to knock opponents off the puck. He isn't afraid to enter the gritty areas, but usually leaves that up to others. He has very good hockey sense and his decision making with the puck is exceptionally good. McKeown does great things with the puck and reads developing plays well. McKeown does a very good job of breaking up plays and positions himself well all over the ice. Not only does he defend well, he sees plays develop and gets to the position he needs to be in order to defend accordingly.

**WEAKNESSES:** McKeown needs to learn to pick his spots to pinch and join the rush better. He can get caught trying to do too much offensively and leave his team vulnerable defensively. Consistency is an area that has some concerned, but that usually has a way of correcting itself once they see how hard and consistent pros play. Physically, he needs to use his size and strength better and more effectively when defending as he shies away from physical play far too often.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "This smooth-skating defenseman can change the pace of the game, and he eliminates time and space of his opponents while giving his teammates more space to make plays."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman





**ANTHONY DEANGELO**

**POSITION:** Defense

**SHOOTS:** Right

**TEAM:** Sarnia (OHL)

**BORN:** October 24, 1995

**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 170 Lbs

**STATS:** 51 GP 15 G 56 A 71 PTS 90 PIM

# 29

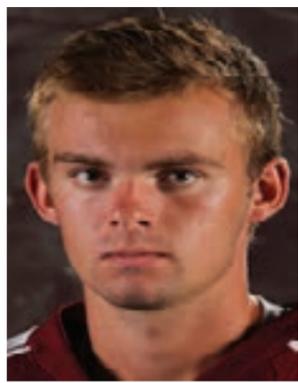
**STRENGTHS:** DeAngelo is the prototypical puck-moving, elite offensive defenseman. The strongest area of his game has to be his skating ability as he's one of the best skaters not only of this draft class, but also in the entire CHL. He has incredible edge work that makes his transitioning nearly flawless. Explosive acceleration and first-step quickness. DeAngelo is able to join and lead the rush up ice, as well as be the first defender back with his recovery speed. Possesses great stick-handling ability and vision. DeAngelo's creative with the puck, makes sharp, precise passes to teammates, likes to carry the puck on the breakout and is confident with his shooting ability to let shots go through traffic. Gets his nose dirty every game as he wants to play physical and is willing to not only play the body, but to hack and whack his way into his opponent's bad books. He will drop the gloves and lay the body with limited success. Has an extremely high hockey IQ, impressive positioning and intuitiveness. DeAngelo shows flashes of leadership, but needs to mature a lot to be considered a true leader.

**WEAKNESSES:** Oh, where to start. With all the talent this kid possesses, there are some considerable warts that might have taken him off a few draft lists altogether. DeAngelo is emotional. Easily taken off his game as he melts down when the opposition gets under his skin. He is not a good team player. While he does enjoy team success, he is quick to place blame for failure on his teammates by verbally scolding them or displaying poor body language. This arrogance is surely a maturity issue that the NHL team selecting him will look to get a handle on quickly. With regard to his size and lack of strength, he is going to need to add some considerable muscle to his legs and upper body to become more effective defending. While he does not lack a physical edge to his game, its effectiveness is nowhere near an asset. He makes plays and pinches that are gambles and neglects his defensive responsibility multiple times a game, partly due to still learning what he can and cannot get away with and partly as a "give me the damn puck and I will do it all" arrogance.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "One of the most talented kids available this season, but there are so many flags with him that his draft stock goes anywhere from first round to not worth the risk. Someone will step up and add this uber-talented puck mover, and could end up with the top draftees if he straightens out his game."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Blueliner





**ERIC CORNEL**

**POSITION: Center/Right Wing**

**SHOOTS: Right**

**TEAM: Peterborough (OHL)**

**BORN: April 11, 1996**

**VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs**

**STATS: 68 GP 25 G 37 A 62 PTS 25 PIM**

# 30

**STRENGTHS:** Cornel is a two-way center with very impressive mobility. He is a very fast skater with an upright skating style who reaches top speed in a matter of a couple short strides. He generates a lot of power in his first few steps, and is fairly strong on his skates and pivots very well. His speed increases when he is carrying the puck and he uses his speed and good stickhandling to enter the zone with ease. He has great control of the puck as he skates through traffic. Cornel is very strong on the puck and protects it well; he knows when to cut one way or another and be able to get around opponents to get to the net or pass the puck off. He generates a lot of scoring chances and, without the puck, consistently gets to a position to score. Cornel is a very smart center who showed his ability to have an impact in all three zones. He shows good awareness and anticipation. Cornel does a lot of little things that make big differences during the course of a game. He pressures hard on the forecheck and forces defenders to give up the puck. He possesses a high compete level and has a quick snap shot. Cornel doesn't give up on plays around net and has a very powerful wrist shot. When he carries the puck, he kicks his speed into another gear. Cornel is a playmaking center. He shows great passing skills. He makes the players around him better with his ability to dish the puck. Cornel anticipates where teammates will be and gets them the puck. He showed he is responsible in his own zone. He sees the game well, and is rarely caught out of position. Cornel continually supported his d-men down low, giving them simple ways out of jams.

**WEAKNESSES:** While it might seem like there is not a lot to improve in his game, Cornel is seen as a prospect with limited offensive upside. He looks like someone who could fill a Stephen Weiss role, the one that was with Florida not Detroit, adding secondary scoring and playing a strong all-round game, but not quite first-line center output. Lacks physical bite. He offers support to his teammates along the wall, but does not engage in physical play often. Cornel doesn't always engage in play and can go through funks where he is invisible, cruising up and down the ice, but not doing very much to impact the contest. Cornel also has work to do in the faceoff circle.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Wouldn't be surprised to see Cornel go earlier than expected in the draft. He has all the raw tools to be an NHL regular, just needs to build muscle mass, and continue to work on his edge work and transitions."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Center



**31****JULIUS HONKA****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)****BORN: December 3, 1995****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 16 G 40 A 56 PTS 52 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A small puck-moving defenseman, Honka has a strong stride with very good feet. Agility is top-notch. An elusive defenseman who slips between forecheckers with ease. Excellent passer who is always able to connect the dots. PP quarterback, managing and distributing the puck at the point well. Excellent at transitioning the puck out of his zone. His best defense is offense as he doesn't possess any real strong defensive attributes. Uses his anticipation and quick stick to grab loose pucks and quickly get it up to his forwards. Really do not like how he defends his own zone for the most part. He knows he isn't a big guy and his physical game shows it as he does not throw many checks. Doesn't fight for space in the corners or in front of the net often either. We definitely would've liked to see some more intensity and body play incorporated into his game. Not going to be able to play this way at the NHL level. His hockey sense is very good as he reads plays very well and has patience and poise, but his defensive intensity and willingness to battle is not up to snuff. Has the talent to become a game breaker but it comes with a lot of risk.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Puck-Rushing Defenseman.

**34****NIKITA SCHERBAK****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saskatoon (WHL)****BORN: December 30, 1995****VITALS: 6'-2" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 28 G 50 A 78 PTS 46 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Scherbak is a big winger who plays with a lot of skill and power. He is hunched over when he skates, but moves very well. Has a quick first step that allows him to attack small creases in the defense, but his overall acceleration and explosiveness have room to improve. Very elusive and agile for a player his size. His hands are a major strength in his game as he always finds a way to maneuver in traffic while surveying his options to attack. Scherbak shows a high aptitude for finding open teammates while being pressured by defenders. Good, hard wrist shot that always seems to force the goalie to make a tough save, and his even balance of shot/pass plays keeps the opposition guessing. Very strong on his feet, although he was rarely the aggressor in the dirty areas. Scherbak spends a little bit too much time drifting in the neutral zone when he could assert himself at a better position on the breakout and in the defensive zone. His eyes seem to light up around the puck, but we would have liked to see a little bit more competitiveness away from the play to help his team succeed. Concerns about some of his neutral- and defensive-zone tendencies, and the occasional careless turnover, are valid, but there is no denying his talent.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger

**32****RYAN DONATO****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Dexter School (USHS)****BORN: April 9, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 30 GP 37 G 41 A 78 PTS - PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A solid two-way performer. He showed some good speed to the outside, with the ability to beat a defenseman to the net. Masterful at taking the puck outside, and with a quick first couple of steps, goes around the net, turns and generates a quality chance on the other side. He shows off some quick hands and the ability to control the puck in tight spaces. He does a good job keeping control of the puck, protecting it out wide and at top speed as he enters the zone. He has a great hockey IQ and sees the ice remarkably well. He makes quick, well-timed and well-placed passes in the offensive zone, and does a good job finding lanes to feed his teammates. He doesn't normally hold the puck too long and makes the smart pass. He doesn't send many opposing players crashing to the ice, but he shows some willingness to battle and get involved physically. His ability to control the puck and keep possession using his strength is impressive. He plays very smart with the puck, and makes the smart moves to help his team get chances. He moves it quickly, and makes use of his skill and quickness to create chances. He competes hard at both ends and plays better as the game advances toward its critical stage. He does a good job getting back in the play on defense, and supporting down low.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Forward

**35****ANTON KARLSSON****POSITION: Right/Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Frolunda J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: August 3, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 12 G 10 A 22 PTS 88 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A solid two-way winger who never quits on a play and competes very hard in all three zones. Karlsson is an excellent skater, and he has good top speed and reaches it quickly. When he gets going, defenders have a hard time containing him. He likes to build up momentum by taking a wide turn, getting open for passes and taking the puck with a high speed to attack. He can easily sidestep opponents while twisting and turning in the offensive zone. He's not afraid to use his strong balance to muscle himself straight to the net. Shooting wise, Karlsson's biggest asset is his quick release. He could work on both his slap shot and wrist shot; he's good at quickly getting them off, but their accuracy and velocity is not great. Makes good, simple passes, but lacks creativity. He is strong and physical on the walls, playing a tough, gritty game and showing no fear in getting involved. He closes off lanes on the forecheck, and does a good job getting back quickly on defense to block a shot or clog the lanes in his own end. He is strong on the puck and makes good, simple plays off the rush. Strong on the cycle game and keeps pressure with possession down low. He gives a good effort in the physical game, finishing checks and using his size, but he sometimes goes out of position to make a hit.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**33****MASON MCDONALD****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Charlottetown (QMJHL)****BORN: April 23, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 29 GP 3.44 GAA .900 SP 0 SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A composed, massive butterfly stopper who is one part blocker and one part reflex stopper. Very calm and cool handling lots of shots and making saves look effortless. Reads the play extremely well and get his big frame in front of shots. Has a very good glove hand that can steal a goal away in a flash. Cuts down angles well and plays an aggressive game, coming out to challenge shooters regularly. He is an explosive skater and can just fly post to post. Closes himself off well and gives shooters very little holes to shoot at. Impressive rebound control for such a young stopper as he just smothers puck into his arms and chest, and under his pads. Continued to "grow into his frame" all season – looked athletic and poised with better limb control in movement as the season progressed. Tracks pucks well. Puck movement is aggressive and impressive as he helps out the defensemen a lot. Really sewed up his status as the second-best option in the net and closed the gap on Demko with his performance at the U18s.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Starting NHL Goaltender

**36****BRAYDEN POINT****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Moose Jaw (WHL)****BORN: March 13, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 36 G 55 A 91 PTS 53 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Point is a small forward who plays a well-rounded and responsible game. Good offensive skills with the smarts to execute. He shows very good commitment to his defensive zone and always seems to keep a good position in all three zones that allows him to quickly get back and help out in his own zone. He is not a dominating presence in the corners, but he does do a good job of making smart stick plays and using his foot quickness to track the play. Does get outmuscled in positional and puck battles as he is not just short, but pretty thin too. Point is good in the offensive zone, always keeping his chin up and surveying the play. Very dangerous on the power play with his elusiveness around the net and opportunistic scoring ability. Likes to stick to the perimeter before picking a smart time to dart into the greasy areas for a scoring opportunity. Foot speed and hockey sense allow him to cycle with varying success. Pretty fast straight-line skater who is able to create some separation in open ice. Flashes some heady puck skills, but at times gets caught trying to do a tad too much. Point wears an "A" for the Warriors and we have little doubt that he will be the captain for the team next year. Good character kid.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Center

**37****BRENDAN LEMIEUX****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Barrie (OHL)****BORN: March 15, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 27 G 26 A 53 PTS 145 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Lemieux is a solid skater, but it takes him a few strides to get up to speed. He works hard and what he lacks in speed, he makes up for in size and determination. He has the ability to pull away from players when in possession of the puck and is very agile. He pivots well, and is powerful in stops and starts. He dishes accurate, crisp passes and has good hands. He controls the puck with ease and the timing of his passes are near perfect. Has a very effective shot that he can get off in tight spaces. He uses his size to protect the puck well, and does not back down from a fight. He is a hard-nosed player who finds a way to always get to the net. Maturity is almost there but, at times loses his cool and doesn't focus on the play at hand. He plays with an edge and is a real agitator, which can be costly at times. He is solid, allowing him to take hits along the wall. Even after a long shift, he does not quit and drives the net for scoring chances. He is one of the first back on the backcheck and his puck possession is incredible. He plays in all situations and delivers monstrous checks when the time is right. Covers his check in the defensive zone well and is great at removing players from the puck.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Physical Power Winger

**40****MARCUS PETTERSSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: April 8, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 38 GP 4 G 14 A 18 PTS 38 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Pettersson is an impressively mobile defender for his size. He moves well and is able to get around effectively. He is strong on the puck and uses his strength to protect it from pressure. The tall, lanky defenseman shows strong puck-moving abilities and poise. Pettersson can skate the puck out of trouble and makes a good first pass out of his own zone. He is a powerful shooter from the point and boasts a quick, heavy shot that he'll use on the power play. Defensively, Pettersson is physical down low and he isn't afraid to use his size. He does need to work on his anticipation in his own end, as he often steps up too soon or too late and gets beat. He is, at times, far too aggressive on defense and loses track of position and where he is in the zone. Pettersson needs to work on filling out his frame. The potential is there for Pettersson to be a really good defenseman at the pro level. He should go in the middle rounds.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**38****RYAN MACINNIS****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)****BORN: February 14, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 16 G 21 A 37 PTS 18 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** He plays a smart, skilled brand of hockey. MacInnis has good hockey sense, and sees the play develop well. He makes adjustments on the fly that better his positioning and give his teammates an outlet. MacInnis has a knack for being in the right place at the right time. He has the ideal size and skating ability to be a real threat every time he is out on the ice. Whether he can show up to play on a consistent basis is the only concern. MacInnis possesses the same heavy shot his father did, and he uses it wisely. He fires a lot of high shots trying to pick corners or low shots off the pads to create rebounds. MacInnis also has the hockey sense to be a solid playmaker. He is confident with the puck, and isn't afraid to carry it himself or hold onto it for extended periods of time in order to make plays, allowing them to develop. He cycles the puck effectively, and draws defenders to him before eluding them with a decent set of hands and his reach. Does not use his size physically like he could as he shies away from contact and conflict. At times, MacInnis seems disinterested in games, and this resulted in a number of inconsistent performances over the course of the season. When he is on, however, he plays a complete game and is impactful in all three zones.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Goal-Scoring Forward

**41****VLADISLAV KAMENEV****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Metallurg Magnitogorsk (KHL)****BORN: August 12, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 16 GP 1 G 0 A 1 PTS 2 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Kamenev is one skilled Russian prospect. His biggest strengths appear to be his vision and passing ability, but you can't discount his impressive size. A really creative passer with great accuracy and timing, Kamenev also shows strong balance and acceleration in his skating. Kamenev is a strong, two-way player as well, and is really good in the faceoff circle. He has a lot of North American habits to his game, as a big center who helps defensively and plays with physicality along the boards. He is a frustratingly pass-first player who you would really like to see shoot it more when he gets the opportunity. His shot is both accurate and quick off his stick, a real weapon if he were only willing to use it more. Very good hockey sense and awareness in both zones. Has impressive hands and ability to control the puck while entering the zone and as he surveys his passing options. Protects it with his long reach, strength and solid balance on his feet. A big-time talent, but will drop due to his passport.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Playmaking Forward

**39****BRYCEN MARTIN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)****BORN: May 9, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 6 G 31 A 37 PTS 42 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A dependable two-way blueliner. His skating is superb. He shows dynamic footwork to go along with an effortless stride. He is a pass-first transition player, but can also rush the puck when given the space to do so. Very good hands allow him to make quick adjustments and maintain possession against the forecheck. His smarts are his most impressive attribute as he seems to never panic. Martin never makes any truly dominant plays, but his calming presence and reliability in distributing the puck is phenomenal. He seems to find acutely precise and quietly spectacular ways to get the puck to his teammates, whether it is making a couple nimble steps to get around opponents or simply accelerating to quickly change the pace. It may not always stick out, but these plays are some of what makes him a very good pro prospect. Martin can be a little inconsistent in the defensive zone. He is able to keep close gaps because of his skating ability, but lacks the strength to keep guys in check. He does a good job of occasionally throwing a check and pinning the guy to the boards to briefly take him out of the play. We would like to see him bulk up so he doesn't have to rely as much on his stick to win battles. Keeps good position in his own zone.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Two-Way Blueliner

**42****NICK SCHMALTZ****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Green Bay (USHL)****BORN: February 23, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 18 G 45 A 63 PTS 16 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** One of the biggest enigmas in the draft, highly skilled Nick Schmaltz has the talent to be one of the highest picks in the draft, but his consistency, attitude and inability to perform in the playoffs for Green Bay will force him to fall. Schmaltz is an explosive skater, who at times will appear to be going at 0 MPH, and then all of a sudden, he'll dart up the ice and get into loose space. He has quick feet and strong acceleration both with and without the puck. Schmaltz is a highly creative, highly skilled winger with very good stick skills and several handfuls of nifty tricks to use with the puck on his stick to make opposing players look silly. He has great awareness with the puck, and sees the ice and play very well. He is able to locate even the slightest of passing lanes and he can create scoring chances out of seemingly nothing. He is a great playmaker and passer, who also has the ability to finish. He is elusive without the puck and has the ability to sneak into open space around the net like an unseen ghost. He is an effective backdoor finisher, and he also has a hard, quick wrist shot that he'll get into good position to take. Schmaltz lacks consistency in every part of the game, but most notably his willingness to crash and bang for the puck, or get back and help out defensively. He tends to ignore the physical aspect of the game and at times will just seem unwilling to get engaged in the play on the ice. He lacks care and awareness in his own end and needs to improve his attitude and overall effort if he is going to be an NHLer.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Scoring Winger



43

**TRAVIS SANHEIM**  
**POSITION:** Defense  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Calgary (WHL)  
**BORN:** March 29, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 190 Lbs  
**STATS:** 67 GP 5 G 24 A 29 PTS 14 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big, two-way defenseman. Pretty solid skater, but when his legs get chugging, he can look a little lanky and clumsy. When he is in top gear, he moves pretty smoothly and somehow finds a way to maneuver around guys. Doesn't always look pretty, but he gets the job done. In his own zone, he maintains a pretty strong position while doing a good job boxing out opponents. Rubs guys out and uses his frame to control ice, but by no means is he a bruiser and we don't think he ever will be. Can get a little out of position chasing the puck around in the neutral and offensive zones. Would like to see him settle down a bit and limit the number of times he pinches and tries to step up on offensive chances. A good, accurate passer, but at times struggles with pucks in his feet and getting it off under pressure. Has an accurate shot as well, but lacks high-end velocity and his release isn't the quickest. Picks good spots to shoot and pass while on the power play. Hockey sense is pretty good, making nice reads while mixing patience with up-tempo puck movement. Does a good job of recognizing the oncoming forecheck and carrying the puck into the zone if given the space to do so. Sanheim is a good all-round player. Has a lot of upside as a big defenseman who can play in any role.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman



46

**VACLAV KARABACEK**  
**POSITION:** Right Wing  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Gatineau (QMJHL)  
**BORN:** May 2, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 190 Lbs  
**STATS:** 65 GP 21 G 26 A 47 PTS 40 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Karabacek is an above-average skater with good acceleration. He has quick feet and always keeps them moves. Is pretty solid on his skates, and is hard to push off the puck. He protects the puck really well and works hard to get that puck back if he gets it stripped. He has good vision with good playmaking skills, and can move the puck quickly on the cycle, down low or along the half wall on the power play. He is also solid at making touch passes, give and goes and soft saucer passes as he enters the zone. He will elevate his play in important games and when he does, he's dominant; tiring for his opponent to play against. He's pretty physical, finishes his checks and isn't scared of taking a hit to make a play. His compete level is off the charts one game and then inconsistent the next. His progression was constant all season long, and his confidence level is night and day from the beginning of the season. He has a pretty good wrist shot with a good release. But he needs to use it more often to become even more effective. He supports his teammates well in the offensive zone and will cover for his defensemen in some instances too. Really brought his game up a level during the Q playoffs and leading into the U18s.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Offensive Winger

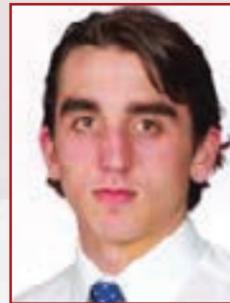


44

**JOHN QUENNEVILLE**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Brandon (WHL)  
**BORN:** April 16, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 185 Lbs  
**STATS:** 61 GP 25 G 33 A 58 PTS 71 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Quenneville is a big-bodied forward with strong shoulders. He is not the fastest skater in the league, but he definitely has some good quickness in tight to go along with a technically sound stride. Flipped between center and the wing this season, but overall, we liked his defensive commitment and positioning in both roles. Shows some solid backcheck pressure and is physically involved in the corners. Shows very good work along the walls using his strength and hockey sense. Always seems to end up on the winning end of puck battles and cycle confrontations. His cycle work is very strong, using a combination of his feet and good puck skills to maintain possession while looking for options. Shows a good, hard shot, and pretty good release with solid velocity and accuracy. We would like to see a little more offensive creativity. A pro-style forward who has a physical element to his game, a good shot, and who works hard in all three zones.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Offensive Forward



47

**ALEX NEDELJKOVIC**  
**POSITION:** Goaltender  
**CATCHES:** Left  
**TEAM:** Plymouth (OHL)  
**BORN:** January 7, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 180 Lbs  
**STATS:** 61 GP 2.88 GAA .925 SP 1 SO

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An athletic, but "small" stopper based on today's goaltender size standards, Nedeljkovic nevertheless just stops pucks. Has impressive reflexes and quickness that can't be taught. He moves along the goal line very well, and never loses track of the play. Has good hands as well, using both his blocker and glove to make saves on shots marked for the corners. His quickness and ability to recover is impressive, and he is solid positionally and shows great composure. Very effective puck handler as well, keeping the play moving and even setting up a few decent breakouts for his team each game. He was good on his rebound control and his ability to see through traffic to make the first save almost automatic. Poised and mature beyond his years, a calming influence on the team in front of him. Never gives up and battles until the puck is covered, cleared or it gets by him. One issue to improve upon is his positioning as he can get caught sitting too far back in his crease, leaving a lot of room that NHL shooters will have no problem hitting.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** NHL Starting Goaltender



45

**NICOLAS AUBE-KUBEL**  
**POSITION:** Right Wing  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Val-d'Or (QMJHL)  
**BORN:** May 10, 1996  
**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 190 Lbs  
**STATS:** 65 GP 22 G 31 A 53 PTS 61 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A solid all-round player. He's added power to his stride and is notably shiftier. He stalks around the zone and finds himself in good defensive position very often. He plays the wing very well and his ability to make soft-touch chips and passes on the breakout are an asset. Physically, he's a very imposing player when you combine his edge and love for playing the body with his solid skating ability. In puck pursuit, he mauls guys, especially skilled playmakers who can do the most damage, making it awfully difficult for his opponent to protect the puck. He's a pretty good passer, sometimes slowing down the play to open up passing lanes. His defensive play is good; he follows the play on the backcheck and gets to his man. He is able to cause quick turnovers with his stick, and separates players from the puck physically. He displays solid offensive IQ, which leads to nice scoring chances for both himself and his linemates. Aube-Kubel has a solid shot release and gets good velocity on his wrist; willing to shoot from anywhere in the offensive zone. He is not afraid to stand up for teammates and constantly was the first guy defending his goalie. He has come a long way this season. Was impressive at times this season, displaying skill and drive while playing a limited role on a powerhouse Foreurs squad.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Winger



48

**AARON HAYDON**  
**POSITION:** Defense  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Niagara (OHL)  
**BORN:** January 6, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 200 Lbs  
**STATS:** 61 GP 5 G 11 A 16 PTS 112 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Haydon is great skater; he is very mobile and it is difficult for opponents to knock him over. He has top-end speed when he gets going, but his first step lacks a quick burst. Haydon possesses good puck skills, being able to deke around defenders and control the puck very well. He looks to get the puck out of his zone as quickly as possible and looks for the long-range breakout pass. Haydon sees lanes well, but the accuracy of his passes needs a little fine-tuning. He accepts passes with ease and distributes the puck to his defensive partner effortlessly. Haydon has a powerful slap shot. He gets pucks to the net and he joins the rush whenever he sees fit. He has a nose for the dirty areas; he enters the corners and engages in physical play in an attempt to knock the puck loose. He crushes opponents with his checks, is always looking to play physically and enjoys success because of it. Haydon is very willing to drop the gloves, trying to throw off opponents by getting into altercations. He plays on the edge. Defensively, he plays very physically and takes his check every time, but too often he drags himself out of position and gets caught running around in his own end. Haydon makes good decisions with the puck and is extremely competitive. He is inconsistent, however, and needs to work on being more reliable when he is on the ice.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Defenseman

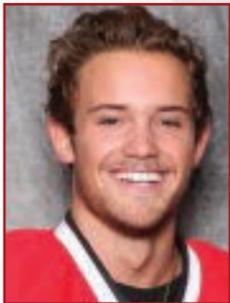


49

**BLAKE SIEBENALER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Niagara (OHL)****BORN: February 27, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 6 G 24 A 30 PTS 24 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Siebenaler is a fast and very smooth-skating puck rusher. He has a wide skating style with a low center of gravity that he uses to his advantage when racing for loose pucks. He is very agile and gets to top speed in a matter of seconds. Siebenaler carries the puck with a ton of confidence; he has quick hands and shows flashes of creativity. He protects the puck well from defenders and manages to hold on when at top speed. He sees the ice extremely well and makes a good outlet pass through lanes that many wouldn't even see. Siebenaler has tremendous offensive instincts and moves around to create scoring opportunities. He pinches from the blue line throughout the game, and when hit with a pass, he lets off a quick wrist shot that's always on target. He has a powerful slap shot when given a chance to use it. Siebenaler battles hard in the corners, using his body to rub players off the puck. He gives a big hit on occasion, but looks more confident when he's not trying to crush people with checks. Siebenaler makes very smart decisions with the puck. He waits patiently and carries the puck if he has to in order to make the right play. He challenges opponents with the puck and executes good gap control when defending. He leads the power play, distributing the puck with his patience and exceptional vision. Consistency from game to game needs improvement.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman



52

**CHASE DE LEO****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Portland (WHL)****BORN: October 25, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 39 G 42 A 81 PTS 36 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** De Leo is a strong skater who shows good speed and balance, and relentless puck pursuit. He has quick hands and maintains complete control over the puck. De Leo uses his strong puck skills to control possession for his team. He moves the puck quickly and with purpose. While his straight-line passing is very good, his vision is not elite. He struggles at times to feather passes through skates and sticks. He's not a player who shows particular high-end skill as a playmaker. His unremitting style and desire to always push the pace leads to situations where he could work on his patience to let the play develop. De Leo is always looking to attack the net and shows good drive and strength for a player his size. He routinely wins battles at the net front, and possesses a decent shot with a quick release. De Leo plays much bigger than he is. He displays an extremely high competitive drive and outworks most opponents. He's a stalky player and uses leverage well to win most battles regardless of the size of his opponent. He seems to have an extra gear in races for loose pucks and never has an invisible shift. De Leo backchecks hard and brings his work ethic with him in the defensive zone. He is also strong on faceoffs.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Center



50

**SPENCER WATSON****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kingston (OHL)****BORN: April 25, 1995****VITALS: 5'-9" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 33 G 35 A 68 PTS 16 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Watson is a natural goal scorer. A fast skater who can change speeds and direction in a heartbeat with balanced skates. Watson has quick hands and consistently tries creative things with the puck. He can split through defenders and stickhandle in tight quarters while maintaining puck possession. Watson passes the puck well, but doesn't always use his teammates. He uses lanes, no matter how small, to his advantage by passing the puck through or taking it on his own. He accepts passes very well, even when he is at top speed without slowing down. Watson supports his teammates along the wall and has a nose for the net. He is constantly driving the net for a scoring chance. With or without the puck, Watson sees the fastest lane to the net and he takes it. He has a great wrist shot with a lot of power behind it. His shooting is accurate and when he runs out of options, he is quick to put pucks on net. Watson doesn't engage physically and avoids the gritty areas unless there is an easy out with the puck. He avoids checks with his lightning-quick agility, but this often results in him turning over the puck. However, Watson has shown he isn't afraid to take a beating in front of the net as he hovers in front for a rebound. He does not put in much of an effort on the backcheck, though, but he does pick up his man when in the defensive zone. He needs to be more responsible defensively.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



53

**JACK GLOVER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: May 17, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 2 G 26 A 28 PTS 30 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A player who had an up and down season for the U.S. National Program, Glover is a highly talented offensive defenseman with good pro upside. While some were disappointed with his season performance, Glover is a strong puck-moving defenseman who sees the ice extremely well with the puck and is aware of the situation in front of him. He is always poised and calm with the puck, and doesn't allow pressure to get the best of him. Glover is a strong passer who has the ability to stretch the ice and spring his forwards up the ice. He is also an efficient mover with a long, smooth stride that gets him from Point A to Point B effectively. He has smooth, fluid footwork and is able to get out of troubling situations with the puck. Glover anticipates the play on offense well and knows when to jump into the action. He does a good job keeping the puck inside the offensive blueline and has a decent point shot; it is accurate, but not as hard as some of his counterparts'. Glover's defensive skill mostly consists of a long, active stick, which he uses to force guys wide and take them off their intended angles. He closes lanes well and does a good job covering the front of his net. He showed a bit of a physical edge to his game at the U18 tournament, but his consistency in terms of playing a tough, hard-nosed game can improve. He uses his mobility well to stick with his man and has some shutdown skill and ability.

NHL Potential: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman



51

**ALEXIS VANIER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)****BORN: December 21, 1995****VITALS: 6'-5" / 225 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 15 G 21 A 36 PTS 52 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big, nasty, offensive-minded blueliner. The Q has been blessed with smooth big men lately, however, Vanier is not one of them. That being said, he's not a bad skater and produces decent speed once he gets moving. Needs to work on his stops and starts, and his agility. Controls the puck well and likes to rush it up ice. Sees the ice well and makes some skilled passes that you would not expect from such a monster on skates. Has a heavy, heavy slap shot that would be top three on a few NHL teams already. Sets up for a killer one-timer on the power play that not many are brave enough to block, and those who do are prescribed heavy amounts of ice afterward. A physical, mean body checker who destroys opponents. A feared fighter and one who not many were willing to challenge. In individual battles, there's no way to move him off the puck. He is effective in front clearing bodies and is a big guy to get pucks through. Makes some bad decisions with the puck at times in his own zone. He is a big, mean offensive defenseman who has some work to do on his defensive game and foot speed. Skating deficiencies will hold him back if not improved.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Physical/Offensive Defenseman



54

**RYAN COLLINS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: May 5, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 1 G 6 A 7 PTS 26 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Collins is a big, mobile defenseman whose upside should pin him high in the draft. Collins isn't the fastest of skaters from the blueline, but for his size, Collins has nifty feet and decent acceleration through the neutral zone with the puck. He likes to carry the puck himself, and he does a nice job using his build and his skating ability to protect it and take it to the other team's blueline. Collins sees the ice well, and is extremely poised and confident with the puck. He makes a solid first pass and does a nice job springing his forwards with long passes. Collins has a powerful slap shot from the blueline, but it lacks accuracy and control. He is useful when he decides to pinch from the point and get involved in the offense around the half boards and lower. He has a strong, growing sense for the offensive game. Defensively, Collins isn't the most physical of 6-foot-4 defensemen, but he will use his size on the walls to take others off the puck. Once he grows into his size, the physical aspect of his game should improve. He uses his stick and reach nicely to force guys wide, and he does a good job sticking with his man and taking him around the net.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**55****VLADIMIR TKACHEV****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Moncton (QMJHL)****BORN: October 5, 1995****VITALS: 5'-9" / 150 Lbs****STATS: 20 GP 10 G 20 A 30 PTS 16 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Tkachev is a slick and highly skilled winger who has the ability to make defenders look foolish with his bag of puck tricks. The undersized winger skates with unmatched quickness and shiftiness, darting in and out of traffic looking for a chance to get off his shot. Not the burner you would hope a guy his size would be, but is highly elusive, has a killer change of pace and is extremely creative. Has impressive vision and while he loves to shoot the puck and score goals, he also does not mind giving the puck up to a linemate who has a chance to finish. Has loads of work to do to get his defensive game up to par, and he will need to hit the protein shakes pretty darn hard to build enough strength to even be a consideration for the North American professional game. Caught fire in the Q postseason when he lit up the scoreboard at over a goal per game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**56****JOSH JACOBS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Indiana (USHL)****BORN: February 15, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 5 G 18 A 23 PTS 46 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Jacobs carries good size and tremendous mobility, with the ability to make an impact at both ends of the ice. Jacobs is a very strong skater with quick feet, a powerful stride and the ability to turn on the afterburners and escape pressure with the puck. Jacobs is a player who became more and more consistent and reliable as the season progressed, leading to a rise in his draft stock. He is an efficient shutdown player in his own end who does a very good job at splitting the ice on puck carries traveling down the wing, and taking away lanes and space to work from forwards. He likes to throw his weight around and plays a tough, hard-nosed game in his own end. He does a very good job sticking tight to opposing players and keeping them off the puck. At times, his aggressiveness will take him out of position defensively, but this has improved drastically over the season. There is also offensive upside to Jacobs' game, as the powerful defenseman has the ability to rush the puck out of trouble and he does a good job finding lanes and connecting on passes. He has a quick, hard slap shot with fair accuracy. He does a decent job working the PP.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**57****SHANE EISERMAN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Dubuque (USHL)****BORN: October 10, 1995****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 16 G 24 A 40 PTS 71 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: A prototypical power forward, Eiserman has effective size and impressive skill with the puck. Eiserman is a very good skater with a powerful stride and highly effective acceleration coming down the wing. He is effective playing a north-south game, and likes to use his power and speed to take the puck down the wing and then find a lane to crash the net. Eiserman has a quick, powerful shot that he'll use off the rush, and he is also very successful when driving the net from an outside lane. He does a good job finding his teammates off the rush, but there are times where his decision making with the puck fluctuates. He has a tendency to attempt to force the issue with the puck and will give it away or make a poor feed. Eiserman does a good job using his size both with and without the puck. He protects it well, and also does an exceptional job at getting in hard on the forecheck and banging players off the puck. Eiserman will return defensively, but at times, seems lost in his own zone and can improve his defensive game as well as his overall consistency.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Forward

**58****JUSTIN KIRKLAND****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: August 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 17 G 31 A 48 PTS 40 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: This kid has everything one looks for in a draft-eligible player. He showed very good puck skills, has a long reach and silky smooth hands that allow him to create space and time. For a big guy, he showed solid skating ability. He wasn't amazingly fast, but he has a good stride and gets to where he needs to go. One knock on his game might be his lack of physicality. He doesn't play as mean as you might expect for a guy his size, but on occasion will rub a guy out. Good hands allow him to cycle well. He's going to get a lot of nice goals around the crease with those mitts. At times, he holds onto the puck a little bit too long and isn't able to find a passing option. He needs to keep things simple. This kid is a real gem that possesses a raw package of skills with room to grow everywhere. He played in a limited fourth-line role this season. As he continues to develop and mature, and as he gains more responsibility, he will put up points. Knows how to play the game and his raw skills could turn into a dominant skill set.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**59****GUSTAV FORSLING****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Linkoping J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: June 12, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 6 G 12 A 18 PTS 36 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Forsling is a mobile, skilled defenseman who likes to activate on offense and get involved in the offensive end. He moves the puck well, and will make a crisp first pass out of his own end. Forsling skates fluidly end to end and is able to join the offense. He moves the puck well from the point and can coordinate play on the power play, but we feel that his offensive game will be built more around his ability to get involved and score. He has a quick, powerful shot and is a real weapon from the point. Excellent one-timer that is very hard and almost always on net. Defensively, Forsling is aggressive and quick to step up on his opposition. He uses his stick nicely to close off ice on puck carriers and force them off their angles. He isn't afraid to get involved down low, and exhibits decent strength and physicality against bigger opponents.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Defenseman

**60****JOHN MACLEOD****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: June 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 51 GP 5 G 6 A 11 PTS 70 PIM**

SCOUTING REPORT: Highly reliable and consistent, MacLeod is one of those underrated prospects who will end up going high on draft day. MacLeod is a mobile puck-mover who excels in several areas of the game. He is a strong skater with very effective and quick footwork, powerful on his edges and able to get out of trouble. He accelerates nicely end to end and has the ability to take the puck with him. He sees the ice and feels the game very well. He does a great job at turning his team up ice quickly, making accurate, confident outlet passes from his own zone. From the blueline, he supports his forwards nicely and anticipates the play well, knowing when to pinch and when to take a step back and prepare to face a rush. MacLeod has a very effective point shot with a good release and plenty of power behind it. He is more of a shooting defenseman on the PP than a QB. Defensively, MacLeod is one of those simple, but highly effective players. He doesn't run around trying to land a hit, but he does use his body well and likes to stand players up as they enter the zone with the puck. He is a hard hitter and a tough player to beat one on one. He gets on his man quickly and does a good job taking away space and lanes from puck carriers. He is a calculated decision maker on the backend and became a very reliable defenseman for the U.S. program during the season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Defensive Defenseman

**61****DYSIN MAYO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Edmonton (WHL)****BORN: August 17, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 7 G 28 A 35 PTS 50 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Mayo is a calm and smooth defenseman who can play in all situations and projects to improve a lot in our eyes. Mayo is a very smooth skater. He has exceptional balance and powers through transitions. He moves effectively laterally and his backward-skating prowess is a major strength of his game. He also displays good gap control. His skating stride is very efficient and, although his feet are rarely churning, he displays good acceleration and top-end speed. He is comfortable with the puck and shows good control overall. His shot is heavy and is a weapon. He routinely makes clever passes, and shows great patience and vision with the puck. He isn't the biggest player, but he relies on his smarts and smooth skating abilities to control the ice defensively and keep opposing threats to the outside. Mayo takes away time and space quickly because of his sound positioning, and isn't afraid to throw the body. He wins most puck battles with intelligence and situational awareness rather than brute force. Mayo's biggest strength is his hockey sense and it allows him to make plays at both ends of the ice. He has really improved his puck-moving skills consistently this season as he showed a lot more authority and confidence with the puck. We think he will put up very good numbers in the future as his body matures allowing him to impact the game in even more aspects.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Defenseman

**64****JAYCE HAWRYLUK****POSITION: Center/Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Brandon (WHL)****BORN: January 1, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 24 G 40 A 64 PTS 44 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Hawryluk is a smallish forward who has a good motor, and isn't afraid to engage in the corners and in front of the net. He plays lots of minutes and receives substantial power play time as well. Hawryluk has a good, powerful stride that allows him to get into full gear pretty quickly, putting defensemen on edge. He likes to carry the puck with speed through the neutral zone and gets off his hard shot whenever he can. He is pretty agile and shows good balance against pressure. We like how often he seemed to be the aggressor, usually throwing his weight into oncoming checkers before they could initiate the contact. He works hard in the corners to maintain possession and continue the cycle, with varied success. He isn't the best backchecker and we would like to see him have a little bit more determination to get back. He is a pretty creative player with the puck, finding different ways to attack the zone, sometimes opting to stop and shoot or drive wide and take the play to the net. We would like to see him pick his spots better to find open teammates with passes. We like his offensive pizzazz mixed with an energetic and fearless style.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**62****SEAMUS MALONE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Dubuque (USHL)****BORN: May 5, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 23 G 23 A 46 PTS 93 PIM**

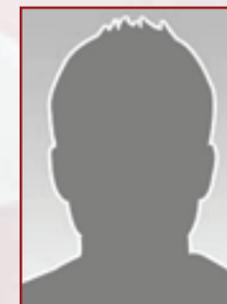
**SCOUTING REPORT:** The undersized center makes up for his smaller build with his sensational skill and high-end hockey sense. Malone is a swift-moving center with tremendously quick feet and elusive edge work. He changes directions quickly and escapes pressure nicely. He generates a lot of speed with the puck, and uses his skating ability and stick skills to get behind the defenseman. Malone has very good hand skills and creativity, and does a good job beating defenders and opening up space for himself to create scoring chances. He sees the ice extremely well. He has tremendous vision and awareness with great playmaking skill and sense. He finds his teammates very well with hard, crisp passes, and he finds success on his forehand and backhand when making plays with the puck. Along with his passing skills, Malone has a lightning-quick wrist shot with tremendous speed and power behind it. On the PP, he spends some time at the point, and will step in and rifle off powerful shots on net. Malone is small, but competitive. He works for the puck and puts forth a solid effort in his pursuit on the forecheck. Malone gets back defensively and when he gives a complete effort, he does an excellent job at shutting down opposing forwards. Malone is smart, quick-reacting player at both ends of the ice and became a very reliable player for the Fighting Saints during the season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Playmaking Center

**65****SEBASTIAN AHO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: February 17, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 27 GP 7 G 16 A 23 PTS 18 PIM**

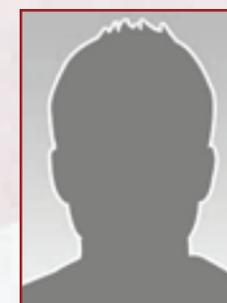
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Most of Aho's game is built around his offensive skill. Aho is undersized, but very quick and mobile. He has quick, powerful feet that he uses to escape pressure and turn up ice with the puck. He moves smoothly and crisply, and is able to carry the puck out of danger. He handles the puck well with a soft pair of hands and the ability to protect the puck from pressure. Aho sees the ice very well and is an effective puck mover from his own end and from the point. He can work a power play effectively and looked comfortable distributing the puck from the point. Aho also has a hard, accurate point shot. He uses an active defensive stick, and is poised in his own end. He isn't perfect defensively, and needs to add some size and strength to be more effective in his zone, especially on the walls. Makes smart plays using positioning and a quick stick to get the puck out of the D-zone. His biggest asset is his hockey sense and smarts.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Defenseman

**63****ANDREAS ENGLUND****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Djurgarden (Allsvenskan)****BORN: January 21, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 19 GP 1 G 1 A 2 PTS 14 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A two-way defenseman who is more physical than technical, Englund is solid in his own zone and pretty dangerous on the opposing blueline. Englund demonstrates impressive mobility and speed. He is a powerful skater and gets going quickly. He is balanced and controlled on his skates, and can move well for his size. He demonstrates strength on the puck and the ability to escape pressure in his own zone. Englund makes a good first pass and sends his team quickly up ice with quick outlets. He is a little too aggressive at times in his own zone, but he was mostly smart with his decision making. He takes space away quickly and isn't afraid to use his body to take a man off the puck. He contains his man well and is strong against some bigger forwards. He shuts players down well with his size and is impressive down low in his own end, with the ability to win pucks and earn his team possession. Englund edges out opposing forwards well into the corners. Very strong and harsh on opponents in front of the net. Can be very tenacious, especially in those little one-on-one battles.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**66****KELLY SUMMERS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Carleton Place (CCHL)****BORN: April 29, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 17 G 43 A 60 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Summers is a good skater with excellent pivots and lateral movement. Uses his skating ability to get out of trouble and has no problem handling the puck. Always seemed to have his head up. Summers moves the puck extremely well. Good tape-to-tape passes and doesn't take unnecessary chances coming out of his zone. His point shots always seem to find their way to the net. Strong sense of when to pinch and when to back off. He uses his big frame effectively in the corners, tying up his competition and winning puck battles. Summers is not a player who will get into many fights, but he will not shy away from contact either. Makes smart plays in his own end and has good vision quarterbacking the power play. Challenges rushing players one on one and wins the battles. He also uses his frame to battle at the front of the net and does not get out of position looking for big hits. It's impressive how much he has worked on his skating since the beginning of the year. He has clearly been working on his foot work and improving his overall speed.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**67****MATTHEW BERKOVITZ****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ashwaubenon High (USHS)****BORN: February 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 24 GP 11 G 26 A 37 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Berkovitz is a strong, fluid-skating blueliner who sees the ice well and makes an impressive pass. A very smooth skater who doesn't look like he is moving all that fast, but uses his impressive burst, turning on ability and agility when needed. Berkovitz's skating form, power and pivots are all high-end. He protects the puck very well, is poised and makes the right play consistently. His ability to open lanes in the offensive zone is ridiculously good and an aspect that will help him immensely at future levels. A creative passer who sees lanes and openings come available that his high school teammates do not. Berkovitz has a hard, accurate point shot and likes to fire wrists on net to generate chances for his teammates on rebounds or deflections. Not overly physical, but can use his size to his advantage with his reach and rubbing out opponents along the wall. Prefers to utilize positioning and an active stick to defend as he works to gain possession of the puck and quickly move it back up ice. He does need to build more muscle if he wants to have the same success at future levels of the game.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**70****NICK MAGYAR****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)****BORN: April 7, 1995****VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 20 G 26 A 46 PTS 20 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Magyar is a complete player who has very good hockey sense. He is a responsible, intelligent and skilled winger with size. When he has the puck on his stick, he makes smart plays, and shows glimpses of his puck skills and quick hands. He is an average skater, but a more explosive first step would take his skating to the next level. He works the cycle game very well, and is hard on the forecheck. His passing skills and vision are very good, and he is usually thinking pass first. He would be well served to shoot more often. His physical play is noticeable and he doesn't miss an opportunity to finish his checks. He uses his size to protect the puck and shows good patience with it on his stick. He plays a responsible defensive game, but at times, he stops moving his feet on the backcheck leading to opportunities for his opponents, a flaw he will need to correct. Magyar has the raw talent and playmaking abilities to be a successful and impactful NHL player. We can see him projecting as a skilled second-line winger in the NHL based on the upside he shows, along with the skills and understanding of the game he already demonstrates.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**68****BRETT POLLOCK****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Edmonton (WHL)****BORN: March 17, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 25 G 30 A 55 PTS 36 PIM**

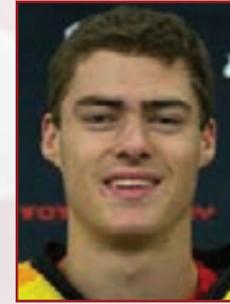
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Pollock is a big forward who does everything pretty well, but nothing elite. He is an average skater with short strides, but that doesn't seem to stop him from getting to his offensive position. Can get a little behind the play when he is pinned down low, and currently does not have the speed to catch up and cover his defensive responsibility. His hands are very good and he has no problem whatsoever handling the puck in the cycle or on the rush. Pollock has a good frame that he uses to shield the puck and make room. Has a good shot that makes him dangerous around the net. Started to become more physical in the corners, dishing out hits fairly frequently toward the end of the season. Made some good plays with the puck, often preferring to keep things simple with short, simple give-and-go passes. Can get caught looking for options a bit too long and at times, struggles to make quick decisions. He has the ingredients to become a very powerful force over the next season or two, but needs to add more physical bite.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Center

**71****JAKE WALMAN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Toronto (OJHL)****BORN: February 20, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 43 GP 7 G 26 A 33 PTS 87 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Walman is an extremely fluid skater with great poise and puck skills. A very quick first step and excellent recovery speed. Is agile and quick on his feet, transitioning the puck up ice constantly. He always makes the best play on the breakout, seeing lanes opening up and shifting defensive coverage with his excellent vision. Makes a strong first pass and shows flashes of creativity as a playmaker. Has a very nice shot that is hard and accurate, a real weapon on the point. His shot will only get stronger as he gains weight. He can try to get too fancy at times, and that can get him in trouble as simple is often the answer at this level of play. He's not a big guy, but he throws his weight around on the boards and the puck never seems to be in his end for long when he's on the ice. He is hard to hit for forecheckers because of his quickness in moving the puck, fleet feet and impressive vision. Desperately needs to gain some muscle and will have time to do so this summer before heading off to Providence.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**69****LUC SNUGGERUD****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Eden Prairie High (USHS)****BORN: September 18, 1995****VITALS: 5'-11" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 8 G 30 A 38 PTS 19 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A very high-potential defenseman, Snuggerud came to the USHL twice during the season and also played in high school for Eden Prairie. Snuggerud is a very mobile offensive defenseman with tremendous sense for the offensive game. He has a great, fluid stride with impressive speed and acceleration that he uses to escape pressure and carry the puck out of trouble. He likes to join the rush, but unlike some defenseman at his age, Snuggerud won't join the rush unless he sees it as a prime option. He is very smart and aware of the play going on around him. When he sees the option to get involved, he does and is effective. Snuggerud makes a confident first pass and can open the ice with his feeds. He finds lanes quickly and always has his head on a swivel. He does a good job getting involved from the point, and can lead a PP when given the chance. He has a hard, accurate wrist shot from the point, but is more reliable when it comes to moving the puck around. Snuggerud needs to add some muscle to his frame and he can improve his physical play; however, he is still a very effective player in his own zone. He controls his gaps very well, and takes time and space from forwards quickly. He has a great stick on defense and breaks up plays nicely. He anticipates the play nicely and works well with his partners. Snuggerud is a very reliable defenseman.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Offensive Defenseman

**72****NELSON NOGIER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Saskatoon (WHL)****BORN: May 27, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 37 GP 1 G 5 A 6 PTS 25 PIM**

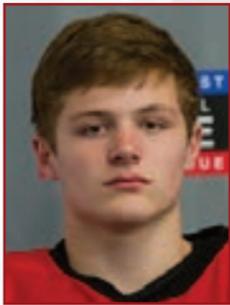
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Nogier is a very mobile skater who does an adequate job of maneuvering on the ice. Does look a little choppy at times when he tries to speed up his feet, but is very smooth in transition when he has a little bit of time. Doesn't have too much trouble keeping up with speedy forwards and is able to maintain good positioning because he is a decent skater. Still has a lot of work to do with his foot speed and overall agility as he looks a bit sluggish off the hop. An average puck handler who does a serviceable job moving the puck up ice. By no means is he a flashy offensive guy, but he has some offensive instincts to his game that allow him to throw crisp passes up ice. Very good all-around defender who is able to win physical battles in the corners while maintaining an active stick to clutter up passing lanes. Makes some very good reads to break up passes, and take away time and space from opponents. Nogier has decent smarts, and shows a lot of poise and patience with the puck. He can be a calming presence on the breakout. Won't wow you with flashy offensive skills, but he is a worker. No-nonsense type player who eats minutes and can shut other teams down with hard work and smarts. He is dependable and quiet.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Defensive Defenseman

**73****WALTER HOPPONEN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sioux City (USHL)****BORN: February 4, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 17 G 14 A 31 PTS 36 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Hopponen is a big, tough forward who impressed this season with Sioux City, who he joined after leaving the Everett Silvertips of the WHL early in the year. He is a powerful skater who doesn't have the greatest first couple of steps, but when he gets going, he is hard to stop. He is very balanced on his skates and difficult to knock around. Hopponen has average to above-average puck skills, with decent stick skills and excellent strength over the puck. He uses his body to shield the puck terrifically. Hopponen can carry the puck for plenty of time without being knocked off of it from pursuing pressure. He has decent vision with the puck, but isn't super creative. He is very straight forward and when he sees a passing option and doesn't have a shooting lane, he will move the puck. Hopponen does like to drive to the net when the option is open. He uses his size and strength to earn space in front, and has the ability to find rebounds or get a stick on shots to tip toward the goal. He also has a hard wrist shot with a decent release speed. Hopponen is a very hard hitter and a big-time board player. He is hard when he gets involved in battles, he is very hard to knock loose. Hopponen is cerebral in his own zone, and does a good job getting in lanes and putting his body in front of shots. He is aggressive on the PK, and effective at clearing the zone and getting the puck over the blueline.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power-Forward

**76****TYLER SHEEHY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Waterloo (USHL)****BORN: November 20, 1995****VITALS: 5'-9" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 21 G 28 A 49 PTS 4 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A highly competitive center, Sheehy jumped into the USHL from high school and finished at a point-per-game pace during the regular season. Sheehy sees ice time in a lot of situations and is an effective player. He is very quick, and owns quick feet and a fairly explosive stride. He is smaller, and relies on his speed to beat defenders and his quickness to squeeze through pressure on the walls. Sheehy has above-average stick skills, but is more of a straight-forward player who depends on his vision and sense of the play in front of him to create offense. He distributes the puck effectively on offense and finds his teammates quickly to create scoring chances. He has a hard wrist shot too, but is a stronger playmaker. Sheehy plays with plenty of grit and urgency on the puck, and doesn't quit on the ice. If he wants the puck, there is a good chance that he is going to get it, and that is what has made him so effective for Waterloo. Whether it is even strength, the PP or the PK, Sheehy is going hard after the puck and he will use his quick stick or body to win it. Sheehy has shown the ability to overcome his size when battling for pucks and when attempting to obtain puck possession. He is smart and effective defensively, coming back hard on the play and playing a shutdown role to support his defense. He has a strong defensive stick and is very quick to anticipate plays. He is a good faceoff man, and a strong 200-foot player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center

**74****JACOB MIDDLETON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)****BORN: January 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 2 G 21 A 23 PTS 64 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Middleton is a two-way defender who skates a little too upright, but still gains adequate speed. He is fairly balanced on his feet and possesses solid lateral mobility. He stops and starts well, but often gets tangled in his own feet. A lack of coordination is a common problem for young prospects with size. Middleton has a powerful slap shot and an accurate wrister to get the puck on net. Middleton gives great outlet passes and solid short-range passes in the zone. His compete level is inconsistent; some nights he is on and looks like a first rounder, while other nights he lacks poise. He is more than willing to battle with opponents in front of the net and in the corners, but eases off toward the end of the battle. He has excellent size and strength that can be used as an asset if he is consistent with it. He handles the puck very well while skating backward and in transition, and he looks for options to pass or skate with the puck before he makes a play. He takes the body well along the boards and he does a good job of separating players from the puck. He does a great job of taking opponents out of the play around his own net and preventing scoring chances. Can be a little turnover prone when he tries to do too much. Was counted on as a top D-man on a young 67s squad and held his own.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Defensive Defenseman

**77****ALEXANDRE GOULET****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Charlottetown (QMJHL)****BORN: April 5, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 26 G 22 A 48 PTS 26 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A developing two-way forward who really caught fire as the year progressed. Goulet has a lot of power to his game, and is not afraid of the physical aspect. He is very effective in tight and uses his strength well. Not a plus skater, but has a powerful stride and his lateral mobility isn't a concern. Great compete level in both ends, backchecks very hard. Very good in the faceoff circle; just a rock solid two-way player. Big frame, plays a very quietly solid game without much fanfare like Patrice Bergeron. Flashes quick hands and is dangerous on offensive opportunities around the net. Not by any means explosive, but smart and very strong on the puck. Beautiful shot with an impressive release. Very high hockey IQ; love his approach when pursuing the puck. Progression and development has been tremendous this year.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center

**75****CLARK BISHOP****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)****BORN: March 29, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 14 G 19 A 33 PTS 54 PIM**

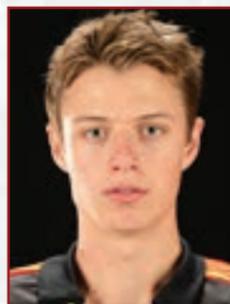
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Bishop is an energetic player who likes to get in and play in those dirty areas while he finishes his checks. He has great speed and a compete level that's through the roof. His first few steps are explosive, and he has the balance to battle hard in tight spaces and along the walls. His hands leave something to be desired – his touch is a little awkward, but he can pull some really slick moves on the rush from time to time. His shot is quick, but doesn't have great velocity or accuracy. Is most dangerous offensively within 10 feet of the opposition's crease. He dishes out hard hits and shows the ability to play a strong cycle game too. Bishop is awesome as a penalty killer, and can make things hard with his work rate, intensity on the puck and speed. He supports his defensemen well in his own zone and comes back hard on the backcheck. A beast on the PK getting into lanes and blocking shots. The type of hockey player that every team needs to have to win championships as he is not afraid or unwilling to do the dirty work or pay the price to win.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Character Forward

**78****ROURKE CHARTIER****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: April 3, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 24 G 34 A 58 PTS 8 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A forward with unbelievable puck-pursuit skills. The kid is always around the puck or flowing to where the puck is going. Chartier plays with a ton of energy and seems to always be chugging his feet. His acceleration and quickness are very strong. Chartier thrives in the defensive zone, where he flashes good anticipation and unexpectedly good strength in the corners. We loved how he flashes out of nowhere to intercept passes with quickness, agility and strong awareness, and then throws a crisp outlet pass up to his teammates. Chartier doesn't show very much high-end offensive skill, but he does a good job of protecting the puck and keeping things simple. Plays in all situations and wins just about every faceoff he takes. Chartier is a versatile player, a Swiss army knife of sorts who plays in all situations, with good upside and an underrated level of hockey sense. To us, he hasn't shown enough in terms of creativity and pure skill to warrant a high pick, but his defensive acumen and puck pursuit have us excited for his future.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Forward

**79**

**EMIL JOHANSSON**  
**POSITION:** Defense  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** HV71 J20 (SuperElit)  
**BORN:** May 6, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 195 Lbs  
**STATS:** 42 GP 2 G 7 A 9 PTS 28 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A poised and skilled defenseman who fails to really stand out in any particular aspect of the game. Johansson is a very good skater. Always keeps his feet moving. Good speed/acceleration and he's good at transitioning from forward to backward. He uses his low center of gravity in a way that makes him very hard to knock off balance and to stop opponents along the boards. His good first pass helps his forwards to keep their speed through mid-zone. Plays safe on the blueline and prefers to search for teammates rather than shoot the puck. Not the guy who throws big hits. Good work ethic and a team player. Understands the game and keeps it simple. Good positioning in D-zone. Tries to keep himself between the opponents and the net. Active stick work, stays calm even when under pressure and is also a good shot blocker. Needs to develop his offensive game instead of keeping things safe and shoot the puck more.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Defenseman

**80**

**ONDREJ KASE**  
**POSITION:** Right Wing  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Chomutov (Cze-Ex)  
**BORN:** November 8, 1995  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 165 Lbs  
**STATS:** 54 GP 7 G 7 A 14 PTS 10 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Kase is an offensive weapon and a truly flashy winger. He is a smooth skater and is as fast as they come into this draft. That makes him a dangerous forechecker as well. He handles the puck real well and carries it ahead effectively. He is a good passer, although that's not always what he does with the puck. He likes to shoot it more, I'd say, and he's got a laser beam. Very accurate shot with above-average velocity. His speed and forechecking make him an effective player off the puck as well, and given that his positioning is also exceptional for his age, you always want him covered. He's not a very physical player and you shouldn't expect a big hit for him, but he will challenge bigger defensemen all the time. Defensively, he'll need to step up later on. This year, he had linemates to do that as he waited for them to feed him the puck. His character is great; he likes to work hard and has strong on-ice discipline.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Forward

**81**

**J.J. PICCINICH**  
**POSITION:** Right Wing  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Youngstown (USHL)  
**BORN:** June 12, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 190 Lbs  
**STATS:** 60 GP 27 G 31 A 58 PTS 31 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** It was an eye-opening season for the gifted Piccinich as he started slow, but picked up his scoring pace when he received more ice time on the top line with big-time 2015 Kyle Connor. He projects as more of a goal scorer with his finisher's touch, which includes a wicked wrist shot and the ability to get into high-scoring areas both with and without the puck. He has a very quick shot with power behind it and strong accuracy. He likes to take it when coming off the rush and bustling down the wing. He will get the puck on net through tough situations when he sees a lane, has the ability to sneak into positions around the net and simply knows where to be to score. He has the ability to find lanes and seek out teammates with a hard pass off the rush, and with this element in his game, he becomes even more dangerous. Piccinich owns impressive strength over the puck, and he has the ability to shield it from pressure and come off the walls with the puck. He works hard for his puck possession and comes in aggressively off the forecheck to pursue it. Piccinich is also an effective defensive player. He gets his stick in lanes and comes out hard on the point men. Piccinich is a strong skater who hustles at both ends. He has a powerful stride and uses his arm motion to add power to each stride. He accelerates nicely and has the ability to speed by a defenseman with the puck.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Scoring Winger

**82**

**DANIEL AUDETTE**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Sherbrook (QMJHL)  
**BORN:** May 6, 1996  
**VITALS:** 5'-8" / 170 Lbs  
**STATS:** 68 GP 21 G 55 A 76 PTS 79 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Pint-sized offensive playmaker with good bloodlines – father Donald was a scoring forward in the NHL. Audette is a very nice skater, despite having a short stride as he has lightning-quick feet and good agility. He is well-balanced from his lower body and can lean into defenders to keep them off, but does get outmuscled when going against stronger defenders. He is very quick with the puck and shows great touch, even at full speed. He is electrifying with the puck on his stick and not afraid to pull a high-end deke. Audette has deft touch, throwing saucer passes and hard passes, and using good judgement on how the puck has to get to his teammate. The puck can land on his stick and get over to the tape of a teammate in a split second. He has a nice wrist shot and quick release, and he can put it where he wants to. Also, he is clever at creeping around the offensive zone, waiting for his chance. He has great vision and hockey sense, but can play a little too individual of a game at times. He will finish hits selectively and avoids contact, making his physical game soft. His defensive game is also a weak area, along with physical strength. A one-dimensional, small, offensively gifted player at this point.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger

**83**

**CONNOR CHATHAM**  
**POSITION:** Right Wing  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Plymouth (OHL)  
**BORN:** October 30, 1995  
**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 225 Lbs  
**STATS:** 54 GP 13 G 18 A 31 PTS 51 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Chatham is an above-average skater with solid jump off his first step. He can change speeds as he skates up ice and is smooth in transition. He uses his grit, hands and vision to be successful. He handles the puck very well, and can get creative with his passes, knowing exactly where his teammates are going to be without even taking a look. He is a smart player who possesses a lively hockey sense. He sees the ice very well, and sees lanes open through traffic and takes advantage of them. Chatham is aggressive on the forecheck and attacks defenders on the point with no let up, forcing them to make mistakes. While he is a little slow on the backcheck, he knows where to be defensively and picks up his man well. Chatham has a quick release with a distinguished release point, and has the ability to slow the game down with the puck on his stick. He looks for options with the puck and is a physical force who delivers big open ice hits. He doesn't always engage along the wall and waits for the play to come to him more often than not. Not one to generate numerous chances himself, but is strong in the greasy areas as someone who gets to the net and can bang home a puck or two.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward

**84**

**OLIVIER LEBLANC**  
**POSITION:** Defense  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Saint John (QMJHL)  
**BORN:** February 17, 1996  
**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 165 Lbs  
**STATS:** 56 GP 7 G 26 A 33 PTS 58 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A puck mover who can really stack up the scoring chances. Good skater with quick acceleration, pivots well in the neutral zone, is shifty and can stay with the most elusive attackers, as well as hustle up and down the ice. LeBlanc loves to lead or join the rush. Being a good skater helps because he is able to get back on D quickly. Great vision on the ice. A very calm player with the puck, he does not make many mistakes coming out of his zone and makes a consistently good first pass. A very smart player, he understands what to do quickly in each situation he is faced with. Uses his stick very well to get it on the puck and to disrupt lanes. LeBlanc has some good offensive upside as he runs the PP efficiently and he's very calm with the puck. His big issue is still size and strength. Struggles to shoulder off opponents and move them from areas of his zone that are dangerous. With that said, he might not know that as he consistently tries to play the body and battles with a good level of intensity.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Defenseman



85

**REID GARDINER****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)****BORN: January 19, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 70 GP 22 G 22 A 44 PTS 39 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A hard worker with good smarts and a high compete level. Gardiner, despite his limiting size, will not be denied in puck battles when he is on his game. Is all over the ice at both ends, displaying good positioning and the ability to both distribute and fire the puck on net. He has a lethal wrist that will beat goalies from a distance. Strong for his size and shows good feet along the wall. Seems to always come out of the corner with the puck no matter who he goes to battle with. Makes some excellent passes with space and is able to create separation with some good wheels through the neutral zone. Can play in all roles, and does well in any job he is tasked with. He can score goals as he gets himself into prime position and shows the necessary tools to succeed at battles in the greasy areas of the ice. Gardiner is not only hard working, but is also savvy along the walls. We see don't him becoming a huge scorer, but rather a versatile energy forward.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Winger



86

**JULIEN PELLETIER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)****BORN: June 28, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 25 G 25 A 50 PTS 28 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Pelletier is a skill player who handles the puck extremely well. He is an average skater speed wise. Not a lot of power currently in his stride and his first few steps are not strong, but in a straight line, he generates decent speed. He is very quick and agile though – a slippery type of skater like Drouin. Strong on his edges. His balance isn't tested too often because of his agility. Pelletier has very nice puck skills – he can make skilled touch plays in traffic and makes it look easy. He can be a dominant possession player, and has impressive vision and sense for the play. His shot is accurate, but lacks velocity. Lacks any type of physical game as he gets overpowered rather easily. He needs to add considerable functional strength. Pelletier is a smart two-way player. Defensively, he makes good reads as a backchecker retrieving the puck with a quick stick, but relies solely on brains with no real physical element. Could develop into a solid offensive player in the Q and a wildcard NHL prospect.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Winger



87

**FILIP PYROCHTA****POSITION: Defence****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Benátky nad Jizerou (Cze2)****BORN: June 24, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 176 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 1 G 5 A 6 PTS 30 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Mobile defenseman who has played a more offensive than defensive game late in the season. He's not a very strong skater, but he can build up his speed and that helps him join the rush or hustle back if needed. Offensively, he's great at the blueline. His shot is hard and accurate, and he is a great power play quarterback. A natural stick handler, he can carry the puck up ice by himself or feed it to his receivers from the blue line. Sometimes his pass gets intercepted, but he's capable of making that one-of-a-kind pass that you just react to by saying "Wow." His physical play has diminished now that he's smaller than most of his opponents and he relies on his stick to make defensive plays. Still, he isn't the kind of D-man who would blow coverage every second time the opposing team attacks. He's still pretty effective back in his own zone even though I wouldn't call him very good. As for character, Pyrochta is a hard-working player off the ice and his teammates like being around him. He is also disciplined and very rarely takes a stupid penalty. Sometimes he's got problems with consistency.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Pair Two-Way Blueliner

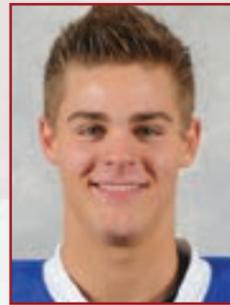


88

**REID DUKE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lethbridge (WHL)****BORN: January 28, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 15 G 25 A 40 PTS 91 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Duke is a skill forward who shows solid physicality and defensive responsibility. His best attribute is his vision, which he uses on occasion to find open teammates while under duress from defenders. His timing is excellent on passes in the offensive zone, where he is able to get it to someone at the perfect time, like when a defenseman is leaning the other way or has his stick in the wrong place. His shot is pretty good as well. Duke is a strong all-around skater who shows solid balance and good speed. He moves very well in open ice with impressive agility. Acceleration is just alright and should improve. Gets involved physically when on the forecheck and also defensively below the goal line. Doesn't throw huge checks, but he does a good job of making sure the other team knows he isn't going to make it easy on them. Duke is solid defensively as he always seems to be the first one back to help out, and seems to flow around the defensive zone with purpose and smarts. Isn't an amazing defensive forward, but he knows his responsibilities and works hard to get his team moving in the offensive direction. Duke has good smarts, instinctually moving to meaningful places on the ice and showing a lot of poise and patience with the puck.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward



89

**AARON IRVING****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Edmonton (WHL)****BORN: March 3, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 9 G 21 A 30 PTS 88 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Irving is a tough, two-way defenseman who thrives on the ice using his physicality and well-rounded tools to be a dependable defenseman. Irving skates pretty well, but at times can look sluggish. He generates a healthy amount of speed and has decent lateral agility. Starts and stops well. Defends quicker opponents well with a long stick and active feet. Does a good job of closing gaps in the neutral zone with his long reach. Closes up passing lanes and is always active in the defensive zone. He is a hard-to-play-against defenseman with good first-pass ability. He really puts a lot of mustard on every pass he makes, although they are not always the most accurate. Plays the power play and get off his hard shot from the point. Doesn't have the skills to become a really strong offensive D-man. He is physical, skates well and can move the puck, but his overall hockey sense and awareness leaves some questions about his upside.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman



90

**JULIUS BERGMAN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Frolunda J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: November 2, 1995****VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 13 G 21 A 34 PTS 54 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Big and defensively sound defenseman who plays a no-nonsense game. Plays on the power play and handles the puck with decent confidence. Displays good vision and a good point shot. His crisp passing game is simple, but highly effective; puts good zip on his feeds. Not a creative dangler who makes flashy plays, but instead is effective with simple, smart puck-moving plays. Good instincts, he knows when a scoring chance is about to present itself and jumps on the opportunity. Provides a solid physical presence on the ice. Good in one-on-one puck battles, stands up well to incoming opponents along the blueline and rubs them out along the wall. Gets his body into lanes and disrupts opponents with a solid stick. Willing to get his nose dirty and engage in rough stuff and after-whistle scrums. Sturdy stay-at-home defenseman with general puck-moving ability.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Defensive Defenseman



91

**KAAPU KAHKONEN****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: August 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 38 GP - GAA .912 SP - SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Kahkonen has good a natural size and build, and he displays impressive speed and mobility in net. He has an explosive push in goal and gets side to side very quickly to take away the bottom of the net. He anticipates the play well in goal, and is able to react to cross passes quickly and effectively. His rebound control is strong, either eating shots or deflecting them out of harm's way. He is able to handle pucks through screens and through traffic. He handled his higher shots well, and he is strong down low. He is poised in net and communicates actively with his teammates. He has quick reflexes and a good, active blocker with a quick glove hand. Kahkonen's positioning in goal is above average, but there are times when he gets a little lazy and leaves his post too soon. His focus seems to be an issue too. He allows some weak goals against that it looks like he should be able to handle. Kahkonen showed very good agility and balance. He was quite aggressive and he knows when to challenge shooters. Kahkonen already has NHL size, as well as solid technical skills. His game suffers from bouts of inconsistent play. Struggled through a very inconsistent U18 tournament and his draft stock took a bit of a hit.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



94

**BEN THOMAS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Calgary (WHL)****BORN: May 28, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 7 G 24 A 31 PTS 39 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big, two-way defenseman with solid upside. Played like a man among boys some nights. Shows off some impressive skating abilities. Very quick feet and has absolutely no problem transitioning from one direction to another. Agility is particularly noticeable as he makes some excellent swing steps and quick moves to deceive oncoming forecheckers. Very good puck-handling skills, allowing him to manage the puck at the point in the offensive zone. Reliable, but not overly impressive and skilled at getting the puck up ice. We like how he quickly gets the puck off his stick and doesn't overhandle it. Prone to the occasional turnover. Decent in the defensive zone overall. Makes solid reads that allow him to stymie opposing threats, but also overcommits, leaving him out of position at times. Was not as physical we would like given his solid frame, but he does lay the occasional hit and is strong on the boards. Doesn't have amazing hockey sense out there, but is reliable and for the most part, doesn't try to do too much. See's the ice well and executes his passes. Does a good job of firing quick wrist shots through traffic on the power play.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Defensive Defenseman



92

**JOEY DUDEK****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kimball Union Academy (USHS)****BORN: January 29, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 9 G 35 A 44 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Dudek is a great skater with a superb hockey IQ and a knack for playmaking. Good acceleration and top speed with good balance and jump in his step. He has a solid frame and strength that he uses effectively along the boards. He attacks the puck with energy and plays bigger than he is. His biggest weakness is his lack of physicality. He doesn't appear to like when the game takes a physical turn, and therefore plays primarily on the perimeter. That said, he does win a fair amount of puck battles in open ice throughout the neutral zone. He possesses soft hands and it shows when he works the cycle. He won't drive toward the net very often, but he is very good at setting up the cycle and creating quick plays. Good vision and smart thinker. Makes quick, easy plays; nothing overly fancy, but it works when he's winning battles along the boards. Defensively, he has a decent presence down the middle as the line's center, but like most high school prospects, he did not command defensive presence. He is more offensively skilled than he is defensively.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Playmaking Forward



95

**IGOR SHESTYORKIN****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Spartak Moskva (KHL)****BORN: December 30, 1995****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 9 GP 2.80 GAA .903 SP - SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An average sized, agile goaltender who is very quick in his crease. Goes side to side and up and down very quickly and fluidly. Covers a lot of net, despite not being the biggest body. Willing to battle and do whatever it takes to keep the puck out of his net. He can look quite unorthodox flailing in the crease. He's very confident in his abilities and it shows in his play at times. Cuts down angles and keeps his body tight to the post. Could use his stick better to make plays and close off the cross-crease pass. Shestyorkin does not have the best technical skills, like many of his countrymen, but he makes up for a lack of refinement with solid quickness, athleticism and reflexes. His stick is weak and he does not play the puck very efficiently. Can be a bit of a nightmare when he leaves his crease to play a puck or make a mid- to long-range pass to a defender. Needs to work at tracking the puck better and maintaining his focus. Absolutely dominated the MHL junior league this season with a 1.42 goals against average and a .947 save percentage.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender



93

**HUNTER SMITH****POSITION: Right Wing****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)****BORN: September 11, 1995****VITALS: 6'-6" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 16 G 24 A 40 PTS 100 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** This mammoth winger is a feisty and relentless worker who also has some finishing skills around the crease. While he gets to where he needs to be on the ice, his skating is still a work in progress as it is with most kids his size. His feet will need to get quicker and he could use some lengthening of his choppy stride. Size and strength will not be a concern as he manhandles opponents at this level and has room for a good deal more muscle on his frame. Hard on the forecheck and owns the wall; if he gets into a puck battle, chances are he will come out victorious while his opponent will come out hurting. He uses his size, strength, balance and reach very effectively when handing and controlling the puck. His shot is also solid. Shows willingness and even an excitement to drop the mitts when the time is right. He is so strong and big that he has been a real weapon on the power play, disrupting the goaltender's line of sight and being there to bang in any rebounds or redirect a blast from the point. His trajectory this season has been impressive and every NHL team would like to add a prospect like Smith to its stable.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Winger

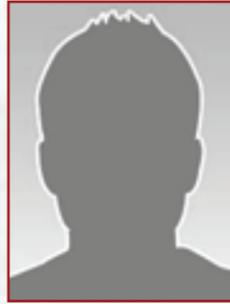


96

**BEAU STARRETT****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: South Shore (USPHL)****BORN: November 1, 1995****VITALS: 6'-5" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 48 GP 11 G 36 A 47 PTS 94 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** This hulking center is oozing with pro upside, thanks to his combination of size, skill and sense. Starrett is very good skater for his size with impressive mobility. He has quick, explosive feet with a powerful, long stride and the ability to blow by defensemen with his acceleration. Starrett is fairly strong on his skates and strong on the puck. He shields it well from his opposition and does a good job protecting it when coming off the walls with the puck in his possession. Starrett owns impressive stick skills and quickness, and is able to work himself into space with the puck and earn a few extra seconds with it. He sees the ice effectively and is a nifty playmaker who finds seams impressively and makes hard passes to set up his teammates. Where Starrett especially shines is on the PP where he works as a set-up man. Starrett also owns a very quick and powerful wrist shot with a pro-ready release and velocity. Starrett is a very hard worker on and off the ice, and was one of the top players in terms of development this season. He improved his on-ice compete level and defensive play, and was an effective two-way player for his team. He gets back hard on defense, and you can see him forcing himself back into the zone and hustling to catch the play. He uses his stick and body to tie up players and to force them off the puck along the walls. Starrett is very good on faceoffs, as he uses his quick hands and strength to win the puck. Starrett's discipline is one area that can use work as he had a tendency to take dumb penalties this season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Power-Forward



97

**JULIEN NANTEL****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)****BORN: September 6, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 14 G 20 A 34 PTS 18 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A solid two-way pivot whose trajectory has been moving in the right direction all season. Nantel has good size and strength, using it regularly to finish his checks. He is a really strong checker, always picking up his man. He has a good and powerful skating stride, and is really well balanced. Nantel has above-average speed and quick three-step acceleration to reach full speed. Possesses a solid wrist shot with a fairly good release and is dangerous from the circles in off the rush. He is dangerous as the third man high cutting into the middle of the offensive zone to get a shot. Solid on the PK using his skating and positioning effectively. He also cuts off passing and shooting lanes with good stick placement. Nantel has a good work ethic with the way he plays a responsible two-way game, doing the little things well. It reminds us of a Scott Laughton-type player. He plays a complete game, but we feel he can do a bit more offensively. Played a limited supporting role and did not get prime ice time this season, but still showed improvement in his overall game. He was more confident with the puck and made quicker decisions as the season progressed.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Character Forward



100

**MICHAEL BUNTING****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: September 17, 1995****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 48 GP 15 G 27 A 42 PTS 34 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Bunting is the prototypical late bloomer who was a late-round pick in his second year of OHL eligibility and made the Greyhounds with a solid performance at their training camp. He has exceptional footwork, and possesses a keen hockey sense with above-average playmaking ability and impressive vision. He skates hard and doesn't shy away from mixing it up with the opposition. Has a quick release on his shot and good accuracy, but could work on his velocity. Has very soft hands and can do plenty with the puck. He has the ability to corral it and make a move or two to enter the zone or protect the puck from opponents along the wall. He is creative and makes skilled plays for both himself and his linemates. Needs to add strength and improve his physical play and ability to battle for 50/50 pucks. With continued development, the sky is the limit for Bunting, who has proven himself as a solid NHL prospect worthy of a team to draft and develop.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Offensive Winger



98

**TYSON BAILLIE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: November 16, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 22 G 33 A 55 PTS 53 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Baillie is an energetic center who shows good hockey sense, grit and skill that makes him hard to play against. He is a character player who understands how to be successful at both ends of the ice. His hockey sense is above average. A small, sturdy center, Baillie impressed with how solid his puck-support abilities were. He is always around the puck and shows good anticipation of the play throughout. Baillie shows excellent strength on the puck for a guy his size. He knows how to win battles using quickness and smarts. He consistently shows good transitional skills, coming back down low to scoop up a loose puck and then instinctively turning it up ice. Thinks the game well, processes plays quickly and has the hands and poise to make plays. Positionally sound throughout the game. Good understanding of the play in front of him and plays his role well. Skates fairly well. Swings his arms a lot, but he has good energy in his step and had no problem fighting off bigger competition to gain position. His stride is short and he gets as much as he can out of every step, but I didn't see it improving enough to be successful at the next level.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Offensive Forward



101

**ALEX HOLMSTROM****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: June 29, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 15 G 23 A 38 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Holmström is a two-way player who could certainly fit the description of a "coach's dream." Not only is he very versatile and can handle all aspects of the game, he works very hard and is strong on the forecheck as well as a responsible defensive player. Was solid all year for Skellefteå's juniors and capped it off with an impressive U18s centering the lethal Nylander line. Holmström's skating is not high-end or anywhere close, but because of his work ethic and intensity, he gets around pretty well even without the most fluid stride. His puck skills are decent; he can handle the puck in high tempo and is calm with it even in tight situations, which enables him to hold on to the puck just that extra split second to make a nice play. He's a very good playmaker in his own right, his vision is good, he makes good decisions and he's already a complete forward in a way you seldom see at this stage. Plays hard every game, gets physical and goes to the net. He's doing most of the things you would want from a player and he leads by example. The question is if he's got enough high-end skills to be a factor in the NHL. If his offense can't translate, there's still a good chance for Holmström to be a faceoff-winning, defensive forward who can fill in anywhere in your lineup.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward



99

**DYLAN SADOWY****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saginaw (OHL)****BORN: April 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 27 G 9 A 36 PTS 69 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Sadowy isn't the fastest skater, but he uses what speed he has to his advantage when separating himself from opponents. He moves well laterally. Not the most balanced as he can be knocked around. He knows the position he needs to get to to score and does everything he can to get there. Not the hardest of shots, but very accurate and consistently hits the target. He has a quick release when he needs it and makes smart decisions with the puck. A lot of determination on the forecheck pressuring opponents hard and closing off his opponent's available passing lanes as well. Consistently battling to ensure that he gives his team possession of the puck. He makes nice accurate passes back and forth with teammates. Often drives the net with the puck and does anything in his power to generate shots, scoring chances or traffic in front of the net. He isn't afraid to mix it up after the whistle and stand up for his teammates either. Defensively, he has a lot to improve on: communication with teammates, effectiveness on the penalty kill and getting caught running around and putting himself out of position. He collapses down low and often leaves his man unaccounted for. He really turned his game up a notch in the OHL playoffs.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Checking Winger



102

**MATT MISTELE****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Plymouth (OHL)****BORN: October 17, 1995****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 18 G 19 A 37 PTS 59 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Mistele is a fast skater who is quite shifty and strong on his feet. It is hard to knock him off the puck as he protects it using his size. He doesn't use his speed to his advantage and has a hard time separating himself from opponents. He doesn't put in much of an effort on the backcheck and is a pure offensive playmaker. He has good hands and displays great puck-handling skills, even in tight quarters. When he is on, he protects the puck well as he drives it hard to net. Mistele attempts to deliver big checks when the opportunity presents itself no matter what the size difference of his opponent may be. His shot carries a lot of velocity and he gets it off pretty quickly. He leads his man with a pass well, and follows up by driving to open ice or the net in an effort to create chances. He has a tendency to be in the right place at the right time, showing off his hockey sense, but he plays the game very reserved. Often is caught hanging back along the wall and waiting for a loose puck to pop out of a slew of players. Mistele is an offense-first type of player who will need to improve his offensive skills and defensive abilities to round out his game. Consistency is the biggest part of his game that will need improvement. The tools are there to be successful if he increases his work ethic.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Playmaking Winger



103

**AUSTIN POGANSKI****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Tri-City (USHL)****BORN: February 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 19 G 12 A 31 PTS 57 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** After starting the season poorly, there were questions about Poganski's skill and consistency. He put doubters to shame with a strong late-season surge. Poganski plays an effective north-south game and generates impressive speed coming down the wing with the puck. He doesn't have the greatest first step, but he eventually picks up effective speed and combines his skating with his size to take the puck deep. He is a strong player on the puck and he protects it efficiently from pressure. He has decent stick skills, but prefers to use his body to shield the puck as he searches for lanes to use to either break toward the net or set up a teammate with a crisp, solid pass. He sees the ice well and is able to create chances for his teammates from within the offensive zone. Poganski likes to find lanes to the net, and will use his speed and strength to earn his way to the goal. He does a good job earning his space in the slot with his strength and getting his stick on shots to change their direction before they hit the goalie. He has strong hand-eye coordination and the ability to score around the net. Poganski is effective when he gets involved physically, but there can be more consistency in his hitting game and physical game. Poganski's defensive game is developing, but he does do a good job getting in lanes defensively and using his stick to pressure the point and steal options.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Forward



106

**JANIK MOSER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Muskegon (USHL)****BORN: September 26, 1995****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 3 G 12 A 15 PTS 39 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Moser is one of those players who hasn't made the loudest noise in his draft year, but is still a player with the skill and upside to be picked. Moser is a powerful defenseman, and has very good offensive skill and awareness. A shooter over a passer, Moser can move the puck, but much rather prefers getting into the zone and powering off a hot and heavy shot. He has a quick release on both his slap shot and wrist shot, and he does a nice job of getting them through. He has a very hard slap shot that caught goaltenders off guard at times this season. Moser makes a good pass out of his own end when facing pressure, and has a strong, explosive stride that he uses to take the puck end to end. He has great acceleration and quick feet. Moser displayed very strong anticipation offensively during the season, especially during the WJC with Team Germany. He likes to get involved in the in-zone offense, and will pinch low to get involved and create scoring chances. He is a good supporting defenseman on the PP and likes to use his blast of a shot. Moser is a tough defenseman who likes to get involved physically and throw his body to hurt. One issue that did appear at times during the season is that Moser would appear to tire out and stop using his body late in the game. When he does use his size and strength, he is very effective. He is aggressive defensively, and likes to take time and space away quickly. His aggressive nature does take him out of position from time to time, and that needs some work.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Offensive Defenseman



104

**BRANDON HICKEY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Spruce Grove (AJHL)****BORN: April 13, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 4 G 18 A 22 PTS 29 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A good two-way defenseman with great skating skills. His best asset is his skating. Very good combination of speed, agility and power. His edge work is just average as his blades seem to slide a bit when he transitions and changes directions. Plays a very offensive style and is very active in the offensive zone. His skating allows him to engage offensively. Loves to shoot the puck. Has a very good slap shot, but needs to be more patient with the puck in general. Every time he gets the puck at the point, he rips it on net. He never seems to survey the play and see if dishing it off to a teammate is the better play. He is solid with his outlets, but again, we would like to see him hold on to the puck a bit more and draw his opponents in before he makes that pass. Does a good job of getting the puck up ice. He is solid defensively, remaining in position, but he never shows a true physical presence. Plays with solid position in his own zone and makes decent reads. He is a steady guy who gets the job done and involves himself at both ends of the ice.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman



107

**RINAT VALIEV****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kootenay (WHL)****BORN: May 11, 1995****VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 5 G 23 A 28 PTS 68 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A solid defenseman who skates at a very high level. Extremely smooth on his feet and handles the puck equally well. Easily makes plays that big defensemen usually struggle with. Is able to evade pressure with his puck skills and his impressive smarts. Really shows an aptitude to make smart and creative ways to open up plays in the middle of the ice. Pass-first type defenseman who will never light it up, but is proficient between the blue lines. Maintains a good position and an active stick in the defensive end. Isn't overly physical in the corners, but was able to pick up loose pucks out of scrums and quickly dart a pass. Would've liked to see a little more snarl in the corners. He has smarts and shows very good tools in all aspects of the game. Makes a ton of very smart passes and moves that help his team transition up ice.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman



105

**VILLE HUSSO****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: HIFK (Liiga)****BORN: February 6, 1995****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 1.99 GAA .923 SP - SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Husso is very big at 6-foot-2 and thus covers a lot of the net naturally. He's also very quick and has great agility. Calm in net, stopping all the pucks you can ask him to. Working with minimal movements, the way it should be done, and never flailing around with his arms or legs, but just staying square. Not great quickness, but adequate, and is able to move fluidly in the crease both while on his feet and while in the butterfly. Shows excellent puck-handling abilities, even under pressure. Tends to look a little robotic in net at times. Husso sees shots through traffic very well and looks way more focused than he did last season. Husso's glove hand is solid as he can make a flashy save, robbing shooters of a high goal. Really impressed all season with his strong, consistent play in Finland's top men's league, the Liiga.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



108

**PIERRE ENGVALL****POSITION: Left/Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Frolunda J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: May 31, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 17 G 18 A 35 PTS 42 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Tall and lanky winger with very good poise. He has a very smooth acceleration and gets up to speed thanks to his long legs. Smooth and effective is also the description of his skating style in general; he's not very explosive or shifty, but plays with a very good pace and maintains a high speed throughout his shifts. At 6-foot-4, he is a very good skater. He doesn't have that superb vision you look for in a top-level playmaker, but he still gets the job done with good puck distribution, strong accuracy to his passes, and his excellent reach and size, which he uses to open up the ice. He's really calm and composed with the puck on his stick and slows the game down in a good way whenever he has the puck. He's got good reach and protects the puck well. He really seems to enjoy circling the offensive zone with the puck looking for open linemates, but probably needs to gain some strength. He's not a flashy stickhandler; his game seems to be more about reading the play and making simple, yet smart, plays while making the most out of his teammates. His development over the course of the season has been phenomenal. He's using his strengths more to his advantage, and has started to play more physically.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**109****YANNICK RATHGEB****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Plymouth (OHL)****BORN: October 24, 1995****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 27 G 14 A 21 PTS 48 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Rathgeb is a smooth skater who sees developing plays and reacts well. He is exceptionally strong on his feet; stops and starts and his backward skating is very good. He is balanced and has good overall mobility. He has a booming slap shot from the point that is on target and forces goalies to react. Rathgeb has an offensive mind, but does not neglect his defensive responsibilities. He makes simple passes to get the puck out of his end and is a gifted two-way defenseman. He leads the breakout and carries the puck up ice when he sees a lane. Rathgeb runs the power play very well, moving around a lot to keep passing lanes open and to create new ones. Always keeps his head up and can release a quick wrister as soon as he sees traffic. He pinches from the point when he sees that there is time and space to make something happen. He makes smart plays with the puck and displays a ton of determination as he doesn't back down without a fight. Rathgeb is not a flashy player, rather a simple and effective defenseman who gets the job done. He is consistent and not overly physical. His physicality comes in the form of battling along the wall and coming out with puck more so than laying a big check. He is very good in transition and quickly gets the puck back up ice.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Defenseman

**112****MATTHEW HIGHMORE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saint John (QMJHL)****BORN: February 27, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 19 G 31 A 50 PTS 62 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Highmore is an offensively gifted player with a good all-around game. He has good speed and doesn't need long to get up to full tilt. He is agile on his skates, and uses his edges well to change directions and maintain balance very effectively. He has good offensive instincts and an accurate shot with a quick release. He likes to stay moving at all times and doesn't hang on to the puck for very long if he doesn't have to. Highmore is very sneaky around the net and gets himself into solid position in the offensive zone. He could definitely use some added size and strength for puck battles and physical play. Defensively, he is far from perfect, but the fundamentals are in place as is the skating and defensive awareness. He keeps a very active stick in the process of defending and on the penalty kill. Highmore is not a very physical player at this point in time. He will go to the dirty areas when needed, but he needs to get bigger and stronger if he wants to win more physical battles for the puck. We see him as a raw talent who has a lot of upside if he can stay healthy and get stronger.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward

**110****DARBY LLEWELLYN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)****BORN: July 19, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 25 G 11 A 36 PTS 43 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Llewellyn is a hardworking, opportunistic scorer who is still defining the upside of his game. Generates solid speed and has good balance. Is hard to contain on the forecheck and plays an aggressive game, battling for space and pucks with a great compete level. Can be prone to making some costly turnovers when he tries to do too much and seemed to lack awareness at times. He has very good offensive positioning, always moving around and buzzing in the offensive zone, which makes it hard for other players to keep track of him while trying to defend against him. Has a hard and efficient shot, and can also make a solid pass to set up his teammates. Not overly creative hands as a north-south winger. Has a big frame with lots of room to fill out, and he needs to fill out quite a bit. He is very lanky looking, and hasn't yet grown into his legs and feet, which makes his skating stride very awkward looking. A long-term project who will take some time, but could become a solid find.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger

**113****BRANDON PROPHET****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saginaw (OHL)****BORN: June 3, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 2 G 17 A 19 PTS 72 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Prophet is a big, strong, stay-at-home defenseman. He skates well, but is not one to rush the puck up ice through defenders using shifty lateral dekes or quickness. Could improve his agility, but has good speed. He uses his feet and reach to maintain position in his own zone and keep the opposition out of dangerous scoring areas. He is at his best playing a safe, simple, defensive-minded game. Not creative with the puck and has simple hands. Prophet makes the safe pass with good accuracy and is simple, yet effective, with the puck. Can make a bad decision with the puck when he is under pressure as well as surprise you with a skilled play you do not see often from him. Where he really brings it is with his ability to use his frame and play a physical game. Not a big fighter, but will drop the gloves no matter how big or tough the opponent. Strong on the PK as he gets into lanes, block shots and clears the dangerous areas. Reads the play well and makes smart defensive decisions. A minute muncher who can log big minutes in all defensive situations. Not one we think will be a point producer at the next level, but fills the role of a physical, defensive-minded defender well.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**111****LOUIS BELPEDIO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: May 14, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 7 G 16 A 23 PTS 46 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** The top U.S. defenseman at the U18 tournament in April, Belpedio's game really solidified in the second half of the season and he is a riser for it. Belpedio is a very strong two-way player, with excellent offensive skills and awareness, as well as the ability to work as a shutdown player in his own end. Belpedio is a superb skater with tremendous foot-work and fluidity in his stride. He is powerful and balanced on his edges, and is superb when it comes to stopping and starting to quickly edge his way around pressure or to work his way in from the point with the puck. He is intelligent and cerebral at both ends of the ice, and is able to make strong plays with and without the puck. He does a great job at cutting the ice in half on forwards coming down the wing, and he steps up effectively to take away time, space and options. He closes players out with his physicality and can easily force a man off the puck with his strength. He also uses an effective defensive stick and takes away the slot on the PK. Belpedio handles the puck well on offense with above-average stick skills and good hockey sense. He makes a good first pass out of his zone and supports the offense well from the point, pinching at good times and getting involved. He has a hard wrist shot, but needs to work on getting it through to the net. Pretty solid on the PP as he is more of a shooter than puck mover.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**114****HAYDEN LAVIGNE****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Tri-City (USHL)****BORN: April 7, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 27 GP 7 W 13 L 0 SO 3.83 GAA .895 SV**

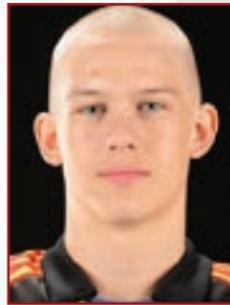
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Big goaltender who covers the net very well and has impressive quickness. He takes up a lot of net, and does a good job at increasing his net coverage even more by coming out of his crease aggressively to take his angle and take away net from shooters. He covers the lower half of the net with strong lateral speed and the ability to make himself big. He is speedy with a powerful push and covers the net very well down low. He positions his hands well, and has very good reflexes and reaction speed. He has a good, mobile glove and a strong blocker hand. He uses a quick stick in net to break up close plays, and he uses his mobility to play the puck out of his crease, something he does so well. He is smart in goal and very poised in big situations. His rebound control can use work, but he is pretty good at staying in position to take shots through traffic.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Project Starting Goaltender

**115****BRETT LERNOU****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)****BORN: September 24, 1995****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 8 G 14 A 22 PTS 103 PIM**

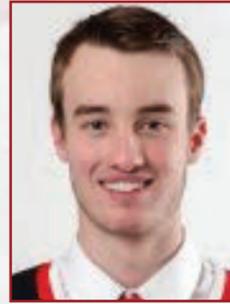
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Lernout is a big defenseman who plays a tough style. We really like how he defends his own zone, using his strength and frame to muscle guys to the outside. Doesn't run around chasing checks, but he calmly approaches and then buries his opponents against the boards. Showed very good improvement this season in his confidence with the puck. Lernout was very solid in the neutral zone, using patience and crisp execution to get the puck up ice. Very simple and very precise. Can get off some very hard shots on net. Prefers taking hard wrist shots, but can also let a huge slapper go when given time. He may not have huge offensive upside, but his ability to get hard shots on net and his ability to make simple passes accurately is encouraging. His skating is pretty good for a big guy. Very smooth on his feet and gets around using hard work rather than technical skating skills. Does not display any elite hockey sense, but does show poise with the puck and good positioning on the ice. He is a serviceable skater and has the raw physical tools to become a shutdown defenseman.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**118****OSKAR LINDBLOM****POSITION: Left/Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brynas J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: August 15, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 43 GP 13 G 20 A 33 PTS 28 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Lindblom is a simple player who plays a north-south, power forward's kind of game. He has a smooth stride that allows him to generate decent speed and power. Needs to work on foot speed, agility and acceleration as he looks painfully slow at times. He uses his body and reach to keep possession of the puck, and he also uses his size and strength to earn space on the walls and around the net. He isn't afraid to get involved and battle. He competes hard at both ends of the ice, and doesn't quit in the defensive zone. He can do a better job of getting his body in shot-blocking position; he does come out to challenge the shooters at the point, he just doesn't get his body into good position. He uses his stick well to force things defensively. High-level hockey sense, very good at identifying opportunities to intercept passes, pick pucks off opponents and positions himself well defensively in the neutral zone. Good work with the stick defensively, is strong and hard to control down around the net, and shows impressive puck-handling and passing skills and vision. He has solid pro potential. Really came on strong in the SuperElit playoffs.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**116****BRENT MORAN****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Niagara (OHL)****BORN: July 5, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 40 GP 3.85 GAA .891 SP 0 SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Moran is a quick, reflexive goalie who plays out at the top of his crease. He is quick laterally when in the butterfly, but lacks speed going side to side when upright. Moran covers the net well in all areas except for his five hole. His low and wide stance opens up his five hole considerably, and gives shooters a target to shoot at. In the butterfly, his five hole is closed off more, but when he stretches out to make a save, he leaves this area exposed. He recovers quickly and has a quick blocker. His glove hand lacks quickness, but he can come up big with glove saves at key times. Moran's rebound control and ability to cover pucks are also areas that need improvement. He challenges shooters well and is a very determined goalie. However, after allowing a goal he is slow to recover and to regain composure. Moran holds his ground very well and is a strong goalie. He reads plays extremely well and knows where to be for an incoming shot. He has quick legs as he kicks the puck away, but is sometimes forced to make desperation saves. His athleticism is very high and he is very flexible. Moran moves and tracks the puck well, even when being screened and through traffic. He is square to shooters, but will need to tighten up his body when getting set for a shot. Despite being a raw talent, over the season, his play has been very consistent and he has shown significant improvement.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** NHL Backup Goaltender

**119****CHRISTIAN DVORAK****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: London (OHL)****BORN: February 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 6 G 8 A 14 PTS 0 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A skilled offensive-minded forward. Has a very good set of wheels and is extremely agile on his feet. Has creative hands and the ability to make dazzling one-on-one moves. Finds open spots in the offensive zone and has solid offensive instincts, knowing what to do with the puck and where to get to without it. Is an underrated playmaker with impressive vision and touch. Lacks strength to be overly effective along the wall, but tries to win pucks with his quick stick. Not afraid to drive the net, but will need to learn to play in traffic better than he does as he hangs out on the perimeter too often. Very impressive on the third and fourth lines. Saw limited ice time in London this season before suffering a season-ending ACL injury. Will get a larger offensive role for the Hunters Knights before too long. Could be a sleeper pick if he continues to develop.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**117****ALEXIS PEPIN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Gatineau (QMJHL)****BORN: April 24, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 230 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 17 G 17 A 34 PTS 69 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big-body power forward with some offensive upside. Doesn't have the speed to beat defenders one on one, but he can protect the puck very well, finding a way to make a play off the rush on occasions. He's an average skater with slow feet and below-average acceleration. Lateral movement is awful; one head fake and he misses the check. Once he gets to full speed, he can be hard to stop because of his puck protection and heavy body. His physicality is impressive as he is able to dominate play and just throw people into the boards. When he is on his game, he is a handful in front of the net, screening the goaltender or deflecting the puck. He shows off a solid shot, and even can distribute the puck and make a play. Defensively, there is a lot of work to be done. While his play picked up after a trade to Gatineau at mid-season, this kid will need to hit the gym hard and work on drastically improving his conditioning and his foot speed.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Power Winger

**120****JUHO LAMMIKKO****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Assat U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: January 1, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 37 GP 17 G 25 A 42 PTS 32 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Lammikko is a big, lanky forward who doesn't have the greatest feet or skating ability, but picks up speed coming down the wing or when busting down the middle of the ice with the puck. He has a powerful drive to the net, and he likes to drive his way to the goal off the rush. He is tough to stop when he dips his shoulder and moves in. He has a strong handle on the puck, using his body to protect it effectively. He isn't the most creative player, but he has a couple of tricks up his sleeve with the puck. Lammikko is strong around the net, and he will find scoring chances around the slot. He also has a hard wrist shot coming off the rush, which he likes to use. He has solid passing skills, and sees the ice well from the rush and below the goal. Lammikko is a competitive player, and he will get involved on the walls and in the corners to battle for puck possession. He isn't the greatest defensive player, but he comes back and provides an honest effort. We think he has some pro upside. Big and skilled.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**121****MICHAEL AMADIO****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: North Bay (OHL)****BORN: May 13, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 12 G 26 A 38 PTS 14 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A gritty, two-way playmaker who really showed solid improvement toward the end of his season. Needs to work on his first few steps as he can be a little slow off the mark, but once he gets going, he generates some impressive speed. Has a deceptively quick stick and can make a defender look foolish if he gives him too much time and space. Has impressive vision and makes some high-end skilled passes. Dangerous off the rush and getting better at the cycle game. Has really improved his board work, and uses his strength and size to win those 50/50 battles with more consistency. Is poised and dangerous with the puck on his stick. Needs to work on his defensive consistency as he can shut down a top offensive foe one game and barely touch the defensive zone the next.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Center

**122****JULIO BILLIA****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Chicoutimi (QMJHL)****BORN: March 12, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 3.52 GAA.894 SP 0 SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Billia is a very athletic butterfly stopper with the ability to keep control while swimming and making that desperation save. Very quick moving laterally both while on his feet and while standing up. Jumps out to the top of his crease aggressively to cut down angles and is very active moving around. Impressive glove hand that is lightning fast, and he makes highlight-reel saves. Is strong at making those last-ditch effort stops, blocking deflections and staying focused on shots that bounce off multiple bodies. Keeps his posture high so he does not leave too much open up high, and uses his stick and blocker to move the puck away from danger. The big knock is an obvious one, his size. He is a throwback to the quick, Manny Legace-style stopper who relies on athleticism and reflexes as he does not have the height or width to be a puck blocker like so many tenders are today.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Backup NHL Goaltender

**123****RICHARD NEJEZCHLEB****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brandon (WHL)****BORN: May 2, 1994****VITALS: 6'-2" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 32 G 25 A 57 PTS 75 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Nejezchleb is a big forward who can really get moving in a hurry. Has a high skating posture and long strides that make him dangerous in open ice. He is a very skilled forward who has good stick-handling skills. With time, Nejezchleb has become more confident to experiment with a broad selection of moves. Creativity and ability with the puck are impressive. He has a quality wrist shot that he can get off quickly and with good velocity. He seldom uses his slap shot in situations. He is a quality puck mover, and has good vision that he uses to create high-quality chances for his teammates while showing little hesitation. The main downfall to his skill game is that he sometimes tries to be too crafty instead of making a simple play. He is beginning to use his body more, becoming a monster along the boards by outmuscling and outwitting opponents. His checking game leaves a lot to be desired. He takes some questionable routes to pucks at times, and due to his high posture, he tends to get his hands up when making contact, putting himself at risk of taking bad penalties. His defensive game is still evolving as well.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Character Forward

**124****RYAN HITCHCOCK****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: March 30, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 12 G 37 A 49 PTS 10 PIMS**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** The undersized Hitchcock has his doubters, but the hard-working, skilled winger has the hockey sense and ability to overcome his size. Hitchcock is a quick-moving forward with a quick stride and strong acceleration. He is agile on edges and able to avoid pressure when he has the puck. Hitchcock has displayed talented stick skills during the season, but unless a play calls for it, he won't stray from simplicity to risk losing the puck on a skill move. Hitchcock sees the ice very well with the puck and is a highly effective playmaker. His decision-making process is a quick one, and sometimes the puck is on his stick for only a second or two. He finds his options quickly and makes the play. He is an accurate, crisp passer and his teammates thrive when playing with him. Hitchcock also carries a hard, accurate wrist shot that he'll use when set up in the circles. Hitchcock also brings a dimension to his game that some skill player like, which is a never-ending will to compete and win the play that he is involved in. He ignores his size and digs into corners for the puck, and he pursues the puck hard on the forecheck. He supports his teammates effectively in all zones and knows where to be when he isn't on the puck. Hitchcock is strong defensively and was an effective PKer for the U.S. He positions well in the defensive zone and takes his man effectively. He does a good job getting between lanes and taking away chances from the point and half boards.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward

**125****PAVEL JENYS****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brno (Cze-Ex)****BORN: April 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 192 Lbs****STATS: 29 GP 2 G 0 A 2 PTS 4 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Jenyš is a big forward who looked amazing early on this season, but a lack of ice time in the Extraliga eventually hurt him more than expected. Looks like they should have kept him among juniors. Anyway, he's a force when he's on the ice, and he's got that kind of vision. He looks like he just knows what to do and when to do it. You'd expect him to be a great passer, but that's not the case as he's a shoot-first forward. His shot is a real great one with top-notch velocity and accuracy, one of the best I've seen all year. Even though he's not the best puckhandler, he's a pretty effective carrier who uses his size to his advantage. That also makes him stand out while off the puck in areas in front of the net or along the boards. Defensively, he needs to step up. He can do it, but it looks like he doesn't want to do it all the time. His character is questionable, but when he wants to, he can really make a difference. Proper motivation is the key when it comes to him.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Fourth-Line Character Forward

**126****STEFAN LEBLANC****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Mississauga (OHL)****BORN: March 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 5 G 23 A 28 PTS 26 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** LeBlanc is an impressive puck-moving defender with solid upside. He is a fluid skater who possesses good speed. He is a little slow in pivoting and needs to work on his backward skating. He skates exceptionally well when he has the puck on his stick and he protects it effectively. LeBlanc makes a good outlet pass and his timing is impeccable. He can receive a grenade pass from a teammate and quickly recover it. He gives a nice saucer pass that is in time and very accurate. His shot is a little weak while he is in motion, but he has a great one-timer from the point. He jumps in on the rush when he sees the time and space to do so. He gets shots and passes through small lanes in traffic. He is very strong on the puck and has great vision. LeBlanc's weakness is defending to the outside as he gets beat by opponents who go wide with speed and drive the net because of his weak pivots. If caught in the offensive or neutral zone, he has the wheels to get back to break up scoring chances. He does a great job of tying up his man and maintains his composure under pressure. LeBlanc leads the breakout and does not stand still after making a pass, instead following it up and getting to open ice. He has some areas of his game to work on and strength to add, but the raw tools are there.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Defenseman

**127****EDWIN MINNEY****POSITION: Goalie****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: March 29, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 17 GP 12 W 3 L 1 OTL 1 SO 2.63**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A sound goaltender in terms of his positioning, Minney has good size and is very calm in net. Minney stole the show for the U.S. in goal this season, and had a strong, impressive season that boosted him up the rankings. He challenges shooters nicely and plays aggressively on his angles, taking space nicely from shooters. He is a strong goaltender at this age in terms of his ability to stay sharp and gets his body in position to make a save. He is fairly mobile in his crease, and has decent footwork and quickness. He sets well and has above-average lateral speed, but will use his size to his advantage in order to take up space when he gets low. His rebound control is solid and he does a good job swallowing pucks. He reads the play well in net and anticipates nicely. He positions his hands well, and has an effective blocker and mobile glove. He has issues handling and playing the puck at times and that needs work.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Project Starting Goaltender

**128****JONI TUULOLA****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HPK U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: January 1, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 8 G 16 A 24 PTS 34 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Tuulola is a two-way defenseman with good vision and puck-moving abilities. He makes nice reads in the defensive zone with the puck and doesn't have much trouble there. He plays a very calm game, which you don't see too much from rookies, especially defensemen. What really stands out to us is his skating, which seems to have improved quite a lot this season. Smooth skater for his size with good transitions and backward skating. Impresses with his passing game and stickhandling ability as well. Obviously, he needs to add some more muscle and improve his physical game, since he tries to defend by using his stick and positioning rather than by playing the body. Although Tuulola has good size, he does not hit or check and lacks any toughness in the corners. Tuulola is calm with the puck, and makes some good and accurate passes. He also joins the rush and shows an ability to deke defenders and protect the puck. Tuulola has quick and heavy point shots, but his accuracy could be better. He does a decent job on the power play, distributing the puck and creating chances with a nice side step before getting off his shot under pressure.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Blueliner

**129****TANNER MACMASTER****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Camrose (AJHL)****BORN: January 8, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 155 Lbs****STATS: 48 GP 11 G 29 A 40 PTS 62 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A smaller forward, MacMaster relies on his high-level hockey sense and quick decision-making skills to control the game. His anticipation and awareness are so much better than anyone else's on the ice. Despite his lack of strength, he does well in the corners, weaving in and out of pressure and controlling the puck. When he is in battles, he makes a good effort to fight through, but with little success. Shows very good skating ability, using his edges to change direction and showing the acceleration to constantly push forward on the attack. His first-step quickness allows him to control the cycle and leave the opposition constantly chasing him around the zone. Likes to carry the puck around the offensive zone, which at times leaves you begging him to simplify things, but when successful, he forces the opposing defense to shift positions and really be on their heels. Doesn't throw his weight around, although he doesn't have much to work with. However, he is very chatty after the whistle. A Boston College commit who will need to spend just as much time in the weight room as he does in class.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Forward

**130****DOMINIK MASIN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Slavia Prague U20 (Cze-U20)****BORN: February 1, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 194 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 3 G 20 A 23 PTS 135 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Captain of the U18 national team who spent the entire year among juniors, where he was able to use his size fully and develop with as much ice time as they get. He is a stay-at-home defenseman who doesn't really fail when he goes to the blue line, but his offensive upside doesn't go beyond the fact that his shot is hard and a bit accurate. His passes are just okay and so is his carrying of the puck. In his own zone, you will see him use both his stick and his large frame to steal pucks from opponent's sticks. He's the guy who will do the hard work back there and protect his goaltender as much as possible. He's a hard worker and has good leadership abilities. He likes to get into the rough stuff if an opponent crosses the line and he feels the need to do something.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Stay-at-Home Defenseman

**131****ALEX PETERS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Plymouth (OHL)****BORN: July 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 3 G 6 A 9 PTS 44 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Peters is a strong, defensive-minded rearguard. He is a very good skater who covers a lot of ground in the defensive zone. His ability to start and stop comes in very handy against quicker forwards. Peters is a solid shot blocker who sacrifices his body regularly in shooting lanes. He plays a very physical brand of defense, eliminating his checks along the wall or to the ice with his strong frame. Finishes his checks well and steps in for his teammates when need be. He isn't afraid of anyone, and showed a willingness to go toe to toe with the league's toughest fighters when needed. For being such a big guy, you would expect better, but he has just an average slap shot. He also does not have the creativity and poise with the puck to rush it up ice. He showed next to zero creativity or ambition to be a playmaker, but he never loses possession of the puck either. He's not the type of player who will spend much time on the puck. His job is mainly to defend and to win battles. Once that is done, he'll play the safe pass out and then support his teammates in case they need help. Peters is able to anticipate where the play will be and get there in time to prevent the play from developing. Good guy to have out on the PK, very effective. Has an active stick; good on the poke check. Very hard worker and never takes a shift off.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**132****DREW VOGLER****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Topeka (NAHL)****BORN: July 22, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 10 W 9 L 2 SOL 3 SO 2.30 GAA .904 SV**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Steady and consistent, Vogler was one of the more impressive goaltenders seen this season with his ability to step in the nets and just play a solid game. He has average size, but uses what he has effectively in net. He positions soundly in goal, and covers his angles and his crease very well. He comes out aggressively to challenge shooters and does a good job staying strong in the net and holding his position well. Very balanced and strong on his skates, he moves around quickly to set up for shots. He is strong when moving laterally, making his body big and taking up the net. He has a strong push and gets post to post quickly. He has strong rebound control and is able to stop play by covering the puck. He swallows it in his chest, and tracks shots through traffic impressively. He has good hands, with a quick glove and mobile blocker. Vogler has a confident, poised way about him in net that seems to compose his team around him. His posture is strong and his awareness for the game is impressive. He plays the puck fairly well and communicates well with his defensemen.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Project Starting Goaltender



133

**WARREN FOEGELE****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: St. Andrews College (CAHS)****BORN: April 1, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 58 G 49 A 107 PTS 67 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A smooth-skating offensive winger at the high school level. Able to use his speed and quickness to generate chances. Has soft hands and a strong shot, as well as solid vision and playmaking abilities. He's the complete offensive threat. Thinks the game and reads the play well. Needs work on his shot release, and getting it off quicker and at different release points to continue success shooting at higher-level, more skilled puckstoppers. This kid makes you believe in him when you see him play as he works hard and is involved all over the ice. Not physical at all, turns away from the big hit and does not like the rough stuff too much. Kid has some intriguing talent though. Problem is that since Foegele played at such a low level of hockey and he is so raw and unrefined, it is hard to see the finished product. Will his ability to think the game maintain at quicker-paced leagues? He will need considerable time before an NHL team knows what they finally have in this kid.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Forward

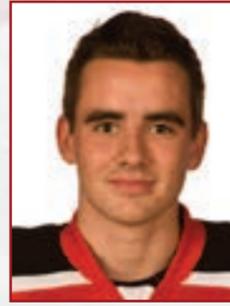


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**GAVIN BAYREUTHER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: St. Lawrence (NCAA)****BORN: May 12, 1994****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 38 GP 9 G 27 A 36 PTS 20 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An average-sized, smooth-skating blueliner with good offensive instincts. He moves around the ice really well, with solid agility and all-encompassing mobility. He pivots and transitions well. Has a decent top gear, but not the speed to blow by opponents. He likes to join the rush and leads the attack himself when lanes are there to do so. He makes a very impressive first pass and sees the ice well. Hits his forwards in stride on the breakout and puts them in position to make plays. His short-range or touch passes are also areas that aid his team's attack. Has soft hands and is effective at carrying the puck up ice and into the offensive zone. Is a real asset to a power play as he uses all his offensive tools to control and distribute the puck and displays a strong shot that he gets to the net consistently. His strength is an area that needs improvement as is his defensive play. Lacks physical play and does not use his frame well.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Blueliner



134

**CODY DONAGHEY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Quebec (QMJHL)****BORN: May 10, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 9 G 29 A 38 PTS 24 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An offensive-minded blueliner who is best when moving the puck up ice with a good first pass. Skates very well and although he does not blow by people regularly, he is more of a smooth skater who pivots and transitions well moving fluidly around the ice. Handles the puck with skilled hands, showing some solid creativity and the ability to protect it while gaining the offensive zone. Lacks poise in his own zone as he is prone to making the odd brutal turnover by not being hard enough clearing the puck from danger in his own zone. Plays the power play effectively as both puck distributor and triggerman with his solid slap shot. Has good vision and the skill to place precision passes on the tape of teammates breaking out. Communicates well with both his defensive partner and his goaltender. Lacks a physical element to his game, although not due to a lack of size. He gets caught reaching in with his stick too often when he should be separating attackers from the puck with a shoulder. A raw, but still developing prospect.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Blueliner

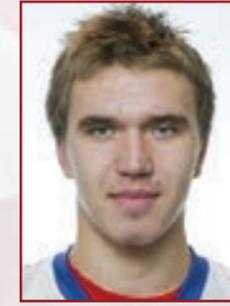


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**NICK WOLFF****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Eagan High (USHS)****BORN: July 21, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 23 GP 8 G 12 A 20 PTS 46 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Wolff is a big, nasty, mean defenseman. He plays a very physical, shut-down game. He does a good job using his great size to his advantage when defending in the zone. He is very physical, especially in front of the net and below the goal line. He is also very willing to throw his weight around in open ice and drop the gloves. He uses his big frame and long reach well to defend. While most of his defensive play is solid, the one weakness he has is defending on the rush against faster, shiftier forwards. He needs to improve his foot quickness to be better defending one on one. Offensively, there is a little upside there. He is willing to jump up on the rush if needed and looks fairly comfortable doing so. He has the ability to make a solid first pass out of the zone. When he is in the offensive zone, he is throwing everything at the net. The puck is not on his stick very long before it's headed toward the goal, and he shows the ability to get the puck through everyone and on net a majority of the time. He skates pretty well in a straight line, but he needs to improve his foot speed and quickness to be successful moving forward.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Physical Blueliner



135

**NIKITA TRYAMKIN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Automobilist Yekaterinburg (KHL)****BORN: August 30, 1994****VITALS: 6'-7" / 230 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 1 G 6 A 7 PTS 38 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A towering, behemoth defender who is intimidating to come down on as an attacker, not only because of the threat of physical harm due to his imposing size, but because he has the reach and the wingspan of a wandering albatross. He will rub attackers out along the wall and bury them when they try to drive toward the net. He is not just a beast though as he reads the play and adjusts his coverage, keeping solid gaps and blocking his share of shots. His skating is an area that could improve as he possesses solid speed, but like all bigger defenders, he turns and corners wide. His shot is arguably the best in this draft class as it would go head to head with Shea Weber's. Makes solid, yet simple passes, but lacks high-end creativity with the puck. Plays close to 20 minutes a game in the KHL and is effective while doing so.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Defender



138

**LIAM PECARARO****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Waterloo (USHL)****BORN: April 6, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 20 G 41 A 61 PTS 14 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Pecararo poured on the goals and assists for a strong Waterloo team this season, helping them back into the Clark Cup Finals. Pecararo is a high-skill, high-compete player who has some impressive upside. Pecararo is a very strong skater, with explosive speed and quickness going end to end with the puck. He has powerful crossovers, and is able to drive wide around defensemen and find open space with his acceleration. He is also crisp on his edges and able to elude pressure. Pecararo has a pretty strong handle on the puck, accepting passes in stride and using his impressive stick skills to get by the defense. He won't go crazy with the puck, but he'll make the necessary move to get around his opposition. Pecararo has very strong eyes when the puck is on his stick. He sees the ice as well as anyone in his draft year and made some real impressive assists during the season. Pecararo distributes the puck very effectively, locating lanes and seams through pressure and making the play. He will often set up down low on the PP and create plays from below the goal line. Pecararo also owns a quick wrist shot with decent release speed, and he will find space around the net for chances as well. He is a hard-working player who understands his role defensively. He comes back hard with the play and does an effective job at stealing lanes with his stick and getting his body in position to take the shot. He knows how to play the half boards and get his stick in play to take the point away. He has played PK with Waterloo. Pecararo isn't afraid to get involved physically, but this is where he has some downfall. He needs to add some muscle to his frame and he needs to become a tougher player to play against physically to help him get to that next level.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Playmaking Winger

**139****MAXIM LETUNOV****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Youngstown (USHL)****BORN: February 20, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 150 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 19 G 24 A 43 PTS 42 PIM**

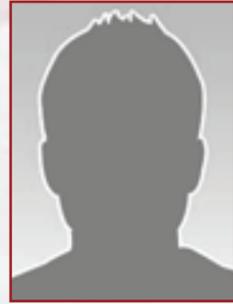
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Letunov is a lanky center who needs to still grow into his body. He lacks strength and will be pushed off the puck easily by bigger opponents. Once he adds muscle, he will become a very dangerous player as he has the skill to put up numbers at the pro level. Letunov is nifty with quick hands, an explosive shot and strong passing skills. He handles the passes well, but needs to build strength to be more effective against bigger defenders. He takes advantage of easier defensive targets and driving the net from an outside lane. He likes to attempt power moves. Letunov has good stick skills and creativity, and he likes to open space with a quick toe drag before firing off a quick, heavy wrister or before setting up a teammate with a crisp feed off the rush. He gets the puck off his stick quickly however is easiest: shot or pass. He works hard to get the puck off his stick. Letunov doesn't make a huge issue of going into the corners, but again, added muscle is a must. Letunov's skating and defensive play are two areas of his game that progressed during the year. He is more balanced on his skates, but needs to improve his foot quickness and his first few steps. Defensively, Letunov has shown more understanding and his defensive effort in February was much stronger than it was in September. He still has a few learning years left before making the leap to the pros.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Center

**142****CHASE PHELPS****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Shattuck St. Mary's Prep (USHS)****BORN: April 26, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 24 G 42 A 66 PTS 46 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A good-sized, "heady" forward, Phelps plays a very reliable 200-foot game with the ability to play both wings and some center, and in plenty of situations on the ice. Phelps is very versatile and could make a living in the NHL as a shutdown player with his strong defensive sense and play. Phelps powers his way up and down the ice, always making an effort to retreat defensively and support in his own end. Phelps is a powerful skater with a strong, long stride, and he builds speed quickly with impressive acceleration that he'll use to catch a man on the backcheck. Phelps is extremely smart and has a high IQ for hockey. He does a great job taking away the neutral zone and shutting down lanes and options. He uses an active stick in all zones to prevent lane usage and to pickpocket pucks as he comes back with the play. He'll also use his body to nudge a man off the puck once catching up to them. Phelps was a key PKer this season and knows the defensive game very well. He takes his man effectively in his own end, and closes lanes and options well. He takes a center's shutdown role in his own end if needed. Phelps has some intriguing offensive skill as well. He protects the puck well with his body and is very strong over it when pressure comes his way. He sees the ice well, and does a solid job at finding lanes quickly and making a crisp, accurate feed. He doesn't try to do too much and is smart to keep his team in possession. He handles passes with a strong stick and is able to keep stride while taking a pass. He has a quick shot with impressive power and accuracy behind it. His offensive upside may not be as great as his defensive and physical play, but there is some intriguing talent to Phelps.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third-Line Shutdown Forward

**140****TOMAS HAVLIN****POSITION: Defence****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Liberec U20 (Cze-U20)****BORN: July 13, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 192 Lbs****STATS: 40 GP 3 G 12 A 15 PTS 49 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Body-checking defenseman with the ability to go on the offense at times. He sure has some offensive upside, although he's been rather defensive for a couple years already. He's quite a good skater, even though he's not the fastest one. But he is strong on his skates. His technique isn't the best, but it's good for the role he plays. Simple passes are perfect and the more difficult ones are not in his playbook. His shot is hard and quite accurate, but not a marvel. What you love about him, however, is his hitting. Havlin is a master at that and he knows how to properly stop you with his body whatever your move on him is. He sure uses his body more frequently than his stick back in his own zone, but that doesn't mean he can't use the stick right. His character is great. He's as mean as they come and also kind of overprotective when it comes to his teammates, especially the goalie. That can sometimes hurt his team as he's given an extra minor. But he's a hard worker and a quick learner, too.

NHL POTENTIAL: Depth Defenseman

**143****KEEGAN IVERSON****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Portland (WHL)****BORN: April 5, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 22 G 20 A 42 PTS 70 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A power forward with excellent balance and strength. He's a thundering skater who can get up and going, although his first two steps are not blazing, and he is tough to knock off his path. He's 216 pounds and still looks skinny, which tells us he can fill out to be quite the load. He handles the puck well on the rush, but he does struggle in tight situations. He has adequate, but not close to high-level hockey sense and good skills with regard to passing. He does not thread the needle to spring unexpected breakaways, but he is able to make excellent skilled, hard passes. He's got an adequate wrist shot and slap shot, but they take too long to get off his stick. He needs improvement to be quicker to grab loose pucks and fire them. He's a heavy player and he uses his weight well. He doesn't seem to always seek out big hits, but he finishes checks well and in a productive manner. He doesn't lose his cool and take emotional hits, but uses his body to separate the player from the puck. He also doesn't punish players in vulnerable positions. He is just adequate defensively, and could be a lot better. He's got good instincts, an excellent hockey frame and a long, active stick.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Power Forward

**141****JAEDON DESCHENEAU****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kootenay (WHL)****BORN: February 22, 1995****VITALS: 5'-9" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 70 GP 44 G 54 A 98 PTS 54 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A small and highly skilled forward who plays an up-tempo game. Has added a lot of intensity to his game over the offseason. Gained some weight and looks bigger out there despite only being 5-foot-9. Hands are very good and he plays with a ton of flair. Sometimes tries a little too hard to beat guys one on one rather than making a quick pass or simple chip. Doesn't always go to the greasy areas, but he knows what he has to do to score goals and he showed that plenty this season. Dangerous within five feet of the net. Not an overly committed defensive player. His line was very offensively oriented and Descheneau is usually the first player darting up ice. Size limits his effectiveness in the corners, but he works hard. Vision and hockey sense are very good. Plays a high-skill game and has very good smarts, but his lack of size hurts his game more than it should. He doesn't play that big, but has had a big year offensively. We have concerns about his off-ice attitude.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger

**144****ANDREW MANGIAPANE****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Barrie (OHL)****BORN: April 4, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 160 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 24 G 27 A 51 PTS 28 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An undersized, but skilled offensive forward. Always seems to be in the right place to capitalize on an offensive opportunity. Skates well with a fluid stride that generates solid speed. Is agile on his feet, quickly darting in and around opponents with the puck on his stick, but could improve his strength on his feet as he gets knocked around when he engages in physical battles. As an OHL rookie free agent find, he was impressively consistent in his effort and offensive contributions. Sees the ice extremely well, making skilled and creative passes. Mangiapane is a smart player both with and without the puck. Defensively, he plays a smart positional game with plenty of effort. Has a decent shot that has a good release and is pinpoint accurate, but could use added velocity. He works hard to win pucks despite his lack of size and strength, one area in which he will need to make drastic improvements before he can think about the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**145****FRANCIS PERRON****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)****BORN: April 18, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 16 G 39 A 55 PTS 32 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Perron is a small-framed, but skilled player. He is a really good skater, agile and shifty, not really powerful though and doesn't have very good balance. Because of his frame, he is not a physical player. He will finish a check, but it doesn't impact the game at all. He's not the kind of guy to engage and he tries to avoid being hit as well. He plays at the point on the power play, where he displays really good, quick hands and nice vision. He can make good, accurate saucer passes and touch passes. Puts the puck into open space for teammates ahead of them being open, and can do so with pressure in his face. He has yet to find that shift-to-shift consistency, but has some flashes each and every game. He can finish plays as well as set them up. He is not a goal scorer per se as his shot is accurate, but not very hard. Perron is the kind of skilled guy who can become a late bloomer if he adds more weight and strength to his frame. He has a good skill set, but the transition to the next level is a question mark due to his size.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Playmaking Winger

**148****DANIEL MUZITO BAGENDA****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: MODO J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: June 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 15 G 7 A 22 PTS 48 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Daniel has got a big body and some nice hands to complement. He's got decent overall skating as well. Generates healthy speed that really stands out during a rush or a counter attack. Could work on his first-step quickness. Provides much-needed grit for his MODO J20 team. Is a load to handle once he gains a head of steam and drives his way to specific areas of the ice. Has a good shot that has nice velocity, but could improve its accuracy and consistency. Raw talent and will need to put it all together. He's really built with a ripped physique so it would be much easier to imagine him as an NFL prospect. Most of the time, you'll find him on the doorstep where he makes lives of opposing netminders miserable. If a defenseman doesn't fear him and tries to play physically against him, this guy won't move, but will likely get into a wrestling match instead. Shows signs of good vision, but also has inconsistencies in his playmaking ability. Responsible defensively as he plays a full 200-foot game. Has the potential to become a solid two-way forward in the NHL.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Character Winger

**146****BRANDON MONTOUR****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Waterloo (USHL)****BORN: April 11, 1994****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 14 G 48 A 62 PTS 36 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** In his third year of NHL-draft eligibility, Montour had his breakthrough season. He is an offensive-defenseman, plain and simple. He is an explosive skater with quick, powerful feet and strong acceleration with the puck. He escapes pressure calmly and confidently, and has seemingly no worries with the puck. He likes to get involved in the rush and will jump in time and time again. He will often lead the play with the puck on his stick, and weave his way end to end with the puck before getting it deep. Montour has his head up at all times with the puck, and is able to avoid hits and move through aggressive defenders with his speed and edge control. Montour sees the ice well and has a good awareness of his teammates. At times, he can be a little selfish with the puck, but he'll find his teammate with a hard, accurate pass. Montour has a strong point shot that he gets off quickly and fairly accurately when it gets through. Montour will take chances from the point and get involved deep in the zone. He plays an aggressive brand of hockey and will sometimes chase the puck defensively. The structure in his game has been questioned in the past, but there were some improvements to his defensive game this season. He uses his stick effectively to get into lanes, and he will use his body when he needs to in order to take a player off the puck. His compete level on defense can improve at times.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Offensive Defenseman

**149****ALEX LINTUNIEMI****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)****BORN: September 23, 1995****VITALS: 6'-3" / 225 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 4 G 17 A 21 PTS 26 PIM**

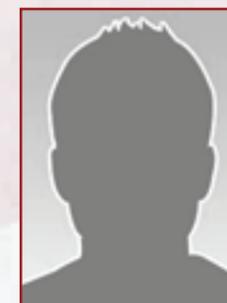
**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big, two-way rearguard with some offensive upside. Lintuniemi is a smooth skater who transitions well. He lacks top-end speed, but is very balanced on his feet. He handles the puck well, but often loses control when he is at top speed. He does not have the fastest nor most creative hands with the puck, but has the ability to pull the odd deke. He is exceptionally good at protecting the puck by using his body and reach. He makes a sharp, crisp, accurate pass on the breakout. Lintuniemi moves around the point very well, giving him the ability to get into a position for a scoring chance. He has a very hard shot from the point and loves to join the rush. Uses his body to separate players from the puck. He battles very hard, but is sometimes caught out of position due to his attempts to throw a hit. A hard checker who crushes his opponents. He shows great determination and willingness to go into gritty areas, and does enjoy success by separating opponents from the puck. Lintuniemi makes smart decisions with the puck and anticipates game situations well. He is not afraid to block shots and challenges shooters. He can have moments when he loses position and can get caught chasing his check. This kid has some untapped offensive potential.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**147****BRANDON HALVERSON****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: March 29, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 19 GP 2.96 GAA .904 SP 2 SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A large butterfly stopper with more room to fill out on his lanky frame. Is very reactionary with solid reflexes. Uses height to see through traffic and track pucks. Is poised in the net and is very strong when he secures the puck; a battler who does not let the puck get away from him once he has captured it in his glove or under his pad. Strong technically with a tight five hole. His blocker and glove are also strengths. Halverson is a very good communicator with the defensemen and typically handles the puck well. Needs to be more aggressive in his crease and get to the top of the blue paint, where he'll take up even more of the net. Would benefit his game to be more active and clear pucks within his reach or use his stick to poke check. Positioning is still a work in progress as he could challenge shooters more by coming out further, but with his size and in this league, he can get away with sitting deeper in the crease. Doesn't give shooters much to see though because of his huge frame. He shows a willingness to play the puck and handles it well most of the time, but can get in trouble at times when he tries to do too much with it.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Project Goaltender

**150****JOHAN GRONQUIST****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brynas J18 (J18 Allsvenskan)****BORN: January 5, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 11 GP 0 G 10 A 10 PTS 4 PIM**

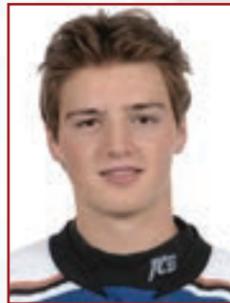
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Extremely talented, but still lots to work on and a little bit all over the place. Skilled with the puck, some of the softest hands on a defenseman in this age group and very effective from the point on the power play, despite not having the big shot. Offensive awareness is excellent and he distributes the puck really well while being a mobile point man. Good, powerful skating stride and very effective in all aspects when it comes to moving the puck from his own end, most commonly using smart, quick passes, but also is a good puck carrier. Will need a lot of fine tuning on his defensive game as he stares at the puck and gets caught out of position. He also has some problems sorting out where to be and who to cover, and shows issues with gap control as well. Comes from a lower level of play in terms of skill and smarts, but not physique, having played in a men's league for a large part of the year. OK size and strength at this level, but obviously needs to keep improving in this area as well as with all the other parts of his defensive game to be able to contribute at the pro level. Would need for him to work on his shot to be a complete offensive threat. Strong in transition and moves the puck effectively. Been taking big steps forward with great development throughout the year.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Blueliner

**151****ALEKSANDAR MIKULOVICH****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Niagara (OHL)****BORN: July 1, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 7 G 7 A 14 PTS 57 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Mikulovich is a raw, two-way, physical defender. A good skater who is strong on his feet making him hard to knock off the play. He has an upright skating style, often having his knees locked, but he is very mobile and has fluid movements in transition. He skates backward exceptionally well and has good gap control with oncoming attackers. Mikulovich sees the ice well and makes crisp passes to his teammates. His passing is accurate and his timing is almost perfect. He makes smart decisions with the puck, especially through the neutral zone, distributing it with ease. He has a hard, accurate shot that he uses wisely while helping to quarterback the IceDogs' power play. He can lead the rush with his combination of decent hands and awareness with the puck. Mikulovich plays a physical game and is reliable in the defensive zone. He still has work to do to improve the consistency of his physicality, but he is more than willing to take a hit to make a play. His compete level is always improving and he plays better with more minutes. He angles opponents off the puck and plays a strong positional game in the defensive zone. A bit of a project, but could turn into a solid professional if given the time.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defender

**154****LUKE PHILP****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kootenay (WHL)****BORN: November 6, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 31 G 46 A 77 PTS 31 PIM**

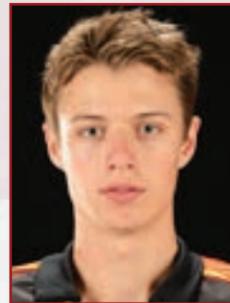
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Philp is a good player who has enjoyed a lot of offensive success this season. He is a skilled forward who always seems to be in a good position to affect the play. Philp is typically a pass-first type player, but shows he can really shoot the puck when he chooses to do so. Scores using a quick release. Makes smart plays with the puck and opts for the simple decision over forcing a pass through traffic. His stride has improved substantially this season as he generates solid speed in a shorter amount of time after starting out the season looking a little sluggish. Is a good puck carrier who is equally as comfortable with the puck as he is without it. Lacks the pure size and strength to steal position on the ice, but he works hard and goes to the areas he has to for chances. Is solid defensively, but nothing overly dominant or impactful. Showed he has the versatility to play both the wing and the center positions.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward

**152****RYAN FOSS****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Windsor (OHL)****BORN: January 27, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 58 GP 13 G 19 A 32 PTS 10 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Foss is a tall, lanky center who has a solid work ethic and decent skating stride, although he could work on improving his burst and acceleration. Foss wasn't given heavy minutes over the course of the season, but when he was on the ice, he didn't look out of place. Foss was inconsistent at times this season, but also showed flashes of his upside as a big, hardworking playmaker. He was willing to go into the dirty areas of the ice to make plays. Foss has been a nice story for the Spits, signing as a free agent and contributing in a rebuilding season. He needs to become more confident with the puck and take his time to make plays instead of trying to force things. Foss could also benefit from filling out a bit, adding strength and putting some weight on his large frame. Could become a solid, two-way center down the road, especially if the Spits allow him to get a bit more ice time. Can tell that he is the type of player who works hard at developing his game as he has already progressed a significant amount since the beginning of the season.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Playmaking Center

**155****JONAS JOHANSSON****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Brynas J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: September 19, 1995****VITALS: 6'-4" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 23 GP 2.96 GAA .914 SP - SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Big butterfly goalie who covers a lot of net naturally. He is very active despite staying in solid position in net. Very quick reactions and reflexes, and mixes good technical abilities with a good sense for the play. Can be prone to leaving too many rebounds, but usually handles and swallows up the majority of shots well. Has good athleticism and reads the developing play well. He never gives up on the play and battles to keep the puck out of his net. Gets himself into strong position, plays his angles and while he does not come out too far to challenge the shooter, he doesn't have to due to his impressive size. Has a decent glove hand that he can really flash from time to time, and a blocker that he holds in good position and uses to deflect the puck to the corner well. Has played a couple games and looked strong in the men's Swedish Hockey League.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Project Goaltender

**153****DANIEL WALCOTT****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)****BORN: February 19, 1994****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 10 G 29 A 39 PTS 71 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A strong, two-way presence on the backend. Came into the Q as a rookie this season and has been dominating. Skates well with good quickness and generates impressive levels of speed, both forward and backward. Agile, strong in transition and balanced; he stays with even the fastest Q skaters defensively. Plays the role of shutdown defender with an aggressive, in-your-face defensive game. Is physical and willing to give a beating if needed. Uses his frame to separate the puck off attackers and to clear the danger zones around his net. Has strong leadership qualities both on and off the ice. Lacks a little in the size for the style and temperament he plays. Walcott is a minute muncher who contributes offensively with a strong first pass and the support of his forwards. Poised with the puck under pressure and displays impressive vision. He will rush the puck himself if he sees an open lane and has a better-than-average shot.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Two-Way Blueliner

**156****CHARLEY GRAASKAMP****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: January 31, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 11 GP 1 G 5 A 6 PTS 8 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Graaskamp has impressed thus far in the OHL, even with playing limited minutes this season. He is still adjusting to the overall speed and tempo of the OHL, but he doesn't look out of place after leaving his high school squad in Wisconsin. Can make occasionally sloppy plays by trying to do too much with the puck. When Graaskamp keeps the game simple, he is at his best. He reads defenses well, and sets up teammates with exceptional vision and passing touch. He does have a few moves with the puck at his disposal, and can pull off a slick toe drag or two during play to set up a golden scoring opportunity. Graaskamp is a solid, all-around player, and can play well at both ends of the rink. His best attribute is the way he protects the puck as he swings his hips to shield the puck away from others. Graaskamp uses his size to his advantage in the corners and he finishes his checks. He has the skill set of a top-six forward and the grinder's mindset. He is always in the right position in the D-zone. He understands how and what to do defensively as a forward. He's a decent north-south skater, but his acceleration and explosion to get to loose pucks leaves a bit to be desired. Has a solid work ethic.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward

**157****ANDERS BJORK****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: August 5, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 21 G 21 A 42 PTS 10 PIM**

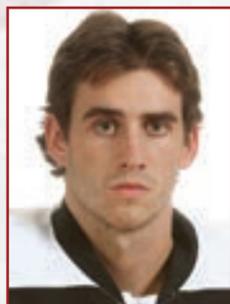
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Bjork is a well-sized winger with strong possession skills and offensive upside. He has impressive skating ability with a power stride, and decent acceleration when taking the puck wide and around defensemen. He has decent quickness when changing directions, and can combine his speed and strength to get through a hit. Bjork owns impressive strength over the puck and he protects it effectively when coming out of the corners or off the walls. He also has quick hands and strong stick skills that he uses when he needs to open space before letting loose his quick, heavy wrist shot. Bjork also has the ability to set up his teammates by locating lanes from the wing or down low. He makes a crisp set-up feed, and works well with his line to create chances. Bjork supports his teammates effectively when he doesn't have the puck, and he knows where to set up on the forecheck. Bjork is strong on the walls and is able to win his battles. His defensive effort has its ups and downs, but he does come back hard and he'll do a good job at covering his area when he needs to. When the game calls for a big effort, he'll give it. He has some PK ability and plays the point aggressively to get the puck out of the zone. He doesn't project as a shutdown player, but he has average to above-average defensive skills. Consistency is an area of his game that will draw questions at times.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Forward

**160****DAVID KÄMPF****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Chomutov (Cze-Ex)****BORN: January 12, 1995****VITALS: 6'-2" / 183 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 2 G 3 A 5 PTS 14 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Kämpf is a linemate of Kaše, and he's the kind of checking forward who provides space for his linemates and is able to rough it up along the boards. He's a good skater, maybe not the fastest one, but he sure is strong on the skates. His stickhandling isn't top-end and he's not an awesome carrier or passer, but he's been doing okay. His shot is pretty hard, but he needs to work on his accuracy. Despite his lack of speed, his determination and character still makes him a capable forechecker and he is also able to finish his checks. Kämpf likes to play the body hard and is the go-to guy for battles along the boards, even among Extraliga players. However, it's not like he's flying around the ice and throwing big open-ice hits. He can just get pretty physical at times. Defensively, he knows his responsibilities and he's just great off the puck, so he always puts in a lot of effort in his own zone.

NHL POTENTIAL: Depth Two-Way Forward

**158****CAMERON DARCY****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)****BORN: March 2, 1994****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 35 G 47 A 82 PTS 51 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Darcy plays a skilled, versatile, two-way game. He is the first in on the forecheck, but also the first one in on the backcheck. He has a pretty good hockey IQ and supports his defensemen well in the defensive zone. He's a good skater with long and powerful strides. He has good balance, too. Darcy protects the puck well and gains the offensive zone pretty easily. He's a great playmaker. He finds open teammates in the offensive zone with skilled passes. He is strong cycling the puck down low to create some scoring chances. Darcy is really reliable and is used in every situation: power play, penalty kill, at the end of games. What really stands out is his ability to control the pace of the game when he has the puck. He is also strong transitioning from offense to defense with his strong skating, stops and starts instead of curling, and impressive hockey smarts. His physical game is just vanilla as he will finish his checks, but he's not the most physical or effective.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**161****HUNTER GARLENT****POSITION: Center/Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Peterborough (OHL)****BORN: February 4, 1995****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 20 G 49 A 69 PTS 41 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An undersized, playmaking pivot with some jam. Skates very well and has no problem getting to pucks with strong all-encompassing mobility. Very quick and agile, but lacks the strength to not get knocked off the puck. Shows no fear and will drive the net and go into traffic without a second thought, but with his size and injury history, he needs to be more elusive. Has good two-way awareness and strong hockey sense. Uses his body the best that he can to disrupt the opposition and win puck battles, but needs to add considerable strength going forward to overcome his physical limitations. Garlent has quick, creative hands, and can deke his way through defenders. Has impressive vision and makes accurate passes of all ranges and types. Leads his team with a good work ethic and intensity level. Defensively, he has a quick stick and stays with his man. Needs to be more consistent. Lack of size hurts his pro aspirations.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Playmaking Forward

**159****MATHESON IACOPELLI****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Muskegon (USHL)****BORN: May 15, 1994****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 58 GP 41 G 23 A 64 PTS 47 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** In his third year of draft eligibility, Iacopelli turned heads with his 41-goal performance for Muskegon this season. A natural goal scorer, Iacopelli knows how to bury the puck and he'll do so fairly consistently, even in his worst games. He is always a threat on the ice because he is clutch and able to change the game with one shot. Iacopelli carries a lethal wrist shot with a quick release, and tremendous power behind it. He is even more dangerous in the offensive zone without the puck because he has the ability to sneak into areas around the goal, and when he gets a chance from in close, he isn't missing. Great scoring touch. Iacopelli is very strong on the puck, protecting it well with his body and his skill. He has nifty, effective hand skills and is deceptive with the puck. He can be selfish at times, but if he sees an option to pass, he can make a crisp feed. Iacopelli is a strong skater with the ability to reach high speeds, and he accelerates well through the neutral zone. He is agile and strong on his crossovers. He is balanced on his skates as well. Where Iacopelli has a downfall is in his compete level and defensive play. He does have a bit of a "give-up" factor in him, where he will lose interest when the puck leaves the zone. He gives a better effort when the game is on the line, but overall, his defensive coverage and effort away from the puck are poor.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**162****MICHAEL PRAPAVESSIS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Toronto Lakeshore (OJHL)****BORN: January 7, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 5 G 49 A 54 PTS 2 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An offensive-minded, high-IQ rearguard with lots of upside if he keeps developing. Prapavessis is very gangly looking and needs to grow into his body. He is sneaky good as he quietly becomes part of the play and picks up a handful of points very quietly. He has very high on-ice intelligence, making quick, efficient passes that are usually delivered tape to tape. He doesn't turn the puck over and shows solid poise in his own zone. He makes the pass that is most sensible to him at that point in the game and play, and will make the smartest play more often than not. His physical game is invisible, but that side of the game will not make or break him. He is a project pick for any team, and will need the time to become comfortable and fill out his frame with lots of time in the gym. His offense and IQ are the selling features for NHL teams. A definite project for any team that takes a chance on him.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Blueliner

**163****NEAL PIONK****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sioux City (USHL)****BORN: July 29, 1995****VITALS: 5'-11" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 2 G 21 A 23 PTS 93 PIM**

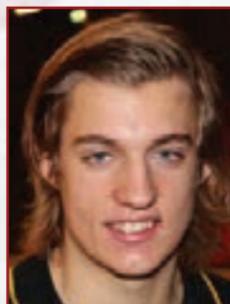
**SCOUTING REPORT:** In this his second year of draft eligibility, Pionk made it clear pretty early through his play that he was going to make himself a pick this June. Pionk plays a hard-nosed, shutdown brand of hockey in his own end and has some offensive upside to go with it. Pionk is a very explosive skater with a powerful stride and impressive separation speed when attempting to elude pressure from opposing forecheckers. Pionk uses his mobility to his advantage when trying to keep pace with opposing forwards. He contains his man very effectively, using his speed to stay on him and then closing time and space near the walls before knocking him off the puck with his impressive strength. Pionk is a big hitter who lines up his checks very well and will land a good three or four big hits each night. Pionk is tough to beat one on one, and he makes himself hard to compete with down low. He does a good job of not chasing players down for hits. Pionk has a strong awareness for the game in front of him and knows when the time is right to join the offense. Pionk holds the point well, and will occasionally step up on offense and get involved lower in the zone. He moves the puck well, making a solid first pass from his own zone and moving the puck nicely on the PP. Pionk has a blast of a shot and he likes to set up at the point or on the left half boards to get it off.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Shutdown Defenseman

**166****LOGAN HALLADAY****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Janesville (NAHL)****BORN: August 17, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 31 GP 18 W 8 L 2 SO 2.26 GAA .932 SV**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** One of the biggest surprises of the year, Halladay was one of the top goaltenders in the North American Hockey League, winning the starting role with Janesville and displaying tremendous skill and upside. Halladay is a fair-sized goaltender who covers the net effectively, getting into position to cover his angles and taking space from shooters efficiently. He is poised and calm in goal, with good posture and a demeanor that sets the tone for his team. Nothing fazes him in net. His positioning in goal is better than average for a goaltender at his age, and Halladay does a good job shifting in net and using his feet to get set. Halladay is mobile both in and out of his crease, and he has no issues wandering out of the goal to play the puck. He is a notable puck-moving goaltender. Halladay has a powerful push and strong lateral agility in goal, getting side to side quickly and making himself big to take away the net. Halladay has a long, effective leg extension and impressive athleticism. He has quick reflexes in goal and a strong awareness of the play in front of him. Halladay uses his blocker effectively to direct pucks into the corners, and he has mobile hands, although his glove side was a notable weakness at times this season. Halladay controls his rebounds effectively, and normally doesn't give up big second chances. He is a very confident goaltender who bounces back quickly from a poor goal, and he displayed impressive game-to-game consistency this season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Starting Goaltender

**164****WILLIAM LAGESSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Frolunda J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: February 22, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 8 G 12 A 20 PTS 30 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Tall and lanky defenseman who is used in all game situations. Skating is pretty smooth and he shows good poise with the puck on his stick. His offense is built around his fine wrist shot; it is very accurate. Lagesson likes to step up in the offensive zone and fire shots from just outside the top of the circle. He's really quick in his first few steps and good at identifying when to jump on the chance to step up offensively. He doesn't walk the line as well as you would like to see from a primarily offensive defenseman. The biggest danger to his offensive game comes from forwards stepping up on him as he often just tries to fire the puck and it gets blocked, sometimes sending the opposition the other way on odd-man opportunities. Isn't the most creative puck distributor as his passing game is rather predictable in the offensive zone. Defensively, he uses his speed well. Lagesson is a great backward skater. It's his biggest strength in the defensive zone, allowing him to defend rushes so well. You rarely see him get beaten one on one with forwards coming in fast. Not a physical player. In fact, the only time you see him play physically is when he steers the play to the boards. In front of the net and below the goal line, he's a saint. Does a good job with his stick and is able to break up passes. Likes to skate the puck out of the zone.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**167****RYAN VERBEEK****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kingston (OHL)****BORN: June 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 43 GP 12 G 12 A 24 PTS 29 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Verbeek is gritty forward who has shown an opportunistic scorer's ability. He is a great skater who picks up speed quickly. He transitions well and is very mobile on his feet. Verbeek is strong and balanced on his feet with a powerful stride. He gets the puck on net well with a good, accurate shot, often forcing goalies to make a difficult save. He is constantly moving to get open in the slot for a possible scoring chance and he sees the ice very well. He sees lanes as he skates up ice and hits his teammates with strong passes that are usually quite accurate. Verbeek is consistently buzzing around the net looking for a chance to knock in a rebound or serve as a screen. He has good, but not overly creative, puck skills; he can deke defenders, but is best as he protects the puck using his strength before getting it into the greasy areas. Verbeek is patient and has quick hands and feet, which he activates quickly to catch defenders asleep. He doesn't play an all-out physical game, but he uses his body to protect the puck and rubs out players effectively knocking them off the puck. He is good in the defensive zone and sticks to his check, reads the play and gets into lanes. He positions himself well against opponents and angles them off the puck. Doesn't have high-end skill, but works his butt off and could carve himself a nice career as a support player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Character Winger

**165****NOAH ROD****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Geneve-Servette (NLA)****BORN: June 7, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 1 G 12 A 3 PTS 8 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A strong, physical forward who plays a full 200-foot game. He dominates with his body play, throwing big hits and tirelessly separating pucks from opponents with force. A solid skater who builds up speed quickly and has a decent top gear. Not going to win many all-star skills competitions, but beats you with the heart factor. Rod just wants the puck more than anyone else and if he doesn't have it, he will knock you through the boards to get it back. He also has a frighteningly heavy shot. It's not always accurate, but it's really hard. His one-timer is also really strong. Can get under the opposition's skin. Sometimes goes too far with the physicality and can take penalties. As you can imagine, he's not easy to check either. Goes to the net often. Good character, too. Patient with the puck and doesn't make reckless decisions, but is not overly creative offensively, making simple yet effective passes. A real good complementary player to ride shotgun on a skilled center's wing. Rod has the potential of a really good checking-line forward or better in the NHL. Really impressive in the NLA playoffs and at the U18s in Finland.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Character Forward

**168****LUCAS WALLMARK****POSITION: Right Wing/Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Lulea (SHL)****BORN: September 5, 1995****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 3 G 7 A 10 PTS 2 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Skilled and smart, relies a lot on his excellent hockey IQ. Has struggled a bit to convert his dominant offensive game from the World Juniors and previously the J20 league to the pro ranks, but is a very reliable two-way center. As the year progressed, Wallmark was trusted more and more by his coaching staff at Luleå of the SHL, and was trusted in the defensive zone more than your average 18 year old in the SHL. With smarts like Wallmark's, there's hope that he can develop into a three-zone playmaker even if his lack of explosive skating or just average size stops him from becoming a dynamic offensive player. There are questions about his work ethic, despite his willingness to battle for pucks. His hockey sense, vision and playmaking abilities really stand out as positives. Extremely good at running a power play. Has skilled hands, and can protect the puck and beat defenders one on one, but again lacks the skating ability to gain separation. He really needs to improve his feet if he wants a pro career in North America. Impressive at the World Juniors as he put up better than a point per game for his U-20 squad.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Forward



169

**JAKE EVANS****POSITION: Center/Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: St. Michael's (OJHL)****BORN: June 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 16 G 47 A 63 PTS 79 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A powerful skater with good end-to-end speed. Increasing foot speed would help his acceleration, but he works hard to cover the point when his defense pinches and also skates hard to get back to his defensive responsibilities. Not going to wow anyone with his stickhandling. Evans can handle the puck fine, but he lacks creativity. Solid protecting the puck and in the cycle. Evans has the ability to make solidly skilled passes as he has good vision. More of a passer than a shooter out there. Does not shy away from rubbing out the opposition along the boards, but is not a big hitter. At his best when playing with intensity, but this comes and goes. It's not that he disappears, but he tends to come in waves. He never stops playing, despite how lopsided the score gets and is a good team player. He makes good decisions as to when to carry the puck into the offensive zone and when to dump and chase or dump and change. Knows games are not won or lost in a single shift. Comes back well and covers his position in the defensive zone, shadowing his man and thwarting any chances.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Character Forward



172

**AUSTIN LOTZ****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Everett (WHL)****BORN: May 27, 1995****VITALS: 6'-1" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 2.53 GAA .905 SP 5 SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Lotz isn't an enormous goalie, but he makes up for it with superior focus and athleticism. He has good hands and is sharp technically. Not the tallest goalie, but extremely strong in his side-to-side movements. Has a low stance that allows him to use his strength to make strong pushes in either direction. Lotz doesn't have the natural length to cover the high part of the net, but the fluidity with which he slides allows him to keep good angles and use his hands to keep the puck out of the net. Very sharp and technical angle adjustments keep him in perfect position. Has a good glove hand, but his blocker is just alright. Has an active stick and frequently pokes loose pucks into the corners. Isn't the best pure puck handler as it seems to get away from him on occasion. Shows excellent poise and concentration with traffic in front of him. Can be extremely dialed into games and stop everything sent his way. Stays calm and adjusts very well during scrambles around the net. Generally controls rebounds well, although he can get sloppy and kick them into the middle.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Backup Goaltender

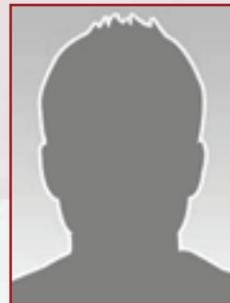


170

**DANIIL VOVCHEENKO****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Almaz Cherepovets (MHL)****BORN: May 4, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 35 GP 16 G 7 A 23 PTS 69 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** The Russian winger plays a wide-open, flashy type of game. Has slick hands and makes some elite-level skilled plays with the puck. His skating is effective, but could improve as he gains strength. Vovchenko lacks the explosiveness you want in this type of offensive forward. His size, defensive play and strength are all negatives. He is a shoot-first player and not one to look to pass unless all lanes to the net are blocked. Wants the puck and likes to have the game on his stick. Not overly physical, but does play with some spunk. Mid-sized kid with a strong one-timer and offensive-zone positioning. Hangs around in the high slot or off the top of the circles until opportunities appear. Plays with awareness and quickness in the corners, winning his share of battles. Is typically active with twists and turns, along with creative and quick hands to gain the zone and maintain the puck. Good at dishing creative feeds and accepting even tougher passes in stride.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Forward



173

**STEVEN SPINNER****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Eden Prairie High (USHS)****BORN: December 15, 1995****VITALS: 5'-11" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 17 G 22 A 39 PTS 42 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Following a strong season in Eden Prairie, Spinner made the jump to the USHL and joined the Omaha Lancers for their playoff push after Omaha traded for him and Eden Prairie teammate Luc Snuggerud from Muskegon earlier in the season. Spinner is a highly skilled winger, with good hockey sense for the game within the offensive zone. He is a quick-moving forward with impressive speed. He accelerates down the wing with the puck and has the ability to beat defenders with his quickness. Spinner has strong stick skills, and he does a good job opening space for himself when he has the puck and getting into positions where he can create a scoring chance. There are times when Spinner can get a little selfish with the puck, but he does have strong vision and awareness for the play in front of him. He sees the ice well, and has the ability to make effective passes through pressure. When placed on a line with scorers, Spinner can be a playmaker. Spinner also carries a weapon of a shot, with a highly quick and deceptive release. He needs to hit the net more often, however. While Spinner's offensive skill set is impressive, his play away from the puck often leaves a lot to be desired. He will, at times, lose interest when the puck is not around him, and it causes him to make weak attempts on the backcheck, and more importantly when in the defensive zone. He has issues clearing his zone at times, and doesn't show a willingness to get between lanes. He needs to improve his two-way game before he hits the pro ranks.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Scoring Winger



171

**SHANE GERSICH****POSITION: Left Wing/Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: July 10, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 16 G 16 A 32 PTS 18 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Gersich is a solid player at both ends of the ice, giving a strong, consistent effort on each shift offensively and defensively. Gersich is a strong skater with impressive quickness and acceleration down the wing. He is agile and speedy, and able to get by pressure on the wing. Gersich sees the ice very well with the puck and has an impressive sense for who is where on the ice. He is an exceptional passer, with the ability to catch his teammates off the rush and from along the perimeter when he's set up offensively. He makes a crisp, accurate pass, and works hard to find lanes and to get the puck off his stick quickly. Gersich has above-average possession skills, but at times, he seems to be a little easy to push around. He can add some extra muscle to his frame. Gersich has a quick shot from the outside, and he will also work his way to the net for opportunities. Gersich is a gritty, hard-working winger who will do whatever is necessary to win space and get the puck. He is a decent board player, and has no fear of getting involved in a puck battle. Gersich supports his teammates well and has an effective hockey IQ with a strong awareness of where to be and when. Gersich makes a good effort in getting back defensively, and uses his speed and an active stick to break up plays on the backcheck. He covers the defensive zone effectively near the point.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward



174

**AUGUST GUNNARSSON****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Farjestad J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: March 31, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 21 G 19 A 40 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Gunnarsson is a player who is very easy to like. Possesses an efficient stride that gets him to the areas of the ice he needs to get to. Not a burner or explosive skater, but effective. He is kind of a mixed bag between a power forward with a good shot and a defensive specialist who makes smart plays. He gives his all every shift and isn't afraid of traffic or playing in the gritty areas. He's got decent hands and quality finishing abilities. Gunnarsson has very good hockey sense and is often in the right position, finding open space around the net. Not a skilled puck handler per se, but possesses efficient hands, especially around the net. He is strong along the boards and has good defensive awareness to his game. And he really works his tail off. The downside is that he is not very big and his upside is probably that of a complementary player offensively.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward

**175**

**VITEK VANECEK**  
**POSITION:** Goaltender  
**CATCHES:** Left  
**TEAM:** Liberec U20 (Cze-U20)  
**BORN:** January 9, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 181 Lbs  
**STATS:** 38 GP 2.64 GAA .921 SVS%

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Vaněček is an athletic goaltender who is well aware of what he's got and is willing to use all that in order to make his opposition suffer from lack of goals. His movements in the crease are exceptional, maybe even the best in the entire draft class. His reflexes are top-notch and he uses his quick body to make even the most difficult saves. He uses all his equipment properly, has a quick glove and a solid blocker, and is good down low as well. What he should work on is the mental side of his game as he proved a little too inconsistent this season. Also, I don't believe he's good enough handling the puck. It also appears to me that he's not the hardest worker off the ice, but he sure has a gift and that means a lot. Doesn't always deliver under huge pressure, but that might be coincidence as he seems a little too relaxed off the ice.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Journeyman Goalie

**176**

**MILES GENDRON**  
**POSITION:** Defense  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** The Rivers School (USHS)  
**BORN:** June 28, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 175 Lbs  
**STATS:** 22 GP 6 G 13 A 19 PTS 4 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A very raw, but talented puck-moving defender. Made the switch to defense for his senior year and there have been many struggles. With his size, his exceptional skating ability and his ability to skate with the puck, he can be a dangerous puck rusher. Looks lost during some of his shifts as he struggles to find proper position. However, when he gets the puck on his stick, he has the ability to create offense quite quickly by making a strong, long-range breakout pass or carrying it out of his zone himself. Very creative, has impressive vision and is able to control the puck well with his skilled hands and reach. Might have the best skating ability on the East Coast. Has a decent wrist shot, but needs to improve his velocity and release of his slap shot. Playing as a defenseman might have been the wrong choice. After watching him closely since last summer, he has yet to develop any type of feel for the game from the backend. Has no idea how to keep a solid gap, and often has incredibly poor stick position. Could a move back to forward be in the cards?

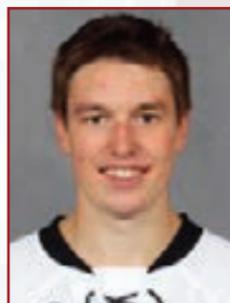
**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Blueliner

**177**

**HENRIK TORNQVIST**  
**POSITION:** Left Wing  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Linkoping J20 (SuperElit)  
**BORN:** August 25, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 175 Lbs  
**STATS:** 40 GP 5 G 7 A 12 PTS 30 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A defensive-minded forward who can add a little complementary scoring to a roster. Tough to check and likes to play physically against opponents, although he is by no means a headhunter. Fast skater with good puck-carrying abilities. Loves to spend time in front of the opposing net. Has a firecracker of a shot, very accurate and quick off his stick. Tornqvist jumps on every opportunity to one-time loose pucks at the net, with some success. Shows good vision and distributes some solid passes. Has a very appealing team-first attitude and will do whatever is needed to help his team come out with the victory. Definitely needs to improve his strength and skating, and learn to bring his offensive game more consistently. Stuck on the fourth line of his J20 team much of the season. Was better in international tournament play this season than with his club team as he was given a more consistent opportunity to play.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Character Forward

**178**

**RADEL FAZLEEV**  
**POSITION:** Left Wing  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Calgary (WHL)  
**BORN:** January 7, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 175 Lbs  
**STATS:** 38 GP 5 G 20 A 25 PTS 12 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Fazleev is an average-sized, playmaking winger. He is not very physical or willing to get his nose dirty, although he will use his frame to protect the puck from defenders. Needs to fill out quite a bit more to really be effective in puck battles. Has some good, shifty hands and solid hockey sense that allow him to create offense. Will go to the greasy areas on occasion, but in general, he spends most of his time on the outside looking to distribute the puck to his linemates on the inside. Pass-first player who has very good vision and can really distribute the puck well in different ways on the ice. Has an average shot, but a good release. Decent defensive player who knows his job in his own zone, identifies his check and sticks with him, but has varying success. Not strong enough to outbattle many opponents, but uses his stick to disrupt.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Playmaking Forward

**179**

**CHASE PERRY**  
**POSITION:** Goaltender  
**CATCHES:** Left  
**TEAM:** Wenatchee (NAHL)  
**BORN:** February 8, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 190 Lbs  
**STATS:** 15 W 12 L 6 OTL 2 SO 2.34 GAA .905 SV

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Perry has pretty good size, and impressive poise and awareness in net. He plays with good posture and confidence in himself. He positions well in net and has a strong understanding of his position for a goaltender his age. He positions his hands well and has effective mobility in both his glove and blocker. He does a good job directing shots with his blocker side, but has some issues handling shots to his glove. Perry's footwork in goal is strong and he is able to set up effectively in net, working the borders of his crease and coming out aggressively on the shooter. His awareness is strong, and he has a good sense for the play in front of him, with quick reaction speed and timing in goal. Perry is mobile laterally, getting across quickly and covering ground efficiently, while making himself big to take space from shooters. Perry's main issues this season were consistency and rebound control. He does a decent job controlling higher shots, but there are times when he will give up some very poor rebounds from lower shots and he'll direct pucks into traffic. His game-to-game consistency was also a bit of an issue during the season.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Project Starting Goaltender

**180**

**ANTTI KALAPUDAS**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Karpat U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)  
**BORN:** July 22, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 160 Lbs  
**STATS:** 44 GP 21 G 38 A 59 PTS 14 PIM

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Kalapudas is a slender, but very skilled playmaker. He has good timing in his passes and they are always on the tape. Dishes the puck in a way that sets up his linemates for prime chances, not just because he is running out of options for himself. Nice skater with solid first few steps, as well as good balance. Solid size, but needs to add some pounds in order to become a more effective player in all three zones. Kalapudas knows his defensive responsibilities and is typically safe in his own defensive zone. He does not utilize his shot enough, but when he does, there is a lot to like. Kalapudas has a strong release and is accurate, giving goalies fits. Strong offensive awareness and positioning. He does not go to the corners often with the puck, but rather comes up the center and either passes it to a winger or lets a shot go. Definitely a smart player and showed that he's a fairly versatile center-forward.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Playmaking Forward

**181****CRISTIANO DIGIACINTO****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Windsor (OHL)****BORN: January 10, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 11 G 17 A 28 PTS 101 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** DiGiacinto is a good skater. However, there is still a lot of room for improvement. He takes short, powerful strides and works hard to get up ice. Still, he lacks a quick burst. From a stationary position, it takes him a while to reach top speed, but through the transition, he can get up to speed much faster. DiGiacinto has a powerful shot, but has work to do on his accuracy. He is a good passer, seeing lanes and getting the puck through to linemates when possible. DiGiacinto is extremely competitive; he has a mean streak and is very physical. He has the power to crush opponents with checks and while he is just average sized, he plays like he is much bigger. He is hard working and very determined, two qualities that should help him continue to develop the weaker areas of his game. DiGiacinto is a force on the forecheck as he plows his way up ice and applies pressure that leads to turnovers. He is very aggressive and has no problem with grinding it out in the corner to come away with the puck. He is a physical presence on the ice as he agitates and intimidates his opponents while contributing to his team's offense. DiGiacinto is reliable defensively. He does a good job blocking the shooting lanes of opposing defenders. He works hard to get to areas of the defensive zone to cover his man and angle out opponents.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Agitating Winger

**184****JOE HICKETTS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Victoria (WHL)****BORN: May 4, 1996****VITALS: 5'-8" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 36 GP 6 G 18 A 24 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Hicketts is a quick and nimble skater who has good straight-line speed and is quite efficient laterally. He does a good job of sticking with players and maintaining gap control as he is very shifty. Relies a lot on his speed and efficiency to make up for his size disadvantage, which is prevalent. Has good puck-movement skills and does a quality job of quickly and precisely moving the puck. More of a pass-first defenseman instead of a rushing type. Very patient with the puck on his stick, and does a good job of handling and protecting the biscuit. Has a good, quality shot that he uses when he has open lanes. Solid smarts and awareness of when to pinch in to make a play offensively and when he should back off. Very responsible defensively, and does a good job of holding the line or backing off and maintaining his positioning, never being caught trying to get greedy offensively. Gets pushed around considerably if there is sustained physical contact. Hicketts will thrive if he can knock opponents off the puck on initial contact and quickly steal it away. Doesn't throw a lot of hits, but has a stocky build for a player of his limited height. Does a good job of maintaining coverage and using his stick to his advantage. He displays very good poise, confidence and communication with his teammates.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**182****RIHARDS BUKARTS****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Brandon (WHL)****BORN: December 31, 1995****VITALS: 5'-9" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 28 G 26 A 54 PTS 50 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Bukarts is a quick skater who can burn defenders if he is able to hit his stride. He is a very diminutive player who is elusive and can accelerate quickly. He has excellent puck-handling ability and can create space for himself by dazzling and backing off opponents. His stick handling can also prove to be his worst enemy at times. Bukarts sometimes has a tendency to overplay the puck and cause turnovers by mishandling it at an inopportune time or run himself out of space by trying to do too much. Bukarts is adequate at shooting and passing. He can move the puck quickly and makes deceptive passes that yield quality opportunities. Makes smart decisions with the puck and doesn't pass up shot opportunities. Has a quality wrist shot with good velocity on it, which he prefers to use. Despite Bukarts' size, he plays with substantial grit and holds his own along the boards. He is not intimidated in battles even though he may come out on the short end of the stick in a lot of confrontations with opponents. His strength lies in his tenacity and quick hands to pick pockets and strip pucks away. He battles consistency issues, but the biggest area of concern is his lack of defensive game. His play in his own zone remains dismal. He has an edge to his game and shows emotion, especially frustration when things are not going well.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**185****ARVID LUNDBERG****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea (SHL)****BORN: September 29, 1994****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 46 GP 2 G 8 A 10 PTS 6 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A reliable, smart, all-areas defender who can do whatever is asked of him. Passed over in the 2013 draft, Lundberg went into 2013-14 looking to secure a regular spot on a deep Skellefteå team. He had a very solid, yet unspectacular season. That's also what he is as a player: very reliable in his defensive play and a solid competitor who always makes the right play. He moves very well with good transitions and pivots. His defensive awareness is amongst the best in this draft class. Keeps his stick in the right places, is engaging physically and is very good with all the small defensive details in his own end. While he will likely never quarterback a power play at the next level, his puck-moving skills are decent and he can rush the puck a little bit up ice on his own as well. Has limited upside. Needs to continue to add strength and further improve his already well-developed overall game, and there's a chance he can be a good complementary defensive defenseman who can move the puck in a simple, yet effective fashion to an offensive-minded partner.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**183****KARSON KUHLMAN****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Dubuque (USHL)****BORN: September 26, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 25 G 19 A 44 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Kuhlman is a very speedy winger who accelerates well and uses his speed to catch up on the backcheck or carry the puck end to end. Kuhlman hits very high speeds on the ice and can be tough to handle at times. While there are some inconsistencies in his offensive game and potential, Kuhlman has average stick skills, with the ability to make the occasional move to beat a defender. Kuhlman has a lethal wrist shot with a quick, deceptive release. He is very smart with the puck, and does a good job locating lanes to make crisp, accurate feeds off the rush. Often, Kuhlman is at his best when he is driving the middle lane to the net and getting chances around the goal. He likes to cause havoc in front for goaltenders and defenders trying to knock him away. There is no quit in Kuhlman, and he will take the bumps and bruises for a scoring chance around the goal. Kuhlman will always be the first one into the corner to battle for a puck. His will and competitive edge is very high and it is what makes him an effective all-around player. Kuhlman is an effective backchecker, using his speed to get back in the play, and using his stick and body to force players off the puck. He does a good job turning the game around and is a quick transitional forward. Kuhlman covers his defensive assignments appropriately and is willing to give his body for a shot block.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**186****KASIMIR KASKISUO****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Minnesota (NAHL)****BORN: October 2, 1993****VITALS: 6'-3" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 21 W 6 L 9 SO 1.48 GAA .944 SV**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** In his third year of eligibility, the big, mobile goaltender made a solid case to be picked this year. His numbers are the result of consistency during the season, and of his highly impressive skill set. Kaskisuo's net coverage is better than that of most goaltenders in the draft. Not only does he have the size to take up the net, but his understanding of his positioning when taking an initial angle is very strong. He does a good job challenging shooters and using his size to his advantage in goal. Kaskisuo's athleticism is very impressive, and a major selling point to scouts. He is agile and very quick in net, with the ability to get post to post in half a second. He covers the bottom portion of the net better than most, with his high-end speed and lateral agility. He has great extension thanks to his flexibility, and he covers post to post very effectively. His reflexes and reaction speed are high-end, and he has a quick, flashy glove and an effective blocker hand. Kaskisuo's focus and awareness in goal are two of his major traits. He relies on his awareness and quickness in net to get to shots. Kaskisuo struggles with his rebound control and that is an area he'll need to improve in as he progresses toward becoming an NHL goaltender. He has a comparable skill set to Jonathan Quick.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Starting Goaltender

**187****JOE WEGWERTH****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: US NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: June 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 230 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 3 G 6 A 9 PTS 123 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** The big power forward had his ups and downs this season, but came out strong late in the year. Wegwerth is one of your prototypical power forwards who knows how to use his size and strength to his advantage with the puck. He plays a very effective north-south game, and has the ability to dominate play along the boards and below the goal. Wegwerth is an above-average skater, with a good stride and the ability to build speed with the puck on his stick. Wegwerth has good stick skills that he'll put to use coming down the wing and around the net. His decision making with the puck can improve. Wegwerth finds success offensively when he can either locate a shooting lane off the rush or a lane to the net. He has a quick, powerful shot with impressive accuracy. He also likes to use his size and strength to drive to the net for chances. Wegwerth is a tough customer when he gets net-front position, and he is even more difficult to beat on the walls. When he has the puck, it is not easy to separate him from it. He is very good at winning possession from the walls and coming away from the boards with the puck on his stick. Wegwerth isn't shy of using his body to hurt, and he will finish his hits. Wegwerth is an average defensive player who shows a general understanding of where to be and who to cover, but it isn't something that should be considered a strength of his just yet.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Power Forward

**190****NICHOLAS JONES****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sherwood Park (AJHL)****BORN: June 2, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 41 G 31 A 72 PTS 88 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** An average-sized player who has a good amount of room to grow, especially in his legs where he looks a bit thin. Good skater. Gets around the ice with decent straight-line speed and excellent agility that allows him to weave in and out of the danger areas. He spends most of his time looking for passes on the outside, but sometimes sneaks into those greasy areas with varying success. He put up good production at this level, but his lack of strength and small timing issues will hurt his ability to produce at the next level. Has an average shot that has pretty good accuracy, but not enough velocity to blow it past goalies. His hockey sense is just average, but he has pretty good offensive instincts. When Jones has the puck, he is able to make plays. His positioning in the offensive zone is very good, but overall, he has a low offensive upside. A chippy player with skill, he is typically F1 on the forecheck, causing havoc despite his size. He is a good defender and helpful on the penalty kill, and has potential as an energy-line player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward

**188****RHETT GARDNER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Okotoks (AJHL)****BORN: February 28, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 13 G 24 A 37 PTS 82 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Gardner is a very good skater given his size. He has a technically sound, powerful stride that allows him to fly down the wing. In addition to his good open-ice speed, he has quick feet and very good agility. Gardner is also very explosive in his first few steps. His size is another enticing quality he possesses. He has a strong frame with a lot of room to add on. He seems to be a bit unbalanced in corner battles at times, but he does a good job of using his wide shoulders to protect the puck and play an effective cycle game. His release and shot velocity are nothing more than average. Another strong suit of his game though is his hockey sense, which is good. He makes quick decisions with the puck and is able to get to the right positions on the ice to both attack and defend. Good puck handler for his size, but won't dazzle anyone. Has decent vision and patience, but isn't really a puck-possession player. Likes to dish it to teammates and look for open space around the net. Often found battling with defensemen at the top of the crease. Responsible in his own zone. He is a project for sure, but there is plenty for the North Dakota commit to work with.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Forward

**191****CONNOR MURPHY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Caledonia (GOJHL)****BORN: April 2, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 32 G 64 A 96 PTS 46 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Murphy is a shifty and extremely fast skater who is very mobile. He lacks strength in his legs, but it doesn't limit his explosive speed up ice. When he hits top speed, he often loses possession of the puck, but he does a good job of maintaining possession when carrying it at average speed. He is strong in the faceoff circle and does a good job of getting the puck to his teammates. He protects the puck well, but since his size is an issue, he gets outmuscled a lot even though he uses his body to shield it and his agility to dodge opponents. He doesn't engage much in the play, and usually hangs back and waits for the puck to come to him. He sees the ice very well and has good hockey sense, allowing him to see open lanes to skate to or pass through. He makes good passes, and is quick at receiving and passing it off on the power play. Murphy displays an air of confidence with the puck and he is constantly communicating with teammates. He has a quick wrist shot, but needs to work on accuracy. When he gets a good shot off, it can be quite lethal. He plays relentlessly at times and is hard on the forecheck, often forcing his opponents to make a mistake. He is not a physical player at all, but he will take a hit in order to make a play if he has to. He positions himself well in the defensive zone and knows who he has to pick up. Has a selfish edge to his game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Scoring Forward

**189****TY EDMONDS****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Prince George (WHL)****BORN: August 20, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 19 W 19 L 6 T 2 SO 3.85 GAA .887 SP**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Big goaltender who is very active in his crease making saves, often by unconventional methods. Likes to get out to the top of the paint and take away space from shooters. Can get across the net and transition his positioning quickly and smoothly. Doesn't have the perfect butterfly form, but does a good job of taking away space and swallowing rebounds. Has really impressive footwork and use of his pads. Consistently has control of rebounds that are in the lower part of the net, using his pads and stick to guide pucks into the corners and away from danger. Edmonds is also very aggressive with his stick, attempting sweep and poke checks on skaters who tried to breach the crease. Shows good prowess with his glove hand, while his blocker hand looked susceptible. Edmonds' mobility in the crease sometimes leads to some positioning malfunctions. He can get scrambly, out of position and caught not protecting his post. Edmonds sometimes has a tendency to react early and go down to his knees prematurely in anticipation of shots. Despite some of Edmonds' downfalls, he is very good at reacting to cover up these deficiencies in his game. Edmonds shows good composure and poise in the net despite being under fire quite frequently this season. He bounces back from goals and keeps battling.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender

**192****LUKAS BENGTSSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Mora (Allsvenskan)****BORN: April 14, 1994****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 13 G 20 A 33 PTS 10 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A very skilled and mobile right-handed defenseman, Bengtsson put up tons of points this season on the power play. Has a great ability to get shots through from the point with the man advantage. Was not really able to showcase that at the World Juniors, however, but still handled the world's junior-aged elite in a calm and controlled fashion. A good passer and puck handler, there's lots of room to grow in other aspects of his game. Not terribly undersized, but needs to be more aggressive and tenacious to be able to play at higher levels. Bengtsson likes to attack with speed; he likes to go on offensive rushes, carrying the puck up ice and making fast plays to cause havoc defensively for the opposition. Everything he does offensively is based on a quick strike. He has a quick release and doesn't hold on to the puck for too long once he has decided to go for the shot. His passing game, vision and quick decision-making ability are above average, and his biggest asset is his fast-strike ability. Defensively, he watches the puck a bit too much and forgets about his surroundings. He's also not that strong and has trouble keeping opponents away from his net. Defensively, there's work to do. Vision and power play skills can only carry a D-man so far, but despite being a double overager, he's a nice project pick for a team with patience.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Blueliner

**193****KEVIN LABANC****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Barrie (OHL)****BORN: December 12, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 11 G 24 A 35 PTS 30 PIM**

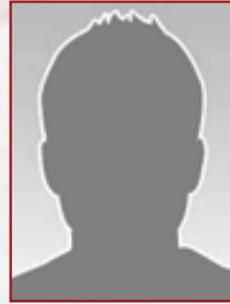
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Labanc is a hardworking, two-way competitor. His top speed is impressive, and while his skating style isn't exactly orthodox, it gets the job done. He has excellent mobility and a very quick side step, making him very shifty, but he could use better balance on his skates. His creativity with the puck in terms of dekes is very impressive. He can dangle his way through multiple opponents at a time. He is strong at protecting the puck, but can get thrown off by bigger defenders. His ability to control the puck at high speeds, however, is hit or miss. Labanc tends to pass more than he shoots. His passes aren't overly strong or creative. He makes pretty rudimentary passes, but they are accurate. His shot is extremely fast and accurate, while his backhand is electric. He is at his best when he gets in alone on a goaltender or is one on one with a defender. He loves to get in the gritty areas, but due to the fact he's not the biggest prospect, he gets knocked around easily. He makes smart plays and is a takeaway machine with his quick stick. He likes to be a nuisance to his opponents and get under their skin. He tries to play solid defensively by taking his man and skating back hard, but has room to grow in that aspect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**196****TYLER BIRD****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kimball Union Academy (USHS)****BORN: August 14, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 37 GP 33 G 27 A 60 PTS - PIM**

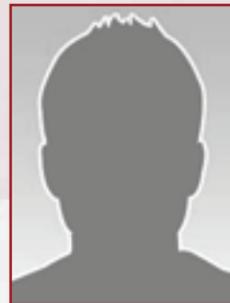
**SCOUTING REPORT:** A power forward in the making. Strong legs and balance allow him to get around the ice quickly and with power. He has nonstop feet and his top speed is above average. While his first few steps are just average at best, he compensates with energy and gets where he needs to be. He has a very strong body with more room to grow. A player who looks to finish his checks and dish out open-ice hits when available. Goes into the boards hard and with authority. With active feet and a strong body, he dominates there. He can be dangerous on the forecheck, produce a turnover and then work the boards before making a quick pass to generate a chance. He loves to drive toward the net, and uses his good hands and size. He is very well-rounded in the passing and shooting aspects, and is very good with his power game. Has soft hands and is able to pull some dekes with the puck. He is very versatile and able to play multiple roles.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Winger

**194****ROBERT CARPENTER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Austin Prep (USHS)****BORN: August 16, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 22 GP 24 G 13 A 37 PTS - PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Carpenter is an average-sized, hardworking, two-way player. Just an okay skater, but has many other high-end intangibles to his game. He competes hard with a non-stop motor and drive to succeed. His passes are hard and on the money. Although not overly creative he can make some skilled plays with his distribution skills. His shot is hard, usually accurate and off his blade in a split second. The best asset he has, however, is his IQ and smarts both with and without the puck. He shows some solid leadership qualities, taking direction from coaches and applying that to his game, and sticking up for his teammates. Not overly physical, but he uses his intelligence to outwit opponents in one-on-one battles. He needs to add strength to his stride, and improve his foot speed and agility.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Character Forward

**197****MARTIN RONNILD****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brynas J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 24, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 35 GP 8 G 4 A 32 PTS 30 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Norwegian winger who plays a strong two-way game. Ronnild plays in all aspects of the game. Very good positioning defensively and great hustle to get back after his team loses the puck in the offensive zone. Manages to catch his opponents in open ice with nice hits. Displays that hustle to get back and take care of defensive responsibilities every time. Very good shot blocks as he displays no fear getting his frame directly in the path of shooters. Ronnild uses his body whenever he has a chance, pounding opponents along the boards. He has great balance in his hits and looks like he has an extra 20 pounds of muscle on his opponents, which we know he does not. It baffles us that he doesn't produce more points. He does so many things right, and is a good enough skater. He plays a big role on the penalty kill with Brynäs and Team Norway at the WJC. Not a high-end offensive player, but will generate chances off his hard work. One thing that might be holding him back is concussion issues; he has already had two this season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**195****ADAM OLLAS MATTSSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Djurgarden (SuperElit)****BORN: July 30, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 1 G 8 A 9 PTS 42 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big, defensive-minded blueliner. Makes some questionable decisions with the puck, mixed with good positioning and good hockey sense away from the puck. Skating is not a department he stands out in, but he has great balance that he uses to his advantage during board play and in his hits. Delivers some heavy hits in open ice, and tries to be a force and take charge of the play. He can chase after hits a bit too much. Mattsson likes to step up in the offensive zone, but his puck-handling and distribution skills are below average. Does a good job getting the puck up ice with simple breakout passes. Very good posture and build, physically dominant. Good nerves, doesn't look stressed when put under pressure with the puck and can make smart, simple decisions. Has inconsistency in his defensive game that he will need to improve as he can be impossible to beat one minute and then, the next minute, can be a pylon in the corner while the action is out in front. Valuable player down low, but doesn't stand out as a player who excels defensively in any other department than physical play. He'll have a hard time producing points and should start working on making his defensive game more complete.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Physical Defenseman

**198****PHIL BALTISBERGER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Guelph (OHL)****BORN: November 13, 1995****VITALS: 6'-1" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 1 G 14 A 15 PTS 36 PIM**

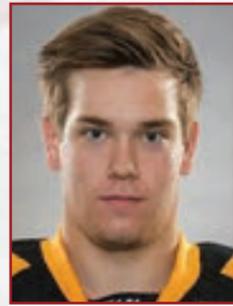
**SCOUTING REPORT:** A two-way blueliner who plays a simple game. Utilizes a very mature, reliable game. Skates well enough, although he can get caught when attackers make him pivot and turn to chase as he loses considerable speed when doing so. Plays a strong positional game in which he keeps the opponent in front of him and to the outside. Stands up against incoming opponents successfully and is not afraid to use his strength to pin them or knock them off the puck. Composed and has a low panic point with the puck and against a hard forecheck. Plays with his head up and activated. Is secure when handling the puck, often choosing the simplest option with his breakout passes. Needs to improve his skating and physicality. Impressive at reading the play coming into his zone and gets himself into solid position. Sees lanes and gets his body into them. Fearless shot blocker and while he is not one who will put up many points at the next level, he does see the ice well and make good first passes. Dependable and stays within himself.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**199****LUKE DAVISON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Notre Dame Academy (USHS)****BORN: February 26, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 17 GP 3 G 7 A 10 PTS 10 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Davison is a two-way defenseman who works hard and plays a strong overall game. He handles the puck well, especially when he is pressured in the defensive zone, showing great poise. He protects the puck and gets rid of it quickly, yet smartly. He has excellent vision with the puck on his stick and dishes crisp, creative passes up ice. Has a decent shot, but does not shoot enough to generate offensive chances, instead passing on the shot and passing it to a forward. Davison finishes checks in his own zone, and plays bigger than he is listed. He may only be 5-foot-11 or 6-foot-0, but he can play bigger than that. Davison makes some very smart plays in both zones, and does not do anything overly fancy to cause turnovers or defensive mistakes. He keeps his head on a swivel in the D-zone at all times. He is the opposite of lazy and makes sure the puck gets out of the zone. Still needs work on his skating stride. Davison can accelerate well, but he needs to be able to keep that speed and produce a more powerful stride.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**200****VIKTOR ARVIDSSON****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Skelleftea (SHL)****BORN: April 8, 1993****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 16 G 24 A 40 PTS 59 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A small, but highly skilled, goal-scoring winger. He reads the play well and uses his good speed to time his rushes just perfectly, managing to slip by defenses. Is creative and skilled with the puck, sees the ice well and makes good passes. Arvidsson doesn't have the strength he needs to have to make it as an undersized player in the NHL. He will need to hit the gym if he is targeting a career in North America. Is a dangerous sniper when he gets the puck in areas of the ice where his quickness shines. He's also able to elevate it better than most players thanks to his short stick. Arvidsson knows his defensive responsibilities and usually does a good job of eliminating his check. Questions remain whether he can withstand the North American game and the physical grind. Really stood out all season as an offensive forward playing with men and ramped up his game even more in the postseason for Skelleftea.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**201****TYLER NANNE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Edina (USHS)****BORN: March 17, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 7 G 20 A 27 PTS 41 PIM**

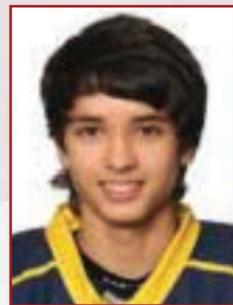
**SCOUTING REPORT:** Nanne plays the game of a mobile, puck-moving defenseman who is ultra-confident with the puck. He rushes the puck well and is not afraid to jump up on the rush without it in search of an opportunity. He is very creative with the puck, both skating with it and passing it. He thinks the game well offensively. He is a smooth skater and pretty quick laterally, and can go end to end quickly. When he skates with the puck, his head is always up, scanning the ice for options. He shows a real hard shot from the point area, but could improve his accuracy. He often looks like he is trying to pick a real small opening to hit rather than just get it on net for a tip or rebound. Defensively, he is sound positionally, but other than that, he has miles to go in his defensive game. The one thing that is very impressive is his smarts and ability to make the simple play to avoid trouble. He does not panic when there is a hard forecheck applied. He has solid upside and raw potential, but it will certainly help if he grows a little bit more. He played a little center in Edina this season, as well, and may have a future playing up front.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Blueliner/Forward

**202****ANTHONY ANGELLO****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Omaha (USHL)****BORN: March 6, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 58 GP 11 G 10 A 21 PTS 85 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** The big center plays a solid two-way game, and has an impressive sense for the shutdown game. He isn't the greatest skater and can improve his first couple of steps, but he will build speed as moves in a straight line, and when he has the puck, he uses his strength to work his way into the offensive zone. Angello has shown decent offensive skills at times this season, protecting the puck effectively with his body and his strength, and showing the ability to find teammates with short feeds. He has a fairly strong shot, but will accumulate chances from the top of the crease. He is a tough player to move and a really hard player to compete against because of his size and power. Angello is a very effective player on the walls and in the corners, and he is unforgiving when it comes to his hitting game. He uses his size to earn space on the walls and his strength to come away with the puck. He will throw his weight around willingly and he knows how to land a solid hit. Angello is most effective in the defensive zone, where he shows a tremendous understanding for his positioning and responsibilities. He does an excellent job at shutting down his opposition, and covers his man very well. He uses his stick and reach to force players wide, and will basically work as a third defenseman. He is effective when tying up opposing players, and he does a good job of winning pucks on the walls and turning the possession to his team. Another area where Angello excels is faceoffs.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Shutdown Center

**203****SEBASTIAN MOBERG****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: February 24, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 4 G 18 A 22 PTS 16 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A bit of a sleeper as a potential two-way blueliner, Moberg's poise with the puck and smart play in general stands out. He is a very good skater. Very smooth and quick first strides, his skating looked effortless. Moberg has excellent poise with the puck, and it is good to see that he increasingly became more active in the offensive end as the season progressed. He moves the puck well and his passes are quite accurate. His shot is strong for a player his age as he gets it off quickly and on net. He rarely panics with the puck, and despite his size, he's actually quite a physical player as he's able to compete in the corners with bigger opponents. He uses his stick well to poke check the puck away from attackers. A skilled defenseman with impressive hockey sense who can definitely skate with the puck and make an impact at both ends of the ice. It should be interesting to see how his two-way game and physicality develop, since many of his skills are already at a high level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**204****CHRISTIAN JAROS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lulea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: April 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 3 GP 1 G 3 A 4 PTS 0 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Jaros is a big, bulky defenseman who can skate and likes to get involved on offense. Jaros is a powerful forward skater, with a long stride and average foot speed. He doesn't have tremendous quickness when trying to turn and recover on defense, but he makes good pivots and powerful strides, and is very mobile for his size. Jaros controls the puck well, and is dangerous when he has it on his stick. He is poised in his own end with the puck, and he likes to activate and start rushes out of his own end with his feet. He will jump into the play and does a good job reading the scenario on offense when jumping into the rush. Jaros makes a very, very hard pass that at times is tough for his teammates to handle. He has a very hard shot, but his release is slow. He does a pretty good job of getting it through. He will have more success as a shooting defenseman than a puck-mover due to a lack of agility and creativity. Jaros is very physical on defense, and likes to jump up and play aggressively on his man. He has a tendency to get too aggressive and take himself out of position. He is strong down low where he is able to contain his man and make plays for the puck. He does a good job of working over his man in the slot, and he has an active, long reach on defense.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**205****KEVIN ELGESTAL****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Frolunda J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: May 29, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 13 G 22 A 35 PTS 34 PIM**

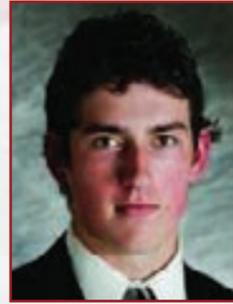
**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big and physical winger. Not the smoothest of skaters, but can get up to above-average speed once he decides to really churn his strong legs. He protects the puck well and is difficult to knock off it. Drops his shoulder and goes to the net. He is a pretty quick and agile skater who likes to carry the puck into the offensive zone. Elgestal is a relentless forechecker who really disrupts the opposition with his quickness and physicality. He could be described as the new Tomas Holmstrom as he just goes to the net and tries to make life miserable for defenders and goaltenders. He possesses a top-notch shot that is quick and very accurate. Needs little time to get off a strong wrister and backhand. Can be prone to making mistakes with the puck under pressure and giving it away. Elgestal is very dependent on his linemates to produce points as he lacks the creativity to do so on his own. Did not get loads of ice time on a stacked Frolunda SuperElit squad.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom-Six Physical Winger

**208****DYLAN MALMQUIST****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Edina (USHS)****BORN: August 18, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 12 G 20 A 32 PTS 12 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Malmquist is more of a two-way player, but excels on the offensive side of the puck as well. He is not the biggest guy on the ice, but he is extremely strong. Along with his strength, he is a real good skater, quick and elusive. Combining his strength and skating makes for a tough time for high school defenders to strip him of the puck. He has slick hands when controlling the puck. While he shows success making power moves from the outside, he also shows the ability to deke through defenders up the middle. He is able to control the puck while skating at high speed, with creativity and soft hands. Has the ability to receive the pass in motion with ease. We like his vision and smarts in the offensive zone as he always knows where to be and is always in a good scoring position. He is the type of player who the puck just always seems to find. He is real good on the forecheck, both as the man pressuring the puck and the man supporting the play. Defensively, he can be inconsistent, but when he is on, he pressures the puck real well and creates a lot of turnovers. Malmquist is offensively gifted and plays a solid two-way game. Is in dire need of muscle and weight if he wants to continue being successful at the next level of play.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Two-Way Forward

**206****RYAN MANTHA****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Indiana (USHL)****BORN: June 18, 1996****VITALS: 6'-5" / 225 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 3 G 12 A 15 PTS 71 PIM**

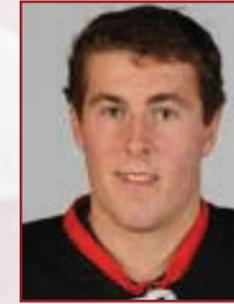
**SCOUTING REPORT:** A big, mobile defenseman, Mantha split time with the Sioux City Musketeers and the Indiana Ice this season. Mantha has impressive size, but he often has an issue using it. Mantha doesn't show enough willingness game in and game out to use his size to his fullest advantage. He doesn't play the toughest brand of defense, and it costs him from time to time when he fails to put a body on a player. He mostly relies on his reach and strong defensive stick to make plays. He does a very good job at stealing lanes with his stick, and at interrupting forwards who attempt to take the puck down the wing. He is most effective on the PK when he gets his stick in good position to steal the middle of the ice and prevent puck movement. He is a smart player defensively, and doesn't often stray from position, but if he can add some consistency to his physical game, he'd be more effective. Mantha has impressive mobility for his size. He has a long, smooth stride and he has shown the capability to take the puck over his own blueline. Mantha sees the ice very well with the puck and demonstrates immense poise under pressure. He makes a great first pass and impressive, long outlets to get his team moving up the ice. He has a strong, quick point shot with strong accuracy. He also has above-average stick skills for a big defenseman.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**209****MARK FRIEDMAN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Waterloo (USHL)****BORN: December 25, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 51 GP 10 G 30 A 40 PTS 30 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Friedman plays a good offensive game from the backend, as he uses a combination of mobility, skill and hockey sense to make things happen on the ice. Friedman is a very good skater, with a long, smooth stride. He generates speed through the middle of the ice, and has the ability to take the puck with him end to end. He has impressive stick skills and awareness of the ice in front of him, with the ability to avoid pressure and use his agility to move around opposing players. Friedman is very calm and poised with the puck and doesn't allow pressure to force his hand. He makes a strong first pass, but also has the ability to skate the puck out of pressure if that is his best option. Friedman does a good job working from the point, with the ability to walk the line with the puck, and find open shooting lanes to get off his hard wrist shot or power slap shot. Friedman did display the ability to work a PP during the season. His defensive game is still a bit of a work in progress, but he looked stronger in March than he did in September. Friedman does a good job of using his mobility and his stick to contain players, and to take them around the outside. He mirrors the puck with his stick and does a good job of getting between lanes. Friedman will use his body, and on occasion, he'll make a big hit on the boards to loosen the puck.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Six Offensive Defenseman

**207****JAMES WINKLER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Portland Jr. Pirates (USPHL)****BORN: April 22, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 13 G 4 A 17 PTS 58 PIM**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Winkler is your prototypical power forward. He plays an effective north-south game, has the size and skill to be effective offensively and comes back to help on defense. Winkler boasts some impressive skills on offense, with his main weapons being his shot and his size. He likes to use his size to his advantage with the puck, as he has the ability to muscle through checks, and to come out of the corners and off the walls with the puck and create a scoring chance by powering toward the net. He has a heavy, pro-caliber wrist shot with a quick, deceptive release. Winkler can also distribute the puck, and makes a solid cross-feed off the rush. He finds his teammates quickly and shows an understanding for how to use the players around him to create scoring chances. Winkler has some trouble with his mobility, as he is somewhat slow footed and has an awkward stride that ruins his ability to build speed. Winkler gives a good effort away from the puck, supporting his teammates effectively, and playing a decent physical game and defensive game. He doesn't throw a ton of big hits, but he'll use his size on the walls to come away with the puck and he'll take advantage of his strength to power his way into scoring situations. Defensively, Winkler uses an active stick and takes advantage of his reach to get into lanes and take opportunities.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top-Nine Power-Forward

**210****THOMAS LILLIE****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Sonderjyske (Denmark)****BORN: March 11, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 7 GP 1.84 GAA .906 SP - SO**

**SCOUTING REPORT:** A calm and composed goalie playing a modern hybrid style, Lillie covers a lot of net despite not being as huge as many other goalies these days. Only standing at 6-foot-0, he looks bigger and moves assertively. Because of and thanks to his relative lack of size, he has to be a pretty active goalie as well as being sound positionally since he can't always rely on his natural size to stop shots. His agility and reflexes are very good for a modern-style European goalie. Tracks pucks well and competes hard without losing his calming influence on his team. A bit of an unproven commodity as he spent the year mostly as a backup in the top Danish men's league, but he had a decent showing at the U18 World Championships and is taking his talents to Sweden for 2014-15 to continue his development.

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Project Goaltender

# SLEEPERS READY TO EMERGE IN DRAFT CLASS

There are sleepers aplenty available in the 2014 NHL Draft.

The 2014 NHL Draft is littered with prospects who have high potential, but have yet to show it on a consistent basis. The prospects are guys who have some interesting skills that project to the NHL level, but for one reason or another, they are ranked lower, usually because there is an aspect to their games that leave something to be desired. If these prospects can overcome these deficiencies or live up to the glimmer of potential they have shown over the next couple of years, they have the potential to be draft gems that analysts look back on as steals or sleepers.

Bloodlines and a decent playoffs for Portland of the WHL, when center Dominic Turgeon produced offensively while playing a strong defensive game in a limited third- and fourth-line role, might be enough for Pierre Turgeon's kid to earn a draft selection.

What any team drafting Turgeon will hope for is that he learns to use his size better, showing the ability to win physical battles more consistently and further develop his already impressive playmaking abilities.

Lethbridge of the WHL had a tough season, finishing at the bottom of the league's standings and despite a few bodies asking to move on, NHL draft-eligible center Reid Duke did not. Instead, he's making the most of his bleak situation and continually trying to improve his game.

Duke is a spark plug-type forward who likes handling the puck and using his good wheels through the neutral zone. He followed the play back to his own zone, showing a noticeable commitment to the defensive zone. Duke is a solid player overall who showed he is a versatile offensive threat and can succeed at a high tempo. Many would have liked to see him manufacture a little bit more offense and play with a tad bit more patience for opportunities to arise. He reminds us of Greg Chase, Edmonton's seventh-round pick last year.

Edmonton Oil King Dysin Mayo is a very mobile defenseman who excels in the offensive side of the game. While he has been a steady riser on FC's draft rankings all season, he has the potential to continue this trajectory even after the draft if he can add consistency, build up his frame and add a physical element to his defensive game.

His defense needs work as he sometimes pulls himself out of position. If games begin to open up, Mayo is usually one of the first ones to jump up in the rush, sometimes leaving his team exposed defensively. He has the fundamentals to progress his all-around game and fit nicely into a team's top four as a puck-moving defenseman at the pro level. If he continues his development, he could be one of the top players to come out of this draft 10 years down the road.

One player who a lot of people are sleeping on is Kelowna Rockets center Rourke Chartier. After a strong rookie season and a spot on the

Ivan Hlinka team, expectations were high coming into the year. He got off to a slow start playing in a limited role for the Rockets, but has turned into a dependable point-per-game player on one of the CHL's top teams.

Chartier is a two-way center who plays a highly competitive and extremely smart game. He is one of the best defensive forwards in the WHL, using a mixture of positioning and relentlessness on the puck to make an impact at both ends of the ice. While lacking high-end skill, Chartier has a long, smooth stride, and shows maturity and poise in his ability to make decisions at top speed. He is very effective in the cycle and when given a little bit of room, he can bury the puck. His style of play reminds us of a young Cody Eakin because he is versatile, physical and extremely smart.

Chartier will never be an NHL superstar, but he projects a useful role player who can kill penalties and will always contribute to positive plays up the ice with his smarts and poise. He is an impressive blend of character, smarts and mature defensive play that is rare in a draft-eligible player.

Playing Junior B in Ontario, Connor Murphy of Caledonia has the raw tools to develop into a strong offensive performer, but will need plenty of strength and time while he attends the University of Michigan.

He is an undersized playmaker who is a speedy center and displays a lot of leadership qualities. He has excellent vision, makes plays happen and buys his teammates both time and space. He's not an overly physical player by any means, but that could change if he hits the weight room and gains more confidence in his ability to win puck battles. He is definitely a project player, but the team that drafts him and holds his rights will reap the rewards in the future.

London's Christian Dvorak is a little seen and little known prospect due to playing in the U.S. Midget system as a youngster, and then having his rookie season in London cut short due to a knee injury.

Playing limited minutes for the Hunters, including many games on the third and fourth lines, Dvorak still stood out as someone with plenty of talent. He has high-end skating ability and a developing offensive game, and he could really explode for the Knights over the next couple of seasons. An NHL team would be wise to spend a draft selection on this talented Illinois native.

After being passed over in the annual OHL Priority Selection in consecutive years, 18-year-old Michael Bunting was finally given his shot at Major Junior hockey last spring when the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds drafted him in the ninth round, 160th overall, out of the Don Mills Flyers AAA Program. With little expectations going into the season, Bunting had a fantastic development camp and was invited to



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the Greyhounds main camp in August, where he played his way into a regular spot in the lineup.

Bunting continued to develop over the course of the season, getting an increase in ice time and playing key minutes on the power play for the Hounds. Bunting is a smooth-skating winger, who possesses exceptional hockey sense and seems to be in the right spot at the right time.

With the growth and progression Bunting has shown in just one season of Major Junior, one has to wonder what a full, injury-free season of hockey will do for Bunting and his future. It's more than likely that Bunting will not be drafted in the first few rounds as he is a bit of an unproven commodity, but he could prove to be a valuable mid-round selection for any team looking for a gifted winger who can finish.

Defenseman Aleksandar Mikulovich came over from Russia at the start of the year, and it didn't take him very long to adjust to the North American size ice and style of play. He is an average skater who can protect the puck well and has a powerful shot from the point. He comes up big in key moments. Mikulovich delivers hip checks that would make Larry Robinson or Darius Kasparaitis proud as he plasters opponents to the boards. He is not shy in engaging physically along the wall, but will need to improve the timing of his checking.

We don't think Mikulovich gets enough credit for what he can do as he is a reliable defender. He is a mainstay on Niagara's penalty kill and is a responsible player. He's strong on his feet and hard to be moved in front of the net, and he can more than hold his own in the corner. An area of weakness is his mobility; opponents can use their speed to beat him one on one or to the outside, and he often gets caught flat-footed. We feel as though he could be a long-term success with more development in his skating.

A kid that went from the penthouse to the outhouse with our evaluators this season was Blake Clarke of Saginaw. After a promising rookie OHL season where he was counted on as a consistent offensive pro-

ducer and power forward in the making for Brampton, he looked like a shell of his former self this season, taking multiple steps back when the team moved to North Bay.

After battling and playing through a shoulder separation injury sustained in the All-American Prospects Game, Clarke remained ineffective over the first month and a half of the season and was soon dealt to Saginaw. Many hoped he would get his game back on track, but he still looked tentative and downright disinterested for stretches at a time.

Forward Matt Highmore is coming from a Saint John squad that struggled to put together many wins in the Q this season and is being undervalued. He has a powerful stride and isn't pushed around. Highmore has good hands and will show creativity on the rush. His skill set makes him a little vanilla to watch, but he has the raw tools to be a solid pro.

Highmore's hockey sense is his best asset as he stalks around in both zones constantly making minor adjustments to be in good position to support. Highmore makes a difference out there. He will mature with Saint John as they go through a rebuilding phase and shows potential as a future NHLer.

Down south, Janesville Jets puck stopper Logan Halladay is a big-time goaltender and a sleeper in the 2014 draft. His upside is very high, as the steady keeper began generating interest early in the year after finding quick success and the starter's role in Janesville.

At 6-foot-2, 180 pounds, Halladay has nice size for a goalie and he uses it well. He plays big in his crease and comes out aggressively on the shooter to take away the angle and net. He moves well around his crease and can also venture off to play the puck to teammates. Halladay is a poised, collected goaltender who never seems to get phased, and he always has his focus on the task ahead. He is consistent and competitive, and should develop into a solid NHL goaltender.

Halladay will have plenty of time to develop his game before he reaches the pro ranks, and he'll likely spend time in the USHL before joining the University of Minnesota in Fall 2016 where his game will further grow. In a few short seasons, he could make a few NHL squads kick themselves for not taking a chance on this kid.

Brendan van Riemsdyk is a big, strong power forward who split time between Christian Brothers Academy and the New Jersey Hitmen U18 of the newly formed USPHL. He is very strong with and without the puck, has slick hands and likes to be fancy sometimes, but also shows the ability to make the power move to the outside. Van Riemsdyk has big, long, powerful strides, but does not have quick enough foot speed. He has a real hard shot and it is very accurate. He will never be the best defensive player on the ice.

The brother of Toronto Maple Leafs sniper James van Riemsdyk is plenty raw and needs a good deal of refinement, which is why we left him off our list of 210, but the ability to be a productive NHL player shows up in flashes.

Small, but skilled, US NTDP defender Brandon Fortunato is a kid to



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keep an eye on as well. He is someone who if he were four inches taller and 20 pounds heavier would be talked about in the first round. As it is though, he stands a small 5-foot-9 and lacks functional strength.

Fortunato's draw is his offensive abilities as he used his excellent speed and quickness, as well as his vision and puck-moving skills, to make things happen on offense. Fortunato is a great skater with excellent feet and the ability to escape pressure and explode up the ice. He is good on his edges and very agile. Fortunato has good hands and controls the puck well out of pressure.

Fortunato has a very effective stick on defense which helps with his lack of size. He does need to build considerable muscle before going pro, as it was one of his main issues this season when he attempted to win battles and take guys off the puck. If a team thinks there is a chance he can play as a small defender or that he has a few inches of growth left in him, they could have a real steal as a mid- to late-round selection.

Michigan Wolverines rookie goaltender Zach Nagelvoort really opened some eyes this season with inspired play in the crease after the team's starter went down with an injury. He has a good frame, a solid butterfly stance, closes off the lower portion of net with quick legs and can steal a sure goal with a flashy glove. For a team looking to add a goaltender in the draft, this is a low-risk, but high-potential reward option.

St. Lawrence University defenseman Gavin Bayreuther has been on our radar for a few seasons, but he really stepped up his game at the NCAA level this season. Almost a point-per-game player as a rookie defender, his draft stock is on the rise.

The offensive-minded blueliner is a very impressive skater, dangerous on the power play with his strong vision and puck distribution skills, and logs plenty of minutes in all situations. He has some areas to work on, mainly in his own zone, but could be a strong pick for a team looking for a puck mover.

Over the ocean, there are a handful of guys who we feel have under-

rated skill sets and the ability to really surprise after a season or two of further development.

Johan Gronqvist has taken big steps forward this season, after our Swedish head scout discovered him in Valbo this fall and didn't have a chance to follow up until he was with Brynäs after Christmas. He showed great development throughout the year. Gronqvist is extremely talented, but he still has lots to work on and is a little bit all over the place. He is skilled with the puck with some of the softest hands on a defenseman in this age group, and is very effective from the point on the power play, despite not having the big shot. Gronqvist has excellent offensive awareness and distributes the puck really well.

He has a good, powerful stride, and is very effective in all aspects when it comes to moving the puck from his own end, mostly using smart, quick passes, but he is also a good puck-carrier. Gronqvist does tend to want to carry it too much at times, probably something that's carrying over from his "small club" flaws. He will need a lot of fine-tuning on his defensive game as he stares at the puck and gets caught out of position from time to time, and he has some problems sorting out where to be and who to cover with his new team. He also has some problems with gap control. Gronqvist is coming from a mostly lower level of play in terms of skill and smarts, but not in terms of physique, having played in a men's league for a large part of the year.

We would love for him to work on his shot to be a complete offensive threat. Gronqvist is one of our favorites with the puck in the transitional phase and he is good in the offensive zone as well. He is a long-term project who needs lots of time, but may be worth taking a flyer on with a late round pick.

August Gunnarsson is a really well-rounded player with good hockey sense and an excellent work ethic. He also possesses good hands around the net and a decent wrist shot, as he is able to find the net in

several different ways. He is not a great playmaker or puck distributor at this point, although he can hold onto the puck a bit, especially along the boards where he is very smart and surprisingly strong.

The only downside is that he's not very big, something that would help him to become an NHL player, given his playing style. August reminds us of a mix between P.J. Axelsson and Patric Hörnqvist, and could potentially carve out a career somewhere similar to those two.

Adam Brodecki is a prospect who's got good hockey sense and very good hands. He is a good passer, but can also find the net with his wrist, often shooting in stride with a screen. He can also deke a defender quite easily at junior level, and he might be able to do this at senior level with added strength and speed.

The downside is that he is quite small and weak at the moment. His skating is also a bit average in terms of speed, but with added strength, we think skating would be a plus for him as he's got good mobility and overall balance. If drafted by a patient team that could wait three or four years for his arrival, we believe Brodecki has some NHL potential.

HV71 SuperElit defenseman Lawrence Pilut is an intelligent two-way player who gained some solid experience this season. He is smaller and will need added strength, but he has the smarts and the skills plus the work ethic to one day make the jump to North America.

Two-way defenseman Filip Pyrochta has impressed our Czech guy with his all-round ability. He is a smart, mobile defenseman with a knack to put up points and do it in times his team needs it the most. His offensive tools are top-notch, but, mostly due to his size, we saw his defensive game deteriorate as he progressed to U20 and pros.

Pyrochta has earned some pro experience this season and one day, we feel he could turn himself into a top-four defenseman in the NHL. While his game has lacked consistency and needs to improve before this happens, we feel his upside makes him one to watch as a draft

sleeper.

Joni Tuulola is a very talented defenseman who has played with HPK's junior teams. He's been one of the top defensemen in his age group in Finland for a relatively long time, lending promise to his upside. This year, Tuulola played very well at the Junior A level and he even got to play with the men's team, scoring a goal in his first game on an excellent individual effort.

Tuulola has good size and he is an excellent passer from the back end. He makes really good outlet passes and he does so calmly. He also has a very hard slap shot and his wrist shot isn't bad either. He is pretty good in his own end, but he will have to gain more muscle to do a better job in the corners and fighting in front of his own goal. Right now, Tuulola is pretty effective without the puck since he has an active stick, but he needs to get stronger. Skating is something he could improve as well; he has pretty good speed, but some more agility would only help. We think Tuulola would be a valuable pick in the middle rounds with the talent to become a steal.

Finally, two Russians stand out as having the potential to develop into solid NHL prospects. The MHL's Eduard Nasybullin of Bars Kazan and Ivan Nalimov of SKA-Saint Petersburg have impressive attributes that caught the eyes of scouts this season.

Nasybullin plays an aggressive defensive game as he shows a talent for laying the body and playing physical. He also makes solid passes up ice and can run the power play effectively. The problem is he is 5-foot-9 and under 170-pounds soaking wet.

Ivan Nalimov is an impressive goaltender who has a very imposing 6-foot-4 frame and quick reflexes. He was solid in his games at the CHL Subway Super Series and the World Juniors, but has been passed over in two drafts already and has the Russian label that hinders his future along with this draft holding some solid North American options in net.



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Copyright © Rourke Chartier - Marissa Baecker/Kelowna Rockets

# 2014 NHL MOCK DRAFT

Time to dust off the old crystal ball; put analysis of team needs and trends with everything we have seen and heard in the rinks to good use and project where we see the prospects of the 2014 NHL Draft landing.

In an era where the salary cap handcuffs teams in how they build or supplement a winning team, the draft has become so important and making the right selection for one's team and the style they play so crucial that every draft selection counts.

With that in mind, FC has put together a two-round mock draft.

So without further ado...

"Florida Panthers have the first selection in the 2014 NHL Entry Draft."

**\*\*Exact order to be determined after Stanley Cup Playoffs**



## 1

### FLORIDA PANTHERS

The Florida Panthers select from Barrie of the OHL, D Aaron Ekblad.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive talent on the wing and a blue-chip goaltending prospect.

**NOTES:** With the top pick Florida selects who we at FC believe is the top overall prospect and someone who will be a leader and solid No. 1 defenseman, a building block to a team's young D-corps.

## 2

### BUFFALO SABRES

The Buffalo Sabres select from Kingston of the OHL, C Sam Bennett.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They could use a true puck-rushing defender and talent up front.

**NOTES:** The Sabres add a true two-way threat in the gritty and skilled center who reminds many of a young Doug Gilmour with a bit bigger size. He will slide right into the top prospect slot in the organization.

## 3

### EDMONTON OILERS

The Edmonton Oilers select from Prince Albert of the WHL, C Leon Draisaitl.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need skill with size up front, a blue-chip goalie prospect and puck-rushing defenders.

**NOTES:** The Oilers get the guy they have been wanting for months now. The big, skilled playmaking center that they feel will in turn help all the average-to smaller-sized wingers produce the offense they are capable of.

## 4

### CALGARY FLAMES

The Calgary Flames select from Kootenay of the WHL, C Sam Reinhart.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need size and skill up front, a potential #1 center and impact defensive prospects.

**NOTES:** The Flames grab up the draft's smartest, two-way center available and see him as their potential No. 1 center of the future. He joins brother Max in the Calgary organization.

## 5

### NEW YORK ISLANDERS

The New York Islanders select from Oshawa of the OHL, RW Michael Dal Colle.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need forward depth and some potential goal scorers coming on the wings.

**NOTES:** The Islanders get their man. A potential power forward who might be best served as a winger who can fire shots off without the worry of a center's defensive responsibility.

## 6

### VANCOUVER CANUCKS

The Vancouver Canucks select from MODO of the Swedish Hockey League, RW William Nylander.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at the all forward positions, puck-moving D and a blue-chipper in net.

**NOTES:** The Canucks select the early wildcard of the draft as William Nylander has the potential to become the top talent taken in this draft. He fits the need of offensive forward.

7

**CAROLINA HURRICANES**

The Carolina Hurricanes select from Halifax of the QMJHL, C Nikolaj Ehlers.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive talent up front and a high-end goaltender in the pipeline.

**NOTES:** The Hurricanes add one of the best skaters available and not just someone who has good feet, but who can also generate offensive chances off the rush.

8

**TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS**

The Toronto Maple Leafs select from Peterborough of the OHL, RW Nick Ritchie.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need talent on the wings and more skilled defenders on the way.

**NOTES:** The Maple Leafs are building a system full of size and grit, and they do not deviate when they get the big, goal-scoring power forward that they have craved.

9

**WINNIPEG JETS**

The Winnipeg Jets select from Niagara of the OHL, LW Brendan Perlini.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** The Jets need some skill on the wings and a blue-chip goaltender.

**NOTES:** The Jets add some skill, size and offensive talent to the position they need it at the most. Perlini has a good shot to play meaningful minutes in Winnipeg in the not too distant future.

10

**ANAHEIM DUCKS**

The Anaheim Ducks select from the NTDP U18, RW Alex Tuch.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at all three forward positions.

**NOTES:** The Ducks use the pick they grabbed from Ottawa in the Bobby Ryan deal to pick up another big goal-scoring forward. They think that Tuch will be able to complement the top line by providing secondary scoring in the near future.

11

**NASHVILLE PREDATORS**

The Nashville Predators select from Red Deer of the WHL, D Haydn Fleury.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** The Predators could have used a skilled forward here but decide to fill another need with who they have as the best available. This pick gives them someone who can potentially join Seth Jones as cornerstone defenders.

12

**PHOENIX COYOTES**

The Phoenix Coyotes select from the NTDP U18, LW Sonny Milano.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need goal-scoring prospects with size on the wings and defensive depth.

**NOTES:** The Coyotes have enjoyed success with drafting NTDP prospects and feel Milano gives them that high-end, shifty offensive guy to potentially pair with Max Domi.

13

**WASHINGTON CAPITALS**

The Washington Capitals select from Calgary of the WHL, C/RW Jake Virtanen.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They are thin on gritty forwards and need more high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** With the turnover of management, one would wonder what their draft strategy will look like, but the Capitals couldn't ignore the need for some grit and a potential NHL goal scorer.

14

**DALLAS STARS**

The Dallas Stars select from KalPa of the Finnish League, RW Kasper Kapanen.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a puck-rushing D and some more skill on the wings.

**NOTES:** Jim Nill continues to put his stamp on the Stars prospect pool and adds skill and speed with this pick. They feel Kapanen has as much offensive upside as William Nylander.

15

**DETROIT RED WINGS**

The Detroit Red Wings select from HV 71 of the Swedish Hockey League, C Kevin Fiala.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at the forward positions and added goaltender depth.

**NOTES:** After going through a youth movement of sorts the past two seasons, the Red Wings now need to replenish some of the forward talent they have graduated. They like Fiala's skill and work ethic.

16

**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**

The Columbus Blue Jackets select from Sault Ste. Marie of the OHL, C Jared McCann.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need more skill up front and a puck rusher on the blue line.

**NOTES:** The Blue Jackets love the guys with hockey sense and smarts, and that is exactly what they get with this selection of the two-way pivot with a booming shot.

17

**PHILADELPHIA FLYERS**

The Philadelphia Flyers select the NTDP U18, C Dylan Larkin.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive talent coming at all three forward positions and a true blue-chipper in the crease.

**NOTES:** Ron Hextall's first selection as general manager is this smooth-skating two-way pivot with the ability to score. The Flyers feel Larkin has some good NHL offensive upside.

18

**MINNESOTA WILD**

The Minnesota Wild select from Red Deer of the WHL, RW Conner Bleackley.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive skill at all forward positions and some skilled defenders.

**NOTES:** The Wild love the responsible but skilled game that Bleackley brings and see him in their line-up sooner than later. He will help fill the offensive need their prospect pool is lacking.

19

**TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**

The Tampa Bay Lightning select from Guelph of the OHL, C Robby Fabbri.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a puck-moving D prospect and some offensive skill up front.

**NOTES:** Tampa Bay loves the speed and tenacious forecheck Fabbri brings, and feel he is the perfect fit to fill the offensive need and two-way play of a second-line center.

20

**SAN JOSE SHARKS**

The San Jose Sharks select from Green Bay of the USHL, C Nick Schmaltz.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth on the wings and offensive skill at all forward positions.

**NOTES:** The Sharks feel they can get the skilled center to play up to his potential on a consistent basis and potentially get a steal at this point of the first round.

21

**ST. LOUIS BLUES**

The St. Louis Blues select from Kitchener of the OHL, RW Ryan MacInnis.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at left wing, center and on defense.

**NOTES:** The Blues go for the bloodlines with this pick and add a potential power winger who can bring an offensive element.

22

**PITTSBURGH PENGUINS**

The Pittsburgh Penguins select from Sarnia of the OHL, RW Nikolay Goldobin.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every forward position.

**NOTES:** The Penguins have what they feel could be a legitimate goal-scoring winger with this selection. The skilled Russian needs to add considerable strength to fulfill that upside however.

23

**COLORADO AVALANCHE**

The Colorado Avalanche select from Saskatoon of the OHL, RW Nikita Scherbak.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They are in dire need of depth and talent on the wings.

**NOTES:** The Avalanche like the size and skill combo that the Russian import brings to the table, and feel he is not too far off from contributing to Patrick Roy's squad.

24

**ANAHEIM DUCKS**

The Anaheim Ducks select from Windsor of the OHL, RW Josh Ho-Sang.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at all three forward positions.

**NOTES:** After selecting a big power forward with their first pick in the first round, the Ducks continue to stock up on forward talent with this selection.

**25 BOSTON BRUINS**

The Boston Bruins select from Dexter School, C Ryan Donato.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to add depth at all forward positions and a high-end defensive prospect.

**NOTES:** The Bruins stick with the bloodlines and local talent here with this pick. They feel Donato has legit top-six upside as a two-way forward.

**26 LOS ANGELES KINGS**

The Los Angeles Kings select from Boston College, G Thatcher Demko.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need skill up front, depth on the backend and a blue-chip stopper to develop.

**NOTES:** Los Angeles gets the blue-chipper in net to develop and potentially their goaltender of the future who will challenge Martin Jones and Jonathan Quick in the next five or six years for the starter's role.

**27 MONTREAL CANADIENS**

The Montreal Canadiens select from the NTDP U18, D Jack Dougherty.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a skilled puck rusher on D and a top center to develop.

**NOTES:** Montreal likes the skilled two-way blueliner who was arguably the top defenseman outside the CHL this season.

**28 TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**

The Tampa Bay Lightning select from Moncton of the QMJHL, LW Ivan Barbashev.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a puck-moving D prospect and some offensive skill up front.

**NOTES:** After taking a skilled two-way center with their first pick in the draft, the Lightning use their second first-round pick to continue to bolster the forward corps.

**29 CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS**

The Chicago Blackhawks select from Sodertalje of the Allsvenskan, RW David Pastrnak.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need considerable depth on the wings and on defense.

**NOTES:** The Blackhawks grab up an offensive winger who they feel can slide into a top-six role potentially beside blue-chip center Teuvo Teravainen.

**30 NEW JERSEY DEVILS**

The New Jersey Devils select from Kingston of the OHL, D Roland McKeown.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** The Devils need talent at every position so they take who they have as the best available and grab a potential top-four blueliner of the future.

**31 BUFFALO SABRES**

The Buffalo Sabres select from Swift Current of the WHL, D Julius Honka.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They could use a true puck-rushing defender and talent up front.

**NOTES:** The Sabres are able to add the puck-moving defenseman that they wanted with their second pick of the draft.

**32 FLORIDA PANTHERS**

The Florida Panthers select from Charlottetown of the QMJHL, G Mason McDonald.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive talent on the wing and a blue-chip goaltending prospect.

**NOTES:** Florida gets their top goaltending prospect to develop and proves to be building for the future, from the back end out.

**33 ST. LOUIS BLUES**

The St. Louis Blues select from Sarnia of the OHL, D Anthony DeAngelo.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at left wing, center and on defense.

**NOTES:** The Blues know about the issues DeAngelo has had but feel the potential reward outweighs the risk in his case.

**34 CALGARY FLAMES**

The Calgary Flames select from MODO Juniors of the SuperElit, C Adrian Kempe.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need size and skill up front and impact defensive prospects.

**NOTES:** Kempe adds both the size and skill up front that the Flames need to add in their system of prospects.

**35 NEW YORK ISLANDERS**

The New York Islanders select from Linkoping of the SuperElit, C Jakub Vrana.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to continue adding forward depth.

**NOTES:** The Islanders add a potential goal-scoring forward who can play a top-six role but will need plenty of time to continue to develop his overall game to NHL standards.

**36 VANCOUVER CANUCKS**

The Vancouver Canucks select from Calgary of the WHL, D Travis Sanheim.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at all forward positions, puck-moving D and a blue-chipper in net.

**NOTES:** The Canucks add a puck-moving blueliner with this pick after striking for an elite-level offensive forward.

**37 CAROLINA HURRICANES**

The Carolina Hurricanes select from Plymouth of the OHL, G Alex Nedeljkovic.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive talent up front and a high-end goaltender in the pipeline.

**NOTES:** The connection of ownership and the need of a top goaltending prospect are too much to keep these two apart.

**38 ANAHEIM DUCKS**

The Anaheim Ducks select from Frolunda of the SuperElit, RW Anton Karlsson.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at all three forward positions.

**NOTES:** After picking up two forwards already in the first round, Anaheim follows suit as they cannot pass on the big skilled winger.

**39 BUFFALO SABRES**

The Buffalo Sabres select from Peterborough of the OHL, C Eric Cornel.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to continue to add talent up front.

**NOTES:** The Sabres add another talented forward to their stable of future players with this pick.

**40 OTTAWA SENATORS**

The Ottawa Senators select from Skelleftea of the SuperElit, D Marcus Pettersson.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need skilled defenders and a couple high-end talents at the forward positions.

**NOTES:** The Senators go back to the well and tap Sweden again for a prospect who they hope will play on the big club for 10 to 15 years.

**41 NEW JERSEY DEVILS**

The New Jersey Devils select from Brandon of the WHL, C John Quenneville.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** The Devils like these two-way guys who can make an impact in all aspects and that is just what they get in Quenneville.

**42 NASHVILLE PREDATORS**

The Nashville Predators select from Barrie of the OHL, LW Brendan Lemieux.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** The Predators took a strong two-way defender in the first and now look to this ornery power winger here in the second.

**43 PHOENIX COYOTES**

The Phoenix Coyotes select from Gatineau of the QMJHL, RW Vaclav Karabacek.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need skilled prospects with size on the wings and defensive depth.

**NOTES:** The Coyotes are excited to add this skilled import winger whose development trajectory was going in the right direction all season.

**44 WASHINGTON CAPITALS**

The Washington Capitals selects from the NTDP U18, D Ryan Collins.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They are thin on gritty forwards and need more high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** The Capitals pick up a big puck-moving blueliner in the second round after taking the goal-scoring winger in the first.

**45 DALLAS STARS**

The Dallas Stars select from Swift Current of the WHL, D Brycen Martin.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a puck-rushing D and some more skill on the wings.

**NOTES:** The Stars add the puck mover they were looking for with their second-round pick.

**46 NASHVILLE PREDATORS**

The Nashville Predators select from Indiana of the USHL, D Josh Jacobs.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** The Predators add another prospect who they feel is a building block with their second pick in round two.

**47 COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**

The Columbus Blue Jackets select from the NTDP U18, D Jack Glover.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need more skill up front and a puck rusher on the blue line.

**NOTES:** The Blue Jackets add a solid puck-moving blueliner who also boasts impressive size with their second pick in the draft.

**48 PHILADELPHIA FLYERS**

The Philadelphia Flyers select from Kelowna of the WHL, LW Justin Kirkland.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive talent coming at all three forward positions and a true blue-chipper in the crease.

**NOTES:** The Flyers reach down a little and grab this talented forward with loads of upside.

**49 BUFFALO SABRES**

The Buffalo Sabres select from Moose Jaw of the WHL, C Brayden Point.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to continue adding depth of talent at every position.

**NOTES:** Buffalo adds a small, but highly skilled two-way forward who has considerable risk, but also high reward as someone who can play in almost any role.

**50 TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**

The Tampa Bay Lightning select from Niagara of the OHL, D Blake Siebenaler.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a puck-moving D prospect and more offensive skill up front.

**NOTES:** After picking up a couple high-end forwards in the first round they take a skilled puck-moving blueliner who is also on their wish list.

**51 SAN JOSE SHARKS**

The San Jose Sharks select from Baie-Comeau of the QMJHL, D Alexis Vanier.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every position.

**NOTES:** The Sharks love the size and offensive ability this guy combines, and while his skating is a question mark, they feel it is correctable.

**52 ST. LOUIS BLUES**

The St. Louis Blues select from Edmonton of the WHL, D Dysin Mayo.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need depth at left wing, center and on defense.

NOTES: The Blues nab another puck-moving blueliner with this pick as insurance for the DeAngelo selection.

**53 SAN JOSE SHARKS**

The San Jose Sharks select from Moncton of the QMJHL, LW Vladimir Tkachev.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need depth and a few elite offensive prospects.

NOTES: The Sharks use their second pick in this round on a gamble on the ultra-skilled but super tiny Russian who is slotted to go anywhere from the second to seventh rounds.

**54 CALGARY FLAMES**

The Calgary Flames select from Carleton Place of the CCHL, D Kelly Summers.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need size and skill up front and impact defensive prospects.

NOTES: The Flames add a puck-moving blueliner to the pool after spending two picks on forwards.

**55 BOSTON BRUINS**

The Boston Bruins select from Oshawa of the OHL, RW Hunter Smith.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need depth at every position.

NOTES: The Bruins have a style of being heavy on their sticks and hard to play against and that is just what Hunter Smith brings.

**56 ANAHEIM DUCKS**

The Anaheim Ducks select from Portland of the WHL, C Chase DeLeo.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need depth at left wing and another goaltender to develop.

NOTES: The Ducks scoop up this talented local product who they feel will move to the wing and give them some offensive support down the line.

**57 COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**

The Columbus Blue Jackets select from Skelleftea of the SuperElit, D Sebastian Aho.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more skill up front and depth throughout.

NOTES: The Blue Jackets add another highly intelligent and talented prospect with the offensive minded defenseman who plays an impressive two-way game but has some size concerns.

**58 NEW YORK ISLANDERS**

The New York Islanders select from Kingston of the OHL, LW Spencer Watson.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need to continue adding forward depth

NOTES: The Islanders pick up a smaller skilled goal scorer who has the talent to make them look brilliant if he reaches his potential.

**59 NEW YORK RANGERS**

The New York Rangers select from Stalnie Lisi Magnitogorsk of the MHL, RW Vladislav Kamenev.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need a puck mover on the backend and a goaltender to develop.

NOTES: The Rangers can't help but take the talented Russian, who has first-round size and talent, but also questions about his NHL future.

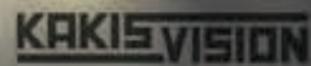
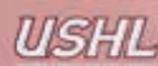
**60 PHOENIX COYOTES**

The Phoenix Coyotes select from Niagara of the OHL, D Aaron Haydon.

DRAFT NEEDS: They need prospects with size on the wings and defensive depth.

NOTES: The Coyotes add the defensive prospect they were looking to grab with this pick and see Haydon as a big two-way guy at the NHL level.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS  
2015 NHL DRAFT GUIDE



# PRELIMINARY RANKING FOR 2015 NHL DRAFT



**1**  
**C Connor McDavid**  
Erie, OHL  
6-0, 185

An intelligent and highly creative player who makes dynamic plays that will pull you out of your seat...a fluid skater who moves with outstanding speed, agility, solid quickness and an impressive change of pace...he controls the game whenever he touches the ice, and uses his intelligence and vision to put the puck exactly where he wants it...has a very sharp, accurate shot that allows him to pick corners or small openings on the tender even while in full flight...not afraid to work the wall and retrieve pucks himself...has all the tools to become the NHL's next superstar...just an incredible offensive talent.



**3**  
**D Noah Hanifin**  
NTDP U17, USHL  
6-3, 200

The 2015 draft's top defenseman...a smart and powerful two-way force... big, but very mobile... moves well with good speed and agility...uses his strength and reach very well when he rushes the puck, and he is tough to contain when he gets going...is skilled and confident with the puck and has the ability to take it end-to-end...used his size and body well to contain players and box them out on the walls...is smart and makes great defensive decisions...has an instinctive knack for knowing where his teammates are on the ice...supremely skilled quarterbacking the power play.



**5**  
**C Colin White**  
NTDP U17, USHL  
6-0, 180

Strong, well-rounded, two-way center...one of the best skaters for this draft...great speed with an excellent stride and tremendous acceleration...moves quickly and is tough to handle when he hits top speed...has great strength on his skates and is tough to separate from the puck...battles hard for possession...drives the net and is strong in close...can beat a goalie in many ways...has a great shot and also distributes the puck well...a very hard worker with an edge to his game...great on defense with a great defensive stick and strong defensive-zone awareness...always in the right spots on the ice and he is a tremendous worker.



**2**  
**C Jack Eichel**  
NTDP U18, USHL  
6-2, 195

A very consistent offensive force who brings it every shift...tough to contain for his peers as he can bull his way where he wants as well as maneuver the puck with skilled hands...is a responsible defensive player who has the ability to pick-pocket the puck on the backcheck and start up ice quickly...is dangerous with a strong selection of shots, plus elite-level playmaking skills that include the ability to find seams with impressive vision and deceptive passing...gives strong efforts and plays in all situations...relentless on puck pursuit...NHL star in the making.



**4**  
**C Travis Konecny**  
Ottawa, OHL  
5-10, 165

A skilled forward who is a threat in all three zones...has great speed and quickness with tremendous feet and balance on his edges; great agility...very flashy with the puck, but smart... able to create space for himself with his quickness and his vision...impressive puck-distributing skills...moves the puck very well and is constantly able to set up his linemates with excellent chances...possesses a hard shot with a deceptive release...effort level is terrific each shift as he is a hard worker and high-compete player...hits, battles and plays hard defensively; always involved...fun player to watch and is already one of the OHL's most dangerous scorers.



**6**  
**D Oliver Kylington**  
Farjestad, SHL  
6-0, 180

Exceptionally poised, mature, two-way defenseman...handles the puck well and likes to join the rush...plays with impressive confidence and is absolutely fearless with the puck on his stick...doesn't possess a bomb of a shot, but knows how to put the puck on target...quite impressive top speed and acceleration, especially in offensive situations...not overly big and has some defensive positioning issues to sort out...minute-munching ability as this kid just has ice water flowing through his veins.

Over the past three years, we have been watching the '97 birth year class develop and mature en route to the 2015 NHL Draft.

Not only have names like Connor McDavid, Jack Eichel and Noah Hanifin been making big impressions over that time, but strong, difference-making talent seems to be added to the count for this draft class on what seems like a weekly basis.

- 1). **C Connor McDavid, Erie (OHL), 6-0, 185**
- 2). **C Jack Eichel, NTDP U18 (USHL), 6-2, 195**
- 3). **D Noah Hanifin, NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-3, 195**
- 4). **C Travis Konecny, Ottawa (OHL), 5-10, 165**
- 5). **C Colin White, NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-0, 180**
- 6). **D Oliver Kylington, Farjestad (SHL), 6-0, 180**
- 7). **C Mathew Barzal, Seattle (WHL), 5-11, 175**
- 8). **C Dylan Strome, Erie (OHL), 6-2, 175**
- 9). **D Rasmus Andersson, Malmo (Allsvenskan), 6-0, 210**
- 10). **C Pavel Zacha, Liberec (Czech Extraliga), 6-3, 200**
- 11). **RW Daniel Sprong, Charlottetown (QMJHL), 5-10, 165**
- 12). **C Kyle Connor, Youngstown (USHL), 6-0, 165**
- 13). **D Ryan Pilon, Brandon (WHL), 6-2, 200**
- 14). **LW Jordan Greenway, NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-4, 205**
- 15). **RW Fredrik Forsberg, Leksand J20 (SuperElit), 5-11, 165**
- 16). **D Zach Werenski, NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-2, 190**
- 17). **RW Nicolas Roy, Chicoutimi (QMJHL), 6-4, 175**
- 18). **D Matthew Spencer, Peterborough (OHL), 6-2, 190**
- 19). **D Jeremy Roy, Sherbrooke (QMJHL), 6-0, 180**
- 20). **LW Lawson Crouse, Kingston (OHL), 6-4, 205**
- 21). **RW Kirill Pilipenko, HC MVD Jr. (MHL), 5-11, 175**
- 22). **C Mitch Marner, London (OHL), 5-10, 165**
- 23). **LW Evgeni Svechnikov, Bars Kazan (MHL), 6-1, 185**
- 24). **RW Mikko Rantanen, TPS (SM-Liiga), 6-2, 180**
- 25). **LW Paul Bittner, Portland (WHL), 6-4, 195**
- 26). **C Jeremy Bracco, NTDP U17 (USHL), 5-9, 155**
- 27). **C Nathan Noel, Saint John (QMJHL), 5-11, 170**
- 28). **C Aleks Saarela, Lukko (SM-Liiga), 5-10, 190**
- 29). **RW Robin Kovacs, AIK J20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 175**
- 30). **LW A.J. Greer, Kimball Union (USHS), 6-4, 185**

# 2015 PRELIMINARY RANKING



**7**  
**C Mathew Barzal**  
 Seattle, WHL  
 5-11, 175

A smart, creative player with a wide, strong, fluid stride...plays a 200-foot game...makes good decisions with the puck...has decent strength, and looks bigger than listed...shows flashes of dominating offensive skills, but need to do so with more consistency...not overly physical, but will engage in contact for the puck...shows his creativity, vision and playmaking ability on the power play...finds seams and open ice with his impressive senses...has high-end offensive NHL upside.



**9**  
**D Rasmus Andersson**  
 Malmo, Allsvenskan  
 6-0, 210

A skilled, versatile, two-way defenseman...not an elite skater, but is able to keep up with any and everyone, whether moving forward or backward...loves to not only jump into the play, but also to lug the puck even deep into the opposition zone...has solid vision to set up his teammates...has a hard point shot and picks his times when to shoot or pass well... great positional play in the defensive zone as he's always where he should be...not overly physical, but will dish out punishment when encountering opponents hovering around his net...very good at ragging the puck and playing pass with his defensive partner before making a deadly breakout pass.



**11**  
**RW Daniel Sprong**  
 Charlottetown, QMJHL  
 5-11, 175

A strong offensive player...he's quick and extremely involved in every play...an explosive player who can create chances out of nothing...strong skater and very slick hands...a wicked shot and can snipe top shelf...not easily pushed around, but still does need to add strength to truly dominate...he's adaptable and able to find ways to make an impact in every game...defense needs to come along and he isn't very physical, but his offensive skill set will make him a game breaker at the pro level...at times, he shows some real initiative in his own zone though, blocking shots and breaking up plays...works his butt off both on and off the ice to improve his game.



**8**  
**C Dylan Strome**  
 Erie, OHL  
 6-2, 175

Elite offensive forward...a big forward who moves well, and demonstrated some very good power and speed...is tough to contain as he used his speed, strength and creativity to beat defenders...has great vision with the puck and sees the ice very well...uses his crafty hands to dance around defenders and get into positions where he could shoot or set-up teammates...distributes the puck well and is able to create a lot of chances...has a lethal wrist-shot with great power and a pretty good release...uses his size and reach on the boards to win the puck and get in good supporting areas to pick up loose pucks...defensive effort goes up and down.



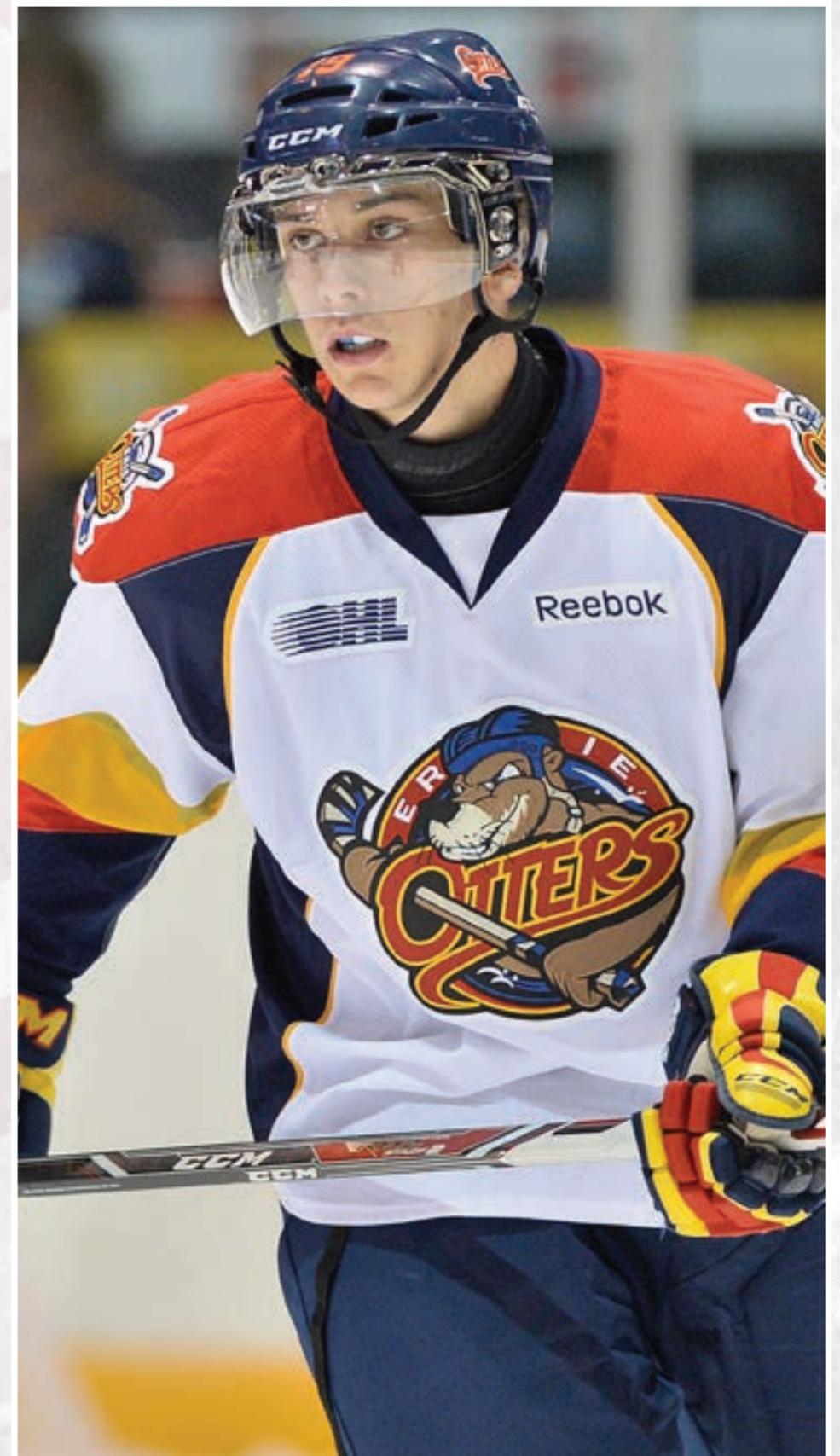
**10**  
**C Pavel Zacha**  
 Liberec, Czech Extraliga  
 6-3, 200

The top Czech prospect for the 2015 draft...a big boy who is pretty physical for his age...he will hit you because that's what he does...goes hard to the net and is relentless on the fore-check, which can be a scary sight for the opposing defensemen...has a strong shot that is both hard and accurate... good one-timer...prefers a shot to a pass...willing, but immature game defensively...goes back to defend the crease and knows how to use the stick in the defensive zone...good on PK where he gets his frame into lanes and just clears the puck when he gets the chance...patient player with good vision, soft hands and the ability to make one-on-one dekes...strong skater with good balance, but needs to get faster.



**12**  
**C Kyle Connor**  
 Youngstown, USHL  
 6-0, 165

A smart two-way forward who sets up his linemates with well-timed passes...is mature and intelligent with the puck, and does not rush a play no matter the pressure he is under...has impressive hands and vision, but it is the creativity and hockey sense that make him most dangerous...sees lanes opening and hits his targets consistently...also has a decent one-timer, but is definitely a pass-first guy... plays well away from the puck, constantly moving in order to get open...not overly physical...comes back deep into his own zone to make himself available...needs to add considerable strength, but the potential is there.



# 2015 PRELIMINARY RANKING



**13**  
**D Ryan Pilon**  
 Brandon, WHL  
 6-2, 200

A do-it-all, minute-munching, dependable defenseman...a pretty good skater...has a strong base, and powers through his strides and transitions...doesn't have a dynamic skill set, but he has poise and many tools to get the job done in many situations...distributes passes crisply and with purpose...good patience and makes smart/safe decisions...has a good shot that is deceptively strong and hits the net consistently...has a definite physical edge as he throws some big hits and stands up for teammates; has a nasty streak...forte is in the defensive zone with positioning and ability to eliminate attacking players.



**15**  
**RW Fredrik Forsberg**  
 Leksand J20, SuperElit  
 5-11, 165

Game resembles older brother and Nashville Predator blue-chipper Filip...high level of hockey sense...puck seems to find him all over the ice as he is consistently in the right place at the right time...he excels at making in-game reads quickly...needs to gain strength...skating is another area that could improve, although he has decent overall mobility and that extra gear when he has possession of the puck...has really good hands; can make nice dekes and roof the puck from in close...hard, accurate passes...good wrister and decent slapper...defense is a bit so-so, but he is excellent at picking the puck from opposition on the backcheck...loads of developing potential.



**17**  
**RW Nicolas Roy**  
 Chicoutimi, QMJHL  
 6-4, 175

A big power forward in the making...shows excellent strength and poise with the puck...distributes well from the around the offensive zone...shows off tremendous vision and passing skill...has a very strong stride and is hard to knock off the puck...uses his size and strength to win pucks along the boards and protect it around the outside...possesses a strong shot...forechecks hard and aggressively, and plays with plenty of grit...solid defensively as he gets involved and plays strong in his own end...uses his stick and his size well on the boards...always in good supporting position...raw, but high-end, two-way upside.



**14**  
**LW Jordan Greenway**  
 NTDP U17, USHL  
 6-4, 205

A big power winger who can put the puck in the net...moves well for a big guy, with good feet and decent speed...very hard to handle when he has the puck, as he protects the puck with his strength and reach... makes quick feeds to generate scoring chances...possesses a heavy shot and is lethal when he sets up in shooting position off the face-off dot...has the ability to score in many different ways...strong around the net and quick to put home feeds in front...has a very good physical game and is tough to compete with along the boards and down low...helps out defensively by getting back quickly...takes away lanes and pokes pucks loose...battles bouts of inconsistent play.



**16**  
**D Zach Werenski**  
 NTDP U17, USHL  
 6-2, 190

Smart and reliable two-way defenseman...shows skill at both ends of the ice...is a good skater with a smooth stride and fluid movements...handles the puck well with decent hand-skill, good strength and some elusiveness with it as he moves through the neutral zone...makes a great first pass and outlet...has good poise and vision with the puck on his stick...has a decent wrist shot, which he'll take from the point...isn't overly physical on defense and he needs to play tougher and meaner than he does...has good reach and he uses his stick well to take away lanes and force players wide and off the puck...poised on defense and recovers well.



**18**  
**D Matthew Spencer**  
 Peterborough, OHL  
 6-2, 190

A big, mean, physical presence from the blueline...strong and steady on defense, and he uses his size to his advantage to control players along the boards, to lay out some big hits and to eliminate opponents from the play...plays a simple, yet effective game on defense, using his size and stick to make plays and contain his man...he breaks up plays with his aggressiveness and is strong down low...offensive game is raw as he shows good outlets and mostly safe first feeds out of his zone...not a natural puck rusher, but will join the attack...shows off a hard shot from the point.



# 2015 PRELIMINARY RANKING



**19**  
**D Jeremy Roy**  
 Sherbrooke, QMJHL  
 6-0, 180

An offensively gifted defenseman who is solid in the defensive zone...has a real smooth stride and is pretty mobile...very mature game with strong positioning and smart with the puck...tough to separate from it as he has a heavy stick...makes terrific passes and rarely has anything intercepted...has a good point shot as well and he gets it on net...has the vision and creativity to QB a PP...solid defensively, using his smarts and his strong stick to break up plays and take away chances...uses his strength on defense to play physically down low and contain his man...used in all situations...a big presence on the ice and slows down the play when the puck is on his stick.



**21**  
**RW Kirill Pilipenko**  
 HC MVD Jr., MHL  
 5-11, 175

A skilled game changer...incredibly slippery for defenses to contain and slick on his feet...quick skates and lateral agility make him extremely hard to pin down...has creative hands and can beat multiple defenders in one rush...dangerous on the give and go...is impossible to contain on the zone entry...smart and instinctive, making quick and accurate plays...deceptive shot that catches goaltenders off balance...dangerous with his game-breaking offensive skill set, but is lacking in the defensive-zone effort and strength aspects.



**23**  
**LW Evgeni Svechnikov**  
 Bars Kazan, MHL  
 6-1, 185

A powerful and skilled forward...has great strength and balance on his skates...decent speed and agility, but not a real burner...has the creativity and hands to skate the puck through defenders and then power his way to the net...has a heavy shot that when it hits its mark, is pro caliber...uses his strength and long reach to protect the puck well...not much of a defensive game at this point...goes through long stretches where he is ineffective or downright invisible...can be physical, but also undisciplined...has great upside, but some bust potential as well.



**20**  
**LW Lawson Crouse**  
 Kingston, OHL  
 6-4, 210

A big-bodied forward who gives opposing defenses headaches with his effort on the fore-check...tough to contain with his huge frame and strength...impossible to separate from the puck and consistently is successful winning pucks and generating scoring chances through his hard work...moves the puck well with good vision and passing skill...a strong net-front presence...has decent speed for his size, though he could improve his quickness...plays hard on defense; forces plays and takes away angles...uses his size to play physical, including laying some devastating hits...is a moose along the wall down low...tremendous potential going forward.



**22**  
**C Mitch Marner**  
 London, OHL  
 5-10, 165

Smallish forward with a real scoring touch...scores in multiple ways...always in the right spot to receive a pass...a good wrist shot, and he plays with a lot of grit and isn't afraid to crash the net for chances...has the hands and creativity to go end to end with the puck...speedy and very agile...excellent foot speed and quickness, and is tough to contain when he gets going; he can beat nearly anyone on the ice with his speed...impressive hand speed and creativity...sees the ice well and makes some really good passes...is a threat on each shift...work ethic and compete level are impressive...relentless pressure on the puck.



**24**  
**RW Mikko Rantanen**  
 TPS, SM-Liiga  
 6-2, 180

A strong three-zone playmaker who is also defensively responsible...has an awkward up-right skating stride, but gets from Point A to Point B just fine...not a big "wow" factor to his game, but is a smooth, fluid, big-bodied forward who can be hard to handle...uses his strength and reach, along with his vision and hands, to protect the puck...has good instincts when to pass and when to hold...puck seems to follow him around the ice...good in his own zone and consistently makes himself available for a breakout pass...has impressive hockey sense and awareness...needs to work on his shot and add more muscle mass to his growing frame.



# 2015 PRELIMINARY RANKING



**25**  
**LW Paul Bittner**  
 Portland, WHL  
 6-4, 195

A big body that is hard to move...possesses a powerful stride that is hard to stop once he gets going...wide skating base allows him to bull his way around the ice and power through his checks...shows some decent hockey sense and awareness...possesses decent vision and quick hands...has room to add some serious muscle to his already impressive frame...has a long reach...physical play could be ramped up...still learning the defensive game, and is raw, but talented, in aspects...combination of size, hands and vision could make him a formidable offensive force in the future



**27**  
**C Nathan Noel**  
 Saint John, QMJHL  
 5-11, 170

A slick offensive forward...has very impressive speed with great footwork and overall quickness...powerful first few steps...able to accelerate with the puck and beat defensemen while flying down the wing...very creative with the puck, making jaw-dropping moves...illustrates great vision and awareness with the puck, and the ability to create scoring chances for others, but he often makes that extra, unnecessary move with the puck and loses his passing options...has bouts of inconsistency in his compete level...shows strong awareness for his defensive assignments as a center; effort and physical play could be much better...has some high offensive upside.



**29**  
**RW Robin Kovacs**  
 AIK J20, SuperElit  
 6-0, 175

A skilled forward who has a strong understanding of the game...very fast on his feet and quick agility make him dangerous both in the offensive zone and in defensive situations...impressive offensive instincts...creative and quick hands with the puck... has a great shot that can turn into a goalie's nightmare...sees the ice well and makes some impressive passes...likes the puck on his stick and will go to the net...skating and instincts make him a dangerous penalty killer...can be hot-tempered and takes undisciplined penalties...willing to talk and get under his opponent's skin, but is not overly physical or strong.



**26**  
**C Jeremy Bracco**  
 NTDP U17, USHL  
 5-9, 155

A small, but flashy and highly skilled, playmaker...tremendous skater with excellent quickness, balance on his edges and elusiveness with the puck...a quick set of hands...tough to handle when he gets going because he can elude defenders with his skating...great vision with the puck and makes tremendous passes...has a good wrist shot, but opts to be a pass-first playmaker...plays with grit and has no issue going to the net for chances... battles on the wall with limited success due to his lack of strength and reach...can really use some extra muscle... works hard defensively, and has a good defensive stick and plays aggressively at the point looking to cause turnovers.



**28**  
**C Aleksi Saarela**  
 Lukko, SM-Liiga  
 5-10, 190

A smart and creative offensive playmaker...skating stride is fluid and powerful, has no problems getting from Point A to Point B...is slick and slippery with the puck...has strong vision and puck-distribution skills, but can go through stretches of hanging out on the perimeter a little too much...willing to play physical and battle for the puck...has a strong and accurate wrist shot that he gets off quickly...dangerous one-timer...he does give a solid effort, but still has room to grow to be considered a strong defensive player...highly talented, but has built a reputation this past year for being injury prone.



**30**  
**LW A.J. Greer**  
 Kimball Union, USHS  
 6-4, 185

A massive and raw power forward...generates a good amount of speed and power with his stride...needs to work on foot speed and to keep his feet moving as that is when he is most dangerous...so physically dominant that at times, he looks like a man amongst boys on the ice and in the corners...needs to be more consistent with his physical play...has good athleticism for such a big kid...has a strong shot and hands that make him dangerous down around the opposition's crease...needs to put on muscle mass and learn to utilize his impressive reach better...raw talent going the NCAA route...has a very impressive upside.

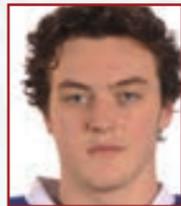


# 2016 NHL DRAFT AT A GLANCE



**1**  
**D Jakob Chychrun**  
 Toronto Jr. Canadiens, GTMMHL  
 6'2, 195 lbs

A highly talented kid who makes an impact in every aspect of the game. He has impressive size and strength, solid overall mobility and the hands and smarts to rush the puck. He also possesses a strong point shot, sees the ice well and has ability to move the puck. Defensively, he plays with strong defensive gaps, and has the ability and nastiness to play it physical.



**3**  
**D Sean Day**  
 Mississauga, OHL  
 6'2, 220 lbs

The first thing you notice about this kid, who was granted 'exceptional status' to enter the OHL a year early, is the impressive, fluid feet and all-encompassing mobility. The second thing is the size and strength he has, which allows him to be physical. He is an offensive-minded D-man who can rush the puck end to end with his quick hands and creativity or make that long-range pass to spring a forward.



**5**  
**LW Luke Kirwan**  
 NTDP U17, USHL  
 6'2, 230 lbs

A power forward who is just dominant with his size and strength at this level. He moves very well for his size; built like a cement truck with the agility of a Toyota Corolla. He also hits like a Mack truck. Kirwan does not get knocked off the puck and can bull his way anywhere on the ice. Has a good set of hands, a great shot that is a real weapon, the ability to set up his teammates and a willingness to get his nose dirty.



**8**  
**LW Tyler Benson**  
 Vancouver, WHL  
 5'11, 185 lbs

A powerful kid who uses both his brains and skill to outplay his opponent. He has some skating issues that will need work, but is hard to contain down low and can really be dangerous deep in the offensive zone. He just owns the boards, protects the puck and wills himself to win most one-on-one battles. His shot is pro caliber, and he needs little space or time to put the puck in the net.



**2**  
**LW Patrik Laine**  
 Tappara U20, Jr. A SM-liiga  
 6'3, 200 lbs

The big forward has some soft hands and a deadly shot that makes him extremely dangerous from the hash marks in. He moves well and is offensive minded, but also defensively responsible. Plays physical when needed, but is not a nasty checker or fighter. Reminded one of our scouts of Toronto Maple Leafs great Mats Sundin when he was an up-and-coming prospect in Sweden.



**4**  
**RW Auston Matthews**  
 NTDP U17, USHL  
 6'2, 230 lbs

Matthews is a strong, powerful player who has the ability to play bigger than he actually is. He is a real good skater with powerful strides and good quickness. He possesses strong vision, excellent possession skills, a strong shot and the ability to make plays happen for himself and his linemates. He is also strong defensively, bringing a good effort and complete game.



**6**  
**D Chad Kryz**  
 NJ Rockets, Midget  
 5'11, 165 lbs

A two-way defenseman who plays bigger than his size and possesses impressive hockey sense. His skating is both smooth and quick, allowing him to be extremely elusive and slippery. Very creative and always thinking, he makes plays that make those watching say "Wow." That coupled with his excellent defensive positioning, elite skating and strong offensive tools have many thinking Kryz has the ability to become a special player.



**9**  
**D Kale Clague**  
 Brandon, WHL  
 6'0, 180 lbs

A very smart, effective two-way blueliner. Uses his offensive instincts and hockey sense coupled with his elite skating and vision to create numerous offensive chances. He shows patience with the puck and poise beyond his years. Defensively, his positioning is solid and he gets himself into shooting lanes. Willing to play physical at times and is strong in the transition game.

Though definitely a backburner topic, the 2016 NHL Draft is starting to come into focus, with the top-end guys making waves in various leagues.

While not as impressive a crop as what we are expecting in 2015, 2016 does hold much talent in its own right, even though there is no clear-cut No. 1 prospect at this point.

Still, two-plus years away lends itself for plenty challengers to emerge in an attempt to close the gap on what the 2015 NHL Draft brings to the table.

- 1). D Jakob Chychrun, Toronto Jr. Canadiens (Midget), 6-2, 195
- 2). LW Patrik Laine, Tappara U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-3, 200
- 3). D Sean Day, Mississauga (OHL), 6-2, 220
- 4). RW Auston Matthews, US NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-0, 190
- 5). LW Luke Kirwan, US NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-2, 230
- 6). D Chad Kryz, NJ Rockets (Midget), 5-11, 165
- 7). C Dmitri Sokolov, Avangard (Russia), 6-0, 180
- 8). LW Tyler Benson, Vancouver (WHL), 5-11, 185
- 9). D Kale Clague, Brandon (WHL), 6-0, 180
- 10). RW Julien Gauthier, Val-d'Or (QMJHL), 6-3, 220



**7**  
**C Dmitri Sokolov**  
 Avangard, Russia  
 6'0, 180 lbs

A highly skilled, versatile forward who is a real difference maker whenever he hops over the boards. This slick, fluid skater has a high IQ and works hard in all zones, which really goes against the trend for most skilled Russian youngsters. He has great hands, a quick release and strong shot, but can also play the role of playmaker because of his vision and creativity.



**10**  
**RW Julien Gauthier**  
 Val-d'Or, QMJHL  
 6'3, 220 lbs

He is a big, strong winger with a powerful stride and great top speed. He is tough to contain when he is at the top of his game. Consistency can be an issue. An enormous prospect with many impressive pro traits, such as a rocket of a shot and terrific vision in traffic. Can be creative with the puck and set up his teammates with well-timed passes. Struggles with the pace of play in the Q at times.

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