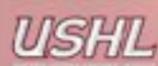


FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS  
FC  
2015 NHL DRAFT GUIDE



KAKISVISION

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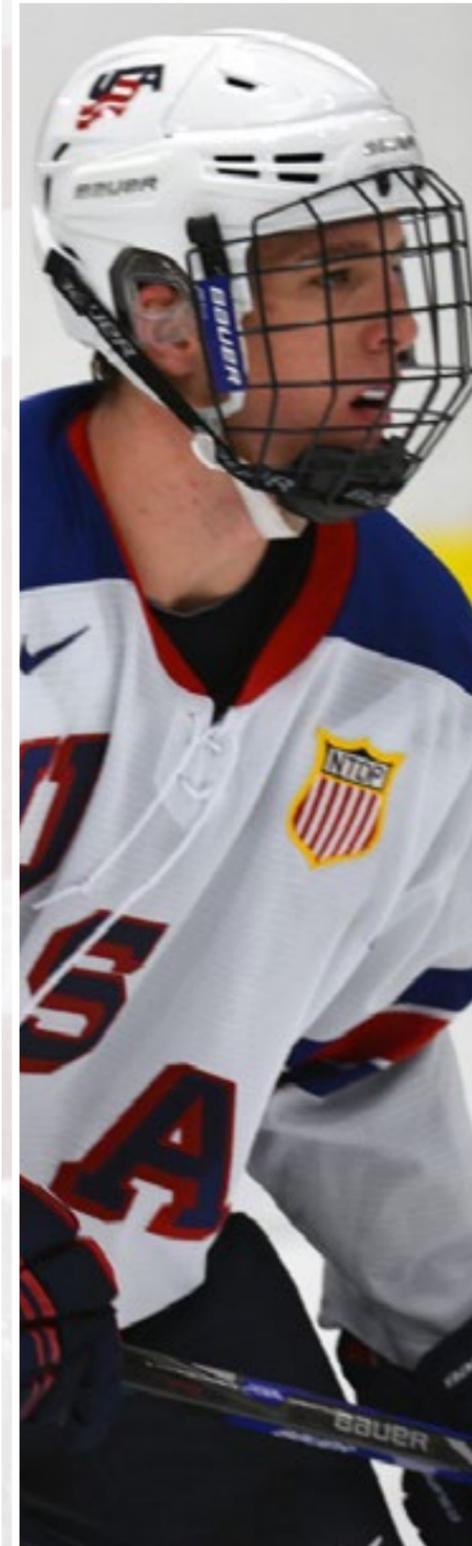
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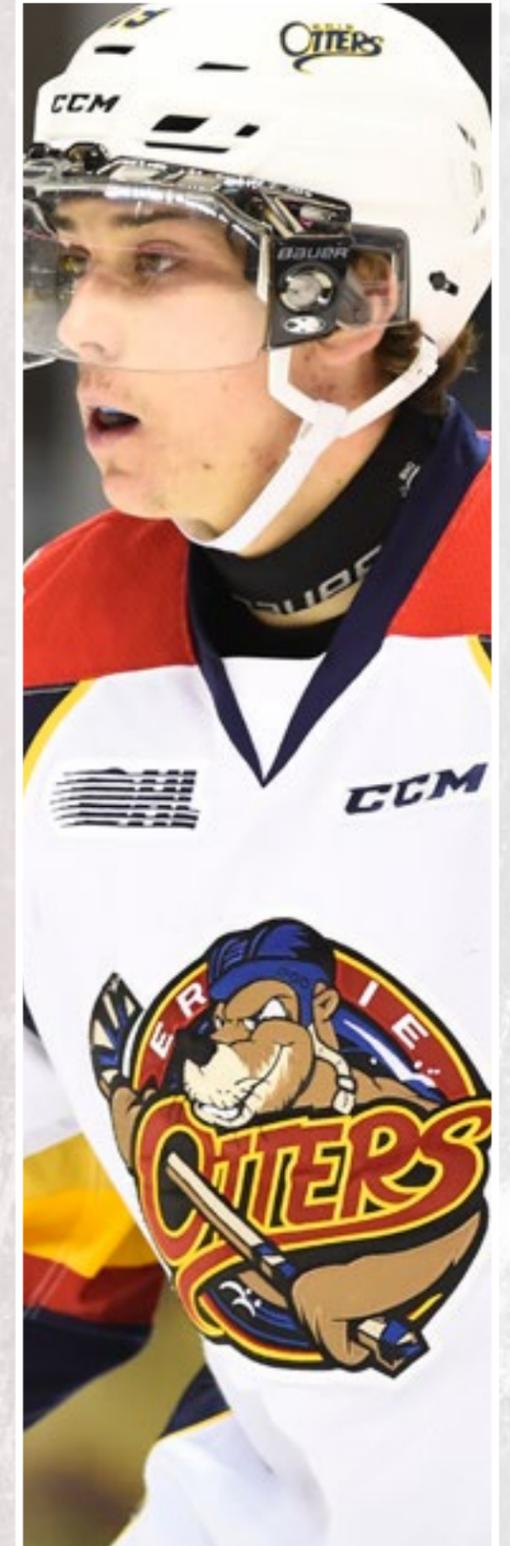
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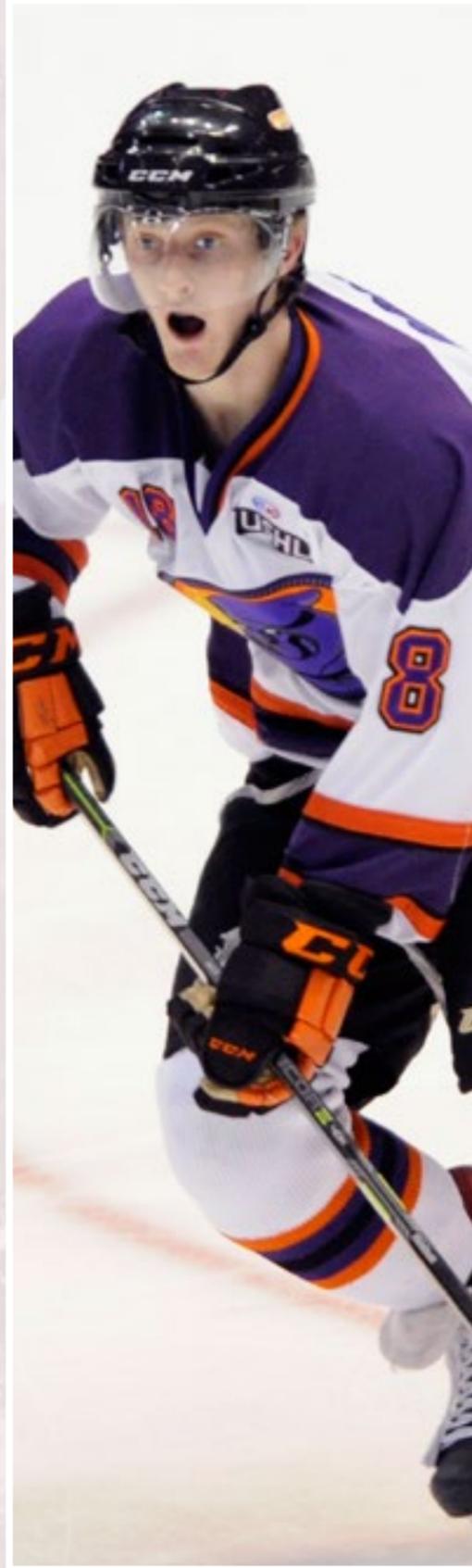
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## FROM THE SCOUTING DIRECTOR'S DESK...

The 2015 NHL draft is absolutely chock full of talent and there should be more than one team looking back at this draft as the point in time their franchise fortunes were turned around. Edmonton and Buffalo, I am looking at you.

The 2015 draft crop not only holds a “Generational Superstar” and a few projected “Perennial NHL All-Stars” as franchise cornerstones to build around, but in our opinion, it also has plenty of NHL-worthy talent right through the third round. There are also several guys who we feel could be taken after that—and while not currently the sums of their parts quite yet—they, too, have the potential to become very noteworthy NHLers after some time and development.

Connor McDavid, everyone’s top-ranked prospect for this draft, is also our top guy this season and there is little doubt why. He is projected to be that skilled and smart generational center who just might be what Edmonton needs to lift them out of a decade of ineffective drafting and development. Jack Eichel, a big and rangy center and one of those future NHL all-stars we mentioned above, sits at number two on our list. He will instantly jump to the top of Buffalo’s list of young assets and should be in the NHL next season.

Other top-end guys who we feel could become future NHL stars for the clubs selecting them include big and skilled center Dylan Strome of Erie, fast and electric offensive winger Mitchell Marner of London, as well as a three-pack of defenders including smooth skating Noah Hanifin of Boston College, intelligent two-way Ivan Provorov of Brandon and offensively savvy Zach Werenski of the University of Michigan.

There is a boatload of skilled forwards to choose from all the way through this draft as well as some interesting prospects for the backend if that is what NHL teams are looking for. They range from a handful of skilled puck movers, a bunch of potential two-way guys and a few big physical defenders.

Goaltending is again a position where there are a few intriguing prospects, but not that one guy who really stands out as a sure fire NHL starter to us. With that said, the blend of size and athleticism of some of the stoppers available this year is intriguing once again.

Our scouts have spent hours upon hours in hockey rinks all over the globe to identify and report on hundreds of prospects who they feel deserve draft consideration for the 2015 NHL draft. That list included more than 600 names towards the end of the year.

One thing that really stuck out to us at Future Considerations as we started whittling down the talent into a top 210 ranking for this guide is just how much depth this draft holds. It is staggering to see just how many guys could have easily been ranked, but were not due to the process only being seven rounds deep. With certainty we can say that there will be plenty of prospects not ranked in this draft guide who will get drafted come the second day of the draft on June 27th in Sunrise, Florida. But in saying that, we identified the top 210 prospects we would be interested in if we were making a selection as the 31st NHL franchise.

So without further ado, thank you for purchasing FC’s 2015 NHL Entry Draft Guide. Enjoy the following pages of information gathered through the hard work and commitment of our scouts through what has been a long but very enjoyable season.

Enjoy the Draft Guide,

Dan Stewart  
Director of Scouting  
@StewartFC

# THE BUILDING OF A SCOUT...

By **JUSTIN FROESE -- WHL Scout**

On a Friday night in mid-December the sun dips below the horizon and the temperature begins to plummet. As most of my fellow prairie folk shack up for the night to escape the bitter cold and dream of tropical destinations, I am preparing to head to my second job of the day. Like a majority of this region's population, I work in agriculture, specifically a Case IH dealership in Brandon, MB. While traditionally this time of year is rather calm in the Ag industry, business can fluctuate and grow hectic with the changing of season.

For now, the docile pace allows me the extra time to exercise my skills in one of my true passions. I get home from the office at 5:30 and, in a small window of time, prepare to head to Westman Communications Group Place to take in the Regina Pats and Brandon Wheat Kings game. Luckily, this is no large feat, as I relocated to Brandon permanently once I realized I just wasn't going to make the grade as a farmer.

As I stated above, I grew up in rural Manitoba. Just like thousands of other children, I was an avid fan of the province's lone WHL team. From the Jordin Tootoo days of the early millennium until the 2010 Memorial Cup hosting team that featured my peers, I remained faithful. Now, in a year with a dynamic team that features high calibre names such as Nolan Patrick, Kale Clague, Jayce Hawryluk, John Quenneville, Morgan Klimchuk and Ivan Provorov, I remain mute and unbiased. These are the players I see on a nightly basis, but they are now the ones I must critique and judge as if I am presiding over their case in a court of law.

It's a funny story how I began with Future Considerations. Much credit is due to FC Hockey Western head scout Zenon Herasymiuk and of course everyone's favourite social media platform, Twitter. During the course of the 2012-13 hockey season, I became far more aware of the scouting network, and the multiple avenues of opportunity. I found myself becoming far more attentive and keying in on some of the 'bigger fish' with different agencies. I began talking a little hockey with Zenon every now and then, sometimes providing him with information that he had not yet stumbled upon. I don't know whether this impressed him or not, but it helped me make a connection I am grateful for. During the summer of 2013 I was made aware that FC was looking for evaluators for the upcoming season. I got my break; I was going to be a scout.

My first few times out, I honestly had very little idea what I was doing. Fresh off my 23rd birthday, I was at the Wheat Kings rookie camp checking out John Quenneville and Jayce Hawryluk, but what exactly was I looking for? I was a scout but I was also unprepared and inexperienced. I had grown up playing a little bit of minor hockey, but I was not

exactly a top tier player. My understanding of systems and of how to play structured was very loose. I didn't put too much thought into what skills I was developing, and how deficient I was in some areas. I was a huge hockey fan, but I didn't really know what to hone in on when looking at skillsets. It was a trial by fire for me the first little while as I fought with myself to get accustomed to this new life.

I sought a fair bit of guidance from my head scouts as they steered me in the right direction. I had valued offensive capability from early on, as most fans do. Everyone loves guys who can put up an impressive stat line and score goals, but I became aware the game is far deeper than the numbers. I began shifting my focus to how guys thought on the ice. As I gained more exposure I started to see patterns in players who could simply just finish off the play compared to the guys who were the architects of its origin. I began to value the two-way game a lot more and admired those who would compete at all costs. The size issue became kind of old news for me. I didn't put such an emphasis on the larger players as I did prior. A quote I started to live by was "It's easier to draft for skill than it is to draft for size and trade for skill." I felt my first year I was really testing the waters with what I believed in, but in Year Two I began to drive the idea home.

I must reiterate how important an opinion is in this business. Everyone has a set of values and there is no exact right or wrong when it comes to what you believe in. While it does take time to build the confidence that enables you to stick to your guns, it's an excellent journey to build up to that point.

Part of the battle I faced was finding ways to be as efficient as possible and get the most out of my viewings. I would get to the rink whenever life allowed and would try to find methods that would work for me. I started out by using a word app on my phone to write game notes. I grew very frustrated of this method after my first year. I love technology as much as the next person, but for the convenience I had with this method I sacrificed structure and detail. After a few other trials, including a blank note pad and a number based system used by Central Scouting, I made my own manageable chart to help me simplistically track each one of my focus players throughout the night. I felt like it was a real game changer and allowed me to watch more players in one sitting.

Filing game reports was another animal. I relished the idea of sharing my raw opinions and turning them into a well painted story after I had watched a highly regarded player come through Brandon. This is a lot easier in theory. While it is important to be detailed



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and precise, I found there were only so many ways I could skin a cat without consuming every moment of my spare time. I had a hard time trying to continuously evolve my vocabulary to keep my reports from being as morbidly boring as reading the dictionary from front to back. Our scouting director Dan Stewart sees thousands of reports a year and is as passionate a guy as anyone I know out there.

However, he is the one who views every single piece of literature each one of us submits and the one who stresses that creativity is key. I focused more on getting to the key ideas quickly and not attempting to drag on the minute points I had to get across. My first year I got 65 reports submitted to Dan, this included a couple mammoths that breached 1,000 words. This past year, thanks to being more punctual and getting more opportunity to watch games out of region, I filed 125 player reports on 2015 and 2016 eligibles. I also adopted an organizational method to help me rank skaters. I have all my players filed in an ever fluctuating excel spreadsheet, conveniently linked to my skills analysis of each. Despite the improved efficiency it is no easy task to balance a work day, personal life and pump out a bundle of coherent thoughts in a limited time frame. It has taken tremendous self-control to manage my time effectively so that I could be considered a valuable asset to the agency.

The experience I have gained and people I have met over the past two years has been incredible. My colleagues and I have open dialogue on a regular basis to compare and contrast our views. Due to the large distance between us we are forced to either correspond by email or via conference call if we really need to move some ground.

Unfortunately, due to the WHL's large regional lay out and Brandon's seclusion in terms of proximity to other cities, I have not been able to do much travelling to other cities to view games. The league is set up in a way that does not allow us to view players out of the conference often. We must rely on one another to provide the most detailed and precise judgement in our limited windows of opportunity due to the fact that we may not all see the same players. We are a young, talented, but cohesive group that I feel makes up one of Future Considerations' strongest regions. I owe much credit to Cody Nickolet, Donesh Mazloum, and Zenon Herasymiuk for sharing their brilliance and helping fuel my confidence as an evaluator.

I have had the privilege of meeting some pretty interesting people from billets of opposing players, parents of players, team media representatives and big name NHL staffers like Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff.

I am truly grateful of what I have accomplished while at FC and that I have the opportunity to do what I love right at home.



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# A SCOUTING CHECKLIST...

By **CODY NICKOLET** -- WHL Scout

The biggest questions that come with scouting hockey are constant: How do you get into it? How do you know what to look for when you are watching players?

While things obviously change depending on the level of the game you are scouting, I have gone ahead and formed a rough checklist of things that weigh into my decision-making when it comes to analyzing a potential NHL prospect. The decision on how to weigh these specific traits, skills and statistical factors has been slowly tweaked and altered over the last number of years as my opinions on various parts of the game have changed.

Don't be afraid to change your views, but only do it for the right reasons after seeing things from a different perspective. Always look to improve the way you think, and subsequently, the way you make decisions.



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## Skillset:

- **Skating** is imperative. If a player isn't fast or dynamic, either the proper mechanics or work ethic must exist in order to improve and make it a strength. Edgework, acceleration, agility, balance and raw power are things I like to see in a player's skating stride. I want a player who will one day help push the pace of a game.

- **Hands.** The player needs to be able to handle the puck, preferably both on the rush and in traffic. They need to be able to both give and receive a pass. I also am drawn to a player who is strong on his stick in board battles and to players who have proven they can protect the puck well both on the rush or the cycle. Stickwork on the defensive side of the puck also falls into this "hands" category.

- **Shooting.** How hard is their shot? How quick is their release? How accurate is their shot? Are they able to get their stick into a proper shooting position or lane? Do they have a goal-scorer's instinct around the net? I also look for a variety of shot types. Wristers, backhands and a slapshots. Are any of them at an elite level?

- **Passing.** How well do they distribute the puck? Can they move the puck at different speeds, depending on the situation? Can they move it on the backhand? Can they elevate their passes? Are they creative in the way they use their reach or in the way they use the boards to their advantage? Timing is something that is very important to me, too. Are they forcing pucks or can they anticipate the play and then make the best possible pass in the given situation? I've found that pure playmakers are often the players with the highest levels of hockey sense.

## Smarts:

- While hockey sense can get lumped in with traits like skating or shooting, it gets its own category because it is something to truly covet. How quickly can the player process the game? How does the player anticipate the play? How is their positioning? How is their gap control if they're a defender? How aware of their surroundings are they, both in the offensive and defensive zones? Do they know when to be aggressive in pushing the pace and when to hold back? You need to be able to think your way around the ice. Something like speed is only an asset if a player knows how to use it properly.

## Production:

- Production can be looked at in a variety of ways. Essentially, for me, I like to see if this player makes a difference on the ice. While that usually shows up in goals or assists, you can also find other ways to "produce." Do you help facilitate the play with how you position yourself? Do you help create space for others? Can you change the pace of the game based on your forechecking ability or consistent physical pressure? Production doesn't just mean statistical output.

- While that above paragraph leaves room for "grinder" types to be worth drafting, more and more we see that the best NHL players are guys who scored in junior, or at least showed potential to score in their draft year. Ultimately, players I want to draft are guys who have a chance to contribute on the score sheet in the form of goals and assists. But, I don't limit myself to that standard 100 percent of the time.

- Consistency is also something I want to mention under the production heading. Does the player produce shift-to-shift, game in and game out? While becoming consistent is something that can be an area of improvement as a prospect gets older, it is nice to see signs of it as they move along in their draft year.

## Other Traits:

- Compete, character and grit are things I have softened on in recent years, but still find extremely important. I need and want players who are going to work hard on the ice, play with intensity and show a drive to improve on their weaknesses when they are off the ice. Along with that, I think leadership (on and off the ice), discipline, communication and physicality are all important things to look for in a player. Is this a kid you want as a part of your organization? Did he interview well when scouts had a chance to talk to him?

## Physical Characteristics:

- Size, strength, body composition. How are they built? Do they play "long" relative to their height? If they're small, do they make up for that with hockey sense, skill or skating ability? Are they further developed than most kids their age? Is there still room for growth within their body? These are all very important questions you need to ask yourself, often times along with the help of an NHL organization's

training staff. I have no problem ranking a small player higher than others might, but he needs to prove he can overcome that hurdle by excelling in other key areas.

#### **The Advanced:**

##### **Role:**

- What was this player's role during their draft year? Have they been an established top player on their team for a year or two already? Were they a rookie in their league during their draft year? Were they a bottom six or bottom pairing player in their draft year? Were they simply stuck behind good players on a good team? Is there a chance for them to move up the depth chart or increase their role next year? Did they see time on the powerplay or kill penalties? Were they counted on to play hard defensive minutes regarding matchups and defensive zone usage? Understanding how a player was used and how they will get used going forward is absolutely essential.

##### **Production Trends:**

- What kind of production trends did the player go through in their draft year? Did they start hot and fade away? Did they start slow and show nice progression? Were they consistent all the way through? Were their assists first assists or secondary? Did they show an increase in goal scoring totals as the year went on? If they had the chance to play in the playoffs, did they produce or play well? It's important to keep tabs on who is putting up numbers and in what way they are doing it. I think looking at a player's first half vs. second half point-per-game numbers is a quick and easy way to see how they trended throughout their draft year.

##### **Time of Contribution:**

- When did the player in question provide their offense? Did they open the scoring in a lot of games? Did they score goals or set up goals during key times of tight games? Or did they add a pair of points late in the third period during an 8-1 blowout?

##### **Team Point Percentage:**

- How much of his team's scoring did this player do? Were they a driving offensive force for their team? Were they involved in five percent of his team's goals or was it closer to 30 percent?

##### **Team Goal Percentage:**

- How many of his team's goals did this player score? Were they able to put the team on their back and provide goals when they needed it? This is a rather easy number to calculate just by looking at a given prospect's goal total relative to his team's overall total.

##### **Average Age Points Per Game:**

- How did this player produce, relative to their age, among fellow draft-eligibles? This metric from CHLstats.com essentially levels the playing field, given the fact that there can be nearly a full year in age difference among players eligible for the same draft. It's a very interesting tool to see which draft-eligibles might be benefiting from having more growth and development time than their counterparts.

##### **Even Strength Point Production:**

- How much did this player produce at even strength? Did they eat up the competition on the powerplay, picking up 30 percent of their points with the extra man?

##### **The prospect tracking process:**

When watching games, take a lot of notes. It's been proven that a person's brain can only process so much data, often forgetting plenty of minor details while remembering the 'bigger moments.' With that in mind, it's very important to write brief notes on individual players at nearly every stoppage. Keeping tabs on the little things can make a big difference.

After all this is said and done, the goal becomes finding the proper balance for each item in the above checklist during the search to find the best players for an NHL organization. Analyzing a prospect is only half the battle. Ranking them is the next step and a very important one.



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# A GOALTENDING CHECKLIST...



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## Skillset:

- **Mobility.** This includes things like balance, lateral movement, agility and the ability to challenge and retreat in a smooth fashion.
- **Positioning.** This includes things like angles, how they challenge shooters and how they time their movements.
- **Technical skills.** This includes things like footwork, glove and blocker skills, as well as puck handling ability.
- **Reaction.** This includes things like anticipation, quickness, reflexes and recovery.
- **Rebound control.** This includes things like rebound placement and the ability to cover loose pucks.

- **Character.** This includes things like communication, work ethic, consistency and leadership.

## Size:

- Size is an interesting one. Over the last few years, hardly any goalies under six-feet tall have been drafted. Basically none, actually. While I'm not sure that is always the correct way to do things, I do think it's important to take the bigger goaltender when all things are equal.

## Production:

- Goalies can be a tricky thing, especially first year eligible guys. There aren't many guys who are starting goaltenders in their first

year of draft eligibility. That obviously leads to sample size issues.

Trying to get enough views of a backup goalie to feel comfortable enough to draft him can be a nearly impossible task. While production is obviously only a part of it, more and more work continues to be done to show that you truly need thousands and thousands of shots before you can really tell how good a goalie is.

That becomes even trickier when you're talking about goalies who are still growing and maturing as players and as teenagers. With that in mind, I would say that I still want any goalie I am drafting to have shown strong production when he's in the cage. While something like even-strength save percentage isn't readily available, I constantly keep my eye on how a goalie's regular save percentage fluctuates month to month throughout their draft year.

# 2015 NHL DRAFT RANKING

Rank	Name	Team	League	Pos	Ht	Wt	Nation
1	Connor McDavid	Erie	OHL	C	6-1	195	Canada
2	Jack Eichel	Boston University	NCAA	C	6-2	195	USA
3	Noah Hanifin	Boston College	NCAA	D	6-3	205	USA
4	Dylan Strome	Erie	OHL	C	6-3	185	Canada
5	Mitchell Marner	London	OHL	RW	5-11	165	Canada
6	Ivan Provorov	Brandon	WHL	D	6-0	200	Russia
7	Zachary Werenski	Michigan	NCAA	D	6-2	205	USA
8	Mikko Rantanen	TPS	Liiga	RW	6-4	195	Finland
9	Mathew Barzal	Seattle	WHL	C	6-0	180	Canada
10	Lawson Crouse	Kingston	OHL	LW	6-4	215	Canada
11	Travis Konecny	Ottawa	OHL	RW	5-10	170	Canada
12	Kyle Connor	Youngstown	USHL	C	6-1	180	USA
13	Jeremy Roy	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	D	6-0	185	Canada
14	Timo Meier	Halifax	QMJHL	RW	6-0	210	Switzerland
15	Pavel Zacha	Sarnia	OHL	C	6-3	215	Czech Republic
16	Evgeny Svechnikov	Cape Breton	QMJHL	LW	6-3	210	Russia
17	Nick Merkley	Kelowna	WHL	RW	5-11	190	Canada
18	Daniel Sprong	Charlottetown	QMJHL	RW	6-0	190	Netherlands
19	Colin White	NTDP U18	USHL	C	6-0	185	USA
20	Jakub Zboril	Saint John	QMJHL	D	6-2	185	Czech Republic
21	Thomas Chabot	Saint John	QMJHL	D	6-2	180	Canada
22	Jeremy Bracco	NTDP U18	USHL	RW	5-9	175	USA
23	Joel Eriksson Ek	Farjestads J20	SuperElite	C	6-2	185	Sweden
24	Denis Guryanov	Ladia Togliatti	MHL	RW	6-2	185	Russia
25	Jansen Harkins	Prince George	WHL	C	6-1	180	Canada
26	Brock Boeser	Waterloo	USHL	RW	6-1	190	USA
27	Jake DeBrusk	Swift Current	WHL	LW	6-0	175	Canada
28	Oliver Kyllington	Farjestad	SHL	D	6-0	180	Sweden
29	Paul Bittner	Portland	WHL	LW	6-4	195	USA
30	Jacob Larsson	Frolunda J20	SuperElite	D	6-2	180	Sweden
31	Anthony Beauvillier	Shawinigan	QMJHL	C	5-10	180	Canada
32	Noah Juulsen	Everett	WHL	D	6-1	180	Canada
33	Jack Roslovic	NTDP U18	USHL	C	6-1	180	USA
34	Vince Dunn	Niagara	OHL	D	6-0	185	Canada
35	Filip Chlapik	Charlottetown	QMJHL	C	6-1	185	Czech Republic

36	Travis Dermott	Erie	OHL	D	5-11	200	USA
37	Tom Novak	Waterloo	USHL	C	6-0	180	USA
38	Brandon Carlo	Tri-City	WHL	D	6-5	205	USA
39	Jordan Greenway	NTDP U18	USHL	LW	6-5	225	Canada
40	Ilya Samsonov	Magnitogorsk	MHL	G	6-1	205	Russia
41	Mitchell Vande Sompel	Oshawa	OHL	D	5-10	180	Canada
42	Zachary Senyshyn	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	RW	6-2	195	Canada
43	Nicolas Meloche	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL	D	6-2	200	Canada
44	Jeremy Lauzon	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL	D	6-2	195	Canada
45	Matt Spencer	Peterborough	OHL	D	6-2	195	Canada
46	Nicolas Roy	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	C	6-4	200	Canada
47	Jonas Siegenthaler	ZSC	NLA	D	6-2	220	Switzerland
48	Yakov Trenin	Gatineau	QMJHL	LW	6-2	180	Russia
49	Gabriel Carlsson	Linkoping J20	SuperElite	D	6-4	185	Sweden
50	Rasmus Andersson	Barrie	OHL	D	6-0	200	Sweden
51	Robin Kovacs	AIK	Allsvenskan	RW		170	Sweden
52	Parker Wotherspoon	Tri-City	WHL	D	6-0	170	Canada
53	Christian Fischer	NTDP U18	USHL	RW	6-1	215	USA
54	Ryan Groppe	Seattle	WHL	LW	6-2	185	Canada
55	Kirill Kaprizov	Novokuznetsk	KHL	C	5-9	170	Russia
56	Michael Spacek	HC Pardubice	Extraliga	RW	5-11	185	Czech Republic
57	Austin Wagner	Regina	WHL	LW	6-2	180	Canada
58	Guillaume Brisebois	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	D	6-2	175	Sweden
59	Mackenzie Blackwood	Barrie	OHL	G	6-4	215	Canada
60	Filip Ahl	HV71 J20	SuperElite	LW	6-3	215	Sweden
61	Blake Speers	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	RW	5-11	185	Canada
62	Nikita Korostelev	Sarnia	OHL	RW	6-1	195	Russia
63	Denis Malgin	ZSC	NLA	C	5-9	175	Switzerland
64	Erik Foley	Cedar Rapids	USHL	LW	6-0	185	USA
65	Adam Musil	Red Deer	WHL	RW	6-3	210	Canada
66	Mitchell Stephens	Saginaw	OHL	C	5-11	185	Canada
67	Callum Booth	Quebec	QMJHL	G	6-2	195	Canada
68	Alexandre Carrier	Gatineau	QMJHL	D	5-11	170	Canada
69	Jakob Forsbacka-Karlsson	Omaha	USHL	C	6-1	190	Sweden
70	Ryan Pilon	Brandon	WHL	D	6-2	210	Canada
71	Roope Hintz	Ilves	Liiga	C	6-2	185	Finland

# 2015 NHL DRAFT RANKING

72	Dmytro Timashov	Quebec	QMJHL	LW	5-9	190	Russia
73	Glenn Gawdin	Swift Current	WHL	C	6-1	180	Canada
74	Veini Vehvilainen	JYP	Mestis	G	6-1	175	Finland
75	Simon Bourque	Rimouski	QMJHL	D	6-0	185	Canada
76	Julius Nattinen	JYP	Liiga	C	6-2	190	Finland
77	Jesper Lindgren	MOD0 J20	SuperElite	D	6-0	165	Sweden
78	Alexander Dergachyov	SKA St. Petersburg	MHL	C	6-4	200	Russia
79	Graham Knott	Niagara	OHL	LW	6-3	180	Canada
80	Dante Salituro	Ottawa	OHL	C	5-8	175	Canada
81	Jens Looke	Brynäs	SHL	LW		185	Sweden
82	Matej Tomek	Topeka	NAHL	G	6-3	180	Slovakia
83	Connor Hobbs	Regina	WHL	D	6-0	190	Canada
84	Daniel Vladar	HC Kladno	Czech2	G	6-5	195	Czech Republic
85	Veeti Vainio	Blues U20	Jr A SM-L	D	6-0	165	Finland
86	Ethan Bear	Seattle	WHL	D	5-11	205	Canada
87	Thomas Schemitsch	Owen Sound	OHL	D	6-4	205	Canada
88	Brendan Guhle	Prince Albert	WHL	D	6-2	185	Canada
89	Gustav Bouramman	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	D	6-0	185	Sweden
90	Erik Cernak	HC Kosice	Slovakia	D	6-4	205	Slovakia
91	Keegan Kolesar	Seattle	WHL	RW		220	Canada
92	Gabriel Gagne	Victoriaville	QMJHL	RW	6-5	185	Canada
93	Dennis Gilbert	Chicago	USHL	D	6-2	195	USA
94	Brad Morrison	Prince George	WHL	C	5-11	160	Canada
95	Andrew Mangiapane	Barrie	OHL	LW	5-10	170	Canada
96	Brent Gates Jr.	Green Bay	USHL	RW	6-2	195	USA
97	Kyle Capobianco	Sudbury	OHL	D	6-1	170	Canada
98	Samuel Montembeault	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL	G	6-3	165	Canada
99	Dennis Yan	Shawinigan	QMJHL	LW	6-1	185	USA
100	Ryan Larkin	Cedar Rapids	USHL	G	6-0	190	USA
101	Pius Suter	Guelph	OHL	C	5-11	170	Switzerland
102	Ryan Zuhlsdorf	Sioux City	USHL	D	6-0	185	USA
103	Felix Sandstrom	Brynäs	SHL	G	6-2	190	Sweden
104	Joseph Masonius	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6-0	180	USA
105	Mikhail Sidorov	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	D	6-0	200	Russia
106	Nathan Noel	Saint John	QMJHL	C	6-0	170	Canada
107	David Kase	KLH Chomutov	Czech2	LW	5-9	165	Czech Republic

108	Conor Garland	Moncton	QMJHL	RW	5-9	165	USA
109	Fredrik Forsberg	Leksands J20	SuperElite	C	6-0	175	Sweden
110	Sebastian Aho	Karpat	Liiga	LW	5-11	170	Finland
111	Tyler Soy	Victoria	WHL	C	5-11	170	Canada
112	A.J. Greer	Boston University	NCAA	LW	6-3	210	USA
113	Radovan Bondra	Team Slovakia U18	Slovakia2	RW	6-5	215	Slovakia
114	Egor Rykov	SKA St. Petersburg	MHL	D	6-2	190	Russia
115	Pavel Karnaukhov	Calgary	WHL	C	6-2	200	Russia
116	Sami Niku	JYP	Liiga	D	6-0	170	Finland
117	Brendan Warren	NTDP U18	USHL	LW	6-0	190	USA
118	Jonne Tammela	KalPa U20	Jr A SM-L	C	5-10	180	Finland
119	Dryden Hunt	Medicine Hat	WHL	C	6-0	195	Canada
120	Cameron Askew	Moncton	QMJHL	RW	6-3	190	USA
121	Kevin Stenlund	HV71 J20	SuperElite	C	6-3	205	Sweden
122	Loik Leveille	Cape Breton	QMJHL	D	6-0	220	Canada
123	Vladislav Gavrikov	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	D	6-2	205	Russia
124	Adam Huska	Green Bay	USHL	G	6-3	180	Slovakia
125	Liam Herbst	Ottawa	OHL	G	6-4	195	Canada
126	Vladimir Tkachev	Quebec	QMJHL	LW	5-8	160	Russia
127	Adam Gaudette	Cedar Rapids	USHL	C	6-1	170	USA
128	Andrew Nielsen	Lethbridge	WHL	D	6-3	210	Canada
129	Tanner Laczynski	Chicago	USHL	RW	6-0	180	USA
130	Sebastian Olsson	SkelLea J20	SuperElite	C	5-10	160	Sweden
131	Joseph Cecconi	Muskegon	USHL	D	6-2	205	USA
132	Tate Olson	Prince George	WHL	D	6-2	180	Canada
133	Cooper Marody	Sioux Falls	USHL	RW	6-0	175	USA
134	Lukas Jasek	HC Trinec	Extraliga	LW	6-1	175	Czech Republic
135	Chaz Reddekopp	Victoria	WHL	D	6-3	215	Canada
136	Chris Birdsall	Youngstown	USHL	G	5-11	170	USA
137	Aleksi Saarela	Assat	Liiga	C	5-10	195	Finland
138	Adam Marsh	Saint John	QMJHL	LW	6-0	160	USA
139	Jack Sadek	Lakeville North High	USHS	D	6-3	185	USA
140	Matt Bradley	Medicine Hat	WHL	LW	5-11	190	Canada
141	Anthony Richard	Val-d'Or	QMJHL	C	5-9	165	Canada
142	Casey Fitzgerald	NTDP U18	USHL	D	5-11	195	USA
143	Nick Boka	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6-0	195	USA

# 2015 NHL DRAFT RANKING

144	Deven Sideroff	Kamloops	WHL	RW	5-11	180	Canada
145	Jeremiah Addison	Ottawa	OHL	RW	6-0	185	Canada
146	John Marino	South Shore	USPHL	D	6-2	190	USA
147	Jesse Gabrielle	Regina	WHL	LW	6-0	215	Canada
148	Jake Massie	Kimball Union	USHS	D	6-2	170	USA
149	Giorgio Estephan	Lethbridge	WHL	C	6-0	185	Canada
150	Will Reilly	North York	OJHL	D	6-2	190	Canada
151	Alec Broetzman	St. Thomas Academy	USHS	LW	6-2	185	USA
152	Jonathan Leman	MOD0 J20	SuperElite	D	6-1	185	Sweden
153	Tyler Jutting	Shattuck St. Mary's	USHS	D	6-4	190	USA
154	Daniel Bernhardt	Djurgardens J20	SuperElite	LW	6-2	190	Sweden
155	Kirill Pilipenko	HK MVD Jr.	MHL	RW	5-9	170	Russia
156	Eric MacAdams	Austin Prep	USHS	C	6-0	175	USA
157	Callahan Burke	Cedar Rapids	USHL	RW	5-11	175	USA
158	Adam Helewka	Spokane	WHL	LW	6-2	200	Canada
159	Christian Jaros	Lulea	SHL	D	6-3	205	Slovakia
160	Sebastian Aho	SkelLea	SHL	D	5-10	175	Sweden
161	Jonathan Davidsson	Djurgardens J20	SuperElite	RW	5-11	185	Sweden
162	Alexandre Alain	Gatineau	QMJHL	C	6-0	170	Canada
163	Artyom Volkov	HK MVD Jr.	MHL	D	6-1	175	Russia
164	Caleb Jones	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6-0	195	USA
165	Adin Hill	Portland	WHL	G	6-4	190	Canada
166	Marcus Vela	Langley	BCHL	C	6-1	185	Canada
167	Jake Jaremko	Elk River	USHS	C	5-9	165	USA
168	Dmitri Zhukenov	Omskie Yastreby	MHL	C	5-10	165	Russia
169	Michael McNiven	Owen Sound	OHL	G	6-1	205	Canada
170	Kevin Davis	Everett	WHL	D	6-0	180	Canada
171	Lucas Carlsson	Brynäs	SHL	D	6-1	185	Sweden
172	Stephen Desrocher	Oshawa	OHL	D	6-4	200	Canada
173	Jorgen van Pottelberghe	Linköping J20	SuperElite	G	6-2	200	Switzerland
174	Alexander Younan	HV71 J20	SuperElite	D	6-1	190	Sweden
175	Tyson Baillie	Kelowna	WHL	C	5-10	195	Canada
176	Will Borgen	Moorhead	USHS	D	6-2	180	USA
177	Matthew Freytag	Tri-City	USHL	LW	6-1	190	USA

178	Luke Philp	Kootenay	WHL	C	5-10	180	Canada
179	Jack McNeely	Lakeville North High	USHS	D	6-3	180	USA
180	Jason Bell	Saint John	QMJHL	D	6-0	190	Canada
181	Robby Jackson	Dubuque	USHL	RW	5-10	180	USA
182	Tim McGauley	Brandon	WHL	C	6-0	185	Canada
183	Karch Bachman	Culver Military	USHS	C	5-11	180	USA
184	Troy Terry	NTDP U18	USHL	C	5-11	160	USA
185	Lukas Vejdemo	Djurgardens J20	SuperElite	C	6-2	195	Sweden
186	Jackson Keane	Winnipeg	MJHL	C	5-9	150	Canada
187	David Cotton	Cushing Academy	USHS	C		200	USA
188	Taggart Corriveau	Westminster Prep	USHS	RW	6-0	170	USA
189	Adam Werner	Farjestads J20	SuperElite	G	6-5	185	Sweden
190	Mikhail Vorobyov	Tolpar Ufa	MHL	C	6-2	200	Russia
191	David Miller	Kitchener	OHL	C	5-9	185	Canada
192	Colt Conrad	Shattuck St. Mary's	USHS	C	5-10	165	Canada
193	Matteo Gennaro	Prince Albert	WHL	C	6-2	185	Canada
194	Kasper Bjorkqvist	Blues U20	Jr A SM-L	C	6-0	180	Finland
195	Ken Appleby	Oshawa	OHL	G	6-4	205	Canada
196	Mason Bergh	Chicago	USHL	LW	6-0	175	USA
197	Devante Stephens	Kelowna	WHL	D	6-1	160	Canada
198	Kameron Kielly	Charlottetown	QMJHL	C	6-1	185	Canada
199	Cameron Lizotte	Peterborough	OHL	D	6-2	200	Canada
200	Lucas Jaycox	Warroad	USHS	D	6-2	185	USA
201	Nikolai Chebykin	HK MVD Jr	MHL	RW	6-4	180	Russia
202	Joe Gatenby	Kelowna	WHL	D	6-0	180	Canada
203	Bradley Lalonde	Cape Breton	QMJHL	D	6-0	195	Canada
204	John Dahlstrom	Frolunda J20	SuperElite	LW	6-0	185	Sweden
205	Grant Gabriele	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6-1	170	USA
206	Jacob Sweeney	Moncton	QMJHL	D	6-4	215	Canada
207	Hayden McCool	Windsor	OHL	LW	6-3	195	Canada
208	Joonas Niemela	Blues U20	Jr A SM-L	C	5-10	165	Finland
209	Nick McBride	Prince Albert	WHL	G		180	Canada
210	Jordan Kawaguchi	Chilliwack	BCHL	C	5-8	165	Canada
211	Justin Lemcke	Belleville	OHL	D	6-2	2-5	Canada

# 2015 BEST IN CLASS...

Every year there are a handful of prospects that hear their names called because of their ability to excel at just one thing better than the majority of the other prospects available. Whether that thing is their ability to skate, shoot the puck or even drop the mitts, that one trait has been what they have relied upon to bring them to this point. Below is a “Best of” section, as picked by our scouts, highlighting those who do one specific thing just a little bit better than everyone else.

## Most Underrated Player

1. Robin Kovacs, LW, AIK, Allsvenskan
2. Kyle Capobianco, D, Sudbury, OHL
3. Matt Bradley, C, Medicine Hat, WHL

## Most Improved Player

1. Joel Eriksson Ek, C, Farjestad, SHL
2. Thomas Chabot, D, Saint John, QMJHL
3. Zach Senyshyn, RW, Sault Ste. Marie, OHL

## Smartest Player

1. Connor McDavid, C, Erie, OHL
2. Ivan Provorov, D, Brandon, WHL
3. Colin White, C, NTDP U18, USHL

## Hardest Working Player

1. Joel Eriksson Ek, C, Farjestad, SHL
2. Nick Merkley, C, Kelowna Rockets, WHL
3. Travis Konecny, C, Ottawa, OHL

## Most Dangerous Sniper

1. Connor McDavid, C, Erie, OHL
2. Jack Eichel, C, Boston University, NCAA
3. Daniel Sprong, RW, Charlottetown, QMJHL

## Most Creative Playmaker

1. Connor McDavid, C, Erie, OHL
2. Mitch Marner, C, London, OHL
3. Mathew Barzal, C, Seattle, WHL

## Best Skater

1. Connor McDavid, C, Erie, OHL
2. Oliver Kylington, D, Färjestad, SHL
3. Brendan Guhle, D, Prince Albert, WHL

## Hardest Shot

1. Denis Guryanov, RW, Ladia Togliatti, MHL
2. Jack Eichel, C, Boston University, NCAA
3. Rasmus Andersson, D, Barrie, OHL

## Best Stickhandler

1. Connor McDavid, C, Erie, OHL
2. Mitch Marner, C, London, OHL
3. Mathew Barzal, C, Seattle, WHL

## Best on Faceoffs

1. Nicolas Roy, C, Chicoutimi, QMJHL
2. Kevin Stenlund, C, HV71, SHL
3. Glenn Gawdin, C, Swift Current, WHL

## Best Body Checker

1. Keegan Kolesar, RW, Seattle, WHL
2. Lawson Crouse, LW, Kingston, OHL
3. Loik Leveillé, D, Cape Breton, QMJHL

## Best Fighter

1. Evan Fiala, D, Spokane, WHL
2. Keegan Kolesar, RW, Seattle, WHL
3. Jesse Gabrielle, RW, Regina, WHL

## Best Offensive Defenseman

1. Oliver Kylington, D, Färjestad, SHL
2. Vince Dunn, D, Niagara, OHL
3. Mitchell Vande Sompel, D, Oshawa, OHL

## Best Defensive Defenseman

1. Gabriel Carlsson, D, Linköping, SHL
2. Brandon Carlo, D, Tri City, WHL
3. Guillaume Brisebois, D, Acadie-Bathurst, QMJHL

## Most Athletic Goaltender

1. Ryan Larkin, G, Cedar Rapids, USHL
2. Veini Vehvilainen, G, JYP-Akatemia, Mestis
3. Adam Huska, G, Green Bay, USHL

## Most Clutch Goaltender

1. Ilya Samsonov, G, Magnitogorsk, MHL
2. Veini Vehvilainen, G, JYP-Akatemia, Mestis
3. Mackenzie Blackwood, G, Barrie, OHL



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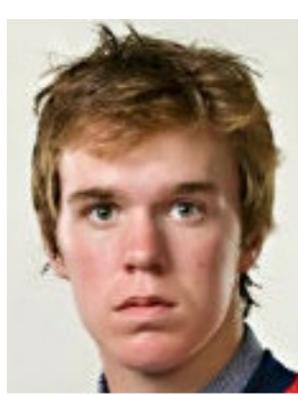
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# POSITIONAL RANKING...

Rank	Name	Team	League	Pos	Ht	Wt	Rank
1	Connor McDavid	Erie	OHL	C	6-1	195	1
2	Jack Eichel	Boston University	NCAA	C	6-2	195	2
3	Dylan Strome	Erie	OHL	C	6-3	185	4
4	Mitchell Marner	London	OHL	RW	5-11	165	5
5	Mikko Rantanen	TPS	Liiga	RW	6-4	195	8
6	Mathew Barzal	Seattle	WHL	C	6-0	180	9
7	Lawson Crouse	Kingston	OHL	LW	6-4	215	10
8	Travis Konecny	Ottawa	OHL	RW	5-10	170	11
9	Kyle Connor	Youngstown	USHL	C	6-1	180	12
10	Timo Meier	Halifax	QMJHL	RW	6-0	210	14
11	Pavel Zacha	Sarnia	OHL	C	6-3	215	15
12	Evgeny Svechnikov	Cape Breton	QMJHL	LW	6-3	210	16
13	Nick Merkley	Kelowna	WHL	C	5-11	190	17
14	Daniel Sprong	Charlottetown	QMJHL	RW	6-0	190	18
15	Colin White	NTDP U18	USHL	C	6-0	185	19
16	Jeremy Bracco	NTDP U18	USHL	RW	5-9	175	22
17	Joel Eriksson Ek	Farjestads J20	SuperElite	C	6-2	185	23
18	Denis Guryanov	Ladia Togliatti	MHL	RW	6-2	185	24
19	Jansen Harkins	Prince George	WHL	C	6-1	180	25
20	Brock Boeser	Waterloo	USHL	RW	6-1	190	26
21	Jake DeBrusk	Swift Current	WHL	LW	6-0	175	27
22	Paul Bittner	Portland	WHL	LW	6-4	195	29
23	Anthony Beauvillier	Shawinigan	QMJHL	C	5-10	180	31
24	Jack Roslovic	NTDP U18	USHL	C	6-1	180	33
25	Filip Chlapik	Charlottetown	QMJHL	C	6-1	185	35
26	Tom Novak	Waterloo	USHL	C	6-0	180	37
27	Jordan Greenway	NTDP U18	USHL	LW	6-5	225	39
28	Zachary Senyshyn	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	RW	6-2	195	42
29	Nicolas Roy	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	C	6-4	200	46
30	Yakov Trenin	Gatineau	QMJHL	LW	6-2	180	48

Rank	Name	Team	League	Pos	Ht	Wt	Rank
1	Noah Hanifin	Boston College	NCAA	D	6-3	205	3
2	Ivan Provorov	Brandon	WHL	D	6-0	200	6
3	Zachary Werenski	Michigan	NCAA	D	6-2	205	7
4	Jeremy Roy	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	D	6-0	185	13
5	Jakub Zboril	Saint John	QMJHL	D	6-2	185	20
6	Thomas Chabot	Saint John	QMJHL	D	6-2	180	21
7	Oliver Kylington	Farjestad	SHL	D	6-0	180	28
8	Jacob Larsson	Frolunda J20	SuperElite	D	6-2	180	30
9	Noah Juulsen	Everett	WHL	D	6-1	180	32
10	Vince Dunn	Niagara	OHL	D	6-0	185	34
11	Travis Dermott	Erie	OHL	D	5-11	200	36
12	Brandon Carlo	Tri-City	WHL	D	6-5	205	38
13	Mitchell Vande Sompel	Oshawa	OHL	D	5-10	180	41
14	Nicolas Meloche	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL	D	6-2	200	43
15	Jeremy Lauzon	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL	D	6-2	195	44

Rank	Name	Team	League	Pos	Ht	Wt	Rank
1	Ilya Samsonov	Magnitogorsk	MHL	G	6-1	205	40
2	Mackenzie Blackwood	Barrie	OHL	G	6-4	215	59
3	Callum Booth	Quebec	QMJHL	G	6-2	195	67
4	Veini Vehvilainen	JYP	Mestis	G	6-1	175	74
5	Matej Tomek	Topeka	NAHL	G	6-3	180	82
6	Daniel Vladar	HC Kladno	Czech2	G	6-5	195	84
7	Samuel Montembeault	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL	G	6-3	165	98
8	Ryan Larkin	Cedar Rapids	USHL	G	6-0	190	100
9	Felix Sandstrom	Brynäs	SHL	G	6-2	190	103
10	Adam Huska	Green Bay	USHL	G	6-3	180	124



**CONNOR MCDAVID**

**POSITION:** Center

**TEAM:** Erie (OHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** January 13, 1997

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

**STATS:** 45 GP 43 G 72 A 115 PTS 46 PIM

1

**STRENGTHS:** The best way to describe this kid in one word is: exceptional. An offensive threat with tremendous speed, McDavid is lethal in transition and makes opponents step back because of his ability to burn them quickly. He sees opportunities and pounces on them by using his speed to get to open ice and create a passing lane for his teammates. Hands of gold make for quick, creative plays and perfect passes consistently. His hockey IQ and vision are both top notch and he uses them to his advantage on zone entries as he looks for options while slowing down the pace, showing patience with the puck before ultimately passing it off or driving hard to the net. He forces the opposition to make plays off the boards in transition up ice due to his abilities and applies pressure with his skating and reach, causing opponents to hurry and make mistakes. He has an electric first step and uses his speed and strength to leave opponents in the dust. McDavid elevates his play over the course of the game, upping his effect on the game at crucial times. He uses his edges to explode in every direction and can change speed (up and down) in no time at all, fooling opponents in the process. While not consistently physical, he isn't afraid to mix it up and has no issues holding his own at this level. He is a very disciplined player who knows when to engage in physical play and when to skate away. Finally, the fact that he doesn't use all of his talent in the offensive zone and saves something for the defensive zone as well is impressive. He uses his speed to get back and break up plays by stripping players of the puck. His versatility is something that really stands out, as he is the first one out to kill a penalty and quarterback the powerplay. He is involved in all facets of the game and will be an impact player at the NHL level next season.

**WEAKNESSES:** Not a lot to pick from with regards to weaknesses except maybe that he is still growing into his body and will need to add plenty of strength (core and lower body) if he hopes to drive his way to the net at the NHL level like he does in the O. Also, his shot, while accurate, does not jump off his blade like you would hope for such an impressive offensive talent. He will need to improve the velocity and release on his shot to fully become that dangerous player we all think he can be at the next level.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "What a talent. McDavid is the most dominant player I have seen at this level since John Tavares. His skating is superb, has elite hands and creativity, and reads and reacts to the game like a 20-year NHL vet. McDavid simply makes anyone around him better."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Perennial All-Star Franchise Offensive Center.





**JACK EICHEL**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**TEAM:** Boston University (NCAA)  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**BORN:** October 28, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 195 Lbs  
**STATS:** 40 GP 26 G 45 A 71 PTS 28 PIM

2

**STRENGTHS:** Eichel is a very strong skater with excellent strength and power in his stride and the ability to beat anyone he faces. He reaches top-speed quickly and is very agile and elusive. He is balanced on his edges and possesses immense strength on his skates and the ability to control the puck against pressure. Eichel is not a flashy guy, but instead he beats players with his power, reach and quickness. He dodges players with smooth moves and he uses his strength to power his way past players, transporting the puck around the zone with him as he analyzes his playmaking options. He finds his options quickly and shows off his high hockey IQ and ability to create offense by setting players up with crisp, creative feeds that break down the defense. Eichel also possesses a powerful shot that he likes to get off from the high-slot. He uses his power and instincts to get into position and then rifle one off at the net. He has a rising shot and it causes real problems for goaltenders with the velocity and power behind his release. Eichel's strength and power on the boards helps him earn possession in battles; winning puck possession and maintaining control under pressure. He uses his strength well to gain position and get his chances off. He is hard to knock off the puck, and when he combines his speed, skill and strength, he is very hard to contain and he becomes the best player on the ice. Eichel doesn't lack effort on defense either, as he plays his normal high-compete game and he gives consistent efforts at both ends. He plays hard and supports the defense well down-low and in the slot area. He is an efficient penalty-killer, playing an aggressive style, pressuring the point and causing changes of possession at the blue line.

**WEAKNESSES:** Again, there is a lot to like about a projected franchise center in the making, but if there was one area we feel he can improve, it is his game-to-game and shift-to-shift consistency. There were games this season when it seemed he was just mailing it in. Mind you most of those came when he had already contributed on the score sheet and the victory was not in question, but at the NHL level—and if that is where he wants to play next season—he will not get away with coasting through the last 20 minutes of play.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "He is a special talent. Eichel is a stud with the puck. He makes it tough for the opposition to contain him, and he makes some high-light-reel plays when generating scoring chances. Eichel is a dominant player, and an absolute threat with the puck whenever he has it. He is an elite skill and will be an NHL superstar."

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





**NOAH HANIFIN**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Boston College (NCAA)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** January 25, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 205 Lbs

**STATS:** 37 GP 5 G 18 A 23 PTS 16 PIM

3

**STRENGTHS:** Hanifin is a steady, mobile two-way defenseman who loves the offensive side of the game. The one thing he showed time and time again this season and last is that he thinks the game well years beyond his age. He processes it at a very high level and possesses the skills to be able to do what he wants to do in all zones. He is very confident with the puck on his stick and loves to rush the puck himself or join in on the rush. In the defensive zone, he uses his big frame and long stick well. He always leads with his stick to deflect shots/passes off the opposition's sticks. A gifted, smooth skating defenseman, Hanifin has a good first step and is mobile in all facets of the game. He shows his pro-ready vision and puck smarts on every shift. He plays tough in the corners and in front of the net. He is almost always in the correct position. He has an extremely long reach and uses it well to break up rushes and take away passing lanes. On the rare occasion that he makes a mistake, his calmness and poise allows him to get back in position and play like nothing happened. When his passes do get intercepted or there is a turnover he is quick to instantly apply pressure to his man and limit him from gaining any meaningful ground. His poise is also on display when he has the puck. His passing ability is very impressive; always tape-to-tape, whether the player is in motion or stationary. His shot is also incredibly hard and accurate; a real weapon on the powerplay. Has the size, speed, skill, and smarts at both ends of the ice that allows him to have success. Makes strong reads of the developing play and creates opportunity to get the puck going in the proper direction.

**WEAKNESSES:** While not really a weakness, it should be noted that Hanifin does not play a very physical game. He has no problem with using his strength to pin an attacker along the wall or close someone off when they try to carry the puck past him but do not look for him to lead the physical game with a big hit or by dropping the gloves. One other thing is that he can over handle the puck on the rush at times. It does not cost him in terms of turning over the puck, but it is an unnecessary risky trait that could be exploited at the NHL level.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Hanifan is exactly what you look for in a defenseman with franchise defenseman potential. He is a complete defenseman with no glaring weakness. His skating is extremely fluid. He loves to rush the puck and his slick hands make it look like he does it with ease. He is a rock in the defensive zone. He has the potential to be the best American born defenseman in many years. I would take him at number three in June, and if he falls, he will become a pretty big steal for somebody."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Cornerstone Top Pairing Two-Way Defenseman





**DYLAN STROME**

**POSITION:** Center

**TEAM:** Erie (OHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** March 7, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 185 Lbs

**STATS:** 68 GP 45 G 84 A 129 PTS 32 PIM

4

**STRENGTHS:** Strome doesn't have the elite speed that his brother Ryan possesses, but he skates in a more conservative way. He knows when to increase his speed and when to stay strong and balanced, coasting to keep up with the play and position himself accordingly. He is balanced and fluid in his movements while also taking a split second to explode from stationary. Moves exceptionally well with the puck and takes his speed to another level with the puck on his stick. Strome oozes confidence with the puck and can deke out defenders with skilled moves. Changes his hand speed to fool goalies; stickhandling fast before slowing to a halt on a breakaway before snapping the puck on net. Not flashy with the puck but is strong on it and makes plays happen. Has the ability to pull a deke to get past defenders and to open space where he creates his own shooting lanes. Strome has an innate ability to gain the zone and dish a beautiful pass to teammates as they drive the net. He loves to thread the needle with passes and making defenders look silly for allowing it to squeeze past them. He opens passing lanes for teammates by getting to open ice and drawing defender in before making things happen. Strome is willing to battle on the wall and for pucks but is better suited to be in open ice and not grinding it out along the wall. He uses his reach to his advantage to poke pucks away from opponents and gets to his check to cover him in the defensive zone. He is vocal, and active with teammates, pumping them up, or calming them down, as he sees fit.

**WEAKNESSES:** The big issue people in the industry find with him is his slower feet but honestly, he is the classic still-developing skater where he is just waiting for his leg strength to improve and his stride will follow suit. He is not slow by any stretch. Multiple times this season we found Strome to have a mixed effort in all three zones; some shifts he was guns-a-blazing in the offensive zone and made no effort in the defensive zone, while other shifts he was giving 110 per cent in the defensive zone and covering his checks. His effort in the faceoff circle can also be inconsistent; he can look outmatched in some instances and far superior to his competition the very next opportunity he is given. Needs to add muscle and improve that consistency if he is to reach his NHL dream sooner than later.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "A strong young man, with NHL frame. Will be a beast when he puts on 15 to 20 more pounds of muscle. Has an easy stride; two strides and he covers lots of ice. Has a projectable skillset, with good hand/eye. You think he's done nothing, then all of a sudden he has multiple points on the board. A 200-ft player and is suited for playing a heavy game once he fills out."

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





**MITCH MARNER**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**TEAM:** London (OHL)

**SHOOTS:** Right

**BORN:** May 5, 1997

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

**STATS:** 63 GP 44 G 82 A 126 PTS 53 PIM

5

**STRENGTHS:** Marner is a quick offensive winger who carries the offensive load for the Knights and plays upwards of 25 minutes a night. He sees time in all situations; even being positioned on the point on the powerplay and playing double duty by not only being in London's top six but also centering the fourth line on many nights. He is explosive; possesses game breaking speed, some phenomenal lateral agility and moves exceptionally well in all directions with very fluid strides. The kid can burst through holes and into lanes, accelerating in a flash, which makes him dangerous. Such a cerebral player who sees the ice well and oozes confidence with the puck. Doesn't stand still on the rush and he moves the puck and hustles up ice. Has a nifty set of moves, especially at top speed, and loves to change it up to fool goalies and defenders. Shows patience with the puck looking for an open target all over the ice. Marner is an elusive playmaker with innate finishing ability who possesses crazy high speed as he gains the offensive zone. He is very good in control and has fast hands in his stickhandling as he looks to create some offensive magic. Marner is elusive and won't rush to make just any play; he calculates his options and shows patience when in possession. Passes are creative and right onto the tape of his target. He somehow sees unthinkable passing lanes and executes perfectly. Has a rocket of a shot that he uses to deceive goaltenders and picks his spots with no trouble. Defensively, he uses this speed to separate from checks and to catch his man on the back check to break up the play and turn the puck back up ice. Positions himself well on the penalty kill and jumps on loose pucks to clear the zone. He will slide over to pick up any missed checks and support on the sides of the zone, showing strong defensive awareness.

**WEAKNESSES:** The one weakness that stands out above all else and is keeping him from being a top three selection in this draft is his size and lack of overall strength. He has addressed any and all other concerns this season but this one will likely keep him out of the NHL next year and maybe even the season after as well. He got knocked around often this season, but didn't let that stop him—he would always jump back up. But there is a big difference between a 18/19-year-old OHL defender and a 28-year-old bone crushing NHL defender. A good summer or two of eating like a horse and hitting the gym would go a long way.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Marner is an exceptional talent, and a treat to watch. He has all the tools to make an impact at the junior level, and into the pros. He's a fantastic skater, possesses a hard, accurate shot, couples exceptional vision with a high hockey IQ, and pursues the puck vigorously. Marner plays with confidence and determination."

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





**IVAN PROVOROV**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Brandon (WHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** January 13, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 200 Lbs

**STATS:** 60 GP 15 G 46 A 61 PTS 42 PIM

6

**STRENGTHS:** Provorov is a smooth-skating, highly intelligent blueliner. He has great composure in all zones and all situations. He never looks panicked. He shows that composure off by taking the puck in his own zone, methodically escaping the forecheck before wiring a crisp outlet pass onto the tape of the forward breaking out of the zone. He does this consistently and effortlessly. He really has a lot of whip in his stick when he passes, and executes outlets in a flawless fashion. He shows off a nice low, hard, accurate wrist shot from the point on the powerplay or his fantastic slapshot off the one-timer. He can absolutely wire the puck with a shooting technique that is mature from top to bottom as he is projected to be a threat at the NHL level as both a PP passer and point shooter. His composure also comes into play in the offensive zone; either by making a really nice spin move when faced with pressure or just making the simple dump where a teammate can retrieve it. Likes to carry the puck through the neutral zone with a heads up style of play, holding off attacking sticks while still drawing in defenders before making plays. He displays a strong sense of positioning and decision making regarding when to join the rush. On the defensive side of the puck he also shows well by displaying elite hockey sense. He reads the play exceptionally well and knows his coverage assignment. Makes smooth plays to neutralize the attack and smart reads. He uses his edges and solid footwork to maintain a tight gap as he skates backwards over the red line. He uses his stick to steer the attacker to the boards, making one quick hop to the left before poking the puck away and guiding the attacking player into the wall. His plays both offensively and defensively are all done in such a fluid motion and in such quick succession that he really makes it look easy. Provorov is also very clever in using his 200-pound frame. He can throw a surprising and punishing check, and he seems to always engage using his thick body a split second before the opposing checker, gaining inside position on the puck.

**WEAKNESSES:** What do you say about a draft eligible defenseman that brings back flashes of Doug Harvey and his calm calculated demeanour, skating the puck up ice before bursting a pass through a seam? Or of how Niklas Lidstrom used to defend the rush by angling guys off and quickly turning the play back up ice. The obvious Russian factor that has been mitigated somewhat by his desire over the past couple seasons to play in North America and the current Russian economy. But some NHL teams are still apprehensive to spend a high value asset.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "While Provorov is not overly flashy offensively or physically punishing defensively, his hockey sense is upper echelon, allowing him to take over moments in a game, making him a top draft pick with the ability to help turn around a losing franchise in my eyes. This kid just knows how to execute plays in all zones."

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





**ZACH WERENSKI**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Michigan (NCAA)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** July 19, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 215 Lbs

**STATS:** 35 GP 9 G 16 A 25 PTS 8 PIM

7

**STRENGTHS:** Werenski really impresses as a smooth, puck-moving defenseman who is responsible defensively and has the raw offensive instincts to quarterback a potent powerplay. Werenski is a strong skater who moves fluidly with his high-end mobility and agility with and without the puck. His short passes and long range passes both hit their marks. He makes such smooth passes on the breakout it almost looks effortless, which makes it all the better as he kick starts the rush. Very strong reads of the game and his reactions tend to be the most appropriate for the situation he finds himself in. Confidence radiates from him when he has the puck and it makes his teammates calm and feel comfortable with him leading the charge, even as the youngest member on the team. Werenski is a cerebral defender with an impactful first pass that enables the forwards to get a head start on gaining the zone and creating some offense. He will carry the puck up on his own and gain the zone, but he dissects all options before deciding. Maintains a good handle on the puck and poise when pressured and still manages to get a perfect pass off. On the powerplay, Werenski is very active and is constantly moving to open ice to help give his teammates an open pass. Makes the smart play with excellent lateral movement to keep the puck in at the point. His shot packs a punch from the point. It is an absolute cannon and he does a great job getting it through traffic in front. Plays the one-on-one well and uses his stick to poke the puck off the opponent's stick before taking a quick step forward to retrieve it and move it back up ice. His game is mature beyond his years and he has the potential to be an impact player at the NHL level as soon as next season.

**WEAKNESSES:** A lack of overall consistency is an area that will need to improve. He puts forward many impactful shifts every game, but he can also go invisible for long stretches as well. Another area where he sometimes gets himself in trouble is with his shot hitting shin pads of forwards pressuring him hard at the point. Fortunately, sometimes he reads that and makes the smart play to go d-to-d or gets the puck deep to avoid that trouble. The area that needs the most work, though, is his defensive game. He runs around a bit in the defensive zone and the coach does not trust him enough defensively to give him any real PK time. Essentially, it comes down to him developing the mindset of having to play consistent defense to realize his full potential.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Werenski plays with strong offensive skill, pushing the puck up the ice with the offense and oftentimes even leading the rush. He showed a skill-set that included excellent vision, smarts and hands, and able to contribute off the rush. High-end offensive upside at the NHL level."

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





**MIKKO RANTANEN**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**TEAM:** TPS (Liiga)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** October 29, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-4" / 210 Lbs

**STATS:** 56 GP 9 G 19 A 28 PTS 22 PIM

8

**STRENGTHS:** The big, strong right wing shows really good, smooth and balanced skating, especially for his size. Rantanen is not lightning quick, but regardless of quickness he is a solid overall skater. His skating allows him to pick up decent speed and makes him hard to control or contain. Makes good, crisp passes to the safe option. He is cautious when making a pass in or around his own end, but plays a little more risky when in possession deep in the offensive zone. He control his pace to line up with the pass very well, slowing down or speeding up, to ensure that he gains control on the rush. Will work the puck down low and cycle it when no options are readily available, but can create space by drawing defenders in and making a pass to the newfound open ice. Protects the puck extremely well with his body but also has some creative hands he likes to use. Reads the play exceptionally well in the offensive zone and reacts as he quickly moves to open ice calling for a pass when his team has possession. Has a good, quick wrist and doesn't need to get set to unload. Quick to corral the puck and wait for the goalie to make a move before he unloads a quick release to the open net; it often doesn't even look like Rantanen is getting set to shoot until the puck is off his stick and in the back of the net. Such a deceptive release point fools goalies, even when they are fully ready for it. He will be physical at times on the wall and hold his ground in front of the net. Tenacious on the forecheck and is even better, more consistent, on the backcheck; shows that he is aware defensively and will always look for his check on the way back. His defensive game is a strength, he battles for pucks and pressures defensemen for pucks deep in their own zone. He is often in a good position without the puck. His willingness to sacrifice his body to block a shot and play defense will endear him to his teammates. Already has the size, strength and experience to be an impact player at the NHL level as soon as next season.

**WEAKNESSES:** Not that he is a bad skater at all, but we expect his stride to be even more enhanced when he adds a little more leg strength as he looks a little top heavy right now in terms of current muscle distribution. He is average in tight to the opposition's net as he tries to get a little fancy with one too many moves around the net. Does most of his damage out in the slot or around the circles. His physical play is also an area of inconsistency as the willingness to engage in contact is not all there. Instead, he tries to use his long reach to dig for pucks when he should just be running guys over. Goes through stretches where he seems to not be able to find a rhythm offensively.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "The big Finn has elite skills and has the size and strength to be an absolute force. He was creating all kinds of chances late in the game but couldn't seem to bury it. He is a hardworking forward who uses his body to shield the puck away from defenders and will be effective playing that style at the NHL level."

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





**MATHEW BARZAL**

**POSITION: Center**

**TEAM: Seattle (WHL)**

**SHOOTS: Right**

**BORN: May 26, 1997**

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

**STATS: 44 GP 12 G 45 A 57 PTS 20 PIM**

9

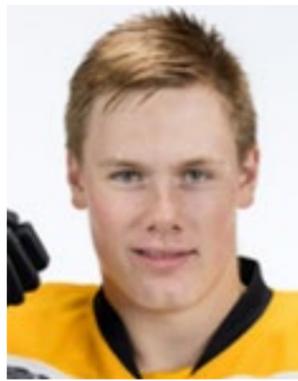
**STRENGTHS:** An elite level playmaking center. Barzal is a very special player and is typically all over the ice creating plays. Barzal has elite hands, strong playmaking ability and is a very smooth skater. He resembles Crosby in the way he moves around the ice and is a fantastic skater at this level with both his quickness and foot speed. His hands are some of the best in the draft class with the quickness to make plays in tight and the soft touch to place the puck out of reach for defenders. Barzal is extremely confident when he has the puck on his stick and has tremendous vision. He is able to find seams and passing lanes that most guys would not see. Makes one of the best saucer passes we've seen in the draft class with its accuracy and smoothness, landing perfectly for teammates. He gets lower in his stance stick handling around the perimeter of the zone but with his head up assessing his options and dissecting from outside in the offensive zone. Slick in possession as he dekes his way around the offensive zone and making defenders look silly in the process. Barzal is an incredible playmaker whose ability to see and exploit is all-world. Hand speed can change based on the situation as he looks to get himself in better position with more room to work. He is patient and poised, showing that he will wait and wait to make a play, regrouping to better space and open ice if needed. Has a very strong shot that just jumps off his blade in a blink causing goaltenders some trouble. This kid is very dangerous offensively and was very impressive at the U18's for Canada.

**WEAKNESSES:** Barzal is a perimeter player. He will venture into the slot but only if he calculates the risk is less than the probability of him scoring. He also does not always show up for each and every shift. A soft player. Going invisible for stretches and not being able to play through physical contact are two areas that will need to be corrected if he wants to make it to the next level. As a creative playmaker he also has a tendency to make some questionable plays and force things with his passes. He is also not the complete two-way player that teams will hope for when selecting this high, even though he does surprise with a smart defensive play every now and again, as he needs to improve his effort level coming back into the defensive zone. Barzal has some maturity issues that will hopefully be corrected with time as he can be a little over dramatic and sulk when he doesn't get the attention he feels he deserves. His puck skills, ability to handle it with speed, amazing vision, and knack for the offensive side of the game make him a top prospect in the class even with his drawbacks.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Barzal is one of the best of this draft class with his vision and creativity offensively. When other players would normally keep heading forward with their plays, Barzal has the imagination and vision to pass back to a player no opposing player picked up behind the play. A true top playmaker in this draft crop."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Top Six Playmaking Center





**LAWSON CROUSE**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**TEAM:** Kingston (OHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** June 23, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 215 Lbs

**STATS:** 56 GP 29 G 22 A 51 PTS 70 PIM

# 10

**STRENGTHS:** Crouse is a big, explosive winger that hits like a truck. He is a smart player, but doesn't stand out with any flash or dash in regards to puck handling skills. The big bodied player skates well, with no huge amount of speed, but exceptional stability; once he gets up to speed he is incredibly difficult to stop or angle off. Crouse does have a powerful stride that gets him moving and generates solid speed levels for his size. Moves well with the puck, does not slow down at all, and makes it near impossible for opposing players to knock him off it or strip him. Not the fastest hands around but strong and does wonders with them: holding off defenders with his free hand or just being heavy on his stick. Has an impressive ability to drive the net or cycle along the wall, all while seeing passing lanes and making split second decisions with the puck—impressive traits for such a big man. Smooth hands on the rush as he can pull the puck around a sliding defender and get a swift backhand pass on the tape of the centerman streaking in. Puts some heat on his passes and he connects with his target on the tape. Is always moving to create passing options and lanes, and utilizes his large frame to bull his way through opponents to create his own lanes. Crouse gets to the right areas to score and has a wicked release on his heavy wrist shot. Crouse has no fear in engaging physically. He knows when and where to use his body effectively and plays his man well. Can lay a crushing hit when he sees fit and is not afraid to give a little cheap shot after the whistle to get the opposition going. He is a beast on the forecheck and forces defensemen to panic and make mistakes. Nearly impossible to move in front and doesn't get rattled by anybody as he fights off checks and pushes his way to create space. Hockey sense is solid and he makes good decisions with and without the puck. A very good communicator on the ice and knows where to be defensively, sometimes does a tad too much as he covers his check and that of his linemates. Crouse is a sure fire future NHLer.

**WEAKNESSES:** The question that no one can answer but is thinking with this guy is what will his offensive upside be at the NHL level. Will he be the next Cam Neely? Or top out as a just an effective two-way power winger? At the OHL level he can go absent for long stretches at a time, not that he is a defensive liability because he is always involved in that regard, but more along the lines as he is not trying to generate much offensively. He is more of a complementary player to a skilled centerman, but has also shown at times the ability to be the offensive driver.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Crouse is an unbelievable player. He is a warrior and will succeed in any role required of him. He is versatile and can have success in a checking role or a top line role depending on where he is cast. Crouse is ultra-competitive and is at his best when he plays with a feisty edge. A throw-back offensively capable power forward."

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





**TRAVIS KONECNY**

**POSITION: Center/Wing**

**TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)**

**SHOOTS: Right**

**BORN: March 11, 1997**

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

**STATS: 60 GP 29 G 39 A 68 PTS 34 PIM**

11

**STRENGTHS:** Konecny is a hardworking, skilled forward who constantly strives to make something happen on the ice. His feet are always churning and he generates very strong levels of speed and explosiveness from his feet. His lateral mobility, first step burst and edge work are all at the NHL level. Has the ability to gain near unstoppable speed in transition. It is reminiscent of Ovechkin as he circles into his zone and absolutely explodes up the wing with and without the puck. Konecny shows off his high-end offensive ability as he goes to the soft spots around the net and looks for passes so he can wire home a quick one-timer or quick release wrist shot. He displays a sweet set of hands to completely undress defenders or a goaltender and the confidence to be creative in tight. Has high-end vision and hockey sense to make the right decisions and pick apart lanes on the rush. Konecny has the ability to make plays at such a fast pace, with no need to slow down, as he fools opponents when they least expect it. Uses every edge of his skates as he drives up ice and cuts to different areas; is a high-flying offensive player who creates offense off the rush and deep in the zone. What he lacks in size, he makes up for in smart play, determination and dangerous speed. He carries speed with him up ice and can change pace in no time, often kicking it up a notch within a stride or two. Konecny seems to always make a perfect pass—his decision-making and execution are done like a pro. Opens himself for a pass and gets into all kinds of lanes to give a variety of options. Relentless forechecker who cuts passing lanes to create turnovers right onto his stick. He strongly desires to make an impact physically and will recklessly throw his entire body at the opposition regardless of their size. While not very big he can deliver a monstrous check on the opposition that turns the momentum. Everything he does is with an eye on making an impact. Not afraid to stand up for himself and teammates after whistles. He is a true captain and the undisputed leader of any team he plays on as well as his current club, the Ottawa 67's.

**WEAKNESSES:** The one main area of concern for any NHL team looking at Konecny will be his size and, more importantly, how that size plays out to his durability. Tends to over handle the puck, and he makes that one extra move at the offensive blue line that often does more bad than good, as it often gets poked off his stick.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "The smaller winger has shown time and time again that his size should not be questioned. Aside from this, I see no deficiencies in his game, and as someone who does not care about the size this kid possesses, I would be taking him early on. If he slips out of a lottery pick and ends up with a team that played some playoff hockey, they will surely benefit in the near future. The drive, leadership abilities and skills that this kid possesses will take him far in what should be a long career."

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





**KYLE CONNOR**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**TEAM:** Youngstown (USHL)  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**BORN:** December 9, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 185 Lbs  
**STATS:** 56 GP 34 G 46 A 80 PTS 6 PIM

# 12

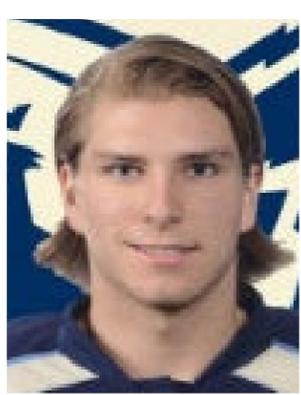
**STRENGTHS:** Connor is an explosive skater who tends to skate fairly upright, though he is shifty and can change directions on a dime. Has the ability to catch the puck carrier with his long stride and explosiveness. With speed, he has the ability to control the puck from behind his back and up to the front of his body all while entering the zone without slowing down one bit. He is a creative player who can dish the puck with ease and can stickhandle in and out of trouble. Hands of gold and oozes skill with the puck. Can make some jaw dropping dekes and does so with a smoothness. Zone entries and exits are done with full control and impressive amounts of speed. The kid never stops moving, always active, trying to provide a better option or getting to the areas where he needs to get his nose dirty. Buzzes all around the net in hopes of getting an offensive chance. He possesses incredible vision, seeing lanes develop and exploiting defensive mishaps from the half wall. He offers support to the puck carrier on the wall down low in hopes of being in a better position to create offense. Trails the opposing puck carrier in perfect shadowing position in order to apply backpressure or lift the stick and pick off the puck, quickly turning it back up ice. He possesses a deceptive wrist shot with good velocity that forces the goalie to make a save: one lateral step and a slight flick of the wrist while no one around him had the slightest idea that he was attempting to shoot until it left his stick. Has a quick release and makes his own lanes to feed passes or get shots through. Elite ability to create offense and make beautiful passes through lanes that looks near impossible to get through. Connor is very good in tight space with the puck and pulls off different moves to get around defenders. Not a physical guy but will take a hit to make a play, and doesn't let getting crushed into the wall stop him from making a play first to a teammate.

**WEAKNESSES:** Connor is a very intriguing prospect in the sense that he has all the tools to be a success at the next level. Some time in college adding muscle mass and increasing his overall strength and frame will go a long way for him. Like is the case with most creative players, he gets a little too fancy at times, which can be a negative when he makes an extra move at the blue line or tries to force pucks into areas where his teammates are not able to control it. Goes through stretches where he is inconsistent in his effort levels.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Such a smart, confident player who makes ridiculous plays at such a high speed. His speed creates great offensive chances and wreaks havoc on the forecheck. Everything he does is with a purpose, which is the reason he is so effective. The kid is an emerging star who is a genuine game breaker."

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





**JEREMY ROY**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Sherbrooke (QMJHL)

**SHOOTS:** Right

**BORN:** May 14, 1997

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

**STATS:** 46 GP 5 G 38 A 43 PTS 37 PIM

# 13

**STRENGTHS:** Roy is a pretty pure offensive defenseman. He shows great poise and composure when opposing forwards forecheck. He is effective, shows great vision and passing skills when he makes a great outlet pass to begin the breakout. His strength is certainly in his passing. He passes tape-to-tape and hits teammates in stride. He likes to rush the puck and does it pretty effectively, but he does struggle a little at top speeds through the neutral zone. He seemed to fumble it a bit at his top speed. He reads the situation well, knowing when to push it more or slow it down to wait for his teammates to join in. He is pretty aggressive with his pinches, and creates loads of offensive opportunity when he makes that gamble. His shot is extremely heavy from the point, but it is typically all power and very little precision, missing the net often. He makes skilled passes and has great vision, as well as the ability to become a great PP QB. He sees the ice, anticipates options and reads the play in front of him very well. Very good at walking the blue line in the offensive zone. His game revolves around his great offensive skillset and creativity. He is very agile in his skating and very elusive when carrying the puck. His lateral quickness is the big reason why so many opponents miss him when trying to attack the puck. His top speed would benefit from another gear, but he moves well when in possession of the puck. Not overly physical but he will battle hard on the boards. Defensively he will get his job done one-on-one with good sticks checks. But in the defensive zone he can be caught running around and being out of position at times.

**WEAKNESSES:** He is not a huge liability defensively, but he does leave a little to be desired back there with regards to his decision-making. The biggest thing is his inability to play a two-on-one correctly. He often gets caught in the middle of playing the pass or going for the puck carrier, showing indecisiveness. That usually results in a good scoring chance for the opposition. He also has a weird habit of skating forwards, towards the net in order to attempt to defend the rush (not that his backwards skating is poor, or his pivots for that matter). Another poor tendency he showed in the defensive zone was trying to do too much skating with the puck through the zone when being pressured instead of just getting it out. Plays with a high amount of risk to his game and has you on the edge of your seat when defending—not always in a good way. He has the smarts and drive to improve so hopefully he can iron out some of his wrinkles.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** “Honestly, I love this guy and he might have been the top defenseman for me all year. Versatile defenseman who isn’t afraid to throw his weight around. Plays smart during the powerplay, great quarterback. His shot is as hard as they come. Can shoot laser beams top corner, or distribute to a waiting forward for a quick one-timer.”

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





**TIMO MEIER**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**TEAM:** Halifax (QMJHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** October 8, 1996

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

**STATS:** 61 GP 44 G 46 A 90 PTS 59 PIM

# 14

**STRENGTHS:** Meier makes good decisions with and without the puck and plays his position very well. His line dominated in the offensive zone all season and was leaned on quite a bit in Halifax this season. We like Meier's strength. He has a very hard, pro-ready shot, a long reach and isn't afraid to go to the dirty areas. Meier has a hop in his step and has good, quick acceleration that allows him to scoot past defenders and beat them to pucks. Skating is a tad choppy at full speed but he is well balanced and has above average mobility. Good quick release on his wrist shots, often fooling goalies due to the speed on the release as he forces them to make a save. He's a high-flying winger who exudes confidence with the puck, possessing quick hands and the ability to stickhandle in tight quarters. Passes are so smooth they look to be going in slow motion. Meier sees passing lanes well and adjusts his positioning to hit them with perfection. Good on zone entries as he looks for options with speed or slows up to a stop inside the blue line to move the puck. He will grind it out in the corner to retrieve the puck and seems to always want possession, thriving when he is in control of the game. Has the instinct to know when his teammate is going to get a shot off, and reacts by driving to the net to get any possible rebound. Will take a hit to make a play and uses his strength effectively on the wall. Separates himself from opponents with his burst and his size, but isn't one to lay a huge hit on the wall or in open ice. Makes the right decisions in the offensive zone, even when being extremely pressured; does this with poise and patience as he dishes the puck or protects it until he creates an option or one presents itself. Absolutely a guy who was trending upwards as the season progressed.

**WEAKNESSES:** Meier's defensive play is not an area that would be considered a plus; although, he does know what and when to make a play in his own zone. The drive to do it is the issue. His conditioning is definitely a question mark as well. He seemed to wear down at points in the season. We are not convinced he is a high-end guy we can see leading a team offensively at the next level, but instead, more of a strong complimentary player who can keep up to the most skilled and flashy playmakers or plug into a third line role if needed. There were game reports this season with the notes "inconsistent compete level" that might make an NHL team think twice about taking him too early. Not going to be a consistent physical guy or a beast to play against on the wall. His strength and size should only be seen as a potential asset.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "He has really stepped forward the last two viewings. There is a fire under his ass now, and he's showing a physical side he never really did before. Smart offensively in terms of positioning, he just needs to polish up his defense and play with this fire consistently. Meier impressed me a lot in this game as he showed off his offensive instincts and pure determination to be a difference maker."

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





**PAVEL ZACHA**

**POSITION:** Center

**TEAM:** Sarnia (OHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** April 6, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-3" / 215 Lbs

**STATS:** 37 GP 16 G 18 A 34 PTS 56 PIM

# 15

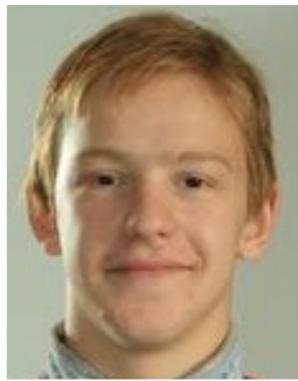
**STRENGTHS:** Zacha is the total package. He has pro size, explosive speed and a deadly release. Zacha is a threat every time that he is on the ice and we love the fact that he finishes his checks hard. He is always hard on the puck and wins the majority of battles in all three zones. He is a physically imposing pivot who uses his size and strength to fully control the cycle game down low. Has some magical hands as he has no problem with pulling the puck from behind with one hand and up to the front of his body without slowing down at all. Uses his long reach to his advantage pulling pucks that are out of reach in close where he can quickly pull a skilled move or get off a shot with little effort. His agility and speed allow him to elude hits and beat defenders wide or down the middle. Zacha is also very good at changing speeds which makes him deceptive and elusive. The power in his stride is incredible and allows him to explode in every direction, even at top speed. A very smart player who gets to the right area of the ice for a pass. He has an excellent shot, with enormous velocity and an even better release. Zacha's hands and vision are very good as well and he can penetrate the zone and feed teammates through traffic very effectively. He picks up his man on the backcheck and does a good job of removing him from the play. He helps out below the hash marks in the defensive zone and helps to grind it out and get the puck out of the zone. Does a good job of offering support outside of a crowd and helps out in all areas. Always seems to be on the right side of the puck and uses his body to push his way through traffic. Zacha makes unreal passes on the rush when it is least expected. He leads his man with the puck and gets creative in his passing as he gets fancy and dishes behind the back pass from the corner to the slot and right on the tape. Zacha was a very dangerous goal scorer at the recent U18's for his native Czech Republic. The sky is the limit for this kid and we believe that he will be very successful at the next level.

**WEAKNESSES:** Zacha showed off why he is a top prospect for this year's draft on many nights for Sarnia, but also seems to be missing or down right coasting on many shifts. The biggest negative we see from him on a continual basis is his constant willingness to try to do it all on his own and not fully utilizing his teammates like he could. His physical ability and nasty demeanor is an intriguing characteristic for NHL teams; however, just like some undisciplined NHL players can cost their teams with bad penalties, Zacha may do the same—that was seen plenty this season.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "All the makings of a future top line NHL'er winger, Zacha has really grown as a player as the season has progressed even with missing some games. He came into the league looking a bit lost and disinterested at times, but has become a solid prospect; dominant on many nights. Creating many chances with his size, vision, speed and heavy shot."

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





**EVGENY SVECHNIKOV**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**TEAM:** Cape Breton (QMJHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** October 31, 1996

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

**STATS:** 55 GP 32 G 46 A 78 PTS 70 PIM

# 16

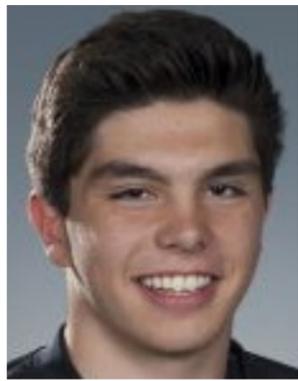
**STRENGTHS:** Svechnikov is a talented power forward with an attractive blend of size and skill. He has great puck control, which allows him to use his reach to protect the puck while still making plays in motion. Svechnikov is an excellent skater with a long and efficient stride. He edges very nicely and his weight transfer is textbook. All this allows him to change directions very rapidly and he can juke defenders out of position with ease. Great balance and strong on his feet; hard to knock off the puck and hard to poke check. He is extremely athletic. Shows high-end, top-notch puck protection skills; able to drive into the zone and slow down the play to look for openings or to play along the boards and keep the cycle moving. Great feel for the puck and able to make quick and effective plays in a split second. He is a silky stick handler and shows remarkable control of the puck away from his body. Svechnikov has solid offensive awareness and good instincts around the net. He possesses a heavy shot with very little windup and he is skilled at getting himself open for the one-timer. Not afraid to get into the dirty areas and battle. While a power forward, he is a new age one like a Rick Nash and prefers to use his size and reach to create a distance between the puck and opponents as opposed to punishing players physically or intimidating his opponent. Relies more on a skill/protection style of play. Defensively, he is solid, but not overly effective as he is always looking to jump at the first sign of an offensive rush. He isn't a liability, though. When he gets going he is tough to stop and his ability to beat you with force or skill is impressive. He seems destined for a top line role at the NHL level and has the potential to be a dominant and dynamic star.

**WEAKNESSES:** Defensively, he tries to come back and stay within arm's reach of his man but his presence is not exactly felt in his own zone. He seems to like taking longer than optimal shifts, some of which have hit 2 minutes in length at times this past season and he has got caught on the ice being too tired to make a defensive play. That type of individual play will not fly at an NHL training camp and might be the reason he gets sent back to junior. The guy has the skills to be a top 10 talent, but being Russian, there is that scare factor of competing foreign leagues poaching him in his prime and after millions of dollars have been invested in his development. No NHL teams want to deal with agents who have real leverage. But skill-wise, Svechnikov is up there with the best.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "At the Q level he is a man amongst boys and he is incredibly tough to knock off the puck. While Svechnikov is already a dangerous player I think he still has a lot of room to grow. He still has some bad habits, and he could be a more consistent offensive force. Overall I think Svechnikov has both the tools and potential to warrant a high selection and if he continues to pile up the points, the sky is the limit."

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





**NICK MERKLEY**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**TEAM:** Kelowna (WHL)

**SHOOTS:** Right

**BORN:** May 23, 1997

**VITALS:** 5'-10" / 190 Lbs

**STATS:** 72 GP 20 G 70 A 90 PTS 79 PIM

# 17

**STRENGTHS:** Merkley is consistent all game in his work ethic and shows he has an excellent sense for creating offense. Very confident with the puck, loves to have possession and hold the puck far away from his body and cradling it away from oncoming checkers with poise and deliberation. His motor is his best asset, he never stops moving his feet on the ice and is constantly competing for ice in the dirty areas. Physically, he can throw a big check, but also shows he can use his strength to cycle and protect the puck in close quarters. Not afraid to go to the front of the net and look for garbage. He has great vision and overall hockey sense. He is ultra-creative with elite level vision displayed when finding open teammates and picks his moments carefully when trying to make an individual attempt at generating offense. He looks engaged every shift and he does something noticeable every time he steps on the ice. Always looking to contribute on the ice whether it is making an offensive play, hustling to make a defensive play or not backing down from a physical battle. Doesn't show a ton of respect for bigger guys out there, he just buzzes around and gets in others' grills. Has no trouble circling the offensive zone and feathering passes around when an open lane presents itself. Good footwork generating forward momentum from a standstill, seems to have very powerful strides and gets up to a high speed quickly. Possesses a hard shot, confident in just throwing the puck on net and can beat goalies from considerable distance. Plays with a high amount of energy and drive. The type of player that every team wants: hustle, heart and skill.

**WEAKNESSES:** Despite his ability to work through it, his size is a bit of a factor in why he is not rated as high as he could be. His skating also needs some fine tuning before he will be able to play at the next level. Best way we can describe his skating is it looks like he's slipping on the ice, like he's not digging in with his edges as much as he could. Defensively, the kid will work and help out when he can but has a ways to go before he can be considered a complete two-way forward. Nitpicking his defense or skating shouldn't allow for him to slide more than to the middle of the first, but both are raw parts of his game and he could benefit from improving. His work ethic will determine if he improves in all areas and this kid loves to work.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "I think his ability to find teammates has to be tops in this class; one powerplay he found every single Kelowna Rockets player for a solid scoring opportunity. He makes passes no one else sees. Obviously his size is something people are always going to question, but every time I've seen him play he doesn't back down from anything and actually uses his small stature to get real low; players can't check him when he's that small and strong on his stick. I really like this player and believe he's a lock to make the NHL one day."

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





**DANIEL SPRONG**

**POSITION: Right Wing**

**TEAM: Charlottetown (QMJHL)**

**SHOOTS: Right**

**BORN: March 17, 1997**

**VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs**

**STATS: 68 GP 39 G 49 A 88 PTS 18 PIM**

# 18

**STRENGTHS:** Skilled goal scorer born and raised in the Netherlands before moving over to Quebec to chase his dream of an NHL career. Sprong is an electric player in the offensive zone and can create scoring chances from nothing. He is a well-rounded and dynamic skater who can beat you in so many ways. He has an explosive skating base and can really fly. His acceleration and speed are unequivocally elite. Sprong is dynamic and slippery with the puck. He relies on his separation speed and his quick release to produce offense. Relies primarily on his ability to outskate opponents speed wise. He seems to relish an opportunity to go one-on-one with a defender and he is successful more often than not. Sprong has a goal scorer's mentality and is relentless in his attack. Without the puck he times his probes into scoring areas very well and has a knack for gets open moving forward in the slot. He also possesses an incredible weapon in his absolute laser of a shot. He can really wire the puck and picks corners with aplomb. His wrister release is lightning quick and he has a cannon of a one-timer. Sprong isn't strictly a goal scorer and he finds teammates well with skilled passes. He reads the play effectively and has a knack for finding lanes to spring his teammates. Sprong has incredible offensive potential and has the ability to put up elite point totals. Sprong is a strong 190-pounds and his low skating base gives him added leverage when defenders try to knock him off the puck. When he decides to go to the boards, he is not afraid to battle, but often prefers to be in motion and look for a pass off the wall where he can take it and go instead. Not one to engage physically but will give the business back with his stick if hacked or cross checked while looking for a scoring opportunity.

**WEAKNESSES:** Like many offensively gifted teenagers, Sprong's overall 200-foot game needs some work. Defensively, he is not the most intense on the backcheck, but in his zone he can be responsible. His overall game and skating style reminds us a little of Phil Kessel, and he has many of the same warts as the Toronto superstar. He can also be caught floating at times in his own zone, looking for that quick breakout play. While it is very valuable to have the ability to go through a team, he needs to pick his spots a little better as he won't get away with some of his "globetrotter" play at the NHL level. Has a bit of a selfish aura about him, not unlike a lot of other very successful goal scorers do at this age; however, it may be a "buyer-beware" situation at the NHL level, as you need to be focus on the team goal instead of just your stat line.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Has the skill to go high because he is a dangerous goal-scorer. Pair him up with a decent playmaker and he could potentially score 30-35 goals in the NHL. But he is very one-dimensional, and lacks the size and drive to play defensively to be anything other than a goal scorer."

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





**COLIN WHITE**  
**POSITION:** Center/Right Wing  
**TEAM:** NTDP U18 (USHL)  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**BORN:** January 30, 1997  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 185 Lbs  
**STATS:** 54 GP 23 G 31 A 54 PTS 28 PIM

# 19

**STRENGTHS:** The Boston College commit is a strong two-way player who does many of the little things a team needs to be a winner. He is a strong and talented center who relishes playing a 200-foot game. White is a dynamic skater who is strong laterally and can start and stop on a dime. His powerful first steps give him the ability to gain an advantage on his opponents in foot races. He uses his incredible straight line speed to blow by defenders on the outside and push the pace, opening up lanes with the puck on his stick by drawing defensemen in close. A smooth operator in the offensive zone and with the puck on his stick. He surveys the ice for options before dialing up a skilled pass to a streaking teammate. Quick, smart and smooth is his game. Loves to pass the puck and help set up solid attempts, but will not turn down an opportunity to fire off a shot himself. Has a strong shot with quick release, but it is his instincts of where to get to that make him a dangerous scorer. White doesn't flash with a bevy of creative tricks when he has the puck; he simply holds it, protecting it and keeping it until he finds an option. A very patient player who is an opportunistic offensive threat. Has a nose for the net and is great at timing arriving pucks and getting off a quickly released one-timer. White plays all situations. Uses an active mind and well developed defensive tools to get a jump to disrupt the play and cause a turnover. He is relied on in key situations and important face-offs, winning most of his draws. He gets down low in the face-off circle, getting his stick parallel to the ice and using his quick reaction time and strength to win the draw cleanly. White does the little things right. He is strong on the wall and fights for the puck hard. He is a safe bet to support his defense and dig in along the boards consistently or if he thinks his teammate has the upper hand he will support just outside of the scrum, awaiting the loose puck. Has leadership qualities oozing out of him and was the captain of the NTDP U18's this past season.

**WEAKNESSES:** There is not a lot to pick apart with regards to White's game but one thing NHL teams will likely be thinking is that his upside and offensive ability is not that high. He is also not overly large even though he has demonstrated he is strong for his size. He also has a bit of an injury/illness history the past two seasons that leave a few question marks as to if he will be able to fully withstand the rigors of the NHL life. Some further development time in college will do wonders for him.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Plays a strong two-way game and controls the power-play from the half wall. The kid is uber competitive and will stop at nothing to create offense and be responsible defensively. Has all kinds of speed that allows him to separate from his check as he heads northbound. Love what he brings to the table and consistently stands out as a game breaker and a player who can turn into an elite two-way player soon enough."

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





**JAKUB ZBORIL**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Saint John (QMJHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** February 21, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 185 Lbs

**STATS:** 45 GP 13 G 20 A 33 PTS 73 PIM

# 20

**STRENGTHS:** Zboril is a silky smooth defender with an elite understanding of where the play is headed. Amazing feet and constantly makes high-end reads on the breakout. He plays a pretty complete game, but primarily relies on his footwork to get the job done. He has nice speed in open ice and has the ability to make the other team miss with some fancy footwork and head fakes. His skating is also key in races to loose pucks and catching forwards. It takes him very few steps to catch up to opposing forwards or make it to a loose puck first. Cannot be pressured by forecheckers as he can simply skate himself out of danger with his great feet. He also has an absolute cannon from the point, and what really makes him dangerous is that he gets it off in no time. He makes the decision very quickly to shoot the puck or make another play, either way, the puck is not on his stick for very long. It's pretty accurate and it's as hard as they come. Has great vision and is also a solid carrier of the puck. Joins the rush pretty often. Defensively, he doesn't like to initiate and uses his stick more consistently than his body. But when he does use his physical side he is very dangerous and extremely tough to play against. He is a bit of a sleeping bear as he picks up the physical game and edge when someone pisses him off in front of the net or after the whistle. When he plays with that edge opponents need to watch out as he will line them up and try to take their heads off with a big devastating check. He also does not telegraph when he is coming, which makes him scary. Not afraid to push, shove, face-wash or even apply a little slash to an opponents calf in a scrum. His defensive reads are solid and he knows who to cover. Good on penalty kill, but not great. Plays smart hockey, and learns from his mistakes.

**WEAKNESSES:** A lack of consistency is the largest negative we can find with him as he can have a real impact one shift and then look like a total passenger the next five shifts. He will have a shift where he is hard to play against, making a strong physical play and transitioning the puck quickly, but then the next he is faced with a similar situation he looks soft, just waving his stick at them and unwilling to make the hard physical play. This inconsistency carries over to his passing game as well as he can be pin point accurate and then suffer bouts of throwing passes a good five feet in front of his streaking forwards or into their feet.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Love this kid's willingness to play a little dirty defensively and contribute to the offensive side of the game as well. He has some areas and wrinkles to work out and improve upon but he is a versatile defenseman that's got all the raw tools it takes to become a top-pair minute munching defenseman in the NHL one day."

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





**THOMAS CHABOT**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Saint John (QMJHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** January 30, 1997

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

**STATS:** 66 GP 12 G 29 A 41 PTS 62 PIM

# 21

**STRENGTHS:** Chabot is a smooth skating defenseman who sees the ice well and distributes the puck with ease. Has a smooth but very powerful stride. His stride generates healthy amounts of speed and good lateral agility. He is ultra-creative in his passing game and displays a confidence in moving the puck and unloading shots when lanes become available. Has a heavy shot from the point. On the powerplay he will drive down deep into the offensive zone to keep offensive pressure and also slide down deep into the slot from the point to create another shooting option for his linemates. On the breakout he reads the ice in front of him very well as he scopes out his options and hits his man with perfect, well-timed passes. Chabot controls the puck with good patience and poise. He has a real knack offensively and has the confidence and skills to carry the puck end-to-end and make high risk passes out of the zone or in transition. Defensively, he plays the gap well as he forces the attacker to make the first move; he follows up by playing the man hard into the wall or utilizes his exceptional stick use and positioning to break up the attack on the outside of the ice. Hard to get around one-on-one with great backward skating and long reach. Good positioning defensively in his zone. Impressed some NHL teams with his ability to make creative breakout passes and strong vision at the U18's in April. A guy who is still developing and could really become a homerun pick after a few seasons of further growth.

**WEAKNESSES:** This guy can be a little dangerous when he is moving the puck or making a risky pass as he often does so without much regard for what a turnover might cause in that situation. Has questionable decision making but does not play dumb so we feel he will develop in knowing what each situation calls for. Although his high risk plays usually pay off, he can be sloppy at times. A couple of times during a game, Chabot is caught either running around in his own end or in too deep in the offensive zone. He will need to refine his decision making when to pinch or rush the puck and when to hang back. Chabot's skill and potential size will have NHL team's salivating, but he will need to bear down defensively and round out his game in order to be successful at the next level, which we believe will come with physical and mental maturity. His game is soft, lacking a consistent physical element.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Chabot's game is very similar to that of St. Louis Blue defender Alex Pietrangelo when he was in the OHL. Chabot should be among the first wave of defensemen taken in the draft as he has a high upside and will only need time to finish developing his overall game."

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





**JEREMY BRACCO**

**POSITION:** Center/Right Wing

**TEAM:** NTDP U18 (USHL)

**SHOOTS:** Right

**BORN:** March 17, 1997

**VITALS:** 5'-9" / 175 Lbs

**STATS:** 65 GP 30 G 64 A 94 PTS 10 PIM

# 22

**STRENGTHS:** Bracco is a speedy winger who has a lethal shot as he flies down the wing and cuts to the inside. He is shifty with high-end mobility and can dazzle with the puck as he side steps checks. He has a very strong sense for the game and knows exactly where his teammates are going to be. He can be thrust into any role with any player and seems to find success. The most shocking thing about Bracco, aside from the agility and vision he possesses and needs to possess for such a small player, is his strength; he uses his strength to shield the puck down low and finds success due to that underrated strength. Always on the move offensively as he looks for options, creates passing lanes by dishing the puck and then moves himself to open ice, instantly looking for the return pass. Controls the puck on the rush very well and his reception of passes at full speed is done with such calmness. Speedster who darts in and out of traffic to provide a headache for defenders. Not the most powerful skater, but has a burst that allows him to separate himself in only a few steps. Equally lethal as a shooter or playmaker, creating a degree of unpredictability. He is very confident carrying the puck and awaiting teammates to get to prime areas on the ice. Cool set of hands and can get fancy without sacrificing the puck's security. Bracco doesn't really have a heavy shot, but a quick release that can pick a corner with minimal time or space. Bracco is poised under pressure with the puck and doesn't get too flustered in tight. Has the puck skills to navigate his way through traffic and tight space to go along with his shifty, quick feet. Not one to lay any devastating checks, but uses his body to disrupt and knock his man off the puck, slipping in to scoop it out from under him. We love Bracco and why wouldn't we love a guy who holds the career and single season records for most assists at the powerhouse NTDP?

**WEAKNESSES:** There are two groups on Bracco, those who think Bracco will have trouble because of his lack of size and those of us who think he has the skill to overcome his lack of physical stature. Can overhandle the puck and try to get to cute or make the perfect pass instead of taking advantage of what is available. Can be his own worst enemy, losing the window of opportunity to make plays by holding on to the puck too long. His defense can be exploited as he doesn't have a sense of how to read plays in his own end. Can get caught chasing the puck and leaving his point open too many times by due to poor reads. Bracco needs to bulk up and polish his defensive game to make the jump.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "His puck skills are underrated and one of his greatest assets. A very gifted passer who sees lanes develop and is patient to hit them. Will take a beating if it means he is putting his team in scoring position. Wears his heart on his sleeve and does not quit no matter the circumstances. He is someone who plays like he is six-foot-two and should not be counted out just based on his size."

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





**JOEL ERIKSSON EK**

**POSITION: Center**

**TEAM: Farjestad (SHL)**

**SHOOTS: Left**

**BORN: January 29, 1997**

**VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs**

**STATS: 34 GP 4 G 2 A 6 PTS 4 PIM**

# 23

**STRENGTHS:** Eriksson is yet another strong 200-foot player out of the Swedish system. He skates extremely well and has a competitive streak that keeps him always hunting to make an impact. Very skilled offensively and likes to drive the play to the net. Has some flashy puck handling skills he can bust out if necessary to turn opponents inside out. Has a long reach and can change the angle on an opponent in order to sneak around him. Sees the ice very well and gets to prime real estate to receive pucks or make a big play. Not fearful to play the grinding, heavy game in high traffic to stir it up. Has a potent shot that he can snipe some pretty goals with. He has a great shot release that is quick and deceptive. Drives the net for rebounds and second chances. There is no quit in his game as he battles until the very end. Uses his powerful skating stride to bull his way around the ice and into greasy areas of the ice. Tremendous work ethic. He used his speed and size to charge back on the back check and then add a hand with the breakout, being both a reliable and responsible player. Supported in all three zones and in all corners of the ice, no matter the situation. Can crush, and devastate with his checks when he wants to. Drops down low in the defensive zone to help out and finish checks, not allowing his opponents any room to make a play. Shows excellent puck protection using his large frame and strength to fight off checks while being strong on the puck. Completes pinpoint passes that lead his man on the rush. He keeps the puck close and exudes confidence as he moves through the neutral zone. Remains anchored in the zone until the coast is clear. Angles his guys into no-man's land and physically impedes them in order to get possession. Has a good reactive stick that he keeps in the kitchen of opposing players. Sees plays develop and gets in lanes to anticipate movement. Was the top Swede at the April U18's in Switzerland. He is versatile player who can fill in different roles and will see his name on the back of an NHL jersey very soon.

**WEAKNESSES:** The one area he needs to continue to focus on the most is adding some muscle to his lower body. Added strength will make him even harder to play against and nearly impossible to move in front of the opposition's net. He also needs to work on smoothing out his stride as it can be a little choppy and we still want to see him finish his checks harder. The one thing NHL teams need to realize is that he might not develop into that top line offensive threat.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "He likes to use his strength and length to protect the puck from defenders. He was good along the wall in the gritty areas, as well as trying to hit opponents with checks and not just separate them from the puck. In the defensive zone, he was able to cover for his defensemen when needed, and liked to play gritty along the walls. Great versatility, great character and all-out effort throughout the game. A player you win with."

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





**DENIS GURYANOV**

**POSITION:** Right Wing

**TEAM:** Lada Togliatti (MHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** June 7, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 195 Lbs

**STATS:** 23 GP 15 G 10 A 25 PTS 39 PIM

# 24

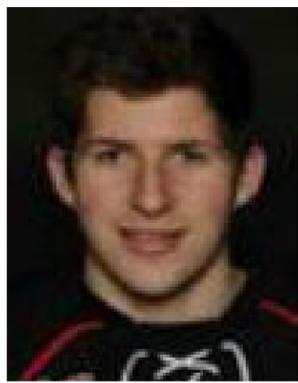
**STRENGTHS:** The big Russian winger is a speedy and skilled forward who has potent offensive ability. A very quick skater who can pick up steam in an instant and break plays open. Guryanov is a poised puck carrier who has a long reach and great hands to remain elusive to checkers. He has no problem transitioning the puck and moving the play around the offensive zone, even though he tries to tackle these tasks with a bit of selfishness. When Guryanov does see a passing lane, he will execute. He can find small windows of opportunity and is confident in hitting a streaking teammate's stick. Guryanov has a good sense of the offensive zone, especially finding open ice. He's not just a flash and dash player, he goes into corners, throws his body around and drags plays to the front of his net. He fights through checks to get loose in order to get the puck on net. He has a lethal shot that he can get off quickly. Shot selection is perfect and all of which have high velocity. Easily has a pro ready release and displays a powerful snap shot off the one-timer as he steps into the puck with all of his weight behind it. We like his compete level all over the ice and willingness to play responsibly. He sees some time on the penalty kill and powerplay. He is good at reading the play and keeping himself in a good position. Defensively, Guryanov challenges the point man, takes away space and limits options, all while being a danger to turn the play back the other way. We like his physical game but he can go overboard at times and get himself and his team into penalty trouble in the process. Loves to lay the body and looks to drive the opposition through the boards. Pretty quick on the backcheck to pick up his man, but would like to see a consistent effort in the defensive zone. Heading up ice without the puck, Guryanov puts himself in the right position to get a pass. He has a flashy, creative side with the puck, which is made possible with his quick hands in tight. Has an explosive stride when he needs it; he is a balanced skater who is hard to push around. Really the full package of size and skill. Another prospect who really had a strong showing at the U18's this past April. Had a cup of coffee with Lada Togliatti in the KHL this season and expects to play there full time next season.

**WEAKNESSES:** The birth certificate is his main area of concern. Guryanov has made no commitment to playing in the NHL and has not expressed his interest, meaning he is a real risk for the NHL team that selects him. If his name was John Smith from Toronto, he would likely be considered a top 10 pick by many teams.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Guryanov impressed me in this contest. He was all over the puck and winning most of his battles, including every 50/50 battle he engaged in. A dangerous scorer with a real strong shot that he gets on net in a hurry. He is an impressive forward who has the skills and the hockey sense to be a top prospect."

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





**JANSEN HARKINS**

**POSITION:** Center

**TEAM:** Prince George (WHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** May 23, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 180 Lbs

**STATS:** 70 GP 20 G 59 A 79 PTS 45 PIM

# 25

**STRENGTHS:** A smart and strong two-way center. Not a flash and dash guy but instead manufactures offensive chances with good puck movement and taking it to prime scoring areas. Harkins consistently showed he can think the game at an elite level, which somewhat masks some inefficiencies in his game. His skating consists of short quick steps to get started and then he has a long, somewhat lumbering stride. Regardless of how it looks, he does get to where he needs to in decent time. Despite not being the most dynamic or creative minded with the puck, he protects it well. Harkins moves the puck firmly and with accuracy; however, he could work on spreading the puck around more, especially off the rush. Is not an especially creative passer but he does make a solid pass and has a heavy shot and can pick corners. Harkins has solid size and is stronger than his current weight suggests. He uses his strength and leverage to be successful in board battles and is extremely tough to knock off the puck. He also plays with intensity and purpose. He makes extremely intelligent decisions when under pressure and in one-on-one situations he uses his long limbs and quick stick to dance around players. Harkins has a solid understanding of center play, likely from being the son of former NHLer Todd Harkins, and is probably more likely than many his age to remain a center at the NHL level. He swings low in his own end to support the D and the extra space he affords himself moving forward allows him to attack with built-up speed. Harkins is a responsible defender and important penalty killer. Harkins' understanding of positioning and defensive systems is very advanced. He is a well-balanced and polished player who can be effective playing a blue-collar game throughout a line-up.

**WEAKNESSES:** Every viewing we left with that same thought: Does he have enough elite-ness in his game to warrant a top choice regardless of his accumulating numbers? While he is strong on the powerplay, his offensive impact five-on-five is less evident. His lack of elite offensive potential pushes him down our draft board a bit. That being said, he brings a host of other skills that will likely see him make it to the NHL level as a two-way threat. He will also need to add more strength and improve some mechanics in his skating before he gets to the NHL level.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Harkins is a bit of a polarizing prospect as some guys I've talked to really like him and think he has the potential to be a solid NHL player while others see him as a kid with some good smarts but many other warts that need improvement. My opinion is that he needs to get stronger and he needs to get faster, but once he does he will be a real heart and soul kind of guy who will do whatever it takes and someone you can plug into any line or role. He will be a player and someone you can count on."

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





**BROCK BOESER**

**POSITION:** Right Wing/Center

**TEAM:** Waterloo (USHL)

**SHOOTS:** Right

**BORN:** February 25, 1997

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

**STATS:** 57 GP 35 G 33 A 68 PTS 30 PIM

# 26

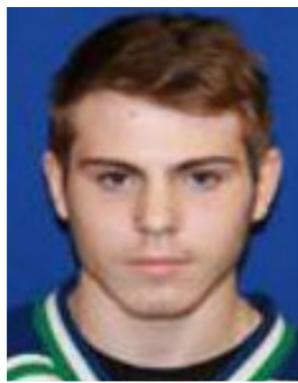
**STRENGTHS:** The University of North Dakota recruit for next season proved to be a goal scorer of the natural variety. He has great instincts that get him to where the puck will be, in good time and opening himself up to get off a strong shot. He is strong with the puck in possession and protects it with his strength and long reach. His one-timer shot is off his stick in an instant and behind the goalie often before they realize he has become a scoring threat. Boeser is not the fastest skater around but he uses what speed he has to forecheck hard and forces defenders to make mistakes. Very strong on the puck and has a deadly quick release after he scopes out the exact spot he wants to hit. Likes to take a quick snap shot on the rush from the top of the circles just off the ice which forces the goalie to make a kick save creating rebounds. Fully engages physically on the wall. Boeser is hard and fast in puck pursuit, forcing the opposition to panic and make bad decisions with the puck. Once in possession, Boeser makes it hard to separate him from the puck as he protects it with his strength and uses his creative hands to make some magic and keep the puck on a string. Possesses such smooth hands once he has the puck under control, looking poised and confident with every handle. Confident with the puck; dishes some perfectly executed passes as he sees lanes develop and exploits open space by delivering smooth, easy to control passes. Adapts well to the play around him as he sees the puck coming to the net and decided to explode into the slot for a chance to bury the rebound. His hands are really strong and he makes great dekes. His area is in front of the net and he is the king of the crease—playing that role perfectly. Shows strength in the face-off circle and uses his physical maturity to find success in using his body to separate the man from the puck while also finishing his checks.

**WEAKNESSES:** Has some issues with his skating at times as he looks like he should be moving faster, really churning his feet but not producing much in the way of speed. He will also need to be coached up in the finer points of defensive zone coverage as he often looks confused. Gets a little focused on the puck in the defensive zone rather than marking his man and is often not fully engaged. A little sluggish in his feet but he is very mobile and effective with the puck on his stick. Could clean up his decisions with puck and make sure that he is making the right decision to put himself and his team in a better position both offensively and defensively. Will need to improve on his consistency of work.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** “Boeser is a strong 200-foot player with a natural scoring touch. He sees time in all situations and is often double shifted in the final 10 minutes of a Waterloo game when the Blackhawks are down. Processes the game at a relatively high level as he reads the developing play. Has the potential to become a strong goal scorer at the next level.”

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





**JAKE DeBRUSK**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**TEAM:** Swift Current (WHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** October 17, 1996

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

**STATS:** 72 GP 42 G 39 A 81 PTS 40 PIM

# 27

**STRENGTHS:** DeBrusk is a heads up player, always aware of surroundings whether with or without the puck. He receives the puck extremely well and is also very good at getting into position to take a pass. While crashing the net often, he's not just a pure grinder type. He picks his spots well, times his plays well and sniffs out open areas of the ice around the crease. Has a good wrist shot with a snap release that is always a threat to pick a corner on even the most well positioned goalie. Possesses very strong decision making. He makes quick decisions and rarely makes a bad play regarding his positioning or play with the puck. He often makes quick little give-and-go passes both in the neutral zone and offensive zone and that really allow him to drive lanes, open space and create offense. While not elite, speed is quite solid and his balance is very good. He rarely gets knocked off the puck or off stride and that balance is huge for him when he hangs out around the blue ice looking for loose pucks. He sees time on the PP and is dangerous on that unit. He primarily plays down in the right corner, his off-wing, but rotates all over the ice. He also saw time in front of the net, back on the half-wall on the left-wing as well as even floating back to the point a time or two to provide support during rotation. Debrusk shows tenacity in puck pursuit, awareness of his positioning and support of his teammates along the boards. On the offensive side of the puck is where he really excels. He reads the play extremely well with a very high-end level of offensive timing. His understanding of positioning and timing is what leads to a number of his chances and goals. He simply has a goal-scorer's mindset. His offensive capabilities aren't cutting edge or a notch above the top of the draft class, but he is a crafty player who is consistently a threat to hurt the opposition. His overall consistency is something that has also been extremely impressive as the year has gone on.

**WEAKNESSES:** He works hard and had some good back checks, but he's not an aggressive defender and isn't super adept at covering his guy. His hockey sense and work ethic should allow for growth in this area. One thing that has improved is his skating. His speed has improved by a slight notch throughout the year and once he is at top speed he is a real threat. While his acceleration is still a bit clunky with slightly heavy feet, even more improvement in that area will take his game to a new level. He leaves a lot to be desired in his physical game as well. He seems to be awkward and lack strength; although, an effort to play a gritty game was becoming more noticeable as the season wore on.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Debrusk was constantly dangerous in this game showing superb flashes of elite offensive instincts and high-end speed. Jake showed he is a really gifted skater with excellent acceleration and the agility to weave through the ice with ease. Always seemed to be playing the game at top speed, played with a lot of pop. His best asset for me though are his senses."

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





**OLIVER KYLINGTON**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Farjestad (SHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** May 19, 1997

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

**STATS:** 18 GP 2 G 3 A 5 PTS 4 PIM

# 28

**STRENGTHS:** Kylington is an offensive-minded defenseman who is viewed by many as the true wild-card of the draft. He loves to rush the puck up the ice and push the pace of the game. He has ice in his veins and looks to have poise beyond his years with the puck on his stick. Kylington makes excellent offensive zone reads and is hard to defend from the point as he disguises his intentions well. Skating is exceptionally smooth and he can pick up speed or change direction in a flash. He is likely one of or the even the best skater in the entire draft. Moves the puck well and can spot developing opportunities with his great anticipation. Makes excellent, strong passes both short- and long-range. We love his vision coming out of his own zone and his ability to head man the puck to his forwards up ice. Great in transition and doesn't ever limit himself, always finding alternative plays if problems arise with his original plan. He doesn't have an overpowering shot but can get the puck on net and is able to get the puck off his blade quickly. Kylington is good defensively, using his stick and good awareness to read and react to plays unfolding. He has the foot speed to close gaps and force plays away from the net and into a position where he can force a turnover. He denies all passing options that are available. Will use his body to muscle the man off the puck, but won't step up to crush him with a check; a simple rubbing out of the man seems to do the trick in his mind. He isn't a very big or physical defender, but doesn't get manhandled in the corners or in front of his net. Takes control in possession with his quick hands and feet that he can change the speed of to meet the conditions; Kylington will rush the puck and is a threat to watch out for whenever he touches the puck. The comparisons that have been floated out there include fellow countrymen, Oliver Ekman-Larsson or Erik Karlsson; although, he has a ways to go to reach those lofty comparisons. If he continues to develop he could be a premier player in the NHL for years to come.

**WEAKNESSES:** Can be an enigma at times, one shift a highly skilled playmaker and the next a complete letdown that looks disinterested or confused. He kind of gives off a, "I'll do it myself," vibe at times. The poise and calm nature with the puck can have its draw back as well, as he can turn the puck over at some costly moments in the offensive zone. Needs to be careful that he doesn't get too comfortable when rushing the puck or holding it in the offensive zone. He never seems to recognize that he is also the last line of defense but instead is always thinking offense. Needs to find a balance between the two.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "He is a high risk/high reward player who takes chances but is able to create more offense than he allows. His lateral agility and overall mobility is excellent, but he has fallen off this season as there are just too many times he has looked like a liability on the ice. Has the ability to make us scratch our heads in a few years as to why he dropped so low."

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





**PAUL BITTNER**

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**TEAM:** Portland (WHL)

**SHOOTS:** Left

**BORN:** November 4, 1996

**VITALS:** 6'-4" / 195 Lbs

**STATS:** 66 GP 34 G 37 A 71 PTS 52 PIM

# 29

**STRENGTHS:** A behemoth of a kid, Bittner has the size that NHL teams crave in a potential power forward. Straight line speed is one of his better attributes as he uses his long and powerful limbs to pump vigorously and push the pace of play. Once Bittner gets moving, he approaches the play with reckless abandon and is not easily stopped or moved off course. Willing to throw his weight around and lay the body when the opportunity presents itself. Has a solid wrist shot with some real whip to it. Speaking of his shot, it's a strong part of his repertoire; he's not afraid to shoot either. He's got a quick release. We would describe his wrist as being 'heavy.' He sees time on the top powerplay unit in Portland and it's his role to get in front of the net and screen the goalie. He is pretty good in that aspect and utilizes his long reach to sweep home rebounds. He looks to process the game at a high level, making quick and efficient plays in traffic to move the puck along under pressure. His puck possession skills are very simplistic, without much flair and creativity in dekes. His main asset is his puck protection with help from his massive frame. Classified as a two-way power forward, he seems committed to getting into the lanes and using his reach to take away space; however, his lack of quickness and lateral mobility doesn't always allow him to match up well with agile players. He plays a rough and tumble game along the boards and can simply outwork players with his strength and reach. Showed his sheer determination on the wall and on zone entries; his size is no match for some of the WHL's defenders. He remains poised with the puck on his stick and dishes clean passes on the rush. Bittner has an eye for scoring and is lethal below the hash marks. Finished the season on a points tear after starting off a little slowly.

**WEAKNESSES:** His temperament is an area that is holding him back at times. Does not attack the net like you would like but instead lurks around hoping the play will come to him. Consistency is an area that will need addressing as he goes cold for far too long, games at a time, and really needs to feel confident in himself to get the most out of his abilities. His skating, while it has improved, is still a little rough and his acceleration is still a bit clunky. His footwork is a legitimate area of concern, as he looks to be still learning how to coordinate all the moving parts together. This is one of those areas that should straighten itself out as he gets older, more coordinated and adds much more leg strength. His passing game can be very hit or miss. Usually because he rushes the pass instead of taking the time needed to get set.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "An extremely raw power forward with so many tools, many of which are still underdeveloped, but also has loads of growth potential that has NHL scouts very excited for the player he could become for their teams. Has the potential to become a top six goal scorer...or a complete bust."

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





**JACOB LARSSON**

**POSITION: Defense**

**TEAM: Frolunda (SHL)**

**SHOOTS: Left**

**BORN: April 29, 1997**

**VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs**

**STATS: 20 GP 1 G 2 A 3 PTS 6 PIM**

# 30

**STRENGTHS:** Larsson is a smart player who sees the ice well; he is cognizant of his surroundings and dishes some strong passes on the tape. Has a graceful skating style with beautifully executed transition and adequate speed. Good mobility and decent lateral movements to go with his exceptional balance go a long way. Very agile and has an ability to shake opponents when playing the puck in his own zone, finding routes and escaping checks. He has a strong first pass and hits his mark more often than not. Makes some hard passes to spark the breakout, even doing so with a fore checker pressing. He does a great job of seeing his targets on the breakout and is patient with the puck. Moves well along the o-line and will jump into the play if necessary to keep play in the zone. Isn't afraid to step up in the offensive zone to get pucks to the net. Able to get pucks through to the net with accurate wrist or quick slap shot. Larsson has a bit of an edge defensively and competes to assert his position on the ice. Has good awareness in the defensive zone, creatively moving pucks along in the zone and avoiding turnovers deep. Sound positioning and an active stick with good hand/eye coordination make him tough to beat. He follows plays to eliminate second chances and smothers opponents. Played the penalty kill and powerplay well. On the PP point he gets pucks through traffic with his quick wrist shot that he can let loose just off the ice and on net. From point, Larsson likes to shoot low in hopes of creating a rebound. Works the puck around the offensive zone very well and sets his man up with a pass before repositioning himself for a one-timer on the potential pass back. In one-on-one defensive situations, Larsson likes to use his physical play, using his body to make the opponent lose control of the puck or disrupt their lanes. Larsson shows great hockey sense by recognizing each situation and making the simple, most effective play. He talks on the ice as well as pointing for open passes, communicating regularly.

**WEAKNESSES:** Not a real flashy offensive guy and not a big physical defender either. More of a tweener who can do a bit of both but needs to refine certain areas of his game as he does nothing yet at an elite level. While he is a smooth skater, a little more strength in his legs and jump in his first step would go a long way. Has some consistency issues that need to be hammered out as he can have a strong shift and then follow it up with a couple an ineffective shifts but we would not go as far as calling him wildly inconsistent. He needs to make himself more of a factor in the game on a regular basis as the raw tools are all there.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "He is a two-way defenseman. Solid positioning and pretty big and strong, I'd say he is probably bigger than the official measurements. Quite a good skater with decent mobility. Not very speedy and at the same time not slow. Good at moving the puck but not very flashy. Solid defensively using smarts over strength."

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



**31****ANTHONY BEAUVILLIER****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Shawinigan (QMJHL)****BORN: June 8, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 42 G 52 A 94 PTS 72 PIM**

Beauvillier is that small and pesky type of offensively oriented player who is always in close proximity to the puck when on the ice. Works hard and shows a good compete level; does many of the little things right in addition to creating offense and playing a tight defensive game. Always looking to make an impact regardless of what zone he is in, whether it is blocking shots or driving the net looking for garbage to bang in. He is a speedy guy, is very shifty and moves around the ice with a nice, quick stride. Showed some good jam on the forecheck and while not being very physically imposing, he helps his cause by taking good routes to the puck and using his smarts and savvy board play to win battles. While he illustrated good hand-skills, great vision and passing skill, and a hard, accurate wrist-shot, his decision-making and effectiveness isn't always great when he has the puck due to his size and inability to work through that deficit. If he can add more strength and play smarter, understanding his limitations, we like his upside. Just a really useful player who we hope will put up solid numbers wherever he plays moving forward.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Forward

**34****VINCE DUNN****POSITION: Defense****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Niagara (OHL)****BORN: October 29, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 18 G 38 A 56 PTS 59 PIM**

An offensive minded defenseman who just loves to have the puck on his stick. There is so much speed to his game, both with and without the puck. He is constantly firing on all cylinders, pushing the pace. Dunn possesses high-end, elite agility with insane lateral movement that he uses very effectively. His first few strides and overall acceleration make him very dangerous on the ice. Uses this speed to separate himself from checks and catch the puck carrier on the back-check or in mid-ice. He makes some pretty nifty moves with speed as he exudes confidence with the puck on his stick. The vision that this kid possesses is elite. He sees lanes before they open and leads his man with the puck just in front of him. Passes can be a little inconsistent at times depending on the distance; his shorter range passes are crisp and on mark. He possesses a powerful slapshot as he transfers all of his weight into it. Defensively, he is quick to his man and uses his acceleration to strip him of the puck. Decent defensive zone coverage, but could work on containing his man a little better down low. Physically, he isn't one to plaster his man to the wall or crush him in open ice; however, he does opt to use his body to rub the man off the puck or use his stick to poke the puck away.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Offensive Defenseman

**32****NOAH JUULSEN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Everett (WHL)****BORN: April 2, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 9 G 43 A 52 PTS 42 PIM**

A workhorse, minute munching, puck-rushing type of rearguard. He is a decent straight line skater who has a smooth stride. Although his speed in forward and reverse isn't elite, he loves to rush the puck and does so effectively. His quick feet serve well for lateral movement and his mobility. His edge work is very good and he is strong on his skates. Very smart and decisive offensive player who sees the ice well, picking his spots to make creative plays. He isn't huge, but he is very tough and aggressive. Hits to make a difference. You can tell he will have the potential to be an absolutely devastating hitter once he adds another few pounds to his frame. Along with that physical play away from the puck, he shows solid gap control and good reads against the rush. He is strong in his stick positioning, taking away passing lanes and interrupting shots when necessary. He is solid defensively, and displays the ability to force players wide and take them off the puck in the corners and on the boards. He is an efficient penalty killer and shows a willingness to get in shooting lanes and take away options. His most outstanding feature, though, is his ability to handle the puck with great hand-speed and decent strength with it. He makes consistently good outlet feeds and shows impressive vision.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**35****FILIP CHLAPIK****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Charlottetown (QMJHL)****BORN: June 3, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 33 G 42 A 75 PTS 42 PIM**

Skilled, playmaking centerman who can play an effective two-way game. He is a smooth skater with a fast, long and controlled stride. He also has good lateral agility, showing off his very elusive footwork and ability to shake defenders. He possesses a wide stance on his skates, which allows him to maintain balance when pushed. While he primarily uses his puck skills to maintain possession he does show flashes of dynamic offensive talent and he will exploit gaps if defenders are too aggressive with him. Chlapik is a very cerebral skater and slows the game down when he has the puck. He is also very strong for his size. He plays a big game and protects the puck exceptionally well. He dishes great passes from varying ranges; his playmaking skills are above-average and he sees the play develop quickly in front of him. He does have a pretty shot good release and hard wrist shot; although, it is not at an elite level. Chlapik isn't the most physical, but he will finish his checks (in a passive way). Chlapik has great hockey IQ and is a really smart player who can dictate the play when he has the puck is on his stick. He has good anticipation too. He gives sound support to his defensemen and fills in for them when they pinch into the zone. Defensively he is pretty aware of his responsibilities; he will back check and blanket his man.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center

**33****JACK ROSLOVIC****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: January 29, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 26 G 50 A 76 PTS 28 PIM**

Roslovic's hockey sense is off the charts. He is able to make the right, safe plays quickly. While he isn't a flashy creative type, he is able to find open teammates and get the play moving, no matter the pressure he faces from opposition. Fast feet help Roslovic accelerate quickly and build up a head of steam as he drives down the ice with an eye on the net. He seems to slow a bit in turns, but is nonetheless an agile player who can act like a bar of wet soap in defensive coverage. He isn't big, but is not afraid to use his body to finish his checks and to battle for the puck. A relatively safe and smart player, he showed flashes of very good stick skills and is an offensive weapon off the rush with his vision, creativity and playmaking skills. He has a very deceptive shot: extremely quick and heavy relative to his size. He has been relied on as the team's top defensive center playing against the U18's squad's top opposition. Creates havoc in the defensive zone by getting on opposing puck carriers quickly and blocking their lanes. Employs an active stick and good mobility in his position to limits options. We think he has the upside to become an excellent secondary scoring player at the NHL level who can also be sent out to shut down the opposition's top unit on a nightly basis.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Six Two-Way Center

**36****TRAVIS DERMOTT****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Erie (OHL)****BORN: December 22, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 8 G 37 A 45 PTS 53 PIM**

Dermott is an intelligent two-way blueliner. He is a fluid skater who has strong legs and generates power with every stride he takes. He is great on his feet in transition and can get up to speed quickly while carrying the puck with confidence. He maintains possession at top speed and controls the puck extremely well. He makes superb plays with the puck: both simple and effective to get the puck up ice and create scoring opportunities. He sees the ice in front of him, giving him the ability to see lanes and make smart, sharp passes both short- and long-range. His best asset is his hockey sense and smarts; he always seems to make the right play whether on the breakout or in his own zone. He has a cannon of a shot and can really blast it through traffic on goal. He exudes confidence, patience and creativity. Plays his man hard and uses his body to separate the puck. He will step up for an open ice hit if he sees the time and the need for it but is not an overly physical player on a consistent basis. He brings confident energy to the back end that his teammates seem to feed off of. Defensively, he plays his man hard and blocks shooting/passing lanes that come available while forcing attackers to turn over the puck.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Offensive Defenseman



37

**TOM NOVAK****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Waterloo (USHL)****BORN: April 28, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 46 GP 14 G 34 A 48 PTS 12 PIM**

This future golden gopher is not an overly big guy or strong guy. He is smart, slippery and really thinks his way around the ice well. We really like a lot of the subtleties that Novak's game brings. He has high-end, creative hands. Handles the puck well, reads the play at an elite level and has a quick stick along the walls. He's slippery with good edge work and is tough to handle around the offensive zone, hardly ever being pinned down. Plays a perimeter game and does not like to get physical. When he does go the net, arriving right at the same time as a rebound pops off the stopper's pads for a secondary chance, he makes things happen. He also knows when to stay out on the perimeter. His game is a bit one-dimensional, but despite that lack of well-rounded game, his one dimension is extremely good and can be game changing. He's smart and talented offensively but will need to get bigger, stronger and faster before playing that game effectively at the next level. Defensively he doesn't really provide much in the way of value or grit, looking lazy and disinterested when he does venture into his own zone. Battles consistency and can go invisible for long stretches at a time. We feel he is one of those top six offensive scorer or bust type of prospects.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Six Offensive Winger



40

**ILYA SAMSONOV****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Stalnye Lisy Magnitogorsk (MHL)****BORN: February 22, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 18 GP 2.66 GAA .918 SP**

Samsonov is one of the best Russian puck stoppers to come along since Tampa Bay prospect Andrei Vasilevsky was on the draft-eligible scene. He has good natural size; thick and strong build, not skinny, imposing in the crease for shooters. He moves well, fluidly getting around the crease. The big Russian stopper is always square to the shot, in strong position and makes good use of his chest protector. He plays an assertive game with an established presence at the top of his crease. Not terribly athletic, but does end up making some nice saves that show off his ability to get creative when the defense around him breaks down. He can stack the pads, use the poke check or rob a shooter with a quick glove save. He can also get his blocker on a wired puck and deposit it into the protective net or open corner. His rebound control is solid as well. He challenges shooters and is aggressive, taking away a lot of the net. But he is not so overly aggressive that it costs him. His reflexes and flexibility are admirable. He makes unconventional efforts to keep competing on plays. His calming nature and confidence are very notable and he bounces back from any goals allowed, showing a quick ability to forget and move on.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



38

**BRANDON CARLO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Tri-City (WHL)****BORN: November 26, 1996****VITALS: 6'-5" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 4 G 21 A 25 PTS 90 PIM**

A big, nasty, physical defensive defender. He's an absolute monster out on the ice and skates extremely well for his size. His footwork is not perfect but definitely at a higher level than you would expect for someone who is six-foot-five. He's got a good powerful skating stride and displays good lateral mobility. He is constantly in players' faces, chirping and talking trash. He is a big fan of using his stick in a dirty way behind the play; a borderline dirty player who has a very mean edge to his game. He is very involved in the play, looking to jump up into the rush and push the pace when the opportunity is there. He passes the puck well and shows off a very hard shot. Does a good job getting himself into shooting position, while also showing the ability to handle the puck in such a way to give himself space to shoot it. He has solid instincts to go with his skating and snarl. He is a big minute-muncher type—think Braydon Colborn—who is best at keeping things simple and safe. While he does rely a lot on his size and strength at this level, we think he has the toolbox to still "play the game" at the next level. His size and skating combo is rare and coveted by NHL teams.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Defensive Defenseman



41

**MITCHELL VANDE SOMPEL****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)****BORN: February 11, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 58 GP 12 G 51 A 63 PTS 38 PIM**

A puck mover who is poised with the puck on his stick. The kid moves very well and is a very fluid skater who possesses some top-notch acceleration, only taking a few strides to hit top speed. Easily picks up speed with the puck on the attack and will hop into the rush using his speed to catch up to the play. Very smooth pivots from forwards to backwards and is shifty on his feet, quickly bursting to go the direction he wants. He is strong on the puck and controls it easily, showing confidence to deke defenders at top speed. Is patient when carrying the puck, waiting for the right moment to pull back and dish a beautiful pass on the tape. Falls victim to watching the play at times, standing still before coming back to reality. The awareness this kid possesses is high-end and the reason he finds success with the puck. Slips through checks to distribute and will take a hit if it means he is going to make a play with the puck. His snap shot is loaded with power and he can pick his spots very well. Shows that although he an offensive weapon, he is not a liability in the defensive zone as he positions himself well and can be counted on to defend. Showed versatility this season as he was asked to play a few games at forward and made the transition look easy.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Defenseman



39

**JORDAN GREENWAY****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: February 16, 1997****VITALS: 6'-5" / 225 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 9 G 35 A 44 PTS 50 PIM**

Greenway is a physically mature playmaking winger. This Boston University commit possesses a long, powerful stride as he powers his way up ice; however, he tends to slow down in possession. He protects the puck on the wall like a beast, thanks to his large frame, and can hold his ground in front of the net without being pushed around. Needs to be careful he doesn't become a gentle giant on the wall as he can be most effective using his size for the better to knock opponents off the puck—too often he will let up though. He shows off a heavy shot and has the sense to set up in shooting position off the face-off. He has a good hard wrister, but also shows the ability to score in many different ways. He is strong around the net and quick to put home feeds in front. He forechecks hard, back checks, and offers good support in the defensive zone, knowing his responsibilities. However, his defensive game can be quite spotty at times; some consistency would go a long way for his overall game. Greenway needs to be much stronger on the puck if he wants to be effective at the next level. He shouldn't be losing as many puck battles as he does with his size. He will need to tighten up his stride and his strength in order to muscle his way through opponents to gain control of the puck and be more effective overall.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Nine Playmaking Winger



42

**ZACHARY SENYSHYN****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: March 30, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 26 G 19 A 45 PTS 17 PIM**

A high-flying, speedy winger with developing goal scoring potential. Senyshyn is continually flying all over the ice, having a positive effect and creating time and space with the puck on his stick. Uses his impressive wheels to beat defenders wide and drive to the net for scoring opportunities. His efforts on the back check can be a little inconsistent: one play he would be dragging his feet and the next he would explode back to catch the puck carrier, flying past a bunch of other players. His speed with the puck is high-end and he is elusive as he maintains possession and darts past defenders. When he gets the puck, he absolutely explodes down the wing and commands the attention of defenders. Reads the play at a very high level and is quick to support the puck carrier or to jump on loose pucks. Puts himself in the best possible scoring position. The kid will do anything for a goal, even taking an absolute beating in front of the net while holding his ground exceptionally well. Has some ridiculous hands and array of dekes that he showed he can pull off at top speed. Uses his solid frame, quickness and agility to spin off his checks and pull away from the man to open up space. He is a rising star and has been skyrocketing up our draft list all season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal Scoring Winger



43

**NICOLAS MELOCHE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)****BORN: July 18, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 10 G 24 A 34 PTS 99 PIM**

Meloche is a lanky framed blueliner who plays a two-way game. He does some real good things on the ice, but also has his share of warts. We like his size, as he is a big kid and isn't afraid to use that size in the corners and along the walls. He is very active using the stick and seems to like to get under the skin of his opponents. He is only an average skater, though. Has some power to his stride but his footwork can look quite clumsy while trying to defend off the rush and he also seems to look off-balance at times. Has a hard shot but doesn't always hit his target. He generally keeps his shots low for tips or rebound chances. He is most offensively dangerous when he gets in position to get off a one-timer shot on the powerplay. He seems to be calm and cool when handling the puck and makes a good first pass out of the zone. He can get overwhelmed by a strong forecheck or caught trying to be too fancy coming out of his zone. He does protect the puck well in the corners. Has good hands and can handle the puck well as his coach even used him in shootout situations this season. He's got the size and some offensive skills to build upon. His defensive zone positioning is good and he is a powerful force in front of the net. Not overly creative, but a no-nonsense guy who could fight his way out of trouble.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



46

**NICOLAS ROY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Chicoutimi (QMJHL)****BORN: February 5, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 16 G 34 A 50 PTS 40 PIM**

Roy is a large pivot with some intriguing two-way ability. He is a pretty good skater for his size with solid top-end speed, but he could add another gear and work on his first step. His pucks skills are solid yet unspectacular, meaning he is normally not the guy entering the zone with the puck or trying to deke past many opponents. His passing is solid; short passes are on the tape. He hesitates a lot and prime passing lanes tend to close because of it. His shot is pretty strong with impressive velocity when he puts his weight into it. He has a good release for one-timers. He goes to the net for rebounds. His physicality is almost non-existent. Hustles to enter gritty areas but he doesn't always finish his checks or fully engage. He loses too many board battles against smaller players. Needs to add strength and be better at protecting and handling the puck in tight spaces. Often looks like he is trying to work hard, but he unfortunately is not working efficiently. He is strong in the face-off circle and effective when using his reach to defend. Roy fell down our draft board all season as his game just did not progress much from last season. He does have some offensive upside, but we think it is mostly going to come from grinding out goals at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Center



44

**JEREMY LAUZON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)****BORN: April 28, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 15 G 21 A 36 PTS 88 PIM**

A solid, two-way, smooth skating defenseman. He is a very good skater, very mobile and can switch direction easily. He accelerates quickly, making him hard to contain when he has the puck along the walls. His feet help him evade pressure in the defensive zone and skate the puck out. In the offensive zone his skating helps him walk the blue line and offer various targets to his teammates, especially on the powerplay. He handles the puck well, controlling it and protecting it on the rush. Can deke the first forward coming at him easily. His passing skills are pretty good. His breakout passing is accurate, crisp and tape-to-tape. In the offensive zone his head is up to see his options and he makes good decisions with regards to distribution. Has a heavy point shot but passed it more often than he looked to get it on net himself. He can release a pretty dangerous wrist shot at full speed on the rush as well. He plays a physical but intelligent game, he won't throw any useless hits that would pull him out of position. He angles opponents off to separate them from the puck before turning back up in transition. Defensively, his positioning is solid and keeps players to the outside, with his good skating and good pivots. He's not beaten by speed often.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Two-Way Defender



47

**JONAS SIEGENTHALER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: ZSC (NLA)****BORN: May 6, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 0 G 3 A 3 PTS 39 PIM**

The big Swiss is a thick-bodied defenseman who plays a heavy game and makes a strong outlet pass. He moves well laterally and has this aura of patience and confidence around him as he controls the puck. He is mobile with good agility and strong backward skating ability. Uses his acceleration to catch opponents and chase down loose pucks to start the attack. Is strong on his feet with a low center of gravity, which enables him to protect the puck and shield it from attackers. Makes his passes look easy in transition as he quickly picks his target and sends off a crisp pass that is easy to handle on the rush. Isn't fazed by the slightest pressure and makes strong plays in the most pressure situations. Will grind it out in the corners of his own zone to regain possession and he will use his body to knock opponents around and get the puck. He pushes his man to the outside and drives him into the wall to fully remove him from the play and grab the puck. Uses his agility and fast feet to cover more area on the penalty kill and does a good job of cutting space from the puck carrier. He is consistent shift-to-shift and always ends up making the smart play. Siegenthaler plays his man hard and gives him no space to make a play, closing the gap in a hurry. Holds his position well, and doesn't get beat by fancy moves.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Defensive Defender



45

**MATT SPENCER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Peterborough (OHL)****BORN: March 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 6 G 24 A 30 PTS 64 PIM**

Spencer is a smooth skating defender who pivots well and can generate power with his stride as he digs in. Very good use of his edges and can cut deep to change directions fairly quickly. Strong backwards skater who gets low and can control the moves of the attacker with the space he provides. Spencer will hop up into the rush to provide a passing option, though this is not something he revolves his game around. Good offensive instincts and awareness to know when the best opportunity to do so is. Has a cannon of a shot as he transfers all of his weight into it. Makes a good first pass to kick-start the rush, but it is his decision making under pressure and in transition that stands out; Spencer can be pressured and still be able to make a quick D to D pass or pass up the wall with impressive confidence and poise. His passes are crisp, on the tape and lead his man on the rush. Called on to kill penalties and maintains strong positioning, covering his area and pressuring the puck carrier. Knows his responsibilities in the defensive zone and is not someone who will see a lot of the bench in a tight game. He pushes his man to the outside and will hold him on the wall with his frame to limit the space the man has to work him. Spencer can contain the most elusive of players very well. Steps up and will lay the body when the opportunity is there as well as physically battling with opponents.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Physical Defenseman



48

**YAKOV TRENIN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Gatineau (QMJHL)****BORN: January 13, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 58 GP 18 G 49 A 67 PTS 34 PIM**

Trenin is a big yet raw playmaking winger. He has average top speed but looks like he should be moving faster. His stride resembles a turtle because he stays upright, but tucks his head down and rounds his back. His feet are slow—it looks like he skates in slow motion, but does have powerful strides. What he really lacks, though, is agility due to his poor skating mechanics. His acceleration also needs improvement. His puck skills are impressive: he has quick, creative hands, controls the puck fairly well, can deke through defensemen on his way to the net, thread a pass through legs and pass between both of them or get around one with excellent puck protection due to his size and strength. His creativity with the puck is exciting. He can make accurate no-look or behind the back passes. Incredible vision down low and behind the net. He possesses a very hard shot with a pretty good release, but needs to shoot more when in good position instead of looking to pass. He finishes his checks, battles in front of the net, digs and fights for possession in the corners and has no problem cutting to the net even if a beating is likely to be the outcome. He supports well in the d-zone. Competitiveness is good as well as consistency throughout the game. Makes himself an option for breakouts, defensively gets in the shooting lane, uses his long reach to cut passing lane too. He is responsible on the back check. Reacts and anticipate very well.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Winger

**49****GABRIEL CARLSSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Linköping J20 J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 2, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 0 G 7 A 7 PTS 14 PIM**

A smooth puck-moving defenseman who has an impressive frame to build upon, skates well and provides a strong defensive presence. Carlsson is really a great skater for his size, with no real knocks against him. Moves well laterally and can adjust his speed to control gaps effectively. He is great at transitioning the puck up ice and has a knack for injecting himself as a key part of the attack. Carlsson spots openings well and picks his spots smartly. Carries the puck well but has a tendency to over handle the play at times, resulting in some turnovers. Passes well coming out of the defensive zone and works the ice at a high level, generating offensive chances for teammates who get themselves open. Not hesitant with the puck, but has a high threshold for withstanding pressure. Has a decent shot and can hammer shots through to the net. His defensive game is effective as he is agile and quick to shut down chances. He is capable of roughing it up in battles and has the strength and battle skills to come out the victor in physical battles. Boxes out the front of his net and is quick to bat away chances with his stick. Needs a bit of simplicity to avoid some blunders, but that may also come with maturity. Needs to work on some things but, but his head is in the right place to help him be successful. The combination of his size and skill in both ends will be intriguing for NHL teams, but he will need time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**52****PARKER WOTHERSPOON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Tri-City (WHL)****BORN: August 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 9 G 33 A 42 PTS 93 PIM**

A well-rounded two way blueliner. Everything he does is calm, smooth and with a purpose; excellent composure. He's a high-end skater, not quite "effortless," but close. He's got good acceleration to his stride and excellent top-end speed, which he uses to rush the puck up the ice in an attempt to create offense. While his forward skating is top notch, he could use a bit more power and explosiveness in his backwards striding. He handles the puck well and makes some very simple but effective outlet passes. He makes very smart decisions with the puck and knows when to just clear the zone. As far as his other offensive tools, he displays a hard shot with a quick release. He has the ability to take tough passes, settling them down and quickly getting the puck on net. Defensively he is very smart and composed, displaying excellent gap work and a great stick when defending both off the cycle and off the rush. He is not the flashiest player, but shows a willingness to get involved in all zones. He never tries to overdo it and he knows his limits. He is a heads up guy who shows great awareness and vision.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**50****RASMUS ANDERSSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Barrie (OHL)****BORN: October 27, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 12 G 52 A 64 PTS 88 PIM**

A smart, multi-situational defender. This Swedish import has the ability to quarterback a powerplay by making good reads, hard passes and even harder shots when lanes open. Andersson is a strong and balanced skater who is very mobile. Little choppy when pivoting from backwards to forward, but his movements are fluid everywhere else. Lacks some necessary speed though, unable to keep up to many OHL forwards. Needs to use his smarts to position himself correctly to compensate, but will need to improve his speed if he is to take the next step. Delivers hard, accurate passes to spark the attack; although, these can be inconsistent at times. Very strong reads of the play on the breakout to hit his target with the puck. When presented with no options, Andersson will either wait for a second or two to try to open something up or he will continue to skate it up ice on his own. Possesses a powerful slapshot that he unloads once he is set and sees his lane. Defensively aware and possesses strong hockey sense. Will use his size to physically rub out opponents or clear the crease, but does not possess a real bruiser's temperament. Uses his stick well, cutting off lanes and angling attackers away from danger. Possesses loads of NHL upside but has one glaring issue: speed. And that will need improvement.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defender

**53****CHRISTIAN FISCHER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: April 15, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 31 G 30 A 61 PTS 22 PIM**

Fischer is a Notre Dame commit who plays a solid two way game. He displays some good offensive tools to go along with his size and defensive play. Not the quickest skater but he moves fairly well and will get from point-A to point-B effectively. He can improve his foot-speed, though. He isn't super creative with the puck, but illustrates tremendous vision with the puck and the ability to make feeds from the outside or from below the goal line to create a scoring chance. Fischer is tough to compete with in the offensive zone as he outworks and outmuscles most players down low. He is very strong on the puck and tough to contain. 215-pounds stuffed into a six-foot-one frame, the guy is a dump truck on ice. He uses his size well to win the puck and make plays off the boards and out of the corners. He is extremely talented in puck protection and likes to drive the net. He also likes to place himself in front of the net and it's entertaining watching defenders try to move him. He also has a heavy shot, which makes his power forward game very impressive. He is not a skilled one-on-one puck handler, not an overly creative offensive player and not overly speedy. Also, he prefers to use the simple plays and utilize his power game to produce chances, showing little evidence of high-end hockey sense and leaving doubt that he will be a top six forward at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second or Third Line Power Winger

**51****ROBIN KOVACS****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: AIK (Allsvenskan)****BORN: November 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 17 G 11 A 28 PTS 63 PIM**

Kovacs is a high skill offensive type of player with good hands and skating. He has top-notch skating ability, as his acceleration, speed and mobility are excellent. Kovacs is very balanced on his skates with his fluid movements and excellent skating with the puck. He proves successful handling the puck and on zone entries as he is very slippery between the defenders, making him hard to stop. He is more of a scorer with a sharp, quick release than a playmaker trying to set up his teammates. He is always trying to find a way to get a shot at the net. His determination makes his efforts strong; although, he needs to work on his defensive positioning. Offensively, he needs to get a little bit stronger in front of the net. Even though he is willing to play that feisty type of game, he needs to bulk up. His hockey sense is very good as he makes quick and smart decisions with the puck. He supports his defenders in the defensive zone when needed and he tries to verbally build up his teammates as much as possible, showing strong leadership qualities. His passing ability is solid; he proved to have very good timing and sharpness on his passes. Kovacs has great hockey sense and creativity. Played on AIK's (SHL-2) top line and powerplay unit in his first year at the senior level and made an impact, which has been impressive.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**54****RYAN GROPP****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Seattle (WHL)****BORN: September 16, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 30 G 28 A 58 PTS 44 PIM**

Gropp is a hard skating and even harder shooting winger. He is a big kid who can push the pace of the game, even capable of "taking over" for stretches. Powerful stride and ability to transition quickly makes him a constant threat to get the jump on defenders. He has impressive offensive vision and an ability to work with teammates. He is patient with the puck and doesn't force plays when rushed. Passing skills are on point for the most part, but not elite. His puck skills and on-ice demeanor are strong. Gropp can dominate at times when he has the puck on his stick. He can hold onto the puck for lengthy periods of time and hold off pressure with his size or a misleading fake. Has a very heavy wrist shot with quick release that is accurate. Despite what his size suggests, Gropp isn't a guy who should be classified as a power forward. He has a good presence in the slot and on the wall, but plays more of a skill game than a rough and tumble style. Hitting game is decent, and doesn't go over the edge aggressively. Defensively he doesn't always show the urgency to clear the zone or apply pressure, but tries to maintain position and passively defend with his stick. He is a good team player, even though he can disappear for stretches at times. But, when you look at the stats sheet, he has contributed.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Goal Scoring Winger

**55****KIRILL KAPRIZOV****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Metallurg Novokuznetsk (KHL)****BORN: April 26, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 31 GP 4 G 4 A 8 PTS 6 PIM**

Kaprizov is a small forward with top-notch offensive instincts and a hard-working mantra that make him seem a lot bigger than his size indicates. He skates very well, accelerating in seconds to full speed. He carries the puck well and shows some creativity in his hands. He has some skill with his stick but tends not to "dipsy doodle" unless he has the space and can afford to be a bit riskier. Kaprizov doesn't get knocked off the puck easily and is very smart, finding space and finding a way out of pressure. He is very good at moving the puck and puts some real zip on his passes. He can play the point on the powerplay and is very fit for the role due to his awareness and risk assessment skills. He has a strong shot. Not really a sniper, but he is a hard worker who will not be hesitant to pass on opportunities. He is a very poised skater who is patient but will battle hard or knock someone into next week if they seem to be vulnerable. Keeps pressure on the puck carrier and limits passing activity with an active stick. His ability to transition pucks out of the zone is impressive. Has all it takes to become an elite NHL forward. Great character guy as well, always hard on the forecheck and playing physical despite his lack of size.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Winger

**56****MICHAEL SPACEK****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: HC Pardubice (Czech)****BORN: April 9, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 40 GP 5 G 7 A 12 PTS 12 PIM**

An intelligent player at both ends of the rink, Spacek's defensive and offensive contributions make an impact. A powerful skater who has great length to his stride and ability to get moving efficiently. Has some strong agility and is elusive through traffic, making him difficult to contain. He has some impressive speed. Plays a strong possession game and always tends to be in the right spots on the ice. His quickness, body positioning, strength and creative puck skills make him a real challenge for defenders. He gets a little carried away at times with the puck, but manages to salvage plays in the offensive zone that don't go his way. Finds all sorts of lanes to move the puck in and is not afraid to get creative. Has a nice touch and can tear the tape off a teammate's stick at longer range or feather a floater through a maze. Has a decent shot with some zest and showed he isn't just a pass first guy. Goes in on the forecheck and looks to hunt pucks down. Drives the net with and without the puck. He is fairly patient but competes hard to win battles and is smart in his approach to defend. Very smart and aware; a guy who can do it all. Supports the play well and jumps in to help at the right times.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**57****AUSTIN WAGNER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Regina (WHL)****BORN: June 23, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 20 G 19 A 39 PTS 53 PIM**

A raw and developing power winger. Has high-end speed and accelerates extremely well for a big guy; has very powerful edges. Unfortunately, we feel like his brain and hands sometimes fail to catch up to his impressive wheels. Despite this, he still creates quite a few offensive chances off the rush. He uses his speed wide, draws in the defender, and protects the puck before dishing a skilled pass to a streaking line mate. He has the frame to protect the biscuit, but his balance isn't always great during the cycle. He's still a raw player with lots to improve upon but has some really impressive tools to build upon. His physical play is strong, throwing a few decent hits per game, but is not a nasty character by any stretch. Sees time on the top PK unit due to his ability to cover good ground. Away from the puck we like his work on the forecheck where he uses his speed, length and physical play. Shows a strong ability to read the play without the puck offensively and go to high percentage areas of the ice to get rebounds or get open for passes. Improvement in some of the finer areas like stickhandling and stick positioning in tighter areas will come with more work and more confidence. Has a smart and mature two-way approach to the game. This kid could be an absolute force once he adds more strength.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger

**58****GUILLAUME BRISEBOIS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Acadie-Bathurst (QMJHL)****BORN: July 21, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 4 G 24 A 28 PTS 34 PIM**

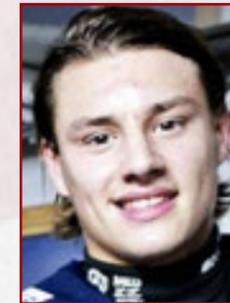
Brisebois is a thin and fast-moving defender who is very smart, but not very flashy. He doesn't stand out in any offensive fashion but is effective in all three zones. He has outstanding mobility and makes puck movement look easy, but physically he is often overmatched on the boards. He's competing, but his lack of functional strength hurt his chances in 50/50 battles. Does not respond well to getting hit or physically man-handled and has a bit of a questionable 'soft' factor to his game. He plays his position very well though, always keeping himself between his net and the puck carrier, and using his stick to break up opponents' chances. Brisebois has very good timing on his passes and has the versatility to contribute in all situations. Has a decent point shot—nothing to get too excited about—but effective in a secondary point playing role. His forte is on defense and steps-up aggressively, closing his gaps quickly to force players wide and off the puck. He just does not give players a lot of time or space. His feet keep him with any of the Q's quicker forwards, and while he isn't strong he does maul guys on the boards with his long limbs and ties up well in front of the net. We love his hockey sense and smarts to use what he has effectively in most in-game situations.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**59****MACKENZIE BLACKWOOD****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Barrie (OHL)****BORN: December 9, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 51 GP 3.09 GAA .906 SP 2 SO 33 W 14**

Blackwood is that quick and athletic netminder who has the size that all NHL teams covet nowadays. He is always on the move, tracking the puck and getting himself set. Despite his size, he will get down nice and low if needed to see through traffic or get a better view of the lane. Sometimes he puts himself down too low, looking to be much smaller than his six-foot-four frame indicates. Plays somewhat lower in his net but will come out to the top of crease when the puck is high in the zone. Does a very good job of adjusting based on the situation. Has very quick lateral movements as he digs in hard to slide to the far side of the net and quickly get squared up to the shooter. Covers the post very well and his size allows him to be tight to both pipes when stretched out if the puck is behind the net. Glove hand is positioned high but his reaction time on that side is a little delayed. Reads the play well and is aware of opponents setting up across or at the backdoor. He knows where the puck is going and explodes over quickly to make the save. Always comes out behind the net to stop the puck and wait, or will handle the puck and pass it off to his defenders. Blackwood is the type of stopper who can stand on his head at times and make crucial saves to keep his team in games.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender

**60****FILIP AHL****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HV71 J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: June 12, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 20 G 22 A 42 PTS 53 PIM**

Ahl is a big boy who loves to play the typical power forward role. He skates well for a big man; not overly speedy but has a long, powerful stride and is surprisingly agile. He isn't overly talented with the puck on his stick, but is effective in possessing and using fundamental skills to ward away opponents. Has the ability to power through checks and thrives in the area around the net. He has some zip on his passes and processes the game quick enough to allow him to catch opponents napping. Keeps his head up for shot opportunities off the pass, but is most dangerous hunting for the loose pucks. We like his compete level and willingness to throw hits. Takes the body over the puck, but has good stick skills to strip opponents and come away with possession in battles. He uses his long wing span to take away space with his stick and back checks with vigor. The only flaw we see in this north/south power winger is his tendency to drag his ass late in shifts. We like Ahl and believe he could be a middle six winger who can put up some points by keeping the game simple. He will never be a big flashy offensive guy and will need to improve his shift-to-shift consistency, but for an NHL team looking for a winger who plays a heavy and simple game, he will be effective choice.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Winger

**61****BLAKE SPEERS****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: January 2, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 24 G 43 A 67 PTS 12 PIM**

Speers is at his best when he plays a simple two-way game. He is a nifty skater with strong levels of speed and excellent first step acceleration. He has a nose for the net and a strong finishing ability despite being more in a playmaker mindset. He is as effective in his own zone as he is with the puck in the offensive zone. Speers possesses an excellent shot and release that finds its way through traffic. His combination of speed and slick puck handling ability make him a force on the breakout. Speers also has the ability to take and win face-offs for his team in all key situations. A natural center, but was switched to the wing due to the Hounds depth at center this season, and Speers has adjusted beautifully. Slick in possession with a wide array of deceptive and jaw-dropping dekes. He is hard and fast in transition. Speers also possesses the intangibles that make pro aspirations a strong possibility. He leads by example, works hard to make plays and is willing to do whatever it takes to help his team win. He can kill penalties, quarterback the powerplay or lead the rush. Can get a little too fancy at times and over handle the puck. Does not contribute much in the way of physical play.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger

**64****ERIK FOLEY****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Cedar Rapids (USHL)****BORN: June 30, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 27 G 27 A 54 PTS 80 PIM**

Foley is a dynamic, multi-talented forward. If you are looking for a forward to go out there, grind and set the tempo, he can do it. If you are looking for a forward to go out there and completely take over a game offensively for stretches at a time, he has the ability to do that too. There are many great facets to his game, but also things what need work. Skating wise, he displays moments of great explosiveness. He likes to lull the defenders to sleep through the neutral zone, and then just blow right around them as soon as he enters the zone. He has great agility and is light on his feet, making quick shifts to avoid the defenders. He smartly changes his pace of play to not allow the defenders to adjust to him. Has skilled hands and is creative with the puck in the offensive zone. Has the ability to turn the defenders inside out with quick dekes and also power his way through checks. He is a very smart player who is able to quickly think things through, then make proper decision and heads-up plays. His ability to possess the puck in traffic is inconsistent, in a strange way, in that he is fantastic carrying the puck one shift and then looks like he is batting around a rock the next. He will need to improve his strength and has some work to do in his own zone. Will sacrifice the body and block shots in his zone, showing an honest effort to get back and defend. It is his positioning, technique and consistency that will need some fine tuning.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Winger

**62****NIKITA KOROSTELEV****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sarnia (OHL)****BORN: February 8, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 24 G 29 A 53 PTS 18 PIM**

Korostelev has the potential to be a dominate player at every level he plays at. The problem is that his desire and inconsistent efforts do not always make that a priority. He has an abundance of high-end tools to work with. He's a fantastic skater, has a great set of hands and has the offensive instincts you can't teach. He gains possession of the puck and protects it very well. He also has the ability to find and distribute the puck well, and is a catalyst on the powerplay. He moves fluidly through the opposition. He has a rocket of a shot, but needs to shoot it more often. His shot also has the ability to find its way through traffic. He has the release that can fool goaltenders, but he can get too fancy with the puck and try to make a play to a teammate as opposed to burying an open opportunity. He uses his smarts and vision to get to open ice to create more passing options. He has good hands and a knack for making defenders look silly when they least expect it. Defensively, he isn't 100 per cent committed, but he gets to the point with speed to cover his man and block shooting lanes. He knows his responsibilities in the defensive zone and it is evident that he tries to take care of them, even with the thought of jump-starting the offense in the front of his mind.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Line Offensive Winger

**65****ADAM MUSIL****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Red Deer (WHL)****BORN: March 26, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 15 G 24 A 39 PTS 71 PIM**

A prototypical power forward if there ever was one. Not much mystery in what Adam Musil brings to the table every time he hits the ice. Exhibiting a strong stride, Musil can accelerate quickly and is an absolute train that won't be easily stopped. His skills with the puck are developing. He isn't really a guy who will be classified as a dangler and take you out of your seat, but his possession and protection skills are excellent. Uses his body to his advantage and plays a big, heavy style game to move the puck in his intended direction. Has a strong shot and some finesse in his hands around the net. Solid hand/eye coordination in knocking down pucks and making fine-tuned plays look simple. Shows good awareness at both ends of the ice. His passing skills are adequate and he can make simple tape-to-tape passes with consistency through traffic and on the fly. Provides support down low and pressure in the defensive zone. Relentless puck pursuit and follows through on his checks and hits to punish his opponents. He's just a monster along the walls. He wins so many battles due to his strong hands and stick positioning. He's very smart in how he positions himself in those battles, automatically giving him a big advantage when grinding against smaller, weaker or younger competition.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Center

**63****DENIS MALGIN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: ZSC (NLA)****BORN: January 18, 1997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 23 GP 2 G 6 A 8 PTS 8 PIM**

A smallish but quick and skilled, instinctive offensive point producer. Creates chances for both he and his line mates and is strong in possession. Has slick hands and likes to dangle the puck if given the space. Sees the ice well and finds open lanes. Always on the move creating time and space. Good acceleration and can hit top speed in just three to four strides. He is shifty due to his size and lower body strength coupled with very slippery agility. Is strong on his skates for his size and balanced making it difficult for opponents to knock him off the puck if they do get a piece of him. Slick in possession as he has the ability to weave through defenders with speed while looking for options and maintaining possession. Not the strongest physical player around but is solid and has that determination that a small forward needs to succeed. What he lacks in size, he makes up for in hard work. Will drive to the net every chance he gets to look for scoring chances, and is offensively savvy. When he sees no other options he does not hesitate to wire the puck off the goalie's pads just to create a rebound for his teammate in front. Usually opts for his wrist shot that has a quick release and he can easily change the velocity depending on the range and need. Has good battle/compete and a motor that just keeps running.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Forward

**66****MITCHELL STEPHENS****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Saginaw (OHL)****BORN: February 5, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 22 G 26 A 48 PTS 44 PIM**

Stephens is a complete player. He plays well at both ends of the rink, and provided the Spirit with a solid face-off man. He's a diligent skater, and you can't help but admire his work ethic. He plays solid defense, and saw an expanded role on the PK, as the Spirit lack a bit of depth up the middle this season. He has the ability to be a puck distributor with his combination of vision and passing ability. With a number of veterans gone from the Spirits squad this season, Stephens was elevated into a leadership role with the club. Definitely a kid who will lead by example. He does make a few mistakes, like holding on to the puck too long, and waiting for a play develop instead of making a play himself. His laid-back approach may catch the ire of fans, but he's a solid player who won't be too cute with the puck in situations where it is uncalled for. Needs to improve his consistency. Coming out of Minor Midget, and even after looking good at a summer tournament, more was expected of Stephens offensively and it wasn't until a couple months into the season that he really started to produce like many had hoped. Really impressive at the U18 Championships where he captained Team Canada. Not high-end upside but has many intangibles that make him an attractive prospect to develop in a potential support role.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Character Center

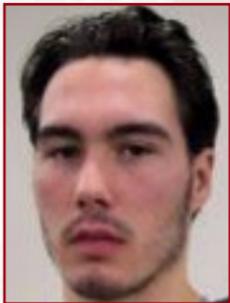


67

**CALLUM BOOTH****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Quebec (QMJHL)****BORN: May 21 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 3.05 GAA .900 SP 2 SO 23**

Booth is a big goalie who is very calm and fluid in his net. He is a very subtle goalie who doesn't show a lot of flash in his play, but makes the first save. Tries to keep rebounds to a minimum, with mixed results, and mitigates risk by trying to kick or direct everything to the corners. However, he often leaves juicy rebounds or kicks them out back into play. He's a very athletic goalie with smooth skating for that age and explosiveness post-to-post. He shows a great glove and really nice reflexes. He is very good down low in the butterfly and has the ability to pick the puck up relatively late before making the save. He sometimes slides out of position, but does a great job of getting back quickly. One major weakness is his balance in the crease. Has a negative tendency to fall flat on his stomach when moving laterally in his crease; plays where he has to get across quickly. Goalies should remain "big" in the net and by falling forward he continually exposes the entire top half of the net. With more focus on some technique issues, he can turn out to be a pretty good goalie in the future. We love his upside due to his size and athleticism.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



70

**RYAN PILON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brandon (WHL)****BORN: October 10, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 11 G 41 A 52 PTS 40 PIM**

A two-way rearguard who does a bit of everything. He plays a composed and mature style of game with his head up and makes smart and instinctive plays with and without the puck. He doesn't panic with the puck. He is sharp and smart with his pinches, showing a mature understanding of what pucks he can get to and when he should step back and let the play come to him. His vision is impressive. He is confident and poised in his outlets, displaying a very aware sense of passing lanes and timing. He plays with a pro-ready type puck movement in the offensive zone too, zipping passes back and forth along the offensive blue line with confidence. He possesses a great slap-pass. As far as his shot goes, he has a quick release on his wrist and a hard slap shot. His footwork isn't super fluid and his first few pushes coming backwards are a tad sluggish. We also remain cautious about his defensive game and overall intensity throughout the game. He plays at a very "comfortable" pace, like he's out for a skate with his buddies. While his defensive positioning and stick work are only average, they haven't shown much growth over the past two seasons. His intensity is also rather lackluster. Pilon has been a highly debated prospect for FC all season. In one hand he has been effective in his role all season but on the other his production might be partly attributed to the offensive team he plays on. He doesn't play with any desperation and his effort level leaves much to be desired. Despite his good numbers, we just have too many doubts to rate him much higher.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



68

**ALEXANDRE CARRIER****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Gatineau (QMJHL)****BORN: October 8, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 12 G 43 A 55 PTS 64 PIM**

Carrier is a very calm, smooth playmaker who processes the game at an elite level. He is an interesting prospect as he plays an effective and reliable game. He impresses as he plays a good two-way game from the backend. He doesn't have any flashy, high-end, offensive skill, but he thinks the game at a very high level and possesses outstanding vision. His passes on the breakout or outlets are near perfect, in terms of touch and timing. Makes low-risk/safe plays to get the puck up ice and keep it there. Carrier is a good skater with strong pivots, but he lacks high-end speed and burst. Carrier moves fluidly and has high-end lateral agility, is strong on his feet and is powerful in his stride. He is slippery and can escape pressure fairly easily with his quick change of direction. Alexandre can skate the puck out of his zone when he sees the opening to do so or has no passing option. He possesses pro calibre awareness and decision making, but his execution can be a little inconsistent. Defensively he anticipates the play and reacts exceptionally well. Picks up his man in front of the net and does everything in his power to tie him up and push him aside. Despite is average size, he displays good protection when in control of the puck and tries to play physically with good shoulder checks along the wall.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Two-Way Defender



71

**ROOPE HINTZ****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ilves (Liiga)****BORN: November 17, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 5 G 12 A 17 PTS 10 PIM**

An intelligent two-way forward who plays very calmly and maturely for his age. Has an impressive size and skating blend. He is a little unbalanced on his feet and choppy in his mobility, but the kid can flat out fly when he gets moving. Possesses good acceleration and can get to top speed in only a few short strides. Makes wide turns and pivots, rather than quick stops and starts, but it seems as though this is what he is most comfortable with. However, it limits his effectiveness to get to the puck carrier far too often. He is a big body in front of the net on the powerplay and can cause havoc for opposing defenders. He is hard to move but we would like to see him put up more of a fight for a longer time. Doesn't need to get set to let go a heavy shot on net. Possesses impressive playmaking ability on the rush that makes for quality scoring chances. He centers passes on the tape, leading his man, and then quickly steps to the side to jet to the front of the net for a rebound. He is aware on the ice and anticipates the play very well. Loves to take charge and be in control. Inconsistent getting back to defend, but once in his own zone he is reliable and reads the play well. Hintz wins multiple one-on-one battles on the boards and manages to control the play on the defensive side of the puck well with his impressive stick work. Both his forecheck and back check were impressive and Hintz displayed a good hustle and battle level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Winger



69

**JAKOB FORSBACKA-KARLSSON****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Omaha (USHL)****BORN: October 31, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 15 G 38 A 53 PTS 38 PIM**

The Boston University commit is that two-way player who plays bigger than he is. While not a bruiser, physically punishing everyone with bone crushing hits, he does use his size to his advantage in all zones. JFK possesses nice offensive ability with his smarts, creativity and grit. He loves to play the body, especially on the forecheck and along the wall. He is persistent in his puck pursuit and does a great job hitting to separate the man from the puck. He could certainly afford to work on his skating, improving his stride and foot speed. While not slow by any stretch, he is one of those guys who is a better skater when he has the puck on his stick than without. The Swedish born forward possesses powerful strides when he is protecting the puck and very strong balance. Without the puck in the offensive zone, he likes to drive the net hard and shows the strength to outmuscle the defender in front to gain position. With the puck, he is always creating offense. Displays some solid vision and can find open teammates or get off a shot. He also has a lethal shot with a tremendous release and impressive power behind it. He has the ability to still get a scoring chance and a shot off even with a defender draped all over him. A potential high reward prospect after some time to round off some rough edges. He is a great combination of size, strength and skill.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center



72

**DMYTRO TIMASHOV****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Quebec (QMJHL)****BORN: October 1, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 19 G 71 A 90 PTS 54 PIM**

Timashov is an electrifying forward who makes plays out of nothing. He is a very fluid skater and he is always moving his feet. He has very good hockey sense and seems to always be in the right place at the right time. He is small in stature but makes up for it with his quickness and hockey smarts; he is always aware of his surroundings. He also seems to avoid hits and rolls off potential checks thanks to his agility. Everything with this guy is at top speed. He sees a lot of powerplay time and does major damage with the extra man. Spins off checks and makes clever passes. Timashov gets to top speed very quickly and his patience with the puck is impressive. He is willing to mix it up in the corners and along the wall, showing some spunk. Defensively, he is responsible, but his area of expertise is truly in the offensive zone. He is a pass first player and would be even more dangerous if he attacked the net more often with a shot of his own. He shows a quick shot release and the impressive ability to shoot mid-deke as well. He is a bit of a perimeter player as he does not regularly venture into high traffic areas with the puck. He needs to learn that even though he has great hands, he does not always need to try to put on a stickhandling clinic.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Winger



73

**GLENN GAWDIN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)****BORN: March 25, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 15 G 39 A 54 PTS 59 PIM**

Gawdin is a strong two-way player. He is a very dangerous player off the rush and really flies when he picks up speed and he finds openings to enter the offensive zone with relative ease. Gawdin also uses his speed to close quickly on opposing puck carriers. Gawdin doesn't possess dynamic hands; however, he excels at protecting the puck. This combo of speed and ability to avoid stick checks is what makes him so effective entering the offensive zone. Gawdin keeps his head up and finds his teammates well, but he isn't the most creative puck mover. He shows limited finesse in his passing game and most of his passes are of the straight line, crisp, tape-to-tape variety. It's not really a weakness, but it makes him more effective as a goal scorer as opposed to playmaker. Adding to his goal scorer mentality is a very effective shot. Gawdin can really rip it and does so with a very quick release and little windup. He is also always looking to pick corners and no shot off of his stick is a wasted one. Gawdin has solid size and is willing to throw his weight around. He goes to the tough areas and shows good effort on both sides of the puck. Gawdin is a responsible defender and understands his assignment. He has a well-rounded and balanced game; however, he is probably not a driver of offense at the NHL level. He's thick, does good work defensively and has some underlying offensive tools.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center



76

**JULIUS NATTINEN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: JYP-Akatemia (Mestis)****BORN: January 14, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 11 G 18 A 29 PTS 8 PIM**

Nattinen is a two-way center who plays a solid playmaking game. He has good skating mechanics and is solid in his skates but doesn't really have an extra gear that will drop jaws. He can generate speed on the rush but works best when he flows with the play and uses his smarts to find the openings. He likes a mix of possession and puck distribution. He shines when given time and space like on the powerplay. Has a cool head and is efficient under pressure. Spots teammates well and can open up space with quick and accurate passes. Has some soft mitts and a big frame to support some power forward characteristics when in the offensive zone and in transition. Is an excellent passer but can also score a goal with a well-placed shot. Strong positioning in the defensive zone and plays a highly efficient center's role. Supports the puck well and goes to work when called upon. Good job at disrupting plays and being in a position of strength when defending. We like his consistency to deliver the same product from shift to shift. Played really well for a plucky Finnish team at the U18's in April. If he can improve his skating stride and work on improving his hands he could become a real dangerous prospect and a high value selection.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Playmaking Center



74

**VEINI VEHVILAINEN****POSITION: Goaltender****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: JYP-Akatemia (Mestis)****BORN: February 13, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 26 GP 2.57 GAA .917**

Vehviläinen is a positionally sound goaltender who has strong technique and elite quickness. He plays consistently at the top of his crease and tracks the play well, adjusting his angles to keep the net evenly covered. He has some moments when he over glides when moving across the net, but recovers well to remain square to the puck. He has good use of his blocker and trapper, keeping them in prime position and using them to corral shots on the first attempt. He especially loves to dangle the carrot with space on his glove hand before snaring shots and taking away the open net. His strong lower body has him getting into position and adjusting his body position according to situational play. Vehvilainen is good at smothering shots into his torso and redirecting pucks high off his blocker. He had some trouble with angled shots off his pads, allowing pucks to escape into the high slot. He remains confident and actively engaged in the game no matter the score. Worked well to communicate and leave pucks in good places for the defense, but he is by no means an elite puck handler. We like Vehvilainen's makeup and competitive game. He doesn't have any glaring weaknesses to note, besides maybe some slower lateral pushes from time to time, but will need to keep developing and adapting to higher competition.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



77

**JESPER LINDGREN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: MODO J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: May 19, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 6 G 27 A 33 PTS 39 PIM**

Lindgren is one of the most talented Swedish defensemen going into this draft. What is noticed the most is his hockey sense—it really stands out. He also shows some good hands, as he comes with speed across the offensive blue-line, toe-dragging a defenseman, or creating space with a stutter step before quickly blowing by an opponent to create an offensive opportunity. He is a very agile and fluid skater who is great at eluding pressure and turning the play up ice. He moves well with the puck at his top speed and will rush the play when he finds the smallest hole. Sees the ice well and is patient enough to not try to force bad passes. Lindgren is great coming out of his own zone and working the point on the powerplay, delivering seemingly simple feeds. He is a right-handed shot and while it may not be the most powerful, he is good at finding a shooting lane and creating some havoc at the very least. He uses his body to separate players from the puck but also has a timely ability to lift sticks and regain the puck. Lindgren defends well in his own zone by being a step ahead. Quickness and his senses have him all over passes through his territory. There isn't much mass to him but he doesn't shy away from any battles. Just a smooth, good all-around defenseman, but we don't see him becoming a dominating physical presence ever.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Offensive Defenseman



75

**SIMON BOURQUE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Rimouski (QMJHL)****BORN: January 12, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 10 G 28 A 38 PTS 69 PIM**

A solid, mature-minded, two-way blueliner who plays a solid game at both ends of the ice. He has a good, powerful stride with good speed and acceleration. He uses his skating power to join the rush and get involved offensively. Pivots well and has fluid all-direction mobility. He handles the puck well, using his strength on the puck and hand-speed to gain space to rush up ice or make a strong pass up ice. He distributes the puck effectively and has an accurate good wrist-shot from the point. His vision is high-end. His slap shot is relatively weak and will need some work. He is strong defensively, playing aggressively and physical, but will need to continue to add strength to be more effective in that role. Keeps attackers to the outside and can keep up to the speedy opponents because of his strong skating ability. He makes good step-ups and aggressive plays to force guys wide and take them off the puck in the corners and along the boards. He is aggressive and tough down-low on defense. A guy who makes good decisions all over the ice and can play heavy minutes when called upon. This kid's game is on a steep trajectory and only getting better.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



78

**ALEXANDER DERGACHEV****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: SKA-1946 St. Petersburg (MHL)****BORN: September 27, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 10 G 29 A 39 PTS 52 PIM**

Dergachev is a large-framed forward who is noticeable both with his size and the way he plays on the ice. He skates very well for his size, using a long stride to catapult himself into the play as well as a good center of balance, allowing him to turn with precision. Plays a strong power game and is a beast on the puck when he gets control of it. Has strong puck handling skills and while not overly flashy, his possession and protection skills are excellent. He is a very strong man who can take on a defender with either physical or finesse. Has good passing skills and showed good cohesion with his teammates, seeing the ice well and choosing the best available pass option. Has a heavy shot, but needs to work at getting open more often to use it. He shows a good mind for his own end, committing himself to the finer details to ensure he helps in his own zone. He is excellent with his stick, taking away lanes in the d-zone while also showing a willingness to hit his opponent regularly. Hard back checker and aggressive shot blocker, which makes him look more than the "stereotypical Russian" forward. Has some question about his offensive potential at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Center

**79****GRAHAM KNOTT****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Niagara (OHL)****BORN: January 13, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 25 G 18 A 43 PTS 33 PIM**

Knott can be an absolute monster using his size and shot to make an impact, or he can be totally invisible, depending on the contest. Knott doesn't play a flashy game but is effective in his role on the PP, PK and even strength. He is a good skater for his size, but could add another gear to both his top speed and acceleration. He is very solid on his skates, using his body to protect the puck. He doesn't have the flashy hands that allow him to deke out defensemen often. Instead he gains the zone, then slows down to try to set up a play or use his reach to try to get around the defenseman with strong puck protection. His passes are generally on tape, from short- to long-range passes. He initiates and dominates cycles and the boards. He possess a good shot but could work on its release. He can go to the net for deflection or rebounds. He is not the most physical, but he will finish his checks; he prefers to angle opponents off more often. He has very good hockey sense. He's really good at stretching the ice and uses open spaces to make space for teammates or himself. He has a very good vision to find teammates on the rush. He supports teammates very well, especially on the cycle and picking up for them defensively. He gets into shooting lanes to block shots, he also uses his stick to cut passing lanes.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Winger

**82****MATEJ TOMEK****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Topeka (NAHL)****BORN: May 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 1.83 GAA .928 SP**

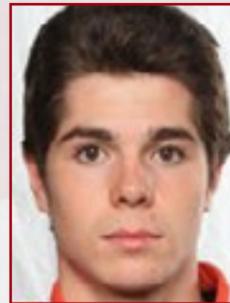
The native of Bratislava, Slovakia came to the U.S. looking to boost his draft stock. And that is just what he has done. After looking impressive in some summer camps, the University of North Dakota commit really took off with Topeka. Tomek is a big, lanky goalie who takes up a lot of the lower part of the net and seals off the ice well. He has a pretty interesting style; confident, calm and plays a strong positional game. He is surprisingly calm unless the puck makes its way below the top of the circles. When the puck is out of danger he relaxes and stands up straight and loose, but then quickly gets to the ready position when the opposing team again enters his zone becoming a threat. He is always quick to reset his positioning, even in the middle of an onslaught of shots. It is his way to always be in position for the next shot, not really making second or even third chance saves look overly desperate. He moves very well in his crease, both upright and in the butterfly. He really gets a powerful push off the post laterally to come out to the top of his crease and challenge the shot. Tomek anticipates the play very well. Strong rebound control on shots to his mid-section and higher shots where he can use his quick glove or blocker. Tracks the puck well and is focused despite his relaxed look. Needs some work in his puck-handling skills.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender

**80****DANTE SALITURO****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)****BORN: November 15, 1996****VITALS: 5'-8" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 37 G 41 A 78 PTS 38 PIM**

Salituro is a creative offensive player with impressive hand skills, who is unusually strong on the puck for someone his size. The kid is balanced with a low center of gravity, has quick acceleration, and can stop on a dime to move the other way. Shifty, elusive, and fast on his feet with high-end agility. Positions himself very well in both ends of the ice. Sets himself up well on a powerplay to be able to unload a one-timer. Has a very quick shot release and can hit his spots with not much time or space. His size will obviously be a negative factor, but the kid can move and move with the puck well. He skates like the flash; blink and he's split the D and on the way to the net before you realize what happened. High hockey IQ: he knows where his teammates are on the ice. Can be fancy with his no-look, behind the back passes and such; with a little more simplicity to his game, it would improve his consistency. Can spin off his check on the wall to feed his man or unload a quick release without getting fully set on the attack. Has no problem working the gritty areas down low in the defensive zone to help work the puck free. With that said, his effort in the defensive zone is not always consistent. And you always wonder if a guy with his size issues can make it regardless of his work ethic and skill level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Six Offensive Winger

**83****CONNOR HOBBS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Regina (WHL)****BORN: January 4, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 2 G 16 A 18 PTS 36 PIM**

Hobbs is a rangy, two-way defender who shows flashes of skill in the offensive game. He is a good transitional skater whose powerful first few strides help him gain considerable speed. He loves to rush the puck and is agile at high speed, keeping opponents unaware of his intended routes. Hobbs has a good mind for the game but sometimes his physical skills can be a little flat. Heads-up passer who has a good eye for plays unfolding up the ice. He handles pucks well on his forehand and is quick and accurate in his distribution of the puck. Has some skilled hands but sometimes overcomplicates his game and never truly capitalizes on his individual efforts. His flashes of brilliance are negated at times by his lack of judgement and tentative play. Hobbs doesn't have a great wrist shot to compliment his offensive game, but is able to pound through a hard slap shot on the powerplay. He defends well despite some erratic offensive endeavours. Maintains a good gap on the move and uses a skilled stick to regain possession of pucks. He is okay playing the body, but could use some refinement and added strength to consistently take his man out of the play. He isn't overaggressive in his defensive approach and calmly goes about his business to break up plays and get pucks out of his zone. Shows good tools to recover and regain position on his opponents. We liked his confidence and patience with and without the puck but sometimes he can be too laid back, missing opportunities. We believe he is a raw prospect who just needs to work on shift-to-shift consistency. NHL teams will likely see a dynamic kid who has good size and will be malleable.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**81****JENS LOOKE****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Brynas (SHL)****BORN: April 11, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 43 GP 2 G 4 A 6 PTS 2 PIM**

A two-way player who doesn't really stand out in any one area but is well rounded overall. Looke has a good motor and accelerates well to full blown sprint mode. He has good balance and edge work that helps him weave in and out of traffic with ease. Looke doesn't really show a desire to hold onto the puck for extended periods of time, but does show confidence and some creativity. Sees the ice well and is capable of making skilled plays and passes. He can pass just as well off his backhand as his forehand, having the ability to do so at high speeds on the rush while maintaining the same accuracy. Sometimes tries to force passes by being too complex of a playmaker and forcing pucks into lanes that just aren't ideal. Has a quick shot that does not stay on his blade very long after he gets it and has shown he will shoot on net from any angle. Provides a lot of energy and is consistently up tempo in both ends but does not play overly physical. Takes shifts on the penalty kill and makes strong efforts to block lanes and drop and block shots. He does well to get on top of the puck but could take away space more efficiently. Looke isn't a hard hitting guy but will lay the body or check by angling his man out of the play. Not flashy offensively but effective in a secondary role. He could carve out a niche as a second or third line type player who brings a bit of everything to the table.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger

**84****DANIEL VLADAR****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: HC Kladno (Czech U20)****BORN: August 20, 1997****VITALS: 6'-5" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 29 GP 2.78 GAA .925 SP**

Vldar is tall goalie who gets nice and low in his stance. The huge net minder dubbed "Darth Vldar" tracks the puck very well. His initial setup is very impressive; he squares up to shooters and then follows the rebound laterally very well. He fights to see through traffic; moving his body and head to get a better view of the play. Impressively quick up and down movements. Angles could be a little better on the second and third attempts though as he doesn't fully set himself like he could. Athletic goalie who can make the sprawling save and extend his leg the extra few inches to make the important toe/kick save. Impressive reflexes to make the reactionary save. Would like to see him push harder and faster laterally to avoid being beat on the backdoor/cross crease play. Very good rebound control. Really like his use of the blocker to deflect pucks into the corner and push them out of traffic areas. Glove hand has decent reaction time, but he sets it up too low, which makes him have to make the extra move to extend it. When set, there are some holes in his stance due to getting down so low and his lazy glove. Looks to have a hard time shaking off a goal, taking a few minutes to settle himself down and get back into the game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender

**85****VEETI VAINIO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: June 16, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 13 G 31 A 44 PTS 42 PIM**

Vainio has some really exciting talent, including excellent skating ability and strong puck skills, but there are also areas that need work. He has an excellent point shot, especially his slap shot that is really heavy and quick. Multiple shot types are always flying off his stick; has a good, quick snap shot off a one-timer that makes its way through traffic regularly. He is gifted in possession, keeping his eyes up and moves well around the offensive zone with the puck looking for passing and shooting lanes. He does a good job of walking the line and keeping pucks in the offensive zone as well. He brings a lot of poise with the puck and his skating is at a world class level; he's very smooth with great agility and first step acceleration. He is very creative offensively with the puck on his stick. He doesn't play physically in the defensive zone when going into corners, almost looking scared of contact. Vainio will need to focus on his defensive zone coverage going forward. He can also be lazy on the ice without the puck. Even though he's a pretty lanky defenseman, he doesn't use his reach nearly enough in puck battles. He could become an excellent defenseman if he starts to work on his physical weakness.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Puck Moving Defender

**86****ETHAN BEAR****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Seattle (WHL)****BORN: June 26, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 69 GP 13 G 25 A 38 PTS 23 PIM**

Bear is a puck-moving defenseman who plays a top pairing role with Seattle. He is a very mobile player, skating powerfully and exhibiting good speed and a knack for rushing the puck. Good edge work and quick in transition allows him to have a good jump on the play. He has good vision and the ability to create offense. Has some real zip on his passes, making clean feeds without much hesitation. He is a confident and coherent puck handler, nothing overly creative or flashy. Makes good reads on plays, knowing when he can start a rush or when he should just dish it off to teammate. Bear is very aware of the space around him and is good at protecting the biscuit from his opponents. Has a good eye for the net and has a good wrist shot that can sizzle through a maze of legs and sticks to create havoc for a goaltender. He is good defensively and shows good communication and awareness. Has the footwork and ability to recover from his mistakes. He can use his size assertively and has the meat on his bones to do so. We like the cohesion he shows with his teammates and ability to work in unison with his partner. He does a lot of things well, but just isn't phenomenal at any one aspect; kind of a glue guy. He is just a heart and soul hockey player who battles and thinks the game well.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**87****THOMAS SCHEMITSCH****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Owen Sound (OHL)****BORN: October 26, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 14 G 35 A 49 PTS 36 PIM**

A big bodied defender who has some strong offensive upside. For a big guy, Schemitsch is a smooth, fluid skater who can keep up to forwards at this level. He could improve his foot speed and agility, but his skating is in no way a debilitating weakness. He isn't afraid to join the rush or get involved offensively. He moves around the zone effectively without the puck, trying to put himself into prime scoring areas. The big blueliner possesses a hard, low shot that is perfect for deflections and rebound attempts. Even though Schemitsch is very offensively involved, he isn't one dimensional by any means, and plays an effective shut down role when the time arises. He plays very solid defensively as he uses his long reach and physical presence to be very difficult to play against. He has a very active stick, and rarely gives up on a play or loose puck. He is strong on the penalty kill as he uses his smarts and reach to disrupt passing lanes and his size to protect the crease. Would like to see more of a physical side as he has the size but not the temperament. Overall plays a steady and consistent game full of strong reads and consistently accurate outlets.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**88****BRENDAN GUHLE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)****BORN: July 29, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 5 G 27 A 32 PTS 36 PIM**

Guhle is an absolutely beautiful skater. He is smooth in all directions and has added a ton of power in his step this year. He has long strides and gets up to speed quickly. He creates momentum with his pivots and looks effortless when he goes back to retrieve a dumped in puck. Power, speed and edging are all great, whether moving forwards or backwards with his coverage of the ice being extremely impressive. He uses his skating to track guys down when they get a step on him and shows no hesitation in following up the play offensively after delivering an outlet pass. He gets himself into trouble when he tries to play the puck rusher role as we feel he just does not have the instincts or puck skills for that type of role. He does have the ability to be more than solid in his own zone, though. He can just plain smother guy outs along the walls. He has great wingspan, and with his mobility, he always seems to be doing something positive on the defensive side of the puck. He is still a little bit weak physically as he gets out-muscled in some puck battles and struggles to contain some of the bigger bodies in front of the net. His gaps are strong and stick work is solid. He makes some questionable transitional reads and is best when he keeps his play simple: focusing on strong defense and delivering a strong first pass. Does show some signs of questionable hockey sense in the defensive zone, at times seeming to be a little bit unsure and getting himself out of position. We think Guhle can work through this if he just keeps things simple and doesn't try to be something he is not.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**89****GUSTAV BOURAMMAN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: January 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 5 G 39 A 44 PTS 14 PIM**

Bouramman is a strong puck-moving defender. Shows composure in that he can make a crisp pass to his partner or up to his forwards with a forechecker on his back. He uses his strength to be strong on the puck and will walk the line in the offensive zone, controlling the puck at the point before releasing on net or dishing a pass to the half wall. Has a good shot for tipping or deflections but will need to improve its velocity going forward. He is slick in possession and exudes confidence exiting his zone; whether it is rushing the puck up ice, or to deliver a pass, Bouramman does everything in his power to spark the attack. Leads his man with crisp passes right on the tape to spark the rush. Makes short and long range passes look effortless, always hitting his target. He possesses very fluid movements, is strong on his feet, and is mobile in all facets of the game. Strong hockey sense as he shows impressive awareness in transition knowing exactly where his support is and is going to be; has an offensive mind that allows him to create some quick offensive chances. Showed that he is willing and able to take a hit on the wall to get the puck up ice. Uses his strength to contain the puck carrier on the wall and plays a strong positional defensive game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Puck Moving Defender

**90****ERIK CERNAK****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: HC Kosice (Slovakia)****BORN: May 28, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 5 G 8 A 13 PTS 16 PIM**

Cernak is a physically imposing defender who can wreak havoc on the wall with his size and pure strength. He brings strong play at both ends of the ice. He is aware and has very fluid movements to go with his solid mobility. Makes good decisions with the puck and sees lots of options in front of him as he scopes out the ice and decides what to do with the puck. Cernak makes crisp, effortless passes through the neutral zone. His strong, crisp passes normally lead his man, but can also be inconsistent at times; a challenge for those who try to receive them. Protects and shields the puck with his large frame but has moments where he can give it up with questionable decision on when to move it. Has plenty of purpose when taking all shot types with a large amount of velocity behind each. Has the defensive smarts to pick up missed assignments and uses his stick to swat pucks away or poke them off of sticks. Strong gaps when the opposition tries to enter the zone. Plays his man hard and will drive him into, or even through, the boards to show that he is a physical force and should not be messed with. Not as tight to the man around the crease as he should be. With his size and strength, he can easily move his man out of traffic and away from the net. When he loses the puck, he is quick to pressure the man and give him no space to the outside. A solid defense-first prospect with underrated offensive tools.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Blue liner

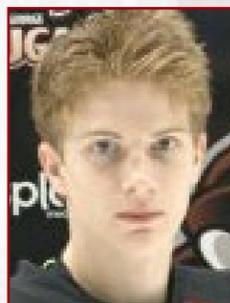


91

**KEEGAN KOLESAR****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Seattle (WHL)****BORN: April 8, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 19 G 19 A 38 PTS 85 PIM**

Kolesar is a big and heavy, versatile forward. He is a big kid whose skating and acceleration are only decent; they have taken some nice strides since we saw him last season, though. In a straight line he gets up to a solid speed, but his agility and first few steps need more attention. He is a versatile forward, playing either wing or even center as needed and willing to play whatever role helps his team. His value is really apparent in the tough areas as he is a monster along the walls, hardly ever losing a board battle. He is physical, throwing some aggressive and meaningful hits no matter the size of the opposition. Dogged on the boards and in the trenches, right through to the whistle. Rough and tumble player. Willing to fight and has the skills to do so but does not go out of his way to look for it. He shows excellent positioning, including while on the penalty kill where he gets into lanes. He is also effective defensively making plays like a well-timed a stick lift or being aggressive and tough to handle on the forecheck. His defensive positioning is rock solid, and he is impossible to strip off the cycle. His smarts and size make him effective even though his feet could use some improvement. A real team player who pays attention to the fine details and will put himself in harm's way to do what is beneficial for the team.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Power Winger



94

**BRAD MORRISON****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Prince George (WHL)****BORN: January 4, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 160 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 23 G 27 A 50 PTS 30 PIM**

Morrison is small but a highly skilled and quick pivot. He generates offense by using his speed, quickness and elusiveness to beat defenders. He moves well with very impressive speed burst and very quick feet. He creates space and time with his excellent hand-speed and skill with the puck. He is creative and smooth with the puck on his stick, looking for an open teammate to pass to or a hole to burst through on his way to the net. While not a physical player, he will go to the dirty areas for a scoring chance or shot at a rebound. He distributes the puck very well but also shows off a great wrist-shot and strong offensive positioning to find loose pucks and generate scoring chances. He is aggressive on offense and plays with some urgency, getting after the puck in the offensive zone. The problem is that he is very small: looks like he is just 150-pounds soaking wet. His defensive effort also needs to get much better and more consistent. When defending there is not a lot of effort or work ethic shown on his behalf. He follows the play but is not engaged at all, standing upright and just kind waving his stick around, but when his team gets the puck you can see a body language change and his motor starts running. He doesn't put up much of a fight in the corners and his aforementioned defensive deficiencies and physical weakness also leave many question marks. Will be a long-term project for which ever NHL team selects him.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Playmaking Center



92

**GABRIEL GAGNE****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Victoriaville (QMJHL)****BORN: November 11, 1996****VITALS: 6'-5" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 35 G 24 A 59 PTS 39 PIM**

Gagne is an under-the-radar prospect with developing goal-scoring instincts. Right away, Gagne's size catches your eye. A tall, lanky right winger, he skates very well for a player of his size and really uses his stride well. His hands, however, are not too slick. A small concern is his balance as he can be knocked off the puck more easily than you'd expect from a guy his size and has trouble staying on his feet at times. Call it the growing into his frame, maybe. Gagne saw a lot of ice time in Victoriaville this season. Gagne has the ability to get into prime scoring space, like the slot in the offensive zone or setting up just off the circle. He is always moving his feet and thinking of where to get to when he doesn't have the puck. Gagne is pretty aggressive as well and finishes his checks every chance he gets. He is very good along the wall in his own end and is able to coral the puck and make good plays under hard pressure. Gagne's size and hockey sense are developing strengths, but he will absolutely need to put some muscle on his six-foot-five frame, especially his lower body strength if he wants to play at the pro level. While he will never become a flashy offensive playmaker, he has potential as a solid power forward with the ability to add secondary scoring but it will take some time before he gets there.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



95

**ANDREW MANGIAPANE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Barrie (OHL)****BORN: April 4, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 43 G 61 A 104 PTS 54 PIM**

An undersized, but skilled two-way 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. Patient, quick stick handler, as he moves around the zone looking for options, distributing the puck like a pro. He is a very strong skater with quick agility and lateral movements that he uses to his advantage when hunting down loose pucks. Thinks and processes the game at a high level and is a reliable and aware defensive player. He is a workhorse who is always looking to create in the offensive zone. Excellent puck protection, using his back to push men off and shift his body and weight to get a better shield of the puck down low despite his lack of size. Always looks to exploit defensive mishaps on the attack by exploding into passing lanes or feeding his man through them. He is very active on the penalty kill, showing that he has a very good sense of what needs to be done. Should have been drafted last season but was passed over because of his thin body type.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Forward



93

**DENNIS GILBERT****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Chicago (USHL)****BORN: October 30, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 4 G 23 A 27 PTS 89 PIM**

Gilbert is an extremely composed and poised defenseman. He's a solid player, and even though he's got great offensive instincts, he's real strong defensively. He excels in the one-on-one situations, when the opposing forward is coming into the zone. He possesses an active stick with a deceptively long reach to poke the puck away or disrupt the timing of the forward. Keeps his frame in the lanes and will play physical when needed. He shows some nastiness in front of his own net by taking a few liberties on opponents or delivering a big hit along the wall to separate the puck. The one major knock we have with Gilbert is his feet. He is balanced and possesses a powerful stride, he will definitely need to work on his burst and first few steps at Notre Dame, because he often can be caught from behind in puck retrieval. He's a real smart defenseman, always has his head up, and is able to withstand a big hit. Not only does he make an accurate first pass, but he loves to join the rush and loves to carry the puck up the ice as well. When he is in the offensive zone, he is a very aggressive pincher. The times when he is successful pinching is when he is tracking down a loose puck along the boards. He has no hesitation in his decision making, when to go get that puck or when to start falling back.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second or Third Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



96

**BRENT GATES JR.****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Green Bay (USHL)****BORN: August 12, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 10 G 17 A 27 PTS 18 PIM**

Gates is powerful skater with solid top speed and a quick stride. He is big and strong, and he used his sheer strength and speed to make plays offensively. He controls the puck well in motion, and handles passes nicely. He doesn't show off insane creativity, but his ability to control the puck under pressure is impressive. He shows off some good vision and quickness with the puck. He moves it very well, making crisp feeds to his linemates and finding players from different areas on the ice. He is a bigger player with decent strength, and he finds space successfully around the slot for chances around the net. Gates' board-play is strong as he gives a good effort on the forecheck and along the boards, battling hard for pucks and always getting involved. He uses his size to gain position and win the puck and, despite a lanky appearance, he proved his strength on the boards. Gates plays a decent defensive game to go along with his effort at the other end. He is always coming back in the play, supporting on defense, taking his man. He communicates well on defense, covers the point and is successful in pressuring the defense and clearing the zone. Gates gives a very consistent effort on the ice and works hard at both ends. He isn't the most naturally talented offensively, but his efforts bridge the gap in that regard and he has a bright NHL future if he can keep improving. Had his season cut short after breaking his fibula in late January.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger



97

**KYLE CAPOBIANCO****POSITION: Defense****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Sudbury (OHL)****BORN: August 13, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 10 G 30 A 40 PTS 54 PIM**

Capobianco is an underrated two-way rearguard who plays top pair minutes and plays a fair share of special teams. He is a smooth skater who is very mobile on his feet and is quite balanced. He possesses a strong skating base and is hard to knock around. Moves well laterally and can cut the angles effectively thanks to this. Fast feet, but could slow it down and lengthen his stride a little more in order to make his movements more powerful and efficient. Skates fairly well with the puck—can protect it as he moves up ice, but not overly creative. Not the most creative hands around, but the kid can stickhandle his way out of trouble. Has the ability to protect the puck as he shifts his body and is strong on the puck to shield it from opponents. Makes smooth, on-point passes through lanes that are just developing. Reads the ice well on the breakout and makes a strong outlet to spark the attack. Defensively, he makes very strong reads of the play coming his way, stepping up to deny the pass to a man streaking into the lane in front of him. Uses his stick more often than his body when covering an attacker in front of the net. Doesn't play a hard game, but uses the size he has to protect the puck, rub the puck carrier off to remove the puck, and play a reliable game on the wall and down low in his own zone.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



100

**RYAN LARKIN****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Cedar Rapids (USHL)****BORN: June 9, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 2.43 GAA .919 SP**

Larkin is a flexible stopper with exceptional positioning. Larkin is not the biggest goalie, but makes up for it with his athleticism and smarts. He anticipates the play extremely well and is rarely caught over-committing to the shooter. He has the ability to make acrobatic saves, and has a lightning quick glove hand. He does tend to play a bit deep in his crease, which is strange for a goalie of smaller stature and aggressive nature, but he does fly out to the top of his crease to cut angles when shooters are in the slot area. He needs to continually play at the top of the crease to maximize coverage. His lateral movement is good, as he moves post-to-post quickly and effectively. He reads and reacts to the puck well, and controls rebounds, often pouncing on any loose puck in his crease before attackers even see where the rebound went. He fights through traffic well, tracks the puck with great focus and is a very toolsy, resourceful goalie. He is not afraid to play unorthodox in the sense that he does anything to make the save, even flashing the odd Hasek-esque swimming saves when the situation calls for it. On the flip side, he also plays square in his positioning with a calm, cool and composed look, which makes us think his mental state is perfect for his position. Makes very good use of his blocker, positions it correctly and uses it to put pucks in the corner and out of harms way. We see potential in his game, and believe with the right development and he could be a NHL stopper.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



98

**SAMUEL MONTEMBEAULT****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)****BORN: October 30 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 2.59 GAA .891 SP 3 SO 33 W 18**

Montembeault is an athletic goaltender who can make the big saves. He is athletic and flexible, showing impressive extension, stretching out his body and getting across the crease quickly. Great use of his glove and is positioned ready for action. He gets set quickly, squares up shooters and is always ready for the shot. Covers much of the net with his natural size and is fluid in the butterfly, dropping down and popping up quickly. Moves laterally quickly and efficiently. Intelligent net minder who anticipates plays and reacts very well with impressive coverage, especially down low. He makes it very difficult for shooters to get anything by him along the ice with his long legs and quick reaction time. He takes away an abundance of the net with his angle work and technique. On the negative side, he has a tendency to stay deep in his crease, but his ability to move side to side and his reflexes make him a hard goalie to beat. He has a hard time picking the puck back up after he loses sightlines. At times he puts too much emphasis on dealing with players in his crease, and can get rattled by them. Needs to let his defense deal with that aspect and just focus on the shots coming his way. He enjoys playing the puck, and doesn't try to get too cute, just makes simple plays to set it up, or short-range passes to his defense.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



101

**PIUS SUTER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Guelph (OHL)****BORN: May 24, 1996****VITALS: 5'-11" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 43 G 29 A 72 PTS 28 PIM**

The improvement in this kid over the course of the season and since last year is very noticeable. He is a very strong and effective penalty killer as he works hard in his zone to get pucks out. Positions himself very well and reads the play. This kid is traffic monster who is puck hungry. He is active, constantly looking for lanes to split to and is aware of support when in possession and aware of checkers coming at him, which allows him to make the right play more often than not. Suter possesses strong agility and a quick first step. Has the ability to make hard passes through the neutral zone right on the tape, but his execution and work with the puck can be inconsistent. He has a slow release on his wrist shot as he drags the puck back and takes a few seconds before releasing it, but his shot is hard and accurate. He can deke defenders under pressure and make them look silly as he pulls the puck and goes inside out on them. Suter's transition game is highly effective and he thrives in the neutral zone. While he is quick to start the offense and get out of the zone, he knows when to explode and breakout; he waits until his team is in possession before making a move. Suter is aggressive on forecheck and is very effective when he uses his stick to swipe the puck right out from under his opponent. Will take a beating in front of the net to gain positioning and set up a screen, but he isn't afraid to give it right back to the defender, standing up for himself no matter how big and intimidating the opponent may be.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Winger



99

**DENNIS YAN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Shawinigan (QMJHL)****BORN: April 14, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 33 G 31 A 64 PTS 71 PIM**

A goal scorer who can make a difference on the score sheet with not much time or space. Yan is a good skater with a good top speed when he gets his wheels going. Mobility was okay for his size. He could work on his skating. His puck skills are excellent and he has the ability to handle the puck in traffic. He often gains the zone, tries to deke or fakes out the defenseman, then curls back to look for a trailer. He isn't really one to try to deke a defenseman one-on-one with quick dekes too often. Yan's passing play might be underrated by some, but he is a very good playmaker; he always has his head high when in control of the puck. He can also open up space for his teammates to make a play by slowing down the play at times. His finishing skills are his bread and butter though. He has a very quick shot release. He can slide into the slot to get a great scoring chance or get close to the net for rebounds and deflections. Yan is not physical at all—he stays away from board battles. Though he stays close enough to support teammates, he rarely jumps in as the second guy for his team in these battles. He is very smart with the puck and makes quick decisions. His defensive play is so-so; he is often not aware of where the player is who he is supposed to cover. His game is lacking intensity and drive that is.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



102

**RYAN ZUHLSDORF****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sioux City (USHL)****BORN: July 1, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 3 G 19 A 22 PTS 58 PIM**

Zuhlsdorf is a two-way defenseman who plays a pretty quiet yet effective game. He is not very flashy and if you are not specifically looking, you will most likely miss some of the subtle plays he makes that add up during the course of a game. He is a smooth skater with strong mobility, using his quick feet to get to where he needs to be. He moves exceptionally well laterally with and without the puck, allowing him to see more lanes and open up the ice. He moves the puck up ice well and can make a good, hard outlet pass. He does well to direct traffic up the ice and gets those forwards the puck in stride. Possesses quickness along the blue line, moving laterally or pinching down the wall to keep the puck in the zone. Has a hard shot but is too slow to pull the trigger, resulting in a few missed shooting lanes and hitting too many shin pads. In the defensive zone, he is very confident and sure of his ability. His mobility allows him to quickly cut off the rush and not only force the play to the outside, but keep up with them out there. He has an active stick, taking away passing lanes and knocking the puck away. He also does a nice job of supporting the play in the defensive zone. He quickly gets open for a d-to-d pass, backing up his partner. We don't see him being a pure defensive guy, but he is solid on the penalty kill, isn't afraid to battle and has solid positioning. To us, he is just one of those calm and safe two-way guys that every team has. This future Golden Gopher won't blow anyone away with end-to-end rushes but he's smart and poised.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



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**FELIX SANDSTROM****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Brynas J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 12, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 14 GP 2.63 GAA .907 SP**

Felix is a big butterfly style goalie who uses his size well. He seems to be a solidly instructed goalie, and that should come as no surprise with Pekka Alcen being his goalie coach. Doesn't seem to have many big weaknesses, he just needs to get a bit better at everything. Makes himself look big in the net, but could improve his rebound control as that aspect in his game can get a little sloppy. He could have more patience before going down on his knees—something most young butterfly stoppers need to learn. Glove and blocker hands seem solid, but nothing spectacular. Although he has a habit of positioning himself pretty deep in the net, he is quite big and can still cover a lot of net. He is pretty athletic for a guy his size, and reads the game well. He is exceptionally quick moving sideways and at shooting out to the top of his crease to cut angles on shooters. He seems to be able to consistently keep his eyes on the puck; finding it through traffic by moving his head until he finds the puck through any obstacles and legs. A little bit of a wildcard as he had a few injury issues this season that kept him out of the national spotlight for the most part and limited his time in the crease with Brynas. In our opinion, he could develop into the top puck stopper to come out of this draft.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



106

**NATHAN NOEL****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Saint John (QMJHL)****BORN: June 21, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 24 G 38 A 62 PTS 61 PIM**

Noel is a dynamic forward whose eyes seem to light up around the puck. He utilizes his speed and hand skills to create space. Noel has very impressive speed with great footwork and quickness. He moves very quickly with a powerful first few steps. He is able to accelerate with the puck and beat defensemen while coming down the wing. He is very creative with the puck, making jaw-dropping moves whenever he has possession. One issue that is glaring is that he has a tendency to go too far with the puck and loses his passing options. This makes us question his senses. He needs to move the puck quicker and he needs to utilize his teammates better. He does illustrate great vision and at times awareness with the puck and the ability to create chances for others, but he often makes that extra unnecessary move with the puck. He's not a big fan of physical play. Another issue that keeps popping up is his effort level. He is not very consistent in his compete-level. His efforts defensively and in the physical department could be much better. Defensively, he shows a strong awareness for his defensive assignments as a center, but he isn't always as engaged in the defensive zone as he should be. It likely makes more sense to move him to the wing. Has first round skills but gives eighth round efforts and makes eighth round decisions many nights.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Forward



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**JOSEPH MASONIUS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: February 17, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 6 G 23 A 29 PTS 85 PIM**

The University of New Hampshire commit is a heads up, offense-minded defenseman with good speed and puck-skills. He skates very well with great feet and quickness. He has good stick skills with quick hands and the ability to handle the puck with absolutely no panic, no matter the pressure. He is creative with it on his stick and can move his way around opposing players. He skates the puck well from his own end and has the confidence and ability to stretch the ice. He has the wheels and confidence to take chances and join the play offensively, but needs to be careful with his decision-making. He can be caught leaving his d-partner out to dry at times, and he needs to choose his pinches and rushes a little better. He has a strong shot with a decent release from the point. He has a vicious slapper and a good wrister. He is very physical on defense and uses his body well to land big hits on the wing despite not being an overly big guy. He is highly-aggressive down-low and plays his man well. Masonius is strong on his feet, making it tough for opponents to push him around. Clears traffic in front of the net with a bit of a nasty edge. He is still raw and has loads of room to grow both in his game and physically, but we do like his upside and think some NHL teams will like him earlier than we have him ranked.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

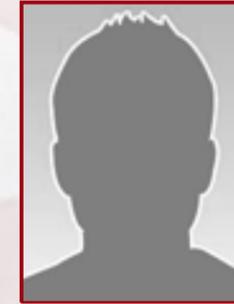


107

**DAVID KASE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: KLH Chomutov (Czech2)****BORN: January 28, 19997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 160 Lbs****STATS: 30 GP 7 G 7 A 14 PTS 10 PIM**

Kase is a diminutive and high-impact offensive player with the ability to drive the pace of a game. Plays at high speed and always is in the hunt to attack. Exceptional acceleration, agility and separation speed. Has the ability to tear up the ice and burn around even the smoothest defenders. Kase is very confident player who is a high-end stick handler. He knows where to find space in the offensive zone and can elude coverage with quickness and skill. Good at supporting the puck. Has a quick release on his shot with some sneaky fast zip to it. Kase is good at hiding his intention to shoot or deke, making him hard to pick up when going to the net. He loves to play the possession game, even though he can be easily outmatched if caught. He sees the ice very well and loves to create plays. He tends to overcomplicate passes at times, trying to make high level plays when easy routes are to be had. He sometimes fumbles the execution and doesn't always deliver flat, accurate passes in the open lane. He is weak and easily outmatched physically. Despite deficiencies, Kase does see some penalty kill time and exhibits patience, defensive awareness and quickness with his stick

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



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**MIKHAIL SIDOROV****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Loko Yaroslavl (MHL)****BORN: June 25, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 4 G 10 A 14 PTS 26 PIM**

A strong, defensive-minded defenseman who plays to his strengths. Sidorov is highly effective at eliminating opportunities defensively and then moving the puck out of the zone without hesitation. He is a solid skater who really has good speed, both going forward and in reverse. His transitions and turns are where attackers can beat him with their speed, however. He is solid at carrying the puck and is a calming presence when he holds possession. He doesn't get fancy but makes the smart and efficient plays to get the puck up ice or move it around the offensive zone. He has a strong first pass and can hit streaking forwards at distance. Has a booming shot from the point that he blasts low and on net through traffic. He typically defends the rush well and doesn't allow much past him. He's not an overly imposing defenseman but plays physical when opponents try to set up shop in front of his netminder or in one-on-one puck battles. He reads the defensive zone well and knows when to step up or hang back and isn't deceived by creativity or quickness. Helps limit second chances and is good at retrieving pucks and transitioning the play. He likes to use both his body and the stick to get the puck away from opposition. Good character player who always gives his 100 per cent. Great decision making.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defender



108

**CONOR GARLAND****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Moncton (QMJHL)****BORN: March 11, 1996****VITALS: 5'-8" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 35 G 94 A 129 PTS 66 PIM**

Garland is a small, but extremely fast and agile forward. His explosive acceleration helps him beat opponents to pucks and to the net. Due to his low center of gravity and strong legs, he has unbelievable balance on his skates, making him very hard to hit or put down. He is creative with the puck and sees the play develop in front of him very quickly, seeing passing lanes and making quick decisions. He is a pass first player—too much sometimes as he lets opportunities to shoot go. When he does shoot he has a very impressive release and a dangerous backhand. Very hard and precise wrist shot as well. He competes hard all the time, works hard along the boards. Forechecks hard and fast; Moncton plays a 1-2-2 forecheck and he is always the first one down the zone putting pressure on. He plays with a lot of energy. Doesn't seem afraid to throw a hit now and then, even though some players have major pounds on him. But he also plays in a way that he doesn't need to hit. He is fast and intelligent defensively; his good hockey sense allows him to predict opponents' play and makes him able to cut passes easily. He is not afraid to try some creative plays because he has confidence that he's going to succeed. Could the team that drafts Eichel second try to land Garland too in hopes of recreating some of the USPHL magic from their Boston Jr. Bruins days?

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Winger

**109****FREDRIK FORSBERG****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Leksand J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: December 12, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 36 GP 19 G 17 A 36 PTS 22 PIM**

Forsberg, brother of Nashville Predator star forward Filip, has evident skill when you watch him play. He is extremely dangerous when he has the puck in the offensive zone, both as a shooter and a playmaker. Though not particularly big, he uses his body well when protecting the puck or throwing checks to battle for 50/50 pucks. He is a strong playmaking option on the powerplay, using his vision and offensive creativity to make everyone on the ice more dangerous. Has a quick wrist-shot and can disguise its release off the rush, fooling goaltenders. The big question mark in his game is his skating. He looks very slow out on the ice, almost as if he was skating in mud. His stride isn't very fluid; it looks like he has to really work hard to move forward at an average pace. He is very easy to spot on the ice with his hunched over skating style. He has almost no jump, which really limits his effectiveness. He relies more on smarts and positioning because of his poor mobility. He reads the game well and forms good chemistry with the team mates on the ice because of his exceptional hockey sense. His skill level and hockey IQ are both very high, but he definitely needs dramatic improvements on his skating or he may be looking for another line of work.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**110****SEBASTIAN AHO****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Assat (Liiga)****BORN: July 26, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 27 GP 4 G 7 A 11 PTS 10 PIM**

Aho is a relentless and determined workhorse who plays an aggressive game on the penalty kill and shows well on and off the puck. Aho's defensive game and overall awareness is remarkable. He makes smart plays to get the puck out, will offer support down low in his own end, and is active in trying to separate the puck from the man. He will take a hit to make a play, dishing the puck off under pressure and absorbing the check on the wall. Pressures the point and positions himself in the right area of the ice. His awareness and hockey sense all over the ice is a strength. He knows where the puck is going, making his anticipation and reaction a major strength of his game. Makes excellent short-range passes as he helps to pull defenders in close and open up some space to get a shot off. Has a nose for the net and is constantly buzzing around the slot and driving the net for rebounds at even strength. Aho can fly up ice when he gets moving thanks to his above average acceleration and good first step form stationary. With all that, however, he lacks high-end offensive skills that will make him a point producer at the NHL level. His upside is limited, but as long as an NHL team knows what they are getting, he does have value as a bottom six and PK specialist.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Forward

**111****TYLER SOY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Victoria (WHL)****BORN: February 10, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 69 GP 28 G 35 A 63 PTS 29 PIM**

Soy is silky and skilled in the offensive zone; however, he does have some glaring red flags in his overall game. Soy is most effective when he has the puck on his stick. He is a smart puck handler and finds ways to move into dangerous areas. He has a knack for creating separation and recognizes soft spots to buy himself time. Soy is a talented playmaker, a natural pass-first type of player who gets his head up immediately after receiving the puck and looks to move the puck to open teammates. He has good touch on his passes and creates openings to find teammates. Soy has a decent shot, more accurate than hard; however, he lacks an attack the net mindset. While he is a good passer, too often he defers when he should shoot. One of our biggest concerns with Soy is that he seems to lack intensity on the ice. Too often he is a spectator and he seems unwillingly to battle to gain possession. Some of his limited effectiveness is due to his lack of size and strength. That being said, he needs to show more effort and grit at both ends of the ice. He has some undeniable offensive tools, but we are not convinced he has the mentality required to succeed at the NHL level where those battles for pucks are even fiercer.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Forward

**112****A.J. GREER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Boston University (NCAA)****BORN: December 14, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 37 GP 3 G 4 A 7 PTS 18 PIM**

The power forward is a very good skater with powerful strides and very good agility for his size. He could continue adding even more muscle mass to that big frame of his, but he is extremely smart with his stick and the way he uses his reach and size. On the cycle, he moves his feet quickly and is very skilled in using his hips to keep opponents away from the puck. In addition, he has a very good understand of how to pressure players. He is very good on the forecheck with a quick stick and great anticipation of the play. He also joins the rush with speed and likes to drive towards scoring areas. But with all that said and done, he has questionable offensive hockey sense. While he understands how to pressure players, he isn't that great when being pressured himself; has a bit of a controlled panic to his game in possessing. He can at times force a pass to nowhere or to a place where no play was to be seen just to alleviate the pressure. Has a powerful shot that is dangerous but will need some fine tuning on its release. Extremely raw, but who will want a six-foot-three power forward who can skate, plays hard and has very good forechecking hockey sense? Most NHL GM's will be lining up to say "Yes, please." Greer oozes raw potential. He has the size, which he uses very well and his energy can produce offense and force turnovers. However, he needs a few years in the college level learning how to play quicker and smarter. If he can put it all together, he has a future as a potential power winger in the NHL.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Power Winger

**113****RADOVAN BONDRA****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HC Kosice (Slovakia)****BORN: January 27, 1997****VITALS: 6'-5" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 15 GP 2 G 2 A 4 PTS 6 PIM**

A huge, lanky forward who is a beast on the forecheck and who gets on the puck carrier and doesn't give him any space to make a play. Bondra skates well and generates tremendous power with each stride. Moves very well laterally and displays strong overall mobility for someone of his size. Highly impressive to see this big-bodied forward kick it into high gear to catch a smaller offensive player. Still raw in some areas but he possesses solid hockey sense and good skill that will go a long way. Not the most creative hands around, but he protects the puck very well with his size and reach. Doesn't make any jaw-dropping dekes, but is effective with the puck in possession. Controls it well moving up ice with strong movements and keeping the puck close to him when challenged. Aware defensively and has good coverage on the penalty kill. Moves to help cover large areas and pick up missed assignments; strong in pursuit of the puck carrier, using his reach to grab the puck and clear it on the PK. Not the heaviest of wrist shots, but it is accurate and he can get it on net effectively. Finds the puck around the net and is dangerous with his hands and range.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Power Winger

**114****YEGOR RYKOV****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: SKA-1946 St. Petersburg (MHL)****BORN: April 14, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 5 G 16 A 21 PTS 8 PIM**

A big, strong two-way defender with some solid upside. Shows very good vision and instincts in both ends of the ice, which allows him to find success on the ice. Rykov is strong on his feet and solid in his stride, but can be a little choppy at times. Possesses very good lateral movements and is hard to knock off stride. Quick to offer support to teammates and makes accurate, crisp passes on the tape. Has an awkward wind up when attempting to take a slapshot, but has the power and velocity to scare goaltenders. Has a long reach that he uses to separate the puck from opponents and for cutting off opposing shooting lanes. Plays his man tight in the defensive zone and does a good job of removing the puck from him in tight. We are not thrilled with some of his body language in games this season as he would sometimes openly criticise a teammate if they missed one of his passes or made a questionable play with the puck. Despite those issues and some on again, off again consistency issues, there is stuff to like here. He's big, he's strong, he plays with force and power and can execute the little plays effectively. If he can mature and cut out some of his issues, there is a gem of a prospect under there.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**115****PAVEL KARNAUKHOV****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Calgary (WHL)****BORN: March 15, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 69 GP 20 G 22 A 42 PTS 51 PIM**

Karnaukhov has the size, an offensive tool kit and two-way hockey sense to succeed. He is not a burner by any means. While there doesn't appear to be any flaws in his stride, he looks a tad sluggish. Offensively, it doesn't seem to hinder him much as he seems more comfortable playing off the puck anyway. He has very good hockey sense. He surveys the ice very well and always has his head up. He shows patience with the puck and finds teammates effectively. The behind the back pass seems to be a favourite of his and he executes it and other skilled passes well. His high level awareness makes it difficult to lock him down. His positional play in both the offensive and defensive zone is a major asset. With the puck, he has quick hands and solid control. He uses his size and puck skills to protect the puck effectively. He is well rounded offensively in addition to being a solid puck mover. He also has a goal scoring knack. We wouldn't call him a punishing player; however, he battles hard and is willing to go to tough areas. He is a committed defender. He skates as hard on the back check as he does on attack and his positioning, once in the zone, is very polished. He is very well rounded and his hockey IQ will take him a long way. If he can continue to prove he's willing to work, his skating should improve.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Power Winger

**118****JONNE TAMMELA****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: KalPa (Liiga)****BORN: August 5, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 32 GP 4 G 0 A 4 PTS 6 PIM**

A solid two-way prospect who is just starting to show what he can become. Is shifty on his feet and has the ability to bolt in any direction but decides to take wide turns far too often. Possesses good separation speed and he can break away from his check and split to a lane for a pass. Often loses the puck when under pressure as he tries to gain speed and work his way up ice; will need to get stronger on the puck in order to maintain possession at top speed. Makes crisp passes to the most solid options in all three zones. Applies immense pressure on the forecheck and makes good use of his stick and body; finishes his checks as he gets low and drives his man into the wall. Uses his body to gain ground on his man and put him flat into the boards if he has the opportunity to do so. Has a bomb of a shot. Tammela is strong in the face-off circle, winning draws cleanly to the perfect spot; setting his team up for success. We like what he brings to the game; a character, hard-working player who can provide solid depth and secondary scoring if he doesn't reach his full potential.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Forward

**116****SAMI NIKU****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: JYP (Liiga)****BORN: October 10, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 12 GP 0 G 1 A 1 PTS 6 PIM**

A puck moving blueliner who has some solid upside. Niku demonstrated impressive offensive skill and awareness. He is a mobile puck-mover, with a smooth-stride and quick feet, which he'll utilize to get out of trouble in his own end. Good mobility laterally with good acceleration too. He is nifty with the puck, and has quick hands and a quick read for the offensive game. He sees the ice well and makes a very strong first pass out of his own end. He handles the point well and is poised under pressure. Good active stick on corners. Plays fearlessly against bigger guys. Head always on a swivel. Calm. Good first pass. Gets dangerous and re-directable shots on goal very well. Skinny guy, doesn't look close to what he's listed as. Does a decent job of using his good mobility to steer puck carriers to the outside. He needs to work on his defensive play, as he tends to make poor decisions in his own zone and he seems lost at times. He is also fairly weak on the walls and needs to improve on his physical game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Offensive Defenseman

**119****DRYDEN HUNT****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Medicine Hat (WHL)****BORN: November 24, 1995****VITALS: 6'-0" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 33 G 50 A 83 PTS 50 PIM**

A solid two-way guy who has turned some heads this season. He's a strong skater with good edges and power. While he does have good top speed and the ability to play at top speed, his acceleration needs to be cleaned up. His footwork isn't quite at an above average level as he points his toes outwards and just doesn't possess a ton of jam out of the gate. It's not a glaring concern or weakness, just something that needs to be tuned up a bit. He works hard, leads by example and plays in all situations. He has an extremely good shot with a quick release. He passes the puck well, finds open space and has good hockey sense. His hands are strong yet soft. He proves a few times each game that he can handle a tough pass. He also has some edge to his game, using his big body to throw a number of good strong hits each game. He also uses his big frame well in the corners, really excelling in 50/50 battles and puck protection. Offensively he has value as both a guy who can contribute on the rush while also being a guy who will fit in well when a team is looking to cycle the puck. He saw a regular shift on the penalty kill and the powerplay this season. He is a guy that does plenty of little things well and continues to put up points after dealing with some injury issues earlier in his junior career.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Two-Way Forward

**117****BRENDAN WARREN****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: May 7, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 58 GP 19 G 18 A 37 PTS 49 PIM**

Warren is a true north/south player who has a powerful skating stride, which catapults him up the ice in a hurry. Not much messing around for this future Michigan Wolverine as he plays a blue collar game with some offensive touch. Has a nose for the net and gets in quick on the forecheck to provide pressure. He isn't a guy who wins every race with speed, but has the ability to get moving quickly and catch opponents if they are napping. Warren doesn't play a flashy offensive game, but does have some tools that make him an effective player. He doesn't drive a possession style game, but carries the puck well in traffic and has no issue handling the puck comfortably with speed. Has a decent shot, but gets most of his chances from in tight. The longer range shots tend to have good velocity but are inaccurate. Warren has good timing on his passes. Uses his teammates when necessary and reads the play well enough to know when his options are limited. Quickness is key to his defensive game. He is very active in the defensive zone, attacking and getting into battles. Has an active stick that is always waving in an opponent's bubble. Loves to get gritty and force the play to the boards. Warren sometimes escapes the zone a little too early in transition, but provides an honest effort otherwise. We don't see much risk to his game, but don't expect a big point producer at the next level either.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Energy Winger

**120****CAMERON ASKEW****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Moncton (QMJHL)****BORN: May 13, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 17 G 28 A 45 PTS 44 PIM**

A versatile forward who can slot into any of the three forward positions. Askew is noticeably strong on his feet and uses his size to protect the puck well. What really stands out with Askew is his physical presence as he plays an aggressive style and gets in the faces of the opposing players as often as he can; refreshing to see a big guy who enjoys using his size and strength to his advantage. Not only is he powerful and big, but he also has very good hands for a big guy and is able to make skilled plays like give-and-go passes and dekes to get past defenders. With that said, however, he is more of a meat and potatoes north/south type player than ultra-creative. Has a good shot as well and is dangerous in tight. Has a bullet release on his snapshot. Can bury a quick wrist shot in-stride off the rush as well. His speed is above average, but his overall skating/mobility will be something that he will want to work on before he moves on to the next level. He consistently wins puck battles down low and in the corners by muscling his man off it or by using his big body to protect it. Defensively, he is solid positional wise, but does not always make the best play with the puck in his own zone. He does cover his man well and reads the play, knowing when to disengage and start back up ice. This kid has all of the tools to be a very good NHL depth player and maybe more if his development continues.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Power Winger

**121****KEVIN STENLUND****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: HV71 J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: September 20, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 36 GP 14 G 22 A 36 PTS 16 PIM**

Stenlund is a smart, big and responsible center; more of a classic playmaker with a touch of scoring. He has taken some big steps since last season and is now team captain and a guy to rely on in both ends. He's a big guy with smooth skating, really good puck protection and the ability to carry the puck through all three zones. His speed will not blow anyone away, but he gets to where he needs to. Has some impressive size and strength, and is willing to use it. Very calm and confident on the puck, takes the little extra time to set up his teammates in a better situation. Uses his big body to brake in front of the net and set up a screen or battle for rebounds. In his own end he leads his team by getting into shooting lanes, blocking shots, battling in the corners and outworking his opponent. A good thing for him to work on would be his shot as it lacks zip in its release and power on his one-timer. His skills in the face-off circle are one aspect he truly dominates in, which is not normally the case for a young prospect. He has the skills and sense to play on your powerplay. Needs to work on his skating, it's OK for a guy with his size but should be an area he looks to improve. Few young players combine his skill set. Big, smart, solid work ethic and oozes leadership. Flying under the draft hype radar.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center

**124****ADAM HUSKA****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Green Bay (USHL)****BORN: May 12, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 6 GP 4.34 GAA .866 SP**

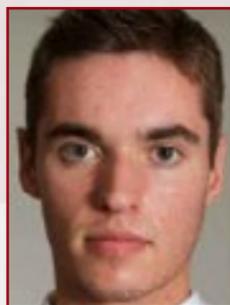
Huska is big and mobile in net. He displays agility with smooth, quick feet that allow him to track shots and get set in goal. He competes hard, and uses his stick actively to break up plays around the net. Huska displays good vision through traffic and the ability to handle shots to his body. His rebound-control on lower shots can use some work. We love Huska's size and how athletic he is with his large frame. Has great hands and it is impressive how he holds them in his stance: always out in front. Tracks the puck off a shot all the way to his blocker and glove. He is a strong, powerful skater and generates lots of power from his inside edges. But that power can have its downfall as Huska finds himself out of position a lot, scrambling to get back. He struggles finding his post when he pushes, which leaves him outside his crease or exposing the far side to the shot. With his natural size advantage, he needs to play in the paint more, simplifying his game. When he starts to feel he is out of position, he begins to panic and goes into "scramble" mode. Huska is an aggressive goalie, but he needs to pick his spots better, assessing the passing options better before shooting out to the top of the paint. He plays the puck well and usually makes good decisions with the puck when he plays it. He is another long-term goalie project that this draft seems chock full of but does have some intriguing upside for an NHL team that can show the patience to develop his game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender

**122****LOIK LEVEILLE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)****BORN: September 25, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 13 G 41 A 54 PTS 77 PIM**

A thick and strong offensive-minded blueliner. Loik is a smooth skater, with long powerful strides. His backward skating is also fluid and fast. He looks balanced on his skate and joins the rush frequently. He likes to skate with the puck on breakouts. He has decent hand skills, but really protects the puck well. His passes on the breakouts are crisp and accurate. On the powerplay he moves the puck and sees the open lanes well. Has an effective shot that he consistently gets on net. His physicality is very noticeable: he battles hard in the corners, roughs up opposing players a lot, isn't scared of being hit, engages in contact and looks like he enjoys it. He is mean in front of the net, using his strength or stick to make attackers pay. He makes some bad decisions at times when he has too much time with the puck—instead of just moving the puck or skating with it, he hesitates and can be pressed by forecheckers. Overall his major weakness is that he makes some questionable decisions with the puck that lead to opponent scoring chances. His defensive desire is good, and while he is not a shutdown defenseman, he keeps players to the outside and is willing to block shots. He needs to refine his positioning and learn not to run around his own end so much.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Offensive Defenseman

**125****LIAM HERBST****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)****BORN: September 14, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 2.76 GAA .901 SP 3 SO 24 W 8 L**

A once promising minor midget goaltender, everyone is pulling for this kid after having hard luck and major setbacks with injuries to his legs and hips. He is a solidly-built butterfly style stopper. Makes good use of his stick and uses it to deflect centering passes out of the slot and into the corner. Has the size that is coveted in goalies these days but needs to find his groove and get his confidence back. Weak lateral movement causes him to allow prime scoring opportunities when opponents get him going side-to-side. Some saves that take high effort would be made a lot easier if he tracked the puck better. Does not always get tight to his post on wrap-arounds or when the rush drives in deep. Plays deep in his net with the puck down low and behind the net; he makes good reads to slide out and challenge the shooter in the slot. Seals off the ice well with his long legs. Below average use of his blocker, which may be due to the fact that he positions very low, causing him to be unable to make full use of it. Has the natural size to cover the net that NHL teams love. Has many question marks but also some high potential if he can round out his game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender

**123****VLADISLAV GAVRIKOV****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Lokomotiv Yaroslavl (KHL)****BORN: November 21, 1995****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 16 GP 0 G 1 A 1 PTS 4 PIM**

A big and involved defensive-minded defender. Has a powerful stride that generates some impressive mobility and speed. Not going to be a big time puck rusher or one to lead the offensive attack, but makes a strong first pass and will join the attack when given the opportunity. Likes to play physical and use his strength and size to separate the opposition from the puck. Plays with a healthy amount of sandpaper. Will defend his crease and even stick up for his teammates by getting into the face of the opposition. Displays some strong leadership qualities, keeping his teammates calm and focused. Uses his size and reach well while defending, especially on the penalty kill where he also displays intelligence in closing off lanes for both passes and shots around his crease. Plays a simple and safe—almost error-free—defensive game. Highly impressive as a leader on the Russian blue line at both the CHL Super Series and then again at the IIHF World Juniors.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Defensive Defender

**126****VLADIMIR TKACHEV****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Quebec (QMJHL)****BORN: October 5, 1995****VITALS: 5'-8" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 46 GP 16 G 33 A 49 PTS 26 PIM**

Tkachev is a slick and highly skilled winger who has the ability to make defenders look foolish with his bag of puck tricks. He is ultra-shifty and slippery enough to be able to conduct end-to-end rushes while virtually being untouched. He is very calm and confident when the puck is in his possession, but sometimes he hangs onto to it too long and needs to cut out the individual play and use his teammates more often to be successful at higher levels. Tkachev also has elite breakaway speed and can burn most of the Q defensemen wide, but it seems he only uses this speed when he feels like it. He could work on his positioning and give a more consistent effort. He is also the epitome of a "soft player" on the puck as he easily loses puck battles without putting up much of a fight. The one area that really sours us to him even though he has those immense offensive skills is his body language when he fails to convert on a chance or even towards his teammates when they miss. After Edmonton tried to sign him last summer but were unable, the only question becomes whether or not the Oilers will step up to select him this time around or roll the dice and wait until after the draft to sign him as a free agent knowing he did not have a great Q season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



127

**ADAM GAUDETTE****POSITION: Center****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Cedar Rapids (USHL)****BORN: October 3, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 13 G 17 A 30 PTS 55 PIM**

Gaudette is a real good two-way player who plays a complete game. He's got good size and uses that to his advantage both in the offensive zone and the defensive zone. He never takes a shift off and we love his competitive mindset. He really takes accountability for his turnovers and does not stop competing and working until he makes up for them. He is very defensively aware, knowing where the opposing team is at all times and what they could do with the puck. It makes him very dangerous in the puck pursuit game and anticipating the play in all three zones. Despite being defensively oriented, it does not come at an expense to his offense. He has great hands and can make the fancy dangles when he wants to. He is also able to really turn on the jets when it is to his advantage, even showing the ability to turn on a dime at full speed. His strength on his feet is another thing, though, as he can be knocked around a little bit. He is strong at the dot, winning the majority of his face-offs. He absolutely needs to add some muscle to his frame. He may be the flashiest guy on the ice; he may not have the best offensive creativity, but he makes up for it with his dogged determination and persistent pursuit of the puck. There is not much to dislike about his game and his style of play fits the NHL mold pretty well.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Center



130

**SEBASTIAN OLSSON****POSITION: Center/Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea (SHL)****BORN: March 4, 1997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 10 GP 1 G 1 A 2 PTS 0 PIM**

A crafty two-way forward who makes an impact wherever he can. He shows great mobility and high-end top speed and it does not take many steps before he gets to top speed. This is also his key to win battles for loose pucks or getting past defenders. Has solid vision and creativity but nothing that will make him a big point producer. His shot is quick and crisp, hitting the mark often. Has a wicked backhand that he can get up into the top shelf very quickly with little time or space. Has no problems driving the puck to the net or just throwing it at the crease, hoping for a rebound or deflection. Despite his lack of ideal size, he is solid at protecting the puck with his speed, smarts and body. What Olsson lacks in size, he makes up for in determination and hard work. The kid is aggressive on the forecheck and uses his excellent speed and agility to be an effective all-round player. He is active on the penalty kill and is always on the move, applying tremendous pressure and cutting out lanes using his agility to move freely. Makes some great passes on the rush at top speed while still hitting his mark. Most impressive is his hard backhand pass across the width of the ice on the rush that leads the man right onto the tape. Is a workhorse in the defensive zone thanks to good positioning and the character to be a team player. He is strong on his feet and uses his muscle and balance in the face-off circle to some success. Undersized, very fast, highly skilled and extremely dynamic.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Two-Way Winger



128

**ANDREW NIELSEN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Lethbridge (WHL)****BORN: November 13, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 7 G 17 A 24 PTS 101 PIM**

A hulking body on the back end, Nielsen skates surprisingly well for a man of his stature. His long, powerful strides motor him across the ice, allowing him to jump into the play and catch other team's off guard. His lateral work and fine motor functions are not elite by any means, but he does well with keeping up to speed. Nielsen provides some offensive punch and gets a lot of opportunity to do so on a weak Lethbridge team. He has got a hard point shot, which finds the net consistently. He isn't afraid to shoot the puck and can really pound it on the net. His puck handling skills are simple but with a "Jekyll and Hyde" type of consistency. At times he is comfortable pinching into the offensive zone, fending off defenders with his long reach and protecting the puck well. He is a crisp passer, but struggles with accuracy. He seems to be a smart, heads up player with good vision, but sometimes the skill doesn't seem to translate to the ice. He plays a hard physical style and is good at tying guys up, not allowing opponents any easy outs in battles. His positioning at times is the biggest concern as he tends to be a guy who will get caught up with the puck carrier and get drawn out of position. His gap control is also a weakness as he seems to allow too much room for opposing forwards to create with the puck.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Four Two-Way Defenseman



131

**JOSEPH CECCONI****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Muskegon (USHL)****BORN: May 23, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 3 G 14 A 17 PTS 35 PIM**

Cecconi is an under the radar player who doesn't make many flashy plays, but makes the safe, effective and well thought out plays that will put his team in a better position. He is strong on the puck and will skate up on the rush at times. Cecconi is a strong, physical defender who uses his body and strength very well, is effective in the physical game and likes to paste opponents into the boards. He is very strong defensively as he uses his size to his advantage on the wall and in front of the net as he clears traffic. He doesn't possess a ton of skating speed but has the ability to push defenders back on the rush due to his positioning on the puck carrier. He has good all-round mobility but his speed limits him from catching his man when he is beat wide. Not a natural puck handler but can sustain pressure playing the point using his lateral mobility to walk along the blue line exceptionally well. Powerful and balanced on his feet as he cuts through the ice and tears it up getting to his destination. Cecconi has this patience that radiates off him when he has the puck as he doesn't take just any shot from the point or make any careless pass—he carefully thinks through what he wants to do with the puck and what lanes he should exploit. The University of Michigan recruit has a quick release on his wrist-shot from the point and can get his slapper off quickly as well (but the power in it can improve). Never going to be a point producer at the next level, but is projected to play a sturdy all-round game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



129

**TANNER LACZYNSKI****POSITION: Right Wing****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Chicago (USHL)****BORN: June 1, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 18 G 28 A 46 PTS 10 PIM**

Laczynski is a complete player and a true competitor. He is definitely not the flashiest, fastest or most dynamic player on the ice, but he's got underrated skills. He's always got his head up, especially with the puck. He's definitely very comfortable with the puck and keeping his head up with the puck on his stick. He has some slick hands and is very creative with the puck as he dekes out defenders and weaves his way through the offensive zone. His ability to use his size to protect the puck is impressive; he works very well along the boards and rarely loses a puck battle. He's very good with his stick, digging the puck out of the corners. We have come away impressed by his work ethic in each viewing; but it is his compete level and toughness that eventually allow him to make an impact in games. He plays strong defensive hockey as well. He is a great back checker, hustling back up the ice to pick up an open man. He has fantastic instincts very quickly to get himself to avoid a hit, or knowing what to do in each situation. He's got great hockey sense, very smart and very slick with his moves. He just seems like a guy who, even in the tough games, knows how to help out his team: either defensively with a good play or a big hit or offensively by making a great set up pass or a key goal.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Winger

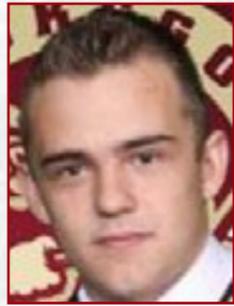


132

**TATE OLSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Prince George (WHL)****BORN: March 21, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 5 G 19 A 24 PTS 69 PIM**

Olson plays a very strong, physical, two-way game. He is active and engaged from the opening puck drop, playing with a noticeable amount of energy and intensity in all areas of the ice. He is a decent skater, moves well backwards and has a solid change of direction step that allows him to quickly jolt himself towards the opposition with some aggressive momentum. Tate's biggest downfall, at times, is that he plays a little bit too aggressive, sometimes missing an assignment or losing an angle on someone he is trying to check. At other times his aggressiveness is his best asset. Has a raw, unrefined offensive game, is willing to rush and pinch but needs to be better at picking his spots. Puck skills are just average, most of the time he looks to make simple straightforward plays with the puck, such as a shot on net or a short-range pass. Has a nice one-timer slapshot that makes its way through traffic. Negatively, he does battle the odd giveaway and has the propensity to make the first play he sees, which will be something taken advantage of at the next level. Defensively, he makes some good defensive plays by using sound positioning and physical aggressiveness to take away options for opponents. He plays with a nasty edge in the defensive zone and when he gains more strength he will be a devastating player to play against. Has the potential to become a strong, Kevin Klein type, in your face style, shut-down defenseman. While there is nothing elite about his game, he competes and has the raw instincts to add other elements to his game as he matures.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Physical Defensive Defenseman



133

**COOPER MARODY****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sioux Falls (USHL)****BORN: December 20, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 22 G 36 A 58 PTS 32 PIM**

This University of Michigan commit is an active, high-intensity forward. He goes hard on the forecheck, causes turnovers and creates chances around the net. He displays tremendous speed and acceleration, and uses his speed to take the puck wide and create chances from the outside as well as the inside. He doesn't take long to mull over his decisions and while he isn't overly creative, he does make the smart play and finds seams quickly. He has a hard, deceptive shot, and is more than willing to go to the dirty areas for the puck and for his chances. He can fire off a very hard slapper and quick release wrister. He plays a very high-energy game, and he never quits despite what the score might be. He continuously works hard on the forecheck and drives into the corners to dig out pucks. He is solid defensively, positioning well and working by shutting down the opposing forwards around the slot or playing tight to the point, and being a threat to break out on an odd man rush with his impressive speed. He uses his stick well and is active in all situations. He rarely takes a shift off, doesn't shy away from engaging physically, and isn't shy to set up in front of the goal in an attempt to deflect pucks. Not going to be a big point producer but instead a hard working guy that NHL teams like to fill their bottom six with.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Winger



136

**CHRIS BIRDSALL****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Youngstown (USHL)****BORN: November 24, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 32 GP 2.46 GAA .914 SP**

Birdsall isn't huge but he takes up a lot of space in net by challenging shooters and taking away the angles. He is a bit undersized, but also a proven gamer. He's got quick reflexes down-low in the butterfly, and he shows the ability to react quickly on odd-man rush opportunities. Has some rebound control issues from time to time. He moves quickly in the crease, and balances himself well and is centered in the net. He tracks the puck nicely, looks quick to get into and pop out of his butterfly. He positions his glove well, and can make some jaw-dropping stops with a quick flick of the wrist. He uses his glove a lot, but sometimes across his body which is a no-no. He doesn't move around a lot in net and stays center to the shooter while he tracks shots well. Always in good position to make that initial stop. He challenges the shooter aggressively. He shows good poise in net to keep his position until it is necessary to move. He does a good job of holding his ground despite his smaller size. He does need to do a better job at angling the shots to the corner and keeping rebounds out of the slot and crease area, especially on high shots. He competes hard all game long regardless of the score. He also shows the ability to control the puck and slow it down for his defensemen. He communicates well with his blueliners, and shows tremendous awareness between the pipes. He is a few years away still, but looks like a guy to let develop over three years in college and then see where he is at.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting Goaltender



134

**LUKAS JASEK****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: HC Trinec (Czech)****BORN: August 28, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 27 GP 0 G 2 A 2 PTS 4 PIM**

Jasek is a smart offensive player who has a fairly rounded game with some lethal tools. Has some skilled hands and confidently carries the puck with patience. He has impressive skating speed and accelerates quickly. He has decent balance and can change direction quickly without sacrificing too much momentum. Has a knack to find open ice and an awareness of his surroundings. He has an accurate wrist and slapshot that can beat a goaltender uncontested if placed properly. He isn't just a shooter but a fine passer as well. He thrives on the powerplay and can really get the puck moving around with quick, accurate passes. He shows a bit of defensive responsibility but is more driven to perform offensively. He back checks hard but his compete level is not as high as it is in the offensive zone. Jasek is not very physical, rubbing out the body when he has to but not trying to throw monster hits or set the tone in any way. Is more likely to become a complimentary offensive guy at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger



137

**ALEKSI SAARELA****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Assat (Liiga)****BORN: January 7, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 51 GP 6 G 6 A 12 PTS 18 PIM**

A highly skilled but inconsistent and injury-prone offensive forward. He is an explosive skater. Impressive top speed to create separation and does not slowdown in possession. Good movement in tight spaces too—really elusive. He gets an accurate and fast slapshot away quickly. Has impressive senses and sees the ice very well. A deadly transition player, Saarela can slickly pickpocket the puck in the neutral zone or offensive zone and then make deadly accurate quick-strike passes to his open teammates for an instant offensive chance. Displays good stickhandling with lots of agility to beat defenders one-on-one. Strong on face-offs when called upon as well. He plays OK defensively, as in his positioning is correct but needs to play that side of the puck with more jam and intensity. Good accurate passes on the powerplay and nice vision, trying to find the passing seams. Likes to control the puck and be the offensive catalyst. Finds the pucks really well in crowded areas and asserts himself with his low center of gravity along the wall. Has the ability to use his frame to play with some physicality but does not do so consistently. He has some durability issues as he has been injured multiple times over the past three seasons.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger



135

**CHAZ REDDEKOPP****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Victoria (WHL)****BORN: January 1, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 5 G 16 A 21 PTS 53 PIM**

He's a hard-nosed defender who is responsible in his own zone and is an asset on the penalty kill. Reddekopp is at times an unbalanced skater. He has decent straight line speed and form; however, his footwork in tight is a little clumsy. We like his overall athleticism and don't think his skating is a problem. He pivots well and has a good technical stride. He may not have the quickest feet yet, but he'll be fine. Reddekopp has the ability to move the puck effectively; however, he is very inconsistent. His accuracy is hit or miss and he has costly brain cramps at times. Reddekopp looks uncomfortable in the offensive zone. He is limited in his creativity and is very risk averse. When the puck comes to him at the point it's usually either a quick shot on net or dumped back into a corner. While he will likely never put up big point totals, he is very strong in his own end. He is a lean 215-pounds and his upper body strength is evident in board battles and at the net front. He doesn't get beat often and shows pride in being tough in his own end. Has a nasty physical edge and mashes guys in the corners or buries opponents into the glass. Reddekopp's NHL ready size and defensive prowess makes him one of the safer picks out of the west

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Physical Defensive Defenseman



138

**ADAM MARSH****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saint John (QMJHL)****BORN: August 22, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 24 G 20 A 44 PTS 57 PIM**

Marsh is a very smart, high energy guy. He seems to be able to fill any role offensively that the coach asks. Does not have great hands, as he loses the puck at times making a deke, but enough skills where he can control it on the rush. He possesses great speed and even better acceleration. He has a second gear with the puck and can go zero to 60 with the puck in a blink of an eye. He anticipates the play very well and even though he is not able to make every play he intends to make, he always knows the right play to make. His shot is pretty good, when he gets it off. Very slow shot release when he tries to get power behind it. He is very responsible defensively. He makes good defensive reads and closes off lanes with his body and stick. Marsh is the type of versatile player that every team needs to succeed. He is a role player, but he does not fit into just one role. He can fit anywhere the coach needs him. We get the impression that he has a pretty low ceiling offensively, but could be a solid complementary piece to a secondary scoring line or in a defensive role at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Nine Two-Way Winger



139

**JACK SADEK****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lakeville North (USHS)****BORN: April 19, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 5 G 20 A 25 PTS 16 PIM**

Sadek is an offensive-minded defenseman hidden in the Minnesota High School circuit. He loves to jump up in the rush and be an option on odd man rushes. His great straight line speed also allows him to activate on the rush. He handles the puck well and skates with his head up, evaluating his options all the way up ice. He distributes the puck with crisp, timely passes and sound decision making. Once settled in the offensive zone, his best weapon is his big time shot. He has a ton of power behind his slapshot from the point and gets it towards the net, not always on net, but usually in an area where his forwards can scoop it up and get a scoring opportunity. Defensively, he utilizes his skating ability to maintain solid positioning and keep up with those water bug type forwards. He possesses a good long reach and active stick to knock pucks out of danger and away from his net. He has the frame to add much more strength and will likely see more of a physical game develop during his time at the University of Minnesota and as he moves up levels, adding more mass to his slender build. He just plays the game within himself and does not try to be too flashy or do things that he is not sure he can.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second or Third Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



142

**CASEY FITZGERALD****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: February 25, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 9 G 15 A 24 PTS 63 PIM**

This future Boston College Eagle is a very smart player at both ends of the ice. He is a speedy defenseman with great feet and agility. He moves very well and is able to get end-to-end with tremendous speed. He handles the puck with very crafty hands and is poised and strong with it on his blade. He has great hand speed and creativity with the puck, and he has a very quick stick both with and without the puck. He has elite vision and moves the puck well from his own end and from the point on the PP. He packs a powerful shot with a strong release but does not use it nearly enough, instead opting to pass even at times when he has an open look. He gets it through and on goal when he does shoot. When he is on his game, he can move the puck out of his zone or through the offensive zone onto a teammate's stick in an instant. He isn't extremely physical on defense and you would like to see him play a little tougher. He does play aggressively, with an offensive mindset, just not with his body. He has a great stick and he uses it well on defense to steal pucks, deflect pucks and generally make plays. He is very good defensively because he makes smart reads and plays his position well; although, he could tighten up his gaps at times. He exudes a lot of poise and confidence in the way he reads the game and makes plays. He communicates well on defense and can play in many different situations. Can be a somewhat frustrating player to watch due to his flashes of high-end ability but overall inconsistent play.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Puck Rushing Defenseman



140

**MATT BRADLEY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Medicine Hat (WHL)****BORN: January 22, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 17 G 23 A 40 PTS 24 PIM**

Bradley is a scrappy forward who has a good sense at both ends of the rink. He isn't a huge possession player but does have some offensive and puck skills. Playing a bit of a one touch type of offensive game, Bradley thinks ahead of the play and moves the puck accordingly. He doesn't have top-end passing skills, but he is usually precise and doesn't miss the mark too often. Quickness is key to his game. He has some basic skills carrying the puck and a good sense of where to be on the ice. He has a good sharp release on his wrist shot with a "shoot high" mentality. Bradley brings an up-tempo pace to both ends of the rink, ratcheting up pressure on the forecheck and doggedly back checking to defend his own zone. He is a decent skater who is a bit sluggish accelerating at times, but, nonetheless, is balanced and can get on top of plays quickly. His defensive zone play is very solid as he never seems to be caught too far out of position. He goes full bore into checks and usually lays a solid smack to his victim despite being just average in size. His quickness is key in the defensive zone as he can remain on top of the puck carrier and react to the bouncing puck. He is an all situations type of player right now who can add some scoring pop and will compete every shift.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second or Third Line Two-Way Forward



143

**NICHOLAS BOKA****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: September 8, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 5 G 6 A 11 PTS 96 PIM**

Boka is a smooth-skating defenseman who can really push the play up ice. Makes strong passes and has the offensive mindset to slide into the slot for a pass and let go a quick wrist shot. Possesses a hard point shot with no glaring accuracy, as he consistently seems to miss the net. Makes a good, heady first pass. He seems to pride himself on scoping out the play and making a pass to the best option in transition. Moves well on his feet and can change direction fairly easily. He is a strong puck-rushing defenseman who uses his speed and strength to carry the puck end-to-end. While he has the ability to rush the puck again and again, he needs to be smarter and much more cautious with his decision-making. He needs to choose his spots. He isn't the quickest defenseman when it comes to recovering from a broken rush, and he needs to be careful with his aggressiveness. Sees the ice as he skates with the puck and can make decent decisions under pressure. He is physically nasty when he wants to be, laying down big hits on anything that moves and outmuscling players in puck battles. His mobility also allowed him to keep pace with oncoming forwards. He shows great gap control and once the opposition crosses the blue line, he is all over them, giving them no room to breathe. He is the type of defenseman who contributes in every aspect of the game. We like Boka's confidence and puck-skill, but he just needs to be smarter on when to utilize his strong skill-set.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman



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**ANTHONY RICHARD****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Val-d'Or (QMJHL)****BORN: December 20, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 43 G 48 A 91 PTS 78 PIM**

A small but highly skilled and quick offensive catalyst. Richard is a pretty good skater and is very agile. He has quick feet, which help him to change direction quickly or cut to the middle while in full speed. Because of his small frame and light weighted body, he is easily knocked around and pushed off the puck. He has pretty slick hands and can make defenders look silly when he raises his intensity and attacks them. Because of his agility and great hands, he has electrifying one-on-one skills. One of his go-to moves is to pull the puck under the defenseman's stick then cut to the middle for a quick shot. His playmaking game is pretty effective when he does look to pass; at times he likes to keep the puck a little longer to draw defenders in. He is a pretty effective shooter and he likes to shoot it a ton, but he will need to pick corners a bit more as he can shoot into the goaltender's crest a little too often. His physical play is not very strong due to his lack of size and when he does finish a check it's inefficient. He shows poor body language during times when teammates failed to convert or his coach tried to talk to him on the bench. Those are major red flags and things that would cause specific NHL teams to strike his name off their draft list altogether.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Forward



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**DEVEN SIDEROFF****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kamloops (WHL)****BORN: April 14, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 17 G 25 A 42 PTS 25 PIM**

Sideroff is that typical strong complementary winger who will dig in the corners and then go to the net as an option for a creative playmaking pivot. He makes smart simple plays that keep the puck moving and does a lot of the heavy lifting in board battles. He is a decent skater; however, he doesn't have high-end breakaway speed. His best attribute may be his hockey sense. He makes simple, smart plays with the puck and he has a knack for being in the right place at the right time. He has smooth hands, but he is not particularly dynamic with the puck. He's a player who seems to understand his offensive limitations and is therefore fully committed to playing a complementary role and making a difference on the ice any way he can. He is a guy who could slide in anywhere in a lineup and be effective. While Sideroff is not the biggest player, he battles hard on the ice. He back checks hard on the defensive end and is usually first in on the forecheck. He could use some polish in his own end when it comes to learning proper positioning, but his work ethic cannot be questioned. Overall, we do not see Sideroff having big point potential at the NHL level; however, his versatility and potential make him an intriguing prospect who could potentially fill a multitude of roles.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Two-Way Forward



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**JEREMIAH ADDISON****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)****BORN: October 21, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 19 G 28 A 47 PTS 49 PIM**

Addison is a hard-working character guy who creates pressure on the forecheck and finishes his checks. He possesses explosive speed, is balanced on his feet and plays the power game despite his modest size. Sees the ice well and distributes the puck to open teammates off the rush before going to the net. Possesses a one-timer that is so lethal it surprises goalies with how quickly it is on them every time he releases it. Has had some accuracy problems with his shooting this season. Makes good decisions with the puck at top speed and can be dangerous offensively. Addison has shown versatility this season in all three zones. The determination and work ethic in this kid is very noticeable and something that could really make him a strong prospect down the line. He is a good net front presence and uses his wiry frame to disrupt around the net. Plays his man hard as he lays the body and engages on the wall. Isn't afraid of the gritty areas or to wreak havoc in front of the net by tipping pucks, banging at loose pucks, pushing and shoving with defenders and trying to bury some garbage goals. Has a bad tendency to look down at the puck when carrying it up ice and into the zone. He is a player who can provide depth at the next level and can develop into a strong power forward if he works hard towards that goal.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Defensive Defenseman



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**JAKE MASSIE****POSITION: Defense****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Kimball Union Academy (USHS)****BORN: January 21, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 5 G 15 A 20 PTS N/A PIM**

Massie is strong on his feet, very balanced and is eager to use his body on the wall to his advantage. He is a smooth-skating defender who moves at high speeds with and without the puck both efficiently and effectively. He moves in all directions effortlessly and skates with quick and smooth strides. Plays his man very well by driving him to the outside and using his stick and body to remove the puck from the man. He is very active, always anticipating and reacting in advance of the play, not standing still and making a noticeable impact on the ice. Is one to finish his checks and finish them well. He brings a take no prisoners approach by not letting the opposition feel comfortable just inside the blue line or deep in the zone. Massie distributes the puck well on the breakout and in transition, contributing to pushing the play forward whenever possible. When looking for a breakout pass, he doesn't hesitate or get flustered when pressured; instead, he regroups and takes what is available even if it is just a quick dump in behind the net. He has good recovery ability, quickly pivoting when beat at the blue line and racing back to the puck, using angles to reduce the effectiveness of the opposition. The most impressive aspect of Massie's game is his anticipation; the kid is always in movement and is constantly processing the game around him. We do not forecast the UMass commit to rack up many points at the NHL level, but could become a very mobile, big, all-round minute munching defenseman.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Four Defensive Defenseman



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**JOHN MARINO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: South Shore (USPHL)****BORN: May 21, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 4 G 24 A 28 PTS 42 PIM**

Marino is a mobile, offensive-minded defenseman. In any of the three zones, he loves the puck on his stick. In his own zone, he likes to rush the puck and while he moves well, he is more effective passing the puck up the ice as he sees the ice well and hits his teammates in stride. This Yale commit possesses confidence with the puck and exudes poise and maturity as he skates it up ice and sets up offensively. Has a very impressive shot selection and velocity; can get off a heavy slapshot quickly without being fully set. Also has a quick release on his wrist shot that buzzes just off the ice and creates rebounds in front. Has the ability to slow the game down as he glides down the wall looking for options to present themselves or lanes to open up. Can get too aggressive and leave his partner to defend odd man rushes the other way at times. Defensively, he uses his frame to his advantage by outmuscling the puck carrier along the wall and playing the body as soon as the puck carrier dumps the puck behind him, denying any movement to chase it down in the corner. He is a strong backwards skater who is very mobile and strong on his feet. Anticipates the play exceptionally well and adapts to his surroundings. He can look to be a little hesitant when under pressure with the puck.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman



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**GIORGIO ESTEPHAN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lethbridge (WHL)****BORN: February 3, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 23 G 28 A 51 PTS 18 PIM**

Estephan is a projectable two-way contributor with some undervalued offensive touch. He has a very wide base when he skates, which seems to stop him from generating a ton of power from his edges. His speed is OK once he gets going, but his foot speed isn't great out of the gate. He has soft hands and can both give and receive a pass well. He shows off a great shot, utilizing a quick release and finding soft spots in coverage where he is able to wire a one-timer or quick snap shot. He also shows some nice dekes, utilizing head fakes and quick hands. He is good at playing the keep away game, crafty with the puck on his forehand and back hand while shielding away opponents with a wide based stance. He isn't a show boat with the puck on his stick, but he has great hand/eye coordination, which benefits his offensive and defensive game. He handles the puck well, having little issue controlling on the fly or in tight quarters. Defensively, he has a knack for following the play well, and often jumping in to intercept a play or battle for a vulnerable puck. He is seasoned at picking his spots and providing a tenacious presence that is relentless in puck battles. He doesn't have much in the way of strength on his frame, but tries to play a physical game and takes the body consistently. He provides good support on the puck, wears a letter and is a good role model on the ice for his teammates. The problem is: none of his skill is of the above average variety and his offensive upside is limited.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Two-Way Forward



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**JESSE GABRIELLE****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Regina (WHL)****BORN: June 17, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 23 G 21 A 44 PTS 112 PIM**

Gabrielle is an all-around player who can excel in all areas of the game. The problem is: he goes through lazy, invisible stretches where he contributes nothing. When he is on, however, he possesses a quick and powerful stride, which helps him out of the gate and into top gear in a few steps. He is an agile skater who is solid in the dirty areas of the ice, buzzing around and shaking defenders with good edge work. His puck possession skills have evolved and his strength allows him to be a bull, when he is driving with the puck. He has a nice set of hands that can wow you with a dazzling move from time to time. His shot is potent, primarily possessing a high velocity wrist shot that is usually aimed for the top half of the net. Physically, his frame may be deceiving; however, Gabrielle is a gym rat and pound-for-pound probably one of the strongest and toughest available in the draft. He loves to crash the net and get in the gritty area in front of the net and in the corners. He loves to lay the big hit when possible and plays an intimidation style game, which he can back up with his fists. He agitates opponents to no end. He has to limit his erratic temper though, as it can get his team into penalty trouble. We don't foresee him as an elite point producer at the NHL level, but has the potential to have some scoring pop.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third or Fourth Line Agitating Forward



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**WILL REILLY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: North York (OJHL)****BORN: July 23, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 17 G 18 A 35 PTS 96 PIM**

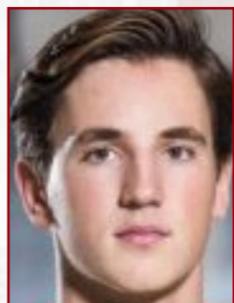
Reilly is a consistent, stable presence on the backend. He is extremely mobile and moves very well for this size. Strong backwards strides allow him to control the attacker; his strength is very evident as he is balanced and has a good center of gravity and is not be knocked around easily. Has the size and strength to destroy opponents with checks, though he picks and chooses his times to use the body well. He will play physical if needed and this is a good trait of his. Reilly reads the game at a high level, leading to his strong anticipation and reaction to developing plays in both ends of the ice. Has some further development to continue to improve his defensive positioning. Will pinch from the offensive blue line and step in to prevent his opponents from breaking out, rushing up ice. Shows off some offensive instincts, knowing when to slide down from the point into an emerging lane or when to retreat back on D. Reilly possesses a heavy slapshot and a quick and accurate wrist shot that he has no trouble getting off under pressure without getting fully set. Works the puck around the offensive blue line very well. Makes himself available to his D partner at the offensive blue line, opening both time and space for his partner to look for a passing option or get a shot off. Protects the puck well on the rush using his size and even opts to shield it by using his loose arm to fend off the check and dump it in deep with his backhand. Strong on the penalty kill where he is determined to block shots and close off lanes. Not committed to an NCAA program yet, but was drafted by the USHL's Chicago Steel in 2015.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Four Puck-Moving Defender

**151****ALEC BROETZMAN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: St. Thomas Academy (USHS)****BORN: February 5, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 29 G 27 A 56 PTS 21 PIM**

Broetzman is a complete player and possesses plenty of the skills an NHL team looks for. Offensively, he is explosive and always a threat. He is the type of player who does not need much space to be dangerous. He has a quick release and a lethal wrist shot. Along with a wicked shot, he can play the role of playmaker: always knowing where his teammates are on the ice and possessing the incredible ability to get them the puck in prime space. He plays the game of a natural power forward and will be even more fitting in that role when he gets a little bit stronger. He is very strong on the puck already and when he lowers his shoulder to make his power move around the defender, no one at the high school level is able to get the puck off of his stick. While he is powerful on his skates, he may need to work on his foot speed and overall skating ability. He is absolutely ruthless on the forecheck, never giving up on his puck pursuit until he gets the puck or they break the puck out. This kid has very impressive intangibles. He usually hustles back and he rarely gives up on a play. He also thinks the game very well, usually in the right spot to make a play and he is very calculated in the decisions that he makes. Very competitive but can negatively get knocked off his game when things don't go his way.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**154****DANIEL BERNHARDT****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Djurgarden J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: April 11, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 26 G 35 A 61 PTS 22 PIM**

This big, skilled winger creates a lot of offense by entering the offensive zone with good speed and protecting the puck with his long reach. He keeps the puck away from the defenders with pretty skilled hands and a decent wrist shot. Good top speed but just average acceleration. He is quite shifty and can change directions pretty quickly, often throwing off defenders. He is not a physically punishing player, but is pretty strong on his feet in regards to fending off defenders along the wall. He is no softie, but it would be nice to see him bring more bite and be able to use his impressive frame more effectively. Average defensive player, but has shown improved hustling and back checking from last season's many lackadaisical efforts. If you like puck possession hockey, Daniel is a very good fit. He needs to improve his slapshot and his first step, which isn't horrible but not really an asset either. Top speed is good though. And adding some more pounds to that six-foot-three frame wouldn't hurt. More of a skilled playmaker with his vision and creativity than a finisher, but he can do both.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**152****JONATHAN LEMAN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: MODO J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: April 15, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 3 G 6 A 9 PTS 20 PIM**

Leman is likely one of the most defensively responsible defensemen coming out of Sweden for this draft. While he was more offensive-minded a couple years back, he transformed his game due to playing with other offensive-minded partners and he figured someone needed to stay home and protect his own zone. A staple on the PK, he is quite mobile but hasn't got that explosive first step. His top speed when skating back is pretty good. He is strong and not afraid of physical play, but doesn't really go out of his way to punish people. Solid positional play and is hard to beat one-on-one. Goes in hard in many situations and often wins puck battles quickly. He has good instincts, both offensively and defensively, and is rarely—if ever—out of position. He contributes offensively, but little of what he does stands out as special. He seems to choose the safest option, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, especially for a defenseman. Possesses an accurate wrist shot, but not the most powerful around. He is patient and shows some decent awareness, but not the best reaction time. Drives his man to the outside and will plaster him into the wall if needed in an effort to keep him from slipping through. Reliable, steady and plays safe, without mistakes.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**155****KIRILL PILIPENKO****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HK MVD Jr (MHL)****BORN: September 23, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 38 GP 17 G 20 A 37 PTS 20 PIM**

A slick and skilled offensive juggernaut. Explosive acceleration and high-end top speed, he also moves laterally really well. Incredibly fun to watch on the ice and he possesses both creativity and good stickhandling. He is able to control the puck at high speeds and has the ability to make defenders who step up on him look foolish with a quick deke or head fake. Likes the puck on his stick and is more of a finisher than playmaker, but does make good short-range, quick passes in the offensive zone to open teammates. Not much of a physical game, but does win a few board battles, using his quick feet and stick. Always seems to be near the puck, finding open spaces on the ice, which displays a goal scorer's hockey IQ. Incredibly slippery in traffic; his puck skills are five-star. A true breakout/zone entry catalyst. He is physically weak and is only effective when he has the time and space to make a play. Often fails to support his defensemen as a target, but boy, once the puck is on his stick, he is a dangerous weapon. Not much—if any—defensive game to speak of at this point. Made an impression on our scouts as the type of skilled player who can be a game changer.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**153****TYLER JUTTING****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Shattuck St. Mary's (USHS)****BORN: July 27, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 3 G 9 A 12 PTS 42 PIM**

Jutting is a mobile, smart, defensive-minded defenseman. He has quick feet and agility, allowing him to escape pressure in the defensive zone. He has great composure with the puck, never rushing a decision or forcing anything into danger. In the defensive zone, he shows great gap control and handles rushing forwards with ease. His stick work makes it almost impossible for the forwards to successfully carry the puck into the zone on his side of the ice. His stick is quick and he is very sneaky about it, never really tipping his hand too early and giving them time to adjust. We love the way he steps up in all three zones. While he is comfortable being the aggressive partner and taking the lead, he is also willing to be the more reserved defenseman in the pair, if required. Just a solid overall defenseman. He will and can recognize when to cover for his partner and has the speed to do it easily. He is also always open for an outlet on the breakout. We do not see much offensive upside from him, but the strength he does have, if continued to cultivate, will take him far. He needs to work on his shot release as it takes a real long time for him to get the puck off his stick. Despite his limited offensive upside, we feel he has some value in the mid-to-late rounds for a team looking for defensive depth.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**156****ERIC MACADAMS****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Austin Prep (USHS)****BORN: April 29, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 24 GP 19 G 23 A 42 PTS N/A PIM**

MacAdams is an elusive, playmaking forward. His strength is in his feet as he is shifty and quick. These qualities allow him to avoid defenders when skating with the puck or stay stuck to his man when defending. When he goes to a pressure forecheck, he suffocates players with his ability to stay on their hip. He uses this speed and quickness to unsuspectingly catch opponents and slip under their arm, stealing the puck and turning it back up ice. Can absolutely fly in possession, but has a tendency to hold onto the puck for too long at times. His other main strength is his passing ability. He sees the whole ice surface very well and shows the ability to thread even the smallest of openings. With that said, we think he is too much of a pass first guy. There are always a few instances in each game when he should shoot the puck, but instead, wastes the opportunity looking to pass it off. Granted, because of his playmaking ability, these passes still result in scoring chances, but we want to see a little more selfish, well-rounded play out of him. He has a great compete level and rarely shies away from a puck battle. Despite his just average size and strength, he digs in and relentlessly fights for that puck, often coming out with possession. Shows off his impressive hockey sense as he covers the point when he sees his defenseman pinching and supports his linemate going hard after a puck in the corner. His vision and hockey sense are what stand out most as he creates offensive chances and sees where to be defensively because of this.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Center

**157****CALLAHAN BURKE****POSITION: Right Wing****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Cedar Rapids (USHL)****BORN: March 19, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 20 G 20 A 40 PTS 28 PIM**

Burke is a high energy guy who seems to never take his foot off the gas, constantly fore-checking and forcing turnovers without the puck and making stellar passing plays with the puck. He is a firecracker with a physical edge to his game that perfectly compliments his playmaking abilities. He is a pass first player, always looking to create plays for his teammates rather than shoot it himself. When Burke enters the zone, he isn't very eager to cut to the middle, instead slowing down and sliding down the wall to scope out his options. He activates his feet when he sees an opportunity off the rush to create a passing lane. Not afraid to go into the dirty areas, driving the net and crashing with bigger defenders in the process. Not an overly skilled puck handler, but can make a move or two to elude defenders; he keeps it in close until he uses his reach to pull it slightly to the outside to get a shot or pass off around bodies. He has all the confidence in the world when dishing the puck. His little side steps around attackers open a wealth of space for him to make a play, exploiting open lanes and dishing crisp passes that lead his man and put his team in a better position. The University of Notre Dame commit can be reliable defensively, flying back on the back check to get the puck and help start the transition up ice. Pressures attackers on the penalty kill and provides them with little time and space to make a play.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Energy Forward

**160****SEBASTIAN AHO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea (SHL)****BORN: February 17, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 1 G 8 A 9 PTS 14 PIM**

Aho's game is built around what he brings to the offensive game. 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 powerplay masterfully and looks 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. Concerns are that he doesn't always make the right play defensively, due to his offensive bent, and that he needs to add some size and strength to be more effective in his zone, especially on the walls. He also looks, because of his lack of size, to be one big check away from injury. 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: Middle Pairing Offensive Defenseman

**158****ADAM HELEWKA****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Spokane (WHL)****BORN: July 21, 1995****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 69 GP 44 G 43 A 87 PTS 59 PIM**

Helewka is a two-way guy who leads by example. He is a strong kid despite his average size. He skates well, possessing power in his edges. His speed isn't super high-end, but it's definitely at an above average level relative to his WHL competition. He possesses an absolute rocket of a shot, an attribute that is on display often as he has no problem shooting the puck. The puck is off his stick in the blink of an eye, wiring it and surprising goaltenders. He also possesses a dangerous and strong one-timer, and he shows great instincts in the offensive zone regarding stick angles and lanes. His passing skills are also a big part of his repertoire, including skilled short-range saucer and crisp cross-ice dishes. His chemistry with teammates and willingness to use them is clearly evident, setting them up and getting himself into open ice as a passing option for them to utilize. He also jumps into battles when his mates are outnumbered. Just a good all-round teammate. He is an alternate captain, playing in all situations for the Chiefs. Overall, we just see him as a very well-rounded, pro-style winger. Although he is likely never to be a big point producer, he is a guy who can drive the play up the ice in all situations and be counted on to not cut any corners and lead by example.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Forward

**161****JONATHAN DAVIDSSON****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Djurgarden J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: March 12, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 17 G 28 A 45 PTS 18 PIM**

An offensively-gifted center who has many traits you want in a goal scorer. Shifty, light skater—dances on the ice effortlessly—and is fast with the puck. Can beat d-men to the inside or, with speed, to the outside. He has an excellent high-end top speed with explosive first step acceleration. He seems to be the case of high-end with the puck, low-end without it. He possesses very good puck skills, even at top speed, having the ability to deke his way through traffic and control the puck. Shields exceptionally well with top-notch positioning as he keeps the puck close and gets through defenders. He is constantly moving, looking to create, though not always going with the best options. Retrieves bad passes well by kicking the puck up to his blade while driving down the wall looking to enter the zone. Shaky defensive game and his movement in open ice sometimes will leave you scratching your head. He does not shoot enough because when he does get a wrister off it is fairly hard and accurate. Utilizes his speed on the forecheck, and to chase his opponents, but he lacks consistent "jam" or "grit" when he catches them to be really effective. A gritty aspect does pop up from time to time, but not consistently. Not an effective player at all if he is not scoring. Needs to improve his board play and compete level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second or Third Line Offensive Winger

**159****CHRISTIAN JAROS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lulea (SHL)****BORN: April 2, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 0 G 1 A 1 PTS 6 PIM**

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 has improved his pivots and takes powerful strides. He is very mobile for his size. Will pinch from the blue line to generate offensive pressure and add a passing lane if needed. Jaros is quick to pressure the winger at the blue line and remove him from the puck to prevent a rush and force him to defend going back into his zone. He is a proactive player who makes good use of his stick to separate the man and the puck, but will neglect the easy poke at times in favour of laying a hit on the wall to remove the puck that way. Makes good plays in the defensive zone as he anticipates and reacts well. Dives to block shots and collapses to the net to deny a quality scoring chance. Pushes defenders back as he carries the puck up ice with confidence; teammates stand at the blue line waiting for Jaros to gain the zone before he pulls up and sends a leading pass to a teammate coming into the zone across the ice. Seems to always make the right play, especially in transition.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Defenseman

**162****ALEXANDRE ALAIN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Gatineau (QMJHL)****BORN: March 3, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 9 G 18 A 27 PTS 20 PIM**

A strong two-way center who plays the game with intensity and grit. Skates with a powerful stride and strong agility. Not a real burner in terms of speed but overall his mobility is strong and his feet are always churning. Is always in the play and battles hard in 50/50 confrontations. Strong on the PK as he reads the developing play, gets into lanes and is aggressive on getting out to the shooter to block a shot. Plays with solid levels of energy and controls the boards very well, playing a grinding game. Does not mind mixing it up a little, but is not a drop the gloves kind of guy—more a chirp or give a little hack with the stick. Very good shooter with a wide variety of shot selections. Has a slick release and can corral the puck quickly off a pass and get it on net in a blink of an eye. Makes some creative passes and can carry the puck, but is more of a natural complementary offensive player. The kind of player a coach loves to have on the team as he knows he can play in a multitude of roles when asked. Not a real offensive catalyst as he started the year as the number one offensive center, producing points before settling into the second/third line two-way role. We kind of think he would suit the wing better than center. Struggles with consistency on the offensive side of things, but even if that part of his game does not pan out, he can always be a strong defensive contributor.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Center

**163**

**ARTYOM VOLKOV**  
**POSITION:** Defense  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** HK MVD JR (MHL)  
**BORN:** April 25, 1997  
**VITALS:** 6'-1" / 185 Lbs  
**STATS:** 37 GP 4 G 5 A 9 PTS 18 PIM

Volkov is a smooth-skating defender with a good handle on the puck. He sees lanes develop and can usually get his passes right on the tape, both at short- and long-range. He is great in possession as he sees lanes develop on the breakout and in transition like a pro. He's a smooth skater, both forwards and backwards, keeping good gaps and looking comfortable both with and without the puck. Has a physical edge, regularly throwing the body around. He won't wow you with his breakouts or his speed but he is smooth and calculated, getting the puck where it needs to go and not overthinking things. He seems to have a good amount of hockey sense, positioning himself well in all zones and never leaving himself or his partner in a tough position defensively. He is a strong performer on the PK with his long reach and willingness to battle opponents. He shows off a great shot, including a powerful and accurate one-timer. He is able to get pucks through and on net. Although needing some polish and more explosiveness, he is well-rounded and competes. Can be subject to watching the puck at times defensively and lacks awareness in finding and closing off passing lanes.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Four Two-Way Defender

**166**

**MARCUS VELA**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Langley (BCHL)  
**BORN:** March 3, 1997  
**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 200 Lbs  
**STATS:** 50 GP 20 G 26 A 46 PTS 57 PIM

The University of New Hampshire recruit is a dangerous combination of vision, size and speed. He has smooth hands and an enhanced ability to change the point of attack and protect the puck. He is certainly more playmaker than goal scorer and his passing ability is a major strength. He exploits soft spots in coverage and moves the puck to dangerous areas. Vela skates like the wind with the puck on his stick and has the ability to push defenders back and make them freeze as he gains the offensive zone. He moves his butt on the back check and knows what he needs to do to find success. Uses his body to rub opponents off the puck, and while he may not always play in the gritty areas shift in and shift out, he will always be in the vicinity, offering support on the outside if not battling himself. Makes a perfect pass and doesn't stand still; instead, moves quickly to open ice to create another passing lane for the puck carrier. Has a hard time controlling heavy passes while moving, though. Vela's hard work leads to chances for his team. His legs stretch wide as he unloads his shot with all of his power and strength behind it. Release is slow but carries some impressive velocity to it. He plays on both the penalty kill and the powerplay for the Rivermen. The question is what type of player he will be at the next level. He isn't a driver on the ice and that's where his value really diminishes as a pro.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger

**164**

**CALEB JONES**  
**POSITION:** Defense  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Under-18 (NTDP)  
**BORN:** June 6, 1997  
**VITALS:** 6'-0" / 195 Lbs  
**STATS:** 62 GP 6 G 16 A 22 PTS 50 PIM

Jones is a good skater, with a good stride and good speed to join a rush and then get back quickly. He shows some puck skill that would be expected of someone related to Seth, who is a confident puck-carrier. But their games are not overly similar. Caleb is more defensively-minded. He moves well with the puck and shows some real confidence in his abilities. He plays with excellent poise and patience. He makes some heady, quick plays with the puck, sending his forwards up the ice with excellent, well-timed feeds. His puck-movement on the PP is also impressive, as he shows the ability to take a hard feed at the point from down-low and make good, efficient cross-ice feeds in the offensive end. He is smart with the puck, whether it is finding a good passing lane or making a shooting decision. He doesn't have a big blast shot from the point but instead keeps his shots low and towards the net. He isn't huge physically like his brother and will not destroy anyone with his physical play, but he has a bit more of a natural nasty edge to his game than Seth does. He plays the corners and the boards hard, showing good toughness. He plays an efficient game on defense, getting in good position to take away space and to take away the lanes to the net. He will need to add strength, but at this level and against college competition he can force guys wide. Has the ability to log ice-time in all situations.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**167**

**JAKE JAREMKO**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**TEAM:** Elk River (USHS)  
**BORN:** August 24, 1996  
**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 170 Lbs  
**STATS:** 25 GP 22 G 46 A 68 PTS 8 PIM

Jaremko is an offensively-skilled forward who is always a threat with the puck. His first few steps are very quick and powerful, allowing him to get up to high speeds quickly. Once at full speed, he is shifty and controls the puck with ease. Once set up in the offensive zone, he can identify all possible targets and get them creative passes. Impressive in how he moves with the puck to draw defenders to him in order to create space for his teammates. He knows that the defense knows he is dangerous with the puck and uses that to his advantage. He is very creative in one-on-one situations, showing the ability to deke through and around defenders and often make something out of seemingly nothing. His most dangerous asset is his shot. He has a wicked wrist shot and can pick corners at will. He also does not lose any velocity on his shot when he shoots on the move. His favorite move in the offensive zone seems to be skating to the middle and shooting back across his body to the side where the goalie came from. He is the type of offensive threat that makes you pay every time you give him time and space. It is a different story in the defensive zone. He is still a work in progress there. He knows where to be and supports the play well, but needs to show more consistency in smarts and effort. He does not always get back to the zone in a timely matter and sometimes looks to flee the zone in hopes of a homerun breakout pass. He is committed to MSU-Mankato.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger

**165**

**ADIN HILL**  
**POSITION:** Goaltender  
**CATCHES:** Left  
**TEAM:** Portland (WHL)  
**BORN:** May 11, 1996  
**VITALS:** 6'-4" / 190 Lbs  
**STATS:** 46 GP 2.81 GAA .921 SP 2 SO 31 W 11

A big sized stopper with solid positioning. Has the size that NHL teams covet in goaltending development projects. And that is just what he is: a project. He has some intriguing tools, but is so raw in many other areas. He gets himself into strong position for the first shot and usually makes those saves with a solid butterfly stance. He does well positionally to line up with shooters, but his lack of quickness has him standing still and hoping the puck hits him. He has faced a whole bunch of shots in games this season and seems to thrive off seeing the puck more than the games when he is not peppered as much. His net control is sloppy on second and third shots and he seems to just be hoping the puck hits him. His recovery is a big scrambled mess and his reflexes are slower as he is still gangly, growing into his frame. His side-to-side movement is lacking explosiveness in his lateral quickness and he has the habit of looking before starting his push in cross-crease sliding. Has been somewhat consistent this season in giving his team a chance in most games, stopping first shots and showing a willingness to improve. He's got a lot of work to do with his mechanics, but the frame is impressive, as are his results this year.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender

**168**

**DMITRI ZHUKENOV**  
**POSITION:** Center  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**TEAM:** Omskie Yastreby (MHL)  
**BORN:** March 24, 1997  
**VITALS:** 5'-11" / 165 Lbs  
**STATS:** 35 GP 3 G 16 A 19 PTS 42 PIM

Zhukenov is the Russian version of a pest who can finish and easily get under the skin of his opponents. He is a high risk, possible high reward forward who possesses loads of offensive skills. He shows off slick puck skills and creative dekes. His head is always up, surveying the ice. He makes the smart pass to his defenders to regroup in the neutral zone before getting to open to ice and exploding up the wall, looking to receive an in-stride pass. He possesses top speed and doesn't slow down in possession. He possess a good shot, especially his one-timer. He is not afraid to get to the front of the net and get banged around to make a play. Protects the puck extremely well, shifting his body position and getting down low, keeping the puck in tight. He is also great at pressuring the puck and creating turnovers on the forecheck. He has inconsistent effort levels and often takes too many undisciplined penalties. Doesn't make the best use of his teammates as he looks to make that one extra—often unnecessary—move with the puck, in attempt to do it all on his own. Like many Russian skilled players, he will need to round out his game and learn that there is more than one net that gets shot on in a game before he can make the jump to the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



169

**MICHAEL MCNIVEN****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Owen Sound (OHL)****BORN: July 9 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 24 GP 2.79 GAA .914 SP 2 SO 15 W 8 L**

McNiven is a quick, athletic goaltender who plays very high in the crease. He has an exceptional glove hand and excellent rebound control. McNiven moves across the crease very quickly, with a powerful lateral push, but has some control issues while sliding. Tends to slide out of position and leave open net exposed on the side he came from. He is a positionally sound keeper and plays his angles well on first shot chances. For a young goaltender, he seemed to come into the OHL with an abundance of confidence. McNiven has some difficulty playing the puck, panicking under pressure and turning it over by knocking it around the wall. McNiven fights through traffic in his crease to see the puck and always seems to have eyes on the puck, tracking it well even when play is at the opposite end. He doesn't possess the six-foot-four frame NHL teams like to see, but at the same time, he is not a small guy either. He actually looks pretty wide in the crease. Needs to be more consistent in sealing off the ice with his pads as shots can get under him. Can kick out some juicy rebounds as well. Was not the same after getting semi-lit up at the CHL Top Prospects Game in January. His confidence seemed to take a hit and he never fully recovered afterwards.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender



172

**STEPHEN DESROCHER****POSITION: Defense****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)****BORN: January 26, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 10 G 13 A 23 PTS 41 PIM**

A strong and physical two-way blueliner. He is a strong player who skates well considering his size. He can keep up to attackers with his smarts and reach. Could still use work on his transitions and foot speed. He has the size and strength as well as the willingness to play a physical, punishing game along the wall and in front of his net. He can be relied upon to play big minutes and not make those brain-fart decisions a couple times a game he did in his first season with the Generals. Shows good composure and poise when handling the puck, protecting it with his frame and reach, and getting it out of his own zone. Not a natural puck rusher who looks to take the puck and skate with it every chance he gets, but has shown more and more ability this season in that regard. Can make a strong outlet and move the puck up ice quickly. Has a strong shot but needs to improve his release as it takes some time to get that big windup completed. He does a good job to get his wrist shot through and with nice velocity. Has a very strong work rate and likes to be involved whenever on the ice. He has really shown loads of improvement in his overall game this season and offensively, especially in the OHL post-season. Partly due to confidence in himself and partly with only taking what is available in front of him, his simple yet effective game will be too much to overlook this time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



170

**KEVIN DAVIS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Everett (WHL)****BORN: March 14, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 3 G 23 A 26 PTS 18 PIM**

Davis is a multi-situational D-man. He is an excellent puck mover from the back end, moving well with quick feet and fluid overall mobility. He is a wide, powerful skater with good, quick transitions. He displays good patience with the puck and isn't afraid to carry the puck up ice with his skating. He gets his head up to read passing and shooting options. Has good control with the puck to make crisp passes that hit right on the tape of his target's stick. Defensively, he utilizes good positioning and has the gap control and skating ability to stick with forwards, giving them no time or space to make a dangerous offensive play. Has no fear in playing the physical game, even dropping the gloves when called for. Angles off the puck carrier well, with good gap control, and will physically engage in board battles; however, his effectiveness in using his average-sized frame is lacking. Can get caught chasing an opponent in his own zone and needs to disengage sooner as he gets caught out of position. Has an active stick, protects the puck well and is effective along the wall. Very calm and composed for a young player. He still has lots to learn, but does have pro upside to his game. He would need to continue to refine his defensive game, but his puck management and movement are impressive.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



173

**JOREN VAN POTTELBERGHE****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Linkoping J18 (J18 Allsvenskan)****BORN: June 5, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: GP 2.63 GAA .907 SP**

Van Pottelberghe is a big and calm goalie who uses his size and smarts well. He fills the net well with his size and keeps his stance tight. He can make some very impressive point blank saves and keeps his composure even when he sees loads of rubber. He skates well with a quick feet, but needs to build on skating strength and push power as he can look a little slower in reacting to getting across crease. He reads the play very well and anticipates well. Very athletic when he needs to scramble, but even when he is making desperation attempts, he maintains some sense of position, lending to his calm nature. Has the mental toughness to forget about his blunders, but also learn from them. Rarely will you see him make the same mistake twice in a game. We really like his confidence in between the pipes as he comes out to challenge shooters and plays outside of the blue paint for the majority of the shots he faces. Like many young stoppers nowadays, he drops down very quickly when the play is in tight and seals off the lower portion of net very well, but on the same token, he can leave a lot of net up high to shoot at, even with his size advantage. Has very impressive rebound control and can deaden the puck with his chest and arms. Has some issue with his glove hand as it has been very effective at times and then slow other times we watched him this season. His play with the puck is also something that leaves area for some improvement.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender



171

**LUCAS CARLSSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brynas (SHL)****BORN: July 5, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 6 G 12 A 18 PTS 60 PIM**

Carlsson is a defenseman who plays both sides of the ice, but has some holes that need refinement. He is mobile and is comfortable carrying the puck through all three zones. Carlsson is a smooth-skating defender who has a load of power in his stride; he is balanced, making him hard to knock around, with decent mobility; although, his pivots and transitions lack quickness. He plays his defensive position with a noticeable physical edge, throwing a good hip-check or closing off an opponent by rubbing him into the wall. But he also can be a bit of a hot-head at times, taking bad, retaliatory penalties. He takes care of his one-on-one defensive assignments, keeping good gaps and not letting his man past. He joins the rush fairly often and likes to show off his offensive skill. Works the powerplay point and is constantly walking the line and quickly moving the play to open up the defense. Has a good shot and a one-timer that is on point. He makes some solid reads to jump up in the zone, keeping the puck in the zone and getting looks at the net. Doesn't always get enough muscle on his clearing attempts, sometimes leaving the puck in a position that the opposition can turn back quickly. He also goes through inconsistent stretches of chasing a bit defensively and taking himself out of position. His senses or decision-making ability are the main areas that leave some unanswered questions.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

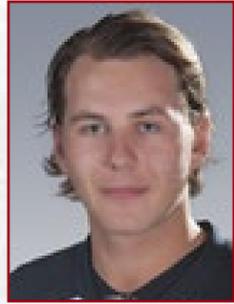


174

**ALEXANDER YOUNAN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HV71 J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: March 14, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 3 G 17 A 20 PTS 8 PIM**

Yunan is a skilled and mobile defenseman who keeps the puck moving up ice. He had a promising start to the season and got the chance with the big guys in the pre-season, where he was doing pretty good. Unfortunately, he got injured just a few games into the season and has struggled since coming back. He is an above-average skater. He has no problem shifting backward when the game quickly turns. Keeps his feet moving all the time and he's quick in his first few strides. Even though he is an offensive-minded d-man, he could work on his shot strength and release. He QBs the powerplay in an intelligent way and has a smart shot, meaning he sets it up for easy a deflection or to create rebound chances more often than ripping it by the goaltender. He's an effective puck transporter. On the down side, he should do it more consistently. He makes a good, heavy first pass that sparks the rush and plays a positional sound defensive game. He gets pushed around a little too easily for a man of his size, but has no problem with clearing traffic from the front of his net. Gap control is a little shaky at times. He makes smart decisions with the puck and he's not the type of player throwing away the puck when under pressure. Not afraid of getting in the shooting lane. Needs to build some muscle this summer to be able to take the next step and compete against bigger guys on a regular basis.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second or Third Pairing Offensive Defenseman

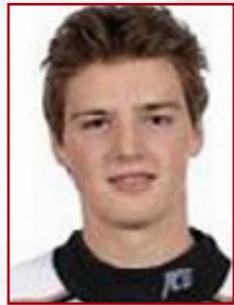


175

**TYSON BAILLIE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: November 16, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 37 G 39 A 76 PTS 68 PIM**

Baillie is an energetic center who shows good hockey sense, skill and a dose of grit 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 but sturdy center, Baillie impresses with how solid his puck-support abilities are. He is always around the puck and shows good anticipation of the play throughout. His shot release, velocity and accuracy are all high-end. 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 turn it up ice. Thinks the game well, processes plays quickly and has the hands and poise to make plays. Plays positional sound hockey throughout the contest. 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 has no problem fighting off bigger competition to gain position. We absolutely love his flair and creativity with the puck, trying dangles and fancy passes to fuel the offensive game. His stride is short and he gets as much as he can out of every step, but it will need further refining.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center



178

**LUKE PHILP****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kootenay (WHL)****BORN: November 6, 1995****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 30 G 52 A 82 PTS 28 PIM**

Philp is an overage kid who would not be ignored in viewings this season. Plays a skilled and smart game; he is small, but good defensively. He is a quick player who is shifty, accelerates well and generates a pretty healthy head of steam. His ability to use his edges effectively makes him slippery and able to roll out of traffic easily. He isn't the fastest player by any means, but he can really prove elusive if he needs too. He has a robust selection of offensive tools that are equally effectively. He sees the ice really well, making him potentially dangerous with or without the puck on his stick. He has some soft hands that allow him to carve through traffic like a skilled butcher. He processes the play before the puck even lands on his stick and boasts little hesitation when he threads passes on to teammate's sticks. Shows good change of pace as he enters the zone with declining speed and then bursts into a lane, opening up space for himself to get a puck. He has a solid wrist shot and slapshot that earn him some respect. His head is constantly on a swivel and he will go anywhere on the ice to make a play or fill an obligation. His excellent awareness isn't just limited to his play in the offensive zone. Philp has a tendency to be properly positioned in the defensive zone to pick apart opponent plays. He intercepts passes by reading the play and stepping in to transition the play out of the zone. He provides pressure and is an effective stick first defender who is opportunistic in stripping pucks. He can use his stocky frame to provide some physicality on the boards, but is quite effective without providing much muscle.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Forward



176

**WILL BORGEN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Moorhead (USHS)****BORN: December 19, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 24 GP 5 G 21 A 26 PTS 22 PIM**

Borgen is a mobile, defensive defenseman. He is an incredibly smooth skater, who makes seamless transitions between going forwards and backwards. He does this thing where he is always thinking ahead in terms of skating. He positions his feet in a way to make it very quick to cut and power backwards when the opposing team is breaking out and transitioning through the neutral zone. His speed backwards allows him to force the forwards to the outside and keep up with them. He is very poised with the puck, making smart and high percentage plays. When carrying the puck, he is fluid and real strong. He likes to jump up in the rush and is more than capable to even lead the rush. It takes a lot to separate him from the puck. Has a hard point shot and does a nice job avoiding shin pads with his blasts. He has a great frame and despite his strength, he looks a little lanky. He could afford to fill out his frame a bit more with muscle. Defensively, we were very impressed with his stick. He has a long reach and uses every bit of it effectively. If you get within five feet of him in any direction he is able to knock the puck away from you—it is nearly automatic. We love his willingness to block shots. His offensive game is still raw, but it looks to be developing. He is a complete defenseman.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



179

**JACK MCNEELY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lakeville North (USHS)****BORN: December 18, 1996****VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 1 G 19 A 20 PTS 28 PIM**

McNeely is a mobile, defensively-sound defenseman. Displays very impressive defensive awareness and focus in his own zone. He supports the play well and never overcommits. He always opts for the safe play. He never takes unnecessary chances in the defensive zone. He excels on the breakout, utilizing many weapons to get the puck out of trouble. He makes a great first pass—always crisp and safe. The other way he breaks out is by skating with the puck. He has quick feet and great poise with the puck on his stick. He makes the quick decision to utilize his mobility and skate the puck away from trouble. It shows his maturity, confidence and hockey smarts. While offense is not his game necessarily, he shows some upside on that side of the puck. He moves the puck well from the point and we think he will put up some points based on his hockey IQ and ability to move the puck. He seems to shy away from a lot of physical contact, but his impressive footwork and balance, combined with a long reach, make him an effective defender. Being a late birthday, McNeely will get a lot of time to develop in the College ranks, and could be a guy you see being picked up via free agency after his stint at Nebraska-Omaha. Has a high motor, and is constantly working hard against the opposition. Excellent work rate and determination will continue to bolster his chance at making a life playing pro hockey. We would love to see him let his shot loose more often. We really like his game and feel that scouts or NHL teams that want a mature, steady defenseman with room to improve will as well.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Defensive Defenseman

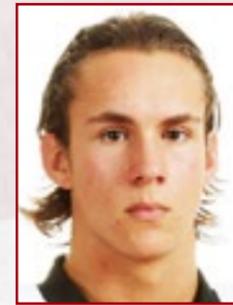


177

**MATTHEW FREYTAG****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Tri-City (USHL)****BORN: February 15, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 15 G 15 A 30 PTS 16 PIM**

Freytag is a solidly-built, two-way winger. He is the type of guy who all teams want to have on their team. He competes for every inch he gets on the ice and is competent in all three zones. He will not blow you away in any of the zones, but is very solid in each. In the offensive zone, he battles hard and is not afraid of contact. He shields the puck well under pressure and drives hard to the net. He gets to the front of the net, knows how to screen the goalie and has a great ability to find loose pucks through a ton of skates. Freytag is a tough kid who battles hard and does not shy away from contact. He has a nice combination of skating and power with the puck when entering the zone. The University of Wisconsin commit will take the puck to the outside, lower his shoulder and just power past the defender. He shows a quick release on his shot and the ability to use the defender as a screen and shoot around him. On the forecheck, he is relentless and anticipates the defender's every move. Makes good decisions with the puck and knows where his teammates are on the ice. He strips a few pucks and picks off a few passes to create chances. In the defensive zone, he does a great job of supporting his defensemen. It seems like he knows what to do in each defensive situation. Freytag has a pretty limited offensive upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



180

**JASON BELL****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saint John (QMJHL)****BORN: April 26, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 11 G 18 A 29 PTS 50 PIM**

A raw but intriguing two-way defenseman. He's got a nice frame and skates well for his size. Lots of power in his stride and in his edge work. Gets up to a nice top speed. He looks strong on his skates too. He is not afraid to help create some offense and is a regular threat to join the rush or at least smoothly advance the puck up the ice to kick off a transition play. He passes the puck very effectively, moving it fast and accurately to open teammates. His shot is very effective as well, he keeps his slapper low on the powerplay, and he can release quickly with good velocity. He can open shooting lanes with his ability to walk the blue line. He does have a few issues defensively, including getting caught standing still in the neutral zone watching the play and, on occasion, letting players sneak in behind him. He also can get exposed against the forecheck, which negatively affects his outlets. He doesn't show off a massive physical presence, entering corners a tad too passively. He tries to make up for that with some quick stick work, seemingly being more of a cerebral defender than a brute force type of guy. Despite not being small, he does get thrown around physically by some of the Q's forwards, and tends to play very soft on the boards. At times this season, the play got a bit too fast for him in his own zone and he was caught out of position. Will need lots of growth in his game, but does have some intriguing potential to build upon.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Two-Way Defender

**181****ROBBY JACKSON****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Dubuque (USHL)****BORN: August 22, 1997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 14 G 24 A 38 PTS 31 PIM**

Jackson is an undersized forward who can fly with an impressive set of feet that just don't stop. He continually looks for scoring opportunities in the o-zone by using his high hockey IQ, his tenacity and his quick feet. Often times, Jackson gets outmatched by the opposition who physically intimidate the small forward and force him off pucks. He has great vision, patience and coordination with the puck, great skills and speed and a tremendous shot. He is tenacious and doesn't give up on loose or turned over pucks. Jackson's tenacity also can be his downfall, as he over commits to attacking forwards, in hopes of creating a turnover, which sometimes leaves him out of position. The St. Cloud State commit possesses good instincts when with the puck behind the goal line, and quickly looks for forwards in good shooting position, but doesn't always have the passing accuracy to create an abundance of chances. You can see Jackson has the potential to be a natural goal scorer; his positioning and quick movement allow him to always be a threat in the offensive zone. The injury history and lack of size are major concerns and will need to be appeased if he is to have a pro hockey future. His quickness, speed and agility may help him overcome the lack of size he has, but this kid does have some heavy bust potential.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Nine Offensive Winger

**184****TROY TERRY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: September 10, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 19 G 24 A 43 PTS 8 PIM**

A smaller but highly skilled forward. The University of Denver commit uses his smaller stature to his advantage by squeezing through tight quarters easily. Shows off his high-end puck skills as he dekes his way through defenders on his way to the net. The puck sticks to his stick like glue. He mixes an up-tempo game with a nice set of offensive skills. He is very hard on the puck and tenacious in his puck pursuit. He never gives up on a puck battle and knows what to do with it when he wins the battle. On his shot, he does not have the quickest release, but when he gets it off, it has wicked velocity for someone his size. Very accurate and a real weapon anywhere he has an angle. He is patient with the puck and real deliberate with his drives to the net or passes to his teammates. He makes strong drives to the net and tries to stick around until the job is done, but is not always successful. Has a real lack of functional strength as he is easily bumped off in the corner and eliminated in puck battles. Will need to hit the weight room at Denver and build up his leg strength and core. He is also a top-notch passer with creative hands, and ability to carry the puck effectively while looking to distribute. He can score goals and is solid on the doorstep with his quickness, but he's as inconsistent as they come. Was kind of insulated this year on the U18 NTDP team, but showed enough potential to warrant a pick.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Offensive Center

**182****TIM MCGAULEY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brandon (WHL)****BORN: July 23, 1995****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 42 G 63 A 105 PTS 24 PIM**

A real do-it-all type of forward in his third and final year of draft eligibility. His skating has come quite a ways in the past couple of years. Currently he skates very much on his toes, using fairly short, quick bursts to get going out of the gate. It might not be the prettiest stride, but he's a fine skater for this level. He helps generate that speed by using little crossover moves effectively when trying to beat players on the rush. He's also a very smart player, making lots of quick decisions. He shows mature positioning on the ice, including good discipline and awareness while his teammates cycle offensively. He also seems very good at using his arms and reach to protect the puck and also to create that extra six inches of space he needs on the cycle or when he's trying to get the puck to a linemate while battling with a defender. Has a good shot with quick release and makes a solid pass, accurate at various ranges. He's so aware of things going on around him on the offensive side of the puck and really makes things happen with his vision. Shows consistent high-end defensive awareness when in his own zone. That defensive acumen also comes with a strong work ethic. He won't bang and crash but he's always in the right spot and is always doing the little things to support the proper areas of the ice. This is a player who won't wow you, but does so many things to help the team in all zones.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Forward

**185****LUKAS VEJDEMO****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Djurgarden J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 25, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 23 G 25 A 48 PTS 51 PIM**

Vejdemo has grown a lot over the last one to two years, from being average-sized at best to now a strong and hardworking two-way pivot. He's got above average speed but lacks power and extension in his stride. Has the balance that allows him to be effective when playing in traffic when contact is involved. He can also create a little separation based on his top speed at this level. Speed is solid overall, maybe his agility could be a little better and he could certainly improve his first step. He's got decent hands, passing and playmaking skills. His two-way play is a strength as well. He is able to read the play around him and adapt at both ends of the rink. Good hockey sense. Covers for teammates and drives deep into his own zone to stymie opponents' offensive chances. Both wrist shot and slapshot seem quite heavy, but he does not have the positional instincts of a natural goal scorer. Strong along the boards. Can be pretty physical, battling for pucks and space, even though he is not a tough guy. His wrist shot seems hard, but unfortunately, not always accurate. Has NHL upside as a potential top nine forward, or at worst case, a bottom line two-way threat.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center

**183****KARCH BACHMAN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Culver Military Academy (USHS)****BORN: March 10, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 20 GP 12 G 15 A 27 PTS 10 PIM**

Bachman is a dynamic and dangerous offensive threat. He is always involved, drives all over the place and just catches your attention every time he is on the ice. His best skill is definitely his skating ability; he has an amazing set of wheels. He shows blazing speed, extremely explosive through the neutral zone. It even looks like he picks up another gear when carrying the puck. He has slick hands and a quick, hard shot, but could afford to work on the accuracy. He has a dangerous backhand that he can lift up top shelf with very little room or time. Does a remarkable job of gaining the zone and drawing defenders to himself on the outside before dishing a soft centering pass. At this level he consistently separates himself from opponents with his deceptive speed burst and solid puck-handling ability. He does not engage as much in the defensive zone as we would like to see as he is the kind of player who does what wingers are supposed to do, but does not drive down and battle or support his defense like strong centers should. He likes to play the body even though he's not really big nor looks like he knows how to drive his shoulder through opponents while going for the hit. This Miami of Ohio recruit is smart, elusive and holds some real offensive potential going forward.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Offensive Winger

**186****JACKSON KEANE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Winnipeg Blues (MJHL)****BORN: April 8, 1997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 155 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 20 G 41 A 61 PTS 24 PIM**

Keane is buzzsaw and his effort earns him some offensive chances. The son of former NHL player Mike Keane is an extremely fluid skater, reminiscent of Carolina Hurricane Jeff Skinner. His ability to edge while moving laterally makes him very shifty and hard to pin down. Keane is always looking to attack and he is very dangerous in the offensive zone. He has exceptional hands and the ability to beat a defenseman one-on-one. Very confident and crafty with the puck, he always seems to be dangerous. Shows some high-end vision, feathering saucer passes and slipping pucks through tight seams. Hockey sense is elite as he knows where all of his teammates are at all times and finds a way to make them dangerous offensive players by executing tough passes and opening up space with his footwork. While he is very creative, it seems at times that he can be unnecessarily fancy. He'll have to learn to pick his spots better as he moves to higher levels of play. But overall he has very good instincts in the offensive zone and he has solid point potential moving forward. What he lacks in size, he makes up for in a willingness to engage physically and be a difference maker each shift. Keane wants to be in control and will go to the gritty areas in order to retrieve the puck and set something up. The University of North Dakota recruit is at the extreme of the bell curve in terms of height and weight and while he shows heart and grit in board battles, he definitely gets overmatched at times. With his solid offensive skillset and bloodlines, we are not betting against him.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line High Energy Winger



187

**DAVID COTTON****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Cushing Academy (USHS)****BORN: July 9, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2.5" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 27 G 42 A 69 PTS - PIM**

Cotton is a big, two-way forward who dominates with his size and reach. He is a menacing forechecker at this level, intimidating barreling down on the defense, trying to breakout the puck. He gets big, using his long reach to cut off lanes and is able to get on defense quick, causing them to change directions and try a different option. His defensive play is notable as he is well positioned and pressures the points very well. He is on top of the opposition when they have the puck, but smartly backs off to support the defense when needed. We loved his communication in the defensive zone as he conducted traffic out there with all his talking. It is great to see his confidence, leadership and understanding of that side of the puck. While his straight line speed is fine for this level, it does take him a few extra strides to get going and he does take incorrect routes all over the ice. Despite having a nice size, he also tends to avoid contact whenever he can. We do like his ability to look off the pass and unleash a quick, deceptive shot. Has some skilled hands and can handle the puck. Makes simple, not overly creative passes, but does so with good accuracy. The big center is a conundrum as one game he looks like a competitive two-way center, working his tail off at both ends, and then the next game you wonder why you even made the trek to go watch such a lost-looking kid.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Winger



190

**MIKHAIL VOROBYOV****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Tolpar Ufa (MHL)****BORN: January 5, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 8 G 12 A 20 PTS 40 PIM**

Vorobyov is a very smart, big and skilled center with his smarts being his biggest asset. He is a serviceable skater who has good mechanics and structure but isn't exactly a guy who will win races. He has a good, technical stride with decent mobility, despite being a little too upright. His balance is not the best as he almost falls over when pivoting. He has excellent vision and hockey sense while showing some strength in the face-off circle. He communicates with his teammates and supports them. Shows strong determination to not give up on plays, resulting in the big center drawing penalties as opponents try to contain him. He has an OK release on his shot, but the velocity really stands out as the selling feature on both his slap and wrist shot. He is aware and sees plays develop. Exudes confidence on the powerplay as he leads the rush and hits his teammates with strong passes. He opens up passing lanes after cycling the puck and can create scoring chances because of it. He can play very physical and loves to line opponents up and rub them out of the play. He has an active stick and a poised demeanor in the offensive zone. He is constantly evaluating the play and knows where to be and how to best decipher offensive opportunities. Shows pretty good compete and consistency; we really like his willingness to work.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Two-Way Center



188

**TAGGART CORRIVEAU****POSITION: Right Wing****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Westminster (USHS)****BORN: March 11, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 24 G 17 A 41 PTS N/A PIM**

Corriveau is an offensive forward with slick hands and an attacking mentality. He is a very agile and quick skater with top acceleration and efficient strides that will only get more powerful as he puts on more mass. Not an elusive skater, but a smooth and very active player. He has very soft hands and he is able to maneuver through traffic while looking to make a play. He has some smooth one-on-one skills that he uses to protect the puck and wait for plays to open up. He often attacks the net and doesn't often get knocked off the puck at this level. He simply exudes confidence with the puck and at times can just carry his team on his back. He loves the puck on his stick and possesses the hockey smarts to know what to do with it. He is a great passer, always crisp and on target. He possesses a quick shot release, but he sometimes shoots the puck right into the goalie's chest instead of picking a spot to hit, especially when the defender pressures him. His back checking is something that stood out, as he was one of the first two or three back into the zone to pressure the puck and help out. His attitude for defense wavers depending on the game as some times he doesn't seem to care much about helping out, instead working in the top of the zone and into the neutral zone waiting for a breakout pass. Committed to play at St. Lawrence University in two seasons. Will need added strength and improved consistency.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Nine Two-Way Winger



191

**DAVID MILLER****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)****BORN: September 25, 1996****VITALS: 5-9" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 70 GP 21 G 27 A 48 PTS 45 PIM**

Miller is smart winger who is a puck magnet, always seeming to be where the puck is going. He is a playmaker more so than finisher. He can get creative with the puck; Miller makes exceptional reads of the defense, and dishes the puck to his linemates in a creative fashion. The kid's got an impressive set of hands, and has the ability to use them in tight to create space to keep possession while setting up a play. What Miller may lack in size, he makes up for with a high compete level, and offensive ability. He is a hard working competitor every time he's on the ice. A high energy kid who is full of confidence. Not physically dominant due to his lack of size, but is often the first guy to step in against much larger opposition and stand up for his team. Good forecheck, forcing turnovers and getting right into the face of the opposition. Defensively, Miller helps out down low and is in solid position in the defensive zone. Reminds us of Derek Roy in the way he plays the game at a high speed, and has the ability to find his open teammates for opportunities. Likely makes sense for an NHL team to move him to the wing.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Six Two-Way Forward



189

**ADAM WERNER****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Farjestad J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: May 2, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 3.01 GAA .906 SP**

Werner is that big puck stopper who fills the net well and who has all NHL scouts salivating for what he could develop into. He has a great balance and is calm in net. He is a strong skater, showing the ability to quickly get into position and set himself up. Werner uses his size to cut down angles, is proficient in stopping cross-crease passes with his big paddle or by picking the puck out of the air with his glove. His ability to control his rebounds is a work in progress as he gives up some juicy second chances. He displays good concentration throughout games and is focused, even when his teammates' performances leave much to be desired in front of him. He tends to go down and stay down on his knees leaving openings up top. His side-to-side mobility is decent but could and should improve with added leg strength. He also has some holes that open when he moves to position himself at the top of his crease for the initial shot that will need to be closed off. He handles the puck well. Considering that he is a big and modern style goaltender, we think Werner could be the top stopper in the 2015 NHL Draft on one or more NHL teams' lists as a raw, high upside talent to develop.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender



192

**COLT CONRAD****POSITION: Center****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Shattuck St. Mary's (USHS)****BORN: April 27, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 35 G 64 A 99 PTS 12 PIM**

Conrad is a high energy, skilled offensive kid. The Western Michigan University commit doesn't show off blitzing speed, but he moves fairly well and is balanced on his skates. He has a nice combination of power and finesse. He showed willingness to battle and outwork his opponents for the puck on the forecheck and was relentless in his effort below the goal-line. He also shows nice poise with the puck, outwaiting the defenders in order for his teammates to get open. He gives a solid defensive effort, at times taking the role of a center in his own end and showing the ability to take the slot away from opposing players as well as the ability to support his defensemen low in the zone. He shows off a very quick, active stick and he was able to break-up plays with his smart reads and awareness in his own end. He works hard for puck possession and causes turnovers in the offensive zone. He illustrates impressive vision and playmaking skill, and is quick to make decisions with the puck. He shows off a quick, hard wrister and the instincts of knowing where to go for a strong scoring chance. The problems start when you look at his consistency and work ethic as he has multiple moments in each game when he just looks completely disinterested in the game, but can be a real nice offensive player, when he wants to be.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top Nine Offensive Forward



193

**MATTEO GENNARO****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)****BORN: March 30, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 16 G 15 A 31 PTS 44 PIM**

He is a lanky player who has some impressive wheels when playing a north/south game, thanks to a long stride. Shows an ability to play with power and skate through some checks. He has inconsistent levels of intensity to his game. Gennaro needs to learn the game is less about "flash and dash" than it is about creating offensive pressure. Protects the puck with his long reach and size, using his hands at times to keep opponents off his back. Drives the play up the middle and shows the willingness to go into the high volume areas and jam away in the slot. Doesn't have a great wrist shot, and sometimes fumbles the release under pressure, causing pucks to flutter. His head for the game isn't phenomenal either, but he is able to make simple yet effective plays. Shows a willingness to play an up-tempo, physical game when he doesn't have the puck. Strong on the forecheck, applying a ton of pressure to puck carriers in their defensive zone. Didn't have the senses or vision to see plays develop in front of him, and relies more on positioning to aid his defensive game. Doesn't have the functional strength to be a real physical player but added the sandpaper element to his game this season. Looked really good back at the 2014 U17's as a potential top 90 pick but this year he has been inconsistent.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Character Forward



194

**KASPER BJORKQVIST****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: July 10, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 19 G 11 A 30 PTS 82 PIM**

Bjorkqvist is a versatile and responsible two-way forward with raw upside. He may not be the most talented or creative forward, but he does many things well. Often suffers from having tunnel vision in certain situations when he has the puck and tries to gain the zone or make a play himself instead of using his options. When he gets himself to the net, he is very dangerous. He shoots the puck well with good accuracy and can also put the puck to the net from sharp angles. Possesses strong determination; he never seems to quit on any play. He shows a good stick and decent positioning in the defensive zone. He's a well-balanced skater with decent straight-line speed when he gets going, but some extra agility would be a nice addition. He constantly talks to referees after whistles and complains, which is a negative aspect he can eliminate from his game. He's physical and works hard in every game, but it is still undecided and not sure how much high-end offensive potential there is. With that said, however, Bjorkqvist's style of play could fit in well on the North American ice. He plays a pretty simple game, but he's strong at it and he can create havoc for the opponents in the offensive zone.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Winger



195

**KEN APPLEBY****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)****BORN: April 10 1995****VITALS: 6'-5" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 2.08 GAA .924 SP 6 SO 38 W 7 L**

A big body that provides natural coverage. He stays up in his posture when down in the butterfly, covering the upper portions of the net well. More of a blocker than acrobatic stopper at this level, but does have the ability to make those athletic second and third stops when needed. Long legs that seal off the ice surface well. Long arms with a gigantic wingspan to help cover the side of the net. Looks like an octopus at times when he flashes out a limb to make a save. Has a strong blocker to knock pucks to the corner or out of play. Seals off the posts well and uses his size and angles well to eliminate any openings. Battles for his space in and around the crease. Keeps his focus on the puck and tracks it right into his chest or glove. As many big lanky stoppers do, he has a tendency to forget about his open five-hole when moving around his crease. Has worked hard to stay compact with his arms and close off those openings. Has really worked hard to improve his footwork and overall mobility during his time as a backup in Oshawa. Those improvements have really helped his overall game as he took over the starter role for the Generals this season and was a big part in the Generals winning the OHL Championship.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender



196

**MASON BERGH****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Chicago (USHL)****BORN: March 6, 1995****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 21 G 40 A 61 PTS 64 PIM**

Bergh is an exceptional talent who plays a solid two-way game. He doesn't have any mind-blowing speed, but is strong on his feet and uses his quick lateral movements and first step burst effectively. He is extremely active and fierce while on the forecheck and doesn't allow the opposition any room to manoeuvre. Has nifty stick handling ability, and loves to try new things with the puck on his stick. You can tell the kid loves to have the puck on his stick, possesses good vision and looks for teammates in optimal scoring positions instead of forcing shots/passes. Possesses a goal scorer's shot and has the confidence to deke defenders. He plays the game with confidence and drives the play up ice as he gains the zone and sets up. Lays the body and can crush with his checks if he has the time to set up and deliver. He has a quick wrist shot but needs to work on the accuracy as he tends to feed it right to the goalie's chest; needs to be more patient with the shot and pick his spots. He is a strong 200-foot player who works hard on the forecheck and is reliable defensively. He is thrown on the ice to take key defensive face-offs and relied upon by his coaches in all situations. Picks up his check and helps down low in his own zone, working hard to get the puck out and back up ice. Sees time on the penalty kill and leads the charge up ice on the powerplay. The commit to Colorado College puts in an honest effort until the final horn sounds.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger



197

**DEVANTE STEPHENS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: January 2, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 4 G 7 A 11 PTS 33 PIM**

A raw, lanky defenseman who skates well. Has a wide skating stride and lengthens it out to get himself up to a pretty good speed. He lacks explosiveness right now on his first few steps but has strong lateral movements and solid transitions, which help him retrieve loose pucks. He is willing to take the hit to make the play and tries to play a physical game himself, but currently lacks the strength to be truly intimidate opponents. Likes to rush the puck and makes a solid first pass. Has the hands to protect it but can get knocked off it due to his weak legs. He can look like two different players at times as one game he seems to lack confidence with the puck—almost looks like a deer in the headlights handling it—and the next looks like a dangerous puck rusher. Uses his stick and frame to defend. Can get caught running around his own zone a little bit too much. He has the tools to be a more dynamic defenseman with his feet and puck skills, but has a few weaknesses along with consistency issues that currently hold him back. Loves to play a physical game and even tries to lower the boom on streaking wingers coming across with their head down, but with his slender build, he desperately needs more weight to throw around to be effective in doing so at the next level. We like his raw tools, as a pretty good puck distributor and a physical defender, but he has some distance to go before he realizes his ultimate potential.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Four Two-Way Defenseman



198

**KAMERON KIELLY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Charlottetown (QMJHL)****BORN: December 13, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 16 G 33 A 49 PTS 73 PIM**

A strong role type player who is good at many things but not flashy offensively or very physical. Kielly is a good skater, but his feet could be quicker. Puck skills are just OK; not the best hands but he can pull a nice deke once in a while to gain the zone. He protects the puck well with his body and reach. His passes are both accurate and skilled; he can make great saucer and touch passes. He's got a quick wrist shot and an accurate slapshot, but should add some velocity on them with added strength. He's not a sniper, but instead, a smart two-way player who can do a bit of everything. Not always physical but will rub guys out and work for pucks along the wall. Plays with an edge sometimes, but not consistently enough for the role you would want him to fill at the next level. Strong on the cycle, and can get under the opponent's skin from time to time. Defensively, he has great positioning; he has a good stick to cut passing lanes, take away shooting lanes and blocks shots. A staple on the PK for Charlottetown as he has a knack for clogging up the zone. Displays very strong support for teammates in all situations and is effective on face-offs. His defensive reads are solid, and he knows his role as a center. Another one of those guys who has limited offensive upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Forward

**199****CAMERON LIZOTTE****POSITION: Defense****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Peterborough (OHL)****BORN: August 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 2 G 7 A 9 PTS 129 PIM**

Lizotte is a big, physically imposing defender who has a nasty side to his game. He controls below the hash marks in his zone with cross checks, tight play to his man, and crushing checks into the wall, which make opponents think twice about entering the zone on his side. He is physically mature and has the power to really hurt opponents with his checks. His defensive game is still developing; he is relied on to kill penalties and shows very good coverage, but his even strength defensive game is a little spotty. He does a very good job of angling opponents into the wall, standing his ground and muscling the attacker off the puck. He often pulls himself out of position and can frequently drop to block shots, which pull him out of position. Skating is an area that he could improve: he has a solid base but is a little off-balance at times and shows choppy movements while taking extremely wide turns, due to a lack of agility. When moving north-south, he uses his power to generate speed and quickly get up into the play up ice or truck it back to pick up loose pucks. Has a solid shot but could use some work on his release. Passes are either right on target or too hot to handle. While he is a raw prospect, there is a lot to like with his natural aggressive attitude and willingness to get involved.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second Pairing Physical Defenseman

**202****JOE GATENBY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: May 15, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 2 G 13 A 15 PTS 49 PIM**

He is a steady, smart defenseman who doesn't always stand out on the ice. His skating doesn't seem to be technically flawed, it's just that he doesn't play a game through his feet, but rather, becomes fast through quickly moving the puck. A smooth skater, but lacks quickness or explosive power in any aspect of his footwork. Makes simple plays with the puck, hitting open teammates along the wall and making smart, cautious chips off the boards to clear the zone. Displays poise in all areas of the game, never seeming to panic with the puck, but also not being too involved in the offensive rush—more of a first pass puck mover. His gap control on the rush, especially standing guys up at the blue line, really boosts his defensive game as he utilizes a good, quick stick and being in the right position. Displays good defensive awareness by getting down low and taking away options from opposing payers. Solid defensively as he uses his stick well to disrupt the opposition's rush. To take the next step defensively he will need to keep adding muscle to help him physically challenge guys in battles, strengthen his skating and his decision making will also need to improve. He is still raw and strikes us as a potential late-bloomer type. We see a safe, defensive defenseman, who would need to just keep adding the pounds to handle the pro game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**200****LUCAS JAYCOX****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Warroad (USHS)****BORN: August 19, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 14 GP 3 G 8 A 11 PTS 4 PIM**

Jaycox is a mobile, two-way defenseman who plays a complete game. He is the type of player who is able to play in any role asked of him. His versatility is made possible by his high hockey IQ. He reads the situation extremely well and knows what to do in every situation, then makes the quick decision to actually do it. In the defensive zone, he does a great job of reading the play and pressuring the puck handler at the right time, often forcing turnovers with his stick or aggressiveness. He is aggressive enough to force the opponents to make quick decisions, but not enough to take himself out of the play. One of his strengths is the way he breaks the puck out, both passing and skating. His passes are crisp and on target. He does not panic with the puck on his stick in his own zone, always waiting for the smart pass to open up or if nothing does, he is not afraid to rush it himself. He is a very smooth skater, quick in all directions and comfortable with the puck on his stick. Offensively, he does not do anything flashy but there is some upside to this aspect of his game. He sees the ice very well and distributes the puck effectively. He also has a nice shot, with a quick release. While still raw and could obviously improve in all aspects in his game, we really did not see any major flaws in his game and think NHL teams will see that too.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**203****BRADLEY LALONDE****POSITION: Defense****CATCHES: Right****TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)****BORN: August 1, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 7 G 22 A 29 PTS 49 PIM**

A raw defender with some solid offensive upside. He has decent skating ability, with some nice power in his stride. His knees get nice and wide, allowing him to remain balanced and generate a healthy top speed. Very quick feet, he floats around the ice with ease, and can quickly change direction and cover space. Is at his best when he keeps his puck movement quick and simple as his hands are not as quick as his feet. He definitely has an offensive lean to his game. On the powerplay he sits up top on the point and just constantly tees up dangerous one-timers, showing off a great hard slapshot, quick release and the proper positioning to be a guy who just wires the puck. His wrist shot is significantly weaker and less effective than his big clapper. While defending and on puck retrieval, he makes some nice little plays with the puck against pressure and shows impressive poise with the puck. He is not afraid to try and push the pace, jumping into the rush and even going deep to the net to try and create an odd-man advantage around the blue ice when the time is right. On the flip side, he makes some defensive miscues and turnovers as he can get a little sloppy with the puck deep in his own zone. The big concern we have is his lack of physicality—he looks scared to engage and he needs to get stronger.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**201****NIKOLAI CHEBYKIN****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HK MVD Jr (MHL)****BORN: August 1, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 32 GP 2 G 4 A 6 PTS 55 PIM**

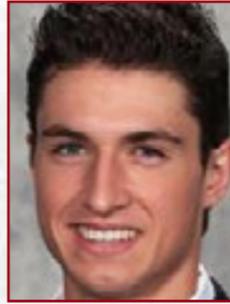
A big, powerful winger who has the ability to be lethal, given his mix of size, speed and puck skills. He displays hard work in the offensive zone. He has the ability to create time and space; he protects the puck well, utilizing his strength and reach. He sets up in front of the crease and plays the screen well. Chebykin has a powerful stride and skates very well for his size. He has above-average mobility, but nothing overly speedy. Generates power in his stride due to his large frame and strength. Has good hands and seems to always have the puck on his stick. Has the bad habit of making one too many moves on the rush and gets the puck knocked off, but in tight, Chebykin can protect the puck and hold on to it for a while. Shows patience on the rush that allows him to see developing lanes. At times he seems hesitant to take a hit and becomes careless with the puck. The kid loves to dodge checks and work below the goal line in order to center the puck and create chances in front of the net. Impresses with his speed and determination to get to loose pucks before anyone else. He displays a physical edge to his game as he can crush defenders with the puck on the forecheck or use his frame to rub them off the puck. Moves very well with the puck on his stick and is solid in transition and on zone entries.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger

**204****JOHN DAHLSTROM****POSITION: Center/Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Frolunda (SuperElit)****BORN: January 22, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 20 G 15 A 35 PTS 2 PIM**

Dahlstrom is a hard working two-way forward who makes an impact all over the ice. Just a good all-round hockey player who competes in all three zones. He is a decent skater but not a real burner. He is hard to knock off the puck or out of position around the crease. He is more of a scorer than natural passer, but makes simple and accurate dishes off his blade. Not a slick puck handler either, he is best when he has a puck transporter on his line. But he's got good hockey sense and has a knack for finding himself in scoring positions. And he's got good work ethic. Nice, hard, accurate wrist shot and seems focused when in scoring positions, not showing any panic. Likes to play physical, very good at obstructing the goalie at the doorstep, looking for a rebound or deflection and knows how to throw a big hit. He seems quite strong and balanced. He isn't overly aggressive, but is not afraid to go into the corners and he is highly effective at battling for pucks along the wall; his balance and core strength makes checkers bounce off him when they try to engage. His ability to sneak by defenders with the puck is fun to watch. Defensively, he works hard and back checks hard. He is often in the right position defensively, showing good defensive sense; although, maybe not yet as developed as his offensive instincts. Does not really have any one physical trait that stands out. What might have him making the big show is his above average scoring touch, instincts and overall hockey sense.

NHL POTENTIAL: Third Line Two-Way Winger

**205****GRANT GABRIELE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Under-18 (NTDP)****BORN: April 17, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 4 G 12 A 16 PTS 6 PIM**

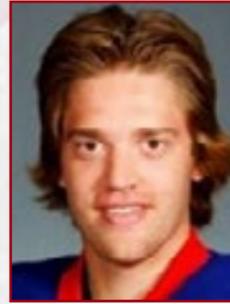
The future Western Michigan Mustang is a quiet, non-physical, defensive defenseman who makes a solid first pass. Gabriele skates pretty well and is not afraid to jump up on the rush. He has pretty good instincts and shows the ability to quickly weigh the pros and cons of taking a more offensive approach in a shift. Has a cannon of a shot from the point and can unload a powerful slapshot when given the time to set it up. Makes some questionable plays with the puck under pressure and lacks poise when there is a man in his vicinity. Has good vision and makes a strong, accurate breakout pass, but is not an overly creative playmaker. Instead, he takes what is available and does not force things. Again, he is not a physical player at all, instead using his active stick and positioning to play defense. He can get caught running around in his own zone and being drawn out of position from time to time. Overall, he is a decent developing minute-munching blueliner who gives a solid effort at both ends. While he is seen by our evaluators as a low upside prospect, he also looks to have a low risk factor and someone a team might look to for a depth role after he has a few seasons in the college ranks to add needed experience and muscle mass.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**208****JOONAS NIEMELA****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: January 4, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 19 G 26 A 45 PTS 42 PIM**

An average sized two-way forward who does a little bit of everything well but nothing elite. Doesn't make the best offensive decisions and hasn't found any consistency in the attacking zone this season, often tries to shoot through a wall of defenders or misses his opportunities to make a clean pass to a clearly open man. Plays a really solid defensive game, especially for a five-foot-11 player with limited reach and coverage; he defends very well. His positioning without the puck is impressive, whether it be in the neutral or defensive zone. Niemela also displays above-average puck control and good skills in close. He does not have a goal scorer's shot, but does shoot often and gets the puck off his stick quickly. He forces defenders to turn the puck over with his aggressive forecheck, chasing down loose pucks. He skates just well enough, not showing any glaring speed or burst. His puck protection is so strong that the defenders are often forced to take a penalty to contain him in the offensive zone. A raw but interesting case to further develop into a two-way threat after more seasoning.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger

**206****JACOB SWEENEY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Moncton (QMJHL)****BORN: March 1, 1995****VITALS: 6'-4" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 17 G 29 A 46 PTS 58 PIM**

Sweeney is an excellent defensive d-man with an added offensive touch. If he is playing well he is the kind of player who you don't notice during a game, but he does his job extremely well. His mobility is good considering his size, but he could be more explosive in his first step acceleration. His defensive play is strong in that he is always well positioned in his own zone, using his long stick very well to break up opponents' plays. He is patient defensively; he doesn't pinch/jump in when he knows there is a chance he could get beat. He is a good backward skater, fast and fluid stride. He is on the ice for every penalty kill and plays effectively in that role. He is his coach's go-to guy defensively. He wins most of his 50/50 battles along the boards, is very strong to muscle around opponents and to protect the puck. He definitely loves to throw a few big hits, but does so smartly. He brings an offensive element as well, but this offensive sense is definitely not his main strength. Makes a strong outlet pass. He has an effective slapshot. While he doesn't always try to hammer it through the boards, it is a weapon because he places it correctly for tips, deflections or rebound chances. He works hard, skates hard and delivers checks for the whole sixty minutes.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Pairing Defensive Defender

**209****NICK MCBRIDE****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)****BORN: January 11, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 37 GP 3.41 GAA .895 SP 2 SO 13 W 18**

A big sized stopper with some impressive yet raw ability to keep the puck out of his net. He is very strong at stopping pucks when he can see them and makes nice chest/stomach stops, swallowing up pucks. He squares up nicely and tracks first shots just fine. His feet and mobility are solid at this level, but could use improvement before moving on to higher levels of play. When he's on his game he really controls his pad rebounds well, deflecting out of danger and confidently smothering shots along the ice. Negatively, he swims a lot instead of just getting into his butterfly, playing the percentages, using his length and letting the puck come to him. He really doesn't seem to track the puck well once it gets down on the ice and in feet in front of him. He goes through spells where he is fighting pucks and looks awkward in the crease, giving up rebounds and playing like the smallest six-foot-four goalie we have ever seen. He has spurts when he is overthinking every puck directed his way; looking very loose in his stance and just seeming to be praying pucks will just hit him. He needs to keep focus and keep the play in front of him. At his worst, he looks fragile and uncomfortable in the crease, raising questions if he possesses the mental aspect demanded from the goaltending position. The physical tools are all there, he just needs to refine a lot of things and work on his mental abilities, which seem to be on or way off.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender

**207****HAYDEN MCCOOL****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Windsor (OHL)****BORN: April 11, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 15 G 19 A 34 PTS 64 PIM**

McCool is a big, aggressive, hard forechecking winger who can cause a lot of mismatches with his combination of speed, hockey IQ and size. McCool has a pro calibre shot in terms of power, but lacks the accuracy of a big time goal scorer. He'll predominately fill a power forward roll, and will score a lot of goals from in close at this level. McCool shows flashes of being a great puck distributor, but his first instinct is to get the puck on net. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but with a bit more attention to where his teammates are on the ice, it could result in a lot more production for his team. McCool is solid along the boards, and can get a bit nasty when things aren't going his way. He uses his stick a lot for extracurricular activities, but he can also back it up by dropping the mitts. What a difference a change of scenery can make: McCool saw his ice time drastically increased with a mid-season trade to Windsor, and has shown up to play. He now plays big minutes for the Spits, and in most key situations, including the penalty kill. We really appreciate his commitment level out on the ice. He plays hard every shift like it is his last, something that was not seen in Niagara earlier this season. Really a tremendous turn around for the young man.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Power Winger

**210****JORDAN KAWAGUCHI****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Chilliwack (BCHL)****BORN: May 4, 1997****VITALS: 5'-8" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 28 G 28 A 56 PTS 11 PIM**

A skilled but smaller character forward. He lets the game come to him; he isn't a fast skater by any means, but with his style of game he doesn't need to be a fantastic skater. Elite level of on-ice awareness and determination. His game is using his positioning to give options for teammates, being quick with the puck, and having soft hands in tight to make skilled plays. He holds his stick higher up on the shaft and skates more upright to allow for more visibility and aid his passing ability. Not physical at all, and why would he be at his size? But everything he does is for the team, even allowing himself to be destroyed along the wall to dish a pass to a teammate for that prime scoring chance. He wears the 'A' for the Chiefs and it's easy to see why; Kawaguchi back checks, picks up guys defensively, helps out all around the ice and uses his teammates very well. His touch with the puck in tight gives him an edge to win battles against all sizes of competition, by spinning off contact and using a quick stick before making a play to a linemate. He has a quick and accurate shot that makes him dangerous down low or around the circles. Makes simple yet effective straightforward passes. He doesn't have a whole lot of strength and frequently gets outmuscled in battles; however, he does counter this with a quick stick and hands. Plus, we hope he'll keep adding strength as he matures. We love his smart game, his puck skills and awareness out there. With potential physical progression, his high calibre skill level and some great hockey sense, we think it might just be enough to eventually offset his size disadvantage.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



**JUSTIN LEMCKE**

**POSITION:** Defense

**TEAM:** Belleville (OHL)

**SHOOTS:** Right

**BORN:** February 13, 1997

**VITALS:** 6'-2" / 205 Lbs

**STATS LINE:** 64 GP 9 G 14 A 23 PTS 79 PIM

# 211

**STRENGTHS:** Lemcke is a right-handed, defensive-minded defender who played on Belleville's top d-pairing. He has pro size already and played a ton of minutes for Belleville this season. Lemcke is very steady and makes smart and safe decisions with and without the puck. He wins the majority of the battles down low in his own end by using his size and strength advantage and is well positioned most of the time, making him very responsible in his own end. Even though Lemcke may not be the most offensively gifted defenseman, he plays on Belleville's top powerplay unit and does not look out of place. He is very good at finding shooting lanes and is able to get his shots through traffic consistently. He makes short- and long-range passes look easy, though he usually chooses the safe and effective route. Overall, Lemcke is a very steady defenseman who has really good size and plays smart in many defensive situations.

**WEAKNESSES:** He is not the most mobile of skaters and is very hesitant in his movements. He possesses weak agility and has cast iron feet, often getting caught flatfooted and struggling to find his footing to recover. He is a choppy skater with short movements and no standout speed. Has a moment or two per game when he gets burned in his own end as he and his partner forget to communicate about a switch in coverage or cycling assignments. He is a big physical defender, but one who is still very raw in many areas of his game. He isn't a player who is going to blow you away with his skill-set, and projects to very limited offensive upside. With the way the NHL is today, a strictly defensive prospect is likely not high on too many teams' wish lists. At the pro level, he will most likely be a depth defenseman.

**SCOUTS QUOTE:** "Lemcke is a big physical defender who is still very raw in many areas. He is definitely underrated defensively, but isn't a player who is going to blow you away with any of his skills. He will fight and play physical, but is also a guy who picks up too many undisciplined penalties in my mind. Plays strong on the penalty kill and does a very good job of playing strong defensive hockey throughout the game."

**NHL POTENTIAL:** Bottom Pairing Defensive Defenseman



# UNDER THE RADAR: PLENTY OF SLEEPERS IN 2015

By **DAN STEWART** -- Scouting Director

Every year the draft produces those prospects who appear to possess less upside than what they eventually become at the next level. Those prospects are called sleepers, and for one reason or another—whether it is a small stature, a skating flaw, situational issues or lack of perceived drive at the junior level—they possess a weakness or characteristic that holds them back in the eyes of scouts. While it can be very hard to identify these sleepers, we at FC believe we have identified a handful of prospects who might end up developing into one of these sleeper prospects and who have the potential to become successful NHLers if given the time to develop.

This list starts with Matt Bradley, a center with the Medicine Hat Tigers in the WHL. Hidden in the regular season success of the Medicine Hat Tigers this year is the contributions from their impressive depth up front. While not always showing up on the scoreboard every night or alongside the league leaders statistically, the Tigers had some young guns who were crucial all year long. Matt Bradley is a guy who burst onto the scene this year and showed that he belonged not only on a WHL roster, but on NHL draft lists. A modest sized center sitting at 5'11" and 187 pounds, Bradley isn't the beefy pivot teams crave, but he is a very versatile player. Bradley skates well and plays a very strong 200-foot game. He is a bit of a scrappy player who plays an up tempo style, creating havoc on the forecheck and pushing the pace when carrying the puck. He has fairly basic, but well-rounded puck skills. He has a good shot and shows a sniper's mentality when he has a look at the net. We think that he kind of gets lost in the shuffle and doesn't get as much credit for how good he actually is.

Hidden in what seems like constant turmoil of the Lethbridge Hurricanes, a shimmering light does exist. With only 60 games to his credit, defenseman Andrew Nielsen had a successful season on a personal level. In a year that had its ups and significant downs, Nielsen showed continuous progression that earned him attention as the season wore on. When sizing up, Nielsen is already a man at 6'3" and 210 pounds. He is an evolving player whose toolbox is beginning to fill up and compliment his frame. Nielsen skates very well for his size. He has some fairly simple puck skills, but it does not limit his effectiveness. He uses his smarts to make strong choices when moving or carrying the puck. He is relatively low risk, but will get down low in the offensive zone to keep pucks alive or exploit the defense in an open lane. His defensive game is still somewhat of a work in progress, but considering the amount of pressure his team saw on a regular basis, he did a respectable job in that regard. He is still fairly unpolished but we feel his flaws are very

coachable as he has the mental side of the game to his advantage already. He should find a home with a team who likes the potential and has patience to let him develop as a hardnosed defenseman.

Keoni Texeira of Portland is a great skating defenseman with nice jump in his footwork and a smooth stride. He is not rated in our top 210 but plays with an aggressive mindset, looking to push the puck up the ice. He has good offensive zone positioning, he reads the play well and is always looking to be in the ready position to take a pass or let a one-timer go. He shows off both a good one-timer and a hard wrist shot. He receives passes well and seems to be decent at starting the rush with his own pass, which he does with a lot of oomph. Defensively he was a tad casual at times for our liking, not always being 100 per cent aware of who was around him. To us, he has the potential to be a fairly good two-way defender as a pro, someone who might be suited to play as a 5/6 defender and on a PP unit.

A solid puck stopper for Kamloops, Connor Ingram has the size, effort level and technique to be a solid pro one day. He makes key saves and has a great glove hand. Ingram absorbs pucks into his chest and under his legs, allowing very little in the way of second or third chances or rebounds. He tracks the puck well, showing strong poise on forwards in tight, battling to see pucks and even helping out his defense by calming rolling pucks down and playing them out of the zone when necessary. He can lose his angle a little and has some work to do on his lateral push, but he could be a guy who surprises in a couple seasons with how far he has come.

In Ontario, Gustav Bouramman, a Swedish import defenseman with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds is a player who has played very well in our viewings. He doesn't get the credit he fully deserves for a defenseman who plays well at both ends of the ice. Hidden on a stacked lineup, Bouramman can quarterback the powerplay and get pucks out of his zone with no trouble. He skates effortlessly with the puck and can weave his way through traffic with no trouble. We like what he brings to the table and believe that he could be a very good player at the next level. He contains attackers very well with good use of his stick and distance between him and the man, adding to the effectiveness he has on the ice. He dishes crisp, easy to control passes and uses his strength to his advantage in protecting the puck, winning puck battles, separating his man and getting his weight behind his shot.

Sudbury Wolves defender Kyle Capobianco is a guy who has been hidden on a squad with not much draft eligible talent besides himself to draw scouts in this season. And with the way his season went last year, who would blame scouts for not showing much interest? He needed a big U18 tournament to solidify his draft spot after playing



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on a basement dweller in Sudbury. Despite playing as the seventh defenseman in most of the games in Switzerland, he stood out positively with the ice he was given. He is a guy who could develop into a solid two-way threat and eventually make his way onto an NHL roster as a 4/5 two-way defenseman.

London Knights towering blueliner Chris Martenet did not make our rankings but still showed enough for us to take note of his game. The big defender (6'7") plays the game with grit, an aggressive edge, and strong defensive awareness. He is a real asset on the PK due to his ability to close off lanes with his long reach. Martenet plays strong and tight on his man in front of the net, tying him up and not giving him any space to separate to be of use to his team. He makes very good defensive reads and positions himself well, even showing a willingness to drop to one knee and slide with his stick on the ice to block a centering pass. His physical presence can be seen at times as he can crush his man into the wall, laying the body on the wall to knock the puck free. He has a little bit of a choppy stride and isn't the fastest skater around, but he moves very well for a player his size. He shows good vision and hockey sense in his own zone to defend and turn the puck up ice, and is able to make solid passes quickly and effectively. He unloads a hard slapshot from the point with pressure coming towards him, and is still able to get the puck through on net. He is still a little raw in many areas, but he is a kid with potential.

Over in Sault Ste. Marie, defender Colton White also made us take note despite his name not making the final cut. He is active on the penalty kill down low, hard to man, and outmuscles attackers with his strength in front of the net. He is able to dish hard passes on the tape and to move the puck around the offensive zone very effectively. He is a mobile skater with fairly fluid movements and decent lateral movements who is quick on his feet and possesses some impressive agility for a big defender. He has a strong backwards stride with the ability to quickly and powerfully move laterally to force the puck carrier to the wall or into dumping the puck. He is very strong in possession, using his strength to be hard on the puck, and can see current and developing lanes well before selecting the option to dish the puck off to his man. He has some intriguing upside and with more ice time he could blossom into a real gem.

Simon Bourque of Rimouski in the QMJHL has a load of potential as well. He plays a similar style as Thomas Chabot (rated as a first rounder). He is a similar skater as well: smooth, powerful, solid on skates and very mobile. He takes care of his defensive zone first. He played behind big Sam Morin & Winnipeg Jets prospect Jan Kostalek all season. He is a very calm player when defending, also very poised with the puck. His passes are on target and he supports the play very well. He can burst with speed and carry the puck through the neutral zone on the breakout if passing options are not there. He has good gap control and doesn't get beaten one-on-one because of good pivots. Despite limited ice time

this season, this kid has the potential to end up as being one of the best defenseman of this draft in the future. He has that top four potential, maybe more, in the pros.

Center Alex Barré-Boulet of the Drummondville Voltigeurs, while very small and not very strong, plays with a ton of energy every shift and is a good skater with quick feet. He is also on the first powerplay-unit where he plays down low and in front of the net. When he does get knocked around he gets right back up and continues to battle, which is nice to see. In his own end, Barré-Boulet plays a very strong positional game and usually has his stick or frame in lanes taking away options well. He is willing to crash the net hard and shows that he is not afraid of getting dirty and going to the tougher areas. He is a good player and a very good skater but needs to put on some muscle if he wants to survive at the next level. He also needs to work on his elusiveness as he makes himself vulnerable at times. We love his foot speed and hockey sense but fear he needs loads of time to develop physically before a step up in levels is in order.

Samuel Laberge, a big power winger with the Rimouski Oceanic in the QMJHL, has also shown flashes of being hard to play against. While he needs some work, especially on his skating, and will likely not be a point producer if he makes it to the NHL level, he does go to the net, digs for puck, works the wall very effectively and has a decent shot. We love his physicality and willingness to both throw a big hit as well as drop the gloves and take care of business. The question is: Will an NHL team like those characteristics enough to step up and draft him this season knowing he has his share of work to put in?

Jean-Christophe Beaudin of Rouyn Noranda was a Quebec league rookie this season who started a little slowly before turning it on halfway through the year when put on the top line for the Huskies: a role where he proved to not just be a passenger. He is a defensively responsible winger with decent size and smarts who knows where to go on the ice and can make an impact at both ends. He sees the ice well and makes a strong pass, but needs to learn to hurry up his pace as the league looked a little fast for him some nights. He is rated higher on some other lists but in our views there was still plenty of work to be done in his game and that is why he is not in our top 210 even though he has some intriguing potential moving forward.

Two Charlottetown blueliners are considered sleepers to us as each is very strong in one area of their skill-set but lack in others. First is Luc Deschenes, who is very smooth, very mobile, strong on his skates and always has his feet moving. He can escape pressure in tight areas because of his great skating ability. He is a good puck handler with smooth hands and good puck protection. He makes a good breakout pass and has a very good slapshot and one-timer. Despite being only 5'11", he is a physical player, battles hard along the boards, will finish his checks and lay a big open ice hit now and then. Defensively he is solid, has the basics, good positioning and doesn't make a lot of mistakes. His skating

is definitely his best asset, and while the rest might be a tad weak, he could be a solid option for an NHL team to take a chance on.

David Henley is a big physical defender for Charlottetown who keeps it very simple. Not much offense in him but he has some interesting tools. His feet could improve, but he is very impressive for his size. His puck skills are okay—he uses his size and reach well to protect the puck. He makes solid, crisp, tape-to-tape passes but lacks a heavy shot. Now this is where this kid becomes interesting...he is very mean and physical. He is not only hitting to stop opponents, but hitting to hurt. He likes to give that little extra to others and will talk a lot to opponents after whistles. He is very strong along the boards and possesses a relatively good IQ, just not on the offensive side. His defensive game is very strong. He has good positioning, cleans the front of the net and will block shots too. Will an NHL team like his physical play enough to make him a draft pick? That's the question.

A Canadian prep school kid, David Jankowski of Stanstead College in Ontario, is another guy who has a ways to go in his development, but has some intriguing potential. The brother of Calgary Flames first round pick Mark Jankowski plays a strong defensive game and is quick to the puck, wanting it on his stick. While the level of play is pretty low, he showed some strong offensive abilities as well. He skates well but will definitely need to add to his reed thin frame of 155 pounds. He can pull some real nifty one-on-one moves with the puck and has a decent shot as well. We did not rank him in our top 210 prospects as we felt his game was just too inconsistent and that he has so much to work on that he is likely a draft re-entry candidate.

Nick Swaney is one of the youngest players in the draft (born September 9) and plays in the somewhat hidden Minnesota High School system with Lakeville South, keeping him off the draft radar. While he is not even in our top 210 player rankings, we did like the raw skills we saw from the winger in the games we did see and he looked like a kid who could improve dramatically over the next two seasons. His season ended in Waterloo of the USHL where he was a hardworking and fairly reliable player, showing off some solid puck skills and good instincts. His size and skating will need slight improvements, but he could make a strong late round project pick who, after four or five years, could look like a home run selection.

St. Thomas Academy winger Christiano Versich is a guy who is extremely creative and is very fun to watch. Every time he has the puck on his stick, you know there is a good chance something special is going to happen. He can make jaw dropping dekes and his precise passing just makes you shake your head in amazement. He sees the ice very well and makes tape-to-tape passes, even while threading the needle. He is a dual threat because he can shoot the puck too. He makes the defense think he is going to deke, but catches them off guard with a quick release. He is also a threat on the forecheck. He does it with what I would describe as systematic reckless abandon. He is not wild and



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all over the place in a negative sense; he wreaks havoc out there and causes a ton of confusion. He also does a great job of always moving his feet with the puck, drawing a ton of penalties because that is the only way the other team can slow him down. Unfortunately, he only plays in one of the three zones. A team may take him late based on his offensive upside, but he may need some time at Colorado College to round out his game and show that he is willing to play in all three zones.

Wausau West High 6'6" defender Adam Parsells is a massive defender who intrigued us this season as a guy with some raw tools who could develop into something with time. The University of Wisconsin recruit's best asset is his obvious size and what he can do with it. He moves well for such a towering prospect; although, he will need to improve his overall balance and first step quickness. He possesses a huge radius to defend as he uses his reach well. He can also move the puck, making strong passes and has a really effective shot that gets on net just a few inches off the ice. He will need to hit the weight room in Wisconsin, but could end up a late round guy a team stores away for three or four seasons and takes a look at after that.

BC High defender Ryan Shea is a guy who some scouts like and others have him on their "do not draft" list due to his limited upside and some defensive warts. He reads the offensive play well and has a decent shot and first pass. He follows the play up ice and joins into the rush providing an option. Shea has no trouble skating up with the puck and does a good job of it, driving the play and taking it all the way to the net if there is a clear lane. He battles hard on the offensive wall to keep the puck in deep, but when he perceives the battle is lost or not worth the gamble, Shea will fly back to defend. He will need to clean up his

backward skating as he gets a little tangled in his feet as he starts moving back, while almost fully upright and losing momentum in his stride. Shea struggles to contain his man as they drive to the net; the puck carrier easily gets by with some decent speed. A team could scoop him up in the later rounds and hope his time at Northeastern University will help hammer out some of these concerns.

Westminster Prep's Johnny McDermott, a two-way pivot, does most things well, but nothing at an elite or great level. He shows nice speed through the neutral zone and possesses an athletic build. He is always hustling and is tenacious on the draw. He battles for pucks, digs in deep and battles until his team skates away with possession. He sees the ice well, makes a solid pass, works two-on-ones well, knowing how to hold the puck long enough to draw the defense to him to open his teammates, but not long enough that he cannot get them the puck. He has a decent shot, but overall, his work ethic and determination are what stands out. Will a team like that enough to take him with an eye on a bottom line hard working role in mind?

Defenseman McKay Flanagan of The Gunnery prep school is a very interesting prospect, seeming to have fairly solid puck skills. He likes to rush the puck and does it often, but needs to improve his stride. His foot speed is slow and he has an awkward looking stride. Flanagan also does not have the best hands, often losing the puck in traffic, but does show nice passing and the ability to find seams to his teammates. He looks very comfortable in the offensive zone. Defensively, he does a great job of breaking up the rush and shutting down lanes real fast. He either quickly pokes the puck away while skating backwards or shuts down the cross-ice passing lane by stretching down on one knee or angling the puck carrier off. He is extremely strong in corner battles and will often leave the corner with possession of the puck by just outmuscling his opponents. These positive qualities are contradicted by the fact that he had a habit of being too aggressive running around sometimes and losing his position. If a team believes that the raw defensive ability of Flanagan is worth the effort to mold, there is an outside chance of him getting drafted and even developing into a solid prospect.

In the NAHL, equivalent to Canadian Jr. B where few prospects are seen as having NHL potential, big 6'6" puck stopper Evan Smith made a strong impression in a couple games for our scouts. He is huge and it shows by the amount of the net he takes up. It really took a fluke goal or pin point accuracy to beat him at this level. He is also very flexible for a kid his size and once he goes down in a butterfly, you are not scoring on the bottom 12 inches of the net. We liked the fundamentals of his glove hand as well. His movement was not always smooth and he did not always take the direct path to where he wanted to go. Smith could not cut it in the WHL with Victoria so his future hockey destination is in question as he is not NCAA eligible. Might be too many question marks for an NHL team to use a pick on, but also might be one of those feel good stories of adversity due to all the positives he does have.



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Playing in the EHL with the New Jersey Rockets, defender Nick Fiorentino impressed us last season. And while his game has not developed at the rate we would have hoped, he still holds some intrigue. He demonstrates impressive poise with the puck, and has proven that he can handle the pace at the Junior A level. Fiorentino possesses a very, very powerful point-shot but has an issue with his ability to get his shots through. He plays a decent game defensively, stepping up hard on his opponents, but then there are also shifts where he is beat easily and shows little effort. He does have a long reach and demonstrates strong stick-use to force guys wide. Fiorentino is a decent skater with good forward speed and acceleration. He is a skilled defenseman, but he needs to be smarter as he can take some bad penalties being overly aggressive physically. Headed to Army in two seasons and not many guys go to Army or Navy to develop their hockey skills.

Our eastern USA scouts sleeper out of the USPHL is winger Alex Whelan of the New Jersey Hitmen U18 program. He is a thick but not overly big kid who has terrific skill with the puck. He used his strength and power to protect the puck against pressure and is very tough to contain when he got going. He is hard to separate from the puck and has great vision and smarts with his decision-making. Whelan has a hard shot with a tremendous release but it lacks in accuracy. Whelan gives a strong defensive effort, coming back hard and positioning well in the zone. He is a force on the boards, using his strength and stick to beat his opponents and come away with the puck. He is a very strong skater with tremendous power in his first couple of strides. The question is: Will an NHL team like him enough to take a smaller kid playing in a weak league with a valuable draft pick?

Over in the USHL, little Finnish defender Vili Saarijarvi of Green Bay, who recently signed on with Karpat of the Liiga, was a guy we hummed and hawed about putting into our rankings—especially after his solid U18 play in April. The tiny puck-moving blueliner has a heavy shot from the point and moves with some strong elusiveness and quickness. He can be a bit too much of a scrambled mess in his own zone and obviously gets pushed off the puck or loses one-on-one battles too easily. But, he still plays an aggressive style of game from the blue line. He gets up the ice with regularity and also is keen on starting the transition game with a nice pass. A guy who could develop into a decent prospect again with time to develop.

Chase Pearson, son of former NHLer Scott Pearson, plays a pretty simplistic game for Youngstown of the USHL, using his good size (6'3") and determination to make an impact. He is a big gangly player with solid but unspectacular skating ability. He doesn't show the purest of hands; although, he can finish and play the crash and bang game. He has no problem driving to the net and jamming home a rebound and contributes with some nice work on the cycle. We can see some pretty decent raw potential here, albeit, he is very limited offensively. We do not have him ranked in our top 210 but he still looks like he could be an OK long-term project type of pick for later in the draft.

Jake Wahlin is a gritty, hardworking forward who plays bigger than his listed 5'10" size. For a smaller stature forward, he plays an aggressive, up-tempo game, constantly in the mix with chipped in pucks, and makes a very strong effort to recover any loose pucks in all three zones. His feet are in constant motion, and he throws himself at the opposition in hopes of landing a check and making an impact. He is a very good, efficient skater with phenomenal edge work, but is not the flashiest with the puck skills. Defensively he gives an honest effort and he maintains coverage with his quick feet and aggressive movements. The St. Cloud State commit has the skill to be a steady point producer at the NCAA level, but after that, he may be forced into a checking role in the pro game.

One NCAA prospect who was relatively high on our pre-season watch list but for one reason or another continued to slide down the list because of other prospects jumping up all season is Wisconsin freshman winger Cameron Hughes. He did not make the final 210, but he does possess some intriguing skills. Hughes is much more of an offensive forward than two-way guy. He shows a decent shot, but it does not possess the quickest release and is not always taken from a high percentage area. His strength lies in his play making skills and skating ability. Unfortunately, not all parts of his game are on par with his offensive skillset. He is not the biggest kid out there, so he really needs to bulk up if he wants to stop getting knocked off the puck so easily. It can be very frustrating watching him in the defensive zone as well. Hughes has a lot of holes in his game, despite having some decent offensive upside. We would not be surprised if he was drafted, but the team that takes him will

know he is in for a lot of development time.

Over the pond there are always a handful of guys who fit the bill of sleepers. Frank Gymer of Jokerit in the Finnish U20 league who was passed over last draft really emerged this season and became one of the key players for the team. He was very good in each game we had scouts at. He was consistently in the middle of the action and made a lot of plays in the offensive zone. Gymer is still on the smaller side and needs to bulk up physically; however, there are many things in his game that should allow him to succeed at the pro level. He's got very good vision and his offensive skills stood out. He is very tough for defensemen to handle in one-on-one situations due to his creativity. He's strong on the puck and can pass it at high speed and maintain possession. Also, his shot is solid with good accuracy. He still has ways to go to play in the NHL but there's solid potential in this prospect.

Defenseman Veeti Vainio, a right-handed defender with the Blues U20, plays a very offensive-minded game, trying to push the puck up ice all game. Vainio has that uncanny ability to create offense out of nothing. His offensive skills and ability to recognize chances are impressive and we have him ranked because of this ability. He displays excellent skating ability, a smooth and quick stride and he can handle the puck very well while in top gear. He moves well laterally and that allows him to throw some dangerous wrist shots on net. The main problem with this kid is mainly in the defensive zone. Vainio can be a very frustrating player to watch, his compete level in the corners can be so low that he doesn't look too worried about winning many battles. He doesn't have the tools to play physical either. This has made me wonder how his game will translate at the higher levels. If an NHL team likes his offensive skills enough and selects him, and if he develops some of the other aspects, he could become a true steal for them.

Over in Sweden one of the most underrated prospects in the entire draft is Kevin Stenlund of HV71. He is coming off two tough knee injuries, but he showed he is willing to put in that extra effort it takes to make it. He's captain of his team and leads it by example out on the ice. Defensively, for example, he never cheats when it comes to fore-check/backcheck. Sometimes you get a little Mats Sundin-feeling over his game. You can really feel his presence when he's on the ice. He is a big guy (6'3") with decent skating and really good puck skills in all three zones, and ability to protect it well. It feels like Stenlund always finds a controlled way into the o-zone and creates chances both for himself and his teammates. In his own end he leads his team by getting into shooting lanes, blocking shots, battling in the corners and outworking his guy. He is a beast in the faceoff circle. His skating still needs some work—the main reason he is lower on many draft lists—but thanks to his good attitude we are thinking he will put that extra time in to improve.

We would also place defender Alexander Younan, also of HV71 U20 squad, as a player who has all the tools necessary to become an impact player. Size, hockey sense in both ends of the rink, skating, physicality

and a strong passing game are all in his tool-box. The issue is that he has to be able to put them all together on a consistent basis. At 6'1", 190 pounds he already has an adult body, and is just getting comfortable using his physique in the game, along the boards and in front of the net. He is mobile and energetic for a defender, and hunts the puck like a hound when he is in his own zone and the opposing team has the puck. His tools allow him to be on the ice for any situation: powerplay, penalty kill or in other crunch moments in any game. The skillset is all there, it is just up to him to realize that and play up to his potential.

A couple other Swedish defenders also look like guys who could develop into strong prospects over time. Filip Berglund with the Skelleftea juniors is a 6'3" blueliner who plays a strong two-way game, shows poise with the puck and is calm when pressured. He really stands out because of his size and how he handles the puck, as well as his ability to make strong outlet passes. He's not a rocket on the skates, and has some pivoting/edgework issues, but he possesses decent mobility for a kid his size. He could make more use of his body physically, however, as he has the size and strength to dominate along the boards but lacks the killer instinct. Overall he plays a good even keeled game, even if there are general aspects of his game that he needs to improve.

Calle Krantz another 6'3" blueliner with the Linkoping juniors plays a game similar to that of top pick Gabriel Carlsson. He takes his defensive responsibilities seriously, playing tough and using his size and reach to stop the opposing players. He stands up for his teammates when there is pushing and shoving after the whistles. He shows some creativity with the puck and is engaged in the offensive game: showing good instinct, sneaking up to keep pucks in the zone and keeping the attack going. He is inconsistent, however, as the few viewings we got were mixed reviews.

In Russia, one guy who we like a lot even though he is seen by many as a mid-to-late rounder is winger Kirill Kaprizov of Metallurg Novokuznetsk in the KHL. His size, birth certificate and risky offensive play can cause NHL scouts to question his NHL upside, but that skill is also the reason he has the potential to become a solid point producer at the next level. His shifty skating ability, tenacious puck pursuit, dangerous playmaking skills and elite vision make him a strong prospect. He has also shown the ability to lead and play a full 200-foot game. We love his upside and he is rated higher in our rankings than most NHL teams probably like him.

Lastly, over in Switzerland, center Denis Malgin, who plays for Zurich of the NLA, is another guy we like more than most as a creative offensive generator. While there is a chance he goes in the second or third round because of his high level of skill, we feel like he has the potential to become a top player from this crop. Lack of size (5'9") and being Swiss are holding him back as the Swiss, similar to the Russians, can go play at home and make some pretty lucrative compensation. NHL teams usually look at these guys as a gamble.

# 2015 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 this season to good use and project where we see the prospects of the 2015 NHL Draft landing.

Making the right selection for each team's development model and style they play is so crucial that every draft selection—especially the top two rounds—can hugely affect a club's future success.

So without further ado...

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman: "Welcome to the 53rd NHL Draft," Mr. Bettman announces. "The Edmonton Oilers have won the lottery and have the first selection in the 2015 NHL Entry Draft."

\*\*The exact draft order to be determined after Stanley Cup Playoffs are complete.



## 1

### EDMONTON OILERS

The Edmonton Oilers select from Erie of the OHL, C Connor McDavid.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to add a blue chipper to their backend and in goal to go along with all their young forwards.

**NOTES:** Edmonton needs to concentrate assets on adding NHL talent on defense and in net, but it is not every day a generational franchise-altering talent like McDavid falls into your lap.

## 2

### BUFFALO SABRES

The Buffalo Sabres select from Boston University, C Jack Eichel.

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

**NOTES:** The Sabres add the best consolation prize the draft has given since maybe Evgeni Malkin went to the Pittsburgh Penguins second in the Ovechkin draft.

## 3

### ARIZONA COYOTES

The Arizona Coyotes select from London of the OHL, RW Mitchell Marner.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need more goal scoring on the wing and a blue-chip goalie prospect.

**NOTES:** The Desert Dogs grab the top offensive winger in the draft and someone who can complete one dominant future offensive line with centre Max Domi and winger Anthony Duclair.

## 4

### TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

The Toronto Maple Leafs select from Erie of the OHL, C Dylan Strome.

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

**NOTES:** With Mark Hunter running this draft, the Leafs love that they get a big, strong, potential top line playmaking center to build around.

## 5

### CAROLINA HURRICANES

The Carolina Hurricanes select from Boston College, D Noah Hanifin.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need skill at both forward and defense as well as depth in the crease.

**NOTES:** The Canes could have used some skill at one of the three forward positions, but know that Hanifin is the next best available and immediately becomes their top prospect.

## 6

### NEW JERSEY DEVILS

The New Jersey Devils select from Brandon of the WHL, D Ivan Provorov.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at all forward positions and a puck mover on the backend.

**NOTES:** The Devils get the projected top pairing, highly skilled blueliner who they coveted and the best player on their list still available.

7



## PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

The Philadelphia Flyers select from Kingston of the OHL, LW Lawson Crouse.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive talent and depth at center and a high-end goaltender in the pipeline.

**NOTES:** The Flyers go with the potential big power winger, knowing this blend of work ethic, immense size and skill do not come around too often.

8



## COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

The Columbus Blue Jackets select from TPS in the Finnish League, RW Mikko Rantanen.

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

**NOTES:** The Blue Jackets add a potential top line scoring winger, but also a guy who can play a two-way game and has size.

9



## SAN JOSE SHARKS

The San Jose Sharks select from Michigan, D Zach Werenski.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** The Sharks need some offensive skill up front and a blue chip puck mover from the backend.

**NOTES:** The in-transition Sharks get a blue-chip blueliner to build around: someone who can play both ends and has some good size.

10



## COLORADO AVALANCHE

The Colorado Avalanche select from Youngstown of the USHL, C Kyle Connor.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at all three forward positions, but especially the wings.

**NOTES:** The Avalanche pick up a guy who can play wing or center and has the skill and speed to eventually become an NHL goal scorer.

11



## FLORIDA PANTHERS

The Florida Panthers select from Sarnia of the OHL, C/RW Pavel Zacha.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a high-end puck mover on the blue line and some scorers on the wing.

**NOTES:** The Panthers add a potential power forward in Zacha with this pick who also projects as a top six goal scorer.

12



## DALLAS STARS

The Dallas Stars select from Seattle of the WHL, C Mathew Barzal.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need goal scoring prospects on the wings, offensive centers and a puck rusher on the blue line.

**NOTES:** The Stars add a potential playmaking center who they hope can play in their top six for years to come.

13



## LOS ANGELES KINGS

The Los Angeles Kings select from Saint John, D Thomas Chabot.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They are thin on skilled forwards, goaltenders with NHL upside and puck movers on the backend.

**NOTES:** With their first round selection they nab the skilled puck mover that impressed them at April's U18 tournament in Switzerland.

14



## BOSTON BRUINS

The Boston Bruins select from Cape Breton of the QMJHL, LW Evgeny Svechnikov.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive skill coming at all forward positions and especially a goal scoring winger.

**NOTES:** The Bruins go for skill here and grab a highly skilled Russian winger who can both set up plays and fill the net.

15



## CALGARY FLAMES

The Calgary Flames select from Kelowna of the WHL, C Nick Merkley.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at the forward positions and a puck mover on the backend.

**NOTES:** The Flames continue the retooling with another highly skilled forward who will slot in with the other youngsters, leading the charge for a revamped Flames attack.

16

## EDMONTON OILERS

The Edmonton Oilers select from Sherbrooke of the QMJHL, D Jeremy Roy.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need more skill up front, a bonafide blue chipper in net and a puck rushing defender.

**NOTES:** The Oil add a top two-way talent at a position of great need with their second first rounder of this draft.

17

## WINNIPEG JETS

The Winnipeg Jets select from Halifax of the QMJHL, RW Timo Meier.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at the forward positions and a true blue chipper in the crease.

**NOTES:** The Jets grab their top prospect's running mate in Halifax with their first pick and hope they might duplicate the magic they made this season in the Q at the next level.

18

## OTTAWA SENATORS

The Ottawa Senators select from Farjestad of the SHL, D Oliver Kylington.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at all forward positions, a skilled defender or two and a blue chipper in the crease.

**NOTES:** The Sens pick up someone who has been compared to their current superstar defender Erik Karlsson when he was coming through the draft process.

19

## DETROIT RED WINGS

The Detroit Red Wings select from Farjestad of the SHL, C Joel Eriksson Ek.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive skill up the middle and some size at all forward positions.

**NOTES:** The Wings pick up both size and offensive skill with this selection and make their top scout happy in the process. He plays a solid two-way game and could end up making a similar impact as Johan Franzen when all is said and done.

20

## MINNESOTA WILD

The Minnesota Wild select from Saint John of the QMJHL, D Jakub Zboril.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensive skill on the wings and center as well as a puck-moving blueliner or two.

**NOTES:** The Wild organization adds a feisty two-way guy who can rush the puck and deliver a strong check to their defense prospect stable.

21

## BUFFALO SABRES

The Buffalo Sabres select from Charlottetown of the QMJHL, RW Daniel Sprong.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a true puck rushing defender, depth on the back-end and scoring on the wings.

**NOTES:** The Sabres add the top potential goal scoring winger in the draft, but one who comes with a buyer beware warning tag attached.

22

## WASHINGTON CAPITALS

The Washington Capitals select from Ladia Togliatti in Russia, RW Denis Guryanov.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at every forward position and depth on the backend.

**NOTES:** The Russian contingent continues to flow from the Motherland to Washington as the Caps pick up a potential goal scoring winger with this pick.

23

## VANCOUVER CANUCKS

The Vancouver Canucks select from Ottawa of the OHL, RW Travis Konecny.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They are in need of offensive talent up front and a blue-chipper on the blue line.

**NOTES:** The Canucks pick up a hard working offensive minded winger who can lead by example, but might have some injury concerns. He is also the cousin of Canuck Bo Horvat.

24

## TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

The Toronto Maple Leafs select from the U.S. NTDP U18 team, C Colin White.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need skill up front and impact defensive prospects to sprinkle throughout the prospect pool.

**NOTES:** The Leafs add a future leader and potential team captain with this pick and someone who can play anywhere throughout their lineup.

25

WINNIPEG JETS

The Winnipeg Jets select from Everett of the WHL, D Noah Juulsen.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at the forward positions and a true blue chipper in the crease.

**NOTES:** Winnipeg adds a solid two-way blueliner to the mix with their second pick in the first round. Juulsen is a smart, solid first pass rearguard.

26

MONTREAL CANADIENS

The Montreal Canadiens select from the U.S. NTDP U18 team, RW Jeremy Bracco.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need offensively skilled prospects at all three positions up front, and a puck mover on the backend.

**NOTES:** Bracco might be small, but the guy is a talented playmaker and someone who the Canadiens brass will want to groom to replace some of their aging core.

27

ARIZONA COYOTES

The Arizona Coyotes select from Waterloo of the USHL, RW Brock Boeser.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They still need more goal scoring on the wing and a blue-chip goalie prospect.

**NOTES:** The Coyotes continue to add skill up front after the Marner pick with this selection. The Coyotes brass would have liked a defender here, but go BPA instead.

28

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

The Philadelphia Flyers select from Swift Current of the WHL, LW Jake DeBrusk.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need considerable upgrades to the offensive skill on the wings and at the center position.

**NOTES:** The Flyers add a skilled offensive winger with high hockey sense with this pick. They see him as a top six scorer in a few seasons.

29

ANAHEIM DUCKS

The Anaheim Ducks select from Shawinigan of the QMJHL, C Anthony Beauvillier.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a skilled center or two as well as depth in the crease and on the back end.

**NOTES:** The Ducks scoop up a skilled, hard-working center who has been compared to Claude Giroux by some in the industry.

30

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

The Tampa Bay Lightning select from Niagara of the OHL, D Vince Dunn.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at the forward position and on the blue line.

**NOTES:** The Lightning add another blue chip puck mover on the backend after they nabbed a similar prospect, Anthony Deangelo last year.

## ROUND 2

31

BUFFALO SABRES

The Buffalo Sabres select from Frolunda in the SuperElit, D Jacob Larsson.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They could use that blue-chip, puck-rushing defender or to continue adding offensive talent on the wings.

**NOTES:** The Sabres add a guy to the backend who could slide into a top four role, moving the puck up ice and playing sound defense.

32

ARIZONA COYOTES

The Arizona Coyotes select from the U.S. NTDP U18 team, C Jack Roslovic.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** After grabbing a couple scoring wingers in the first they will add depth via the best available talent.

**NOTES:** Roslovic adds some talent to the center position and depth to their rebuilding system. He is a guy who can contribute offensively as well as other areas as well.

33

EDMONTON OILERS

The Edmonton Oilers select from Tri-City of the WHL, D Brandon Carlo.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** After adding Roy and McDavid they look to pick up further depth on the backend.

**NOTES:** The Oilers could not imagine their draft going any better after getting their superstar and a couple strong defensive prospects.

34

**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**

The Columbus Blue Jackets select from Portland of the WHL, RW Paul Bittner.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** To continue adding talent on the wing even with the Rantanen pick and more skilled defenders.

**NOTES:** The Blue Jackets add another potential top six forward with size to the mix with their second rounder and like what they have drafted so far.

35

**CAROLINA HURRICANES**

The Carolina Hurricanes select from Stalnye Lisy Magnitogorsk in the Russian Junior League, G Ilya Samsonov.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need more skill coming at forward and defense as well as depth in the crease.

**NOTES:** The Hurricanes step up and nab the first puck stopper of the draft thinking that he will not last to their next selection. Samsonov has real NHL starting goaltender potential.

36

**NEW JERSEY DEVILS**

The New Jersey Devils select from Prince George of the WHL, C Jansen Harkins.

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

**NOTES:** The Devils add a guy who many thought would go in the first round with their second rounder. He has some intriguing potential as someone who can play in a multitude of roles throughout a lineup.

37

**BOSTON BRUINS**

The Boston Bruins select from the U.S. NTDP U18 team, RW Christian Fischer.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to continue adding offensive skill coming at all forward positions.

**NOTES:** The Bruins continue to add both size and skill on the wings in this draft and feel Fischer adds an element of determination they like.

38

**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**

The Columbus Blue Jackets selects from Charlottetown of the QMJHL, C Filip Chlapik.

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

**NOTES:** After going with two big wingers to start the draft, the Blue Jackets look to add a center to balance the pool and think Chlapik has some offensive upside to his game.

39

**SAN JOSE SHARKS**

The San Jose Sharks select from the U.S. NTDP U18 team, LW Jordan Greenway.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** The Sharks added their puck mover in the first and now look to add some offensive skill up front.

**NOTES:** The Sharks like the immense size and playmaking ability that they scoop up with their second rounder after adding the puck rusher they coveted first.

40

**COLORADO AVALANCHE**

The Colorado Avalanche select from Waterloo of the USHL, C Tom Novak.

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

**NOTES:** The Avalanche go back to the USHL well with their second selection and nab a guy who has some of the best offensive skills and senses but also some question marks.

41

**NEW JERSEY DEVILS**

The New Jersey Devils select from Baie-Comeau of the QMJHL, D Nicolas Meloche.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They still need high-end talent coming at the all forward positions and more talent on the backend.

**NOTES:** The Devils like the size and nasty side that this guy can bring and feel he might make a perfect future running mate with their first round selection Provorov.

42

**OTTAWA SENATORS**

The Ottawa Senators select from Barrie of the OHL, G Mackenzie Blackwood.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at all forward positions, a skilled defender or two and a blue chipper in the crease.

**NOTES:** The Sens add a strong goaltending prospect here as they obviously are looking to build from the back out through this draft.

43

## LOS ANGELES KINGS

The Los Angeles Kings select from Linköping of the SHL, D Gabriel Carlsson.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They are thin on skilled forwards, goaltenders with NHL upside and puck movers on the backend.

**NOTES:** The Kings add another solid prospect to their backend with this pick and a guy who plays the defensive first style that would go very well in the future paired with their first selection.

44

## TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

The Tampa Bay Lightning selects from Saginaw of the OHL, C Mitchell Stephens.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need high-end talent coming at the forward position and added depth on the blue line.

**NOTES:** The Lightning like the two-way skills and gritty edge they saw from Stephens and think he fits in well with the style Tampa plays on the ice.

45

## CALGARY FLAMES

The Calgary Flames select from Erie of the OHL, D Travis Dermott.

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

**NOTES:** The Flames address their need for a puck mover on the backend with their first second rounder after scooping up a talented playmaker with their first rounder.

46

## PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

The Pittsburgh Penguins select from HC Pardubice of the Czech Extraliga, RW Michael Spacek.

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

**NOTES:** The Pens add a guy who is creative at generating offensive chances, has solid finishing skills and can play a solid two-way game.

47

## WINNIPEG JETS

The Winnipeg Jets select from Topeka of the NAHL, G Matej Tomek.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at the forward positions and a true blue chipper in the crease.

**NOTES:** The Jets go off the board a little with the selection of Tomek, but their scouts love him and he has some intriguing potential.

48

## OTTAWA SENATORS

The Ottawa Senators select from Chicoutimi of the QMJHL, C Nicolas Roy.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth all forward positions and another skilled defender.

**NOTES:** The Sens add the big center with their second pick in round number two and like his size, hard work and two-way abilities.

49

## DALLAS STARS

The Dallas Stars select from Cedar Rapids of the USHL, RW Erik Foley.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to add some goal scoring prospects on the wings and a puck rusher on the blue line.

**NOTES:** Jim Nill adds a dynamic forward who is part power winger and part offensive point producer, but all potential impact forward at the next level.

50

## MINNESOTA WILD

The Minnesota Wild select from Niagara of the OHL, LW Graham Knott.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They still need some offensive skill on the wings and center plus another skilled defender.

**NOTES:** The Wild love the size and fearless play that Knott brings to the table and feel he could develop into a solid offensive line producer down the road.

51

## BUFFALO SABRES

The Buffalo Sabres select from Oshawa of the OHL, D Mitchell Vande Sompel.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They could use another puck moving defender and more offensive talent on the wings.

**NOTES:** The Sabres come away with a top offensive blueliner and a guy who showed plenty of versatility with Oshawa this year.

**52 CALGARY FLAMES**

The Calgary Flames select from Regina of the WHL, LW Austin Wagner.

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

**NOTES:** The Flames go off the board to take one of the top risers this season in the eyes of most scouts as a Wagner has the potential to be a big secondary scorer or worst case, a strong two-way winger who plays in your bottom two lines.

**53 CALGARY FLAMES**

The Calgary Flames select from Peterborough of the OHL, D Matt Spencer.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need some skill on the backend and more offensive help up front.

**NOTES:** The Flames take this two-way guy who plays an involved defensive game, a physical element and makes a strong first pass.

**54 CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS**

The Chicago Blackhawks select from HC Kladno of the Czech Republic, G Daniel Vladar.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need size and skill up front and a strong goaltending prospect to develop.

**NOTES:** The Hawks scoop up a top goaltending prospect who they like before the run on stoppers finishes and they find themselves empty handed.

**55 NASHVILLE PREDATORS**

The Nashville Predators select from Barrie of the OHL, D Rasmus Andersson.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need a blue-chip blueliner and a scoring center on the way.

**NOTES:** The Predators use their first selection in the draft to pick up a puck moving blueliner who they like as a future powerplay quarterback type.

**56 ST. LOUIS BLUES**

The St. Louis Blues select from Gatineau of the QMJHL, LW Yakov Trenin.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth at left wing and another goaltender to develop.

**NOTES:** The St. Louis Blues nab a skilled playmaking winger with some size and grit to add to the equation. They like him as a future top six NHL scorer but he has some skating issues to improve first.

**57 EDMONTON OILERS**

The Edmonton Oilers select from HV71 of the SuperElit, LW Filip Ahl.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need to add a blue chipper in goal as well as depth to compliment all their young talent.

**NOTES:** The Oil add some immense size with the big power winger from Sweden. He has the potential to play in the top six one day, but first much improvement is need in his consistency and drive.

**58 PHILADELPHIA FLYERS**

The Philadelphia Flyers select from Quebec of the QMJHL, G Callum Booth.

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

**NOTES:** The Flyers select who they believe has the potential to become the team's goaltender of the future with this selection.

**59 NEW YORK RANGERS**

The New York Rangers select from Sault Ste. Marie of the OHL, RW Zachary Senyshyn.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need some high-end prospects at every position.

**NOTES:** The Rangers add a speedster on the wing and one who could be a breakout star in Major Junior next season with a bigger role on his team.

**60 COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**

The Columbus Blue Jackets select from Acadie-Bathurst of the QMJHL, D Guillaume Brisebois.

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

**NOTES:** The Jackets grab a solid defensive prospect with some upside in the offensive zone. They like what they have been able to grab so far in terms of forward talent and now this pick.

**61 ARIZONA COYOTES**

The Arizona Coyotes select from Blainville-Boisbriand of the QMJHL, G Samuel Montembeault.

**DRAFT NEEDS:** They need depth up front and a blue-chip goalie prospect.

**NOTES:** The Coyotes get their goaltender with the last pick in the draft. The Coyotes had him much higher on their draft list than where they selected him.

# 2016 NHL DRAFT - PRELIMINARY RANKING

- 1). C Auston Matthews, US NTDP U18 (USHL), 6-2, 200
- 2). D Jakob Chychrun, Sarnia (OHL), 6-2, 200
- 3). RW Jesse Puljujarvi, Karpat (Liiga), 6-3, 200
- 4). LW Matthew Tkachuk, US NTDP U18 (USHL), 6-1, 190
- 5). LW Max Jones, US NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-2, 200
- 6). D Chad Kryz, US NTDP U17 (USHL), 5-11, 185
- 7). LW Tyler Benson, Vancouver (WHL), 6-0, 200
- 8). LW/C Dmitri Sokolov, Omskie Yastreby (MHL), 6-0, 215
- 9). C Sam Steel, Regina (WHL), 5-11, 170
- 10). D Sean Day, Mississauga (OHL), 6-2, 225
- 11). C Logan Brown, Windsor (OHL), 6-5, 215
- 12). RW/C Tyson Jost, Penticton (BCHL), 6-0, 185
- 13). D Kale Clague, Brandon (WHL), 6-0, 190
- 14). RW Alexander Nylander, AIK J20 (SuperElit), 5-11, 165
- 15). RW Patrik Laine, Tappara (Liiga), 6-3, 210
- 16). D Olli Juolevi, Jokerit U20 (JR. A SM-Liiga), 6-2, 185
- 17). C Kieffer Bellows, Sioux Falls (USHL), 6-0, 185
- 18). C/LW Rasmus Asplund, Färjestad (SHL), 6-0, 180
- 19). RW Julien Gauthier, Val-d'Or (QMJHL), 6-4, 220
- 20). D Dante Fabbro, Penticton (BCHL), 6-1, 180
- 21). D Jake Bean, Calgary (WHL), 6-0, 175
- 22). C Brett Howden, Moose Jaw (WHL), 6-2, 185
- 23). C Clayton Keller, US NTDP U17 (USHL), 5-10, 165
- 24). D Charlie McAvoy, US NTDP U18 (USHL), 6-0, 200
- 25). D Ryan Lindgren, US NTDP U17 (USHL), 5-11, 195
- 26). D Luke Green, Saint John (QMJHL), 6-0, 180
- 27). LW Carl Grundstrom, MODO (SHL), 6-0, 185
- 28). LW Pierre-Luc Dubois, Cape Breton (QMJHL), 6-1, 180
- 29). D Max Lajoie, Swift Current (WHL), 6-1, 170
- 30). LW Nick Pastujov, US NTDP U17 (USHL), 6-0, 195



**1**  
**C/RW Auston Matthews**  
 US NTDP U18, USHL  
 6-2, 200

A strong, hardworking forward who has a high IQ and uses his large frame and power to his advantage...a powerful skater and strong on his feet; impossible to knock over but also moves effortlessly up and down the ice...constantly moving in the offensive zone in an effort to create lanes for himself and his teammates...has great vision and a crackling shot...his protection of the puck is pro calibre as he weaves his way through traffic...possesses a nice set of hands...drives to the net from all areas of the offensive zone...a very mature player who doesn't let others push him around in front of the net; he has a feisty side but uses it at the most opportune times and in a very disciplined manner...consistently drops below the hash marks and goal line in his own zone to lend a hand and help move the puck up ice...has franchise player upside.



**2**  
**D Jakob Chychrun**  
 Sarnia, OHL  
 6-2, 200

The premier blueliner in the 2016 draft class plays an impactful two-way game...built very solidly with both strength and athleticism...is extremely mobile and generates impressive power in just one stride...has deceiving top speed and can go end-to-end...displays incredible instincts both offensively and defensively...continually tries to push the offense and attack...shows no hesitation in his actions...has a cannon of a point shot but can also make a delicate saucer pass...manages his defensive gaps well...uses both an active stick as well as his body to separate opponents from the puck...shows strong leadership qualities both on and off the ice...plays physical with a little nasty edge like his father before him...projected No.1 two-way NHL defenseman.



**3**  
**RW Jesse Puljujarvi**  
 Karpat, Liiga  
 6-3, 200

A big power winger who has a cannon of a shot...an excellent physical frame and strength...has impressive levels of speed and when he gets moving he is near impossible to stop...good lateral movements, is strong on his feet, and has good acceleration that enables him to blow by defenders to the outside...quite shifty on his feet and maintains possession by protecting and shielding the puck...finds success when he bulls his way through traffic towards the net...has a quick release and gets a heavy snap shot off on the rush...makes crisp passes through ridiculously unthinkable lanes...sees where everyone on the ice is, opponent and teammate...has the offensive mindset to make things happen as he throws pucks on net and forces goalies to make saves...future NHL goal scorer.



**4**  
**LW Matthew Tkachuk**  
 US NTDP U18, USHL  
 6-1, 190

A strong winger who plays a solid all-around game...shows off some great possession skills and is tough to knock off of the puck...quick hands and good puck skills to work his way through traffic...skating is a work in progress but improving...has great vision with the puck and seems to be a step quicker when he gets it...distributes the puck well with soft touch and impressive vision...has a lethal wrist...high velocity on all his shots...goal scorer's mentality...plays with plenty of grit but needs to be careful not to cross the line...goes hard to the net and battles hard in the corners...solid defensively and highly effective on the PK...has a good defensive mind, active stick and a great awareness in his own end...father Keith had a very strong NHL career...will join London of the OHL next season...a potential top six two-way NHL forward with grit.



**5**  
**LW Max Jones**  
 US NTDP U17, USHL  
 6-2, 200

A powerful and dynamic winger with a diverse skillset that allows him to impact the game in a host of ways...fun player to watch...hits everything that moves and plays with a high energy level...north/south type of player with long, powerful strides...able to accelerate very quickly...his shot packs a huge punch and he gets it off his stick quickly...plays with high intensity and likes to engage physically by driving into traffic and bulling his way towards the net...also a feared open ice body checker...able to process the game while in top speed and can make plays while physically engaging...contributes at both ends of the rink...plays with a grinder's mentality but with top line skills...works hard along the boards...a complete package and burgeoning NHL power winger.



**6**  
**D Chad Kryz**  
 US NTDP U17, USHL  
 5-11, 185

An elite, puck-moving defenseman with a solid physical build for his size...a smooth skater in all four directions whose elusiveness allows him to open up space for himself...has great escapability and poise with the puck...hockey sense is his most dangerous weapon...learns from his mistakes...not one glaring weakness in his game...has a natural touch with the puck, able to handle it and control it like it is on a string...makes quick and accurate passes with gifted hands and creativity...processes the game incredibly quickly...rushes the puck up ice himself when given the time and space...his ability to quarterback the offense from the blue line is impressive...Kryz has an extremely high NHL upside.



**7**  
**LW Tyler Benson**  
**Vancouver, WHL**  
**6-0, 200**

A big offensive minded winger with a good motor...not overly flashy but plays more of a heavy, meat and potatoes type of game...works extremely hard for every inch he gets throughout each shift...great skater with impressive speed and power in his stride...can really shoot the puck, hitting the smallest of openings... shot has a pro release and excellent velocity... physical when he wants to be...no stranger to banging bodies and mixing it up a bit...can be overly reckless when throwing his body around...makes some high-end skilled passes...quickness in transition off a turnover is something else...needs to continue to get stronger and work on defensive positioning...the type of prospect you project to play any role, top six scorer or bottom six banger.



**9**  
**C Sam Steel**  
**Regina, WHL**  
**5-11, 170**

A flashy, creative forward who plays the game with a ton of speed...true puck possession forward who makes his teammates better with some elite playmaking passes and a phenomenal understanding of the game...smarts and hockey IQ is what separates him from most... his excellent hands mixed with his phenomenal acceleration and quickness make him effective in all areas...not afraid to shoot the puck and has a quick release...is extremely determined with the puck and it is nearly impossible to knock him off of it...finds creases in the opposing defenses...needs to add strength and learn to play in the greasy areas more consistently...top line offensive NHL center upside.



**11**  
**C Logan Brown**  
**Windsor, OHL**  
**6-5, 215**

He is your prototypical power forward...makes his living from the hash marks down in the offensive zone...uses his big body to his advantage... wins most puck battles below the goal line and along the boards...shows the ability to score at tough angles with his quick shot...very quick for a man his size but does look a little clumsy when pushed to a higher tempo...is aware of his size and strength advantage and uses it when needed...good vision that is executed on skilled passes...heavy on his stick...hard to contain once he gets going...shows a hunger to score goals and the shot selection to do so...will need to improve foot speed...son of former NHLer and current Ottawa 67's head coach Jeff Brown...NHL goal scoring power winger upside.



**8**  
**LW/C Dmitri Sokolov**  
**Omskie Yastreby, MHL**  
**6-0, 215**

A powerful and thick bodied scoring winger...blends size, skill, and tenacity into one impressive package... excels in battling for the puck and puck protection...plays an aggressive style of game...always moving his feet and seemingly always attacking the net...soft hands and solid agility help him maneuver through heavy traffic... has a wicked shot, including a deadly backhand...has pin point accuracy with his wrist shot...thinks the game quickly and can make quick plays while also physically battling...effective in a multitude of ways; whether goal scoring, fighting for 50/50 pucks or setting up teammates with soft passes...has a sixth sense when he has the puck, knowing where his teammates are...generates healthy speed but will need to improve his initial quickness...has top line goal scoring potential.



**10**  
**D Sean Day**  
**Mississauga, OHL**  
**6-2, 225**

Impressively sized, smooth skating defenseman who is very strong in all aspects of the game...an elite all-encompassing skater...elusive, quick and shows the ability to change directions fluidly at high speed...strong bursts to rush the puck up ice...uses his legs to contain people...not overly physical but will play the body depending on the situation...likes to check with his stick...plays in all situations...has a booming point shot...can make skilled passes through the tightest of lanes...actions with the puck can leave you questioning his decision making at times...has a great set of tools offensively, but still needs to put them all together consistently...possesses top pairing NHL upside.



**12**  
**RW/C Tyson Jost**  
**Penticton, BCHL**  
**6-0, 185**

A speedy, skilled forward who possesses elite speed and agility both with and without the puck...plays a mature game beyond his age and looks confident and poised in all areas...has a lethal shot off the rush that fools goalies and possesses deceptive velocity...he sees lanes develop before anyone else and can thread the needle with his passes...is a dual threat offensively...attacks with so much speed that he often doesn't get support on the rush because his teammates cannot keep up with him...sticks himself like glue to the opposition in the defensive zone and is defensively responsible and aware...an ever-evolving prospect that has top scoring line NHL upside.





**13**  
**D Kale Clague**  
 Brandon, WHL  
 6-0, 190

A composed and smart two-way defenseman who makes the game look easy...plays a very safe game, but picks his spots to chip in offensively...always ready to jump up in the rush to support the puck-carrier...makes some great decisions with and without the puck...makes some nice outlet feeds...has a great shot, including a dangerous one-timer...knows when to fall back and when to join the attack...a very mobile skater...straight line speed is great...pivots and cradles into every stride to bounce around the ice like a rabbit...always leads with his stick to break up any offensive threat...needs to be more consistent in the physical game...impressive maturity; playing years beyond his age...top pairing pro upside.



**15**  
**RW Patrik Laine**  
 Tappara, Liiga  
 6-3, 210

A big bodied power winger in the making... gets in the right positions and seems slippery and hard to contain...moves well once he gets going...needs to work on first step...a very skilled player who shows flashes of brilliance with the puck...a great reach...impressive smarts and instincts...has an excellent shot, which is extremely quick and accurate...makes some really impressive plays because of his soft hands...can play pretty physically at times but does not do so consistently...is almost unstoppable when he uses his immense size and strength advantage...needs to show a defensive commitment on a consistent basis...will need to mature mentally to fulfill his immense potential...has top line power winger NHL upside.



**17**  
**C Kieffer Bellows**  
 Sioux Falls, USHL  
 6-0, 195

Son of former North Star Brian Bellows, plays a crash and bang type physical game while showing some solid offensive skills...skates well once he gets going but will need to improve first steps...continually getting better with each view...uses his physical strength and size to protect the puck and bull his way to the net...has quick hands and can make plays in tight spaces...has a hard shot...smart and sees offensive chances develop quickly...competes from the opening faceoff to the game's final whistle...plays with emotion...will give a slash or two after the whistle...more of a natural shooter than playmaker but can set-up his teammates with a soft dish as well...a Boston University commit.



**14**  
**RW Alexander Nylander**  
 AIK J20, SuperElit  
 5-11, 165

A highly skilled, slick, finesse type winger who can make things happen offensively...a dynamic and shifty playmaker...great breakaway speed with quick feet and strong balance...feet allow him to elude defenders, both in open space and along the boards...very agile and has the ability to stop on a dime...thinks extremely quickly and can make plays at top speed...his vision is on point and his passing is precise...hits players across the ice, through the smallest of holes, putting the puck on their tape...soft hands and creative mind; always dangerous with the puck...not afraid to take the puck to tough and busy areas...can be caught cheating in the defensive zone looking for the offensive break...brother of Toronto draft pick William and son of former NHLer Michael.



**16**  
**D Olli Juolevi**  
 Jokerit U20, JR. A SM-Liiga  
 6-2, 185

A smart, skilled, two-way defender...has very good size and strength for such a young defenseman...makes excellent plays in the defensive zone, using his stick and body well to take pucks away and clear the zone... plays in all situations...does a nice job of moving the puck, showing a sharp first pass and excellent vision... long range passes are consistently tape-to-tape...really good at finding passing lines...understands the game extremely well...good mobility for his size, moving well laterally and possessing strong balance...poise with the puck consistently stands out...consistently offensively involved...a very defensively responsible player... shows an excellent stick to cut off passing lanes and is very strong in one-on-one battles...NHL potential appears to be sky high.



**18**  
**C/LW Rasmus Asplund**  
 Farjestad, SHL  
 6-0, 180

A highly-skilled, smart, offensive threat...possesses good speed and quick feet...has great hand-speed, creativity, and excellent vision with the puck...creates offense off the rush and from the perimeter by using his vision and awareness to find his options...a strong playmaker...has a nose for the net that is very evident as he buzzes around the slot and the crease in search of the puck...works hard on the forecheck, and plays aggressively when he doesn't have the puck... strong on the forecheck and displays a high compete level...isn't the biggest forward, but has enough strength to win his one-on-one battles...works hard defensively, coming back hard and getting his stick and body in lanes to take away options...top six two-way NHL upside.



**19**  
**RW Julien Gauthier**  
**Val-d'Or, QMJHL**  
**6-4, 220**

A big, strong, raw power forward with a lengthy stride and great speed...is primarily a north/south skater...a bit of a tank once he gets going...hard to contain...plays a very simple yet effective two-way game...does a great job making the smart play and makes mature decisions both with and without the puck...uses his size and reach effectively in puck battles...uses his speed to create chances off the wing...has good hand-speed and a great shot...also displays terrific vision with the puck on his stick and the ability to create chances for others...can go through stretches of inconsistency...currently has limited lateral movement in his skating...possesses the frame and raw skills to develop into a really solid NHL player.



**21**  
**D Jake Bean**  
**Calgary, WHL**  
**6-0, 175**

A puck moving blueliner with a rapidly developing game...a smooth skater, but still very raw in this aspect...instincts with the puck at the blue line are impressive...has a nice long stride with good lateral mobility, but once he adds some pop to his step he will be a top-tier skater...has the poise to shake off checks and deliver passes with accuracy...sees lanes develop and hits his mark quickly...makes some brilliant cross-ice breakout passes...needs to improve his shot velocity...getting prime-time minutes...natural puck poise is just crazy...developing into a premier puck moving blueliner... plays with confidence...pro upside is uncapped at this stage.



**23**  
**C Clayton Keller**  
**US NTDP U17, USHL**  
**5-10, 165**

A pint-sized offensive wizard with the puck...loves to attack the play and is not one to be kept on the perimeter...always looking to create offense...elusive and fluid with his skating, he is able to maneuver through difficult traffic while maintaining vision of opening plays...possesses soft hands and a creative mind...a playmaker...there is always a great jump and quickness to his game...agility and speed is very nice...he is able to turn it on real quick and win most foot races for loose pucks...processes the game well, makes quick plays...doesn't take many shifts off...dynamic with a high hockey IQ...possesses a wicked wrist shot and he can release it with a snap of the finger and always hits his spot...despite his lack of size, Keller has top line upside.



**20**  
**D Dante Fabbro**  
**Penticton, BCHL**  
**6-1, 180**

An all-round defenseman that plays in all situations...plays with poise and confidence...explosive skater with a smooth stride and strong edges...positions himself well on both offense and defense...elite hockey sense allows him to make quick, smart plays that help transition the puck in any situation...joins the rush and often starts it himself...possesses soft hands and can skillfully handle the puck in traffic...his shot is extremely heavy from the point and he often just blasts the puck right through goalies...makes a great first pass...can play with some sandpaper, throwing big hits on occasion...has a solid frame that he uses to keep opponents to the perimeter...will need to continue adding strength to compliment his style of play...top pairing NHL upside.



**22**  
**C Brett Howden**  
**Moose Jaw, WHL**  
**6-2, 185**

The definition of a complete player, excelling in all 200 feet of the ice...big forward with good smarts...his hockey sense really brings all of his pieces together to make him a very dangerous player...strong in puck battles, and very shrewd...hard working...skates well with good balance, but will need to add an extra gear...impressive vision, as he always sees where other players on both sides are going and not just where they currently are...plays in all situations...dangerous around the net...has a strong shot with a very effective release...uses his body to shield the puck and protect it effectively...has a great attitude...not a flashy offensively gifted guy like some others but will be a monster when he stops growing.



**24**  
**D Charlie McAvoy**  
**US NTDP U18, USHL**  
**6-0, 200**

McAvoy is easily the best offensive defender on Team USA's U18 squad thanks to his slick offensive ability and high-end vision...drives into the zone on the rush without slowing down and gets the puck on net...a strong powerplay quarterback and is proficient at moving the puck around the zone...skates well with a strong stride, solid jump and strong pivots...possesses a heavy wrist shot that is typically on target...puck moving ability is something that will make scouts salivate...carries it with poise...kick-starts the rush in transition and loves to skate with the puck if given the space...strong puck skills to maintain possession as he shields it, gaining the zone and driving deep into the offensive zone...makes beautiful, crisp outlets passes on target, perfectly in the reach of the recipient...high-end puck mover.





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**25**  
**D Ryan Lindgren**  
 US NTDP U17, USHL  
 5-11, 195

A smart and composed defender who is built solid...moves very well with good speed, acceleration and solid pivots...likes to join the attack and has the hands to control the puck...sees the ice and his open options well...makes some skilled passes and strong outlets...has a very hard slapshot from the point and is not shy in unleashing it...makes some quick and simple plays when under pressure...physical and throws hits on a regular basis...solid in one-on-one defensive play as he stays with the opposition, using an active stick and giving them little room to make a play...plays with a natural aggressiveness and will not stand for anyone pushing him around...keeps his head on a swivel...is creative with the puck and able to open up lanes...has top four NHL potential.



**27**  
**LW Carl Grundstrom**  
 MODO, SHL  
 6-0, 185

A speedy goal scoring winger who also works very hard...a high-end skater with explosive acceleration and an impressive range of gears...very agile and quick causing havoc for defenders with his feet...strong for his size and wins a lot of puck battles...plays with a lot of energy and hustle...not a playmaker but can make accurate simple short to medium range passes...shoots often and from all angles on the ice...a danger to score off the rush or by digging in around the net...isn't afraid of the dirty areas on the ice or to play in traffic...has some work to do in his own zone and figuring out his defensive positioning...has the raw abilities to become a speedy future NHL goal scorer down the line.



**29**  
**D Max Lajoie**  
 Swift Current, WHL  
 6-1, 170

A rapidly developing two-way blueliner...gifted-borderline phenomenal-skater who moves swiftly in all four directions...very good transitional instincts...hits open players on the breakout while mixing in some individual rushes up ice...aware of gaps in the opposing teams' forecheck and attacks those holes to generate forward progress...not overly physical defensively...works hard and uses his skating to stay in good positions while maintaining good gaps...is a strong powerplay QB as he uses his skating, hands and vision to distribute the puck in a timely fashion...he lacks a dangerous shot...will continue to improve with added responsibility and physical maturity...has top four NHL puck moving defender upside.



**26**  
**D Luke Green**  
 Saint John, QMJHL  
 6-0, 180

A smooth-skating dangerous puck moving blueliner...phenomenal all-directional skater who seems to be everywhere on the ice...explosive first few steps...composed and poised under pressure...crafty and confident with the puck...always pushing the puck up ice...not overly big, but has the size and strength to engage in puck battles...does not play physical...strong at reading lanes on the powerplay...can suffer moments of questionable decision making...has a very quick wrist shot and can hit his mark...handles the puck well with soft hands...makes creative passes into tight lanes...will need to add strength and physicality...has areas to improve defensively...projected to be an offensive d-man at the NHL level.



**28**  
**LW Pierre-Luc Dubois**  
 Cape Breton, QMJHL  
 6-1, 180

A two-way forward who you can throw out on the ice no matter the situation and get results...enters each shift with enthusiasm...works hard and does so many little things correctly...shows good smarts and instincts...shows flashes of physical play from time to time...uses his frame to protect the puck and go to the net looking for a chance...has skilled hands and can make plays at top speed...keeps his head up scanning the play looking for options...has some dynamic skills...able to not only be a playmaker but also finish off a chance...skates well with strong overall speed, solid quickness and agility...will need to improve his overall strength.



**30**  
**LW Nick Pastujov**  
 US NTDP U17, USHL  
 6-0, 195

A strong two-way forward with ample offensive skill...skates hard...generates healthy amounts of speed...is strong on his feet and shows it takes a lot to knock him around...great motor, hustle and fight from opening puck drop to final whistle...aggressive on the forecheck...forces defenders to make mistakes and has the senses to capitalize on turnovers...not a real creative playmaker but can makes a skilled pass...finds his options through traffic...has a dangerous shot and quick, deadly hands, especially from in close...throws pucks on net to generate chances for his teammates...shows good leadership qualities...projected to be a two-way forward who can play up and down an NHL level roster.

# 2017 NHL DRAFT AT A GLANCE

- 1). C Nolan Patrick, Brandon (WHL), 6-3, 200
- 2). RW Nikita A. Popugayev, K.A.M (MHL), 6-4, 195
- 3). D Adam Tilander, Skelleftea U20 (SuperElit), 6-0, 195
- 4). C Kailer Yamamoto, Spokane (WHL), 5-8, 160
- 5). D David Farrance, Syracuse Jr. Stars (USPHL U16), 5-11, 185
- 6). D Max Gildon, Dallas Stars (T1EHL U16), 6-3, 175
- 7). C Patrick Khodorenko, USNTDP U17 (USHL), 5-11, 200
- 8). D Urho Vaakanainen, Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-0, 170
- 9). C Jordan Bellerive, Penticton Veas (BCHL), 5-9, 180
- 10). C Elias Pettersson, Timra J20 (SuperElit), 5-9, 135

## Honorable Mentions:

- C Gabriel Vilardi, CIHA Voyageurs (OEMMHL), 6-2, 185  
 D Luke Martin, USNTDP U17 (USHL), 6-2, 200  
 G Jake Oettinger, USNTDP U17 (USHL), 6-3, 200  
 G Stuart Skinner, Lethbridge (WHL), 6-4, 200  
 D Juuso Valimaki, Ilves U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga), 6-2, 195



**5**  
**D David Farrance**  
 Syracuse Jr. Stars, USPHL U16  
 5-11, 185 lbs

Has an effortless and explosive stride...dances around the ice with the puck, and reads the play incredibly well in all three zones...likes having the puck on his stick and has a strong shot...biggest weakness is on puck retrievals; he is tentative and prefers not to be hit so he tends to take longer routes to avoid contact...strips the puck from opponents with a quick stick...has a great hockey IQ...dictates the play whenever he is on the ice...a good teammate on the bench.



**8**  
**D Urho Vaakanainen**  
 Blues U20, Jr. A SM-liiga  
 6-0, 170 lbs

A smooth skating two-way blue liner...generates good speed and makes fluid pivots...is composed and does not panic with the puck when pressured by the fore-check...utilizes high-end vision to make a strong up-ice passes of varying ranges...will skate the puck himself...smart and positions himself correctly...uses his stick actively to close off lanes...a strong all-round defender in the Lidstrom mold.



**1**  
**C Nolan Patrick**  
 Brandon, WHL  
 6-3, 200 lbs

A big bodied power center with solid two-way abilities...displays a strong skating stride...generates good amounts of speed and is balanced on his feet...protects the puck well and can make a play while physically engaging...very impressive reach...has a very hard shot with quick release...plays heavy and is strong along the boards...closes off lanes well...used in every situation...smart and recognizes what each situation calls for...uses his impressive hockey IQ consistently.



**3**  
**D Adam Tilander**  
 Skelleftea U20, SuperElit  
 6-0, 195 lbs

A strong well-rounded blueliner...offensively active, quick in transition and moves the puck well...very mobile with a quick first few strides...good puck control and receives passes well...very creative with the puck...strong possession player...makes consistently accurate and hard passes...has a booming and heavy slap shot...good hockey sense and his positioning is strong...has a good defensive stick...doesn't shy away from physical play but his defensive game would improve with even more grit.



**6**  
**D Max Gildon**  
 Dallas Stars, T1EHL U16  
 6-3, 175 lbs

A smooth skating, big framed blue liner...strong on his feet...plays a tough and gritty game with a natural physical nastiness...is effective in all three zones...poised with the puck...controls the puck well through traffic...makes strong stretch passes that are both crisp and accurate...need to work on his point shot's velocity...wins puck battles consistently...needs to add considerable strength to his overall frame going forward...is smart and sees the ice well...offensive game is just starting to blossom.



**9**  
**C Jordan Bellerive**  
 Penticton Veas, BCHL  
 5-9, 180 lbs

A small but strong offensive point producer...skates well with good balance and strength in his stride...generates a healthy top speed...biggest asset is his pro release and high velocity shot...dangerous off the rush as he can get his shot off from anywhere...possesses strong on-ice vision...leads by example...works hard and never gives up on a shift...a future NHL captain.



**2**  
**RW Nikita A. Popugayev**  
 Krasnaya Armiya Moskva, MHL  
 6-4, 195 lbs

A big and strong goal scorer...a very offensive orientated player...not afraid to shoot the puck and has the ability to bury it...a very impressive skater for his size...powerful push and slick agility...creative hands and puck handling ability...wants the puck on his stick...nearly impossible to contain once he gets going...finds the right spots for scoring chances...knows when to dish the puck and makes good decisions with it...a work in progress defensively.



**4**  
**LW Kailer Yamamoto**  
 Spokane, WHL  
 5-8, 160 lbs

A tiny but highly skilled and offensively flashy winger...a quick compact stride, drives hard and has impressive speed...sneaky quick in tight areas with good balance...goes to the hard areas and doesn't mind contact...sees the ice well with good vision and anticipates well...creative with the puck...dangerous shot and one-timer...plays a 200-foot game...will need to add more strength.



**7**  
**C Patrick Khodorenko**  
 USNTDP U17, USHL  
 5-11, 200 lbs

A strong and effective three-zone center...plays a very mature game...speed is top notch...really slick stick handling...has an absolute sniper shot...can make the other team pay when they give him too much time and space...darts around the offensive zone to take advantage of open space...has an active stick and ability to break up solid possessions in his defensive zone...willing to block shot and close off lanes...impressive quick transitions.



**10**  
**C Elias Pettersson**  
 Timra J20, SuperElit  
 5-9, 130

A tiny yet ultra-skilled center that burst onto the scene this season for Timra...incredible on-ice understanding and smarts...makes some skilled passes that make you say wow...very effective and quick shot...skates with explosive burst and has just elite hockey sense...family some good genes to continue growing into as his brother is almost 6-2...destroying Swedish juniors from J16 to J20 at almost two points-per-game.

ACE