



ABOUT FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS...

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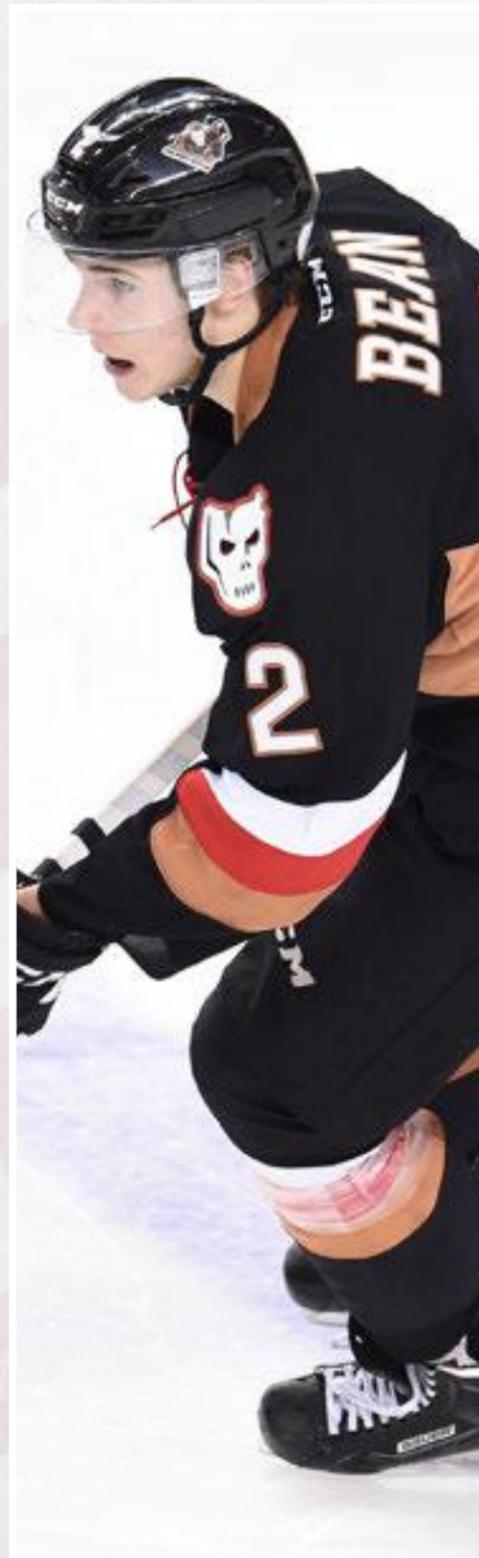
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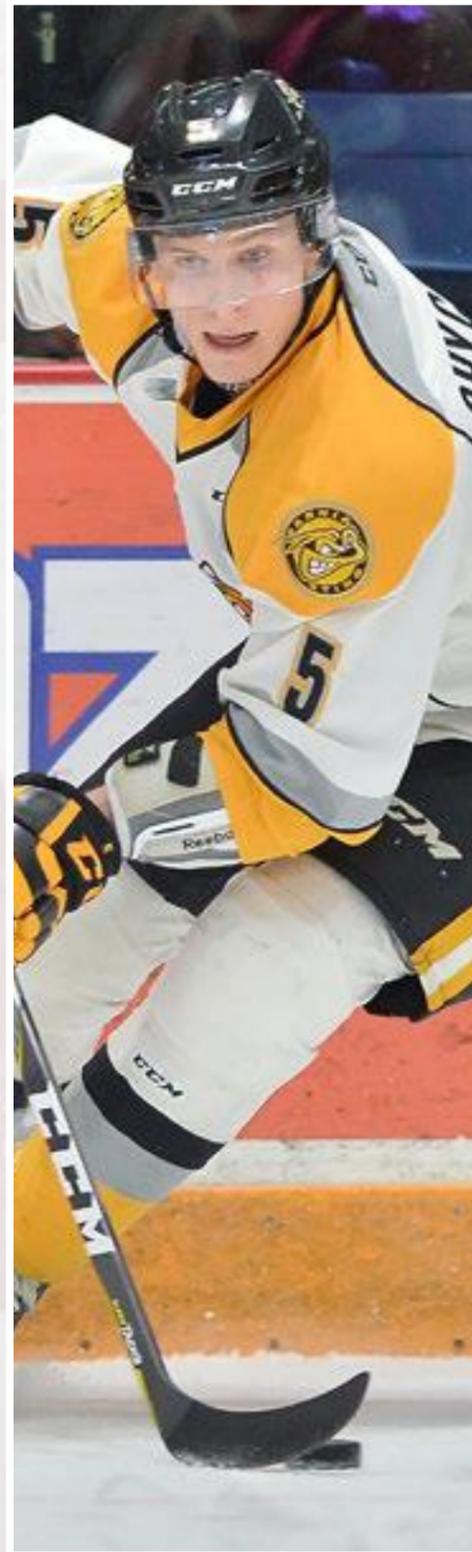
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DRAFT GLIMPSE: From the Director's desk



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The 2016 NHL Draft has the look of a draft that could be feast for some NHL teams, specifically those at the top, and famine for others. The top end is spectacular with three NHL franchise-altering talents available with the first few selections and then some solid potential future NHL contributors filling the next 15 or so selections in the top round.

After the top 15 to 18 come off the board, there are another 30 or so who have the potential to develop into quality prospects, but do have various warts they will need to work on in an attempt to overcome their deficiencies first. Toward the end of the second round is where we feel the steep drop-off in prospects is with the odd potential diamond in the rough sprinkled throughout the remaining rounds.

The 2016 draft will be one that has the scouts earning their money as there is talent to be had, just not an overabundance of it, as this year seems to be a little shallow in overall depth.

The season started with American center Auston Matthews, who played this season for Zurich, as our top guy and ends that same way, even with some solid push by a couple of Finns named Patrik Laine of Tappara and Jesse Puljujarvi of Karpat. Matthews is a bona fide number-one NHL center in the making who plays a power-finesse blend of a two-way game. Laine and Puljujarvi are both wingers with size, but that is where the similarities split. Laine is a true goal-scorer the likes we have not seen come through the top end of the draft since Alex Ovechkin in 2004. Puljujarvi is more of a playmaking winger who works hard along the wall and contributes a 200-foot game.

We feel the gap is not too wide at all in terms of NHL upside be-

tween the three, but also that they are distinctly cemented in the order we have them placed.

Other forwards NHL teams will look to early include power wingers who can also produce on the score sheet such as Cape Breton's Pierre-Luc Dubois and London's Matthew Tkachuk. Big, playmaking center Logan Brown of Windsor, U.S. NTDP U18 goal-scoring winger Kieffer Bellows, two-way centers Michael McLeod of Mississauga and Tyson Jost of Penticton, smaller, but dynamic, offensive pivot Clayton Keller of the U.S. NTDP U18 squad, and offensive and creative winger Alexander Nylander of Mississauga.

On defense, there are also a few guys who will be high on any team's list this season. Sarnia's Jakob Chychrun is a smart, two-way leader on the back end, Windsor's Mikhail Sergachev is a great transitional defender with a big shot and size who can skate with the puck, London's Olli Juolevi is a calm and collected puck-mover, Penticton's Dante Fabbro is a poised and intelligent two-way defenseman and Calgary's Jake Bean skates well and is a flashy, offensive puck-mover. All these guys are expected to go in the first half of the top round.

In net, the draft again looks rather pedestrian with no real high-end stopper standing out and separating himself from the crowd. That is not to say one of the goalies taken anywhere in the draft couldn't develop into a NHL starter one day, as history has shown over and over that goaltenders taken in any round can surprise.

Our top ranked stopper, Carter Hart of Everett in the WHL, is a positionally sound, calm stopper who gives his team confidence. Then we have stoppers such as Sherbrooke's Evan Fitzpatrick, Lulea's Filip

Gustavsson and U.S. NTDP U18's Joseph Woll who are big-bodied netminders who utilize their size and make the saves they should. Tyler Parsons of London in the OHL is a calm, but quick-moving, force who can be just unbeatable at times. Then, you have wildcards like the smaller, but quick and flashy, Vladislav Sukhachyov who showed well with the Russian U18 National Team.

Our scouts have spent countless hours watching prospects in rinks all over the world to identify and report on hundreds of hockey players who we feel deserve consideration for the 2016 NHL draft. The one thing we found when ranking prospects is that in a really strong, deep year where talent is everywhere, you have a hard time fitting everyone you want to rank inside your top 210 draft list. In a weaker year depth-wise like this one, it can actually be tougher as there are so many more prospects who are equal in NHL upside. However, we feel we have 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 2016 NHL Entry Draft Guide. Enjoy the following pages of information gathered through the hard work and commitment of our team through what has been a long, but very enjoyable, season.

Enjoy the Draft Guide,

Dan Stewart
Director of Scouting
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BLINDING BIAS: Eliminating Bias in Scouting



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In order to get an idea as to how a draft list is finalized, it is important to first get inside the mind of a scout.

Setting aside what a scout looks for in a player and what a typical day in the life is like, one must come to understand what a scout does to arrive at a final decision.

As a scout, it is equally important to evaluate your own decision-making skills as it is to evaluate the players on the ice. One must continually evaluate tactics and any cognitive biases that may come into my decision-making.

While my views and opinions on players and the game as a whole is constantly evolving, due in part to more experience in scouting and the changing way in which the game is played, my need for evaluating myself and working to eliminate cognitive biases is imperative to the success I do or do not have. Scouting is about formulating an opinion and sticking to it, and though changing your mind is never a bad thing, there needs to be a valid reason for doing so.

Below I will highlight a few of the major cognitive biases I work to eliminate as I prepare my draft list.

REGENCY BIAS

Recency bias is the tendency to weigh recent events more than earlier events.

It is inevitable that some players have a longer showcase each season depending on their team's success. Being on a good team allows for the opportunity to go on a long playoff run, or depending on the

player, the chance to play at the IIHF U-18 World Championships. This alone gives some players upwards of 20 additional games to showcase themselves to scouts with the potential to turn late season strong play or heroics into a draft pick each summer.

Recency bias is prevalent in this industry as draft lists are finalized after the CHL playoffs and U18's, making it important for scouts to not forget about the work of a player over the course of the season. One cannot be faulted for not having the chance to play on a big stage and their play over a full season should not be discounted when compared to a player who received more playing time.

When creating my draft list, I look at the full body of work at all players, not just the most recent performance in my memory in order to combat recency bias in the decision-making process.

CONTRAST EFFECT

Contrast effect is often defined as the tendency to diminish or enhance the measure of one target through comparison with a recently observed target.

A perfect life example is going for a job interview and having to follow the most qualified person in the room when you don't exactly fit all the qualifications yourself. The interviewer is, by human nature, more likely to view you in a more negative light than the first candidate. The same thing occurs in scouting.

When arriving at the arena about to watch two comparable prospects play against one another, it is natural for a person to instantly compare

one player against another. Prospects are constantly fighting to make a good impression in the eyes of the scouts; this is a big reason why two highly ranked players turn their game up a notch when facing one another. Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin, Mitch Marner and Dylan Strome, Connor McDavid and Jack Eichel. These are the games when they step up and shine. These are also the games where scouts form an opinion on which player is better than the other.

Often the decision to choose one player over the other comes down to other cognitive biases; regardless, it is essential that scouts do their absolute best to eliminate the contrast effect when coming to their final decision by looking at each player individually rather than head to head.

FIRST IMPRESSION ERROR

It is no secret that making a good first impression is key in all aspects of life.

Every time a player steps on the ice they leave an impression, whether it be positive or negative, but this cognitive bias looks specifically at a first impression. Mistakes happen when players are engaged in a fast paced game and there is no denying the fact that junior hockey can see some very inconsistent play from teenage prospects on any given night. This is where the idea of getting a large sample size comes in; not giving players a few games to make up for a weak night can hinder one's view of a player.

First impression error is the tendency to make a lasting opinion off of



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an initial impression. This is why scouting a player multiple times with a clear mind is important. There is nothing worse than expecting bad play from a player before arriving at the rink and seeing those negatives even if they may not be present. By not entering with a clear mind and understanding that players go through stretches of bad play could easily result in confirmation bias occurring in future viewings.

CONFIRMATION BIAS

Confirmation bias is seen as the tendency to seek confirmation of original beliefs and theories.

In hockey, this is often seen when watching highlights or hearing what insiders and industry leaders have to say, taking their word for it before formulating one's own opinion. Confirmation bias can creep into play when an individual creates a perception about a player before seeking information that confirms it, often looking for the specific

traits to confirm the theory.

For example, when a first impression of a player occurs, whether it be through a full game, highlights, or television analysis, say for being a heavy power forward with a scoring touch, the viewer will actively seek this information in the future, completely ignoring the other aspects of a player's game in the process and looking for his power forward style and scoring ability while neglecting to view other traits.

This is why, as mentioned above, entering each game with a clear mind is important; by seeing what is taking place rather than what you want to see, your evaluation of a player is much more accurate and not heavily influenced by your mind's perceptions.

ANCHORING EFFECT

The final cognitive bias that I try to mitigate is the anchoring effect.

Anchoring effect occurs when a scout, fan, broadcaster, or coach fixate on a specific set of variables and form a perception based on those variables.

In scouting, this can occur by focusing in a specific trait of a player. For myself, I tend to over or undervalue a player based on his skating ability, forming an opinion on his overall game anchored by his skating ability.

This is an area I have worked to correct, knowing full well that one's skating ability can be improved over time, but his ability to read the game will lead to success at the next level. To form an accurate impression of a player I must first be honest with myself as to what I need to work on when scouting, looking to eliminate various cognitive biases before coming to a decision on a specific player.

By Daniel Deschenes

DESCRIPTIVE SCOUTING: Dynamic analysis significant



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There is no single question that gets asked more often of a scout in the public sphere than the one that queries, “who does ‘player x’ compare to in the NHL?”

In NHL Draft guides, television specials, stories and scouting analyses, there is often time or space dedicated to listing a player’s twin.

But as the game grows to be more diverse and the gap in international competition closes, players are becoming more dynamic -- less the same -- than their predecessors.

And while it is a noble exploit to project a player’s ability at the NHL level (it’s the essence of scouting, really), these NHL Draft comparables only work to both pigeonhole players into expectations of unwieldy success and create narratives where each individual is limited to a box that is already defined for him at the next level.

The bulky, physical power forward becomes Milan Lucic.

The rangy, speedy center becomes Matt Duchene.

The small, highly skilled winger becomes Patrick Kane.

The pass-first, big center becomes Joe Thornton.

It’s presented with a sense of finality.

The sad truth is that the vast majority of the top-ranked draft-eligible players won’t ever become NHL players. Only roughly 27 percent of players drafted from 1995 to 2005 played more than 100 NHL games, let alone became the Thorntons, Lucics, Duchenes or Kanes they are compared to.

And there’s so much more to these players. They’re different, unique.

At 17 or 18 years old, a prospect’s game and body are changing so rapidly that the player you see in September could be stronger, faster,

and more confident with the puck by New Years. Or he could be off the proverbial tracks, gaining unhealthy weight while teams learn to check him and expose his flaws.

There are so many tools at the disposal of junior hockey coaches and trainers that he could be changing his game, addressing inefficiencies to pivot from a pass-first player to more of a versatile primary scorer. Linemates change and players develop tools and roles that better suit their skillsets.

Sometimes, players aren’t in the right role at all.

Coaches aren’t infallible. In junior hockey, cyclical success could mean that a draft-eligible player is staring on a weak team with too much of a leash. It could also mean that he’s playing on the fourth line on a top team where a weary coach is turning to veteran players over a more talented youngster. In professional ranks, highly-skilled players could go scoreless for 10, 20 games at a time while playing limited roles.

None of these things are understood if the reader is searching for and finding ‘scouting reports’ that are heavy with these comparables. And this isn’t the only way we simplify the way we understand and interpret these young players. Jargon like ‘high hockey IQ’ creates an ambiguity whereby the reader or audience may interpret what exactly hockey IQ means to them as different than how the writer, broadcaster or scout intended the so-called concept be understood.

The players need to be tracked on a consistent basis, and each of their skills need be described.

What do terms like hockey IQ mean? Does it mean that a play-

er is constantly pivoting and aware of his surroundings rather than someone who follows the puck at the expense of his defensive mark? Does it mean that he adeptly uses his teammates as a puck carrier and keeps his head up to survey and anticipates the play through the neutral zone and into the offensive zone? We don’t know unless the author describes what it means to them.

When a player has a ‘good shot’, does that mean he uses a loose grip to handle the puck swiftly off of a pass? Does he shoot as well in-stride as stationary? Where is the kick in his stick and what results does it produce? Do goalies easily pick up a long, drawn back release, or does the player surprise them with quick, low leverage? Is the release point from the toe or heel of the blade and is it to the player’s advantage? Does he go backhand as a necessity or because he’s comfortable with it as a weapon?

Defensively, some take the ‘stay-at-home’ or ‘safe’ defender as a positive, others as negative. To some, it implies the defender is limited with the puck and forced to make plays off the glass because he lacks ability. To others, it implies the player is making smart, calculated decisions with and without the puck, able to shut down and eliminate top talent. Unless we describe it, it’s ambiguous.

We hope that the FC Draft Guide helps paint a vivid, nuanced picture of each player -- one that is descriptive first and understands the dynamic nature of today’s top talent while respecting just how hard it is to take the jump to the NHL.

By Scott Wheeler

EYE ON THE PRIZE: Scouting Auston Matthews



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It was an unprecedented move.

A teenager, draft eligible at that, darted.

Darted from his more familiar confines within North America.

Darted to Europe -- Switzerland to be exact -- to play his 18-year-old, draft eligible season.

And Auston Matthews has been in the forefront of 2016 NHL Draft discussions ever since.

The Arizona-born Matthews has been the front-runner for the first overall pick at the 2016 NHL Draft long before the season, and his decision to join ZSC.

And he was watched with a cautious eye.

After spending the past two seasons in the United States National Team Development Program and winning the gold medal at the U18 World Championship last year in Switzerland, Matthews broke new ground when he announced that he would spend his draft season overseas in Europe.

Missing eligibility for the 2015 NHL Draft by two days helped push Matthews towards signing with the ZSC Lions. His group felt the best possible development would come playing against men in the Swiss National League, and not against the likes of junior talent (the Everett Silvertips of the WHL held his major junior rights), or even college opposition.

Some experts might have been sceptical about the decision, but those critics shall become silent during the season.

Matthews did not waste any time to make an impact and scored in his very first game midway through the second period. He rushed

through the neutral zone with the puck before a give-and-go, which he finished off for the 3-2 lead against Fribourg-Gotteron.

Next to the fact that Matthews produced from the very beginning and that he had an immediate impact as an 18-year-old in a men's league, it is the confidence he showed on the ice with the puck and the way he dealt with the pressure that impressed most.

There was pressure on Matthews, although coach Marc Crawford and the ZSC management always tried to take it off his shoulders.

In Switzerland, teams are only allowed to play four import players. This means that teams often spend a fair amount of their budget for those import players and do expect them to have an impact and be the leaders on the team. Therefore, even if Matthews was only 18, he was an import player on a team that was the front-runner for the championship.

Furthermore, though not many Swiss hockey fans were familiar with Matthews, the hype around the next NHL superstar grew with each day nearing his debut, and all eyes were on him during most games.

No worry.

Matthews did not let this pressure have an impact on him and his team mates always described him as a very earthed person, a young kid who constantly wanted to become better in any aspect of the game and although he was aware of his talent, he never took it for granted.

The way he dealt with this situation at his young age really impressed.

He was strong, both on and off the ice.

And then injury hit.

Early in the season, Matthews sustained a back injury after falling hard into the boards on Oct 23, which kept him out of the lineup for 14 games.

This also resulted in missing the Deutschland Cup, where he was slated to compete for the Americans in Germany. The injury did not drop his top pick status a bit and Matthews returned from the injury in a strong fashion and picked up the pace quickly, without any signs of slowing down.

Before he participated at the 2016 IIHF World Junior Championship, Matthews was the untouchable top pick for the draft.

But following the World Juniors, and the dominant play of the two Finns, Jesse Puljujarvi and Patrik Laine, Matthews suddenly saw challengers for his first overall spot. Laine especially, who really picked up the pace of his game since December, has received some love from scouts.

One valid point raised in favor of Laine is his ability to step up in big moments, something that Matthews lacked at the tournament.

Matthews countered with an 11-game point streak. He also recorded 19 points in those 11 games, including winning the Swiss Cup. He became even more confident with the puck as the season matured and was a constant scorer for Crawford's team throughout the season.

But there was more growth from Matthews.

While this year has been a great learning process for Matthews in so many aspects, he probably improved his defensive game most under Crawford.

He backchecked and supported his defenders in the defensive zone



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and was aware of his opponents.

He started to get a feeling for positioning himself perfectly in shooting lanes and started to use his body to block shots. He didn't do so frequently at an earlier stage of the season. Often, he was the player who carried the puck out of the own zone and rushing through the neutral zone with speed to transition from a defensive situation into an offensive rush. I have not seen any player in the Swiss league this season that was doing this so effectively as Matthews.

Probably his biggest room for improvement is that he needs to simplify his game. He sometimes tends to try too much or goes into a one-against-one situation when he should rather decide for another play. He sometimes wants to do too much, which ends in turning the puck over. However, this is something that will most probably go away as he matures.

Matthews finished off the regular season with incredible 46 points in 36 games, which had him ranked as the 10th most productive player in the entire league. His 24 goals tied him for fourth overall in goal scoring and his 1.28 points-per-game average is second-best among players with more than 11 league games played.

He overcame his initial test.

His biggest came in the playoffs.

In a bigger stage.

The playoffs.

The ZSC Lions faced the eight-seed SC Bern. Bern's defenders played Matthews very hard, tried to intimidate him but he did not let this happen.

Although ZSC was surprisingly swept by Bern, Matthews has been the team's best player. He did not show any signs of slowing down in the four postseason games and was very active as usual, creating tons of scoring chances and trying to get things going for his team.

His season, in Switzerland at least, ended premature.

It didn't end altogether, though.

Matthews joined Team USA's entry for the 2016 IIHF World Championship, continuing his storybook season with a team-leading six goals, and a share of the team-lead with nine points.

The consensus top prospect for the draft parlayed his performance into an invite to the World Cup of Hockey.

There, Matthews will be the youngest player to represent Team

North America, comprised of the top under-23 talent North America has to offer.

It's one of many accolades he's earned.

They've all shown that his move to Europe was the right decision for him, despite venturing into a significant unknown in making the move last September.

He developed his game in so many aspects grew as a player off the ice.

Moving to another country and a different culture at that young age brought him so many valuable experiences and lessons learned. He is prepared in the best possible way for his NHL-rookie season where he will have an immediate impact on any team that will pick him.

He will be a player very well remembered in Switzerland and whenever asking someone about Matthews, the response will be a positive one.

It clearly was a special year for Swiss hockey, not only for the fans and Matthews himself but also for a local Swiss scout.

By Dennis Schellenberg

UNDER THE RADAR: Plenty of potential draft sleepers



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The draft is potentially full of them.

Those prospects who are taken later in the draft or not at all in their first year of eligibility and eventually develop their games to become solid NHL players. NHL rosters have been dotted with them over the years.

The Kings selected Hall of Famer Luc Robitaille 171st overall in 1984 because teams thought his skating would hold him back. The Senators picked their longtime captain Daniel Alfredsson 133rd overall in 1994 because teams thought he might be too timid for the NHL game. The Red Wings drafted Pavel Datsyuk 171st overall in 1998 because he was small and lacked exposure playing in a city off the beaten path.

Other instances, like when the Rangers tabbed Henrik Lundqvist 205th overall in 2000, the Sharks took Joe Pavelski 205th overall, Chicago scooped up Dustin Byfuglien 245th overall in 2003, Nashville finding Patric Hornqvist with the 264th pick in 2005, the Stars grabbing Jamie Benn 129th overall in 2007, or Washington drafting Braden Holtby 93rd overall in 2008. Tyler Johnson of Tampa and Chris Kunitz of Pittsburgh were both undrafted free agents, as were NHL Hall of Famers Adam Oates, Dino Ciccarelli, Peter Stastny and Ed Belfour.

These are just a few examples of sleepers who developed into some of the game's top players.

We start the 2016 list of potential sleeper prospects in Ontario with North Bay's hulking winger Justin Brazeau, ranked 211th by Future Considerations. We saw him a few times early this season and were underwhelmed until we saw him over the last two months of the OHL

regular season. He stepped up his play when his linemates regressed. A tall, still lanky forward, Brazeau could develop into a power forward at the next level with a scoring touch. Brazeau didn't get the attention as he played mainly on the fourth line for the Battalion and didn't jump up with any standout speed. By working on his first few steps and agility, Brazeau could improve his game in a flash.

He sees the ice very well, knows where he needs to be and is quick to engage on the wall and in front of the net. He finishes his checks and gets to the defensive position very well. The only challenge facing him at the moment is his effectiveness in winning battles, something that comes with a lack of pure strength. Playing on Stan Butler's Battalion squad will do wonders for his game over the next two to three years as he develops and shows why his game will easily translate to the professional game.

Others from Ontario we will be following as they give us the vibe of guys who could surprise include Sudbury Wolves center Dmitri Sokolov, who was high on our initial list of 2016 draft eligibles all the way back in November 2014. He is a flashy, highly skilled bulldozer who goes to the dirty areas and has a cannon of a shot. The problem is he plays a lazy game, rarely looking interested unless the puck is on his stick. He suffered a season-long and recurring shoulder injury that hampered his development this season, and he still managed to score 30 goals. The red flags will keep plenty of NHL teams away, but one brave team might end up with an eventual top-line scorer if it selects this developmental project.

A couple of goaltenders in the OHL strike us as possibly the type

who look pedestrian in major junior, but then the light turns on at the pro level, when they receive constant tutelage and guidance. Niagara Ice Dog goalie Stephen Dhillon has size and anticipation, but his focus and consistency get him into trouble. This season, he had a mixed bag of good and bad, which caused him to miss out on our rankings. However, he is someone in whom we definitely see potential. Dylan Wells of Peterborough has attracted our attention as well with his potential. He has good size, tracks the puck well and makes some flashy saves when needed. It might just take some confidence, but we think he has some strong upside as his play in big games and key moments has been strong.

Defenseman Owen Grant of Carleton Place in the CCHL is another guy who we have a feeling might become a better player after some solid developmental years. He played well at the World Jr. A Challenge for Canada East and has been a solid performer all season with Carleton Place. Though he played in Tier II this year, and split the year between Jr. A and Jr. B last year, he caught our attention in most viewings.

A commit to the University of Vermont in 2017-18, he is a smooth-skating defenseman who makes good decisions on the attack. Grant will need to be consistent in his passing and decision-making up ice, but he drives the play with a strong first pass and skates the puck up with pure dominance. His potential is tucked away and, although he is undersized for a defender, he makes up for it with good play in his own zone before advancing the puck. Grant strikes us as the new type of defenseman—one who can work hard in his own zone and then strike

with strong plays to drive the offense. Grant can play in all situations and will surely come out as a better player after four years of college. Should he go undrafted, watch for his name as an undrafted college free agent who will turn some heads.

Also out of Tier II and Buffalo of the OJHL, Christopher Berger has our attention as an undersized, skilled winger with impressive offensive traits that allow him to thrive in space. He is at his best in possession as he displays impressive vision and playmaking abilities; however, he can shy away from contact at times, force plays and making questionable decisions. When given time and space, Berger can be lethal as he displays excellent touch on his passes and can be a threat as a shooter, although he is a pass-first winger. Berger is tough to contain in open ice as he combines his high-end puck skills with his strong skating abilities to become shifty and elusive. He is a real boom-or-bust prospect.

In Quebec, with the QMJHL's Remparts, forward Matthew Boucher is a prospect with some sleeper qualities as he is small, but driven and skilled. Despite standing just 5-foot-9, Boucher was one of the best scorers and shot-generators in the QMJHL this season. After losing top teammate Dmytro Timashov to a trade, Boucher assumed the role of the Remparts' go-to offensive option. He didn't have the top linemates of many of the other draft-eligible scorers, but still managed to generate offense on his own, using lower-body strength to out-muscle bigger opponents.

Fearless, Boucher isn't afraid to go to the net or finish his checks. A target for opposing teams' top players, he rose to the challenge as the season progressed and handled the puck confidently and efficiently. If he's selected, he could very well be a steal.

Six-foot-two defenseman Jacob Neveu of Rouyn-Noranda is a guy who has been somewhat hidden away as a number five defenseman for the powerhouse Huskies this season. We have seen a fair amount of him and feel he does have some potential, but likely in a defensive role at the next level. He is a physical, well-taught defender who closes gaps and makes a hard, crisp first pass. He's good on his edges to quickly pressure forwards after skating backward and turns deceiving gaps into good stick-on-stick checks. While he doesn't look to have much offensive upside at the next level, his shutdown game makes him an intriguing prospect. Neveu's just a quiet, efficient defender who just fell short of making our final list.

Neveu's Huskies teammate, puckstopper Samuel Harvey, is another guy who we wouldn't be surprised to see picked up as early as the third round. He does an excellent job controlling his rebounds

and slowing down the pace, making the saves he should. He's not an imposing goalie, but he moves side-to-side well on his edges without overextending. We like the way he challenges shooters and he's flashed a strong glove hand—using it as both a blocker when needed or to snag pucks labeled for the corners.

Out west, a defenseman who really caught fire in his growth the last couple months of the season is Colby Sissons of Swift Current in the WHL. Sissons is a mobile, yet very raw, two-way defender who was valuable on a bad junior team. He's not a guy who does everything flashy or shows great technique, but he found a way to think his way around a game and had the stones to roll the dice and make a great play. Watching Sissons multiple times this year, we felt that he could be one of the biggest movers. Starting out the year, he seemed like a roster fill-in, but after a few views, we see his massive growth potential and think he could take a huge leap forward next year. If he's picked, he will be a nice project to have and could be the type of pick referenced back to as a savvy selection.

"Underrated" is the best word to describe David Quenneville of Medicine Hat. Despite not being the biggest player on the ice, he is so skilled, it's hard not to notice him and his impact on the game. But an NHL defenseman with his 5-foot-8 size would be killed, no? He has great mobility on the ice, a strong shot, superior competitiveness instincts and can even play physical with great results. All in all, he is a contributor everywhere he is on the ice and must be considered as a better prospect than his ranking foreshadows. He looks like a carbon copy of Joe Hicketts.

Center Matthew Phillips of Victoria is tiny, but intelligent, and a highly skilled playmaker. While he does not have elite skating, he is instinctive and elusive to pin down. His high-end offensive upside has NHL teams thinking long and hard about picking up a 5-foot-7 center. A 5-foot-7 center! If he can grow a couple inches and build some strength, Phillips could be THE steal of the draft, but if not, he could be a highly skilled player plying his trade in a no-contact league with his buddies.

A couple of similar defensemen out west also make this list as Dawson Davidson of Kamloops and Matthew Barberis of Vancouver in the WHL are both not ranked inside our final 210, but deserve attention for their offensively charged games.

Davidson is a prospect whose value soared in the transition game, but somewhat depreciated as he faced pressure in the defensive zone. He is a smooth and nimble skater, using his speed to void off checks and jump up into the play in transition. He didn't really show off any

"wowing" ability with elite-level passes, but the kid knows how to find his mark and be consistent. Davidson shows that he can read when to adjust his tactics and take different approaches to puck movement. His awareness of zone play comes and goes like the tide, looking like he is on top of any goalmouth situation and then getting beat on a coverage play as if he was sprayed in the face with mace. He doesn't have a lot of push-back with physical play or cleaning up the front of his net. Davidson remains a project with some offensive upside.

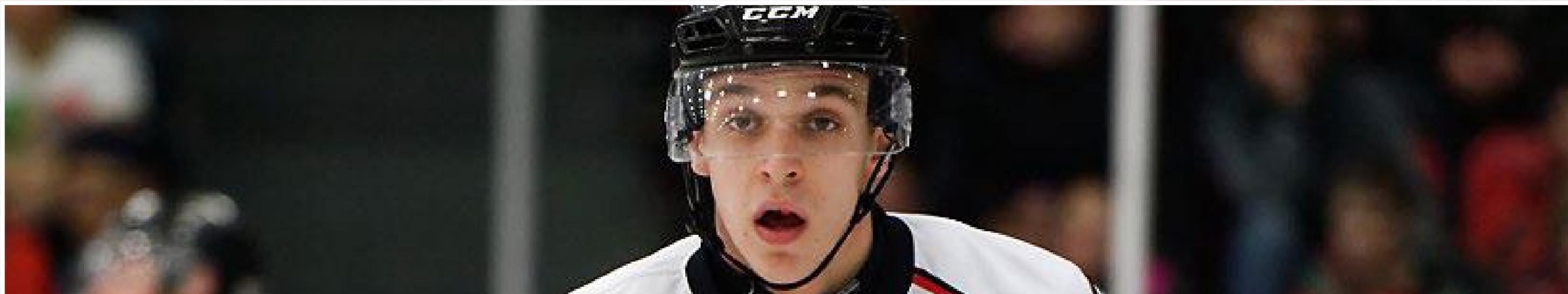
Barberis has an average frame, but he is extremely mobile and a smart, two-way defender. Has some nice offensive tools with the maturity and awareness to use them at the correct time. He is poised and makes heads-up plays reading the breakout.

Barberis is very good at threading the long pass up ice or and carrying deep into the zone. He has some creativity with his hands and has the puck-control to get through tight areas of the ice. He's a box-out type of defender who doesn't show much aggression or desire to hit. Barberis doesn't get too bent out of shape and tenacious in battle situations, but he doesn't fold over like a wet noodle either. He's been good offensively for Coach Lorne Molleken this season, but the arrival of Ben Thomas pushed him into limited minutes on the third pair. Still, we think he could take a big jump over the next 12 months.

Winger Carsen Twarynski of Calgary in the WHL started the season going from a big, clunky forward fit for a bottom-six role into a power presence with two-way ability and a strong presence in the offensive zone. He has the makings of a power guy thanks to his size and willingness to play the tough style of game.

His impressive increase in fine motor skills and awakening in awareness made him an offensive threat who could excel in a quicker game off the rush and at the net. There's lots of energy in his game away from the puck and his ability to skate allows him to provide coverage and be a component on the forecheck. Twarynski took a nice leap forward in his point totals from the year prior and should continue on that same path in his post-draft season. The kid is developing on a very positive trajectory and there's really no pressure on him to make an immediate impact. We expect him to come off the board around the fourth round, but he could very well be one of the better wingers taken after a few seasons in a Troy Brouwer mold.

A bit of a wild stallion, running and gunning most nights, Bonnyville Pontiacs defenseman Brinson Pasichnuk put up some solid point totals this season as a fourth forward most nights. He plays with an edge, but does so at the expense of the defensive end. Pasichnuk has a really high drive and work ethic, but will need to harness his game a



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bit and focus on his own zone to make it to the next level. His over-aggressive offensive playing style can be entertaining to watch, and if a GM wanted a high-risk, high-reward gamble on the back end to develop, I'd suggest this AJHL star and let him stew for three or four years.

Down in the States, a handful of prospects fit the bill as potential sleepers, starting with high school. Avon Old Farms defenseman Adam Karashik missed out on being ranked by Future Considerations, but is someone we would keep an eye on for sure. He is a smallish, physical defender who plays a tight-checking, effective, yet dynamic, two-way game. He uses his quick feet and solid physical style of play effectively, taking away time and space. He's great at making the opposition force plays.

Karashik puts himself in prime position to intercept passes and break up any passing plays. He is hard to play along the boards and in the corners. He can force passes and get a bit of tunnel vision on the net at times. He has a fantastic shot that he's not afraid to unleash. Given time, Karashik could turn himself into a very solid NHL prospect with solid upside, but he is just too raw yet.

AOF teammate and center Patrick Harper is another sleeper who has the skill and intelligence, but also a wart that keeps him from being considered a top prospect. A lights-out offensive guy who can stick-handle you right out of your drawers, make skilled passes and take the puck to dangerous scoring areas, he was very entertaining to watch play this season. His size, being that he is only 5-foot-8 and a buck fifty soaking wet limited his projected professional impact to maybe that of a power play specialist, unless he can add more strength and stretch

a little.

In Minnesota high school hockey, Scott Perunovich is a tiny, but fleet-footed, agile defenseman for Hibbing who just makes the right plays offensively. His intelligence, quick decision-making with the puck and strong puck-distribution skills made him dangerous all season. While he does have strong elusiveness, it might only take one check to knock him out of the game. If he were six feet tall, he would be a top two round pick, but being he is 5-foot-8 and light as a feather, we did not list him in our top 210.

Hermantown winger Cole Koepke has decent size, especially for the high school game, and the smarts to utilize it to power himself around the offensive zone. He has a long, lanky frame that could still use added muscle, but he does use his reach and body to shield the puck. He picks his spots and uses his instincts to force turnovers. He is able to generate offense at full speed and also has great hands in tight spaces. Koepke is not scared to go to the net and will mix it up. We saw him just twice this season; unfortunately, not enough to confirm a ranking on our final list, but he is someone who could surprise down the road.

Hill Murray defenseman Casey Staum almost made our rankings as a late guy, but was forced out by other prospects who played more and against stronger competition. His head is always up and on a swivel in his own end. He can usually skate the puck out at will at this level, but usually chooses to make a good first pass and then jump up on the rush. Staum utilizes his excellent edgework to effortlessly maneuver around backcheckers through the neutral zone. He quarterbacks a

good power play, getting shots through and finding teammates' sticks for tips and redirects. Staum truly did it all for this Hill Murray team, logging huge minutes on the back end in all situations. A steady presence, the team struggled in his absence as he missed over half the season with a broken foot.

Lance Pitlick's son, Rem Pitlick of Muskegon, was an absolute force in the USHL this season. Pitlick is a sleeper pick because the talent and production are clearly there, but the size and willingness to battle through it are not always. He proved that he can log top-line minutes and produce accordingly at this level. Pitlick can stickhandle in tight space and get a quality shot off from anywhere in the offensive zone. He has elusive hands and fluent skating, and will likely be looked at by a team in the third or fourth rounds. The biggest thing is the development track that Pitlick is showing. Injured his first year of draft eligibility, he exploded this season with impressive offensive numbers. If he keeps maturing and producing offensively like he did this season, Pitlick should be given every opportunity to make it in the professional game.

Michael Boyle of Sioux City is a raw, but big-framed, defender who plays rugged and has a bit of offensive upside to his game. He's a pretty good skater who can push off strong and get to his destination quickly. He has a calming nature with the puck and is very decisive, with little hesitation.

Boyle chooses the pass-first method instead of rushing the puck in transition. He uses his body well to keep the net front clean and brings other advantages of size, such as reach, to the table. Boyle showed

that he can get rugged and even scrap it out, handling himself very well. Offense won't be his calling card, but he is a level-headed defender who doesn't make a lot of bad choices in either zone. There's not a lot of high-end upside with Boyle, but he could develop into a dependable pro after some further development.

Boyle's Sioux City teammate, center C.J. Dodero, is another guy worth watching as a potential big-bodied pro who can play on your bottom six in a checker's role. He brings physicality, and has a great frame and very impressive speed for someone of his build. He protects the puck well and is a strong on the boards while maintaining possession. Dodero makes good decisions and shows a good work ethic. He has good offensive vision and shows an ability to get to open ice for his chances, becoming an instant threat with the puck on his stick. Dodero has a good release on his shot and is able to pound the puck with his slapper. He doesn't look to me like a focal offensive guy, but he works hard away from the play and knows where he can find chances.

Cedar Rapids center Matt Gosiewski is a big, solidly built guy we have ranked, but could end up being a better player than where we have him (136th overall). He is a big 6-foot-4 power forward who likes to get physical and use his natural gifts to his advantage. While we don't see him ever being a guy who will lead an offensive charge, he could grow to be a fine complement, like Washington's Tom Wilson. His value is entirely based on what the team selecting him feels his upside will eventually be.

Three smaller, but skilled, puck-moving blueliners are also on our hit list as guys who we could look back on and say they should have been taken much higher than they were in 2016.

Jake Ryczek of Waterloo plays a smart, yet skilled, game based on the most effective way to push the puck into the offensive zone. He makes strong, heady passes, joins the rush or will lead it if the opportunity is in front of him, and he smartly boxes out his opponent defensively with sound positioning. His big negative is the lack of size and strength to compete when engaging in one-on-one battles and keeping his crease clear.

Jacob Bryson of London, Ontario, and playing with Omaha is the other smaller, but offensively inclined, rearguard. While he does not have the same dependable drive in the defensive zone as Ryczek, he is a little more naturally skilled and creative with the puck. Bryson loves to have it on his blade and rush it up ice before dishing it off to an attacking forward or getting a quick wrist shot on net. He uses his stick and mobility to defend, but Bryson has much to learn regarding

the defensive position. We have both Bryson and Ryczek listed as mid-round selections in our final rankings.

Youngstown's Luke McInnis, a future Boston College defenseman, is someone who could develop into a solid offensive defenseman. He can skate and move the puck, but his lack of ideal size is what is holding him out of our top 210 rankings. The son of former NHLer Marty McInnis has been impressive in flashes this season, but also disappears for far too often. When he is on though, he can really take over the play.

Winger Mikael Hakkarainen of Brookings in the NAHL has had a solid season playing in North America and for Finland internationally. He is a fluid skater who is always looking to cycle and work the puck around in the offensive zone. His off-the-puck movement is exceptional as he thinks the game at a high level, uses his shiftiness to find open ice for himself and sets himself up for scoring opportunities. He reads and reacts to defenses and puck bounces like a pro. Hakkarainen always seems a step ahead of the competition. He very rarely loses puck battles, and continually comes up with loose pucks in all zones. While he is not rated by FC in our final 210 prospects, we do feel he has some upside as a two-way winger.

Over in Europe, and Sweden specifically, playing with MODO of the SuperElit is a winger named Oskar Stal-Lyrenas who plays a classic power forward type of game. He plays with a lot of power and is not afraid of throwing a big hit or two. He's not the best stickhandler, but Stal-Lyrenas plays a powerful game and takes the shortest path toward the net. He is very solid in his own end, and reads and reacts to plays effectively. He has great first-step acceleration, hockey sense, and a willingness to cycle and get his nose dirty. There's not a lot there offensively, but he plays a basic straightforward game. Stal-Lyrenas has a lot of good tools, but he might need some time to develop those offensive skills.

Jacob Nordqvist is one of the most interesting defensemen Frolunda has produced the last few years, in the same mold as Erik Karlsson and John Klingberg. He has a fantastic eye for the game, and his passing is second to none. Unfortunately, what he doesn't have is size because everything else about his game screams pro-level, two-way defenseman. At the junior level, his size doesn't stop him from doing a good job defending, and he is very effective along the boards. Despite his small stature, Nordqvist boasts a lot of power thanks to his excellent balance and skating. His offensive smartness lets him dictate the play from the blueline, and he has a sneaky shot that goal-tenders have trouble containing. Seeing as Nordqvist has developed

his game at every level of junior hockey, the step to pro-level hockey doesn't seem that steep, despite his size. He will adapt his game to suit the opponents he's going up against. Nordqvist could be a high-risk, high-reward pick in the later rounds of the draft, and with many open spots on defense to compete for on Frolunda's SHL roster, that risk could pay off to be a worthy investment in a few years' time.

Defenseman David Bernhardt of Djurgarden is big at 6-foot-3 and handles the puck well. He possesses good hockey sense, and can quarterback from the blueline. Bernhardt has a good shot, but I think that he could use it more frequently. I have felt all season that he has been held back by a defensive system that didn't get defensemen involved in the offensive zone enough. He can play the puck and has good offensive instincts, but he has the ability and skills to be more impactful in the game. However, he has been kept on a short leash. If he gets to play a style of hockey where he has more freedom to move around the offensive zone and take initiative, then we could be looking at a big and very promising prospect.

Danish winger Mathias From, who plays for Rogle of Sweden's SuperElit junior league, is a guy that impressed us this season. He has the speed, skill and physicality to challenge offensively. He shows great puck transportation through all the zones, and he mixes his speed with nice dekes to find his way in to the O-zone.

When getting deep in to the O-zone, he possesses a great mix of small-body dekes and quick hands, making it hard for the opponent to knock him off the puck. He's also a guy who can make plays and set up his teammates. In addition to his offensive instincts and skills, he wants to help his team out by getting the job done both on and off the puck. He will do the work—forecheck and backcheck, block shots, and try to win the puck.

Czech goaltender Adam Brizgala was a highly regarded stopper, but due to his injury this season, we were only able to catch him in one contest. That makes it difficult to rank him in our top 210 prospects, especially since that single game was at the Hlinka Tournament in August. What we do like is that he is fire-hydrant sturdy and a solidly built goalkeeper who uses his positioning and athleticism to stop the puck. He is not like those 6-foot-4 behemoths on the NHL rosters these days, but is quick enough to make the save. Brizgala is a definite project who could be a steal due to lack of exposure.

Nikita Popugayev is a small, 5-foot-8, offensive-minded forward who has strong vision and thinks the game quickly—always looking to go on the attack offensively. He thrives with the puck on his stick and uses his quick feet to really explode into areas when he sniffs out a scoring



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opportunity. His skating is a strength as he has impressive quickness and agility, but he tends to coast around the ice not getting involved when he could be a factor with his speed. His shot is dangerous as it is quick and accurate. Popugayev will occasionally get into physical board battles in the offensive zone to retrieve the puck, but seems uninterested in backchecking. He avoids contact and must find a way to play against bigger and stronger defensemen, who outmuscle him more often than not. Popugayev will need strength if he wants to advance to the next level.

Ivan Kosorenkov is an offensively inclined winger for the Russian U18s who loves to have the puck on his stick. He has a quick first step and can be explosive in small spaces when he wants to be; he's slightly choppy, but manages to get up to speed rather quickly. Kosorenkov has very raw puck skills, but he has the ability and the confidence to be creative with the puck, albeit with mixed results. It's as if his mind is running faster than his hands at times. Defensively, he picks up his man, but it is obvious his focus is on offense and moving the puck up ice. Once his team gets the puck, Kosorenkov drops his defensive posture and explodes into an open lane on the breakout, whether he is getting to the right spots or not. The kid loves to be in control of the puck and thrives with it on his stick. He has a good shot with solid velocity. He is a talented forward, but it just hasn't all come together consistently for him yet.

There are two other Russians who are on our radar. The first is the captain of the Russian National U18 squad, Nikita Makeyev, who is a solid offensive-defenseman and a long-term project because of his

small frame. He can have a huge impact in the offensive zone, with great mobility, puck control and an accurate shot. Makeyev plays a hard-working, two-way game that includes physicality, but he will need time. The second is Loko Yaroslavl center Denis Alexeyev, who is a natural passer of the puck. He has really good vision and his technique is very good. His stick is his best friend and he knows how to handle the puck. Alexeyev has a great wrist shot as well.

Over in Finland, where they are experiencing a renaissance of talent recently, there are a few under-the-radar guys who have upside, but their warts are holding them back. Center Julius Mattila, twin brother of defensive prospect Jesper Mattila, is a nice forward to watch because he leaves it all on the ice and works extremely hard to create something with or without the puck. His skating is plus, and he makes good passes and find breaches between sticks to connect with a teammate. The problems are his size—specifically a lack of strength—and that he is reluctant to try to make creative offensive plays regularly.

Winger Radek Koblizek is a Czech-born prospect who has played in Finland with Karpat for the past three seasons. He is a small player who uses his skating and puck skills to compete on the ice. He has an excellent skating ability with a top speed that makes him hard to stop. His first-step acceleration is great, as he quickly reaches top speed. Koblizek is impressive in the offensive zone, creating and finishing with a solid shot release. His problems start when the puck leaves the offensive zone and he needs to defend. He lacks strength and drive to be a two-way guy, which is a shame as he has the skills.

HIFK junior winger Juha Jaaska is a fast, finesse player who doesn't

play an overly physical game, but can contribute in many ways. His skating ability is his biggest asset. He is a confident puckhandler and, thanks to his skating and puck skills, he can make quick moves in tight spaces. His wrist shot has an excellent release, but lacks velocity on occasion. However, his shot accuracy is way above average. Overall, if Jaaska can beef up his small frame and improve without the puck in the offensive zone, he could become a very complete player.

Liiga center Arttu Ruotsalainen is a flashy and skilled forward who impresses thanks to his nifty puck skills and puck control. He is dangerous as he has the ability at any time to go coast-to-coast with the puck and put an excellent shot—forehand or backhand—on net. The small center is at his best when entering the offensive zone with a lot of speed. Ruotsalainen has very quick hands and makes numerous eye-opening passes from the wing. He shows really good poise while being pressured; not rushing to get rid of the puck, but, instead, making an intelligent play such as putting the puck into open space where his teammates can retrieve it. He can be used in many situations, including key faceoffs in the defensive zone as he gets down low and uses his quick hands to win the majority of his draws. There is plenty to like in his game. Ruotsalainen's not a big player, but he seems to be in the middle of the action every time he hits the ice. Will he be able to add enough strength to his 5-foot-8 frame to play at the NHL level? We don't have Ruotsalainen ranked, but it would not surprise us one bit if we look back and wonder why we didn't.

With files from Future Considerations' staff

2016 NHL DRAFT FINAL RANKING

Rank	Player	Team	League	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
1	Auston Matthews	ZSC	NLA	C	6'2"	200
2	Patrik Laine	Tappara	Liiga	RW	6'4"	210
3	Jesse Puljujarvi	Karpat	Liiga	RW	6'3"	200
4	Pierre-Luc Dubois	Cape Breton	QMJHL	LW	6'3"	205
5	Matthew Tkachuk	London	OHL	LW	6'1"	195
6	Jakob Chychrun	Sarnia	OHL	D	6'2"	205
7	Clayton Keller	NTDP U18	USHL	C	5'10"	170
8	Alexander Nylander	Mississauga	OHL	RW	6'0"	175
9	Mikhail Sergachev	Windsor	OHL	D	6'3"	205
10	Tyson Jost	Penticton	BCHL	C	6'0"	190
11	Olli Juolevi	London	OHL	D	6'2"	185
12	Logan Brown	Windsor	OHL	C	6'6"	220
13	Dante Fabbro	Penticton	BCHL	D	6'0"	190
14	Charlie McAvoy	Boston University	NCAA	D	6'0"	205
15	Michael McLeod	Mississauga	OHL	C	6'2"	185
16	Kieffer Bellows	NTDP U18	USHL	C	6'1"	195
17	German Rubtsov	Team Russia U18	MHL	C	6'2"	175
18	Jake Bean	Calgary	WHL	D	6'1"	175
19	Luke Kunin	Wisconsin	NCAA	C	6'0"	195
20	Max Jones	London	OHL	LW	6'3"	205
21	Julien Gauthier	Val-d'Or	QMJHL	RW	6'4"	225
22	Riley Tuft	Blaine HS	USHS	LW	6'5"	205
23	Pascal Laberge	Victoriaville	QMJHL	C	6'1"	170
24	Vitali Abramov	Gatineau	QMJHL	LW	5'9"	170
25	Alex DeBrincat	Erie	OHL	RW	5'7"	165
26	Rasmus Asplund	Farjestad	SHL	C	5'11"	175
27	Samuel Girard	Shawinigan	QMJHL	D	5'10"	165
28	William Bitten	Flint	OHL	C	5'10"	165
29	Tyler Benson	Vancouver	WHL	LW	6'0"	205
30	Tage Thompson	Connecticut	NCAA	RW	6'5"	185
31	Boris Katchouk	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LW	6'1"	180
32	Brett Howden	Moose Jaw	WHL	C	6'3"	190
33	Jordan Kyrrou	Sarnia	OHL	C	6'0"	175
34	Adam Mascherin	Kitchener	OHL	C	5'9"	205
35	Sam Steel	Regina	WHL	C	5'11"	175

36	Adam Fox	NTDP U18	USHL	D	5'10"	185
37	Nathan Bastian	Mississauga	OHL	RW	6'4"	210
38	Libor Hajek	Saskatoon	WHL	D	6'2"	195
39	Kale Clague	Brandon	WHL	D	6'0"	180
40	Cam Dineen	North Bay	OHL	D	5'11"	180
41	Ryan Lindgren	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6'0"	195
42	Logan Stanley	Windsor	OHL	D	6'7"	220
43	Janne Kuokkanen	Karpat Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	C	6'1"	180
44	Carl Grundstrom	MODO	SHL	LW	6'0"	195
45	Carter Hart	Everett	WHL	G	6'1"	170
46	Dillon Dube	Kelowna	WHL	C	5'10"	180
47	Luke Green	Saint John	QMJHL	D	6'1"	190
48	Artur Kayumov	Team Russia U18	MHL	LW	5'10"	160
49	Frederic Allard	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	D	6'1"	180
50	Evan Fitzpatrick	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	G	6'2"	225
51	Dennis Cholowski	Chilliwack	BCHL	D	6'1"	170
52	Jonathan Dahlen	Timra	Allsvenskan	C	5'11"	175
53	William Knierim	Dubuque	USHL	RW	6'3"	215
54	Victor Mete	London	OHL	D	5'9"	175
55	Joey Anderson	NTDP U18	USHL	RW	5'11"	190
56	Noah Gregor	Moose Jaw	WHL	C	6'0"	180
57	Lucas Johansen	Kelowna	WHL	D	6'1"	180
58	Taylor Raddysh	Erie	OHL	RW	6'2"	205
59	Aapeli Rasanen	Tappara Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	C	6'0"	195
60	Filip Gustavsson	Lulea J20	SuperElit	G	6'2"	185
61	Chad Kryz	NTDP U18	USHL	D	5'11"	185
62	Matt Filipe	Cedar Rapids	USHL	C	6'2"	205
63	Markus Niemelainen	Saginaw	OHL	D	6'6"	195
64	Benjamin Gleason	Hamilton	OHL	D	6'0"	175
65	Cameron Morrison	Youngstown	USHL	C	6'2"	205
66	Cliff Pu	London	OHL	RW	6'1"	185
67	Wade Allison	Tri-City	USHL	RW	6'2"	205
68	Tyler Parsons	London	OHL	G	6'1"	185
69	Markus Nurmi	TPS Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	RW	6'3"	175
70	Joseph Woll	NTDP U18	USHL	G	6'3"	190
71	Andrew Peeke	Green Bay	USHL	D	6'3"	200

2016 NHL DRAFT FINAL RANKING

72	Jacob Moverare	HV71 J20	SuperElit	D	6'2"	200
73	Maxime Fortier	Halifax	QMJHL	RW	5'10"	175
74	Connor Bunnaman	Kitchener	OHL	C	6'2"	205
75	Zach Sawchenko	Moose Jaw	WHL	G	6'1"	180
76	Filip Hronek	HK Hradec Kralove	Czech	D	6'0"	165
77	Jack Kopacka	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LW	6'2"	190
78	Jesper Bratt	AIK	Allsvenskan	LW	5'10"	170
79	Henrik Borgstrom	HIFK Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	C	6'3"	175
80	Linus Lindstrom	Skelleftea J20	SuperElit	C	5'11"	170
81	Trent Frederic	NTDP U18	USHL	C	6'2"	205
82	Josh Mahura	Red Deer	WHL	D	6'0"	170
83	Brandon Gignac	Shawinigan	QMJHL	C	5'11"	175
84	Eetu Tuulola	HPK	Liiga	RW	6'3"	225
85	Oskar Steen	Farjestad J20	SuperElit	C	5'9"	190
86	Vladimir Kuznetsov	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	LW	6'2"	215
87	Jordan Stallard	Calgary	WHL	C	6'2"	190
88	Dmitri Sokolov	Sudbury	OHL	LW	6'0"	220
89	Max Lajoie	Swift Current	WHL	D	6'1"	185
90	Dylan Gambrell	Denver	NCAA	C	6'0"	185
91	Sean Day	Mississauga	OHL	D	6'2"	225
92	Tim Gettinger	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LW	6'6"	205
93	Vojtech Budik	Prince Albert	WHL	D	6'1"	190
94	Ross Colton	Cedar Rapids	USHL	C	6'0"	195
95	Michael O'Leary	Dubuque	USHL	RW	6'2"	195
96	Lucas Carlsson	Brynäs	SHL	D	6'0"	190
97	Tanner Kaspick	Brandon	WHL	C	6'1"	200
98	Mikhail Maltsev	Team Russia U18	MHL	LW	6'3"	200
99	Cole Candella	Hamilton	OHL	D	6'1"	185
100	Simon Stransky	Prince Albert	WHL	LW	5'11"	170
101	David Bernhardt	Djurgarden J20	SuperElit	D	6'3"	190
102	Egor Korshkov	Yaroslavl	KHL	RW	6'4"	185
103	Jacob Cederholm	HV71 J20	SuperElit	D	6'3"	190
104	Hayden Verbeek	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	C	5'10"	170
105	Otto Somppi	Halifax	QMJHL	C	6'1"	180
106	Givani Smith	Guelph	OHL	LW	6'1"	205
107	Carsen Twarynski	Calgary	WHL	LW	6'2"	200

108	Ty Ronning	Vancouver	WHL	RW	5'9"	165
109	Vladislav Sukhachyov	Team Russia U18	MHL	G	5'11"	190
110	Matt Cairns	Georgetown	OJHL	D	6'2"	190
111	Dylan Wells	Peterborough	OHL	G	6'2"	185
112	Mitchell Mattson	Grand Rapids	USHS	C	6'4"	185
113	Beck Malenstyn	Calgary	WHL	LW	6'2"	190
114	Egor Rykov	SKA St. Petersburg	MHL	D	6'2"	205
115	Evan Cormier	Saginaw	OHL	G	6'3"	200
116	Jonathan Ang	Peterborough	OHL	C	5'11"	160
117	David Quenneville	Medicine Hat	WHL	D	5'8"	180
118	Joseph Masonius	Connecticut	NCAA	D	6'0"	190
119	Rem Pitlick	Muskegon	USHL	C	5'9"	195
120	Nikita Makeyev	Team Russia U18	MHL	D	5'9"	165
121	Max Zimmer	Chicago	USHL	LW	5'11"	185
122	Daniel Kurovsky	Vitkovice Jr.	Czech Jr.	RW	6'4"	200
123	Graham McPhee	NTDP U18	USHL	LW	6'0"	175
124	Dmitri Alexeyev	Team Russia U18	MHL	D	6'0"	190
125	Jake Ryczek	Sioux City	USHL	D	5'10"	180
126	Andrei Svetlakov	CSKA	KHL	RW	6'0"	200
127	Mikhail Berdin	Team Russia U18	MHL	G	6'2"	170
128	Frantisek Hrdinka	Frolunda J20	SuperElit	D	6'0"	185
129	Zak Zborosky	Kootenay	WHL	RW	6'0"	175
130	Tim Wahlgren	Modo J20	SuperElit	C	6'0"	180
131	Matthew Boucher	Quebec	QMJHL	LW	5'8"	170
132	Nicholas Caamano	Flint	OHL	RW	6'1"	185
133	Maxim Lazarev	Cape Breton	QMJHL	LW	5'10"	170
134	Kasper Bjorkqvist	Blues Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	RW	6'1"	200
135	Matthew Phillips	Victoria	WHL	C	5'6"	140
136	Matt Gosiewski	Cedar Rapids	USHL	C	6'4"	220
137	Jordan Sambrook	Erie	OHL	D	6'2"	185
138	Jacob Bryson	Omaha	USHL	D	5'9"	180
139	James Greenway	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6'5"	215
140	Nick Pastujov	NTDP U18	USHL	LW	6'0"	200
141	Connor Hall	Kitchener	OHL	D	6'2"	190
142	Cameron Askew	Moncton	QMJHL	RW	6'4"	215
143	Ondrej Najman	Jihlava Jr.	Czech Jr.	LW	6'1"	190

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144	Joona Koppanen	Ilves Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	LW	6'4"	190
145	Nolan Stevens	Northeastern	NCAA	LW	6'2"	185
146	Riley Stillman	Oshawa	OHL	D	6'0"	180
147	Travis Barron	Ottawa	OHL	LW	6'1"	195
148	Adam Brooks	Regina Pats	WHL	C	5'10"	175
149	Casey Staum	Hill-Murray School	USHS	D	5'11"	180
150	Greg Printz	South Kent School	USHS	LW	6'2"	195
151	Olivier Galipeau	Val-d'Or	QMJHL	D	6'1"	205
152	William Pethrus	Mora J20	SuperElit	D	6'2"	185
153	Joseph Raaymakers	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	G	6'1"	180
154	Hugo Danielsson	Skelleftea J20	SuperElit	D	6'3"	185
155	Jack LaFontaine	Janesville	NAHL	G	6'3"	200
156	Colby Sissons	Swift Current	WHL	D	6'2"	175
157	Samuel Solensky	Liberec Jr.	Czech Jr.	RW	5'9"	165
158	Michael Pezzetta	Sudbury	OHL	C	6'1"	200
159	Otto Koivula	Ilves Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	LW	6'4"	220
160	Linus Nassen	Lulea J20	SuperElit	D	6'0"	170
161	Hudson Elynuik	Spokane	WHL	C	6'5"	200
162	Filip Suchy	Plzen Jr.	Czech U20	RW	5'8"	175
163	Gabriel Bilodeau	Gatineau	QMJHL	D	6'1"	185
164	Dante Salituro	Ottawa	OHL	RW	5'9"	175
165	Owen Grant	Carleton Place	CCHL	D	5'11"	180
166	Grant Jozefek	Lincoln	USHL	RW	5'10"	170
167	Colton Point	Carleton Place	CCHL	G	6'3"	220
168	Domenic Comisso	Oshawa	OHL	C	5'11"	180
169	Patrick Harper	Avon Old Farms	USHS	C	5'8"	155
170	Brinson Pasichnuk	Bonnyville	AJHL	D	6'0"	185
171	Cale Morris	Waterloo	USHL	G	6'1"	190
172	Jamie Armstrong	Avon Old Farms	USHS	LW	6'2"	190
173	Casey Fitzgerald	Boston College	NCAA	D	5'10"	185
174	Tarmo Reunanen	TPS Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	D	6'0"	175
175	Mikhail Meshcheryakov	Team Russia U18	MHL	C	5'11"	165
176	Dmitri Zaitsev	Wilkes-Barre Scranton	NAHL	D	6'1"	185
177	Vojtech Zelenak	Sparta Praha Jr.	Czech Jr.	D	6'5"	215
178	Daniil Miromanov	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	LW	6'3"	185
179	Brandon Hagel	Red Deer	WHL	LW	6'0"	165

180	Igor Shvyrev	Magnitogorsk	MHL	C	6'0"	190
181	Tobias Eder	EC Bad Tolz	Germany3	C	6'0"	175
182	Matthew Murray	Spruce Grove	AJHL	G	6'1"	180
183	Jesper Mattila	Ilves Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	D	5'10"	175
184	Gustaf Westlund	The Gunnery	USHS	C	5'11"	160
185	Jiri Karafiat	Zlin Jr.	Czech Jr.	RW	6'2"	170
186	Josh Anderson	Prince George	WHL	D	6'2"	220
187	Filip Berglund	Skelleftea J20	SuperElit	D	6'3"	210
188	Fredrik Karlstrom	AIK J20	SuperElit	C	6'2"	185
189	Ondrej Vala	Kamloops	WHL	D	6'4"	215
190	Kristians Rubins	VIK Vasteras HK	Allsvenskan	D	6'4"	215
191	Tanner Laczynski	Lincoln	USHL	C	6'1"	195
192	Patrick Bajkov	Everett	WHL	LW	5'11"	175
193	Conner Bleackley	Red Deer	WHL	C	6'1"	195
194	Kyle Maksimovich	Erie	OHL	LW	5'9"	170
195	Yevgeni Mityakin	Avto Yekaterinburg	MHL	RW	6'3"	205
196	Otto Makinen	Tappara Jr.	Jr. A SM-liiga	C	6'1"	180
197	William Lockwood	NTDP U18	USHL	RW	5'10"	170
198	Kristian Reichel	Litvinov Jr.	Czech Jr.	C	6'1"	170
199	Brett Murray	Carleton Place	CCHL	LW	6'4"	200
200	Colin Grannary	Merritt	BCHL	C	6'0"	170
201	Alan Lyszcarczyk	Sudbury	OHL	RW	6'0"	180
202	Tyler Jette	Farmington	USHS	D	6'4"	190
203	Brayden Burke	Lethbridge	WHL	LW	5'10"	165
204	Garret Pilon	Kamloops	WHL	C	5'10"	170
205	Michael Graham	Eden Prairie	USHS	C	6'2"	195
206	Tim Soderlund	Skelleftea J20	SuperElit	C	5'9"	165
207	Sebastian Aho	Skelleftea	SHL	D	5'10"	175
208	Brett McKenzie	North Bay	OHL	C	6'2"	190
209	Dean Stewart	Portage	MJHL	D	6'1"	170
210	Griffin Luce	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6'3"	215
211	Justin Brazeau	North Bay	OHL	RW	6'4"	190

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Rank	Player	Team	League	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Rank
1	Auston Matthews	ZSC	NLA	C	6'2"	200	1
2	Patrik Laine	Tappara	Liiga	RW	6'4"	210	2
3	Jesse Puljujarvi	Karpat	Liiga	RW	6'3"	200	3
4	Pierre-Luc Dubois	Cape Breton	QMJHL	LW	6'3"	205	4
5	Matthew Tkachuk	London	OHL	LW	6'1"	195	5
6	Clayton Keller	U.S. National U18 Team	USHL	C	5'10"	170	7
7	Alexander Nylander	Mississauga	OHL	RW	6'0"	175	8
8	Tyson Jost	Penticton	BCHL	C	6'0"	190	10
9	Logan Brown	Windsor	OHL	C	6'6"	220	12
10	Michael McLeod	Mississauga	OHL	C	6'2"	185	15
11	Kieffer Bellows	U.S. National U18 Team	USHL	C	6'1"	195	16
12	German Rubtsov	Team Russia U18	MHL	C	6'2"	175	17
13	Luke Kunin	University of Wisconsin	NCAA	C	6'0"	195	19
14	Max Jones	London	OHL	LW	6'3"	205	20
15	Julien Gauthier	Val-d'Or	QMJHL	RW	6'4"	225	21
16	Riley Tufte	Blaine HS	USHS	LW	6'5"	205	22
17	Pascal Laberge	Victoriaville	QMJHL	C	6'1"	170	23
18	Vitali Abramov	Gatineau	QMJHL	LW	5'9"	170	24
19	Alex DeBrincat	Erie	OHL	RW	5'7"	165	25
20	Rasmus Asplund	Farjestad	SHL	C	5'11"	175	26
21	William Bitten	Flint	OHL	C	5'10"	165	28
22	Tyler Benson	Vancouver	WHL	LW	6'0"	205	29
23	Tage Thompson	Connecticut	NCAA	RW	6'5"	185	30
24	Boris Katchouk	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LW	6'1"	180	31
25	Brett Howden	Moose Jaw	WHL	C	6'3"	190	32

Rank	Player	Team	League	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Rank
1	Jakob Chychrun	Sarnia	OHL	D	6'2"	205	6
2	Mikhail Sergachev	Windsor	OHL	D	6'3"	205	9
3	Olli Juolevi	London	OHL	D	6'2"	185	11
4	Dante Fabbro	Penticton	BCHL	D	6'0"	190	13
5	Charlie McAvoy	Boston University	NCAA	D	6'0"	205	14
6	Jake Bean	Calgary	WHL	D	6'1"	175	18
7	Samuel Girard	Shawinigan	QMJHL	D	5'10"	165	27
8	Adam Fox	U.S. National U18 Team	USHL	D	5'10"	185	36
9	Libor Hajek	Saskatoon	WHL	D	6'2"	195	38
10	Kale Clague	Brandon	WHL	D	6'0"	180	39
11	Cam Dineen	North Bay	OHL	D	5'11"	180	40
12	Ryan Lindgren	U.S. National U18 Team	USHL	D	6'0"	195	41
13	Logan Stanley	Windsor	OHL	D	6'7"	220	42
14	Luke Green	Saint John	QMJHL	D	6'1"	190	47
15	Frederic Allard	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	D	6'1"	180	49
Rank	Player	Team	League	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Rank
1	Carter Hart	Everett	WHL	G	6'1"	170	45
2	Evan Fitzpatrick	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	G	6'2"	225	50
3	Filip Gustavsson	Lulea J20	SE	G	6'2"	185	60
4	Tyler Parsons	London	OHL	G	6'1"	185	68
5	Joseph Woll	U.S. National U18 Team	USHL	G	6'3"	190	70



AUSTON MATTHEWS

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Zurich (NLA)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: September 17, 1997

VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs

STATS: 36 GP 24 G 22 A 46 PTS 6 PIM

1

STRENGTHS: A complete package at center, Matthews excels in all areas of the ice and makes his teammates better. He's the kind of player who, in the same shift, can generate a creative scoring opportunity with exceptional vision and passing plays before quickly transitioning to shut down the opposition's chance on the backcheck. A strong, smooth, mobile skater with quick feet and superb agility, Matthews can increase his speed to impressive levels as he moves up ice with the puck on his stick. His speed is deceptive at times because defenders get caught up in thinking that this hulking center can't move as fast as he can. He has agility to dance around his man and to protect the puck with his size, strength and explosiveness in all directions. His skill on the power play is shown time and time again, but it is his play down a man that makes him so solid overall; not only is this kid a gifted offensive player, he is a reliable force defensively. Matthews uses his mobility to quickly get to the right areas of the defensive zone to cut the time and space of the puck carrier. He does exactly what a center should be doing—being one of the first ones back and helping clear the zone before joining the rush. He works his tail off all over the ice and will go down low to scoop up the puck in one clean movement before turning to break out of the zone. He is consistently defensively responsible; someone his coach can count on. A magician with the puck at times, Matthews shows his creative stickhandling and ability to fool defenders with impressive dekes. He looks like a man among boys as he dangles the puck on a string in tight and right around opposing players. He dishes crisp passes—exploiting open lanes—and can get creative in putting the puck through the smallest of lanes to hit his man with a timely pass. He displays true patience and picks his spots, but not forcing things. Matthews possesses a crackling wrist shot that releases with incredible power. He's involved in all facets of the game and will be an impact player in the NHL.

WEAKNESSES: There's not a lot to pick on, but one knock on Matthews is that at times, he can try to do too much himself and get drawn out of position; a by-product of playing with teammates who cannot match his instincts. He can also get too fancy at times, like many creative playmakers can, opting to go for the pass instead of the obvious safe play that is right in front of him. Also, he is not as flashy offensively as some team's fanbases might want with a No.1 overall selection, however, that does not impact his effectiveness.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "What a decision Matthews and his agent made to play in Switzerland this season. He dominated against men, many of whom are former NHLers, earning MVP votes and proved to many he will be able to step into the NHL next season without being insulated. He might be feeling the pressure from Laine for the top selection, but his complete game keeps him at the top of most lists. A building-block player who will have an immediate impact on a franchise."

NHL POTENTIAL: All-Star Franchise Two-Way Center





PATRIK LAINE
POSITION: Right Wing
TEAM: Tappara (Liiga)
SHOOTS: Right
BORN: April 19, 1998
VITALS: 6'-4" / 210 Lbs
STATS: 46 GP 17 G 16 A 33 PTS 6 PIM

2

STRENGTHS: A man-child, Laine has been a focal offensive player with Liiga champion Tappara with an elite goal-scorer's skill set complemented by his size and developing 200-foot game. He loves to be the guy who is leading the charge on the play and does so in an imposing manner. Even with the height and weight of his frame, he has some quick feet. Laine only needs a few powerful steps to accelerate before he can lengthen out his stride and get to max speed, an area that he has dramatically improved over the past two seasons. He has tremendous balance on his feet, maintaining technique through transition and becoming a human battering ram due to the momentum he is capable of building. Laine loves to carry the puck with speed, and has the ability to recognize lanes or holes he can travel through that provide the least amount of defensive resistance. When challenged for space, he has the ability to hide the puck and use his power to maintain control. Has some superb puck skills and can dazzle with jaw-dropping hands. He consistently shows a high level of creativity without grave risk-taking tendencies. Offensively, he is more of a sniper than a set-up guy, although he doesn't lack in either skill category. His elite IQ makes the world his oyster when setting up shop offensively. Laine has the magic touch with his passes, calming pucks quickly before moving them accurately. He is capable of making a lot of plays based on sensing where his teammates are going to be and leading them perfectly to pick up a puck in stride. When he keeps the puck, he loves to get off his lethal shot. His release is all-pro and helps him maintain a consistent spray chart on net. He has also shown his one-timer is a goaltender's nightmare, with his combination of timing and power. Laine's confidence level is through the roof with and without the puck, knowing where he needs to be for optimal success. He always seems to be moving to find open ice where he can support a play. He plays the game with a high tempo and loves to get involved in pressure scenarios. Laine activates his feet on the forecheck to get a bead on the puck carrier and wallop him with a solid check. He has great ability to recognize the play developing through the neutral zone and in his own end. His reach is spectacular and so is his ability to get his stick in the comfort zone of his opponents.

WEAKNESSES: While his defensive ability has been growing by leaps and bounds, there are still some areas that will need some fine-tuning. He can also get a little too "Harlem Globetrotter" with the puck at times, which leads to turnovers. An NHL coach will want to rein in that creativity a little during five-on-five play, while still encouraging him to bring it out during shootouts.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Plays a more North American friendly game than a lot of young European players. While I don't think he should overtake Matthews for the top spot, I believe he is firmly the No. 2 guy and might end up the better offensive player. He has the experience and translatable skills to step immediately into the NHL."

NHL POTENTIAL: Future Rocket Richard Trophy-Winning Winger





JESSE PULJUJARVI

POSITION: Right Wing

TEAM: Karpas (Liiga)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: May 7, 1998

VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs

STATS: 50 GP 13 G 15 A 28 PTS 22 PIM

3

STRENGTHS: Puljujarvi is an offensive fixture who skates like the wind and provides size. He has an explosive first step for a big body and has no noticeable flaws in his stride. There is great extension on his skating stride when he is moving flat out, allowing him to control the speed of the game. His acceleration is spectacular for someone his size, allowing him to get the quick jump once he recognizes a spot to where he needs to get. Despite being noted as a scorer, we think he is just as proficient as a set-up guy. Puljujarvi keeps his feet moving and remains patient until he is content with the development of the play before passing the puck. His vision is near the top of this class and he is able to lay out situational passes of each unique scenario. He works well with limited space and has the puck skills to maintain possession in open ice while in motion or working under duress. Puljujarvi oozes high-end skill and awareness, showing an ability to remain elusive. He loves to drive to the net from the perimeter with or without the puck, showing readiness to make a split-second move to create an opportunity. He does a good job of drawing defenders to him and opening up opportunities for teammates. He boasts a powerful shot and a goal-scoring instinct to find lanes that allow him to be a threat from anywhere. He is constantly moving his feet and never remains flat-footed, always looking for an open area of the ice where he can pick up the play. While he pitches in and plays on the boards, Puljujarvi has a noticeable style of circling a scrum and preparing himself to pick up a puck and carry the play to open ice. He is hard to play against and a real threat to overthrow possession on the forecheck. Defensively, Puljujarvi shows hustle and tenacity. He recognizes threats and backchecks all the way to his goal. He plays with the range of a center and reads the play to go where he can offer support. His wingspan is a huge asset as it allows him to get to the puck and limit the range of his opponents. Puljujarvi follows puck movement well and has quick reactions that enable him to steal pucks and transition the play up ice.

WEAKNESSES: Puljujarvi can manhandle opponents in a lot of matchups, but his physical checking game does need refinement. He needs to square up the body a bit better to avoid taking himself out of the play when delivering a check. While he can dominate, he also has his moments where he melts into the background. While we believe he will put up his share of points, the big difference between him and Laine is the projected NHL offensive upside. It's not really a weakness of Puljujarvi's, but more a reason why he is slotted at number three for FC.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "His size, skating, offensive skill and determination to be a difference maker continually stand out when he is on the ice. He is going to be one hell of a player and be a top-six, two-way force for whichever team steps up to select him."

NHL POTENTIAL: All-Star Two-Way Playmaking Winger





PIERRE-LUC DUBOIS

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: June 24, 1998

VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 62 GP 42 G 57 A 99 PTS 112 PIM

4

STRENGTHS: Dubois is a rangy forward who seems to always be on the attack. He has a fortuitous blend of size, strength and hockey sense. He is quite mobile for a player of his size. His hockey sense and passes are strong; he anticipates plays well and gets the puck into dangerous areas in the offensive zone. Dubois has very strong vision that he uses to hit streaking teammates on the rush. He skates well, making quick, deliberate cuts to create separation and, at times, hits a second gear when he needs to create some space or get on an opponent on the backcheck. His strength and balance on his skates are definitely more evident than any breakaway speed or acceleration. Dubois keeps his head up and pivots his body positioning to make plays and protect the puck. He is able to use his size to his favor when engaging in battles along the boards. As he skates toward the boards, he engages and overpowers his opponent, gaining body position over the puck. He is able to do this against every opponent no matter if they are big or small. He has no hesitation when engaging in scrums after the whistle, but remains cool-headed. His hockey sense is on display as he is able to see plays develop before they come to fruition. Dubois has impressive vision and quick decision-making to determine the best route to take to break into the offensive zone before having the puck on his stick. As he powers into the zone and through defenders, Dubois really demonstrates his size and strength on his skates. His shot is heavy and quick off his blade. His hockey sense extends to both the offensive and defensive zones. Dubois engages with his man in front of his net, tying up his stick. He will block a shot or come down low and make a check to separate the attacker from the puck. He does a great job on the forecheck, putting a lot of pressure on the defense. Dubois is a smart hockey player who plays with some solid skill and strength.

WEAKNESSES: There's not a lot to pick from here. If you want to pick his skating apart, you would note Dubois' wide stance that fights his ability to generate quickness off the hop. He is strong on his feet and nearly impossible to knock off the puck. He is also very agile, cutting laterally quickly and using strong edges. If Dubois could improve his first few steps, that would help his game immensely. He will want to continue to add more muscle to his already impressive frame as well. Lastly, he does not possess the flashy, creative, offensive mind teams like to add with a top-five pick. NHL fans will need to understand what he brings—a strong power/physical/finesse blend—and value him for that instead of looking for him to lead their team's offense.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Pierre-Luc is a versatile, high-end talent with a fortuitous blend of size, strength and hockey sense. He uses his large frame to gain body position along the boards and in races for loose pucks to beat the opposition. His top-end skills and versatility give him the potential to break into the top end of the draft."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Power Center





MATTHEW TKACHUK

POSITION: Left Wing

TEAM: London (OHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: December 11, 1997

VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs

STATS: 57 GP 30 G 77 A 107 PTS 80 PIM

5

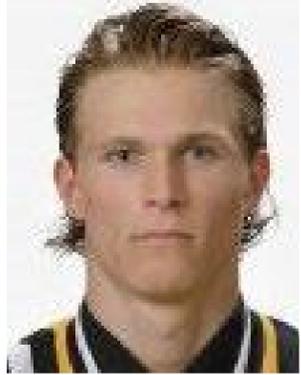
STRENGTHS: Tkachuk, son of former NHL power forward Keith Tkachuk, is a feisty pro-style winger who goes hard to the net. He is an offense-minded winger who plays a quick-thinking, dynamic game. He is a clever winger with explosive burst who has the ability to take over a game with his play down low. Tkachuk has a tendency to go to the front of the net and around the crease, both with and without the puck, as he intelligently anticipates the puck's movement. He has a penchant for getting to prime offensive areas thanks to his high hockey IQ and ability to squeeze through bodies to gain positioning. Tkachuk has a flair to his game, making creative and skilled passes, and has no trouble making slick moves with the puck while under pressure. Even when he is completely stretched out, he is strong on the puck, protecting it and making it difficult for defenders to knock him off it. He puts himself in the right position on his check to hold them off and when knocked down, he is quick to get back up and is more driven than before to make something happen and make the opponent pay. The winger displays a long, extremely strong northbound stride, which allows him to pick up speed with each push through the ice. Tkachuk uses his speed effectively to chase down and pressure the puck-carrier and/or get moving up. The biggest strength in his game is his vision in all areas of the ice. He can make a timely behind-the-back pass right on the tape of his teammate streaking for the net while holding off a defender's check. He sees the whole ice and makes quick decisions on the best option after quickly evaluating and seeing the play develop. Tkachuk exploits lanes and picks his spots with near perfection. While at high speed, he still maintains possession of the puck and can do so while he makes elusive plays and power moves around defenders without slowing down. He possesses creative and fast hands as he moves to the net with a goal-scorer's touch. Defensively, he races back on the backcheck and picks up his man, even covering up missed assignments when needed.

WEAKNESSES: Tkachuk is a little bit choppy off the hop in his skating stride to get up to top speed, but he shows strong agility and small-space quickness. He can also cross the line physically and lose his cool from time to time—a common trait in fiery competitors that they must learn to harness and control. An NHL coach will love his fire, but Tkachuk needs to control it and still get under his opposition's skin while not taking retaliatory penalties or getting carried away after the whistle. He is also a prospect who, while very dangerous down low on offense, he has his limitations creating off the rush.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Loaded with high hockey IQ, Tkachuk kept taking his game to new levels this season and was constantly involved in the play. He can make something out of nothing, and has the offensive skill and grit that allow him to dominate below the hash marks. A tenacious forward who has a scoring touch and a knack for finding open space."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Power Winger





JAKOB CHYCHRUN

POSITION: Defense

TEAM: Sarnia (OHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: March 31, 1998

VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 62 GP 11 G 38 A 49 PTS 51 PIM

6

STRENGTHS: Chychrun is a physically developed, two-way defenseman who drives the play. He loves to skate the puck up ice, but knows his limits as he is fast to retreat at the first sign of a possession change. The son of former NHLer Jeff Chychrun, he is a smooth, mobile, effortless skater with fluid movements and incredible all-round mobility. He uses his edges with precision to explode off the start and change direction in a flash. His movements in every direction are powerful, smooth and controlled. Quick bursts of acceleration make Chychrun a threat from being stationary as he explodes and moves in a hurry. A smart defender who defends well in all areas, he does a very good job of angling his check wide to the outside upon entry and has good timing with his stick and knows when to step in with the body. He isn't going to step in and level a player on every play, but he will use his frame consistently to his advantage in outmuscling the man from the puck and removing him from it entirely. Chychrun possesses incredible hockey sense and adapts to his surroundings quickly and effectively. He reads the play very well and does the little things right with and without the puck. He acts like a general on the ice, guiding his backcheckers on whom to cover. He controls passes with poise, reading the developing play, quickly adjusting his positioning and opening his body to receive the pass; he receives it as smoothly as can be before turning his attention to distributing or getting it to the net. Chychrun thinks quickly to be able to control the pass and turn to the net with a quick stickhandle and hard wrist shot. He settles bouncing pucks with poise and speed as he continues up ice or laterally with no hesitation. Chychrun will go to war on the wall to get the puck off the man, and makes no mistake in getting it out of traffic to open space. With the puck, he shows off his creative side, making a few little moves to get by opponents. He has a big, heavy shot that he gets all of his weight behind and has no trouble blasting.

WEAKNESSES: Consistency is an area that has been an issue for Chychrun as one game he looks near perfect making all the right decisions and reads, while other games he makes a couple big gaffes that would have others looking for a place to hide. The good news is that he does not make excuses or hide from these, but instead learns from his mistakes. Knowing when to step up to make a play and when not to force something that is not there looks like it could be the big hurdle facing him. Sometimes, he skates himself out of options when rushing the puck. This leads some scouts to question his offensive sense and awareness, but we think that is also part of his learning process.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "A bit inconsistent at times and subject to scrutiny much of the year. A poised driver of the play, Chychrun has incredible defensive awareness, a cannon of a shot and the ability to dominate the game. Has the makings of a top-pairing, two-way defenseman."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Pairing, Two-Way Defenseman





CLAYTON KELLER

POSITION: Center

TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: July 27, 1998

VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs

STATS: 23 GP 13 G 24 A 37 PTS 14 PIM

7

STRENGTHS: Keller is an absolute offensive stud in the making. He has the ability to create space and time with his exceptional skating ability, quick turns, speed, acceleration and elusiveness. He's incredible at handling the puck in traffic. He tries things with the puck that other players don't even dream of doing. Keller sees the play develop exceptionally well, and isn't afraid to make the creative play in hopes of getting on the score sheet. His skating ability is nearly flawless. He's so quick with his stops and starts, and has breakaway speed. Keller is truly a nightmare to defend, especially for those bigger, lumbering defenders. The aspects of his game that are at elite levels are his vision and playmaking ability. His creativeness is just outstanding as he looks like he is in a class of his own every time the puck is on his stick. He combines his deceptive fakes and stick work to make highlight-reel plays at any given moment. A real calm customer, Keller isn't fazed by bigger/stronger defenders, and when in tight, he uses his dynamic combination of skills to find ways to get to the net. When not using his vision and playmaking ability to set up others in prime real estate, he isn't afraid to rip the puck on net with a quick release and deadly accurate shot. He is consistently buzzing around the net to find loose pucks and works really hard to transition the play from his own zone. Keller isn't the most physical player, but he still gets his quick stick to the right spots to create turnovers, to retrieve the puck or to deflect shots on defense.

WEAKNESSES: It's the same story year after year: A prospect has game-breaking skills and is a real offensive dynamo, but lacks the ideal size to succeed at the NHL level. Or, so many think. This view is why so many of today's top offensive forwards are drafted later than their skills should dictate. Yet, oftentimes, the guys who are smaller end up catching up somewhat when they hit the weights and it has no ill effect on their abilities at the NHL level. Will Keller be one of those who makes us look back and wonder why he wasn't a top-five pick? Other than size, his game is not the most balanced as he is all offense, and has plenty of room to improve his defensive abilities and awareness.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Smooth and elusive skater who pulls defenders in, quick hands and great goal-scoring potential. Flat out dominating offensive threat and plays with a high motor. Size doesn't matter with him as he constantly makes unbelievable plays. Poised with the puck and extremely confident in most areas, Keller possesses fast hands to match his quick feet. Small, but no reason he can't be the next Gaudreau. Has a similar overall package."

NHL POTENTIAL: All-Star Offensive Center





ALEXANDER NYLANDER

POSITION: Right Wing

TEAM: Mississauga (OHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: March 2, 1998

VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs

STATS: 57 GP 28 G 47 A 75 PTS 18 PIM

8

STRENGTHS: Nylander is a smart, super-skilled winger who will make you pay if you give him the tiniest of space. This Swede—the son of former NHLer Michael Nylander—doesn't let up in possession and is a driven forward who wants to create offense in whatever way possible. He finds his spots in the offensive zone and picks apart lanes exceptionally well. Nylander does a good job of using his shoulder to push off from his check and protect the puck, shifting his weight enough to maintain balance and drive to the outside. He possesses quick feet and some high-end agility, allowing him to explode off the hop and in all directions. His puck skills complement his incredible shot perfectly; he plays with the puck on a string thanks to quick hands and confidence to do something great. Nylander possesses incredible puck skills in tight quarters and can easily stickhandle in a phone booth. He is quick to escape trouble by combining his puck skills, skating and hockey sense—he uses his quick agility to dash through with the puck in close as he scopes out the play around him to escape to open ice and make a play with the puck. His shot is his greatest asset—it is fast and rocket-like—and he has a deceptive release from in close while in movement. Nylander has the ability to speed up and slow down the play with possession, something that not many players can do effectively. He's an absolute threat with the puck on his stick as he can push the play, undress defenders, and make a pass you wouldn't expect or take a deceptively hard shot that makes goalies freeze in their tracks. Nylander has very good timing about when to pressure the puck-carrier and use his stick and slippery play to strip the puck; it's almost unexpected when he swoops in and removes the puck from the man, making him a threat away from the puck. His offensive upside, thanks to his quick, deceptive release, exceptional vision and hockey IQ, is extremely high.

WEAKNESSES: Nylander has a tendency to ease off at times, which limits his effectiveness. He isn't always fully engaged defensively, something he will need to work on to become an all-around threat. He does not play his man hard enough, allowing his check to be free and clear to get the puck and get a quality scoring chance. He can easily fix his defensive play with his high hockey IQ and innate ability to read the game and adapt. Nylander has a bit of a tendency to stand still when in possession offensively, making him vulnerable to being knocked off balance when he least expects it.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "A playmaker first, Nylander can make the opposition defense look like a bunch of peewee players. With an NHL-ready shot, Nylander lights the lamp anytime he wants to. He consistently added something to his game with each viewing, improving his defensive game in the process. He will need to add to his frame, but his elusive ability and separation speed make him a force at this level."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger





MIKHAIL SERGACHEV

POSITION: Defense

TEAM: Windsor (OHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: June 25, 1998

VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 67 GP 17 G 40 A 57 PTS 56 PIM

9

STRENGTHS: Sergachev is a smooth-skating defenseman who isn't afraid to use his body. He looks very comfortable and confident, quietly playing a strong and effective game from the back end. He plays in all situations and is successful; he effectively cuts off his man's routes, and gets the puck out of pressure situations. Sergachev reads the situations well and does not just get rid of the puck in a hurry. With some space and time, he is patient looking for other options besides just banging it off the wall or down the ice. A key member of the Spitfires power play unit, he moves the puck around the top of the zone with confidence and poise, and utilizes his vision and creativity when he sees an opportunity to slide down low for a shot. Sergachev has a very heavy point shot that is positioned well. A high-end skater who has exceptional acceleration, he can explode laterally in one step, which makes all the difference. He shows excellent edge work to maintain balance and strength, cutting up the ice with shifty feet and quick pivots. Sergachev stays calm and collected skating with the puck, while also generating tremendous speed as he crosses over and moves his way up ice. He is a powerful skater when he gets moving and is almost unstoppable on his feet. He displays impressive awareness and knows when an opponent is lining him up, adapting accordingly to move laterally and protect the puck while using his speed to separate from the man, not getting flustered or making an unnecessary play with the puck. He sees lanes develop and hits his man with a crisp pass. He is a high-end puck mover. His passes are crisp and he leads his man. Calm and composed with the puck, Sergachev makes smart plays to get the puck up ice. He is cool as a cucumber, showing absolutely no hesitation under pressure. He remains composed and relaxed with pressure or when there are no options available, never appearing flustered even in the worst of times. Defensively, he marks his man and makes a strong effort to keep him contained to the outside and away from the slot and high-threat areas.

WEAKNESSES: While he does play a well-rounded, two-way game, Sergachev's offensive upside might not reach as high as some other defensemen available in this draft. While he has made incredible strides this past season, his game and understanding of how to play the defensive position is still developing as he just picked up the game eight years ago as a 9-year-old in his native Russia. He will need to get stronger to continue to effectively play his physical style at the next level.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "A calm and collected puck-moving defenseman, Sergachev took the OHL by storm once he adapted to the North American game. Strong defensively, plays a physical game, sees the play develop, can drive the play with a pass or by carrying it, and shows consistent play more and more."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Pairing Physical Two-Way Defenseman





TYSON JOST
POSITION: Center
TEAM: Penticton (BCHL)
SHOOTS: Left
BORN: March 14, 1998
VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs
STATS: 48 GP 42 G 62 A 104 PTS 43 PIM

10

STRENGTHS: Jost is a strong, dynamic center with solid two-way ability. An extremely smart offensive weapon, he will make the simple play when it is best to do so, but he isn't afraid to flash his creativity from time to time. He loves to make the give-and-go play, working with the space provided and moving the puck quickly. He is relentless on the forecheck, using his stick to strip the puck from the man, and is strong at protecting the puck with his free arm and back on the perimeter. Jost has a laser-beam for a wrist shot and he can score from a distance off the rush. His greatest attributes are his instincts and sense. Jost has an uncanny understanding of the timing required to execute, and his ability to find open soft spots from which to present himself as a passing option is rare. Equally impressive is the well-roundedness of his offensive arsenal, both as a playmaker and a goal-scorer. He has a bit of a sneaky streak, and loves to use his speed to beat defenders to get in good scoring spots. Jost loves to drive the puck to the net, and isn't afraid to go to the dirty areas. He works hard, and is a natural-born leader out on the ice, always talking and giving advice and pointers to teammates. Jost looks very comfortable in all situations, and could be a guy who will play big minutes at the next level. He plays with some feistiness and is willing to get his nose dirty each and every shift. He is effective in all three zones, and uses his high hockey IQ to make sure he is in prime position to make a play. Defensively, Jost consistently drives down low into his own zone, picks up his man and plays him tight. He has a great stick-lifting ability while chasing down opponents and creating turnovers; just being a real pain for opposing players. He has an impeccable ability to win key faceoffs, and is put out in key situations regardless of the zone. He continues to make smart decisions over and over again, while making the right moves that put his team in the best position possible.

WEAKNESSES: While Jost is physically wiry strong, he is not overly large or durable, and the way he plays—such as going hard after the puck along the wall even when a big check is imminent—he opens himself up to potential injury. He is also not seen as someone who will be a top point-producer, carrying the offense of his NHL team. While he is projected to be capable of playing on a top offensive line, he is not the most creative player; instead, he's a guy who will complement a top offensive player with his two-way play.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "He is an incredibly gifted center who has everything you want in a top player. He distributes the puck at a high level, can stick-handle his way out of trouble and has a Grade-A shot. He is a top-10 talent for me. He is a leader out on the ice with his ability to execute offensively and his growing commitment to the defensive side of the game."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Center





OLLI JUOLEVI

POSITION: Defense

TEAM: London (OHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: May 5, 1998

VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs

STATS: 57 GP 9 G 33 A 42 PTS 16 PIM

11

STRENGTHS: Juolevi is a fluid, two-way defenseman who plays a strong puck-moving game. He processes the game at a very high level and appears very calm when pressured, not rushing just any old play with the puck, but instead evaluating what would be the best play. He quickly escapes trouble with his quick feet and good puck protection before moving the puck to the safe option. His choices of pass options are very strong and put him a good position to help his team succeed. He is a strong backward skater who can vary his speed based on the play in front of him thanks to his ability to anticipate and react quickly. Juolevi keeps strong gaps and an active stick to knock pucks off his opponents' sticks. A very mature thinker, he just always seems to be aware of what is going on around him and seems able to predict what is going to happen next. Juolevi reacts well to add support on the wall in an effort to get the puck free; once he gets it on his tape, he does a good job of pushing the play forward by either skating it or with a crisp pass to his target in open ice. When he sees the opportunity, he will come off the blueline and skate into the puck to unload a slap shot as well, and while his shot is not overly powerful, he gets it right on target and places it where he wants it. He consistently dishes crisp passes to his best options, seeing the ice very well in front of him and to the side, executing strong D-to-D passes and being there as a support option for his partner when he does not have the puck. Juolevi carries the puck on the attack with poise and speed, showing no signs of hesitation or losing control of the puck, even at his top speed. He displays incredible awareness as he works his way up ice, reading the play and seeing lanes develop very well. He shows off some quick hands and feet as he moves the puck at the point, holding onto it until a lane presents itself to slip a pass through. Juolevi has good offensive instincts to read the play and drop down from the point to support his teammates in possession.

WEAKNESSES: Juolevi can be prone to chasing the puck carrier and extending his stick instead of playing the body. This leaves him open to being manipulated by faster or more skilled puckhandlers and looking silly when he gets beat by a dangle or two. Defensively, he makes head-scratching decisions. Juolevi also needs to avoid coming to a stop when defending as this limits his effectiveness and gives the man the space needed to make a play. There's not much in the way of physical play to this guy as he does not play with much grit or sandpaper. His shot is accurate and effective in getting to the net for his skilled teammates in London to manufacture a second chance, but it has low velocity and will need to improve to remain effective at the next level.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Safe and steady defender who has offensive flair to his game. Can drive the play forward, is a smooth skater and comes up big in high-intensity situations. Offensively gifted forward with good defensive instincts, Juolevi will need to play more physical down low."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Puck-Moving Defenseman





LOGAN BROWN

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Windsor (OHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: March 5, 1998

VITALS: 6'-6" / 220 Lbs

STATS: 59 GP 21 G 53 A 74 PTS 40 PIM

12

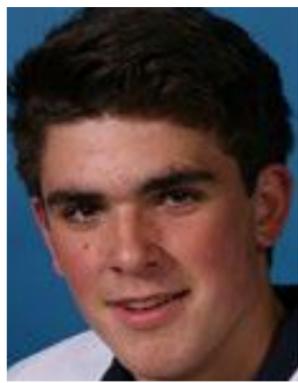
STRENGTHS: Brown has all the tools to be an impact playmaker at the next level. Despite his towering size, he doesn't play a powerful, speed-driven, in-your-face game, but he does use his frame to protect the puck and plays a solid all-around game. He has loads of speed tucked away in those long strides, but you almost rarely see him hit 100%. Brown is a smooth skater with a strong center of gravity, making it extremely difficult for opponents to move him off the puck or knock him around. Even with the puck and stretched out, he still maintains power and stability as he stays balanced and upright through contact. Brown is a very fluid skater with quick lateral movements that belies a kid with his size. He displays impressive hockey sense and overall awareness with and without the puck. When holding the puck down low in the offensive zone, Brown has solid recognition of what his teammates are doing and is quick to cycle with the man coming in behind him, knowing exactly when the man is approaching and timing the drop pass right. He possesses soft hands and is skilled with the puck. Brown makes it very hard to take the puck off him, especially on the wall when he uses his back to push checks off. Away from the puck, he is a workhorse as he attempts to get the puck from the man, not easing off until he forces his opponent to turn it over or Brown strips him of it. He has a quick wrist shot, and is quite deceptive as he doesn't always get into a shooting position so goalies don't expect a shot coming off the blade. He has a nose for the net and will make his presence known in front of the crease, while standing his ground and not allowing his opponent to move him. Brown's passes are hard, crisp and lead the man through lanes. He has the ability to see lanes develop and make the pass. He adjusts his body perfectly to receive the pass on a give-and-go, quickly feeding his man right back. In the faceoff circle, Brown uses his strength to his advantage to tie up his man and prevent him from taking control. Defensively, Brown picks up his check and plays a good game down low, pushing his check to the outside and plastering him into the wall if necessary to separate the man from the puck.

WEAKNESSES: Brown is not as physical as we would like from a 6-foot-6 power center, but that is just not his style of game. He needs to continue to shoot the puck more and on a consistent level as he goes through stretches where he looks hesitant to fire it on net, instead looking for much lower percentage plays. Lastly, he will still need to add considerable strength, especially to his spindly legs as the kid just keeps growing.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "A true power-forward type, Brown has improved his balance, speed and overall skating ability immensely. Has the playmaking ability to know how and when to shoot to score that makes him successful. Battled inconsistent play at times, but he plays the game the right way and will make a positive impact at the next level."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Power Center





DANTE FABBRO

POSITION: Defense

TEAM: Penticton (BCHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: June 20, 1998

VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs

STATS: 45 GP 14 G 53 A 67 PTS 30 PIM

13

STRENGTHS: Fabbro is an ultra-intelligent, defensively safe rearguard. He is very steady and calculated in his decision making. He doesn't throw the puck away and he has ice in his veins. He does not have much of a dynamic flair in the way he distributes the puck, but he is very effective and accurate in his puck movement. Fabbro always hits the tape and he makes teammates better players by delivering the pucks in a timely fashion. He makes very composed plays, moving the puck out of his end and in transition. He can make a quick pass up to his winger or hold onto it and wait until passing lanes open up for him to spot another forward in the center lane or across the ice. On the power play, Fabbro shows he can move on the line to open shooting lanes, and he regularly performs switches with his defense partner, looking for open lanes for him to get a shot off. He has a real bullet of a point shot that is a good mix of hard and well-placed. He is a master at shaking off forecheckers breaking out and even controls the puck while using one hand on the stick and one hand to protect. He can get passes off under physical pressure on regroup or breaking out. Fabbro offers an all-around game that some of the more prolific puck-rushers lack, particularly on the defensive side and playing with composure under pressure. Fabbro is extremely tough to beat one-on-one because he'll play the body and stay square to the player coming in on the rush. Away from the puck, he can keep forwards honest with a slash across the body as he's tracking them in the defensive zone. He has impressive vision and defensive awareness, showing the ability to cover for missed assignments of others. We heard an NHL general manager say he could see Fabbro playing in the NHL next year and we don't think that's inaccurate at all. He had a very solid season on his way to being named the top defenseman in the BCHL.

WEAKNESSES: The top thing that NHL teams need to know when considering Fabbro is that he will never be a flashy, offensive, puck-rushing defenseman no matter what the offensive numbers he put up suggest. He is more safe than flash and dash, and he will not take the puck end-to-end. He could stand to move his feet more to aid in his escapability and alleviate pressure from the forecheck. He lacks creativity with the puck as he just keeps the play going forward instead of using his skill and feet to loop back and regroup to get a better look or route. Fabbro certainly has the skill to be more creative if he wants to. Physically, he is not the strongest guy, but he is forced to play smarter to compensate.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "He is very steady and calculated in his decision-making. He doesn't throw the puck away and he has ice water in his veins. I see Fabbro as a very safe pick; he is going to be an NHL player. However, I don't know if I ever see him becoming an all-star or even a team's top-pairing guy."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman





CHARLIE MCAVOY

POSITION: Defense

TEAM: Boston University (NCAA)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: December 21, 1997

VITALS: 6'-0" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 37 GP 3 G 22 A 25 PTS 56 PIM

14

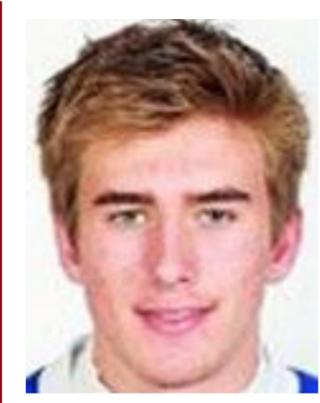
STRENGTHS: McAvoy is a high-upside defenseman who primarily plays an offensive game. He is very strong on the puck. The main thing that leads to his puck-possession success is that he keeps his feet moving through contact. He shows off his slick hands and ability to deke through a few defenders and keep the puck. He has quick decision-making ability both with and without the puck. McAvoy often catches the defense off-guard because he makes quick plays with the puck, as if he knows what he is going to do with the puck before he even gets it. He is able to do everything at high speed, such as dishing a crisp pass without having to slow down to process his options, hitting the open man through a seam in traffic. He is constantly making solid defensive plays, using his reach and his strength to get to the man and separate him from the puck. His gap control is strong and he quickly steps up to eliminate a passing option, play the puck or completely play his man to the outside and out of harm's way. He is a forward-thinker who sees the ice well and analyzes the game exceptionally well. McAvoy sees lanes develop, and if he doesn't like his options, he moves quickly to get a different angle and distribute. He is a smooth skater, making it look effortless at times. Quick mobility and agility allow him to pounce on his man or get up ice in a hurry. McAvoy exudes confidence and is strong with the puck, not allowing others to get after it. Controlled movements and smooth mobility make him highly effective in possession. He is deadly in transition as he makes on-the-money passes to options who will kick-start the rush. McAvoy has a nice gear he can tap into, and uses it wisely and effectively. Defensively, he smartly uses body positioning to angle off forwards and prevent any big plays in one-on-one rush situations. McAvoy has the ability to also play the body and will line up a hit if the opportunity is there. He will also use his strength to push his man out of the crease area or to wage battle along the wall.

WEAKNESSES: McAvoy is a guy who really does not have an elite trait about him—except maybe his skating. His passing game is on-point and his awareness is solid, but he really does not have that one area that defines him as a player. He can, at times, over-handle the puck and run out of options, being overly patient with the puck. McAvoy will also want to focus on being more defensive-minded and not always jump into the rush, and make better reads on when to do so. He needs to bring the same consistent effort to the defensive side of the game as he does to his puck-moving and offensive game.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "His stride, speed and puck-moving ability are things that will make people salivate because this kid does it with such poise and grace. Kick-starts the rush in transition and will skate with it if given the chance, using his puck skills to maintain possession as he shields it and drives into the offensive zone. A real strong puck-moving option for a team that misses out on the top D-men in this class."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Puck-Moving Defenseman





MICHAEL MCLEOD

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Mississauga (OHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: February 3, 1998

VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs

STATS: 57 GP 21 G 40 A 61 PTS 71 PIM

15

STRENGTHS: McLeod is a high-pace, fleet-footed, two-way center who does an exceptional job of moving the puck around, creating time and space, and opening shooting lanes. He displays his quick thinking to adjust his position by even a few inches to be in a better position for a pass or one-time opportunity. He possesses a quick first step and generates all kinds of speed as he weaves his way up ice with the puck. McLeod picks up speed with every step, has big-time acceleration and makes good use of his edges to cut and twist gracefully. His speed with the puck doesn't fade, but actually increases in some instances, and he displays excellent separation speed on the rush. He is strong on the puck and will hold onto it for as long as needed. McLeod shows some strength as he uses his back to fend off the check and gain ground to get to an area that he deems as his best opportunity to distribute the puck for a quality scoring chance. He possesses a set of quick hands that allows him to dangle defenders inside and out if he so chooses. McLeod sees lanes develop and is patient to hit his man at the right time. This competitive center shows his strength in the faceoff circle, winning key draws time and time again. His defensive game really stands out as he is excellent in his positioning, helping low and playing well positionally. He is also quick to cover for missed checks. He impresses with his commitment on the backcheck, making it a priority to get on the right side of the puck to knock the man off of it. McLeod is quick to offer support down low on the wall, immediately getting on the defensive side of the puck and being there when the puck pops free. On the penalty kill, McLeod is sent over the boards to take key faceoffs. He anticipates the play exceptionally well and makes great use of his stick, quickly lunging and using his stick to intercept the pass and send it the length of the ice. He will sacrifice his body and dive into the lane to block shots and prevent an opportunity at the net. His competitive nature is on display each shift and there is no quit in his game until the final buzzer sounds.

WEAKNESSES: McLeod's frame has plenty of room to add muscle and he needs it as his legs are thin, even for the OHL level. Despite his spindly legs, he does skate very well and the added muscle would help his balance, puck protection, physicality and shot velocity more than it would his already elite-level skating. Like most young prospects, his game is inconsistent as he flashes high levels of play and also disappears for stretches at a time. Lastly, we see him as a playmaker-type who makes solid plays with the puck, but quite often, he makes a blind pass that just leaves our evaluators scratching their heads as to his motive.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Low-risk, high-reward pick right here. McLeod was a leader on a young Steelheads team, plays a well-rounded game at both ends of the rink and will go anywhere to make something happen. Not shy to take the puck to the net and cut to the slot for a better lane."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Center





KIEFFER BELLOWS

POSITION: Left Wing

TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: June 10, 1998

VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs

STATS: 23 GP 16 G 16 A 32 PTS 41 PIM

16

STRENGTHS: Bellows—the son of former NHLer Brian Bellows—is the perfect example of a “meat and potatoes”-type player. He plays the game the right way, gets involved in the dirty areas, plays physically and has a drive to succeed. Bellows has a knack for driving to the net, and throwing the opposition off with his deceptive shoulder dips and quick, two-step acceleration. He plays a power-forward style of game, and engages physically, whether by making a check on defense or posting up in the slot for screen attempts. Bellows plays with intensity and drive, a great mix of skill and strength, and is really adept at knowing when to dangle a defender or bull-rush the net. He brings a diverse and mature offensive skill set. Bellows protects the puck very well and is tough to separate from it. He also has a knack of exploiting defenders who over-commit in an attempt to gain leverage. Bellows is dynamite along the wall and goes to tough, high-scoring areas. Despite not being big by NHL standards, he is very physically mature and imposes his will on the ice. Bellows is a natural goal-scorer and possesses a heavy shot. He knows it’s a weapon and isn’t afraid to pull the trigger from anywhere in the offensive zone. He’s mastered the lost art of the high-velocity backhand; goalies need to be wary anytime he has the puck on his stick in close. Bellows also has an understated intelligence in the offensive zone: he seems to always be in the right place at the right time, and he finds soft spots to get open for one-timers. He plays with a dogged determination, is relentless in puck pursuit, exploits mistakes and wins battles. He also shows a bit of a mean streak and isn’t afraid to mix it up at all.

WEAKNESSES: Bellows is not the most creative guy and needs to be paired with a playmaker to get the most out of his straightforward skill set. He is more of a complementary goal-scorer than the guy who gets it done on his own. While his skating has improved dramatically over the past season, it still seems somewhat sluggish and he could still use some improvement in his foot speed and edge work before he dreams of getting to the next level. His passing instincts with the puck could also be refined.

SCOUT’S QUOTE: “Bellows is an elite scorer with a mentality to get to the net every chance he has. Has a nose for the net and isn’t shy to play a gritty game if needed. Can play physical on the wall and has the ability to draw penalties with supreme strength in protection. Has a high-velocity and extremely accurate shot. Knows where he needs to be to get the pass or be on the right end of a turnover. Smart, crafty and powerful winger.”

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger





MAX JONES

POSITION: Left Wing

TEAM: London (OHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: February 17, 1998

VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 63 GP 28 G 24 A 52 PTS 106 PIM

17

STRENGTHS: Jones is a throwback power winger who plays on the edge. He has an incredible work ethic and drive, plus he loves the physical aspect of delivering devastating hits and engaging in the rough stuff. He has some real skills in the offensive end as well. The feisty winger, who loves to get under his opponents' skin, possesses a powerful stride as he digs his edges in to the ice to drive hard to the net and/or separate from his check to be in a position for a pass, deflection or rebound in tight. He does not coast to the net, but instead goes in aggressively, at full-tilt looking to dig for pucks or, at the very least, cause a stir with an ice shower to the goaltender. He is strong on his feet thanks to a solid core and lower-body strength, which make it hard for him to be knocked off balance, and he can gain tremendous speed with powerful strides northbound. Jones has some shiftiness with the puck on his stick, using his edges to twist and turn, while using his back to protect the puck from a check. He protects well using his top shoulder to gain leverage and stretch it out of reach from the check while continuing on his drive to the net. His work ethic is impressive, as he is driven to get the puck, and battle on the wall and in the corners. There's no quit on the puck as he tries to keep control, but if and when it's taken from him, Jones fights tooth and nail to get it back. He has the ability to unload a very heavy wrist shot in a flash; one of his most dangerous assets is his pro-type shot that can beat goaltenders anywhere in the offensive zone. In the defensive zone, Jones is quick to pressure the point with an active stick. He picks up his man and will cover for missed assignments. He is relied on to kill penalties, showing his quickness to get on the puck carrier and pressure the points, while also displaying his incredible work ethic. Jones is able to cause issues for the attacking team deep in its own zone as he forechecks hard, pinning the puck deep in the offensive zone, and killing plenty of time by pressing the puck with his relentless stopping and starting down low. He is a threat to score shorthanded as well as his incredible speed and power can be too much for many power play point men to handle.

WEAKNESSES: Jones is the type of player who is incredible one shift and then becomes invisible the next. Consistency will be the key to his future as he can be a big-time player when he wants to be. He has the skill set to be a top pick, but has consistency and discipline issues right now that will likely see him slide. Defensively, specifically during 5-on-5 play, he is inconsistent in picking up his check and tends to be a little too focused and ready to explode out of his zone with his eyes on offense. While he possesses a good mix of size and speed that he controls very well, his puck skills are a little hit and miss; when he tries to get overly creative, mistakes tend to arise.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "A lack of discipline and inconsistent play plagued Jones' game much of the year, but his scoring ability and mix of size, speed and skill will make him successful when he puts it all together."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Power Winger





JAKE BEAN

POSITION: Defense

TEAM: Calgary (WHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: June 9, 1998

VITALS: 6'-1" / 175 Lbs

STATS: 68 GP 24 G 40 A 64 PTS 28 PIM

18

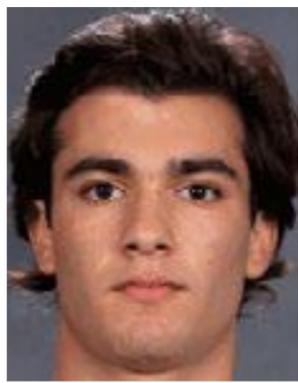
STRENGTHS: Bean is a pure offensive-minded blueliner who is always pushing the offensive pace. He consistently uses his vision to spot teammates and transition the puck at an elite level. He emphasizes being a pass-first defender, although he has the elusiveness and speed to jump up in plays or lead a rush. Scouts like what he can do with his feet. He has a long, powerful skating stride which, on the surface, appears to be slightly clunky and sluggish, especially when accelerating, but he really is moving fast and covering a lot of ice. He resembles a bar of soap in his ability to avoid contact at will. He protects the puck very well and has nifty hands, highlighted by his illustrious passing skill. He processes plays very quickly and makes strong reads off the line to either pull up for a shot or to venture deep into the zone. Bean has a very accurate wrist shot that is consistently on net and he can also uncork a beauty of a one-timer. His shot off the line is usually on net and he makes quick adjustments to make sure that he is able to maximize its effectiveness. He has the puck a lot, but doesn't get caught over-handling. He's just as likely to rush the puck as he is to drop a dime of a breakout pass on a streaking teammate's stick. He isn't the most physical player or proficient defensively, but it doesn't seem to be an issue because whenever he gets the puck, it is headed the other way in a hurry. The strength in his game outweighs the deficiencies. He reminds us a little of Erik Karlsson in that aspect. He always has the puck and is always moving forward, which limits the amount of time he has to spend defending.

WEAKNESSES: Bean is a special offensive player, but at the same time, he is a bit too scrambled defensively and soft for us to make him one of our top 10 prospects for this draft. He has a tendency to wander defensively in hopes of making a difference by, for example, vacating his post in front of the net while his partner is in a scrum along the wall. He is too passive physically and leaves his gaps far too wide to be effective defending the rush. Bean looks indecisive at times without the puck and it leads to untimely mistakes. We believe that he will benefit from adding mass to his frame that will allow him to hang in battles longer and more effectively. There is a definite risk element to some of his reads when he joins the rush or drives down deep in the offensive zone. Bean will need to be paired with a very safe defensive partner to be effective and to mitigate his risk.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "A cerebral defenseman who has some of the best pure hockey sense of any player in the WHL. His vision through the neutral zone and on the offensive point allows him to exploit the smallest of holes in the opposing team's coverage. He is a premier offensive D-man on the power play and through transition."

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Offensive Defenseman





LUKE KUNIN

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Wisconsin (NCAA)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: December 4, 1997

VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs

STATS: 34 GP 19 G 13 A 32 PTS 34 PIM

19

STRENGTHS: Kunin is a mature, smart, speedy goal-scoring centerman. He possesses elite-level offensive hockey sense and reads the play two to three steps ahead of everybody else. He possesses maybe the quickest first steps of all 2016 draft eligibles and is at full speed in two to three steps. After his lightning-quick acceleration, his top-end speed is special. When he gets to the NHL, he will immediately be one of the fastest players in the league. Kunin displays impressive vision and a great touch when playing the puck into space for teammates; he can make some creative dishes. He possesses a dangerous one-timer. Kunin also has a wicked backhand that he releases in Crosby-like fashion. His shot is probably his greatest asset, and that is saying a lot when you compare it to his incredible speed and extraordinary vision. He is all over the place in the offensive zone, tracking down the puck and jamming at it in the crease, or driving through the slot to the net. He will do whatever it takes to put his team on the board. A slick possession player, Kunin has quick hands and the ability to get creative, deking around defenders and goaltenders when he feels comfortable doing so. Defensively, he does a great job of using an active stick to create turnovers and is successful in knocking the puck away from opponents. He is always willing to block shots and pay the price to help his squad. Kunin is a clever player with good instincts. He thinks the game a step ahead of the play and uses his anticipation to generate scoring chances. Kunin played the off-wing on Wisconsin's first line this season, but took and won a lot of big draws. He is an ace in the faceoff circle, and was also on Wisconsin's first penalty kill and power play units, playing big minutes as the youngest player in college hockey.

WEAKNESSES: With just average size, Kunin has a non-stop motor and plays with a little recklessness, leading to some questions about potential durability issues at the NHL level. While he has some strong two-way potential for the next level, at times he cherry picks and sits in between the blue and red lines looking for the long stretch pass before coming back into his defensive zone. When he did this, Wisconsin would be outmanned down low and their opponents were able to generate scoring chances. He also needs to work on his breakout stretch passes. He had a few get intercepted this season, creating some solid chances for his opponents. He backchecks hard, but does take some shortcuts. We like his game a lot, but do wonder what his upside will be at the next level.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "The Wisconsin freshman was extremely impressive for a bad team. I expect him to be taken in the first round and think he will become a top-six, speedy winger in the NHL. In terms of an NHL comparison, he reminds me of a Carl Hagelin type because of his speed and hockey sense."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Center





GERMAN RUBTSOV

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: June 27, 1998

VITALS: 6'-2" / 175 Lbs

STATS: 28 GP 12 G 14 A 26 PTS 10 PIM

20

STRENGTHS: Rubtsov is a highly intelligent contributor all over the ice. He is a game-changer and a highly competitive kid. He can be a dominant puck-possession guy, a strong puck-distributor, a finisher, a defensive specialist and even a pest at times. He has strong skating ability, as he is fast and agile; he uses his skating on both sides of the puck. The Russian center plays a complete game and commits defensively, getting back and being hard on his man at all costs. Rubtsov gets back with speed and can break up plays unexpectedly from behind with a quick stick lift and puck scoop. He continuously makes great defensive plays before turning back up ice. Rubtsov seems to always be on the puck, and when he is not, he is relentless in getting on it. He pounces on opportunities, taking advantage of loose pucks and time and space, and has an impressive ability to create something out of absolutely nothing. He is strong on the puck and possesses unexpected soft hands in tight. Rubtsov uses his size and strength to protect the puck and fend off incoming checks all while maintaining possession and getting himself in position to try a shot or pass. He uses his long reach to his advantage to break up plays as well as pull the puck back in tight to his body and away from opposing players; he also uses it to keep the puck a distance from the check, increasing his ability to protect it in open ice. Rubtsov has deceptive speed and is quite shifty while moving full steam ahead, making excellent use of his edges to move laterally. He possesses incredible hockey sense, reading the play well and adapting accordingly, showing no quit in his game. Rubtsov picks his spots very well and has a high-velocity shot that he can get off as he moves toward the net, keeping the puck away from his body just enough to unload. He has a creative mind, and can find his man in traffic with crisp tape-to-tape passes. Rubtsov's on-ice vision, awareness of the game and work ethic are probably his biggest strengths.

WEAKNESSES: It's kind of nit-picking a little as Rubtsov is such a hard-working guy and tries to do everything well, but he will need some coaching and strength work on his faceoff ability. He does get involved in physical battles, but not consistently as sometimes he would rather use his stick than finish a hit along the boards. Rubtsov would be better served to bring the physical element more consistently as he is a force when he is using his body and playing with an edge.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "He plays a 200-foot game, aware of his defensive duties and is always in good position to retrieve the puck, covering his man tightly in his own zone. A skilled playmaker who can make skilled passes to his linemates or take the puck himself. In the end, the uncontested best Russian prospect this year."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Center





JULIEN GAUTHIER

POSITION: Right Wing

TEAM: Val-d'Or (QMJHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: October 15, 1997

VITALS: 6'-4" / 225 Lbs

STATS: 54 GP 41 G 16 A 57 PTS 24 PIM

21

STRENGTHS: Gauthier is a mammoth winger with a nose for the net. This fitness freak plays a very simple game. He has a long and powerful skating stride that allows him to get to any spot on the ice in time to be involved in the play. His skating is pretty impressive, considering that he has that big frame to move around. Gauthier's first steps are pretty good so he can reach his top speed quicker than most other big guys his age. He has skilled hands and a power game, allowing him to either carry the puck on his hip on the way to the crease or deke his way around a defender with a slick move. Gauthier is impossible for QMJHL defenders to move in front of the net and he is highly effective at that spot on the power play. He is a net-front presence who slides out into the slot to receive passes opportunistically. Gauthier hops on loose pucks with his long stick and has a dangerous shot that he gets a lot behind. He also utilizes his reach to sweep the puck around defenders and goaltenders when rebounds are available in the crease area. He dominates his opponents with big hits. Every time he had the chance to finish his checks, Gauthier did and he hit hard. He is strong and uses his size effectively in puck battles. A physical presence in his own zone, he removes his mark from the puck along the boards with a hard check or just by being stronger than his opponent. He reads the play well and knows where to be to cut a passing or shooting lane. Gauthier possesses the willingness to drop in front of a shot or take a whack to clear the puck. He is a solid crease-crashing, shoot-first scoring option on the wing with an NHL frame and athleticism. His game should translate well at the next level if he can bring up his intensity.

WEAKNESSES: Gauthier's intensity is up and down. He's not always the confident power winger who forces his will on his opponents, although when he is that guy, he is highly effective. Will he be more Jamie Benn or Steve Bernier? That is the question. His main flaw, is that he could be more active in the defensive zone. It's not that Gauthier doesn't know what to do or who to watch out for, but it's just that he does not play with the same amount of urgency in his zone that he does when he is on the offensive attack. The hands, though skilled and creative, are inconsistent as he can also have trouble handling a pass, bobbling the puck. He also has to work at handling and receiving pucks in his feet. He does have some strong legs and produces some impressive straight-line speed, however, he is primarily a north/west skater, with limited lateral movement at this time.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "He slid a little to close the year, but he has NHL-ready size, great stickhandling, outstanding goal-scoring ability and a lot of speed. Has all the skills to become a top power forward in the NHL."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Power Winger





RILEY TUFTE

POSITION: Left Wing

TEAM: Blaine HS (USHS)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: April 10, 1998

VITALS: 6'-5" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 25 GP 47 G 31 A 78 PTS 58 PIM

22

STRENGTHS: Tufte is a big power forward who has solid mobility and skilled hands. He is hulking and rangy, able to move around defenders with a fluid stride and strong stick reach, which he uses to protect the puck. He is most effective when he uses his big body to protect the puck. He possesses very powerful first strides, which he uses to rush through the neutral zone. Tufte is able to get rid of back-pressing forwards with only two to three strides. His big size helps him to drive the net very aggressively and successfully screen the goaltender. He is extremely hard for defenders to move and he is present in after-whistle scrums. Given his size, Tufte has no reason to be afraid of board battles and he wins most of them. He has very good sense of what each play calls for. He isn't afraid to play a simple game if it means he will have success, as evidenced by his decisions to chip and chase, beating the defender to the puck and setting up a teammate from the backdoor. He could use his quick hands to try deking around defenders, but instead simplifies his play if the situation calls for it. Tufte has a deadly wrist shot, which is NHL-quality in release and velocity. What looks like an effortless flick of the wrist can become a lethal bar down snipe. When he had the puck on his stick with a head of steam, there was nobody at the high school level who could stop him. He uses his reach to his advantage in the defensive zone and when picking up his man on the backcheck, extending his reach to wrap around the puck carrier in an effort to get his stick on the puck. Tufte is a big power forward who can draw defenders in and keep them off of the puck at the same time. He will help his future teams offensively and as a power play threat deep in the offensive zone as he will find a way to get the puck to the net at all costs.

WEAKNESSES: Tufte has been one of the tougher players to project in the 2016 draft class. He started the year in Fargo (USHL) and came back to play the high school season after failing to score an even strength goal in 12 games (though he did have five power play goals). At the high school level, he is so dominant that he looks out of place, like if you were to take a good junior player and drop him in a bantam game. Tufte went on to win Mr. Hockey in Minnesota before rejoining Fargo to close out the season. That said, we are a believer in this guy. The physical side of his game is where there are more questions. There is definitely room for him to get meaner and nastier. At the high school level all he had to do is skate up to a player after the whistle and the player would skate away out of intimidation. He is definitely a longer-term development prospect.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Powerful shot, intensely challenges goalies, is a great offensive threat. Tufte greatly benefited from his dominant high school performance along with added USHL experience. He could use work on overall skating, but will likely transition into a scoring power forward in the professional game."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Scoring Power Winger





PASCAL LABERGE

POSITION: Right Wing

TEAM: Victoriaville (QMJHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: April 9, 1998

VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs

STATS: 56 GP 23 G 45 A 68 PTS 64 PIM

23

STRENGTHS: Laberge is an intelligent player who skates with a purpose. He analyzes the ice and where he would be best suited to go to be most effective in each situation. He is a very quick skater who is light on his feet. His short bursts allow him to gain the speed needed to be impactful all over the ice. He has good vision and makes quick passes on tape from various ranges and angles. With soft, quick hands, Laberge's puck skills are very good; he can beat players one-on-one and make goalies look like peewee stoppers. His shot is quick and known by QMJHL goaltenders. He can also really wire it to spots he wants with a deceptive release point. He is an underrated playmaker as he waits for his teammates to make moves before hitting them with accurate passes. He creates a lot of quality scoring chances and has a bit of an edge as he is fearless in the greasy areas. Laberge provides good support for teammates in his own zone for quick breakouts; he does the same in the offensive zone for good scoring chances. He likes to throw his body around and play physically, winning his share of board battles. He dealt with some personal tragedy over the past few months that caused some understandable inconsistency in his on-ice play earlier this season. However, a switch went off during the second half Laberge brought a strong, determined effort to the rink. It is hard not to pull for a kid like this who has dealt with loss and continues to fight. He always seems to be in the right place at the right time away from the puck, and he has the offensive instincts that will make him a threat as he gets bigger, faster and stronger.

WEAKNESSES: Laberge needs to add some weight to his tall, lanky frame, which will help him become more stable and more effective in board battles or when he is trying to play with an edge. He has a desire to hit players, but he just doesn't have the physical ability to finish his checks hard. Laberge has very good top speed, but we feel like he just needs to add more power in his stride as he is very mobile and his acceleration would be very dangerous as he already has quick feet to help him separate from backcheckers. Just like his skating, his shot is already strong, but it could be even more dangerous if he could add more velocity by having more muscle and weight to put behind it. His skating with the puck also needs some improvement. Laberge tends to slow down with the puck and often looks to be fighting it. He prefers to push it ahead of his body while skating instead of keeping it close, losing some of his effectiveness when trying to beat a man one-on-one through the neutral zone.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Since moving from center to the wing, he has started to be a more consistent offensive player. Explosive skater, good hands and smart player who can anticipate the play. Started to drive the play a bit more. Could end up in a top-six, goal-scoring role with his offensive skill and shot."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger





VITALII ABRAMOV

POSITION: Left Wing

TEAM: Gatineau (QMJHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: May 8, 1998

VITALS: 5'-9" / 170 Lbs

STATS: 63 GP 38 G 55 A 93 PTS 36 PIM

24

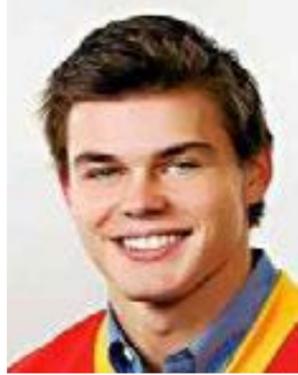
STRENGTHS: Abramov is an ultra-skilled offensive winger who creates chances with his speed and slippery moves. He is a determined little bugger who will make you pay when given space or time. He processes the game exceptionally well and gets to spots where he can get the puck and make a play. Abramov seems to have eyes in the back of his head and an excellent sense of his surroundings. He has the ability to find the soft spots in the offensive zone, though he is no stranger to the gritty areas either. He has elusiveness to his game and is super-quick to find an opening as he is constantly buzzing in the offensive zone. Abramov exudes confidence with the puck on the breakout, and can really push the play and force defenders onto their heels, using his slick, creative hands and smarts to fool defenders. Abramov uses his speed to his advantage—especially on the forecheck as a man approaches—to separate in a flash. His ability to change speed on the rush throws off defenders and even the goalie as he moves side-to-side quickly after slowing his approach. He has the ability to get creative at high speeds, showing off confidence with the puck. Abramov is strong on the puck with a firm grip and solid core strength. He quietly gets to the soft spots in the offensive zone where he can easily receive a pass and make a difference, showing great reads. His passes have the right power and placement, even while moving at a decent speed up ice. He sees the ice exceptionally well, with good hockey sense to pick apart lanes. Abramov has a really good sense of where his teammates are going to be, making his somewhat dangerous no-look passes with ease. He has the ability to unload a quick and lethal wrist shot with very little time or space.

WEAKNESSES: Consistency is Abramov's main area that needs improvement as he seems to only play two periods of a game right now. You can spend an entire period looking for the skilled winger before he has a couple shifts that blow your socks off. Abramov has a tendency of staying out on the ice for too long, looking noticeably out of breath as he skates back for a change. The Russian import is a really determined player, but we did notice him take his foot off the gas at times this season. Away from the puck, he gets on the man in open ice quickly, but then eases off him and lets him walk free. Size is a major concern with this electric offensive prospect. He can get pushed around and taken off the puck by stronger opponents. Abramov needs to be aware of his surroundings with the puck as he first receives it on the breakout. He tends to put his head down and is susceptible to, and was on the wrong end of, getting levelled by the opposition.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Electrifying player to watch. Elite vision and puck-handling, shifty skater. Very good compete level, not afraid to go in corners. I see him playing a top-six role in the NHL; kind of reminds me of a more skilled Brendan Gallagher type of battler in the gritty areas."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger





ALEX DEBRINCAT

POSITION: Right Wing

TEAM: Erie (OHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: December 18, 1997

VITALS: 5'-7" / 165 Lbs

STATS: 60 GP 51 G 50 A 101 PTS 28 PIM

25

STRENGTHS: DeBrincat is a pure sniper in a pint-sized body. He has great speed and a very quick first step. He's incredibly hard to slow down once he gets the puck, something that needs to continue consistently if he is to be successful at the next level. When carrying the puck, DeBrincat exudes confidence, uses his size to slip and weave his way through traffic, and maintains strength on the puck. He anticipates physical pressure coming his way and will distribute at the right times. Based on the pressure from defenders, he adjusts his hand speed accordingly, deking his way out of trouble or protecting the puck at the side of his body. DeBrincat really uses his speed and quickness to his advantage on the forecheck as he chases down loose pucks or applies pressure to the puck carrier. He is a puck-hungry little bugger who can make the life of a defender hell as he is relentless in getting the puck back once he loses it. He's not afraid to throw his weight around, or hack and whack with his stick. And he isn't afraid to take a hit, appearing much more motivated to make something happen and get on the puck after he receives one. DeBrincat's zone entries are done with control and speed, oftentimes driving the play so fast that he pushes defenders back on their heels. When receiving a pass, he has no desire to slow down, more often than not receiving the pass in transition and increasing his speed right as he gets possession. DeBrincat has a knack for turning bad passes into strong scoring opportunities, settling the puck quickly before firing a quick wrist shot or one-timer on net. DeBrincat sees the ice well and can hit his man with a quick pass on the tape through bodies. He has a pretty quick release, and although it can be obvious he intends to shoot, his shot is so quick and accurate it does not matter. He draws defenders in with and without the puck, giving his teammates more space to work with once they get the puck. Defensively, DeBrincat knows his role and gets back to defend rather quickly. He reads the incoming play well in his zone, and can knock pucks down and move them across ice where his teammates have more space to work with to break out.

WEAKNESSES: Size is the obvious concern with DeBrincat. Not all 5-foot-7 forwards can become the next Tyler Johnson or Martin St. Louis at the NHL level. It takes durability and resilience to become one of those diminutive, but successful, offensive forwards. NHL teams will need to weigh the likelihood of Erie's pint-sized sniper being able to translate his skills before investing a first-round selection in him. DeBrincat will need to add about 15 or 20 pounds of muscle to his frame for the odds to even out.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "DeBrincat finds the soft spots in the offensive zone to get the pass before shooting to score. Will need to improve his defensive play, but his ability to get into the gritty areas, never backing down and playing bigger than he is will be what will help him succeed at the next level."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



**RASMUS ASPLUND****POSITION: Center****TEAM: Farjestad (SHL)****SHOOTS: Left****BORN: December 3, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 46 GP 4 G 8 A 12 PTS 16 PIM**

26

STRENGTHS: Asplund is a classic, hard-working, two-way centerman who can handle all types of situations in the game. His top speed is impressive and generated by a long stride for a smallish player. He moves well in all directions. Asplund uses his good timing and anticipation in combination with his speed, creating breaks up ice. His speed seems to surprise goalies as he get on the goalie quickly and has the hands to make a move to beat them. Despite his stature, he protects the puck well and does not fear contact. Asplund is a very skilled center who isn't afraid to drive to the net and create some offensive chances in front of the opposition's cage. He makes good passes in traffic with big D-men all over him. Asplund makes some beautiful give-and-go plays on the rush, passing the puck off to a short option, exploding into an open lane and receiving the pass back. The kid can absolutely fly down the wing when he gets moving, and is a threat when he gains some momentum and confidence in his game. Asplund commands the ice in transition and while in possession, making opponents back off with some slick hands and skating, pushing them back. He is dangerous as both a finisher who can snap a nice wrister into the top corner or as a playmaker who finds his targets through seams. He shows impressive awareness and good coverage in the defensive zone. Asplund has a willingness to work hard defensively before moving the puck up ice. He will take a hit to deliver the puck. He blocks shots and takes a lot of responsibility upon himself. Asplund has killer agility and a deadly first step that he uses in conjunction with his active stick and vision to cut all sorts of time and space on the penalty kill. He works hard all over the ice, is very grounded, brings a steadying influence to his team and earns the respect and trust of his coach.

WEAKNESSES: Asplund isn't a high-end offensive generator, but is just a solid two-way contributor. He will do the job as a distributor of the puck if put with a goal-scoring winger, but will not be that flashy, high-octane running-mate on a team's top line. He is a nice two-way center, but his offensive upside at the NHL level is a question. Asplund is a bit undersized and physically weak; he will need to add plenty of strength both in his legs and upper body before even dreaming of the NHL. He looks to be a little shaky in the faceoff circle, not being physically mature enough to tie up the opposing center and work through to draw the puck back. Overall, if he can mature in his thinking of the 200-foot game and add some strength, Asplund will find a role at the NHL level.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "A skilled two-way forward with good hands and a nose for the net. He doesn't hesitate to go to the net, despite his average size and strength. Asplund has been getting better and better during the season, and had a real solid WJC, which gave him added confidence. Was a part of Farjestad's best line during the end of the season."

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center





SAMUEL GIRARD

POSITION: Defense

TEAM: Shawinigan (QMJHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: May 12, 1998

VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs

STATS: 67 GP 10 G 64 A 74 PTS 10 PIM

27

STRENGTHS: Girard is a highly intelligent, puck-moving blueliner who simply outthinks his competition. He is a high-end, fluid skater, light on his feet, excellent backward skater who uses his edges to carve in on attacking forwards and close gaps off the rush to contain them. Girard uses his quickness to intercept passes that most players wouldn't get to. He's an aggressive defender with an active stick. He always has his head up, and exits the zone with a hard, accurate pass to find teammates in stride up ice. Girard's not yet an excellent defender, but he controls the game and rarely gets exposed one on one. He doesn't rush the play under pressure, but instead awaits the best option to open up. On the physical side, we are impressed to see that despite his small size, he is not afraid to deliver some solid hits or to annoy his opponents after the whistle. His skating is an asset as he loves to jump into the rush and regain his position easily, thanks to his great mobility. When he has the puck, he shows great vision, intelligence and patience in his playmaking ability. One example of his smarts is his work on the power play. Girard is a strong quarterback from the point as he has the smarts and vision to fake a slap shot and move laterally to open up a lane before passing the puck to a teammate inside coverage or to the side of the net to create a great scoring opportunity. Although he can easily be pushed around in his own zone at times, he is smart and waits for just the right time to box out his man in front of the net or close on the attacker with his speed before taking a whack at the puck, knocking it off his opponent's stick and playing to his strengths. Girard protects the puck well with his feet in one-on-one battles to come away with it or kick it to a teammate. He quickly recognizes when the puck is loose and wins footraces to retrieve it. Girard moves with explosive feet laterally on his inside edges to open himself up and find a shooting lane. He's just a real effective, smart, mature and cerebral player.

WEAKNESSES: Girard has top-10 skills and hockey sense, but, unfortunately, mid-round size for a defenseman. He just does not have the strength to play a physical game. For him to translate to the NHL level, he will need to hit the gym and add some considerable bulk without affecting his quickness. Girard works well on the power play point, but he will have to improve his shot if he wants to be effective at the next level. His shot misses the net too often and needs to be heavier to have an impact. When he had the puck on the power play, he was almost too predictable because he always passed the puck to a teammate, even when he had a great opportunity to shoot.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Offensive defenseman with great vision. Very mobile and shifty, attracts opponents to him then finds open teammates. Passing skills are elite. Still has some issues down low in his zone because of strength. I see him more toward the end of the first round because of top-four NHL potential."

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Offensive Defenseman





WILL BITTEN

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Flint (OHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: July 10, 1998

VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs

STATS: 67 GP 30 G 35 A 65 PTS 32 PIM

28

STRENGTHS: Bitten is an extremely hard-working, two-way player who can play any forward position. A fast-acting forward with the ability to play the middle of the ice or the wing, he is quick to strike and is a puck-hungry little firecracker. He loves to apply back pressure on unsuspecting opponents and get the position needed to lift the man's stick and be on his way transitioning back up ice on the attack. Bitten always seems to be on the puck, showing his strong desire to drive through the slot and go to the net. He displays pure confidence and patience with the puck, settling bouncing pucks like they were placed perfectly before making a play. A high-flying offensive player who never slows down, rarely if ever coasts and is never seen taking his foot off the gas. His awareness and decision-making are high-end. He is cerebral and senses what is about to happen before reacting perfectly. Bitten has a very quick release on his shot. His wrist shot has some unexpected power as his weight transfer is strong in unloading the shot while in motion. He has quick hands; it is hard to get the puck off him and he is very dangerous around the crease. He has pretty good ice vision and passing ability; he can place a beautiful saucer pass on his teammate's stick to help generate a scoring chance. He has some edge to his game and is not afraid to cause havoc in front of the net and get chippy in the corners. When he is knocked down, he pops right back up before his check even has a chance to touch the puck or take another step. He is engaged and gets involved in all areas of the ice. Defensively, he uses his quickness, excellent reaction, and defensive awareness and determination to shut down his opponent. Bitten is always around the puck; he possesses incredible work ethic, undeniable hockey sense and determination. He is always in the mix and looking to make an impact on the game. Bitten is the kid you want to take if you want a player who will go to war every shift, play both ends of the ice and make you look like a genius down the road.

WEAKNESSES: Size can be an issue especially when you see how hard Bitten plays. He will need to add plenty of lower-body and core strength to his frame if he hopes to continue to excel playing the two-way, gritty game. Adding the extra muscle would help alleviate those concerns. He is effective in his two-way responsible game, but it is doubtful he will ever be a top-line offensive guy.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Bitten is a competitive and versatile player who can play all three forward positions, dominate on the power play and be effective on the penalty kill. Overcame plenty of turmoil in Flint this season, while being a leader on that team, showing why he has pro potential and leadership qualities."

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Character Forward





TYLER BENSON

POSITION: Left Wing

TEAM: Vancouver (WHL)

SHOOTS: Left

BORN: March 15, 1998

VITALS: 6'-0" / 205 Lbs

STATS: 30 GP 9 G 19 A 28 PTS 46 PIM

29

STRENGTHS: Benson is a strong, pro-style player who plays a sound, two-way, reliable game. He has a strong lower half that allows him to generate healthy amounts of speed. He is very sound in the fundamental areas of the game that require a mix of power and agility. He is a confident puck carrier and efficient distributor of the biscuit. Benson's shot is hard and quick, and really effective down low. He has some definite flair and quickness in his hands that he uses to fool his opponents, although he favors the no-nonsense north-south power game that keeps the pressure cooker cranked up on opponents. He has a good motor, and is a competitor who wants the puck on his stick and knows what to do when he gets it. He loves to be "the guy," but he is not all that electrifying and doesn't make many plays in the offensive zone that pull fans to the edge of their seats. He has a strong drive and can quickly find his teammates, dishing off before going to the crease. Benson is strong in the offensive zone without the puck, disrupting puck movement and getting physical in battles for position. On the forecheck, he gets a bead on the defenseman with the puck and hits him hard to separate him from the puck before getting it in around the slot for a chance. Benson is a very good defensive player who always seems to be in the right spot and on top of his man with the puck. He backchecks hard and has a good idea of what lanes he needs to be in. He uses his stick well and commonly has a good angle on his man so that he can deliver a solid hit.

WEAKNESSES: Injury derailed Benson's draft year and put some doubt in the minds of more than a few scouts as to if he would develop as many thought he would after going first overall in the WHL bantam draft. His work ethic and heart cannot be questioned, but his hockey IQ leaves some questions. We sometimes question his thought process in the offensive zone without the puck. Sometimes, Benson makes decisions that limit his ability to generate offensive chances. He doesn't always take advantage of the gaps afforded him or skate himself out of options. We are hoping this is a product of the rust he played with this season due to long stretches of sitting out with injury and not the real Benson.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Benson struggled with injuries for most of the season, however, I've never had a viewing of him where I didn't come away impressed. Benson is built for the pro game as he has a deep understanding of the little things required to win. Plays an excellent two-way game and is a leader on the ice. There are some concerns with his offensive game, however, I think those concerns are slightly overblown. He has quick hands and understated offensive awareness. While Benson will likely never be the offensive focal point on a NHL team, he is the kind of character player who teams win championships with."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Power Winger





TAGE THOMPSON

POSITION: Right Wing

TEAM: University of Connecticut (NCAA)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: October 30, 1997

VITALS: 6'-5" / 185 Lbs

STATS: 36 GP 14 G 18 A 32 PTS 12 PIM

30

STRENGTHS: Thompson is a big, strong forward who plays more of a skill game than a power game. In battles for loose pucks and along the boards, he does a great job using his body to shield the puck and gain a winning position. However, when the puck is on his stick approaching or in the offensive zone, he often opts for flash over power. Thompson likes to toe drag and try to go through the defender with skilled moves instead of around him with his reach and strength. His long reach does play a part in his creative offensive mind. Skating wise, Thompson uses powerful strides to get up and down the ice. He shows nice speed with and without the puck. He creates opportunities as he drives the center lane without the puck. Thompson has a pro-ready shot that is hard and quick off his stick. He will lay the body when he wants to, but he is not someone who will be overly physical. He does use his body to his advantage, to protect the puck in the offensive end before either making a beautiful pass or getting off a hard shot. Thompson does a great job of cutting to the middle, crossing the center of the ice and then shooting back across the goalie's body, forcing him to make a difficult save. He's also an extremely smart player in the offensive zone and on the rush. Thompson is a talented player, but we believe that he is even smarter than he is talented. He is the son of the current Bridgeport Sound Tigers head coach Brent Thompson. Being the son of an AHL head coach (and former NHL assistant) has obviously made an impact on what kind of player Thompson is. What impresses most about his defensive game is how disciplined he is. After making a mistake, Thompson never repeats it. He is rarely out of position and never over-pursues the puck. NHL teams will say is that his higher ranking is more about what he could become than what he is right now, which is true about all prospects pre-draft, but more so in the case of this raw, hard-working talent.

WEAKNESSES: He has a nice stride, especially for a guy with his size, but if he wants to dangle he will need to improve his edge work and overall agility. In the games we saw him at center, we were not positive he is a fit for the position as he becomes a pro. He struggles to win faceoffs regularly and his defensive zone play was inconsistent. In our opinion, he is better suited on the wing where he can still utilize his size and skill, but not feel so much pressure in his own zone.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "Very grounded kid, with a good head on his shoulders. He has grown five inches in the past 18 months and that has delayed his development in the sense that it will now take him longer to fill out his frame. His hands are excellent, and his IQ is every bit as good. His feet are a bit slow right now, but his stride is okay. So once he builds the strength up, his skating should be just fine. Understands how to work on the power play, and uses a quick and accurate shot to score goals in bunches."

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



**31****BORIS KATCHOUK****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: June 18, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 24 G 27 A 51 PTS 61 PIM**

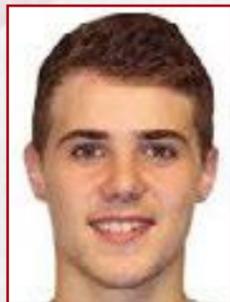
Katchouk is a high-energy, offensively gifted winger who will do anything to help his team win. From blocking shots, taking a hit to make a play, cruising down the wing and firing the puck on net, or setting up teammates with creative passes, he can and will do it all. He displays an explosive first step and above-average straightline speed, which is evident every time he touches the ice. He is tenacious in puck pursuit and aggressive on the forecheck, using his high-end speed and willingness to engage physically to create turnovers and generate offensive chances for his team. He displays sound decision-making, rarely forcing plays or turning pucks over. The intense winger shows impressive vision and playmaking abilities, along with an intriguing amount of offensive creativity. Katchouk is effective as a playmaker or goal-scorer, and he also displays a versatile offensive repertoire. He is an excellent puckhandler, and shows strong puck control along with an uncanny ability to shield the puck with effectiveness as he drives the net with authority. He is a player who gets to the gritty areas of the ice, finishes checks and has agitating traits to his game. In his own zone, he shows impressive awareness along with strong anticipation that allow him to pick off passes or at the very least, get his stick or body in the shooting lanes.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Winger

**34****ADAM MASCHERIN****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)****BORN: June 6, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 35 G 46 A 81 PTS 16 PIM**

This left winger is on the short side, but has a powerful, stocky build like Max Domi, and has the ability to power his way around the ice. He has the vision to set up down low and on the power play, picking apart lanes with seamless passes. He has taken his speed to another level this season and has excellent separation speed in his arsenal. Mascherin possesses quick-step acceleration, which allows him to catch the puck carrier on the backcheck or create havoc and pressure all over the ice. He can instantly change the speed in which he travels to fit his attacking needs with the puck, aiding his ability to separate and quickly explode past defenders on the outside. He plays with the puck on a string as he drives the play up ice, and can quickly change the speed of his hands and slide to one single hand on the puck and back to two with strong, controlled movements as he approaches a defender. Mascherin has the confidence, and definitely the ability, to get creative with the puck in the offensive zone and on zone entries. He possesses incredible vision on the breakout, and the confidence to make smart passes with pressure on, not seeming to be flustered by the pressure he takes. He has a quick little release that shoots off the blade of his stick, making his rocket of a shot dangerous. He is strong on the puck and isn't afraid to use his frame and pure strength to throw the body and protect the puck, giving himself the room to escape the pressure and carry the puck the length of the ice

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Scoring Winger

**32****BRETT HOWDEN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Moose Jaw (WHL)****BORN: March 8, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 24 G 40 A 64 PTS 61 PIM**

Howden is a two-way performer who covers his bases. His hard work and dedication to the finer details of the game make him a special asset to have on a winning team. He is an exemplary teammate who oozes leadership qualities with his demeanor and hands-on approach. Aside from his intangible assets, Howden is a large-sized forward who can make an impact all over the rink. He has tree-trunk legs and a powerful, yet swift, stride. His mobility and agility aren't hindered by his size as he transitions smoothly and has few detriments with his skating. He has an intelligent offensive mind with a well-rounded skill set. Howden sees the ice well and knows a moment ahead of the play what he has to do. He sees passing lanes develop and hits his mark on a consistent basis. He has quality puck focus and is able to carry play at a high level. When Howden carries the puck, he uses a head of steam with strong protection skills to drag the puck into and out of traffic. In our opinion, he is more of a passer than a shooter, although he has a quick wrist shot with a snap release that really tests the goaltender. In his own zone, he is an asset, making smart plays and recognizing where he is best positioned. We would like to see him add more mass to his frame so that he could be even more of a powerful specimen to deal with.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center

**35****SAM STEEL****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Regina (WHL)****BORN: February 3, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 23 G 47 A 70 PTS 24 PIM**

Steel is a high-IQ, zero-hesitation, puck-possessor who thinks at a high level and elevates his teammates' play. He is noticeably one of the smoothest and skilled passers available in the draft. His great peripheral vision and instincts allow him to jump on opportunities and find his teammate's vacant stick blade. He loves to carry the puck and is a very skilled stickhandler. As a smaller guy, Steel tends to play on the perimeter a lot, reducing his effectiveness as he could be a real handful if he regularly took the puck into the trenches. To complement his great cognitive and playmaking game, he also has a shot that is nothing to scoff at. Steel continually changes his angle with his shifty play and has a quick release, making it a difficult for goaltenders to pick up. He is not a guy who anyone would classify as elite defensively, but he is reliable and can be counted on to help out. He keeps his stick in a good position to pick up errant passes or control puck movement. Steel gets low in his own zone to provide net-front support and makes himself an open option on the breakout. His awareness is pretty good, although there are times a quick play by the opposition will catch him off guard. He is very small, but engages in board battles, digging for pucks, but not being very physical in doing so; instead, he relies more on his stick. He's more of a puck-focused, push-and-shove guy instead of one who lines up to hit his opponent. Steel is effective in creating offense, using his great agility and speed to make plays. He is the Pat's top-line guy, and we see a potential top-six NHL contributor if he can improve his strength.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Center

**33****JORDAN KYROU****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sarnia (OHL)****BORN: May 5, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 17 G 34 A 51 PTS 14 PIM**

Kyrou is a wiry, but creative and skilled, winger who blends impressive vision with tenacious drive. He shows great hands and ability to maintain puck possession through traffic; showing determination and fight to get it back if he does lose it. Kyrou tends to lean forward in his stride, but has good speed with a powerful step. Has no quit in his game as he flies down the wing on the rush or chases the puck. He sees lanes at high speeds and has the ability to dish with ease as he moves north/south or east/west. Kyrou can go through stretches where he seems to be doing a little too much with the puck, causing some turnovers. He has shown improved willingness and strength to drive toward the net from the corner, where he can dish a little give-and-go or just drive the puck on net himself. He has a quick little release, but fails to always get his shots through lanes, having his shooting lanes eliminated or shots blocked instead. He plays hard on the forecheck and forces the puck carrier into making silly mistakes or moving the puck quicker than he would have liked. Defensively, he picks up his check on the way back and plays him hard, though this is a little inconsistent at times. He is quick to pressure the points with speed and aggression. Kyrou is strong in the faceoff circle. A real character player, but he needs to put all the tools together on a consistent basis.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Winger

**36****ADAM FOX****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: February 17, 1998****VITALS: 5'-10" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 5 G 17 A 22 PTS 2 PIM**

Fox is an average-size defenseman who is confident in joining the rush, and will get pucks on net from anywhere in the offensive zone. His point wrist shot is quick and accurate. He displays efficient puck control in transition, and often shows his impressive top-end speed while joining the rush. He was arguably the best defenseman on the U18 squad this year. Fox is very confident with the puck and displays great patience. He doesn't panic at the offensive zone blueline when he is pressured by forwards and keeps his poise, making smart decisions. He was an important part of the power play this season with his calm play and good set-up ability. Fox wants the puck on his stick and likes to start the rush through the middle, where he can dance through forecheckers while displaying a good combination of puckhandling skill, elusiveness and speed. He reads the ice very well while skating with the puck, which leads to strong, accurate puck distribution. His teammates need to be constantly aware when he has the puck because he can find players through lanes no one thought were open. Fox often joins the rush as a trailer player and looks for a pass to get a shot on net, using impressive top-end speed. Defensively, he can also look paralyzed and indecisive. He uses his active stick and tries to be in lanes in his own zone. He also needs to add strength and size as he can be bullied along the wall. This offensive-defenseman will not have any issues transitioning into the college level and the professional game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Offensive Defenseman

**37****NATHAN BASTIAN****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Mississauga (OHL)****BORN: December 6, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 19 G 40 A 59 PTS 50 PIM**

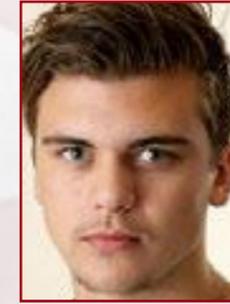
Bastian is an every-situation, hard-working winger who complements a highly skilled line-mate very well. He plays in all situations and is willing to do the heavy lifting. A fluid skater who can accelerate quickly and get up to speed in only a few strides, he reads the game like a pro, displaying incredible hockey IQ and an offensive flair. Bastian can slow down and speed up quite well, adjusting as needed. He possesses quick hands and is able to control the puck while at high speeds. He makes smart, simple plays with the puck that advances it up ice and puts his team in a better position offensively. He protects the puck very well and is not afraid to take it to the net by himself, whether by driving to the backdoor or wrapping it around. Bastian possesses a hard one-timer and a strong wrist shot that is extremely dangerous coming off the wall. With his size, he is strong and can move at an opponent like a freight train, not necessarily knocking him over, but plowing right through with strength and balance. He has playmaking skills, seeing lanes develop and sensing where his man is and when he is approaching to time his passes accordingly. Bastian has a good sense of the game as he anticipates and reacts to in-game situations well. In the defensive zone, he does a good job of eliminating space; once his team gains control, he moves into a position that best allows him to get to the puck.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Power Forward

**38****LIBOR HAJEK****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saskatoon (WHL)****BORN: February 4, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 69 GP 3 G 23 A 26 PTS 76 PIM**

Hajek is a physical, two-way defenseman who displays great fundamentals. The Czech import understands his responsibilities and sees the ice well. He skates well and has great edges, showing grace in turns and lateral movement. His speed allows him to skate pucks out of the zone if he prefers and to keep air-tight gaps when approached on the rush. Hajek has a good feel for his defensive zone and is great at scissoring threats off from getting to the net. He has a great mind for what the offense is thinking and uses an active stick to get in passing lanes or to poke unprotected pucks to a teammate. He plays an assertive style, using his strength to gain body position in net-front confrontations or in board battles. He plays a lower-risk game and really prides himself on the defensive aspect of the game. The quickness of his release and accuracy of his shot make him effective, trumping the average velocity he gets behind his wrist shot. He makes some smart decisions on the line, using mobility to sneak into the zone to make himself an offensive option. He passes the puck beautifully. Hajek has some offensive skill, but he doesn't use that skill set consistently. Once in a while, he will jump into a play where you can see that he has the skill to join the rush with or without the puck, but prefers to remain focused on his defensive role.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**39****KALE CLAGUE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brandon (WHL)****BORN: June 5, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 6 G 37 A 43 PTS 54 PIM**

Clague is a calm-and-cool, puck-rushing defenseman. He is a dynamic skater who can absolutely fly and weave around the ice. He is a constant threat to rush the puck up ice and single-handedly create a scoring chance, but picks his spots as to maintain his obligations defensively. He sacrifices a little defensively for the amount of offense he is involved in. He sees the ice at an elite level and just seems to know what options will be available well before the play occurs. His offensive game can be electric. Clague has great hands and tremendous puckhandling skills. He has a very good shot and uses a compact, but charging, slap shot to quickly get pucks on the net. He is very good at timing one-timers and hesitates very little when getting wrist shots on target. The only downside to his puck skill is that he waits so long to make a play and draw a defender in that he leaves himself vulnerable to be physically harmed or the victim of an unrecoverable mistake. He is a very stick-oriented defender who is great at using his skating ability to keep his gaps tight and stay in position. He uses his great awareness and skilled hands to break up plays and transition the puck out of the zone and on the offensive. He is excellent at staving off pressure and finding more than the traditional route out of the zone. He is not nearly physical enough and needs to improve his overall consistency.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Offensive Defenseman

**40****CAM DINEEN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: North Bay (OHL)****BORN: June 19, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 13 G 46 A 59 PTS 18 PIM**

Dineen is a versatile, intelligent, two-way defenseman who plays in all situations. He displays his quick feet to make the right play and defend the man as the play approaches. He closes the gap very well and is quick to make a play back up ice once he gets the puck. Dineen protects the puck very well as he slides his shoulder down, into the man, and moves the puck away from his check as he turns off the man. On the breakout and in transition, he sees the ice in front of him, making one pass that leads to another and helps to push the play up ice, hitting his man with a crisp pass at the right time before following it up by skating behind the pass. He never seems to take his foot off the gas, showing his impressive two-way play. He displays excellent puck-movement and a strong shot on the power play. His patience really stands out when either passing, shooting or waiting for the best option to be there. He chooses the right type of shot based on the situation, not rushing anything and waiting for the right lane. He does a very good job of opening space in the offensive zone with fast movement and quick feet along the blueline to make crisp passes to the free man. He keeps his head on a swivel, is aware of the options and the play developing, and just seems to know where the puck is at all times. Dineen maintains the gap well and closes in at just the right time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Offensive Defenseman

**41****RYAN LINDGREN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: February 11, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 4 G 8 A 12 PTS 16 PIM**

Lindgren, the U18 team captain, is an interesting prospect because he plays with such self-assurance, presence and physical edge. He skates with a wide base and is tough to knock off the puck. He has a very strong stride and gets up to speed quickly. He also moves well laterally and excels at slowing attackers down. Lindgren plays with an intimidating intensity. He throws his weight around like a wrecking ball and shows no hesitation when attacking loose pucks. While he is an aggressive defender, he is not a player who will fly out of position to attempt a big hit or takeaway, however, he does cross the line on occasion taking a penalty for being too aggressive. He is very smart in knowing when to pinch at the blueline, jump into the play or throw a hit. Lindgren's smarts in positioning is a big asset in the offensive zone as numerous times a game he exploits backdoors in coverage. He's a player the opposition is forced to keep tabs on. While we think he shows solid two-way potential, we don't see enough to think he will be an elite point-producer at the next level. Despite being physically mature, his shot could use work as there doesn't seem to be much pop off his release. Lindgren's decision-making with the puck could also be a bit quicker as he can get hemmed up with the puck. Overall, we think that this kid has a lot of strengths that are tailor-made for the NHL. With his feet, strength and positional awareness, we see his potential to be a top-four defender at the NHL level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Physical Two-Way Defenseman

**42****LOGAN STANLEY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Windsor (OHL)****BORN: May 26, 1998****VITALS: 6'-7" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 5 G 12 A 17 PTS 103 PIM**

Stanley is a towering and lengthy rearguard whose bread and butter is blocking shots and angling off his man. Overall for a big man, he really has improved his skating, but still needs to control his feet a little more and be quicker yet. Stanley can be caught flatfooted, and also exposed on turns and pivots by smaller, agile forwards. Stanley possesses some shockingly good puckhandling skills for a kid his size. He makes smart little plays to advance the puck, skating it if he needs to and passing at the right time. He has shown more confidence in leading the rush up ice as this season has progressed. When he skates the puck up ice, he uses his free arm to his advantage to push the check off of him and gain space to work with. Stanley really uses his reach and strength well. Defensively, Stanley needs to be a little more aware of where he is as he tends to block his goalie's lane to see the puck, screening him more often than not. Stanley closes the gap well, and is quick to step forward and use his reach to his advantage in knocking the puck away. He makes very good reads to lunge forward and poke at the puck and/or intercept the pass. He uses that long reach to settle pucks quickly and effectively. He plays strong on the perimeter, bringing a hard-nosed game as he gets physical with the puck carrier. The physically imposing defender has the ability to jump up and drop his shoulder to deliver a perfectly timed, devastating check in open ice. Stanley will drop the gloves and stand up for his team.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Physical Defensive Defenseman



43

JANNE KUOKKANEN**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Karpas U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: May 25, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 22 G 31 A 53 PTS 53 PIM**

Kuokkanen is a very intelligent player and gives the impression he always knows what to do with the puck, even before he receives it. He is always one step ahead of the opposing players, sometimes even of his own teammates. He moves extremely well with and without the puck. He is a fluid skater who keeps his head up, and is always looking to make a play. Kuokkanen works exceptionally hard to retrieve loose pucks, and has a bit of grit to his game. He's a creative forward who has excellent puck-distribution skills, and loves to one-touch pass the puck. His pass is very powerful and accurate. Kuokkanen's quick feet and smooth hands are the attributes that stand out the most. He has excellent ability to accelerate and battle his way through traffic. Adding a bit of meat to his frame would definitely benefit his style, and allow him to win a lot more battles and maintain consistent puck control along the boards. His neutral and defensive zone game is very effective as he cuts passing lanes very well, backchecks effectively and takes away space with his active stick. He communicates actively on the ice and advises his fellow forwards on plays from the faceoff. He understands the game very well mentally and makes smart decisions. Kuokkanen gets himself into perfect position in and around the slot area to get his quick and dangerous one-timer on net.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Two-Way Center



46

DILLON DUBE**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: July 20, 1998****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 26 G 40 A 66 PTS 50 PIM**

Dube is a noticeable energizer bunny from start to finish. He has a smaller frame, but he is fairly filled out and sturdy along the walls. The best part of his game is his consistent speed and relentless forward-thinking attitude. He is very explosive and creates a lot of speed in the blink of an eye. He can blow past defensemen off the rush and does not hesitate to take the puck to the net. He makes WHL defenders look like pylons at times with his energetic bursts. Dube is effective using his feet to push through small holes in the defense, taking himself to prime scoring areas. He has a nice release and accuracy on his wrist shot, looking to pick corners from inside the circle. He displays his vision stopping up at the half-wall before hitting the tape of his teammates through traffic as they go to the net. Dube has the puck skill to beat a defender in a one-on-one situation with a subtle, but lightning-quick, deke. His fast stick also serves him well in the defensive zone and board play, where he is constantly getting in battles for the puck. He is a little small yet, but likes to play a brash, physical game. He shows great work ethic as he recognizes a need defensively and drives back hard into the defensive zone to help defend any odd-man rushes. We like his drive, speed, smarts and skill as he packs a good two-way punch for a smaller forward.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center



44

CARL GRUNDSTROM**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: MODO (SHL)****BORN: May 21, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 7 G 9 A 16 PTS 53 PIM**

Grundstrom is a creative offensive forward who can fill the net and plays with drive. He has some blazing speed and excellent agility, making him very hard to contain. He seemingly never stops moving his feet and can drive around players or just power through them. He can hurt you with a variety of different offensive tactics. Grundstrom loves to carry the puck and use his puck skills to get players drawn in before ripping off a shot toward the net. However, he is just as likely to drive the net to bang in a garbage goal or make a strong pass to a teammate who has a better vantage point. He sees the offensive zone well and finds holes to calmly create opportunity. Grundstrom is a great forechecker and hard on the backcheck; he will work his butt off through his entire shift. He looks to strip pucks as well as trying to remain an open option for outlet passes. He is not overly physical, but provides energy and will not shy away from rubbing opponents out. He's a good complementary player on a top line along with two skilled players, but he does not create a lot of scoring chances on his own. He is a hard-working winger with a nice release and great attitude. He plays a simple game and is always trying to find the shortest way to the net. Grundstrom is a good offensive complementary guy who has a lot of room to grow yet.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward



47

LUKE GREEN**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Saint John (QMJHL)****BORN: January 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 61 GP 10 G 25 A 35 PTS 29 PIM**

Green is a puck-rushing blueliner who likes to skate with the puck on his stick. He has a solid frame and excellent mobility. His skating is very strong and he has quick feet that get him up to top speed very quickly. However, his balance seems a bit off at times. His edges are strong, staying in control on quick cuts. Green has quick cross-overs skating both forward and backward, and he takes every opportunity to rush the puck up ice. He's not an overly physical player as he plays more of the finesse style game. At 6-foot-2, he has a large frame and the ability to put on more muscle and, hopefully, add a bit of snarl to his repertoire. His vision and passing game are strong both with medium and long-range feeds. His shot is also a weapon, although he rarely gets to set up on the power play and use it due to the glut of other players who the Sea Dogs use on the point. While his rushing and offensive abilities are strong, he tends to get lost in the defensive zone from time to time, and has a weaker stick than we would like. Green reads the play well and knows where to go, but leaves gaps that are too large and does not always close off the puck carrier when given the opportunity to do so. He had an excellent group of defensemen in front of him against whom he has to compete for ice time. His development stagnated to an extent this season, but understanding the context on his team, he could still be quite a player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Puck-Moving Defenseman



45

CARTER HART**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Everett (WHL)****BORN: August 13, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 2.14 GAA .918 SP**

Hart is a very mature, fluid and athletic goalie who moves seamlessly through his crease. He does not have an overly imposing frame, but his ability to effortlessly slide through the crease makes him tough to beat under any circumstance. He energetically follows the play, maintaining excellent position while tracking the puck and remaining in a strong stance from which he can quickly and powerfully push off to cover lateral space. He looks very confident and does not seem to waver in his focus at any point. While Hart tracks the play and keeps good angles, there are times when he does cheat a little bit while playing the percentages. When on his knees in the butterfly, he relies on athleticism and instinct to throw his body at high pucks. As he doesn't have the natural size to simply let high shots hit him when he is in the butterfly, he drops down to his knees, then almost immediately jumps up to take away high shots around his head and shoulders. He does not show any spectacular puckhandling ability—like springing forwards with a heady pass or trying to fake forecheckers—but Hart can come out and stop pucks, setting them up for his defenders or moving the puck away from a dangerous forecheck. He isn't the biggest goalie around, but he has great poise and he regularly makes tough saves when his team needs him most. In doing so, he creates confidence throughout his team in front of him, and that is reflected in his confident, focused demeanor.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting NHL Goaltender

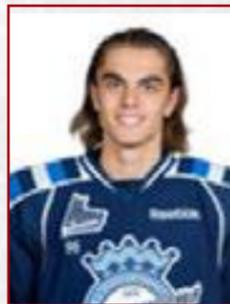


48

ARTUR KAYUMOV**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)****BORN: February 14, 1998****VITALS: 5'-10" / 160 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 12 G 19 A 31 PTS 12 PIM**

Kayumov is an impressive little player who played in all situations for Russia's U18 squad and was effective in all roles he was asked to play. He is electric as he bursts around the ice and lays the body when he sees the opportunity to do so. He is a tremendous playmaker with soft hands and poise with the puck. With great speed, Kayumov can fly down the wing, deke out a defenseman and take the puck to the slot for a chance. He executes some slick passing plays by exploiting lanes in front of him and connecting on the pass to a teammate. He has impressive ability to slightly shift his body while moving with the puck just enough to open space and distribute the puck. He is a determined offensive player who will constantly drive the net with and without the puck in hopes of scoring. He has good decision-making on the rush away from the puck to trail the puck carrier and get to right position for a drop pass before taking it to the slot as needed. He has a wicked shot release and always wants the puck on his stick. His size is diminutive, but he does attempt to battle on the wall. He definitely has the room to add pure muscle mass and improve his game as a result. Kayumov's head is always on a swivel to be aware of incoming pressure and to analyze all options. He does a good job defensively of attacking the points and making his presence felt. He picks up his checks and understands where he needs to be to defend. He killed penalties and did a good job activating his stick to intercept passes and break up the play in the process.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



49

FREDERIC ALLARD**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Chicoutimi (QMJHL)****BORN: December 27, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 14 G 45 A 59 PTS 34 PIM**

Allard is that mobile, puck-moving, smooth-skating defender that all NHL teams covet. His tool box consists of great vision, solid poise with the puck, smooth mobility and excellent tape-to-tape passes. In fact, his passes are already NHL caliber, with the combination of power, strength and precision. He doesn't need much time to spot his options and make the right play. Defensively, he is pretty consistent, but he can get lost in his positioning that leads to disorganisation between himself and his teammates, destabilizing their entire defensive system. However, Allard quickly recognizes this and communicates well to return defensive order. He displays adaptability to changes and a low panic point. He is a defenseman who plays the game in all facets, distributing a lot of body contact even though he is not the biggest player on the ice. He played in all roles this season for Chicoutimi, including puck distributor on the power play and shutdown guy on the penalty kill. Allard is willing to drop into lanes to block shots, use his smarts to read the attack and step up to close off lanes. He plays with an edge and ease that is uncommon for an 18-year-old, showing solid maturity and ability to manage and control the game from the back end. He is, in our opinion, a defenseman with a very complete game, which makes him a low-risk pick for any NHL team.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



50

EVAN FITZPATRICK**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Sherbrooke (QMJHL)****BORN: January 28, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 225 Lbs****STATS: 54 GP 3.42 GAA .896 SP**

Fitzpatrick is a big, mobile goaltender who is very smooth and systematic in the crease. He's an all-around polished goaltender who has good size and plays the angles well on initial shots. He has a strong lateral push, comes out to cut down the open net behind him and covers a lot of ground quickly, while maintaining full control of his movements. Fitzpatrick has excellent rebound control and an ability to quash dangerous offensive attacks. He plays deeper in the net than he needs to when the puck is in his zone, but with his size and quick reflexes, he can make up for playing a little deeper better than a smaller tender would be able to. He is also a strong puckhandler who can leave his crease to set up pucks and even fire a breakout pass to his defenders. He is an athletic goalie with solid reflexes, good pad extension and silky-smooth lateral movements in his crease. He has excellent posture and a stance that makes him look unbeatable for opponents coming in off the rush. Fitzpatrick can go through stretches where he struggles in making the easy save and gets beat a couple times on plays that should be easier to stop. We feel this is a focus issue and he will have to continue to work at sealing off angles to ensure proper net coverage on sharp-angle shots. He has the big size you look for in a modern-day goalie, and with his strength and fluidity in the crease, he has the potential to become a starter at the highest level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting NHL Goaltender



51

DENNIS CHOLOWSKI**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Chilliwack (BCHL)****BORN: February 15, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 12 G 28 A 40 PTS 16 PIM**

Cholowski is an extremely raw young defenseman. He is very thin and undeveloped physically. He is an elegant skater who moves around the ice with great footwork and fluidity. While clearly lacking in strength, he still is able to zig-zag around the ice powerfully. His edge work is great, and once he builds more power he will be a dominant skater. He maintains good angles off the rush and has a great stick. He consistently breaks up plays with great stick positioning and makes it difficult for players to generate offense by constantly pestering puck carriers. His anticipation is seen at both ends of the rink as he quickly steps in front of lanes to thwart attacks, and also quickly identified transitional opportunities to jump start his team's offensive attack. Cholowski shows great vision through the middle of the ice and is a constant threat to expose mistakes with his quick identification of developing opportunities. He handles the puck deftly and uses his long reach to change passing angles. Cholowski has a very weak shot from the point, but that is something that can improve with time. He has everything that is very difficult to teach—anticipation, instincts and a long, athletic stride with great edges. On the other hand, everything that he lacks—such as strength and defensive positioning—can be taught. He has great upside as an all-situations puckmover with the smarts to create offense.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

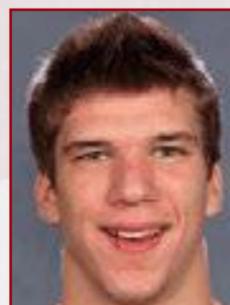


52

JONATHAN DAHLEN**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Timra (Allsvenskan)****BORN: December 20, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 51 GP 15 G 14 A 29 PTS 8 PIM**

Dahlen is a true goal scorer with a superb shot release. He has some nice speed and a good skating base that will allow him to improve over time and get faster and stronger. He sees plays develop and explodes down the wing to create a passing option on the rush. Dahlen can change directions at full speed thanks to his quick agility and strong legs. His passes are sharp, right on the blade of his target. He disguises his intentions and is creative with the puck. He is a strong forechecker who works hard down low in the defensive zone to get loose pucks and outmuscle even bigger opponents. His defensive awareness and positioning is an important part of his game. He is seemingly always in position and willing to drop in front of a shot to block it whenever possible. He plays aggressively with his stick, getting it into lanes and trying to move quickly in order to intercept the puck from the opponent. He is not the most physical player on the ice, but if needed, he would bodycheck opponents, both along the board and to separate them from the puck. The son of former NHLer Ulf Dahlen, he has the natural instincts to know where to be on the ice for a prime scoring chance. Not only that, but he also creates his own opportunities through sheer hard work and determination. Sprinkle in a high level of skill and that becomes a recipe for a pretty effective scorer at any level. Dahlen was absolutely fantastic for Timra this season—especially in the playoffs—playing a vital role against men in the Allsvenskan.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Winger



53

WILLIE KNIERIM**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Dubuque (USHL)****BORN: January 22, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 14 G 13 A 27 PTS 161 PIM**

Knierim plays a big, physical game, and is able to find space on the ice to make quick plays with the puck. He derives his skating power and speed from his leg strength and uses his stability to gain unstoppable momentum. He plays a heavy game, and is immovable when he plants himself in front of the net. He has great reach and uses his stick well to provide advantageous separation and puck protection from defenders. Knierim has good peripheral vision and finds passing lanes all over the ice when driving the play. The big winger has skilled hands, and he is capable of driving play up ice and around the net. Knierim has a powerful shot and can really surprise the goaltender with how quickly it gets it off in tight. He takes good lanes in the defensive zone to pinch opponents off the puck. He's got a chip on his shoulder and plays with a tenacious attitude. He is hard to move off of the puck, plays a physical style and throws his weight around effectively. He is willing to drop the mitts to settle a disagreement or stick up for his teammates. He is most impressive driving his frame to the net with a defender on his back. A really impressive package of power and skill now, but Knierim has a ways to go before we feel he can become the high-end scoring pro-type winger. At bare minimum, he will be a strong and smart guy with whom to go to battle. The Miami (NCAA) commit needs to improve his first-step acceleration, and is projected to add even more strength before he moves on to the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Power Winger



54

VICTOR METE**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: London (OHL)****BORN: June 7, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 8 G 30 A 38 PTS 18 PIM**

Mete is a fleet-footed rearguard who plays an offensively inclined game, in which he is used in all situations and really excels with the puck on his stick. Offensively, he has the ability to be a difference-maker with his creativity, although his shot could use some added velocity. He hits his targets with accurate passes leading them into open space and into scoring position. Mete reads the play very well and makes a well-calculated decision to explode with speed and join the attack or trail the play. On the power play, he moves the puck efficiently and effectively. He possesses a strong skating base and abilities with a low center of gravity. Mete has good separation speed and extension in his stride. He displays some high-end top speed when he needs it. He has the ability to quickly pivot by digging in and twisting his body to explode in the other direction to chase down a dump in. Mete looks comfortable in possession and has no hesitation to jump up into the rush with the puck with speed to boot. He knows where his man is going and has the ability to get the puck through a lane to him in a hurry. He is a tireless worker who will work hard to win puck battles on the wall or positioning in front of his net, albeit often with less than successful results due to his lack of size even though his effort is there. Mete manages the gap well and controls the space to his liking. Defensively, he runs around a bit, but reads the play well and is quick to adapt to it, getting on loose pucks and/or his man in the corner with no hesitation.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Puck-Moving Defenseman



55

JOEY ANDERSON**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: June 19, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 10 G 10 A 20 PTS 14 PIM**

Anderson plays a sound defensive game and his smart positional play shows that he thinks the game really well. He displays a fluid and long stride, and is very agile, moving at high rates of speed and with lateral quickness. His puck skills are strong; not flashy, but he has control of the puck and protects it well with his frame while looking for a way to create a scoring chance by getting pucks to the net individually or passing to an open teammate. His quick shot release is very effective as he is very accurate when shooting the puck. His one-timer is heavy, but lacks consistent accuracy. He is effective in the defensive zone, getting his assignments taken care of, covering missed assignments, blocking shots and closing off lanes. He has the intelligence to understand his role on a top line as the guy who goes to the net and battles hard for possession. The Minnesota Duluth commit was a dangerous two-way threat on the U18's top line all season. Anderson has his own impressive skill set and it would be a mistake to be seen as the guy who benefited from playing with Keller and Bellows. He is a hard-working, determined forward who will likely be a complementary piece to a top line at every level at which he plays.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger



56

NOAH GREGOR**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Moose Jaw (WHL)****BORN: January 28, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 28 G 45 A 73 PTS 33 PIM**

Gregor is an average-sized forward who plays a strong two-way game with offensive upside and defensive prowess. He is not the biggest guy, but his agility and high-tempo game allow him to power through coverage and make plays. His explosive first few strides make the difference right off the hop, allowing him to gain the momentum that enables him to be the first man in on the play. Gregor has the ability process the game at high speed and the stick skills to match. He loves to carry puck and make a subtle deke or two to get opponents off his back and open up that extra space to allow for further creativity. He is able to spot opponents quickly and make a split-second decision as to whether or not to commit to the play. He goes to the corners and net willingly, showing that the commitment to score is worth more than whatever physical punishment is awaiting him. He has a quick shot that is best suited for the areas in tight or off the rush. The underrated part of his game is his commitment to not just the offensive end, but his work in his own zone and in every other aspect of the game. He is a very responsible player who gets down low to snoop in and provide puck support. Gregor is a dogged forechecker and backchecker, showing a strong stick to lift pucks off of opponents. He takes good lanes to the puck carrier and will put them on their asses if they are not set.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center



57

LUCAS JOHANSEN**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kelowna (WHL)****BORN: November 16, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 69 GP 10 G 39 A 49 PTS 20 PIM**

Johansen is a very calm and cool character on the ice. He is very intelligent and looks comfortable at both ends of the ice. One thing that stood out is his prowess at holding the two bluelines. His excellent gap control and unflappable nature forces a lot of lateral movement by attackers. Johansen forces the attackers to make a move at the line, causing a handful of offsides calls a game and generally plugging up the neutral zone. Johansen is also very accomplished in moving the puck forward and it's another area where his hockey IQ shines. He makes some really clever plays and sees teammates when many others wouldn't. His touch on passes is exceptional and he creates space by putting the puck in areas where only his teammates can retrieve it. He has a projectable frame, but isn't very imposing in his own end. Position-wise, he is pretty solid, using his stick well and keeping tight gaps and some pressure on the puck carrier. He is not very physical in any area, and he needs to fight a lot harder for space and protect the puck when he is backed into a corner. He gets the puck off his stick quickly and places it well on the net. Johansen makes some good transition plays from in his own end when he is under a bit of pressure. Defensively, he can be a bit iffy in puck retrieval, and he kind of deteriorates as the pressure of the forecheck builds.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



58

TAYLOR RADDYSH**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Erie (OHL)****BORN: February 18, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 24 G 49 A 73 PTS 18 PIM**

Raddysh is that big, powerful winger who also possesses soft hands for a player of his size and playing style. He generates just average speed, but is not slow by any means. He is balanced on his feet and hard to knock off the puck; he can carry the puck into the zone, as well as play a dump-and-chase game in which he then uses his solid frame to get the puck and look to make plays. Raddysh uses his size and free arm to shield and protect the puck as he drives down low and through traffic. He has this ability to squeeze through a lane and separate from his check just enough to unload a quick-release shot with no real transfer of his weight or wind-up, and fully doing so with a man on his tail and no thought of doing anything else but shooting to score. The kid possesses impressive offensive instincts and has a knack for controlling the middle of the ice both with and without the puck. When entering the zone as the second or third man in, he does a great job of getting in position to be a passing option. Defensively, he sticks to his check and adapts to the play very well, making him reliable. His playing style won't jump off the page as he doesn't make really flashy plays, but he brings a consistent game on each shift. And NHL teams really like consistency.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Nine Offensive Winger



59

AAPELI RASANEN**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Tappara U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: June 1, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 50 GP 19 G 19 A 38 PTS 26 PIM**

Rasanen is a pass-first player who uses his smart understanding of the game, vision and accurate pass to set up linemates. A shifty skater with good hands, Rasanen is constantly moving his feet and trying to create plays. On the other hand, his foot speed and overall mobility are only average. He can get caught behind the play at times due to a lack of speed. He drives hard to the net, and has a knack for maintaining puck control and protecting it through traffic. He battles hard, and uses good vision to find teammates in open ice, feeding them with soft passes. He shows his hockey sense in his decision-making and displays good understanding of the game. Rasanen makes smart decisions with the puck and is a calm puck carrier, even when he attacks using his one-on-one puckhandling skills. His shot, while hard, is not always a strength as his accuracy is inconsistent. He is employed on both the penalty kill and power play, and he wins most of his faceoffs. Rasanen shows off his hockey IQ in flashes as he is responsible on the ice and is committed to a two-way game. He shows a fundamental understanding of his defensive responsibilities and backchecks hard. When defenders join rushes, he reads the plays and backs up the respective defenseman. He's not a very physical or powerful player; he plays a more finesse-driven defensive game. Despite his playmaking ability, he projects best as more of a shutdown center at the highest level rather than an offensive source.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Defensive Center



60

FILIP GUSTAVSSON**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Lulea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: June 7, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 20 GP 3.22 GAA .893 SP**

Gustavsson mainly relies on his size and sound positioning in the crease to stop the puck. The big Swede mainly does his work within the paint, and succeeds due to how big he can make himself as he can cover most of the net. That is not to say that he does not come out to aggressively cut down on the shooting angles, but just that he only leaves his crease when the play is coming into the zone off the rush. This makes his side-to-side movement fast, and makes it easier for him to block shots that require him to go post-to-post. He seals off the ice very well and stays tight to his post when the play is in the corner. He is a very efficient goalie, not making a bunch of unnecessary movements. Gustavsson's legs are strong and he possesses a real good glove that allows him to avoid giving up many rebounds. He uses the blocker a lot throughout games to steer the puck into the corners. His rebound-control is good, but not great. He has a good presence of mind to break up plays with his stick and deflect rebounds away in the corner, keeping opposing forwards from getting great secondary scoring chances close to his crease. With his great reflexes and calm in the net, he makes saves look easy. Gustavsson shows strength in tight as he fights to see through bodies, and he will hack at the ankles of forwards if they are not being cleared from his line of sight. One thing we notice about him is that he plays a lot from his knees and does not pop back up when the play stays deep in his zone. Overall, he seems like a very steady and consistent goalie, with few major ups and downs to his game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Projected NHL Starting Goaltender

**61****CHAD KRYS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: April 10, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 18 GP 2 G 11 A 13 PTS 19 PIM**

Krys is an extremely talented defenseman who displays superior skating abilities that allow him to jump into the play and then get back into his defensive position. A driver of the play, he loves to be in control of the puck as he kick starts the rush with a crisp breakout pass, or a little skate through the zones before making a clean pass to an open teammate. Kryz has impressive puck skills as he escapes his check with speed and poise and can dangle through defenders before passing off to the open man. He possesses good speed on the attack and makes strong passes all over the ice. He shows control from the point on the power play, looking great moving the puck along the line and looking comfortable under pressure. We would like to see him fire the puck more instead of always trying to find teammates with passes. Kryz isn't strictly an offensive guy; he has a knack for being in the right place at the right time in his own zone. His awareness in his own end is solid sometime, but head-scratching at others. He is often in position, but does not make the obvious defensive play that is staring him in the face. Size may be an issue at the next level as he actually plays smaller than he is, but he sometimes makes up for lack of size with quickness and the way he moves on the ice. Kryz can take risks with the puck at times and needs to play a safer game on the offensive side of the ledger.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**64****BENJAMIN GLEASON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Hamilton (OHL)****BORN: March 25, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 7 G 25 A 32 PTS 44 PIM**

Gleason is a mobile defender who skates very well and stood out every time he touched the ice for Hamilton this season. A cousin of NHLer Tim Gleason, he looks confident and in control at the point, pulling the puck in closer to his body and pivoting to the center of the ice to get into a shooting lane and unload his heavy slap shot. A strong and balanced skater, Gleason could work on his transitions from backward to forward. He has good footwork to escape trouble with the puck, taking quick steps to generate some speed and get away from the check. He is not afraid to throw his weight around and can lay a big check when warranted. He gets his stick in the way of passes in order to break up plays. Gleason puts in the effort to catch the puck carrier after the puck gets transitioned by the opposition, quickly gaining good position on the attacker. He sees the ice very well in transition and anticipates lanes developing, seaming excellent neutral-zone passes on the tape of his target. His pinches are typically timed correctly and are effective, showing his offensive mindset as he picks his spots to jump into the play and make an offensive impact. He defends well, getting his stick in the way and adjusts his speed accordingly. Gleason reads and reacts well to incoming plays, showing great decision-making. He has shown that he has the ability to be a difference-maker on the back end.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**62****MATT FILIPE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Cedar Rapids (USHL)****BORN: December 31, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 19 G 17 A 26 PTS 99 PIM**

Filipe is a power forward who carries the puck with speed, protecting it well. He is hard to play against along the wall, and is not afraid to throw his weight around. Filipe displays a strong stick on the puck, and challenges defenders head-to-head on zone entries and in puck battles, winning the majority of them. He has strong puck-protection skills, but is not overly flashy with dekes or hand skills. He can be dangerous in tight. He plays a game centered around speed and shows good power that enables him to get to the net. Filipe is extremely agile and balances on his edges well to sharply change direction. He has crafty hands when carrying the puck and can draw opponents to take a stab at stripping the puck before going around them. He has good vision and can get to open ice to buy time before making a strong pass. Filipe has the size and skill to take plays to the net and execute on quick shots or passes on the fly. He brings tenacity in the offensive zone and has a knack for getting pucks to the net. He plays an accountable defensive game and shows good compete on every play, showing patience before jumping into confrontation. We like the drive he has and his offensive skill really complements his physical abilities. We describe Filipe as a hybrid between a playmaker and a power forward who is strong on the puck. We think he will transition into the professional game as a power forward who will produce points and be trusted in all three zones.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Power Center

**65****CAMERON MORRISON****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Youngstown (USHL)****BORN: August 27, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 34 G 32 A 66 PTS 42 PIM**

Morrison is an offensive-minded center who possesses solid size and skill. He likes to go to the area around the net front and often gets to the top of the crease anticipating pucks headed his direction. He shows that he has quick hands in tight, finding pucks quickly and getting them on the net. Morrison has a good motor and drive to his game, using his powerful skating stride to try to keep up with the play. He gets the play moving in the right direction and has the skilled hands to carry the puck through the offensive zone and find a good passing lane. Morrison has a nose for the net, finds seams and can get a quick shot off in tight. He has a strong ability to protect the puck and lean against defenders until they tire. There are no easy minutes when defending him along the wall. Morrison also has an understated offensive mind. He is not flashy by any means, however, he sees the ice well and finds teammates in tight spaces. He also has a knack for winning battles for loose pucks and rebounds. He struggles to create separation from defenders and is caught from behind due to his slow foot speed. With the emphasis placed on speed in today's NHL playing to his main weakness, he will have a hard time impacting the game at the NHL level unless he improves on it. He possesses solid size and offensive skill, but struggles with the consistency of his game. Morrison has moments of effectiveness and creative offensive play, and large gaps in play where he is just invisible.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Center

**63****MARKUS NIEMELAINEN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Saginaw (OHL)****BORN: June 8, 1998****VITALS: 6'-6" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 1 G 26 A 27 PTS 28 PIM**

An all-situations defender, Niemelainen contributes on the power play and does some good work on the penalty kill, though he can get caught running around a bit and scrambling in his own zone. He sees the ice well, getting pucks through lanes and on teammates' sticks for chances. On the breakout, he sets up in the zone and can deliver some long-range, home-run passes that are all crisp and tape-to-tape. He leads his player perfectly and catches him in stride. Niemelainen also mixes in a real cannon shot from the blueline, making him an offensive threat, especially on the power play. Although he generates solid speed levels, his skating can look a bit unbalanced at times as he is choppy in his pivots and when he attempts to change directions. His agility slightly lacks and can be exposed by quicker attackers when forced to pivot and turn. Niemelainen plays hard on his man, but does have a bit of a tendency to focus a little too much on the puck; doing so causes him to miss his man in the process. He does funnel players to the outside with his strong positioning, long reach and aggressive stick work. He displays some rough reads about when to pinch or hang back in defensive posture, but the hope is he will learn to eliminate those lapses in judgment as he matures in his understanding of the position. Niemelainen is a raw defender and work in progress, but the sky is the limit on him.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**66****CLIFF PU****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: London (OHL)****BORN: June 3, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 12 G 19 A 31 PTS 24 PIM**

Pu is a power forward with size and offensive skill. He displays good vision on the rush with the puck while moving at top speed, able to see his options and seam a pass or keep it if needed. He looks poised with the puck as he stickhandles through the neutral zone and gains the zone, but opens himself up to get knocked over and have the puck taken away. Pu does a good job of protecting the puck on the wall or in the corner as he waits for support to appear and move it to his man. He picks up his check on the backcheck and works hard down low, grabbing loose pucks and getting into open space to escape the zone or feed his man through a passing lane to spark the rush. He does a good job of settling bouncing pucks and bad passes while in movement, continuing up ice unfazed. Pu is a like a dog on a bone at times, trying to get the puck off the man in the corner and down ice with strong back pressure. He is used as more of a depth scoring option due to London's high-end talent up front, but he has done an admirable job creating offense nonetheless while also limiting the chances against and playing on the second penalty killing unit. Pu does a good job getting the inside track on foottraces and turning up ice to make the smart play. Because he skates well, he displays some offensive skill and has size. We think he will blossom and take his game to the next level when the likes of Marner, Dvorak and Tkachuk graduate and he moves into London's top six. He has the talent to develop into a scoring threat in the OHL, but may need some time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Forward



67

WADE ALLISON**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Tri-City (USHL)****BORN: October 14, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 25 G 22 A 47 PTS 46 PIM**

Allison is a determined, hard-working power winger with offensive skill. He uses his frame well to play in both offensive and defensive situations. He plays hard in all three zones, outworking opponents and playing physically strong on and away from the puck. He has a strong shot to throw pucks on net and the vision to find open teammates for scoring chances. Allison skates with power and is effective changing directions, displaying great agility. He challenges his opponents along the wall with heavy pressure, often forcing turnovers. He is not afraid to attack, even when alone on the rush, trying to power by defenders or deke using elongated toe drags and other crafty stickhandling techniques to create multiple scoring chances. Allison is strong on the puck, heavy along the wall and in the corners, and deep in the offensive zone. He shows great upside, and can and likely will improve on his agility and ability to move laterally at higher speeds. What he lacks is offensive creativity as he is a straightforward type of power forward. We love his urgency and that he never gives up on puck battles, winning most of them out of sheer diligence. More often than not, Allison was one of the hardest workers, strongest players and most dangerous offensive threats on the ice this season in the USHL.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Power Winger



70

JOSEPH WOLL**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: July 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 12 GP 2.60 GAA .898 SP**

Woll is a poised and reliable butterfly-style puckstopper. He is very calm in his net, rarely looks panicked and is always in full control of his movements. He has a good anticipation of the developing plays around him, which allows him to accomplish some timely saves to keep his team in every game. His leg moves are also accurate and he always seems to find the right spot to be when a shot is taken. Woll moves well going post-to-post, although he could add some quickness in that regard. He is very quick popping up and dropping down, and mobile moving in and out of his crease. Woll is safe in that his large frame allows him to stay within his blue paint more often than not so he can get back if the approaching shooter fakes and goes for an in-close deke or pass instead. He is solid fundamentally, has quick reflexes and can make some acrobatic plays when necessary. He needs to track the puck better. Woll seems to lose sight of the puck in tight and also when the play is developing at the blueline. With his size, he should be able to fight through any crease traffic, and see over players in front of him in an attempt to stop the puck. He has a tendency to push back very deep in his crease, and this results in a lot of his angles being off. His puckhandling ability and stick work are good, but not great. Woll isn't afraid to try to make plays with the puck on dump-ins and board wraps. Has some strong upside as a big, yet athletic, stopper.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting NHL Goaltender



68

TYLER PARSONS**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: London (OHL)****BORN: September 18, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 2.33 GAA .921 SP**

Parsons is a quick and athletic netminder who shows off his quick reflexes with timely saves. He seems to build his game around making the initial save. His rebound control has improved this season from bad to solid as he deflects pucks out of trouble when they are not able to be absorbed into his equipment. Parsons shows impressive quickness by dropping into the butterfly and then shooting up or across the crease through scrambles in front, coming up with big stops. His glove hand reacts quickly, even though it is not always in position, especially when he is moving. His edge work is impressive which leads to his ability to push off and shift to get across the crease. He has good ability to stretch and is flexible making desperation second saves while swimming to close off the bottom of his crease. Parsons anticipates centering passes around his crease and quickly reacts by lunging forward in tight form to get his glove on it and prevent any damage. He isn't afraid to shoot out and challenge the shooter, showing an aggressive mindset when the time is right. He seals off his posts well and closes holes in his stance. He wasn't always tested this season due to the team that plays in front of him, but he has bailed out the Knights, making key saves when the time called for it, and he holds some solid potential going forward.

NHL POTENTIAL: Projected NHL Starting Goaltender



71

ANDREW PEEKE**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Green Bay (USHL)****BORN: March 17, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 4 G 26 A 30 PTS 30 PIM**

Peeke is a big-bodied defender who can play both sides of the puck. He possesses a smooth stride and is able to change directions efficiently. He is an excellent skater in both forward and reverse, and makes sure that he is always facing an attack. Peeke uses his long stride to get to places quickly and is seemingly never out of position. He controls the puck extremely well, rarely turning it over or forcing unnecessary passes. Peeke is poised and able to handle the forecheck pressure before making the smart play. He is very effective deep in his defensive zone—often breaking the puck out—and he is responsible for creating effective transitions. His shot is on display quite often as the late guy or on the point in the offensive zone, often throwing pucks on net in hopes of getting a redirection or creating a rebound chance. Defensively, he is effective against the opposition along the boards as he physically engages them, showing strong on-puck presence. He shows great awareness in all three zones, and is excellent at making a read to jump up off the line or in the neutral zone to counteract an outlet pass from his opponents. He is in control and has his head on a swivel reading the play as it comes his way. Peeke is a big minute-munching blueliner who jumps over the boards in all situations. We describe him as a guy with NHL size and stability to succeed in a middle-pairing role. He should develop into a top-pairing guy at the NCAA level before transitioning into the professional game. The Notre Dame commit is effective in all phases of the game at the USHL level, and looks to continue that play as he develops with the Irish.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



69

MARKUS NURMI**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: TPS U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: June 29, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 19 G 17 A 36 PTS 34 PIM**

Nurmi is a developing power winger who plays a two-way game. He sets his defensive role as a priority, as he often is the first forward back and teams up with his defenders in odd-man situations to win the puck, playing more of a center role in his defensive style. Although he is light in comparison to his height, he uses his size as an advantage in gritty situations along the board, as well as when checking his opponents. His defensive play is very aggressive, as he both tries to check the puck carrier and uses his stick to disrupt the puck. For being a taller, yet underdeveloped, player, he has a rather decent skating speed and excellent overall mobility. He would often skate with the puck and use his mobility to get past opponents and protect the puck with his long reach and great balance. He shows flashes of creativity with the puck, but is most effective when he has more open ice to try some moves. In the offensive zone, you can see that he has some passing ability as he passes to open ice for his teammates to skate into, and he is not afraid to try more creative passes. He likes to shoot the puck, and has a quick and heavy wrist shot. His hockey sense is strong, both offensively and defensively. When receiving the puck in the defensive zone, he makes a quick pass to a teammate to start the play or passes the puck back to his defenders if no better option is given. We believe Nurmi certainly has the potential to become a decent two-way NHL player if he puts on some weight.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger



72

JACOB MOVERARE**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HV71 J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: August 31, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 5 G 16 A 21 PTS 22 PIM**

Moverare is a quick-thinking, strong, two-way defender. He moves well up ice with the puck as he surveys his options and makes hard, well-timed passes. Moverare shows good mobility, but is slightly choppy in his skating when moving with the puck. In the offensive zone, he is an aware defender who reads the play very well and adapts his positioning accordingly. He quickly receives a pass and can distribute through small spaces using his vision to see open lanes. On top of that, he possesses a big, powerful slap shot that can get through traffic thanks to exceptional weight transfer and form. Moverare can lead the rush with his ability to accelerate quickly, and is very good at shielding the puck with his frame. He is a composed defender, and is very steady in his defensive positioning. He works hard, and is a leader out of the ice. Moverare is a very tough kid to get around; he will make you work for every inch of ice. He shows smart decision-making on the ice, often using a deke or quick change of direction to buy himself some time when under pressure from the forecheck deep in his own zone. He is a defenseman who plays a steady game that is not overly flashy, but is effective in all zones and in all situations.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**73****MAXIME FORTIER****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Halifax (QMJHL)****BORN: December 15, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 31 G 46 A 77 PTS 22 PIM**

Fortier is an offensive-minded winger who looks to make his mark on the score sheet. He has a strong stride and great speed. He finds creative ways to get open and has strong passing abilities in all three zones. Not the largest guy, Fortier does well with speed and quick passing along the boards. He has excellent foot speed, and puts defensemen on their heels when he gets to speed. He's an underrated playmaker as well, making a number of nice quick passes to his linemates. A real weapon, especially on the man advantage, Fortier starts the power play at the right point, but finds his shots in Stamkos' and Ovi's office on the left dot. His shots are hard, quick and accurate. While not overly physical, Fortier is able to gracefully dig the puck out of some feet while battling for pucks on the wall, quickly turning toward the net and generating a scoring chance. He shows some excellent anticipation of the play and IQ. He is a driver of the offensive play, and is dangerous each and every time he touches the ice. He understands how to play within his size, and rarely dumps the puck in for a forecheck, instead showing off solid hands and puck skills as he enters the zone. He has roamer tendencies, uses his foot speed to excel off the rush and has great point-production potential as both a goal-scorer and passer. He combines great offensive instincts with a lack of ideal size and spotty defensive instincts.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger

**74****CONNOR BUNNAMAN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)****BORN: April 16, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 16 G 22 A 38 PTS 14 PIM**

Bunnaman is an aggressive, two-way center who contributes in all aspects of the game. He is strong defensively, picking up his check. He consistently is hard on the puck carrier and looks to force turnovers every chance he gets. He is a mainstay on the Rangers' penalty killing unit as he anticipates the play very well and is an intimidating forechecker who forces the puck carrier into making rushed plays in the neutral zone. Fairly fluid and strong on his feet, Bunnaman is a heavy forward who reads the play well and gets right on the man with the puck to quickly establish his presence and work to gain possession of the puck. An absolute beast on the wall, he can lay crushing hits when he sees the opportunity, and is able to absorb checks and stay upright on the wall. This big power forward can do more than be a physical presence though; he is extremely fast in pursuit and possesses above-average speed in his class. He is quick on the puck and is hungry to gain possession of the biscuit. Bunnaman also has a decent set of hands and quick release. He positions himself well in the offensive zone and shows off his ability to quickly settle bouncing pucks to get a shot off from the slot. He's a bit of a project, but could surprise with his upside when he gains confidence and realizes what type of player he could become.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Power Forward

**75****ZACH SAWCHENKO****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Moose Jaw (WHL)****BORN: December 30, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 51 GP 3.04 GAA .916 SP**

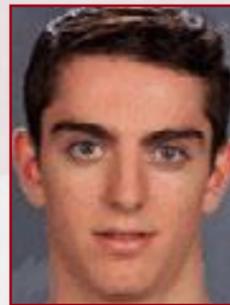
Sawchenko is an average-sized, but extremely athletic, goaltender who shows great flexibility and ability to continuously readjust his body based on the play in front of him. He has great vision. His ability to calculate plays enables him to get in position to make first and follow-up saves. Sawchenko plays his angles well, and knows when to really get aggressive and challenge a shot. He is very technical, squaring up nearly every shot and sparing himself constant acrobatics. He has very quick legs and has refined the importance of getting pucks off his toe and to the corners, avoiding the sloppy rebound in the slot. The paddle of his stick is almost always flush to the ice as he makes sure that he is blocking his five-hole and controlling low shots. He has very good glove and blocker positioning, and the reflexes of a mongoose. Sawchenko's glove hand is held high and he is able to quickly snare pucks cleanly. His ability to push off in the butterfly leaves few holes for shooters to beat him. Sawchenko has the mentality to never give up on a play and always keeps himself in control. He always fights for sightlines and seems to be better the busier he is. He shows some prowess with his passing game, and is able to deliver good, short passes and long-range saucer breakouts. He has the battle, focus and skills to be a starter.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting NHL Goaltender

**76****FILIP HRONEK****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Hradec Kralove (Czech)****BORN: November 02, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 40 GP 0 G 4 A 4 PTS 22 PIM**

Hronek is a solid two-way defender who has a high understanding of the play around him and what his role is on the ice. He dishes some very smooth passes on the tape, but struggles to handle heavy passes himself at times. He is a speedy defender with a fluid stride, though he is lanky and there's not much strength in his lower body to help his stride. Hronek looks very good handling the puck, especially on the power play, until he gets pressured and tends to get flustered. We would like to see him slow the play down, make his reads quicker and set up a bit better as a puck distributor. Hronek gets muscled off the puck at the half wall too easily, but continues to show confidence in skating with the puck up ice and taking it into the offensive zone. He has soft hands and can make a move to get around a defender when needed. He needs to shoot the puck more often as his play has become somewhat telegraphed; he is a 100% pass-first player. Defensively, he needs to add strength so he can separate his man from the puck and not get outmuscled in the crease by attacking forwards. Hronek utilizes his stick and positioning to defend the rush. He's not physical as his size is a detriment to playing that type of game. He had some very impressive moments this season, like dominating the U19, but he has a lot of work to do to round out his game and add much needed muscle.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**77****JACK KOPACKA****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: March 5, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 20 G 23 A 43 PTS 12 PIM**

Kopacka is a player with quick-strike offensive abilities, which are evident in his tenaciousness in puck pursuit as he takes direct routes to pucks with an ability to find the back of the net with little time and space. He does display a bit of an awkward stride and lacks an explosive first step, but still manages to generate good to above-average speed once he's able to generate momentum. Kopacka is a player who likes to engage physically, and throw some bone-crushing checks on the forecheck; he follows through and finishes his checks rather than letting the opposition off the hook. Offensively, he is strong off the cycle and works the half boards effectively, shielding the puck well on net drives or showing a willingness to thrive in high-traffic areas. With quick hands and little hesitation to get to the gritty areas of the rink, Kopacka is most dangerous in tight. He also shows an uncanny ability to find soft spots in defensive-zone coverages, which allow him to get off his lethal shot that features a quick release and impressive accuracy. He finds a way to make an impact at both ends of the rink. While his consistency may be an issue, Kopacka combines solid physical attributes with a versatile skill set to become a highly intriguing prospect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger

**78****JESPER BRATT****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: AIK (Allsvenskan)****BORN: July 30, 1998****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 48 GP 8 G 9 A 17 PTS 6 PIM**

Bratt is an offensively inclined winger who is dangerous with the puck in space. He is a strong skater who is powerful, and makes very good use of his edges to gain speed and explode in every direction. He is quick on his feet and incredible with the puck on the rush as he maintains possession at top speed and seems to do everything at an elevated pace. He is strong on the puck and possesses some quick, creative hands, allowing him to get fancy with the puck on the rush. However, he sometimes does a little too much, and can be prone to turning over the puck. Bratt is a slippery little winger who is elusive on zone entries as he looks to use his separation speed and puck protection to zip right around defenders. He has a nose for the net as he drives to the crease before either taking a shot, or hitting his man right on the tape in the high slot or at the backdoor. He has a nasty, quick release that comes right off the center of his blade while he is moving in on goal. Bratt anticipates developing plays in the defensive zone very well, and does a solid job of picking up his man and playing him tight when needed. On the penalty kill, he shows good awareness and anticipation, covering his area well. He's the type of player who can either make a big impact on a game or be incredible hard to find. He is a player who could become a primary scoring threat after his game matures.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger



79

HENRIK BORGSTROM**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: HIFK U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: August 6, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 40 GP 29 G 26 A 55 PTS 20 PIM**

Borgstrom is a unique forward because he doesn't seem to be that flashy scorer, but he still put up almost a goal per game this year. He is a great playmaker who displays speed, sound offensive instinct and a solid frame to build muscle on as he gets more mature. He's an entertaining player to watch because he can slow the game down and will make plays that are hard to anticipate. Borgstrom can dangle, even when there are two or three opposing players defending him. He has a decent wrist shot with a quick release. In the faceoff dot, he excels at winning important puck drops and can even retrieve the puck back from a faceoff lost. On the flipside, the Finnish forward must avoid being caught flat-footed in the defensive zone and do a better job of covering his man more tightly in his own zone. He isn't particularly physical, but he relies more on his stick and positioning to defend. Moreover, Borgstrom needs to avoid giveaways deep in the zone and find a way to escape from his coverage in the offensive zone to have greater scoring chances. All in all, he is an intriguing forward with exceptional passing and playmaking skills, but he has many areas to work on. The second-time eligible forward and University of Denver commit—who was passed over in last year's draft after playing under the radar at the U18 level—might be one of the more underrated prospects in this draft.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center



80

LINUS LINDSTROM**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 8, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 40 GP 14 G 30 A 44 PTS 28 PIM**

Lindstrom is an excellent playmaking center. He sees lanes before they open up and hits his teammates with perfectly placed passes that they can skate into. He delivers hard, crisp passes of all ranges as well as the skilled saucer pass when the situation calls for one. Despite his size, he has no qualms with throwing the body and displays persistence on the forecheck. Lindstrom possesses a very good release on his shot off the rush and shows some excellent accuracy while moving at a full speed. After releasing a quick wrist shot, he crashes the net to disturb the goalie and look for any garbage. His biggest strength on the ice is his hockey smarts. He always seems to be in the right position, making smart plays, helping out in all zones and working hard. He comes back in support deep into the defensive zone and picks up the puck, skating it up ice or delivering a skilled dish ahead to his winger, setting up the quick transition before following up the play. Defensively, he is aware; he sees needs all over the ice and tries to fill them. While skating into the offensive zone, he can make a deke or two to get past the opponents. He combines using his sharp-cutting edgework, agility and hand speed to pass defenders. He has a decent, but not great top speed. However, with his slippery mobility, opponents still struggled defending or knocking the puck off of him.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Center

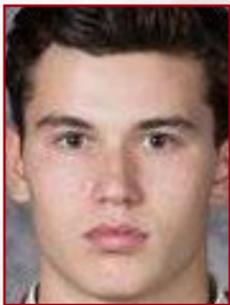


81

TRENT FREDERIC**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: February 11, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 23 GP 4 G 10 A 14 PTS 23 PIM**

A University of Wisconsin commit for next season, two-way center Frederic was the second-line center for the NTDP U18s this season. The big power center displays a smooth, yet powerful, stride in transition and remains balanced on his feet while in the offensive zone. Frederic often shows his power game by opting to dump the puck deep into the offensive zone before following it in to deliver a check on the puck-retrieving defender. He plays a tough game and seems to enjoy the physical side of the game. Frederic plays hard in the corners, laying big hits to create turnovers. His physicality does get him into some penalty trouble though. Listed at 6-foot-2, he takes up a lot of space in front of the net in the offensive zone and goes there regularly. He is not all brawn as he has the ability to make defenders miss solely with his stickhandling ability entering the zone, before getting off a strong, accurate shot on net. Frederic is good at faceoffs and he does everything a coach could ask for: blocking shots, covering his man tight and getting his stick into lanes in his own zone. He gets the puck to the net from anywhere in the offensive zone by creating space with his stickhandling ability and size. He will help his future teams in the offensive end, and can be trusted in the back end as well. We see him transitioning nicely into the professional game; with his offensive skill, he will help any team with point production as a second- or third-line, two-way guy.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center



82

JOSH MAHURA**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Red Deer (WHL)****BORN: May 5, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 2 GP 0 G 1 A 1 PTS 0 PIM**

Mahura is an electrifying, puck-moving defender who was injured most of the season. He showcased enticing offensive flair, however, in the few games and scrimmages we were able to see him the past two years. While we wouldn't call his skating stride picture-perfect, his atypical stride seems to actually be an asset as it is very difficult to predict his movement. Mahura is extremely slippery and shows an enhanced escapability; forechecking forwards have a tough time containing him. He is always looking to jump into the play and is never content to be a passenger on the ice. Mahura is a huge asset in the offensive third. His mobility and instincts at the blueline can lead to some shifts where the opposing team gets really hemmed in. He is also consistently looking to exploit empty space and he will find backdoor lanes if they are left open. As a puck handler, Mahura has an innate sense of the space he has available to him. He is very comfortable and calm in tight spaces; he often seems to wriggle out of crowds with the puck on his stick. Mahura has a decent shot; while he excels at finding lanes to get the puck through shotblockers, he often misses the net as well. Defensively, he has some room to improve as well. He is fine at containing forwards in the defensive zone, however, he lacks the strength to routinely separate the puck carrier from the puck. Mahura has a tantalizing toolbox, but has also shown a propensity for some glaring mental mistakes, typical of skilled defenders at a young age.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Offensive Defenseman



83

BRANDON GIGNAC**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Shawinigan (QMJHL)****BORN: November 7, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 24 G 37 A 61 PTS 41 PIM**

Gignac is a safe, effective player who can contribute offensively. He skates pretty well, and can easily make space for himself with his feet. His main strength is his speed with and without the puck. His legs are strong and he is at his best when he can take possession of the puck, take advantage of his speed and gain the offensive zone. Gignac has great vision too, where he can find his linemates and use them well. Even in tight spaces, he can dangle and create scoring opportunities. Stick traffic doesn't prevent him from connecting to a teammate with a great, accurate pass in front of the net. Gignac is often in a great position to receive a pass as well. He plays with grit and energy in the offensive zone; he battles hard in the corners, deep in the zone and wins the puck-possession battles most of the time. Despite his limited stature, he will use his body to protect the puck, which he's good at too. He is willing to engage himself physically and won't try to avoid hits. His biggest weakness is his player coverage. He does a good job getting back into plays defensively, but can sometimes be slow to provide extra help along the boards in the defensive zone, tending to drift in the slot and try and wait to see if the play will develop in his favor. He's good at faceoffs, his style of play makes us think he would rather excel as a winger. Gignac could focus more on his offensive work and let most of his defensive responsibilities to his center. He's skilled and fast, and if paired with a sniper, he could produce offensively, albeit in a secondary role at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center



84

EETU TUULOLA**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: HPK U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: March 17, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 225 Lbs****STATS: 29 GP 9 G 5 A 14 PTS 22 PIM**

Tuulola is a prime example of the Finnish dedication to solid two-way, unselfish hockey. He plays a pest game to get under his opponents skin. He uses every inch and pound of his frame to go to the dirty areas of the ice, clears room in the crease and plays hard along the wall. Tuulola enjoys to get his nose dirty and is seemingly always available for a little scrum after the whistle. He plays with a physical edge and finished his checks. He has impressive speed and great acceleration for his size. In the neutral zone, Tuulola is a very dangerous player because he can hit you hard and create turnovers. His shot is very lethal and more often than not, he is the target of his teammates for taking the shot. He can also make good one-touch passes to his teammates, and is not the kind of player who creates many giveaways. Tuulola is also a smart and patient player who waits for the right moment to forecheck and cut passing lanes. He acclimates himself to the situation well, and can go from playing shutdown defense to playing high-tempo offense at the flick of a switch. We love his tenacity and willingness to do whatever it takes to get his team in a good situation to succeed. Offensively, Tuulola is still rather unpolished, but solid, and the tools are there for him to be a good player if his development continues on pace.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Power Winger

**85****OSKAR STEEN****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Farjestad J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: March 9, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 8 G 24 A 32 PTS 37 PIM**

An offensive minded forward, Steen is always looking to create something. He is a fairly good skater and is able to carry a lot of his speed through his turns, utilizing his edges extremely well. He's not the biggest, but man does he give 100% effort every shift. Steen is a very shifty player who uses his explosive acceleration in small spaces to create offensive chances. He moves around very effortlessly both with or without the puck and finds open ice. He has the ability to grind it out and willingly goes to the dirty areas to make plays and gain loose pucks. Steen possesses a knack for being in the right spot at the right time, and has some finishing ability to score goals. However, his ability to make a skilled pass to set up an opportunity is where he will likely put up the majority of his points. Defensive play is where his game is at its best. He's crafty with his ability to close off lanes with his superior skating technique, and uses his body/stick to make plays on the opposition. Quick on the ice, Steen is also very tenacious and spares no effort to chase opponents and pull them the puck. He also backchecks and forechecks, and exerts strong efforts at both ends of the ice. Despite a small frame, he tries to hit hard and does everything he can to disturb his opponents. Steen is a very intense player with a great level of competitiveness.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Forward

**88****DMITRI SOKOLOV****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sudbury (OHL)****BORN: April 14, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 30 G 22 A 52 PTS 13 PIM**

Sokolov has the size and offensive skills to be a real difference-maker; unfortunately, he is not that difference-maker most nights. There is no denying his vision, skill and elite shot, but his lack of engagement and commitment is worrisome. The flashy Russian-born winger is as offensively gifted as any draft-eligible in the OHL this year. His puck control, creativity, playmaking ability and shot are all high-caliber. Sokolov is so smart and dangerous with his positioning, ability to pick spots and anticipate the game. He has the ability to be the first man back on the backcheck with his explosive first step, but you'll often see him drifting back into the zone lazily. Sokolov's in-zone play without the puck leaves a lot to be desired. He is dangerous, both as an offensive weapon and to the employment of the head of scouting who goes out on a limb to draft him. He has elite vision and passing ability, plus a ridiculously quick release on his booming shot. Despite improving his defensive game marginally over the course of the season, Sokolov was a real letdown this season as he constantly looked lazy and disengaged on the ice and seemed determined to maintain that desirable Jake Black physique. He struggled through the season with a shoulder that would regularly separate. He did have his electrifying moments this season, but they were surrounded by far too many ineffective shifts for an NHL team to spend a high pick on him in hopes he turns things around. Sokolov is a frustrating player to watch as he has the talent, just not the drive.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Forward

**86****VLADIMIR KUZNETSOV****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Acadie-Bathurst (QMJHL)****BORN: February 18, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 25 G 33 A 58 PTS 34 PIM**

Kuznetsov is a pretty skilled, but subdued player. He is efficient with his energy, only getting on his horse when he feels pressure or sees a potential break. He has good puck control on the rush and has a big, strong body and an ability to use it to overpower opponents and protect the puck. Kuznetsov is a solid skater who has a very strong stride; it takes him a few long strides to get moving, but he looks like a bull on skates once he gets some speed behind him. He has the ability to carry the puck with a defender on his back en route to the net. He's a formidable presence once at top speed. Kuznetsov uses his speed/size/skill combo to gain the offensive zone, pushing the play into the offensive zone on the set up. He has a strong shot, and can play the point on the power play. Defensively, he shows good awareness as he recognizes danger and reacts to stifle opponents using his strength and speed. Kuznetsov covers for teammates and works hard to get himself into position to block passing or shooting lanes or edge off attackers. He spends a lot of the game coasting; he can be very impressive, but then disappear for long stretches. He's got a great frame and a high ceiling. He showed us some great flashes of dominant play, but throughout this season, he was inconsistent in his play and we were left wanting more from him. He is a high-risk, high-reward prospect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Power Winger

**89****MAX LAJOIE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)****BORN: November 5, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 8 G 29 A 37 PTS 28 PIM**

Lajoie is a cerebral player who can flash his elaborate skill set, but first uses his smarts to find appropriate times to do so. He is a great skater, using his speed both forward and backward to lead the rush or stick to with an opponent defensively. He is strong on his edges and can get himself out of some pickles by being crafty instead of pressing the speed-burst button during pressure situations. Lajoie is a relaxed defender who slows the game down and makes smart choices instead of making rash decisions. He is able to play under a lot of pressure and take some physical punishment, always finding an effective play to get the puck out of danger. He is a strong puckmover who can distribute with finesse or play a possession game. Lajoie has the well-tuned touch and feel to thread the fine, soft pass or the Sunday night football Hail Mary to a man streaking up the ice. He impressed with his ability to corral pucks and keep engaged in physical battles while still controlling play. He possesses a strong wrist shot that he puts on net looking for rebounds or tips. Lajoie defends the play very well and shows a strong understanding of what will work for him best in each unique situation. He is positionally sound, and uses a crafty stick to control gaps and steal pucks. He doesn't have a lot of risk in his defensive game and takes the smart approach to defending opponent chances. He is a little on the lanky side, but can dish out and take punishment. Lajoie has the type of demeanor you want out of a top defenseman, a guy with a calming aura who can rise to the occasion and make a difference in all zones.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**87****JORDY STALLARD****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Calgary (WHL)****BORN: September 18, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 28 G 21 A 49 PTS 20 PIM**

Stallard is a well-rounded skater who has a generic style that allows him to be quick and effective. He darts in and out of traffic pretty well for a guy his size. He is strong on his skates and can generate pretty good speed within a few strides. He is pretty shifty when he is at work and uses good edge work to tweak his body position in order to slip through space. There's not one individual skill that sticks out about Stallard, as he is a well-rounded guy. He doesn't stray away from doing anything too out of the ordinary, but he does have slick hands and uses good reach and body position to keep control of the puck. He gets his fingerprints all over the offensive zone and plays rugged when he is without the puck, using his strength to win battles for space or loose puck battles. Stallard has a decent shot, as he doesn't always unleash a heater, but gets the puck off his blade quickly and on net before the goalie can set up. He is very aware away from the puck and plays his center position well. He will get gritty and make smart, hard plays on the opposition using his body. Stallard is trusted to take big draws in the offensive and defensive zones, and makes some reliable plays to get pucks out of his own end. He is quick on his feet in his own end and uses a smart approach to his puck pursuit. He can play a role on the power play and on the penalty kill.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Center

**90****DYLAN GAMBRELL****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: University of Denver (NCAA)****BORN: August 26, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 17 G 30 A 47 PTS 19 PIM**

Gambrell is a center with size, skill and toughness. He puts forth a terrific effort shift after shift, outworking his opponents in the cycle-game and outplaying guys down low. He uses his body and his strength to win position on the boards and to come away with puck possession. He is also able to battle his way to the net where he finds some solid scoring chances on tips and rebounds. Gambrell has good speed with a solid skating stride and loves to take the body. He works hard defensively as well, coming back hard with the play on each shift and covering his position well. Gambrell uses his stick well to take away shooting and passing lanes, and he does a good job getting involved in the middle of the zone and tying up players to help out his defense. He is successful creating scoring chances, demonstrating impressive skill with the puck. He uses his speed to take it end-to-end, and he demonstrates poise with the puck when carrying it wide and waiting for a passing lane to open up. Gambrell does not panic under pressure and he protects the puck very well with his strength and with his reach when carrying it wide. He has very good vision and decision-making ability, and sets up his teammates very well from the perimeter. He is also able to lead a teammate through the middle of the ice with a quick lead pass. More of a pass-first player, Gambrell can also put the puck in the net with his quick shot from closer range. He plays a solid energy game with some offensive skill and defensive responsibility thrown in. He is very effective in throwing what weight he does have around.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second-Line Playmaking Center

**91****SEAN DAY****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Mississauga (OHL)****BORN: January 9, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 225 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 6 G 16 A 22 PTS 27 PIM**

Day is an exceptionally smooth and mobile skater who has all the tools to be a top prospect. He has flashes with the puck as he possesses a nice set of hands and the ability to protect the puck with strength, fending off the check with his free arm while navigating through the opposition. We like his offensive ability and decisions to pinch, which do happen to come at good times as he reads the play well, but he hangs out too long down low when he should really pull back to his position. Day loves to drop his shoulder and/or whole body to deliver big checks; the problem with his checks is that he often takes himself out of position to throw them. Day's passes are crisp on the attack and all come with very good timing. He has no problem skating it up ice, and even pushes defenders back as a result, but he often tries to do too much with the puck through the neutral zone and/or hangs onto it until it is too late to make anything tangible happen. In his own zone, Day can be a little too laid back. He has a bad tendency to ease off his check and needs to be much stronger on his man. He is the draft's most polarizing prospect as some teams think he has high upside and only needs time and maturity to figure it out, while other teams would not touch the underperforming rearguard at all. Is he going to be anything more than a big-bodied, smooth-skating, inconsistent and head-scratching player?

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**92****TIM GETTINGER****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: April 14, 1998****VITALS: 6'-6" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 17 G 22 A 39 PTS 32 PIM**

Gettinger is a hulking winger with prototypical power forward traits; he has impressive two-way capabilities along with intriguing hockey sense and a budding offensive repertoire. He skates well for a big-bodied forward, displaying a long powerful stride that allows him to generate above-average speed, however, he does lack explosiveness in his first stride, which does hinder his separation ability through the neutral zone. Still, the big winger shows good mobility, powerful edges and strong lateral movements. Gettinger can be very tough to contain off the rush as once he generates momentum, he's like a freight train that can be near impossible to stop. The powerful winger shows high-end puck-protection skills, including a heaviness on the puck along with a willingness to take the puck to high-traffic areas. He works the half boards and cycle well, and is a net-front presence. With that being said, he also displays deceptively good hands. Possessing intriguing puck control and above-average puck skills, Gettinger can become a versatile offensive threat. Showing deceptive vision and playmaking skills, he has an untapped level of offensive creativity that looks to be on the verge of coming out. He's blessed with a quick release and strong accuracy to his shot, and he displays impressive upside, though consistency has been an issue this season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Winger

**93****VOJTECH BUDIK****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)****BORN: January 29, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 70 GP 3 G 13 A 16 PTS 20 PIM**

Budik is a well-rounded defenseman. He does a good job of prioritizing tasks and shoring up his own end of the rink first and foremost. He uses his quickness and lateral footwork to keep tabs on his opponent's movements and keep him to the perimeter. Budik is quietly efficient, using the best routes available to retrieve pucks and retain possession as he works the puck back up ice. He has a smoother style of skating that really benefits from the first strong step, allowing him to gain momentum. His ability to remain balanced in the fine-motor aspects of his skating really solidifies his stance and allows him to not be knocked off the play. Budik is strong physically and works hard on the boards to contain opponents so his teammates can dig at the pucks. His coverage of the defensive end is very strong, and he controls his actions and takes away variables to the offense with his mobility and stick. He keeps gaps relatively tight and cuts off lanes to the net before a drive begins. Budik handles the puck with some skill, but keeps it fairly simple when carrying the puck up ice. He uses some pump fakes and slight change of direction to create a bit of room to get the pass off. He is very strong through his stick and is seldom getting stripped of the puck when he is holding onto it. He doesn't have a ton of offensive creativity and chooses to play a safer, complementary type of two-way game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**94****ROSS COLTON****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Cedar Rapids (USHL)****BORN: September 11, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 35 G 31 A 66 PTS 79 PIM**

Colton is an electrifying goal-scorer who plays with a high energy level. He is constantly moving his feet as fast as he possibly can, which makes him extremely challenging for the defense to contain. He plays an electric style offensive game with stealth-like ability to calculate chances and timing before striking. He's got a very agile skating style with an explosive first step that gets him out in front of plays quickly. Colton gets into open ice and makes teams pay if he has the tiniest area or hole in the defense to make his mark. He leads his man well on passes and has the hands to make the skilled outlet look remarkably simple. Colton has a hard and accurate release on his shot, showing little hesitation to fire the puck upon pass reception. He fires the puck from anywhere in the offensive zone, but will also calculate what his best option is first. His game isn't confined to just the offensive zone as he was on the penalty kill this season and used his speed to take away space and create chances the other way, even when down a man. Colton does a good job of getting low to pick up pucks or passes and work play out of the defensive zone in systematic fashion. He makes very pro-like plays offensively and has impressive ability to capitalize. He's more than just a one-trick pony. With his energetic playing style, Colton attacks the opposition urgently and aggressively, forcing a few turnovers and starting a few breakouts; all in all, he's a decent defensive player. He is a diamond in rough because he is a '96, but it is evident he is going to be a skill guy in whatever league he plays in.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger

**95****MICHAEL O'LEARY****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Dubuque (USHL)****BORN: January 1, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 8 G 19 A 27 PTS 42 PIM**

O'Leary is a big body, a strong and powerful forward who plays a two-way game and isn't afraid to go work and grind in the corners. He has high defensive-zone awareness. He gets himself open in the offensive zone and seems that he likes to hang out in the slot. O'Leary constantly moves his feet to stay an open target for a scoring chance. He keeps his stick in good position to pick up passes and make a quick play. He displays great stickhandling skills and puck control, has good vision of the ice and is creative when making plays in the offensive zone. O'Leary has soft hands and some puck skill that he can use to pull goalies and opponents out of position. He has a strong shot that can beat a goalie if given a little room to shoot at. He plays a physical, yet smart, game, and is not afraid to throw his weight around and finish all of his checks. However, he does not go out of his way to make any unnecessary big hits. O'Leary uses his bigger frame to protect the puck, and has the kind of hunger to do anything that will get the puck toward the net and create a play. He is a powerful skater who covers a lot of ice with his stride. O'Leary displays immense strength while possessing the puck and is tough for the opposition to bump off of the puck. He moves well in all three zones, is constantly aware of the location of his teammate and knows where the puck is at all times. He's developing his game as a two-way forward, and will get stronger as he moves to the NCAA ranks with Notre Dame.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Center

**96****LUCAS CARLSSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brynas (SHL)****BORN: July 5, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 35 GP 4 G 5 A 9 PTS 8 PIM**

Carlsson is a defenseman who plays both sides of the ice very well. He is a good skater and gets moving quickly with an impressive top speed. He is well-balanced and can weave his way out of most predicaments he faces. Carlsson joins the rush fairly often and likes to show off his offensive skill in motion. He's good on the stretch pass and lays flat passes for easy reception in the offensive zone. Carlsson works the point, and is constantly walking the line and quickly moving the play to open up the defense for a shooting or passing lane. He has a good shot and a one-timer that is typically on target. Carlsson makes some solid reads to jump up in the zone and get looks at the net. He is dangerous when he has his sights set on pinching in, taking the puck to the net and freezing the goaltender with a deke before getting off a shot. He is okay in his own zone and holds his space fairly well to keep attackers to the outside, limiting primary and secondary chances with his simple, yet effective, positioning. Carlsson sometimes gets caught a little bit by some quick puck movement and can get a little passive, allowing for some openings. He does not always show the best defensive awareness and pass-protection skills, instead usually focusing just on his check and not the rest of the play. He is not very physical, but can take a hit and was willing to rub out his man when closing him out. He has some room to grow in all areas, but could be a late-developing gem.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



97

TANNER KASPICK**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Brandon (WHL)****BORN: January 28, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 13 G 18 A 31 PTS 37 PIM**

Kaspick plays a hard-nosed style and earns every opportunity he gets. He covers the whole ice, hitting hard, battling vigorously and being accountable. He is a reliable player off the puck and is constantly providing pressure. Kaspick seals off passing lanes with a tactical approach and consistently ruins breakout attempts from the opposition. He doesn't have the stellar foot-speed to create a ton of room for himself and, therefore, has adapted to jump on small windows of opportunity. Kaspick is usually not a flashy guy, but he has a heavy stick and can make the subtle skill play to protect and maneuver the puck while he is in motion. He passes the puck pretty well and dishes nice flat feeds for his teammates, usually without a lot of doubt lingering in his decisions. His shot is ideal for the area inside of the faceoff circles as he has the hand-eye coordination to get his stick on pucks quickly and get a shot on net. Although his shot is a little heavier than some from the perimeter, his sweeping-like release allows goaltenders a bit more time to read and react. Kaspick kills penalties and provides tenacity on the forecheck, providing the energy and character needed to squeak by in tight games. He has an intellectual understanding of his defensive assignments and is always competing. The biggest question is durability, as he has missed lengthy amounts of time in his WHL career due to injuries.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger



98

MIKHAIL MALTSEV**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)****BORN: March 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 29 GP 11 G 12 A 23 PTS 20 PIM**

Maltsev is a big, powerful winger who loves to make plays with both his body and the puck on his stick. He has a powerful skating stride, that, while a little slower in acceleration, can leave the opposition in the dust once he gets going, and with a good set of hands, he is an impressive player to watch. Maltsev possesses a quick little shot that he can get off in a hurry and on target. The young Russian forward goes hard to the slot and earns quality scoring chances working in the gritty areas, using his body to play against physical defensemen. He works well along the boards and deep in the zone to retrieve pucks and create something. Maltsev not only impresses with strong offensive play, but also with his play away from the puck. He shows a strong defensive mindset, making big-time plays and passes to move the puck back up ice after breaking up the play down low. He plays his man hard to the outside and uses his stick, size and strength to his advantage. Maltsev explodes to where he needs to be when there is a loose puck, either joining the race for it or pulling back into the right position. He has the ability to be fancy with the puck, showing off a creative side as he pulls a slick deke at the proper time to open a lane to pass and then follow it up with a drive to the net as he tries to bang home a tip or rebound. We would like him to play with more edge and intensity on a more consistent basis.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger



99

COLE CANDELLA**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Hamilton (OHL)****BORN: February 13, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 37 GP 4 G 16 A 20 PTS 12 PIM**

Candella is a strong-skating, smart, two-way blueliner who plays in all situations. He displays his offensive side as he skates the puck up ice, fully driving the play for a controlled zone entry before making a pass or taking it in deep on his own. His passes are easy to handle and are sent with purpose, getting through lanes and on the tape in a timely manner. He has a quick and hard shot that he can get off rather quickly. He shows off some of his smarts on the penalty kill as he positions himself well on the man approaching a loose puck to win control and clear it in a hurry. Candella shows good awareness in retrieval as he senses the time he has to make a play, knowing when the man is about to check him as he gets to puck and dishes it behind the net to keep possession with his team and take the hit. He has no problem taking a hit to make a play and is willing to play physically, even delivering an open-ice check when the opportunity presents itself. Candella is not scared of getting into it on the wall, grinding it out and helping to get the puck free. He displays patience in defending as he gets to the man on the wall, stepping forward at just the right time to slide his stick under the man's legs or around his body to get on the puck and eliminate clean scoring chances. Candella is a strong puck-moving defenseman with a very good sense of the game in front of him, anticipating the play and reacting appropriately.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



100

SIMON STRANSKY**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Prince Albert (WHL)****BORN: December 21, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 19 G 43 A 62 PTS 19 PIM**

Stransky is one of the pure offensive threats from this draft out of the WHL. His quickness, agility and ability to accelerate in short bursts allows him to play an opportunistic game at which he excels. His edge work is very good as he uses a lot of shifty maneuvers to turn tightly and stop to create space. He has good offensive IQ and is really good at finding quick lanes to feed his teammates. Stransky uses this same awareness to go unnoticed and show up in open ice for a look at the net himself. He has the touch to get pucks through traffic and the creative hands to dance around opponents when he has a step on them. He uses hesitation to buy a bit of time to open up lanes so he can execute on a play. Stransky plays a good open-ice game and is confident in his stick skills. Has a wrist shot that is most effective from inside the faceoff circles as his placement is the calling card. His play under pressure leaves a lot to be desired as he is a hazard to turn the puck over due to over-handling or letting down his guard and not protecting the puck. Stransky isn't a guy who goes in and digs hard for pucks in the corners or along the boards consistently. We question the drive he has outside of the offensive zone as he does not show the same level of pursuit and drive to chase the play defensively. He positions himself high along the wall in the defensive zone and does not venture far from that point to provide support to his team. His physical game is poor and he has a hard time withstanding the rigors of a heavy game when he is on the receiving end. Stransky needs to work at limiting the sloppiness and show more drive while withstanding the physical grind. He's got first-round offensive ability, but later-round intangibles.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger



101

DAVID BERNHARDT**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Djurgarden J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: December 1, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 10 G 28 A 38 PTS 30 PIM**

Bernhardt is a puck-moving blueliner. He uses his great vision and hard, accurate passes to find his teammates on the ice. He is very creative with his passes, both short-ranged passes as well as long-ranged dishes from his defensive zone to streaking forwards. He has solid puck skills while also being able to protect the puck with his balance, strength and size. He has decent speed, but could improve upon it along with his acceleration as he can have a hard time getting back to defend after joining the rush. More of a passer than a big shooter from the point, when Bernhardt does fire a shot, he has no problems delivering one-timers and wrist shots quickly and on target. He shoots low, trying to set up his teammates for deflections, especially in power play situations when he plays point. While playing five-on-five, he often follows the play up ice as an extra winger on offensive rushes. He can be a little adventurous in the offensive zone, often leaving his position on the blueline to either pinch in for a shot or dig in the corners. He finds his teammates easily with passes and knows where to put the puck in order to set up a scoring chance. Defensively, Bernhardt can use both his stick and strength while trying to separate the opposing player from the puck. He keeps solid gaps between himself and the puck carrier that allows him to have control over the rush. He does have a tendency to move the puck rather quickly along the boards in the defensive zone when a check could be coming as he does not like to be hit. Bernhardt is inconsistent in covering the slot and often avoids the gritty areas. He is without a doubt an offensive talent, but has areas he needs to improve in his defensive game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Offensive Defenseman



102

YEGOR KORSHKOV**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Loko Yaroslavl (KHL)****BORN: July 10, 1996****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 6 G 6 A 12 PTS 23 PIM**

Korshkov is a big, rangy power winger. He uses his large frame to his advantage in protecting the puck, to create his own working space and also to punish his opponents in the corners. He still has plenty of room to add considerable mass and strength as he is quite wiry. He is very mobile on the ice and is able to apply good forechecking pressure deep in the zone. He has great poise and puck control with soft hands; he's able to push defensemen back on their heels as he challenges them. Korshkov has superior vision that allows him to dish terrific passes, even while at high speed. He is a constant threat around the crease because of his reach and puck skill. His shot is very strong, but he does not use it enough. He has some defensive inconsistencies in his game as one shift he can work hard to separate his opposition from the puck, support his teammates as an option and win board battles, while other times, he looks disinterested in any play inside his own blueline. The big Russian has played a lot of hockey this season and he has done well at every level he has played. Whether it has been with Lokomotiv in the KHL or with their MHL junior team, at the World Juniors, or in other international events, he has made strong offensive contributions in every situation. The question becomes: Does an NHL team use a draft pick on the twice-passed-over power winger, fully knowing he has at least two years left in Russia or does he go the Artemi Panarin route of free agency after his KHL contract expires.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Power Winger

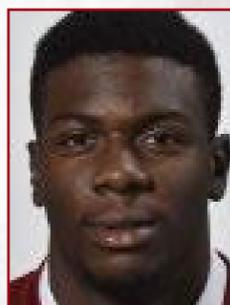


103

JACOB CEDERHOLM**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: HV71 J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 30, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 35 GP 1 G 4 A 5 PTS 28 PIM**

Cederholm is a big and strong stay-at-home defenseman. A very powerful defenseman who plays with some edge, he doesn't shy away from physical play and likes to take advantage of his mature frame on other players. Hard to get by, he holds his blueline well and doesn't allow his opponents much space, rubbing them out along the boards when the opportunity presents itself. His passes are typically strong and usually accurate, and he sees his passing lanes very quickly. Cederholm is very conscious in his own zone; he avoids turnovers or mistakes by playing a simpler game. Defensively, he is a stalwart, using his big frame and skating ability to shut down even the quickest of forwards. Positionally sound with a smooth skating stride, Cederholm excels at shutting down the opposition. He has a booming shot that, while not always accurate, is still an offensive weapon. While not a regular offensive contributor, Cederholm chooses carefully when and when not to jump into the play. With the puck on his stick, he makes quick decisions, and seems calm and cool under pressure. Cederholm is excellent at shielding the puck with his strong frame before making a safe play. Everything he does seems smooth and polished, but with very little offensive flash. He reads and reacts to the play well, and makes good choices about when to hold his defensive positioning and when to leave his position to help along the boards. Cederholm has some untapped offensive upside yet to be realized.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Defensive Defenseman



106

GIVANI SMITH**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Guelph (OHL)****BORN: February 27, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 23 G 19 A 42 PTS 146 PIM**

Smith is a real strong winger who plays a heavy game and will flex his muscle to intimidate opponents into moving the puck if needed. He finishes his checks and is a force on the forecheck. Smith uses his size to his advantage, protecting the puck along the wall, swiveling his hips to keep control and adjust his protection as needed. He does a good job of fending off his check with his free arm and shows no quit in his game in all areas he tries to get control of the puck. He possesses solid puck skills, controlling the puck well in tight, but tends to look down and puck watch, seeing it get away from him at times. Smith isn't the flashiest of players, but when he keeps it simple, he has plenty of success. He has good ability to quickly move the puck to the side of his body just enough to get off a deceptive wrist shot with power generating from his hands, which are higher than usual, and there's not a lot of weight transfer. He doesn't have impressive speed, but he is a real force on the attack when he gets chugging along. Smith possesses good agility, but can be a bit choppy off the start. He loves the get into the best position to get the puck and/or scoring spot, driving hard to the net and looking for a pass and/or rebound opportunity countless times throughout the game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Power Winger



104

HAYDEN VERBEEK**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: October 17, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 63 GP 14 G 20 A 34 PTS 33 PIM**

If you want a character player who will work his tail off and not back down, Verbeek is your man. What he lacks in finesse, he surely makes up for in hard work, dedication and commitment. He is a workhorse who doesn't know the meaning of the word no; he doesn't take it for an answer and ends up winning puck battles of which he has no business coming out on top. In the defensive zone, he is like a dog on a bone sticking to his man and giving him no space to work with. On the forecheck, he does a great job of forcing defenders low into the zone and into moving the puck before they want to. He shows off some offensive flair as he can separate from his check on the outside, making his way around the defender with a quick move, and getting a shot off before following up looking for a rebound chance. He loves to chase and is hungry for the puck, but sometimes this takes him out of position. Verbeek is constantly in motion, and drives the opposing team crazy with his quick feet and great instincts. You will see the opposition take liberties with him, cheap shots, aggressiveness and more, but Verbeek remains calm, cool and collected. He could be an elite penalty-killing/energy guy at whatever level he plays. Verbeek could be a late-round gem who an NHL team will look back on and wonder how they snagged him so late as his work ethic can carry him to lofty heights.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Energy Center



107

CARSEN TWARYNSKI**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Calgary (WHL)****BORN: November 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 20 G 25 A 45 PTS 42 PIM**

Twarynski is a big-bodied winger who is at his best when he keeps his feet moving and plays a physically aggressive style. He uses his speed, physical play and IQ to be effective defensively and open up his game offensively. He has very good wrist and slap shots that are consistently hard and looking to pick corners. Twarynski moves the pucks well and can spring a teammate with a quick and decisive pass flat on the tape. He uses his strength and legs well to aid controlling the puck for longer periods of time in the offensive zone and along the wall, leading to some quick scoring chances. He has a good thought process and takes high-percentage routes to the net, paying the price if need be. Twarynski consistently uses his speed in the defensive end to keep coverage tight. He keeps his stick down in good position to cover passing lanes or to sweep at an opponent before he pulls the puck away from him. He closes to his man quickly and forces quick decisions that limit the options of his opponents. Twarynski gets real deep into the defensive zone to support, and plays with energy and physicality. He's not overly aggressive—looking for big hits or head hunting—but he does not like being denied and works hard to keep his feet moving through checks. He showed this season that he can be a key part of the team and play in any role asked of him. We would temper any expectations for high-end point production, but guys with his size, speed and skill always are in high demand at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Character Winger



105

OTTO SOMPPPI**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Halifax (QMJHL)****BORN: January 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 13 G 33 A 46 PTS 25 PIM**

Somppi is a good centerman. He is smart and responsible, with some offensive upside. He's a solid skater with a great eye for passing lanes. Somppi has great control of his body and his movements are fluid. He is defensively aware in all three zones, and facilitates the offensive mindedness of his more offensively inclined linemates, while always keeping an eye on his own zone. He stays on the smart side of the puck, and will chip in offensively, but does not create much on his own. He's got great faceoff fundamentals as well. He is versatile, as he can help create off the rush or just go to the net and look to bang in a rebound on the doorstep. His play-making skill is his best offensive asset as he sees the ice well and can thread a pass through tight space. On the other hand, his shot selection and willingness to fire the puck are both below average. During one-on-one scrum battles, he tries to ensure that he keeps his body between the defender and the puck. Somppi blocks passing and shooting lanes with his body and stick. He's quite mature in his thinking, but could mature a bit more physically. His quick decision making will make him a trusted player among coaches. While Somppi is a fine support player for an offensively minded linemate at this level, we see the defensive subtleties of his game as the characteristic that will get him furthest as a pro player.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Center

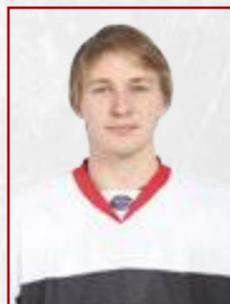


108

TY RONNING**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Vancouver (WHL)****BORN: October 20, 1997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 31 G 28 A 59 PTS 18 PIM**

Ronning, the son of former NHLer Cliff, is an offensive-minded forward just like his father. He is an explosive, wide-based skater who is able to quickly drive lanes and exploit mistakes on the ice. When he sees an opening, he uses his powerful first step to turn on the jets and jump to the attack, showing a great compete level around loose pucks. He complements this speed and shiftiness with great hands and solid intelligence. Ronning is a slippery player who can operate with the puck at high speed. He is able to move the puck from side to side in an electric and elusive manner that makes it hard to strip the puck. He does a great job of recognizing his role in the offensive zone. Ronning sets up a lot from the half wall and into the corner, either making a pass and then driving hard to the net, or taking the puck himself. He knows how to bring defensemen in before dishing off and opening up space for teammates. Despite his lack of size and strength, Ronning is not afraid to go to the hard areas of the ice and uses his low center of gravity to slip off checks and free himself. He is able to get into the tough areas in front of the net to get some hard, quick wrist shots on net. He does not show the strength to be an impact player along the wall, but has the quickness and stick skill to create opportunities down low. Ronning has defensive issues that will need considerable attention, as he is pretty one-dimensional at this point in development. He has the compete level of a ravenous Chihuahua, but unfortunately, also the same strength.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger

**109****VLADISLAV SUKHACHYOV****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)****BORN: May 15, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 15 GP 1.89 GAA .930 SP**

A goaltender with really good reflexes and athleticism, Sukhachyov plays with a lot of confidence in his net and really challenges shooters actively around his crease. He is quite aggressive and stands fairly high in his crease, which gives the shooter less to shoot at. He reads, anticipates and follows the play extremely well, but tends to give away too many rebounds, although his competitiveness makes him hard to score against on subsequent shots because he never gives up. Sukhachyov is agile and flexible, and has developed his own twist to the butterfly/stand-up hybrid style he uses. He battles hard to see through traffic, and tracks the puck very well for a goalie of his stature. Sukhachyov makes some acrobatic saves that resemble that of a young Dominik Hasek; he very rarely lets a puck go unchallenged, regardless of what position he is in. Sukhachyov moves very quickly from post to post, and has a knack for deflecting the puck out of harm's way. While we believe the days of tiny stoppers like Darren Pang and Manny Legace are long gone, with the puck-blocking 6-foot-6 Dubnyks and 6-foot-7 Bishops taking over NHL creases in recent years, we do firmly believe there is still a place in the league for the average-sized athletic stopper. He is a very promising, athletic netminder, and could very well develop into a solid NHL prospect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Starting NHL Goaltender

**112****MITCHELL MATTSON****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Grand Rapids HS (USHS)****BORN: January 2, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 17 G 29 A 46 PTS 22 PIM**

Mattson is a big-framed forward who is still gangly like a newborn giraffe. While his foot speed is a little slow right now, his skating overall is a strength as he generates a long, powerful stride and cuts into the ice with his edges to make sharp cuts and turns. He has a good hard wrist shot, though he takes the puck wide when he should be using his size to his advantage, dropping his shoulder and taking it to the net. But, he chooses to be a perimeter player. Mattson has a very strong one-timer and goal-scorer's instincts. When he moves his feet on the forecheck, he can use his large frame and reach to force turnovers. He has good vision, and some playmaking creativity in his game. Mattson can be frustrating to watch because he has size that can't be taught and is a gifted skater, but just gets so little done. He floats through the neutral zone and circles way too often in situations that call for starts and stops. Mattson can be about as invisible as any skilled 6-foot-4 forward can be. He does have an intriguing mix of tools that make him a long-term project who still needs to put it all together. Mattson makes himself available away from the puck and puts himself in places to get solid scoring chances, but at the USHL level, he had a few issues completing those chances. The kid has some strong upside, and would have better benefitted from playing the entire year in the USHL as opposed to splitting time between Bloomington and Grand Rapids H.S. He will be a power forward with potential to put up points, but the extent of his impact remains to be seen.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Center

**110****MATTHEW CAIRNS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Georgetown (OJHL)****BORN: April 27, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 46 GP 9 G 24 A 33 PTS 42 PIM**

Cairns is a highly intelligent, two-way defender who impacts the game in all three zones. In his own zone, he shows excellent awareness and strong positional play. Using strong positioning and an active stick, he shows impressive contain with the ability to separate the player from the puck with relative ease. While he could stand to add more tenaciousness to his game, Cairns certainly does not shy away from engaging physically, however, he uses it more as a tool than an intimidation factor. In possession, he shows excellent poise and patience, and is a real calming presence. Cairns shows an ability to make a strong first pass, but also an ability to be an effective puckcarrying defender. A strong decision maker, he makes the smart play and rarely turns pucks over. Offensively, this rearguard sees the ice well, and shows an ability create from the back end by effectively creating shooting lanes and injecting himself into the play at the appropriate times. Boasting a powerful point shot, Cairns rarely winds up for a slap shot, but instead, gets pucks on net with a quick snap shot that comes with a ton of velocity and impressive accuracy. A defender that exudes confidence, he could easily fit into most OHL teams' top four defensively right now. He is a relatively low-upside player, but also a solid bet to play in the NHL with his skill set.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**113****BECK MALENSTYN****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Calgary (WHL)****BORN: February 4, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 70 GP 8 G 17 A 25 PTS 47 PIM**

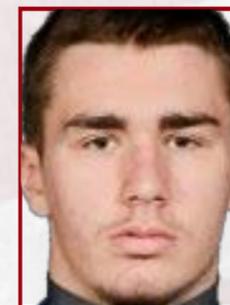
Malenstyn is a big-bodied forward who has great drive and speed in open ice. He looks pretty good on and off the puck, looking poised with the puck on his stick and able to create some meaningful chances. He uses his feet to create separation for himself and to pursue puck carriers on the forecheck. Malenstyn has good speed and handles his edges well, making him surprisingly agile for his size. He can handle the puck, although he doesn't have anything elite in his tickle trunk, but is confident to attack the tougher areas with the puck, using protection over quick dangles. His strength and reach make him a hard individual to knock the puck away from, as he does a pretty good job of keeping a shoulder up. He makes smart choices in choosing his passing lanes and likes the quick connecting play that will keep the puck going forward. His shot accuracy and velocity are literally hit or miss, but his release is solid as he gets it off in a blink. Malenstyn is an honest blue-collar skater who is a key member of any team's penalty kill. He's a smart guy who can get on top of a puck carrier without much notice. He has an ability to see plays develop and doesn't over-skate the play when using his speed to close gaps. Malenstyn has a really good stick that he gets into opponents' bubbles, and a compete level that has him lining bodies up and taking his guy off the puck. He has an ability to close gaps really quickly and is an honest hard worker who has some smarts. His forte is with his defensive skill, but he also shows a few sequences of convincing offensive flash per game. However, we don't think it will translate into much more than a complementary offensive role.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Character Center

**111****DYLAN WELLS****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Peterborough (OHL)****BORN: January 3, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 27 GP 4.57 GAA .871 SP**

Wells is an intermediate-sized goalie who moves fluidly in the crease. He is a kid who has had an up and down season so far. He tracks the puck very well, something that is enhanced with his excellent positioning and his ability to follow and anticipate the play in front of him. Wells is very calm and does not show any signs of panic or distress, even when facing heavy traffic. He looks poised and confident on every save. Wells gets square to the shot rather quickly and cuts the area of the net that the shooter sees. He displays quick flexibility to get stretched out to make a save, also showing how he gets his legs stretched to the post to close the space on the ice and down low. He plays well in the butterfly and looks good hopping up and down quickly. Strong lateral movements up and down allow him to make saves that he wouldn't otherwise be able to. Wells' glove appears to be positioned down and in, not covering much of the net and forcing him to pull it up and out to get it ready to make the save; it's something he will need to correct. With that said, he has made some good, surprising, flashy glove saves this season. He uses his blocker and stick well to deflect pucks to the corner, showing good reflexes to do so. While he has been hit or miss on his performance as the backup with the Petes this season, he did play well for Canada at the Ivan Hlinka Tournament last August and also again during his time at the CHL Top Prospects Game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender

**114****EGOR RYKOV****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: SKA St. Petersburg (KHL)****BORN: April 14, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 10 GP 0 G 1 A 1 PTS 0 PIM**

Rykov is a smooth-skating, two-way blueliner who stands out moving the puck in transition. Quick feet and agility are an asset, allowing him to get to the puck quickly to grab it and make a play or just clear it out of danger. On the breakout, he sees the ice in front of him well as he looks for his options. Rykov does a good job of separating from forecheck pressure to dish the puck to his man exiting the zone, helping to spark the rush and push the play up ice. He will pinch from the point to add support or skate the puck down low himself if open ice is there. Rykov uses his body to adjust to his check in order to maintain possession as he protects it along the outside. Defensively, he uses his long reach effectively in removing the puck from the man and playing him close with strong gap control; he will drive the puck carrier to the outside to eliminate the time and space he has to work with. Rykov has solid physicality, but he tends to get too aggressive from time to time. He has very strong lateral movements, especially with the puck on the power play as he moves along the blueline to set up for a pass or shot. Rykov has some decent velocity to go with a very accurate wrist shot that he can get through traffic and on net. He shows very good vision and instincts in both ends of the ice, which allows him to find success. He's big, he's strong and he plays with force and power, showing the consistent ability to execute the little plays. Rykov is a guy who still has two years left on his Russian contract, so he might not be that high on NHL teams' lists, but based on ability alone, he should hear his name called in his second year of eligibility.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**115****EVAN CORMIER****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Saginaw (OHL)****BORN: November 6, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 48 GP 3.72 GAA .890 SP**

Cormier is a big butterfly goaltender who is adept at making clutch saves in close with his quick legs and impressive flexibility. Not often do you see a goaltender who is as flexible and solid in the sprawl as he is. He reminds us a lot of Pittsburgh's hot young stopper Matthew Murray. Cormier controls the play with his anticipation and mobility, which also allows him to make a few saves he has no business making. He can let a few second or even third chances out there into the slot, but he is a competitor who never gives up on a rebound and forces himself into position to make the save. Benefiting from his large frame, Cormier has an excellent push off that allows him to go post-to-post very quickly, deflating opposition opportunities behind the net and in the cycle. With that, however, he can also lose his net when opponents get him moving around his crease. His more than reliable glove hand can stymie even the best of the opposing team's snipers. Cormier gets up and down quick, covering a good portion of the net, and tracks the puck exceptionally well. He is raw in some areas, but is a real competitor and someone who can easily work on his weaknesses. Cormier is a player we are sure will get a lot of attention at the NHL Draft due to his strong future potential.

NHL POTENTIAL: Projected NHL Starting Goaltender

**116****JONATHAN ANG****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Peterborough (OHL)****BORN: January 31, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 160 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 21 G 28 A 49 PTS 44 PIM**

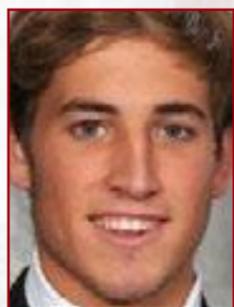
Ang is a responsible two-way, speedy and smart center who plays an all-situations game. He produced inconsistent offensive results this season, but did show a few highlight-reel worthy offensive plays. Determined and hard-working in all situations, he anticipates well on the penalty kill, utilizing his agility and explosive feet to cut down lanes. Offensively, the kid is constantly moving to open space and goes to the net, but gets knocked around a little due to his lack of size and strength. Ang possesses quick acceleration and can gain top speed in a hurry. When driving up ice with the puck, he can generate tremendous speed. He has soft hands and he keeps his head up off the rush so he can step around defenders or find teammates in stride. Ang doesn't get much power behind his shots, but he does find his spots. He likes to lightly chip the puck up high when in close. Ang is a little hesitant to take a hit, but he does show a willingness to use his body to muscle opponents off the puck. He is a very aware center who thinks the game at a high level, seeing lanes develop and knowing where he needs to be. His passes are hard and on-point, but sometimes are too hot for his teammates to handle. Defensively, he picks up his man and helps out below the hash marks or on the wall, digging for the puck in battles. He needs to add some strength if he's really going to impose himself offensively.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Forward

**117****DAVID QUENNEVILLE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Medicine Hat (WHL)****BORN: March 13, 1998****VITALS: 5'-8" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 14 G 41 A 55 PTS 30 PIM**

Quenneville plays a competitive and gritty game for his size. A smooth, deceptive skater, he will not blow anyone away with outright foot speed, but rather has an elusive style that gets him where he needs to be. He's very silky in his turns and is balanced laterally. Quenneville thinks the game through and picks his poison well. He likes to make that long transition pass and then jump into the rush as a supporting player. He possesses good hand-eye coordination to corral pucks, and delivers hard or soft pass on the tape. His handling of the puck has upside, but he needs to be a little stronger on the puck and not take chances when he is the last guy coming out of his zone. Quenneville has a hard-packed shot and has the quickness to get pucks through closing lanes. He can be a physical presence in defensive situations, stepping up to lay the body or crush an opponent along the wall. He can be a little too much of a stick-oriented defender who would rather use vision, speed and skill to pick an opponent clean instead of consistently closing off lanes with his balance frame. Quenneville has trouble boxing out bigger foes in front of the net and, hence, can get himself into penalty trouble with his stick work. He has very impressive vision and ability to see where his best option is to pinch for a chance. He communicates with his teammates and doesn't get too worked up about anything.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle -Six Two-Way Defenseman

**118****JOSEPH MASONIUS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: University of Connecticut (NCAA)****BORN: February 17, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 6 G 15 A 21 PTS 40 PIM**

Masonius is a blueliner who uses his strength and physicality to his advantage time and time again. He has confidence with the puck on the breakout and he loves to join the rush, skating with the puck and passing it off when he sees an opening. His passes are sharp, leading his man right on their tape. Masonius also loves to fire the puck and does so with his heavy slap shot every time he gets the puck on his stick at the point and he has an open lane to the net. He has the wheels and confidence to control the puck. Masonius is also aggressive in the offensive zone, pinching deep to retrieve the puck or for a backdoor scoring opportunity. He sees open ice and gets to it to open up options for his teammates with the puck. He likes to step up and deliver a check if his opponent is vulnerable. Masonius battles hard along the wall and to clear out the front of the net. He sees checks out of his peripherals and takes his time to safely dish the puck before willingly absorbing the check. Defensively, he pushes his man to the outside with strong stick and body positioning. He has good gap control thanks to his anticipation and solid backward skating; he digs in and can stop and change direction fairly quickly, allowing him to step forward to poke the puck off the stick or lay a bodycheck on his man. He had a good freshman year with UConn and should drum up NHL interest as a second-time eligible.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**119****REM PITLICK****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Muskegon (USHL)****BORN: April 2, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 46 G 43 A 89 PTS 74 PIM**

Pitlick is a quick winger who is absolutely all over the puck inside the offensive zone. He uses speed and agility to dart in and out of coverage with the puck and create chances. He catches your eye with his ability to move up and down the ice with speed, balance and strength on his edges. Pitlick has glue on his stick blade, and can really make some silky passes and skilled moves. He uses his quick hands to turn defenders around and break free. Pitlick has a stockier build and goes to the grittier areas to dig for the biscuit. The son of former NHLer Lance Pitlick, he has a pretty good wrist shot and takes a rip at the net whenever he can get a look. He's not much of a physical threat and will not go out of his way to play the body unless it will help him earn possession of the puck. Defensively, he has a ways to go as he will come back into his zone with the play, but rarely engages in defensive work, instead looking to his wingers to win battles before transitioning the play back to the offensive zone. For that, we feel a move to the wing would be wise. While he has already grown—adding four inches and putting on some 25 pounds of healthy weight—and matured into his body, he still needs to add some additional muscle during his time in the NCAA. The University of Minnesota commit was named the USHL Player of the Year this past season. We think he has top-line player upside and will eventually develop into a major point-producer in the professional game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Goal-Scoring Forward

**120****NIKITA MAKEYEV****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)****BORN: February 13, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 32 GP 6 G 11 A 17 PTS 40 PIM**

Makeyev is a smaller, stocky defenseman who loves to skate with the puck. He is extremely mobile on the ice and can control puck the puck as he moves through traffic. He has quick hands and sets up the offense with his solid passing ability, showing patience and good vision in doing so. Makeyev can make accurate, creative passes through sticks and legs, while not forcing the puck into dead ends. On the other side, he can also break up plays with his active stick; using it to pokecheck the puck off sticks or to cut shooting/passing lanes. His reads and comprehension of the game is very mature. While his size is a factor on his effectiveness, Makeyev does compete and shows great battle. Able to give and take hits despite his small frame, he is always the first player in the corner to pick up dumped and loose pucks. He uses his lateral mobility and lower center of gravity to step up and deliver some perfectly timed bodychecks. On the power play, Makeyev moves the puck very well—timed right and around the zone that opens lanes—moving quickly laterally to be an asset at the point. His shot does not have the booming power needed to make a major impact and be a real weapon from the point, but he does get it through lanes and on net. Sometimes, he can be a little too active defensively and pulls himself out of position, almost trying to do too much himself instead of trusting his teammates to take care of their responsibilities. He plays the game with some strong energy and leads by example.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



121

MAX ZIMMER**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Chicago (USHL)****BORN: October 29, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 16 G 21 A 37 PTS 14 PIM**

Zimmer is a dynamic and powerful skater who uses this ability to be an impact player at both ends of the ice. He has an incredible long and efficient stride, and can absolutely fly when he gets going. He's the kind of player who does not need to churn his feet to create speed. He gets low in the offensive zone and is constantly pressuring with his up-tempo style that wears down the defense in the cycle. Zimmer has a lot of creativity with his stick work and likes to carry the play. His speed and puck control are a dangerous combo. He is a playmaking forward who is elusive in transition. Zimmer displays great patience when being pressured by the opposition, and does not force many passes that result in turnovers. His shot is quick off of his stick, but lacks velocity. Away from the puck, he is effective as he is constantly moving his feet to get open for a scoring chance. He has good vision of the ice and anticipates plays well. Zimmer is no slouch in his own end either, supporting play down low and showing no fear of the physical battles that are key in gaining possession for his team. He's not a physical threat as he lacks strength and the in-your-face temperament. He is trusted in all defensive situations and is most offensively dangerous for a quick strike in and around the faceoff circles. Zimmer's best attribute is his skating as he covers large quantities of ice at high rates of speed.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Character Winger



124

DMITRI ALEXEYEV**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)****BORN: February 17, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 30 GP 3 G 7 A 10 PTS 8 PIM**

Alexeyev is an all-situations defender who thinks the game at a high level and makes quick decisions with the puck. Possessing solid passing ability, he is a pretty strong puck-moving defenseman, showing heady passing ability to help his team break out of their own zone and with the ability to get the puck where it needs to be efficiently. Used as the point man on the power play, Alexeyev possesses a hard, powerful shot that he gets his weight behind and gets on target. He reads the play well and will scoot into the high slot to receive the pass and get off a quick shot on goal. He also keeps his opponents guessing whether he is going to shoot or pass, and usually makes the best choice. His skating is a bit inefficient, but he can still produce some very good speed and uses it to his advantage in jumping up on the rush and adding an option or drawing defenders in. Alexeyev makes very quick decisions to advance the puck, making a crisp pass out of the zone or skating it out himself. He puts himself in good positions away from the puck, quickly getting into the defensive position of puck battles and anticipating the puck popping free. He can play physically despite his average frame and even showed off a few big, crushing hits with good technique this season. He makes the opposite forwards' life harder in front of the net and disturbs them with hacks or whacks of his stick. He likes to support the offense often, but must get stronger and quicker to consistently produce results in that role at the next level.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



122

DANIEL KUROVSKY**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Vitkovice U20 (Czech U20)****BORN: March 4, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 29 GP 19 G 17 A 36 PTS 34 PIM**

Kurovsky is a smooth-skating forward who plays an effective shutdown role, but also possesses some grit and offensive upside. He has a high motor, and always seems to be evaluating the play at a high level. Positioning and anticipation may be his strongest assets. Defensively, he is always in a good spot, putting himself in opponents' passing lanes and being effective closing off his competition along the boards. Kurovsky battles hard and works the puck around down low with ease. He makes good use of his stick, and his ability to turn quickly and transition make him a very viable option on the forecheck. Sometimes, he tries to do too much and can get himself into trouble. Kurovsky protects the puck well alongside the boards and behind the net. He positions himself in front of the net to screen point shots. Kurovsky sacrifices his body in the defensive zone to block shots. His shot could stand to improve and his hands too as they are not overly creative or skilled; his acceleration also needs to improve as, against more mobile and faster players, he struggles to keep up. Overall, he is big and athletic, and creates offense off the rush. Kurovsky will probably have more upside than the guys drafted around him.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



125

JAKE RYCZEK**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Waterloo (USHL)****BORN: March 19, 1998****VITALS: 5'-10" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 7 G 27 A 34 PTS 12 PIM**

Ryczek is a smart and active defenseman who jumps into the rush, but also is a steady presence in his own end. He reads the developing play well at the offensive line and jumps up when he can to knock pucks down and keep the play alive. He will join the rush as the focal puck carrier or support the play to provide a late option. He is a fairly unpredictable player, as it seems hard for opponents to react to what he was doing with the puck in different situations. He has good patience with the puck and a pretty good shot off the point as he moves to open up lanes. Ryczek has incredible vision and touch on his passes. His skating ability is strong and nimble, and he has powerful edges in all directions. He has very quick burst in small spaces for a defenseman. Ryczek has strong ability to rush the puck and get back to his position to take care of his responsibilities in timely fashion, rarely making any type of mistake. He isn't very big, but he holds his own in the defensive end. He's not a guy who wins all his physical battles, but he does engage and will be harder to handle as he adds more strength. He is a pretty good defensive guy who keeps pace thanks to an active stick and solid foot speed to keep gaps tight. The only issue here is his overall size and strength. Ryczek will need to put on some muscle and continue to better his skating to become an effective player at the next levels. This Providence College commit is a nice hybrid-type defender who is a bit raw, but has some intriguing upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



123

GRAHAM MCPHEE**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: July 24, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 20 GP 5 G 0 A 5 PTS 16 PIM**

McPhee is a solid two-way winger with strong hockey IQ and compete. He is a strong skater and covers a lot of ice in a short amount of time. He has very strong first strides and shows explosive acceleration in all directions. His leg strength allows him to be balanced on his skates, making him hard to knock off the puck. McPhee can really dangle the puck and has a knack for making defenders look silly. He also has a solid shot and a goal-scorer's release. McPhee plays a decent two-way game, backchecking a lot, never quitting on plays and showing a good work ethic. His play away from the puck in the offensive zone is outstanding as he is constantly moving, making it hard for opposing defenders to track him down. He opens ice for his linemates with his movement around the net. McPhee is a good mix of determination, skill and agility, and he is very effective at ragging the puck along the wall. He is also willing to use his frame to drive the net and has an excellent nose for the net, showing natural goal-scoring instincts. He is certainly a shoot-first player. He is also fairly raw defensively and his tendency to look for the home run play can lead to some turnovers. McPhee has a ways to go before he is the responsible and trusted player that he might become one day. He is definitely raw and he often tries to do too much, but he has undeniable NHL potential.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward



126

ANDREI SVETLAKOV**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: CSKA (KHL)****BORN: April 6, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 30 GP 7 G 3 A 10 PTS 14 PIM**

Svetlakov is a puck wizard who impressed us in each showing this season. He played in the CHL Canada-Russia Series in November and really caught our eye there, before reaffirming our thoughts with his play at the World Junior and again later in the season with CSKA of the KHL. He is a slick-skating center who has a good stick, makes skilled plays with his hands and can make a defender look foolish with a dangle while being lulled into puck-watching. He makes smart decisions with the puck, not trying to do too much and causing turnovers. Svetlakov has a very creative eye and can make some very impressive passing plays. While he is a solid playmaker, he is more of a natural finisher. He has a cracker release and can be very dangerous around the opposition's crease. While not a true bruiser, Svetlakov is not afraid to play with some physicality in his game, hacking and whacking after the whistle, stepping up for contact or using his body to separate the puck from his opponent along the wall. He also makes it a habit to drive to the net every chance he gets both with and without the puck. Svetlakov is strong on the forecheck and reliable defensively. He's highly skilled and creates his own chances. Svetlakov will be a highly sought after commodity, even if he has not expressed interest to come over and has recently signed a three-year extension on his KHL contract.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Center



127

MIKHAIL BERDIN**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)****BORN: March 1, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 22 GP 2.07 GAA .928 SP**

Berdin left a strong impression on us after his showing at the World Junior A Challenge as a prospect who was not really on our radar until that point. He is a very strong, quick netminder who absolutely loves to challenge shooters every chance he gets. He moves exceptionally well around his crease and pushes laterally with pure strength, challenges the shooters and makes key saves in the process. He constantly adjusts his body and head to improve his sight lines when tracking the puck. Berdin hates to be beat and will do everything in his power to make the save, cover the puck and fight for his space in his crease. He does a decent job of limiting the second chances given to the opposition. Berdin reacts well with his glove hand to extend it out and snatch the shot out of mid-air. He squares up quickly and gets his glove hand up and ready to make the save. He has good use of stick when he is out of it to make the stick save. He even shows off some flair for making a dramatic expression after he makes a big save. Berdin needs to be very careful that he does not make a habit of cheating off his angles or off his post when in tight for the save. He is a butterfly style goaltender who is able to take heavy workloads and actually gets better when he has to face a lot of shots. Otherwise, he has issues with consistency of focus and can be prone to letting a weaker shot by him.

NHL POTENTIAL: Starting NHL Goaltender



128

FRANTISEK HRDINKA**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Frolunda J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: March 2, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 17 GP 0 G 2 A 2 PTS 4 PIM**

Hrdinka is a smooth-skating defenseman who tries to contribute in all situations. A versatile, young defender, he makes a strong pass and regularly follows the drive to the net, opening up as a late option for a pass or decoy. He plays an overall mature game and is reliable to not committing many mistakes when he is under pressure from forecheckers in his own zone. Hrdinka stays calm, makes the right decisions in tricky situations and doesn't commit many giveaways. He joins the rush and tries to get involved offensively. Hrdinka is a very agile skater and possesses good lateral movement. He likes to enter the zone with a lot of speed while carrying the puck, and showing a decent combination of speed and stickhandling skills. He isn't a very physical player given his size, but he competes hard along the boards and plays the body very well. Hrdinka displays good awareness and positioning on the penalty kill, anticipating and reacting to the incoming play extremely well. He does a good job of closing the gap and pushing the attacker to the outside at just the right time. He is a quick-thinking, proactive defender who calmly distributes under pressure. We like what he brings to the table and he shows that he can potentially be a threat in all three zones.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

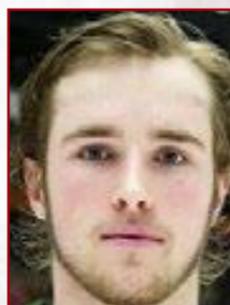


129

ZAK ZBOROSKY**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kootenay (WHL)****BORN: October 15, 1996****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 58 GP 32 G 36 A 68 PTS 31 PIM**

Zborosky has slippery offensive style that is focused around puck possession and speed. He has the quick acceleration to create a gap and the vision to make plays happen. He is a strong puck-distributor who is pretty good at finding the open man. Zborosky has some skilled hands and can dippy doodle when necessary to get around opponents' defensive efforts. While he isn't always perfect when trying to do things individually, he is very effective when processing the play at a quick pace. He has shown a higher compete level and an astounding growth in confidence when carrying the play into potential battle grounds. Zborosky has and will get tossed around at times, but he has gained the tools to protect himself and maintain possession better than in the past. Away from the puck, he shows that he is willing to fulfill obligations and shows awareness on defense. We are impressed with his anticipation of the play in his own end, and his effort to get into lanes or to make a last-second play to break up a play. His physical play isn't really there yet, but he would continuously bounce back when experiencing the grind game. Vast improvements have been made to his game since he was passed over in the draft a year ago. Due to substantial personnel losses, Zborosky has been cast into a leadership role and the go-to offensive gun on a rebuilding Kootenay squad. He is an offensive guy who competes.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Winger



130

TIM WAHLGREN**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: MODO J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: March 8, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 20 G 25 A 45 PTS 55 PIM**

Wahlgren is a playmaker with strong skating and soft hands. With his great mobility, he often quickly changes direction and gets past opponents, making him hard to stop. He has great puck control, able to pull off some slick moves, and uses them with his vision to find his teammates on the ice. Wahlgren prefers passing the puck over shooting it himself, even though he has a dangerously quick shot release. He has the ability to read plays and is very calm with the puck, not making many poor decisions. He has no problems delivering both short- and long-rang passes, and he has the ability to get pucks through lanes. He also proved that he can accept passes and has a good wrist shot. He does play a physical game, although inconsistently, as he throws his body around on the forecheck, but he does tend to use his skating and stick rather than his muscle and brawn. He has good hockey sense, shows the ability to read the opposition and steps up into lanes as he intercepts the puck. Wahlgren is strong on the forecheck and plays harder than anyone else on the ice. Although he is more offensive minded, he has no problem covering for his defensemen and helping them out in situations deep in the defensive zone where they might need support. He handles his defensive responsibility well.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center



131

MATTHEW BOUCHER**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Quebec (QMJHL)****BORN: December 17, 1997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 30 G 30 A 60 PTS 93 PIM**

Boucher is a hard-working player who wants to win every battle and be a contributor on the score sheet. Although he doesn't have great size, he's a sturdy player with some solid core strength who plays hard along the boards. He wins battles and is good on the draw. Boucher plays in all situations—even strength, power play and penalty kill—and is a key part of Quebec's offense. His hands are quick, but also a bit choppy. He is decisive with the puck and doesn't hang onto it too long. Boucher could work on smoothing out his skating. He is able to reach a top straightline speed eventually, but his stride is a little disjointed. With two hands on his stick, he cradles his arms and swings them back and forth "pitchfork style," wasting energy. He hops a bit too much in his stride as well, slowing down his foot speed. His crossovers, however, are strong and he is balanced due to his center of gravity. Despite his small stature, Boucher is not afraid to go in the dirty areas and has a strong shot with a quick release that is dangerous from the circles on in. On the penalty kill, he is not scared to put his body in the shooting lanes, but sometimes, he commits himself too quickly, giving a lot of space for defenders to walk around him. Boucher is the son of Remparts GM/Head Coach Philippe Boucher, a former 6-foot-3 NHL defenseman, which leads us to believe he still has some growth left in his frame. He was used as a winger and a center at different times of the season, but we like him better off the wing.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



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NICHOLAS CAAMANO**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Flint (OHL)****BORN: September 7, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 20 G 17 A 37 PTS 40 PIM**

Caamano is a decent two-way winger who is able to make solid plays in all three zones. He is a good skater, taking long, smooth strides, and can be hard to stop once up to full speed. He also possesses quick bursts and is quite effective on his feet. Caamano displays good speed down the wing to get into a passing lane on the attack, helping to provide solid options on the outlet. Strong on his skates, Caamano is able to push off defenders down low and when driving to the net, keeping the puck out of reach. He has the ability and creativity to make strong passing plays on the attack. The knock on him is that he often puts his head down when he tries to manage and control the puck. Although accurate, his shot would benefit if he were to get stronger and get a little more juice behind it. In the defensive zone, Caamano has a good, active stick, and his positioning on the penalty kill, keeping lanes clear and the shooters to the outside, are strengths. He has a tendency to occasionally be too aggressive on the penalty kill and can get caught chasing the puck. He adapts very well on the backcheck to pick up missed assignments and/or adjust his positioning when others are caught behind. He puts in the effort on the backcheck and has a noticeable commitment in the defensive zone. He has a nose for the net and a blossoming scoring touch. He shows no fear of getting to the front of the net and parking himself there, getting set and ready for a pass or a potential deflection. Caamano is a player who could develop into a solid bottom of the lineup player who can play many roles and provide secondary scoring.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



133

MAXIM LAZAREV**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Cape Breton (QMJHL)****BORN: January 29, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 30 G 45 A 75 PTS 10 PIM**

Lazarev is a diminutive, but silky smooth, offensive contributor who can dish a creative pass or snipe a goal equally well. He's got some explosiveness in his skating stride as he gets nice and low, and looks to drive to where he wants to go. He has strong lateral agility and edge work. His hands are just fantastic, taking the puck into the busiest areas of the ice and controlling it well. As noted, Lazarev is very creative getting himself into strong position. Once there, he has a dangerously quick release on his shot that is both accurate and hard. He does not need much room to get a shot off from in close either. He plays with a high level of energy, and he is a constant threat on the forecheck, buzzing around the ice often mixing things up after the whistle. He's not very physical, but does not shy away from that stuff either as he will play through it if his opponent brings that game to him. Lazarev does not show much consistency on defense, but his work ethic seems to be a standout part of his game, even away from the puck. Overall, his size hurts him, as does the fact that he has gone through the draft twice already. However, we feel he has some offensive skill to potentially add to a NHL team's top six and should be in consideration, especially in a year when the later rounds get a little weaker in talent.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger



134

KASPER BJORKQVIST**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: July 10, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 45 GP 28 G 38 A 66 PTS 32 PIM**

Bjorkqvist is a forward who possesses a mature frame and uses it extremely well to protect the puck wherever he is on the ice. With good trunk strength combined with hands and head fakes, he is able to enter the offensive zone and get past the opposing defensemen. He is not limited to dekes with his size and strength as many others his age are; he can barrel his way through if need be and maintain position in the most dangerous and gritty areas of the ice. Bjorkqvist is very conscious defensively, but is also inconsistent as he covers his man in the defensive zone as he does not follow that up with much support to his teammates. The Finnish forward executes simple passes consistently and has a really accurate shot that he can beat tenders with when allotted too much space off the rush. Bjorkqvist delivers a pretty steady presences and doesn't make many glaring mistakes. On the power play, he is used at the point to take shots, which is where a lot of his offensive production came from this year. His shot, although accurate, could be improved velocity- and release-wise, making him more dangerous. His skating is considered average or just below as he lacks explosiveness in his stride. Offensively, he lacks creativity and high-end skills to ever be considered a potential point-producer.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Winger



135

MATTHEW PHILLIPS**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Victoria (WHL)****BORN: May 6, 1998****VITALS: 5'-6" / 140 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 37 G 39 A 76 PTS 16 PIM**

Phillips is a tiny, but intelligent playmaker with elite offensive capability. He processes the speed of the game very well and operates well when in motion. He is a quick, shifty skater who brings agility, acceleration and the power to escape a check in a blink. He is a very patient player with skilled mitts who is great at anticipating plays and adjusting to produce a better vantage point. Phillips can handle the puck at speed and in traffic. He has a good feel for the type of play he needs to make and adjusts his velocity on his passes to find his teammate's stick. He has a quick release on his shot and is pin-point accurate with his snipes. Phillips has nice finish around the net, and knows how to beat goaltenders and opposing defensemen with skill and smarts. Phillips forgoes high-risk individual play to work with teammates, unlike what you see from some highly skill forwards. His play away from the puck is a lot less desirable as he can be wiped out of a play if he doesn't have his feet moving constantly. Phillips' play in the defensive end features some good support, but due to his lack of size and strength, he has difficulty when engaging opponents. His speed combines exceptionally well with his offensive hockey sense, and he's got a real knack for creating opportunities with his skilled playmaking ability for himself and his linemates. He makes those who share the ice with him better players.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Center



136

MATT GOSIEWSKI**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Cedar Rapids (USHL)****BORN: May 10, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 7 G 6 A 13 PTS 6 PIM**

Gosiewski is a big power forward who has impressive straightline speed for a big man. He will never be a guy who goes end-to-end or make many highlight-reel rushes; instead, he plays a prototypical power game. He has long legs and although quickness isn't his forte, a long, sweeping stride helps him cover the ice surface and get to where he's going speed wise. Once he gets those feet going and starts moving, he is hard to contain. Gosiewski likes to carry the puck down low and possess it until he can find a passing outlet or a lane to take the puck to the net. He takes a smart approach to passing the puck and delivers sharp passes from short range. The knock on him carrying the play is that he needs to be more responsible with the puck. While he's not a bad puckhandler, there's a higher probability of him turning it over when he tries to get too crafty, and not just use his strength and reach advantage to carry it through checks. Defensively, he also uses an active stick, but positively in the defensive zone and follows the play well, using good body position to make himself effective in defending. He has a long way to go in his development before we see the finished product, but he will have plenty of time at Harvard to work it out.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Power Forward



137

JORDAN SAMBROOK**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Erie (OHL)****BORN: April 11, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 9 G 18 A 27 PTS 40 PIM**

Sambrook is an all-situations defender who shows off his versatility nearly every shift. He is a strong backward skater as he digs in and makes good use of edges, adding more to each push and stride. His pivots are smooth, quick and effective; however, he can get beat to the inside as he pivots to keep up with his man. He makes a strong first pass on the breakout to his man in the neutral zone, getting the puck through the lane with urgency. When the long outlet isn't available, Sambrook has the sense to know he needs to make the short and simple passes to move the puck forward. He's not one to drive forward in possession as he makes that hard outlet pass, instead limiting his overall offensive impact and potential. When he is manning the point, he makes good reads and knows when it is best to pinch and keep the puck in the zone, getting it to his man in the corner. He uses his reach very well on the outside as he defends the attacker on entry, using his reach to limit the gap and swipe the puck off the stick when he is able to do so effectively. In retrieval, Sambrook needs to be careful he doesn't get too comfortable and unaware of a man coming behind him. There were a few plays this season when he got complacent with a slow retrieval and lost foot races for pucks as he didn't realize the man was coming on. This third-pairing D-man on a deep Otters squad is a raw, underrated defender who has good upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



138

JACOB BRYSON**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Omaha (USHL)****BORN: November 18, 1997****VITALS: 5'-9" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 3 G 28 A 31 PTS 36 PIM**

Bryson is a smaller, but highly skilled, defenseman who is effective in both the offensive and defensive zones. He is an above-average skater and displays strong ability to get back into correct position after jumping up on the attack or when retreating after pinching in from the blueline. He is quick and agile, able to dart laterally and skate around defenders or forecheckers. His hands are ultra-quick and creative with the puck. Bryson can quickly deke past his check at the point and cruise in closer to the net for a better look. He has a strong shot with little wind up, and gets it through lanes and on net. Bryson has solid vision and keeps his head up, scoping out his options and delivering strong passes. His passing accuracy is inconsistent and he sometimes goes for the risky, creative play instead of the safe play. Defensively, he is a smaller-framed defenseman who compensates for his lack of size with his tenacity, sense of urgency and ability to quickly advance the puck out of his zone. Bryson can be hard to beat along the wall, and has a rather strong defensively active stick. His ability to pokecheck the puck off the attacker, dead ending the attack, is efficient and impressive. He compensates for his size with his mobility and stick play. He has the ability to generate and create scoring chances, and is extremely solid and hard to beat on the back end.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Offensive Defenseman



139

JD GREENWAY**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: April 27, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 2 G 8 A 10 PTS 8 PIM**

Greenway is a big-bodied defender who has fantastic physical tools, plays sound defense and has some offensive skills. He is an above-average skater with a long, powerful stride, and is surprisingly light on his feet. He has a long wingspan that gives him the potential to be an imposing and disruptive defensive force. Greenway is physical and shows an ability to separate the attacker from the puck. He is a little susceptible to attacks with a lot of lateral movement and can also get a bit lost on which man to cover on the cycle. However, overall, it is clear that the defensive end is his comfort zone. Offensively, he shows little interest in pushing the pace with the exception of what seems like his single token rush up ice with the puck once per game. He does have some skills with the puck, but zero confidence to use them on a consistent basis. His decision-making with the puck on his stick leaves a lot to be desired and he generally seems uncomfortable when under pressure. His passes are inconsistent and he hesitates to shoot the puck, even when the opportunity is right there. Greenway has some tantalizing physical tools, however, his understanding of the game needs improvement. We fear the one thing that will keep him from becoming an impact player at the NHL level is his IQ and that he will struggle with the speed of the game as he moves to higher levels. He certainly has NHL-ready physical tools, but his hockey mind isn't up to snuff.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Defensive Defenseman



142

CAMERON ASKEW**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Moncton (QMJHL)****BORN: May 13, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 32 G 33 A 65 PTS 45 PIM**

Askeew is a big winger who is willing to get his nose dirty and do the heavy lifting on a line. He is noticeably strong on his feet and uses his size to protect the puck well. What really stands out with this guy is his physical presence as he plays an aggressive style and is in the faces of the opposing players as often as possible, which is always great to see coming from a big man. Not only does he use his size well, Askeew also has very good hands for a big guy and puts them on display in each game with some nice give-and-goes or by pulling a quick deke to generate some added space. He has the ability to let a dangerous wrist shot go in-stride. He also possesses a bullet snapshot with great release. His speed is solid, but his skating will be something that he will need to work on if he wants to be effective at the next level. He consistently wins battles down low and in the corners by muscling his man off the puck or by using his big body to protect the puck. Askeew has some solid hockey sense and is defensively responsible, always picking up his man on the backcheck and reading where to be in defensive coverage. He also makes himself available as an outlet to aid in the transition game. He can play center and is solid at the dot as he uses his strength and tenacity to win draws. This second-time eligible kid has all of the tools to be a very good pro player, although he not projected to be a scorer.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



140

NICK PASTUJOV**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: January 21, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 21 GP 3 G 5 A 8 PTS 22 PIM**

Pastujov is primarily a goal-scoring forward, but with some reliable two-way abilities. He possesses quick acceleration and dangerous top-end speed. He controls the puck well and shows great poise in possession. Pastujov shows over and over that he will do anything in his power to get the puck to the net, whether that is passing or shooting. He has the ability to find the back of the net with a quick wrist shot and pinpoint accuracy on his shot. The release of his shot really catches goalies off guard and he has proven that he will shoot from anywhere on the ice. He is slippery and has the ability to beat defenders in one-on-one situations with slick hands. The University of Michigan commit is also skilled at laying a solid pass on the tape of a teammate in scoring position. Pastujov is not afraid to throw his body at opponents, often challenging them with tenacity. The Bradenton, Florida, native is also strong in the defensive zone, taking proper routes, closing off lanes and battling hard for possession. While he will likely never become a big point-producer as a pro, we believe he will not have a problem transitioning to the next level, and will eventually be a top-nine guy who will likely step into a similar role as the one he played for the NTDP after his time at Michigan. He has proven that he can be heavily trusted in the defensive zone and has a real knack for getting pucks to the net.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger



143

ONDREJ NAJMAN**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Jihlava U20 (Czech U20)****BORN: January 30, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 38 GP 18 G 26 A 44 PTS 30 PIM**

Najman is a solid all-around winger who contributes on both sides of the puck. He is a good skater, not incredibly fast, but is hard to knock off of the puck. He makes a lot of quick give-and-go short passes to keep the game moving fast as he plays at a quick pace. Najman finds his teammates with precise passes all over the ice. He is not just a solid playmaker, even though that aspect of his game is strong, but his offensive game without the puck is another thing that stands out. Has a great shot that is hard for goaltenders to pick up off the release and it has solid velocity. He is also not afraid to shoot it whenever he sees a lane or opportunity. Najman has solid positioning and is almost always in the right spot to help out his linemates or receive a pass in open space. He shows great stickhandling one on one, and can beat multiple defenders on zone entries or driving to the net. He protects the puck well, covering the puck with his body or loose hand, keeping it out of reach by extending his stick. We like his board battle as he is not afraid to go to the gritty areas and is very successful at coming out with possession more often than not. Najman is defensively solid, playing tight to his man and making his life really hard. He is good in the faceoff circle and wins the majority of important draws. He plays a very solid penalty kill and is effective at shutting down shooting and passing lanes. Najman can go through some stretches of ineffectiveness, but is a solid project for an NHL team.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



141

CONNOR HALL**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kitchener (OHL)****BORN: February 25, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 2 G 7 A 9 PTS 49 PIM**

Hall is a physical, defensive-minded blueliner. He gets into the face of his man in all areas, playing him especially tight in and around the net. He is competitive, playing physical on the wall and mixing it up after the whistle in an attempt to knock his opponents off their game. Hall could add more power to his lower body, ultimately improving his overall game, though this will come with time in the weight room. He displays some offensive instincts as he pinches to the slot providing a pass option. However, when the puck doesn't come, he wastes no time in turning back and retreating to his position. Hall communicates nice and loud in the defensive zone, and can be heard on the other side of the rink. He sees developing plays well and is fairly quick to react or point out to his backcheckers where to go. Hall uses his stick very well in angling the man to the outside, where he can either get his stick on the puck or finish the check and remove the man from the puck. He is quick reacting to pull behind the net and lend support in puck battles, then fish the puck out and turn it up ice in a matter of seconds. His passes are crisp and leading for the most part. Hall has some puck-moving ability, though it isn't anything he forms his game around. This will be a positive at the next level as he plays a solid shut-down game with the ability to make a solid first pass.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Physical Defensive Defenseman



144

JOONA KOPPANEN**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ilves U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: February 25, 1998****VITALS: 6'-5" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 40 GP 9 G 17 A 26 PTS 14 PIM**

Koppanen is a true power forward with excellent size and reach. He loves to lay the big hit and will be a load once he adds some extra mass to his lanky frame. Has tremendous vision and makes plays that make you think he has eyes in the back of his head. He applies good speed and pressure on the forecheck, making opponents pay for slow decision-making by crushing them with a check. Koppanen gets to the right places on the rush and sneaks into lanes to provide an option for the outlet. He can carry the puck himself, but more often, defers to the quicker linemate. He really has the ability to take control of the game when he wants to, though commitment and drive are traits we would like him to show more of on a consistent basis. While his effort on the backcheck is noticeable, Koppanen can also tend to float around the ice at times and not be fully engaged. When he is on his game, he is strong on the puck, but has a tendency to slow down his speed and look down at the puck when skating it up ice. He possesses long skating strides that allow him to reach respectable, but not burner-type, speeds. Also, when he is engaged, he can be pretty impressive chipping the puck into the zone, outflanking his facing defenseman and overpowering or outreaching him in the ensuing puck battle to retrieve it before turning his possession into a scoring opportunity.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward



145

NOLAN STEVENS**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Northeastern University (NCAA)****BORN: July 22, 1996****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 20 G 22 A 42 PTS 10 PIM**

Stevens is a hard-working winger who doesn't have a lot of flash, but is heavy on his stick and hard on the puck. He uses his size well to shield and protect the puck, and he is able to carry it deep into the offensive zone. He doesn't have the hands of a wizard and is very simple with the puck on his stick, but he uses his strength and average skating ability to carry the puck along the outside and gain entrance into the offensive zone. Stevens isn't the fastest skater, but he does appear to have a decent stride and he builds on his speed as he progresses up the ice. He is able to distribute the puck, and he shows some passing skills on the transition and off the rush. He shows off a decent wrist shot, but it is nothing special. He goes to the net and looks for tips and/or rebounds. He is strong down low and he uses his body to be a force along the boards. Stevens can still add plenty of extra muscle to his frame, but he is strong for a 6-foot-2, 185-pound kid. He is reliable defensively, as he gives a strong effort and shows a willingness to get his body in front of shots to make a defensive play. Over the past couple of seasons, he has improved his intensity and effort from. The son of L.A. Kings Associate Coach John Stevens, he seemed like a longshot, but after putting up 20 goals as a sophomore at Northeastern, he could be another project that develops into a decent bottom-six player or better.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Hard-Working Winger



148

ADAM BROOKS**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Regina (WHL)****BORN: May 6, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 38 G 82 A 120 PTS 30 PIM**

Brooks is a smaller forward who took huge strides forward as a '96 this year. He has great offensive smarts, and the hands and vision to exploit opportunities. He gets to the right spots in the offensive zone for both shooting opportunities as well as to take the pressure off his teammates by making himself available for a pass. He's not a flashy guy, but more of the calm, calculated offensive force. Brooks is blessed with high-end vision and the ability to fit pucks through the smallest of lanes. He uses his quick feet in tandem with his quick hands to explode through the tightest of lanes and generate separation to make a play. He will go into the gritty traffic areas, but is by no means a rough and tough player. Brooks is not a guy who just gives effort in the offensive zone as he has developed his defensive awareness over the past couple seasons. He is a player we have liked in the last two years, despite him struggling to stay in Regina's top nine. But after being given a top-line role, he has really picked up his scoring. He was the WHL's leading scorer and he plays a relentless two-way game. If he was a little bit bigger, we would have no doubts about him going inside the top three rounds, but for now, he is a later project guy.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Center



146

RILEY STILLMAN**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)****BORN: March 9, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 62 GP 6 G 15 A 21 PTS 69 PIM**

Stillman, son of former NHLer Cory, is a do-it-all type of rearguard. He possesses a strong and quick first step that puts him ahead of the game. He has some quick feet and reads the transition very well away from the puck. He is quick to tie up his man in the defensive zone, boxing him out with his back or his stick at the backdoor. He isn't shy to play physically, taking out the puck carrier with a hard hip check or stepping into his man along the wall. Stillman makes good decisions under pressures, dishing a strong pass or getting a low shot off right as the check approaches. He makes good decisions about when to take the puck for a skate; he does so with confidence, deking a defender when needed or just chipping it past and depending on his support. Stillman shows great vision in transition, seeing lanes develop and seaming crisp passes through them. He makes a good, quick first pass to the man on the wall to start the breakout. Defensively, he holds the blueline with effectiveness and forces the opposition to the low percentage areas. A player who injects himself physically at the appropriate times, Stillman shows strong contain along with an active and effective stick, and a willingness to block shots and take a hit to make a play. He really started to come on halfway through the year as he gained confidence and ice time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



149

CASEY STAUM**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Hill Murray (USHS)****BORN: January 8, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 12 GP 3 G 4 A 7 PTS 4 PIM**

Staum is a complete defenseman, though we'd call him an offensive-defenseman before a defensive guy. He loves to carry the puck from behind his own goal through neutral ice into the attacking zone. While that won't always work at the next level, he does have the smarts to make a strong tape-to-tape breakout pass when coverage dictates. He's an excellent skater with a smooth stride and moves well in all four directions. Staum utilizes his excellent edge work to effortlessly maneuver around would-be checkers through the neutral zone. He quarterbacks a good power play, getting shots through and finding teammates' sticks for tips and redirects. While he prefers to rely on his strong stick in the defensive end, Staum does not hesitate to engage physically. However, he can tend to find trouble by looking to make huge hits, which takes him out of the play. He sees the ice very well and always has his head up. He has a lanky frame with plenty of room to add muscle. Staum committed to Nebraska Omaha recently. He missed over half the season with a broken foot, but returned to lead Hill Murray in the section playoffs. He returned to high school this year as he was voted captain and wanted to lead the Pioneers back to the state tournament. That obviously did not happen, but it speaks volumes of his character and team spirit. Staum is a steady presence who logs huge minutes on the back end in all situations.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



147

TRAVIS BARRON**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)****BORN: August 17, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 60 GP 13 G 24 A 37 PTS 26 PIM**

Barron is a gritty, two-way winger who is not afraid to do the heavy lifting on a scoring line. He's not the most efficient skater as he holds his stick with two hands and practically rows his arm as he tries to hit top speed. He does generate some decent speed, but he could use another gear and better jump to get away from his check and to create some space on the rush. Barron takes his time with the puck and can dish soft passes, hitting his man with a leading pass with great timing. He shows that he can receive a pass at high speed in the neutral zone and continue on without losing his speed. He shows some skill with a quick little handle of the puck to pull it in and release a shot on net, maintaining solid accuracy and velocity on his shot in full flight. He loves to unload one-timers while in movement, though he can be hit or miss (pun intended). Barron battles hard for chances and will get his nose dirty around the doorstep of the opposition's net as he looks to bang home a rebound. He applies good back pressure in the neutral zone to strip opponents of the puck and turn it back into the offensive zone. Barron shows a strong physical element, finishing his checks in the neutral zone and all across the ice, working hard and making his presence known. Consistency has been an arguing point with Barron as some feel he does not compete consistently enough from shift to shift.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Nine Character Winger

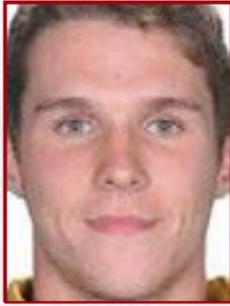


150

GREG PRINTZ**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: South Kent 18U (USHS)****BORN: May 4, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 26 GP 23 G 27 A 50 PTS 60 PIM**

Printz is a big, powerful winger who physically dominates in the trenches and in traffic. He plays with a high tempo and solid amounts of speed, which he uses to drive the puck to the net. His skating stride has some issues as he needs to improve his agility and his first few steps, and play more of a start-and-stop type of game to increase his effectiveness. While not an overly creative prospect who will beat you with his skilled hands, Printz can make a power move, protecting the puck while moving around defenders using his strength and reach. Or, he is able to release a strong shot in mid-flight down the wing. His shot is heavy and he gets it off his blade in a flash. He has underrated playmaking ability, as he is able to find the open target through traffic. Printz is most offensively dangerous down around the crease as an opportunistic scorer looking for tips or rebound chances. He likes the physical game, laying out a big check and not being outworked while in battles for loose pucks or fighting for space in the crease. We see someone who has the tools to become a solid support winger who blends a power game with some skill, but the Providence College commit's ticket to the NHL will only be stamped if he boosts his consistency and improves his skating.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



151

OLIVIER GALIPEAU**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Val-d'Or (QMJHL)****BORN: May 22, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 9 G 28 A 37 PTS 66 PIM**

Galipeau is a smart, two-way, physical defenseman. He is a good skater with decent foot speed. He is simple with the puck, and makes decent outlets and good first passes. He never overcomplicates things and makes simple plays with the puck. Galipeau looks for an opportunity to jump up in the rush a few times per game, but not at the expense of his defensive duties. He maintains good puck protection when he does carry the puck on the rush. His first pass is pretty solid as he takes his time to pick the right option. He does not try to avoid checks, but instead braces himself and in some cases gives a counter punch shot when the checker least expects it. Sometimes, he goes for the big hit at the blueline and can pull himself out of position in doing so. He recovers well from poor plays and plays very well with his partner. Galipeau plays a solid shutdown game in his own end, using his strength and stick to force players wide and eliminate players along the boards. He makes smart reads and isn't overly aggressive with his positioning. He was injured last year and couldn't get consistency in his game during his initial draft year. Galipeau found his groove this year, though as the captain of the Foreurs. NHL teams should all want this calm, smooth, great puck-moving guy with physical abilities.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



154

HUGO DANIELSSON**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: August 28, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 1 G 1 A 2 PTS 56 PIM**

Danielsson plays a safe and responsible game, and seems to be just the right defensive partner for a skilled puck-rushing defenseman. He is a smooth-skating, defensively sound blueliner, who is quick and accurate with his passing ability. He shows that he is very capable of moving the puck himself—albeit with very limited creativity—and is willing to take bumps along the way to make a play. His smooth skating makes him exceptionally dangerous on the big ice, although he is still a little slow off the mark. His transitions are fairly smooth for such a big guy and he moves fluidly when skating backward. Danielsson is very aggressive and tenacious when it comes to protecting his own zone, and gets almost overly aggressive below the hashmarks and behind his net, but he is effective using his physical traits. He has a willingness to step up into the play and carry the puck when given the opportunity, but his own-zone coverage is where his true value is. Danielsson gets his head up and looks for forwards clearing the zone, making solid and accurate passes to streaking teammates rather than just chipping it out of the zone, or panicking and banging it off the glass. That is not to say he does not take what is there and sometimes just decides the safe play is just to clear the zone. He can also get caught waiting too long to make a play and fumbles it away. His shot is a work in progress. Danielsson is not always consistent as he can look timid in some instances, but for a team looking for a mobile, defensively safe rearguard to let develop, he has some solid value.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Defensive Defenseman



152

WILLIAM PETHRUS**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Mora J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: September 28, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 35 GP 13 G 22 A 35 PTS 42 PIM**

Pethrus is an aggressive and skilled blueliner who possesses both good size and impressive overall mobility. He does have the ability and often the demeanor to bring a physically nasty game, but more often than not, relies on his brains rather than his brawn. His skating is good for a guy with his size, but his form looks a bit off as he tends to swing his arms more rapidly than it benefits him, causing him to shorten his stride, which holds him back. Pethrus will carry the puck, but it does not look as natural for him as he is best when jumping into the rush as an option rather than as the puck carrier. His vision and passing are solid, but lacking in creativity overall. He has a decent shot selection as well, but could improve his release. While he does utilize the pokecheck to play defense and disturb the puck carrier, he will use his body along the boards and to clear a body in front. Pethrus can go through stretches of limited intensity in the game when he is lulled into playing a softer brand of hockey, but if and when the game gets a bit rougher, he ramps it up and really can bring the grit into his play. He has solid hockey sense and on-ice awareness. He knows where to go and what to do in each situation. Pethrus is a minute-muncher who can play in every role asked.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



155

JACK LAFONTAINE**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Janesville (NAHL)****BORN: January 6, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 41 GP 2.16 GAA .921 SP**

Lafontaine is a positionally sound stopper who stops the pucks he should with sound technique rather than flashy saves. He shows sound fundamentals and a strong hockey sense. Lafontaine has quick lateral movement and seals off the ice well. A smart keeper who reads the play well, Lafontaine gets himself square to the shot and has the quickness to get in front of rebound chances. He doesn't need to make many outstanding athletic saves, but he has the ability to make the desperation save due to impressive flexibility and dexterity. He makes conservative, yet smart, decisions on when to keep the play going or when to freeze the puck. Lafontaine has the impressive ability to leave his crease, stop the puck along the wall or behind the net and send a breakout pass right on his defender's tape. He comes out aggressively to challenge the puck carrier, showing a nice blocker and a quick glove hand as well. He has good communication with the skaters in front of him, constantly barking out instructions to his defense. Lafontaine exhibits poise and focus in the crease, finds pucks through traffic and tracks them right into his chest or glove. This Michigan recruit looks like he could certainly continue the trend of NAHL-drafted goaltenders we have seen in recent years.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender



153

JOSEPH RAAYMAKERS**POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****BORN: March 17, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 3.61 GAA .891 SP**

Raaymakers is a technically solid goalie who relies on his size, his instincts and his quickness to stop the puck. A big-bodied, athletic, hybrid-style goaltender, he routinely gets to the top of his crease and challenges shooters, while maintaining strong net awareness. He's exceptionally good at moving across the crease and tracking the puck. Raaymakers very rarely gets caught out of position. Shooters really have to work hard to beat him as he is flexible and agile, and will contort his body in any shape or form to attempt to stop the puck. You can tell he has determination to get better and wants to be a starter. Raaymakers has some mental toughness and composure; he does not seem to get deflated after giving up a goal, he just continues to battle and make saves, leaving the past where it belongs. He squares up to the shooter, and uses his quick legs, stick or blocker to deflect pucks into corners. He plays his angles well, taking away a ton of net and limiting what shooters see. He possesses quick reflexes and his glove hand is outstanding as he fields pucks cleanly and comes up with lightning-quick glove saves nightly. While his rebound control was questionable at times this season, it only got better as the season wore on to the point where it became a strength. His combination of skill, poise and maturity make him an intriguing prospect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Projected NHL Starting Goaltender



156

COLBY SISSONS**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Swift Current (WHL)****BORN: January 15, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 3 G 19 A 22 PTS 26 PIM**

Sissons is a strong two-way defender who is rapidly developing his game and physical stature. There doesn't seem to be anything really flashy about his game, as it's more smooth and straight ahead, although he can play a scrappy style. He is capable of moving the puck up ice and creating offense with smooth passes D-to-D and down into the slot area. Sissons doesn't have a perfect skating style and lacks leg strength, but he is capable of developing a head of steam with a few quick strides. His growing confidence this season enables him to comfortably skate the puck up ice and off the line for a look at the net. Sissons has an accurate shot that he is capable of releasing on target with little hesitation. He doesn't have great puck skills, but he keeps his feet moving and is good at protecting the puck using his lanky frame. There's a little bit of impatience in his defensive game, but he does a satisfactory job of controlling the play in his end. The lanky rearguard does a good job of staying with his man, although he sometimes goes for the puck instead of the body, to no avail. Sissons tries, but needs more strength to take out his man at the net front or on the boards. He sees play development, but just needs to deal with the execution to become a consistent factor defensively. He grew into a role with the second power play and penalty kill units for the lowly Broncos this season. Sissons is a bit of a wild card who has come along in his debut Dub season, especially during the last two months. He could be a draft day steal if his trajectory continues on this steep path. There's lots of raw material here to work with.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman

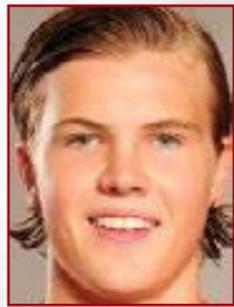


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SAMUEL SOLENSKY**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Liberec U20 (Czech U20)****BORN: August 25, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 36 GP 25 G 18 A 43 PTS 6 PIM**

Solensky is a skilled winger who creates plenty of scoring chances. He shows great vision of the ice and makes the right decisions with the puck. He keeps his head up and looks for his teammates skating in better spots than himself for the pass. He seems to be a pass-first guy, but not at any price. Solensky was able to play with the puck and keep it on his stick against one or more opponents, all while waiting for an option. He is a heady player and will either make the play to a free teammate or, if nothing is available, he will take the puck to the net on his own. He is smaller, but against competition this year, he was also strong on the cycle, pulling in a defender to spring a teammate or just pulling the puck off the wall to get a shot off. He is just so strong at creatively passing the puck, making his linemates more effective as he makes accurate and good-timed passes. He also has an accurate wrist shot, although with added strength, he could improve its velocity. Solensky handles the puck well when at full-speed and also in situations where he's in a small area under the duress of opponents and when attacking defenders one-on-one. He is not overly flashy, but is a very explosive player, winning most skating battles. Solensky shows smarts as he creatively uses defenders as screens for his shots and realizes his limits. He is very aggressive when penalty killing, using his speed and smarts. A nicely skilled forward who has some rough edges that need rounding.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger



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LINUS NASSEN**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Lulea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: May 10, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 5 G 16 A 21 PTS 22 PIM**

Nassen is an average-sized defender with great mobility who plays a defense-first game. He has solid mobility with quick acceleration and a strong top speed, even when carrying the puck. He is balanced and strong on his feet, proving hard to knock off the puck. He will skate with the puck and uses his feet to weave through traffic with a smooth fluidity instead of deking his way around opponents with flash and skilled hands. Nassen is able to maintain possession of the puck at top speed and even make skilled plays at a high pace. He has an excellent first pass that hits its target with precision; both his long-range and short-range passes are strong. Nassen has great timing and sharpness of his passes, both while being pressed on the forecheck and while setting up in the offensive zone. He has a strong point shot that has excellent velocity and accuracy to aim for the top corners. In defensive situations, he keeps his opponent at about a stick length away until he sees his chance to use his body to separate the opposing player from the puck. He is also very skilled with his stick defensively, intercepting passes and sweeping pucks off sticks. While not a bruiser looking to throw big hits, he does use his frame to lock the opponent up along the boards and he will push opponents out of his goaltender's sightlines. He often supports his teammates along the boards. Nassen is competitive, often looking to transition the puck as soon as he wins possession, yet wanting to be the first defenseman back.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



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MICHAEL PEZZETTA**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Sudbury (OHL)****BORN: March 13, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 10 G 18 A 28 PTS 98 PIM**

Pezzetta is a solidly built, playmaking center with strong defensive awareness and high effort level each and every shift. He is an intelligent center who thinks the game well and knows what he needs to do and where he needs to be to find success. On the rush, he does a good job of getting to strong positions away from the puck to be an option going hard to the net or in support. Pezzetta displays good speed on the rush with the puck. His short-range passes, both forehand and backhand, are crisp and easy to handle, and he executes with smarts and skill. He possesses good balance and the ability to accelerate in a few stride. He has lateral agility, the ability to stop and start, is quick and effective while being used to his advantage on the penalty kill and in the defensive zone. He shows well away from the puck; he keeps his stick active, constantly analyzes the play, is quick to support on the wall or pressure the point, and blows you away with his compete level. Pezzetta isn't afraid to mix it up and play physically when needed; he doesn't shy away from the gritty areas and will engage if needed, though he is just as comfortable and smart enough to pull back and offer support on the wall. He flies on the backcheck, picking up his checks and then providing strong coverage in his own zone. He is strong in the faceoff circle as he ties up the man and fights to win the draw.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Center



161

HUDSON ELYNUIK**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Spokane (WHL)****BORN: December 10, 1997****VITALS: 6'-5" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 19 G 25 A 44 PTS 46 PIM**

Elynuik is a tall, lanky kid who is a developing playmaker. He is a bit of an awkward skater, all arms and legs, but is still decently fast in his foot speed. His edges are probably the weakest part of his skating as he gets into trouble trying to change directions at speed. His balance can be a little off, especially when he tries to make a quick move or is battling along the wall. Elynuik will likely refine his raw skating, edge work and balance once he adds strength to his frame. He can play both the chip-and-chase game as well as the creative puck-control game. His hands are just okay, but he shows some strong ability to feed his teammates through sticks and bodies on the rush and in the offensive zone. Elynuik can be creative dishing out no-look passes or laying some saucer passes on his teammates' blades. He's not a natural finisher as his shot leaves something to be desired. He takes too long to get it off, but is solid in tight where he can rely on his long reach to tuck pucks past the keeper. Elynuik has some hockey sense and potential to produce some solid offensive production, but, man, is his game raw. His lankiness affects his battles long the wall or when he goes to the net, where he can get knocked over quite easily despite the effort he gives. His reach is an asset used on the penalty kill, as is his complete willingness to get his large frame into lanes. While not a physical force looking to run people or drop the gloves each night, he shows good checking ability pestering opponents. Elynuik is definitely a developmental project who has a long way to go before we see what the finished product might look like, but he does have pretty good upside as a two-way guy or at worst a defensive specialist.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward



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OTTO KOIVULA**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ilves U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: September 1, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 49 GP 26 G 32 A 58 PTS 18 PIM**

Koivula is a power forward possessing a mature and powerful frame, but one who also has deficiencies in his skating abilities and struggles to be efficient in his mobility. Because of his skating issues, he is often late on the play, late to a board battle or delayed on the back check to give support to his defensemen. At times, Koivula tries to cheat and anticipate the play to compensate for his slower feet, but that can also cause problems when he guesses incorrectly. Being that he is so big and strong, it is not just that his skating speed is that weak, but he lacks the power in his first few steps to be effective. One of his biggest strengths is his hands combined with his ability to use to his shoulders; Koivula can do some damage when he wants to cut to the net. Deep in the zone and around the crease, he can be heavy and very difficult to defend. His overall impact on the ice is trifling at times and can have irregular presences from shift to shift, often looking disinterested or just lacking in intensity on the ice. In the offensive zone, he can often look lost and out of position, which creates a lot of confusion with his linemates. Koivula does make some solid passes, although his passes can be too soft and lead to giveaways. His shot is heavy and dangerous, but could use some work on its release. Overall, if Koivula could improve upon his skating, work on his positioning and play with a more consistent compete level, he could become the kind of power forward numerous teams seek to add.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Power Winger



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FILIP SUCHY**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Plzen U20 (Czech U20)****BORN: December 16, 1997****VITALS: 5'-8" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 43 GP 29 G 34 A 63 PTS 75 PIM**

Suchy is a fiery and spirited winger who plays so much bigger than his size would indicate possible. On the puck, he is not an overly flashy puck wizard, but he shows good decision-making and is able to keep the puck on his blade no matter how much pressure he is under. He is determined and carries the puck like an NFL running back, in that if there's someone looking to hit him or get in his way, he just quickly changes direction and avoids them. Suchy spends a lot of time from the circles on in, like right on the doorstep, in the offensive zone. He is a good power play quarterback, playing as the rover on the half wall and sneaking into the slot or the crease when the puck is put on net. He has a really quick and accurate wrist shot, and likes to shoot it often. He is a really efficient forechecker, constantly applying pressure and finishing his checks. Despite being of limited size, he has no problems sticking his nose in after whistles, giving a whack or two and trying to get opposition off their games. Suchy can go over the line physically from time to time and will need to mature that aspect of his game. He has impressive speed and change of direction, as well as strong lateral agility. He shows off his speed, especially during penalty killing situations. Suchy is good off the puck and defensively, always hustling back to help out his defensemen. He can look downright cocky at times confronting his peers.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Feisty Two-Way Winger

**163****GABRIEL BILODEAU****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Gatineau (QMJHL)****BORN: June 4, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 59 GP 4 G 14 A 18 PTS 37 PIM**

Bilodeau is a strong skater with great all-encompassing mobility and solid speed. He moves his feet a lot with great fluidity; it helps him to walk the blueline with ease. Bilodeau possesses good puck-moving skills. He can skate with the puck or rely on a solid breakout pass while in movement. He eats up open ice with his feet when it is there before making a pass that is a better option. Even his long-range passes are accurate. Bilodeau has a solid shot with fairly good velocity. His wrist shot is quick and heavy and his slap shots come in low on the net. His hockey IQ seems to be above average. Bilodeau makes good reads, and has good decision-making when in control of the puck and without the puck as his head is constantly moving to adjust his position. He will give great support for a D-to-D pass and looks to throw the pass up ice quickly. When he does so, he stretches the ice for his teammates, creating space for them. Offensively, he will regularly jump in to create odd-man rushes. When he has the puck at the blueline, he has great patience to wait until a lane opens up for either a pass or a shot. With his good feet, he will often create those open lanes as he can switch direction quickly. His defensive basics are there, and maintains good gap control and has good angling in the corners. However, he will need to add strength to defend a bit better. Physically, Bilodeau is not the most physical player, but he can pin his guy or finish a check.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman

**166****GRANT JOZEFEK****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lincoln (USHL)****BORN: October 25, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 56 GP 21 G 32 A 53 PTS 41 PIM**

Jozefek is an offensive threat and a very dangerous playmaking, pass-first type of guy. His skating is the thing that stands out the most. He is fluent on his edges, changes direction smoothly and moves with power in transition. His ability to control and handle the puck is very effective in advancing it. His stickhandling and elusive hands create space in the offensive zone to get off scoring chances and start multiple breakout plays from deep in his own zone. Jozefek has a quick wrist shot and seems to hit his mark with it more often than not. He's not an overly physical player as he does not look to make a hit, but prefers to pull pucks out of scrums with his stick and will rarely mix it up after the whistle. He excels in the defensive zone, challenging the puckhandler and getting into lanes very quickly. Jozefek battles along the wall, will drop down to block a shot, take a hit to make the right pass and get his nose dirty from time to time. The Northeastern commit is a team guy who takes care of his responsibility in the defensive zone and finds a way to create offense. He is able to generate multiple scoring chances, and find his way on to the scoring sheet regularly. He really does have solid offensive upside, which will likely carry into the next levels of his career.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger

**164****DANTE SALITURO****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Ottawa (OHL)****BORN: November 15, 1996****VITALS: 5'-9" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 65 GP 38 G 45 A 83 PTS 55 PIM**

Salituro is a quick, explosive and extremely shifty offensive dynamo. An all-situations winger, he has a solid base with lower body strength that allows him to take off in every direction. He accelerates in a few strides, most often when he is coasting before taking off with a ton of speed. On the rush, he knows where he needs to be in order to be an effective option and takes the puck to the net from all areas of the ice, showing off his goal-scorer's mindset. He protects the puck very well as he cuts to the net, using his body to lean into the man and deke the netminder in the process. We love his quick thinking and ability to shoot into lanes with his stick down and presented to receive the pass, and get an immediate shot off or make a move to get to better ice. Salituro possesses a quick and blazing wrist shot that is accurate and can get through lanes both from stationary and in movement. He doesn't quit on the puck, especially in the corners, as he fights for control against much larger opponents. On the negative side, along with his lack of size, Salituro tends to be a little too quick to escape the defensive zone without the puck and often neglects his defensive responsibilities. He also either plays the game at full throttle or right off the gas. A consistent engagement from the top-line winger and 67's offensive catalyst would go a long way.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Winger

**167****COLTON POINT****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Carleton Place (CCHL)****BORN: March 4, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 33 GP 2.16 GAA .915 SP**

Point is a big, thick stopper who is able to cover the net with excellent athleticism to complement his build. He shows great technique and is often square to the puck. He gets to the top of his crease to challenge shots and takes away a huge portion of the net. Point shows great demeanor and calmness when dealing with a ton of traffic and chances from in tight. He doesn't waver and keeps a poker face when up against extended pressure. Point keeps an active head to allow his sight line of the play to open. He sees the puck well and is able to snatch pucks up with his glove hand confidently. Point uses quick pushes to drive where he needs to be in the net and extends his pads well, enabling him to get to the far post without having to go on a marathon. When along the ice, he keeps his paddle on and uses an active stick to negate cross-crease passes or jam plays. Point moves laterally fairly quick enough to square up to shots and get set to make the save. He gets tight to the post quickly and effectively, while also showing his ability to get stretched out and get his legs across to make the save. He does a solid job of coming out and making the big save before getting to where he needs to be to stop the follow-up chances. Point does okay with limiting second chances by putting pucks to the corner or covering them up, though he often uses his athleticism to continue stopping shots in tight. He shows a desire to play the puck in a conservative manner. Consistency is the big issue that needs correction; that and seeing what he can do against better competition. He's a project, but the raw ability is there.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender

**165****OWEN GRANT****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Carleton Place (CCHL)****BORN: January 22, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 57 GP 5 G 18 A 23 PTS 16 PIM**

Grant is a heads-up defender who moves the puck well. He's a fluid skater who makes solid, effective, smart breakout passes. When not using his exceptional vision and outlet pass ability, Grant can and will take the puck himself and try to make plays. He's shifty, and has no trouble gaining the offensive zone with ease, whether deploying a quick deke or a little short-range pass to a streaking teammate. When in the offensive zone, Grant perches himself along the boards and isn't afraid to pinch in and attempt to make a play. He moves the puck well, and makes quick, accurate in-zone passes. He is typically solid defensively, and positions himself well between the shooter and the net. He gets in lanes effectively and engages physically along the boards. Grant can go through stretches of coughing the puck up too much. He needs to work on his first step to beat the forechecker as they race for the puck in retrieval. In the neutral zone, we would like to see him anticipate a little better and move back with his man, not allowing the space for one or two players to get around him and go on the attack. Despite a few defensive warts that need attention, Grant plays the game the right way, and could be a surprise pick if he continues to work hard at his all-around game. He's an effective two-way defender who just needs time to marinate.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**168****DOMENIC COMISSO****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Oshawa (OHL)****BORN: February 19, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 18 G 24 A 42 PTS 32 PIM**

Comisso has been one of the Generals' best offensive forwards as an OHL rookie this season. Every time he stepped onto the ice, he was looking to create offense and was buzzing around the puck. He is a player who plays with excellent pace and has an ability to do everything he does well at a high speed. Boasting an explosive first step and high-end straightline speed, his edge work is also of the elite variety, leading him to become highly shifty and elusive in possession. Comisso has a versatile offensive skill set and he displays excellent offensive-zone creativity, high-end vision and sound playmaking skills. However, he also displays excellent one-on-one abilities as his quick hands and strong puck control allow him to maneuver past defenders with effectiveness. A highly confident player in possession, he gets to the high-traffic areas and thrives. He's a player who has become heavier on the puck and more aggressive on the forecheck. Comisso continually has improved on a game-to-game basis. Defensively speaking, he puts forth an excellent effort, however, he does run around and puck chase, showing little defensive-zone awareness. He is an extremely competitive player with intriguing offensive abilities and a tremendous amount of confidence.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Center

**169****PATRICK HARPER****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Avon Old Farms (USHS)****BORN: June 29, 1998****VITALS: 5'-8" / 155 Lbs****STATS: 27 GP 20 G 39 A 59 PTS - PIM**

Harper is an explosive offensive talent who reminds us of a young Paul Kariya. He's very aggressive with his skills and flashy stick, but not so much physically; he's undersized, but extremely offensively gifted. Always moving his feet and creating opportunities with his tenacious style of play and hockey sense, he is an excellent puck-distributor and has the ability to find teammates' sticks through traffic with his tape-to-tape passing ability. Harper plays a frantic-paced, up-tempo style of play that makes him very difficult to defend against. His quick first step, mixed with his fantastic edge work, make him elusive and hard to maintain coverage on. He is an absolute beast with the puck, and gelled well with his AOF Winged Beavers linemates, allowing them to explore the ice and find spots where he could feed them the puck for high-quality scoring chances. His off-the-puck game is steady, and he is absolutely tenacious badgering the puck carrier when attempting to gain the puck back. A player who always wants the play to start with the puck on his stick, Harper seems to get frustrated when not handling the puck on a given shift. He needs some work on his defensive-zone play, but he is solid enough because of his smarts to get by. We almost want to see him slow down a bit with the puck and develop a bit of patience and poise, instead of always trying to force things to happen.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Playmaking Center

**172****JAMIE ARMSTRONG****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Avon Old Farms (USHS)****BORN: August 7, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 27 GP 22 G 29 A 51 PTS - PIM**

Armstrong is a big, imposing forward with a heavy shot who is a force in front of the net. He creates opportunities by putting himself in prime scoring position and knowing what to do when he gets there. His off-the-puck play is where he excels, as he is great at shaking his checks and finding quiet ice. He creates space in front of the net by physically engaging the opposition, battling for position and using his good hand-eye coordination to deflect pucks and rebound chances. He has the ability to be a force along the boards, and is tenacious on the forecheck. A prototypical power forward, Armstrong also has a great combination of speed and playmaking ability to match his solid frame and power game. He possesses the hands of a player five inches shorter and 30 pounds lighter. He has great puck-distribution skills, as well as puckhandling ability. Armstrong plays an up-tempo, high-energy game, but is not really a creative offensive force; he's more the strong, complementary piece to a skilled line. He has an explosive first stride, as well as the skating ability to keep up with the much smaller, skilled teammates, and looks to initiate contact. He shows exceptional balance and edge work, and is incredibly difficult to knock out of position. The son of Bill Armstrong, he has a good frame and should be able to add some bulk during his time at Northeastern. Armstrong works hard at his game and made good improvements this past season.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Character Winger

**170****BRINSON PASICHNUK****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Bonnyville (AJHL)****BORN: November 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 20 G 45 A 65 PTS 161 PIM**

Pasichnuik is an average-sized defender who loves to jump into the rush with no hesitation every chance he gets. He will drive the puck up ice when he sees a lane, showing that he is not afraid to take it on his own and lead the attack. He has solid poise with the puck in the offensive zone as he controls it along the blueline, straddling the line before getting a shot or pass off. He makes hard, crisp outlets to open teammates and he plays with poise. He does possess very good speed when he gets moving and quick acceleration, getting up to speed in only a few short strides. He stands out at the Junior A level and looks to be a step ahead in terms of decision-making and transition ability. His disregard for his defensive position is a little bit concerning as he would not only take a risk by flying into the rush, but he would stay up in the cycle even when opportunities were available for him to get back to his point. Pasichnuik isn't afraid to lay the body in the corner and when defending opposing zone entries, using his size and quickness to his advantage. He does a good job controlling the gap, though we wonder what his effectiveness will be when there is a faster and more skilled opponent approaching him as he was easily getting his stick on the puck immediately at this level. He plays a competitive and intense game that NHL teams are sure to like.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Offensive Defenseman

**173****CASEY FITZGERALD****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Boston College (NCAA)****BORN: February 25, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 4 G 23 A 27 PTS 46 PIM**

Fitzgerald is a puck-moving defenseman who routinely makes the right pass, showing that he is a smart player. As a skater, he uses his feet well to move laterally and open up passing lanes for himself. He seems to be most comfortable when he picks the puck up in his own zone, and is able to make a quick pass up the ice to a waiting forward, rather than stickhandling it through the zones himself. In the offensive zone, he possesses a decent shot and skilled hands to control the puck, and is able to get into position easily to either shoot or snap quick passes to create scoring chances. Defensively, his game needs some work before he makes the jump to the NHL level. Fitzgerald is effective using his positioning and quick stick to keep opponents at bay. But even though he shows he is willing to get his nose dirty, laying down and blocking a shot or pass, and engaging in battles along the wall, he is too weak physically to compete against many NCAA forwards. In the corners and along the wall this past season, he routinely lost puck battles. He is not a physical player either and rarely attempts to make a check. However, strength is an area that can be worked on and he is doing so. He is an extremely smart player. Being in his second season as a draft-eligible player and after contributing as a decent puck-mover in his freshman season, there should be plenty of interest this time.

NHL POTENTIAL: Second-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**171****CALE MORRIS****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Waterloo (USHL)****BORN: May 22, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 38 GP 2.47 GAA .906 SP**

Morris is a pretty athletic netminder who can carry the responsibility of playing extremely heavy minutes as a potential future NHL starter needs to. He moves well laterally and shows he can cover a lot of net by making himself look bigger to the shooter with proper angles and by aggressively challenging the shooter. His rebound control is efficient as he swallows up a lot of pucks, taking away the second shots from the opposition or directing the puck toward the corners or up into the netting to relieve pressure. He has a strong pokecheck that eliminates opponents getting too close to his crease as he quickly pokes the puck away from the shooter or cuts off cross-crease passes. He plays more of a compact butterfly style, implementing quick lateral movements and tracking of the puck to make his saves rather than just blocking it with positioning and angles. Morris still opens up too many holes when he moves and can lose his net a little when going post-to-post. He seals off the ice well with his pads as they lay flat on the ice. The problem is that in doing a great job at closing off the bottom, he opens up the top corners. Morris challenges the shooter aggressively to make the perfect shot, but also keeps himself in position to make the second and third saves when necessary. He plays the puck well and with poise from behind his net, and if he happens to get pressured, he does not make rushed decisions with it.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender

**174****TARMO REUNANEN****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: TPS U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: March 3, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 11 GP 2 G 4 A 6 PTS 14 PIM**

Reunanen is an intelligent, offensive-minded rearguard who likes to have the puck on his stick and control the offensive tempo of the game. He moves the puck smoothly, showing above-average passing, vision and poise with the puck. He can unleash some pretty good wrist shots from the point for deflections or a dangerous bomb of a slap shot on net. Reunanen transitions the puck quickly and likes to join the attack as a trailing option. He has decent agility, speed and quickness in his feet, but lacks explosiveness, something that will likely improve with added leg strength. His defensive game has some areas that are strong and need improvement, but he does read the play well and knows where he needs to be on the ice. He battles in the corners and will drop down in front of shots to block them. Reunanen can be overly aggressive physically and be drawn into taking bad penalties. Or, he can be the exact opposite and play soft in the defensive zone at times, waving his stick at the puck carrier, but not being strong enough to keep the attacker to the outside. Some consistency in his defensive efforts and play would go a long way. Reunanen had a rough season this year as injury kept him on the shelf for much of it. Although we saw him a few times the previous year, we were only able to view him in the Ivan Hlinka games and in just one contest with TPS this season; each time though we liked him as a skilled puck-mover.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Puck-Moving Defenseman



175

MIKHAIL MESHCHERYAKOV**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Russia U18 (MHL)****BORN: January 18, 1998****VITALS: 5'-11" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 37 GP 11 G 12 A 23 PTS 14 PIM**

Meshcheryakov impresses with his speed, skill and determination. The speedy center loves to be in control of the puck, giving the impression that he wants to control the play and be the one to set up his teammates, using his vision to his advantage. His speed is noticeable, especially off the hop as he can explode from stationary to get on loose pucks. A big presence on the ice, Meshcheryakov plays bigger than his measurements indicate. He is a smooth skater with incredible speed. He attacks the zone with speed and does not have the tendency to slow down when approaching a defender. Instead, he kicks it into high gear and separates from the man with a quick move and the puck on his stick. We love his handling of the puck while at high speed; he doesn't just push it forward, but can actually pull off some nice moves to get past his man and hold the puck to the side of his body, easily protecting it. He dishes crisp passes through the neutral and offensive zones before exploding to open ice for a pass back. He dominates the attack through the neutral zone, displaying strong mobility and quick awareness. Meshcheryakov will engage and grind it out on the wall for the puck as long as it takes to gain control. He is sent out to take key defensive-zone faceoffs, using his quickness in each to win the draw outright. He plays in all situations and excels in each of them, showing his versatility.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Playmaking Center



176

DMITRI ZAITSEV**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (NAHL)****BORN: January 18, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 53 GP 7 G 15 A 22 PTS 74 PIM**

Zaitsev is a very cool and calm-under-pressure defenseman. He is smooth, poised and effective with the puck. He's not flashy at all, but makes safe and simple plays, including strong outlet passes that aren't too risky. He moves well on his feet and possesses strong defensive awareness that allows him to be effective in his own zone and adapt to incoming plays. Zaitsev does a good job of getting his stick out to cut space as he skates with the puck carrier and tries to angle him to the outside. He has no trouble skating the puck out of his zone and working up ice to set up. He's not a creative guy playing the point on the power play, but does a good job of moving the puck around while under pressure and showing confidence to both shoot and set up a play with a well-timed pass. He dishes crisp D-to-D passes and knows when to slow down in transition. Zaitsev has a strong one-timer that he gets his weight behind and on net with force, which is easily tippable. He positions himself well and fills into lanes effectively. Not the biggest D-man, Zaitsev relies on hockey IQ, and positioning to effectively shut down the opposition. He will engage physically, but prefers to play a thinking-man's game. He does not look for the fancy play often; instead, he keeps the game simple. Impressive footwork, and a willingness to block shots and get in front of offensive scoring opportunities make him stand out.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Four Two-Way Defenseman



177

VOJTECH ZELENAK**POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sparta Praha U20 (Czech U20)****BORN: June 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-5" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 34 GP 2 G 11 A 13 PTS 24 PIM**

Zelenak is a big, skilled defender who has a physically mature body. He uses his long reach and long stick to keep forwards out of shooting position and to close off passing lines. He plays some strong physical hockey, both giving and receiving big hits. He shows a willingness to hack and wack, defending his crease and teammates, and getting in the opposition's face after the whistle. For his size, Zelenak skates well. Under duress from forechecking players, he has no panic; instead, he often just skates with the puck behind the net and makes some space for himself. That is not to say he is immune to making some questionable decisions, throwing some inaccurate passes and even making some very dangerous passes from time to time. Zelenak is often involved in the offense, not just rushing the puck to the offensive zone, but moving the puck into the zone and trying to be creative. He makes strong short passes to skating forwards, and even shows his vision and skill by throwing longer-range passes up ice for scoring chances. He has a great shot. His one timer is exceptionally hard and accurate. Zelenak's wrist shot is also dangerous. He shoots whenever he can, but needs to make sure he has open lanes as he can often just drive a shot into a closed-off lane when his options are limited.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman



178

DANIIL MIROMANOV**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Acadie-Bathurst (QMJHL)****BORN: July 11, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 64 GP 22 G 20 A 42 PTS 18 PIM**

Miromanov is a big, smooth skater who can be a solid offensive threat while also engaging physically. He was drafted by London of the OHL and then waived before joining the Titans. He is a fine skater and has a good stride, but his crossovers aren't the cleanest. He is a really big kid, and has quick feet and good agility for his size. Miromanov's balance is also a little suspect at this stage in his physical development. His offensive instincts are solid. He was able to follow a bouncing puck in the slot and get his stick on it for a shot on goal. He has good versatility, getting time on the penalty kill and power play this season with the Titans. Miromanov has skilled hands and likes to challenge defenders one-on-one with quick hand and head fakes. He protects the puck well along the wall and will drive the net. He has a very quick wrist shot and a dangerous one-timer. Miromanov can also make a play using solid vision and skilled hands. He comes in deep to support his defensemen in the defensive zone, and gets time on the penalty kill. He uses his size and agility to cover a lot of the ice, and takes away passing options. He will need to improve the energy and intensity he plays with to remain competitive at the next level. Miromanov is an extremely raw package who has plenty of bad habits, but a good coach and some time to grow into his body would allow him to be molded into a solid NHL prospect.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger



179

BRANDON HAGEL**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Red Deer (WHL)****BORN: August 27, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 13 G 34 A 47 PTS 46 PIM**

Hagel is a skilled, playmaking winger. His skating is effective with strong agility, but his overall stride lacks strength. He has strong puck awareness and a stranglehold of the puck in open ice. An extremely smart and pesky forward able to process the game at an electric speed, Hagel is more of a pass-first player looking for his teammates off the rush. He has good hand-eye coordination, and can knock down hard-to-track pucks and make a pass to an open man. He has the complexity and confidence to make the above-average plays and not just the short, simple connecting pass. His shot is poor at this point, lacking consistency in velocity and accuracy, and he needs to either be in tight to squeak one through the wickets or rely on puck luck from afar. His urgency to cover his man or get pucks simply out of the zone are a struggle when forecheck pressure was ramped up. Hagel shows a willingness to attempt physical play, but he has very minimal success impeding progress or battling for pucks against even smaller players. He is a consistent player on the power play and shows that he is an above-average offensive guy when he has the extra space to create. He has the offensive skill, but looks like more a complementary winger as opposed to a driving force. While he's a long-term project, Hagel has good positional instincts and makes smart reads with the puck. He shows an ability to attack with speed and has excellent vision. He is physically far from being an NHLer, however, he could be an excellent value pick for a team willing to wait.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Winger



180

IGOR SHVYREV**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Stalnye Magnitogorsk (MHL)****BORN: July 10, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 12 G 26 A 38 PTS 40 PIM**

Shvyrev displays good on-ice vision, can pass the puck and has smooth skating abilities, although he could use some added explosiveness in his stride. He can easily go north, south, east and west with his impressive agility and edges. He can really build up a solid head of steam, speeding into the offensive zone with the puck. Shvyrev has a solid shot that has impressive velocity, but he just does not use it enough. He knows where to be so he is just on the outside of defensive coverage awaiting a pass. His real strength is his ability to see the ice and make skilled passes, either on his forehand or backhand, and at varying ranges. Shvyrev can put the puck in open space for his linemates to retrieve or he can hit his target's tape through myriad legs and sticks. He is not afraid to try creative plays and that makes him unpredictable, an asset for an offensive player. Shvyrev also knows how to find open lanes for receiving the puck, not just leaving his teammates to find him, but working just as hard to get open. He doesn't necessarily play physically and is more often than not on the receiving end of hits, but it doesn't seem to affect his game much. Even though he can sometimes lack competitiveness, combativeness and altogether gives up too easily on the defensive side, he is a developing playmaker with some offensive upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Center

**181****TOBIAS EDER****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Tolzer Lowen (Germany3)****BORN: March 4, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 26 GP 9 G 13 A 22 PTS 30 PIM**

Eder is an offensively skilled center with strong playmaking abilities. But that is not all he is about as he does a bit of everything. First and foremost, he is an extremely hard worker. You will be hard pressed to find a guy who will outwork him on the ice. Offensively, he mixes some grit with skill. He is creative with his passes and sees lanes quickly, getting the puck to open teammates for scoring opportunities. Eder has silky hands, using creative and quick dekes to cross up defenders and create space for himself and teammates. He also has a deceptive shot, not needing much time and room to get it on target. Skating wise, he has impressive top-end speed and quickness in small spaces. While not the strongest physically, he does engage in board battles when needed and will fight for possession. Eder is excellent without the puck. On 50/50 engagements and battles for loose pucks, he seems to be just a bit smarter and a bit faster than his opponents, winning the majority of those. He is trusted by his coaches, being utilized on the penalty kill and in all situations. He plays very responsibly, covering for teammates when they get out of position, like when a defenseman pinches down the wall into the offensive zone, he picks up that spot immediately. Eder gets into lanes and is even ready to block a shot.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Center

**182****MATTHEW MURRAY****POSITION: Goaltender****CATCHES: Left****TEAM: Spruce Grove (AJHL)****BORN: February 2, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 29 GP 2.60 GAA .910 SP**

Murray is a big-game stopper who was named top goaltender in the AJHL this season. He has a tendency to make some key second and third saves in traffic and off a flurry of shots, preventing some pucks from getting past him that probably would beat a lot of other first-save blocking goalies. A competitive netminder, he shows up ready to play and steal the show when needed. Murray reacts quickly and effectively with his pads, making the pad saves that are needed and deflecting the puck away as warranted. He is strong on his feet and seemingly maintains upright position when bumped and pushed for space. Murray digs in and pushes hard to get to the top of the crease. He loves to come out to play the puck, passing it to his defenseman, leaving it for them or making a hard pass to the wall. He moves well low and gets across the crease quickly. Murray takes small shuffles as needed to move across the crease in time with the puck movement around the zone. He is not without faults, though, as he isn't always as quick to get up and get set for second chances or opportunities up high as he should be. He also tends to give up some juicy rebounds at times, but is right there to stop the second chance and/or is quick to smother the puck in tight.

NHL POTENTIAL: Project Goaltender

**183****JESPER MATTILA****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Ilves U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: October 9, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 4 G 33 A 37 PTS 20 PIM**

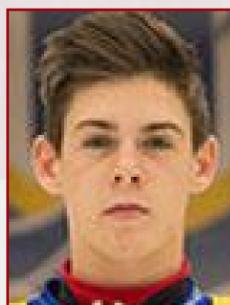
Mattila is a cerebral defender who isn't a major standout on the back end, but when you watch him closely, he does impress. He is quick to pick up his man and covers the gap very well. He is a workhorse who can play in a variety of roles on both sides of the ice, showing a willingness to get the job done in front of the net no matter what. A very strong backward skater, Mattila uses this strength to his advantage as he defends the attack, adjusts his speed accordingly and angles his man to the outside. He uses his reach very well without slowing down and getting caught flat-footed. Mattila makes it look easy as he dishes smooth and hard passes right on the tape during the breakout. He shows that he isn't afraid to skate the puck up ice, but he appears to be more of a defensive type of defenseman who can distribute the puck with well-placed passes. The new style of defensive defenseman is exactly what he can be—a puck-mover with some offensive ability who will do whatever it takes to see his team win.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**184****GUSTAF WESTLUND****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: The Gunnery (USHS)****BORN: December 12, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 160 Lbs****STATS: 31 GP 10 G 18 A 28 PTS - PIM**

Westlund is an effortless skater who gets himself to smart areas of the ice to get a shot on net. This Swedish import has a smooth skating stride that allows him to build solid speed, get a quick jump off the line and have the lateral quickness to deke and dodge through defenders. He has a good athletic frame, but is thin and could stand to add some considerable strength to his legs, core and upper body. Westlund can get pushed around in traffic; added strength would go a long way toward making him much more effective. He handles the puck well with soft hands and creative moves, weaving his way through traffic with a surprisingly long reach. His shot is already solid thanks to a quick release and surprising velocity for someone so thin. That shot will become a real weapon as he adds strength and puts more velocity behind it. Westlund is not a natural playmaker as he is a goal-scorer, but he does have the ability to put some touch on his dishes and see the ice and his open teammates very quickly. He did not dominate on the stats sheet this season and has much room to develop before we see the finished product, but his raw talent and athleticism has us thinking there is something that will eventually shine through. Westlund was uncommitted to an NCAA school at the time this profile was written, but he is being heavily sought after by many top programs.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Nine Two-Way Center

**185****JIRI KARAFIAT****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Zlin U20 (Czech U20)****BORN: July 7, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 36 GP 14 G 15 A 29 PTS 32 PIM**

Karafiat is a strong, two-way forward who contributes in all aspects of the game. He's not overly big, but he is feisty, and plays his man very tough. His defensive zone work both five-on-five and on the penalty kill is exceptional. He positions himself well, and takes away lanes with his stick work and his willingness to engage physically. Karafiat has an awkward skating stride, but he gets where he's going in a hurry. He needs to work on his crossovers, but the one aspect of his skating game that is well polished is his ability to accelerate. He isn't the most talented player, but he has the hockey sense that could make him a very effective player. Karafiat is also tenacious on the forecheck, never giving up on a loose puck. He displays some offensive talent, but in saying that, he is highly unpolished. He can over-stickhandle the puck and try to be too fancy when he should play a simpler style of game. He does have an accurate shot, but it doesn't come off his stick at a high velocity. He has very good vision of the ice, and is able to find his teammates even when he is under pressure. He also dishes very accurate passes. Karafiat puts on his hard hat and goes to work every shift. He's energetic and always trying to get involved in the play. He has the potential to be a player who could blossom in the North American game and shows some great potential to eventually become a bottom-line NHL center with some good offensive skills.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Forward

**186****JOSH ANDERSON****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Prince George (WHL)****BORN: August 29, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 220 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 1 G 5 A 6 PTS 86 PIM**

Anderson is the definition of a solid, if unspectacular, defenseman. He is a feisty, responsible defender whose game is predicated on a smooth strong stride, fluid crossover work and long wingspan. He keeps a tight gap and excels at plugging up the neutral zone. He shows a willingness to throw his body around and muscle opposition out of dangerous areas, protecting his net. He will make smaller forwards pay a price for going into the trench with him, but he can also back up his play when confronted by larger opposition. Defensively, he plays tough in the corners and throws his weight around to separate pucks from opponents. His four-way mobility allows him to keep up with the quicker forwards. Anderson's decision-making is simply average as he struggles to execute while under pressure and his passing accuracy is off the mark at times. He has a booming point shot, but it is also not always on target. He is fine when he activates himself in the transition game between the bluelines, showing the poise and confidence to try and make a man miss and push the rush up ice. When he plays within himself, making simple plays and not trying to extend himself too much, and playing a strong, yet simple, defensive game, Anderson will have a future in the pro game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Physical Defenseman

**187****FILIP BERGLUND****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Skelleftea Jr. (SuperElit)****BORN: May 10, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 210 Lbs****STATS: 43 GP 19 G 22 A 41 PTS 6 PIM**

Berglund really stands out because of his immense size. He is very calm-looking on the ice and makes a very good outlet passes. A real weapon from the point on the power play, his shot is pro ready and opponents are wise not to try and block it. He's not a rocket on the skates by any means, but has good mobility for a kid his size. Speaking of his size, Berglund really needs to start using his biggest asset more consistently to his advantage; he needs to be more consistent at leaning on guys and boxing them out using his strength. With his strength and reach, he protects the puck very well and can gain the offensive zone. After the whistle, he is rough against opponents, which earned him respect on the ice. While playing defense, Berglund comes back with the play very quickly and is always the first defender back. He takes his defensive responsibility seriously, trying to keep solid position and playing a tough game when needed. He can be very physical along the wall and gritty areas to stop his opponents from creating scoring chances. He reads upcoming plays pretty well, as he mitigates any risks in the defensive zone. Berglund needs to increase his foot speed, continue improving his play in the defensive zone, and use his size and reach better going forward. An over-ager who had a very strong season in the Swedish juniors, we had him going last year, and consider him a dark horse this year.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**190****KRISTIAN RUBINS****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Vasteras J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: December 11, 1997****VITALS: 6'-4" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 21 GP 3 G 8 A 11 PTS 14 PIM**

Rubins is a big, strong defender with solid mobility. With his great defensive awareness and solid two-way game, he plays a leading role in the defensive game. He has good mobility and great balance that he takes advantage of while skating with the puck. He is calm with the puck and has the ability to deke an opponent as he carries it; he's not afraid to skate up with the puck himself into the offensive zone. One of his best offensive qualities is his ability to lay a strong first pass. Rubins' passes are hard and sharp. He uses his passing abilities from the blueline, where he finds open teammates to set them up for a scoring chance. He has a strong shot from the point, putting it low to the net for deflections and rebound chances. He is not afraid to use his size in situations along the boards. Rubins wins most of the puck battles in the gritty areas against his peers and uses his size to separate opponents from the puck. His defensive play is solid, but not always consistent. In the defensive zone, he holds his position and is hard to get by. Rubins communicates with his teammates like a general barking orders to his troops to have them cover any openings he sees. He has good defensive awareness. He also has solid vision, knowing where his teammates are on the ice and finding them easily with passes. With his size, defensive awareness, physical play and ability to distribute the puck, he has some real solid pro upside if he can bring it on a consistent basis.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**188****FREDRIK KARLSTROM****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: AIK J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 185 Lbs****STATS: 44 GP 13 G 20 A 33 PTS 16 PIM**

Karlstrom plays the game with a lot of intensity and drive. He is very aggressive, both with and without the puck, always trying to create scoring chances. He is straightforward with the puck, but he will try a few dekes to get by the opposition off the rush. With his strength and balance, he is a continuous threat with the puck while crashing the net and protecting it along the wall as he identifies his passing options. For his size, he has decent speed. His acceleration is fairly good, but could still improve with added leg strength. With the puck on his stick, he is impossible to knock around. He is a physical player who enjoys throwing his weight around, but is not one to rack up big penalty minutes by dropping his gloves. He is dangerous offensively as he makes a great stretch pass and shows off his vision and creativity in distributing the puck. His shot has decent accuracy and velocity; Karlstrom likes to get in around the slot to shoot. His defensive game also leaves a bit to be desired. He does backcheck, but often loses his man and goes to check the player with the puck instead, even if the puck carrier is already pressed by one of his own teammates. Karlstrom uses both his stick and body to separate the puck from his opponents along the boards. He has a very mature game and dominated with his strength on the ice this season. He has been under the radar throughout the season until exploding offensively in the J20 playoffs.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Power Center

**191****TANNER LACZYNSKI****POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Lincoln (USHL)****BORN: June 1, 1997****VITALS: 6'-1" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 52 GP 24 G 39 A 63 PTS 38 PIM**

Laczynski is a power forward with a heavy scoring mentality. He has good touch with the puck and is comfortable making plays with the puck on his stick. He shows good vision setting up his teammates on the ice and uses his body to bash through checks down low. Laczynski works the cycle well and is capable of grinding out consecutive shifts without showing much wear. He is a smooth skater with a long stride, and decent speed and agility. He shows good hustle and is tenacious on the puck. Laczynski plays the body and supports the puck. He does all the little things well and is smart enough to know how he can contribute each shift. He protects the puck using his frame and strength. Defensively, he has solid awareness and gets into lanes aggressively. The Ohio State recruit was a ranked skater last year, but he went untouched in the draft and now takes a crack as a second-time eligible. He gained an inch and nearly 20 pounds last summer, enabling him to play stronger this season. He's not the flashiest guy on the ice, but he plays a heads-up game and gets to the areas of the ice that lead to success. Laczynski shows some positive upside, but would benefit from consistent effort in the defensive zone and gaining even more muscle to allow for better dominance along the wall and in the corners.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Winger

**189****ONDREJ VALA****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Kamloops (WHL)****BORN: April 13, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 4 G 17 A 21 PTS 52 PIM**

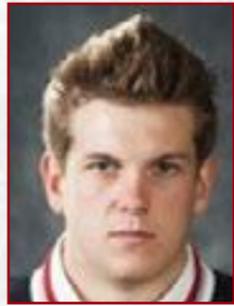
Vala is a big man with not much offensive upside, but he can move surprisingly well for his size and is a force when he keeps it simple. He looks more like Paul Bunyan when he is defending with a wildly active, swinging twig. He uses his ginormous wingspan and awareness well to wipe quicker opponents out of the play. Quickness isn't his forte, although he covers a lot of ground with his legs once he can set himself on the right path. The offensive ability is nearly non-existent. Vala's the typical stay-at-home defenseman who makes the safest play possible out of his zone and follows the rush up at a nonchalant pace. He delivers simple connecting passes within his zone and does not create much off of the offensive line. He is a beast in front of his own net, moving opponents around like he is playing tykes in Timbits hockey. He is strong challenging his man and keeping his stick as an active weapon. He chooses simple routes with the puck, and is quick at making the simple pass or just chopping the puck out of the zone as soon as he has a chance. He saw time on the second pairing and penalty kill unit this season. Vala's a raw package, but he's a guy who could draw attention with his defensive skill and size. For teams looking for a project with size and ability to read the defensive zone, he is the guy to take at this point. He's a surprisingly decent skater and a pure shut-down guy.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Defensive Defenseman

**192****PATRICK BAJKOV****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Everett (WHL)****BORN: November 27, 1997****VITALS: 5'-11" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 18 G 28 A 46 PTS 22 PIM**

Bajkov is a skilled forward who plays a pretty big role on a thin Everett offensive attack. He is an average skater who looks a little bit awkward in the way he cuts around the ice, but, in general, he moves deftly. He shows subtle flashes of skill. When receiving the puck along the defensive half wall, Bajkov shows strong poise in the way he is able to cut through checks and then deliver a strong pass to a streaking teammate. He looks very calm and fluid in the way he is able to stickhandle through traffic. He is a deceiving and slippery player who shows good footwork in and around the cycle. Bajkov has decent size and a good amount of skill, but he does not consistently control the play in a game. He is a player who seems to have been around forever and is just now eligible for the draft. He is a smart, two-way forward who gets the job done in various areas of the game. Bajkov is versatile and can play in any situation. He thrived in a defensive environment with the Silvertips. He has great awareness on the ice and can be a catalyst of positive plays in all areas of the ice. Bajkov needs to fill out a bit, but he is one of the role guys who all winning teams have. He will block shots and chip in with some offensive flashes.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Winger



193

CONNER BLEACKLEY**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Red Deer (WHL)****BORN: February 7, 1996****VITALS: 6'-1" / 196 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 13 G 33 A 48 PTS 49 PIM**

Bleackley is a strong two-way center who contributes to his teams success at both ends of the ice. He displays solid puck handling skills, protecting it well with his strong frame in the corners and through traffic. He has a dangerous shot release, and gets it off his stick from anywhere in the offensive zone. Bleackley would be best served to take a little bit more time to let options open up before just ripping it on net as his shot selection can be poor at times. He is strong in the dot winning the majority of the draws he takes. His physical game is inconsistent as he uses his frame to maintain the puck but does not always look to eager to throw the body, finishing just a small amount of his checks. Bleackley does a great job of flowing with the play in both ends, finding open ice at the offensive end and maintaining position in the defensive end. He is a decent skater once he is at top speed but still lacks some explosion in his first few steps. He is a draft re-entry that Arizona did not sign at the June 1 deadline after acquiring him at the trade deadline from Colorado, who drafted him in the first round in 2014. He has gone through some adversity this season, having the captaincy removed and then dealing with injury. Bleackley is a strong and dependable two-way center that still has room for growth.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Forward



194

KYLE MAKSIMOVICH**POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Erie (OHL)****BORN: March 10, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 68 GP 27 G 44 A 71 PTS 22 PIM**

Maksimovich is a skilled offensive player with smooth hands and impressive intelligence. He is a little ball of energy who displays patience with the puck and before making a play with his explosive feet and quick hands. He has all kinds of skills tucked away that come out when you least expect it, just not on a consistent basis. Maksimovich is ready and eager to join the rush and make something happen. He has a quick and fairly accurate shot, but he lacks velocity and is only a real danger to score in close. His decision-making slows down when he gets the puck, something that isn't bad when he has time and space, but is a real concern when he is moving up ice on the rush or in transition, two situations where the slower speed and reaction is exposed with back pressure getting on him to remove the puck. He makes skilled passes and shows off creative hands, but often he takes on the support role on his line instead of leading the offensive push. Maksimovich tends to keep himself to the outside more often than not and is really outmatched physically, even at the major junior level. A pertinent question is his durability as he is constantly getting knocked around and this may be a hindrance to him at the next level. His lack of size and diversified game will likely keep him as a late-round sleeper pick for some NHL team that thinks he can be developed to one day play in its top six.

NHL POTENTIAL: Top-Six Offensive Winger



195

YEVGENI MITYAKIN**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Avto Yekaterinburg (MHL)****BORN: December 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-3" / 205 Lbs****STATS: 31 GP 15 G 13 A 28 PTS 69 PIM**

Mityakin has great size and developing strength that, when he uses it to his advantage, is a real force. He can skate, but there is definitely room for improvement on that front. He generates some healthy speed for a guy with his size, but has a bit of a wonky stride that is unbalanced and quite choppy. Straightening that out and adding additional leg strength would go a long way toward refining his mobility and agility. Mityakin has a big frame that should be intimidating, but is all too often underwhelming as he does not always utilize it physically and often gets knocked around. He does use his size to shield the puck and protect it well along the wall or when driving it to the net. At times, he does great work along the boards, digging for the puck and muscling for puck possession. He moves to open ice away from the puck to open up a passing lane before calling for the puck. Mityakin has a decent backhand shot that fools goalies and a wrist shot that is rather heavy. Has the smarts to be a threat on the power play as he uses his creativity, vision and patience to find lanes and make good passes through them. He creates space by pulling defenders in and then passing to open teammates for a scoring chance. Mityakin is very aware in his own zone and covers his check well; that awareness is a strength in his skill set. He is an intriguing prospect who has upside in his game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger



196

OTTO MAKINEN**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Tappara U20 (Jr. A SM-liiga)****BORN: May 21, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 47 GP 11 G 19 A 30 PTS 39 PIM**

Makinen is a two-way forward who makes good decisions with the puck and shows some playmaking skills. He moves quite well, but could improve his first-step acceleration. He is very responsible defensively thanks to his ability to come back with the play and make stick checks; he shows some defensive awareness in this regard. Makinen is not really a physical player, but he seems to recognize when the chance is there to make a physical play and takes it. He has improved his faceoffs and is strong on the forecheck. Makinen plays in all situations due to his versatility and can go end-to-end with the puck, handling it well at full speed. He is able to escape from hits and sneaks out alongside the boards, more often than not gaining the zone with the puck. He is tenacious around the crease and is an opportunistic forward who finds loose pucks and turns them into quality scoring chances if not goals. His wrist shot is a quality one and he can surprise with its release. However, Makinen does not shoot enough as he prefers to look for a teammate for a pass, showing solid distribution ability. He has really looked good in the international tournaments he participated in, but playing inconsistently with his club team. Consistency has been an issue with him, but he has shown enough upside as he has the ability to contribute at both ends. When his game matures, he could become a difference-maker.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Center



197

WILL LOCKWOOD**POSITION: Right Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: June 20, 1998****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 20 GP 3 G 3 A 6 PTS 27 PIM**

Lockwood is a very versatile player. A strong skater with solid agility and quickness in his feet, he is always buzzing around the ice. He is a very intense player who may not be the most gifted offensive player, but he plays with such energy that he always finds a way to create sparks around the net. Lockwood rarely takes a shift off, leaves it all out on the ice, plays with a heavy amounts of grit and heart, and is always around the puck with the capability to be an opportunistic scoring threat. He possesses a solid shot and can make the straightforward pass as well. Lockwood plays the role of the grinding forward who comes with grit and energy. He shows a desire to play with physicality despite his lack of ideal size to do so. He drives to the net both with and without the puck, but can get slowed down by defenders on his way there due to a lack of strength. Lockwood is a strong option on the penalty kill as he shows no fear and utilizes his skating to get into lanes or pressure the points. The University of Michigan commit is good on the penalty kill as he plays with pace and energy. He just doesn't have the offensive skill to be a top-line point-producer. He has been far more effective against international competition this year than the USHL competition.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Character Winger



198

KRISTIAN REICHEL**POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: HC Litvinov U20 (Czech U20)****BORN: June 11, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 28 GP 17 G 7 A 24 PTS 16 PIM**

Reichel has breakaway speed combined with great hands and an offensive mindset. Always a threat every time he touches the puck, he is absolutely fierce on the forecheck, and risks body and positioning to get to loose pucks. Reichel isn't afraid to get hit and welcomes contact; he has the ability to bounce off of the opposition. He can really catch defenders off guard with his nifty shoulder dip and cut outside, made possible by his quick feet, edge work and instincts. Reichel will make impressive plays anytime he is given room and the puck on his stick. He will shoot from anywhere as he loves to let the puck loose. His read is strong, as is his peripheral vision. He is effective on the penalty kill as he can control the puck to either waste or gain time at both ends of the ice. He has a good competitiveness level, plays a two-way game and backchecks to help his defensemen out. He is also good in the faceoff dot and has a good awareness of the game. Reichel almost never engages in any sort of battle and seems to be uninterested in playing any sort of physical game. In order to become a better player, he has to avoid turnovers in his own zone while trying to do too much, improve his shooting and work on adding strength to improve his physical play. The son of former NHLer Robert Reichel, he is a prospect who has a boatfull of tools and who could potentially become a very interesting forward if he can improve his overall play.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center

**199****BRETT MURRAY****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Carleton Place (CCHL)****BORN: July 20, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 200 Lbs****STATS: 48 GP 14 G 32 A 46 PTS 16 PIM**

Murray is a big, rangy winger who is still growing into his frame, but has some intriguing offensive upside. He is a big-bodied power forward who will throw his weight around. He might get a little off balance when bumped, but he will continue on as he is hardly ever knocked over. Murray is incredibly strong in possession and doesn't let the opposition get at the puck no matter how hard they try. He sees the ice well and slides into open lanes with his stick presented to his man for a pass. He is driven and will drive the net for a chance to finish off a rebound. Murray uses his size to his advantage as he finishes his checks hard on the forecheck and protects the puck with sheer strength. He displays some impressive and high-end playmaking skill down low, cycling the puck and getting creative with it before dishing it to the slot. He makes very good use of his body, especially on the backcheck as he catches his man and rubs him off the puck. He goes hard on the forecheck, but reads and adapts well as to when he needs to ease off or kick it into gear and get on the puck carrier. Murray has some skating deficiencies that will need to be addressed as his stride is choppy and lacks in jump. His first few steps need a lot of work as does his balance; all traits of a kid trying to grow into an ever-expanding frame. He will have plenty of time to develop during his time at Penn State.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger

**200****COLIN GRANNARY****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Merritt (BCHL)****BORN: September 24, 1997****VITALS: 6'-0" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 55 GP 28 G 48 A 76 PTS 44 PIM**

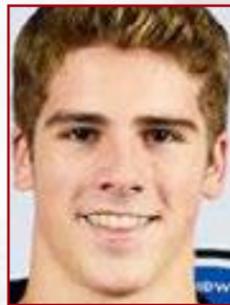
Grannary is a strong power forward who is a heads-up guy showing that he is really effective in the neutral zone and defensive zone. He reads plays well and positions himself where he is able to best an opponent by taking away his space or knocking away a chance. He has a tenacity that keeps him fighting to win battles and keep the tempo cranked to a 10. Grannary showed that he will do whatever is needed physically to get to his spot on the ice. He hasn't pieced it all together by any means, but he has a big toolbox and does the little things that add up. His skating is not yet dynamic, but he has some jump in his first step that allows him to get into a full stride quickly. Grannary uses good balance and edge work, combined with awareness of his surroundings, to keep pivoting away from opponents, remain elusive and protect the puck. He has the hands to be selective with his passes and still hit his mark. Grannary uses the soft pass well when the situation is appropriate. He has skilled hands and although he isn't always pretty or textbook, he usually seems to come away with the puck. He shows great determination and really loves to be in position to drive the net for most of his chances. He likes to bang and crash into the crease and play the role of trash man. Grannary's not a dynamic player, but he does well with what he has, getting to gritty areas and in front of the net to work for the puck. He is good in the faceoff circle and ties his man up to take control of the puck.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Two-Way Winger

**201****ALAN LYSZCZARCZYK****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Sudbury (OHL)****BORN: February 17, 1998****VITALS: 6'-0" / 180 Lbs****STATS: 67 GP 17 G 33 A 50 PTS 36 PIM**

Lyszczarczyk plays an explosive, high-speed game that has transitioned during his rookie OHL season. On a team struggling for offensive production, he has helped carry the load. His quick feet and soft hands make him a viable threat, and defenses play close attention to the shifty center when he's on the ice. He can play both wing and center, but looks most comfortable when playing the wing, and is allowed to use his breakaway speed and offensive creativity. At center, he is responsible defensively, but is not strong enough in the faceoff circle. His skating is superb. Lyszczarczyk really catches your eye with his quick feet and shiftiness. His edge work is fantastic, and he accelerates very quickly, which can make him a nightmare for some OHL defenders. He tends to drive the puck wide, stop up at the hashmarks and look for plays to develop. If he would continue to use his speed and drive toward the net, you would see a real jump in his offensive production. He beats defenders, but can try to get too creative, looking to make the fancy pass instead of driving the play toward the net himself. His shot could use some work. Lyszczarczyk has a tendency to miss while always looking to pick corners. He engages physically, but is far from an imposing figure. His slight frame doesn't scare the opposition, but he plays a solid two-way game and will get his nose dirty when need be.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Forward

**202****TYLER JETTE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Farmington (USHS)****BORN: May 8, 1998****VITALS: 6'-4" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 22 GP 5 G 17 A 22 PTS 34 PIM**

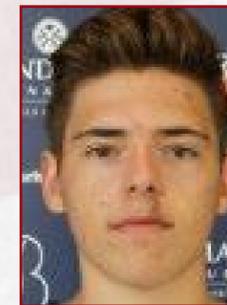
With a pro frame, Jette was the most intriguing NHL draft-eligible prospect in all of high school hockey this year. Playing on a lesser team, there was a lot asked of him. And to lead Farmington to a surprising state tournament appearance is a heck of an accomplishment. He is a solid all-around defenseman who has pro upside, though it is doubtful he will become a game-breaking type of guy. He moves very well for his size. He stops and starts, and changes directions effortlessly. The only concern we have in his mobility is with his backward crossovers. Jette quarterback the power play and is able to find seams very well with his vision and mobility. He is, however, a bit too conservative and needs to shoot the puck himself more often. He is a defensive-minded defenseman with good size who rarely makes mistakes and has good instincts. He shows excellent split-second decision-making to leave his spot on the offensive blueline to pinch into the zone and knock the puck back into the zone, or to jump in for a scoring chance on the power play. In the defensive end, he uses his big frame to separate the opposition from the puck as well as angle off forecheckers along the wall while shielding the puck and skating it out of his zone. He will throw his body around, but does not go running around to do so. He is still uncommitted from an NCAA standpoint.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**203****BRAYDEN BURKE****POSITION: Left Wing****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Lethbridge (WHL)****BORN: January 1, 1997****VITALS: 5'-10" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 72 GP 27 G 82 A 109 PTS 44 PIM**

Burke is a skilled, playmaking winger with a bit of a size deficiency. He's a wiry guy and a deceptive skater with the speed to pull away from a defender when needed. He does not possess high-end speed, but has enough to create space and the agility to maneuver around tight areas just fine. He has a good awareness of where his teammates are on the ice and puts himself in prime areas to make a play. He possesses very accurate puck-movement skills and leads his man, knowing where he will be just before releasing the puck on his pass. Burke's hands are great in traffic and he is capable of making crafty plays at the last second to set up a teammate. He is very slippery and capable of breaking a team's back with little space. He's a guy who excels with space and in odd-man scenarios. Burke finds space, but doesn't go out of his way to work for it in physical battles. He is outmatched quickly in board battles where strength is needed. He can let frustration creep into his game and he gets a little careless from time to time, exhibited by a few emotional sequences that cause him to take some poor offensive-zone penalties or lead to a bad turnovers. Burke makes smart and simple plays in the defensive zone, but can also leave the zone too early. He is an offensive guy who plays five-on-five and the power play, but is not relied upon in any defensive scenarios. With the puck, he has the skill to be a difference-maker, but he has to put forth the effort in the rest of his game.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Winger

**204****GARRETT PILON****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Kamloops (WHL)****BORN: April 13, 1998****VITALS: 5'-10" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 71 GP 15 G 32 A 47 PTS 24 PIM**

Pilon has the type of smarts to lull his opponents into the mindset he is contained prior to burning them when he spots opportunities. He has excellent quickness and an elusive skill set, although the top-level speed doesn't blow any doors off their hinges. He handles the puck swiftly and is hard to contain with his deking while in coverage. His hands aren't electrifying, but he protects well and can drag the puck with him into the clear, through the trenches. Pilon has the foot speed to get into open ice and get a quick-strike shot on net. His release is pretty good, but he doesn't have a real heater for a shot. He has intact offensive vision, waiting patiently for the perfect passing option to arrive. He does a pretty good job of varying his touch on his passes and is pretty good at ramping up quickness if he needs to. Pilon doesn't play a physical forechecking game, but takes the smart approach and closes gaps quickly. He always seems to take the smarter approach that puts him in the prime spots. He does a good job of getting into areas of the ice where he can support the play and not be totally on an island for when the next play develops. Pilon stays on the right side of the puck and keeps pressure up. He doesn't ever look fazed or panicked under pressure when he is a focal point with the puck. He is intelligent and has a good work ethic, although he is not right now a top offensive point-producer. He's a very good player, nothing dynamic, but well-rounded. He had a strong rookie campaign and showed he can be a good two-way player. The son of former NHLer Rich Pilon has work to do, but has the work ethic to prove himself.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center

**205****MICHAEL GRAHAM****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Eden Prairie (USHS)****BORN: November 25, 1997****VITALS: 6'-2" / 195 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 14 G 29 A 43 PTS 6 PIM**

Graham is an extremely fluent skater whose long stride allows him to gain ground efficiently and is quick to change direction. He is very strong on the puck and controls it very well in all three zones. He finishes all of his offensive plays effectively and efficiently, whether it is finding his open teammate to create a scoring opportunity or getting a shot to the net. He is a good puck-possession guy, though far from dynamic offensively. He does not display too much physical play, but is smart and does not get himself out of position when attempting to make a hit or attack a puckhandling opponent. He is very responsible in the defensive zone and takes care of all his assignments and responsibilities effectively, but he is not overly flashy while getting his job done. He is an efficient and extremely effective center who is capable of making big offensive plays. He consistently wins board battles using his combination of strength, smarts and skilled stick work, then curling into the slot to snap of a shot or find a teammate with a quick backdoor pass. The Notre Dame commit's development at the NCAA level will be extremely important to determine what kind of professional player he will be. He shows positive upside as a player who will do what is asked of him and will get the assignments done correctly.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Six Character Center

**206****TIM SODERLUND****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea J20 (SuperElit)****BORN: January 23, 1998****VITALS: 5'-9" / 165 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 21 G 18 A 39 PTS 26 PIM**

Soderlund is a small center with speed, drive, quick hands and a hard wrist shot. He likes to shoot the puck and often uses his one-timer that is very accurate and hard. He uses his quick feet and all of his 165 pounds to protect the puck to the best of his abilities. He uses his puck skills to deke out opponents, as well as to protect the puck along the wall. He doesn't shy away from working the boards, and does it with a lot of energy, even if his size doesn't give him the best opportunities to do so. Soderlund has good hands that make him very useful on the power play, both as a passer and a shooter. He has solid vision that he often uses to find his teammates without telegraphing his intentions. Because of his size, he is not a very physical player. Soderlund needs to keep his feet moving when he's without the puck, and give his teammates better options when set up in the zone. His speed, first-step acceleration and quick agility while possessing the puck at high speed makes him dangerous anywhere in the offensive zone. Soderlund leaves much to be desired defensively as he does not currently play a well-rounded game. Instead of playing hard all the time, he often comes back late with the play and shows his focus is more on his offensive game. He will need to work out some consistency issues in his game, add some much-needed strength and likely make the move to the wing if he hopes to make it to the NHL one day.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Offensive Forward

**207****SEBASTIAN AHO****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: Skelleftea (SHL)****BORN: February 17, 1996****VITALS: 5'-10" / 175 Lbs****STATS: 39 GP 3 G 13 A 16 PTS 12 PIM**

Aho plays a game centered around his immense hockey sense and vision. He is definitely undersized, hence the reason the talented puck-mover has been passed over twice already. But he is very quick and mobile. Aho has quick, powerful feet that he uses to escape pressure and turn up ice with the puck. He moves smoothly and crisply, and is able to carry the puck out of danger. He handles the puck well with a soft pair of hands and the ability to protect the puck from pressure. Aho sees the ice very well and is an effective puck mover from his own end and from the point. He can work a power play effectively and looks comfortable distributing the puck from the point. He also has a hard, accurate point shot. He uses an active defensive stick, and is poised in his own end. He isn't perfect defensively, and needs to add some size and strength to be more effective in his zone, especially on the walls. Aho makes smart plays using positioning and a quick stick to get the puck out of the D-zone. We'll see if he gets passed over in another draft. A bit undersized, he's a smart and mobile defender who can both pass and rush the puck. Aho has very good offensive instincts, but could use his shot more often. He was one of the best defensemen in the SHL playoffs, and played like a hurricane in the last part of the season. We're still surprised no team has taken a chance on him because he offers huge upside.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Offensive Defenseman

**208****BRETT MCKENZIE****POSITION: Center****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: North Bay (OHL)****BORN: March 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-2" / 190 Lbs****STATS: 66 GP 26 G 27 A 53 PTS 43 PIM**

McKenzie is a big, skilled, but often inconsistent, two-way center. He has a strong lower body leading to powerful agility and quick lateral movements when he taps into it. He possesses some impressive puck skills that shine in his cycle and board play down low as he dekes his man inside and out. McKenzie tries to be creative with the puck in open ice, but often fumbles it when he hits top speed. As a big, physically mature center, he is at his best when he uses his size to his advantage, using it to protect the puck when needed or getting involved in the gritty areas and forcing turnovers on the forecheck. His quick and heavy shot forces goalies to make the save, however, it is not always the most accurate when he isn't fully set. McKenzie shows a willingness to step in and stick up for his goalie and teammates, not letting the opposition take advantage of his team. Defensively, he loses his check at times, but also works hard to pick it back up. He shows good defensive coverage as he pulls back to cover for a pinching defender. He can be a bit of an agitator at times, flexing his muscle and being a physical force on the outside. His skating limits his overall effectiveness and efficiency on the ice, and it will need to improve if he is to have a NHL future at all. He is one of those players who convinces you of his potential one game and then leaves you questioning his potential in the next.

NHL POTENTIAL: Middle-Six Two-Way Center

**209****DEAN STEWART****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Right****TEAM: Portage (MJHL)****BORN: June 12, 1998****VITALS: 6'-1" / 170 Lbs****STATS: 42 GP 8 G 14 A 22 PTS 28 PIM**

Stewart is a mobile and athletic defenseman who can make a strong first pass. He plays a steady two-way game and is a smart puck-possession player who stabilizes the play in his own end before making his mark on the attack. He adapts quickly to the pace and style of any game. He can be offensive contributor with his willingness to jump up into plays and deliver shrewd passes to his teammates. Stewart uses his big shot to hammer pucks through the net and really likes to tee it up for the one-timer high in the zone. He has a big frame and changes his handle of the puck to keep it guarded as he is carrying the play. His skating agility is pretty good and has some elusiveness that allows him to avoid physicality on the forecheck. Stewart has good edges and a nice stride, and battles hard in front of the net, managing to box out effectively. Defensively, he is very attentive and covers his bases. He gets his stick involved in every play and will use his body to stand up his man if he sees a chance to close the gap. Stewart plays with very little risk in his own end and often makes your standard, simple play to chip the puck out or create an exit route from the defensive zone. Though he could be a little more physical and use his size to his advantage, he tends to prefer smothering the play with mobility. Stewart plays in all situations and sees special teams time. He is committed to the University of Nebraska-Omaha for the 2017-18 season so there is plenty of development time left here. This is one of your sleeper picks of the draft.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Two-Way Defenseman

**210****GRIFFIN LUCE****POSITION: Defense****SHOOTS: Left****TEAM: NTDP U18 (USHL)****BORN: March 10, 1998****VITALS: 6'-3" / 215 Lbs****STATS: 25 GP 1 G 3 A 4 PTS 33 PIM**

Luce, the son of Scott Luce, Florida Panthers Director of Amateur Scouting, and grandson of former NHLer Don Luce, is a big defensive defenseman. His skating is a detriment as he has heavy feet and finds it difficult to keep up with speedy forwards, especially when he needs to transition or turn. His size, reach and instincts help compensate for this weakness, but are not enough on their own. He makes a strong first pass and is a heads-up skater able to keep tabs on his option as he eats up open ice in front of him. Defensive coverage is where he will make his living as he does not have much in the way of offensive upside at the pro level. Luce can be hard to beat in physical board battles or when battling for position in front of his crease. He has an active stick and maintains decent gaps, keeping his check to the outside as best as his mobility will allow. He can manhandle smaller opponents and just shove them off the puck. Luce will play the body and can deliver some solid checks both along the wall and in open ice. He's not one to back down from skirmishes after the whistle, and he will drop the gloves to send a message or protect a teammate. He displays exceptional defensive position awareness. If he is to have an impact at the next level, he needs to work on his skating during his time at the University of Michigan and pick up a step or two.

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom-Pairing Defensive Defenseman



JUSTIN BRAZEAU

POSITION: Right Wing

TEAM: North Bay (OHL)

SHOOTS: Right

BORN: February 2, 1998

VITALS: 6'-4" / 195 Lbs

STATS: 65 GP 6 G 7 A 13 PTS 8 PIM

211

STRENGTHS: Brazeau is a prospect with plenty of tools to refine and could be a diamond in the rough with proper development. He anticipates and reacts well, position himself in excellent position away from the puck. He just always seems to be in the places that sets him apart as the best option available. Brazeau puts himself in the spots to be successful to receive turnovers right on his tape. He uses his long reach and smarts to be on the right side of turnovers and/or strip his man of the puck. If he doesn't see an ideal passing option off the rush, he drives the net with the puck or drive there without it in an attempt to set up in front. Brazeau reads the play very well on the breakout to streak into passing lanes to be an option, providing the puck carrier with a strong outlet. He thinks the game at a high level and is really just starting to hit his stride in development. He has some room to grow skating wise but generates power through crossovers as he attempts to get to where he needs to be. His effort level has improved as the season wore on and he looked more comfortable. Brazeau displays no quit in an effort to get possession of the puck. He is quick on the forecheck to pressure the puck carrier and put his stick in a good position to attempt to limit the passing lane. He displays strong awareness on the backcheck to pick up his man or adapt to play and cover missed assignment. Brazeau reads the play and holds back to cover for his defenseman who jump into the rush. He's a raw, hardworking project we believe could be a good player down the road, especially as he continues to be developed under legendary coach Stan Butler.

WEAKNESSES: A tall and lanky winger, Brazeau gets knocked off the puck easily as he lacks the strength needed, both upper and lower body, to be successful in protection and in possession in general. When he is not braced for the check, he gets knocked right over. He needs to spend some time in the gym and get more comfortable on the ice. If he gains some more muscle mass and core strength, he will only elevate this area of his game. He tends to sway side to side in his skating stride, not possessing the strength through the lower body to allow him to pick up the speed needed. He is also soft in his balance and needs to strengthen his stops and starting ability.

SCOUT'S QUOTE: "There's just something there that intrigues me about Brazeau's game and his overall potential. He was a quiet player in the early stages of the year, and while he maintained his role on the fourth line he took his game to new heights. Filled with potential and has the ability to make an impact. He has the size and smarts to be an impactful depth power forward that has a nose for the net. Brazeau will need to spend time in the gym and work on his core strength and skating, but this commitment will pay off for himself and the team that lands him."

NHL POTENTIAL: Bottom Six Two-Way Winger



2016 NHL MOCK DRAFT



1

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

The Toronto Maple Leafs select C Auston Matthews (ZSC Lions).

DRAFT NEEDS: At this position, the only need they have their eye on is that potential number-one center to build around.

NOTES: The Maple Leafs are ecstatic to add the big, skilled, projected first-line center the franchise needs to play alongside some of the highly skilled wingers they have collected over the previous years.

2

WINNIPEG JETS

The Winnipeg Jets select LW Patrik Laine (Tappara).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive help at the forward positions and depth on the back end.

NOTES: The Jets grab this goal-scoring winger whom they hope can become the next Finnish Flash. He adds an elite offensive element to a team full of NHL prospects, but that has lacked that true offensive weapon until now.

3

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

The Columbus Blue Jackets select RW Jesse Puljujarvi (Karpas).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need talent on the wings and a true potential top-line center prospect.

NOTES: The Blue Jackets are very happy to add a potential top-line scoring winger with their first pick, but he's also a guy who can play a two-way game and has good size.

4

EDMONTON OILERS

The Edmonton Oilers select D Olli Juolevi (London).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need to add a blue-chipper to their back end to go along with all their young forwards.

NOTES: After trying to trade down with no success, Edmonton selects a defenseman who will help feed pucks to its stable of talented forwards with strong passes and also, hopefully, help to stabilize the defensive game.

5

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

The Vancouver Canucks select C/LW Pierre-Luc Dubois (Cape Breton).

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

NOTES: The Canucks take the gifted power forward who automatically becomes their top prospect and is someone who can play both center and wing.

6

CALGARY FLAMES

The Calgary Flames select LW Matthew Tkachuk (London).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive depth coming at the forward positions as well as additional depth on the back end.

NOTES: The Flames pick up a hard-working, offensive-minded winger who has some impressive bloodlines and will complement the young forwards already there.

7

ARIZONA COYOTES

The Arizona Coyotes select D Jake Bean (Calgary).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need a high-end talent on the back end and a blue-chip goalie prospect.

NOTES: The Coyotes grab one of the top offensive blueliners available, one who comes with plenty of questions, but also the highest upside to complement the high-flying youth at forward.

8

BUFFALO SABRES

The Buffalo Sabres select RW Alexander Nylander (Mississauga).

DRAFT NEEDS: They could use high-end offensive contributors up front and continue to add depth at all positions.

NOTES: The Sabres add a scoring winger who has some of the best creativity and puck skills in this draft. He will complement the other youth with whom the Sabres are building.

9

MONTREAL CANADIENS

The Montreal Canadiens select C Logan Brown (Windsor).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensively skilled prospects with size at all three positions up front.

NOTES: This big center is exactly what Montreal needs as is has been focusing on drafting plenty of size recently, but none of those prospects are turning out to be the top-line variety.

10

COLORADO AVALANCHE

The Colorado Avalanche select C Clayton Keller (NTDP U18).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need high-end talent coming at all three forward positions and some depth on the back end.

NOTES: The Avalanche pick up a guy who can play wing or center, and has the high-end skills and speed to eventually become a top NHL scorer.

11

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

The New Jersey Devils select D Jakob Chychrun (Sarnia).

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

NOTES: The Devils get the projected top-pairing, highly skilled blueliner who they coveted and the best player on most lists at this point.

12

OTTAWA SENATORS

The Ottawa Senators select C Tyson Jost (Penticton).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need skilled depth at all forward positions and a skilled defender to develop.

NOTES: The Sens pick up the top forward at the U18s in April. This forward will take a little while to get to the Capital City, but he should be a top forward once there.

13

CAROLINA HURRICANES

The Carolina Hurricanes select C Michael McLeod (Mississauga).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need skill coming at forward and a blue-chipper in the crease.

NOTES: The Canes add a projected top-six center with a strong two-way game and likely the best speed in the entire draft with this selection.

14

BOSTON BRUINS

The Boston Bruins select D Mikhail Sergachev (Windsor).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive skill coming at the center position and more talent coming for the blueline.

NOTES: The Bruins go for a highly skilled Russian defender who should help the Bruins future power play and could develop into a top-pairing defender.

15

MINNESOTA WILD

The Minnesota Wild select LW Kieffer Bellows (NTDP U18).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive skill on the wings and center.

NOTES: The Wild organization adds a feisty, goal-scoring winger with strong local ties and NHL bloodlines as father Brian Bellows played for the first incarnation of Minnesota's NHL franchise.

16 DETROIT RED WINGS

The Detroit Red Wings select LW Max Jones (London).

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

NOTES: The Wings pick up both size and feistiness with this selection. He plays a solid two-way game and could end up making a huge impact for a team not known for its grit.

17 NASHVILLE PREDATORS

The Nashville Predators select D Dante Fabbro (Penticton).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need a blue-chip blueliner and a scoring center to add to the talent pool.

NOTES: The Predators use their first selection in the draft to pick up an ultra-safe blueliner who they like as a future top-pairing, two-way guy who can be matched with more of a risk-taking partner.

18 PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

The Philadelphia Flyers select RW Julien Gauthier (Val-d'Or).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive talent, depth on the wings and a high-end goaltender in the pipeline.

NOTES: The Flyers go with this massive winger who is a true Flyers type of prospect. He can help play the gritty and power game, and be that net-front presence who can also fill the net.

19 NEW YORK ISLANDERS

The New York Islanders select D Charlie McAvoy (Boston University).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need high-end talent on the back end and scoring on the wings.

NOTES: The Islanders take the player they think has the best chance to help them at this spot in the puck-moving rearguard. The Long Island native will also help give their power play a boost.

20 ARIZONA COYOTES

The Arizona Coyotes select C German Rubtsov (Russia U18).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more size and skill on the wings and a blue-chip goalie prospect.

NOTES: The Coyotes grab the talented Russian center who plays a dominant two-way game. He fits in nicely with the future unit they are building.

21 CAROLINA HURRICANES

The Carolina Hurricanes select C/RW Pascal Laberge (Victoriaville).

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

NOTES: The Hurricanes use their second first-round selection to pick up a skilled, goal-scoring forward who can play both center and the wing.

22 WINNIPEG JETS

The Winnipeg Jets select C Luke Kunin (University of Wisconsin).

DRAFT NEEDS: They do not really need much, but maybe another puck-mover on the back end.

NOTES: A defenseman would be a reach here, so the Jets grab another high-end, fleet-footed goal-scorer with their second pick of the draft. The rich get richer with this pick as their cupboard of future forward talent is overflowing.

23 FLORIDA PANTHERS

The Florida Panthers select LW Riley Tuft (Blaine).

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

NOTES: The Panthers add this super-sized, naturally talented goal-scorer here as they believe he could develop into a player similar to current Panther and previous Blaine High School star Nick Bjugstad down the road.

24 ANAHEIM DUCKS

The Anaheim Ducks select C/RW Tage Thompson (University of Connecticut).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need a skilled center or two, as well as depth in the crease and skill on the wing.

NOTES: The Ducks scoop up a big goal-scorer from the NCAA circuit who was a real killer on the power play for the Huskies during his freshman season.

25

DALLAS STARS

The Dallas Stars select RW Alex DeBrincat (Erie).

DRAFT NEEDS: Their biggest need is goal-scoring prospects on the wings.

NOTES: The Stars add a pint-sized, but naturally gifted, goal-scorer on the wing who they believe will one day provide top-six scoring.

26

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

The Washington Capitals select D Logan Stanley (Windsor).

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

NOTES: The Caps add a big, towering defender who has improved by leaps and bounds this season. He will add a shutdown and physical element to the Caps' blueline in the not-too-distant future.

27

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

The Tampa Bay Lightning select LW Vitali Abramov (Gatineau).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need to add talent at all three forward positions and on the blueline.

NOTES: The Lightning scoop up this skilled, playmaking winger who plays a game similar to some of the NHL stars they already have on the big club's roster.

28

ST. LOUIS BLUES

The St. Louis Blues select C Brett Howden (Moose Jaw).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need depth and skill at the center position as well as another goaltender to develop.

NOTES: The St. Louis Blues nab a two-way center with some size and grit to add to their stable. They like him as a future top-six, 200-foot performer in the David Backes mold.

29

BOSTON BRUINS

The Boston Bruins select LW Boris Katchouk (Sault Ste. Marie).

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

NOTES: The Bruins got a potential huge piece of their future defense earlier in the first round and now add a heart-and-soul guy on the wing who can do it all.

30

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

The Toronto Maple Leafs select D Samuel Girard (Shawinigan).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more skill up front and an impact defensive prospect or two.

NOTES: The Leafs added their top-line center first overall and now address the need on the back end with this puck-moving savant.

31

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

The Toronto Maple Leafs select D Cam Dineen (North Bay).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more skill throughout their prospect pool, but specifically on defense and in net.

NOTES: The Leafs added their top-line center first overall and a puck-mover at the tail end of round one. They now add another defensive prospect who jump starts the attack.

32

EDMONTON OILERS

The Edmonton Oilers select D Kale Clague (Brandon).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need multiple talents on the back end to go along with all their young, skilled forwards.

NOTES: Edmonton selects a second skilled defenseman who will help move pucks and balance out the talent in the organization.

33

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

The Vancouver Canucks select C/RW Jordan Kyrou (Sarnia).

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

NOTES: The Canucks add a skilled and elusive center who can play the right side as well. His ability to handle the puck and set up a play make him a valuable prospect for the rebuilding Canucks.

34

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

The Columbus Blue Jackets select C/RW Adam Mascherin (Kitchener).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need talent on the wings and a top-line center prospect.
NOTES: The Blue Jackets are excited to add a potential top-six goal-scorer who can play both wing and center. He has a very strong shot that should complement their top pick's playmaking ability.

35

CALGARY FLAMES

The Calgary Flames select C Sam Steel (Regina).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more offensive depth coming at the forward positions.
NOTES: The Flames pick up an underrated playmaker with their second pick. He is someone they had ranked much higher as they think he could end up becoming a very solid second-line center when he bulks up.

36

WINNIPEG JETS

The Winnipeg Jets select LW/C Tyler Benson (Vancouver).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive help at the forward positions and depth on the back end.
NOTES: The Jets grab a sleeper who could end up giving them top-20 value with a second-round pick. He plays the game with power and skill.

37

ARIZONA COYOTES

The Arizona Coyotes select G Carter Hart (Everett).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more help on the back end and a blue-chip goalie prospect.
NOTES: The Coyotes added an offensive-defenseman and a skilled two-way forward, and now look to the top netminder, which is an organizational need as well.

38

BUFFALO SABRES

The Buffalo Sabres select G Filip Gustavsson (Lulea).

DRAFT NEEDS: They will look to add depth to the talent pool while taking the best player available.
NOTES: The Sabres added a scoring winger with their first pick and now address another need with a potential starting goalie to develop.

39

MONTREAL CANADIENS

The Montreal Canadiens select C/RW Noah Gregor (Moose Jaw).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensively skilled prospects with size at all three positions up front.
NOTES: The Habs scoop up another talented forward with this pick and again select someone who plays a heavy game, which is a goal for the organization.

40

COLORADO AVALANCHE

The Colorado Avalanche select D Adam Fox (NTDP U18).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need high-end talent coming at all three forward positions and some depth on the back end.
NOTES: The Avalanche select this puck-moving defender who came on stronger as the season progressed and could really help their power play in the future.

41

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

The New Jersey Devils select RW Taylor Raddysh (Erie).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive talent at all forward positions.
NOTES: The Devils grabbed their big, skilled blueliner in the first and now grab a scoring winger with their second-round selection. They love his size, skill and versatility.

42

OTTAWA SENATORS

The Ottawa Senators select D Libor Hajek (Saskatoon).

DRAFT NEEDS: They added a skilled center already and now look to the back end.
NOTES: The Sens pick up an underrated blueliner who showed well on a struggling Blades squad this season. He will add depth and some physical upside to their talent pool.

43

CAROLINA HURRICANES

The Carolina Hurricanes select C Rasmus Asplund (Farjestad).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need skill at forward and a blue-chipper in the crease.

NOTES: The Canes add another skilled forward in this projected top-six center with a two-way game. The Canes were surprised he was still on the board at this point.

44

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

The Tampa Bay Lightning select D Dennis Cholowski (Chilliwack).

DRAFT NEEDS: After adding a skilled winger in the first, they switch their focus to the defensemen available.

NOTES: Yzerman and gang are happy to nab this skilled, yet raw, two-way defender who developed at an accelerated rate in the BCHL this season.

45

MONTREAL CANADIENS

The Montreal Canadiens select RW/C Nathan Bastian (Mississauga).

DRAFT NEEDS: They continue looking for size-and-skill combos to add to the roster.

NOTES: The Canadiens are excited to see the big-bodied power winger still available with their third pick in the draft as his blend of work ethic, skill and size is just what they were hoping to add.

46

DETROIT RED WINGS

The Detroit Red Wings select D Ryan Lindgren (NTDP U18).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive skill with size at forward and some depth on the back end.

NOTES: The Wings are excited to nab this hard-to-play-against blueliner with sound two-way skills and a real physical bend to the way he defends.

47

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

The Nashville Predators select C Janne Kuokkanen (Karpas).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need depth on the back end and at center.

NOTES: The Predators used their first selection to draft a high-end defensive prospect and now add a two-way center who has the instincts and skill to help fill the net.

48

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

The Philadelphia Flyers select C William Bitten (Flint).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive talent, depth on the wings and a high-end goaltender in the pipeline.

NOTES: The Flyers go with this plucky and skilled hard-working center. He is a heart-and-soul guy who will lead by example and battle no matter the score.

49

BOSTON BRUINS

The Boston Bruins select LW Carl Grundstrom (Modo).

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

NOTES: The Bruins keep adding grit and skill with this selection of the talented and hard-hitting winger who was one of the Swedish League's top bodycheckers.

50

CAROLINA HURRICANES

The Carolina Hurricanes select G Evan Fitzpatrick (Sherbrooke).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more depth throughout their system to build upon and a blue-chip goalie prospect.

NOTES: The Hurricanes grab their goaltender with their fourth selection in the draft and the guy many feel has the best NHL upside at his position available this year.

51

LOS ANGELES KINGS

The Los Angeles Kings select C Cameron Morrison (Youngstown).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need offensive depth at the forward positions as well as additional depth on the back end.

NOTES: The Kings take a guy who plays their type of power game and has some skill to contribute offensively. They can also afford to wait while he develops at the college level.

52



The Philadelphia Flyers select RW Cliff Pu (London).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more talent on the wings and a goaltender to develop.

NOTES: The Flyers opt to go with the big swing here in the skilled forward who was somewhat buried on a very deep London team. They like his speed, size and offensive upside.

53



The Arizona Coyotes select RW Wade Allison (Tri-City).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need to continue to take best available with an eye on building depth.

NOTES: The Coyotes bring in a big body that plays a heavy game on the wing to compliment the high end offensive talent they have been collecting up front.

54



The Calgary Flames select D Markus Niemelainen (Saginaw).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need more offensive depth up front and on the back end.

NOTES: The Flames are just ecstatic to find the big Finnish import still available at this spot in the draft as they had him as a first-round talent on their big board.

55



The Pittsburgh Penguins select D Lucas Johansen (Kelowna).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need a skilled center and a talent to develop on the back end.

NOTES: The Pens grab this developing two-way talent out of the “defenseman factory” that is Kelowna. The brother of Nashville center Ryan Johansen has strong potential as a top-four, two-way defender.

56



The Calgary Flames select C Jonathan Dahlen (Timra).

DRAFT NEEDS: They are looking to add more offensive depth up front.

NOTES: The Flames pick up the promising son of former NHLer Ulf Dahlen who looks to have more offensive skill and speed than his dad boasted, but maybe in a less gritty package.

57



The Toronto Maple Leafs select RW Joey Anderson (NTDP U18).

DRAFT NEEDS: They to continue adding talent at every position as they rebuild the team through the draft.

NOTES: The Leafs go back to the development team in Michigan and grab the top-line’s right winger whom they feel is a little overlooked compared to his talented linemates.

58



The Tampa Bay Lightning select C Dillon Dube (Kelowna).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need to add talent at all three forward positions and on the blueline.

NOTES: The Lightning nab this fleet-footed center who plays with high energy and skill. He can be developed as a skilled Tyler Johnson type or as more of a strong defensive player.

59



The St. Louis Blues select C Aapeli Rasanen (Tappara).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need depth and skill at the center position.

NOTES: The Blues use this selection to add their second future two-way center who will help the team as some of the current players are getting older.

60



The San Jose Sharks select D Andrew Peeke (Green Bay).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need to continue adding offensive skill up front and defensive help on the back end.

NOTES: The Sharks pick up one of the better defensive-defenders available in the draft.

61



The Pittsburgh Penguins select D Luke Green (Saint John).

DRAFT NEEDS: They need a skilled center or two as well as depth in the crease and skill on the wing.

NOTES: The Pens continue to rebuild their future defense with the selection of this puck-moving rearguard.



2017 NHL DRAFT PRELIMINARY RANKING

Rank	Name	Team	League	Pos	Ht	Wt
1	Nolan Patrick	Brandon	WHL	C	6-2	200
2	Timothy Liljegren	Rogle Jr20	SuperElit	D	6-0	190
3	Gabriel Vilardi	Windsor	OHL	C	6-2	185
4	Owen Tippett	Mississauga	OHL	RW	6-1	185
5	Maxime Comtois	Victoriaville	QMJLH	RW	6-1	195
6	Casey Mittlestadt	Eden Prairie	USHS	C	5-11	190
7	Eeli Tolvanen	Sioux City	USHL	RW	5-10	175
8	Urho Vaakanainen	Blues U20	Jr. A Liiga	D	6-1	185
9	Kristian Vesalainen	Frolunda U20	SuperElit	LW	6-3	205
10	Callan Foote	Kelowna	WHL	D	6-4	200
11	Kailer Yamamoto	Spokane	WHL	RW	5-8	160
12	Nicolas Hague	Mississauga	OHL	D	6-6	210
13	Robin Salo	Sport U20	Jr. A Liiga	D	6-0	180
14	Lias Andersson	HV71 Jr20	SuperElit	C	5-11	195
15	Juuso Valimaki	Tri City	WHL	D	6-2	200
16	Matthew Strome	Hamilton	OHL	LW	6-3	190
17	Marcus Davidsson	Djurgardens Jr20	SuperElit	C	6-0	185
18	Scott Reedy	NTDP U18	USHL	C	6-1	190
19	Antoine Morand	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	C	5-9	170
20	Nico Hischier	Bern U20	Elite Jr. A	C	5-11	165
21	Nikita Popugayev	Moose Jaw	WHL	RW	6-4	205
22	Jesper Boqvist	Brynäs Jr20	SuperElit	C	5-10	170
23	Max Gildon	NTDP U18	USHL	D	6-2	185
24	Klim Kostin	Balashikha	MHL	RW	6-3	185
25	Emil Oksanen	Blues U20	Jr. A Liiga	RW	6-0	180
26	Elias Pettersson	Timrå Jr20	SuperElit	C	6-0	160
27	Shane Bowers	Waterloo	USHL	C	6-1	170
28	Michael Rasmussen	Tri City	WHL	C	6-5	205
29	Jake Oettinger	NTDP U18	USHL	G	6-4	200
30	Kirill Slepets	National U18	MHL	RW	5-10	155



1
C NOLAN PATRICK
BRANDON, WHL
6-2, 200

A lethal combo of size, speed and skill; plays a power game and possesses one of the most well-rounded skill sets in the CHL...has great wheels and is able to surprise with his speed...hands and ability to protect the puck is high-end...plays very responsibly with the puck, but also makes something happen each time he possesses it...uses his strength and reach to guard the puck, driving his way around the offensive zone...a heads-up, confident passer...has a sharp release on his wrist shot and is capable of beating a goaltender from anywhere in the offensive zone...his slap shot has high-level accuracy and velocity...a ruthless presence off the puck, simply overpowers his opponents...a great leader, commanding respect with his work ethic and consistent high level of play...willing to stand up for his teammates and bring justice as he sees fit...beats teams with his IQ and seems to always be in control of the play...a number-one NHL center in the making.



2
D TIMOTHY LILJEGREN
ROGLE JR20, SUPERELIT
6-0, 190

An active, offensive-minded rearguard who likes the puck on his stick...skates with strong fluidity and agility, getting from one point to the next effortlessly as his feet always seem to be in motion...can take the puck end-to-end a la Erik Karlsson...his offensive IQ is off the charts as is his creativity...makes strong breakout passes to move along the attack to his forwards before jumping into the play himself...has a strong wrist shot that is quick off his blade, strong and accurate, and he gets some solid velocity on his slap shot...continually reading the play and moving as he tries to be in strong position to contribute as an option when not in possession of the puck himself...can be a high-risk, high-reward guy as he does take chances that can lead to turnovers here or there...a game-breaker...projected as a top-pairing offensive NHL defenseman.



3
C GABRIEL VILARDI
WINDSOR, OHL
6-2, 185

A dynamic and often brilliant offensive attacker...has skilled hands and outstanding awareness...looks to set up his linemates with timely passes, but can also finish off the play when the opportunity is there...has nice size and uses it to protect the puck...has a quick jump and agility on his feet, but is not really a speed demon screaming up the ice...plays aggressively both when his team does and does not have the puck; often hunting it down and stripping it from his opponent...has a bag of tricks he uses to shake defenders and get his hard, accurate wrist shot off or dish a soft pass...very difficult to knock off the puck and is able to dangle in very tight spaces while under heaps of defensive pressure...a toolsy center who is just scratching the surface of his potential...a constant threat in the offensive zone...has the look of a future offensive catalyst at the NHL level.



4
RW OWEN TIPPETT
MISSISSAGUA, OHL
6-1, 185

A strongly built, scoring winger who possesses that natural scorer's touch...he gets to the right areas of the ice both with and without the puck and has the pro-type shot and release to bury it...he is strong and shifty with the puck, protecting it well as he moves through traffic...gets around the ice well, showing quick jump acceleration to generate space and speed coming down the ice on the rush, and he shows agility and balance on his feet...has a good head for the game and identifies developing plays quickly...has a feel for when he should attack the play, when he should support his teammates and when he needs to wait in quiet ice for them to find him...works hard...not overly belligerent, but does play a physical game, with a chip on his shoulder...not afraid to take a bump to generate a chance...top-six NHL goal-scorer down the line.



5
RW MAXIME COMTOIS
VICTORIAVILLE, QMJHL
6-1, 195

A big-bodied, poised winger who is dependable in all zones...big, quick and skilled...can generate the speed to separate from defenders, and has the agility and balance to maintain possession in traffic...takes advantage of opponents' mistakes...makes proper decisions quickly and plays an up-tempo game...reads the play well, getting himself into solid position...plays a 200-foot game, competes hard, shows up every shift, and is willing and able to play physically...can deliver a strong check and separate opponents from the puck with his size...is a strong playmaker who can protect the puck with his strength and reach while reviewing his passing options...his forte though is his finishing as he has a lethal shot that is both hard and accurate...the kind of guy who leads by quiet example...smooth and effortless...a future NHL top-line winger.



6
C CASEY MITTLESTADT
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN HS
5-11, 190

A smart, quick and highly skilled center...has a tremendous first-step jump, change of pace and ability to make defenders miss...though not the biggest or strongest player on the ice, he finds success in loose puck battles by using his smarts and insane ability to shield the puck from defenders...never takes a shift off, and has added noticeable muscle and speed this season...will finish chances with a quick release on a wrister or powerful snap shot...puckhandling skills are excellent and he is able to create scoring chances in almost all of his offensive-zone shifts using his great vision and understanding of the game...aware of his defensive responsibility and backchecks hard to cover...sets up scoring chances using accurate, hard passes...always in the action and loves being the go-to guy...can beat defenders or gain the zone by utilizing this hands, feet or brain...a potential future top-line, two-way guy.



7
RW EELI TOLVANEN
SIOUX CITY, USHL
5-10, 175

This goal-scoring winger is a real offensive threat...plays with speed, intensity and skills...elusive with the puck on his stick...likes to shoot and has an impressive accurate shot with an absolutely deadly release...positions himself correctly to be open for the one-timer...a smooth, agile skater and covers ground at high rates of speed in transition...quick thinker who doesn't stop moving his feet...good speed when carrying the puck and can accelerate quickly...skilled stickhandler who protects the puck well...an underrated playmaking forward that is a dual threat in the offensive zone, although he does love to shoot...aware of defensive-zone puck movement and positions himself responsibly...hunter on the forecheck who looks to turn over pucks and quickly switch to offense...effective on the backcheck as he looks to break up scoring chances...does not avoid physical play, but does not initiate it either...will become a NHL goal-scorer and difference-maker.



8
D URHO VAAKANAINEN
BLUES U20, JR. A SM-LIIGA
6-1, 185

An intelligent, two-way defender...reads the play really well, has his head up all the time and makes quick decisions with the puck...great at turning the puck up ice with awareness of the play around him... moves the puck with easy plays and shows a solid first pass...possesses an accurate wrist shot from the blueline...is composed and does not panic with the puck when pressured...very little risk to his game and he does all the little things right...a great, smooth and balanced skater, plus he shows excellent speed when getting back to defend after joining the rush...backward skating and edge work are both at a high level...doesn't play overly aggressively, but boxes out his man with some physicality at times and keeps a good gap...uses his stick actively to close off lanes...complete defender who has some top-four NHL upside.



9
LW KRISTIAN VESALAINEN
FROLUNDA JR20, SUPERELIT
6-3, 205

A big and strong winger who has the ability to impact the game in many ways... plays a versatile, high-tempo offensive game...battles for pucks and space...a beast along the wall and difficult to move in front of the net...mixes a heavy game with very soft, skilled hands...possesses a very hard shot with quick release...makes soft, easy-to-control passes to his teammates...dangerous anytime he has the puck in the offensive zone...a powerful, long stride allows him to build impressive speed and makes him tough to stop...has the agility and balance as well as the strength and reach to really control possession in traffic and down low...defensively, he brings imposing pressure on the forecheck...not always playing at full intensity or with consistent effort...when he wants to, he can absolutely dominate physically...just a toolsy player with very high potential.



10
D CALLAN FOOTE
KELOWNA, WHL
6-4, 200

Another kid with NHL bloodlines as Adam Foote's son plays a rough-and-tumble, minute-munching game with a bit of offensive upside...he is huge and incredibly mobile for his size...can look a tad sluggish when quickly forced to elevate his tempo, but overall, he is very smooth on the ice... he has an incredibly long stick that he uses to consistently disrupt plays in every defensive scenario...an incredibly tough defenseman to beat in the defensive zone who is only going to get better...is also very capable with the puck as he cradles it smoothly in transition and hits on his passes... has some dangling ability, utilizing his reach and smooth mobility...has a quick, accurate slap shot...has poise with the puck, not making bad decisions when pressured... plays a physical game due to his natural size and strength, but could be a little more abrasive...big, elegant skater who distributes the puck at a high level and can play in all situations...impressive NHL upside.



11
RW KAILER YAMAMOTO
SPOKANE, WHL
5-8, 160

A pint-sized, yet dynamic, playmaker... small, speedy forward with excellent hockey sense and quick hands...has a strong work ethic that keeps him going...great overall quickness, first-step jump to create separation and an ability to alter speeds to create gaps...sneaky and stealth-like in finding prime scoring ice...very creative with the puck and shows off creative hands...uses his size to squeak through the tightest of holes...is a force in possession as he likes the puck on his stick, and is dangerous as a set-up man or shooter in the offensive zone...poised, clutch and aware...feisty on the forecheck, not physically, but uses his speed to force opponents into rushed plays while clogging up passing lanes with an active stick...one of those rare wingers who has the ability to affect the flow of a game like a center...a very special talent, high octane and cerebral.



12
D NICOLAS HAGUE
MISSISSAUGA, OHL
6-6, 210

Hague has a great mix of size, skating and skill...shuts down the oppositions' top lines and is a driver of the play...is physical and will give that extra shot to his opponent to leave a mark and an impression for the next time...doesn't give his man room to breathe in front of the net...not shy with stepping in to lay the body, standing up his man with a solid check...controls the gap very well with strong position and good stick work...very balanced and surprisingly mobile for a big kid, he possesses a powerful lateral step...has a strong desire to skate with the puck, keeping his head up while weighing his options and hitting his man with a pass when the timing is right...heavy point shot, but needs to shorten his wind-up...has a solid transition game as he can use his reach to take the puck away from opponent and quickly turn his sights to making the breakout pass in one fluid motion...plays a solid two-way game and has solid top-four NHL upside.



13

D ROBIN SALO
SPORT U20, JR. A SM-LIIGA
6-0, 180

A do-it-all type of rearguard...a guy the coach can rely upon in key situations...skates well with very strong balance and overall mobility...has impressive vision reading the forecheck and poise when pressured...excellent ability handling and distributing the puck...makes crisp breakout passes...sees the ice well and does not force pucks into bad situations...will rush the puck, but is more effective making the pass and then skating hard to follow up the play...plays with a physical side even though he is not overly large...his defensive play is constantly strong, utilizing positioning and his stick to disrupt his opponent...uses his frame to separate the attacker from the puck...his defensive anticipation is outstanding as he steps up to disrupt passes...has a heavy point shot that is a real weapon to score or deflect...upside of a stable top-four NHL defender.



14

C LIAS ANDERSSON
HV71 JR20, SUPERELIT
5-11, 195

A smart, mature, two-way center...good decision-making, leadership qualities and advanced understanding of the game...a true three-zone player...defensively responsible...will drop to block shots or find the open option and get his body in passing lanes...dangerous forechecker who reads the defense and uses an active stick to disrupt...covers up the ice for his teammates on the backcheck and always gives an honest effort...doesn't commit a lot of mistakes and plays a very calm game while in puck possession...has solid offensive instincts...protects the puck very well and is hard to knock off of it, uses all of his frame to keep opponents away from the puck...possesses a nice, quick shot release...not a flashy puckhandler, but can carry it up ice and distribute it well...has solid vision and the ability to set up his linemates...has good balance and generates decent speed, but his skating has some room to grow...a potential two-way guy in the Zetterberg mold.



15

D JUUSO VALIMAKI
TRI-CITY, WHL
6-2, 200

A strong, minute-munching, two-way, dependable blueliner...not a lot of high-end offensive flash or dash to his game, but just makes the right play consistently...good vision and puck moving ability, has no panic to his game and waits for his options...can sling the puck around with strong accurate passes...his hockey sense allows him to read and react to the play well in advance...very committed to blocking shots...big, rangy and covers a lot of ice, but his pivots and transitions are a little bit choppy...solid lateral mobility, especially carrying the puck and keeping it out of range of the opposition...plays with a good mix of aggression and poise, stepping into lanes to take the puck away from the opposition...just a good, poised, smart player who is not flashy, but consistently makes the right play and helps his team win games.



16

LW MATTHEW STROME
HAMILTON, OHL
6-3, 190

Brother of Dylan and Ryan, he is an offensively creative winger...not a bad skater, but should improve his skating and speed during his time in the OHL...has the ability and creativity to deke defenders and make them look silly...a strong puck-distributor who should use his shot more often as it also has some zip to it...plays hard in all three zones and will also assume defensive responsibilities...excellent hand-eye coordination as he bats down pucks and controls them in one swift motion...he doesn't quit on plays and works hard to get the puck back if and when he loses it...will take the puck into traffic and drive the net if the opportunity is there...not a real puck magician at this stage and, instead, prefers to use his reach to protect the puck while in his possession...also more inclined to dump the puck in and chase it down over using quick dekes to enter the zone...his hockey smarts, size and playmaking ability give him intriguing potential.



17

C MARCUS DAVIDSSON
DJURGARDEN, SUPERELIT
6-0, 185

A well-rounded, two-way center...has a still-developing, yet strong, skating stride that produces surprising amounts of speed...solid agility and power in his still-thin legs...is not afraid to take the puck to the net or drive the crease without it, looking for a rebound opportunity...not flashy, but has skilled enough hands and strength to protect the puck as he moves through traffic...utilizes his teammates with his deft puck-distribution ability or just by utilizing them as decoys...can find seams and lanes through sticks and bodies to get pucks to teammates in prime scoring position...has good defensive awareness and is always in strong position to support the defense by applying back pressure...will pick up for teammates' missed assignments...not physical, but will step into an opponent to separate the puck as well as battle for position deep in the offensive zone...has plenty of growth left in his game and could develop into a strong, playmaking, two-way center.



18

C SCOTT REEDY
USNTDP U17, USHL
6-1, 190

An athletic and offensively skilled power center...always seems to be in the right position to capitalize on opportunities...thinks the game really well...a supreme skater who is just as agile, quick and mobile as he is smart...has skilled hands and some creativity to carry the puck in traffic...makes smart choices with the puck on his stick...will drive the net both with and without the puck...poised and patient with the puck, waiting for the right play to develop...has the powerful frame to protect the puck...wins the majority of puck battles or battles for space...his shot is efficient...a bull when coming off the wall and taking the puck to the crease...displays strong vision and the ability to find teammates with passes while being hounded by a defender...plays a decent all-around game as he comes back hard and picks up his checks...a big, strong-skating forward with loads of NHL upside.



19
C ANTOINE MORAND
 ACADIE-BATHURST, QMJHL
 5-9, 170

A speedy and skilled playmaker...his biggest strength is his quick mind and ability to win battles with it rather than with size or strength...he knows what he is doing with the puck a step ahead of his opponent or his teammate most of the time...he is a competitor who just keeps coming...creative and skilled with his hands as he can dance around the ice with the puck on a string...what he lacks in size, he makes up for in smarts and competitiveness...his skating is also high-end as he is quick and fast, making quick turns or lateral shifts as well as generating impressive straight speed...not an overly physical guy, but does not back down and will jump into the mix...just like everything else, he has a quick shot release...responsible defensively...battles just as hard in his own zone as he does offensively...playmaker with strong vision and NHL upside.



20
C NICO HISCHIER
 BERN U20, ELITE JR. A
 5-11, 165

A smooth-skating, playmaking center...good skating agility and top speed, but is more quick than fast...is able to make quick turns and displays good lateral movement...not big or strong, but still shows willingness to take hits and battle for space...goes into board battles and uses his body to fight for pucks...excellent playmaking instincts, vision and passing skills...puts puck where his linemates can best utilize the chance...an incredible stickhandler who thrives in possession and can make defenders look foolish...competitive and driven...poise is a major standout attribute...dangerous when given time, especially on the power play as he takes full control of the play from the half wall with the puck, using his impressive agility, hands and vision to make plays...plays a responsible defensive game...one of the best talents to come out of Switzerland.



21
RW NIKITA POPUGAYEV
 MOOSE JAW, WHL
 6-4, 205

A big, lanky, offensively minded winger...a massive and skilled player who shows offensive prowess and underrated skills without the puck...gets from Point A to Point B in good time, but has some work to do on his stride...has surprising agility for a kid his size...tends to lean toward being a goal-scorer...can really rifle the puck and has an exceptional release...dangerous as he trails the play looking for open ice to get a shot off...can really jive and juke around to shake opponents, showing craftiness in his hands...has good vision of the ice and acts quickly to make plays...has an unreal reach and protects the puck with it...a predatory player without the puck and won't back off when applying pressure...when he gains more muscle and improves his skating, he will be an absolute force.



22
C JESPER BOQVIST
 BRYNAS JR20, SUPERELIT
 5-10, 170

A speedster with lethal offensive skill...possesses a smooth-skating style and often makes use of his speed to beat defensemen on the outside...his speed combined with very fine hands is what makes him such a dangerous player...reads the play and defense well...can both find teammates with passes or deke defenders...is strong on the puck for a player his size, and is difficult to catch...will carry the puck into the offensive zone and hold on to it in order to let his teammates get into position...his intensity can go from high to non-existent so his consistency will need to be addressed...can use both speed and hands to create scoring chances...great playmaking skills, but could use a little work on his shot...his combination of quick feet and quick hands makes him dangerous...high-upside, offensive forward on the next level.



23
D MAX GILDON
 USNTDP U17, USHL
 6-2, 185

A two-way defender in the Ryan McDonagh mold...this big wing-spanned blueliner is just scratching the surface of his ability...the big Texan is a minute-muncher who can contribute at both ends of the ice...a steadying presence in his own zone...strong and physical, not afraid to flex his muscle and willing to play it nasty if required...pins his man and does not let him back into the play...generates decent speed and keeps his gaps tight because of his reach and skating...handles the puck well, although not overly flashy or very creative offensively...can play in all situations...plays a strong transition game, moving the puck quickly and accurately up to his forwards...does not back down from a battle...his point shot is improving with added strength...has loads of room to grow, but also the potential to be a difference-maker at the NHL level.



24
RW KLIM KOSTIN
 BALASHIKHA, MHL
 6-3, 185

A big-bodied power winger with strong work ethic...he can dominate for stretches with his cycle game and puck-protection skills...can carry defenders around the ice with his power and balance, or stickhandle around them with a deke or two as he goes to the net...high-energy guy, always keeps his feet moving...possesses a very quick release and has great shot selection...heads-up player who has a great work ethic and leads by example...works his tail off away from the play to get himself in position to make a play...strong intelligence and sees plays developing around him, knowing how to interject himself to provide the best opportunity...is responsible away from the puck and knows where to be to support his defenders...will be a real beast as he adds even more muscle to his impressive frame.



25
RW EMIL OKSANEN
BLUES U20, JR. A SM-LIIGA
6-0, 180

A smooth-skating winger with good hands and a deadly finish...his skating is very agile...able to explode in a couple of quick strides...silky smooth hands and solid puckhandling skills...poised with the puck, and finds a way to get to the net...great awareness of the game...vision is very impressive and he makes well-timed, accurate passes...knows where he wants to move the puck before he touches it...possesses good power and excellent release on his wrist shots...understands the game well and is always aware of where his linemates are and will be...plays a responsible defensive game, aware of his duties within all three zones...uses his stick very well for checking players and anticipates their next move...a player who combines a good shot with good skating ability...projects to be a top-six scorer at the NHL level.



26
C ELIAS PETTERSSON
TIMRA JR20, SUPERELIT
6-0, 160

An energetic forward with highly creative hands, good work ethic and offensive skills...smart and aware on the ice...dangerous one-on-one player...combination of speed and the ability to make quick turns in different directions with the puck make him hard to pin down...can pull off multiple quick dekes in unison with quick changes of direction to break ankles of defenders...keeps his feet moving and brings quick pressure on his opponent offensively...finds open ice and creates space for himself to get off his strong wrist shot...goes to the high-traffic areas and will take the puck to the net...defensively, he knows where to position himself...tries to get himself into shooting or passing lanes...not physical, but will engage on the backcheck...needs some added muscle, but is a solid top-six projection for the NHL.



27
C SHANE BOWERS
WATERLOO, USHL
6-1, 170

A solid 200-foot player who works hard...adequate top-end speed that will only improve as he gets stronger...balanced on his skates and when he explodes, he can create breaches in the other team's defense...shows good initial burst...plays with a lot of gumption and makes life hard for opponents...willing to play in the dirty areas of the ice...a nice ability to read the play...does a good job of using his body to protect the puck...hands are not overly flashy, but he does a good job of using his body to protect the puck...dangerous as he takes a quick step out from the wall to the front of the net or comes from behind the net to get off a quick shot...intelligent decision-maker who moves the puck well and makes the right choices...defensively, he plays with some grit, making life tough on his opponent...patiently lets the play come to him...just a real versatile difference-maker at both ends of the rink.



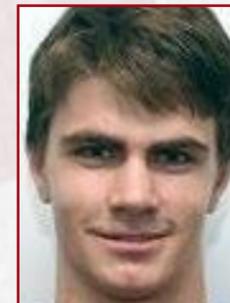
28
C MICHAEL RASMUSSEN
TRI-CITY, WHL
6-5, 205

A big, skilled forward who uses his size well...has improved his skating substantially from his midget days...for a player his size, he moves phenomenally well, smoothly and with impressive power...does a very good job of consistently getting to the greasy areas of the ice; he wins a lot of battles in those areas due to his size and reach...goes to the net and blocks the goaltender's view while looking for deflections and rebounds...not flashy hands, but can carry the puck using his body extremely well to protect it...has underrated vision and playmaking ability...needs some work on his shot as he currently lacks consistent accuracy and quickness in getting it off his blade...just knows how to utilize his strengths to make a difference...uses his reach to disrupt opponents and get into lanes...willing to block shots...has a ways to go, but could be special and has loads of upside.



29
G JAKE OETTINGER
USNTDP U18, USHL
6-4, 200

Big and athletic puckstopper in the prototypical NHL goalie mold...covers a lot of the net with his natural size and mobility...has long legs that cover much of the lower net when he drops into the butterfly...handles rebounds well as he either directs them to open space or suffocates them in his pads...is fluid and quick, pushing post-to-post and maintains good position when he is forced to move laterally...comes out to challenge shooters...handles pressure well and fights for his crease...is poised and calm, looking effortless on most changes...looks confident, like he knows where the puck is going and sets up for each initial shot...can make a scrambling save as well because of his athleticism...tracks the puck well, but this is one area that he could continue to improve...could start at BU as a freshman...has very good upside as an NHL starter.



30
RW KIRILL SLEPETS
NATIONAL U18, MHL
5-10, 155

A smaller, but highly skilled, offensive winger...always thinking offense and what his next move will be to create a scoring chance...a predatory mindset, finding dead ice to set up for a wicked one-timer...his shot selection is impressive as his wrist shot and snap shot both have a very quick release and strong accuracy...also has that "nose for the net" as he shows up in the right place to pounce on dangerous scoring opportunities multiple times per game...fast feet, hands and head...balanced on his skates and can create separation with his speed...more gritty and willing to battle than his size would indicate...works hard on the wall to move pucks to teammates...needs to hit the weight room and build on his frame...has some Vladimir Tarasenko type qualities in his game...a potential NHL goal-scorer.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS
2018 NHL DRAFT GUIDE



2018 NHL DRAFT INITIAL LISTING

Rank	Name	Team	League	Pos	Ht	Wt
1	Andrei Svechnikov	AK Bars Kazan U16	Russia U16	RW	6-2	175
2	Joseph Veleno	Saint John	QMJHL	C	6-1	180
3	Filip Zadina	HC Pardubice U20	Czech U20	C	6-0	185
4	Jake Wise	Central Catholic	USHS	C	5-11	180
5	Oliver Wahlstrom	Shattuck St. Mary's	US Prep	C	6-1	190
6	Bode Wilde	Chicago Mission U16	HPhL U16	D	6-3	185
7	Isac Lundestrom	Lulea J20	SuperElit	C	6-0	180
8	Evan Bouchard	London	OHL	D	6-2	185
9	David Levin	Sudbury	OHL	LW	5-10	155
10	Jared McIsaac	Cole Harbour Wolfpack	NSMMHL	D	6-0	180



1
RW ANDREI SVECHNIKOV
AK BARS KAZAN U16, RUSSIA U16
6-2, 175

Absolutely destroying the U16 circuit in Russia this year...brother of Detroit's 2015 first-round pick Evgeni...game is built on speed, high motor and electric puck skills...has highlight-reel playmaking ability and an incredible shot release...plays a physically strong game...explosive feet and is dangerous off the rush or anywhere in the offensive zone...goes to the net and plays hard in traffic...is unpredictable and possesses a full bag of dekes...a dominant possession player who is a threat every time he's on the ice...top-line NHL All-Star upside.



2
C JOSEPH VELENO
SAINT JOHN, QMJHL
6-1, 180

A game-breaker...creates offensive chances out of thin air...makes those around him a notch better...great puckhandling, even at a high rate of speed and shows patience waiting for a play to open up...shows high-end smarts and vision...makes quick passes that are both accurate and imaginative...skates well with fluid edge work and strong jump in his first strides...deadly change of pace...has an accurate shot, but needs to improve its velocity...supports his defense...just needs to add strength and fill out his frame...has bona fide top-line NHL center upside.



3
C FILIP ZADINA
HC PARDUBICE, CZECH U20
6-0, 185

Dynamic offensive threat...uses his frame to effectively maintain and protect the puck...has an absolutely lethal wrist shot that he can rip through tight holes from the circles on in...has smooth and skilled hands to deke his way through traffic...has strong feet, both in generating separation speed and in maintaining balance...sees the entire sheet well and makes skilled passes to generate offensive opportunities...goes to the net and needs little to no room to get a shot off from in tight...solid effort, yet underdeveloped defensive game...reads the play well.



4
C JAKE WISE
CENTRAL CATHOLIC, USHS
5-11, 180

A highly skilled playmaker who finds creative ways to distribute the puck...has a tremendously powerful stride that generates both quick acceleration and impressive lateral agility...he also has good separation speed...possesses a solid shot that is both hard and accurate, but his natural bend is his playmaking due to his vision and creativity...has a strong hockey IQ and knows where to go on the ice offensively...is coachable and mature in his approach...a high-end prospect who has drawn Jack Eichel comparisons.

**5****C OLIVER WAHLSTROM**
SHATTUCK ST. MARY'S, US PREP
6-1, 190

A true difference-maker...has a breathtaking stride that is effortless, balanced and powerful...gets around the ice with impressive speed...possesses a strong shot with quick release and solid velocity...willing to shoot it from anywhere...can play gritty and lay some bone-crushing hits, but is also inconsistent in his physicality...quick, creative and strong hands to weave through defenders...protects the puck well...sometimes the compete level does not always look to be at 100% as he gets by on his natural talent...can really take over a game when he wants to.

**6****D BODE WILDE**
CHICAGO MISSION U16, HPHL U16
6-3, 185

Big, two-way difference-maker on the back end...has impressive size and power to his game...plays a physical brand and relishes it...skates with solid fluidity and agility for such a lanky frame...delivers hard passes...can bury you with a devastating hit and then lead an offensive rush up ice with the puck all in the same shift...has an active stick and closes off lanes defensively...crease-clearing ability...possesses a heavy shot...needs to continue to build upon his impressive frame and iron out some positioning holes...top-pairing NHL potential...USNTDP commit.

**7****C ISAC LUNDESTROM**
LULEA JR20, SUPERELIT
6-0, 180

Poised puckhandler...protects the puck well and is capable of creating plays...has skilled hands and is a quick decision-maker...can penetrate a seam quickly and dangerously take the puck to the net...possesses high-end vision and ability to distribute the puck at top speeds...fluid stride whose skating looks absolutely effortless...powerful legs and ability to control the puck...makes quick decisions when he is flying...effective in the middle of the ice, but has the speed to burn wide and drive the net...has NHL scoring-line upside.

**8****D EVAN BOUCHARD**
LONDON, OHL
6-2, 185

Big-time catalyst on the back end...a puck-mover who skates well and uses his mobility to be effective offensively and defensively...shows great anticipation to jump into plays and make a difference...knack for finding open lanes to move with the puck...excellent heads-up puck distributor who can hold the line and show off a booming shot...very sound defender...head for the game is incredible and he is very capable of being the clutch guy... great defensive positioning and utilizes his reach and body position to put up barriers...excellent instincts and reaction...upside is that of a potential top-pairing NHL blueliner.

**9****LW DAVID LEVIN**
SUDBURY, OHL
5-10, 160

An impressive cerebral talent who is capable of creating some brilliant plays...has a balanced stride...hard to knock off the puck...reads the play well and has impressive vision...handles the puck with skilled hands at high speed...is elusive and intelligent...can walk his way through defenses with a couple head and hand dekes...despite his less-than-ideal size, he has a physical aggressiveness to his game...needs to add strength to improve his skating and shot...wants to play a two-way game...determined and confident...still raw as he is somewhat new to the game, but has some high-end offensive potential.

**10****D JARED MCISAAC**
COLE HARBOUR, NSMMHL
6-0, 180

A smooth-skating puck-mover on the back end...looks effortless on his feet...has strong agility and impressive edge work...likes the puck on his stick...has very creative hands and excellent vision...seems to see his teammates, his opponents and the opposing goalie all at the same time...can either hit teammates with a soft dish or take it to the net himself...likes to get the puck on net and has an accurate shot...strong work ethic and determination...defensively, he keeps strong gaps...good defensive awareness...a natural leader who teammates look to.

ACE