



# 2024 NHL DRAFT RECAP

June 28-29  
Las Vegas, Nevada



## RD 1 | PICK 14

**KONSTA HELENIUS** F  
Jukurit (Liiga)

Led all U18 Liiga skaters in points during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons and his 47 career points rank second all-time among Liiga players before the age of 18, trailing only Aleksandr Barkov. Represented Finland at the 2024 IIHF World Championship, IIHF World Junior Championship and IIHF U18 World Championship.

## RD 2 | PICK 43

**ADAM KLEBER** D  
Lincoln (USHL)

Led all Lincoln defensemen in goals (5), game-winning goals (3), power-play goals (2), points (26), and points per game (0.46) and was tied for first among all Stars defensemen in assists (21). Was named to the USHL All-Academic Team in 2023-24 and is committed to play collegiately at the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2024-25.

## RD 3 | PICK 71

**BRODIE ZIEMER** F  
USNTDP (USHL)

Finished the 2023-24 season with 24 points (8+16) in 27 USHL games for the USNTDP. Captured a silver medal while serving as Team USA's captain at the 2024 IIHF U18 World Championship and ranked among the tournament's leaders in assists (T-4th, 9), points (T-5th, 12) and plus/minus (T-1st, plus-15). Committed to play collegiately at the University of Minnesota this fall.

## RD 4 | PICK 108

**LUKE OSBURN** D  
Youngstown (USHL)

Led all rookie USHL defensemen in goals (8) and ranked among the rookie league leaders in assists (3rd, 15) points (3rd, 23) and plus/minus (T-8th, plus-7) during the 2023-24 season for the Youngstown Phantoms. Added one assist in seven playoff games for the Phantoms in 2024. Committed to play collegiately at the University of Wisconsin.

### DRAFT NOTES

Buffalo selected Adam Kleber, Brodie Ziemer and Luke Osburn with its first three picks of the second day of the draft. All three players come from the USHL, marking the second time in franchise history the team has taken three or more players out of the USHL (2013 - J.T. Compher, Calvin Petersen, Sean Malone).

With its first selection in the draft, Buffalo made Konsta Helenius the highest-drafted Finnish forward in franchise history. Rasmus Ristolainen (No. 8 overall in the 2013 NHL Draft) is the only Finnish player drafted higher than Helenius in franchise history.

The Sabres selected Patrick Geary with the 172nd overall pick in the draft. Geary grew up in Buffalo and was part of the Buffalo Jr. Sabres program through his U18 season.

The Sabres selected four players from the United States (Kleber, Ziemer, Osburn and Geary), the most American players taken by the club since the 2013 NHL Draft.

Buffalo took four defensemen as part of its 2024 class, marking the second consecutive draft class to feature four defensemen. Before 2023, the last time the Sabres took at least four defensemen in a class was in 2018, a draft class that featured Rasmus Dahlin and Mattias Samuelsson and five total defensemen.

The Sabres selected eight players total as part of their 2024 NHL Draft class, the second straight year.

The players in the 2024 NHL Draft class are, on average, 6'1" and 187 pounds.

The draft class features four defensemen, three forwards and one goaltender.

Buffalo's draft class features four Americans, two Canadians and one player each from Finland and Russia.

## RD 4 | PICK 123

**SIMON-PIER BRUNET** D  
Drummondville (QMJHL)

Notched four goals and 10 assists for 14 points in his second full QMJHL season for the Drummondville Voltigeurs. Added six points (2+4) and a plus-15 rating in 19 playoff games for Drummondville en route to a QMJHL championship and a trip to the 2024 Memorial Cup. Made his junior debut in 2021-22 and was one of 16 U17 defensemen to play five or more QMJHL games.

## RD 6 | PICK 172

**PATRICK GEARY** D  
MICHIGAN STATE (NCAA)

Made his NCAA debut with Michigan State University in 2023-24, skating in 32 contests and registering 13 points (5+8). Spent two seasons playing for the Waterloo Black Hawks in the USHL, where he recorded 30 points (7+23) in 115 career games. Added one assist in nine career playoff contests. The Buffalo native played for the Jr. Sabres through his U16 season before joining Waterloo.

## RD 7 | PICK 204

**VASILY ZELENOV** F  
RB HOCKEY JRS. (AlpsHL)

Made his professional debut in 2023-24 and recorded 37 points (14+23) in 40 games for RB Hockey Juniors in the Alps Hockey League. Led Austria's junior league in both goals in points during the 2023 playoffs and captured a championship with RB Hockey Juniors. His twin brother, Ivan, also plays in the Red Bulls hockey program

## RD 7 | PICK 219

**RYERSON LEENDERS** G  
MISSISSAUGA (OHL)

Led the OHL with a .909 save percentage and ranked 10th with 24 wins in 46 OHL games for the Mississauga Steelheads in 2023-24. Posted a .933 save percentage in two playoff games for Mississauga in 2024. Won a gold medal with Team Canada at both the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and the 2024 IIHF U18 World Championship.

### DRAFT TRADES

Before the draft started, Buffalo acquired the No. 14 overall pick and the No. 43 overall pick in the 2024 NHL Draft from the San Jose Sharks in exchange for the No. 11 overall pick in the 2024 NHL Draft on June 27.

Before the beginning of the second day of the draft on June 29, Buffalo acquired forward Beck Malenstyn from the Washington Capitals in exchange for the No. 43 overall pick in the 2024 NHL Draft.

During the draft, Buffalo traded up in the third round, acquiring the 71st overall pick in the 2024 NHL Draft from the Colorado Avalanche in exchange for the 79th and 161st overall picks in the 2024 NHL Draft.

In the fourth round, Buffalo traded back, acquiring the 123rd and 219th overall picks in the 2024 NHL Draft from Winnipeg in exchange for the 109th overall pick in the NHL Draft.

### TROPHY CASE

Konsta Helenius:

- 2023-24 Liiga most points by U18 player
- 2022-23 Liiga most points by U18 player

Adam Kleber:

- 2023-24 USHL All-Academic Team
- 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup bronze medal

Brodie Ziemer:

- 2024 IIHF U18 World Championship silver medal

Simon-Pier Brunet:

- 2024 QMJHL champion

Vasily Zelenov:

- 2023 Austria U20 champion

Ryerson Leenders:

- 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup gold medal
- 2024 IIHF U18 World Championship gold medal



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