



**Columbus Blue Jackets News Clips**  
**May 5, 2025**

**Columbus Blue Jackets**

- PAGE 02: Columbus Dispatch: Columbus Blue Jackets center Sean Monahan a finalist for NHL's Masterton Trophy
- PAGE 04: NBC4i.com: Blue Jackets center Sean Monahan named finalist for Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy
- PAGE 05: Spectrum News 1: Blue Jackets' Sean Monahan named one of three finalists for Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy
- PAGE 06: The Athletic: Blue Jackets Sunday Gathering: Surgery forces Mathieu Olivier to turn down Team USA invite
- PAGE 11: 1st Ohio Batter: Draft Lottery Possibilities: How Things Could Shake Out For The Columbus Blue Jackets In Monday's NHL Draft Lottery
- PAGE 13: The Hockey Writers: Blue Jackets' Sean Monahan Named Masterton Trophy Finalist

**Cleveland Monsters/Prospects**

- PAGE 15: Cleveland.com: Dylan Gambrell scores twice as Monsters stay alive in Calder Cup playoffs with 3-1 win over Laval

**NHL/ Websites**

- PAGE 16: The Athletic: NHL Draft Lottery power rankings: Who needs it, who deserves it, who might trade it?
- PAGE 21: The Athletic: Sidney Crosby, Nathan MacKinnon join Team Canada roster for World Championship
- PAGE 23: The Athletic: Canada defeats Sweden to win repeat gold at U18 IIHF Men's World Championship
- PAGE 26: The Athletic: NHL's Masterton Memorial Trophy finalists named — will Marc-André Fleury retire with a win?

## Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets center Sean Monahan a finalist for NHL's Masterton Trophy

**By Brian Hedger – May 2, 2025**

Zach Werenski won't be the only one who represents the Blue Jackets during the NHL's awards show in late June.

Sean Monahan will join the James Norris Memorial Trophy candidate as a finalist for the Masterton Trophy. The NHL announced Masterton finalists May 2 and will stagger announcements on finalists May 2 for the Frank J. Selke Trophy, Jack Adams Award and Lady Byng Memorial Trophy. Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason had a strong case to be a finalist for the Jack Adams, which goes to the NHL's coach of the year, but wasn't included in the final three for that award.

The other two Masterton finalists are Minnesota Wild goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, who's retiring after a storied career, and Colorado Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog, who returned to the lineup in the first round of the playoffs after an absence of almost three years due to a knee injury.

Monahan was named the Blue Jackets' nominee for the Masterton on April 9. The award-winner is chosen among nominees from all 32 teams by a vote conducted by the Professional Hockey Writers' Association, and it goes to "the player who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey."

Center Sean Monahan is the Blue Jackets finalist for the Masterton, which recognizes the player who "best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey."

Monahan signed with the Blue Jackets on July 1, 2024, primarily to reunite with longtime friend Johnny Gaudreau, who was killed along with his brother, Matthew, during an offseason tragedy almost two months later.

Despite starting the season emotionally gutted, Monahan meshed seamlessly with his new teammates and became an integral part of a surprising push that ended with the Blue Jackets just two points shy of qualifying for the playoffs. He averaged more than a point per game with 57 points on 19 goals and 38 assists in 54 games, centering the Jackets' top line. He also had an integral role on the power play.

Monahan was preceded as an award finalist by Werenski, who was named April 29 as one of three candidates for the Norris Trophy as the NHL's top all-around defenseman. Werenski is additionally the Blue Jackets' nominee for the King Clancy Memorial Trophy, which is chosen by a committee led by NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and is presented, "to the player who best exemplifies leadership qualities on and off the ice and has made a noteworthy humanitarian contribution to his community."

The league doesn't announce finalists for the King Clancy, which is chosen among nominees from each of the NHL's 32 teams and will be announced at the league's awards show in late June.

The Blue Jackets became the league's best story while chasing a playoff spot that nobody gave them even a remote chance to compete for following the Gaudreau tragedy. Along with grief over losing a beloved teammate, the Blue Jackets dealt with a spate of injuries that included captain Boone Jenner and alternate captain Erik Gudbranson undergoing shoulder surgeries in October.

Monahan missed two months following wrist surgery in January, which turned out to be a key factor in the Jackets' postseason push coming up just one win short.

The NHL hasn't announced when or where it will hold its annual awards show, which is usually a day before the draft in the same city. This year's draft is June 27-28 at L.A. Live's Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

## **NBC4i.com / Blue Jackets center Sean Monahan named finalist for Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy**

**By David DeGuzman – May 2, 2025**

Following his first season as a Blue Jacket, Sean Monahan was named one of three finalists for the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy, the NHL announced Friday.

The honor is given annually to the player who best exemplifies qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to the sport. The Columbus forward is a finalist alongside Colorado forward Gabriel Landeskog and Minnesota goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury.

Monahan becomes the third player in CBJ history to be named a finalist for the trophy after Nick Foligno (2018-19) and Kevin Dineen, who was a two-time finalist in back-to-back seasons from 2000 to 2002. The 30-year-old from Brampton, Ontario looks to be the first in franchise history to win the award.

In his first year with Columbus, Monahan scored 19 goals and contributed 38 assists for 57 points, despite missing 28 games with a wrist injury. He led the club in points-per-game and ranked third in assists and points.

Earlier this week, defenseman Zach Werenski was named a finalist for the league's Norris Trophy, which is given to the league's best defenseman.

The winners of both the Masterton and Norris trophies will be announced during the NHL's awards show in June.

## Spectrum News 1 / Blue Jackets' Sean Monahan named one of three finalists for Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy

**By Madison MacArthur – May 2, 2025**

Sean Monahan, forward for the Columbus Blue Jackets, is a finalist for the 2024-2025 Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy, according to the NHL.

In a press release for the team, they say the annual award is given to a player “who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey.”

In addition, Marc-Andre Fleury of the Minnesota Wild and Gabriel Landeskog of the Colorado Avalanche were also named as finalists.

The Blue Jackets say that Monahan—a native of Brampton, Ontario—is the third player ever in the team’s history to be a finalist for the award.

“Monahan (registered 19 goals and 38 assists for 57 points with 20 penalty minutes, 128 shots on goal and a +19 plus/minus rating, while averaging 19:01 TOI per game and won 52.6 percent of his faceoffs in 54 appearances in his first season with the Blue Jackets in 2024-25,” the release reads. “He set a single-season career high in points-per-game (1.06) and posted the second-most assists despite missing 28 contests due to a wrist injury. He led Columbus in points-per-game and ranked third in assists and points (tied). The 6-2, 197-pound forward also led the NHL in 5-on-5 assists-per-60 minutes (2.18, min. 25 GP) and ranked second in points-per-60 minutes (3.07).”

He previously played for the Calgary Flames from 2013-2022. He played for the Montréal Canadiens and Winnipeg Jets before being signed on as a free agent by the Blue Jackets on July 1 last year.

“The winner of the Masterton Trophy is selected by a poll of the 32 chapters of the PHWA at the conclusion of the regular season,” the release reads. “The trophy was first presented by the NHL writers in 1968 in honor of the late Bill Masterton, a player for the Minnesota North Stars who exhibited the qualities for which the trophy embodies, and who died on Jan. 15, 1968.”

## The Athletic / Blue Jackets Sunday Gathering: Surgery forces Mathieu Olivier to turn down Team USA invite

By Aaron Portzline – May 4, 2025

A collection of notes, insights, ruminations and did-you-knows gathered throughout the week that was for the Columbus Blue Jackets:

### **Item No. 1: Olivier's invitation to Worlds**

Blue Jackets winger Mathieu Olivier had surgery Tuesday to repair a stretched tendon above a knuckle on his oft-used right hand, a procedure that will prevent him from taking part in some offseason workouts for up to two months but will allow him to be healed for training camp in the fall.

That alone is significant news, as Olivier became an important part of the Blue Jackets lineup in 2024-25. But there are two other morsels — fallout from the surgery, you might say — that land somewhere between inspirational and incredible.

Olivier was saddened when he learned last month he needed to have surgery, because just days earlier he'd been invited by Team USA to play in the IIHF World Championship beginning later this week in Stockholm, Sweden, and Herning, Denmark.

Of all the compliments paid this season to Olivier, who scored a career-high 18 goals and was second in the NHL with 139 penalty minutes, there's nothing quite like an invitation to an international tournament by one of the world's leading hockey countries to confirm his status as an all-around player, not just a fighter.

It was inspiring for Olivier, who doesn't want to be marginalized. Fighting is exceedingly rare in IIHF events, meaning Olivier was wanted for what he could offer as a hockey player. It mirrors what the Blue Jackets learned this season, when coach Dean Evason played him as high as the second line.

"I wasn't going to drop the mitts if I'm going to Europe with Team USA," Olivier told The Athletic. "To get recognized for a good year is huge, because it means they like what you're doing on the ice.

"I've talked to you a lot about constantly getting better and evolving and adding to my game, and (the invite) is a nice little tidbit for me to be able to prove that at 28 years old, I'm still getting better."

Blue Jackets GM Don Waddell, an advisor to Team USA, said Olivier had accepted the offer and was excited to fly out with Team USA this past week. But he wanted to make sure his injured right hand was checked before departing.

It wasn't an issue of being able to play through the hand injury, he said. He wanted to know if a procedure would be required at some point this summer, and if delaying it by playing in the Worlds would affect his preparedness for the start of next season.

If he'd waited until after the Worlds — the tournament ends May 25 — it would have cost him a month of training.

Olivier, born in Mississippi while his father, Simon, played in the ECHL, has dual citizenship with Canada and the United States, so he'd be eligible to play for both. But he never considered picking a side, he said, because being asked to play internationally wasn't ever a consideration.

“For him to think he was never going to be invited by one of the national teams ... that’s really something,” Waddell said. “And he deserved it. He was so looking forward to it. But then the scan came back.”

Which brings us to the incredible part of this story.

Olivier said he suffered the hand injury on Feb. 4 when one of his punches on Buffalo Sabres defenseman Dennis Gilbert caught a piece of Gilbert’s helmet instead of his head.

That means Olivier, who led the NHL with 15 fighting majors, had four fights with an injured right hand, including a spirited duel with Florida Panthers forward Jonah Gadjovich on March 6. (Try not to wince every time his right hand hits Gadjovich’s helmet.)

“We didn’t think it was that bad, honestly, and then we got some testing done and it was clear we needed to get some things fixed in there,” Olivier said. “You hit a little bit of helmet and, weirdly enough, that’s worse than going through a person.

“Me being me, and being a hockey player, I just kept doing what I was doing. I played with it and fought with it, and it kinda made it worse. I thought it was something I could play through, and the medical staff all felt the same. But we wanted to take a look at it (after the season), and it’s a good thing we did.”

Olivier said he sees a silver lining.

On Sunday, Olivier, his wife and two kids were set to make the 12 1/2 hour drive from Columbus to Quebec City. He’ll be back in the gym later this week, he said, rekindling an offseason ritual with fellow NHLers Yanni Gourde (Tampa Bay), Jonathan Marchessault (Nashville), Zachary Bolduc (St. Louis) and Jakob Pelletier (Philadelphia), among others.

“The (surgically repaired) hand is not going to be a big issue,” Olivier said. “We have a plan in place. I’ll be able to get a full summer of workouts, and it’s not a bad thing to focus on my legs, my core and my cardio. I’ll give my upper body a break after a long and grinding season. I’m seeing the positive in it.”

Olivier will have plenty of wind at his back this offseason. He’s coming off the best season of his career. He plays on a Blue Jackets team that delivered above expectations this season and appears to have a bright future. And, while an invite to the Worlds isn’t exactly an Olympic invite, it’s still a massive compliment.

“I didn’t think it was something that was possible for me,” Olivier said. “I was really upset when we found out I couldn’t go. It was the right decision for me and the Blue Jackets and my career, and those things are No. 1. But it would have been nice to go and represent the U.S. there.”

Would he like the opportunity in the future? Well, yes and no.

“Hopefully we’ll be worrying about the playoffs (in Columbus) and not the Worlds,” Olivier said. “But if it comes to the Worlds, it’s nice to know you get a shot.”

## **Item No. 2: Help wanted**

Waddell spent part of last week in Texas, scouting the IIHF World Under-18 Championship, where several of this year’s top draft choices were on display. The Blue Jackets will hold scouting meetings later in May, just over a month before the draft.

Otherwise, a big part of Waddell’s attention in the short term will be interviewing and hiring new support staff members after he let four longtime employees go a couple of days after the season.

Equipment manager Jamie Healy, video coach Dan Singleton, strength and conditioning coach Kevin Collins and assistant trainer Naoto “Nates” Goto were all in the final years of their contract. Healy and Singleton were original employees when Columbus joined the NHL as an expansion franchise.

“We felt we wanted to go in a different direction,” Waddell told The Athletic. “They’re all good people, but we felt it was time for a change.”

Waddell said he didn’t anticipate any further changes with support staff, but he noted that other staffers with expiring contracts will need to sign new deals. With Collins no longer overseeing players’ fitness routines, assistant strength and conditioning coach Ryan Gadbois is filling in for the interim.

Asked if the Blue Jackets would fill the support staff openings from within, Waddell said: “I’m going to talk to people, but my thinking is probably not. I think everybody’s in a good spot right now.

“Never say never, because never doesn’t end. I’ll keep an open mind about it, but that’s what I’m thinking as of now.”

Many wondered if there would be changes to the Blue Jackets coaching staff, with assistants Jared Boll and Steve McCarthy and goaltending coach Niklas Backstrom in the final years of their deals. Waddell signed all three to extensions after watching them work together this season.

“I’m down there every day and I like the way they work,” Waddell said. “They all have responsibilities, and they all share in responsibilities. The one thing Dean does is really give his assistants a lot of power, even between periods and after games.”

### **Item No. 3: In the mix**

As predicted in this space last week, two Blue Jackets players were announced this week as finalists for NHL awards: Zach Werenski for the Norris Trophy as the league’s top defenseman, and Sean Monahan for the Masterton Trophy, which honors perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey.

Werenski, who set multiple career and franchise records and finished second among NHL defensemen in scoring, was named as a finalist, along with Cale Makar of the Colorado Avalanche and Quinn Hughes of the Vancouver Canucks.

He’s the first Blue Jackets player to be a finalist for the Norris.

Monahan played above a point-a-game pace and showed incredible poise and grace after the death of his best friend, Johnny Gaudreau, before the season. Goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury of the Minnesota Wild and Gabriel Landeskog of the Colorado Avalanche are the other finalists.

It’s the fourth time a Blue Jackets player has been a finalist for the Masterton.

Both awards are voted on by members of the Professional Hockey Writers’ Association, and all voting is completed before the start of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Waddell doesn’t have a ballot for either award — NHL GMs vote on the Vezina Trophy for the league’s top goaltender — but said the following of the Blue Jackets’ two candidates.

On Werenski: “Particularly the first three months of the season, I don’t know where we would have been without him. He was good all year, don’t get me wrong, but those first three months, he was exceptional. Right from training camp, you could see, he took this team on his back and he was going to make it happen. The second half, he continued on, maybe not so much point-wise as the first half, but he was certainly one of the big leaders all year, on both ends of the ice.”

On Monahan: “What a unique situation and a tough situation to come into after going through free agency, picking Columbus and then losing Johnny. How he handled himself ... this is an amazing person.



Every game he came to play, and every practice he came to practice. He was a true professional, one of our leaders in a difficult time. When he went out (28 games with a wrist injury), we really missed him. I just can't say enough good things about this guy."

The Blue Jackets had hoped Evason, who guided the Blue Jackets within one win of their first playoff berth in five seasons, might be a finalist for the Jack Adams Trophy, as voted on by the NHL Broadcasters' Association.

But Scott Arniel of the Winnipeg Jets, Spencer Carbery of the Washington Capitals and Martin St. Louis of the Montreal Canadiens were the top three vote-getters. Arniel was the Blue Jackets head coach in 2010-11 and 2011-12, while St. Louis was a team consultant under coach John Tortorella in 2018-19.

#### **Item No. 4: Snacks**

- Evason, who is currently in Europe with Team Canada ahead of the Worlds, was asked by The Athletic before he left Columbus why it took so long for the Blue Jackets to give goaltender Jet Greaves the starting job as the club stumbled through most of the stretch drive. Greaves was in net for the five straight wins at the end of the season, stopping 156 of 160 shots (a .975 save percentage).

Here's Evason: "Obviously, hindsight is awesome. Did we know (Greaves would play like that)? Obviously, if we did, he would have been with us sooner. Did we talk about it? Yes, of course. Did we evaluate what was best for the organization and best for Jet? Yeah. Don't forget, Elvis (Merlikins) played extremely well, and I know, probably, the numbers are going to come back (not so great), but he held us in games. He won games for us. It's easy now to look back and say maybe he should have been here earlier, but there were a lot of factors and circumstances that played into it. Was it great to see Jet play like that at the end? Do we believe he can continue to do that? The answer to both is yes. Yes, we do."

- AHL Cleveland has dug itself quite a hole in its second-round series vs. Laval. The Monsters trail the best-of-five series 2-0 after losing the first two games last week in Cleveland: 3-2 on Wednesday and 4-0 on Friday. Today's 3 p.m. puck drop is an elimination game. Laval, under previous Blue Jackets coach Pascal Vincent, was the AHL's best regular-season team, earning a first-round bye and an 11-day break before the second round.

- It's possible, maybe even likely, that Cleveland's final game, whenever that occurs, could be Trey Fix-Wolansky's final game with the Columbus organization. Fix-Wolansky, a seventh-round pick (No. 204) in 2018, has played only 26 NHL games (none this season) in six pro seasons, which is why he's an unrestricted free agent this summer instead of a restricted free agent. While he's had only cups of coffee in Columbus, he's a Cleveland hockey legend, owning the franchise records for goals (112), assists (147) and points (259) and ranking third in games played (289) and ninth in penalty minutes (254).

- Blue Jackets defensive prospect Luca Marrelli, the club's third-round pick (No. 86) last June, has had an incredible Ontario Hockey League playoffs for the Oshawa Generals. Marrelli, with 6-25-31 in only 16 playoff games, is nearing a 32-year-old OHL record held by Hall of Famer Chris Pronger. In 1993, Pronger had 40 points (15-25-40) for the Peterborough Petes. Marrelli's run includes 2-9-11 (plus-7) in his last three games, helping Oshawa reach the OHL finals. The 6-foot-3, 185-pound Marrelli plays on the right side (right shot), which could make him a very important player for the Blue Jackets in the next few seasons. The 19-year-old defenseman is eligible to join the Cleveland Monsters for the playoffs, if they're still alive. Next up for Oshawa is an OHL final rematch with the London Knights, who pounded Oshawa in a finals sweep last season and have yet to lose a game (three series sweeps) so far in these playoffs. Game 1 is Thursday in London, Ont.

- Defenseman Sascha Boumedienne, who played for the Ohio AAA Blue Jackets from 2021-2023, is expected to be a first-round draft pick in this summer's draft. His play as a freshman at Boston

University this season and, most recently, at the World U18s, will only help his draft status. Boumedienne, 6-foot-2, 185 pounds, set a tournament record for points by a defenseman with 1-13-14 in seven games for Sweden, which took silver. Boumedienne lived in Columbus while his father, Josef, worked for the Blue Jackets as a scout, executive and assistant coach. The Blue Jackets hold the No. 13 and 20 picks in this year's draft. Wouldn't that be something?

## 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Batter / Draft Lottery Possibilities: How Things Could Shake Out For The Columbus Blue Jackets In Monday's NHL Draft Lottery

**By Ed Francis – May 4, 2025**

A number one pick will not be on the line for the Columbus Blue Jackets in the NHL's Draft Lottery this year.

But when the ping pong balls fly live at 7 p.m. Monday on ESPN, there could still be some action for the Blue Jackets.

This year's lottery will mark the first time in league history that the drawing will be shown live.

The NHL's website describes the process best:

"The Lottery will be conducted in two phases, the first to determine the first overall pick in the 2025 Upper Deck NHL Draft and the second to determine the second overall pick. There is a limit on the total number of selections (10) a team participating in the Draft Lottery can "move up" in the event it wins one of the Lottery Draws. Thus, only the top 11 seeds will be eligible to receive the first overall Draft pick."

Because a team can only move up ten spots and the Blue Jackets are currently in the 13th position, that means the Blue Jackets are ineligible for the first or second overall pick — but that does not mean it's a lock that Columbus will be the owners of the 13th selection in June's draft.

The Blue Jackets have a 90.7% chance of making the 13th selection in the draft, which takes place June 27th and 28th in Los Angeles.

The other 9.3% could go two different ways: they have a 4.2% chance of "winning" lottery, which would move them up ten spots and to the number three selection.

There are slightly better odds — a 5.1% chance — that Columbus will get bumped down a spot to the 14th pick. That would mean one of the three teams behind them — the Utah Hockey Club, Vancouver Canucks, or Calgary Flames — would move up to the fourth, fifth, or sixth pick, respectively.

If the Blue Jackets get the 13th pick, it would be the first time in club history they would own that spot. They've made two picks from the number three spot: Adam Fantilli in 2023, and Pierre-Luc Dubois in 2016.

Their only pick from the 14th spot was Alex Wennberg in 2013.

Getting the pick and making the pick is two very different things, though.

President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Don Waddell has openly expressed that the pick — and Columbus' other first round pick, one acquired from the Minnesota Wild in the David Jiricek trade — will be made available for immediate roster help.

"Having the draft capital is always important," said Waddell the day after the season ended. "We have two first-round picks this year, so our goal is to make sure we do everything that we're capable of doing to try and make this team better."

That other pick will be either the 19th or 20th selection, depending on the finish of the St. Louis Blues and Winnipeg Jets playoff series. If the Jets win, it's #20. If the Blues win, it gets bumped to #19.

Would winning the lottery and moving into a top three spot alter those plans, or simply add value to Columbus' trade assets?

That question can only be answered by Waddell and the Blue Jackets management group but would potentially put an interesting wrinkle in what the team hopes to accomplish this summer.

## The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets' Sean Monahan Named Masterton Trophy Finalist

**By Nicholas Arnold – May 2, 2025**

It is award season in the NHL. As the playoffs continue, the list of finalists for various end-of-year awards continues to trickle out. It has been a tough season for many in the Columbus Blue Jackets' organization, but a couple of their players have been recognized as finalists. Zach Werenski had previously been named a finalist for the James Norris Trophy, and news broke on May 2 that Sean Monahan has been named a finalist for the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy.

The Masterton is an award that no one really wants to win, because generally it means that you've been through a significant amount of personal hardship. According to NHL.com, the award goes "to the player who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey." The most important word in that definition, based on award winners in the past who've won, is 'perseverance.'

It tends to go to a player who returned to action after experiencing something traumatic. Be it returning to a high level of play after missing a lot of time due to an injury suffered in a game. Overcoming a physical medical condition, as Kris Letang did in 2023 when he had a strong season despite suffering a stroke mid-season, or Oskar Lindblom returning to play after a cancer diagnosis. Or staying with the game despite mental health hurdles. That was present in the stories of Connor Ingram's win in 2024, and Robin Lehner and Bobby Ryan's wins in 2019 and 2020. Those tend to be the types of players who win the Masterton.

Monahan was named a finalist along with the Minnesota Wild's Marc-Andre Fleury, whose dedication to the game and its players has been evident through the highs and lows of his 21-season career. Gabriel Landeskog from the Colorado Avalanche was the other nominee. Landeskog fought back from an injury in 2022 to play his first NHL game in 1,032 days on April 26. Let's look at Monahan's path to the nomination.

### **How Does Monahan Fit the Masterton Criteria?**

As I wrote above, it has been a tough season for the Blue Jackets' organization. It certainly is not a competition for who has had it the worst, but you have to feel for Monahan. He was drafted sixth overall in 2013 and was one of the few players from that draft to instantly make the leap to the NHL.

He did well for himself as an 18-year-old, scoring over 20 goals and getting some votes as a Rookie of the Year candidate. It looked like the Flames had drafted the first-line center of their future, and for a while, they had. He had seven straight campaigns with 20-plus goals, and three over 30. He hit a snag in 2019-20 when his production dipped from a career high of 82 points to a five-year low of 48. It dipped even further the next two seasons when he was crushed by injuries, and he only scored 18 goals and 51 points through 115 games. He just didn't look like himself.

For a guy they were paying to be their top line center, it was too much for too little production. The Flames, who at the time were hoping to be Stanley Cup contenders, paid a first-round draft pick to dump his salary to the bottom-feeding Montreal Canadiens. In that moment, it looked like Monahan's days of being a productive top-six center were behind him. He was destined to play out the rest of his career as a bottom-six forward or end his career. He flipped that narrative on its head.

It started with a great season and a half on a fledgling Canadiens' team. Then, in the lead-up to the 2024 Trade Deadline, he went from being sold with a first-round pick to being bought for a first-round pick by

the Winnipeg Jets. He went on a pretty decent run to close the season, but the Jets were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs. Monahan hit the open market in free agency and went to reunite with his best friend from their Flames days, Johnny Gaudreau, who was making his home in Columbus.

It was a summer of excitement as the two, with their young families, got an opportunity to grow together, both under contract for the next five years in Columbus. Then, the unimaginable tragedy that rocked the hockey world, and that best friend was taken away in one horrific incident. Just as things were coming together on the ice for Monahan, everything fell apart off of it.

Despite everything he's been through on and off the ice, he wound up having maybe the best statistical season of his career. He also dealt with some more injury hardship over the season with a wrist injury. Despite that, his 57 points in 54 games were only the second time in his career that he's scored at an over a point-per-game pace. It also put him on track for 86 points, which would have been a career high. He was also a part of one of the best overall lines in hockey, flanked by Kirill Marchenko and Dmitri Voronkov.

Monahan's career resurgence and return to top-line center form in the wake of personal tragedy certainly make him more than qualified for the Masterton Trophy. It's a strange phenomenon, this award. The Professional Hockey Writers Association (PHWA) have to decide who was dealt the worst hand and was still able to break even. Monahan being named a finalist is recognition from those around the league that what he's been able to do has been nothing short of remarkable, and he's certainly been to hell and back to earn that respect.

## Cleveland.com / Dylan Gambrell scores twice as Monsters stay alive in Calder Cup playoffs with 3-1 win over Laval

**By Matt Lofgren – May 4, 2025**

The Monsters rose to the occasion on Sunday afternoon with their season on the line and came away with a 3-1 road win over the Laval Rocket at Place Bell in Laval, Canada.

The Rocket lead the series 2-1 in the best-of-five American Hockey League Calder Cup playoffs. Game 4 is set for Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Laval.

Despite a scoreless first period, there was plenty of action between both squads. A total of 11 penalties were handed down in the opening frame, including a drag-down fight between Joseph LaBate of the Monsters and Florian Xhekaj of Laval.

Tensions calmed down in the second period with just two penalties called on the Monsters. The Monsters held the Rocket to just nine shots in the second period, which opened the door for the offense.

With just under two minutes remaining in the second, center Dylan Gambrell scored his first goal of the postseason to give the Monsters a 1-0 lead.

Gambrell added another goal with 12:28 left in the game to give the Monsters a 2-0 advantage. Despite having just four shots in the third, the Monsters made them count with two goals, with the final coming from Roman Ahcan with just under eight minutes to play.

The third period brought out the best in Monsters goaltender Jet Greaves. Facing a barrage of 19 shots in the final period, Greaves made 18 saves to give the Monsters another day to fight.

Gambrell was the top star on the night, while Greaves was the second.

## The Athletic / NHL Draft Lottery power rankings: Who needs it, who deserves it, who might trade it?

By Sean McIndoe – May 5, 2025

It's now been 10 years since I wrote a column that lives in infamy.

Back then, while working for a site called Grantland, I decided it would be fun to write a power rankings-style column about the upcoming NHL Draft Lottery. There was a kid named Connor McDavid available that year, so the lottery had huge ramifications for the teams involved. I wrote a piece that built toward the main punchline that any result would be fine as long as the Oilers didn't win. And everyone had a good laugh.

Then the lottery happened, and nobody was laughing anymore.

It all worked out for the best, he said, in case any Oilers fans were reading, and the lottery power rankings went on to become a tradition. A decade later, it's time to dig into our annual lists of who needs it, who deserves it and who Gary Bettman is going to rig it for.

### **The 'Who actually deserves it?' rankings**

The answer, as always, is "nobody." But somebody's going to get the top pick, so let's figure out who came closest to earning it.

Not ranked: Utah Hockey Club — We already gave you a whole team last year. And besides, having the No. 1 pick is a big responsibility. You have to figure out which player to take, and then keep it a secret, and that part doesn't seem to be your strong suit.

**5. San Jose Sharks** — They did finish last, so if you're one of those weird anti-lottery types, I guess they're the pick.

**4. Nashville Predators** — Most teams end up with high lottery odds because they tanked in the previous offseason. Say what you will about the Predators, but they certainly weren't trying to be this bad.

**3. Buffalo Sabres** — The whole idea behind the awarding top picks to teams at the lower end of the standings is to prevent hopelessness from setting in, and the thing about that is (gestures at entire modern history of the Buffalo Sabres).

**2. Calgary Flames** — It's the longest of long shots, and they could only move up to the No. 6 spot. But they're only in the lottery at all because they missed the playoffs despite having more points than the Canadiens, who made it. That's pretty much the polar opposite of tanking.

And there's more: The Flames actually traded this pick away years ago, but it's top-10 protected, meaning the only way they get to keep it is with a lottery win. And which team did they make that trade with? The Canadiens, of course.

(Also, the Pro Sports Transactions page for this year's draft describes this whole trade as "ABSURDLY COMPLEX CONDITIONS," which just makes me laugh each time I see it.)

**1. Columbus Blue Jackets** — Everyone's second-favorite team overcame tragedy to put together a far better season than anyone expected, and thanks to the NHL's system, all that might ultimately mean is that they miss out on a top draft pick. Unless they don't, because the hockey gods reward them with a long-shot leap up to the third pick.



## The 'What's best for whoever gets picked first?' rankings

Unlike most years, we can't say for sure who'll be the top pick. Defenseman Matthew Schaefer or center Michael Misa have moved to the top of draft boards, a spot James Hagens had held for most of the season, but it could come down to which team has which needs when they step up to the podium. That said, one thing that is consistent year to year is that some situations are better than others.

Not ranked: Buffalo Sabres — I love you, Sabres fans, but this doesn't feel like an ideal situation to drop a heavily hyped prospect into, right?

**5. Nashville Predators** — If you're a scoring forward, as most of the top prospects are, playing behind (or with) Steven Stamkos seems like it would be extremely cool. And if you're Schaefer, you'd get to apprentice under Roman Josi for a franchise that knows how to build around blue-line stars.

**4. New York Islanders** — This is entirely for Hagens, a local kid who grew up an Islanders fan. The "hometown hero who saves the franchise" trope can be a tricky one to navigate, and some prospects are better off avoiding it, but when it hits, it's hard to resist. Islander fans, check his bed sheets.

**3. Anaheim Ducks** — Warm weather and a low-pressure environment, but on a team that could be about to take a big step forward.

**2. San Jose Sharks** — This team feels like it's ready to take off. Maybe not next year, but soon, and that timing might be just about perfect for a top prospect.

**1. Chicago Blackhawks** — It's a big market that loves its hockey heroes when they're winning. That last part has been an issue, and the rebuild no longer feels like the sure thing it once was. Still, it's rare that a top pick can join a team without the pressure of being the franchise savior, and in Chicago, that role already belongs to Connor Bedard.

Connor Bedard, the No. 1 pick in 2023, is already the young face of the Blackhawks. (Stacy Revere / Getty Images)

## The 'Who needs it most?' rankings

Everyone needs the top pick, but some teams need it, you know?

Not ranked: San Jose Sharks — Congratulations, you just got drafted No. 1, you're now our 18th-best prospect.

**5. Vancouver Canucks** — They could only move up to fifth, but at this point I think Vancouver fans would take it. Anything to suggest that the fates aren't actually conspiring to make you as miserable as possible.

**4. Philadelphia Flyers** — They've got Matvei Michkov, but the rest of the pipeline is just OK. More importantly, they've spent the last few years looking like a team that's dangerously close to getting sucked in by the gravity of the dreaded "not good enough to make the playoffs but not quite bad enough to pick a sure thing" mushy middle.

**3. New York Islanders** — Old: Players can't have beards. New: Players can't grow beards.

**2. Boston Bruins** — They're an old team with recent success, but that's come at the cost of a near-empty pipeline and no firm direction for the future. With the GM under fire and the fan base wondering what the long-term plan looks like, the hockey gods dropping a gift would be a convenient miracle for the team — and the NHL's accounting department.

**1. Pittsburgh Penguins** — Everything we just said for Boston, except the part about recent success. Yes, we'd all hate it, but there's really no other pick to be had in this category.

### The 'Uh oh, that's not good for the rest of us' rankings

Half of the appeal of the lottery is to point and laugh at the bad teams, but that stops being fun when you realize one of them might be about to take your team's lunch money and/or playoff spot.

Not ranked: Boston Bruins — Are they one prospect away from being done with the rebuild? Absolutely not. Could their front office convince itself of that anyway? Quite possibly. Am I mainly listing them here because it would feel mean to pick on the Sabres again? No further questions.

**5. Anaheim Ducks** — They want to be a playoff team next year, and they might already have the skill to do it. Adding yet another blue-chip prospect risks shifting them from moderately concerning to legitimately scary.

**4. Chicago Blackhawks** — Look, they're going to start winning eventually. Probably. Maybe.

**3. New York Rangers** — They're still just one year removed from the Presidents' Trophy, and while most of the core is getting old, adding another young building block to go with Adam Fox and Alexis Lafrenière would be worrying.

**2. Utah Hockey Club** — They didn't quite reach the (probably unrealistic) expectations a lot of us had in Year 1, but a lot of the pieces are already in place.

**1. San Jose Sharks** — Not to keep beating this point into the ground, but they're about to be really good.

### The 'Which team might trade down?' rankings

As always, the answer here is that nobody will trade down, because NHL GMs are timid wimps who are primarily interested in their own job security above team success, and as such would far rather add an asset that can't be fully evaluated for years to come instead of trying to win right now.

But we can pretend. And we do, every year, even though it never happens.

Not ranked: Seattle Kraken — They have a new GM, which usually means patience, and with Matty Beniers two years into a sophomore slump, you could argue they've yet to have a true blue-chip prospect.

**5. New York Rangers** — They're built to win now. And they did win ... the regular season ... a year ago. This is less about whether it would be the right move and more about how just about everything seems to be on the table in New York these days.

**4. Anaheim Ducks** — Pat Verbeek is on record saying he wants to make the playoffs next season. They missed by 16 points this year, and one good 18-year-old isn't going to make up much of that gap in Year 1.

**3. Chicago Blackhawks** — Is it time? Say what you will about the ethics of Kyle Davidson's tear-it-all-down rebuild, but he had a plan and executed it. So far, though, the results have been disappointing. Do you add another prospect to an already-stacked pipeline, or do you make a move to get Bedard some help right now? (For what it's worth, Scott doesn't think it's out of the question.)

**2. Buffalo Sabres** — The fan base is furious. The players are frustrated. The playoff drought is already the longest in history. They already have two No. 1 picks on the roster. A Montreal team that was supposed to be years behind them in their own rebuild just blew past them into the playoffs. And the GM is well past his expiration date, or would be for just about any other organization. Would they honestly preach patience if they were gifted a lottery win? Yes, of course they would.

**1. Nobody** — But thank you for indulging me.

### The 'Get your tinfoil hat' rankings

For the record, it's adorable that the league thinks finally doing the actual draw live (after years of saying they couldn't) is going to make the conspiracy theorists shut up.

By the way, you're assuming that the answer here is the top pick going to the Penguins. But it's not!

Not ranked: Chicago Blackhawks — They usually rank highly, but remember the new-ish rule about moving up in multiple lotteries. They already won the Bedard draw, and moving up again would mean they'd be ineligible for any further lottery wins for a few years. With no clear No. 1 this year, the NHL would rather keep its future options open than rig anything now for its precious Hawks.

**5. New York Rangers** — I'd have the big-market Rangers higher, but they've only got a 3 percent chance of landing the top spot, so the lottery-fixers in the league office might feel this is a bit too obvious.

**4. Seattle Kraken** — They paid \$650 million for a team, and four years later, they've had little success and even less optimism for the immediate future. Wouldn't it be a happy coincidence if the league fates helped their new GM out?

**3. Boston Bruins** — "Yes, Mr. Jacobs. The top pick, you say, Mr. Jacobs? Consider it done, Mr. Jacobs."

**2. The Penguins getting the top pick** — This is the easy answer, both for conspiracy-minded fans and for a league office that loves the Penguins and wants to make sure they always have a new franchise player ready to keep them out of bankruptcy. It's obvious. In fact, it's a little too obvious ...

**1. The Penguins getting the second pick** — Fans around the league would go ballistic about the fix being in if the Penguins won the top pick, and the league knows it. So, instead, wouldn't it make more sense to rig things so that the Penguins win the second drawing and move up to second? It would mute the criticism and make the whole setup just a little less obvious. And since it's a year without a clear-cut top pick, it might not even change the outcome of who the Penguins get to draft. We're on to you, Bettman.

### The 'Unintentional comedy' rankings

What's a hockey fan who needs a good laugh to do these days? Right, remember that the Avalanche traded Mikko Rantanen away over a few thousand dollars, but what else?

Not ranked: Seattle Kraken — I feel like statistically, a team moving up from sixth is the least entertaining option in any lottery format. It's not a big enough jump that you can be shocked by it, but also not small enough that you can complain about tankers being rewarded. It's the ultimate "yeah, OK, sure I guess" result.

**5. Detroit Red Wings** — They could only move up to the second pick, but it would be fun to see what their fans would talk about if they couldn't mention never picking in the top three every 30 seconds.

**4. New York Islanders** — I just want to watch the traditional interview with the winning GM, featuring Lou Lamoriello awkwardly answering questions while it becomes clear that nobody in the organization has gotten the courage to tell him he's fired yet.

**3. The Penguins pick first, the Blackhawks pick second** — At which point we immediately cut to a shot of Gary Bettman sipping from a mug that reads "NHL Fan Tears."

**2. Vancouver Canucks** — Mainly because it would be fun to see if Jim Rutherford's phone immediately started ringing with Quinn Hughes finally calling him back after his golf round went long.

**1. The one combo out of 1,001 that would force a redraw** — Yes, the league has been very clear about how the lottery is held, how the math works and why there's exactly one combo that would force them to start over. No, that would absolutely not matter if the first live lottery under this system actually ended in the most confusing and conspiracy-feeding way possible.

Yes, it's literally less than a one-in-a-thousand shot, but come on — the Leafs just won a playoff round, you can't say anything's impossible.

## The Athletic / Sidney Crosby, Nathan MacKinnon join Team Canada roster for World Championship

**By Rob Rossi, Josh Yohe, and Mark Lazerus – May 4, 2025**

Sidney Crosby and Nathan MacKinnon will bring their Nova Scotia swagger to the IIHF World Championship in Sweden and Denmark.

Crosby was added to Team Canada's roster for the upcoming tournament late Sunday. MacKinnon will also play for Canada, agent Pat Brisson told The Athletic's Pierre LeBrun. Brisson represents Crosby and MacKinnon.

Crosby and MacKinnon are close friends and neighbors in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They played together for Team Canada at the 2015 World Championship and the NHL's 4 Nations Face-Off in February.

MacKinnon was named MVP of the 4 Nations, where he and Crosby played on the same line. MacKinnon led the tournament with four goals and Crosby tied for second in scoring with five points.

Neither player came out of that tournament hoping to be available for the World Championship. However, Crosby's Pittsburgh Penguins missed the Stanley Cup playoffs for a third consecutive season and MacKinnon's Colorado Avalanche lost Game 7 of an opening-round series to the Dallas Stars on Saturday night.

Crosby has not played in the World Championship since 2015. MacKinnon last played in 2017.

Crosby, who captained Canada at the 2014 Winter Olympics, 2015 World Championship, 2016 World Cup of Hockey and the 4 Nations Face-Off, will fill that role again at the upcoming tournament.

Canada begins preliminary-round play against Slovenia on Saturday at Avicii Arena in Stockholm at 6:20 a.m. ET.

### **Why Crosby is joining Team Canada**

Typically, 37-year-old icons don't bother playing in the IIHF World Championship. For Crosby, however, it actually does make plenty of sense.

Crosby longs to play in meaningful hockey games and for the third consecutive season, his Penguins didn't qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs. It was pretty clear that playing in the 4 Nations Face-Off was inspiring for Crosby, who played his best hockey of the season — and maybe his best hockey in the past three or four years — following Canada's victory in that tournament.

But the biggest reason of all for Crosby to participate in this tournament, other than patriotism, is the fact that it will keep him busy. Crosby was asked numerous times during his red-hot stretch late in the regular season about the secret to his performance, and if he was feeling the impact of fatigue. Time and time again, Crosby explained that at his age, pausing his routine is the worst thing he can do.

"Maybe I'll get tired at some point," Crosby said. "But when I go for a while without skating, I notice it. I don't feel as good after long breaks, which is different from when I was younger."

Thus this tournament gives him the opportunity to play hockey deep into May.

Otherwise, Crosby was looking at going nearly six months without playing a meaningful hockey game. My sense is that he wasn't interested in going that long without playing. This tournament gives him the opportunity to not only pad his already-incomparable international resume but also stay a little sharper over the summer so he's in strong form when his 21st NHL season begins in October.

Canada is scheduled to play seven games during an 11-day span before the medal round of the tournament begins, so Crosby, who figures to be team's captain, should be able to stay plenty busy.

Logistically speaking, Crosby tends to vacation in Europe for a few weeks following every NHL season. He prefers it to be in the summer, of course, but he was ready earlier than he would have liked to head across the pond anyway.

All in all, while this isn't a tournament that revs many engines in North America, the fact is that Crosby is playing at a remarkably high level and getting to see him play remains a big deal.

### **Why MacKinnon is joining Team Canada**

On Saturday night in Dallas, MacKinnon sat at his locker stall in disbelief, barely able to articulate the disappointment and pain he felt following the Avalanche's third-period collapse in a Game 7 loss to the Stars.

"I'm just in shock, to be honest with you," he said quietly.

Clearly, it's not the feeling he wants to end the 2024-25 hockey season with, so he's off to worlds for the first time since he was 19 years old. The chance to go out on a higher note — and to play alongside his buddy Crosby — was too appealing.

MacKinnon is one of the great players of his generation, but his international resume is lacking, thanks to the NHL's lack of participation in the 2018 and 2022 Olympics. He didn't make the 2014 team in Sochi, but he did post a goal and three assists in eight games at the Worlds that spring as an 18-year-old. The following year, he had four goals and five assists in 10 games for Canada, while Crosby had four goals and seven assists in nine games.

MacKinnon returned to the World Championship in 2017, with six goals and 15 points in 10 games, but that's the last time he wore a Team Canada sweater until the 4 Nations Face-Off earlier this season, when he had four goals in four games. MacKinnon played for Team North America — the 23-and-under "young guns" team — at the 2016 World Cup, posting two goals and an assist in three games.

MacKinnon, of course, has reached a different plane of hockey existence since then. Over the last four years, only Connor McDavid has more points than MacKinnon's 455 (in just 297 regular-season games, a 1.53 points-per-game average).

Stars of his and Crosby's caliber don't often make the trip to worlds — they're either making deep playoff runs or focusing on their offseason — so their addition makes Canada a clear favorite in Stockholm.

## The Athletic / Canada defeats Sweden to win repeat gold at U18 IIHF Men's World Championship

**By Scott Wheeler, Corey Pronman and Max Bultman – May 3, 2025**

Canada has repeated as the IIHF Under-18 World champions for the first time, defeating Sweden 7-0 Saturday night to secure the 2025 title.

In a much-anticipated gold medal game between teams loaded with top prospects in the 2025 and 2026 NHL Draft classes, Canada blitzed Sweden in the first period, taking an early 2-0 lead on 20 shots in the first frame, grabbing an early lead and never looking back.

It started with Canadian defenseman Xavier Villeneuve, who opened the scoring just 4:06 into the game by capitalizing on a Sweden turnover and wiring a shot from the top of the circle. Then, Canada forward Brady Martin made his presence felt on his team's next two goals, first scoring off a slick pass from Cole Reschny at the top of the crease, then screening Sweden goalie Love Harenstam on Jackson Smith's goal from the point to make it 3-0 early in the second period.

Canada pushed it to 4-0 later in the period on an Ethan Czata rush goal, and from there the rout was on. Martin added a highlight-reel tally to run it to 5-0 by the end of the second period. Sweden made a change in net after two periods, taking out Harenstam for Måns Goos, but Canada quickly got to Goos too, with forward Braeden Cootes striking just 1:12 into the third. Forward Jack Nesbitt rounded out the scoring later in the third for Canada.

Canada goaltender Jack Ivankovic stopped all 28 shots he faced, securing shutouts in the semifinal and gold medal game.

"He's a special goalie," Canada coach Cory Stillman said. "If you're building a team, you build from the back out, right? It's always been that way."

Despite the nation's incredible hockey history and pedigree, Canada had previously won the World U18 Championship (which began in 1999) just five times, and never before in consecutive seasons. That might be due in part to the event's overlap with the Canadian Hockey League (encompassing all three major junior leagues) playoffs, taking some of the top talent in the age group out of Team Canada's player pool.

Even this year, top 2025 draft prospect Caleb Desnoyers was not available due to his QMJHL playoff run with Moncton; 2026 draft-eligible prospect Gavin McKenna is still in the WHL playoffs with Medicine Hat; and Michael Misa and Matthew Schaefer, fellow top prospects in the 2007 birth year — both 2025 eligibles — were not available to Team Canada due to injury.

But in a strong class for the group, it didn't matter. Canada finished a perfect 7-0 in the tournament, racing through pool play with a tournament-best plus-24 goal differential, and then punctuated the event with a strong showing in the medal round that also included a 4-0 shutout of Slovakia in the semifinal.

"We just wanted to come and win," Stillman said. "It's tough. Teams want to beat you; countries want to beat you. And we throw teams together here, we have guys still playing in the CHL, in the finals and all this. But the guys come in, they put the jersey on, they play hard, they play in the role that's given to them."

And the result was a second consecutive gold medal, in emphatic fashion.

### **Ivankovic's golden legacy grows**

Canadian goaltender Jack Ivankovic was already the first and only goalie to win gold at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, the Hlinka Gretzky Cup and the U18 Worlds. When he won gold at the latter, he was the third-stringer. Now he has two golds at the U18 Worlds and can say he was the goaltender of record at all three major tournaments.

How about this for international pedigree at 17 years old (he doesn't turn 18 for another 2 1/2 weeks):

- 2023 U17s: 5-3-0, .923 SV%
- 2024 Hlinka: 4-0-0, .967 SV%
- 2025 World Juniors: 0-0-1, .923 SV%
- 2025 U18s: 6-0-0, .961 SV%

Ivankovic looked like he was in a different class than the rest of the goalies at this year's U18s. He's still eligible to play for Canada at the 2026 and 2027 World Juniors as well. — Scott Wheeler

### **Canada saves best for last**

Canada's tournament has had ups and downs, including a nail-biter versus Czechia in the quarterfinals and an unconvincing win over a lackluster Finland team. Canada has had its consistent standouts all tournament — forwards Reschny, Martin and Cootes, defenseman Keaton Verhoeff and goalie Ivankovic — but the depth of its team was a major issue. It was not getting secondary scoring or consistent puck possession from the down parts of its lineup.

That changed in the medal round and especially in the final game against Sweden. Canada was rolling four lines, and many of the down-lineup forwards had their best game of the tournament in terms of chance generation and controlling the play. The story of the 2025 draft and possibly the 2026 draft will be the strength of the CHL and Canadian crop of talent, and it was on display in the medal round this weekend. — Corey Pronman

### **Sweden runs out of steam**

Saturday's result certainly sours things, but Sweden had an impressive tournament individually and as a team. Its 4-3 win over the United States in Friday's semifinal was a highly competitive and exciting game, ultimately decided by a pair of Swedish goals midway through the third period. 2026 draft-eligible prospect Viggo Bjorck had 3 points, and fellow 2026-eligible prospect Ivar Stenberg (the younger brother of St. Louis Blues prospect Otto Stenberg) was one of the best players at the tournament.

Additionally, defenseman Sascha Boumedienne set the tournament record for points by a defenseman with 14, and forward Filip Ekberg won tournament MVP honors with 10 goals and 18 points in seven games, the most points ever by a Swede at the event.

Still, it was a quieter-than-hoped week for top 2025 draft-eligible forward Anton Frondell, who finished with 3 points in five games, although he played some of his best hockey of the event early in the gold medal game before it got out of hand. — Max Bultman

### **Media All-Star Team**

F: Brady Martin (CAN)

F: Filip Ekberg (SWE)

F: Ivar Stenberg (SWE)

D: Sascha Boumedienne (SWE)



D: Drew Schock (USA)

G: Jack Ivankovic (CAN)

MVP: Filip Ekberg (SWE)

**Directorate awards**

Best G: Jack Ivankovic (CAN)

Best D: Sascha Boumedienne (SWE)

Best F: Filip Ekberg (SWE)

**Pronman's All-Star & MVP ballot**

MVP: Ivar Stenberg (SWE)

F: Ivar Stenberg (SWE)

F: Filip Ekberg (SWE)

F: Brady Martin (CAN)

D: Sascha Boumedienne (SWE)

D: Keaton Verhoeff (CAN)

G: Jack Ivankovic (CAN)

**Wheeler's All-Star & MVP ballot**

MVP: Jack Ivankovic (CAN)

F: Ivar Stenberg (SWE)

F: Brady Martin (CAN)

F: Filip Ekberg (SWE)

D: Sascha Boumedienne (SWE)

D: Drew Schock (USA)

G: Jack Ivankovic (CAN)

**Bultman's All-Star & MVP ballot**

MVP: Filip Ekberg (SWE)

F: Filip Ekberg (SWE)

F: Ivar Stenberg (SWE)

F: Brady Martin (CAN)

D: Sascha Boumedienne (SWE)

D: Drew Schock (USA)

G: Jack Ivankovic (CAN)

## The Athletic / NHL's Masterton Memorial Trophy finalists named — will Marc-André Fleury retire with a win?

**By Rob Rossi — May 2, 2025**

Marc-André Fleury of the Minnesota Wild, Gabriel Landeskog of the Colorado Avalanche and Sean Monahan of the Columbus Blue Jackets were announced on Friday as finalists for the NHL's Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the player who "best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to the game."

The popular Fleury was celebrated throughout his 22nd and final season. Despite ranking second all-time in the NHL in victories, he continued to mentor the Wild's Filip Gustavsson as his backup. He received multiple send-offs on the road — from emotional ones in Pittsburgh, where he began and spent the bulk of his career, and in Montreal, near his hometown, but also in spots such as Chicago, where he played not even a full season.

The showering of adulation Fleury received on his way out of the NHL also included testimonials to the respect he garnered from former teammates, fans and even longtime rivals. Alex Ovechkin, who faced Fleury in four playoff series, made sure his Washington teammates saluted Fleury after the Capitals' last game against the Wild.

Landeskog did not play in a game for the third consecutive regular season. He underwent four surgeries to an injured right knee, including cartilage replacement in May 2023. It's a procedure from which no NHL player had ever returned — until Landeskog did during the first round of the playoffs.

However, the Masterton, like all NHL Awards, is based on the regular season. Landeskog, Colorado's longtime captain, continued to fill that role off the ice while rehabbing his knee for a potential return. His dedication to the Avalanche and the grueling process of rebuilding his injured knee served as inspiration in Colorado and to injured players throughout hockey.

Monahan signed with the Blue Jackets for one reason — to play with his best friend, Johnny Gaudreau. But the death of Gaudreau and his brother, Matthew, last August shocked the hockey community.

Monahan, following the direction of Gaudreau's widow during his eulogy, approached the season with energy and purpose. A 12-year veteran, Monahan's 19 goals and 57 points in 54 games fueled one of the NHL's most productive lines and sparked an unforgettable season in Columbus, as the Blue Jackets surprisingly remained in playoff contention until the season's final days.

The Masterton Trophy honors the late Bill Masterton, the only NHL player to die from an on-ice injury. It is the only award voted on by the entirety of the Professional Hockey Writers' Association; every team has a player nominated by that team's PHWA chapter.

The NHL unveiled finalists for three other NHL awards on Friday: Selke (best defensive forward), Jack Adams (coach of the year) and Lady Byng (sportsmanship, gentlemanly conduct). Earlier this week, the league revealed finalists for the Vezina (top goaltender), Norris (best defenseman) and Hart (league MVP) trophies, along with the Ted Lindsay Award (most outstanding player).