

# COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS 2026 NHL DRAFT GUIDE



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The 2026 Columbus Blue Jackets Draft Guide was produced by the club's communications department with special assistance from communications intern Lauren Schulze. We hope that you will find it helpful in your continued coverage of our hockey club. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact one of us at any time. We appreciate your coverage of Blue Jackets hockey.

The 2026 NHL Draft will be held in Buffalo at KeyBank Center with the first round beginning at 7 p.m. ET on Friday, June 26 and rounds 2-7 beginning at 11 a.m. ET on Saturday, June 27.

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## DON WADDELL

President of Hockey Operations, General Manager and Alternate Governor

Don Waddell was named the president of hockey operations, general manager and alternate governor for the Columbus Blue Jackets on May 29, 2024. He oversees all hockey operations activities for the club. Under his leadership, the club has posted winning records in consecutive seasons (40-32-9, 89 pts. in 2024-25 and 40-30-12, 92 pts. in 2025-26) for the first time since four-straight winning campaigns from 2016-20. The Blue Jackets' 92 points recorded in 2025-26 were tied for the fifth-highest total in club history (2008-09).

Prior to Columbus, Waddell spent 10 years with the Carolina Hurricanes, serving as team president from 2014-18 and as team president and general manager from 2018-24. In six seasons with Waddell as general manager, Carolina compiled a 278-130-44 record to rank second in the NHL in points percentage (.664; Boston - .695) and third in wins (Boston - 289, Tampa Bay - 283).

The Hurricanes won three division titles (2021-Central, 2022 and 2023-Metropolitan), advanced to the Stanley Cup Playoffs each year and earned trips to the Eastern Conference Finals twice (2019, 2023) during that time. Prior to his taking over as general manager, Carolina missed the playoffs in 11 of the 12 previous seasons.

Waddell began his NHL career in 1997-98 and won a Stanley Cup as an assistant general manager with the Detroit Red Wings. The following year, he joined the expansion Atlanta Thrashers as vice president of hockey operations and general manager and served in that role until 2010 when he was named team president. He also served as executive vice president and co-chair of the executive committee of the Atlanta Spirit, the parent company of the Thrashers, the National Basketball Association's Atlanta Hawks

and Philips Arena. He then had a three-year stint as a consultant and pro scout with the Pittsburgh Penguins before arriving in Carolina in 2014.

The Detroit, Michigan native has also served in several capacities with USA Hockey during his career. In 2013, he was named international consultant with a special focus on player identification and interface with the U.S. National Junior Team and USA Hockey's National Team Development Program. He served as general manager for Team USA at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, and at the 2001, 2002 and 2005 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championships. As a player, he helped Team USA win the gold medal at the 1983 IIHF World Championships.

Prior to embarking on his NHL management career, Waddell spent a decade as executive vice president and general manager of International Hockey League (IHL) franchises in San Diego (1990-95) and Orlando (1995-97) and was twice named IHL Executive of the Year (1992-93, 1995-96). In Orlando, he was vice president of RDV Sports and served on the executive committee that oversaw the NBA's Orlando Magic, the IHL's Orlando Solar Bears and the company's retail and aviation interests.

Waddell played four seasons of Division I collegiate hockey as a defenseman and majored in business management at Northern Michigan University from 1976-80. He was a seventh-round pick of the Los Angeles Kings at the 1978 NHL Draft and spent three years with the organization. He went on to play parts of nine seasons as a professional, mostly in the IHL. He also served as head coach of the IHL's San Diego Gulls in 1991-92 and was interim head coach of the Thrashers on two occasions (2002-03, 2007-08) during his tenure with the club.



## CHRIS CLARK

Assistant General Manager / General Manager of the Cleveland Monsters

Chris Clark was promoted to assistant general manager on Feb. 6, 2026. He had served as the club's director of player personnel since June 13, 2019 after spending seven seasons as a development coach and director of player development from 2012-19.

Clark also serves as the general manager of the Cleveland Monsters, the club's American Hockey League affiliate, who have qualified for the postseason in each of the past three seasons.

Internationally, Clark served as general manager of the United States Men's National Team that competed at the 2023 IIHF World Championships in Tampere, Finland.

A native of South Windsor, Connecticut, Clark registered 103-111-214 and 700 penalty minutes in 607 career NHL games with the Blue Jackets, Washington Capitals and Calgary Flames, including 8-12-20 and 59 penalty minutes in 89 games with Columbus from 2009-11. He spent four-plus seasons with the Capitals, tallying 60-63-123 and 278 penalty minutes in 240 games with the club and served as captain from 2006-09.

Calgary's third round pick, 77th overall, in the 1994 NHL Draft, Clark earned All-ECAC honors during four seasons at Clarkson University from 1994-98. He then spent six seasons in the Flames organization from 1998-04, and helped the club reach the 2004 Stanley Cup Final.

He and his wife, Kim, are the parents of daughters, Hailie and Rylan; and son, Braiden.



## RICK NASH

Director of Player Personnel/Development

Rick Nash was promoted to director of player personnel/development on Feb. 3, 2026. He has been a member of the club's hockey operations department since June 2019 when he was named special assistant to the general manager. He was promoted

to director of player development two years later and served as director of hockey operations since September 2024.

In his current role, Nash is involved in all aspects of the team's hockey operations department and continues to oversee the development and advancement of players throughout the organization.

Nash spent his first nine NHL seasons with Columbus after the club selected him with the first overall pick at the 2002 NHL Draft and served as the club's captain from 2008-12. He is the franchise's all-time leader in goals and points and ranks second in games played and assists, registering 289-258-547 and 568 penalty minutes in 674 games from 2002-12. On Mar. 5, 2022, he became the first player in franchise history to have his number (61) retired.

Nash was a finalist for the Calder Memorial Trophy as the

NHL's top rookie and an All-Rookie Team selection in 2002-03. He won the Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy as the NHL's top goal scorer in 2003-04 when he notched 41-16-57 in 80 games and received the NHL Foundation Player Award in 2008-09 for his contributions off the ice and in the community. He appeared in five All-Star Games as a Blue Jacket (2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011) and one as a NY Ranger (2015). In 1,060 career NHL games, he tallied 437-368-805 and 750 penalty minutes with the Blue Jackets, New York Rangers and Boston Bruins.

The Brampton, Ontario native was a stalwart for Canada in international competition as he represented his country at three Olympic Games (2006, 2010-gold and 2014-gold), four IIHF World Championships (2005-silver, 2007-gold, 2008-silver, 2011) and one IIHF World Junior Championship (2002-silver). He also served as the general manager for Team Canada at the 2024 IIHF World Championships in Czechia and earned a silver medal as the club's assistant general manager at the 2022 IIHF World Championships in Finland.

He and his wife, Jessica, are the parents of sons, McLaren and Finn; and daughter, Ellie. The family resides in New Albany.



## LAURENCE GILMAN

Vice President of Hockey Operations

Laurence Gilman joined the Columbus Blue Jackets as Vice President of Hockey Operations on Jan. 6, 2026 and brings more than two decades of management experience to the club. He assists President of Hockey Operations and General

Manager Don Waddell in all areas of the department, including issues related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, contract negotiations, arbitration matters and more.

The Winnipeg, Manitoba native most recently spent six seasons in the Toronto Maple Leafs organization as assistant general manager from 2018-22 and senior vice president of hockey operations for the American Hockey League's Toronto Marlies from 2022-24. The Leafs qualified for the Stanley Cup Playoffs in each of his four seasons with the club, while the Marlies competed in the Calder Cup Playoffs in 2022-23 and 2023-24 and won the North Division title in 2022-23.

Gilman joined the Vancouver Canucks as vice president of hockey operations and assistant general manager in 2008 and spent seven seasons with the club. During his tenure, Vancouver won five-straight Pacific Division titles from 2008-13, captured back-to-back Presidents' Trophies in 2010-11 and 2011-12 and advanced to the 2011 Stanley Cup Final.

Gilman began his NHL management career with the Winnipeg Jets in 1994 and remained with the organization when the club relocated to Phoenix in 1996. He served as director of hockey operations for the Coyotes from 1998-01, vice president of hockey operations and assistant general manager from 2001-05 and senior vice president of hockey operations and assistant general manager from 2005-07.

Gilman is a 1991 graduate of the University of Manitoba and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1994.



## BASIL MCRAE

Director of Pro Scouting

Basil McRae was named the Blue Jackets' director of pro scouting in September 2024 after serving as an assistant general manager for the previous five seasons. He originally joined the franchise as a scout for the 2013-14 season and spent three

seasons as the club's director of player personnel from 2016-19.

McRae, who has been a part owner of the Ontario Hockey League's London Knights since 2000, also spent two years as alternate governor and general manager of the OHL club from 2014-16. London captured OHL and Memorial Cup

championships in 2016. Prior to his original stint in Columbus, McRae served as a scout for the St. Louis Blues for five seasons.

In addition to two decades of scouting experience, McRae played 16 seasons in the NHL between 1981-96, registering 53 goals and 83 assists for 136 points with 2,453 penalty minutes in 576 games with the Quebec Nordiques, Toronto Maple Leafs, Detroit Red Wings, Minnesota North Stars, Tampa Bay Lightning, St. Louis Blues and Chicago Blackhawks.

The Beaverton, Ontario native was a fifth round pick of Quebec in the 1980 NHL Draft. He and his wife, Jill, are the parents of son, Philip, and daughters, Alexandra and Abigail.



## VILLE SIREN

Director of Amateur Scouting

Ville Siren was named director of amateur scouting of the Columbus Blue Jackets on July 6, 2016 after serving as the club's head amateur scout since joining the organization on July 8, 2013.

Siren spent nine seasons as a member of the St. Louis Blues scouting staff from 2003-13. During that time, he was instrumental in the club's selection of current NHL players such as Vladimir Tarasenko (1st Rd., 2010) and Lars Eller (1st Rd., 2007). Prior to joining the Blues, he spent the 2002-03 season working with Tampere of the Finnish Elite League and scouted for the Washington Capitals

from 1999-2002. A defenseman, Siren was selected by the Hartford Whalers in the second round, 23rd overall, at the 1983 NHL Draft and made his NHL debut with the Pittsburgh Penguins during the 1985-86 season. He went on to register 14 goals and 68 assists for 82 points with 276 penalty minutes in 290 career NHL games with the Penguins and Minnesota North Stars from 1985-90.

He also played nine seasons in Finland, Sweden and Switzerland before retiring in 1999, and represented Finland in numerous international competitions including the 1984 and 1992 Olympic Games, 1987 and 1991 Canada Cup tournaments, 1983 and 1984 World Junior Championships and 1985, 1991 and 1993 World Championships.



## TREVOR TIMMINS

Assistant Director of Amateur Scouting

Trevor Timmins joined the Columbus Blue Jackets as assistant director of amateur scouting in 2022, bringing nearly three decades of NHL experience to the club's hockey operations department.

Timmins comes to Columbus after spending two decades with the Montreal Canadiens, joining the organization in 2002 as director of player development.

In 2013-14, he served as director of player personnel and the following year was named vice president of player personnel. He served as the club's assistant general manager from 2017-21.

Prior to joining the Canadiens, the Almonte, Ontario native was a member of the Ottawa Senators organization for 10 years, including as the club's director of player development from 1998-02.



## JIM VIERS

Scouting Manager

Jim Viers was named scouting manager for the Blue Jackets in the summer of 2025. He is responsible for assisting the senior hockey operations staff with player evaluation, hockey operations research and development, video analysis, and strategic planning.

Viers originally joined the club's hockey operations department in 2015 as an intern before serving as the department's pro video coordinator and then the scouting coordinator.

He was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University in 2015.

## ADDITIONAL SCOUTING STAFF

Oscar Akerlund  
Byron Bonora  
Alex Campbell

Marshall Davidson  
Ty Eigner  
Danny Flynn

Ari Haanpaa  
Brad Peddle  
Dave Peters

Roman Polak  
Chris Shero

# NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS

## 2026 TOP 100 NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS

Rank	Midterm RK	Player	Ht	Wt	Position	Team	League
1.	1.	McKenna, Gavin	5'11"	170	Left Wing	Penn State	BIG10
2.	4.	Reid, Chase	6'2"	190	Defenseman	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL
3.	3.	Carels, Carson	6'2"	194	Defenseman	Prince George	WHL
4.	2.	Verhoeff, Keaton	6'4"	215	Defenseman	North Dakota	NCHC
5.	6.	Rudolph, Daxon	6'2"	205	Defenseman	Prince Albert	WHL
6.	5.	Malhotra, Caleb	6'2"	185	Center	Brantford	OHL
7.	7.	Lawrence, Tynan	6'0"	183	Center	Boston University	H-EAST
8.	16.	Klepov, Nikita	6'0"	180	Right Wing	Saginaw	OHL
9.	9.	Belchetz, Ethan	6'5"	230	Left Wing	Windsor	OHL
10.	8.	Morozov, Ilia	6'3"	205	Center	Miami	NCHC
11.	11.	Hemming, Oscar	6'4"	204	Left Wing	Boston College	H-EAST
12.	10.	Hurlbert, JP	6'0"	190	Left Wing	Kamloops	WHL
13.	23.	Cullen, Wyatt	6'1"	183	Left Wing	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
14.	12.	Novotny, Adam	6'1"	200	Left Wing	Peterborough	OHL
15.	18.	Dagenais, Maddox	6'4"	198	Center	Quebec	QMJHL
16.	13.	Lin, Ryan	5'11"	180	Defenseman	Vancouver	WHL
17.	35.	Bleyl, Tommy	5'11"	170	Defenseman	Moncton	QMJHL
18.	15.	Villeneuve, Xavier	5'11"	164	Defenseman	Blainville- Boisbriand	QMJHL
19.	17.	Shilov, Yegor	6'0"	177	Center	Victoriaville	QMJHL
20.	26.	Ruck, Liam	6'0"	174	Right Wing	Medicine Hat	WHL
21.	14.	Rogowski, Brooks	6'7"	235	Center	Oshawa	OHL
22.	20.	Macbeath, Benjamin	6'2"	196	Defenseman	Calgary	WHL
23.	31.	Ruck, Markus	6'0"	164	Center	Medicine Hat	WHL
24.	30.	Mutryn, Casey	6'3"	206	Right Wing	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
25.	22.	Cali, Ryder	6'2"	214	Center	North Bay	OHL
26.	32.	Harrington, Chase	6'1"	202	Left Wing	Spokane	WHL
27.	29.	Nemec, Adam	6'0"	180	Left Wing	Sudbury	OHL
28.	27.	Roobroeck, Ryan	6'3"	210	Left Wing	Niagara	OHL
29.	45.	Cover, Jaxon	6'2"	183	Right Wing	London	OHL
30.	49.	Berzkalns, Rudolf	6'4"	205	Center	Muskegon	USHL
31.	21.	Vanecek, Jakub	6'2"	203	Defenseman	Tri-City	WHL
32.	24.	Preston, Mathis	5'11"	172	Right Wing	Vancouver	WHL
33.	75.	Hamilton, Beckett	5'11"	174	Center	Red Deer	WHL
34.	33.	Hextall, Jack	6'0"	195	Center	Youngstown	USHL
35.	25.	Vandenberg, Thomas	6'0"	180	Center	Ottawa	OHL
36.	43.	Olsen, Zac	6'1"	207	Right Wing	Saskatoon	WHL
37.	63.	Sparks, Tyus	6'0"	190	Center	Spokane	WHL
38.	70.	Lefebvre, Liam	6'3"	201	Center	Chicoutimi	QMJHL
39.	29.	Morrison, Charlie	6'4"	200	Defenseman	Quebec	QMJHL
40.	132.	Sokolovskii, Maksim	6'7"	240	Defenseman	London	OHL
41.	19.	Di Iorio, Alessandro	6'0"	195	Center	Sarnia	OHL
42.	36.	Plante, Victor	5'10"	165	Left Wing	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
43.	39.	Barabanov, Egor	6'0"	177	Center	Saginaw	OHL
44.	34.	Liske, Brek	6'1"	190	Defenseman	Everett	WHL
45.	37.	Schairer, Luke	6'3"	194	Defenseman	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
46.	58.	Pantelas, Giorgos	6'2"	211	Defenseman	Brandon	WHL
47.	40.	Dravecky, Vladimir	5'11"	193	Defenseman	Brantford	OHL
48.	53.	Runtsso, Timofei	6'2"	197	Defenseman	Victoria	WHL
49.	38.	Bilecki, Alexander	6'2"	175	Defenseman	Kitchener	OHL
50.	42.	Williams, Cooper	6'0"	168	Center	Saskatoon	WHL

# NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS

## 2026 TOP 100 NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS

Rank	Midterm RK	Player	Ht	Wt	Position	Team	League
51.	56.	Zielinski, Blake	5'11"	190	Center	Des Moines	USHL
52.	52.	Gustafson, Jake	6'4"	182	Center	Portland	WHL
53.	88.	Sivertson, Jonah	6'3"	198	Right Wing	Prince Albert	WHL
54.	76.	Vanhanen, Matias	5'11"	180	Left Wing	Everett	WHL
55.	28.	Nycz, Landon	6'2"	210	Defenseman	UMass	H-EAST
56.	44.	Mbuyi, Pierce	5'10"	160	Left Wing	Owen Sound	OHL
57.	91.	McLaughlin, Will	6'2"	168	Defenseman	Portland	WHL
58.	64.	Lemire, Kayden	6'4"	194	Right Wing	Prince George	WHL
59.	47.	Zurawski, Cole	6'0"	188	Right Wing	Owen Sound	OHL
60.	101.	Joudrey, Caelan	6'4"	184	Center	Wenatchee	WHL
61.	77.	Kurtz, Jayden	6'3"	190	Defenseman	Rogers	HIGH-MN
62.	74.	MacKenzie, Ethan	6'1"	190	Defenseman	Edmonton	WHL
63.	90.	Chudzinski, Rian	6'0"	191	Right Wing	Moncton	QMJHL
64.	48.	Hafele, Landon	6'0"	179	Center	Green Bay	USHL
65.	60.	Kuehne, Lincoln	6'2"	210	Defenseman	Arizona State	NCHC
66.	67.	Heger, Kyle	6'1"	196	Defenseman	Lethbridge	WHL
67.	65.	Kemps, Jonas	6'6"	195	Defenseman	Chicago	USHL
68.	151.	Frossard, Eric	6'6"	206	Defenseman	Guelph	OHL
69.	46.	Edwards, Beckham	6'1"	190	Center	Sarina	OHL
70.	72.	Lansard, Zach	6'0"	172	Right Wing	Regina	WHL
71.	165.	Wilmott, Benjamin	6'1"	188	Center	Barrie	OHL
72.	81.	Tournas, Niko	6'2"	199	Right Wing	Moncton	QMJHL
73.	117.	Kostov, Alex	6'4"	207	Right Wing	Flint	OHL
74.	79.	Klimpke, Brayden	6'0"	174	Defenseman	Saskatoon	WHL
75.	-	Bowes, Spencer	6'0"	172	Left Wing	Ottawa	OHL
76.	57.	Beuker, Dayne	5'10"	165	Center	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
77.	69.	Berchild, Michael	5'10"	180	Left Wing	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
78.	155.	Jardine, Evan	6'0"	185	Left Wing	Youngstown	USHL
79.	83.	Trottier, Parker	6'0"	186	Left Wing	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
80.	51.	Royston, Weasley	6'4"	186	Right Wing	Owen Sound	OHL
81.	85.	Amrhein, Landon	6'4"	190	Left Wing	Calgary	WHL
82.	41.	Fitzgerald, Colin	6'2"	197	Center	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL
83.	141.	Vaughan, Parker	6'1"	194	Right Wing	North Bay	OHL
84.	123.	Bourque, Louis-Felix	6'2"	214	Right Wing	Drummondville	QMJHL
85.	54.	Stevens, Carter	6'2"	195	Right Wing	Guelph	OHL
86.	109.	Valentini, Adam	5'10"	183	Center	Michigan	BIG10
87.	68.	Kulebyakin, Oleg	5'10"	178	Right Wing	Halifax	QMJHL
88.	96.	Dean, Dylan	6'1"	185	Center	Edmonton	WHL
89.	61.	Steiner, Lars	5'10"	175	Right Wing	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL
90.	99.	Bryzgalov, Yaroslav	6'3"	216	Left Wing	Medicine Hat	WHL
91.	82.	Ambrosio, Lucas	6'4"	194	Defenseman	Erie	OHL
92.	-	Sauer, Kent	6'3"	202	Center	Andover	HIGH-MN
93.	-	Stengrim, Kade	6'4"	206	Left Wing	Medicine Hat	WHL
94.	-	Wooten, Zach	6'2"	205	Left Wing	Green Bay	USHL
95.	93.	Kuhta, Jasper	6'2"	194	Center	Ottawa	OHL
96.	115.	Tuminaro, Cole	6'4"	225	Defenseman	Chicago	USHL
97.	89.	Levac, Adam	6'0"	176	Center	Peterborough	OHL
98.	71.	Murnieks, Oliver	6'1"	192	Center	Saint John	QMJHL
99.	119.	Burick, Sean	6'8"	214	Defenseman	Penticton	WHL
100.	86.	Erickson, Joseph	6'4"	194	Center	Blake	HIGH-MN

# NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS

## 2026 TOP 100 INTERNATIONAL SKATERS

Rank	Midterm RK	Player	Ht	Wt	Position	Team	League
1.	1.	Stenberg, Ivar	5'11"	190	Left Wing	Frolunda	Sweden
2.	2.	Smits, Alberts	6'3"	209	Defenseman	Munchen	Germany
3.	3.	Suvanto, Oliver	6'3"	213	Center	Tappara	Finland
4.	5.	Bjorck, Viggo	5'9"	180	Center	Djurgarden	Sweden
5.	4.	Hermansson, Elton	6'0"	182	Right Wing	Modo	Sweden-2
6.	6.	Piiparinen, Juho	6'2"	204	Defenseman	Tappara	Finland
7.	8.	Gustafsson, Malte	6'4"	203	Defenseman	HV71	Sweden
8.	7.	Nordmark, Marcus	6'2"	190	Left Wing	Djurgarden Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
9.	15.	Pugachyov, Gleb	6'3"	198	Right Wing	Nizhny Novgorod Jr.	Russia-Jr.
10.	10.	Ignatavicius, Simas	6'2"	201	Right Wing	Geneve	Swiss
11.	12.	Command, Alexander	6'1"	187	Center	Orebro Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
12.	9.	Hakansson, William	6'4"	217	Defenseman	Lulea	Sweden
13.	11.	Shcherbakov, Nikita	6'3"	187	Defenseman	Ufa Jr.	Russia-Jr.
14.	13.	Goljer, Adam	6'1"	200	Defenseman	Trencin	Slovakia
15.	18.	Olsen, Niklas Aaram	6'0"	185	Left Wing	Orebro Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
16.	14.	Vanhatalo, Vilho	6'3"	194	Right Wing	Tappara Jr.	Finland-Jr.
17.	19.	Alalauri, Samu	6'2"	221	Defenseman	Pelicans Jr.	Finland-Jr.
18.	21.	Gudmundsson, Mans	6'3"	185	Defenseman	Farjestad Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
19.	31.	Lagerberg Hoen, Jonas	6'2"	178	Right Wing	Leksand Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
20.	30.	Andersson, Adam	6'4"	218	Center	Leksand Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
21.	17.	Katolicky, Simon	6'4"	197	Left Wing	Tappara Jr.	Finland-Jr.
22.	22.	Novak, Filip	6'2"	206	Left Wing	Sparta Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
23.	23.	Fedorov, Viktor	5'10"	176	Center	Torpedo-Gorky NN	Russia-2
24.	16.	Chrenko, Tomas	5'11"	172	Center	Nitra	Slovakia
25.	28.	Shaikhislamov, Alan	6'1"	187	Right Wing	Ufa Jr.	Russia-Jr.
26.	25.	Matveyev, Vsevolod	6'2"	190	Defenseman	Spartak Jr.	Russia-Jr.
27.	32.	Pakarinen, Noel	6'2"	200	Left Wing	K-Espoo Jr.	Finland-Jr.
28.	20.	Holmertz, Oscar	6'0"	187	Center	Linkoping Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
29.	24.	Elofsson, Axel	5'10"	169	Defenseman	Orebro Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
30.	36.	Fedoseyev, Yaroslav	6'1"	187	Defenseman	Chelyabinsk Jr.	Russia-Jr.
31.	27.	Eriksson, Samuel	6'6"	212	Defenseman	Farjestad Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
32.	40.	Frolo, Jakub	6'1"	194	Center	Ilves Jr.	Finland-Jr.
33.	41.	Bartholdsson, Nils	5'10"	179	Right Wing	Rogle Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
34.	26.	Arkko, Luka	6'3"	212	Left Wing	Pelicans Jr.	Finland-Jr.
35.	34.	Isaksson, Max	6'0"	185	Center	Vaxjo Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
36.	33.	Gashilov, Lavr	6'2"	170	Center	Yekaerinburg Jr.	Russia-Jr.
37.	45.	Kurka, Pavel	6'1"	179	Defenseman	Karlovy Vary Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
38.	46.	Palme, Ola	6'1"	198	Defenseman	Vaxjo Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
39.	35.	Bernat, Lucian	6'4"	201	Right Wing	Tappara Jr.	Finland-Jr.
40.	38.	Szongoth, Doman	6'0"	195	Center	Kookoo Jr.	Finland-Jr.
41.	42.	Matyev, Yaroslav	6'5"	220	Defenseman	Khabarovsk Jr.	Russia-Jr.
42.	39.	Andersson, Ludvig	5'10"	202	Right Wing	Orebro Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
43.	49.	Sedlacek, David	6'2"	174	Left Wing	Karlovy Vary Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
44.	43.	Lundqvist, William	6'4"	192	Defenseman	Leksand Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
45.	44.	Turkio, Ossi	6'2"	186	Defenseman	Ilves Jr.	Finland-Jr.
46.	51.	Knights, Theodor	6'4"	194	Defenseman	Modo Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
47.	48.	Laitinen, Jiko	6'0"	170	Center	Ilves Jr.	Finland-Jr.
48.	50.	Ivanov, Alexander	6'2"	181	Defenseman	Bars Kazan	Russia-2.
49.	54.	Floris, Jakub	6'3"	194	Defenseman	Lukko Jr.	Finland-Jr.
50.	37.	Sapozhnikov, Alexander	6'6"	209	Defenseman	Ska St. Petersburg Jr.	Russia-Jr.

# NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS

## 2026 TOP 100 INTERNATIONAL SKATERS

Rank	Midterm RK	Player	Ht	Wt	Position	Team	League
51.	60.	Brabenec, Jan	6'3"	179	Center	Brno Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
52.	52.	Kotkov, Matvei	6'1"	185	Right Wing	Yaroslavl Jr.	Russia-Jr.
53.	-	Karasyov, Matvei	6'1"	183	Defenseman	Ufa Jr.	Russia-Jr.
54.	86.	Uronen, Anttoni	6'0"	201	Center	HiFk	Finland
55.	-	Sorbrand, William	6'3"	203	Center	Timra Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
56.	53.	Morozov, Alexander	6'3"	187	Defenseman	Togliatti Jr.	Russia-Jr.
57.	56.	Josbrant, Mans	5'11"	173	Left Wing	Lulea Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
58.	55.	Matyuk, Artyom	6'0"	165	Center	Nizhny Novgorod Jr.	Russia-Jr.
59.	62.	Brongel-Larsson, Axel	6'1"	194	Defenseman	Frolunda	Sweden
60.	65.	Gastrin, Malcom	6'0"	174	Left Wing	Modo Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
61.	61.	Ryabykin, Yelisei	6'1"	192	Defenseman	Dynamo Moscow Jr.	Russia-Jr.
62.	66.	Carell, Felix	6'1"	201	Defenseman	Malmo	Sweden
63.	64.	Karsay, Samuel	6'1"	172	Right Wing	Trencin Jr.	Slovakia-Jr.
64.	72.	Tarvainen, Joel	6'6"	220	Defenseman	Kalpa Jr.	Finland-Jr.
65.	78.	Denisov, Pavel	6'2"	183	Defenseman	Omsk Jr.	Russia-Jr.
66.	67.	Jakubec, Michal	6'2"	183	Center	Trencin Jr.	Slovakia-Jr.
67.	-	Vuori, Atte	5'10"	167	Center	K-Espoo Jr.	Finland-Jr.
68.	73.	Nicolaysen, Henry	6'3"	190	Defenseman	Sodertalje Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
69.	85.	Bykov, Andrei	6'3"	192	Center	Spartak-Mah Moscow	Russia-Jr.
70.	-	Andersson, Lukas	6'0"	173	Center	Farjestad Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
71.	69.	Galvas, Tomas	5'10"	168	Defenseman	Liberec	Czechia
72.	79.	Hedqvist, Isac	5'11"	172	Center	Lulea	Sweden
73.	70.	Bouvard, Fabrice	6'0"	185	Center	Gck Zurich Jr.	Swiss-Jr.
74.	57.	Laatikainen, Max	6'0"	185	Defenseman	K-Espoo Jr.	Finland-Jr.
75.	68.	Sjostrom, Oliwer	5'11"	170	Defenseman	Bjorkloven	Sweden-2
76.	76.	Ustinkov, Daniil	6'1"	201	Defenseman	GCK Zurich	Swiss-2
77.	74.	Tuuva, Leo	6'1"	187	Right Wing	Lukko	Finland
78.	71.	Pufr, Antonin	6'2"	194	Defenseman	Liberec Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
79.	90.	Gromakov, Nikita	6'0"	165	Right Wing	Dynamo St. Petersburg Jr.	Russia-Jr.
80.	-	Kostilainen, Sakari	5'11"	181	Left Wing	Assat	Finland
81.	107.	Sysoyev, Danil	6'0"	170	Center	Magnitogorsk Jr.	Russia-Jr.
82.	75.	Cermak, Tomas	6'3"	190	Defenseman	Mlada Boleslav Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
83.	-	Thomsson, Tim	6'2"	183	Defenseman	Mora	Sweden-2
84.	-	Sorensson, Wiggo	5'10"	180	Center	Boro/Vetlanda	Sweden-4
85.	89.	Zmrhal, David	6'2"	192	Defenseman	Jihlava Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
86.	102.	Anderberg, Morgan	5'11"	174	Center	Vaxjo	Sweden
87.	84.	Svensk, Vertti	6'0"	169	Defenseman	Saipa Jr.	Finland-Jr.
88.	94.	Kubiesa, Matej	6'0"	172	Right Wing	Trinec	Czechia
89.	104.	Laman, Roman	5'11"	176	Center	Omsk Jr.	Russia-Jr.
90.	82.	Somervuori, Jere	6'0"	159	Left Wing	HiFk	Finland
91.	-	Larsen, Oliver Dejbjerg	5'11"	168	Left Wing	Rogle Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
92.	97.	Holejsovsky, Joesef	5'11"	174	Right Wing	Slavia Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
93.	115.	Melnikov, Yan	5'9"	176	Right Wing	Nizhny Novgorod Jr.	Russia-Jr.
94.	93.	Juustovaara Karlsson, Casper	5'9"	168	Center	Lulea	Sweden
95.	63.	Kalimullin, Adel	6'1"	186	Right Wing	Irbis Kazan	Russia-Jr.
96.	58.	Tsyplakov, Gleb	6'0"	172	Right Wing	Khanty- Mansiysk Jr.	Russia-Jr.
97.	103.	Vaananen, Vilmeri	6'3"	183	Defenseman	Jokerit Jr.	Finland-Jr.
98.	114.	Paul, Douglas	6'0"	176	Center	Linkoping Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
99.	98.	Kallio, Wilmer	5'10"	166	Right Wing	TPS Jr.	Finland-Jr.
100.	105.	Matta, Ivan	5'11"	178	Center	Michalovce	Slovakia

# NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS

## 2026 TOP GOALTENDERS

### NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS - TOP 15 NORTH AMERICAN GOALIES

Rank	Midterm RK	Player	Ht	Wt	Position	Team	League
1.	1.	Knowling, Brady	6'5"	208	Goalie	USA U-18	NTDP-USHL
2.	2.	Orsulak, Michal	6'4"	224	Goalie	Prince Albert	WHL
3.	3.	Trejbal, Tobias	6'4"	198	Goalie	Youngstown	USHL
4.	13.	Ruzicka, Filip	6'7"	230	Goalie	Brandon	WHL
5.	4.	Larys, Jan	6'3"	175	Goalie	Drummondville	QMJHL
6.	8.	Sklenicka, Marek	6'3"	171	Goalie	Seattle	WHL
7.	6.	Lacelle, William	6'0"	176	Goalie	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL
8.	5.	Tvrznik, Tobias	6'4"	193	Goalie	Wenatchee	WHL
9.	10.	Hrenak, Samuel	6'2"	190	Goalie	Fargo	USHL
10.	7.	Boettiger, Harrison	6'2"	181	Goalie	Kelowna	WHL
11.	16.	Fetterolf, Ryder	6'0"	184	Goalie	Ottawa	OHL
12.	10.	Jovanovski, Zachary	6'3"	185	Goalie	Guelph	OHL
13.	17.	Shurygin, Stepan	6'5"	207	Goalie	Saginaw	OHL
14.	9.	Shayikov, Danay	6'2"	192	Goalie	Gatineau	QMJHL
15.	11.	Minchak, Matthew	6'5"	195	Goalie	Kingston	OHL

### NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS - TOP 15 INTERNATIONAL GOALIES

Rank	Midterm RK	Player	Ht	Wt	Position	Team	League
1.	1.	Borichev, Dmitri	6'2"	194	Goalie	Loko-76 Yaroslavl	Russia-Jr.
2.	2.	Rybkin, Yegor	6'7"	207	Goalie	Nizhny Novgorod Jr.	Russia-Jr.
3.	7.	Vermirovsky, David	6'5"	181	Goalie	Pardubice Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
4.	8.	Ivchenko, Dmitri	6'3"	179	Goalie	Omsk Jr.	Russia-Jr.
5.	3.	Nilsson, Douglas	6'4"	180	Goalie	Farjestad Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
6.	5.	Poletin, Frantisek	6'1"	190	Goalie	Pelicans Jr.	Finland-Jr.
7.	6.	Karbainov, Matvei	6'1"	181	Goalie	Ska St. Petersburg Jr.	Russia-Jr.
8.	4.	Tamm, Viggo	6'5"	165	Goalie	Leksand Jr.	Sweden-Jr.
9.	9.	Charvat, Sebastian	6'4"	176	Goalie	Liberec Jr.	Czechia-Jr.
10.	-	Ivanov, Yuri	6'2"	165	Goalie	Spartak Jr.	Russia-Jr.
11.	-	Peshkov, Gleb	6'2"	183	Goalie	Vladivostok Jr.	Russia-Jr.
12.	11.	Gammals, William	6'0"	191	Goalie	Tappara Jr.	Finland-Jr.
13.	-	Rusakovich, Daniil	6'4"	183	Goalie	Dinamo-Shinnik Jr.	Russia-Jr.
14.	19.	Ainasto, Juuso	6'4"	198	Goalie	Jokerit Jr.	Finland-Jr.
15.	13.	Tjarnlund, Milo	6'2"	176	Goalie	Rogle Jr.	Sweden-Jr.

# COLUMBUS PICKS IN 2026 NHL DRAFT

ROUND	NUMBER OF PICKS	SELECTION
1.	1	14
2.	1	43+
3.	1	94^
4.	1	101
5.	1	142
6.	1	182*
7.	1	206

Feb. 22, 2024 \* Acquired a sixth-round pick in the 2026 NHL Draft and LW Alexander Nylander from the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for Emil Bemstrom.

Nov. 30, 2024 ^ Acquired D Daemon Hunt and a conditional first round pick in the 2025 Draft as well as a third-round pick (Colorado) and fourth-round pick (Toronto) in the 2026 NHL Draft from the Minnesota Wild in exchange for D David Jiricek and a 2025 fifth-round pick.

Dec. 29, 2025 + Acquired LW Danton Heinen, a second-round pick (St. Louis) in the 2026 NHL Draft and third-round pick (Washington) in the 2027 NHL Draft from the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for RW Yegor Chinakhov.

## NHL DRAFT NOTABLES AT JACKETS' SELECTIONS

### 14th Overall

**D Jackson Smith (2025; Columbus)**, RW Rutger McGroarty (2022; Winnipeg), LW Dylan Holloway (2020; Edmonton), D Cam York (2019; Philadelphia), LW Joel Farabee (2018; Philadelphia), D Cal Foote (2017; Tampa Bay), D Charlie McAvoy (2016; Boston), LW Jake Debrusk (2015; Boston), **C Alexander Wennberg (2013; Columbus)**, C Zengus Girgensons (2012; Buffalo), D Jamie Oleksiak (2011; Dallas), C Jaden Schwartz (2010; St. Louis), D Dmitri Kulikov (2009; Florida), D Kevin Shattenkirk (2007; Colorado), G Devan Dubnyk (2004; Edmonton), D Brent Seabrook (2003; Chicago), C Marty Reasoner (1996; St. Louis), D Jay McKee (1995; Buffalo), LW Ethan Moreau (Chicago; 1994), D Sergei Gonchar (Washington; 1992), LW Brad May (1990; Buffalo), D Stephane Quintal (1987; Boston), D Calle Johansson (1985; Buffalo), LW Brian Propp (1979; Philadelphia), RW Rick Middleton (1973; New York Rangers)

### 43rd Overall

LW Emil Heineman (2020; Florida), D Alex Vlasic (2019; Chicago), D Dylan Samberg (2017; Winnipeg), C Janne Kuokkanen (2016; Carolina), D Erik Cernak (2015; Los Angeles), C Nicolas Petan (2013; Winnipeg), LW Brandon Saad (2011; Chicago), D Justin Schultz (2008; Anaheim), D P.K. Subban (2007; Montreal), D Trevor Daley (2002; Dallas), LW Matt Pettinger (2000; Washington), D Ossi Vaananen (1998; Phoenix), C Jan Bulis (1996; Washington), LW Curtis Brown (1994; Buffalo), D Peter Taglianetti (1983; Winnipeg), RW Pat Verbeek (1982; New Jersey), LW Alain Cote (1977; Montreal), D Mike O'Connell (1975; Chicago), F Hartland Monahan (1971; California)

### 94th Overall

G Ville Husso (2014; St. Louis), **D Brandon Archibald (2010; Columbus)**, **D David Savard (2009; Columbus)**, **LW Maksim Mayorov (2007; Columbus)**, G Thomas Greiss (2004; San Jose), RW Zack Stortini (2003; Edmonton), C Chris Kelly (1999; Ottawa), D James Black (1989; Hartford), G Doug Kearns (1978; Los Angeles)

### 101st Overall

**D Guillaume Richard (2021; Columbus)**, LW Nick Paul (2013; Dallas), C Cedric Paquette (2012; Tampa Bay), **RW Jared Boll (2005; Columbus)**, RW Juraj Kolnik (1999; New York Islanders), C Michal Handzus (1995; St. Louis), G Steve Shields (1991; Buffalo)

### 142nd Overall

C Michael Eyssimont (2016; Los Angeles), LW Rudolfs Balcers (2015; San Jose), C Nathan Gerbe (2005; Buffalo), D Craig Norwich (1975; Montreal)

### 182nd Overall

LW Eric Haula (2009; Minnesota), D Bruno Gervais (2003; New York Islanders), D Mike Mottau (1997; New York Rangers)

### 206th Overall

D MacKenzie Weegar (2013; Florida), G Anton Khudobin (2004; Minnesota)

# 2026 NHL DRAFT SELECTIONS

## 1ST ROUND

1. Toronto
2. San Jose
3. Vancouver
4. Buffalo (from CHI)
5. NY Rangers
6. Calgary
7. Seattle
8. Winnipeg
9. San Jose (from FLA via OTT)
10. Nashville
11. St. Louis
12. New Jersey
13. NY Islanders
14. **Columbus**
15. St. Louis (from DET)
16. St. Louis (from WSH)
17. Los Angeles
18. Washington (from ANA)
19. Utah
20. Buffalo (from EDM via SJS)
21. Philadelphia
22. Pittsburgh
23. Boston
24. Vancouver (from MIN)
25. Ottawa (from TBL via SEA/FLA)
26. NY Rangers (from DAL via CAR)
27. San Jose (from BUF)
28. Montreal
29. St. Louis (From COL via NYI)
30. Calgary (From VGK)
31. Carolina
32. Ottawa

## 2ND ROUND

33. Vancouver
34. Chicago
35. New Jersey (from NYR via UTA/CGY)
36. Calgary
37. Chicago (from TOR)
38. Seattle
39. Pittsburgh (from WPG)
40. Florida
41. Vancouver (from SJS)
42. Nashville
43. **Columbus (from STL)**
44. New Jersey
45. Buffalo (from NYI via CHI)
46. Los Angeles (from CBJ via MTL)
47. Detroit
48. Florida (from WSH)
49. Los Angeles
50. Anaheim
51. Calgary (from UTA)
52. Edmonton
53. Philadelphia
54. Pittsburgh
55. Calgary (from OTT via UTA)
56. Boston
57. Nashville (from MIN)
58. Tampa Bay
59. Dallas
60. Toronto (from BUF via OTT/LAK)
61. Montreal
62. San Jose (from COL)
63. Vegas (forfeited)
64. NY Rangers (from CAR)

## 3RD ROUND

65. Calgary (from VAN)
66. Chicago
67. NY Rangers
68. Calgary
69. Toronto
70. Nashville (from SEA via DAL)
71. Winnipeg
72. Ottawa (from FLA)
73. St. Louis (from SJS via PIT/DET)
74. Colorado (from NSH)
75. St. Louis
76. St. Louis (from NJD via NYI)
77. NY Rangers (from NYI)
78. Vancouver (from CBJ)
79. Detroit
80. Los Angeles (from WSH via OTT)
81. NY Rangers (from LAK)
82. Anaheim
83. Utah
84. Edmonton
85. Toronto (from PHI)
86. Pittsburgh
87. Ottawa
88. Boston
89. Minnesota
90. Tampa Bay
91. Ottawa (from DAL via CAR/LAK)
92. NY Rangers (from BUF)
93. Montreal
94. **Columbus (from COL via MIN)**
95. Vegas
96. Utah (from CAR)

## 4TH ROUND

97. Vancouver
98. Florida (from CHI)
99. Seattle (from NYR via CBJ)
100. Calgary
101. **Columbus (from TOR via MIN)**
102. Seattle
103. Montreal (from WPG via NJD)
104. Boston (from FLA via SJS)
105. Carolina (from SJS)
106. Nashville
107. St. Louis
108. New Jersey
109. NY Islanders
110. Ottawa (from CBJ via DET)
111. Boston (from DET via ANA)
112. Washington
113. Los Angeles
114. Toronto (from ANA via SEA)
115. Utah
116. Winnipeg (from EDM via BOS/BUF)
117. Anaheim (from PHI)
118. Nashville (from PIT)
119. Chicago (from OTT)
120. San Jose (from BOS)
121. Minnesota
122. Boston (from TBL)
123. St. Louis (from DAL via NJD)
124. Buffalo
125. Montreal
126. Colorado
127. San Jose (from VGK via WSH)
128. Colorado (from CAR)

# 2026 NHL DRAFT SELECTIONS

## 5TH ROUND

- |                           |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 129. Vancouver            | 140. New Jersey           | 151. Ottawa                    |
| 130. Utah (from CHI)      | 141. NY Islanders         | 152. Colorado (from BOS)       |
| 131. NY Rangers           | <b>142. Columbus</b>      | 153. Minnesota                 |
| 132. Calgary              | 143. Detroit              | 154. Tampa Bay                 |
| 133. Toronto              | 144. Washington           | 155. Dallas                    |
| 134. Seattle              | 145. Los Angeles          | 156. Buffalo                   |
| 135. Winnipeg             | 146. Anaheim              | 157. Boston (from MTL via SJS) |
| 136. Florida              | 147. Utah                 | 158. Toronto (from COL)        |
| 137. Minnesota (from SJS) | 148. Nashville (from EDM) | 159. Vegas                     |
| 138. Nashville            | 149. Colorado (from PHI)  | 160. Carolina                  |
| 139. St Louis             | 150. St Louis (from PIT)  |                                |

## 6TH ROUND

- |                                    |                                  |                                     |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 161. Vancouver                     | 172. New Jersey                  | 183. Ottawa                         |
| 162. NY Rangers (from CHI via BUF) | 173. NY Islanders                | 184. Vancouver (from BOS via MIN)   |
| 163. NY Rangers                    | 174. San Jose (from CBJ via PHI) | 185. Minnesota                      |
| 164. Calgary                       | 175. Detroit                     | 186. Tampa Bay                      |
| 165. Carolina (from TOR)           | 176. Vancouver (from WSH)        | 187. Dallas                         |
| 166. Seattle                       | 177. Los Angeles                 | 188. Buffalo                        |
| 167. Winnipeg                      | 178. Anaheim                     | 189. Montreal                       |
| 168. Florida                       | 179. Nashville (from UTA)        | 190. Los Angeles (from COL via OTT) |
| 169. Toronto (from SJS)            | 180. Edmonton                    | 191. Vegas                          |
| 170. Pittsburgh (from NSH)         | 181. Philadelphia                | 192. Carolina                       |
| 171. St Louis                      | <b>182. Columbus (from PIT)</b>  |                                     |

## 7TH ROUND

- |                                  |                          |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 193. NY Rangers (from VAN)       | 204. Seattle (from NJD)  | 215. Colorado (from OTT) |
| 194. Chicago                     | 205. NY Islanders        | 216. Boston              |
| 195. Colorado (from NYR via NSH) | <b>206. Columbus</b>     | 217. Florida (from MIN)  |
| 196. Detroit (from CGY)          | 207. Detroit             | 218. Tampa Bay           |
| 197. Dallas (from TOR)           | 208. Washington          | 219. Dallas              |
| 198. Seattle                     | 209. Los Angeles         | 220. Winnipeg (from BUF) |
| 199. Winnipeg                    | 210. Anaheim             | 221. Montreal            |
| 200. Chicago (from FLA)          | 211. Utah                | 222. Colorado            |
| 201. San Jose                    | 212. Edmonton            | 223. Vegas               |
| 202. Nashville                   | 213. Philadelphia        | 224. Montreal (from CAR) |
| 203. St. Louis                   | 214. Colorado (from PIT) |                          |

\* Picks as of June 23, 2026







## DAXON RUDOLPH

North American Skater - Prince Albert, WHL



<b>FINAL RANK:</b> 5	<b>MIDTERM RANK:</b> 6
<b>POSITION:</b> Defenseman	<b>SHOOTS:</b> Right
<b>HEIGHT:</b> 6' 2"	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 205
<b>BORN:</b> March 6, 2008	<b>BIRTHPLACE:</b> Lacombe, AB, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

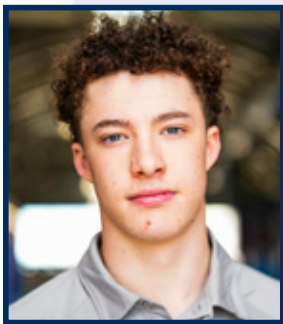
- Led WHL blueliners in assists and total points in 2025-26, posting 28-50-78 in 68 games with Prince Albert.
- Was a nominee for WHL Rookie of the Year in 2024-25 after recording 7-34-41 in 64 games with the Raiders.
- Won gold with Canada at the 2025 IIHF World U18 Championships and represented the country at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and 2024 Winter Youth Olympics.
- Committed to the University of Denver for the 2026-27 season.

### CAREER RECORD

### REGULAR SEASON

### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	Prince Albert	WHL	64	7	34	41	13	30	11	1	11	12	3	2
2025-26	Prince Albert	WHL	68	28	50	78	32	75	19	9	18	27	9	25
<b>WHL Totals</b>			<b>132</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>



## CALEB MALHOTRA

North American Skater - Brantford, OHL



<b>FINAL RANK:</b> 6	<b>MIDTERM RANK:</b> 5
<b>POSITION:</b> Center	<b>SHOOTS:</b> Left
<b>HEIGHT:</b> 6' 2"	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 185
<b>BORN:</b> June 2, 2008	<b>BIRTHPLACE:</b> Toronto, ON, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Earned 2025-26 OHL All-Rookie team honors with 29-55-84 in 67 games with the Brantford Bulldogs.
- Spent the 2024-25 campaign with the Chilliwack Chiefs, recording 8-18-26 in 44 outings.
- Committed to Boston University for the 2026-27 season.
- Is the son of former NHLer and Blue Jacket, Manny Malhotra (2003-09), who was named head coach of the Vancouver Canucks on June 2.

### CAREER RECORD

### REGULAR SEASON

### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	Chilliwack	BCHL	44	8	18	26	-	23	21	5	12	17	-	13
2025-26	Brantford	OHL	67	29	55	84	33	51	15	13	13	26	10	4
<b>BCHL Totals</b>			<b>44</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>OHL Totals</b>			<b>67</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>





## ETHAN BELCHETZ

North American Skater - Windsor, OHL



<b>FINAL RANK:</b> 9	<b>MIDTERM RANK:</b> 9
<b>POSITION:</b> Left Wing	<b>SHOOTS:</b> Left
<b>HEIGHT:</b> 6' 5"	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 230
<b>BORN:</b> March 30, 2008	<b>BIRTHPLACE:</b> Oakville, ON, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Posted 34-25-59 in 57 games in his second season with the OHL's Windsor Spitfires.
- Named to the OHL Second All-Rookie Team in 2024-25 after recording 17-21-38 in 56 games with the Spitfires.
- Was awarded the Jack Ferguson Award for being the first draft pick in the 2024 OHL draft.
- Committed to Michigan State University for the 2027-28 season.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	Windsor	OHL	56	17	21	38	-3	48	--	--	--	--	--	--
2025-26	Windsor	OHL	57	34	25	59	19	45	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>OHL Totals</b>			<b>113</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>93</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--

# DRAFT 26



## ILIA MOROZOV

North American Skater - Miami, NCHC



<b>FINAL RANK:</b> 10	<b>MIDTERM RANK:</b> 8
<b>POSITION:</b> Center	<b>SHOOTS:</b> Left
<b>HEIGHT:</b> 6' 3"	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 205
<b>BORN:</b> August 3, 2008	<b>BIRTHPLACE:</b> Moscow, RUS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Began the 2025-26 season as the youngest player in NCAA hockey (17) and recorded 8-12-20 in 36 games at Miami University.
- Finished tied for third among draft eligible NCAA players in scoring in 2025-26.
- Recorded 11-11-22 in 59 games during his lone season with the USHL's Tri-City Storm in 2024-25.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	Tri-City	USHL	59	11	11	22	-12	20	2	0	0	0	-2	0
2025-26	Miami U.	NCHC	36	8	12	20	2	27	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>NCAA Totals</b>			<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>USHL Totals</b>			<b>59</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>0</b>









## TOMMY BLEYL

North American Skater - Moncton, QMJHL



**FINAL RANK:** 17      **MIDTERM RANK:** 35  
**POSITION:** Defenseman      **SHOOTS:** Right  
**HEIGHT:** 5' 11"      **WEIGHT:** 170  
**BORN:** December 1, 2007      **BIRTHPLACE:** Schenectady, NY, USA

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Was named the 2025-26 QMJHL Defensive Rookie of the Year, Defenseman of the Year, to the First All-Star team and All-Rookie team after leading the league in assists and all blueliners in points with 13-68-81 in 63 contests with the Moncton Wildcats.
- Skated in three games for Dubuque in the USHL and recorded 6-21-27 in 30 outings at Cushing Academy in 2024-25.
- Committed to Michigan State University for the 2027-28 season.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	Dubuque	USHL	3	0	0	0	-2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
2025-26	Moncton	QMJHL	63	13	68	81	58	33	21	6	22	28	15	6
<b>USHL Totals</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>QMJHL Totals</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>



## XAVIER VILLENEUVE

North American Skater - Blainville-Boisbriand, QMJHL



**FINAL RANK:** 18      **MIDTERM RANK:** 15  
**POSITION:** Defenseman      **SHOOTS:** Left  
**HEIGHT:** 5' 11"      **WEIGHT:** 164  
**BORN:** September 29, 2007      **BIRTHPLACE:** Laval, QC, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Was awarded the Emile Bouchard Trophy as the QMJHL's best defenseman in 2024-25 and was a CHL Third Team All-Star honoree after recording 12-50-62 in 61 appearances with Blainville-Boisbriand.
- Was named to the CHL and QMJHL All-Rookie Teams and the QMJHL's Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2023-24 with 8-35-43 in 54 outings with Blainville-Boisbriand.
- Represented Canada at the 2025 IIHF World U18 Championships (gold) and 2024 World U17 Hockey Challenge.
- Committed to Boston University for the 2026-27 season.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2023-24	Blainville	QMJHL	54	8	35	43	-10	26	7	1	4	5	-3	0
2024-25	Blainville	QMJHL	61	12	50	62	14	24	5	0	4	4	-5	0
2025-26	Blainville	QMJHL	37	6	32	38	7	35	17	6	8	14	3	14
<b>QMJHL Totals</b>			<b>152</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>14</b>



## YEGOR SHILOV

North American Skater - Victoriaville, OMJHL



**FINAL RANK:** 19  
**POSITION:** Center  
**HEIGHT:** 6' 0"  
**BORN:** April 30, 2008

**MIDTERM RANK:** 17  
**SHOOTS:** Left  
**WEIGHT:** 177  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Tyumen, RUS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Named the 2025-26 QMJHL Offensive Rookie of the Year (Michel Bergeron Trophy) after recording 32-50-82 in 63 games with Victoriaville.
- Earned QMJHL All-Rookie Team honors after leading league rookies in points and finishing second in goals (tied) and assists.
- Committed to Penn State for the 2027-28 season.

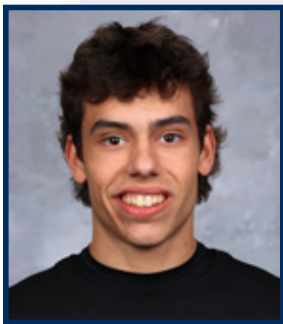
### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	Green Bay	USHL	39	11	17	28	-30	18	2	1	1	2	-1	0
2025-26	Victoriaville	QMJHL	63	32	50	82	-11	29	4	2	3	5	-5	2
<b>USHL Totals</b>			<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>QMJHL Totals</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>2</b>

# DRAFT 26



## LIAM RUCK

North American Skater - Medicine Hat, WHL



**FINAL RANK:** 20  
**POSITION:** Right Wing  
**HEIGHT:** 6' 0"  
**BORN:** February 21, 2008

**MIDTERM RANK:** 26  
**SHOOTS:** Right  
**WEIGHT:** 174  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Osoyoos, BC, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Posted 45-59-104 in 68 contests with Medicine Hat during the 2025-26 WHL season, ranking second in the league in goals and points and fifth in assists.
- Helped Medicine Hat capture the 2024-25 league championship and led WHL rookies in goals with 25-16-41 in 61 contests.
- Won a bronze medal at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and won gold at the 2024 World U17 Hockey Challenge.
- His twin brother, Markus, is a player on Medicine Hat alongside him and is ranked 23rd as a draft prospect.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2023-24	Medicine Hat	WHL	3	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2024-25	Medicine Hat	WHL	61	25	16	41	17	6	18	6	4	10	1	8
2025-26	Medicine Hat	WHL	68	45	59	104	47	36	14	8	4	12	3	6
<b>WHL Totals</b>			<b>132</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>







## RYDER CALI

North American Skater - North Bay, OHL



**FINAL RANK:** 25

**POSITION:** Center

**HEIGHT:** 6' 2"

**BORN:** September 6, 2008

**MIDTERM RANK:** 22

**SHOOTS:** Left

**WEIGHT:** 214

**BIRTHPLACE:** Penetanguishene, ON, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Recorded 16-20-36 with 11 multi-point efforts in 47 games in his rookie season with the North Bay Battalion, leading club rookies in goals and ranking second in points.
- Represented Canada at the 2026 IIHF U18 World Championships.
- Committed to Providence College for the 2026-27 season.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	North Bay	OHL	5	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
2025-26	North Bay	OHL	47	16	20	36	2	24	10	1	3	4	-4	4
<b>OHL Totals</b>			<b>52</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>4</b>

# DRAFT 26



## CHASE HARRINGTON

North American Skater - Spokane, WHL



**FINAL RANK:** 26

**POSITION:** Left Wing

**HEIGHT:** 6' 1"

**BORN:** October 30, 2007

**MIDTERM RANK:** 32

**SHOOTS:** Left

**WEIGHT:** 202

**BIRTHPLACE:** Prince George, BC, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Tied for the team lead in goals and ranked third in points with 28-29-57 in 61 contests with the WHL's Spokane Chiefs in 2025-26.
- Collected 19-31-50 and 41 PIM in 68 appearances with Spokane in 2024-25.
- Competed at the 2024 World U17 Hockey Challenge for Canada Red.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2022-23	Spokane	WHL	4	0	1	1	-4	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
2023-24	Spokane	WHL	61	6	16	22	-9	25	3	0	1	1	-4	4
2024-25	Spokane	WHL	68	19	31	50	22	41	20	6	8	14	5	14
2025-26	Spokane	WHL	61	28	29	57	10	105	6	2	2	4	0	8
<b>WHL Totals</b>			<b>194</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>

# 2026 NHL DRAFT PROFILES



## ADAM NEMEČ

North American Skater - Sudbury, OHL



**FINAL RANK:** 27      **MIDTERM RANK:** 29  
**POSITION:** Left Wing      **SHOOTS:** Left  
**HEIGHT:** 6' 0"      **WEIGHT:** 180  
**BORN:** October 18, 2007      **BIRTHPLACE:** Liptovsky Mikulas, SVK

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Split the 2025-26 season between HK Nitra (Slovakia) and Sudbury (OHL), combining for 17-33-50 in 59 contests.
- Played for three teams in Slovakia in 2024-25, combining for 35-32-67 in 67 games.
- Represented Slovakia in multiple international events, including the 2025 World Junior championships, the 2023 and 2024 IIHF World U18 Championships and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2023-24	HK Nitra	Slovakia	3	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
	HK Nitra Jr	Slovakia Jr	43	28	29	57	42	26	11	4	4	8	8	8
2024-25	HK Nitra	Slovakia	20	3	4	7	6	31	--	--	--	--	--	--
	HK Levice	Slovakia 2	15	4	5	9	-1	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
	HK Nitra Jr	Slovakia Jr	32	28	23	51	37	57	11	9	6	15	13	2
2025-26	HK Nitra	Slovakia	28	3	12	15	6	8	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Sudbury	OHL	31	14	21	35	-9	15	4	0	2	2	0	6
<b>Slovakia Totals</b>			<b>51</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>39</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Slovakia Jr Totals</b>			<b>81</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>OHL Totals</b>			<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>



## RYAN ROOBROECK

North American Skater - Niagara, OHL



**FINAL RANK:** 28      **MIDTERM RANK:** 27  
**POSITION:** Left Wing      **SHOOTS:** Left  
**HEIGHT:** 6' 3"      **WEIGHT:** 210  
**BORN:** September 25, 2007      **BIRTHPLACE:** London, ON, CAN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Posted 30-28-58 in 49 games played during the 2025-26 season with the OHL's Niagara IceDogs.
- Named to the 2023-24 OHL First All-Rookie Team after posting 28-23-51 in 63 contests with Niagara.
- Helped Canada win gold at the 2026 IIHF World U18 Championships, recording 4-5-9 in seven games.
- His older brother, Dylan, was drafted by the NY Rangers in the sixth round of the 2023 NHL draft and currently plays for Hartford.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2023-24	Niagara	OHL	63	28	23	51	-34	14	--	--	--	--	--	--
2024-25	Niagara	OHL	64	41	46	87	-7	18	5	3	3	6	1	0
2025-26	Niagara	OHL	49	30	28	58	1	26	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>OHL Totals</b>			<b>176</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>











## MALTE GUSTAFSSON

International Skater - HV71, Sweden



<b>FINAL RANK:</b> 7	<b>MIDTERM RANK:</b> 8
<b>POSITION:</b> Defenseman	<b>SHOOTS:</b> Left
<b>HEIGHT:</b> 6' 4"	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 203
<b>BORN:</b> June 11, 2008	<b>BIRTHPLACE:</b> Vackelsang, SWE

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Split the 2025-26 season between two teams in HV71's organization, combining for 4-11-15 in 46 contests.
- Won a gold medal with Sweden at the 2026 IIHF World U18 Championships and was named to the tournament All-Star Team and a Top 3 Player on the Team.
- Represented Sweden at the 2026 World Junior A Championships, winning bronze and being named to the All-Star team.

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	HV71	Sweden Jr.	36	2	6	8	-6	28	1	0	0	0	0	0
2025-26	HV71	Sweden Jr.	19	4	8	12	-18	16	3	2	0	2	3	27
	HV71	SHL	27	0	3	3	-8	4	4	0	0	0	-1	2
<b>SHL Totals</b>			<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sweden-Jr. Totals</b>			<b>55</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-24</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>



## MARCUS NORDMARK

International Skater - Djurgarden Jr., Sweden-Jr.



<b>FINAL RANK:</b> 8	<b>MIDTERM RANK:</b> 7
<b>POSITION:</b> Left Wing	<b>SHOOTS:</b> Left
<b>HEIGHT:</b> 6' 2"	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 190
<b>BORN:</b> May 4, 2008	<b>BIRTHPLACE:</b> Stockholm, SWE

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Played for Djurgardens' men's, junior and U18 teams in 2025-26, combining for 15-26-41 in 36 contests.
- Won championships in back-to-back junior campaigns for Djurgardens IF in 2024-25 and 2025-26 as well as with the U18 team in 2024-25.
- Won gold with Sweden at the 2026 IIHF U18 World Championships, recording 3-1-4 in six games played.
- He was also named Best Player at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup after leading the tournament in goals and points with 7-5-12 in five games.
- His father, Robert, was a defenseman for the St. Louis Blues ('87-'88) and Vancouver Canucks ('88-'91).

### CAREER RECORD

#### REGULAR SEASON

#### PLAYOFFS

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
2024-25	Djurgardens	Sweden Jr	17	9	9	18	17	10	5	3	1	4	3	6
2025-26	Djurgardens	SHL	8	0	1	1	-1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Djurgardens	Sweden Jr	25	14	24	38	24	48	11	6	17	23	11	10
<b>SHL Totals</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Sweden-Jr. Totals</b>			<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>







## GAVIN McKENNA

**BORN** Dec. 20, 2007, Whitehorse, Yukon  
**2025-26** Penn State (Big Ten)  
**POS** LW **HT** 6-0 **WT** 170 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 1 (NA skaters)

**AFTER DOMINATING** the WHL and international competition, McKenna gave every indication he was going to do the same in the NCAA. But a funny thing happened on the way to stardom at Penn State. McKenna found the adjustment a little more difficult than he anticipated, and he struggled through the first half of the season. And the player who was once the undisputed top prospect suddenly became, well, a little disputed.

And even though he's probably not going to be a 'generational talent,' there is no doubt McKenna is a special player. "He's going to make a team really happy," one scout said. "There's nothing he doesn't do well. He's just going to score."

McKenna was outstanding in the second half of the season and finished the campaign with the fourth-highest points-per-game rate among draft-eligible NCAA players in the past 30 years. "He has tremendous vision and playmaking ability," another scout said. "He's going to have a big offensive impact."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Medicine Hat	WHL	61	34	63	97	21
	Canada	WU18	7	10	10	20	0
'24-25	Medicine Hat	WHL	56	41	88	129	19
'25-26	Penn State	Big Ten	35	15	36	51	36
	Canada	WJC	7	4	10	14	1

**BEST CASE:** Artemi Panarin



## IVAR STENBERG

**BORN** Sept. 30, 2007, Stenungsund, Swe.  
**2025-26** Frolunda (SHL)  
**POS** LW **HT** 5-11 **WT** 183 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 1 (Int'l skaters)

**THERE WERE TIMES** this season when Stenberg had usurped Gavin McKenna as the No. 1 prospect, and it's still possible he could wind up going first overall. Like McKenna, Stenberg adjusted to a higher level of competition, and he was impactful for the gold medal-winning Swedes at the WJC. "He's a wizard with the puck," a scout said. "He's definitely going to be a first-line player and power-play guy in the NHL. He's a high-level skater, has elite agility, and he has a top-level touch."

That was evident in his performance this season: only Daniel and Henrik Sedin recorded more points in the SHL during their draft years. And there were times during the WJC that Stenberg and fellow draft-eligible prospect Viggo Bjorck were the driving forces for Sweden. What sets Stenberg apart is the maturity in his game. Because he was forced to play a two-way style to earn his ice time, Stenberg has developed a strong game on both sides of the puck. "He works," another scout said. "He doesn't cheat the game, and he's an honest player."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Frolunda	U18	31	23	39	62	16
'24-25	Frolunda Jr.		27	26	27	53	36
	Frolunda	SHL	25	1	2	3	4
'25-26	Frolunda	SHL	43	11	22	33	6
	Sweden	WJC	7	4	6	10	6

**BEST CASE:** Lucas Raymond



## CHASE REID

**BORN** Dec. 30, 2007, Chesterfield, Mich.  
**2025-26** Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-2 **WT** 187 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 2 (NA skaters)

**LESS THAN TWO** years ago, Reid was cut by USHL Waterloo, forcing him to find his footing with the NAHL's Bismarck Bobcats before he caught on in the Soo. Now, he's one of the top prospects in the draft. It's been an incredible evolution for the Michigan-born blueliner. "He is approaching the elite stratosphere where he can be, at minimum, a top-two 'D' in the NHL and maybe a No. 1 on a team," one scout said. "He can skate. He has skill and a good stick. But he's also a vacuum along the right side. He can test any puck near him. Inside the blueline, neutral zone, entries, he just doesn't give any ice, and he's so driven to make plays with and without the puck."

Reid has been fantastic since he got to the OHL, and his next challenge will be the NCAA, where he is committed to Michigan State. "He's not a physical player," another scout said. "But he relies on hockey sense, anticipation and stick positioning to steal pucks and transition to offense. Probably the most upside offensively in the draft among defensemen."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Victory Honda	U15	63	13	21	34	44
'23-24	Victory Honda	U16	68	14	48	62	74
'24-25	Bismarck	NAHL	18	6	6	12	12
	S.S. Marie	OHL	39	7	33	40	32
'25-26	S.S. Marie	OHL	45	18	30	48	30

**BEST CASE:** Noah Dobson



## KEATON VERHOEFF

**BORN** June 19, 2008, Fort Sask., Alta.  
**2025-26** North Dakota (NCHC)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-4 **WT** 215 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 4 (NA skaters)

**SOME PUNDITS** were unimpressed with Verhoeff's showing at the Frozen Four, but one scout has a message for the critics: "He was a true freshman defenseman playing against college kids who are 24, 25 years old. What Verhoeff has going for him is his size, strength, confidence and swagger. He had a real nice adjustment to college hockey, and he played a lot."

Putting up 20 points at 17 is remarkable, especially since the Fighting Hawks had title aspirations. It's not like they were willing to lose so Verhoeff could grow on the job. "His critics don't understand how good college hockey is right now," another scout said. "His stature, strength and mobility are all pretty good, and the coaching staff did a good job balancing his usage when he wasn't going and when he was. He does get messy, and it has more to do with awareness than vision. The level of forechecking he faced this year cleaned him up. When he gets into trouble, he tries to do a bit too much."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Rink Academy	U18	22	7	20	27	12
'24-25	Victoria	WHL	63	21	24	45	14
	Canada	WU18	5	1	4	5	2
'25-26	North Dakota	NCHC	36	6	14	20	29
	Canada	WJC	5	0	4	4	0

**BEST CASE:** Jackson LaCombe

# 5



## CARSON CARELS

**BORN** June 23, 2008, Cypress River, Man.  
**2025-26** Prince George (WHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-1 **WT** 175 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 3 (NA skaters)

**➤ IN A DRAFT** that is top-heavy with franchise-type defensemen, Carels might be the best of them all. In fact, one scout thinks Carels may be the best player, period. "You want me to be honest?" said the scout, whose team was not in the running for the top pick. "I would consider him first overall. He's a better-skating Jake Sanderson. He's a big farm boy, and he's probably the most physical defenseman in the draft."

That makes Carels rather special among draft prospects, as you don't see too many players who can skate and snarl with equal aplomb. If his WHL play translates to the NHL, he'll be a valuable commodity. "He has a Radko Gudas/Jacob Trouba element to his game, and he's one of the higher hockey-sense guys," another scout said. "You don't usually see that. Coaches are going to just want to shove him into the lineup."

Carels exploded offensively this year, and even though he established himself as a punishing physical player, that didn't translate into an overabundance of PIM.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Pilot Mound	UI5	20	10	22	32	28
'23-24	Pilot Mound	UI7	27	18	32	50	32
'24-25	Prince George	WHL	60	6	29	35	42
'25-26	Prince George	WHL	58	20	53	73	66
	Canada	WJC	5	0	1	1	2

**BEST CASE:** Thomas Harley

# 6



## CALEB MALHOTRA

**BORN** June 2, 2008, Toronto, Ont.  
**2025-26** Brantford (OHL)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-2 **WT** 182 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 6 (NA skaters)

**➤ THE OHL'S** rookie-of-the-week honors got pretty boring in the playoffs. More often than not, it was Malhotra winning. He was one of the league's top scorers while playing on a deep, experienced Bulldogs squad. "He's a franchise No. 1 center," one scout said. "He has fit in on a good team, and when Jake O'Brien was out, Malhotra was a driver. He's a 200-foot player, but he also has the grit and edge - borderline meanness. Teams were trying to bully him, and he gave it back. He's built for the heavy hockey in the playoffs."

The son of former NHLer and current AHL coach Manny Malhotra is also the nephew of NBA Hall of Famer Steve Nash, so elite athletic advice was always available. Malhotra is committed to Boston University. "He's just a really smart 200-foot player with skill, and he can play any style of game," another scout said. "He's a good skater with good hockey sense, and he has the pedigree with his dad playing for a long time. You can see a lot of that in Caleb's game. He's got a very bright future."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Vaughan	UI6	48	23	25	48	26
'24-25	Chilliwack	Jr. A	44	8	18	26	23
'25-26	Brantford	OHL	67	29	55	84	51

**BEST CASE:** Anthony Cirelli

# 7



## DAXON RUDOLPH

**BORN** March 6, 2008, Lacombe, Alta.  
**2025-26** Prince Albert (WHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-2 **WT** 202 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 5 (NA skaters)

**➤ ONLY TWO CHL** defensemen scored more goals this season than Rudolph, who put up 28 in Prince Albert. If and when his defensive game and physicality develop more, he'll round into a valuable NHL blueliner. "People sleep on him a little," one scout said. "You hear a lot about Carels, Verhoeff and Reid but not as much about this guy. But he's so smart, and he's got a bomb of a shot. His timing is really good, too. And he's deadly on the power play."

Even though Rudolph has NHL size at 6-foot-2 and 200-plus pounds, there's a sense he could still get stronger, which would help his defensive game. If there's a gap in his scouting report, it's definitely on the other side of the puck. "The only thing with him is, every once in a while, a little bit of softness creeps into his game," another scout said. "He's more than happy to deliver it, but he's sometimes less happy to be accountable and take it. He's not fully developed yet, and he sometimes struggles a little on the defensive side of the game."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Northern Alta	UI5	30	17	33	50	52
'23-24	Northern Alta	UI8	28	22	37	59	14
'24-25	Prince Albert	WHL	64	7	34	41	30
	Canada White	WU17	5	0	0	0	0
'25-26	Prince Albert	WHL	68	28	50	78	75

**BEST CASE:** Adam Larsson

# 8



## ALBERTS SMITS

**BORN** Dec. 2, 2007, Valmiera, Lat.  
**2025-26** Jukurit (Liiga)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-3 **WT** 205 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 2 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ HOW MANY TEENAGE** defensemen can claim that they've gone into a corner puck battle with Gabriel Landeskog and come out on top? Smits can, thanks to his Olympic experience as a member of Team Latvia. Not only did he make the squad, but he played a solid role and wasn't afraid to make plays on the world's biggest stage. Smits' play at the club level was also impressive all year long. "It became clear early in the season that he was way too good for the junior league," one scout said. "He played really well at the Liiga level, too. He was able to create offense and defend effectively, as well."

Smits finished his year in Germany after Jukurit missed the playoffs in Finland. "As an underager, I thought he would become a mobile, physical, hard-to-play-against 'D,' but then he came into the Liiga this year and put up great numbers," another scout said. "He's put himself in a spot where he has the size and skating ability to be one of those players in high demand at the top of the draft."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Karhu-Kissat Jr.	Jr.	25	5	5	10	44
'24-25	Jukurit	Jr.	21	4	5	9	2
'25-26	Jukurit	Liiga	38	6	7	13	20
	Latvia	WJC	5	1	4	5	2
	Latvia	Oly.	4	0	2	2	2

**BEST CASE:** Moritz Seider



## TYNAN LAWRENCE

**BORN** Aug. 3, 2008, Fredericton, N.B.  
**2025-26** Boston University (HE)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-0 **WT** 185 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 7 (NA skaters)

**> GIVE LAWRENCE** points for trying, but leaving Muskegon for Boston University mid-season didn't pay off the way many thought it would. "It was a big jump, and it took him a long time to adjust," one scout said. "The last game of the year against UConn was his best game, so you hope that's the trend. It was always between him and Caleb Malhotra as the top center, and Lawrence probably took a hit because it was a tough move, strength-wise."

Lawrence started the year hurt, then dominated the USHL before leaving for BU, where points were scarce. At the world under-18s, he was one of Canada's top faceoff men and scorers, but the team fell to Sweden in the quarterfinal. "He's got a really good motor," another scout said. "Speed, acceleration - he can make plays off the rush and the cycle. He only had one goal in his first seven or eight games (at BU), but we also have the viewings from the USHL and the Hlinka, where he was arguably the best player for Canada in his age group. He'll be a good two-way center."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Shattuck	U14	56	37	56	95	4
'23-24	Shattuck	U16	50	22	27	49	4
'24-25	Muskegon	USHL	56	25	29	54	49
'25-26	Muskegon	USHL	13	10	7	17	6
	Boston Univ.	HE	18	2	5	7	2

**BEST CASE:** Dylan Larkin



## OSCAR HEMMING

**BORN** Aug. 13, 2008, Vaasa, Fin.  
**2025-26** Boston College (HE)  
**POS** LW **HT** 6-4 **WT** 200 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 11 (NA skaters)

**> MUCH LIKE TYNAN** Lawrence, Hemming joined the NCAA mid-season - but in a much different scenario. Hemming wanted to play in the OHL for Kitchener but had a contract dispute with his Finnish team, Kiekko-Espoo, that got really heated. Unable to play in the OHL, he considered the BCHL but ran afoul of the IIHF because of the Finnish contract situation. In the end, Boston College was the answer. "He's big, he's powerful, and he protects the puck well," one scout said. "His boots are a little off, but he gets there. He was in a weird position since he hadn't skated for so long because of what was going on in Finland, then jumped onto a team where the lines were established. You could see this kid's a pro."

Ultimately, Hemming got into 19 NCAA games but, perhaps unsurprisingly, was not invited to play for Finland at the U-18s. "I was impressed by him," another scout said. "He's a big, strong, physical player. He was ready for the jump more than Lawrence. I wouldn't be surprised if his numbers pop next year."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Kiekko-Espoo	U16	30	17	15	32	6
'23-24	Kiekko-Espoo	U16	8	5	5	10	4
'24-25	Kiekko-Espoo	U18	31	35	28	63	24
	Kiekko-Espoo Jr.		18	2	8	10	8
'25-26	Boston College	HE	19	1	7	8	18

**BEST CASE:** Ivan Barbashev



## JP HURLBERT

**BORN** April 11, 2008, Allen, Texas  
**2025-26** Kamloops (WHL)  
**POS** RW **HT** 6-0 **WT** 182 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 12 (NA skaters)

**> WITH CHL PLAYERS** eligible to play in the NCAA, Hurlbert left USA Hockey's National Team Development Program to join the Kamloops Blazers, and it looks as though it was an excellent decision. Having finished top five in the WHL in goals and points and second in shots on goal, Hurlbert displayed the kind of dynamic offensive game he showed as a youth player in Texas. "He wants the puck, and he's a shooter," one scout said. "He loves to shoot. He's not the smoothest-looking skater, but he finds a way to get there."

Another scout took note of Hurlbert's skating but doesn't believe it will be a huge issue at the NHL level. And he'll have a chance to work on that at the University of Michigan next season. "People talk about his skating, but when you watch him move side to side or in more confined areas, he's not too bad," the scout said. "To me, what makes him special are his puck skills and his release. He can release it from awkward angles, and he can release it in traffic. He's a scorer and a point producer."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Dallas	U14	75	112	83	195	-
'23-24	Dallas	U16	45	40	36	76	-
'24-25	USA U17	NTDP	56	19	18	37	46
	USA	WU17	5	0	3	3	2
'25-26	Kamloops	WHL	68	42	55	97	45

**BEST CASE:** Troy Terry



## VIGGO BJORCK

**BORN** March 12, 2008, Stockholm, Swe.  
**2025-26** Djurgarden (SHL)  
**POS** RW **HT** 5-9 **WT** 177 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 4 (Int'l skaters)

**> IN A JUST** world, Bjorck will be a top-five pick - he has that kind of talent. But history constantly reminds us that shorter players get overlooked in the top 10, and Bjorck comes in at 5-foot-9. Will a team break the mold and cash in on what is otherwise an extremely skilled prospect? "He's just short; he's not small," one scout said. "He's sturdy, hockey-strong and has real good edges. He has a combination of elite hockey sense and big-time compete. With smaller guys, when they have that, you don't worry too much."

Bjorck was fantastic at the WJC, helping Sweden win their first gold medal since 2012. He could easily be a catalyst for them going back-to-back next year. "Outstanding prospect," another scout said. "Everyone in Sweden has been in awe of him for years. So smart, so selfless and does all the work. Smart decisions on and off the puck, good skill and makes his teammates better. The only knock is his height, but then you see him in the SHL or the world juniors, and it's nothing for him."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Taby	U18	36	33	65	98	18
'24-25	Djurgarden	Jr.	42	27	47	74	41
	Sweden	WU18	7	4	4	8	6
'25-26	Djurgarden	SHL	42	6	9	15	12
	Sweden	WJC	7	3	6	9	2

**BEST CASE:** Nick Suzuki

# 13



## ADAM NOVOTNY

**BORN** Nov. 13, 2007, Hradec Kralove, Cze.  
**2025-26** Peterborough (OHL)  
**POS** LW **HT** 6-1 **WT** 204 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 14 (NA skaters)

### ➤ THIS WAS NOVOTNY'S

first season in North America, but it sure didn't seem like it. The Czech national fit in right away, leading the Petes in scoring and making a star turn at the OHL Prospects Game, which was played on home ice in Peterborough. "He had a really good year," one scout said. "He's a big, strong kid. Good person. Good skater. He makes plays, and he adapted quickly to the OHL. He did very well in the OHL and on the international stage this year."

Novotny has already won bronze and silver at the WJC with the Czechs and will be one to watch for next year. While his raw numbers in the OHL didn't pop, part of that was due to the style Peterborough plays. "He's a goal-scorer, but he does it with an edge to his game," another scout said. "There's some explosiveness, and he does have creativity. On a Petes team that plays a certain way, he has an element that... it doesn't get stifled, but he doesn't have as much freedom as he would on another team. But his details are so good."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Mountfield Jr.		48	32	27	59	30
'24-25	Mountfield	Cze.	41	1	2	3	14
	Czechia	WU18	5	2	4	6	0
'25-26	Peterborough	OHL	58	34	31	65	22
	Czechia	WJC	7	0	3	3	4

**BEST CASE:** JJ Peterka

# 14



## ETHAN BELCHETZ

**BORN** March 30, 2008, Oakville, Ont.  
**2025-26** Windsor (OHL)  
**POS** LW **HT** 6-5 **WT** 227 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 9 (NA skaters)

### ➤ FORGET BEING ONE

of the biggest players in the OHL. Belchetz would be one of the biggest players on some NHL teams. That was part of the reason he was taken first overall in the 2024 OHL draft, and it certainly paid off for Windsor. "He's a safe high pick because he's going to play in the NHL," one scout said. "He has size and skill, but his drive isn't ingrained like Malhotra. But his physical tools – the way he shoots the puck, his feel and his hockey sense – mean he'll play for a long time. There were high expectations for him. He won't dominate the way he did when he was 15."

Belchetz missed the playoffs due to a broken collarbone, which was a shame for Spitfires fans because the team went pretty far even without him. "He was a big part of that Windsor team, and his game continues to evolve," another scout said. "He's a big, strong guy with good touch. He can play physical, he's hard to move away from the net, and he has good hands in tight. He's a big power forward who uses his size well."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Oakville	UI5	33	20	22	42	22
'23-24	Oakville	UI6	34	46	38	84	44
'24-25	Windsor	OHL	56	17	21	38	48
	Canada White	WU17	5	4	1	5	2
'25-26	Windsor	OHL	57	34	25	59	45

**BEST CASE:** Gabriel Vilardi

# 15



## BROOKS ROGOWSKI

**BORN** June 24, 2008, Brighton, Mich.  
**2025-26** Oshawa (OHL)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-7 **WT** 236 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 21 (NA skaters)

### ➤ ROGOWSKI, WHO IS

even bigger than Ethan Belchetz, is an intriguing story because he went straight from high-school hockey in Michigan to the OHL. Because of that, there's both rawness and big upside there. "When he first came in last year, he was going from shinny hockey to learning to play the game," one scout said. "With his size and toolbox, he's a good enough gamble. That wide-open shinny mindset, he shows flashes of it – but at the right times. He has creativity when it's appropriate. Other times, he's making hard plays along the wall and managing pucks. His ceiling is high, based on how he's developed so far."

Rogowski joined Team USA for the world under-18s, where they were upset by Latvia in the quarterfinal. He'll jump up for a new challenge next season when he suits up for Michigan State. "It's an amazing story," another scout said. "He's a huge man. He has good hands, and he's really learning how to use his size to impact games. He was flagged by a couple of injuries, but his game is very intriguing."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Little Caesars	UI4	28	11	13	24	4
'23-24	Det. Catholic	USHS	25	19	24	43	6
'24-25	Oshawa	OHL	66	11	12	23	9
'25-26	Oshawa	OHL	46	15	27	42	17
	USA	WU18	4	0	3	3	0

**BEST CASE:** Juraj Slafkovsky

# 16



## RYAN LIN

**BORN** April 18, 2008, Richmond, B.C.  
**2025-26** Vancouver (WHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-0 **WT** 177 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 16 (NA skaters)

### ➤ THERE ARE DEFINITELY

higher-profile defensemen available in this year's crop of hopefuls, but if you're looking for a low-risk option who you know will play in the league and contribute, you could do a lot worse than Lin. He's undersized by NHL standards and still has a lot of filling out to do, but there is a lot to like about him. "When you talk about a safe pick, he's probably about as safe as it gets," one scout said. "His size hurts him a little bit, but he's willing, and he looks for hits. His defensive game is already good, and once he fills out a little more, it's going to take another step."

Lin might not have some of the high-end skills that some of the other higher-rated 'D' in this draft possess, but he's really good at just about everything. He's a great skater who can create space for himself and is one of the better puck-moving defensemen available to be selected. He reads the play well and is reliable defensively. "He's definitely smart enough, and he'll find a way to play," another scout said.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Delta Prep G	UI5	27	17	24	41	14
'23-24	Delta Prep	UI8	28	10	22	32	12
'24-25	Vancouver	WHL	60	5	48	53	14
	Canada	WU18	7	1	1	2	0
'25-26	Vancouver	WHL	53	14	43	57	35

**BEST CASE:** Vince Dunn

## 17



### ELTON HERMANSSON

**BORN** Feb. 5, 2008, Ornskoldsvik, Swe.  
**2025-26** MoDo (Swe.2)  
**POS** RW **HT** 6-1 **WT** 181 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 5 (Int'l skaters)

**> YOU ALWAYS WANT** to end on a high note, and Hermansson did just that, helping Sweden win gold at the U-18s and making fantastic plays along the way. He led the event in scoring and was named top forward by the IIHF directorate. "He's a one-way, offensively skilled gamebreaker," one scout said. "He's always good with the national team. The vision and ability to pick out a pass are extremely good. The rest of his game isn't as mature, and his physicality and intensity is more of a wild card than Stenberg or Bjorck."

That showing at the U-18s bookended a season in which Hermansson was also one of Sweden's top scorers at last summer's Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where the Tre Kronor earned silver. The fact he put up numbers against men in Sweden's second-tier pro league is also a harbinger of good things in his future. "He has eyes in the back of his head," another scout said. "His passing game is outstanding. He dominated the junior league and was very good in the Allsvenskan as well."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	MoDo	U16	25	29	34	63	10
'23-24	Orebro	U18	36	27	24	51	18
'24-25	Orebro Jr.		41	17	19	36	24
'25-26	MoDo	Swe.2	38	11	10	21	22
	Sweden	WU18	7	4	8	12	6

**BEST CASE:** Nikolaj Ehlers

## 18



### NIKITA KLEPOV

**BORN** June 27, 2008, Deerfield Bea., Fla.  
**2025-26** Saginaw (OHL)  
**POS** RW **HT** 6-0 **WT** 180 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 8 (NA skaters)

**> SCOUTS WOULD** have liked to have seen Klepov at the U-18s, but he turned down the U.S., reportedly to keep his options open to represent Russia in the future. Born in Florida, Klepov played in Russia and the United States while growing up, and last summer, he represented the U.S. at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, which is not an IIHF-sanctioned event.

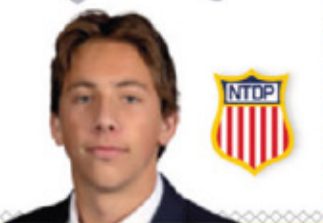
Klepov became the first OHL rookie since Patrick Kane to win the scoring title. And he did it on a middling Saginaw team where he was one of the few offensive options. "He's really highly skilled, and his offensive sense is off the charts," one scout said. "He's a great passer, and he's probably more of a playmaker, but he can score, too. He's got great vision, and he's really aware with the puck."

After just one year in the OHL, Klepov has committed to Michigan State for next season, and it's expected he'll make a quick transition to the NCAA. "He has a lot of passion for the game, and he wants the puck," another scout said. "He has great 1-on-1 skills."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Yekaterinburg	U16	14	2	9	11	4
'23-24	WB/Scranton	U15	22	31	41	72	18
'24-25	WB/Scranton	U16	2	0	0	0	0
	Sioux City	USHL	59	12	19	31	20
'25-26	Saginaw	OHL	67	37	60	97	43

**BEST CASE:** Luke Evangelista

## 19



### WYATT CULLEN

**BORN** Sept. 8, 2008, Moorhead, Minn.  
**2025-26** U.S. NTDP  
**POS** LW **HT** 6-1 **WT** 180 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 13 (NA skaters)

**> ONE OF THE** big risers in the draft class, Cullen was buoyed by a growth spurt that saw him go from 5-foot-8 at the start of the 2024-25 season to being 6-foot-1. "He'll go fairly high," one scout said. "He's got talent in abundance. The growth spurt helps. He had those skills at 5-foot-8... so he's been more effective in using those skills. He has a ways to go, and his body needs to fill out, but you can't deny talent. It's hard to find guys with those skills."

On a subpar NTDP squad, Cullen was the only player to average more than a point per game this season. He missed time due to injury early on, which may be why his star continued to rise as the season went on. "The best term would be a savvy offensive player," another scout said. "He's smart and has really good skills."

The son of former NHLer Matt Cullen, Wyatt spent time in NHL dressing rooms as a kid. A University of Minnesota commit, he'll join older brother Brooks on the Gophers, while younger brother Joey is one to watch for the 2028 draft.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Moorhead	U15	60	41	65	106	6
'23-24	Moorhead	U15	60	68	98	166	28
'24-25	USA U17	NTDP	55	6	25	31	14
'25-26	USA U18	NTDP	40	16	29	45	43
	USA	WU18	5	3	6	9	6

**BEST CASE:** Dylan Holloway

## 20



### ILIA MOROZOV

**BORN** Aug. 3, 2008, Moscow, Rus.  
**2025-26** Miami-Ohio (NCHC)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-3 **WT** 205 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 10 (NA skaters)

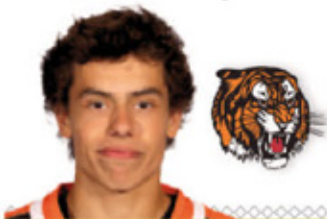
**> MOROZOV WON'T** turn 18 until August, which means he spent the entire season as a 17-year-old on a rebuilding team in a tough NCAA conference. "He's a big, strong center," one scout said. "Production-wise, he started hot and then dipped a bit. He consistently played top-line minutes and in all situations. He really had the trust of the coaching staff, and there's a lot of value in that. As a young kid, he really hung in there against older competition and handled himself well."

Morozov started hot before hitting the doldrums. At one juncture, he went pointless in nine games, and he had just one goal in his final 21 regular-season games. But, again, he's young and has time. Morozov averaged 19:35 per game, which is impressive for a player his age. "He's a good two-way forward," another scout said. "You got excited early with his point production, and later on in the year, he settled in terms of production, but if you look at his minutes played and situational play, he was first over the boards in every scenario there."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Windy City	U15	49	33	41	74	-
'24-25	Tri-City	USHL	59	11	11	22	20
'25-26	Miami-Ohio	NCHC	36	8	12	20	27

**BEST CASE:** Pavel Zacha

# 21



## LIAM RUCK

**BORN** Feb. 21, 2008, Osoyoos, B.C.  
**2025-26** Medicine Hat (WHL)  
**POS** RW **HT** 6-0 **WT** 175 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 20 (NA skaters)

**➤ RUCK AND HIS** twin brother, Markus, never seem to be far from one another, whether it's playing on the same line their entire lives or finishing 1-2 in the WHL scoring race this season. They might be split up at this year's draft because they're ranked so closely together, but if a team has two late first-rounders, they could end up with both.

Liam is seen as the better skater between the two and has been a consistent point producer for Medicine Hat. "He's super smart and super skilled," one scout said. "All he does is produce points, and he's a pretty versatile guy on the power play. His sense and skill are both at a high level."

Another scout said that if Liam's skating were a little better, he might be a top-10 consideration. Scouts were not terribly impressed with his performance at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup last summer, but he has been one of the more dramatic risers throughout the season. Ruck finished tied for third in the WHL in power-play goals and second in power-play points this season.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Okanagan	UI5	27	53	37	90	6
'23-24	Okanagan	UI8	22	25	28	53	16
'24-25	Medicine Hat	WHL	61	25	16	41	6
	Canada White	WU17	5	0	4	4	0
'25-26	Medicine Hat	WHL	68	45	59	104	36

**BEST CASE:** Jordan Eberle

# 22



## OLIVER SUVANTO

**BORN** Sept. 3, 2008, Turku, Fin.  
**2025-26** Tappara (Liiga)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-3 **WT** 207 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 3 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ IN A DRAFT** that's lean on centers, Suvanto may end up going higher than his ceiling suggests. But he'll never be outworked. "I don't know if I've ever seen anyone who competes as well as he does at that age," one scout said. "It's remarkable. His motor is always going. He's always battling, even against grown men. It's very easy to see his game translating to North America. It's just a question of how much offense he has."

Suvanto is smart and has enough skill around the net to produce. It's just a matter of volume. "He has size, he competes every shift, and he creates, but he's not a high-end creative center," another scout said. "His potential is middle-six center. The way he protects the puck down low is good, and he has the physical presence, too. Coaches will love him. He plays a responsible two-way game."

Suvanto played at the WJC, where he logged decent third-line minutes and got some power-play time for the Finns. Expect him to have a bigger role at next year's tournament.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	TPS	UI6	40	9	11	20	1
'23-24	TPS	UI8	28	1	4	5	14
'24-25	Tappara	UI8	42	11	31	42	24
'25-26	Tappara	Liiga	48	2	9	11	16
	Finland	WJC	7	2	0	2	0

**BEST CASE:** Joel Eriksson Ek

# 23



## TOMMY BLEYL

**BORN** Dec. 1, 2007, Schenectady, N.Y.  
**2025-26** Moncton (QMJHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-0 **WT** 160 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 17 (NA skaters)

**➤ EARLY IN THE** season, the prevailing opinion was Xavier Villeneuve would be the top player drafted out of the 'Q.' But fellow pointman Bleyl came out of nowhere to put up cartoon numbers as a rookie on a big-time Wildcats squad. Fittingly, the two met in the semifinal of the playoffs, with Moncton prevailing in seven. "He and Villeneuve are in the same conversation, but they're different players," one scout said. "Bleyl is a smoother skater. He's a very good skater with four-way ability. He sees the ice really well. He's better with the puck on his stick than without it and is a very good passer. He moves to create time and space for himself to look for better options or good outlet plays. I've seen him make a 140-foot pass tape-to-tape."

While Bleyl had great prep-school stats, his rocket-powered ascent this year was one of the cohort's great stories. "He's really offensive, smart and skates well," another scout said. "He's able to create offense and join the rush. He certainly moved up the draft board with the season he had."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	South Kent	UIS	17	2	9	11	-
'23-24	Albany	USHS	27	9	11	20	-
'24-25	Cushing	USHS	30	6	21	27	-
	Dubuque	USHL	3	0	0	0	0
'25-26	Moncton	QMJHL	63	13	68	81	33

**BEST CASE:** Bowen Byram

# 24



## XAVIER VILLENEUVE

**BORN** Sept. 29, 2007, Laval, Que.  
**2025-26** Blainville-Bolsbriand (QMJHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 5-11 **WT** 157 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 18 (NA skaters)

**➤ WHEN SCOUTS SEE** a prodigious talent such as Lane Hutson fall to the late second round because of his size, they tend not to want to see it happen again. The problem is they're not convinced Villeneuve is the second coming of Hutson. That's not to say Villeneuve doesn't have some of Hutson's offensive traits, but being injured for much of the season limited viewings of him. And in the games he played, scouts saw uneven play. "It depends on what night you go to see him," one scout said. "Some nights, he's dynamic, and other nights, he's hard to find. But he's really dynamic when he's on his game."

At this point, Villeneuve isn't only undersized, but he's also really light and will have to add a lot more muscle to his frame. His skating, skill and hockey sense are all on a high level, but scouts want to see more from him away from the puck. "I found some apathy in terms of defending," another scout said. "He has really good tools, but he's not as dynamic as Hutson. He'll make it and play, though."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Pittsburgh	UI5	48	5	18	23	-
'23-24	Blain.-Bois.	QMJHL	54	8	35	43	26
'24-25	Blain.-Bois.	QMJHL	61	12	50	62	24
	Canada	WU18	7	4	4	8	2
'25-26	Blain.-Bois.	QMJHL	37	6	32	38	35

**BEST CASE:** Josh Morrissey

# 25



## MALTE GUSTAFSSON

**BORN** June 11, 2008, Vackelsang, Swe.  
**2025-26** HV71 (SHL)  
**POS** D HT 6-4 WT 200 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 7 (Int'l skaters)

**SOME SCOUTS SEE** a bit of an identity crisis in Gustafsson's game at this point in his career, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. He's a big guy who puts up decent numbers for a defenseman, but scouts are unsure which way his game is going to trend. "He gets caught trying to play a more offensive, skill game sometimes," one scout said. "When he matures and figures out who he is, we'll probably see a little more on the defensive side, and whatever team takes him is going to get a little more out of him, too."

One scout said Gustafsson reminds him of Simon Edvinsson, and another compared him to Philip Broberg. If he can develop into either of those players, the team selecting him will be thrilled. "He's probably in the top tier of skaters among defensemen in this draft," another scout said. "He moves well in straight lines and has good agility. He's competitive and has some physicality to him. There might be growing pains, but once he figures things out, he'll be good."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	HV71	U18	23	1	6	7	14
'24-25	HV71	Jr.	36	2	6	8	28
	Sweden	WU17	4	1	1	2	6
'25-26	HV71	Jr.	19	4	8	12	16
	HV71	SHL	27	0	3	3	4

**BEST CASE:** Mattias Ekholm

# 26



## MARCUS NORDMARK

**BORN** May 4, 2008, Stockholm, Swe.  
**2025-26** Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)  
**POS** LW HT 6-1 WT 180 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 8 (Int'l skaters)

**NORDMARK LED THE** Swedes in scoring at last summer's Hlinka Gretzky Cup, then capped off his year by putting up two points per game in the Swedish junior playoffs. He's also a second-generation talent, as his dad, Robert, played in the NHL. "He's up there with the top of the group," one scout said. "If you get him on a 2-on-1 or a power play, if you give him a chance, he's lethal. His shot is great, and he has vision. He's got a big frame, but his work ethic isn't always the best when it comes to winning pucks or doing the dirty work."

The potential is there for him to be a skilled top-six winger. Nordmark just has to convince an NHL team that he's for real. "He's confusing," another scout said. "He has all the talent in the world, but it's hard to say what goes through his head. In the first two periods of a game, you might not see him. Then, when the game is on the line, he takes over. He's very inconsistent. He scares me. Is he going to mature? I can guarantee a bunch of teams are scratching their heads."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Taby	U18	33	21	43	64	12
'24-25	Djurgarden	U18	27	22	24	46	22
	Djurgarden	Jr.	17	9	9	18	10
'25-26	Djurgarden	Jr.	25	14	24	38	48
	Sweden	WU18	6	3	1	4	28

**BEST CASE:** Seth Jarvis

# 27



## MADDOX DAGENAIS

**BORN** March 27, 2008, Montreal, Que.  
**2025-26** Quebec (QMJHL)  
**POS** C HT 6-3 WT 195 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 15 (NA skaters)

**THE SON OF** former NHLer Pierre, Dagenais shares many similarities with his dad. First, both were No. 1 picks in the QMJHL draft, albeit 29 years apart. When Pierre was up for his first NHL draft in 1996 - we say first because he went back into the draft two years later, where he was selected by the New Jersey Devils, again - he was considered a burgeoning power forward with skill, just as his son is now. In fact, Maddox won the QMJHL's Michael-Bossy Trophy as the best pro prospect this season.

There are also some common red flags. Like with his father, scouts who watched Dagenais came away with questions about a player who seems to tantalize more than deliver. "I would say that in about half of the games I saw him this season, he looked like a true power forward," one scout said. "And the other times, he looked like anything but a power forward. If you draft him, you're hoping he puts it all together. There's definitely going to be a little more projection with this guy than other guys in this draft."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Quinte	U16	35	42	39	81	28
'24-25	Quebec	QMJHL	43	12	14	26	10
	Canada Red	WU17	4	0	1	1	0
'25-26	Quebec	QMJHL	62	30	32	62	31
	Canada	WU18	5	1	1	2	2

**BEST CASE:** Owen Tippett

# 28



## TOBIAS TREJBAL

**BORN** Nov. 9, 2007, Most, Cze.  
**2025-26** Youngstown (USHL)  
**POS** G HT 6-4 WT 188 **CATCHES** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 3 (NA goalies)

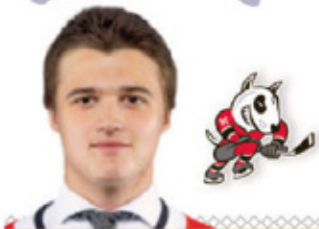
**DESPITE BEING A** rookie, Trejbal was named USHL goalie of the year thanks to his league-best 2.12 goals-against average and second-best .916 save percentage. Couple his stats with an NHL-worthy frame, and it won't be a surprise if he goes early. "He's a big, athletic goalie with good tools and skill set," one scout said. "He's a solid prospect."

Evaluators would've liked to see how Trejbal fared in international competition, where he would have faced elite shooters, but it wasn't in the cards, as he was still in the USHL playoffs when the U-18 worlds began. Still, Trejbal is on a great development path between Youngstown and UMass, where he is committed to play for the Minutemen. Right now, he's slated to go to college for 2027-28, which means CHL teams will be circling at the import draft. "He's a really talented kid who had a great year," another scout said. "He's cool and calm under pressure. Sometimes, I wish he'd make more saves, but he's pretty talented, and he'll probably go pretty early."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	W-L-T	GAA	SP
'22-23	Litvinov	U17	3-8-0	3.33	.868
'23-24	Litvinov	U17	17-14-0	3.19	.894
'24-25	Litvinov	Jr.	18-20-0	2.33	.930
	Czechia	WU18	0-1-0	3.85	.862
'25-26	Youngstown	USHL	30-9-3	2.12	.916

**BEST CASE:** Karel Vejmelka

# 29



## RYAN ROOBROECK

**BORN** Sept. 25, 2007, London, Ont.  
**2025-26** Niagara (OHL)  
**POS** C HT 6-4 WT 215 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 28 (NA skaters)

**➤ LAST YEAR,** Roobroeck was seen as a potential lottery pick. But a little of the shine has come off the teen, who doesn't always look fully engaged out there. "He'll go in the first round to a team that has multiple picks," one scout said. "Almost like a Belchetz, but I have way more faith in Belchetz. Roobroeck is easy to play against. He has a great shot, and there's a chance he'll put it together because he's big and can score, but I don't think a team with one first-rounder would take him."

As a late birthday, he has already played three OHL seasons and put up impressive numbers. But he's also been playing for one of the most chaotic organizations in major junior. "Obviously, he's played for a few different coaches in the same organization and had an up-and-down year," another scout said. "But overall, he's a big, strong guy who can score 40 goals in the OHL, and that's hard to do. He's a natural goal-scorer. He shoots like an NHLer and has pro size."

Maybe next year will be better, but Niagara just parted ways with another GM.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	London	UI6	30	51	28	79	16
'23-24	Niagara	OHL	63	28	23	51	14
'24-25	Niagara	OHL	64	41	46	87	18
	Canada	WU18	7	4	5	9	0
'25-26	Niagara	OHL	49	30	28	58	26

**BEST CASE:** Morgan Geekie

# 30



## NIKLAS AARAM-OLSEN

**BORN** April 19, 2008, Oslo, Nor.  
**2025-26** Örebro Jr. (Swe.)  
**POS** LW HT 6-1 WT 183 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 15 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ WHEN TEAM NORWAY** needed Aaram-Olsen the most, he came through. An underdog Norway squad faced relegation at the U-18s and had to beat Germany to stay in the top rung. Aaram-Olsen scored three goals in a 4-3 comeback win. "Being Norwegian might push him back with old-school scouts, but the way he played at the world under-18s, I wouldn't be surprised if he went in the first round," one scout said. "He's skilled, has a heavy release, goes to the net, and he's a good skater. And he's just scratching the surface."

Aaram-Olsen has spent the past three seasons in Sweden and made his SHL debut this year. And the fact that Norway was promoted to the top level of the WJC means he'll get another great test next year. "He's very projectable because he has speed and size," another scout said. "Even if he doesn't hit his full potential, he'll be able to go up and down the ice and be a threat with his shot. Great one-timer and goal-scorer. Coaches will like him because they know what they'll get out of him."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Örebro	UI8	21	7	11	18	27
'24-25	Örebro	Jr.	42	23	18	41	2
	Norway	WU18	5	3	2	5	0
'25-26	Örebro	Jr.	29	20	20	40	22
	Örebro	SHL	16	0	0	0	0

**BEST CASE:** Pavel Buchnevich

# 31



## MARKUS RUCK

**BORN** Feb. 21, 2008, Osoyoos, B.C.  
**2025-26** Medicine Hat (WHL)  
**POS** C HT 6-0 WT 167 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 23 (NA skaters)

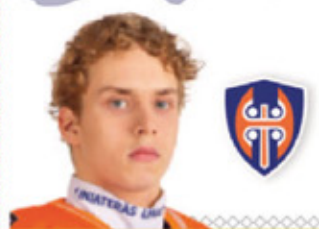
**➤ ONE SCOUT SAID** his team's analytics department did an NHL comparison on Ruck and came up with Jordan Eberle, another player who put up outstanding WHL numbers. Winning a scoring title in your draft year is pretty impressive, and Ruck did that largely due to the chemistry he shares with his twin brother, Liam, who finished second in scoring. To suggest that Ruck is a high-level puck distributor is an understatement, as he finished 19 assists ahead of the next-best CHL player this year. "He's like his brother in that he has excellent hockey sense," one scout said. "The proof is in the numbers with this guy."

But like his brother, there are concerns about Ruck's skating that have pushed him down toward the bottom of the first round or into the second. And while his brother is the better finisher, some scouts wonder if Ruck's numbers will translate to the next level. "He's more of a passer, and he's a little less engaged," another scout said. "He does a lot of his work on the outside."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Okanagan	UI5	27	22	65	87	22
'23-24	Okanagan	UI8	25	18	44	62	8
'24-25	Medicine Hat	WHL	62	8	21	29	6
	Canada White	WU17	5	2	2	4	0
'25-26	Medicine Hat	WHL	68	21	87	108	28

**BEST CASE:** Chandler Stephenson

# 32



## JUHO PIIPARINEN

**BORN** Aug. 10, 2008, Lahti, Fin.  
**2025-26** Tappara (Liiga)  
**POS** D HT 6-1 WT 201 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 6 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ AT ONE POINT,** some pundits ranked Piiparinen in the top 10, but that may have been a bit premature. He certainly brings value to the ice, and his experience playing against the best pros in his country cannot be discounted, but a more rational analysis puts him in that 25-40 range. "He got lots of hype because he played in the Liiga," one scout said. "He's a smart defensive defenseman who can make plays under pressure, but I'm questioning how much offense he has at the end of the day. He has enough skill to make the first outlet pass, but a first-rounder should have more offense."

Piiparinen had a small role at the WJC and captained Finland's U-18 worlds squad, though he was held off the scoresheet there. But he still has value. "He's competitive," another scout said. "His skating is a little up-and-down, but he's very mobile and has pretty good speed once he gets going. Small-area quickness is something he needs to work on. He can maybe be more of a defensive guy at the higher levels."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Pelicans	UI6	27	8	16	24	26
'23-24	Pelicans	UI8	26	2	14	16	12
'24-25	Tappara	Jr.	40	2	14	16	24
'25-26	Tappara	Liiga	29	0	3	3	8
	Finland	WJC	4	0	1	1	0

**BEST CASE:** Jonas Brodin

# 33



## JAXON COVER

**BORN** Feb. 13, 2008, Miami, Fla.  
**2025-26** London (OHL)  
**POS** LW **HT** 6-1 **WT** 185 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 29 (NA skaters)

**➤ ONE OF THE** most fascinating players in the class, Cover grew up in the Cayman Islands and has only played organized hockey for five years. Before that, he was a roller-hockey phenom who even skated against men in a pro tournament. "He's a really good athlete," one scout said. "He skates well and has good hands. You can see his roller-hockey background because he has great hands in tight and makes creative plays. He's a good kid, and he's in a great program in London."

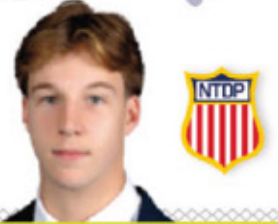
Indeed, playing for London practically boosts a prospect up a round because of the success the Hunter brothers have had developing talent. "He was used on their top line and No. 1 power play, which doesn't always happen with London rookies, though they were in a bit of a rebuilding year," another scout said. "He's skilled, and he's a quick-strike guy. He's explosive to openings and makes his best plays on zone entries."

Cover still has a ways to go before he's a complete player, but the early returns are so very promising.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	York Simcoe	U16	34	16	22	38	18
	SAC White U16	CAHS	17	18	23	41	-
'24-25	St. Andrew's	U18	55	21	19	40	34
	London	OHL	3	0	2	2	2
'25-26	London	OHL	67	20	32	52	48

**BEST CASE:** Alex Tuch

# 34



## BRADY KNOWLING

**BORN** March 9, 2008, Toronto, Ont.  
**2025-26** U.S. NTDP  
**POS** G **HT** 6-5 **WT** 202 **CATCHES** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 1 (NA goalies)

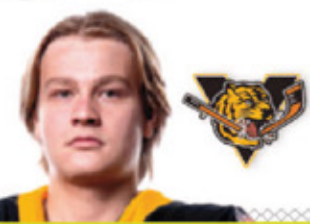
**➤ THE POTENTIAL IN** Knowling is obvious. He has NHL size and has proven he can win on the international stage, first at the Hlinka Gretzky (where he was a rare NTDP roster add), then at the CHL-USA Prospects Challenge, where he earned Team USA's first-ever win with a 42-save gem. But he was fed to the wolves at the WJC against Sweden and struggled at the U-18 worlds. "When he's at his best, he's the best goalie in the draft," one scout said. "But his game has been up and down. I haven't convinced myself he's the guy for sure. He's outstanding in one game, then very average the next."

The Boston University commit has potential but needs time to continue developing his game. "He's athletic, but he's going to overplay sometimes and let in goals," another scout said. "He presents really well, and he's goalie-schooled, but I'm not a fan. His save execution and sense get in the way. When he's standing up square, he's impressive. And the skating is impressive, but there's just not enough control."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	W-L-T	GAA	SP
'23-24	North York	U16	31-10-0	n/a	n/a
'24-25	USA U17	NTDP	2-8-0	6.22	.829
'25-26	USA U18	NTDP	12-10-0	3.73	.880
	USA	WU18	1-2-0	2.32	.887
	USA	WJC	0-1-0	7.50	.821

**BEST CASE:** Joseph Woll

# 35



## YEGOR SHILOV

**BORN** April 30, 2008, Tyumen, Rus.  
**2025-26** Victoriaville (QMJHL)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-1 **WT** 180 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 19 (NA skaters)

**➤ ONE THING IS** certain. There is absolutely no disputing Shilov's skill level, which is right up there with the best players in this year's draft. But there are some serious concerns about his compete level. "I don't want to use the word 'dog,' but he borders on that, especially without the puck," one scout said. "There's just a lack of compete that permeates his game. But I've interviewed him, and he's actually a good kid, so I have some hope for him in that respect."

Another scout said Shilov is a dynamic player on the power play and when there is time and space available to him. But that could be a problem in the future. "There's almost no time and space at the NHL level," the scout said. "There are some warts there, for sure. He's one of those boom-or-bust guys. He has a higher level of talent than anyone in this draft not named McKenna or Stenberg, but there's an apathy to his game that often doesn't lend itself to success at higher levels. He's definitely going to have to make some changes to his game."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Yekaterinburg	U16	20	35	26	61	18
	Yekaterinburg	U17	30	31	45	76	16
'24-25	L.I. Gulls	U16	31	33	15	48	-
	Green Bay	USHL	39	11	17	28	18
'25-26	Victoriaville	QMJHL	63	32	50	82	29

**BEST CASE:** Casey Mittelstadt

# 36



## SAMU ALALAURI

**BORN** May 31, 2008, Lahti, Fin.  
**2025-26** Pelicans Jr. (Fin.)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-1 **WT** 203 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 17 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ ALALAURI IS RISING** up the rankings and could be a sleeper in Buffalo, as big-league talent evaluators are quite high on his game. The fact that he ended his season as one of Finland's top scorers at the U-18 worlds (where he was an alternate captain) doesn't hurt, either. "He might go at the end of the first round," one scout said. "He has shown an offensive game throughout the year, and he still has more to offer there. He has bite to his game, has good size, and he's a smart defender. I like him a lot."

Simply put, Alalauri checks a lot of boxes when it comes to being an ideal NHL D-man. "He has good size, and he's a right-shot 'D' who skates really well. That's the big element he has going for him," another scout said. "He took a lot of good steps this season. His defense was a bit questionable at the beginning, but he improved on that. And he's going to college, which is a good path."

Alalauri is committed to UMass, where coach Greg Carvel has churned out NHL 'D' such as Cale Makar, Mario Ferraro and Ryan Ufko.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Pelicans	U16	26	2	13	15	29
'23-24	Pelicans	U18	27	3	14	17	2
'24-25	Pelicans	Jr.	26	2	3	5	2
'25-26	Pelicans	Jr.	40	6	19	25	4
	Finland	WU18	5	1	3	4	2

**BEST CASE:** Nick Jensen

# 37



## TOMAS CHRENKO

**BORN** Nov. 2, 2007, Nitra, Svk.  
**2025-26** Nitra (Svk.)  
**POS** C **HT** 5-11 **WT** 172 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 24 (Int'l skaters)

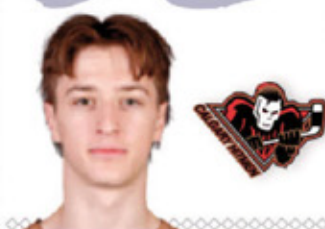
**➤ AN IMPRESSIVE WJC** boosted Chrenko's status. What also helped is the fact he played most of the season in the Slovak League with Nitra. Skating is Chrenko's most notable strength, but there are concerns about other aspects of his game. "He's a kind of sneaky-good player, and I don't see his name on a lot of lists out there," one scout said. "He's smart, but he's undersized, and as a result, he often gets knocked off the puck."

Chrenko can produce offense, and his vision and playmaking skills are at a high level, but there's not a lot of excitement over him when it comes to the 'wow' factor, which isn't necessarily a knock, because there aren't a lot of deficiencies to his game, either. "He's a dynamic skater," another scout said. "But he's not a dynamic player. He's really skilled and competes hard, but there's not a dynamic element to his game. He doesn't have a lot of red flags, but he also doesn't have that one defining element to his game that a lot of other guys have."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Nitra	Jr.	44	24	44	68	57
'24-25	Nitra	Jr.	28	30	31	61	59
	Nitra	Svk.	26	2	7	9	8
'25-26	Nitra	Svk.	44	9	22	31	10
	Slovakia	WJC	5	5	3	8	0

**BEST CASE:** Jean-Gabriel Pageau

# 38



## BEN MACBEATH

**BORN** March 4, 2008, Calgary, Alta.  
**2025-26** Calgary (WHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-2 **WT** 181 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 22 (NA skaters)

**➤ ANOTHER PLAYER** who opted for the WHL this season after the NCAA rule change, MacBeath had a solid year with the Calgary Hitmen and is slated to join the college ranks with the reigning national champions at Denver next season. There's a lot to like about MacBeath, but scouts would like to see those good things a little more consistently from him. "He's one of the higher-level-skating defensemen in the draft," one scout said. "He's got good size and good mobility, and he moves the puck out simply and quickly. He can exit the zone with skill, or he can exit the zone with sense."

Scouts believe there's more to MacBeath's game, and he's only beginning to scratch the surface of his potential. If and when he realizes that potential, he'll be able to contribute at the NHL level. If he doesn't find it, making the jump will be difficult. "If he played a little harder and with more purpose, you'd be looking at a much higher-rated guy," another scout said. "But I haven't seen that enough from him."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Yale Academy	U15	28	7	36	43	12
'23-24	Edge School	U18	26	6	23	29	8
'24-25	Salmon Arm	Jr. A	53	4	30	34	16
'25-26	Calgary	WHL	67	7	44	51	16
	Canada	WU18	5	0	0	0	2

**BEST CASE:** Ivan Provorov

# 39



## SIMAS IGNATAVICIUS

**BORN** Oct. 22, 2007, Memphis, Tenn.  
**2025-26** Geneva (Sui.)  
**POS** RW **HT** 6-3 **WT** 198 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 10 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ BORN IN MEMPHIS,** raised in Lithuania and playing in Switzerland since he was 13, Ignatavicius is one of the draft's more intriguing prospects. Scouts were impressed with his play in the Swiss National League this season and even more captivated by his output when he suited up in the Swiss second league. Ignatavicius has size and two-way instincts, but there are concerns about whether he'll be able to produce at the NHL level. "The NL is not a league for young guys, but he has played really well there," one scout said. "He's a good skater, and he has a strong base. And he didn't take a step back against any of those guys. The numbers haven't been there, but the way he played in the Swiss second league gives me hope the offense might come."

If it does, the team that takes him will have a versatile player who can play at both ends of the ice. "You're looking at a third-line, up-and-down, 200-foot player," another scout said. "If the offense comes, you're looking at an F-7 who can play up in the lineup."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Geneva	Jr.	33	10	10	20	20
'24-25	Geneva	Jr.	45	23	27	50	34
	Lithuania	WJC-2A	5	8	6	14	4
'25-26	Weinfelden	Sui.2	8	7	4	11	8
	Geneva	Sui.	52	7	6	13	43

**BEST CASE:** Mason Marchment

# 40



## ALEXANDER COMMAND

**BORN** June 16, 2008, Danderyd, Swe.  
**2025-26** Orebro Jr. (Swe.)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-1 **WT** 183 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 11 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ YOU PROBABLY WON'T** hit one out of the park with Command, but teams looking for a safe pick in the second round will find him appealing. A top-10 scorer in Sweden's highest junior circuit, Command projects as more of a two-way player at the next level. "There are so many things that he does well and so few things he doesn't do well," one scout said. "For me, he's a lock. There are no real weaknesses in his game. He might not have the high end of some of the other guys, but he's a big guy with no glaring shortcomings in his game."

At the world under-18s, Command led Sweden in shots on goal (21) and was third in scoring (seven points in seven games). He did see some limited time in the SHL with Orebro but spent most of the season playing junior hockey, where he was his team's leading scorer. And he's also been a stellar performer on the international stage. "I really like the way he competes," another scout said. "He's a good two-way player, and he's been one of Sweden's better players in tournaments."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Stocksund	U18	37	9	14	23	30
'24-25	Orebro	U18	26	30	26	56	22
'25-26	Orebro	Jr.	30	17	27	44	61
	Orebro	SHL	6	0	0	0	0
	Sweden	WU18	7	3	4	7	4

**BEST CASE:** Shane Pinto



# 41

## RYDER CALI

**BORN** Sept. 6, '08, Penetanguishene, Ont.  
**2025-26** North Bay (OHL)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-2 **WT** 209 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 25 (NA skaters)

**➤ WHILE THE NUMBERS** did not jump off the page in Cali's rookie season in the OHL, the fact that he showed he could play a heavy game at both center and left wing was more than enough to keep scouts interested. And while most prospects at this age need to put on weight, there is slight concern among scouts that Cali might be carrying a bit too much of it around the ice. "He looks a little heavy to me, but he's a really good player," one scout said. "He's a smart, reliable two-way guy who is strong on the puck and plays a pretty responsible game."

Another scout said that his staff is split almost right down the middle on Cali, with half of them thinking he's a definite NHLer and the rest wondering whether he's elite enough in any one area of the game to make the jump to the next level. One trait that stands out to many, though, is Cali's all-around game. "There's a place for him in the NHL," another scout said. "He's an unexciting guy who will find his way there. And I say unexciting in a good way."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Markham	U16	29	19	11	30	28
'24-25	Milton	Jr. A	51	24	30	54	30
	North Bay	OHL	5	0	0	0	2
'25-26	North Bay	OHL	47	16	20	36	24
	Canada	WU18	5	0	1	1	0

**BEST CASE:** Bo Horvat



# 42

## MANS GUDMUNDSSON

**BORN** June 9, 2008, Skovde, Swe.  
**2025-26** Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-2 **WT** 185 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 18 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ IF THERE WERE** more of an offensive dimension to his game, Gudmundsson would be considered a potential top-pair defenseman. But as a right-shot 'D' who can play physically when he's so inclined, he still has a lot going for him. "His game is a little raw right now," one scout said. "Some games, he really has the physical element, and other games, he doesn't. But he's got good size."

There have been glimpses of first-pair potential, but to this point, they've been too sporadic and haven't lasted a long time. If Gudmundsson could find some consistency in that regard, it would help his cause. Even without the offense, however, he remains a decent prospect. "He's been up and down all year for me," another scout said. "I didn't like him early, and then in February, I was like, 'Wow, this guy has come a long way.' And then he kind of faded off again later in the season...I see a solid 'D' with size, the ability to cover ground and a better-than-average ability to move the puck."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Skovde	U18	23	0	8	8	6
'23-24	Skovde	Jr.	28	4	31	35	14
'24-25	Farjestad	U18	37	5	24	29	22
'25-26	Farjestad	Jr.	35	1	24	25	10
	Sweden	WU18	7	0	4	4	2

**BEST CASE:** J.J. Moser



# 43

## JAKUB VANECEK

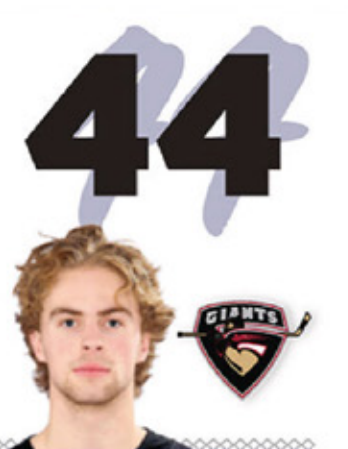
**BORN** Feb. 25, 2008, Humpolec, Cze.  
**2025-26** Tri-City (WHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-1 **WT** 191 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 31 (NA skaters)

**➤ THERE WAS A** lot of excitement surrounding Vanecek after his play for Czechia at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup last summer, but for some reason, that momentum didn't carry into the WHL season with the Tri-City Americans. "If he could find the compete level he showed at the Hlinka, I'd be all in," one scout said. "But I waited for it all year and didn't see it. He was a borderline first-round guy at the Hlinka, but when he got to Tri-City, he played a more vanilla game. His season was a little uneven."

Vanecek has ample time to figure things out, but there seems to be a bit of an identity crisis happening. He has shown he can put up good numbers from the blueline at the junior level, but scouts are concerned about how those will translate to the pros. "To me, he doesn't quite look like a two-way guy, and he's going to have to make some adjustments to be defensive," another scout said. "There are times when he moves the puck and skates well, but I'm just not sure there's enough there offensively."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Liberec	U15	33	18	21	39	18
'23-24	Liberec	U17	27	3	7	10	16
'24-25	Liberec	Jr.	31	0	4	4	12
'25-26	Tri-City	WHL	59	14	21	35	20
	Czechia	WU18	7	3	2	5	2

**BEST CASE:** Artem Zub



# 44

## MATHIS PRESTON

**BORN** July 21, 2008, Penticton, B.C.  
**2025-26** Vancouver (WHL)  
**POS** RW **HT** 5-11 **WT** 177 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 32 (NA skaters)

**➤ THERE IS NO** denying Preston's talent level, but there are concerns about his size and whether or not his offensive numbers will be able to match his natural gifts. Injuries limited Preston to just 46 games this season, but he did a good job of salvaging things by being one of Canada's top scorers in the preliminary round of the U-18 World Championship. "He underachieved a little this year," one scout said. "With his tools, he should have been better offensively. That being said, he was still pretty good."

Scouts like Preston's poise with the puck, his shot and his skating ability. He has a good touch around the net and has displayed a high level of hockey sense when he gets the puck. There is the sense, though, that he needs to get a little more involved in the play, and that may come in the future. "He doesn't get to the middle, and that's why he doesn't score as much as he could or should," another scout said. "He's on the smaller side, so if he can get a little bigger, he's going to put more points on the board."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Okanagan	U15	26	45	36	81	48
'23-24	Okanagan	U18	23	30	21	51	48
'24-25	Spokane	WHL	54	23	22	45	24
'25-26	Spokane/Van.	WHL	46	18	26	44	34
	Canada	WU18	5	2	4	6	0

**BEST CASE:** Martin Necas

# 45



## CHASE HARRINGTON

**BORN** Oct. 30, 2007, Prince George, B.C.  
**2025-26** Spokane (WHL)  
**POS** LW **HT** 6-0 **WT** 201 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 26 (NA skaters)

**➤ IT CAN BE** perilous to put too much emphasis on a small sample size, but one scout said what Harrington did for the Spokane Chiefs in Game 5 of their first-round series against the Prince George Cougars made him take notice. Trailing 3-1 in the series, the Chiefs extended it thanks, in large part, to Harrington. He delivered a big hit before scoring the tying goal in the last minute and adding the OT-winner. "The Chiefs were looking for a reason to quit, and when they did that, he had a game where he willed them to win," one scout said. "I liked that."

A solid two-way forward with a high compete level, Harrington is seen as a guy who will almost certainly find a way to get to the NHL. The offense won't be as plentiful as it is in junior, but his impact will be felt. "At worst, he's a good bottom-three guy who makes a difference," another scout said. "But he's probably a third-liner. And he can play on almost every line because of his compete, quickness and hockey sense."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Delta Academy	UI8	28	13	24	37	16
'23-24	Spokane	WHL	61	6	16	22	25
	Canada Red	WU17	7	3	0	3	0
'24-25	Spokane	WHL	68	19	31	50	41
'25-26	Spokane	WHL	61	28	29	57	105

**BEST CASE:** Connor McMichael

# 46



## ALEXANDER BILECKI

**BORN** May 9, 2008, Mississauga, Ont.  
**2025-26** Kitchener (OHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-2 **WT** 180 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 49 (NA skaters)

**➤ FEW THINGS HELP** a prospect's profile more than success, and Bilecki was still playing in late May after Kitchener reached the Memorial Cup. While some players benefit when older teammates depart, the inverse happened to Bilecki after the Rangers added Jared Woolley (via trade) and Matthew Andonovski (returned from the AHL). "He got a chance to learn from those guys," one scout said. "He wasn't forced into difficult situations, and he really flourished. He's done a really good job playing to his skill set: carrying the puck, using his partner and leaning on his skating."

Bilecki looked good at the OHL Prospects Game, but he really put up numbers during Kitchener's playoff run. "He's smart, he has good skill, and he can skate," another scout said. "Right now, he's more of a puck-moving 'D,' but he can play on the power play. He's just scratching the surface, and there's more offense there than we've seen. He needs to fill out his frame, but as he matures and adds strength, he will be a very good player."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'21-22	Mississauga	UI4	-	-	-	-	-
'22-23	Mississauga	UI5	25	4	10	14	34
'23-24	Mississauga	UI6	33	8	16	24	38
'24-25	Kitchener	OHL	45	3	11	14	29
'25-26	Kitchener	OHL	66	9	20	29	43

**BEST CASE:** Jake Walman

# 47



## CASEY MUTRYN

**BORN** July 5, 2008, Norwell, Mass.  
**2025-26** U.S. NTDP  
**POS** RW **HT** 6-3 **WT** 200 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 24 (NA skaters)

**➤ ON PAPER, MUTRYN** looks like a sure-fire first-rounder. He has NHL size, is a Boston College commit and plays for the NTDP, which has minted scores of elite players. But this was a down year for 'The Program,' and Mutryn wasn't immune. "He didn't have as good an offensive season as some would've hoped, but he has size, physicality and work ethic," one scout said. "And those are traits people like."

So perhaps Mutryn's results can be overlooked as part of a team problem. After all, the Americans typically don't lose to Latvia in elimination games at the U-18s. What Mutryn does have is potential. "There is a budding power forward there," another scout said. "I don't know if he is a power forward yet. When you get a kid that big who can move, there's always intrigue. Some people might beat up on his stats, but his numbers against college teams were pretty good compared to his peers. He's more of a complementary piece. He's like Danny Nelson at Notre Dame. At the end of the day, he's a good player."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	St. Sebastian's	USHS	27	6	15	21	-
'23-24	St. Sebastian's	USHS	27	13	29	42	-
'24-25	USA	UI7	NTDP	46	16	32	51
	USA	UI8	NTDP	20	3	2	5
'25-26	USA	UI8	NTDP	62	18	28	46

**BEST CASE:** Matthew Knies

# 48



## ALESSANDRO DI IORIO

**BORN** March 17, 2008, Vaughan, Ont.  
**2025-26** Sarnia (OHL)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-1 **WT** 188 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 41 (NA skaters)

**➤ AN EARLY SEASON** injury and playing for a bad team made it difficult to judge Di Iorio this season. There's a sense that his rather modest offensive totals don't match his potential. The fact that he was handed the 'C' after the Sarnia Sting traded their captain mid-season speaks to his leadership capabilities, but it probably added another layer of pressure during his draft year. "He looks like he's a good player, but he didn't play to his potential this year," one scout said. "He didn't get a lot done on a bad team, so he's a hard one to evaluate."

Even though Di Iorio's plus-minus took a beating this season, he's seen as a responsible player who displays consistent effort and compete. Given the circumstances, there will be a fair amount of projecting on Di Iorio. "I haven't seen as much offensive potential as I thought I would this season," another scout said. "I'm not sure whether the offense will come at the next level. I see him as a prototypical third-line guy with good size."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Vaughan	UI6	65	47	31	78	40
'24-25	Sarnia	OHL	58	11	27	38	14
	Canada	WU18	6	2	1	3	0
'25-26	Sarnia	OHL	45	12	19	31	16
	Canada	WU18	5	0	3	3	0

**BEST CASE:** J.T. Compher

## 49



### CHARLIE MORRISON

**BORN** Oct. 12, 2007, Miramichi, N.B.  
**2025-26** Quebec (QMJHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-2 **WT** 193 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 39 (NA skaters)

**MORRISON WILL** head to NCAA Connecticut this fall. He'll likely spend at least a couple of seasons there, so that will give his draft team a long time to see what it has in him. It will also give Morrison more time to hone his game on both sides of the puck. "He has good size, likes to play physically, and he is a good skater," one scout said. "I see him as more of a defensive D-man. He doesn't look to be an offensive driver to me."

Before playing in the 'Q,' Morrison left home at 13 to play at the Ontario Hockey Academy before moving to the Champions Hockey Academy in Fredericton, N.B. He has a good stick in the defensive zone and shows glimpses of rushing the puck, but his calling card is likely to be as a stay-at-home D-man. "He's a big guy and a good skater, especially in straight lines," another scout said. "His sense and skill are average. Those bigger guys usually figure it out as they get older, but I'm not as high on this guy, because he doesn't have a real defined attribute."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'21-22	OHA Mavericks U15		28	5	8	13	14
'22-23	Champs Acad. U16		50	13	22	35	26
'23-24	Champs Acad. CAHS		57	19	34	53	52
'24-25	Quebec QMJHL		63	2	13	15	60
'25-26	Quebec QMJHL		41	4	9	13	58

**BEST CASE:** Josh Manson

## 50



### GLEB PUGACHYOV

**BORN** March 25, 2008, Almaty, Kaz.  
**2025-26** Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (Rus.)  
**POS** RW **HT** 6-3 **WT** 198 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 9 (Int'l skaters)

**PUGACHYOV PUT** up solid numbers in the regular season and playoffs of Russia's junior league, the MHL, but scouts noticed him for much more than his ability to create offense. "He kills people, and he loves doing it," one scout said. "He loves to hit, and he mangles people."

It should come as no surprise, then, that the offense Pugachyov produces often comes as a result of going to the dirty areas of the ice. The team selecting him will have to come to a determination at some point whether he's a top-six or bottom-six forward. And if it's the latter, will playing in the NHL still be as appealing to him when he can stay home and make good money in the KHL? "He plays the game really hard," another scout said. "When he's on his game, he's a straight-line, hard-skating competitor who finds his way to the scoring areas. He has a decent shot and decent skill. He's got the size, physicality and competitiveness to be a good third-line player, but there's not enough there for him to move into the top six."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Niz. Novgorod U18		9	1	11	12	60
'24-25	Niz. Novgorod Jr.		42	5	12	17	84
'25-26	Niz. Novgorod Jr.		33	10	14	24	36
	Niz. Novgorod Rus.2		15	1	4	5	11
	Niz. Novgorod KHL		13	2	1	3	8

**BEST CASE:** Andrei Svechnikov

## 51



### EGOR BARABANOV

**BORN** May 16, 2006, St. Petersburg, Rus.  
**2025-26** Saginaw (OHL)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-0 **WT** 175 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 43 (NA skaters)

**PASSED OVER TWICE** in the draft, Barabanov came into his own in the OHL this season after previously playing in the USHL with Sioux Falls and Madison. Perhaps Barabanov is a late-bloomer, or maybe Saginaw simply put him in a great situation with fellow draft prospect Nikita Klepov and a system that rewards offensive talent. "He and Klepov put up a lot of points, and (coach) Chris Lazary does a really good job in helping kids develop skill," one scout said. "He had a really good year and benefited from that."

Barabanov was solid at the OHL Prospects Game in Peterborough and was a top-five scorer in the OHL - though he was the only one in that group with a negative plus-minus. Next season, he's off to UMass. "He's smart and skilled," another scout said. "He's a good player on both sides of the puck. He's a crafty, creative guy and a playmaker who sees all his options. Great offensive instincts. Average skater. He compensates for that with his hockey sense, and he understands the game."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	New Jersey U16		68	46	77	123	-
	Sioux Falls USHL		10	0	1	1	2
'23-24	Sioux Falls USHL		60	4	13	17	22
'24-25	Sioux/Madison USHL		56	15	24	39	37
'25-26	Saginaw OHL		68	28	63	91	79

**BEST CASE:** Elias Lindholm

## 52



### MAKSIM SOKOLOVSKII

**BORN** July 12, 2008, Petropavlovsk, Kaz.  
**2025-26** London (OHL)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-8 **WT** 238 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 40 (NA skaters)

**ANOTHER BIG RISER** this season, Sokolovskii started as a seventh defenseman but got a shot to take on a bigger role once London traded Jared Woolley and Julian Brown. And boy, did he take advantage. "By mid-season, he emerged," one scout said. "He's very physical, moves well for a big man and has the long reach and stick. He's not fancy with the puck, but he can get it up to the forwards. He's tough to play against. He hits hard and hits often. He closes people down, and he's great on the penalty kill. He'll go a lot higher than originally projected."

Exactly when is the big question. What is obvious, though, is Sokolovskii plays a nasty style perfect for the post-season, as evidenced by his running battle with Preds first-rounder Brady Martin in the OHL playoffs. And, of course, being with London helps his resume. "He's just a huge man," another scout said. "He's brand-new to North American hockey. Very raw. Very strong. London develops players and did a great job rounding out his game."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Yekat. U15/U16 U16		11	0	3	3	33
'23-24	Yekaterinburg U16		24	3	12	15	20
	Yekaterinburg U17		27	3	4	7	16
'24-25	Atl. Coast Acad. U16		65	34	50	84	-
'25-26	London OHL		44	2	6	8	49

**BEST CASE:** Jamie Oleksiak

# 53



## VICTOR PLANTE

**BORN** March 10, '08, Hermantown, Minn.  
**2025-26** U.S. NTDP  
**POS** LW **HT** 5-10 **WT** 156 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 42 (NA skaters)

**➤ AT THE HOBEY** Baker Award ceremony, eventual winner Max Plante was asked who the most talented brother in the family was, and he pointed to the youngest, Victor. Considering Max (DET) and Zam (PIT) lit up the NCAA this year, that's high praise. But Max must know, since he put off signing with the Wings for one more year at Minnesota-Duluth with Zam and incoming freshman Victor. "He has an uncanny ability, despite not being full-grown yet and 5-foot-9, of winning a lot of pucks back," one scout said. "And most often, those go right to offense. He strips pucks like a thief out there. He has the same amount of vision and awareness as Max, but Max has more deception and ability. Victor skates better."  
 Victor was one of the top scorers on a weak NTDP squad, but as his brothers have already proven in the NCAA, the Plantes can dominate even without size. "He doesn't check a lot of boxes," another scout said. "But in terms of offense on that team, he's one of the main catalysts. He's a good player."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Chicago	U14	15	4	11	15	4
'23-24	Chicago	U15				n/a	
'24-25	USA U17	NTDP	48	13	20	33	22
'25-26	USA U18	NTDP	57	21	27	48	71
	USA	WU18	5	1	4	5	6

**BEST CASE:** Bryan Rust

# 54



## JACK HEXTALL

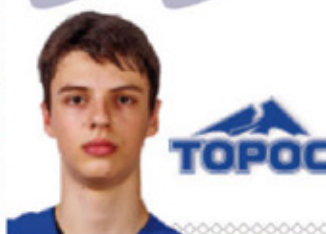
**BORN** March 23, 2008, Roll, Meadows, Ill.  
**2025-26** Youngstown (USHL)  
**POS** C **HT** 6-0 **WT** 188 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 34 (NA skaters)

**➤ THE PROSPECT** season got off to a surprising start in August when Team USA won the Hlinka Gretzky Cup. Hextall was a big reason why, finishing second in team scoring, with seven points in five games. He kept the party going throughout the USHL season. "He's smart, crafty and has the ability to slow the game down and play to his pace," one scout said. "He's a guy that has shown the ability to evolve his game a bit and be a little more two-way. He doesn't have all the physical tools, but he contributes everywhere on the ice."  
 Like several high-end prospects, Hextall is headed to play at Michigan State next season. The fact he has some versatility to his game should help him get comfortable sooner than later. "He's one of the more well-rounded kids in the draft class," another scout said. "You don't see a lot of forwards who are committed to both sides of the puck like he is. With that said, he's still skilled, and he still makes plays. I don't know if the offense is high-end. He's more of a sum-of-all-parts guy."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'21-22	Windy City	U13	58	39	64	103	-
'22-23	Windy City	U14	58	32	61	93	-
'23-24	Chi. Mission	U15	64	29	59	88	-
'24-25	Youngstown	USHL	53	8	26	34	30
'25-26	Youngstown	USHL	59	20	38	58	28

**BEST CASE:** Vincent Trocheck

# 55



## NIKITA SHCHERBAKOV

**BORN** Oct. 23, 2007, Chelyabinsk, Rus.  
**2025-26** Neftekamsk (Rus.2)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-3 **WT** 187 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 13 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ THERE IS NO** doubt that Shcherbakov, who played in the MHL, VHL and KHL this season, has the size, skill and skating to be a top-four defenseman in the NHL. The question is: what is his ceiling? At 6-foot-3, he has the potential to be a monstrous blueline presence if he puts on weight - like, a lot of it. "The things that jump off the page are his size and his skating," one scout said. "He moves really well for a guy that size. There's a little bit of everything in his game, but he can be a little bit aloof at times, and he doesn't always take advantage of his size and his tools."  
 While Shcherbakov may have some inconsistencies in his game, namely an occasional lack of defensive awareness and unpredictable physicality, he'll have a lot of time to add weight and improve his game. For some scouts, his tools are just too intriguing. "Every game I watch him, I'm like, 'Yeah, I get it,'" another scout said. "He's mobile, and he's all over the place. He takes up a lot of space on the ice."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Ufa	U17	39	6	20	26	10
'24-25	Ufa	Jr.	40	1	7	8	8
'25-26	Ufa	Jr.	15	0	10	10	6
	Neftekamsk	Rus.2	35	4	6	10	24
	Ufa	KHL	7	0	0	0	4

**BEST CASE:** Logan Stanley

# 56



## ADAM GOLJER

**BORN** June 7, 2008, Trencin, Svk.  
**2025-26** Trencin (Svk.)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-3 **WT** 194 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 14 (Int'l skaters)

**➤ AFTER A SEASON** in which he played in the Slovak League and put up some good numbers for Trencin, Goljer continued his strong play for the Slovaks at the world under-18s. As is the case with most young defensemen, there is a lot of projection involved when rating Goljer. "He could be a better Mikey Anderson," one scout said. "He's an above-average skater, has above-average skill and is an above-average competitor without being physical. His effort and compete level are very good."  
 There is a lot to like about Goljer's game, especially given the fact that he played a lot of minutes and acquitted himself well against elevated competition this season. He can chip in offensively, but there are concerns as to whether or not he can do that at the NHL level. "He needs to work on his game, but when he's on his game, he's very good," another scout said. "He's good on the power play, and he can rush the puck, but you'd like to see him do it more often."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Trencin	Jr.	41	4	17	21	14
'24-25	Slovakia U18	Svk.2	19	1	4	5	29
	Slovakia	WU18	7	0	0	0	0
'25-26	Trencin	Svk.	43	4	7	11	40
	Slovakia	WJC	5	0	0	0	2

**BEST CASE:** Adam Pelech

## 57



### ADAM VALENTINI

**BORN** April 11, 2008, Toronto, Ont.  
**2025-26** Michigan (Big Ten)  
**POS** C **HT** 5-10 **WT** 187 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 86 (NA skaters)

**> VALENTINI BET ON** himself this season, and it paid off. Originally slated to play for OHL Kitchener, he jumped to the NCAA and fit in on one of the best teams in the nation. "He's a good hockey player," one scout said. "That's the best way to put it. He may not be tall, but he's thick and strong. He's got a good stick, and in a lineup full of NHL prospects, he was able to play on the power play and really contribute. And at that level, he was able to handle the physicality and the pressure."

Despite being the youngest player on the Wolverines, the Toronto product was the team's top-scoring freshman. At the world under-18s, he notched a point per game for Team Canada. But who will step up to take a player who doesn't check all the boxes? "The brain and the stick are really good," another scout said. "He's just undersized, and the feet are a concern. Some teams are not shy about taking smaller guys, and I wouldn't be surprised if someone with multiple picks in a round takes a shot."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Miss. Senators	U16	33	17	16	33	16
'23-24	Tor. Mariboros	U16	57	52	82	134	-
'24-25	Chicago	USHL	58	17	22	39	24
'25-26	Michigan	Big Ten	40	11	16	27	46
	Canada	WU18	5	3	2	5	0

**BEST CASE:** Travis Konecny

## 58



### LARS STEINER

**BORN** Nov. 12, 2007, Davos, Sui.  
**2025-26** Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)  
**POS** RW **HT** 5-10 **WT** 177 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 89 (NA skaters)

**> AFTER TWO** productive seasons in the QMJHL, Steiner is headed back home to play with HC Davos in the Swiss National League next season. Steiner is small and supremely skilled, and opinions on him range from "I'd take a chance on him," from one scout, to "No, just no," from another.

And that lines up with his trajectory as a prospect this season. He started the year as a potential first-round pick but gradually fell to a second- or third-rounder. "Feel free to call me in five years and tell me I'm a f---in' idiot if I'm wrong about this kid," the latter scout said. "He's slightly above average in a lot of areas, but I just don't see it."

Skill is not an issue with Steiner, but his size and compete have some scouts nervous. "He's got a ton of skill," the first scout said. "He's probably one of the more skilled guys in the QMJHL. And he's an aggressive player, but there are times when it just looks like he's not interested at all. He can be a big fan of watching his own team sometimes."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Davos	Jr.	33	10	12	22	20
'24-25	R.-Noranda	QMJHL	57	23	37	60	44
	Switzerland	WJC	4	0	0	0	0
'25-26	R.-Noranda	QMJHL	44	30	25	55	44
	Switzerland	WJC	5	1	3	4	0

**BEST CASE:** Connor Brown

## 59



### SAMUEL ERIKSSON

**BORN** March 20, 2008, Karlstad, Swe.  
**2025-26** Farjestad Jr. (Swe.)  
**POS** D **HT** 6-5 **WT** 210 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 31 (Int'l skaters)

**> WITH PROSPECTS,** sometimes, you just can't overthink things. Eriksson has a projectable NHL game thanks to his huge frame. "He's a big, tall defensive defenseman who plays simple and doesn't take risks," one scout said. "He knows what he is. He's not a great skater, but he moves around well enough to not get beat. He's going to be attractive to many teams."

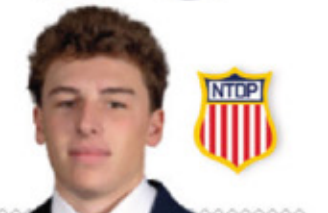
Paired with Mans Gudmundsson on Farjestad's junior squad, Eriksson also made his SHL debut this year. He ended his campaign with a gold medal at the U-18 worlds and had previously won bronze at the World Jr. A Challenge. Needless to say, the Tre Kronor like having him in the lineup. "Everybody likes big defensemen," another scout said. "He plays a simple puck game, skates well enough and makes a good first outlet pass. He has added bite to his game, too. When he is fully mature, physically, he'll be a 5-6 shutdown guy you love in the playoffs."

And you can never have enough weapons in the NHL post-season these days.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Farjestad	U16	29	5	13	18	45
	Farjestad	U18	7	0	1	1	0
'24-25	Farjestad	U18	36	7	7	14	14
'25-26	Farjestad	Jr.	32	3	3	6	18
	Sweden	WU18	6	0	0	0	4

**BEST CASE:** Ben Chiarot

## 60



### LUKE SCHAIRER

**BORN** Jan. 30, 2008, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**2025-26** U.S. NTDP  
**POS** D **HT** 6-3 **WT** 195 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 45 (NA skaters)

**> MUCH LIKE NTDP** teammate Casey Mutryn, Schairer presents very well as an NHL prospect, but he didn't have the season to justify the designation. "He has a lot of ability," one scout said. "He's inconsistent but has a lot of ability. He has size, and he's a right shot. There's a lot to like there in terms of a player who could develop."

Growing up in Charlotte, N.C., Schairer played for Carolina Premier Hockey before heading up to Mount St. Charles Academy in Rhode Island. For believers, this is just the beginning for the Boston University commit. "He has tremendous talent and tools," another scout said. "I don't know if he'll be an offensive defenseman. He might be more of a mobile defensive defenseman who is still refining his game. Some might want to see more flash and offense, but he's an athletic, mobile D-man who has enough skill and sense to help move the team up the ice. When he figures out how to defend through positioning rather than action or instinct, he'll be pretty good."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'23-24	Mt. St. Charles	U15	52	6	35	41	-
'24-25	USA U17	NTDP	48	3	21	24	12
	USA	WU17	5	1	4	5	0
'25-26	USA U18	NTDP	62	1	21	22	71
	USA	WU18	5	0	4	4	4

**BEST CASE:** Jake McCabe

# 61



## MICHAL ORSULAK

**BORN** Aug. 26, 2007, Tremosna, Cze.  
**2025-26** Prince Albert (WHL)  
**POS** G HT 6-4 WT 220 **CATCHES** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 2 (NA goalies)

### AFTER BEING PASSED

over in last year's draft, Orsulak did enough this season with Prince Albert and the Czech team at the world juniors to merit being selected in 2026. The only concern for some scouts is whether drafting him in the top two rounds is a little too risky. "I like him, and I would draft him," one scout said. "That being said, he's a little overrated. He didn't get drafted last year, and that was a mistake, but there's been an overcorrection this year. I would draft him - but in the fourth round or later."

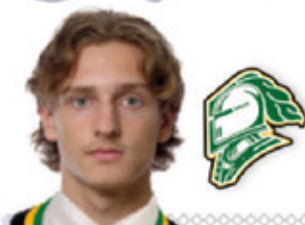
But that's not how all scouts feel about Orsulak. "He's big, and he moves really well for his size," another scout said. "He's square to the puck, and he has good technical elements."

Orsulak came to Prince Albert this season and was the No. 1 on a team that reached the WHL final before falling to Everett. He was great in the regular season and even better through the first half of the playoffs, where he posted three shutouts and gave up only 14 goals in the Raiders' first nine games.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	W-L-T	GAA	SP
'22-23	Karlovy Vary	UI7	9-4-0	2.56	.908
'23-24	Karlovy Vary	UI7	n/a	2.04	.927
'24-25	Karlovy Vary Jr.	14-20-0	3.23	.902	
'25-26	Prince Albert	WHL	28-4-4	2.22	.907
	Czechia	WJC	3-2-0	3.19	.874

**BEST CASE:** Arturs Silovs

# 62



## RYAN BROWN

**BORN** Oct. 27, 2007, Newmarket, Ont.  
**2025-26** London (OHL)  
**POS** LW HT 5-11 WT 172 **SHOOTS** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 184 (NA skaters)

### IT'S BEEN A

fascinating junior-career arc for Brown so far. He started his OHL journey with Sarnia, where he put up decent numbers with the Sting and was named an alternate captain in Year 2. But the team stagnated, and Brown was traded to London midway through this season, unlocking his game in the process.

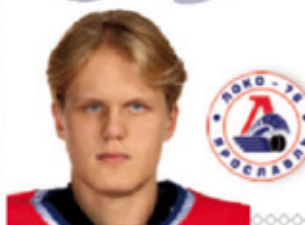
"He's an offensive dynamo," one scout said. "In Sarnia, he wasn't doing a lot, and when he got traded to London, he turned his game around. He was a scoring threat every time he jumped on the ice. He's got a good shot, he's quick, and he can score. He's undersized, but he plays above that limitation."

Brown basically doubled his production from when he was in Sarnia, so the Knights could have another big-time scorer next year. "He's a competitive kid," another scout said. "Once he got to London, he got back to the way he played as a rookie in Sarnia with his tenacious play and willingness to go to dirty areas to score goals. He was good in Sarnia, but the move to London gave him a new lease on life."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'21-22	York Simcoe	UI5	24	10	12	22	10
'22-23	York Simcoe	UI6	34	33	34	67	16
'23-24	Sarnia	OHL	49	11	9	20	4
'24-25	Sarnia	OHL	68	16	25	41	42
'25-26	Sarnia/London	OHL	67	22	41	63	43

**BEST CASE:** Jason Zucker

# 63



## DMITRI BORICHEV

**BORN** June 19, 2008, Vologda, Rus.  
**2025-26** Loko-76 Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)  
**POS** G HT 6-2 WT 194 **CATCHES** L  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 1 (Int'l goalies)

### THANKS TO THE

plethora of elite NHL stoppers from Russia, there is an understandable intrigue around goalies from that country. And while scouts like what they've seen from Borichev, limited viewings have some wondering just how good he can be. But scouts see a big, athletic keeper with a good glove hand and an ability to track the puck. "He's one of the top three goalies in this draft," one scout said. "I like him, because he has a big body and moves well. I would take him in the second or third round, for sure."

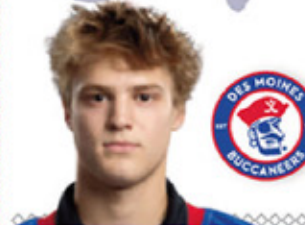
Borichev was unbeatable at times this season, but there are concerns about the level at which he was playing. "I have a hard time reading any Russian goalie early, because the competition is often pretty bad," another scout said. "But he's really quick, and he has a really good glove hand."

Scouts would have loved to see Borichev play at the U-18 worlds, and it will be interesting to see whether he will be as dominant when he moves up to the VHL or KHL next season.

YR	TEAM	LEA.	W-L-T	GAA	SP
'23-24	Loko Yaroslavl	UI6	n/a	2.38	n/a
'24-25	Loko Yaroslavl	UI7	1.50	.930	5-1-0
	Loko Yaroslavl Jr.	2-0-0	0.50	.974	
'25-26	Loko-76 Yaro. Jr.	12-8-3	2.25	.929	

**BEST CASE:** Dan Vladar

# 64



## BLAKE ZIELINSKI

**BORN** March 5, 2008, Berlin, N.J.  
**2025-26** Des Moines (USHL)  
**POS** C HT 5-11 WT 188 **SHOOTS** R  
**CENTRAL SCOUTING** No. 51 (NA skaters)

### ZIELINSKI'S DRAFT

year started with a bang when he led Team USA in scoring at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, earning a gold medal in the process. But he struggled back in the USHL until the World Jr. A Challenge in December, where he once again helped the Americans win it all. "He didn't have much talent around him in Des Moines," one scout said. "He's got good offensive hockey sense, and he'll make plays that die on his linemates' sticks, but you can see he's creating. The biggest thing he has improved on this season is his play away from the puck, and that's how he needs to play, especially going to Providence College."

The Friars have been one of the better development programs in Hockey East, so it's a good landing place for Zielinski, who must refine parts of his game before he takes a shot at the pro ranks. "He can really fire the puck," another scout said. "He's a smart player. The skating just needs to come up a tick. His top-end gear is OK, but his quickness needs to get better."

YR	TEAM	LEA.	GP	G	A	PT	PIM
'22-23	Phil Flyers	UI4	46	51	44	95	-
'23-24	North Jersey	UI5	22	26	26	52	26
'24-25	Des Moines	USHL	41	13	19	32	10
'25-26	Des Moines	USHL	53	25	30	55	33
	USA U18	NTDP	3	0	0	0	2

**BEST CASE:** Morgan Frost

# CBJ NHL DRAFT HISTORY

## 2025 DRAFT

June 27-28, Los Angeles, California (Peacock Theater)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Jackson Smith	D	1	14	Tri-City (WHL)
Pyotr Andreyanov	G	1	20*	CSKA (VHL)
Malte Vass	D	3	76@	Farjestad (SWE Jr.)
Owen Griffin	C	5	160^	Oshawa (OHL)
Victor Hedin Raftheim	D	6	173	Brynas (SWE Jr.)
Jeremy Loranger	C	7	198	Sherwood Park (BCHL)

\* Acquired from MIN @ Acquired from DET ^ Acquired from FLA

## 2024 DRAFT

June 28-29, Las Vegas, Nevada (The Sphere)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Cayden Lindstrom	C	1	4	Medicine Hat (WHL)
Charlie Elick	D	2	36	Brandon (WHL)
Evan Gardner	G	2	60*	Saskatoon (WHL)
Luca Marrelli	D	3	86@	Oshawa (OHL)
Tanner Henricks	D	4	101	Lincoln (USHL)
Luke Ashton	D	6	165	Langley (BCHL)

\* Acquired from CAR @ Acquired from LAK

## 2023 DRAFT

June 28-29, Nashville, Tennessee (Bridgestone Arena)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Adam Fantilli	C	1	3	Michigan (Big Ten)
Gavin Brindley	C	2	34	Michigan (Big Ten)
William Whitelaw	R	3	66	Youngstown (USHL)
Andrew Strathmann	D	4	98	Youngstown (USHL)
Luca Pinelli	C	4	114*	Ottawa (OHL)
Melvin Strahl	G	5	156@	MoDo (Nationell)
Oiva Keskinen	C	7	194	Tappara (SM-sarja)
Tyler Peddle	L	7	224^	Drummondville (QMJHL)

\* Acquired from WPG @ Acquired from BOS ^ Acquired from VGK

## 2022 DRAFT

July 7-8, Montreal, Quebec (Bell Centre)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
David Jiricek	D	1	6*	Plzen HC (Czech)
Denton Mateychuk	D	1	12	Moose Jaw (WHL)
Luca Del Bel Belluz	C	2	44	Mississauga (OHL)
Jordan Dumais	R	3	96@	Halifax (QMJHL)
Kirill Dolzhenkov	R	4	109	Krasnaya Armiya (MHL)
Sergei Ivanov	G	5	138^	SKA (VHL)
James Fisher	R	7	203#	Belmont (Mass. H.S.)

\* Acquired from CHI @ Acquired from TBL ^ Acquired from BUF

# Acquired from ANA

## 2021 DRAFT

July 23-24, Virtual Draft

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Kent Johnson	C	1	5	Michigan (Big Ten)
Cole Sillinger	C	1	12*	Sioux Falls (USHL)
Corson Ceulemans	D	1	25@	Brooks (AJHL)
Stanislav Svozil	D	3	69	Brno Kometa (Czech)
Guillaume Richard	D	4	101	Tri-City (USHL)
Nikolai Makarov	D	5	132^	CSKA (Russia-Jr.)
James Malatesta	L	5	133	Quebec (QMJHL)
Ben Boyd	R	6	165	Charlottetown (QMJHL)
Martin Rysavy	L	7	197	Prerov (Czech Rep.)

\* Acquired from CHI @ Acquired from TOR ^ Acquired from NJD

## 2020 DRAFT

Oct. 9-10, Virtual Draft

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Yegor Chinakhov	RW	1	21	Omsk Jr (Russia Jr.)
Samuel Knazko	D	3	78*	TPS Jr. (Finland Jr.)
Mikael Pyyhtia	F	4	114	TPS Jr. (Finland Jr.)
Ole Julian Bjorgvik-Holm	D	5	145	Mississauga (OHL)
Samuel Johannesson	D	6	176	Rogle BK (SHL)

\* Acquired from MTL

## 2019 DRAFT

June 21-22, Vancouver, British Columbia (Rogers Arena)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Eric Hjorth	D	4	104*	Linkoping Jr (SuperElit)
Dmitry Voronkov	F	4	114*	Kazan (Russia Jr.)
Tyler Angle	C	7	212	Windsor (OHL)

\* Acquired from FLA

## 2018 DRAFT

June 22-23, Dallas, Texas (American Airlines Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Liam Foudy	C	1	18	London (OHL)
Kirill Marchenko	RW	2	49	Khanty-Mansiysk (VHL)
Marcus Karlberg	LW	3	80	Leksand (SuperElit)
Tim Berni	D	6	159*	Zurich (NLA)
Veini Vehvilainen	G	6	173	Karpat (SHL)
Trey Fix-Wolansky	RW	7	204	Edmonton (WHL)

\* Acquired from DET

## 2017 DRAFT

June 23-24, Chicago, Illinois (United Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Alexandre Texier	C	2	45*	Grenoble (France)
Daniil Tarasov	G	3	86	Ufa (Russia Jr.)
Emil Bemstrom	C	4	117	Leksand (SuperElit)
Kale Howarth	LW	5	148	Trail (BCHL)
Jonathan Davidsson	RW	6	170@	Djurgardens IF (SHL)
Carson Meyer	RW	6	179	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)
Robbie Stucker	D	7	210	St. Thomas (MN-HS)

\* Acquired from TBL via VGK @ Acquired from NYI via CHI

## 2016 DRAFT

June 24-25, Buffalo, New York (First Niagara Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Pierre Luc-Dubois	LW/C	1	3	Cape Breton (QMJHL)
Andrew Peeke	D	2	34	Green Bay (USHL)
Vitaly Abramov	RW	3	65	Gatineau (QMJHL)
Peter Thome	G	6	155	Aberdeen (NAHL)
Calvin Thurkauf	C	7	185	Kelowna (WHL)

## 2015 DRAFT

June 26-27, Sunrise, Florida (BBGT Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Zach Werenski	D	1	8	Michigan (Big Ten)
Gabriel Carlsson	D	1	29*	Linkoping (SuperElit)
Paul Bittner	LW	2	38	Portland (WHL)
Kevin Stenlund	C	2	58@	HV71 Jr. (SuperElit)
Keegan Kolesar	RW	3	69	Seattle (WHL)
Sam Ruopp	D	5	129	Prince George (WHL)
Veeti Vainio	D	5	141^	Blues Jr. (Finland Jr.)
Vladislav Gavrikov	D	6	159	Yaroslavl (KHL)
Markus Nutivaara	D	7	189	Karpat (Finland)

\* Acquired from TOR @ Acquired from ANA ^ Acquired from MIN

# CBJ NHL DRAFT HISTORY

## 2014 DRAFT

June 27-28, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Wells Fargo Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Sonny Milano	LW	1	16	USNDP (USHL)
Ryan Collins	D	2	47	USNDP (USHL)
Elvis Merzlikins	G	3	76*	Lugano (Swiss-1)
Blake Siebenaler	D	3	77	Niagara (OHL)
Julien Pelletier	LW	4	107	Cape Breton (QMJHL)
Tyler Bird	RW	5	137	Kimball Union (NH-HS)
Olivier LeBlanc	D	7	197	Saint John (QMJHL)

\* Acquired from DET

## 2013 DRAFT

June 30, Newark, New Jersey (Prudential Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Alexander Wennberg	C	1	14	Djurgarden (SWE-1)
Kerby Rychel	LW	1	19*	Windsor (OHL)
Marko Dano	C	1	27@	Bratislava (KHL)
Dillon Heatherington	D	2	50^	Swift Current (WHL)
Oliver Bjorkstrand	RW	3	89^	Portland (WHL)
Nick Moutrey	C	4	105	Saginaw (OHL)
Marcus Soberg	LW	6	165	Frolunda (SWE Jr.)
Peter Quenneville	C	7	195	Dubuque (USHL)

\* Acquired from NYR @ Acquired from LAK ^ Acquired from PIT

## 2012 DRAFT

June 22-23, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (CONSOL Energy Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Ryan Murray	D	1	2	Everett (WHL)
Oscar Dansk	G	2	31	Brynas Jr. (SuperElit)
Joonas Korpisalo	G	3	62	Jokerit Jr. (Finland Jr.)
Josh Anderson	LW	4	95*	London (OHL)
Daniel Zaar	RW	6	152	Rogle Jr. (Sweden Jr.)
Gianluca Curcuruto	D	7	182	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)

\* Acquired from VAN

## 2011 DRAFT

June 24-25, St. Paul, Minnesota (Xcel Energy Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Boone Jenner	C	2	37	Oshawa (OHL)
T.J. Tynan	C	3	66*	Notre Dame (CCHA)
Mike Reilly	D	4	98	St. Mary's (MN-HS)
Seth Ambroz	RW	5	128	Omaha (USHL)
Lukas Sedlak	C	6	158	Ceske (Czech U-20)
Anton Forsberg	G	7	188	MODO Jr. (SuperElit)

\* Acquired from OTT

## 2010 DRAFT

June 25-26, Los Angeles, California (STAPLES Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Ryan Johansen	C	1	4	Portland (WHL)
Dalton Smith	LW	2	34	Ottawa (OHL)
Petr Straka	RW	2	55*	Rimouski (QMJHL)
Brandon Archibald	D	4	94	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Mathieu Corbeil	G	4	102@	Halifax (QMJHL)
Austin Madaisky	D	5	124	Kamloops (WHL)
Dalton Prout	D	6	154	Barrie (OHL)
Martin Ouellette	G	7	184	Kimball Union (NH-HS)

\* Acquired from BUF @ Acquired from ANA

## 2009 DRAFT

June 26-27, Montreal, Quebec (Bell Centre)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
John Moore	D	1	21*	Chicago (USHL)
Kevin Lynch	C	2	56@	USA U-18 (USDP)
David Savard	D	4	94#	Moncton (QMJHL)
Thomas Larkin	D	5	137	Exeter (NH-HS)
Anton Blomqvist	D	6	167	Malmö Jr. (Sweden Jr.)
Kyle Neuber	RW	7	197	Mississauga (OHL)

\* Acquired from ANA @ Acquired from NYI # Acquired from COL

## 2008 DRAFT

June 20-21, Ottawa, Ontario (Scotiabank Place)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Nikita Filatov	LW	1	6	CSKA (RUS)
Cody Goloubef	D	2	37	Wisconsin (WCHA)
Steven Delisle	D	4	107*	Gatineau (QMJHL)
Drew Olson	D	4	118@	Brainerd (MN-HS)
Matt Calvert	LW	5	127	Brandon (WHL)
Tomas Kubalik	C/RW	5	135#	Pizen (CZE)
Brent Regner	D	5	137*	Vancouver (WHL)
Cam Atkinson	RW	6	157	Avon Old Farms (CT-HS)
Sean Collins	LW	7	187	Waywayseecappo (MJHL)

\* Acquired from BOS @ Acquired from PHI # Acquired from CAR

## 2007 DRAFT

June 22-23, Columbus, Ohio (Nationwide Arena)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Jakub Voracek	RW	1	7	Halifax (QMJHL)
Stefan Legein	RW	2	37	Niagara (OHL)
Will Weber	D	2	53*	Gaylord (MI-HS)
Jake Hansen	RW/LW	3	68	Sioux Falls (USHL)
Maksim Mayorov	RW/LW	4	94@	Leninogorsk (Russia)
Allen York	G	6	158	Camrose (AJHL)
Trent Vogelhuber	RW	7	211#	St. Louis (NAHL)

\* Acquired from SJS @ Acquired from DAL # Acquired from ANA (conditional)

## 2006 DRAFT

June 24, Vancouver, British Columbia (General Motors Place)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Derick Brassard	C	1	6	Drummondville (QMJHL)
Steve Mason	G	3	69	London (OHL)
Tom Sestito	LW	3	85	Plymouth (OHL)
Ben Wright	D	4	113*	Lethbridge (WHL)
Robert Nyholm	D	5	129	IFK Jr. (Finland)
Nick Sucharski	LW	5	136@	Michigan State (CCHA)
Maxime Frechette	D	5	142#	Drummondville (QMJHL)
Jesse Dudas	D	6	159	Prince George (WHL)
Derek Dorsett	RW	7	189	Medicine Hat (WHL)
Matt Marquardt	LW	7	194^	Moncton (QMJHL)

\* Acquired from SJS @ Acquired from LAK # Acquired from ANA

^ Acquired from TOR

# CBJ NHL DRAFT HISTORY

## 2005 DRAFT

June 30, Ottawa, Ontario (Westin Hotel)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Gilbert Brule	C	1	6	Vancouver (WHL)
Adam McQuaid	D	2	55	Sudbury (OHL)
Kris Russell	D	3	67	Medicine Hat (WHL)
Jared Boll	RW	4	101*	Lincoln (USHL)
Tomas Popperle	G	5	131	Sparta (Czech)
Derek Reinhart	D	6	177+	Regina (WHL)
Kirill Starkov	C	6	189	Frolunda Jr. (Sweden)
Trevor Hendrikx	D	7	201	Peterborough (OHL)

\* Acquired from CAR + Acquired from PHX

## 2004 DRAFT

June 26-27, Raleigh, North Carolina (RBC Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Alexandre Picard	LW	1	8*	Lewiston (QMJHL)
Adam Pineault	RW	2	46+	Boston College (HEA)
Kyle Wharton	D	2	59*	Ottawa (OHL)
Dan LaCosta	G	3	93#	Owen Sound (OHL)
Andrey Plekhanov	D	3	96	Nizhnekamsk 2 (Russia)
Petr Pohl	RW	5	133	Gatineau (QMJHL)
Rob Page	D	6	167	Blake School (MN-HS)
Lennart Petrell	C	6	190@	IFK Jr. (Finland)
Justin Vienneau	D	7	198	Shawinigan (WMJHL)
Brian McQuirk	LW	8	231	Drummer Aca. (MAHS)
Matt Greer	LW	8	233-	White Bear Lake (MNHS)
Grant Clitsome	D	9	271^	Nepean (CJHL)

\* Acquired from CAR + Acquired from CGY @ Acquired from BOS  
# Acquired from VAN - Acquired from NYR ^ Acquired from LAK

## 2003 DRAFT

June 21-22, Nashville, Tennessee (Gaylord Entertainment Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Nikolai Zherdev	RW	1	4	CSKA (Russia)
Dan Fritsche	C	2	46*	Sarnia (OHL)
Dmitry Kosmachev	D	3	71	CSKA (Russia)
Kevin Jarman	LW	4	103#	Stouffville (Ont. Jr. A)
Philippe Dupuis	C	4	104	Hull (QMJHL)
Arsi Piihsanen	RW	5	138+	Jokerit (Finland)
Marc Methot	D	6	168+	London (OHL)
Alexander Guskov	D	7	200	Yaroslavl (Russia)
Mathieu Gravel	LW	8	233	Shawinigan (QMJHL)
Trevor Hendrikx	D	9	283^	Peterborough (OHL)

\* Acquired from CHI # Acquired from PIT + Acquired from CAR ^  
Acquired from LAK

## 2002 DRAFT

June 22-23, Toronto, Ontario (Air Canada Centre)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Rick Nash	LW	1	1*	London (OHL)
Joakim Lindstrom	LW/RW	2	41#	MODO (Sweden)
Ole-Kristian Tollefsen	D	3	65	Lillehammer (Norway)
Jeff Genovy	LW	3	96#	Des Moines (USHL)
Ivan Tkachenko	LW	4	98	Yaroslavl (Russia)
Jekabs Redlihs	D	4	119+	Apple Core (EJHL)
Lasse Pirjeta	LW/C	5	133	Karpat (Finland)
Tim Konsorada	RW	6	168	Brandon (WHL)
Jaroslav Balastik	RW	6	184^	Zlín (Czech)
Greg Mauldin	C	7	199	UMass-Amherst (HEA)
Steven Goertzen	RW	7	225^	Seattle (WHL)
Jaroslav Kracik	RW	8	231	Plzen Jr. (Czech)
Sergei Mozyakin	LW	9	263*	CSKA (Russia)

\* Acquired from FLA # Acquired from ATL + Acquired from NYI  
^ Acquired from PHI

## 2001 DRAFT

June 23-24, Sunrise, Florida (National Car Rental Center)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Pascal Leclaire	G	1	8	Montreal (QMJHL)
Tim Jackman	RW	2	38	Minn-Mankato (WCHA)
Kiel McLeod	C	2	53*	Kelowna (WHL)
Aaron Johnson	D	3	85*	Rimouski (QMJHL)
Per Mars	C	3	87#	Brynäs (Sweden)
Cole Jarrett	D	5	141	Plymouth (OHL)
Justin Aikins	C	6	173	Langley (BCJHL)
Artem Vostrikov	C	6	187+	Togliatti (Russia Jr.)
Raffaele Sannitz	C	7	204	Lugano (Switz.)
Ryan Bowness	RW	8	236	Brampton (OHL)
Andrew Murray	C	8	242	Selkirk (MJHL)

\* Acquired from SJS via MTL # Acquired from BUF + Acquired from PIT

## 2000 DRAFT

June 24-25, Calgary, Alberta (Saddledome)

Player	Position	Round	Overall	Team
Rostislav Klesla	D	1	4	Brampton (OHL)
Ben Knopp	RW	3	69	Moose Jaw (WHL)
Petteri Nummelin	D	5	133	HC Davos (Switz.)
Scott Heffernan	D	5	138*	Sarnia (OHL)
Tyler Kolarik	C	5	150	Deerfield Aca. (MAHS)
Shane Bendera	G	6	169	Red Deer (WHL)
Janne Jokila	LW	7	200	TPS (Finland)
Peter Zingoni	C	8	231	New England (EJHL)
Martin Paroulek	LW	9	278#	Vsetín HC (Czech)
Andrej Nedorost	C	9	286+	ESC Essen (Germany)
Louis Mandeville	D	9	292^	Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)

\* Acquired from BOS # Acquired from SJS + Acquired from FLA  
^ Acquired from DET



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