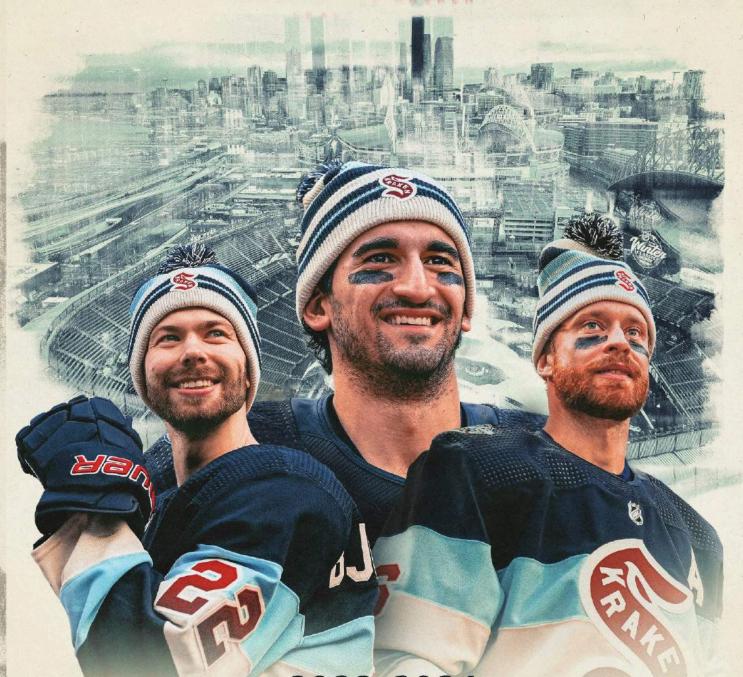
SEATTLE KRAKEN



2023-2024

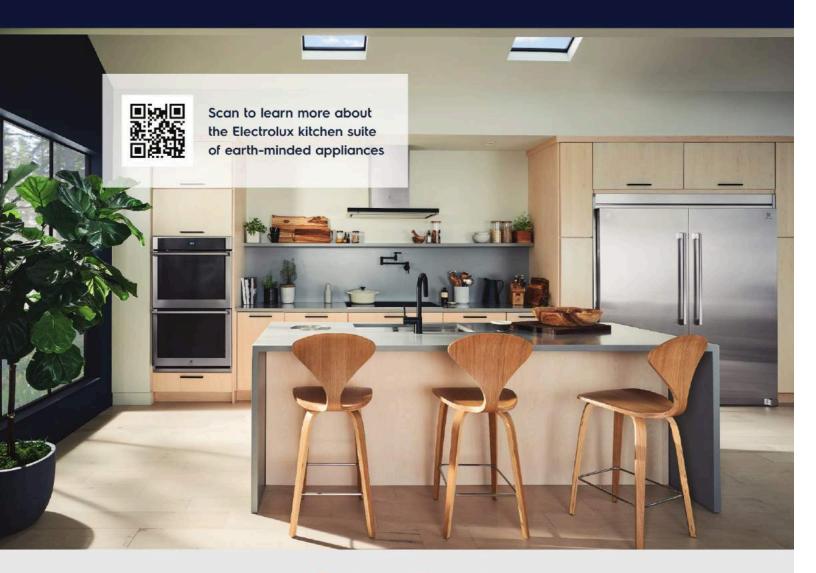
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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 2023-24 OFFICIAL YEARBOOK

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Schedule	4
Executives	7
Hockey Operations	17
Coaches	23
Broadcast Team	26
Borgen: Past, Present, Future	28
Daccord: Net Gain for Kraken	32
Player Pages	37
In The System Prospects	120
AHL Firebirds	122
Time on Ice	129
Here's the Situation (Room)	136
New Season, New Fish	140
Take Me Out To The "Classic"	144

SEATTLE KRAKEN

### 2023-24 SCHEDULE

PRESENTED BY ALASKA AIRLINES

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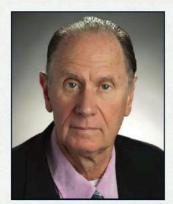
"You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take."

- Wayne Gretzky





#### **EXECUTIVES**



#### DAVID BONDERMAN

David Bonderman is the owner of the Seattle Kraken and co-founder and Chairman of TPG, a leading global alternative asset firm. TPG manages more than \$135 billion in assets under management across a wide range of asset classes, including private equity, growth, impact investing, real estate and market solutions. Mr. Bonderman serves on the board of a number of private and public companies, as well as several philanthropic institutions, some of which include: Allogene Therapeutics, Inc.; The Rise Fund; The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation; the American Himalayan Foundation, The Wilderness Society, The Grand Canyon Trust, and funds the Wildcat Foundation. Mr. Bonderman is a 1963 graduate of the University of Washington and a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Harvard Law School, 1966, where he was a Sheldon Fellow and a member of the Harvard Law Review.



#### SAMANTHA HOLLOWAY

Samantha Holloway is the owner of the Seattle Kraken. She is an entrepreneur and generalist investor focused on next generation B2B software and consumer brands. She currently serves as Co-Founder & Managing Partner of Hat Labs, a startup studio based in Denver, CO that develops software products. She also serves as Co-Founder & Managing Partner of 2nd & Fillmore, a boutique private investment company that invests in early-stage companies. Prior to starting Hat Labs and 2nd & Fillmore, Sam was the Co-Founder and Chief Customer Officer of GoSpotCheck, an enterprise software company that was acquired in 2020.



#### **TOD LEIWEKE**

Tod Leiweke is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Seattle Kraken. Leiweke is responsible for building a world-class NHL expansion team. He is also responsible for the redevelopment of the Arena at Seattle Center. This \$1.6B enterprise has been transformative to Seattle Center and is the largest private investment in the history of sports in Seattle. Prior to being appointed CEO in April 2018, Tod served as the NFL's Chief Operating Officer from 2015-2018; CEO of Tampa Bay Lightning from 2010-2015; CEO of Seattle Seahawks/Sounders from 2002-2010; President of Minnesota Wild from 1997-2002; Executive Director of The First Tee from 1994-1997; and Golden State Warriors from 1987-1994.



#### **VICTOR DE BONIS**

Victor de Bonis is the President of the Seattle Kraken and NHL Alternate Governor. de Bonis has been at the forefront of establishing the Seattle Kraken as the NHL's 32nd team and has led the strategic operations across the organization, including the Kraken Community Iceplex (KCI), and supported the development of both Climate Pledge Arena and KCI. Prior to joining the Kraken as Chief Operating Officer in October of 2018, de Bonis worked for the Vancouver Canucks, serving as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) from July 2006 to May 2016, and from September 2009 to May 2017 he also held the title of NHL Alternate Governor.

#### **EXECUTIVES**





ROB LAMPMAN
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Rob has worked in Sports & Entertainment for 25 years. He served as Head of FIFA World Cup Operations and later Business Development for FIFA in Zurich before founding and operating Eiger Marketing Group. In his current role, he oversees the Kraken Community Iceplex and Seattle Kraken business operations including game presentation, marketing and people & culture.



LANCE LOPES
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL

Lance has been with the enterprise since December of 2016. He is now focused on development of areas surrounding Climate Pledge Arena and Monorail infrastructure improvements, in addition to his legal role with the team's business operations.



JEFF WEBSTER
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Serving as Senior Vice President within OVG's Global Partnerships division, Jeff Webster oversees partnership operations for the Seattle Kraken, Climate Pledge Arena and Seattle Center. Prior to joining OVG, Jeff's role at AEG focused on revenue generation for some of the most iconic properties in sports and entertainment. Overall, his career experience includes nearly \$1B worth of deals spanning the NFL, NHL, NBA, MLS and motorsports. Jeff is originally from Seattle and is proud to have taken part in launching a world class enterprise in his hometown.



BILL CHAPIN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF TICKETING OFFICER

Has experience in leadership roles in all five different sports leagues: NHL, NFL, MLB, MLS and NBA. Privileged to work for both Tod at the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Sounders FC and for Tim Leiweke at Staples Center and Los Angeles Kings throughout his sports career. Leads all ticket and premium hospitality sales and service efforts for both Seattle Kraken and Climate Pledge Arena.



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KATIE TOWNSEND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

Katie Townsend is responsible for leading the team responsible for telling the story of the Kraken brand, with marketing, communications, brand and broadcast within her world. The team prides themselves on beautiful, engaging storytelling and connecting with new audiences to grow the Kraken brand. A former BBC senior news producer who worked for 10 years as a journalist at the BBC, telling global stories to audiences of millions.



KENDALL TYSON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE & BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Kendall is responsible for the backend data systems, reporting, analytics, FP&A and strategic planning for the team and the arena. Prior to her current role, she spent four years consulting at Accenture and two years in the golf industry at the LPGA and Topgolf. Kendall holds bachelor's degrees from Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology, and an MBA from Yale School of Management.



MARI HORITA

SVP, SOCIAL IMPACT/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND ONE ROOF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mari Horita serves as both a senior vice president for the Kraken and executive director of the One Roof Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the team and Climate Pledge Arena. She has long been a leader in social impact work, government relations and DEI initiatives in the greater Seattle region. She brings to the Kraken and One Roof Foundation decades of experience working across public, private and nonprofit sectors to advance positive social change. She is also a mother, violinist and lawyer.



TODD HUMPHREY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, DIGITAL & FAN EXPERIENCE

Todd brings 20-plus years of technology and customer experience to the Kraken. He leads the teams delivering the Kraken mobile app, which will redefine our fans' experience, and leads the Kraken Training Center, the home of the Kraken and ice-sports in Seattle. He is a proud Canadian, former professional hockey player and a proud father of two daughters.





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#### **EXECUTIVES**





ROB JOHNSON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, TRANSPORTATION & SUSTAINABILITY

After a career as a transit advocate, Rob was elected to be the first councilmember from Seattle's Council District #4, a position he held from 2015 to 2019. Since leaving elected office he's been in charge of sustainability and transportation for the Seattle Kraken and Climate Pledge Arena. His work has been focused on ensuring the arena's fans have a variety of easy and convenient transportation choices to get to arena events and to implement the sustainability goals required to be the first net-zero carbon certified arena in the world.



KATY SEMTNER
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PEOPLE & CULTURE

Katy Semtner joined the Kraken in 2022 as SVP, People & Culture. She oversees all people and culture initiatives for the team including recruiting, benefits, employee relations and employee engagement. Katy brings 25-plus years of HR experience to the role and takes pride in continuing to enhance the Kraken's people-centric culture.



HEWAN TESHOME SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL

Hewan Teshome is SVP and General Counsel for Climate Pledge Arena and the Seattle Kraken. She previously held roles as VP and General Counsel of VICIS, a sports technology company that engineers protective headgear, and as a Corporate / M&A Associate at Hogan Lovells New York. Hewan holds a Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School and BA from NYU.

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#### **HOCKEY OPERATIONS**



#### RON FRANCIS

Continuing the momentum built through the Kraken's first NHL postseason last spring and a first-round series victory over defending Stanley Cup champ Colorado, Francis made 10 selections in the 2023 NHL Draft, adding to an already elite NHL prospect pool in just three years, plus signed D-man Brian Dumoulin and forwards Kailer Yamamoto, Pierre-Eduard Bellemare and Devin Shore. Importantly, Francis re-signed goaltender Joey Daccord. After a first-ballot Hall of Fame playing career, he worked in player development, scouting, coaching and operations over his 12 years with the Carolina Hurricanes. In 2014, Francis was named GM. While at Carolina, he drafted Carolina superstar Sebastian Aho, rising scorer Martin Necas, 2021 rookie-of-theyear candidate/goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, among others. He signed standout D Jacob Slavin and D Brett Pesce to team-friendly contracts and traded for Teuvo Teravainen. He was named the first General Manager in Seattle franchise history on July 18, 2019.

Fun Facts: Second all-time in NHL assists behind Wayne Gretzky, including 110 assists on goals by legendary Jaromir Jagr. Fifth all-time in scoring (549 G, 1,249 A - averaging more than a point per game) and fifth all-time games played (1,731). Scored 44 points in 45 playoff games during back-to-back Stanley Cup wins (1991, 1992) with Pittsburgh. First player to win Lady Byng and Selke in same season (1995). Led Carolina to surprise appearance in 2002 Cup Final in his 21st season. King Clancy Trophy and NHL Foundation Player Award winner (2002).



#### RICKY OLCZYK VP & ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Olczyk enters his third season in the VP and Assistant General Manager role with the Kraken and serves as the Kraken's lead expert on managing the salary cap and NHL collective bargaining agreement. Previously, Olczyk was Assistant GM to Ron Francis for four years in Carolina, where he played in integral role in transforming the player development system to a top-third team across the NHL. He was a driving force in founding Oklahoma City's AHL franchise as Assistant GM for the Edmonton Oilers (seven seasons). He was a key member of the management team for Team Europe's 2016 World Cup, which won silver.

Fun Facts: Pronounced "ohl-check." Played defense four seasons Brown University NCAA D-I team, captain senior year. Captained USA Under-17 team to a silver with NHL's Jeremy Roenick and Tony Amonte. Earned Cornell Law degree, worked as Associate Counsel for NHL Players' Association. Served as full-time scout for Toronto (2018-19). Competitive trail runner and dedicated vegan. Brother Eddie Olczyk is a Kraken broadcaster. Wrote Honors Thesis in Philosophy: Life Is Essentially Competition.



JASON BOTTERILL ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Prior to joining the Kraken for their inaugural season, Botterill was the General Manager of the Buffalo Sabres from 2017-20, after spending a decade working for the Pittsburgh Penguins front office, helping construct a Penguins roster that would ultimately win three Stanley Cups (2009, 2016, 2017). He was part of the three-manager leadership team with Kraken GM Rorlor Francis for the 2019 silver-medalist Team Canada at World Championships. The former NHL left wing was selected 20th overall in 1994 Draft as a freshman at the University of Michigan (scored 104 goals, 82 assists for 186 points in 150 NCAA games).

Fun Facts: Born in Edmonton but raised in Winnipeg. Only Canadian to win three straight gold medals at World Junior Championship. But higher bar for bragging rights in his family: Sister Jennifer won three straight Olympic gold medals (2010, 2006, 2002) and one silver (1998 as youngest player) for Canada's national women's team. His mom was an Olympic speed skater for Canada in the 1964 and 1968 Games. His father is a renowned sports psychologist who has worked with several NHL teams and Canadian Olympians.



ALEXANDRA MANDRYCKY
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGE

Entering her second season as Assistant General Manager and fifth season with the organization, Alexandra oversees the Kraken Amateur Scouting group and Research & Development team. Previously, Mandrycky worked for four seasons with the Minnesota Wild as a hockey operations analyst. The Atlanta native earned a B.S. in industrial engineering from Georgia Tech in 2013

Fun Facts: Named No. 4 in Sportsnet's 2021 ranking of "25 Most Powerful Women in Hockey" and No. 4 in The Athletic's 2020 ranking of "Hockey's 40 under 40." As Wild analyst, she regularly "commuted" between Minneapolis and Seattle, where her husband was completing his doctorate in bioengineering at U of Washington.

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#### **HOCKEY OPERATIONS**

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



ERIC MATHIASEN Manager, Hockey Systems and Technology



NAMITA NANDAKUMAR Manager, Hockey Analytics



DANI CHU Senior Quantitative Analyst



FIONA MCKENNA Data Engineer



TIM TAYLOR Developer



CONNOR FRANCIS Research & Development Specialist

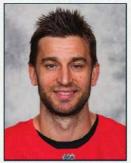
#### PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



Director of Player Development



CORY MURPHY Player Development Consultant

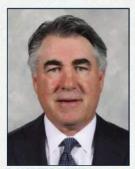


FRANS NIELSEN Player Development Consultant



JUSTIN RAI Player Development Consultant

#### SUPPORT STAFF



DAVE TIPPETT
Coaching Staff Consultant



BRENNAN BAXANDALL Director, Team Services



MIKE FRANCIS Hockey Operations Manager



BROOKE COYLE Executive Assistant to the General Manager



MOLLI PUTLAK
Hockey Operations Executive Assistant

#### **HOCKEY OPERATIONS**



#### STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



NATE BROOKRESON Head Strength and Conditioning Coach



GARY ROBERTS Sports Performance Consultant



JAKE JENSEN Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach

#### SCOUTING STAFF

#### DIRECTORS

DAVE BASEGGIO Director, Pro Scouting

ROBERT KRON Director, Amateur Scouting

#### PRO SCOUTS

JOHN GOODWIN LORNE HENNING WILLIAM WHITE

#### **COLLEGE SCOUTS**

**DAVE HUNTER** 

#### **EUROPEAN SCOUTS**

AXEL ALAVARRA
PELLE EKLUND
MARCUS FINGAL
SASU HOVI
ALEKSANDER PLYUSHEV

#### **AMATEUR SCOUTS**

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JEFF CRISP
MIKE DAWSON
TOM O'CONNOR
CHRIS MACDONALD
EDDIE OLCZYK JR.
THOMAS PLANTE
TREVOR STIENBURG
DOUG WILSON JR.
ANDREW ALLEN

#### ATHLETIC TRAINING



Head Athletic Trainer



JUSTIN ROGERS
Assistant Athletic Trainer



Assistant Athletic Trainer



ANNELLE CARSON Massage Therapist

#### **EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT STAFF**



JEFF CAMELIO Head Equipment Manager



KRIS STIERWALT
Assistant Equipment Manager



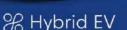
JAMES STUCKY Assistant Equipment Manager



CJ STUCKY Specialist, Equipment

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#### COACHES



#### DAVE HAKSTOL

HEAD COACH

The Kraken's first-ever head coach was named 2023 Jack Adams Trophy finalist in franchise's second NHL season as the Kraken amassed 100 standings points and fell just short of advancing to the Western Conference final. This is Hakstol's second NHL head coach gig. He served as Philadelphia head coach from 2015 to 2018, qualifying for the playoffs in two of three full seasons. Between top bench roles, Hakstol worked for Toronto as a defense-minded assistant coach to Mike Babcock, then Sheldon Keefe. As University of North Dakota head coach, he took his alma mater to the NCAA Frozen Four in his first year and seven times total in 11 seasons, finishing with a 289-143-43 record. Hakstol captained UND two seasons as a player. His five-season IHL pro career was cut short by a knee injury that prompted him into becoming a USHL head coach. He's never looked back: "I got an opportunity. I love coaching and have from the start."

Fun facts: More than 30 of his UND players became NHLers, totaling nearly 8,500 games. Seventy players reached at least the AHL, seven named Hobey Baker Award finalists. Born and raised outside Warburg, Alberta, population 766. Worked family cattle farm, feeding, branding, seeding grain, bailing hay, driving tractor. Found time to play accordion, skate on father's small rink on farm.



JAY LEACH
ASSISTANT COACH

Former AHL Providence Bruins coach Jay Leach joined the Kraken for inaugural season as assistant coach. Oversees Seattle defensemen, drawing raves for stars like Vince Dunn and reserve players alike. Worked diligently with Will Borgen as seventh defensemen during first of inaugural season, now the Buffalo expansion pick is playing top-four minutes. Four years as AHL head coach, mentoring several young current Boston players. Posted 136-77-26 AHL record, winning the Atlantic Division title the last two seasons.

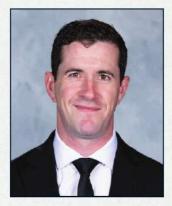
Fun Facts: Enjoyed 11-season professional career with five NHL teams, eight AHL teams (including the Providence Bruins) and four ECHL teams. His first two NHL games were with his favorite team, Boston, for which his uncle, Steve, played five seasons during his 11-year NHL career. Leach appeared in 70 NHL games and captained three different AHL teams and wore the "C" for Providence College as a senior.



DAVE LOWRY
ASSISTANT COACH

In second season with Seattle, widely praised for his candor, humor and deep experience as NHL player/coach. Transformed Kraken's penalty-kill performance year-over-year. Lowry was interim head coach for Winnipeg Jets in 2021-22, taking over for Paul Maurice in mid-December. After a long NHL playing career (1,084 regular season games, 111 playoff appearances), started his coaching career with Western Hockey League Calgary Hitmen as assistant coach in 2005-06. Spliced NHL assistant jobs with Calgary (three seasons, 2009-12), Los Angeles (two seasons, 2017-19) and Winnipeg (two seasons, 2020-22) with seven WHL head coaching seasons in Calgary, Victoria and Brandon, posting 61.2 WHL win percentage.

Fun Facts: Lowry shares common event with many Kraken players. Selected by Florida in 1993 NHL Expansion Draft. Florida was 33-34-17 in its inaugural season, but the highlight was the Panthers making a run to the 1996 Stanley Cup Final. Lowry led Florida with 10 goals and seven assists during the playoffs, earning a local nickname as "Mr. Playoff." His son, Adam, an NHLer of 600-plus regular season games and another 44 in postseason play, was recently named Winnipeg captain.



PAUL McFARLAND

Before arriving in Seattle ("one of the best cities I ever visited," he said before moving here), the 37-year-old was an assistant coach for the Toronto Maple Leafs, alongside Dave Hakstol, in 2019-20. He left the NHL club to become the head coach of the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs, but didn't get the chance to coach the team due to the league cancelling its 2020-21 campaign amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He previously served as an assistant coach for the Florida Panthers and coached in the OHL before that. McFarland oversees the forwards group and retains the primary responsibility of running the power play this season.

Fun Facts: Captain of his OHL Windsor juniors team for final season and three-year captain at Acadia University in Canadian collegiate play. Got his break in coaching as an assistant to D.J. Smith (now head coach of NHL Ottawa) for the OHL Oshawa Generals.





STEVE BRIERE

In his second season as the team's goaltending coach after spending seven seasons (2015-16 to 2021-22) with Toronto Maple Leafs as goaltending coach, serving on Sheldon Keefe's staff alongside Dave Hakstol from 2019-20 to 2020-21. During his tenure with Leafs, goaltenders Frederik Andersen (2020) and Jack Campbell (2022) were each named to the NHL All-Star Game. Prior to joining Leafs, Briere served as goaltending coach for WSHL Casper Coyotes (2014-15), NAHL Topeka Roadrunners (2010-11 to 2014-15), USHL Omaha Lancers (2009-10) and NCAA University of Alabama- Huntsville (2007-08). He played three seasons of collegiate hockey at University of Alabama- Huntsville and played parts of 10 seasons as pro goaltender in the AHL, ECHL, among others.

Fun Facts: Returned to coach at alma mater, University of Alabama-Huntsville, in 2009 where team went to national championship. Has worked closely with Mitch Korn, goaltending coach who is currently with New York Islanders. Founded Canadian Professional Goalie Schools, which offers elite goaltending camps and mentoring programs for junior hockey players.



TIM OHASHI HEAD VIDEO ANALYST

Ohashi returns for third season with Kraken. He began as an intern with the Washington Capitals' coaching staff in 2014. Then-head coach Barry Trotz created and offered Ohashi a full-time video analyst role for the 2015-16 season. He also won a Stanley Cup as a member of the Capitals' coaching staff in 2018. He played club hockey at Bates College in Lewiston, ME. Tim and colleague Brady Morgan contributed pivotal coach's challenges during the 2022-23 season, especially during the two rounds of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Fun Facts: Major back issue caused him to return home to Maryland for surgery where mother persuaded him to pursue career in sports by taking graduate courses in sports management at Georgetown University. Avid fan of baseball. Wife grew up in Bellevue, WA, and father lives in Washougal, WA.



BRADY MORGAN ASSISTANT VIDEO ANALYST

Morgan returns to Seattle for a third season with the Kraken after five years with the American Hockey League's Tucson Roadrunners, where he served as video coach and hockey operations assistant since the franchise's early days operating in southern Arizona. There, he also served in a pre-scouting role for coaching staff. Prior to his AHL position, Morgan worked as a hockey ops assistant with the WHL's Seattle Thunderbirds, with duties that included recording and logging video for coaches' use between periods and post-game, plus managing players' arrangements with billet families. While attending Arizona State University, he served as a hockey operations intern with the Arizona Coyotes for two seasons (2013-15).

Fun Facts: Raised in Phoenix, earned business degree at Arizona State. Childhood hero is Hockey Hall of Famer Steve Yzerman.



MATT LARKE
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Matt joined the Kraken coaching staff from a similar role with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program (U17 and U18 teams) during 2021-22 season after having played professional hockey from 2008 to 2016. He has worked as a skills development coach with the USHL's Muskegon Lumberjacks (2019-20) and the Ontario Hockey League's Flint Firebirds (2018-20). Larke's eight-year professional hockey playing career spanned nine teams across the CHL, ECHL and EIHL, most recently suiting up for the ECHL's Fort Wayne Komets during the 2015-16 season.

Fun Facts: Matt effectively "auditioned" for his role by joining the Kraken coaching staff for the team's development camp after the NHL Draft in July 2022. He impressed and earned a spot to live out his NHL dream. Any number of young players (and even veterans like Yanni Gourde) on the Kraken roster praise Matt for his dedication to player improvement after practices and morning skates.

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#### **BROADCAST TEAM**





#### **JOHN FORSLUND**

John is the play-by-play announcer for the Seattle Kraken's TV broadcasts on ROOT SPORTS. He joined the Kraken for the inaugural season in 2021 after 25 years as the mega-popular voice of the Carolina Hurricanes/Hartford Whalers, moving with the franchise when it relocated to Raleigh in 1997. John has a unique connection with Kraken GM Ron Francis, calling the Hockey Hall of Famer's games as a player in Hartford and Carolina, then as Carolina front office executive and now GM in Seattle. Forslund works national games for Turner Sports and served in expansive role with NBC Sports, NHL on Versus and ESPN National Hockey Night.



#### **EDDIE OLCZYK**

Eddie, aka "Edzo," joined the booth for the 2022-23 season as one of the Kraken's TV color analysts. He spent the previous 15 seasons with the Chicago Blackhawks as their TV color analyst. Olczyk continues to appear on some 30 national game broadcasts for TNT as the network's lead analyst. Olczyk spent 16 seasons in the NHL playing for his hometown Chicago franchise, plus Toronto, Winnipeg (now the Arizona Coyotes), New York Rangers, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh. He was a member of the Rangers' 1994 Stanley Cup-winning team and was inducted in the United States Hockey Hall of Fame in 2012.



#### JT BROWN

JT is a TV color analyst for all Kraken broadcasts on ROOT SPORTS. Brown worked with John Forslund for the Kraken's inaugural season in 2021. Brown spent 11 seasons as a collegiate and professional hockey player, notching 72 points (23 goals, 49 assists) in 365 career NHL regular season games with Tampa Bay (with Kraken forward Yanni Gourde as a teammate among others), Anaheim and Minnesota. Prior signing with Tampa Bay as an undrafted free agent, he played two seasons with NCAA Division I University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs, winning the 2011 National Championship and named the Frozen Four's Most Outstanding Player.



#### **ALISON LUKAN**

Alison joined our TV broadcast team full-time as a color analyst in 2022-23 after freelancing for the Kraken and ROOT SPORTS during the inaugural season. She is an instant hit with fans for her clever and easy-to-understand use of data plus deep knowledge of the sport and NHL. She is a writer and commentator for Kraken digital channels and the Kraken app. Before joining Seattle, Lukan covered the Columbus Blue Jackets and Ohio State men's and women's hockey for The Athletic and Fox Sports Ohio. She was co-leader of the 2022 SEAHAC analytics conference.



#### NICK OLCZYK

Nick works as an analyst on ROOT SPORTS broadcasts and program in addition to hosting the team's "Signals from the Deep" podcast. He joined the Kraken in the fall of 2022 after spending the 2021-22 season with the Chicago Blackhawks, serving as a TV and radio color analyst, plus creating behind-the-scenes content for NBC Sports Chicago's pre- and postgame shows. Prior to his time with the Blackhawks, Olczyk was lead color analyst for the Indy Fuel of the ECHL from 2018-19 to 2021-22. He played college hockey for Division I Colorado College.



#### **EVERETT FITZHUGH**

Everett, aka "Fitz," is the play-by-play announcer for the Kraken's radio broadcasts on KJR 950 and KJR 93.3. Before stepping boldly into a lifelong dream to become an NHL broadcaster, Fitzhugh spent five seasons with Cincinnati of the ECHL, a developmental pro league for the NHL. He filled dual role as the Cyclones' director of media relations and broadcasting. His time in Cincinnati included Fitzhugh guest-broadcasting his first NHL game for the Washington Capitals plus serving on the broadcast crew for the 2018 CCM/ECHL All-Star Classic.



#### **AL KINISKY**

Al Kinisky was named color analyst for Kraken broadcasts on KJR prior for the 2023-24 season. He first came to Seattle to play for the Western Hockey League Seattle Thunderbirds in 1989 after spending a year in Northern Saskatchewan playing for the Nipawin Hawks. With the Thunderbirds he totaled 83 points (27 goals, 56 assists) in 149 regular-season games. After his playing career, Kinisky worked in the tech industry while also playing, coaching, and working as color analyst for the WHL Everett Silvertips radio broadcasting team for a decade.



## BORGEN: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

WHEN WILL BORGEN WAS PICKED IN 2021
EXPANSION DRAFT, KRAKEN LEADERSHIP SAW
A FOUNDATIONAL PLAYER IN THE MAKING.
ASSISTANT COACH JAY LEACH HELPED
UNLOCK THAT POTENTIAL

#### BY BOB CONDOR

t a morning skate in midDecember, defenseman Will
Borgen was standing at a blue
line, razzing assistant coach
Jay Leach stationed about 30
feet away on the side boards of
the offensive zone. Borgen flashed his easy,
mischievous smile and a "what about me?"
shrug, then tapped his stick to the ice for a
pass while lined up for a puck-touch drill that
helps players tune up for the pending game.

It was a brief moment and, no, Leach, didn't send a puck Borgen's way, but the smiles on both men's faces are part of a story that started back in the fall of 2021 over more than a few weeks of one-on-one time for player and coach during the Kraken's inaugural season. Those post-practice sessions at Kraken Community Iceplex plus dozens more after morning skates, home and away, created both routine and a bond that holds firm today and whatever day the Kraken are on-ice preparing for a game.

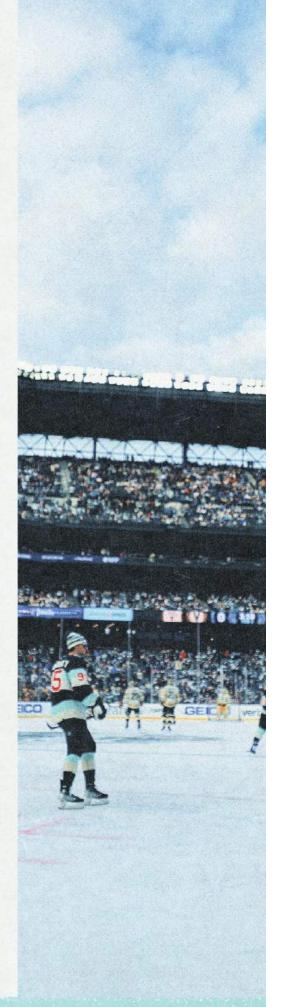
"The first half of the [inaugural] season, I was working with him every skate," said Borgen about the Kraken assistant coach who oversees the defensive corps. "He was really good. He still does it with me now before practice and stuff. We're working on some random little detail, whether it's strengthening my top hand [on his stick] or getting pucks around [the boards] and pushing them ahead. Or stick handling and whatever else can cause a lack of time getting out of the [defensive] zone."

Back in 2021, Borgen was the Kraken's seventh or even eighth defenseman on the depth chart. He didn't get a start until Thanksgiving eve. Say what fans might about earning an NHL salary for simply serving as a reserve with no game pressures, Leach made a challenging time way better for Borgen.

"I mean, it's sucks not playing," said Borgen, a cut-up sort of personality who can be deadserious about the sport he loves and now plays with a \$5.4 million, two-year contract. "Because that's what you've been doing your whole life. You play hockey. That's what you're used to. Once you're not [playing games], it's definitely different.

"But [Leach] was always working with me. He was always positive. It wasn't like 'oh, we're just gonna repeat some stuff from practice again. We were doing meaningful things every time we were out there to help me be a better player."

Two seasons ago, after picking up his first Kraken assist in late November at Buffalo, against the team the made him available in the 2021 NHL Expansion Draft, Borgen drew into a handful of December games (first missing some time with a lower-body injury from blocking shots in the Buffalo game). He scored his first Seattle goal on New Year's Day 2022. He then didn't get another start until mid-month, playing a string of games. Between late January and mid-March, he appeared in one game.





Once the trade deadline resulted in fellow expansion draft picks and defensemen Mark Giordano and Jeremy Lauzon playing for other teams, Borgen became a fixture in the Kraken lineup for the rest of the first season. But not without the usual worry of fringeroster players about making a mistake that might result in them watching from the media seats the next game.

"Every game you still have to perform," said Borgen. "You don't want to make mistakes, especially your first couple games and then it's just playing more games. I think it does kind of build confidence when you're in the lineup consistently."

The remaining month of games turned out to be a turning point for Borgen, who along with goalie Joey Daccord (see page 32) this season are proving out the wisdom of GM Ron Francis' long game in roster-building with expansion picks. The 26-year-old D-man broke out during the 2022-23 season, playing all 82 regular season games along with the thrilling 14 Stanley Cup Playoffs contests. He set career highs in goals (three) and assists (17) and showed his underrated ability to join the offensive rush and especially shoot pucks netfront from his point position at the opposing

teams' blue lines. He added a goal and two assists in the playoffs.

Borgen's 203 hits during the 2022-23 season ranked second only to Adam Larsson, who averaged more than seven minutes of time on ice than his teammate. Borgen's blocked shots (89), were fourth best on the Kraken. Put those two stats together and you have an elite D-man in the making. He was one of 14 NHLers last season to record more than 200 hits and 80 blocked shots.

He's among team and league leaders in those categories this season to date plus charting toward a career-high in assists. Forward Kailer Yamamoto, for one, says Borgen's offensive instincts "make it easy to get open."

When Justin Schultz missed some games due to injury in the fall of 2022, Borgen stepped in to partner with Jamie Oleksiak in the Kraken's second defensive pair. Hakstol and his coaching staff (including Jay Leach, of course) liked what they saw in the Oleksiak-Borgen duo at both ends of the ice. When Schultz returned, he paired up with the now departed Carson Soucy as what could be considered a second Kraken No. 2 pairing.

The Borgen-Oleksiak partnership has stuck together this season and rank at the top end of NHL defensive pairs for time-on-ice during five-on-five or even-strength play. Adam Larsson and Vince Dunn have led the league at times this season, all stats per MoneyPuck. Hakstol and Leach have increasingly trusted the Borgen-Oleksiak duo with top lines around the NHL, plus both D-men serve on the penalty-kill units but with different partners.

In a recent straw poll among Kraken players, Borgen received the majority of votes as teammate most likely to fulfill his holiday gift list at the very last minute. But he is undeniably arriving to play "on time" in games this season, stealing a phrase from Kraken colleague and future Hockey Hall of Fame broadcaster John Forslund.

"After you play with someone for some time, you build chemistry," said Borgen. "We know how each other plays. You know if one of us messes up, the other is usually there to cover for him.

He's obviously an exceptional player -- his [ability to close] gaps, he's got a long stick. It's hard to beat him. That's our job, out there to play defense. He's very good at it. It makes my job really easy."





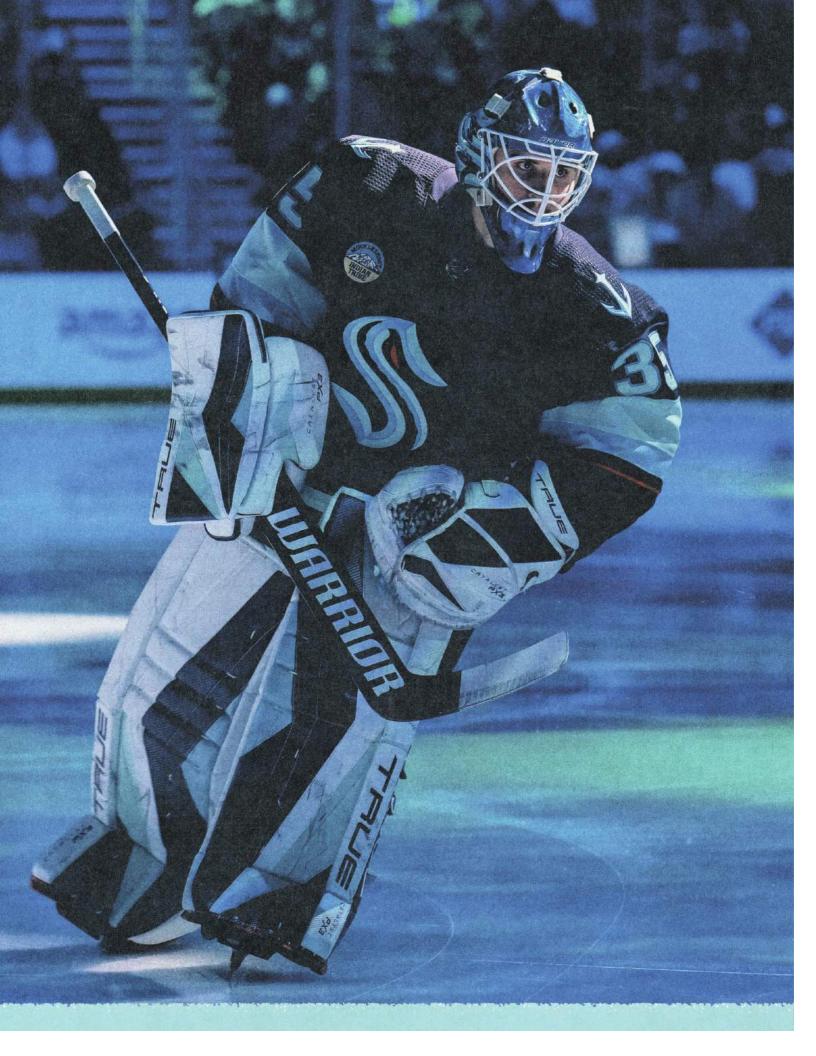


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## NFT GAIN FOR KRA

GOALTENDER JOEY DACCORD, WHO PUT ARIZONA STATE HOCKEY ON NCAA TOP 20 MAP, IS LIVING UP TO HIS PROMISE AS AN NHL GOALTENDER, REWARDING SEATTLE'S FORESIGHT TO PICK HIM IN 2021

#### BY DARREN BROWN

s the crowd at Climate Pledge Arena chanted his name, Seattle Kraken goaltender Joey Daccord glided through the neutral zone, twirling his plush fish in the air and hamming it up for the fans. The 27-year-old rookie goaltender had just pitched his first NHL shutout, backstopping the Kraken to a 4-0 win over the 2023 Eastern Conference champion Florida Panthers. He was ready to yeet his fish as the No. 1 star of the game. The affable goalie never passes up an opportunity to return the admiration right back to the fans that root him on.

"The Mayor," as he's known around the organization for his constant cheerful greetings to staff and willingness to chat with anyone that approaches him, is genuinely grateful for every opportunity and every show of endearment he gets from Seattle's fanbase. He was once in their shoes too, and he understands how invested they are in the success of the team on the ice.

"I can picture myself as a kid, thinking how much I cared for my sports teams growing up and how much I cheered for the players," Daccord said. "And I care just as much as everyone watching [now]. When we lose a couple in a row, we're all just as devastated as all the fans."

Daccord's first career shutout snapped the Kraken out of a difficult eight-game funk. His team needed him to step up and play an outstanding game that night - and he did just that and more to come - as the Kraken embarked on a 13-game midseason point streak.

"It means the world, honestly," Daccord told the media after the shutout. "I'm super grateful for the opportunity to play in the NHL every single night, and for the coaching staff and the guys to trust me out there. And to get a shutout in the NHL, especially against such a high-caliber team with a lot of good players ... yeah, it hasn't really sunk in yet, but it's pretty special."

#### FOLLOWING THE PROCESS

Reaching the first-shutout milestone was not a straight path for Daccord, who has had a few tastes of life in the NHL but didn't solidify himself as a full-time NHL goalie until this season when he made the Kraken roster out of training camp. It was his third training camp with the Kraken, arriving as one of the team's 31 expansion draft picks and this season showing why GM Ron Francis and his scouting staff (props to goaltending scout Andrew Allen) selected Daccord.

In 2020-21, Daccord thought he had carved out his place with Ottawa after he played eight games for the Senators. But he was left unprotected and snapped up by Seattle in the 2021 Expansion Draft. But with the Kraken signing NHL veterans Philipp Grubauer and Chris Driedger that summer, Daccord ended up back in the American Hockey League. He played the 2021-22 season for the Charlotte Checkers, who were the AHL affiliate for the Kraken at the time.

In 2022-23, Daccord led the Coachella Valley Firebirds all the way to Game 7 of the Calder Cup Finals, where they came up one overtime

goal short of winning the biggest prize in minorleague hockey. He played 70 games over the regular season and playoffs with barely a clunker in the mix.

"The Calder Cup Finals run last year was incredible, the way I was supported and our whole team was supported by the fans down there was insane," Daccord said. "That was something I'll never forget. We obviously came up one goal short in the end in Game 7, but we can hold our heads high. We had an incredible run. That was super special to me."

The playoff run and all the trials and tribulations that came with it helped prepare Daccord for a full-time spot in the NHL, which he finally earned this season, jokingly telling reporters it's the first of five NHL training camps during which "I didn't get bad news."

#### BECOMING A GOALIE WAS "DESTINY"

Daccord recalled how he embraced the goalie position in the first place. He loved playing forward and defense, but he knew at a young age the goal crease was always going to be his home on the ice.

Joey's father, Brian Daccord, tended goal for Merrimack College in NCAA Division I, then went on to play six seasons professionally for HC Ambrì-Piotta in Switzerland.

After Brian retired from playing, he became a goalie coach, starting his own goalie school and working for several professional teams at various stages across three decades. The Boston Bruins. Adler Mannheim of the Deutsche Eishockey Liga (the top league in Germany), the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Arizona Coyotes are among the teams to have employed Brian at some point in time. He's currently the goaltending coach for Boston University.

Daccord followed his dad on the NCAA Division I track. He was the second-ever player to commit to now-top 20 Arizona State, then turning around to recruit other top players to join him. Daccord's goaltending lifted ASU to a highly competitive level over his three seasons in the Southwest. His final season was his best (21-13-1) with a 2.35 goals-against average and .926 save percentage, even earning him an NHL start with Ottawa in the spring of 2019.

Under his dad's tutelage, Joey grew and developed as a goalie. After spending most of his childhood playing both forward and goalie, Daccord officially hung up the player skates at age 14.

"[My dad] gave me a choice, but it kind of was always destiny," Daccord said. "He never pressured me to play goalie or anything, but I just always wanted to. I thought it was the coolest thing in the world to play goalie. I looked up to a lot of guys that trained with my dad's goalie school."

While Joey was growing up, Brian coached several NHL goalies, including Byron Dafoe, John Grahame, Andrew Raycroft and—most notably for Joey—Cory Schneider. Schneider, like Daccord, was born in Massachusetts, so Joey looked up to him in his formative years and still sports Schneider's jersey number as an homage. The two faced each other in the AHL last season.

"Cory Schneider was the first one that my dad trained that really made it big time," Daccord said. "That's why I wear No. 35. Big fan of his."

#### DEFT PUCK HANDLER

Daccord got drafted out of Cushing Academy in Massachusetts by the Ottawa Senators in the seventh round (No. 199) of the 2015 NHL Draft. He then played two seasons for the Muskegon Lumberjacks of the USHL. That's where he was pushed to really develop his puck-handling skills, which have since become a hallmark of his game. Veterans such as Adam Larsson, Jamie Oleksiak and Jordan Eberle have all praised their teammate's puck handling skills during media interviews.

"I had a coach in juniors [USHL] who ... all he wanted me to do was play the puck," Daccord said. "And I was always pretty good at it, but I never really got aggressive with it. Then he wanted me out the whole game just playing the puck, playing the puck. And that's really where it started, where I became much more active. I got to college and just kept developing it. And then [I turned] pro and just kept working on it, working on it, working on it. Now it's a staple in my game."

Daccord handles the puck almost like a sixth skater on the ice. He can be seen at practices and in pre-game warmups ironically refining his one-timers (which he executes remarkably well, considering the bulkiness of a goalie's glove and



blocker), and regularly makes breakout passes in games.

Learning how to play the puck with such ease is no small task for a netminder, but Daccord says it's one of only a few areas that is easily trainable for goalies.

"The hardest thing for goalies is that we can't shoot on ourselves," Daccord said. "Players can go out and shoot pucks in their backyard, they can stickhandle in their basement or in the driveway or on rollerblades or whatever. Goalies can't shoot on themselves. So that's one thing that we can do, skill-wise, that we can work on from home."

Daccord remembered some advice his dad gave him that helped prod him to work on his puck handling: "If you're at a tryout, and you and one other kid are just as good at stopping the puck as each other, but there's something that you can do to differentiate yourself and can play the puck and they can't, they're going to choose you over that other kid."

#### BONDING WITH HIS GOALIE PARTNER

Now a fixture for the Kraken, Daccord has formed a close bond with his colleagues in the crease, Philipp Grubauer and Chris Driedger. He says he and Grubauer have fun together and cheer for one another on the ice. At practices, if one goalie makes a big save, the other almost always gives a few subtle stick taps from the other end of the ice.

"If you pay real close attention during practice, you can see we're always making gestures toward each other, having a good time," Daccord said. "We're on an island out there, right? Everyone always cheers when they score, so I figure, when he makes a nice save, I'm going to let him know he made a nice save. So we give each other a lot of stick taps in practice."

Same for Daccord and Driedger, who have supported each other this season (during a stretch with Grubauer on Injured Reserve) and at Coachella Valley later last regular season when Driedger was with the Firebirds as part of recovering from a serious knee injury. This season when Driedger posted a big 2-1 over Calgary right after the winter holiday break – getting the start despite Daccord's 4-0-2 record in the previous six games – Daccord went full goalie-hug on Driedger when the two goaltenders met as the final pair in post-game celebratory line after the pivotal road win.

#### **CONTINUING TO GROW**

With the particular support of Grubauer, Daccord and goalie coach Steve Briere, plus his teammates, his father, his other coaches and his adoring fans, Daccord continues to grow, even now that he has made it to hockey's highest stage. His shutout was just another step in the journey, along, no doubts, with "Joey! Joey!" chants coursing Climate Pledge Arena for many games to come. \$\tilde{\psi}\$



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### PIERRE-EDOUARD BELLEMARE

#### **FORWARD**

**SHOOTS:** Left

HEIGHT: 5-11

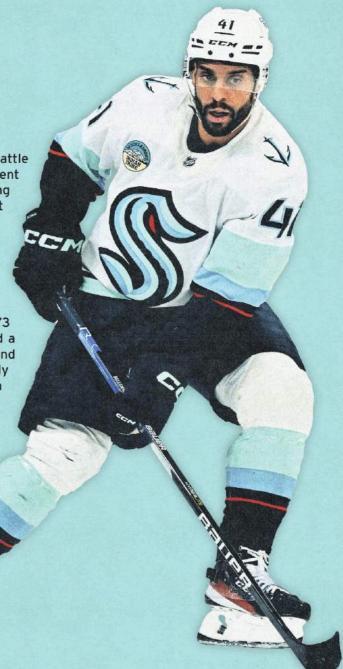
**WEIGHT: 198** 

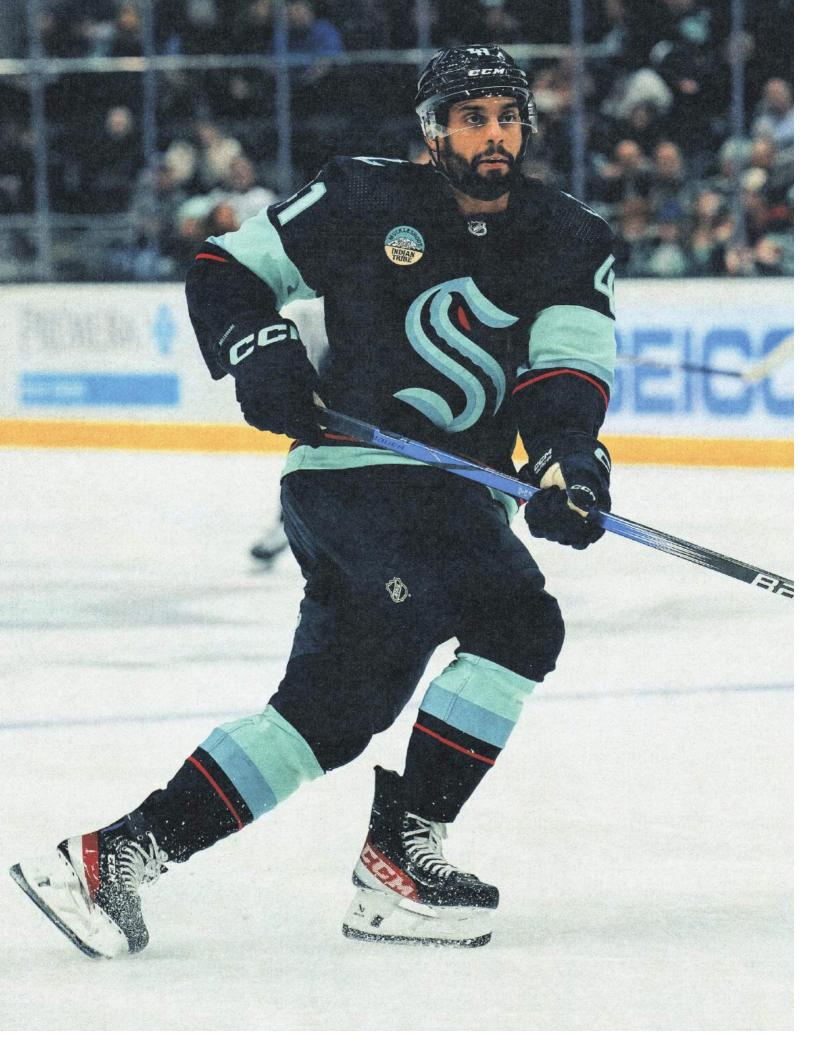
BIRTHPLACE: Le Blanc-Mesnil, FRA

BRIEF BIO: When Kraken 2022-23 fourth-liners departed Seattle for new teams in free agency, Seattle's hockey operations went to work fortifying forward depth by signing Bellemare among others. The 38-year-old is especially valuable in the faceoff dot (an area Dave Hakstol says needs to improve this season) and on the penalty kill. During camp, Bellemare was frequently observed in deep discussion with rising prospect Shane Wright during and after faceoff drills ("I talk to him about what is hard to play against that he does rather than tell him what to do.").

Bellemare notched 13 points (four goals, nine assists) in 73 regular-season games for Tampa Bay last season and added a goal and an assist in six playoff games. He has played wing and center in his nine seasons. Bellemare is indelibly upbeat, widely considered a culture-builder in locker rooms from Philadelphia (under Dave Hakstol), Vegas, Colorado and Tampa Bay.

FUN FACTS: Bellemare's first season as a pro was with Skelleftea AIK of the top Swedish league when Adam Larsson was teenage rookie playing for his hometown team. The two Kraken teammates have trained together in Skelleftea every summer for 15 years because Bellemare chose to stay in Sweden during summers.













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### MATTY BENIERS

#### **FORWARD**

**SHOOTS:** Left

**HEIGHT:** 6-2

**WEIGHT: 178** 

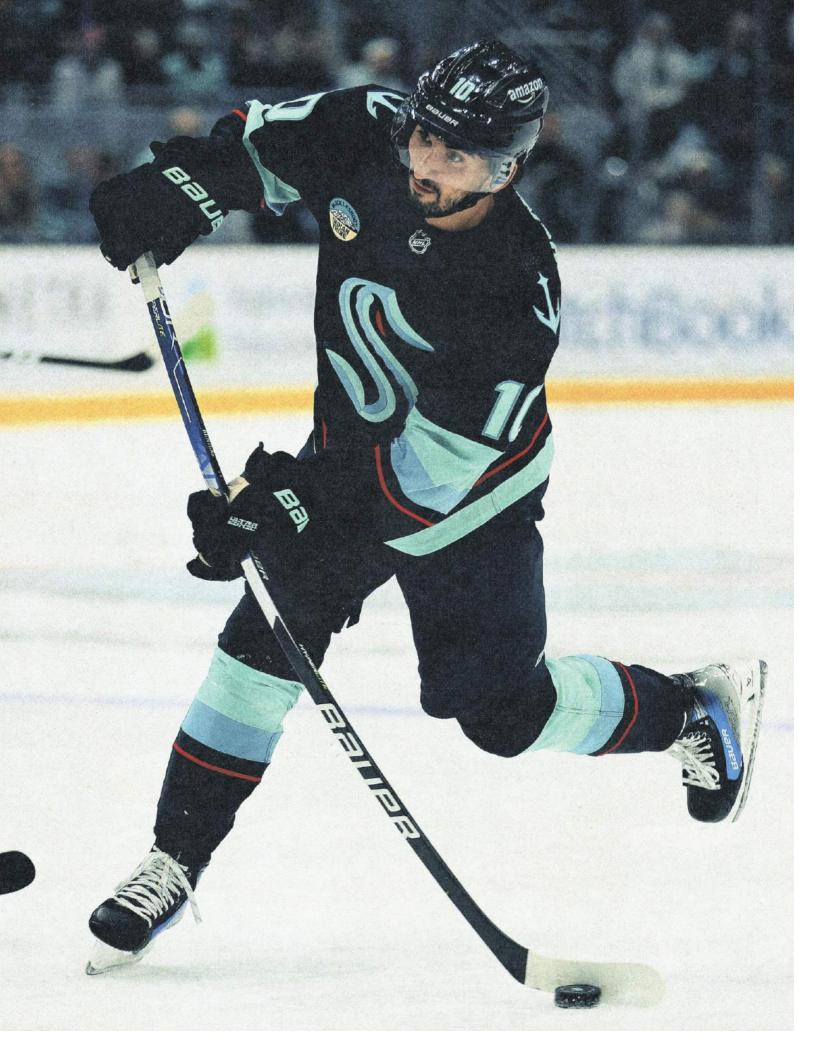
BIRTHPLACE: Hingham, Massachusetts

BRIEF BIO: It's one thing to be projected with high expectations to be a rookie-of-the-year finalist and another matter to win the Calder Memorial Trophy by outperforming 2021 No. 1 overall pick and former Michigan teammate Owen Power in the process. Beniers finished 2022-23 with 24 goals and 33 assists before adding three goals and four assists in two rounds of his first Stanley Cup Playoffs. Even more notable: Beniers' play in all zones, displaying high hockey IQ and willingness to forecheck, backcheck and play in gritty areas.

Beniers, the first-ever NHL Draft pick of the Kraken when chosen No. 2 overall in 2021, debuted after his sophomore NCAA season. That spring he tallied points in nine of his 10 games played. His first NHL goal came at Climate Pledge with his family in the crowd, a career top-highlight moment by Beniers' own estimation.

FUN FACTS: Beniers mother, Christine, is a former Broadway actress ("Chorus Line" among her credits) and now attorney who served as community theater director, often "drafting" Matty to fill singing roles in musical reviews. When he was a 16-year-old newcomer to the USA Hockey National Team Development Program, coaches asked players to reveal some hidden talent or personal fact. Beniers instantly said "I can sing" and belted out a Frankie Valli tune from "Jersey Boys."





### OLIVER BJORKSTRAND

#### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Right

HEIGHT: 6-0

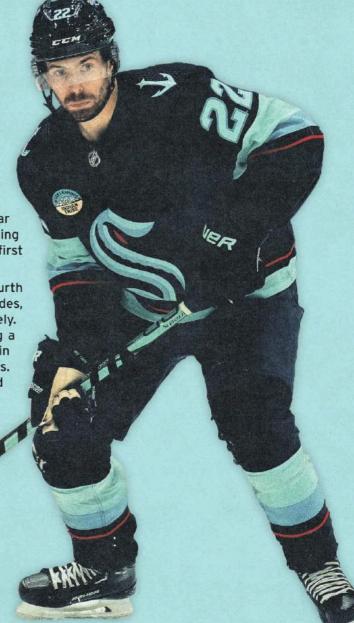
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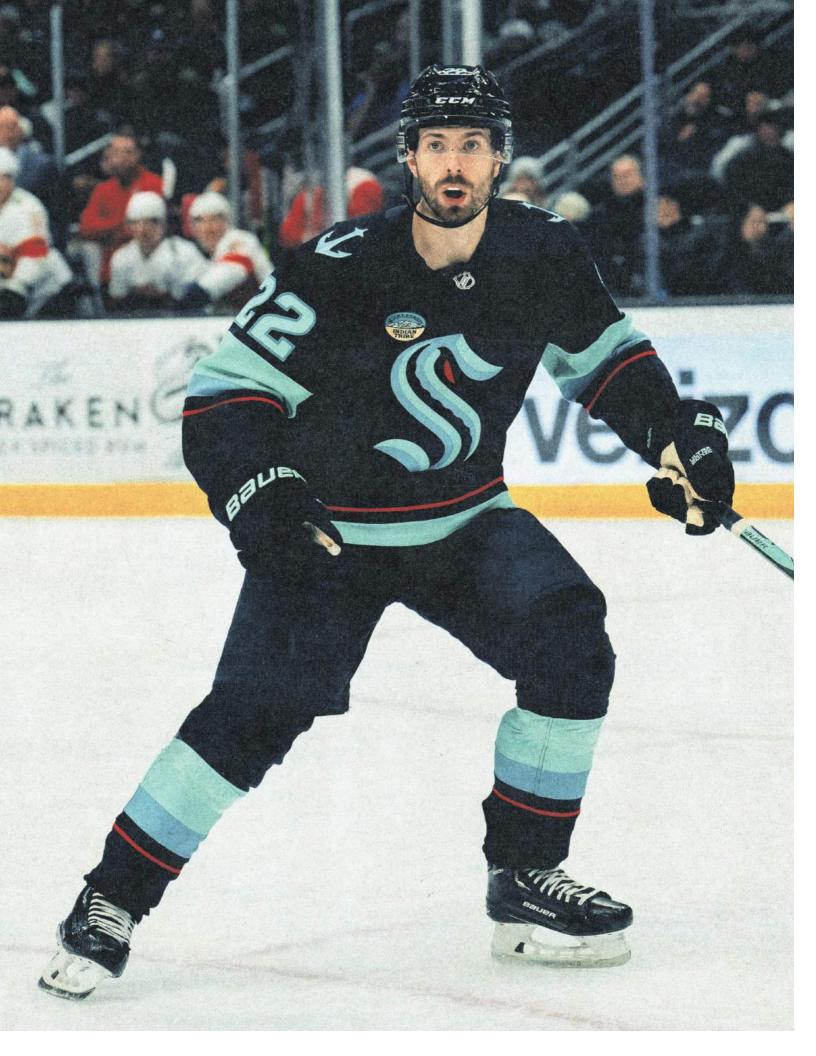
BIRTHPLACE: Herning, DNK

BRIEF BIO: After coming back from surgery in the summer of 2022, the trade acquisition from Columbus came on strong in the 2023 calendar playing on a line with center Yanni Gourde and left wing Eeli Tolvanen (who joined the lineup on New Year's Day). Bjorkstrand finished the year with 20 goals, with 16 of those tallied beginning on Jan. 1. He added 25 assists on the year and scored four playoff goals, including both goals in the thrilling Kraken Game 7 road win over defending champ Colorado in the first round.

The Kraken received Bjorkstrand in return for 2023 third and fourth round picks that GM Ron Francis had acquired in previous trades, providing a textbook example of how to use "draft capital" wisely. Spent parts of eight seasons with the Blue Jackets after being a third-round pick during the 2013 NHL Draft. His last season in Columbus was his best, scoring 28 times and piling up 57 points. In juniors, the Denmark-born forward was a star for WHL Portland with 63 goals in his final of three seasons.

FUN FACTS: It was on his honeymoon in South Africa when he got the call from Ron Francis about the Kraken trade. Bjorkstrand's father, Todd, is a Minnesota native who played 14 seasons in the Danish pro league. Has played internationally for Denmark nine times, in 2021 helping his nation advance to the Olympics for the first time.





### WILL BORGEN

### **DEFENSEMAN**

SHOOTS: Right

**HEIGHT**: 6-3

WEIGHT: 204

BIRTHPLACE: Moorhead, Minnesota

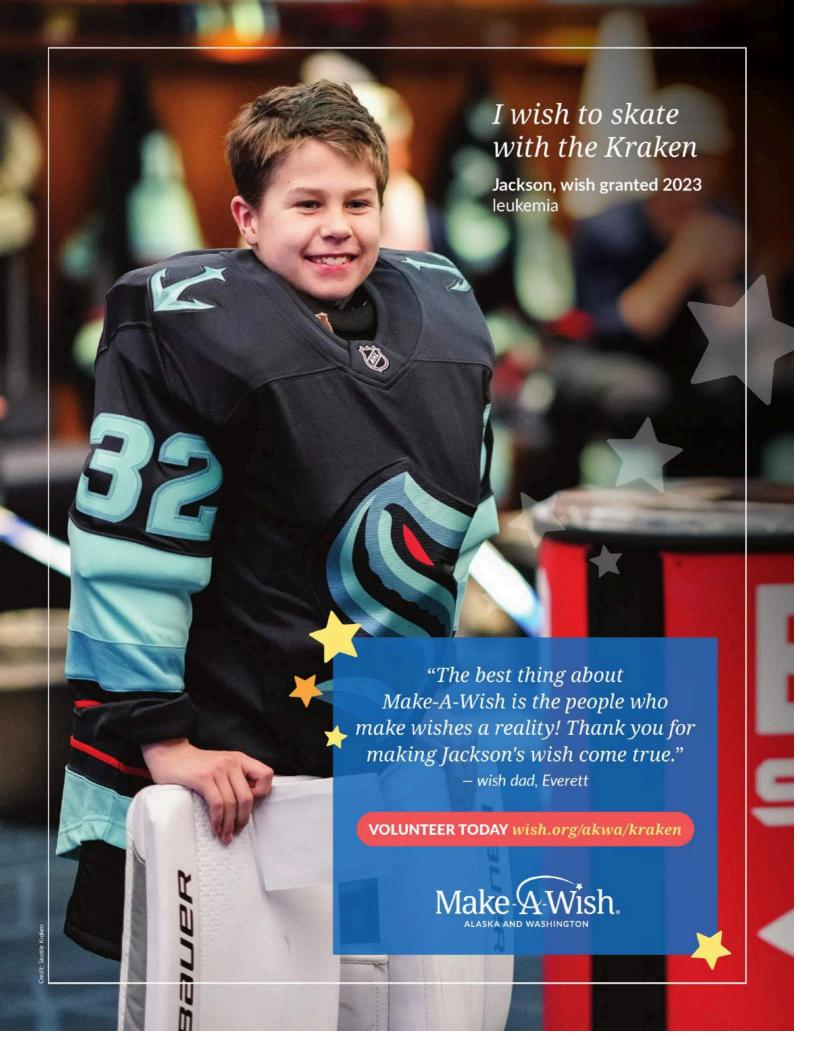
BRIEF BIO: Selected from the Buffalo Sabres during the 2021 expansion draft, Borgen was basically the team's reserve seventh defenseman during the first half of the inaugural season. When Mark Giordano and Jeremy Lauzon were traded, Borgen got his chance to play regular minutes and impressed Kraken coaches and fans alike. Last season, Borgen was playing third-pair minutes until Justin Schultz went to the injured list. The 26-year-old then moved up to second pair alongside Jamie Oleksiak, looking so formidable that Dave Hakstol and assistant Jay Leach kept those two together when Schultz returned, pairing the latter with now departed Carson Soucy.

Drafted by Buffalo in 2015, Borgen played three seasons with NCAA St. Cloud State. Borgen appeared in 14 games with the Sabres from 2018 to 2021. Not lost on his teammates or opponents, Borgen was second in hits last season with 203, only 19 hits behind Adam Larsson despite averaging 16 minutes of time on ice per game compared to 23-plus for Larsson.

FUN FACTS: Borgen and Matty Beniers were housemates last season and commuted together every work day. They smartly had few house rules, though there was some debate about Beniers' driving skills when they traveled in his car.









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### ANDRE BURAKOVSKY

#### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Left

HEIGHT: 6-3

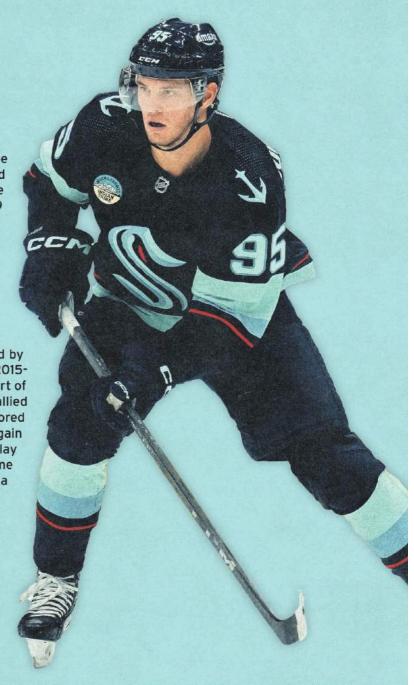
**WEIGHT: 209** 

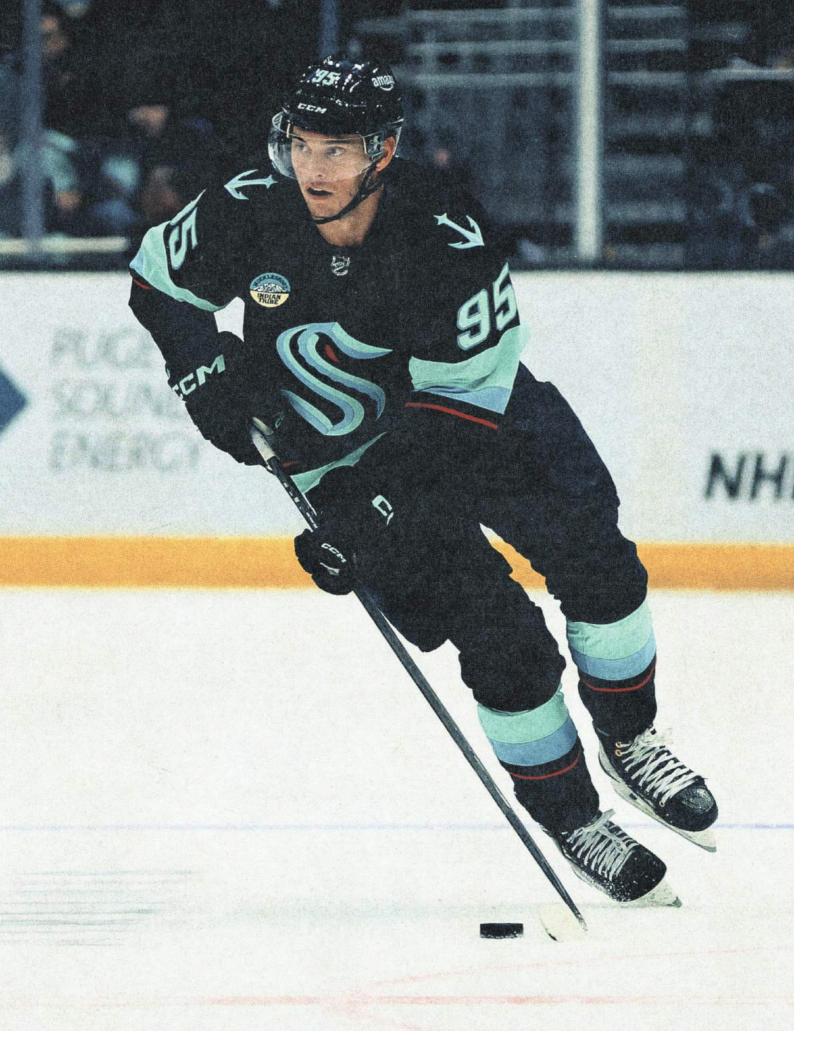
BIRTHPLACE: Klagenfurt, AUT

BRIEF BIO: Signed by the Kraken during July 2022's free agency period after winning the Stanley Cup, the second of his career, the smooth playmaking winger topped the Kraken in scoring with 13 goals and 26 assists in 49 games before the NHL All-Star break. He injured his groin on his first shift in the initial game after the break and extensive rehab didn't afford him enough mobility and strength to return to the lineup. The team and player opted for surgery and the 6-foot-3, 209-pound forward known as "Burky" looked sharp in preseason play this fall before another injury felled him for six to eight weeks.

Born in Austria, Burakovsky grew up in Sweden. Drafted by Washington in 2013 (first round, No. 23). Debuted in the 2015-16 season. Scored two goals in the conference final as part of the Caps' title run in 2018. Traded to Colorado in 2019, tallied at a 20-goal pace over three seasons (20, 19, 22). Scored Game 1 OT game-winner in the 2022 Cup Final, then again in Game 2, but broke his thumb in four places. Tried to play in Games 5 and 6 but the pain level kept him out of Game 7. It was revealed he was playing on a broken ankle from a blocked shot in an earlier round.

FUN FACTS: Burakovsky's father, Robert, was drafted 217th by the New York Rangers in 1985. Played 23 games with Ottawa, the majority of a 17-year playing career in Sweden's top pro league. Golf Talk: Burky can consistently drive 320 yards.





JOEY DACCORD

#### **GOALTENDER**

**CATCHES:** Left

HEIGHT: 6-2

WEIGHT: 201

BIRTHPLACE: Boston, Massachusetts

BRIEF BIO: The Kraken goaltender has attended five NHL training camps since signing a professional contract after an impressive NCAA career at Arizona State. Three of those camps were with the Kraken as the 27-year-old was Seattle's expansion draft pick from Ottawa. He joked with reporters on roster cut day this fall that 2023 was the first camp "without hearing bad news."

Daccord has appeared in 10 NHL games over his first two seasons posting his first two NHL wins with the franchise and his potential is poised to pay off for the Kraken this year.

GM Ron Francis considers Daccord to be the AHL's best goaltender during the 2022-23 season, an opinion difficult to refute considering the goalie's 70 games played, including all 25 in a playoff run that took the AHL affiliate Firebirds to Game 7 of the Calder Cup Final. His ability to make big saves early in games to keep Coachella Valley in games was as uncanny as it was consistent.

FUN FACTS: Daccord is Swiss-American; his mom was born in Switzerland. His father, Brian Daccord, is the goalie coach at Boston University and has worked across hockey as a goalie coach for two decades. Daccord, a Boston kid, was drafted No. 199 in 2015, the same order in the draft as was his "top athlete of all-time" Tom Brady, the famed champion quarterback.









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### CHRIS DRIEDGER

### **GOALTENDER**

**CATCHES:** Left

HEIGHT: 6-4

WEIGHT: 208

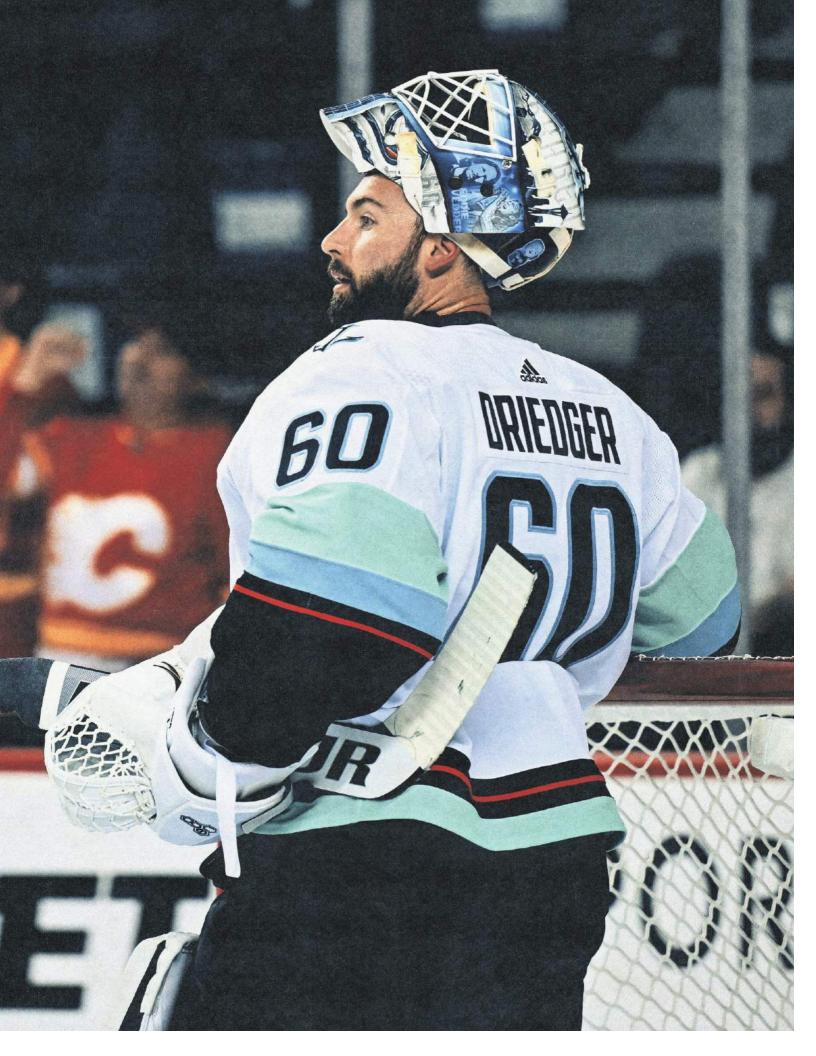
BIRTHPLACE: Winnipeg, MB

BRIEF BIO: Signed free-agent contract with Kraken during an exclusive negotiating window connected to 2021 NHL Expansion Draft, becoming the team's pick from Florida. Shared net duties with Philipp Grubauer during inaugural season, then joined Team Canada for men's world championship and in goal during gold-medal game when he suffered a serious knee injury. Missed entire 2022-23 NHL season, getting in some rehab games with AHL Coachella Valley. Got first start in 20 months right after holiday break this season, making 37 saves (several big ones in final minutes) for a 2-1 road win over division rival Calgary.

Posted top-five numbers among all NHL goalies for save percentage (.927) and goals-against-average (2.07) during the 2021-22 season. The 27-year-old broke through with Florida over two seasons with a 21-8-4 record. Driedger fits today's NHL goalie prototype: 6-4, 208 pounds with a low center of gravity and efficient movement.

FUN FACTS: His path to pros includes ECHL and AHL stops, played three seasons for the Western Hockey League Calgary Hitmen and set a number of franchise goaltending records. He played for two WHL teams (other was Tri-City Americans), five ECHL squads and three AHL franchise (and four different towns with Ottawa affiliate relocating from Binghamton, NY, to Belleville, ON.





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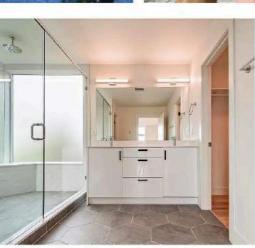














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BRIAN DUMOULIN

### **DEFENSEMAN**

SHOOTS: Left

HEIGHT: 6-4

WEIGHT: 207

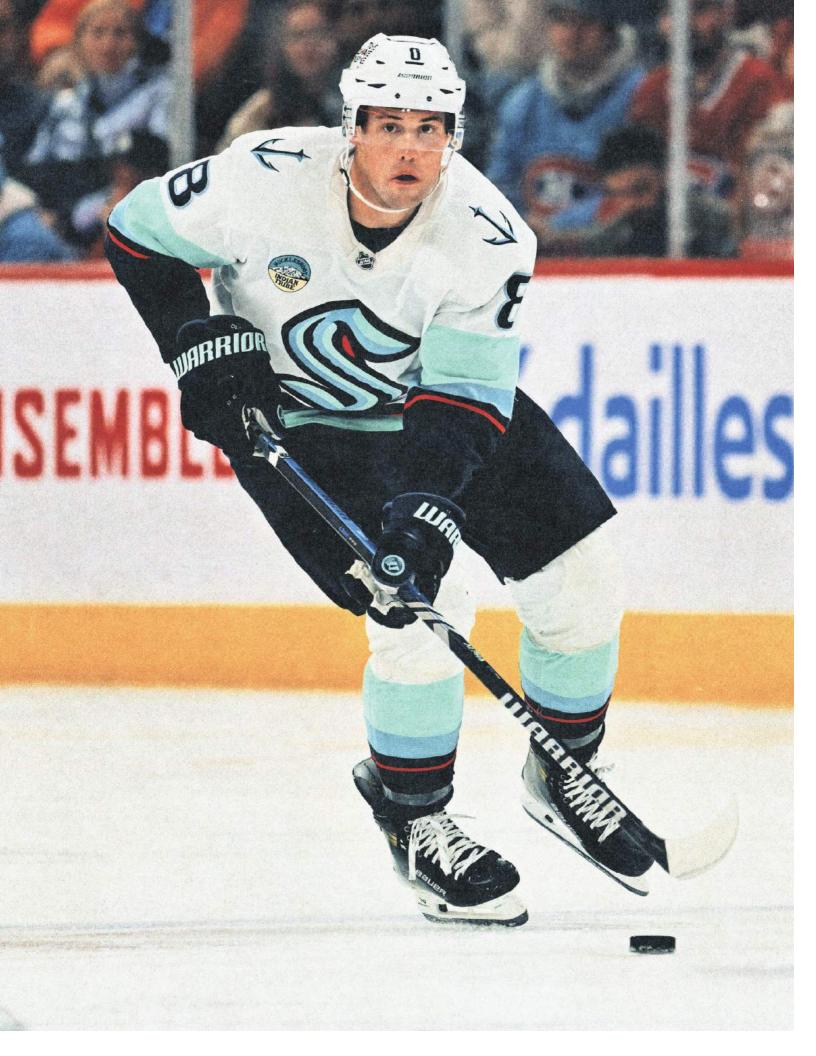
BIRTHPLACE: Biddeford, Maine

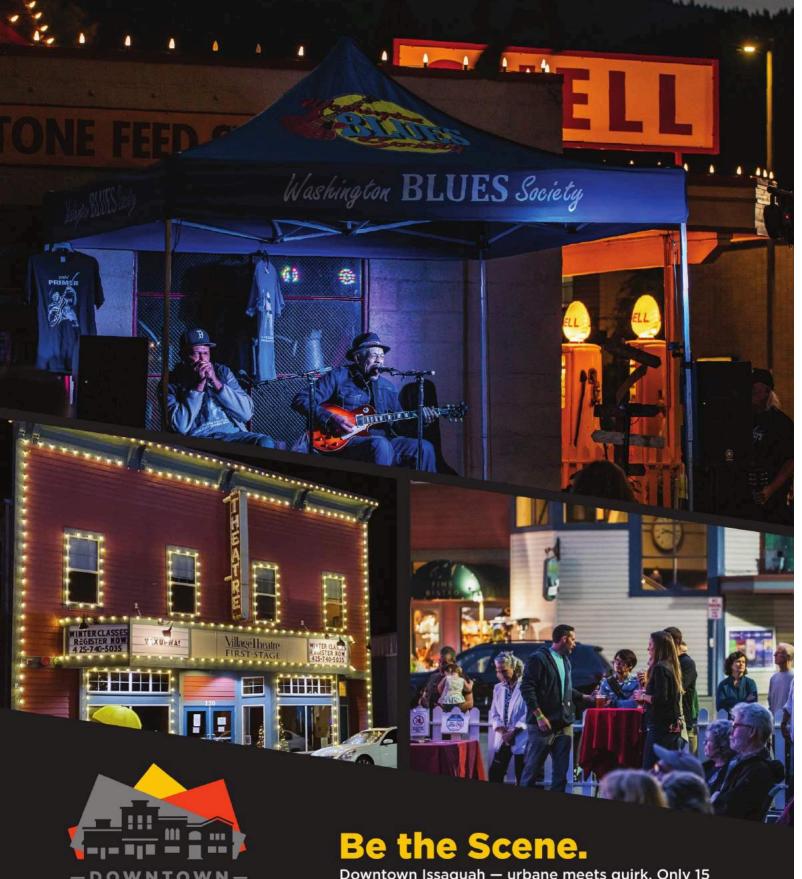
BRIEF BIO: The 6-foot-4, 207-pounder won back-to-back Stanley Cups with Pittsburgh (2016 and 2017) and signed a two-year contract (\$3.15 million average annual value) with the Kraken on the first day of NHL free agency this past summer. He rejoins fellow Cup winner and former Penguin Justin Schultz, who accepted a contract offer from Kraken in 2022 on the first day of free agency. Now the two friends and D-men will be partners in a third pair for Seattle that is really more a "2B" pairing to the "2A" duo of Jamie Oleksiak-Will Borgen.

Dumoulin notched 25 points (one goal, 24 assists for career highs in assists and points) for the Penguins this past hockey year, playing the entire 82-game slate. He has tallied 19 goals and 120 assists in 546 regular season games and four goals and 21 assists in 81 postseason games. His Pittsburgh playing time also overlapped with assistant GM Jason Botterill and then-and-now teammates Jared McCann, Jamie Oleksiak, and Brandon Tanev.

FUN FACTS: Dumoulin's NHL path started with three years for his Maine high school team, winning back-to-back state championships. Along with those titles and the Stanley Cup twice, Dumoulin was a standout for Boston College, helping the Eagles win the 2010 NCAA national championship.







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### VINCE DUNN

#### **DEFENSEMAN**

**SHOOTS:** Left

HEIGHT: 6-0

WEIGHT: 200

BIRTHPLACE: Mississauga, Ontario

BRIEF BIO: Kraken's first-pair defenseman was team's expansion draft selection from St. Louis and let's agree that worked out well. Dunn's breakout season was followed by his re-signing with Seattle on a four-year contract for \$29.4 million (\$7.35 AAV). The 26-year-old demolished all of his offensive career bests from his previous five seasons, notching 14 goals and 50 assists for 64 points, second among all Kraken skaters and tops for assists. As importantly to both the player and his coaches (especially Dave Hakstol and assistant Jay Leach), Dunn has grown into a defensive force over his two seasons traversing Climate Pledge Arena ice. Analytics experts have lots of proof stats about Dunn and partner Adam Larsson prospering in prevention during 5-on-5 play, something to watch this season with input from Kraken colleague Alison Lukan.

Dunn played four seasons in St. Louis, playing top-three pairs minutes during the 2019 Stanley Cup title run. A St. Louis second-round pick in 2015, Dunn played three seasons of juniors and one year in the AHL before debuting to play 75 games for the Blues in 2017-2018.

FUN FACTS: Dunn is an avid video game player (big fan of Fortnite). He scored the first NHL goal ever at Climate Pledge Arena.





### JORDAN EBERLE

#### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Right

**HEIGHT:** 5-11

WEIGHT: 190

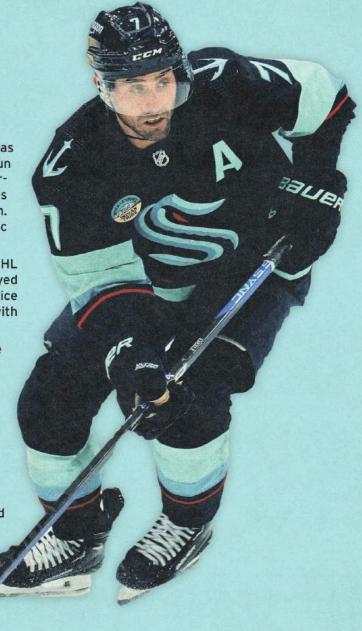
BIRTHPLACE: Regina, Saskatchewan

BRIEF BIO: The veteran forward and alternate captain was the Kraken's second leading scorer in the historic playoff run last spring, pitching in six goals and five assists. His regular-season production of 20 goals and 43 assists represented his highest point total since his 2014-15 season with Edmonton. He starts the season still flanking Matty Beniers, a symbiotic pair that benefits each other plus linemate Jared McCann.

Joined the Kraken after being unprotected for the 2021 NHL Expansion team from a New York Islanders club that had played in the previous two Eastern Conference Finals. Eberle's on-ice skill set in all zones is matched by his leadership qualities with veterans and younger teammates alike.

A prolific scorer in junior for the WHL Regina Pats (same club as Kraken 2021 second-rounder Ryker Evans and some kid named Connor Bedard), Eberle was a 2008 first-round pick (22nd overall). Became a national hero in Canada for his exploits in the World Junior Championships. In the 2009 semifinal against Russia, he scored twice, including a dramatic game-tying goal with five seconds left on the clock and would later add a shootout conversion as Canada won.

FUN FACTS: The first NHL game Eberle ever attended was one in which he played, making his NHL debut with Edmonton in October 2010 and scoring his first NHL goal that night. He was the Kraken's first all-star, named to the game during the inaugural season.





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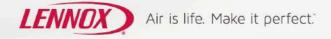
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### RYKER EVANS

### **DEFENSEMAN**

SHOOTS: Left

**HEIGHT:** 5-11

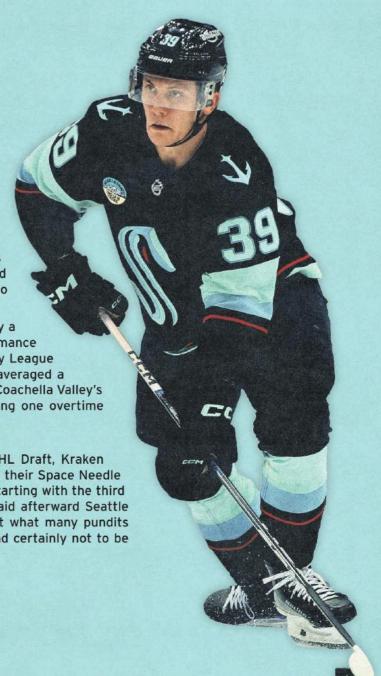
**WEIGHT: 189** 

BIRTHPLACE: Calgary, Alberta

BRIEF BIO: Made his NHL debut during December's six-game homestand, impressing teammates and coach Dave Hakstol alike with his poise, responsible-and-looks-like-he-belongs defensive-zone play and his upside as an offensively-gifted defender. Just turned 22 in mid-December, he notched four assists in nine games, including a three-game point streak and key assists in first two wins against Florida and Chicago on the aforementioned homestand.

After leading the Western Hockey League in assists by a defenseman in 2021-22, Evans ramped up his performance even more last year being named to American Hockey League all-star game and making AHL's all-rookie team. He averaged a point per game (five goals, 21 assists) in AHL affiliate Coachella Valley's postseason run to Western Conference title and falling one overtime goal short of winning Game 7 in the Calder Cup Final.

FUN FACTS: On the second morning of the 2021 NHL Draft, Kraken GM Ron Francis and his scouting staff arrived early at their Space Needle workspace to finalize who they would pick that day, starting with the third pick in the second round and 35th overall. Francis said afterward Seattle scouts were each one "pounding the table" to select what many pundits called a defenseman too small to play in the NHL (and certainly not to be considered until the third or fourth round).







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### YANNI GOURDE

#### **FORWARD**

**SHOOTS:** Left

HEIGHT: 5-9

**WEIGHT: 190** 

BIRTHPLACE: Saint-Narcisse, Quebec

BRIEF BIO: After playing a key role on back-to-back Stanley Cup winners with the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2020 and 2021, Gourde returned to the playoffs with the Kraken's thrilling run. Gourde, a role model for a "200-foot," all-zones player, put up strong numbers (four goals, nine assists) in 14 postseason games last spring. His regular season: 14 G, 34 A for 48 points plus a whole lot of annoying opponents with his relentless, scrappy style of play. His chemistry with linemates Oliver Bjorkstrand and Eeli Tolvanen is something for fans to anticipate this season as both a scoring and shutdown line.

Gourde's journey to the NHL is a study in perseverance and belief. He went undrafted after a solid junior career in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. But he was offered a tryout with the AHL Worcester Sharks. He eventually spent seven seasons in the minor leagues before becoming a regular in the NHL with Tampa Bay. He openly admits he wasn't always sure he would get the NHL chance.

FUN FACTS: Gourde is an avid craftsman and spends his summers building projects around his home. An alternate captain on the ice, Yanni is the true captain among teammates who play the Super Tock board game (aka pachisi or parcheesi) on road trips.





### PHILIPP GRUBAUER

### **GOALTENDER**

**CATCHES:** Left

HEIGHT: 6-1

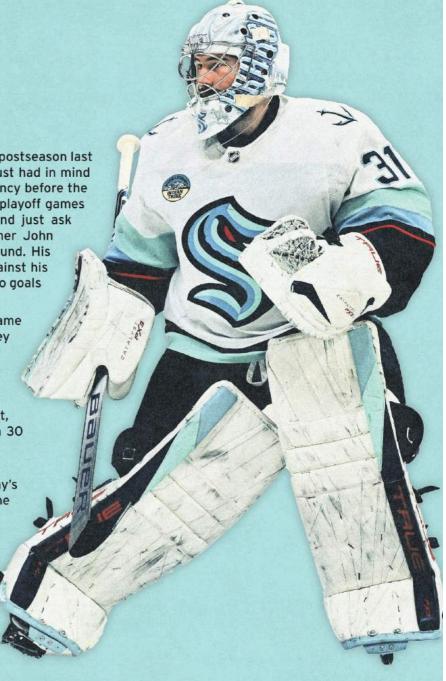
**WEIGHT: 188** 

BIRTHPLACE: Rosenheim, DEU

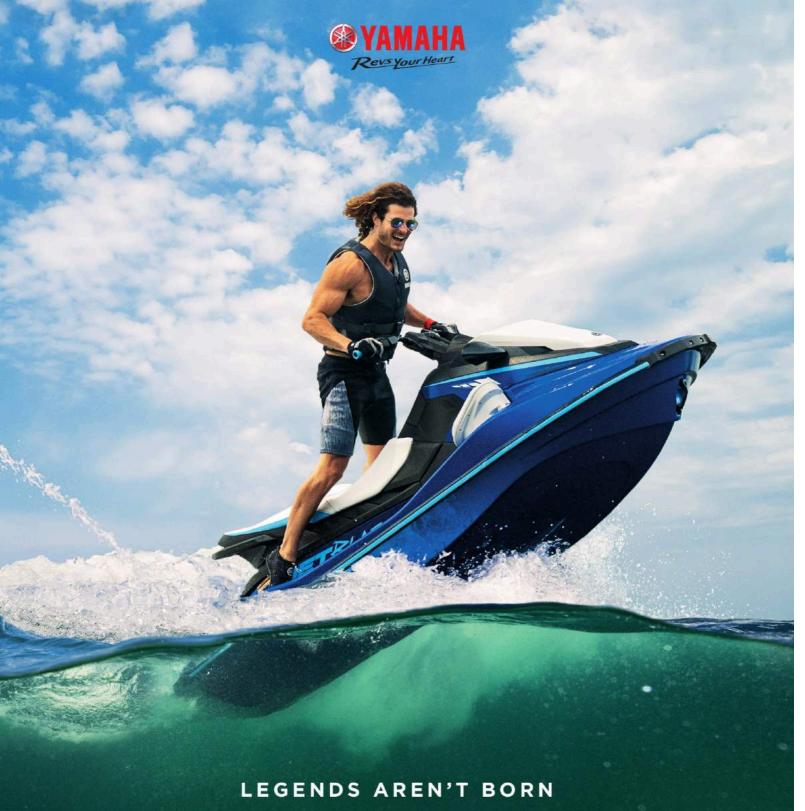
BRIEF BIO: The "German Gentleman" delivered a postseason last spring that was exactly what the Kraken brain trust had in mind when signing him on the first day of NHL free agency before the inaugural season. Grubauer appeared in all 2023 playoff games after an injury-interrupted his regular season and just ask Kraken play-by-play man and future Hall of Famer John Forslund why Seattle won Game 7 in the first round. His answer: Grubauer with big saves in all periods against his former teammates to allow Oliver Bjorkstrand's two goals to stand up in a 2-1 victory.

After playing in his native Germany, Grubauer came to North America in 2008 to play junior hockey in the Ontario Hockey League. He was drafted in the 2010 fourth round by Washington and part of Cup-winning goalie tandem in 2018. Traded to the Colorado Avalanche in 2018 and played three seasons in Denver. His last season was his best, when he posted a .922 save percentage and won 30 games, named a Vezina Trophy finalist.

FUN FACTS: Grubauer has played for Germany's national eight times, including three times in the IIHF World Championships. He threw out the first pitch on Kraken Night before a Sept. 14 Mariners home game in 2022 amid "GRUUUUUU!" chants, throwing a high strike. "I've never been so nervous in my whole life," says Grubi, laughing.







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## 52 TYE KARTYE

#### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Left

HEIGHT: 5-11

WEIGHT: 202

**BIRTHPLACE**: Kingston, Ontario

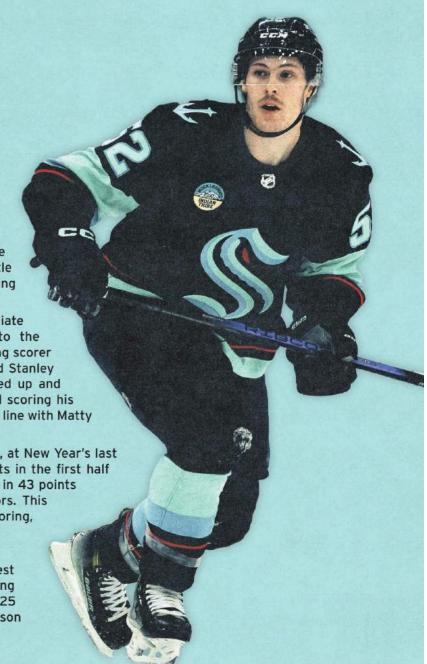
BRIEF BIO: The Kraken signed forward Tye Kartye as an undrafted free agent in March 2022 based on his stellar career with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds of the Ontario Hockey League, whose former players include the top two NHL assists leaders of all time, Wayne Gretzky and Kraken GM Ron Francis. While passed over in entry drafts, Kartye was on the Seattle radar. He was a participant in the Kraken's first training camp ahead of the inaugural season.

Kartye started as a fourth-line wing on AHL affiliate Coachella Valley last season and was elevated to the Firebirds top line by playoff time. When Kraken leading scorer Jared McCann was hurt in Game 4 of the first-round Stanley Cup Playoffs series with Colorado, Kartye was called up and fans will no doubt always remember the 22-year-old scoring his first NHL goal on his first NHL shot while playing on a line with Matty Beniers and Jordan Eberle.

Speaking of 2022-23 NHL rookie of the year Beniers, at New Year's last season, Kartye had notched four goals and 10 assists in the first half of the AHL season. He then went on a tear resulting in 43 points in 43 games to earn AHL Rookie of the Year honors. This fall, he made the opening roster, providing depth scoring,

toughness and hockey IQ.

FUN FACTS: Kartye experienced one of the longest hockey seasons of any recent pro last season, appearing in 100 games, 72 AHL regular season, 18 of the CVF's 25 playoff games in two segments, and 10 NHL postseason contests with the Kraken.







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### ADAM LARSSON

### **DEFENSEMAN**

SHOOTS: Right

HEIGHT: 6-3

**WEIGHT: 209** 

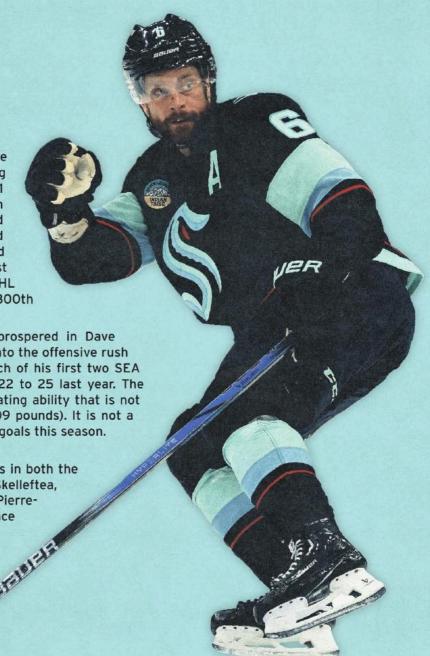
BIRTHPLACE: Skelleftea, SWE

BRIEF BIO: Larsson joined the Kraken as a free agent, signed during an exclusive negotiating period afforded to the franchise ahead of the 2021 Expansion Draft, designating him as the pick from division rival Edmonton. It proved to be a shrewd move as the alternate captain has been a rock-solid stalwart from Day One in Seattle, leading the squad in time on ice in both seasons to date (23:38 last year). In December, he played in 300th straight NHL game and, a couple games later, appeared in his 800th NHL contest.

Known for his shutdown defense, Larsson has prospered in Dave Hakstol's system that encourages D-men to jump into the offensive rush and scoring chances. He scored eight goals in each of his first two SEA seasons and boosted his assists from 17 in 2021-22 to 25 last year. The "Big Cat" has sneaky-good offensive skills and skating ability that is not common among players with his size (6-foot-3, 209 pounds). It is not a

stretch to think Larsson could hit double figures in goals this season.

FUN FACTS: Only player to appear in all 82 games in both the first and second seasons for Seattle. Back home in Skelleftea, Sweden, Larsson has trained with new teammate Pierre-Edouard Bellemare every summer for 15 years since the two first met and became fast friends when Larsson was a gangly teen playing his first season with his hometown pro team and French-born Bellemare debuted as a pro in his mid-20s that same year.





### JARED MCCANN

### **FORWARD**

**SHOOTS:** Left

HEIGHT: 6-1

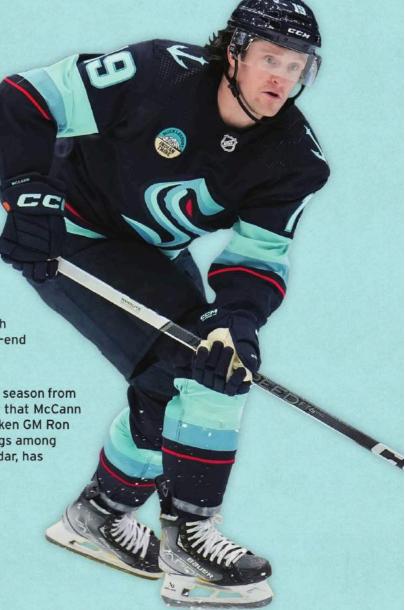
**WEIGHT: 191** 

BIRTHPLACE: Stratford, Ontario

BRIEF BIO: No bio about McCann begins anymore without mentioning his first 40-goal season in the NHL was in the Kraken's second season. McCann was a juniors star for OHL Sault Ste. Marie but even then didn't reach the 40-mark. Though his elite shot is a threat on the power play, the 2022-23 significant bump in goals was all about improved production in 5-on-5 play (in 2021-22, eight of his goals were PPG and seven PPG last season).

Some so-called experts contend his production was about a shooting percentage of 19 percent but it's important to point out he has hit 15 percent shooting percentage twice in previous seasons but not getting the same scoring chances he now routinely avails with linemates Matty Beniers and Jordan Eberle, both high-end passers.

FUN FACTS: Changed his number prior to the 2022-2023 season from 16 to 19. No superstition involved, just a favorite number that McCann wore with OHL Sault Ste. Marie, same club for which Kraken GM Ron Francis was a legendary player. There are lots of cute dogs among Seattle players, but there's a reason why his corgi, Cheddar, has more than 6,200 followers.

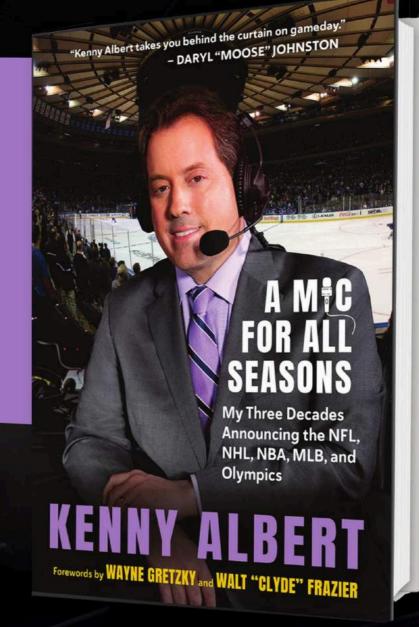




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### JAMIE OLEKSIAK

### **DEFENSEMAN**

SHOOTS: Left

HEIGHT: 6-7

WEIGHT: 257

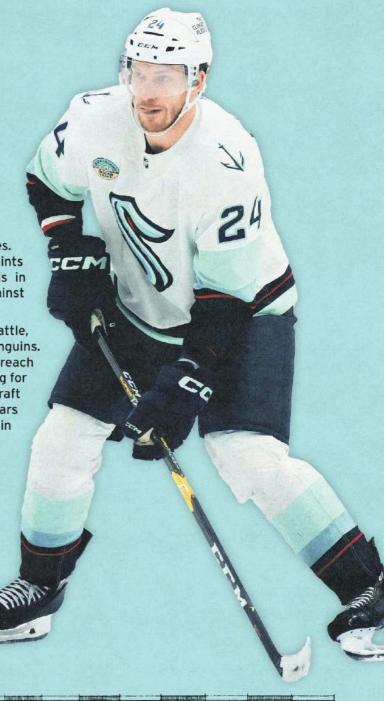
**BIRTHPLACE:** Toronto, Ontario

BRIEF BIO: The 6-foot-7, 257-pounder has delivered and then some when signed to be a reliable, physical, consistent top-four defenseman. His 2021 free agent contract counted as the Kraken's expansion pick from Dallas. On top of that, Oleksiak fits perfectly into Dave Hakstol's system of D-men jumping into the offensive rushes and zone scoring chances. He set career bests in goals (nine) and assists (16) and points (25) last season and he had some near-misses on goals in playoffs that might have turned the second-round result against his former Stars teammates.

Oleksiak had two different runs with Dallas before joining Seattle, sandwiched around a season and a half with the Pittsburgh Penguins. In the 2019-2020 Stanley Cup playoffs, he helped the Stars reach the Stanley Cup Final. Began his hockey development playing for NCAA Northeastern. Selected in first round of 2011 NHL Draft (14th overall). Called up to make his NHL debut with the Stars in 2013. With Seattle, he anchored the blue line, appearing in 72 games with one goal and 16 assists.

FUN FACTS: A citizen of U.S. and Canada, has represented each country in international play. He played for the United States at the 2009 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup and helped Canada win a bronze medal at the 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship.







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### JUSTIN SCHULTZ

#### **DEFENSEMAN**

SHOOTS: Right

**HEIGHT**: 6-2

**WEIGHT: 190** 

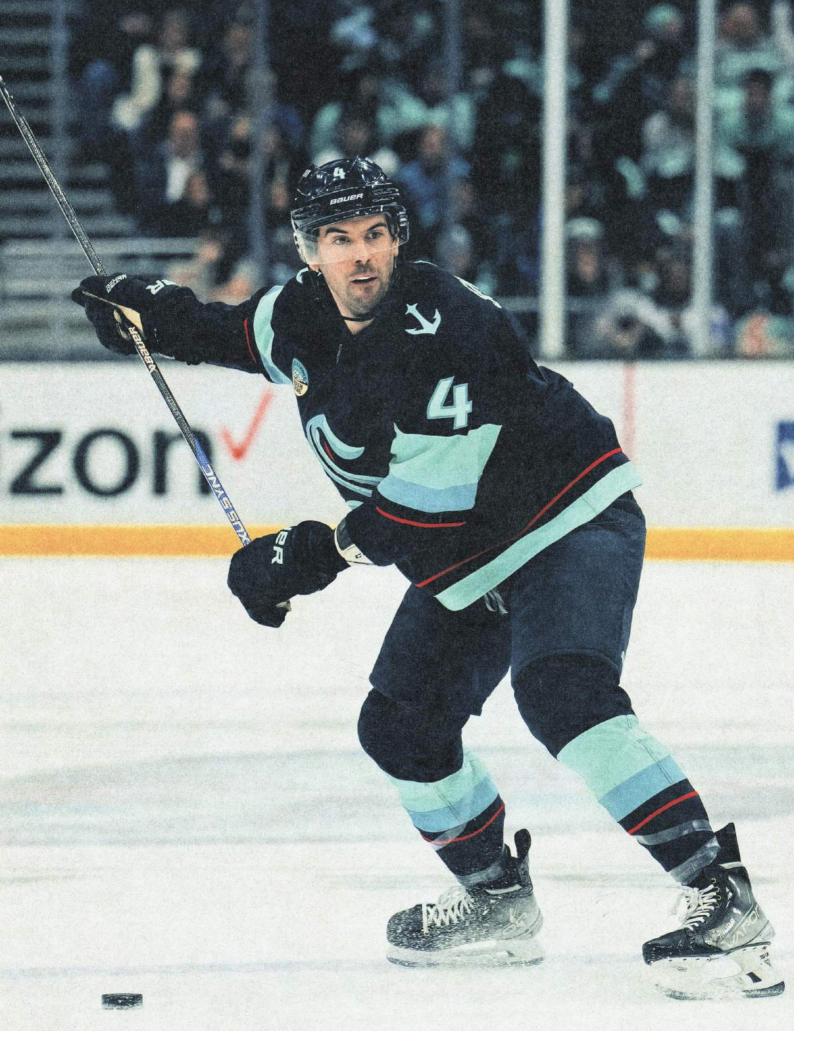
BIRTHPLACE: Kelowna, British Columbia

BRIEF BIO: The Kraken blueliner (3 goals, 7 assists) was the top scorer among SEA defenseman in last spring's playoff run and 4th leading scorer overall. He has a history of production during postseason and his regular season numbers last year - seven goals, 27 assists - were his best offensive stats since his 2016-17 career-high year with Pittsburgh (12 goals, 39 assists). By design of GM Ron Francis and coach Dave Hakstol, Schultz quarterbacked a power play unit, which boosted his point totals by 13 points (1 PP goal, 12 PP assists).

Signed with the Kraken in July as a free agent, much closer to his hometown of Kelowna, BC. Schultz arrived in Seattle with 602 NHL games played (with Edmonton, Pittsburgh and Washington), 264 points and two Stanley Cup rings he won with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2016 and 2017. The 33-year-old was an All-America defenseman for the University of Wisconsin, scoring 40 goals and 73 assists for 113 points over 121 games in three NCAA seasons. He made the NHL all-rookie team with EDM in 2012-13.

FUN FACTS: Schultz is familiar with several of his teammates having played with Jordan Eberle (Edmonton) plus Jared McCann, Brandon Tanev and Jamie Oleksiak in Pittsburgh.





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### JADEN SCHWARTZ

### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Left

HEIGHT: 5-10

**WEIGHT: 185** 

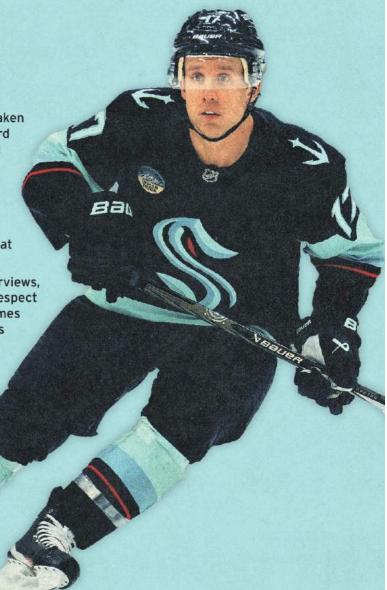
BIRTHPLACE: Wilcox, Saskatchewan

BRIEF BIO: One of the first free agents signed by the Kraken when they inked a contract in July 2021, pulling him westward from St. Louis, where he led the Blues in playoff goals during a Stanley Cup championship postseason in 2019. After an injury-plagued year during the inaugural season, the 2010 first-round pick rebounded with a 21-goal 2022-23 season plus five goals and five assists in the playoffs to rank third among Kraken scorers in what was a balanced attack. Schwartz now has five 20-goal seasons in his NHL career that spans a decade.

Appears to be a quiet leader if you only consider his media interviews, but teammates rave about his sense of humor and highly respect what he has to say in the locker room, especially before games and during intermissions. His net-front and in-the-corners toughness do not go unnoticed by the coaching staff and shows any new teammates that "if he goes to hard areas, you better do the same." He starts the season on a line with the returning Andre Burakovsky - should be

fun.

FUN FACTS: Schwartz had two hat tricks in that Cup-winning St. Louis postseason run. Family matter: Schwartz's brother played on hockey travel teams with teammate Jordan Eberle's brother. Both players are Saskatchewan natives.







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### DEVIN SHORE

### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Left

HEIGHT: 6-1

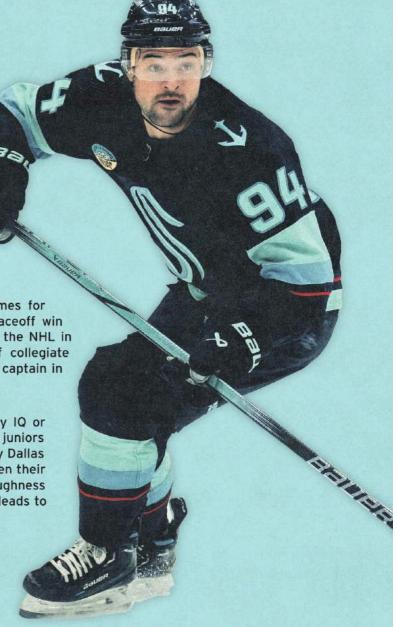
WEIGHT: 201

BIRTHPLACE: Ajax, ON

BRIEF BIO: In his ninth NHL season, totaled 135 points (50 goals, 85 assists) in 422 regular-season NHL games with the Edmonton Oilers, Columbus Blue Jackets, Anaheim Ducks and Dallas Stars before joining the Kraken as a summer 2023 free agent. Signed for depth and rugged two-way play, appeared in 17 Seattle games before Christmas and scored a first goal in Kraken colors at home on a solo break and moves that are sure to make the team's year-end highlight reel of pretty goals.

Notched nine points (one goal, eight assists) in 47 games for the Oilers in 2022-23, finishing the year with a 50.9 faceoff win percentage, going 89-for-175 at the dot. Prior to joining the NHL in 2015-16, played three seasons (2012-13 to 2014-15) of collegiate hockey at the University of Maine, serving as the team's captain in his final year.

FUN FACTS: GM Ron Francis puts a premium on hockey IQ or hockey sense, this SEA veteran is an example. Even as a juniors player preparing for his NHL future (drafted 61st overall by Dallas in 2012) he offered advice to youngsters on how to sharpen their hockey IQ: "The best way is to work on your mental toughness and develop confidence. Being confident in your abilities leads to seeing more plays on the ice."







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### BRANDON TANEV

#### **FORWARD**

**SHOOTS:** Left

HEIGHT: 6-0

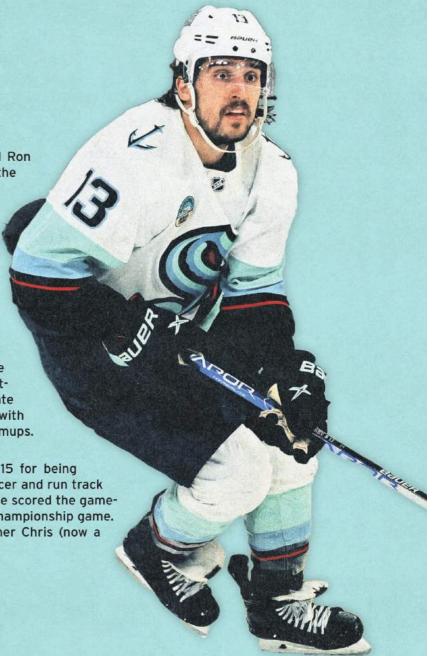
**WEIGHT: 189** 

**BIRTHPLACE:** Toronto, Ontario

BRIEF BIO: An expert none other than Kraken GM Ron Francis (with agreement no doubt from the rest of the front office and coaching staff) sees the 31-year-old as more than an energy player. Francis projects Tanev as a forward who can supply depth scoring and he has recent stats to back the case. The presumed fourth-line wing set personal bests for 16 goals and 19 assists last season playing a full 82 games in his post-knee injury return season.

Selected from Pittsburgh in the 2021 expansion draft, he got off to hot start with the Kraken, scoring nine goals in the first 30 games (24-goal pace) during the inaugural season but would injure his knee and miss the last 50 games of the season. He is a reliable penalty-killer who can also generate shorthanded scoring chances and in all cases, the teammate known as "Turbo" is hard to ignore when on the ice with his high-motor approach to every shift and even warmups.

FUN FACTS: Cut from his minor hockey team at 15 for being undersized. He took a year off of hockey to play soccer and run track before a growth spurt brought him back to the ice. He scored the gameand title-winning goal for Providence in the NCAA Championship game. A career highlight is the first game he faced brother Chris (now a Calgary D-man) in an NHL game.





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# 90 TOMAS TATAR

### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Left

**HEIGHT: 5-10** 

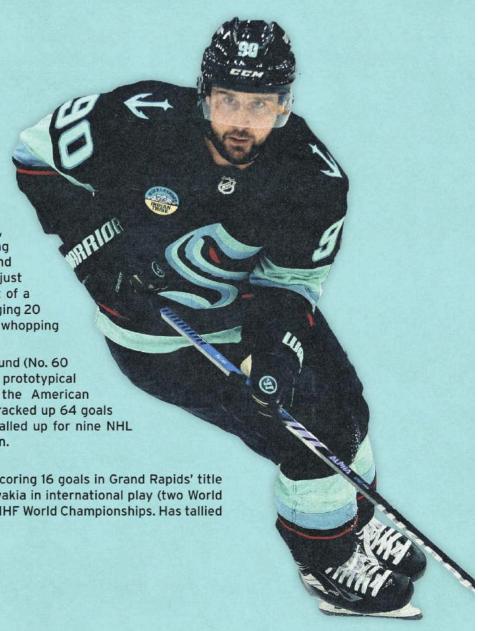
**WEIGHT: 173** 

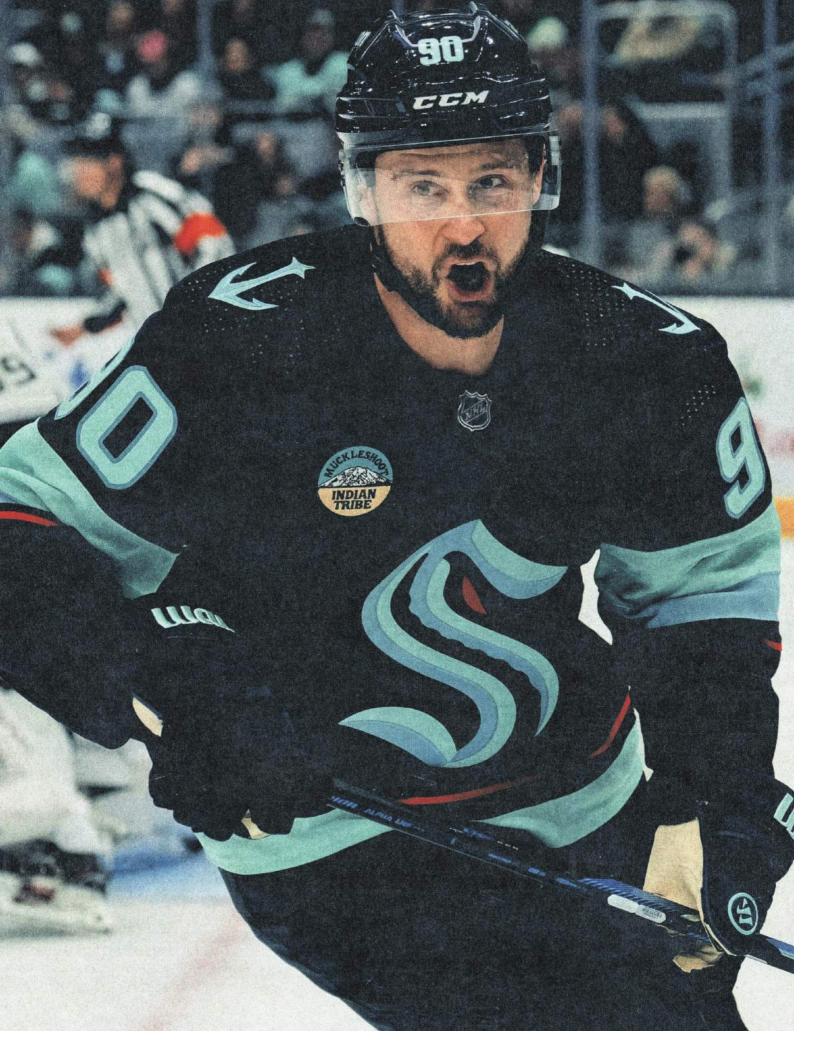
BIRTHPLACE: Ilava, SVK

BRIEF BIO: Joins the Kraken after a Dec.
15 trade with Colorado. Arrives with 212
NHL goals along with 252 assists in 810
games with four different teams. He has
posted 20-plus goal seasons in seven of
his 11 full NHL seasons. His production has
been impressive over the last five seasons,
with two banner years in Montreal during
2018-19 (25 goals, 33 assists, 58 points) and
2019-20 (22 goals, 39 assists for 61 points in just
68 games). Last season, he was a vital part of a
stellar season for the New Jersey Devils, bagging 20
goals and 28 assists with a plus-minus of a whopping
plus-41.

Tatar was drafted by Detroit in the second round (No. 60 overall) of the 2009 NHL Draft. He followed a prototypical development path of first prospering in the American Hockey League with Grand Rapids (MI). He racked up 64 goals over his first three AHL seasons and was called up for nine NHL games, scoring his first goal, during that span.

**FUN FACTS:** Named AHL playoffs MVP for scoring 16 goals in Grand Rapids' title run to the Calder Cup. Starred for Team Slovakia in international play (two World Juniors, the 2014 Winter Olympics, and four IIHF World Championships. Has tallied 30 game-winning goals in his NHL career.





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### EELI TOLVANEN

### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Left

**HEIGHT:** 5-10

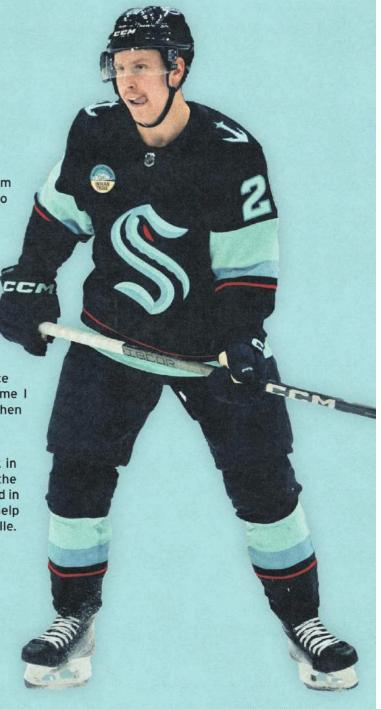
**WEIGHT: 191** 

**BIRTHPLACE: Vihti, FIN** 

BRIEF BIO: The Kraken claimed Tolvanen off waivers from the Nashville Predators Dec. 12 last season, acclimated to Dave Hakstol's systems of play over the second half of the month, then entered the lineup on Jan. 1 and didn't fall out of the rotation. He scored 16 goals in 48 games and earned significant time on the power play with his elite one-timer shot. This preseason, Tolvanen was getting looks in other roles on the power play as well.

The 24-year-old Finn, picked 30th overall by Nashville in 2017, has prospered with linemates Yanni Gourde and Oliver Bjorkstrand, providing plenty of hopeful evidence he will live up to his high draft position. When he joined the power play in early practices, power play quarterback Vince Dunn kept reminding his new teammate "to shoot every time I pass it to you," which encouraged "Tolvy" to not feel selfish when shooting.

FUN FACTS: Eeli (pronounced "EH-lee") notched a hat trick in his first Kontinental Hockey League game and was voted to the KHL All-Star Game, all as an 18-year-old. He starred for Finland in 2016 IIHF World Juniors with seven goals in seven games to help win the gold medal. A year later, he was debuting with Nashville.





### ALEX WENNBERG

#### **FORWARD**

**SHOOTS:** Left

HEIGHT: 6-2

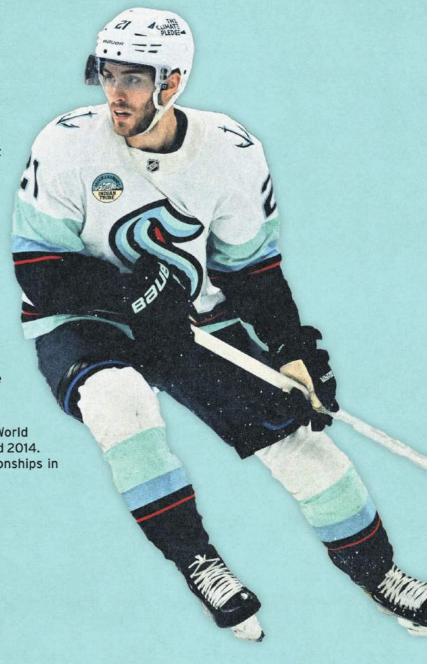
**WEIGHT: 190** 

BIRTHPLACE: Stockholm, SWE

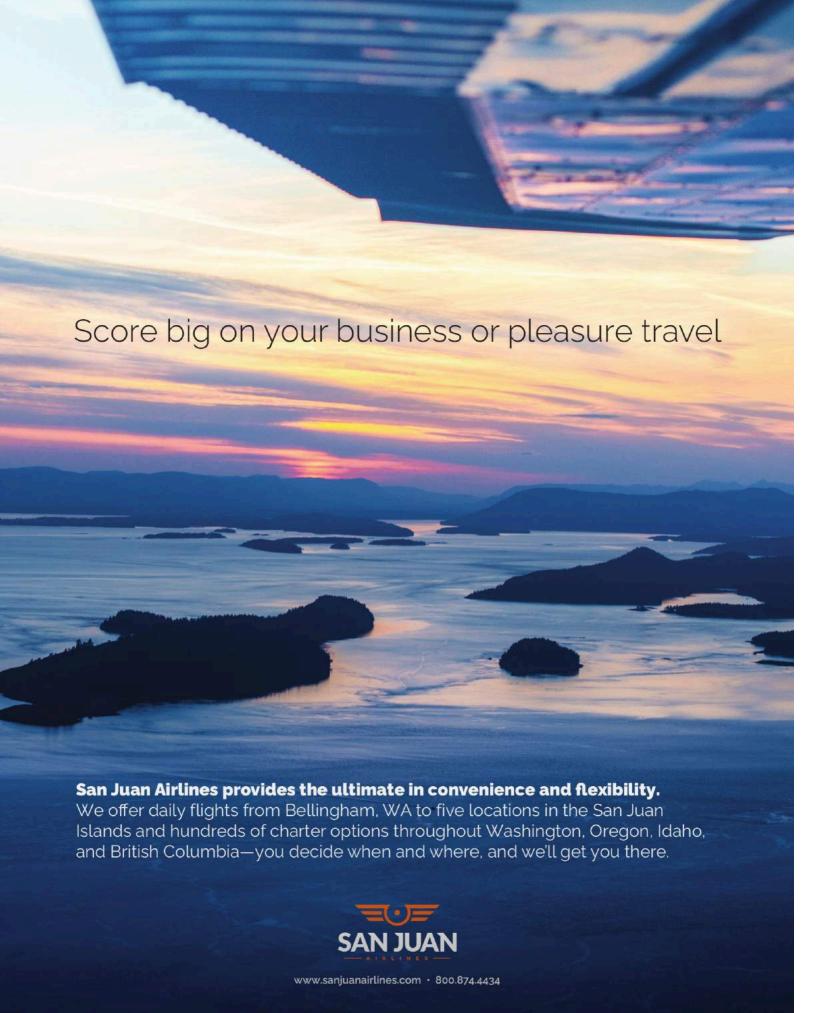
BRIEF BIO: Signed by the Kraken as a free agent signee on the first day of free agency in 2021, Wennberg has been a consistent two-way center who pitches in some goals and serves as a first-out penalty killer unless his line has just finished a shift. Wennberg is in the third season of his three-year deal, contributing 11 goals and 26 assists in 2021-22 and 13 goals and 25 assists last year. He's one of the team's fastest and smoothest skaters. He starts the season between Cup-winning wingers Jaden Schwartz and Andre Burakovsky.

Growing up in his native Sweden, Wennberg was a first-round Columbus selection (No. 14 overall) in 2013 NHL Draft. He was a rookie-of-the-year finalist in his first year in Sweden's top pro league and made his NHL debut in 2014.

FUN FACTS: Represented Sweden twice at the World Junior Championships, winning silver in both 2013 and 2014. As a pro, he participated at the IIHF World Championships in 2015 and 2019.







## 26

### RYAN WINTERTON

#### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Right

HEIGHT: 6-2

**WEIGHT: 175** 

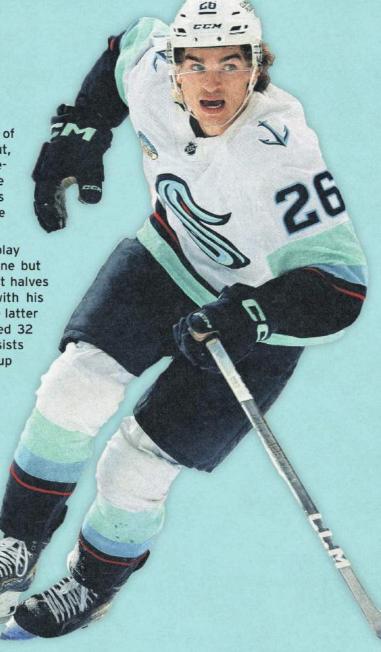
BIRTHPLACE: Markham, ON

BRIEF BIO: Twenty-year-old became second member of Kraken's first-ever draft class in 2021 to make his debut, recalled from AHL affiliate Coachella Valley for a three-game run in mid-November to offset a rash of injuries on the Kraken roster. Impressed veterans and coaching staff with his forechecking and overall two-way play in serving a fourth-line winger role with fellow call-up Shane Wright as his center.

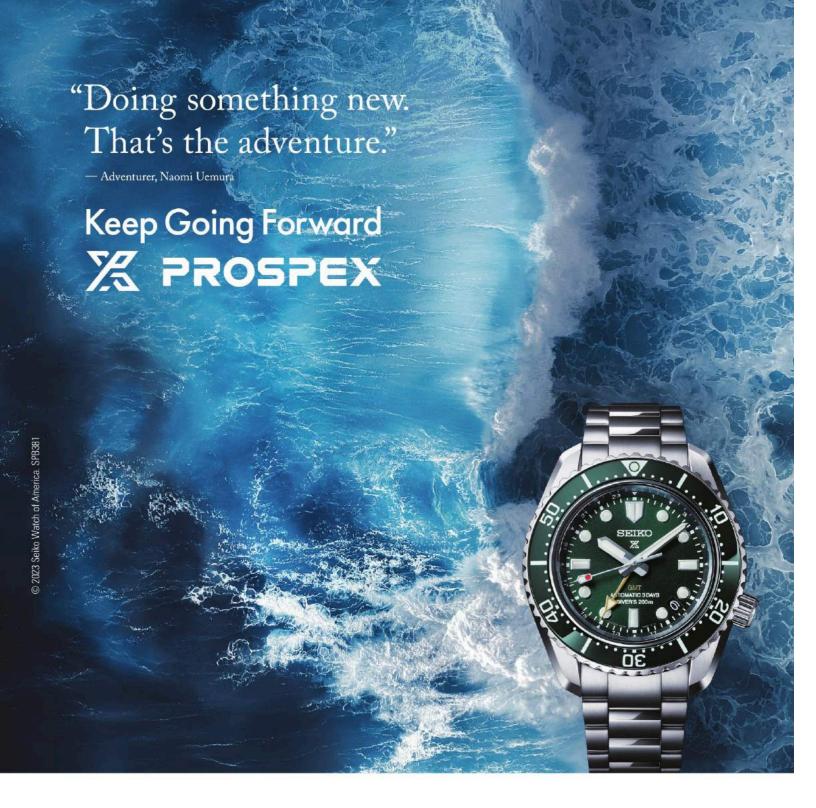
Winterton's potential as an offensive force was on display during his juniors seasons. Despite battling through not one but two shoulder injuries that kept him out of action in the first halves of 2021-22 ane 2022-23, he put up monster numbers with his teams in Ontario Hockey League, Hamilton and London (the latter via midseason trade). Over two regular seasons he notched 32 goals and 50 assists in 71 games, then 20 goals and 28 assists in 39 playoff games, going all the way to the Memorial Cup championship tourney with Hamilton in 2022.

As part of developing Winterton's full game, the Kraken 2021 third-rounder has worked penalty-kill minutes for Coachella Valley. Firebirds head coach Dan Bylsma likes what he sees: "He's a growing into the role and something he can continue to grow into to play in the National Hockey League. He's a scrappy, puck-tracking player."

FUN FACTS: Youngest member of Kraken's inaugural draft class. If he was born 11 days later, he would not have been draft-eligible until the summer 2022 event.









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## 51

### SHANE WRIGHT

#### **CENTER**

SHOOTS: Right

HEIGHT: 6-0

**WEIGHT: 192** 

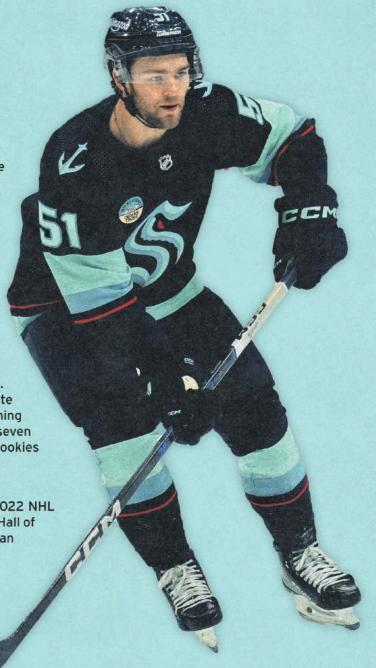
BIRTHPLACE: Burlington, ON

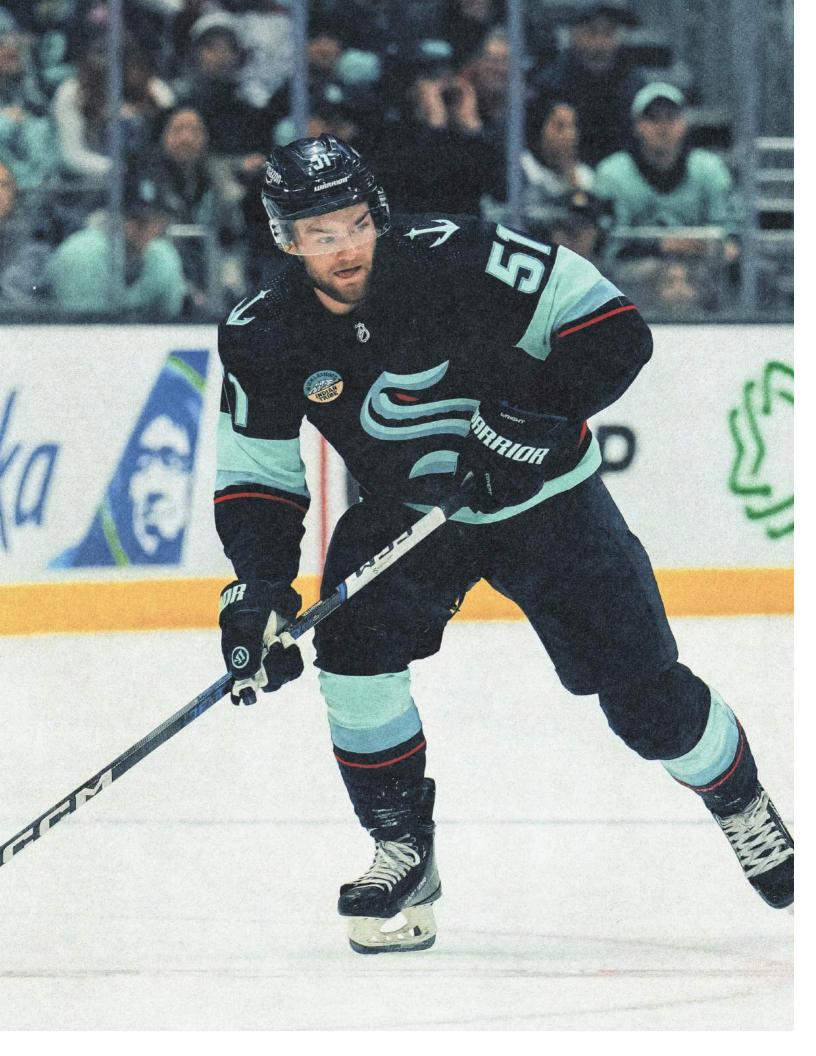
**BRIEF BIO:** Kraken 2022 first-rounder arrived in Seattle as a major building block for franchise. He played for four different teams during the 2022-23 season: Eight games for the Kraken to start the season, notching a goal and assist.

Then he joined Team Canada to serve as the squad's captain at the IIHF World Junior Championship, going on to win a gold medal after playing at a point-pergame pace in seven tournament games (four goals, three assists).

After the world championship success, Wright moved on to the Ontario Hockey League's Windsor Spitfires totaling 37 points (15 goals, 22 assists) in 20 regular-season games, averaging 1.85 points per game. Finished the season with American Hockey League affiliate Coachella Valley, appearing in eight games and notching four goals and two assists. He added two goals and seven assists in 24 AHL playoff games, top-six among all AHL rookies participating in AHL offseason.

FUN FACTS: Wright was the fourth overall pick in the 2022 NHL Draft, the same loft slot as Kraken general manager and Hall of Fame player, Ron Francis (Hartford, 1991) and defenseman Adam Larsson (New Jersey, 2011). On draft night, Shane's first text from a future Kraken teammate was from 2021 first-rounder Matty Beniers, less than five minutes after the selection.





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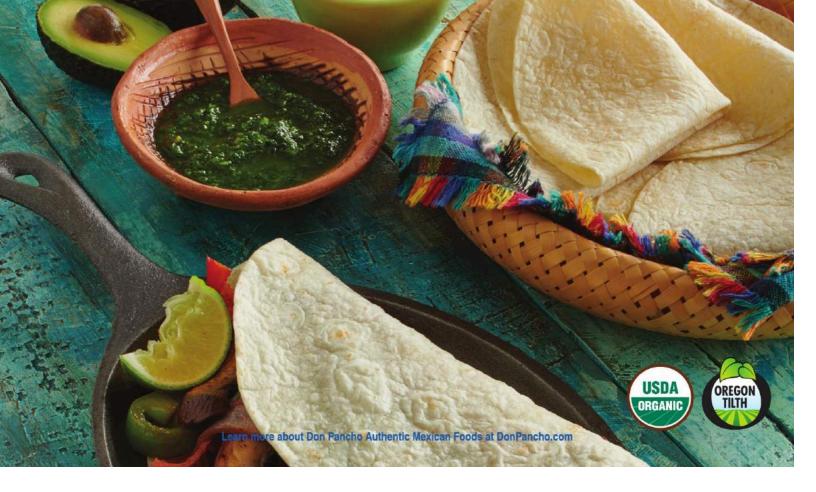


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### KAILER YAMAMOTO

#### **FORWARD**

SHOOTS: Right

HEIGHT: 5-8

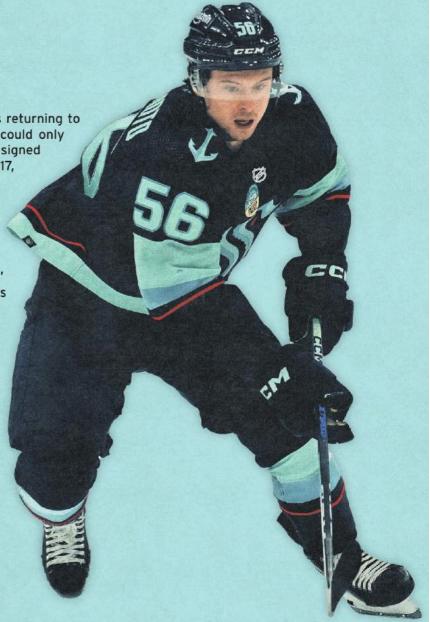
**WEIGHT: 153** 

BIRTHPLACE: Spokane, WA

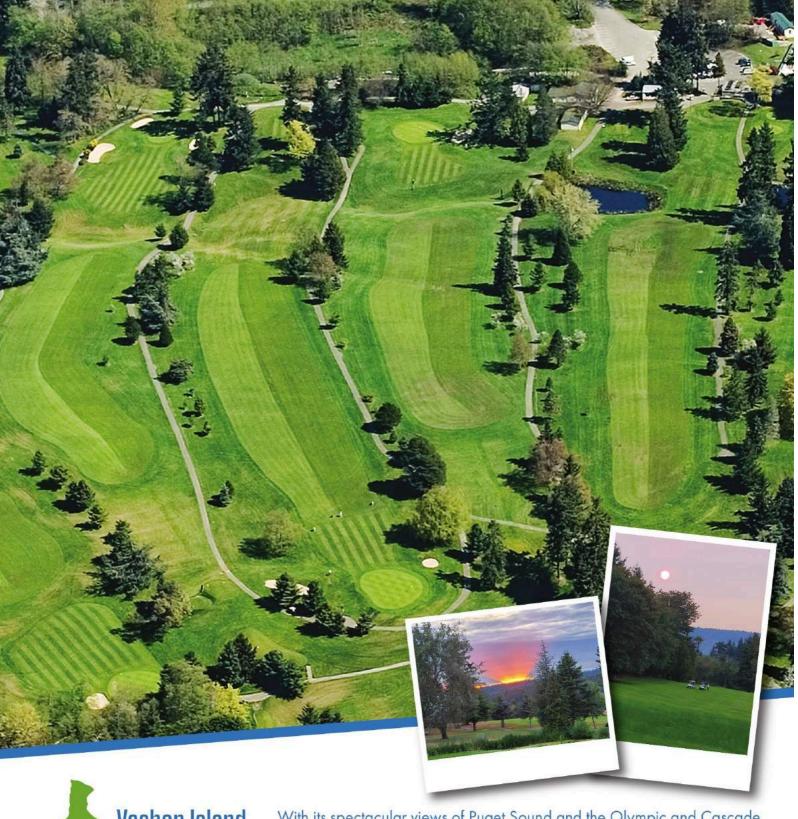
BRIEF BIO: Free-agent forward Kailer Yamamoto is returning to his home state to play for a Seattle franchise he could only dream about growing up in Spokane. The 25-year-old signed with the Kraken this summer. A first-round pick (2017, No. 22 overall), he has played his entire NHL career with the Edmonton Oilers, scoring 10 goals last season and 20 in 2021-22. When questioned right before season start about the Kraken's scoring depth compared to last season's playoff, GM Ron Francis identified Yamamoto as a forward with "real good skills" and "a speedy hard-working playmaker" who can provide scoring with departures of last year's fourth-liners.

Yamamoto was a star for the Western Hockey Spokane Chiefs (he racked up 99 points in his final season). He was actually traded from Edmonton to Detroit this summer, then the Red Wings bought out his contract to make him available as free agent. During a conversation before training camp, he said playing in Seattle is "surreal" and that his parents might be even happier about it than him.

FUN FACTS: Yamamoto started his youth hockey days in Spokane, then traveled regularly to play for Kent Valley teams in the Seattle area from age 8 to 11







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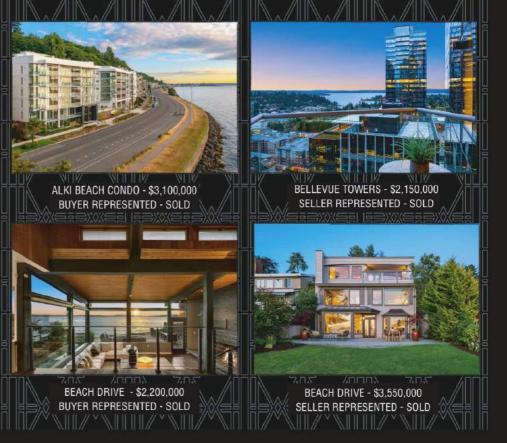
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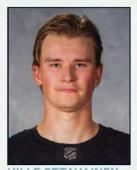




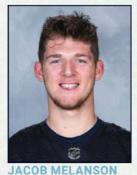
#### IN THE SYSTEM



#### **2021 DRAFT CLASS**



VILLE OTTAVAINEN
Defense
Fourth Round (99th overall)
2023-24: AHL Coachella Valley



Forward
Fifth Round (131st overall)
2023-24: AHL Coachella Valley

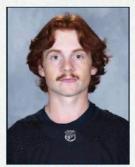


Goalie Sixth Round (163rd overall) 2023-24: VHL Toros Neftekamsk Russia



JUSTIN JANICKE
Forward
Seventh Round (195th overall)
2023-24: NCAA Notre Dame

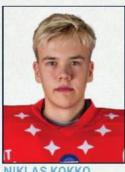
#### **2022 DRAFT CLASS**



JAGGER FIRKUS Forward Second Round (35th overall) 2023-24: WHL Moose Jaw



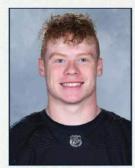
JANI NYMAN
Forward
Second Round (49th overall)
2023-24: Ilves Tempere FIN



NIKLAS KOKKO Goalie Second Round (58th overall) 2023-24: Karpat FIN



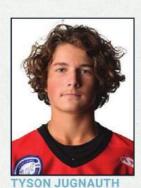
PAVID GOYETTE
Forward
Second Round (61st overall)
2023-24: OHL Sudbury



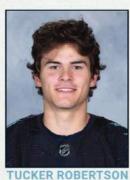
TY NELSON
Defense
Third Round (68th overall)
2023-24: OHL North Bay



BEN MACDONALD Forward Third Round (91st overall) 2023-24: NCAA Harvard



Defense Fourth Round (100th overall) 2023-24: WHL Portland



Forward
Fourth Round (123rd overall)
2023-24: AHL Coachella Valley



Forward
Sixth Round (164th overall)
2023-24: NCAA St. Cloud State



KYLE JACKSON Forward Seventh Round (196th overall) 2023-24: ECHL Kansas City

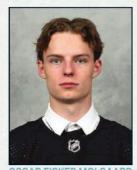


#### IN THE SYSTEM

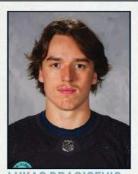
#### **2023 DRAFT CLASS**



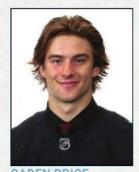
CARSON REHKOPF Center Second Round (50th overall) 2023-24: OHL Kitchener



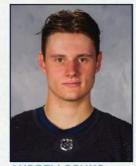
OSCAR FISKER MOLGAARD Center Second Round (52nd overall) 2023-24: HV71 Jonkoping SWE



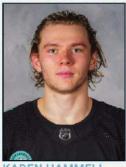
LUKAS DRAGICEVIC Defense Second Round (57th overall) 2023-24: WHL Tri-City



CADEN PRICE Defense Third Round (84th overall) 2023-24: WHL Kelowna



ANDREI LOSHKO Center Fourth Round (116th overall) 2023-24: QMJHL Rouyn-Noranda



KADEN HAMMELL
Defense
Fifth Round (148th overall)
2023-24: WHL Kamloops



Goalie Sixth Round (168th overall) 2023-24: Mestis Hermes Kokkola FIN



Center
Sixth Round (180th overall)
2023-24: SHL
Skelleftea AIK SWE

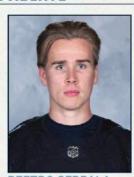


Right Wing Seventh Round (212th overall) 2023-24: NCAA Colorado College

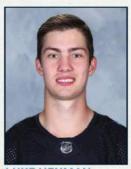
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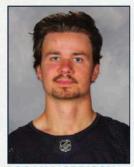
VILLE PETMAN
Defense
Signed on June 9, 2022
2023-24: AHL Coachella Valley



PEETRO SEPPALA
Defense
Signed on May 7, 2022
2023-24: AHL Coachella Valley



LUKE HENMAN Forward Signed on May 12, 2021 2023-24: AHL Coachella Valley



LOGAN MORRISON Center Signed April 11, 2023 2023-24: AHL Coachella Valley

#### COACHELLA VALLEY FIREBIRDS EXECS/COACHES





TROY BODIE

DIRECTOR, HOCKEY OPERATIONS

Troy joined American Hockey League affiliate Coachella Valley Firebirds in June 2021, focusing on hockey operations to Francis and business matters to help establish the Firebirds in the AHL and the community. The 2022-23 inaugural season certainly established both, with capacity crowds in attendance for the Firebirds' Western Conference championship and within one overtime Game 7 goal from winning the league's Calder Cup. He concurrently served in a player development role with the Kraken, working with the 2021 Seattle draft class through travel and 1-on-1 phone calls. Bodie was drafted by the Edmonton Oilers in the ninth round of the 2003 draft. He played nine years of professional hockey, including 159 NHL games with Anaheim, Carolina and Toronto. Troy is certainly familiar with AHL play: He appeared in 381 games (56 goals, 54 assists) with eight different AHL franchises over 10 seasons while also getting call-ups to the NHL.

Fun Fact: Troy and his Western Hockey League Kelowna Rockets won the coveted elite juniors Memorial Cup in 2004, the first-ever for the storied franchise.



DAN BYLSMA

Bylsma turned out to be the ideal coach for CVF's first year in the American Hockey League, leading the expansion-club roster to the Western Conference title and just an overtime goal of winning the league championship. He has worked eight seasons as an NHL head coach, including a six-season run in Pittsburgh from 2008 to 2014 in which the Penguins won a Stanley Cup in 2009. Bylsma was named Jack Adams Award NHL coach of the year in 2011. He was head coach of NHL Buffalo from 2015 to 2017. In June 2013, Bylsma was appointed head coach of the U.S. Olympic team for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. He began his coaching career in the AHL as an assistant for Cincinnati and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (where he later became head coach). As a player, Bylsma logged 429 NHL games nine seasons as a forward with Los Angeles and Anaheim. He spent time in the AHL, IHL and ECHL over his 840 pro-games career.

Fun Fact: Dan was once roommates with Kraken TV analyst Eddie Olczyk when teammates with the Los Angeles Kings.



JESSICA CAMPBELL

Campbell served as assistant coach for Germany at the 2022 IIHF Men's World Championship, the first female to do so at a Men's Worlds. Before joining the Firebirds for the inaugural season, Campbell worked with the Tri-City Storm of the USHL development program, heading the Windy City Storm girl's hockey program in Chicago while serving as assistant coach and skills coach for Nurnberg in Germany's Deutsche Eishockey Liga. Firebirds players are particularly appreciative of her drills and mentorship to become both faster and more agile skaters. As a player, the Rocanville, SK, native represented Canada in two U18 World Junior Championships. She was a captain in 2010, scoring the gold medal-winning goal and earning tournament MVP. She played five games for Canada at the 2015 Women's Worlds, plus three professional seasons in the pro CWHL, winning the Clarkson Cup in 2016. Campbell played four years (2010 to 2014) at Cornell, serving as captain as a senior.

Fun Fact: Jessica is the first-ever woman to be an assistant coach in the AHL.



STU BICKEL ASSISTANT COACH

Bickel joined the Firebirds coaching staff for the highly successful 2022-23 season after serving as the assistant coach for the AHL's Springfield Thunderbirds for the 2021-2022 hockey year. Bickel previously served as head coach and assistant general manager for the Minnesota Magicians in the North American Hockey League. A native of Minnesota, Bickel worked as an assistant coach at alma mater University of Minnesota, from 2018 to 2020. As an undrafted free agent signed by Anaheim in 2008, Bickel appeared in 76 NHL games from 2011 to 2015 for the New York Rangers and Minnesota Wild. The defenseman/winger played for six different AHL franchises over 10 AHL seasons and 310 games. He works with Firebirds defensive corps among other duties.

Fun Fact: Stu certainly knows about the various levels of hockey that AHL players have experienced. He skated in the NHL, AHL and ECHL pro levels, plus NCAA Division I, the USHL, North American Hockey League as an amateur.



Nisqually people were first known as the Squally-absch, meaning "people of the grass country," referring to the many prairies that bloomed with blue camas blossoms east of Puget Sound.

Americans later changed the French word for us and the river, Nesquallies, to Nisqually. Our ancestors roamed 90 miles from the mouth of the Nisqually River in the summer where abundant salmon were caught and dried, to the upper watershed on Mount Rainier where hunting was excellent in the winter.

Nisqually Chief Leschi refused to sign the Treaty of Medicine Creek, which led to a better treaty for Nisqually later, though it still ceded thousands of acres of land to non-tribal settlers in return for maintaining our tribe's fishing, hunting and gathering as we always had. Federal and city governments later condemned hundreds of acres of Nisqually land for what became Ft. Lewis, now known as Joint Base Lewis-McChord.





Today, we have re-acquired some land for housing and a commercial presence that includes the Nisqually RedWind Casino, the Nisqually Markets and other enterprises employing 800 people in Thurston County, most of whom are non-tribal. Additionally, we employ an estimated 500 tribal and non-tribal people in government and service jobs. This puts Nisqually in the top 10 employers in Thurston County.

Yet we are still fishermen and people of the grass. As we have since time immemorial, we will be stewards of our land, our salmon, our heritage and our people.

We will always be here.



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#### OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 BAK 7PM	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 TUC 7PM
22	23	24	25 ONT 7PM	26	27	28 SJ 6PM
29 SJ 3PM	30	31 ABB 7PM				

#### **NOVEMBER 2023**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 BAK
5	6	7	8 SD 7PM	9	10	11 CGY 6PM
12 TUC SPM	13	14	15 HSK 7PM	16	17 TUC 6PM	18 TUC 6PM
19	20	21 ONT 7PM	22	23	24	25 BAK 7PM
26	27	28	29 SJ 7PM	30		

#### **DECEMBER 2023**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 ONT	2 ONT 6PM
3	4	5	6	7	8 ABB 7PM	9 ABB 7PM
10	11	12	13 ABB 7PM	14	15	16 BAK 6PM
17 COL 5PM	18	19	20 HSK 7PM	21	22	23 BAK 6PM
24 31	25	26	27 SD 7PM	28	29 TUC 6PM	30

#### JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 CGY 12PM	<sup>2</sup> CGY 6PM	3	4	5	6 ABB
7 ABB 2PM	8	9	10 SD 6PM	11	12 COL 6:05PM	13 <b>COL</b> 6:05PM
14	15 HSK 6PM	16	17 HSK 7PM	18	19 CGY 7PM	20 ONT 6PM
21	22	23	24 HSK 7PM	25	26 TEX 5PM	27 TEX 5PM
28	29	30	31 CGY 7PM	1		

#### **FEBRUARY 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 CGY 7PM	2	3 TUC 6PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 HSK 6PM
11	12	13	14	15 SJ 7PM	16	17 COL 6PM
18 HSK SPM	19	20	21 SJ 7PM	22	23 ONT 7PM	24
25	26	27	28 SJ 7PM	29		

#### MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
233411137					1 BAK	2 SJ 6PM
3	4	5	6 SD 7PM	7	8 SD 7PM	9 TUC 6PM
10	11	12	13	14	15 ONT 7PM	16
17	18	19	20 TEX 7PM	21	22 BAK 7PM	23 TEX 6PM
24 3	25	26 CGY 6PM	27 CGY 6PM	28	29	30 HSK 7PM

**APRIL 2024** 

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 SJ 7PM	5	6 ABB
7	ABB 4PM	8	9	10 ONT 7PM	11	12 BAK 7PM	13
14	SD 3PM	15	16	17 TUC 7PM	18	19	20 SD 6PM
21	SD 3PM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28		29	30				

\*ALL TIMES PACIFIC. DATES & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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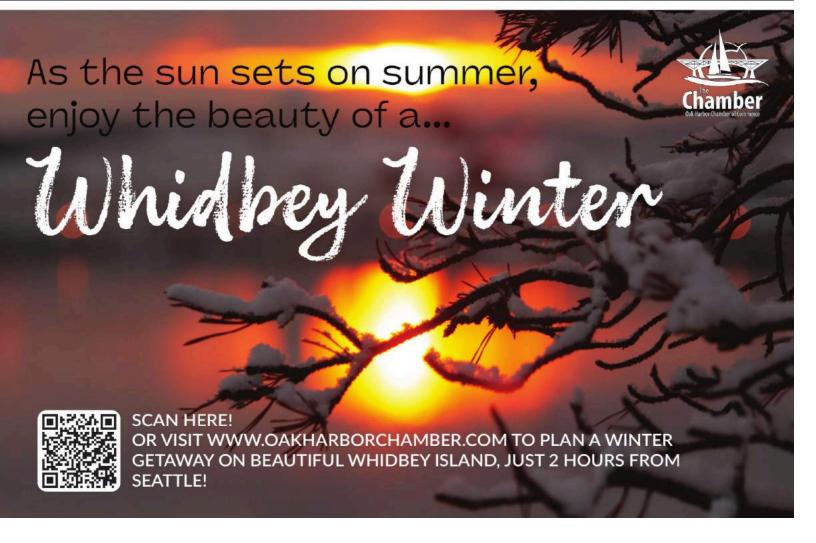
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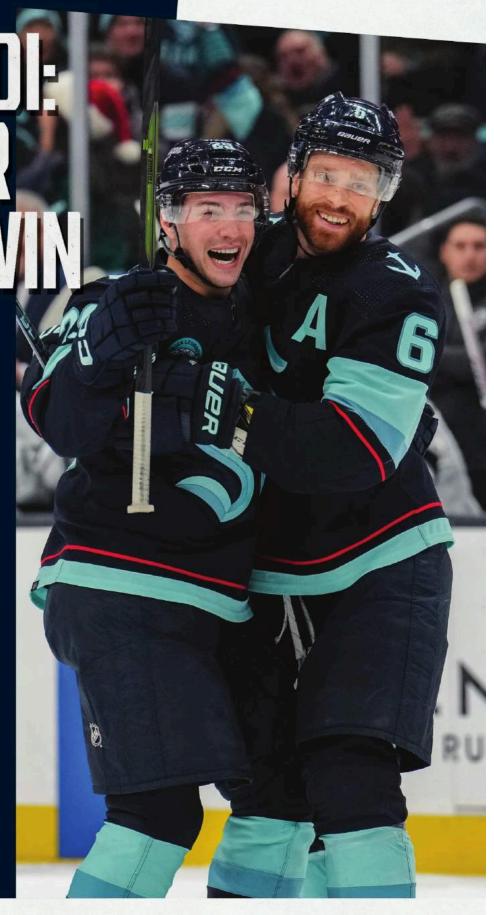
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TO SEE PLAYERS MOST
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CAN SEEK TIME ON ICE
STATS, PLUS LEARN
WHY SHIFT LENGTH
MATTERS. JUST ASK
ANALYST JT BROWN

BY BOB CONDOR

s an NHL player, Kraken broadcast analyst JT Brown played 365 regular season games over seven seasons with three teams, plus 41 more in the postseason that included 24 games with Tampa Bay in 2015 when Lightning reached the Stanley Cup Final.

Now in his third year as an analyst beside Kraken play-by-play man John Forslund, Brown's 365 is all about continuing his formidable and popular craft as a former player who helps tell the story of each Kraken season, goal by goal, shift by shift, from the perspective of an athlete who played top minutes and starred at NCAA Minnesota-Duluth, signed with Tampa Bay as a top undrafted free agent and averaged 12 to 14 minutes of time on ice per game for the franchise.

Brown has a bountiful mental catalog of playing experiences to inform viewers on ROOT Sports, but also keeps a meticulous notebook to prepare for every broadcast. During games, he likes to get a copy of each period's stat sheet. He specifically scans for time-on-ice numbers, looking hard at shift lengths per player.



His search can turn up outliers to the typical NHL shift, which roughly varies from 35 to 45 seconds of game-clock time. Among other nuggets to help educate fans, he's looking for fresh players who might be matching up with tired opponents or whether a team is effectively getting fatigued skaters off the ice.

"I'm sure there is somebody who's done the science behind it, but always the longer your shifts, the more mistakes you end up making," said Brown. "Your knees are not as bent [as optimal], you're more upright, you're not making good decisions with the puck."

Stop there for any hockey players, youth programs or adult league: Brown is pointing out skating form or posture as an indicator the pros use every shift, whether knees are bent at 90 degrees range, knees over toes, shoulders aligned with knees and toes, pressure on balls of the feet.

Back to Brown on why shift length matters in hockey at the highest level: "As a shift goes

on, you get tired. Obviously, you only have so much oxygen going whether it's going to go into your brain to make smart decisions or you don't have enough energy to backtrack [say, defend an opposing rush or retrieve a puck]."

Brown said players who extend a shift - there is not always a choice because defending in your team's zone is a must - can feel it on the next time jumping over the boards and into play on the fly.

"Let's say you have one or two big shifts, it's hard to get yourself back to feeling 100 percent," said Brown. "It might take one or two shifts [in the 40-second range] to kind of get yourself back to feeling you can give 100 percent. If you give 100 percent on for 30 to 40 seconds, you're going to get tired and it's time for a change."

Time of ice of TOI is a stat worth following for fans. You can see which players

are winning a coach's trust at even strength or during powerplays and penalty kills. There are some players who beef up TOI per game because they are on the ice with one-goal leads at the end of game. You can compare players to see how many shots on goal or scoring chances they generated as compared to time on ice.

The top NHL leaders for time on ice per game will always be defensemen. It starts as strictly a numbers proposition. Most NHL coaches roll out four lines of three forwards each (center and two wings) during a game but most frequently only three pairs of defensemen. Strictly math: The centers and wings divvy up 60 minutes four ways (with the top-six forwards averaging more than bottomsix) or a 15 minutes-per-game average.



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Suiting up six defenseman divides out to 20 minutes per D-man.

Fans won't be surprised to know Vince Dunn and Adam Larsson lead the Kraken in TOI: Dunn has played more shifts than his defensive partner but Larsson totals more minutes overall because he logs giant time on ice during Kraken penalty kills. Both D-men average nearly 24 minutes per game. Larsson's shorthanded time on the penalty-kill tends to feature longer shifts than Dunn's work on power plays. Fellow defenseman Jamie Oleksiak averages just under 20 minutes, which includes topfour minutes with even-strength partner Will Borgen, plus Oleksiak joining Larsson on back line of the power play.

Larsson ranks top 25 among all NHLers in time of ice per game, Dunn is top 35. Among forwards, Alex Wennberg leads Seattle with nearly 19 minutes of TOI per game, which includes both penalty-kill and power play shifts. Interesting note: In a separate conversation with JT Brown last season on a long road trip, the commentator said Wennberg is a Kraken player "who never looks tired" on the ice.

Wennberg's fellow top-line centers, Matty Beniers and Yanni Gourde are next among forwards for average TOI, both in 18-minute territory while veterans Jordan Eberle and Jaden Schwartz lead the wingers. The Kraken's emphasis on depth scoring and rolling four lines consistently in games shows in league-wide rankings in which superstars like Colorado's Nathan MacKinnon and Mikko Rantanen and Edmonton's Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl log monster minutes with bottom-six forwards on those roster seeing few shifts during a game.

Fun and perhaps insightful fact: During his nine-game debut with the Kraken in December (he is back with the team on this road trip as the reserve defenseman), rookie and 2021 second-round draft choice Ryker Evans averaged just under 18 minutes (17:58) of ice time per game.

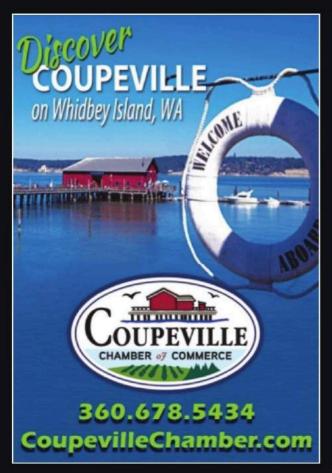
Keeping track of TOI is a way for hockey fans to get a deeper look into the sport. TOI is similar important tool for hockey analytics experts to standardize a player's most relevant contribution over a 60-minute length-of-game basis.

For younger pros, shift length is both a challenge and learning opportunity. Fans can watch shift changes to see that veteran players frequently get themselves off the ice on shorter shifts with double value: A fresh player jumps into play and the veteran saves energy for next shift or later game when a prime scoring chance or need for a clutch defensive move arises.

While American Hockey League affiliate Coachella Valley, the AHL's defending Western Conference champs, worked through an inconsistent start to its second-ever season, the Firebirds have played more of the style and pace of late that took them to Game 7 overtime of the Calder Cup Final. Coachella Valley is once again among the top teams in the AHL with realistic goals of leading both the Pacific Division and Western Conference.

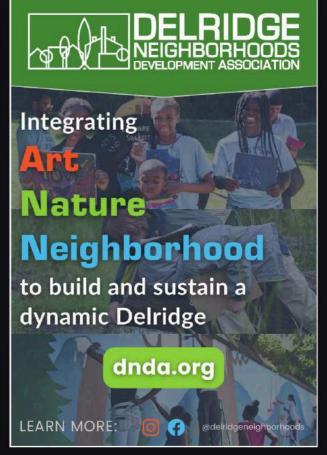
Firebirds head coach Dan Bylsma, who has studied shift length as both an NHL player and Stanley Cup-winning head coach, says the squad's early inconsistency can in part be attributed to the learning curve about shift length, staying on ice too long among some of the team's newer players who are perhaps accustomed to longer shifts in juniors or college play.

"There's summer hockey, maybe skating four-on-four," said Bylsma. "You stay on the ice for maybe three minutes. It's possible to stay on the ice for three minutes if you go 60 percent. If you stay out for a minute and a half, you can play at 80 percent. But in order to play at a certain level and pace [required to succeed in the AHL and NHL]. When you go from summer hockey to training camp, you are breaking that habit." \$\igcup\$











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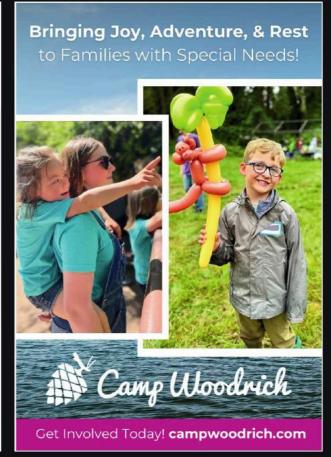




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# HERE'S THE SITUATION (ROOM)

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE TEAM OF PEOPLE FOCUSED ON UPHOLDING CONSISTENCY OF PLAY THROUGHOUT THE NHL, VERIFYING THAT PUCKS "ENTER THE NET THE RIGHT WAY" AND MORE

BY ALISON LUKAN



I's an hour before NHL games begin on a late fall night in the midst of downtown Toronto. On the 10th floor of an otherwise typical office building on Bay Street, a vital part of the National Hockey League's nerve center is coming to life. We're inside the NHL's Situation Room - home for a dedicated team of professionals who collectively watch every millisecond of every game played to ensure as much consistency as possible across the game of hockey.

"(This is) where we are the keepers of the game," said Kris King, the NHL's executive vice-president of hockey operations who played 849 games for six NHL teams and was drafted by a seventh. "We watch the games, and we try to keep [them] fair and safe for everybody involved."

King and his colleagues watch literally everything that happens on NHL ice. Along with monitoring game calls and action, this group impressively and often can identify elements of the game that might need attention, clarification or re-enforcement. In any and all cases, the most impactful work

is determining if every goal is a good goal.

"It could be four guys [in the room] on a quiet night, it could be 25 guys on a busy night," King said. "Our job is to make sure that games are played fairly, and to make sure that the pucks - more importantly - enter the net the right way. Our guys that are assigned to a specific game, it's their job to watch that game and that game only. And if they have any issues in the game, they let us up here know."

The walls of the room are papered with large monitors that can showcase one view of a game or split to show multiple angles or separate games depending on the busyness of the schedule. Across the length of the room runs two rows of workstations. The back row is dedicated to game-specific viewers who watch multiple angles of a game simultaneously with pinpoint precision. This group is, yes, watching hockey games for a living, but it is serious business.

The center of the top row is King's office for the night - he runs point across all games serving as a second set of eyes, a touchpoint for questions and ultimately communication to game-level officials as needed. He's an ideal man for the job, skilled and rugged as player, served as captain in Winnipeg and was honored with the 1985 King Clancy Trophy that goes to the NHL player who best exemplifies leadership on and off the ice. He worked as hard on charitable work as he did at the rink.

Throughout a game, you can hear King call out to one of his loggers about a specific play. There's ongoing communication about what games are being played. And everyone jumps into action if a challenge is issued from one of the coaches in a matchup.

"There's a process we follow," King said. "We talk to the officials that made the call in real-time at the arena. We'll supply them with as much information as they need [including] replays. Of course, you remember they've called those plays once in real-time at quite quick speeds, I might add, so we slow it down."

Important point here: The two referees and two linesman working an NHL games are making calls in split-second about plays that can be at warp speed or tangled with bodies or both. "We're methodical in what we show the officials," said King, known widely and fondly as "Kinger", of course per hockey nickname tendecies. "We talk them through the process and between ourselves and the referees on the ice, we get to the right call. We use our experience and our consistency ... and we react to the situations that we have to."

There are more people than just game loggers and oversight personnel in the situation room. There's always a retired official in the situation room as well as an IT professional to make triple-sure all the technology required to watch and support games in real-time is running as planned. An NHL game waits for no internet connection issue.

And that technology is always improving. King and his team are always upgrading equipment - just recently they added new headsets to improve communication with onice officials. Seems like a small detail but just ask any referee how it works when a home arena is, well, expressing their opinions that can be measured in decibels. By next season, the Situation Room team will move into a bigger space to allow for more real estate for screens and other upgraded systems.

Whether a day has just four games on the slate, or all 32 teams are in action, the task for the group in the situation room remains the same: Maintain consistency in how goals enter the net in the NHL with an ever-present eye on how the game can be improved. That every

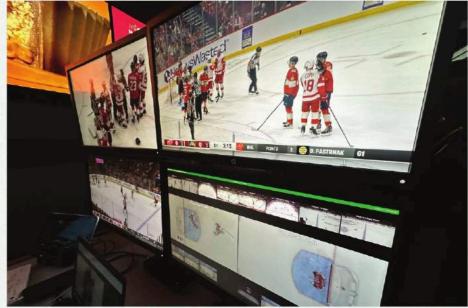
score is reviewed and verified here (almost always seamlessly) before action starts again is unique to this professional team sport.

"One thing about this room is I think you have to understand we really like the game because we watch a heck of a lot of it," King said. "We're just trying to deliver the best product we possibly can. We rely on that original call on the ice by the official, and then we rely on our consistency of the same guys making those calls every night to get to the right answer. One team might not like the call one night, and they might like it another. But we have no [stake] in the game. We just want to use our experience to get to the right call. \$\psi\$









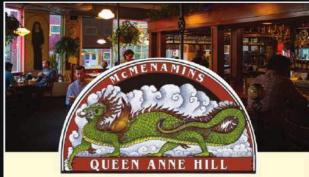


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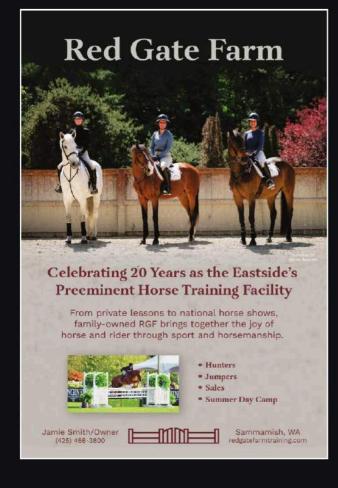
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### NEW SEASON, NEW FISH

HONORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SALMON, THOSE WHO FISH

FOR IT AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, A NEW SPECIES OF FISH JOINS KRAKEN 2023-24 POST-WIN CELEBRATIONS BY ALISON LUKAN 140 D 2023-24 SEATTLE KRAKEN YEA

f you're a Kraken fan, you know that when the team wins on home ice, the three stars of the game toss a stuffed salmon into the stands. You also know this tradition has come to lovingly be called "yeeting the fish." But fans attending games at Climate Pledge Arena this season will see something new and plush: a new species of salmon comes to life: the Coho.

For the third straight year, a different class of salmon is being celebrated. After seeing the bright sockeye in the inaugural season; and last year's pink salmon; this year's Coho is known for its darker back, silver sides and lighter belly.

But introducing a new fish is not just about bringing a different look to the celebratory toss. It's about the deep connection salmon has to the Pacific Northwest region and its people.

Even before a single player took to the ice, the Kraken formed a partnership with Anchorage-based Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC), the largest (and most sustainable) wild salmon fishery in the world. As the two entities worked together to ensure the importance of salmon both culturally and economically was built into the Kraken identity, along came the idea to have a post-game salmon toss. BBNC became the go-to advisor for how to create a stuffed fish that looked just like the real thing.

Enter Lilani Dunn, marketing director for Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association (RSDA).

Dunn is one of many who represents the fishermen of Bristol Bay (the preferred term of all genders) while working closely with scientists to ensure every harvest is sustainable and healthy.

Suffice it to say Dunn knows her salmon.

And so, when the Kraken's Nicole Shabaz, who oversees the development of each year's fish, needed to know exactly how to build a proper salmon, Dunn was the very best resource.

"We give (Shabaz) very detailed specs every season," Dunn said. "(The salmon) is not meant to be a cartoon. It's very life-like. It's accurate to the exact size of what is being harvested, and what's getting pulled out of the water season after season. The end result has been really accurate and impressive."

That specificity has great value. It's not just that Shabaz and Dunn want the fish to look real. And it's not just that salmon – fishing and seafood have been baked into Seattle's DNA for generations. Those who fish for salmon bring one of the healthiest proteins to our tables, work Dunn describes as "serious, important and dangerous." She says it's been meaningful to the fishermen she advocates for to see the connection between what they do and their local NHL team.

There's more: Beyond just the fish design, Dunn works very closely with Shabaz to identify the facts that go on the tag affixed to every salmon. Each tag explains more about the species, its importance and the mission of BBNC.

"I think the tag is great, it's very informative," Dunn said. "It ties in with what the state of Alaska hopes for all of its fisheries. It ties back to The Climate Pledge. [The Bristol Bay fishery] is very sustainable. [All of the Information on the tag] is a great nod to the Alaska Native community - the Indigenous people with whom this partnership that upholds the climate pledge is truly with."

So why the Coho this year? Of course, there's a reason. Dunn laughs and says, "Coho is having its moment." In fact, Coho is probably the species of salmon you see more than others both in restaurants and for retail purchase right now (even if it's just called "salmon").

And with every detail nailed down so thoughtfully, both Dunn and Shabaz couldn't be more proud of what they've been able to create each year. They believe they've crafted something that isn't just fun, but adheres to the principles of sustainability while providing education on the significance of salmon to the PNW and its people.

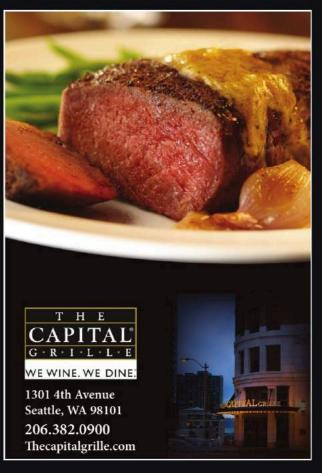
"Seafood is very meaningful to Seattle," Dunn said about the extremely popular and now firmly established Kraken post-victory tradition. "For our hockey team to honor that in this very fun way is special. It's just such a great way of celebrating that long history." J

















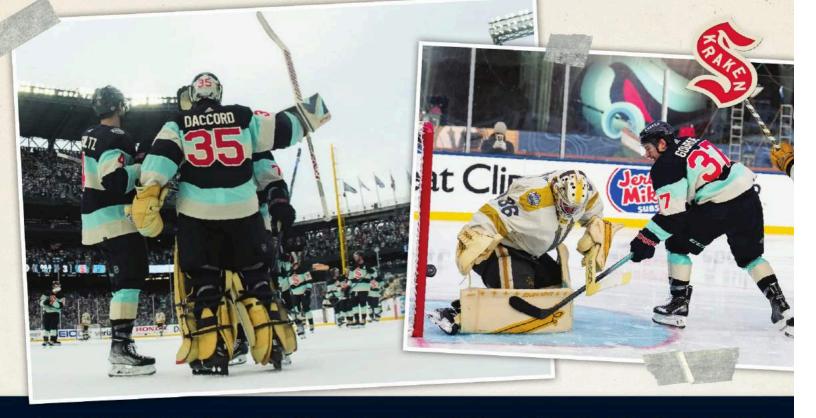
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### TAKE ME OUT TO THE CLASSIC

#### GOALIE JOEY DACCORD POSTS FIRST-EVER WINTER CLASSIC SHUTOUT IN 3-0 WIN OVER VEGAS WITH 47,313 BRINGING THE MEGA-NOISE

BY BOB CONDOR WITH PHOTOS BY CHRIS MAST

There are so many historic and fun memories to hold dear to our hockey hearts from the 2024 NHL Winter Classic from start to finish:

- Early morning the Kraken players arrive in bright orange mackinaw wool fisherman's overalls and matching orange caps (kudos to Filson) with the flaps that pretty much make the whole get-up. Alternate captains Jordan Eberle and Adam Larsson wear same in pre-game media interview session.
- Kraken take the ice to thunderous cheers, heading out of the Mariners dugout at the ballpark, while eight fishmongers, in pairs, toss salmon over the players' heads in a please-don't-drop-it canopy (and it worked, you could even call it balletic).
- Bellevue High freshman Nikhil Bagga plays national anthem on his guitar, hitting all the notes, to rousing appreciation from the crowd of 47,313 and players as Naval Air Station Whidbey Island helicopters fly overhead with two aircrewman hanging from ropes (Will Borgen called it a top highlight and he scored one of the three Kraken goals, which happened to be his first of the season).
- Eeli Tolvanen scores in the first period (bedlam noise) to make it
   1-0 with Joey Daccord generating "Joey, Joey" chants early with 10 saves. The aforementioned Borgen makes it 2-0 after 40 minutes.
- Perhaps the best and most Krakenesque moment is fan-favorite/ alternate captain/relentless two-way center Yanni Gourde scoring an unassisted goal to make it 3-0 early third period. Gourde, as per his never-quit style, stole the puck in the offensive zone, fought off a defender and effectively willed the puck into the net. It's hard to tell which post-goal decibels were loudest but no one was more pumped and relieved than Gourde, who had gone 16

- games without a goal. When the Mariners centerfield jumbotron showed Gourde on the bench during the goal announcement, he smiled and gave a thumbs-up on cue. Pure Yanni.
- Joey Daccord finishes with 35 saves and the first-ever Winter Classic shutout. Hard to count the number of "Joey! Joey!" serenades from the crowd, which included a celebratory and kidfriendly bullpen golf-cart ride with mascot Bouy (arms draped) to deliver the rookie goaltender to the TNT post-game live on-site set.
- Not to forget -- who will ever forget the day and the final score, 3-0, over rival Vegas. Simply, "Winter" wonderful.



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