



Columbus Blue Jackets News Clips
May 14, 2025

Columbus Blue Jackets

- PAGE 02: Columbus Dispatch: Columbus Blue Jackets notes: GM Don Waddell doing 'legwork' on staff hires
- PAGE 03: Columbus Dispatch: Columbus Blue Jackets' Zach Werenski on going to worlds: 'I love playing for USA Hockey'
- PAGE 05: ABC 6: Blue Jackets and Department of Natural Resources unveil inclusive park in Delaware
- PAGE 06: CBS 10TV: Blue Jackets, ODNR unveil new inclusive playground at Delaware State Park
- PAGE 07: The Hockey Writers: Blue Jackets Mock Draft 2.0: Finding Value in the Two Mid-Round Picks
- PAGE 10: The Hockey Writers: Blue Jackets' Werenski Explains Decision to Join Team U.S.A. at World Championships

Cleveland Monsters/Prospects

NHL/ Websites

- PAGE 12: The Athletic: NHL Mock Draft 2025: Frondell to Chicago, Martone to Utah? Pronman projects Round 1

Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets notes: GM Don Waddell doing 'legwork' on staff hires

By Brian Hedger – May 13, 2025

Don Waddell and his executive staff are going through a virtual stack of resumes before the Blue Jackets' offseason picks up steam.

Prior to engaging in serious talks with pending free agents or prepping for the NHL draft, the Jackets' president of hockey operations/general manager is heading up searches to find replacements for staff vacancies at video coach, strength and conditioning coordinator, head equipment manager and assistant athletic trainer.

"I've probably got 300 resumes on my computer right now," Waddell said. "I'm just trying to sort them all out. It's just like I did last year with the coaching search."

After taking over the Blue Jackets' hockey side in May 2024, Waddell made a relatively quick decision not to retain former head coach Pascal Vincent, who had taken over control of the bench following Mike Babcock's forced resignation in September 2023 for a player privacy issue involving cellphones.

Dean Evason landed the job in late July after a lengthy search process that included interest in veteran coach Todd McLellan. Evason nearly guided the Blue Jackets to the playoffs despite losing two thirds of the team's top forward line to an offseason trade (Patrik Laine) and tragedy (Johnny Gaudreau).

Finding equally seamless transitions from longtime former video coach Dan Singleton, strength and conditioning coach Kevin Collins, head equipment manager Jamie Healy and assistant athletic trainer Naoto "Nates" Goto is now the goal.

"You've got to remember that trainers, equipment people and strength people have more contact with players than anybody, including the coaches," Waddell said. "So, we've got to find the right people who fit into what we've got going on with our chemistry. I've always said you've got to hire people who are capable of doing the job, but you also want to hire good people. Good people will help you get to the next level you need to get to."

There's no ticking clock on Waddell's desk setting a deadline, but he does want the process to be expedient once he's whittled candidates down to a list of finalists.

"I don't want to talk to one guy today, wait a week, talk to another guy and then wait another week," Waddell said. "I've done a lot of legwork, and I've got people helping me to make sure we line them all up to get the best candidates we can. Then, we'll start the process at each position."

Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets' Zach Werenski on going to worlds: 'I love playing for USA Hockey'

By Brian Hedger – May 12, 2025

Blue Jackets defenseman Zach Werenski is ready to join the United States lineup for the men's world championships.

His equipment isn't.

Werenski arrived in Herning, Denmark, ahead of his gear and had to watch the U.S. take its first loss in Group B pool competition during a surprising 3-0 loss to Switzerland. The 27-year-old blueliner hopes to be ready for Wednesday's game against Norway after initially deciding in April that he wouldn't play at worlds.

"I didn't really take too much time off," Werenski said May 12. "I was back in the gym on (April 21). I started skating right away. Originally, I said, 'No,' at the (Blue Jackets' final) media availability, and then in the back of my mind, I just wanted to stay ready in case that changed. So, I've pretty much been skating this whole time and working out."

After leading the NHL in ice time by a wide margin and being named a finalist for the Norris Trophy, which goes to the NHL's top defenseman, Werenski's batteries are charged for another spin wearing his country's colors.

"It's obviously different with games and travel (in the NHL), but I definitely feel good and I'm ready to get back into some game action here ... hopefully Wednesday if my stuff arrives," he said. "I'm ready to go for it."

Multiple factors went into Werenski changing his mind about worlds after leading the NHL's 4 Nations Face-Off for the U.S. in February with six points on six assists in winning the silver medal. He has a wedding to attend in Europe after the world championship concludes, so that already had him traveling overseas, and Werenski also received a nod from USA Hockey to join the team after the tournament began May 9.

Werenski is also getting married this offseason.

The U.S. has played three games, winning its first two by a combined 11-0 margin over host Denmark and Hungary. Finishing in the top four of Group B will qualify U.S. for the quarterfinals, which could springboard a predominantly young team into the medal rounds.

This is the second straight year and third time overall that Werenski has competed in a men's world championship. He also played in two world junior championships, the 4 Nations competition in February and hopes to don the red, white and blue in February 2026 at the Winter Olympics in Italy.

"It was hard to say no for me right at the beginning (of the offseason)," Werenski said. "If my summer was just to come here and play hockey for 3½ weeks and go home, I would've been 'all in' from the beginning, but I had some other things to attend to (back home). But I love playing for USA Hockey. It's some of the most fun hockey you can play. ... I'm just thankful for USA Hockey allowing me to come here a little bit late."

Werenski is joining one of the youngest teams at this year's event, which shouldn't feel much different than the past few seasons with the rebuilding Blue Jackets. He's the third NHL player in the franchise to

sign up for the worlds, joining Canadian forwards Adam Fantilli and Kent Johnson, the latter who scored two goals Sunday in Canada's 7-1 rout of Latvia in Group A action in Stockholm, Sweden.

Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason is running the Canadians' bench as head coach and is joined by Steve McCarthy, one of his assistants in Columbus. Samuel Knazko, a defenseman prospect, is representing the Blue Jackets in Group A while skating for Slovakia.

Werenski would like to see more U.S.-born NHL veterans make the trip to Europe each spring if they're healthy and not playing in the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Most other teams competing in the men's world championship don't have trouble attracting NHL talent for their rosters, but the U.S. tends to struggle getting its best available talent to play, even with USA Hockey footing the bill.

It's a huge reason the U.S. routinely competes for gold medals at the U18 worlds and world junior championships while struggling just to medal at the men's level. The U.S. has won the men's world championship only twice, in 1933 and 1960, and the most recent was an Olympic gold that doubled as a world championship.

Separating that one from world championships played outside of Olympic competitions, the U.S. is riding a 92-year dry spell in worlds gold medals. The Americans' last worlds medal of any kind was a bronze in 2021.

"I want to see us have success in tournaments like this," Werenski said. "The U.S. hasn't won this tournament in almost 100 years. We don't medal very often at the world championships. I feel like it's something that we have to get back to doing consistently. Every year, at end of the season, if you're not in the playoffs or you're not injured, guys should want to come here, consistently, every single season and just build USA Hockey to be a consistent winner at the men's level."

ABC 6 / Blue Jackets and Department of Natural Resources unveil inclusive park in Delaware

By Adam Dell – May 14th 2025

Columbus, Ohio (WSYX) — The Columbus Blue Jackets, in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, have unveiled a new inclusive park in Delaware.

The park, which is themed around the Blue Jackets, was designed with a focus on inclusion.

Blue Jackets and Department of Natural Resources unveil inclusive park in Delaware (Columbus Blue Jackets)

It features sensory-friendly play structures, inclusive swings, and a climbable model of Stinger.

The park is located in Delaware State Park, 5202 US Highway 23 N.

CBS 10TV / Blue Jackets, ODNR unveil new inclusive playground at Delaware State Park

By Staff – May 13, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources celebrated the opening of a new inclusive playground at Delaware State Park on Tuesday.

The playground, which is Blue Jackets-themed, features sensory-friendly play structures, inclusive swings and a climbable model of the Jackets' mascot, Stinger.

Stinger himself, along with Smokey Bear, joined families for the playground's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Additionally, an ADA-compliant restroom and new sidewalks were installed.

The playground was funded through the Ohio State Parks Foundation, which included a \$250,000 grant from the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, along with contributions from the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities through grant funding.

This is the 14th playground funded by the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation in central Ohio and the first in partnership with the Ohio State Parks Foundation.

The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets Mock Draft 2.0: Finding Value in the Two Mid-Round Picks

By Matthew Buhrmann – May 13, 2025

With their top picks at 14 and 20 already analyzed in a previous breakdown, where two defensemen were highlighted as strong fits for the Columbus Blue Jackets, the focus now shifts to the mid-rounds. While first-round selections often grab headlines, teams that draft well in the middle and late rounds can build long-term depth and find players who can eventually become difference makers. The Blue Jackets, without selections in the second and fifth rounds this year, will need to be strategic with their remaining picks at 77th, 109th, 173rd, 205th, and 222nd overall.

Now, let's look at Columbus' third and fourth-round pick options. These selections may not get the same attention as the first rounders, but they're important in adding talent to the pipeline and building for the future.

77th Overall (Third Round) – Mace'o Phillips – LD – USHL

If Mace'o Phillips is still available at 77th overall, he'd be an excellent option for Don Waddell's team. His rankings put him anywhere from the late third to late fourth round, so his availability at this spot is uncertain, but if he's still on the board, his shutdown ability and physical play make him a strong fit for the organization.

Phillips worked his way up through Minnesota's high school system before joining the U.S. National Team Development Program (NTDP), where his heavy defensive play continued to stand out. He played 51 games for the U17 squad in 2023-24, logging 63 penalty minutes, then moved up to the U18 team in 2024-25, where he racked up 103 penalty minutes in 53 games. In United States Hockey League (USHL) play with the USNTDP Juniors, he added 52 penalty minutes in 33 games in 2023-24, followed by 67 penalty minutes in 25 games in 2024-25. He also played five games for Team USA at the 2025 IIHF U18 World Championship, finishing with zero penalty minutes.

Phillips has built his game around toughness, making him one of the hardest-hitting defensemen in the 2025 NHL Draft. At 6-foot-6 and 227 pounds, he would bring much-needed size and physicality to the Blue Jackets' back end, an area where they need a young, big defenseman to complement their roster. The only current true "big" defensemen on the roster right now is 6-foot-5 Erik Gudbranson, who is 33 years old, so adding a young physical defenseman in Phillips would be a great idea in my eyes.

His defensive instincts and shutdown ability stand out, and he plays every shift with an edge. He's aggressive in the defensive zone, quickly identifying threats, cutting off passing lanes, blocking shots, and smothering opponents.

"Mace'o Phillips has NHL traits that are difficult to find: size, athleticism, mobility, and physicality. He's not just big—he's powerful, coordinated, and competitive. His ability to defend the rush, clear his net, and engage physically makes him a rare breed in today's NHL prospect landscape."

– Neutral Zone

Scouts praise Phillips for his size, athleticism, mobility, and physicality. His ability to hold tight gaps, angle opponents away from dangerous areas, and deliver heavy hits makes him a rare breed in today's hockey. While his defensive game is strong, he still has areas to work on—his puck movement and playmaking need work, his gap control against speedier opponents could be improved, and he has to

manage his amount of penalty minutes better. His next step in NCAA hockey will be huge as he refines his game against top collegiate competition in the Big Ten Conference at the University of Minnesota.

Most recently, Phillips was selected by the Green Bay Gamblers in the 2025 USHL Entry Draft, going 114th overall in the seventh round, after playing in the U18 World Championship with Team USA. His development path continues as he prepares for the next level, and Columbus could add a true defensive presence to their system if they choose him at 77th.

109th Overall (Fourth Round) – Aidan Park – C/W – USHL

Aidan Park is another good option for Columbus at 109th overall. He's a second-year eligible player at 19 years old after going undrafted in 2024 despite being projected as a mid-round pick. His stock has steadily risen, with his final draft ranking jumping to 94th after sitting at 151st in the midterm rankings—one of the biggest movements among prospects.

Park has steadily progressed through his career, posting strong numbers at each level. At Shattuck St. Mary's, he had 133 points in 50 games at the 14U level, followed by 118 points in 54 games at 16U and 82 points in 53 games at 18U. In 2022, he was drafted third overall in the USHL Futures Draft, later joining the Green Bay Gamblers late in the 2023-24 season.

Park is known for his playmaking ability, two-way play, high hockey IQ, and strong shot, making him an intriguing option. He's also versatile, able to play center, right wing, and left wing, which adds value as a future depth piece in the organization with that kind of positional versatility.

"Park is a high-motor center that plays all out on every shift. His game is built on relentless effort, both on and off the puck. He sprints and crashes hard on the forecheck, always ready to support his linemates."

– Elite Prospects 2024 NHL Draft Guide

He finished second in goals and fifth in points in the 2024-25 USHL regular season, putting up 66 points in 55 games for Green Bay despite playing in a league known for its tighter checking style compared to the Canadian Hockey League (CHL). His ability to produce offense in that environment speaks to his true talent. On top of that, he's strong defensively, consistently back-checking and blocking shots—an aspect of his game that often gets overlooked because of his high offensive production.

Park also brings some postseason experience, having played in the Clark Cup Playoffs twice, though Green Bay was eliminated in the first round this past season. Even with a short playoff run, getting that level of competition under his belt will help as he moves forward in his development. He also played in three Western Hockey League (WHL) playoff games with the Calgary Hitmen after his USHL season ended with Green Bay.

Another important factor is his commitment to the University of Michigan for the 2025-26 season, continuing Columbus' strong Michigan pipeline that has developed Blue Jackets like Zach Werenski, Adam Fantilli, and Kent Johnson. Since Park is heading to Michigan for the 2025-26 season, Columbus hypothetically would hold his rights for up to four years, giving them more time to evaluate his development compared to CHL prospects, whose teams only retain their rights for two seasons.

Once Park leaves college, Columbus would have just 30 days to sign him before his rights expire—a much shorter window than what CHL players get. However, the advantage of NCAA prospects is that they can be sent directly to the minors upon signing, allowing for a smoother transition. In contrast, CHL players must return to their junior clubs until their eligibility runs out unless they make the NHL roster immediately.

With a well-rounded offensive game, solid defensive details, and the flexibility of NCAA development at a high-level program in Ann Arbor, Park is a great mid-round option for the Blue Jackets.

While Columbus' first-round picks at 14 and 20 will shape the top of their draft class or even could be traded away, their third- and fourth-round picks at 77th and 109th are big opportunities to build depth and add future contributors.

The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets' Werenski Explains Decision to Join Team U.S.A. at World Championships

By Mark Scheig – May 12, 2025

Zach Werenski has a very busy summer ahead of him. On top of the usual stuff of preparing for next season, he's preparing for one of the most important days of his life.

Werenski is getting married. So are two of his best friends.

At Blue Jackets' exit interview day, Werenski said that he was not going to play for Team U.S.A. at the World Championships. No one would blame him given how much he played throughout the course of the season plus everything upcoming on his plate.

But once the tiredness started to subside, Werenski had a nagging feeling that he needed to be there. After taking care of some business first, he made the decision to join Team U.S.A.

Werenski Explains His Decision

For Werenski, this decision to play at the World Championships came down to one fundamental thing. It was another opportunity to put on that jersey, even if his decision was late.

"I love playing for USA Hockey," Werenski said. "I think it's some of the most fun hockey you can play. You don't do it for anything else besides the jersey that you're wearing. I've had really great experiences doing that the last couple of times I've done it. I thought it was important this year for me to come here and be here for as much of the tournament as I could be. I'm just thankful to USA Hockey for allowing me to come in a little bit late."

Werenski took it a step further and said he wanted to be around the guys embracing being an American.

"I feel like right now with playing in the World Championships last year, playing in the 4 Nations, I had a ton of fun in those two events and putting the jersey on and being around guys that really embrace being American. It was hard to say no for me right at the beginning. If my summer was just coming here and playing hockey for 3.5 weeks and coming home, I would have been all-in from the beginning, but I had some other things to attend to."

Werenski is with the team ready to go. However, he said his gear hasn't arrived yet. That's why he didn't play in Monday's 3-0 loss to Switzerland. Assuming his equipment arrives on time, he anticipates being in the lineup on Wednesday against Norway.

Werenski will be one of the veterans on this version of Team U.S.A. He pointed out they are one of if not the youngest team in the field. He's looking forward to playing with and helping those players such as Cutter Gauthier, Will Smith and Frank Nazar among others find success in this tournament.

For Team U.S.A. to take the next step and to build off the momentum generated from the 4 Nations Faceoff, Werenski says they need to get a medal at this tournament.

"I want to see us have success in tournaments like these. The U.S. hasn't won this tournament in almost 100 years. We don't medal very often at this World Championships. I feel like it's something we have to get back to doing consistently is every year at the end of the season, if you're not in the playoffs or you're not injured, guys should want to come here consistently every single season and build U.S.A. Hockey to be a consistent winner at the men's level. That translates to 4 Nations and World Cups and Olympics."

“I think just having those experiences, just enjoying it, embracing what it means to be American, putting that jersey on, I feel like that’s the standard that we need to set, especially as older guys,” Werenski said. “I’m not that old, but being a guy that’s been in this league for a number of years now, I feel like it’s on us to show up to these tournaments and start building this thing and starting getting medals consistently at the men’s level.”

Werenski and Team U.S.A. hope their effort at the World Championships is the start of bigger and better things consistently for the program, especially at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy.

The Athletic / NHL Mock Draft 2025: Frondell to Chicago, Martone to Utah?

Pronman projects Round 1

By Corey Pronman – May 13, 2025

With the draft lottery done, we have a template of the selection order ready for the 2025 NHL Draft. Unless Radim Mrtka breaks things up in the top 5-7, we expect a run on forwards early in the draft, especially with so many good centers available. The order in which these forwards go is the most interesting thing about this draft and will be debated by teams and fans in the coming weeks. This mock is my best attempt to project how I think the first round of the 2025 NHL Draft will transpire on June 27.

1. New York Islanders: Matthew Schaefer, LHD, Erie (OHL)

Schaefer gives the Islanders a true No. 1 defenseman prospect to build around. His high-end mobility, intelligence and competitiveness project him as a cornerstone on the blue line for years to come and he is highly likely to be the pick despite the limited number of games he played this season.

2. San Jose Sharks: Michael Misa, C, Saginaw (OHL)

Misa's elite speed and creativity give San Jose a franchise-caliber center. The addition of Misa gives the Sharks flexibility to move either him or Will Smith to the wing long term. He can break games open with his skill and vision and will be a foundational offensive piece for a rebuilding Sharks squad.

3. Chicago Blackhawks: Anton Frondell, C, Djurgården (Allsvenskan)

Frondell brings high-end skill and a complete 200-foot game and fills Chicago's need for a strong two-way pivot to pair with Connor Bedard, who may end up as a long-term winger in the NHL.

4. Utah Mammoth: Porter Martone, RW, Brampton (OHL)

Utah prioritizes being hard to play against, and Martone will provide a lot of size and a high compete level while also being very skilled for a big man. It's easy to envision him next to Logan Cooley on a top line for the next 10 years.

5. Nashville Predators: James Hagens, C, Boston College (Hockey East)

Nashville adds high-end skill and speed down the middle with Hagens, even if his game needs more inside presence. He brings the potential to be a major point producer and address a critical need for the Predators at center, even if not every NHL scout is convinced he's an NHL center.

6. Philadelphia Flyers: Caleb Desnoyers, C, Moncton (QMJHL)

Desnoyers' stock continues to rise with his great playoff run for Moncton. He's a complete center with the size, skating, skill and off-puck play to be a big-minute NHL center, which is something Philly truly craves.

7. Boston Bruins: Jake O'Brien, C, Brantford (OHL)

O'Brien is a cerebral, playmaking center with top-line upside. His skill and vision are clear NHL traits and address Boston's massive need for a center who can drive play and create offense.

8. Seattle Kraken: Brady Martin, C, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)

Martin brings an intense, physical two-way game that complements all the skill Seattle has drafted in recent years while also bringing plenty of puck play himself and the ability to be a top-six forward, be it at center or wing.

9. Buffalo Sabres: Radim Mrtka, RHD, Seattle (WHL)

Mrtka is a 6-foot-5 defenseman who skates well and has offensive flashes, giving Buffalo a rare right-shot blueliner with top-four upside. He compares to a Sabres pick from a long time ago in Tyler Myers.

10. Anaheim Ducks: Roger McQueen, C, Brandon (WHL)

A 6-foot-5 center with speed, hands and bite, McQueen gives Anaheim a potential massive talent down the middle. He would have gone top five if it weren't for a concerning back injury. With superb young talent in the organization, Anaheim can afford the gamble on McQueen.

11. Pittsburgh Penguins: Kashawn Aitcheson, LHD, Barrie (OHL)

Aitcheson adds significant physicality to Pittsburgh's system while also having the size, mobility and skill of a top-four NHL defenseman.

12. New York Rangers: Braeden Cootes, C, Seattle (WHL)

Cootes brings speed, compete and two-way versatility to the Rangers' forward group, giving them a hardworking center with offensive potential and addressing an important need at center.

13. Detroit Red Wings: Victor Eklund, RW, Djurgården (Allsvenskan)

Eklund's speed, high motor and ability to create offense gives Detroit an important addition of offensive talent to its system while continuing with a trend of prioritizing compete in its picks.

14. Columbus Blue Jackets: Cameron Reid, LHD, Kitchener (OHL)

Reid is a dynamic skater who closes well defensively and can generate clean exits and secondary offense. I could see him or Jackson Smith as the Jackets' pick here as they try to add young depth to their blue line.

15. Vancouver Canucks: Cole Reschny, C, Victoria (WHL)

Reschny is a very skilled and intelligent player who plays hard and was as good as any junior player in the second half of the CHL season. He theoretically gives Vancouver a much-needed young center of the future, although not everyone in the league is convinced he's a pro center.

16. Montreal Canadiens: Carter Bear, LW, Everett (WHL)

A competitive and highly skilled winger who plays a physical game, Bear could provide a lot of elements to Montreal's top six.

17. Montreal Canadiens: Jackson Smith, LHD, Tri-City (WHL)

Smith brings size, skating and offensive tools to the Canadiens blue-line pipeline as they continue to build a very strong group of young defensemen.

18. Calgary Flames: Justin Carbonneau, RW, Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)

A fast, strong winger with a dangerous shot, Carbonneau adds a scoring element and high-energy game to Calgary's top six, even if he's slightly redundant with someone like Matt Coronato.

19. St. Louis Blues: Lynden Lakovic, LW, Moose Jaw (WHL)

Lakovic is a big man with legit speed, skill and goal-scoring ability. He would be a highly talented forward addition to the Blues' system, even if his compete level still draws some debate.

20. Columbus Blue Jackets: Joshua Ravensbergen, G, Prince George (WHL)

Ravensbergen is a big, athletic goaltender with starter upside — the type of swing Columbus can afford to take on a second first-rounder.

21. Ottawa Senators: Blake Fiddler, RHD, Edmonton (WHL)

Fiddler's size, defensive ability, skating and hardness make him exactly the type of defenseman Ottawa has coveted. Ideally, the Senators would add some skill to their forward group, but a run on forwards before their pick left them without any of the top-tier forward prospects.

22. Calgary Flames: Milton Gastrin, C, MoDo (Sweden Jr.)

A responsible, hard-nosed, two-way center, Gastrin adds leadership traits and versatility to the forward group.

23. Carolina Hurricanes: Logan Hensler, RHD, Wisconsin (Big Ten)

Hensler fits the type of defenseman Carolina has liked to target: He's mobile, has skill and can make a reliable pass.

24. Philadelphia Flyers: Daniil Prokhorov, LW, Dynamo St. Petersburg (MHL)

Prokhorov's size and physicality fit the typical Flyers draft pick, and he has enough touch and speed to complement their skilled forwards.

Advertisement

25. Philadelphia Flyers: Sascha Boumedienne, LHD, Boston University (Hockey East)

One of the better-skating defensemen in the class, Boumedienne provides transition ability with the potential for some offense at the NHL level as well.

26. Nashville Predators: Jack Nesbitt, C, Windsor (OHL)

Nesbitt is a heavy center with strong puck skills and playmaking vision. Despite questions about his skating, his offense and physicality make him a legit first-round pick as Nashville builds out its center depth in this draft.

27. Los Angeles Kings: Jakob Ihs-Wozniak, LW, Luleå (Sweden Jr.)

The Kings take a swing on a tall winger with NHL-caliber feet, hands and scoring ability, hoping he becomes a future middle-six scorer.

28. San Jose Sharks: Henry Brzustewicz, RHD, London (OHL)

Brzustewicz is a smart, mobile right-shot who adds a steady two-way game to a Sharks system that needs quality blueliners.

29. Chicago Blackhawks: Malcolm Spence, LW, Erie (OHL)

Spence brings high effort, responsible two-way play and a solid track record for Canada. He's not the flashiest forward but he has legit enough talent to play in a middle six.

30. Nashville Predators: William Horcoff, C, Michigan (Big Ten)

A big, skilled forward with great hands, Horcoff needs to work on his skating but has the potential to be a legit scorer as a pro and looked quite good at the college level as a 17-year-old.

31. Washington Capitals: Cullen Potter, C, Arizona State (NCHC)

Potter's great skating and puck skill give Washington a dynamic, high-upside forward, but his size and perimeter play does worry teams too.

32. Winnipeg Jets: Bill Zonnon, LW, Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)

Zonnon is a big winger who skates and shoots well enough to be a middle-six contributor in Winnipeg's forward pipeline.