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TOP-RANKED NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS



Connor Bedard

No. 1 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'9.75"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Regina Pats (WHL)

Birthplace: North Vancouver, B.C.

* Concluded 2022-23 with 71-72—143 (57 GP) – atop the WHL in goals, points and points per game (2.51), a season highlighted by a 35-game point streak (44-46—90). Bedard posted twice as many five-plus point outings (10 GP) as games he was held off the score sheet (5 GP). His goal total was 21 more than the next-closest skater and the most by a WHL player in 24 years (**Pavel Brendl**: 73 in 1998-99); meanwhile, his 143 points is the highest single-season total in 27 years (since 1995-96), when three players topped the number: **Mark Deyell** (159), **Frank Banham** (152) and **Hnat Domenichelli**

* Became the [first player in Canadian Hockey League history](#) to sweep the Player of the Year, Top Prospect and Top Scorer awards Saturday. No player had won all three in the same season since the Top Scorer award was introduced in 1994. He also became the first player to win three trophies at the CHL Awards since **Connor McDavid** won Top Prospect, Player of the Year and Scholastic Player of the Year awards in 2015.

* Led all players in the opening round of the 2023 WHL Playoffs with 10-10—20 through seven contests, helping the Regina Pats, who finished sixth in the conference, push the third-seeded Saskatoon Blades to a Game 7. Bedard found the score sheet in all seven contests, tallying multi-point outings in six of those, including a hat trick and five points in Game 2.

* Recorded 9-14—23 (7 GP) at the 2023 World Junior Championship which led all players in all three categories – his assist and point totals stand as single tournament Team Canada records. Bedard was named tournament MVP after his gold-medal performance.

* The 17-year-old passed **Jaromir Jagr**, **Wayne Gretzky** and **Eric Lindros** for the most points at a single World Junior Championship across by a U-18 player.

* Tallied 17-19—36 in 16 games between the 2023 and 2022 World Junior Championship, establishing records for most goals and points by a Canadian player in a World Junior Championship career.

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* Tallied 17-19—36 in 16 games between the 2023 and 2022 World Junior Championship, establishing records for most goals and points by a Canadian player in a World Junior Championship career.

* Became the first WHL player to be granted exceptional status and seventh CHL player to do so, joining **John Tavares**, **Aaron Ekblad**, **Connor McDavid**, **Sean Day**, **Joe Veleno** and **Shane Wright**.

* Became the youngest captain in Regina Pats (WHL) history (17 years old, 2 months) surpassing **Barret Jackman** (17 years old, 11 months).

* On April 17, 2022 he totaled 2-3—5 to reach the 100-point and 50-goal mark of the 2021-22 season – he became the youngest player in WHL history to score 50 goals.

* Named Academic Player of the Month for September 2022 while holding an 86% average.

* On Nov. 17, 2022, Bedard became the first WHL skater to record a point streak of 20+ games in back-to-back seasons since **Brendan Shinnimin** in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

* Re-watches every single shift after each single game to identify where he can improve.

* He used to shoot pucks out on his street while wearing inline skates but had to move to his backyard after breaking a window. Bedard can credit one of his neighbors, a professional carpenter, for helping his development by building a substantial wooden edifice in the Bedards' backyard for target practice – a large wooden stage and a suspended white shooting tarp. The open-air structure is now very worn in and peppered with skids from countless pucks. Bedard continues to call shooting in his backyard his "happy place".

* As a kid, Bedard refused family excursions to Disneyland as he wanted to stay home and play hockey however, he said he would go on a trip to Maui, Hawaii when his parents allowed him to bring his inline skates and hockey stick to continue to practice.

* In 2018, at age 13, Bedard broke his wrist which helped him develop his shot as he continued to play with just one hand on his stick – his left and top hand.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Outstanding talent with an elite skill set and hockey IQ. He's on a well-earned level of his own right now as the No. 1 prospect for the 2023 NHL Draft. His offensive instincts with vision, read/react, exceptionally quick hands and moves, all combined with his inherent ability to utilize these skills and assets at top speed place him in the category of being a "special" NHL prospect. He continuously produces and lives up to the hype of being a wizard with the puck and making plays that have you believing he has eyes in the back of his head. He is one of the more natural scorers to come along since the likes of Patrick Kane and Sidney Crosby. The hype is reminiscent to that of the Connor McDavid and Auston Matthews Draft years and similarly, Bedard is one of those players who always brings fans out of their seat. A scoring threat whenever he's on the ice and almost effortlessly capable of making highlight reel plays again and again while continuing his record-setting ways.



ADAM FANTILLI

No. 2 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 195 lbs

Team: Univ. of Michigan (BIG10)

Birthplace: Nobleton, Ont.

* As a freshman, Fantilli (30-35—65 in 36 GP) led all U.S. College Hockey skaters in goals (tied), points and points per game (1.81 P/GP) and became the third freshman in NCAA history to win the Hobey Baker Award, joining **Jack Eichel** (2015) and **Paul Kariya** (1993).

* Started university as a 17-year-old alongside his older brother, **Luca**, after he graduated high school early by taking extra courses through the summers to get ahead. Adam and Luca also skated together with the USHL's Chicago Steel.

* Concluded the 2021-22 season with the USHL's Chicago Steel with 37-37—74 (54 GP), finishing third in the league in goals and seventh in points.

* In 2020-21, Fantilli won the USHL's Clark Cup championship with the Steel and was named the Clark Cup Most Valuable Player as a rookie after tallying 8-1—9 in 8 GP – the [second-most goals by any player that postseason](#).

* Won two gold medals for Team Canada on the international stage, including at the 2023 World Junior Championship (2-3—5 in 7 GP) and as an 18-year-old at the 2023 World Championship (1-2—3 in 10 GP).

* He is friends with the **Hughes Brothers** (Quinn, Jack and Luke) and worked out in the summer with a group of former USA Hockey National Team Development Program players that included **Kyle Connor**, **Trevor Zegras**, **Cole Caufield** and **Dylan Larkin**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A well-known, well scouted 2023 Draft prospect who delivered on all the pre-Draft projections. An NHL skilled power forward in the making. Won a World Junior gold medal and had an outstanding freshman year at the University of Michigan playing a lead role on the team. Continues to show that he likes to win. Plays a team first game. Competes with his physical attributes and elite level skills and smarts to achieve team success which will translate to a high pick in this year's Draft and an all-star NHL career. It's not an exaggeration to state that the best is yet to come.



WILLIAM SMITH

No. 3 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 181 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Boston, Mass.

* Averaged 2.12 P/GP in 2022-23 and finished the season ranked second in points on USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-18 Team with 51-76—127 (60 GP), behind fellow eligible draft prospect **Gabe Perreault**.

* Finished as the 2023 Under-18 World Championship MVP after leading the tournament in goals and points with 9-11—20 (7 GP), helping Team USA win a gold medal. Smith was also part of his country's silver-medal entry at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (2-2—4 in 4 GP).

* The only player on Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team to average more than a point per game in 2021-22 (1.06 P/GP; 17-20—37 in 35 GP).

* A native of Boston, Mass., who is committed to Boston College for the 2023-24 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Elite hockey sense and skills make him an easy player to notice and very challenging to play against. Very crafty hands and elusive moves with the puck, can make plays in tight spaces while being checked and also at top speed. Pursues the puck on the forecheck and backcheck with the same effort and intensity. Shot is very accurate with a quick release, and he can finish his chances when he has the opportunity. Good offensive hockey sense to generate scoring chances when needed. Complete package that competes well in all areas and is capable of being a difference maker.



MATTHEW WOOD

No. 4 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 4"

Weight: 197 lbs

Team: Univ. of Connecticut (NCAA)

Birthplace: Lethbridge, Alta.

* Led the Univ. of Connecticut in scoring as a freshman with 11-23—34 (35 GP), while being the youngest player in the NCAA this season.

* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he produced at a point-per-game pace (2-3—5 in 5 GP) and earned a bronze medal at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship, finishing atop his country in goals (7) and second in both assists (tied w/ 6) and points (13).

* Led the BCHL in 2021-22 in goals and points as a rookie after tallying 45-40—85 (46 GP) and earned the Brett Hull Trophy as the BCHL Rookie of the Year.

* Wood, who grew up in Nanaimo, B.C., and fellow prospect **Connor Bedard** were teammates together in minor hockey, playing spring hockey together on the Vancouver Vipers for five seasons (2015-2019). Their friendship included being billet brothers as 14-year-olds when Wood lived with the Bedard family – the pair would have shooting competitions in Bedard's infamous backyard practice area.

* Models his game after Sabres forward **Tage Thompson**, a UConn alumnus.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big power forward who has a deadly shot from anywhere in the attacking zone. He has a great one-timer. Very effective at getting open and setting himself up to shoot. A pure goal scorer at every level he has played. Excellent puck skills and hockey sense. Protects the puck effectively and can be very elusive in traffic.



RYAN LEONARD

No. 5 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 11.75"

Weight: 190 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Northampton, Mass.

* Finished third on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team with 51-43—94 (57 GP) and averaged 1.65 P/GP, a season highlighted by two hat tricks including a four-goal outing.

* Led all skaters on USA Hockey's NTDP Under-18 Team in 2022-23 with 15 power-play goals.

* Won a gold medal with Team USA at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship and finished third in tournament scoring after amassing 8-9—17 across seven games and earned a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (5-1—6 in 6 GP) – his five goals were tied for the sixth-highest total in the tournament that year and just one less than **Connor Bedard** (6 in 4 GP) produced at the event.

* His brother, **John**, is a forward who was a sixth-round pick by the Sharks in the 2018 NHL Draft (182nd overall) and currently plays in the Predators organization. He has recorded 5-11—16 in 64 career NHL games.

* A native of Amherst, Mass., who is committed to Boston College for the 2023-24 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Very skilled and offensively gifted player. Hockey sense is excellent. Threat to score every shift because of his excellent shot, a goal-scorers touch and the ability to find open space. Hard guy to play against because of his relentless effort and playing style. Gets in on the forecheck quickly and backchecks with a purpose. He can drive play and put opposing defenders on their heels with his 200-foot game. A very exciting player to watch.



ZACH BENSON

No. 6 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 9.75"

Weight: 170 lbs

Team: Winnipeg Ice (WHL)

Birthplace: Chilliwack, B.C.

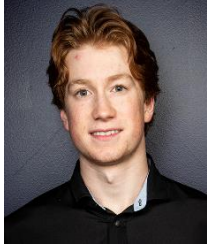
* Concluded the 2022-23 campaign third in WHL scoring with 36-62—98 (60 GP) in a season that featured three hat tricks, a six-point outing and seven four-plus point performances. He led all WHL forwards with a plus-68 rating and ranked second in the league with six shorthanded goals.

* Averaged 1.09 points per game in his rookie season, finishing the 2021-22 campaign with 25-38—63 (58 GP) for sixth in scoring among WHL rookies.

* Tallied 2-5—7 (5 GP) in Team Canada's gold-medal entry at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, including finishing the tournament tied for second on his team in assists and third in scoring.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Although not big in stature, he brings all the attributes to be a complete player. Plays bigger than his size. Excellent puck pursuit in all areas, whether on offense or defense. Hard to contain with his second and third efforts. A player who wants the puck on his stick to be a game changer. Plays a high-tempo game. Effective on both the power play and penalty kill. His quick transition game in all areas makes him dangerous. Displays very good skill and vision.



NATE DANIELSON

No. 7 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 1.5"

Weight: 186 lbs

Team: Brandon Wheat Kings (WHL)

Birthplace: Edmonton, Alta.

* Led the OHL's Brandon Wheat Kings in goals, assists and points with 33-45—78 in 68 games. His 78 points were the most by a Brandon player since 2018-19.

* Participated in the CHL/NHL Top Prospect game in 2023, recording 0-1—1 for Team White.

* Danielson represented Team Canada at the 2020 Youth Olympics in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he picked up three points (2-1—3 in 4 GP) en route to a bronze medal.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

He excels with an excellent 200-foot game. Very responsible on offense and defense. Strong on faceoffs and quick to turn them into offensive chances. Hard to contain with solid puck protection. Strong skater with deceptive speed. Reliable in all situations. Makes the game look easy at times with the confidence he displays. Was a dominant player at times in the WHL. Good puck skills. Shows good hands, along with vision and playmaking abilities. Excellent all-around player who can be effective up and down the lineup.



OLIVER MOORE

No. 8 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 195 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Mounds View, Minn.

* Produced at a 1.23 points per game pace in 2022-23, finishing sixth among the USA Hockey National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team.

* Finished third on USA Hockey National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team in assists (44) and fourth in goals (31) and points (75).

* In 2021-22, Moore led the USA Hockey National Team Development Program's Under-17 Team in goals and finished second in points after tallying 24-15—39 (43 GP).

* Averaged 1.29 points per game (4-5—9 in 7 GP) at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship to help Team USA win gold.

* Committed to Univ. of Minnesota.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Elite NHL skater who already has an extra gear to create separation from opponents and pull away on plays. One of the best skaters in the 2023 Draft class. Very good hockey sense and puck skills to consistently create opportunities for himself and his teammates. Relentless on the forecheck to get to pucks first. Goes into traffic and most often comes away with the puck because of puck protecting skills, quickness and smarts. Responsible two-way forward who backchecks hard and strips pucks to transition quickly to offense with regularity. Smart to the net for chances, he can really shoot, has a quick release, and finds the net from all angles.



SAMUEL HONZEK

No. 9 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 3.25"

Weight: 195 lbs

Team: Vancouver Giants (WHL)

Birthplace: Trencin, Slovakia

* Sits third in scoring among WHL rookies in 2022-23 with 23-33—56 (43 GP), despite missing 25 games due to injury. Honzek was named a finalist for the Jim Piggott Memorial Trophy for WHL Rookie of the Year.

* Led the WHL Vancouver Giants in points per game, operating at a 1.30 pace.

* Played for HK Dukla Trencin in Slovakia's top men's league in 2021-22, concluding the season with 10 goals and 14 points.

* Won a silver medal with Slovakia at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and skated for his country at the 2022 and 2023 World Junior Championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big power forward who has a deadly shot from anywhere in the attacking zone. He has a great one-timer. Very effective at getting open and setting himself up to shoot. A pure goal scorer at every level he has played. Excellent puck skills and hockey sense. Protects the puck effectively and can be very elusive in traffic.



GABRIEL PERREAULT

No. 10 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 10.75"

Weight: 163 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Sherbrooke, Que.

* Perreault posted 53-79—132 (63 GP) in 2022-23, establishing the National Team Development Program record for most points in a single season – Maple Leafs forward **Auston Matthews** (55-62—117 in 2014-15) previously held the mark. He also broke the team's single season record for assists – eclipsing **Jack Hughes** (34-78—112 in 2018-19) – and owns the fifth-most goals with the club in a campaign.

* Perreault won a gold medal with Team USA at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship and was named a Top 3 player on his team after leading the tournament in assists (5-13—18 in 7 GP).

* His father, **Yanic Perreault**, accumulated 247-269—516 across 859 career NHL games across a 14-season career between 1993-94 and 2007-08. His brother, **Jacob**, was selected by the Ducks with the No. 27 pick in the 2020 NHL Draft.

* Perreault is committed to Boston College for the 2023-24 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Very crafty, smart player that has excellent vision and puck skill. His hockey sense and playmaking ability are at an elite level. Effort level is excellent. Finds openings in the offensive zone that others don't find. Has an ability to make plays all over the ice to get his teammates opportunities. Seems to be at his best in big games. Play away from the puck is excellent in all zones.



BRAYDEN YAGER

No. 11 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 170 lbs

Team: Moose Jaw Warriors (WHL)

Birthplace: Saskatoon, Sask.

* Finished the 2022-23 campaign second on his team in scoring with 28-50—78 (67 GP) behind Seattle's 2022 second-round pick, **Jagger Firkus** (35th overall) and second in assists behind Columbus' 2022 first-round pick, **Denton Mateychuk**.

* Won the Brad Hornung Memorial Trophy as the WHL's Most Sportsmanlike Player in 2022-23.

* Tallied 34-25—59 in 63 games as a rookie, concluding third in the league in goals among rookies and setting a Moose Jaw Warriors' franchise record for goals as a 16-year-old player.

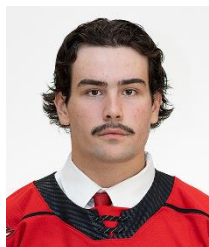
* Named 2021-22 CHL Rookie of the Year and became the first player in Moose Jaw Warriors history to claim the title.

* Won gold at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he concluded the tournament tied for second in scoring (5-4—9 in 5 GP).

* Was a season ticket holder for the WHL Prince Albert Raiders as a kid and grew up idolizing **Leon Draisaitl** and **Josh Morrissey**. Yager has Draisaitl's hockey stick from when he was six after Draisaitl and Morrissey came out to one of his minor hockey practices for an all-star competition – Yager attests the impact Draisaitl's generosity had on him as something he thinks about as he meets kids now that he is a WHL player.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Elite offensive player with excellent puck skill and play-making ability. More quick than fast and wins more than his share of races for loose pucks. He knows where everyone is on the ice at all times and has the ability to find openings in all zones. Uses his edges and agility to protect the puck and elude checks. Plays his off wing but can also play on his strong side or in the middle. Among the top offensive players in the WHL and in the 2023 NHL Draft.



COLBY BARLOW

No. 12 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 0.5"

Weight: 195 lbs

Team: Owen Sound Attack (OHL)

Birthplace: Orillia, Ont.

* Captain of the OHL's Owen Sound Attack, Barlow finished fifth in the league in goals and atop his team in points 46-33—79 (59 GP). He finished the season with two hat tricks as well as two double-digit point streaks (11 GP from Nov. 9 – Dec. 4, 2022 & 10 GP from Dec. 17, 2022 – Jan. 17, 2023).

* Recorded a 10-game goal streak which was the longest in the OHL in 2022-23 and set an Attack franchise record.

* Barlow was the 2022-23 recipient of the Bobby Smith Trophy, awarded to the OHL's Scholastic Player of the Year after his 93 percent overall average through six Grade 12 University-level courses.

* Concluded 2021-22 with 30-17—47 (59 GP) – one of three rookies to score 30 goals and a 0.80 point-per-game rate which sat sixth among all OHL rookies. Barlow also set a franchise record for goals by a 16-year-old.

* Skated at a point-per-game pace (2-3—5 in 5 GP) in Canada's gold-medal entry at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and won bronze at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship.

* Named the youngest captain in Owen Sound Attack history.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A powerful skater who is difficult to knock off the puck. Plays a good puck protection game in all zones. Can beat defenders wide when at top speed as well as dangle and breakdown one-on-one coverage in tight quarters. Intelligent offensive player who puts himself into high-quality scoring areas with consistency and can finish from all over the offensive zone. Possesses elite finishing ability. A high-end shooter who has the best one-timer in this Draft class. Team leader and captain who is most effective when playing physical and with an edge. Hard worker that can play both a physical and a skilled game. Highly versatile and a big asset on both special team units. Impressive all-around package. NHL power forward.



CALUM RITCHIE

No. 13 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 2"

Weight: 184 lbs

Team: Oshawa Generals (OHL)

Birthplace: Oakville, Ont.

* Averaged a point per game in 2022-23 and finished third in team in scoring with 24-35—59 (59 GP).

* Drafted second overall in the 2021 OHL Priority Selection and went on to lead his team in rookie scoring with 19-26—45 (65 GP) – he was named to the OHL First All-Rookie Team.

* Part of Team Canada's gold-medal entry in the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and concluded as the tournament leader in assists (6) and points (10); earned a bronze medal at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship and finished third on his team in points (3-6—9 in 7 GP).

* His brother, **Ethan**, is a member of the OHL Sarnia Sting and has tallied 27-62—89 (164 GP) over the past four seasons.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A front-line center that NHL Clubs covet. An NHL-caliber skater with excellent offensive tools to generate and finish scoring chances. Can attack and create in multiple ways. Impressive work along the offensive zone boards. Uses quick and agile moves to create space and his strength to hold defenders and execute through contact. Strong on his skates and utilizes counter hits very well. Eludes coverage and pops into scoring areas for good looks. Has patience with the puck in the offensive zone, hanging onto it to avoid defenders until options open up. Strong shooter that can get his shot off in gear. Deployed on all special teams and in key situations.



QUENTIN MUSTY

No. 14 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1.5"

Weight: 200 lbs

Team: Sudbury Wolves (OHL)

Birthplace: Hamburg, N.Y.

* Tops the OHL's Sudbury Wolves in assists (52) and sits second in points (78), behind Seattle's second-round pick in 2022, **David Goyette**.

* His 2022-23 season was highlighted by a seven-point outing on Dec. 4, 2022 (1-6—7), which matched a franchise record for the most in a game.

* Selected first overall by the Sudbury Wolves in the 2021 OHL Priority Selection.

* Averaged over a point per game when he represented Team USA at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-4—5 in 4 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A winger who is a power forward. Effectively utilizes physical attributes and has very good offensive smarts and tools. One of the most dangerous players in the Draft with the puck on his stick. Deceptive puck handler who possesses very good vision and playmaking ability. Great shot with power and accuracy. High offensive hockey IQ. Makes his teammates better. Dangerous on the power play. Wants the puck on his stick in key moments and delivers. Former first overall pick in the OHL Draft.



ANDREW CRISTALL

No. 15 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 9.5"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Kelowna Rockets (WHL)

Birthplace: Vancouver, B.C.

* Finished fourth in the WHL in points per game (1.76) and tied for sixth in league scoring with 39-56—95 (54 GP), highlighted by a 12-game point streak (11-19—30) and a four-goal outing (Feb. 15). He was named the Kelowna Rockets' MVP.

* Set a Kelowna Rockets franchise record for goals by a 16-year-old (28) and tied the franchise record for points by a 16-year-old (69) in 2021-22.

* Earned the WHL's BC Division Rookie of the Year Award in 2021-22 after tallying 28-41—69 (61 GP) and finishing tied for third in the league in rookie scoring.

* Won a gold medal with Team Canada at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, concluding the tournament tied for second in assists (5) and earned a bronze at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 7 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Elite offensive player with excellent puck skills and playmaking ability. He is more quick than fast, wins more than his share of races for loose pucks. He knows where everyone is on the ice at all times and has the ability to find openings in all zones. Not a big player but uses his edges and agility to protect the puck and elude checks. Plays his off wing but can also play on his strong side or in the middle. Among the top offensive players in the WHL and in the 2023 NHL Draft.



ETHAN GAUTHIER

No. 16 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 11.5"

Weight: 183 lbs

Team: Sherbrooke (QMJHL)

Birthplace: Scottsdale, Ariz.

* Recorded 30-39—69 in 66 games during his sophomore season with the QMJHL's Sherbrooke Phoenix – tied for the third-most goals with the team in 2022-23.

* Named the recipient of the 2022-23 Mike Bossy Trophy, which is awarded annually to the QMJHL's top prospect for the upcoming NHL Draft.

* Won the gold medal at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (6-1—7 in 5 GP), where he paced the tournament in goals.

* Participated in the CHL/NHL Top Prospect game in 2023, skating for Team White.

* Gauthier comes from a hockey family – his father, **Denis**, was a defenseman in the NHL from 1997-98 to 2008-09 (17-60—77 in 554), spending the better part of his career with the Flames who selected him in the first round of the 1995 NHL Draft (20th overall). His cousin, **Julien Gauthier**, was selected by Carolina in the first round of the 2016 Draft (21st overall) and has skated for the Senators, Rangers and Hurricanes.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Brings a good mix of skill and grit. Excellent skater in all directions who possesses agility with an east/west game but also showcases a speed element. Creative player with the puck; good hands and playmaking skill. Good hockey sense and recognizes the opportunities in the offensive zone. Solid shot release and goal-scoring abilities. Effective player on the forecheck who will finish every possible check and can hit with authority. A tough player to play against. Strong competitor who looks to make a difference every shift.



BRADLY NADEAU

No. 17 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 10.25"

Weight: 160 lbs

Team: Penticton Vees (BCHL)

Birthplace: St-François-de-Madawaska, N.B.

* Led the BCHL in assists and points in 2022-23 and finished tied for first in goals (45-68—113 in 54 GP) to earn the BCHL's Most Valuable Player and the Brett Hull Trophy as BCHL Top Scorer. His season was highlighted by a hat trick, two six-point outings and eleven straight multi-point outings.

* In 2022-23, he won his second-straight BCHL championship and finished the postseason with the most goals (17) as well as playoff MVP honors.

* Won the 2022 BCHL Championship and concluded the playoffs tied for second in the league in points as a rookie (11-13—24 in 17 GP), alongside his brother and teammate, **Josh Nadeau**.

* Committed to the Univ. of Maine.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A highly-skilled and competitive player. Contributes to his team's success in all areas. Leading scorer in his league averaging two points per game. Also one of the better penalty killers in the league in which he plays. Smart away from the puck. Draws in defenders well and can find the open man. Very good details and can play up and down a lineup.



LUKAS DRAGICEVIC

No. 18 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 194 lbs

Team: Tri-City (WHL)

Birthplace: Richmond, B.C.

* Dragicevic had 15-60—75 in 68 games this season, the most assists and points in a season by a Tri-City Americans player since 2018-19. He also ranked fourth in assists and points among all WHL defensemen this season.

* Dragicevic skated with Team Canada in the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship, during which he recorded 2-2—4 en route to a bronze medal.

* Dragicevic isn't the only member of his family to play hockey – his father **Milan** spent four seasons in the WHL between 1986-87 and 1989-90, skating with Regina Pats, Tri-City Americans and Spokane Chiefs. He also served as head coach of the Vancouver Giants from 2000-01 to 2001-02 as well as assistant coach with Tri-City from 1994-95 to 1997-98.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Among the top-producing defensemen in the WHL. Elite offensive talent from the blue line. Very poised and smart with the puck in all zones. Sorts out his options quickly and manages the puck very well. Rarely makes a mistake with the puck on his stick in any zone. Very good skater with mobility, speed and quickness. Joins the attack at the right times and has proven to be a dynamic offensive weapon.



ETIENNE MORIN

No. 19 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 0"

Weight: 180 lbs

Team: Moncton Wildcats (QMJHL)

Birthplace: Valleyfield, Que.

* Finished the 2022-23 season with the most goals among all QMJHL defensemen (21) and finished third in points after producing at a 1.07 points-per-game pace (21-51—72 in 67 GP). He more than doubled his point total from his rookie season (+30 points), after recording 8-25—33 (64 GP) in 2021-22.

* Concluded the 2023 playoffs tied atop scoring by defensemen with 2-15—17 (12 GP) and finished with the highest points-per-game average (1.42).

* Was a part of Team Canada's bronze-medal entry in the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship.

* Grew up wanting to emulate his childhood idol, **Nicklas Lidstrom**, and wears no. 5 because of him.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Left-handed defenseman with excellent puck skill and offensive upside. Poise with the puck in all three zones. Handles the puck with confidence and will find his outlets all over the ice. Good passing skill – snaps them with authority and precision. Quality skater with agility and edge work. Possesses good puck carrying skill but would consider him more a puck mover who excels at supporting rush plays on the second wave. Excellent quarterback on the power play. High level of hockey sense, vision and feel for the offensive game. His defensive game is progressing well. Can play with some bite and push back – will finish some sneaky hard hits.



OLIVER BONK

No. 20 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 1.5"

Weight: 180 lbs

Team: London Knights (OHL)

Birthplace: Ottawa, Ont.

* Finished second in the OHL in points and assists among rookie defensemen (10-30—40 in 67 GP). During the London Knights' run to the OHL finals, Bonk tallied 0-11—11 (21 GP) and concluded the postseason fifth in points among defensemen, fourth in assists and atop those categories among rookie blueliners.

* Named the 2021-22 Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League's Most Outstanding First Year Defenseman after averaging a point per game with the St. Thomas Stars 5-27—32 (32 GP).

* Was part of Team Canada's gold-medal entry at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

* His father, **Radek Bonk**, played 969 NHL games across 14 seasons with the Senators, Canadiens and Predators (194-303—497) and appeared in the 2000 and 2001 NHL All-Star Game.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Excellent modern-day two-way defenseman. An OHL rookie in 2022-23 who adapted to the league very quickly and became a major contributor for his team. High hockey IQ. A threat on the rush from the back end. Very good puck mover that can break out and transition the puck quickly. Smart defender that uses his size and range to keep guys out of danger areas and has a great stick to shut down plays. High upside player.



RILEY HEIDT

No. 21 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 10.5"

Weight: 180 lbs

Team: Prince George Cougars (WHL)

Birthplace: Saskatoon, Sask.

* Concluded the 2022-23 regular season tied atop the WHL in assists with No. 1-ranked prospect **Connor Bedard** and tied for fourth in points after registering 25-72—97 (68 GP). He recorded 32 multi-point games this season, helping him skate to a 39-point improvement over 2021-22.

* In 2021-22, Heidt tallied 21-37—58 in 65 games as a rookie and led his club in scoring as a 16-year-old.

* Averaged over a point per game in Team Canada's gold-medal entry at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (3-3—6 in 5 GP) and earned a bronze medal at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship.

* His uncle, **Ryan Keller**, played over a decade of professional hockey in a career that included captaining the Binghamton Senators to an AHL Calder Cup Champion and scoring the series-clinching goal in that final series as well as a Swiss Cup while spending time playing in Switzerland.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An intelligent and skilled natural center who is good at winning faceoffs and displayed his versatility by also playing left wing. He has a high hockey IQ and is a strong playmaker with excellent hand/eye coordination. Can generate and finish scoring plays every time he has the puck. A very smart player who can contribute offensively.



DANNY NELSON

No. 22 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 3"

Weight: 212 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: St. Louis Park, Minn.

* Finished fifth on USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-18 Team in points after tallying 21-26—47 (62 GP), including a five-game goal streak and a double-digit point streak.

* Won a gold medal with his country at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship, where he averaged a point per game (4-3—7 in 7 GP).

* Split the 2021-22 season between USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-17 Team (7-4—11 in 11 GP) and Maple Grove High School (16-24—40 in 31 GP).

* Committed to the Univ. of Notre Dame.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big forward who can play both center and wing. Very good puck skills and hockey sense. Makes plays while possessing the puck and does a really good job of getting open when he doesn't have it. Very strong compete level and wins a lot of his one-on-one puck battles. Skating stride is very strong and fluid with and without the puck. Shot is heavy with a quick release. Plays a 200-foot game.



GAVIN BRINDLEY

No. 23 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 8"

Weight: 168 lbs

Team: Univ. of Michigan (BIG10)

Birthplace: Fort Myers, Fla.

* Was a freshman at Univ. of Michigan in 2022-23, where he tallied 12-26—38 (41 GP), finishing third on his team in assists and fifth in scoring.

* In 2021-22, Brindley spent the majority of his season with the USHL's Tri-City Storm and tallied 14-28—42 (51 GP) to finish fifth on his team in scoring and help his club earn the Anderson Cup, the league's regular season champion.

* Is a two-time medalist on the world stage with Team USA, capturing a silver at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (1-3—4 in 6 GP) and bronze at the 2023 World Junior Championship (1-3—4 in 7 GP).

* His father, **Ryan**, played nearly a decade of professional hockey with a run that included captaining the ECHL's Florida Everblades for two seasons and winning the 2001 ECHL Kelly Cup Championship with the South Carolina Stingrays.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An excellent skater who plays with very good energy and at a high pace. Not afraid to go to tough areas and battle against bigger players. Good hockey IQ and awareness in all zones positionally with and without the puck. He is a threat every time he is on the ice creating chances for himself or teammates. Had a big impact as a freshman on a team with several high NHL draft picks.



GRACYN SAWCHYN

No. 24 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 10.75"

Weight: 155 lbs

Team: Seattle Thunderbirds (WHL)

Birthplace: Grande Prairie, Alta.

* Tallied a point per game in 2022-23 with the WHL's Seattle Thunderbirds and finished second in the league in assists and points among rookies (18-40—58 in 58 GP).

* Won the 2023 WHL championship in a postseason where he led the league in scoring by rookies, tallying 3-8—11 (17 GP).

* Skated for USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-17 Team in 2021-22 and finished fourth on his team in points with 10-23—33 (52 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Highly skilled and competitive player. Was among the leading rookie scorers in the WHL. Plays on a very strong and deep Seattle team where he has managed to carve out ice time and a role for himself. Real competitive on the puck. Vision and playmaking ability are very good. Plays center and wing while contributing to both special teams.



KOEHN ZIEMMER

No. 25 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 0.25"

Weight: 210 lbs

Team: Prince George Cougars (WHL)

Birthplace: Mayerthorpe, Alta.

* Recorded 41-48—89 (41 GP) with Prince George of the WHL in 2022-23, finishing seventh across the league in goals and ninth in points. He finished with the fifth-best single season point total in Cougar history.

* Posted 3-4—7 (10 GP) in the 2023 WHL Playoffs, one point shy of the team lead.

* After being drafted fourth overall by the Cougars in the 2019 WHL Bantam Draft, Ziemmer finished his rookie season tied for the third-most goals (9) among rookie scorers in his first season behind fellow prospects **Connor Bedard** and **Zach Benson**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Powerfully-built winger who is hard to contain when on the fly, always in the right place and arrives on time to the net. Uses his body effectively to protect the puck and has a net front presence. Possesses high-end puck skills and quick hands making him an elite puck handler and playmaker in tight areas. Plays in all situations and is a high-end shooter with a very good finishing touch. A naturally offensively gifted winger who comes up with timely goals.



NICO MYATOVIC

No. 26 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 2.5"

Weight: 180 lbs

Team: Seattle Thunderbirds (WHL)

Birthplace: Prince George, B.C.

* Tallied 30-30—60 (68 GP) through 2022-23, finishing with the second-most goals (tied) and sixth-most points among Seattle Thunderbirds players.

* Scored the WHL Championship-clinching goal in Game 5 against the Winnipeg ICE after recording 4-3—7 (19 GP) during the 2023 WHL Playoffs.

* Registered 4-24—28 (67 GP) in 2021-22, finishing fourth on his team in assists among rookies.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Big winger that has very good speed and quickness. A mid-round pick in Seattle that has continued to grow and evolve as a player. Played top-six minutes on a very good team. Plays on both special teams and contributes to the team's success in many ways. Very good on the penalty kill. Relentless on the puck and smart in the way he angles attackers away from the middle of the ice.



NICK LARDIS

No. 27 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 168 lbs

Team: Hamilton Bulldogs (OHL)

Birthplace: Oakville, Ont.

* Posted 37-28—65 in 69 games during a regular season that saw him spend the first half of the campaign with the OHL's Peterborough Petes before being traded to the Hamilton Bulldogs. Despite only skating in 33 contests with Hamilton, he finished 2022-23 with the second-most goals and fourth-most points (25-21—46) on the team.

* Led the Bulldogs in goals and points during the 2023 OHL Playoffs (5-5—10 in 6 GP).

* Won a bronze medal with Team Canada at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship, recording the third-most goals on his team at the tournament (4-0—4 in 7 GP). Three of his four goals came in one contest against Germany.

* Models his play after Senators forward **Tim Stützle** and Devils forward **Jesper Bratt**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Elite skater. His quickness creates space for himself. Able to pull away from defenders. Plays with top-end speed which allows him to open up options and space off the rush. Strong shooter with finishing ability and a heavy shot that quickly jumps off the stick. Gets himself into scoring areas both off the rush, on the power play and in offensive zone play. Quick hands and reactions to finish in tight. Distributes the puck with zip and accuracy. NHL-level skater that can both set up and finish plays.



TANNER MOLENDYK

No. 28 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 181 lbs

Team: Saskatoon Blades (WHL)

Birthplace: McBride, B.C.

* Concluded the 2022-23 regular season with the most goals (9) by a Saskatoon Blades defenseman while also ranking second in assists (28) and points (37).

* Molendyk (3-5—8 in 18 GP) tied for the most goals by a defenseman in the 2023 WHL Playoffs as well as the second-most assists (tied) and points by a blueliner.

* Won gold at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup after recording 1-3—4 (5 GP) – the third-most points and assists by a Team Canada defenseman at the tournament.

* Models his play after Stars defenseman **Miro Heiskanen**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Very skilled skater, not only with speed carrying or joining the rush but also with excellent agility and mobility. His skating makes him effective when eluding the opposition in all areas of the ice and also helps him to set up scoring chances. Displays confidence, along with patience, when making decisions. Shows a good transition game. Will stand up in all areas with good open ice hits, playing bigger than his size. His point total isn't reflective of his offensive instincts – he is a threat creating offensive chances. The defensive side to his game is solid and he is a go-to contributor on the penalty kill.



CARSON REHKOPF

No. 29 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 2.5"

Weight: 195 lbs

Team: Kitchener Rangers (OHL)

Birthplace: Barrie, Ont.

* Recorded the second-most points with the OHL's Kitchener Rangers in 2022-23 and the third-most goals (30-29—59 in 68 GP).

* Posted 2-4—6 in nine games during the 2023 postseason, including scoring the tying goal in Kitchener's series-clinching contest as it became the first eighth-seeded team to sweep a top-seed in the opening round of the playoffs in Ontario Hockey League history. He also tied for the second-most assists among Rangers players.

* Won gold at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup after averaging a point per game (1-4—5 in 5 GP) and tying fellow eligible prospect **Brayden Yager** for the third-most assists on the team.

* Played competitive lacrosse in the off-season until he was 14 years old to help with hand-eye coordination and endurance, even winning a provincial title with the Barrie Bombers of the Tyke 'C' Ontario Lacrosse Association at age eight in 2013.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Versatile player that can contribute anywhere in the lineup. Strong skater with good speed and power. Very good size and is hard for the opposition to handle. An offensive threat with very good puck skills. Excellent, accurate shot that has the ability to beat goalies clean. Dangerous on the power play. A two-way player.



CHARLIE STRAMEL

No. 30 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 3"

Weight: 222 lbs

Team: Univ. of Wisconsin (BIG10)

Birthplace: St. Paul, Minn.

* Was a freshman at the University of Wisconsin, where he recorded 5-7—12 in 32 games – tied for the seventh-most points on his team.

* He is a two-time medalist with Team USA, having captured bronze at the 2023 World Junior Championship (0-3—3 in 7 GP) and silver at the 2022 Under-18 World Junior Championship 2-3—5 in 6 GP).

* Posted 10-12—22 (26 GP) with the USA Hockey's NTDP Under-18 Team in 2021-22 and 9-12—21 for the Under-17 Team in 2020-21.

* He represented Team USA at the 2020 Youth Olympics in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he scored two goals en route to a silver medal (2-0—2 in 4 GP).

* His favorite player is Panthers forward **Matthew Tkachuk**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Very impressive combination of size, skating and skill. Good in traffic and around the net. Positions himself well to get scoring opportunities with strong puck skills and playmaking ability. Hockey sense and reading the play are both assets of his game. Has been very good on face-offs. Finishes checks and is willing to be a physical player. His transition to the college game has been quite impressive.



ANDREW GIBSON

No. 31 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 2.75"

Weight: 202 lbs

Team: Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds (OHL)

Birthplace: Windsor, Ont.

* Recorded 7-14—21 (45 GP) in 2022-23, finishing sixth in the league in scoring among rookie defensemen and second on his team among blueliners.

* Represented Team Canada in their bronze-medal performance at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship (0-3—3 in 7 GP).

* In 2021-22, Gibson played for the NOJHL's Soo Thunderbirds where he recorded the most points by a blueliner (21-30—51 in 40 GP) en route to a NOJHL championship and the league's Best Defenseman Honors.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Towering defender that transitioned very well into the OHL in his first season and is a top minute-crunching defenseman. Strong skater that provides two-way play. Plays against other teams' top lines. Excellent special teams player and a standout on the penalty kill. Strong puck mover. Excellent, heavy shot. Physical player that is hard to play against and impacts the game in many ways. His pro upside and ceiling is very high.



TRISTAN BERTUCCI

No. 32 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1.75"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Flint Firebirds (OHL)

Birthplace: Woodbridge, Ont.

* Finished second on his team in scoring by defensemen in 2022-23 (11-39—50 in 63 GP) and posted a 37-point improvement over his rookie season. His campaign was highlighted by two multi-goal outings and 14 multi-point performances.

* Concluded his rookie season in 2021-22 with the best plus/minus among OHL rookies (+26) and seventh-best across the league among blueliners.

* Earned a bronze medal with Team Canada at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship.

* In 2019-20, he wore an "A" for the Toronto Marlboros in his final GTHL season where he recorded 2-21—23 (34 GP) to lead all defensemen on the team in points.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Strong skater with very good mobility. Plays a solid two-way game and can have an impact at both ends of the ice. Good size and range which he uses to his advantage while defending. A puck-moving defenseman that sorts out his options well and can make plays up ice. Good speed to get a jump on back checkers and join the play up ice as an option. Possesses a good shot to go along with good vision to make plays. Can contribute on both special teams.



BEAU AKEY

No. 33 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 0"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Barrie Colts (OHL)

Birthplace: Waterloo, Ont.

* Recorded 11-36—47 (66 GP) in 2022-23, finishing fifth on his team in assists and third in points among defensemen. Akey concluded the season with more than a 30-point improvement over his rookie campaign.

* Named to the OHL Second All-Rookie Team in 2021-22 after posting 5-11—16 (61 GP).

* His father, **David**, also played in the OHL alongside future Hall of Fame member **Brendan Shanahan**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Elite skater who plays top minutes and in all situations. Very good hockey sense and transition game with and without the puck. Impacts the game. Excellent skater with a smooth fluid stride. Very mobile in all directions which he uses as an asset in his two-way game. Strong puck mover who can also rush the puck and get it moving up ice quickly. Good positional defender who uses smarts and positioning to contain. Has good vision on the ice and can make plays as well to find ways to get his shot through to the net. He is a strong contributor on both the power play and penalty kill and can be relied upon to help his team in any situation.

**QUINTON BURNS**

No. 34 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1.25"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Kingston Frontenacs (OHL)

Birthplace: Smiths Falls, Ont.

* Topped the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs in points by defensemen in 2022-23 after posting 2-27—29 in 54 games – a 25-point improvement from his rookie campaign. His 106 penalty minutes ranked seventh in the league.

* Recorded 0-4—4 (42 GP) as a rookie defenseman in 2021-22 and recorded 59 penalty minutes.

* Won bronze with Team Canada at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Strong skater that moves well in all directions. Smart and aggressive defender. Quickly reacts taking away time, space and options. Plays hard, physical, and with an edge. Excellent awareness and hockey sense. Positionally sound and aware with the size and strength to consistently dominate one-on-one battles. Quickness and agility to stick with and shut down speedy attackers both off the rush and in one-on-one man coverage. Top pair defenseman with top minutes on both special teams. Handles and distributes the puck smarty and effectively. Ability to skate the puck out of D-zone pressure and up ice. Confident with the puck and demonstrates impressive poise under pressure. Strong and versatile two-way defender that also brings an aggressive and physical element.



LUCA CAGNONI

No. 35 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 9"

Weight: 182 lbs

Team: Portland Winterhawks (WHL)

Birthplace: Burnaby, B.C.

* Scored 17 goals in 2022-23, which ranked tied for sixth in the WHL among defenseman, while his 47 assists and 64 points both ranked 10th among all blueliners.

* Posted 9-27—36 (63 GP) as a rookie defenseman in 2021-22, the fifth most points among all players in that category.

* Signed by the WHL's Portland Winterhawks in 2021-22, Cagnoni was the only player in the 2023 CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game who wasn't drafted into his league.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Gifted offensive defenseman with excellent skating ability. Plays big minutes in all situations. High end skill and playmaking ability. One of those players that appears to be playing a different game than everyone else. Makes things look so easy at times. Lacks size but makes up for it in skill, skating and hockey IQ.



MATHIEU CATAFORD

No. 36 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 190 lbs

Team: Halifax Mooseheads (QMJHL)

Birthplace: Chateauguay, Que.

* Concluded the 2022-23 season with 31-44—75 (68 GP) and ranked fourth on the team in goals, assists and points. His season was highlighted by a 10-game point streak and 6-game goal streak.

* Finished the 2021-22 season with 17-29—46 in 62 games to lead all 16-year-olds in points while being named to the QMJHL All-Rookie Team.

* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-1—1 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Just finished his second season in the QMJHL. Smart two-way right-handed winger who can also play center. Versatile skater who plays on the power play and penalty killing unit. Hockey sense is certainly one of his best assets. Reads the play very well, recognizes the threats defensively and has a great feel for the game in the offensive zone. Great passing skill, he finds his teammates all over the ice. Solid player down low and around the net. Can play with pace and executes at a high rate. Good shot release and scoring ability around the net.

**COULSON PITRE**

No. 37 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 0.75"

Weight: 172 lbs

Team: Flint Firebirds (OHL)

Birthplace: Newmarket, Ont.

* Concluded the 2022-23 season with 25-35—60 (59 GP) and ranked in the team's top six for goals (3rd), assists (6th) and points (4th).

* In 2021-22, Pitre posted 23-21—44 (52 GP) to earn OHL First All-Rookie Team honors – his 23 goals ranked tied for seventh and his 0.85 points per game finished third among all rookies.

* Was selected into the OHL First All-Rookie Team for 2021-22 after posting 23-21—44 in 44 games with the Flint Firebirds.

* Became the fourth-ever Firebirds skater to be selected to the CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Cerebral player, very smart and always in the right positions on both sides of the puck. A strong and highly effective five-on-five player that is also used in all key areas and special team situations. Great poise with the puck, takes his time and makes the right and often creative decisions. Willing to battle and fight through contact. Can fit pucks through tight windows and consistently executes difficult reads with speed. Smart and crafty with nice touch while handling the puck. Makes lots of subtle, often underappreciated plays in all three zones. Able to shoot in stride and changes angles to get shots through. Makes strong and often creative plays off the cycle. Fights through abuse and is willing to give it back. Will play physical and battle. Excellent two-way player with great attention to detail who makes his teammates better.



CAREY TERRANCE

No. 38 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 0.25"

Weight: 178 lbs

Team: Erie Otters (OHL)

Birthplace: Akwesasne, N.Y.

* Concluded the 2022-23 season with 30-17—47 (67 GP) and as one of the OHL Erie Otters' alternate captains – he finished as the team leader in goals and points.

* Finished second on his team in points by a rookie in 2021-22 after posting 10-14—24 in 62 games.

* Captured gold with the United States in the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship after scoring the game-tying goal with less than four minutes in regulation in the Final. He finished the tournament with 2-4—6 (7 GP).

* Can join Panthers defenseman **Brandon Montour** as a notable Mohawk player to be drafted into the NHL.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

High-end skater with quickness and agility. Ability to beat defenders one-on-one both off the rush and in offensive zone traffic. Used in all special teams and key situations. Top line player that is heavily relied upon in all facets. Team leader. Handles and distributes the puck effectively. Maneuvers himself into scoring areas with regularity. Gets open for quality looks off the rush and cycle. Elusive, difficult to contain and can beat defenders in multiple ways. Vision and creativity with the puck. Makes difficult reads to set up teammates for scoring chances. Works, competes and battles in all three zones. Willing to pay the price to get chances. Takes hits to make plays and plays physical when the opportunities are there.



KALAN LIND

No. 39 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 0.5."

Weight: 158 lbs

Team: Red Deer Rebels (WHL)

Birthplace: Swift Current, Sask.

* Finished the 2022-23 season with 16-28—44 (43 GP) for the WHL's Red Deer Rebels. His 1.02 points per game ranked fourth on the team (min. 10 GP).

* Helped the Rebels reach the second round of the 2023 WHL Playoffs and was one of only six Red Deer players to find the score sheet in Game 7.

* In 2021-22, he finished fourth on his team in goals (20) and fifth on his team in points (38) as a rookie.

* Captured gold with Team Canada at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

* His older brother, **Kole**, was selected by the Canucks in the 2017 NHL Draft (33rd overall) and has played 30 career games with Vancouver and Seattle.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An engaged, two-way 'Swiss Army Knife' type of player that contributes to his team's success in many ways. Plays both wing and center effectively. Real good motor. Plays a hard 200-foot game. Real good skater with speed and quickness. Can make plays and score. A player who is hard to play against with his intensity for the game.



AYDAR SUNIEV

No. 40 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1.5"

Weight: 192 lbs

Team: Penticton Vees (BCHL)

Birthplace: Kazan, Russia

* Posted totals of 45-45—90 in 50 games in the 2022-23 season with the BCHL's Penticton Vees – ranking in the league's top five in goals (t-1st), points (3rd) and assists (5th).

* Won back-to-back BCHL championships with Penticton Vees in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

* Finished the 2022-23 season named to the BCHL's All-Rookie Team and was selected as a First Team All-Star. His 45 goals were tied for the League lead.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Good combination of size and skill that can play a power forward type of game. Top-six winger that is very effective on the power play. Excellent shot that is heavy with a quick release. Shows a good touch and short game in all zones. A high-end playmaker to go with his scoring ability. Powerful skater with good edges and agility. Good work ethic and compete level. Hunts the puck well on the forecheck. Creates chances and turnovers by being dogged on the puck.



HUNTER BRZUSTEWICZ

No. 41 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 11.75"

Weight: 190 lbs

Team: Kitchener Rangers (OHL)

Birthplace: Washington, Mich.

* Finished eighth among OHL defensemen in points with 6-51—57 in 68 GP in 2022-23. His 51 assists ranked sixth among blueliners in the league. He also led his team, regardless of position, with 23 power-play assists.

* Highest single-season point total by a Kitchener Rangers defenseman in 12 years (**Ryan Murphy**: 26-53—79 in 2010-11).

* Spent the 2021-22 season with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team where he ranked fourth among defensemen in the program that season with 2-18—20 in 55 GP.

* Grew up playing AAA hockey in Michigan with the Oakland Jr. Grizzlies program where he skated on a line with Jets first-round pick **Rutger McGroarty** (No. 14 in 2022).

* Has a passion for sports broadcasting and sees it as an avenue he would like to pursue after his on-ice career, stating "I want to be like **Stephen A. Smith**. I love the debates and passion when talking about the players."

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Very good skater with strong mobility. Excellent puck mover from the back end. Sees the ice very well and can transition the puck or rush it. Possesses playmaking ability from the back end and doesn't make many mistakes. He is an asset on both special teams, but especially on the power play. Good positional defender with a high hockey IQ. Plays big minutes for his team.



WILLIAM WHITELAW

No. 42 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 8.75"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Youngstown Phantoms (USHL)

Birthplace: Rosemount, Minn.

* Whitelaw helped Youngstown Phantoms win the USHL's Clark Cup championship in 2022-23, registering 36-25—61 in 62 GP during the regular season and producing at a point-per-game pace during the postseason (5-4—9 in 9 GP).

* Named to the USHL All-Rookie Second Team in 2022-23 after ranking third among first-year skaters in points and second in goals.

* Played high school prep hockey at Shattuck St. Mary's before joining the USHL, a program that has helped develop NHL impact players such as **Sidney Crosby**, **Zach Parise** and **Jonathan Toews**.

* Committed to the University of Wisconsin for the 2023-24 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A very good skater who gets to top speed quickly. Elusive with the puck and handles it with confidence. Hockey sense is very good. Excellent offensive awareness and vision. Wants the puck on his stick and can get to the net through traffic even while being checked. Has a quick pull-away gear and very good speed to the outside.



JAYDEN PERRON

No. 43 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 9"

Weight: 166 lbs

Team: Chicago Steel (USHL)

Birthplace: Winnipeg, Man.

* Perron tied for fifth in USHL scoring with 24-48—72 in 61 GP during the 2022-23 season. He led his team, the Chicago Steel, in assists (48) and power-play assists (21).

* In 2021-22, Perron was named to the USHL All-Rookie Second Team after ranking sixth among first-year skaters with 17-28—45 in 60 GP.

* Committed to the University of North Dakota for the 2023-24 season.

* Lists growing up in Winnipeg battling on the backyard rinks with his older brother as one of the things that shaped him into the player he is today.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An excellent skater who is quick and agile with and without the puck. Makes plays that others don't see and is always a threat to create scoring chances. Excellent lateral movement and edges to create space for himself. Can stop and start quickly and find openings to pass the puck to teammates. Very crafty and creative with the puck. Excellent hockey sense and offensive instincts.



ANDREW STRATHMANN

No. 44 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 10.75"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Youngstown Phantoms (USHL)

Birthplace: Waukegan, Ill.

* Ranked eighth among USHL defensemen with 3-35—38 in 56 GP during the 2022-23 regular season and then helped Youngstown win the Clark Cup championship while contributing 3-4—7 in 9 GP during the playoffs.

* The Clark Cup wasn't the only championship Strathmann won in 2022-23, he was also a member of Team USA's gold medal-winning entry at the 2022 World Junior A Challenge.

* Played minor hockey in the Chicago Mission AAA program where he was teammates with No. 10-ranked North American prospect **Gabriel Perreault**.

* Committed to the University of North Dakota.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Dynamic player that has an ability to make plays. A fluid skater which helps him to pull away from opponents when carrying the puck up the ice. Has good puck skills and vision to make plays at the offensive blue line and when breaking the puck out of his defensive zone. Likes to join the rush as a secondary option and chooses his spots when to do so wisely. An offensive defenseman.



MARTIN MISIAK

No. 45 Ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1.5"

Weight: 200 lbs

Team: Youngstown Phantoms USHL)

Birthplace: Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

* Started the season with Nove Zamky in Slovakia's top men's league where he produced 1-9—10 in 29 GP before transferring to Youngstown of the USHL in January.

* Key member of Youngstown's Clark Cup championship team in 2022-23 where he produced 6-11—17 in 27 GP in his half regular season with the club and then led his team and tied for second in the league with 2-8—10 in 9 GP during their championship run.

* Member of Team Slovakia's gold medal-winning entry at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship – Division 1A where he played on a strong team with other top prospects for the 2023 NHL Draft including **Samuel Honzek**, **Dalibor Dvorsky** and **Alex Ciernik**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Gained a lot of useful experience playing with and against men in Slovakia prior to transferring to the USHL. Physically ready to play on this level, does not shy away from any situations. Strong character player with a good attitude. Good skater with speed, quickness and balance. Smooth hands, smart and effective in traffic. Good understanding of the game, knows where to be and is seldom out of position. Effective checker with an excellent work ethic that helps him win battles.



TOP-RANKED INTERNATIONAL SKATERS



LEO CARLSSON

No. 1 Ranked International Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 2.5"

Weight: 194 lbs

Team: Orebro (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Karlstad, Sweden

* Was named Swedish Junior Hockey Player of the Year in 2022-23 after topping Sweden's top professional league (SHL) in assists (15) and points (25), as well as finishing second in goals (10) in his age category.

* Represented his country in their gold-medal entry at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (2-1—3 in 2 GP) and earned a bronze medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP). He also skated for Team Sweden at the 2023 World Championship and sat tied atop his country in goals (3-2—5 in 8 GP).

* Tied for third in team scoring for Sweden in their fourth-place finish at the 2023 World Junior Championship (3-3—6 in 7 GP).

* Grew up a fan of Penguins captain **Sidney Crosby** and models his game after **Auston Matthews** and **Anze Kopitar**.

* His father, **Kenneth**, was a defenseman who played professional hockey in Sweden from 1995-96 to 2003-04.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A competitive, well-built, strong two-way forward with all the tools needed to be a star. Stays on the puck well along the boards and is hard to knock down in battles. Excellent poise. His puck-handling and skating work excellently in unison. Can shoot variety of ways and releases it well. Can play on or off the puck effectively and create offense in a variety of ways, but also understands his role at all times defensively. Makes the game look easy, rotating in and out of space with and without the puck to make plays and get open. He is constantly reading and identifying his options, whether that's space opening up for him to put a puck into for a moving teammate, a layer he can use as a screen for his shot or a lane he can take on an entry. The way he can bait defenders one-on-one is extraordinary. He is a natural rally starter who can change the momentum of a shift, period, or game either on or off the puck. Natural first-round pick.



MATVEI MICHKOV

No. 2 Ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 172 lbs

Team: Sochi (RUSSIA)

Birthplace: Perm, Russia

* Tallied 9-11—20 (27 GP) with Sochi of the KHL after joining the club on Dec. 20, 2022 and finished fourth on the team in scoring, despite playing in 28+ fewer games than the three players who finished above him.

* Won a junior league championship in 2021-22 after posting 30-21—51 in 28 GP – his 30 goals were tied for 10th most in the league. He followed that up by leading all skaters in postseason goal scoring with 13-4—17 in 17 GP for SKA St. Petersburg's junior team.

* Named Best Forward and Most Valuable Player at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship where he led all skaters in goals and points (12-4—16 in 7 GP) while earning a silver medal.

* Helped his country earn gold at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he led all skaters in goals (tied) and points with 8-5—13 in 5 GP.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

He was injured in early August during an exhibition game and missed several weeks before being back on the ice in early October. An explosive winger and an exceptional talent with all the tools needed to become a superstar. Soft hands, excellent understanding of the game, great acceleration and skating speed, excellent puck-handling skills and a top-end goal scorer who also can make perfect game-breaking passes. Plays with a lot of energy and confidence, competes hard in all areas of the ice but remains most effective when he is in the offensive zone. Creates scoring chances with his surprising quick moves around the net.



DALIBOR DVORSKY

No. 3 Ranked International Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1"

Weight: 200 lbs

Team: AIK (SWEDEN-2)

Birthplace: Zvolen, Slovakia

* Spent the majority of the 2022-23 season with AIK in Sweden's second division (6-8—14 in 38 GP) and finished as the league leader in points by a U-18 junior. Dvorsky also added 10-11—21 in 10 GP with their junior team.

* Represented Slovakia at the 2023 World Junior Championship (1-2—3 in 5 GP) and also helped his country win a gold medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Junior Championship – Division 1A while ranking second on the team with 5-6—11 in 5 GP.

* Helped Slovakia earn a silver medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he led the tournament in goals (tied) and finished second in scoring with 8-4—12 in 5 GP.

* Played the 2021-22 season for AIK's top junior team, where he ranked tied for second on his team with 20-20—40 in 33 GP.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A Slovakian Under-20 National team player who plays at the club level with AIK in Sweden. He has good on-ice awareness and hockey IQ. Great with the puck on his stick and can attack in a variety of ways. He has good hands and is skilled at protecting the puck. He also shows great skill in tight spaces to maintain possession. He attacks with the puck using his skill, skating and vision, making him a threat off the rush. Leads his line very well. His great strength is the offensive game with and without the puck but he can also handle the defensive game well. He often wins battles using his can-do attitude and quick stick. He is being used in any situation and is solid and reliable in all game situations.



EDUARD SALE

No. 4 Ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1.75"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: BRNO (CZECHIA)

Birthplace: Brno, Czechia

* Spent 2022-23 playing for Brno in Czechia's top men's league where the 17-year-old forward posted 7-7—14 (43 GP) – finished as the most points by a junior-aged player across the league.

* Averaged nearly a point per game for Czechia at the 2023 World Junior Championship (1-5—6 in 7 GP) to help his country earn silver and mark their first medal in the tournament since winning a bronze in 2005.

* Internationally, Sale was a member of Czechia's entry at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship (4-2—6 in 5 GP), their fourth-place finish at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (1-8—9 in 6 GP) and twice represented his country at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 4 GP in 2022 and 4-2—6 in 5 GP in 2023).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A very talented player with great offensive instincts. He has all the skills and attributes needed to become the next star from Czechia. He is very active in the offensive zone and can both shoot and pass with precision and authority. He plays with a lot of confidence, is a strong skater with very good speed and balance. Very good hockey sense with vision. Ability to read plays, is a playmaker and possesses a good selection of shots to finish scoring chances. A finesse-type player whose overall game will only improve with added strength.



DAVID REINBACHER

No. 5 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 2.25"

Weight: 194 lbs

Team: EHC Kloten (SWISS)

Birthplace: Hohenems, Austria

* Collected 3-19—22 (46 GP) in the top Swiss professional league (NL) with EHC Kloten and finished with the most points by a teenager across the league. He was named the NL Media Most Improved Player.

* In 2021-22, Reinbacher made his Swiss League debut at age 16 and appeared in 14 games to earn a SL Championship with EHC Kloten.

* Wore an "A" on his jersey while he represented his country at the 2023 World Championship (0-1—1 in 4 GP) and the 2023 World Junior Championship where he was named a top three player on his team (0-2—2 in 5 GP).

* Can become the seventh Austrian-born player to be taken in the first round of the NHL Draft and it can mark the third since 2020 after **Marco Kasper** (8th overall in 2022) and **Marco Rossi** (9th overall in 2020).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Austrian-born Reinbacher is in his fifth season playing in Switzerland and is now playing regular with Kloten in the Swiss league. After his strong start with Kloten he was nominated to play for the Austrian National team in November tournament play. Well-built athlete, physically strong defenseman who plays with authority and confidence both with and without the puck. Looks to get involved on every shift and knows how to use his size and strength to competitive advantage. Good skater for his size, strong on his skates with good balance and mobility. Effective making a solid first pass out of the zone and can also skate the puck out from checking pressure. Reliable and trusted by his coach to play all situations and knows to keep his game with the puck simplified in order to get the job done.

**OTTO STENBERG**

No. 6 Ranked International Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Frölunda (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Stenungsund, Sweden

* Split the majority of his 2022-23 season between Frölunda HC of the Swedish Hockey League and their junior squad. In Sweden's top league, Stenberg amassed 1-2—3 (23 GP) and was one of just 10 Under-18 players to record a point.

* Is a four-time medalist for Sweden on the international stage – his resume includes a gold at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship, silver at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he finished tied for second in tournament scoring (5-4—9 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2022 World Junior A Challenge.

* Stenberg's fourth medal came when he captained his country in their silver-medal performance at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship. He recorded 7-9—16 through 7 games to finish fourth in tournament scoring and was named a tournament All-Star.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An offensively gifted player who has quick hands and stays on the puck well in tight areas. Shot is accurate and quick, which makes him a very proficient goal scorer and valuable on the power play. Excellent skater with strong posture and speed. Effective game to stay on the puck and always plays with confidence and courage. Solid game driving hard to the net and going to the goal-scoring areas. Smart player with vision who moves the puck well and makes the right decision. Crafty hands and moves while eluding checks and negotiating traffic. Overall, he's a pretty complete player who can take his game to the next level with strength gains. A competitive player with a strong work ethic who is capable of being a difference-maker.



AXEL SANDIN PELLIKKA

No. 7 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 180 lbs

Team: Skellefteå (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Gällivare, Sweden

* Split his 2022-23 season between Sweden's top professional league and with Skellefteå AIK's junior team. With the junior squad, Sandin Pellikka recorded 16-20—36 (31 GP) and finished with the fourth-most goals in the league among 17-year-old players.

* Earned Best Defenseman honors in Sweden's top junior league in 2022-23.

* Recorded 2-3—5 through 22 games in Sweden's top professional league – the second-most points among Under-18 skaters.

* Won a silver medal with Team Sweden at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship, finishing second in the tournament in scoring among blueliners (2-9—11 in 7 GP) and was named Best Defenseman.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An offensive minded defenseman who has played for Skellefteå at both the league and Under-20 team level during the 2022-23 season. Still seeing limited ice time in the men's league but has showed his impressive offensive skills at the junior level. Compensates for his size with smartness and an understanding of the game. Safe first pass and good feel for long breakout passes. Likes to shoot with a quick release. Plays with poise and confidence in all situations, a great mix of offensive and defensive game. Smooth skater with speed and balance. Reliable and consistent player.



LENNI HÄMEENAHO

No. 8 Ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Ässät (FINLAND)

Birthplace: Kajaani, Finland

* Played in Finland's top professional league in 2022-23, where he recorded 9-12—21 over 51 games, tied for fourth-most goals and sixth-most points on his team.

* Posted 23-37—60 (31 GP) in 2020-21 with Ässät's Under-18 junior team and earned the Esa Tikkanen Award as the best player in the league after recording the most assists.

* Won a bronze medal with Finland at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (2-1—3 in 6 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

One of the youngest players playing regularly in the Finnish Elite League. He is often on the first line and is gaining a lot of useful experience playing with and against men. A prospect who has improved more than expected from last year. A creative player who plays with a lot of energy. Great attitude, very good work ethic, a highly competitive team player. Very good first-step quickness and skating speed. Solid on his skates with good balance. Goes hard at both ends of the ice. Not overly physical, yet effective in one-on-one battles using smarts and quickness. Has good hockey sense and is playing with a lot of confidence. Has a good set of skills including skating, passing, shot and puck handling.



DANIL BUT

No. 9 Ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 5"

Weight: 203 lbs

Team: Yaroslavl Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)

Birthplace: Yaroslavl, Russia

* Played primarily in Russia's junior league for Loko Yaroslavl in 2022-23, recording 15-11—26 (26 GP) and finishing fifth on his team in goals.

* Skated in 15 KHL games in 2022-23 with his two goals and two points tied for the most among Under-18 players.

* Won a gold medal with Russia at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and a bronze medal at the 2022 European Youth Olympic Winter Festival.

* His father, **Anton**, had a lengthy hockey career in Russia while also representing his country at the World Championship. He was also part of St. Petersburg's Spengler Cup championship team in 2010-11.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A tower on the ice who moves surprisingly well for a big man. A solid skater with OK speed and good balance. His size and strength on his skates enables him to win most battles. He is a very good puck-handler and playmaker, moving the puck well with linemates for give-and-go plays. His overall skills and creativity are top class. Handles the puck with confidence. A competitive player with a low mistake rate. Is active, likes to be involved.



MIKHAIL GULYAYEV

No. 10 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 172 lbs

Team: Omsk Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)

Birthplace: Novosibirsk, Russia

* Spent most of his 2022-23 season in Russia's junior league with Omskie Yastreby and led all defensemen on his team in scoring with 2-23—25 (22 GP). He also posted 2-8—10 (17 GP) in the playoffs, which was tied for most points among all blueliners in the MHL.

* Had one assist in 13 games in the KHL with Avangard Omsk and was the only Under-18 defenseman to record a point in that league in 2022-23.

* Averaged a point per game in his country's gold-medal victory at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-3—5 in 5 GP).

* His father, **Alexander**, has been his coach for the past four seasons including with Russia's Under-16, Under-17 and the MHL's Omskie.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A defenseman who possesses smooth skating and puck-handling skills. He plays a consistent, responsible two-way game and plays within the rules. Very good puck-control and puck-movement game, advances the puck quickly and effectively. Strong on his skates with very good mobility and balance. Effective in puck scrums and net front battles, plays a very proactive and involved style on every shift. Plays a smart, mature game at the offensive blue line and knows when to join the rush or pinch in on plays. Good understanding of playing defense and good technique with positioning and coverage. Playing at all levels in the Omsk organization during the 2022-23 season.



KASPER HALTTUNEN

No. 11 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 3.25"

Weight: 215 lbs

Team: HIFK (FINLAND)

Birthplace: Helsinki, Finland

* Played 27 games in Finland's top professional league (0-1—1) and recorded 18-6—24 (18 GP) with HIFK's junior team – his 1.33 points per game ranked 10th among all skaters with at least 10 games played in Finland's junior league.

* Captained his country at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship and recorded a team-high 6-4—10 (5 GP).

* Earned the Yrjö Hakala Award in 2021-22 as the Rookie of the Year in Finland's junior league after tallying 24-14—38 (41 GP) with Jokerit.

* A two-time medalist on the international stage with Team Finland, including a bronze medal at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (3-2—5 in 6 GP) and the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

One of the top scorers on the junior team and was captain of Finland's Under-18 national team in February tournament play. Solid skater who is strong on his skates with adequate quickness to get going and picks up speed when on the move. Effective size and strength game utilizing his physical assets along the boards, in the corners and with puck protection all while playing within the rules. Good hockey sense with vision and reading the play to generate offense. The combination of size, hockey sense and puck skills make him very hard to defend against. He looks to shoot on plays and has a great selection of shots including both a good wrist and slap shot which he releases quickly on the go. Often has up to ten shots on goal in a game and logs significant ice time at the junior level. A power forward prospect who has a lot of upside to his NHL projection.



TOM WILLANDER

No. 12 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 1"

Weight: 180 lbs

Team: Rogle Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Birthplace: Stockholm, Sweden

* Recorded 4-21—25 (39 GP) with Rögle BK in Sweden's junior league and finished tied for second in points among all Under-18 defensemen.

* Appeared in two games in Sweden's top professional league – one of just five U-18 defensemen to play in 2022-23.

* Earned a silver medal with Team Sweden at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship, finishing the tournament with the most goals among all blueliners (3-5—8 in 7 GP), and at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. He also won bronze at the 2022 World Junior A Challenge (2-2—4 in 6 GP) and was named to the tournament's all-star team.

* Committed to Boston University for the 2023-24 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Skilled, key defenseman on Rogle's Under-20 team. A finesse-type of player with excellent mobility and skating speed. Good understanding of the game, moves the puck quickly with smart game-opening passes. Smooth hands. Likes to join the rush, plays an effective two-way game. Good set of tools, is competitive, alert and involved on every shift. Trusted by his coaches to play big minutes.



JESSE KIISKINEN

No. 13 Ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6' 0.25"

Weight: 190 lbs

Team: Pelicans Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)

Birthplace: Hollola, Finland

* Spent the majority of the season in Finland's junior league where he posted 20-23—43 in 31 games – tied for 10th in the league in goals, second on his team that category and first in points.

* Appeared in seven games in Finland's top professional league (0-1—1) in 2022-23 with the Pelicans.

* Was part of his country's bronze-medal at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and finished the tournament tied for third on his team in points (2-2—4 in 5 GP). He also skated for Finland in their entry at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (3-2—5 in 5 GP).

* His father, **Ville**, played professional hockey in Europe from 1995 to 2012 and currently serves as an assistant coach for Heinola Peliitat, a team in Mestis – Finland's second highest ice hockey league.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

One of the young, positive surprises in Finnish hockey during the 2022-23 season. A speedy wing with first-step quickness and good skating speed. Plays with a lot of energy and intensity, has a good selection of shots with a quick release. Also a strong passer and playmaker, constantly reading and identifying his options. A finesse-type of player but does not shy away from tough situations. Good hockey sense, moves the puck well and makes smart decisions. Very good work ethic. Excellent offensive instincts, an offensive threat on every shift.



THEO LINDSTEIN

No. 14 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 0"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Brynas (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Gavle, Sweden

* Played the majority of the 2022-23 season with Brynas in Sweden's top professional league, appearing in 32 contests (1-1—2).

* Was named Sweden's top defenseman in their Under-18 league during the 2021-22 season.

* Is a two-time silver medalist for Team Sweden on the international stage, including at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where is six points ranked second among defensemen across the tournament (1-5—6 in 6 GP) and at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 7 GP).

* Loves watching Stars defenseman **Miro Heiskanen** because of his skating, vision and hockey sense.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Impresses with his hockey sense and understanding of the game. Plays with good structure. A mobile and smart player who runs the power play very effectively at the point. Moves the puck with poise in powerplay situations. Has the ability to rush the puck deep. Defensively very solid, tough to beat in one-on-one situations because of his mobility and decision-making ability. Not a very flashy player, but one who hardly makes any big mistakes.



JAKUB DVORAK

No. 15 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 5"

Weight: 210 lbs

Team: Liberec (CZECHIA)

Birthplace: Liberec, Czechia

* Collected two assists over 24 games during the 2022-23 season with Liberec of the Czech Extraliga – the highest league of professional hockey in Czechia.

* Spent the majority of the 2021-22 season with Liberec's junior team in Czechia's top junior league and finished with 1-9—10 through 19 games.

* Skated in the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and was one of only two Team Czechia defensemen to score a goal (1-1—2 in 5 GP). He also represented his country at the 2022 and 2023 Under-18 World Championship where he served as captain for the latter.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A well-built, reliable team player. A leader on the ice who has been the captain for Czechia's Under-18 team. Mobility and skating is good for a player of his size. Physically strong but more of a finesse-type than aggressive player. Strong on his skates with good balance. Handles the puck well with a good and safe first pass. Consistent in his decision-making, particularly in his own zone and plays a lot of minutes with few mistakes. Solid and reliable on every shift.



ROMAN KANTSEROV

No. 16 Ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5' 9"

Weight: 176 lbs

Team: Magnitogorsk Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)

Birthplace: Magnitogorsk, Russia

* Played the majority of the 2022-23 season with Magnitogorsk in Russia's junior league and posted 27-27—54 in 45 games, finishing as the team leader in goals and points.

* Made the MHL All-Star Game and was chosen as the MHL Forward of the Week for the week ending Sept. 19.

* As a young kid, he took classes for karate, tennis, swimming and gymnastics, but was hooked by hockey.

* Born and raised in Magnitogorsk, the same hometown as current NHL players **Evgeni Malkin** and **Ilya Samsonov**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Usually plays on the first line with big minutes and responsibilities. Stands out with his smooth hands and quick, accurate wrist shot. Reads the play well, knows where to be and when. Offensive minded, effective around the net, can both pass and shoot. Compensates for lack of size with his mobility and quickness. Good set of overall skills. Despite his size, he goes in to high traffic areas and battles for loose pucks. Prefers to play a high-skill, finesse game. Very good offensive instincts.



NOAH DOWER NILSSON

No. 17 Ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'11.75"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Frolunda Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Birthplace: Stromstad, Sweden

* Spent the majority of the 2022-23 season in Sweden's junior league with Frolunda where he posted 26-28—54 in 37 games, finishing with the most points in the league by a 17-year-old.

* Finished with the most points by an Under-18 junior in Sweden's junior league in 2022-23.

* A two-time silver medalist for Team Sweden at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-3—4 in 5 GP) and 2023 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 7 GP).

* His older brother, **Liam**, was selected by the Red Wings (134th overall) in the 2021 NHL Draft.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A skilled, solid and reliable two-way team player. Possesses speed, smooth hands and can make things happen individually, often after surprising rushes. He likes to go to the net. A goal scorer with a nice selection of shots. Shows good feel for the game and is an effective forechecker. Always looking for open ice and the possibility to shoot. Can also set up teammates with smart game-opening passes. A competitive player.



OSCAR FISKER MOLGAARD

No. 18 Ranked International Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'11.75"

Weight: 166 lbs

Team: HV 71 (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Hjørring, Denmark

* Played the majority of the 2022-23 season in Sweden's top professional league, appearing in 41 games with HV71 (4-3—7).

* Registered 23 points in 21 games (6-17—23) with the HV71's junior team and finished with the sixth-most points on the team despite playing in 20 or more fewer games than all of the players above him.

* Earned a silver medal with Team Denmark at the 2023 Under-18 Division 1A World Championship and was named the tournament's best forward after recording the most goals (6), assists (6) and points (12). He also represented his country at the 2023 World Junior Division A Championship.

* His father, **Lars**, was a professional hockey player in Denmark from 1990-91 to 2005-06 and was a core member of the national team.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Born in Denmark, playing in Sweden. Competitive two-way player with energy and intensity on every shift. He can handle the puck well in tight areas by using his puck-handling skills and finesse. He also finds his way through traffic out to transition with speed and acceleration. He covers and protects the puck at a very high level for his age. His passes are accurate and he immediately finds a way to get it back. His hockey sense and skating are at an elite level. He can settle the small plays and help the team off the puck as well. His defensive skills are overwhelming even in the men's league. Overall he has good self-confidence and does not make too many mistakes. One of the most improved young prospects playing in Sweden during the 2022-23 season.



DMITRIY SIMASHEV

No. 19 Ranked International Skater

Position: Defenseman

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 4"

Weight: 198 lbs

Team: Yaroslavl Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)

Birthplace: Kostroma, Russia

* Played the majority of the 2022-23 campaign in Russia's junior league with Yaroslavl where he appeared in 29 regular-season contests (1-9—10 in 29 GP). He then posted 2-4—6 in 10 playoff games with the club and led the team among defensemen in each of those categories.

* Appeared in 18 KHL games in 2022-23.

* Won a bronze medal with Team Russia at the 2022 European Youth Olympic Winter Festival.

* Plays chess 1-2 times every day as a way to improve his IQ – believes it helps him think one or two steps ahead on the ice.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Good size. A physically strong defenseman who prefers to play a finesse-style game. Can be aggressive and physical when needed. Very competitive, alert and active in all three zones. Strong work ethic. Good, smooth skater for a player of his size. Puck-handling, passing and playmaking skills are all good. Plays a mature game: solid, reliable and tough when needed.



NOEL NORDH

No. 20 Ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6' 1.5"

Weight: 200 lbs

Team: Brynas Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Birthplace: Söderhamn, Sweden

* Played the majority of 2022-23 in Sweden's junior league and posted 13-14—27 in 38 games, ranking fifth on the team for goals and tied for fifth in points. He also appeared in 10 Swedish Hockey League games (1-0—1).

* Is a three-time medalist with Team Sweden, including a silver at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship and 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, as well as a bronze at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge (2-2—4 in 6 GP).

* His brother, **Nils**, plays professional hockey in Sweden and currently plays for IF Sundsvall Hockey.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Wing with good physical presence on the ice. A power forward with a good set of tools including size, strength, vision, mobility, passing and a pro-level shot. Handles the puck very well. Needs to work on first-step quickness and skating speed. Competitive player who is effective in battles using his size and strength. Often first on loose pucks. He was used on the power play with both the Under-18 national team and Brynas' junior team. Likes to play an effective, simple game and likes to drive to the net. Tough to move in front of the net while on offense. Lots of pro elements in his game.



TOP-RANKED NORTH AMERICAN GOALIES



CARSON BJARNASON

No. 1 Ranked North American Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 3.25"

Weight: 190 lbs

Team: Brandon Wheat Kings (WHL)

Birthplace: Brandon, Man.

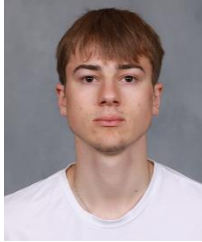
* Posted a 21-19-5 record in 2022-23 (3.08 GAA, .900 SV%), highlighted by two 40-plus save performances, after posting an 8-10-1 record as a rookie in 2021-22 (4.00 GAA, .882 SV%).

* Earned the Co-MVP Award for the Brandon Wheat Kings for the 2022-23 season, a breakthrough campaign after going undrafted in the NHL.

* Posted a 4-2 record at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship to help Team Canada earn a bronze medal and was a part of his country's gold medal entry at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-0-0; 1.00 GAA, .950 SV%).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A good pro-sized goalie that has a lot of high-end skills. Very smart positionally and while reading and reacting to plays. Very good butterfly coverage. Athletic goaltender who consistently competes very hard with a never give up attitude. Great quickness in his reactions and recovery skills with quick and controlled lateral movements. He gets around the crease quick and efficiently with poise and confidence. Seals the post and short side well on wraparounds and sharp angle attempts. Good overall rebound control. Very alert and quick to cover up loose pucks. High pro upside.



MICHAEL HRABAL

No. 2 Ranked North American Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 6.75"

Weight: 215 lbs

Team: Omaha Lancers (USHL)

Birthplace: Prague, Czechia

* Spent four years with HC Sparta Praha's youth teams before joining the USHL Omaha Lancers in 2022-23, where he finished tied in the league for the sixth-most shutouts (3) and had the lowest goals-against average among rookies with 2.86.

* Named to the USHL All-Rookie Team in 2022-23.

* Represented Czechia at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he recorded a 2.73 GAA and .917 SV% over four games to be named one of the Top 3 Players on his team.

* Models his game after **Jake Oettinger**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Has a huge presence in the net and there isn't much room for shooters on initial shots. Challenges smartly with good angle play. Shows good patience and is smart reading the plays. Tough to beat along the ice and in tight situations. Has a very solid stance and powerful lateral pushes. Gets around the crease with good quickness. Makes good reads on cross-ice passes for one-time plays. Easily covers post to post. Holds his ground well with players cutting hard to the net and in tight situations. Good reactions and recovery skills with a very good glove hand. High-end pro upside.



TREY AUGUSTINE

No. 3 Ranked North American Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 1.25"

Weight: 190 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: St. Louis, Mo.

* Posted a 29-1-2 record in 2022-23 with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team, concluding the season with a 2.13 GAA, .926 SV% and one shutout.

* Went 6-0-0 in Team USA's gold medal performance at the 2023 Under-18 World Junior Championship (1.61 GAA, .934 SV%), collected a silver medal at the 2021 Under-18 World Junior Championship (3-1-0; 2.77 GAA, .882 SV%) and backstopped his country to a bronze medal at the 2023 World Junior Championship, posting a 2.85 GAA and .891 SV% in six games.

* His hometown is South Lyon, Mich. and he is committed to Michigan State University for 2023-24.

* Watches **Juuse Saros** closely as a goaltender he models his game after.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Positional play is excellent. Very focused, poised and confident. Smart at reading and reacting to situations with very good butterfly coverage. Very good quickness and athleticism. Quick to flare out the pads on low corner attempts with very good compete and great scramble ability. Strong and quick lateral pushes. Confident glove hand. Makes the game and big saves look easy. Tracks pucks well through traffic. A high-quality prospect.



SCOTT RATZLAFF

No. 4 Ranked North American Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 0.5"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Seattle Thunderbirds (WHL)

Birthplace: Irma, Alta.

* Posted a 25-8-0 record in 34 games in 2022-23 with a 2.15 GAA and .918 SV%. His five shutouts led all goaltenders in the WHL.

* Won the 2023 WHL Championship with the Seattle Thunderbirds.

* Registered a 17-2-1 record in 2021-22 and finished with the lowest goals against average among rookies (min. 5 GP) at 2.48.

* Went 4-0 and recorded two shutouts at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and helped Team Canada win gold (0.50 GAA, .976 SV%).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A very smart goalie with very good positional play. Good butterfly coverage, sealing the ice and five-hole with good leg extension to protect the low corners. Very efficient and quick lateral crease movements. Very good feet and has good quickness getting back to his feet after going down in the butterfly. Alert and competitive with very good athleticism. Skates well. Very good glove hand and good overall rebound control.



JACOB FOWLER

No. 5 Ranked North American Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 1"

Weight: 222 lbs

Team: Youngstown Phantoms (USHL)

Birthplace: Melbourne, Fla.

* Concluded 2022-23 with a 27-9-3 record in 40 games, posting a 2.28 GAA and .921 SV%. He earned the most wins among all netminders in the league and was named the USHL Goalie of the Year.

* He also led the Phantoms to an 8-1-0 record in the 2023 USHL Playoffs with a 1.36 GAA, .952 SV% and a shutout in the championship-clinching game to win the USHL Clark Cup. He was also named the playoff MVP.

* Was awarded the 2022-23 Dave Peterson Goaltender of the Year Award as the top U.S.-born goaltender at the junior level.

* Went undefeated in Team USA's championship entry the 2022 World Junior A Challenge (4-0-0; 1.75 GAA, .918 SV%, 1 SO).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

He has decent pro size with a very good skill level. Very good angle and positional play. Quick and efficient crease movements. Very alert and focused – he competes and battles hard to keep pucks out of the net. Very smart at reading and reacting to the pass across or back door plays. Quick laterally to get set for a one-time attempt and plays in a wide butterfly stance. Good at absorbing pucks and limiting his rebounds. A solid goalie prospect.



ADAM GAJAN

No. 6 Ranked North American Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 2.75"

Weight: 180 lbs

Team: Chippewa Steel (NAHL)

Birthplace: Poprad, Slovakia

* Played the majority of 2022-23 with the Chippewa Steel in the North American Hockey League, sporting a 19-12-1 record in 34 games with a .917 SV% and 2.57 GAA.

* Entered the 2023 World Junior Championship as the third-string goaltender for Team Slovakia but ended the tournament with Top Goalkeeper honors after posting a 2.40 GAA, .936 SV% and one shutout. His tournament also included a 53-save performance in the semifinals before falling to Team Canada after **Connor Bedard** scored in overtime.

* Committed to University of Minnesota-Duluth for 2023-24 after being drawn to collegiate hockey when he watched the U.S. win the 2021 World Junior Championship and realized most of the players were heading to NCAA hockey.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

He is a good pro-size goalie that has good mechanics and skill set. Great instincts. Very strong, quick and efficient crease movements. A complete goaltender who never gives up on a play and is very athletic and quick. Very smart at reading the play and very good positionally. He challenges shooters smartly. Very effective post-to-post play and tough to beat in tight situations. Handles the puck extremely well. Quick reactions and recovery skills. Very capable of making the key saves – he's got a very good pro upside.



TOP-RANKED INTERNATIONAL GOALIES



ALEXANDER HELLNEMO

No. 1 Ranked International Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 2"

Weight: 183 lbs

Team: Skellefteå Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Birthplace: Böblingen, Germany

* Played the majority of the 2022-23 campaign with the Skellefteå's junior team where he posted a 15-8 record (2.32 GAA, .916 SV%, 2 SO) and appeared in nine games with Skellefteå AIK in the Swedish Hockey League where he posted a 5-3-0 record.

* Named the Best Goaltender in Sweden's top junior league in 2022-23.

* Was part of Team Sweden's gold-medal entry at the 2022 Under-18 World Junior Championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A late bloomer who had a very good season and appeared in nine games in the Swedish Hockey League after several solid games in the junior league. A strong, athletic goalie who takes up more of the net than you might think, with explosiveness through his edges and the ability to correct against the grain when the puck changes directions. He has a rapid glove hand, good rebound control and composure. He's quick and nimble on his feet, gets to a lot of pucks, and stays with shooters one-on-one. Plays a very sturdy, positional game that keeps him square in his net and allows him to swallow first chances. Anticipates well but his smarts between the pipes are his biggest asset.



JUHA JATKOLA

No. 2 Ranked International Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6' 1"

Weight: 176 lbs

Team: KalPa (FINLAND)

Birthplace: Kuopio, Finland

* Concluded the 2022-23 campaign with a 20-11-8 record in 40 games for KalPa in Finland's top men's league, finishing with a 2.16 GAA and .903 SV%.

* Was one of five goaltenders in the Finnish Elite League to finish 2022-23 with at least 20 wins. His five shutouts was tied for the sixth most League wide and was one of only five netminders to record a shutout in the playoffs.

* Helped Finland earn the silver medal at the 2022 World Junior Championship. He was the only goaltender in the tournament to record a shutout.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Started the season as a back-up with Kalpa but quickly took over as the starting goaltender and played his breakthrough season. His impressive play was a main reason why Kalpa surprisingly made the playoffs. Very good athleticism, quickness and intensity. Stays square the shooter with fine body control. Very good foot and pad quickness and effective overall body control. Had a solid season and was able to make a couple of game-winning saves in almost every game. Played with poise and good confidence the whole season. Good feel for the game, good instincts and reads the game well.



IAN BLOMQUIST

No. 3 Ranked International Goalie

Position: Goalie

Catches: Right

Height: 6' 2.5"

Weight: 187 lbs

Team: Vasteras (SWEDEN-2)

Birthplace: Gothenburg, Sweden

* Spent most of the 2022-23 campaign with Vasteras in the HockeyAllsvenskan – the second-highest league in Sweden – posting a 2.97 goals against average, .904 SV% and one shutout through 17 games.

* Played for the Vasteras junior team in 2021-22 and posted the best goals against average (2.09) and save percentage (.935) among all goaltenders in his region.

* In 2021-22, he finished fourth among all junior netminders with a .918 SV% after backstopping Vasteras' junior team to a 15-14-0 record while posting three shutouts.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A goaltender with good size. Got a lot of useful experience during the 2022-23 season playing mainly with and against men with Vasteras in Sweden's second division. Smart and cool in the net, reads the game very well and shows very good understanding of the game. Showed good concentration in all games. Technically sound and plays with a lot of intensity. Patient, quick in all situations and showed a lot of confidence. Quick glove. Plays a well-balanced butterfly style. Competed and worked hard throughout the games. Improved a lot during the 2022-23 season.