

1. C Nolan Patrick | Brandon Wheat Kings, WHL | 6'1, 196 | 11/27/98: Bruising center with sublime puck skills who battled through an injury-plagued season. Patrick is the type of center to build a franchise around, and he's both physically and mentally ready to handle the day-to-day rigors of playing for an organization in desperate need of help. He has an excellent shot with a quick release, and will make goalies stretch out to their maximum elasticity in order to stop it. Patrick possesses exceptional vision and can thread the needle with authority either cross-ice or static. He never backs down from a challenge and can deliver punishing checks to separate his opponent from the puck. Patrick's skating is powerful and he has phenomenal balance and agility, and though he lacks first-step explosiveness, he can outskate most defenders while taking direct routes to the net.

2. C Casey Mittelstadt | Green Bay Gamblers, USHL | 6'0, 201 | 11/22/98: No draft-eligible player exemplifies infectious leadership the way this Minnesota-reared super scorer does, and there's a strong chance Mittelstadt will end up within a select group of prospects to challenge Nolan Patrick for the top slot. Size, speed, grace, vision, power and enthusiasm are just a few words one throws around when dissecting his game, and it will be on display for the University of Minnesota in the fall of 2017. Mittelstadt is a money player with a deadly shot, using his size and lower body strength to step into it with NHL-level velocity. He can also make flashy plays and use a dizzying array of puck skills to turn defenders inside-out before threading the needle with a crisp pass. Mittelstadt can play both center and wing, but he exploits his acute sense for finding and acquiring pucks from either position. He led the USHL in scoring as a rookie before returning to high school, where his bid to lead Eden Prairie to a state AA title fell just short.

3. C Nico Hischier | Halifax Mooseheads, QMJHL | 6'2, 179 | 01/04/99: Phenomenal Swiss import who was every bit as advertised during a banner rookie season in the Quebec league. Hischier is an elite center with off-the-charts puck artistry and swift skating that combine into a lethal package. Sly and dangerous, he can strike at a moment's notice. His agility and escapability are unmatched among draft peers, and at 18 years old his hockey sense is on par with the world's best young players of any level. And he's far from just a finesse player — Hischier is a fierce competitor who hates losing whether it's a one-on-one puck battle or a seven-game series. He can kill penalties, lend support down low and do his best at physically moving opponent's off the puck. Hischier has a good, accurate shot but it's the way he fakes and jukes that makes beating goalies all the more simple. Blessed with sick hands, poise and a keen sixth sense, he is next to unstoppable once he takes the puck below the hashmarks. Is ready for the NHL as we speak and should be groomed for a leadership role as he ascends the ladder of stardom.

4. RHD Cale Makar | Brooks Bandits, AJHL | 5'11, 180 | 10/30/98: Dynamic two-way defenseman who torched Canadian Junior "A" by winning every major individual award, including top player in the AJHL and CJHL, plus MVP of the RBC Cup for a second straight year. Makar, who is committed to the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, is an explosive skater with a devastating first step. He commands all areas of the ice with or without the puck, and there is a noticeable fear in the way opponents attempt to defend him. Makar is blessed with an acute understanding of his job in any of the three zones, and he uses a variety of methods to beat back pressure. The way he defends is textbook, especially for a player listed under six feet. While he won't win the proverbial arm-wrestling contest against bigger forwards, he's highly competitive and relentless in the way he uses his stick. Quite frankly, his offensive skills are so sublime, you forget how painfully sound his defensive play is, even if it wasn't against the best of North American major junior. He is the quintessential power play quarterback that can beat you with his accurate stretch passes, end-to-end rushes or setting himself up to unleash a monstrous cannon from the point. You can run out of superlatives trying to describe his game, and one can only hope his dominating performances at high-profile events like the RBC Cup and World Junior "A" Challenge quell concerns related to the level of his competition.

5. LW Eeli Tolvanen | Sioux City Musketeers, USHL | 5'10, 170 | 4/22/99: No draft-eligible forward can wire the puck the way this Finnish import can. The Boston College-bound sniper tore up the USHL for a second straight season, scoring 30 goals in 52 games and pumping out a league-best 246 shots. He can score on breaks, clappers from the circles and has a sweet backhand. Tolvanen is an expert sharpshooter with a quick release, and his ability to pick corners off the pass is reminiscent of countryman Patrik Laine. Tolvanen doesn't have Laine's size, but he's strong on the puck and escapes from the tough battles right into shooting position. He's a strong skater who likes to speed down the wing before unloading a labeled shot. His ability to elude opponents and finish off the rush is unmatched by any draft peer, and the trend of shrinking NHL defensemen will only make it easier for him to exploit his dynamic offensive skills.

6. RW Owen Tippett | Mississauga Steelheads, OHL | 6'0, 200 | 02/16/99: Rugged goal scorer with a lethal shot who produced one of the best wire-to-wire seasons of any 2017 draft prospect. Tippett, a power forward with excellent speed and a laser for a shot, was among the OHL leaders in goals (44) and shots (284), but don't sleep on his playmaking ability — Tippett is an accurate passer who can freeze a goalie before slipping a backdoor pass for a better scoring chance. A tenacious goal scorer with a strong desire to succeed, he skates extremely well and has tremendous balance and agility. Tippett bullies his way into any scoring area to get his stick on the puck. He's certainly benefitted from flanking a high-end playmaker like Mike McLeod, but he takes a never-say-die approach to every shift and proved to be a low-maintenance goal scorer as the season progressed.

13. LHD Miro Heiskanen | HIFK, Liiga | 6'0, 170 | 07/18/99: You can make a strong case for Heiskanen being the draft-eligible defenseman with the shortest path to the NHL, especially when you consider the big minutes he logged for IFK in the Finnish Liiga. He's a cerebral puck mover with above-average speed who is rarely caught out of position, and he accumulates shots and chances by aggressively dropping down well below the dots. Heiskanen is a very good outlet passer and plays with poise, but his impeccable positioning, especially on the penalty kill, is just one of the many reasons why he was entrusted with critical situations despite being one of the youngest players in Finland's top league. Both his wristed and slap shot are hard and accurate, and he comes across as the kind of defender who will look to pick a corner or go five hole rather than blast the puck and pray, especially as he moves closer to the net. Heiskanen is strong with his footwork -- cutbacks, pivots, edges, etc. -- and he is capable of outskating a backchecker as he joins a rush. His speed isn't as blinding as Cale Makar's, or graceful like fellow countryman Urho Vaakanainen, but skating is certainly an asset. Strong enough to win most of his one-on-one battles, Heiskanen will finish checks or use developing upper-body strength to pin and hold long enough for support to arrive. He may not have franchise-carrying potential, but Heiskanen would be an excellent top-pairing option or No. 3 to anchor a reliable minute-eating duo.

11. C/W Gabe Vilardi | Windsor Spitfires, OHL | 6'3, 201 | 08/16/99: Cerebral playmaker and student of the game blessed with exceptional puck skills and the size to enhance them. Vilardi has played wing most of his pre-draft season, but he's a natural center who kills penalties and is used in all critical game situations. He owns an deadly shot in both accuracy and velocity, and his long reach doesn't percent him from finishing within close proximity of the goal. You can make a strong argument for Vilardi being this draft's best stickhandler, and he maintains control of the puck regardless of whether his zone entries are calm or violent. He is a gangly skater with average foot speed from a mobility standpoint, but his long reach when combined with his phenomenal IQ makes him difficult to contain off the rush. Vilardi plays with bite and doesn't back down from a challenge, He will stand up for his teammates and displays leadership qualities despite being one of the younger players on a veteran team. There aren't many players in this draft with legitimate top line upside, but Vilardi is certainly one of them.

7. C/W Elias Pettersson | Timra IK, Allsvenskan | 6'2, 165 | 11/12/98: Sublime two-way talent with jaw-dropping moves and a proclivity for making defenders look silly. Sure, he's beyond wiry and could stand to spend more time with a fork in his hands, but every other block is checked. He can play either center or wing, and owning a ridiculously soft set of hands makes him a perfect fit for any power play. Saying Pettersson is your typical Swedish two-way pivot is too easy a way out. There's a uniqueness about him, and his puck handling abilities are buttery smooth. As lanky as he looks, Petterson is a bonafide assassin who absorbs hits while controlling the puck with his head up. He can handle a tough pass better than practically any of his draft peers. Pettersson isn't an explosive skater with first-step quickness but can gain separation after a few strides. Plus, he's a dangler with an acute hold on how plays develop.

10. RHD Tim Liljegen | Rogle, SHL | 6'0, 191 | 04/30/99: Swift-skating blueliner with a cannon of a shot who was a preseason favorite to challenge for first overall in 2017 before a bout of mononucleosis kept him shelved until mid-November. Liljegen is a fantastic skater, graceful and fluid in the mold of Scott Niedermayer. He has a quick first step, and his lateral movement and agility allow him to attack openings without fear of being trapped. While his understanding of play development within his own zone is a work in progress, Liljegen is a sound decision maker with the puck on his stick once he crosses the opposing blue line. There are occasions where he displays textbook one-on-one coverage and understands when to release from chasing, and his active stick and timely poke checks can save him from instances in which he overcommits or loses a step to an onrushing opponent. More of a shooter than a playmaker, Liljegen nevertheless can connect on the home run pass with pinpoint accuracy, although forcing passes in the face of a forecheck is an area he must improve in. He has star potential and could very easily end up as the most productive NHL rearguard among any 2017 draft peers.

9. C Martin Necas | Kometa Brno, Extraliga | 6'1, 167 | 01/15/99: Dynamic offensive threat with an exceptional understanding of nearly every facet of the game. Though only a teenager, Necas played a critical role in Kometa Brno's lengthy drive deep into the Czech Extraliga postseason. He's an excellent skater with a smooth, graceful stride, using quick bursts and lateral movements to not only breach an opposing zone, but hang onto the puck long to enough for support to arrive. Necas is a two-way player who can be used on the top unit of either the power play or penalty kill, and all plays generally run through him. He is an accurate passer and can create or finish plays with a high degree of difficulty. Slight of frame, Necas has very good balance and is difficult to knock off the puck. He is a fierce competitor who plays with emotion and enthusiasm. A star in the making.

14. C Cody Glass | Portland Winterhawks | 6'2, 180 | 04/01/99: Terrific 200-foot pivot with strong hockey sense who finished with a team-best 62 assists and 94 points while centering their top line, anchoring the first power play unit and killing penalties. Glass was a preseason snub for Team Canada's Ivan Hlinka squad, and hindsight says it was a poor decision as Canada's streak of eight straight titles ended without as much as a medal. You have to figure the cut chapped Glass, who in 2017 played like a youngster possessed, ranking second among all CHL first-year eligibles in assists (62) and third in both primary assists (38) and points (94). While his straight-line speed and first-step quickness are both solid, Glass also displays excellent footwork and balance, and is a hustler with a nonstop motor who will get in on the forecheck or pressure the heck out of power play point men. His transition game is outstanding, but a lot of it has to do with acute hockey sense and making the right reads, especially in the neutral zone. Glass is a lethal playmaker with keen vision, relying on instincts and soft hands to either hit linemates in stride or thread the needle from across the ice. His puck poise is off the charts, especially on the power play. But a hard shot with a quick release, plus a penchant for shooting accurately off the pass, makes him difficult to wargame. You don't know what he's going to do next, and this sort of indecision-inducing style has posterized many a WHL opponent. Far from a perimeter player, Glass can play physical and goes into dirty areas, albeit with varying levels of success.

15. C/W Lias Andersson | HV71, SHL | 5'11, 198 | 10/13/98: One of the few forward prospects who played consistent minutes for a contending adult team, Andersson showcased more creativity and puck skills at several best-on-best tournaments while manning one of Sweden's top two lines. He's a 200-foot battler with soft hands and makes smart decisions while motoring up ice. Andersson is a virtual lock for a lengthy NHL career, and his style of play can fit any system. Andersson is a mature, two-way center who can occasionally fill in on the wing. He had a strong rookie season in the SHL, finishing with 19 points in 42 games for a talented HV71 club. Andersson has run the gauntlet of international competition with aplomb, placing among Sweden's leaders in goals and points at the last WJC and U18 world championship. A shifty, elusive player with good acceleration who is quick on his feet and has a knack for making something out of nothing. He has a very good shot, mainly for his release and accuracy rather than sheer power. Playing inside is something he'll do with regularity, and Andersson's proven to snap off a quick shot while cutting across or in full stride.

12. LHD Erik Brannstrom | HV71, SHL | 5'9, 173 | 09/02/99: Brannstrom is an outstanding two-way puck rusher with a heavy shot who was one of the leading scorers in Sweden's top junior league. A powerful skater with excellent balance and agility, Brannstrom makes up for a slight height disadvantage by processing the game at an extremely high level. He epitomizes leadership on the ice thanks to a "take charge" attitude, and the decisiveness and timeliness of his plays makes me think he is a special talent with a bright future ahead of him. Every shift is treated like an opportunity to attack, and he is one of the better draft-eligible defenders at spinning away from or powering through pressure. Brannstrom is a shifty playmaker who loves to carry the puck up the ice and into the offensive zone, but he's equally adept at splitting the zone with an accurate home run pass. He doesn't let height limitations stop him from giving an opponent the business, and he has a strong upper body to literally shove players off the puck. A player for all situations, Brannstrom is an on-ice general who has both the puck skills and intangibles to become a very good NHL defender.

17. LHD Urho Vaakanainen | JyP, Liiga | 6'0, 188 | 01/01/99: Vaakanainen is the latest edition of poised Finnish two-way defenders who grasp the nuances of the position far better than the bulk of their peers. While it's easy to compare him to 2016 NHL first rounder (and fellow countryman) Olli Juolevi, Vaakanainen comes across as more polished and reliable within the 200-foot game. A wonderful skater with a fluid stride, he is calm and steady with the puck, and will peel back in the face of pressure rather than force things. His passes are short, crisp and strategic, and he can use the boards with both precision and effectiveness. Vaakanainen has a hard shot and is being groomed to quarterback a power play, but we were more impressed with his play while anchoring Finland's top penalty killing unit and refusing to float away from his slot responsibilities. He seems to have the puck on a string, and playing in Finland's top circuit reveals a young man who is clearly one of the most mature of any first-year draft eligible. Vaakanainen won't be a franchise rejuvenator all by himself, but we expect him to solidify one of the top two pairs for either a mediocre team or a contender.

8. RW Klim Kostin | Dynamo Moscow, KHL | 6'3, 196 | 05/05/99: Limited ice time in the KHL, followed by a season-ending shoulder injury during an uneventful stint in Russia's VHL quieted the hype surrounding one of the top specimens for the 2017 draft. It should be noted, however, that Kostin — the top pick in the 2016 CHL Import Draft — has an excellent international resume, including a dominating performance at the U18 Ivan Hlinka in August. He's a power forward with excellent hockey sense and a solid understanding of play development in all three zones. Kostin is just 18 years old, but his age is just a number, as he exudes the kind of confidence and competence seen in players three or four years his senior. He is a very good skater with strong balance, fantastic footwork and agility. Kostin is sound at protecting the puck, and his playmaking proclivity is just as impressive as the way he can get maximum velocity on his pro-level shot. Kostin seems to enjoy creating for his linemates as much as using his sturdy frame to violently separate opponents from the puck. He plays with a clear understanding of the game, but he does so with bite, snarl and a seek-and-destroy mindset.

16. LHD Juuso Valimaki | Tri-City Americans, WHL | 6'2, 204 | 10/06/98: Big, agile two-way defender who was a stalwart on the back end for a deep Tri-City squad. Valimaki led all first-year draft eligible defensemen in CHL scoring and is one of several talented Finnish blueliners in his draft class. Valimaki is a highly-skilled puck distributor who skates very well and loves to turn the tides with a quick-strike transition game. His puck skills and shot are both above average, and it should come as no surprise that his wheels, hands, size and vision makes him one of the favorites to be a lottery pick in June. He is capable of running a power play and will enter the zone with either speed or patience -- he's not a big fan of the dump and chase. If he chooses to throw the puck into the zone, it'll be a subtle lob to make the defense turn their backs or a hard-around to prevent goalie interdiction. His defensive game is solid but he tends to wander from his own slot or get crossed up in coverage. His footwork is very good and he can close and seal-off in a hurry, plus his wingspan and active stick makes him difficult to dance around. Nevertheless, he doesn't play with a whole lot of intensity and at times could look more like a defensive-zone passenger than a decisive, take-charge guy to snuff out a star opponent. A perfect option for teams in need of a middle-pairing anchor used for all late-game and special teams situations.

21. C Ryan Poehling | St. Cloud St. Huskies, NCHC | 6'2, 183 | 01/03/99: Poehling is a big-bodied center who was the only 1999-born player participating in Division I hockey. Being a freshman on a strong St. Cloud State squad pushed him into a depth role, but his upside is well within a top line position. He can provide superior play in every situation and displays enough flash to make the thought of him becoming a star discernible. Poehling was a big reason why Team USA can within a whisker of winning gold at the Ivan Hlinka, playing close to 20 minutes a game and producing highlight-reel plays. He can be one heck of a fancy player if the situation calls for it. The stats (7-6-13 in 35 games) are somewhat indicative of a freshman forward on a stacked team, but he can skate, dangle, dazzle and hit, drawing comparisons to Nashville's Ryan Johansen. Poehling can play physical and uses his size and reach to his advantage, especially on the penalty kill, where he is a threat to score. He thinks the game at a high level and has proven to take over games.

46. LHD Pierre-Olivier Joseph | Charlottetown Islanders, QMJHL | 6'2, 170 | 07/01/99: Lean but solid two-way defender who stood out and played big minutes despite Charlottetown being loaded with NHL picks. It didn't take Joseph long to establish himself as one of his team's leaders, especially in crunch time when the Islanders were protecting leads. He sticks to his man like white on rice, and his hounding is done properly and in a clean manner. Joseph has developing puck skills, and on occasion showed a take-charge mentality when it came to carrying the puck up the ice and entering the opposing zone. He's a good skater with a long, smooth stride who can juke or pivot his way from trouble. Joseph is certainly one of the more poised draft-eligible defensemen, and I think he's only some added muscle away from contributing at the highest level.

23. C Michael Rasmussen | Tri-City Americans, WHL | 6'6, 215 | 04/17/99: Big-bodied three-zone center who was among the leaders in WHL goal scoring before a broken wrist ended his season in early March. Rasmussen parlayed a productive summer Ivan Hlinka tournament into a white-hot start for Tri-City, scoring 20 goals in his first 24 games. He cooled off a bit before the injury, but still ranked among the top of CHL draft eligibles in goals per game. The downside? Most were scored on the power play, and as a center, Rasmussen in 50 games recorded only three primary assists during 5v5, and that was while playing on a good team. Nevertheless, he's an excellent two-way pivot who plays smart, plays physical and does what it takes to win. He is a decent skater in terms of speed and footwork, but Rasmussen displays tremendous balance and his soft hands to handle tough passes while moving as fast as he can. He plays an in-your-face style and is very physical, using both reach and upper-body strength to shove opponents off the puck and make neat little plays once he has it.

32. C Joni Ikonen | Frolunda J20, Superelit | 5'11, 178 | 04/14/99: Ikonen is a dynamic playmaker with top line upside who excels in all three zones. He's an inside player willing to take whatever punishment awaits as he dangles and spins his way into the tough scoring areas. Ikonen has excellent balance and is a strong puck carrier who can make high-percentage plays either off the rush or after collecting loose pucks during board battles. When the puck is on his stick, you get a sense that he wants to be in command and dictate the tempo, especially on the power play. Ikonen is both fast and incredibly shifty, going full bore to hunt down pucks off the forecheck and stopping on a dime with his head up. He's a strong competitor and is the last kid looking for a line change as his motor enables him to maintain the same compete level from the beginning of a shift to the very end. He has an excellent shot with a quick release and is capable of being more than just a pass-first pivot. He centered Frolunda's top line, displaying chemistry with fellow 2017 draft eligible Kristian Vesalainen.

22. RHD Callan Foote | Kelowna Rockets, WHL | 6'4, 212 | 12/13/98: There are few players, if any, that can defend their territory and manage the puck within it better than Foote, whose father Adam won multiple Stanley Cups as a stay-at-home defender for the Avalanche in the 1990s. Callan, however, is a step quicker than Adam was, and processes the game at an extremely high level. Watching Foote think and play at the same time makes you forget he's still a teenager, and his hard, accurate shot that was used on Kelowna's power play is hard enough to prevent goalies from controlling rebounds. He's a reliable two-way defender whose simple game somewhat clouds how capable he is with the puck, but an end-to-end rusher is something he'll never be. Nevertheless, he comes across as a goalie's best friend -- the guy who will clear out the crease without habitually screening him or tipping pucks into his own net. Callan plays with smart positioning, exhibits excellent instincts, quick outlet passes and occasional offense in the form of either joining a rush or stretch passes that split the zone.

24. RHD Henri Jokiharju | Portland Winterhawks | 6'0, 180 | 06/17/99: There are always risky picks, but Jokiharju's limitations in size and strength doesn't mean he'll never get big enough to handle an NHL workload. Two things this Finn does well are skate and handle the puck, but his defensive zone play was quite good considering he was a first-timer in North America. Don't sleep on this kid — he seems to relish challenges when the spotlight shines brightest. Jokiharju is a power play quarterback who skates very well and connects with his stretch passes, but also shows he won't back down from a challenge while battling in his own end. That doesn't mean he's physical — Jokiharju will never be confused with Brooks Orpik. But he's a poised character who can handle a heavy forecheck and skate his way out of most jams. His shot is somewhat average but he has a quick release and isn't afraid to throw it at the net. He was buried on Portland's bottom pairing because of a numbers crunch, but the departure of Oilers prospect Caleb Jones to the WJC saw a huge spike in minutes and level of responsibility. Jokiharju can log a lot of ice time and play extended shifts without skipping a beat, and it didn't take him long to adjust to the rough-and-tumble WHL style.

19. LW Kristian Vesalainen | Frolunda J20, Superelit | 6'3, 207 | 06/01/99: Add Vesalainen to the list of preseason favorites who either dealt with injuries or struggled producing in a senior league. In his case, it was the latter, as an early ride on Frolunda's top line quickly turned into a stint in a Finnish junior league before closing his season out in the Superelit. The bouncing around was compounded by a sluggish WJC, but to Vesalainen's credit, he bounced back in the J20 playoffs with a string of dominating performances, followed by winning the MVP of the under-18 world championship. He's a goal scorer with size, strength and very good vision, but like most power forwards, Vesalainen goes through periods of inconsistency. But pairing him with a pass-first playmaker likely bears the results you expect from a player with his skills and an NHL-ready build. He's a tough winger who is a dual shot/pass threat and uses his size and strength to overpower opponents. Vesalainen possesses a long powerful stride, and his lateral quickness and shiftiness with the puck make him difficult to contain. He's got incredibly soft hands and poise with the puck, and both skills are evident the way he handles passes and gains the zone via a bull rush or controlled entry.

35. RW Grant Mismash | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'0, 186 | 02/19/99: The NTDP was slow out of the gate before slicing through international competition like a hot knife through butter, and this power winger was a big reason why. Mismash, a North Dakota commit, is a dual-purpose threat who is money on the power play and in odd-man situations. He's a tough matchup who battles hard and can wow you with slick plays close to the goal. Mismash is a dangerous player with the puck because you really don't know whether he's going to pass it across with accuracy or snipe it through the tiniest of openings. Without the puck, he's a menacing force who likes to throw his weight around and get in the face of opposing puck carriers. Mismash is a physical winger with an excellent shot/release combo who can be a load to handle in the offensive zone, and his ability to fire pucks off the pass, especially on the rush, is among the best of his draft peers. His straight-line speed and first-step quickness are both above average, but he is tremendously strong on his skates and can barrel through a wall of opponents while keeping the puck. He can lose control of his emotions and take a significant amount of offensive-zone penalties, but toning that down is far easier than finding a goal scoring winger who buries his easy chances.

20. LHD Nicolas Hague | Mississauga Steelheads, OHL | 6'6, 215 | 12/05/98:

Mammoth puck mover with a heavy shot and decent foot speed who gelled with Mississauga's talented lineup of scorers. It's easy to classify Hague as a project, but that's more for his play in his own end. He loves to join the rush, fill in gaps and taken risks deep in enemy territory, and he can hammer home one-timers from the circles on the power play. Not as physical as you'd want him to be, but neither was Brent Seabrook in his draft year. Like most young defensemen with size, Hague will take a while until he get his timing down. But he has an excellent shot and takes the kind of calculated risks their arsenal of young puck distributors can incorporate into the offense. Hague is very active in the offensive zone, especially with the man advantage, and his footspeed is good enough to double back in time to quell an odd-man rush. He has a very active stick, maintains a tight gap and his one-on-one play improved as the year progressed. Not overly physical but a defender who can play with bite, Hague can be undisciplined, however, and needs to learn how to keep his emotions in check.

28. C Robert Thomas | London Knights, OHL | 6'0, 188 | 07/02/99: Playing for a perennial powerhouse in London has more advantages than disadvantages, but in Thomas's case, you wish he saw more time than he did. When he was on the ice, however, this kid was outstanding in all three zones. One of the 2017 draft's most dangerous players from a static position, meaning he doesn't need time and space to carve you up. When it comes to understanding not only the game, but the critical role they play in it, only a few draft-eligible kids get it. Thomas is certainly one of them — a heady, creative center who makes the hard plays look easy. Fat chance he doesn't make a name for himself in the NHL, but he's the kind of kid that should be groomed to become either a coach or an analyst — he's that smart. Pick a random game, and Thomas will stand out as either London's most dangerous forward or its most responsible, or both. He skates well and is a reliable checker, but his puck distribution skills and hockey sense are off the charts.

27. C/LW Scott Reedy | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'2, 204 | 04/04/99: Sometimes you just have to go with your gut and gun for a kid who has the potential to be something far greater than what the stats may indicate. Reedy is a great stickhandler who plays an in-your-face game and scored goals after being converted to left wing from his natural center ice position. Getting benched at the U18 worlds certainly didn't help his draft stock, but his puck skills are worthy of a gamble this late in the first. Thick and aggressive bulldozer that plays an in-your-face style but fools you into forgetting just how gifted a playmaker he is. Reedy is a natural center, but his place on the NTDP's top-line flank reveals a strong net presence and finishing abilities from the hash marks down. Reedy is a good skater who uses both patience and precision to enter a zone. One of his notable abilities is they way he can stickhandle and maintain control the puck regardless of whether he's moving or static. The kid is blessed with many physical attributes, but his overall understanding of the game is done at a mature level. He's headed to the University of Minnesota, but his size/smarts combo will put him in the NHL sooner than one would think.

26. C Nick Suzuki | Owen Sound Attack, OHL | 5'11, 183 | 09/10/99: The stats scream that Suzuki is a possible top-10 pick, but lots of players put up big numbers in the CHL. Suzuki was the straw that stirred the drink in Owen Sound, leading all first-year OHL eligibles with 96 points in 65 games. Strong two-way center who was the best player on a deep, talented Owen Sound squad. You can make a strong argument that Suzuki was the OHL's best 2017 draft prospect both this year and last, as he led his peers in primary points in each of the last two seasons.

Suzuki is a strong skater in terms of balance and agility, and his overall speed is slightly above average. He is a big fan of slowing the game down to his own pace, but he's proven to drop the shoulder and catch defenders flat footed. Suzuki is very dangerous in open ice because of the way he processes things before him. He is very difficult to plan for since he is as good a goal scorer as he is a playmaker. He's a gifted passer and stickhandler who can play plays while moving laterally or cutting across the grain. He's one of the more reliable players you'll find for this specific draft year, as he plays in all situations and won close to 51 percent of his draws. Suzuki is a competitor who will lend support well below his own circles, and he's strong enough up-top to win puck battles against bigger players. More of a silent, lead-by-example type who plays gentlemanly and lets his stick do the talking for him.

57. RHD Connor Timmins | Sault Ste Marie Greyhounds, OHL | 6'1, 185 | 09/18/98: Poised two-way defenseman with very good puck skills and a little bit of flair to his game. Timmins plays with his head up and is a very good skater who can either maneuver his way out of jam or trap opponents with a long headman up the ice. He's not a roadrunner who will blow past opponents, but he seems to have a handle on play development and orchestrating an attack beginning from his own goal line. The Soo had a bounce-back year, and Timmins was a big part of it — his 61 points tied the WHL's Juuso Valimaki for the most points by a CHL first-year draft eligible defenseman. Timmins is a kid who improved significantly in all areas as the year progressed. He's a classic power play point man thanks to a hard shot he keeps low and on net, but he uses his slap and pump fakes effectively, sliding pucks via no-look passes to an open weak side rather than telegraphing his intentions. He's a solid three-zone defender who has decent closing and catch-up speed, but his stick and body positioning are both excellent.

29. C Josh Norris | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'1, 192 | 07/02/99: Norris has everything you want in a top-six center – size, speed, strength, and the ability to make his linemates better. He's thick, strong on his skates, plays physical, is matched up against top players and also provides offense on special teams, including on the penalty kill. A playmaker with soft hands and a very hard, accurate shot, Norris plays a heavy game and uses his size and determination to win puck battles. He's a solid stickhandler and controls the puck in tight spaces, and he settled things down by curling or weaving away from pressure. Playing in traffic isn't a problem for Norris, and he's consistently poised on his zone entries. Norris was a strong two-way presence for Team USA and was their top-line center for most of the season. He took most of the key draws, and didn't look overmatched against bigger, older NCAA opponents, who seemed to have difficulty containing him or sealing him off. You'll get varying opinions on which NTDP player not only had the best season, but also who projects to have the best NHL career. Norris, a native Michigander with an NCAA commitment with the Wolverines, can certainly have a solid case made for him. He led Team USA with 27 goals — 26 at 5v5 or shorthanded — and posted a team-best 1.00 points-per-game average. Norris also tied for the team lead in both points (61) and shorthanded goals (3). Additionally, he is smart enough to use his physicality without taking unnecessary or emotional penalties. A talented, mature leader with an NHL-ready build.

34. C Shane Bowers | Waterloo Blackhawks, USHL | 6'2, 178 | 07/30/99: Smart two-way center with speed who was a top QMJHL draft pick but chose the USHL to pursue a stint with Boston University. Bowers is a bit underrated since he processes the game at high level and has the quickness to impact play in all three zones. He's a highly-intelligent 200-foot player who is responsible with the puck, but he plays with an air of dynamism to compliment his many puck skills. Bowers can create or finish plays on the rush, and is very crafty and creative. He makes difficult plays look easy, especially in traffic while acting strong on the puck to handle harassment as he's controlling in tight spaces. Bowers looks to slip away into an open area with the hammer cocked, as he owns a lethal shot and can fire it with accuracy even if the puck is behind, in front of or in his skates. He's deceptive on zone entries as he can use a speed burst for a cage rush, or slow it down and dump it off to a cutter or trailer.

18. RW Kailer Yamamoto | Spokane Chiefs, WHL | 5'8, 153 | 09/29/98:

Yamamoto has been a notable 2017 draft prospect for a few years, and in 2017 he piled up points in what was his third WHL season. Small in stature but a giant when it comes to creating plays, he has an extremely high IQ with vision already at an elite level. An undersized yet scrappy winger, the native Washingtonian led all CHL first-year eligibles in scoring with 99 points in 65 games. He's performed well for Team USA at several international events and dazzled onlookers with his performance at the CHL Top Prospects Game. Yamamoto is a fluid and graceful skater who skates with his head up at all times, and his ability to snipe off the rush or make precision passes makes him next to impossible to defend. He isn't big, but he plays with bite and on occasion will duke it out with bigger opponents. Yamamoto's silenced critics before, so don't be surprised if he continues to do so after he's drafted in or close to the first round.

37. LW Nikita Popugaev | Prince George Cougars, WHL | 6'6, 217 | 11/20/98:

This skilled Russian with a massive wingspan and long stick was a bit of a disappointment following his midseason trade from Moose Jaw to a deeper Prince George squad. Popugaev is the kind of prospect who could score 40 if surrounded with a real playmaker. He's a mammoth power forward with the kind of overall package designed to score goals in the modern-day NHL. His strengths are obvious the second he hits the ice. And while his shot-release combo is absolutely deadly, he can also make plays and find the open man with accuracy. Nevertheless, the effort isn't always there, and far too often does he come across as disengaged. He'll never be the guy to use in a late-game faceoff or change the momentum of the game with physicality. Still, he is a dual shoot-pass threat who can be next to unstoppable when he feels like putting in the effort.

36. C Filip Chytil | ZPS Zlin, Extraliga | 6'0, 178 | 09/05/99:

Chytil, a talented two-way forward with slick moves and strong balance, was a regular for Zlin in the Czech elite league and performed extremely well against his draft peers at the under-18 world championship last April. He's an excellent penalty killer and likes to hang on to the puck rather than give away to facilitate his own safety. Chytil is a responsible player who plays the 200-foot game and is used on both the top power play and penalty killing units. He sort of reminds me of a bigger, thicker version of former Chicago Blackhawk great Steve Larmer in that he executes at a high level but without dazzling and mystifying the crowd into a frenzy. He's got a thick frame and can be next to impossible to move off the puck, especially when separating himself from opponents in pursuit. Chytil also whips the puck around with accuracy and can complete difficult plays off the rush. Another thing that stands out is his intelligence, especially in regards to reads and positioning. He moves quite well and doesn't require many steps to reach top speed.

40. LHD David Farrance | U.S. U18, NTDP | 5'11, 189 | 06/23/99: Farrance is clearly one of the top two-way defensemen available for the draft, and I've seen enough of him to boldly confirm his reputation as a quality power play quarterback with top-four upside. He doesn't get enough credit for his defensive play, and being under six foot is part of the reason why. Still, he's the NTDP's top defenseman who logs top-pairing minutes, runs the power play and kills penalties. Farrance is capable of winning puck battles against bigger older players — he's done it against NCAA competition —and he uses his lower body strength to keep his man near the cage clear of shooting lanes. Not only does he possess a booming, accurate shot, but his ability create plays off the rush keeps opponents honest. Farrance has an exceptional set of hands and can handle any pass with relative ease, especially from across the ice. He is a Grade A puck manager and can handle a forecheck, beating back pressure while making proper decisions. His quick-strike mentality helps engineer odd-man rushes, but he's proven to take the puck from end to end with both speed and confidence. Farrance is a Rochester native who is headed to Boston University in the fall.

25. C Antoine Morand | Acadie-Bathurst Titan, QMJHL | 5'10, 178 | 02/18/99: An elusive pivot who is quick and strong on the puck, Morand was a jack-of-all-trades for the Titan. He's fun to watch with the puck and can stickhandle through a minefield, but he has a developing defensive game as well. Morand has a very good shot but he's a playmaker with excellent speed who is deadly on the rush. He can play center or wing, and he did quite well when entrusted with late-game draws and lead holding.

31. RHD Ian Mitchell | Spruce Grove Saints, AJHL | 5'11, 173 | 01/18/99: Canada's top defender at the Ivan Hlinka had yet another solid season in the AJHL, albeit one that was clearly overshadowed by draft peer Cale Makar. Mitchell, who will play college hockey for Denver, is a reliable blueliner with very good speed and agility. He's capable of quarterbacking a power play, both for his mobility and puck management inside the opposing zone. He boasts a hard, accurate shot that he rarely hesitates to use, and he walks the line while maintaining control and his head up until shooting lanes open. He's got some bulking up to do, but there's some Duncan Keith to his game.

1-G. G Mike DiPietro | Windsor Spitfires, OHL | 6'0, 200 | 06/09/99: Lightning-quick netminder who spearheaded Windsor's assault on Memorial Cup competition, winning the top goaltender award while coming out victorious in all four games for his hometown team. DiPietro is an energetic goalie with excellent quickness which helps make up for his nonstandard size in terms of covering the upper half of the net. His rebound control is excellent, as DiPietro places the hardest of low-danger shots perfectly into the corner. His post-save recovery and net awareness are among the best of any 2017 draft eligible, and he'll take a stand at the top of his crease in order to fight through screens.

42. RHD Cale Fleury | Kootenay Ice, WHL | 6'1, 201 | 11/19/98: There's really no other way to say it — Fleury was the best defenseman on an absolutely putrid team. He's a strong-skater puck mover who loves to hit and can shoulder any tough assignment. He's a good man-to-man defender thanks to his quick feet and what seems like a pure hatred towards backing in and allowing opponents to gain the zone cleanly.

39. LW Maxime Comtois | Victoriaville Tigres, QMJHL | 6'2, 200 | 01/08/99: Polished power forward with a big-game resume who saw his stock fall after bad puck luck caused a dip in production, thus screeching to a halt his early-season hype train. Once considered a surefire lottery pick, Comtois saw his production drop from 60 points in his draft-1 season to 51, and he played far too undisciplined and out of control. Still, he's a heavy-hitting power forward who has a nice touch around the net and can be entrusted in any zone at any time. His tenacious, in-your-face style and leadership abilities is what will endear him to playoff or contending teams looking late-first round for a key enabler rather than a centerpiece. Comtois is a smart player who moves very well for a kid carrying such a thick frame, and he's an excellent penalty killer. Comtois is a versatile two-way player who is solid on faceoffs.

30. C Marcus Davidsson | Djurgardens, SHL | 6'0, 191 | 11/18/98: A speedy pivot and an absolute assassin near the net, Davidsson gets too much grief for having a poor international tournament resume. He's always been one of Sweden's better prospects for the 2017 draft, and he played practically an entire season with Djurgarden's SHL club, potting five goals and nine points while average under 12 minutes a game. Davidsson's instincts from the good side of the red line are excellent, but he's not all that physical. Beating opponents with speed and making plays off the rush are his most dangerous strengths. Davidsson is a talent with a wide range of puck skills that haven't translated into points in Sweden's toughest league, but the ability to create or fill the net is certainly there. He has an excellent shot and soft hands to handle tough passes, and he's been known to deke and juke his way into tough areas for higher quality shots. He can play center or wing, but probably ends up on the flank thanks to a deadly shot that he can release in a hurry. He is a tenacious forechecker who finishes his checks and can kill penalties.

5-G. Jake Oettinger | Boston Univ. Terriers, HE | 6'4, 212 | 12/18/98: Oettinger as a freshman showed remarkable poise and maturity by leading the Terriers to the Frozen Four. And though he had the benefit of a deep, talented roster to his 12 o'clock, he's shown the technical know-how and physical attributes worthy of an early-2nd round pick.

38. RW Kole Lind | Kelowna Rockets, WHL | 6'1, 178 | 10/16/98: A feisty, quick winger with very good puck skills and an excellent shot, Lind is a dynamic offense-first forward with a developing two-way game who was a top-six mainstay for a very good Kelowna team. He looks both comfortable and confident controlling the puck, and you rarely seem him rush into a poor decision or trap teammates to save his own skin. This served him well on the power play, where he collected 21 of his 57 assists. Lind is a very good skater who covers a lot of ground on the forecheck, and is capable of rushing the puck from as far back as his own goal line. His balance, edges and agility make him difficult to contain, as he's quick with directional changes that often catch defenders flat footed. This kind of footwork buys him enough time and space to wire a hard, accurate shot while going wide, or whistling one against the grain. His 200-foot game is evolving but positioning, coverage and picking up assignments are still works in progress. Lind can make plays off the cycle and release to a shooting position via a direct route, and though he likes to hit, getting stronger and holding ground around the net or along the boards are two areas he should work on.

41. C Aleks Heponiemi | Swift Current Broncos, WHL | 5'10, 147 | 10/09/98: Puck wizard with ridiculous hands whose 86 points tied Nico Hischier for most points by a first-year CHL import. He's an accurate passer who can create scoring chances no matter the situation, and 38 of his 58 assists were primary. Getting stronger should be an off-season priority.

7-G. G Maksim Zhukov | Green Bay Gamblers, USHL | 6'2, 187 | 07/22/99: A big-bodied Russian import who is quick, calm and decisive, Zhukov ranked first among all USHL first-year eligibles with four shutouts. He's uncommitted at the moment but should be courted by several CHL teams. Zhukov is advanced for his age, and his transition from Russia to North American has been relatively seamless. He's quite aggressive and isn't married to the blue paint, and his net awareness is excellent. It's rare to see such a young goalie be completely aware of his surroundings.

33. LHD Robin Salo | Vassan Sport, Liiga | 6'1, 187 | 10/13/98: On the surface, Salo looks like a meat-and-potatoes defender who focuses more on his side of the redline. But he loves to shoot the puck, and as a teenager led all Sport defensemen with a +53 shot differential. He has a hard shot, good size and a developing offensive game. Salo was a mainstay on Sport's backend, playing in all situations and showing promise as a support point man on the power play. His one-on-one defense, gap control and reads are all conducted properly, and if you tick him off enough, he'll show some tenacity or throw an occasion open-ice hit.

51. LW Jason Robertson | Kingston Frontenacs, OHL | 6'2, 192 | 07/22/99: If skating wasn't such a big deal, Robertson might have been a lock for the top five. He had an outstanding season for Kingston, leading the Frontenacs in both regular season and playoff scoring. His soft hands and quick release helped him tally 42 goals in 68 games — 29 at even strength — but he is far from a garbage-goal scorer. Robertson is a smart winger who not only knows where to positioning himself, but remain there regardless of the beating he's taking. His skating and footwork are both average, but he's a cerebral player who knows how to spin away from pressure and find the open man with a crisp pass. It's imperative for wingers to make up for any lack of speed with an incredibly advanced hockey brain, and Robertson is certainly one of those players. A native Michigander who spent a year with the GTHL's Don Mills Flyers, Robertson is one of the 2017 draft's best pure goal scorers.

6-G. G Cayden Primeau | Lincoln Stars, USHL | 6'3, 181 | 08/11/99: Even an average second half shouldn't stop Primeau from remaining high on every NHL team's goalie board. The son of former NHLer Keith Primeau, Cayden is a New Jersey native with size and competitiveness. Every goalie is a lengthy project, but Primeau's smarts, bloodlines and intimidating silhouette make him an immediate option once the first few goalies are taken.

64. LHD Max Gildon | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'3, 191 | 05/17/99: Just when it seemed that the third or fourth round would have been a best-case scenario, this Texas puck rusher churned out an excellent second half that culminated with a dominant U18 world championship. Gildon is a graceful skater with size, a long stride, soft hands and a booming shot, and he seemed to address the turnover-itis that plagued him the first half of the season. His upside could land him in the first round.

56. LW Ostap Safin | Sparta Prague, Extraliga | 6'4, 191 | 02/11/99: A big man with agility and first-step quickness? Sign me up! This draft doesn't have as many goal-scoring power forwards as a year ago, but Safin is one of the few 1999's who's played well enough to earn a senior league promotion. He's a big kid who fills the lane and can really overpower opponents. It almost unfair when he's as the ice — he skates very well for his size and can be impossible to knock off the puck. A skilled power forward who skates well and has a very good shot, Safin checks a lot of blocks for what you'd want in a modern-day power forward. One aspect of his game that stands out is the way he can maintain balance and control the puck while extending his lengthy reach. Safin has extremely strong wrists and fires a hard shot with a quick release whether off balance or from his back foot. Safin is a very good skater for his size and possesses a soft set of hands, and he is capable of making neat little lead passes while absorbing hits. He's looked good at several international tournaments, including the U18s where he collected four points in five games.

2-G. G Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen | HPK U20, Jr. A SM-Liiga | 6'4, 196 | 03/09/99: Luukkonen was simply too good for Finland's junior circuit, posting excellent numbers and leading HPK U20 to the Jr. A SM-Liiga postseason title. His international play this season has been hit or miss, but it was Luukkonen who

slammed the door in Grand Forks to help the Finns with the 2016 U18s. He's got prototypical size but is far quicker than most tall goalies who tend to struggle with post-save recovery

58. LW Isaac Ratcliffe | Guelph Storm, OHL | 6'6, 200 | 02/15/99: Ratcliffe bounced back from an injury that shelved him for nearly a 1/3 of last season with a team-best 28 goals — 21 that came at even strength. He's a man-child who needs to fill out, but at 6'6 his skating looks anything but awkward. And I wouldn't classify him as just a goal scoring winger. Ratcliffe has a pretty solid understanding of the offensive zone and can make nifty plays that turn into scoring chances. He's definitely a power winger, and although his straight-line speed is average, Ratcliffe can maneuver in and around traffic and make plays, especially when surrounded or with limited time and space. He does all the little things necessary to stand out even if he isn't creating or finishing, and he likes to use his strength to gain positioning. Ratcliffe possesses a hard, accurate shot with a quick release, and he consistently slips undetected into prime shooting position. There is legitimate top-six upside when you consider his puck skills and solid footwork.

45. RW Ivan Lodnia | Erie Otters, OHL | 5'10, 182 | 08/31/99: Goal-scoring puck magnet whose hard work and instincts helps him work his way into multiple quality opportunities. Lodnia's stats are respectable (57 points in 66 games), but keep in mind he was fighting for ice time with Erie's top line of Alex DeBrincat, Dylan Strome and Taylor Raddysh who combined for nearly 130 goals. Lodnia is just days from being eligible for the 2018 NHL Draft, meaning he has close to a full extra year of development over some of the top 2017 prospects. Lodnia is a quick, accurate passer who plays on the power play but can beat goalies with a full arsenal of shots, dekes and fakes. He never stops moving and has a hidden gear, and he seems partial to holding onto the puck in the face of a wall of defenders rather than an effortless dump and chase. He's a very good skater with strong balance and built to endure the slogging matches, board battles and slot wars, yet he also has a touch of finesse to his game.

88. LHD Noel Hoefenmayer | Ottawa 67's, OHL | 6'1, 191 | 01/06/99: Stocky, sturdy playmaker who was a big minute eater for the 67's. He's got a cannon from the point and loves to create off the rush, even if his skating isn't anything to write home about. Hoefenmayer can play physical and he's difficult to escape from. He uses a quick, timely stick to break up zone entries and times his hip checks well. Hoefenmayer's lack of quickness applies a deserving risk tag, but his ability to create offense and make high-percentage plays from inside the opposing red line makes picking him worth the risk.

61. RHD Luke Martin | Michigan Wolverines, Big-10 | 6'4, 216 | 09/20/98: Big-bodied defender with good mobility who was leaned on to help carry a young Michigan team. A former NTDP'er, Martin is a quick-strike outlet passer and is used on the power play for his booming shot. His strengths that will get him drafted high,

however, are positioning and sealing off puck rushers. Arguably the best one-on-one defender in the draft.

59. RW Stelio Mattheos | Brandon Wheat Kings, WHL | 6'1, 192 | 06/14/99: High-energy power forward with a very good shot and excellent speed who got caught trying to do too much for an undermanned Brandon squad. Mattheos is very quick on his feet and plays an in-your-face, heavy style that will endear him to any fan base. There is a lot to like about the overall package, and you get the sense that his numbers would appeal more had he spent his draft year alongside playmakers and puck wizards.

44. LW Ivan Chekhovich | Baie-Comeau Drakkar, QMJHL | 5'10, 177 | 01/04/99: It should mean something when you're asked to carry a team in your first season in North America. And that's exactly what this Russian playmaker did, leading an inexperienced Baie-Comeau squad to the playoffs as their leading goal scorer and point producer. A quick skater with excellent vision, Chekhovich was outstanding for Team Russia, compiling 22 points in 16 combined tournament games.

48. C Mason Shaw | Medicine Hat Tigers, WHL | 5'8, 180 | 11/03/98: Playmaking two-way center with a strong feel for the game who simply knows what to do with the puck on his stick. Shaw is undersized from a physical standpoint, but his heart and effort quickly make you forget he's under six feet tall. Shaw is an elite passer and phenomenal stickhandler who uses quick movements within tight spaces to earn enough time to carve up a congested zone. He plays with bite and is one of the draft's better options to bolster a power play. Shaw, who led all first-year CHL draft eligibles in assists (67) and primary assists (43), isn't a fast skater but his edges and balance are strong enough to keep him on his feet while maintaining full control of the puck. Always looking to attack, Shaw can thread the needle from distances well over the dimensions of a specific zone. His shot is accurate and deceptively quick, and uses a variety of ways to score. Nevertheless, he's a pass-first center who will defer to a set-up rather than take a low percentage shot.

49. C Alexei Lipanov | MVD Balashikha, VHL | 6'0, 165 | 08/17/99: Lipanov's dealt with injury issues, but a star performance in December's WJAC and a solid showing in the VHL should offset any possible health concerns. Lipanov is as good a passer as he is a shooter, and his ability to create or finish plays while speeding up ice makes him a legitimate top-line threat with point-producing potential. He's quite creative with the puck and is capable of making highlight-reel moves from both a static position or moving up ice.

43. C Sasha Chmelevski | Ottawa 67's, OHL | 6'0, 190 | 06/09/99: There are nights when this American-born pivot takes complete control of a game, and others when he looks like a complete passenger. The skills are undeniable, however, as Chmelevski boasts a deadly shot and can offer help on the power play. He's also strong in the dot, winning over 55 percent of his draws. His draft year began with a

bang, leading Team USA to a silver at the Ivan Hlinka and placing as one of the top scorers in the tournament. His game-breaking abilities are present only every now and again, and it's no joke to think the only thing keeping him from being a lock for the first round is a lack of consistency.

80. LW/C Jesper Boqvist | Brynas, SHL | 6'0, 180 | 10/30/98: The stats are really impressive – almost half a point per game through two upper tiers of Swedish hockey. While I can make a strong case for a roadrunner like Boqvist to be closer to the first round, his marginal all-around game and over-confidence with the puck makes him somewhat of a gamble. But this kid has game-breaking skills and can beat goalies just about any way imaginable.

8-G. G Keith Petruzzelli | Muskegon Lumberjacks, USHL | 6'5, 180 | 02/09/99: Petruzzelli, a Quinnipiac recruit, had a phenomenal close out to his season, yielding two goals or less in 10 of his final 12 starts. Big, athletic and always aware of where the net is, he's just one of the many talented backstops available in this draft. Petruzzelli played on Team USA's silver medal-winning Hlinka team and was the Team East MVP at the USHL/NHL Top Prospects Game in January.

60. C Jaret Anderson-Dolan | Spokane Chiefs, WHL | 5'11, 188 | 09/12/99: Cerebral goal-scoring pivot with an excellent shot who bounced back from an early-season cut from Team Canada's Hlinka squad to produce one of the better seasons of any CHL draft eligible. He played a bunch with likely first rounder Kailer Yamamoto, and while there is some truth to the idea the former benefited from the latter, Anderson-Dolan's impact on the line, especially on the power play, shouldn't be overlooked. He's a very good skater with an aggressive mindset, but he is quite capable at executing a controlled zone entry over a dump-in. Anderson-Dolan is nimble and can cover ground, especially on the forecheck, and he requires only two or three steps to gain separation from the player shadowing him. A lackluster U18 world championship likely slows down the hype train, but it was Anderson-Dolan's keen vision, defensive prowess and intangibles that helped his linemates have freedom of movement. Plays a game similar to the New York Rangers' Derek Stepan.

67. RHD Artyom Minulin | Swift Current, WHL | 6'2, 197 | 10/01/98: Big-bodied puck mover with a wicked shot who did a solid job covering up for risk taker extraordinaire Max Lajoie on the Broncos' top defense pair. He relies heavily on strength and an extremely long stick to gain possession rather than make proper reads, but I liked the way he sensed and reacted to danger when Lajoie or Colby Sissons were taking the puck deep. An excellent point man for the power play.

50. C Jack Studnicka | Oshawa Generals, OHL | 6'1, 171 | 02/18/99: A strong second half should give this underrated two-way pivot a bump on most draft boards, as Studnicka combined to tally 38 points in his last 31 games between the regular season and OHL playoffs. He didn't look too shabby at the U18's either, potting three goals in three games. Studnicka skates well, has a hard shot and plays physical, but

he's capable of shaking and baking with the puck and hitting an open man at the last possible second.

47. C Adam Ruzicka | Sarnia Sting, OHL | 6'4, 202 | 05/11/99: Ruzicka's first season in North America began terribly, but the physical center hit a nice groove in the second half and finished with 24 points in his last 28 games. He tied for the most ES points by an OHL rookie (34 in 61 games) and his 171 shots ranked second among Ontario League newcomers. He's got a very good shot and continues to find ways to get open despite being one of the bigger player on the ice.

76. LHD Mikey Anderson | Waterloo Blackhawks, USHL | 6'0, 197 | 05/25/99: Quick, confident defender who can initiate a successful breakout in a variety of ways. Anderson is a strong skater with excellent lateral mobility who uses his speed to escape opponents. He can feather accurate passes into open ice while drawing multiple opponents. A solid body checker who can excel in either the finesse game or the slogging match, Anderson is headed to Minnesota-Duluth after two successful seasons in the USHL. He can be trusted with critical roles on both the penalty kill and on the power play.

9-G. G Stuart Skinner | Lethbridge Hurricanes, WHL | 6'3, 205 | 11/01/98: A workhorse in goal who was one of the busiest netminders in the CHL, Skinner's numbers didn't improve from last season's with the increased responsibility. The real story, however, shows a goaltender quick enough to handle lots of odd-man rushes and can handle the pressure when the ice is tilted towards him. He was the best goalie at the CHL Top Prospects Game and should be a candidate to tend goal for Canada at the 2018 WJC.

66. RW Jonas Ronbjerg | Vaxjo J20, Superelit | 6'2, 187 | 03/31/99: Any organization could use a kid that provides both skill and effort wrapped into a large frame. The Denmark native is an incredibly smart player and a competitor who doesn't back down. He has very good vision and looks quite comfortable under pressure with the walls caving in. You have to figure Ronbjerg will get tougher to play against once he adds more muscle, and he is a very good skater who makes high-end plays off the rush.

55. C Morgan Frost | Sault Ste Marie Greyhounds, OHL | 5'11, 170 | 05/14/99: Two-way playmaking center with good speed who is constantly in motion. His puck skills are solid and he's a low maintenance threat — 35 of his 42 points during 5v5 were primary, but only three primary assists were with the man advantage. Still, he has escapability and rarely throws the puck away. He'll have to get stronger on his skates, and he benefitted from playing on a deep team with weapons up and down the lineup.

54. LW Alex Formenton | London Knights, OHL | 6'2, 165 | 09/13/99: Having incredible speed, length and a birthdate just shy of 2018 eligibility makes this roadrunner an easy pick for the Top 60. He plays scrappy and is a bit of an agitator

— two things that served him well on the penalty kill. Recording 34 points as a bottom-six rookie on a good team is more promising than alarming. To be fair, he was surrounded by a lot of talent and was sheltered in both minutes and game situations. There's always risk in taking a string bean with blazing quickness, but it's scary to think what kind of player he can become if he added some muscle.

65. LHD Dmitri Samorukov | Guelph Storm, OHL | 6'2, 180 | 06/16/99: It was definitely a tale of two seasons for this heavy-hitting Russian import, who played the first half of his first North American campaign as if he wanted it to be his last. He capped the year with an impressive U18 tournament, finishing tied for third in defenseman scoring. He can skate, play the body and wield a cannon of a shot, and he is one of the few rearguards who intimidates on or off the puck. Samorukov's puck management and slot coverage are areas he needs to work on, but it was nice to see him regain the form that made him a preseason first round pick.

62. LW Alexei Toropchenko | HK MVD, MHL | 6'3, 187 | 06/25/99: Toropchenko is super-talented scoring winger who uses his speed and length to cause matchup problems. Spending most of his draft year in the MHL allowed him to maintain consistency, especially in the second half. He can make plays off the rush and is an inside player with a devastating change of pace. As boom-or-bust as he seems, don't be fooled by his poor international stats (three points in 16 games) — Toropchenko has game-breaking skills with top-line upside and was a consistent option for late-game and penalty killing situations.

52. C/RW Evan Barratt | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'0, 188 | 02/18/99: One of the better two-way forwards in the draft in terms of having a complete understanding of duties and responsibilities in the defensive zone. A Keystone Stater from Bristol, Barratt is headed to Penn State in the fall. He's a very good playmaker who produces at both even strength and on the power play, but his speed, relentless forechecking and sticky fingers should land him a job at the highest level.

90. LW Joel Teasdale | Blainville-Boisbriand, QMJHL | 5'11, 190 | 03/11/99: Gritty winger with decent puck skills who for most of the second half of the season played on the Armada top line alongside Blue Jackets' prospect Pierre-Luc Dubois. More of a playmaker than a finisher, Teasdale is a thick, strong forward who battles and competes in any zone. His skating is average but he takes direct routes to the net regardless if a lane is clear or not. Teasdale's never-quit attitude led to a lot of scoring chances and goals that you won't find attached to his name in a box score.

69. C/W Austen Keating | Ottawa 67's, OHL | 6'0, 170 | 03/07/99: The stats are pretty impressive for a player who seemed to fly under the pre-draft radar for most of the season. Keating picked up 32 primary points during 5v5, which is more than Isaac Ratcliffe, Ivan Lodnia, Alex Formenton, Nate Schnarr, and he more than doubled what teammate Sasha Chmelevski did at even strength. He isn't the most graceful of skaters, but watching him wear opponents down and making neat plays off an aggressive forecheck almost makes up for it. Keating is a smart player with

the puck and shows patience on his zone entries, keeping his head up and timing his passes almost to perfection.

53. LHD Nate Knoepke | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'3, 202 | 04/08/98: Knoepke, a Minnesota Gophers commit, offers a nice blend of size, speed and smarts. He's a very good skater and solid positionally, spending most of the season on Team USA's first power play unit. Granted, he plays second fiddle to partner David Farrance when it comes to the man advantage. But he has an excellent shot — especially off the pass — and beats pressure with accurate stretch passes. He proved his worth in the defensive zone by spending a lot of time covering up for his teammates' turnovers and blown assignments, and he smothers his opponents like an octopus once they take the puck below the goal line.

71. LW Matthew Strome | Hamilton Bulldogs, OHL | 6'4, 206 | 01/06/99: Transport Strome back 20 or so drafts and he's a possible lottery pick. He has the size, hands, shot, finishing touch and smarts to do whatever he wants with the puck. The problem lies within his feet — he's neither graceful or quick. Still, he was a heck of a goal scorer, as 24 of his 34 tallies came at even strength. Although he's not flashy or creative, he finds the open man and connects with accuracy,

86. C Nikita Anokhovskiy | Loko Yaroslavl, MHL | 6'0, 187 | 03/22/99: Strong power center with good speed, a wicked shot and excellent hand-eye coordination who saw his ice time and level of responsibility increase as the season wore on. He was more of a support player for Team Russia on the international stage, but Loko relied on him to kill penalties and used his faceoff prowess late in games. Anokhovskiy is a load to handle along the boards and seems to always come away with the puck.

84. LHD Dylan Samberg | Hermantown, HS-MN | 6'3, 190 | 01/24/99: Physical blueliner who netted the Class A championship overtime winner with a slapper from the point. Thick, mobile and aggressive, Samberg is committed to the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He's the complete package — logged top-pair minutes and anchored both the power play and penalty kill. Samberg can be a devastating open-ice hitter but goes for the kill shot without sacrificing much in positioning. The combination of skating and physicality, plus a penchant for big game theatrics, could justifiably translate to this early a nod on Draft Day.

77. LW Jonah Gadjovich | Owen Sound, OHL | 6'2, 209 | 10/12/98: Sturdy power winger with average speed but a willingness to take a beating while traversing direct routes to the net. Gadjovich's stick is always in the right position and he makes a habit out of getting to the spot he wants and looking to tip shots home. His hands are quick enough to corral shots off the end boards and bring the puck on his stick for stuff-in attempts, and he's quite difficult to move off the puck in one-on-one situations. His lack of speed makes him an easy target for a double team effort, but he's so strong it makes most of these attempts futile. Gadjovich led all CHL first-year eligibles in goals (46) and power play goals (17)

72. C Georgi Ivanov | Loko Yaroslavl, MHL | 6'0, 189 | 09/25/98: Versatile two-way center with leadership qualities who last year played occasionally on German Rubtsov's wing as a member of the old Russian under-18 program. He plays bigger than he's listed and is tough to move from in front of the net. And while finishing is one of his strengths, he's a solid option for critical draws and late-game situations. Overall speed is pretty good, and he has an excellent shot and release.

W/C Mackenzie Entwistle | Hamilton Bulldogs, OHL | 6'3, 175 | 7/14/99: Hard-nosed bruiser with a nice touch around the net who comes across as a coach's dream. Only 25 points in 54 games, but 20 came at even strength. Additionally, Entwistle led Team Canada in scoring with four goals and seven points at the U18 words. He's got excellent balance and is tough to knock off the puck, which comes in handy since his speed is about average. Consider him to potentially be one of those all-important "glue guys", which in a thin draft you take and run.

85. LHD Jarret Tyszka | Seattle Thunderbirds, WHL | 6'2, 190 | 03/15/99: The stats say this blueliner didn't do much creating — Tyszka recorded only two primary assists at 5v5 in 54 games. But he is a very good skater who displays puck poise and courage in the face of a tough forecheck. His footwork is solid and he reacts to directional changes very well. You'll rarely see him get beaten to the outside, and he's strong enough to knock an opponent off balance with a legal shove or push. Smart with his step-ups and poke checks, Tyszka doesn't back in and makes you earn your zone entries. He has an above-average shot but played on a power play where he wasn't much of an option.

81. C Patrick Khodorenko | Michigan State, Big-10 | 6'0, 206 | 10/13/98: The Spartans were bottom feeders that were killed in conference play, but Khodorenko's heavy game, improved compete level and touch around the net landed him on their top line — no small feat for a freshman. A graduate of the NTDP, he once was considered a possible first rounder. Khodorenko is good on draws and has above-average speed for a power forward that likes to play physical. He's a very good project pick but his physical maturity and puck skills should make his NHL path shorter.

89. C Jake Leschyshyn | 5'11, 185 | 03/10/99 | Regina Pats, WHL : It's never easy being a top draft prospect on a veteran-laden powerhouse gunning for a Memorial Cup. But Leschyshyn made the most of his limited time in Regina, netting 40 points — 20 in 5v5 — in 47 games. He's a very good skater who plays aggressive and physical, but is versatile enough to play in the top six and contribute. He creates off of hard work and anticipation, and he's a threat to score on the penalty kill.

108. RW Fabian Zetterlund | Farjestad J20, Superelit | 5'11, 195 | 08/25/99:

Zetterlund is a pure goal scorer with a deadly shot — possibly one of the best among his draft peers. He contributed 16 points over 20 combined international games, including five points in seven contests at the recent U18 world championship. He maintains a low center of gravity and on the forecheck keeps his stick positioned properly. This kid might not get many Selke votes but he makes you pay for mistakes.

98. RW Linus Nyman | Kingston Frontenacs, OHL | 5'9, 158 | 07/11/99:

Crafty playmaker with speed who clicked with scorer Jason Robertson on Kingston's top line. Nyman can be too much of a perimeter player, but he's done very well for his native Finland in international competition. He isn't big and could stand to work on his balance, but Nyman is incredibly shifty and doesn't waste time when a teammate is open. His 50 points led all first-year OHL forwards.

6 OA. C Morgan Geekie (OA) | Tri-City Americans, WHL | 6'2, 178 | 07/20/98:

Overage pivot with excellent vision and puck skills to make any linemate better. Geekie is an average skater, and it seemed as though Seattle keyed on his lack of footspeed during its first-round sweep of the Americans in the WHL playoffs. Not being quick enough to react to or elude multiple checkers is something I didn't see during the regular season, so maybe chalk it up to simply a bad four games. Nevertheless, he's too silky smooth and fine with his passes to overlook.

95. C Lucas Elvenes | Rogle J20, Superelit | 6'0, 173 | 08/18/99:

Smart two-way forward with good speed who was a mainstay for Team Sweden at several international events. He was a reliable scorer for Rogle, and quite often he was the only forward contributing in all three zones. His speed and tenacity causes havoc on the forecheck, but Elvenes is one of the few draft eligibles who can make bang-bang plays immediately after throwing their weight around.

68. RHD Josh Brook | Moose Jaw Warriors, WHL | 6'2, 185 | 06/17/99:

Solid all-around defender who was one of Canada's better players at the 2016 Hlinka and a rock on Moose Jaw's back end. A native Manitoban who went fourth overall in the 2014 WHL bantam draft, Brook doesn't blow you away with any one particular skill, but he provides consistency in all situations, especially on special teams. His is hit or miss in terms of puck management upon immediate retrieval, but he makes near perfect decisions when he has the time and space.

97. LW Samuel Bucek | Shawinigan Cataractes, QMJHL | 6'2, 215 | 12/19/98:

The puck skills are undeniable for this strong-skating Slovakian power winger, who when engaged can be both unstoppable and entertaining. But like most young power forwards, he lacks the wherewithal to give it his all every shift. He's as good a playmaker as he is a shooter, and Bucek displays obvious confidence when he controlling the puck in the offensive zone. Putting him in the third round is more blind faith than absolute confidence, but in this kind of draft, teams will have no problem gambling on boom-or-bust types

3-G. G Ian Scott | Prince Albert Raiders, WHL | 6'3, 172 | 01/11/99: Scott is another blue chipper within a pretty deep pool of draft-eligible goalies. He's your standard butterfly goalie, but he's more on the aggressive side in terms of challenging shots and breakaways. Scott is a good puck handler and can act like a third defenseman on dump-ins, and he'll even clear the puck himself during the penalty kill. Like most goalies, Scott will gobble up shots as long as he can see them, but his puck tracking and timing off of shot release has been much better in the second half. Keep in mind that Prince Albert was a horrendous offensive team, so rarely did he have the luxury of a lead to protect.

78. C/W Rickard Hugg | Leksand J20, Superelit | 5'10, 179 | 01/18/99: Two-way Swedish forward who is versatile enough to play in any situation at any time. Hugg is a selfless, responsible player with good puck skills and the ability to make plays on either his forehand or backhand. He's got quick hands and a very good shot, and any coach will be happy with both his speed and balance. He was one of Sweden's better forwards at several international tournaments, where he was used on the power play and penalty kill.

83. LW Yaroslav Alexeyev | Sherbrooke Phoenix, WHL | 5'9, 146 | 01/17/99: Alexeyev is a road runner with superb straight-line speed and the ability to finish or create off the rush. He was a critical piece in Sherbrooke's lethal power play, using his quickness and strength on the puck to gain the zone and maintain possession. Alexeyev is more of a perimeter player and tries to avoid contact if necessary, but he can play feisty and get under an opponent's skin.

142. RHD John St. Ivany | Sioux Falls Stampede, USHL | 6'2, 197 | 07/22/99: Solid, aggressive two-way defender with size who moves very well and keeps himself engaged at all times. A California native, St. Ivany keeps a tight gap and possesses very good backwards mobility. Quick to the puck, he makes crisp, accurate breakout passes, plus he fires off a very hard slap shot. He's committed to Yale.

91. C Maxim Marushev | Irbis Kazan, MHL | 6'0, 176 | 01/01/99: High-energy center with strength who at this stage is more of a project with potential to be a top-six forward. He's a strong skater with excellent anticipation and he consistently takes the right routes to the puck. You rarely see him overhandle the puck, and his zone entries are generally clean and not telegraphed. Marushev didn't produce as much as you'd like, but he plays with his head up and looks to create off board battles rather than habitually playing it safe.

87. C/W Jacob Tortora | U.S. U18, NTDP | 5'10, 178 | 2/18/99: Tortora is a quick little playmaker with a ton of offensive flair who with or without the puck is tough to contain. He doesn't have ideal size, but then again, it's not 1995. The NHL is embracing the idea of having fans see smaller players with skill rather than plodding brutes with size. Gutsy and strong, the Rochester native is an excellent skater both forward and laterally, and he makes his cut backs look effortless. Tortora is very good on the cycle and will pay a price for working the puck from down low into the slot area.

10 OA. W/C Dominik Lakatos (OA) | Spruce Grove Saints, AJHL | 6'0, 178 | 04/08/97: Lakatos is a player who competes and looks much bigger than his listed measurements. He doubled his point production the year after being named the top rookie in the Czech Extraliga, and his heavy, physical style is suited for North America. He can play center or wing, and is dangerous from any area inside the hash marks.

99. RHD Filip Westerlund | Frolunda, SHL | 5'11, 180 | 04/17/99: Poised two-way blueliner with upper-body strength who can be leaned on for top-pairing situations. Westerlund is quick and agile with exceptional edge work, making him one of the better draft eligibles at not only beating pressure, but making a lightning quick transition from defense to offense. He can attack open ice in a variety of ways – with speed, hard stretch passes or methodical puck control. Westerlund can be flashy, at times to a fault, as he is prone to the occasional turnover.

132. LHD Kasper Kotkansalo | Sioux Falls Stampede, USHL | 6'2, 198 | 11/16/98: Kotkansalo is a poised shutdown defender with size and mobility who isn't flashy but makes subtle plays to beat a forecheck. He will step up in the neutral zone and take the puck beyond the opposing blue line, and on occasion drops down to keep a play alive rather than create or execute a scoring chance. He doesn't reveal much in creativity and his shot power is average, but his job at Boston University next fall will center on shutting down top lines.

2 OA. C Tyler Steenbergen (OA) | Swift Current Broncos, WHL | 5'10, 188 | 01/07/98: Underrated all-around center who last year inexplicably went undrafted in his first look. Steenbergen is a quick, confident skater with a great shot whose 51 goals tied him for the WHL lead. He owns a nice collection of shots to score, and he's sturdy enough to maintain balance as he takes the puck to the cage with confidence.

13-G. G Dayton Rasmussen | Chicago Steel, USHL | 6'2, 203 | 11/04/98: Don't be too alarmed this athletic netminder is on his third USHL team in three years. A University of Denver recruit with stints on Team USA's 2015 Hlinka and 2016 WJAC squads, Rasmussen checks a lot of blocks for a teenage goalie — he's quick, tall and pretty composed when things get crowded. He's still growing into his comfort level around the crease, and there are times he loses track and overcommits to one side.

105. LW Mick Messner | Madison Capitols, USHL | 5'11, 193 | 04/20/99: One of the top draft-eligible defensive forwards who understands how and when to attack puck carriers. Messner, a Wisconsin recruit, is relentless on the puck and has quick enough hands to steal it from unassuming defenders with regularity. His two-way play and clutch scoring proved invaluable to Team USA's successful Hlinka run, and he was their best penalty killer. He was Madison's second-leading scorer with 31 points — 27 during 5v5 — and fired off a team-best 139 shots in 55 games.

104. RW Kyle Olson | Tri-City Americans, WHL | 5'10, 161 | 05/22/99: A gritty two-way forward who stepped into the void for Tri-City following Michael Rasmussen's injury, Olson parlayed a strong second half into a spot on Team Canada's U18 worlds squad. He recorded 47 points during 5v5, including 23 primary assists in 70 games. Olson can play center or wing and battles hard for the puck. His playmaking ability and vision keep opponents honest, and the fact that he uses both immediately after contact makes him a real value pick in the middle rounds.

117. LHD David Kvasnicka | Plzen, Extraliga | 5'9, 172 | 04/14/99: Kvasnicka has the physical tools to survive in today's game — he's fast, shoots hard and makes crisp, accurate stretch passes. He pivots well in both directions and is quite agile as he speeds around opponents during end-to-end rushes. Kvasnicka, however, can be both sloppy with the puck and with his decision making. He suffered a shoulder injury at the WJC but healed up in time to run the Czech power play at the U18 worlds. Not bad in his own end in terms of positioning.

70. LW Pavel Koltygin | Drummondville Voltigeurs, QMJHL | 6'0, 195 | 02/17/99: Powerful goal scorer from the center ice position who makes the most of his opportunities. A native of Moscow, Koltygin doesn't possess blinding speed, but his hands are soft enough to corral any kind of pass while he's in full flight, giving off the appearance that he's traveling faster than he is. He is strong on his skates and his edgework is fantastic, and he can fire off a quick, accurate shot while extended or fading away. Koltygin is a responsible player who understands the ins and outs of all three zones and is very good on faceoffs.

79. LHD Jacob Paquette | Kingston Frontenacs, OHL | 6'3, 200 | 05/26/99: Paquette ranks up there among the best one-on-one defenders in the draft. He's smart with his reads and positioning, and he's fast enough to quickly cover gaps or make a quick turn to interdict a pass. Paquette plays it safe and is unimaginative with the puck, but his size and above-average speed combine to form a solid foundation to build on.

110. C Nate Schnarr | Guelph Storm, OHL | 6'3, 180 | 02/25/99: Big-bodied, three-zone center with promise who battled through bouts with inconsistency and often waits for things to happen in the offensive zone. Schnarr has very soft hands, moves fairly well and brandishes a wicked shot, albeit somewhat inaccurate. The concern moving forward, however, is an inability to create chances from lengthy periods with the puck — only 11 assists in 54 games during 5v5. Nevertheless, he is a good penalty killer and can take and win big draws.

4-G. G Stephen Dhillon (OA) | Niagara Ice Dogs, OHL | 6'4, 186 | 09/14/98: Calling this native Buffalonian a man on an island is a bit of an understatement — no CHL goalie can even fathom the kind of blitzkrieg Dhillon faces on a nightly basis. Want perspective? Not only did Dhillon lead all CHL backstops in shots faced (2312) and saves (2114), but the guy in second is almost 300 shots short of equaling him. Dhillon has faced 40 or more shots in 28 of his 59 appearances, and only three times after playing a full contest has he seen less than 30.

94. RW Lane Zablocki | Red Deer Rebels, WHL | 6'0, 190 | 12/27/98: Bulldog of a right wing who has very good speed and loves to crash and bang, especially around the net. He was one of Red Deer's best players following a midseason trade from Regina, averaging almost a point per game and scoring six goals in the Rebels' crushing opening-round loss to Lethbridge. Zablocki has a world-class wrist shot and can beat goalies from just about anywhere in the offensive zone. He's no stranger to dropping the gloves, and he even earned time on Red Deer's top line.

112. LW Arnaud Durandeu | Halifax Mooseheads, QMJHL | 5'11, 183 | 01/14/99: Offensive-minded winger with good speed and a very good shot who likes to agitate and cause mayhem on the forecheck. Durandeu isn't physically imposing or intimidating, but he seems partial to sticking his hand in the beehive regardless of the score or game situation. A power play specialist whose puck skills are solid, he is adept at stickhandling and making crisp, accurate passes. Rarely would you find him fiddling around with the puck for the sake of being fancy or showy — Durandeu is calm on zone entries and will hold onto the puck while waiting for more options to get involved in the play.

93. LHD Radim Salda | HR Kravlove, Extraliga U20 | 6'1, 176 | 02/18/99: Physical but low-key defender who can play on a top pairing and use strength and physicality to gain control of the puck. Salda is an excellent penalty killer and does a good job reacting to plays off the cycle. He's got good speed and a heavy, accurate shot, but his puck skills are pretty much limited outside of the occasional home run or slap pass. He can be used in any situation at either even strength or on special teams thanks to the ability to maintain composure under pressure and anticipate where the puck will end up.

101. RW Nick Henry | Regina Pats, WHL | 5'11, 191 | 02/15/99: Opportunistic winger with an excellent shot who causes a lot of problems with his forechecking and is physical during loose puck battles. Henry spent parts of the season as the beneficiary of Sam Steel's playmaking, but hammering the puck the way Henry can should be a good enough explanation. He seemed to have a general idea of what his role was as either a scorer or depth player on Regina's powerhouse roster that was loaded with skill.

113. LHD Markus Phillips | Owen Sound Attack, OHL | 6'0, 202 | 03/21/99: A real wild card in this particular draft because the skills he displays on the ice, notably his speed and shot power, reveal a defender who should challenge for a spot in the first round. Phillips played a key role in Owen Sound's dominance, but his issues with puck management and wandering away from the slot are what keep him in the middle portion of this draft. Still, he's extremely quick and agile, using exceptional footwork to keep pace with onrushing opponents of any size or speed.

102. LW Kirill Slepets | Loko Yaroslavl, MHL | 5'10, 165 | 04/06/99: A slippery offensive winger with good speed, solid puck skills and a soft touch around the net, Slepets was a top-six forward on a deep Loko squad that was bounced early in the playoffs. He's skinny and not much of a physical presence, but he's very good in close quarters and can stickhandle his way to the net. Slepets is not a gamebreaker but he'll make the most of his chances and elevate the puck from in tight.

75. RW Brannon McManus | Chicago Steel, USHL | 5'9, 176 | 07/05/99: A talented wing with an excellent shot, McManus has been nothing short of amazing since an early season trade to Chicago, picking up 27 points in his last 33 games. He is a very good skater who uses deception and a bag full of moves to lull defenders into a state of confusion. A native of California, he'll play collegiately at Minnesota next season.

14 OA. LHD Nick Leivermann (OA) | Bloomington Thunder, USHL | 5'11, 194 | 09/14/98: An overager by only two days, Leivermann was Eden Prairie's on-ice general during their wire-to-wire dominance of the Minnesota high school circuit. And though they lost a heartbreaker to Grand Rapids in the state semis, it was Leivermann's take-charge attitude and puck rushing that helped his mates get as far as they did. It certainly helped having the luxury of deferring to a star forward like Casey Mittelstadt, but the two complimented each other perfectly. He's a fluid skater who is patient with the puck, and he has no problem taking it right up the gut of a zone defense from as far back as his own goal line.

116. C Jakub Lacka | Trinec Ocelari, Extraliga U20 | 5'11, 176 | 11/20/98: Finesse players should be pretty popular in this kind of draft regardless of size, and Lacka is one of the better skill forwards who stand under six feet tall. He is a very good playmaker, especially around the goal. Time and again you'll find Lacka saucering or banking passes right on the tape, and he's been involved in several highlight-reel plays. He and Patrik Hrehorcak had chemistry on Trinec's top line, and the duo were the leading Slovakian-born scorers in the circuit.

122. C Alexandre Texier | Grenoble, France | 6'0, 187 | 09/13/99: A lightning quick French teen who plays significant minutes in the French senior league, Texier is a dynamic offensive talent who is mature and can handle playing against older competition. You have to go back to the late 1980's and former St. Louis Blues prospect Philippe Bozon to find a teenager from the French league with this kind of NHL potential. Texier is an excellent skater who can handle the puck and make plays off the rush.

115. C Jordy Bellerive | Lethbridge Hurricanes, WHL | 5'10, 196 | 05/02/99: The second overall pick in the 2014 WHL bantam draft came into his own in 2017, placing third in goals (27) and fourth in points (56) on a strong Hurricanes team. Quick, aggressive and physical, Bellerive is very good at protecting the puck and making plays off of lengthy possessions. Nineteen of his 27 goals came at even strength.

100. LW Patrik Hrehorcak | Trinec Ocelari, Extraliga U20 | 5'10, 178 | 03/18/99: Slippery sniper with a soft set of hands and excellent instincts in the offensive zone. Hrehorcak has an excellent shot and release and doesn't hesitate to display them. He was one of the top scorers in the Czech junior circuit despite playing in just his first year of draft eligibility. Far from being classified as a power forward, Hrehorcak gets involved in physical play and doesn't back down from a challenge.

74. RW Austin Pratt | Red Deer Rebels, WHL | 6'2, 226 | 07/30/99: Pratt is a big-bodied power forward who loves to mix it up and put pressure on defenders. His skating is average, but he makes up for it with an active stick and sound instincts. Pratt is a reliable two-way player who rarely gets caught wandering. Once the puck enters the opposing zone, he goes right for the low slot, using his lower body strength to gain positioning. Pratt has an underrated wrist shot and he'll fire it off with quickness. Thirty one of his 34 points were during 5v5.

128. LHD Jesse Bjugstad | Stillwater, HS-MN | 6'2, 178 | 04/04/99: Hard-nosed defender with NHL bloodlines who was a critical piece to Stillwater's Minnesota high school steamroller. Bjugstad is a two-way blueliner with a rocket of a shot who plays on the top pair and is used for all key matchups. His presence as a No. 1 on the back end reveals a team leader with sound instincts and a suffocating style that in my view was critical to team success. His skating is slightly above average, but he identifies gaps and will fill them in as far down as the opposing goal area.

82. RW Shawn Boudrias | Gatineau Olympiques, QMJHL | 6'4, 197 | 09/14/99: Can you call a former high QMJHL draft pick underrated? In the case of Boudrias, who went 13th overall in 2015, you may want to consider it. He's big, strong and improved his speed from a year ago, plus he boasts an NHL-level shot. Boudrias seemed invigorated after a midseason trade from Charlottetown to Gatineau, as his production increased from 0.46 to 0.66. Not to mention, 24 of his 33 points came at 5v5, and his 2.02 eP/60 ranked seventh among first-year QMJHL eligibles with 50+ games. Boudrias is a promising 200-foot power forward with legitimate NHL potential who plays hard and battles every shift.

96. C Emil Bemstrom | Leksand J20, Superelit | 5'11, 177 | 06/01/99: Hard-nosed speedster who led the J20 Superelit Norra with 20 goals in just 24 games. Bemstrom is a quick, dual-threat forward who can bury the puck as well as he can dish it. He has excellent vision and will utilize hard, accurate cross-ice passes to improve the quality of a scoring chance. His speed allows him to create time and space when the ice seems clogged, but he's an even bigger threat in open ice – he rarely makes mistakes on odd-man rushes and will not telegraph his next move. Bemstrom controls the puck with speed through the neutral zone and uses accurate lead or drop passes if he senses a defender will vacate a lane. He may not look big, but he is strong enough to come away with pucks during one-on-one battles with bigger opponents. Bemstrom is a relentless forechecker who finishes his checks and can win key faceoffs.

130. RW Isaac Johnson | Tri-City, WHL | 6'2, 180 | 01/24/99: Heavy-shooting power forward with a quick release and crafty puck skills who was one of the USHL's top snipers among rookies. Johnson has size and strength, but it's his blistering shot that keeps opponents honest. The puck simply explodes off his stick, and Johnson doesn't require much backswing to wire it. He's very good in tight spaces and is constantly in motion with or without the puck, which always seems to find him. The kid has incredibly soft hands, and you'll see him deaden tough passes or fire bouncing pucks with accuracy. Twelve of his 14 goals were scored during 5v5 and he was third among USHL rookies with a 1.15 eG/60. He switched over to the WHL for the 2017-18 season.

134. LHD Jonathan Smart | Regina Pats, WHL | 6'0, 197 | 06/01/99: Making Team Canada for the Hlinka probably did more for this puck mover's draft stock than the way he actually played in the tournament, but he had an otherwise solid season split between two powerhouses in Kelowna and Regina. Smart is a pretty good skater and sound decision maker who takes a hit to move the puck, and a lack of creativity doesn't mean he's afraid to handle the puck. He was used on the penalty kill with success, but his patient approach to puck carrying and a hard shot tells me he should have seen more time on the power play.

152. RHD Leon Gawanke | Cape Breton, QMJHL | 6'1, 186 | 05/31/99: A Strong-skating power play quarterback with a quick first step and a long stride, Gawanke was Cape Breton's primary option for generating offense from the blueline. A German import with good size and sound instincts, he was second only to Pierre-Olivier Joseph in points (32) and 5v5 points (19) among all first-year QMJHL blueliners. He wasn't very effective on the penalty kill, mainly for obvious struggles with slot coverage and getting outmuscled. Still, he is very confident with the puck and loves to shoot — he has a hard, accurate shot with a quick release.

92. RW Michael Pastujov | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'0, 190 | 08/23/99: Tough, gritty scoring winger with a nice touch around the net who had an excellent second half after battling an injury. Pastujov posted 19 points in his final 34 games and combined for 16 points in 11 contests for Team USA between the Hlinka and U18 Worlds. Pastujov, has a quick first step and an excellent shot. Injuries notwithstanding, he's pretty close to a complete player, and it's rare to see such a strong lad handle the puck with care while steamrolling through the opposing zone's dense network of sticks and bodies. He'll be playing for Michigan next fall.

125. C Noah Cates | Stillwater, HS-MN | 6'0, 165 | 02/05/99: The stats are impressive (65 points in 25 games), but there's more to Cates's game than just flash and dash. He's a highly-intelligent puck distributor, but his competitiveness and tenacity on the puck makes him more than your average set-up guy. All that said, you have to get up real early in the morning to stop him, especially if he's already got the puck across center. Cates has soft hands to handle hard passes and can stickhandle in and around traffic no matter how fast he's moving. He's a strong skater with decent speed, but his agility and sharp directional changes make him tough to slow down.

124. RHD Reagan O'Grady | Sudbury Wolves, OHL | 6'2, 197 | 12/15/98: Meat-and-potatoes defender with size and an in-it-goes, out-it-goes approach to handling the puck. O'Grady has average speed and decent footwork, but he improved his defense dramatically from the time Kingston made him the 14th overall pick in the 2014 OHL Priority Selection. In terms of puck skills, the most you're going to get out of him is a spin off a forechecker into a sharp breakout pass. But O'Grady doesn't seem all that comfortable with the disc in his hands. That doesn't mean he's a liability — he plays quite poised and makes good decisions under duress. He just knows his limitations and doesn't try to be somebody he's not. He has a decent shot that he will use only if wide open, but again, this kid is more of a stopper at his own blue line or a blanket to smother an opposing cycle.

16-G. G Olle Eriksson-Ek | Farjestad J20, Superelit | 6'2, 183 | 06/22/99: Static Swedish netminder with size who had a terrific year in the Superelit, finishing among the leaders in goals-against average (2.38) and save percentage (.920). He succeeded from an individual standpoint on the international stage, winning silver with the Swedes at the U18 worlds and placing 2nd at the 2016 Hlinka with a .924 save percentage. Eriksson Ek, the younger brother of Minnesota Wild rookie Joel, has a pretty high panic threshold and has very good post-save recovery thanks to his lower-body strength that allows him to vault back into his set. He rarely ventures outside the crease to challenge shooters, but he is active on dump-ins, breaks up centering feeds and is comfortable using the poke check on breakaways or shootout attempts.

29-G. G Zach Sawchenko (OA) | Moose Jaw Warriors, WHL | 6'1, 175 | 12/30/97: A handful of WHL goalies distinguished themselves in 2017, but Sawchenko was the best of the draft-eligible variety. He was passed over last year in his first look of eligibility, but he took the disappointment in stride and finished with a stellar .917 save percentage in 51 games for Moose Jaw. He also saw a ton of rubber, and no CHL goalie who saw 1400 or more shots had a higher save percentage. Already a competent goalie from a technical standpoint, it appeared as if Sawchenko fine-tuned his butterfly to the point where he was gobbling up far more shots than in previous seasons. He's always been quick and flexible, and now looks more comfortable in his crease.

111. LW/RW Marian Studenic | Hamilton Bulldogs, OHL | 6'0, 164 | 10/28/98: Explosive winger with game-changing abilities who followed up a strong rookie season in the Slovak elite Extraliga with an up-and-down North American campaign with Hamilton. Studenic's skills are undeniable — he is super fast, super agile and super aware. The problem was he couldn't get a consistent job in the top six or on the power play, so he was forcing things while relegated to a depth role. Still, 14 of his 18 goals and 23 of 30 points came at even strength, and he is good for a couple of great chances a game. One underrated aspect of Studenic's game is his vision, especially on zone entries.

133. RW Ivan Kozlov | Val-d'Or Foreurs, QMJHL | 6'0, 200 | 03/26/99: A mini midseason slump was the lone blemish on this sturdy Russian winger's rookie resume, as Kozlov was one of the QMJHL's most opportunistic scorers in terms of ice time and level of responsibility. He's a strong skater with excellent balance who displays patience and awareness as he crosses center with the puck. Combining Kozlov's thickness with his pro-level shot reveals a power forward capable of scoring from just about anywhere inside the blue line, and goalies seemed to have difficulty controlling rebounds of his shots. He won't kill penalties or be on the ice in late-game scenarios, but he plays physical and has success using his strength to overpower opponents during board battles in his own end. Think of Kozlov as a poor man's Vlad Tarasenko.

123. RHD Martin Bodak | Tappara U20, Jr. A SM-Liiga | 6'0, 194 | 11/28/98:

Tough to tell what kind of upside this Slovak blueliner has because you rarely see an in-between — he's either unstoppable or a hot mess. Puck management can be downright poor, albeit sparingly, but he's outstanding at reacting to and neutralizing chances created by his own mistakes. He's obviously not some sort of glutton for punishment, as he has stick-to-itiveness and will recover both mentally and tactically from bonehead mistakes. When he's composed, Bodak has high-end puck skills and can run a power play, using speed, vision and anticipation to enter the zone and help set things up. Defensemen with his skill set are great low-round projects because puck management can be fixed under the right guidance and within the proper system.

140. LHD Oliver Gatz-Nielsen | Herning, Metal Ligaen (Denmark) | 6'1,

207 | 10/06/98: Nielsen is a versatile, minute-munching shutdown defender with top-four potential. He consistently takes hits to move the puck to safety and opts for the quickest route to the puck rather than worry about the price he's going to pay for having his back turned. Nielsen is a smart, poised puck distributor who stays within himself and doesn't try to be flashy. He can be used as a top option on the penalty kill for shot blocking and quick reaction time to pucks within his immediate area, and he wins most of his 50/50 battles thanks to a long stick that he utilizes in a quick but legal manner.

103. LHD Matt Anderson | Holy Family, HS-MN | 5'11, 199 | 04/11/99:

Offensive-minded rearguard who excels running a power play but looks for big hits and logs a ton of minutes. Anderson was critical to Holy Family's success this year, playing in all situations and leading breakouts with either his skating or hard, crisp outlet passes. He plays through pain and doesn't back down from a challenge. Anderson will play for Minnesota-Duluth.

109. C Kalle Miketinac | Frolunda J20, Superelit | 5'11, 183 | 04/02/99:

Aggressive forward with a non-stop motor and versatility to provide competence to both the power play and penalty kill. Miketinac for a teenager thinks the game at a high level and anticipates where the puck will go, especially on the forecheck. He's strong on his skates and tough to knock down, and he keeps his head up while controlling the puck and getting mugged from behind. Identifying open or cutting teammates is one of his strong suits.

183. LHD Antoine Crete-Belzile | Blainville-Boisbriand, QMJHL | 6'0, 188 | 08/19/99: Oft-injured blueliner with good speed and an above-average command of his position. Crete-Belzile is a heady and poised rearguard who can be counted on to beat a breakout either with his speed or via hard, accurate passes. Things get complicated once he crosses his own blue line, but he's reliable option to augment a puck mover on a first or middle pairing. He possesses average puck skills in terms of creativity, but he has a very good shot that he uses sparingly. Crete-Belzile is a safe player who isn't in the business of risk taking in the offensive zone. He'll pinch to keep a play alive and quickly retreat to his point rather than roll the dice on a carry deep into the corners. He's used sparingly on the power play but stands out on the penalty kill, where his slot positioning and quick stick helps him break up plays around the net.

119. C Jan Hladonik | Trinec, Extraliga U20 | 5'9, 161 | 08/18/99: A fast skater who is quick on his feet and can maintain top speed for the duration of his rushes, Hladonik was a top scorer in the Czech junior league and had a top-six role for the Czechs in international events. Hladonik's game is based on speed and vision, and he develops chemistry with wingers rather quickly. They know how fast he is, and he knows how to slow things down and let plays develop. Hladonik has quick feet and a solid understanding of play development, and controlling the puck in and around traffic helps him break through zone defenses. The power of his shot is above average and accurate, and he finds a way to score "dirty goals" from the tough areas around the net. Hladonik is average on faceoffs, but he kills penalties with an aggressive mindset and always looks for the chance to pick off a cross-ice pass and jet up ice.

1 OA. RW Ivan Kosorenkov (OA) | Victoriaville Tigres, QMJHL | 5'10, 187 | 01/22/98: Dynamic overage puck magnet who is strong on his skates and can stickhandle his way out of a jam. Kosorenkov is pretty quick on his feet, using exceptional agility and balance to maintain control of the puck. He comes across as more of a playmaker than a goal scorer, but scored 18 goals on 97 shots during 5v5 and finished second in the QMJHL with a 22.4 shooting percentage. Scoring pretty goals is something Kosorenkov is capable of doing, but he doesn't bogey the tap-ins and slam dunks. He is listed at 6'0, 185 pounds but looks a bit stockier and his skating style is somewhat hunched.

3 OA. C Igor Shvyryov (OA) | Stalnye Lisi, MHL | 6'0, 205 | 07/10/98: One of Russia's top young talents who was Stalnye Lisy's first line center and scoring leader, Shvyryov is arguably Europe's most talented draft-eligible playmaker. The work needed to get him to leave Russia for North America is part of what keeps him relatively obscure — he was kept off Central Scouting's rankings despite being one of the MHL's leading scorers. Shvyryov is a dynamic offensive player with excellent vision and hockey sense, and he's deadly in odd-man situations. He has very good straight-line speed and can hammer the puck with accuracy, plus he's defensively responsible and won 56 percent of over 1000 faceoffs.

114. LHD Mark Rubinchik | Saskatoon Blades, WHL | 6'0, 179 | 03/21/99: Physical blueliner who as a first-year import with Saskatoon dealt ups and downs but remains a worthy project pick for the middle rounds. Rubinchik is a big hitter with very good mobility and a hard shot, but he can also make plays and play aggressive in the offensive zone. Yes, he can play undisciplined or drop the gloves from time to time, but there's more to his game than just brute force. Rubinchik is strong on his skates and is nimble enough to spin away from pressure, and he spots the open man properly. Sure, he'll have games where every pass seems telegraphed, but he usually bounces back by using the boards effectively and neutralizing a forecheck with poised, calculated plays.

131. LHD Eemeli Rasanen | Kingston Frontenacs, OHL | 6'7, 208 | 03/06/99: They say you can't teach size, but one has to wonder if it will even matter four or five years from now. Rasanen is a big, mobile rearguard with a long reach who had a relatively solid first year in North America following his time in the Finnish junior leagues. He maintains a tight gap and is very good at sealing off an onrushing opponent into no man's land, and he has been used on late-game scenarios and on the penalty kill. Rasanen is strong enough to shove guys out of the crease, but there are times he struggles with floating and will lose guys behind him. His play with the puck is pretty standard for a shutdown type, but he isn't fast or own a heavy shot. Keep him away from the power play and he'll make a coach happy with his work below his own dots.

11 OA. LW Linus Weissbach (OA) | Tri-City Storm, USHL | 5'8, 161 | 04/19/98: Quick overage forward with blinding breakaway speed who left Sweden for the USHL but has been a top scorer for his junior team in each of the last two years. Once considered too weak on his skates, Weissbach improved his strength and balance, two things he'll need when he suits up for the Wisconsin Badgers next year. He has a continuous motor and is very active in all three zones, and will even challenge bigger defenders in puck battles. Weissbach isn't strong in his own end, but he relies on sound instincts and telegraphing opposing tactics near his blue line rather than cover up the slot or support a battle in the corner. The NCAA schedule should give him plenty of time to bulk up and learn his side of the red line.

171. C Igor Martynov | Belarus U20, Belarus | 6'0, 181 | 01/19/99: Dynamic skater with excellent offensive traits who opted to spend another year in Belarus after Peterborough made him a second round import pick. Martynov has top-six upside and can be used in any situation at 5v5 or on special teams. He's strong on his skates and forces opponents to do a lot of puck gazing as he stickhandles his way through traffic while moving quickly and with confidence. The Belorussians always field a top-heavy team no matter the tournament, but Martynov continued to be their top producer despite facing the toughest matchups against prospect-loaded teams. His hockey sense is quite high and he identifies multiple options for set-ups, and periods of erratic play are somewhat justified when the scales are tipped so heavily against him.

127. RHD Mario Ferraro | Des Moines Buccaneers, USHL | 5'10, 194 | 09/17/98: Fast puck-moving defensemen with excellent first-step quickness and footwork who keeps a tight gap and takes the right routes to seal off his man. Ferraro, a UMass-Amherst recruit, stays glued to his man and will finish checks with authority. He is not very tall but is strong as an ox, using his upper-body strength to pin his man with little to no chance of escape. He has an aggressive mindset with the puck and explodes up the ice to create a numbers advantage without it. A good bodychecker who likes to drive into people, Ferraro is an attack-minded defender who looks to transition up ice no matter where he is or how much traffic is in front of him. This style of play results in a lot of gaps and counterattacks, but he is fast enough to get back most of the time. He owns a booming, accurate shot and is the primary point man on the power play.

146. C Skyler Brind'amour | South Kent School, USPHL | 6'2, 170 | 07/27/99: He's got the familiar name, but Brind'amour plays a different style to his father Rod, who won a Cup with Carolina in 2006 and played in nearly 1500 NHL games. Skyler is a strong-skating forward who is competent in all three zones and has potential for more, especially when you consider his size. He's headed to Michigan State after brief stints with the South Kent School U18 Selects and the NTDP. Brind'amour is a cerebral player who hustles, competes and displays occasional periods of dominance. He doesn't have breakaway speed but is difficult to slow down once he reaches top speed.

135. LHD Jocktan Chainey | Halifax Mooseheads, QMJHL | 6'0, 198 | 09/08/99: Promising two-way defenseman with excellent footwork and sound instincts. Chainey reacts to dangerous situations with both poise and confidence, and being a very good skater helps maintain a tight gap and win a fair amount of footraces. Although he shared power play ice with Nico Hischier, Chainey was Halifax's nominal power play quarterback. He has a good, accurate shot and a quick release, and when pressured will use bank passes effectively. Getting stronger will be important as he struggles with one-on-one battles, but his defensive-zone play is quite good for a puck mover.

24 OA. RW Joonas Luoto (OA) | Tappara Tampere, Liiga | 6'2, 185 | 09/27/97: Definitely a project pick even if he's one of the better overagers for 2017. Luoto is a power forward who can play physical and protects the puck extremely well. I don't know how much of a hindrance his lack of speed would be in North America, but he can be a load to handle and makes smart, subtle plays with guys draped all over him. Luoto makes up average straight-line quickness with strong balance and sharp directional changes once he gets inside the zone.

8 OA. LHD Kristians Rubins (OA) | Medicine Hat Tigers, WHL | 6'4, 216 | 10/11/97: Hard-hitting Latvian who had a fine rookie season with Medicine Hat but can't seem to shake the injury bug. Rubins is a late-1997 born overager who plays a steady, positional game but can carry the puck away from pressure thanks to his strong skating ability. He's capable of playing physical and on occasion will throw a crushing hit, but where he makes the most money is acting as a safety net for a puck-moving partner. Rubins won't put up a lot of points, but he clearly understands both his role and the importance of covering gaps.

G Jake Begley | Brookings Blizzard, NAHL | 6'1, 170 | 03/18/99: The top goalie in Minnesota high school hockey is a tremendous competitor and student of the game. He won the Frank Brimsek award and deservedly so — Begley led Hill-Murray to the state tournament and posted a .936 save percentage. He followed up his stellar high school career with a four strong games for the NAHL's Brookings Bandits, stopping 0.926 percent of his shots. It was tough to determine how quick and athletic he was because he made every save look rather effortless, and his positioning, net awareness and post-save recovery were excellent for a teenager. He remains without an NCAA commitment, but that should change sometime during his rookie season in the USHL next year.

226. RW Alexander Oskin | Tolpar, MHL | 6'3, 185 | 09/08/99: Powerful winger with soft hands and a cannon of a shot who can bring it with velocity from just about anywhere in the offensive zone. Oskin likes to shoot the puck regardless of what's in front of him — sticks, bodies, skates, the refs — and goaltenders seem to get happy feet when he's in a prime shooting position. Oskin is very young and it's scary when you think he's probably going to get bigger and develop more power to his shot. He's a good skater but more for his balance and stride than actual straight-line speed. Oskin is tough to pin or hold against the boards, and opponents can get tired from battling him after a short period of time. His game from his side of the red line is tough to watch, but he does have poise and on occasion he'll fake out checkers by hanging on to the puck with a curl or cut back.

139. RHD Saku Vesterinen | Charlottetown Islanders, QMJHL | 5'11, 184 | 02/28/99: Vesterinen playing for one of the CHL's deepest defense corps actually helps his draft stock, because not only was he very good defensively, but he made the most of his limited ice time. The Finnish import was fourth among all first-year QMJHL defensemen in eP/60 (1.09) and was third in eS/60 (5.12). The Islanders handed top draft prospect Pierre-Olivier Joseph an expanded role involving all situations, but it was Vesterinen who played just as well (if not better) in his own end and generated almost as many shots when he was on the ice. He can be a real pain to play against because he is a pusher and shiver who uses a quick stick that makes it difficult to control the puck in his vicinity. He has an above-average shot, but it's accurate and used appropriately.

150. C Cole Guttman | Dubuque Fighting Saints, USHL | 5'11, 177 | 06/01/99: A Los Angeles native committed to St. Cloud State, Guttman quietly had a strong rookie season, including a USHL-best 23.5 percent shooting percentage (27 goals on 115 shots). He was on Dubuque's top line with USHL scoring champ Zach Solow, who helped him get picked for the league all-rookie team. He's a good skater with a bit of a choppy stride, and sometimes he comes across as a bit of floater who waits for things to come to him. Guttman isn't physical, doesn't play on the penalty kill but obviously has an accurate enough shot to be used from the circles on the power play.

19-G. G Jiri Patera | Cesko Budejovice, Extraliga U20 | 6'2, 209 | 02/24/99: Patera possesses an NHL frame and displays a generally solid position. He is an excellent puck handler who can act as a third defenseman and will look up ice to catch opponents in a line change. While an average glove hand makes Patera susceptible to shots from the circles out than, his overall technique and positioning show promise, as he will challenge shooters well above the blue paint and retreat deliberately without giving away much, if anything. Patera tracks pucks extremely well and is quick enough to make initial saves from chances with a high degree of difficulty, but his post-save recovery is the area he needs to work on most. He was solid in two levels of Czech hockey but was inconsistent during international tournaments.

156. RW D'artagnan Joly | Baie-Comeau Drakkar, QMJHL | 6'3, 181 | 04/07/99: Joly has a pro build and an array of skills that make you think he could easily be one of the top draft-eligible teenagers in the QMJHL. An upright skater with a long stride and above-average quickness, Joly uses his reach and stickhandling skills to maneuver in and around traffic. He's capable of creating his own shot and is more creative than your average power forward. Joly can wire a hard, accurate shot off the pass or his back foot, and he's adept at shooting through defenders in one-on-one situations. The puck always seems to find him, and he considers using all of his teammates as he carries the puck up the ice with confidence. His hands are incredibly soft and the power play is where they come into play — he receives and controls hard passes rather effortlessly. The lone blemish is his seemingly nonchalant compete level, as Joly has a habit of looking totally disinterested and can be careless with the puck with the occasional loaf on the backcheck. He can play center or wing, but his poor production in the dot and struggles with defensive-zone coverage makes us think he's better off on the flank.

159. RHD Grant Anderson | Wayzata, HS-MN | 6'2,186 | 09/15/99: Wayzata took a big hit from graduation after winning the Minnesota high school state title, but Anderson was the glue that kept the team not only competitive, but extremely difficult to play against. He's a physical blueliner with very good speed and a blistering shot, so he's good enough to anchor any pairing in any situation. His defensive-zone play is excellent, as he realizes the importance of maintaining elastic coverage from below the dots. Opponents find difficulty in breaking free from his shadow, and he's quick to steal the puck and immediately begin a counterattack. Bound for Nebraska-Omaha and drafted in the third round by the USHL's Green Bay Gamblers, Anderson is a pup who missed 2018 draft eligibility by one day.

49 OA. RHD Pavel Yelshansky (OA) | Dynamo-SPB, MHL | 6'2, 196 | 08/19/97: Double overager and captain of SKA-Dynamo SPB who anchored their top pairing and played against opposing top scorers. Yelshansky is very mobile and strong on his skates, but he's not going to do anything fancy with his footwork or blow past somebody unless he has quite a bit of a head start. He has a very hard shot and his teammates look for him to fire off one-timers from the point on the power play. Yelshansky is confident in his passes — they're timely, crisp and accurate — plus he has good vision to identify players open at the side of the net as he walks the line on his forehand. He's competent defensively and likes to stand up at his blue line or use a quick poke checks rather than back in and concede real estate.

9 OA, C Domenic Commisso (OA) | Oshawa Generals, OHL | 5'11, 192 | 02/19/98: Oshawa was a bit of a surprise this season, and the overage Commisso had a big role in not only getting the Gens to the playoffs, but winning a round against Sudbury. He's a fast two-way center with effortless breakaway speed who hustles, backchecks and seems to always be involved in plays around the net at either end. He has willingness to contribute beyond goals and assists, but Commisso was Oshawa's leading scorer, making him the perfect lead-by-example type. Commisso was for more cleaner on his set-ups and looked more poised and under control than a year ago, plus his faceoffs improved from 49 percent to 53 percent.

177. RW Micah Miller | Sioux City Musketeers, USHL | 5'8, 193 | 10/29/98: Dangerous offensive force who uses his stickhandling, shifty skating and playmaking ability to force defenders to conceded more of their own end than they'd like. Miller isn't very big, but he is a strong battler who uses a long stick to protect the puck from thicker opponents. He was critical to Grand Rapids' title winner at the Minnesota state tournament, where he was used on the top line and displayed highlight-reel plays. Miller is a fast skater with first-step quickness who consistently beats defenders to the outside. If the gap tightens, he can fire a heavy wrist shot that just explodes off his stick. He's committed to St. Cloud State but likely spends a full year with powerhouse Sioux City, where in 23 games this season all 13 of his points came at 5v5.

151. RW Sami Moilanen | Seattle Thunderbirds, WHL | 5'8, 185 | 01/22/99: Swift skating Finnish waterbug who led all WHL rookies with seven playoff goals and placed second with 16 points in 20 games. He was critical to Seattle claiming its first postseason WHL crown, playing key minutes in all situations and playing on the top penalty killing unit. Moilanen is very aggressive, especially on the forecheck, where he combined his speed and understanding of play development to position himself in an area where an opposing puck carrier is destined to make his mistake. He is also a ferocious backchecker who always seems to be the first forward standing up at his own blue line, and his step-ups are timed and successful. But Moilanen is no checker with limited upside — he has very good vision and can create chances off puck pursuit with either a subtle centering pass or a blistering wrister off a curl and drag. Thirty two of his 43 points came at 5v5, including 16 of his 21 goals.

12 OA. RW Patrick Bajkov (OA) | Everett Silvertips, WHL | 6'0, 180 | 11/27/97: One of the WHL's top two-way players whose talent scale tips heavily in favor of offense. Bajkov is a very good skater who can make plays at high speed regardless of degree of difficulty. He's feathery on his skates and cuts and weaves his way into open ice rather effortlessly. Playing for a goal-starved offense skews his numbers, but keep in mind that the Silvertips played tight affairs on a nightly basis, and Bajkov was entrusted with late-game situations in addition to assisting the top power play unit. He's a lethal passer and quite creative, and we get the feeling that he'll flourish in an up-tempo system. Bajkov led the Tips in scoring with 78 points, but 50 came during 5v5 that placed him fourth among WHL first-year draft overagers.

145. LHD Jakub Galvas | Olomouc HC, Extraliga | 5'11, 161 | 06/15/99: Reliable two-way defender who can play top-pairing minutes while managing the puck properly. Galvas was one of the younger defensemen in the Czech Extraliga, but he cleaned up his defensive game to the point where his coach wasn't scared to use him late in games. Galvas is a strong skater who is comfortable controlling the puck, and he handled the forecheck against adults quite well. He'll take a hit to move the puck, but he's quick and crafty enough to spin away from his man and create an odd-man situation up ice. Galvas likes to shoot the puck and has a hard, accurate shot that can beat goalies from beyond the tops of the circles.

18 OA. LHD Matt Kiersted (OA) | Chicago Steel, USHL | 5'11, 175 | 04/14/98:

Smart two-way defenseman with good speed who is more sound with his positioning than most puck movers in his draft class. Kiersted was a top-pairing defenseman for Chicago but had a season-ending injury right after winning the WJAC with Team USA in December. He plays aggressive and likes to join the rush, but he's quick enough to get back and cover up. Kiersted is poised with the puck and doesn't rattle in the face of an heavy forecheck, but he can beat you with his smarts or a quick burst. If he gets chased, he will either outmaneuver his man or use the boards for a bank to the weak side. Rarely do you see him treat the puck like a hot potato or put his partner or forwards in a position to fail. He has an average shot but it's accurate, and he is efficient running the point on the power play.

27 OA. RW Daniil Vovchenko (OA) | Severstal, KHL | 5'10, 172 | 04/04/96:

It isn't of the ordinary for a triple-overager to put up points as a KHL sophomore. But a scoring winger with a shorter development path like Vovchenko might become a commodity come draft day. He turned 21 in April, and a playoff stint in the MHL proved to be child's play for him as he registered 14 points in 12 games. He's extremely fast, has excellent hands and one of the quicker releases you find among any draft eligible. Although Vovchenko isn't much of a three-zone player, he can kill penalties and take the puck from goal line to goal line. He's one of those silent types who doesn't display a lot of emotion but has a burning desire to be the best player every time he steps on the ice. Vovchenko is a real wild card but worth the risk in a later round.

161. LHD Tyler Inamoto | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'2, 194 | 05/06/99:

Big-hitting two-way defender with good speed and a hard shot who was stuck in either the middle or bottom pairing of the NTDP for most of the season. Inamoto plays aggressive in all areas of the ice, whether it's with his feet or his body. He was Team USA's most physical defensemen, sometimes to a fault in that gunning for a open-ice check placed him well out of position. He needs to work on his breakouts as he's prone to turnovers, but Inamoto is a tireless worker who competes from start to finish. His combination of strength and speed, plus an admirable work ethic, help offset his issues handling the puck. He'll play for the Wisconsin Badgers next season.

11-G. G Josef Korenar (OA) | Lincoln Stars, USHL | 6'1, 175 | 01/31/98:

Korenar as an overager had a splendid rookie season in the USHL, finishing third in both save percentage (.925) and goals-against average (2.22). He also yielded two goals or less in 20 of his 26 appearance that ended in regulation. Not bad for a kid not only in his first North American season, but one who was forced to share the workload with fellow 2017-draft eligible Cayden Primeau. He's an efficient goalie who doesn't get rattled and can cover ground quickly on his knees. Korenar controls rebounds with his blocker quite well, and doesn't seem to over-emphasize his glove saves — he's sees the puck, he smothers it and tucks it away. Comes across as a poised, mature kid who consistently kept his team in games and rarely gives up a bad goal.

20-G. G Eetu Makeniemi | Jokerit U20, Jr. A SM-Liiga | 6'2, 176 | 04/19/99: Sound Finnish goalie with good size and quickness who shared Jokerit's netminding duties with Chicago Blackhawks' draftee Wouter Peeters. Makiniemi has impressive stubbornness in that he doesn't like giving screening forwards any room within sneezing distance of the crease. He a fighter who isn't stapled to his posts, and his glove hand positioning during lateral movement is almost pro-like. He first caught my attention playing at the Junior Club World Cup in August and is a candidate to not only see some Liiga time next season, but play for Finland at the U20 WJC.

206. LHD Ben Mirageas | Chicago Steel, USHL | 6'1, 180 | 05/08/99: A midseason trade from Bloomington to Chicago invigorated this Bay Stater from Massachusetts' North Shore, as Mirageas won a Clark Cup title and led all blueliners with 10 assists in 14 games. The Providence commit is a shifty, smart puck mover who is poised and decisive under pressure. He's an offensive defenseman who gets out of trouble with either clean, crisp passes or a burst into open ice. Mirageas isn't a physically intimidating defender, and while he should be applauded for not avoiding contact altogether, he still needs to work on his timing and finishing checks.

153. C Jan Drozg | Leksand J20, Superelit | 6'0, 168 | 04/01/99: A talented Slovenian who plays for Leksand in the Superelit, Drozg led the U18 D1A worlds in scoring by a wide margin. He can play both center and wing but always is used as a scoring forward in offensive zone starts and on the power play. Drozg is a very good skater and an excellent stickhandler whose speed and shiftiness buys him time and space. He has a quick stick, soft hands and the kind of vision that identifies back-door cutters or trailers. Drozg's start-and-stop is rapid, and all it takes is one step in any direction to gain a step on an opponent. Both he and Emil Bemstrom swapped first-line center duties with Leksand's J18 club in 2016, but it was Drozg who appeared better at playmaking and incorporating all four teammates into a given play.

155. RW Kristian Roykas-Marthinsen | Altumna, Allsvenskan | 6'0, 185 | 08/20/99: Norwegian sniper who ran through the international circuit like a hot knife through butter, scoring in bunches and distinguishing himself as one of Norway's top draft-eligible player. Roykas-Marthinsen is a very good skater who can finish off the rush or make a set-up on his own. This type of low-maintenance winger should benefit from being surrounded by better talent when he permanently suits up for Altumna in Sweden's Allsvenskan next fall. He's elusive along the wall and battles his way through checks to get to loose pucks, and he seemed to have good chemistry with his centers in the form of give-and-go's, set one-timers off faceoffs, and tic-tac-toe plays with the man advantage.

4 OA. RW Andrei Altybarmakyan (OA) | Serebryanye, MHL | 5'11, 185 | 08/04/98: Altybarmakyan is a speedy overage winger with an incredibly soft touch who should be on a fast track to notoriety. He's a skill forward who plays under control and doesn't rush into shots, meaning he'll take his time to maximize the quality of a given chance. He works his tail of and is always around the puck, He displayed not only hard work, but an ability to make quick set-ups during scrums. His passes were accurate, and on several occasions he feathered perfect backhanders to teammates in stride. A skill forward with excellent vision and awareness, Altybarmakyan was one of the MHL representatives at the KHL All-Star Game and even scored a goal. There are a handful of Russian puck magicians and Altybarmakyan is near the top of the list.

31-G. G Kiril Ustemenko | Dynamo-SPB, MHL | 6'3, 187 | 01/29/99: Belorussian-born backstop who represented Russia at the recent U18's with aplomb following a dominant season in the MHL. Ustemenko had the benefit of playing for a sound defensive team, as he faced 30 or more shots in only nine of his 27 appearances. The good news is he allowed two goals or less in eight of the nine, so it wasn't like he didn't earn his paycheck. It was his stellar play in a shutout against Sweden at the U18 worlds that helped Russia earn a bronze medal — it's first medal at the tournament in six years. He's a very aggressive goalie who will challenge well above the top of the crease, partly because of equal quickness in both blocker and glove hands. Ustemenko has excellent reflexes and is square to the shooter immediately after centering feeds. Plus he's relatively solid on quick-release attempts like one-timers or goal-mouth feeds.

7 OA. LW Denis Smirnov (OA) | Penn State, Big-10 | 5'8, 185 | 08/12/97: Crafty undersized forward with speed and exceptional puck skills who took the NCAA by storm, leading all freshman in scoring with 47 points. Born in Moscow before emigrating the U.S. as a child, Smirnov was a prolific point producer in the USHL in each of his first two looks for the draft. He's certainly got everyone's attention now, not only for being the top NCAA rookie but playing a key role in Penn State hockey winning their first Big-10 title. He's a dangler, deker and head-faker who can beat you with his vision or his shot, and he's an absolute beast in one-on-one scenarios. Smirnov is one of those possession wizards who can slow the game down and keep the puck on his stick from the beginning of a shift until whenever he feels like getting rid of it.

18-G. G Ivan Prosvetov | Minnesota Magicians, NAHL | 6'4, 162 | 03/05/99: The transition from Russia to North American isn't quite over for this big-bodied netminder who was the sixth overall pick in the 2016 KHL draft. He faced a lot of rubber for the Magicians, including 34 or more shots in more than half of his 44 regular season appearances. A butterfly goalie who looks quite comfortable dropping down wherever the puck may be, he's solid at covering the lower half of the net, and doesn't look gangly or slow recovering from an initial save. This kid was helpless on most nights, but he will stop most initial shots regardless of whether he gets a clean look or not.

170. LHD Matteo Pietroniro | Baie-Comeau Drakkar, QMJHL | 6'0, 180 | 10/20/98: Pietroniro is a slick offensive-minded defenseman with superior puck skills who uses quickness and sound vision to eat away at opposing schemes. He quarterbackes the top power play unit with confidence, as all plays usually run through him before completion. Pietroniro is incredibly accurate with his passes and can split the zones with tape-to-tape stretch passes from as far back as his own goal line. He can either initiate a rush with puck carrying or join one to create an advantage — both revealing a smart, instinctive player who understands how critical a role he plays. Pietroniro has good chemistry with his partners and makes timely and decisive pinches. Rarely will you see him drop down below the circles without ensuring the void will be covered, and when he does, he'll put his head down and bolt back to thwart an opposing counterattack. He has a decent shot from the point, but it's accurate and fired without hesitation. Pietroniro is reliable in one-on-one coverage and slot positioning but can be moved off the puck by bigger forwards, especially on the penalty kill or in close-quarter battles. That doesn't mean he can't play physical — Pietroniro likes to mix it up and stands up to any challenge.

21-G. G Jeremy Swayman | Sioux Falls Stampede, USHL | 6'2, 187 | 09/17/98: Athletic goalie with size who had a solid rookie season in the USHL after Sioux Falls drafted him in the 12th round. The first thing that stands out about Swayman is how quick he is getting set and squaring up to a shooter. His butterfly coverage on initial shots is decent, but Swayman is very quick not only stopping initial shots, but recovering quickly to handle rebounds. Finding gaps is something USHL shooters had difficulty doing, and he will challenge beyond the top of the crease. He ranked 12th in save percentage (.914) but save close to 34 shots a game, which made him one of the busier netminders in the league. He'll soon call Orono home when he suits up for the Maine Blackbears in 2018.

174. RHD Reilly Walsh | Chicago Steel, USHL | 5'11, 181 | 04/21/99: Harvard-bound puck distributor who split the season between prep school and the Chicago Steel. Walsh is an excellent skater and can quarterback a power play, where he stays in constant motion and doesn't throw pucks away trying to be cute. His passes are crisp and on the tape, but he has soft hands to play catch or hammer a one-timer without worrying about fumbling it out of the zone. Walsh has vision is excellent, and he looked extremely comfortable at the Hlinka working the puck around on a power play full of talent. Yes, he's not very physical and will resort to some pretty weak stick fouls. But his step-ups and stick placement while defending zone entries revealed a defenseman who used technical know-how to make up for any physical shortcomings. There were times in the USHL where he seemed overmatched, and it might scare teams away regardless of how wonderful he looks moving up ice.

21 OA. RHD Matt Brassard (OA) | Oshawa Generals, OHL | 6'2, 201 | 08/08/98:

Hard-shooting overager with size who split the season between Barrie and Oshawa, finishing the season as the Gens top-pairing defenseman and playing in most important situations. Brassard is not that much of an overager — he made 2016 eligibility by less than a month — and he was one of the busiest OHL rearguards in terms of shot production. He finished third in the league with 204 shots, of which 129 came at even strength. Nic Hague and Markus Phillips were the only notable OHL rearguards who generated more shots per game than Brassard, who also plays with a mean streak and likes to hit people. His low number of assists — 11 during 5v5 — confirms the belief that he isn't very creative and relies on his shot far too often when an extra pass may have been prudent. Still, he's a good skater who knows where to position himself and isn't a liability in his own end.

82-G. G Lassi Lehtinen | Tappara Tampere, Liiga | 5'11, 169 | 02/25/99:

Quick Finnish netminder who makes up for a lack of ideal size with exceptional net awareness and tracking ability. Listed at only 5'11, Lehtinen doesn't blanket the cage with an imposing silhouette, but he challenges shot above his crease to cut down openings. Lehtinen's rebound control and ability to track pucks during chaotic sequences of events are strong, and he'll hold his ground with skill forwards juking and deking their way to the goalmouth. He's quick with his side-to-side movement, but the speed of both his glove and blocker hand seem weak. Lehtinen was outstanding for Finland at last November's U18 Five Nations tournament and the recent U18 world championship.

158. C/W Zach Solow | Dubuque Fighting Saints, USHL | 5'9, 184 | 11/06/98:

The USHL's top scorer who ran Dubuque's offense and power play. Solow is a skilled offensive player who makes his linemates better thanks to excellent vision and the ability to find the man who nobody knows is open. Time and again, Solow serves the puck to his teammates on a silver platter, but he won't rush into a decision if he thinks a better option could develop. His zone entries range from poised and deliberate to quick and violent, but dumping the puck in is viewed as the last resort. Solow is adept at one-touch and slap passes, and he always looks for trailers and cutters. Solow may be undersized, but he's quite strong and will try to finish his checks. His skating is slightly above average and choppy, but he can change gears and eventually outmaneuvers defensemen.

58 OA. LW Anton Vasilyev (OA) | Dynamo-SPB, MHL | 5'9, 196 | 05/25/98:

Strong skater with solid puck skills who plays with confidence and can finish. Vasilyev played on the first power play unit because he enters the zone clean regardless of traffic or can sneak into the circle and fire a hard, accurate one-timer. His wrist shot is as difficult for goalies to control as his slapper, but he's so shifty that he can beat you with a simple pump fake then dance his way towards the goal. Vasilyev isn't overly physical, but he plays with an edge and gets involved after the whistle.

31 OA. RW Carson Meyer (OA) | Miami-Ohio, NCAA | 5'10, 180 | 08/18/97: Teams drafting in 2016 may have missed the boat on a talented overage winger like Meyer, who was huge in Tri-City's Clark Cup win that season and earned an invite to the Columbus's rookie camp prior to his first year of college. His freshman season at Miami was an absolute success as he placed third among draft eligibles with 10 goals — nine at 5v5 — and 26 points in 32 games. Maybe more impressive is that he did so despite battling mononucleosis. A native Ohioan with average speed but a devastatingly accurate shot, he can score goals from just about anywhere and has incredible hand-eye coordination. Meyer has the ability to thread the needle to for quality chances, competes hard, plays with enthusiasm and doesn't take a shift off. His size (5'10, 180 pounds) shouldn't be an issue since he's an inside player who takes a hit to finish a play.

24-G. G Antoine Samuel (OA) | Baie-Comeau Drakkar, QMJHL | 6'3, 190 | 09/17/97: Samuel is an athletic butterfly goaltender who made the best out of a tough situation to be in. Not only did Samuel go undrafted in 2016, but the following season faced the prospect of backstopping a young, inexperienced Baie-Comeau squad. Nevertheless, things turned out fine, as Samuel, although seeing a QMJHL-high 1639 shots, led the Drakkar to a postseason berth. Additionally, he posted a .915 save percentage from late November until season's end — a total of 33 appearances. He was far more composed than last year, showing more quickness and better control of both his glove and blocker saves. Samuel doesn't leave much room upstairs when he's hugging the post, and his side-to-side quickness when coupled with his length makes him tough to beat on cross-mouth feeds. Samuel has an active stick and likes to handle the puck, he's just not very good at it.

235. C Zach Gallant | Peterborough Petes, OHL | 6'2, 188 | 03/06/99: Two-way power center who was a critical role player for Peterborough during its playoffs run. Gallant is a character guy who plays in all situations, but he was effective enough to occasionally land on the top line of a strong team. He checks a lot of blocks in terms of physical play, hockey sense, positioning, vision, etc., but his hunched, plodding skating style makes it seem like he's got a 150-pound ruck on his back. Gallant has a very hard shot and a quick release, but he can score from dirty areas as well. He's very active on the penalty kill and will make proper reads to steer shots wide rather than give up his body for a block near the blue line. There's some Brian Boyle to his game, but Boyle was a better skater at this stage of his development, which tells you what Gallant needs to continue to work on. A kid like Gallant may have been a lottery pick in 1998 or 2002, but he provides so much in intangibles and goal scoring that even in a fast-paced environment he's worth a look.

245. C Macauley Carson | Sudbury Wolves, OHL | 6'1, 205 | 03/12/99: Strong forward with size but below-average speed who led all OHL first-year eligibles with a ridiculous 5v5 shooting percentage of 24.2 (23 goals on 95 shots). Carson is a two-way power forward who obviously knows how to finish, especially in front of the net where he maintains a low center of gravity. Carson is thick, stocky and painfully slow, and he wasn't exactly setting the world on fire in the faceoff circle (48%). Nonetheless, he's a possession driver and a good team-first guy who uses his physical strength to outmuscle most that try to stop him. Put him in front of the net on the power play, trust him with offensive zone starts and rely on him to kill penalties. Not too much to ask from a guy that can finish but otherwise destined for the later rounds.

168. RHD Phil Kemp | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'3, 202 | 03/12/99: Steady, physical defenseman with decent vision and mobility but likely top out as a bottom-pairing support guy. Kemp has pretty soft hands for a big blueliner, and he can make subtle, accurate bank or saucer passes to catch teammates in stride. I wouldn't go as far as to call him poised because he can be sloppy managing the puck, but he recovers quickly and maintains a tight gap. He's more successful using his brain to read plays and his feet to close and seal rather than outskating someone in a 50/50 battles. Kemp, who switched Ivy League commitments from Brown to Yale, has an above-average shot with a big wind-up.

34 OA. RW Hunter Johannes (OA) | Eden Prairie, HS-MN | 6'3,194 | 07/24/98: Expected to be one of the top power forwards in high school hockey, Johannes played an important role in Eden Prairie's success by driving their second line in support of Casey Mittelstadt's top unit. A tough out in the mold of John Leclair or Milan Lucic, Johannes had his way with high school opponents by wearing them down while maintaining control of the puck. He teamed with Mittelstadt on the power play, but when they mostly were split up at even strength. Johannes proved he could control play on his own and did not require his center to make things happen. He's an average skater but rather quick to the net via direct routes. Johannes isn't just a one-way forward — he kills penalties and can be trusted late in games because of how easy it is for him to separate opponents from the puck. He has an excellent wrist shot that he fires through traffic, but he passes up far too many prime opportunities for a lower percentage play. If he was a solid playmaker, this would be fine. But simplifying his game just to shooting and scoring goals would make him all the more dangerous.

138. RHD Brady Lyle | North Bay Battalion, OHL | 6'1, 203 | 06/06/99: A poised defender with good wheels who carries the puck with speed and flair, Lyle was North Bay's lead guy on the power play and showed occasional flashes of brilliance. Although he isn't a commanding presence on the ice, Lyle can advance the puck either by outracing his forechecker or faking his way through bodies as he crosses center. His play below his own circles is marginal at best, as he isn't physical enough to win battles clean, relying too much on stick work, albeit in a clean, disciplined manner. Lyle is pretty reliable on the attack and makes good decisions in terms of spotting and hitting the teammate with a step on his man. An undervalued aspect of his game is the way he correctly chooses when to overload the strong side for puck support or stay wide enough to spread the defenders out. His zone entries are generally clean, plus his shot, although average, is accurate and released quickly. More than half of his points came with the man advantage, but North Bay struggled generating anything on offense and lacked finishers.

17-G. G Victor Brattstrom (OA) | Timra J20, Superelit | 6'5, 201 | 03/22/97: Ask enough questions around Swedish hockey circles, and you'll hear Brattstrom's name come up every now and again. He was the heart and soul of a Timra J20 squad that simply could not score, and far more often than not, Brattstrom found himself defending either a tie score or a one-goal differential going either way. The Superelit is not an offense-heavy league, and Brattstrom led all goalies by facing an average of 30 shots per appearance. He was formerly property of Frolunda but moved over to Timra, where this season he was one of the top goalies in the Superelit. He is your typical Swedish butterfly goalie, spending a lot of time covering the lower half and gluing himself no more than a foot beyond the goal line. At 6'5, he has no problem tracking pucks from their release point with chaos ensuing in front of him. His initial-shot net coverage is excellent, as is his post-save reset. His glove and blocker hands are quick, but like most backstops that play deep in the crease, he can get burned over either shoulder.

261. LW/C Jan Kern | Sparta Prague U20, Extraliga Jrs | 5'10, 178 | 07/27/99: Slick 200-foot player who plays like he's three inches taller and 20 pounds heavier. Kern has an assortment of ways to beat you — speed, vision, smarts, hands — and is a threat to create a quality chance any time he's on the ice. He scored in his Extraliga debut but spent most of the season split between the junior and U18 squads. Kern is a dangerous penalty killer with excellent anticipation of plays, and it takes little to no effort for him to separate himself from opponents who were sloppy with their puck management. He has a hard, accurate shot but also possesses a neat backhand. He may look small and skinny, but good luck trying to knock him off the puck. Kern loves to battle in the corners and will fight for positioning in front of the net.

24 OA. RHD Tory Dello (OA) | Notre Dame Fighting Irish, NCAA | 6'0, 190 | 02/14/97: Mean, physical defender who was thrust onto the national stage when his Notre Dame Fighting Irish made the Frozen Four. Mind you, it was less than a year after Dello guided the Tri-City Storm to a league championship. Playing under intense pressure doesn't seem to rattle this Illinois native, who as a freshman was one of college hockey's most penalized freshman but still was entrusted with late-game scenarios. He's neither fast nor creative, but Dello boasts a heavy shot that he likes to use often — his 80 shots in 40 games was good for third among freshman blueliners. He is relentless during board battles and refuses to concede an inch of territory. Obviously, doing this in a legal manner most of the time will only enhance his NHL chances.

163. RW Jakub Pour | Plzen 1929, Extraliga Jrs | 6'3, 187 | 04/24/99: Power forward with soft hands and decent wheels who was a depth player for the Czech Republic at several international events but was kept off the roster for both the Hlinka and U18 worlds. Pour is a crease crusher who uses brute strength to overpower defenders of all shapes and sizes. He was relegated to a depth role during Plzen's run to a Extraliga Juniors title, but he was averaging close to a point per game in the regular season while shuttling between the second and third lines. He kills penalties on occasion and positions himself properly in the defensive zone. Pour is inconsistent in using his size and strength to overpower smaller players, and there are times he doesn't look all that engaged. Still, he's a worthy project pick and CHL Import Draft candidate when you take into consideration his size and touch around the net.

165. RW Luke Boka | Windsor Spitfires, OHL | 6'0, 191 | 06/12/99: Boka is an aggressive power winger with size and a good understanding of the game. He's the type of player who makes the most of his opportunities and would put up better numbers had he not been blocked by Windsor's deep array of offensive firepower. Boka anchored Windsor's top penalty killing unit and doesn't stop moving while feverishly waving his stick like a scythe. Once he gets control of the puck, he's strong enough to not only stay balanced and ward off defenders, but also get a shot on net as he's hounded. He's strong on his skates but isn't all that fast, but rarely does Boka come across as out of control or fumbling around with the puck. All things considered, he had a strong pre-draft season — 26 of his 28 points came at 5v5 and he finished 30th among all OHL first-year eligible forwards with a 1.80 eG/60.

198. LHD Calle Sjalin | Leksand, Allsvenskan | 6'1, 179 | 09/02/99: Quick two-way blueliner who makes smart pinches and plays aggressive thanks to his speed and confidence controlling the puck. He isn't that big of a playmaker and his shot is average, but Sjalin makes sound decisions in all three zones and can be trusted to initiate a breakout. He keeps his stick on the ice to close a passing lane and he keeps his body far enough from his goalie but close enough to his man. Sjalin likes to battle, but not at the expense of vacating his slot responsibilities. His head is on enough of a swivel to react quickly to a struggling partner behind the net, but rarely does he leave his side completely unattended. His D-to-D passing is crisp, accurate and done in a variety of ways — off the boards, lobs, saucers off the backhand — and Sjalin doesn't force passes in a lazy manner that will end up trapping teammates. He's a quick but smart defender who doesn't get too crazy with the puck but is capable of kickstarting odd-man rushes with stretch passes or his own wheels.

23-G. G Alex D'Orio | Saint John Sea Dogs, QMJHL | 6'3, 204 | 04/28/99: Getting the chance to develop with a Memorial Cup contender in front of you helped D'Orio compile good looking stats — he went 19-4-0 and tied for second in the QMJHL with a 2.40 goal-against average. A deeper look, however, revealed an light workload and a lot of run support, as D'Orio's season high for shots faced was 30 and was handed sizeable leads early. While you can't blame D'Orio for what amounted to a plum job, he did his job by stopping the puck and maintaining his composure. He relies on tracking, positioning and reads more than quickness and flexibility, and his silhouette can be intimidating to shooters, especially if they get in deep as his net awareness while moving laterally is very good.

178. RW Kirill Maksimov | Niagara Ice Dogs, OHL | 6'2, 192 | 06/01/99: Excitable scoring winger who was a model of inconsistency until a midseason trade from Saginaw to Niagara, where he scored 19 goals in 33 combined games between the regular season and playoffs. He's big, fast and owns a wonderful set of hands, and there are times where he is easily the most noticeable and unstoppable player on the ice. Maksimov is a hard shooter who doesn't need the puck to be settled to get maximum velocity on his shot, and giving him a small window of opportunity is a recipe for disaster. He's also pretty good around the cage and will release the puck to a open linemate at the very last second. Maksimov by all accounts is a very hard worker and never looks lazy or disinterested, but he plays on the outside and isn't as physically engaged as a teenager with his build should be. His skill set screams future NHL scorer, but take his second-half surge with a grain of salt.

73. RHD Tommy Miller | U.S. U18, NTDP | 6'2, 181 | 03/06/99: Miller is as textbook as they come when sealing off an oncoming opponents into a helpless situation. He is neither mean nor intimidating, but rubbing out his man with authority is something you rarely see in a fleet-footed defenseman. Miller was excellent for Team USA back in November at the U18 Five Nations in Plymouth, and you can argue that he outplayed notable teammates Max Gildon and Tyler Inamoto for the better part of the season. Miller has a hard, accurate shot and is a capable support option on a power play, but his footwork and defensive prowess are two things that will serve him well when he makes his NCAA debut next season with Michigan State. Opponents generally have find difficulty in getting around him, and Miller strong enough to one-arm shove onrushing forwards off the puck.

31 OA. RW Jack Adams (OA) | Fargo Force, USHL | 6'5, 190 | 02/05/97: Adams is a hard-working power winger who as a draft+1 overager led the USHL in goal scoring with 37 goals — 21 during 5v5 — in 56 games. Committed to Union College, Adams improved both his straight-line speed and takeoff to augment an already impressive package of size and strength. He has excellent hands, especially around the net, and he was consistent in his ability to get quality chances despite being surrounded by opponents. Adams is an absolute terror in front of the net, and goalies close to 6'3 or 6'4 had difficulty tracking pucks any time he occupied the low slot. You can see the exhaustion in the faces of opponent to try to battle him one-on-one, and sooner or later Adams's vision and playmaking will improve enough to make teams pay for double teaming him.

27 OA. RW/C Nick Swaney (OA) | Waterloo Blackhawks, USHL | 5'10, 175 | 09/09/97: Double-overage playmaker with explosive, top-end speed and a hard, accurate shot. The stats say Swaney didn't take the kind of leap worthy enough to get picked in his third look, but his commitment and effort towards improving his defensive game was apparent from early in the season. He was a very good penalty killer along with linemate Shane Bowers, and the duo fed off each other by pressing puck carriers, reading plays and staying active away from the puck. Swaney is deadly on the power play and will shoot off the pass with accuracy. He's a Minnesota native committed to Minnesota-Duluth.

176. LHD Clayton Phillips | Fargo Force, USHL | 5'10, 182 | 09/09/99: Fast two-way blueliner who made the USHL All-Rookie team after an impressive all-around season for Fargo. Phillips makes carrying the puck look effortless as he possesses a smooth stride and covers a lot of ground with just a few strides. He's capable of running a power play and make controlled entries, but once inside the zone he keeps moving and gets as far down as the goal line in order to keep a play alive. He can be considered a playmaker with good vision, but he also owns a very hard, accurate shot with a rapid release. In terms of defending, Phillips improved his stick work, which when combined with his quickness makes it difficult for opponents to control the puck or blow past him. He uses his stick with purpose, swatting away pucks as attackers near the low slot. Phillips missed eligibility for the 2018 draft by just seven days and his youth and lack of upper-body strength shows when he's faced with battles for positioning. Phillips has a commitment to the University of Minnesota and is expected to begin his collegiate career in 2018-19.

196. LHD Malte Setkov | Malmo J20, Superelit | 6'4, 185 | 08/20/99: Massive Danish stay-at-home defender with developing offensive abilities beyond his hard, accurate shot. Setkov can play either the left or right side and is quite elusive for his size thanks to a decent first step. He can be patient with the puck and not get frazzled in the face of multiple forecheckers, and on occasion will spin away from pressure and move up ice, plus he's an excellent outlet passer who keeps his head up and can split the zones with accuracy. Setkov finishes his checks and is tough to slip away from while he's pinning opponents, but he also knows when to release. He doesn't play on the power play but is useful on the penalty kill since he is instinctive enough to make the right reads while strong enough to keep the low slot clear. Setkov is very agile and uses his footwork and a massive reach to make it next to impossible to beat him cleanly to the outside. He plays a clean, disciplined game.

107. LHD Dalimil Mikyska | Kometa Brno, Extraliga | 6'1, 200 | 08/16/99: Mikyska is a skilled two-way defenseman with a strong grasp of what his responsibilities are in all three zones. He is a physical blueliner who finishes his checks and can assume a top-pairing role with aplomb for the way he reads plays and quickly covers up for the few mistakes he makes. Mikyska has very good first-step quickness and uses it to avoid forecheckers, firing off hard, accurate breakout passes without hesitation while gaining a foot or more of separation. You get the sense that he has eyes on both the side and back of his head, especially with the man advantage where his actions are timed and seemingly well-prepared. Mikyska has a powerful shot and plays the point on the power play, but he likes to dart into openings from the circles on down in order to increase the likelihood of success. He won't generate offense with creativity and flair, but his puck management is advanced for a teenager still under the age of 18.

215. RHD Oliver Larssen | Leksand J20, Superelit | 6'3, 205 | 12/25/98: Mobile two-way defenseman capable of quarterbacking a power play and effectively breaking out of his own end. Larssen has excellent mobility for a defender his size and is poised with the puck, using his size, balance and reach to fend aggressive

forecheckers. He uses the boards and the back of his own net to his advantage, reversing and changing direction to gain valuable seconds. Larssen is most certainly a risk taker, however, and he needs to improve the timing of both his pinches and releases. He can be guilty of forcing passes into traffic without being pressed, and he looks more comfortable with a man in his face than he does with boat loads of time. Larssen can be depended on to seal off or tie up his man as they move from a board battle to the slot.

256. RW Alexander Pavlenko | Avto, MHL | 6'4, 192 | 04/11/99: Big power forward who is a very good stickhandler and make neat plays from inside the hash marks. He's got a quick shot/release combination, and he doesn't struggle hammering passes that are rolling, in his skates or behind him. Pavlenko is strong at protecting the puck and maintains control as he cuts back or spins away from pressure. Having a size advantage and long stick helps him control and create off the cycle, and he has a tendency to lure extra opponents away from their position. He may be big, but Pavlenko consistently slips away from detection near the crease area.

13 OA. C Andrei Svetlakov (OA) | CSKA, KHL | 6'0, 202 | 04/06/96: Svetlakov is an exceptional two-way forward whose play as a triple overager in the KHL confirmed how physically and mentally ready he is to play against the best players in the world. He's highly competitive and spends every shift battling and fighting until he has possession of the puck. Svetlakov has average speed but he's very strong on his skates and can power through checks and maintain possession of the puck. He'll score a lot of dirty goals, but you have to pay attention when he's killing penalties as he's shown to make proper reads and quickly transition from defense to offense. There isn't a team in the NHL that can't use a strong two-way forward who plays a 200-foot game and can win big faceoffs — Svetlakov won 57 percent of his draws this year.

191. LHD Max Martin | Prince Albert Raiders, WHL | 6'0, 188 | 07/25/99: Traded from a contender in Prince George to a doormat in Prince Albert had a silver lining for Martin, in that he was given more ice time to showcase his two-way abilities. A mobile, aggressive blueliner who skates well and likes to play physical, Martin's skating — forwards, backwards or laterally — looks appealing to the eye, and uses his leg strength to close quickly on opponents, sometimes in the form of a crushing hit. He's smart with the puck and will utilize all areas of the rink — boards, glass, the back of his net — to move the puck safely. Martin is quite strong and rarely gets overworked or outmuscled during board play. He steps up or pinches at the right time, and he maintains a tight gap. Everything he does is pretty loud, and simply sealing off a guy isn't enough. Most plays involving Martin end in an exclamation point, and he seems to have fully recovered from a shoulder injury that kept him out for most of 2016.

144. C Aarnie Talvitie | Blues U20, Jr. A SM-Liiga | 5'10, 198 | 02/11/99: A feisty, hard-working forward who skates well and boasts a very good shot, especially off the pass. The versatile Talvitie is a jack-of-all trades who can be utilized on the power play or penalty kill. His shot/release combo is his bread and butter, but he's a smart player in the defensive zone, using quick feet and formidable upper-body strength to lean on puck possessors and finish them with clean checks. Talvitie also can pass the puck and make tape-to-tape connections off the rush. His strong performance (7 points in 7 games) as Finland's second line center at the U18 worlds should boost his draft stock, but he already distinguished himself at previous international events and in the regular season for Blues Jrs.

15 OA. RW Alexander Polunin (OA) | Lokomotiv, KHL | 5'9, 172 | 05/25/97: Undersized winger with a good stick and wicked shot who is the lone undrafted member of Lokomotiv Yaroslavl's "Kid Line". Playing alongside center Pavel Kraskovsy (Winnipeg) and Yegor Korshkov (Toronto), Polunin was fourth on the squad with nine goals, playing third line minutes and sparingly used on the power play. He makes up for a non-existent defensive game with very good puck skills and a heady approach to playmaking. As small as he is, Polunin is always around the net and has great hands to finish from in tight.

205. RHD Scooter Brickey | Des Moines Buccaneers, USHL | 6'3, 193 | 05/27/99: Brickey is a big-bodied shutdown defender with average speed who seems to thrive when his team is trapped and scurrying around their own end. Some might say he's not doing that great of a job if he's spending so much time defending, but he led (unofficially) all first-year draft eligible defensemen with a GF%Rel of 20.8. He has the upside a top-pairing shutdown type who will cover up for the mistakes or gaps created by a puck-rushing partner. A sound one-on-one defender who knows how to properly release if he opts to chase an opponent behind the net, Brickey plays with his head up and effectively uses the boards to evade pressure, and his intentions are rarely telegraphed as he consistently connects on difficult break-out passes.

118. C/W Bobby Dow | Kemptville 73's, CCHL | 6'1, 171 | 11/05/98: Power forward with a commitment to Mercyhurst who plays a tenacious game yet has the skills to make a significant contribution offensively. Dow is a very good skater with strong lateral mobility and enough breakaway speed to avoid the pursuit of defenders. He's strong on the puck and doesn't like to give it up, and at times can hang on to the disc for what seems like an entire shift. Dow is uber-confident once a lane opens and will take direct routes to the net with strength and determination. He protects the puck quite well, keeping his head up and looking for multiple options but confident enough to make high-percentage plays on his own. Dow is a physical player who likes to throw his body around and make sound, clean open-ice hits. He uses his upper-body strength to separate opponents from the puck, something that serves him well on the penalty kill. Dow uses his physicality to change momentum and make statements, and at worst he will top out as a skilled two-way energy player who can moonlight as a top-six power forward.

40-G. G Anton Krasotkin (OA) | HK Ryazan, VHL | 6'0, 179 | 05/20/97: In a perfect world, being named MHL playoff MVP would trump half a game's worth of shaky goaltending in this year Canada-Russia Super Series. One can only hope that whatever misgivings grew from Krasotkin's performance in what essentially is an exhibition didn't hurt his reputation in scouting circles. His phenomenal performance in the Russia junior league postseason was followed by a solid showing in Russia's VHL and he even earned a brief KHL call-up for the second straight season. Krasotkin has quick reflexes, reads plays extremely well and is rarely caught out of position. Playing too deep in the crease burned him during the CHL Series, so improving his stick work and interdicting passes should be an offseason focus.

189. LHD Anton Bjorkman | Dynamo-SPB, MHL | 5'11, 168 | 05/13/99: Bjorkman is one of Sweden's top amateur defenseman who is entrusted with significant in-game situations. He can play on both the power play and on the penalty kill with effectiveness, but it's the way he maintains a tight gap and wields an active stick while exuding the characteristics of a puck mover that makes us think his top-four upside is legitimate. Bjorkman is summoned for the tough assignments and plays poised under pressure, but he also possesses offensive capabilities such as making accurate home-run passes and skating the puck deep into the opposing zone. He is an above-average skater and owns a very good shot, and on occasion will drop down between the circles to maximize his shot opportunities.