

A grid of hockey pucks, likely from the NHL, arranged in a pattern. The pucks are dark with some lighter markings, possibly the NHL logo or team names, though they are mostly obscured by shadows and the overall dark tone of the image.

**TheDraftAnalyst.com**

# **2019 NHL Draft Report**

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# 2019 NHL Draft 101

**When:** June 21-22, 2019

**Where:** Rogers Arena, Vancouver, B.C.

## **Time**

Day 1 | 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT (local)

Day 2 | 1 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. PT (local)

## **TV**

NBC Sports Network (Day 1, U.S.)

Sportsnet, TVAS (Canada)

NHL Network (Day 2, U.S.)

## **Radio**

SiriusXM NHL Network Radio (Channel 91)

## **Stream**

NBCSports Live (U.S.)

Sportsnet Now (Canada)

# 2019 NHL Draft Order

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
1. NJD	32. OTT	63. COL-OTT	94. OTT	125. OTT	156. VAN-OTT	187. OTT
2. NYR	33. LA	64. LA	95. LA	126. LA	157. LA	188. LA
3. CHI	34. NJD	65. PHI-NJD-EDM	96. NJD	127. NJD	158. NJD	189. NJD
4. COL-OTT	35. DET	66. DET	97. DET	128. DET	159. DET	190. DET
5. LA	36. CAR-BUF	67. BUF	98. PIT-BUF	129. WAS-BUF	160. BUF	191. BUF
6. DET	37. CAR-NYR	68. NYR	99. MIN-NYR-BOS	130. NYR	161. NYR	192. BOS-NYR
7. BUF	38. EDM	69. FLA-EDM	100. EDM	131. MTL-EDM	162. EDM	193. EDM
8. EDM	39. ANA	70. NJD-ANA	101. ANA	132. ANA	163. ANA	194. CHI-ANA
9. ANA	40. VAN	71. VAN	102. VAN	133. VAN	164. VAN	195. VAN
10. VAN	41. PHI	72. PHI	103. PHI	134. WIN-PHI	165. PHI	196. PHI
11. PHI	42. MIN	73. MIN	104. FLA-MIN-ARI-PIT	135. VGK-MIN	166. MIN	197. MIN
12. MIN	43. CHI	74. ARI-CHI	105. CHI	136. MTL-CHI	167. CHI	198. TB-CHI
13. FLA	44. OTT-FLA	75. NAS-FLA	106. FLA	137. FLA	168. FLA	199. FLA
14. ARI	45. ARI	76. ARI	107. ARI	138. MTL-ARI	169. PHI-ARI	200. ARI
15. MTL	46. MTL	77. MTL	108. MTL	139. VGK-MTL	170. MTL	201. PHI-MTL
16. COL	47. COL	78. COL	109. NAS-COL	140. COL	171. COL	202. COL
17. VGK	48. VGK	79. VGK	110. VGK	141. VGK	172. MIN-VGK	203. PIT-VGK
18. DAL	49. NYR-DAL	80. NJD-DAL	111. DAL	142. DAL	173. DAL	204. TOR-DAL
19. OTT-CBJ	50. MTL-CBJ-VGK	81. CBJ	112. NYR-CBJ	143. DET-CBJ	174. ARI-CBJ	205. NYR-CBJ
20. NYR-WIN	51. WIN	82. VGK-WIN	113. WIN	144. WIN	175. BUF-WIN	206. MTL-WIN
21. PIT	52. FLA-PIT	83. OTT-PIT-VGK	114. FLA-PIT	145. PIT	176. ARI-PIT	207. PIT
22. LA-TOR	53. TOR	84. TOR	115. TOR	146. TOR	177. BUF-TOR	208. TOR
23. NYI	54. DET-NYI-VGK	85. EDM-NYI	116. CGY-NYI	147. NYI	178. NYI	209. NYI
24. NAS	55. NJD-NAS	86. VGK-NAS	117. NAS	148. NAS	179. NAS	210. NAS
25. WAS	56. WAS	87. LA-WAS	118. WAS	149. MIN-WAS-MTL	180. VAN-WAS	211. WAS
26. CGY	57. NYI-CGY	88. CGY	119. LA-CGY-MTL	150. CGY	181. CAR-CGY	212. CBJ-CGY-OTT
27. TB	58. NYR-TB	89. TB	120. TB	151. CHI-TB	182. TB	213. TB
28. CAR	59. CAR	90. CAR	121. CAR	152. CAR	183. CAR	214. CGY-CAR
29. ANA-BUF-SJ	60. DET-SJ	91. SJ	122. BUF-SJ*	153. SJ	184. SJ	215. SJ
31. BOS	61. NJD-BOS	92. BOS	123. CHI-BOS	154. BOS	185. BOS	216. CAR-BOS
31. BUF-STL	62. STL	93. BOS	124. TOR-STL	155. STL	186. ANA-STL	217. STL

\*San Jose's option

# 2019 NHL DRAFT: TOP-250 RANKINGS

The 2019 NHL Entry Draft will take place on June 21-22 in Vancouver, BC. First-year draft eligibles in the zone of consideration for these rankings were born on or after September 16th, 2000 and before or on September 15, 2001. All players in these rankings are in their first year of draft eligibility.

Below is a list of the top 250 first-year eligible players for the 2019 draft.

RANK	NAME	TM	LGE	POS	DOB	HT	WT	S/C
1	Jack Hughes	U.S. U18	NTDP	C	14-May-2001	5'10	170	L
2	Kaapo Kakko	TPS Turku	SM-Liiga	RW	13-Feb-2001	6'2	194	L
3	Trevor Zegras	U.S. U18	NTDP	C	20-Mar-2001	6'0	169	L
4	Bowen Byram	Vancouver	WHL	LHD	13-Jun-2001	6'0	193	L
5	Vasily Podkolzin	SKA-Neva	VHL	RW	24-Jun-2001	6'1	190	L
6	Matthew Boldy	U.S. U18	NTDP	LW	05-Apr-2001	6'2	192	L
7	Alex Turcotte	U.S. U18	NTDP	C	26-Feb-2001	5'11	185	L
8	Cole Caufield	U.S. U18	NTDP	RW	02-Jan-2001	5'7	162	R
9	Pavel Dorofeyev	Magnitogorsk	KHL	LW	26-Oct-2000	6'1	167	L
10	Dylan Cozens	Lethbridge	WHL	C	09-Feb-2001	6'3	180	R
11	Peyton Krebs	Kootenay	WHL	C	26-Jan-2001	5'11	180	L
12	Kirby Dach	Saskatoon	WHL	C	21-Jan-2001	6'4	197	R
13	Raphael Lavoie	Halifax	QMJHL	C	25-Sep-2000	6'4	196	R
14	Alex Newhook	Victoria	BCHL	C	28-Jan-2001	5'11	195	L
15	Ville Heinola	Lukko	SM-Liiga	LHD	03-Feb-2001	5'11	178	L
16	Spencer Knight	U.S. U18	NTDP	G	19-Apr-2001	6'3	192	L
17	Victor Soderstrom	Brynäs	SHL	RHD	26-Feb-2001	5'11	179	R
18	Moritz Seider	Mannheim	DEL	RHD	06-Apr-2001	6'4	183	R
19	Cameron York	U.S. U18	NTDP	LHD	05-Jan-2001	5'11	175	L
20	Nils Hoglander	Rogle	SHL	LW	20-Dec-2000	5'9	185	L
21	Ryan Suzuki	Barrie	OHL	C	28-May-2001	6'0	176	L
22	Robert Mastro Simone	Chicago	USHL	LW	24-Jan-2001	5'10	158	L
23	Ilya Nikolaev	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	C	26-Jun-2001	6'0	190	L
24	Jakob Pelletier	Moncton	QMJHL	LW	07-Mar-2001	5'9	160	L
25	Connor McMichael	London	OHL	C	15-Jan-2001	5'11	174	L
26	Tobias Bjornfot	Djugardens J20	Superelit	LHD	06-Apr-2001	6'0	202	L
27	Michal Teplý	Benátky N. J.	Chance Liga	LW	27-May-2001	6'3	187	R
28	Arthur Kaliyev	Hamilton	OHL	RW	26-Jun-2001	6'2	190	L
29	Philip Broberg	AIK	Allsvenskan	LHD	25-Jun-2001	6'3	199	L
30	Yegor Spiridonov	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	C	22-Jan-2001	6'2	192	R
31	John Beecher	U.S. U18	NTDP	C	05-Apr-2001	6'3	210	L
32	Philip Tomasino	Niagara	OHL	C	28-Jul-2001	6'0	179	R
33	Thomas Harley	Mississauga	OHL	LHD	19-Aug-2001	6'3	188	L
34	Matthew Robertson	Edmonton	WHL	LHD	09-Mar-2001	6'3	201	L
35	Patrik Puustola	Tappara U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RW	11-Jan-2001	6'0	174	L
36	Leevi Aaltonen	Kalpa U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RW	24-Jan-2001	5'9	177	L
37	Oleg Zaitsev	Red Deer	WHL	C	07-Jan-2001	6'1	180	L
38	Samuel Poulin	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	RW	25-Feb-2001	6'1	208	L
39	Bobby Brink	Sioux City	USHL	RW	08-Jul-2001	5'8	159	R
40	Anttoni Honka	Jukurit	SM-Liiga	RHD	05-Oct-2000	5'10	179	R

RANK	NAME	TM	LGE	POS	DOB	HT	WT	S/C
41	Ludvig Hedstrom	Djugardens J20	Superelit	LHD	14-Apr-2001	6'0	172	L
42	Ryan Johnson	Sioux Falls	USHL	LHD	24-Jul-2001	6'0	173	L
43	Lassi Thomson	Kelowna	WHL	RHD	24-Sep-2000	6'0	190	R
44	Adam Beckman	Spokane	WHL	LW	10-May-2001	6'1	168	L
45	John Farinacci	Dexter	HS-MA	C	14-Feb-2001	5'11	185	R
46	Nicholas Robertson	Peterborough	OHL	LW	11-Sep-2001	5'9	160	L
47	Semyon Chistyakov	Tolpar	MHL	LHD	07-Aug-2001	5'10	167	L
48	Drew Helleson	U.S. U18	NTDP	RHD	26-Mar-2001	6'3	193	R
49	Ethan Phillips	Sioux Falls	USHL	C	07-May-2001	5'9	148	R
50	Albin Grewe	Djugardens J20	Superelit	RW	22-Mar-2001	5'11	187	L
51	Albert Johansson	Farjestad J20	Superelit	LHD	04-Jan-2001	5'11	161	L
52	Valentin Nussbaumer	Shawinigan	QMJHL	C	25-Sep-2000	5'11	165	L
53	Harrison Blaisdell	Chilliwack	BCHL	C	18-Mar-2001	5'11	181	L
54	Egor Afanaseyev	Muskegon	USHL	LW	23-Jan-2001	6'4	201	L
55	Daniil Gutik	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	LW	31-Aug-2001	6'3	179	R
56	Ryder Donovan	Duluth East	HS-MN	C	04-Oct-2000	6'3	184	R
57	Nikita Alexandrov	Charlottetown	QMJHL	C	16-Sep-2000	6'0	183	L
58	Vojtech Strondala	Trebic	Chance Liga	C	17-Dec-2000	5'7	154	L
59	Vladislav Kolyachonok	Flint	OHL	LHD	26-May-2001	6'1	184	L
60	Kaedan Korczak	Kelowna	WHL	RHD	29-Jan-2001	6'3	192	R
61	Brayden Tracey	Moose Jaw	WHL	LW	28-May-2001	6'0	177	L
62	Jamieson Rees	Sarnia	OHL	C	26-Feb-2001	5'11	172	L
63	Tuukka Tiekso	Karpat U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RW	22-Jun-2001	5'10	146	R
64	Alex Vlasic	U.S. U18	NTDP	LHD	05-Jun-2001	6'6	199	L
65	Dmitry Sheshin	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	RW	31-May-2001	5'8	160	L
66	Nolan Foote	Kelowna	WHL	LW	29-Nov-2000	6'3	190	L
67	Antti Saarela	Lukko	SM-Liiga	C	27-Jun-2001	5'11	183	L
68	Vladislav Firstov	Waterloo	USHL	LW	19-Jun-2001	6'1	181	L
69	Arseni Gritsyuk	Omskie Yastreby	MHL	RW	15-Mar-2001	5'10	169	L
70	Marshall Warren	U.S. U18	NTDP	LHD	20-Apr-2001	5'11	167	L
71	Santeri Hatakka	Jokerit U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	LHD	15-Jan-2001	6'0	174	L
72	Patrick Moynihan	U.S. U18	NTDP	RW	23-Jan-2001	5'11	183	R
73	Maxim Cajkovic	Saint John	QMJHL	RW	03-Jan-2001	5'11	185	R
74	Maxim Denezhkin	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	C	10-Dec-2000	5'10	165	L
75	Danil Misyul	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	LHD	20-Oct-2000	6'3	176	L
76	Mikko Kokkonen	Jukurit	SM-Liiga	LHD	18-Jan-2001	5'11	198	L
77	Karl Henriksson	Frolunda J20	Superelit	C	05-Feb-2001	5'9	166	L
78	Billy Constantinou	Kingston	OHL	RHD	25-Mar-2001	6'0	186	R
79	Ondrej Psenicka	Sparta U20	ELJ	RW	07-Jan-2001	6'5	194	L
80	Henri Nikkanen	Jukurit U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	C	28-Apr-2001	6'4	200	L
81	Alexander Gordin	SKA-Varyagi	MHL	LW	31-Jul-2001	6'1	174	L
82	Matvey Guskov	London	OHL	C	30-Jan-2001	6'1	180	L
83	Simon Holmstrom	HV 71 J20	Superelit	RW	24-May-2001	6'1	183	L
84	Marcus Kallionkieli	Sioux City	USHL	LW	20-Mar-2001	6'2	193	L
85	Marek Berka	Litvinov U20	ELJ	LW	22-Jan-2001	5'11	159	L
86	Nathan Legare	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL	RW	11-Jan-2001	6'0	205	R
87	Ethan Keppen	Flint	OHL	LW	20-Mar-2001	6'2	212	L
88	Shane Pinto	Tri-City	USHL	C	12-Nov-2000	6'2	192	R
89	Domenick Fensore	U.S. U18	NTDP	LHD	07-Sep-2001	5'7	151	L
90	Samuel Bolduc	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL	LHD	09-Dec-2000	6'4	210	L

RANK	NAME	TM	LGE	POS	DOB	HT	WT	S/C
91	Antti Tuomisto	Assat U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RHD	20-Jan-2001	6'4	190	R
92	Mads Sogaard	Medicine Hat	WHL	G	13-Dec-2000	6'6	196	L
93	Aku Raty	Karpat U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RW	05-Jul-2001	6'0	170	R
94	Nikola Pasic	Linkoping J20	Superelit	RW	16-Oct-2000	5'10	187	L
95	Case McCarthy	U.S. U18	NTDP	RHD	09-Jan-2001	6'1	198	R
96	Jordan Spence	Moncton	QMJHL	RHD	24-Feb-2001	5'10	164	R
97	Hugo Alnefelt	HV71 J20	Superelit	G	04-Jun-2001	6'2	177	L
98	Judd Caufield	U.S. U18	NTDP	RW	19-Mar-2001	6'3	207	R
99	Michael Gildon	U.S. U18	NTDP	LW	21-Jun-2001	6'2	195	L
100	David Karlstrom	AIK J20	Superelit	C	12-Mar-2001	6'1	187	L
101	Arvid Costmar	Linkoping J20	Superelit	C	07-Jul-2001	5'11	180	R
102	Hunter Jones	Peterborough	OHL	G	21-Sep-2000	6'4	197	L
103	Premysl Svoboda	Litvinov U20	ELJ	LW	27-Nov-2000	5'11	163	L
104	Trevor Janicke	Central Illinois	USHL	C	25-Dec-2000	5'10	193	R
105	Jami Krannila	Sioux Falls	USHL	C	03-Oct-2000	5'10	160	L
106	Dustin Wolf	Everett	WHL	G	16-Apr-2001	6'0	156	L
107	Rhett Pitlick	Chaska	HS-MN	LW	07-Feb-2001	5'9	160	L
108	Amir Garayev	Kapitan Stupino	MHL	C/W	09-Jan-2001	5'11	166	L
109	Artemi Knyazev	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	LHD	04-Jan-2001	5'11	178	L
110	Ryan Siedem	Central Illinois	USHL	RHD	25-Feb-2001	6'2	191	R
111	Lukas Parik	Liberec U20	ELJ	G	15-Mar-2001	6'4	185	L
112	Martin Has	Tappara U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RHD	02-Feb-2001	6'4	192	R
113	Alexei Tsyplov	SKA-1946	MHL	LW	25-Jan-2001	6'2	176	L
114	Isaiah Saville	Tri-City	USHL	G	21-Sep-2000	6'1	193	R
115	Graeme Clarke	Ottawa	OHL	RW	24-Apr-2001	5'11	175	R
116	Alex Campbell	Victoria	BCHL	LW	27-Feb-2001	5'10	151	L
117	Juuso Parssinen	TPS U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	C	01-Feb-2001	6'2	203	L
118	Adam Najman	Benatky N. J.	Chance Liga	C	07-Jan-2001	5'11	176	L
119	Colten Ellis	Rimouski	QMJHL	G	05-Oct-2000	6'0	189	L
120	Jayden Struble	St. Sebastian's	HS-MA	LHD	08-Sep-2001	6'0	194	L
121	Max Wahlgren	MOD0 J20	Superelit	RW	09-May-2001	6'1	184	L
122	Aliaksei Protas	Prince Albert	WHL	C	06-Jan-2001	6'5	205	L
123	Henry Thrun	U.S. U18	NTDP	LHD	12-Mar-2001	6'2	190	L
124	Braden Doyle	Lawrence	HS-MA	LHD	24-Aug-2001	5'11	162	L
125	Kim Nousiainen	Kalpa U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	LHD	14-Nov-2000	5'9	170	L
126	Cameron Rowe	U.S. U18	NTDP	G	01-Jun-2001	6'2	203	L
127	Kalle Lojonen	Hermes	Mestis	RHD	13-Mar-2001	5'10	186	R
128	Anthony Romano	Sioux Falls	USHL	C	07-Oct-2000	5'11	182	L
129	Taylor Gauthier	Prince George	WHL	G	15-Feb-2001	6'1	195	R
130	Mike Vukojevic	Kitchener	OHL	LHD	08-Jun-2001	6'3	207	L
131	Trent Miner	Vancouver	WHL	G	05-Feb-2001	6'1	182	L
132	Roope Taponen	HIFK U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	G	14-Mar-2001	6'0	166	L
133	Alexander Popovic	MOD0 J20	Superelit	LHD	08-May-2001	5'10	163	L
134	Takhir Mingachev	Samara	VHL	LW	31-Jul-2001	6'1	180	L
135	Martin Beranek	C. Budejovice	Chance Liga	RW	14-Apr-2001	6'0	170	L
136	Massimo Rizzo	Penticton	BCHL	C	13-Jun-2001	5'10	175	L
137	Matias Maccelli	Dubuque	USHL	LW	14-Oct-2000	5'11	165	L
138	Wilson Johansson	Farjestad J20	Superelit	RW	11-Oct-2000	5'11	176	R
139	Nikita Okhotyuk	Ottawa	OHL	LHD	04-Dec-2000	6'1	197	L
140	Owen Lindmark	U.S. U18	NTDP	C	17-May-2001	6'0	192	R

RANK	NAME	TM	LGE	POS	DOB	HT	WT	S/C
141	Mikhail Abramov	Victoriaville	QMJHL	C	26-Mar-2001	5'11	154	L
142	Sasha Mutala	Tri-City	WHL	RW	06-May-2001	6'0	200	R
143	Nikolai Burenov	Chekhov Vityazi	MHL	LHD	13-May-2001	5'10	161	L
144	Maxim Shabanov	Belye Medvedi	MHL	C	02-Sep-2001	5'10	168	L
145	Nolan Maier	Saskatoon	WHL	G	10-Jan-2001	6'0	173	L
146	Gianni Fairbrother	Everett	WHL	LHD	30-Sep-2000	6'0	194	L
147	Blake Murray	Sudbury	OHL	C	05-Jul-2001	6'2	187	L
148	Jonas Peterek	Frydek-Mistek	Chance Liga	C	19-Feb-2001	6'2	176	R
149	Luke Toporowski	Spokane	WHL	C	12-Apr-2001	5'11	179	L
150	Ilya Altybarmakian	SKA-Varyagi	MHL	LW	30-Sep-2000	6'0	185	R
151	Reece Newkirk	Portland	WHL	C	20-Feb-2001	5'11	172	L
152	Radek Muzik	Lulea J20	Superelit	LW	25-Mar-2001	6'3	179	L
153	Konstantin Lukin	Belye Medvedi	MHL	RW	26-Mar-2001	6'2	163	L
154	Dan Bartos	Litvinov U20	ELJ	RW	23-Feb-2001	5'11	163	L
155	Albin Hjalmarsson	Djugardens J20	Superelit	LHD	15-Oct-2000	6'0	179	L
156	Ben McCartney	Brandon	WHL	LW	13-Jul-2001	6'0	182	L
157	Simon Lundmark	Linkoping J20	Superelit	RHD	08-Oct-2000	6'2	201	R
158	Egor Serdyuk	Victoriaville	QMJHL	RW	03-Jun-2001	5'10	158	L
159	Cole Mackay	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	RW	13-Jun-2001	5'10	188	R
160	Cole Moberg	Prince George	WHL	RHD	17-Oct-2000	6'3	187	R
161	Benjamin Brinkman	Minnesota	Big-10	LHD	04-Oct-2000	6'1	215	L
162	Simon Jellus	Lulea J20	Superelit	C	18-Jan-2001	6'2	194	L
163	Layton Ahac	Prince George	BCHL	LHD	22-Feb-2001	6'2	188	L
164	Jackson Lacombe	Shattuck	HS-MN	LHD	09-Jan-2001	6'1	171	L
165	Konsta Hirvonen	HIFK U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	C/W	01-Nov-2000	5'11	165	L
166	Zachary Jones	Tri-City	USHL	LHD	18-Oct-2000	5'10	172	L
167	Aleks Haatanen	Pelicans U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RW	16-Nov-2000	5'9	179	R
168	Oscar Bjerselius	Djugardens J20	Superelit	C	18-Feb-2001	5'11	174	L
169	Dmitry Tyuvilin	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	LHD	19-Jan-2001	6'1	170	L
170	Kyen Sopa	Niagara	OHL	RW	09-Sep-2000	5'9	182	L
171	Joshua Nodler	Fargo	USHL	C	27-Apr-2001	5'11	194	R
172	Michael Koster	Chaska	HS-MN	LHD	13-Apr-2001	5'9	171	L
173	Joseph Carroll	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	C	01-Feb-2001	6'2	200	L
174	Travis Treloar	Chicago	USHL	W/C	12-May-2001	5'11	164	R
175	Albin Sundsvik	Skelleftea J20	Superelit	C	27-Apr-2001	6'1	185	L
176	Alex Beaucage	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL	RW	25-Jul-2001	6'1	193	R
177	Jan Skorpik	Sparta U20	ELJ	G	24-Feb-2001	6'1	154	L
178	Roman Bychkov	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	LHD	10-Feb-2001	5'11	161	L
179	Marcel Barinka	Halifax	QMJHL	C	23-Mar-2001	6'0	166	R
180	Rob Christy	St. Thomas	HS-MN	C/W	29-Mar-2001	6'0	185	L
181	Cade Webber	Rivers	HS-MA	LHD	05-Jan-2001	6'6	194	L
182	Daniel D'amico	Windsor	OHL	LW	26-Jan-2001	5'9	184	L
183	Albert Lyckasen	Linkoping J20	Superelit	RHD	29-Jul-2001	5'10	172	R
184	Xavier Simoneau	Drummondville	QMJHL	C	19-May-2001	5'6	169	L
185	Daniil Tesanov	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	RW	01-Aug-2001	6'2	179	R
186	Iivari Rasanen	Tappara U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	LHD	23-May-2001	6'0	204	L
187	Josh Groll	Chicago	USHL	C/W	09-Aug-2001	5'10	174	L
188	Josh Williams	Edmonton	WHL	RW	08-Mar-2001	6'1	190	R
189	Lucas Feuk	Sodertalje J20	Superelit	LW	19-Feb-2001	6'0	183	L
190	Tobias Ancicka	Eisbaren Berlin U20	DNL U20	G	27-Feb-2001	6'1	173	L

RANK	NAME	TM	LGE	POS	DOB	HT	WT	S/C
191	Liam Malmquist	Edina	HS-MN	RW	08-Oct-2000	5'9	160	L
192	Alex Kirpichnikov	Belye Medvedi	MHL	LHD	21-Jul-2001	5'10	154	L
193	Keean Washkurak	Mississauga	OHL	C	16-Aug-2001	5'10	184	L
194	Aarne Intonen	TPS U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	C/W	17-Jul-2001	5'11	181	L
195	Pavel Yelizarov	Omskie Yastreby	MHL	LHD	09-Jun-2001	6'3	190	L
196	Mikko Petman	Lukko U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RW	13-May-2001	6'0	192	R
197	Eric Ciccolini	Jr. Canadiens	OJHL	RW	14-Jan-2001	5'11	160	R
198	Xavier Parent	Halifax	QMJHL	LW	23-Mar-2001	5'8	171	L
199	Ilya Mironov	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	LHD	15-Mar-2001	6'3	201	L
200	Quinn Olson	Okotoks	AJHL	LW	09-May-2001	5'11	170	L
201	Vadim Antipin	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	LHD	03-Oct-2000	6'4	183	L
202	Jakub Rychlovsky	Benatky N. J.	Chance Liga	RW	07-Aug-2001	5'10	180	L
203	Anton Lukichyov	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	LHD	14-Nov-2000	5'11	185	L
204	Jonathan Brinkman	Aalborg	Metal Ligaen	LW	04-Jul-2001	5'11	165	L
205	Grant Silianoff	Cedar Rapids	USHL	RW	04-Jan-2001	5'11	169	L
206	Jan Klodner	Sparta U20	ELJ	LHD	23-Jan-2001	6'1	161	L
207	Matias Mantykivi	Saipa U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	C	21-Jun-2001	5'11	161	L
208	Vladimir Alistrov	Edmonton	WHL	LW	12-Feb-2001	6'2	175	L
209	Luke Bast	Brooks	AJHL	LHD	20-Nov-2000	5'9	167	L
210	Jakub Zurek	Benatky N. J.	Chance Liga	LHD	12-Sep-2001	6'4	190	L
211	Zachary Okabe	Grande Prairie	AJHL	RW	04-Jan-2001	5'8	165	R
212	Yegor Chinakhov	Omski Yastreby	MHL	RW	01-Feb-2001	6'0	174	L
213	Garrett Pinoniemi	Holy Family	HS-MN	C	15-Jul-2001	6'0	147	L
214	Nate Warner	Cathedral	HS-MN	C	03-Sep-2001	6'0	180	L
215	Lynden Breen	Central Illinois	USHL	C	31-May-2001	5'9	161	L
216	Keegan Langefels	Eden Prairie	HS-MN	LHD	02-Feb-2001	6'0	175	L
217	Austen Swankler	Sioux Falls	USHL	C	21-Aug-2001	6'0	181	L
218	Ivan Rogov	Cherepovets 2	MHL	RHD	30-Apr-2001	6'0	178	R
219	Maxence Guenette	Val-D'or	QMJHL	RHD	28-Apr-2001	6'1	181	R
220	Christopher Giroday	Green Bay	USHL	LHD	13-Dec-2000	6'1	172	L
221	Wiljami Myllyla	HIFK U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	RW	09-Apr-2001	6'0	169	R
222	Jake Lee	Seattle	WHL	LHD	13-Jul-2001	6'1	214	L
223	Matthew Stienburg	St. Andrews	HS-ON	C	07-Oct-2000	6'1	182	R
224	Jack Malone	Youngstown	USHL	RW	13-Oct-2000	6'1	191	R
225	Roman Sinitsyn	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	LHD	14-Dec-2000	6'1	181	L
226	Petr Cajka	Erie	OHL	C	11-Dec-2000	6'0	169	L
227	Mack Guzda	Owen Sound	OHL	G	11-Jan-2001	6'5	217	L
228	Kaden Bohlsen	Fargo	USHL	C	10-Jan-2001	6'4	190	R
229	Samuel Sjolund	AIK J20	Superelit	LHD	19-May-2001	6'1	172	L
230	Artyom Onishko	Sputnik	MHL	LHD	03-Nov-2000	6'4	207	L
231	Will Hillman	Blaine	HS-MN	C/W	22-Nov-2000	6'0	185	L
232	Sean Larochelle	Victoriaville	QMJHL	RHD	11-Feb-2001	5'10	164	R
233	Evgeny Oxentyuk	Soligorsk	Belarus	RW	27-Feb-2001	5'7	154	L
234	Yegor Martynov	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	LHD	02-Apr-2001	6'4	191	L
235	Jack York	Barrie	OHL	RHD	17-Sep-2000	6'0	190	R
236	Bailey Peach	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	LW	08-Mar-2001	5'10	175	L
237	Adam Rutar	Olomouc U20	ELJ	LHD	06-Sep-2001	6'1	179	L
238	Donte Lawson	Greenway	HS-MN	C	03-Nov-2000	5'10	170	L
239	Patrik Prymula	Sparta U20	ELJ	RW	17-Jul-2001	6'7	198	R
240	Oscar Lawner	Farjestad J20	Superelit	LW	13-Feb-2001	5'11	187	L

RANK	NAME	TM	LGE	POS	DOB	HT	WT	S/C
241	Brett Budgell	Charlottetown	QMJHL	LW	01-Jun-2001	5'11	190	L
242	Brendan McFadden	St. Thomas	HS-MN	C/W	26-Sep-2000	6'1	205	R
243	Alex Aslanidis	Avon Old Farms	HS-CT	G	20-Jan-2001	6'5	220	L
244	Aaron Huglen	Roseau	HS-MN	RW	06-Mar-2001	5'11	166	R
245	Ryan O'Neill	St. Thomas	HS-MN	C/W	25-Feb-2001	5'10	165	R
246	Danil Bashkirov	Tolpar	MHL	C	15-May-2001	6'3	169	L
247	Arturs Silovs	HK Riga	MHL	G	22-Mar-2001	6'4	203	L
248	Alexander Lundqvist	Leksand J20	Superelit	LHD	11-Feb-2001	6'2	187	L
249	Cole Schwindt	Mississauga	OHL	RW	25-Apr-2001	6'2	182	R
250	Elmer Soderblom	Frolunda J20	Superelit	RW	05-Jul-2001	6'6	219	L

## Position & League Breakdown

Forwards	Defensemen	Goalies
156	76	18

OHL	WHL	QMJHL	USHL	NTDP	Jr. A	US-HS	NCAA
25	26	21	24	19	9	20	1

Sweden	Finland	Russia	Czech	Germany	Belarus	Denmark
28	24	33	16	2	1	1

## Prospect Profiles: First-Year Eligibles

1	Jack Hughes	Pos.	Team	League
		C	U.S. U18	NTDP
50gp-34g-78a-112pts   5'10, 170   5/14/01   Shoots Left   Orlando, FL   NCAA: Und.				
<p>The most prolific scorer in U.S. NTDP history participated in all three major IIHF tournaments in his draft year, beginning with his impressive performance in a reduced role for Team USA at the under-20 world junior championship. After picking up four assists in four games in Vancouver, Hughes returned to the NTDP where he shattered Clayton Keller's all-time scoring mark by mid-March, then destroyed the competition at the U18 world championships with 20 points in seven games to win his second consecutive tournament scoring crown. If the questions about his ability to play against older competition weren't silenced by his play against the toughest NCAA schedule in NTDP history, then his dominant play against Russia's NHL all-star team at the men's world championship in May certainly should.</p> <p>Hughes is a turbo-charged center with blinding speed and fantastic vision who has dominated his peers at every level. Hughes's skill is noticeable from the second he hits the ice, but his ability to make every single one of decisions seem calculated is what separates him from a very talented group of draft-eligible forwards. His sixth sense allows him to sniff out trouble before it's within striking distance while simultaneously identifying weaknesses within the opponent's scheme to stop him. It's cliché to say he makes everyone around him better, but Hughes does so in more ways than one.</p> <p>For starters, Hughes is an excellent playmaker with hawk-like vision who can perfectly time passes to linemates over long distances, especially off the rush. He uses a variety of head fakes, stutter steps and quick pivots to lure defenders away from a passing lane, and he can no-look pass better than any junior-aged player since Connor McDavid. But Hughes isn't just a pass-first center, as he uses his blazing speed, agility, superior edgework and elite stickhandling to make inside moves towards the goal with regularity. Once he's there, he'll either wire a blistering wrister or use his ridiculously soft hands to roof shots from in close, on either his forehand or backhand. These traits not only expand the ice for his teammates, but also seem to wear down defenders as they work feverishly towards trying to contain him.</p> <p>Hughes' elusiveness helps makes up for a lack of upper-body strength, and he's more of a digger than a pusher during board battles. He also likes to handle the puck a lot and for as long as he can, thus leading to the occasional unforced error or 1-against-4 dangle attempt. Neither, however, should be considered weaknesses of any significance, and Hughes should be expected to enter the 2019 draft as the clear-cut favorite to be the first overall pick en route to sure stardom at the NHL level.</p>				

2	Kaapo Kakko	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	TPS Turku	Liiga
45gp-22g-16a-38pts   6'2, 194   2/13/01   Shoots Left   Turku, Finland				
<p>As if smashing Aleksander Barkov's under-18 goal-scoring mark in Finland's elite SM-Liiga wasn't enough, this Finnish phenom continued to produce an unblemished pre-draft resume that included dominance at multiple levels of competition. Not only did Kakko earned Rookie of the Year honors, but he also became part of an elite club after he won the gold medal at both the under-20 and men's world championships just one year after winning U18 gold. This "Triple Crown" of IIHF events is just the start of a near-perfect bio that is loaded with records and superlatives but lacks anything close to a red flag or concern. Is Kakko too good to be true? Any doubters can ask the varying age levels of competition who were toyed with and humbled when Kakko controlled the puck down low while stickhandling like a young man possessed.</p> <p>Kakko is a multi-tooled winger with size and coordination who incorporates his impressive puck skills with a desirable physical package that consistently exhausts opponents. Kakko was impressive last season as a 16-year-old depth player for TPS, but he quickly assumed a broader role in the top-six and power play during his ever-important draft season. Blessed with incredibly soft hands and tight-quarter quickness, Kakko is an excellent stickhandler who uses timing plays to either get open or create space for his linemates. It's hard to call a bigger winger elusive, but Kakko's shiftiness is both rapid and unpredictable — he constantly lures defenders into a compromising position before exploiting the smallest of windows into an unabated path to the goal. He also serves as a net-front presence on the power play but is better suited in the circles to unleash a heavy, accurate one-timer.</p> <p>Kakko is mature, poised and displays high intelligence with or without the puck. He is in constant motion and uses his strength to win physical battles or get inside positioning on opponents. Kakko uses a variety of moves and fakes to get himself into shooting position, but he doesn't require optimal conditions to wire off a blistering, accurate shot that is labeled for the corner or far post. Although he may one day be classified as a power forward, Kakko is more competitive than he is physically intimidating, and his work in corners and in front of the net delivers positive results far more often than a broken play or unforced error. He owns a wide stride and his straight-line speed is well above-average for a big winger. But he is agile, well balanced, nimble and he can beat defenders either inside or out. Kappo's endurance is excellent during the first half of his shifts, but like most larger forwards, he can run out of gas in the middle of a play. Nonetheless, he will be a star in the NHL and a nightmare for opposing defenders from just about anywhere in the offensive zone.</p>				

3	Trevor Zegras	Pos.	Team	League
		C	U.S. U18	NTDP
60gp-26g-61a-87pts   6'0, 169   3/20/01   Shoots Left   Bedford, NY   NCAA: Boston Univ.				
<p>Slick playmaking center with exceptional hockey sense who last year took over the NTDP's top line after Jack Hughes and Alex Turcotte were promoted and spent a good chunk of this season as a left wing. Zegras, who is committed to Boston University, is very dangerous with the puck and appears quite comfortable handling the responsibilities inherent in leading a talented squad's offense. He is both crafty and fancy with the puck, and his passes are almost always on the tape with authority. Zegras's pass accuracy remains consistent anywhere on the ice and he's just as dangerous threading the needle while manning the half wall as he is in open ice. His ability to stickhandle while keeping his head up allows him to be the first to identify trailers or back-door cutters, and Zegras will use no-look centering passes on the power play to exploit an open passing lane. He's also capable of tricking goalies with a hard, accurate shot that he can tuck under the bar from bad angles.</p> <p>Zegras plays engaged with or without the puck and stays in motion in all three zones. He locks in on the puck regardless of where it is or whether or not he's in control. Once he's corralled it, Zegras can use a variety of stutter steps, gear changes or pirouettes to motor past, around or through traffic. His agility is outstanding, and he always seems to make the right reads when anticipating puck travel. Zegras is a strong, agile skater with very good straight-line speed who can stay low to the ice and maintain his elite balance as he zips through the neutral zone into opposing territory. His zone entries are surgical and designed to create time and space while maintaining possession. He is very good on faceoffs and will play physical along the boards. Zegras also has a mean streak and will get involved in scrums after the whistle. He's been compared to Mathew Barzal, but will all due respect to the Islanders' star, Zegras had the far better pre-draft season.</p>				

4	Bowen Byram	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Vancouver	WHL
67gp-26g-45a-71pts   6'0, 193   6/13/01   Shoots Left   Cranbrook, BC				
<p>The first defenseman in WHL history to lead the playoffs in scoring, Byram is a cerebral two-way defenseman with leadership traits who makes the proper reads and carries an on-ice demeanor similar to that of a seasoned veteran. Byram has excellent mobility in every direction and always looks to either join the rush or create a breakout by himself, and he makes difficult plays while handling the puck look easy. Byram uses flip, chip, bank or stretch passes to trap forecheckers, and he's capable of dishing the puck with accuracy and authority while backskating or off balance. He consistently keeps his feet moving and reacts to the puck's changing direction with quickness and confidence. Byram is a strong stickhandler who protects the puck extremely well, especially in instances when he skates methodically into traffic in the neutral zone. He's an upright skater with a powerful stride with both lateral quickness and rapid directional changes. Byram can run the power play from the left point or the top of the umbrella and owns a hard slap shot that is accurate, creates rebounds and requires little backswing to achieve significant velocity.</p> <p>Defensively, Byram displays quick feet in maintaining a tight gap, even if a quicker opponent tries to shift gears on him. His stick is highly active and poke checks are timed without putting him at risk of getting caught flat footed. He likes to stand up at his own blue line; either to strip the puck or deliver a hard check. Byram can be guilty of puck gazing or wandering far from his slot duties, but both are part in parcel of his desire to transition up ice in attack mode. He plays with a lot of emotion and likes to get involved in physical battles, plus give the occasional stinky glove to the mug of an unsuspecting opponent.</p>				

<b>5</b>	<b>Vasily Podkolzin</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	SKA-Neva	VHL

**12gp-6g-2a-8pts | 6'1, 190 | 6/24/01 | Shoots Left | Moscow, Russia**

A rugged three-zone winger with an incredible compete level that compliments his superior puck skills, Podkolzin has been a top-six fixture for Team Russia at several high-profile international events. This was his first year in the MHL – Russia’s premier junior circuit – and he proved to be too mature, physically ready and overqualified for play against his age group. Thus, he was promoted several times throughout the season, first to the adult-age VHL and later to contending SKA in the KHL, where he barely played but received valuable mentorship from the likes of Pavel Datsyuk and Nikita Gusev. Internationally, Podkolzin crushed the under-18 Ivan Hlinka in Edmonton to start his draft season, then returned to Western Canada two more times in December for two additional tournaments. He was the top player at the U20 World Jr. “A” Challenge, then played well for Russia at the U20 world junior championship a few weeks later. Keep in mind that the back-and-forth from league to league in Russia alone is far more taxing on the body than any other hockey nation on the planet, and that’s without factoring in the day-long travel experience to fly from Russia to North America.

Nonetheless, Podkolzin remains a superior forward prospect who was built for the North American game. He checks all the intangible blocks, as he can be counted on to address a variety of his coach’s concerns. What separates him from all the other “toolsy” forwards is that he can either create or finish plays while traveling at maximum speed, and his strong balance and stickhandling seems to convince defenders to back off more than they should. Podkolzin is effective both in open ice and during trench warfare, and he’s capable of completing on-the-tape passes that lead directly to quality chances near the net.

Podkolzin can be used to anchor the lead penalty-killing unit or run the power play from the half wall. He is confident with the puck and shows a tremendous amount of poise while controlling it. He’s quite coordinated and has soft hands to handle tough passes, plus Podkolzin hits the net with the majority of his one-time attempts from the right circle. Without the puck, he’s a crash-and-bang forechecker with powerful leg drive that he uses to jolt bigger defenders off the puck. Podkolzin takes direct routes to the puck, and he anticipates eventual avenues of approach to be used by opposing puck carriers. Although he can come across as a deliberate skater, Podkolzin can turn on the jets and blow past defenders in open ice, where his foot speed, edge work and agility are excellent, and he should be considered a breakaway threat whenever he hops over the boards. Podkolzin possesses a clear understanding of the game, and his nonstop motor and desire to be the best make him an asset regardless of whether he’s scoring or not. He’s going to make dozens of enemies in the NHL, so keep an eye on his temper and attempts to make big hits.

6	Matthew Boldy	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	U.S. U18	NTDP
64gp-33g-48a-81pts   6'2, 192   4/5/01   Shoots Left   Milford, MA   NCAA: Boston Coll.				
<p>It's not often you see a teenage winger literally play mistake-free hockey game after game, but Boldy finds a way to solving his own team's problems while simultaneously presenting the opposition with a bunch of their own. He's got pro-ready size, off-the-charts hockey sense and can score from just about anywhere. Boldy has buttery-soft hands and acts as a set-up man for all four of his mates when he himself is not flanking a playmaker, so this kind of versatility is exactly what you want in a future pro. He warrants a lot of attention from all five on-ice opponents for several reasons, namely for the violent nature of his directional changes while maintaining full control of the puck. It's rare to see such a powerful skater look as graceful as Boldy does, and there are times where you have to remind yourself that the player dominating the puck is still a teenager and not a mid-20's NHL forward. He displayed a clear understanding of who his high-profile teammates were, and he likes to share the puck with them.</p> <p>There is a selfless way about Boldy's game, but he's always rocking defenders to sleep with a quick step or fake that gets him in prime shooting areas. Once he's there, Boldy can quickly whip a heavy wrist shot labeled for the corner, even if it's off his back foot or overextended. He's also a deadly power-play threat from either manning the half wall or establishing position in the slot to screen or tip passes home. He can be used on the penalty kill as well, but he doesn't need to be a man down to lend support below the circles to his defensemen.</p>				

7	Alex Turcotte	Pos.	Team	League
		C	U.S. U18	NTDP
37gp-27g-35a-62pts   5'11, 185   2/26/01   Shoots Left   Elk Grove, IL   NCAA: Wisconsin				
<p>Powerful center with excellent playmaking abilities and game-changing speed who has the potential to become a top-line pivot in the NHL. Turcotte, whose father Alfie was a first-round pick of the Montreal Canadiens in 1983, was a key contributor for both the NTDP's under-17 and under-18 programs two seasons, including a midseason promotion to the latter where he produced 16 points in 19 games in a limited role. This season, the Illinois native dealt with varying injuries such as a concussion that limited his time. He still averaged nearly two points per game with or without Jack Hughes in the lineup. Turcotte is a low-maintenance center in that he can excel in both optimal and non-optimal conditions, plus handle physicality better than most offensive forwards. He is a fast, agile skater with a wide, powerful stride and the balance of a seasoned NHL power forward. Getting knocked off the puck while he's either static or moving is something you rarely see.</p> <p>Turcotte possesses superior vision and passing ability, and it's clear from his first shift that he understands the game's intricacies and nuances that require a center to develop chemistry with his linemates. He plays smart hockey with his head on a swivel and attacks with decisiveness, maintaining situational awareness no matter how fast he's motoring up ice. Turcotte is one of the few draft-eligible forwards who can time his passes with precision while moving as fast as he can. Although he seems to like to defer to the pass, Turcotte owns a hard, accurate wrist shot with a quick release, and he's proven to snap off high-velocity shots within tight windows.</p>				

8	Cole Caufield	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	U.S. U18	NTDP
64gp-72g-28a-100pts   5'7, 162   1/2/01   Shoots Right   Mosinee, WI   NCAA: Wisconsin				
<p>The draft's most prolific goal scorer has built a reputation as more than just a finisher, so you'll have to overlook (somewhat) the fact that he tallied an NTDP-record 72 goals, including 27 on the power play. You should also disregard the fact that Caufield is generously listed at 5-foot-7, or that he spent most of his season riding shotgun next to Jack Hughes. If it were 1995 or 2005, Caufield would probably have all those things held against him, regardless if this sniper can be a dangerous inside player who can fill the net and battle his tail off for real estate near the goal. The good news is that smaller players, let alone the type like Caufield that win puck battles, are now allowed (and encouraged) to exploit the common slow-footedness of several NHL teams. Furthermore, Caufield has proven he can score regardless of the line he plays on or where he starts his shifts. To put it simply, Caufield is not just some sniping teenager winger who needs a star center to do the work for him. He fights hard and anticipates puck travel to perfection, which helps him be an effective penalty killer and legitimate threat to score while down a man.</p> <p>A consistent breakaway threat, Caufield is a premier finisher thanks to his incredibly soft hands, hand-eye coordination and lightning-quick skate-to-stick transition. Caufield is an excellent skater with a devastating change of pace and explosive first step. He is slippery, elusive and possesses very good balance considering his playing weight. Although he's considered a finisher, Caufield can be a reliable playmaker who passes with accuracy from both his forehand and backhand. His ability to maintain control of the puck while operating at top speed and still have the presence of mind to spot the open backdoor, cutter or trailer is a tribute to his peripheral vision and high hockey IQ.</p>				

9	Pavel Dorofeyev	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Stalnye Lisy	MHL
19gp-17g-14a-31pts   6'1, 167   10/26/00   Shoots Left   Nizhny Tagil, Russia				
<p>One of the most intelligent dual-threat wingers in his draft class, Dorofeyev is a key cog in Stalnye Lisy's top line that generates most of their offense at even strength. He can play the role of either playmaker or finisher, and his overall understanding of the game is ridiculously high. Dorofeyev is a late birthday who hasn't had the chance to dominate most of his 2019 draft peers in international competitions, but he has been among the better players in the MHL. With Stalnye Lisy, he saw a significant amount of time on the top line, as well as the primary power-play and penalty-killing units.</p> <p>Dorofeyev has above-average speed but is very strong on his skates and rarely is forced into making rash decisions because of back pressure or a physical defender tightening up on him. His style of play is one that tries to make the most out of every shift - both on and off the puck. Dorofeyev's ability to protect the puck and stickhandle himself into time and space ranks him on the higher end of draft-eligible wingers. He's a quick-strike passer who is accurate with the cross-ice, one-touch feed in transition, and his execution of odd-man rushes is on a veteran level. His strength is dishing the puck, however, shouldn't hide the fact that he loves to shoot it as well, and from just about anywhere inside the offensive zone. Dorofeyev loves to follow the puck and involve himself in board battles. He has quick feet, stays in constant motion and anticipates extremely well, so it shouldn't surprise anyone when he slips into openings with the hammer cocked several times a game. The way he combines power, intensity and elite puck skills with an advanced brain makes Dorofeyev a legitimate candidate for the top 10 in the entire 2019 draft.</p>				

10	Dylan Cozens	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Lethbridge	WHL
68gp-34g-50a-84pts   6'3, 181   2/9/01   Shoots Right   Whitehorse, YT				
<p>A high-octane power forward who can play both center and wing, Cozens was the WHL Rookie of the Year last year after leading all freshman with 22 goals and finishing second in points with 53. This season was even better, as he topped all WHL first-year eligibles with 84 points in 68 games. He combines all aspects of skating – quickness, acceleration, balance and agility – into one dynamic package that allows him to dictate things rather than play reactionary. Cozens is a capable stickhandler who can control the puck at high speeds before making proper decisions more times than not, and he's very good at setting up give-and-go's that position him for one-timers or tap-ins. He owns an excellent shot, both for its velocity and accuracy, plus he can score on his backhand from in close.</p> <p>Cozens is very physical and always finishes his checks; at times to a fault, as his desire to mash people into the boards can make him the last forward back on an opposing counterattack. He's quick enough, however, to eventually catch up and place himself in the right position to ensure there aren't gaps in coverage. Cozens always keeps his feet moving and keeps his stick active, and his quick turns and pivots allow him to stay with his man, especially while he's killing penalties. Overall, he's an excellent 200-foot forward who is very good on draws, can anchor a penalty-killing unit, run a power play and assume top-line duties.</p>				

11	Peyton Krebs	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Kootenay	WHL
64gp-19g-49a-68pts   5'11, 180   1/26/01   Shoots Left   Calgary, AB				
<p>A freak pre-draft injury from a skate-blade cut shouldn't derail or impact the draft status of one of the top two-way centers in the major junior. Krebs is a complete, all-around center who last season had to carry the load for one of the CHL's weaker teams after being one of the WHL's top rookies the season prior. Krebs produces results no matter what role he's given and plays with the kind of competitive spirit that can become infectious. He's incredibly smart with or without the puck, and Krebs thrives under pressure, especially late in games. He's a very good skater with excellent balance and agility, and his ability to turn quickly and react towards the right direction makes him an asset in all three zones. He plays with a nonstop motor and forces opposing defensemen into poor decisions with the puck. Krebs is a clever stickhandler who can weave through a crowded neutral zone; but making smart, crisp passes immediately thereafter is what separates from most of his draft-age peers. He can run a power play from the half wall, but also anchor a top penalty killing unit.</p> <p>Krebs is more of a pass-first center, but he has very good hands and proved to be reliable as a shooter off the pass. His wrist shot is hard and accurate, and bad-angle shots get kicked into the low slot with regularity. He is excellent during cycles and board play, and he's capable of engineering trick or set plays off faceoffs or corner battles. Krebs can handle physical play from bigger opponents and finishes his own checks with authority. His leadership traits and on-ice persona should make him a candidate to one day be named any team's captain.</p>				

12	Kirby Dach	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Saskatoon	WHL
62gp-25g-48a-73pts   6'4, 199   1/21/01   Shoots Right   Ft. Saskatchewan, AB				
<p>Big-bodied playmaking center with outstanding passing skills and soft hands who is one of the best draft-eligible players at incorporating all his teammates into the attack. Dach has a tremendous wingspan and reach that help him maintain control the puck for lengthy periods inside the offensive zone. He is a confident puck carrier up ice, and you'll rarely see him advance via direct routes. Dach can create time and space using a variety of methods on zone entries, and he can stutter-step defenders out of position. All these traits force opponents to back away from him, which provides him with the opportunity to unleash a wicked wrist shot. Still, Dach certainly is more of a set-up man than a shooter, and you can make a strong argument that he is the best saucer-passer of any forward prospect.</p> <p>Dach has elusiveness for a big man, and his agility in tight spaces allows him to outmaneuver pesky opponents. His straight-line speed is average but deceptive, and his skating style and stride appears a bit choppy and short. Nonetheless, Dach has no problem inserting himself into a rush or initiating one himself, and you can count on him to create several odd-man chances each game. He can run a power play from the half wall and has confidence in his passes from either forehand or backhand, and he can sense when the time is right to make a decisive pay during a stagnant possession. Defensively, Dach will pressure the points, and he relies on his long stick to break up plays. He is, however, neither physical nor consistent on draws. Dach will drop down to support his defensemen, but he'll dig for loose pucks rather than use his strength to knock it free.</p>				

13	Raphael Lavoie	Pos.	Team	League
		W/C	Halifax	QMJHL
62gp-32g-41a-73pts   6'4, 196   9/25/00   Shoots Right   Chambly, QC				
<p>A puck-possessing machine with speed, size and excellent awareness in the offensive zone, Lavoie was one of the QMJHL's top scorers in the playoffs and was critical in leading Halifax to the league finals. He is a versatile forward who can wear many hats from start to finish, and he is capable of taking over a game by himself. Lavoie owns an excellent shot, both for its quick release and also for its velocity, and his penchant for creating his own chances expands the ice for his linemates. By keeping his feet moving while operating with his head on a swivel, Lavoie keeps opponents guessing and rarely do you see him make a telegraphed play that eventually traps him well beyond the location of the puck. He is a controlled and patient stickhandler who looks to incorporate the rest of his teammates into every cycle, and his keen vision and pass accuracy in tight spaces or off the rush allow him to play the role of playmaker with aplomb.</p> <p>Lavoie is a very good skater with above-average straight-line speed and enough agility to weave around or fake opponents out of position. He is extremely strong on his skates and can sustain shoves or checks from multiple angles during a cycle, using his long reach and wide stance to shield the puck. He also is a capable player in his own end and pounces on pucks in a timely manner. Lavoie comes across as a smart player who is willing to make sacrifices for team success, such as taking a beating in front of the net or using his body to absorb punishment in order to keep a play alive. He can play center or wing, although he looks more comfortable on the flank as a primary shooting option. Lavoie plays a similar style to Kaapo Kakko and could end up surprising some people when his NHL career is finished.</p>				

14	Alex Newhook	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Victoria	BCHL
53gp-38g-64a-102pts   5'11, 195   1/28/01   Shoots Left   St. Johns, NL   NCAA: Boston Coll.				
<p>Gifted offensive force with blinding speed, an advanced brain and phenomenal puck skills who was named the BCHL's Rookie of the Year last year and was the league MVP in 2019. A Newfoundlander who chose to keep his NCAA eligibility rather than play major junior, Newhook is the prize of yet another outstanding recruiting class for Boston College's Jerry York. Newhook is a natural center who is quick, decisive and deadly in open ice. He always has played on a top line and top power-play unit and watching him stickhandle around defenders with ease reveals an adversary opposing coaches are definitely fearful of.</p> <p>Newhook is a fast, determined skater with exceptional balance and agility. He can beat you inside or out, and you can count on him causing at least one defenseman per game to blow a tire. His combination of speed and puck control makes him lethal off the rush, but he also makes the right reads and is able to exploit an overloaded side or confusion in coverage. Newhook has super-soft hands and is a threat to score from just about anywhere, and his shots off the pass are either labeled or deny the chance for the goalie to control the rebound. He can also play physical and doesn't get intimidated by bigger, stronger players. Newhook has star potential thanks to off-the-charts hockey sense with the sublime skill to match it. His inconsistencies at prospect events like the World Junior "A" Challenge and the CJHL Top Prospects Game appeared to be the exceptions and not the rule for a draft season in which he was the BCHL's youngest leading scorer in over 20 years and performed extremely well for Team Canada at the under-18 world championship.</p>				

15	Ville Heinola	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Lukko	SM-Liiga
34gp-2g-12a-14pts   5'11, 178   2/3/01   Shoots Left   Honkajonki, Finland				
<p>A quick and agile puck mover who jumpstarts the attack from as far back as his own goal line, Heinola is a polished defender who immediately earned the trust of his coaches to play a significant role. At first glance, Heinola looks like a purely offensive defenseman, mostly because of his smaller frame and his confidence controlling the puck. But he has proven to be highly intelligent in his own end, using proper positioning and anticipation to create turnovers. He'll never be a physical presence, but Heinola plays the body in an effective and efficient manner, using just enough of his upper-body strength to separate an opponent from the puck or fix him into the corner. Heinola is an excellent skater who pivots or curls away from pressure, but he also has the innate sense to identify backpressure and take the path of least resistance. Once he escapes, Heinola properly identifies blocked passing lanes and rarely forces the puck into an area that could lead to an opposing counterattack.</p> <p>One underrated aspect of his game is the way he avoids passing into coverage for the sake of saving his own tail – Heinola knows when to either eat the puck and take a hit or to use his quick first step to attack an opening. Once in open ice, Heinola can use a series of head fakes and gear shifts to enter the zone cleanly; stopping on a dime to allow the numbers to even out. He is incredibly patient with the puck and will regroup back to the neutral zone if necessary. Heinola surveys the offensive zone like a confident quarterback and passes the puck crisply and right on the tape, especially off his back foot. You also have to be aware of his no-look cross-ice feeds that set up one-timers. He properly supports his defense partner and is used quite frequently for set plays that allow him to dart into the scoring areas.</p>				

16	Spencer Knight	Pos.	Team	League
		G	U.S. U18	NTDP
32-4-0, 2.36 GAA, 913 SV%   6'3, 192   4/19/01   Catches Left   Darien, CT   NCAA: Boston Coll.				
<p>Easily the most heralded North American goalie prospect since Carey Price some 14 years prior, Knight is looking to buck the draft trend of teams taking goalies no earlier than the late first round. Blessed with size, quickness and an intense desire to succeed, the Connecticut-born backstop who grew up idolizing Jonathan Quick is more stylistically similar to Price and Henrik Lundqvist – cool and calm with noticeable confidence as he makes difficult saves look routine. Knight has strong wrists and is an incredible puck handler, possibly more advanced than Ron Hextall during his draft year and easily more active than Martin Brodeur in 1990.</p> <p>Knight is a classic butterfly goalie who covers the lower corners exceptionally well. His Reverse-VH is textbook, and although he occasionally leaves gaps (like all goalies), you see him physically try to keep his extended arm tight to the post, leaving only a small opening near-post high. Knight in the RVH also seems to favor tucking his skate inside the post or dug into it as opposed to overlapping. His stick is very active, and in the RVH he positions it to break up centering feeds back into the strong side instead of putting them in the low slot. Knight's overall rebound control is impeccable – if he sees the shot, it's getting steered into the corner or gobble up by his glove. He rarely puts a low or medium-danger shot back into a prime scoring area, and if he does, he pounces on them like a cat.</p> <p>Knight is not overly aggressive but will challenge shooters from above the blue paint. His blocker-hand quickness is excellent, yet he can be beaten glove-side with frequency from in between the dots. It appears to be more timing and positioning technique rather than a lack of quickness or miscalculation. Knight makes up for this, however, with advanced tracking and anticipation, plus his net awareness helps him cut down angles. His lower-body muscle strength is incredible, as pivots and pushes simultaneously before stopping on a dime to prevent overcommitting.</p>				

17	Victor Soderstrom	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Brynäs	SHL
44gp-4g-3a-7pts   5'11, 179   2/26/01   Shoots Right   Gavle, Sweden				
<p>Graceful two-way defenseman who sticks to the belief that defending and coverage are equally as important as rushing and distributing the puck. Soderstrom last season was carefully nurtured by Brynäs in their under-18 junior team, as Adam Boqvist controlled the backline for the U20 squad. Now that Boqvist has moved on, it's Soderstrom's chance to take the reins and prove himself to be an elite defense prospect. He's gifted with the puck and has a commanding presence while orchestrating an attack from as far back as his own goal line. Soderstrom is a hard shooter with a whip-like release for his wrist, which is tough to handle and causes rebounds, especially during the power play.</p> <p>Soderstrom is an excellent puck handler with soft hands and a quick-strike mentality – he always looks for a home-run option and can make accurate stretch passes immediately upon retrieval. He also skates the puck out with speed and confidence, and he creates end-to-end rushes that can place him deep into opposing territory. What separates Soderstrom from almost all draft prospects is that he can read plays extremely well, and he uses his quickness and elite backskating to limit the amount of times he gets trapped. Soderstrom is an excellent one-on-one defender and keeps an incredibly tight gap. He communicates effectively with his teammates, who can rely on Soderstrom to cover the slot and only support below the goal line if the situation is critical. There are times when he backs in too much while defending against an entry, but his quick first step, fast closing speed and active stick make life otherwise difficult for opposing puck carriers. He can also play on the penalty kill and will successfully challenge bigger forwards in the low slot or crease area. Soderstrom is very strong on his skates and can deliver jarring hits along the boards or in open ice. The Real Deal Holyfield with immense promise.</p>				

18	Moritz Seider	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Adler Mannheim	DEL
29gp-2g-4a-6pts   6'4, 183   4/6/01   Shoots Right   Zeil, Germany				
<p>A big, smooth-skating German blueliner with physicality, sound instincts, strong work ethic and leadership qualities, Seider, when given the opportunity, has handled a top-four role against adult-age competition with aplomb. His dominant play in all three zones at the IIHF's first division under-20 world juniors not only led Germany to the title that vaulted them into the top bracket for next year's tournament, but also reinforced his standing as a first-round quality prospect with legitimate top-pairing potential at the highest level. One of Seider's most noticeable qualities is how smart he is with or without the puck. Blessed with an acute sense to predict the opponent's intentions, Seider quickly transitions from standing up at the blue line like a brick wall, to a quick poke and pass that leads his mates to a counterattack. His physicality, reach and quick feet combine to make the majority of 1-on-1 attempts die quickly above the circles. Additionally, Seider will fix a puck carrier into the corner for either a low-percentage centering attempt or a smothering check into the boards. Cross-ice passes originating from the strong side get broken up with regularity, and you can make a strong case for Seider being the best in his draft class at owning and maintaining positioning in the low slot.</p> <p>Seider's offensive prowess appears limited, although he has shown confidence and reliability with his puck carrying. You rarely see him painted into a corner, and he uses smart dump-ins or lobs to buy additional time. He likes to join the rush and will venture well into the circles or slot as a trailer. He owns an excellent shot, both for its velocity and accuracy. He isn't your classic power-play quarterback, but he has soft hands to handle crisp, cross-ice passes and hammer one-timers on net. One thing to keep an eye on are injuries, as Seider missed two sizeable chunks of the schedule due to issues with his shoulder, and also suffered a concussion after being hit from behind at the men's world championship in May.</p>				

19	Cam York	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP
63gp-14g-51a-65pts   5'11, 175   1/5/01   Shoots Left   Anaheim, CA   NCAA: Michigan				
<p>Arguably the purest offensive defenseman available in the draft, York combines speed and finesse to form a package perfectly suited to run the attack for one of the NTDP's most heralded group of forwards in the program's history. Finding a way to manage puck distribution with the likes of Jack Hughes, Trevor Zegras, Alex Turcotte, Matthew Boldy and Cole Caufield certainly is no small feat. But York makes it look relatively easy thanks to his impressive skating, vision and puck skills. He is on Team USA's top pairing and quarterbacks the power play, although most of the time he acquiesces flow and tempo to Hughes. Still, York's vision and crisp tape-to-tape passing make him an integral part of a machine that churns out scoring chance after scoring chance.</p> <p>York has an excellent shot, as both his slapper and wrister are released quickly and accurately. He fires pucks on net in one motion, including off his back foot, and you rarely see him hesitate or wait until a lane is completely unobstructed. He keeps his feet moving at all times and looks to sneak in between the hashmarks for a rebound or one timer. To say York is a gambler would be an understatement – he always looks to move the puck deep into opposing territory and will support his forwards along the wall. His overall defensive game is predicated on smart reads and quick feet. York isn't physical on a consistent basis, but he doesn't shy away from contact, has occasionally thrown big open-ice hits, plus he battles hard for slot superiority. He does have quick enough feet to close on a puck carrier, but at times he affords them too much room by not standing up at his line.</p>				

20	Nils Hoglander	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Rogle	SHL
50gp-7g-7a-14pts   5'9, 185   12/20/00   Shoots Left   Bocktrask, Sweden				
<p>Aggressive winger with a nonstop motor and the ability to play much bigger than his measurements may indicate. Hoglander has played against adult competition in each of the last two seasons, and his dominance at the summer under-20 Four Nations tournament in August not only earned him a berth on Rogle's opening-night roster, but he played well enough to stick it out the rest of the season. He plays the game at a feverish pace no matter the score or how much time is left, and his compete level is exactly what you want in a skill forward who is summoned to tackle key situations. Hoglander isn't big, but he is fearless in the corners and immediately bounces back from hefty wallops from older, larger opponents. Without the puck, he's an aggressive forechecker with an active stick who will finish his checks and force turnovers or rushed passes with regularity.</p> <p>Hoglander is a very good skater with first-step quickness who can accelerate to top speed in an instant. He controls his pace extremely well, and his quick feet and agility allow him to make sharp moves through the neutral zone. Hoglander is a capable stickhandler who weaves his way through a dense network of sticks and bodies, and his cutbacks lure opponents away from coverage before he exploits openings with hard, crisp passes on the tape. He can play the game either inside or out, and he's a low-maintenance shooter thanks to a quick release and his ability to get shots on net while blanketed. Hoglander has excellent vision, and his decisions with the puck seem to always make sense.</p>				

21	Ryan Suzuki	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Barrie	OHL
65gp-25g-50a-75pts   6'0, 176   5/28/01   Shoots Left   London, ON				
<p>A dynamic offensive weapon with eyes in the back of his head and a top performer for both Barrie and Team Canada, Suzuki is the OHL's top prospect for the 2019 NHL Draft. Blessed with blinding speed and acute hockey sense, the younger brother of 2017 first rounder Nick Suzuki is a bit flashier and excitable with the puck, especially in open ice. He's more of a playmaker than a shooter, but Ryan owns an excellent wrist shot and can score off his backhand. Still, he seems more comfortable and confident dictating play with the puck on his stick and treating every teammate as a scoring-chance possibility. Suzuki a season ago was one of the OHL's top rookies, and he distinguished himself this season as a leader and top player for a Barrie squad that was hit with injuries and a fire sale. Suzuki finished second among OHL first-year eligibles with 50 assists and 75 points.</p> <p>Suzuki has excellent vision and will connect with a linemate from just about anywhere, regardless of how dense the network of skates, bodies and sticks are clogging a passing lane. He has a soft touch and feathers passes with regularity, but he also can whip the puck around with both accuracy and authority. Although Suzuki is an excellent stickhandler with elusiveness and agility to avoid contact, the puck doesn't spend a lot of time on his stick at even strength. He's usually on the periphery during puck battles and the corners, and you will rarely see him engage in physical play. Nonetheless, Suzuki is an effective penalty killer and aggressive forechecker whose positioning, quick stick and awareness forces turnovers in the opposing end. He is capable of turning seemingly harmless plays into quality scoring chances. One thing to keep in mind is that Suzuki's on-ice performance and production remained unchanged during and after Barrie unloaded most of its talent in a series of midseason trades.</p>				

22	Robert Mastrosimone	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Chicago	USHL
43gp-26g-24a-50pts   5'10, 158   1/24/01   Shoots Left   Islip, NY   NCAA: Boston Univ.				
<p>A goal-scoring winger with one of the top shots among draft prospects, Mastrosimone is a line-driving puck hound with outstanding anticipation and an acute understanding of play development. He makes others around him more dangerous because his speed, shot, and commanding presence on the ice keeps opponents fixated on him. Bound for Boston University and a native of Long Island, Mastrosimone is very quick skater with excellent balance and agility who can be an inside player, but his ability to blister the puck from the left circle keeps both defenders and the goalie honest during his entries. He is very consistent in his ability to maintain control of the puck through traffic. His office during the power play can be found in either circle, and Mastrosimone is quite partial to his hard, accurate one-timer. He loves to play physical and will look to deliver a big hit in open ice. He also kills penalties and is reliable enough to put on the ice in late-game scenarios. Chicago owned one of the USHL's top attacks this season, and his chemistry with center Nick Abruzzese was obvious during the playoffs when Mastrosimone led all forwards in scoring with seven goals and 15 points in 11 games. He is also an active penalty killer and can be trusted on the ice in late-game situations in the defensive zone. Unlimited potential and a sleeper for the first round of the draft.</p>				

23	Ilya E. Nikolayev	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
41gp-10g-15a-25pts   6'0, 190   6/26/01   Shoots Left   Yaroslavl, Russia				
<p>A brick wall of a two-way playmaking center who was Russia's top-line pivot at all of the under-18 events he participated in. Nikolayev is incredibly strong on his skates and plays with a high compete level. He is consistently the center summoned by his coaches to tackle tough assignments such as late-and-close faceoffs, checking opposing top players or scoring in the clutch. Nikolayev's stickhandling and puck protection are excellent both on the move or within the cramped confines of a given zone. He can deke and dangle around defenders with relative ease, but he consistently victimizes opponents by dropping that shoulder and barreling towards the net. He is a breakaway threat in open ice; more for his anticipation and hockey sense than elite speed or cherrypicking – remember, this is a dependable two-way center we're talking about, so his quick transition from defense to offense requires more calculation than what is being processed by the average offensive forward who floats his way into chances. Nikolayev plays with physicality and intensity while displaying leadership both on and off the ice, and he is an excellent choice to run both the lead power-play unit and top penalty kill.</p> <p>Blessed with acute vision and creativity, Nikolayev is a tape-to-tape passer and does so with authority. He executes odd-man rushes with precision while not always choosing the expected passing option. He is poised on zone entries and will delay to allow puck support to appear until he sees the open lane he likes. Nikolayev is not an explosive skater, nor does he possess a quick first step, but he is agile in every direction and generates a lot of power behind his wide stride. He also is effective in separating from back pressuring and weaving defensive pairs into a state of confusion.</p>				

<b>24</b>	<b>Jakob Pelletier</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Moncton	QMJHL

65gp-39g-50a-89pts | 5'9, 160 | 3/7/01 | Shoots Left | Quebec, QC

A slick playmaker with very good speed and balance who displays acute awareness of his surroundings, Pelletier is the kind of player that makes you wake up real early in the morning to try and figure out a way to slow him down. He can beat opponents in a variety of ways and being a puck magnet with intensity helps Pelletier wear down defenders of any size. He is rarely far from the puck, and panic is a word you'll never associate with this agile cat – Pelletier is incredibly crafty in tight spaces and has a level of grit that keeps him stubborn during lengthy puck battles. A two-way forward who excels on special teams, Pelletier owns a hard, accurate shot and is comfortable firing it off the pass without hesitation.

Pelletier's versatility is a huge part of his game. Not only can he succeed in situations that call for clamping down in the defensive zone, but he is willing to pay the price to take over possession. He will hit, block shots, and harass point men to no end. Once the puck is on his stick, Pelletier properly identifies when he needs to play the role of playmaker and when it's time to put his head down and bomb towards the opposing goal.

<b>25</b>	<b>Connor McMichael</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	London	OHL

67gp-36g-36a-72pts | 5'11, 174 | 1/15/01 | Shoots Left | Ajax, ON

McMichael is an intelligent two-way puck magnet who serves a dual-threat inside the offensive zone thanks to his outstanding vision and knack for creating turnovers that lead to quality scoring chances. Hamilton made him the 11th overall pick in the 2017 OHL Priority Selection and was the centerpiece in the trade that brought Robert Thomas over from London. The stats may say he has been more of a finisher this season than a playmaker, but his ability to turn seemingly harmless possessions in the offensive zone into high-danger opportunities is something that keeps opponents honest. Still, his 36 goals (26 at ES/SH) were second only to Arthur Kaliyev in terms of OHL first-year draft eligibles and tied for the London team lead with 2019 NHL first rounder Liam Foudy. McMichael has great hands and roofs the puck from in tight, and he can pick the corners with his wrist. He makes a lot of touch, backdoor or no-look passes, and his jukes and gear shifting while keeping his head up is similar to a point guard crossing over a weak-ankled defender. There's a lot of Marc Savard to his game, and he likely puts up bigger numbers once his role is expanded.

26	Tobias Bjornfot	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Djugardens J20	Superelit
39gp-11g-11a-22pts   6'0 202   4/6/01   Shoots Left   Upplands Vasby, Sweden				
<p>The top defenseman for Djugardens J20 and for Team Sweden at several international tournaments, Bjornfot is an excellent skater with or without the puck who contributes in all situations. He can run a power play by using quick thinking and staying in motion, and he owns a heavy slapshot with a massive backswing. He is a significant goal-scoring threat from the blue line. Bjornfot's wrist shot seems to be his preferred weapon of choice, probably since he can beat goalies clean from any distance inside the the offensive zone. Bjornfot is a clean, crisp passer but isn't all that creative or one to be classified as a playmaker. He does, however, generate offense with his wheels and quick-strike mentality – several times a game he catches opponents in a line change by whipping turnaround passes up ice or exploding into an opening for an end-to-end rush. He's a very good 1-on-1 defender, sometimes dominant but also at times far too respectful of opposing speed. When he's engaged, Bjornfot has shown to stick to puck carriers like Velcro, and he usually makes the right reads if he sees a dangerous play developing. He wins a lot of foot races and is willing to take a hit in the corner to move it cleanly. Bjornfot's thick frame comes in handy when he battles along the boards, but his quick stick and powerful one-armed shoves can force an opponent to lose his will to keep possession.</p>				

27	Michal Teply	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Liberec	Extraliga
15gp-0g-2a-2pt   6'3, 187   5/27/01   Shoots Left   Havlickuv Brod, Czech Rep.				
<p>A mature two-way winger who plays a polished game predicated on smarts, strength, and incredible balance to maintain control of the puck and keep possessions extended. Teply usually is his line's center of gravity on most shifts. He's a very good skater with decent separation speed, and he keeps his feet moving through the neutral zone. Teply is an accurate passer, especially in tight quarters, who plays with his head up at all times. He has soft hands to handle tough passes cleanly while he motors through the offensive zone with speed. Once inside, Teply can be an excellent stickhandler either moving or static, and he consistently holds the puck high near the line before he saucers or banks a pass to a cutter. This tactic may be viewed as risky, but Teply is one of only a few draft eligible who can pull it off with regularity. Once he releases, he properly identifies openings and will look to unload his hard, accurate shot; specifically, the wrister.</p> <p>Teply excels in all situations. He is a top-unit mainstay on the power play in addition to being an effective penalty killer. Teply's positioning is as close to perfect as you'll get from a teenager. He picks off a lot of passes, reads opposing intentions correctly and is more than capable in open ice to lead a counterattack and make the right decision. Teply's play in the neutral zone is advanced, as his poise and attention to detail allow him to gain precious seconds and open up a passing lane.</p>				

28	Arthur Kaliyev	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Hamilton	OHL
67gp-51g-51a-102pts   6'2, 190   6/26/01   Shoots Left   Staten Island, NY				
<p>The draft's top goal-scoring prospect from North America, Kaliyev has produced two outstanding seasons in the OHL leading up to his big day in June. Blessed with size and a terrific shot-release combination, the Staten Island native is his league's leading finisher, averaging close to a goal per game. Last season, Kaliyev played a key role for Hamilton during their drive to the Memorial Cup. But today he is a game-changer who can carry an attack pretty much by himself. He never met a shooting opportunity he didn't like, and the velocity he generates on shots off his back foot or off balance is a sight to behold. Goaltenders have a tough time getting a read on him when he has the puck inside one of the circles because he's nimble dart inside and fire shots from the slot. Simply put, Kaliyev is the straw that stirs Hamilton's drink, and he alone accounts for a significant portion of its offense. Can he be more on the competitive side? The optics say an up-and-down effort level and unwillingness to engage in physical battles on a consistent basis are the only two things keeping from being a legitimate top-10 option at the draft.</p> <p>Kaliyev's dominance at prospect showcases and tournaments certainly reinforces the belief that he can be a game-changing scorer at the highest level. He has soft hands to handle passes near the goal or from long distances, and Kaliyev rarely shoots pucks back into the goalie on cross-crease tap-in attempts. What he does outside the offensive zone is more pedestrian, but in the end, you want your goal scorers to sling pucks on net with both accuracy and authority, which is exactly what Kaliyev does better than any draft-eligible winger.</p>				

29	Philip Broberg	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	AIK	Allsvenskan
41gp-2g-7a-9pts   6'3, 199   6/25/01   Shoots Left   Orebro, Sweden				
<p>Sometimes, one game (or one tournament) is all you need to identify how special a player can be. And although Broberg this season has had his share of frantic moments and puzzling decisions, his skating and aggressiveness inside the offensive zone should be enough to convince a team to roll the dice and pony up a high draft pick. He's incredibly active and mobile with or without the puck, and rarely is there a shot opportunity Broberg will turn down. Additionally, he can play physical and deliver big hits, so it's just a matter of fine-tuning his puck management, as well as his timing in the neutral zone to get him in position to neutralize opposing rushes.</p> <p>Broberg proved to be too good for his age group in the Superelit and held his own as a top-four defenseman in the adult-age Allsvenskan. His defensive play is predicted on making timely reads or stepping up in the neutral zone, or near his line to either deliver a hammer blow on an unsuspecting opponent or pick off a pass and dart the other way. When timed properly, Broberg can become an unstoppable force as he powers through center and into the zone unmolested. His decision-making thereafter is spottier than it is clean, and he gets caught up ice or trapped quite a bit, relying on his speed more than smarts to double back and try to break up a scoring chance. He also gets caught running around in his own end and can be tricked into chasing far from the slot. You'd wish he had better vision and more creativity beyond slinging pucks at the net, but he still is a young and has excellent tools in other areas.</p>				

30	Yegor Spiridonov	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Stalnye Lisy	MHL
43gp-15g-26a-41pts   6'2, 192   1/22/01   Shoots Right   Chelyabinsk, Russia				
<p>Sturdy two-way center with the reach of a giant octopus and a high compete level that makes him a difficult player to prepare for. Spiridonov is a natural center who began the season flanked by fellow 2019 draft prospects Dmitry Sheshin and Pavel Dorofeyev, and the trio clicked to the tune of two to three combined points per game. Both Dorofeyev and Spiridonov were ultimately promoted to Metallurg for a trial by fire, simply because they proved to be too good for the MHL. Spiridonov, however, was the line's driving force, using his size, reach and excellent anticipation to create havoc on the forecheck and during board battles. His straight-line speed is slightly above average, and he has a powerful, wide stride. But he has shown to be able to pull away in open ice and get himself into shooting position during odd-man rushes. His turns and pivots are sharp, and he can move well laterally.</p> <p>Spiridonov's active stick comes in handy during the penalty kill, not only for consistently keeping it in lanes, but also for picking off passes and transitioning to attack mode. He is a very good passer, but his assists come more from hard work in the corners or mucking and grinding near the net rather than set-ups of the fancy variety. He also can finish from just about anywhere, especially with his snapshot or wrister, and occasionally plays the role of a net-front presence thanks to his ability to tip home shots well away from his body. Spiridonov is dominant on faceoffs in any zone, and he can be entrusted to support his defenders either below the circles, in the crease or behind the net. He has a strong upper body and can lean or one-arm shove opponents off balance, but he does so in a clean, disciplined manner.</p>				

31	John Beecher	Pos.	Team	League
		C	U.S. U18	NTDP
63gp-15g-28a-43pts   6'3, 210   4/5/01   Shoots Left   Elmira, NY   NCAA: Michigan				
<p>The word agile is rarely used to describe a 6'3, 200-pound center, but the Michigan-bound Beecher is one of the nimblest power centers to come along in quite some time. He is an excellent stickhandler who scares defenders into backing in as far inward as their own circles, and his sharp directional changes and edges lure opponents away from prime shooting areas. Beecher is a mean, intimidating two-way force who can smother opposing top players while driving his line into the offensive zone for multiple chances. There are some rough edges to smooth out before we can start comparing him to a young Eric Lindros, namely his creativity, vision and decision making with the puck. Still, the package of speed, strength, stickhandling, physicality, two-way play and shot power is advanced enough to keep his developmental focus limited to the few facets that need improvement.</p> <p>Beecher can play either a power or finesse game and he has proven to be an intimidating force. He is a team-first player who will stand up to any physical challenge no matter the time on the clock or game situation. Beecher uses his faceoff prowess, long reach and quick first step to be an effective penalty killer – he is the NTDP's go-to option at any strength for late-game draws in the defensive zone. He is effective at taking the puck into the zone in a controlled manner and usually is the one from his line who controls the execution and flow of the cycle. Beecher has the potential to be an invaluable two-way center at the NHL level.</p>				

32	Phil Tomasino	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Niagara	OHL
67gp-34g-38a-72pts   6'0, 179   7/28/01   Shoots Right   Mississauga, ON				
<p>A quick, energetic center on a loaded squad, Tomasino is a tireless, low-maintenance worker who gives a consistent effort while producing consistent results. He buried 30 goals as a support player for Niagara, but he was able to distinguish himself with strong performances at both the CHL Top Prospects Game and for Canada at the under-18 worlds. He's one of the draft's most dangerous open-ice threats, but he's a fearless inside player who successfully darts into traffic while maintaining control of the puck. Tomasino is a quick-strike forward with excellent vision who can turn a seemingly harmless possession for either team into a scoring opportunity from the desirable scoring areas. There aren't many players who can execute difficult plays at varying speeds, but Tomasino's gear shifting and lethal first step while cleanly controlling the puck makes him a rarity among his peers. His decision making with the puck is situational dependent – he can force things below the circles but is otherwise clean in his puck management elsewhere. Still, his nose for the net, smart positioning and stick readiness leads to multiple scoring chances from the danger areas.</p> <p>Tomasino has an excellent shot but it's more deceptive and accurate than powerful and intimidating. He isn't bashful unloaded attempts from anywhere, but he is crafty enough to mask shot attempts as slap passes or no-look a wrister during a 2-on-1. He also is a creative playmaker either facing the goal or with his back to the net, and he slips accurate backhand feeds through coverage for tap-ins or one-timers. Although he's aggressive on the forecheck, Tomasino is not a physical player and he loses a fair amount of battles in the corners. In the end, however, you're looking at a kid who is fast enough to be the first one in on both a forecheck and a backcheck.</p>				

33	Thomas Harley	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Mississauga	OHL
68gp-11g-47a-58pts   6'3, 188   8/19/01   Shoots Left   Syracuse, NY				
<p>Easily one of the best passers among defensemen in the draft, Harley is a cool-as-a-cucumber puck distributor with a smooth, effortless skating style and strong hockey sense – at least on his side of the red line. Harley earned his role as a top-pairing defender to help exploit the strengths of the Steelheads' many talented forwards. The first thing you notice about his game is his composure with the puck during the attack – Harley rarely gets rattled and appears very confident while distributing the puck in all directions. His vision and pass accuracy are both incredibly advanced for a teenager, and he doesn't hesitate with his decisions. Harley is an upright skater who uses quick bursts and sharp pivots to buy himself time and space and attack deep into the opposing zone. He also is a fine backskater with very good closing speed, and he displays solid edgework when he is forced to take the puck around his net. Harley can run a power play and owns a low, booming shot, but he is not very active during the man-advantage, which could be explained by the experienced forwards he shares the ice with. Still, he knows how to find or create open lane.</p> <p>His play on defense comes across as nonchalant, as Harley affords puck carriers too much room at his line and doesn't play physical enough considering he's an elite North American draft eligible on a top pairing in the OHL. A native of Syracuse who has dual U.S.-Canadian citizenship, Harley ran Canada's top power-play unit at the under-18 world championship with acceptable results</p>				

<b>34</b>	<b>Matthew Robertson</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Edmonton	WHL
<b>52gp-7g-26a-33pts   6'3, 201   3/9/01   Shoots Left   Edmonton, AB</b>				
<p>Strong and mobile two-way blue liner with a team-first attitude who handles both big minutes and key situations with maturity and confidence. Robertson is a throwback to the Western Canadian defensemen of old who were able to intimidate with physicality or their play with the puck. He's clearly the top defender for the Oil Kings by the way he's used at even strength and special teams, and how often Robertson is being summoned to address his coach's concerns. His size, long reach and timing makes him close to impossible to beat one on one, and few teenage defensemen can force opponents into so many unsuccessful zone entries simply by standing up at the blue line. He'll respect oncoming speed by giving himself more room, but Robertson's long stick and strong upper body keep the majority of puck carriers to the outside. Robertson has soft hands and sharp hand-eye coordination that allows him to corral pass attempts cleanly and quickly transition from defense to offense. He's not entirely married to the slot, but he keeps his head up and always looks for gaps to cover.</p> <p>Robertson is a strong, powerful skater with average straight-line speed but enough agility and quickness to sharply change direction while maintaining control of the puck. He's capable of taking it coast to coast and make plays well inside the opposing zone, but he's smart enough to identify the proper time to release and cover up defensively. Robertson is an excellent passer both on his forehand and backhand, and his vision and the accuracy of almost all of his passes seems to afford him more time and space to make decisions than the average two-way defender. His shot certainly is an asset, both for its velocity and accuracy. Robertson has proven he can score from the circles with his wrist shot, but he keeps goalies honest by making occasional power moves to the net. He's not fancy or some sort of elite playmaker, and rarely do you see him trying to do too much with the puck. Most of the scoring chances Robertson generates is from his point shot or crisp breakout passes.</p>				

<b>35</b>	<b>Patrik Puistola</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW/C	LeKi	Mestis
<b>22gp-15g-11a-26pts   6'0, 174   1/11/01   Shoots Left   Tampere, Finland</b>				
<p>A tricky winger with the puck on a string and a loaded arsenal of ways to beat you, Puistola is one of those rare pre-draft prospects that prove they are too good for both the junior leagues and the adult-age second tiers throughout Europe. He's a dangler who can create his own shot (and a fine, accurate shot it is). Puistola is a very good skater and is to be considered a breakaway threat, but it's his agility and escapability in the neutral that separate him from atypical draft-eligible goal scorers. Puistola is a smart kid who is used in any situation, to include the penalty kill, where he is an obvious threat to score. There isn't much an opposing coach can do to slow down his scoring chances, but Puistola ups the ante late in games by becoming a playmaker and rocking defenders to sleep with pump fakes and slap passes. He hustles and works hard but lacks in the physicality department; something NHL coaches are good at addressing. Still, Puistola has shown a commitment to the front of the net when he isn't controlling the puck himself, mostly for his ability to get his stick on point shots for deflections or roof rebounds from in close.</p>				

36	Leevi Aaltonen	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Kalpa U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
29gp-12g-24a-36pt   5'9, 177   1/24/01   Shoots Left   Mikkeli, Finland				
<p>A top-line player for Finland at every under-18 event, Aaltonen is one of the fastest skaters among 2019 draft hopefuls. His play for most of his draft year has been more than inspiring after coming into the campaign with the reputation of a finesse player. Although seeing limited minutes for Kalpa in Finland's elite Liiga, Aaltonen is starting to dig deep in trench battles and fight for positioning. Sure, he's not the biggest kid on the block (5'9, 177), but his compete level has increased, especially on the forecheck, and you see him spending more time below his own circles in support of his defensemen. The stats don't always tell the whole story, so it's important to identify a youngster with the reputation as a finesse player fine-tune his game in other important areas.</p> <p>His speed-shot combination off the rush is deadly – few wingers eligible for 2019 are able to get off the kind of velocity and accuracy with their wrists while traveling at top speed. You get the sense that goalies begin to doubt themselves when they see Aaltonen flying towards them, and even his bad-angle shots force them into making tough saves that result in juicy rebounds. His efforts on the penalty kill and on the forecheck confirmed the significant change in his game from a perimeter finesse player to a 200-foot shark. The image of Aaltonen five years older with 20 added pounds of muscle may be enough to even get him into the first round.</p>				

37	Oleg Zaitsev	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Red Deer	WHL
66gp-13g-30a-43pts   6'1, 186   1/7/01   Shoots Left   Moscow, Russia				
<p>A powerful yet elusive two-way center who was one of the WHL's top rookies, Zaitsev was used frequently on special teams and was consistent in creating chances during all situations. He cooled off considerably in the second half, scoring 23 points in his first 24 games before Red Deer acquired veteran center Brett Davis from Kootenay in late November. The reduction in ice time didn't stop Zaitsev from being Zaitsev – a tough, three-zone playmaker with outstanding balance and agility. The Russia-to-Western Canada transition is a tough nut to crack for most imports, but Zaitsev stuck to his role as a bottom-six forward and continued to generate chances.</p> <p>Zaitsev has a thick frame and can wear down opponents during board battles. His puck control and puck protection skills are excellent. He competes hard in all three zones but also drives possession, and he proved to be just as effective a penalty killer and matchup option in the WHL as he was last year in Russia's MHL. He supports his defensemen anywhere below the circles and makes subtle plays in tight spaces to kick start the transition from defense to offense. Zaitsev can be a load to handle, especially along the wall, and his footwork and agility are excellent. One example of the way he thinks the game at a high level is the rapidity and accuracy of his passes on the fly, as he quickly identifies the linemate with the greatest chance of entering the zone cleanly. He's more of a pass-first set-up man than a scorer, but he likes to occupy the dirty areas and is effective at creating traffic in front of the net. Zaitsev is an excellent penalty killer who is quick to the puck and pressures the points while keeping his stick active. He stays in motion as often as possible and can endure long shifts without losing effectiveness.</p>				

<b>38</b>	<b>Samuel Poulin</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Sherbrooke	QMJHL
<b>66gp-28g-47a-75pts   6'1, 208   2/25/01   Shoots Left   Blainville, QC</b>				
<p>A hard-working, two-way winger who mixes physicality with skill, Poulin is murder on the forecheck and during the cycles. He plays at a fast pace, finishes his checks with authority, gives maximum effort every shift, and his ability to deceive defenders in one-on-one situations results in multiple chances near the cage. He may not be the type of prospect with star potential, but Poulin checks most of the "intangibles" blocks, with NHL bloodlines to boot – his father Patrick was a first-round pick of the Hartford Whalers who played in over 600 games. Samuel plays a similar cerebral style that reveals a competitor who thinks while he carries the puck rather than plod along and wait for something to happen. He owns an excellent one-time shot that he rarely shoots back into the goalie, and he also has soft hands to handle tough passes in the low slot. Poulin is a very good stickhandler, and his skate-to-stick transition is quick and clean. You'll rarely see him blow past an opponent, but his puck control, edge work and agility in tight spaces is rare among power wingers in his draft class. Poulin can serve as a net-front presence on the power play, but he also has very good vision that helps him create one-touch set-ups across the slot. His coaches at future levels will love his high compete level, attention to detail and versatility.</p>				

<b>39</b>	<b>Bobby Brink</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Sioux City	USHL
<b>43gp-35g-33a-68pts   5'8, 159   7/08/01   Shoots Right   Minnetonka, MN   NCAA: Denver</b>				
<p>An electrifying talent with a high IQ, Brink's dominance as 17-year-old draft eligible has been one of the more impressive stories among his peers, in that he parlayed a USHL Forward of the Year Award into a top-six role on the vaunted U.S. NTDP for the under-18 world championship. An above-average skater blessed with tight-quarter elusiveness, the Minnesota native makes plays look easy regardless of the degree of difficulty, specifically his zone entries against opponents standing up at the line. There's simply no way to prepare for him as he darts towards the net or pivots and cuts away from pressure, and his small stature doesn't prevent him from taking the puck to the cage with authority. Brink's hands from in close are sick, and he can roof shots from the lip of the goal mouth on either forehand or backhand. He also owns one heck of a wrist shot and can score from distances beyond the hash marks. A University of Denver recruit, Brink keeps his head up at all times, and his ability to lure opponents out of passing or shooting lanes makes him an ideal option to run a power play from the half-wall or point. His cross-ice passing and peripheral vision are excellent. Although he has a high compete level and displays a good on-ice attitude, Brink is not very physical and can be outworked or outmuscled during battles. He is, however, an offensive catalyst who can facilitate lengthy possessions inside the opposing zone and run the power play from the half wall.</p>				

40	Anttoni Honka	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Jukurit	Liiga
27gp-3g-5a-8pts   5'10, 179   10/5/00   Shoots Right   Jyvaskyla, Finland				
<p>Swift-skating puck rusher who knows how to handle the puck and has the kind of mobility that keeps forecheckers honest. Anttoni, whose older brother Julius currently plays defense for the Dallas Stars, is the most offensively-gifted among the handful of top-tier Finnish rearguards eligible for the 2019 draft. He's a gambler with or without the puck, and his ability to anticipate danger before utilizing his top-end skating helps tighten the gap between the opposing puck carrier and him. Honka's positional play in his own end is above average, as he makes an effort to stay as close to the slot as possible until possession changes hands. He is far from physical, but he stands up at the blue line and isn't rattled at the sight of a bigger, faster forward barreling his way. His puck management is relatively sound, although he can look a little nonchalant and be the culprit behind unforced turnovers and errant passes. He was criticized (and ultimately benched) for some sloppy play at the under-20 world junior championship, but the potential improvement and exceeding the standards for the average puck mover remains incredibly high.</p> <p>Honka keeps his feet moving at all times and is a threat once he drops down into the circles. He owns an average yet accurate shot which he uses with confidence, but he's agile enough to pump fake and glide into a better look at the net. Honka is a hard, crisp passer with soft hands who beats pressure with authoritative stretch passes, subtle banks or well-timed saucers. Although his shot is average, he can run a power play from the top of the umbrella or remaining active from either point.</p>				

41	Ludvig Hedstrom	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Djugardens J20	Superelit
40gp-5g-24a-29pts   6'0, 172   4/14/01   Shoots Left   Karlstad, Sweden				
<p>Another elusive yet intelligent defender from Sweden whose impressive skill set often gets overlooked due to the noteworthy 2001-born depth both the Swedes and Djugardens boast on their respective back end. Paired mostly with Albert Johansson during international events, Hedstrom is incredibly confident on-ice leader with or without the puck and distinguishes himself in all three zones. Hedstrom is a very good skater with swift feet and a quick first step. Although his defense is a significant part of his game, Hedstrom is an offensively-inclined puck rusher who is comfortable handling the puck. He is capable of executing a successful breakout in a variety of ways, with crisp, accurate first passes being his preferred method to trap forecheckers. Still, Hedstrom doesn't need ideal conditions to attack up ice with confidence, and his aforementioned stickhandling when combined with his lateral quickness and rapid directional changes lead to successful individual zone exits and entries. He is very poised under pressure and beats back forecheckers with spin moves and cut backs, and he'll even hang onto the puck specifically to draw a double team before exploiting the gap with a crisp forehand or backhand pass. Inside the offensive zone, Hedstrom uses a series of pump and head fakes as he walks the line for a clearer shot, but he also likes to pinch well below the dots to keep plays alive.</p> <p>Hedstrom plays physical and never turns down the chance to give an authoritative shove to an opponent. His compete level and stubbornness make life difficult for opposing puck possessors. Hedstrom doesn't seem to tire when using his stick actively, especially on the penalty kill. He also fights hard for low-slot positioning and uses his stick to punish bigger forwards attempting to establish a net-front presence. Hedstrom affords little room at the line and closes in an instant, often with a solid bodycheck as high as center ice. His defense of odd-man rushes is excellent, on par with the likes of notable draft-eligible teammates Victor Soderstrom and Tobias Bjornfot. His aggressiveness and desire to jumpstart the rush influences his slot coverage to the point where he will wander from his duties as far as the points.</p>				

42	Ryan Johnson	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Sioux Falls	USHL
54gp-6g-19a-25pts   6'0, 173   7/24/01   Shoots Left   Newport Beach, CA   NCAA: Minnesota				
<p>A future Minnesota Gopher who smothered opposing top lines during championship runs at the under-20 World Junior "A" Challenge and the USHL's Clark Cup playoffs, Johnson is a smooth-skating defender who patrols the blue line with confidence, poise and smarts. Johnson was arguably the top defenseman on a talented Sioux Falls squad. The son of former NHL'er Craig Johnson, Ryan is as steady as they come when it comes to draft-eligible rearguards, but he's also a weapon to be feared in the power play and the attack at even strength. Blessed with nimble feet and quick lateral movement, Johnson covers ground in a hurry and effortlessly glides towards where he wants to get to. He's a confident puck carrier who leaves pressure in the dust by using a lot of head fakes, pivots and quick changes of pace, but he also passes the puck with both accuracy and authority. Johnson is an excellent bank passer, and he must have a high success rate with his subtle leads that help teammates escape from the defensive zone. He's a cerebral penalty killer with a quick stick who reacts accordingly and is able to equally distribute his attention to the points and both the weak and strong-side threats. Although he isn't very physical, Johnson shuts down zone entry attempts by making timely step-ups and telegraphing an opponent's intentions.</p> <p>The biggest question surrounding Johnson is how high his ceiling is for consistently creating scoring opportunities at the NHL level. He obviously has the speed and the smarts, and both surface with Sioux Falls in spurts. But if a creative gene is there, it will be up to his coaches in college and the pros to squeeze it out of him.</p>				

43	Lassi Thomson	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Kelowna	WHL
63gp-17g-24a-41pts   6'0, 190   9/24/00   Shoots Right   Tampere, Finland				
<p>Smooth-skating Finnish rearguard who typifies what offensive defensemen are expected to do with the puck on their stick and a full sheet of ice before them. Thomson may be a bit of a risk taker while controlling the puck, with an occasional sloppy pass or unforced error. But the common end-result is that pressure is applied on opposing schemes designed to slow him down. He loves to initiate breakouts with his wheels and drive deep into the offensive zone, but his consistent pass accuracy to teammates in stride also stretches out the neutral zone and allows friendly puck carriers to gain time and space. The kid loves to shoot the puck, and for good reason – he owns an excellent shot with a quick release and requires little backswing to generate power. Thomson quarterbacked the top power play unit and is a shooting threat thanks to a very hard and accurate shot, but he also keeps his feet moving and will jump into openings below the circles. There are moments where he'll fight for positioning and play physical, but those instances are few and far between. A lack of consistency in his slot/crease coverage, plus the way he overcommits when defending odd-man rushes are things that should be improved upon for the future. His time in Kelowna, as successful as it was, may be short lived, as Thomson is reportedly heading back to his native Finland to play for Ilves next season.</p>				

<b>44</b>	<b>Adam Beckman</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Spokane	WHL
68gp-32g-30a-62pts   6'0, 168   5/10/01   Shoots Left   Saskatoon, SK				
<p>A natural goal scorer and power-play specialist with a blistering shot, Beckman was an unheralded Bantam pick (96<sup>th</sup> overall in 2016) who skyrocketed up Spokane's depth chart to assume a top-six role and play on its vaunted power play. Beckman is a hard worker who brings a good attitude to the rink. He displays all the traits you want in a scoring winger – effort to get open; a deadly shot-release combination; high compete level along the boards, and a serious nose for the net. Although he isn't flashy with the puck, Beckman makes sound decisions in terms of slipping away from battles and into soft areas. He is far from high maintenance, as he's shown the ability to create his own shot and take the puck inside for an improved angle. Beckman aggressively hounds the puck in the corners and along the wall, and he's willing to plant himself near the top of crease for screens and tip-ins. He still has some filling out to do, but Beckman holds his own in slot battles without letting his emotions get the best of him. His hands, like most goal scorers, are very quick, and he transitions from puck receipt to a textbook heel-to-toe wrister in a heartbeat. Beckman also handles tough passes cleanly on the fly and can wire a shot on goal in one motion.</p> <p>Beckman is a good skater with average speed and agility. His biggest strengths are his balance and elusiveness along the wall. You won't see him explode into open ice or consistently beat defenders to the outside, but he keeps his feet moving and turns quick enough to respond to changes in possession. He's not a preferred option on the penalty kill or late-game draws in the defensive zone.</p>				

<b>45</b>	<b>John Farinacci</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Dexter	HS-MA
16gp-12g-21a-33pts   5'11, 185   2/14/01   Shoots Left   Red Bank, NJ   NCAA: Harvard				
<p>A poised, cerebral playmaker with excellent vision and strong hockey sense, Farinacci is a New Jersey native headed to Harvard in the fall. He's an outstanding stickhandler through neutral zone traffic, but he's also capable of speeding his way into open ice and making high-percentage plays. Farinacci was Team USA's top-line center and power-play facilitator at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka Tournament, and being an alternate add for the NTDP makes him used to the spotlight. He handles pressure extremely well and is counted on to take (and win) big faceoffs or match up against opposing top lines. Farinacci is a very good penalty killer who keeps his stick active and seems confident in making risky reads that break up cross-point passes. His straight-line speed is above average but he's shifty and quick in tight spaces, and is proficient at snapping off quick, accurate shots through traffic. It's cliché to say a Harvard-bound kid thinks the game at a high level, but Farinacci is consistent in his effort in all three zones, and his choices with positioning usually are on the money.</p>				

46	Nick Robertson	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Peterborough	OHL
54gp-27g-28a-55pts   5'9 160   9/11/01   Shoots Left   Pasadena, CA				
<p>A dual-threat skill forward who can play the role of sharpshooter or playmaker, Robertson is a 200-foot beast and one of the OHL's most electrifying players. He was critical to Team USA's performance at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka, so pencil him in as a serious candidate for the U20 world juniors. His high-energy style remains consistent in all three zones, and he he is as dangerous with the puck inside his own end as he is close to the opposing goal. Robertson plays the game at a fast pace and is capable of taking the puck end to end in only a few seconds. His agility, quick first step and straight-line speed are obvious reasons why he's an open-ice threat, but Robertson also is aggressive on the forecheck, reads plays extremely well and assumes acceptable risk when he looks to intercept passes, especially on the penalty kill.</p> <p>Robertson is a high-volume shooter (3.4 shots per game) who can always be counted on for multiple high-danger chances per game. His soft hands and quick wits are the driving forces behind the ability to outwait and outthink goalies while he's controlling the puck just inches from the goal mouth. What Robertson lacks in size is made up in balance, effort, attention to detail and work ethic. On the power play, Robertson likes to operate between the right face-off dot and the edge of the crease, usually with the hammer cocked for an accurate one-timer which goes against the grain if necessary. He owns a ridiculous wrist shot and quick release - the puck looks like it explodes off his stick. Not bad for a smaller winger listed under 5-foot-10.</p>				

47	Semyon Chistyakov	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Tolpar	MHL
32gp-1g-10a-11pts   5'10, 167   8/7/01   Shoots Left   Nizniy Tagil, Russia				
<p>An on-ice general who impacts the game in any of the three zones, Chistyakov was a difference maker for both Tolpar and Team Russia at multiple international events. He is a hard hitter with power lower-body strength and leg drive, which helps him cover a lot of ground and in a hurry. Chistyakov's skating is one of many areas where he can intimidate opponent's into affording him more time and space, and he's capable of going end-to-end at a moment's notice. He has excellent balance and agility, with quickness both laterally and backwards. Chistyakov can power through or weave around neutral-zone traffic, and he can beat his opponent to a patch of open ice from the circles inward. Once he finds a line, Chistyakov can unload a blistering shot, which he uses frequently while running the point on the lead power-play unit. But he also likes to join the attack as a trailer or cutter, or sneak into the circles for one-timers during lengthy possessions. Chistyakov always seems to be on or near the puck, and he displays a high compete level and strong desire to win puck battles. He plays a physical brand of hockey and possesses leadership potential that should help him succeed at higher levels.</p>				

48	Drew Helleson	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	U.S. U18	NTDP
64gp-5g-18a-23pts   6'3, 193   3/26/01   Shoots Right   Farmington, MN   NCAA: Boston Coll.				
<p>A poised two-way defender who uses textbook breakout techniques via his wheels and stretch passes, Helleson's ability to read and react to developing openings at a high level makes him is the perfect facilitator for an attack that leans heavily on its forwards to do most of the puck controlling. He's not as flashy as teammate Cam York, but that doesn't mean Helleson is incapable of creating scoring chances once he crosses the opposing blue line. His range is better than average, and he won't turn down the opportunity to go coast to coast if one is presented to him. Helleson joins the rush and is comfortable receiving passes in the high slot for a hard shot at the net. But he also likes to activate himself inside the offensive zone by sneaking into openings as far down as the low slot. It's common to find Helleson pinching deep to keep plays alive, but he does so by identifying if his support is properly located. The NTDP executes a pro-level cycle, and Helleson plays a key role in its fluidity. He plays in all situations, and he is most effective when he is orchestrating a lengthy possession inside the opposing zone. Helleson does not play like he hungers for his name on the stat sheet — he's an unselfish rearguard who is comfortable distributing the puck, and one who involves himself in the play as much as possible. Helleson has an average shot but his accuracy is excellent.</p> <p>Helleson is a strong one-on-one defender with quick closing speed and an active stick. He stands up at the blue line and makes reads that lead to counterattacks or odd-man rushes, but he also knows when to retreat and assume his duties near the goal. Helleson seems to have an advanced understanding of his slot duties and stays vigilant no matter the puck's location in his own end. He will vacate on occasion, and although he isn't overly physical, Helleson will put forth a ferocious effort while battling in front.</p>				

49	Ethan Phillips	Pos.	Team	League
		LW/C	Sioux Falls	USHL
50gp-16g-27a-43pts   5'9, 148   5/7/01   Shoots Right   Dartmouth, NS   NCAA: Boston Univ.				
<p>One of the fastest skaters in the draft, Phillips spent most of the season as a winger on Sioux Falls' top-six and top power-play unit in between splitting time with high school. Phillips is incredibly quick in all directions and can drop a lethal first step. His rapid directional changes, pivots and cut backs are all conducted under complete control and serve him well during the majority of his successful zone entries. Phillips is a fearless skater who confidently takes the puck right into the teeth of coverage. He has no fear of getting drilled in open ice or along the wall, and if he does, he bounces right back up. Phillips has superior balance and edgework when you consider his size and playing weight, and he is a threat to set-up scoring chances while taking the puck wide or around the net. He can play either wing, and on the power play he slots near the left circle for one-timers.</p> <p>Phillips is not a one-dimensional player and debunks the belief that smaller players are more finesse than anything else. He will battle hard, take hits to move the puck and try his best to outmuscle opponents along the wall. Phillips knows his role in all three zones and will support his defensemen and center by covering the slot when a crowd surrounds the puck near the boards.</p>				

50	Albin Grewe	Pos.	Team	League
		RW/LW	Djugardens J20	Superelit
25gp-13g-21a-34pts   5'11, 187   3/22/01   Shoots Left   Marsta, Sweden				
<p>Some fans in the Boston area might say that it's impossible to clone uberpest Brad Marchand. But no draft eligible can irritate, annoy and infuriate in a Marchand-esque way like Grewe, who has the skill and the hands to back up his pestiferousness. There are two types of "dirty" players – the one who breaks every rule in the book and the other being a hard-nosed, lunchpail type who does a lot of heavy lifting for his coach. Grewe is most certainly the latter, and if he played baseball, he would have his pockets full of infield dirt by the second inning. Grewe is a strong skater with excellent balance who takes the puck inside with authority and confidence. He is a two-way forward of the throwback variety because he applies relentless pressure on the forcecheck and is physical during the PK. Additionally, Grewe finishes his checks on defensemen, and he's next to impossible to knock off the puck once he collects it off the turnover his pressure created.</p> <p>Grewe is shifty and quick with a strong lower body and leg drive that helps him knock down bigger opponents. He's one of the draft's best penalty killers, but his two-way play and effort should not be considered his way of compensating for a lack of puck skills – Grewe is an open-ice threat with keen vision and quick release on his shot. He is one of the few kids in this draft who is willing to pay any price for going into the rink's most dangerous areas.</p>				

51	Albert Johansson	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Farjestad J20	Superelit
40gp-5g-24a-29pts   5'11, 161   1/4/01   Shoots Left   Karlstad, Sweden				
<p>A speedy puck mover with NHL bloodlines who was Farjestad J20's top-pairing defender and primary power-play quarterback, Johansson is one of the more aggressive rearguards available in the draft. The son of former Calgary Flames defenseman Roger Johansson, Albert led his club in assists (24) and was the top-scoring rearguard with 29 points, which was the third most among Superelit defensemen. He performed in a support role for Sweden at both the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and U18 world championship, paired mostly with a similar puck mover in Ludvig Hedstrom. There is a lot of swagger to his game, specifically when he's carrying the puck with speed through the neutral zone. Johansson is consistent in penetrating or bypassing blocked skating lanes, and his decision making after zone entries varies from safe to audacious. In fact, Johansson spends a significant amount of time below the circles and can look like a finesse forward when he plays catch or operates in the cycle. His athleticism, agility and footspeed make him tough to contain, even near the wall or in the corner, and he can wire a hard wrister in one motion off a loose puck or bank pass. Johansson's slap shot is average, but he has soft hands to corral tough passes and get pucks on net before the shooting lane gets clogged.</p> <p>Defensively, Johansson is good for multiple timely plays in a period, let alone an entire game. He will explode towards a lazy cross-ice or stretch pass for an instant odd-man rush, but he also knows when to hold the line and deliver a hit with authority. His retreat and closing speeds are excellent, which can dupe a puck carrier into thinking there more room to operate. Although he isn't a punishing hitter, Johansson has a strong upper body that helps him one-arm shove players off the puck or clear the front of the net. He releases from the slot quite often, but he seems to communicate with his partner and rarely ventures into an area where he's not needed.</p>				

<b>52</b>	<b>Valentin Nussbaumer</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Shawinigan	QMJHL
<b>57gp-17g-21a-38pts   5'11, 165   9/25/00   Shoots Left   Delemon, Switzerland</b>				
<p>Competitive Swiss import who plays a similar 200-foot game to 2017 top pick Nico Hischier but is a notch or two below in terms of puck skills and hockey sense. That doesn't mean he's not talented or smart, and Nussbaumer had the misfortune of playing for one of the QMJHL's worst teams in Shawinigan, so the stats are skewed by the fact that the Cataractes rarely have the puck at all, let alone in the offensive zone. Nonetheless, Nussbaumer is a strong, agile skater with inside moves and the ability to stickhandle his way into a clean zone entry, He has very soft hands to corral tough passes, and he owns an excellent shot that is tough for goalies to handle cleanly. He likes to battle in the corners and will motor all over the ice to either provide puck support or backcheck against a counterattack. Nussbaumer's on-ice demeanor is professional and you would never guess that he played for a bad team that constantly battles against crooked numbers on the scoreboard. Opponents know he is Shawinigan's center of gravity, but he still finds a way to generate scoring chances</p>				

<b>53</b>	<b>Harrison Blaisdell</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Chilliwack	BCHL
<b>51gp-33g-25a-58pts   5'11, 181   3/18/01   Shoots Left   Regina, SK   NCAA: No. Dakota</b>				
<p>Blaisdell is an excitable forward with top-end speed who plays hard in all areas of the rink. He should be considered a rarity for any draft class – a skilled forward with speed and hockey sense who contributes in all three zones. Committed to the University of North Dakota, Blaisdell was a top-line player for Chilliwack and served as one of their most productive forwards on special teams. Although Blaisdell and his mates were completely smothered by Prince George in the BCHL playoffs, Blaisdell remains a prospect with potential for greater things at higher levels. His straight-line speed, lateral quickness, quick first step and escapability place him among the best overall skaters in this draft.</p> <p>The son of former NHL'er Mike Blaisdell, Harrison is an aggressive forechecker and hard worker who doesn't seem to take his role and responsibility for granted. His scoring opportunities – and he is involved in a lot of them – are byproducts of hard work, determination and quick thinking. Blaisdell is deadly in open ice, but the work he puts into getting open is what makes him popular among his coaches and teammates. He possesses an arsenal of shots and does not favor a particular method for getting pucks on net. Blaisdell can roof backhanders from the goal mouth, hammer one-timers near the circle or go bar-down on a wrister from the high slot. He's an excellent stickhandler in traffic and tight spaces, and he can thread the needle through clogged lanes near the goal.</p>				

<b>54</b>	<b>Egor Afanaseyev</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW/LW	Muskegon	USHL
<b>58gp-27g-35a-62pts   6'4, 201   1/23/01   Shoots Left   Tver, Russia</b>				
<p>A hard-shooting winger with size and strength, Afanaseyev has used a power game to impose his will on enemy defenses. He owns a terrific shot and has a high compete level, and there's a significant (and obvious) level of intimidation that allows him to dictate the tempo of his shifts. Afanaseyev has very good speed and outstanding balance, and he pivots on a dime during zone entries and cycles. Equally adept at being either a finisher or set-up man, he can fill in on the wing and a foothold on the low slot. He may not have a mean streak, but Afanaseyev simply is too big and strong to outmuscle, and opponents eventually accept the fact that he is an immovable object, especially on the power play. Consider him from of the draft's top pure finishers; one who presents a solid combination of work ethic, power, speed and excellent puck skills.</p>				

<b>55</b>	<b>Daniil Gutik</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW/LW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
<b>36gp-5g-8a-13pts   6'3, 179   8/31/01   Shoots Right   Khabarovsk, Russia</b>				
<p>A big, rangy power forward with a high compete level who can play on either wing, Gutik is an intimidating figure because he maintains total control of the puck with bodies draped all over him. He is an excellent stickhandler with shiftiness and escapability in tight quarters, but he also has acute vision that allows him to thread the needle with cross-ice passes. Gutik is a puck hound in the offensive zone and picks off a lot of errant passes. His soft hands and hand/eye coordination helps him deaden clearing attempts and immediately start his quick move towards the goal. Once he's below the hash marks, Gutik can make a variety of finishing moves, to include roofing backhanders from in close, but he's also confident and skilled enough to slip last-minute passes towards the back door. He's an absolute horse along the boards and senses when he's worn out his opponent for a rapid dash to the cage. Gutik has no problem playing a physical brand of hockey and on occasion is willing to deliver massive hits. He has very good straight-line speed with an average first step, and he is capable of pulling away from defenders before he hits the blue line. An important aspect of Gutik's skating is his footwork, which allows him to make multiple directional changes within a tight window.</p>				

<b>56</b>	<b>Ryder Donovan</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Duluth-East	HS-MN
<b>29gp-17g-30a-47pts   6'3, 184   10/4/00   Shoots Right   Duluth, MN   NCAA: Wisconsin</b>				
<p>A jersey-flapping winger with size and a massive reach, Donovan is a smart playmaker with excellent puck-protection skills. He played on the top line and first units for both the power play and penalty kill. He puts forth a consistent effort every shift, and the intensity of his forecheck can at times mistake him for a depth-line checker than an offensive force. All areas of Donovan's skating are outstanding — his first-step quickness, ability, balance, lateral movements and edge work work in concert to get him a least a stride or two out of an opponent's reach. Donovan's vision and passing abilities are advanced, and he is more than capable of turning any shift into a scoring opportunity. He times his backdoor or cross-ice passes perfectly, and he can stick fake an opening from a clogged lane. Donovan can play physical and finish his checks with authority, plus sacrifice his body in efforts to hunt down pucks. The only concern was when you consider his size, Donovan was not as dominant as one would have thought, especially in the state tournament. Still, the skill, speed and size combine for a tantalizing option that might be enough to sneak him into the late first round.</p>				

57	Nikita Alexandrov	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Charlottetown	QMJHL
64gp-27g-34a-61pts   6'0, 183   9/16/00   Shoots Left   Burgwedel, Germany				
<p>A hard-shooting import blessed with a goal-scorer's touch and an improved compete level, Alexandrov worked his way up Charlottetown's depth chart after a slow start to anchor their top line. Although he entered the season with the reputation of being a shoot-first, ask-later kind of center, Alexandrov rounded out his game during his draft year by taking high-percentage shots and deferring to his linemates more often. This enabled his coach to shuffle his linemates all season without worrying about a drop in production or effectiveness. He's an excellent stickhandler who keeps his feet moving while being harassed, and his strong balance and lateral quickness in tight areas help him improve the angle of his shot. If Alexandrov has a clean look, he not only wires the puck with authority, but also buries it from tough angles. As the season progressed, Alexandrov's accurate cross-ice passing skills were given more respect, thus making him a dual threat and forcing goalies to play the pass more often. Alexandrov can finish at the net in an assortment of ways, plus he is confident in making multiple fakes near the goal. He also is capable of making one-touch and no-look plays, and almost is as dangerous in 1-on-1 situations as he is on odd-man rushes. Alexandrov likes to use the one-timer from the circle on the power play, but the Charlottetown unit as a whole struggled mightily during the man advantage.</p> <p>Alexandrov is a good skater but not necessarily a road runner with a quick first step. He relies more on his awareness and stickhandling to get through traffic than blow past defenders to the outside. Making rapid lateral cuts while in full flight while maintaining puck control is done effortlessly, however, so not being explosive or a roadrunner should not be held against him. One aspect that should not be overlooked is his success rate in shootouts.</p>				

58	Vojtech Strondala	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Trebic	Chance Liga
33gp-8g-15a-23pts   5'7, 154   12/20/00   Shoots Left   Ostrava, Czech Rep.				
<p>A crafty playmaker who can play center or wing, Strondala is an undersized playmaker who uses a variety of dizzying moves and fakes to create scoring chances. He's spent his entire draft season split between Trebic in the Czech Republic's second division and Kometa Brno in the elite Extraliga. With Trebic, Strondala saw a significant amount of ice time between the second and third lines, and for a while even ran the top power-play unit from the half wall. He is incredibly quick and agile in both open ice and within the tight confines of the offensive zone. Although he leans towards puck distribution than shooting, Strondala has a tricky shot that usually forces goalies into making a tough save. He's unpredictable below the hash marks and has soft enough hands to roof shots under the bar from in close. You'd like to see him shoot more, but when you pass as well as he can, the consistent decisions to defer to the set-up seem justified.</p> <p>His straight-line speed is very good, but he could stand to work on his balance - no shocker for a player listed at 5'7 and only 154 pounds. Strondala has a high compete level to make up for a lack of physical strength, but his brief time in the Extraliga showed a youngster who was frequently outmuscled. He isn't used often on the penalty kill, but Strondala usually was a late/close option in offensive-zone draws. His overall game centers on his playmaking, which is rivaled only by the upper tier of his draft peers.</p>				

59	Vladislav Kolyachonok	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Flint	OHL
53gp-4g-25a-29pts   6'1, 184   5/26/01   Shoots Left   Minsk, Belarus				
<p>A confident three-zone defender with speed who shouldered the responsibility of anchoring a thin defense corps with a significant amount of individual success, Kolyachonok's skating and puck distributing does not make him the classic "offenseman", as he is more of a puck manager than a playmaker. He owns an average shot that he isn't afraid to use, and he is a capable power-play quarterback. Kolyachonok plays in all situations and defends below the circles with smarts and aggressiveness. His sturdy frame helps him successfully battle for positioning, but it's his powerful leg driver and upper-body strength that helps Kolyachonok neutralize threats with authority behind the net or in the corners. Kolyachonok stands his ground at the line and wields an active stick. He times his stick checks while affording himself enough room to recover, although his feet are quick enough to react and retreat while angling an opponent into the corner. He's a disruptive presence in the defensive zone, and his stick-on-puck success limits the amount of times he gets burned. Playing with an aggressive mindset while possessing elite footwork gives Kolyachonok enough confidence to roam from the slot and apply blanket pressure as high as the points, but he won't linger or puck gaze.</p> <p>Kolyachonok is a slick puckhandler who can go end to end in a hurry. He is quick and agile while moving with his head up, staying in complete control as he crosses center into a dense network of opponents. His passes can be either hard or soft depending on the scenario, and he works to avoid forcing passes to a teammate for the sake of his own safety. Eating the puck is part of being a poised defender, and Kolyachonok seems to understand that one can only pivot or curl off pressure for so long without an opponent figuring out where they need to be. His retrievals are smooth with quick pivots towards the puck, and his hard rims are conducted with the knowledge of a streaking teammate up the wall. Kolyachonok keeps the number of dangerous moments to a minimum but playing for a bottom feeder like Flint increased the likelihood that even he would succumb to wave after wave of pressure.</p>				

60	Kaedan Korczak	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Kelowna	WHL
68gp-4g-29a-33pts   6'3, 192   1/29/01   Shoots Right   Yorkton, SK				
<p>Simply put, Korczak is a mobile, physical blueliner who is in the running for best one-on-one defender in his draft class. He plays a textbook style without the puck, focusing on making the proper reads, timely stick checks and putting himself in the best position to neutralize an opposing puck carrier before he enters the zone. Kelowna's been dubbed "The Defenseman Factory", and it is a player like Korczak who can solidify its reputation for producing NHL-ready talent. He plays on the top pairing and anchors the lead penalty killing unit, and he usually is the player summoned when there is a critical draw or matchup in a close game. Korczak is intelligent and makes sound decisions with his step-ups, pinches and slot releases. You rarely find him chasing an opponent behind the net or wandering away from his slot duties, and even the quicker forwards in the Dub end up getting a one-arm shove right into the corner boards. Korczak reacts quickly to loose pucks and crisply dishes them to cutting or streaking teammates. He's not a playmaker or creative once he crosses center, but his hard shot and quick release help him accumulate assists from tip-ins and rebounds.</p> <p>Korczak is a very good skater regardless of his size, and he owns a powerful stride that helps him take the puck up ice with confidence. His decision making is advanced for a neophyte, and his situational awareness helps him choose between rushing the puck or delivering an accurate stretch pass.</p>				

61	Brayden Tracey	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Moose Jaw	WHL
66gp-36g-45a-81pts   6'0, 177   5/28/01   Shoots Left   Calgary, AB				
<p>A physical goal-scorer with an elite shot who was named the WHL's Rookie of the Year, Tracey parlayed an 81-point season for Moose Jaw into a spot on Team Canada at the under-18 world championship, where he notched four goals and seven points in seven games. Tracey is a sniper, plain and simple. Not only can he deliver an accurate wrist shot that explodes off his stick, and he spends the majority of his time in the offensive end looking to slip into prime shooting areas. Tracey has very good speed and can beat an opponent inside or out, and his quick feet and first step result in multiple breakaway chances that he finishes off in a variety of ways. He's a lot stronger on his skates than you'd think when you consider his playing weight, and Tracey has no aversion to taking the puck directly to the net for a highlight-reel finish from in tight. Defensemen of all sizes have difficulty keeping him out of the crease area, and if they push him out into the low slot, they run the risk of Tracey not only improving his angle but firing a quick snap shot labeled for one of the top corners.</p> <p>Tracey's effort and physicality away from the puck differs from situation to situation. He tends to stay away from puck battles in the offensive zone and rarely uses his body to outmuscle an opponent. On the forecheck, however, Tracey is quite tireless and can change the momentum of the game with his hitting and applying pressure in the defensive zone. Even on seemingly harmless changes of possession, Tracey will mark and track an opposing puck carrier and continue to harass him up ice. From a special teams standpoint, Tracey rarely killed penalties but was a fixture in the slot on Moose Jaw's lethal power play.</p>				

62	Jamieson Rees	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Sarnia	OHL
37gp-10g-22a-32pts   5'11, 172   2/26/01   Shoots Left   Hamilton, ON				
<p>A lacerated kidney that shelved this up-tempo pivot gave OHL opponents a much-needed rest from his relentless, in-your-face style that combines hustle and top-end playmaking. Now that he's back to 100 percent, Rees continued to do damage in all three zones while applying pressure in every corner of the rink. His measurements don't jump out at you, but he plays much bigger than he's listed and is driven to do whatever it takes to win. On the puck, Rees is a strong stickhandler and makes nifty plays from the hashmarks inward, but he's also a sharpshooter with the ability to score from the top of the circle. He has excellent straight-line speed and changes gears to when he sees an opportunity to take a defender wide. Rees has tremendous balance for his size and is tough to knock off the puck, plus his chip-and-chase game is among the best of any draft-eligible forward. The beauty of Rees' game is how he tailors it to match its evolving nature – he can play run and gun or crash and bang as well as anyone, and he is someone capable of lining up an unsuspecting opponent for a huge hit. He was a big part of Canada's success at the Ivan Hlinka tournament in August, then bounced back from a sluggish OHL postseason to be Canada's top forward at the under-18 world championship in April.</p>				

<b>63</b>	<b>Tukka Tiekola</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Karpat U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga

**51gp-15g-45a-60pts | 5'10, 146 | 6/22/01 | Shoots Right | Oulu, Finland**

An unpredictable offensive weapon with a loaded shot selection, Tiekola is a small-statured winger who doesn't let his size prevent him from taking the puck inside with speed and confidence. Tiekola was a big time point producer at the under-18 international level in addition to dominating Finland's top junior league, where he paced Karpat U20 with a team-high 45 assists and tied 2018 New Jersey draftee Eetu Pakkila for the lead in scoring. Speed is the name of Tiekola's game, and he can stay under complete control even while motoring up the ice at top speed. He has soft hands, acute vision and confidence in his playmaking ability, incorporating any person, place or thing on the ice as a means to create a scoring opportunity. Tiekola is so quick and shifty, he causes crisscrossing opponents to either bump into each other or lose total situational awareness. The question is whether or not those very opponents were concerned with him, or his dangerous linemate Pakkila.

Nonetheless, Tiekola's speed and fearlessness still cause matchup problems for even the quickest defenders, who back in at the line to respect his rapid movements. This leads to a ton of clean zone entries, many in which he gained the zone untouched and with all the time and space in the world. Tiekola is an offense-first forward but his quickness allows him to catch up on the backcheck and harass opponents with an active stick. You can hit what you can't catch, so issues with below-average balance and the lack of a strong upper body are probably overstated – Tiekola is the kind of thoroughbred who needs to be unbridled, minor warts and all.

<b>64</b>	<b>Alex Vlasic</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP

**61gp-4g-23a-27pts | 6'6, 199 | 6/5/01 | Shoots Left | Wilmette, IL | NCAA: Boston Univ.**

A big-bodied two-way defender with NHL bloodlines who can play either side, Vlasic has pro upside written all over him thanks to his size, physicality, soft hands and booming shot. He's the perfect player to match up against opposing top lines because his static coverage radius goes beyond the low slot. He plays a similar game to former 2018 NTDP'er Mattias Samuelsson, albeit less physical than the Buffalo Sabres draftee. The technical aspects in the way he defends have improved since the start of the season, and he's learned to choose the right times to stand up and when to back in while closing the gap. His wingspan and above-average footwork (for his size) allows him to fix strong-side puck carriers into the check zones rather than afford them the chance to cut into the middle. When that happens, kiss the aforementioned puck carrier goodbye, as Vlasic will neutralize him with a hard shove into the boards.

An average skater without a quick first step, Vlasic plays a meat-and-potatoes style with the puck. He seems to accept the difficult task of being a defensive defenseman on an up-tempo team, and his contributions of offense are limited to tape-to-tape passes and rebounds generated from his heavy shot. He has soft hands to handle passes of any variety, and he handles forecheck pressure with poise while using his massive frame to protect the puck if necessary.

65	Dmitri Sheshin	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Stalnye Lisy	MHL
45gp-20g-23a-43pts   5'8, 160   5/31/01   Shoots Right   Chelyabinsk, Russia				
<p>The third member of Stalnye Lisy's top line of blue-chip 2019 draft prospects is a high-energy, two-way winger with quickness, elusiveness and a nice finishing touch. His footwork and top-end speed forces defenders in the neutral zone to back in more than they probably would like, but Sheshin is very creative with the puck and keeps them guessing by constantly changing directions and masking his intentions. He can play the role of playmaker or finisher, and he owns a no-nonsense release for his accurate shot. Sheshin is an aggressive penalty killer and hustles on the forecheck, and he knows exactly where to position himself. He anticipates the puck's direction of travel quite well and properly positions his stick to break up passes. Blessed with a quick first step and acute awareness, he's capable of intercepting break-out attempts and turns giveaways into immediate scoring opportunities. Sheshin has excellent instincts and rarely loses a race to an open spot. Although he isn't big, Sheshin has upper-body strength to ward off opponents, plus he battles for slot positioning and competes hard in the corners. A quick thinker without the puck, Sheshin will cover up for pinching defenseman. Easily one of the more underrated draft prospects, he's a right shot that can play either wing.</p>				

66	Nolan Foote	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Kelowna	WHL
66gp-36g-27a-63pts   6'3 190   11/29/00   Shoots Left   Denver, CO				
<p>One of the top power wingers available for the 2019 draft, Foote is a highly-intelligent forward who offers a blend of strength, physicality, smarts and finesse. While most bigger flankers try to mash and bash their way to a scoring opportunity, Foote usually opts to use the thinking-man's approach by correctly predicting puck travel and identifying the path of least resistance. That being said, he's as strong as an ox and can control the puck for lengthy periods of time while opponents are draped over him, and he can use brute force to separate defenders of any size from the puck when necessary. Foote is an excellent cross-ice passer and can cleanly play catch with his point men during the power play. His skating style naturally looks lumbering, but he's deceptively fast and agile in open ice, and he uses quick footwork in tight spaces to get a cleaner look at the net. You have to respect the fact that Foote opts for smart positioning over the more-favorable big hit, which is exactly how his brother (and 2017 Tampa first-round pick) Callan plays on defense. He likes to shoot the puck from the circles, but he's at his best being a net-front presence in search of deflections and rebound chances.</p>				

67	Antti Saarela	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Lukko	SM-Liiga
24gp-2g-8a-10pts   5'11, 183   6/27/01   Shoots Left   Laitila, Finland				
<p>A thick, sturdy two-way center with top-six potential for the way he impacts the game at multiple levels. For starters, Saarela is a physical pivot; one who uses strength and power to separate bigger players off the puck. He likes to deliver hard hits any where at any time, to the point where he can come across as a heat-seeking missile. Playing with this type of physicality doesn't hide his contributions as a top-line center who can create chances or finish from in close. Saarela plays a similar game to his brother Antti, who was a third-round pick of the Rangers in 2015. He has very good speed, strong balance with a quick first step, plus he can accelerate through traffic in the neutral zone. He enters the zone clean and controlled, and although defenders have to respect his outside speed, Saarela also has a penchant for fearlessly taking the puck strong to the net. He has a firm grasp of his duties a center and does not tip his hand during odd-man rushes. Saarela having soft hands and good vision comes in handy in those situations.</p> <p>Saarela is one of the better 200-foot centers in the draft. He is an excellent penalty killer who is very good on faceoffs and keeps his feet moving throughout the duration of the kill. His hard work while down a man leads to shorthanded chances, but he's also a tenacious forechecker who is comfortable gunning for big hits without giving away much in positioning.</p>				

68	Vladislav Firstov	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Waterloo	USHL
66gp-26g-32a-58pts   6'1, 181   6/19/01   Shoots Left   Yaroslavl, Russia   NCAA: UConn				
<p>An offensive-minded winger with high-end puck skills who is committed to the University of Connecticut, Firstov had an excellent rookie season after coming over from Russia. His 58 points (26g, 32a) were second only to Tri-City's Shane Pinto's 59 for the most among USHL rookies, and he spent the majority of the campaign on Waterloo's top line alongside fellow import and future UConn teammate Matej Blumel. Firstov pairs his strong stickhandling skills with impressive vision; the kind that helps him identify and connect with the linemate who's in the bets scoring area. He owns a hard, accurate shot that he can deliver quickly, but in the second half of the season he used his shot less and focused more on playmaking. His footwork and agility are more prevalent than his straight-line speed and explosiveness, as Firstov owns a short, choppy stride but is well balanced, elusive and nimble to prevent his sturdy frame from getting walloped in open ice. There an elastic element to his puck control, as he can dominate lengthy possessions in the offensive zone by alternating arm length of either his top or bottom hand while safely cradling the puck. Firstov also uses a variety of shoulder or head fakes that might seem subtle at first but eventually throw off an opponent just enough for him to gain the extra space he may need.</p> <p>Firstov is a power-play specialist who is a dual threat from the half wall. His shot needs to be respected, but so too should his cross-ice pass accuracy. At 5-on-5, Firstov spends more time away from the puck than hounding it, and he tends to fly the zone far too often while possession remains in enemy hands. Consistency is the biggest knock on Firstov's game, which is scary to think when you consider how dominant an offensive force he was for most of the year.</p>				

69	Arseni Gritsyuk	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Omskie Yastreby	MHL
30gp-12g-9a-21pts   5'10, 169   3/15/01   Shoots Left   Omsk, Russia				
<p>Owning quick hands and quick feet is a recipe most teams would demand out of their draft prospects, and few European-trained forwards can showcase both as often (and as impressive) as Gritsyuk, who this season put together periods of dominance in both MHL and international play. Gritsyuk, who was one of Russia's top forwards at the under-18 world championship, is a 200-foot forward who does all the little things asked of him. But it's when he's on the puck in open ice where his excitability becomes obvious. Although he isn't big or powerful in the classic sense, Gritsyuk is incredibly quick, agile and well balanced to maneuver in or around the toughest of customers. He can play inside or out, and Gritsyuk is as dangerous taking the puck down his off wing than he is with a full head of steam down the middle.</p> <p>Gritsyuk is an excellent skater in every sense. He can drop a quick first step and immediately pull away from defenders, even if they guess right on his intentions. He poses a significant breakaway threat during even strength or on special teams, and he only needs a few strides to leave opponents in the dust. Gritsyuk is agile and shifty along the wall, using multiple pivots or cut backs to buy time and space. He can take a pounding from bigger players with little to no impact on his puck control – Gritsyuk can dart towards the net with a body glued to him. He is capable of roofing the puck from in close backhand or forehand, plus he shows poise by outwaiting a goalie in order to tuck one in.</p>				

70	Marshall Warren	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP
58gp-8g-26a-34pts   5'11, 175   4/20/01   Shoots Left   Laurel Hollow, NY   NCAA: Boston Coll.				
<p>One of the NTDP's more explosive skaters, Warren is an aggressive puck rusher who loves to join the attack and dart into gaps in the offensive zone. He's a smart kid who knows how to incorporate himself into weaves or cycles, and his soft hands and keen vision make him a threat to create quality chances from below the hash marks. Warren has a very good shot and calls for the puck constantly. He can score with his wrist from the tops of either circle, and his slapper is kept low with the intent to create rebounds or deflections. Warren can run the power play, but the presence of sublime puck handlers like Jack Hughes, Trevor Zegras and Cam York prevented Warren from getting many opportunities to do so. He also kills penalties by staying in motion and making smart reads, and he operates a quick stick that allows him to turn cross-crease passes into an opportunity to skate the puck out. Warren is poised under pressure and knows his first-step quickness, agility and stickhandling can get him out of most jams.</p>				

71	Santeri Hatakka	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Jokerit U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
43gp-4g-9a-13pts   6'0, 174   1/15/01   Shoots Left   Riihimaki, Finland				
<p>A sharp mind on the back end, Hatakka is an extremely confident and versatile puck carrier with excellent speed and a crisp first pass. Capable of running the power play or anchoring a lead penalty-killing unit, he wins the significant majority of his foot races and is not afraid to take a hit to move the puck safely. A glance at his stats with Jokerit or Finland's under-18 squad do anything but jump out at you, but Hatakka's speed, aggressiveness and sound decision making is critical in going from defense to offense in a hurry. He's a smooth, fluid skater in all directions and appears to be an aggressive puck rusher with mature instincts, specifically in joining the attack. Hatakka's swift skating and elusiveness work in concert to get him deep into the offensive zone, and once he's there, he'll distribute the puck cleanly without putting himself in danger. He has very good vision, particularly from the point in spotting open teammates near the goal. Hatakka always stays in motion and will walk the line or pump fake effectively to open lanes and unload an above-average shot.</p> <p>Hatakka, who will move from Jokerit to Ilves for next season, was named one of Finland's top three players at the U18 world championship. He provides excellent 1-on-1 coverage and tirelessly jabs at forwards battling for slot positioning. His ability to play either side also lends to his aforementioned versatility, but one of the most impressive aspects of his game is his physicality — Hatakka will line up an opponent in the neutral zone, finish his checks in the corners and deliver timely hip checks at his own line.</p>				

72	Patrick Moynihan	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	U.S. U18	NTDP
64gp-19g-27a-46pts   5'11, 183   1/23/01   Shoots Right   Millis, MA   NCAA: Providence				
<p>A fast and physical two-way winger who kills penalties but also produced in a top-line role, Moynihan is one of those sleepers who gets lost behind a talented group of forwards but stands out practically every shift. He's a tireless worker whose hustle likely was enough to convince NTDP coach John Wroblewski to play him alongside Jack Hughes in late October. Moynihan, who recently committed to Providence College, is the perfect forward to deploy when a team is in need of an energy boost or an impact play. One of his bigger strengths is handling tough passes in stride, and he seems to favor a quick-release wrist shot from the right circle. Moynihan's nonstop motor is evident from start to finish, and he competes hard in traffic and for positioning in the low slot. He takes a hit to compete a play and has good enough vision to connect on passes despite a bigger defender barreling towards him.</p> <p>Moynihan was a bit of a streaky scorer this season, as 13 of his 19 goals were scored in a 15-game span that begin with his dominant February Five Nations tournament in February. When he isn't scoring, however, Moynihan is a high-energy player with elite skating ability in every direction. He likes to play the body, finish his checks with authority and apply pressure without the puck</p>				

73	Maxim Cajkovic	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	St. John	QMJHL
60gp-22g-24a-46pts   5'11, 185   1/3/01   Shoots Right   Bratislava, Slovakia				
<p>The first overall pick in the 2018 CHL Import Draft, Cajkovic is a dangerous offensive weapon who like Valentin Nussbaumer overcame the burden of carrying the load of a talent-strapped team. Cajkovic, who led all rookies in shots with 216, transferred to the QMJHL from Malmo in Sweden's Superelit, where last season he was as dominant as a 17-year-old player could be. This season started off slow for Cajkovic, but he finished strong with 31 points in his final 35 games while averaging over four shots per game in the second half of his draft-year campaign. He owns a soft set of hands and can shoot the puck with authority from any type of shooting or body position. Cajkovic is a crafty finesse player in odd-man situations and will make sharp directional changes while traveling at top speed. His first step is quick, and he should be considered a breakaway threat at any given moment. He also can wear the playmaker hat thanks to his vision and ability to fake opponents out of position, but Cajkovic clearly loves to shoot the puck and would likely put up more impressive numbers had he been given a decent supporting cast. Nonetheless, his shot is a money maker for both the release and velocity and should play a big role in how high he gets drafted. Cajkovic can play the point on the power play and moves the puck around with authority.</p>				

74	Maxim Denezhkin	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
51gp-22g-17a-39pts   5'10, 165   12/10/00   Shoots Left   Yaroslavl, Russia				
<p>A hard-working two-way center who made an immediate impression in training camp before leading the team in scoring in the regular season, Denezhkin is a tough out who always keeps his feet moving. He is a strong skater with above-average speed who forces opponents back and exploits any shred of open ice afforded to him. Denezhkin is a crease-crasher who takes direct routes to the goal. He has excellent agility and pivots on a dime, and his escapability is among the best of all Russian draft-eligible centers. He is consistent in limiting turnovers from overhandling the puck, and his strong stickhandling skills allow him to enter the zone cleanly in the face of traffic. Once inside, he likes to set up shop along the right half wall, where he makes crisp, accurate cross-ice passes or outwaits a defender for an open lane to the net. He also likes to establish positioning in front of the net and is willing to dig in before taking his lumps from a defender in the low slot. Denezhkin has soft hands and cleanly handles passes of any type, and he has a high success rate of creating scoring chances off of one-touch passes. Still, the circles are where he is most dangerous, mostly because of a wicked wrist that challenges goalies up high. He was one of Loko's top players in their run towards the MHL championship, including scoring the winning goal in Game 7 of the finals. Denezhkin also is very good on faceoffs.</p>				

75	Daniil Misyul	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
46gp-4g-6a-10pts   6'3, 176   10/20/00   Shoots Left   Minsk, Belarus				
<p>The stats say stay-at-home defenseman, but there is way more to Misyul's game than just solid play in his own end. One must consider his age and role on a team that is a perennial powerhouse in Russia's top junior circuit before earmarking him for a career on a bottom pairing. Misyul, a native Belorussian, who has played for Russia as several prospect tournaments, is a minute-eating rearguard who plays in every situation, to include manning the point on the power play and anchoring the lead PK unit. In fact, Misyul led all Loko Yaroslavl players in ice time during their run to the MHL championship, including a game-high 22:59 in their Game 7 win against Avto.</p> <p>Misyul is a very good skater, not only for his above-average speed and agility, but for his quickness, balance and the confidence he displays when rushing the puck out of his own end. He is very difficult to knock off the puck either static or moving. Misyul owns an excellent first pass and uses several methods to head-man the puck, such as high-flips, bank passes and home-run connections. A lot of top-pairing defenseman are poised and reliable with the puck, but Misyul is far more calculated and deliberate when necessary, and his decision making is advanced for a teenage blueliner. His zone entries are generally clean, but he also is a threat to take the puck deep and wide before cutting back to reassess. He also owns an excellent shot that is accurate, albeit one he uses sparingly. Defensively, Misyul covers puck carriers like a blanked and can explode into them with a jarring hit or heavy shove into the boards. He likes to make opponents pay for trying to establish position in front of the net.</p>				

76	Mikko Kokkonen	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Jukurit	SM-Liiga
56gp-3g-16a-19pts   5'11, 198   1/18/01   Shoots Left   Mikkeli, Finland				
<p>A highly-regarded prospect for quite some time, Kokkonen has provided steady blue line coverage for Jukurit while pitching in with timely rushes and poised play under pressure. He's a very good skater who plays with his head on a swivel to help him react quickly to changes in puck travel, and his decisions to join the rush are generally timely and decisive. Kokkonen is not a flashy player, but he can feather a pass with the best of them and possesses a clear understanding of his role within different game situations. Kokkonen's mobility, patience and awareness helps him dictate the pace of his shifts, but far too often he defers to his forwards once he crosses center, even if there's a patch of open ice before him. Still, he can take the puck end to end but only if he's afforded room beyond the red line, and once inside, the timing of his reads and pinches is advanced for a teenage defender. Kokkonen has an above average shot that he uses more for rebound chances than putting one through the twine, but you'd still like to see him shoot more. He has a strong lower body and can dig in for turf battles in front of his net, but he isn't overly physical or intimidating to the point where opponents avoid his side of the ice. Again, this is a heralded prospect who has shown potential at previous levels to be a dominant defender. One must consider his status as a rookie in an elite league when looking not only at his production, but also his confidence once crossing center and the few instances when he dominated the puck and created chances for his mates.</p>				

<b>77</b>	<b>Karl Henriksson</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Frolunda J20	Superelit
45gp-13g-36a-49pts   5'9, 166   2/5/01   Shoots Left   Malmö, Sweden				
<p>A speedy playmaking center who followed up a strong season with Frolunda's junior squad with an impressive under-18 world championship, Henriksson has the potential to be a big riser on draft day. He led the J20 Superelit in assists (36), plus-minus (+35) and finished in a three-way tie for the scoring lead with 49 points in 45 games. He's proven to handle critical roles as a top-line center and power-play orchestrator, and his recovery time in between shifts makes him an option for double-shifting. Henriksson is a smooth, effortless skater who glides up and down the ice. His lateral and backward quickness are as impressive as his straight-line speed, and his quick first step leads to multiple odd-man rushes per game. Henriksson is an excellent passer with a soft touch, and his leads are timed perfectly and on the tape. He makes smart decisions with the puck, choosing the right times to delay or press forward. Henriksson's team-oriented mindset incorporates all four teammates into the attack, and the precision of his passes to the points or to trailers are as accurate and crisp as his cross-ice feeds. Although he plays an unselfish style, Henriksson has a very good shot, and his hand-eye coordination give him a high completion percentage of his one-timer attempts. His dual-threat capabilities makes him a lethal option on the power play, specifically from the half wall.</p>				

<b>78</b>	<b>Billy Constantinou</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Kingston	OHL
66gp-10g-23a-33pts   6'0, 185   3/25/01   Shoots Right   Toronto, ON				
<p>A fantastic skater who can play the role of a rover, Constantinou is one of the more graceful teenage defensemen you'll find for this year's draft. An artist with the puck, Constantinou is a big gambler but appears eager to learn and improve his play in his own end. The midseason trade from Niagara to Kingston certainly helped him in the exposure and ice-time department, but the added roles and responsibilities on a bottom-dweller like the Frontenacs helped spotlight his warts on defense. Constantinou's skating is his strength, as he picks up attack speed in two or three steps and can change gears while effortlessly maintaining puck control. He spins or pivots off of forecheckers with ease and keeps his head up as he evades back pressure. Constantinou loves to join the attack and is confident to take the puck deep into the offensive zone and around the net. His puck management is average and he's prone to turnovers, but he understands the importance of owning the low slot and also stands up at his line to break up plays.</p>				

79	Ondrej Psenicka	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Sparta Praha U20	ELJ
45gp-30g-40a-70pts   6'5, 194   1/7/01   Shoots Right   Prague, Czech Rep.				
<p>One of the top scorers in the Extraliga Juniors and a top-six mainstay for the Czechs during all their under-18 tournaments, Psenicka is a fast-moving winger for his size who can be as much a passing threat as he is at scoring goals. He is a fearless skater, not only for the confidence in his straight-line speed but also for his desire to get into the middle of the ice as much as possible. Although he's blessed with size and strength, Psenicka finishing his checks is the most you'll get out of him in the physicality department. He has slick hands and can make a series of fakes to explode from his backhand to his forehand and right past the defender. Once he sees an opening, Psenicka can wire a hard wrister with accuracy, and his attempts from bad angles are hard to control for goalies with a clean line of sight.</p> <p>Psenicka is deadly with the man advantage, as he can fill a variety of forward roles. He is skilled enough to pass the puck with accuracy from long or short distances, but his one-timer and hands from in tight make him a big goal-scoring threat. When he's engaged, Psenicka will battle hard for net-front positioning and can tip shots while defenders playing close.</p>				

80	Henri Nikkanen	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Jukurit	SM-Liiga
9gp-2g-0a-2pts   6'4, 200   4/28/01   Shoots Left   Mikkeli, Finland				
<p>An intelligent two-way center for both Jukurit and Team Finland, Nikkanen has a strong understanding of his role no matter how he's utilized. Nikkanen is as dependable in the defensive zone as he is dangerous on offense. He owns soft hands to handle pucks cleanly while on the move, and he helps execute breakouts with one-touch passes that trap forecheckers. Nikkanen handles pressure with confidence and a high panic threshold, and it's rare that you'll see him venture too far from his defensemen when danger is evident, to include behind his own goal. But these are just aspects that highlight his strong offensive game, specifically on the rush with a numbers advantage. Not only is Nikkanen an excellent cross-ice passer, but he rarely forces passes onto a teammate who could be slowed down by traffic. If he holds onto the puck, he can be entrusted with initiating or orchestrating the cycle, and his passes from the half wall have a high completion percentage. Strong, well balanced and competitive, Nikkanen is very good on faceoffs and can check an opponent's top player. He's a quick, well-balanced skater with a short stride that can accelerate into open ice or catch up to an attacking forward.</p>				

81	Alexander Gordin	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	SKA-Veryagi	MHL
52gp-16g-16a-32pts   6'1, 174   7/31/01   Shoots Left   St. Petersburg, Russia				
<p>A dippy-doodling scoring winger with excellent puck control and the ability to slip into scoring areas undetected, Gordin was a standout for the Russian under-18 squad against the Czechs in an October tournament as well performing admirably at the World Jr. "A" Challenge. He was a top-six winger for SKA-Veryagi, seeing a significant amount of time on the power play despite being one of the younger forwards on the team. In fact, Gordin's responsible play in all three zones made him a late-game option regardless of the score, and he saw a role that was more expanded and less sheltered than draft-eligible teammate Ilya Altybarmakyan.</p> <p>Gordin is a strong skater with very good straight-line speed and excellent balance. He is incredibly nimble and elusive both in open ice and in close quarters, and he makes opponents pay for cheating the wrong way or overcommitting. Gordin is a threat with the puck on his stick in either circle, not only for his heavy and accurate wrister, but also for his cross-ice vision and pass accuracy. Opponents who learned to respect his shot ran the risk of getting twisted around or dangled, and Gordin's soft hands when combined with his fearlessness led to many high-danger chances from in close.</p>				

82	Matvei Guskov	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	London	OHL
59gp-12g-18a-30pts   6'1, 180   1/30/01   Shoots Left   Nizhnekamsk, Russia				
<p>A natural center with excellent awareness who has spent his entire import season on the wing, Guskov is a heady 200-foot forward with a strong frame who has developed chemistry with center Connor McMichael on London's second line. He has all the tools to be a top-six forward at the NHL level, and his first season in North America reveals a player who has adapted to his new surroundings (and position) by playing unselfish hockey and making decisive plays at the right time. Guskov is a very good skater with a wide stride and excellent balance, and he possesses escapability from the corners. He is very active in the offensive zone and is a strong, patient stickhandler who keeps the puck close to his body, and he waits patiently along the wall or in the corners before threading the needle with a pass that leads to a quality chance. Guskov has a tricky shot that he doesn't use enough, and sometimes he's has too much of a pass-first mentality, especially in the prime scoring areas. He isn't a physical player but does not back down from a challenge and will finish his checks against bigger players. Although he wasn't killing penalties for London often, Guskov is reliable while down a man and can be deployed to tackle late/close situations.</p> <p>Guskov is an effective on-ice communicator who makes it a point to support his defenders, especially on the backcheck. In fact, you can say that Guskov covers the slot better than most teenage defenders. Chances are that Guskov would put up more points in an expanded role on a team without London's all-star depth.</p>				

83	Simon Holmstrom	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	HV71 J20	Superelit
21gp-7g-13a-20pts   6'1, 183   5/24/01   Shoots Left   Tranas, Sweden				
<p>A speedy winger with excellent vision and puck skills, Holmstrom dealt with an injury that limited his early-season availability before picking it up as a key cog in Sweden's squad that won the gold medal at the under-18 world championship. Although he has the potential to do damage anytime he hits the ice and is comfortable making plays in tight spaces, he spends a lot of time on the periphery and waits for things to happen rather than dictate where the puck winds up. The good news is that he is sound positionally and can turn a loose puck into a scoring chance in the blink of an eye. Holmstrom is a power-play specialist who has an excellent shot and can roof home backhanders from in tight, and his shot prowess prevents opponents from committing to the passing lane. He knows this, and it presents him the perfect opportunity to bring his passing skills to bear. His overall skating is slightly above average, and his fast straight-line speed and agility make up for below-average balance and a lack of power in his stride. He may turn out to be more of a complimentary winger than one who drives possession, but he has proven to be the most dangerous option when teamed up with muckers and grinders. Holmstrom's hot-to-cold performances can be frustrating, however, and history shows that playing without a lack of urgency as a neophyte is even harder fix once the entry-level contract money starts rolling in.</p>				

84	Marcus Kallionkieli	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Sioux City	USHL
58gp-29g-24a-53pts   6'2, 193   3/20/01   Shoots Left   Kankaanpää, Finland   NCAA: Und.				
<p>Kallionkieli is the latest Finnish sniper to join the Musketeers, and he has more than lived up to the expectations set before him by previous imports (and recent NHL draftees) Eeli Tolvanen and Sampo Rantaa. Kallionkieli is a lightning-quick goal scorer with a blistering shot who has teamed up with Calgary Flames' prospect Martin Pospisil and fellow 2019 draft eligible Bobby Brink to form the USHL's most dangerous line. He is a threat to score from anywhere inside the offensive zone, and the way he challenges the points in his own end lead to a lot of odd-man rushes and breakaways. From a purely offensive standpoint, Kallionkieli is an elite winger with a tremendous amount of potential. He needs to be recognized for being a dominant player in both the Finnish junior leagues and on the USHL's smaller sheets, and his desire to play physical seems to have increased since he debuted in September. Kallionkieli is a shark on the power play and demands the puck for one-timers, but he also makes neat cross-ice passes to trap opponents trying to neutralize his world-class shot and release. It shouldn't surprise anyone if he's selected in the first round when you consider how few among his draft peers have Kallionkieli's natural goal-scoring ability.</p>				

85	Marek Berka	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Litvinov U20	ELJ
48gp-29g-21a-50pts   5'11, 159   5/12/01   Shoots Left   Litvinov, Czech Republic				
<p>One of the draft's more explosive skaters, Berka was one of the the top-scoring first-year eligibles in the Czech Republic's DHL Extraliga Juniors. Playing top-line left wing on a squad loaded with draft talent, Berka was a threat to score every time he hit the ice. He can fire off a ridiculous wrister off the rush, but Berka's crafty enough to avoid making the obvious play after he gains the blue line. Rather than low-percentage shots from the angle, Berka exploits the room he is consistently afforded by attacking inside and changing direction a final time for a burst down the middle towards the goal. He did this enough in the beginning of the season to the point where opponents expected it, but Berka's hard wrister from the circle also needed to be respected, especially since it is usually labeled and either forces a rebound into the slot or goes in short side high.</p> <p>An upright skater with a powerful stride, Berka looks and plays a lot bigger than his measurements indicate. He is by no means a perimeter or finesse player who waits for things to happen, and you will find him supporting the puck in all three zones. If Berka opts for a chip and chase, he'll win the majority of his foot races and deliver a clean but authoritative hit in the event he gets beaten to the puck. He applies a lot of pressure off the puck and will skate his legs off during the backcheck, even if he has to dive to poke a puck free during an attempted breakout. One of the top junior players in the Czech Republic, Berka is the perfect low-risk, high-reward selection in the middle rounds.</p>				

86	Nathan Legare	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL
68gp-45g-42a-87pts   6'0, 205   1/11/01   Shoots Right   Montreal, QC				
<p>A rugged power winger with a goal scorer's touch and an impressive compete level, Legare played a critical role in teammate Ivan Chekhovich reaching the 100-point plateau. He is a tireless worker who wears down opponents of all sizes and strengths by protecting the puck, keeping his feet moving in varying directions and throwing a stiff shoulder or two for good measure. Legare is not an easy player to match up against, and his ability to score from just about anywhere made him an easy choice to play at the CHL-Russia Series and the under-18 world championship. His 45 goals - 31 at even strength - tied for second in the league, and his 271 shots was good for third. Not bad for a kid who scored only 10 goals and fired 95 shots the previous season.</p> <p>A slightly-hunched skater with a wide stride but deceptive speed and excellent balance, Legare is both athletic and agile for his size. He can outpace a retreating defender both outside and inside while accelerating fearlessly towards the goal. Once he's below the faceoff dots, it's anybody's guess whether Legare will rip a shot or power closer for a roof job on the backhand. His shot is incredibly powerful and accurate, and he doesn't need a perfectly-timed pass to get all of the puck on one-timers. Legare's hockey sense and anticipation are two areas he needs to improve. A chunk of his assists come from rebounds or dirty work near the goal, and his vision and pass accuracy is about average for a physical winger. Legare is better in 1-on-1 situations than he is dictating play on an odd-man rush. Without the puck, he is a crash-and-bang forechecker with a quick, well-positioned stick who gets up close and personal with opposing defensemen even after wholesale line changes following a harmless dump-in. Legare is an intense competitor who battles hard along the boards and in front of the net, and you can bank on him being involved in multiple scrums near the goal.</p>				

<b>87</b>	<b>Ethan Keppen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Flint	OHL
<b>68gp-30g-29a-59pts   6'2, 212   3/20/01   Shoots Left   Fergus, ON</b>				
<p>A muscular yet nimble power winger with an excellent shot who was one of the top forwards on one of the OHL's worst teams, Keppen's effort was consistently strong throughout the season, as he showed a willingness to outwork his opponents in all three zones. Keppen's physicality and strength are evident from the moment he hits the ice, as he owns a powerful stride that helps him accelerate towards the puck and harass or mash opponents. He uses his body and leg drive simultaneously to separate the puck with ease, and once it's on his stick, Keppen uses a deceptive first step to gain breathing room as he powers into the offensive zone. Naturally, Keppen is murder along the boards and in the corners, and he can be immovable from the front of the net while jamming for multiple attempts at rebounds.</p> <p>Keppen generates power on his slap and snap shots without much backswing. He can pick corners off the pass as well as use screens effectively, but Keppen is tricky enough to dangle or toe-drag his way closer for a roof job on the backhand. He has soft hands, which is evident not only in his shot or the way he handles passes, but for the manner he distributes the puck to cutters or trailers.</p>				

<b>88</b>	<b>Shane Pinto</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Tri-City	WHL
<b>56gp-28g-31a-59pts   6'2, 192   11/12/00   Shoots Right   Franklin Sq., NY   NCAA: No. Dakota</b>				
<p>A strong, offensive-minded center with a high IQ who led USHL rookies in scoring with 56 points, Pinto combines a power game with skill, smarts and agility. He's an excellent stickhandler who controls the puck through traffic with speed or patience, and he utilizes his athleticism and quick feet to shift gears either inside or out. Pinto, who served as Lincoln's top-line center before his trade to Tri-City, has a strong lower body and is difficult to lean on or knock off the puck. Pinto shrugs off defenders with ease during puck battles in the corner or near the wall, and he bulls his way towards the net, where he can finish backhand or forehand. He owns a hard, accurate wrist shot and he isn't afraid to use it from either wing, and Pinto has a high success rate when he stickhandles inside to improve his shooting angle. Pinto's shot and release has goalies on notice, but he's slick enough to shoulder or head fake them well out of position for an easy tuck-in closer to the goal.</p> <p>Pinto is also a quality playmaker and set-up man as well. He executes odd-man rushes with precision and rarely telegraphs his intentions, and his body and stick positioning without the puck are textbook. His long reach and the way he anticipates puck travel leads to a lot of takeaways, but without the puck he remains a heady and well-positioned center who understands his role. Pinto is more of an upright East-West skater and owns a wide, powerful stride. His straight-line speed is average but his ability to protect the puck so well allows him to generate the extra stride or two needed to reach top speed.</p>				

<b>89</b>	<b>Domenick Fensore</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP

**55gp-6g-36a-42pts | 5'7, 151 | 9/7/01 | Shoots Left | Bronxville, NY | NCAA: Boston Univ.**

An explosive puck mover with smarts an improved defensive game, Fensore was the NTDP's most productive blueliner after teammate Cam York, recording most of his points after returning from injury in early November. One thing to consider about Fensore's impressive point totals is that he did not man the point on the NTDP's top power-play unit, and most of his assists came during 5-on-5.

Fensore is an excellent skater with a quick first step, acceleration, agility and fantastic edgework. Being on the smaller side doesn't stop him from being balanced, although his strength on the puck was more evident against smaller USHL and IIHF competition that it was against older, physically-mature NCAA opponents. He is a playmaker who opts for an aggressive approach towards the attack, using his wheels or vision to instantly break out of a tough forecheck. Opponents need to keep a third eye open when Fensore goes back to fetch a dump-in, as he turns quickly and can split the zone with a perfectly-timed stretch pass. Inside the offensive zone, Fensore keeps his feet moving and executes timing plays with his forwards while communicating with his partner if he wants to venture into the circles or pinch deep below the dots. Naturally, this approach can lead to multiple odd-man attacks the other way, but Fensore's speed and anticipation helps him catch up before the opponent can exploit a numbers advantage. His play on defense relies on proper reads, timely stick checks and harassment, as he won't win many physical battles and can get shoved from the slot with ease.

<b>90</b>	<b>Samuel Bolduc</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL

**65gp-9g-28a-37pts | 6'4, 212 | 12/9/00 | Shoots Left | Laval, QC**

A powerhouse of a defenseman who is incredibly strong but also a graceful, fluid skater, Bolduc crushed the CHL Top Prospects Game combine in addition to having an outstanding season as a top-pairing defenseman for an inexperienced Blainville-Boisbriand defense corps. Bolduc isn't a menacing presence although he's built like a tank and hits hard when the situation requires it. His overall understanding of defending his own end is sound, although he's more effective at neutralizing plays at his own line than he is at protecting the low slot. Below the circles, Bolduc uses powerful shoves and a relentless stick to suppress opponents, especially along the wall. This gets him into trouble at times, mostly because he's a stubborn competitor who can be lured far from the slot. With Bolduc, however, you might handle any minor warts on defense simply because no big-bodied rearguard in the 2019 draft class can move and elude as well as he can.

Bolduc obviously is well balanced and can handle any attempt at knocking him off the puck. He is incredibly confident and competent at beating a forecheck with his wheels, using more agility, stutter steps and jukes rather than exploding out of a tight jam. He is next to unstoppable in full flight once he crosses center, but he stays within himself and rarely forces passes that could end up trapping him. What scares opponents to death probably more than his size or speed is world-class slapper, which is the source of most of his points. Bolduc isn't very creative, but the manner in which he distributes the puck is clean and calculated. Playing with a little more intensity and making a bigger impact in front of his goal are two things Bolduc can work on moving forward.

91	Antti Tuomisto	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Assat U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
45gp-9g-26a-35pts   6'4, 190   1/20/01   Shoots Right   Pori, Finland				
<p>A tall two-way defender who was on the top pairing for both Assat U20 and Finland's under-18 squad, Tuomisto plays with a high compete level and looks to make impact plays in al three zones. He owns a booming shot that he uses mostly on the power play or as the high trailer off an odd-man rush. The more intense a game gets, the more physical Tuomisto plays, and he delivers authoritative one-armed shoves or wallops that can send smaller players flying off their skates. He is a stubborn battler in front of the net and along the wall, and he'll release from the slot to deliver a big hit. On the penalty kill, Tuomisto is a competent crease clearer who violently uses his stick to deliver a message to a net-front presence. He holds his ground at the line, keeps a tight gap and uses his stick in a timely manner.</p> <p>Tuomisto is poised under pressure and uses a series of turns, pivots and cut-backs to avoid a harassing forechecker. He is a reliable puck handler, one who recalculates if he smells something fishy in coverage. Tuomisto is a sharp breakout passer but uses the standard stretch pass rather than float or saucer one over traffic. Using the same method, however, occasionally gets him into trouble when opponents telegraph his intentions. His wide-based skating style is a big hunched and awkward, but he's quick to the outside and will take the puck into the offensive zone with a controlled confidence. Tuomisto's posture inside opposing territory is very aggressive, as he drops down to keep plays alive, will involve himself in a cycle or weave, and sneak into the high slot for a hammer blow off the pass.</p>				

92	Mads Sogaard	Pos.	Team	League
		G	Medicine Hat	WHL
19-8-2, 2.64 GAA, .921 SV%   6'7, 196   12/13/00   Catches Left   Aalborg, Denmark				
<p>An imposing import with quickness rarely seen in a 6-foot-7 frame, Sogaard was resilient through the peaks and valleys of a teenage goaltender's draft year, finishing fourth in save percentage (.921) among goalies who appeared in 30 or more games and being named to the WHL's Second All-Star Team. He bounced back from a nightmarish 11-goal drubbing to Canada to finish relatively strong in spurts at the under-20 world junior championship, then recovered from a hip injury in January to carry Medicine Hat to the playoffs and perform heroically under intense pressure in an opening-round loss to Edmonton.</p> <p>Size notwithstanding, the most important aspect of Sogaard's netminding is his quickness. His initial push is explosive, even if it carries him well across the crease. Luckily for Sogaard, he wields a massive, rapier-like pad to cover the lower half in the event he overcommits. His initial-save recovery also is swift, although he might lose the net more than he'd probably like to. Sogaard's size helps him cover gaps he may not know exist, and he can track movement above crease traffic rather than fighting around bodies. He likes to stay hunched and low to the ground when challenging shooters, usually from inside the blue paint, thus revealing the sizeable five-hole. Sogaard's reads, anticipation, stick positioning and pad quickness all combine to plug that gap immediately either going cross-crease or facing a chance in close. He doesn't seem to have a preference in pad, arm or stick positioning when in the VH or RVH, nor do his pads stay perpendicular for long. Sogaard likes to stay on his feet and remain active in the crease, plus he's comfortable handling the puck behind the net for clean handovers after dump-ins.</p>				

93	Aku Raty	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Karpat U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
52gp-19g-26a-45pts   6'0, 170   7/5/01   Shoots Right   Oulu, Finland				
<p>A jersey-flapping winger with a deadly shot off the rush, Raty plays the game at a feverish pace and displays strong balance and lateral quickness when zipping through the neutral zone. He is a confident puck controller who plays with the intent to do more than just shoot pucks, which is the strongest part of his game. Raty, who plays and excels on both the power play and the penalty kill, is aware of his surroundings and is able to see plays unfolding before they happen. He will battle hard along the boards, fight for positioning in front of the net and apply intense pressure on the forecheck. Always willing to pay a high price for getting the puck to where he wants, Raty always seems to be maxing out his intensity in any of the three zones by keeping his feet moving and cutting back or pivoting to buy more time and space. He possesses strong edges and can take quick-footed defenders wide before gear changing into an explosion towards the goal.</p> <p>Raty can serve as the primary playmaker on his line and seems to develop instant chemistry with linemates new or old. Playing with his younger brother Aatu – a prized 2021 draft prospect – gave opponents fits, as the duo was consistent in the way they read plays in the defensive zone and turning harmless possession changes into instant counterattacks with speed the other way.</p>				

94	Nikola Pasic	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Linkoping J20	Superelit
33gp-18g-18a-36pts   5'10, 187   10/16/00   Shoots Left   Gislaved, Sweden				
<p>A clutch performer and quick skater who plays the game at a dizzying pace, Pasic placed second in scoring (30 points in 32 games) in the J20 Superelit's Southern Division in the regular season but had the highest points-per-game average (1.36). He is an aggressive two-way winger with outstanding balance who causes havoc on the forecheck and manages to stay on his feet while battling against bigger players. He is versatile in the offensive zone for a variety of reasons, beginning with his ability to force turnovers and quickly turn them into scoring chances. Pasic has a tricky yet highly-accurate shot like he likes to use often, mostly in the form of wristers from anywhere between the circles. He doesn't generate a ton of velocity on his shots, but his quick release and ability to get them through screens makes it difficult for goalies to track and control rebounds. Pasic is not a creative set-up man from a playmaking standpoint, but his feeds close to the goal and cross-ice passes off the cycle or on the power play are both timely and generally accurate. An underrated aspect of his game is the ability to finish from in close and out-wait a goalie before making his final move.</p> <p>Pasic, who spent most of his season on the top line with fellow-2019 draft prospect Arvid Costmar, is very dependable in his own end and will support below the goal line if necessary. He plays with his head on a swivel and tries his best to maintain his positioning unless a high-danger chance is materializing. Pasic also likes to pressure the points during even strength and on the penalty kill, and he times his stick checks and shot blocks without leaving himself susceptible to a fake and burst towards the net. He isn't the biggest player on the ice, but Pasic will throw his weight around, finish his checks and battle hard in the corners.</p>				

<b>95</b>	<b>Case McCarthy</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	U.S. U18	NTDP

**62gp-5g-24a-29pts | 6'1, 198 | 1/9/01 | Shoots Right | Clarence Ctr., NY | NCAA: Boston Univ.**

A thick, big-bodied blue liner who can crank it from the point, McCarthy has made the most of his limited minutes as a bottom-pairing defender on a stacked NTDP squad. He loves to shoot the puck, so using him on the power play is a legitimate option. But he also understands the importance of keeping his puck controlling to a minimum and deferring to his playmakers. Committed to Boston University, McCarthy maintains a tight gap and is a punishing body checker capable of delivering thunderous hits; plus possesses powerful leg drive to throw hip checks that knock down forwards of any size. He doesn't do it often, but McCarthy is competent at taking the puck with speed through center, and he relies on the smart or safer plays rather than force things. He is a strong, powerful skater with first-step quickness, and his agility and quick feet make him asset on the penalty kill. McCarthy deserves a lot of credit for staying within himself while playing alongside elite set-up men, but there's a sense that he's more than capable of doing more with the puck if the situation changed.

<b>96</b>	<b>Jordan Spence</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Moncton	QMJHL

**68gp-6g-43a-49pts | 5'10, 164 | 2/24/01 | Shoots Right | Cornwall, PEI**

A swift offensive defenseman who produced an impressive season in Moncton to earn a key role on Team Canada's under-18 squad at the world championships. Spence is a gifted puck distributor who makes sound decisions, which is important when you consider how aggressive he is and the amount of time he spends inside the offensive zone. Spence is one of the better draft eligibles at timely pinches as low as the opposing goal line, and he also releases to the slot if he senses his point position is covered for. Taking risks are part of what make Spence an enjoyable prospect to watch, and he should never be considered irresponsible or one who makes haphazard decisions to save his tail. Spence is the perfect power-play quarterback because of his wheels, lateral quickness, pass accuracy and hard, low shot. He collected a lot of points via rebounds from his point shots, and he'll even drop down for a puck battle to collect the puck and retreat to the point and reorganize.

<b>97</b>	<b>Hugo Alnefelt</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	HV71 J20	Superelit

**24gp, 2.59 GAA, .905 SVPCT | 6'2, 177 | 6/4/01 | Catches Left | Danderyd, Sweden**

Atypical Swedish butterfly netminder with ideal size and quickness, Alnefelt was Sweden's No. 1 for the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and world championship tournaments, where he led them to a silver and gold medal, respectively, including his 35-save performance in the U18 title game against Russia. He also put on a strong performance at the 2018 Junior Club World Cup in Russia, where he carried HV71's undermanned U20 squad to the title match against host Lokomotiv.

Alnefelt has good length and seems comfortable in an upright stance. He is not an aggressive goalie, as he spends most of his time inside the blue paint and rarely challenges shooters above it. The only downside is he is susceptible to getting beat with deflections, because his overall ability to block most of the net is a testament to his sound positioning and net awareness. Additionally, Alnefelt plays with confidence, appearing more as the one who influences shooters to change their angle rather than the other way around. Alnefelt's lateral quickness is advanced, even if he opts for smaller steps rather than one big push. This prevents him from overcommitting and keeps him on his feet. If necessary, Alnefelt gets that near-post pad flush with the ice to blanket the lower half. He doesn't use the RVH often, but he also isn't necessarily married to the VH for post-side coverage. His rebound control is above-average, but his control of the blocker and ability to turn pucks into the corner without an exposing the six-hole is as good as it gets for a teenage netminder. He also isn't much of a puck handler and rarely goes behind the net to assist with dump-ins.

98	Judd Caulfield	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	U.S. U18	NTDP
64gp-12g-24a-36pts   6'3, 207   3/19/01   Shoots Right   Grand Forks, ND   NCAA: No. Dakota				
<p>One of the more underrated forwards available, the NTDP's other "Caulfield" (no relation to Cole Caulfield) is a mean, physical winger blessed with soft hands, deft vision and the willingness to pay the price against any competition. He's spent a significant amount of time on the top six to start the season but later became a fixture on the bottom six; specifically, on a line with fellow masher John Beecher. Caulfield obviously is versatile, plus he's an excellent penalty killer and a net-front presence on the power play. He is an average skater speed-wise, but his balance is excellent and he can use lateral quickness to rapidly change direction on the rush. Caulfield also can look smooth in transition and fools defenders with a variety of tricks, fakes and dangles. Where he makes most of his money is inside the offensive zone, where he uses his thick frame and strong leg drive to protect the puck for lengthy periods. Both he and Beecher proved to be an excellent top penalty-killing unit for Team USA, and they consistently created offense while shorthanded. Built for the North American game, Caulfield wears out defenders during cycle and board play</p>				

99	Michael Gildon	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	U.S. U18	NTDP
61gp-18g-27a-45pts   6'2, 195   6/21/01   Shoots Left   Plano, TX   NCAA: Ohio St.				
<p>Gildon is a big-bodied goal scorer with soft hands who played well enough to earn a significant amount of time on the NTDP's lethal power play and a top-six slot alongside either Jack Hughes or Alex Turcotte. After a slow start, Michael, whose brother Max was himself part of the NTDP and Florida's third-round pick in 2017, developed the reputation of a reliable finisher, scoring 17 of his 18 goals in a 38-game span. He has an excellent shot-release combination, but most important was his ability to understand the styles and tendencies of the various elite playmaking centers he flanked. Gildon understood his role as a low-slot presence, and most of his goals and high-danger chances were from slipping away from coverage for an attempt on net. He's a very accurate shooter who forces goalies into making a tougher save than just firing into the crease. Gildon will battle hard for net-front territory and can handle the biggest of crease-clearing defenders, but he also knows when to release to support a battle or keep a play alive.</p> <p>Gildon is a well-balanced skater with average speed for a power winger. Rather than blow past someone, Gildon relies on power and gear-shifting to stickhandle his way around the ice, albeit without acting as the primary puck possessor on a given shift. One aspect of his game that comes in handy is the ability to make plays on his backhand, and not only in the offensive zone. His playmaking and passing are underrated, as Gildon has very good vision to spot and connect with backdoor or slot options. He also spent time on the penalty kill and is responsible defensively.</p>				

100	David Karlstrom	Pos.	Team	League
		C	AIK J20	Superelit
41gp-9g-11a-20pts   6'1, 187   3/12/01   Shoots Left   Stockholm, Sweden				
<p>Karlstrom is an energetic two-way center who provides maximum effort every shift. He isn't blessed with impressive puck skills, but he makes up for it by competing and thinking at the same time. Karlstrom likes to get involved on the forecheck, not just by applying pressure but by finishing his checks and slowing down breakouts with proper neutral-zone positioning. He can provide a spark when momentum starts to swing the other way, but mostly from playing aggressive and assertive as opposed to expanding the ice and creating chances.</p> <p>Karlstrom has very good speed and is always around the puck. He has quickness in all directions, especially moving laterally when faced with a defenseman standing up at the line. Although his puck skills outside of his hard, accurate wrister are average across the board, he is noticeable most shifts because he's the first forward in and the first forward back. Karlstrom has a clear understanding of his job as a center, especially in the defensive zone. He will not only look to cover the slot, but also deliver a few friendly jabs at any opponent trying to establish positioning. He's a dependable checker, faceoff man and penalty killer, but he needs to showcase more skill with the puck to be considered a well-rounded prospect. Playing alongside a skilled winger like Carl Wassenius was Karlstrom's most productive period of the season.</p>				

101	Arvid Costmar	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Likoping J20	Superelit
44gp-13g-25a-38pts   5'11, 180   7/7/01   Shoots Right   Stockholm, Sweden				
<p>Costmar is a tenacious two-way center who plays with an incredible compete level, but he's also a creative playmaker who can turn a seemingly harmless possession into opportunities to score. He served as Linkoping's top-line or second-line center for the entire season, to include roles on the lead power play and penalty-killing units. Costmar has been a mainstay for Team Sweden at the international level, where he delivered 200-foot play and saw significant time alongside his team's other go-to players. A noticeable aspect about Costmar's game is his effort. He is a relentless, physical forechecker with an active stick who continues to apply both front and back pressure. The fact that he logs a lot of ice time and excels throughout critical levels of responsibility pays tribute to his endurance, recovery time and reputation as a versatile forward.</p> <p>Costmar is a good skater with an average first step. He has a strong lower body that helps in the balance department, and he is quite slippery and agile as he carries the puck through center either rapidly or methodically. Costmar gains the zone with confidence and delays when appropriate, and he is a threat to connect on the tape with a cross-ice cutter or trailer. His numbers may resemble those of a pass-first type, but Costmar will shoot the puck from just about anywhere, even if his shot power is average. You can also count on him to take and win key faceoffs, as he was one of the best in the league this past season.</p>				

102	Hunter Jones	Pos.	Team	League
		G	Peterborough	OHL
28-24-4, 3.31 GAA, .902 SV%   6'4, 197   9/21/00   Catches Left   Brantford, ON				
<p>A big, athletic butterfly netminder, Jones had an excellent first half before succumbing to the pressure of having a porous defense before him. He saw a ton of rubber in his first full year in the league, placing third in shots faced and posting a 10-7-3 record in games where he saw 35 or more. Jones has outstanding reflexes and reacts quickly to cover the far corners, and his razor-sharp focus helps him not only track pucks, but also anticipate weak-side threats. His stick positioning, coverage and technique in the VH for such a young goalie at times looks textbook, but later in the year he showed a tendency to crouch lower and expose a sizeable chunk of the near-post corner, especially during Peterborough's quick first-round exit in the OHL playoffs. Still, you can count on Jones to stop the significant majority of shots he sees – if he gets beat from the circles, it usually takes the best shot a shooter can make. Knowing he's going to get pelted on a nightly basis keeps him sharp from whistle to whistle, and his cat-like quickness makes his post-save recovery look as sharp as his initial set. Jones rarely ventures outside the crease to challenge shooters and does not use poke checks once pucks are within arm's length. His rebound control for medium-danger shots is excellent, and he usually keeps rebounds from high-danger chances within stick reach.</p>				

103	Premysyl Svoboda	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Litvinov U20	ELJ
32gp-22g-33a-55pts   5'11, 163   11/27/00   Shoots Left   Litomerice, Czech Rep.				
<p>Litvinov's top scorer on one of the ELJ's offensive juggernauts, Svoboda is a multi-threat winger who dominates the puck while attracting attention from everyone on the ice. Svoboda was promoted to both tiers above junior hockey, producing a combined six goals and six assist in 19 games between the adult-age Chance Liga and elite Extraliga. It's expected that most rookies will hustle and put forth the extra effort when they play alongside grown men, but Svoboda's effort on the ice was consistent throughout all three leagues. He has phenomenal hands that put him in the top bracket of draft eligibles, and he is an absolute assassin off the rush. He's a good skater with a smooth, effortless stride, but his turning, agility and lateral quickness with the puck glued to his blade is what allows him to break into open ice and dictate the tempo on his terms. Svoboda is an excellent stickhandler and can weave or bull past varying types of coverage, and his strength on the puck is evident when he gets his legs going as he drives towards the net, especially on the backhand.</p> <p>Svoboda is a power-play specialist who controls the flow of a possession from the half wall. He is a tape-to-tape passer from his backhand or forehand, and from all distances as well. His playmaking is predicated on acute vision, sharp awareness and confidence in delivering the puck. Compounding matters for opponents is his shot, especially off the pass. Svoboda from the dots to the hash marks is as money as you can get, but he'll also dangle or deke his way closer to the goal and roof home a backhander. More of a gentlemanly player than a bruiser, you can see why Svoboda was playing anywhere from 18-20 minutes a night in an elite league – he's an exciting offensive force who could sneak into the second round.</p>				

104	Trevor Janicke	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Central Illinois	USHL
58gp-22g-26a-48pts   5'10, 193   12/25/00   Shoots Right   Maple Grove, MN   NCAA: Notre Dame				
<p>A former NTDP'er with IIHF experience, Janicke is a mature on-ice leader with versatility who gives it his all on every shift. He's a physical, two-way center who hustles from whistle to whistle, but knows what to do with the puck off the rush or in tight spaces near the goal. Janicke has very good straight-line speed and excellent balance, and he is tough to knock off the puck as he stickhandles through traffic. Janicke, a late-2000 birthdate who serves as team captain, creates chances off the turnovers he forces with a relentless forecheck, and he'll hammer his man into the boards cleanly. His upside is likely that of a physical, two-way center who can play on both the power play and penalty kill, plus be a fireman for his coach in critical situations. He's committed to Notre Dame.</p>				

105	Jami Krannila	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Sioux Falls	USHL
60gp-17g-28a-45pts   5'10, 161   10/3/00   Shoots Left   Pori, Finland   NCAA: St. Cloud St.				
<p>A speedy forward with smarts who can play both center and wing, Krannila was a first-year Finnish import in the USHL, and he turned out to be a top-six contributor to a Sioux Falls team that went on to win the Clark Cup. Krannila is a hard worker who doesn't only rely on his speed and finesse to impact his shifts. He plays with a high compete level and will get aggressive on the forecheck.</p> <p>Krannila can be a dangerous weapon to deploy in the offensive zone. He consistently follows the puck and knows how to distance himself when necessary. Far too often, Krannila was able to slip into soft spots undetected before finishing off a play or creating a better scoring opportunity for his linemates. His soft hands are noticeable the way he receives passes, and he can make one-touch plays to the weak side or to the points. These are just some of the ways he has developed into an asset on the power play, where he likes to set up along the half wall when he isn't moving without the puck. His zone entries are generally clean when he takes it upon himself, but Krannila makes smart plays in the neutral zone to trap opponents high and spring his linemates for an unmolested break-in.</p>				

106	Dustin Wolf	Pos.	Team	League
		G	Everett	WHL
61gp, 41-15-4, 1.69 GAA, .936 SVPCT   6'0, 156   4/16/01   Catches Left   Tustin, CA				
<p>Wolf had big shoes to fill in Everett after assuming No. 1 duties from Carter Hart at the beginning of last season, and the native Californian made the transition seamless. Of course, it helped having the Silvertips' tight-checking style before him, but Wolf proved he is anything but a system goalie. In addition to being named the CHL's Scholastic Player of the Year, Wolf tied or led the WHL in games played (61), goals-against average (1.65), save percentage (.936), and wins (41). With all due respect to Prince Albert's Ian Scott, Wolf did not have the benefit of an offense scoring an average of five goals a game, which played a role in Scott beating him out for the WHL's Goalie of the Year Award. To put some context into his season, Wolf surrendered four goals or more in only six of his 61 appearance but faced less than 30 shots in 48 starts.</p> <p>The most noticeable aspect of Wolf's game is his calmness. His paddle and blocker consistently steer high-danger chances into the corner and facing a shooter in a danger area with an open lane keeps him deep in the crease and low to the ground. Staying crouched in the butterfly exposes sizable chunks of the upper half, but in the end, it's all part of a deception scheme, as Wolf's glove-hand quickness is rapier like. This tactic makes shooters alter their approach as the game progresses and attempts aimed at the lower half begin to pile up, albeit unsuccessfully. Wolf never loses the net, and his VH positioning with his skate and toe over the goal line works best for him. Unfortunately, there's also so much post for a 6'0 goalie to cover, and he is susceptible to getting beat over the shoulder from below the circles. Wolf's puck handling is above average, and he is willing to leave the net to attempt stretch passes, especially on the power play.</p>				

107	Rhett Pitlick	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Omaha	USHL
7gp-1g-4a-5pts   5'9, 160   2/7/01   Shoots Left   Coral Springs, FL   NCAA: Minnesota				
<p>An electrifying puck magician who handles the responsibility of providing pure offense with confidence and maturity, Pitlick split his draft season between Chaska High School in one of Minnesota's lower divisions and the USHL's Omaha Lancers. Small in stature but big in speed and playmaking, Pitlick is an explosive skater who simply dominated lesser competition but also held his own in his brief stint with the Lancers. He'll never be confused with an aggressive or demonstrative player, but Pitlick picks his spots incredibly well and attacks openings as well as any draft eligible outside of the elite prospects in his year group. His stick handling in traffic definitely is a strong suit, as he can travel at top speed, change direction and still maintain full control of the puck.</p> <p>Pitlick is not a physical player. He stays on the periphery during puck battles and can easily be knocked off his skates if he doesn't see pressure coming. He relies on his footwork and anticipation to duck under or juke past an incoming hit. Still, he tends to develop good chemistry with his line mates and defense pairings</p>				

<b>108</b>	<b>Amir Garayev</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Kapitan Stupino	MHL
64gp-25g-34a-59pts   5'11, 166   1/9/01   Shoots Left   Russia				
<p>One of the top shooters among his draft peers, Garayev was a leading scorer for Kapitan Stupino and provided far more than being just a scorer. Although he played center for most of the season, Garayev is capable of moonlighting as a sniper on the wing, mostly because of his elite shot but also for his ability to attack down the wing with speed. Naturally, a player that puts up points as a first-year eligible is known for his offense. But Garayev does subtle things without the puck that reveal not only his versatility in other areas, but also his hockey sense. Garayev is quite aware of his positioning inside the defensive zone and keeps his head up, looking for passes to pick off and head the other way with speed. He slips into gaps in coverage and even works his way into the low slot to tie up an opposing forward at the backdoor.</p> <p>Now onto the good stuff. Garayev owns a phenomenal shot-release combination. He can label a shot from anywhere in the offensive zone, to include the tops of the circles. Garayev also is the focal point of set plays off the faceoff, and the puck has already ricocheted off the twine and out by the time the goalie realizes he's been beaten. Compounding matters for opponents is Garayev's vision and playmaking. He's able to alter his touch on a variety of passes and can time his feeds to perfection, even while stickhandling through a maze or pulling away in open ice. Garayev makes slap passes look easy, and his quick-strike mentality during a seemingly harmless board battle or scrum behind the net instantly becomes a high-danger scoring chance. Although he's slight of frame, Garayev is strong on his skates and can power through checks at the blue line.</p>				

<b>109</b>	<b>Artemi Knyazev</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Chicoutimi	QMJHL
55gp-13g-21a-34pts   5'11, 178   1/4/01   Shoots Left   Kazan, Russia				
<p>A high-flying defenseman with a powerful stride, Knyazev is a skilled puck mover who had an impressive first year as a European import playing in the QMJHL. He ranked third among first-year blueliners with 13 goals and 21 assists in 55 games, in addition to playing for Russia at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and under-20 World Jr. A Challenge. His play in major junior, however, was far more indicative of his natural skill set than what you saw in international events, as he was a key figure in running Chicoutimi's offense as opposed to his support role for Russia.</p> <p>Knyazev is an excellent skater with noticeable agility and lateral quickness. He owns an explosive first step and covers ground in a hurry. It only takes him a few strides to go from the neutral zone right into the thick of things near the net, and his involvement in so many plays expands the ice for his teammates. Knyazev loves to join the rush if he isn't initiating one himself, and he can blister the puck as a trailer cruising into the high slot. He definitely is more of a shooter than a playmaker, but Knyazev's vision, pass accuracy and hands are strong enough to make him the ideal option to run a power play. He's no stopper on defense and makes up for his physical shortcomings with a quick stick and reading plays correctly.</p>				

<b>110</b>	<b>Ryan Siedem</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Central Illinois	USHL
<b>60gp-4g-32a-36pts   6'2, 191   2/25/01   Shoots Right   Summit, NJ   NCAA: Boston Coll.</b>				
<p>A clean, no-nonsense two-way defender who plays cool as a cucumber and distributes the puck efficiently. Siedem, a Boston College recruit, also played for the NTDP and you can tell – he is highly intelligent and knows how to initiate breakouts with crisp, accurate stretch or bank passes, especially when catching opponents in a line change. Siedem is a highly-disciplined rearguard who plays the right side and maintains a tight gap while exhibiting quick, timely stick checks. He's not a ferocious hitter, but Siedem does not shy away from physical play and will battle his man for positioning in the low slot. Siedem is an option for both the power play and penalty kill, but he's more of a distributor with an occasional low, hard shot from the point. He is a fluid skater in all directions and displays quick closing speed when timing hip checks along the way.</p>				

<b>111</b>	<b>Lukas Parik</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	Liberec U20	ELJ
<b>32gp, 15-17-0, 2.85 GAA, .917 SV%   6'4, 185   3/15/01   Catches Left   Neratovice, Czech Rep.</b>				
<p>One of the most active goalies in this draft class, Parik is an energetic butterfly-style netminder who served as the Czechs' primary starter for all but one of their major under-18 events. Outside of a few clunkers in international tournaments, Parik has an impressive pre-draft resume that includes split duty between Extraliga Juniors and the adult-age Chance Liga. He has shown the ability to handle a high-volume workload, even though the action near his crease always seems chaotic. Parik manages to control the madness, mostly by using quick reflexes and dedication towards maintaining total awareness of his net and the puck before (or behind) him. He'll put his share of rebounds right into the thick of things, but the key for Parik is actually stopping the puck, and you rarely see him out of position from falling asleep or guessing incorrectly.</p> <p>Another consideration for Parik's rebound control is his willingness to fight hard through screens while staying upright and covering the upper half with proper glove and blocker positioning. Parik uses the VH frequently, mostly because he stays on his pads once the puck moves below the circles. His reads during odd-man rushes are generally sound, and it's the only situation when he will venture well beyond the top of the crease to play the shot from either circle. Parik also is an excellent stickhandler who is confident with the puck and is good for a stretch pass or two per game.</p>				

112	Martin Hugo Has	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Tappara U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
37gp-9g-7a-16pts   6'4, 192   2/2/01   Shoots Left   Prague, Czech Republic				
<p>A prototypical two-way defenseman, Has is a big-bodied puck mover who skates very well for his size and pivots with ease. He possesses sharp instincts and has a high success rate with his decisions both with and without the puck. Has is very capable handling the puck and can move it around with precision and authority. He spent most of the season on the top pairing for the Czech Republic at multiple tournaments, including a dominant performance at the under-18 Five Nations in late December. Has can be a one-man breakout and even take the puck the length of the ice, using a series of stutter-steps and gear changing to buy himself the room he needs to take it strong to the net.</p> <p>Has is a very sound positional defender. Although he isn't overly physical or an intimidating presence, Has patrols the high-danger scoring areas with diligence and discipline, rarely roaming from his slot duties and preventing unchallenged walk-outs from behind the net. He uses a long stick and can impact plays near the goal with his reach but Has also owns quick feet to retreat back in the event he feels he overcommitted. Once he collects the puck, Has seems to execute textbook breakouts with patience and accuracy, specifically the wheel and the reverse. He rarely puts his partner or forwards in a compromising position, and will uses jukes to get up to the red line for a safe dump-in. Has is not very creative with the puck but he does own an excellent shot. He uses toe drags and delays to open up a lane, and he can wire shots labeled for the top corners.</p>				

113	Alexei Tsyplakov	Pos.	Team	League
		C	SKA-1946	MHL
52gp-18g-16a-34pts   6'2, 176   1/25/01   Shoots Left   St. Petersburg, Russia				
<p>A sturdy two-way center who hunts down pucks with a strong desire to succeed. Tsyplakov easily is one of the draft's top defensive forwards, and for several reasons. To start, he is excellent on faceoffs, winning close to 55 percent (444-for-808). He plays on top penalty-killing unit and is frequently summoned to take (and win) critical defensive-zone draws. Furthermore, Tsyplakov consistently covers gaps in coverage and is the first forward back in his zone. He applies pressure without overcommitting himself, and quite often you'll find Tsyplakov winning puck battles close to his goal. He has quick feet and plays with his head locked in on opposing defenseman, who are forced into turnovers by his forechecking, proper stick positioning and reads.</p> <p>Tsyplakov has very soft hands and is an elusive stickhandler. He is comfortable making controlled turns, pivots or cutbacks while skirting the wall, all conducted with his head up in search of an option in the slot area. The way he executes weaves and cycles helps his linemates slip away from coverage, as Tsyplakov's puck control tends to attract a double or triple team. He isn't much of a shooter and likes to distribute the puck more than taking low-percentage shots, but that has more to do with the amount of time he spends battling along the wall. While his straight-line speed is very good, Tsyplakov is an East-West kind of player who relies on his agility, smarts and puck protection to shift possession into the opposing end.</p>				

<b>114</b>	<b>Isaiah Saville</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	Tri-City	USHL
34gp, 25-4-3, 1.90 GAA, .925 SVPCT   6'1, 193   9/21/00   Catches Right   Anchorage, AK				
<p>The USHL's Goalie of the Year and the very reason Team USA won gold at the World Jr. "A" Challenge, Saville is a poised netminder committed to the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Far too often, Saville was a young man on an island, yet time and again he stood tall in the face of relentless pressure to backstop his team to victory. Saville is on par with Spencer Knight and Dustin Wolf in terms of consistency in technique and poise – he simply never gets rattled no matter how intense or chaotic the situation is to his immediate front. Although he has size and length, Saville is a butterfly goalie who likes to keep low to the ground and as deep in the crease as often as possible.</p> <p>Saville's footwork is phenomenal, beyond the typical post-to-post quickness. He stays on the balls of his feet and pushes/stops with the proper foot, and he combines multiple sharp movements without giving away positioning or structure. Saville on occasion will explode from inside his net to the top of the crease to challenge a high-danger shot attempt. His head-on-puck remains consistent with or without close-quarter screens, and you can see Saville fight feverishly to stay locked in on shooters. This prevents falling for slap or pump fakes, and you rarely see him overcommitting or guessing wrong. Saville favors the RVH with an insignificant gap between his helmet and the post. He simply doesn't get beaten with low-percentage shots and frequently uses his stick to break up centering feeds.</p>				

<b>115</b>	<b>Graeme Clarke</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Ottawa	OHL
55gp-23g-11a-34pts   5'11, 175   3/24/01   Shoots Right   Ottawa, ON				
<p>An energetic winger with a high compete level, Clarke is a sound decision maker who plays unselfish hockey and does anything he's asked to do in any situation. He possess a deadly wrist shot and looks to hammer a slapper off the pass on the power play, but he also takes direct routes to the net and can finish in a variety of ways. Clarke has good straight-line quickness and average balance for a smaller winger, but he displays a quick first step, excellent footwork and tight-quarter agility, and his sound instincts help him react accordingly to sudden changes in puck travel. He's a smart route taker on the forecheck, and he repeatedly interdicts opposing defensemen who attempt to skirt the wall on breakouts. He comes across as more of a goal scorer than a playmaker, but he's excellent off the cycle and he'll fight for the puck along the boards to make plays towards the slot on his backhand. Clarke makes high-percentage plays and rarely forces pucks into a mass of sticks or bodies, and he'll eat the puck when there isn't an option safe enough to pass to. Although he missed a significant amount of time after separating his shoulder in mid-November, Clarke played well enough to earn a spot on Ottawa's top line in the OHL playoffs.</p>				

<b>116</b>	<b>Alex Campbell</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Victoria	BCHL
53gp-21g-46a-67pts   5'10, 151   2/27/01   Shoots Left   Chateauguay, QC   NCAA: Clarkson				
<p>Skilled, dual-threat winger who was a critical component to Victoria's lethal top line centered by premiere draft hopeful Alex Newhook. Campbell, a Clarkson University recruit, is incredibly slick and shifty with or without the puck on his stick, and he's nearly as dangerous and intimidating in open ice as his aforementioned teammate. His skating is a strength, not only for his straight-line speed and quick first step, but also for his rapid directional changes, lateral quickness and edges as he moves around bigger opponents. Campbell needs to fill out more, which should improve his balance and ability to power through checks. Still, he's so slippery and elusive that being a twig doesn't prevent him from attacking inside and going to the net with courage. Campbell has excellent vision and will spot the one player everyone forgot about, and his decision making and execution on odd-man rushes is advanced for a teenager. He isn't very physical and usually loses his territory battles, and you won't see him make key defensive plays in big moments. But his puck skills are excellent, and he has the potential to put up big numbers in college, even in a tight-checking circuit like the ECAC.</p>				

<b>117</b>	<b>Juuso Parssinen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	TPS U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
36gp-13g-9a-20pts   6'2, 203   2/1/01   Shoots Left   Hameenlinna, Finland				
<p>Parssinen is a big-bodied, two-way center with skill who was a mainstay for Team Finland in between serving as TPS U20's second-line center. Parssinen also earned a seven-game callup to the parent club, where he scored his first SM-Liiga goal. Parssinen is not your typical 200-foot center with size because he skates well and has the agility necessary to stickhandle and weave his way around traffic rather than always trying to blow right past it. He owns a long, powerful stride, and he looks graceful as he glides up the ice at top speed. Parssinen is a very good stickhandler who stays under control while moving in any direction. He is as fast down the wing as he is in the middle of the ice, and an unassuming defender will get dangled if he doesn't play the body. Parssinen is very patient with the puck and isn't married to the chip-and-chase game, especially on zone entries. If he doesn't see a pass option he likes, he changes gears and will take the puck strong to the net. He is a very good checker; one who can smother an opposing top center in addition to winning most of the key defensive-zone draws late in games. Parssinen also is an excellent penalty killer who presses the points and covers gaps in the danger areas when his defensemen release from the slot. When he's at the top of his game, Parssinen looks like a prospect with legitimate top-six upside.</p>				

118	Adam Najman	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Benatky	Chance Liga
40gp-3g-7a-10pts   5'11, 176   1/7/01   Shoots Left   Jihlava, Czech Rep.				
<p>Reliable two-way puck hound with impressive puck skills who was a top-six forward for the Czech Republic in most of their under-18 international tournaments. Najman plays with a lot of energy and provides his coaches with multiple options for employment. He is a deft stickhandler and precision passer who confidently carries the puck through center before entering the zone with his head up. His zone entries vary from deliberate to quick, but in either scenario, Najman is always looking to create a scoring chance rather than blindly dump the puck into the corner.</p> <p>Najman scores goals in a variety of ways, mainly because he can rotate between center and wing. He can establish a foothold in the crease for screens and deflections, but his shot and release are dangerous enough for him to be respected as he slips into scoring areas with the hammer cocked. Najman is unpredictable once he gets the puck below the hash marks because he is willing to take a hit or two in order to deke the goalie out of position. Najman's quick hands, pillow-soft touch and poised stickhandling created several easy tap-ins when most players would release a shot the second they received the pass. His overall skating is solid, mostly from his balance, agility, strong edges and change of pace. His straight-line speed is above average, and he can be a breakaway threat because of the pressure he applies towards the opposing points.</p>				

119	Colten Ellis	Pos.	Team	League
		G	Rimouski	QMJHL
46gp, 27-15-0, 2.47 GAA, .910 SVPCT   6'1, 182   10/5/00   Catches Left   Whycomomagh, NS				
<p>One of the QMJHL's more successful goalies, Ellis was the critical piece in Rimouski's stingy defenses. Mature and eager to improve, Ellis plays calm and poised in the crease. He is one of the more technically-sound butterfly goalies produced by the QMJHL in recent years, mostly because he mostly has a strong idea where the net is no matter the situation. In times of obvious desperation, Ellis remains in control and ensures every gap is plugged, even on second-chance attempts from in close. He too spends most of his matches inside the crease, with his fade back into the blue paint methodical.</p> <p>Ellis uses the VH for play below the circles, but he should use the RVH more often since he looks to have mastered it the few times he uses it. Ellis has excellent rebound control, specifically when facing high-danger shots towards the upper half from straight away. This is part of his solid anticipation skills, confidence in his glove and blocker hands, and a willingness to prepare before games – if he gets beaten high early, he rarely gets beaten a second time.</p>				

<b>120</b>	<b>Jayden Struble</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	St. Sebastian's	HS-MA
<b>28gp-10g-30a-40pts   6'0, 194   9/8/01   Shoots Left   Cumberland, RI   NCAA: Northeastern</b>				
<p>An athletic blueliner with excellent mobility and leadership traits, Struble is one of the top draft-eligible defenseman in U.S. prep hockey. A Northeastern University recruit who next season will play with the BCHL's Victoria Grizzlies, Struble combines power and skill into a hard-hitting package. His play with or without the puck is done going full throttle, and he can victimize opponents in several ways. For starters, Struble is a punishing open-ice hitter and relentless competitor. His aggressiveness and dedication to his level of responsibility keeps him on the ice for long stretches without degrading his compete level or ability to impact plays at the end of a shift.</p> <p>Struble is capable of running a power play for several reasons. He always keeps his feet moving and has soft hands to corral passes on either side of his blade. His backhand-to-forehand transition is very quick which helps him get into shooting position quickly when he darts into the high slot. Struble moves the puck with authority like a lot of two-way defensemen, but his passes are hard, loud and right on the tape. Defensively, Struble uses his active stick, physicality and quickness to win the majority of his puck battles. He struggles with slot positioning and anticipation during odd-man rushes, and his gap could be a little tighter.</p>				

<b>121</b>	<b>Max Wahlgren</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	MODO J20	Superelit
<b>42gp-18g-20a-38pts   6'1, 184   5/9/01   Shoots Left   Kramfors, Sweden</b>				
<p>A high-energy power winger with speed and physicality, Wahlgren was a bottom-six forward for Sweden at most of the under-18 events but was a clear possession driver as a top-nine forward for MODO J20. Wahlgren is always involved along the boards, and when he's protecting the puck, he effectively uses his body as barrier while maintaining a wide base to keep him from getting shoved off balance. He likes to forecheck with aggressiveness and finish his checks, but he rarely gets trapped because of his quickness and routes. Wahlgren can be very tough to play against, and he forced opponents into needless post-whistle penalties. There's a cockiness about him as he handles the puck, and his chip-and-chase game is calculated rather than an opportunity to lose the puck and avoid contact. Wahlgren is clean and controlled during the cycle, using a series of pivots and backhand plays that become scoring chances. He properly identifies when it's time to release and head for the net, and that is when the nightmare begins for defenders who try to outwork him.</p> <p>Shooting and stickhandling are Wahlgren's best assets when it comes to creating offense, with his speed complimenting both. His vision may be an under-utilized skill, as he makes accurate passes to wide-open teammates immediately after winning a puck battle along the wall or in the corner. Wahlgren also takes the puck strong to the net and can stay on his edges while under control for the duration of his journey to the prime scoring areas. Wahlgren can hammer the puck off the pass, but he can reach back and sling an accurate wrister in one motion rather than habitually wait to tee one up. He looked like a different player at international tournaments, but his Superelit season should be the real indicator of his potential at higher levels.</p>				

122	Aliaksei Protas	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Prince Albert	WHL
61gp-11g-29a-40pts   6'5, 205   1/6/01   Shoots Left   Vitebsk, Belarus				
<p>A lanky offensive-minded center whose role on a contending Prince Albert squad expanded as the season progressed, especially in the WHL playoffs, Protas earned his way to centering star winger Brett Leason on the Raiders' second line and top power-play unit. A deft stickhandler with excellent vision, Protas is a quick-strike playmaker who uses his body effectively to shield the puck before threading the needle for a chance near the net. He owns a hard shot with a quick release, and although he favors the pass more than the expected shot, Protas can fire pucks in one motion neatly under the bar. His passing abilities go beyond dishing it to the obvious choice – Protas can identify multiple options and will delay or shoulder fake before timing his set-up perfectly.</p> <p>Protas has very good hand-eye coordination and goes skate-to-stick in transition effortlessly. He uses a wide, choppy stride and average speed to move up the ice, but he's more of an East-West weaver than a North-South skater. Protas isn't reliable in the defensive zone from a coverage standpoint, but he will battle along the boards and use his long reach and stick to pry pucks loose.</p>				

123	Henry Thrun	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP
64gp-8g-29a-37pts   6'2, 190   3/12/01   Shoots Left   Southborough, MA   NCAA: Harvard				
<p>A reliable two-way puck mover, Thrun checks a lot of boxes when it comes to identifying mature, poised defenders with legitimate NHL upside. The size and mobility usually make the choice a lot easier, but Thrun is a thinking-man's defenseman who impacts the game with timely, critical plays. For starters, he's an excellent breakout passer, capable of splitting the neutral zone with tape-to-tape passes that catch forwards in stride. He's more of a passer than a fire-and-forget slinger but take into consideration that he plays with an incredibly talented, borderline historic group of NTDP forwards. Thrun, who is committed to Harvard, throws his weight around and is excellent at finishing his checks to the point of separation, and he fights with dedication for the smallest of spots in the low slot. He keeps a very tight gap with proper stick placement, and even the quickest of forwards get fixed into the corner boards.</p> <p>Thrun has average straight-line speed and first-step quickness. He does, however, like to initiate the breakout with his wheels, and he communicates with his partner on the occasions when he decides to rush pucks deep into the offensive zone. He isn't a high-volume shooter, but Thrun will unload a hard, low shot on net only if the conditions are standard. He has soft hands to handle cross-point passes with ease and can sling pucks on net in one motion. Thrun isn't the player you'll have quarterbacking the power play, but he is an effective late/close option who is positionally sound for crease clearing, especially on the penalty kill.</p>				

124	Braden Doyle	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Lawrence	HS-MA
28gp-5g-24a-29pts   5'11, 162   8/24/01   Shoots Left   Beverly, MA   NCAA: Boston Univ.				
<p>An aggressive puck-rushing defenseman who thrives in open ice and can initiate breakouts with relative ease. Doyle, who in September performed admirably at the 2019 USA Hockey Top Prospects Game, is a Boston University recruit who played briefly this season for the USHL Dubuque Fighting Saints. He made most of his money as Lawrence's top-pairing defender, however, and was one of prep hockey's most dangerous rearguards in terms of creating chances off the rush or inside the offensive zone. Doyle has excellent vision and is a tape-to-tape passer, capable of toe-dragging or walking the line to open up a lane. He is incredibly deceptive with the puck and can trap opponents headed in the wrong direction with subtle chip or bank passes. Doyle's footwork and agility are excellent, and he can remain calm and poised in retreat but also is capable of a sharp pivot and quick first step up ice. He plays with his head up and always is looking for the opportunity to create an odd-man rush or take the puck coast to coast. Doyle is a very good stickhandler who is comfortable being the focal point of the attack upon entering the zone and involve himself in the cycle, especially while quarterbacking the power play.</p> <p>Doyle is as average as it gets when it comes to the way he defends his own end. He does not play with intensity nor is he consistently physically, and his play without the puck seems more nonchalant than engaged. He's able to maintain a tight gap with an active stick in one-on-ones, but he relies far too much on reads and anticipation to break up plays rather than outwork an opponent or win a 50/50 battle. His decision making in his own end reveals mixed results, as he makes risky plays near his own net. Still, Doyle is a fantastic skater with offensive-zone flair who has the potential to put up a lot of points at higher levels.</p>				

125	Kim Nousiainen	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Kalpa U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
32gp-8g-20a-28pts   5'9 170   11/14/00   Shoots Left   Leppavirta, Finland				
<p>A quick skater with agility moving both laterally and backwards, Nousiainen is an undersized puck rusher who likes to involve himself on offense. He is a defenseman who likes to control the puck beyond his side of the ice, and his sharp directional changes once he crosses center can cause opponents to leave gaps in coverage. Nousiainen has very good vision and senses trailing support, and his back passes are well timed and done with risk minimized. Once he gets near or below the circles, Nousiainen can stickhandle out of trouble and delay without forcing passes that could trap him. He is very aggressive on his pinches yet trusts his quickness to catch up to an opposing counterattack. He is a sound decision-maker for most of the time and proved it against adult-age competition in both the Mestis and elite SM-Liiga.</p> <p>Nousiainen is a power-play quarterback who likes to shoot the puck, but one who usually waits for open lanes rather than fire it from anywhere. His quick feet allow him to walk the line and outpace his checker before a shooting lane closes. His shot power is average and his release is nondescript, but Nousiainen finds ways to get pucks through and understands the importance of screens. He is also an excellent passer from the point who uses a variety of set-ups to get the puck down near the goal area. Although he is far from physical, Nousiainen finds ways to collect loose pucks and quickly transition up ice. He didn't see much time on the PK outside of junior hockey, and he can be outworked physically in front of the net and in the corners.</p>				

<b>126</b>	<b>Cameron Rowe</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	U.S. U18	NTDP

**35gp, 3.40 GAA, .875 SVPCT | 6'2, 203 | 6/2/01 | Catches Left | Wilmette, IL | NCAA: No. Dakota**

A big-bodied goalie with the unenviable position of being a backup to one of the game's premier prospects, Rowe proved to be a worthy option to replace Spencer Knight as early as last year, when he led the then-U17 NTDP to a playoff series win over Chicago. His draft year has been a bit of a roller coaster but keep in mind that most of his lackluster performances were either against superior NCAA competition or matches with a significant amount of garbage time. The good news is that Rowe is still a pup and incredibly raw. He has the ideal size and maintains his focus after his initial save, plus does a good job of battling through screens; obviously aided by his length and ability to track over or around smaller bodies near his crease.

Rowe's butterfly technique shows consistencies, such as sealing up gaps in the blocking position, and denying as much room as possible in the reactive. Rowe looks good in the VH, covering as much as possible and tucking his toe and skate behind the near post. His tracking methods and hand-eye coordination are strong, as he follows the puck both into and out of his body with a keen eye for post-save dangers. Rowe, who is committed to North Dakota, is an aggressive puck handler with strong wrists who gambles quite often. He seems to struggle with the fine line between setting the puck up for a retreating defenseman and moving it up ice. This can cause confusion with handoffs, and several times Rowe's overhandling of the puck got him into trouble.

<b>127</b>	<b>Kalle Loponen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Hermes	Mestis

**30gp-4g-8a-12pts | 5'10, 186 | 3/13/01 | Shoots Right | Turku, Finland**

One of the quicker puck movers available in this draft, Loponen combines swift skating and a powerful shot to pose as a legitimate scoring threat any time he's in the offensive zone. The fact that Finland boasts a deep collection of draft-eligible blueliners may be the best explanation as to why he is used sparingly by at the handful of under-18 events he participated in. Still, he was a regular contributor for Hermes in the Mestis, and even earned one-game promotion to a contending Karpas squad in the elite SM-Liiga. Loponen is an excellent breakout option for several reasons. Not only can he jet past forecheckers in his own end, but Loponen is agile and shifty as he maintains control of the puck through neutral zone traffic. His decision making is relatively sound when faced with pressure, and he is strong enough to absorb a hit and maintain his balance while pushing the puck up ice. No stranger to physical play, Loponen stands up at the line and can deliver timely hits while finishing his checks with authority.

Loponen poses multiple problems for opposing penalty killers when he runs the point on the power play. He can initiate the breakout and enter the zone himself, but also knows how to distribute the puck with accuracy on either forehand or backhand. Opponents try to respect his shot, but he smartly identifies gaps and can fake his way into an opening closer to the goal. Loponen also is confident in his shot to fire it immediately after zone entries, and is a threat for backdoor tap-ins.

<b>128</b>	<b>Anthony Romano</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Sioux Falls	USHL
60gp-26g-21a-47pts   5'11, 174   10/7/00   Shoots Right   Toronto, ON   NCAA: Clarkson				
<p>A quick 200-foot center who plays the game at a feverish pace, Romano was a top-six forward and power-play mainstay for a deep Sioux Falls squad that won the Clark Cup. For his efforts in the regular season, the Clarkson recruit was named to the USHL's All-Rookie Second Team after proving to be one of the league's most exciting players. Romano is a crafty puck handler with very good speed and agility who can play a finesse style. He can, however, play up to standard in the trench wars, and he isn't shy about going to the net and creating havoc. He was used extensively on the power play and penalty kill, where Romano was effective using his quick feet and anticipation. He spent a lot of time centering equally-fast winger Ethan Phillips, and the duo created matchup nightmares for opponents. Romano plays an unselfish style and likes to incorporate all teammates into the attack, but he also has a nasty shot that he fires off with accuracy. He can also be used to take critical draws and holds his own against opposing top line.</p>				

<b>129</b>	<b>Taylor Gauthier</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	Prince George	WHL
55gp, 15-30-6, 3.25 GAA, .899 SVPCT   6'1, 195   2/15/01   Catches Right   Calgary, AB				
<p>A righty-catching butterfly goalie with lightning-quick pads but still relatively raw in multiple areas critical to his position, Gauthier did not have the benefit of playing behind a stingy defense or prolific offense, as the Cougars placed near the bottom in both categories. Expectedly, Gauthier saw a high number of shots that could explain a somewhat sluggish second half.</p> <p>Gauthier plays at the top of his crease to challenge shooters without venturing far from it. His footwork, retreat speed and lateral quickness are all excellent; possibly the strongest aspect of his game. On breakaways, Gauthier efficiently times his egress to the goal line and properly identifies shot execution before his skates hit the blue paint. He also appears to judge shooter momentum properly and rarely gets beaten backhand when the approach is coming from the wing. During opposing possessions, Gauthier quickness is on display when he conducts a simultaneous look-pivot-push technique in response to cross-crease or cross-slot passes. He wields an active stick, not only for breaking up centering feeds or poke checks, but also in interdicting hard-arounds almost in one motion and connecting with a defenseman up ice.</p> <p>Gauthier runs into a lot of issues with positioning, net awareness and overcommitting. He loses the net quite frequently, and his VH stance and post lean lack consistent structure. These facts contribute to a yawing upper half that is exploited without impunity, especially from bad angles. Gauthier gives up a lot of bad goals, but also makes mind-blowing saves that seem to defy the capabilities of the human body. Still, his lateral quickness, post-save recovery and nasty glove hand are enough for any goalie coach to work with and improve the other technical shortcomings.</p>				

<b>130</b>	<b>Michael Vukojevic</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Kitchener	OHL
<b>68gp-3g-26a-29pts   6'3, 207   6/8/01   Shoots Left   Oakville, ON</b>				
<p>A hard-hitting blue liner with good mobility and a long, powerful stride, Vukojevic was the stopper on defense for Kitchener. A year after working his way up the line to play on the top pairing with Logan Stanley (in a Game 7 no less), Vukojevic was an obvious choice to be the Rangers' No. 1 defenseman this year, and he exceeded expectations. Vukojevic originally was a Green Bay Gambler in the USHL but later decommitted from Michigan to play for Kitchener the last two seasons. He has ideal size for a two-way defender, and his back skating prowess, closing speed and upper-body strength help him break up plays at his own line with timely stick checks or thunderous hits into the boards. Being a physical presence on the blue line helps in the intimidation department, and you rarely see him challenged for net-front superiority. In fact, Vukojevic consistently owns the low slot, but he's quick to the puck and can take it the length of the ice if the opportunity presents itself. He makes timely step-ups near the circles, and his reach and active stick keep lanes clogged.</p> <p>Vukojevic has good hands for a physical defender. He can handle hard passes cleanly both on the move and in a static position. His smooth skate-to-stick transition breaks the stereotype of shutdown rearguards, but he isn't much of a playmaker or shows creativity with the puck. He does play on the power play and on occasion will drop down to the circles or fish for loose pucks near the goal, but Vukojevic is a pass-first defenseman who defers to his forwards for shots at the net. He sees a lot of top on the top penalty-killing unit with mixed results, but his play on the PK with Kaedan Korczak for Canada at the under-18 world championship showed he has the potential to develop into a more reliable option.</p>				

<b>131</b>	<b>Trent Miner</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	Vancouver	WHL
<b>32gp, 26-5-1, 1.98 GAA, .924 SVPCT   6'1, 182   2/5/01   Catches Left   Souris, MB</b>				
<p>A rigid butterfly goalie who attacks shooters with aggressiveness and understands the surroundings to his rear and flanks, Miner was part of a quality tandem in goal for the Giants, although their deep postseason run saw him split netminding duties with David Tendeck. He spends a good chunk of time outside the crease, and his positioning in the VH and post lean has been seamless at times. Even a slight height disadvantage doesn't reveal too much room upstairs, but he gets beat more down low from those bad angles. Miner controls his blocker extremely well and will put the significant majority of medium and low-danger shots into the corner with authority. Miner isn't on his backside or belly all that often, and he plays a stand-up style that not only helps him reset properly after the initial stop, but also recover to deny second-chance shots from the low slot. One of his significant contributions beyond puck stopping is his active stick and inclination to turn seemingly harmless dump-ins into an opportunity for a head-man up ice. Miner breaks up a lot of plays before they materialize, but his overexcitement to handle the puck or use his stick has led to harrowing moments behind the net and right in front of the goal mouth.</p>				

<b>132</b>	<b>Roope Taponen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	HIFK U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
26pg, .905 SVPCT   6'0, 166   3/14/01   Catches Left   Espoo, Finland				
<p>A smaller butterfly goalie with incredible quickness, Taponen is the best of an incredibly thin Finnish goalie crop of first-year eligibles. Keep in mind, he wasn't necessarily one of the best goalies in the Jr. A SM-Liiga, nor was he particularly dominant at IIHF events, which included some clunkers along the way. But his footwork and anticipation are excellent, and he sticks to maintaining rigidity and happy feet in the face of odd-man or breakaway attempts. Much like Dustin Wolf, Taponen rarely spends time on his pads, and he has to stretch to his vertical limits to follow the puck through screens. His guesses are mostly right, and he snaps back into his crouched ready stance to track and react effectively. Taponen is not an aggressive goalie, as he rarely sits outside the top of the crease. His glove hand is very quick, and his blocker side is adequate although he choose not to turn his wrist that would put pucks into the corners rather than toward the faceoff circle. His lower half, however, is what makes him the most money, especially on second-chance and cross-crease attempts. His push may not all that powerful, and there isn't much grace or fluidity to his lateral movements. But Taponen's aforementioned anticipation are outstanding and end up saving the day for him, as he can look-pivot-push in one clean motion. Taponen's post lean is mostly in the VH, with his entire near-side skate and pad outside the goal line. Although he's glued to that near post with his stick blade perpendicular to the goal line to deny centering feeds, his hunched tendencies and height limitations leaves a lot of room to snipe that short-side corner. If he extends just a tad more and is willing to utilize his mask against the post, he might cut down on all those attempts upstairs.</p>				

<b>133</b>	<b>Alexander Popovic</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	MOD0 J20	Superelit
45gp-7g-20a-27pts   5'10, 163   5/8/01   Shoots Left   Uppsala, Sweden				
<p>A smaller puck rusher with a blistering shot, Popovic manned MOD0's bottom pairing but saw significant time on the power play. Swift skating and tape-to-tape passing are two additional things that stand out about his game besides his shooting proclivity, and he plays a similar style to 2018 first rounder Nils Lundqvist. Popovic is a confident playmaker who makes up for a willingness to avoid contact with smart reads and timely step-ups that result in instant counterattacks. He spends a chunk of time in the offensive zone while moving his feet, swapping sides, slipping in through the back door and pinching well below the circles. He is very effective at keeping pucks deep after immediately offensive-zone faceoffs, and he seems to have a high success rate of leaving his point to knock a puck away from opponents trying to break out. His backward and lateral quickness are excellent, and he can make high-end plays in one motion off his back foot, namely a hard wrister that explodes off his stick. Popovic whips the puck around with authority, including on the backhand, and he times his breakout passes to trap forecheckers while catching a teammate in stride.</p> <p>Although he isn't physically intimidating or willing to deliver a hard hit, Popovic seems to favor pushes and shoves as a means to separate the puck from an opponent. He tries to stay away from major battles, but eventually he'll join in with a hard nudge and active stick. His overall defensive game needs work in every area except breakouts, but his play on the puck more than makes up for it.</p>				

134	Takhir Mingachev	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Samara	VHL
30gp-1g-2a-3pts   6'1, 180   7/31/01   Shoots Left   Samara, Russia				
<p>An aggressive, in-your-face center who spent the entire season in the adult-age VHL, plus additional stops with Russia's under-18 squad, Mingachev is a solid two-way pivot who mixes smart positional play with physicality and impressive puck skills. He has a thick, sturdy frame and is very difficult to knock off the puck, which he protects extremely well on his backhand while motoring down his off wing. Mingachev is a very good skater with a powerful stride who cuts back sharply or will drop a change of pace to gain an extra step on an opponent. He can be elusive in the neutral zone despite his size, but he seems to favor a North-South approach since he's confident enough in his speed and puck control to maneuver right through traffic.</p> <p>The stats he accumulated in the VHL are not indicative of his potential as a top-six center. Mingachev is a net-front presence on the power play and has soft hands to make plays from in close. He isn't a shoot-first center, nor is he a pass-happy playmaker. Mingachev finds a balance to where hard work, strong board play and sound puck management combine to develop chances for he and his mates. The most impressive part of his game on the defensive side of things is his penalty killing. Mingachev is a tireless worker while down a man, and he will block shots, pressure points and keep his stick active. He also held his own at the faceoff dot (44.3%) considering his age and the center he went up against.</p>				

135	Martin Beranek	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Ceske Budejovice	Chance Liga
53gp-4g-6a-10pts   6'0, 170   4/14/00   Shoots Left   Ceske Budejovice, Czech Rep.				
<p>A fast-moving sniper with an elite shot, Beranek is a multi-tool winger who earned a regular shift in the adult-age Chance Liga in between serving as a top-six forward for the Czechs at all the key under-18 tournaments. Beranek has all the tools you want in a young winger – speed, a nasty shot-release combination, versatility and a high compete level. Beranek can be used on both the power play and the penalty kill, and is he isn't stickhandling the puck with poise and control, he's moving his feet to get open and unload his blistering slapper. Away from the puck, Beranek is a relentless forechecker who plays the body and keeps his stick in passing lanes as much as he can. There isn't much quit in him, and he's the type of player who will chase a defender behind his net just for the sake of applying pressure. Beranek should be considered for the CHL Import Draft and his tenacious playing style will make him very popular with his future coaches.</p>				

<b>136</b>	<b>Massimo Rizzo</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Penticton	BCHL
<b>37gp-11g-29a-40pts   5'10, 175   6/13/01   Shoots Left   Burnaby, BC   NCAA: No. Dakota</b>				
<p>A flashy scorer who seems to model his game after Mathew Barzal and Patrick Kane, Rizzo is the captain for Penticton, which last year won the BCHL championship and has a history of producing quality NHL prospects. This year didn't turn out so great for the Veeps, who were upset in the first round of the playoffs, although Rizzo led his team with three goals and six points in six games.</p> <p>Rizzo is a North Dakota recruit who suffered a back injury last offseason after missing time the previous year as well. When healthy, he's an outstanding one-man force and set-up man with intelligence and keen vision. Rizzo is an excellent skater who effortlessly maneuvers and stickhandles around a clogged neutral zone, and he uses his agility, edges and quick feet to buy time and space and elude pesky opponents. Consistent with his ability to enter the zone cleanly and control the pace and flow of a possession inside opposing territory, Rizzo can make any winger into a scoring threat and is as dangerous on his backhand as he is on the forehand. But it's his soft hands and finishing abilities that tend to confuse opposing goalies, especially on the power play when he's controlling the puck near the goal and forcing defenders to cheat.</p>				

<b>137</b>	<b>Matias Maccelli</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Dubuque	USHL
<b>62gp-31g-41a-72pts   5'11, 165   10/14/00   Shoots Right   Turku, Finland</b>				
<p>A fast and flashy Finnish import, Maccelli in his second full USHL season was the league's third-leading scorer with 72 points in 62 games. He's a quick offensive player who can serve as either a goal scorer or primary playmaker on his top line. Maccelli, who can play either wing, spends more time looking for an opportunity than involving himself in a battle. Staying above his own circles has its plusses and minuses, and his quick feet and anticipation makes him a candidate for multiple breakaways and odd-man rushes in a given period, let alone an entire game. Maccelli's quickness and agility are evident the second he hits the ice, and he can stickhandle under control while moving at top speed. Making plays off the rush come easy for him, as he keeps his head up and can thread that needle over sticks and between legs. Maccelli also owns an impressive shot-release combination that he'll reveal from as far out as the tops of the circles. Being a dual threat expanded the ice for himself and his linemates while simultaneously denying an opponent from sniffing out his ideas.</p> <p>Maccelli is the primary operator on Dubuque's power play, where he ran things from the half wall. The accuracy of his cross-seam passes and one-timer attempts drew him extra attention as the season progressed, but the Fighting Saints still finished with one of the USHL's top units with the man advantage. He also killed penalties and created chances while down a man. The biggest knock on Maccelli beside being a borderline floater is that he is very light on his skates and can get shoved off the puck with ease within the confines of the offensive zone. He works very well off the cycle and can execute set plays off of faceoffs, but you rarely see him in a chest-to-chest struggle along the boards. He has the smarts to know when to fly the zone or release into the soft areas, so it isn't like he's a total liability.</p>				

<b>138</b>	<b>Wilson Johansson</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Farjestad J20	Superelit
35gp-15g-19a-34pts   5'11, 176   10/11/00   Shoots Right   Bern, Switzerland				
<p>The son of former NHL'er Andres Johansson, Wilson is an aggressive winger with excellent speed who wears many hats for Farjestad's junior team. Johansson was not only their most productive player with a team-best 34 points, but he also helped run the power play from the point and ate minutes as a top-line winger. Johansson can be a buzzsaw in all three zones and never turns down the chance to ignite or incite. He is an excellent skater with crazy agility and quick feet in all directions, but he isn't just an offensive weapon. Wilson plays on the penalty kill, is on the ice for late defensive-zone draws and will cover the slot for his defensemen. It's always good to see your team's best player lead by example, and Johansson certainly does that. He is a tricky shooter who uses a variety of moves to tee one up, and he can label shots upstairs with ease from just about anywhere. You can tell his father trained him well on the North American style, as Johansson finishes his checks with authority, plays an inside game, and never backs down from a physical challenge. A real sleeper and a steal in the later rounds.</p>				

<b>139</b>	<b>Nikita Okhotyuk</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Ottawa	OHL
56gp-2g-15a-17pts   6'1, 197   12/4/00   Shoots Left   Chelyabinsk, Russia				
<p>A smart, three-zone blueliner who is one of the better shutdown defenders in the draft, Okhotyuk plays a cerebral yet highly-physical brand of hockey that required his presence on the ice in every critical late-game scenario. After showcasing his skills for both Ottawa and Russia's under-18 team last year, Okhotyuk produced another solid OHL campaign and was an impact player for an Ottawa squad that just missed qualifying for the Memorial Cup. Okhotyuk is a mobile puck mover who places defensive-zone play at a premium, although he does have the speed, agility, confidence and strength on the puck to take it coast to coast. There aren't many defenseman in his age group who can defend the rush better than Okhotyuk, who not only maintains a tight gap beginning from outside the line, but also seals off and eliminates puck carriers with hard bodychecks. Once he releases or switches off, Okhotyuk goes right to the low slot, where he battles relentlessly with opponents trying to establish a presence there.</p> <p>Okhotyuk's puck skills are advanced for a young defenseman. The issue is getting him out of his comfort zone and allowing him to dictate pace. He is a crisp, tape-to-tape passer, and his outlets can spring breakaways or odd-man rushes. He also knows how to stickhandle his way up the ice and is willing to draw opposition before slipping a neat lead pass to a charging teammate. One of the more undervalued aspects of his game is his shot, which can knock a goalie backwards from close range. Overall, Okhotyuk is a coach-friendly defenseman who can be used in every situation no matter the time on the clock.</p>				

140	Owen Lindmark	Pos.	Team	League
		C	U.S. U18	NTDP
56gp-11g-14a-25pts   6'0, 192   5/17/01   Shoots Right   Enid, OK   NCAA: Wisconsin				
<p>An effective two-way forward with impressive skill who can play physical and maintain a high compete level from start to finish, Lindmark provided the NTDP 18's with versatility and occasional scoring while serving as the third or fourth-line center. Lindmark, who is committed to Wisconsin, is what you'd call a "Glue Guy" – one who provides the coaching staff and his teammates with the desired approach and effort before and during every contest. Lindmark sets a good example, and his hustle and attitude did not go unnoticed on a team loaded with skill. He plays a crash-and-bang style, especially on the forecheck, where his anticipation and routes create multiple dilemmas for opposing defensemen. Lindmark finishes his checks with authority while maintaining situational awareness, thus helping him gain control of the puck and make quick feeds for scoring chances.</p> <p>Lindmark played both wing and center this year, and although he has soft hands and an underrated wrist shot, he appears more impactful playing the pivot. He was the best faceoff man at the under-18 world championship, winning 68 percent (64-for-94) of his draws, and is an expert penalty killer. Lindmark didn't see a regular shift on the power play, but he can serve as a net-front presence with effectiveness in both screening and tipping shots. He's an above-average skater for his size in terms of speed and acceleration, and he can drop a deceptive change of pace that helps him gain a step on a closing defender. He also sees a fair amount of open ice for breakaways and odd-man rushes, partly because his ability to read the play or sniff out lazy passes.</p>				

141	Mikhail Abramov	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Victoriaville	QMJHL
62gp-16g-38a-54pts   5'11, 154   3/26/01   Shoots Left   Moscow, Russia				
<p>An impressive rookie season in the QMJHL after strong international showings at both the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and under-20 World Jr. "A" Challenge has helped Abramov own one of the more impressive pre-draft resumes of any Russian import playing in North America. Abramov is a crafty set-up man who passes the puck with confidence and precision. He plays an unselfish brand of hockey that centers on making any one of his teammates a threat as long as they can keep up with him as he enters the offensive zone with speed. Abramov uses an entire repertoire of passes to create scoring chances regardless of how covered his target is or how clogged a passing lane might be. His overall skating is strong, specifically his first-step quickness, escapability and straight-line speed. He is rather light on his skates, but he can maintain balance on his edges as he curls the net net in search of a cutter. Abramov also releases a deadly shot that he uses to pick the corners, and he can switch roles from playmaker to sniper of the situation calls for it.</p> <p>Abramov is about average at the faceoff dot but plays an otherwise responsible 200-foot game. He will forecheck with urgency and give maximum effort on the backcheck, especially if he knows he's needed. His slight frame and inability to impact the game from a physical standpoint keeps him on the periphery when a puck battle takes place along the boards. You rarely see him knock anyone down, but he's a finesse player whose full-game effort usually is acceptable.</p>				

<b>142</b>	<b>Sasha Mutala</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Tri-City	WHL
65gp-20g-21a-41pts   6'0, 200   5/6/01   Shoots Right   Vancouver, BC				
<p>An aggressive two-way winger with a high compete level and smarts, Mutala was a key cog in Team Canada's win at the Ivan Hlinka, scoring two goals in the gold medal game against Sweden. He always keeps his feet moving and likes to apply pressure in any part of the ice and will finish his checks with authority. Effort and anticipation are a big part of his game, and Mutala is a threat to turn a harmless, defensive-zone puck battle into an instant counterattack. His straight-line speed is above average and it take a few steps to get into high gear, but Mutala turns quickly and is tough to knock off the puck. He possesses very good vision and lays the puck right onto the tape of both stating and streaking teammates. Mutala has quick, soft hands and an accurate shot that you'd like to see him use more often. He may not become a star at the next level, but he is a coachable player who will do anything asked of him and give 100 percent no matter what the scoreboard says.</p>				

<b>143</b>	<b>Nikolay Burenov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Russkie Vityazi	MHL
41gp-4g-9a-13pts   5'10, 161   5/13/01   Shoots Left   Moscow, Russia				
<p>A highly-intelligent puck mover who has the versatility to play on a top pairing, run a power and play and anchor a penalty killing unit, Burenov was impressive as a top-four defender for Russia's under-18 team in addition to being a minute eater for Vityazi. Burenov is a very noticeable defenseman for multiple reasons, beginning with his skating. He is an effortless skater; one who combines power and grace into his stride. Burenov's first step is very quick in any direction, and his closing speed while backskating makes him difficult to avoid in one-on-one situations. In fact, most skaters seemed aware of Burenov's reputation as a big hitter, and his dedication to holding the line induces dump-ins, even during odd-man rushes.</p> <p>Everything Burenov does is hard – hard shots, hard passes, hard shoves and hard hits. His slapper is a money maker, especially on the power play, but Burenov uses deception instead of making the play everyone expects one to make in a given scenario. For example, his big windup parts the seas because nobody wants to get in the way of it. Using pump fakes and slap passes are common tactics in his repertoire of moves, and it can be comical seeing the confusion they add to an opponent's coverage. Burenov is very aggressive in the offensive zone, as he will drop down to keep plays alive or sneak into an opening between the circles to unload a hard shot at the net.</p>				

<b>144</b>	<b>Maxim Shabanov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Belye Medvedi	MHL
<b>60gp-18g-28a-46pts   5'10, 168   9/2/01   Shoots Left   Chelyabinsk, Russia</b>				
<p>A dangerous offensive weapon with electrifying talent, Shabanov was the proverbial straw that stirred Belye Medvedi's drink. Whatever Shabanov lacks in size is made up in pure puck skills – skills that he makes look painfully simple. The way Shabanov anticipates not only puck travel, but his linemates intentions, are rare among 2019 draft eligibles. He properly determines when to support the puck and when to exploit a gap created by overcommitting. During odd-man rushes, Shabanov rarely tips his hand on his intentions, with or without the puck. In fact, he is an excellent slap or no-look passer, and he scores from the inner circle while looking off the whole way. Shabanov spends a lot of time behind defensemen, and he simply is too quick for them to catch once he crosses the blue line. Another one of Shabanov's impressive skills is power play management. He controls the flow and structure of the five-man unit from the right half-wall, but is confident in his hard, accurate wrist to sling one under the near-post bar.</p> <p>Shabanov spent most of the year as a top-six center but his role expanded in a short playoff loss to Mamonty Yugry. He has buttery-soft hands and clean skate-to-stick transition off the rush. Shabanov also kills penalties and is a threat to score when down a man. The only knock on his game is his balance, but his elusiveness, agility and advanced brain allows him to minimize opportunities for him to be knocked off the puck with authority.</p>				

<b>145</b>	<b>Nolan Maier</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	Saskatoon	WHL
<b>53gp, 36-10-6, 2.64 GAA, .910 SVPCT   6'0, 173   1/10/01   Catches Left   Tacoma, WA</b>				
<p>An athletic butterfly goalie with lower-half quickness, Maier is one of the more composed goaltenders in his draft class. Rarely jittery and mostly well-disciplined in his ready stance, Maier was critical in Saskatoon's success and later joined Team Canada at the under-18 world championship following a tough playoff defeat to Prince Albert. For all intents and purposes, Maier, who placed third in the WHL with 36 wins but 12<sup>th</sup> in save percentage while seeing an average of 28 shots a game, is incredibly raw from a technical standpoint, and his lack of size, although in line with current NHL trends, has come back to bite him on several occasions. When he's on his game, however, Maier gets into that zone and devours everything, especially chances towards the lower half. His lateral quickness and initial push are excellent, and he maintains his composure on break-ins. Maier times his slow retreats properly and can play aggressive towards the shooters even while sliding closer to the goal line. He uses the VH to protect his near post, but his lean reveals a ton of room upstairs. Part of this is his stick positioning, as he does like to use it to interdict centering feeds. But the lack of size and low silhouette of his crouch makes the upper half easy pickings for would-be shooters. If feeds do get across, Maier looks before he pivots or pushes, but he seems to know how to position that far-post pad and glove hand. When challenging shooters from inside the dots, Maier rarely loses the net, and makes the opponents flinch first without revealing much except for long-side high.</p>				

<b>147</b>	<b>Blake Murray</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Sudbury	OHL

66gp-30g-20a-50pts | 6'2, 187 | 7/5/01 | Shoots Left | Uxbridge, ON

One of the more intriguing prospects for this year's draft, Murray was a heralded OHL draft pick (seventh overall in 2017) and produced a 30-goal draft season as a second-line center. On paper, Murray was expected to be a first-round pick and play at the CHL Top Prospects Game, as well as for Team Canada at both the Hlinka and under-18's worlds. For whatever reason, however, Murray was passed over for the aforementioned high-profile prospect events, thus leaving his OHL play as the only measuring stick of his draft year. Murray improved in every facet of his game, and his development track seems to be trending upwards. Not only does he offer ideal size for a two-way center, but he skates fairly well and owns an accurate wrist shot.

Murray can act like a playmaker if necessary, but his typical shift with the puck involves puck gazing mixed in with an occasional battle before slipping into the low slot or openings for a clear shot at the net. When he plays engaged, Murray can be a tough customer in board battles, and his stubbornness in controlling the puck is helped by the use of his body and long reach. The issue is with his compete level, which at times is so low you wonder if his feet are asleep. Still, the size, above-average speed, hard shot and face-off success (over 53 percent success rate) are enough of a baseline to take a chance on a big center who has the potential to dominate shifts consistently.

<b>148</b>	<b>Jonas Peterek</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Frydek-Mistek	Chance Liga

41gp-2g-9a-11pts | 6'2, 176 | 2/19/01 | Shoots Right | Ostrava, Czech Republic

A playmaking center with size and excellent hockey sense, Peterek was one of the primary set-up men for Trinec's junior squad and the Czech Republic's under-18 team. Always looking for the puck when he isn't controlling it, Peterek hounds opponents in the neutral zone and usually spoils their plans with timely reads or pressure that leads to counterattacks the other way. Once he's in open ice, Peterek can beat you in a variety of ways; namely with his vision and passing abilities. He has buttery-soft hands to not only handle passes headed his way, but also use a perfect touch to lead a linemate into an opening. Peterek has a high panic threshold and rarely relinquishes the puck for the sake of his own safety. Even with his back to the wall and pressure headed his way, Peterek usually makes the opponent flinch first, and his shiftiness and escapability combine to create a big enough gap for him to exploit. Without the puck, Peterek will battle hard for positioning and even establishes a foothold in the low slot or crease. Although he is a pass-first playmaker, Peterek has a quick release and has caught goalies by surprise short-side high as they cheat towards the weak side. Clearly an effective option for the power play, Peterek

150	Ilya Altybarmakyan	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	SKA-Varyagi	MHL
52gp-21g-19a-40pts   6'0, 185   9/30/00   Shoots Right   St. Petersburg, Russia				
<p>The younger brother of Chicago Blackhawks draftee Andrei Altybarmakyan, Ilya is one of the more exciting players to watch in Russia's top junior league. He is electrifying with the puck, combining speed, agility, confidence and flair as he weaves his way around or through opposing defensemen. Always in motion with or without the puck, Altybarmakyan knows how to get open, and it seems like opponents eventually give up chasing him around. He owns a blistering shot, forehand or backhand, and his ability to roof pucks from in close is as good as any draft-eligible prospect. Altybarmakyan is very good at hammering wobbly or errant set-ups off the pass and on net, and he follows up his own shot with regularity. He was SKA-Varyagi's primary power-play facilitator, spending most of his time with the man advantage at the half wall or sneaking into the left circle for hammer blows towards the net.</p> <p>Altybarmakyan is dangerous in open ice and difficult to telegraph or predict. He uses a series of shoulder fakes, spin moves and dangles to gain an inside edge with a clear path to the goal, and once he's there, he can finish with a backhand or forehand roof job. After a few games, you lose track of how frequently he embarrassed goalies and defenders, the latter who either played him too close or afforded him too much room. Having this kind of confidence and high success rate leads to a lot of overhandling of the puck and subsequent turnovers. Although he has a high compete level when he senses the puck is within his reach, Altybarmakyan can also be a bit of a floater who stays on the periphery during battles in the defensive zone. This led to sheltered minutes away from his own end and off the penalty kill entirely unless his team was trailing late.</p>				

151	Reece Newkirk	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Portland	WHL
68gp-23g-36a-59pts   5'11, 172   2/20/01   Shoots Left   Moose Jaw, SK				
<p>Newkirk is one of the more difficult players to assess because he played his draft season alongside two of the best players in the entire CHL. Although you can't really punish a prospect for delivering while on Portland's top line with center Cody Glass and sniper Joachim Blichfeld, there's still a bit of an unknown to Newkirk's game since his biggest impact on the ice took place from the opposing circles on down. At first glance, Newkirk comes across as a highly-energetic forward who keeps his feet moving and looks to get involved in puck battles. He's well built and loves to play physical, even drop the gloves at times. But he also has a nose for the net and a nice finishing touch, specifically the ability to roof pucks from in tight. Still, Newkirk rarely creates room for himself, even though he skates well, has strong balance and agility, plus strength on the puck. The question is whether his reluctance to dominate the puck is a byproduct of knowing his role alongside two elite veterans or the fact that he's incapable of doing it consistently.</p> <p>Newkirk proved to be a consistent open-ice threat thanks to his ability to read the play in his own end and exploit a deceptive separation gear that caught a lot of quality WHL defensemen by surprise. Portland utilized him in a lot of set plays off of own-zone draws and having an elite passer like Glass certainly helped. He likes to set up along the right half-wall on the power play, and his cross-ice passes and one timers were mostly accurate. Newkirk's consistent effort, enthusiasm and obvious physicality should ender him to most of his future coaches, but they may not have the luxury of slotting him with superior linemates.</p>				

<b>152</b>	<b>Radek Muzik</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Lulea J20	Superelit
<b>38gp-8g-14a-22pts   6'3, 179   3/25/01   Shoots Left   Klatovy, Czech Rep.</b>				
<p>A top performer for the Czech Republic at the under-18 level, Muzik is a versatile two-way forward who plays with a team-first attitude and makes impact plays in all three zones. He fills a variety of roles, from top penalty killer to manning the point on the power play to finesse playmaker. Muzik has a clear understanding of the importance of his various roles and brings more than just puck skills to the table. He is a vocal leader both on and off the ice, and his unselfish style can be infectious. Not only does Muzik hustle and motor regardless of what the scoreboard says, but he knows what to do with the puck once he gets it. He has very good vision and looks up-ice the instant he gathers the puck in the defensive zone, specifically to spot streaking wingers for a breakaway chance. On the power play, Muzik likes the puck to go through him, whether it's at the point or along the half-wall. He has soft hands for tough passes, but he's sharp enough to use fakes that open lanes rather than force things through. Muzik owns a hard shot with a quick release that he fires with authority off the rush or while moving laterally. If he doesn't see what he likes, he'll stickhandle his way inside to improve his angle.</p> <p>Muzik is an agile skater with good speed and shiftiness. Although he works hard at reaching top speed, his anticipation and nonstop motor help him separate from opponents in open ice. He can be both a playmaker and a shooter, and his deliberate zone entries are part of a process where he waits for support before surrendering possession for the sake of safety or a line change.</p>				

<b>153</b>	<b>Konstantin Lukin</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Belye Medvedi	MHL
<b>36gp-15g-7a-22pts   6'2, 163   3/26/01   Shoots Left   Chelyabinsk, Russia</b>				
<p>A strong goal-scoring winger who bounced around from Belye Medvedi's third line with playmaker Danil Zinovyev to Maxim Shabanov's top unit late in the season, Lukin is a big body with room for added muscle. Lukin goes through consistent periods of puck domination during a given match, and he can endure long shifts without a degradation in energy. He plays a similar style to fellow Russian draft-eligible Pavel Dorofeyev, albeit without the higher ceiling or gaudier stats. Nonetheless, Lukin made an impact wherever he played, and the abuse he took while protecting the puck expanded the ice for his teammates.</p> <p>Lukin is a very good skater for his size. Not only is he well balanced and agile, but he can accelerate to top speed in only three or four powerful strides while pulling away from chasing opponents. Lukin, however, isn't always looking to attack open ice. He can be a deliberate puck carrier; one who patiently enters the zone and waits for support before relinquishing control. He releases from board battles or net scrums into a preferred scoring area in the middle of the ice, and he can fire off a hard, accurate shot the second a puck squirts free. On the power play, Lukin can rotate between net-front presence and shooter from the weak-side circle. He also kills penalties aggressively and will block shots when he presses the points.</p>				

154	Dan Bartos	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Litvinov U20	ELJ
48gp-25g-17a-42pts   5'11, 164   2/23/01   Shoots Left   Czech Republic				
<p>A skilled center with excellent speed and a high compete level, Bartos was won of the top playmaking pivots among draft eligibles in the Czech Republic's top junior league. His command of the puck and the way he dictates flow and tempo are just part of the advanced way he thinks the game. If he wants to go coast-to-coast, he'll go coast-to-coast. But more times than not, Bartos will grab the puck during a breakout and weave his way into the zone unmolested. He's simply too fast for defensemen to tighten up on but allowing him time and space can be equally as difficult to defend.</p> <p>Bartos was Litvinov's top-line center, with a similar speedster in Marek Berka flanking him to the left. He saw a lot of ice time and was double shifted later in the season. Bartos ran the power play, played on the penalty kill and took all the important faceoffs, the latter with mixed results. He puts forth an acceptable effort in his own end by involving himself in puck battles and supporting his defensemen in the slot and behind the net. Nonetheless, his impressive output when you consider the high level of responsibility, he shouldered should make him a target for not only a North American junior club, but several NHL teams as well.</p>				

155	Albin Hjalmarsson	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Djugardens J20	Superelit
43p-4g-16a-20pts   6'0, 179   10/15/00   Shoots Left   Stockholm, Sweden				
<p>Hjalmarsson is a graceful two-way defender with speed who plays a clean yet aggressive game in all three zones. A rock on Djugardens second pairing, He distinguished himself when teammates Tobias Bjornfot, Ludvig Hedstrom and Alex Brannstram left for international play. Hjalmarsson being a late birthday left him out of the notable under-18 events, but he certainly made up for it by being a reliable minute eater for his club team. Hjarlmarsson is a power-play quarterback with a heavy shot, specifically his wrist from above the circles. He is quick and agile while walking the line, using spin moves, sharp cut-backs or pump fakes to allow a lane to open.</p> <p>Hjalmarsson makes subtle but calculated plays to escape a forecheck, mostly via pivots while keeping his head up for streaking teammates. He's a lefty who can play either side, but he stays in motion and consistently covers gaps. Hjalmarsson is one of several Djugardens defenders who was encouraged to take the puck the length of the ice, and he may have looked the best while doing it. Hjalmarsson dealt with a lot of opposing speed in the Superelit but rarely looked intimidated by it. He moves quickly in all directions and times his hits to knock carriers off the puck. His stick always seems to be involved in something when he is defending – if Hjalmarsson isn't giving out a few whacks or crosschecks he'll properly use the stick-on-puck technique before closing with a hard hit or shove. Hjalmarsson plays close to the line and can keep a tight gap with faster forwards. His active stick leads to a lot of turnovers, and he can make accurate lead passes on either forehand or backhand.</p>				

<b>156</b>	<b>Ben McCartney</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Brandon	WHL
67gp-21g-20a-41pts   6'0, 185   7/13/01   Shoots Left   Macdonald, MB				
<p>A hard-working, two-way winger with good instincts and a finishing touch around the net, McCartney produced an excellent draft season for top-heavy Brandon squad that finished out of the WHL playoffs. McCartney has very good speed and is a well-balanced skater. Although he can finish in a variety of ways, McCartney does most of his damage near the goal, and it isn't just cashing in on live rebounds. He's a real finisher, one who can make a series of moves from in tight and roof pucks from in tight. McCartney is patient stickhandling in all three zones, but it seems like he saves a little extra for when he gets control anywhere below the hashmarks.</p> <p>Playing most of the season on the second line with center Connor Gutenberg, McCartney scored 20 of his 21 goals away from the power play, although he did spend time on the top unit. He can also dish the puck with pinpoint accuracy from near and afar. He had excellent chemistry with his linemates, and McCartney showed a real understanding of set plays off faceoffs. He can play either wing, and if he isn't finishing off the pass, he'll at least get good wood on his attempt and force the goalie into making a tough save. Additionally, McCartney is money in the shootout, going 3-for-5 and finishing in different ways. McCartney doesn't save all his energy for just the offensive zone. He constantly stays in motion and applies pressure no matter how often the puck is swung in different directions. Not only is he a threat to score while shorthanded, but he knows how to stay structured in the penalty kill and limit the amount of times he chases or overcommits.</p>				

<b>157</b>	<b>Simon Lundmark</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Linkoping	SHL
28gp-0g-3a-3pts   6'2, 201   10/8/00   Shoots Right   Stockholm, Sweden				
<p>A middle-pairing defenseman for Linkoping's Superelit steamroller before assuming a depth-pairing role in the SHL, Lundmark is a big, rangy two-way type who can provide offense from the back end. He has been one of the top two-way draft-eligible rearguards in Sweden's junior league, and last year represented his country at the under-18 Five Nations Tournament in Plymouth, Mich. His biggest strengths beyond his NHL-ready frame are apparent inside the offensive zone, where he whips the puck around with both authority and accuracy, and he can unload an excellent shot with a quick release. Lundmark appears far more comfortable on the opposing side of the red line, but he is a clean defenseman who plays a safe style inside his own end. He engages physically but without much authority, and he seems to favor getting rid of the puck as soon as possible.</p> <p>Lundmark is a fluid skater in all directions with above-average quickness for a defender his size. He owns a short stride, but his first-step is quick and he is capable of skating and weaving through the neutral zone with speed while maintaining complete control of the puck. Lundmark is a sound decision maker when it comes to passing, although most of the time it's a simple cross-ice or lead pass with a low degree of difficulty. The risks he takes rarely result in catastrophe and usually end up with positive results. He has been used on the penalty kill and is entrusted with late-game situations, but he's an obvious choice to man one of the points on the top power play unit.</p>				

158	Egor Serdyuk	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Victoriaville	QMJHL
63gp-25g-40a-65pts   5'10, 158   6/3/01   Shoots Left   Novosibirsk, Russia				
<p>The top-scoring rookie in the QMJHL who had a quiet postseason for Victoriaville, Serdyuk is an opportunistic winger who makes opponents pay for anything resembling a careless pass. He is strong on his edges and is very difficult to knock off balance once he's dedicated to go wherever he wants. Serdyuk's strength on the puck is complimented by his superior stickhandling, vision and passing abilities from either forehand or backhand, and he can saucer with the best of them on odd-man rushes. His overall understanding of the game from inside the opposing end is quite high, especially on the power play where Serdyuk consistently gets penalty killers and the goalie leaning or guessing wrong. Serdyuk is a power-play specialist who owns a hard wrist shot with a nasty release that teams have to respect, even from circle, but he also threads the needle with no-look, cross-slot passes right on the tape.</p> <p>Not known for his defensive play in terms of committing to a backcheck or filling gaps in coverage, Serdyuk is very smart in the neutral zone and picks off passes regularly. He isn't an intense or physical forechecker, nor does he kill penalties often. In fact, his lack of urgency in the defensive zone is a far cry from his efforts elsewhere, and it feels like he's conserving energy for what usually turns into lengthy possessions in the offensive zone. Serdyuk is clean on his zone entries and connects with trailers or cutters with precision. His overall skating style is nondescript aside from his aforementioned balance, and he lacks a separation gear and quick first step. Still, Serdyuk finds open ice and knows how to exploit it while playing an unselfish brand of hockey. He also has a variety of tricks to successfully finish off breakaways.</p>				

159	Cole Mackay	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Sault Ste Marie	OHL
65gp-27g-34a-61pts   5'10, 188   6/13/01   Shoots Right   Sault Ste Marie, ON				
<p>A competitive two-way winger with an impressive shot and release, Mackay spent a significant amount of time on the Soo's top line alongside drafted blue chippers Morgan Frost and Boris Katchouk, and he certainly didn't disappoint. Known for his drive, determination and relentless pursuit of the puck, Mackay is one of those players who earned his points rather than simply benefit from superior linemates. He hustles from whistle to whistle, using smart reads, timely step-ups and heavy pressure on the forecheck, thus showing all in attendance and participating what right looks like.</p> <p>Mackay's work ethic both on and off the ice is incredibly high. Always looking to improve himself, Mackay spends hours away from the rink improving his game and meeting or exceeding the standards set by his coaching staff. Naturally, a player has to produce, and Mackay scored 18 of his 27 goals at even strength or shorthanded. He also was an effective penalty killer and created scoring chances while down a man. On the power play, Mackay was a primary target for net-front and slot opportunities, and he showed an excellent touch not only near the goal, but from bad angles and with little net to shoot at. He is deliberate and methodical while carrying the puck, mostly strong on his skates but not very quick or agile. The timing of Mackay's passes, specifically in transition, are mostly accurate and he can thread the needle across the ice. His shot is his best weapon, as he has strong wrists and generates a lot of power behind attempts far and near.</p>				

<b>160</b>	<b>Cole Moberg</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Prince George	WHL

**61gp-13g-27a-40pts | 6'2, 187 | 10/17/00 | Shoots Right | North Vancouver, BC**

An offensive defenseman with an improved defensive game who takes it upon himself to breakout or join as many rushes as he can, Moberg was Prince George's top-pairing defender and power-play quarterback for most of the season, leading Cougars defensemen in goals (13), points (40) and shots (189). Moberg has very good speed and agility despite an initial short, compact stride before he builds momentum and power. He's an upright skater who sees the ice extremely well and can cut or weave his way around traffic while keeping control of the puck. Moberg generally is clean and controlled on his exits and entries, but at times it seemed like the responsibility of being one of Prince George's few offensive weapons led to forced plays that resulted in scoring chances against. His hands and shot are his two best assets, as Moberg is an accurate high-volume shooter who generates power behind both his wrist and one-timer no matter the type of pass he receives.

Moberg's strength in his own end has more to do with his positioning and reads than owning his territory with physicality. He pounces on the puck with decisiveness and opts for the stick over the hard shove to try and knock the puck loose. Moberg isn't physically intimidating and he rarely delivers a big hit, but he properly angles and keeps a tight enough gap where his long reach can keep incoming forwards well to the outside.

<b>161</b>	<b>Ben Brinkman</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Minnesota	Big-10

**38gp-1g-6a-7pts | 6'1, 215 | 10/4/00 | Shoots Left | Edina, MN | NCAA: Minnesota**

Thick and strong puck mover who was the youngest player in the NCAA. Brinkman held his own as a depth defenseman on a squad that struggled to generate offense, so take his statline with a grain of salt. He's a wonderful skater with quick closing speed and rapid directional changes, and he uses his leg drive to power into opponents. Brinkman loves to deliver big hits, which at times takes him out of position, but he makes his presence felt and keeps puck carriers on notice. He is very aggressive in the offensive zone with or without the puck, and he owns a howitzer for a shot that he likes to fire from near the circles. Brinkman likes to handle the puck and is capable of going end to end, and he was an accomplished power-play quarterback and blue-line playmaker as the captain for Edina's vaunted high school powerhouse. He has legitimate top-four upside but consistently making the right reads, staying closer to the slots and fine-tuning the timing his step-ups are things Brinkman can improve on as he takes the reigns as the Gophers' top blueliner.

<b>162</b>	<b>Simon Jellus</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Lulea J20	Superelit
<b>35gp-12g-15a-27pts   6'2, 194   1/18/01   Shoots Left   Ilava, Slovakia</b>				
<p>An inventive playmaking center with size and strength who shows flashes of dynamism, Jellus was a depth player for most of his season in Sweden's junior league but served as Slovakia's top-line center at the under-18 world championship. Jellus is crafty and creative with the puck, using a series of moves and tricks to get himself inside for a clean look at the net. Jellus is a very good set-up man who looks to involve the entire five-man unit into the attack. He whips the puck around with authority when it needs to be, but Jellus also displays a soft touch when leading his wingers towards the goal or floating a saucer pass over sticks to catch a streaking trailer in stride. Jellus is a heady player who keeps his eyes open and looks over his shoulder quite a bit, even when moving quickly up ice. He has excellent speed and strong balance, with little to no regard for traffic no matter how thick the wall of opponents at the line may be. His calmness during zone entries and puck distributing skills made him an ideal candidate to man the point on the 1-3-1 power play.</p>				

<b>163</b>	<b>Layton Ahac</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Prince George	BCHL
<b>53gp-4g-28a-32pts   6'2, 188   1/22/01   Shoots Left   Vancouver, BC   NCAA: Ohio St.</b>				
<p>An excellent skater with agility, Ahac is an Ohio State-bound puck rusher who incredibly poised and nimble when faced with a heavy forecheck. His play for Prince George during the BCHL playoffs was outstanding, and he was a big reason why the Spruce Kings were able to smother Victoria and elite star Alex Newhook. His pivots in both directions and cut-backs are sharp, and opponents have a hard time guessing the route he ends up choosing to motor up ice. Ahac's feet are very quick, and the way he sees the ice and surveys unfolding scenarios allows him to make instant decisions that usually end up on the good side of the scoresheet. You rarely see him rushed into a regrettable position, and the timing of his plays inside the offensive effectively keep cycles going. With his speed and quick reaction time, Ahac looks confident in his risk taking, almost similar to the way Ryan McDonagh played in his early years in Wisconsin. He will join the rush as much as possible, but you also can count on him to create odd-man rushes with his skating alone. Ahac spends a lot of time below the opposing circles and can thread the needle towards the slot or weak side.</p>				

<b>164</b>	<b>Jackson Lacombe</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Shattuck	HS-MN

**50gp-20g-61a-81pts | 6'1, 171 | 1/9/01 | Shoots Left | Eden Prairie, MN | NCAA: Minnesota**

A gifted offensive-minded defender who recently made the switch from forward, Lacombe was the No. 1 and power-play quarterback for Shattuck's storied program after serving as a depth player for Team USA's Ivan Hlinka entry. Committed to the University of Minnesota, Lacombe's strengths are in his skating, stickhandling and playmaking. Always looking to jumpstart the attack, Lacombe makes timely reads in his own end and goes for a skate deep into opposing territory multiple times a period, let alone an entire game. Lacombe is a strong skater with a wide stride who can accelerate to top speed in only a few strides. He can outpace back pressure and weave around zone coverage, and most of his exits and subsequent entries are clean and under control. He isn't shy towards whipping pucks tape-to-tape with authority, but he also has a nice touch and soft hands to float or saucer passes to a streaking teammate.

Lacombe's play in the defensive is unstructured. He affords too much room at his line and rarely looks interested in finishing off a puck carrier with authority. Lacombe spends a significant amount of time floating from the slot, often to chase opponents as high as the blue line. He occasionally plays the body, but he seems to puck gaze more than he should, probably to look for an errant pass he can pick off and skate the other way. Lacombe is used on the penalty kill but he rarely challenges opponents for net-front positioning and his stick tends to be inactive. As rough as his defensive game is, one must consider he still is learning a relatively new position.

<b>165</b>	<b>Konsta Hirvonen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	HIFK U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga

**43gp-10g-21a-31pts | 5'11, 165 | 11/1/00 | Shoots Left | Vantaa, Finland**

A heady two-way center who is quick to the puck, Hirvonen spent most of his season as a top-six center on HIFK's under-20 team, plus several international appearances for Finland at the U20 level. Although he isn't a dominant force on offense, his quick feet, puck control and passing ability makes him an effective center in the possession game. An upright skater with agility and lateral quickness, Hirvonen covers ground while back skating before closing or sealing off an onrushing puck carrier. He plays an aggressive style in the neutral and defensive zones, keeping his stick to the ice and interdicting breakout attempts. Hirvonen's footwork and anticipation help him apply pressure the right way, and he makes sound decisions once he collects the puck and looks to create a scoring chance. His opportunistic style is the driving force behind his point production

<b>166</b>	<b>Zac Jones</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Tri-City	USHL
<b>56gp-7g-45a-52pts   5'9, 172   10/18/00   Shoots Left   Glen Allen, VA   NCAA: UMass-Amherst</b>				
<p>An undersized puck mover and power-play specialist who was one of the USHL's top offensive defenseman, Jones led all rearguards with 45 assists, including 25 with the man advantage. Jones obviously is an excellent puck distributor, not only for the assists he piles up but for the way he dishes the puck in all three zones. His passes are hard, decisive and accurate, but he also can float or saucer passes on his backhand. Jones has good speed but excellent agility, although he's more of a North-South skater who attacks the neutral zone with confidence. He plays with incredible poise and can pivot on a dime and stay on his edges if he makes a wide turn while being checked. These abilities allow Jones to initiate multiple breakouts by himself, and his speed and vision while controlling the puck lead to odd-man rushes where he positions himself high for a high-percentage chance at the net. Jones owns an average shot in terms of velocity, but he has a quick release and often waits for screens rather than throw low-percentage chances at the net. Still, Jones loves to fire rubber on goal any chance he gets.</p> <p>Limitations in size and strength do not prevent Jones from playing as physical as he can. There are obvious concerns with his ability to defend the slot, but they shouldn't be from positioning or reads – Jones is a smart defender who will step up or release without spending too much time puck gazing. Being outmuscled in front of the net is quite the norm, but Jones is a battler who won't back down and will even dish it out himself.</p>				

<b>167</b>	<b>Aleks Haatanen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Pelicans U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
<b>38gp-14g-30a-44pts   5'9, 179   11/16/00   Shoots Right   Vantaa, Finland</b>				
<p>An excitable offensive-minded forward with strong skating and playmaking skills, Haatanen is a rare prospect beyond his sublime puck skills. He not only dominated his age group in Finland's top junior league, but also starred for the under-20 national team and received promotions to the second-division Mestis and elite SM-Liiga, rounding out an impressive draft season. He plays a fearless and confident brand of hockey that usually keeps opponents fixated on him every time he hops over the boards. Haatanen isn't the biggest player in terms of height or strength, but he consistently attacks towards the net using the inside or going wide. He has excellent edges and can stop on a dime before reversing to reset the offense. Haatanen is deadly in open ice and an excellent decision maker during odd-man rushes – he knows exactly where to distance himself, and he can either feather a pass or no-look a snipe upstairs. Haatanen is difficult to contain or fix into a safe spot because his feet are always moving and he shifts gears or stutter-steps to keep a defender off balance.</p> <p>Haatanen has a high hockey IQ; one that helps him treat every teammate as an option to score. He is very elusive and crafty with his back to the play, but he also knows how to manipulate the boards to his advantage by using back bank passes from either side of his blade. Haatanen certainly is a power-play specialist and can be deployed to run it from the point in the umbrella or the half wall in the 1-3-1. He isn't much on the defensive side of the puck, but his nonstop effort on offense while displaying creativity, playmaking and superior skating techniques more than make up for them.</p>				

168	Oscar Bjerselius	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Djugardens J20	Superelit
45gp-4g-26a-30pts   5'11, 174   2/18/01   Shoots Left   Vendelso, Sweden				
<p>An excellent defensive-minded center with speed who can also pass the puck and create chances for his linemates, Bjerselius served as a key component for Djugardens by centering a penalty-killing unit and dishing out passes for linemate Alexander Holtz to tee up. Bjerselius was a defensive-zone fireman for his coach, taking draws in late/close situations and winning just over half of them. He has a strong upper body and maintains his balance as he protects the puck along the wall, but he can also change direction multiple times to tire out a harassing opponent.</p> <p>Bjerselius has a high panic threshold and is willing to draw additional coverage or take a physical beating in order to slip a neat pass into an opening for a teammate to take towards the net. He is low maintenance when given new linemates, and he communicates well during weaves or cycles in the offensive end. Bjerselius causes problems in zone coverage by using his speed and agility to react to and disrupt breakout schemes. Once he gathers the puck, He makes sound decisions like ragging the puck to kill time off a penalty or waiting for a line change to complete rather than blindly throwing the puck in the corner.</p>				

169	Dmitri Tyuvilin	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
23gp-0g-4a-4pts   6'1, 170   1/19/01   Shoots Left   Yaroslavl, Russia				
<p>A quick-skating puck mover and power-play quarterback with an upright style who can motor up the ice with confidence and blow past neutral-zone traffic, Tyuvilin is a promising prospect who was a victim of a Loko's depth logjam. Some might view his move to the lesser NMHL as a demotion, but he simply got lost in a numbers game where there wasn't enough room to give him a regular shift for most of the season. He still appeared in 23 games, playing mostly on the bottom pairing but running the top power-play unit. Tyuvilin owns an excellent shot and is more of a shoot-first blueliner than a playmaker or puck wizard. He seems to stickhandle better in full flight than he does in close quarters, but one thing he is not is unreliable with the puck.</p> <p>An important aspect of Tyuvilin's game is physicality – physicality at his own line but also in open nice and during puck battles. He maintains a tight gap with his stick on the puck before a zone entry is conducted, Without making too much of an overstatement, Tyuvilin at times looks like a Philip Broberg carbon copy – a physical defenseman with good instincts, size, speed and the desire to shoot the puck at a moment's notice. He's quick to the puck in the offensive zone and looks to keep plays alive with timely pinches well below the tops of the circles.</p>				

<b>170</b>	<b>Kyen Sopa</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Niagara	OHL
<b>55gp-19g-12a-31pts   5'9, 182   9/30/00   Shoots Right   Flawil, Switzerland</b>				
<p>A pesky 200-foot winger with high hockey sense and a nice touch, Sopa established himself this season as one of the OHL's best European imports after serving as a key figure for Switzerland in multiple international events. Sopa is a methodical East-West skater with average quickness, but he's incredibly calculated and crafty as he weaves through the zone. Stickhandling and distributing the puck are two of his strongpoints, and Sopa displays veteran-level patience with the puck once he crosses the opposing blue line. He didn't receive a lot of fanfare this season for several reasons, mostly because he was a depth player on a contending team that beefed up its roster with in-season trades, but also for missing a month with a lower-body injury. Sopa was not invited to play in the CHL Top Prospects Game, nor was he ranked by Central Scouting in any of their rankings.</p> <p>The significant majority of Sopa's points came at even strength, and he barely saw power-play time – the opposite of his role in previous seasons with Team Switzerland or Bern's under-20 team. He certainly has puck skills to run a power play from the half wall and log top-six minutes, but his aggressiveness of the forecheck, physicality along the wall and abrasive nature have some pegging him as a role player,</p>				

<b>171</b>	<b>Josh Nodler</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Fargo	USHL
<b>54gp-17g-25a-42pts   5'11, 194   4/27/01   Shoots Right   Royal Oak, MI   NCAA: Denver</b>				
<p>Nodler is a high-energy two-way center with excellent vision who plays on Fargo's top line alongside Denver recruit Hank Crone and fellow 2001-born draft prospect Ben Myers. Committed to Michigan State, Nodler has quick hands and a playmaker's mentality, but he's done well altering his game while flanking a pass-first pivot like Crone. Nodler has a hard, accurate shot and a quick release, and he gets velocity on attempts from in his skates or off balance. He makes the proper reads in all three zones and uses quick thinking and hustle to turn a loose puck in the defensive zone into an immediate counterattack. If there's one thing that stands out about Nodler, it's probably his high compete level from whistle to whistle. A lot of players can put up points, but it's good to see Nodler get rewarded for his hard work in all three zones. He backchecks, fills in gaps and on occasion will deliver a timely hit. His energy and aggressiveness on the forecheck should not confuse one into thinking he's a physical player, but Nodler does not shy away from contact and will battle for pucks in any corner of the rink. He can be counted to to take (and win) big draws late in games and is entrusted with roles on both special teams. Nodler was a key cog in team USA's attack that nearly won gold at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka Tournament.</p>				

<b>172</b>	<b>Mike Koster</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Tri-City	USHL
<b>15gp-2g-4a-6pts   5'9, 171   4/13/01   Shoots Left   Marshall, MN   NCAA: Minnesota</b>				
<p>An offense-first puck rusher who was named the top defenseman in Minnesota high school hockey, Koster split the season between Chaska High and Tri-City in the USHL after serving as Team USA's No. 1 over the summer at the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup. Koster is a one-man breakout with excellent skating abilities. He can pivot on a dime while staying in complete control of the puck. He handles a forecheck exceptionally well, not only because of his escapability but for his poise and quick first step. Once he's out in the open, Koster serves as the on-ice general who commands attention from every player on the ice. His own forwards need to be aware of his quick-strike, no-look passes, while opponents are concerned with just about everything. Koster is an excellent power-play quarterback and can unload a very hard shot, albeit an inaccurate one at that.</p> <p>Defensively, Koster has a lot of work to do. Playing the role of on-ice gambler has its drawbacks, and there are multiple instances in a game where Koster either turns the puck over or gets lost in coverage. He also isn't physical and needs to clean up his one-on-one play and positioning on odd-man rushes.</p>				

<b>173</b>	<b>Joe Carroll</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Sault Ste Marie	OHL
<b>65gp-9g-22a-31pts   6'2, 200   2/1/01   Shoots Left   Carp, ON</b>				
<p>A depth forward on a deep team, Carroll served as both a third-line winger and second-line center for a Greyhounds squad that lost in the second round of the OHL playoffs. Carroll wasn't a heralded prospect coming out of midget hockey and was selected in the fourth round of the 2017 OHL draft. In his second full season with the club, Carroll showed instances of playing like a prospect with the potential for greater things. For starters, he has very good quickness for a center his size. Carroll is a competent stickhandler and knows how to maneuver across center ice and into the offensive zone without hesitation in his decision making. Carroll is agile and moves well laterally, and he sidesteps defenders at the line when he isn't powering through them. Once he enters the zone. Carroll can stop on a dime and survey the situation with his head up in search of a possible backdoor play. His patience with the puck is impressive, and if he's afforded too much room, Carroll will attack that open lane to the net and unload a bullet of a wrist shot.</p> <p>Defensively, Carroll puts forth the effort to backcheck and cover the slot properly. He isn't very good on faceoffs (45 percent success rate), but he makes up for it by battling for positioning, communicating with his defensemen and covering up any gaps. He has a long reach and active stick, and his upper-body strength helps him shove players of all sizes off the puck. Although his numbers don't jump off the page, consider that Carroll scored most of of points at even strength and he should be the frontrunner to be the Greyhounds' top-line center next season.</p>				

174	Travis Treloar	Pos.	Team	League
		W/C	Chicago	USHL
59gp-14g-16a-30pts   5'11, 164   5/12/01   Shoots Right   Stockholm, Sweden   NCAA: W. Michigan				
<p>A rare Swedish import in the USHL who showcased his versatility and skill as both a top-liner and depth player, Treloar is a two-way menace who checks every block a coach would want in a forward. Although he didn't play favorable minutes for most of the season, Treloar still displayed excellent stickhandling and agility to escape pressure and enter the offensive zone cleanly. One shift he'll look like a finesse forward threading the needle across the ice for a one-timer; the next, a straight route to the net for a battle in the low slot with a bigger defenseman. Treloar hustles all over the ice, especially on the backcheck, and he'll finish his checks while staying on his feet.</p> <p>Treloar plays on the penalty kill and power play, where on occasion he mans the point thanks to his hard, low slapper. He will take a hit in the corner but continues to battle and keeps his head up as best he can. Treloar's board work and battle level are commendable as well, and he can drop a quick first step and quick cut inside to make the average duel along the wall develop into a high-danger scoring chance. He's committed to play college hockey for Western Michigan.</p>				

175	Albin Sundsvik	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Skelleftea J20	Superelit
42gp-17g-24a-41pts   6'1, 185   4/27/01   Shoots Left   Stockholm, Sweden				
<p>An exciting two-way center with speed who was far more impressive with his club teams than he was a depth player for Sweden at all the prestigious under-18 events. Sundsvik can shoot and scoot with the best of them, except he's very aware of his responsibilities in his own end. He spends a significant amount of time supporting his defensemen below the circles and will even work to get opponents away from the low slot. Sundsvik is dedicated to the backcheck no matter how late in the shift it is, and he is a reliable option for his defensemen to feed the puck to when they're trapped during a breakout. Sundsvik's wrist shot is his best asset. He can score from just about anywhere, but he's quick and agile enough to change the angle of his shot in a second. He can also wire the puck with authority off his back foot or off-wing</p>				

176	Alexander Beaucage	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL
68gp-39g-40a-79pts   6'1, 193   7/25/01   Shoots Right   Trois-Rivières, QC				
<p>A scoring winger with a deadly shot who scored 39 goals for a contender, Beaucage was a key contributor in Rouyn-Noranda winning the QMJHL championship before being slotted in a depth role during the eventual Memorial Cup win. Beaucage is a strong winger with excellent puck-protection skills who makes up for a lack of footspeed with smart reads, proper positioning and an overall high compete level. He isn't a bruising power forward, nor does he physically intimidate. Still, Beaucage is an intelligent and opportunistic forward who shows patience with the puck no matter where he finds himself. Near the goal is where he does the most damage, especially on the Huskies' deadly power play that combined to score 106 goals with the man advantage between the regular season and playoffs. Beaucage's 14 goals and 30 points on the power play were among the league leaders.</p> <p>As mentioned, Beaucage has an elite shot, and for several reasons. For starters, he has a quick release - one that helps him tee one up without needing the puck to be flat or perfectly in his wheelhouse. He blisters pucks off the pass and will even deliver a hard shot from the far wing that goalies can't control. His arsenal of shot choices are usually on display by the middle of a game, and he can even go high glove with the backhand from outside the hashmarks. He also is an underrated playmaker who can make highlight-reel setups from anywhere inside the offensive zone.</p>				

<b>177</b>	<b>Jan Skorpik</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	Sparta U20	ELJ
27gp, 2.90 GAA, .918 SVPT   6'1, 154   2/24/01   Catches Left   Brandys nad Labem, CZE				
<p>The backup to Lukas Parik for the Czech under-18 team but the primary for Sparta Praha's junior squad, Skorpik is an athletic butterfly goalie who stays upright and plays a conservative style in net. His impressive quickness in covering the lower half is based on reads and tracking the puck from just before shot release rather than showcasing a textbook stance or crouch, and he doesn't spend much time on his pads. Skorpik is inside the paint most of the time, and he chooses not to use either the VH or RVH except when the puck is behind the net. Rather, he stays upright in a rigid stance with movements kept to a minimum as he follows puck travel. The benefit to this is he doesn't put many rebounds into the slot; the downside is he can get beaten in the lower half from bad angles. Skorpik isn't aggressive when challenging odd-man rushes or breakaways, and by the time the puck crosses the blue line, he's already on the lip of the crease or deeper. This makes it hard to judge his timing of his retreat because there isn't much of a retreat to begin with. When he's on his game, Skorpik keeps his movements to a minimum and makes it impossible to beat him glove or blocker side. This probably is from sound net awareness and limiting the white space over either shoulder. Thus, opponents try to beat him five hole quite often, which offers varying results that are neither catastrophic nor impressive. If he cleans up some minor technical shortcomings, his athleticism consistent style are enough to make him a potential starter in the NHL. Skorpik signed on with the NAHL and could go the NCAA route after next season.</p>				

<b>178</b>	<b>Roman Bychkov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
40gp-2g-13a-15pts   5'11, 161   2/10/01   Shoots Left   Yaroslavl, Russia				
<p>One of Russia's fastest-skating rearguards also plays a physical game, but Bychkov's at his best when he takes command of the puck and uses his wheels to dart and weave through the neutral zone. You'd like to see a defender with his strength and leg drive to not back in as much as he does during opposing entry attempts, but he makes up for it by finishing his checks with authority and using a quick stick to free the puck from either corner. You can tell that Bychkov does his homework and absorbs the lessons from his coaching staff, because he executes obvious set plays to near perfection, such as the give-and-go and slap pass to the backdoor. He is involved in a lot of tic-tac-toe plays, mostly during the power play but also off the cycle when he drops down below the circles. Bychkov always jumps into openings and looks to join the rush as often as possible.</p> <p>Bychkov was one of Loko's primary point men on the power play. He always stays in motion and passes the puck towards all four corners. He seems to get bored with games of catch, so his quickness and effort can jumpstart a power play on life support. As often as Bychkov likes to activate down low to keep plays alive, he is at his best when he uses his deadly shot from the point - both wrister and slapper.</p>				

<b>179</b>	<b>Marcel Barinka</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Halifax	QMJHL
<b>51gp-7g-11a-18pts   6'0, 166   3/23/01   Shoots Right   Prague, Czech Republic</b>				
<p>A playmaking center with very good vision, Barinka joins the list of several recent CHL imports who possess a lot of skill but found it difficult to find success while tailoring their game to suit the North American style of play. He is a 200-foot contributor who plays unselfish hockey and excels in close-quarter battles, but he too can carve up an opponent with slick passes and sound decisions in open ice. He isn't consistently physical, but Barinka stays close to the puck and will take a hit in order to move it. He's an aggressive forechecker who will finish his checks, and he comes in handy as a contributor on one of the top two lines, but there is potential for more creativity and point production once his role is expanded. Barinka, who can play center or wing, can score goals in a manner of ways and owns a good shot with little backswing. His straight-line speed is above average, but he turns and pivots quickly and can stay on his feet when bumped during zone entries. As inconsistent as Barinka's play was with Halifax, he looked quite comfortable as the Czech Republic's top-line center at the February Five Nations and the under-18 world championship.</p>				

<b>180</b>	<b>Rob Christy</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/LW	St. Thomas	HS-MN
<b>25gp-17g-18a-35pts   6'0, 185   3/29/01   Shoots Left   St. Paul, MN   NCAA: Colorado Coll.</b>				
<p>One of the vocal leaders and captain of his team, Christy is a fast center with excellent balance who likes to play a power game. He's a very good possession driver, using his pro build, strong balance and quick feet to ward off harassing opponents while keeping his head up to identify multiple options. Christy is a very good passer, especially off the curl after a clean zone entry. He can play the role of playmaker or finisher, and he uses a variety of pump fakes, shoulder jukes and no-look passes to keep the goalie zoned in on him. Christy definitely loves to shoot, which is understandable when you have the kind of shot and release he possesses. His compete level can be very high and he tries to impact his shifts without always needing the puck. Christy always seems to be in the middle of things, and he treats the neutral zone as an opportunity to strike.</p>				

<b>181</b>	<b>Cade Webber</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Rivers	HS-MA
29gp-12g-14a-26pts   6'6, 194   1/5/01   Shoots Left   Meadville, PA   NCAA: Boston Univ.				
<p>One of the biggest defensemen available in the 2019 draft, Webber enjoyed a standout season in prep school after beginning the campaign with Team USA at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka tournament. He also spent a few games with the U18 NTDP before returning to school after Christmas break. Webber's draft profile is intriguing to say the least; not only for his size, but also for his mobility, aggressiveness and physicality.</p> <p>Webber is a very good skater with a long, powerful stride who can be next to unstoppable once he gets a few steps into his rush attempt. He does have a tendency to opt for the safe dump in rather than enter the zone while maintaining control, and most of his decisions with the puck once he crosses center are low risk. He is very active inside the offensive zone and is involved in set plays off the draw. If he isn't pinching deep below the faceoff dots, Webber will sneak into the circles or slot for a one timer. He isn't much of a playmaker, but his shot is loud, heavy and difficult for goalies to contain. Being 6-foot-6 gives Webber an obvious reach advantage, which comes into play on keep-ins and corralling errant passes. His hands aren't the softest, but he's got good hand-eye coordination and quick feet to react or recover from an incomplete exchange. There isn't much creativity to his game outside of a surprising spin move or dangle every so often, and most of his shots at the net come from the point position.</p> <p>Webber is an intimidating presence on the blue line. The knee-jerk response would be to factor in the smallish size of the average American high school hockey player, but Webber's imposing frame and hard-hitting style made an impact against NCAA and European competition as well. He's a crease clearer, hard hitter and aggravating presence to try and beat one-on-one or in the corners. Webber's defense of odd-man rushes is advanced, albeit his high success rate for breaking them up has more to do with his stick reach and quickness than sound positioning and timely reads.</p>				

<b>182</b>	<b>Daniel D'Amico</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Windsor	OHL
67gp-21g-25a-46pts   5'9, 184   1/26/01   Shoots Left   Etobicoke, ON				
<p>A pesky forward who provides start-to-finish consistency in all three zones, D'amico had one of the better first halves of all OHL first-year eligibles before cooling off considerably after the break. Still, he was a critical piece in Windsor's attack, placing fourth in points (46), goals (21) and assists (25). D'amico, who was a sixth-round pick in the Priority Selection, spent most of the season as a top-six left wing and saw significant time on the primary power play and penalty-killing units. Windsor was a rebuilding team, so it afforded a less-heralded prospect like D'amico to play a key role and showcase an excellent shot-release combination. Although he likes to mill around the net looking for rebounds or battling for pucks, D'amico is a threat from the circles because of his one-timer and soft hands to deaden crisp cross-slot passes. He isn't a speed demon or have strong balance, but D'amico displays agility and escapability as he controls the puck with strength and precision through the neutral zone. He also enters opposing territory in a methodical manner and will pivot or cut back on a dime to connect with trailers.</p>				

183	Albert Lyckasen	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Linkoping J20	Superelit
44gp-7g-9a-16pts   5'10, 172   7/29/01   Shoots Right   Balsta, Sweden				
<p>A swift puck mover who was a depth defenseman for Team Sweden at the U18 level but held a more prominent role with Linkoping, which won the J20 Superelit postseason crown. Lyckasen is a calculated puck carrier who has very good speed but also plays methodical in a safe, smart manner. He's more of an East-West skater thanks to his excellent agility, quick feet and lateral maneuverability, but on occasion he will explode up the ice and look graceful while doing so. His overall puck skills are average, however, with a hard, low shot being the best he'll offer when it comes to generating chances. His first pass out of the zone is generally crisp and on the tape, but he seems to tip his passes towards the most likely option, thus leading to turnovers and chances against. Lyckasen isn't very creative in the offensive zone although he is willing to drop down below the circles for a slam dunk or wraparound attempt. He will join the rush frequently but frequently opts to stop short inside the opposing blue line rather than move closer towards the goal for a rebound.</p> <p>Lyckasen's defensive-zone play is average at best. He affords oncoming puck carriers far too much room at the line, but that may be from confidence in his quickness and closing speed that helps him seal off opponents in a hurry. He can get turned around in 1-on-1 situations and is guilty of overcommitting early on during odd-man rushes.</p>				

184	Xavier Simoneau	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Drummondville	QMJHL
55gp-18g-39a-57pts   5'6, 169   5/19/01   Shoots Left   Gatineau, QC				
<p>A diminutive playmaker who competes with fire in his belly, Simoneau bounced between the second and third lines as a center for a talent-rich Drummondville squad, but also saw significant time on the top power-play unit that scored a QMJHL-best 77 goals. Simoneau, who was the ninth overall pick in the 2017 QMJHL draft, plays an aggressive game in all areas of the rink, but he's most effective controlling the puck along the wall with traffic all around him. He rarely gets rattled in tight spaces and will hang onto the puck for as long as he has to, and most of his set-ups are crisp and unforced. Simoneau uses a long stick and stays low to the ground, spinning or curling off pressure just long enough for a lane to open. His overall footspeed is average and he lacks straight-line speed, but his balance for such a small center is excellent, especially when getting hard shoves along the wall. His shot is average but accurate, and he rarely scores from distances above the faceoff dots. Simoneau is money around the goal, however, and he uses tricky moves to gain an inside edge and improve his angle towards the low slot.</p> <p>Simoneau never backs down from a challenge and plays a lot bigger than his listed measurements. He will hit hard during puck battles, rarely giving in or looking intimidated. He will get in on the forecheck with a consistent effort to take the right routes and finish his checks without leaving himself caught behind the play. As good a passer he is on the power play, Simoneau is even better as a penalty killer. He is a breakaway threat who keeps his feet moving and applies pressure to the points well into his PK shift, and he'll even drop down and block shots from straight away.</p>				

<b>185</b>	<b>Daniil Tesanov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW/C	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
<b>42gp-5g-13a-18pts   6'2, 179   8/1/01   Shoots Right   Yaroslavl, Russia</b>				
<p>A big, strong winger with skill who can play center but still has some filling out to do, Tesanov looks poised and in control and he handles the puck in open ice, where he usually makes good decisions with the puck. He also dictates the results of his shifts by being active in the neutral zone and patiently stickhandling his way into the offensive zone, looking like a confident forward who skates very well and displays excellent balance. Tesanov spent time on a first-year draft eligible line with center Maxim Denezhkin and winger Daniil Gutik, and on that line, he served as the primary shooter and net-front presence.</p> <p>Although he can stickhandle very well for his size, Tesanov rarely overhandles the puck and understands he's better off getting open for a high-danger shot than he is trying to dominate the puck. Still, watching Tesanov dribble and weave through the zone and past a stubborn defender at the line reveals a player with a diverse skill set that includes sound playmaking and sharp vision. Tesanov also likes to set up shop behind the net, where he calculates his next move to be either an accurate centering feed to a cutter or a stuff-in or wraparound attempt. Tesanov can employ a physical element to his game. If he isn't finishing checks with authority, he'll be involved in some post-whistle scrums or deliver an extra jab or slash when the referee isn't looking.</p>				

<b>186</b>	<b>Ilvari Rasanen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Tappara U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
<b>49gp-6g-25a-31pts   6'0, 204   5/23/01   Shoots Left   Tampere, Finland</b>				
<p>A mobile two-way defender who can be used in all situations, Rasanen was a top-pairing blueliner for Tappara U20 and served as team captain for all of Finland's noteworthy under-18 tournaments. Solidly built and quick on his feet, Rasanen wears many hats for his club, to include power-play quarterback and primary penalty killer. He plays an aggressive style, one that motivates him to continue to apply pressure with or without the puck. Rasanen likes to get involved immediately after faceoffs; not only from set plays but also by leaving his safety net to win a 50/50 race to a loose puck. Playing like this with regularity means there's always a downside, and he finds himself trapped quite often. Nonetheless, his assertiveness and penchant for keeping plays alive that most defensemen may avoid lends to his ability to think the game one or two steps ahead of everyone else.</p> <p>Rasanen is a very good skater with a quick first step and pull-away speed. He can escape a forecheck with his wheels, but he also uses smart body positioning to block off a forechecker while slinging an accurate pass up ice. His first pass is crisp and accurate, but the element of high risk is inherent in a significant amount of decisions he makes. Rasanen isn't sloppy, because he makes the right reads and his keen vision helps him identify the teammate with the highest chance of scoring. Still, his play is a bit telegraphed and could hurt him against older, smarter competition. His shot is pro-caliber and creates juicy rebounds.</p>				

<b>187</b>	<b>Josh Groll</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Chicago	USHL

**53gp-9g-9a-18pts | 5'10, 174 | 8/9/01 | Shoots Left | San Diego, CA | NCAA: Michigan**

An energetic winger who plays with tenacity and physicality, Groll was an NTDP fill-in after performing for Team USA at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup. He served as a depth player for Chicago, albeit a critical one who was used in key defensive-zone situations. Groll likes to play the body and use his above-average speed to force opponents into turnovers. He has a nonstop motor and never takes a shift off, and he will fight tooth and nail during puck battles. Groll also delivers thunderous checks in open ice or on the forecheck. His overall puck skills are average, but Groll is disciplined and controlled when stickhandling through the zone with speed. He can cut back or pivot sharply upon entry but most of his plays thereafter are of the low-risk variety, to include the way he operates in the cycle.

Groll is an excellent penalty killer; possibly one of the best in the draft. He keeps his feet moving and presses the half-wall and points with determination and an active stick. You rarely see him bite when an opponents try set plays or continually swing the puck horizontally. Groll holds his ground when necessary and tries to keep lanes covered as much as possible. This type of hustle on the PK naturally leads to scoring chances the other way, but Groll's finishing skills look average at best.

<b>188</b>	<b>Josh Williams</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Edmonton	WHL

**66gp-14g-19a-33pts | 6'1, 190 | 3/8/01 | Shoots Right | Langley, BC**

A high-energy forward who plays with bite, Williams was a standout for Team Canada at the Ivan Hlinka Tournament but had his ups and downs between two teams during his regular season turned him from a likely top-62 pick to a later-round option. He combines agility, above-average speed and balance to form an impressive skating package in addition to possessing a nose for the net. Williams plays with passion and a controlled intensity that is evident the second he hits the ice, and he consistently fights through checks to get himself in a position to score. He missed a good chunk of last season with a collarbone injury, which has not impacted his in-your-face style of play. His first month of this season was dreadful from a scoring perspective (0 goals in first 14 games), but he was able to contribute in other areas and is now being rewarded on the score sheet. Williams owns a hard wrister that he needs to use more often, and he is a sound option for one-timers on the power play.

<b>189</b>	<b>Lucas Feuk</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Sodertalje J20	Superelit

**43gp-21g-22a-43pts | 6'0, 183 | 2/19/01 | Shoots Left | Stockholm, Sweden**

One of the more puzzling players from Sweden's draft class, Feuk at his best is a dominant top-six winger and power-play specialist who plays physical and attracts attentions from everyone in the rink. When he's off his game, the floodgates open and the mistakes start to pile up. Nonetheless, the fact that he was one of the Superelit's top scorers from the flanks while playing for a bottom feeder tells you there's promise, even after he pulled a disappearing act in the postseason. Feuk can be an intimidating presence as he motors down the wing at top speed, and his overall skating abilities are strong. He may not own an explosive first step, but he anticipates extremely well and will get an extra step or two up ice before opponents can react. Feuk has a nice stride and maintains excellent balance, but he is not as agile or elusive once he enters the zone. Once inside, Feuk keeps opponents honest by being either a high-volume shooter or a pass-first playmaker. Although he owns a very good shot and has excellent balance, Feuk takes a lot of low-percentage attempts from the outside and rarely attempts to challenge a defender by taking the puck inside. He was a noticeable role player for Sweden at both Five Nations tournaments but was not on the gold-medal winning squad at the under-18 world championship.

<b>190</b>	<b>Tobias Ancicka</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		G	Eisbaren U20	DNL U20
27gp, 2.90 GAA, .918 SVPCT   6'1, 173   2/27/01   Shoots Left   Heillbronn, Germany				
<p>A jittery German netminder who served as the under-18 squad's main backstop, Ancicka is a quick and active butterfly goalie with a high compete level. Ancicka always stays in motion the second the puck enter his own end, and he can withstand furious sequences involving multiple point-blank shots without a degradation in endurance or technical requirements. Barring a multi-layered scrum right at his doorstep, Ancicka will always lock in on the puck and maintain sight of it, even through low or high screens. He plays deep in his net when necessary, but he's got enough length to peer over net-front traffic and track pucks from the release point. His timing and awareness are excellent, as are both his blocker and glove hand. Ancicka is one of the best in the draft at controlling point-blank rebounds, or at a minimum, he's keeping shots within an arm's length to gobble up any chance at a follow-up opportunity. If he see's the shot, he's stopping it.</p> <p>Ancicka stays off his pads as much as possible. He'll drop down into a VH on occasion but won't stay down for long. The quickness he reveals when transitioning into the VH is impressive, just as is the rapidity of his return to the ready stance. If he has to drop down to cover the lower half, Ancicka shows an explosive lateral push and can stop on a dime to cover that near post. He is not, however, an active puck handler, and you can count on one hand how many times he'll go back and retrieve a dump-in or try and interdict a hard rim.</p>				

<b>191</b>	<b>Liam Malmquist</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Edina	HS-MN
24gp-23g-29a-52pts   5'9, 160   10/8/00   Shoots Left   Edina, MN   NCAA: Wisconsin				
<p>A dizzying first-line goal scorer blessed with the clutch gene whose overall game radiates from his speed and quickness, Malmquist's ability to combine top-end speed with a devastatingly accurate shot makes him a threat every time on the ice. There are dozens upon dozens of high-school varsity players who fill the scoresheet withy ease. But Malmquist is the type who doesn't sit back and let the terms be dictated to him — he loves to be involved in every play and earns a lot of his fortunes through a high compete level, keen anticipation and an understanding of play development. He is an incredibly hard worker who is used in all situations. Whether it's on the power play, penalty kill or at even strength, Malmquist can be counted on as a scoring threat that will also provide support for his defensemen; hustle on the backcheck and apply pressure on the forecheck. He is very strong on his skates considering his size, and he is tough to knock off balance when he makes sharp directional changes towards the inside. Malmquist plays with his head up as he takes the puck wide and displays strong edges on his glide leg, and delivers crisp, accurate passes while on the move. Truth be told, Malmquist's finishing abilities serve as his bread and butter. He can score with the wrister, slapper or backhand, plus roof the puck from in tight. He'll play for the BCHL's Penticton Vees before heading to Wisconsin.</p>				

192	Alex Kirpichnikov	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Belye Medvedi	MHL
45gp-1g-11a-12pts   5'10, 154   7/21/01   Shoots Left   Chelyabinsk, Russia				
<p>A late-season addition to Russia's under-18 blueline for the world championships, Kirpichnikov had a solid campaign as Belye Medvedi's middle-pairing defenseman. Although he didn't provide much offense outside of his booming shot from the point, Kirpichnikov is a hard-hitter for his size with mobility and poise under pressure. He executes breakouts with a crisp first pass and can deliver them while moving forward or off his back foot after retrieval. If he sees an opening, he'll attack the neutral zone with confidence. Kirpichnikov has an excellent shot, which is his best asset inside the offensive zone but used sparingly. He was used as a secondary point option on the power play, and at times was used down low as a net-front presence. Most of the passes he makes are delivered where everyone expects the puck to go, but he is accurate and decisive.</p> <p>Kirpichnikov is a very good positional defender who can play either side and match up against opposing top lines, including penalty-killing time. He is assertive in the neutral zone, timing his step-up properly and delivering thunderous hits when necessary. His mix of mobility and physicality helps Kirpichnikov harass or seal off puck carriers as they enter the zone, and he's usually within stick reach once they cross the blue line. His retreat routes are short and quick, and he properly identifies when he overcommits before anything critical becomes of it.</p>				

193	Kean Washkurak	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Mississauga	OHL
66gp-16g-31a-47pts   5'10, 184   8/16/01   Shoots Left   Waterloo, ON				
<p>A relentless two-way center and forechecker who throws his weight around, Washkurak is more than just an energy forward that is know for providing grit. He is an excellent stickhandler and can dangle his way into prime scoring areas, and he earned his ice time and expanded role as Mississauga's second-line center behind Ryan McLeod. Washkurak is a critical piece in the possession game and can contribute on special teams. Although he isn't blessed with God-given talents like superior vision or an elite shot, he makes the most of every shift by reading plays properly and placing himself in the right position to maximize his effectiveness. In other words, Washkurak does everything to standard and sets the right example. His decision making in open ice reveals a player who is satisfied with the chip-and-chase game, although he can also slow the pace down and wait for support, which in these instances Washkurak can be expected to pass the puck to the obvious choice. If he picks up a full head of steam, the likelihood increases that he'll race down the wing to that near post with a good step or two on the defenseman. What he does when he gets there is up for grabs, but he has the makings of a legitimate NHL player every coach would want on his bench.</p>				

194	Aarne Intonen	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	TPS U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
52gp-17g-22a-39pts   5'11, 181   7/17/01   Shoots Left   Lieto, Finland				
<p>A well-rounded forward who can play center or wing in any situation, Intonen was a top-six player for TPS Turku's junior squad but was more of a depth forward for Finland at all their under-18 events. He is an opportunistic winger, one who understands the importance of positioning and reading plays properly. Intonen also creates chances off of hard work and determination with little to regard for his own safety. He hustles into the corners off the chip-and-chase game but provides relentless pressure on the forecheck as well. Not only can you rely on Intonen to do a fine job on the penalty kill, but he also causes multiple opposing breakouts to die on the vine, as he uses his speed and anticipation to frighten a defenseman into an errant pass. Intonen is an excellent penalty killer and can execute spot faceoff duty to standard. He provides a consistent effort while pressing the points and keeping his stick active. He is, however, more than just a checker or energy forward,</p> <p>Intonen has soft hands and is a competent stickhandler who can create scoring chances off the rush or enter the zone methodically. He doesn't look to throw the puck away and will maintain possession for that extra second in order for support to arrive. Intonen displays quick feet inside the offensive zone, especially during the cycle, and he protects the puck reasonably well against bigger or stronger opponents. He has good vision, although most of his passes are of the low-risk variety and rarely extend the defense. Intonen's stubbornness for puck possession has him involved in the play one way or another, and on occasion he'll release from a scrum to one-time or sling a hard, accurate shot on goal.</p>				

195	Pavel A. Yelizarov	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Omskie Yastreby	MHL
58gp-6g-19a-25pts   6'3, 190   6/9/01   Shoots Left   Omsk, Russia				
<p>A hard-shooting two-way defenseman with good speed who quarterbacked Omskie's power play, Yelizarov was one of the MHL's better defenseman under the age of 18. He is a poised puck mover who handles pressure by outwaiting opponents and slowing things down when the pace is not in his team's favor. Forechecking against Yelizarov rarely bears positive results for the other side, as he uses a series of pivots in multiple directions before making subtle passes and releasing to join the rush. He usually places himself in the proper support position without the puck, and he tries to avoid throwing up Hail-Mary breakout passes in the middle of the ice. As he heads up ice using a smooth, fluid skating style, Yelizarov looks for openings to create a numbers advantage. He isn't a huge risk taker on every breakout, but he seems to know the impact his highly-accurate shot can have on a possession, so he looks to creep as close to the high slot as possible.</p> <p>As crafty as Yelizarov is with the puck in his own end, he isn't much of a stopper on defense. He affords puck carriers too much room at the line, and his puck-on-stick attempts are few and far between. Yelizarov's slot coverage is sound, and he times his reads or step-ups without leaving too big of a gap in coverage. One thing he will do is play stubborn along the wall and use his reach and upper-body strength to pin opponents along the boards until support comes.</p>				

<b>196</b>	<b>Mikko Petman</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Lukko U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
<b>39gp-16g-17a-33pts   6'0, 192   5/13/01   Shoots Right   Lappeenranta, Finland</b>				
<p>A bottom-six forward for Finland's under-18 team at every major tournament, Petman was a prominent figure for Lukko's U20 squad, who he led in both points-per-game (0.85) and penalty minutes (60). Petman is an aggressive two-way forward who forechecks like his life depends on it, plus he adds a physical element to boot. Petman's compete and battle levels are very high, and he is one of the better draft eligibles in terms of balancing out impressive puck skills with tenacity. Never backing down from a challenge, Petman seems to treat every forechecking effort as an opportunity to create a scoring chance. He is a very quick skater when he senses an opportunity to gain control, especially in a 50/50 foot race. And opponents seem to know that beating him to the puck comes at a high price in the form of a hard, vibrating hit into the boards.</p> <p>Petman is a very good stickhandler who is both confident and competent when attacking the neutral zone. Although he can be guilty of overhandling the puck, Petman has a high success rate at weaving past traffic and entering the zone clean. His overall speed is very good, but his balance, agility and lateral quickness come to the forefront when he's controlling the puck inside the offensive end. Petman can be a capable goal scorer, not only for his ability to create his own shot, but also for unloading a bomb when he has the room. He likes to crash and bang near the net and can deflect pucks as a net-front presence.</p>				

<b>197</b>	<b>Eric Ciccolini</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/RW	Jr. Canadiens	OJHL
<b>48gp-27g-35a-62pts   5'11, 160   1/14/01   Shoots Right   Vaughan, ON   NCAA: Michigan</b>				
<p>A playmaking wizard with excellent puck skills who can stickhandle his way out of any situation. Committed to the University of Michigan, Ciccolini is developing into a responsible 200-foot forward who lends support to his defensemen below the circles. He is used on both the power play and penalty kill, where he uses his soft hands, quick feet sharp vision to corral the puck and get it exactly where it needs to go. What's impressive about his two-way game is the way he morphs into a different player after crossing center – in his own end, Ciccolini is active, smart and battles for positioning. He knows when and where to plug holes created by vacated teammates. Ciccolini has the knack to differentiate between the time to clear the puck and the time to transition to attack mode. A quick skater, Ciccolini accelerates to top speed in a hurry, but he's an inside player who uses his agility and smarts to turns a harmless rush to the outside into an inside dash towards the slot. Once inside the attacking zone, Ciccolini can slow down the pace or use dizzying moves to space and time.</p>				

<b>198</b>	<b>Xavier Parent</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Halifax	QMJHL
67gp-15g-19a-34pts   5'8, 171   3/23/01   Shoots Left   Laval, QC				
<p>A short and stocky Buzzsaw who irritates, agitates and pesters to no end, Parent must have had strict marching orders from his coach to never, ever change his style of play, because he maintained the same style from start to finish. Parent was a high QMJHL draft pick (4<sup>th</sup> overall in 2017) who has yet to live up to his billing as a two-way offensive force. Instead, Parent seems to have been pigeonholed into the role of a support player whose momentum-changing abilities are limited to occasional offense rather than consistent. Parent is not a great skater, but he is shifty and agile in tight spaces, plus his effort towards getting to pucks should never be questioned.</p> <p>Two things Parent can do at a high level, albeit inconsistently, are stickhandling and playmaking. He's a very good passer from his forehand or backhand, and he keeps his head up for any cutters or backdoor plays. Parent is comfortable controlling the puck, and his intentions normally are sound. He also has a hard, low shot that he can hammer off the pass with accuracy. Without trying to make too many excuses for the kid, the truth remains that Halifax was an incredibly deep team, and Parent suffered through an entire season of bad puck luck, mostly at the end of plays he worked hard to create. It's becoming obvious that his chances of developing into the dominant offensive force he was as a youngster are slim. But Parent sets a good example on the ice and deserves a longer look before he gets completely written off.</p>				

<b>199</b>	<b>Ilya Mironov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
36gp-1g-5a-6pts   6'3, 201   3/15/01   Shoots Left   Yaroslavl, Russia				
<p>A fairly mobile defenseman whose contributions take place mostly in the defensive end, Mironov appeared on Russia's under-18 team for the Ivan Hlinka and World Jr. "A" Challenge, plus spent his regular season on a depth pairing for Loko Yaroslavl. Mironov is an intelligent and poised defenseman who usually makes low-risk decisions. His pinches and step-ups are generally well-timed but are limited to mostly stick checks rather than intercepting the puck and looking to control it himself while moving up ice. Mironov plays physical at even strength and on the penalty kill. He'll look for big hits in the neutral zone, and he finishes his checks or shoves players hard into the corner. Mironov stands up at his line and uses proper stick-on-puck techniques before exploding into a crunching check.</p> <p>Once he collects the puck, Mironov delivers a crisp first pass but rarely utilizes his above-average skating ability to jumpstart the attack. Instead, Mironov opts for the safe play and acquiesces puck-carrying duties to his partner or the nearby forward. If he decides to keep it, Mironov can go coast to coast down the wing but rarely through the middle of the ice. He has very good agility, however, which helps him escape pressure in his own end rather than for dancing around a checker in the neutral zone. On special teams, Mironov is a crease clearer and sticks to his coverage during the penalty kill, keeping his stick in motion to block passing lanes. He can play the point on the power play but mainly for his cannon of a slapshot rather than playmaking.</p>				

<b>200</b>	<b>Quinn Olson</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Okotoks	AJHL
54gp-20g-46a-66pts   5'11, 170   5/9/01   Shoots Left   Calgary, AB   NCAA: Minn-Duluth				
<p>Olson is a hard-working winger with soft hands and excellent speed to match a high-energy compete level. He is a dual threat with the puck, meaning he can furnish a hard shot and score in a variety of ways, or assume the role of playmaker and set-up quality chances. Committed to the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Olson was a standpoint as a replacement at the CJHL Top Prospects Game, using a quick first step and anticipation to cut off attempted breakouts that turned into instant scoring chances. Olson can be deployed on both the power play and the penalty kill, and his ability to read plays in the neutral zone and guess correctly on puck travel makes him a threat to counter in an odd-man situation. Strong on his skates with impressive leg drive for a player listed under six feet, Olson can deliver big hits and is not the least bit shy at using his physical strength to battle hard in either open ice, in front of the net or in the corners. Plays a game similar to 2018 Vancouver Canucks draftee Tyler Madden.</p>				

<b>201</b>	<b>Vadim Antipin</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Stalnye Lisy	MHL
59gp-4g-19a-23pts   6'4, 183   10/3/00   Shoots Left   Togliatti, Russia				
<p>Stalnye Lisy's captain and top-four defenseman who is a smothering stay-at-home type, Antipin is a no-nonsense blueliner who uses his size, reach and smarts to provide blanket coverage of the defensive zone. The truth is simple – Antipin rarely gets involved on offense, including when he mans the point on the second power-play unit. He is neither noticeably nimble nor quick, but every other block you'd want checked in a shutdown defender is there. Opponents have a tough time getting past him, not just off the rush but also finding an opening in his coverage radius. His breakouts are mostly pass initiated, and you rarely see him skate the puck himself into the offensive zone. Part of this is the sheer skill of the forwards he supports – Stalnye Lisy last season rolled three highly-skilled lines. Nonetheless, he knew his role and served his team well as he averaged close to 20 minutes a night.</p> <p>Antipin has soft hands and a booming shot, but one would have to dig deep in the archives to find examples of his using either to his advantage. He is a smart player who reads and reacts without assuming significant risk or exposing sizable chunks in coverage, likely because he is not encouraged or required to jumpstart an attack from inside his own end. Again, we're talking about the leader of a very good team, so Antipin deserves credit for staying within himself while playing like one of the MHL's best defensive defensemen.</p>				

202	Jakub Rychlovsky	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Benatky	Chance Liga
42gp-4g-2a-6pts   5'11, 180   8/7/01   Shoots Left   Vrchlabi, Czech Rep.				
<p>A hard-nosed waterbug who plays the game at a feverish pace, Rychlovsky was a critical role player for the Czech under-18 program but also showed moments of impressive puck skills and top-end speed. Rychlovsky is an East-West skater with excellent agility and multi-direction quickness, and he is willing to carry the puck up the ice with confidence no matter how clogged or unobstructed the neutral zone is. He is fearless when entering the zone and is willing to pay the price to get pucks deep, but he also knows when to slow down his entry and wait for puck support or an oncoming trailer.</p> <p>Rychlovsky can play the role of playmaker or finisher. He loves to shoot the puck from just about anywhere, but his decision making off the high curl leads to back-door slam dunks. He plays on both the power and and penalty kill; the latter being where he is extremely effective. He uses his nonstop motor and active stick to apply pressure everything, and he will finish his checks with a loud thud when he gets involved on the forecheck. Rychlovsky has a clear understanding of what his role is, and his coaches at both the international and Chance Liga level deployed him for an energy spark when necessary. You rarely find an instance where he goes an entire period, let alone a full game, where he is not noticeable, even against adult-age competition on superior teams.</p>				

203	Anton Lukichyov	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
55gp-4g-17a-21pts   5'11, 185   11/14/00   Shoots Left   Yaroslavl, Russia				
<p>A prominent figure in Loko's MHL playoff title, Lukichyov is a swift-skating physical defenseman who plays lengthy shifts and makes timely plays in all three zones. He spent chunks of the season logging big minutes and playing on the top pairing, in addition to running the lead penalty-killing and power-play units. Lukichyov spends a ton of time near the circles and below, and if he isn't pinching deep to keep a play alive, you'll find him fishing for loose pucks near the net or setting up in the low slot of a backdoor tip-in. Lukichyov has a high compete level and battles with a serious level of stubbornness. Even when controlling the puck, Lukichyov will stop in his tracks facing the wall just to throw a hard shoulder check before moving along. He is constantly in motion in the offensive zone can impact a possession with or without the puck.</p> <p>Lukichyov is an excellent skater for a physical rearguard. He has impressive straight-line speed, but his pivoting and edgework while handling forecheck or back pressure are also strengths to his overall game. He can initiate a breakout on his own, but his first pass is not only crisp, but Lukichyov doesn't need the middle of the ice open for him to connect with a streaking teammate. The way he handles a forecheck is advanced, and he rarely panics under the weight of an aggressive double team.</p>				

<b>204</b>	<b>Jonathan Brinkman</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Aalborg	Metal Ligaen
57gp-12g-12a-24pts   5'11, 165   7/4/01   Shoots Left   Aalborg, Denmark				
<p>A lightning-quick winger who is one of the best, if not THE best under-18 prospect in Denmark, Brinkman made his big-stage debut at the under-20 world juniors, where he made the most of his limited role by playing with intensity, speed and a quick shot and release. Brinkman isn't strong on the puck as often as you would like, but his elusiveness and top-end speed combine to give him that necessary buffer zone to think and move at the same time. Brinkman is one of the exceptions when it comes to roadrunners in that he makes controlled and calculated decisions during intense moments rather than trying to skate his way past everyone. Still, you can count on him for at least one odd-man rush or breakaway a game. Brinkman is an effective player on both special teams at the international and club level. Playing against men in Denmark kept his role limited, but he showed promise when used in late-game situations, albeit sparingly. His play at the second-division U18 world championships was nondescript to say the least, but Brinkman is an intriguing prospect nonetheless.</p>				

<b>205</b>	<b>Grant Silianoff</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Cedar Rapids	USHL
55gp-18g-23a-41pts   5'11, 169   1/4/01   Shoots Left   Edina, MN   NCAA: Notre Dame				
<p>An aggressive two-way forward with excellent speed and a powerful stride, Silianoff began his draft year as a key contributor to Team USA's performance at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup before moving on to the USHL where he was one Cedar Rapids' top players. A native of Minnesota, Silianoff starred for two different in-state high school programs, beginning with Edina and then moving on to Shattuck. Silianoff plays with a nonstop motor and applies pressure all over the ice. If he isn't getting in on the forecheck, he'll look to pick off passes in the neutral zone or deliver a big open-ice hit. Once he collects the puck, it's off to the races, and he uses his foot speed, strong edges and balance to weave around or past the opposing wall and into the offensive zone unmolested. Silianoff can play the role of playmaker or shooter, but his shot is the real money maker. Not only does he have an impressive release, but the sheer velocity of his low-danger attempts put goalies on notice. Silianoff's combination of speed and power are just part of an overall impressive skill set that makes him an easy lineup option; not only for his scoring proclivity, but his versatility on special teams and in late-game situations.</p>				

<b>206</b>	<b>Jan Klodner</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Benatky	Chance Liga
15gp-0g-2a-2pts   6'0, 154   1/23/01   Shoots Left   Czech Republic				
<p>An important piece on the Czech under-18 team in addition to his solid play in the adult-age Chance Liga, Klodner is a two-way defenseman who can play either side and contribute in multiple areas of the game. Everything he does no matter the zone or what the scoreboard reads is done at a fast pace. Klodner is a very good skater who covers ground in a hurry and likes to be involved in the play as often as possible. He activates himself in the offensive zone without hesitation; more for looking to keep plays alive than to try and do too much with the puck or act like a player he isn't. Klodner's ability to stay within himself leads to consistency with his decision making, and when he picks his spots to rush the puck or join the attack, it's done without exposing his defense partner. For example, when Klodner wants to step up in the neutral zone, it seems like he does the math in his head to gauge the likelihood of winning or losing. This is where his active stick and retreat speed come into play, and on the rare occasion he mistimes his read, he can recover quickly and cut off the direct route to his net. Klodner can play physical when necessary and he packs a lot of punch despite what his measurements read.</p> <p>Klodner delivers a hard, crisp first pass and does so decisively. He is a threat to do a quick headman off a dump-in, and can use bank passes with precision. Although he isn't a classic power-play quarterback and isn't creative with the puck in the offensive zone, Klodner is useful during the man-advantage thanks to his hard, low shot that hits the net with regularity.</p>				

<b>207</b>	<b>Matias Mantykivi</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Saipa U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga
15gp-0g-2a-2pts   5'11, 161   6/21/01   Shoots Left   Finland				
<p>A crafty playmaker who distinguished himself as a role player on Finland's under-18 team but was left off the roster for the world championship, Mantykivi was a to-six player for Saipa in the Finnish junior league and even earned a promotion to the second-division Mestis. The first thing you notice about Mantykivi is his calmness with the puck. He has deceptive speed with plus agility that helps him weave his way around any defensive wall before him, but the keys behind Mantykivi's game are his stickhandling and creativity. He's certainly a finesse player who can make a defense and goalie look foolish in a manner of ways, while attempts to try to slow him down in tight quarters have a low success rate. Mantykivi is a confident and competent puck carrier who isn't afraid of taking the puck inside amongst the trees and possibly taking a lick in order to increase his shooting angle or draw attention away from the weak side. His hands are ridiculously soft, not only for the way he handles the puck or receives passes, but for the way he makes the simplest plays look buttery smooth. This comes into play when he's around the goal, as he can outwait a goalie before faking him to his pads and roofing one under the bar. He's definitely more of an offensive weapon and power-play specialist than a two-way type who is good on the penalty kill.</p>				

<b>208</b>	<b>Vladimir Allistrov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Edmonton	WHL
61gp-12g-26a-38pts   6'2, 175   2/12/01   Shoots Left   Mogilev, Belarus				
<p>A flashy CHL Import from Belarus who showed periods of dominance in an otherwise inconsistent season. Allistrov is a tall, lanky playmaker who looks fluid and graceful in open ice. Allistrov is blessed with soft hands, keen vision and deft stickhandling, thus allowing him to weave and glide through the neutral zone before making a controlled, calculated zone entry. He sees a lot of time on the power play and can act as the facilitator from the half wall, where he uses his pass-first mentality to split box with tape-to-tape passes. Allistrov is very calm with the puck and will use a series of fakes to either exhaust an opponent's stick work or open up enough of a lane to thread the needle. His shot is average at best but he can make moves in between the circles to draw a goalie out of position. The biggest concern with Allistrov is his compete level. One could chalk it up to rookie-year jitters in a new country, but there were too many instances when Allistrov look disinterested and avoided contact altogether. Even with these shortcomings, however, Allistrov still has the ability to be the most noticeable offensive weapon on the ice.</p>				

<b>209</b>	<b>Luke Bast</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Brooks	AJHL
45gp-7g-28a-35pts   5'9, 167   11/20/00   Shoots Left   Red Deer, AB   NCAA: North Dakota				
<p>Bast is a North Dakota recruit who comes from a long line of aggressive Brooks puck movers. He is an outstanding skater with top-end speed and a quick first step, and if given the chance, he will look to rush the puck from goal line to goal line. Bast is a smart player who reacts to plays in a timely manner. He is very good at anticipating puck direction and consistently picks off passes. You can count on Bast to orchestrate multiple odd-man rushes that begin inside his own end, but he's also a danger to opponents while walking the line with the puck — one quick move and he instantly darts into an opening in the high slot. Bast's passing abilities are excellent, and he can stretch opposing coverages by being a home-run pass threat. His slapper and accuracy are above average for an undersized offensive defenseman, but the release and velocity he generates via the wrist shot is what forces goalies into making tough saves. He makes up for a lack of size and upper-body strength by competing hard and finishing his checks with as much authority as possible. It's apparent that he's a student of the game who takes his craft seriously, and his compete level and work ethic makes him a key cog inside any locker room.</p>				

<b>210</b>	<b>Jakub Zurek</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Benatky	Chance Liga
<b>37gp-1g-2a-3pts   6'4, 190   9/12/01   Shoots Left   Liberec, Czech Rep.</b>				
<p>A versatile defenseman with size who makes a crisp first pass, Zurek was a top-four defender for the Czech's under-18 team in and spent most of his draft year on Benatky's bottom pairing. Zurek's size is an obvious element to his game that commands attention, but he's quick to the puck and has a high success rate with his pinches. His offensive contributions are limited to big bombs from the point or a crisp stretch pass, but Zurek is an average skater with decent footspeed who spends most of his time preventing goals rather than creating them. He can play both the left and right side, and he doesn't seem uncomfortable or indecisive with his decisions on the opposite side of he ice.</p> <p>Zurek is a physical one-on-one defender who will hold his position in the low slot or at the blue line and use proper stick-on-puck technique. Opponents do not have it easy when trying to execute clean zone entries near his coverage radius, and by the middle of the game, the chip-and-chase methods become more prevalent. He wins a good chunk of his 50/50 foot races but still takes the right route while using his long stick and reach to prevent plays from developing in the corner.</p>				

<b>211</b>	<b>Zack Okabe</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Grand Prairie	AJHL
<b>60gp-31g-27a-58pts   5'8, 165   1/4/01   Shoots Right   Fukuoka, Japan   NCAA: St. Cloud St.</b>				
<p>A flashy winger who handles the puck with the flair of a schoolyard point guard, Okabe plays a fast, aggressive style. Although he's not blessed with size, Okabe is strong on his skates and is willing to throw his weight around, to include crashing the net and using his quick hands to make plays with defenders draped over him. Classifying Okabe as a high-energy playmaker wouldn't be far from the truth, as he is always on the move and looks extremely confident and decisive when he's handling the puck during the cycle. He does, however, own a quick release and can turn seemingly low-percentage shots from any distance into rebound opportunities for his teammates in front. Okabe, who is committed to St. Cloud State, is a dangerous 1-on-1 player and is good at drawing attention away from his linemates before exploiting the opening with a quick pass. He is the type of player you have to pay attention to at all times because he stays in motion and knows where to position himself to bring his excellent shot to bear.</p>				

<b>212</b>	<b>Yegor Chinakhov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Omskie Yastreby	MHL

**37gp-8g-8a-16pts | 6'0, 174 | 2/1/01 | Shoots Left | Omsk, Russia**

A top-nine winger for Omskie Yastreby and depth forward for Russia's under-18 squad, Chinakhov is a physical 200-foot forward who is quick to the puck and gets busy on the forecheck. Chinakhov doesn't get cheated on his shifts, and although the MHL only credited him with 10 hits in nearly 40 games, the eye test revealed a player who was both physical and assertive on a nightly basis. Chinakhov is a well-balanced and agile skater with very good straight-line speed and strong edges. He applies pressure in all three zones, and his footspeed and selected routes help him interdict opposing puck rushers or breakout passes while still inside the defensive zone. This kind of hustle and effort made him a coach's favorite, as he saw favorable situations late in games whether trailing or ahead.

Chinakhov is an intelligent player who can not only handle pressure, but also tries to draw more attention towards himself in order to create time and space for other. He's an opportunistic scorer in the sense that he pounces on loose pucks near the net or intercepts a lazy cross-slot pass. Although he won't dazzle you with his passing, skating or shooting, he makes the right plays at the right time, saving his best moments for when he's needed the most. Chinakhov is a momentum changer for his club, whether it's conducted on the penalty kill, creating a scoring chance from the half wall on the power play, or scoring a clutch goal.

<b>213</b>	<b>Garrett Pinoniemi</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Holy Family	HS-MN

**27gp-26g-42a-68pts | 6'0, 147 | 7/15/01 | Shoots Left | Robbinsdale, MN | NCAA: Minnesota**

An exciting offensive forward with an improved 200-foot game but still raw in most other areas, Pinoniemi was a Mr. Hockey finalist in Minnesota thanks to his incredible puck skills and ability to toy with opponents both in open ice and in the confines of the zone. He is an outstanding stickhandler who can deke, dangle and toe drag his way into a good shooting position, but he also has excellent vision and passing skills that can turn the average possession into multiple scoring opportunities near the net. Pinoniemi is very light on his skates but he has excellent straight-line speed and a quick first step. He can carve up a defense with a series of moves, but he also can read the opposing scheme to design a plan to expand the ice and trap them high in the neutral zone.

Once inside the offensive zone, Pinoniemi controls the pace and flow of the possession. His teammates and opponents alike know he is the focal point, so coverage and positioning become critical when trying to contain him or limit the quality of the scoring opportunity. Pinoniemi has sick hands, and he can saucer passes over sticks with perfect timing. If he's afforded enough room, he'll exploit it, usually in the form of a sneaky wrister or backhander aimed for the upper half, but he can also fake a goalie well out of the net for an easy tuck in. He needs to add a lot of muscle and improve his balance, but he'll have plenty of time to do that when he plays college hockey for the Gophers.

<b>214</b>	<b>Nate Warner</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/LW	Cathedral	HS-MN
<b>10gp-11g-11a-22pts   6'0, 180   9/3/01   Shoots Left   Sartell, MN   NCAA: Minnesota</b>				
<p>A quiet leader and key offensive player whose influence on play development radiates throughout every square inch of the ice. Teams have to get up real early in the morning to try and slow down this Minnesota-bound weapon, who bounced back from a lengthy stint on the disabled list from an upper-body injury to become one of the top players in the tournament. Warner has excellent instincts and is reliable around the net, but he does most of his damage as an open-ice assassin who uses top-end speed and sharp directional changes to expand the ice for his team. Warner can be the focal point on the power play, but he knows how to share the puck and allow his equally-talented linemates to dictate the flow of a given shift. This ability to switch from playmaker to finisher is one of several reasons why the Gophers see him as a possible cornerstone piece. He runs the first unit on the power play but also is a very good penalty killer who creates shorthanded scoring chances.</p>				

<b>215</b>	<b>Lynden Breen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Central Illinois	USHL
<b>61gp-12g-25a-37pts   5'9, 161   5/31/01   Shoots Left   Saint John, NB   NCAA: Maine</b>				
<p>A feisty and aggressive center who played on Central Illinois' top-six, Breen is always in motion no matter the situation or time left on the clock. His energetic style is infectious, and it represented the kind of hard-working team the Flying Aces were. Breen, who is committed to the University of Maine, provides his coaches with the same effort every shift. Having excellent speed and the willingness to keep the motor running results in chunks of open ice for he and his linemates to exploit. Breen is not only a hard-charging North-South type – he has excellent agility and multi-directional quickness, while defending him at the line isn't always the smartest option. He can drop a devastating change of pace to catch defenders flat footed, and more times than not, he'll beat that same defender (or his partner) to that near post for a chance in close. Breen has very good vision and is a capable playmaker for his wingers and point men. He can hang onto the puck for long periods of time if necessary, and he is very difficult to contain or slow down during the cycle. He'll move on to Fargo next season after he was the No. 1 pick in the USHL Dispersal Draft.</p>				

<b>216</b>	<b>Keegan Langefels</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Eden Prairie	HS-MN
<b>22gp-7g-11a-18pts   6'0, 175   2/2/01   Shoots Left   Eden Prairie, MN   NCAA: Und.</b>				
<p>A two-way defender who shoots the puck as hard as he hits opponents, Langefels proved to be invaluable as Eden Prairie's No. 1 rearguard during its march to the state tournament championship game. He can be both an effective and overpowering presence on the blue line, holding firm to his ground at the line and stopping entries with either a timely poke check or thunderous hit into the boards. Langefels can be matched up against any opposing top line, and he was a key contributor in stifling the vaunted attacks of both Blaine and Edina. He is a very good straight-line skater who quickly transitions from defense to offense and likes to join the attack, but he also is acutely aware of his primary role as a shutdown defender. Langefels isn't your classic power-play quarterback, but he does play a significant role as a point man, mostly because he owns a blistering shot off the pass near the line. His wrist consistently sneaks through clogged shooting lanes, and his quick release and accuracy lead to rebound chances at the net. Everything Langefels does is hard and crisp, and you can count on him for at least a half dozen impactful plays a game.</p>				

<b>217</b>	<b>Austen Swankler</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Sioux Falls	USHL
<b>44gp-11g-25a-36pts   6'1, 181   8/21/01   Shoots Left   Huntington, PA   NCAA: Michigan</b>				
<p>A heady two-way center with playmaking acumen, Swankler was an integral piece to Sioux Falls' Clark Cup-winning squad beyond his role as a top-six forward. Originally a member of the Waterloo Black Hawks until a mid-November trade, Swankler scored several game-winning goals in the Stampede's title run, including the deciding marker in the fourth overtime in a Game 2 win over rival Sioux City.</p> <p>A native of the Pittsburgh area, Swankler is a good skater with above-average speed but excellent balance and edgework. His puck protection skills play a prominent role in his ability to take the puck from zone to zone, and he positions himself well while his quick feet move him closer to the goal. Like many of Sioux Falls' forwards, Swankler saw significant time on both the power play and penalty kill. His ability to make pass the puck accurately and make plays on his backhand, specifically feeds from either side towards the slot, makes him a sound option to man the half wall. But Swankler also knows how to get open without the puck, or at least position himself properly for rebound attempts or a one-time attempt from a soft spot in coverage.</p>				

# 2019 NHL DRAFT: Top-50 Overagers

North American draft eligibles in the zone of consideration for these rankings were born on or after January 1st, 1999 and before or on September 15, 2000. Europeans in the zone of consideration for these rankings were born on or after January 1st, 1998 and before or on September 15, 2000.

RANK	NAME	TM	LGE	POS	DOB	OA	HT	WT	S/C
1	Brett Leason	Prince Albert	WHL	RW	30-Apr-99	20A	6'4	200	R
2	Mattias Norlinder	MODO J20	Superelit	D	12-Apr-00	OA	5'11	179	L
3	Valeri Orekhov	Barys Astana	KHL	LHD	17-Jun-99	20A	6'1	190	L
4	Kirill Slepets	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	RW	6-Apr-99	20A	5'10	165	L
5	Pyotr Kochetkov	Ryazan	VHL	G	25-Jun-99	20A	6'3	205	L
6	Samuel Fagemo	Frolunda	SHL	LW	14-Mar-00	OA	6'0	194	R
7	Artyom Galimov	Bars Kazan	VHL	C	8-Sep-99	20A	6'0	174	L
8	Matej Blumel	Waterloo	USHL	RW	31-May-00	OA	6'0	198	L
9	Alexander Zhabreyev	Dynamo-SPB	MHL	C	24-Mar-00	OA	5'7	152	L
10	Justin Bergeron	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL	D	14-Sep-00	OA	6'0	175	L
11	Karel Plasek	Brno	Extraliga	RW	28-Jul-00	OA	5'11	154	L
12	Maxwell Crozier	Sioux Falls	USHL	D	19-Apr-00	OA	6'1	195	R
13	Bryce Brodzinski	Blaine	HS-MN	RW	9-Aug-00	OA	6'0	197	R
14	Sergei Sapego	Prince Albert	WHL	LHD	8-Oct-99	OA	6'2	179	L
15	Stepan Starkov	Sochi	KHL	LW	18-Jun-99	20A	6'0	170	L
16	Michael Vorlicky	Edina	HS-MN	D	17-Jul-00	OA	6'1	183	R
17	Ivan Drozdov	Dinamo Minsk	KHL	C/W	15-Nov-99	OA	6'0	182	L
18	Nicholas Abruzzese	Chicago	USHL	C	4-Jun-99	20A	5'9	160	L
19	Lukas Wernblom	MODO	Allsvenskan	C	22-Jul-00	OA	5'9	172	L
20	Ronald Attard	Tri-City	USHL	D	20-Mar-99	20A	6'3	208	R
21	Alexander Darin	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	RW	16-Aug-00	OA	5'11	159	R
22	Yannick Brusche	GCK Zurich	NLB	C	29-Aug-99	20A	5'10	172	L
23	Yuri Platonov	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	C	14-May-00	OA	5'11	164	R
24	Jack Jensen	Eden Prairie	HS-MN	C	31-Aug-00	OA	6'0	194	L
25	Kevin Wall	Chilliwack	BCHL	RW	1-Feb-00	OA	6'0	188	R
26	Mason Snell	Penticton	BCHL	D	18-Jun-00	OA	6'0	193	L
27	Kristian Tanus	LeKi	Mestis	LW	17-Aug-00	OA	5'8	160	L
28	Mason Nevers	Edina	HS-MN	C	3-Apr-00	OA	5'10	165	R
29	Andre Lee	Sioux Falls	USHL	LW	26-Jul-00	OA	6'5	205	L
30	Jeremie Bucheler	Victoria	BCHL	D	31-Mar-00	OA	6'5	201	R
31	Jett Jungels	Edina	HS-MN	LW	14-Jul-00	OA	5'9	161	L
32	Josh Maniscalco	Arizona State	NCAA	RHD	17-Feb-99	20A	6'1	201	R
33	Ilya Konovalov	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	G	13-Jul-98	30A	6'0	194	L
34	Carl Jakobsson	Farjestad BK	SHL	LW	13-Jul-00	OA	6'2	165	L
35	Tyce Thompson	Providence	HE	RW	12-Jul-99	20A	6'1	178	R
36	Taro Jentzsch	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	C	11-Jun-00	OA	6'2	154	R
37	Samuli Vainionpaa	Ilves	SM-Liiga	C	5-Oct-99	OA	6'3	207	L
38	Nando Eggenberger	Oshawa	OHL	LW	7-Oct-99	OA	6'3	205	L
39	Nikita Rozhkov	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	C	18-Feb-00	OA	5'10	168	L
40	Luka Burzan	Brandon	WHL	RW	7-Jan-00	OA	6'0	184	L
41	Marc Del Gaizo	U.Mass-Amherst	HE	D	11-Oct-99	OA	5'10	188	L
42	Brendan Budy	Tri-City	USHL	LW	6-Jun-00	OA	5'10	180	L
43	Brett Kemp	Medicine Hat	WHL	C	23-Mar-00	OA	6'1	162	R
44	Alexander Steeves	Notre Dame	Big-10	C	10-Dec-99	OA	5'11	185	L
45	Spencer Meier	St. Cloud State	NCHC	D	15-Apr-99	20A	6'3	193	R
46	Hugo Leufvenius	Sarnia	OHL	LW	26-Mar-99	20A	6'3	230	L
47	Carter Berger	Victoria	BCHL	D	17-Sep-99	OA	6'0	200	L
48	Krystof Hrabik	Tri-City	WHL	C	24-Sep-99	OA	6'4	218	L
49	Jasper Patrikainen	Pelicans U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	G	1-Jul-00	OA	6'0	174	L
50	Billy Moskal	London	OHL	C	22-Mar-00	OA	6'0	190	R

1	Brett Leason	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Prince Albert	WHL
55gp-36g-53a-89pts   6'4, 200   4/30/99   Shoots Right   Calgary, AB				
<p>A gifted two-way forward with athleticism, a high IQ, outstanding vision and a deadly shot, Leason appears to be the cream of a talented draft-overage crop, as he was the leading scorer of one of the top CHL teams in recent memory. Passed over in each of the last two drafts, Leason – Tri-City's third-round pick in the 2014 WHL Bantam Draft – displays an impressive blend of stickhandling, creativity and lethality virtually every time he's on the ice. His impressive skill set surely played a role in his addition to Team Canada's under-20 team at the world juniors, where he was one of their most versatile and consistent performers. He plays on Prince Albert's top line, but Leason seems to develop instant chemistry with anyone he flanks. His shot is released quickly and is delivered with pinpoint accuracy, but it's his vision and touch-passing ability in the tightest of spaces that make him nearly impossible to plan for. His feet are quick and his balance is strong, and he can pull away from most defenders without requiring more than four of five steps to do so.</p> <p>Leason by no means is some passenger on a stacked roster, as he's proven to be both a line and possession driver. Yes, the points and playmaking are impressive, but he also contributes in all three zones with subtle plays on the puck or positioning that turn seemingly harmless shifts into an opportunity to strike. Although he isn't a menacing power forward, he uses his size, reach and low center of gravity to effectively shield the puck whether he's barreling towards the net or stickhandling near the boards. Leason also delivers big hits when necessary and can be an absolute beast on the penalty kill.</p>				

2	Mattias Norlinder	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	MOD0 J20	Superelit
30gp-5g-16a-21pts   5'11, 179   4/12/00   Shoots Left   Kramfors, Sweden				
<p>A swift-skating, two-way defenseman with poise and smarts, Norlinder split his second draft-eligible season between the junior-age Superelit and the adult-level Allsvenskan. Although he's known primarily for his offense, Norlinder was the No. 1 defenseman and used in all situations at the J20 level, to including the go-to defender on MOD0's top penalty-killing unit. His ability to instantly breakout with speed and deliver the puck on the tape from short and long distances makes him an obvious choice to run a power play, but Norlinder's time against older competition helped round his game out. Norlinder likes to join the rush if he isn't creating one himself, and he's confident enough in his stickhandling to improve the angle inside. He owns an excellent wrist shot and will walk the line or spin away from pressure before loading up. But keep an eye on him for making self passes or stutter steps in order to leave pressure in the dust.</p> <p>Norlinder can play either side. He plays physical in all three zones, and he tries to make life as difficult as possible for opposing puck carriers. He has a strong upper body and will use an effective one-arm shove to knock a player off balance, especially in the low slot. Norlinder's body positioning and routes during 50/50 battles are excellent, and he knows how to eat the puck and kill time if a line change or end of the period is near. He will stand up at the line and look to deliver a big hit, but he also maintains a deliberate retreat speed with stick-on-puck, rarely flinching at a fancy move being attempted against him. Most one-on-one attempts end up with the forward pushed to the outside or smothered into the corner with a hit, but what's more impressive is the way Norlinder sneaks a peek at the weak side to before communicating with his partner.</p>				

3	Valeri Orekhov	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Barys Astana	KHL
41gp-3g-3a-6pts   6'1, 190   6/17/99   Shoots Left   Kazakhstan				
<p>A commanding presence on the backend for Barys Astana, which had one of its best KHL seasons in team history, Orekhov's solid three-zone play made him an obvious choice to captain Team Kazakhstan at the under-20 world junior championship, where he displayed veteran-like poise and decision making. Orekhov is a horse who can log big minutes and recover quickly in between shifts. He plays a power game based on rapid closing speed, hard checks and an active stick that fixes opponents into the corner. Orekhov can be matched up against any top player or line and in any situation. He's the defender you want on the ice for a big penalty kill or late lead that needs to be held. On the power play, Orekhov delivers a hard first pass and is a bomber in the 1-3-1, but he can also handle feeds and quickly transition from backhand to forehand. His agility, lateral quickness and athleticism is evident from the moment he hits the ice, and you rarely see him buckle under an intense forecheck or double team.</p>				

4	Kirill Slepets	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL
17gp-12g-6a-18pts   5'10, 165   4/6/99   Shoots Left   Omsk, Russia				
<p>An explosive talent who put on a show for Russia at the CHL Super Series and under-20 world juniors, Slepets is a small but quick winger who doesn't need much time or space to create scoring chances. He's slippery offensive winger with very good speed, solid puck skills and a soft touch around the net, but he also kills penalties and applies relentless pressure on the forecheck. Slepets was again was a top-line forward on a deep Loko squad that eventually won the MHL championship. He's filled out since his days on Russia's under-18 team, and he will deliver hard checks in open ice or along the boards. His balance has improved considerable, to the point where it's among the best of all overage MHL forwards. Slepets is very good in close quarters and can stickhandle his way to the net. He has developed into a gamebreaker, one who makes the most of his chances and can elevate the puck from in tight. He kills penalties, runs the power play from the half wall but also unloads an accurate one-timer from the right circle.</p>				

5	Pyotr Kotchetkov	Pos.	Team	League
		G	Ryazan	VHL
18gp, 8-7-3, 2.13 GAA, .930 SV%   6'3, 205   6/25/99   Catches Left   Penza, Russia				
<p>An athletic double-overage goaltender who made a name for himself by producing two stellar performances on Canadian soil at the CHL-Russia Series in November and the under-20 world juniors in Vancouver last December. It was his play in the adult-age VHL, however, that may have solidified him as one of the top teenage goaltending prospects in the world. Despite being only 19, Kochetkov was Ryazan's No. 1 during their playoff series with the heavily-favored Rubin, and he opened the postseason with a sparkling 56-save effort in an overtime loss.</p> <p>Kochetkov is an active goalie who in the butterfly stays low to the shooter and consistently keeps his shoulders square. He stays deep in the crease on most occasions, peering out only to fight above screens. Kochetkov has quick feet as expected, but his shot-push technique is advanced for a young goalie. If he's down after an initial save, rather than T-push from an upright position in response to cross-crease passes, Kochetkov looks and pivots simultaneously while dragging his pad to cover the lower half and seal gaps in the event a one-timer is labeled for the far post. This technique came in handy against the Canadian-trained CHL all stars who looked to beat him off the pass without success, and when they connected, pucks were gobbled up easily. His pad saves are powerful, so if he can't steer a shot into the corner, he'll blast it hard enough through the slot to prevent an easy lay-up for an opponent. Kochetkov tends to stay on his feet when pucks travel below the circles or behind the net, usually in the VH or a post lean with his stick positioned to block centering feeds. From a puckhandling standpoint, Kochetkov's wrists are strong enough to deliver lengthy stretch passes, and he is not averse to going behind the net to try and break up hard rims.</p>				

6	Samuel Fagemo	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Frolunda	SHL
42gp-14g-11a-25pts   6'0, 194   3/14/00   Shoots Left   Gothenburg, Sweden				
<p>One of the SHL's top goal scorers was a top-six mainstay in Sweden's under-18 program a season ago but surprisingly went undrafted in his first look last June. Things are likely to be different for Fagemo this go around, as he was one of the SHL's top scoring wingers among players under 25. He always displays soft hands, a bullet shot and very good vision. Fagemo makes a lot of clean plays and handles any kind of pass a teammate hurls his way, including long stretch passes and saucers. He's got good size, agility and quickness for a bigger forward, and he likes to play inside in order to turn a run-of-the-mill zone entry into a chance at the net. If he isn't glued to the low slot looking for rebounds, you'll find Fagemo all over the puck during the cycle before releasing for with the hammer cocked. He really loves to shoot the puck and finds ways to get open even though everyone in the building knows what he plans on doing when he hits the ice.</p> <p>Fagemo is a crafty winger who doesn't need the perfect set-up for him to bring his hard wrister or one-timer to bear. He will battle hard along the boards for a full 30 seconds, and then in a blink of an eye, slip away from the scrum with the intent to wire one on goal. He has deceptive speed and can keep up with his quicker playmakers, but the biggest strength he has from a skating standpoint is his balance. He can control the puck at top speed and keep it settled, but even a rolling puck won't prevent him from getting maximum mustard on his shot. It may seem like all Fagemo can do is shoot and score but few draft-eligibles of any age can do it as well as he can.</p>				

7	Artyom Galimov	Pos.	Team	League
		C	Bars Kazan	VHL
40gp-9g-15a-24pts   6'0, 174   9/8/99   Shoots Left   Samara, Russia				
<p>A speedy two-way center who played a key role in Russia's smothering victory over the CHL in the Super Series, Galimov is a noticeable forward who is involved in the play in all three zones. He split the season between juniors and the adult-age VHL, where he was a top-six center playing over 18 minutes a game and winning 53 percent of his draws. Galimov's 24 points in 40 games also was second among all under-20 VHL players. Additionally, Galimov was a top-six center for Russia at the world juniors and proved to be one of the tournament's best penalty killers.</p> <p>Galimov has a clear understanding of his role as a center, and his physicality, speed and tenacity without the puck leads to a lot of giveaways and instant scoring chances off the forecheck. Galimov likes to play the body and finish his checks. He uses his body effectively; not just in delivering hits but the way he leans on puck carriers with his feet moving at a feverish pace. Galimov provides textbook positioning when supporting in the defensive zone. His quickness, anticipation and stamina allow him to constantly pressure the puck regardless of how often it's passed around. He supports in slot coverage and behind the net, in addition to acting as a third defenseman on breakouts. Galimov is a deft stickhandler and an excellent skater overall; not only for his straight-line speed, first-step explosiveness and agility, but also for the way he pivots and maintains balance as he gets shoved taking the puck wide. He is a controlled puck handler who can wow you with no-look or behind-the-back passes either off the cycle or an odd-man rush. He has great hands for finishing around the net, but his wrist might be his best asset after his skating and defensive play.</p>				

8	Matej Blumel	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Waterloo	USHL
58gp-30g-30a-60pts   6'0, 198   5/30/00   Shoots Left   Tabor, Czech Rep.   NCAA: UConn				
<p>One of the top scorers in the USHL, Blumel is a shoot-first center who anchored Waterloo's top line alongside fellow import and draft eligible Vladislav Firstov. A native of the Czech Republic and a UConn recruit, Blumel is an athletic pivot with breakaway speed who plays an aggressive style with or without the puck. He is a minute eater used in all situations, including the penalty kill, where he is as dangerous a threat as he is at even strength or with the man advantage.</p> <p>Blumel's speed, edgework and agility are excellent. He isn't very big, but he handles shoves and harassing stickwork with relative ease as he charges towards the net. As if his scoring proclivity weren't enough, Blumel also is an agitator who gets under an opponent's skin. He is confident on the puck and can stickhandle out if any jam, and at times can make a defenseman look foolish with inside-out moves. He's an excellent passer and playmaker, especially off his backhand and with his back to the boards.</p>				

9	Alexander Zhabreyev	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	Dynamo-SPB	MHL
63gp-20g-36a-56pts   5'7 152   3/24/00   Shoots Left   Chelyabinsk, Russia				
<p>An electrifying talent, Zhabreyev was one of the MHL's top scorers while playing on one of the league's most potent lines. He's a slick little player with ridiculous agility who keeps his feet moving at all times. Zhabreyev is an outstanding stickhandler who consistently finds ways to get himself into either shooting or primary set-up position. He has extremely soft hands with incredible skate-to-stick coordination, and he rarely gives up on a play if a scoring opportunity is within his reach. Zhabreyev has an underrated shot that causes rebound control issues for goalies, but he also owns a nice backhand that helps him roof pucks from in tight. He's more of an offense-first specialist and appears to avoid contact of any kind in his own end, unless a breakout up ice is the potential reward for his efforts.</p>				

10	Justin Bergeron	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL
65gp-16g-41a-57pts   6'1, 181   9/14/00   Shoots Left   Magog, QC				
<p>A dependable two-way defenseman who missed the cut for first-year eligibility by a few days, Bergeron was a huge piece to Rouyn-Noranda winning both the QMJHL title and Memorial Cup. Blessed with good size and quick feet, Bergeron is a thinking-man's defenseman who make an excellent first pass but can also deal with an intense forecheck in a variety of ways. He pivots off pressure with ease and has a quick enough first step to start to outpace his opponents, but he can also split the seam with an accurate stretch pass, especially off an immediate retrieval. Bergeron is not flashy with the puck, but he has the ability to go for a skate and enter the zone under control. He does, however, love to jump into openings and maximize his shot attempts on net - Bergeron isn't a fire-and-forget shooter from the point. He will creep in as low as the has marks and deliver a hard, accurate shot on net. He is an effective point man on the power play for his soft hands and hard shot, but he also delivers the puck with precision and velocity.</p> <p>Bergeron is a very good defender and knows when to deliver a hit and when to simply hold the line with his stick and positioning. He keeps a tight gap and takes the right routes while keeping his feet in motion and preventing the inside move. Bergeron finishes his checks with authority and can lower the boom when necessary. He is used on the first penalty-killing unit and will battle hard for low-slot superiority.</p>				

11	Karel Plasek	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Brno	Extraliga
29gp-2g-4a-6pts   5'10, 155   7/28/00   Shoots Left   Prerov, Czech Republic				
<p>An excitable forward who was erroneously passed over in last year's draft, Plasek held his own as a regular in the Czech Extraliga, playing mostly as a depth player but with time on special teams as well. A super-charged goal scorer who can play either center or wing, Plasek has a fantastic combined season between the Czech junior and minor leagues, playing top-line minutes and producing over a point per game. He's also been a top-line forward for the Czech Republic at all the key international tournaments and showed instant chemistry with a host of different linemates. Plasek's speed is at the forefront of his overall game, but he has such incredibly soft hands that he doesn't require an empty sheet of ice in front of him to make you jump out of your seat. He has been deployed to fill a variety of roles – penalty killer, point man on the power play, etc. Plasek has a high compete level and has shown he can think properly while travelling at a ridiculous rate of speed. He's a lot of fun to watch, even in warm-ups.</p>				

12	Max Crozier	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Sioux Falls	USHL
60gp-10g-33a-43pts   6'2, 190   4/19/00   Shoots Right   Calgary, AB   NCAA: Providence				
<p>One of the USHL's top-scoring defenseman, Crozier is a Providence-bound puck mover who was one of the top performers on a Sioux City squad that won the Clark Cup championship. Crozier is a one-man breakout who can deliver an accurate stretch pass or skate his way through traffic for an uncontested zone entry. Every one of his forays in to the offensive zone is done with confidence; even in moments where he may seem outnumbered or in a helpless situation. Crozier is very poised with the puck and doesn't like to give it away for nothing. He was the primary point man on Sioux Falls' lethal power play, where he did a great job sharing the puck with all those talented forwards while incorporating himself into plays between the circles for his own chance at the net. He owns a hard shot that is accurate, but it's his ability to walk the line and pump fake rather than sling pucks blindly that lends to his high hockey IQ.</p> <p>Crozier can be a mean, physical player who delivers big open ice hits. He uses his stick a ton – both legally and illegally – while making sure not an inch of the low slot is taken without a fight. He has quick feet and holds firm at the line, and his retreat speed and lateral quickness allow him to keep opponents fixed to the outside. Crozier was used on the primary penalty-killing pairing and also was on the ice for all late and close situations.</p>				

13	Bryce Brodzinski	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	Blaine	HS-MN
23gp-32g-44a-76pts   6'0, 197   8/9/00   Shoots Right   Blaine, MN   NCAA: Minnesota				
<p>A skilled two-way forward with size, Brodzinski was a driving force behind Blaine's dominance that came to an end with the loss to Eden Prairie in the state semifinals. Not only did he earn Minnesota's Mr. Hockey award for being the Class AA scoring champion with 76 points in 23 games, but he also did well in his brief stint with the USHL's Omaha Lancers, scoring 17 points in 19 games. Brodzinski is an unselfishly good set-up man with excellent vision and a soft touch. He can deliver the puck on the tape in a variety of ways – saucers, flips, bank passes – and you rarely see a linemate having issues receiving and controlling the puck in one motion. From a skating standpoint, Brodzinski is more North-South than nimble and shift. Brodzinski isn't an explosive skater, but he maintains his balance and can change gears to catch defenders flat footed. He does generate a lot of power into his stride once he gets moving, but his first-step quickness at this point is average.</p> <p>Although his passing acumen is a big component of his game, Brodzinski has an excellent shot with a quick release that helps him score from just about anywhere inside the offensive zone. In fact, the majority of his goals were scored with shots from 20-30 feet away from the net. Brodzinski isn't just a contributor on offense, however, as he spends most of his time defensive-zone time helping out below the goal line, fighting for pucks in corners or covering gaps in the slot. He is a very good penalty killer and he wins a little less than half his faceoffs.</p>				

14	Sergei Sapego	Pos.	Team	League
		LHD	Prince Albert	WHL
58gp-10g-33a-43pts   6'2, 179   10/8/99   Shoots Left   Vitebsk, Belarus				
<p>A mobile two-way defenseman who played a key role in Prince Albert's near-perfect season, Sapego saw a significant role in the top four and was the primary defenseman to orchestrate the Raiders' lethal power play. He has sound offensive instincts and will join the rush or initiate one himself using his above-average speed and powerful stride. Sapego owns an excellent shot-release combination that keeps teams honest, especially on the power play. But as the season progressed, he developed more confidence in his passing abilities, specifically after activating into the circle and splitting the seam with a tape-to-tape pass. Sapego is a confident puck carrier; one who can use a series of moves and directional changes to escape pressure. He uses his frame and long reach to keep the puck away from harassing forecheckers, but he makes quick decisions and rarely puts himself in a position to turn the puck over for an odd-man counterattack.</p> <p>Sapego is a competent defenseman in his own end in terms of positioning and physicality. Although he has quick closing speed and can finish checks with authority, he generally affords puck carriers too much room at the line. His retreat speed and routes help make up for it, but you'd like to see him tighten up his gap and neutralize more plays outside the blue line.</p>				

15	Stepan Starkov	Pos.	Team	League
		LW	HK Sochi	KHL
34gp-3g-3a-6pts   6'0, 170   6/18/99   Shoots Left   Belgorod, Russia				
<p>A thick, well-balanced winger who was critical in Russia's win over the CHL All-Stars in November, Starkov plays a heavy 200-foot game built on relentless pressure, hard hitting and smart positioning. Starkov may now blow you away with one particular skill, but his deadly wrist shot is wired with a quick release and he knows how to get himself open to use it. Starkov skates very well, showing more strength and power to his stride than anything else. Since he's dedicated to supporting his defensemen, Starkov is responsible for a significant amount of zone exits that he keeps himself for the eventual entry. Once he enters the zone, Starkov is difficult to wargame, as he is just as comfortable with the chip and chase as he is cutting back on a dime along the wall before connecting at the line with a streaking trailer.</p> <p>Starkov also has a soft set of hands and good hand-eye coordination to go skate-to-stick in transition or deaden saucer passes flat. Once the puck is off his stick, Starkov looks for the nearest puck battle or net-front scrum, and he rarely backs down from a defenseman trying to dislodge him from the low slot. But that doesn't mean he wants no part of puck possession – Starkov is a beast off the cycle and can whip cross-ice passes to the weak side with pinpoint accuracy. This serves him well on the half wall on the power play, but he also contributes as a penalty killer and late-game checker.</p>				

16	Mike Vorlicky	Pos.	Team	League
		RW	Edina	HS-MN
24gp-4g-18a-22pts   6'1, 183   7/17/00   Shoots Right   Edina, MN   NCAA: Wisconsin				
<p>A quick and heady two-way defenseman who served as the captain and leader of Edina's march to the state title, Vorlicky moved on to a brief yet successful stint with the USHL's Madison Capitals. Vorlicky provided balance and stability to Edina's attack that was fueled by a deep group of forwards, specifically one of the the best lines in the nation. Vorlicky's excellent skating abilities beyond his straight-line speed helps him maintain control of the pace of a given contest. He definitely is an on-ice general who makes a habit of keeping the puck on the good side of the red line. Vorlicky's speed and quick feet come into play when he defends against one-on-one and odd-man scenarios. He maintains an incredibly tight gap and has excellent closing speed, and rarely will you ever see him look at the puck. These timing traits when combined with his high hockey IQ and first-step quickness leads to multiple counterattacks per game. Vorlicky anchors the top penalty-killing and power-play units. He patrols below the circles with confidence and pounces on opponents in the corner with an emphatic shove before he releases back to his slot duties.</p>				

<b>17</b>	<b>Ivan Drozdov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Dinamo Minsk	KHL

**47gp-1g-7a-8pts | 6'0, 182 | 11/15/99 | Shoots Left | Vitebsk, Belarus**

An undervalued puck wizard with speed who impacts the game in all three zones, Drozdov has been the center of gravity for the Belorussian attack at multiple IIHF events and continues to impress against strong competition. He was solid in his first full year in the KHL when you consider his age, role and the quality of his teammates. But it was with Belarus at the Division 1 under-20 world juniors where he again distinguished himself, tying for the tournament lead with four goals and placing second with seven points. Drozdov also is an excellent penalty killer and threat to score shorthanded.

The best word to describe Drozdov's game in the offensive zone is creative. He does not require standard conditions to create or finish a scoring chance, and there is a significant level of trickery and deception to his intentions. For example, he is adept at placing shots towards the net for the purpose of either a rebound or a deflection. He also uses pump fakes and slap passes to fool a goalie out of position, and he is one of the better bad-angle shooters you'll find available in the draft. His feet are always in motion, and he uses rapid bursts from a static position that catches opposing checkers completely off guard. Well balanced and shifty, Drozdov is very tough to knock off the puck no matter where he is on the ice.

<b>18</b>	<b>Nick Abruzzese</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Chicago	USHL

**57gp-29g-51a-80pts | 5'9, 160 | 3/23/00 | Shoots Left | Slate Hill, NY**

A slick playmaking pivot who was the USHL's regular-season scoring champion and served as Chicago's top-line center throughout the season, Abruzzese is a Harvard-bound New Yorker with excellent speed and hockey sense. He handled his critical role as a team leader with aplomb and was the glue that kept the Steel together in the wake of roster changes brought on by injury, trades and prospect tournaments. This may be his third draft rodeo, but Abruzzese is one of the best passers off the rush you'll find in the draft. His ability to make quick decisions while moving at a high rate of speed is exceptional, and he consistently spots trailers and cutters when few in the rink notice the play developing.

Abruzzese is the perfect option to run the power play from the half wall. His passing skills are one reason, but he is also poised under pressure and doesn't make low-percentage plays. He can be a little unselfish at times and pass up shots most forward would take in a heartbeat. But part of his pass-first preference was understanding the strengths of his linemates; in particular fellow Empire Stater Robert Mastro Simone, who owns one of the best shots of any 2001-born prospect. Not only is Abruzzese an expert power-play specialist, but he also plays on the penalty kill and is a legitimate threat to create a scoring chance no matter the situation.

19	Lukas Wernblom	Pos.	Team	League
		C/W	MODO	Allsvenskan
48gp-6g-11a-17pts   5'9, 172   7/22/00   Shoots Left   Ornskoldsvik, Sweden				
<p>A highly-skilled forward who was one of the top teenage players in Sweden's adult-age Allsvenskan, Wernblom's aggressive, in-your-face style that's built on speed likely won't get him passed over for a second straight draft. Wernblom can fill a variety of roles thanks to his natural talent and hard-nosed approach. He is an excellent passer with keen vision, and he always has his head up looking for the home-run pass. Wernblom also scores in a manner of ways, especially with his hard, accurate shot that he can label off the pass. Wernblom will follow up his own shots and will dart for loose pucks without any regard for his own safety.</p> <p>If he isn't on the wall or teeing up a shot from either circle, Wernblom will dig in for crease battles to tip pucks home or knock in rebounds. He is used on both special teams, mostly for his tenacity and quickness to the puck. Wernblom is actually reliable in his own end, but his tendency to take bad penalties diminished his role as close games went deeper into the third period. Wernblom is quick on his feet, reads plays well and is willing to block shots. Being aggressive on the forecheck is a given every shift, and it's common for Wernblom to go shoulder-to-shoulder with bigger defensemen. He's a bit of an agitator and is always around the net during whistles, and he'll follow those up with a big hit or hard shove off the ensuing faceoff.</p>				

20	Ronald Attard	Pos.	Team	League
		RHD	Tri-City	USHL
48gp-30g-34a-64pts   6'3, 208   3/20/99   Shoots Right   White Lake, MI   NCAA: W. Michigan				
<p>An aggressive double-overage defender with size who served as Tri-City's captain and was named the USHL's Defenseman of the Year, Attard had one of the better seasons you'll ever find for a blueliner, let alone one passed over in two previous drafts. His storybook season ended with mind-numbing statistics – he led all USHL rearguards with a record 30 goals – 13 on the power play – and tied for second with 150 shots in 48 games. But stats only tell part of the story, as Attard clearly spent extra time refining his overall game after two nondescript USHL seasons. Much like fellow draft overager Brett Leason, Attard has developed into an all-around player rather than impress with just one or two attributes. Not only does Attard have massive length and upper-body strength, but he also is an excellent positional defender who menaces opponents without doing it in a dirty or erratic way. Attard's size is imposing, and he looks to deliver crunching checks anywhere on the ice.</p> <p>Attard is a reliable puck rusher and makes an excellent first pass. One would think he gets beaten in a fair amount of 50/50 battles, but Attard uses his reach, body positioning and reaction timing to ensure he's the first to the puck. Once he collects it, he plays under control and is smart with his decisions, especially as he generates speed up the ice. His exits and entries usually are controlled, but without the puck, Attard will make that mad dash towards the net using a long, powerful stride to join a rush and look to finish with his elite shot-release combination. Committed to Western Michigan University, Attard is built for the college game and should make an immediate impact.</p>				

<b>21</b>	<b>Alexander Darin</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL

**47gp-20g-15a-35pts | 5'11, 159 | 8/16/00 | Shoots Right | Yaroslavl, Russia**

Darin is an exciting player who loves to control the puck and tire out defenses. He spent a significant amount of time on Loko's top line as the regular season turned into the playoffs, and it was impressive to see veteran forwards defer to him for zone entries and running the cycle. Darin is incredibly elusive anywhere on the ice, and his ability to combine patience and stickhandling while his back is to the wall is already at an elite level. He's a lot of fun to watch with the puck, even when he doubles back to the defensive zone to cover up for one of his linemates. A power-play specialist, Darin is an explosive skater with a quick first step, and he seems to have an innate sense for where the best passing option is located and what kind of timing play will it take to deliver the puck cleanly.

Darin is constantly cruising through the slot when he doesn't have the puck. He has a nasty shot with a quick release, but if there isn't room to cock the hammer, he'll battle near the low slot and look for a tip-in chance or rebound. He's certainly more inclined to make plays on the offensive end without playing physical, but the puck still finds him and he definitely knows what to do with it.

<b>22</b>	<b>Yannick Brusche</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	GCK Lions	NLB

**57gp-12g-12a-24pts | 5'10, 172 | 8/29/99 | Shoots Left | Switzerland**

Sometimes, all a prospect needs is a foot in the door to reveal to the world what he has to offer. When it comes to this excitable Swiss forward, that door was smashed in with a thunderous kick at the under-20 world junior championship, where Brusche scored the critical first goal in a 2-0 quarterfinal win over favored Sweden. And although the Swiss fell short of a medal, their fourth-place finish was a great story, not only for international hockey, but for Brusche's draft stock as well. He's a quick, heady forward who plays a 200-foot game and is used in all special-teams situations. Looking at his measurements may incline an observer to think he's more of the finesse type, but Brusche is a tough customer who doesn't get intimidated by bigger players, nor does he avoid getting his hands dirty in the corners or in front of the net. Brusche is strong on his skates and an excellent stickhandler who expertly controls the puck, with calculated decisions evident every time he makes them. He rarely looks to rush things, and if eating the puck must be done, it's a safe bet that it was the only acceptable course of action. He keeps goalies honest with a deceptive shot and release, but Brusche can also rock a defender to sleep with a dangle or toe drag. Overall, we're talking about one slick customer who would slot nicely on a team looking for a combination of skill and determination.

<b>23</b>	<b>Yuri Platanov</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Stalnye Lisy	MHL

**43gp-20g-26a-46pts | 5'11, 164 | 5/14/00 | Shoots Left | Saratov, Russia**

A road-running scorer with excitable moves and quick hands as well as three-zone awareness, Platanov was one of several talented forwards on Stalnye Lisy's dangerous attack. He spent most of the year shuffling between the top two lines and first two power-play units, and in both cases, he was a consistent scorer who looked flashy and explosive while being one. He's more than just a point producer, however, as Platanov is one of the MHL's top penalty killers and faceoff men, winning 60 percent of his draws (484-for-807). Of course, it was his third full year in the league, plus he played for a deep with loads of skill at every position. Still, Platanov is a joy to watch in open ice, and his ability to gain separation after only a stride or two puts him among the draft's elite skaters.

<b>24</b>	<b>Jack Jensen</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C/W	Eden Prairie	HS-MN
<b>24gp-31g-21a-52pts   6'0, 201   8/31/00   Shoots Left   Eden Prairie, MN   NCAA: Minnesota</b>				
<p>A powerful two-way center who was Eden Prairie's leading scorer, Jensen had a fantastic senior season as the focal point of the attack despite drawing all the tough matchups. Strong as an ox, Jensen is a powerful skater and an excellent stickhandler who likes to play an inside game and cause problems from the circles on down. Not only is Jensen an agile skater with lateral quickness, but he also is very tough to knock off the puck. This serves him well in open ice, where he is extremely dangerous, but he also can make mince meat out of defenders who try to keep a tight gap on him by going inside-out or a powerful direct routes to the net. Jensen has soft hands for a power forward, and he can corral a tough pass on the fly as well as anyone in his draft class. Strong on draws and sound positionally, Jensen is a versatile 200-foot player who likes to throw his weight around, deliver big hits and pressure the puck as often as possible. He deserves credit for improving his decision making with the puck once he crosses center, and owning a heavy shot is a good enough to excuse him for frequently taking matters into his own hands. Jensen may turn out to be better on the wing than at center, but he remains one of the top high-school forwards available for the draft.</p>				

<b>25</b>	<b>Kevin Wall</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RW	Chilliwack	BCHL
<b>49gp-31g-33a-64pts   6'0, 188   2/1/00   Shoots Right   Rochester, NY   NCAA: Merrimack</b>				
<p>Physical two-way winger from the U.S. who excelled at Salisbury Prep last year but is refining his game to new heights with Chilliwack in Canadian Jr. A. Committed to Merrimack, Wall is a versatile forward who mixes strength with finesse. His was used as a net-front presence and crease crusher in high school, but he's become more confident handling the puck and is using his passing abilities and vision to shed the moniker that he's a fire-and-forget power forward. Wall is an average skater in terms of straight-line speed, but he can be nimble and sharp with his movements in tight quarters. Handling the puck with his head up generally nets the desired result, especially off the rush or in odd-man scenarios. Wall is a very good option for both the power play and the penalty kill, and his coaches are comfortable using him in late-game situations. He can intimidate with his hitting and make defenders pay a price for going into the corners, plus he likes to battle hard for positioning in the low slot.</p>				

<b>26</b>	<b>Mason Snell</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LHD	Penticton	BCHL
52gp-5g-15a-20pts   6'0, 190   6/18/00   Shoots Left   Clarington, ON   NCAA: Penn St.				
<p>A Penn State commit, Snell is a draft overager who made the move from the OJHL to the BCHL's elite prospect factory in Penticton. A nimble and fluid skater who looks graceful maneuvering in any direction. Snell is a one-man breakout who can uses his wheels or his variety of passes to beat back or trap a forecheck. Most of his passes are crisp and tape-to-tape regardless of distance, but he also buys time and space with his stickhandling and poise. He's improved his play along the boards and in the corners, and the dominant play he revealed at last year's RBC Cup was no fluke. His ideal size when combined with his quick feet help him neutralize scoring chances near the goal, and he doesn't venture too far from the slot unless he confident in someone covering for him. Snell can play physical and outmuscle players his own size or smaller from the low slot. He stands out the most on the power play, where he can quarterback a top unit and skate pucks cleanly into the zone. He owns an average shot and defers to the pass quite often.</p>				

<b>27</b>	<b>Kristian Tanus</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	LeKi	Mestis
33gp-13g-31a-44pts   5'8, 160   8/07/00   Shoots Left   Tampere, Finland				
<p>Tanus is a speedy playmaker who last year was not considered by many to be a heralded prospect; probably because of his lack of size. He did, however, play a prominent role for Finland's under-18 teams in most of the 2018 draft-year tournaments and was one of the Jr. A SM-Liiga's top U18 scorers. Fast forward to this year, where Tanus was the top U20 point producer in the adult-age Mestis before getting a promotion for a month's worth of games with Jukurit in the elite SM-Liiga.</p> <p>Tanus is a dizzying offensive player who has very good straight-line speed while showing precise and controlled agility. He can stop and start on a dime without losing situational awareness, and he possesses a sixth sense to gauge where back pressure is coming from. Tanus plays and thinks at the same time, not only with the puck but without it as well. He is the driving force during breakout attempts and is deferred to quite frequently by the most mobile of his team's defensemen. The creativity Tanus shows with the puck makes him perfect to run the power play from either behind the net (a lost art) or his customary position along the half wall. Tanus is an excellent passer and uses multiple methods to deliver feeds to the option with the best chance to score. Lastly, although he isn't a stopper from a defensive standpoint, Tanus is an aggressive forechecker without trying to be physical. He also busts his tail on the backcheck.</p>				

<b>28</b>	<b>Mason Nevers</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		C	Edina	HS-MN

**24gp-17g-32a-49pts | 5'10, 165 | 4/3/00 | Shoots Right | Edina, MN | NCAA: Minnesota**

A crafty and elusive pass-first center who is the driving force behind the state's premier three-man unit, Nevers is an offensive forward who can beat an opponent with his speed or from a completely static position inside the offensive zone. He has quick feet and displays confidence while stickhandling under pressure, thus allowing him to slice right into the optimal scoring areas for a cleaner look at the net. Nevers from the middle of the ice is a tough opponent to telegraph because he has very good peripheral vision to no-look a pass to an open linemate on either side of the goal. His quick-strike mindset keeps him driving to the net and looking to create chances immediately off of offensive-zone faceoffs. Nevers and his linemates mastered the art of the give and go, and the precision of his passes from in close led to multiple tap-ins into a yawning cage. There is more to his game than offense, however, as he takes a fair amount of defensive-zone draws and also anchors the top penalty killing unit.

<b>29</b>	<b>Andre Lee</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Sioux Falls	USHL

**61gp-20g-15a-35pts | 6'5, 205 | 7/26/00 | Shoots Left | Karlstad, Sweden | NCAA: Mass-Lowell**

A massive power winger who was one of the USHL's top playoff performers, Lee is a Swedish import committed to UMass-Lowell. He is a bruising net-front presence who also joins the attack and finish off the rush, and he has deceptive speed in open ice. Lee shared low-slot duties on Sioux Falls' lethal power play with Artyom Ivanuzhenkov, so most of his goals were scored at even strength thanks to his soft hands, hard wrister and a quick release. Lee is almost impossible to move from anywhere below the circles, and he is a menace along the wall.

Lee is a hunched skater with a wide stride and average speed and agility. Although he isn't a speed burner, Lee knows how to protect the puck as he charges towards the net with his skates violently digging in. He can make a series of smart plays or passes with an opponent (or two) draped on him, and he seemed to have very good chemistry with the variety of centers he flanked this season. Keep in mind that he rarely saw primary power-play time or had the benefit of playing with playmaking centers Jami Krannila or Anthony Romano.

<b>30</b>	<b>Jeremie Bucheler</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Victoria	BCHL

**54gp-8g-37a-45pts | 6'4, 201 | 3/31/00 | Shoots Right | Montreal, QC | NCAA: Northeastern**

Overage two-way defender with impressive strength who can be a dominant force when he's at his best. Bucheler, a former high pick in the QMJHL draft who last season played for Chicago in the USHL, still has a lot to learn about defending his turf, but the potential for a top-four game breaker is revealed on a nightly basis. The issue with Bucheler is putting forth a consistent effort on defense, especially when he decides to make multiple forays without the puck deep into opposing territory. He's a good skater for his size with a long, powerful stride, and the timing of his step-ups and poke checks is sound. Bucheler whips the puck around the horn with accuracy and can unleash a heavy shot off the pass. He may never be a classic power-play quarterback, but he can be an asset because of his shot and his ability to maneuver around a check.

<b>31</b>	<b>Jett Jungels</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		LW	Edina	HS-MN
<b>24gp-27g-27a-54pts   5'9, 161   7/14/00   Shoots Left   Edina, MN   NCAA: N. Michigan</b>				
<p>An explosive skater with a pro-level shot and release, Jungels was part of Edina's vaunted "BLITS Line" that sliced through competition like a hot knife through butter. He is a high-volume shooter from the wing but can also be a pass-first playmaker who uses his agility and quickness to hang on to the puck for extended periods before slipping a backdoor pass to a cutter. Still, the best way to classify Jungels is as a goal-scoring winger; one who likes to unload pucks at the net from any angle no matter the situation. Jungels is by no means a puck hog, and his shots always appear to be of the high-percentage variety, even if he fires pucks in his feet or if overextended. He has outstanding chemistry with his linemates and senses their presence either on the rush or during extended cycles inside the offensive zone. Jungels sees the ice on an elite level and can be counted on to make the right decision during a breakout or odd-man rush. He likes to set up inside the circles on the power play but can also run the unit from the half wall. He plays moderately physical and uses his quickness to avoid contact, especially in the corners, but he is an aggressive penalty killer who will get down to block shots. Playing on a line where all three forwards are of the diminutive variety is common for top scorers in high school, so it will be interesting to see how he handles the physicality of the college game.</p>				

<b>32</b>	<b>Josh Maniscalco</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>League</b>
		RHD	Arizona State	NCAA
<b>35gp-4g-16a-20pts   6'1, 201   2/17/99   Shoots Right   Perkiomenville, PA</b>				
<p>A former NTDP'er with leadership qualities who has developed into one of college hockey's most feared hitters, Maniscalco was part of an upstart program in Arizona that not only had a winning season but earned a birth in the NCAA tournament. Maniscalco logged big minutes and was matched up against top lines during the Sun Devils' march to the Frozen Four tournament. He is fairly mobile for his size and has a long, powerful stride once he gets three or four steps into his movement. You aren't going to summon Maniscalco to make an end-to-end rush, but he has shown more aggressiveness with the puck as opposed to his NTDP or USHL days.</p> <p>Maniscalco was used on both the power play and the penalty kill. He owns a booming shot from the point, and he doesn't hesitate to use it. He won't hesitate to let one go off the pass, but he's also patient enough to wait for a lane to open or traffic to reach the front of the net. He's more of a passenger on the power play rather than a conductor, but his shot and quick passing ability come in handy, nonetheless. Maniscalco is in fact an impact player when down a man. He rarely loses a battle in front of the net and makes an effort to make life miserable for anyone attempting to establish a net-front presence. He doesn't wander too far from the slot, not is guilty of puck gazing. When you consider the leaps and bounds made by the Arizona State program, and Maniscalco's role in helping them achieve that as a freshman, there's no reason to think he won't be one of college hockey's top defenders by the time he's a senior.</p>				

# 2020 NHL DRAFT: Preseason Top-31

It's never too early to look ahead and gauge the notable prospects for the 2020 NHL Draft, which is considered to have as strong a group of forwards as the 2019 crop. Leading the way is consensus top pick Alexis Lafreniere of the QMJHL's Rimouski Oceanic. Lafreniere, who is an elite playmaker with exceptional hockey sense and an impressive physique, is on track to become the first French Canadian-born prospect to go first overall in the NHL draft since goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury in 2003.

Not far behind Lafreniere is hulking OHL power forward Quinton Byfield, who carried an upstart Sudbury Wolves squad to their deepest playoff run in years. Blessed with size, speed, a massive wingspan and incredibly soft hands, Byfield is a finesse center trapped in the body of a linebacker. Not only is Byfield a worthy challenger to Lafreniere's top spot, but he also is part of another strong contingent of draft prospects from the OHL, which isn't the case in 2019. Viable candidates to join Byfield in next year's first round are dynamic forwards Cole Perfetti, Austrian import Marco Rossi and Antonio Stranges. Closing out the CHL's list of premier 2019 draft eligibles is another outstanding group of skaters from the WHL that includes hard-hitting defenseman Braden Schneider, plus forwards Connor McClennon, Jake Neighbours, Connor Zary and Justin Sourdif, with Sourdif plays a huge role in Vancouver's near upset of favored Prince Albert in the WHL Finals. But of all the prospects from Western Canada, it could be Wisconsin-bound 200-foot forward Dylan Holloway who gets drafted the earliest.

One thing that is a certainty for next year is the expected drop in elite talent and depth coming from the U.S. National Team Development Program, which iced a historic roster a season ago. Although there is no Jack Hughes or Trevor Zegras, the upcoming batch of American-born phenoms still offers NHL teams a solid collection of draft prospects, beginning with puck-moving defenseman Jake Sanderson and two-way forward Ryder Rolston. It also is a strong year for high school standouts, so keep an eye on slick center Jack Smith, a Minnesota-Duluth recruit who turned down a spot on the NTDP but should be a finalist for this year's Minnesota Mr. Hockey award.

Lastly, it should be another banner year for European prospects, specifically from Scandinavia. Swedish wingers Alexander Holtz and Lucas Raymond took the international stage by storm in April by leading the Swedes to their first-ever gold medal at the under-18 world championship. Joining them as first-round hopefuls are Noel Gunler and defenseman Helge Grans, while another forward, Zion Nybeck, could also see himself drafted on Day One in 2020. It's also a strong group for the Czech Republic, as their trio of forwards - Jan Mysak, Adam Raska and Jaromir Pytlik - could form their own line at the under-20 world juniors, which will be hosted by the Czechs in Ostrava.

RANK	PLAYER	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE	BORN	HT	WT	S
1	Alexis Lafreniere	LW	Rimouski	QMJHL	10/11/01	6'1	192	L
2	Quinton Byfield	C	Sudbury	OHL	8/19/02	6'4	214	L
3	Alexander Holtz	RW	Djugardens J20	Superelit	1/23/02	6'0	183	R
4	Cole Perfetti	C	Saginaw	OHL	1/1/02	5'10	185	L
5	Jan Mysak	C	Litvinov	Extraliga	6/24/02	6'0	176	L
6	Dylan Holloway	C/LW	Okotoks	AJHL	9/23/01	6'0	192	L
7	Rodion Amirov	LW	Tolpar	MHL	10/2/01	6'0	168	L
8	Lucas Raymond	RW	Frolunda J20	Superelit	3/28/02	5'10	165	R
9	Marco Rossi	C	Ottawa	OHL	9/23/01	5'9	179	L
10	Jamie Drysdale	RHD	Erie	OHL	4/8/02	5'11	165	R
11	Connor McClennon	RW	Winnipeg	WHL	6/25/02	5'9	154	L
12	Theo Rochette	C	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	2/20/02	5'10	159	L
13	Vasili Ponomaryov	RW	Krylia Sovetov	MHL	3/13/02	6'0	176	L
14	Braden Schneider	RHD	Brandon	WHL	9/20/01	6'2	209	R
15	Antonio Stranges	LW	London	OHL	2/5/02	5'10	179	L
16	Jake Neighbours	LW	Edmonton	WHL	3/29/02	5'11	201	L
17	Jacob Perreault	C	Sarnia	OHL	4/15/02	5'11	198	R
18	Anton Lundell	C	HIFK	SM-Liiga	10/3/01	6'1	183	L
19	Justin Sourdif	C	Vancouver	WHL	3/24/02	5'11	165	R
20	Yaroslav Askarov	G	SKA-Varyagi	MHL	6/16/02	6'3	163	R
21	Noel Gunler	RW	Lulea J20	Superelit	10/7/01	6'1	176	R
22	Justin Barron	RHD	Halifax	QMJHL	11/15/01	6'2	192	R
23	Connor Zary	C	Kamloops	WHL	9/25/01	6'0	174	L
24	Helge Grans	RHD	Malmo J20	Superelit	5/10/02	6'2	183	R
25	Jaromir Pytlik	C	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	9/25/01	6'3	196	L
26	Jake Sanderson	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	7/8/02	6'1	170	L
27	Adam Raska	RW	Trinec U20	ELJ	9/25/01	5'10	168	R
28	Daniil Gushchin	RW	Muskegon	USHL	2/6/02	5'8	161	L
29	Kaiden Guhle	LHD	Prince Albert	WHL	1/18/02	6'3	187	L
30	Tim Stutzle	C	Mannheim U20	DNL U20	1/15/02	5'11	165	L
31	Jack Smith	C	Cathedral	HS-MN	7/6/02	6'0	185	L

# Top-25 Rankings By Position

CENTER	
RANK	NAME
1	Jack Hughes
3	Trevor Zegras
7	Alex Turcotte
10	Dylan Cozens
11	Peyton Krebs
12	Kirby Dach
13	Raphael Lavoie
14	Alex Newhook
21	Ryan Suzuki
23	Ilya Nikolaev
25	Connor McMichael
30	Yegor Spiridonov
31	John Beecher
32	Philip Tomasino
37	Oleg Zaitsev
45	John Farinacci
49	Ethan Phillips
52	Valentin Nussbaumer
53	Harrison Blaisdell
56	Ryder Donovan
57	Nikita Alexandrov
58	Vojtech Strondala
62	Jamieson Rees
67	Antti Saarela
74	Maxim Denezhkin

LEFT WING	
RANK	NAME
6	Matthew Boldy
9	Pavel Dorofeyev
20	Nils Hoglander
22	Robert Mastro Simone
24	Jakob Pelletier
27	Michal Těplý
44	Adam Beckman
46	Nicholas Robertson
54	Egor Afanaseyev
55	Daniil Gutik
61	Brayden Tracey
66	Nolan Foote
68	Vladislav Firstov
81	Alexander Gordin
84	Marcus Kallionkieli
85	Marek Berka
87	Ethan Keppen
93	Aku Raty
94	Nikola Pasic
98	Judd Caulfield
99	Michael Gildon
107	Rhett Pitlick
108	Amir Garayev
113	Alexei Tsyplov
121	Max Wahlgren

RIGHT WING	
RANK	NAME
2	Kaapo Kakko
5	Vasily Podkolzin
8	Cole Caufield
28	Arthur Kaliyev
35	Patrik Puustola
36	Leevi Aaltonen
38	Samuel Poulin
39	Bobby Brink
50	Albin Grewe
63	Tuukka Tiekola
65	Dmitry Sheshin
69	Arseni Gritsyuk
72	Patrick Moynihan
73	Maxim Cajkovic
79	Ondrej Psenicka
83	Simon Holmstrom
86	Nathan Legare
93	Aku Raty
94	Nikola Pasic
98	Judd Caulfield
108	Amir Garayev
115	Graeme Clarke
121	Max Wahlgren
135	Martin Beranek

DEFENSEMEN	
RANK	NAME
4	Bowen Byram
15	Ville Heinola
17	Victor Soderstrom
18	Moritz Seider
19	Cameron York
26	Tobias Bjornfot
29	Philip Broberg
33	Thomas Harley
34	Matthew Robertson
40	Anttoni Honka
41	Ludvig Hedstrom
42	Ryan Johnson
43	Lassi Thomson
47	Semyon Chistyakov
48	Drew Helleison
51	Albert Johansson
59	Vladislav Kolyachonok
60	Kaedan Korczak
64	Alex Vlasic
70	Marshall Warren
71	Santeri Hatakka
75	Danil Misyul
76	Mikko Kokkonen
78	William Constantinou

GOALIES	
RANK	NAME
16	Spencer Knight
92	Mads Sogaard
97	Hugo Alnefelt
102	Hunter Jones
106	Dustin Wolf
111	Lukas Parik
114	Isaiah Saville
119	Colten Ellis
126	Cameron Rowe
129	Taylor Gauthier
131	Trent Miner
132	Roope Taponen
145	Nolan Maier
177	Jan Skorpik
190	Tobias Ancicka
227	Mack Guzda
243	Alex Aslanidis
247	Arturs Silovs

## Anaheim Ducks (35-37-10)

GM: Bob Murray (11/12/08)

Scouting Director: Martin Madden

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
9, 29	39		101	132	163, 186	

### Team Notes

The Ducks suffered through one of their worst seasons in recent memory, finishing in sixth place in their division for the first time in 21 years. Not only did their streak of 100-point seasons stop at five, but they have several aging veterans who not only hurt their cap space, but also were too hurt to even contribute. The good news is that the Ducks have drafted well the last several seasons, and the veteran void in the lineup was filled by promising prospects like wingers Maxime Comtois and Troy Terry, plus centers Sam Steel and Isac Lundestrom. On defense, they traded popular mainstay Brandon Montour to Buffalo at the trade deadline for blue line prospect Brendan Guhle and a 2019 first-round pick, giving them two picks in the top-31 for the second time in the last four drafts. Although being a perennial Stanley Cup contender prior to this season, the Ducks have stockpiled picks, but they also are one of the few teams that doesn't trade them away either. This has led to a surplus of quality prospects, albeit mostly forwards.

With the ninth pick, the Ducks have several options, but one must consider recent trends. For starters, they don't draft Russians in the first round, let alone the draft as a whole. That probably means top-rated Russian wingers Vasily Podkolzin or Pavel Dorofeyev won't be wearing the gold and black of Anaheim any time soon. Additionally, their biggest need is a No. 1 defense prospect, and outside of prized rookie Josh Mahura, the blue line depth chart is pretty thin. In fact, between 2004 and 2015, the Ducks used a 1st or 2nd rounder on a defenseman 11 times, with seven being first rounders. With their last 18 combined picks spanning three recent drafts, however, they have selected only two defensemen – Mahura (3rd/2016) and Hunter Drew (6th/2018). Barring a trade into the top five to grab Bowen Byram (or an off-the-board reach), it's safe to say Anaheim with the ninth pick will draft one of the elite forwards from either the WHL (Krebs, Dach or Cozens) or one of the studs from the NTDP (Zegras, Turcotte, Boldy or Caufield).

### Draft Trends

- Anaheim has taken goalies in three of the last five drafts – two last year (Roman Durny and Lukas Dostal), and Olle Eriksson-Ek in 2017.
- Only two defensemen drafted in the last three drafts – Josh Mahura, who is an excellent prospect, and Hunter Drew, a 2018 seventh rounder.
- Their system has several playmakers or two-way types – Sam Steel, Antoine Morand, Blake McLaughlin, Isac Lundestrom, Maxime Comtois, Troy Terry, and Bo Groulx.
- Anaheim seems to favor prospects Sweden and CHL, although they've only used three picks on OHL'ers in one draft since 2012 – Nick Ritchie, Max Jones and Jack Kopacka)

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Isac Lundestrom-C (SHL)	1. Troy Terry, Right Wing
2017: None (Maxime Comtois-LW, QMJHL, 2nd)	2. Maxime Comtois, Left Wing
2016: Max Jones-LW (OHL), Sam Steel-C (WHL)	3. Sam Steel, Center
2015: Jacob Larsson-D (SHL)	4. Josh Mahura, Defenseman
2014: Nick Ritchie-LW (OHL)	5. Isac Lundestrom, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Finishers – The Ducks always draft well and have an excellent pool, but they could use some flash and finesse on the wings. Jones and Comtois play a physical style, and Podkolzin offers the Ducks the same kind of package.

**Possible targets:** RW Cole Caufield, LW Matthew Boldy, RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev

2. Defenseman – The Ducks have basically skipped defensemen in three straight drafts. Although they added an NHL-ready prospect in Brendan Guhle, the trades of Brandon Montour and Marcus Pettersson opened a gap in the depth chart at the NHL and AHL level.

**Possible targets:** Bowen Byram, Moritz Seider, Philip Broberg, Ville Heinola, Cam York, Victor Soderstrom

## Arizona Coyotes (39-35-8)

General Manager: John Chayka (5/5/16)

Scouting Director: Lindsay Hofford

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
14	45	74, 76	107	132	174, 176	200

### Team Notes

It's been quite a while since there was postseason hockey in the desert, but the dreaded "R" word that has been synonymous with Coyotes hockey for the better part of nearly a decade seems to be on the verge of being removed from their everyday lexicon. Of course, any team with that kind of playoff drought still has work to do at every level, to include the draft, where GM John Chayka and staff have used a CHL-centric strategy to beef up their prospect pool to one of the deepest in the Western Conference. Whether or not they continue that trend remains to be seen, especially since they are likely out of the running for this draft's top Canadian major junior players, and that the Coyotes' preferred league of choice – the Ontario Hockey League – is offering the NHL one of its weakest draft crops in history. What that could mean for Arizona is a dive into the European talent pool, which the Coyotes rarely do with their first-round picks. That alone is odd in itself, since the last European-trained first rounder they took was franchise defenseman Oliver Edman-Larsson in 2009. And speaking of defense, it would come as a surprise if the Coyotes used the 14th pick on a blue liner. Since 2016, Arizona has used two first-round picks (Jakob Chychrun and Pierre-Olivier Joseph) and two second-round picks (Filip Westerlund and Kevin Bahl) on defenseman, plus one defender in the third round in four straight drafts – Ty Emberson, Cameron Crotty, Cam Dineen and Kyle Capobianco.

### Draft Trends

- Almost half of Chayka's draft picks since taking over as GM in 2016 have been from the CHL (11/23)
- Eight of their last nine first rounders have been from the CHL
- The Coyotes have drafted only three non-NTDP players from the USHL since 2009, and all were drafted out of the Youngstown Phantoms program in either 2017 or 2018
- The NTDP has provided Arizona with at least one draft pick in five of the last six drafts
- Arizona has not drafted a Finnish prospect since 2012 (Niklas Tikkinen). The last prospect from a Russian league drafted by the organization was 2008 first-rounder Viktor Tikhonov
- Coyotes have drafted at least two NHL regulars in each of the three drafts between 2014 and 2016
- Former first rounders Max Domi (2013), Dylan Strome (2015) and Clayton Keller (2016) have all reached the 20-goal, 50-point marks. No Coyotes draftee taken between 2009 and 2012 reached that benchmark. Only Keller still remains in the organization
- The last goalie drafted by the Coyotes higher than the third round was 2010 first-rounder Mark Visentin

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Barrett Hayton-C (OHL)	1. Barrett Hayton, Center
2017: Pierre-Olivier Joseph-D (QMJHL)	2. Kyle Capobianco, Defense
2016: Clayton Keller-C (NTDP), Jakob Chychrun-D (OHL)	3. Adin Hill, Goalie
2015: Dylan Strome-C (OHL), Nick Merkley-LW (WHL)	4. Nate Schnarr, Center
2014: Brendan Perlini-LW (OHL)	5. Pierre-Olivier Joseph, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Scoring Winger – The Coyotes have quality playmakers throughout the organization, even after trading Dylan Strome. This franchise (and the fanbase) are just dying for a legitimate finisher with 30 to 40-goal potential.

**Possible targets:** RW Cole Caufield, RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev, LW Pavel Dorofeyev

## Boston Bruins (49-24-9)

General Manager: Don Sweeney (5/20/15)

Assoc. Scouting Director: Ryan Nadeau

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
30		92		154	185	192

### Team Notes

A disappointing loss to St. Louis in the Stanley Cup Finals notwithstanding, the Bruins had a phenomenal season. Not only did they outslug the Eastern Conference through three rounds of the playoffs, but they did it while dealing with a serious injury bug to many of their notable veterans. The silver lining, of course, was the emergence of the reserves, including Danton Heinen and Matt Grzelcyk both of whom were later-round picks. Six of Boston's top seven scorers during the regular season were original Bruins draft picks, with undrafted free agent (and AHL-trained) Torey Krug the lone exception. A big question is whether or not the youth will be able to one day replace 30-somethings Brad Marchand (3<sup>rd</sup>/2006), Parice Bergeron (2<sup>nd</sup>/2003) and David Krejci (2<sup>nd</sup>/2004) -- a trio that continues to occupy the top of the team scoring charts. Although David Pastrnak (1<sup>st</sup>/2014) is a bonafide star, and Jake DeBrusk (1<sup>st</sup>/2015), Brandon Carlo (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015) and Charlie McAvoy (1<sup>st</sup>/2016) are developing into future leaders, it's also the round-the-clock promotions from within the prospect pool that has to giving Don Sweeney and Co. a warm and fuzzy that they will one day ice a future contender filled with a newer generation of home-grown talent.

### Draft Trends

- The Bruins actively draft from all major European hockey countries. Since 2013, they have drafted 13 players from elite or junior leagues from across the Atlantic, with seven from Sweden alone.
- 2018 seventh-round center Pavel Shen (212<sup>th</sup> overall) was the first Russian forward drafted out of a Russian league since 2002, when the B's selected three Russian-trained forwards.
- Boston has used its first pick on a defenseman in each of the last four drafts. Winger David Pastrnak (1<sup>st</sup>/2014) was the only forward the Bruins selected at the top of their draft since Tyler Seguin went second overall in 2010.
- Since taking Malcolm Subban 24<sup>th</sup> overall in 2012, the Bruins in the next six drafts drafted only two goalies – Daniel Vladar (3<sup>rd</sup>/2015) and Jeremy Swayman (4<sup>th</sup>/2017).
- Five defensemen drafted by Boston between 2011 and 2016 appeared in 65 or more NHL games last year – Dougie Hamilton (1<sup>st</sup>/2011), Matt Benning (6<sup>th</sup>/2012), Matt Grzelcyk (3<sup>rd</sup>/2012), Brandon Carlo (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015) and Charlie McAvoy (1<sup>st</sup>/2016).
- The Bruins have not drafted a New England native in four straight drafts – the longest they've gone without one since the NHL Entry Draft began.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: None (Axel Andersson-D, Superelit, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	1. Urho Vaakanainen, Defense
2017: Urho Vaakanainen-D (SM-Liiga)	2. Trent Frederic, Center
2016: Charlie McAvoy-D (Boston U.), Trent Frederic-C (NTDP)	3. Jakub Lauko, Center
2015: Jakub Zboril-D (QMJHL), Jake DeBrusk-LW (WHL), Zach Senyshyn-RW (OHL)	4. Jack Studnicka, Center
2014: David Pastrnak-LW (Allsvenskan)	5. Oskar Steen, Center/Wing

### Draft Needs

1. Power-play quarterback – The Bruins don't need defensemen at any level, but the system totally lacks an heir apparent for power-play specialist Torey Krug, who turned 28 in April and is a UFA in two seasons.

**Possible targets:** RHD Anttoni Honka, LHD Tobias Bjornfot, LHD Thomas Harley, RHD Lassi Thomson

2. Playmaking center – Outside of Jack Studnicka, Boston's center depth is riddled with two-way types or finishers. This draft is loaded with power-play specialists with pass-first acumen.

**Possible targets:** Connor McMichael, Antti Saarela, John Farinacci, Ryder Donovan

## Buffalo Sabres (33-39-10)

General Manager: Jason Botterill (5/11/17)

Scouting Director: Ryan Jankowski

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
7, 31		67	122		160, 175, 177	191

### Team Notes

An improvement in the standings by 14 points was overshadowed by a late-season collapse that ultimately cost second-year coach Phil Housley his job. And while many think the late-season meltdown was mostly his fault, one explanation is that the Sabres were one of the league's youngest teams and relied too much on rookie Rasmus Dahlin (1<sup>st</sup>/2018) to try and cover up the massive shortcomings on a leaky blue line that was not addressed the previous offseason. The future does remain bright, however, as Dahlin's flair and dynamism more than made up for his growing pains on defense, and franchise center Jack Eichel (1<sup>st</sup>/2015) and wingers Sam Reinhart (1<sup>st</sup>/2014) and Jeff Skinner enjoyed career years. On the prospect front, Casey Mittelstadt (1<sup>st</sup>/2017) did his best to make the most out of fourth-line minutes, and even dangler extraordinaire Alex Nylander (1<sup>st</sup>/2016) showed flashes of his potential during a late-season callup.

Still, the Sabres need to jump to the next level, and patience in the Queen City is waning. This June marks the seventh consecutive year the Sabres will be picking eighth or higher in the first round of the draft, and although their picks have enjoyed individual success, the constant losing may become more problematic. Yes, the Sabres have three elite building blocks at key positions – Eichel at center, Dahlin on defense and goalie phenom Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen (2<sup>nd</sup>/2017), the latter who is the reigning OHL MVP. The biggest questions for the upcoming season from a prospect standpoint surround the aforementioned skilled forwards like Mittelstadt and Nylander, both of whom could be leaned on for much needed depth scoring. By owning the seventh overall pick, the Sabres can draft an elite playmaking center (or scorer) who could ease Eichel's burden and set up scoring chances for Buffalo's impressive collection of youngsters on the wings.

### Draft Trends

- Of Botterill's 12 picks since becoming GM, eight were defensemen or goalies.
- The Sabres definitely are Pro-Nordic – Seven of their 12 picks since 2017 have been from Finland and Sweden
- Buffalo's last foray into the QMJHL's talent pool was in 2014, when they took import Vaclav Karabacek
- Although Botterill traded Brendan Guhle to Anaheim for Brandon Montour, the Sabres still have quality defense prospects in Will Borgen, Casey Fitzgerald, Jacob Bryson, Oskari Laaksonen and Mattias Samuelsson
- The Sabres have selected only one goalie in last four drafts (Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen)

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Rasmus Dahlin-D (SHL)	1. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, Goalie
2017: Casey Mittelstadt-C/W (USHL)	2. Alex Nylander, Right Wing
2016: Alex Nylander-RW (OHL)	3. Victor Olofsson, Left Wing
2015: Jack Eichel-C (HE)	4. Rasmus Asplund, Center
2014: Sam Reinhart-C (WHL)	5. Mattias Samuelsson, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Center – After Eichel, nobody truly knows who the next in line is. If the Sabres want to compete against the powerhouse teams in their division, they need to draft a lethal second option down the middle.

**Possible targets:** Alex Turcotte, Trevor Zegras, Kirby Dach, Peyton Krebs, Dylan Cozens, Alex Newhook

## Calgary Flames (50-25-7)

General Manager: Brad Treliving (4/28/14)

Scouting Director: Tod Button

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
26		88	116	150		214

### Team Notes

The Flames reached the 50-win mark for the first time since their glorious Stanley Cup-winning run in 1989, and take my word for it when I say the 2019 edition were just as exciting and crowd-pleasing. And just like they did some 30 years prior, the Flames finished second in the league in goals scored while boasting five players with 74 points or more – impressive stuff indeed. Topping their individual scoring list is one of the best draft picks made by any team in recent memory – 2011 fourth rounder (and South Jersey native) Johnny Gaudreau, whose 99 points fell just one point short of making him the first Flame to hit the 100-point plateau in over 25 years. Joining “Johnny Hockey” were a pair of 34-goal scorers in Sean Monahan (1<sup>st</sup>/2013) and Matt Tkachuk (1<sup>st</sup>/2016), thus giving Calgary one of the league’s top-scoring trios, and without any player being a top-five draft pick.

Nonetheless, this banner regular season, one that gave the Flames home ice throughout the Western Conference playoffs, ended in a large, resounding thud after a first-round exit to Colorado. The defeat was not only humbling, but it led to questions on how the team was constructed. But even still, the future certainly is bright in Calgary, and most of the optimism is due to the Flames’ work at the draft table. Not only do they ice a lethal attack at the NHL level, but one must consider the majority of Calgary’s current junior-age prospects each ascended to the next level of their respective development track, and are now primed to make their AHL affiliate in Stockton equally as prolific as the parent club. The Flames received significant contributions from defensemen Juuso Valimaki (1<sup>st</sup>/2017), Oliver Kylington (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015) and Rasmus Andersson (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015), as well as getting promising showings from forwards Andrew Mangiapane (6<sup>th</sup>/2015) and Dillon Dube (2<sup>nd</sup>/2016). The fact that the Flames were a 50-win team and still managed to squeeze in 20+ games worth of playing time apiece for five rookies – three from the 2015 draft alone – is a telling sign that not only is Calgary *not* going away anytime soon, but will also continue to make the most of its draft picks.

### Draft Trends

- Calgary has drafted only three defensemen and one goalie with their last 19 picks dating back to 2016.
- The last time the Flames went an entire draft without selecting a WHL player was in 2002.
- After not drafting any Swedes between 2010-2013, the Flames have picked at least one in four of the last five drafts.
- There’s no love for Russia in Cowtown – the Flames have drafted only one Russian league prospect in the last 17 years – defenseman Rushan Rafikov in the seventh round in 2013.
- The Flames have selected a CHL Import from Europe in four straight drafts and took two USHL import forwards last year – Martin Pospisil (4<sup>th</sup>/2018) and Matthias Pettersson (6<sup>th</sup>/2018)

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: None (Martin Pospisil-LW, USHL, 4 <sup>th</sup> )	1. Juuso Valimaki, Defenseman
2017: Juuso Valimaki-D (WHL)	2. Oliver Kylington, Defenseman
2016: Matthew Tkachuk-RW (OHL)	3. Dillon Dube, Center
2015: None (Oliver Kylington-D, SHL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	4. Matthias Pettersson, Center
2014: Sam Bennett-C (OHL)	5. Eetu Tuulola, Right Wing

### Draft Needs

1. Goalie – It’s been a rough development track for backstops Tyler Parsons (2<sup>nd</sup>/2016) and Jon Gillies (3<sup>rd</sup>/2012), and 2014 third rounder Mason McDonald spent all of last year in the ECHL. All three were banged up last year, plus NHL starter Mike Smith is a UFA at press time. The Flames need to attack the deepest goalie draft in years with aggressiveness.

**Possible targets:** Spencer Knight, Mads Sogaard, Taylor Gauthier, Hugo Alnefelt, Dustin Wolf

## Carolina Hurricanes (46-29-7)

General Manager: Don Waddell (5/8/18)

Scouting Director: Tony MacDonald

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
28	36, 37, 59	90	121	152	181, 183	216

### Team Notes

The Hockey Gods finally rewarded the upstart Hurricanes (and their starving fanbase) with a deep playoff run that fell just short of a visit to the Stanley Cup Finals. From the very beginning of the season, Carolina rolled four lines that applied relentless pressure on the puck; a tactic that humbled the league's better teams and kept the heat away from their own end. Leading the charge was budding superstar Sebastian Aho (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015), who centered the top line and recorded a team-best 83 points – the most by a Cane in 12 years. Additionally, 2018 second-overall pick Andrei Svechnikov had a promising rookie season that saw him score 20 goals (all at even strength) over a full 82 regular-season games, plus three more in nine playoff contests. The rest of their strong forward group is made up of mostly free agents and trade acquisitions, but their big trio on defense – Brett Pesce (3<sup>rd</sup>/2013), Jaccob Slavin (4<sup>th</sup>/2012), and Justin Faulk (2<sup>nd</sup>/2010) – are not only home grown, but American-born as well.

Carolina's steamroller isn't limited to only the NHL. Former GM Ron Francis drafted and developed one of the top farm systems in the entire league, to the point where the AHL affiliate in Charlotte is bursting at the seams with NHL-ready talent. The Checkers not only won the 2019 Calder Cup, but did so on the shoulders of high draft picks like forwards Martin Necas (1<sup>st</sup>/2017), Julien Gauthier (1<sup>st</sup>/2016), Nicolas Roy (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015) and Morgan Geekie (3<sup>rd</sup>/2017). On defense, they have power-play specialist Jake Bean (1<sup>st</sup>/2016) and towering blueliner Haydn Fleury (1<sup>st</sup>/2014), while Alex Nedeljkovic (2<sup>nd</sup>/2014) proved to be NHL ready after dominating the minors. And from the Oh-By-The-Way Department, Carolina has 10 picks in the 2019 draft, including four of the top 59.

### Draft Trends

- Carolina might as well be called Suomi-West – the Canes have drafted six prospects from Finland since 2015.
- This draft marks the 10<sup>th</sup> time in 12 years where Carolina owns at least one pick in both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds.
- Defenseman Igor Knyazev (1<sup>st</sup>/2001) was the last non-import, Russian-league prospect drafted by Carolina.
- Drafting goalies is all but mandatory when it comes to the Hurricanes, who have selected a netminder in five straight drafts and eight of the last nine.
- 2008 was the last draft where Carolina did not select a player from Europe.
- Every draft in the Canes' 22-year history has included at least two prospects from the CHL.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Andrei Svechnikov-RW (OHL)	1. Martin Necas, Center
2017: Martin Necas-C (Extraliga)	2. Alex Nedeljkovic, Goalie
2016: Jake Bean-D (WHL), Julien Gauthier, RW (QMJHL)	3. Eetu Luostarainen, Center
2015: Noah Hanifin-D (NCAA)	4. Janne Kuokkanen, Center
2014: Haydn Fleury-D (WHL)	5. Aleksii Saarela, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Scoring winger – The Canes are loaded with AHL center prospects who were forced to play out of position. For all the strengths within their farm system, a pure sniper to compliment the second line wouldn't be a bad idea.

**Possible targets:** Phil Tomasino, Arthur Kaliyev, Robert Mastro Simone, Leevi Aaltonen

2. Two-way center – Having a glut of playmaking centers requires a support element for the tough going. Jordan Staal is getting up there in age, and there is the risk they they could lose Lucas Wallmark in the expansion draft.

**Possible targets:** John Beecher, Jamieson Rees, Ilya Nikolayev

## Chicago Blackhawks (36-34-12)

General Manager: Stan Bowman (7/14/09)

Scouting Director: Mark Kelley

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
3	43		105, 123	151	167	194

### Team Notes

It's been quiet on Madison Street the last two postseasons, which is something the newer generations of Hawks' fans aren't all that accustomed to. What they do know is that GM Stan Bowman and crew – builders of three Stanley Cup champions since 2010 – sure know how to draft and develop NHL talent, and that it's just a matter of time before Chicago is contending again. Not only did they get bounceback years from ageless leaders Jonathan Toews (1<sup>st</sup>/2006) and Patrick Kane (1<sup>st</sup>/2007), but winger Alex DeBrincat (2<sup>nd</sup>/2016) joined Kane as the franchise's only 40-goal scorers in the last 19 years. For all the firepower they boast up front, however, the strength within the prospect pool clearly is on defense. The Blackhawks have used each of their last three first rounders on mobile puck movers such as Adam Boqvist (2018), Nicolas Beaudin (2018) and Henri Jokiharju (2017), with the latter appearing in 38 NHL games last season. They also mined for puck-moving gems like Ian Mitchell (2<sup>nd</sup>/2017), Lucas Carlsson (4<sup>th</sup>/2015) and Joni Tuulola (6<sup>th</sup>/2015).

On top of all that, the Blackhawks come into this draft with the third overall pick, one which puts Bowman in a bit of bind when you try to figure out who the best player available is after Jack Hughes and Kaapo Kakko. Is it Bowen Byram? Again, tough call to make. Although Byram's elite skill set is rare for any team's prospect pool, one must wonder if Bowman has the courage to use his first high pick on another defenseman rather than take an elite center – an organizational need. One side of the argument could say that Bowman may never get another chance to get a player of Byram's ilk. But the same can be said about all those elite centers ranked at the top as well. Buckle up.

### Draft Trends

- Each of Chicago's last three first-round picks were offensive defensemen.
- Seven of Stan Bowman's picks since 2009 have reached the 40-point mark in the NHL, and the list grows to eight if you include Vinny Hinostroza's 39-point year for Arizona. Of those eight, four were first-round picks, and none were drafted higher than 18th overall. The most prolific single-season goal scorers among Bowman's picks – Brandon Saad and Alex DeBrincat – were drafted in Round 2.
- The Blackhawks under Bowman sure love their kids to maintain NCAA eligibility. Of his 87 picks, 39 have come from either the USHL, Canadian Jr. "A", NCAA or U.S. high schools, and only 22 from the CHL.
- Chicago since 2009 has taken as many players from the QMJHL as they have from the OHL – eight apiece. Only six have come from the WHL.
- Fourteen of the 23 players selected from Europe under Bowman came from Swedish leagues.
- Six of the eight goalies taken by the Blackhawks since 2009 were in either Rounds 6 or 7.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Adam Boqvist-D (SHL), Nicolas Beaudin-D (QMJHL)	1. Adam Boqvist, Defenseman
2017: Henri Jokiharju-D (WHL)	2. Henri Jokiharju, Defenseman
2016: None (Alex DeBrincat-RW, OHL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	3. Ian Mitchell, Defenseman
2015: None (Graham Knott-C, OHL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	4. Nicolas Beaudin, Defenseman
2014: Nick Schmaltz-C (USHL)	5. Evan Barratt, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Center – There simply aren't many playmakers from center within the pool. The Hawks appear to have struck gold with Dylan Strome but they'll need to add an extra option or two for later.

**Possible targets:** Trevor Zegras, Alex Turcotte, Kirby Dach, Dylan Cozens, Peyton Krebs.

2. Goalie – In terms of depth and quality, this is the draft for Chicago to address an organization-wide Achilles' heel.

**Possible targets:** Mads Sogaard, Hunter Jones, Taylor Gauthier, Colten Ellis

## Colorado Avalanche (38-30-14)

General Manager: Joe Sakic (9/9/14)

Scouting Director: Alan Hepple

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
4, 16	47	63, 78		140	171	202

### Team Notes

The balls may not have bounced in Colorado's favor on the night of the draft lottery, but they still enter the draft with two picks in the top 16, notably the important selection at fourth overall. What's scary is that the Av's aren't some sort of rebuilding team that needs help. Not only do they already boast two of the NHL's top players in center Nathan MacKinnon (1<sup>st</sup>/2013) and winger Mikko Rantanen (1<sup>st</sup>/2015), but they are about to get a full season from phenom Cale Makar (1<sup>st</sup>/2017), who earned his trail by fire into the NHL during Colorado's successful playoff run. They also received a strong postseason performance from center Tyson Jost (1<sup>st</sup>/2016), a top prospect who may be turning the corner by meeting the expectations placed upon him a few years back.

### Draft Trends

- Russian Friendly – The Av's have drafted five Russian-league players since 2015. No shock since Russian scout Alexei Gusarov was a longtime teammate of Sakic's and might have added pull in the war room.
- Conor Timmins (2nd/2017) has serious injury concerns and a contingency may need to be planned. He suffered multiple concussions and did not play all season, which could impact how Colorado drafts if Bowen Byram goes to Chicago. For now, Cale Makar and Nicolas Meloche (AHL) for are their two top defense prospects.
- Two-way center Shane Bowers, who was acquired from Ottawa in the Duchene deal, has signed a pro-contract and should get a long look next season; one that possibly knocks Tyson Jost down the depth chart.
- Colorado has taken goalies in five of the last six drafts, albeit with marginal results. Adam Werner, however, has done well in Sweden and is the best of the group, with Justus Annunen (2nd/2018) close behind.
- Av's have taken only 2 WHL players (defenseman Josh Anderson and forward Nick Henry) and three OHL players since Sakic came on board.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Martin Kaut-RW (Extraliga)	1. Cale Makar, Defenseman
2017: Cale Makar-RHD (AJHL)	2. Martin Kaut, Right Wing
2016: Tyson Jost-C (BCHL)	3. Nikolai Kovalenko, Right Wing
2015: Mikko Rantanen-W/C (SM-Liiga)	4. Adam Werner, Goalie
2014: Conner Bleackley-(WHL)	5. Nic Meloche, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Center – Although Tyson Jost was a first rounder in 2016, they've only drafted four or five centers in last four drafts combined. They acquired both Bowers and Vladislav Kamenev in last year's Duchene deal, but Kamenev was out half the season with a shoulder injury.

**Possible targets:** Trevor Zegras, Alex Turcotte, Kirby Dach, Dylan Cozens, Peyton Krebs

2. Two-way defenseman – The Av's could add a dominant defender like Bowen Byram as a winning contingency for the question surrounding Timmins. If they don't take him at fourth overall, there are excellent options thereafter at 16.

**Possible targets:** LHD Bowen Byram, LHD Philip Broberg, RHD Victor Soderstrom, LHD Tobias Bjornfot, RHD Moritz Seider

3. Scoring Winger – Colorado has one of the best lines in hockey, but drafting a center will also require the presence of a winger who can bury the disc. Martin Kaut is more of a dual-threat winger who likes to pass the puck, so it wouldn't be a shock if Sakic uses his second first rounder on a scorer who could flank a playmaker.

**Possible targets:** RW Cole Caufield, RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev, LW Pavel Dorofeyev

## Columbus Blue Jackets (47-31-4)

General Manager: Jarmo Kekalainen (2/13/13)

Scouting Director: Ville Siren

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
		81				212

### Team Notes

With his back up against the wall, Jackets' GM Jarmo Kekalainen became aggressive at the last trade deadline, essentially mortgaging an entire draft class in exchange for veterans such as Matt Duchene to spearhead a deep postseason run. In the end, the gamble paid off, as Columbus won its first playoff series in franchise history, upending the 62-win Tampa Bay Lightning. And although they were bounced in the second round, the Blue Jackets have collected several impressive youngsters who could be ready to step in as early as next season. Keep in mind that six of their top eight scorers from a year ago were original Columbus draft picks, including sophomore forward Pierre-Luc Dubois (1<sup>st</sup>/2016), who is making Kekalainen look like a genius for passing on the more popular Jesse Puljujarvi on that draft night in Buffalo back in 2016.

With only two later-round picks in their possession, the question is what exactly do the Jackets do during draft weekend? Aside from the likelihood they try to acquire additional picks, you have to think Kekalainen will have a good idea on whether or not he has a realistic chance of re-signing his two prized unrestricted free agents in Duchene and Artemi Panarin. If signs point towards either (or both) intending to walk, one can assume Kekalainen will trade their signing rights for an additional late-round pick, or more.

### Draft Trends

- Since taking six defenseman in the 2015 draft, Columbus has selected only three out of their last 18 combined picks – two righties (Andrew Peeke 2<sup>nd</sup>/2016, Robbie Stucker 7<sup>th</sup>/2017) and a lefty (Tim Berni 6<sup>th</sup>/2018).
- The Jackets have taken at least one goalie in three straight drafts and in seven of the last nine.
- Russian prospects have been grabbed in each of the last four drafts, with three coming from Russian leagues and the other, the now-traded Vitalii Abramov, via the QMJHL.
- Columbus has drafted at least four European-league prospects in four of the last five drafts and nine since 2012 from Sweden alone.
- Of the 15 prospects they've taken from the CHL since Kekalainen took over in 2013, seven have been from the WHL and four apiece from the OHL and QMJHL. In that group of 15, 11 were forwards and four were defensemen.
- Since taking Steve Mason from the OHL in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round in 2006, only one of the next 10 goalies drafted by Columbus came from the CHL – Mathieu Corbeil-Therriault from Halifax in the QMJHL in 2010.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Liam Foudy-C-(OHL)	1. Alexandre Texier, Center
2017: None (Alexandre Texier-C, France, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	2. Elvis Merzlikins, Goalie
2016: Pierre-Luc Dubois-C/W (QMJHL)	3. Emil Bemstrom, Center
2015: Zach Werenki-LHD (NCAA), Gabriel Carlsson-LHD (SHL)	4. Kirill Marchenko, Right Wing
2014: Sonny Milano-LW (NTDP)	5. Liam Foudy, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Offensive defenseman – Columbus has an excellent (and young) blueline at the NHL level, but they could use an injection of speed and playmaking for the AHL affiliate in Cleveland.

**Possible targets:** LHD Marshall Warren, LHD Domenick Fensore, RHD Billy Constantinou, LHD Mattias Norlinder, LHD Albert Johansson

2. Scoring Winger – This isn't necessarily a pressing need as much as it is a chance to replenish the pool after trading away Abramov and Jonathan Davidsson in the Duchene deal.

**Possible targets:** LW Michael Gildon, LW Levi Aaltonen, RW Maxim Cajkovic, LW Alexander Gordin, LW Arseni Gritsyuk

## Dallas Stars (43-32-7)

General Manager: Jim Nill (4/29/13)

Scouting Director: Joe McDonnell

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
18			111	142	173	

### Team Notes

You have to go back to 1968 to find the last time the Stars' franchise had no more than four draft picks in a single year. But the wheeling and dealing conducted by GM Jim Nill at the trade deadline landed him two quality veterans in Mats Zuccarello and defenseman Ben Lovejoy – a duo that helped Dallas upend the favored Nashville Predators in the Round 1 before taking eventual Stanley Cup-winner St. Louis to overtime in Game 7. Like a good disciple of Jimmy Devallano, Nill sticks to the Detroit Red Wing way of team building by always keeping his first-round picks. The 18<sup>th</sup> overall pick he holds in 2019 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year the Stars will be picking in the first round. However, that doesn't always mean they end up with the right player. Outside of stud defenseman Miro Heiskanen, who Nill took third overall in 2017, every one of their first rounders since 2009 either became busts (Scott Glennie, Jack Campbell); didn't meet expectations (Jamie Oleksiak, Valeri Nichushkin, Denis Guryanov); or are stuck in a depth or support role (Radek Faksa, Julius Honka). Furthermore, Nill raised eyebrows last year when he went off the board and drafted two-way center Ty Dellandrea with the 13<sup>th</sup> pick over several skilled forwards with higher upside.

Other team-related issues that need to be addressed are the ages of his top forwards, and the subsequent lack of production away from the top line. Even if you go beyond the inflammatory remarks made during the regular season by a member of the Stars' front office – comments aimed directly at leaders Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin – the fact remains that three of the team's top-six scorers were defensemen. And as dominant as Heiskanen, John Klingberg (5<sup>th</sup>/2010) and Esa Lindell (3<sup>rd</sup>/2012) were, the Stars didn't become a formidable opponent until after Zuccarello was acquired for scoring help. Still, that aforementioned trio is as good as you'll ever get in terms of a home-grown blue line, plus the promising postseason play of rookie winger Roope Hintz (2<sup>nd</sup>/2015) is a nice feather in Nill's cap regarding players he drafted outside the first round.

### Draft Trends

- Of the 65 picks made by Dallas since 2010, almost half came from two places – the OHL (18) and Sweden (12)
- Since drafting goalie Jack Campbell 11<sup>th</sup> overall in 2011, Dallas has not taken a single player from the U.S. NTDP.
- The last QMJHL forward taken by Dallas at the draft was winger Francis Wathier, a sixth rounder in 2003. In the last 15 years, the Stars have taken only three QMJHL prospects – defensemen Ivan Vishnevskiy (1<sup>st</sup>/2006) and Troy Vance (5<sup>th</sup>/2011), and goalie Philippe Desrosiers (2<sup>nd</sup>/2013)
- Last year marked the first time in Nill's six drafts as GM where Dallas did not take a goalie.
- Of the 18 combined picks in Rounds 1-3 since 2013, 12 were forwards, four were defensemen and two were goalies.
- In the last three drafts covering 21 picks, Dallas has selected only three defensemen.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Ty Dellandrea-C(OHL)	1. Gavin Beyreuther, Defense
2017: Miro Heiskanen-LHD (SM-Liiga), Jake Oettinger-G (NCAA)	2. Ty Dellandrea, Center
2016: Riley Tufte-LW (HS-MN)	3. Jason Robertson, Left Wing
2015: Denis Guryanov-RW (KHL)	4. Adam Mascherin, Left Wing
2014: Julius Honka-RHD (WHL)	5. Jake Oettinger, Goalie

### Draft Needs

1. Center – Dallas obviously likes taking forwards in the first round, so even last year's selection of Dellandrea shouldn't be enough to stop that trend.

**Possible targets:** Connor McMichael, Ryan Suzuki, Phil Tomasino, Peyton Krebs, LHD Albert Johansson

2. Top-6 Winger – The clock is ticking on former first rounders like Guryanov and Riley Tufte to finally take a massive developmental leap no matter where they play.

**Possible targets:** LW Arthur Kaliyev, RW Nicolas Robertson, RW Nils Hoglander

## Detroit Red Wings (32-40-10)

General Manager: Steve Yzerman (4/19/19)

Scouting Director: Tyler Wright

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
6	35, 54, 60	66	97	128, 143	159	190

### Team Notes

The Red Wings have a new GM, and he's more than just a familiar face. Not only is Steve Yzerman going back to the franchise he captained to multiple Stanley Cups, but he comes with a near-perfect resume as the chief architect of Tampa Bay's record-setting regular season. Reared and mentored on the tenets of hockey operations and player development by the likes of Jimmy Devellano, Scotty Bowman and Ken Holland, Yzerman is more than capable of the undertaking that like came with simple marching orders - rebuild the Red Wings into a powerhouse. He has several pieces already in place, beginning with quality young forwards like Dylan Larkin (1<sup>st</sup>/2014), Anthony Mantha (1<sup>st</sup>/2013), Andreas Athanasiou (4<sup>th</sup>/2012), and Tyler Bertuzzi (2<sup>nd</sup>/2013). The defense has made headway with the additions of Dennis Cholowski (1<sup>st</sup>/2016) and Filip Hronek (2<sup>nd</sup>/2016), and the pipeline is loaded with NHL-ready blue chippers such as left wing Filip Zadina (1<sup>st</sup>/2018) and centers Michael Rasmussen (1<sup>st</sup>/2017) and Joe Veleno (1<sup>st</sup>/2018).

Yzerman enters the 2019 draft with 10 selections, including the sixth overall pick, thus marking the third straight draft a Red Wings GM will have double-digit picks to work with. In fact, between 2016 and 2018, former GM Ken Holland had a mind-numbing 16 picks between Rounds 1-3. To put it bluntly - the Red Wings are getting there. Now it's up to Yzerman to transition the franchise from the rebuild to playoff contention.

### Draft Trends

- The Red Wings had 21 picks the previous two drafts, plus 10 this year and nine more in 2020. Barring future trades, that's 40 draft picks in a four-year period, including 26 in Rounds 1, 2, or 3.
- Not surprising that the Red Wings have drafted 11 Swedes since 2014, mostly from J20 Superelit.
- Detroit has taken a goalie in each of the last five drafts.
- Don't look for a "Russian Five" redux anytime soon. The Wings have not drafted a Russian player in any of their last three drafts.
- Since 2009, Detroit has taken a CHL/USHL Import in seven of 10 drafts.
- The Red Wings used a first pick on a QMJHL'er in five of last eight drafts.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Filip Zadina-LW (QMjHL), Joe Veleno-C (QMjHL)	1. Filip Zadina, Left Wing
2017: Mike Rasmussen-C (WHL)	2. Joe Veleno, Center
2016: Dennis Cholowski-D (BCHL)	3. Jonatan Berggren, Left Wing
2015: Evgeny Svechnikov-RW (QMjHL)	4. Gustav Lindstrom, Defenseman
2014: Dylan Larkin-C (NTDP)	5. Jared Mclsaac, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Center - There's no "need" anywhere in Detroit's farm system, and the Wings always went "BPA" under Ken Holland anyway. No reason for Yzerman to change that, as he'll have the chance to draft a superior center prospect with superstar potential.

**Possible targets:** Trevor Zegras, Alex Turcotte, Kirby Dach, Peyton Krebs, Dylan Cozens

## Edmonton Oilers (35-38-9)

General Manager: Ken Holland (5/7/19)

Scouting Director: Bob Green

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
8	38	85	100		162	193

### Team Notes

To nobody's surprise, another roller coaster of a season in Edmonton had strategic implications for just about everybody in charge of one department or another. Fired were general manager Peter Chiarelli and head coach Todd MacLellan, assistant coaches Trent Yawney and Manny Vivieros, the team Family Liason, and heck, even Oilers legend Paul Coffey was canned from his role as skills/development coach. With the draft only weeks away and new coach Dave Tippett already in place, you can expect more changes to come. In the meantime, the Oilers have work to do. The most important thing is to make (or keep) Connor McDavid happy, and if getting him support at center is one way to go about it, then this is the draft to find it.

On the surface, the Oilers have good pieces in place, regardless of the outcome of Jesse Puljujarvi's future in Edmonton. Yes, the fourth overall pick in 2016 has failed to live up to expectations. And although most of us hope for continued patience as the most desired course of action, the reality is the kid hasn't shown much in his 139-game career. Fortunately, there are several players in the system worth banking on, such as playmaking wingers Kailer Yamamoto (1<sup>st</sup>/2017) and Tyler Benson (2<sup>nd</sup>/2016), plus future power-play quarterback Evan Bouchard (1<sup>st</sup>/2018). However, the addition of the eighth-overall pick from this draft, plus the added year of development from the aforementioned prospects, may still not be enough to appease McDavid and vault the Oilers into a playoff spot. Nonetheless, another interesting season in Edmonton awaits.

### Draft Trends

- Evan Bouchard in 2018 was first defender they took in the first round in five years, with Darnell Nurse (1<sup>st</sup>/2013) being the last.
- Oilers have drafted at least one goalie in five straight drafts but none of them have any NHL games played.
- Edmonton has taken players from the U.S. NTDP in three of the last four years.
- Each of their last six first-round picks dating back to 2013 played for the Oilers this past season –Nurse, Leon Draisaitl, McDavid, Puljujarvi, Yamamoto and Bouchard.
- Every one of Edmonton's first draft selections between 2004 and 2011 are active NHLers.
- The only QMJHL'er selected by the Oilers in any of their last five drafts was goalie Kevin Bouchard, who was taken in the seventh round in 2014.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Evan Bouchard-D (OHL)	1. Evan Bouchard, Defenseman
2017: Kailer Yamamoto-RW (WHL)	2. Kailer Yamamoto, Right Wing
2016: Jesse Puljujarvi- LW (SM-Liiga)	3. Tyler Benson, Left Wing
2015: Connor McDavid-C (OHL)	4. Ethan Bear, Defenseman
2014: Leon Draisaitl-W/C (WHL)	5. Olivier Rodrigue, Goalie

### Draft Needs

1. Center: Mediocre or struggling teams with one elite NHL center are all over the draft lottery map. Adding one more? Well that could make you a Cup contender. McDavid is dying for second-line support, and this is the perfect draft to find it.

**Possible targets:** Trevor Zegras, Kirby Dach, Alex Turcotte, Dylan Cozens, Peyton Krebs

2. Finisher: Couple Puljujarvi's struggles with the fact that both Kailer Yamamoto and Tyler Benson are cerebral wingers who like to control the puck and set up plays, and you see why the Oilers continue to deal with the issue of finding a permanent sniper for their second line. Kirill Maksimov could get a chance to do that, but why not give him some competition?

**Possible targets:** RW Cole Caufield, RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev, LW Pavel Dorofeyev

## Florida Panthers (36-32-14)

General Manager: Dale Tallon (5/7/10)

Scouting Director: Jason Bakula

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
13	52	69	104, 106, 114	137	168	199

### Team Notes

When it comes to teasing fanbases, the Florida Panthers rank pretty high up in the pantheon of pro sports torture and torment. For the umpteenth time in team history, the Panthers followed up a promising season by regressing in the standings, this time by eight wins and 10 points compared to their 44-win, 96-point season of 2017-18. They also finished in fifth place in their division – the eighth time in 10 years (and 16<sup>th</sup> since their inaugural season of 1993-94) that the Cats placed fourth or lower. Substandard indeed. Nonetheless, the problems suffocating this current group can be pinpointed down to the one simple yet critical area – goaltending. Florida owns a lethal attack, led by top-liners Jonathan Huberdeau (1<sup>st</sup>/2011), Aleksander Barkov (1<sup>st</sup>/2013) and veteran acquisitions Evgenii Dadonov and Mike Hoffman. Each member of the quartet hit the 70-point mark, with Barkov (96 points) and Huberdeau (92) becoming the first tandem in franchise history to each hit the 90-point mark in the same season.

Unfortunately, as good as these forwards were, the culprits between the pipes were just as bad. Veterans James Reimer and Roberto Luongo ranked 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, in save percentage, thus making bench boss Bob Boughner the proverbial dead man coaching before he was let go in favor of Joel Quenneville. Where is the help going to come from? One way to go about fixing the goaltending conundrum is addressing it in June at one of the deepest goalie drafts in recent memory. And although the likelihood is slim to none that a teenage goalie rights Florida's ship either this year or next, the purpose is for GM Dale Tallon and Co. to make a real commitment to their dwindling fanbase that incompetence in goal will no longer be acceptable.

### Draft Trends

- The Panthers will have at least one pick in each round for the first time since 2010.
- Florida has drafted wingers with three of last four first-round picks (Grigory Denisenko, Owen Tippett, Lawson Crouse).
- Under Tallon, Florida has more than doubled its number of OHL draft picks (13) than those from the QMJHL (7) and WHL (5) combined.
- Except for 2012, they've selected at least one OHL prospect in every draft since 2010.
- Tallon has drafted five goalies over nine drafts, and he's taken more from the NAHL (2) than he has from the CHL (1).
- Not including Aleks Heponiemi (2nd/2017), who was drafted out of the WHL as an import, the Panthers have selected one Finnish player in five of the last six drafts and seven total since Tallon took over.
- Florida has practically avoided Sweden altogether, drafting only two in the previous six years and none in the last two.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Grigory Denisenko-RW (MHL)	1. Grigory Denisenko, Right Wing
2017: Owen Tippett-RW (OHL)	2. Aleks Heponiemi, Center/Wing
2016: Henrik Borgstrom-C (Jr. A SM-Liiga)	3. Owen Tippett, Right Wing
2015: Lawson Crouse-LW (OHL)	4. Serron Noel, Right Wing
2014: Aaron Ekblad-D (OHL)	5. Riley Stillman, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Goalie – The Cats likely fall out of the range of the elite centers, and their ridiculous depth on wing makes gunning for a potential franchise backstop all the more understandable.

**Possible targets:** Spencer Knight

2. Two-way defenseman – Florida could use a stopper on defense, but one who is quick enough to skate the puck out of harm's way.

**Possible targets:** Victor Soderstrom, Moritz Seider, Cam York

## Los Angeles Kings (31-42-9)

General Manager: Rob Blake (4/11/17)

Scouting Director: Mark Yanetti

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
5, 22	33	64, 87	95, 119	126	157	188

### Team Notes

Being old and expensive can be a great thing if you're the owner of an antique Corvette or a 1952 Mickey Mantle rookie card. When it comes to NHL teams, however, the Los Angeles Kings are living proof at how debilitating a combination it can be. Long gone are the days when the Kings ruled the Western Conference, which has been feasting on a collective lack of footspeed for the better parts of the last two seasons. Compounding issues was the poor luck experienced at the draft lottery where the Kings fell from the second slot (and a shot at Kaapo Kakko) down to fifth overall.

Looking at the bright side, however, reveals that Los Angeles is in a position to draft either a franchise-changing defenseman like Bowen Byram, or a motoring playmaker like centers Alex Turcotte, Kirby Dach or Trevor Zegras. Additionally, the Kings have at least one pick in every round (a rarity for them), plus multiple picks in Rounds 1, 3 and 4. Whether they take a dynamic center or the No. 1 defenseman, the Kings are slowly building up a deep enough farm system to at least give their struggling fanbase hope in the face all those immovable veteran contracts that continue to cripple the organization both on and off the ice. Center Rasmus Kupari (1<sup>st</sup>/2018) is the cream of their prospect crop, and a healthy Gabe Vilardi (1<sup>st</sup>/2017) would provide the farm system with as good a 1-2 punch down the middle as anywhere else. The strength in the organization does lie within a solid group of two-way defensemen. Led by Kale Clague (2<sup>nd</sup>/2016) and NCAA prospects Cole Hults and Mikey Anderson, this growing nucleus has checked every box from a developmental standpoint and are just waiting for the opportunities to open up in Southern California.

### Draft Trends

- Los Angeles has leaned heavily on Canadian major junior, drafting 20 players from the CHL between 2014-2018
- The Kings have taken an NCAA overager in four of the last six drafts.
- They've done well in the goalie prospect department, nabbing three quality netminders in last two drafts – David Hrenak (SCSU), Jacob Ingham (OHL) and Matt Villalta (OHL)
- The organization is rich in puck movers – Clague, Anderson, Markus Phillips, and Hults – but the Kings didn't draft one single defender in 2018.
- Los Angeles could use wingers, especially if Akil Thomas (2<sup>nd</sup>/2018) is groomed as a center. Swede Johan Sodergran (6<sup>th</sup>/2018) had a promising season, but Russian Bulat Shafigulin (3<sup>rd</sup>/2018) has a down year as a depth player in the KHL.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Rasmus Kupari-C (SM-Liiga)	1. Rasmus Kupari, Center
2017: Gabe Vilardi-C (OHL)	2. Kale Clague, Defenseman
2016: None (Kale Clague-D, WHL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	3. Akil Thomas, Center/Wing
2015: None (Erik Cernak-D, OHL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	4. Gabe Vilardi, Center
2014: Adrian Kempe (SHL)	5. Cole Hults, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Goal scorer – Missing out on Kakko shouldn't stop the search for a perennial 30-40 goal scorer. Although Akil Thomas also plays wing, the back injury concerns with Vilardi may eventually slot Thomas down the middle, thus opening up a spot for a finisher.

**Possible targets:** Cole Caufield, Matt Boldy, Dylan Cozens, Arthur Kaliyev

2. No. 1 Center – The best pick for the Kings now that both Hughes and Kakko are out of the question would be Alex Turcotte or Cozens, especially if the organization gets Vilardi vibes with Kirby Dach's average footspeed.

**Possible targets:** Trevor Zegras, Alex Turcotte, Peyton Krebs

## Minnesota Wild (37-36-9)

General Manager: Paul Fenton (5/21/18)

Scouting Director(s): P.J. Fenton (T) & Darren Yopyk (T)

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
12	42	73	99	149	166, 172	197

### Team Notes

The sport of hockey is pretty popular in the state of Minnesota, which makes their perpetual mediocrity all the more infuriating for the Wild's dedicated fan base. Minnesota not only missed the playoffs a season ago, but also finished with their lowest points percentage since 2012. The decision to fire GM Chuck Fletcher and replace him with a rookie in Paul Fenton had ominous signs from the start, beginning with Fenton's puzzling selection of nondescript defenseman Filip Johansson with the first pick in the 2018 draft. Things got even weirder in mid-January when they traded Nino Niederreiter (after scoring a goal in a much needed win, no less) for checking center Victor Rask, who barely played over 12 minutes a game after the trade and saw less ice time with Minnesota than grinder Anthony Bitetto. The biggest issue the entire season, however, was goal scoring, and the Wild were held to one goal or less 24 times, including 11 shutouts. The lines were constantly shuffled, green rookies were given expanded roles of responsibility, and even lifelong Wild like Mikael Granlund and Charlie Coyle were jettisoned at the trade deadline. It just wasn't a good team, and it showed.

Moving forward, Fenton needs to make the team younger, cheaper and most importantly, a lot faster. The Johansson pick notwithstanding, there is impressive skill in the pipeline, albeit the type that isn't necessarily guaranteed to transfer over to higher levels. The big tease surrounding KHL-contracted winger Kirill Kaprizov (5<sup>th</sup>/2015) doesn't seem to be ending before the upcoming season, but knowing that he's still Wild property provides fans with a little hope. They have good playmaking centers in Mason Shaw (4<sup>th</sup>/2017) and Alexander Khovanov (3<sup>rd</sup>/2018), and wingers Ivan Lodnia (3<sup>rd</sup>/2017) and Dmitry Sokolov (7<sup>th</sup>/2016) are bonafide snipers. Other than undrafted defenseman Brennan Menell, however, there aren't many needle-moving blueline or goaltending prospects.

### Draft Trends

- During former GM Chuck Fletcher's tenure in Minnesota for the drafts between 2009-2017, the Wild took nearly as many players from U.S. leagues (20/59) as it did from the CHL (21/59). Fletcher drafted 10 players from Minnesota high schools in that same period, tying the WHL for the most players selected from one circuit.
- Minnesota had six second-round picks from 2010-13, but only one since.
- Five of Minnesota's six first-round picks between 2009 and 2014 are still active in the NHL and each have played more than 150 games.
- The Wild has drafted 13 goalies since entering the league in 2000. Of those 13, five made it to the NHL and none have played in at least 200 games.
- Including 2016, Minnesota has drafted 12 forwards and four defensemen with their last 16 draft picks.
- Minnesota has picked seven goalies in seven drafts from 2009 to 2015 but none since.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Filip Johansson-D (SHL)	1. Kirill Kaprizov, Left Wing
2017: None (Ivan Lodnia-RW, OHL, 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	2. Mason Shaw, Center
2016: Luke Kunin-C (Big-10)	3. Brennan Menell, Defenseman
2015: Joel Eriksson Ek-C (SHL)	4. Dmitry Sokolov, Left Wing
2014: Alex Tuch-RW (NTDP)	5. Alexander Khovanov, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Goalie – The Wild has ignored netminders in each of the last three drafts, and AHL'er Kaapo Kahkonen (4<sup>th</sup>/2014) is the best they have in an incredibly thin pipeline

**Available targets:** Spencer Knight.

2. Scoring winger – They have pure snipers in Sokolov and Lodnia, and Kaprizov is a stud. But Marian Gaborik (2000) and Jason Zucker (2010) remain the only homegrown wingers in franchise history to reach the 30-goal mark.

**Available targets:** RW Cole Caufield, RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev, LW Pavel Dorofeyev

## Montreal Canadiens (44-30-8)

General Manager: Paul Fenton (5/2/12)

Scouting Director: Trevor Timmins

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
15	46, 50	77	108	131, 136, 138	170	206

### Team Notes

It's hard to ding a team that improved 25 points in the standings and missed the playoffs by the thinnest of margins. But for all the joy one would think *Les Habitants* provided their crazed fanbase, the painful ineptitude of the worst power play in franchise history served as the proverbial wet blanket over a hot team that played an exciting and up-tempo brand of hockey. Not only did the Habs operate the league's second-worst power-play unit at 13.3 percent (31-for-234), but they finished over six and half points below the league average of 19.8 percent. Do you know how hard that is to do for a Canadiens team? Better yet, do you know how *old* Montreal's franchise is? You have to be running a special kind of power-play training program for it to finish as the least efficient in over 50 years of documented history.

Nonetheless, the Habs seem close towards returning to prominence, possibly Stanley Cup contention. By all accounts, the culture inside the dressing room has changed for the better, and the results on the ice reveal a team that fights for one another from start to finish. One of the highlights was the inspired play of rookie center Jesperi Kotkaniemi (1<sup>st</sup>/2018), who made an immediate impact and should be groomed as a potential top-line center. Also down the middle is Ryan Poehling (1<sup>st</sup>/2017), who notched a hat trick in his NHL debut, which happened to be the season finale. GM Marc Bergevin and Scouting Director Trevor Timmins had a great draft a year ago, and with 10 picks in 2019, the law of averages says they will do the same this year.

### Draft Trends

- 29 of Bergevin's 50 picks since he took over in 2012 were from the CHL
- 2013 first-rounder Michael McCarron is the only NTDP player drafted by the Bergevin regime.
- Montreal has drafted only six players out of Finland since 2004, and four – Jesperi Kotkaniemi, Joni Ikonen, Artturi Lehkonen and Jesse Ylonen – were made with Bergevin and Timmins at the helm.
- The Canadiens have drafted only five goalies in the 13 drafts since taking Carey Price fifth overall in 2005.
- Three of this year's top-50 in defense scoring – Ryan McDonagh, P.K. Subban and Mikhail Sergachev – were former Montreal draft picks who accomplished the feat on another team.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Jesperi Kotkaniemi-C (SM-Liiga)	1. Ryan Poehling, Center
2017: Ryan Poehling-C (NCHC)	2. Nick Suzuki, Center
2016: Mikhail Sergachev-D (OHL)	3. Josh Brook, Defenseman
2015: Noah Juulsen-D (WHL)	4. Jesse Ylonen, Right Wing
2014: Nikita Scherbak-LW (WHL)	5. Cayden Primeau, Goalie

### Draft Needs

1. Goal-scoring winger: All these quality centers need multiple finishers if they want to compete with the Tampas and Torontos of the worlds.

**Possible targets:** RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev, LW Pavel Dorofeyev, LW Jakob Pelletier

2. Power-play quarterback: As the excitement percolates in Montreal, buoyed by strong showings year after year at the draft, the Habs missed the playoffs in consecutive seasons for the first time in nearly two decades. Owning the 30th-best power play and not having a Subban type on the ice are two reasons why.

**Possible targets:** Thomas Harley, Ville Heinola, Cam York, Philip Broberg

## Nashville Predators (47-29-6)

General Manager: David Poile (7/9/97)

Scouting Director: Jeff Kealty

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
24		75	109, 117	148	179	210

### Team Notes

A second straight early exit ended the playoff party in Smashville, as the underdog Dallas Stars outworked, outhustled and outplayed a Preds team that looked, skated and performed like every period was the long change in triple overtime. Work needs to be done for sure, but more at the NHL level rather than with the farm system. The one constant has been David Poile's ability as GM to work with his staff to find diamonds in the rough at the draft, which they seem to do every year. Of course, they have done well with their last three first rounders, the latest being Finnish sniper Eeli Tolvanen (1<sup>st</sup>/2017) who made his NHL debut and should be expected to take over Kevin Fiala's spot on the wing. Dante Fabbro (1<sup>st</sup>/2016) decided to leave college early and played in every game of the Dallas series, and former Boston University teammate David Farrance (3<sup>rd</sup>/2017) is expected to be the Terriers' top-pairing defender next season.

In goal, the Predators seem to have it all figured out. Not only is ageless Pekka Rinne under contract for a few more seasons, but Juuse Saros (4<sup>th</sup>/2013) is one of the league's top backups and is ready for a bigger workload. On the farm, Tomas Vornick (5<sup>th</sup>/2017) distinguished himself as one of the NCAA's top young goalies, which made it easy for the Preds to decline a contract offer to 2015 fifth rounder Karel Vejmelka.

### Draft Trends

- The Preds have taken a goalie in seven on the last eight drafts, including at least one in each of the last four.
- David Poile's staff throughout the years has remained balanced in terms of the leagues they draft from. Of the 178 draft picks in Predators history, 24 have been from the WHL, 18 from the OHL and 17 from the QMJHL. From the U.S., Nashville has drafted 17 from the USHL/NTDP and 16 from the NCAA, and in Europe, 20 players from Sweden, 18 from Finland and 15 from Russia.
- Nashville has selected at least one player from the NTDP or USHL in each of the last five drafts.
- 2006 and 2015 are the only two draft classes in Predators history that did not have at least two defenseman.
- The Predators have never gone an entire draft without taking a defenseman..

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: None (Jachym Kondelik-C, USHL, 4th)	1. Eeli Tolvanen, Left Wing
2017: Eeli Tolvanen-LW (KHL)	2. Dante Fabbro, Defenseman
2016: Dante Fabbro-D (BCHL)	3. Tomas Vornick, Goalie
2015: None (Yakov Trenin-C, QMJHL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	4. Rem Pitlick, Center
2014: Kevin Fiala-LW (Superelit)	5. David Farrance, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Center: Nashville has several speedy centers in their system, but they need to develop a versatile top-six pivot who can slowly take on more responsibility as Ryan Johansen gets up there in age.

**Possible targets:** Ryan Suzuki, Connor McMichael, Phil Tomasino, Ilya Nikolayev, John Beecher

2. No. 1 Defenseman: P.K. Subban's decline, the upcoming expansion draft and Fabbro's promotion likely combine to leave a small void on the depth chart.

**Possible targets:** Thomas Harley, Ville Heinola, Cam York, Philip Broberg, Tobias Bjornfot

## New Jersey Devils (31-41-10)

General Manager: Ray Shero (5/4/15)

Scouting Director: Paul Castron

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
1	34, 55, 61	70, 80	96	127	158	189

### Team Notes

For the second time in three years, the Devils won the draft lottery for the privilege of drafting the first overall pick. And while popular opinion points towards them grabbing Jack Hughes instead of winger Kaapo Kakko, the truth is nobody outside of the Devils organization really knows and will just have to wait until draft day to find out. In any event, if the Devils draft Hughes, he will be the fourth center Shero has drafted in the first round over his five drafts as GM. To be fair to the others – Pavel Zacha (2015), Mike McLeod (2016) and Nico Hischier (2017) – Hughes is light years ahead of any prospect the Devils have drafted since Scott Niedermayer, which was way back in 1991. The franchise has never had a dynamic offensive force of Hughes's ilk, and any talk that he isn't NHL ready or needs to shift to wing needs to be directed to the pile marked "Ridiculous Nonsense".

Another thing to consider is that New Jersey's 2019 draft should not be dominated solely by what they do with the first pick. And the reason is simple – the Devils have five additional picks between 34 and 80. In a draft loaded with centers, scoring wingers and goalies, Shero and staff can attack this draft from the high ground, and possible package picks for another shot at the first round.

### Draft Trends

- Devils have shown no concern with the "Russian Factor", taking at least one prospect from a Russian league in each of last three drafts
- Ray Shero and staff do a great job mining for European gems outside the first round – Aarne Talvitie (FIN), Jesper Bratt (SWE), and Jesper Boqvist (SWE) are three shining examples of New Jersey's later-round scouting abilities.
- New Jersey has taken Swiss goalies in each of the last two drafts and at least one goalie every draft since Shero came aboard in 2015.
- At least three CHL'ers have been snagged by New Jersey in each of Shero's four drafts, including nine from the OHL.
- It will probably increase after this year, but the Devils has dipped into the NTDP's talent-rich roster only once since 2013 (Joey Anderson in 2016).
- The Devils currently own the rights to three excellent puck rushers in Reilly Walsh, Ty Smith and Jeremy Davies.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Ty Smith-LHD (WHL)	1. Ty Smith, Defenseman
2017: Nico Hischier-C (QMJHL)	2. Joey Anderson, Right Wing
2016: Mike McLeod-C (OHL)	3. Jesper Boqvist, Left Wing
2015: Pavel Zacha-C (OHL)	4. Mike McLeod, Center
2014: John Quenneville (WHL)	5. Aarne Talvitie, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Playmaking center: Passing on Mathew Barzal in favor of Zacha back in 2015 may still haunt Shero, which may be why he drafted a pass-first pivot in McLeod a year later. Neither Zacha nor McLeod, however, have the kind of franchise-changing upside like what you see in Jack Hughes.

**Possible targets:** Jack Hughes

2. Two-way defender: New Jersey's glory years were driven by smothering, in-your-face defenders who also knew how to move the puck. As great as a 1-2 punch consisting of Ty Smith and Bowen Byram would look on paper, they can settle for a sound option with one or two of their later picks.

**Possible targets:** LHD Ryan Johnson, LHD Matthew Robertson, LHD Vladislav Kolyachonok

## New York Islanders (48-27-7)

General Manager: Lou Lamoriello (5/21/18)

Scouting Director: Trent Klatt

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
23	57			147	178	209

### Team Notes

It will be difficult for Lou Lamoriello and staff to replicate the outstanding work they did in Dallas at last year's draft. But they head to Vancouver armed with a first and second round pick, plus the confidence in knowing that the Islanders are one of the league's elite teams. Losing free agent John Tavares was an expected gut punch, but the pain didn't last long, as the Isles under new coach Barry Trotz raced to a good start before finishing with a league-low 191 goals allowed and recording 103 points – the most since the Dynasty Isles in their “Drive for Five” season of 1983-84. Capping off the Isles' successful season was something former captain John Tavares and his multi-millions couldn't muster for his new Toronto Maple Leafs – a first-round series win in the form of a sweep over Pittsburgh. The Islanders sent a message to the league that they are a new force to be reckoned with in both the Metropolitan Division and Eastern Conference.

From a prospect standpoint, Lamoriello and his scouts have to be pleased with the dominant performance by defenseman Noah Dobson (1<sup>st</sup>/2018) at the 2019 Memorial Cup. Some feel Dobson slipped a little at the 2018 draft and that the Isles got top-five quality in a 12<sup>th</sup> overall pick. Another defenseman that surprisingly fell into their hands is big-bodied puck mover Bode Wilde (2<sup>nd</sup>/2018), who was one of the OHL's top defensemen after a stellar career with the NTDP. Sticking with the defense theme, no talk about the Islanders' youth would be complete without mentioning poised two-way blueliner Devon Toews (4<sup>th</sup>/2014), who as a 25-year-old rookie played close to 20 minutes a game in the playoffs and finished sixth in scoring among first-year defensemen with 18 points in 48 games. Lastly, power winger Oliver Wahlstrom (1<sup>st</sup>/2018) shook off a slow start on one of the worst teams in Boston College history to provide solid play for Team USA at the under-20 world juniors, and for Bridgeport in the AHL playoffs. Still, the Islanders are mostly a veteran team with barely any room for prospect auditions, and Lamoriello has a history of allowing the majority of his neophytes to marinate in the AHL or college before giving them a chance at a full-time NHL job.

### Draft Trends

- Since 2012, the only natural centers drafted by the Islanders in the first or second round were Mathew Barzal (1<sup>st</sup>/2015) and Ruslan Iskhakov (2<sup>nd</sup>/2018). No team in the league has drafted fewer in that span.
- The Islanders have drafted only two players from the OHL since 2015 – LHD Mitchell Vande Sompel (3<sup>rd</sup>/2015) and LW Blade Jenkins (5<sup>th</sup>/2018)
- New York has selected six prospects from the NTDP since 2016. Between 2016 and 2018, the Islanders took at least one non-NTDP USHL player in three straight drafts.
- Iskhakov was the third Russian-league player selected in the last five years after former GM Garth Snow didn't draft any between 2010 and 2013.
- Last year was the third time in four drafts the Islanders drafted three or more defensemen.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Oliver Wahlstrom-RW (NTDP), RHD Noah Dobson (QMJHL)	1. Noah Dobson, Defenseman
2017: None (Robin Salo-D, SM-Liiga, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	2. Ilya Sorokin, Goalie
2016: Kieffer Bellows-LW (NTDP)	3. Oliver Wahlstrom, Right Wing
2015: Mathew Barzal-C (WHL), Anthony Beauvillier-C (MJHL)	4. Bode Wilde, Defenseman
2014: Michael Dal Colle-LW (OHL), Josh Ho Sang-RW (OHL)	5. Otto Koivula, Left Wing

### Draft Needs

1. Center: Barzal is the obvious centerpiece for the franchise moving forward, but the rest of the lineup and farm system does seem to have a lock for top-six role in the future.

**Possible targets:** Ryan Suzuki, Phil Thomasino, Connor McMichael, Ilya Nikolayev

## New York Rangers (32-36-14)

General Manager: Jeff Gorton (7/1/15)

Scouting Director: Gordie Clark

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
2, 20	49, 58	68	112	130	161	205

### Team Notes

The Rangers won the second overall pick in the draft lottery for the chance at selecting their highest draft selection since Brad Park went second in 1966. That's a long time to wait for the chance at drafting a special talent, but mediocrity is synonymous with the franchise that is back to the rebuilding phase following its second consecutive losing season. Since 2015, the Rangers under GM Jeff Gorton have whittled a Cup-contending roster down to the nub, with immovable contracts the only things keeping the front office from stripping it down even further. Nevertheless, for the first time in almost two decades, the Blueshirts are in the midst of a full-blown youth movement; an operation under the close watch new President John Davidson and a demanding second-year coach in David Quinn, who last year got his ragtag group of castoffs, greybeards and neophytes to fight hard and compete regardless of the expected negative outcome.

The lost season afforded youngsters such as centers Filip Chytil (1<sup>st</sup>/2017) and Lias Andersson (1<sup>st</sup>/2017) to play in all types of in-game situations, while fire-sale acquisitions like defensemen Libor Hajek and Ryan Lindgren, plus center Brett Howden, got a taste of NHL life with one of the league's storied franchises. The youth movement should continue into 2019-20, led by either Jack Hughes or Kaapo Kakko, but also with the anticipated arrival of prized goaltending prospect Igor Shestryokin (4<sup>th</sup>/2014) and sniper Vitaly Kravtsov (1<sup>st</sup>/2018) – both of whom played in Russia before signing their respective entry-level deals. Of course, we're talking about the Rangers, so there's still the possibility that owner James Dolan will allow Davidson to stop the rebuild and renew the Ranger tradition of an aggressive offseason push for veterans free agents.

### Draft Trends

- The Rangers have not drafted a Canadian-born CHL'er in any of the last two drafts and only one QMJHL'er since 2015 – overage center Gabriel Fontaine (6th/2017).
- New York has selected eight Swedes and 16 Europeans since 2015
- The Rangers have drafted six goalies over last six drafts, and five are still with the organization.
- Since they aren't dipping into Canada's major junior pool as often as other NHL teams, the Rangers have made up for it by selecting 10 American-born prospects since 2014
- Only one CHL prospect has been a Rangers first-round selection since 2009 – defenseman Dylan McIlrath in 2010.
- With nine picks in 2019 and 10 more next year, the Rangers will have nine or more draft selections in consecutive drafts for the first time since the NHL moved to the current seven-round format in 2005.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Vitaly Kravtsov-LW (KHL), K'Andre Miller-D (NTDP), Nils Lundkvist-D (SHL)	1. Vitali Kravtsov, Right Wing
2017: Lias Andersson-C (SHL), Filip Chytil-C (Extraliga)	2. Igor Shestryokin, Goalie
2016: None (Sean Day-D, OHL, 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	3. Adam Fox, Defenseman
2015: None (Ryan Groppe-LW, WHL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	4. Libor Hajek, Defenseman
2014: None (Keegan Iverson-RW, NTDP, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	5. K'Andre Miller, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Center: The two best playmaking centers the Rangers have drafted in the last 30 years – Doug Weight in 1990 and Marc Savard in 1995 – became stars for other organizations. This is New York's best chance to select an elite set-up man who can carry their top line for the next decade and beyond.

**Possible targets:** Jack Hughes

2. Scoring Winger: 2018 first-round pick Vitaly Kravtsov is developing into an elite finisher, but he'll need help if the Rangers want to become a contender again.

**Possible targets:** Kaapo Kakko

## Ottawa Senators (29-47-6)

General Manager: Pierre Dorion (4/10/16)

Scouting Director: Trent Mann

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
19	32, 44	83	94	125		187

### Team Notes

Now that the Senators don't have to worry about the No. 1 pick they traded to Colorado for Matt Duchene will turn into Jack Hughes or Kaapo Kakko, they can get right back to the rebuild that has given them one of the league's finest collections of young talent. The season was never expected to be a success from a wins and losses standpoint. But the losing and lowered expectations allowed premier forward prospects like Brady Tkachuk (1<sup>st</sup>/2018), Drake Batherson (4<sup>th</sup>/2017) and Colin White (1<sup>st</sup>/2015), plus stud defenseman Thomas Chabot (1<sup>st</sup>/2015), to play unbridled and with youthful exuberance in the face of an untenable situation both on and off the ice. The promise is real, and it's only a matter of time that the Senators can combine their NHL-level youngsters with the massive pool of elite prospects they collected from the Erik Karlsson, Mark Stone and Matt Duchene trades and form the nucleus of an eventual conference superpower. This isn't hyperbole. Ottawa's impressive prospect haul included defenseman Erik Brannstrom, and forwards Josh Norris, Vitalii Abramov, Rudolfs Balcers and Jonathan Davidsson.

For the draft, GM Pierre Dorian was able to salvage a little Day One dignity by getting Columbus's first-round pick in the return for Duchene, and he also added another high second rounder via the Mike Hoffman trade with Florida. With three picks in the top 44, plus 12 picks in next year's draft, the Senators can entertain and later wargame multiple courses of action in order to build the best roster possible and set the franchise up for the construction of a steamroller that even a meddling owner like Eugene Melnyk couldn't derail.

### Draft Trends

- The Senators are one of the league's busiest teams when it comes to drafting from the QMJHL. Since 2009, Ottawa has grabbed at least one Quebec League prospect in nine of 10 drafts.
- Ottawa has drafted as many goalies in the last seven years (6) as they did in the 12 years before that. Robin Lehner (2<sup>nd</sup>/2009) is the only netminder in the last 18 years that the Sens drafted above the third round.
- The home province of Ontario isn't providing the Senators with as many draft prospects as one would think. Center Logan Brown (1<sup>st</sup>/2016) and winger Alex Formenton (2<sup>nd</sup>/2017) are the only two OHL prospects to be drafted by Ottawa since 2014.
- Brady Tkachuk's selection at fourth overall in 2018 was the first time the Sens drafted a winger with their top pick in the first round since they took Nick Foligno with the 28<sup>th</sup> pick in 2006.
- Ottawa had six players from its 2015 draft appear in at least one game for them in 2018-19 – Chabot, White, Christian Jaros, Christian Wolanin, Filip Chlapik and goalie Joel Daccord.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Brady Tkachuk-LW (NCAA), J.B. Docker-D (AJHL)	1. Erik Brannstrom, Defenseman
2017: Shane Bowers-C (USHL)	2. Drake Batherson, Right Wing
2016: Logan Brown-C (OHL)	3. Logan Brown, Center
2015: Thomas Chabot-D (QMJHL), Colin White-C (NTDP)	4. Josh Norris, Center
2014: None (Andreas Englund-D, Superelit, 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	5. Alex Formenton, Left Wing

### Draft Needs

1. Goalie: It's been proven time and again that a consistent goalie on a strong team is equally, if not more effective as an elite goalie for a team that is average. But the Senators now have more trade chips than any other team, so they can roll the dice on the best goalie prospect to come along since Carey Price.

**Possible targets:** Spencer Knight

## Philadelphia Flyers (37-37-8)

General Manager: Chuck Fletcher (12/3/18)

Scouting Director: Brett Flahr

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
11	41	65, 72	103		165, 169	196, 201

### Team Notes

Philadelphia has been rebuilding for several years with neither significant improvement in the standings nor postseason appearances to validate it. Ultimately, the string of consecutive mediocre seasons cost Ron Hextall his job as general manager, and head coach Dave Hakstol soon followed him out the door. To Hextall's credit, he and his staff built Philadelphia's farm system into a monster, with elite prospects at every position and several NHL-proven contributors. Still, one must ask if Hextall was too protective of his prized assets, because he certainly held on to a lot of them. For whatever reason, Hextall never closed on a deal that would have bought the Flyers significant help at the NHL level, and it got to the point where his rebuild simply took far too long to complete; and in a demanding sports town no less. In any event, the Flyers weren't winning, and changes needed to be made. The rhetoric coming out of new GM Chuck Fletcher's mouth is that the Flyers are going to be aggressive this offseason, and they already dealt their fifth-round pick to Winnipeg for the rights to pending unrestricted free agent center Kevin Hayes, who the rival New York Rangers moved at the trade deadline. If they're able to sign him, Philadelphia will still have the assets and cap space to go after even bigger names like restricted free agent defenseman Jacob Trouba; or they can use a cash-only approach towards landing unrestricted forwards Matt Duchene and Artemi Panarin.

There are several signs, however, that the tide might be turning. Although challenging for the division is probably out of the question, young netminder Carter Hart (2<sup>nd</sup>/2016) looks like the real deal. Not only is he heading towards securing the No. 1 job sooner than later, but he continues to show the potential that he is capable of carrying the Flyers when the ice is tilted against them. If you look at Philly's best prospects, most are offensive-type forwards who too green to have a profound impact on a defense that hasn't finished in the league's top 10 in goals against since 2004. Will that be addressed at the draft? Or will Fletcher stay the course and use his picks to draft high-end talent that he personally approved of? Once again, it's time for Flyers fans to get their popcorn ready.

### Draft Trends

- The Flyers owned a league-high 36 picks over last four drafts, with at least eight picks in each one.
- The Flyers drafted nine players out of Sweden and four from Russia since 2014, but none from Finland.
- Of their 42 picks since 2014, 17 were from the CHL – seven from both the OHL and WHL, and four from the QMJHL. Of those 17 picks, 13 were forwards, three defensemen and one goalie.
- In terms of NHL games played from Flyers draftees since 2014, four of the top six are from the WHL – Ivan Provorov, Nolan Patrick, Travis Sanheim and Carter Hart.
- Philadelphia has not drafted a defenseman out of the OHL since it took Colin Suellentrop in the fourth round in 2011.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Joel Farabee-LW (NTDP); Jay O'Brien-C (HS-MA)	1. Morgan Frost, Center
2017: Nolan Patrick-C (WHL); Morgan Frost-C (OHL)	2. Joel Farabee, Left Wing
2016: German Rubtsov-C (MHL)	3. Samuel Ersson, Goalie
2015: Ivan Provorov-D (WHL); Travis Konecny-C (OHL)	4. Philippe Myers, Defenseman
2014: Travis Sanheim-D (WHL)	5. Isaac Ratcliffe, Left Wing

### Draft Needs

1. Scoring winger – Outside of Ratcliffe, the system lacks a pure sniper. The last Flyers winger that was an original draftee who scored 30 or more in a season was Simon Gagne in 2009.

**Possible targets:** RW Cole Caufield, RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev, LW Pavel Dorofeyev

2. Power-play quarterback – Philadelphia's power play has gotten worse every year since 2015, and this year they iced the lowest-ranked Flyers unit since the lost season of 2006-07.

**Possible targets:** Ville Heinola, Cam York, Philip Broberg.

## Pittsburgh Penguins (44-26-12)

General Manager: Jim Rutherford (6/6/14)

Scouting Director: Patrik Allvin

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
21			98	145		203, 207

### Team Notes

Few teams in recent memory have utilized the value of the draft pick to beef up for deep playoff runs like Pittsburgh. And with three Stanley Cups in a nine-year period, who can blame them? This year's draft, however, marks the fourth time in six years that they will head into the event with five picks or less. But the the 2019 draft should also be more important to them than the previous editions, and for several reasons. For starters, the Penguins were terrible in a first-round sweep at the hands of the Islanders, who made their opponents' stars look old, slow and unreliable. Second, it seems as though Pittsburgh has yet to catch up with the league-wide trend (or strategy) of teams incorporating the younger, faster and cheaper players into the everyday lineup in order to seamlessly execute the transition from the veteran generation to the next. Still, it's not as if the Penguins are bad at drafting and ignore the process altogether. They simply never have the assets to make much of a splash in the higher rounds, nor do they have roster space at the parent club level that would allow these kids to grow and develop in an NHL environment. Need proof? Of the 33 skaters who appeared in a game for the Penguins last season, only four – forwards Jake Guentzel (3rd/2013), Teddy Bluger (2nd/2012), Dominik Simon (5th/2015) and Daniel Sprong (2nd/2015) – were original Penguins draft picks after 2010. In comparison, the Washington Capitals had 10 original draft picks from 2011 onward appear in their lineup this past season.

Now that the point has been made, the Pens can continue to build around the small nucleus of prospects who have a shot at becoming NHL regulars. Their 2018 draft class may have been small with only four picks, but three of them looked good last season in taking the next step in their development. Swift puck mover Calen Addison (2nd/2018) has outgrown the WHL and deserves a long look in training camp; energetic winger Filip Hallander (2nd/2018) had a solid rookie season in the SHL, and speedy forward Justin Almeida (5th/2018) finished third in the WHL in scoring with 111 points. Down on the AHL farm, Rutherford has some cleaning up to do, as the bulk of the roster in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre are closer to 30 than they are to the NHL. There may be room this season for abrasive winger Sam Lafferty (4th/2014), and NCAA standout Kasper Bjorkqvist (2nd/2016) should make his pro debut this season after his senior season with Providence is complete.

### Draft Trends

- Goalies haven't been much of a priority at Rutherford's draft table. Since 2014, Pittsburgh has drafted only one goalie – Filip Gustavsson in the second round in 2016 – and he was traded for Derick Brassard.
- Pittsburgh has avoided drafting Russian prospects as well. The last Russian-league player taken at the draft by the Pens was goalie Alexander Pechurskiy in 2008. Their last skater drafted out of Russia was Evgeny Malkin in 2004.
- If you count Liam Gorman's two games with the Chicago Steel in his 2018 draft year, the Penguins have drafted a non-NTDP prospect from the USHL in each of the last six years.
- Since taking over before the 2014 draft, Rutherford and staff have drafted only six players from Canadian major junior out of the 25 combined picks they had available.
- Last year's draft class was the first time since 2013 that the Penguins took players from the WHL.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: None (Calen Addison-D (WHL))	1. Kasper Bjorkqvist, Right Wing
2017: None (Zach Lauzon-D (QMJHL, 2nd))	2. Filip Hallander, Right Wing
2016: None (Filip Gustavsson-G, SHL, 2nd)	3. Calen Addison, Defenseman
2015: None (Daniel Sprong-RW, QMJHL, 2nd)	4. Justin Almeida, Right Wing
2014: Kasper Kapanen-RW (SM-Liiga)	5. Clayton Phillips, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Center: Sidney Crosby turns 32 in August and Evgeny Malkin is 33 in July. They can't play forever.

**Possible targets:** Alex Newhook, Ryan Suzuki, Connor McMichael, Phil Tomasino

## San Jose Sharks (46-27-9)

General Manager: Doug Wilson (5/13/03)

Scouting Director: Doug Wilson Jr.

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
		91		153	184	215

### Team Notes

San Jose always seem to get it right at the draft table, so it should not have come as a surprise to see their deep playoff run being fueled by home-grown talent spanning almost two decades worth of draft success. From veterans Joe Pavelski (7<sup>th</sup>/2003), Marc-Edouard Vlasic (2<sup>nd</sup>/2005), Logan Couture (1<sup>st</sup>/2007) to recent draftees like Tomas Hertl (1<sup>st</sup>/2012), Kevin Labanc (6<sup>th</sup>/2014) and Timo Meier (1<sup>st</sup>/2015), the Sharks have been able to ice one of the league's most consistent rosters year in and year out. And despite the high price they paid in prospects to add veterans like Erik Karlsson, Evander Kane and Gustav Nyquist, there is no reason to think the gut punches to the farm system following every trade deadline or offseason will negatively impact the roster for the years to follow. One reason is their ability to find undrafted free agents and turn them into NHL regulars. San Jose's roster is riddled with UDFA's they either acquired from other teams or signed and developed themselves. In fact, three of their top undrafted postseason contributors – Joakim Ryan, Melker Karlsson, Barclay Goodrow – were signed by the Sharks, with additional help from Europe in the form of Lukas Radil, Radim Simek and Antti Suomela. These moves prove San Jose's flexibility and the keen eyes for talent possessed by "The Dougs" and their hard-working scouting staff.

Nonetheless, the roster is aging and voids from free agency need to be filled. There still is help available in the AHL affiliate (also in San Jose), and the Sharks were able to hold on to prized defense prospect Ryan Merkley (1<sup>st</sup>/2018), late-round gem Ivan Chekhovich (7<sup>th</sup>/2017), who was third in QMJHL scoring, and free-agent find Vladislav Kotkov. And although the situation in goal is stable with Martin Jones and Aaron Dell (both undrafted, by the way), the Sharks can turn to (yup, you guessed it) undrafted free agent Josef Korenar, who last season was one of the AHL's top young netminders. San Jose also has other major junior standouts who crushed it last season, such as WHL scoring champion Joachim Blichfeld (7<sup>th</sup>/2016) and Sasha Chmelevski (6<sup>th</sup>/2017), who was second in OHL playoff scoring.

### Draft Trends

- The Sharks are notorious for dipping into multiple talent pools, but one they have avoided for over a decade is Finland. The last player they drafted from a Finnish league of any kind was goalie Harri Satori in 2008. The last skater San Jose took from Finland was 2000 second-rounder Tero Maatta.
- Only three defensemen have been drafted by San Jose since they took three in 2015 alone. Marco Muller in 2013 was the last defenseman they took from the WHL.
- From 2009 to 2012, the Sharks didn't draft a single goalie, but have selected four since. San Jose has never used a first or second-round pick on a goalie in its 27-year history.
- Four of San Jose's last six first-round picks were European, including three who were CHL imports (Mirco Mueller, Nikolay Goldobin and Timo Meier).
- After drafting defenseman Andrei Zyuzin with the second overall pick in 1996, the Sharks did not draft a Russian-league player in any of the next 14 drafts. Since 2011, they have selected only two – Daniil Sobchenko (2011) and Emil Galimov (2013)

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Ryan Merkley-D (OHL) 2017: Josh Norris-C (NTDP) 2016: None (Filip Gustavsson-G, SHL, 2nd) 2015: Timo Meier-RW (QMJHL) 2014: Kasperii Kapanen-RW (SM-Liiga)	1. Ryan Merkely, Defenseman 2. Josef Korenar, Goalie 3. Ivan Chekhovich, Left Wing 4. Joachim Blichfeld, Right Wing 5. Rourke Chartier, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Center: Trading 2017 first-round pivot Josh Norris in the Erik Karlsson deal wasn't easy to stomach, especially if EK walks as a free agent this offseason.

**Possible targets:** Owen Lindmark, Trevor Janicke, Massimo Rizzo, David Karlstrom, Albin Sundsvik

## St. Louis Blues (45-28-9)

General Manager: Doug Armstrong (9/3/13)

Scouting Director: Bill Armstrong

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
	62	93		155		217

### Team Notes

The Blues committed millions of dollars, plus valuable draft picks and prospects, to arm themselves for a deep playoff run that became a reality after 50 agonizing years of postseason ineptitude. As important as winning the Stanley Cup was for both the organization and the dedicated fans in St. Louis, the Blues have drafted well enough in recent years to keep the good times rolling. Yes, the cupboard was open for business, and the cost in draft picks was high. But more than half of the Blues' postseason lineup were pieces acquired from a string of successful drafts, thus allowing them to keep the upper-tier prospects while shipping away excess baggage or redundant roster players from either the AHL or NHL. It's fascinating to think that the Blues were able to build a winning combination without trading away any of their coveted prospects outside of winger Tage Thompson, who was picked later in the first round in 2016.

Not only did they retain two elite playmakers in winger Jordan Kyrou (2nd/2016) and Robert Thomas (1st/2017), but St. Louis got to keep power winger Klim Kostin (1st/2017) and sniper Dominik Bokk (1st/2018) as well. And although they will be without a first-rounder in 2019, they have historically done quite well on Day 2 of the draft. Defensemen Vince Dunn (2nd/2015), Colton Parayko (3rd/2012) and Joel Edmundson (2nd/2011); wingers Ivan Barbashev (3rd/2014) and Sammy Blais (6th/2014); and most importantly, rookie goalie Jordan Bennington (3rd/2011) were all picked outside the first round and played key roles in the Stanley Cup push. Still, trading away draft picks can catch up with any team, and the current buffer zone they enjoy from recent drafts can only last for so long.

### Draft Trends

- The Blues drafted two NCAA prospects in two of the last three drafts after going 12 years without taking any.
- Of the 28 goalies the Blues have selected since 1988, only Ben Bishop (2005) and Jake Allen (2008) have appeared in 100 or more NHL games.
- St. Louis has selected at least two prospects from the CHL in every draft since 2007, and they have drafted three or more CHL'ers in each of the last five years.
- The 2019 draft marks the first time the Blues will own their third-round pick since 2014, when they grabbed defenseman Jake Walman. Between 2005 and 2012, St. Louis used third rounders to take Bishop, Bennington and Parayko.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Dominik Bokk, RW (SHL) 2017: Robert Thomas-C (OHL), Klim Kostin-RW (KHL) 2016: Tage Thompson-RW (NCAA) 2015: None (Vince Dunn-D, OHL, 2nd) 2014: Robby Fabbri-RW (OHL)	1. Jordan Kyrou, Right Wing 2. Klim Kostin, Right Wing 3. Dominik Bokk, Right Wing 4. Scott Perunovich, Defenseman 5. Evan Fitzpatrick, Goalie

### Draft Needs

1. Center: The Blues have plenty of finishers and two-way types on the wing, but the center depth below the NHL level is thin. They obviously miss out of the notable center prospects, but they still can walk away with a playmaker with top-six upside.

**Possible targets:** Antti Saarela, Jamison Rees, Massimo Rizzo, Matej Blumel, Aliaksei Protas

## Tampa Bay Lightning (62-16-4)

General Manager: Julien BriseBois (9/11/18)

Scouting Director: Al Murray

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
27		89	120		182	198, 213

### Team Notes

Having a historic first-round collapse following a record-setting season is no laughing matter for all those involved in the process, so it's time for Tampa to do a little reflecting. After the Lightning were served a whopping slice of humble pie by the quicker and hungrier Columbus Blue Jackets in the opening round of the playoffs, you got the sense that changes were likely coming. Or are they? Remember, we're talking about a 62-win team that blitzed the league from start to finish with a lethal offense and Vezina-caliber goaltending, so it's not like the Lightning were not equipped to deal with what Columbus threw at them. The truth is that injuries, specifically to Norris-winning defenseman Victor Hedman, had the biggest impact on the Bolts' ability to defend and counterattack. Tampa's blue line without Hedman was too green to handle adversity, which put more pressure on an aging Ryan McDonagh to try and compensate for Hedman's superior three-zone play. It's doubtful that Tampa bounces back with another 60-win season, but history tells us that a humiliating or unexpected playoffs loss is usually part of a Stanley Cup-winning process, with the 1979 Islanders, 1982 Oilers, 1992 Rangers and 1996 Red Wings the easiest examples of regular-season steamrollers who took opponents lightly during an unexpected playoff exit. Still, all four eventually won the Stanley Cup within a year or two.

Moving forward, the Bolts can still ice all-star teams at both the NHL and AHL level in addition to owning all those remaining studs they have scattered across junior hockey and college. Under former GM Steve Yzerman and current scouting director Al Murray, Tampa Bay has set a high standard for drafting and developing, and even Yzerman's recent exodus for the Red Wings shouldn't have too profound an impact on how both Murray and new GM Julien BriseBois approach this draft and beyond. No team has done better in recent years than finding elite talent outside the first round than the Lightning, which drafted superstars Nikita Kucherov (2nd/2011) and Brayden Point (3rd/2014), plus added additional pieces like Andrej Palat (7th/2011), Cedric Paquette (4th/2012), Anthony Cirelli (3rd/2015) and Mathieu Joseph (4th/2015). As if the Lightning needs help from within the organization, three of the AHL's top 13 scorers under the age of 22 from last season were Tampa prospects — Alex Barre-Boulet, Alexander Volkov and Taylor Raddysh.

### Trends

- Tampa has drafted at least one Russian-league player in each of the last three drafts. Three of the four Russians picked were from the MHL and one from the KHL
- Last year marked the second time in franchise history that Tampa didn't take an OHL prospect in back-to-back drafts
- The Bolts have never gone an entire draft without a sixth-round pick.
- This year will be the only second draft in 11 years where the Lightning will not have a second-round pick.
- Tampa has not drafted an NTDP prospect since grabbing Jonathan McLeod in the second round 2014.
- The USHL has provided the Lightning with a non-NTDP draft pick in four straight drafts, but Tampa has never selected a non-NTDP USHL player higher than the fourth round.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: None (Gabriel Fortier-C, QMJHL, 2nd) 2017: Cal Foote-D (WHL) 2016: Brett Howden-C (WHL) 2015: None (Mitchell Stephens-C, OHL, 2nd) 2014: Tony DeAngelo-D (OHL)	1. Boris Katchouk, Left Wing 2. Taylor Raddysh, Right Wing 3. Connor Ingram, Goalie 4. Cal Foote, Defenseman 5. Alexander Volchkov, Left Wing

### Draft Needs

1. Center: There isn't a single hole at any position at either the NHL and AHL level, but it wouldn't hurt if they tried to replace 2016 first rounder Brett Howden, who was traded to the Rangers.

**Possible targets:** Ryan Suzuki, Connor McMichael, Phil Tomasino

2. Power-play Quarterback: The Bolts' power play is explosive, but within the system, it looks like they are banking on Mikhail Sergachev to become Victor Hedman's heir apparent. Still, it wouldn't hurt to have a real playmaker on defense who could marinate in Syracuse until the time is right.

**Possible targets:** Thomas Harley, Ville Heinola, Anttoni Honka, Lassi Thomson

## Toronto Maple Leafs (46-28-8)

General Manager: Kyle Dubas (5/11/18)

Scouting Director: John Lilley

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
	53	84	115, 124	146		204, 208

### Team Notes

Another disappointing opening-round loss to Boston set off alarm bells in the GTA, but the fact still remains that the Maple Leafs are one heck of a hockey team with no signs of slowing down. Great teams usually suffer through postseason failure before reaching their desired objectives, so Leafs Land should keep their chins up and let the process continue on its course. No, the acquisition of John Tavares did not make the Leafs any better than most expected, and it clouded the heck out of their current salary cap situation. You still can't knock GM Kyle Dubas for making the move, and Tavares lived up to the hype from an individual standpoint by setting career highs in goals (47) and points (88). But "JT" wasn't even close to the whole story in Toronto this year, as homegrown talents like Morgan Rielly (1st/2012), Mitch Marner (1st/2015) and Auston Matthews (1st/2016) all enjoyed all-star seasons, and all before any of them have hit their anticipated peak.

The prospect pool in Toronto remains rich, even after Dubas traded away his 2019 first rounder, defenseman Sean Durzi and two-way forward Carl Grundstrom for veteran defenseman Jake Muzzin. Wingers Jeremy Bracco (2nd/2015) and Dmytro Timashov (5th/2015) continue to impress at the AHL level and are deserving of NHL duty, while rookie Andres Johnsson (7th/2013) proved to be an excellent value pick by producing a 20-goal, 40-point season as an NHL regular. Joining them next season in either the minors or with the big club is sturdy Russian forward Yegor Korshkov (2nd/2016), who finally signed his NHL deal after an impressive career in the KHL. Lastly, the Leafs have two excellent Swedish puck movers in Rasmus Sandin (1st/2018) and Tim Liljegren (1st/2017), both of whom were battle tested during a lengthy AHL playoff run.

### Draft Trends

- Toronto has drafted only seven non-NTDP players from the USHL in team history and none since 2014
- The Leafs have taken four defenseman in each of their last two drafts for the first time since 2001 and 2002.
- Toronto drafted a defenseman with their first-round pick in each of the last two drafts. It was the first time they did so since the Harold Ballard days of 1981 and 1982, when they grabbed Jim Benning and Gary Nylund, respectively.
- The last decade has seen the Maple Leafs dip into the OHL crop more than the previous period. Since 2009, Toronto has drafted 27 OHL prospects after taking only four between 2002 and 2008
- In the last 10 drafts (2009-2018), Toronto has drafted only four players from the QMJHL – two goalies, 2013 first rounder Frederik Gauthier and Timashov in 2015.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Rasmus Sandin-D (OHL)	1. Rasmus Sandin, Defenseman
2017: Tim Liljegren-D (SHL)	2. Tim Liljegren, Defenseman
2016: Auston Matthews-C (NLA)	3. Jeremy Bracco, Right Wing
2015: Mitch Marner-RW (OHL)	4. Yegor Korshkov, Left Wing
2014: William Nylander-C (SHL)	5. Dmytro Timashov, Left Wing

### Draft Needs

1. Goal-scoring winger: The Leafs farm system has playmakers from the flank, but it's pretty bare when it comes to natural goal scorers.

**Possible targets:** Leevi Aaltonen, Graeme Clarke, Marcus Kallionkieli, Egor Afanaseyev, Maxim Cajkovic

## Vancouver Canucks (35-36-11)

General Manager: Jim Benning (5/23/14)

Scouting Director: Judd Brackett

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
10	40	71	102	133	156, 164, 180	195

### Team Notes

A season that began without high expectations ended the way most expected it to, with the Canucks missing the playoffs but showing glimpses of a team inching closer towards postseason contention. The one big caveat, however, was the phenomenal play of rookie Elias Pettersson (1st/2017), a virtual lock for the Calder Trophy and the shining centerpiece of a youth group destined to give the Western Conference fits for years to come. Still, the Canucks need to conduct some minor offseason housekeeping, beginning with a new contract for sniper Brock Boeser (1st/2015) in order to pave the way for a possible run at elite free agents Artemi Panarin and Erik Karlsson.

The Canucks have made smart decisions in recent drafts, with explainable hiccups here and there. Although we can't look into the future, it's pretty obvious that Vancouver envisions an up-tempo attack led by a dynamic duo in Pettersson and Boeser, with swift-skating playmaker Quinn Hughes (1st/2018) patrolling the blue line and Thatcher Demko (2nd/2014) stonewalling opponents in goal. Beyond the home runs in the early rounds, Benning and his crew of scouts have collected fast, skilled playmakers up front and on defense, but none seem to be the prima donna type who take shifts for granted or give the coaching staff a hard time. The kids being assembled in Vancouver may have a collective style and flair about them, but they also reveal fierce competitiveness and an innate desire to succeed. Of course, they shouldn't be confused with the Dynasty Islanders of the 1980's, and there still is work to be done. The nucleus, however, is already in place, and by adding another elite piece via the 10th overall pick in 2019, one must consider the Canucks as one of the sooner-than-later candidates to rise above the lower portion of the standings.

### Draft Trends

- Canucks have drafted at least one WHL prospect in each of the last six drafts.
- Nine picks have come from the OHL since Jim Benning took over as GM right before the 2014 draft.
- Vancouver has taken at least one player from U.S. league – NCAA, USHL, NTDP or HS – in each of Benning's five drafts.
- Four of Vancouver's six picks in the 2016 draft are no longer with the organization. Only defenseman Olli Juolevi (fifth overall) and NCAA winger Will Lockwood (64th overall) remain.
- Three of the last four forwards the Canucks drafted in the first round – Elias Pettersson, Brock Boeser and Bo Horvat – have scored at least 25 goals in the NHL. Only one of the previous 21 forwards taken between 2007 and 2012 – Cody Hodgson – have hit the 20-goal mark.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Quinn Hughes-D (NCAA)	1. Quinn Hughes, Defenseman
2017: Elias Pettersson-C/W (SHL)	2. Thatcher Demko, Goalie
2016: Olli Juolevi-D (OHL)	3. Jett Woo, Defenseman
2015: Brock Boeser-RW (USHL)	4. Jack Rathbone, Defenseman
2014: Jake Virtanen-RW (WHL)	5. Tyler Madden, Center

### Draft Needs

1. Center – Big club as set down the middle for now, but after Tyler Madden the Canucks have zilch in the pipeline regarding centers.

**Available targets:** Peyton Krebs, Alex Newhook, Dylan Cozens, Kirby Dach

2. Goal-scoring winger – Jonathan Dahlen's trade, coupled with nondescript AHL seasons from Jonah Gadjovich and Kole Lind, should create a high demand for a finisher.

**Available targets:** RW Cole Caufield, RW Raphael Lavoie, LW Arthur Kaliyev, LW Pavel Dorofeyev

## Vegas Golden Knights (43-32-7)

General Manager: Kelly McCrimmon (5/2/19)

Scouting Director: Scott Luce

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
17	48	79, 82, 86	110	135, 139, 141		

### Team Notes

The scope of the expansion Vegas Golden Knights' history is microscopic in comparison to the other teams in the league. But for the second year in a row, the Knights treated their fans to another wild postseason ride, albeit one that didn't last past opening round. The manner in which Vegas lost to San Jose in Game 7 was brutal to say the least, with Cody Eakin taking a bad crosschecking penalty with a 3-0 lead that the on-ice officials erroneously called a five-minute major, thus leading to four straight power-play goals and an overtime loss. How do the Knights move on? The first thing would be to focus on the positives, as in the draft picks acquired by ex-GM George McPhee, who now serves as team president. The 2017 draft proved to be deep enough for him to go out and obtain two of the league's most sought-after wingers in Max Pacioretty and Mark Stone without having to give up the best of his prospects — center Cody Glass (1st/2017). And although trading away blue chippers like Erik Brannstrom and Nick Suzuki stings, McPhee and newly-appointed GM Kelly McCrimmon still retained Nicholas Hague (2nd/2017), who like Brannstrom is a power-play quarterback and impressed as an AHL rookie. Throw in the fact that the Knights go into this draft with five picks in the top 86, and you can understand why the people running the Knights have a firm grasp on hockey operations and player development.

Beyond the notable prospects the Knights scooped up in only two drafts, they also selected three of the top underclassmen in the NCAA. Bowling Green left wing Brandon Kruse (5th/2018) was second only to Cale Makar in assists by a sophomore, and Providence right wing Jack Dugan (2017/5th) was second among all NCAA freshmen with 39 points in 41 games. On defense, Slava Demin (4th/2018) was a top-20 scorer among first-year blueliners, as he played on a Denver squad that finished third in the national rankings. As you can see, the Golden Knights' farm system still operates at an acceptable level, and McCrimmon maintains possession of a handful of coveted prospects, to include his collection of higher-round picks in 2019.

### Draft Trends

- Vegas has selected at least one player from both Canadian Jr. "A" and U.S. high schools in each of their two drafts
- None of the three goalies picked by the Knights were taken in Rounds 1-3
- With at least one pick from Sweden, Russia and the Czech Republic, the only major hockey nation from Europe that the Knights have yet to draft from is Finland.
- Eight of their 20 picks since 2017 came from the CHL, with five coming via the OHL.

1st Round Picks (2017-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: None (Ivan Morozov-C, MHL, 2nd) 2017: Cody Glass-C (WHL), Nick Suzuki-C (OHL), Erik Brannstrom-D (Superelit)	1. Cody Glass, Center 2. Nicholas Hague, Defenseman 3. Lucas Elvenes, Center 4. Jack Dugan, Right Wing 5. Slava Demin, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Center – Cody Glass is the real deal and will be groomed to be the No. 1 center, and Ivan Morozov can play the two-way game. But losing Nick Suzuki eliminated the possibility of two elite playmakers anchoring the offense for the next decade

**Possible targets:** Ryan Suzuki, Phil Tomasino, Connor McMichael

2. Two-way defenseman — Much like the Suzuki situation, the Knights should try their best to find a replacement for Erik Brannstrom

**Available targets:** RHD Victor Soderstrom, LHD Tobias Bjornfot, LHD Philip Broberg, LHD Cam York

## Washington Capitals (48-26-8)

General Manager: Brian MacLellan (5/26/14)

Scouting Director: Steve Bowman

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
25	56		118	129		211

### Team Notes

The Capitals did all the right things during the regular season to set the conditions for a defense of their Stanley Cup title. They won the Metro Division for a fourth straight season. Alex Ovechkin (1st/2004) delivered his customary 50-goal campaign, while Nicklas Backstrom (1st/2006) made is six years in a row with at least 70 points. They even entered the playoffs without much of a goalie controversy, as Braden Holtby (4th/2008) managed to keep his job despite an inconsistent performance during the regular season. The one major change was behind the bench, where first-year coach had the unenviable task of replacing a Cup-winning coach in Barry Trotz. Ultimately, the title defense lasted only one round and seven games, as the Caps were upended by the underdog Carolina Hurricanes. Overall, Washington lineup the least several years has been home grown, with the top four leading scorers and seven of the top ten being original Caps draft picks who represent various stages of the franchise's roster construction timeline. Even more telling is that all of their top-nine leading scorers were former first-round picks – something the franchise has always had when it came time for the draft. One of Washington's better prospects in net is 2015 first rounder Ilya Samsonov, who came over from Russia at the start of the season to spend a full year in North America. The young Russian had a decent rookie season while splitting netminding duties for the AHL's Hershey Bears, and he even appeared in five playoff games. The prospect pool as a whole is top heavy with defensemen and goalies. The Caps seem partial to physical European blue liners, and few under the age of 22 are better at it than Jonas Siegenthaler (2nd/2015). Joining him on the prospect depth chart are additional big-body types such as Alexander Alexeyev (1st/2018), Martin Fehervary (2nd/2018), Tobias Geisser (4th/2017) and Lucas Johansen (1st/2016). Chase Priskie (6th/2016) is the best "offenseman" in the system.

### Draft Trends

- The only years since 2002 where Washington did not have a first-round pick was 2011 and 2017
- Last year, the Capitals grabbed a defenseman with their first selection for a third consecutive draft and have only eight forwards to show for the combined drafts between 2015 and 2018.
- 2018 third rounder Kody Clark was the first OHL prospect they drafted since Tom Wilson in the 2012 first round.
- 2010 was the last draft Washington selected a QMJHL prospect.
- The Capitals took three defensemen in each of the last four drafts.
- John Carlson in 2008 was the last American-born prospect taken in the first round by Washington.
- The Caps may seem like "Russia-West", but they drafted only three Russians since 2011, and two were goalies.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: Alexander Alexeyev-D (WHL) 2017: None (Tobias Geysler-D, NLA, 4th) 2016: Lucas Johansen-D (WHL) 2015: Ilya Samsonov-G (KHL) 2014: Jakub Vrana-RW (SHL)	1. Ilya Samsonov, Goalie 2. Alexander Alexeyev, Defenseman 3. Chase Priskie, Defensemen 4. Lucas Johansen, Defenseman 5. Martin Fehervary, Defenseman

### Draft Needs

1. Scoring Forward – It may have been via a different regime, but the Caps hit three home runs when they took forwards in the first round between 2012-2014. It's timer to get back to what works and fill their talent pool with skill and firepower.

**Possible targets:** Ryan Suzuki, Phil Tomasino, Connor McMichael, Arthur Kaliyev, Pavel Dorofeyev, Bobby Brink, Patrik Puistola

## Winnipeg Jets (47-30-5)

General Manager: Kevin Cheveldayoff (6/8/11)

Scouting Director: Mark Hillier

### 2019 Draft Picks

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
	51		113	134, 144		

### Team Notes

The Jets learned the tough lessons inherent in trying to meet or exceed expectations brought on by a successful playoff run. On paper, the answers are always easy – add another player or two; catch a break here and there, and Stanley Cup, here we come! Not so fast, said the eventual Stanley Cup-champion St. Louis Blues, who jettisoned Winnipeg's favorite sons in six hard-fought games in Round 1. Keep in mind that it wasn't from lack of effort or execution, as the Blues won all four of their games by one goal and turned the series around with a 3-2 win in a pivotal Game 5. Still, the Jets boast a lethal lineup with speed, skill and physicality up and down the roster; a roster built primarily through the draft. Beginning with leading goal-scorer Mark Scheifele (1<sup>st</sup>/2011), 11 of Winnipeg's top-16 scorers from a season ago were original draft picks, including six of the top seven. And although goalie Connor Hellebuyck (5<sup>th</sup>/2012) had a massive regression in performance, he's only 26 and has proven to be one of Kevin Cheveldayoff's better late-round picks.

The decision to trade for Kevin Hayes at a cost of a 2019 first rounder and fourth-liner Brendan Lemieux didn't work out as planned, but none of Winnipeg's elite prospects or budding NHL phenoms were move at the deadline. Cheveldayoff didn't budge when teams asked for NHL-caliber prospects like Jack Roslovic (1<sup>st</sup>/2015), Mason Appleton (6<sup>th</sup>/2015) or Sami Niku (7<sup>th</sup>/2015). He also held firm on requests for rugged defensemen Logan Stanley (1<sup>st</sup>/2016) and Dylan Samberg (2<sup>nd</sup>/2017), or Finnish winger Kristian Vesalainen (1<sup>st</sup>/2018), and he also kept his grips on his two best center prospects – David Gustafsson (2<sup>nd</sup>/2018) and Santeri Virtanen (4<sup>th</sup>/2017). Nonetheless, the Jets have traded their first-round pick in consecutive seasons after having at least one in the first seven years of the franchise.

### Draft Trends

- After taking Barrie's Mark Scheifele seventh overall in 2011, the Jets have drafted only three OHL-trained forwards since -- Austen Brassard (5<sup>th</sup>/2011), Scott Kosmachuk (3<sup>rd</sup>/2012) and Jimmy Lodge (3<sup>rd</sup>/2013).
- The four 2019 picks the Jets currently own would be the least for one draft in franchise history. They have never had less than six.
- Last year marked the first time Cheveldayoff did not draft a WHL player. Still, the Jets love tapping into Western Canada's prospect pipelines, drafting 15 from the DUB as opposed to only seven from the OHL and four from the QMJHL. In fact, Winnipeg has taken as many players from the USHL/NTDP (11) as the OHL and QMJHL combined.
- Eric Comrie (2<sup>nd</sup>/2013) is the only goalie drafted by the Jets who was picked higher than the fifth round. In total, Winnipeg has taken seven goalies but one in the sixth round in each of the last three drafts.
- 2015 marked the only time the Jets did not draft at least two defensemen, but they did grab prized prospect Sami Niku in the seventh round of that year.
- Of the 21 defensemen drafted in Jets history, only two – Zach Yuen (4<sup>th</sup>/2011) and Josh Morrissey (1<sup>st</sup>/2013) – were listed under six feet tall on draft day.

1st Round Picks (2014-2018)	Top Prospects
2018: None (David Gustafsson-C, SHL, 4th) 2017: Kristian Vesalainen-LW (SM-Liiga) 2016: Patrik Laine-RW (SM-Liiga), Logan Stanley-D (OHL) 2015: Kyle Connor-LW (USHL), Jack Roslovic-RW (NTDP) 2014: Nikolaj Ehlers-LW (QMJHL)	1. Kristian Vesalainen, Winger 2. Dylan Samberg, Defenseman 3. Logan Stanley, Defensemen 4. David Gustafsson, Center 5. Santeri Virtanen

### Draft Needs

1. Offensive Defenseman – The blueline is getting older and they could be losing Jacob Trouba. Most of the defensemen in the system lack elite speed, creativity and playmaking abilities.

**Possible targets:** Anttoni Honka, Marshall Warren, Lassi Thomson, Billy Constantinou

# **2019 NHL Mock Draft (Rounds 1 & 2)**

Round 1	Player	Notes
1. NJD	C Jack Hughes	Not as easy a pick to make as we once thought, but the Devils come away with their game-breaking center.
2. NYR	RW Kaapo Kakko	A power winger with soft hands and exceptional puck protection skills. Kakko will be The Franchise.
3. CHI	LHD Bowen Byram	The top defenseman in the draft was a minute-eating warrior and became the first blueliner to lead the WHL playoffs in scoring
4. COL (OTT)	C Trevor Zegras	A dynamic playmaker with phenomenal vision, Zegras is as good a set-up man as Jack Hughes
5. LA	C Alex Turcotte	A hard-nosed center with excellent speed, the Wisconsin-bound Turcotte has NHL bloodlines and piled up the points when Jack Hughes was out.
6. DET	C/W Dylan Cozens	A speedy three-zone power forward with a great attitude, Cozens plays physical but owns a heck of a shot as well.
7. BUF	LW Matthew Boldy	The draft's top two-way winger has size, elite hockey sense and buttery-soft hands. Pencil him for multiple Selke nominations.
8. EDM	C Kirby Dach	A big-bodied set-up man with an abrasive side, Dach is a fierce competitor who has the puck glued to his blade.
9. ANA	RW Cole Caufield	The best goal scorer in the draft tallied a record 72 times for the NTDP, but he also is an excellent set-up man and competes hard from whistle to whistle.
10. VAN	C Alex Newhook	The Canucks should be all too familiar with the reigning BCHL MVP and scoring champ. Newhook is Boston College bound but his speed, playmaking and goal-scoring likely means he won't be there long.
11. PHI	RW Vasily Podkolzin	If they keep the pick, the Flyers take a big cut and acquire this abrasive winger with an advanced hockey brain. Podkolzin packs a powerful punch, and will gnaw holes into opposing schemes with his violence of action
12. MIN	C Peyton Krebs	An unfortunate pre-draft Achille's tear shouldn't hurt the stock of this 200-foot warrior who carried a bad team and still produced against top matchups.
13. FLA	G Spencer Knight	The top goalie prospect since Carey Price will be the final piece that finally makes Florida a perennial playoff team.
14. ARI	LHD Philip Broberg	A physically gifted puck mover with speed who loves to play the body, Broberg can become Oliver-Ekman Larsson's understudy in the desert
15. MTL	LHD Cam York	The worst power play in the Habs' storied history leaves them no choice but to grab this offensive dynamo who hits hard and play unselfish hockey.
16. COL	RHD Moritz Seider	A German-born powerhouse with size and mobility, Seider showed the hockey world his maturity, poise and calculated decisions at the men's world championships in May.
17. VGK	C Ryan Suzuki	GM George McPhee had to trade one elite Suzuki, so why not grab another? Ryan is a bit quicker than brother Nick and didn't have the benefit of a strong supporting cast.
18. DAL	C Phil Tomasino	One of the quickest players in the draft was a 5-on-5 monster for a deep team. Tomasino can wire it off the rush.
19. OTT (CBJ)	RW Raphael Lavoie	A big-bodied winger with grace, speed and a deadly shot, Lavoie was one of the top scorers in the QMJHL playoffs and plays an unselfish brand of hockey.
20. NYR (WIN)	LW Pavel Dorofeyev	One of the craftiest wingers in the draft is a dual-threat who enters the zone clean and has exceptional balance. Dorofeyev's multi-layered skill set wears down opponents in the offensive zone.
21. PIT	LW Nils Hoglander	An in-your-face buzzsaw who has exceptional hands, Hoglander has already played well against adults in Sweden and will inject youthful exuberance into an aging lineup
22. LAK (TOR)	RHD Victor Soderstrom	One of the cleanest puck managers in the draft, Soderstrom also is a graceful skater who was given an expanded role well into his SHL season with Brynas.
23. NYI	LHD Ville Heinola	No draft-eligible defenseman is an exciting within the confines of the offensive zone as this Finnish puck mover, who has a quick first step and sling the puck around the horn with authority
24. NAS	LHD Thomas Harley	The Preds sure love their puck movers, and no draft eligible can deliver a tape-to-tape pass as consistent as Harley, who also is a graceful skater with good size.
25. WAS	RW Arthur Kaliyev	This Staten Island-born sniper lit up the OHL with a 51-goal, 102-point season for Hamilton. He's big and snipes the upper half with precision.
26. CGY	C John Beecher	Big, mean, fast and with a cannon of a shot, this 200-foot-center plays with physicality and can be a matchup nightmare. Beecher is headed to Michigan in the fall.
27. TB	LW Samuel Poulin	A heavy-hitting power winger who can fill any role without ever losing a ounce of effort, Poulin shows up to the rink to play, and play hard. He's the son of former NHL first rounder Patrick Poulin.
28. CAR	RW Brett Leason	This might be his third draft rodeo, but you'll be hard pressed to find a draft eligible outside of the elite group who had a better all-around season than this smart and skilled 200-foot winger.
29. ANA (SJ)	LHD Tobias Bjornfot	A superior puck distributor who knows how to think and defend at the same time, Bjornfot was a horse for Team Sweden during their gold-medal run at the under-18 worlds.
30. BOS	LW Robert Mastro Simone	A hard-nosed sniper with a high compete level, the Boston University-bound winger was one of the USHL's top scorers and can beat you in more ways than just scoring.
31. BUF (STL)	C Connor McMichael	An excellent playmaker who can roof the puck home nearly as well as any center in the draft, McMichael piled up the points despite playing on a London squad loaded with NHL prospects.

Round 2	Player	Notes
32. OTT	RW Bobby Brink	A smaller playmaker but an assassin once he gets near the has marks, Brink is off to play college hockey with Denver next fall.
33. LA	LW Michal Tepy	A sturdy two-way winger with a bullet shot and stickhandling proclivity, Tepy is a trusted puck carrier who wears down defenses.
34. NJD	LW Jakob Pelletier	A bulldog on skates for his tenacity, effort and nonstop motor, Pelletier is a coach's dream who can make high-end plays with the puck.
35. DET	LHD Ryan Johnson	A swift-skating mobile defenseman who can run a power play but also shadows top players, Johnson is a Golden Gopher recruit who played a big role in Sioux Falls winning the USHL championship
36. CAR-BUF	RHD Anttoni Honka	The trading of Adam Fox is quickly addressed with this offensive-minded puck rusher who can deliver the puck with authority or take it to the cage himself.
37. CAR-NYR	C/W Ryder Donovan	An early-season first rounder who still offers a tantalizing package of size, speed and excellent vision. Donovan can fly but other areas of his game are similar to Kevin Hayes.
38. EDM	LHD Matthew Robertson	The Oilers don't venture far to grab of the draft's better positional defenders. Robertson has a high ceiling because he can skate the puck out of trouble when the walls are collapsing.
39. ANA	RW Nick Robertson	A native Californian, Robertson is an exciting player to watch and can create scoring chances out of nothing. He's willing to go inside amongst the trees and still gets results.
40. VAN	LW Albin Grewe	Consider Grewe a Podkolzin-lite – he's a tenacious winger with a great shot, but he also hits hard and makes every puck retrieval a nightmare for defensemen.
41. PHI	RW Nick Robertson	A jittery offensive weapon, Robertson is an exciting player to watch and can create scoring chances out of nothing. He isn't the biggest player on the ice, but he lets his dominance of the puck announce his presence.
42. MIN	C Ilya Nikolayev	One of the best 200-foot centers in the draft, Nikolayev worked his way up the depth chart of a deep Lokomotiv squad and tore it up in the playoffs. He hits hard and smothers opponents, but he can also thread the needle with his passes.
43. CHI	C John Farinacci	Taking Byram at No. 3 removed the Hawks from the elite center sweepstakes, but this Harvard-bound playmaker is a nice consolation prize. Farinacci is incredibly smart with the puck and has top-six upside.
44. OTT-FLA	RHD Lassi Thomson	A big bomber from the blue line who had an impressive rookie year with the WHL's Kelowna Rockets, Thomson is a Finnish import who has size and can orchestrate the power play.
45. ARI	C/W Ethan Phillips	A roadrunner with blinding speed, Phillips is a Boston University recruit who played top-six minutes as a rookie on the Sioux Falls' deadly attack. He on the smaller side, but he is a fearless inside player.
46. MTL	C Karl Henriksson	A power-play specialist with speed and excellent vision, Henriksson was the critical piece in creating time and space for 2020 draft studs Alexander Holtz and Lucas Raymond at the under-18 worlds.
47. COL	LW Brayden Tracey	The WHL's Rookie of the Year owns an elite shot but also plays a physical style suited for the Western Conference. He was one of Canada's better players at the April 18's.
48. VGK	W/C Patrik Puistola	A crafty and inventive playmaker who was one of the better teenage players in Finland's adult-age Mestis league, Puistola can dangle his way into an open look, and he knows how to finish as well.
49. NYR-DAL	C Jamieson Rees	A swift-skating center with excellent straight-line speed and agility, Rees is all effort, all the time. He's also an outstanding penalty killer and vocal leader on the ice.
50. MTL-CBJ-VGK	LW Leevi Aaltonen	Another speed demon, only Aaltonen owns one of the top shot-release combinations of any forward flying down that wing. He also supports his defensemen below the circles and gets busy on the forecheck.
51. WIN	LW Adam Beckman	One of the draft's underrated snipers, Beckman is a dangerous weapon on the power play who keeps his feet moving but also is tough contain with or without the puck.
52. FLA-PIT	LHD Vladislav Kolyachonok	A smooth-skating two-way blueliner who had the misfortune of carrying a thin blue line, Kolyachonok under pressure plays like a poised veteran.
53. TOR	RHD Kaedan Korczak	Korczak is a physical two-way defenseman who takes the puck for a skate after dealing with a heavy forecheck. His offensive upside is limited, but he provides blanket coverage once the puck enters his zone.
54. DET-NYI-VGK	LHD Ludvig Hedstrom	One of the most underrated among a strong contingent of draft-eligible Swedish defenseman, Hedstrom is an excellent skater but also packs a punch when he finishes his checks with authority.
55. NJD-NAS	LHD Alex Vlasic	Another one-on-one defender with a massive reach and untapped potential on offense, Vlasic was the NTDP's go-to defender in late/close situations and was a crease clearer on the penalty kill
56. WAS	LW Egor Afanaseyev	Afanaseyev is part of the growing list of European imports to take the USHL by storm. Much like Andrei Svechnikov in his rookie year with Muskego, Afanaseyev lit the lamp with consistency and uses his massive frame to protect the puck with ease.
57. NYI-CGY	C Yegor Spiridonov	Spiridonov offers an intriguing package that includes a deadly wrister, excellent defensive-zone play and the ability to man and carry a top line of a veteran team. He's also one of the best in the draft at the faceoff dot.
58. NYR-TB	LHD Albert Johansson	Much like Hedstrom, Johansson is a decisive puck rusher with speed who can also be counted on to keep pucks out of his own end and deliver hard hits. His dad Roger was an NHL'er in the early 1990's.
59. CAR	RW Tukka Tiekola	A wizard with the puck, Tiekola can balance the role of playmaker and finisher. The Canes love drafting Finns and he's offer great value late in the 2nd.
60. DET-SJ	LHD Marshall Warren	An aggressive puck mover with excellent speed and a shoot-first mentality, Warren knows when to join the attack or deliver a perfect stretch pass.
61. NJ-BOS	LW Marcus Kallionkieli	Finland has been providing the USHL with elite goal scorers the last few years (Eeli Tolvanen, Sampo Rantaa), and this year's edition is certainly as exciting at delivering the puck with authority and accuracy.
62. STL	RW Premysl Svoboda	One of the top scorers in the Czech junior league, Svoboda is scoring winger and an assassin with the puck inside the offensive zone. His vision and passing are at an elite level, and you'll see how soft his hands are.