

# **THE 2018 DRAFT REPORT**

## **BY STEVE KOURNIANOS**

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# 2018 NHL DRAFT 101

**When:** June 21-22, 2018

**Where:** American Airlines Center (Dallas, TX)

**TV:** NBC Sports Network (Day 1, U.S.), Sportsnet (Canada), NHL Network (Day 2)

**Radio:** SiriusXM NHL Network Radio (Channel 91)

**Stream:** NBCSports Live (U.S.) Sportsnet Now (Canada)

**Times:**

## NORTH AMERICA

Draft	New York	Chicago	Edmonton	Los Angeles
Day 1 (Round 1)	Friday 6/22/2018 7:00 pm / 1900 EDT	Friday 6/22/2018 6:00 pm / 1800 CDT	Friday 6/22/2018 5:00 pm / 1700 MDT	Friday 6/22/2018 4:00 pm / 1600 PDT
Day 2 (Rounds 2-7)	Saturday 6/23/2018 11:00 am / 1100 EDT	Saturday 6/23/2018 10:00 am / 1000 CDT	Saturday 6/23/2018 9:00 am / 0900 MDT	Saturday 6/23/2018 8:00 am / 0800 PDT

## EUROPE

Draft	London	Stockholm	Prague	Helsinki	Moscow
Day 1 (Round 1)	Saturday 6/23/2018 12:00 am / 0000	Saturday 6/23/2018 1:00 am / 0100	Saturday 6/23/2018 1:00 am / 0100	Saturday 6/23/2018 2:00 am / 0200	Saturday 6/23/2018 2:00 am / 0200
Day 2 (Rounds 2-7)	Saturday 6/23/2018 4:00 pm / 1600	Saturday 6/23/2018 5:00 pm / 1700	Saturday 6/23/2018 5:00 pm / 1700	Saturday 6/23/2018 6:00 pm / 1800	Saturday 6/23/2018 6:00 pm / 1800

# 2018 NHL DRAFT ORDER

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

# 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS

The 2018 NHL Entry Draft will take place on June 21-22 in Dallas, Texas. First-year draft eligibles in the zone of consideration for these rankings were born on or after September 16th, 1999 and before or on September 15, 2000. All players in these rankings are in their first year of draft eligibility.

Below is a list of the top 500 first-year eligible players for the 2018 draft.

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
1	Andrei Svechnikov	RW	Barrie	OHL	L	3/26/00	6'2	192
2	Rasmus Dahlin	LHD	Frolunda	SHL	L	4/13/00	6'3	185
3	Filip Zadina	LW	Halifax	QMJHL	L	11/27/99	6'0	197
4	Adam Boqvist	RHD	Brynäs J20	Superelit	R	8/15/00	6'0	165
5	Joel Farabee	LW	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	2/25/00	6'0	162
6	Joe Veleno	C	Drummondville	QMJHL	L	1/13/00	6'1	194
7	Brady Tkachuk	LW	Boston Univ.	HE	L	9/16/99	6'3	192
8	Ty Smith	LHD	Spokane	WHL	L	3/24/00	5'11	176
9	Oliver Wahlstrom	RW	U.S. U18	NTDP	R	6/13/00	6'1	208
10	Quinn Hughes	LHD	Michigan	Big-10	L	10/14/99	5'9	168
11	Jesper Kotkaniemi	LW/C	Assat	Liiga	L	7/6/00	6'2	182
12	Noah Dobson	RHD	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	R	1/7/00	6'3	177
13	Rasmus Sandin	LHD	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	L	3/7/00	5'11	186
14	Barrett Hayton	C	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	L	6/9/00	6'1	190
15	Evan Bouchard	RHD	London	OHL	R	10/20/99	6'2	196
16	Bode Wilde	RHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	R	1/24/00	6'3	198
17	Vitali Kravtsov	RW	Chelyabinsk	KHL	L	12/23/99	6'3	184
18	Rasmus Kupari	C	Karpat	SM-Liiga	R	3/15/00	6'2	189
19	Akil Thomas	C	Niagara	OHL	R	1/2/00	5'11	173
20	Ryan McLeod	C	Mississauga	OHL	L	9/21/99	6'2	190
21	Jacob Olofsson	C	Timrå IK	Allsvenskan	L	2/8/00	6'2	193
22	David Gustafsson	C	HV71 J20	Superelit	L	4/4/00	6'1	187
23	Grigori Denisenko	LW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	R	6/24/00	5'10	163
24	Isac Lundestrom	LW/C	Luleå	SHL	L	11/6/99	6'0	176
25	Blake McLaughlin	LW	Chicago	USHL	L	2/14/00	6'0	161
26	Dominik Bokk	RW	Vaxjö J20	Superelit	R	2/3/00	6'1	171

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (27-58)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
27	Alexander Alexeeyev	LHD	Red Deer	WHL	L	11/15/99	6'3	200
28	Ivan Morozov	C	Mamonty Yugry	MHL	R	5/5/00	6'1	179
29	Jakub Lauko	C	Chomutov	Extraliga	L	3/28/00	6'1	172
30	Ty Dellandrea	C	Flint	OHL	R	7/21/00	6'1	181
31	Serron Noel	RW	Oshawa	OHL	R	8/8/00	6'3	192
32	K'andre Miller	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	1/21/00	6'3	206
33	Benoit-Olivier Groulx	C	Halifax	QMJHL	L	2/6/00	6'1	192
34	Jared McIsaac	LHD	Halifax	QMJHL	L	3/27/00	6'1	195
35	Dmitry Zavgorodniy	RW	Rimouski	QMJHL	R	8/11/00	5'9	161
36	Filip Hallander	C/W	Timra IK	Allsvenskan	L	6/29/00	6'0	179
37	Jonathan Tychonick	LHD	Penticton	BCHL	L	3/3/00	6'0	170
38	Jesse Ylonen	RW	Espoo United	Mestis	R	10/3/99	6'0	159
39	Jack McBain	C	Jr. Canadiens	OJHL	L	1/6/00	6'3	201
40	Jakub Skarek	G	Dukla Jihlava	Extraliga	L	11/10/99	6'3	196
41	Jake Wise	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	2/28/00	5'10	195
42	Mattias Samuelsson	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	3/14/00	6'4	217
43	Milos Roman	C	Vancouver	WHL	L	11/6/99	6'0	194
44	Martin Kaut	RW	Pardubice	Extraliga	R	10/2/99	6'1	174
45	Allan McShane	C	Oshawa	OHL	L	2/14/00	5'11	185
46	Jonatan Berggren	LW	Skelleftea J20	Superelit	L	7/16/00	5'8	170
47	Ryan Merkle	RHD	Guelph	OHL	R	8/14/00	5'11	165
48	Ivan Muranov	LW	HK MVD	MHL	L	10/6/99	6'3	190
49	Michal Kvasnica	RW	Trinec U20	ELJ	L	4/17/00	6'2	187
50	Philip Kurashev	C	Quebec	QMJHL	L	10/12/99	6'0	187
51	Kevin Bahl	LHD	Ottawa	OHL	L	6/27/00	6'6	216
52	Nicolas Beaudin	LHD	Drummondville	QMJHL	L	10/7/99	5'11	171
53	Danila Galenyuk	LHD	SKA-1946	MHL	L	2/11/00	6'1	200
54	Cole Fonstad	RW	Prince Albert	WHL	R	4/24/00	5'10	161
55	Jay O'Brien	C	Thayer	HS-MA	R	11/4/99	5'11	170
56	Adam Ginning	LHD	Linkoping J20	Superelit	L	1/13/00	6'4	206
57	Gabriel Fortier	C/W	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL	L	2/6/00	5'10	170
58	Calen Addison	RHD	Lethbridge	WHL	R	4/11/00	5'11	178

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (59-91)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
59	Ondrej Buchtela	RHD	Chomutov	Extraliga	R	11/8/99	6'0	209
60	Jett Woo	RHD	Moose Jaw	WHL	R	7/27/00	6'0	201
61	Ryan Chyzowski	C	Medicine Hat	WHL	L	5/14/00	6'1	190
62	Curtis Douglas	C	Windsor	OHL	L	3/6/00	6'9	245
63	Ruslan Iskhakov	C/W	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	7/22/00	5'8	152
64	Nils Lundkvist	RHD	Lulea	SHL	R	7/27/00	5'11	174
65	Oskar Back	C	Farjestad J20	Superelit	L	3/12/00	6'3	204
66	Blade Jenkins	LW	Saginaw	OHL	L	8/11/00	6'1	201
67	Jonathan Gruden	LW	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	5/4/00	5'11	172
68	Sampo Ranta	LW	Sioux City	USHL	L	5/31/00	6'2	199
69	Jan Jenik	LW	Liberec U20	ELJ	L	9/15/00	6'1	165
70	Alexander Zhabreyev	C/W	Dynamo SPB	MHL	L	3/24/00	5'7	152
71	Matej Svoboda	RW	Kometa Brno U20	ELJ	R	7/12/00	6'0	181
72	Aidan Dudas	C	Owen Sound	OHL	R	6/15/00	6'0	164
73	Martin Fehérváry	LHD	Oskarshamm	Allsvenskan	L	10/6/99	6'2	190
74	Niklas Nordgren	RW	HIFK	Liiga	R	5/5/00	5'9	165
75	Filip Johansson	RHD	Leksands J20	Superelit	R	3/23/00	6'1	176
76	Xavier Bouchard	RHD	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL	R	2/28/00	6'4	190
77	Toni Utunen	LHD	Tappara	SM-Liiga	L	4/27/00	5'11	172
78	Nando Eggenberger	LW	Davos	NLA	L	10/7/99	6'2	185
79	Kirill Marchenko	RW	Mamonty Yugry	MHL	R	7/21/00	6'3	168
80	Olivier Rodrigue	G	Drummondville	QMJHL	L	7/6/00	6'1	156
81	Karel Plasek	LW	Kometa Brno U20	ELJ	L	7/28/00	5'11	164
82	Cam Hillis	C	Guelph	OHL	R	6/24/00	6'0	170
83	Gavin Hain	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	4/3/00	5'11	193
84	Jacob Bernard-Docker	RHD	Okotoks	AJHL	R	6/30/00	6'0	187
85	Liam Foudy	C	London	OHL	L	2/4/00	6'0	175
86	Anderson MacDonald	LW	Moncton	QMJHL	L	5/16/00	6'2	205
87	Jake Pivonka	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	2/28/00	6'0	201
88	Santeri Salmela	LHD	KooKoo U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	6/10/00	6'1	192
89	Kristian Kovacic	C/W	Dukla Trencin U20	Slovakia JRS	L	6/20/00	5'11	183
90	Riley Sutter	C	Everett	WHL	R	10/25/99	6'3	201
91	Ty Emberson	RHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	R	5/24/00	6'1	200

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (92-124)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
92	Arttu Nevasaari	RW	Karpat U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	1/23/00	5'11	179
93	Matthew Struthers	C	Owen Sound	OHL	L	12/26/99	6'2	194
94	Tyler Madden	C	Central Illinois	USHL	R	11/9/99	5'11	150
95	Luke Loheit	RW	Minnetonka	HS-MN	R	7/26/00	6'1	185
96	Adam Gajarsky	C	Kometa Brno U20	ELJ	R	3/14/00	5'10	174
97	Alexander Khovanov	C	Moncton	QMJHL	L	4/12/00	5'11	198
98	Giovanni Vallati	LHD	Kitchener	OHL	L	2/21/00	6'2	185
99	Matej Pekar	C/LW	Muskegon	USHL	L	2/10/00	6'0	170
100	Jack Drury	C	Waterloo	USHL	L	2/3/00	5'11	179
101	Demid Mansurov	C	Belye Medvedi	MHL	R	8/9/00	6'3	183
102	Xavier Bernard	LHD	Drummondville	QMJHL	L	1/6/00	6'3	203
103	Kevin Mandolese	G	Cape Breton	QMJHL	L	8/22/00	6'4	177
104	Angus Crookshank	C	Langley	BCHL	L	10/2/99	5'11	181
105	Vojtech Doktor	RHD	Budejovice U20	ELJ	R	3/28/00	6'0	172
106	Jacob Ragnarsson	LHD	Almtuna	Allsvenskan	L	9/23/99	6'0	176
107	Jeremi Gerber	RW	Bern U20	Elite Jr. A	L	3/1/00	6'1	185
108	Gustav Lindberg	LW	Vasteras J20	Superelit	L	12/14/99	5'10	172
109	William Moskal	C	London	OHL	R	3/22/00	6'0	176
110	Mathias-Emilio Pettersen	C	Muskegon	USHL	L	4/3/00	5'10	170
111	Vladislav Kotkov	LW/RW	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	R	1/8/00	6'5	202
112	Mikhail Bitsadzhe	C	HK MVD	MHL	L	11/18/99	5'10	165
113	Kody Clark	RW	Ottawa	OHL	R	10/13/99	6'1	180
114	Danil Zhuravlyov	LHD	Irbis Kazan	MHL	L	4/8/00	6'0	163
115	Curtis Hall	C	Youngstown	USHL	R	4/26/00	6'3	200
116	Ryan O'Reilly	C	Madison	USHL	R	3/21/00	6'0	183
117	Kyle Topping	C	Kelowna	WHL	L	11/18/99	5'11	185
118	Michael Callahan	LHD	Central Illinois	USHL	L	9/23/99	6'2	191
119	Krystof Hrabik	C/LW	Liberec U20	ELJ	L	9/24/99	6'3	209
120	Nikita Rtishchev	RW	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	5/23/00	6'1	192
121	Jachym Kondelik	C/W	Muskegon	USHL	L	12/21/99	6'6	212
122	Axel Andersson	RHD	Djugardens J20	Superelit	R	2/10/00	6'0	174
123	Libor Zábranský	RHD	Kelowna	WHL	R	5/26/00	6'1	181
124	Eric Florchuk	C	Saskatoon	WHL	L	1/10/00	6'2	173

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (125-157)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
125	Damir Bilyalov	LW	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	2/16/00	5'9	172
126	Alexander Romanov	LHD	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	1/6/00	5'11	183
127	Nathan Dunkley	C	London	OHL	L	3/5/00	5'11	188
128	Brendan Budy	C/W	Langley	BCHL	L	6/6/00	5'11	180
129	Lukas Wernblom	C/W	MoDo	Allsvenskan	L	7/22/00	5'9	154
130	Jacob Ingham	G	Mississauga	OHL	L	6/10/00	6'4	191
131	Spencer Stastney	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	1/4/00	5'10	179
132	Yegor Stepanov	C	Belye Medvedi	MHL	L	2/3/00	5'9	166
133	Adam Samuelsson	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	6/21/00	6'5	240
134	Liam Kirk	LW/RW	Sheffield	Great Britain	L	1/3/00	6'0	160
135	Alexander Steeves	C	Dubuque	USHL	L	12/10/99	6'0	185
136	Alec Regula	RHD	London	OHL	R	8/6/00	6'4	204
137	Riley Stotts	C	Calgary	WHL	L	1/5/00	6'0	171
138	Oliver Okuliar	LW	Slovakia U20	Slovak Extraliga	L	5/24/00	6'1	170
139	Lenni Killinen	RW	Blues U20	Jr-A SM-Liiga	L	6/15/00	6'0	170
140	Samuel Fagemo	LW	Frolunda J20	Superelit	L	3/14/00	6'0	190
141	Nikita Rozhkov	C/LW	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	L	2/18/00	5'11	168
142	Filip Kral	LHD	Spokane	WHL	L	10/20/99	5'11	163
143	Akira Schmid	G	Langnau	Elite Jr. A	L	5/12/00	6'3	165
144	Amir Miftakhov	G	Irbis Kazan	MHL	L	4/26/00	5'11	154
145	Nico Gross	LHD	Oshawa	OHL	L	1/26/00	6'1	183
146	Carl Wassenius	C	AIK J20	Superelit	L	10/6/99	6'2	201
147	Christian Krygier	LHD	Lincoln	USHL	L	5/5/00	6'2	187
148	Anton Malyshev	RHD	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	R	2/27/00	6'0	181
149	Stanislav Demin	LHD	Wenatchee	BCHL	L	4/4/00	6'1	188
150	Marcus Westfalt	LW/C	Brynas J20	Superelit	L	3/12/00	6'3	190
151	Merrick Rippon	LHD	Ottawa	OHL	L	4/27/00	6'1	191
152	Nikita Zorkin	LHD	Mamonty Yugry	MHL	L	6/13/00	6'1	192
153	Chase Wouters	C	Saskatoon	WHL	R	2/8/00	6'0	176
154	Georgii Dedov	LHD	Syracuse Jr Stars	NCDC	L	10/1/99	6'3	190
155	Justus Annunen	G	Karpat U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	3/11/00	6'3	201
156	Justin Bergeron	LHD	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL	L	9/14/00	5'10	161
157	Albin Eriksson	RW	Skelleftea	SHL	R	7/20/00	6'4	205

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (158-190)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
158	Yegor Sokolov	LW	Cape Breton	QMJHL	R	6/7/00	6'3	233
159	Tyler Weiss	C/W	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	1/3/00	5'11	158
160	Griffin Ness	C	Wayzata	HS-MN	R	12/10/99	5'11	179
161	David Tendeck	G	Vancouver	WHL	L	11/25/99	6'2	173
162	Eli Zummack	C	Spokane	WHL	R	3/22/00	5'9	175
163	Lukas Dostal	G	Kometa Brno U20	ELJ	L	6/22/00	6'1	163
164	Chase Hartje	LHD	Brandon	WHL	L	12/17/99	5'11	185
165	Juuso Ketola	RHD	Assat U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	3/18/00	6'0	193
166	Patrick Giles	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	R	1/3/00	6'4	205
167	Leonid Klimov	C	Almaz Cherepovets	MHL	L	10/4/99	6'3	187
168	Matthew Grouchy	RW	Quebec	QMJHL	L	11/19/99	6'1	189
169	Nikita Solopanov	LHD	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	4/21/00	6'0	176
170	Jack Perbix	RW	Elk River	HS-MN	R	9/13/00	6'1	181
171	Nikolai Kovalenko	RW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	L	10/17/99	5'10	174
172	Paul Cotter	C	Lincoln	USHL	L	2/3/00	6'0	190
173	Alex Gritz	C/LW	Erie	OHL	L	9/15/00	6'0	175
174	Eetu Pakkila	RW	Karpat U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	10/3/99	6'0	168
175	Austin Chorney	RHD	Salmon Arm	BCHL	R	3/23/00	6'1	212
176	Mason Snell	LHD	Wellington	OJHL	L	6/18/00	6'0	183
177	Jordan Harris	LHD	Kimball Union	HS-MA	L	7/7/00	5'11	174
178	Jan Kalus	RW	Frydek-Mistek	WSM-Liga	R	12/14/99	6'0	187
179	Jesper Eliasson	G	Troja-Ljungby J20	Superelit	L	3/21/00	6'3	209
180	Jack Randl	RW	Omaha	USHL	L	5/7/00	5'11	179
181	Riley Damiani	C	Kitchener	OHL	R	3/20/00	5'10	165
182	Miska Kukkonen	RHD	Ilves U20	Jr-A SM-Liiga	R	6/19/00	6'0	183
183	Bryan Lockner	RW	Medicine Hat	WHL	R	4/4/00	6'1	209
184	Sean Comrie	RHD	Spruce Grove	AJHL	R	1/30/00	6'0	173
185	Caleb Everett	RHD	Saginaw	OHL	R	1/20/00	6'2	185
186	Kristian Tanus	C	Tappara U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	8/17/00	5'6	159
187	Jakob Heljemo	C	Frolunda J20	Superelit	L	9/21/99	5'10	163
188	Wyatte Wylie	RHD	Everett	WHL	R	11/2/99	6'1	190
189	Matej Blumel	C	Waterloo	USHL	L	5/31/00	5'11	179
190	Damien Giroux	C	Saginaw	OHL	L	3/3/00	5'10	175

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (191-223)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
191	Martin Pospisil	RW	Sioux City	USHL	L	11/19/99	6'2	181
192	Pavel Gogolev	RW	Peterborough	OHL	L	2/19/00	6'0	168
193	Vojtech Dobias	RW	Zlin U20	ELJ	L	7/18/00	6'2	201
194	German Grachyov	LW	Almaz Cherepovets	MHL	R	12/28/99	5'9	163
195	Bogdan Zhilyakov	LHD	Dynamo SPB	MHL	L	4/6/00	6'0	181
196	Austin Wong	C/W	Okotoks	AJHL	R	8/26/00	5'11	189
197	David Lilja	C/LW	Karlskoga	Allsvenskan	L	1/23/00	5'11	168
198	Dmitri Semykin	LHD	SKA-1946	MHL	L	2/24/00	6'3	200
199	Kalle Nurmi	G	Lukko U20	Jr-A SM-Liiga	L	2/4/00	6'2	185
200	Alexis Gravel	G	Halifax	QMJHL	R	3/21/00	6'3	220
201	Sergei Sapego	LHD	Prince Albert	WHL	L	10/8/99	6'2	172
202	Noah Prokop	C	Green Bay	USHL	R	1/15/00	6'0	183
203	Brady Hinz	C	Peterborough	OHL	R	5/3/00	5'8	147
204	Dominik Arnost	C	Sparta Praha U20	ELJ	L	4/11/00	5'9	134
205	Maxim Sorkin	C/RW	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	4/19/00	6'0	187
206	Marc Del Gaizo	LHD	Muskegon	USHL	L	10/11/99	5'10	185
207	Ilijah Colina	C/RW	Prince George	WHL	R	2/18/00	5'9	170
208	Ben Almquist	LW	Holy Family	HS-MN	L	10/1/99	5'11	170
209	Semyon Kizimov	RW	Ladia Togliatti	MHL	R	1/19/00	6'0	176
210	Bulat Shafigullin	LW	Reaktor	MHL	L	12/29/99	6'1	163
211	Riley McCourt	LHD	Flint	OHL	L	6/26/00	5'11	180
212	Dmitri Deryabin	LHD	Belarus U20	Belarus	L	10/20/99	6'2	191
213	Kirill Nizhnikov	RW	Sudbury	OHL	L	3/29/00	6'1	190
214	Ivan Drozdov	LW	Yunost Minsk	Belarus	L	11/15/99	6'0	174
215	Mathias Laferriere	C	Cape Breton	QMJHL	R	6/27/00	6'1	175
216	Peter DiLiberatore	LHD	Salisbury	HS-CT	L	3/31/00	5'11	154
217	Benjamin Tardif	LW	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	L	1/24/00	5'10	185
218	Adam Pauliny	C	Martin U20	Slovak Jrs	R	4/2/00	5'10	172
219	Andrew Coxhead	C	Quebec	QMJHL	R	4/11/00	6'4	193
220	Matthew MacDougall	C/LW	Windsor	OHL	R	1/23/00	5'9	171
221	Jakub Adamek	LHD	Trinec U20	ELJ	L	4/13/00	6'6	201
222	Ben Helgeson	C/W	Hill-Murray	HS-MN	L	7/26/00	6'1	190
223	Semyon Der-Arguchintsev	C	Peterborough	OHL	R	9/15/00	5'11	168

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (224-256)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
224	Brad Ginnell	LW/C	Kootenay	WHL	L	7/4/00	6'1	171
225	Bryce Brodzinski	RW	Blaine	HS-MN	R	8/9/00	6'1	190
226	Johan Sodergran	C/W	Linkoping J20	Superelit	L	11/20/99	6'2	201
227	Jackson Leppard	LW	Prince George	WHL	L	1/18/00	6'2	194
228	Tyler Tucker	LHD	Barrie	OHL	L	3/1/00	6'1	205
229	Calen Kiefiuk	LW	Central Illinois	USHL	L	2/28/00	5'8	176
230	Colin Schmidt	C/R	Wayzata	HS-MN	R	1/6/00	6'4	225
231	Olof Lindbom	G	Djugardens J20	Superelit	L	7/23/00	6'2	185
232	Max Ellis	RW	Youngstown	USHL	R	1/18/00	5'9	150
233	Pavel Rotenberg	RW	Dynamo SPB	MHL	L	2/20/00	5'11	176
234	Ryan Roth	RW	Sault Ste Marie	OHL	R	7/20/00	5'9	163
235	Brodi Stuart	LW	Kamloops	WHL	L	3/10/00	5'10	170
236	Daniel Dvorak	G	Kravlove U20	ELJ	L	1/9/00	6'3	163
237	Keegan Karki	G	Muskegon	USHL	L	2/25/00	6'4	218
238	Connor Caponi	RW	Culver	HS-IN	R	3/20/00	5'8	171
239	Carter Robertson	LHD	Ottawa	OHL	L	1/15/00	6'2	170
240	Jeremy Davidson	RW	Central Illinois	USHL	R	2/26/00	5'11	165
241	Daniel Kowalczyk	LHD	Brno U20	ELJ	L	6/23/00	6'3	218
242	Grigori Gryaznov	LHD	Serebryanye Lvy	MHL	L	8/17/00	6'1	179
243	Jesse Moilanen	C/RW	Jokerit U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	3/22/00	5'9	175
244	Lev Komissarov	C	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	2/8/00	5'11	170
245	Max Grondin	C	Saginaw	OHL	L	7/4/00	6'3	210
246	Jett Alexander	G	North York	OJHL	L	11/8/99	6'4	181
247	Connor Corcoran	RHD	Windsor	OHL	R	8/7/00	6'2	185
248	Dmitri Silantyev	C/LW	Atlanty	MHL	L	7/31/00	5'8	172
249	Artyom Borshov	LHD	N. Cyclones	NCDC	L	8/22/00	6'3	190
250	Mitchell Hoelscher	C	Ottawa	OHL	L	1/27/00	5'11	157
251	Samuel Ersson	G	Brynas J20	Superelit	L	10/20/99	6'2	188
252	Demetrios Koumontzis	C	Green Bay	USHL	L	3/24/00	5'10	183
253	Dawson Barteaux	RHD	Red Deer	WHL	L	1/12/00	6'1	176
254	Maxim Golod	LW	Erie	OHL	L	8/18/00	5'10	160
255	Michael Gaspar	LHD	Kralove U20	ELJ	L	10/31/99	5'10	172
256	Mark Katsevich	C	HC MVD	MHL	L	9/4/00	5'10	165

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (257-289)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
257	Carl Jakobsson	LW	Farjestad J20	Superelit	L	7/13/00	6'1	163
258	Justin MacPherson	LHD	Niagara	OHL	L	6/23/00	6'1	171
259	Janis Moser	LHD	Biel U20	Elite Jr. A	L	6/6/00	5'11	143
260	Connor Roberts	C	Flint	OHL	R	2/22/00	6'4	215
261	Roman Pucek	LW	Vsetin	WSM-Liga	L	4/13/00	6'2	167
262	Declan Carlile	LHD	Wellington	OJHL	L	5/18/00	6'2	190
263	Ville Petman	LW	Lukko U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	1/18/00	5'10	181
264	Patrik Siikanen	LW	Blues U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	4/16/00	6'1	198
265	Trevor Peca	C/RW	Buffalo Jr. Sabres	OJHL	R	4/15/00	6'1	169
266	Otto Kivenmaki	C	Assat U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	3/24/00	5'8	137
267	Luka Burzan	C	Brandon	WHL	L	1/7/00	6'0	185
268	Elias Laitamaki	LHD	Vaasan U20	Jr-A SM-Liiga	L	8/21/00	6'1	202
269	Jacob Herauf	LHD	Red Deer	WHL	L	5/16/00	6'0	190
270	Evgeny Kalabushkin	LHD	SKA-1946	MHL	L	11/25/99	6'0	185
271	Vladislav Mikhalchuk	RW	Prince George	WHL	R	10/16/99	6'2	172
272	Alexis Girard	LHD	Saint John	QMJHL	L	12/22/99	6'4	197
273	Carter Randkleb	C	Moorhead	HS-MN	L	11/5/99	5'7	150
274	Christian Felton	RHD	Kimball Union	HS-NH	R	2/4/00	6'0	188
275	Jonathan Granstrom	RHD	Visby/Roma	Sweden Div.1	R	5/8/00	5'11	178
276	Powell Connor	RHD	Chilliwack	BCHL	R	5/4/00	6'1	179
277	Eetu Maki	RW	Vaasan Sport U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	2/9/00	5'9	170
278	Michal Ivan	LHD	Zvolen	Slovak Extraliga	L	11/18/99	6'1	179
279	Cedric Desruisseaux	C/LW	Drummondville	QMJHL	L	3/3/00	5'8	152
280	Ryan Savage	RW	Fargo	USHL	R	3/31/00	5'11	187
281	Jacob Semik	LHD	Dubuque	USHL	L	3/10/00	5'11	171
282	Duncan McGovern	G	Kootenay	WHL	L	6/7/00	6'2	185
283	Alexander DiPaolo	LW	Salisbury	HS-CT	L	4/28/00	6'0	176
284	Owen Lalonde	RHD	Guelph	OHL	R	2/1/00	6'1	176
285	Jake Kucharski	G	Des Moines	USHL	L	9/25/99	6'4	205
286	Nick Donofrio	G	Hamilton	OHL	L	11/19/99	6'4	204
287	Fredrik Granberg	LHD	Skelleftea J20	Superelit	L	5/1/00	6'2	198
288	Danila Dyadenkin	C	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	R	3/16/00	6'0	159
289	Wyatt Schlacht	C/LW	St. Sebastian's	HS-MA	L	6/4/00	6'0	176

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (290-322)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
290	Jacques Bouquot	C	Salisbury Prep	HS-CT	L	2/10/00	6'2	170
291	Jan Sir	C/LW	Liberec U20	ELJ	L	1/26/00	6'2	176
292	Ben Sanderson	LW	Okotoks	AJHL	L	7/5/00	6'0	181
293	Jere Huhtamaa	G	Blues U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	4/10/00	6'2	192
294	Daniel Svoboda	G	Budejovice U20	ELJ	L	2/19/00	6'0	172
295	Joel Hofer	G	Swift Current	WHL	L	7/30/00	6'3	157
296	Zachary Bouthillier	G	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	L	11/8/99	6'0	154
297	Tristan Côté-Cazenave	G	Victoriaville	QMJHL	L	10/12/99	6'1	188
298	Yegor Postnov	LW	Stupino Kapitan	MHL	L	4/19/00	6'0	160
299	Declan Chisolm	LHD	Peterborough	OHL	L	1/12/00	6'1	174
300	Oskar Autio	G	Chicago	USHL	L	10/6/99	6'0	184
301	Yanick Stampfli	LHD	Zug U20	Elite Jr. A	L	3/23/00	6'2	170
302	Andrej Kukuca	RW	Trencin U20	Slovakia JRS	R	11/14/99	6'2	165
303	Kevin Wall	LW/RW	Salisbury	HS-CT	R	2/1/00	6'0	176
304	Colton Kalezic	C	Toronto Patriots	OJHL	R	7/21/00	6'2	176
305	Adam Backehag	LHD	Leksand J20	Superelit	L	3/7/00	5'11	172
306	Matthew Thiessen	G	Steinbach	MJHL	L	6/9/00	6'2	190
307	D.J. King	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	8/7/00	6'3	217
308	Barret Kirwin	C	Guelph	OHL	L	2/18/00	5'8	189
309	Beat Trudel	G	Rapperswil	NLB	L	11/16/99	6'3	198
310	Linus Nässén	LW	Frolunda J20	Superelit	L	5/17/00	5'11	179
311	Jack Jensen	LW	Eden Prairie	HS-MN	L	8/31/00	5'11	170
312	Ilya Badanin	RW	Omskie Yastreby	MHL	L	3/22/00	6'1	178
313	Justin Schutz	C/LW	Red Bull Academy	Czech U18	L	6/24/00	5'11	176
314	Yuri Platanov	LW	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	L	5/15/00	5'10	165
315	Martin Bucko	RHD	Pardubice U20	ELJ	R	5/13/00	6'0	176
316	Peter Stratis	RHD	Ottawa	OHL	R	1/18/00	6'0	183
317	Sandro Schmid	C	Malmö J20	Superelit	L	6/3/00	5'10	157
318	Tristen Nielsen	LW/C	Calgary	WHL	L	2/23/00	5'9	179
319	Hunter Holmes	C	Flint	OHL	L	1/25/00	6'1	181
320	Braden Costello	C/LW	Des Moines	USHL	L	4/21/00	6'2	201
321	Ilya Kruglov	RW	JHC Dynamo	MHL	L	2/28/00	6'0	161
322	Elijah Brown	C	Medicine Hat	WHL	L	1/5/00	5'9	168

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (323-355)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
323	Jesse Tanner	RW	Geneve-Servette U20	Elite Jr. A	R	2/19/00	5'10	154
324	McKade Webster	RW/C	Green Bay	USHL	R	7/28/00	5'9	152
325	Mitchell Prowse	LHD	Victoria	WHL	L	6/8/00	6'2	190
326	Pyotr Yasinsky	LHD	Belye Medvedi	MHL	L	7/22/00	5'11	170
327	Gian-Marco Wetter	C/RW	Davos	NLA	L	5/8/00	5'7	159
328	Gillian Kohler	RW	Kootenay	WHL	L	5/27/00	5'11	161
329	Ilya Volkov	LHD	HC MVD	MHL	L	3/28/00	5'11	161
330	Roman Badanin	LW	Omskie Yastreby	MHL	L	3/21/00	5'10	165
331	Aleksi Halme	LW	TuTo	Mestis	L	11/13/99	6'0	194
332	Teddy Wooding	C	Rivers	HS-MA	R	12/30/99	5'11	164
333	Filip Hasa	LHD	Frolunda J20	Superelit	L	5/11/00	5'9	165
334	Stephane Charlin	G	Geneve-Servette U20	Elite Jr. A	L	8/30/00	6'3	183
335	Devlin McCabe	C	Madison	USHL	R	6/13/00	5'11	181
336	Joseph Berger	LHD	Frolunda J20	Superelit	L	12/13/99	6'1	185
337	David Levin	LW	Sudbury	OHL	L	9/16/99	5'10	172
338	Alexis Arsenault	LHD	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL	L	5/17/00	5'11	175
339	Axel Rindell	RHD	HIFK U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	4/23/00	5'11	174
340	Radim Toman	RW	Litomerice	WSM-Liga	L	10/6/99	5'11	190
341	Sebastian Cederle	LW	Skalica U20	Slovakia JRS	L	2/21/00	6'1	190
342	Shawn Element	RW	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL	L	4/23/00	6'0	182
343	Mathieu Vouillamoz	LW	Servette U20	Elite Jr. A	L	4/3/00	6'0	183
344	Montana Onyebuchi	RHD	Everett	WHL	R	3/8/00	6'3	210
345	Kaid Oliver	C/LW	Victoria	WHL	L	1/24/00	6'0	190
346	Jake Goldowski	RW	Saginaw	OHL	R	5/7/00	6'3	190
347	Jaxon Nelson	C	Sioux Falls	USHL	R	3/30/00	6'4	207
348	Dylan Pena Triana	RW	Bern U20	Elite Jr. A	L	5/1/00	5'9	165
349	Simon Appelquist	LW	Brynäs J20	J18 Elit	R	4/27/00	6'0	172
350	Robert Dzugan	RW	Dukla Trencin U20	Slovakia JRS	L	3/25/00	6'0	170
351	Sondre Bolling-Vaaler	LHD	Valerenga U20	Norway U20	L	2/9/00	6'0	168
352	Matthew Kessel	RHD	Fargo	USHL	R	6/23/00	6'2	192
353	Vili Laitinen	RHD	Blues U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	12/18/99	5'9	170
354	Adam Evanoff	G	Moose Jaw	WHL	L	8/16/00	6'0	194
355	Adam Liska	LW	Kitchener	OHL	L	10/14/99	6'0	181

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (356-388)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
356	Samuel Houde	C	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	L	3/8/00	6'0	162
357	Maxwell Crozier	RHD	Nanaimo	BCHL	R	4/19/00	6'2	190
358	Max Paddock	G	Regina	WHL	L	6/15/00	6'2	150
359	Justin Ducharme	C/RW	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	L	2/22/00	6'0	179
360	Olivier Crete-Belzile	LW	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	L	9/2/00	6'2	196
361	Ethan Manderville	C	Ottawa	CCHL	R	7/1/00	6'4	198
362	Martin Fasko-Rudas	LW	Everett	WHL	R	8/10/00	6'0	183
363	Michael Farren	RW	Saskatoon	WHL	R	4/19/00	5'11	167
364	Riese Gaber	RW/C	Steinbach	MJHL	R	10/10/99	5'7	145
365	Jeremy Groleau	LHD	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	L	10/25/99	6'2	183
366	Christian Lindberg	LHD	Oskarshamn	Allsvenskan	L	8/31/00	6'1	161
367	Jan Matiasek	RW	Plzen U20	ELJ	R	1/5/00	5'10	160
368	Dario Wuthrich	RHD	Zug Academy	NLB	R	9/26/99	6'2	198
369	Aidan McDonough	LW	Thayer	HS-MA	L	11/6/99	5'11	170
370	Vojtech Kropacek	C/LW	Sparta Praha U20	ELJ	L	5/22/00	6'2	187
371	Tyler Jubenvill	LHD	Cedar Rapids	USHL	L	11/30/99	5'11	181
372	Boris Cesanek	LHD	Poprad	Slovak Extraliga	L	7/9/00	6'1	192
373	Colin Ugbekile	LHD	Des Moines	USHL	L	9/24/99	6'1	198
374	Kristian Kolar	G	Plzen U20	ELJ	L	6/30/00	6'0	181
375	Justin Blanchette	G	Baie-Comeau	QMJHL	L	7/13/00	6'1	196
376	Taro Jentzsch	LW	Red Bull Academy	Czech U18	R	6/11/00	6'1	168
377	Joonas Oden	RW	KooKoo U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	R	2/17/00	6'0	165
378	Zachary Emond	G	Rouyn-Noranda	QMJHL	L	6/20/00	6'3	165
379	Philippe Lapointe	RW	Lincoln	USHL	R	2/29/00	5'11	198
380	Filip Bernath	LHD	Karlovy Vary U20	ELJ	L	3/12/00	5'10	160
381	Axel Bergqvist	LHD	Leksand J20	Superelit	L	6/1/00	5'9	190
382	František Klejna	RHD	Karlovy Vary U20	ELJ	R	1/1/00	5'9	172
383	Liam Kindree	RW	Kelowna	WHL	L	1/2/00	5'10	174
384	Otakar Sik	LW	Karlovy Vary	WSM-Liga	L	4/4/00	5'11	165
385	Chris Douglas	RW	Red Deer	WHL	R	7/6/00	6'1	171
386	Marcel Dlugos	LHD	Zilina U20	Slovakia	L	5/10/00	6'4	205
387	Erik Middendorf	LW	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	7/11/00	6'1	190
388	Tyler Popowich	C	Vancouver	WHL	L	4/29/00	6'4	201

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (389-421)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
389	Denis Miller	RW	Spartak	MHL	R	9/21/99	5'11	176
390	Timur Akhiyarov	LHD	Tolpar	MHL	L	9/19/99	5'10	194
391	Jere Jokinen	RW	Hameenlinna U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	4/9/00	6'2	170
392	Matthew Pasquale	G	Central Catholic	HS-MA	L	1/1/00	6'0	154
393	Dennis Busby	RHD	Flint	OHL	R	1/6/00	5'11	177
394	Luke Henman	C	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL	L	4/29/00	6'0	148
395	Milad Tomi	RW	Stupino Kapitan	MHL	L	4/17/00	6'0	181
396	Oskari Lammi	LHD	Ilves U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	11/11/99	6'1	163
397	Brett Kemp	C	Edmonton	WHL	R	3/23/00	6'0	162
398	Mason Mannek	C	Portland	WHL	R	4/10/00	5'8	154
399	Benjamim Baumgartner	C	Davos U20	Elite Jr. A	L	4/22/00	5'9	163
400	Michael Kesselring	RHD	Des Moines	USHL	R	1/13/00	6'4	185
401	Luke LaMaster	RHD	Duluth East	HS-MN	R	10/17/99	6'1	201
402	Jackson Shepard	LW	Kamloops	WHL	L	2/28/00	5'8	172
403	Zach Stejskal	G	Central Illinois	USHL	L	12/20/99	6'4	217
404	Tim Berni	LHD	GCK Lions U20	Swiss Jr. A	L	2/11/00	5'11	176
405	Gleb Babintsev	RHD	Peterborough	OHL	R	1/8/00	6'0	197
406	Alexander Peresunko	RW	Junior Bruins	NCDC	R	2/8/00	5'11	175
407	Ben Kraws	G	Sioux City	USHL	L	8/2/00	6'2	153
408	Alex Plamondon	C	Shawinigan	QMJHL	L	10/14/99	6'0	170
409	Adam McCormick	LHD	Cape Breton	QMJHL	L	6/25/00	5'11	181
410	Ty Kolle	C	Portland	WHL	L	4/11/00	5'9	181
411	Donovan Buskey	G	Spokane	WHL	L	1/29/00	6'1	175
412	Peetro Seppala	LHD	KooKoo U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	L	8/17/00	6'1	178
413	Erik Betzold	RW	Kolner U19	DNL	R	1/18/00	5'11	161
414	Mitchell Doyle	RHD	Pickering	OJHL	R	5/4/00	6'0	168
415	Thomas Ethier	LW	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL	L	10/12/99	6'4	210
416	Bradley Johnson	RW/C	Niagara	OHL	R	12/24/99	5'11	179
417	Keenan Taphorn	RW	Kootenay	WHL	R	1/3/00	6'1	165
418	Nikita Tomilov	C	Chaika	MHL	L	11/25/99	5'11	187
419	Yegor Zudilov	LW	Lethbridge	WHL	L	9/10/00	6'2	191
420	Justin Nachbaur	LW	Prince Albert	WHL	L	4/3/00	6'2	205
421	Dakota Lund-Cornish	G	Charlottetown	QMJHL	L	5/9/00	6'2	191

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (422-454)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
422	Samuel Salonen	RW	Sioux City	USHL	L	3/22/00	6'3	198
423	Bastian Eckl	C/RW	Drummondville	QMJHL	L	8/27/00	6'2	176
424	Christoffer Bjork	C	Lulea J20	Superelit	L	10/16/99	5'11	176
425	Vít Seemann	LHD	Chomutov U20	ELJ	L	6/6/00	6'2	181
426	Carson Focht	C	Calgary	WHL	L	2/4/00	6'0	180
427	Jakub Nespala	RW	Poprad U20	Slovakia JRS	L	5/18/00	5'9	159
428	Jackson Doherty	LW	Owen Sound	OHL	L	8/22/00	5'10	159
429	Yegor Zamula	LHD	Regina	WHL	L	3/20/00	6'3	170
430	Aidan Fulp	RHD	Dubuque	USHL	R	2/29/00	6'3	207
431	Liam Gorman	C	St. Sebastian's	HS-MA	L	5/8/00	6'3	195
432	Lasse Holm Mortensen	RHD	Rodovre	Metal Ligaen	R	7/30/00	6'4	187
433	Richard Whittaker	C/W	London	OHL	L	4/8/00	5'11	176
434	Chris Playfair	C	Windsor	OHL	L	5/31/00	6'1	165
435	Oliver True	RW	Ottawa	OHL	R	5/4/00	6'3	190
436	Zdenek Sedlak	RW	Karpat U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	3/23/00	6'2	203
437	Jake Gricius	C/LW	Portland	WHL	L	10/13/99	6'3	183
438	Dustyn McFaul	LHD	Pickering	OJHL	L	8/4/00	6'2	190
439	Teemu Loizeau	LW	Lukko Rauma U20	Jr-A SM-Liiga	L	10/19/99	6'3	192
440	Adam Robbins	C	Chicago	USHL	R	4/12/00	5'8	161
441	Mikhail Shestopalov	LW	Gatineau	QMJHL	L	1/25/00	6'0	177
442	Cade Robinson	RW	Owen Sound	OHL	R	10/22/99	6'1	198
443	Kirill Goloshchapov	LHD	Krasnaya Armiya	MHL	L	6/1/00	6'2	198
444	Jack Duff	LHD	Erie	OHL	L	1/23/00	6'2	200
445	Travis Mitchell	LHD	Omaha	USHL	L	11/25/99	6'1	163
446	Daniil Isayev	G	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	L	1/7/00	6'0	190
447	Ilya Kazyanin	RW	Belarus U20	Belarus	R	7/25/00	6'1	186
448	Logan Cash	LW/C	Kimball Union	HS-NH	L	3/1/00	6'2	180
449	Michael Little	LW	Mississauga	OHL	L	2/21/00	6'0	190
450	Adan Klapka	RW	Slavia Paha U20	ELJ	R	9/14/00	6'7	236
451	Adam McMaster	C	North Bay	OHL	L	2/24/00	5'10	171
452	Alex Kannok Leipert	RHD	Vancouver	WHL	R	7/20/00	5'11	192
453	Davyd Barandun	LHD	Davos	NLA	L	1/2/00	5'11	181
454	Alexander Schemel	C/RW	Yunior Minsky	Belarus	R	11/23/99	5'10	146

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (455-487)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
455	Connor Hopkins	G	Belmont Hill	HS-MA	L	3/9/00	6'0	201
456	Kaleb Bulych	RHD	Vancouver	WHL	R	1/25/00	6'1	165
457	Cole Reinhardt	LW	Brandon	WHL	L	2/1/00	6'0	203
458	Brandon Tabakin	LHD	Sioux Falls	USHL	L	5/21/00	5'8	161
459	Daylon Groulx	C	Owen Sound	OHL	R	7/7/00	5'10	170
460	Phillip Schultz	C	Rodovre	Metal Ligaen	L	7/24/00	5'11	170
461	Daniil Kiselyov	LHD	Belye Medvedi	MHL	L	10/2/99	6'2	190
462	Pekka Suhonen	C	Kalpa U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	6/28/00	6'0	179
463	Alexei Sergeev	LW	Snezhnye Barsy	MHL	L	5/22/00	5'8	185
464	Jack Stetz	RW	Moorhead	HS-MN	R	9/29/99	6'2	185
465	Maxim Tsybin	LW	Lada Togliatti	MHL	R	1/21/00	5'11	187
466	Riley Hughes	RW	St. Sebastian's	HS-MA	R	6/27/00	6'1	150
467	Lane Gilliss	LW	Portland	WHL	L	10/1/99	6'1	183
468	Jack DeBoer	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	R	8/17/00	6'2	188
469	Tyler Watkins	C/RW	Hermantown	HS-MN	R	12/19/99	5'8	181
470	Mathieu Desgagnes	C/W	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	L	4/13/00	5'8	157
471	Jordon Halverson	LHD	Janesville	NAHL	L	4/10/00	6'2	191
472	Cole Krygier	LHD	Lincoln	USHL	L	5/5/00	6'2	189
473	Olivier Bourret	LW	Cape Breton	QMJHL	L	1/18/00	6'2	190
474	Hunter Donahoe	LHD	Red Deer	WHL	L	7/7/00	6'4	181
475	Anton Sundin	LHD	Frolunda J20	Superelit	L	10/27/99	6'1	176
476	Ian Mageau	RW	Duluth East	HS-MN	R	4/26/00	6'2	209
477	Thomas Maia	C/RW	Oakville	OJHL	L	7/6/00	5'9	150
478	Eric Guest	C	Kitchener	OHL	L	4/4/00	5'9	161
479	Jordan Kooy	G	London	OHL	L	4/30/00	6'2	189
480	Michael Ferrandino	RHD	Waterloo	USHL	R	3/17/00	5'10	170
481	Rail Sharipov	C/LW	Sputnik	MHL	L	8/17/00	6'2	191
482	Nikita Zimin	LHD	Atlanty	MHL	L	8/9/00	5'11	181
483	Georgi Dubrovsky	G	Tolpar	MHL	L	3/21/00	6'2	166
484	Spencer Moe	RW	Prince Albert	WHL	R	1/7/00	5'8	177
485	Zack Malik	LHD	Sudbury	OHL	L	8/3/00	6'2	161
486	Ryan Ullan	G	Bismarck	NAHL	L	7/29/00	6'1	187
487	Ian Walker	RHD	Everett	WHL	L	1/16/00	6'2	170

## 2018 NHL DRAFT: TOP-500 RANKINGS (488-500)

Rank	Name	POS	TM	LG	S	DOB	HT	WT
488	Pontus Englund	LHD	Timra J20	Superelit	L	7/15/00	6'3	207
489	Drew Elser	LW	Central Illinois	USHL	L	1/4/00	5'11	176
490	Sergei Popov	C	London	OHL	L	3/27/00	5'11	175
491	Jami Hanninen	RHD	Jokerit U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	R	8/2/00	6'3	181
492	Jon Mor	G	U.S. U18	NTDP	L	7/20/00	6'2	193
493	Jan Zemba	LW	Liberec U20	ELJ	L	7/4/00	6'2	183
494	Josh Prokop	C	Vernon	BCHL	R	1/30/00	5'10	170
495	Hunter Carrick	LHD	Omaha	USHL	L	8/3/00	6'1	183
496	Parker Ford	C	Sioux City	USHL	R	7/20/00	5'9	168
497	William Ennis	LHD	Oshawa	OHL	L	5/31/00	6'3	206
498	Olivier Mathieu	LW	Quebec	QMJHL	L	2/25/00	5'9	156
499	Samuel Kemppainen	LHD	Karpat U20	Jr A SM-Liiga	L	6/28/00	5'10	168
500	Jace Foskey	RHD	Tri-City	USHL	R	6/1/00	6'1	174

**1. Andrei Svechnikov, Right Wing****Barrie Colts (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
1	1	1	1

**Player Data:** Born 03/26/00 in Barnaul, Russia...6'3/194...Shoots left.

**Scouting Report:** Elite goal scorer with size who combines power and finesse with an exceptional understanding of his role as a top-line talent. Svechnikov has the uncanny ability to not only stickhandle in and around traffic, but also position himself away from the puck while defenders are fixated on his equally skilled linemates. You have to keep tabs on Svechnikov at all times, and it seems as if opponents play tentative every time he's on the ice. Svechnikov is an excellent skater with a powerful stride and exceptional balance, and he uses his speed to create separation even although he shouldn't be defined as a roadrunner. He possesses a blistering shot with one of the quicker releases you'll find — Svechnikov can score on set plays off a faceoff or rifle one from the circles. Few prospects over the last decade have been able to consistently light up opposing goalies than Svechnikov, who as a 16-year-old was the USHL's Rookie of Year in 2017 and placed third with a 1.21 points-per-game average.

Two underrated aspects of Svechnikov's game are his playmaking ability and strength on or off the puck. He creates a conundrum for opposing defenders and goalies because he can beat you with a pass as often as he does with his deadly shot. His vision and hands already are at an elite level. Additionally, his upper-body strength is often underestimated, and opponents losing puck battles via a shove become commonplace when Svechnikov is involved in a tight-checking affair. You can use Svechnikov in any situation, and he is a threat to score while shorthanded. He has the ability to get under the opponent's skin and plays with bite, but Svechnikov spent a lot of time in the penalty box for dangerous hits, stick fouls and roughing up opponents after the whistle.

**2. Rasmus Dahlin, Left Defenseman****Frolunda Indians (SHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
2	2	2	2

**Player Data:** Born 04/13/00 in Trollhättan, Sweden...6'3/185...Shoots left.

**Scouting Report:** Exceptional two-way defenseman with a well-documented resume who has been succeeding as a teenager playing against much older competition. Dahlin is an explosive, dynamic puck wizard who thinks the game at an elite level. He's rarely caught out of position, which is quite amazing when you consider how often he likes to jump into lanes and quickly transition up ice. When Dahlin has the puck, opponents are thrown into a state of confusion, as his agility, stickhandling and duffel bag full of dekes and fakes make him next to impossible to telegraph. His shot is both wicked and accurate, augmenting vision that is nothing short of phenomenal. Dahlin routinely connects with stretch or cross-ice passes from long distances, and he can put mustard on a stretch pass while moving backwards.

Dahlin is far from just a one-trick pony — he likes to hit, throws timely hip checks and maintains a tight gap; and the way he processes plays allows him to recover from a risky foray into the offensive zone. Additionally, he's an absolutely fierce competitor who hates to lose and plays with a team-first attitude. He logged regular minutes on Frolunda's second pairing for the last two seasons and is both physically and mentally mature to make an immediate jump to the NHL and contend for the Calder Trophy.

**3. Filip Zadina, Left Wing****Halifax Mooseheads (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
3	3	3	3

**Player Data:** Born 11/27/98 in Pardubice, Czech Republic...6'01/198...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Rangy skilled winger with soft hands who mixes his game-breaking skills with a tremendous appetite for success. Zadina arguably is the best forward prospect to come out of the Czech Republic in the last few seasons, and since he was 16-year-old has been hand-picked to lead his country at the biggest international tournaments. He has exceptional vision and hockey sense that makes every teammate a threat to score when he is on the ice. Strong on his skates, Zadina is extremely difficult to contain because he's as elusive moving laterally as he is when jetting in a straight line, and even the most competent defenders struggle to maintain a tight gap. Give him too much room, however, and he'll exploit it.

Zadina easily is the best stickhandler among any draft-eligible forwards, and you can count on him to set up quality chances that originate from the corner several times a game. But he's not just a playmaker — Zadina has elite finishing skills and can beat a goalie in a manner of ways. He has an excellent shot that he can fire off the pass with accuracy, but his shiftiness and quick bursts towards the goal provides him with the chance to deke or flash a deadly backhand. Zadina is a fierce competitor, who plays with controlled emotion, and he is not just a point producer — he likes to get in on the forecheck and position himself properly as opponents attempt their breakouts. These anticipation skills lend to his superior command of play development and make him as dangerous on the penalty kill as he is in other situations.

**4. Adam Boqvist, Right Defenseman****Brynäs J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
20	8	6	4

**Player Data:** **Born:** 08/15/00 in Falun, Sweden...6'0/165...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Smooth-skating puck mover who plays with style and grace while owning one of the hardest shots of any draft-eligible defenseman. Boqvist is an attack-first option that loves to use his speed and agility to dart and weave around opposing zone schemes. He can quarterback a power play with the best of them, and he's not shy towards unloading his howitzer with or without shooting lanes being clogged. His puck skills — especially stick-handling — and play within the offensive zone are extraordinary, and he appears to have a firm grasp on how critical his job is as his team's center of gravity. Boqvist has a lightning-quick first step and uses it to escape trouble or interdict an opposing pass.

He tends to back off from his own blue line and appears content in trying to steal the puck after enemy zone entries rather than thwart them up high. Boqvist's positioning in his own end can be ulcer-inducing, as he is a habitual gambler and floater; and his lack of upper-body strength denies him the ability to knock bigger forwards off the puck once they slip behind him. Nevertheless, he is clearly an excitable game-breaker who has the potential to produce a lot of points at the NHL level.

## 5. Joel Farabee, Left Wing

U.S. U18 (NTDP)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
21	18	7	5

**Player Data:** **Born:** 02/25/00 in Cicero, NY...6'0/164...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Farabee is a cerebral three-zone playmaker who consistently adheres to textbook fundamentals in addition to being one of the most lethal scorers in his draft class. He can tailor his style to fit any game — wide open, slogging matches; physical...it simply does not matter. Farabee is a top-line winger for the NTDP and he plays that role in every situation no matter the score or time on the clock. He's very quick in open ice and possesses a devastating change of pace that catches defenders flat footed, and he'll use a rapier-like inside shift inside if taking the puck wide isn't the preferred route. One thing you notice instantly is his work ethic on the ice — Farabee has a nonstop motor and will bust it from start to finish on every shift. He's a wiry lad, but his balance is strong and he can endure a physical beating, plus ward off thicker defenders as he bulls his way to the cage. Even at 18 years old, Farabee already own a pro-quality shot for its accuracy, velocity and release. Compounding matters for opposing goalies is that he's as proficient with his backhand as he is on the forehand. Easily one of the top forwards among his draft-eligible peers and a kid with star potential.

## 6. Joe Veleno, Center

Drummondville Voltigeurs (QMJHL)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
6	5	4	6

**Player Data:** **Born:** 01/12/00 in Kirkland, QC...6'1/194...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Multi-purpose center with quickness and a sharp hockey mind who finally will get his chance to lead Saint John after spending the last two years as a depth player. Veleno — the top pick in the 2015 QMJHL draft — was Canada's critical piece in its under-18 Ivan Hlinka championship, where he was the team's leading scorer and centered the top line. Although Veleno has an arsenal of weapons to beat you, he's at his best when he is creating chances for his linemates via deadly accurate passes or plays off the rush. Speed is an important part of Veleno's game, but he also slows the game down and is more than adept at carving up static defense schemes with quick cross-ice passes or slick maneuvers that present him with open lanes to the net. His positioning, quick stick and anticipation create turnovers, and he's far less reactionary than most teenage pivots in that he understands the importance of incorporating all teammates during puck possession.

From a defensive standpoint, Veleno is an aggressive forechecker who finishes his checks, and his quick feet, agility and long reach make him an asset on the penalty kill. He consistently lends support below him own circles and will remain close to his defensemen to assist them in breakouts. He has a hard, accurate shot that doesn't appear to give goalies to much trouble, but his soft hands and hand/eye coordination makes him more dangerous goal-scoring threat from below the hash marks. There are times he gets caught in the moment and tries to do too much, but this could be a byproduct of being a young kid who has played under a massive microscope since the CHL gave him "exceptional status" to play in the league as a 15-year-old. Nonetheless, Veleno is one of the top draft-eligible centers whose size, speed and smarts will land him in the NHL sooner than the majority of his peers.

**7. Brady Tkachuk, Left Wing****Boston University (Hockey East)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
9	6	8	7

**Player Data:** **Born:** 09/16/99 in St. Louis, MO...6'3/192...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Skilled, two-way power winger with a soft touch who mixes physical play with elite vision and hockey sense. Brady with his helmet off may look like a teenager, but every aspect of his play on the ice makes you wonder how a kid so young can perform with such savvy and maturity.

Brady, whose father Keith was one of the NHL's top snipers of the 1990s, is a relentless puck hound with decent speed and a long, smooth stride. His agility and exceptional stickhandling buy him more than enough time and space to create for his linemates. And although his zone entries are controlled and calculated, he has mastered the art of the soft dump-in and chase — Tkachuk has a long reach and finishes his checks with authority, and defenders appear weary to turn their backs for puck retrieval. Additionally, he is deadly from in close, using an array of moves and dekes to bury the puck. Want to talk hybrid? How about a physical, 200-foot winger with size who doubles as a top-line playmaker and is an outstanding penalty killer?

**8. Ty Smith, Left Defenseman****Spokane Chiefs (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
8	4	5	8

**Player Data:** Born 03/24/00 in Lloydminster, Alberta...5'11/176... **Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Instinctive two-way force from the blue line with exceptional hockey sense and a strong desire to join the attack and create chances. Smith's mobility and vision seem to throw opponents into a state of confusion — his ability to transition quickly from defense to offense is excellent. He's an effortless skater with strong balance and agility, and he can pivot with the best of them. You'll rarely see Smith get caught chasing his man or losing positioning, as he makes timely reads and anticipates exactly where the puck will end up. He is a hard, accurate shooter and a pure power play quarterback who works the point with confidence and poise — Smith evades pressing penalty killers with ease and will exploit gaps with crisp, tap-to-tape cross-ice passes. You don't want to overcommit too much with Smith, as he'll spin or pirouette his way into a quick dash to the open slot. A clean, reliable three-zone defender with leadership qualities and a team-first attitude, he is exactly the guy you want on the ice to kill a big penalty or lock horns with a top-scoring opponents. Wise beyond his years, Smith is almost destined for NHL longevity and has the potential to be a cornerstone piece and one of the top defenders in the league.

## 9. Oliver Wahlstrom, Right Wing

U.S. U18 (NTDP)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
15	22	12	8

**Player Data:** Born 06/13/00 in Quincy, MA...6'1/208...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Wahlstrom is a dominant power winger with elite puck skills, highlighted by a devastatingly accurate shot. He is one of the top goal scorers available for the draft, but he does far more than simply fill the back of the net. Not only is Wahlstrom Team USA's top-line right wing, but he is also a key cog in both the power play and the penalty kill. Although it seems like he never turns down the opportunity to crank one towards the cage, he is blessed with an acute sense to quickly identify a defender's intentions, then exploit the tiniest of windows and turn a seemingly harmless 1-on-1 into a clear dash for the cage. Wahlstrom has very good speed with an above-average first step. And although he is no straight-line road-runner, his footwork, balance and lateral skating ability are all excellent, and he uses a keen understanding of play development to get the extra step or two he needs to create plenty of space between the opponent and him.

Wahlstrom has very soft hands and is an excellent passer, capable of threading the needle with a slap or touch pass, or saucering one cross-ice during odd-man rushes. His puck poise for a neophyte is extraordinary, and there are multiple instances during a game when you get the impression he's a man playing against boys. His physical play, defensive-zone awareness and ability to combine physicality with smart reads are ribbons and bows on what looks like the complete package.

## 10. Quinn Hughes, Left Defenseman

Michigan (Big-10)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
13	10	10	10

**Player Data:** Born 10/14/99 in Orlando, FL...5'9/168...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Smooth-skating offensive defenseman with superior command of his puck control and distribution, Hughes is the very best of a talented group of American draft-eligible rearguards. Raised and nurtured within a deeply rooted hockey family, the current freshman at Michigan is one of the NCAA's top newcomers and became an instant go-to option on a team loaded with NHL prospects and quality upperclassmen. The first thing you notice about Hughes is his calmness with the puck — he rarely, if ever, gets frazzled or frustrated in the face of a relentless or physical opponent. His ability to maintain control of the puck under harrowing circumstances is excellent, but it's the plays he makes immediately *after* eluding pressure that sets him apart from the significant majority of not only his draft peers, but all defensemen in college hockey.

Hughes is a strong playmaker with excellent vision; capable of threading the needle with either hard or saucered cross-ice passes. Additionally, he has a heavy shot with a quick release, and goaltenders have to work hard to control rebounds of his shots. Hughes makes plays on his backhand look effortless, and he's adept at receiving and settling down pucks while traveling at a high rate of speed. His defensive play is relatively sound in terms of positioning and one-on-one tactics. Hughes has improved the timing of his step-ups and hip checks, and he stands his ground on zone entries despite obvious limitations in size and stick length. Losing slot territory to bigger players should be expected, but Hughes is a clever thief with a quick stick who transitions from defense to offense in the blink of an eye. He has top-pairing potential and can quarterback any power play regardless of the talent or skill level of the surrounding personnel.

**11. Jesperi Kotkaniemi, Center/Wing****Porin Assat (SM-Liiga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
4	7	9	11

**Player Data:** Born 07/06/00 in Pori, Finland...6'2/182...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Alert and versatile forward with decent speed and a wide range of attributes who has performed well beyond expectations as a 17-year-old playing key minutes in Finland's top league. Kotkaniemi comes across as a smart, clean player with or without the puck and can play either center or wing. He is used on the penalty kill and in late-game situations, showing defensive prowess regardless of the job he's assigned. He has a nose for sniffing out opposing intentions, and his quick hands and keen vision can turn a run-of-the-mill enemy breakout into a quality chance for him or his mates. One skill that stands out is his playmaking ability — Kotkaniemi is quite creative with the puck and threads the needle with ease. Kotkaniemi is a central figure on the power play, where he likes to control the puck along the wall and look for backdoor cutters or point men open in the high slot.

Although he comes across as a playmaker rather than a finisher, Kotkaniemi has an excellent shot/release combination and can corral a puck in traffic and still wire it on net. He makes up for an average first step with excellent awareness and anticipation, and he's difficult to knock off the puck once he maintains control. Strong on his skates and heavily involved in puck battles, Kotkaniemi is highly reliable on odd-man rushes but also nimble enough to cut sharply across the grain and throw defenders into a state of confusion.

**12. Noah Dobson, Right Defenseman****Acadie-Bathurst Titan (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	33	16	12

**Player Data:** Born 01/07/00 in Summerside, PEI...6'3/177...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Rangy, mobile defender with size and strong puck skills who sticks to his opponents like Velcro. Dobson is a rare specimen for a teenage defender in that he is a big-bodied puck mover with speed who plays with poise in all three zones. He is one of the QMJHL's top-scoring blueliners thanks to his ability to run a power play, dictate the tempo of a game regardless of the situation and seize opportunities that nobody else was able to identify. Dobson is a strong, agile skater with a deceptively quick first step and the ability to make sharp directional changes in open ice. Getting the puck behind pesky opponents in the neutral zone can be done with either his wheels or with hard, crisp passes, but Dobson isn't the kind of defenseman who lets his forwards take it from there — he loves to jump into openings and create or finish from areas close to the hashmarks.

Dobson is a very strong one-on-one defender who maintains a very tight gap and is quick enough to stick with his man even after he circles the net with speed. Trying to take him wide is a decision most puck-carrying forwards end up regretting, as they either end up pasted onto the corner boards or gazing at the back of Dobson's jersey as he powers up ice. He owns a hard, accurate shot and can run the point on the power play thanks to his ability to thread the needle and cleanly handle all types of cross-point passes.

**13. Rasmus Sandin, Left Defenseman****Sault Ste Marie Greyhounds (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
45	40	49	13

**Player Data:** Born 03/07/00 in Uppsala, Sweden...5'11/186...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** Sandin is a nimble puck-moving defenseman with outstanding agility and closing speed. His 45 points in 51 games led all Ontario Hockey League rookie blueliners, and he is a reliable option for breakouts since he can beat back a forecheck with either his wheels or crisp, timely passes. It wasn't easy playing as a rookie import on a loaded team, but Sandin's transition from Rogle in the Swedish Hockey League to the OHL was beyond seamless. In fact, the young rearguard did not take long to distinguish himself among the Soo's talent-heavy blue line, and by season's end he was playing big minutes and quarterbacking the top power-play unit. Sandin is very strong on his skates and can ward off bigger forwards that try to lean him off the puck. Once he's past them, he attacks openings with confidence but can also create time and space with sharp pivots or stutter-steps. Sandin's vision and creativity are underrated aspects of his offensive game, and he has a hard enough shot that makes it difficult for goalies to control their rebounds. You can make a strong case that he is one of the draft's best one-on-one defenders, and his quick feet help stay stride for stride with onrushing attackers. He has top-pairing potential and could very well become one of the best players to come out of this draft.

**14. Barrett Hayton, Center****Sault Ste Marie Greyhounds (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	48	17	13

**Player Data:** Born 06/09/00 in Peterborough, ON...6'1/191...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** Slick, two-way center who can beat you in a variety of ways. Whether you view Hayton as the beneficiary of a deep supporting cast, or a key cog in Sault Ste Marie's attack, the truth is he very much is a very skilled, heady player. He has excellent vision and makes most defenders miss when he's controlling the puck below the circles. Hayton's a strong skater with excellent balance. He won't blow past defenders immediately after his first or second step, but his straight-line speed when combined with the likelihood of a sudden change in direction keeps opponents guessing. Hayton is both shifty and crafty with the puck, plus he's capable of making high-percentage plays on his backhand. He knows how to finish around the goal, but he's also shown to favor his lethal wrist shot from anywhere near the circles. Again, this kid is very hard to prepare for — both before a game and right when he hops over the boards. He can be a relentless forechecker, especially on the penalty kill, and he will use his body effectively to protect the puck. He has top-line upside and should be expected to dominate the OHL next season when his role is expanded.

## 15. Evan Bouchard, Right Defenseman

London Knights (OHL)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
26	23	19	15

**Player Data:** Born 10/20/99 in Oakville, ON...6'2/196...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Big-bodied offensive defenseman with excellent passing skills who can orchestrate a power play as good as any blueliner from any of the last several NHL drafts. Bouchard immediately became the leader of not just London's defense corps, but of the entire team after the Knights traded away most of their bigger names at the OHL's trade deadline. His overall game has steadily developed to the point where he's been logging around 30 minutes a night while matching up against top lines. You're going to be hard pressed to find a smoother North American puck distributor, especially one that makes difficult plays look routine. His shot is very hard, and it's most effective when he keeps it low enough that goalies plunk the rebounds right into the low slot.

Offensively, Bouchard delivers a consistent effort with his puck management and playmaking, though the prevailing knock on him appears to be average straight-line speed. The good news is that Bouchard is nimble for his size, plus he has excellent timing and awareness to eventually outmaneuver pressure and join the attack deep into enemy territory. His feet are quick enough to maintain a tight gap while backskating, and his massive wingspan and long, active stick help limit the number of times an onrushing forward breezes past him. Bouchard has top-pairing potential with the skills and smarts to be a big point producer at the NHL level

## 16. Bode Wilde, Right Defenseman

U.S. U18 (NTDP)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
8	11	14	16

**Player Data:** Born 01/24/00 in Birmingham, MI...6'3/198...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** A defender with arguably the highest upside of any of his talented NTDP teammates, this Harvard-bound blueliner is a phenomenal skater with a blistering shot. Big, thick defensemen that look graceful while carrying the puck simply don't grow on trees, and you'd probably hear more about him if his draft year wasn't loaded with cornerstone-type defenders. Wilde is one confident teenager, maybe sometimes to a fault, as doing "too much" with the puck is something he'll have to limit. Especially considering how talented the NTDP forwards are. Still, he is perfectly capable of playing a variety of roles with aplomb — power play quarterback, crease-clearer on the penalty kill, and even neutralizing top opponents. Wilde loves to hammer the disc thanks to a heavy shot, and he has the ability to either create his own shot from up high or finish in a speed rush to the net. Once he crosses center, he is as close to the complete package as they come, and his size and right-handed shot make him an extremely tantalizing prospect with star potential. Wilde's risk taking can put his mates in jeopardy, so you'd like to see him go through stretches when he puts a premium on sound positioning, and is willing to refrain from deep attacks every single shift.

**17. Vitaly Kravtsov, Right Wing****Chelyabinsk (KHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
38	28	20	17

**Player Data:** **Born** 12/23/99 in Vladivostok, Russia...6'3/184...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Soft-mitted goal scorer who can beat you in a variety of ways, Kravtsov had an excellent season as a rookie winger in the KHL. He was one of Chelyabinsk's top playoff scorers and tallied several timely goals, which is a rarity for pre-draft teenagers in such a competitive league. Kravtsov uses his size and reach to exploit his elite puck skills, and getting close to the cage for quality chances came rather effortlessly for the youngster. He still has some bulking up to do, but he's strong on his skates and protects the puck extremely well. Kravtsov is a serious threat in open ice thanks to his skating and agility, and he requires only a step or two to reach top speed. His shot and release are lethal; one of the best among 2018 draft prospects, but he keeps opponents guessing thanks to his vision and playmaking ability. The one thing that stood out most was his ability to read plays and correctly determine when it was time to vacate his zone and create odd-man rushes.

**18. Rasmus Kupari, Center****Karpat Oulu (SM-Liiga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
60	15	11	18

**Player Data:** **Born:** 03/15/00 in Kotka, Finland...6'1/185...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Super slick offensive-minded center with good size and a knack for making big plays. Kupari's highlight-reel dominance in last August's under-18 Ivan Hlinka tournament got his draft year off to an excellent start, and he hasn't disappointed with his league play as a rookie in a men's elite league. He's a very strong skater with excellent balance and agility, and he uses an array of fakes, stutter steps and rapid directional changes to expand the open ice around him and finish close to the cage. Kupari's stickhandling is among the best of any 2018 draft eligible, and he uses it to either dance through or around traffic. What sets him apart from the majority of his peers is the way he can spot and connect with the open man just seconds after dangling his way through a wall of opponents. Kupari's work in the faceoff dot has improved over the course of his rookie season, and he's shown versatility as a net-front presence on the power play. He's one of a handful of draft-eligible forwards with legitimate upside for a top line, and his chances will improve once he irons out some fixable issues with coverage in his own end.

**19. Akil Thomas, Center****Niagara Ice Dogs (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
29	17	13	19

**Player Data:** **Born:** 02/02/00 in Scarborough, ON...5'11/177...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A thick two-way center with a deadly shot and high compete level who also can play the wing, Thomas led all OHL draft-eligible forwards in scoring with 80 points in 68 games. He is used in all situations, but he is most dangerous on the power play thanks to his keen vision and ability to pump shots through traffic. There a few players in his draft class who offer coaches the kind of versatility Thomas provides — he is used to take big draws, kill off an important penalty or run the offense from inside the zone during late/close situations. Thomas has good straight-line speed and average first-step quickness, but he is elusive and agile within tight spaces. Opponents find difficulty in lining up Thomas for a hit because he makes sharp directional changes and anticipates puck movement extremely well. He's a cerebral player and an excellent stickhandler with soft hands who positions himself properly to exploit mistakes in the neutral zone. Thomas's zone entries are calculated, meaning he identifies options beyond barreling through or around opponents. He can slow things down or pivot back in order to find trailers or cutters, and releases for the slot area immediately after connecting with a teammate.

**20. Ryan McLeod, Center****Mississauga Steelheads (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
15	16	16	20

**Player Data:** **Born:** 09/21/99 in Mississauga, ON...6'2/206...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** The younger brother of Devils' prospect (and teammate of) center Michael McLeod plays a similar up-tempo game predicated on speed and power. Ryan consistently provides offense, but he's also a responsible player who knows how to use his size and strength to win most of his puck battles. Because of his size, skill and speed, McLeod probably is one of the biggest "upside" picks in a draft thin at center. He's often overlooked because he didn't play at any international events or prospect showcases outside of the one-game Top Prospects Game exhibition. He's a very good playmaker reliable finishing around the net, and he's a strong, powerful skater with a blistering shot who can play either center or wing. McLeod distinguished himself as a lethal option who could shoulder big minutes after Michael and sniping winger Owen Tippett left for NHL training camp. He may not possess his sibling's blinding speed, but he is agile and difficult to knock off balance. McLeod's time as a depth player revealed a prospect with pro-quality puck skills who can be deployed to address any in-game concerns his coach may have.

**21. Jacob Olofsson, Center****Timra IK (Allsvenskan)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	31	30	21

**Player Data:** **Born:** 02/08/00 in Pitea, Sweden...6'3/189...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A skilled two-way center with an advanced brain and the size to augment his puck skills, this Swedish pivot had an outstanding season playing against adult competition, which included a solid playoff run that helped Timra win the title and playoff to join the SHL ranks for next season. Olofsson is a strong two-way center that had a tremendous season in Sweden's Allsvenskan. He was named the league's top rookie — an award previously won by the likes of William Karlsson and Filip Forsberg. Big, strong, aggressive, tenacious and equally skilled with the puck on either his forehand or backhand, Olofsson can be used in any situation and has the ability to make slick plays near the net. He has an array of moves to beat you 1-on-1 or 1-on-4. He plays in all situations and will use a quick-strike mentality no matter the zone he controls the puck in. Olofsson is very dangerous off the rush since he owns a hard, accurate shot, plus the vision and hands to set-up the linemate who will produce the best chance. He's a beast on the puck and likes to get his hands dirty on the forecheck or in battles along the wall.

**22. David Gustafsson, Center****HV71 (SHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	77	55	22

**Player Data:** **Born:** 04/11/00 in Tingsryd, Sweden...6'2/196...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Gustafsson is an underrated two-way center with a nonstop motor and excellent puck possessing skills. He's big, strong and smart, plus his stickhandling and quickness allow him to control the puck for extended period inside the offensive zone. He outperformed several of his more-heralded teammates at the February under-18 Five Nations tournament, and although he was a role player for HV71's top team, he's proven to be a dominant puck hound that is a threat in open ice. He uses his quick feet and active stick to strip pucks from defenders behind the net, but it's his ability to spot cutters and weak-side teammates that puts him in a select group of draft-eligible centers. He's also an excellent penalty killer and a breakaway threat when shorthanded.

**23. Grigori Denisenko, Left Wing****Loko Yaroslavl (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
39	42	31	23

**Player Data:** Born: 06/24/00 in Novosibirsk, Russia...5'11/172...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** Denisenko possesses most skills associated with today's modern-day offensive forward — speed, agility, deception, finishing, playmaking and explosiveness. He's a right-handed shooter who can play and score from either wing, and completing plays with either his deadly shot or nifty backhand is what makes him a legitimate top-line candidate. Denisenko in one moment looks graceful and calm with the puck, only to change gears and dart to the net in the next. He has excellent hands that can deaden the toughest of passes, and is the perfect choice for set-play one-timers off offensive-zone draws. Although he won't intimidate with physicality, Denisenko gets riled up and will get involved in battles to give an opponent the business.

**24. Isac Lundestrom, Center****Lulea (SHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
35	47	47	24

**Player Data:** Born 11/06/99 in Gallivare, Sweden...6'0/183...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** A responsible two-way center that makes plays at high speed and beats defenders wide with regularity, Lundestrom was one of Sweden's top under-20 players and helped boost his draft stock when he filled in admirably for an injured Lias Andersson at the world juniors. Playing smart, two-way hockey while posing a serious speed threat is something you rarely see from any teenager, let alone one that receives top-six minutes in Sweden's top league. Lundestrom was far too advanced a prospect to play junior hockey, and he succeeded with an altered role for Lulea. He's fast, aggressive and loves to cause havoc on the forecheck. But don't think for one second that his speed is what makes him a tantalizing prospect — Lundestrom is very creative with the puck and can bury chances from in close.

**25. Blake McLaughlin, Left Wing****Chicago Steel (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
46	59	42	25

**Player Data:** Born 02/14/00 in Grand Rapids, MN...6'0/157...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** A skilled Minnesota-born playmaking winger who demands the puck, McLaughlin is blessed with excellent vision to turn any teammate into a scoring threat. He is one of the more talented set-up men in a draft relatively deep in terms of puck distributors, but McLaughlin is one of the best from the North American crop. His zone entries are a thing of beauty, and his speed and elusiveness create a decision-making quandary for defenseman — he spins away if you play him tight; exploits open ice if you back in too deep. He is one of the top scorers in the USHL and should be groomed to be a first-line player who can orchestrate the power play but also finish his easier chances in front of the net. There's a lot of Mathew Barzal in his game, not only for his passing ability but also for making proper reads, running the power play, hustling on the penalty kill and providing puck support when necessary. McLaughlin, who led Grand Rapids to a high school title last year, is committed to play collegiately for the University of Minnesota.

**26. Dominik Bokk, Right Wing****Vaxjo Lakers J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
41	46	28	26

**Player Data:** Born 02/01/00 in Schweinfurt, Germany...6'1/196...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** This German-born goal scorer poses a bit of a conundrum for draft evaluators because he was too good for junior hockey but very green for the SHL. Bokk's puck skills are undeniable, however, and he's proven to be a low-maintenance winger in terms of creating his own chances. A powerful skater with a deadly shot, Bokk is the top German-born draft prospect since Leon Draisaitl went in the Top-10 in 2014. He was a high CHL import pick of the WHL's Prince Albert Raiders, probably for his ability to fill the net and create room for others around him. Bokk is a goal-scoring winger with soft hands and an excellent release who can deke or dangle his way into prime shooting areas, and he has the size, puck control and balance to ward off harassment. His plays hard in all three zones and will drop down below his own goal line to lend support, but is smart enough to sniff a possession change and dart into open ice for a counterattack.

**27. Alexander Alexeeyev, Left Defenseman****Red Deer Rebels (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
40	74	25	27

**Player Data:** Born 11/15/99 in St. Petersburg, Russia...6'4/196...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Underrated two-way defender with size who can either slow a game down or speed it up. Alexeeyev is very active in the offensive zone and uses his deceptively quick first step and elusiveness to sneak into the high slot with regularity. He can quarterback a power play and is similar to 2016 first-rounder Olli Juolevi in that he is very poised with puck and handles pressure effectively. Alexeeyev looks super smooth carrying the puck from his own end, and forecheckers tend to bounce off of him as he barrels past them. His overall smarts are high for a teenage defender, and he incorporates the boards with accuracy as he tries to connect with home-run passes. Alexeeyev's defensive game is very sound in terms of thwarting opposing zone entries and eliminating puck carriers. He makes the proper reads in the neutral zone and can quickly transition to offense once he gains control of the puck. He plays odd-man rushes like a veteran and rarely miscommunicates with his partner, and he'll be the first to protect his goalie during after-the-whistle scrums. One thing that really stands out is his slot coverage; Alexeeyev can be counted on to man his post and not chase after a covered opponent. He also like to play with some snarl and makes timely wallops in the neutral zone.

**28. Ivan Morozov, Center****Mamonty Yugry (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	85	28

**Player Data:** Born 05/05/00 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia...6'1/178...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** One of the draft's better two-way centers whose ability to create plays out of nothing bodes well for the team smart enough to draft him. Morozov has been a minute eater for Mamonty Yugry and was one of Russia's best players at the under-18 Five Nations in February. He's extremely cerebral and performs with a high compete level; so swiping the puck from opponents comes with relative ease. Once the puck is on his stick, you can bank on Morozov to make a wise decision quickly or simply settle things down until a better option develops. Morozov is a jack-of-all-trades pivot — his vision and playmaking make him a sound option to play along the wall on the power play; attack aggressively on the penalty kill; and take (and win) critical draws. He has an excellent shot; a soft set of hands and can finish from in close. He will hang on to the puck as long as he needs to, and his agility and quickness allows him to buy the critical extra second or two he needs to complete a high-percentage play. It's no coincidence that he's consistently visible on every shift — Morozov is a battler with strong anticipation who uses his lower-body strength to gain inside positioning before making taking a quick first step towards the goal.

**29. Jakub Lauko, Center****Pirati Chomutov (Extraliga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
8	11	14	16

**Player Data:** Born 03/28/00 in Prague, Czech Republic...6'0/179...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Lauko is a dynamic and explosive force whose abilities as a center get overlooked because there are times he looks like a goal-scoring winger. He has a great attitude, plays hungry and knows how to get under an opponent's skin. Lauko is one of the draft's more electrifying players thanks to his elite straight-line speed and heavy shot. There's a lot more to his game than just offense, however, and his dedication to covering up holes inside his own end is something he did both at the international level and during Extraliga play. Lauko plays with a lot of bite and likes to get under opponent's skin, and on occasion he'll throw a couple of heavy hits. He's the type of forward who you can count on for at least one breakaway a game.

**30. Ty Dellandrea, Center****Flint Firebirds (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
12	13	22	30

**Player Data:** Born 07/21/00 in Toronto, ON...6'0/184...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Toolsy two-way center with a knack for scoring in a variety of ways. Dellandrea has enough confidence in his playmaking and creativity to attempt difficult plays that end up working out anyway. He owns a very good shot and soft hands, plus he can be trusted with late-game matchups against opposing top lines. Dellandrea has the misfortune of being a top-line center on a thin team, but he's a strong two-way center with very good vision with legitimate leadership qualities. He is very good on both the power play and the penalty kill, and his intangibles make him both coachable and easy to deploy. Dellandrea is a growing kid with above-average puck skills, but there's a lot more to his game than just scoring. Positioning for forwards is something often overlooked, but Dellandrea is one of the smarter draft-eligible centers in that regard.

**31. Serron Noel, Right Wing****Oshawa Generals (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	80	43	31

**Player Data:** Born 08/08/00 in Ottawa, ON...6'5/205...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Raw but talented power forward that plays an in-your-face style and can beat you with brute force or a crafty touch around the net. Noel is an all-effort kind of player who is noticeable every shift, using his upper-body strength and leg drive to neutralize opponents along the boards. He has decent quickness for such a big body, but he takes direct routes to the net and once he gets moving he's almost impossible to slow down. Both he and Allan McShane quickly developed chemistry to the point where they are Oshawa's *de facto* top line. Noel needs to play more disciplined, but he is an interesting case because his measurements usually aren't synonymous with deft puck handling and smart neutral-zone play. Of course, there are plenty of times where he takes full advantage of opponents via his 6'5 frame and massive wingspan, but what really impresses is his puck poise and soft touch while collecting loose pucks at center ice. Sure, Noel is the perfect net-front presence on the power play, but all the accolades he's received this season likely stem from areas outside of the realm of your typical power winger.

**32. K'Andre Miller, Left Defenseman****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
33	37	24	32

**Player Data:** Born 01/26/00 in Minnetonka, MN...6'3/206...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Talented two-way defenseman with top-pairing upside who is committed to the University of Wisconsin. A strong skater with very good speed, Miller generates a lot of power into his stride and is starting to beat both opposing forwards and defenders to the outside. His stick and body positioning in the neutral zone are exceptional, and you can count on Miller to intercept more than a handful of cross-zone passes that he quickly transitions into rushes the other way. His ability to make clean passes on either his forehand or backhand, plus the manner in which he sharply pivots his way into bigger openings might explain how such a big and physical defenseman is only a few years removed from being a forward.

Watching Miller smother in one end and skate effortlessly in the other makes me think his learning curve is not steep at all — he plays a clean, composed game in his own zone and looks fantastic when he's unbridled. Miller can be physically intimidating, and his strong lower half makes rubbing out forwards of any size look easy. One thing to consider is that this group of NTDP defensemen is deep with offensively-gifted puck movers, so it's natural for a cerebral kid like Miller to focus on his defensive-zone play and act decisively with the puck only when the opportunity makes sense. This type of approach reduces haphazard tendencies to a bare minimum. Choosing your favorite draft-eligible defensemen from this year's version of the under-18 NTDP is a lot like being asked to pick your favorite child, but don't be surprised if a less-heralded kid like Miller has the best NHL career out of any from his defense corps.

**33. Benoit-Olivier Groulx, Center****Halifax Mooseheads (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
25	30	23	33

**Player Data:** Born 02/06/00 in Gatineau, QC...6'1/195...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Groulx is the type of center you need and want on that wall to help defend everything you hold sacred — a lead, possession, whatever. He's a hard-nosed competitor who can be used to match up against any type of player, and Groulx couples his work ethic with an excellent shot and a great nose for the net. Groulx could very well be one of the draft's most underrated pivots. Playing on a Halifax squad loaded with talent, Groulx is a highly skilled two-way center with an acute understanding of the game. He's always summoned to fix problems during any point in the game, and his compete level is off the charts. Not surprising when you consider he's the son of Benoit Groulx — a former QMJHL head coach and WJC winner in 2015 with Canada before taking the top job with the Tampa Bay Lightning's AHL affiliate in Syracuse. His straight-line speed is average, but he can make quick movements and directional changes within tight spaces. He has excellent balance that makes him tough to knock off the puck, and he reads plays well enough to gain that ever-important extra step on a backchecker as he tries to create a numbers advantage.

**34. Jared McIssac, Left Defenseman****Halifax Mooseheads (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
7	12	18	34

**Player Data:** Born 03/27/00 in Truro, NS...6'1/193...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Specimen of a shutdown defender, only this one can skate and chip in on the good side of the red line when the situation necessitates it. McIssac has the tough job of knowing how and when to distribute the puck to Halifax's arsenal of playmakers, and in the process sees his personal stats take a hit. But there are few defenders in this draft who are better at smothering puck carriers than McIssac, who has quick feet and maintains an incredibly tight gap. Once considered near the top of an elite group of 2000-born Canadian defensemen, McIssac's upside appears that of a No. 2 or No. 3 defenseman who can play physical, deliver big hits, plus skate the puck out of trouble. He owns a hard, accurate shot that he will never hesitate to use, and he is smart enough to drop down into the circles for one-timers as long as he senses his partner can cover for him. McIssac can anchor the main pairing on both the power play and on the penalty kill, and can be entrusted with a matchup role against an opponent's top player.

**35. Dmitry Zavgorodniy, Left Wing/Center****Rimouski Oceanic (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	29	26	35

**Player Data:** Born 08/11/00 in Omsk, Russia...5'9/173...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Lightning-quick sniper with an excellent shot/release combination that doesn't require much time or space to use. Zavgorodniy is an excellent skater with elite hockey sense who can sniff out eventual passing options and immediately turn an easy steal into a quality scoring chance. He may not look big, but Zavgorodniy has serious upper-body strength and will not only deliver a hit, but absorb them from bigger players. He's as close to a complete player as you'll find in a two-way winger listed less than six feet tall. He consistently looks for the cross-ice set-up, especially if the strong side of the puck is overloaded, and he has no problem connecting regardless of how dense the maze of sticks and skates is before him. He is extremely strong along the boards and will dangle or fake his way from a lengthy puck battle right into a prime shooting area. Zavgorodniy is a specialist on both the power play and penalty kill, and as a winger is used as the lone forward on 5-on-3 disadvantages.

**36. Filip Hallander, Left Wing/Center****Timra IK (Allsvenskan)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
48	60	37	36

**Player Data:** Born 06/29/00 in Sundsvall, SWE...6'2/188...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Aggressive power forward with skill who combines finesse with physicality. Hallander made money in the Allsvenskan and was one of Sweden's best forwards at the February under-18 Five Nations tournament. Initially assessed a late 2nd or 3rd round pick, Hallander should no longer be considered a sleeper who should be considered first-round quality if in fact he is taken outside the first 31 picks. He's an excellent passer with keen vision to find the open man, even with the walls collapsing around him. His in-your-face style on the forecheck creates a lot of opportunities, and he anticipates puck travel as good as any draft-eligible forward. Hallander is a strong skater with good speed who displays a quick first step when he sniffs out a lazy pass or corrals the puck while static. His quick hands and clever stickhandling moves make him perfect for tightly-checked affairs.

**37. Jonathan Tychonick, Left Defenseman****Penticton Vees (BCHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
51	66	75	37

**Player Data:** Born 03/03/00 in Calgary, AB...6'0/177...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Tychonick's skating is at the forefront of his overall game — everything he does with the puck is a consequence of it. Whether it's skating through open ice or weaving around traffic, the North Dakota commit commands a lot of respect on the ice, and you can tell he keeps opponents honest. Give him space, and he'll exploit it. Tighten up on him? Forget it — he's gone. Tychonick is more of a fire-and-forget kind of shooter who looks to create rebounds rather than blast one through the twine. He should wear No. 911 on the back of his jersey, because he's the first player his mates call to get the puck out of the zone.

Tychonick can neutralize pressure with both his wheels and his passing, and watching over-extended forwards helplessly racing up ice in an attempt to catch him is something you see quite frequently. Once inside the offensive zone, Tychonick is the go-to option and keeps his feet moving in order to get open and give himself the time and space necessary to create chances. He has a very hard shot and will walk the line with several fakes in order to open up lanes. Tychonick is definitely a gambler who takes a lot of risks and will jump into an opening regardless of whether point coverage is swapped. He finishes his checks but isn't all that physical, and as fast as he is, he gets caught up ice quite frequently and looks gassed by the time he gets back to the slot. Tychonick has strong hockey sense and surveys the ice like a veteran. He plays with passion, communicates well and provides direction, in addition to having a strong off-ice work ethic.

**38. Jesse Ylonen, Right Wing****Espoo United (Mestis)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
27	36	44	38

**Player Data:** Born 10/03/99 in Scottsdale, AZ...6'0/166...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Speedy winger with a nice assortment of puck skills who arguably was the top teenage player in Finland's top minor league. Ylonen, whose father Juha played in nearly 350 NHL games in the late-1990s and early-2000s, is an offensive-minded player with the endurance to play lengthy shifts while never wavering on his effort. Being a late-1999 birthdate excluded him from competing against most of his first-year eligible peers, but Ylonen was a key contributor for Finland at several under-20 events, including the February under-20 Five Nations when he was one of the tournament's top players. He is an excellent stickhandler and the perfect option for clean zone entries, and he makes the right decisions as he speeds up ice. Although the slippery Ylonen is slight of frame, he gets a lot of mustard on his shot and can finish from in close.

**39. Jack McBain, Center/Right Wing****Toronto Jr. Canadiens (OJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	24	36	38

**Player Data:** Born 11/27/98 in Eden Prairie, MN...6'2/206...**Shoots:** left.

**Scouting Report:** McBain is a versatile forward with solid puck skills who plays both physical and smart at the same time. The amount of work he puts into a given shift is quite impressive, as he competes from start to finish. McBain hates giving up on plays and usually is the first person in on the forecheck. His quickness has improved and opponents collectively appear worried when they see him barreling toward them with a full head of steam. But McBain isn't just some masher — his stick activity and positioning is exceptional, and his anticipation of puck direction leads to a lot of chances created off seemingly harmless dump-ins or sloppy opposing breakouts. His overall game looks more complete and polished as a center or winger in best-on-best tournaments than as a center in the OJHL. But his hockey sense, shot accuracy and velocity and physicality creates a solid foundation for what could be a very good NHL player. He's committed to play for Boston College.

**40. Jakub Skarek, Goalie****Jihlava (Extraliga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
14	19	29	40

**Player Data:** Born 11/10/99 in Jihlava, Czech Republic...6'3/193...Catches: Left.

**Scouting Report:** Nightmarish world juniors notwithstanding, Skarek remains the draft's top goalie prospect. Blessed with size, cat-like quickness and superior radar for puck movement, Skarek has held him own as a teenager in the Czech Republic's premiere league. He's a classic butterfly goalie who handles the puck well and quickly challenges shooters above the crease. One thing that has impressed me is his glove-hand positioning in either the V/H (Vertical/ Horizontal) or RVH (Reverse Vertical/Horizontal) — Skarek keeps the glove directly above his pad to cover the upper half of the short side.

**41. Jake Wise, Center****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
30	43	84	41

**Player Data:** Born 02/28/00 in Naples, FL...5'10/195...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** A top-end playmaker with superior vision and good hockey sense, Wise was the primary power-play orchestrator for Team USA's under-18 team in the periods when 2019 draft stud Jack Hughes was not in the lineup. Wise has excellent hand-eye coordination and razor sharp awareness, and he'll rarely make a mistake when opponents giftwrap a scoring chance. He also possesses a highly accurate shot that seems to give goalies a hard time. Wise, who is committed to Boston University, is capable of handling the duties and responsibilities inherent in being a top-line pivot. An early-season injury slowed down a much-deserved hype train that sped through the second half of the season like a locomotive. Wise isn't very big in an imposing kind of way, but he's incredibly quick, crafty with the puck and sets up linemates with pinpoint accuracy. He's one of the better power-play specialists among his peers.

**42. Mattias Samuelsson, Left Defenseman****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
57	51	40	42

**Player Data:** Born 03/14/00 in Voorhies, NJ...6'4/217...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** A physical two-way blueliner with a hard shot who plays in all situations, Samuelsson is one of the top one-on-one defenders in his draft class. He moves quite well for his size, using a quick change of pace to burst into the offensive zone with calculated authority. Matthias is quite aggressive with his puck carrying and is able to go coast-to-coast or take the puck well below the circles after entering the zone with speed and power. Samuelsson, whose father Kjell was a defenseman that played in over 800 NHL games, is far more mobile and creative than his defensive-minded dad. He's capable of delivering punishing hits and can intimidate with either his physicality or booming shot on the power play. Matthias will play for Western Michigan University next year.

**43. Milos Roman, Center****Vancouver Giants (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
11	14	21	43

**Player Data:** Born 11/06/99 in Kysucke Nove Mesto, Slovakia...6'0/196...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** A responsible 200-foot center who was on pace to lead all WHL rookies in scoring until an ankle injury in late January, Roman is the best 1999-born Slovakian prospect and consistently was a top-line player at all the notable international events. He is a powerful player who competes hard and can tailor his game to maximize the skills of his linemates. He can play either a physical or finesse game and is an effective player on special teams. It was on Vancouver's top line where Roman did most of the necessary dirty work that freed up room for older linemates Brad Morrison (before he was traded) and Ty Ronning. Once considered a skilled player whose game gravitated towards offense, Roman has developed into a smart, disciplined player who is in the face of any opponent that controls the puck. He delivers hits, picks off breakout passes and dishes the puck with both accuracy and authority.

**44. Martin Kaut, Right Wing****Pardubice (Extraliga)**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	84	63	44

**The Draft Analyst Rankings**

**Player Data:** Born 10/02/99 in Brno, Czech Republic...6'2/176...Shoots: Right.

**Scouting Report:** Responsible 200-foot winger with excellent vision who competes hard, battles in corners and provides coaches with situational versatility. Kaut's area of responsibility kept expanding as his season with Pardubice progressed, playing on both the power play and on the penalty kill. He's been a top-six fixture for several deep Czech teams at international events, including the under-20 world junior hockey championship where he was the key set-up man for both Martin Necas and Filip Zadina. You can count on Kaut to get his hands dirty and pay a hefty price to win his one-on-one situations, but his size, strength and leg drive make him a threat to cash in on opportunities near the net. Playmaking aside, Kaut doesn't have a specific skill that blows you away, but he has deceptive straight-line speed and a wide stride that makes him difficult to stop or slow down in open ice.

**45. Allan McShane, Center****Oshawa Generals (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
19	27	35	45

**Player Data:** Born 11/27/98 in Eden Prairie, MN...6'2/206...Shoots left.

**Scouting Report:** Shifty skater with a decent first step who sees the ice extremely well and can be counted on to set up multiple high-quality scoring chances a game. McShane is a versatile center that can play the role of sniper or set-up guy, making him extremely dangerous and unpredictable on the power play. He's also very good on draws, winning close to 52%. A pass-first pivot who was Oshawa's most reliable set-up man for most of the season, McShane is a battler who can pass the puck with pinpoint accuracy. He knows how to incorporate all his teammates into the attack, but he keeps you honest with a tricky shot that snipes the corners. McShane is a low-maintenance player who knows how to create time and space regardless of how tight or physical a game is. He is an excellent playmaker and gives a solid effort in all three zones, especially in board battles in the offensive zone. He and Serron Noel combined to make a lot of money together, and at times that second line carried Oshawa for most of the first half of the season. McShane has no problem digging in and jostling with bigger defenders.

**46. Jonatan Berggren, Right Wing****Skelleftea J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	96	64	46

**Player Data:** Born 07/16/00 in Uppsala, Sweden...5'10/181...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Berggren is one of the most fearless "smallish" forwards seen in recent years, which says a lot when you consider he's listed at 5'10. A two-way winger with a nonstop motor, Berggren's speed and anticipation causes havoc for opposing defenders, but it's the plays he makes after forcing turnovers that separate him from most players his age. His active stick and quick hands turn harmless dump-ins into quality chances, and his speed allows him to blow past defenders at the blue line. Playing and thinking at the same time is a rare combination for young players, but Berggren does both at high level. He was one of the top players in Sweden's J20 Superelit, where his ability to evade or bypass traffic in the neutral zone helped him produce consistent efforts on a nightly basis. He makes up for the lack of an overpowering shot with great hand-eye coordination and a quick release.

**47. Ryan Merkely, Right Defenseman****Guelph Storm (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
5	9	34	47

**Player Data:** Born 08/14/00 in Oakville, ON...5'11/168...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Roving playmaker from the blueline with excellent speed and a superior understanding of his responsibilities as a jump-starter and attacker. Merkley is pure offense in every sense of the term, and it seems as everything he does with the puck has a cherry on top. He is a commanding presence who carries the puck as well as he dishes it out, and you can always count on him to find the open man, especially backdoor and off the rush. Merkley has a quick first step, but he also shifts speeds to routinely catch opponents flat footed. It's hard to see Guelph's attack survive without him, as it relies heavily on his quick, crisp breakout passes that trap the most aggressive of forecheckers. He owns a hard, accurate shot with a big windup; Merkley gets enough mustard on long-distance wristers to force goalies to lose control of rebounds.

Merkely plays with intensity but is not to be confused with a physical, shut-down defender. Keeping him stapled to his own slot during opposing possessions above the hash marks seems next to impossible, and he will roam well above the circles to chase the puck. He has difficulty handling bigger forwards in the slot or in the corners, which might explain the floating, and there are times in his own end when he gets too cute with the puck. These issues can be fixed over time, but it remains to be seen how much NHL general managers are willing to overlook the defensive shortcomings of such a rare and gifted puck distributor.

**48. Ivan Muranov, Left Wing****HK MVD (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
47	49	54	48

**Player Data:** Born 11/27/98 in Eden Prairie, MN...6'2/206...Shoots left.

**Scouting Report:** A sturdy goal scorer with an occasional mean streak who uses his body and strength to finish checks with authority and outmuscle opponents for positioning in the crease and low slot areas. Muranov is a very good skater for a power forward and is effective as a dump-and-smash forechecker. It's his ability to sneak into high-danger areas immediately after or during a cycle that gives opponents headaches, as Muranov has a rapier-like release for his heavy snap shot. He is a legitimate threat on the power play no matter where he is positioned, and he gets enough leverage on his stick to keep his blade in the perfect position for deflections. The poise and vision he displays while handling the puck on entries causes defenders to back in, leaving him plenty of room to unload his elite shot.

**49. Michal Kvasnica, Right Wing****Frydek-Mistek (WSM-Liga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	278	81	49

**Player Data:** Born 04/17/00 in Ostrava, Czech Republic...6'1/187...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Big, powerful yet shifty forward who attacks the net with authority and confidence. Kvasnica possesses excellent edgework and pivots on a dime, only to change direction again for a controlled dash to the net. Kvasnica has good size, balance and upper-body strength that allows him to buy time while controlling the puck, but don't get him confused with some sort of lumbering type — he's a fast skater with a hard shot who can finish off the rush. Without the puck, Kvasnica positions himself properly in all three zones and is useful as a net-front presence.

**50. Philipp Kurashev, Center****Quebec Remparts (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
23	39	41	50

**Player Data:** Born 10/12/99 in Munsingen, Switzerland...6'1/190...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** This Swiss-born pivot is a pass/shoot threat who has been a consistent producer for a thin Quebec squad. Kurashev is a very good skater and owns a laser for a shot, but he's a reliable puck distributor as well. He's a nimble battler along the boards and gets aggressive on the forecheck, plus he won over 53% of his draws. Kurashev is versatile to be used in any situation regardless of the score or time left on the clock. He poses a significant threat on the power play because he is as good a set-up man from the circles as he is a shooter. Kurashev is very good at anticipating lazy or dangerous passes and quickly turns giveaways into odd-man rushes the other way. Shifty, slick and incredibly skilled, Kurashev's shoot-first mentality when the lanes are open creates a lot of chances for both himself and his linemates. He's also shown willingness to battle in front of both his net and his opponent's.

**51. Kevin Bahl, Left Defenseman****Ottawa 67's (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	165	45	51

**Player Data:** Born 06/27/00 in New Westminster, BC...6'6/216...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Physical shutdown defender with an advanced capacity to read plays and retreat back to the exact spot he's supposed to be in. Bahl has size, strength and above-average mobility when you consider how thick and massive he appears with or without skates. His step-ups are timely and decisive, and you can make a strong case for Bahl being one the draft's best one-on-one defender among first-year eligibles. His ability to move the puck is predicated on being poised and beating forecheckers with subtle lead passes or a pivot and headman to a streaking teammate. Bahl's a good skater, but quicker forwards have a tough time swiping the puck from his because of his long reach and shielding techniques. It's doubtful he'll see a lot of power play time at the next level, but Bahl is the kind of defenseman you want on the ice late in periods or with a small lead to protect.

**52. Nicolas Beaudin, Left Defenseman****Drummondville Voltigeurs (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	140	77	52

**Player Data:** Born 10/09/99 in Châteauguay, QC...5'11/172...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Strong, sturdy two-way defender with smarts who had a phenomenal season for Drummondville, finishing tied for second among QMJHL defensemen with 69 points in 68 games. Beaudin is a graceful skater with very good speed who likes seems to have perfected timing plays for clean zone entries and trapping forecheckers well beyond the direction of puck travel. Once inside the zone, Beaudin is extremely active on pinches, but his vision is strong enough where he can spot the open man while simultaneously winning foot races to loose pucks. When he throws the puck at the net, it has a purpose beyond just throwing it on goal. Beaudin's speed, vision and overall awareness make him an excellent power-play quarterback, and he knows how to feed off the strengths of his teammates. He has an above-average shot but it's incredibly accurate and forces goalies into making tough saves. He's not overly physical and can be pushed around in the low slot, and he relies more on his stick and timing to break up plays rather than win puck battles or positioning with brute strength.

**53. Danila Galenyuk, Left Defenseman****SKA-1946 (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	44	53	53

**Player Data:** Born 02/11/00 in Tyumen, Russia...6'1/200...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Galenyuk is a mature, poised defender with top-pairing upside who can tackle all responsibilities inherent in being matched against the opponent's best players. He's been a real leader for Russia's defense corps at both the under-17 and under-18 level, and should be considered a serious candidate to make the under-20 squad for next year's world junior hockey championship. Galenyuk, who earlier last season was the youngest player to ever debut for SKA in the KHL, has very quick feet to maintain a tight gap, and he closes quickly on puck rushers before eliminating them with a solid hip check or one-arm shove off the puck. His defense of odd-man rushes is textbook, and you will always notice Galenyuk directing traffic or communicating with his partner. He's not very flashy with the puck, but he will take calculated risks to keep plays alive and times his dump-ins based on the speed of his forecheckers. Galenyuk is a very good skater; more for his agility, balance and edgework than his straight-line speed, which is about average. He has a powerful slap shot that he opts to fire off the pass, especially on the power play. Strong, smart and incredibly poised, Galenyuk is the perfect support option to partner up with a fast puck mover or playmaking defender.

**54. Cole Fonstad, Right Wing****Prince Albert Raiders (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	147	50	54

**Player Data:** Born 04/24/00 in Estevan, SK...5'10/159...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Heady playmaker and tough competitor who may very well turn out to be the best first-year eligible forward to come out of the WHL this season. Fonstad is a smooth, fluid skater with very good speed and outstanding agility. Having a bevy of puck skills is common among draft prospects, but Fonstad falls within the select group who can identify openings before opponents are quick enough to react to them. You hate to tie an outdated stereotype to a teenager, but Fonstad is the perfect Western Canadian prospect in that he competes hard, plays tough, and absorbs hits as well as he gives them. He was a key cog in Prince Albert's attack and during the power play thanks to his soft hands and passing skills — Fonstad is a reliable saucer passer on either forehand or backhand. Shooting off the pass with accuracy is also a key component to his game inside the offensive zone. He led all WHL first-year eligibles in 5v5 scoring with 45 points in 72 games.

**55. Jay O'Brien, Center****Thayer Academy (HS-MA)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	328	89	55

**Player Data:** Born 11/04/99 in Hingham, MA...5'11/176...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Matching elite speed with a ferocious appetite for success usually nets good results, so it didn't come as a surprise that O'Brien was named the top high school player in New England. He's a tough competitor who doesn't quit on a play regardless of the score or how much time remains on the clock. O'Brien is lethal in open ice, and it didn't take long for him to get inside the heads of opposing defenders who continuously failed miserably at trying to contain or fix him. You might as well start calling O'Brien "Death Star", because his elite footwork, quickness and agility makes it seem like he's stickhandling inside the protection of an impregnable deflector shield with a radius stretching out almost 15 or 20 feet. Managing the puck with that kind of room makes it easy for O'Brien to unload a lethal shot, and you can bet he's done his share of unloading by the time the final buzzer sounds. But he's also a great playmaker who can deke and dangle his way close to the net in order to draw attention away from the weak side, where an open teammate can simply tap-in O'Brien's accurate setups.

**56. Adam Ginning, Left Defenseman****Linkoping J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	78	79	56

**Player Data:** Born 01/13/00 in Linkoping, Sweden...6'4/206...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Physical defenseman with a penchant for delivering big hits at the right times. People can talk all they want about how physicality and thuggery are dying aspects of today's finesse-friendly game, but you still need at least one defender with a bit of snarl to balance out a lineup that may be full of puck-skilled types. Ginning's mobility is average, but he knows how to handle a forecheck by changing speeds, pivoting away from pesky forwards and spotting a cutting teammate. Ginning is the perfect option to play on the top pairing or anchor a penalty-killing unit, and both his wrist and slap shots are hard enough where you might consider him for a second power-play pairing. Ginning simply is tough to play against, but improving his creativity and vision could make him one of the most feared defenders to come out of the 2018 draft.

**57. Gabriel Fortier, Center****Baie-Comeau Drakkar (QMHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	61	38	57

**Player Data:** Born 02/06/00 in Lachine, QC...5'10/170...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Speedy, hard-nosed center who plays a 200-foot game and competes hard every shift. Fortier is a threat to score in any situation, including while on the penalty kill. He's shown great patience and a soft touch around the net, and he's capable of setting up chances off of board battles. Fortier is more of a finisher than a set-up guy, but he plays a high-speed game and the puck always seems to find him. His first step is extremely quick and it doesn't take Fortier more than two or three strides to reach top speed.

**58. Calen Addison, Right Defenseman****Lethbridge Hurricanes (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
18	21	27	58

**Player Data:** Born 11/27/98 in Winnipeg, MB...6'1/196...Shoots left.

**Scouting Report:** Slippery puck mover who knows how to initiate a breakout and create chances off of them. From a purely offensive-minded standpoint, few 2018-eligible defenders can stickhandle and pass the puck as well as Addison, who makes up for an average point shot but darting to the net and converting chances below the circles. He's neither big nor intimidating, and there are times when he appears to avoid contact in favor of letting his teammates do the dirty work along the boards. Addison is an effortless skater who looks graceful and controlled and he speeds up ice. He makes hard, crisp passes right on the tape, but also has a soft touch to float passes that catch teammates in stride. Addison spends a lot of time handling the puck on the power play, but he isn't the first choice to be used to help kill a critical penalty.

**59. Ondrej Buchtela, Right Defenseman****Kadan (WSM-Liga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
37	55	51	59

**Player Data:** Born 11/08/99 in Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic...6'0/198...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Mobile defender with physicality and powerful leg drive who can be downright nasty to play against. Buchtela outside of his skating does not appear to have the natural ability to stockpile points, but he has a good enough shot where he was named a primary point man for both his under-20 team and for the Czechs at a handful of international events. Where he makes his money, however, is neutralizing opposing puck possession, specifically off the rush. Buchtela maintains an incredibly tight gap, and he one-arm shoves attackers off the puck with regularity. He's also able to throw solid bodychecks that stop opponents dead in their tracks, especially near his blue line, where he likes to step up and eliminate threats. Buchtela also is a reliable option to defend the crease during the penalty kill because he has an incredibly active stick, makes the proper reads and wins his foot races to loose pucks in corners. The potential is there for Buchtela to become an all-purpose minute eater at the NHL level.

**60. Jett Woo, Right Defenseman****Moose Jaw (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
32	41	52	60

**Player Data:** Born 07/27/00 in Winnipeg, MB...6'0/200...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Cerebral two-way blueliner with poise who plays a steady, mature game and knows how to compliment his skilled forwards. Woo is a very good skater who can control the pace of the game with calculated decisions with the puck, making the correct reads and using his speed to quickly tilt the ice in his team's favor. He likes to play aggressive and take chances deep into the opposing zone, and he looks comfortable handling the puck below the goal line. Woo can either attack openings or create them himself by bobbing and weaving through traffic, and although he may not make many creative plays, he ensures the puck ends up in the right player's hands. He has a very strong upper body that gives him an advantage during puck battles. In terms of point production, Woo has a hard, accurate wrist shot and he won't hesitate to fire it from the circles. He'll pick up a lot more secondary assists than primary, more for his ability to spot the teammate who is in the best position to create a quality scoring chance. If there's one knock on Woo's overall game, it's that he seems to make the easy plays look difficult and the safe plays look flashier than they should be. He is a big hitter but toes that line between clean and dirty.

**61. Ryan Chyzowski, Center****Medicine Hat Tigers (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	251	127	61

**Player Data:** Born 05/14/98 in Kamloops, BC...6'0/183...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Chyzowski is a big, strong powerful center who could be the first WHL forward to get drafted this year. He was a key contributor for a Medicine Hat squad that was hammered with graduations, and his ability to wire a heavy shot with accuracy makes him a viable option for the wing. Chyzowski is your prototypical power forward with size who is strong on his skates and likes to handle the puck below the circles. He makes smart, subtle passes during cycles and doesn't always go for the safest, most-predictable route. Chyzowski has deceptive speed and can change direction quickly, but it's the way he anticipates puck direction that helps him gain a leg up on retreating defenders. He's a great option for the power play because he can be either an annoying net-front presence, or set up in the circle for a blistering one-timer. Chyzowski's overall understanding of the game is quite high for a power forward, and his deadly shot has proven to be a real difference maker.

**62. Curtis Douglas, Center/Wing****Windsor Spitfires (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	316	72	62

**Player Data:** Born 03/06/00 in Oakville, ON...6'9/248...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** The NHL looks as if it is trending away from bigger players, but it's not often you find a 6'9 forward with soft hands and deceptive quickness. Douglas was far from being simply a bulldozer who took advantage of smaller, teenage competition. He is a hard worker and makes smart, subtle plays in all three zones that make you wonder how a kid with his size can look both powerful and graceful at the same time. Douglas is quite versatile and can be deployed to achieve results in any in-game situation, plus he can play either center or wing. His straight-line speed is average but deceptive, and he has excellent tight-quarter mobility, which when combined with a strong understanding of the game allows him to outwait and out-think nervous opponents. This man-child was built for trench warfare but also has proven to excel in open ice. Of his 22 goals he scored between Barrie and Windsor, 21 came during 5v5.

**63. Ruslan Iskhakov, Center/Wing****Krasnaya Armiya (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	147	50	63

**Player Data:** Born 07/22/00 in Moscow, Russia...5'8/152...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** You have to wake up real early in the morning to even think about slowing down this undersized puck dynamo. Iskhakov is a tenacious and explosive skater with quick hands and excellent footwork who pivots like a pro and makes sharp cuts while moving at a high rate of speed. He is a flashy player who can beat you with a variety of shots delivered via deadly moves made close to the goal. Iskhakov also has pro-level vision and delivers his set-ups perfectly. He is a strong stickhandler and will get busy on the forecheck. Iskhakov also has a hard accurate shot with a quick release, and he still picks his corners while shooting off the pass. He has no problem taking the puck right to the net and draws a lot of penalties. Iskhakov is a very good playmaker who during the power play creates chances for all four of his teammates.

**64. Nils Lundkvist, Right Defenseman****Lulea (SHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	203	64

**Player Data:** Born 07/27/00 in Pitea, Sweden...5'11/173...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Lundkvist is a speedy puck mover with a lot of flair to his game, and the risks he takes appear to be both calculated and decisive. He's an excellent skater and playmaker who takes multiple ventures deep into opposing territory, but the overwhelming majority of them are timely. His defensive play is decent at best when you consider how often the puck is on his stick, but Lundkvist can be guilty of wandering too far from the slot and overcommitting to the strong side. He'll improve his play in the corners when he bulks up, but his few shortcomings are minor when you factor in his speed and puck skills. Lundkvist looked comfortable moving the puck against adult competition in Sweden, and his ability to distribute the puck with accuracy and an added element of surprise is why he's usually the go-to guy on the power play. Is he the Swedish version of Ryan Merkley? I would venture to say the two are closer than I had initially thought, and in a good way.

**65. Oskar Back, Center****Farjestad J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	71	65	65

**Player Data:** Born 03/12/00 in Karlstad, Sweden...6'3/205...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A big, rangy center with excellent agility and awareness, Back is the type of pivot that can be used to center a top power play unit or be a decisive penalty killer. He's stood out at several high-profile events, including the under-18 Five Nations Tournament last February and the recent under-18 world championship. Back causes matchup problems because his combined size and wingspan allows him to maintain possession of the puck for long periods of time. He's also quite active while down a man, using his stick to break up plays both in front of and behind the net. Back is more of a playmaker than a finisher, and he uses sharp pivots or stutter steps to buy him extra time in the offensive zone. He has excellent hands to deaden tough passes, and his one-timer is highly accurate. It seems cliché to compare every big center from Sweden's junior league to Anze Kopitar, but the way Back is glued to his man, sees the ice, wins big draws and can stickhandle around anyone reveals a player who has the potential to be a top-line center in the NHL.

**66. Blade Jenkins, Left Wing****Saginaw Spirit (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	98	73	66

**Player Data:** Born 08/11/00 in Jackson, MI...6'1/201...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Quick power forward who is strong on the puck and can release a deadly wrist shot from just about anywhere. Jenkins didn't have it easy on an improving Saginaw squad, but he wound up recording 39 of his 44 points away from the power play. He is a strong lad with a high compete level and nonstop motor, and his physicality and speed combine to create turnovers after simple dump-ins. Jenkins is a powerful skater but is quite sneaky for a kid with his measurements, as he uses his smarts to slip away from board battles at the right time and cock the hammer from inside either circle. His decision to leave the NTDP for the OHL appears to have been the right move, as Jenkins established himself as a top-line threat.

**67. Jonathan Gruden, Center/Left Wing****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	75	59	67

**Player Data:** Born 05/04/00 in Rochester Hills, MI...6'0/169...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A quick skater who requires only a stride or two to reach top speed, Gruden had a strong year on an NTDP squad that on paper seemed a bit top-heavy. Gruden is a dual-purpose winger in that he can play the role of either finisher or set-up man. He is deadly off the rush and executes odd-man rushes cleanly, and his hard, accurate shot keeps goalies honest as he closes towards the goal. Gruden can be very deceptive with the puck, such as using the boards for bank passes and dishing out behind-the-back feeds, both serving him well while playing on the power play. Although he isn't an overpowering force, Gruden proved to be useful in penalty-killing situations by keeping his feet moving, blocking shots and intercepting cross-ice passes.

**68. Sampo Ranta, Left Wing****Sioux City Musketeers (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	170	78	68

**Player Data:** Born 05/31/00 in Naantall, Finland...6'2/199...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Jersey-flapping Finnish winger with a deadly shot/speed combination who is one of the USHL's top rookie goal scorers. Ranta at this stage of his development is a one-trick pony, but similar things were said of some of the NHL's most feared snipers. Ranta has good size and balance, and powering down the wing with a full head of steam forces defenders to mistime their step-ups or retreat into the circles. He should be a fixture on any power play and counted on to create his own shot, but Ranta probably isn't the kid you would want on the ice to hold a lead. Now that Ranta's got the shooting thing down, he'll need to learn how to incorporate his linemates into the offense and make more high-percentage plays.

**69. Jan Jenik, Center/Left Wing****Benatky (WSM-Liga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	72	60	69

**Player Data:** Born 09/15/00 in Nymburk, CZE...6'1/171...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Jenik, a crafty player who is a net-front presence and does a lot of dirty work for his linemates. Tall yet wiry, Jenik revealed a proclivity for getting quality chances near the goal, and is a fixture on both the power play and on the penalty kill. His footwork is excellent, as he pivots and curls away from pressure before changing gears and darting up ice. Jenik competes in all three zones and will support his teammates in any zone, and once he has the puck, he'll play poised before using timely lead passes that trap opponents. He was quite productive last season for both Liberec in the Czech U20 junior circuit and Bentaky in the adult-age minor leagues, and was one of the top goal scorers at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka. The fact that he made 2018-draft eligibility on the absolute final day of shows you he's ready for the rigors of the elite Extraliga.

**70. Alexander Zhabreyev, Center****Dynamo St. Petersburg (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	168	69	70

**Player Data:** Born 03/24/00 in Chelyabinsk, Russia...5'7"/152...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** 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 it breakout up ice is the reward for his efforts.

**71. Matej Svoboda, Right Wing****Kometa Brno U20 (Extraliga Jrs.)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	124	71

**Player Data:** Born 07/12/00 in Brno, Czech Republic...6'0"/180...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Smooth-skating power forward with an excellent shot who causes defenders to back way into their own end, thus allowing him to exploit the added time and space. Svoboda has good size, but he's also thick and strong on his feet. He fires a hard, accurate shot, especially off the rush that forces goalies to either make a tough save or put a rebound into the slot. Svoboda is used on the penalty kill and has an active role, whereas his contributions on the power play are limited to one-timers, battles for loose pucks and establishing slot positioning for deflections. Like most physical wingers, Svoboda exerts a lot of energy throwing his weight around and is susceptible to occasional disappearing acts in the later stages of games. When he's on, however, he can be an unstoppable force.

**72. Aidan Dudas, Center****Owen Sound Attack (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	127	98	72

**Player Data:** Born 06/15/00 in Parry Sound, ON...6'0"/164...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Dudas is a speedster with excellent finishing skills and an assassin's approach towards reversing his team's fortunes. He may appear to be small in stature, but Dudas is quick like a cat in the neutral zone and makes short work of defenders who are too nonchalant with their breakouts. He's one of the better draft-eligible centers in terms of making plays on his backhand, so it should come as no surprise that he finished second only to Andrei Svechnikov in 5v5 scoring among OHL first-year draft eligibles. Even more impressive is that he produced consistently despite never playing on the top line or first power-play unit. Dudas is very competitive and gets involved in board battles. He's such a high-energy player that it's possible to overlook how powerful and accurate a shot he has.

**73. Martin Fehervary, Left Defenseman****Oskarshamm (Allsvenskan)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
55	105	66	73

**Player Data:** Born 10/06/99 in Bratislava, Slovakia...6'2/194...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A puck-moving defender with agility who plays a composed game with an occasional dose of abrasiveness, Fehervary in 2016 was the youngest import to ever appear in an SHL game when he plated for Malmo of the SHL. He has very good speed and is a smooth, fluid skater who can take the puck end-to-end. He plays on both the power play and on the penalty kill, and although he isn't a creative playmaker, Fehervary can stickhandle his way into scoring areas to draw attention away from his teammates. Fehervary's biggest strength is his balance – he is almost impossible to knock off the puck or shoulder out of position. He owns a very hard slapper and an accurate writer that he should use more often

**74. Niklas Nordgren, Right Wing****Helsinki IFK (SM-Liiga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	118	71	74

**Player Data:** Born 05/04/00 in Helsinki, Finland...5'9/169...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Stocky but slick winger with a boatload of skills and an infectious attitude who is developing a reputation as the kid you simply can't sleep on. At first glance, Nordgren looks like a pre-teen barely out of junior high school. But all it takes is one shift for him to make you realize how devastatingly advanced his stickhandling, sharp directional changes and finishing abilities are. Nordgren maintains a low center of gravity but packs a lot of power into his short stride. He plays fearless and will not hesitate to barrel his way towards the net while maintaining complete control of the puck. Nordgren has very soft hands and off the pass can fire either accurate shots or crisp touch passes. He can curl, toe drag or deke to buy some extra time and space, and he's clever enough to spot cutters or back-door options. For all his strengths, Nordgren's average straight-line speed is the only thing keeping him from being considered one of the elite wingers in this draft. Nonetheless, he was instrumental in leading Finland to capturing the under-18 world championship in April.

**75. Filip Johansson, Right Defense****Leksands J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	53	48	75

**Player Data:** Born 03/23/00 in Vasteras, Sweden...6'1/176...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Steady safety net of a defenseman who has very good mobility and provides quality support to a host of puck-rushing partners. Johansson has excellent lateral quickness and will maintain a tight gap while backskating, which when combined with a long reach makes getting around him quite laborious. He usually plays on the top pairing as a support defender for the more offensively inclined teammates, and his time on the power play is spent shooting his booming shot rather than creating. Johansson is an excellent passer in terms of accuracy and crispness, and he's poised enough to draw multiple forecheckers before making a home-run pass that springs his mates for an odd-man rush. He's a very good straight-line skater with quick feet that help him make rapid directional changes, and his closing speed reduces the number of times he has to contend with forward who has blown past him.

**76. Xavier Bouchard, Right Defenseman****Baie-Comeau Drakkar (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
34	25	46	76

**Player Data:** Born 02/28/00 in Trois-Riveres, QC...6'4/190...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Having good speed and a reliable overall game is exactly what the forward-centric attack of Baie-Comeau required of most of their defensemen, so it's no surprise that a puck mover like Bouchard at even strength had rather pedestrian point (12) and shot (51) totals at even strength. He is the epitome of being a jack-of-all-trades but a master of none, as he plays a composed game that requires little creativity or haste – Bouchard is a meat-and-potatoes defender who can be used in any situation at any time regardless of what the scoreboard reads. He has very good instincts in terms of making the right reads and decisions in the neutral zone, and having a long reach and imposing frame makes it difficult for opposing forwards to enter the zone cleanly. He can play on the power play but his shot is average, so the likelihood is that Bouchard tops out as a reliable top-pairing enabler who can be matched up against any opponent at any time.

**77. Toni Utunen, Left Defenseman****Tappara Tampere (SM\_Liiga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	57	62	77

**Player Data:** Born 04/27/00 in Kokkola, Finland...5'10/169...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Quick and slippery puck rusher with a nice first step who doesn't seem to like wasting time moving the puck from his zone to the next. Utunen the last two seasons has been a top-pairing fixture at most of the Finland's under-18 events, especially on the power play. But it was his play in the adult-aged Mestis where you saw some improvement in his one-on-one situations and net scrums. It is, however, during the man advantage where Utunen's skill set is on full display – speed, agility, timing plays, passing and shooting. He's very patient with the puck and will walk the line with frequency, using pump fakes to open up shooting lanes. Utunen is a bit of gambler in all three zones, meaning he'll pinch and drop down into the circles, dart for last passes at center, and look for the immediate breakout during opposing cycles.

**78. Nando Eggenberger, Left Wing****Davos (NLA)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
22	20	33	78

**Player Data:** Born 10/07/99 in Chur, Switzerland...6'2/198...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A power forward with skill and fairly good speed who at international events was leaned on to handle important duties, Eggenberger is a versatile winger who can be used in all situations thanks to his positioning, active stick and ability to read plays. But make no mistake – this kid is a sniper with a deadly shot/release combo. He is a hard worker who hustles and follows the puck appropriately while killing penalties and is a threat to score shorthanded, and he comes in handy on the power play as either a net-front presence or his off-wing for a one-timer from the circle. Eggenberger has improved his skating to the point where he can win footraces or get inside of a defender, but his stride is both short and choppy.

**79. Kirill Marchenko, Right Wing****Mamonty Yugry (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	191	209	79

**Player Data:** Born 07/21/00 in Barnaul, Russia...6'3/187...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** An aggressive two-way winger with size and speed who doesn't back down and fights relentlessly to win puck battles, Marchenko is a right shot who can play either flank. He's an in-your-face forechecker with a strong understanding of opposing intentions, and indecisive defenders are habitually forced into making ill-advised passes. He has quick hands and acute hand-eye coordination to knock down high clearing attempts that immediately can turn into chances. Marchenko can be a real load to handle since he plays an inside game and smartly determines whether it's better to keep the puck close to his body or extended beyond an opponent's reach. He boasts a hard, accurate shot and can pick the corners, but Marchenko can stutter-step his way towards the cage for a stuff-in or tuck. He also revealed excellent skate-to-stick transition and can handle a tough pass on the fly.

**80. Olivier Rodrigue, Goalie****Drummondville Voltigeurs (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	115	90	80

**Player Data:** Born 07/06/00 in Chicoutimi, QC...6'1/156...**Catches:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Don't let Rodrigue's size scare you away — this kid's reflexes, rebound control and post-to-post quickness are exceptional. He's an aggressive netminder who will dart out of the crease to defend shots from anywhere within his own end, and he's proven to safely steer high-danger shots either into the corners or far from the low slot. Rodrigue's stick is very active and times his poke checks very well, plus his ability to lock in on pucks throughout an entire cycle helps him interdict cross-crease passes from either corner. His glove hand and its positioning are a work in progress, which when coupled with a low silhouette makes him susceptible to get beaten upstairs, especially on the short side.

**81. Karel Plasek, Center/Right Wing****Prerov (WSM-Liga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	181	161	81

**Player Data:** Born 07/28/00 in Prerov, Czech Republic...5'10/154...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** 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.

**82. Cam Hillis, Center****Guelph Storm (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	215	172	82

**Player Data:** Born 06/24/00 in Oshawa, ON...6'0/168...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Tough two-way center with athleticism who does everything he's asked to do while chipping in consistent production. Hillis display a lot of skill with the puck, but it's his play away from it that makes him one of the draft's better 200-foot pivots. He has a team-first attitude and gives maximum effort in all three zones. You can count on Hillis to be covering up his own slot on one shift, only to cause havoc in front of the opposing goal the next. He has very good speed and carries the puck with confidence through all three zones. Hillis improved his game immensely as the season progressed, to the point where he was Guelph's most reliable scorer. He plays with a never-quit demeanor, plus he's capable of setting up quality scoring chances off of board battles. Hillis won over 50 percent of his draws and can run a power play as well.

**83. Gavin Hain, Center****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
44	121	126	83

**Player Data:** Born 04/03/00 in Grand Rapids, MN...5'11/194...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** One of the heroes of Grand Rapids' run to the Minnesota state crown, Hain had to settle into a role as a depth player on a pretty strong NTDP and picked it up in the second half after a slow start. He's an above-average skater who likes to stickhandle and weave his way into scoring areas rather than speed into them, and he has a deadly wrist shot that he can fire with pinpoint accuracy from either circle. Hain is very strong on his skates and can make plays with bodies draped over him, especially if he knows he has a trailer or cutter about to join him in the offensive zone. He can beat goalies with a wide selection of shots from either his forehand or backhand, and is very good distributing the puck on the power play. Hain is committed to play for the University of North Dakota.

**84. Jacob Bernard-Docker, Right Defenseman****Okotoks Oilers (AJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	122	84

**Player Data:** Born 06/30/00 in Canmore, AB...6'0/187...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Mobile defender with very strong puck skills and a hard shot who in December helped Team Canada-West win the World Junior "A" Challenge. Bernard-Docker is a fluid skater with quickness and a smooth stride who looks poised and calm as he glides up ice. Always looking to hammer the puck, Bernard-Docker owns a howitzer of a slapper, but his lethal wrister also makes goalies earn their paychecks. He makes accurate stretch passes, even off his back foot. From an offensive standpoint, Bernard-Docker is one of Junior A's better power play quarterbacks, and his ability to whip the puck around the horn with accuracy and authority was evident in both tournaments and during league play. He still gets caught out of position, especially up high when he roams too far from his slot duties. Compounding this problem is that he doesn't seem strong enough to out-muscle forwards of various sizes who beat him to the ever-important spot near the crease. Nonetheless, he has unlimited potential as a puck distributor and should be expected to compile points next season when he plays for the University of North Dakota.

**85. Liam Foudy, Center/Wing****London Knights (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	87	103	85

**Player Data:** Born 02/04/00 in Toronto, ON...6'0/174...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A gifted athlete who oozes athleticism, Foudy clearly is one of the draft's best straight-line skaters. It was an odd year for the normally talent-heavy Knights in that the team sold off practically all of its firepower up front, leaving room for youngsters like Foudy to showcase their skills under an expanded role. He's a very good stickhandler in traffic and knows how to change speeds to catch defenders flat footed or widen his stance to protect the puck. Strong on the puck, Foudy plays on both the power play and the penalty kill, and he is a threat to score on either one. He's a relentless forechecker and hounds puck carriers in all three zones. One thing you'll notice about Foudy is the way he can hammer rolling pucks with accuracy. It speaks to his overall gifts as an athlete, plus it accents how impressive he is when he incorporates agility, flexibility and endurance practically every shift. Filling out should be an offseason priority, but there's a good bet he'll be in the NHL in no more than two years.

**86. Anderson MacDonald, Left Wing****Moncton Wildcats (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
17	26	70	86

**Player Data:** Born 05/16/00 in Saint John, NB...6'2/209...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Power forward with goal-scoring abilities who finishes his checks and knows how to fill the net thanks to an excellent shot-release combination. MacDonald entered the season with a lot of expectations, especially after he was named to Team Canada for the under-18 Ivan Hlinka, and the glass-half-full types can say he answered the call, potting 27 goals in 58 games and cashing in regularly on the power play. He can play on the penalty kill and cause problems for opposing defenders during cycles and board battles, and he's at his best when he's assertive and establishing position in the low slot. His acceleration and straight-line speed are average, and he lacks a quick first step. But he makes up for them by having strong balance and being tough to knock off the puck. When he's engaged, he can be an unstoppable force.

**87. Jacob Pivonka, Center****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	83	56	87

**Player Data:** Born 02/28/00 in Olathe, KS...6'0/201...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** The apple didn't fall far from the tree in the case of this scorer, whose father Michal was a solid playmaker during a lengthy career with the Washington Capitals. Jake dishes the puck with both accuracy and authority, but he keeps goalies honest with a deadly shot that requires little backswing. One thing that definitely sets him apart from his father is his speed — Jake has excellent straight-line speed and a very quick first step. The stats don't do this quick two-way center justice, as the arrival of 2019 draft phenom Jack Hughes bumped Pivonka down Team USA's depth chart. Jake likes to play a fast-paced game, and he can score off the rush with a variety of moves. He's a hard worker with a good attitude and gives it his all every shift. Thick and sturdy, Pivonka heads to South Bend next fall to play for Notre Dame.

**88. Santeri Salmela, Left Defenseman****KooKoo (SM-Liiga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	221	110	88

**Player Data:** Born 06/10/00 in Lappeenranta, Finland...6'1/195...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Competent two-way defenseman with very good mobility who rarely makes unforced errors and can serve as the perfect compliment to a more aggressive and risk-taking partner. Salmela is a key contributor on offense for the way he controls the puck and makes timely pinches. Although he is a good skater with enough quickness to take the puck closer to the goal, Salmela likes to stay within himself and keep plays alive rather than kill them with uncontrolled or selfish actions. His point shot is both hard and accurate, and he'll fire pucks on net in one motion rather than overthink things. Defense, however, is the young defender's strong suit, as he is excellent positionally from the slot all the way into the opposing zone. He doesn't give up on plays and will hound puck carriers relentlessly, using heavy one-armed shoves and pins to neutralize a threat. Salmela is not a puck gazer and will staple himself to the low slot unless it's a near-death situation.

**89. Kristian Kovacik, Center****Dukla Trencin U20 (Slovak Extraliga Jrs.)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	285	186	89

**Player Data:** Born 06/20/00 in Trencin, Slovakia...6'0/183...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Electrifying center who is a dual pass/shoot threat and plays the game at a high rate of speed and effort. Kovacik is the best Slovak draft prospect playing outside of North America and should be given a look as a possible CHL import pick. He's a very good skater in every regard – speed, agility, balance, lateral movements and pivoting sharply. Kovacik uses his quickness as a tool to get himself into prime scoring areas, and he can make rapid cuts inside to increase the angle of his shot. He plays with a lot of intensity and doesn't shy away from physical contact, and is relentless on the puck. He was playing on Trencin's top line before being promoted to the parent club.

**90. Riley Sutter, Center/Right Wing****Everett Silvertips (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	56	67	90

**Player Data:** Born 10/25/99 in Calgary, AB...6'3/203...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Two-way power center that plays a punishing, hard-nosed game but can fill the net as well. Sutter spent most of the season centering Everett's second line and on the second power-play unit. He has good speed for his size and displays a long stride but has an average first step and lacks separation quickness. Sutter is defensively responsible, wins key faceoffs clean and backchecks hard, but also knows where to position himself once he doubles back into his own end. He consistently supports his defenders down low and uses his size and strength to knock opponents off the puck, especially during cycles. Sutter takes proper routes to the puck and anticipates direction extremely well, and he'll pivot quickly to buy himself an extra second or two. All these traits help him succeed on the penalty kill, and you can consider him one of the draft's best forwards while down a man. Sutter likes to drive towards the net but is nimble enough to stop on a dime and set himself up for his hard, accurate wrist shot, which he can score with from as far out as the tops of the circles. He's more of a finisher and net-front presence than a set-up guy, but his hard work and smarts combine to create lengthy possessions in the offensive zone.

**91. Ty Emberson, Right Defenseman****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	137	129	91

**Player Data:** Born 05/23/00 in Eau Claire, WI...6'1/200...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Solid puck rusher with size and strength who reads plays at an extremely high level and knows precisely when to attack. Emberson's combination of size and speed makes him a prospect with serious NHL upside. He loves to take the puck deep and makes the right choices, and he seems to identify and react properly when his partner is close to isolation. Emberson was a key cog to the NTDP's power play unit and has a high success rate with his zone entries. Smooth, calm and calculated with the puck, the Wisconsin-bound rearguard is strong on his skates and uses his upper-body strength to protect the puck extremely well. He also likes to step up in the neutral zone and deliver big hits. Emberson owns a hard shot and will join the rush and look to hammer the puck from the high slot. He is a solid prospect because he can tailor his style to suit either a run-and-gun or physical match. The NTDP blueline was loaded this year, so it's likely he puts up bigger numbers with an expanded role.

**92. Arttu Nevasaari, Right Wing****TPS U20 (Jr. A SM-Liiga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	108	61	92

**Player Data:** Born 01/23/00 in Oulu, Finland...5'11/179...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** A soft-mitted goal scorer with a deadly shot and nice touch around the net, Nevasaari was one of the top producers among first-year eligibles in Finland's best junior league. He scored with regularity at several international events, including the November under-18 Five Nations, where he led in goals. Nevasaari is a fixture on both the power play and the penalty kill, and he stays within himself by understanding his strengths as a goal scorer. He's very good at sniffing out an opportunity to get open and shoot, especially when he properly disengages from cycles to wait for a quick feed near the slot. He's an above-average skater who can outpace retreating defenders, but his balance allows him to fend them off if they catch up to him. Nevasaari can score in a manner of ways – backhands from in close, deflections, one-timers and through one-on-one screens. He's a one-trick pony at this point of his development, but few in this draft are better than he is at burying the puck.

**93. Matthew Struthers, Center****North Bay Battalion (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	245	222	93

**Player Data:** Born 12/26/00 in London, ON...6'2/209...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Power center with high hockey sense and a nice touch around the net to make up for average speed and quickness. Struthers among first-year draft eligibles was one of the OHL's top producers at even strength, recording 22 goals and 42 points during 5v5. The first thing you notice about Struthers is his size, but he's an excellent puck protector who can maintain possession of the puck with his head up while being hounded from behind. He's reliable in all three zones, can kill penalties and be both a facilitator on the power play. Although he isn't intimidating from a physical standpoint, Struthers will battle hard and wear down defenders with quick directional changes, accurate reverse passes and powerful drives to the net. He has a soft touch with passes from behind the cage and banks passes to the points with precision. He also has an underrated shot in terms of accuracy, and he takes high-percentage shots without hesitation.

## 94. Tyler Madden, Center

Tri-City Storm (USHL)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	82	94

**Player Data:** Born 11/09/99 in Albany, NY...5'11/150...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A swift-skating center committed to Northeastern with a nonstop motor and a strong understanding of the game, Madden was one of the USHL's top rookies and played superbly at both the USHL Top Prospects Game and the World Junior "A" Challenge. He's a tireless worker who excels in all three zones and gives you the same effort every shift. Madden, whose father John was a Selke-caliber forward that won Stanley Cups in New Jersey and Chicago, is a very good stickhandler and can carve up a zone defense with his patience, agility and an assortment of fakes and dekes. He takes straight-line routes to the net with little regard for his own safety. Madden is dangerous in open ice and can turn defensemen around with quick change of direction. He may not look imposing, but he's an inside player willing to pay the price to get as close to the goal as necessary. Madden is a threat to score on both the power play and the penalty kill, and has even succeeded as a net-front presence on the power play. He has a great attitude towards the game and treats every shift as if it were his last.

## 95. Luke Loheit, Right Wing

Minnetonka Skippers (HS-MN)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	142	154	95

**Player Data:** Born 07/26/00 in Minnetonka, MN...6'0/183...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** A high-energy power forward who was one of the top high schoolers from a talented pool of Minnesotans, Loheit was a key cog in Minnetonka winning the state tournament, where he displayed a bruising, punishing style that proved effective despite toeing the line between dirty and legal. Loheit is a pain to play against for a variety of reasons, with the most prominent being his abrasiveness. Still, the lad can skate, maneuver and either score around the net and finish plays off the rush. Loheit has an excellent shot and release but is patient enough to wait for goalies to bite before sniping one through an opening. He probably needs to tone down the post-whistle shenanigans, but they somehow contribute towards making him an effective agitator that knows how to produce. He's committed to Minnesota-Duluth and next season will play for the BCHL's Penticton Vees.

## 96. Adam Gajarsky, Right Wing/Center

Kometa Brno U20 (Extraliga)

## The Draft Analyst Rankings

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	124	93	96

**Player Data:** Born 03/14/00 in Kromeriz, Czech Republic...5'10/174...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Highly creative forward with speed who can make fancy plays with or without the puck thanks to his elite stickhandling and powerful shot. Gajarsky is part of Brno's loaded youth arsenal that includes the likes of 2017 first rounder Martin Necas and Czech National teammate Karel Plasek. He's been a fixture on the top line of all the key international tournaments and plays on the first power play unit. Gajarsky has great hands and can stickhandle around defenders, but he also can use a variety of fakes, spins and jukes to leave them flatfooted. Willing to pay the price to complete a play, Gajarsky is all over the puck and it always seems to find him. He can be used on the power play as a shoot-first option, but he's also incredibly agile and quick to thwart plays on the penalty kill.

**97. Alexander Khovanov, Center****Moncton Wildcats (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
24	32	32	97

**Player Data:** Born 04/12/00 in Saratov, Russia...5'11/198...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** An offseason illness contracted during a summer vacation in the Dominican Republic effectively cost this stellar playmaker a legitimate shot at being a first-round pick, as Khovanov missed almost six months from dealing with Hepatitis-A. He returned in December and took time to knock off the rust, but his vision and passing ability remained world class all season. Khovanov is an exceptional stickhandler and the timing of his passes makes you do a double take – mazes of sticks and legs don't prevent this pivot from putting one right on the tape, and Khovanov can thread the needle from anywhere on the ice. His skating at this point looks average, and although he can pivot on a dime in close quarters, his lack of straight-line speed and first-step quickness limits what he can do to impact the game. A rigorous summer workout should set the tone for what could be a breakout QMJHL season, so take last season's lack of explosiveness with a grain of salt. Still, Khovanov needs to be more engaged and competitive in order to reach his full potential.

**98. Giovanni Vallati, Defenseman****Kitchener Rangers (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
28	34	68	98

**Player Data:** Born 02/21/00 in Ottawa, ON...6'2/184...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A two-way defenseman with size and a howitzer for a shot, Vallati looks quite comfortable handling the puck and joining the rush. He possesses very good instincts and keeps a lot of plays alive, and on occasion will jump into the slot for a give-and-go or one-timer. Kitchener was a deep team this year that came close to winning the OHL title, and Vallati was a key part of that, logging close to 20 minutes a game and seeing significant time on the power play. He has quick feet and will fake side-to-side to open up shooting lanes, plus dish and drive for the net. Both his wrister and slapper give goalies a hard time, and he seems to communicate well with his forwards in order to set up chances. His overall defensive game is solid, but Vallati needs to improve the way he defends odd-man rushes and tends to back in too much at his own line. His straight-line speed is average and he has a short, choppy stride, but he is mobile and can lug the puck across center.

**99. Matej Pekar, Center/Left Wing****Muskegon Lumberjacks (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	276	148	99

**Player Data:** Born 02/10/00 in Turnov, Czech Republic...6'0/170...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A solid two-way forward with very good speed and plays hard in every inch of the ice, Pekar saw a lot of top-line duty with Muskegon, plus was utilized effectively on both the power play and penalty kill. Pekar's positioning is impeccable and he consistently evades detection to get his stick cocked and ready. Pekar is a dual threat that can set up plays off the cycle but also finish in open ice and bury chances at the side of the net. He's strong along the boards and will continue to battle for pucks even once he's lost possession, but also knows when it's time to release and get back to defend a counterattack. He played a key role for the Czech Republic at the under-18 world championships, where he was one of their top scorers. He also led all USHL first-year eligibles in even-strength scoring (41 points) and primary assists (19).

**100. Jack Drury, Center****Waterloo Black Hawks (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	156	159	100

**Player Data:** Born 02/03/00 in New York, NY...5'11/174...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Mature, hard-working center with NHL bloodlines whose top-end production is a byproduct of his ridiculous work ethic in every situation regardless of the score. Drury, whose father Ted spent the majority of his NHL career with the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, epitomizes the old school "lunch pail" type by hustling and fighting tooth and nail for the puck. He's a workhorse along the boards and usually beats his man to coveted real estate in front of the net. All that said, Drury is able to pile up an impressive point total from all the scoring chances his blood and sweat help create. Not only was Drury Team USA's best player at last summer's under-18 Ivan Hlinka tournament, but he also finished among the league leaders in scoring as a first-year draft eligible. He's very good on draws and can be both the main set-up guy on the power play and Chicago's most reliable penalty killer. Drury's speed and shot are both average, but he understands the game well enough to make the right reads and convert his opportunities. He is committed to Harvard.

**101. Demid Mansurov, Center****Belye Medvedi (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	153	101

**Player Data:** Born 08/09/00 in Chelyabinsk, Russia...6'3/183...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Power forward with average speed who can play either center or wing, Mansurov is very good on draws and is used for defensive-zone face-offs. He can act as a net-front presence on the power play and puts forth the effort to follow the puck's movement. Overall, Mansurov seems to understand the importance of defensive-zone coverage by sticking to his positioning and not leaving gaps the opponent can exploit. He uses his size effectively during cycles and board battles and will pivot back to feet a cutter or point man. He has very soft hands to cleanly handle tough cross-ice passes and hits the net with accuracy.

**102. Xavier Bernard, Left Defenseman****Drummondville Voltigeurs (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	294	87	102

**Player Data:** Born 01/06/00 in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC...6'3/202...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Big, powerful defender with decent speed and a wide stride who plays physical and looks to make big hits. Bernard spent most of the year on Drummondville's top pairing and first power-play unit, plus he chipped in as a crease clearer on the second penalty-killing team. He may look big and intimidating, but Bernard processes the game one shift at a time and can adapt to any situation. He is very good at standing up at his own line, and forwards who try to sneak past him either get poke checked back to center or end up pasted to the boards. Bernard is very good at clearing the puck without icing it, but is poised enough to outwait pressure in order to initiate the breakout. Physicality is a big part of Bernard's game, and he seems to get under opponents' skin. He will mug and mash forwards in the corners in addition to making their lives miserable with a long, active stick. Bernard can be overly aggressive, however, and vacate his positioning that ultimately exposes his partner. The gambles he takes on offense can pay off, and his hard, accurate passing and booming shot with little backswing make him an asset during the man advantage.

**103. Kevin Mandolese, Goalie****Cape Breton (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	92	91	103

**Player Data:** Born 08/22/00 in Blainville, QC...6'4/177...**Catches:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** It's a good thing that teenage goalies don't fall under the old Bill Parcells football edict, "you are what your record says you are." Mandolese is a promising netminder that had the misfortune playing behind a pathetic defense, who subjected him to third and fourth chances with regularity. His athleticism for his size and aggressiveness play against him at times, especially when the slot is habitually left uncovered and he's doubling the efforts normally seen from a goalie with a good defense corps protecting him. Still, his initial post-save recovery is excellent and both his blocker and glove hand are very quick. He likes to play deep in his crease and is an average puck handler. When you consider his age and how he's probably not done growing, there's a chance he's the first goalie taken at the draft.

**104. Angus Crookshank, Right Wing/Left Wing****Langley Rivermen (BCHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	214	104

**Player Data:** Born 10/02/99 in North Vancouver, BC...5'10/181...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A New Hampshire commit, Crookshank is a dual-threat winger who can create plays as well as he can finish them. He was one of Canada West's top players at the World Junior "A" Challenge, and he is a strong skater with good speed and is difficult to knock off the puck. Once in full flight, Crookshank maintains control of himself and doesn't look like an erratic player who will make low-percentage plays — he will stop on a dime with his head up to look for cutters or make a quick directional change towards the cage. Once he's inside the circles, Crookshank can unload a lethal shot with an incredibly quick release, but also has a high success rate when he takes the puck strong to the net, especially when he goes to his backhand. As good a goal scorer as he is, Crookshank has excellent vision and is capable of executing passes that lead to quality scoring chances. He's very shifty and elusive in tight quarters, and rarely do you see him buckle under the pressure of collapsing space. Crookshank is very strong on the puck when either static or moving towards the net, and he is smart enough to shift his weight in order to maintain control while warding off harassing defenders.

**105. Vojtech Doktor, Right Defense****Ceske Budejovice U20 (Extraliga Jrs.)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	Not Ranked	105

**Player Data:** Born 03/28/00 in Eden Prairie, MN...6'0/170...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** A smart, poised defender with the puck, Doktor plays a smothering brand of defense that mixes physicality with rapid closing speed. He ventures deep into the offensive zone to keep plays alive, but his contributions on offense had more to do with the frequency of his takeaways and eliminating entries at the blue line, so don't expect to see much of any end-to-end rushes or a bunch of fakes inside the slot area. Doktor plays a clean, sound game centered on neutralizing threats before the puck enters his own end. He fronts his man off the puck, then quickly reverses to ensure loose pucks aren't buried. Doktor jumps his stick into lanes quickly to create turnovers, and he has a quick first step to quickly transition from defense to offense. He is a crisp outlet passer who connects on the tape, and has a hard shot that forces rebounds. He may not have the creativity gene, but Doktor is highly active in the offensive zone and has strong endurance to play effectively at the end of long shifts.

**106. Jacob Ragnarsson, Left Defenseman****Altumna (Allsvenskan)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	80	106

**Player Data:** Born 09/23/00 in Mountain View, CA...6'0/176...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Ragnarsson is a mobile blueliner with very good speed and a hard shot who held his own as a depth defenseman in Sweden's top minor league. If the last name rings a bell, it's because his father Marcus was an NHLer with the San Jose Sharks. Jacob is a bit like his old man in terms of his skating ability, balance and agility. He accelerates well in open ice and is capable of using a variety of shots as he skates closer to the net. He was reserved at times, which is understandable considering his age on an experienced team. The good news is that he showed the potential of a decisive puck mover who can skate and create off the rush. Ragnarsson is a smart kid who makes the right reads and times his pinches perfectly. On defense, he keeps rushers within arm's distance and can close like a Venus Fly Trap before swiping away the puck and motoring up ice. You can tell his father taught him well, as Jacob appears to be a student of the game based on little things like playing proper angles, communicating with his goalie during dump-ins and holding on to the puck to facilitate a change.

**107. Jeremi Gerber, Right Wing****Bern U20 (Elite Jr. A)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	207	107

**Player Data:** Born 03/01/00 in Bern, Switzerland...6'1/185...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Goal-scoring power winger with good size who had a strong season producing in Switzerland's top junior league. Gerber is a multi-use forward who makes money on the power play due to a hard, rising shot that he hammers off the pass with accuracy. Gerber seems to end up with at least three to four quality scoring chances per game, and he maintains a low center of gravity while controlling the puck near the net. He's very reliable on breakouts and is an accurate passer, and he is willing to take a beating deep in his own zone in order to slip the puck onto the stick of a teammate who is looking to breakout. Gerber is strong on his skates and tough to shove off the puck but his overall speed is average.

**108. Gustav Lindberg, Left Wing****Linkoping J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	109	104	108

**Player Data:** Born 12/14/99 in Enkoping, Sweden...5'10/172...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Crafty offensive player with good speed and a deadly shot/release combination who likes to hammer the puck from just about anywhere. Lindberg is a threat to score every time he hits the ice and knows how to get into position to unload his elite shot. He's a strong skater in terms of balance but his straight-line quickness and agility are average. Still, Lindberg likes to handle the puck and is capable of making fancy plays with a high degree of difficulty. This gets him into trouble in the turnover department and the problem is exacerbated when he doesn't give maximum effort on his backchecks. He's such an excitable player, however, that teams should be willing to overlook his warts and work to develop him into an elite goal scorer.

**109. William "Billy" Moskal, Center****London Knights (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	116	163	109

**Player Data:** Born 03/22/00 in Sudbury, ON...6'0/185...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Underrated two-way center with a high compete level whose season really took off after London shipped away its front-line talent. Moskal is a cerebral pivot who can be counted on to perform a myriad of tasks, including killing penalties, taking key faceoffs and being matched up against opposing top lines. He also was one of the OHL's best when it came to draws (57%) There is a lot more to his game than checking, however, and Moskal showed he creates chances at even strength without the benefit of an elite player flanking him. He has very good speed and agility, and his soft hands help him control bouncing pucks or deaden long breakout passes. An underrated aspect of his game is his shot – Moskal gets a lot of velocity on his wrist when he chooses to use it. Tough and hard-nosed, he has the potential to be a lot more than just a defensive forward, especially when you consider how little power play time he saw and that 23 of his 26 points (19 at 5v5) came in the last 34 games of the season.

**110. Mathias Pettersen, Center****Muskegon Lumberjacks (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
42	35	108	110

**Player Data:** Born 04/03/00 in Manglerud, Norway...5'10/170...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Strong Norwegian import who mixes in a good helping of skill to an approach built on tireless effort and physicality. Pettersen, who is committed to Denver, is tough to knock down and finishes his checks, and he'll even hammer bigger opponents down to the ice. Once he has control of the puck, Pettersen is a solid stickhandler who rapidly changes direction and makes the most of his brief moments in open ice. His decisiveness once he crosses the red line is apparent in the way he times his dumps-ins rather than careless hand possession over to the other team. This leads to a lot on in-your-face moments with opposing defenders who end up either turning the puck over or get caught defending a lengthy cycle. Still, Pettersen can enter the zone cleanly and with options already identified, with one being a strong power move to the net that forces the goalie into making a tough save.

**111. Vladislav Kotkov, Left Wing/Right Wing****Chicoutimi Saguenens (QMJHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	119	83	111

**Player Data:** Born 01/08/00 in Moscow, Russia...6'4/206...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Big, lumbering power forward who plays smart and sneaky. Kotkov is very elusive for a larger forward, using quick pivots and sidesteps to freeze opponents. Kotkov is offensively gifted and exploits his combination of size and puck skills to present opponents with a difficult player to wargame. His transition from Europe to major junior was pretty seamless, and he was a key cog in Chicoutimi's attack. Kotkov will get in on the forecheck and apply pressure, but most of the turnovers he creates are from his long reach and anticipation. He has soft hands and receives passes cleanly, and in transition can wire the puck immediately off the pass. Kotkov has average straight-line speed but a long stride that helps him cover ground, and he is a smart route taker and good stickhandler that helps him avoid traffic. Kotkov's wrist shot is his bread and butter, so he's the perfect option for the power play. You'd like to see a consistent effort on a shift-to-shift basis, plus diversify his game to include penalty killing and late-game defensive-zone draws.

**112. Mikhail Bitsadze, Center****HK MVD (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
50	76	95	112

**Player Data:** Born 11/18/99 in Tambov, Russia...5'11/167...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Speedy two-way center with a nonstop motor and strong playmaking skills whose season was hampered by the injury bug. Bitsadze has been a first or second-line center for Team Russia at several under-17 and under-18 events, including the 2016 Ivan Hlinka, where he was one of the top scorers. He's incredibly swift, nimble and agile, using sharp pivots and cutbacks to create time and space. Bitsadze is dangerous in open ice and likes to incorporate all his teammates into the attack; especially trailing defenders during odd-man rushes. He darts up the ice with excellent speed and acceleration, and he can be quite creative and flashy without putting himself in a precarious situation. Bitsadze likes to handle the puck a lot, and his entries generally are clean and calculated. He is a threat to circle the net and spot backdoor or cutting options, but he too can shift towards the cage and wire an accurate shot. You can use Bitsadze in just about any situation no matter the score or time left on the clock.

**113. Kody Clark, Right Wing****Ottawa 67's (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	276	148	113

**Player Data:** Born 10/13/99 in Chicago, IL...6'1/179...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Power center with a sound scoring touch that fights tooth and nail for his scoring opportunities. Kody, who is the son of former Maple Leafs fan favorite Wendel Clark, is a very good stickhandler and has strong balance to make entering the zone easier than for most forwards and even though it takes him more than a stride or two to get going, he covers ground quickly. He plays a complete 200-foot game and can provide energy shifts to set the tone early by throwing his weight around and getting dirty in the corners. Clark is more of a finisher than a set-up man, and he owns a hard slapper and accurate wrist shot that he can whip off the pass during odd-man rushes. One thing you can count on is Clark paying his dues in board battles, and he has the mental make-up and drive to be a fine role player at the highest level.

**114. Danil Zhuravlyov, Left Defenseman****Irbis Kazan (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	201	157	114

**Player Data:** Born 04/08/98 in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia...6'0/163...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Confident offensive defenseman with a booming shot and very good mobility who was the main power-play point man for both Irbis and Russia at their main under-18 international events. Zhuravlyov from the blue line is a point-producing machine thanks to the velocity he gets on his attempts at the net. He rarely turns down the chance to shoot the puck, and if he does, it's to move even closer to the goal. Zhuravlyov is an agile skater with first-step quickness and the ability to go coast-to-coast, and his catch-up speed and backskating are among the best of all draft-eligible defenseman. He gets creative with the puck once he drops down below the circles, but most of the time it's to set himself up for a bomb. If not, he can pump-fake a goalie well out of position and dish it to an open teammate at the side of the yawning net. Zhuravlyov makes smart decisions with or without the puck and should be groomed to be one of Russia's lead defensemen for next year's under-20 world junior hockey championship.

**115. Curtis Hall, Center****Youngstown Phantoms (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	213	96	115

**Player Data:** Born 04/26/00 in Princeton, NJ...6'3/200...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Strong, powerful two-way center with speed who can finish in a variety of ways. It feels like you can count on Hall to get at least one breakaway per game in addition to the three or four odd-man rushes he initiates. His overall puck skills are good for a kid who is willing to play physical, and most of his shifts are spent buzzing opposing defenders who are looking to break out. Hall, who is committed to Yale, is more of a finisher than a playmaking pivot, but his size, instincts and speed make him valuable on both the penalty kill and late in games.

**116. Ryan O'Reilly, Right Wing****Madison Capitols (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	315	106	116

**Player Data:** Born 03/21/00 in Southlake, TX...6'2/201...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Power winger with size, speed and a slew of dekes and dangles to get him as close to the goal as possible. O'Reilly, who is committed to Denver, may look a big and imposing brute, but he has incredibly soft hands and is capable of making and finishing plays with a high degree of difficulty. To top it all off, he has a deadly accurate shot that can knock a goalie off his skates. Problems with consistency and decision making usually go hand in hand with teenager power forwards, so it's not the end of the world if O'Reilly pulls the occasional disappearing act.

**117. Kyle Topping, Center****Kelowna Rockets (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	237	99

**Player Data:** Born 11/18/99 in Salt Spring Island, BC...5'11/185...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Top-six center for Kelowna who had very good chemistry with 2017 Canucks draftee Kole Lind. The duo spent a lot of time together on both the power play and at even strength, with Topping acting as the primary puck carrier and distributor. He's a powerful, upright skater with a short stride who enters the zone with speed and authority, and he's extremely tough to knock off the puck once he's established his footing inside opposing territory. Topping can shoot the puck with accuracy and executes clean give-and-goes with his linemates. He's effective on the power play because he can thread the needle from across the ice or behind the net, and he's willing to establish position in the crease to look for tip-ins and rebounds. Topping is not as flashy or creative by himself than he was while playing with Lind, so take his 42 points at even strength with a grain of salt.

**118. Michael Callahan, Left Defenseman****Youngstown Phantoms (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	277	123	118

**Player Data:** Born 09/23/99 in Franklin, MA...6'2/191...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Mobile two-way defenseman with a very hard shot who looks to transition the puck with his wheels or hard, crisp breakouts. Callahan is a very good straight-line skater who loves to join the rush and play aggressive inside the opposing zone, but the timeliness of his pinches and step-ups reveal a thinking-man's defender who can be counted on to do a lot more than just hammer pucks. Nonetheless, his shot is quite impressive, and he gets a lot of mustard on his wrister or slapper off his back foot. Callahan can play physical and uses his size, reach and leg drive to eliminate zone entries at the line. He plays a clean, disciplined game and avoids taking unnecessary stick fouls by making the proper reads and beating opposing forwards to the critical spot. Callahan is an excellent backskater and knows how to time his hip checks and lateral movements. The native Bay Stater is committed to Providence College.

**119. Krystof Hrabik, Center****Benatky (WSM-Liga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	54	88	119

**Player Data:** Born 09/24/99 in Prague, Czech Republic...6'4/209...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Hrabik is a massive two-way center and penalty killer extraordinaire who can be counted on to take key defensive-zone draws and be matched up against top players. A big-bodied shutdown center with developing skills to contribute among the top-six, Hrabik last season was one of a handful on 2018-eligibles to play in both the elite Extraliga and adult-age WSM-Liga, where he produced an impressive 15 points in 32 games. He has good speed and controls the puck with his head up at all times, and he's improved his creativity once he's inside the zone. Hrabik has a hard, accurate shot and can fire it off the rush, and his overall puck skills and skating are slightly above average for someone considered to be a defensive-minded power forward. Hrabik also is very good on faceoffs, and his combination of defensive prowess and size makes him a good insurance policy late in games.

**120. Nikita Rtishchev, Right Wing****Krasnaya Armiya (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	117	112	120

**Player Data:** Born 05/23/00 in Elektrostal, Russia...6'1/191...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Effective three-zone winger with size, smarts and a deadly shot who uses his length and reach to his advantage. Play during cycles and board battles turns laborious for opponents, who have a difficult time knocking him off the puck and end up retreating in failure to the slot. What separates Rtischev from your average draft prospect is his ability to identify and connect with the teammate who has the better look on goal — he has very good vision and times his drop or lead passes extremely well. A confident puck carrier, Rtischev is a fluid skater with quickness who can stutter-step his way past defenders or cut it back to kill time off the penalty he's killing or wait for his mates to change. He has an excellent shot with a quick release, but you'd like to see him use it more. The good thing is that when he doesn't have the puck, Rtischev will go to the net and battle for positioning. He's not the most physical player, but he didn't back down from challenges or look averse to taking a hit to complete a play.

**121. Jachym Kondelik, Center****Muskegon Lumberjacks (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
31	69	92	121

**Player Data:** Born 12/21/99 in Hannover, Germany...6'6"/226...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A UConn-bound power forward who can fill a variety of roles, Kondelik has been a regular addition to most of the recent Czech rosters at international tournaments, including the gold-medal-winning Ivan Hlinka squad in 2016. He had a slow start to his season before getting injured, then returned with a vengeance to score eight points in his first 10 games back. He is a very good stickhandler and an absolute menace in the corners while protecting the puck. Kondelik also owns a booming shot, which landed him on point duty during the power play. He has a very soft touch and can connect with linemates through traffic in any zone. He's far from turbo charged, but Kondelik is a graceful skater for a big man who pivots quickly and can escape from quicker defenders.

**122. Axel Andersson, Right Defenseman****Djugardens J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	114	76	122

**Player Data:** Born 02/10/00 in Jarna, Sweden...6'0"/178...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Smooth-skating blueliner with a pro-level shot who performed a lot better in league play than he did for Sweden at all the notable under-18 international events. Andersson has very good overall puck skills and can dictate the tempo of a game with his speed, stickhandling and shot. He was a mainstay on Djugarde's power play and would be summoned for all late-game offensive zone draws. Always looking to create offense, Andersson loves to join the rush, and is poised under a heavy forecheck to split the zones with accurate home run passes; either up the middle or lengthy bank passes. The problem with Andersson is his "half court" game, where he gets caught chasing and releasing at the wrong times during opposing cycles, then makes the wrong reads inside the offensive zone. This type of gambling can pay off in junior hockey, but it will catch up with him eventually. He gets turned around quite a bit defending one-on-one rushes, but he makes up for losing a step by having solid catch-up speed and finishing his checks with authority.

**123. Libor Zabransky, Right Defenseman****Kelowna Rockets (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	63	74	123

**Player Data:** Born 05/26/00 in Brno, Czech Republic...6'1"/190...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** One of the top junior-aged defensemen in the Czech Republic who had an up-and-down year as a rookie in the WHL, Zabransky, whose dad Libor played in the NHL, is a two-way rearguard who likes to jump into the play and fire pucks on net. He's more offensively inclined than shutting down plays in his own end, but his one-on-one play and decision making steadily improved over the course of the second half. This type of late-season consistency is common for European-born defensemen who initially struggle adapting to the North American game. Although he's not the classic physical type, He was far more aggressive and assertive as the season progressed, and he used his wheels, long reach and anticipation skills to force turnovers and transition up ice. The potential is there for Zabransky developing into a reliable puck mover on a middle pairing, and his play and production as team captain for the Czech Republic shows he can handle the big minutes and key responsibilities.

**124. Eric Florchuk, Center****Saskatoon Blades (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	309	198	124

**Player Data:** Born 01/10/00 in Edmonton, AB...6'2/175...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A speedy multi-use 200-foot center who found a way to distinguish himself on a thin roster, Florchuk was traded midseason from Victoria to Saskatoon, where his production nearly doubled. He's more of a playmaker than a finisher, which is why he looked quite comfortable on the Blades' second power play unit. Florchuk also killed penalties and displayed a nonstop motor and lateral quickness that forced a lot of turnovers. Fast, aggressive and heady, he likes to create havoc on the forecheck and battle for pucks in the corners. You can count on Florchuk to make smart passes from board scrums, and he's willing to pay the price for establishing position near the net. He has very soft hands and can make difficult plays look easy, especially inside the maze of skates and sticks in the low slot.

**125. Damir Bilyalov, Left Wing****Krasnaya Armiya (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	104	111	125

**Player Data:** Born 02/16/00 in Moscow, Russia...5'9/172...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Quick and slippery with excellent puck skills, Bilyalov shows no fear as he takes inside routes to get closer to the net. When he gets there, he can whistle a quick shot with a rapid release. He's also a capable playmaker and will sneak tape-to-tape passes through clogged lanes. Bilyalov is a dangerous player from the circles inward, where he executes give-and-go's and set-ups off the cycle. He has soft hands and can handle bouncing puck with ease. His diminutiveness shouldn't scare teams away, and he made the most of limited minutes on a deep Krasnaya Armiya squad.

**126. Alexander Romanov, Left Defenseman****Krasnaya Armiya (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	94	126

**Player Data:** Born 01/06/00 in Moscow, Russia...5'11/185...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Romanov is a powerful skater who combines size and speed into one strong package. Ever the opportunist, the teenage defender consistently looks to either join a rush or create one himself with either his legs or with deadly accurate stretch passes. You have to keep an eye on him during dump-ins, as Romanov pivots quickly with his head up and can catch opponents in a line change. He can be used in every situation (Power play, penalty kill, late/close draws) and displays reliability in all three zones. Romanov finds openings once inside the opposing blue line thanks to quick feet, awareness and showing a strong desire to gain control of the puck. He has a devastating shot — wrist or slap — and can score from distances well above the circles. From a physical standpoint, Romanov looks to make jarring hits in open ice but without needing to travel across a big patch of ice to deliver hit. His upper body is very strong, and in close-quarter puck battles he was able to outmuscle opponents of all sizes. Play during one-on-ones is relatively solid, as he shows a proclivity for staying tight with his man near the blue line and closing with speed and an active stick.

**127. Nathan Dunkley, Center****London Knights (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	134	117	127

**Player Data:** Born 03/05/00 in Cobourg, ON...5'11/192...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Solid 200-foot forward who was one of the OHL's top producers among first-year eligibles. Dunkley plays an aggressive style and likes to incorporate physicality into his forechecking. He's the type of player that plays way bigger than his listed measurements, only he has quick hands and eyes in the back of his head to create chances off forced turnovers. Dunkley's speed is above average, but it seems like his quickness intimidates retreating defenders since they know they are going to get hit. He has a very good snap and wrist shot but doesn't use it enough, and he likes to pass the puck back to points more than he should. Dunkley isn't the most creative player, but the potential for a long NHL career will continue to grow as long as he continues to display the kind of consistent effort all coaches love.

**128. Brendan Budy, Left Wing/Center****Langley Rivermen (BCHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	314	321	128

**Player Data:** Born 06/06/00 in Langley, BC...5'10/178...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Speedy playmaker who can play either center or wing and will play for the University of Denver. One of Junior A's top offensive threats, Budy is a dangerous player with a considerable amount of moves to create chances. He can be either a playmaker or a shooter, depending on the situation. This makes him tough to war game, especially off the rush or in odd-man situations, where he can bring his hard, accurate shot to bear once he gets close enough into the circles. If not, Budy uses his crafty passing skills to carve up defenders who make the mistake of cheating towards the strong side. Budy is neither big nor physical, but his vision is excellent and he seems quite comfortable dictating play in the offensive zone. He can make plays off his backhand, especially during board battles, and the timing and accuracy of his saucer passes are impressive. Budy doesn't shoot the puck often, but when he does, he reveals a quick, accurate shot and can pick the corners with regularity. More of a finesse player than anything else, Budy is a power-play specialist and one of the BCHL's top draft-eligible players.

**129. Lukas Wernblom, Wing/Center****MoDo J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	79	97	129

**Player Data:** Born 07/22/00 in Ornskoldsvik, Sweden...5'9/165...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Highly skilled forward who can fill a variety of roles thanks to his natural talent and hard-nosed approach. Wernblom can score just about any type of goal conceivable to man. He has a very hard wrist shot, shoots accurately off the pass, and will dig in for crease battles to tip pucks home or knock in rebounds. Wernblom can be used on the penalty kill with effectiveness because he 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. Wernblom is an excellent passer with keen vision, and he always has his head up looking for the home-run pass. He is also a very good stickhandler and can weave his way in and around traffic in order to enter the zone cleanly. He can play a little erratic at times, but he's probably be ranked higher had it not been such a deep, strong crop of Swedish forwards.

**130. Jacob Ingham, Goalie****Mississauga Steelheads (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
53	65	100	130

**Player Data:** Born 06/10/00 in Barrie, ON...6'4/191...**Catches:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Ingham entered the season as one of the top draft prospects among goalie and has found a way to maintain his standing despite showing critical technical flaws in his net awareness and glove-hand positioning. The good news is that Ingham's coverage of the lower half of the net is outstanding, and his flexibility and range of motion allow him to stop second and third chances, specifically if there's a radical directional change. The width of his butterfly flare looks appealing, and Ingham's feet appear to be planted and set when squaring himself to the shooter. Unfortunately, his glove hand is not quick enough for it to be position as low as he keeps it, especially when crouched low and deep inside the crease.

**131. Spencer Stastney, Left Defenseman****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	325	217	131

**Player Data:** Born 01/04/00 in Woodbridge, IL...5'10/180...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Underutilized puck-moving playmaker from the blue line who made the most of his bottom-pairing minutes on what some consider to be the deepest NTDP blue line in several years. Stastney is a very good skater with excellent agility and smarts. He loves to carry the puck with speed through the neutral zone and take the puck deep into opposing territory. Stastney feeds off his forwards well, and anticipates when he's expected to jump into a gap with the hammer cocked. He's also a battler who doesn't give up on plays and will continue to shove cycling forwards with authority. Stastney, who is committed to the University of Notre Dame, has a hard, low shot that he puts on net with regularity. He can act as an instant breakout and beat back the most aggressive of forechecks.

**132. Yegor Stepanov, Center****Belye Medvedi (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	Not Ranked	132

**Player Data:** Born 02/03/00 in Russia...5'8/150...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Undersized center with excellent puck skills and an aggressive style of play that seems to drive opponents crazy. Stepanov is a gifted stickhandler and playmaker who is quick on his feet and makes a habit out of avoiding fast defenders. He is very patient with the puck and seems perfectly content drawing a double team so he can slip a neat pass to an open teammate at the very last second. He's displayed a variety of successful shootout moves and can roof a backhand from the lip of the goalmouth. Stepanov is dominant at the faceoff circle, winning 58 percent of his draws. As tough as he tries to play, he is not very strong on his skates and can appear to be more of an outside player than one willing to cut in and take a beating. Still, he's one of the top set-up men in Russia's top junior league and has unlimited potential.

**133. Adam Samuelsson, Left Defenseman****U.S. U18 (NTDP)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	237	86	133

**Player Data:** Born 06/21/00 in Rye, NY...6'6"/240...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Bruising stay-at-home defender with good mobility and a penchant for delivering huge hits. Adam is the newest installment of Ulf Samuelsson's offspring that is trying to develop into an NHL regular. Adam is quite solid in his own end, but only after the puck enters the zone. His reach and upper-body strength serve him well when trying to defend against a cycle, and he doesn't need a skating start to obliterate opponents into the boards. Samuelsson is a decent skater with good lateral mobility, and he improved his closing speed. He also takes the right angles and is strong enough to slow down rushers in full flight by barely touching them

**134. Liam Kirk, Left Wing****Sheffield Steelers (EIHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	167	134

**Player Data:** Born 01/03/00 in Rotherham, England...6'0"/160...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Swift and dangerous scoring winger who may very well become the best player to ever come out of any British hockey circuit. Kirk is a pure finisher with an excellent shot and wheels that allowed him to make minced meat out of adult-aged opponents. He's very strong on his skates and has phenomenal acceleration speed. Kirk is very difficult to contain when he's in full flight, and he keeps his head up to identify additional options aside from firing one on net himself. He is a strong stickhandler and can maintain full control of the puck as he cuts and weaves around traffic while moving at a high rate of speed. Kirk, who also kills penalties and is a constant breakaway threat any time he is on the ice, has proven too elite a prospect for the teenage international circuit and could be a high CHL import pick immediately after the NHL Draft.

**135. Alexander Steeves, Right Wing/Center****Dubuque Saints (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	377	200	135

**Player Data:** Born 12/10/99 in St. Paul, MN...5'11"/186...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Steeves is a two-way power forward with very good speed and a deadly shot who has played on Dubuque's top line for most of the season. The Notre Dame commit is used on the top unit of the Fighting Saints' power play and penalty kill, and he is a threat to score in either situation. Steeves' shot is very heavy and creates a lot of rebounds, but he's quick enough to drop the shoulder and skate past matador defenders to increase the quality of his scoring chance. He can play a physical, tenacious style and knows what to do to turn a harmless dump-into a lengthy possession or a clean look on goal.

**136. Alec Regula, Right Defenseman****London Knights (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	250	146	136

**Player Data:** Born 08/06/00 in West Bloomfield, MI...6'4/203...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Rugged blueliner with very good mobility and a hard shot who played a key role on a young London squad that at midseason saw almost half its roster change. His shot is one of the best in the draft in terms of both velocity and accuracy, plus he knows how to move the puck out of trouble from his own end. He saw a lot of time on the power play alongside Evan Bouchard, and he looked quite comfortable in a support role as his more-heralded teammate ran the show. Regula displays quick feet and agility when dealing with a heavy forecheck, which obviously doesn't intimidate him from a physical standpoint. He's always willing to take a hit to move the puck, but he too can either spin away from pressure or outwait a pesky forward in order to buy time and space. Regula is a quick outlet passer who looks for the home run, and he has a penchant for making timely plays when they are needed most. He stands firm at his own line and makes it very difficult for opponents to enter the zone.

**137. Riley Stotts, Center****Calgary Hitmen (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	188	180	137

**Player Data:** Born 01/05/00 in Winnipeg, MB...6'0/172...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Very good stickhandler who uses his upper-body strength to shove players off the puck to quickly transition up ice. Stotts is a very good skater with excellent agility and straight-line speed. He is very calm and poised with the puck and always appears to look comfortable under the toughest of circumstances. He can be fancy with toe drags and dangles or simply make a sharp direction change in order to avoid traffic. Stotts owns a very good wrist shot and can pick the top corner with regularity. He also understands his role as a center and defensive requirements inherent in the position. He makes very good reads towards passes to the opposing points and breaks up a lot of shot attempts. Behind his own net, Stotts is very calculated and lures defenders towards him before flipping or banking one to an open teammate. There are too many superlatives to fit in a scouting report to describe his game, but he could end up becoming either a later-round gem or one who shoots up into the first or second round.

**138. Oliver Okuliar, Left Wing****Dukla Trencin U20 (Slovakia Jrs.)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	143	138

**Player Data:** Born 05/24/00 in Trencin, Slovakia...6'1/191...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Abrasive power forward with strong compete level and the ability to control the puck for what seems like minutes on end. Okuliar is one of the top Slovakian-trained draft prospects and has done extremely well at international events, including eight points in five games at the under-18 world championship. He is a very good straight-line skater and can maneuver past static checkers, but his balance should be better for someone who tries to play a physical style. Nonetheless, Okuliar competes hard in all three zones, kills penalties well and is willing to pay a price to either start or finish plays. He has very soft hands to corral tough feeds, and he can really rip the puck off the pass. He needs to clean up his puck management a bit, but it seemed like he was constantly involved in scoring chances that he created out of nothing.

**139. Lenni Killinen, Right Wing****Blues U20 (Jr. A SM-Liiga)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	107	81	139

**Player Data:** Born 06/15/00 in Espoo, Finland...6'2/180...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Talented playmaker with very good speed and drool-worthy size whose reputation took a hit after putrid performances at both the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and under-18 world championship. Killinen's league play between junior and the Mestis minor league was otherwise solid, as he used his size and speed to his advantage against younger players. His biggest asset from a puck-skill standpoint is his vision – Killinen will spot the open man that everybody else forgot about. Whether he gets the puck to him cleanly is another story, but you have to credit the young forward for trying to create offense no matter how big a wall an opponent is building. Forcing things during zone entries is something he rarely does, as he likes to slow things down and recalculate if he sees open ice shrinking. He can be guilty of overhandling the puck, but his stickhandling is an asset during cycles and tight-quarter play. More of a passer than a shooter, Killinen has a very good shot and can roof a backhand from in close when he is able to get close to the goal.

**140. Samuel Fagemo, Right Wing****Frolunda Indians U20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	90	119	140

**Player Data:** Born 03/14/00 in Goteborg, Sweden...6'0/194...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A strong under-18 Ivan Hlinka tournament in August set the tone for a solid season with Frolunda's junior team, where Fagemo led the squad in playoff goals with five in five games after scoring 19 in 37 games during the regular season. He took a bit of a backseat role in later international tournaments, but he always displayed 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.

**141. Nikita Rozhkov, Center/Left Wing****Stalnye Lisy (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	Not Ranked	331	141

**Player Data:** Born 02/18/00 in Orenburg, Russia...5'10/168...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Supercharged playmaker with ridiculous hands and blazing speed who was named the MHL's Rookie of the Year after tearing up the scoresheet in Russia's top junior league. Rozhkov is an outstanding passer in all situations, especially off the rush, where he threads the needle and carves up defensemen who commit too early. He keeps opponents honest by being as good a goal-scoring threat as he is a set-up guy. Rozhkov has a hard, accurate slap shot that he'll occasionally fire from the circles, but it handcuffs goalies and puts rebounds right in the low slot. He's very good around the net thanks to his elusiveness, agility and quick thinking, and he rarely makes a mistake in front of yawning cage.

**142. Filip Kral, Left Defenseman****Spokane Chiefs (WHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	152	118	142

**Player Data:** Born 10/20/99 in Brno, Czech Republic...6'1/171...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Steady two-way defenseman with underrated puck skills who led all WHL rookie defensemen in scoring with 35 points in 54 games. Kral is a mobile two-way defender who emphasizes puck management in all three zones. He's more than willing to take a hit to complete a play, plus he's strong enough to ward off more than one opponent in order to protect the puck while moving up ice. He absorbs hits extremely well and is tough to knock down, especially during puck retrievals; and he wins the significant majority of his puck battles. Kral can play the top of the umbrella on the power play, but he also knows how to help exploit the skills of the playmakers on Spokane's roster. He can keep it simple by staying within himself and knowing it's his job to augment his highly-skilled teammates; not the other way around. Kral owns a hard, accurate shot that he can muscle through screens and find a way to get it on net, even through a dense maze of sticks and bodies.

**143. Akira Schmid, Goalie****Langnau U20 (Elite Jr. A)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	206	190	143

**Player Data:** Born 05/12/00 in Bern, Switzerland...6'4/165...**Catches:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A mature butterfly goalie with size and an advanced adherence to technical requirements, Schmid is the type of goalie prospect who you completely disregard the multiple soft goals he's allowed over the course of his under-18 international season. He does so many things well for his size, such as his post-to-post quickness and consistently breaking up cross-crease pass attempts. It's easy to say that a goalie in the zone is tough to beat, but Schmid during his junior league play was always a brick wall, making big save after big save during late/close situations. He's stapled to his crease and doesn't challenge shooters much, but his active stick, quick blocker and ability to fight through screens makes up for the amount of room he gives shooters.

**144. Amir Miftakhov, Goalie****Irbis Kazan (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	97	105	144

**Player Data:** Born 04/26/00 in Kazan, Russia...6'0/158...**Catches:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** A tough under-18 world championship shouldn't knock the bloom off this rose, who as a 17-year-old backstop was one of the best junior goalies in Russia. Miftakhov doesn't have that intimidating size you normally see in top-ranked netminding prospects, but his cat-like quickness and aggressive mindset make beating him over either shoulder from the high slot more difficult than your average behemoth. The quickness of his pads, when combined with the positioning of both his blocker and glove hands, fools shooters into thinking they have a chance at beating him in conventional net targets. There a lot of Michael DiPietro to his game, meaning there's a controlled violence about the way he not only stops pucks; but resets or recovers from initial chances around the net. Facing a barrage of successive shot attempts neither intimidates him nor tires him out, but his apparent desire to stay crouched and maintain his side-to-side explosiveness exposes an upper-half that makes him vulnerable to bad-angle snipes. Miftakhov tracks his pucks around bodies rather than over top of them, which presents point men with the opportunity to beat him with harmless shots from the blue line.

**145. Nico Gross, Left Defenseman****Oshawa Generals (OHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	38	101	145

**Player Data:** Born 01/26/00 in Pontresina, Switzerland ...6'1/185...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Mobile two-way blueliner with size and a hard shot who had an inconsistent rookie season in North America. The strongest part of Gross's game is his poise with the puck, as he's a reliable defender when it comes to breaking out in the face of a heavy or physical forecheck. He has very good speed both forward and backward, and his lateral quickness allows him to rapidly close in on and seal off onrushing opponents. Although Gross likes to join the rush or jump into the circles for a shot on net, he was very reserved for Oshawa and did not benefit points-wise from the host of playmakers in the Generals' lineup. Gross can be physical and put a real hurt on smaller forwards, and on occasion he'll look to deliver a big open-ice hit. He has the makings of a very reliable middle-pairing defenseman who can anchor a penalty-killing or late-game tandem, but his offensive ceiling is otherwise low at this stage of his development.

**146. Carl Wassenius, Center****AIK J20 (Superelit)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	38	101	145

**Player Data:** Born 10/06/99 in Sweden ...6'2/201...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Power center with a nice scoring touch who's been a popular name in Swedish junior hockey circles for several years but hasn't played in any international tournaments to help him with what seems like an exposure problem. Wassenius had an excellent junior season and was unstoppable in all areas of the rink during the Superelit playoffs. The one thing that stands out about Wassenius is that he's been a go-to guy for practically every team he plays for. The puck skills are obvious – he can stickhandle, snap off shots labeled for upstairs and complete difficult passes in traffic. But the question is whether or not Wassenius has simply taken advantage of smaller junior-league players because he's always been one of the bigger kids on the ice. He plays physical and you'll see him one-arm shove any defenseman onto the ice, and he can be counted on to take big faceoffs late in games. The biggest knock is his skating and the lack of a separation gear and quick first step. Still, he's too good an all-around player in all three zones to dismiss the fact that he could always improve his foot speed over time.

**147. Christian Krygier, Left Defenseman****Lincoln Stars (USHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	64	99	145

**Player Data:** Born 05/05/00 in Novi, MI...6'2/192...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Punishing defenseman with very good mobility and a booming shot who can be an intimidating force on or off the puck. The offense this season simply wasn't there, but the underlying belief is that his role on Lincoln was centered on being mean and abrasive rather than flashy and dynamic. Krygier can flat out skate, and you notice the seas parting when he's got the momentum carrying him through center. His puck management and creativity were tough to spot during league play, but he played poised and decisive during high-profile events like the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and the All-American Prospects Game. He was far too undisciplined, however, and a new lease on life next season with Michigan State hopefully gives him a chance to exploit his size/speed combination.

**148. Anton Malyshev, Right Defenseman****Loko Yaroslavl (MHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Not Ranked	101	125	148

**Player Data:** Born 02/27/00 in Yaroslavl, Russia ...6'0/185...**Shoots:** Right.

**Scouting Report:** Solid puck-moving defenseman with very good speed and leadership qualities as he led Team Russia as several under-18 international tournaments. Malyshev is a fluid skater with quick feet that help him change direction rapidly when he's faced with a change in possession or carrying the puck up ice. He is highly aggressive in the offensive zone and makes timely pinches that keep plays alive. Malyshev plays on both the power play and the penalty kill, and he showed a knack for knocking down clearing attempts or hard-arounds with ease. He generally makes the right reads in the neutral zone and takes proper routes to cut off opposing entries. His shot and playmaking abilities are average, but his hustle, smarts and anticipation creates a lot of chances when he's on the ice. Malyshev plays physical but in a clean, disciplined manner.

**149. Stanislav Demin, Left Defenseman****Wenatchee Wild (BCHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	222	286	149

**Player Data:** Born 04/04/00 in Santa Clara, CA ...6'2/190...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** American-born puck rusher who before embarking on his collegiate career at Denver took the Canadian Junior "A" route rather than play in the USHL. Demin was a force during Wenatchee's drive to winning the Doyle Cup to advance to the RBC Cup. He's got good size, a hard shot and skates extremely well, but his biggest on-ice contributions definitely take place in his half of the rink. He is an excellent one-on-one defender and smothers puck carriers well before they even attempt their zone entries. Demin can play tough and physical, and he can withstand the rigors of a lengthy cycle or possession. He puts up most of his points by shooting the puck from the high slot, and the potential is there for him to be more creative once he decides to take the puck deep with regularity.

**150. Marcus Westfalt, Center/Left Wing****Brynas (SHL)****The Draft Analyst Rankings**

PRE	SEP	JAN	FINAL
Watch List	110	113	150

**Player Data:** Born 03/12/00 in Stockholm, Sweden ...6'3/191...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Two-way power forward with good hands and a nose for the net. Westfalt took a lot of pride into his role as a depth player for both Brynas and the Swedish under-18 team. He competes hard in all three zones and can be very reliable during the cycle. Westfalt always keeps his feet moving and is willing to take a hit or two in order to pass the puck to the right teammate. He's an excellent penalty killer and very difficult to wrestle the puck from. Westfalt has good straight-line speed and has a wide stride, but his skating is more powerful than graceful. He lacks a quick first step, but he'll exploit open ice if he's give time to take an extra stride or two before reaching top speed. Westfalt looked pretty savvy and comfortable playing as a teenager in the SHL, so expect him to be there all of next season.

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## TOP 150 DRAFT OVERGAGERS

The following list is a ranking of the top players in their second, third or fourth year of draft eligibility. Draft-eligible North American players born between January 1st, 1998 and September 15th, 1999 are in the zone for consideration. European players considered were born between January 1st, 1997 and September 15th, 1999.

RANK	NAME	POS	TM	LG	DOB	HT	WT	NAT
1	Nikita Anokhovskiy	C/LW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	3/22/99	6'0	190	RUS
2	Sean Durzi	RHD	Owen Sound	OHL	10/28/98	6'0	190	CAN
3	Joey Keane	RHD	Barrie	OHL	7/2/99	6'0	185	USA
4	Jesse Koskenkorva	C	Karpat	Liiga	7/31/99	6'0	179	FIN
5	Jerry Turkulainen	RW	JyP	Liiga	9/22/98	5'9	165	FIN
6	Aatu Luusuanieniemi	RW	Karpat U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	1/6/99	6'1	192	FIN
7	Jakub Lacka	LW	Central Illinois	USHL	11/20/98	5'10	174	SVK
8	Jesper Sellgren	LHD	MoDo	Allsvenskan	6/11/98	5'10	170	SWE
9	Tommy Miller	RHD	Michigan State	Big-10	3/6/99	6'2	176	USA
10	David Hrenak	G	St. Cloud St.	NCHC	5/5/98	6'1	176	SVK
11	Colin Gerber	LHD	Bern	NLA	3/14/98	6'3	187	SUI
12	Jackson Caller	LHD	Saskatoon	WHL	7/15/99	6'2	190	CAN
13	Baker Shore	C/RW	Chicago	USHL	8/20/99	5'11	170	USA
14	Patrick Khodorenko	C	Michigan State	Big-10	10/13/98	6'0	207	USA
15	Scott Perunovich	LHD	Minnesota-Duluth	NCHC	8/18/98	5'10	170	USA
16	Mitchell Lewandowski	LW	Michigan State	Big-10	4/17/98	5'9	172	USA
17	Marcus Sylvegard	RW	Malmö	SHL	5/4/99	6'0	190	SWE
18	Radim Salda	LHD	Saint John	QMJHL	2/18/99	6'1	182	CZE
19	Shawn Boudrias	RW	Gatineau	QMJHL	9/14/99	6'4	212	CAN
20	Linus Nyman	RW/C	Kingston	OHL	7/11/99	5'10	160	FIN
21	John Leonard	C/LW	UMass-Amherst	HE	8/7/98	5'11	185	USA
22	Samuel Bucek	RW	Chicago	USHL	12/19/98	6'3	192	SVK
23	Denis Alexeyev	C	Lokomotiv	KHL	10/1/97	6'0	183	RUS
24	Danil Lobanov	LW	Krasnyaya Armiya	MHL	1/11/99	6'0	176	RUS
25	Alexei Melnichuk	G	SKA-Neva	VHL	6/29/98	6'1	187	RUS
26	Vladislav Yeryomenko	RHD	Calgary	WHL	4/24/99	6'0	176	BLR
27	Maxim Marushev	C	Bars Kazan	VHL	1/1/99	6'0	165	RUS
28	Alexander Yaremchuk	C	Mamonty Yugry	MHL	8/22/99	5'11	174	RUS
29	Dylan Plouffe	LHD	Vancouver	WHL	4/27/99	6'0	194	CAN
30	Jack Gorniak	LW	Lincoln	USHL	9/15/99	5'11	181	USA
31	Zach Solow	C	Northeastern	HE	11/6/98	5'11	176	USA
32	Jason Willms	C	Barrie	OHL	2/8/99	6'0	190	CAN
33	Kristian Reichel	C	Red Deer	WHL	6/11/98	6'0	168	CZE
34	Eero Teravainen	LHD	Lincoln	USHL	3/8/99	5'10	174	FIN
35	Pavel Yelshansky	LHD	Dynamo SPB	MHL	8/19/97	6'2	194	RUS
36	Mick Messner	LW	Madison	USHL	4/20/99	6'0	194	USA
37	Ondrej Chrtek	C	Benátky	WSM-Liga	1/25/99	6'0	165	CZE
38	Erkka Seppälä	C/LW	HPK U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	5/19/99	5'9	172	FIN
39	Grigori Dronov	LHD	Magnitogorsk	KHL	1/10/98	6'2	207	RUS
40	Logan Hutsko	RW	Boston College	HE	2/11/99	5'10	165	USA
41	Matthew Wedman	LW	Seattle	WHL	5/25/99	6'3	196	CAN
42	Deniss Smirnovs	C/RW	Geneve-Servette	Elite Jr. A	3/7/99	5'10	176	LAT
43	Brandon Saigeon	C	Hamilton	OHL	6/14/98	6'2	196	CAN
44	Alexander Podkorytov	C	Chelmet Chelyabinsk	VHL	2/3/98	5'9	170	RUS
45	Igor Martynov	C/LW	Victoria	WHL	1/19/99	5'11	187	BLR
46	Yegor Sharangovich	C	Dynamo Minsk	KHL	6/6/98	6'2	196	BLR
47	Vladislav Syomin	LHD	SKA-1946	MHL	2/17/98	6'3	207	RUS

## TOP 150 DRAFT OVERGAGERS (48-100)

RANK	NAME	POS	TM	LG	DOB	HT	WT	NAT
48	Ilya Karpukhin	LHD	Chelmet Chelyabinsk	VHL	7/13/98	6'1	192	RUS
49	Jeremy McKenna	RW	Moncton	QMJHL	4/20/99	5'10	175	CAN
50	Hunter Drew	RHD	Charlottetown	QMJHL	10/21/98	6'1	190	CAN
51	Georgi Ivanov	C	Loko	MHL	9/25/98	6'0	192	RUS
52	Trey Fix-Wolansky	RW	Edmonton	WHL	5/26/99	5'7	188	CAN
53	Artyom Belotsky	C/W	Avto	MHL	5/4/99	6'1	165	RUS
54	Arttu Ruotsalainen	LW	Ilves	Liiga	10/29/97	5'9	180	FIN
55	Oskar Stal Lyrenas	RW	MoDo	Allsvenskan	3/23/98	6'1	185	SWE
56	Tim Wahlgren	C/W	MoDo	Allsvenskan	3/8/98	6'0	181	SWE
57	Pavel Shen	C/LW	Mamonty Yugry	MHL	8/14/99	5'9	179	RUS
58	Nikolay Knyzhov	LHD	SKA-Neva	VHL	3/20/98	6'2	194	RUS
59	Razat Timirov	RW	Reaktor	MHL	6/6/99	5'11	165	RUS
60	Igor Myasishchev	LHD	Chekhov	VHL	3/26/97	6'1	201	RUS
61	Connor Dewar	LW	Everett	WHL	6/26/99	5'10	170	CAN
62	Martin Bodak	RHD	Kootenay	WHL	11/28/98	6'1	194	SVK
63	Victor Brattstrom	G	Timra	Allsvenskan	3/22/97	6'5	198	SWE
64	Lauri Pajuniemi	RW	TPS	Liiga	9/12/99	6'0	183	FIN
65	Justin Almeida	C/W	Moose Jaw	WHL	2/6/99	5'10	163	CAN
66	Dalimil Mikyska	LHD	Brno	Extraliga	8/16/99	6'1	201	CZE
67	Dominik Diem	C	Biel-Bienne	NLA	1/25/97	5'11	165	SUI
68	Pavel Voronkov	LW	Avto	MHL	10/13/98	6'0	180	RUS
69	Wojtech Stachowiak	LW	Central Illinois	USHL	7/3/99	6'1	187	GER
70	Jared Legien	LW	Victoria	WHL	9/2/98	6'1	194	CAN
71	Scotter Brickey	RHD	Des Moines	USHL	5/27/99	6'3	190	USA
72	Carl-Johan Lerby	LHD	Malmo	SHL	7/7/97	5'11	176	SWE
73	Nicolas Guay	RW	Drummondville	QMJHL	6/18/99	5'11	176	CAN
74	Marco Miranda	C	GCK	NLB	6/2/98	6'2	196	SUI
75	Artturi Toivola	C	Pelicans	Liiga	5/23/98	5'10	172	FIN
76	Alexander Petunin	C	Dynamo Moscow	KHL	1/31/97	5'10	160	RUS
77	Sven Leuneberger	C	Zug Academy	NLB	2/18/99	5'10	187	SUI
78	Ivan Prosvetov	G	Youngstown	USHL	3/5/99	6'5	185	RUS
79	Kyle Maksimovich	LW	Erie	OHL	3/10/98	5'10	174	CAN
80	Stephen Dhillon	G	Niagara	OHL	9/14/98	6'4	188	USA
81	Saku Vesterainen	RHD	Charlottetown	QMJHL	2/28/99	6'0	183	FIN
82	Simon Johansson	RHD	Djurgardens J20	Superelit	6/14/99	6'2	181	SWE
83	Max Andreev	C	Central Illinois	USHL	10/22/98	5'11	180	RUS
84	Henrik Malmstrom	LHD	Sodertalje	Allsvenskan	10/2/98	6'6'	187	SWE
85	Artyom Manukyan	RW	Avangard Omsk	KHL	6/9/98	5'7	140	RUS
86	Oliver Larsen	RHD	Leksand	Allsvenskan	12/25/98	6'3	207	DEN
87	Jakob Brahaney	LHD	Kingston	OHL	3/26/99	6'1	181	CAN
88	Daniel Kurovsky	RW	Vitkovice	Extraliga	3/4/98	6'4	213	CZE
89	Seth Barton	RHD	Trail	BCHL	8/18/99	6'2	174	CAN
90	Mark Yanchevsky	LHD	Kurgan	VHL	6/30/98	6'6	198	RUS
91	Matt Kiersted	LHD	North Dakota	NCHC	4/14/98	6'0	181	USA
92	Isaac Johnson	RW	Tri-City	WHL	1/24/99	6'2	183	USA
93	Daniel Lebedeff	G	Janesville	NAHL	5/23/99	6'2	179	FIN
94	Justin Brazeau	RW	North Bay	OHL	2/2/98	6'6	220	CAN
95	Juraj Ovecka	G	Springfield Jr. Blues	NAHL	5/1/99	6'6	198	SVK
96	Samuel Asselin	RW	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	7/1/98	5'9	172	CAN
97	Robert Arrak	RW	Jokerit U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	4/1/99	6'2	194	EST
98	Marc McLaughlin	C	Cedar Rapids	USHL	7/26/99	6'0	192	USA
99	Andrei Revatsky	C	MHK Spartak	MHL	4/28/98	6'1	192	RUS
100	Chris Grando	LW	Boston College	HE	8/22/98	5'10	165	USA

## TOP 150 DRAFT OVERGAGERS (101-150)

RANK	NAME	POS	TM	LG	DOB	HT	WT	NAT
101	Denis Kuyanov	C/W	Serebranye Lvl	MHL	9/16/98	6'0	194	RUS
102	Dmitri Rodioncheyev	RHD	Chaika	MHL	1/12/99	6'3	238	RUS
103	Sean Josling	RW	Sarnia	OHL	3/22/99	5'11	174	CAN
104	Cameron Wright	RW	Bowling Green	WCHA	8/11/98	6'1	201	CAN
105	Jack St. Ivany	RHD	Sioux Falls	USHL	7/22/99	6'3	191	USA
106	Mika Cyr	C	Moncton	QMJHL	7/14/99	5'9	175	CAN
107	Jared Moe	G	Waterloo	USHL	7/22/99	6'3	205	USA
108	Emil Westerlund	RW	Maine	HE	2/16/98	6'1	190	SWE
109	Mikhail Smolin	RW	Chaika	KHL	9/4/97	5'11	183	RUS
110	Jonathan Smart	LHD	Kootenay	WHL	6/1/99	6'0	190	CAN
111	Reagan O'Grady	RHD	Sudbury	OHL	12/15/98	6'2	210	CAN
112	Mitchell Gibson	G	Lone Star	NAHL	6/25/99	6'1	174	USA
113	Samuel Jonsson	LHD	Rogle	SHL	5/19/98	5'10	168	SWE
114	Gleb Shutov	LHD	Omskie	MHL	2/12/99	6'2	176	RUS
115	Alexander Pavlenko	RW	Avto	MHL	4/11/99	6'2	194	RUS
116	Danil Pyatin	C	Stalnye Lisy	MHL	8/5/99	5'9	165	RUS
117	Jacob Schmidt	RW	Fargo	USHL	1/14/98	6'2	201	DEN
118	Luke Boka	RW	Windsor	OHL	6/12/99	6'0	195	USA
119	Jacob Tortora	RW	Boston College	HE	7/25/99	5'8	161	USA
120	Marek Rubner	C	Pizen	Extraliga	11/12/98	6'2	190	CZE
121	Joonas Luoto	RW	Tappara	Liiga	9/26/97	6'3	192	FIN
122	Hugo Danielsson	LHD	Djugardens J20	Superelit	8/28/98	6'3	187	SWE
123	Islam Khasanov	RW	Reaktor	MHL	8/21/99	6'1	177	RUS
124	Lucas Chiodo	LW	Barrie	OHL	10/31/98	5'6	157	CAN
125	Max Martin	LHD	Prince Albert	WHL	7/25/99	6'0	194	CAN
126	Rafael Bikmullin	LW	Neftekhimik	KHL	7/12/97	5'10	168	RUS
127	Jesper Emanuelsson	LW	Frolunda	SHL	3/30/99	5'10	172	SWE
128	Stepan Grymzin	RW	Mamonty Yugry	MHL	12/22/98	6'1	190	RUS
129	Emil Oksanen	RW	Regina	WHL	9/25/98	6'1	190	FIN
130	Matteo Pietroniro	LHD	Chicago	USHL	10/20/98	6'0	184	USA
131	Nikita Makeyev	LHD	CSKA	KHL	2/13/98	5'8	170	RUS
132	David Kvasnicka	LHD	Pizen	Extraliga	4/19/99	5'9	172	CZE
133	Teemu Väyrynen	LW	TPS	Liiga	4/28/97	5'10	170	FIN
134	Olli Kaskinen	LHD	TPS U20	Jr. A SM-Liiga	1/27/99	6'0	187	FIN
135	Pavel Kukshtel	C/LW	Serebranye Lvy	MHL	2/19/98	6'3	179	RUS
136	Brady Lyle	RHD	Owen Sound	OHL	6/6/99	6'2	212	CAN
137	Kristians Rubins	LHD	Medicine Hat	WHL	12/11/97	6'5	220	LAT
138	Kevin Hancock	LW	Owen Sound	OHL	3/2/98	5'11	180	CAN
139	Dayton Rasmussen	G	Denver	NCHC	11/4/98	6'2	201	USA
140	Rickard Hugg	C/LW	Kitchener	OHL	1/18/99	5'10	189	SWE
141	Vladimir Miroschnichenko	LHD	Krasnyaya Armiya	MHL	4/12/98	6'3	209	RUS
142	Yegor Zaplatnikov	RW	Almaz	MHL	1/4/99	5'10	168	RUS
143	Georgi Kuznetsov	G	Dynamo Moscow	KHL	1/28/98	6'2	196	RUS
144	Kirill Slepets	LW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	4/6/99	5'10	165	RUS
145	Nicolas Muller	C/RW	MoDo J20	Superelit	6/21/99	6'0	170	SUI
146	Albert Michnac	LW	Mississauga	OHL	10/18/98	5'11	176	CZE
147	Hugo Leufvenius	LW	Sarnia	OHL	3/26/99	6'2	218	SWE
148	Gunnar Wegleitner	RW	Brandon	WHL	5/6/98	6'1	190	CAN
149	Matthew Kellenberger	RHD	Oakville	OJHL	1/11/99	6'0	172	CAN
150	Oliver Gatz Nielsen	LHD	Herning	Metal Ligaen	10/6/98	6'1	203	DEN

**246. Jett Alexander, Goalie****North York (OJHL)****Player Data:** Born 11/08/99 in Picton, ON...6'4/187...**Catches:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Alexander has quick pads that direct pucks to where they need to go. He's very good at protecting the lower half, and is nimble enough to recover from rapid dekes from in close by jamming his skate into the long-side post. Alexander is a very active puck handler who on dump-ins can act like a third defenseman, not only by stopping the puck behind the net, but turning quickly and connecting with a teammate up ice. He likes to challenge at times and isn't married to the goal line, which helps him stop deflections from near the low slot. Alexander has the ability to out-wait players on breakaways.

**65(OA). Justin Almeida, Center****Moose Jaw Warriors (WHL)****Player Data:** Born 02/06/99 in North Vancouver, BC...5'9/158...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Offensive playmaker with quick feet and breakaway speed who was one of the top scorers in the WHL. He centered Moose Jaw's top line and took most of the key offensive-zone draws, especially on the first power-play unit, where he liked to set up along the half-wall and distribute pucks. Almeida also played a significant amount of time on the penalty kill and used his quickness, active stick and anticipation skills to pressure the points and help create shorthanded chances.

**1(OA). Nikita Anokhovskiy, Center****Loko Yaroslavl (MHL)****Player Data:** Born 03/22/99 in Yaroslavl, Russia...6'0/187...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Strong power center with good speed, a wicked shot and excellent hand-eye coordination who saw his ice time and level of responsibility increase as the season wore on. Loko always has relied on him to kill penalties and used his faceoff prowess late in games. Anokhovskiy is a load to handle along the boards and seems to always come away with the puck. He clearly was the best player on a deep and talented team and has proven to outgrow the Russian junior circuit.

**155. Justus Annunen, Goalie****Karpat U20 (Jr. A SM-Liiga)****Player Data:** Born 03/11/00 in Kempele, Finland...6'4/217...**Catches:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** Annunen is a rigid butterfly goalie who doesn't do anything particularly flashy and relies heavily on his wingspan and flare while positioned deep inside the crease to fend off chances from below the hash marks. Being conservative all the time serves him well while playing teenagers, but he will need to increase the frequency of his risk-taking (poke checks, challenging shooters, being a hair less shooter-focused on 2-on-1's) once he's facing adult-aged snipers and playmakers. Being married to the posts has its advantages; he rarely loses awareness and reveals little white space when square to a shooter from any angle. Playing the puck or actively thwarting hard-arounds is something he doesn't seem comfortable doing, partly because he barely does it and leaves little to the imagination.

**267. Luka Burzan, Center****Brandon Wheat Kings (WHL)****Player Data:** Born 03/22/99 in Surrey, BC...6'0/180...**Shoots:** Left.

**Scouting Report:** High-energy speedster who can fill a variety of roles and uses his speed to create havoc in all three zones. Burzan was a key depth player for Team Canada during their win at the under-19 Ivan Hlinka, where he displayed aggressiveness; fearlessness and an off-the-charts compete level. Burzan likes to apply pressure all over the defensive zone and forces defenders into hasty shots. His speed is his obvious strength, and he's an upright skater with a long stride. He pivots quickly to avoid pressure and cuts back sharply on entering the zone, and Burzan is good at spotting and connecting with trailers. His puck skills are average and he can be guilty of overhandling, but he can make plays off of turnovers and pass the puck with accuracy off the cycle.

**299. Declan Chisholm, Left Defenseman****Peterborough Petes (OHL)**

**Player Data:** Born 01/12/00 in Bowmanville, ON...6'1/185...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** Strong-skating puck mover with a lot of upside who had an inconsistent year on a bad team but showed signs of improving as the season progressed. Chisholm has good size and excellent mobility, especially when trying to escape from a lengthy possession in his own end. He has a quick-strike mentality and likes to stretch the ice with either his wheels or his outlet passes. He owns a hard, low shot that he didn't use enough; opting for the safer feeds down low rather than use his quickness and agility to occupy openings and fire puck on net. He's a good one-on-one defender off the rush but can make untimely reads and step-ups that put his partner in a danger zone. He also has a tendency to float from his slot duties and chase covered opponents. There certainly is the potential for Chisholm to be a consistent contributor in all three zones, but for now he should learn how to exploit his skating and be more creative with the puck inside the offensive end.

**172. Paul Cotter, Center****Lincoln Stars (USHL)**

**Player Data:** Born 11/16/99 in Canton, MI...6'0/191...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Cotter is a dual-threat winger with very good speed who's making a name for himself thanks to some productive showings at several prospect events. Committed to Western Michigan University, Cotter can finish in a variety of ways. He does, however, seem to favor the slot and look for passes to hammer home. One noticeable about his shot (besides being both hard and accurate) is that he doesn't need the puck to be served on a platter for him to get velocity on it — passes in his skates, rolling, bouncing are all good enough for him. He can finish off a variety of passing plays and position himself properly on the power play. Cotter was one of the top scorers in the NAHL before earning his way onto Lincoln's deep lineup. He develops quick chemistry with whoever his linemates are, and he has developed into a scoring threat thanks to his deadly shot/release combo and very good straight-line speed. You never have to worry about him failing to show up — he battles hard and competes from whistle to whistle, plus can create problems during the forecheck.

**181. Riley Damiani, Center****Kitchener Rangers (OHL)**

**Player Data:** Born 03/20/00 in Mississauga, ON...5'9/164...Shoots: Right.

**Scouting Report:** Quick little forward with very good straight-line speed and a quick release who displays excellent edgework and quick pivots. Damiani was a critical piece to Kitchener's late-season run that nearly ended up in a Memorial Cup Berth. He owns a very hard shot with a quick release and will fire it from just about anywhere. Damiani gets a lot of mustard on his shots and can make sharp direction changes off the rush to buy him that extra foot or two that gives him a clearer lane to pump one on net. He uses his speed effectively in all three zones, especially on the penalty kill. He's not your classic playmaking center but he works hard in the corners and can create chances with quick decision making once he collects the puck.

**223. Semyon Der-Arguchintsev, Center****Peterborough Petes (OHL)**

**Player Data:** Born 09/15/00 in Moscow, Russia...5'10/159...Shoots: Right.

**Scouting Report:** Gifted playmaker with outstanding vision and passing skills who is a power-play specialist and can carve up any type of tight-zone defense. Der-Arguchintsev is instant offense every time he hits the ice, and he is able to draw multiple opponents away from critical areas of the ice. He is a good skater with better close-quarter quickness than in open ice, but he makes up for average balance by being elusive and slippery. Der-Arguchintsev can stickhandle with the best of them; a skill that allows him to inch closer to the goal despite being hounded by bigger defenders.

**61(OA). Connor Dewar, Center****Everett Silvertips (WHL)****Player Data:** Born 06/26/99 in Gilbert Plains, MB...5'10/177...Shoots: Left.

**Scouting Report:** Aggressive two-way center who took his game to a new level as one of Everett's man weapons. Few draft-eligibles hound the puck as well as Dewar, who has very good speed, an active stick and outstanding anticipation abilities. He can be used as an offensive forward in situations like on the power play, but Dewar is at his best when he's getting involved on the forecheck, forcing turnovers and battling hard in the corners. He is an effective penalty killer and will pay the price to keep the puck out of his net. Dewar thinks the game at a high level, especially when controlling the puck. He will maintain possession to allow line changes, time his dump-ins to catch linemates in stride and play poised along the wall before initiating a breakout.

**163. Lukas Dostal, Goalie****Kometa Brno U20 (Extraliga Jrs.)****Player Data:** Born 06/22/00 in Brno, Czech Republic...6'1/166...Catches: Left

**Scouting Report:** Add Dostal to the list of "smaller" goalies whose quickness is a tremendous part of his overall ability to stop pucks. Dostal stays quite low in his butterfly and is willing to leave a good chunk of the net open when challenging shooters on the power play or during odd-man rushes. This tactic seems to lull forwards into thinking the young goalie is over-committing and susceptible to a backdoor or cross-crease pass, which gives off the impression that he causes more forced passes than medium or high-danger shots against. Dostal's glove and blocker hands are very quick, and he forces shooters into making hasty decisions. He was spectacular during Brno's run to the junior league championship, as well as strong performances at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and under-18 world championship.

**2(OA). Sean Durzi, Right Defenseman****Owen Sound Attack (OHL)****Player Data:** Born 10/21/98 in Mississauga, ON...6'0/188...Shoots: Right

**Scouting Report:** Top-pairing offensive defenseman with excellent puck skills and very good speed who loves to initiate breakouts and join the rush. Durzi was one of the OHL's best defensemen this year in both scoring and in creating chances for his mates. He usually makes the right decisions when it comes time to activating himself, but he's quick enough to cover for whatever rare mistakes he makes. He can quarterback a power play and owns a hard, accurate shot that he uses with frequency. His defensive-zone play and ability to defend against the rush are both solid, but he isn't much in the physical department. Still, Durzi knows how to angle his man off the puck and shove players into an untenable situation.

**11(OA). Colin Gerber, Left Defenseman****Langenthal (NLB)****Player Data:** Born 03/14/98 in Switzerland...6'3/205...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Steady stay-at-home defenseman with excellent positioning and a long reach that makes him an effective crease clearer and shot stopper. Gerber is one of the better junior-aged defenders in Switzerland's top minor league and was entrusted with a critical role during key penalty kills and late-game faceoffs. He's not going to wow you with speed or skill, but you can count on him to stand up at the blue line and quickly transition the other way via crisp, accurate passes in the neutral zone. He's not as physically intimidating as you'd want him to be, but he covers a lot of ground in the low slot and makes life miserable for the most skilled of playmakers when they enter his area.

**30(OA). Jack Gorniak, Left Wing****West Salem (HS-WI)****Player Data:** Born 09/15/99 in West Salem, WI...6'0/181...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Talented goal scorer with a lot of power and agility who toyed with the best Wisconsin high school hockey had to offer. Gorniak, who's committed to his hometown Wisconsin Badgers, is shifty, nimble and plays with a lot of poise under pressure. He can stickhandle through or around traffic, and he owns a devastating change of pace that catches defenders flat footed. Gorniak makes the most of his ventures into open ice, and gets a lot of velocity behind a wrist shot he loves to use from just about anywhere in the offensive zone. He has very good straight-line speed, phenomenal edgework and is next to unstoppable when he's in full flight. What separates him from all the forwards in the state is his ability to create plays while moving quickly up ice – Gorniak is a very good playmaker with keen vision and can spot cutters and weak-side options.

**200. Alexis Gravel, Goalie****Halifax Mooseheads (QMJHL)****Player Data:** Born 03/21/00 in Berlin, Germany...6'3/222...Catches: Right

**Scouting Report:** An up-and-down season shouldn't detract from how high this big-bodied goalie's upside truly is. Gravel, who catches with is right and, lost his job as team Canada's go-to guy to Olivier Rodrigue, and was torched five times in a period and half at the Canadian Hockey League Top Prospects Game. Otherwise, he's an upright butterfly netminder who uses smart positioning, razor-sharp attentiveness and glove-hand quickness that makes opponents rethink seemingly open looks towards his net. Gravel always looks locked in and fights tooth and nail to maintain a visual on the puck, including when it's behind the net. He leaks post-to-post coverage when he favors being upright for too long, and his stick positioning during lateral movements expose what's been a vulnerable five hole. Gravel seems married to the crease and rarely ventures from it during dump-ins or challenging shooting from the points or circles.

**177. Jordan Harris, Left Defenseman****Kimball-Union (HS-MA)****Player Data:** Born 07/07/00 in Haverill, MA...5'11/179...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** An opportunistic puck rusher who is committed to play for Northeastern, Harris has a quick first step, excellent straight-line speed and makes heady plays with the puck. He is very comfortable handling the puck from his own goal line all the way to the corners of the opposing zone. Harris is quite methodical in his approach and rarely rushes into a situation that could trap his teammates. He makes clean, crisp passes that catch forwards in stride, but he also can make subtle chips and banks with heavy pressure in his face. He comes across as an offense-first kind of puck mover, but Harris is very sound in his own end and breaks up a lot of plays by making timely reads or step-ups.

**394. Luke Henman, Center****Blainville-Boisbriand Armada (QMJHL)****Player Data:** Born 04/29/00 in Dartmouth, NS...6'0/150...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Playmaker and set-up man who filled a variety of roles for a deep team. Henman's passing ability is at the forefront of his skill set, and he makes short work of opponents who afford him time and space. Henman plays on both the power play and on the penalty kill and usually makes the right decisions with the puck. In fact, his aggressiveness while down man forces opponents into decisions that prove costly. His skating is collectively average but he takes the right routes to the puck and pivots sharply from pressure. Henman's hands are very soft and he's a reliable stickhandler, but he's got a strong shot that he only uses when wide open. He spent a lot of time on the Armada's top line, acting as primary puck distributor. The lack of explosiveness or a separation gear is what's preventing him from being considered an elite prospect, but Henman remains one of the top draft-eligible players from the 2000-year group.

**40(OA). Logan Hutsko, Right Wing****Boston College (Hockey East)****Player Data:** Born 02/11/99 in Tampa, FL...5'10/150...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** A former member of the under-18 NTDP, Hutsko is an energetic dual threat in that he can create plays or finish one off. He's a pretty good story in that he rebounded from a serious neck injury to become one of the top freshmen in the nation. Hutsko is an in-your-face player with a variety of ways to beat you. He plays bigger than his size indicates, and is relentless on the forecheck, where he'll finish his checks and set up linemates off of turnovers he creates. Knocking him down isn't impossible, but keeping him down is. Hutsko is a crafty player with very good vision, and he likes to stop on a dime and look for trailers after entering the zone. His passes were hard and accurate, and he displays speed and a nice set of hands by creating several odd-man rushes a game.

**92(OA). Isaac Johnson, Left Wing****Tri-City Americans (WHL)****Player Data:** Born 01/24/99 in Andover, MN...6'2/186...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** Heavy-shooting power forward with a quick release and crafty puck skills who was one of the WHL's top snipers among rookies. Johnson has size and strength, but it's his blistering shot that keeps opponents honest. The puck simply explodes off his stick, and Johnson doesn't require much backswing to wire it. He's very good in tight spaces and is constantly in motion with or without the puck, which always seems to find him. The kid has incredibly soft hands, and you'll see him deaden tough passes or fire bouncing pucks with accuracy.

**3(OA). Joey Keane, Right Defenseman****Barrie Colts (OHL)****Player Data:** Born 07/02/99 in Chicago, IL...6'0/180...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** Poised yet aggressive puck mover who had an excellent season as the primary force on Barrie's blue line. An American product who showcased his skills at the 2016 under-18 Ivan Hlinka, Keane was the Colts' power-play quarterback and go-to option to carry the puck out of danger areas. He makes a lot of smart, subtle plays in the neutral zone that allow his forwards to outpace opponents and set up lengthy possessions in the offensive zone. Keane has the physicality and size to be considered a legitimate pro prospect, and the way he distributes the puck in all circumstances makes him an option for either special teams group. He can play physical, and his one-on-one tactics are advanced for a kid who hasn't turned 20. Keane displays confidence and a long stride as he pushes the puck up the ice, and his pinches generally are timed perfectly. He's quick enough to dart in to keep the puck in the offensive zone, but also realizes when the risk isn't worth the reward.

**14(OA). Patrick Khodorenko, Center****Michigan State Spartans (Big-10)****Player Data:** Born 10/13/98 in Walnut Creek, CA...6'0/206...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** Former NTDP'er who has a strong sophomore season for an improving Michigan State squad. Khodorenko is a power forward with very good puck skills and the ability to create problems for defenders below the circles. He plays a heavy, in-your-face style and his speed has significantly improved since last year. He's very good on faceoffs, plus a solid option for the penalty kill. Khodorenko can be a net-front presence on the power play, but he's also a competent stickhandler with a blistering shot from the circles that can unload tough shots that create rebounds.

**4(OA). Jesse Koskenkorva, Center****Karpat Oulu (SM-Liiga)****Player Data:** Born 07/31/99 in Oulu, Finland...6'0/177...**Shoots:** Left

**Scouting Report:** Solid 200-foot forward with the ability to create offense while playing a clean, cerebral game. Koskenkorva is a versatile forward who's quietly established himself as a consistent threat in the Finland's top junior league. He has good size, excellent agility and balance, plus can furnish an excellent shot with a quick release. He was among Karpat's leaders in scoring for the second year in a row and finished second with 25 assists. Koskenkorva can respond with efficiency to just about any in-game situation, and he's often the first player summoned by his coach when there is a critical face off late in the game.

**379. Philippe Lapointe, Right Wing****Lincoln Stars (USHL)****Player Data:** Born 02/29/99 in Pontiac, MI...5'11/201...Shoots: Right

**Scouting Report:** Power forward with improving puck skills who can be a decisive option once the puck is deep in the opposing zone. The Michigan-bound winger (and son of former Stanley Cup champion Martin Lapointe), who had a stint with the NTDP, displays soft hands and the ability to receive and control a pass in stride while skating with his head up. Lapointe's overall speed is above average and he's strong enough on his skates to power through the shoves or checks of defenders. He's a tough player who will give himself up to prevent chances, especially on the penalty kill. He'll play for the University of Michigan in the fall.

**227. Jackson Leppard, Left Wing****Prince George Cougars (WHL)****Player Data:** Born 01/18/00 in St. Catharine's, ON...6'1/200...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** A power winger who spent most of the year on the Cougars' top line, Leppard is an aggressive player who has very good speed for someone as thick as he is. He played with effectiveness on both the power play and the penalty kill. Leppard is an in-your-face forechecker and likes to use his size to separate defenders from the puck. His hitting has an obvious effect on opponents, who eventually look to avoid contact but cough up the puck in the process. Leppard is very strong on skates and protects the puck well both close and far from his body. He can be a tricky player with the ability to make plays from slot, plus he owns an hard shot with a quick release. One surprising aspect of his game is how soft his hands are – Leppard is a good stickhandler who can handle tough passes, and he puts a nice touch on passes of his own.

**16(OA). Mitchell Lewandowski, Left Wing****Michigan State Spartans (Big-10)****Player Data:** Born 01/17/98 in Troy, MI...5'9/184...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Playmaking winger with excellent vision and the ability to make difficult plays look easy. Lewandowski was one of the top-scoring freshmen in the NCAA and excelled on the power play. His creativity and hockey sense combine to form a dynamic combination that is almost impossible to prepare for. Lewandowski's speed is about average, but he's a fierce competitor who doesn't give up on plays and turns run-of-the-mill turnovers into massive problems for opponents. He was a key figure on Michigan State's top line and was highly successful at operating cycles against bigger, older defenders.

**231. Olof Lindbom, Goalie****Djugardens J20 (Superelit)****Player Data:** Born 07/23/00 in Stockholm, Sweden...6'0/173...Catches: Left

**Scouting Report:** Active, borderline fidgety goalie with a lot of positives to his game, beginning with his focus and involvement in all events going on in his own end. Lindbom doesn't get cheated when it comes to making an impact, and although he seems happily entrenched in his crease, you can never label him as a kid who daydreams until the puck is right before him. He's not very big, and his penchant for dropping down can present shooters with practically the entire upper-half of the net and a chunk of the lower long side— especially on cross-ice one-time attempts. Still, his head seems to be locked in on the puck and shooter a fraction of a second before the shot is released. Lindbom's rebound control is excellent, and pucks he puts in front of him are within his reach. But don't count on Lindbom to break up passes or ever play the puck — a good estimate is he will play less than a quarter of all dump-ins into his own end and relies on his defenders to do most of the leg work.

**361. Ethan Manderville, Center****Ottawa Jr. A Senators (CCHL)****Player Data:** Born 07/01/00 in Philadelphia, PA...6'4/191...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** Manderville is a two-way player who uses his size and reach to maintain control of the puck in traffic or close-quarter engagements. He is very good at faceoffs and can be trusted to take key defensive-zone draws, and he knows where to position himself and prevent an immediate quality chance. Manderville is a very cerebral center and the puck always finds him — not from luck or coincidence, but because he reads plays well and puts forth the effort to compliment his strong hockey sense. He is not a fast skater, but he is tough to slow down once he dips the shoulder and charges his way to the net. Once he gets there, he displays soft hands, a nice touch, and makes plays for his linemates in or around the low slot. Ethan is the son of a former NHLer Kent Manderville, who played almost a dozen seasons as a reliable checker and penalty killer.

**9(OA). Tommy Miller, Right Defenseman****Michigan State Spartans (Big-10)****Player Data:** Born 07/01/00 in West Bloomfield, MI...6'2/176...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** A solid freshman season should help increase the amount of visibility this poised two-way defender receives. A product of the 2017 NTDP, Miller is as steady as they come and rarely flinches first in the face of pressure. He is as textbook as they come when sealing off oncoming opponents into a helpless situation, and although he is neither mean nor intimidating, Miller can hammer his man with authority, which is something you rarely see in a fleet-footed defenseman. Miller has a hard, accurate shot and is a capable support option on a power play, but his footwork and defensive prowess is what could get him a job as a middle-pairing defender in the NHL. Opponents generally have find difficulty in getting around him, and Miller strong enough to one-arm shove onrushing forwards off the puck.

**20(OA). Linus Nyman, Right Wing****Kingston Frontenacs (OHL)****Player Data:** Born 07/11/99 in Helsinki, Finland...5'9/156...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** One of the surprising no-drafts from a year ago made it next to impossible he gets overlooked a second time. A good skater with excellent vision and playmaking abilities, Nyman was one of the top sophomore scorers in the OHL, registering 85 points in 67 games during his time on Kingston's top line and first power-play unit. He's both elusive and deceiving while he's controlling the puck, and the ability to keep opponents guessing regularly presents him with opportunity to blast or wire the puck from the circles. His straight-line speed and agility allow him to draw opponents his way, but he can pivot sharply and change directions for a mad dash to the cage.

**170. Jack Perbix, Right Wing****Elk River (HS-MN)****Player Data:** Born 09/13/00 in Elk River, MN...6'1/176...**Shoots:** Right

**Scouting Report:** Highly intelligent playmaker with both inside and outside quickness who was one of the top high schoolers this season in Minnesota. Perbix's quickness is at the forefront of his game, but he also is an exceptional set-up guy who can bob and weave his way to avoid just about any type of zone defense. He plays with bite and won't back down from a challenge, and he seems to elevate his play when the stakes are high. Perbix has an excellent shot and snipes the upper portions of the net with relative ease. He seems like the kind of player who will become even more dangerous when he adds 10 to 15 pounds of muscle, which shouldn't be a problem when he plays for Notre Dame in two seasons.

**15(OA). Scott Perunovich, Left Defenseman****Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs (NCHC)****Player Data:** Born 08/18/98 in Hibbing, MN...5'9/172...**Shoots:** Left

**Scouting Report:** Swift-skating defender and playmaker who makes up for a lack of size with explosive traits and relentless puck hounding. Perunovich led all NCAA freshman defensemen in scoring this year with 11 goals and 36 points in 42 games. He is an outstanding power-play quarterback and plays with his foot on the gas pedal every time he goes back to retrieve the puck. This type of aggressive behavior with the puck leads to multiple harrowing moments, to include turnovers and over-commitments. Still, his puck skills, vision and desire to outskate everyone makes him the perfect prospect for a team in need of some excitement from the back end.

**170. Jack Randl, Left Wing****Omaha Lancers (USHL)****Player Data:** Born 05/07/00 in Elgin, IL...5'10/178...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Cerebral player with the gift of speed and the marksmanship of an assassin who plays with his head up at all times. Randl is an offensive force that makes goalies pay for giving him the tiniest of windows. He can shoot the puck with both velocity and accuracy from just about anywhere, and his shots from the circles give goalies a tough time. Randl also is a very accurate passer who can thread the needle from one side of the rink to the other. This combination of shot proclivity and passing acumen makes him difficult to prepare for, and then he makes it worse for opponents by implementing his speed factor.

**33(OA). Kristian Reichel, Center****Red Deer Rebels (WHL)****Player Data:** Born 06/11/98 in Most, Czech Republic...6'1/176...Shoots: Right

**Scouting Report:** Double-coverage pivot and the son of former NHLer Robert Reichel who has been a key cog on several Czech junior teams before cutting his teeth in the WHL with Red Deer. Reichel is a 200-foot pivot with sharp finishing skills and the ability to create off the rush. It's perplexing why it took him several years to get serious draft consideration when he was distinguishing himself two years ago as an 18-year-old in the elite Czech Extraliga. Nonetheless, he put on quite a show for the North American scouting community at the under-20 world junior hockey championship in Buffalo, where he displayed deft playmaking, agility and scoring crucial goals. Reichel can be a fixture on both the power play and the penalty kill, and can be entrusted with taking and winning late-game draws.

**18 (OA). Radim Salda, Left Defenseman****Saint John Sea Dogs (QMJHL)****Player Data:** Born 02/18/99 in Pardubice, Czech Republic...6'0/185...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Physical but low-key defender who played on Saint John's top pairing and used skill, strength and physicality to gain control of the puck. Salda is an excellent penalty killer and does a good job reacting to plays off the cycle. He's got good speed and a heavy, accurate shot, but his puck skills are pretty much limited outside of the occasional home run or slap pass. He can be used in any situation at either even strength or on special teams thanks to the ability to maintain composure under pressure and anticipate where the puck will end up. His time with the Sea Dogs revealed a player comfortable distributing the puck and running a power play with effectiveness, especially after Joe Veleno was traded to Drummondville at the end of the first half of the season.

**292. Ben Sanderson, Left Wing****Okotoks Oilers (AJHL)****Player Data:** Born 07/05/00 in Calgary, AB...6'0/177...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Sanderson plays a lot like his father Geoff did for the Hartford Whalers back in the 1990s — fast-paced winger with a very good shot who preys on lazy passes in the neutral zone. Sanderson is a threat to score in any situation, including on the penalty kill. But he isn't just a straight-line attacker — Sanderson is nimble and shifty enough to maneuver himself into a better firing position. His speed and smarts put him in the perfect position to trap or harass opposing defenders who are attempting to break out, and he is quite confident in his abilities once the puck is stolen.

**280. Ryan Savage, Right Wing****Omaha Lancers (USHL)****Player Data:** Born 03/31/00 in Montreal, QC...5'11/187...Shoots: Right

**Scouting Report:** Savage is another NHL legacy whose Canadian father (former Habs' sniper Brian Savage) had his kid grow up under the watchful eye of USA Hockey. Ryan has an excellent shot that he uses quite frequently from the circles inward. He gets a lot of muscle behind his blasts and does so either off the pass or on the rush. Much like his father, Ryan can deaden the toughest cross-crease passes and whip pucks on net in one motion. His combination of speed and goal scoring should translate to success as his role with Fargo expands. Savage is an aggressive forechecker who can make or finish plays off the cycle. He's committed to Miami University.

**210. Bulat Shafigulin, Left Wing****Reaktor (MHL)****Player Data:** Born 12/29/99 in Nizhnekamsk, Russia...6'0/165...Shoots: Left

**Scouting Report:** Talented Russian sniper who put up a season for the ages in the MHL but like most Russian teens found the KHL tough going. Shafigulin has developed a growing cult following for his production and highlight-reel plays, and he is one of the draft's deadliest shooters from inside the hash marks. He is a very strong skater with ridiculous agility and edgework, and he can lean away from defenders and still get mustard on his pro-level shot. He has excellent vision and will connect with linemates during odd-man rushes, but Shafigulin has the making of a tremendous finisher at higher levels. Sadly, his effort level and puck hogging are two things preventing him from being considered the type of Russian junior league scoring star that can come to North America and seamlessly produce from the very beginning. His skill, however, is in fact sublime and worthy of a later-round selection.

**5 (OA). Jerry Turkulainen, Right Wing****JyP (SM-Liiga)****Player Data:** Born 09/22/98 in Mikkeli, Finland...5'7/147...Shoots: Right

**Scouting Report:** Diminutive playmaker with excellent vision and quick feet who was one of the top under-20 rookies in Finland's elite league. Turkulainen regularly received top-six minutes and saw a lot of power-play time, where his creativity and patience with the puck came in handy. He is very fast and elusive, and he controls the puck close to his body while twirling and pivoting away from lunging defenders. He has some obvious bulking up to do, but his combination of speed, skill and effort makes him an easy choice to pencil into your top six on a nightly basis.

**196. Austin Wong, Center/Right Wing****Okotoks Oilers (AJHL)****Player Data:** Born 08/26/00 in Calgary, AB...5'11/197...Shoots: Right

**Scouting Report:** Some may feel like the days of the out-of-control goon in the NHL are numbered, if not entire dead. But for some reason, this pit bull finds a way to mix in ridiculously dirty and undisciplined play with a lot of skill and pizzazz. Wong habitually oversteps the thin line between clean and illegal, but he gets in on the forecheck and is able to make quick-reaction plays that lead to scoring chances around the net. Wong can motor up the ice with deceptive straight-line speed and shows excellent balance when taking it strong to the net. His hands and reflexes help him collect bouncing pucks and make clean transitions from skate to stick. Wong probably is not as good a playmaker as types like Sean Avery or Darcy Tucker were at this stage of their development, but he plays a similar abrasive style that beats you in a variety of ways.

**188. Wyattte Wylie, Right Defenseman****Everett Silvertips (WHL)****Player Data:** Born 11/02/99 in Everett, WA...6'0/190...Shoots: Right

**Scouting Report:** Poised two-way defender with soft hands and an advanced brain who played like a savvy veteran for a contending Everett squad that nearly clinched a Memorial Cup berth. Wylie has a strong upper body and can shoulder or shove bigger players off the puck with regularity. He is a clean, crisp breakout passer who keeps his head on a swivel and looks for the home run pass. Wylie also mans the point on the second power-play unit and is highly active with pinches and dropping well into the low slot in search of rebounds or centering feeds. He is a vocal on-ice communicator and identifies the most dangerous opponent. Wylie is very calm with the puck and doesn't get rattled when handling a forecheck. He plays with an edge, likes to throw his weight around and will defend his teammates during net scrums.

## TOP 50 DRAFT PROSPECTS BY POSITION

Centers		Wingers		Right Defense		Left Defense		Goalies	
1	Joe Veleno	1	Andrei Svechnikov	1	Adam Boqvist	1	Rasmus Dahlin	1	Jakub Skarek
2	Jesper Kotkaniemi	2	Filip Zadina	2	Noah Dobson	2	Ty Smith	2	Olivier Rodrigue
3	Barrett Hayton	3	Joel Farabee	3	Evan Bouchard	3	Quinn Hughes	3	Kevin Mandolese
4	Rasmus Kupari	4	Brady Tkachuk	4	Bode Wilde	4	Rasmus Sandin	4	David Hrenak
5	Akil Thomas	5	Oliver Wahlstrom	5	Sean Durzi	5	Alexander Alexeeyev	5	Jacob Ingham
6	Ryan McLeod	6	Vitali Kravtsov	6	Ryan Merkley	6	K'andre Miller	6	Akira Schmid
7	Jacob Olofsson	7	Grigori Denisenko	7	Calen Addison	7	Jared McIsaac	7	Alexei Melnichuk
8	David Gustafsson	8	Blake McLaughlin	8	Ondrej Buchtele	8	Jonathan Tychonick	8	Victor Brattstrom
9	Isac Lundestrom	9	Dominik Bokk	9	Jett Woo	9	Mattias Samuelsson	9	Amir Miftakhov
10	Ivan Morozov	10	Serron Noel	10	Nils Lundkvist	10	Kevin Bahl	10	Justus Annunen
11	Jakub Lauko	11	Dmitry Zavgorodny	11	Filip Johansson	11	Nicolas Beaudin	11	David Tendeck
12	Ty Dellandrea	12	Jesse Ylonen	12	Joey Keane	12	Danila Galenyuk	12	Lukas Dostal
13	Nikita Anokhovskiy	13	Martin Kaut	13	Xavier Bouchard	13	Adam Ginning	13	Ivan Prosvetov
14	B.O. Groulx	14	Jonatan Berggren	14	J. Bernard-Docker	14	Martin Fehérváry	14	Jesper Eliasson
15	Filip Hallander	15	Ivan Muranov	15	Ty Emberson	15	Toni Utunen	15	Kalle Nurmi
16	Jack McBain	16	Michal Kvasnica	16	Tommy Miller	16	Santeri Salmela	16	Alexis Gravel
17	Jake Wise	17	Cole Fonstad	17	Vojtech Doktor	17	Jesper Sellgren	17	Olof Lindbom
18	Milos Roman	18	Ruslan Iskhakov	18	Axel Andersson	18	Giovanni Vallati	18	Daniel Dvorak
19	Allan McShane	19	Jonathan Gruden	19	Libor Zábranský	19	Xavier Bernard	19	Keegan Karki
20	Philip Kurashev	20	Sampo Ranta	20	Alec Regula	20	Jacob Ragnarsson	20	Jett Alexander
21	Jay O'Brien	21	Jerry Turkulainen	21	Anton Malyshev	21	Danil Zhuravlyov	21	Samuel Ersson
22	Gabriel Fortier	22	Jan Jenik	22	Juuso Ketola	22	Michael Callahan	22	Duncan McGovern
23	Ryan Chyzowski	23	Alexander Zhabreyev	23	Austin Chorney	23	Alexander Romanov	23	Jake Kucharski
24	Curtis Douglas	24	Matej Svoboda	24	Miska Kukkonen	24	Spencer Stastney	24	Stephen Dhillon
25	Ruslan Iskhakov	25	Niklas Nordgren	25	Sean Comrie	25	Adam Samuelsson	25	Nick Donofrio
26	Oskar Back	26	Nando Eggenberger	26	Caleb Everett	26	Filip Kral	26	Jere Huhtamaa
27	Alex Zhabreyev	27	Kirill Marchenko	27	Wyatte Wylie	27	Nico Gross	27	Nikita Svoboda
28	Aidan Dudas	28	Karel Plasek	28	Connor Corcoran	28	Colin Gerber	28	Joel Hofer
29	Cam Hillis	29	Anderson MacDonald	29	Dawson Barteaux	29	Christian Krygier	29	Zachary Bouthillier
30	Gavin Hain	30	Kristian Kovacic	30	Christian Felton	30	Jackson Caller	30	T. Côté-Cazenave
31	Liam Foudy	31	Arttu Nevasaari	31	Jonathan Granstrom	31	Stanislav Demin	31	Oskar Autio
32	Jake Pivonka	32	Luke Loheit	32	Powell Connor	32	Merrick Rippon	32	Matthew Thiessen
33	Kristian Kovacic	33	Jeremi Gerber	33	Owen Lalonde	33	Nikita Zorkin	33	Beat Trudel
34	Riley Sutter	34	Gustav Lindberg	34	Martin Bucko	34	Georgii Dedov	34	Stephane Charlin
35	Patrick Khodorenko	35	Vladislav Kotkov	35	Peter Stratis	35	Scott Perunovich	35	Adam Evanoff
36	Matthew Struthers	36	Kody Clark	36	Axel Rindell	36	Justin Bergeron	36	Max Paddock
37	John Leonard	37	Aatu Luusuaniemi	37	Montana Onyebuchi	37	Chase Hartje	37	Kristian Kolar
38	Tyler Madden	38	Nikita Rtishchev	38	Matthew Kessel	38	Nikita Solopanov	38	Justin Blanchette
39	Adam Gajarsky	39	Jakub Lacka	39	Vili Laitinen	39	Mason Snell	39	Zachary Emond
40	A. Khovanov	40	Damir Bilyalov	40	Maxwell Crozier	40	Jordan Harris	40	Matthew Pasquale
41	Matej Pekar	41	Brendan Budy	41	Dario Wuthrich	41	Bogdan Zhilyakov	41	Zach Stejskal
42	Jack Drury	42	Lukas Wernblom	42	František Klejna	42	Dmitri Semykin	42	Ben Kraws
43	Demid Mansurov	43	Liam Kirk	43	Vladislav Yeryomenko	43	Sergei Sapego	43	Daniel Lebedeff
44	Angus Crookshank	44	Alexander Steeves	44	Hunter Drew	44	Marc Del Gaizo	44	Donovan Buskey
45	William Moskal	45	Riley Stotts	45	Martin Bodak	45	Riley McCourt	45	D. Lund-Cornish
46	Mathias Pettersen	46	Oliver Okuliar	46	Scotter Brickey	46	Dmitri Deryabin	46	Daniil Isayev
47	Mikhail Bitsadze	47	Mitch Lewandowski	47	Saku Vesterainen	47	Peter DiLiberatore	47	Connor Hopkins
48	Curtis Hall	48	Lenni Killinen	48	Simon Johansson	48	Jakub Adamek	48	Jordan Kooy
49	Ryan O'Reilly	49	Samuel Fagemo	49	Oliver Larsen	49	Tyler Tucker	49	Georgi Dubrovsky
50	Kyle Topping	50	Albin Eriksson	50	Seth Barton	50	Carter Robertson	50	Ryan Ullan

## 2018 MOCK DRAFT: ROUND 1

ROUND 1	PLAYER	NOTES
1. BUF	LHD Rasmus Dahlin (Frolunda, SHL)	Easy choice for a team devoid of a star defender for decades
2. CAR	RW Andrei Svechnikov (Barrie, OHL)	A Svechnikov-Aho tandem will scare everyone to death
3. MTL	LW Filip Zadina (Halifax, QMJHL)	Elite 200-foot competitor to help fix serious culture issues
4. OTT	LHD Quinn Hughes (Michigan, Big-10)	Hughes is NHL ready and will join Thomas Chabot to form lethal PP duo
5. ARI	RHD Adam Boqvist (Brynäs J20, SHL)	The puck explodes off the stick of this elite rearguard
6. DET	RW Oliver Wahlstrom (U.S. U18, NTDP)	Bulldozing sniper will make games at Little Caesar's more enjoyable
7. VAN	RHD Noah Dobson (Acadie-Bathurst, QMJHL)	Heck of a contingency for the uncertainty surrounding Olli Juolevi
8. CHI	LW Brady Tkachuk (Boston Univ., HE)	Three-zone power forward with famous last name is a real winner
9. NYR	LHD Ty Smith (Spokane, WHL)	Cerebral puck mover and playmaker should flourish under David Quinn
10. EDM	RHD Evan Bouchard (London, OHL)	McDavid finally gets to work with an elite PP quarterback
11. NYI	LW Joel Farabee (U.S. U18, NTDP)	Lou's first pick as Isles' GM could one day become his captain
12. NYI (CGY)	LHD Rasmus Sandin (Sault Ste Marie, OHL)	Swedish puck rusher could turn out to be the best defender after Dahlin
13. DAL	C/LW Jesperi Kotkaniemi (Assat, SM-Liiga)	Versatile two-way forward is an elite playmaker
14. PHI (STL)	RW Vitaly Kravtsov (Chelyabinsk, KHL)	Slick-mitted sniper with size put on a show in the KHL playoffs
15. FLA	C Barrett Hayton (Sault Ste Marie, OHL)	One of the few centers that can be an expert PKer and wire it like a pro
16. COL	C Joe Veleno (Saint John, QMJHL)	Matt Duchene clone has Selke-caliber skill set
17. NJD	RHD Bode Wilde (U.S. U18, NTDP)	Thoroughbred with elite wheels who keeps opponents honest
18. CBJ	C Jacob Olofsson (Timrå IK, Allsvenskan)	The top rookie in Sweden's best minor league wears down everyone
19. PHI	LHD Mattias Samuelsson (U.S. U18, NTDP)	Kjell's son has his dad's size but oozes top-pairing upside
20. LAK	LW Grigory Denisenko (Loko Yaroslavl, MHL)	William Nylander clone will make Kings a lot of fun to watch
21. SJ	C Rasmus Kupari (Kärpät, SM-Liiga)	Potential for stardom is there; just needs some time and mentorship
22. OTT (PIT)	C Isac Lundestrom (Luleå, SHL)	Mature pivot has game-breaking skill that's masked by 200-foot play
23. ANA	C Ryan McLeod (Mississauga, OHL)	Big, swift and skilled center can set up plays with the best of them
24. MIN	C Akil Thomas (Niagara, OHL)	Skilled center with heavy shot can stickhandle around traffic with ease
25. TOR	RW Dominik Bokk (Vaxjö J20, Superelit)	German-born offensive force buries chances most winger flub
26. NYR (BOS)	LW Blake McLaughlin (Chicago, USHL)	Complete package who has dizzying skill and elite vision
27. CHI (NSH)	C David Gustafsson (HV71, SHL)	Agile two-way pivot is next to unstoppable when in full flight
28. NYR (TB)	RW Martin Kaut (Pardubice, Extraliga)	Skilled winger whose ties to Filip Chytil could create Czechmates II line
29. STL (WPG)	LHD Alexander Alexeeyev (Red Deer, WHL)	Big, rangy Russian rearguard who can dominate a game at both ends
30. DET (VGK)	LHD Jonathan Tychonick (Penticton, BCHL)	Instant breakout with superior puck skills will help ailing power play
31. WSH	C Jakub Lauko (Chomutov, Extraliga)	Best breakaway threat in the draft scores highlight-reel goals

## 2018 MOCK DRAFT: ROUND 2

ROUND 2	PLAYER	NOTES
32. BUF	LW Jonatan Berggren (Skelleftea J20, Superelit)	Best one-on-one skater in the draft plays fearless
33. DET (OTT/NYR)	RW Serron Noel (Oshawa Generals)	Massive power forward has soft hands and can finish
34. FLA (ARI)	LHD Jared McIsaac (Halifax, QMJHL)	Physical two-way type is first-round quality
35. MTL	C Ty Dellandrea (Flint, OHL)	Solid skill set plus leadership and all the intangibles
36. DET	LHD K'Andre Miller (U.S. U18, NTDP)	Converted forward with speed was a blue line force
37. VAN	C/W Filip Hallander (Timra IK, Allsvenskan)	Skilled power forward is lethal on the forecheck
38. MTL (CHI)	LHD Jacob Bernard-Docker (Okotoks, AJHL)	Booming shot and speed make him a great PP option
39. NYR	C Jay O'Brien (Thayer, HS-MA)	Shot-happy center with quickness has nonstop motor
40. EDM	LW Sampo Ranta (Sioux City, USHL)	Jersey-flapping sniper dents iron with his wrist shot
41. NYI	G Jakub Skarek (Jihlava, Extraliga)	Best Czech goalie prospect in years has star potential
42. CAR	C Ivan Morozov (Mamonty Yugry, MHL)	One of the draft's best PKers is strong playmaker
43. NYI (CGY)	C Jake Wise (U.S. U18, NTDP)	One of draft's best playmakers had great second half
44. DAL	C Benoit-Olivier Groulx (Halifax, QMJHL)	Two-way center with hard shot plays heavy game
45. STL	RHD Nils Lundkvist (Lulea, SHL)	Speedster with smarts held his own against adults
46. WSH (FLA)	C Oskar Back (Farjestad J20, Superelit)	Towering center with agility and quickness can set up plays
47. COL	RW Jesse Ylonen (Espoo United, Mestis)	Fast winger produced consistently in tough league
48. NYR (NJD)	RHD Ryan Merkley (Guelph, OHL)	Maturity is critical for this enigma with puck skills
49. CBJ	RW Michal Kvasnica (Trinec U20, Extraliga Jrs.)	Speedy winger with size and can score off the rush
50. PHI	C/W Jack McBain (Toronto Jr. Canadiens, OJHL)	Power forward with big shot bound for Boston College
51. LAK	LHD Adam Ginning (Linkoping J20, Superelit)	Mean, big and nasty – just how the Kings like 'em
52. TOR (SJ)	RHD Filip Johansson (Leksands J20, Superelit)	Steady Eddie on defense can skate and play mistake free
53. PIT	LHD Nicolas Beaudin (Drummondville, QMJHL)	Gifted puck distributor is wise beyond his years
54. ANA	RHD Calen Addison (Lethbridge, WHL)	Pure playmaker with good speed helps the PP
55. ARI (MIN)	C Milos Roman (Vancouver, WHL)	Strong as an ox and can slow down top lines
56. MTL (TOR)	RW Kirill Marchenko (Mamonty Yugry, MHL)	In-your-face speedster who can finish in a variety of ways
57. BOS	C Allan McShane (Oshawa, OHL)	Great set-up guy with high compete level
58. ARI (NSH)	RW Cole Fonstad (Prince Albert, WHL)	Skilled winger makes the most of his opportunities
59. TB	C Philipp Kurashev (Quebec, QMJHL)	Swiss pivot with skill helps Bolts' replenish prospect pool
60. WPG	C Curtis Douglas (Windsor, OHL)	Jets keep with size theme by taking soft-mitted 6-foot-9 beast
61. VGK	RW Dmitry Zavgorodniy (Rimouski, QMJHL)	Smallish sniper is a tough competitor and relentless forechecker
62. MTL	G Olivier Rodrigue (Drummondville, QMJHL)	Life without Carey many begin sooner than the Habs would like

# ANAHEIM DUCKS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (23<sup>rd</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (54<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (79<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (85<sup>th</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (116<sup>th</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (147<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (178<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Anaheim historically is a team that develops at least two NHL regulars from each of their last few drafts, and nine of their top 12 scorers were original Ducks selections. Speedy center Rickard Rakell (2011) led the team in both goals (34) and points (69), and he is one of only a few recent draftees of any team to post back-to-back 30-goal seasons before his 25th birthday. The blueline continues to be a strength in terms of drafted talent, as their four best rearguards – Josh Manson (2011), Cam Fowler (2010), Brandon Montour (2014) and Hampus Lindholm (2012) – were all picked up on draft day. And add former seventh-round right wing Ondrej Kase (2014) to the growing list of late-round gems the Ducks continue to unearth. The pipeline is loaded with bluechip prospects, beginning with forward Troy Terry (2015), playmaker Sam Steel (2016) and power forwards Max Jones (2016) and Maxime Comtois (2017).

### WHAT'S HURTING

It's never been a question of "if" the Ducks will make the playoffs. The problem for the current group is validating regular season success by reaching the Stanley Cup Finals for the first time since 2007. Their leaders are getting up there in age, with 33-year-olds Ryan Getzlaf, Corey Perry and Ryan Kesler placing in the top four in ice time among forwards in a disappointing first-round sweep to rival San Jose. You know things are rough in a playoff series when now-retired defender Francois Beauchemin is playing 20+ minutes in a do-or-die playoff game.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Ducks have a deep farm system and own picks in each of the first six rounds, including a pair of thirds. They can be super aggressive on draft day, especially since they do so well in later rounds.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

TROY TERRY, 21  
 SAM STEEL, 20  
 ANTOINE MORAND, 20  
 BRENT GATES, 20

### WINGERS

GIOVANNI FIORE, 21  
 JACK KOPACKA, 20  
 MAX JONES, 19  
 MAXIME COMTOIS, 19

### DEFENSEMEN

JOSH MAHURA, 20  
 JACOB LARSSON, 20  
 MARCUS PETTERSSON, 22  
 ANDY WELINSKI, 24

### GOALIES

OLLE ERIKSSON EK, 18  
 GARRETT METCALF, 22  
 KEVIN BOYLE, 26

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. POWER-PLAY QUARTERBACK

The Ducks went from having the top power play in 2016 (22.9%) to one of the worst (17.8%). This is the draft to start addressing the decline.  
Draft Target: Johnny Tychonick, Ryan Merkley

### 2. GOAL SCORER

As strong a prospect pool the Ducks have, there is an obvious lack of finishers  
Draft Target: Dominik Bokk, Grigori Denisenko

### 3. PHYSICAL DEFENSEMAN

Ducks have skipped over in-your-face types in each of the last three drafts.  
Draft Target: K'Andre Miller, Jared McIsaac

# ARIZONA COYOTES

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (5<sup>th</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (55<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (65<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (73<sup>rd</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (74<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (158<sup>th</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (189<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The emergence of Clayton Keller as a legitimate top-line threat helped Arizona make gains in the standings in what turned out to be an above-average second half. Six of their top eight scorers were original Coyote draft picks, of which five were 22 years old or younger. It was no coincidence that Arizona went a respectable 22-22-6 with defenseman Jakob Chychrun (2016) in the lineup, and 7-19-6 without. Young forwards Brendan Perlini (2014), Christian Dvorak (2014) and Christian Fischer (2015) each established career-best point totals, while 2013 first-rounder Max Domi shook off a rough start to notch 26 points in his last 35 games.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Coyotes lean heavily on Canadian major junior to supply their farm system, but the lack of results in the standings may force them to be a little more diverse in their drafting. Taking Dylan Strome third overall in 2015 is a decision that has yet to bear any results at the NHL level, and the season-ending injury to Tyler Steenbergen (2017) likely emphasizes the need to draft a center. Goal scoring ineptitude has become a hallmark of Arizona's, as they have finished 27th or worse in total offense in each of the last four seasons.

### BOTTOM LINE

It's hard to believe that a team that has struggled as often as the Coyotes is picking in the top five for only the second time in 11 years. Regardless of whether Dylan Strome becomes a productive top-six center, Arizona needs to make the most of its first selection, especially after trading away last year's top pick.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

DYLAN STROME, 21  
 TYLER STEENBERGEN, 20  
 LANE PEDERSON, 20  
 NATE SCHNARR, 19

### WINGERS

NICK MERKLEY, 21  
 LAWSON CROUSE, 21  
 ANTON KARLSSON, 21  
 JENS LOOKE, 21

### DEFENSEMEN

PIERRE-OLIVIER JOSEPH, 21  
 CAM DINEEN, 20  
 KYLE CAPOBIANCO, 20  
 FILIP WESTERLUND, 19

### GOALIES

ADIN HILL, 22  
 ERIK KALLGREN, 21  
 HUNTER MISKA, 22

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

The Coyotes still lack that sniper with 30-goal potential.

Draft Target: Filip Zadina, Oliver Wahlstrom

### 2. POWER-PLAY QUARTERBACK

Arizona needs someone to run what has been a weak power play.

Draft Target: Quinn Hughes, Evan Bouchard

### 3. GOALIE

Adin Hill appears to be the goalie of their future, but the pool behind him is thin.

Draft Target: Jakub Skarek, Olivier Rodrigue

# BOSTON BRUINS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

2<sup>nd</sup> Round (57<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (77<sup>th</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (119<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (181<sup>ST</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (212<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

For all the vitriol being spewed at GM Don Sweeney for passing on the likes of super-rookies Matt Barzal and Kyle Connor at the 2015 draft, he still came away with Jake DeBrusk, who was a key contributor to Boston's return to prominence. Additionally, the Bruins won over 50 games with a lineup that featured over a dozen regulars who were reared in their AHL affiliate in Providence. They tend to favor New England-area prospects, but it's tough to argue against the strategy when they've made the playoffs 43 times in the last 50 years.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Patrice Bergeron and Brad Marchand may play like they are in their mid-20's, but a slowdown is forthcoming. Replacing them won't be easy, and the jury is still out as to whether Debrusk, Ryan Donato or Danton Heinen are wired to replicate the current top line's elite-level production. While Charlie McAvoy is being groomed to replace Zdeno Chara as the Bruins' stopper on defense, the B's could use a center with star potential that can be earmarked as Bergeron's replacement.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Bruins do a great job at both drafting and developing, but recent trades whittled away at their asset pool. Their system needs stars, and this is the draft to gun for them.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

TRENT FREDERIC, 20  
 J. FORSBACKA-KARLSSON, 21  
 JACK STUDNICKA, 19  
 JOONA KOPPANEN, 20

### WINGERS

ZACH SENYSHYN, 21  
 JACK BECKER, 21  
 ANTON BLIDH, 23  
 PETER CEHLARIK, 22

### DEFENSEMEN

CONNOR CLIFTON, 23  
 JEREMY LAUZON, 21  
 JAKUB ZBORIL, 21  
 URHO VAAKANAINEN, 19

### GOALIES

JEREMY SWAYMAN, 19  
 ZANE MCINTYRE, 25  
 DANIEL VLADAR, 20

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. PLAYMAKING CENTER

David Krejci and Patrice Bergeron are in their early 30's, and only 12 of Danton Heinen's 31 assists were primary.

Draft Target: Jake Wise, Allan McShane

### 2. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Forming a lethal second line requires a finisher. Zach Senyshyn's inconsistent AHL season keeps their options open.

Draft Target: Niklas Nordgren, Sampo Ranta

### 3. GOALIE

The carousel of backups for Tukka Rask needs to end.

Draft Target: Olivier Rodrigue, Kevin Mandolese

# BUFFALO SABRES

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (1<sup>ST</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (32<sup>ND</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (94<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (117<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (125<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (156<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (187<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Sabres have been one of the league's worst teams at 5-on-5 scoring the last five seasons, and drafting poorly is the biggest reason why. Still, they've acknowledged the issue by taking super-skilled forwards with each of their last three first-round picks – Jack Eichel, Alex Nylander and Casey Mittelstadt is a solid base to start with.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Do the Sabres suffer on defense because of their offense, or does the offense struggle because of the defense? The data reveals the Sabres have a popgun offense that generates low-percentage shots at even strength. Another issue is goaltending – the Sabres won only five of 45 games when opponent scored first. Making key saves; employing a heavy-forecheck system and winning puck battles were three of the bigger omissions during the opening stages of most of their games. They need poised puck movers, aggressive forwards and a goalie that can keep them in games.

### BOTTOM LINE

It can't get any worse for the Sabres, but the last thing they should do is heap unrealistic expectations on a strong young core that will be even stronger after this draft. Throwing money at free agents has not worked one bit, so the rebuild should continue for a few more years, even after they add a phenom like Dahlin or Svechnikov.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

RASMUS ASPLUND, 20  
 MARCUS DAVIDSSON, 19  
 CLIFF PU, 20  
 CONNOR HURLEY, 22

### WINGERS

ALEX NYLANDER, 19  
 LINUS WEISSBACH, 20  
 VICTOR OLOFSSON, 22  
 C.J. SMITH, 23

### DEFENSEMEN

VOJTECH BUDIK, 20  
 WILL BORGEN, 21  
 JACOB BRYSON, 20  
 OSKARI LAAKSONEN, 18

### GOALIES

LINUS ULLMARK, 24  
 U. LUUKKONEN, 19  
 ADAM WILCOX, 25

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. NO. 1 DEFENSEMAN

Nobody can argue that the player the Sabres choose with the first pick instantly becomes their best defenseman for next season.  
 Draft Target: Rasmus Dahlin

### 2. GOALIE

Unlikely the Sabres will use their high 2<sup>nd</sup> on a goalie for the second year in a row.  
 Draft Target: Niklas Nordgren, Sampo Ranta

### 3. GOALIE

The carousel of backups for Tukka Rask needs to end.  
 Draft Target: Olivier Rodrigue, Kevin Mandolese

# CALGARY FLAMES

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

4<sup>th</sup> Round (105<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (108<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (167<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (198<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Flames have an abundance of mobile two-way defensemen at both the NHL and farm level, and their top forwards with the big club are still well south of 30. Center Dillon Dube (2nd/2016) and power winger Eetu Tuulola (6th/2016) have top-six upside, and Spencer Foo and Andrew Mangiapane excelled in the. All seven of the Flames' top scoring forwards are original draft picks, and their four best defense prospects all have realistic top-four potential.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Flames lost 17 of their last 24 games to sour what was expected to be a third playoff season in four years. Exacerbating matters was the trading of their first three picks in 2018 – two to the Islanders in the Travis Hamonic deal. Missing the playoffs and losing the privilege of a high first-round pick (in a deep draft, no less) is a recipe that could eventually get a general manager fired. Barring any additional moves, this marks the third time in five years the Flames will enter the draft with five picks or less.

### BOTTOM LINE

Treliving and predecessor Jay Feaster have drafted well to create a lineup with a handful of notable stars. They remain in win-now mode regardless of what transpired last season, and hiring a new coach in Bill Peters likely is Treliving's final lunge at trying to save his job. With no critical need and only a few picks, the Flames should gun for high-skill types.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

MATTHEW PHILLIPS, 20  
 DILLON DUBE, 20  
 ADAM RUZICKA, 19  
 PAVEL KARNAUKHOV, 21

### WINGERS

MORGAN KLIMCHUK, 23  
 SPENCER FOO, 24  
 ANDREW MANGIAPANNE, 22  
 EETU TUULOLA, 20

### DEFENSEMEN

OLIVER KYLINGTON, 21  
 RASMUS ANDERSSON, 21  
 JUUSO VALIMAKI, 19  
 ADAM FOX, 20

### GOALIES

TYLER PARSONS, 20  
 MASON MCDONALD, 22  
 DAVID RITTICH, 25

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOALIE

Mike Smith is 36, and both Jon Gillies and Tyler Parsons were average. The top goalies will be gone early, but they still need to beef up.  
 Draft Target: Amir Miftkhov, Justus Annunen

### 2. POWER-PLAY SPECIALIST

Outside of Matthew Phillips, the system has nothing in terms of pure playmaking.  
 Draft Target: Semyon Der-Arguchintsev, Nikolai Kovalenko

### 3. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Not a pressing requirement but added depth certainly helps.  
 Draft Target: Arttu Nevasaari, Yegor Sokolov

# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (2<sup>ND</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (42<sup>ND</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (96<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (104<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (166<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (197<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (216<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Canes have one of the league's best farm systems, with depth at every position and sub-position imaginable. The big club has budding stars in Sebastian Aho, Noah Hanifin and Jacob Slavin, who are just three of dozens of quality draft picks made by a front office that is slowly being gutted by new owner Tom Dundon, who in April fired GM Ron Francis and scout Joe Nieuwendyk. The situation in goal at the NHL level has been shaky, but the prospect pool is full of talented netminders like Alex Nedeljkovic (2014), Callum Booth (2015), Eetu Makiniemi (2017) and Jeremy Helvig (2016).

### WHAT'S HURTING

Goaltending has been an Achilles' Heel at the NHL level for quite some time, but the last handful of drafts has yielded quality netminding prospects, including future-No. 1 Alex Nedeljkovic. Former first rounders Haydn Fleury (2014) and Julien Gauthier (2016) need bounce-back seasons to avoid being leapfrogged. The Canes have been stuck in mediocrity on both sides of the puck, but it's been 10 years since the last time they had one of the NHL's top-10 attacks.

### BOTTOM LINE

The quantity and quality of Carolina's farm system soon will create a logjam that may block and subsequently devalue some of their assets. If there is one organization that can afford to trade expendable pieces to acquire experienced impact players, it's definitely the Canes, who next season can make a serious run for a playoffs as long as they add pieces to their developing foundation of talent.

2018

## TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

MARTIN NECAS, 19  
 JANNE KUOKKANEN, 20  
 ALEKSI SAARELA, 21  
 LUCAS WALLMARK, 22

### WINGERS

JULIEN GAUTHIER, 20  
 STELIO MATTHEOS, 19  
 WARREN FOEGELE, 22  
 VALENTIN ZYKOV, 23

### DEFENSEMEN

JAKE BEAN, 20  
 NOAH CARROLL, 20  
 ROLAND MCKEOWN, 22  
 TREVOR CARRICK, 23

### GOALIES

ALEX NEDELJKOVIC, 22  
 CALLUM BOOTH, 21  
 EETU MAKINIEMI, 19

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Winning the lottery for a draft deep with NHL-ready snipers allows the Canes to take a BPA-type and address a deficiency at the same time.  
Draft Target: Andrei Svechnikov, Filip Zadina

### 2. MOBILE RIGHT DEFENSEMAN

Not a major need; just the weaker of the two sides. Plus Justin Faulk is a UFA in two years  
Draft Target: Jett Woo, Filip Johansson

### 3. CHECKING CENTER

Teams usually address this via free agency, but this draft has some good ones.  
Draft Target: Curtis Douglas, Ethan Manderville

# CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (8<sup>TH</sup>)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round (27<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (69<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (87<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (120<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (142<sup>ND</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (162<sup>ND</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (193<sup>RD</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Few teams have as many quality defense prospects as Chicago, which has drafted nine in the last two drafts combined. The Blackhawks mine every major hockey nation for talent, and the over-stocking of their pool began smack in the middle of their mini-Stanley Cup dynasty. If there's one team built to rapidly reverse the ills from a lost season, it's Chicago, which received breakout seasons from recent draftees Alex DeBrincat (28 goals) and Nick Schmaltz (52 points). Russian wingers Artur Kayumov and Andrei Altybarmakyan are electrifying talents who in two years should challenge for spots out of camp.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The injury to starting goalie Corey Crawford, coupled with nightmarish seasons from defensemen Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook, certainly explains the poor finish in the standings. Winnings multiple Cups proved costly from a salary cap standpoint, as did striking out at the draft with their goalie selections.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Blackhawks have constructed a ridiculous pool of defense prospects and possess skill on the flanks, so now's a good time to plus up on goalies and playmaking centers. Signs point to this season's struggles being an anomaly, so making the most out of their first pick regardless of need or position is imperative.

## 2018

### TOP PROSPECTS

#### CENTERS

EVAN BARRATT, 19  
 MAXIM SHALUNOV, 25  
 ANTHONY LOUIS, 23  
 MATTHEW HIGHMORE, 22

#### WINGERS

A. ALTYBARMAKYAN, 20  
 ARTUR KAYUMOV, 20  
 DYLAN SIKURA, 22  
 TIM SODERLUND, 20

#### DEFENSEMEN

RYAN SHEA, 21  
 IAN MITCHELL, 19  
 HENRI JOKIHARJU, 19  
 JONI TUULOLA, 22

#### GOALIES

WOUTER PEETERS, 19  
 IVAN NALIMOV, 24  
 COLLIN DELIA, 24

### BIGGEST NEEDS

#### 1. CENTER

Jonathan Toews is 30 and coming off the worst statistical season of his 11-year career. You have to think the Hawks will rebound and won't get a crack at a top-10 pick for a few more years.  
Draft Target: Joe Veleno, Barrett Hayton

#### 2. GOALIE

Issues confronting the big club won't be solved with this draft, but position is incredibly thin.  
Draft Target: Jakub Skarek, Olivier Rodrigue

#### 3. PHYSICAL DEFENSEMAN

The Hawks could grab a top puck mover with their first pick, but they need a new Seabrook.  
Draft Target: Jared McIssac, Matthias Samuelsson

# COLORADO AVALANCHE

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (16<sup>th</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (47<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (58<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>Rd</sup> Round (78<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (109<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (140<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (171<sup>ST</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (202<sup>ND</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Colorado's rapid improvement from bottom dweller to playoff upstart can be traced back to the draft table, where GM Joe Sakic landed a Hart-finalist in Nathan MacKinnon (2013), a leader in Gabriel Landeskog (2012) and future star in winger Mikko Rantanen (2015). Additionally, they have impact players in waiting like centers Tyson Jost (2016) and Shane Bowers (trade), and dynamic defenseman Cale Makar (2017). Most seem to think, however, that Conor Timmins (2017) eventually will be the anchor of their blue line. The Avalanche has a nucleus of young talent that puts their upside among the highest of potential Stanley Cup contenders for the next decade.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Avalanche improved everywhere and was excellent on both the power play and the penalty kill. Nathan MacKinnon's injury, however, exposed Colorado as a top-heavy bunch that needs a dangerous second line to ease the pressure off its big guns. They also could improve their depth in goal if Semyon Varlamov bolts for unrestricted free agency after the 2019 season.

### BOTTOM LINE

Strong drafting played a critical role in the team's resurgence, and acquiring valuable assets from the Matt Duchene trade change the perception that GM Joe Sakic wasn't savvy enough to compete with the big boys.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

VLADISLAV KAMENEV, 21  
 IGOR SHVYRYOV, 19  
 SHANE BOWERS, 19  
 GUSTAV OLHAVER, 20

### WINGERS

A.J. GREER, 21  
 DENIS SMIRNOV, 20  
 TRAVIS BARRON, 19  
 CAM MORRISON, 19

### DEFENSEMEN

CALE MAKAR, 19  
 CONOR TIMMINS, 19  
 ANDREI MIRONOV, 23  
 NICK LEIVERMANN, 19

### GOALIES

PETR KVACA, 20  
 ADAM WERNER, 21  
 SPENCER MARTIN, 23

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

The Av's have made a commitment to speed and creativity, but the depth lines need finishers.

Draft Target: Grigori Denisenko, Sampo Ranta

### 2. PHYSICAL DEFENSEMAN

Bruising rearguard Josh Anderson can fill this role, but he has yet to prove himself outside of major junior.

Draft Target: Jared McIsaac, Adam Samuelsson

### 3. GOALIE

As great a story as it was, Andrew Hammond should not be considered a long-term answer.

Draft Target: Olivier Rodrigue, Jacob Ingham

# COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (18<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (49<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> Round (80<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (173<sup>RD</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> Round (204<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The magic at the draft table has been working wonders for the big club, as Blue Jackets GM Jarmo Kekalainen has built a contender with impact players developed within the organization. He's dipped into talent pools from over a half dozen countries, including last year when he took Frenchman Alexandre Texier in the 2nd round. Their last two first-round picks – defenseman Zach Werenski (2015) and center Pierre-Luc Dubois (2016) – reflect the new NHL idea that it's better to be being big and quick than just big. And picking winners is not some recent trend; Columbus originally selected at least two present-day NHL regulars in seven of eight drafts between 2008 and 2015.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Things look stable in all areas for now, and there isn't one glaring mistake on Kekalainen's draft resume. They need a goalie to get them over the playoff hump, but prospects Peter Thome (2016) and Daniil Tarasov (2017) are green. Also, last year marked the first time in franchise history where they did not draft at least one player from the CHL.

### BOTTOM LINE

Having picks in each of the first three rounds of what looks like a deep draft won't be an instant solution to their first-round playoff woes, but Columbus already has drafted well enough to be considered a force in the Metro Division for at least the next decade.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

ALEXANDRE TEXIER, 18  
 KEVIN STENLUND, 21  
 EMIL BEMSTROM, 19  
 SAM VIGNEAULT, 22

### WINGERS

VITALII ABRAMOV, 20  
 CALVIN THURKAUF, 20  
 KOLE SHERWOOD, 22  
 JONATHAN DAVIDSSON, 21

### DEFENSEMEN

ANDREW PEEKE, 20  
 BLAKE SIEBENALER, 22  
 RYAN COLLINS, 22  
 SLAVA GAVRIKOV, 22

### GOALIES

PETER THOME, 21  
 DANIIL TARASOV, 19  
 ELVIS MERZLIKINS, 24

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. PLAYMAKING CENTER

The Jackets have playmakers on the wing at every level, but they have yet to replace Ryan Johansen's pass-first proclivity from center.  
Draft Target: Joe Veleno, Rasmus Kupari

### 2. PHYSICAL DEFENSEMAN

Seth Jones and Zach Werenski don't necessarily punish you in the corners. A real meanie is needed to clean up the slot.  
Draft Target: Matthias Samuelsson, Kevin Bahl

### 3. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

An option to compliment Oliver Bjorkstrand wouldn't hurt.  
Draft Target: Dominik Bokk, Sampo Ranta

# DALLAS STARS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (13<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (44<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> Round (75<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> Round (100<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> Round (106<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (137<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (168<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> Round (199<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Stars have a lineup with plenty of homegrown talent, and they've hit big with at least one pick in every draft between 2007 and 2014. If they get forward Valeri Nichuskin (2013) to return from Russia, he'll be one of several youngsters developed by the Stars to challenge for a lineup spot next season. All signs point towards skilled wingers Denis Guryanov (2015) and Riley Tuftte (2016) getting a long look for a regular spot, and defensemen Miro Heiskanen (2017) had one of the best seasons of any under-20 defensemen in the history of Finland's elite SM-Liiga. Stud defenseman John Klingberg (2010) is a perennial Norris Trophy candidate and led a defense corps that was of the league's stingiest in allowing quality chances. Throw 2014 first-rounder Julius Honka in the mix, and the Stars appear to be developing a superior blueline.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The defense improved tremendously, but goaltending continues to be a major issue. Botching goalie picks has been a Dallas tradition for almost two decades. Not one of the 14 goalies drafted since they took Mike Smith in 2001 was or currently is an NHL regular.

### BOTTOM LINE

No team wants to end its season on a skid, but the Stars' poor finish had a silver lining, as several youngsters' revealed promise. They still need a big-time center prospect.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

FREDRIK KARLSTROM, 20  
 RHETT GARDNER, 22  
 JACOB PETERSON, 18  
 LIAM HAWEL, 19

### WINGERS

RILEY TUFTE, 20  
 DENIS GURYANOV, 21  
 JASON ROBERTSON, 18  
 ROOPE HINTZ, 21

### DEFENSEMEN

MIRO HEISKANEN, 18  
 GAVIN BAYREUTHER, 23  
 JOHN NYBERG, 22  
 JAKOB STENQVIST, 20

### GOALIES

JAKE OETTINGER, 19  
 COLTON POINT, 20  
 PHILIPPE DESROSIERS, 22

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. TOP-SIX CENTER

Dallas went after bigger wingers but have few true playmakers outside of what they have at the NHL level

Draft Target: Joe Veleno, Rasmus Kupari

### 2. TWO-WAY WINGER

There's a lot of firepower on the flanks, but the Stars could use a Jere Lehtinen type to slow down opposing attacks

Draft Target: Jesse Ylonen, Jesperi Kotkaniemi

### 3. TWO-WAY CENTER

The penalty kill and late-game situations are critical to a team's success. Dallas needs a pivot to summon when there's a lead to protect

Draft Target: Dominik Bokk, Sampo Ranta

# DETROIT RED WINGS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (6<sup>th</sup>)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round (30<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (33<sup>RD</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (36<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (67<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (81<sup>ST</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (84<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (98<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (159<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (160<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (191<sup>ST</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Dylan Larkin (2014) and Anthony Mantha (2013) were the team's two best forwards, with Larkin shrugging off his sophomore slump by leading the squad in assists (47) and points (63). The Red Wings correctly identified their graying defense as an area in need of fixing, and GM Ken Holland has acquired nine defense prospects in the last two drafts combined. Detroit's future between the pipes appears to be in good hands, as Keith Petruzzelli (2017), Joren van Pottelberghe (2015) and Filip Larsson (2016) are all butterfly netminders with No. 1 upside. Flipping a declining Brendan Smith to the Rangers at the 2017 deadline for what became Zach Gallant (2017) and this year's 32<sup>nd</sup> overall pick was a brilliant piece of GM'ing by Ken Holland.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The numbers indicated another awful season for the Red Wings, who for the second year in a row failed to crack the top 20 in either goals for or goals against. And they're an aging team, as eight of their top 11 scorers were over 27 years old, including six in their 30's. Wingers Givani Smith (2016) and Evgeny Svechnikov (2015) have yet to live up to expectations and need bounce-back seasons.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Red Wings possess a good amount of quality prospects but need a new face of the franchise. This should be the draft where they find him, regardless of position.

2018

## TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

MICHAEL RASMUSSEN, 19  
 DOMINIC TURGEON, 22  
 AXEL HOLMSTROM, 21  
 CHRISTOFFER EHN, 22

### WINGERS

DAVID POPE, 23  
 JACK ADAMS, 21  
 EVGENY SVECHNIKOV, 21  
 GIVANI SMITH, 20

### DEFENSEMEN

FILIP HRONEK, 20  
 DENNIS CHOLOWSKI, 20  
 JOE HICKETTS, 22  
 GUSTAV LINDSTROM, 19

### GOALIES

KEITH PETRUZZELLI, 19  
 FILIP LARSSON, 19  
 JOREN VAN POTTELBERGHE, 21

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Detroit hasn't had a 30-goal scorer since 2009, which coincidentally is the last year they advanced past the second round.

Draft Target: Oliver Wahlstrom, Vitaly Kravtsov

### 2. PLAYMAKING CENTER

The creativity gene is lacking in most of Detroit's forward prospects.

Draft Target: Jake Wise, Allan McShane

### 3. OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMAN

The pool is overflowing with defenders, but few have sublime puck skills.

Draft Target: Quinn Hughes, Adam Boqvist

# EDMONTON OILERS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (10<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (40<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (71<sup>ST</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (133<sup>RD</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (164<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (195<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The tandem of Leon Draisaitl (2014) and Connor McDavid (2015) present opponents with an insurmountable problem, and the fact that neither is over 23 makes it even scarier. Jesse Puljujarvi (2016) was a breath of fresh air during most of his half-season with the squad, and even a brief 9-game stint for Kailer Yamamoto (2017) should have been enough to convince Edmonton's brass that they were right in making him their first pick a year ago. Darnell Nurse (2013) is developing into a quality top-two defender after proving he can hold his own playing big minutes.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Oilers bypassed an impact defender in the first round of four straight drafts, and last season they reaped what they sowed in a big way. They also experimented with several wingers to flank McDavid, but Milan Lucic is declining and Patrick Maroon was shipped off to New Jersey at the trade deadline. Lastly, the regression of Cam Talbot exposed the organization's lack of a quality backup.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Oilers had a miserable season that quickly erased the feel-good mood from the previous season's playoff run. They need to take advantage of a draft deep in puck-moving defensemen and provide McDavid with the kind of blue line support he deserves.

2018

## TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

COOPER MARODY, 21  
 SKYLER BRIND'AMOUR, 18  
 TYLER VESEL, 24  
 APELI RASANEN, 20

### WINGERS

KAILER YAMAMOTO, 19  
 OSTAP SAFIN, 19  
 TYLER BENSON, 20  
 KIRILL MAKSIMOV, 19

### DEFENSEMEN

ETHAN BEAR, 21  
 CALEB JONES, 21  
 WILLIAM LAGESSON, 22  
 DMITRY SAMORUKOV, 19

### GOALIES

STUART SKINNER, 19  
 DYLAN WELLS, 20  
 ZACH NAGELVOORT, 24

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMAN

Every top forward in the league is paired with an elite puck rusher. Everyone except Connor McDavid. Time for the Oilers to join the party.  
 Draft Target: Quinn Hughes, Evan Bouchard

### 2. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Jesse Puljujarvi and Kailer Yamamoto aren't textbook snipers. Edmonton's brutal power play screams for a finisher off the pass.  
 Draft Target: Dominik Bokk, Sampo Ranta

### 3. CENTER

The Oilers are fine at the NHL level but need backups.  
 Draft Target: Quinn Hughes, Adam Boqvist

# FLORIDA PANTHERS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (15<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (34<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (123<sup>RD</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (139<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (170<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (201<sup>ST</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Panthers nearly made the playoffs for the third time in six years after missing them in each of the previous 10. The team clearly is on the rise, and drafting cornerstone pieces in Jonathan Huberdeau (2011), Aleksander Barkov (2013) and Aaron Ekblad (2014) are three big reasons why. Swiss import Denis Malgin (2015) was a late-round gem that appears to make up for the mistake made with Lawson Crouse at seventh overall in the same draft. Florida's staff likes to hunt for prospects in Finland, and center Henrik Borgstrom (2016) looks ready to be their No. 2 center of the future. They're also expecting a full season from winger Henrik Haapala, a Finnish prospect who once was a linemate of Barkov's.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Slick winger Adam Mascherin was a solid pick in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round in 2016, but the youngster informed the Cats that he had no desire to sign with them. If the Panthers can find a trade partner, he'll re-enter the draft. Keep in mind that Mascherin, an undersized winger, was taken one pick ahead of diminutive winger Alex DeBrincat, who this season scored 28 goals for the Chicago Blackhawks. Florida also needs a goalie of the future, so expect them to address this in the middle rounds.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Panthers nearly cracked the 100-point mark with a lineup built primarily through the draft. The forward group looks lethal, so they should start building up the back end.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

HENRIK BORGSTROM, 20  
 JONATHAN ANG, 20  
 JUHO LAMMIKKO, 22  
 PATRICK SHEA, 21

### WINGERS

OWEN TIPPETT, 19  
 ALEKSI HEPONIEMI, 19  
 SEBASTIAN REPO, 22  
 DRYDEN HUNT, 22

### DEFENSEMEN

BEN FINKELSTEIN, 20  
 MAX GILDON, 19  
 RILEY STILLMAN, 20  
 LINUS NASSEN, 20

### GOALIES

SAMUEL MONTEMBEAULT, 21  
 RYAN BEDNARD, 21  
 EVAN COWLEY, 22

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. TWO-WAY DEFENSEMAN

Aaron Ekblad's rebound season was critical to the team's leap in the standings, but a strong second pairing is the one thing keeping the Panthers a notch below Cup contention.  
Draft Target: Bode Wilde, K'Andre Miller

### 2. POWER-PLAY QUARTERBACK

Keith Yandle had a great year and is under contract, but he'll be 32 when the season starts.  
Draft Target: Johnny Tychonick, Calen Addison

### 3. GOALIE

Florida has skipped over backstops in each of the last two drafts.  
Draft Target: Olivier Rodrigue, Jacob Ingham

# LOS ANGELES KINGS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (20<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (51<sup>ST</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> Round (82<sup>ND</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> Round (113<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (144<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (165<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (175<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Getting mileage out of their picks and prospect acquisitions has become a Kings' hallmark, as each of their top-10 scorers were either original draft selections or players developed in their farm system. Former first-rounder Adrian Kempe (2014) had an excellent rookie season, and Los Angeles has to be excited about the dominant junior seasons from centers Gabe Vilardi (2017) and Jaret Anderson-Dolan (2017). Kale Clague (2016) is the best asset within a small group of solid puck-moving defense prospects, and he should challenge for a roster spot out of training camp.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Kings are playing with fire by continuously icing a lineup where its youngest players are in their mid 20's. They also drafted only seven forwards in the last three combined drafts, and the quality of prospects playing for their AHL affiliate in Ontario is declining. The organization bounced back to make the playoffs, but the sweep at the hands of the Vegas Golden Knights marked the fourth straight year the Kings failed to win a playoff series.

### BOTTOM LINE

The combination of trading away assets to fuel Stanley Cup runs and rewarding players with long-term deals because of them has put the organization on a short path towards mediocrity. They need to get younger, faster and cheaper.

## 2018

### TOP PROSPECTS

#### CENTERS

GABE VILARDI, 18  
 J. ANDERSON-DOLAN, 18  
 DRAKE RYMSHA, 20  
 ALEXANDER DERGACHEV, 21

#### WINGERS

SPENCER WATSON, 22  
 AUSTIN WAGNER, 21  
 MATT LUFF, 21  
 MIKEY EYSSIMONT, 21

#### DEFENSEMEN

KALE CLAGUE, 19  
 SEAN WALKER, 23  
 MIKEY ANDERSON, 19  
 ALEX LINTUNIEMI, 22

#### GOALIES

CAL PETERSEN, 23  
 MATT VILLALTA, 19

### BIGGEST NEEDS

#### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

The Kings appear loaded down the middle for several years to come, but their playmaking pivots need flankers who can bury the puck.  
Draft Target: Grigori Denisenko, Vitaly Kravtsov

#### 2. GOALIE

Jonathan Quick is showing no signs of slowing down, but the depth chart is thin after Cal Petersen  
Draft Target: Jakub Skarek, Kevin Mandolese

#### 3. POWER-PLAY QUARTERBACK

A deep pool of defense prospects is missing a bonafide playmaker.  
Draft Target: Bode Wilde, J. Bernard-Docker,

# MINNESOTA WILD

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (24<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (63<sup>rd</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (86<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (92<sup>nd</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (148<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (155<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (179<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (210<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Wild has a high batting average when it comes to making the most out of their draft picks, including later-round selections. You can make a strong case that Russian winger Kirill Kaprizov (2015) is the NHL's best forward prospect outside of North America, and hulking forward Jordan Greenway (2015) was selected to play for Team USA at the Olympics. Sniper Dmitry Sokolov (2016) is looking like a late-round steal, as the former seventh rounder potted at least 48 goals in the OHL for the second year in a row.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The few homegrown players who have had a profound impact on the lineup were drafted a while back, and the Wild's depth chart is filled with expensive veterans. To put things in perspective the Wild has not had a single skater receive a Calder Trophy vote, let alone be nominated for the award, in each of the last five years. Although they possess a handful of coveted prospects, it's time for them to become the kind of productive NHL players teams need to advance in the postseason. And prized prospect Luke Kunin (2016) tore his ACL, leaving his status for next season in doubt.

### BOTTOM LINE

The firing of longtime GM Chuck Fletcher likely had more to do with his veteran dealings rather than anything draft related, as the Wild's system received an upgrade thanks to quality picks. The new regime has little to worry about in terms of prospect depth, but a contingency in response to Kunin's injury should be implemented this draft.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

LUKE KUNIN, 20  
 ANDREI SVETLAKOV, 22  
 JORDAN GREENWAY, 21  
 JUSTIN KLOOS, 24

### WINGERS

KIRILL KAPRIZOV, 21  
 IVAN LODNIA, 18  
 SAM ANNAS, 25  
 DMITRY SOKOLOV, 20

### DEFENSEMEN

LOUIS BELPEDIO, 22  
 GUSTAV BOURAMMAN, 21  
 BRENNAN MENELL, 21  
 PONTUS SJALIN, 22

### GOALIES

KAAPO KAHKONEN, 21  
 ALES STEZKA, 21

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. CENTER

Season-ending injuries to Luke Kunin and Mason Shaw put a whole new paint job on things.  
Draft Target: Jacob Olofsson, B.O. Groulx

### 2. POWER FORWARD

Jordan Greenway is a hybrid but may be used as a center to fill in holes on the prospect depth chart. They need a physical presence on the flank.  
Draft Target: Serron Noel, Jack McBain

### 3. GOALIE

For all the great things the Wild does on Draft Day, they've missed the mark with goalies.  
Draft Target: Jakub Skarek, Olivier Rodrigue

# MONTREAL CANADIENS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (3<sup>RD</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (35<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (38<sup>th</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (56<sup>th</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (62<sup>nd</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (66<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (97<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (102<sup>ND</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (122<sup>nd</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (128<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Montreal bolstered the farm with what looks like a strong 2017 draft. Center Ryan Poehling (2017) had an impressive sophomore season for St. Cloud State, while European prospects Lukas Vejdemo (2015) and Joni Ikonen (2017) showed promise playing in their respective elite leagues in Sweden and Finland. Speedy defenseman Victor Mete (2016) was a pleasant surprise, appearing in 49 games with the Habs as a 19-year-old rookie. He is part of a developing pool of defense prospects that includes Noah Juulsen (2015), who next season could be joining Mete as an NHL regular. Goalie Cayden Primeau (2017) is looking like a 7<sup>th</sup>-round steal, especially after the young netminder guided Northeastern to their first Beanpot title in 30 years.

### WHAT'S HURTING

General manager Marc Bergevin took a big gamble when he dealt defenseman Mikhail Sergachev (2016) to Tampa for Jonathan Drouin. Not only did Sergachev appear in 79 games as a regular for a Stanley Cup contender, but he also led rookie defensemen in scoring with 40 points. To make matters worse, injuries to defenseman Shea Weber and goalie Carey Price exposed the Canadiens as an organization that lacked depth in the two positions that carried them to 100-point seasons in three of the last five years.

### BOTTOM LINE

It's too early to gauge how well the Habs have drafted the last several years, but the lack of an elite scorer at the NHL level is strikingly omnipresent. They should find that player with this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> overall pick.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

RYAN POEHLING, 19  
 JONI IKONEN, 19  
 WILL BITTEN, 20  
 LUKAS VEJDEMO, 22

### WINGERS

JAKE EVANS, 22  
 ANTOINE WAKED, 21  
 NIKITA SCHERBAK, 22  
 J. BOUCHER-GOULD, 24

### DEFENSEMEN

NOAH JUULSEN, 21  
 JOSH BROOK, 19  
 CALE FLEURY, 19  
 JARRETT TYSZKA, 19

### GOALIES

CAYDEN PRIMEAU, 18  
 MICHAEL MCNIVEN, 21  
 HAYDEN HAWKEY, 23

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Winning the third overall pick should give the Habs an instant upgrade in the organization's weakest area.

Draft Target: Andrei Svechnikov, Filip Zadina

### 2. OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMAN

The system has plenty of puck movers, but it could use the kind of flashy playmaker they've lacked since trading away P.K. Subban.

Draft Target: Ryan Merkley, Nils Lundkvist

### 3. POWER FORWARD

The Canadiens no longer are tough to play against. The lineup needs some beef up front.

Draft Target: Serron Noel, Ryan McLeod

# NASHVILLE PREDATORS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

3<sup>rd</sup> Round (89<sup>th</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (111<sup>th</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (131<sup>st</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (151<sup>st</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (213<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

In terms of Draft Day steals, the crime of the century appears to have been committed by GM Davis Poile last June, when he and his staff chose Finnish sniper Eeli Tolvanen with the 30<sup>th</sup> overall pick. Not only did Tolvanen automatically become the organization's best forward prospect, but he later would smash the KHL teenage scoring mark by netting 36 points in 49 games. As usual, the Predators have a handful of future NHL defenders waiting in the wings, including NCAA puck movers Dante Fabbro (2016) and David Farrance (2017), who are teammates at Boston University. Their farm system is deep and talented, which is a testament to their scouts who still find quality prospects despite the parent club's success in the standings.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Acquiring Kyle Turris and Ryan Hartman caused a small dent in what remains a strong prospect pool. Center Alexander Kamenev, defenseman Samuel Girard and this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick were shipped to the Avalanche via Ottawa for Turris, and the Hartman move to Chicago cost them their 2018 first rounder, plus big Swedish winger Victor Edjell. The Predators will be without a first-round selection for the fourth time in eight years, and won't make their first pick until late in the third round.

### BOTTOM LINE

The disappointing loss to Winnipeg in the quarterfinals following a President's Trophy-winning season might be enough to call for bigger, stronger players at every level. That could lead to a greater depletion of assets, but if one team can sustain it via shrewd draft moves and unearthing late-round gems, it's the Predators.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

ANTHONY RICHARD, 21  
 EMIL PETTERSSON, 24  
 REM PITLICK, 21  
 PATRICK HARPER, 20

### WINGERS

EELI TOLVANEN, 19  
 GRANT MISMASH, 19  
 PAVEL KOLTYGIN, 19  
 TYLER MOY, 22

### DEFENSEMEN

DANTE FABBRO, 20  
 FREDERIC ALLARD, 19  
 DAVID FARRANCE, 19  
 ALEXANDER CARRIER, 21

### GOALIES

KAREL VEJMEJKA, 22  
 TOMAS VOMACKA, 19  
 KONSTANTIN VOLKOV, 20

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. CENTER

Every Cup winner has at least two scoring lines, and they need to find someone to help take the pressure off Ryan Johansen  
 Draft Target: Curtis Hall, B.O. Groulx

### 2. PHYSICAL DEFENSEMAN

Getting pushed around by Winnipeg seemed unenjoyable. None of the top blue line prospects project as menacing defenders.  
 Draft Target: Xavier Bernard, Adam Samuelsson

### 3. POWER FORWARD

The Preds have some fancy players, but the system needs a big body to cash in close to the net  
 Draft Target: Ivan Muranov, Vladislav Kotkov

# NEW JERSEY DEVILS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (17<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> Round (110<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (136<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (141<sup>ST</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (172<sup>ND</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> Round (203<sup>RD</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

If you paid attention to what GM Ray Shero was doing the second he took over for Lou Lamoriello, you'd say the Devils' resurgent season was less of a surprise than it initially appeared. New Jersey improved 27 points in the standings thanks to an MVP-worthy season by Taylor Hall, but also for the contributions of recent draftees Nico Hischier (2017), Jesper Bratt (2016), Pavel Zacha (2015) and Miles Wood (2013). Concerns about the defense were answered by a strong rookie season from Will Butcher (FA), who led all rookie defensemen in scoring with 44 points. Both Butcher and Damon Severson (2012), who for the fourth straight year averaged close to 20 minutes a game, should remain critical building blocks moving forward. The Devils have one of the league's better prospect pools in terms of forwards, beginning with center Mike McLeod (2016) and goal-scoring winger Joey Anderson (2016). Both likely will spend all of next season in the AHL.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Devils caught lightning in a bottle when veteran goalie Keith Kinkaid filled in for Cory Schneider, but the organization lacks that singular blue-chip prospect in goal that can be counted on to carry the franchise once Schneider begins to wear down. The race to the postseason convinced Shero to beef up at the deadline, but his trade for an unproductive Michael Grabner cost him one of his more NHL-ready defenders in Yegor Rykov (2015) and a 2<sup>nd</sup>-round pick in 2018.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Devils are on the rise, and their deep farm system will continue to give Shero the flexibility to make moves that improve his team's chances at going deep in the playoffs consistently.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

MIKE MCLEOD, 20  
 MIKHAIL MALTSEV, 20  
 JOHN QUENNEVILLE, 22  
 AARNE TALVITIE, 19

### WINGERS

JOEY ANDERSON, 20  
 JESPER BOQVIST, 19  
 BRETT SENEY, 22  
 FABIAN ZETTERLUND, 19

### DEFENSEMEN

JEREMY DAVIES, 21  
 RILEY WALSH, 19  
 JACOB MACDONALD, 25  
 MICHAEL KAPLA, 23

### GOALIES

EVAN CORMIER, 20  
 GILLES SENN, 22  
 KEN APPLEBY, 23

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. TWO-WAY DEFENSEMAN

As young and exciting the Devils are, their defense lacks an intimidating presence that can beat you with skill or strength. This critical shortcoming needs to be addressed.

Draft Target: Matthias Samuelsson, Bode Wilde

### 2. GOALIE

It will be a while before the Devils know what they have in Evan Cormier and Ken Appleby, plus Cory Schneider will be 33 next season.

Draft Target: Jacob Ingham, Olivier Rodrigue

### 3. POWER FORWARD

Size with scoring ability would be a great compliment to the playmakers in the system.

Draft Target: Serron Noel, Ryan McLeod

# NEW YORK ISLANDERS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (11<sup>th</sup>)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round (12<sup>th</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (41<sup>st</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (43<sup>rd</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (72<sup>nd</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (103<sup>rd</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (134<sup>th</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (196<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Islanders have a gem in their possession in center Mathew Barzal (2015), who was the NHL's top-scoring rookie and electrified crowds with his array of dizzying moves. The youngster not only is a legitimate cornerstone piece, but one can argue he's talented and mature enough to take over the team's leadership if free-agent captain John Tavares signs elsewhere this summer. Anthony Beauvillier (2015) played wing most of the season and is developing into a top-line scoring threat. Defensemen Ryan Pulock (2013) and Adam Pelech (2012) showed promise in their first full NHL seasons, and diminutive puck mover Sebastian Aho (2017) was one of the AHL's top rookie defensemen. The biggest question mark after Tavares remains Russian goalie Ilya Sorokin (2014), who has been one of the KHL's top netminders but is under contract in Russia until the end of the 2019-20 season.

### WHAT'S HURTING

As big a problem as GM Garth Snow faces with Tavares, the truth is the Islanders need to address serious deficiencies in goal and on defense. They were scored upon at an alarming rate – the Isles allowed a league-worst 296 goals against, which was one of the highest totals in the last 12 years. Furthermore, it looks like the organization can no longer count on 2014 first-rounder Michael Dal Colle, who regressed in his sophomore AHL season. Enigmatic winger Josh Ho-Sang (2014) was a disappointment after a promising rookie season, so expect the Islanders to look for his replacement with one of the four combined picks they have in Rounds 1 and 2.

### BOTTOM LINE

As troublesome the Tavares situation may seem, the Islanders have flexibility in the form of quality assets at home and abroad, plus four high picks in the deepest draft in years.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

TRAVIS ST. DENIS, 25  
 SCOTT EANSOR, 22  
 JOHN STEVENS, 24  
 KYLE SCHEMPP, 24

### WINGERS

KIEFER BELLOWS, 20  
 ANATOLI GOLYSHEV, 23  
 OTTO KOIVULA, 20  
 LOGAN COCKERILL, 19

### DEFENSEMEN

ROBIN SALO, 19  
 MITCHELL VANDE-SOMPEL, 21  
 BEN MIRAGEAS, 19  
 DEVON TOEWS, 24

### GOALIES

ILYA SOROKIN, 22  
 LINUS SODERSTROM, 22  
 EAMON MCADAM, 23

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. CENTER

Regardless of where Tavares goes and what Barzal becomes, the organization's center depth is among the league's worst, Draft Target: Joe Veleno, Barrett Hayton

### 2. TOP-PAIRING DEFENSEMAN

The farm could use more mature defenders like 2017 draft pick Robin Salo, only with a bit more creativity. Draft Target: Noah Dobson, Evan Bouchard

### 3. GOALIE

If reports out of Russia are true, stud prospect Ilya Sorokin may be in Russia for a few more years. This draft isn't deep with goalies, but the Isles have to start somewhere. Draft Target: Jakub Skarek, Justus Annunen

# NEW YORK RANGERS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (9<sup>th</sup>)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round (26<sup>TH</sup>)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round (28<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (39<sup>th</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (48<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (70<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (88<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (101<sup>st</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (132<sup>nd</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (163<sup>rd</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

It appears as if the re-tooling Rangers addressed a need for defenders (who know how to actually defend) by trading for talented rearguards Libor Hajek, Ryan Lindgren, and Yegor Rykov. In addition to what they acquired from other teams, the Rangers did well by nabbing centers Lias Andersson and Filip Chytil in the first round of last year's draft. Both were excellent in their AHL debuts and each should be groomed to center one of the big club's top two lines. They also received a breath of fresh air when defenseman Neal Pionk (UDFA) was called up from the AHL. He was outstanding as a rookie puck mover, notching 14 points in 28 games. Russian Igor Shestyorkin (2014) arguably is Europe's best young goaltender, and he, along with Alexander Georgiev (UDFA) and collegiate backstop Adam Huska (2015), make up the NHL's best group of goalie prospects. Lastly, sniping seventh-rounder Ty Ronning (2016) was one of the WHL's top goal scorers.

### WHAT'S HURTING

From a skater point of view, the Rangers swung and missed entirely at both the 2014 and 2015 drafts, with the 2016 crop facing an uphill climb. In fact, eight of the 11 skaters drafted in both 2014 and 2015 no longer are Ranger property. Pointing out the trading of each first-round pick between 2013 and 2016 may explain part of it, but it shouldn't excuse it. The jury is still out on whether Ryan Gropp (2015) and Sean Day (2016) – the Rangers' first pick in those respective drafts – have realistic NHL upside.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Rangers draft well when they have available picks. They own three in the 2018 first round and have an excellent pool to choose from. On paper, this could be their most successful draft since the vaunted 1990 class that featured Doug Weight and Sergei Zubov.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

FILIP CHYTIL, 18  
 LIAS ANDERSSON, 19  
 BRETT HOWDEN, 20  
 MORGAN BARRON, 19

### WINGERS

TY RONNING, 20  
 DOMINIK LAKATOS, 20  
 TIM GETTINGER, 20

### DEFENSEMEN

LIBOR HAJEK, 20  
 YEGOR RYKOV, 22  
 RYAN LINDGREN, 20  
 CALLE SJALIN, 19

### GOALIES

IGOR SHESTYORKIN, 22  
 ADAM HUSKA, 20  
 ALEXANDER GEORGIEV, 22

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. POWER-PLAY QUARTERBACK

The Rangers haven't had a homegrown defenseman run their power play with effectiveness since Brian Leetch. This is the draft to change that.

Draft Target: Adam Boqvist, Quinn Hughes

### 2. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

The organization has plenty of playmakers but not enough finishers. This pass-happy bunch needs a high-volume shooter

Draft Target: Vitaly Kravtsov, Dominik Bokk

### 3. ENERGY FORWARD

The Rangers were far too easy to play against, and poor starts to games played a role in missing the playoffs. They need a crowd favorite to get some juice back into the Garden.

Draft Target: Jonatan Berggren, Tyler Madden

# OTTAWA SENATORS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (4<sup>th</sup>)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round (22<sup>nd</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (95<sup>th</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (126<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (157<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (188<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (194<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

In addition to having the fourth overall pick in this year's draft, the Sens have a dearth of prospects that project as top-six centers. The upside of centers Colin White (2015) and Logan Brown (2016), plus the emergence of draft-overager Drake Batherson (2017) positions the Sens to solidify an important position that should help them in their quest to regain prominence in the Atlantic Division. Defenseman Thomas Chabot (2015) has big shoes to fill if he is to become Erik Karlsson's heir apparent, but the youngster showed promise during a late-season promotion. Ottawa's goalie pool received a boost when 2016-draftee Filip Gustafsson was acquired at the deadline from Pittsburgh along with a 2018 first rounder for Derick Brassard.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Ottawa's march to the 2017 Eastern Conference Finals is proving costly, as they traded skilled winger Jonathan Dahlen (2016) for veteran Alex Burrows and used additional assets (2017 first-rounder Shane Bowers) to grab Matt Duchene from Colorado. The Sens don't appear to be challenging any time soon for a playoff spot, so the unprotected first they sent to the Avs in order to finalize the Duchene deal is almost certain to be a high lottery pick. Exacerbating matters is Karlsson's contract expiring after the 2019 season. Ottawa finished with the league's second-worst record in 2018 but dropped to fourth in the draft order when Carolina and Montreal won the lottery.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Senators are up a creek without a paddle, and trading Karlsson to recoup the pick and prospects lost to fuel playoff runs seems the most likely course of action. If things go sour early next season, expect a new regime and fire sale to commence in earnest.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

COLIN WHITE, 21  
 LOGAN BROWN, 20  
 FILIP CHLAPIK, 21  
 DRAKE BATHERSON, 19

### WINGERS

MARKUS NURMI, 20  
 ALEX FORMENTON, 18  
 FILIP AHL, 21  
 GABRIEL GAGNE, 21

### DEFENSEMEN

CHRISTIAN JAROS, 22  
 CHRISTIAN WOLANIN, 23  
 MAX LAJOIE, 20  
 ANDREAS ENGLUND, 22

### GOALIES

FILIP GUSTAFSSON, 20  
 JOEL DACCORD, 21  
 JORDAN HOLLETT, 19

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMAN

Karlsson's undecided future and Chabot's inexperience should trigger using the fourth overall pick on a defender who can seamlessly help the club transition into a new era.  
Draft Target: Adam Boqvist, Quinn Hughes

### 2. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Trading sniper Jonathan Dahlen for a depth veteran like Alex Burrows may turn out to be one of the worst deadline deals in recent memory.  
Draft Target: Vitaly Kravtsov, Dominik Bokk

### 3. TOP-PAIRING DEFENSEMAN

The Senators either have excellent puck rushers or strong stay-at-home types. They need a real minute eater who can be matched up against and shut down opposing stars.  
Draft Target: Jared McIssac, Rasmus Sandin

# PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>st</sup> Round (14<sup>th</sup>)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round (19<sup>th</sup>)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (50<sup>th</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (112<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (127<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (143<sup>rd</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (174<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (190<sup>th</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (205<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Flyers have the NHL's best prospect pool. Period. This year marks the fourth straight draft where they had at least nine picks, and they made nine selections in the first or second round between 2015 and 2017. Three of their last five first-round picks – Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecny (2015), and Nolan Patrick (2017) – already are top contributors at the NHL level. Center Morgan Frost (2017) was second in Ontario Hockey League scoring this year, and German Rubtsov (2016) is a strong two-way pivot. Their farm system is overflowing with talent, to the point where there won't be any room for them in either Philadelphia or their AHL affiliate in Lehigh Valley. You can make the argument that the players at bottom of the Flyers' prospect depth chart are superior to the entire farm system of most NHL teams.

### WHAT'S HURTING

A logjam is inevitable when you stockpile as many picks as the Flyers' have. While the law of averages eventually will draw the cream from such a deep crop, the last thing you want to see is high draft picks wasting away in places like the ECHL or never being tendered a contract. The limit on contracts likely triggers a slew of deals intended to bolster a club that has not won a playoff round in six years – the longest drought in franchise history. Inconsistent goaltending has played a huge role in their recent postseason ineptitude, and even a carousel of blue-chip goalie prospects may not be enough to solve what seems like a decades-old conundrum.

### BOTTOM LINE

Flyers fans have been more than patient as GM Ron Hextall accumulated asset after asset since taking over in 2014. The time for Philadelphia to make its move against the rest of the Metropolitan Division is now.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

MORGAN FROST, 19  
 GERMAN RUBTSOV, 20  
 MIKHAIL VOROBYOV, 21  
 TANNER LACZYNSKI, 21

### WINGERS

OSKAR LINDBLOM, 21  
 DAVID KASE, 21  
 NICHOLAS AUBE-KUBEL, 22  
 ISAAC RATCLIFFE, 19

### DEFENSEMEN

PHILIPPE MYERS, 22  
 SAMUEL MORIN, 22  
 DAVID BERNHARDT, 20  
 MARK FRIEDMAN, 22

### GOALIES

CARTER HART, 20  
 FELIX SANDSTROM, 21  
 MATEJ TOMEK, 21

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. SHUTDOWN DEFENSEMAN

A valiant effort by an injured Ivan Provorov in the opening-round loss to Pittsburgh masked the real problem – the Flyers don't have a defenseman to neutralize opposing top lines.  
 Draft Target: Jared McIsaac, K'Andre Miller

### 2. PENALTY KILLER

Philadelphia's penalty killing has been horrid in each of the last four years. Although inconsistent goaltending is one explanation, it never hurts to have a shutdown checker to ease Sean Couturier's workload.  
 Draft Target: Joel Farabee, Ivan Morozov

### 3. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

An injury-riddled campaign hurt Wayne Simmonds' production, plus he'll be 30 and hit free agency after next season.  
 Draft Target: Grigori Denisenko, Sampo Ranta

# PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

2<sup>nd</sup> Round (53<sup>RD</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (64<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (129<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (146<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (177<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (208<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

It's easy to point at Sidney Crosby and Evgeny Malkin as the tip of the Penguins' proverbial spear, but the club also has received significant contributions from draft picks that previously were kept in the minors to marinate. One of the leading scorers in this year's playoffs was winger Jake Guentzel (2013), and Bryan Rust (2010) recorded a career-best 38 points. Pittsburgh also incorporated into their attack a pair of rookie centers in Dominik Simon (2015) and Zach Aston-Reese (UDFA). Goalie Tristan Jarry (2013) posted a solid 14-6-2 while serving as their go-to stopper when starter Matt Murray was injured. Of all their prospects, however, nobody moves the needle like sniper Daniel Sprong (2015), who proved he's too good for the minors and deserves a full season in black and yellow.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Cup run after Cup run has effectively reduced the Pittsburgh's ability to draft and develop stars, especially on the blue line. The second-round loss to Washington was bound to happen, and what makes it sting even more is that GM Jim Rutherford dealt two first-round picks (2017 and 2018) within nine months of winning the Cup. This marks the fourth straight year the Pens won't be choosing in the first round, and they traded a prized goalie prospect in Filip Gustavsson (2016) to Ottawa in the Derick Brassard deal. The criticism for taking stay-at-home blueliner Zachary Lauzon (2017) as high as 51<sup>st</sup> overall is being validated after the youngster missed most of the season with a neck injury and put up only four points in 25 QMJHL games.

### BOTTOM LINE

Things have been peachy in the Steel City for several years, so it's hard to knock an organization that won two straight Stanley Cups and has been a perennial contender since 2008. The lack of picks, however, will come back to bite them in a few years.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

JEAN-SEBASTIAN DEA, 24  
 TEDDY BLUEGER, 23  
 ZACH ASTON-REESE, 23  
 LINUS OLUND, 21

### WINGERS

DANIEL SPRONG, 21  
 JAN DROZG, 19  
 KASPER BJORKQVIST, 20  
 SAM LAFFERTY, 23

### DEFENSEMEN

LUKAS BENGTTSSON, 24  
 NICLAS ALMARI, 20  
 CLAYTON PHILLIPS, 18  
 DANE BIRKS, 22

### GOALIES

SEAN MAGUIRE, 25  
 ALEX D'ORIO, 19

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. TWO-WAY DEFENSEMAN

Kris Letang has a ton of mileage on his aging body and is coming off a brutal postseason defensively. The Pens need to develop a defenseman to one day take over for him.  
Draft Target: Ty Emberson, J. Bernard-Docker

### 2. GOALIE

Both Matt Murray and Tristan Jarry are young and solid. The drop off thereafter, however, is significant, and trading Filip Gustavsson leaves a huge hole in the depth chart  
Draft Target: Jakub Skarek, Olof Lindbom

### 3. CENTER

Most of Pittsburgh's top prospects are closer to UFA age than most other teams. The Penguins haven't used their first pick on a center in 10 years.  
Draft Target: Jack Drury, Jake Wise

# SAN JOSE SHARKS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (21<sup>st</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (114<sup>th</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (145<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (176<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (182<sup>nd</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (207<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The Sharks have two things going for them when it comes to player development. For starters, they have a great track record at turning later-round draft picks into productive NHL talent. Second, they are deliberate when it comes to promoting. Eleven of their top 15 scorers from last season were either drafted or developed by San Jose, and of those 11, eight were picked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round or later. Having this Midas Touch at the draft table allows them to move picks for quality players, which is exactly what they did when they swiped a productive Evander Kane from Buffalo for a conditional first rounder in *next* year's draft. The strategy of spanning the globe for players from any league or country not only has worked out for them, but also proves a team can be successful by not marrying itself towards drafting one type of player from one type of league.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Sharks don't appear to have many holes, and younger, hungrier and cheaper players are steadily replacing the aging core group. Still, they have some serious questions to answer in relation to Joe Pavelski (2003) and Logan Couture (2007), both of whom become UFA's after next season. They swung and missed with former first rounders Mirco Muller (2013) and Nikolay Goldobin (2014), and the Evander Kane extension will cost them a first in 2019. And their AHL affiliate took a step backwards last year, albeit because of younger players joining in and graduations to the NHL.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Sharks live to diversify their draft portfolio by dipping into every talent pool conceivable. This strategy has translated to success at both the NHL and AHL level, and the groups of recent draftees look primed to carry the franchise to another decade of annual contention. They need to make the most of their pick at 21<sup>st</sup> overall since they traded away 1sts in 2016 and 2019.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

JOSH NORRIS, 19  
 SASHA CHMELEVSKI, 18  
 ROURKE CHARTIER, 22  
 DYLAN GAMBRELL, 21

### WINGERS

RUDOLFS BALCERS, 21  
 IVAN CHEKHOVICH, 19  
 SCOTT REEDY, 19  
 NOAH ROD, 22

### DEFENSEMEN

JEREMY ROY, 21  
 MARIO FERRARO, 19  
 JULIUS BERGMAN, 22  
 KARLIS CUKSTE, 21

### GOALIES

ANTOINE BIBEAU, 24  
 JAKE KUPSKY, 22  
 MIKE ROBINSON, 21

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. TWO-WAY DEFENSEMAN

The Sharks don't have any defense prospect remotely close to one day matching Brent Burns' production. They can find that player in this draft

Draft Target: Rasmus Sandin, Johnny Tychonick

### 2. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

The jury is still out on Timo Meier, and there are a lot of quality wingers that will be available on draft day

Draft Target: Vitaly Kravtsov, Sampo Ranta,

### 3. POWER-PLAY SPECIALIST

30-somethings have orchestrated the power play for quite a while. Some young upstarts should be groomed to take over

Draft Target: Allan McShane, Philipp Kurashev

# ST. LOUIS BLUES

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (29<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (45<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> Round (76<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> Round (107<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (138<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (169<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> Round (200<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Several of the Blues' better prospects are coming off outstanding individual seasons, beginning with 2017 first-rounder Robert Thomas, who was a key cog for Team Canada during their march to WJC gold. He later would be named MVP of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs and had a fantastic Memorial Cup. Towering center Tage Thompson (2016) played most of the season in the NHL and later joined Team USA at the men's world championship, and fellow 2016 draftee Jordan Kyrou was one of the OHL's top scorers. Power winger Klim Kostin (2017) went straight to the AHL from Russia and his 28 points was good for third among under-20 rookies. The blue line received a boost from rookie Vince Dunn (2015), who appeared in 75 games and posted a CF%rel of +4.4, the highest among Blues defensemen.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Blues always have drafted well, so you can't point to player development as one of the culprits that led to missing the playoffs for the first time in seven years. Losing out on the final spot on the last day of the regular season was the culminating event in a roller coaster of a season that saw the Blues go from one of the league's top defensive teams to one of its worst. The team proved too reliant on star players, and the lack of support from both depth lines and pairings made the Blues an easy team to play against. When you factor in the acquisition of center Brayden Schenn and the trade of Paul Stastny to Winnipeg, St. Louis's reward for missing the playoffs was dropping in the draft's first round from 14<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.

### BOTTOM LINE

With a treasure trove of staggering riches in the form of elite-level forward prospects, the Blues can approach the 2018 draft with patience and an eye towards beefing up the quality of their future defensemen.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

ROBERT THOMAS, 18  
 TAGE THOMPSON, 20  
 ADAM MUSIL, 21  
 TANNER KASPICK, 20

### WINGERS

JORDAN KYROU, 20  
 SAMUEL BLAIS, 22  
 KLIM KOSTIN, 19  
 NOLAN STEVENS, 21

### DEFENSEMEN

JORDAN SCHMALTZ, 24  
 JAKE WALMAN, 22  
 NIKO MIKKOLA, 22  
 MITCH REINKE, 22

### GOALIES

EVAN FITZPATRICK  
 VILLE HUSSO, 23  
 JORDAN BINNINGTON, 24

### BIGGEST NEEDS

#### 1. TWO-WAY DEFENSEMAN

Jay Bouwmeester is regressing and Alex Pietrangelo, who has only two years left on his deal, is nearing 30. Vince Dunn's rapid development creates a need.

Draft Target: Jared McIsaac, Jett Woo

#### 2. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

As deep as their prospect pool is, the Blues do not have a player who projects to fill the net like Vladimir Tarasenko

Draft Target: Sampo Ranta, A. McDonald

#### 3. POWER-PLAY QUARTERBACK

The Blues operated their worst power play in 10 years, finishing 30<sup>th</sup> overall. The blueline needs playmakers rather than bombers.

Draft Target: Ryan Merkley, Sean Durzi

# TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND (59<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> ROUND (90<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (121<sup>ST</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (152<sup>ND</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (183<sup>RD</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (206<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (214<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

It's no surprise that a disciple of both Jimmy Devellano and Ken Holland has managed to build a Cup-contending powerhouse while simultaneously stockpiling his farm system with NHL-ready talent via high draft picks. What GM Steve Yzerman has done is remarkable; not only for bringing the Bolts back to prominence after missing the playoffs, but also for building such an arsenal of riches that he was able to load up with trades without putting a sizeable hole in the cupboard. He robbed Montreal of the best defense prospect in Mikhail Sergachev, who was one of the league's top rookie defenders. He also snagged Brayden Point (2014) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, and two-way center Anthony Cirelli (2015) in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Forward Yanne Gourde (FA) may have been an older rookie, but he had a breakout first season and was among the rookie scoring leaders. And Tampa's AHL affiliate in Syracuse is overflowing with studs that will either make the jump to the NHL or be used as trade chips to beef up for another Cup run.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Yzerman still paid a steep price for his deadline acquisition of Ryan McDonagh and J.T. Miller, including their 2018 first rounder. It also remains to be seen if Tampa will have room under the cap to offer the Miller an RFA deal this summer and an extension for the UFA-bound McDonagh. The biggest concern, however, is Nikita Kucherov's (2011) next contract, which will undoubtedly force Yzerman's hand to move some of his lengthier contracts; possibly at the cost of more picks and prospects.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Lightning are set up for yet another deep drive to the postseason and have firepower up and down the lineup. They'll likely have to cross the Kucherov bridge when they get there, but in the meantime, keep your eyes open for their talented AHL call-ups.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

MITCHELL STEPHENS, 21  
 OTTO SOMPPPI, 20  
 RYAN LOHIN, 22  
 ALEXEI LIPANOV, 19

### WINGERS

ALEXANDER VOLKOV, 21  
 MATHIEU JOSEPH, 21  
 BORIS KATCHOUK, 20  
 TAYLOR RADDYSH, 20

### DEFENSEMEN

ERIK CERNAK, 21  
 CAL FOOTE, 19  
 DOMINIK MASIN, 22  
 NICK PERBIX, 20

### GOALIES

KRISTIAN OLDHAM, 21  
 CONNOR INGRAM, 21

## BIGGEST NEEDS

**1. OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMAN**  
 Mikhail Sergachev appears to be the heir apparent once Victor Hedman slows down, but the system lack an elite playmaker from the back end.

Draft Target: Nils Lundkvist, Calen Addison

**2. CENTER**

The prospect pool appears to be deepest on the flanks, and they traded Brett Howden at the deadline.

Draft Target: Curtis Hall, Jake Pivonka

**3. GOALIE**

Andrei Vasilevskiy is young, cheap and talented, but it never hurts to keep adding to the goaltending depth chart.

Draft Target: Kevin Mandolese, Alexis Gravel

# TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (25<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (52<sup>ND</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> Round (83<sup>RD</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> Round (114<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (149<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> Round (209<sup>TH</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> Round (211<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

Toronto's rapid ascent from perennial bottom-dweller to the cusp of Stanley Cup contention has increased expectations tenfold, but that's the kind of pressure you'd welcome when you haven't won a playoff round in 14 years. The Leafs' recent success can be traced back to the draft table, where the likes of Auston Matthews (2016), William Nylander (2014) and Mitch Mamer (2015) were correctly identified as cornerstone forwards. Five of Toronto's top six scorers in the regular season were original draft picks, including center Nazem Kadri (2009) and puck mover Morgan Rielly (2012), who produced a career-high 52 points. The pipeline is overflowing with quality European wingers, led by a quartet of Swedes in Dmytro Timashov (2015), Carl Grundstrom (2016), Pierre Engvall (2014) and Andreas Johnsson (2013). The key is getting a three-zone beast like Yegor Korshkov (2016) over from Russia, especially when you consider the Leafs' taking him 31<sup>st</sup> overall as a draft holdover.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Leafs Nation has no shortage of pessimism, so it shouldn't be hard to find one to remind you that this was 24<sup>th</sup>-straight season in which Toronto didn't finish higher than 10<sup>th</sup> in goal against. The last time the Leafs boasted a top-five defense was 1994, which coincidentally was the only time in the post-expansion era when they made back-to-back conference finals. There is a critical organizational need for physical top-four defenders who can both move the puck and shut down top lines, and that need has increased after they didn't offer contracts to 2016 picks Keaton Middleton and Nicolas Mattinen.

### BOTTOM LINE

This draft is loaded with the kind of defensemen the Leafs should covet. The long-term solution should be centered on drafting and developing stud defenseman you want on the ice in the late stages of the third period

2018

## TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

ADAM BROOKS, 22  
 MIRO AALTONEN, 25  
 FREDERIK GAUTHIER, 23  
 DAKOTA JOSHUA, 22

### WINGERS

YEGOR KORSHKOV, 21  
 PIERRE ENGVALL, 22  
 DMYTRO TIMASHOV, 21  
 CARL GRUNDSTROM, 20

### DEFENSEMEN

TIM LILJEGREN, 19  
 EEMELI RASANEN, 19  
 ANDREW NIELSEN, 21  
 CALLE ROSEN, 24

### GOALIES

GARRET SPARKS, 25  
 JOSEPH WOLL, 19  
 IAN SCOTT, 19

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. TWO-WAY DEFENSEMAN

The Leafs won't be considered a real contender until they can ice a defense corps that rivals what Boston and Tampa already have.  
 Draft Target: Matthias Samuelsson, Bode Wilde

### 2. CENTER

There are too many cooks in the winger kitchen, and this backlog will send several recent draftees packing. The center ice position below the NHL level is the thinnest portion of Toronto's farm system.  
 Draft Target: Rasmus Kupari, Jacob Olofsson

### 3. GOALIE

Ian Scott and Joseph Woll are quality prospects, but it's too early to anoint them as Freddy Andersen's backups.  
 Draft Target: Jakub Skarek, Akira Schmid

# VANCOUVER CANUCKS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> Round (7<sup>TH</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> Round (37<sup>TH</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> Round (68<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>TH</sup> Round (130<sup>TH</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> Round (161<sup>ST</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> Round (192<sup>ND</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

An award-winning season from 2017 first-rounder Elias Pettersson was the crown jewel of a collectively successful season by Vancouver's recent draftees and prospects. Even before his back injury, Olli Juolevi (2016) had a solid wire-to-wire season in Finland and showed signs that he was more than ready to handle a regular NHL. Sniper Jonathan Dahlen is one of Sweden's best pure goal scorers, and cemented that standing by scoring with regularity against adult-aged competition. Center Bo Horvat (2013) reached the 20-goal mark for the second straight season, and Brock Boeser (2015) had as good of a rookie season as one can have in the NHL, burying 29 goals in 62 games.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The problems currently plaguing the Canucks can be traced back to the draft table, where they failed to land one quality forward in six consecutive drafts between 2007 and 2012. The Canucks were a contending team during this period; so little mind was paid to the fact that the farm system was not strong enough to seamlessly transition the organization forward from the Sedins/Kesler group. They've paid a heavy price for this, missing the playoffs in four of the last five years and no playoff series wins since beating the Sharks in the 2011 WCF.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Canucks have a pair of gems in Pettersson and Boeser, but the injury to Juolevi is disconcerting. Vancouver has a serious crisis at center, but they can tackle that issue next year, when they host a draft loaded with star-caliber pivots.

2018

## TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

ADAM GAUDETTE, 21  
 COLE CASSELS, 23

### WINGERS

ELIAS PETTERSSON, 19  
 JONATHAN DAHLEN, 20  
 KOLE LIND, 19  
 LUKAS JASEK, 20

### DEFENSEMEN

OLLI JUOLEVI, 19  
 GUILLAUME BRISEBOIS, 20  
 JACK RATHBONE, 19  
 JALEN CHATFIELD, 22

### GOALIES

THATCHER DEMKO, 22  
 MICHAEL DIPIETRO, 19

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMAN

The back injury to Olli Juolevi puts a whole new paint job on things. This is the draft to find another option.

Draft Target: Noah Dobson, Evan Bouchard

### 2. CENTER

As lethal as Vancouver's army of wingers are, you're not going to go far in the NHL without quality center men.

Draft Target: Joe Veleno, Rasmus Kupari

### 3. TWO-WAY DEFENSEMAN

The Canucks' goals against has gotten progressively worse since being the league's best in the SCF season of 2011.

Draft Target: Mattias Samuelsson, Jett Woo

# VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

2<sup>nd</sup> Round (61<sup>ND</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (99<sup>TH</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round (115<sup>TH</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (135<sup>th</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (154<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (180<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (185<sup>TH</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

It's so cliché at this point to say this, but you couldn't script a better story than what transpired in Vegas this year. The season-long festival that began with the pillaging of NHL rosters at the expansion draft carried all the way to a trip to Stanley Cup Finals. Although the Golden Knights lost to Washington in five games, they easily had the most successful inaugural season in sports history. Even crazier is the fact they are loaded with prospects, picks and established NHL contributors under the age of 25. Their trip of 2017 first rounders – centers Cody Glass and Nick Suzuki, and speedy puck rusher Erik Brannstrom – should all get a nice look at camp after successful post-draft seasons. And left wing Nikita Gusev (FA) was one of the heroes behind Russia's gold-medal win at the Olympics.

### WHAT'S HURTING

Considering the Golden Knights have only one draft on record and won over 50 games in their first year, any detractions or criticisms are far from ripe for introduction. Nonetheless, GM George McPhee dealt his 2018 first rounder to Detroit for Tomas Tatar, who turned out to be a punch-less role player that dressed for only eight playoff games.

### BOTTOM LINE

Vegas has plenty of cap space and quality prospects from last year, so expect them to be involved in trying to acquire NHL-proven talent – specifically star talent like Erik Karlsson and John Tavares. They also have 11 picks in the 2019 draft, including a pair of 2nds and three 3rds.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

CODY GLASS, 19  
 NICK SUZUKI, 18  
 LUKAS ELVENES, 18  
 JAKE LESCHYSHYN, 19

### WINGERS

NIKITA GUSEV, 25  
 JACK DUGAN, 20  
 TOMAS HYKA, 25  
 JONAS RONDBJERG, 19

### DEFENSEMEN

ERIK BRANNSTROM, 18  
 NICOLAS HAGUE, 19  
 ZACH WHITECLOUD, 21  
 JAKE BISCHOFF, 23

### GOALIES

OSKAR DANSK, 24  
 DYLAN FERGUSON, 19  
 MAKSIM ZHUKOV, 18

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

The Golden Knights drafted two outstanding playmakers in Cody Glass and Nick Suzuki. Now they need to find flankers to bury their set-ups.

Draft Target: Arttu Nevasaari, Blade Jenkins

### 2. PHYSICAL DEFENSEMAN

Brannstrom and 2017 second rounder Nicolas Hague can play with a lot of skill, but Vegas needs a shutdown type to match up against the big guns in the Western Conference.

Draft Target: Kevin Bahl, Alec Regula

### 3. GOALIE

The pipeline isn't barren, but the Golden Knights have to prepare for more expansion.

Draft Target: Ivan Prosvetov, Justus Annunen

# WASHINGTON CAPITALS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND (31<sup>st</sup>)  
 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND (46<sup>th</sup>)  
 3<sup>RD</sup> ROUND (93<sup>rd</sup>)  
 4<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (124<sup>th</sup>)  
 6<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (186<sup>th</sup>)  
 7<sup>TH</sup> ROUND (217<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

The good things that happened to Washington this season can partly be attributed to its reliance on younger prospects during a deep Stanley Cup run. Sixteen of their 25 players who dressed in the playoffs were either drafted or developed by the Capitals, albeit nearly all selections made by former Caps' GM George McPhee. Staying among the NHL's elite for nearly a decade forced them to make the best of whatever picks they had, but GM Brian MacLellan deserves a huge pat on the back for winning the division and making the Stanley Cup Finals while holding on to 2018 picks in each of the first four rounds. Their prospect pool is full of talented two-way defensemen like Swiss masher Jonas Siegenthaler (2015) and Lucas Johansen (2016), and slick Czech winger Jakub Vrana (2014) had an excellent rookie season despite a yearlong fight for ice time. The goaltending situation, which was a hot topic during the regular season, appears to have stabilized thanks to Brayden Holtby's (2008) bounce-back postseason and Ilya Samsonov (2015) cementing his standing as one of the top goalie prospects in the league.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Capitals continue to rely on Alex Ovechkin (2004), Nicklas Backstrom (2006) and Vladimir Kuznetsov (2010) to do the most of the heavy lifting on offense, and the trio combines to bite almost one third of the team's salary cap. John Carlson (2008) had a Norris-caliber season but probably will be the biggest name on the free agent market. It's doubtful the Caps have the cap space to give him the money and term he deserves. The organization also lacks a bonafide offensive forward with top-line potential or the kind of upside to at least try to replace Ovechkin's yearly goal-scoring totals.

### BOTTOM LINE

Getting to the Stanley Cup Finals makes this a successful season, but the Caps need to beef up the forward ranks of their prospect pool.

## 2018 TOP PROSPECTS

### CENTERS

TRAVIS BOYD, 24  
 GARRETT PILON, 20  
 SHANE GERSICH, 21  
 BRIAN PINHO, 23

### WINGERS

AXEL JONSSON-FJALBY, 20  
 JUUSO IKONEN, 23  
 MAX KAMMERER, 21  
 DAMIEN RIAT, 21

### DEFENSEMEN

JONAS SIEGENTHALER, 21  
 LUCAS JOHANSEN, 20  
 CONNOR HOBBS, 21  
 CHASE PRISKIE, 22

### GOALIES

ILYA SAMSONOV, 21  
 VITEK VANICEK, 22

## BIGGEST NEEDS

### 1. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

Ovechkin has carried the Caps for over a decade, but at some point he'll need to be replaced.

Draft Target: Grigory Denisenko, Quinn Hughes

### 2. POWER-PLAY QUARTERBACK

John Carlson might be heading elsewhere on July 1<sup>st</sup> so this is the draft to find another option that one day could replace him

Draft Target: Calen Addison, Johnny Tychonick

### 3. CENTER

Much like Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom is starting to grey. There are several playmakers that should be available in the late 1<sup>st</sup>.

Draft Target: Jake Wise, Jakub Lauko

# WINNIPEG JETS

## 2018 DRAFT PICKS

2<sup>nd</sup> Round (60<sup>st</sup>)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (91<sup>st</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (150<sup>th</sup>)  
 5<sup>th</sup> Round (153<sup>rd</sup>)  
 6<sup>th</sup> Round (184<sup>th</sup>)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Round (215<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT'S WORKING

All the years of hard work at the draft table finally paid off by Winnipeg winning 52 games and coming within a whisker of reaching the Stanley Cup Finals for the first time in franchise history. Five of their top seven scorers during the regular season were original draft picks, including sniper Patrik Laine (2016), who finished second in the league with 44 goals. Mark Scheifele (2011) averaged a point per game, and rookie forward Kyle Connor (2015) scored 31 goals and a whopping 57 points in his first full year in the league. But the biggest story was in goal, where Connor Hellebuyck (2012) gave the franchise its first Vezina-worthy season. The farm system remains loaded, beginning with Finnish power winger Kristian Vesalainen (2017) and his 22 goals as a teenager in the Finnish elite league. And defenseman Logan Stanley (2016) was a rock for Kitchener as they narrowly missed a shot at the Memorial Cup. Stanley appeared to be logging over 30 minutes a game during the OHL Finals against Sault Ste Marie.

### WHAT'S HURTING

The Jets are in a great position to remain contenders, but they have to be careful not to deplete the system. Somehow, the organization's depth at center is thinning at the AHL level now that Jack Roslovic (2015) is ready for the NHL, and Jansen Harkins (2015) has seen his development stalled. And the successful deadline trade for Paul Stastny leaves Winnipeg without a first-round pick for the first time in franchise history.

### BOTTOM LINE

Simply put, the league should get used to the idea that the Jets will continue to be a Stanley Cup contender for a very long time.

## 2018

### TOP PROSPECTS

#### CENTERS

PAVEL KRASKOVSKY, 21  
 CHASE DE LEO, 22

#### WINGERS

KRISTIAN VESALAINEN, 19  
 MASON APPLETON, 22  
 MICHAEL SPACEK, 21  
 BRENDAN LEMIEUX, 22

#### DEFENSEMEN

SAMI NIKU, 21  
 LOGAN STANLEY, 20  
 DYLAN SAMBERG, 19  
 LUKE GREEN, 20

#### GOALIES

MIKHAIL BERDIN, 20  
 ERIC COMRIE, 22

### BIGGEST NEEDS

#### 1. CENTER

The Jets have everything going for them right now, but both their AHL and junior-age center depth is weak  
Draft Target: Joe Veleno, Rasmus Kupari

#### 2. OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMAN

Seth Jones and Zach Werenski don't necessarily punish you in the corners. A real meanie is needed to clean up the slot.  
Draft Target: Matthias Samuelsson, Kevin Bahl

#### 3. GOAL-SCORING WINGER

An option to compliment Oliver Bjorkstrand wouldn't hurt.  
Draft Target: Dominik Bokk, Sampo Ranta