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2020 NHL DRAFT LOTTERY PREVIEW

2020 NHL Draft Lottery Preview

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2020 NHL Draft: First-Round (Pre-Phase I Lottery Drawing)

Rnd	Pick	Team	Notes
1	1	Detroit	
1	2	Ottawa	
1	3	Ottawa (SJS)	Acquired from San Jose in the Erik Karlsson trade.
1	4	Los Angeles	
1	5	Anaheim	
1	6	New Jersey	
1	7	Buffalo	
1	8	Montreal	
1	9	Chicago	
1	10	New Jersey (ARI)	Acquired from Arizona in the Taylor Hall trade. This pick is top-3 protected and the Coyotes send the Devils their 2021 first-round selection if they win a 2020 lottery pick.
1	11	Minnesota	
1	12	Winnipeg	
1	13	Calgary	
1	14	NY Rangers	
1	15	Vancouver*	Playoff condition from Vancouver acquiring J.T. Miller from Tampa. New Jersey acquired this pick from the Lightning in the Blake Coleman deal. Vancouver keeps the pick and sends the Devils their 2021 first-round selection if they lose their play-in series.
1	16	Nashville	
1	17	Florida	
1	18	Columbus	
1	19	Carolina (TOR)	Acquired by Carolina from Toronto in the Patrick Marleau deal, this pick stays with the Maple Leafs if it's in the top 10. If not, Carolina keeps the higher/better pick between this one and their own 2020 first-round choice, with the NY Rangers getting the lower/lesser of the two.
1	20	Edmonton	
1	21	Ottawa (NYI)	Acquired from the Islanders in the Jean-Gabriel Pageau trade. This pick is top-3 protected and the Islanders give the Ottawa a 2021 first-round selection if they win a 2020 lottery pick.
1	22	Dallas	
1	23	NY Rangers (CAR)	Acquired from Carolina in the Brady Skjei trade. The Rangers will get the lesser/lower pick from Carolina or Toronto. The Hurricanes' pick is not protected.
1	24	Vegas	
1	25	Minnesota (PIT)	Acquired from Pittsburgh in the Jason Zucker deal. This pick stays with Pittsburgh if they lose their play-in series. Minnesota would then receive the Penguins' 2021 first-round pick.
1	26	Philadelphia	
1	27	Washington	
1	28	San Jose (TB)	Acquired from Tampa Bay in the Barclay Goodrow deal
1	29	Colorado	
1	30	St. Louis	
1	31	Anaheim (BOS)	Acquired from Boston in the Ondrej Kase deal

2020 NHL Draft: Top-100 Rankings

The following first-year draft eligibles in the zone of consideration for these rankings were born on or after September 16th, 2001 and before or on September 15, 2002. All players in these rankings are in their first year of draft eligibility.

RANK	NAME	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE	DOB	HT	WT	S
1	Lafreniere, Alexis	LW	Rimouski	QMJHL	11-Oct-01	6'1	193	L
2	Byfield, Quinton	C	Sudbury	OHL	19-Aug-02	6'4	215	L
3	Stutzle, Tim	LW	Mannheim	DEL	15-Jan-02	6'1	187	L
4	Perfetti, Cole	C	Saginaw	OHL	1-Jan-02	5'11	177	L
5	Rossi, Marco	C	Ottawa	OHL	23-Sep-01	5'9	183	L
6	Holtz, Alexander	RW	Djurgarden	SHL	23-Jan-02	6'0	192	R
7	Amirov, Rodion	LW	Salavat Ufa	KHL	2-Oct-01	6'0	167	L
8	Drysdale, Jamie	RHD	Erie	OHL	8-Apr-02	5'11	175	R
9	Raymond, Lucas	LW	Frolunda	SHL	28-Mar-02	5'11	170	R
10	Sanderson, Jake	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	8-Jul-02	6'2	185	L
11	Lundell, Anton	C	HIFK	SM-Liiga	3-Oct-01	6'1	185	L
12	Jarvis, Seth	C	Portland	WHL	1-Feb-02	5'10	175	R
13	Khusnutdinov, Marat	C	SKA-1946	MHL	17-Jul-02	5'11	176	L
14	Holloway, Dylan	C	Wisconsin	Big-10	23-Sep-01	6'1	203	L
15	Askarov, Yaroslav	G	SKA-Neva	VHL	16-Jun-02	6'3	176	R
16	Zary, Connor	C	Kamloops	WHL	25-Sep-01	6'0	178	L
17	Bourque, Mavrik	C	Shawinigan	QMJHL	8-Jan-02	5'10	178	R
18	Quinn, Jack	RW	Ottawa	OHL	19-Sep-01	6'0	176	R
19	Sourdif, Justin	RW	Vancouver	WHL	24-Mar-02	5'11	173	R
20	Andrae, Emil	LHD	HV 71 J20	Superelit	23-Feb-02	5'9	181	L
21	Perreault, Jacob	RW	Sarnia	OHL	15-Apr-02	5'11	192	R
22	Guhle, Kaiden	LHD	Prince Albert	WHL	18-Jan-02	6'2	186	L
23	Mercer, Dawson	C	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	27-Oct-01	6'0	180	R
24	Bordeleau, Thomas	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	3-Jan-02	5'10	175	L
25	Brisson, Brendan	C	Chicago	USHL	22-Oct-01	5'11	179	L
26	Torgersson, Daniel	LW	Frolunda J20	Superelit	26-Jan-02	6'3	199	L
27	Peterka, John-Jason	RW	München	DEL	14-Jan-02	5'11	192	L
28	Zlodeyev, Dmitry	C	MHK Dynamo	MHL	15-Feb-02	5'11	185	L
29	Reichel, Lukas	LW	Eisbaren Berlin	DEL	17-May-02	6'0	170	L
30	Mysak, Jan	C	Hamilton	OHL	24-Jun-02	5'10	175	L
31	Ponomarev, Vasily	C	Shawinigan	QMJHL	13-Mar-02	5'10	180	L

RANK	NAME	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE	DOB	HT	WT	S
32	Gunler, Noel	RW	Lulea	SHL	7-Oct-01	6'2	176	R
33	Colangelo, Sam	RW	Chicago	USHL	26-Dec-01	6'2	205	R
34	Jurmo, Joni	LHD	Jokerit U21	Jr. A SM-Liiga	19-Apr-02	6'4	190	L
35	Schneider, Braden	RHD	Brandon	WHL	20-Sep-01	6'2	202	R
36	Farrell, Sean	C	Chicago	USHL	2-Nov-01	5'9	175	L
37	Gushchin, Danil	LW	Muskegon	USHL	6-Feb-02	5'8	165	L
38	Powell, Eamon	RHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	10-May-02	5'11	165	R
39	Neighbours, Jake	LW	Edmonton	WHL	29-Mar-02	6'0	195	L
40	Tullio, Tyler	RW	Oshawa	OHL	5-Apr-02	5'10	165	R
41	Foerster, Tyson	RW	Barrie	OHL	18-Jan-02	6'2	194	R
42	O'Rourke, Ryan	LHD	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	16-May-02	6'0	178	L
43	Lapierre, Hendrix	C	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	9-Feb-02	6'0	179	L
44	Heineman, Emil	LW	Leksand J20	Superelit	16-Nov-01	6'1	185	L
45	Simontaival, Kasper	RW	Tappara U21	Jr. A SM-Liiga	11-Jan-02	5'9	177	R
46	Greig, Ridly	C	Brandon	WHL	8-Aug-02	5'11	163	L
47	Nybeck, Zion	LW	HV 71 J20	Superelit	12-May-02	5'7	182	L
48	Niederbach, Theodor	C	Frolunda J20	Superelit	25-Feb-02	5'11	172	R
49	Niemela, Topi	RHD	Karpat	SM-Liiga	25-Mar-02	5'11	156	R
50	Hirvonen, Roni	C	Assat	SM-Liiga	10-Jan-02	5'9	164	L
51	Barron, Justin	RHD	Halifax	QMJHL	15-Nov-01	6'2	195	R
52	Wiesblatt, Ozzy	RW	Prince Albert	WHL	9-Mar-02	5'10	183	R
53	Wallinder, William	LHD	Modo J20	Superelit	28-Jul-02	6'4	191	L
54	Tuch, Luke	LW	U.S. U18	NTDP	7-Mar-02	6'2	203	L
55	Smilanic, Ty	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	20-Jan-02	6'1	175	L
56	Viro, Eemil	LHD	TPS Turku	SM-Liiga	3-Apr-02	6'0	165	L
57	Suni, Oliver	RW	Oshawa	OHL	13-Feb-02	6'1	188	R
58	Biondi, Blake	C	Hermantown	HS-MN	24-Apr-02	6'0	191	R
59	Jarventie, Roby	LW	KooVee	Mestis	8-Aug-02	6'2	184	L
60	Faber, Brock	RHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	22-Aug-02	6'0	190	R
61	Miettinen, Veeti	RW	K-Espoo U21	Jr. A SM-Liiga	20-Sep-01	5'9	161	L
62	Kleven, Tyler	LHD	U.S. U18	NTDP	10-Jan-02	6'4	200	L
63	Poirier, Jeremie	LHD	Saint John	QMJHL	2-Jun-02	6'1	196	L
64	Klikorka, Karel	LHD	MI. Boleslav U21	DHL Cup	30-Nov-01	6'1	194	L
65	Berard, Brett	LW	U.S. U18	NTDP	9-Sep-02	5'9	155	L
66	Cuyllle, William	LW	Windsor	OHL	5-Feb-02	6'3	204	L
67	Mukhamadullin, Shakir	LHD	Salavat Ufa	KHL	10-Jan-02	6'4	178	L
68	Kuznetsov, Yan	LHD	UConn	HE	9-Mar-02	6'4	209	L

RANK	NAME	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE	DOB	HT	WT	S
69	Commesso, Drew	G	U.S. U18	NTDP	19-Jul-02	6'2	180	L
70	Foudy, Jean-Luc	C	Windsor	OHL	13-May-02	5'11	177	R
71	Magnusson, Oskar	LW	Malmo J20	Superelit	31-Jan-02	5'10	166	L
72	Johannesson, Anton	LHD	HV 71 J20	Superelit	26-Mar-02	5'9	144	L
73	Chromiak, Martin	RW	Kingston	OHL	20-Aug-02	6'0	187	R
74	McClennon, Connor	RW	Winnipeg	WHL	25-Jun-02	5'8	163	R
75	Tankov, Kirill	C	SKA-Varyagi	MHL	26-Mar-02	6'1	180	L
76	Cormier, Lukas	LHD	Charlottetown	QMJHL	27-Mar-02	5'10	180	L
77	Hanas, Cross	LW	Portland	WHL	5-Jan-02	6'1	167	L
78	Ljungman, Daniel	C	Linkoping J20	Superelit	3-Apr-02	6'1	166	L
79	Groshev, Maxim	RW	Nizhnekamsk	KHL	14-Dec-01	6'2	194	L
80	Pytlik, Jaromir	C	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	25-Sep-01	6'2	200	R
81	Slaggert, Landon	LW	U.S. U18	NTDP	25-Jun-02	6'0	180	L
82	Peterson, Dylan	C	U.S. U18	NTDP	8-Jan-02	6'4	192	R
83	Hunt, Daemon	LHD	Moose Jaw	WHL	15-May-02	6'0	198	L
84	Kaiser, Wyatt	LHD	Andover	HS-MN	31-Jul-02	6'0	173	L
85	Blomqvist, Joel	G	Karpat U21	Jr. A SM-Liiga	10-Jan-02	6'1	182	L
86	Evangelista, Luke	RW	London	OHL	21-Feb-02	5'11	166	R
87	Finley, Jack	C	Spokane	WHL	2-Sep-02	6'6	213	R
88	Miller, Mitchell	RHD	Tri-City	USHL	20-Dec-01	5'10	180	R
89	Benning, Michael	RHD	Sherwood Park	AJHL	5-Jan-02	5'9	177	R
90	Knazko, Samuel	LHD	TPS U21	Jr. A SM-Liiga	7-Aug-02	6'1	191	L
91	Francis, Ryan	RW	Cape Breton	QMJHL	2-Dec-01	5'9	170	R
92	Pashin, Alexander	RW	Tolpar	MHL	28-Jul-02	5'8	154	L
93	Rochette, Theo	C	Quebec	QMJHL	20-Feb-02	5'10	161	L
94	Laferriere, Alex	RW	Des Moines	USHL	28-Oct-01	6'0	173	R
95	Ambrosio, Colby	C	Tri-City	USHL	7-Aug-02	5'9	170	R
96	Grans, Helge	RHD	Malmo J20	Superelit	10-May-02	6'3	206	R
97	Tyutnev, Pavel	RW	Loko Yaroslavl	MHL	25-Jul-02	5'10	185	L
98	Didkovskiy, Ivan	RW	MHK Dynamo	MHL	20-Jan-02	5'11	187	L
99	Savoie, Carter	LW	Sherwood Park	AJHL	23-Jan-02	5'9	192	L
100	Ekmark, Elliot	C	Linkoping J20	Superelit	29-Jan-02	5'9	162	L

2020 NHL DRAFT: Revised Draft Lottery Explained

The NHL's revised draft lottery format is actually quite straightforward once you take the time to figure it out, and it actually doesn't take that long. Normally, as in those days when there wasn't a crippling pandemic to force a stoppage of play, 16 of the NHL's 31 teams make the playoffs and the other 15 enter the draft lottery (usually in April) for the chance to win the first, second, or third overall pick in that year's draft. Love it or hate it, the NHL's ping-pong-ball lottery drawing attracts a ton of interest and glues eyeballs to screens of all kinds. This year should be no different, even with a couple of added twists.

Commissioner Gary Bettman officially cancelled the 2019-20 regular season during his recent announcement before outlining plans for both the postseason and the draft lottery, with the former having a profound impact on the latter. His directives call for splitting the league into two groups based on overall points percentages — seven lowly “lottery” teams who are eliminated from further competition will form one group, thus leaving the remaining 24 to battle in the playoffs.

Now, NHL types continue to hammer home the fact that 16 of those 24 teams haven't *officially* clinched a postseason berth (more on that later) since they have to compete in a “play-in” round to advance to the *real* Round 1, where the league's top eight teams await in the quarterfinals. The losers of the play-in round then join the seven aforementioned bottom feeders to form your standard 15-team lottery draw.

The problem with that is we would have to wait until late July or early August for the play-in round losers to make it a 15-team lottery. But time is obviously money, and the NHL is probably tired of losing truckloads of cash by the day. That's probably the driving force behind their decision to hold TWO draft lotteries — Phase I on June 26 involving the seven punching bags and Phase II a month or two later once the play-in round is complete.

Phase I

The first lottery is the bigger abnormality of the two because the draw will feature 15 teams, of which eight don't even exist. That's right, the league created ghost teams for slots 8 through 15 while the aforementioned non-playoff types occupy positions 1 through 7 in the order of their paltry points percentages. The other empty slots are nothing more than placeholders to allow the same lottery odds from 2018 and 2019 to be implemented. Below is the screenshot from Bettman's video call.


As you can see, the seven pushovers are listed, followed by the eight additional ghost teams. Those teams won't be identified until after the play-in round. Like previous years, Phase I will consist of three lottery draws with potential winning lottery combinations assigned to all 15 slots.

Here is a hypothetical example which will show the inner workings of this revised lottery process:

1st Lottery Draw: Detroit wins the 1st overall pick.

2nd Lottery Draw: Ottawa wins the 2nd overall pick.

3rd Lottery Draw: Ghost Team F wins the 3rd overall pick, thus triggering Phase II drawing at a later date.



	NON-QUALIFYING ROUND CLUBS	P%	ODDS
1	DETROIT	.275	18.5%
2	OTTAWA	.437	13.5%
3	OTTAWA*	.437	11.5%
4	LOS ANGELES	.457	9.5%
5	ANAHEIM	.472	8.5%
6	NEW JERSEY	.493**	7.5%
7	BUFFALO	.493**	6.5%
8	TEAM A	N/A	6.0%
9	TEAM B	N/A	5.0%
10	TEAM C	N/A	3.5%
11	TEAM D	N/A	3.0%
12	TEAM E	N/A	2.5%
13	TEAM F	N/A	2.0%
14	TEAM G	N/A	1.5%
15	TEAM H	N/A	1.0%

* From San Jose (.450 P%)
** Tiebreak: Regulation/OT W%

The sole purpose of Phase I (outside of the ad revenue) is to determine if a Phase II is necessary. In the above scenario, a Phase II lottery will be required to determine the draft order from picks 3 to 15 because a ghost team in

Phase I took a lottery slot over one of the top seven, which in this case would be Ottawa, Los Angeles, Anaheim, New Jersey and Buffalo. The good news for the seven official lottery teams is that those who win the drawing for picks No. 1, 2 or 3 in Phase I — in this case Detroit and Ottawa — get to keep that pick no matter what the hell happens in a subsequent drawing. Those remaining five who don't get lucky simply fall back to no lower than three slots, which will be assigned by points percentage ahead of every play-in round loser that doesn't win the lottery. If all three lottery drawings in Phase I go to any of these seven lesser teams, Phase II is cancelled and picks 1 through 7 are determined on the spot on June 26. The losers of the play-in round are then arranged in point-percentage order for picks 4 to 15. **If this happens, we'll know the exact 1-15 draft order when the play-in round is complete.**

Phase II (if necessary)

This phase is necessary only if one, two, or three ghost slots win the Phase I lottery drawing on June 26. This drawing will *not* include any of the seven non-playoff teams because it's essentially a re-draw to determine which physical play-in loser gets the right to a lottery pick. Therefore, only eight teams will be involved in this drawing (if necessary) with each team owning a 12.5 percent chance to win our hypothetical scenario's remaining lottery pick.

Team	Phase II Odds (No matter the slot won in Phase I)
Play-in Loser A	12.5%
Play-in Loser B	12.5%
Play-in Loser C	12.5%
Play-in Loser D	12.5%
Play-in Loser E	12.5%
Play-in Loser F	12.5%
Play-in Loser G	12.5%
Play-in Loser H	12.5%

Combined Goals-Per-Game Averages by League

NAT	League	GP	GPG	GF
CAN	OHL	1248	7.72	9632
SWE	Superelit (Top-10)	162	7.37	1194
CAN	QMJHL	1142	6.94	7922
CAN	AJHL	870	6.85	5962
FIN	Mestis	600	6.83	4098
SWE	Superelit (Sodra)	270	6.76	1826
U.S.	USHL	774	6.69	5174
CAN	WHL	1388	6.54	9078
FIN	Jr. A SM-Liiga (Losers)	180	6.50	1170
CZE	DHL Cup (Reg.)	684	6.39	4368
CAN	BCHL	985	6.34	6240
FIN	Jr. A SM-Liiga (Reg.)	612	6.29	3850
FIN	Jr. A SM-Liiga (Winners)	180	6.21	1118
U.S.	NAHL	1354	6.18	8372
CZE	Chance Liga (Total)	928	6.09	5650
U.S./CAN	NHL	2164	6.04	13068
U.S./CAN	AHL	1882	6.00	11290
SWE	Superelit (Norra)	270	5.99	1616
U.S.	NCHC	192	5.90	1132
CZE	Chance Liga (Reg.)	480	5.86	2806
CZE	Extraliga	728	5.75	4184
GER	DEL	728	5.73	4168
RUS	MHL	2176	5.69	12384
SWE	Allsvenskan	728	5.63	4098
U.S.	AHA	322	5.61	1806
U.S.	WCHA	298	5.45	1624
U.S.	Hockey East	264	5.42	1430
FIN	SM-LIIGA	886	5.35	4740
SWE	SHL	728	5.33	3882
U.S.	BIG-10	182	5.23	952
U.S.	ECAC	282	5.21	1468
RUS	VHL	1836	4.94	9074
RUS	KHL	1488	4.93	7332

1. Alexis Lafreniere, LW

Rimouski (QMJHL)

Player Data

11-Oct-01	6'1	196	Left	St. Eustache, QC	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

57	35	77	112
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

The crown jewel of the 2020 draft class, Lafreniere delivered a season for the ages of any major junior player, let alone one who is only 18 year old. After dominating the under-18 Ivan Hlinka and winning the 2019 CHL Player of the Year Award, Lafreniere won the QMJHL scoring title and earned MVP honors at the U20 world junior championship (10 points in 5 games) in leading Canada to gold. Not only is he a virtual lock to become the first French-Canadian skater to go first overall since Vincent Lecavalier in 1998, but he is expected to join Sidney Crosby as the only two pre-draft prospects to win CHL MVP more than once. Lafreniere also is a team-first leader who has made a profound impact on Rimouski, turning them from a 59-point doormat in 2016-17 to back-to-back playoff seasons of 90+ points.

A gifted and versatile scoring winger with outstanding hockey sense and the ability to elevate his game when the situation calls for it, Lafreniere possesses many traits that scream elite and potential NHL superstar. From his deadly wrist shot to his superior playmaking and vision, the St. Eustache native checks every block imaginable when it comes to possessing the puck. What makes Lafreniere unique, however, is his insanely high compete level, tenacity on the puck, physicality, and selflessness. Play him on a line with equally heralded or accomplished prospects, and he'll make it a point to tap into their strengths rather than make himself the center of attention.

Lafreniere is an excellent skater in all directions, but his powerful stride allows him to separate from opponents in open ice. It's rare to see a winger nearing 200 pounds of any age to be able to turn on the jets immediately following a physical battle, but Lafreniere's foot speed, long stride, and expert anticipation places him in open ice with a numbers advantage multiple times a period, let alone an entire game. Playing in a junior league has something to do with that, but there no reason to believe his escapability in close contact won't translate to success within the trenches of NHL warfare, where time and space are earned the hard way. Lafreniere can tailor his game to fit any style of play, and his ability to play physical causes significant matchup problems for smaller opponents.

Lafreniere can be used in every situation, and his ability to dominate the puck no matter the in-game environment creates swaths of open ice for his mates. Lafreniere is an incredibly unselfish player, and his youthful exuberance when coupled with his physicality reveal a player of the throwback variety. Lafreniere seems to understand and execute set-plays on or off the puck, and he can be counted on as a reliable and tenacious forechecker who creates turnovers in the neutral zone. Although the volume of high-end prospects being developed out of the QMJHL has slowed down, Lafreniere is at the very top of an elite crop of Quebec Leaguers poised to garner the attention of scouts from all over North American and Europe. The top slot among 2020 draft hopefuls was Lafreniere's to lose for several years, and never once did he relinquish it.

Critical Strength

Playmaking: Lafreniere's vision and passing skills are at the forefront of his game.

Needs Improvement

Discipline: Lafreniere has a history for throwing dangerous elbows and dirty hits near the boards.

Bottom Line

Lafreniere was the best player in Canadian major junior in each of his two seasons prior to the draft and he will undoubtedly become an instant fan favorite for the team lucky enough to draft him. A future superstar.

2. Quinton Byfield, C

Sudbury (OHL)

Player Data

19-Aug-02	6'4	215	Left	Newmarket, ON	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

45	32	50	82
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

Last year's CHL's Rookie of the Year and first overall pick in the 2018 OHL Priority Selection, Byfield in his draft year lived up to the hype and then some, tying for fifth in the OHL in points per game (1.82) and leading Sudbury to what would have been a second consecutive playoff season. In August, he was a key figure for Team Canada at the Ivan Hlinka, where he tied for fifth in scoring with five points in five games despite being the youngest skater on his roster. Byfield would later be chosen to represent Canada at the under-20 world junior championship, and although he didn't play enough to make an impression on what became a gold medal-winning roster, the experience should set him up for a top-line role for next year, if his NHL club decides to let him participate.

Byfield combines obvious physical strengths with elite hockey sense, anticipation and scoring ability. He is as much a danger in tight spaces as he is in open ice, and he possesses a long, powerful stride that allows him to accelerate to top speed and create distinct separation from chasing opponents. Byfield is incredibly agile for his size, and he can evade pressure or create space without solely relying on his thick frame and long reach. Much like current NHL star Auston Matthews, Byfield can dictate the flow of a possession from the boards or behind the net, and linemates at every level seem to understand that it's his job to facilitate playmaking off the cycle. Byfield, however, is exceptionally crafty with the puck, and goalies have to respect his powerful shot that he wires with pinpoint accuracy from anywhere inside the offensive zone. On the power play, Byfield threads the needle with crisp cross-ice or cross-seam passes, but he has very soft hands that allow him to saucer feeds over congestion on either his forehand or backhand. His booming shot makes him a potential option at the point, but his elite hand-eye coordination makes his accurate one-timer from the circles a deadlier option.

Byfield is an obvious physical presence but one who is able to dictate the terms over opponents without playing dirty or undisciplined. He is an effective backchecker and occasionally pressures on the forecheck, but it's his ability to read plays and get that necessary extra step that helps him create turnovers before quickly transitioning the other way. Byfield is very good on faceoffs (over 52 percent success rate) and is a solid penalty killer who pressures the points. His impressive wingspan and upper-body strength are critical aspects off the puck in that he can shove opponents off balance without overcommitting or finding himself trapped. Keep in mind that he'll likely continue to grow, which will spell trouble for an NHL that is trending towards smaller players.

Critical Strength

Playmaking/vision: Byfield is an exceptional playmaker with buttery-soft hands. He can turn possessions against any opponent into a series of high-quality scoring chances.

Needs Improvement

Over-passing: Like most set-up men, Byfield reveals a pass-first mentality more than he should, especially when you consider his shot is among the best of any center in this class.

Bottom Line

Byfield is what every team wants – a big, strong center with elite vision and playmaking skills who can dominated the game in all three zones. He has superstar potential and is ready to tackle the rigors of the NHL as we speak.

3. Tim Stützle, C/LW

Mannheim (DEL)

Player Data

15-Jan-01	6'1	187	Left	Viersen, DEU	Germany
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

41	7	27	34
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

Stützle is as close to a finished product as you'll find in a 17-year-old forward. He plays both center and wing, although with Mannheim he's be utilized exclusively on the flank. His quickness on or off the puck is evident from the second he hits the ice, and his reputation as a high-volume scorer doesn't limit his abilities to forecheck with tenacity or finish his checks hard. Stützle stays in motion and tracks (and predicts) puck travel far more consistently than the average first-year draft eligible. This acute sense allows Stützle to apply a tremendous amount of physical pressure on opposing defensemen, who even at their advanced age still commit critical turnovers in the face of his relentless hounding.

He operates a very quick stick, and his hand-eye coordination helps him bat down elevated passes before softly corralling the puck flat on his blade. He takes smart routes to the puck and plays with his head up in order to identify gaps in coverage, which means there is more to his defensive game than you'd think. He exerts a lot of energy from whistle to whistle but running on an empty tank doesn't have him gunning for the bench at the earliest chance — Stützle likes to be involved in plays and create chances, and it seems like a set of tired legs won't stop him from doing so.

Stützle is an excellent skater in all areas. His first step is explosive; his skating style is slightly upright and fluid; and he generates power in his clean, textbook strides. Although he's more of a north-south skater in the neutral zone, Stützle transitions to a slippery sidewinder after the opposing territory is breached. He breaks ankles, spins off pressure, and uses a series of shoulder fakes and head bobs to gain entry in between the circles. He attracts a significant amount of attention from the entire opposing unit, and powering through hard shoves or a heavy lean while gliding around the net or near the line validates his balance and edgework as well above average. He seems to have a gamer's attitude on the ice but also comes across as a kid simply enjoying the game he loves.

Stützle is an exceptional playmaker and a dual threat once he has the puck and is heading towards the scoring areas. He has soft hands and a phenomenal touch, and he is more than confident (and competent) at attempting to feather or saucer passes from in close. Stützle roofs the puck with regularity on either forehand or backhand, and he appears to understand the importance of puck positioning on his blade. If he rushes a shot, the accuracy remains, but he also has the wherewithal to out-wait an opponent before finishing a play off with a trick pass or shot. His wrist shot is deadly, specifically from between the circles, and he is consistent in labeling shots to the long side off the pass

Critical Strength

Speed/Motor: Not many teenagers can put up impressive stats in an adult-age circuit, but Stützle's ability to keep his engine running throughout his entire shift while taking a physical beating played a huge role in his ability to not only gain time and space but have enough energy to exploit it thereafter.

Needs Improvement

Keeping it simple: Stützle is a dynamic presence on the ice and although he isn't selfish, he often tries telegraphed moves that rarely work against experienced defensemen.

Bottom Line

Stutzele is the most excitable German draft prospect since Leon Draisaitl, but Stützle is developing his own reputation as the center of gravity when his team is on the attack.

4. Cole Perfetti, LW

Saginaw (OHL)

Player Data

1-Jan-02	5'10	177	Left	Whitby, ON	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

61	37	74	111
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A lethal scorer who possesses an arsenal of deadly moves, including bullets from any area inside the offensive zone, Perfetti is a slick offensive force who also tortures opponents with keen vision and elite playmaking. For the second season in a row, Perfetti tortured OHL defenses with either his shot or his playmaking. His 74 assists and 111 points were second only to fellow 2020 draft prospect Marco Rossi in the entire league, and Saginaw's next-highest scorer trailed him by a healthy 31 points. In August, he was the top scorer at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka tournament, posting eight goals and four assists in five contests, and his ridiculous shootout performance (three goals on four attempts) helped Canada edge Sweden to earn a berth in the gold medal game.

Perfetti's dual-threat capabilities make him difficult to predict once he's taken the puck into the offensive zone, and the amount of room defenders afford him upon entry plays into his hands. Dangerous in both open ice and off the cycle, the Whitby, Ont. native also manages to exploit worn-out opponents by drawing double teams towards as high as the point. Off the puck, he has very quick hands and a sharp eye that allows him cleanly corral hard passes or whistle the puck upstairs in the blink of an eye. Simply put, Perfetti owns an elite shot, and it's labeled as elite for its lethality in several areas — release, power, and accuracy — and delivered from alternating release points. He makes plays on the backhand with regularity and can roof pucks from in close, and Perfetti can fire up a laser under any conditions. It's clear that he has a reputation, and goalies seem to dial up their focus meter when he has the puck and a clean look.

Perfetti stays in constant motion to either look for an opening or track the puck to support. He is a strong skater with excellent balance and above-average lateral quickness, and although he displays a wide base and a short stride, his straight-line speed is adequate enough to help him accelerate past defenders or outpace back pressure. Perfetti's quickness is deceptive, and he shifts gears in one-on-one situations that consistently catch defenders flat-footed. Being strong on his skates also helps him maintain control while taking violent shoves from bigger opponents. Perfetti is not a North-South roadrunner. Rather, he uses quick bursts and directional changes to weave around congestion instead of attacking it head-on, but also capable of dangling his way around multiple checkers before faking a goalie into next week.

Offense is the name of Perfetti's game, so it's natural to mark him as a dangerous option for the power play. If he isn't setting up with the hammer cocked from the circle, Perfetti can control the possession from the wall and thread the needle with perfectly timed cross-ice or saucer passes. From an offensive standpoint, this ability makes him effective as either a wing or a center, yet he seems quite comfortable on the flank. A gentlemanly player, Perfetti is by no means a liability defensively. He will backcheck; use his lower-body strength and leg drive to finish his checks, plus cover up gaps down near the slot. The sky's the limit for this rising star.

Critical Strength

Hockey Sense: Only a small percentage of CHL scorers can carry consistent production to higher levels. Perfetti's phenomenal decision making on the puck should make his transition to the NHL more seamless than most.

Needs Improvement

Foot speed: Perfetti's is excellent in tight-quarter play and his anticipation places him in open ice with a sizable buffer zone. But NHL defenseman can be just as smart, if not smarter, so it would be beneficial to add some pop to his first step.

Bottom Line

OHL defenses were matador-esque this season, so take Perfetti's eye-popping stats with a grain of salt. But the surgical nature of practically every pass or shot attempt means he's more than capable of doing serious damage against any opponent.

5. Marco Rossi, C

Ottawa (OHL)

Player Data

23-Sep-01	5'9	183	Left	Feldkirch, AUT	Austria
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

56	39	81	120
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

One of the more exciting forward prospects in his class, this Austrian-born scoring machine finished as the OHL's leading scorer and won the league's top player award. Rossi is a consistent breakaway threat, but he also contributes in other areas thanks to a high-end motor, strong balance on the puck and an acute grasp of how plays will unfold before him. There is something to be said about a top draft prospect whose resume is primarily based on his league and postseason play, and it could be a good thing that Rossi will never play in any major international events that may otherwise scrutinize one of the more complete skill sets you'll find in a teenager. A dynamic playmaker with elite finishing skills to boot, Rossi is a critical possession driver for Ottawa, which was the OHL's top teams and would have challenged for the league title.

Rossi is a magician with the puck and displays a tremendous amount of patience and elite vision. More times than not, Rossi will delay until the smallest of windows remains open. This applies to both lateral feeds into traffic and from wide shooting angles. Opponents have struggled slowing him down, and he's already at the point in the season where coaches seem to have stopped line matching against him. Like most super scorers, Rossi dictates the tempo. When he hits the ice, there isn't a shred of doubt or apprehension that may prevent him from executing set plays or breakouts to the letter. He commands everyone's attention and the puck always seems to be on his blade.

Rossi has an arsenal of moves to finish from anywhere in the offensive zone. He boasts an accurate slapper, but it's his snap-shot with little backswing that seems to handcuff goalies with regularity. He has soft hands and excellent hand-eye coordination to hammer pucks off the pass, but he's also able to corral pucks in full flight and quickly transition from skate to stick or backhand to forehand while making a mad dash to the net. Once he's below the hashmarks, Rossi is an unpredictable as they come, and he's shown confidence by attempting trick shots with little to no time and space.

Although you shouldn't classify him as a stopper in the defensive zone, Rossi does kill penalties and has a clear understanding of his role as a center and will support his defensemen below the circles, to include covering a vacated slot. Rossi is very good on faceoffs and is entrusted with late/close situations at all strengths. He hustles on the backcheck and has a quick stick to loot unassuming puck rushers before transitioning the other way. Like most young forwards, Rossi can be guilty of puck gazing and allow opponents to get a step on him towards the net. He also isn't physical in a classic sense, and Rossi's upper-body strength isn't enough to win many board battles. Of course, the quickness of feet and stick are in concert with his sharp processor and gaining inside positioning against bigger players is more of a result of anticipation rather than brute strength.

Critical Strength

Playmaking: It's actually hard to pinpoint just one of Rossi's many specific strengths, but he's so much fun to watch with the puck on his stick while surveying the offensive zone from the half wall. His ability to thread the needle across the seam should make any NHL power play successful.

Needs Improvement

Strength off the puck: This is nitpicking of the highest order, but Rossi at times can get outmuscled when matched up against a bigger opponent.

Bottom Line

Rossi's two-way play when combined with his elite hockey IQ and creativity should make up for a lack of size, especially if he continues to compete as hard as he normally does.

6. Alexander Holtz, RW

Djugardens (SHL)

Player Data

23-Jan-02	6'0	192	Right	Stockholm, SWE	Sweden
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

35	9	7	16
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A deadly goal scorer with smarts whose contributions go beyond putting the puck in the net, Holtz has been a top-line player for Sweden at multiple under-18 events dating as far back as the 2018 Ivan Hlinka when he barely was 16 years old. His draft season was a resounding success, to include his clutch performance for Sweden at the under-20 world junior championship and becoming one of the top U18 scorers in SHL history.

Built with a thick frame and possessing powerful leg drive, Holtz is difficult to neutralize when he's on the puck in either full flight or in battles along the boards. He plays with his head up and keeps his feet moving, and he consistently looks to slip into soft areas to unload his world-class shot. Holtz's desire to battle hard without the puck and challenge bigger players are key components to his ability to change possession and maintain pressure in the opposing end. If he loses the puck, he'll track it properly with an active stick and harass defenders, even if he's at the end of a long shift.

Holtz is an excellent stickhandler in all situations and makes subtle maneuvers to avoid entanglements with opposing stick checks. He can take the puck inside or out and shifting gears on the fly with deft lateral agility is one of several tactics he uses to get the puck loaded up for a deadly wrister from the middle of the ice. The puck explodes off his blade, and the high velocity generated by each attempt pays tribute to the mechanics of his delivery. Unlike the average teenage player, Holtz seems to be able to mask his intended net target by hitting the upper corners with the puck positioned in different areas of his blade. Shots from static positions and off the rush are difficult for goalies to control, and a good chunk of his assists — primary or secondary — are generated from rebounds. He appears to prefer the wrister over the slap shot, which is understandable considering his release.

Although he shouldn't be classified specifically as a two-way forward, Holtz is sound positionally in his own end and makes excellent reads while utilizing his stick efficiently. He outsmarted most of his opponents in the junior-age Superelit, where he was the league's leading goal scorer a season ago and could be counted on for multiple breakaways or odd-man rushes per game. He certainly doesn't fly the zone irresponsibly, and he's quick enough to double back and support in coverage if possession changes hands. Holtz has very good straight-line speed and multi-directional agility, but it's his powerful stride that helps him outpace defenders or cause problems on the forecheck. His balance is excellent, and he has proven to maintain control while receiving multiple hard shoves from bigger defenders, especially near the net.

One overlooked aspect of Holtz's game is his vision — he is an excellent tape-to-tape passer, but he also spots backdoor, diagonal and cross-ice options with regularity. These are risky plays, especially on the power play, and teams late last season began to limit his completion percentage by tightening up the middle and keeping sticks in lanes. The problem with that is he'll gladly defer to his deadly shot from the circle, thus keeping opponents off balance at any strength.

Critical Strength

Shooting and Positioning: Simply put, Holtz has one of the top shot-release combinations of any prospect, let alone first-year draft eligibles. Not only is it his money maker, but teams keep losing him in coverage.

Needs Improvement

Playmaking: Holtz is an accurate passer and has proven to deliver highlight-reel setups. The issue is he doesn't do it enough. Although teams mark him as the primary threat to score whenever he's on the ice, consistently expanding time and space for his linemates would be a welcomed addition to his already lethal arsenal.

Bottom Line

It's between Lafreniere, Perfetti, and Holtz to earn the title of best scoring winger in the draft. Elite company indeed

7. Rodion Amirov, RW

Tolpar (MHL)

Player Data

2-Oct-01	6'0	167	Left	Salavat, RUS	Russia
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

17	10	12	22
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A dangerous 200-foot forward with a reputation for being clutch, Amirov is a late 2001-born prodigy who parlayed an impressive rookie season in the MHL and a dominant under-18 world championship into a much-deserved promotion to the KHL's Salavat Ufa. Although he didn't put up impressive numbers while playing against adults, Amirov went back to a low-scoring junior league like the MHL and absolutely torched it – his 1.29 points-per-game and 5.0 shots-per-game averages were the best among all teenage draft eligibles.

Shifty, aggressive and incredibly smart, Amirov impacts the game in all three zones with or without the puck. He can play either side of center, and his shot accuracy on his off wing is as accurate as it is on his strong side. More of an east-west skater with a wide stride who uses excellent agility and edgework to weave or curl his way past coverage, Amirov's straight-line speed is very good, but it's his anticipation coupled with the power of his stride that helps him create a sizable gap from back-pressure. He has an acute sense of identifying and evading oncoming opponents, and he's not shy from stopping on a dime and recalculating his next move. Amirov has a quick first step, but his directional changes in open ice are incredibly rapid and perfectly timed.

Amirov excels in both areas of special teams. He wears multiple hats on the power play that includes net-front presence, slot presence, and controlling the possession from either the wall or behind the net. This versatility in conjunction with his sharp instincts and decision-making combine to force opponents into bad choices, as he immediately draws their attention away from trouble spots, only for Amirov to exploit openings with a hard pass or an massive howitzer blast from either circle. He has soft hands to handle tough passes, and his skate-to-stick transition is among the best you'll see from a pre-draft teenager. This allows him to quickly transition into shooting position and fool pressing opponents with pump fakes or slap passes.

Two of the more noticeable aspects of Amirov's game are his puck control and board play in all three zones. He is extremely elusive in tight spaces and will use multiple pivots or cut-backs with confidence to keep possession alive, specifically during the cycle. He enters the offensive zone with his head up and consistently identifies and connects with the best option once time and space are achieved. If trapped inside his own end, Amirov will make subtle stick plays to win possession before trapping overcommitted point men with a nifty bank or lob pass. Amirov is quite the thief, and you can count on him to loot unassuming opponents several times a game.

Amirov in the KHL was utilized in the most modest of roles, which is common for pre-draft teenagers. This experience had a profound impact on his development, which was proven in his dominant play upon returning to junior hockey. Not only was Amirov the top all-around forward on a strong Tolpar squad, but he also was one of the best scorers in the entire MHL. He finishes his checks, kills penalties in an expert fashion, and is strong in both his balance and ability to fend off harassing checkers with ease. There's some bite to Amirov's game and he is highly decisive when he wants to take the puck away from an opponent, even if it means mashing him into the boards.

Critical Strength

Stickhandling: Amirov is an expert at puck control, especially in tight spaces while opposing pressure hounds him.

Needs Improvement

Explosiveness: A skater with impressive agility and impressive moves in 1-on-1 situations, Amirov needs to add a north-south attacking style to increase his already-high threat factor

Bottom Line

Being Russian likely keeps Amirov out of the top five, but his skill set screams top-line winger at the NHL level.

8. Jamie Drysdale, RHD

Erie (OHL)

Player Data

8-Apr-02	5'11	175	Right	Toronto, ON	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

49	9	38	47
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A pure puck mover who cooked up instant offense for a thin Erie attack, Drysdale's quickness and shot proclivity were displayed at an elite level from the beginning of his draft season to the very end. He was a linchpin on the blue line for Canada at the Ivan Hlinka, and impressed London head coach Dale Hunter enough to give him a rare spot as a 17-year-old defenseman on the Canadian world junior team. Drysdale didn't produce near-historic numbers in what turned out to be a 20+ year high in goals scored in the OHL. But his biggest contributions – takeaways from reads, clean breakouts, creating time and space – cannot be quantified in traditional stats.

Drysdale is a dominant presence on the ice who uses excellent speed, agility and rapid decision making to make himself the most dangerous player on the ice at all times. From a stylistic standpoint, there are several similarities between Drysdale and 2017 fourth-overall pick Cale Makar. Both are right shots who love the attack with speed and venture deep into opposing territory. Additionally, Drysdale is able to blend physical gifts such as quickness, escapability, and shot power with the natural instinct to time his movements perfectly and keep the other side in a state of confusion. Traveling at a high rate of speed can be a common trait of teenage offensive defensemen who are used to exploiting the inexperience of their opponents. But Drysdale is a poised, one-man breakout who processes multiple options as he darts up ice or weaves around traffic. Consider Drysdale one of the few draft-eligible puck rushers who consistently displays structure as he forays across center ice, but also produces more clean zone entries than needless dump-ins or turnovers.

A lot of Drysdale's efforts rely on proper timing — timing of his lead passes; timing of his directional changes; and of course, timing of his reads without the puck. His desire to maintain the initiative and attack as often as possible keeps him positioned close to his line during 1-on-1 defense, and he confidently cheats in the neutral zone for an errant pass to intercept. On average, it seems like Drysdale personally initiates close to a half-dozen odd-man attacks per game. His lateral mobility is outstanding, so crossing up retreating defenders is an option he uses regularly.

Once inside the zone, Drysdale plays the role of possession facilitator. He's been with Erie long enough for his teammates to understand the velocity, pinpoint accuracy, and unpredictability of his passes, to include cross-ice, banks, slap-passes, or backdoor feeds. By constantly staying in motion, Drysdale more than expands the ice in the offensive zone and setting up one-timers with a clear shooting lane to the net from either circle is a commonality for his forwards. He's as natural a power-play quarterback as they come, and his shot-release combination is on the higher end of the elite scale. He whips accurate wristers from as far back as his own line, be he also walks the blue stripe with pump fakes before unloading a heavy slapper. One thing to keep an eye on is Drysdale's trickery with point shots — not every attempt is intended to score, so forwards near the goal must be prepared for carom shots or floaters that are perfect for cross-body tip-ins.

On defense, Drysdale may not wallop opponents in open ice, but he's well balanced and delivers very hard shoves that prove to be just as effective and are conducted without taking himself out of position. Drysdale plays close to his line and maintains a tight gap, using a shove or a stick thrust while chest-gazing his opponents all the way through. He definitely is a roamer, however, and rarely marries himself to slot duties — if Drysdale isn't behind the net battling for possession, he's charging at the points or chasing a puck-carrying forward while fixing him away from the scoring areas.

Critical Strength

Skating: Graceful, fluid, effortless, fast, agile – take your pick. Drysdale's mobility is a thing of beauty in open ice.

Needs Improvement

Physicality: In terms of defensemen, the OHL was a borderline no-hit league this year and Drysdale was part of that equation. He needs to make opponents pay for entering prime scoring areas.

Bottom Line

Drysdale has the potential to be a top-pairing point producer and one of the league's premier power-play quarterbacks.

9. Lucas Raymond, LW

Frolunda (SHL)

Player Data

28-March-02	5'11	170	Right	Gothenburg, SWE	Sweden
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

33	4	6	10
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A slightly hunched skater with excellent straight-line speed and a quick first step to generate a powerful stride, Raymond's ability to accelerate past opponents in the neutral zone result in multiple odd-man rushes per game. Raymond has tremendous upper-body strength for his size and it is quite common for him to power through hits or shoves from bigger defenders. Once he's free, Raymond keeps his head up and maintains control of the puck, surveying the offensive zone for the best option to score. If he's tightly checked, Raymond can drop a rapid directional change, especially in the middle of the ice near the prime scoring areas. Making matters worse for opponents is his shot — much like Alexander Holtz, Raymond can sling a bullet of a wrist shot that is labeled for the either corner. He seems partial to the wrister, but his crisp tic-tac-toe passing abilities generate give-and-go scenarios with the end result being a hammer-blow off the pass.

Raymond's hands and coordination put him near the top of all draft-eligible peers. He has shown time and again the ability to corral bouncing or errant passes on the fly and settle the puck flat in an instant. Being a consistent open-ice threat can result in a significant amount of risk, but Raymond manages it effectively with timely reads and anticipating. If he overcommits or gets caught up ice, Raymond couples his elite speed with a strong desire to compete hard, especially on the backcheck. On several occasions, Raymond darted up ice off his own takeaway, lost the puck, doubled-back to the defensive zone, only to make another steal to counter the other way with numbers. This series of changes in puck travel seems to have a tiresome effect on everyone except Raymond, who is as competitive late in shifts as he is from the start.

Playing either finesse or power game with effectiveness is part of what separates Raymond from most of the pack. He doesn't get cheated and tries to impact the game at all times with or without the puck. He certainly likes to be in control and run the possession from as early as retrieval behind his own net. You can tell he's processing multiple options in a relatively short period of time before making a decision, and an oft-used methodical approach into enemy territory still frightens defenders into backing in well off the line. Once he's inside the zone, you're at his mercy, as Raymond is incredibly effective off the cycle and shows a clear understanding for set plays. If he isn't a student of the game, then he sure knows how to play like one, as he's too fine a playmaker and passer to not know what the opponent is thinking.

Raymond is not scared of physical play and plays with an edge. He can get under an opponent's skin and does a fair amount of on-ice chirping. Although he shouldn't be classified as a showboat, his demonstrative manner in between whistles or after a scoring strike probably marks as a retaliation target. Sometimes he tries to do too much and forces passes or attempts 1-on-4 dangles, but chalk this up to confidence rather than carelessness. In the end, it's irrelevant, because Raymond can dictate the tempo of a game and make the bad guys pay in a variety of ways.

Critical Strength

Playmaking: Creativity, vision, pass accuracy, and touch are all at a superior level for Raymond.

Needs Improvement

Confidence: Raymond played with noticeably less swagger this season and it can't be blamed on his SHL usage. He was a passenger far too often at multiple levels, specifically at even strength.

Bottom Line

Raymond didn't have the kind of draft season you'd expect from a potential top-three pick, but he's proven in the past that he can be a dynamic presence on the ice with the energy and work ethic to match his elite skill set.

10. Jake Sanderson, LHD

U.S. U18 (NTDP)

Player Data

8-July-02	6'2	185	Left	Whitefish, MT	USA
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

47	7	22	29
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

The top American-born defenseman for the 2020 draft and possibly the first one to be selected after Jamie Drysdale, Sanderson is the straw that stirs the drink for this year's NTDP. He is a plus-plus player in multiple areas, and Sanderson is one of the few draft-eligible defenders who can outshine the most impressive of forwards when it comes to puck control, decision making, and generating offense.

Sanderson is a clean and skilled puck carrier with soft hands who can be counted on to break out of his end in several ways. The puck seems to remain settled for him regardless of speed, and even sharp changes in direction don't hinder his ability to stay in complete control. His shot is a primary weapon in his arsenal, and he has proven to score via the slap shot or wrister from anywhere between the circles and the point. One area where Sanderson doesn't get enough credit for is his passing and he is more than capable at luring opponents away from the weak side before exploiting the gap with a no-look or backhand pass across the seam. He's not a power-play quarterback in the classic sense but he mans the point on the top power-play unit and executes precision plays off of faceoffs.

Any study of Sanderson's game centered on individual stats is a waste of time because some of the most important things he does cannot be quantified. For example, unlike most young defenders, Sanderson is as good as it gets when it comes to defending below the circles. Not only does he maintain optimal slot spacing between opponents who are spread out, but his rapid processing time in conjunction with a quick and powerful first step allows him to break up bang-bang attempts from the corner or behind the net with regularity. Sanderson's timing of switch-offs with partner Eamon Powell is practically pro level, and you rarely see both of them battling for the same puck. Sanderson's stick is highly active in the defensive zone and he always seem to be at least a full stick length from one or two threats in the slot. Sanderson maintains a tight gap and will hold firm at his line using quick and timely stick-on-puck thrusts. The beauty of Sanderson's defensive game is how quickly he meshes all these traits together before collecting the puck for himself and exploding up ice for a counterattack. He also is an excellent penalty killer who clears the crease within the letter of the rule book.

Another area where Sanderson excels at is physicality. At 6-foot-2 and 185 pounds, he already has the length and build to present opponents with an impregnable barrier. Even at 17, Sanderson already has the reputation of being a punishing hitter and will deliver a wallop in any area of the ice regardless of who has the puck. Sanderson is thick and well balanced, to the point where he can absorb a hit from a charging opponent and leave him lying on the ice. He is by no means reckless, however, and the fact that he was whistled for only six minor penalties in 47 games proves that he can maintain discipline while being physically assertive.

Sanderson is an excellent skater in all directions. He owns a powerful stride and only needs a few to reach top speed. The double-plus power of his stride doesn't hinder his agility in traffic, and Sanderson displays smooth actions with the puck on his stick as he weaves or motors past traffic. No that he necessarily needs a head start, but Sanderson's sharp read-and-react ability allows him to gain that critical jump on opponents in scenarios such as chip-and-chase, 50/50 footraces, and creating a numbers advantage on the rush.

Few rearguards in this draft year display such acute recognition on or off the puck like Sanderson. He sorts through multiple courses of actions within seconds, and proof of this is how many quality scoring chances and points he accumulates of turnovers and faceoffs. His vision and playmaking are excellent for a minute-eating No. 1 defenseman.

Critical Strength

Skating: Sanderson's multi-directional agility by itself should classify him as an elite skater.

Needs Improvement

Shot selection: Sanderson has an above-average shot but he needs to let it fly more often.

Bottom Line

Sanderson is the most complete defenseman in the draft and a warrior who can match up against any opponent without ever looking cautious or intimidated. He has the drive and determination to humble the flashiest of skilled forwards.

11. Anton Lundell, C

HIFK (SM-Liiga)

Player Data

3-Oct-01	6'1	185	Left	Espoo, FIN	Finland
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

44	10	18	28
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A 200-foot center with a deadly wrist shot who held his own in Finland's elite SM-Liiga, Lundell is the top Finnish prospect for the 2020 draft. He has been a notable presence for HIFK in each of the last two years, where he received a regular shift for nearly two full seasons. Lundell has played under 10 minutes in only one of his 67 games, and that dates back to last October. Unlike most first-year draft eligible playing in European men's leagues, Lundell has never dealt with the uncertainty of being benched or demoted, which is a testament to his skill set, work ethic, and consistency.

Lundell has the makings of an excellent top-six center at the NHL level. He is constantly involved in the play in one form or another and he uses his size, strength, reach, and sound positioning to overwhelm the toughest of Finnish league veterans. Although he isn't intimidating or a big hitter, Lundell definitely plays a North-South game predicted on tenacity on the puck and making plays in traffic. It's good to see defensively responsible centers like Lundell attack the middle of the ice with controlled aggression and make snap decisions to exploit gaps in coverage. Thus, opposing defenders afford him too much room at their line, and Lundell is more than willing to advance into space for a wrister on net.

Lundell is a slightly hunched yet powerful skater with a long, clean stride and outstanding balance. He can power through checks at the line while maintaining control or slow down his pace to allow support to catch up. Either way, he's going to dominate the puck, and opponents have all kinds of issues trying to wrestle possession away from him. Lundell's first step is quick for a center his size, but it's his anticipation and reading of plays that gives him a needed head start if a quicker opponent is marking him. His above-average agility is more noticeable in tight spaces than it is in open ice, and Lundell is poised enough to cut back or delay under pressure with his back to the boards.

Several aspects of Lundell's games makes him an asset in the defensive zone. He's very good on faceoffs he stays within his coverage zone and not leave the middle of the ice open. He is more than willing to support in board battles and cover the low slot of his defensemen, but he also patrols the danger areas with vigilance and proper communication. Lundell picks off passes and quickly transitions the other way.

Offensively, Lundell's elite shot definitely makes him more of a shooter than a passer. His average of 3.7 shots per game (162 shots in 44 games) is high considering he averaged under 16 minutes. Passing-wise, most of his assists were of the not primary variety although he was able to equally distribute his production between 5v5 and the power play. His vision is sound and the delivery of his passes are clean, but most of the chances he generates are off the cycle and created within short distances.

Critical Strengths

Consistency and Shot: Lundell gives you the same three-zone effort every shift and can blister the puck while doing so.

Needs Improvement

Vision and Creativity: Lundell is more of a shoot-first center who relies on hard work and positioning to generate chances. You rarely see Lundell create a scoring opportunity for his linemates out of seemingly impossible situation.

Bottom Line

The top Finnish prospect in this year's draft did everything asked of him and then some. He is a possession driver with a lot of boxes checked for a two-way center. A lack of pizzazz might be the only thing that keeps him out of the top 10.

12. Seth Jarvis, C

Portland (WHL)

Player Data

1-Feb-02	5'10	175	Right	Winnipeg, MB	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

58	42	56	98
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A slick and cerebral forward with excellent hands, Jarvis finished second in the WHL in scoring thanks to a monster second half of the season. He has all the tools required to be a dominant player in major junior. He can dish the puck with flair but also play the role of a sniper thanks to an excellent shot and release. Jarvis keeps his feet moving at all times and tracks the puck like a hawk, and when he takes control of it, he'll button-hook or curl to change the plane of attack and improve his angle. Compounding issues for defenders is his strong balance, as Jarvis darts inside with consistency and doesn't seem deterred by traffic or a potential double team. He also provides his coaching staff with the necessary intangibles to contribute in other areas such as special teams, and he communicates well with his linemates while trying to execute set plays.

There's a ton of finesse to Jarvis's game. Not only is he a silky-smooth skater with grace and fluidity, but he can also unleash a quick first step and accelerate into open ice as if he were shot out of a cannon. Jarvis is as elusive and slippery as they come during attempts to bypass the neutral zone, and his agility helps him drop rapid directional changes to the inside or out. He may not be listed as a power forward, but Jarvis is well balanced and fearless when attacking the net at full speed and seems to have the utmost confidence in his ability to gain the zone and create scoring chances. One of the major advantages Jarvis's speed gives him is the ability to keep defenders well off the line, thus giving him room to either stickhandle closer to the goal or wire a heavy wrister aimed at the upper half of the net. Jarvis is a deadly-accurate shooter via the wrist shot and he does not require optimal or standard conditions to blister the puck off a quick release; corraling bouncing pucks is not a problem.

Jarvis is a highly-intelligent forward who properly times his movements away from the puck in order to get open for a clean look at the net. His poise under pressure allows him to receive passes in congested danger areas where he can unload a shot towards the net or delay for that critical split second that fakes the goalie well out of position. Jarvis's hands and puck control already are at an elite level, and few in this draft are as clean and capable at executing near-perfect odd-man rushes as he can. His passing skills are excellent, not only for his vision and accuracy but also for the methods he uses to deliver the puck on the tape. Jarvis is beyond capable in making plays on his backhand.

Versatility is the first thing that comes to mind when analyzing the intangibles Jarvis can bring. Not only is he deployed as either a center or wing, but Jarvis also plays the point on the power play and is used as a primary penalty killer. He brings a great attitude to the ice and shows a lot of enthusiasm towards his teammates' successes.

Critical Strength

Playmaking/Creativity: Jarvis on the puck epitomizes making something out of nothing.

Needs Improvement

Upper-body strength: Going shoulder-to-shoulder with bigger defensemen can knock Jarvis off balance, especially in the corners.

Bottom Line

Jarvis's dominance of the WHL may have raised eyebrows since he wasn't initially lumped together with the top preseason draft notables, but his high IQ, speed and three-zone versatility were proven to be elite as he played in a tough league to pile up points.

13. Marat Khusnutdinov, C

SKA-1946 (MHL)

Player Data

17-July-02	5'11	176	Left	Moscow, RUS	Russia
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

44	13	25	38
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A high-octane center with smarts who is confident on the puck and demands it when the stakes are high, Khusnutdinov is a shifty east-west pivot who is one of Russia's most creative teenage playmakers. Whether for the under-18 team or for SKA-1946, he does the heavy lifting for his power-play unit and can shift the momentum in his favor by jumping into passing lanes for immediate counterattacks into opposing territory. He may not be big in stature, but he more than makes up for it in confidence, leg drive, balance, and tight-quarter quickness.

Torching the stat sheet in Russia's MHL, which in terms of goals scored is the stingiest among all premier junior leagues, is something you rarely see from a first-year draft eligible. But Khusnutdinov not only lit up opposing defense with his production, but he did so while operating in a limited role. In fact, his points-per-60 minutes average at even strength (3.14) led all MHL players who played under 15 minutes a game.

Khusnutdinov plays with an edge and is willing to sacrifice his body at the off chance he decides to chip and chase. A 50/50 puck battle against him is no laughing matter, and bigger defenders have paid the price by underestimating his core strength, leg drive and powerful shoulders. At the forefront of his game, however, is his ability to carve up a defense through the neutral zone. Khusnutdinov has excellent speed and agility, and his quick first step is dropped before an opponent can anticipate his intentions.

Khusnutdinov delivers the puck through the tiniest of windows with surgical precision, but he also is excellent at executing or orchestrating give-and-go's, weaves, cycles, and backdoor plays. He has wonderful hands and incredible hand-eye coordination, so you can guess how rapid his transitions into shooting positions are. Khusnutdinov owns one heck of a shot, not only for the release but also for his accuracy. The puck can explode off his stick and he is consistent in getting shots off through screens or when blanketed by a defender. Khusnutdinov is an expert on the backhand and he can make plays with regularity. He's even shown accuracy with the cross-body backhanders and can roof the puck from in close.

One thing that deserves mention is Khusnutdinov's role on a powerful team like SKA-1946. He was essentially the team's third-line center yet he produced scoring chances with such frequency you'd think he played 20-22 minutes a night. Additionally, Khusnutdinov was used as a backup penalty killer and he has won over 60 percent of his draws. Developing quick chemistry as a center with new linemates and being low maintenance are two qualities that any NHL team would want in their prospects. At the under-18 level, Khusnutdinov spent time with several highly-skilled wingers such as Daniil Guschin and Alexander Pashin, but he's also made threats out of the physical types like Ilya Rychkov and Ivan Didkovskiy.

Torching the stat sheet in Russia's MHL, which in terms of goals scored is the stingiest among all premier junior leagues, is something you rarely see from a first-year draft eligible. But Khusnutdinov not only lit up opposing defense with his production, but he did so while operating in a limited role. In fact, his points-per-60 minutes average at even strength (3.14) led all MHL players who played under 15 minutes a game.

Critical Strength

Spatial Awareness: A throwback to the old east-West style of the former Red Army powerhouses, Khusnutdinov is one of the most elusive forwards you'll find in this draft. He detects pressure from any direction.

Needs Improvement

Nothing at this time: Khusnutdinov has no glaring weaknesses. His size isn't ideal but it never stops him from achieving his objectives.

Bottom Line

This is a bold ranking, but Khusnutdinov is a terrific prospect and has elite skills in several categories.

14. Dylan Holloway, C/W

Wisconsin (Big-10)

Player Data

23-Sep-01	6'0	203	Left	Calgary, AB	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

35	8	9	17
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A hard-working power forward with a strong sense for the game, Holloway was one of the top players in Canadian Junior "A" for the AJHL's Okotoks Oilers before beginning his draft year as a freshman for the University of Wisconsin. Blessed with ideal size and excellent balance, Holloway is a jack of all trades who can play either center or wing; serve as a playmaker or finish around the net; and most importantly, be matched up against opposing top players. Although his freshman year with the Badgers did not produce eye-popping stats, one must consider his ability to impact shifts without denting the scoresheet. Additionally, he was a key figure in a Wisconsin recruiting class that also included forwards Alex Turcotte, Cole Caufield, and Owen Lindmark, so there was only so much puck for these talented underclassmen to share.

No matter which line he plays on or how he is utilized, Holloway is a hound off the puck who consistently applies pressure with physicality, especially on the penalty kill. He gets involved on the forecheck and creates turnovers thanks to smart reads, proper stick positioning and quick turns towards the direction of puck travel. Holloway has proven to be effective in various types of zone-coverage schemes and usually stays within the system being implemented. By watching him react to puck movement accordingly while maintaining positional flexibility, you get the sense that Holloway is not trying to do everyone's job and listens to the coaching staff's instructions.

Holloway features a relatively wide skating base and accelerates with a powerful stride and above-average straight-line speed. His first step is quick, and he can make instant directional changes, tight turns, and pivot on a dime while moving at top speed, all while maintaining control of the puck during these difficult maneuvers. Skating definitely is a strong suit and his escapability near the boards while taking hard shoves makes his balance impressive.

Born into a family with NHL bloodlines — his father Bruce briefly played for the Vancouver Canucks in 1985 — Dylan is a very good playmaker with excellent vision. He is an accurate passer who also can create chances off his backhand, and he plays with his head up at all times. Holloway's aforementioned positioning is critical to his ability to retrieve pucks and jumpstart the attack into open ice, but he's also proven to turn seemingly harmless board battles into a prime opportunity near the net for his linemates or a cutting defender.

On the power play, Holloway can orchestrate from the half wall or behind the net, but from the circles he owns an excellent shot (either wrist or slapshot) that makes him difficult to predict. He uses his size to his advantage when battling for low-slot positioning, and his competitiveness in one-on-one battles typically spells trouble for opponents. One underrated aspect of his game is his trickery with the puck in tight spaces, as he is confident enough to try and slip backdoor or blind passes through the legs of unassuming defenders.

Critical Strength

Physicality: Holloway made his presence felt as a true freshman against tough NCAA competition.

Needs Improvement

Finishing: Holloway is always around the net but at times tried to be too fine or cute with his chances from in close.

Bottom Line

Unlike most heralded college freshmen in their first draft season, Holloway was bounced around Wisconsin's lineup and rarely had consistent linemates, let alone a consistent role. As nondescript as his stats look, he has too much upside as a power forward to overlook.

15. Yaroslav Askarov, G

SKA-Neva (VHL)

Player Data

16-June-02	6'3	176	Right	Omsk, RUS	Russia
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Catches	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

18	2.45	.920	1	12-3-3
Games	GAA	Save Pct.	Shutouts	Record

Scouting Report

The most heralded goaltending prospect since Carey Price 15 years ago had an up-and-down draft year, but the fact still remains — no netminder in this draft has shown the potential for stardom the way Askarov has.

For starters, the 17-year-old backstop was the youngest goalie in VHL history to appear in more than nine games. In fact, Askarov shared duties with 1998-born backstop Alexei Melnichuk. In November, Askarov became the youngest goalie in KHL history to record a win, which he registered after a 23-save effort against Sochi. And all this was after he stonewalled one of the strongest Canadian entries in recent memory in the gold medal game at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup last August — a tournament in which he posted the highest save percentage (0.959) of any goalie in history to appear in at least three games. Last season, Askarov out-dueled American prodigy Spencer Knight several times and led Russia to within a goal of the IIHF under-18 world championship, and that was after he had already won gold at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

As you can see, Askarov's pre-draft resume is stellar, even if his showing at the last under-20 world junior championship (2-2-0, .876 save percentage) was more disconcerting than it was promising. But again, the fact that Askarov at 17 was entrusted with leading Russia in a tournament they always reserve for 18 or 19-year-olds speaks more about his potential than the actual games themselves. Goalies, moreso than any other prospects, have steeper learning curves, and those rewarded with playing time against adults or older competition should not be punished. Especially if they've proven to dominate their own age group.

From a technical standpoint, Askarov's style draws a lot of attention. Not only does he catch with his right hand, but he remains perfectly upright throughout his shuffling with his stick blade on the ice and his head totally locked into puck movement. To some, this may seem nonchalant or overconfident, but Askarov can snap into a textbook butterfly ready stance in an instant when facing a shooter. He will challenge shooters above the paint, but losing the net is something he's shown to do from time to time. When he gets beat, however, it usually takes a labeled shot with a clear line of sight. If he can fine-tune his net awareness and be more consistent playing the appropriate depth in relation to shooting angles, then the cliché criticisms that focus on his glove-hand positioning would be rendered moot. Especially when his lower-half coverage, strong and controlled lateral pushes, and acute awareness make high-danger and second-chance opportunities almost impossible.

Critical Strength

Hockey IQ: It's easy to point to Askarov's elite quickness but his anticipation is more decisive when facing high-danger chances.

Needs Improvement

Angles: Askarov's constant movement is a big part of his success, but he does tend to lose the net. Even when properly squared to the puck, Askarov will reveal too much on either side, which is why opponents were targeting his glove at the world juniors.

Bottom Line

Askarov has superstar potential. Much like Knight last season, he has done more than enough to cement his standing as not only the top goaltending prospect in the draft, but one worthy of being a high first-round pick.

16. Connor Zary, C

Kamloops (WHL)

Player Data

25-Sep-01	6'0	178	Left	Saskatoon, SK	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

57	38	48	86
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A top-notch competitor with a nose for the net, Zary was the heart and soul of an improved Kamloops team that improved significantly from last season. Not only was he an all-situational center for the Blazers, but Zary also finished fifth in the WHL in both points (86) and shots (257). He's an intelligent two-way center who provides support in a variety of ways, including subtle touch or bank passes in the defensive zone that leads to swift breakouts. Playmaking is just one of his distinguishable assets, as he can deliver precision passes from either his forehand or backhand. Strong and well-balanced, Zary displays deceptive quickness and requires only two or three strides to accelerate to top speed and become an open-ice threat.

It seems like most people automatically assume that Zary is more gritty than skilled because he plays in a tight-checking and physical circuit like the WHL. In the CHL Top Prospects Game, however, the youngster showcased the elite vision and playmaking skills that helped place him among the WHL leaders in both assists and scoring. In that game, Zary finished with three assists and won nine of his 13 draws.

In terms of team importance, it's hard to argue against Zary's value and shift-to-shift contributions as a top-line center to a team that won its first division title in eight seasons. He logs a ton of minutes and is used in every critical situation no matter the manpower on the ice. Zary is a leader who plays with physicality, energy and enthusiasm, but he also is vocal and demonstrative on the bench and a constant communicator with his teammates before faceoffs. The trust teammates have in Zary during possessions is obvious from the start — he is the central figure during breakouts and offensive zone time. Linemate Orrin Centazzo had a career season, and Zary's playmaking and competitiveness had a lot to do with it.

Zary is an above-average skater in terms of straight-line speed and agility, but he is among the best in his class when it comes to balance, as he stays on his skates and can absorb punishing hits. He is an open-ice threat and can be trusted to make the right decisions with the puck, plus he can slow the game down and connect with teammates over long distances. Stickhandling in traffic isn't an issue, and Zary is more than relaxed when orchestrating the attack inside the opposing end. But his wrist can be released quickly and labeled for an opening, so goalies cheating towards the weak side were victimized for short-side snipes.

Critical Strength

Two-way play: Some might feel that Zary's physicality, playmaking, or leadership makes him more noticeable than his play off the puck, but it's hard to argue one of the WHL's hardest workers and most physical forecheckers.

Needs Improvement

Foot speed: Zary is far from an average skater and his hustle and anticipation usually get him where he needs to go without a hitch. But pulling away from quicker defenders is an area he could stand to improve upon.

Bottom Line

Add Zary to the list of "toolsy" forwards you'll find within or close to the first round, which somewhat underscores his superior puck skills and hockey sense.

17. Mavrik Bourque, C

Shawinigan (QMJHL)

Player Data

8-Jan-02	5'10	178	Right	Plessisville, QC	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

49	29	42	71
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A highly-skilled playmaker with soft hands with big-play proclivity, Bourque was pacing to finish his draft year as one of the QMJHL's top 10 scorers until a wrist injury knocked him out of action. Nonetheless, he was the primary weapon for Shawinigan's attack was able to produce regardless of whom he was matched up against.

Bourque's creativity and vision are at the forefront of his distinctive style. He utilizes a lot of trickery, such as passes of the no-look, behind-the-back, saucer, and bank variety. What also keeps opponents honest, however, is his goal-scoring ability and explosive shot release. Bourque is the focal point of Shawinigan's power play, moreso after Valentin Nussbaumer left for Switzerland after the world juniors, and he can orchestrate the possession from either the half-wall or the point. He is a strong, well-balanced skater who can dangle or toe-drag his way to an improved shooting angle but his overall speed and quickness are both slightly above average.

Bourque has a "wow" factor to his game. He may seem methodical in his approach, but you rarely see him rush or force a play without recognizing that the intent behind his decision was sound. At the January CHL Top Prospects Game, Bourque showed off his defensive-zone play, high-compete level and penalty-killing smarts. He was stealing pucks off the backcheck, winning battles along the boards and executing precision timing plays with one arm on his stick during a lengthy cycle in the Team Red end. The same can be said for his play for Team Canada at the August under-18 Ivan Hlinka Tournament, where he kept his motor running on high and created turnovers off the forecheck. He's good on draws (over 50 percent), and if he sees time on the penalty kill it will usually be towards the end.

Bourque doesn't need to put on a show or hog the spotlight to look flashy or impressive — it simply comes out naturally. He likes to remain upright and observe play quite frequently, but he can drop a quick first step from his defensive zone and dart into open ice with a long stride. Although Bourque isn't overly physical, he is willing to take a hit to complete a play. He's definitely more of a silent assassin than someone who makes a lot of noise during his shifts, but by the end of the night he'll have three or four points and at least four or five quality shots on net.

Critical Strength

Playmaking: Bourque's poise and patience under pressure continued to lure opponents away from lanes and present him with the opportunity to exploit it.

Needs Improvement

Explosiveness: Bourque's speed is more deceptive than it is intimidating but the lack of an elite first step is probably the only thing keeping him from being considered a lock for the top 10.

Bottom Line

Popular opinion seems split as to whether Bourque is underrated or overrated. But he put on a show while leading Shawinigan and should be classified as one of the draft's top power-play specialists, which says something consider how impressive this year's forward group is.

18. Jack Quinn, RW

Ottawa (OHL)

Player Data

19-Sep-01	6'0	176	Right	Ottawa, ON	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

62	52	37	89
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

One of the better two-way players among draft-eligible wingers, Jack Quinn is a goal-scoring machine who in his first year of eligibility placed second in the OHL with 52 tallies, including 15 on the power play and another three while shorthanded. Although he had the benefit of sharing the same ice on a deadly power play with a superior playmaking center like Marco Rossi for a good chunk of the season, Quinn distinguished himself as a low-maintenance threat capable of creating his own shot or setting up his linemates for their own prime chances at the net. The knee-jerk response to Quinn's rise in draft circles is to tie his production to Rossi. But Quinn clearly does the work with a different center who got him into scoring position and you can't fault him for making the most of his opportunities. Quinn has the potential to drive his own line as a winger because he's so good in the corners or along the boards, plus his escapability for an above-average skater is a tribute to his poise and the timing of his lateral cuts immediately after of zone entries. Playing a cerebral, poised, and calculated game from the flank while making smart decision after smart decision sums up the manner in which he toyed with OHL defenders and goalies; even in a season where goal scoring skyrocketed from previous campaigns.

Some view Quinn as a fast skater, but it's his agility and elusiveness that create bigger problems for opponents rather than straight-line speed. The OHL this season seemed awash with passive defenders, lazy backchecking, over-anxious goalies, and a lot of puck gazing, so assessing any prospect's balance into traffic or forays into the opposing zone at top speed becomes tricky. Nonetheless, Quinn should be credited for using his speed to take a defender to the woodshed — outside or inside — and playing with high levels of confidence and fearlessness into the mass of bodies despite having a relatively thin frame. Quinn is a tough competitor who is willing to fight for pucks and handle the disc in tight spaces. Defenders who try to contain or fix him into the corner run the risk of getting their ankles broken, but they also have to respect Quinn's elite shot-release combination, to include his backhand.

Quinn's positioning is as close to impeccable as it can get for a teenage winger. The puck seems to gravitate towards him and for good reason — his timing, anticipation and quick first step lead to loose pucks being collected while opponents still dig for them. Quinn plays with aggressiveness and is willing to take risks but making snap decisions with time at a premium seemed to yield a high success rate. If a window closes, Quinn is smart enough to peel back and recalculate, utilizing his point men of a backdoor trailer with a perfect tape-to-tape pass. Quinn definitely has a playmaking gene, but he grasped his role while playing with Rossi on the power play which was to get open and sling pucks on net.

The intangibles are plentiful. Quinn will throw bodychecks, stick up for teammates after the whistle, battle hard for low-slot positioning against bigger defenders, and he is one of the league's craftiest penalty killers in terms of looting pucks and creating scoring chances out of one-on-one scenarios. Pound for pound, Quinn's draft season was practically storybook, and it's easy to understand why so many are in love with his game.

Critical Strength

Shooting: You don't score 52 goals in your first draft year without having some type of plus shot. Quinn can bring it with a quick release.

Needs Improvement

Endurance: Quinn is an energy player who can look gassed late in shifts, which Ottawa's depth kept somewhat short.

Bottom Line

Quinn's meteoric rise to the middle of the first round is easily justifiable -- he is an elite scorer who hustles and hits. But he also played on a team with six players with 75 or more points in the the OHL's highest-scoring season in over 20 years.

19. Justin Sourdif, RW

Vancouver (WHL)

Player Data

23-NA	24-March-02	5'11	173	Right	Richmond, BC	Canada
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

57	26	28	54
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A rugged winger with impressive puck skills and a high hockey IQ, Sourdif has been a high-value target in NHL draft circles for quite some time. He went third overall in the WHL's 2017 Bantam Draft and was selected to play for Canada at the 2019 Ivan Hlinka tournament, where he posted 5 points in 5 games. He also played at the 2020 CHL Top Prospects Game in the midst of a solid draft season in which he was deployed to Vancouver's top line and finished third in team scoring. Sourdif was a staple on the power play where he filled a variety of roles and also killed penalties with center Milos Roman. Last season, Sourdif was a key contributor to Vancouver's march to the seventh game of the WHL Final.

Sourdif is a strong skater with very good speed and excellent balance. He is also agile in both open ice and in tight spaces, and he will use a series of moves while in flight to help accelerate past an opponent. Sourdif enters the zone with confidence and can cut back or pivot on a dime, but his delay tactics once inside the other end are by no means designed to only look for a trailer or cutter. Sourdif will make snap decisions to advance the puck right into the teeth of an opponent's box coverage and keep the puck on a string before unloading a shot from the slot. He can excel in freewheeling track meets as often as he is effective in slogging matches.

It's not often you see a physical teenage winger who can play and think the game at an advanced level. Sourdif gives opposing coaches all kinds of matchup issues because he can overpower finesse defenseman in board battles or posterize the stay-at-home types in one-on-one scenarios. Not only does Sourdif make smart decisions both on and off the puck, but he is capable of delivering precision setups through tight windows when it's least expected, albeit several are of the risky variety. He has very soft hands and can settle the puck flat while moving at maximum speed which helps him put the perfect touch on cross-ice or saucer passes from his forehand or backhand. Once he gets inside the zone, Sourdif can blister a nasty wrist shot with a lightning-quick release that is usually labeled for the upper half.

Physicality is a big part of Sourdif's game, and he will not back down from a challenge. Not only does he deliver hard open-ice hits, but he can also be a menace along the boards and gladly serve as a net-front presence. A unique aspect of Sourdif's game is that he can be as violent on the puck as he is off it – unassuming defenders trying to check him are susceptible to a stiff shoulder or jolt from Sourdif's rump, thus knocking them to the ground. Sourdif is a reliable checker who applies pressure in all three zones and uses his strength and quick stick to disrupt opposing possessions. Not only does he kill penalties, but Sourdif is on the ice for late and close situations and has even been double shifted at the end of periods. He plays with a lot of energy and is willing to make the necessary sacrifices that help preserve a late lead.

Critical Strength

Hockey Sense: Sourdif wins many battles within the battles and most of it has to do with anticipation and judgment.

Needs Improvement

First-step quickness: Sourdif usually takes three or four strides to really get going.

Bottom Line

Vancouver was a thin squad this year but Sourdif was their most consistent forward in terms of making his presence felt in all three zones. He has the smarts and superior puck skills to compliment his physical play, and he's proven to show up in big games.

20. Emil Andrae, LHD

HV71 J20 (Superelit)

Player Data

23-Feb-02	5'8	181	Left	Vastervik, SWE	Sweden
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

40	11	27	38
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

The central figure on defense for Sweden's under-18 national team, Andrae is a team-first leader who enjoyed individual success at both the club and international level. He was HV71's No. 1 defenseman while paired mostly with fellow 2020 draft prospect Anton Johannesson, and Andrae lived up to his billing as a premier puck rusher and power-play quarterback by leading all J20 Superelit rearguards in scoring with 38 points (11 goals, 27 assists) in 40 combined games. Andrae's consistent production was also evident on the international stage, where he was one of the top assist getters among defensemen in three major U18 tournaments — the Ivan Hlinka (4 assists in 5 games), the Five Nations in November (4 assists in 4 games), and the Five Nations in February (1 goal, 3 assists in 4 games). In 29 combined international matches dating back two seasons, Andrae has 24 points (5 goals, 19 assists). He also made his SHL debut this season for HV71, averaging 6:21 a game in 10 matches for a contending squad.

Andrae is a well-balanced and elusive skater with impressive agility and footwork. He isn't a speed burner and can run out of gas at the end of shifts, but he consistently avoids or outpaces back pressure. He may not look loose-limbed, but Andrae can put a series of moves on an over-aggressive forechecker without moving more than two or three feet. His straight-line speed is above-average and his stride is somewhat short, yet Andrae's quickness definitely leans towards the deceptive side; something evident when challenged at his line in a one-on-one scenario. There always seems to be recalibration whether Andrae's taking the puck up ice or defending against an opposing rush, and his determination and drive make up for a lack of mind-blowing speed. A key components to Andrae's skating is his anticipation which usually lands him on the right side of things more times than not. Being a gambler has its drawbacks, however, and Andrae's consistent forays and deep pinches can leave him trapped as his mates rush back to defend an odd-man rush.

Andrae is an excellent playmaker; one whose teammates clearly rely on to produce high-danger chances either off the rush or cycle. Andrae's footwork is a critical component to his playmaking, as he uses stutter steps or multiple fakes in any direction to avoid pressure as he darts for open ice. Once he's in the clear, Andrae rarely takes his eyes off the goal when his intentions are to feed the back door or go across the seam. He puts the perfect touch on his passes and delivers pucks on the tape from any distance on his forehand or backhand. Forecheckers also need to be wary of Andrae's home-run pass proclivity. Andrae owns a plus-plus shot, not only for its velocity and release but also for rapidity of his angle changes. Andrae presents goalies with a variety of looks, making it difficult to guess his intentions. Compounding things is his ability to slap-pass, pump fake, or even look off before blasting a shot on net. He's an accurate shooter whose attempts generate rebounds.

Andrae is a reliable one-on-one defender with a short gap who looks to deliver hits and battle hard for positioning. He may be on the smallish side, but Andrae has a very high compete level and it shows in the way he continues to fight for pucks and uses his lower-body strength and rapier-like stick thrusts. Andrae uses superior anticipation and short routes to intercept passes ranging from chips to cross-ice attempts, and he transitions from defense to offense as well as any of his peers. He also is a solid bodychecker who plasters unassuming puck carriers to the boards or line someone up for a jarring open-ice hit. Both HV71 and Sweden used Andrae on the penalty-killing unit and his ice time seemed to increase as the games grew tighter.

Critical Strength

Playmaking: As competitive and physical as Lafreniere's can be, his vision and passing skills are at the forefront of his

Needs Improvement

Gambling: Andrae loves to take chances with or without the puck and gets trapped frequently.

Bottom Line

The similarities between Andrae and Ottawa prospect Erik Brannstrom are stark. He is an on-ice leader who plays physical but also has the elite puck skills to anchor a top pairing.

21. Jacob Perreault, W/C

Sarnia (OHL)

Player Data

15-April-02	5'11	192	Right	Montreal, QC	Canada
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

57	39	31	70
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A lethal scorer with NHL bloodlines, Perreault produced his second straight 30-goal season with a team-best 39 tallies for the Sarnia Sting. He was a surprising omission from Canada's summer Ivan Hlinka entry but he wasted little time taking out his anger on OHL opponents, as Perreault opened the campaign with a 10-game point streak and finished tied for 10th in the league in goals. Also impressive was that Perreault did not see top-line minutes for the Sting at even strength.

Although he won the skating competition at the CHL Top Prospects Game's combine, Perreault's in-game speed during OHL competition seemed between average to above average, at least from a straight-line standpoint. If he is to be classified as an elite skater, then there needed to be more examples with Sarnia to validate it as opposed to a free skate under nonstandard conditions. Nonetheless, mobility is not an issue, and keeps a low center of gravity to maintain balance. He also has shown agility when faced with obstacles in the neutral zone and is able to slither his way into a clean zone entry, albeit deliberately. There's not a lot of panic to his game on the puck, but he puts forth max effort on the backcheck and uses his acute hockey sense to gain an extra step on his opponent. Perreault's skating style can be classified as hunched with a bit of a wide stride but getting open is something he did with impressive consistency throughout the season. Sometimes he appears to explode off the hop and catch defenders sleeping, and he can win footraces towards near the boards, where he is tricky enough to spin or reverse his way into shooting position.

There's no mystery to Perreault's most impressive attribute -- he owns one of the best shots in the draft and is easily one of the its most lethal bad-angle scorers. Perreault can snipe it from anywhere; mostly via the wrister, but he has silky-smooth hands and a soft touch to help him roof pucks from in close. Much like his puck control away from the cage, Perreault is not to be taken lightly near the goal. He looks off targets, slap passes with accuracy and can sauce the disc onto the tape of a cutting teammate. Defenders cannot take their eye off him for long, as Perreault in one motion can split the seam or connect with an open point man while fetching pucks with his back to the assembly area.

Perrault on the puck is the Paulie Cicero of draft-eligible wingers -- he may move slow at times, but that's because he rarely has to move for anybody. In other words, Perreault's puck control, lethal shot proclivity and pinpoint passing forces opponents to react to him rather than the other way around. Thus, he finds himself in situations where he dictates the terms to involve linemates into the attack. Perrault rarely was with a top liner like Jamieson Rees, yet he was able to create chances on his own and battled hard along the boards when necessary. In terms of special teams, Perreault saw the majority of his time on the first power-play unit but rarely killed penalties. Still, he is defensively responsible by wielding a quick, active stick, keeping himself in passing or shooting lanes, and even dropping down to block a shot.

Critical Strength

Shooting: You can put Perreault's sick shot-release and accuracy among the elite within his draft class.

Needs Improvement

Skating consistency: If you can win a skating competition in a combine, then you should win one with regularity during OHL competition. There seems nothing wrong with Perreault's mechanics, so you wonder why his moments of explosive speed were few and far between.

Bottom Line

Perreault's ability to finish within tight spaces or off of scrambles is more translatable than doing so off the rush in a run-and-gun league like the OHL. He had an excellent draft season and has serious goal-scoring potential at higher levels.

22. Kaiden Guhle, LHD

Prince Albert (WHL)

Player Data

8-NA	18-Jan-02	6'2	186	Left	Edmonton, AB	Canada
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

64	11	29	40
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A minute-eating, two-way defenseman who has been a critical piece to Prince Albert's success, Guhle pieced together an impressive draft season in which he showcased his offensive abilities in addition to his defensive-zone prowess. He's got length, mobility, smarts, and aggressiveness, and Guhle was quite consistent in piecing all of them together while performing in all situations for the Raiders. He established career marks in goals (11) and assists (29) and was a fixture on both the power play and penalty kill.

There are several noteworthy aspects of Guhle's game, but his skating has to be at or very close to the forefront. He's definitely more successful creating time and space by moving east to west rather than north to south, but Guhle has excellent multi-directional mobility with or without the puck. Guhle's pivoting from backwards to forward appears effortless and he rarely is caught flat footed when challenged by a roadrunner attacking him at top speed. He presents a wide base with clean stride, and there are times when he can look quite graceful, especially when you consider how big he is. Guhle can use his speed to go end to end, albeit under optimal conditions, but Guhle's breakouts generally consist of short-distance evasive tactics followed by crisp breakout passes prior to hitting the red line.

Offensively, Guhle generates most of his opportunities and set-ups via his hard, accurate shot. He doesn't seem to favor either the wrist shot or the slapper, as both appear equally as effective at zipping through shooting lanes and creating rebounds or second chances. Guhle can generate a significant amount of power behind his shot without much backswing and his release for a defenseman is very quick. The vast majority of his goals came from shots above or near the circles. His passing, on the other hand, is very meat and potatoes, although he goes tape to tape from his forehand or backhand, especially when going D-to-D. Any lack of flair or pizzazz is balanced out with his soft hands and the poise to complete clean passes under intense pressure.

Guhle's impact on defense covers many areas. His one-on-one play — gap control, footspeed, stick positioning, timing — is excellent, and he can finish off an opponent with a thunderous check that creates a change in possession. Other times, Guhle will fix them into the corner and contain them while using harassing stick checks until forward help arrives. The decision-making process behind Guhle's slot coverage delivers sound courses of action that result in the elimination of threats near his own goal. Keeping his feet moving, defending the low slot with force, and wielding a stick active on the penalty kill are two reasons why he's a key cog to Prince Albert's special teams, which have ranked near the top of the WHL in each of his two full seasons.

Critical Strength

One-on-One play: Guhle is a smothering defender against the rush and uses his quick feet and physicality to neutralize entry attempts well outside his blue line

Needs Improvement

Creativity: There's no requirement for a physical defender to be creative, but Guhle opts for the safe play far too often. He needs to use the same puck poise inside the opposing line that he shows behind his net against forecheckers.

Bottom Line

Guhle is your atypical, modern-day WHL defenseman who mixes mobility and physicality with leadership and versatility. He may never become a big point producer but you definitely want him on the ice to hold a lead or kill a penalty.

23. Dawson Mercer, C/W

Chicoutimi (QMJHL)

Player Data

10-NA	27-Oct-01	6'0	180	Right	Carbonear, NL	Canada
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

42	24	36	60
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

An 18-year-old force who can look like a flashy 10-year veteran in one instance and a smothering checker the next? Sign me up. Mercer's strong draft season may have ended a bit prematurely in late February after a serious wrist injury, but his averaged-out draft stock should continue to hold firm somewhere within the middle of the first round. Unfortunate as the injury was, the truth is that Mercer's overall body of work in his draft year from start to finish was borderline impeccable. Hockey Canada doesn't nominate first-year eligibles for both the Super Series and the world juniors unless you know how to play and think at the same time, which is Mercer's game to a tee.

Although he plays center and wing (and looks like a natural at both), I don't see any major flaws in Mercer's game. He is always around the puck. And when he's not, Mercer's always in the right place to wait for it. Mercer acts and reacts to support the idea that his focus is consistently clear — You just don't end up on the receiving end of that many Grade-A chances simply because you're lucky or have a great linemate. His positioning and anticipation lead to a lot of blocked clearing attempts, and Mercer's blade being a rubber magnet along with ridiculous skate-to-stick transition and hand-eye coordination lead to a lot of friendly break-ins and odd-man rushes.

Mercer is an accurate passer and can make tape-to-tape passes in one motion. He owns soft hands and is a confident passer; not only for his body language and stick work but also for the areas he tries to feed pucks through. Mercer does not look for the easy way out and will gladly defer to his elite shot if a passing lane is clogged. This situation likely causes many problems for opposing QMJHL tacticians since Mercer's as dangerous a shooter as he is a playmaker. He owns a quick first step that he takes with decisiveness, so expect time and space for him once he's heading north. Mercer owns a wide but quick stride that helps him finish first in most of his footraces. He also is tough to knock off the puck and he can be shifty and elusive in tight spaces, especially behind or near the net.

The defensive component to Mercer's game is quite effective. He not only kills penalties with a strong desire to counterattack, but Mercer also patrols the neutral zone and picks off a lot of passes. His body and stick react to the puck's every move, which help him get in the way of d-to-d or seam passes. Mercer won 52 percent of his 786 draws.

Critical Strength

Defensive play: Pound for pound, Mercer should be considered one of the best two-way forwards in the entire CHL, let alone the QMJHL or on his team. However, don't mistake his defensive prowess for a lack in scoring ability.

Needs Improvement

Shoot more: Mercer is an unselfish player but at times can be too unselfish. Although he can tap into his linemates' strengths, he also seemed to pass up a lot of clean looks at the net.

Bottom Line

The high-end skill component when coupled with his outstanding defensive play should be enough to justify why Mercer is held in such high regard. As unfortunate as his wrist injury was, it should not prevent him from being the first or second QMJHL'er selected after Alexis Lafreniere.

24. Thomas Bordeleau, C

U.S. U18 (NTDP)

Player Data

29-NA	3-Jan-02	5'10	175	Left	Houston, TX	USA
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

47	16	30	46
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A top-line playmaking center who also boasts a plus shot to score from distances beyond the faceoff dots, Bordeleau led the under-18 NTDP in both assists (30) and points (46), and his team-best 136 shots were 37 more than his closest teammate. He also averaged over a point per game in both the November U18 Five Nations tournament (5 assists in 4 games) and the same event later in February (1 goal, 5 assists in 4 games). He's committed to the University of Michigan.

The son of former NHL'er Sebastien Bordeleau, Thomas is a 200-foot center with finesse capabilities who can be used in all situations. He is a very good skater with open-ice quickness and pull-away speed, but Bordeleau's real strength in his skating is his agility. He is an expert at stickhandling around traffic and entering the zone cleanly, and he uses sharp inside moves to increase his passing radius or improve his angle for a shot attempt. If anyone was looking for textbook tactics for zone entries, Bordeleau is the standard. His patience and decision making in the neutral zone usually yield optimal results.

Bordeleau owns an excellent shot; more for its accuracy and release than for its power. He scored with regularity off the rush against goalies at three different levels – NCAA, USHL, and international. Bordeleau is not shy about slinging pucks from anywhere inside the offensive zone and knows how to use opponents as screens. His ability to fire accurate darts at the net is augmented by his excellent vision and passing skills – Bordeleau is a power-play orchestrator and controls the flow of possession from the half-wall. He can shred both passive and aggressive penalty-kill looks with one-touch passes anywhere inside the box, specifically across the seam.

Bordeleau is a defensively responsible center. He is leaned on for most of the big draws in his own end during late/close situations and was one of the NTDP's top penalty killers. Bordeleau may not look physically intimidating but he has a high motor and can be an intense battler along the boards. He also gets involved on the forecheck and consistently catches defenseman off guard by either beating them to spots or sneaking from behind and stick-lifting himself into a takeaway.

Critical Strength

Zone Entries: Some might disagree and point to Bordeleau's shot, but his ability to alternate between quick and deliberate entries into the attacking zone proved vital for an NTDP that relied on him to create offense.

Needs Improvement

Consistent physicality: Bordeleau seemed to up his physical game up against the tougher NCAA opponents than in international play. Some games he will fight tooth and nail; others he stays on the periphery.

Bottom Line

Leading the NTDP in scoring in any year should automatically put you on every team's first-round radar, and Bordeleau's two-way play and smarts should make him all the more enticing.

25. Brendan Brisson, C

Chicago (USHL)

Player Data

20-NA	22-Oct-01	5'11	179	Left	Los Angeles, CA	USA
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

45	24	35	59
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

It's hard to ignore the fact that Brendan is the son of super-agent Pat Brisson, whose star-studded client list is a who's who of current NHL royalty. Although Brisson's background has been the elephant in the room for some scouts, there are several good reasons – at least in terms of player evaluation -- that renders his last name as nothing more than a footnote. You see, not only did Brisson destroy the USHL in his draft year to win Rookie of the Year honors, but he also led an impressive field at the under-20 World Junior "A" Challenge in scoring. Additionally, Brisson was a top player on a loaded Chicago squad which had five of USHL's seven-best scorers, and he most certainly had a role in his teammates' success.

Brisson was essentially the Steel's top-line center and a key figure on a power play, which operated at a league-best 24.6 percent. He was confident on the puck and was able to initiate and complete breakouts that directly led to quality scoring chances. A superior puck handler who enters the zone cleanly regardless of the situation or his rate of speed, Brisson throughout the season had visible chemistry with a collection of linemates that included fellow 2020 draft prospects Sean Farrell and Mathieu De St. Phalle.

Brisson possesses an elite shot and it is one of the more respected weapons in his arsenal. He is very accurate with his slapper and isn't afraid to use it, and Chicago designed set plays on the power play and off faceoffs specifically for Brisson to hammer the puck on net. But Brisson also fulfills additional critical requirements assigned to him by his coaching staff. He can be as good a playmaker as he is a sniper, and he is willing to do the dirty work along the boards to either maintain possession or take it away from opponents. He's pulled off multiple highlight-reel plays this season either individually or by incorporating his star-studded support group.

Mobility and quickness play a key role in Brisson's ability to create time and space. He likes to be on the puck a lot and will gravitate towards it regardless of which side is in possession. Part of the reasons why Brisson gets to so many free pucks is his anticipation and awareness, but he also outpaced several quick-footed defensemen at the WJAC without needing much of a head start. He is very strong on the puck and can change directions rapidly while cradling the puck away from his closest opponents. Brisson is also a competent penalty killer and a neutral-zone shark. He consistently hounds opposing puck carriers and gets a fair number of stick-lift takeaways.

Critical Strength

Shot release: The puck explodes off of Brisson's stick and his one-timer accuracy is excellent

Needs Improvement

Explosiveness: Brisson is an above-average skater speed-wise but it won't hurt to improve his first step.

Bottom Line

Brisson is the kind of kid who rarely leaves you wanting more. If he can't impress you with his puck skills, he'll do so with his effort on the backcheck no matter how late in the shift it is.

26. Daniel Torgersson, LW

Frolunda J20 (Superelit)

Player Data

13-EUR	26-Jan-02	6'3	199	Left	Hono, SWE	Sweden
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

39	26	18	44
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

Torgersson is one of the hardest-working wingers you'll find in this draft. Only a few, however, can provide the balanced approach and level of lethality he brings to puck possession. He is quite capable with the puck both in open ice and during close-quarter battles, and he can serve a variety of roles from net-front presence to one-timer option from the right circle. An energetic 6-foot-3 winger with soft hands and a plus shot like Torgersson is certainly a commodity, even in today's NHL where the average player appears to be shrinking. The thing is, Torgersson has a finesse element to his game and can match or beat most offense-first forwards in a skill-for-skill showdown.

Torgersson is a very good skater in all directions. He has a quick first step and can maneuver up the ice with speed and agility, but he also powers through checks near the opposing line and maintains possession for long stretches via quick feet and rapid directional changes. Keep in mind that these traits are analyzed within the context of a big-bodied winger who is expected to keep filling out as he moves closer to the NHL. Although he's not overly fast in the classic definition of straight-line speed, Torgersson has shown to outmaneuver fleet-footed defenders to either gain the inside or outpace them in a 50/50 foot race.

Torgersson has seen a fair amount of time on both the power play and the penalty kill at the Superelit and international levels. He's spent most of his season flanking either Teddy Niederbach or Karl Henriksson, but Torgersson's style of play and impressive puck skills make him pretty low maintenance for any center. He also is an excellent penalty killer; one who was summoned by both Frolunda and Team Sweden to help kill 5-on-3's or late/close situations. Torgersson can play a physical brand of hockey without overstepping the rulebook and is willing to take a beating on or off the puck regardless of the game situation. He wields a highly-active stick on the PK and pushes his body to the limits to get the job done.

For all the aforementioned strengths of his game, the most important are his goal scoring and accurate shot. Torgersson gets a ton of mustard on his wrist and always seems to be open enough to use it. For example, Torgersson will battle tooth and nail along the boards while dealing with multiple opponents, only to slip away undetected into a soft area for a clean look at the net. This is not easy to do when you play a loud game and stand 6-foot-3 in a junior league.

Nonetheless, Torgersson makes every shift count and his ridiculous league-leading shooting percentage (31.7 percent) is a testament to that.

Critical Strength

Shooting; Versatility: Not only can Torgersson be a top penalty killer and late-game stopper, but he also knows how to finish off the rush or snipe it from the circle.

Needs Improvement

Acceleration/Explosiveness: Torgersson for a big-bodied winger is by no means weak or average in this department but he should work hard towards progressing his skating mechanics to become an even bigger threat at higher levels.

Bottom Line

Built for the North American game, Torgersson is a first-round quality winger. He is a coach's dream for being able to solve a myriad of problems.

27. J.J. Peterka, RW/LW

Red Bull Munich (DEL)

Player Data

7-EUR	14-Jan-02	5'11	192	Left	Munich, DEU	Germany
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

42	7	4	11
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A fast dual-threat winger who has spent the entire season with Munich in the German Elite League, Peterka is a crafty and skilled forward who is a threat every time he hops over the boards. He has an explosive first step and always seems to be in open ice controlling the puck with confidence. Like most finesse players, Peterka can identify and create multiple scoring chances from the half wall or behind the net, and his elusiveness with strong edges keep goalies off the near post and expose more net than they would like.

Peterka's dominant performances in this year's under-20 world juniors (6 points in 7 games) and last year's under-18 Division I world championship (8 points in 5 games), plus leading the Czech Republic's DHL under-21 Extraliga in scoring (94 points in 48 games) a season ago, reveal point-producing potential for a winger capable of carrying his own line. Peterka is very quick on his feet and has an explosive first step, but also likes to pressure the points that leads to a lot of break-ins or odd-man rushes created. Peterka is pure offense, and his agility, speed and quickness in open ice presses opponents well beyond their comfort zone at the blue line. Whether shooting or passing; static or in motion, Peterka can one of the most dangerous forwards on the ice from start to finish. He's an asset on the power play thanks to an incredible set of hands, expert stickhandling, the ability to fire pucks off the pass with accuracy, and roof pucks from in close.

His defensive game vastly improved over the second half of the season, and he was cleaner with his positioning and reads. Having a high-end motor and a strong lower body allowed him to increase the amount of successes he had in board battles, and there even were occasion when Peterka outmuscled (and outmaneuvered) bigger forwards operating near the corners of his own end. He didn't see time on either of Munich's first two penalty-killing units and rarely was on the late defensive-zone draws, but Peterka always hustled on the backcheck and was readily available to defend opposing counterattacks. There are a few drawbacks, however, as Peterka can be guilty of overhandling the puck or overcommitting himself in search of a break-in.

Critical Strength

Pure Offense: Peterka can beat you in so many ways on the puck. It's only a matter of time before NHL goalies learn how difficult he is to predict.

Needs Improvement

Assumes a lot of risk: Peterka always pushes the envelope when it comes to creating offense no matter what is presented before him.

Bottom Line

Peterka easily is one of the more excitable forwards in the draft and can be a real crowd pleaser. His video-game skills can humble the most competent of defenders.

28. Dmitry Zlodeyev, C

JHC Dynamo MSK (MHL)

Player Data

32-EUR	15-Feb-02	5'11	185	Left	Voronezh, RUS	Russia
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

42	12	16	28
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

Zlodeyev is as complete a two-way center as you'll find. He's a quick, upright skater with timely bursts into open ice, but there's a significant level of violence to the way he moves; almost like a tiger increasing its rate of speed as it locks in on its prey. Zlodeyev is a big hitter and puts opposing defensemen on notice once they collect the puck with him bearing down on them. Not only can he run the power play from the half wall, but also anchor the top penalty-killing unit and win almost 57 percent of his faceoffs.

He was a top-six center alongside the likes of wingers Bogdan Trineyev and Ivan Didkovskiy at both the national and club level, and the chemistry they share is obvious from the moment they hit the ice. Both are physical players, but most of the possessions inside the opposing end rely on Zlodeyev's expert puck control and protection. Additionally, it's Zlodeyev's quick stick, high motor, and strong desire to separate opponents from the puck that helps his line keep the ice tilted in their favor.

Zlodeyev can be an absolute shark in the neutral zone and reacts to puck travel extremely well. His anticipation and aggressiveness combine to present significant problems for opposing defenders trying to execute a clean breakout, but Zlodeyev's physical component adds a whole new paint job on things. He can deliver bone-crunching hits, even if it means vacating a spot on his side of the ice and ending up on the other. Compounding things even more is his quick-strike mentality, and the familiarity he has with Trineyev results in multiple odd-man chances or clean zone entries that result in a quality scoring chance.

Skating is not an area of concern for Zlodeyev, who has agility and a quick first step that helps him gain significant separation in open ice. He plays with his head up; usually in search of a trailer or cutter, and he'll peel back from pressure and allow the situation to clear up rather than force plays or take a low-percentage shot. Zlodeyev is more of a playmaker than he is as a shooter, and wingers like Trineyev and Didkovskiy get passes perfectly teed up for them to blast on net.

Critical Strength

Leadership: Zlodeyev was the straw that stirred the drink for his talented line with Dynamo Moscow. You always see him giving instructions before faceoffs and communicating coverage on the back check. He's a gamer through and through.

Needs Improvement

English: He should learn it as soon as possible because he shouldn't be in Russia for long.

Bottom Line

Another bold ranking but for good reason – you win with skilled and versatile centers with Zlodeyev. Plain and simple.

29. Lukas Reichel, LW

Eisbaren Berlin (DEL)

Player Data

11-EUR	17-May-02	6'0	170	Left	Nurnberg, DEU	Germany
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

42	12	12	24
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A well-balanced and agile skater with excellent vision, a deadly shot, and playmaking skills, Reichel is a German Elite League regular who has performed well above expectations for the Berlin Polar Bears. He's got breakaway speed and lateral quickness, and good things happen once he can get into open ice. Although Tim Stütze is getting all of the attention as far as draft eligibles from Germany, it's important to identify Reichel's production — 24 points in 40 games — and also his 18.5 shooting percentage that was 10th in the league among players with 65 or more shots.

Reichel bounced between Berlin's second and third line, plus a regular role on the second power play unit. He's energetic and is involved in possessions inside the offensive end. Whether it's during the cycle, battling for slot positioning, or covering the points for his defensemen, Reichel contributes with or without the puck. His quick thinking and first step are two critical aspects to his overall game. Reichel wins 50/50 puck battles and his speed puts a lot of pressure on opposing blueliners, especially in the chip-and-chase game. He isn't overly physical and rarely gets involved in post-whistle scrums, nor does he look to deliver big hits. Still, Reichel maintains consistency regardless of the level of physicality or chippiness.

Being a smart and alert player seems to come naturally for Reichel, and the fact that his coach has used him in late/close situations supports that. Loose pucks find his stick with regularity, especially within proximity of board battles. He also wields an active stick and turns quickly which often forces opposing defenders in the grey zone to cough up pucks or make a rushed decision. Although he rarely killed penalties, Reichel has the smarts, foot speed, and stamina to be groomed for checking scenarios. He is consistent in locating the right targets and connecting with accuracy. He keeps his head up and will even look off the goal area and thread the needle to the backdoor or opposite circle.

Reichel is an excellent stickhandler in traffic and along the boards. He can absorb hard shoves or harassing stickwork during rapid directional changes or power moves around the net. He has complete control of his edges and balance, which is surprising considering he's listed at only 170 pounds. Whether being leaned on inside or out, Reichel can be a tough out for the strongest of the DEL's defenders.

The primary weapons in Reichel's arsenal are his hands and his shot. He can release an accurate attempt off the pass via a short windup, but Reichel also makes rapid changes to the angle of his shot. Additionally, Reichel can blister shots high to the short side in addition to picking that far corner, this leaving goalies at a significant disadvantage. It's fair to assume that Reichel would make short work of teenage goalies if you consider his success rate against elite-leaguers.

Critical Strength

Shooting: Forget the stats — Reichel's adult linemates consistently looked for him in the slot or across the seam for one-timers. These were set plays for a teenager in a men's elite league.

Needs Improvement

First-step quickness: Not a weakness as much as it's a bonus to be so lethal in open ice with the explosive jump to get you there more often.

Bottom Line

Reichel has NHL bloodlines so it shouldn't have shocked many that he was so composed and mature in a tough situation. His eagerness to learn when combined with his skill should make him an instant coach's favorite no matter where he's drafted.

30. Jan Mysak, C/W

Hamilton (OHL)

Player Data

24-June-02	5'10	175	Left	Litvinov, CZE	Czech Rep.
Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

22	15	10	25
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

Jan Mysak was a prolific scorer in junior hockey, but that seems like eons ago, no? Mysak, a gifted offensive forward and the prize of the Czech Republic's draft class for 2020, was earning his stripes as a teenager in the tough Czech Extraliga for nearly two full seasons before joining the OHL's Hamilton Bulldogs in mid-January. With Litvinov, Mysak suited up for a team that not only ranked near the bottom, but also struggled to score. In a way, the situation allowed him to play a top-nine role, albeit with fluctuating minutes, and also gave him the opportunity to see significant time on the power play and penalty kill. He also displayed a high motor, youthful exuberance, and was finding ways to get under the skin of opponents twice his age.

His transition to North America and the goal-friendly OHL started out as expected -- he scored four goals in his first five games (two shorthanded). Seeing top-six minutes while killing penalties and manning the point on the power play lend to his versatility but make no mistake; Mysak can be an excitable and dynamic scorer with sick hands and outstanding patience near the net. From an international tournament standpoint, Mysak did produce a signature performance in his draft year. Although he was named Player of the Game for the Czech Republic in three of their five games at the recent under-20 world junior hockey championship, he wasn't quite as impactful at the under-18 Ivan Hlinka tournament the previous August and was inconsistent at the November Four Nations. His Extraliga play, however, had him pacing to surpass the pre-draft production of the likes of recent Czech first-round picks such as Martin Necas, Filip Chytil, and Filip Zadina.

Mysak has a knack for getting open and uses his top-end speed and strong leg drive to outpace pressure. His footwork and straight-line skating are quite impressive, and his stride is long and clean. Mysak also displays a commanding on-ice presence and is a creative forward who can finish as well as he can set up linemates. Mysak has elite hands and a nasty shot-release combination on his wrist shot such as the one that posterized Yaroslav Askarov at the world juniors. He was a bit more active finding space in the Extraliga than he has with Hamilton, but he still knows how to create his own shot and has proven he can score on the backhand with regularity.

Defensively, Mysak is a smart forechecker who tracks puck direction and positions his stick properly once he pivots into a backward skate. His quick feet and stick work in concert when applying pressure which leads to multiple takeaways. Mysak is not very physical in terms of digging in for a tough board battle or throwing his weight around, but he also has resilience to take a beating yet still keep his head on a swivel and recover quickly to attack the puck.

Critical Strength

Shot release: Mysak's hands in conjunction with his elite hand-eye coordination allow him to label shots immediately of the pass.

Needs Improvement

Physicality: Mysak was more of a battler against adults in the Czech Republic but took it down a notch after crossing the pond to play in the OHL.

Bottom Line

Much like Lucas Raymond, Mysak entered his draft year with a ton of hype but saw his stock slip a bit as he progressed. It's doubtful he falls outside the first round, however, and the potential remains to become the best Czech prospect since David Pastrnak.

31. Vasily Ponomaryov, C

Shawinigan (QMJHL)

Player Data

48-NA	13-March-02	5'10	180	Left	Moscow, RUS	Russia
CSB Rank	Birthdate	Height	Weight	Shoots	From	Country

2019-20 Stats

57	18	31	49
Games	Goals	Assists	Points

Scouting Report

A two-way center who can fill many roles, Ponomaryov was one of the top rookies in the QMJHL and a key contributor to a rebuilding Shawinigan squad. Pound for pound, it's hard to argue against Ponomaryov's draft season being not only impressive, but one worthy of a first-round candidate. After entering the 2019-20 campaign with a lot of hype following his strong MHL season and a dominant World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, Ponomaryov was one of the best players for Russia at the Ivan Hlinka tournament in August, where he scored the eventual game winner in the gold medal win over Canada. He was excellent for the Cataractes in November (17 points in 12 games) before shining on the international stage again in December as Russia's top-line center in winning the U20 World Junior "A" Challenge. Upon returning to Shawinigan, Ponomaryov's role increased following an injury to star center Mavrik Bourque, yet his scoring rate and shot generation remained consistent — in the 14 games with Bourque out of the lineup, Ponomaryov's 0.86 points-per-game average (12 points in 14 games) was identical to what he produced when Bourque dressed (37 points in 43 games). Additionally, Ponomaryov's draws improved from 49.1 to 54.7 (153-for-281) with Bourque not in the lineup despite seeing nearly 10 more a game.

Ponomaryov is a strong stickhandler with multiple fakes and spin moves that he times with precision, both in open ice and tight spaces. He's a possession driver with very good straight-line speed and excellent balance, edgework, and agility, but Ponomaryov is also very slippery as he maneuvers towards the goal following board battles. He has a strong lower body and knows how to shield the puck, but defenders and goalies need to be cognizant of Ponomaryov's ability to make a rapid gear shift or sharp cut to the inside while remaining in control of the puck. Ponomaryov should be considered a breakaway threat regardless of manpower on the ice.

There is a significant degree of flash and pizzazz to Ponomaryov's game. Not only is he capable of creating highlight-reel plays with his vision and passion, but he also knows how to incorporate all four teammates into the attack and can thread the needle while looking off or moving up ice in an odd-man rush. Ponomaryov is a very good passer either forehand or backhand, and he puts the right touch on his deliveries, especially timing plays off the cycle or beating back pressure. A shifty skater who can create time and space, Ponomaryov is very good at using his footwork and fakes to improve his shooting angle. Once he's in that danger area in the middle of the ice, Ponomaryov can blister shots with a quick release from above the hash marks and label them inside either post or towards the upper half. He also is comfortable attempting high-danger chances on his backhand and is willing to attempt multiple fakes when static near the goal mouth.

Ponomaryov is a versatile forward who can be trusted with checking assignments, and as proven in the Hlinka and WJAC, can also succeed when given tough matchups against heralded players. He can play center or wing and be used on the penalty kill or for late/close faceoffs. There's also a fearlessness in his game, as Ponomaryov is not only willing to battle and stand up to bigger opponents, but also bounce right back up when he's hammered into the boards. He is consistent with his efforts on the backcheck and will cover a vacated low slot with regularity. Ponomaryov's adherence to forechecking, puck battles and positioning off the puck can tire him out however, and there are periods where he is mostly dangerous only during the power play.

Critical Strength

Versatility: Ponomaryov checks a ton of blocks and can deliver the desired results in all situations.

Needs Improvement

Consistency over 60 minutes: Ponomaryov on the puck can go through moments of ineffectiveness, especially at 5v5.

Bottom Line

At his very best, Ponomaryov can be the best player on the ice at both ends of the rink. He's proven time and again that his skills are worthy of first-round consideration and should be considered a steal if he falls out of the top 50.



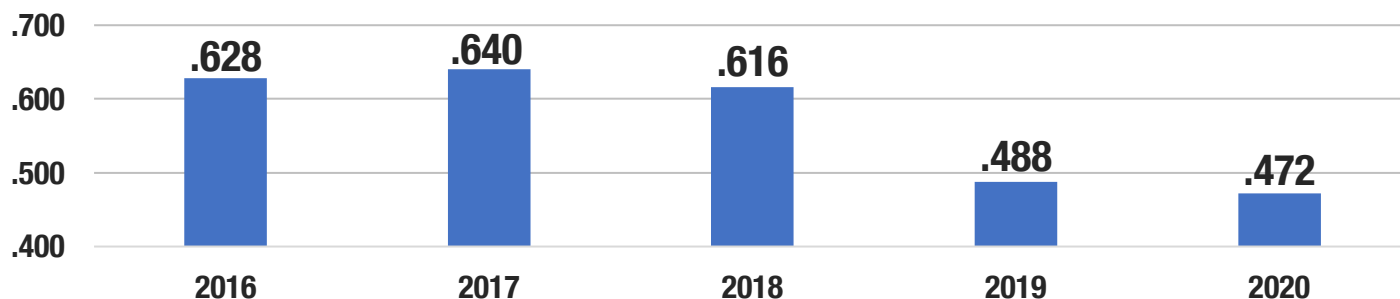
Anaheim Ducks

GM: Bob Murray (11/12/08)

Scouting Director: Martin Madden

Record: 29-33-9, 67 points

Points Percentage (2016-2020)



2020 Draft Picks (Pre-Lottery)

1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	4th Round	5th Round	6th Round	7th Round
5, 31 (BOS)	36	67	109 (NAS)	129	160	

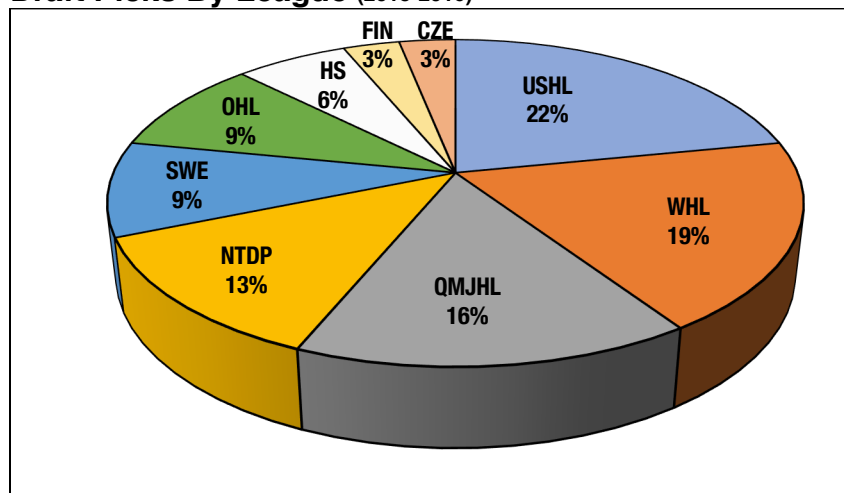
Draft Pick Stats (2015-2019)

Total Picks	Rounds 1-3	Rounds 4-7	50+ NHL GP	50+ NHL Pts	First-Year	Overagers
32	17	15	4	0	26	6

Draft Picks By Position (2015-2019)

Centers	Wingers	Defensemen	Goalies
10	9	8	4

Draft Picks By League (2015-2019)



Draft Trends

The Ducks are in a full-blown rebuild and have shown a willingness to play at least a half dozen prospects in a single game several times over the last two seasons. Each of their last five first-round picks, however, have been forwards, including prized prospect Trevor Zegras, who in 2019 was an absolute steal at ninth overall. They also don't draft Russians, as in it hasn't happened since 2009.

Draft Needs

Forwards continue to flood Anaheim's deep prospect pool yet none of their top defense prospects have a significant "wow" factor. But the Ducks have always hit for a high batting average when drafting blueliners. They could also use a pure finisher from the wing.

Realistic Targets

RHD Jamie Drysdale; LHD Jake Sanderson; RW Alexander Holtz

Last Five 1st Round Picks

2019	Trevor Zegras, C (9 th); Brayden Tracey, LW (29 th)
2018	Isac Lundestrom, C (23 rd)
2017	Traded for Patrick Eaves
2016	Max Jones, LW (24 th); Sam Steel, C (30 th)
2015	Jacob Larsson, LHD (27 th)

Top Five Prospects

1.	Trevor Zegras, C (Boston Univ., HE)
2.	Lukas Dostal, G (Peterborough, OHL)
3.	Isac Lundestrom, C (San Diego, AHL)
4.	Brayden Tracey, LW (Victoria, WHL)
5.	Josh Mahura, LHD (San Diego, AHL)



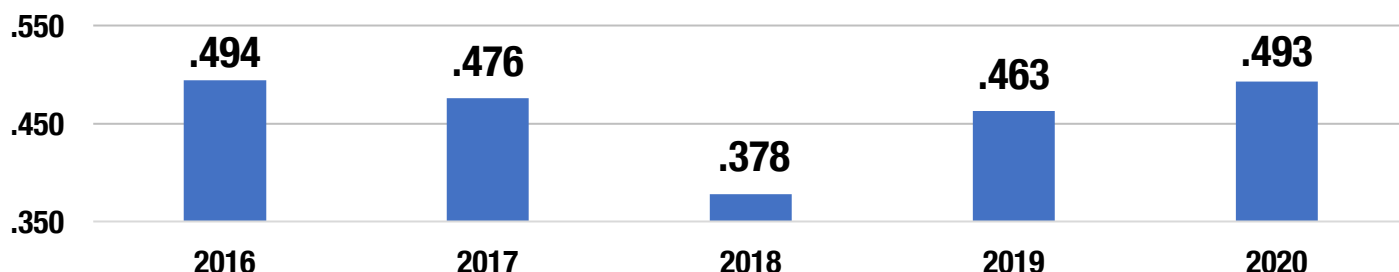
Buffalo Sabres

GM: Jason Botterill (5/11/17)

Scouting Director: Ryan Jankowski

Record: 30-31-8, 68 points

Points Percentage (2016-2020)



2020 Draft Picks (Pre-Lottery)

1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 th Round	5 th Round	6 th Round	7 th Round
7	38		100	131		193, 208 (DAL)

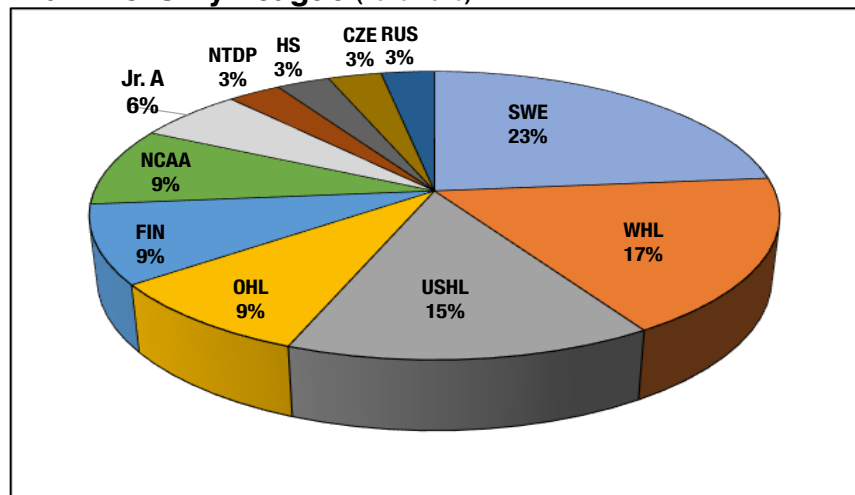
Draft Pick Stats (2015-2019)

Total Picks	Rounds 1-3	Rounds 4-7	50+ NHL GP	50+ NHL Pts	First-Year	Overagers
34	17	15	5	2	25	9

Draft Picks By Position (2015-2019)

Centers	Wingers	Defensemen	Goalies
7	9	16	2

Draft Picks By League (2015-2019)



Draft Trends

Barring a lottery miracle, this will be the eighth straight draft in which the Sabres own a top-10 pick, with the overall results somewhat mixed. What can be said with certainty is how in love Buffalo scouts are with Swedish prospects – 10 of their 34 picks since 2015 were either from Sweden or Swedish imports in North American leagues.

Draft Needs

Buffalo already cut ties with finesse winger Alex Nylander (2016) and could be growing impatient with Casey Mittelstadt (2017), so their affinity for Swedes makes it entirely plausible that at least two of Alexander Holtz, Lucas Raymond, and Noel Gunler are high on their list. Whatever the case is, they need finishers bad.

Realistic Targets

RW Alexander Holtz; LW Lucas Raymond; Noel Gunler; LW Cole Perfetti

Last Five 1st Round Picks

2019	Dylan Cozens, C (7 th); Ryan Johnson, LHD (31 st)
2018	Rasmus Dahlin, LHD (1 st)
2017	Casey Mittelstadt, C (8 th)
2016	Alex Nylander, RW (8 th)
2015	Jack Eichel, C (2 nd)

Top Five Prospects

1.	Dylan Cozens, C (Lethbridge, WHL)
2.	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, G (Rochester, AHL)
3.	Ryan Johnson, LHD (Minnesota, Big-10)
4.	Jacob Bryson, LHD (Rochester, AHL)
5.	Mattias Samuelsson, LHD (W. Michigan, NCHC)



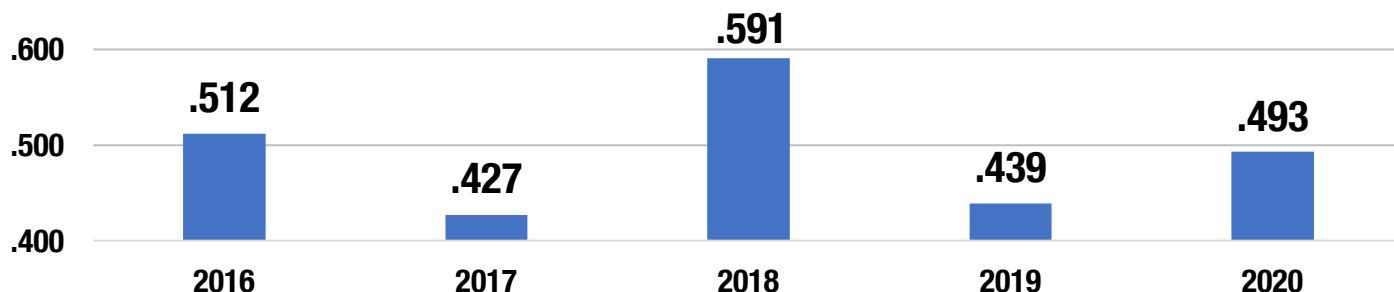
New Jersey Devils

GM: Tom Fitzgerald (1/12/20)

Scouting Director: Scott Harris

Record: 28-29-12, 68 points

Points Percentage (2016-2020)



2020 Draft Picks (Pre-Lottery)

1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 th Round	5 th Round	6 th Round	7 th Round
6, 10* (ARI)			99, 124 (BOS)	130	161	192

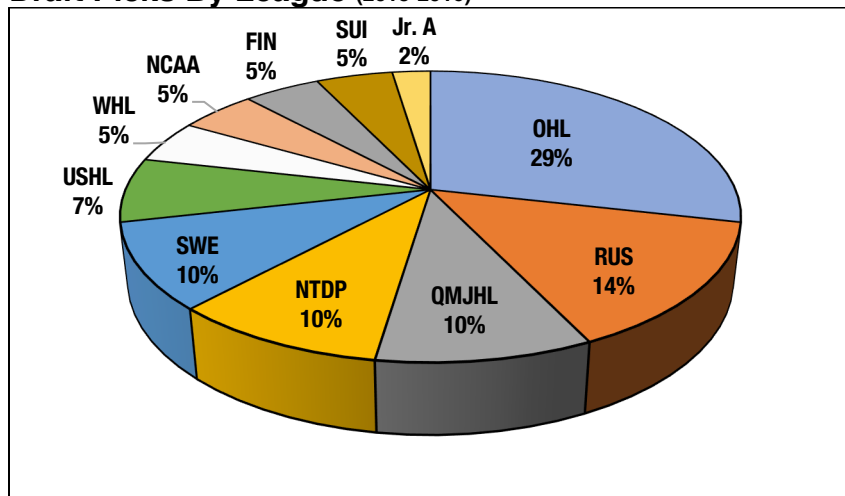
Draft Pick Stats (2015-2019)

Total Picks	Rounds 1-3	Rounds 4-7	50+ NHL GP	50+ NHL Pts	First-Year	Overagers
42	17	25	7	3	35	7

Draft Picks By Position (2015-2019)

Centers	Wingers	Defensemen	Goalies
11	13	13	5

Draft Picks By League (2015-2019)



Draft Trends

It will be interesting to see if interim-GM Tom Fitzgerald continues Ray Shero's pro-CHL, pro-Russia tendencies. During Shero's five-year run, seven of his nine picks in Rounds 1 and 2 came from the CHL, and five of the seven were from the OHL. They also drafted eight Russian-trained prospects – the most of any lottery team in that span.

Draft Needs

A loaded system and three potential first-rounders in this draft means New Jersey's scouts are essentially playing with house money. Still, they could use a sniper to compliment Jack Hughes, a puck mover on the right side, and a stud goalie to challenge Mackenzie Blackwood.

Realistic Targets

RHD Jamie Drysdale; RW Alexander Holtz; G Yaroslav Askarov

Last Five 1st Round Picks

2019	Jack Hughes (1 st)
2018	Ty Smith, LHD (17 th)
2017	Nico Hischier, C (1 st)
2016	Mike McLeod, C (11 th)
2015	Pavel Zacha, C (6 th)

Top Five Prospects

1.	Ty Smith, LHD (Spokane, WHL)
2.	Nolan Foote, LW (Kelowna, WHL)
3.	Janne Kuokkanen, C (Binghamton, AHL)
4.	Kevin Bahl, LHD (Ottawa, OHL)
5.	Arseni Gritsyuk, RW (W. Michigan, NCHC)



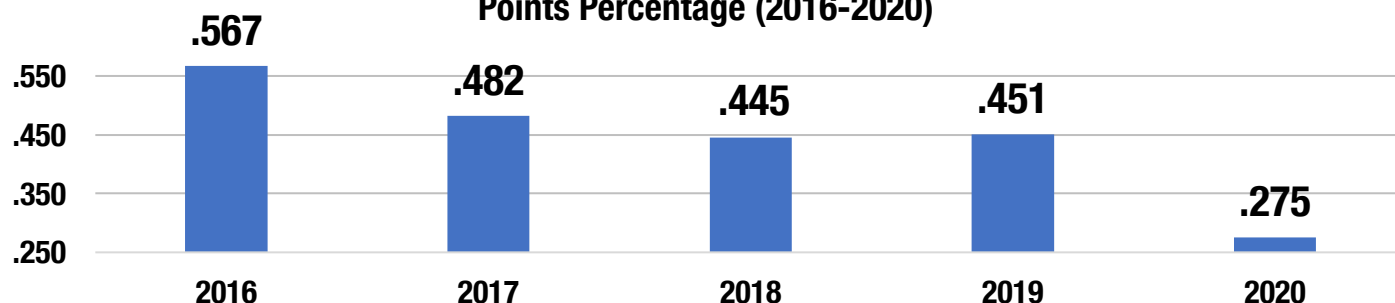
Detroit Red Wings

GM: Steve Yzerman (4/19/19)

Scouting Director: Kris Draper

Record: 17-49-5, 39 points

Points Percentage (2016-2020)



2020 Draft Picks (Pre-Lottery)

1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 th Round	5 th Round	6 th Round	7 th Round
1	32, 51 (EDM), 58 (WAS)	63, 65 (SJ)	113 (EDM)*	125	156	187

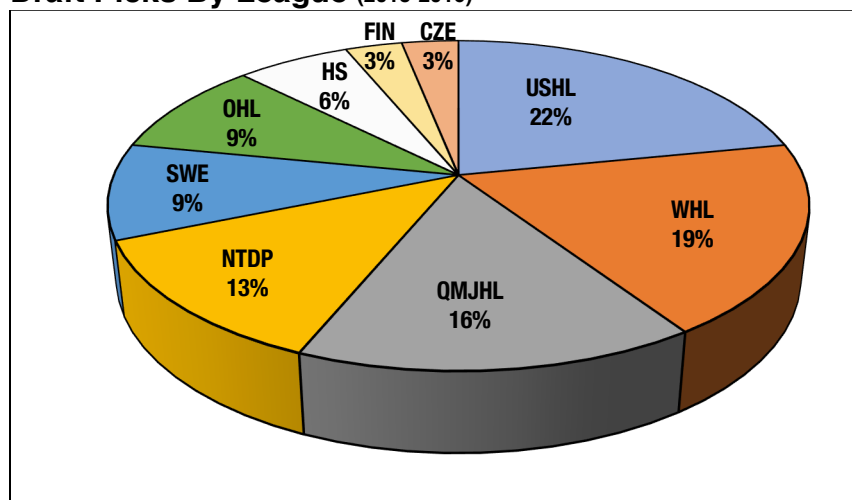
Draft Pick Stats (2015-2019)

Total Picks	Rounds 1-3	Rounds 4-7	50+ NHL GP	50+ NHL Pts	First-Year	Overagers
45	23	22	3	1	40	5

Draft Picks By Position (2015-2019)

Centers	Wingers	Defensemen	Goalies
9	11	19	6

Draft Picks By League (2015-2019)



Draft Trends

No team has had more draft picks than the Red Wings in the last five years, and barring any deals, 2020 will mark the fourth straight draft where Detroit has at least 10 selections. Having all these picks has led to a lot of misses; namely picks not even offered a contract. Surprisingly, the team known for icing the infamous "Russian Five" and future hall-of-famer Pavel Datsyuk has drafted only one Russian-league prospect since 2014, and that was 2019 seventh-rounder Kirill Tyutyayev.

Draft Needs

Detroit has impressive prospect depth with competition at every skater position. The Wings won't draft lower than fourth overall, so it's a lock they go for the best player available.

Realistic Targets

LW Alexis Lafreniere; C Quinton Byfield; C/W Tim Stutzle

Last Five 1st Round Picks

2019	Moritz Seider, RHD (6 th)
2018	Filip Zadina, LW (6 th); Joe Veleno (30 th)
2017	Michael Rasmussen, C (9 th)
2016	Dennis Cholowski, LHD (20 th)
2015	Evgeny Svechnikov, RW (19 th)

Top Five Prospects

1.	Moritz Seider, RHD (Grand Rapids, AHL)
2.	Joe Veleno, C (Grand Rapids, AHL)
3.	Antti Tuomisto, RHD (Assat, Jr. A SM-Liiga)
4.	Jonatan Berggren, LW (Skelleftea, SHL)
5.	Robert Mastro Simone, LW (Boston U., HE)



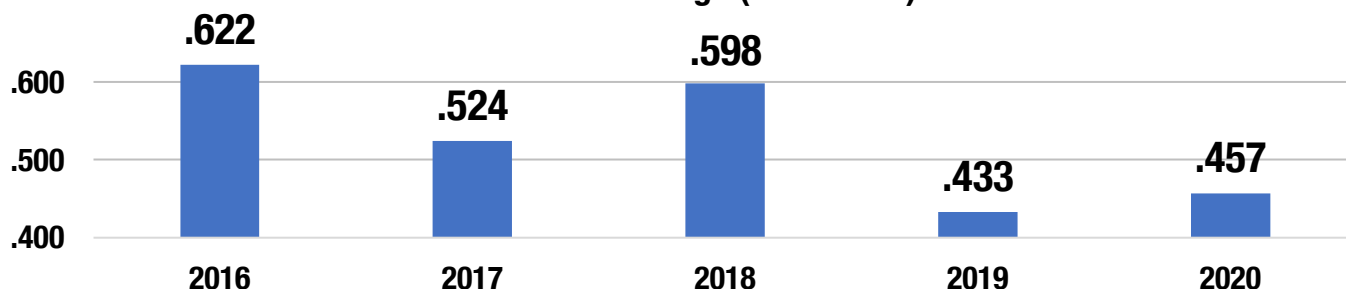
Los Angeles Kings

GM: Rob Blake (4/11/17)

Scouting Director: Mark Yanetti

Record: 29-35-6, 64 points

Points Percentage (2016-2020)



2020 Draft Picks (Pre-Lottery)

1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 th Round	5 th Round	6 th Round	7 th Round
4	35, 46 (VAN), 55 (VGK)	66, 80 (CBJ)	97, 106 (CGY)	128	159, 182 (WAS)	190

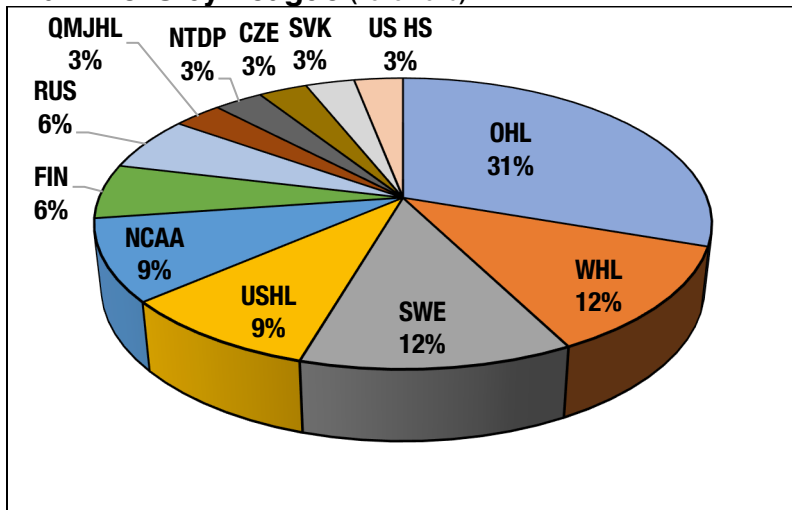
Draft Pick Stats (2015-2019)

Total Picks	Rounds 1-3	Rounds 4-7	50+ NHL GP	50+ NHL Pts	First-Year	Overagers
33	14	19	3	0	24	9

Draft Picks by Position (2015-2019)

Centers	Wingers	Defensemen	Goalies
8	8	13	4

Draft Picks by League (2015-2019)



Draft Trends

No lottery team stocks up on major junior prospects like the Kings, who have used nearly half of their 33 picks since 2015 on CHL'ers. But things are starting to change, as they've been more active drafting Europeans since 2018 (56%) than between 2015 and 2017 (18%). They've also used seven of their last eight first and second-round picks on forwards, including five centers. And with over 10 selection sin 2020, bank on them grabbing a couple of overagers.

Draft Needs

The Kings are loaded at center and also have impressive goal-scoring wingers in Samuel Fagemo and Arthur Kaliyev. The blueline seems to lack an elite "offense man", so considering how often they draft from the OHL, it's reasonable to assume Jamie Drysdale is high on their board. With 12 potential picks in 2020 – including six in the first 80 or so – expect the Kings to go for the gusto on draft day.

Realistic Targets

LW Cole Perfetti; C Marco Rossi; RW Alexander Holtz; RW Jack Quinn; RHD Jamie Drysdale

Last Five 1st Round Picks

2019	Alec Turcotte, C (5 th); Tobias Bjornfot, LHD (22 nd)
2018	Rasmus Kupari, C (20 th)
2017	Gabe Vilardi, C (11 th)
2016	Traded for Andrej Sekera
2015	Traded for Milan Lucic

Top Five Prospects

1.	Alex Turcotte, C (Ontario, AHL)
2.	Tobias Bjornfot, LHD (Ontario, AHL)
3.	Kale Clague, LHD (Ontario, AHL)
4.	Gabe Vilardi, C/W (Ontario, AHL)
5.	Rasmus Kupari, C (Ontario, AHL)



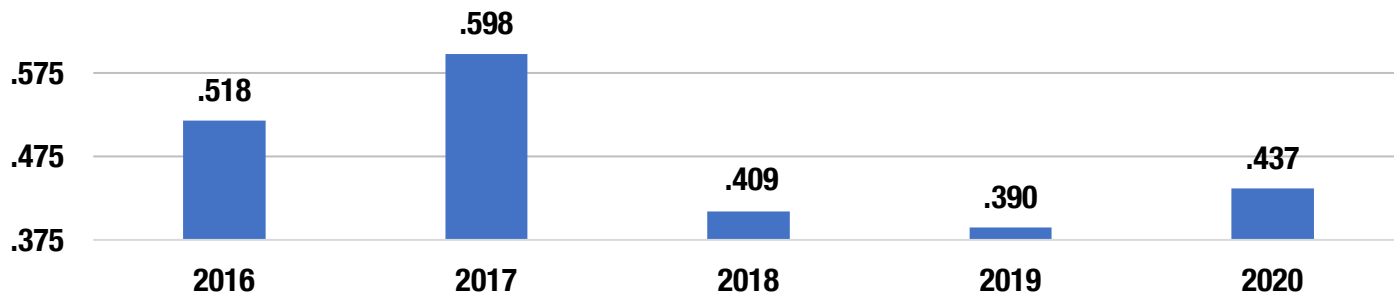
Ottawa Senators

GM: Pierre Dorion (4/10/16)

Scouting Director: Trent Mann

Record: 25-34-12, 62 points

Points Percentage (2016-2020)



2020 Draft Picks (Pre-Lottery)

1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	4th Round	5th Round	6th Round	7th Round
2, 3, 21	33, 49, 52, 53	64, 74	95	152	158, 185	

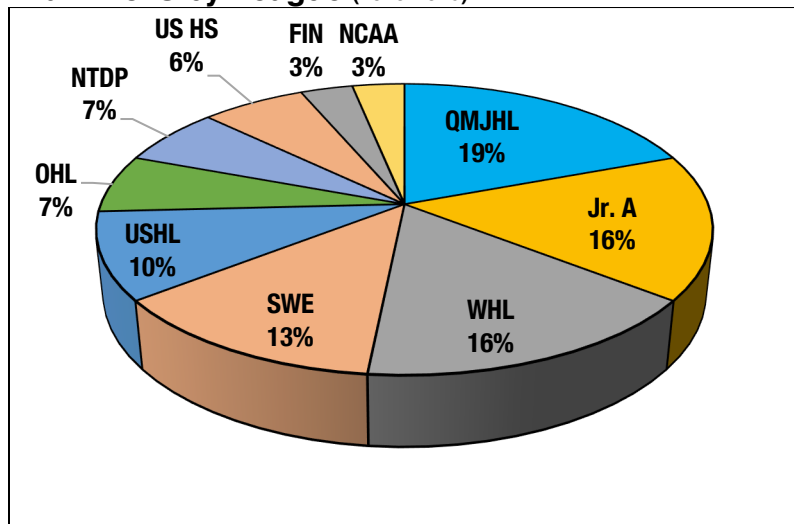
Draft Pick Stats (2015-2019)

Total Picks	Rounds 1-3	Rounds 4-7	50+ NHL GP	50+ NHL Pts	First-Year	Overagers
31	14	17	6	3	23	8

Draft Picks by Position (2015-2019)

Centers	Wingers	Defensemen	Goalies
10	9	8	4

Draft Picks by League (2015-2019)



Draft Trends

The Senators will return to NHL prominence in a relatively short time. Even before fire-selling its way to a mind-numbing 13 picks in 2020, nearly half of Ottawa's selections between 2015 and 2019 were from the first or second round. If things go their way conditions-wise, nine of those 13 picks this year will be between Rounds 1-3. Surprisingly, the Ontario-based Senators are one of the stingiest teams when it comes to drafting prospects from the OHL.

Draft Needs

The Sens will own the NHL's top prospect pool once the draft is over, and one can argue their current "C" Team is better than half the league's farm systems. With two of 2020's top six picks locked in, the folks in Ottawa can kick back and watch their Senators add two more franchise-caliber prospects.

Realistic Targets

LW Alexis Lafreniere; C Quinton Byfield; C/W Tim Stutzle; LW Cole Perfetti; C Marco Rossi; RHD Jamie Drysdale

Last Five 1st Round Picks

2019	Lassi Thomson, RHD (19 th)
2018	Brady Tkachuk, LW (4 th); Jacob Bernard-Docker, RHD (26 th)
2017	Shane Bowers, C (28 th)
2016	Logan Brown, C (11 th)
2015	Thomas Chabot, LHD (18 th); Colin White, C (21 st)

Top Five Prospects

1.	Alex Formenton, LW (Belleville, AHL)
2.	Erik Brannstrom, LHD (Belleville, AHL)
3.	Josh Norris, C (Belleville, AHL)
4.	Logan Brown, C (Belleville, AHL)
5.	Lassi Thomson, RHD (Ilves, SM-Liiga)

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2020 NHL DRAFT LOTTERY PREVIEW

By Steve Kournianos & Ross Martin