



PROSPECT PROFILES



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TOP-RANKED NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS

MACKLIN CELEBRINI

Center | Boston Univ. (NCAA)

Born: North Vancouver, B.C.

No. 1-ranked North American Skater

* As the youngest freshman in the NCAA in 2023-24, Celebrini was named the winner of the 2024 Hobey Baker Memorial Award, Hockey East Player of the Year and Hockey East Rookie of the Year.

* Became the fourth player to win Hockey East Rookie of the Year and Hockey East Player of the Year in same season, following **Jack Eichel** (2014-15), **Paul Kariya** (1992-93) and **Brian Leetch** (1986-87). Eichel and Kariya also won the Hobey Baker Award.

* Celebrini led a Boston University team that included 13 players already drafted into the NHL with 32-32—64 in 38 GP, ranking third among all NCAA Division 1 skaters in 2023-24.

* In 2022-23, Celebrini led the USHL as a rookie in goals and points, posting 46-40—86 through 50 games and finished as the League's Rookie of the Year, Forward of the Year and Player of the Year.

* Led Team Canada in their bronze-medal entry at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship with 6-9—15 in 7 GP, finishing fifth in the tournament in points, and led the country in goals and points at the 2024 World Junior Championship (4-4—8 in 5 GP).

* His mother and father both played soccer, with his dad, **Rick**, playing professionally and on Canada's national team. Rick is currently the VP of Player Health and Performance with the NBA's Golden State Warriors and did previous stints with the NHL's Vancouver Canucks and MLS's Vancouver Whitecaps on their medical staff.

* His brother, **Aiden**, is a defenseman who was a sixth-round pick by the Canucks in 2023 (171st overall) and is also skating for Boston University in 2023-24.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Youngest player in the NCAA who centers the top line at Boston University and impacts the game with his offensive prowess. Strong skater with a fluid stride, elusive speed and quickness. Has a good pull-away gear and top-end NHL speed. Excellent hockey sense and awareness. Slick puck control and movement game in the offensive zone – gets open for chances and can finish. The "go-to" for one-timers on the power play. Plays a heads-up compete game – ready for battle and contact along the boards and sets the pace when he is on the ice. Solid two-way game – aggressive puck pursuit on the forecheck and comes back hard. Plays a responsible game without the puck and does a good job stripping pucks in the neutral zone.



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ARTYOM LEVSHUNOV
Defense | Michigan State Univ. (NCAA)
Born: Zhlobin, Belarus
No. 2-ranked North American Skater

* Averaged nearly a point per game as a freshman blueliner with Michigan State (9-26—35 in 38 GP) and finished second on his team in assists and points.

* Ranked tied for ninth among NCAA defensemen in points while also being named Big Ten Rookie of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year while helping Michigan State earn Big Ten regular-season and postseason titles.

* Was named to the USHL All-Rookie team in 2022-23 after finishing fifth among league defensemen in points with 13-29—42 in 62 GP for the Green Bay Gamblers. His 42 points ranked eighth among all rookies that season (regardless of position).

* Part of Belarus' gold-medal entry at 2022 World Junior Championship – Division 1, Group A (0-2—2 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A smooth-skating defenseman with high-end puck skills. Uses his size, strength and reach as assets to effectively defend in the defensive zone and has a good grasp of positioning and coverage. Quick and agile skater who jumps up into plays and also has a strong backward stride to defend effectively against rushes. Composed style, reads the play quickly and makes good choices on when to apply pressure and when to stay back. Good shot control with a hard and accurate shot that makes him a legit scoring threat from the blue line. Good two-way game.

CAYDEN LINDSTROM
Center | Medicine Hat Tigers (WHL)
Born: Dawson Creek, B.C.
No. 3-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded 27-19—46 in 32 GP overall in 2023-24, before being held out the remainder of the season due to injury. Prior to the injury, Lindstrom sat tied for fourth in the WHL with 27 goals and had found the back of the net in nearly 60% of his games (19 of 32), including eight multi-goal outings.

* Lindstrom's 1.44 points-per-game rate was the highest by a draft-eligible skater from the Medicine Hat Tigers in 21 years (**Joffrey Lupul**: 1.47 P/GP in 2001-02).

* Won the 2024 CHL Top Draft Prospect Award as the top prospect eligible for the 2024 NHL Draft.

* Collected 19-23—42 in 2022-23 to finish in the top 10 of rookie scoring across the WHL and fourth on the Medicine Hat Tigers in both goals (tied) and points.

* Won a gold medal at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-1—3 in 5 GP) and represented Canada White at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-2—4 in 6 GP).

* Grew up playing minor hockey in Chetwynd, B.C., about a 12-hour drive north of Vancouver.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An impressive physical package with high-end skill. Rare combination of size, skill and high-end athleticism. Strong skater with explosiveness who can quickly create separation with the puck. Plays on the top line and the number one power-play unit. Is used in all key situations. Versatile player that can beat you with both skill and pure power. Wins battles and uses body to separate opponents from pucks. Consistent physical presence. Can both create offense and finish chances. Plays a hardworking and competitive game. Impressive movements and body control – makes quick cuts and sharp turns in gear to evade and blow past defenders. Prototypical NHL power forward.



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ZEEV BUIUM

Defense | Univ. of Denver

Born: San Diego, Calif.

No. 4-ranked North American Skater

- * Won a national championship with the University of Denver as a freshman and finished the season with the most points among NCAA blueliners with 11-39—50 in 42 GP. That total included an assist in the championship game.
- * Won the NCHC championship with the University of Denver and was named the conference's 2023-24 Rookie of the Year and Best Offensive Defenseman.
- * In 2022-23, Buium topped USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team defensemen in scoring with 5-35—40 in 63 GP.
- * Won gold with Team USA at the 2024 World Junior Championship, including a goal in the gold-medal game to finish the tournament with the best plus-minus (+11) and the most goals by a defenseman (3). He was also part of his country's gold-medal entry at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship and finished second on his team in scoring among blueliners with 1-5—6 in 7 GP.
- * His brother, **Shai**, was a second-round pick by the Red Wings in 2021 (36th overall) who also patrolled the blueline for the Univ. of Denver in 2023-24.
- * Played minor hockey in the Los Angeles Junior Kings AAA program before joining the famous program at Shattuck St. Mary's in Faribault, Minnesota for his 14U and 15U seasons.
- * Was on the kid's rink at Dodger Stadium, along with his brother, during the 2024 NHL Stadium Series – the first regular-season NHL outdoor game played in the state of California.
- * Has [tattoos on his arm](#), written in Hebrew, that commemorate the dates he won gold medals with the United States at the 2023 Under-18 Championship and 2024 World Junior Championship, as well as the NCAA title.
- * Finished first among all participants in the 2024 NHL Scouting Combine presented by adidas with 16 consecutive pull ups.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Dynamic, offensively talented defenseman. Made the transition to college smoothly and is thriving despite being one of the youngest players in college hockey. Poise and patience with the puck make him very difficult to contain, especially at the offensive blue line. Has the vision and sense to find passing/shooting lanes to get prime scoring opportunities for his teammates. Possesses all the skills to be an early draft pick.



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ZAYNE PAREKH

Defense | Saginaw Spirit (OHL)

Born: Markham, Ont.

No. 5-ranked North American Skater

* Led CHL defensemen in goals (33) and points (96) in 2023-24. His 96 points were the most by an OHL defenseman since **Ryan Ellis** in 2010-11 (100 points) and led all OHL draft-eligible skaters in 2023-24.

* Won the 2024 Memorial Cup with the Spirit and finished the tournament averaging a point per game, tied for the third-most points by a defenseman.

* Won the 2024 CHL Defenseman of the Year Award.

* In 2022-23, Parekh finished with 21-16—37 (50 GP) – fifth in the OHL among all defensemen in goals and third in scoring among rookie blueliners. His performance had him named to the CHL and OHL All-Rookie team.

* Part of his country's gold-medal entry at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-3—3 in 5 GP) and skated for Canada Black at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he finished second on his team in scoring (tied; 3-2—5 in 7 GP).

* He graduated high school two years early and has been taking courses at the University of Toronto since he was 15.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A smooth skater with requisite speed, quickness and offensive smarts. Good instincts, reads and reacts quickly to move the puck with purpose. Plays with some “swag” and his game has matured considerably to where he makes measured choices with the puck. Excels and is creative on the power play. Very good handling the puck. A precision passer with quick hands in traffic, sets up point shots from the middle and has a quick release. Gets shots low and on net to generate extra chances. Composed and laid-back presence, never panics or gets rushed. Defends effectively with his smarts and stick and is very effective at getting in the way of an opponent or puck.

TREVOR CONNELLY

Left Wing | Tri-City Storm (USHL)

Born: Tustin, Calif.

No. 6-ranked North American Skater

* The Providence College commit accumulated 31-47—78 (52 GP) this season, finishing second in the USHL in points and third in assists.

* Posted 24-23—47 in 57 GP last season in a campaign that featured an 18-game point streak and saw him finish fifth in USHL rookie scoring.

* Earned a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (4-5—9), was part of Team USA's bronze-medal performance at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, finishing tied atop the tournament in scoring after averaging two points per game (5-5—10 in 5 GP) and won bronze at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge after a 6-5—11 performance – the second-most goals and points (both tied).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A highly skilled winger that combines excellent speed and playmaking ability. A threat to score every time he has the puck on his stick because of his elite hockey sense and nose for the net. Seems to have an ability to play the game at his pace and find openings and options that few others can. Plays a two-way game which makes him a threat as much on the penalty kill as on the power play. Shows the ability to take a game over when it matters the most.



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SAM DICKINSON

Defense | London Knights (OHL)

Born: Toronto, Ont.

No. 7-ranked North American Skater

* Finished the season with 18-52—70 (68 GP) – a point total that ranked fourth in the OHL among defensemen. His 70 points are also the third most by any draft-eligible defenseman from the London Knights, trailing **Evan Bouchard** (87 in 2017-18) and **Rob Ramage** (73 in 1976-77).

* Won the 2024 OHL Championship and finished tied for fourth in scoring among blueliners after posting 4-9—13 in 18 GP.

* The fourth overall selection in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection finished fifth in rookie scoring by defensemen in 2022-23 after posting 9-14—23 (62 GP). He tied for fourth in scoring during the playoffs among all rookies after tallying 4-4—8 (21 GP) during the London Knights' run to the OHL Championship series.

* Collected three assists in his country's gold medal-entry at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and captained Team Canada Black at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-1—2).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A very good skating and puck-moving defenseman with great offensive instincts. Consistently logs big minutes and plays in all situations. Hockey sense is strong, has a composed game carrying the puck and a quick read-and-react game utilizing his skating and high-end puck skills to make plays. He has very good hands and moves while skating with speed and while being checked. Effective leading the attack on the rush and quarterbacking a power play. Passes and shoots with authority and is an accurate shooter. Good understanding of position in the defensive zone to utilize his size, reach and defensive stick to break up plays.

BERKLY CATTON

Center | Spokane Chiefs (WHL)

Born: Saskatoon, Sask.

No. 8-ranked North American Skater

* Tallied 54-62—116 (68 GP) as a member of the Spokane Chiefs to finish with the third-most goals and fourth-most points in the WHL. His point total is the most of any draft-eligible skater across the CHL in 2023-24.

* Per the CHL, Catton is just the third WHL draft-eligible skater since 2000 to top 115 points (**Connor Bedard**: 143 in 2022-23; **Nic Petan**: 120 in 2012-13).

* During his rookie season in 2022-23, Catton collected 23-32—55 (63 GP) to finish second in the WHL in goals (tied) and fourth in points (tied) among rookies.

* Won gold at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup concluding the tournament as the leader in goals (8) and points (10; tied). He also captained Team Canada Red at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in their silver-medal performance and won a bronze medal at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship.

* His second cousin, **Cory Sarich**, was a defenseman and second-round pick of the Sabres in the 1996 NHL Draft (27th overall) who skated in over 900 career NHL games and won a Stanley Cup with the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2004.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A highly intelligent player that generates a lot of scoring chances and leads his team in scoring. Has excellent vision to go along with his high-end skill set. NHL skater with an explosive first step that allows him to evade checking and pull away from defenders. Plays an up-tempo game and is very clever at controlling the pace of the play while creating time and space to make plays. Can contribute in all three zones with his smarts and awareness. More of a playmaker than a scorer, but he has a good release and accurate shot to beat goalies.



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TIJ IGINLA

Center | Kelowna Rockets (WHL)

Born: Kelowna, B.C.

No. 9-ranked North American Skater

* Concluded the season with 47-37—84 (64 GP) – a 41-goal and 66-point improvement from his rookie season – to top the Kelowna Rockets in goals and finish second in points. His goal total tied for sixth in the WHL in 2023-24 and was the third most by a Rockets player over the past 20 years.

* Iginla scored eight goals during the Kelowna Rockets first-round series in the 2024 WHL Playoffs, tying the franchise record for most in a playoff series alongside **Geordie Wudrick** (2010).

* As a 16-year-old with the Seattle Thunderbirds in 2022-23, Iginla finished second on his team in scoring among rookies (6-12—18 in 48 GP) and played three games in the playoffs as Seattle won the 2023 WHL Championship.

* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, finishing the tournament third on his team in scoring after averaging nearly a point per game (6-6—12 in 7 GP).

* His father, **Jarome**, was inducted in the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2020 after a 20-year NHL career (625-675—1,300 in 1,554 GP) that saw him win the Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy (twice), Art Ross Trophy and Ted Lindsay Award. He is the Flames all-time franchise leader in career goals and points.

* His sister, **Jade**, plays D1 NCAA with Brown University and represented Team Canada at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship, while his younger brother, **Joe**, was drafted 12th overall by the WHL’s Edmonton Oil Kings in 2023.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A talented and dynamic winger (can also play center) who has been an offensive impact player for the Rockets from the start of the season. Skating is an NHL asset with speed that puts defenders on their heels. He is strong and hungry on the puck and has an effective game along the boards and corners when battling for pucks. Provides a consistent offensive output as a creative playmaker and natural goal scorer who has that shoot first mentality and possesses an excellent finishing shot with a very good release.

MICHAEL HAGE

Center | Chicago (USHL)

Born: Oakville, Ont.

No. 10-ranked North American Skater

* Finished fourth in USHL scoring after posting 33-42—75 through 54 GP with the Chicago Steel and was named to the USHL’s First All-Star Team. His 33 goals are the sixth most in a single season in franchise history.

* Skated in just 13 USHL games in 2022-23 due to injury, but tallied nearly a point per game during that time (5-5—10).

* Won a silver medal at the 2022 OHL Cup with the GTHL’s Toronto Jr. Canadiens and was named to the All-Star Team after finishing the tournament with the second-most points (7-9—16).

* Committed to the University of Michigan.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A high-end talent who just finished his first full season in the USHL. Powerful skater that gets to top speed in a hurry and displays elite hockey sense, which allows him to make plays all over the ice. His compete level is strong in all three zones and he is the go-to guy on his team. Plays a two-way game and wants the puck on his stick when things matter the most to either score a big goal or set up his teammates. A complete player with game-breaking skills.



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CARTER YAKEMCHUK
Defense | Calgary Hitmen (WHL)
Born: Fort McMurray, Alta.
No. 11-ranked North American Skater

* Collected 30-41—71 (66 GP) this season, to finish with the most goals by a defenseman across the league and the fifth-most points by a blueliner. His 30 goals set a franchise record for most in a campaign by a defenseman and he's one of just three WHL blueliners in the past 10 years to reach the 30-goal plateau.

* In 2022-23, he amassed 19-28—47 in 67 GP with his hometown Calgary Hitmen to finish third in the WHL in goals by a defenseman and recorded the third-most points in the WHL among all defensemen age 17 or younger.

* Was a member of Team Canada in their bronze-medal entry at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big, mobile and active defenseman who often leads his team in time on ice. A strong skater that likes to have the puck on his stick. A confident puck carrier. Has the ability to beat defenders one-on-one with speed and dangles. He is deployed on special team and is a huge asset on the power play from the offensive zone blue line. Drives his team's offense as he distributes the puck well and creates scoring chances for teammates with his accurate and creative reads. In the defensive zone he can handle speed off the rush and win battles along the boards and in front of the net. Possesses an NHL tool set.

COLE EISERMAN
Left Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)
Born: Newburyport, Mass.
No. 12-ranked North American Skater

* Averaged a goal per game this season (58-31—89 in 57 GP) with Team USA's NTDP Under-18 team, finishing atop the team in goals and second in points.

* Ranks first all-time in NTDP program history with 127 career goals, surpassing **Cole Caufield** (126) for the mark in 2023-24. He also ranks second all-time in program history for career points (193), trailing only **Jack Hughes** (228).

* In 2022-23, spent majority of the season with Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team where he led the club in goals and points after accumulating 43-29—72 (42 GP) and added 26-6—32 in 20 GP with the Under-18 team. His 69 combined goals that season were the second most in program history behind **Cole Caufield** (72 in 2018-19).

* Helped Team USA earn gold at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship where he finished tied for the tournament lead in goals with **Will Smith** (No. 4 in 2023 by SJS) after recording 9-2—11 (7 GP). He also earned a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship where he tied with the second-most goals (9).

* Won gold at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he tied **Alex Ovechkin** for the tournament's all-time single year goal record (12) and finished second in the tournament in scoring after tallying 20 points through seven games.

* Has multiple brothers playing college and professional hockey, including **Shane**, who was a fourth-round pick by the Senators in the 2014 NHL Draft (100th overall).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Elite offensive player, a true natural scorer and solid top prospect in the 2024 NHL Draft class. Strong offensive game and hockey sense, reads play and sees the ice, good smarts going to the net for chances. A driven goal scorer who wants the puck on his stick and is looking to shoot. Possesses a quick release, shoots with authority and is an accurate finisher. One of the best shooters in Draft class. Good skater, smart getting to the openings and can pull away on the fly. Smart game with puck in traffic, good hands and moves well skating and distributing the puck. Gets involved in forecheck battles and plays a responsible good two-way game.



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BECKETT SENNECKE
Right Wing | Oshawa Generals (OHL)
Born: Toronto, Ont.
No. 13-ranked North American Skater

* In 2023-24, Sennecke tallied 27-41—68 (63 GP) to finish third on his team in scoring. At this year's CHL/NHL Top Prospects on-ice testing, he finished fourth overall after being within the top five in five categories (30-meter backwards skate, 30-meter backwards skate with the puck, weave agility, weave agility with the puck & transition ability).

* Collected 10-12—22 in 16 GP with the Generals during their run to the 2024 OHL Final, finishing with the eighth-highest (tied) postseason point total across the league. Sennecke collected a point in 13 of the 16 playoff games he appeared in and posted a multi-point outing in half of those contests.

* After being drafted eighth overall by the Oshawa Generals in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection, Sennecke went on to top the league in assists among rookies (35; tied) and finish second among first-year skaters in points (55) during the 2022-23 season.

* Played for Team Canada White at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-3—3 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A combination of size, strength and talent. Competes with physical attributes and skills. An explosive skater, he gets around the ice very well and with purpose. Great puck skills with his hockey sense to generate chances. He makes good choices and decisions, capable to read and make the plays at high speed. An asset on the power play with his quick release or one-time option. An all around 200-foot player with a solid work ethic at both ends.

LIAM GREENTREE
Right Wing | Windsor Spitfires (WHL)
Born: Oshawa, Ont.
No. 14-ranked North American Skater

* The captain of the Windsor Spitfires led his club in goals (36), assists (54) and points (90) through 64 GP. His 2023-24 season included four games with four-plus points and a six-point performance on Jan. 27 (3-3—6).

* His 90 points are the second most among first year draft-eligible skaters in the OHL this season, trailing only **Zayne Parekh** (96 points). The total also stands as the most by a draft-eligible Windsor Spitfire since **Josh Bailey** (96 in 2007-08).

* Led the OHL in goals by a rookie in 2022-23 (25) and finished fourth in points (45) – a campaign that was highlighted by scoring a hat trick in his return to his hometown of Oshawa with two suites full of family in attendance.

* Was part of Team Canada's gold-medal entry at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (2-2—4 in 7 GP) and at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-1—1 in 3 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A good combination of size and skill – he is very effective at driving the play to the net and getting open to shoot. He protects the puck well and is hard to check, especially off the cycle slipping into scoring areas. Good offensive creativity and confidence with the puck, makes plays using his soft hands in tight. Possesses an NHL shot and release. Plays his best and gets consistent results when playing the power forward game.



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TERIK PARASCAK
Right Wing | Prince George Cougars (WHL)
Born: Lethbridge, Alta.
No. 15-ranked North American Skater

* Topped all rookies and finished eighth across the WHL with 43-62—105 in 68 GP. His goal and point totals led all rookies across the CHL.

* Parascak's 105 points in 2023-24 were the most by a CHL rookie since **Patrick Kane** and **Sam Gagner** in 2006-07.

* Finished the 2024 playoffs with the second-most points by a WHL rookie after averaging over a point per game (6-8—14 in 12 GP) in Prince George's run to the WHL Final.

* Named WHL Rookie of the Month three time: September/October (17-12—29 in 14 GP), December (4-12—16 in 11 GP) and March (13-11—24 in 12 GP).

* In 2022-23, Parascak skated for Edge School Prep Academy in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League, finishing second in the league in goals (32) and points (66). He also led the league in the playoffs (6-6—12) en route to winning a Under18 championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Displays a very high hockey IQ with and without the puck. One of those players with that innate ability to go to where the puck will be and always has an option in all zones. He is composed under pressure, connects with tape-to-tape passes and has shown a consistent finishing ability. One of the more naturally talented prospects in the 2024 NHL Draft class. Plays on both special teams and has deceptive speed and quickness that always makes him a scoring threat

SACHA BOISVERT
Center | Muskegon (USHL)
Born: Trois-Rivieres, Que.
No. 16-ranked North American Skater

* Averaged over a point per game last season, finishing fifth in goals (36) across the USHL and tied for 11th in points (68). He was named to the USHL's Third All-Star Team.

* In 2022-23, he was named to the USHL All-Rookie Second Team after finishing third in scoring for the Muskegon Lumberjacks with 17-28—45 (57 GP) and sixth among rookie across the league.

* The Univ. of North Dakota commit earned a silver medal for Team Canada Red at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-1—2 in 7 GP).

* A native of Trois-Rivieres, Que., a city with a population of approximately 140,000 people that has produced notable NHL stars such as **Jean Beliveau**, **Rene Robert** and **Andre Dupont**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Just finished his second season in the USHL. Dynamic forward that has an ability to score and make plays for his team at the most critical times. His shot and release make him a threat every time he has the puck in the offensive zone, combined with being a high-end skater which makes him difficult to defend. He plays the game at a pace few others can. Dangerous every time he has the puck. A high-end offensive talent who plays a two-way game that makes him one of the top prospects in the Draft.



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MAREK VANACKER
Left Wing | Brandford Bulldogs (OHL)
Born: London, Ont.
No. 17-ranked North American Skater

* Led his club in goals (36) and points (82), which was highlighted by a 14-game point streak and marked a 66-point increase over his rookie season.

* In 2022-23, Vanacker tallied 4-12—16 (55 GP) after being drafted 23rd overall in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection.

* Won gold at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-0—1 in 6 GP) and played for Team Canada Black at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-3—3 in 7 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A 200-foot player that competes with pace both on the forecheck and backcheck. Consistently one of the hardest workers on the ice, he makes things happen and gets results. Capable of getting to full speed in a hurry, he is dangerous off the rush and can make plays in traffic and at speed. Good moves in traffic and good hands in tight with the ability to slip checks. Uses his smarts and vision to find teammates with the puck and also gets to the open spots to score with a quick release. A consistent offensive contributor who has taken his game to the next level.

JULIUS MIETTINEN
Center | Everett Silvertips (WHL)
Born: Helsinki, Finland
No. 18-ranked North American Skater

* Finished third in rookie scoring across the WHL after posting 31-36—67 (66 GP) and finished third overall on his team.

* In 2022-23, he played in Finland where he tallied 10-12—22 in 38 GP with HIFK's junior team.

* Was part of Team Finland's bronze-medal entry at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and finished tied for third on his team in goals (3-0—3 in 7 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A forward from Finland who just finished his first season in Canada with Everett of the WHL. Strong on the puck with an effective puck control/protection game. Hard to check and play against without the puck. Very good net front game on the power play and displays good hands in tight spaces. Effective in the offensive zone retrieving pucks, making plays and getting open for scoring chances. He can get his shot off quickly and score from the top of the blue paint. Good in the face-off circle. Potential to be a heavy and hard two-way center that can bring offense.



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RYDER RITCHIE
Right Wing | Prince Albert (WHL)
Born: Calgary, Alta.
No. 19-ranked North American Skater

* Tallied 19-25—44 (47 GP) in a 2023-24 season cut short due to injury. He finished second on his team in points per game after operating at a 0.94 pace. In the 2024 playoffs, he collected over a point per game (3-4—7 in 5 GP).

* Won the 2022-23 WHL Rookie of the Year award after finishing the campaign third among WHL rookies in assists (35) and tied for fourth in points (55).

* Won gold at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (4-4—8 in 7 GP) and 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, finishing second in the tournament in assists (6) and with the second-highest point total in the tournament (3-6—9 in 5 GP). He also scored four goals during the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge with Team Canada White.

* His father, **Byron**, was a seventh-round pick by the Hartford Whalers in the 1995 NHL Draft (165th overall) who played in over 300 career games with the Hurricanes, Panthers, Flames and Canucks.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Son of former NHL player Byron Ritchie. A high-end skater with very good puck skills and creativity. A high character player who displays good patience and poise, can out-wait, blow past or maneuver through defenders. Creative playmaker who can consistently set up plays and get pucks to teammates in good spots. Plays a smart game with and without the puck and has demonstrated the ability to make plays in all areas of the ice. A competitive player that wants the puck on his stick, he forces steals and turnovers and quickly turns them into chances the other way.

JETT LUCHANKO
Center | Guelph Storm (OHL)
Born: London, Ont.
No. 20-ranked North American Skater

* Led his club with 20-54—74, exactly a 60-point improvement from his rookie campaign, to finish atop his club in scoring. He finished the season ranked tied for second in power-play assists (30) across the OHL.

* In 2022-23, Luchanko recorded 5-9—14 (66 GP) as a rookie including scoring his first OHL goal in his second game. He finished atop the OHL's Guelph Storm in points among rookies.

* Helped his country win a gold medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship after averaging a point per game (2-5—7 in 7 GP) and a silver with Team Canada Red at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-1—2 in 7 GP).

* Finished among the top five in [five testing categories](#) at the 2024 NHL Scouting Combine presented by adidas: Mean Power Output (1st), Left Hand Grip (1st), Right Hand Grip (1st), Pro Agility – Right Time (2nd), Vertical Jump (2nd) and No Arm Jump (4th).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Trusted to play in all situations. A smooth-skating center with lots of different gears. Excellent edges and mobility. Plays with passion and compete at both ends of the rink. Makes things happen by doing the little things well on a consistent basis. Displays good vision and quick reads with his hockey sense and distributes the puck with precision passing ability. Hard-working and aggressive on loose pucks. Back checks with a purpose. A “go-to” player on any roster.



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MATVEI GRIDIN
Right Wing | Muskegon (USHL)
Born: Kurgan, Russia
No. 21-ranked North American Skater

* Topped the USHL in points after posting 38-45—83 (60 GP) in a season highlighted by an 11-game point streak, 25 multi-point games and a hat trick. He was also named to the 2023-24 USHL First All-Star Team.

* Tallied 8-13—21 (40 GP) in 2022-23 during his rookie season with the USHL's Muskegon Lumberjacks, finishing second on his team in scoring among rookies behind fellow draft-eligible prospect **Sacha Boisvert**.

* Committed to the Univ. of Michigan for the 2024-25 season.

* His father, **Andrei**, was his youth hockey coach growing up and **Matvei** says he taught him a lot about hockey.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A combination of size, skill and ability to score goals make him one of the high-end prospects for this year's NHL Draft. In his second full season in the USHL, became a threat any time the puck was on his stick. Displays elite hockey sense and an ability to score goals from all over the offensive zone because of his quick release and nose for the net.

ADAM JECHO
Center | Edmonton Oil Kings (WHL)
Born: Zlin, Czechia
No. 22-ranked North American Skater

* Tallied 23-24—47 (54 GP) in his rookie season with the WHL's Edmonton Oil Kings to finish sixth in goals among all WHL rookies and tied for ninth in points.

* Spent the majority of 2022-23 in Finland with Tappara's Under-18 team where he averaged 1.27 points per game and finished second on his team in scoring (21-26—47 in 37 GP).

* In 2022, Jecho was part of Tappara's Under-18 team in Finland that captured the league's bronze medal.

* Scored two goals for his country in their silver-medal performance at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and represented Team Czechia at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (2-1—3 in 5 GP), 2023 Under-18 World Championship (0-2—2 in 5 GP), 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-3—5 in 6 GP) as well as both the 2022 and 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

This was his first year playing in North America with the Edmonton Oil Kings after developing in both Czechia and Finland. An impressive combination of size and skill. Good agility, dexterity and body control. He utilizes his good puck handling, reach, and frame to protect the puck and can get a shot off while being checked. He reads the play and creates offense in heavy traffic and while being checked. Developing into a power-play asset that can distribute the puck, get scoring chances, and have an effective net front presence. Capable of playing both a physical and a finesse game and can beat defenders with power and skill making him a challenge for defenders.



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DEAN LETOURNEAU
Center | St. Andrew's College (HIGH-ON)
Born: Arnprior, Ont.
No. 23-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded a league-high 61-66—127 in 56 GP with St. Andrew's College in 2023-24 – 62 more points than what he recorded the previous season in 53 contests. He concluded the Prep Hockey Conference playoffs with 3-5—8, second among all players in points.

* Won the J.P. McClocklin Trophy as the most valuable player of the MacPherson Tournament after leading St. Andrew's to the championship with 4-8—12.

* Letourneau, who committed to Boston College for the 2025-26 NCAA season, has an older brother, **Jace**, who committed to Clarkson University for ice hockey, while his father **Jeff** played four years at Dalhousie University.

* Registered the longest wingspan among players at the 2024 NHL Scouting Combine presented by adidas (83.25 inches).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Second year playing for St. Andrews and has taken great strides showing dominance against his peers. Plays in all situations and is heavily relied upon on this team. Very impressive numbers and his line provides most of the offense. Very big center at 6' 6" who impresses with his smooth skating stride and high-end offensive skills. Good offensive IQ and shows a dual threat to set up teammates as well as show his ability to finish in a variety of different ways. When engaged he is physically dominant and uses his body to make it very hard on opposing defenders to handle him down low. Can create offense in many different ways. Plays the PK and is reliable in his own end. Very unique skillset that is easy to get excited about.

SAM O'REILLY
Right Wing | London (OHL)
Born: Toronto, Ont.
No. 24-ranked North American Skater

* Finished with the third-most points among OHL rookies with 20-36—56 (68 GP) and played a pivotal role in helping the London Knights capture the 2024 OHL Championship, finishing the playoffs topping all rookies in scoring (5-7—12 in 16 GP).

* Was named to the GOJHL Rookie All-Star Team during the 2022-23 campaign, after ranking second on his team in scoring with 26-37—63 in 35 GP.

* Played the defenseman position his whole life before transitioning to forward in 2020-21 and is now the 19th-ranked North American *forward* for the 2024 Upper Deck NHL Draft.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A very versatile forward who can play center or on the wing and is utilized in all situations. He has good game habits, is hard to play against and plays with some bite while playing within the rules. He has very good offensive hockey sense and puck skills, is hard to contain down low and gained more confidence offensively as the season progressed. Can play the fast/smart game in traffic and small areas and has all the tools in his kit to contribute offensively.



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COLE BEAUDOIN
Center | Barrie (WHL)
Born: Ottawa, Ont.
No. 25-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded 28-34—62 (67 GP) with the Barrie Colts, finishing second on his team in assists as well as points (tied) and third in goals.

* In 2022-23, Beaudoin concluded his rookie season with 8-12—20 (63 GP) – the most points on his club by a rookie.

* Won gold at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (2-2—4 in 7 GP) and 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he was one of five players on Team Canada to score at least three goals enroute to the championship.

* His father, **Eric**, was a fourth-round pick by the Tampa Bay Lightning in the 1998 NHL Draft and appeared in 53 games with the Florida Panthers from 2001-02 to 2003-04 before a lengthy professional career in Europe. His uncle, **Nic**, was a second-round pick by the Colorado Avalanche in 1995 (51st overall) and played for the Canadian National team in 1997-98.

* At the 2024 NHL Scouting Combine presented by adidas, Beaudoin recorded the longest duration during VO2 Max testing (13:25) and also scored the highest in the bench press.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A power forward who plays a reliable two-way game. One of the hardest working players on the ice on a regular basis. Competitive in puck battles and usually comes away with the puck. Good offensive instincts and deceptive puck skills, has a good shot and can put the puck in the net. Effective utilizing smarts, skills and physical attributes to generate scoring chances. Reliable in the face-off circle and responsible game without the puck.

ANDREW BASHA
Left Wing | Medicine Hat (WHL)
Born: Calgary, Alta.
No. 26-ranked North American Skater

* Produced 30-55—85 in 63 GP in 2023-24, ranking in the top three for his team in goals (2nd), assists (3rd) and points (3rd). He was one of only two players for his club to score 30 goals this season.

* Led his team with three goals in the WHL playoffs and was awarded a spot on the WHL (Central) Second All-Star Team.

* In 2022-23, Basha finished third on his team in scoring after posting 20-36—56 (67 GP), highlighted by a nine-game point streak and 15 multi-point outings.

* Was enrolled in the South Alberta Hockey Academy when he was younger, a program that teaches hockey to local kids. He relishes the fact that kids currently enrolled in SAHA may be looking up to him as a role model.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A skilled prospect who has consistently produced offensively. Possess high-end puck skills and can both make plays and score. Has impressive skating speed and agility to shake off and beat defenders. Moves smartly and smoothly with and without the puck. Always looking to get himself into scoring areas and can finish with an accurate shot. Excellent vision and creativity and can make difficult passes look easy. Controls the puck, can make plays with speed and is always looking to get himself into scoring areas. Can finish with an accurate shot.



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JOHN MUSTARD
Center | Waterloo (USHL)
Born: Newmarket, Ont.
No. 27-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded 29-27—56 in 60 GP for Waterloo and finished first in goals among rookies across the USHL and second in points.

* Was named the 2023-24 USHL Rookie of the Year after leading all rookies in goals, power-play markers and game winners.

* Committed to Providence College for the 2025-26 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Just completed his first USHL season. A good-sized forward that quickly established himself as a scoring threat whether at five-on-five or on special teams. Excellent speed and agility to go with his tenacious effort. Can score from in close or from distance with his quick/accurate shot. Applies pressure on the forecheck by smartly reading the play and anticipating where the puck will get to. Has a high hockey IQ and plays a strong two-way game.

KAMIL BEDNARIK
Center | USA U-18 (NTDP)
Born: Elk Grove Village, Ill.
No. 28-ranked North American Skater

* Posted 26-39—65 in 61 contests with Team USA's NTDP Under-18 team, ranking fifth on the team in goals, assists and points.

* In 2022-23, Bednarik collected 20-24—44 (61 GP) for the fourth-most points on Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team.

* Committed to Boston Univ. for the 2024-25 season.

* Captured a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 7 GP) and helped his country earn gold at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-2—5 in 7 GP).

* His sister, **Simone**, is also a hockey player and skates for the Slovakian national team.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Strong, powerful skater who is smart and effective in all zones. Plays hard and physical. Has an NHL ready shot and release. Dual threat as shooter and passer. Handles and distributes the puck well. Dictates the pace of play. Sees the ice well and creates scoring chances. Moves the puck quickly and accurately. Has a package of skills that translate well to the next level. Uses his size and strength to separate opponents from the puck. Tough to contain when entering the zone and competes hard every shift.



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SPENCER GILL

Defense | Rimouski (QMJHL)

Born: Moncton, N.B.

No. 29-ranked North American Skater

* Led all defensemen on his team this season and finished tied for the fifth-most points on his team with 12-34—46 in 65 GP. His 12 goals were tied for the sixth most among all blueliners in the QMJHL this season.

* His 46 points in 2023-24 was a 42-point improvement from his rookie campaign where he posted four assists through 41 GP.

* Helped Team Canada capture gold at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship. He was one of six defensemen on the team with multiple assists during the tournament. He also scored twice for Team Canada White at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

* His older brother, **Dyllan**, recently signed a three-year, entry-level contract with the Tampa Bay Lightning after being selected in the seventh round (223rd overall) of the 2022 NHL Draft. He skated for the QMJHL's Rouyn-Noranda Huskies in 2023-24.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A right-handed defenseman with good puck skills and hockey sense. Handles the puck with poise, makes good decisions on plays and displays impressive vision and passing skills. Excellent blue line work; will create offense by finding seam passes or utilizing his shot. His skating continues to improve and will only get better as he gets stronger. Defensive game has matured and he's trusted to play in all situations including on the penalty kill. He's used on the power play where he handles and moves the puck with confidence.

MAXIM MASSE

Right Wing | Chicoutimi (QMJHL)

Born: Rimouski, Que.

No. 30-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded a team-best 36 goals and 75 points for his team in 2023-24 in 67 GP, finishing tied for eighth in goals across the QMJHL.

* Won the QMJHL's 2023-24 Michael Bossy Trophy as the top professional prospect in the league.

* Was awarded CHL Rookie of the Year in 2022-23 after accumulating 29-33—62 (65 GP) – the most goals and points by all rookies across the league. He was also named QMJHL Rookie of the Year and QMJHL Offensive Rookie of the Year.

* Is a two-time gold medalist for Team Canada, earning the championship at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (2-3—5 in 7 GP) and at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (5-1—6 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Has taken on a leadership role as an assistant captain on a young Chicoutimi team. A good size/strength winger with a natural scoring ability who has produced and established himself at every level he's played. Was CHL Rookie of the Year in 2022-23. Most effective when playing a feet-moving, physical style and is an excellent player down low and around the net. An offensive threat, he has very good puck skills and playmaking ability along with a great shot release and finishing touch. Can score goals in a variety of ways and situations.



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CHARLIE ELICK
Defense | Brandon (WHL)
Born: Villach, Austria
No. 31-ranked North American Skater

* Posted 4-23—27 in 65 GP with the WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings in 2023-24, leading all defensemen on his team in shots on goal (133) and game-winning goals (tied; 2).

* His father, **Mickey**, was an eighth-round pick by the New York Rangers in the 1992 NHL Draft (192nd overall) who had a long career that included stops in the ECHL, AHL, IHL, Canadian National team, Germany and Austria.

* Born in Villach, Austria, while his father was playing pro hockey in the country. Charlie grew up playing minor hockey back in Canada in the Calgary area and represents Team Canada on the international stage.

* Helped Team Canada earn gold at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. His three assists during the 2024 Under-18 World Championship was tied for the third most among Team Canada defensemen en route to capturing gold.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big, right shot defenseman. Strong skater with good speed and balance. Moves well in all directions. Effective utilizing his size/strength to provide a physical presence in board battles and net front game. Consistently finishes his hits and can deliver the heavy hit. Good game carrying the puck up the ice and making plays in the offensive zone. An excellent defender who competes and battles with consistency and makes good decisions and passes in the defensive zone. An impressive combination of size and skating with the ability to shut down opponents.

COLIN RALPH
Defense | Shattuck – St. Mary's Prep (HIGH-MN)
Born: Maple Grove, Minn.
No. 32-ranked North American Skater

* Led all defensemen on the Shattuck-St. Mary's team with 8-58—66 in 57 GP. His 58 assists ranked second on the team among all skaters.

* Many players attended Shattuck-St. Mary's before starting their NHL career, including notable defensemen such as **Jack Johnson** and **Joe Corvo** as well as forwards **Sidney Crosby**, **Jonathan Toews** and **Zach Parise**.

* Committed to St. Cloud State University for the 2024-25 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Good size. A 6'4" left-shot defenseman with a very smooth powerful skating stride. Shows good poise and patience when handling the puck to find his passing/shooting options. His offensive skills continue to improve and show progress every game. Defensively he smartly uses his reach and closes out on opponents making him very difficult to play against. With continued development he has a very good chance to be a pro.



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ERIKS MATEIKO

Left Wing | Saint John (QMJHL)

Born: Jelgava, Latvia

No. 33-ranked North American Skater

- * Posted 23-20—43 in 49 GP with the Sea Dogs to lead the team in goals while finishing second in points in his first season as alternate captain.
- * Recorded 1-0—1 in five games for Latvia at the 2024 World Junior Championship.
- * Served as captain for Latvia at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship where he posted 1-1—2 (5 GP).
- * His older brother, **Nikita**, played in the KHL (Russia) and Mestis (Finland) from 2020-21 to 2022-23.
- * Six Latvia-born players have been selected in the first two rounds of the NHL Draft, with **Zemgus Girgensons** (No. 14 in 2012) and **Teddy Blueger** (No. 22 in 2012) the most recent players from the country selected within the first two rounds.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Completed his second season in the QMJHL after playing in Latvia. A big winger with a good all-around game and scoring touch. He plays in all situations. Kills penalties and does well by using his long reach and anticipation. Getting more time on the power play where he is a dual threat as a net front player and as a shooter. Smart getting to the openings and has a quality shot release which he can let go in stride. Skating stride is strong and delivers good speed, capable to pull away with the puck. Displays good puck skills and vision with his hockey sense to execute under pressure. The type of offensive player who can excel down low protecting the puck and playing an effective cycle game.

ADAM KLEBER

Defense | Lincoln (USHL)

Born: Chaska, Minn.

No. 34-ranked North American Skater

- * Led all defensemen on Lincoln with 5-21—26 in 56 GP while finishing fourth in scoring among undrafted blueliners in the USHL.
- * Named to the USHL All-Academic Team for the 2023-24 season with a 3.9 GPA in four years of high school.
- * Helped the United States win bronze at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.
- * Committed to the University of Minnesota-Duluth for the 2024-25 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big, right shot, smooth skating, puck-moving defenseman that has made significant strides this season and has a big upside. He has the size, reach and physical assets to finish his checks and to defend effectively and with a purpose. He plays big minutes on the top pairing and is utilized in all situations. Plays the top on the power play and moves the puck around quickly and efficiently to make plays. Makes a good first pass and joins the rush smartly. A very smart player that knows his strengths and uses them consistently.



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BEN DANFORD

Defense | Oshawa (OHL)

Born: Belleville, Ont.

No. 35-ranked North American Skater

* Wore the "A" in his second season with the Generals while finishing eighth in scoring among all OHL under-18 defensemen with 1-32—33 in 64 GP.

* Posted 4-6—10 in 21 GP during the 2024 playoffs to finish third in scoring among defensemen and help the Generals reach the OHL final.

* Represented Canada at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he won a gold medal.

* Served as captain during his final season with the Quinte Red Devils of the OMHA in 2021-22 where he tallied 7-22—29 in 26 GP to finish fourth in points among all blueliners.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A defenseman who plays in all situations. A very fluid skater with good mobility and timely pinches to join in offensively. He plays an effective two-way game and defends with good gap control, a good stick and responsible defensive zone awareness. Can elude opponents forecheck with his foot work and connects with smart outlet passes. Has the ability to take charge or settle and slow the game down. Good game getting pucks to the net resulting in secondary scoring chances. Utilizes size and strength in physical play and plays a consistent compete game in all zones.

COLTON ROBERTS

Defense | Vancouver (WHL)

Born: North Vancouver, B.C.

No. 36-ranked North American Skater

* Finished second in points among Giants defensemen and fifth among all WHL blueliners age 17 or younger with 7-20—27 (62 GP).

* Made his WHL debut with the Giants as a 15-year-old in 2021-22 and scored his first goal on October 1, 2022. He produced 3-8—11 (62 GP) in 2022-23, finishing second in assists and third in points among his team's rookies.

* Represented Team Canada Black at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

* His younger brother, **Bryson**, was selected by Spokane in the 2024 WHL Draft.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big, right shot, skating, puck moving defenseman that has made significant strides this season and has a big upside. He has the size, reach and physical assets to finish his checks and to defend effectively and with a purpose. He plays big minutes on the top pairing and is utilized in all situations. Plays the top on the power play or as a shooter, moves the puck around quickly and efficiently to make plays. Makes the good first outlet pass, connects with the long stretch pass and joins the rush smartly where he can also beat attackers with his puck skills and skating.



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HENRY MEWS

Defense | Ottawa (OHL)

Born: Ottawa, Ont.

No. 37-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded 15-46—61 in 65 GP to finish second in points on the 67's and fourth in the OHL among undrafted defensemen. He also demonstrated great versatility for Ottawa, playing several games at right wing to fill in for injuries.

* In 2022-23, he finished in the top 15 for points among OHL rookies, concluding the season with 12-19—31 (55 GP).

* Averaged a point-per-game in Team Canada's gold-medal entry at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (2-5—7) and won another gold at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-6—7 in 5 GP). He also captained Team Canada White at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-6—8 in 6 GP) and was named to the tournament's all-star team.

* His father, **Harry**, played in the Washington Capitals organization with the AHL's Baltimore Skipjacks and ECHL's Hampton Roads Admirals.

* Learned how to play hockey on his backyard rink with his three younger brothers.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Smooth-skating defenseman who plays with poise and smarts. He has great escape ability and gets away from traffic to find outlets. Very confident with the puck on his stick. A dynamic power play contributor who often runs the PP from the top position. He is a smart shooter and puck distributor, possess a very high offensive IQ and is a big point contributor on the backend. Has utilized his skating and smarts to mature his defensive game.

TARIN SMITH

Defense | Everett (WHL)

Born: Porcupine Plain, Sask.

No. 38-ranked North American Skater

* Led all WHL rookie defensemen in scoring during the 2023-24 season, with 8-36—44 in 67 GP and was named to the CHL All-Rookie Team. He also paced all Everett Silvertips blueliners in points.

* Skated in only eight games for the Silvertips in 2022-23 after missing the season due to injury (0-1—1).

* Posted 1-1—2 in seven games with Team Canada Red at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge en route to a silver medal.

* Made his WHL debut for the Silvertips as a 15-year-old in 2021-22.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A first-year player that has really taken a step over the course of the year. Missed much of last season due to injury and looked unsure of himself at the start of the season. His confidence has grown and he is now an impact player on a good team. Very good offensive instincts. He can run a power play. Very good at the offensive blue line creating shooting and passing lanes. Very good vision. Effective supporting the rush and can beat the opposition one-on-one. He will be the main power play option next year and will likely take another big step. Very good skater with speed, quickness and mobility. His playing style is well suited to play in today's NHL.



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ERIC (EJ) EMERY
Defense | USA U-18 (NTDP)
Born: Surrey, B.C.
No. 39-ranked North American Skater

* Was a member of Team USA's NTDP Under-18 team this season, where he recorded 0-16—16 (61 GP). The previous year he tallied 2-10—12 (60 GP) with Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team.

* Earned a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (0-6—6 in 7 GP) and gold at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge

* The Univ. of North Dakota commit finished the 2024 NHL Scouting Combine presented by adidas first in Horizontal Jump (123.00 inches) – the highest score for the test on record in NHL Combine history. The previous mark of 122.00 inches was set by **Alexei Mikhnov** in 2000 and matched by **Brendan Guhle** in 2015.

* His father, **Eric**, played NCAA football for California State-Fullerton and was later a linebacker for the BC Lions, Calgary Stampeders and Ottawa Rough Riders in the Canadian Football League from 1985-87.

* EJ played football growing up but his heart was set on hockey after seeing his favorite NHL team, the Canucks, face the Bruins in the 2011 Stanley Cup Final. He was born and raised in Canada, but had dual citizenship through his American father and Canadian mother.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A dynamic skater who is very quick and agile. Excellent heads-up game carrying and advancing the puck. Is a physical force and uses his size and strength to dominate opponents. Very effective playing the man and taking the body. Has a huge reach and uses it affectively to defend rushes and steal pucks. Plays with energy and intensity. Has very good awareness in all zones on the ice. Is composed and makes good choices on the play to advance the puck, join the rush or pinch at the attacking blue line.

OLLIE JOSEPHSON
Center | Red Deer (WHL)
Born: Victoria, B.C.
No. 40-ranked North American Skater

* Finished second in scoring on the WHL's Red Deer Rebels with 12-35—47 in 68 GP, marking a 28-point improvement from his rookie season.

* In 2023-24, Josephson collected the most points by a rookie on his team (5-14—19 in 63 GP).

* Was part of Team Canada's gold at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (0-3—3 in 7 GP) and at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-3—3 in 5 GP).

* His father, **Mike**, played professional hockey in the ECHL, IHL and WCHL after winning two WHL championships with Kamloops in 1994 and Lethbridge in 1997.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A smart, versatile center that can be trusted in all situations and on special teams. Plays a very intelligent two-way game and has an effective puck distribution game in all zones. Very good in the face-off circle and takes most of his teams' key draws. Reads the play extremely well and has good creativity and execution off the rush and on the power play as well as being a top-notch penalty killer. Has the speed and quickness to slip around and beat defenders and has good hands and moves in tight and to the net. He competes, battles hard and does a lot of the little things very well.



TANNER HOWE

Left Wing | Regina (WHL)

Born: Prince Albert, Sask.

No. 41-ranked North American Skater

* Served as captain for the Regina Pats in 2023-24 and notched a team-leading 28-49—77 in 68 GP.

* He was in the top 15 for scoring in last season after posting 36-49—85 (67 GP), highlighted by a 12-game point streak that included a six-point performance and four-point night.

* Posted 27-42—69 in 64 GP during his first full WHL season in 2021-22, tied for second in scoring across the league among all players age 16 or younger behind teammate **Connor Bedard** (51-49—100 in 62 GP).

* Won gold with Canada at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-2—4 in 5 GP), bronze at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (0-1—1 in 7 GP) and also represented his country at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Just completed his third full season in the WHL and was named Regina Pats captain at the start of the 2023-24 season. A team leader in minutes played and plays a big role on special team units. Utilized in all key situations; generates a high percentage of his team's offensive production. He plays and competes bigger than his size and doesn't back down in any situation. Quick, agile, smart and slick with the puck. Consistently creates scoring chances. Plays a smart and effective game without the puck creating steals and turnovers which he converts into offensive opportunities – always a dangerous scoring threat.

JACOB BATTAGLIA

Right Wing | Kingston (OHL)

Born: Mississauga, Ont.

No. 42-ranked North American Skater

* Finished second on the Frontenacs in points with 31-34—65 in 67 GP and was one of just six players age 17 or younger in the OHL to score 30-plus goals in 2023-24.

* In 2022-23, he recorded 7-20—27 (66 GP) to finish in the top 15 for scoring among rookies across the OHL and with the second most on his team.

* Although not related to former NHLer **Bates Battaglia**, Jacob is often referred to as "Bates" by his teammates.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Strong on his feet with a good puck protection game down low. Can play in the contact areas. Plays a smart, confident game and reads the play well. The type of player that wants the puck on his stick. Utilizes his soft hands and shifty moves in tight to make things happen. Smart read and react game to get chances. Has a quick release and a good finishing shot.



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MAX PLANTE

Left Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)

Born: Duluth, Minn.

No. 43-ranked North American Skater

* Posted 15-46—61 in 51 contests with Team USA's NTDP Under-18 team, ranking second on the team in assists and sixth in points.

* The Univ. of Minnesota Duluth commit ranked third on Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team in points and second in assists during the 2022-23 season, with 11-35—46 (54 GP).

* Collected 2-9—11 (7 GP) en route to a silver medal with Team USA at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship – tied for the fourth-most points among his teammates. He also won gold at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he ranked second among all players in the tournament in assists (0-10—10 in 7 GP).

* Comes from a hockey family as his father, **Derek Plante**, skated in 450 career games in the NHL and totaled 96-152—248 split between the Sabres, Stars, Blackhawks and Flyers. Derek served as assistant coach of the Blackhawks in 2023-24.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Plays top six minutes and in all situations. Compete level and intensity make him an excellent forechecker. Uses elite vision and hockey sense to create scoring chances. Moves the puck quickly making it difficult to defend the offensive opportunities he creates.

TEDDY STIGA

Center | USA U-18 (NTDP)

Born: Boston, Mass.

No. 44-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded 36-43—79 in 61 GP with Team USA's NTDP Under-18 team – the third most goals, assists (tied) and points among all players.

* Tallied 12-9—21 in 49 GP with Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team during the 2022-23 season.

* Wore an "A" for Team U.S.A. as he helped his country capture silver at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, posting the third-most goals and fourth-most points (tied) among his team (6-5—11 in 7 GP), and was named a "Top 3 Player on Team." He also won a gold medal at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

* Committed to Boston College for the 2024-25 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

An NHL skater with excellent speed and quickness, both with and without the puck. Smart offensive player that knows where to go for scoring chances and is a very effective finisher. Plays with high energy and pace. Finishes his checks and is very disruptive on the forecheck. Quality passer who keeps his head up and finds his teammates well. He has a deceptively good shot and a release that comes off his stick quickly. Excellent combination of skating, hockey sense and compete level make him well suited to play the pro game.



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LUKAS FISCHER

Defense | Sarnia (OHL)

Born: Pontiac, Mich.

No. 45-ranked North American Skater

* Tallied 6-28—34 (68 GP) in 2023-24, the second-most assists by a Sarnia Sting player this season. He also tied for the fifth-most points on his team.

* Posted 3-7—10 in 47 GP with the Sting in 2022-23, the second-most points on the team among rookies.

* Skated for Team White in the 2024 Kubota CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game in Moncton, N.B.

* His father, **Jiri**, was drafted by the Red Wings with the No. 25 pick in the 1998 NHL Draft and skated six seasons with the club, winning a Stanley Cup in 2002. Today, he serves as Detroit's director of player personnel.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A Michigan product and son of former Red Wings defenseman Jiri Fischer. Possess a good combination of size and skills on the back end. He processes the game well and has the poise and skills to make plays. A strong skater who moves well in all directions and has an accelerator when he needs it. Displays the ability to be a solid defender and continues to develop his game. One of the youngest prospects for the 2024 NHL Draft who with his combination of size, skating and skills make him an intriguing prospect.

LUCA MARRELLI

Defense | Oshawa (OHL)

Born: Toronto, Ont.

No. 46-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded 6-51—57 in 67 GP during the 2023-24 regular season with the Oshawa Generals. His 51 assists were the second most among his teammates and sixth most in the OHL among defensemen.

* Ranked second in assists and fourth in points among OHL defensemen during the 2024 playoffs, with 2-11—13 in 21 contests to help the Generals reach the OHL final.

* Posted 5-23—28 (58 GP) in his sophomore season, the most goals among Generals defensemen in 2022-23 as well as the second-most points and assists.

* He has been named OHL Academic Player of the Month twice (January 2022 & February 2023).

* His uncle, **Colin Chaulk**, served as head coach of the AHL's Bakersfield Condors in 2023-24.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A dynamic skater who is always on top of the play and plays a very complete game. He makes smart, calculated decisions with the puck and is able to keep himself out of trouble while making the right plays. Comfortable with the puck on his stick in all three zones and capable of getting physically involved. Provides a steady presence in the defensive zone. Plays with poise and confidence, he will jump in the offensive zone to get involved in the cycle down low or walk the line and make something happen.



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JAVON MOORE

Left Wing | Minnetonka (HIGH-MN)

Born: St. Louis Park, Minn.

No. 47-ranked North American Skater

* Ranked first on his Minnetonka high school team in goals, third in assists and third in points, with 26-27—53 in 28 GP during the 2023-24 season.

* Moore finished his third season with Minnetonka and ranks fourth on the school's all-time list for goals (53), assists (73) and points (126).

* Committed to the Univ. of Minnesota for the 2024-25 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Completed his final season of Minnesota high school hockey. Good size forward that is a dominant player because of his smooth skating and puck skills. Able to beat players with a power or finesse style game. Shows a nice scoring touch and when he is around the net, possesses the skills to consistently finish. A very complete player.

ETHAN PROCYSZYN

Center | North Bay (OHL)

Born: Wasaga Beach, Ont.

No. 48-ranked North American Skater

* Tallied 15-21—36 in 62 contests with the Battalion in 2023-24, helping lead the club to the OHL Eastern Conference Finals where he recorded 2-4—6 (16 GP).

* Posted 5-13—18 in 62 GP during the 2022-23 season and was named the Battalion's Rookie of the Year.

* Won a silver medal with Team Canada Red at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-1—4 in 7 GP).

* Played competitive baseball and soccer and was named 2024 Athlete of the Year in Wasaga Beach, Ont.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A solid all-around two-way player with a strong work ethic. A reliable player that can be sent out to protect a lead and competes effectively in all three zones. Plays with a physical energy that is contagious and is hard to play against. He is strong in the face-off circle and one of the better checkers in this Draft class. Has the ability to make smart, solid plays with the puck off the rush and has a good cycle and puck protection game down low. Displays many pro elements in his game.



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ILYA PROTAS
Left Wing | Des Moines (USHL)
Born: Vitebsk, Belarus
No. 49-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded the most assist and second-most points this season by a Des Moines Buccaneers player, with 14-37—51 in 61 contests. In addition to leading all USHL rookies in assists in 2023-24, he also registered the fifth-most points by a Buccaneers's player skating in their debut season.

* Posted 19-15—34 in 29 GP with Under-17 Team Belarus in 2022-23 as well as 5-4—9 in 10 contests with the Under-18 team.

* His brother, **Aliaksei**, was drafted 91st overall by the Capitals at the 2019 NHL Draft and has 13-40—53 in 169 career games with the franchise.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Big player that has excellent puck skills and vision to find his open passing and shooting options. Skating stride is smooth. Plays a 200 ft. game and has the making of a power forward with continued development. Production in the second half of the season was consistent. Has a lot of pro elements in his game.

CARSON WETSCH
Right Wing | Calgary (WHL)
Born: North Vancouver, B.C.
No. 50-ranked North American Skater

* Recorded 25-25—50 in his sophomore season, ranking third on the WHL's Calgary Hitmen in goals and fourth (tied) in points.

* In 2022-23, Wetsch posted accumulated 10-11—21 in 45 GP and ranked second on his team among rookies.

* Wetsch has won multiple medals, taking home gold with Team Canada at the Under-18 World Hockey Championship (2-1—3 in 6 GP) and at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP). He also had 2-2—4 (7 GP) for Team Canada Red at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in their silver-medal performance.

* Serves as a player ambassador for Hockey Gives Blood in Calgary, raising awareness about the need for new blood donors in Canada.

* His cousin **Ryan Nugent-Hopkins** was a first overall pick by the Edmonton Oilers in the 2011 NHL Draft and has recorded 251-448—699 in 881 career NHL games.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A versatile winger that can be deployed in all situations including special teams. A powerful skater with good balance and strength on his skates. Possesses a heavy shot. Shows a good touch with the puck and can make clever, accurate passes under pressure. Gets to scoring areas and has a solid frame to protect pucks. Drives hard to the net, finishes his checks with authority and battles effectively in the corners. Plays a solid power forward style game.



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RAOUL BOILARD
Center | Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)
Born: Sherbrooke, Que.
No. 51-ranked North American Skater

* Led all QMJHL rookies in assists and points during the 2023-24 campaign, recording 22-40—62 in 68 GP with the Baie-Comeau Drakkar. His 62 points also marked the fourth most by a rookie in franchise history.

* In 2022-23, Boilard split his season between the BCHL's Alberni Valley Bulldogs and Salmon Arm Silverbacks, posting 6-8—14 (23 GP) and 4-4—8 (25 GP), respectively.

* His older brother, **Jules**, also played for the Baie-Comeau Drakkar in 2023-24.

* Partook in competitive alpine skiing until age 14, a sport his father, **Michel**, won a bronze medal in at the 1979 Canada Winter Games. He also mountain biked competitively – in 2018 he finished second in Quebec.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Rookie season in the QMJHL and performed very well. Plays a well-rounded game and finds ways to chip in on a deep Baie-Comeau team. Responsible player who can be inserted anywhere in a lineup. Has an excellent skill set, handles and moves the puck well under pressure and displays good playmaking abilities. Has a good shot release and finishing touch; is a legit scoring threat. Offers good center support all over the ice, helps his defense down low while getting in position to transition pucks to offense. Good hockey IQ and good feel for the game. Agile skater who can impact the game in many ways. Possesses a lot of pro elements in his game.

HARRISON BRUNICKE
Defense | Kamloops (WHL)
Born: Johannesburg, South Africa
No. 52-ranked North American Skater

* Tallied 10-11—21 through 49 GP in 2023-24, the second-most points by a Kamloops Blazers defenseman this season.

* He ranked second among all Kamloops Blazers rookies in scoring during the 2022-23 season, accumulating 4-4—8 in 59 GP.

* Helped Team Canada win the gold medal at the 2024 World Junior Championship, where he tallied the third-most points on his team among defensemen (1-3—4).

* He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa but his family moved to Calgary, Alberta when he was young. He can become the first South Africa-born skater in NHL history and just the second drafted player behind **Olie Kolzig**.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Good combination of size, skating and skill. Stepped his play up this season to earn a top four role and be utilized in all situations. Good size and reach to defend, has an active stick to effectively disrupt the attack. Plays the body well and is willing to engage to defend himself and step up for his teammates. Good game handling and moving the puck in tight areas. Makes good zone exits and can dish the puck to either side. Likes to join the attack and can generate offensive chances. Game is maturing and made significant gains this year.



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MIGUEL MARQUES

Right Wing | Lethbridge Hurricanes (WHL)

Born: Winnipeg, Man.

No. 53-ranked North American Skater

* Led the Lethbridge Hurricanes in scoring after posting 28-46—74 (67 GP), marking a 54-point improvement from his rookie campaign, including 23 multi-point games and three four-point outings.

* In 2022-23, Marques tallied 8-12—20 (59 GP) and finished tied for the most points by a rookie on his team.

* Made his WHL debut as a 15-year-old, skating in 10 games in 2021-22 (2-4—6 in 10 GP).

* Averaged a point per game for Team Canada White at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A smooth and skilled offensive winger. Not big but has good balance and strength on his skates. Quick, fast, and agile. Has the ability to create space with his skating and moves. Can be hard to check for opponents, spinning off contact and opening up options. Has the ability to find teammates in prime scoring areas, consistently generating scoring chances. Plays with pace and can slow it down and draw defenders in. Does a good job of drawing penalties both with speed/quickness and an ability to get under opponent's skin. Another player with the innate ability where the puck follows him, he makes his teammates better and drives the offense for his team.

WILLIAM ZELLERS

Left Wing | Shattuck St. Mary's Prep (HIGH-MN)

Born: Maple Grove, Minn.

No. 54-ranked North American Skater

* Led the U.S. high school league in goals and points in 2023-24, after posting 57-54—111 (54 GP).

* Zellers has scored 95 goals with Shattuck St. Mary's Prep over the past four seasons, which is the fifth most on the [school's all-time list](#). Notable players he trails includes **Zach Parise** (2nd; 146) and **Jonathan Toews** (3rd; 112).

* Won a bronze medal at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and finished tied for the most goals among Team USA (5) and second in points (7).

* The Univ. of North Dakota commit dreamed of going to the school since he was three – he attended UND games before he could walk dressed in team onesies. His parents, **Kim** and **Kurt**, attended the school. His dog is named 'Boeser,' after watching Canucks forward **Brock Boeser** post a four-point outing in the 2016 NCAA national championship game.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

High-end skilled forward that plays a fast physical game. Gets in on the forecheck quickly and seems to always come away with the puck. Has an ability to be creative with the puck and find ways to get his shot off despite tight quarters, making him a constant scoring threat. Plays a two-way game which makes him a threat on the penalty kill as much as on the power play. Displays excellent hockey sense and an ability to score big goals making him a go to guy on his team.



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COLE HUTSON

Defense | USA U-18 (NTDP)

Born: St. Louis, Mo.

No. 55-ranked North American Skater

* Averaged a point per game in the 2023-24 campaign (15-36—51 in 51 GP) and set a USA's NTDP record for career points by a defenseman (119).

* In 2022-23, Hutson set USA Hockey's NTDP record for most points by a defenseman in a single season after posting 10-58—68 (61 GP).

* Committed to Boston Univ. for the 2024-25 season.

* Won a gold medal at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship, finishing with the most assists and points among all blueliners (1-11—12 in 7 GP) and at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he topped the tournament in scoring by a defenseman (0-9—9 in 7 GP). He also won silver at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, another tournament he topped in goals, assists and points among blueliners after posting 4-9—13 (7 GP).

* His brother, **Lane**, was drafted 62nd overall by the Canadiens in the 2022 NHL Draft and played his first two games with the club last season (0-2—2 in 2 GP). His father, **Rob**, was a forward who played four seasons of NCAA hockey with the University of Illinois-Chicago from 1992-93 to 1995-96 and also spent time playing in the ECHL and UHL.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Plays top pair minutes on defense and is the quarterback for the first power play. A very elusive skater, especially when managing the puck. Elite vision especially in the attacking zone. An excellent passer who can find an open seam to create scoring chances. Very tough to contain when managing the puck in traffic. Elite hockey sense separates him from players of similar size and stature.

WILL SKAHAN

Defense | USA U-18 (NTDP)

Born: Anaheim Hills, Calif.

No. 56-ranked North American Skater

* As a defenseman, Skahan accumulated 5-9—14 (60 GP) – the second-most goals by blueliners on Team USA's NTDP Under-18 team.

* In 2022-23, he collected 1-10—11 (60 GP) as a blueliner with Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team and was named USHL's Defenseman of the Week once.

* Was part of Team USA's gold-medal entry in the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-1—1 in 7 GP) and earned a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-1—2 in 7 GP).

* His father, **Sean**, was the strength and conditioning coach for the Anaheim Ducks for 13 seasons (2002-13). He grew up in the locker room after games and for practices and skating with injured players.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Big, physical defenseman that moves well both with and without the puck. Strong defender who is physical and can play with a mean streak. Good job stepping up in neutral zone and closes gaps quickly to take away his opponents' options. Uses very good stickwork to be effective in one-on-one situations. Has good mobility and speed. Uses stick and reach well to his advantage and is effective getting shots through from the attacking blue line.



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TOMAS LAVOIE
Defense | Cape Breton Eagles (QMJHL)
Born: Repentigny, Que.
No. 57-ranked North American Skater

* Collected 3-21—24 as a defenseman with the QMJHL's Cape Breton Eagles, finishing tied for second on his team in scoring among blueliners.

* Completed the 2022-23 campaign with the second-most points by a rookie defenseman on his team (2-14—16 in 59 GP). He also sits in the top two on the franchise list for longest postseason point and assist streak by a rookie blueliner (3 GP).

* Was drafted first overall by the Cape Breton Eagles in the 2022 QMJHL Entry Draft.

* Represented Team Canada Black at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-1—2 in 7 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

The No. 1 overall selection in the 2022 QMJHL Draft. A big, right-handed defenseman who skates well and plays a strong two-way game. Plays a fairly conservative style but is effective in offensive situations. Good structure defensively with good feet and mobility making him tough to play against. His puck game continues to mature. Makes the good first pass and activates smartly when offensive opportunities arise. Plays a smart game at the offensive blue line and gets shots through to the net. He processes the game effectively and displays elements that will transfer well to the NHL.

MAXMILIAN CURRAN
Center | Tri-City Americans (WHL)
Born: Prague, Czechia
No. 58-ranked North American Skater

* Collected 5-27—32 (40 GP) as a rookie in a season cut short due to injury. His .80 points-per-game pace finished as the 10th most across the WHL among rookies (min. 10 GP).

* In 2022-23, Curran split the season between HC Slavia Praha playing in Czechia's Under-17 league where he finished third on his team in scoring despite playing in half of his club's game (15-22—37 in 18 GP). He also played 18 contests with the club's junior team (9-18—27).

* Won a silver medal in the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP) and represented Team Czechia at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-2—3 in 5 GP) and 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-1—1 in 6 GP).

* Played both soccer and basketball at an elite level in Czechia for FC Modřany in 2018 and Tygři Praha in 2016.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Just completed his first season in the WHL after developing in Czechia. A combination of size and skill who uses his reach effectively to control and protect the puck. A playmaker with good vision and the ability to find teammates in the offensive zone to set up goals. Has shown he is capable to play all three forward positions, with good details to his game including face-offs and contributing on both the penalty kill and power play special team units. A prospect whose game is continuing to grow and develop as he adapts to the North American style of play.



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BRODIE ZIEMER
Right Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)
Born: Hutchinson, Minn.
No. 59-ranked North American Skater

* Finished fourth on Team USA's NTDP Under-18 team in scoring and tied for third in assists after posting 27-43—70 (61 GP).

* In 2022-23, Ziemer amassed 18-25—43 (61 GP) – including an eight-game point streak – to finish tied for fifth in scoring on Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team.

* Captained Team USA at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship where he earned a silver medal, finished tied for fifth in the tournament in scoring (3-9—12 in 7 GP) and with the best plus/minus rating (+15). He also won gold at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-3—6 in 7 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A strong skater with speed and quickness. Has good offensive smarts, instincts and skill. Reads the play fast and anticipates smartly to get to the net for chances. Very effective without the puck, gets open to make a play. Excellent decision maker on when to move the puck or take the shot. Very quick in tight spaces and able to pull away with the puck. Leads by example, plays the game hard and the right way.

NATHAN VILLENEUVE
Center | Sudbury Wolves (OHL)
Born: Ottawa, Ont.
No. 60-ranked North American Skater

* Villeneuve collected nearly a point per game in 2023-24 (23-27—50 in 56 GP) – a 28-point improvement over his rookie campaign.

* In 2022-23, he finished with the most points by a rookie on his club after tallying 12-10—22 (55 GP).

* Won a silver medal with Team Canada Red at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and finished with the fifth-highest point total on his club (3-2—5 in 7 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A compact center with good strength and balance. He plays a high-energy, compete game. Always on the puck and around the net for chances. A strong stride skater with good top-end speed, quick to pull away with the puck and from checks. He can be a good net front agitator on the power play and plays a heads-up game with his hockey sense and instincts. He makes things happen with his awareness and extra effort. Poised to set up plays and has a good puck control and movement game. Ultra-responsible 200-foot game. Makes sure on plays and always delivers a consistent work ethic. A reliable player utilized in all situations.



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TOP-RANKED NORTH AMERICAN GOALIES

MIKHAIL YEGOROV

Goaltender | Omaha Lancers (USHL)

Born: St. Petersburg, Russia

No. 1-ranked North American Goaltender

* Finished with a 3.86 goals-against average and .892 save percentage, both the third-best totals among rookie goaltenders in the USHL in 2023-24 (min. 15 GP). He was also just one of five rookie netminders to record a shutout.

* The Boston Univ. commit was named to the USHL All-Rookie Second Team.

* Spent the majority of the 2022-23 season playing in Russia's under-17 league where he posted a 2.26 goals-against average (21 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

He has a huge pro presence and steadily improved throughout the season. Moves well throughout the crease – good structure in his game. Very good positionally, square to shots and challenges the shooters smartly. Very focused and competes well. Very good butterfly coverage sealing the ice and five hole as well as a wide leg extension to protect the low corners. Good lateral play. Does well reading the pass across on one-time plays. Tough to beat down low and in tight situations. Very good post-to-post play and wraparound coverage. Showed good reaction and recovery quickness. Has a chance and the ability to become a very good pro with more development. Huge upside.

CARTER GEORGE

Goaltender | Owen Sound Attack (OHL)

Born: Thunder Bay, Ont.

No. 2-ranked North American Goaltender

* Finished with the second-highest save percentage among all OHL goaltenders in 2023-24 (.907) and sits 11th in goals-against average (3.30).

* Spent the majority of 2022-23 tending goal for the St. Marys Lincolns in the GOJHL where he posted a 13-2-1 record over 17 games (2.74 GAA, .910 SV%, 1 SO).

* Backstopped Team Canada to a gold medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship posting a perfect 6-0-0 record (2.33 GAA, .915 SV%) and 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, posting a 2.26 GAA and .889 SV% across five games.

* His mom, **Tara**, is a decorated competitor in curling, having won bronze at the 2009 Olympic Trials and at the 2010 Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

He gives his team a chance to win virtually every night. Skilled and smart with very good positional play. Strong in tight situations and makes very good reads on pass across plays. Good feet with strong reaction and recovery quickness. Efficient and quick. Good focus and concentration. Great balance in his stance and when moving laterally. Seals the ice when down in the butterfly. Handles the puck outside of his crease area very well.



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LUKAS MATECHA

Goaltender | Tri-City Americans (WHL)

Born: Pardubice, Czechia

No. 3-ranked North American Goaltender

* Was a rookie with the WHL's Tri-City Americans this season where he appeared in 35 games (13-19-1) and finished fourth across the league among rookie goaltenders for save percentage (.901).

* Was the only goaltender at this year's CHL/NHL Top Prospects who posted a perfect performance, stopping all 19 shots he faced.

* Spent the majority of the 2022-23 season with the HC Dynamo Pardubice in Czechia's junior league where he posted a 2.54 GAA and .918 SV% through 32 games (14-18-0).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Completed his first year as a WHL goaltender after developing in Czechia. A huge presence in the net with good angles and positioning. He covers a lot of net even when he's down in the butterfly. A smart and confident goalie who reads and reacts to situations well. He is tough to beat low with a good butterfly that seals the ice and five-hole, while extending his pads to protect the low corners. A well-balanced stance and moves throughout the crease efficiently and challenges smartly. He's got good quickness and is especially quick when flaring out the pads. Has the ability to make key saves for his team.

NICHOLAS KEMPF

Goaltender | USA U-18 (NTDP)

Born: Chicago, Ill.

No. 4-ranked North American Goaltender

* Appeared in 37 games for Team USA's NTDP Under-18 in 2023-24, posting a 23-7-0 record (2.99 GAA, .897 SV%, 3 SO).

* Backstopped Team USA's NTDP Under-17 in 2023-24, where he posted a 15-11-0 record including two shutouts.

* Won gold at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge after posting a 4-0-0 record and the second-lowest goals against average (2.50) and second-highest save percentage (.917) among all goaltenders in the tournament. He also earned a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (5-1-0), finishing with the best goals against average (1.89) and save percentage (.919) of the tournament.

* Committed to Univ. of Notre Dame.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Has a good pro presence in the net. Plays big in all situations. Plays with a lot of confidence, Makes smart reads and is very focused with very good structure in his game. Very good butterfly. Good quickness and athleticism. Competes very hard. Smooth and controlled body movements. Very good feet and crease movements. He does well tracking pucks. Good pro upside.



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DAWSON COWAN
Goaltender | Spokane Chiefs (WHL)
Born: Winnipeg, Man.
No. 5-ranked North American Goaltender

* Posted a 18-20-2 record in 2023-24 with the WHL's Spokane Chiefs (3.59 GAA, .899 SV%).

* Was named WHL Goaltender of the Week for the week ending November 26, 2023, after [scoring the 10th goalie goal in WHL history](#).

* Split his rookie season in 2022-23 between the Winnipeg Ice and the Spokane Chiefs, finishing with a 3.84 goals against average – the sixth lowest among rookies across the league.

* His uncle, **John Stewart**, was a second-round pick by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 1970 NHL Draft (21st overall) and played in 258 career NHL games with the Penguins, Atlanta Flames and California Golden Seals.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A good sized, strong and competitive goalie who plays with confidence and focus. He has good command of his crease and gets square to shots. Smart at reading and reacting to situations with quickness. He's quick to flare out the pads when dropping in the butterfly. Strong on wraparound attempts and in-tight situations to gather up loose pucks. Tracks pucks through traffic well and knows how to handle and move pucks. He is developing into a very good goalie prospect.



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TOP-RANKED INTERNATIONAL SKATERS

ANTON SILAYEV

Defense | Nizhny Novgorod (RUSSIA)

Born: Sarov, Russia

No. 1-ranked International Skater

* A 6'7" defenseman who is one of six players age 17 or younger that played at least one game in Russia's top professional league in 2023-24 and finished with the most points by an under-18 player across the KHL (3-8—11 in 63 GP).

* Named KHL rookie of the month in September.

* Played for Chaika Nizhny Novgorod in Russia's top junior league during the 2024 playoffs (0-3—3 in 10 GP) and helped the club win the MHL bronze medal.

* Skated in Russia's top junior league in 2022-23, recording 2-6—8 in 41 GP as a rookie in a season in which he won Russia's junior league championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A tower on ice with an excellent physical presence. A positive surprise as he has taken a regular spot with Nizhny Novgorod in the KHL. Has improved a lot year-over-year and is now used in all game situations. Surprising mobility for a player of his size, he is active, alert and involved. Two-way defenseman who likes to support and join the offensive rush. Plays with intensity and a great winning attitude. His vision and feel for the game are very good. So are his puck-handling and passing skills. Young but plays a mature game.

IVAN DEMIDOV

Right Wing | SKA St. Petersburg Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)

Born: Sergiyev Posad, Russia

No. 2-ranked International Skater

* Skated four games in the KHL in 2023-24, but has spent the majority of the season in Russia's top junior league where he finished second across the league in points (23-37—60 in 30 GP) and first in points per game (min. 10 GP) with exactly a 2.00 pace.

* Became the 2024 MHL Champion in Russia's top junior league, collecting 11-17—28 in 17 GP for the most goals and points in the playoffs, along with finishing tied for the best plus/minus (+19).

* Was named the 2024 MHL Most Valuable Player after being named Forward of the Month three times.

* Collected a combined 19-45—64 in 44 GP in Russia's top junior league in 2022-23, finishing second in the MHL in assists and third in points. He was also named the league's MVP that season.

* Won gold at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he averaged a point per game in the tournament (2-3—5 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

First noticed as a possible future star when playing youth hockey in the Moscow area. Can play center or wing. A two-way competitor with excellent offensive instincts and a winning attitude. A tremendous skater, excellent puck handler and passer with a great selection of shots. Not overly aggressive but does not shy away from tough situations.



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KONSTA HELENIUS
Center | Jukurit (FINLAND)
Born: Ylojarvi, Finland
No. 3-ranked International Skater

* The 18-year-old skated in Finland's top professional league with Jukurit where he tallied 14-22—36 in 51 GP – the most points by an under-18 player across Liiga. He also averaged a point per game during the playoffs (2-4—6 in 6 GP).

* Split the 2022-23 season between Tappara in Finland's junior league, where he finished seventh in the league in points per game (min. 10 GP) after posting 8-20—28 in 19 GP (1.47), and in Finland's top professional league (3-8—11 in 33 GP).

* Led his country in their bronze-medal entry at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge with 2-9—11 (7), concluding the tournament fifth in scoring. He also skated for Team Finland at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 5 GP) and at the 2024 World Junior Championship (1-1—2 in 7 GP). He was the only under-18 player to record a point at the 2024 World Championship (0-1—1 in 4 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Finished his second season as a regular with Jukurit in Finland's top league. Plays a mature game and does not shy away from the physical side of the game despite his size. A unique skater who always seems to be in the right spot at the right time. Excellent understanding of the game. His playmaking and passing game are outstanding. He is only 17 but is already a key player on his team playing professionally in Finland. Played first or second line center for Finland at the World Junior Championship showing his talent against 19-year-old opponents. Reliable, solid player with a great set of tools.

ADAM JIRICEK
Defense | Plzen (CZECHIA)
Born: Klatovy, Czechia
No. 4-ranked International Skater

* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 campaign with Plzen in Czechia's top men's league (0-1—1 in 19 GP) before having surgery in January that kept him out for the remainder of the 2023-24 season.

* In 2022-23, Jiricek posted 12-17—29 in 41 GP with Plzen's junior team, ranking first (tied) in the league for goals by a defenseman and eighth in points among blueliners.

* Internationally, has earned medals at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (silver), where he posted 0-3—3 in 5 GP and at the 2024 World Junior Championship (bronze) where he appeared in only one game due to injury.

* His brother, **David**, is also a defenseman and current member of the Blue Jackets who was a first-round pick by the club in 2022 (sixth overall).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A defenseman with good size, strength and physical presence. Very good vision, reading the play well. Good mobile skater for a player of his size. Two-way player that likes to join the rush. Still at his best in the defensive zone, where he is an effective checker who stays with his man. Excellent competitor who works hard on every shift. Keeps his play simple and effective. Has all the tools needed to become a star.



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MICHAEL BRANDSEGG-NYGARD
Right Wing | Mora (SWEDEN-2)
Born: Oslo, Norway
No. 5-ranked International Skater

* Spent the majority of 2023-24 within Mora of Sweden's second division, tallying 8-10—18 (41 GP) – totals that finished as the most by an under-19 player in the league. He also played seven games with Mora's junior team where he averaged nearly two points per game (5-7—12).

* Finished second on Mora's junior team in goals (tied) and points in 2022-23 after posting 17-21—38 (35 GP), a season in which he also saw his first action with Mora's men's team (1-2—3 in 11 GP).

* Won a gold medal with Team Norway at the 2023 World Junior Championship – Division 1 to help his country earn promotion to the 2024 World Junior Championship, where he tied for the team lead with 3-2—5 in 5 GP. He also played for his country at the 2024 World Championship, finishing third on his team in scoring (3-2—5 in 7 GP) – one of the two players with more points was Wild forward **Mats Zuccarello** (0-6—6 in 5 GP).

* Can become the first player born in Norway to be selected in the first round of the NHL Draft.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

The best Norwegian prospect in years, A power forward who played his second season with Mora in Sweden where he has gained a lot of experience playing in the men's league. A competitive power forward with very good skating, excellent offensive instincts and a great winning attitude. He has solid size and strength, effective in battles both in open ice and along the boards. Has the tools needed to become very good. Was the key player for Norway at the World Junior Championship and also appeared in games for Norway's men's national team.

EMIL HEMMING
Right Wing | TPS (FINLAND)
Born: Vaasa, Finland
No. 6-ranked International Skater

* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season with TPS in Finland's top professional league where the 17-year-old forward recorded 7-4—11 in 40 GP – the second-most points by an under-19 player behind **Konsta Helenius** (No. 3-ranked ITL skater). He has also averaged well over a point per game in 13 appearances with the TPS junior club this season, where he also wore an "A" (11-7—18 in 13 GP).

* Won a silver medal in Finland's junior league in 2023-24, finishing the playoffs with 5-5—10 (11 GP).

* Internationally, Hemming represented Finland at the 2024 World Junior Championship (0-2—2 in 7 GP) and the 2024 Under-18 World Championship. He also helped his country earn bronze at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-2—5 in 5 GP).

* His father, **Jonas**, was a forward who had a lengthy hockey career with stops in Finland, Norway, Germany, Austria, Italy and Sweden.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A natural sniper who started the 2023-24 season with the TPS junior team but was quickly called up to the men's club. Scored his first Liiga goal in his first game and is now a regular on the team. Strong skater. Competitive, active forward with great offensive instincts including a fine selection of shots. A scoring threat on every shift. Strong body, effective in battles. Reliable team player who understands his defensive duties. Power-forward.



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LEO SAHLIN WALLENIUS
Defense | Vaxjo Jr. (SWEDEN-Jr.)
Born: Skovde, SWE
No. 7-ranked International Skater

* The blueliner wore an "A" for Vaxjo's junior club and topped his team in scoring with 11-31—42 (43 GP). He also finished atop the league in assists by a defenseman and second in points by a blueliner.

* Was named the best defenseman in Sweden's top junior league in 2023-24.

* Split the 2022-23 season between Vaxjo's under-18 team, where he averaged nearly a point per game (7-10—17 in 20 GP) as well as 30 games with their junior team (2-6—8 in 30 GP).

* Wore an "A" for Team Sweden during their bronze-medal entry at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (0-3—3 in 7 GP). He also represented his country at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, finishing tied for second in the tournament in points by a defenseman (1-4—5 in 4 GP), as well as at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge (2-2—4 in 6 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A smart, skilled mobile two-way defenseman with very good offensive instincts. Excellent understanding of the game. A finesse-type of player. Smooth, solid skater with speed, balance and mobility. Very good feeling for the game, smart, cool in all situations. Excellent puck-handler with smart breakout passes. Solid, responsible team player.

ARON KIVIHARJU
Defense | HIFK (FINLAND)
Born: Esbjerg, Denmark
No. 8-ranked International Skater

* Kiviharju played only seven games 2023-24 due to injury, but played them all in Finland's top professional league (1-1—2 in 7 GP).

* Spent the majority of the 2022-23 season with TPS's junior team, finishing third on his club in points by a defenseman despite playing half the games of the two above him (2-18—20 in 22 GP). He also made his professional hockey debut that season, tallying three assists through 21 games in Finland's top professional league.

* Most recently, he captained his country at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (0-3—3 in 5 GP). He won bronze with Team Finland at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (0-6—6 in 6 GP) and 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he led his club with (1-5—6 in 5 GP). He also was part of Finland's entry at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (0-7—7 in 5 GP), finishing second on his club in scoring.

* His father, **Jani**, has been a professional scout for the Coyotes for the past four years and played professional hockey in Europe for over two decades.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Extremely talented defenseman who got a lot of useful experience playing regular with and against men in the Finnish League with a strong HIFK team. Compensates his lack of size and physical strength with his excellent understanding and feel for the game. Always seems to be at the right place at the right time doing the right things. He plays a surprisingly mature game using his great overall skills including skating, passing, shot, smart decisions and confidence. A highly-skilled finesse-type "A" prospect.



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IGOR CHERNYSHOV

Left Wing | Dynamo Moscow (RUSSIA)

Born: Penza, Russia

No. 9-ranked International Skater

* Spent half of 2023-24 with Dynamo Moscow's junior team (13-15—28 in 22 GP) where he finished with the eighth-highest points per game rate (1.27; min. 10 GP). He also spent 34 games playing professionally in the KHL (3-1—4 in 34 GP).

* Finished 2023-24 tied for the fourth-most goals by an undrafted teenager in the KHL.

* Spent the majority of 2022-23 in Russia's junior league where he wore an "A" for his club and tallied 18-20—38 (38 GP). He also scored his first professional goal as a 17-year-old skating in the KHL (1-0—1 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Can play both center and the wing. A well-sized, strong two-way power forward with an excellent feel for the game. He is a surprisingly mobile, speedy skater for a player of his size. Good set of tools including skating, passing, puck-handling and shot. Makes smart decisions and uses his size well in battles. A solid, reliable two-way team-player who is very responsible also in the defensive zone.

LINUS ERIKSSON

Center | Djurgarden (SWEDEN-2)

Born: Stockholm, Sweden

No. 10-ranked International Skater

* In 2023-24, Eriksson played 29 games in Sweden's second-highest professional league (3-8—11 in 29 GP) and finished with the most points by a player age 17 or younger. He also averaged nearly a point per game while playing for Djurgarden's junior team (5-16—21 in 25 GP).

* Won a silver medal in Sweden's second-highest professional league for the 2023-24 season scoring four goals through the playoffs (12 GP)

* Captained his country in their bronze medal entry at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-6—7 in 7 GP), as well as at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 4 GP) and 2023 World Junior A Challenge (2-2—4 in 6 GP). He also skated for Team Sweden at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-2—3 in 6 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A competitive two-way center. Average size, a solid skater with fine first-step quickness and good balance. A reliable team player at his best as a passer and playmaker. He is smart with the puck and effectively setting up plays. Finesse-type of consistent player with a lot of energy. He makes things happen with his hard checking game. Not flashy but reliable and smart on every shift. Has improved a lot during the 2023-24 season.



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LEON MUGGLI

Defense | Zug (SWISS)

Born: Cham, Switzerland

No. 11-ranked International Skater

* Skated in his first professional season with EV Zug of Switzerland's top professional league in 2023-24 and led all under-18 skaters with 3-9—12 in 42 games. His 12 points were the most ever by a defenseman age 17 or younger in league history and just four shy of the record by any skater.

* Split time between the Zug under-17 and junior teams during the 2022-23 season. He served as captain with the under-17 team and posted 5-6—11 in 16 games, while he recorded 1-7—8 in 22 contests with the junior club.

* Represented Switzerland at the 2024 World Junior Championship, where he recorded an assist in four games. He also served as captain of Team Switzerland at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, posting one assist in four contests.

* Captained Team Switzerland to a gold medal at the 2023 European Youth Olympic Festival, where he was named the best defenseman of the tournament.

* Played with his brother, **Tim**, on EV Zug during the 2023-24 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Improved a lot during the 2023-24 season playing regularly with and against men. As the youngest player on the team, saw limited ice time in the beginning of the season. Played regularly with a lot of responsibilities by mid-season. Two-way key player on the on the Swiss Under-20 team. Captain on the Swiss Under-18 team. Not flashy but does his job very well, a mature player with very good vision and hockey IQ. Average size but plays bigger than he is. Aggressive and effective in battles. Powerful, good skater with OK speed and fine balance. Decision-making is top class. Excellent work ethic. Solid, reliable and a very good mobile skater.

JESSE PULKKINEN

Defense | JYP (FINLAND)

Born: Jyvaskyla, Finland

No. 12-ranked International Skater

* He finished third in Liiga scoring among undrafted defensemen age 19 or younger with 2-6—8 in 29 GP during the 2023-24 season after recording 0-4—4 in 43 GP for JYP's junior team in his first year of NHL Draft eligibility in 2022-23 – a four-point improvement in 14 less contests.

* Recorded 11-17—28 in 18 GP with JYP's junior team in 2023-24, leading all defensemen with 1.56 points per game. His 10 points in the playoffs also ranked first among all blueliners (4-6—10 in 7 GP).

* Skated for Finland at the 2024 World Junior Championship, notching 1-2—3 in seven games.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Huge, mobile defenseman is the most improved Finnish prospect in the 2023-24 season. A competitive defenseman with a lot of confidence. Plays with courage, makes things happen and uses his size and reach well. Surprisingly good skater for a player of his size. Tough, likes to be involved. Good overall tools.



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ALFONS FREIJ
Defense | Växjö Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Born: Sölvesborg, Sweden
No. 13-ranked International Skater

* Registered 14-19—33 in 40 GP for Växjö during the 2023-24 season, finishing tied for third in points and fourth in goals among all defensemen in the Swedish junior league.

* Spent the bulk of his 2022-23 season with the Växjö junior team, where he notched 0-8—8 in 32 GP.

* Won a bronze medal with Team Sweden at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he posted 2-4—6 in seven contests to tie for third in scoring among all blueliners in the tournament. He also represented his country at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge – leading all defensemen in the tournament in scoring (2-5—7 in 6 GP) – and the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-2—3 in 6 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Two-way, solid defenseman with very good offensive instincts. Scored close to a point per game during the regular season in the junior league. Uses his skating speed, acceleration and overall quickness very well in the offensive zone. A smart passer and playmaker who often runs the power play both on the club and national team. A finesse-type of defenseman, not overly physical but does not shy away from tough situations. OK size but could be stronger in battles. His overall skills are good. Improved steadily during the 2023-24 season.

DOMINIK BADINKA
Defense | Malmo (SWEDEN)
Born: Chomutov, Czechia
No. 14-ranked International Skater

* Moved to Sweden for the 2023-24 season, where he put up 1-3—4 in 33 GP with Malmö in the country's top professional league as well as 2-11—13 in 17 GP for Malmö's junior team. He was one of just three defensemen age 19 or younger to record a point in the league in 2023-24.

* Recorded 5-21—26 in 43 games for Jokerit in 2022-23 – tied for the most points among all defensemen on the club – en route to a silver medal in the Finnish junior league.

* Played with his twin brother, **Daniel**, on the Jokerit junior team in 2022-23 as well as the Malmö junior team in 2023-24.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Stylish Czechia-born defenseman spent the season with Malmo Under-20 and Malmo men's team in Sweden, after one fine season in Finland with Jokerit's junior team in 2022-23. Tall, physical presence who can use his size. An offensive minded two-way defenseman. A very good mobile skater with a smooth stride, good speed and balance. He likes to jump into the play and rush the puck when the opening presents itself. A very smart player with good decisions. Competitive and plays with confidence in all situations. His overall skills are high class. Plays with a lot of confidence.



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MATVEI SHURAVIN

Defense | CSKA Moskva

Born: Moscow, Russia

No. 15-ranked International Skater

* Played the majority of the 2023-24 season in Russia's junior league (0-7—7 in 22 GP) and made his professional hockey debut with CSKA Moskva, collecting two assists through 11 games in the KHL.

* Skated for Krasnaya Armiya Moskva in Russia's junior league in 2022-23, where the defenseman tallied 3-2—5 through 27 contests.

* His father, **Dmitry**, is a former volleyball player and is now the sports director for a Russian volleyball team.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big, physically strong defenseman. A stay-at-home type of defenseman. Played his first KHL game in early October. At his best in the defensive zone but does also support the attack. Surprisingly mobile, strong skater for a big man. Smooth hands, fine game-opening passes. Has a very good feeling for the game, impressive quick and smart decisions. Competitive player with a strong character. Not overly aggressive but knows how to use his size and strength in battles.

LUCAS PETTERSSON

Center | MoDo Hockey Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Born: Örnsköldsvik, Sweden

No. 16-ranked International Skater

* Skated five games in Sweden's top professional league but spent the majority of 2023-24 as an assistant captain in the country's junior league where he posted 27-30—57 in 44 contests – the third-most goals (tied) in the league this season and 10th-most points. He led his team in all three categories.

* He posted 5-14—19 (29 GP) in his first season in the Swedish junior league, the seventh most assists and points (tied) on MoDo Hockey in 2022-23.

* Served as assistant captain of Team Sweden at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he recorded 3-5—8, including the bronze-medal winning goal. He also wore an 'A' during the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, posting 2-2—4 in four games.

* His cousin, **Linus Pettersson**, is a professional hockey player in Sweden.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A strong and competitive two-way center. Great work ethic. Makes smart moves. A strong skater, effective in battles both in open ice and along the boards. Willing to take a hit to make the play. Has improved a lot, is close to a complete forward.



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SEBASTIAN SOINI**Defense | Ilves Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)****Born: Tampere, Finland****No. 17-ranked International Skater**

* Appeared in six games in Finland's top professional league, where he recorded an assist. He spent the majority of the season on loan to Koovee, where he recorded 0-8—8 – tied for the third-most all-time assists by a defenseman age 17 or younger and fourth-most points in a single season.

* Recorded 3-7—10 in 28 GP with Ilves in Finland's top junior men's league and 1-8—9 in 17 contests with Ilves' under-18 team.

* Won a bronze medal with Finland in 2022 Under-17 World Hockey Challenge, notching 1-3—4 over the seven games.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Big, physically strong defenseman. Has gained a lot of useful experience playing with and against men in Finland's second division. Plays with a lot of confidence. Uses his size well, plays physical and is effective in battles. Good mobile skater for a big man. Has enough speed and good balance. Competitive, plays with a lot of intensity. At his best in the defensive zone, has not produced much on offense. Plays a mature game, good vision, seldom out of position. Solid, reliable "stay-at-home" type of defenseman.

SIMON ZETHER**Center | Rogle BK (SWEDEN)****Born: Helsingborg, Sweden****No. 18-ranked International Skater**

* Played 42 games in Sweden's top professional league, including 15 outings in the playoffs en route to making the finals and earning an SHL SM Silver Medal. He's one of the 13 players in league history to skate in at least 15 contests in a postseason at age 18 or younger.

* Spent 18 games captaining Rogle BK's junior team this season and recorded 11-16—27 in 18 contests – his 1.50 points-per-game rate was tied for the second highest on the club in 2023-24 (min. 10 GP).

* Led Rogle BK's junior team in assists and ranked second in points during the 2022-23 regular season, with 8-30—38 (37 GP). He followed it up by tying the league benchmark for most goals in a postseason with six en route to a gold medal in Sweden's top junior league.

* Won a silver medal with Team Sweden at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship, where he recorded 1-1—2 in seven games.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Big two-way center. started the 23-24 season. Good size, competitive two-way player with very good understanding of the game. Skilled playmaker uses his soft hands and passing skills to move the puck through traffic. Skating speed is average. Expected to be on the Sweden's Under-10 national team in 2024-25 after improving a lot during the 2023-24 season.

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NIKITA ARTAMONOV**Left Wing | Nizhny Novgorod (RUSSIA)****Born: Nizhnekamsk, Russia****No. 19-ranked International Skater**

* Tallied 7-16—23 in 54 GP for Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod in 2023-24 to finish second in KHL scoring among players age 18 or younger and first among undrafted skaters.

* Played the bulk of his 2022-23 season with Chaika Nizhny Novgorod of Russia's top junior league, where he posted 11-18—29 in 41 games, ranking fifth on the team in scoring.

* His 0.42 points-per-game average in his KHL career (7-16—23 in 55 GP) is tied for the sixth-highest rate in league history by a player age 18 or younger (min. 10 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A useful, reliable team player with a strong character. A leader on the ice. Likes to play an offensive style and make things happen with his checking, hard work and surprising moves, He plays a very active game, effective in traffic. Good puck control. Smart. Strong skater with speed. Very good understanding of the game and a player with a strong work ethic.

STIAN SOLBERG**Defense | Valerenga (NORWAY)****Born: Oslo, Norway****No. 20-ranked International Skater**

* Recorded 5-10—15 in 42 GP in Norway's top professional league in 2023-24 to finish first in scoring among all skaters age 18 or younger. His 15 points were also the fourth most in a season in league history by a defenseman age 18 or younger.

* Posted 1-3—4 in 18 contests for Valerenga in 2022-23, the most points in the league by a skater age 18 or younger.

* Represented Norway at the 2024 World Championship (2-1—3 in 7 GP), where he led all Norwegian defensemen in scoring. He also skated at the 2024 World Junior Championship (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and 2023 Under-18 World Championship (0-1—1 in 6 GP).

* The Oslo, Norway native, who signed with Farjestad BK of the SHL for the 2024-25 season, can become just the 10th Norway-born player to skate in the NHL.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A competitive two-way defenseman who plays an active and pretty physical game. He is a good puckhandler and playmaker, often used also on the power play. He is offensive minded, likes to join the rush. He plays with confidence, a surprisingly mature player. Strong skater with good balance and OK acceleration and speed.

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VEETI VAISANEN
Defense | KooKoo (FINLAND)
Born: Hamina, Finland
No. 21-ranked International Skater

* Played the majority of 2023-24 in Finland's top professional league, posting 2-8—10 in 50 GP. He was tied for the most points among all defensemen age 18 or younger in Liiga.

* Was named 2022-23 Rookie of the Year in Finland's premier junior league after posting 3-19—22 in 37 GP, finishing first in scoring among all defensemen aged 16 or younger.

* Won a bronze medal with Finland at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and the 2022 Under-17 World Hockey Challenge. He also wore an "A" for his country at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and also played in that tournament in 2023.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Had injury problems in the beginning of the season but made a strong comeback playing regular as one of the youngest players in Finland's men's league. A competitive, mature defenseman with a very good feel for the game. Smart player. Smooth skater, strong on his feet with a good burst of speed. Makes the transition from defense to offense quickly. Quick stick. Needs to bulk up. Active and involved.

YEGOR SURIN
Center | Yaroslavl Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)
Born: Voronezh, Russia
No. 22-ranked International Skater

* Collected 22-30—52 this season while playing for Loko Yaroslavl in Russia's junior league, finished tied for second in assists and points on his team and tied for ninth in points across the MHL. Surin also made his professional hockey debut in 2023-24 (3 GP).

* Recorded 5-18—23 in 19 playoff games for his team – nine more points than the next closest skater. His 18 playoff assists were the most by any player in the MHL's postseason.

* Won the 2023 MHL bronze medal and was named the league's Rookie of the Month in October.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Skilled two-way center had a strong season with Yaroslavl juniors. A powerful, strong skater with speed and good first-step quickness. Smooth hands, fine understanding of the game and an effective, smart puck handler. Has a fine selection of shots with a quick release. Very good offensive instincts. Can both score and pass. Created scoring chances with his quick, surprising moves around the net. Competitive player with very good work ethic.



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MELVIN FERNSTROM

Right Wing | Orebro Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Born: Bålsta, Sweden

No. 23-ranked International Skater

* Finished with the most goals in Sweden's junior hockey league and tied for the third-most points after posting 31-32—63 (45 GP). His 31 goals are also tied for the eighth most in a single season league history by an under-19 player. He also made his professional hockey debut, skating in the SHL for six games.

* Won a silver medal in Sweden's junior league in 2024 (5-5—10 in 8 GP), as well as a gold medal in their Under-18 league (4-5—9 in 4 GP).

* Won a bronze medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (3-5—8 in 7 GP) and at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (3-2—5 in 4 GP). He also represented his country in their entry at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge and the 2022 Under-17 World Hockey Challenge.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A competitive, offensive-minded wing with very good work ethic and strong offensive instincts. One of the leading scorers on Sweden's Under-18 national team. A sniper with a good selection of shots. Quick release. An effective playmaker and passer who moves the puck at the right time. His hockey sense is top class. Has a fine set of overall tools. Strong skater with a good burst of speed and fine balance. Effective two-way player.

KASPER PIKKARAINEN

Right Wing | TPS Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)

Born: Helsinki, Finland

No. 24-ranked International Skater

* Posted 12-16—28 in 34 GP, finishing tied for third on his team in goals. He also recorded 2-5—7 in the postseason en route to earning a silver medal in Finland's top junior hockey league.

* In 2023-24, he was one of seven players age 17 or younger to skate in at least five games in Liiga – Finland's top professional league.

* Won bronze at the 2022 Under-17 World Hockey Challenge (0-2—2 in 7 GP) and also represented Team Finland at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-0—1 in 5 GP).

* His father, **Ilkka**, was selected 218th overall in the seventh round of the 2002 NHL Draft by the New Jersey Devils. He went on to appear in 31 games with the Devils in the 2009-10 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Power forward. A right wing with good size and physical strength. At his best on the offense. He is an active, mobile forward with a good feel for the game. Skating OK for a big man. Works hard and is an effective checker. His overall skills including skating, shot, passing, puck handling, work ethic, hockey sense and size is above average. He likes to play physical and is pretty aggressive in battles.



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HERMAN TRAFF
Right Wing | HV71 JR. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Born: Vaxjo, SWE
No. 25-ranked International Skater

* Played the bulk of his 2023-24 season with HV71's junior team where he notched 13-8—21 in 26 GP, while also appearing in 10 contests in Sweden's professional league.

* Also played the majority of his 2022-23 campaign in Sweden's junior league with the HV71, posting 9-9—18 in 32 GP. He also made his professional hockey debut by playing a game in the SHL.

* Had the fourth-best performance in the aerobic fitness test at the 2024 NHL Draft Combine with a time of 13:04.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Power forward with good size and physical strength. Surprisingly mobile and a good skater for his size, often surprises opponents with an extra gear. He has a heavy and accurate shot and smooth hands. Likes to be involved and likes to keep the puck until he can make a nice opening pass. He is really active and a great two-way competitor.

ONDREJ KOS
Left Wing | Ilves JR. (FINLAND-JR.)
Born: Kurim, CZE
No. 26-ranked International Skater

* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season with KOOVEE in Finland's second division of professional hockey where he posted 3-2—5 in 14 GP to finish second in league scoring among skaters age 17 or younger.

* Split his 2022-23 season between the Ilves Under-18 Team (9-11—20 in 18 GP) and their junior team (3-8—11 in 17 GP). His 1.11 points-per-game rate with Ilves Under-18 was 11th best in the league among under-17 skaters.

* Won silver with Czechia at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he averaged a point per game (3-2—5 in 5 GP). He also represented his country at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and 2022 Under-17 World Hockey Challenge (2-3—5 in 6 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A mobile, good skater for a player of his size. He is active, involved and plays with a lot of confidence. Reads the game well, sees the ice and delivers smart game-opening passes. Good offensive instincts but does also understand his defensive duties. Very good set of tools including speed, puck handling, shot, work ethic, attitude and hockey sense.



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AATOS KOIVU
Center | TPS JR. (FINLAND-JR.)
Born: Turku, FIN
No. 27-ranked International Skater

* Split his season between TPS' Under-18 Team (9-13—22 in 20 GP) and their junior team where he notched 16-15—31 in 28 GP, leading the club in goals and finishing tied for fifth in scoring among under-18 skaters. He also helped the club win a silver medal in Finland's premier junior league (2-5—7 in 10 GP)

* Koivu made his professional debut, appearing in four contests with Finland's top professional league.

* Recorded 3-4—7 in 28 GP for the TPS Under-18 Team in 2022-23.

* Represented his country at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (0-1—1 in 5 GP).

* His father, **Saku**, played 18 seasons for the Canadiens and Ducks, serving as Montreal's captain for nine years. He also won four Olympic medals for Finland (one silver, three bronze) and was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2017. His uncle, **Mikko**, also played 16 seasons for the Wild and Blue Jackets.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A big, positive surprise during the 2023-24 season, his breakthrough season in Finnish hockey. Like his father, he has great offensive instincts and is both a scorer and playmaker with very good understanding of the game. The winning attitude and great work ethic is also there. Good mobile skater, strong on his skates, OK burst of speed and fine balance. Has a fine selection of shots with a quick release. Mature, effective two-way player.

JACK BERGLUND
Center | Farjestad JR. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Born: Karlstad, SWE
No. 28-ranked International Skater

* Tallied 15-19—34 in 41 GP for Farjestad's junior team in 2023-24, finishing second on the team in goals and points. He went on to win a silver medal in the league's Under-18 championship. He also played in eight games in Sweden's top professional league, where he scored his first SHL goal, finishing with the most points by an under-18 junior.

* Notched 18-22—40 in 37 GP for Farjestad's Under-18 Team during the 2022-23 season.

* Won a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship where he posted 2-3—5 in seven games. He also represented his country at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge (2-1—3 in 6 GP).

* His father, **Christian**, was drafted by the Devils in 1998 and played three seasons in the NHL from 2001-02 to 2003-04 before moving back to Europe to play professionally until 2016-17.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A well-built, powerful center. Compensates his lack of speed with his understanding of the game, he is smart with intelligent decisions on the ice. Often runs the power play. An effective playmaker and passer. Strong puck handler and has fine work ethic.



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GABRIEL ELIASSON
Defense | HV71 JR. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Born: Kungsbacka, SWE
No. 29-ranked International Skater

* Notched 1-5—6 in 36 GP while playing in Sweden's top junior league in 2023-24 and finished as the league's most penalized player (103 PIM).

* In 2022-23, Eliasson collected a combined 1-7—8 while playing in Sweden's Under-18 league

* Won a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, posting one assist in seven contests.

* Committed to the Univ. of Michigan for the 2025-26 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Huge "stay-at-home" type of defenseman who stands out with his size and physical play. He is very effective in battles in front of the net and along the boards. Likes to hit and play physical, sometimes even gritty. A surprisingly mobile and speedy skater for a player of his size. Very competitive with good understanding of the game, plays his position well. Room for improvement in his passing and puck-handling game. Solid and reliable.

ALEXANDER ZETTERBERG
Center | Orebro JR. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Born: Sundsvall, SWE
No. 30-ranked International Skater

* Tallied 21-37—58 in 45 GP for Orebro's junior team, in 2023-24 to finish fourth on his team in scoring, as well as sixth across Sweden's junior league in assists and tied for eighth in points. Among players age 17 or younger, Zetterberg was third in the league.

* Zetterberg helped his club earn a silver medal in Sweden's junior league, averaging 1.75 points per game in the postseason (8-6—14 in 8 GP).

* In 2022-23, he posted 11-23—34 in 43 GP to finish second on the team in points and first among all under-17 players in the Sweden's junior league.

* Won a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship where he tallied 2-3—5 in four games. He also represented his country at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-4—6 in 4 GP) and the 2023 World Junior A Challenge (6-4—10 in 6 GP) – he led his team in scoring at both of those tournaments. Zetterberg also appeared in the 2022 Under-17 World Hockey Challenge.

* Committed to Boston University for the 2024-25 season.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A small but very effective competitive two-way forward with a good set of tools and great offensive instincts. Excellent mobile skater with both quickness and speed. Creates scoring chances with surprising moves in the offensive zone. Sees the ice, moves the puck very well in all situations. An entertaining player, fun to watch. Plays bigger than he is, does not shy away from tight situations. Has been a top scorer in international tournaments.



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TOP-RANKED INTERNATIONAL GOALIES

EEMIL VINNI

Goaltender | Jokipojat (FINLAND)

Born: Vantaa, Finland

No. 1-ranked International Goaltender

* In 2023-24, he played in the second-highest men's league in Finland backstopping Jokipojat to a 17-9-10 record through 37 games (2.72 GAA, .892 SV%, 2 SO). His 2.72 goals against average was the seventh lowest in the league (min. 20 GP).

* Spent the majority of 2022-23 with HIFK's junior team where he posted a 15-12-0 record through 32 GP (2.80 GAA, .894 SV%).

* Made his professional debut in 2022-23, playing two games for HIFK in Finland's top professional league.

* Won bronze at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup after posting a 1.75 goals-against average and a .927 save percentage (4 GP). He was also part of Team Finland in their bronze-medal win at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship, played in the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (3 GP) and was on the roster for the 2024 World Junior Championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

Good size and a winning attitude. Good lateral movements in the butterfly position. Effective overall net coverage with good angle and positional play. Patient and quick on breakaways, has a quick glove hand. Fine overall instincts and reads the game well.

ILYA NABOKOV

Goaltender | Metallurg Magnitogorsk (RUSSIA)

Born: Kasli, RUS

No. 2-ranked International Goaltender

* Played the entirety of the season in the KHL, posting a 23-13-3 record as a rookie. He finished sixth in wins across the league, tied for seventh in save percentage (.930) and was named Rookie of the Month in November.

* Backstopped his club to the KHL Gagarin Cup Championship, posting a 16-6 record for the most wins and lowest save percentage (.942) during the playoffs. The rookie won playoff MVP and was the youngest player in KHL history to receive the honor.

* Won the 2023-24 KHL Aleksei Cherepanov Award as the league's best rookie.

* Spent the majority of the 2022-23 season in Russia's junior league with Stalnye Lisy Magnitogorsk, where he finished with the fourth-lowest goals against average (1.93) and the sixth-best save percentage (.933). He was named the MHL Goaltender of the Month once that season and was a part of the MHL All-Star Game.



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KIM SAARINEN

Goaltender | HPK Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)

Born: Hameenlinna, Finland

No. 3-ranked International Goaltender

* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season with HPK Jr. in Finland's top junior league, where he finished second in save percentage (.917) and 10th in goals against average (2.41). He also made his professional hockey debut, posting a 1-0-1 record in Liiga.

* Won the 2023-24 Jorma Valtonen Award for the best goaltender in Finland's top junior league and was named to the First All-Star Team.

* In 2022-23, he posted a 2.96 GAA and .911 SV% through 24 games in Finland's Under-18 league.

* Played for Team Finland in their bronze-medal performance at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. He was also part of his country's entry at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING:

A good-sized, big goaltender playing mainly on HPK's junior team and was the starting goaltender on Finland's under-18 national team. Plays a hybrid butterfly style. Big frame, good balance and movements. Quick glove and reactions. Competitive and consistent. Reads the game well, tracking pucks through traffic and pushing opponents if screened.

PAVEL MOYSEVICH

Goaltender | SKA St. Petersburg (RUSSIA)

Born: Minsk, Belarus

No. 4-ranked International Goaltender

* Split the 2023-24 season between playing professionally in the KHL where he appeared in 13 games and posted a 1.25 GAA and .942 SV%, both categories sit as the best among all goaltenders. Moysevich spent the remainder of the season in Russia second division where he posted a 10-7-2 record (2.31 GAA, .927 SV%).

* Joined SKA-1946 St. Petersburg in Russia's junior league for the playoffs where he posted an 8-2 record and topped all goalies with his .946 SV% to help his club win the 2024 MHL Championship (1.93 GAA, 1 SO).

* Split the 2022-23 season between Russia's top junior league and the men's second division, where he posted an 8-8-1 record across the two leagues with three shutouts.

MARTIN HARONIK

Goaltender | Bratislava Jr. (SLOVAKIA-JR.)

Born: Bojnice, Slovakia

No. 5-ranked International Goaltender

* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season playing in Slovakia's second tier of professional hockey and also appeared in seven games in Slovakia's junior league where he posted a 6-1-0 record.

* Played in Sweden's Under-18 league in 2022-23 where he posted a 12-10-0 record.

* Represented Team Slovakia at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, the 2023 World Junior A Challenge and the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.



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