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## NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS



### MATTHEW SCHAEFER

Defense | Erie (OHL)

Born: Hamilton, Ont.

No. 1-Ranked North American Skater

\* Schaefer's 1.29 points per game in 2024-25 was the third-highest mark by any OHL defenseman (min. 2 GP) trailing only Saginaw Spirit blueliner **Zayne Parekh** (1.75 P/GP) and London Knights defenseman **Sam Dickinson** (1.65 P/GP).

\* Was named to Team Canada's roster for the 2025 World Junior Championship and tallied 1-1—2 in 2 GP before an injury forced him out of the tournament.

\* Named to OHL First All-Rookie Team in 2023-24 after posting 3-14—17 in 56 GP.

\* Followed Erie Otters franchise cornerstones **Connor McDavid** (2012) and **Ryan O'Reilly** (2007) as the third OHL first overall selection in the organization's history.

\* Captained his team to gold at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His brother, **Jonathan**, also a defenseman, played for the OHL's Niagara IceDogs (2015-16 to 2018-19) and at Brock University (2019-20 to 2022-23).

### NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A second-year OHL defenseman who was selected first overall in the 2023 OHL priority selection. After successfully leading Canada's Under-18 team to gold as captain at the Hlinka-Gretzky, he missed the start of the OHL season and has returned with strong play as a top defense prospect who's on everyone's radar. He does it all on the ice – defends well as an elite skater with good gap control and has the ability and smarts to consistently produce offensively. He has a great feel for the game and knows when to make a simple play, when to block a shot and how to get the job done. His puck retrievals are on point, he can skate his way out of trouble and capably lead the rush offensively. He quarterbackes the power play and is an offensive threat to score or set up teammates. A special talent and top prospect for the Draft.

**MICHAEL MISA**  
**Center | Saginaw (OHL)**  
**Born: Oakville, Ont.**  
**No. 2-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Misa led the CHL in scoring after posting 62-72—134 (65 GP). His season was highlighted by a 28-game point streak – the third-longest across the CHL – 46 multi-point outings (70% of all games he played this season), 16 multi-goal performances, three hat tricks and eight games with four-plus points.

\* Became the first Saginaw Spirit player to lead the CHL in scoring – his point total is tied with **John Tavares** (2006-07 w/ Oshawa Generals) for the most by an OHL U-18 skater since 2000.

\* In January 2025, Misa was named the 26th captain in Spirit history.

\* Was granted “exceptional player” status by Hockey Canada, making him eligible for the 2022 OHL Priority selection at an earlier age, and was selected first overall by Saginaw. In his rookie season of 2022-23, Misa was named OHL Rookie of the Year after leading all first-year skaters with 22-34—56 in 45 GP.

\* Helped Saginaw win the Memorial Cup in his second OHL season (2023-24), where he produced at a point-per-game rate in the tournament (0-5—5 in 5 GP).

\* Helped Canada earn a gold medal at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he tied for the team lead in assists and produced 2-6—8 in 5 GP. He also won silver at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-3—6 in 7 GP).

\* His brother, **Luke**, was a fifth-round pick by the Flames in the 2024 NHL Draft (150th overall) and skated for the OHL's Brampton Steelheads in 2024-25.

### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

The eighth player granted exceptional status by Hockey Canada and the sixth to play in the OHL as a 15-year-old. Drafted No. 1 overall in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection by the Saginaw Spirit. Playing in his third OHL season after winning the 2024 Memorial Cup. Named assistant captain to start the season, he has taken his game to another level and is putting up big offensive numbers. He's bigger, stronger and faster than previous seasons. His first three steps are lightning quick and when you add the elite skill set and elite hockey IQ, he's a very dangerous offensive threat. A clever playmaker who makes plays at speed and knows how to put the puck in the net. Plays with a consistent, impressive compete level and knows how to use his body to win puck battles. When he's on the ice his quickness, creativity and hockey sense are off the charts.

## **JAMES HAGENS**

**Center | Boston College (NCAA)**

**Born: Hauppauge, N.Y.**

**No. 3-Ranked North American Skater**

- \* Concluded the season fourth in points among freshmen across the nation (11-26—37 in 37 GP) and third on Boston College in scoring behind his teammates who have already been drafted: **Ryan Leonard** (49 pts; No. 8 in 2023 by WSH) and **Gabriel Perreault** (48 points; No. 23 in 2023 by NYR).
- \* Won gold at the 2025 World Junior Championship and finished tied for the fourth-most goals in the tournament (5) and fourth on Team USA in points (9) behind three players already drafted into the NHL.
- \* Led USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-18 Team in 2023-24 after posting 39-63—102 (58 GP) – 13 points more than the next-closest player (**Cole Eiserman**: No. 20 in 2024 by NYI).
- \* Finished his NTDP career ranking fifth in program history for career points (187) and career assists (115).
- \* Won gold at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 7 GP) and the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he averaged three points per game to finish with the most assists (13) and points (21) in the tournament.
- \* Earned a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship – Hagens was named tournament MVP and best forward after finishing with the most assists and points (9-13—22 in 7 GP).
- \* He currently plays with his brother, **Michael**, at Boston College. Their father, **Michael Sr.**, played three seasons of college hockey at SUNY-Brockport (NCAA Division III).

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

An NCAA freshman playing center for a very talented Boston College team. A very good skater with a dynamic heads-up game who plays with confidence, patience and savvy with the puck. Ultra quick ability to read and react. Always a scoring threat off the rush and can set up his teammates from anywhere on the ice. Elusive with the puck and can deceive defenders by looking them off and making a pass or taking a shot that is unexpected. Excellent hands and makes creative plays that others just can't see. A special player with elite hockey sense and compete level. The type of player that elevates his game when it counts the most. He wants the puck on his stick and has "Game Changer" ability. The complete offensive package with a very high hockey intelligence in all three zones.

## **JAKE O'BRIEN**

**Center | Brantford (OHL)**

**Born: Whitby, Ont.**

**No. 4-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished the season tied for seventh in assists and points across the OHL after amassing 32-66—98 (66 GP), while his 41 power-play assists led the league. His season included two hat tricks, a five-point outing and 14 games with three-plus points, which helped Brantford finish first in their conference.

\* Won MVP honors for Team East in their overtime win at the OHL's Inaugural Connor McDavid Top Prospects Game after posting 0-3—3, including setting up the game winner.

\* Led the OHL in points and assists among rookies in 2023-24 after posting 13-51—64 (61 GP), which included 19 multi-point games. His 51 assists were 15 more than the next-closest rookie.

\* Won the Emms Family Award as the OHL's rookie of the year in 2023-24 and was named to the CHL All-Rookie Team.

\* Won gold at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and represented Team Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His mother, **Amy Turek**, was a women's hockey star in the 90s playing Canadian University Hockey at Wilfred Laurier University, for the Beatrice Aeros of the NWHL and for Team Canada at various events.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Possesses a lot of offensive tools in his toolbox – his hockey sense being the biggest one. Natural ability and instincts to see the ice and read the play very well. The type of player every teammate wants to play with as you know he'll find you with the puck for a scoring chance. Great hands, puck skills and creativity as well as the finishing touch to put the puck in the net. Responsible. Uses his smarts defensively and is always in the right spot with good details. A very high ceiling as he still has lots of room to grow and get stronger.

**RADIM MRTKA**  
**Defense | Seattle (WHL)**  
**Born: Havlickuv, Czechia**  
**No. 5-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Recorded 3-32—35 (42 GP) in his first season playing in North America to finish third in points per game (0.81) among rookie defensemen. He also finished tied for fifth on his team in scoring and tops among both defense and rookie categories.

\* Split the 2023-24 season between HC Ocelari Trinec's Under-17 team and their junior team. With the U-17 club, Mrtka posted 3-10—13 (18 GP) for the 12th-highest points-per-game rate among defenseman, while his 4-7—11 (19 GP) on their junior team marked the third-most points by a 16-year-old defenseman across the league.

\* Made his professional debut in 2023-24 skating in three games at the highest level of hockey in Czechia.

\* Won silver with Czechia at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. He also represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, 2024 Under-18 World Championship and 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A huge 6'6" right-handed two-way defenseman. He looks like the prototype of an NHL player. A mobile, strong skater with good acceleration and speed for a player of his size. Plays with confidence, handles the puck well, and likes to use his big frame in battles. Good reach and a fine understanding of the game. Plays a solid two-way game and likes to join the rush. Makes smart passes. Tough to play against close to the net. Fine work ethic. Very good with the puck under checking pressure. Generates many shots from the back end, especially when playing on the power play. Good at jumping down from the point to finish off a scoring chance. Boxes out and protects his net-front well. Wins board battles with consistency. Sticks up for and comes to the aid of teammates. Effective on the penalty kill with a good and active stick to strip and disrupt.

## **PORTER MARTONE**

**Right Wing | Brampton (OHL)**

**Born: Peterborough, Ont.**

**No. 6-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Captain of the OHL's Brampton Steelheads in 2024-25, Martone concluded the season seventh in points (tied), fourth in game-winning goals (tied) and 11th in goals (tied) across the league (37-61—98 in 57 GP).

\* Recorded 4-5—9 in their first round series against the Oshawa Generals in the 2025 postseason, where he averaged 1.50 points per game despite falling to Oshawa in six contests.

\* Split his 2022-23 OHL rookie season with Sarnia and Mississauga, where he ranked 11th in rookie scoring with 19-16—35 in 61 GP. He doubled that output in his second OHL season, leading his team in goals while producing 33-38—71 in 60 GP.

\* One of three draft-eligible players on Team Canada's roster at the 2025 World Junior Championship (1-0—1 in 3 GP). He also represented his country alongside **Sidney Crosby** and **Nathan MacKinnon** at the 2025 World Championship.

\* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-3—5 in 5 GP) and at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he captained his country and finished second in the tournament for assists (12) and third in points (17). He also has a silver from the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (7-5—12 in 7 GP) and bronze from the 2023 Under-18 World Championship.

\* His father, **Mike**, was a fourth-round pick by the Sabres in the 1996 NHL Draft (106th overall) who captained the OHL's Peterborough Petes in junior and played pro in the AHL and ECHL – winning the ECHL's Kelly Cup in 1998-99 with the Mississippi Sea Wolves.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A third-year OHL player originally selected fifth overall by the Sarnia Sting in the 2023 OHL Priority selection. Named captain of the Brampton Steelheads to start the 2024-25 season. Putting up outstanding offensive numbers and can play any type of game which will translate well at the next level. Elite hockey sense which allows him to slow the game down to the pace he chooses. He also has the elite puck skills and hands to take advantage of the time and space he creates. Can play physical and will back it up. Has a nose for the net that you can't teach, utilizing his puck control, reach and skills to lead his team's offense. Can score goals in all different ways. Plays the right way in all situations and is his team's leader for a reason.

## **CALEB DESNOYERS**

**Center | Moncton (QMJHL)**

**Born: Saint-Hyacinthe, Que.**

**No. 7-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Amassed 35-49—84 in 56 GP to finish the season tied for fifth in scoring across the league and ninth in assists. He also recorded a 15-game point streak (12-15—27), which was the third longest by a QMJHL player this season.

\* Posted 9-21—30 (19 GP) to help the Wildcats win the 2024 QMJHL championship. He finished second in scoring and first in assists across the league in the postseason to earn QMJHL Playoffs MVP (Guy Lafleur Trophy) and went on to tally 1-1—2 (4 GP) during the Memorial Cup.

\* Won the 2024-25 QMJHL Personality of the Year (Paul Dumont Trophy).

\* Finished third in rookie scoring across the QMJHL in 2023-24 after posting 20-36—56 (60 GP), second in assists and seventh in goals.

\* Is a three-time gold medalist, winning the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-2—5 in 8 GP), where he wore an 'A,' the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 5 GP) and the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-4—5 in 5 GP).

\* His brother, **Elliot**, was selected by the Flyers 135th overall in the 2020 NHL Draft. He spent four years playing in the QMJHL and concluded his time in the league by captaining the Halifax Mooseheads. Elliot appeared in four games with Philadelphia in 2022-23 and has spent the past three seasons playing in the AHL.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Second season in the QMJHL. Played an important role with Canada at the Hlinka-Gretzky Cup. A versatile, two-way player who can contribute to a team in a variety of ways. His hockey IQ is very good and he has a good sense of anticipation. Good offensive skills with his vision and feel for the game. Very good playmaker who also displays a scoring touch around the net. He's willing to do most of the dirty work to retrieve 50-50 pucks and will play a physical style when needed. His skating is good and will continue to get more powerful as he matures physically. Plays the center position well, supports his defensemen down low in his zone and will break up plays. Prospect who has lots of transferable pro elements in his game.



**ROGER McQUEEN**  
**Center | Brandon (WHL)**  
**Born: Saskatoon, Sask.**  
**No. 8-Ranked North American Skater**

\* McQueen missed 51 games this season yet produced at least a point in 71% of the contests he did play and finished the campaign with the highest point-per-game rate on his team (1.18).

\* Finished second on the Wheat Kings with a 0.96 point-per-game rate in 2023-24 (21-30—51 in 53 GP) and topped the team in power-play points with 7-8—15. He also led his club in goals and points (tied) during the WHL playoffs with 4-1—5 in 4 GP.

\* Paced all Wheat Kings rookies in assists and points with 4-10—14 in 55 GP during the 2022-23 season.

\* Was the fourth overall pick in the 2021 WHL Bantam Draft.

\* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he posted the third-most goals and fourth-most points (tied) among his fellow countrymen (4-3—7 in 5 GP). He also played at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he topped his team in points (tied; 4-4—8 in 6 GP).

\* His father, **Scott**, played defense in the WHL with the Red Deer Rebels and Saskatoon Blades (6-9—15 in 88 GP).

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Playing in his third full WHL season. An elite combination of size and skill. A huge center that can do it all. Has the ability to take over and dominate games with his high-end puck skills along with deceptive speed and quickness. Can create his own shots and set up chances for teammates. Excellent puck control and can dangle to beat defenders off the rush with speed and in traffic. Great playmaking and a touch with the puck to finesse it through tight spots and onto teammates sticks. A high compete level with an imposing frame, he can play both a skilled and physical game to battle and power his way through checks to make plays. Can play with an edge and will stand up for his teammates.

**KASHAWN AITCHESON****Defense | Barrie (OHL)****Born: Scarborough, Ont.****No. 9-ranked North American Skater**

\* Tied the eighth-most points in a single season by a Barrie Colts defenseman in franchise history after posting 26-33—59 (64 GP). He owned the third-most goals among all blueliners across the OHL this season and the seventh-most points. Aitcheson also finished as his team's overall scoring leader.

\* Collected 8-31—39 (64 GP) in 2023-24 to finish fifth on his team in assists and points. It marked a 36-point improvement from his rookie campaign where he tallied three points through 23 games.

\* Helped Team CHL sweep the 2024 CHL USA Prospects Challenge, with a performance that included scoring in the second game.

\* Won gold with Canada at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-2—3 in 7 GP).

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A third-year OHL defenseman who will be a very versatile option for any team. A good skater with solid puck skills. The quarterback for Barrie's power play and has some flare offensively. On the defensive side, he can also be a shut down, in-your-face type player. A fierce competitor that plays with grit, along with good detail in his defensive game, gap control and awareness. Plays a physical style and will back it up. A very good defenseman who ticks a lot of boxes for the next level.

**CARTER BEAR****Left Wing | Everett (WHL)****Born: Winnipeg, Man.****No. 10-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Concluded the 2024-25 season tied for seventh in goals and second in game winners (also tied) across the WHL after tallying 40-42—82 in 56 GP. Bear became just the sixth different player in Everett Silvertips history to score 40 in a single season.

\* Represented Team CHL at the 2024 CHL USA Prospects Challenge and helped his team earn a victory over Team USA's NTDP.

\* Collected 25-32—57 (67 GP) in 2023-24, to finish fifth in goals by a rookie across the WHL and seventh in points.

\* In 2022-23, he won Winnipeg AAA's Under-18 MVP and top forward, while posting 32-27—59 (31 GP) and captaining his team.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

In his second full year in the WHL and is now a top line winger on a good Everett team. A versatile player who can play center but looks best suited on the wing. Has grown in size and strength which is noticeable on the ice. Skates well and has a good base to build upon. An asset on special teams, he plays bumper on the power play and is deployed on the penalty kill. A high compete level and hounds the puck in all zones to create turnovers. Goes hard on plays and finishes his checks. Can play up and down the lineup and is proving to be an offensive scoring threat in the WHL with good hands and moves in tight to generate chances.

**BRADY MARTIN****Center | Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)****Born: Elmira, Ont.****No. 11-ranked North American Skater**

\* Averaged 1.26 points per game to finish with the second-most points on his team with 33-39—72 (57 GP) after posting 11 three-point games, two four-point outings and a five-point performance. Martin's totals were a 44-point improvement from his rookie campaign.

\* Represented Canada at the 2024 CHL USA Prospects Challenge, where he notched one goal in two games.

\* Ranked sixth in points among all OHL skaters age 16 or younger in 2023-24 with 10-18—28 in 52 GP with the Greyhounds.

\* Won gold with Canada at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he wore an 'A' for his team and finished tied for fifth in tournament scoring (3-8—11 in 7 GP), as well as at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-4—4 in 5 GP). He also represented Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-1—3 in 7 GP).

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A top line center that has really come into his own this season. Plays big minutes and in all situations for Sault Ste Marie. Lots of natural talent with great smarts and game habits; plays a responsible 200-foot game. Effective playing physical and in the trenches. He possesses good offensive tools with his vision, instincts, creativity and finishing touch. The type of player you want on the ice when the game is on the line. Checks all the boxes and has no holes in his game – a natural leader by example.

## **LOGAN HENSLER**

**Defense | Univ. of Wisconsin (NCAA)**

**Born: Woodbury, Minn.**

**No. 12-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Amassed 2-10—12 (32 GP) as a freshman with Univ. of Wisconsin. He tied for the third-most points by a defenseman age 18 or younger across the NCAA.

\* Named to the 2024-25 NCAA (B1G) All-Rookie team.

\* Hensler finished second in scoring among defensemen on USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-18 Team in 2023-24 (4-28—32 in 61 GP) behind **Cole Hutson**, who was drafted by the Capitals 43rd overall in 2024. He also did so the previous season when skating for the Under-17 team (5-23—28 in 60 GP), highlighted by a stretch of 15 games where he was held off the score sheet just twice.

\* Won gold twice on the international stage, including at the 2025 World Junior Championship (0-1—1 in 7 GP) and the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-5—5 in 7 GP), where he finished third in tournament assists among defensemen. He also has a silver medal from the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-5—6 in 6 GP), tied for third in scoring by blueliners.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Played top pair minutes and on special teams in his first college season. A very smooth, effortless skater who can lead the rush and close out quickly while defending. Has a very calm and poised puck game and finds his options to make the correct pass. Smart, heads-up game at the offensive blue line finding the shooting or passing lanes and able to adapt or recover quickly when needed. Impressive season for a young player with the way he made the adjustment to the college game. Combination of size, smarts and skill make him one of the more complete defensemen in this Draft class.

## **JACKSON SMITH**

**Defense | Tri-City (WHL)**

**Born: Calgary, Alta.**

**No. 13-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished 10th in scoring among defensemen across the WHL after posting 11-43—54 (68 GP) this season, while his assist total ranked tied for ninth in the same category.

\* The last Tri-City defenseman to finish with as many points in a season as Smith in 2024-25 was **Lukas Dragicevic** (75 in 2022-23), who went on to be drafted 57th overall in 2023.

\* He tallied 8-21—29 (62 GP), for the fourth-most points by a rookie defenseman during the 2023-24 season.

\* Selected second overall in the 2022 Bantam Draft.

\* Won gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and tied the tournament lead in goals by a defenseman (4). He also collected two assists in Canada's gold medal entry at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and represented Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-2—2 in 7 GP).

\* His father, **Wade**, played parts of four seasons in the WHL, including 15 games with the Tri-City Americans.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A top pair defenseman who plays a lot of minutes and in all situations. Runs special teams on the first power-play and penalty-kill units. Possesses good physical attributes that will make him a force to be reckoned with when he physically matures – looks to finish hits and punish opponents when he gets the opportunity. Excellent skater that has speed, quickness and mobility. Can skate the puck out of his zone under pressure and can beat defenders one-on-one. Strong game and presence at the offensive blue line, makes good choices and has the skill set to make plays and get shots off. Plays a solid all-around game that translates well to today's NHL.

## **LYNDEN LAKOVIC**

**Left Wing | Moose Jaw (WHL)**

**Born: Kelowna, B.C.**

**No. 14-ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 27-31—58 in 47 GP to finish with the fifth-highest point-per-game rate (1.23) among draft eligible WHL players. His season featured a 13-game point streak – tied for the 11th longest across the WHL – to help him finish atop his team in scoring by a 10-point margin.

\* Played in both games of the 2024 CHL USA Prospects Challenge, including scoring the opening goal in Game 1 and assisting on the insurance marker (1-1—2 in 2 GP).

\* Collected 18-21—39 (68 GP) in 2023-24, a 32-point improvement from his rookie campaign (2-5—7 in 37 GP in 2022-23). He also tallied 5-3—8 (20 GP) in Moose Jaw's run to the 2024 WHL Champion.

\* Represented Team Canada Black at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-2—3 in 7 GP).

\* His uncle, **Sasha**, appeared in 37 NHL games from 1996-97 to 1998-99 with the Flames and Devils and his other uncle, **Greg**, played professional hockey in the IHL, ECHL, CHL and AHL.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Brings an excellent package of size, skating and skill. A high-end offensive winger that can both set up plays and finish. A strong skater and puck carrier who is able to transport the puck up ice with speed and create scoring chances. Has the ability to break down and beat defenders one-on-one with his pull-away speed and outstanding puck skills. A volume shooter who gets lots of shots on net and is able to get his shot off in multiple ways. Possesses very good vision and creativity with the puck, giving his team a big time power-play asset. A prototypical NHL power forward complemented with a high-end skill set.

**JACK NESBITT**  
**Center | Windsor (OHL)**  
**Born: Sarnia, Ont.**  
**No. 15-ranked North American Skater**

\* Produced at nearly a point-per-game pace this past season to finish with 25-39—64 in 65 GP, which was a 46-point improvement from his rookie campaign.

\* Skated in the inaugural Connor McDavid OHL Top Prospects Game in 2024-25 where he notched a goal and assist for the Western Conference.

\* Collected 9-9—18 (58 GP) after being drafted in the first round (20th overall) in the 2023 OHL Priority Selection.

\* Skated at the 2023 Canada Winter Games and helped Ontario defeat Saskatchewan for the gold medal.

\* Won gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-3—5 in 6 GP) and skated with Canada White at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-1—2 in 8 GP).

\* Nesbitt, whose mother is from the Wiikwemkoong reserve on Manitoulin Island, was named one of six indigenous players to watch for the 2025 NHL Draft by Central Scouting.

#### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

His game continued to mature and evolve over the course of the season. A big, lanky two-way center that all teams covet. Plays with really good details all over the ice. Looks to utilize his size and engage on plays physically with the ability to back it up. Skating and footwork have improved from last year and he's made greater gains in the second half of this season. Very good hockey sense, has really shown his ability to make plays, think the game and do it at pace. Smart and skilled offensively with the ability to finish using a deceptively quick release. A very intriguing prospect with a high ceiling.



## **JUSTIN CARBONNEAU**

**Right Wing | Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)**

**Born: Levis, Que.**

**No. 16-ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished second across the QMJHL in scoring after posting 46-43—89 (62 GP). His point total is the fourth most by a player in a single season in Blainville-Boisbriand history.

\* In 2023-24, he topped his team in goals (31) and finished second in points (59), which marked a 39-point improvement from his rookie campaign (5-15—20 in 32 GP).

\* Collected an assist in both games of the 2024 CHL USA Prospects Challenge, helping the CHL earn a victory in both of those contests (0-2—2 in 2 GP).

\* Played for Team Canada White at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-1—1 in 6 GP).

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Completed his second full season in the QMJHL, building off a solid underage campaign last year as a late 2006 born player. Has shown that he is a natural goal scorer with an excellent release. A natural, genuine scoring threat offensively as a playmaker, showing a ton of poise and deception with the puck. He impacts the game in so many ways with his skill and physicality. His compete level is high and he looks to finish checks whenever possible. His skating has continued to improve; he can generate good speed and is agile on his edges in tight areas. A confident player who wants the puck on his stick and tries to make a difference every shift. His size, grit, goal scoring and overall puck skills make him an attractive prospect.

## **MALCOLM SPENCE**

**Left Wing | Erie (OHL)**

**Born: Mississauga, Ont.**

**No. 17-ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 32-41—73 (65 GP) to finish third on the Otters in scoring and tied for second in goals. He finished the regular season with points in 15 of his last 16 contests and went on to average a point per game in the postseason (4-5—9 in 9 GP).

\* In 2023-24, he tallied 19-43—62 through 66 GP and wore the “A” in a season that was highlighted by a nine- and 10-game point streak, 17 multi-point games and a four-point outing. The previous year, he finished sixth in rookie scoring after amassing 16-26—42 in 64 GP.

\* Won gold at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-3—5 in 5 GP) after scoring the overtime winner against Czechia and at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he finished tied for fifth in team scoring (3-4—7 in 7 GP). He also played for Canada Black at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* Spence volunteers for Hockey Equality, a nonprofit organization chaired by NHL alumni **Anthony Stewart**, as a mentor to young players making hockey more diverse and welcoming. The organization seeks to grow the sport by lowering financial and other barriers that impact BIPOC and female youth.

\* His grandfather, **Ron Carrigan**, went to Colgate University on a double hockey-golf scholarship and his uncle, **Ryan**, also played Division I hockey at Northern Michigan and Niagara University.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Not a flashy player. Goes under the radar until the game is on the line. A strong skater with crafty puck skills and a very high compete level which makes him a very versatile and valuable team player who can make the difference in winning games. He utilizes his high-end smarts and puck skills effectively while playing at pace. A great forechecker taking away time and space. Very tough to handle when playing at speed and battling down low in one-on-one play. Solid and very reliable defensively and when on the penalty kill. A high-value pick for any team, he is an underrated difference maker who could end up one of the better players to come out of the 2025 Draft class.

## **SASCHA BOUMEDIENNE**

**Defense | Boston University (H-EAST)**

**Born: Oulu, Finland**

**No. 18-ranked North American Skater**

\* Was one of three 17-year-olds to play in the NCAA this year and finished with the second-most points by a defenseman 18 or younger after posting 3-10—13 (40 GP).

\* Tallied 3-24—27 in 49 GP for the USHL's Youngstown Phantoms in 2023-24 to finish second among all defensemen on his team in scoring and third among all blueliners age 16 or younger in the league.

\* Earned a silver medal at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he was named best defenseman after tallying the most assists across the tournament (13) and the most points by a blueliner (14). Boumedienne also won a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and played for his country at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-3—4 in 7 GP).

\* His father, **Josef**, was a fourth-round pick by the Devils in the 1996 NHL Draft (91st overall) who skated in 47 NHL games from 2001-02 to 2003-04 with the Devils, Lightning and Capitals. He is currently the assistant general manager for the Swedish national team.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Made the transition smoothly in his first college season and his game continued to mature over the course of the campaign. He has the size and skills to play as an effective two-way defenseman. Likes to join the rush after making a good first pass to get his team out of the defensive zone and help create more offense. His skating is very smooth and his agility both forward and backwards allows him to transition quickly and close out quickly when defending. A trusted player by his coach as he earned increased ice time and responsibility as the season progressed. A solid prospect with good NHL upside.

**HENRY BRZUSTEWICZ**  
**Defense | London (OHL)**  
**Born: Washington, Mich.**  
**No. 19-ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished within the top 20 in scoring among OHL defensemen in 2024-25 – and second on his team in assists among blueliners – after posting 10-32—42 (67 GP). It marked a 36-point improvement from his rookie campaign.

\* Won the 2025 Memorial Cup, including assisting on the game-opening goal in the championship game. He finished his club's 2025 OHL Championship postseason with 1-4—5 (17 GP).

\* Helped the London Knights win the 2023 OHL Championship and spent part of his rookie campaign playing forward.

\* His brother, **Hunter**, was a third-round pick by the Canucks in the 2023 NHL Draft (75th overall). He is currently a member of the Flames organization and appeared in one game with Calgary in 2024-25. The siblings played against each other during the 2023-24 OHL season when Hunter skated for the Kitchener Rangers.

#### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Playing in his second season in London, he earned himself a bigger role and the trust of his coaching staff. A solid blend of size, skating ability and IQ that makes him a valuable 200-foot defenseman. Consistently makes smart plays under pressure and is a threat offensively, jumping in the rush or off the cycle. Has an underrated shot and knows how to create lanes to get it through. Reliable defensively with good awareness. Defends the rush with good mobility. Solid prospect who has been trending upwards all season long.

## **BRAEDEN COOTES**

**Center | Seattle (WHL)**

**Born: Sherwood Park, Alta.**

**No. 20-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Topped his team in assists and points after recording 26-37—63 (60 GP). His season highlights included 18 multi-point games and two three-game goal streaks.

\* Was named captain of the Seattle Thunderbirds at age 17 – the youngest captain currently in the WHL.

\* Finished sixth in scoring among all WHL players age 16 or younger during the 2023-24 season after accumulating 14-21—35 in 64 GP.

\* Captained Canada to gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he finished fourth in tournament scoring and atop his country (6-6—12 in 7 GP). He also represented Canada at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and was one of 17 Canadian players to find the score sheet during the tournament en route to winning gold. He also played for Team Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* Was a billet brother of Blackhawks defenseman, **Kevin Korchinski**, during the 2022-23 season and is currently getting advice from him about the drafting process.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A top line center who plays first unit on the power play and penalty kill. A key contributor who competes hard and shows a very good motor. Never quits on a puck or a play. A difficult player to play against. Plays every shift as if he's on a mission. He's very versatile, plays smart and has quick wits and good puck skills to make plays and generate scoring chances. A strong team player who can play in all situations and be a difference maker up and down the line-up.

**BENJAMIN KINDEL**  
**Center | Calgary (WHL)**  
**Born: Coquitlam, B.C.**  
**No. 21-ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished 2024-25 with 35-64—99 (65 GP) to finish seventh in the WHL in scoring. His 64 assists are the sixth most in a single season in franchise history and the most by a Calgary Hitmen in 15 years.

\* Set a franchise record for longest point streak by finding the score sheet in his 21st consecutive game on Jan. 8. The run ended at 23 contests on Jan. 12 (15-30—45) and as the second longest by a WHL player in 2024-25.

\* Skated in the 2024-25 CHL USA Prospects Challenge where he recorded one assist in two games.

\* Finished fourth in rookie scoring – and third in assists – after posting 15-45—60 (68 GP) in 2023-24. His season was highlighted by 15 multi-point games and two four-point performances.

\* Won gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he averaged over a point per game (1-6—7 in 6 GP) and at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-1—2 in 5 GP).

#### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A smart and versatile center who can be deployed in all situations. He is quick, agile and elusive with the puck with the ability to create his own scoring chances as well as set up quality looks for teammates. A consistent generator of offense. He's smart and responsible with and without the puck and an asset on both special team units. Willing to play bigger than his size, he battles and competes with good balance and strength on his skates. Consistently goes into the "hard" areas of the ice to make plays and generate chances. Playing a consistent game all season long has garnered him a lot of attention.

**CULLEN POTTER**  
**Center | Arizona State (NCAA)**  
**Born: Hortonville, Wis.**  
**No. 22-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Was one of three 17-year-olds to play in the NCAA this season and topped that cohort after collecting 13-9—22 in 35 GP with Arizona State Univ. He was named to his division's all-rookie team.

\* Finished first in points on Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team during the 2023-24 campaign with 17-29—46 in 54 games.

\* Earned silver with USA at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he posted 1-7—8 (7 GP) and co-led the tournament in assists. Potter also won bronze at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he finished tied with the third-highest point total on his team (4-4—8 in 7 GP).

\* His mother, **Jenny**, helped lead USA to the first gold medal ever awarded for Olympic women's hockey at the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan, and holds the US Olympic women's hockey records for most points in a career (32) and a single Olympics (11). She's been to four Olympic Winter Games (gold in 1998) and 10 World Championships (gold in 2005, 2008, 2009 & 2011).

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A quick and clever center who is noticeable game in and game out. An elite skater with an excellent burst of speed and quickness, both with and without the puck. A very good first step allows him to separate from opponents and utilize his pull away gear on plays. Competes hard and plays a 200-foot game, forechecks with a purpose and back checks with intensity. Crafty and heads up when carrying the puck to recognize scoring chances and shooting opportunities. Always a dangerous scoring threat when on the ice. Creates scoring chances for himself and teammates using his high-end skating and puck skills. The type of player who wants the puck on his stick and finds ways to contribute when the team needs a goal.

## **CAMERON REID**

**Defense | Kitchener (OHL)**

**Born: Aylmer, Ont.**

**No. 23-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished 10th in scoring among all defensemen in the 2024-25 season after posting 14-40—54 (67 GP) and tied for third on his team in points. His totals marked a 31-point improvement from his rookie campaign.

\* Led all OHL defensemen aged 16 or younger in 2023-24 in points per game (0.47) after tallying 2-21—23 in 49 GP.

\* Won gold with Canada at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-2—2 in 5 GP) and with Canada White at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-1—2 in 8 GP).

\* His dad, **Bill**, and older brother, **Ethan**, both played hockey while his grandfather was once the equipment manager for the OHL's Erie Otters.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Plays big minutes for his team in Kitchener and is the quarterback on the power play. An elite skater who is smooth with great vision and sense for the game. A very underrated defender, has great feet and agility to take away time and space with a real good stick. Not afraid to play physical. Plays with the maturity and composure of a veteran and has been a consistent driving force for his team. A big minutes player who is effective in all situations.



**WILLIAM HORCOFF**  
**Center | Michigan (NCAA)**  
**Born: Birmingham, Mich.**  
**No. 24-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 4-6—10 in 18 GP despite being held out of the lineup due to injury for part of the season. Horcoff was one of three 17-year-olds to play in the NCAA this season and had the second-most goals among that cohort.

\* Played for Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team in 2023-24 and amassed 11-8—19 through 54 GP, a season highlighted by consecutive multi-goal games.

\* Won bronze at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-2—4) and earned a silver with USA at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-2—3 in 7 GP).

\* His father, **Shawn**, was a fourth-round pick by the Oilers in the 1998 NHL Draft (99th overall) who skated in 1,008 games with the Oilers, Stars and Ducks from 2000-01 to 2015-16. He served as Oilers captain from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Size and skill are two of the strongest assets to his game. He can make plays in tight spaces and is very effective when he uses his size to protect pucks and get to the traffic areas. His skating stride is good but he will need to develop more quickness and a better first step. Hockey sense is very good and he reads the play quickly to get open without the puck, leading to scoring chances for himself. Has all the attributes of a power forward type player that teams are looking for.

**COLE RESCHNY**  
**Center | Victoria (WHL)**  
**Born: Macklin, Sask.**  
**No. 25-ranked North American Skater**

\* Totaled 26-66—92 (62 GP) to complete the 2024-25 season with the sixth-most assists and tied for the ninth-most points across the WHL. Reschny set a Victoria Royals record for most assists in a single season and tied the second-most points in a single season in franchise history.

\* Recorded a 14-game point streak this past season (7-25—32 in 14 GP), which was tied for the seventh-longest run across the WHL.

\* Recorded 9-16—25 through two rounds of the 2025 playoffs and finished with the second-highest points-per-game average (2.27) across the WHL postseason.

\* Posted 21-38—59 in 61 GP for the Royals in 2023-24 to finish fifth across the WHL in points by a rookie and fourth in assists. His season was highlighted by a 14-game point streak and a hat trick performance.

\* Drafted third overall by Victoria in the 2022 WHL Bantam Draft.

\* Won a gold medal at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he recorded the second-most goals for his country (5-3—8 in 5 GP), and at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he registered 3-4—7 in 5 GP, which led the team in points (tied) and was the fourth-highest total across the tournament. He also played for Team Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Smart top line center who plays effectively on both special teams. Good in the face-off circle. High IQ type of player with good instincts on both sides of the puck. Effective playing the strong side on the power play where everything runs through him. More playmaker than shooter but will put pucks to the net to generate scoring chances. Not overly physical but takes away time and space with good positioning and a good stick. Not the quickest or fastest player but his skating compliments his excellent hockey IQ allowing him to be in the right spot on both sides of the puck.

## **BLAKE FIDDLER**

**Defense | Edmonton (WHL)**

**Born: Nashville, Tenn.**

**No. 26-Ranked North American Skater**

\* More than doubled his point production from his rookie campaign, totaling 10-23—33 in 64 GP in 2024-25 to top his team in scoring among defensemen.

\* Posted 5-10—15 in 63 GP during his first season with Edmonton in 2023-24. He ranked fourth in points among WHL defensemen age 16 or younger.

\* Fiddler can become the third Tennessee-born player drafted into the NHL and would join **Luke Devlin** (Memphis; 182nd overall in 2022 by PIT) and **Simon Kjellberg** (Nashville; 163 overall in 2018 by NYR).

\* Earned a bronze medal with Team USA at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-1—3 in 7 GP) and captained USA at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-3—4 in 5 GP).

\* Fiddler also represented Canada internationally – he won gold with Canada White at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he was one of five defensemen on his team to find the score sheet during the tournament.

\* His father, **Veron**, was an undrafted forward who skated in 14 seasons and 877 NHL games with the Predators, Coyotes, Stars and Devils from 2002-03 to 2016-17.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A big, offensive right shot defenseman who can skate and handle the puck with composure and confidence. Good agility, quickness and awareness to defeat forecheck pressure. Strong play along the offensive blue line with the ability to create his own passing and shooting lanes. Jumps down and makes plays in the offensive zone. An offense driving defenseman who activates and joins the attack. Reads the play well defensively, jumps lanes for interceptions and steps up at the right times. A leader on his club team and captain of Team USA at the 2024 Hlinka-Gretzky tournament last summer. Excellent combination of size, skating and skill who can play and contribute in all situations.

## **MASON WEST**

**Center | Edina (HIGH-MN)**

**Born: Edina, Minn.**

**No. 27-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Split the 2024-25 season between Edina High, where he tallied 27-22—49 (31 GP) to finish second on his team in scoring and atop his team in goals. He also spent 10 GP in the USHL playing with Fargo Force (1-8—9 in 10 GP).

\* Saw a 23-point improvement between his midseason and final draft ranking, moving from the No. 50-ranked North American skater to 27th.

\* Recorded 15-23—38 in the 2023-24 season with Edina High and ranked third on the team in points, goals and assists. He captained the team to the Minnesota State Championship in the Class AA section.

\* West also plays football as a quarterback for his high school and is a Division I football prospect in Minneapolis – he's following similar footsteps to Islanders captain, **Anders Lee**, who also attended the same school and was a three-sport athlete playing hockey, football and baseball.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Played as a Junior at Edina High School where he was "Team Captain" which is quite an honor at this perennial Minnesota High School powerhouse. Is also a very accomplished high school football quarterback with Division 1 NCAA interest which speaks to his overall athletic ability. Has excellent size and natural athleticism which contributes to him being a strong skater with good vision, hockey sense and puck skills to make plays for himself and his teammates. Has an intriguing upside and projected high ceiling.

## **RYKER LEE**

**Right Wing | Madison (USHL)**

**Born: Wilmette, Ill.**

**No. 28-ranked North American Skater**

\* As a rookie, Lee collected 31-37—68 in 58 GP to finish with the fourth-most points among all players across the USHL. His season was highlighted by a four-goal and five-point outing and saw him jump 12 spots up the Central Scouting rankings from 40th midseason.

\* Lee's 31 goals and 68 points were both the second most by a Madison Capitols player in a single season.

\* Registered 45-54—99 in 57 GP for Shattuck-St. Mary's team in 2023-24 to finish second in goals and points behind **Will Zellers**, who was drafted by Colorado in 2024.

\* Was part of USA's championship team at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge and earned bronze at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

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

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Completed his first full season in Madison where he quickly made an impact for his team. Plays right wing on the top line and on both the power play and penalty kill. Puck skills and instincts are excellent and he makes plays that seem to be impossible. Has a nose for the net and can find his way out of tight situations to get excellent scoring chances. A hard shot and quick release make him a scoring threat every time he enters the offensive zone. An exciting player to watch with lots to like in his game.

**WILLIAM MOORE**  
**Center | USA U-18 (NTDP)**  
**Born: Mississauga, Ont.**  
**No. 29-ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished second on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team in scoring this past season after posting 27-32—59 (64 GP).

\* In 2023-24, he tallied 23-20—43 (50 GP) for the USA Hockey's NTDP's Under-17 Team to finish with the most goals and the third-most points on his team.

\* Committed to Boston College for the 2026-27 campaign.

\* Won bronze at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and tied for the team lead in scoring (3-8—11 in 7 GP). He also earned a silver medal at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and was named to the All-Star team after he led the tournament in assists (7) and points (12).

\* Moore was born and played minor hockey in Mississauga, but moved to the U.S. to play in USA Hockey's NTDP program. Moore is a dual citizen as his father, **Patrick**, grew up in New York.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

An excellent package of size and skill. Has a very smooth, fluid skating stride that can get him to top speed in a hurry. Capable of playing all three forward positions. Uses his strong hockey sense and vision to make plays for himself and his teammates whether on the rush or in tight quarters. Plays a very complete two-way game with effort and determination. Tremendous upside and potential.

**JACK MURTAGH****Left Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)****Born: East Greenbush, N.Y.****No. 30-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished tied for third on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team in scoring (22-31—53) and third in assists. He was one of four members of his team to reach the 20-goal plateau.

\* Ranked fourth on Team USA's NTDP Under-17 Team in 2023-24 after posting 16-21—37 in 53 GP.

\* Collected a bronze medal at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 7 GP) and a silver at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he tied for the second-most goals on his team and tied for the third-highest total in the tournament (4-3—7 in 7 GP).

\* Committed to Boston Univ. for 2025-26.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

An excellent two-way player. Very strong on his skates. Can win pucks in tight quarters with his skill or power. Uses his strong sense to find options for himself or his teammates in the offensive zone. Plays a very responsible game defensively and is always one of the first back checkers. The type of player that can be used in many roles and play any of the three forward positions. Lots of pro habits and qualities in his game.

## **BILL ZONNON**

**Right Wing | Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)**

**Born: Montreal, Que.**

**No. 31-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished fifth across the QMJHL in assists and tied for seventh in points after posting 28-55—83 (64 GP). Zonnon also wore an 'A' for the Huskies this season.

\* Tallied 8-8—16 (13 GP) through the 2025 postseason, to finish tied for sixth in goals among all QMJHL players in the playoffs and tied for ninth in points per game (1.23).

\* Recorded 18-40—58 in 68 GP with the Huskies in 2023-24 and was one of three players on his team to post 40 assists that season.

\* His 40 assists in 2023-24 were tied for the third most among all QMJHL players aged 17 or younger.

\* As a rookie in 2022-23, Zonnon collected 16-23—39 (63 GP) to finish tied for 10th in goals and assists, as well as 11th in points among all rookies across the QMJHL.

\* Represented Canada White at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and posted 1-2—3 in 6 GP, tied for the seventh-most points on his team.

\* Saw **P.K. Subban** play for Montreal on the television at five years old and told his parents "I want to be like him." His parents then went to the store and bought him skates so he could start playing.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

His game has matured into a very good two-way prospect. Has played the wing and also was used as a center this season. Showing good versatility and reliability in all three zones. His skating is good and should develop another gear as he continues to get stronger. Has slick hands and puck skills. Has the ability to maneuver in tight spaces and shows a good cutback game on zone entries to create open ice for himself. Dual threat as a playmaker and goal scorer. Has good net drive habits. Played an important role and lots of minutes for Rouyn Noranda.



**COLE McKINNEY**  
**Center | USA U-18 (NTDP)**  
**Born: Chicago, Ill.**  
**No. 32-ranked North American Skater**

\* Topped USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team in points after amassing 27-34—61 through 60 GP. His season was highlighted by a 17-game point streak that spanned from Jan 4 to March 21.

\* Last season, McKinney posted 12-19—31 in 44 GP for USA Hockey's NTDP's Under-17 Team. He finished tied for the fifth-highest points-per-game rate on his team (min. 3 GP; 0.70).

\* Collected bronze with USA at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (3-2—5 in 7 GP) and a silver at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-2—2 in 7 GP).

\* Committed to Univ. of Michigan for the 2026-27 campaign.

#### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Plays center and on the power-play and penalty kill units. A very skilled player with top end speed and a smooth skating stride. Plays a quality two-way game with his attention to detail and effort every shift. Finishes his checks and gets in on the forecheck quickly. Uses contact to win puck battles. A smart player who can play seemingly any role needed. Has good habits and tremendous upside.

**SHANE VANSAGHI****Right Wing | Michigan State (NCAA)****Born: St. Louis, Mo.****No. 33-ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 6-10—16 (37 GP) during his rookie year with Michigan State Univ., and helped his team win the NCAA Big Ten championship. His point total was tied for the 13th-most among 18-year-olds across the NCAA.

\* Earned Big Ten Third Star of the Week on Nov. 22, 2024 after posting 1-3—4 during a home sweep of Notre Dame.

\* Spent two seasons with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program skating with both their Under-17 (9-9—18 in 54 GP) and Under-18 Team (12-11—23 in 59 GP), that campaign was highlighted by a four-goal outing.

\* Won silver with USA at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and gold at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he finished tied for the fifth-most goals (5-2—7 in 7 GP).

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Possesses the size and skills to play a power-forward style game while chipping in offensively. Gets time on the power play as a "net front" presence and does so effectively utilizing his balance and strength while in the traffic areas. Brings a physical element every shift but also has the puck savvy to make a play for himself or a linemate. A player that should steadily improve with increased ice-time and responsibility.

**HAOXI (SIMON) WANG**  
**Defense | Oshawa (OHL)**  
**Born: Beijing, China**  
**No. 34-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Skated 32 GP as a defenseman with the Oshawa Generals, where he tallied 0-2—2, and helped the club in their run to the OHL Final (0-3—3 in 21 GP).

\* Skated part of the 2024-25 campaign with the King Rebellion of the OJHL where he posted 4-18—22 in 38 GP. He ranked tied for third on the team in assists and paced defensemen in points.

\* In 2023, he played an international event with China's Under-18 team.

\* Was introduced to hockey at the age of four in Beijing and moved to Canada when he was 12. His mother, **Willa Wang**, has served as owner of the King/Brantford franchise the past two seasons and also runs a youth hockey club in China.

### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

One of the best skaters in the draft and at 6'5.5 and 215 pounds he's really appealing for NHL clubs. His puck skills are constantly improving along with his vision and playmaking abilities. Shows some flare offensively and is very comfortable on the offensive zone blue line. Brings a solid compete level and plays with some bite and physicality. His projection is through the roof.

## **IVAN RYABKIN**

**Center | Muskegon (USHL)**

**Born: Balakovo, Russia**

**No. 35-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 1-11—12 through 15 GP with Dynamo Moscow's junior team this season before joining the USHL's Muskegon Lumberjacks, where he went on to tally 19-11—30 in 27 GP. He finished third across the USHL in points per game among rookies with a 1.11 average (min. 2 GP).

\* Recorded 7-9—16 (14 GP) to finish second in USHL playoff scoring en route to the 2025 Clark Cup Championship.

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2024-25 by playing two games in the KHL with Dynamo Moskva.

\* In his first rookie season, Ryabkin posted 24-34—58 through 44 GP in Russia's junior division – tied for the fourth-most points and fifth-most assists among all players in 2023-24. His 1.32 points per game was the third highest in the league (min. 30 GP) behind **Ivan Demidov** (2.00 P/GP), who was taken fifth overall in the 2024 NHL Draft by Montreal, and **Nikita Khoruzhev** (1.48 P/GP).

\* Registered 8-11—19 through 6 GP in the 2023-24 Russia Under-17 Finals and is tied with **Maxim Shalunov** (7-12—19 in 6 GP) and **Nikita Malkov** (9-10—19 in 8 GP) for second place on the tournament's all-time assists and points list behind only **Ivan Didkovsky** (10-12—22 in 13 GP).

\* Named Best Rookie in Russia's junior league in 2023-24 after also being awarded the league's Rookie of the Month three times that season (January, February & September).

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A cerebral player who is very smart and usually in the correct position on both sides of the puck. Great hockey sense. An impressive combination of size, skating, physicality, and puck skill. Not afraid to play physically. Plays a hardworking and practical two-way game. Handles and controls the puck well in all areas of the ice. Very good at face-offs. An intense shooter with a finishing ability. Gets himself into scoring areas for quality looks with consistency. An intelligent player who is used on the power play. Confident and patient with the puck in the offensive zone – he can hold and shield until options open up. Protects the puck well and can power through defenders while maintaining control. Makes plays in heavy traffic and sets up chances in tight. All the physical tools and smarts to develop into an NHL power forward.

## **VACLAV NESTRASIL**

**Right Wing | Muskegon (USHL)**

**Born: Praha, Czechia**

**No. 36-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 19-23—42 (61 GP) in his first full USHL season to finish fourth on his team in scoring. He strung together a four-game goal streak and recorded 12 multi-point outings. He also helped Muskegon win the 2025 USHL Clark Cup Champion (7-6—13 in 14 GP).

\* Started the 2023-24 season with HC Sparta Praha Czechia's Under-17 league where he produced at a 1.50 points-per-game pace (24-19—43 in 27 GP) and led his team in goals. He finished his season with the USHL's Muskegon Lumberjacks (11 GP).

\* Played for Czechia at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and led the team in goals with four – a total that was also tied for the fourth-highest total among all players.

\* Committed to play at the Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst for the 2026-27 season.

\* His brother, **Andrej**, was a third-round pick by the Red Wings in the 2009 NHL Draft (75th overall) and skated in 128 career NHL games with the Red Wings and Hurricanes from 2014-15 to 2016-17. Andrej is still playing professionally and skated for Ocelari Trinec in Czechia in 2024-25. His other two older brothers, **Viktor** and **Boris**, also played professionally in Europe.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Plays right wing on the top line and on both the power-play and penalty kill units. Puck skills and instincts are excellent. A very skilled power forward. Has a nose for the net and when he uses his size he's tough to handle. Possesses a hard shot and quick release making him a scoring threat every time he enters the offensive zone. A player who will do whatever his team needs to have success. Lots of good pro qualities in his game.

## **MATTHEW GARD**

**Center | Red Deer (WHL)**

**Born: Winnipeg, Man.**

**No. 37-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Co-led his team in scoring after posting 19-17—36 in 66 GP this past season and topped the Red Deer Rebels in goals.

\* Recorded 7-11—18 (55 GP) in his rookie season with the Rebels, which ranked second among rookies on the team.

\* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (1-3—4 in 7 GP).

\* His older twin brothers, **Jack** and **Luke**, are currently both playing volleyball for Winnipeg Univ. Meanwhile, his parents, **Jay** and **Sherry**, both played for Canada's national volleyball teams before his dad went to play professionally in Europe.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Big, strong and plays with an edge. Impressive skating and puck skills for such a massive frame. Smart, versatile and able to contribute in all situations. Asset in the face off dot and along the walls. Good hands in tight and able to use his big frame to protect the puck and make plays. Drives hard to the net both with and without the puck and is difficult to contain. Good creativity and vision with the puck. Can make some nifty dangles and dishes. Strong cycle and forecheck game. Uses his size and strength to win one-on-one battles. Jumps into scrums and sticks up for teammates. Has the physical tools and compete level to be an effective two-way center at the next level.

**HAYDEN PAUPANEKIS**  
**Center | Kelowna (WHL)**  
**Born: Winnipeg, Man.**  
**No. 38-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 11-8—19 in 32 GP with the Kelowna Rockets after playing 39 GP and collecting 11-13—24 with the Spokane Chiefs. His 22-21—43 (71 GP) combined point total this season was the third most on his team in scoring.

\* His 2024-25 point total more than doubled his total in his rookie season, marking a 23-point year-over-year point improvement.

\* Collected 10-10—20 in his rookie season with the Spokane Chiefs in 2023-24. His 10 goals in 61 games were the third most by a rookie on the team.

#### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A rangy center. Real good reach and uses his stick well to disrupt. Good hands and has shown playmaking ability. Has not had the ice time and opportunity that some of his peers have, however he has the size and skill to be an impact player down the road. Has shown a willingness to get involved and will stand up for himself and his teammates. He is still a bit of a project/projection type of pick, but he has some real good qualities.

## **PEYTON KETTLES**

**Defense | Swift Current (WHL)**

**Born: Winnipeg, Man.**

**No. 39-Ranked North American Skater**

\* The blueliner recorded 5-9—14 (53 GP) this past season to help his club make its second straight postseason appearance, where he collected two assists through two rounds.

\* Posted 2-11—13 in 61 GP during his first season with the Broncos in 2023-24. He ranked fifth in points among WHL defensemen aged 16 or younger.

\* Won gold for his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-0—1 in 5 GP) and played for Team Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-1—1 in 7 GP).

\* Learned how to skate from his neighbor and their teenage sons.

\* His father, **Kyle**, was a seventh-round pick by the Predators in the 1999 NHL Draft (205th overall) who played professionally in the ECHL and AHL from 2002-03 to 2004-05.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Towering defenseman who plays hard and physical. Strong defender who can shut down opponents both off the rush and in one-on-one defensive zone battles. A top pair defenseman who contributes in all situations. Moves and handles the puck well with smart and on target reads. Doesn't force reads. Can be physically dominating. Steps up and delivers heavy hits. Separates opponents from pucks and eliminates them along the walls. Reads the play well while taking away time, space and options. Has the physical tools and smarts to be an effective shutdown defenseman at the next level.



**MAX PSENICKA****Defense | Portland (WHL)****Born: Praha, Czechia****No. 40-ranked North American Skater**

\* Split his season between HC Plzen's junior team (3-8—11 in 20 GP) and the highest league in Czechia, where he made his professional debut. Psenicka made his WHL debut on Jan. 24, where he recorded 0-1—1 and went on to tally 1-6—7 (24 GP) as a rookie.

\* Was selected by the Kelowna Rockets in the first round (32nd overall) of the 2024 CHL Import Draft before Portland acquired his WHL rights in October. He signed a WHL Scholarship & Development Agreement with the Winterhawks.

\* Played the 2023-24 campaign with Slavia Praha and posted 10-25—35 in 39 GP as well as 1-3—4 in six playoff contests. He was second on his team for points among defensemen in the regular season and tied for first in the postseason.

\* Represented Czechia on the international stage in various tournaments, playing 10 GP for his country and posting 2-4—6 – the third-most points among all Under-18 Czechia defensemen.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Primarily used in a top four complimentary shut down type of role, but also when given the opportunity showed good puck skill and the ability to contribute on the power play. Heavy penalty kill usage and does a very good job disrupting in the defensive zone with his reach and range. Very good skater for his size. As he fills out and gets stronger will be very difficult to play against.

**CARTER AMICO**  
**Defense | USA U-18 (NTDP)**  
**Born: Westbrook, Maine**  
**No. 41-ranked North American Skater**

\* Recorded 0-3—3 in 13 GP for the USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team before being held out of the line-up due to injury.

\* He posted 1-13—14 in 41 GP for USA's NTDP Under-17 Team last season, the fifth-highest point total among defensemen.

\* Collected a silver medal for his country at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* Committed to Boston Univ. for the 2026-27 season.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Moves very well and is an excellent skater for a player of his size. Finishes his checks and is tough to play against especially when he uses his length/reach to close out on opponents. Does a very good job of staying within his skill set and making consistent plays. Does a solid job in the offensive zone getting shots and passes through to the net because of his eyes being up surveying his options early. Upside is excellent and his offensive game is still a work in progress, but improvement has been noticeable.

**JACOB ROMBACH**  
**Defense | Lincoln (USHL)**  
**Born: Blaine, Minn.**  
**No. 42-ranked North American Skater**

\* Doubled his point total from his rookie campaign, posting 3-15—18 (57 GP) and two four-game point streaks.

\* Collected 3-6—9 in 59 GP in his first season with the Lincoln Stars and was tied for the third-most goals by a Lincoln defenseman despite being the youngest member of their roster.

\* Won gold representing the U.S. at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge, where he recorded 1-1—2 in 5 GP. He also collected a pair of assists at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

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

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A top pair defenseman who plays in all situations. Uses his excellent size and reach to be tough to play against in the defensive zone while making the necessary plays to get pucks up the ice. Has a smooth skating stride that allows him to play at pace or slow things down when necessary. Plays a solid all-around game and has lots of pro qualities and elements in his game.

## **CAMERON SCHMIDT**

**Right Wing | Vancouver (WHL)**

**Born: Edmonton, Alta.**

**No. 43-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 40-38—78 (61 GP) this past season and finished tied for seventh in goals across the WHL. Schmidt became the sixth different player in Vancouver Giants history to score 40 goals in a season – notable NHL players on that list include **Brendan Gallagher** (44 in 2010-11, 41 in 2011-12 & 2009-10), **Evander Kane** (48 in 2008-09) and **Jordan Martinook** (40 in 2011-12).

\* Finished with the seventh-highest points-per-game average through the 2025 WHL playoffs (1.80) after posting 4-5—9 in 5 GP.

\* Collected 31-27—58 in 59 GP during the 2023-24 campaign. That season, he ranked sixth in rookie scoring and was one of two WHL players aged 16 or younger to score 30 goals.

\* Drafted seventh overall by the Giants in the 2022 WHL Bantam Draft.

\* Won gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-2—4 in 7 GP) and the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and was tied for the team lead in goals (3).

\* Schmidt also won gold with Canada White at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and scored the game-winning overtime goal in the championship contest. His five goals during the tournament were tied for the fourth most among all players.

\* Started skating at the age of one and learned to skate in his backyard rink that his father helped build.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

An under-sized winger who has game-breaking skill and an excellent shot. The go-to player in most situations for his team. His game continues to mature as he finds ways to contribute with and without the puck (even while on the penalty kill). Very hard to contain in three-on-three overtime play and is always a threat to score on most shifts. One of the more entertaining players to watch in the WHL.

**NATHAN BEHM**  
**Right Wing | Kamloops (WHL)**  
**Born: Calgary, Alta.**  
**No. 44-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 31-35—66 (59 GP) to finish fifth in scoring and fourth in goals among draft-eligible WHL skaters.

\* Named WHL Player of the Week on Oct. 28, 2024, after posting 4-6—10 in 3 GP.

\* Posted 12-19—31 in 68 GP in 2023-24 to top his team in scoring by a rookie and finish with the fifth-highest total among all players.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A winger who sees time on the power play and in four-on-four situations. Skating has improved over last year. Carries the puck more than a season ago and shows some speed and quickness to elude checkers. Makes plays in the offensive zone for scoring chances. Shows vision and playmaking ability. He is very good at finding time and space away from the puck in the offensive zone. Always in a good position to get a shot off or make a play. The puck follows him around, particularly close to the net where he manufactures chances. The type of winger you could see being much better surrounded by better players.

**CONRAD FONDRK**  
**Center | USA U-18 (NTDP)**  
**Born: St. Paul, Minn.**  
**No. 45-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 13-14—27 in 40 GP to finish seventh on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team in points per game with a 0.68 average (min. 10 GP).

\* His 20-25—45 in the 2023-24 season ranked second among USA Hockey's NTDP's Under-17 Team in points and goals, as well as third in assists.

\* Captured a silver medal at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge while recording 2-6—8 in 7 GP. His six assists were tied for the second-highest total among all players in the tournament.

\* Accelerated his high school academics to skip a grade and commit to Boston Univ. a year early. He is set to skate for the Terriers in 2025-26.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Plays center and gets time on both the power play and penalty kill. A very smooth skater with an extra gear to get around defenders and to the net. Plays a very smart and heady game to go along with his excellent puck skills and instincts. Can find passing options and execute with touch and precision. Very willing to use his size and strength in a physical way to retrieve pucks and win one-on-one battles. The combination of skill and two-way game make him very noticeable every time he is on the ice.

**CHARLTON TRETHEWEY**  
**Defense | USA U-18 (NTDP)**

**Born: Ellicott City, Md.**

**No. 46-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished fourth on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team in scoring among defensemen – and second in goals – after posting 6-14—20 (63 GP).

\* Posted 12-23—35 in 52 GP with the USA Hockey's NTDP's Under-17 Team in 2023-24 and led all defensemen in goals and tied for the lead in points. Among all players, he finished fourth in assists, fifth in points (tied) and sixth in goals (tied).

\* Won bronze at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (0-1—1 in 7 GP) and earned silver for the United States in the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (4-6—10 in 7 GP). He finished atop the tournament in goals, assists and points among defensemen.

\* Committed to Boston Univ. for the 2026-27 season.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Plays big minutes and is on the top power-play unit. Nice size and skill to complement his very complete two-way game. Can create offense for his team by making the simple breakout pass or spring a forward with a long stretch pass. Very good awareness at the offensive blue line to get shots through to the net or walk the line and wait for options to open up. Still pieces to his game that need to improve but he is a very nice prospect with a big upside and continuing to develop.

## **KRISTIAN EPPERSON**

**Left Wing | Saginaw (OHL)**

**Born: Mequon, Wisc.**

**No. 47-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Averaged 1.38 points per game during his first season in the OHL. He collected 27-53—80 (58 GP) to finish fourth on the Saginaw Spirit in points. His season was highlighted by a nine-game point streak and 11 outings of three-plus points.

\* During the 2023-24 season, Epperson split time between USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-17 (2-5—7 in 14 GP) and Under-18 Team (7-9—16 in 42 GP). His tenure was highlighted by a four-goal and five-point outing.

\* Helped Team USA capture the gold medal at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-2—5 in 6 GP).

\* Skated two seasons with the famous Shattuck St. Mary's program (2020-21 & 2021-22), which was highlighted by helping the team win the National Championship in his first season, followed by a team-leading 100-point production in his second.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Brings a ton of compete to go along with his wheels. Has good hands and puck skills. Moves his feet to find better options. Can play the smart IQ game with linemate Michael Misa but also gets in the trenches, the blue paint and doesn't back down. Great penalty killer and all around 200-foot player.

## **LUCA ROMANO**

**Center | Kitchener (OHL)**

**Born: Toronto, Ont.**

**No. 48-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Posted 25-26—51 (67 GP) this past season to finish tied for the 10th-most points among players age 17 or younger across the OHL.

\* Registered 10-12—22 in 56 GP during his rookie season with the Kitchener Rangers. He went on to tally five assists in 10 playoff games, the second-highest (tied) total among all rookies, and finished tied for the fifth-most points.

\* Gold medalist at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (3-0—3 in 5 GP), where he topped Canada in goals (tied). He also played for Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A gamebreaker with excellent puck skills in tight, creativity and vision. He also has an NHL release and can score off the rush or in the slot. Explosive and gets to top speed in a hurry. Plays with good habits. Smart and knows when to pick his spots.

**ETHAN CZATA**  
**Center | Niagara (OHL)**  
**Born: Brampton, Ont.**  
**No. 49-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 21-34—55 (68 GP) to finish fourth on his team in scoring and sixth among skaters age 17 or younger across the OHL.

\* Selected to represent the Eastern Conference at the 2024 Connor McDavid OHL Top Prospects Game.

\* Recorded 7-10—17 (62 GP) in the 2023-24 season with the OHL's Niagara IceDogs, which ranked third among rookies on the team.

\* Selected fifth overall in the 2023 OHL Priority Selection from the Mississauga Rebels.

\* Earned gold medals at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 7 GP), 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup with Team Canada and at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge with Team Canada White (0-4—4) – his four assists were tied for the second most on the team.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

He's been a staple down the middle for his team and a big part of their success. A very reliable player who plays an honest game with good habits. He has added more of an offensive layer to his game this past season. Gets around the ice well and is always on time. Plays physical. Effective penalty killer and the guy you want on the ice when you have a lead.

**BRANDON GORZYNSKI**  
**Center | Calgary (WHL)**  
**Born: Scottsdale, Ariz.**  
**No. 50-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Boasted a 33-point improvement over his rookie campaign, posting 17-25—42 (68 GP). He finished the season by registering 4-4—8 (11 GP) in the playoffs, highlighted by a four-game point streak.

\* Split the 2023-24 season between the Pittsburgh Penguins Elite 16U team, where he collected 20 points through 25 GP (13-7—20), before joining the Calgary Hitmen in the WHL (4-5—9 in 42 GP).

\* Was drafted 15th overall in the 2022 WHL U.S. Prospect Draft.

\* Gorzynski can become the 24th Arizona-born player to be selected in the NHL Draft and the first since 2023 when **Ethan Gauthier** (37th overall by TBL) and **Jaden Lipinski** (112 overall by CGY) were chosen.

## DAVID LEWANDOWSKI

Left Wings | Saskatoon (WHL)

Born: Dusseldorf, Germany

No. 51-Ranked North American Skater

\* Played in the WHL in 2024-25 with the Saskatoon Blades, where he tallied 15-24—39 (52 GP) to finish tied for the 11th-most goals and assists among rookies across the league.

\* Recorded 15-33—48 in 33 GP with Dusseldorfer in Germany's junior league in 2023-24, tied for the third-most points among all players. He also ranked first on his team in assists, second in points and third in goals.

\* Collected 2-5—7 (5 GP) en route to a gold medal with Germany at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship Division 1A – the fifth-most assists (tied) and fourth-most points (tied). He also played for his country at the 2025 World Junior Championship (2-0—2 in 5 GP) and the 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Lewandowski can become the fifth German-born player to be selected in the NHL Draft *and play an NHL game* in the past 10 years, following **Tim Stützle** (2020), **Lukas Reichel** (2020), **JJ Peterka** (2020) and **Moritz Seider** (2019).

\* His father, **Eduard**, was an eighth-round pick by the Coyotes in the 2003 NHL Draft (242nd overall) and spent his lengthy professional hockey career playing in Germany (where he won a league title in 2006-07) and Russia. Eduard represented Germany in the 2004 World Cup of Hockey and 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

## NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Good combination of size and skill. Smart and well-rounded offensive player. Does a good job of both distributing the puck and getting himself into prime scoring areas. A smart, well-rounded, and consistent offensive player that reads and anticipates the play well. Uses his big frame well to protect the puck and can dangle and create space in traffic. Good hands and anticipation in tight.



**TYLER HOPKINS****Center | Kingston (OHL)****Born: Campbellville, Ont.****No. 52-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Amassed 20-31—51 (67 GP) in 2024-25 to post a 38-point improvement over his rookie season. The campaign was highlighted by a hat trick, a four-point outing, as well as 11 multi-point performances.

\* Recorded 6-7—13 (59 GP) in his rookie campaign in 2023-24 to finish atop the Kingston Frontenacs in scoring among rookies.

\* Has three gold medals in international competition with Team Canada, including at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (0-1—1 in 6 GP), 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-1—1 in 5 GP) and the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he topped his team in assists (0-5—5 in 8 GP).

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Solid combination of size and skating. Has the ability to see the ice and make plays in tight. He's learning how to be impactful on a more consistent basis as he plays important minutes for this team. Developed a 200-foot game and is the first one over the bench on the penalty kill.

**MASON MOE****Center | Madison (USHL)****Born: Eden Prairie, Minn.****No. 53-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Spent the majority of the season in the USHL, where he collected 17-26—43 (51 GP) to operate at a 0.84 points-per-game pace, a significant jump from his rookie season (0.17 P/GP). He also played six games with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team and scored three goals with the club.

\* Split his season between the USHL and Eden Prairie High, where he led his school in goals and points with 23-17—40 (27 GP). He tallied two points in 12 games with the Madison Capitols in the USHL as a rookie.

\* Won the 2024 World Junior A Challenge with the United States (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and represented his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he recorded 2-2—4 in 5 GP – tied for the third most on the team.

\* Committed to the Univ. of Minnesota for the 2026-27 season.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Plays top line center and on the power play. Has a very high compete level and his skating allows him to make plays at top speed. Shows a very good hockey IQ and can make passes in tight areas to set up his linemates for quality chances. Plays a 200-foot game and is very responsible in his defensive zone. His game continues to improve and he shows lots of good NHL qualities.

**OWEN MARTIN****Center | Spokane (WHL)****Born: Oakbank, Man.****No. 54-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Recorded 13-21—34 in 39 GP this past season to finish with the 11th-best points-per-game average among WHL players age 17 or younger (0.87).

\* Tallied 6-6—12 (20 GP) to help Spokane make its first WHL Finals appearance since 2008.

\* Recorded 14-10—24 as a rookie in 2023-24 to finish tied for the sixth-most goals among players age 16 or younger across the WHL.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Very good two-way player. Plays on the top power-play unit on his strong side, opposite Berkly Catton. First off the bench on the penalty kill. He's out there when his team is killing off a five-on-three. Good in the face-off circle. Takes a lot of the key draws in all situations and zones. Size should be an asset when he fills out. Skates well. The type of player that a coach can use in any situation and on any line.

**BEN KEVAN****Right Wing | Des Moines (USHL)****Born: Fairfield, Calif.****No. 55-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished second on his team in points-per-game production after posting 0.84 this past season (13-30—43 in 51 GP) and topped his club in assists. That assist total was also the 10th most among 18-year-olds across the USHL.

\* Kevan also played in 13 games with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team this past season (2-1—3).

\* Last season, he led the USHL in scoring among rookies as he produced 24-33—57 (59 GP) and was named to the USHL All-Rookie Team.

\* Collected a bronze medal at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-1—3 in 7 GP) and won the 2024 World Junior A Challenge, finishing fourth in tournament scoring (6-2—8 in 5 GP). He also represented his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

\* Committed to play at Arizona Univ. for the 2026-27 campaign.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Top line right wing that plays in all situations. A dynamic offensive player who has the skating skills to play at pace or slow things down when necessary. Displays his puck skills and scoring instincts frequently and in many ways. Wants the puck on his stick in big moments and most often delivers in a big way for his team with a goal or pass that leads to a great opportunity for a teammate. Plays a solid all-around game.

## **MATEO NOBERT**

**Center | Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL)**

**Born: Beaconsfield, Que.**

**No. 56-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Recorded 28-39—67 in 57 GP with Blainville-Boisbriand in 2024-25 to finish third in points among all players age 17 or younger across the QMJHL.

\* After being selected third overall in the QMJHL Entry Draft, he recorded 12-14—26 in 62 GP during his rookie campaign in 2023-24. His 12 goals were the sixth most among all QMJHL players age 16 or younger.

\* Won gold with Canada White at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he recorded two goals (8 GP).

\* His special talent is that he [knows every country's flag in the world](#).

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Creative offensive player with good hands and playmaking skill. He sees the ice very well, anticipates and executes at a high level. Has the ability to slow the game down to his pace to create open ice for himself and his teammates. Offensive IQ is very good. He is showing a good touch around the net and is effective on the power play. Prospect with an intriguing ceiling considering that he's still on the raw side with lots of potential upgrades as he gets physically stronger.

## **TOMMY LAFRENIERE**

**Right Wing | Kamloops (WHL)**

**Born: Saint-Sauveur, Que.**

**No. 57-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 24-32—56 in 68 GP with the Kamloops Blazers in 2024-25 to finish fourth in points and goals on his team.

\* Earned CSHL U18 Most Valuable Player and First All-Star Team honors in the 2023-24 season while skating for Yale Hockey Academy, where he notched 27-31—58 (30 GP). He also made his NHL debut, where he recorded 2-2—4 in 9 GP with the Blazers.

\* Was born in Montreal, Que., but grew up in Whistler, B.C., for most of his childhood. He moved back to Montreal for a few years but went back to B.C., for his Bantam NHL draft year.

\* His sister, **Kaila**, is an NCAA skier with the Univ. of Utah.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Played top-six minutes on right wing, but also played in the middle and his off wing at times. First off the bench on the penalty kill and net front on the top power-play unit. A very likeable and coachable player that can play up and down a line up.

**ADAM BENAK**  
**Centre | Youngstown (USHL)**  
**Born: Plzen, Czechia**  
**No. 58-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Recorded 17-42—59 in 56 GP with the Youngstown Phantoms in 2024-25 to lead his team as well as all players age 17 or younger across the USHL in points. He also topped all rookies in assists and finished second in scoring among all rookies.

\* Earned USHL All-Rookie Team and Second All-Star Team honors in 2024-25.

\* Last season, he split his time between HC Plzen's Under-17 team (2-5—7 in 2 GP) and with their junior team, where he averaged a point per game (8-21—29 in 29 GP) in Czechia's junior league and finished fourth across the league in points by a player age 16 or younger. He also made his professional hockey debut in 2023-24, playing 18 games in Czechia's top league (0-2—2).

\* Collected a silver medal with Czechia at the 2023 and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup – his eight assists in 2023 led the tournament, while his four goals co-led it. His 21 career points at the tournament are the most by any skater in Hlinka Gretzky Cup history.

\* He has also represented his country at the 2023 and 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he led the team in scoring (2-5—7 in 4 GP) and wore an "A", as well as at the 2022 and 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His father, **Vaclav**, played professional hockey in Czechia and Germany for over 20 years from 1996 to 2020.

#### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Top line center that excels in all areas of the game. He's quick, smart and has a tremendous work ethic. A bit undersized but doesn't play small and challenges much larger opponents every shift with his intensity. Has the ability to play fast or slow it down to wait for things to open up. A go-to-guy on his team. Has dynamic offensive qualities to his game and is a noticeable player every time he's on the ice.

## **TEDDY MUTRYN**

**Centre | Chicago (USHL)**

**Born: Norwell, Mass.**

**No. 59-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Spent the majority of his 2024-25 campaign with Chicago of the USHL, where he tallied 17-13—30 (47 GP) to finish tied for fifth in goals among rookies across the league.

\* Played for both USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team and Under-17 Team, recording 1-1—2 in 13 GP this past season (2024-25) and 1-0—1 in 5 GP last season (2023-24).

\* Won the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (0-4—4 in 5 GP), bronze at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (1-0—1 in 7 GP) and silver at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-0—1 in 4 GP). He also represented his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP).

\* Committed to his hometown Boston College for the 2026-27 season, where both of his parents were once athletes – his father, **Scott**, played football, while his mother, **Kathryn**, played lacrosse. Scott, who was a quarterback, also spent the 1999 preseason with the NFL's New England Patriots.

## **RYAN MILLER**

**Centre | Portland (WHL)**

**Born: Medicine Hat, Alta.**

**No. 60-Ranked North American Skater**

\* More than doubled his point total from his rookie campaign by tallying 16-15—31 (50 GP) with Portland in 2024-25 despite missing nearly two months from an injury. He went on to record 4-9—13 in 16 playoff games.

\* Recorded 6-9—15 (44 GP) during his rookie season in 2023-24 to finish second on his team in scoring among rookies.

\* His brother, **Tyler**, plays for Michigan Tech and the brothers could potentially play against each other in the NCAA next season after Ryan committed to the Univ. of Denver for 2026-27.



## INTERNATIONAL SKATERS



### ANTON FRONDELL

Center | Djurgarden (SWEDEN-2)

Born: Stockholm, Sweden

No. 1-Ranked International Skater

\* Started the 2024-25 season with Djurgarden's junior team (5-2—7 in 10 GP) but quickly graduated to their men's team in Sweden's second division (11-14—25 in 29 GP). He is one of 11 different 17-year-olds to have played in the league this season and tops that cohort in goals, assists and points. In fact, among all players age 18 or younger, his totals are the second most behind fellow draft eligible forward **Victor Eklund**.

\* Led Djurgarden's junior team in scoring in 2023-24 with 18-21—39 in 29 GP, including a plus-25 rating that tied for sixth best in the league.

\* Internationally, Frondell has helped Sweden earn medals at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (bronze; 6-1—7 in 7 GP) and the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (silver; 2-2—4 in 5 GP).

### NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Skilled two-way player. Strong player with strong legs, which shows up in his skating. Has perfect balance in his skating and makes it difficult for opponents to catch him. Wins most of the one-on-one battles with his attitude, power and quick stick. Delivers intelligent passes and is a real asset, especially on the power play. Has a nifty wrist shot and his release is solid and accurate. His hockey IQ shines with intelligent moves, with or without the puck. Likes to set up teammates using small moves and tricky passes. Shows resilience and perseverance. Advances the puck quickly and plays a heads-up game. Makes good choices as he is a competent and skilled stick handler.

## **VICTOR EKLUND**

**Right Wing | Djurgarden (SWEDEN-2)**

**Born: Stockholm, Sweden**

**No. 2-Ranked International Skater**

\* Skating in Sweden's second division with Djurgarden this season and, as an 18-year-old, currently tops the league in goals and points by a teenager. He sits second in points in that category 19-12—31 (42 GP).

\* Was named the 'Best Junior' in Sweden's second division after recording the most goals and points by a junior player.

\* As a 17-year-old, Eklund played the majority of the 2023-24 season with Djurgarden's junior team and finished third on the team in assists (18) and sixth in points (25). He also made his professional hockey debut in Sweden's second division (1-3—4 in 15 GP) and won a silver medal with Djurgarden.

\* Collected a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2025 World Junior Championship and 2024 Under-18 World Championship, finishing atop his country in goals. He also represented his country at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge, 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His brother, **William**, was drafted in the first round by the San Jose Sharks in 2021 (7th overall) and has played in the NHL for the past three seasons. His father, **Christian**, played professional hockey in Europe for over two decades.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

An active and alert player who plays with a lot of confidence and intensity. A robust checker who uses his acceleration and speed on every shift. Strength will come over time due to his great mentality and work ethic toward hockey. Has great skating ability, accelerates and moves from side to side. His fakes and dekes on defenders are very good. Safe zone entries, great speed and a good "drive" to the net. Plays at a higher tempo than many others in a game. Effort, intense playing style and emotions show a tremendous overall mentality. Very "quick" with his stick and while puck handling. Can get himself time and space in traffic. Has a quick shot when skating. He is a playmaker who plays with his head up with the puck looking to create. Very good vision and creativity. Comfortable and confident and has good patience with the puck.

## **MILTON GASTRIN**

**Center | MODO Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)**

**Born: Ornskoldsvik, Sweden**

**No. 3-Ranked International Skater**

\* Tallied 18-24—42 in 40 GP this season, topping his team in goals and second in assists and points while wearing an 'A'. Gastrin also finished seventh in Sweden's junior league in points among players age 17 or younger and made his professional hockey debut, skating in eight games with MODO's men's team.

\* Gastrin nearly doubled his point production from the 2023-24 campaign in 16 fewer games, after posting 12-16—28 in 25 GP last season. His point total finished as the sixth highest among 16-year-olds in Sweden's top junior league.

\* Captained Sweden to a bronze at both the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he concluded the tournament tied for third in points (3-7—10 in 5 GP), and at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-2—5 in 7 GP).

\* His father, **Magnus**, played professional hockey in Sweden and Switzerland for over a decade, while his brother, **Malcom**, is currently his teammate with MODO Jr.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Can play either center or wing. A strong skater, including acceleration, straight-away speed and balance. Always involved in the play, active and intelligent. Comes out as a winner in most battles. Not flashy, plays a simple and very effective game using his skating, smartness and winning attitude on every shift. Plays an effective two-way game. Drives the net with purpose and gets many chances off the cycle. An intelligent player who makes good decisions with and without the puck. An ace in the face-off circle.



**VOJTECH CIHAR****Left Wing | Karlovy Vary (CZECHIA)****Born: Chomutov, Czechia****No. 4-Ranked International Skater**

\* Cihar spent the 2024-25 season skating for Karlovy Vary in Czechia's highest professional league (4-5—9 in 43 GP). He spent most of the campaign as a 17-year-old and was one of 14 skaters of that age to have played a game in the league this season – he tops that cohort in goals, assists and points, six more than the next-closest player.

\* In 2023-24, he skated in Czechia's junior league, where he tallied 14-12—26 in 35 GP. He finished with the third-most goals and fifth-most points by players age 16 or younger across the league.

\* Won silver at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2025 World Junior Championship (1-1—2 in 7 GP) – the country's third straight year with a medal at the tournament. He also represented Czechia at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-2—4 in 8 GP).

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A good-sized forward who is strong over the puck and can protect it in tight spaces. Effectively utilizes his physical attributes and has excellent offensive smarts and tools. Dangerous player with the puck on his stick and can produce. An excellent, deceptive puck handler. Outstanding vision and playmaking ability. Owns a great shot with power and accuracy. Has a high offensive hockey IQ and can make his teammates better. Dangerous on the power play. Wants the puck on his stick in crucial moments and delivers. Can be a difference maker. Strong on his skates with good speed – tough to stop when on the move. Good balance, hard to knock down in battles. Reliable and useful team player.

**ALEXANDER ZHAROVSKY**  
**Right Wing | UFA Jr. (RUSSIA-JR)**  
**Born: Klin, Russia**  
**No. 5-Ranked International Skater**

\* Averaged over a point per game in his first season playing in Russia's junior league (24-26—50 in 45 GP), where he finished tied for 10th in points. He also topped his team in goals and points.

\* Was awarded Forward of the Month and Rookie of the Month honors through the 2024-25 season.

\* Spent the majority of 2023-24 skating in Russia's National Junior Hockey League, the country's second level of junior hockey. He produced 25-22—47 (35 GP) to top his team in scoring and finish tied for ninth in points across the league.

### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

His development throughout the season was exceptional. A sizable winger whose strengths lie in his hockey vision. Generously shares the puck with perfect passes, thanks to his remarkable awareness. His puck-handling skills shine, and he possesses the long reach necessary to control the puck effectively. Can shield the puck well with his body and is swift enough to drive to the net using clever dekes. All his actions are highly productive, and he excels at give-and-go plays. Assists his teammates effectively by retrieving lost pucks and can easily locate open ice and vacant spots. By reading the play, he can adjust his direction or slow down at key moments. His defensive play is solid, and he can intercept passing lanes. Quickly emerged as a top prospect for the first round of the Draft throughout the season.

**EDDIE GENBORG****Right Wing | Linköping (SWEDEN-JR)****Born: Trollhättan, Sweden****No. 6-Ranked International Skater**

\* Collected 19-15—34 in 28 GP and finished atop his team in goals and fifth in points despite playing just a portion of his season with the club. He also made his professional hockey debut where he scored twice through 28 games, which was the most goals among players age 17 or younger in the league.

\* Split the 2023-24 campaign between Linköping HC's junior team (4-1—5 in 25 GP) and their Under-18 team, where he recorded a combined 7-4—11 in 16 GP.

\* Earned a bronze medal for Sweden at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP), silver at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (1-2—3 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-2—3 in 7 GP). He also tallied three points at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A physical, high-energy forward with a strong presence on the ice. Known for his toughness, he's a force in front of the net, where it's nearly impossible to move him, earning him comparisons to Tom Wilson. A power forward who excels at finishing checks and playing hard in all situations, though sometimes his intensity can get the better of him. His role on the power play is key, as he screens the goalie and battles in tight areas to create opportunities. While his physicality is a huge asset, his puck skills still require development. A solid player with potential but still lacks some creativity. His work ethic and competitive approach make him a valuable asset to his team. His skating is strong. Defensively, he's effective in blocking shots and maintaining solid positioning. Used in multiple situations, including on the penalty kill and power play, where he adds value through his physicality and net-front presence. Though his offensive vision and playmaking need refinement, his effort and high compete level make him a reliable player on every shift. With continued growth, his powerful style and physical attributes should translate well to a pro career.

## **ERIC NILSON**

**Center | Djurgarden Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**

**Born: Calgary, Alta.**

**No. 7-Ranked International Skater**

\* Averaged over a point per game in Sweden's junior league this season after tallying 12-26—38 (37 GP). He finished tied for 10th in scoring among players age 17 or younger across the league. Nilson made his professional debut, playing four games in Sweden's second league (0-1—1).

\* Spent the 2023-24 season with the Orebro junior team and was tied for fourth in playoff points during the J18 Nationell postseason (4-9—13 in 7 GP).

\* Captured a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and again in the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he was one of five Swedish players to score at least three goals in the tournament.

\* His father, **Marcus**, was a first-round pick by the Panthers in the 1996 NHL Draft (20th overall) who recorded 67-101—168 in 521 games with the Panthers and Flames from 1998-99 to 2007-08. Marcus helped the Flames reach the Stanley Cup Final in 2004, ranking fourth on his team with 4-7—11 in 26 GP that postseason. His 15-year-old sister, **Alice**, also plays hockey and has already skated in the NDHL – the second-highest women's hockey league in Sweden.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A well-rounded, two-way center with strong skating and excellent puck skills. Displays a high hockey IQ, making quick and accurate passes while taking responsibility in all three zones. His reliability and work ethic make him a valuable asset as he contributes effectively to both the power play and penalty kill. Strong on his skates, difficult to knock down, and competes hard in battles for loose pucks. He has shown flashes of creativity and playmaking ability. Possesses a quick release and can finish plays when given the opportunity. His defensive awareness is solid, and he takes pride in playing a responsible game. With continued development, he has the potential to be an effective NHL player in a middle-six role.

**JAKOB IHS-WOZNIAK**  
**Center | Lulea Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**  
**Born: Adelaide, Australia**  
**No. 8-Ranked International Skater**

\* Finished tied for sixth in points across Sweden's top junior league after posting 23-34—57 (40 GP) despite spending part of the campaign in the SHL. Ihs-Wozniak made his professional hockey debut with Lulea and was one of six 17-year-olds to record multiple points in the SHL this season.

\* Spent the majority of 2023-24 in Sweden's top junior league with Lulea Jr. and led his team in points with 22-28—50 in 36 GP. He was also tied for first on his team in playoff goals that season (3-2—5 in 4 GP).

\* Represented Sweden at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge where he was tied for the second-most goals on the team (3) and won bronze for his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he co-led his team in goals (4).

\* He can become the second Australian-born player to play in the NHL, following Kings defenseman **Jordan Spence**, who was born in Manly, Australia.

#### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A highly-skilled offensive forward with an intense hockey IQ and natural scoring ability. Excels on the power play, showing great vision, quick decision-making, and an accurate shot, including a dangerous one-timer. Positions himself well in the offensive zone, finding open spaces to capitalize on scoring chances. His skating is smooth, but his pace and physicality need improvement, especially in high-intensity games. Playing alongside strong linemates enhances his effectiveness, but he must learn to contribute more consistently at even strength. Overall, a promising prospect with a high offensive upside but areas to refine.

**KURBAN LIMATOV****Defense | Dynamo Moscow Jr. (RUSSIA-JR)****Born: Moskva, Russia****No. 9-Ranked International Skater**

\* Led all defensemen age 17 or younger in scoring in Russia's top junior league this season after posting 8-15—23 (46 GP). His totals mark a 17-point improvement from his rookie campaign in the league.

\* Limatov played his first MHL season in 2023-24 and collected 1-5—6 through 30 GP with MHK Dynamo Moskva.

\* Was drafted 118th overall by the Omaha Lancers in the 2023 USHL Futures Draft.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A mobile, two-way defenseman with impressive size and physical strength. A key player for Dynamo Moscow's junior team in the MHL, logging heavy minutes on the first pair. His skating is strong for his size, showing good mobility and agility, though he still needs to refine his decision-making. Offensively, he has been productive, contributing both as a puck-mover and a shooter. Defensively, his long reach and physical presence make him effective. He tends to be overly aggressive in transition, sometimes leaving his team exposed. His hockey IQ is decent. Possesses high-end tools and courage. His performance has been uneven. Development has been good during the season.

**THEODOR HALLQUISTH**  
**Defense | Orebro-Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)**  
**Born: Taby, Sweden**  
**No. 10-Ranked International Skater**

\* After tallying 1-3—4 in a game with the Orebro's Under-18 team, Hallquist joined their junior team where he collected 5-17—22 (41 GP), which was tied for sixth in scoring by defensemen age 17 or younger across Sweden's top junior league. He also made his professional debut, playing in 12 SHL games.

\* In 2023-24, Hallquist collected a total of 5-24—29 (38 GP) in a season he spent the majority of time playing in Sweden's top league for Under-18 players.

\* Earned a silver medal for his country at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (0-5—5 in 5 GP).

\* His brother, **Wilhelm**, is an ice hockey player in Sweden who spent the majority of this past season playing professionally and represented his country at the 2025 World Junior Championship.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

An active, two-way defenseman with a strong competitive level and solid physical presence. He stands out in defensive and offensive situations, showing good puck distribution, especially on the power play. His active feet and stick allow him to close gaps quickly and disrupt plays effectively. While his explosiveness helps him compensate for less fluid lateral movement, his overall agility and skating still need refinement. He plays with confidence, stepping up in transition and making smart, creative decisions under pressure. Defensively, he battles hard, uses his size well, and is difficult to beat in one-on-one situations. His passing is generally strong, but he has moments of inconsistency under pressure. Has earned top-pair minutes, contributing to penalty kill and power-play situations. His frame suggests room for further physical development, which could make him an even more imposing presence. A reliable two-way defenseman with the tools to carve out a role in pro hockey.

## **ARTEM GONCHAR**

**Defense | Magnitogorsk Jr. (RUSSIA-JR)**

**Born: Chelyabinsk, Russia**

**No. 11-Ranked International Skater**

\* Posted 7-18—25 in 50 GP during the 2024-25 campaign and led his team in points, goals and assists (tied) among defensemen. He was one of five players on his team to play in at least 50 games and the only blueliner among that group.

\* His 25 points in 2024-25 were the fourth most among all defensemen age 18 or younger in Russia's junior league, the country's highest level of junior hockey.

\* Recorded 1-4—5 in 28 GP in 2023-24 as a rookie in the MHL.

\* His uncle, **Sergei**, is a defenseman and Stanley Cup champion (2009 w/ PIT) who was selected by the Capitals in the first round of the 1992 NHL Draft (14th overall) and went on to a 1,301-game NHL career where he recorded 220-591—811 across 20 seasons with the Capitals, Bruins, Penguins, Senators, Stars and Canadiens from 1994-95 to 2014-15.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

His skating is impressive, showcasing a smooth glide and strong acceleration. After just a few strides, he reaches full speed. His hands and feet work in harmony, enabling him to skillfully pass the puck, even when an opponent is nearby. He plays with composure, ease, and strong self-assurance. His confidence with the puck is evident, as he often takes the necessary time to make smarter decisions. Relies on stick-to-stick defense and intelligent positioning. His development has been straightforward and fast. He advances the puck quickly and plays with a heads-up approach. Makes sound choices under pressure, exhibiting good instincts in all zones to create effective plays. He takes on the role of quarterback during power plays, and his movement along the blue line is active and vigilant. He can turn, stop, and accelerate intelligently. He delivers pucks accurately on target, and his release is sharp.



## **LASSE BOELIUS**

**Defense | Assat Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)**

**Born: Pori, Finland**

**No. 12-Ranked International Skater**

\* Played 34 games in Finland's top junior hockey league, where he recorded 4-14—18 and made his professional hockey debut in Finland where he posted two assists in seven contests.

\* Spent the majority of 2023-24 with Assat's junior team, where he posted 1-3—14 in 35 GP before helping his team win the championship in Finland's top junior hockey league. His seven points in the postseason were tied for the third most among all defensemen.

\* Represented Finland at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (1-5—6 in 5 GP), 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-1—1 in 4 GP) and the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he was one of two Finnish defensemen to record multiple assists during the tournament.

\* His brother, **Eemeli**, is also a hockey player and plays professionally in Finland's third-highest League.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A terrific skater with balance and a smooth stride. Strong on his skates and is hard to knock off the puck. Calm and confident whenever he has the puck, consistently making effective plays. His awareness and understanding of the game are notably strong, and he often appears to anticipate and plan his actions well in advance. He frequently retreats and creates space between himself and the closest opposing forward, facilitating open passing lanes for his defensive partner to evade oncoming pressure without risk. A mobile and skilled player who has a powerful puck presence and is not afraid to make plays. He shoots well from the blue line and gets the puck to the net; he could use it even more. Defensively, more power and energy are needed to steal the puck against more vigorous opponents. He has reasonable confidence and is not shy on the ice. His skating is robust, and he adeptly utilizes his edges to maintain momentum when maneuvering in tight spaces. This allows him to quickly adapt to the speed of opposing forwards and maintain effective gap control. Offensively, he acts more as a puck distributor.

## **THEO STOCKSELIUS**

**Center | Djurgardens Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)**

**Born: Norrtälje, Sweden**

**No. 13-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of the season playing in Sweden's top junior hockey league where he recorded 22-29—51 (40 GP). He finished fourth in the league in points and assists among players age 17 or younger.

\* Won gold in 2024-25 in Sweden's top junior league, where he topped the league in points (8-8—16 in 9 GP). He paced Sweden's top Under-18 league in scoring as well (5-9—14 in 8 GP).

\* In 2023-24, he played in Sweden's Under-18 league, skating in both their highest league where he posted 8-16—24 (15 GP) and in their second division (11-28—39 in 22 GP), where he finished sixth in assists.

\* Collected silver with Sweden at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 7 GP) and the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (0-2—2 in 5 GP).

### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Highly skilled and creative player who consistently shows strong hockey IQ and the ability to handle the puck in tight spaces. Stands out for his stickhandling, passing and ability to create offense. Finds ways to make an impact without always being flashy. His long reach and wiry frame make him difficult to contain, and he is effective in creating for teammates and finishing himself. However, his physical strength and skating, particularly acceleration and first strides, remain areas needing improvement. Regularly contributes on the scoreboard and has proven to be a productive and reliable player at the junior level. His humble mentality and work ethic are noted strengths, suggesting a high ceiling if he continues developing physically. Overall, he is a technically gifted player with strong upside, especially if he improves his on-ice explosiveness.

## **TOMAS POLETIN**

**Left Wing | Pelicans Jr. (FINLAND-JR)**

**Born: Praha, Czechia**

**No. 14-Ranked International Skater**

\* Recorded 13-7—20 (25 GP) this past season and finished fifth in goals among players 17 or younger in Finland's top junior league. He also made his professional hockey debut by skating in 15 games in Liiga.

\* Spent 2023-24 skating with both the Pelicans' junior team (5-9—14 in 21 GP) and their Under-18 team, where he tallied 4-8—12 (10 GP) for a 1.20 points-per-game rate.

\* Collected silver for Czechia at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (3-1—4 in 5 GP) and represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he wore the 'C', the 2024 Under-18 World Championship as well as at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-5—8 in 8 GP), where he finished with the third-highest point total in the tournament (tied).

\* His older brother, **Michal**, played parts of 14 seasons professionally in Czechia, while his younger brother, **Frantisek**, is a netminder who is spending his first season playing with the Pelicans' junior and Under-18 team.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

An innovative, dependable two-way winger with strong positional play and a solid work ethic. He has been increasingly effective at the men's level, showing poise with the puck and making creative, confident decisions under pressure. Physically strong, he battles well through contact and plays with energy and determination in all three zones. His puck skills are solid, and he consistently delivers smart, subtle plays that contribute to team success. He has good vision and the ability to execute passes in tight spaces, while being effective off the cycle and in front of the net. Though not flashy, he shows leadership qualities, competes hard, and is trusted in all situations, including special teams. His skating is decent, but improving his first-step quickness and acceleration would elevate his game further. A maturing, reliable prospect with a well-rounded skill set and upward trajectory.

**MATOUS JAN KUCHARCIK**  
**Center | Slavia Jr. (CZECHIA-JR)**  
**Born: Vipiteno, Bolzano, Italy**  
**No. 15-Ranked International Skater**

\* Appeared in 20 games for HC Slavia in Czechia's third-level professional ice hockey league (1-3—4), but spent the majority of 2024-25 with their junior team (6-10—16 in 25 GP) where he posted 2-4—6 in seven playoff games – tied for the fourth-most points on the team.

\* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season playing in Czechia's Under-17 league, where he recorded 32-27—59 (35 GP) to finish third in goals (tied) and ninth in scoring (tied).

\* Earned a silver medal at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and also represented Czechia at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Can become the fourth Italian-born player to be drafted into the NHL after **Damian Clara** (60th overall in 2023), **Luca Sbisa** (19th overall in 2008) and **Victor Posa** (137th overall in 1985).

\* His father, **Tomas**, was an eighth-round pick by the Maple Leafs in the 1991 NHL Draft (167th overall) who had a long professional career playing in the AHL as well as leagues in Czechia, Finland and Sweden.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A tall, lanky center. Possesses impressive reach and puck protection skills, making him effective at keeping defenders at bay. He shows good vision and creativity, often setting up teammates in dangerous scoring areas and reading the game well. His playmaking instincts are solid, but he has inconsistencies in his passing accuracy and selection. Works hard at both ends of the ice and shows a humble, team-first mentality. His hockey sense, poise and tempo control make him an intriguing long-term prospect. With focused development in strength, skating, and passing precision, he could become an intense two-way center at the professional level.'

## **JAN CHOVAN**

**Center | Tappara Jr. (FINLAND-JR)**

**Born: Bratislava, Slovakia**

**No. 16-Ranked International Skater**

\* Recorded 11-12—23 (39 GP) this past season playing for Tappara in Finland's top junior league and finished fifth on his team in scoring. He also recorded 6-6—12 (9 GP) in the playoffs with Tappara's Under-18 team to help win the league championship.

\* Last season, he split his time between Tappara's Under-18 team, where he finished second in the league in points per game with a 1.55 rate (12-19—31 in 20 GP), as well as with the club's junior team, where his 7-6—13 (30 GP) was tied for the fifth-most points among players age 16 or younger in Finland's top junior league.

\* Has represented Slovakia on the international stage at the 2025 World Junior Championship (1-1—2 in 5 GP), the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (2-1—3) and at both the 2024 and 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. At the most recent Hlinka Gretzky Cup, he led his country in scoring after posting 1-5—6 in 4 GP.

\* His father, **Jan**, played two seasons in the Ontario Hockey League, was selected 213th overall in the 2001 NHL Draft by the Maple Leafs and went on to play over a decade of professional hockey in Europe. His uncle, **Martin**, has played professional hockey for two decades, including this season in Slovakia.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A power winger with strong puck protection, good size and a solid two-way game. He contributes consistently in offensive and defensive roles and has shown strong performances on the top line and special teams. His puck skills, vision and hockey sense are notable and he can create space for linemates while staying hard to knock off the puck. His first-step quickness and top-end speed need development. However, his effort level and physical play often compensate for his skating limitations. Plays a simple, effective game and thrives in high-paced environments with the right linemates. His versatility, combined with his steady development curve, makes him an intriguing draft prospect. With continued improvement in skating and physical strength, he has the potential to grow into a reliable pro-level winger.

**MALTE VASS****Defense | Farjestad Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)****Born: Karlstad, Sweden****No. 17-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 in Sweden's top junior league, where he posted 2-9—11 in 40 GP and wore an 'A' on his jersey. He also made his professional hockey debut in Sweden, skating in five contests with Farjestad.

\* Split the 2023-24 season between Sweden's top junior league (0-1—1 in 10 GP) and two of their Under-18 leagues (combined 10-14—24 in 31 GP). He also won a silver medal in Sweden's top Under-18 league, where as a defenseman, he finished third in playoff scoring among all players (4-11—15 in 10 GP).

\* Earned a silver medal at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (0-1—1 in 5 GP). He also won a bronze medal for Sweden at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-1—2 in 5 GP), where he led all Swedish defensemen in goals.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A reliable, physical defenseman who has consistently showcased strong defensive play. Excels in one-on-one situations and is particularly tough to play against, regularly using his size and strength to disrupt opposing players. His defensive positioning and gap control are highlights of his game, ensuring that he shuts down offensive threats efficiently. While his puck-handling and skating are not elite, he keeps his game simple, making effective first passes and clearing the puck when needed. Demonstrates a strong physical presence, often engaging in body checks and physical battles, especially in front of his own net. His game is not centered on offensive production, but rather on staying solid in his zone and playing aggressively when required. His potential as a stay-at-home, hard-hitting defender is clear, though further development in his offensive skills and mobility would elevate his game.

**DANIIL PROKHOROV****Right Wing | Dynamo St. Petersburg Jr. (RUSSIA-JR)****Born: Krasnodar, Russia****No. 18-Ranked International Skater**

\* Recorded 20-7—27 in 43 GP during the 2024-25 campaign in Russia's top junior league and was one of only two players on his team to score 20-plus goals that season. He finished tied for fifth across the league in goals among players age 17 or younger.

\* Scored four goals in eight games during the 2024-25 postseason, which was tied for the team lead. His 0.5 goals-per-game average tied for the eighth highest that playoff year.

\* Split the 2023-24 season between Russia's Under-17 league, where he averaged 1.5 points per game (11-1—12 in 8 GP), and the MHL, he accumulated 7-9—16 in 36 GP as a rookie.

\* Earned bronze at the 2023 Under-16 Districts Cup, where he tallied 4-1—5 in 7 GP.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A towering winger who effectively uses his size to his advantage, especially in physical battles and net-front play. His reach makes him a tough matchup for defenders, and he protects the puck well when carrying it through the neutral zone. While his skating is powerful, he could improve on his agility and quick first strides. He has shown flashes of offensive skill, scoring goals and earning assists, but his playmaking vision remains a work in progress. Excels in front of the net, where he can screen goalies and capitalize on loose pucks. His shot is strong but lacks precision, requiring further refinement. Plays a power-forward style. His hockey IQ is solid, though he could be more creative in generating plays. Overall, he has intriguing tools but must improve his skating and finishing ability to reach his full potential.

## **VIKTOR KLINGSSELL**

**Right Wing | Skelleftea Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)**

**Born: Jarfalla, Sweden**

**No. 19-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 with Skelleftea's junior team, where he collected 17-22—39 in 43 GP. He had the third-most points on his team during the regular season as well as playoffs (7-4—11 in 9 GP) to win a silver medal.

\* Klingsell also made his professional hockey debut playing three games in the SHL.

\* In 2023-24, he skated in Sweden's Under-18 junior leagues, including posting 13-15—18 (15 GP) in J18 Nationell to finish tied for fifth across the league in points.

\* Earned a silver medal at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-6—8 in 7 GP) and the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (3-4—7 in 5 GP), where he was tied for fifth in tournament scoring. He also won a bronze medal for Sweden at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (4-8—12 in 5 GP), where he led the entire tournament in goals, assists and points, as well as at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-4—7 in 7 GP).

\* His father, **Jonas**, played professional hockey in Sweden and is currently a coach for Skelleftea's J18 club.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A technically gifted forward with excellent puck skills, quick perception, and above-average hockey sense. He consistently shows strong offensive instincts, creativity and an ability to find teammates in scoring positions. His skating is quick and agile, allowing him to effectively challenge defenders and shift direction. However, his defensive game needs work. While his size limits him physically, he compensates with work ethic, vision and puck control. He's shown flashes of brilliance internationally, including standout performances in the 5 Nations Tournament and Hlinka Gretzky Cup. With continued strength and two-way responsibility development, he projects as a finesse playmaker with pro upside.



**ZEB LINDGREN****Defense | Skelleftea Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)****Born: Umea, Sweden****No. 20-Ranked International Skater**

\* Played five games in the Swedish Hockey League, but spent the majority of 2024-25 in Sweden's top junior league where he posted 4-15—19 in 38 GP. He ranked third in points, assists and goals among his club's defensemen.

\* Helped his team win silver in Sweden's junior league in 2024-25 after capturing gold in 2023-24.

\* Earned a bronze medal for Sweden at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and silver at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge, where he was one of three Swedish defensemen to find the back of the net.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A well-sized, defensively minded blueliner with steady positioning and a safety-first approach in his own zone. His skating is developing nicely, and he combines good mobility with a strong frame, showing flashes of play-driving ability. He excels in simple, structured defensive situations and makes effective breakout passes, especially long ones under pressure. His play in the penalty kill and physical presence around the net are noticeable strengths. Inconsistencies arise when he tries to do too much offensively or misreads situations, particularly in high-level international games. Has shown flashes of creativity and offensive instincts but sometimes looks tentative. Has been trending upward, showing more confidence, assertiveness, and engagement. Has the tools to become a reliable two-way defenseman, but refining his decision-making and assertiveness will be key to reaching his full potential.

## **DMITRI ISAYEV**

**Left Wing | Yekaterinburg Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)**

**Born: Togliatti, Russia**

**No. 21-Ranked International Skater**

\* Recorded 22-23—45 in 44 GP with Avto Yekaterinburg in Russia's top junior league in 2024-25 to lead his team in goals and points. He finished the season tied for second in goals and third in points among all MHL players age 17 or younger.

\* Made his professional hockey debut when he appeared in three KHL games in 2024-25 and was one of just seven players age 17 or younger to skate in the league last season.

\* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season playing in Russia's Under-17 league, where he finished tied for third on his team in scoring after posting 16-20—36 (23 GP).

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A dynamic and creative offensive player who thrives on pace and skillful puck handling. He excels at manipulating defenders with changes in speed and quick edgework, often creating space for himself and his teammates. His ability to drive offense is evident, but his lack of physical strength limits his effectiveness at higher levels. Despite these challenges, he remains relentless on the forecheck and actively pursues pucks for turnovers. His creativity shines, especially in well-timed offensive movements. He is agile and has a quick first step, which helps him in tight areas where he can create separation or close gaps. He is slippery and makes it difficult for opponents to catch up to him.

## **DAVID ROZSIVAL**

**Right Wing | Liberec Jr. (CZECHIA-JR.)**

**Born: Liberec, Czechia**

**No. 22-Ranked International Skater**

\* Tallied 17-20—37 in 30 GP with Bili Tygri Liberec in Czechia's top junior league in 2024-25 and finished third in points among all players age 17 or younger. He also made his professional hockey debut in Czechia (5 GP).

\* Split the 2023-24 season between Czechia's Under-17 league, where he averaged a point per game (4-4—8 in 8 GP), and the country's junior league (2-1—3 in 12 GP).

\* Won silver with Czechia at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (1-1—2 in 5 GP) as well as at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-1—1 in 8 GP).

**ATTE JOKI****Center | Lukko Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)****Born: Nokia, Finland****No. 23-Ranked International Skater**

\* Recorded 15-17—32 in 40 GP in Finland's top junior league in 2024-25 and helped his team skate to a championship while finishing third in points among all players age 17 or younger.

\* Spent most of the 2023-24 season with Lukko's Under-18 team, where he recorded 13-8—21 in 32 GP. He also played in 14 games with their junior team.

\* Wore the 'A' for Finland at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship this April. He also represented his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he led Finland in scoring (2-3—5 in 4 GP), as well as at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-2—2 in 7 GP).

\* His brother, **Eetu**, played professional hockey in Finland's third division in 2023-24.

**STEPAN HOCH****Left Wing | C. Budejovice Jr. (CZECHIA-JR.)****Born: Ceske Budejovice, Czechia****No. 24-Ranked International Skater**

\* Posted 12-17—29 in 30 GP with HC Motor Ceske Budejovice in Czechia's top junior league in 2024-25 to finish fourth in points on his team.

\* Recorded 1-2—3 in 23 GP with Budejovice's team in Czechia's top professional league in 2024-25, tied for the fourth-most points among all players age 18 or younger.

\* Was one of 15 players age 17 or younger to skate in Czechia's top professional league in 2023-24 and the only player to do so with Budejovice.

**ARVID DROTT****Right Wing | Djurgarden Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)****Born: Stockholm, Sweden****No. 25-Ranked International Skater**

\* Recorded 18-18—36 in 40 GP with Djurgårdens IF in Sweden's top junior league this past season, finishing tied for 10th in the league in goals by players age 17 or younger en route to a league championship.

\* Led all players in goals (26) and plus-minus (+29) in the J18 Region (East) during the 2023-24 season.

\* Won silver with Sweden at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (0-0—0 in 7 GP), silver at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (2-1—3 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-2—2 in 5 GP)

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A hardworking, high-energy forward who brings effort, physicality, and strong skating to each shift. He thrives in intense, north-south hockey and shows flashes of goal-scoring ability, particularly when playing a simple, straight-line game. Despite playing alongside skilled linemates, he rarely drives offense independently. He is valuable as a role or depth player who can forecheck, battle, and provide energy. Has the physical tools to be disruptive, but his decision-making and offensive instincts lag. At this stage, he profiles more as a bottom-six, effort-based winger.

**VIGGO NORDLUND****Left Wing | Skelleftea Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)****Born: Ingarö, Sweden****No. 26-Ranked International Skater**

\* Made his professional hockey debut by skating in one game in the Swedish Hockey League, but spent the majority of the 2024-25 season in Sweden's top junior league where he wore an 'A' and accumulated 24-25—49 (40 GP). He finished tied for seventh across the league in goals by players age 18 or younger.

\* Helped his team win silver in Sweden's junior league in 2024-25, tallying 6-6—12 through six playoff games – tied for the third-most goals among all players in the postseason and the fifth-most points.

\* Won a gold medal in Sweden's junior league in 2023-24, where he was named the most valuable player after establishing a league record for points and assists in a postseason with 7-15—22 in 9 GP.

\* Helped Sweden win a bronze medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he accumulated 2-3—5 (7 GP). He also represented his country at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-3—5 in 6 GP) and 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-1—3 in 4 GP).

**TOMAS POBEZAL**  
**Center | Nitra (SLOVAKIA)**  
**Born: Puchov, Slovakia**  
**No. 27-Ranked International Skater**

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2024-25, posting 15-8—23 in 42 GP for Nitra of the Slovakian Hockey League. He tied for the fourth-most goals on his team and the most points by a junior player across the league.

\* Won the bronze medal with Nitra's junior team after averaging a 0.75 points per game in the postseason (1-2—3 in 4 GP), which ranked fifth among his teammates.

\* Accumulated 2-3—5 in 33 GP as a rookie in 2023-24 en route to winning the league championship.

\* Represented Slovakia at the 2025 World Junior Championship, the 2023 and 2024 Under-18 World Championship – where he captained his country (4-1—5 in 7 GP) – as well as at the 2023 and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he led his country in goals (tied) and points (2-4—6 in 4 GP).

**LIAM PETTERSSON**  
**Defense | Vaxjo Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)**  
**Born: Gislaved, Sweden**  
**No. 28-Ranked International Skater**

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2024-25 when he played five games in the Swedish Hockey League, but spent the majority of the season manning the blueline for Vaxjo in Sweden's top junior league, where he recorded 6-15—21 (39 GP). He ranked tied for second on his team in assists and tied for fourth in points.

\* Pettersson also skated for Vaxjo's Under-18 team, where he recorded five points in seven games during the regular season. He posted 6-5—11 during the postseason, which ranked as the fifth-most goals among all players and the most among all defensemen.

\* Posted 1-12—13 in 14 GP with Vaxjo's Under-18 team in 2023-24, where he ranked fifth in the league in assists among defensemen (tied) and sixth in points. He also paced his club in assists and ranked second in points.

**JESPER KOTAJARVI**  
**Defense | Tappara Jr. (FINLAND-JR)**  
**Born: Kokkola, Finland**  
**No. 29-Ranked International Skater**

\* Made his professional debut in Finland's top league, but spent most of 2024-25 skating for Tappara in Finland's top junior league where he ranked tied for seventh among all defensemen in goals (8-7—15 in 30 GP). He also skated in seven playoff games with the club and tied for the third-most goals, assists and points among his teammates (2-3—5).

\* Skated in nine postseason games with Tappara's Under-18 team in 2024-25, where he accumulated 4-9—13 – tied for the fourth-most assists and points among all players – en route to the league championship.

\* Posted 6-17—23 as a rookie in Finland's top junior league in 2023-24, where he led all Tappara defensemen in assists and points as well as ranking second in goals (tied). He also had the most goals, assists and points among all Tappara blueliners in the postseason, with 2-4—6 in 8 GP en route to a bronze medal finish.

\* Represented Finland internationally at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he wore an 'A' and tied for the second-most goals and third-most points among Finnish players with 3-2—5 in 7 GP.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A highly competitive and reliable two-way defenseman with strong mental toughness. Despite not being the biggest player, he stands firm on his skates and plays with fearlessness and confidence. His mobility and quick feet allow him to transition smoothly and join the rush when needed. He is solid defensively, using clever positioning, active stick work, and firm gap control to limit opponents' chances. His puck-moving abilities are efficient, as he makes simple yet effective plays without taking unnecessary risks. While his offensive game has shown flashes of potential, he needs a more significant role to develop further in that area. Physically, he could improve his strength and toughness, especially when facing stronger opponents. Has made significant progress during the season. His best games show his ability to take on a leadership role and contribute at both ends and off the ice.

## **MAX WESTERGARD**

**Left Wing | Frolunda Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)**

**Born: Tampere, Finland**

**No. 30-Ranked International Skater**

\* After playing six games in Sweden's Under-18 league, Westergard skated in 41 games in the country's top junior league where he tallied 19-31—50 to finish third in assists and fifth in points among skaters age 17 or younger.

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2024-25, playing four regular-season and 11 playoff games (1-2—3) in Sweden's top professional league. He completed the postseason with the second-most points by an SHL player age 17 or younger.

\* Played in two of Sweden's Under-18 leagues in 2023-24, including averaging 2.36 points per game in their top Under-18 league and finishing with the most points and assists among J18 Nationell skaters with 12-21—33 in 14 GP.

\* Represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 5 GP), 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (3-0—3 in 4 GP) and 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-0—1 in 3 GP).

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Moved two years ago from Finland to Sweden where he has had a tremendous development. A dynamic, speedy winger with exceptional skating mechanics and strong puck-handling skills. He thrives in open ice, using his agility and creativity to challenge defenders one-on-one and drive offensive play. He is especially effective in transition and has a knack for creating scoring chances, particularly when entering the zone on the left side. However, he tends to play too much on the perimeter and consistently struggles to penetrate high-danger areas in the offensive zone. His physical game is underdeveloped. He shows flashes of dominance at the junior level. Defensively, he reads the game well but is clearly more offense-minded and could benefit from more balance in his play. With added strength, better willingness to drive inside, and continued development, he has the tools to become a high-level finesse forward.



## GOALTENDERS



### **JOSHUA RAVENSBERGEN**

**Goaltender | Prince George (WHL)**

**Born: North Vancouver, B.C.**

**No. 1-Ranked North American Goaltender**

\* Finished the season with the second-most wins (tied) after posting 33-13-4. Ravensbergen was one of five goalies to appear in 50 GP in 2024-25 and his save percentage (0.901) was tied for 13th across the WHL.

\* Finished his rookie season in 2023-24 with a 26-4-1 record – the seventh-most wins among all goaltenders. His 2.46 goals against average was the fourth lowest across the WHL that season.

\* In 2023-24, he tied the WHL record for most shutouts by a rookie after posting six. He tied **Jamie Tucker** (2008-09), **Matt Keetley** (2004-05), **Tyler Plante** (2004-05), **Dustin Slade** (2003-04), **Kelly Guard** (2002-03), **Donavan Nunweiler** (1996-97) and **Ray Martyniuk** (1968-69).

### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Playing in his second year in the WHL after going undrafted in the Bantam Draft. Has a huge pro presence and plays big even when down in the butterfly with excellent low net coverage. Plays with a lot of confidence and moves extremely well throughout the crease with very good structure in his game. Utilizes quick reactions and recovery skills and has an excellent glove hand. Tracks the puck well through traffic. Strong in tight and on the post, quick to eliminate any holes. A combination of size and ability, he has a good chance to become an NHL starter. A top-end goalie talent for the 2025 NHL Draft.



## **LUCAS BECKMAN**

**Goaltender | Baie-Comeau (QMJHL)**

**Born: Montreal, Que.**

**No. 2-Ranked North American Goaltender**

\* As a rookie, Beckman concluded the 2024-25 regular season with the most wins among all QMJHL goaltenders after posting a 31-18-2 record with a .914 save percentage (t-3rd highest) and 2.65 goals against average (5th lowest).

\* His 52 appearances this past season were tied for the third most among all QMJHL netminders and the most among rookie goaltenders. He also had four shutouts in the regular season, which were the second-highest total in the QMJHL and he was one of only three rookies to post a blank sheet in the postseason.

\* Played in nine games as a rookie in 2023-24 and posted a 7-1-0 record – his 1.32 goals against average was the best among all netminders across the QMJHL (min. 5 GP).

\* Earned gold with Canada at both the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and 2025 Under-18 World Championship, going 1-0-0 and 2-0-0 in each tournament, respectively.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A skilled goalie that competes hard. He's very consistent in his play. Very smart at reading and reacting and consistent in his positional play. Very good at tracking pucks through traffic. Controls his rebounds very well. Uses good positional play to make the game look easy. Possesses a dependable catching glove. Plays the puck well. Has a lot of confidence in the net with good scramble ability. Very good structure in his game. Solid and efficient in wraparound coverage. Has a chance to become a good NHL goalie in the future

**MICHAL PRADEL****Goaltender | Tri-City (USHL)****Born: Dolny Kubin, Slovakia****No. 3-Ranked North American Goaltender**

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 with the USHL's Tri-City Storm, where he collected a 9-4-0 record with one shutout. His 2.41 goals against average ranked third among all USHL goaltenders (min. 10 GP). Pradel also finished with the second-most wins among all rookies (tied), as well as second-best save percentage and second-lowest goals against.

\* Split the 2023-24 season with the Draci Liptovsky Mikulas Under-18 team (21-17-0), where he finished ninth across the league for save percentage (.922). He also played in one game for their junior team.

\* Was a part of Slovakia's team at the 2025 World Junior Championship and represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Has a very good NHL presence. Moves throughout the crease very well and is efficient for his size. Shows good quickness and athleticism. Very good net coverage and positional play. He's calm with a strong basic stance and very good glove positioning. Great butterfly coverage - seals the ice very well while keeping his body upright. Very good leg extension to protect the lower corners. Good overall technical ability - he's square to most shots. Good timing on shots and quick to butterfly. There's a lot to work with - good pro upside.

## **JACK IVANKOVIC**

**Goaltender | Brampton (OHL)**

**Born: Mississauga, Ont.**

**No. 4-Ranked North American Goaltender**

\* Accumulated a 25-12-5 record with the Brampton Steelheads this past season and ranked in the top 10 among all OHL goaltenders in wins (9th), goals against average (3.05; 8th) and save percentage (.903; t-9th).

\* Posted a 14-5-4 record as a rookie in 2023-24 (2.72 GAA, .915 SV%, 1 SO) to win the OHL Best Rookie GAA (Dinty Moore Trophy).

\* Earned gold with Canada at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he concluded the tournament as the best goaltender after having the best save percentage (.961) and goals against average (1.05). Ivankovic also won gold at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he posted the best save percentage among all netminders in the tournament (.923).

\* Represented his country at the 2025 World Junior Championship.

\* His father, **Frank**, was also a goaltender and a ninth-round pick by the Penguins in the 1995 NHL Draft (232nd overall). Frank played in the OHL, CHL and Canadian university hockey at Wilfrid Laurier Univ.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Was outstanding at the 2024 Hlinka-Gretzky Cup backstopping Canada to a gold medal. He is an extremely smart, athletic goalie and while not huge in stature, he is highly skilled and is excellent in positional play. He's mentally strong and very dependable with an excellent compete level (he battles very hard to keep the puck out). He's proven himself to be very capable of making the big and important saves and gives his team a chance to win every game. Displays very good feet, pads and efficient lateral crease movement. His quick reactions and recovery skills can be difference makers. Good use of his glove and very good at tracking pucks through traffic and reading the one-time plays - he has a chance to be an NHL starter in the future.

**LOUIS-ANTOINE DENAULT**  
**Goaltender | Quebec (QMJHL)**  
**Born: Mississauga, Ont.**  
**No. 5-Ranked North American Goaltender**

\* Posted a 17-17-5 (41 GP) record for the QMJHL's Quebec Remparts and helped them make the playoffs. He recorded a higher save percentage in the postseason (.903) than he did in the regular season (.902).

\* Was the only Remparts goaltender to record a shutout in 2024-25, doing so twice. In 2023-24, he became the first Remparts netminder with a shutout at age 17 or younger since **Déreck Baribeau** in 2016-17.

\* With a listed height of 6'8", he would be the [tallest goaltender in NHL history](#), surpassing **Ben Bishop**, **Mikko Koskinen**, **Ivan Fedotov**, **Mads Sogaard** and **Dennis Hildeby** who are all listed at 6'7".

### **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Has a huge presence in the net. A positional-style goalie who uses his size to his advantage. When positioned properly with good angles he doesn't leave much room for shooters. Has decent reaction and recovery quickness. Decent feet and lateral ability. Good butterfly coverage. Seals the ice well in tight and on the post. His overall skill level kept improving as the season moved along. Lots of pro potential - good NHL goalie prospect.

**PYOTR ANDREYANOV****Goaltender | CSKA Jr. (RUSSIA-JR)****Born: Volsk, Russia****No. 1-Ranked International Goaltender**

\* Posted a 23-6-6 record while playing in Russia's junior league. His win total finished tied for the fourth highest across the league, while his save percentage was the third best at .942 and his goals against average was the sixth lowest (1.75).

\* Andreyanov was selected to play in the MHL All-Star game this past season and was named the league's goaltender of the month twice.

\* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season playing in the MHL, Russia's junior league, where he posted a 9-8-0 record (3.04 GAA, .916 SV% & 1 SO). He was one of three 16-year-olds who played more than 10 games in the MHL last year.

\* Posted a 2.65 goals against average in five games during Russia's U-17 Finals to help his team earn bronze.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A decent-sized goalie who is active, quick and explosive. Has an excellent catching glove. Has perfect balance on his feet. Moves well in all directions. Aggressive in a good way. Helps players around the net by being active and playing the puck fast. Good reflexes when needed and looks in control, often in challenging situations. Tracks pucks well when facing screens and does not allow rebounds easily. Plays low in his net. Regarding skill, may be one of the best goalies in this draft class.

## **SEMYON FROLOV**

**Goaltender | Spartak Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)**

**Born: Togliatti, Russia**

**No. 2-Ranked International Goaltender**

\* Played for three teams in Russia's top junior league during the 2024-25 season where he posted a combined .921 SV% and a 2.12 GAA along with a 16-7-5 record (27 GP). He finished with the eighth-lowest goals against average and 10th-best save percentage among netminders age 18 or younger across the league.

\* Won the 2025 MHL championship with Spartak Moskva.

\* Earned Rookie of the Month honors for November 2023 during his first campaign with Ladia Togliatti in the MHL. He finished the 2023-24 season with a 7-4-2 record (2.51 GAA, .907 SV%, 1 SO).

\* His older brother, **Stepan**, played for the KHL's Spartak Moskva and VHL's Khimik Voskresensk this season.

\* He is coached by **Alexander Barkov** with Spartak Jr., the father of Florida Panthers captain **Aleksander Barkov**.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A tall, strong, athletic goalie with explosive movements and solid positional play. Tracks pucks well and battles hard for every save, showing a competitive edge in the net. His lateral movements are smooth, and he covers the net effectively with brilliant depth and angles. He plays aggressively, challenging shooters at the top of the crease, but this can sometimes lead to rebound issues and overcommitting on cross-passes. His post-play is strong, and his flexibility allows him to make acrobatic saves when needed. While he isn't flashy, his calm and efficient play helps him control the game, giving him a composed NHL-like presence in the net. He occasionally overplays situations, particularly on second-chance opportunities, which affects his structure and rebound control. His numbers this season have been excellent, highlighting his consistency and reliability. He could develop into a high-level goaltender with some refinement to his game, particularly in managing his aggressiveness. An intriguing prospect with great size, strong fundamentals, and room to grow.

**ELIJAH NEUENSCHWANDER**  
**Goalie | Fribourg Jr. (SWISS-JR.)**  
**Born: Biel-Bienne, Switzerland**  
**No. 3-Ranked International Goaltender**

\* Spent the bulk of his season with HC Fribourg-Gotteron in Switzerland's highest level of junior hockey where he posted a 2.24 goals against average and an 11-5-0 record through 17 GP. He also played nine games with EHC Chur in the SL, Switzerland's second professional league, where he recorded a .909 save percentage, 2.67 goals against average and 6-2-1 record.

\* Led all goalies age 17 or younger in wins and games played in the Swiss League for the 2024-25 season.

\* Played three games for Switzerland at the 2025 World Junior Championship (.817 SV%, 5.17 GAA). He also was a member of Team Switzerland at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship.

\* His younger brother, **Jonah**, played for EHC Biel-Bienne of the Swiss National League and the country's highest Swiss league in 2024-25, as well as the Switzerland Under-20 and Under-18 national teams.

**NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

Displays strong technical skills, good size and poise in the net. His butterfly technique and puck tracking were consistently solid, and he showed good lateral movement when focused. He had standout moments, especially in the Under-20 5 Nations game against Sweden, where he allowed just one goal on 30 shots. He can sometimes be too passive and struggles with foot speed and edge work in the standup position. His calm demeanor, coachability, and eagerness to improve are valuable traits. He covers the net well, thanks to his frame. His performances at the junior level suggest long-term upside, though he hasn't yet demonstrated the ability to steal games at higher levels. Considered one of the top Swiss goalie prospects and could rise further with improved consistency and skating.

## **MANS GOOS**

**Goalie | Farjestad Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**

**Born: Vasteras, Sweden**

**No. 4-Ranked International Goaltender**

\* Played for the Farjestad's junior team in 2024-25 where he posted an .893 save percentage, 3.17 goals against average and an 11-12-0 record through 24 GP.

\* His 24 games played ranked second among all goaltenders age 17 or younger in Sweden's top junior league behind **Isak Sorqvist** (34 GP).

\* Spent most of the 2023-24 season in Sweden's under-18 league, where he posted a 14-10-0 record – tied for the fifth-most wins among all netminders.

\* Earned silver with Sweden at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, after posting a .877 save percentage and a 3.86 goals against average with two wins in three games. He also claimed silver at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (2-1-0, .918 SV%, .250 GAA).

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A big, athletic goalie who plays a calm, composed game with strong fundamentals. He shows excellent rebound control and is very effective on second and third chances, rarely giving shooters extra looks. His lateral movement is impressive for his size, and he reads the play well, often appearing one step ahead. He doesn't overcommit or rely on acrobatics, instead positioning himself smartly and reacting purposefully. Particularly difficult to beat in tight or on clean looks, using his frame to seal off the net efficiently. He has a high hockey sense and maintains focus even in high-pressure situations, often making key saves to keep his team in games. His trajectory is upward, but there's room for improvement, especially in fine-tuning technical aspects. With continued development and experience, he projects as a solid pro-level goaltender with potential for more.



## **LOVE HARENSTAM**

**Goalie | Skelleftea Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**

**Born: Stockholm, Sweden**

**No. 5-Ranked International Goaltender**

\* Helped the Skelleftea junior team skate to a silver medal in 2024-25, recording a 10-9-0 record over 19 GP (.895 SV%, 3.31 GAA, 1 SO). He started the season with Lulea HF's junior team (.927 SV%, 2.28 GAA).

\* In 2023-24, Harenstam posted a 7-4-0 record and finished the season tied for the sixth-highest save percentage (.905) across Sweden's top junior league.

\* Earned a silver medal with Sweden at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (.893 SV%, 3.89 GAA) and the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (.882 SV%, 2.68 GAA). He also won bronze at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (.910 SV%, 2.26 GAA) and at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. Harenstam also played one game for his country at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

\* His father, **Chris**, is a Swedish sports journalist and commentator, previously commentating on events such as the 2010 Olympics and several FIFA World Cups.

## **NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING**

A calm and composed goalie who has succeeded, especially on Sweden's Under-18 national team. His rebound control is solid, and he displayed good positioning throughout. While he tends to drop into the butterfly early, his technical play helped him stay in control. He is an active goaltender who challenges shooters aggressively, sometimes to the point of overcommitting. His lateral quickness and post-to-post movement are strong, allowing him to adjust to sudden plays. Communicates well with his teammates and confidently plays the puck behind the net. Reading the game and anticipating plays is one of his biggest strengths. His consistency and poise are evident. His overall game continues to develop, but improving his patience and controlling his movements could make him even more effective. A solid prospect with the potential to grow into a reliable goaltender at higher levels