



# PROSPECT PROFILES

 #NHLSTATS

*Stats as of May 18, 2026*

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# NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS



## GAVIN McKENNA

Left Wing | Penn State (NCAA)

Born: Whitehorse, Y.T.

No. 1-Ranked North American Skater

\* McKenna finished fifth in scoring across the NCAA as a freshman after tallying 15-36—51 (35 GP) – 32 of which came in his final 17 games after the NHL's mid-season rankings was released. Every player above him has already been drafted to an NHL team. McKenna topped the league in assists per game (1.03) and finished second in points per game (1.46).

\* Won Big 10 Freshman of the Year, was a two-time National Rookie of the Month and was a top-10 finalist for the Hobey Baker Award.

\* Named CHL David Branch Player of the Year in 2024-25. At just 17 years, 5 months, and 24 days old, McKenna became the [third-youngest recipient of the award](#), behind **Sidney Crosby** and **John Tavares** (who both did so at age 16).

\* Finished the 2024-25 season with 41-88—129 in 56 GP and riding a 40-game point streak. He later extended that streak to 54 games during the 2025 WHL Playoffs, establishing a modern CHL record (since 2000) for the longest single-season point streak across the regular season, playoffs and Memorial Cup.

\* Led the WHL in assists (88) and plus-minus (plus-60) during the 2024-25 season.

\* His 2024-25 trophy case included CHL and WHL Player of the Year. He was also named to the CHL, WHL and Memorial Cup First All-Star Teams.

\* Helped the Medicine Hat win the 2025 WHL Championship and finished the playoffs third in the league and first on his team in points (9-29—38 in 16 GP).

\* In 2023-24, McKenna was named CHL and WHL Rookie of the Year after posting 34-63—97 in 61 GP.

\* On the international stage, McKenna has represented Canada at the 2026 World Junior Championship, where he finished the tournament second in scoring (4-10—14 in 7 GP) while helping his country earn bronze and at the 2025 World Junior Championship (1-0—1 in 5 GP).

\* He also represented Team Canada at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (3-3—6 in 6 GP) and 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he led the tournament in goals (10) and scored a hat trick in the championship game to help Canada rally for the gold-medal victory over Team USA.

\* Wore a vest [honoring his indigenous heritage](#), which was made by his grandmother, to all of Canada's games at the 2025 World Juniors. He became the first Indigenous *player from the Yukon* to represent Canada at the World Juniors.

\* A native of Whitehorse in Canada's Yukon Territory. Only six players out of the Yukon have been selected in the NHL Draft and/or appeared in an NHL game: **Max Graham** (No. 139 in 2024 by NJD;

currently in PIT organization), **Dylan Cozens** (No. 7 in 2019 by BUF; currently plays for OTT), **Gerard Dicaire** (No. 162 in 2002 by TBL; did not play in NHL); did not play in NHL), **Peter Sturgeon** (No. 36 in 1974 by BOS; 6 GP in NHL) and **Bryon Baltimore** (undrafted; 2 GP in NHL).

\* Grew up playing on an outdoor rink in his backyard built by his father, **Willy**. McKenna spent at least an hour a day, almost every day, out on that ice in temperatures at times as low as -20 to -30 Celsius (-4 to -20 Fahrenheit).

\* Was a big Blackhawks fan growing up and lists **Patrick Kane** among his favorite players. He watched Kane highlights on YouTube daily as a kid.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Shows exceptional poise and maturity in his game, demonstrating a high hockey IQ that allows him to dictate play. His skating stride is fluid and efficient, giving him the ability to separate in transition and maintain speed through tight areas. He consistently makes smart reads, showing strong puck distribution instincts and the confidence to hold onto the puck under pressure. Projects as a player with pro-level pace and vision, someone who can drive a line and elevate those around him.

## **CHASE REID**

**Defense | Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)**

**Born: Pontiac, Mich.**

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

\* Finished second across the OHL in points-per-game among defensemen (tied; 1.07) after recording 18-30—48 in 2025-26. Reid missed the remaining 17 games of the regular season due to injury, but has contributed 3-3—6 through 10 postseason appearances.

\* Topped all rookies in assists and rookie defensemen in points across the OHL in 2024-25 after posting 7-33—40 in 39 GP.

\* Represented Team USA at the 2026 World Junior Championship, his first time representing his country at a major international tournament (2-2—4 in 5 GP).

\* Was initially a forward but switched to defense when he reached the Detroit Honeybaked AAA program.

\* His mother, **Magyn**, was a competitive dancer who now teaches dance up to five days a week.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A take-charge type of defenseman that dictates the game. He plays a ton of minutes in all situations. A smooth skater with good edges and an effortless glide. He displays elite hockey sense and composure, with the ability to read and execute plays anywhere on the ice. He can jump up to lead the rush, knows when to pick his spots and has excellent recovery when transitioning from offense to defense. He is not afraid to mix it up and play physical and finish checks. No holes in his game, the complete package.

## **CARSON CARELS**

**Defense | Prince George (WHL)**

**Born: Brandon, Man.**

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

\* Recorded 20-53—73 (58 GP) for the second-highest point total in a single season by a defenseman in Prince George Cougars history. Carels finished tied for fourth in scoring among all blueliners across the WHL, a campaign highlighted by a 17-game point streak, tied for the fourth-longest run by any player in the WHL in 2025-26.

\* Named captain of Team West for the 2026 WHL Prospects Game, where he tallied four assists.

\* Recorded 6-29—35 (60 GP) in 2024-25 to finish fifth in scoring among rookie defensemen across the WHL.

\* Became the fifth-youngest defenseman to play for Team Canada at the 2026 World Junior Championship, trailing **Jay Bouwmeester** (2000, 2001), **Chris Joseph** (1987), **Matthew Schaefer** (2025) and **Scott Niedermayer** (1991). He earned a bronze medal at the tournament (0-1—1 in 5 GP).

\* Won gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, silver at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge with Team Canada Red and bronze at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

\* Works on his family farm in Cypress River, Man., which has over 500 cows. Carels also grew up raising goats.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A unique, all-round defenseman who has offensive talent and brings a physical element while playing sound defensively. Can play big minutes and is deployed in all situations with the ability to run a power play. An excellent puck transporter and distributor who drives offense and shows some elite offensive skill. Skates very well with excellent mobility and agility and can defend with speed. Plays with his head on a swivel in the defensive zone and is good at taking away passing and shooting lanes. A potential top pair defenseman.

## **KEATON VERHOEFF**

**Defense | Univ. of North Dakota (NCAA)**

**Born: Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.**

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

\* A 6' 3.5" freshman with the Univ. of North Dakota, Verhoeff leads all draft-eligible defensemen in the NCAA this season with 6-14—20 (36 GP). He helped North Dakota make it to the NCAA Frozen Four Semifinal.

\* Played for the WHL's Victoria Royals in 2024-25 and finished the season with the most goals and the third-most points among rookie defensemen across the league after posting 21-24—45 (63 GP).

\* A four-time medalist on the international stage, Verhoeff helped Canada win gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. He also has bronze medals from the 2026 World Junior Championship and 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he captained his country. He also wore the 'C' in Canada's entry at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Verhoeff was coached by Hockey Hall of Fame forward **Jarome Iginla** at RINK Hockey Academy in Kelowna and billeted with the Iginla family during that time.

\* His cousins are current Canadiens forward **Kirby Dach** (3rd overall in 2019 by CHI) and Oilers forward **Colton Dach** (62nd overall in 2021 by CHI) – he calls the two of them his inspiration and his role models. Verhoeff skates and trains with them in the summers.

\* Verhoeff started as a goaltender before moving to defense – he played his last game in net at age 11.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Elite defenseman who finished his first NCAA season at North Dakota. Combination of size and skill has him in the conversation for the top prospect in the 2026 NHL Draft. Displays an ability to make all of the necessary plays to get the puck out of his defensive zone whether making a quick first pass or transporting the puck up ice on a rush. Has an innate ability to make the right play at the right time whether a big hit or a shot that challenges the opposing goaltender. Type of defenseman that can play big minutes and get stronger as the game goes on. Can impact the game from his position like few in this draft class. Very complete player.

## **DAXON RUDOLPH**

**Defense | Prince Albert (WHL)**

**Born: Lacombe, Alta.**

**No. 5-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished third in scoring among defensemen across the WHL after tallying 28-50—78 (68 GP). His point total was boosted by a 13-game point streak where he amassed 11-13—24, including a run of six straight multi-point games. As a blueliner, Rudolph is currently second in playoff scoring across the league with 9-18—27 (18 GP).

\* Finished fourth in points among WHL rookie defensemen in 2024-25 after tallying 7-34—41 (64 GP). Rudolph averaged over a point per game during the playoffs to finish with the most assists by a WHL rookie blueliner (11) and the second-most points (12).

\* Has three medals while representing Team Canada on the international stage, including gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. He also has a bronze from the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he tallied 2-2—4 (5 GP) and wore an 'A'.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A top defender used in all situations who logs big minutes. A strong and agile skater who plays a heads up, intelligent game. Ability to control the game, showing poise beyond his years. An excellent QB on the power play who generates scoring chances and quality shots from the point. He brings a calm and confident game under pressure with the ability to evade forecheckers. He makes plays in all three zones and can transport the puck with a commanding presence every shift while impacting both ends of the ice. Strong defensive positioning, ability to break up plays - a complete two-way NHL prospect who plays a take-charge game.

## **CALEB MALHOTRA**

**Center | Brantford (OHL)**

**Born: Victoria, B.C.**

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

\* As a rookie, Malhotra finished second across the OHL in assists (55) and second in points among rookies after posting 29-55—84 (67 GP). His season has been highlighted by a five- and four-point performance as well as 24 multi-point games.

\* Malhotra tallied 13-13—26 (15 GP) to top all rookies in playoff scoring – 18 points above the next-closest players – and finished fourth in goals and fifth in points among all OHL players in the playoffs. His postseason performance included five multi-goal games as well as a four- and five-point outing.

\* Currently tops all rookies in playoff scoring with a 1.86 points-per-game average (8-5—13 in 7 GP).

\* Skated in the BCHL with the Chilliwack Chiefs in 2024-25 where he posted 8-18—26 (44 GP), the most points by a rookie on his team that season.

\* His father, **Manny**, was head coach of the AHL's Abbotsford Canucks during the 2025-26 season and was a longtime NHL forward who skated in 991 career games with the Rangers, Stars, Blue Jackets, Sharks, Canucks, Hurricanes and Canadiens from 1998-99 to 2014-15.

\* His sports roots run deep. His mom, **Joann**, was a soccer star at the Univ. of Victoria, while his uncle is two-time NBA MVP **Steve Nash**.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A first-year center selected 8th overall in the 2024 OHL Draft. He made his mark right away on a deep Brantford team producing very good offensive numbers. He has a good combination of size, skating ability, and does everything well with and without the puck. He has excellent hockey sense, plays a responsible 200-foot game, and knows how to create and finish offensively. The type of player you want on the ice in any situation and plays the pro-style game with high end skills, work habits and compete.

## **TYNAN LAWRENCE**

**Center | Boston University (NCAA)**

**Born: Fredericton, N.B.**

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

\* Missed the majority of 2025-26 with a knee injury but recorded 2-5—7 in 18 GP with Boston Univ. He is one of just five players to be age 17 the entirety of the NCAA season.

\* Finished second in rookie goals and third in scoring across the USHL in 2024-25 after posting 25-29—54 (56 GP) – a point total benefitted by an 11-game point streak and a four-point game.

\* Lawrence led the USHL in playoff scoring, posting 8-10—18 (14 GP) to help Muskegon win the 2025 USHL Clark Cup Championship. He earned Clark Cup MVP honors.

\* Won gold with Team Canada White at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-3—6 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP). He also was part of Canada's entry at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 5 GP), where he finished tied for second in team scoring.

\* His brother, **Josh**, was a 2022 Memorial Cup champion with the QMJHL's Saint John Sea Dogs and split the 2025-26 season playing overseas in Slovakia and Russia.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A very smart and skilled center that can drive offense for himself and his teammates. Plays a two-way game and has an all-around set of tools that make him a very prized prospect.

## **NIKITA KLEPOV**

**Right Wing | Saginaw (OHL)**

**Born: Deerfield Beach, Fla.**

**No. 8-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 37-60—97 (67 GP) to top the league in scoring as a rookie and earn the OHL's Rookie of the Year award. The 17-year-old became the third player in OHL history to win both rookie of the year and the OHL's top scorer in the same season, joining **Patrick Kane** (2006-07) and **Jack Valiquette** (1973-74).

\* Set a Saginaw Spirit record for most assists and points in a season by a rookie, besting **Cole Perfetti** (37 A & 74 P in 2018-19).

\* Spent the majority of the 2024-25 season with the USHL's Sioux City Musketeers, where he collected 12-19—31 (59 GP) and scored three game-winning goals before he notched 1-1—2 in five playoff games. Only two rookies since 2002-03 have finished a regular season with more game-winning goals for the Musketeers than Klepov: **Robert Carpenter** (6 in 2014-15) and **Dylan James** (5 in 2021-22).

\* Represented Team USA at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he finished with the championship-clinching goal after the country rallied from a Preliminary Round defeat against Sweden to capture a gold medal at the tournament for the first time in 22 years.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Plays a high energy, offensive game. Always dangerous every time he has the puck and is the "go to" shooter on the power play - one of the best one-timers in this Draft class. He gets involved all over the ice, plays physical and in the trenches. He has a high hockey IQ with his elite puck skills and knows how to find the back of the net.

## **ETHAN BELCHETZ**

**Left Wing | Windsor (OHL)**

**Born: Oakville, Ont.**

**No. 9-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Averaged over a point per game with the Windsor Spitfires tallying 34-25—59 (57 GP) to help his team finish second in the Western Conference and tie their third-highest win total in a single season in franchise history.

\* Finished 10th in rookie scoring across the OHL in 2024-25 after posting 17-21—38 in 56 GP. His season was highlighted by a four-goal and six-point outing – that night he became the first Spitfires 16-year-old rookie to score four goals in a game since **Taylor Hall** on Mar. 6, 2008.

\* Named to the 2024-25 OHL Second All-Rookie Team.

\* Selected first overall in the 2024 OHL Priority Selection by the Windsor Spitfires.

\* Won gold with Team Canada White at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he averaged a point per game (4-1—5 in 5 GP), as well as a bronze at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he finished tied for fifth in tournament scoring (4-3—7 in 5 GP).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A combination of size, strength and skill who projects as a power forward. He's made noticeable improvements to his footwork, agility and overall quickness. He is a player that is tough to handle down low and is a beast in front of the net. He has really good offensive hockey sense and can think the game with smart players. Good anticipation, good hands and a good shot to generate chances. Two-way game combined with work ethic gives him a very high ceiling.

## **ILIA MOROZOV**

**Center | Miami (NCAA)**

**Born: Moscow, Russia**

**No. 10-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 8-12—20 in 36 GP with Miami Univ. and finished tied for second in points among players 17 or younger in the NCAA this season.

\* One of the youngest players in the NCAA and just one of five 17-year-olds. He graduated from high school early after returning home to Russia in the summer to take one last course prior to joining Miami Univ.

\* Topped USHL's Tri-City Storm in rookie scoring in 2024-25 after posting 11-11—22 (59 GP).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A highly intelligent two-way forward who brings pace and precision to his game. He shows excellent awareness off the puck, supporting plays responsibly while positioning himself to create scoring opportunities in transition. His combination of strong edges, quick hands and a deceptive release makes him a consistent offensive threat, particularly on entries and in tight spaces. His compete level, versatility, and ability to elevate the play of those around him project well for success at the pro level.

## **OSCAR HEMMING**

**Left Wing | Boston College (NCAA)**

**Born: Vaasa, Finland**

**No. 11-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Was one of just five 17-year-olds to skate in the NCAA this season, where he tallied 1-7—8 (19 GP) for the fourth-most points among that cohort.

\* In 2024-25, Hemming spent the majority of the season skating in Finland's top under-18 league, ranking second in goals and tied for the most points after posting 35-28—63 (31 GP). He also spent 18 GP skating with Kiekko-Espoo's junior team (2-8—10) and helped them win a silver medal in the playoffs (3-6—9 in 13 GP).

\* Represented Finland at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he led his country in scoring after posting 4-2—6 (5 GP).

\* His brother **Emil**, was a first-round pick by the Stars in 2024 (29th overall) who played for the OHL's Barrie Colts and AHL's Texas Stars in 2025-26. His father, **Jonas Hemming**, also had a long hockey career overseas, predominantly playing in their native country of Finland.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Missed the first half of season and joined Boston College for remainder of 2025-26 campaign. A solid size/strength forward with smarts and skills who will fit into the NHL Power Forward category. Effective physical presence utilizing his size and strength down low, finishes hits and has a very good puck protection game. Strong stride skater who moves well for his size and will only get quicker and faster as he continues to physically mature. Good hockey smarts with vision, reading plays and making good choices to generate chances. Good skill set handling and moving the puck, good passer and shooter. Has all the skills, attributes and projection to be a difference maker.

## **JP HURLBERT**

**Left Wing | Kamloops (WHL)**

**Born: Allen, Texas**

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

\* Topped all rookies across the WHL in goals and points in 2025-26 after amassing 42-55—97 (68 GP). He also finished fourth in scoring across the league in both goals (tied) and points.

\* Tallied 19-18—37 (56 GP) with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program Under-17 in 2024-25, where he finished third on his team in scoring and tied for second in goals.

\* Played for Team USA in the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-3—3 in 5 GP).

\* Born in Allen, Texas and grew up playing hockey in the Dallas Stars Elite program. He spent two seasons skating with **Blake Fiddler**, who was selected in the second round of the 2025 NHL Draft.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A first year WHL player after joining from USA Hockey's NTDP. Had an excellent start in his WHL career, scoring at a very high pace and leading the league early on. He maintained his scoring pace throughout the season. Used as the top line center in Kamloops and is a key contributor on both the penalty kill and the power play. An elite offensive player with good awareness who does everything quick with high tempo. Has the ability to find open space and will get behind defenders to create odd man rushes. A good shot with a quick release and can score on the one timer. A very good touch around the net, competes with the ability to come up with loose pucks and generate chances.

## **WYATT CULLEN**

**Left Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)**

**Born: Moorhead, Min.**

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

\* Recorded 16-29—45 (40 GP) in 2025-26 with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program Under-18 Team, finishing the campaign tied for fourth on his team in assists and sixth in points.

\* Topped USA Hockey's NTDP Under-17 Team in assists (tied) after collecting 6-25—31 (55 GP) in 2024-25.

\* Represented his country at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship where he led his country in scoring after posting 3-6—9 (5 GP).

\* His father, **Matt**, is a three-time Stanley Cup champion (2006, 2016 & 2017) who skated in 1,516 career NHL games – the [most ever by a U.S.-born forward](#). He spent his career between the Ducks, Panthers, Hurricanes, Rangers, Senators, Wild, Predators and Penguins from 1997-98 to 2018-19. His uncle, **Mark**, also skated in 38 NHL games with the Blackhawks, Flyers and Panthers from 2005-06 to 2011-12.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A high IQ player who reads the game very well, makes quick, smart decisions under pressure and consistently positions himself effectively in all three zones. An excellent skater with good balance and agility, plays with poise in tight areas. Makes high-percentage plays that drive possession and create scoring chances. His competitiveness, work ethic, and commitment to two-way play stand out shift in and shift out.

## **ADAM NOVOTNY**

**Left Wing | Peterborough (OHL)**

**Born: Hradec Kralove, Czechia**

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

\* Collected 34-31—65 (58 GP) in his first OHL season with the Peterborough Petes and finished with the second-most goals (tied) and fourth-most points among draft-eligible skaters.

\* Novotny played in Czechia's top professional league in 2024-25, where he tallied 1-2—3 (41 GP). He was one of six players age 17 or younger to collect a point that season and finished second in scoring among that cohort behind **Vojtech Cihar**, who was the Kings' second-round pick in the 2025 NHL Draft.

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2023-24 with Mountfield HK and at 15, became the youngest player to score in Czechia's top level.

\* Represented his country five times on the international stage, earning silver medals at the 2026 World Junior Championship and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, as well as bronze at the 2025 World Junior Championship. He also appeared in the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 5 GP), finishing second on team in scoring, and at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

First-year OHL player from Czechia. An excellent skater with footwork and agility to go with good size. He displays excellent hockey sense and offensive instincts and skills. He has fast hands and good moves with the ability to fight through traffic and execute plays. Plays with an edge and competes with his smarts and skills. Good playmaker setting up teammates and has a quick release shot. A top line forward who plays a big role in Peterborough and has all the elements of a good pro prospect.

## **MADDOX DAGENAIS**

**Center | Quebec (QMJHL)**

**Born: Blanville, Que.**

**No. 15-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Averaged a point per game in 2025-26 (30-32—62 in 62 GP) to finish second on his team in scoring and mark a 36-point improvement over his rookie season. He also earned the 2025-26 QMJHL Best Professional Prospect (Mike Bossy Trophy).

\* Posted 12-14—26 (43 GP) during his rookie season in 2024-25 and helped the club rebound from its only playoff absence in franchise history (2023-24). His season began with three consecutive multi-point games and featured six goals and nine points through his first five contests – tied for the second and third most in franchise history, respectively.

\* Played for Team Canada Red in their silver medal performance at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge – his one assist came as the primary helper on the game-winning goal against the United States in the semifinal. Dagenais also represented his country at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

\* His father, **Pierre**, was a fourth-round pick by the Devils in the 1998 NHL Draft (105th overall) who appeared in 142 career games with the Devils, Panthers and home province Canadiens from 2000-01 to 2005-06.

\* Upon Maddox's first-overall selection in the 2024 QMJHL Draft, the family became the first father-son duo in League history to each be selected with the No. 1 pick (Pierre: 1995 w/ Moncton).

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Just completed his second season after being selected 1st overall by the Quebec Remparts in the 2024 QMJHL Draft. A combination of size, skill and natural offensive instincts. Maddox is an offensive threat playing on the top line with the Quebec Remparts, including on the power play. He has high end puck skills and an ability to make plays in tight areas. Has an excellent shot release and is a threat from all angles. His skating is continuing to improve as he adds strength and develops. He is utilized on the wing but has had success as a center. He has added a physical layer to his game finishing checks a lot more regularly. The combination of size and goal scoring abilities make him an intriguing NHL prospect.

## **RYAN LIN**

**Defense | Vancouver (WHL)**

**Born: Richmond, B.C.**

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

\* Collected 14-43—57 (53 GP) in 2025-26 to finish tied for 11th across the WHL in assists and points among defensemen.

\* Named the Giants' 24th captain in franchise history on Jan. 9, 2026, saying "It feels surreal to be named the next captain of the Vancouver Giants – this is the team I grew up watching and cheering on as a kid."

\* Tallied 5-48—53 (60 GP) in 2024-25 to top all rookies in assists across the WHL and finished fifth in points in that category.

\* Won gold at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and 2025 Under-18 World Championship, as well as bronze at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he averaged a point per game (2-3—5 in 5 GP). Lin also represented his country at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship (1-5—6 in 5 GP) and finished tied atop the tournament in points by defensemen.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A very high IQ defender and a scoring threat from the point, who sets up teammates to produce big offensive numbers. He thinks the game at an elite level on both sides of the puck. An excellent skater with mobility and quickness who can pull away with speed. A bit under-sized but uses his edges to get good leverage on bigger players and defend with a purpose. He sees the ice exceptionally well, moves the puck in all three zones, and his transition game is among the best in this year's draft class. He can play in all situations and is excellent on the power play and the penalty kill.

## **TOMMY BLEYL**

**Defense | Moncton (QMJHL)**

**Born: Schenectady, N.Y.**

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

\* Tallied 13-68—81 (63 GP) in 2025-26 with the Moncton Wildcats to top all players in assists as a rookie defenseman. He also finished with the most points among rookie defensemen across the QMJHL and with the most by a defenseman in a single season in franchise history.

\* Has averaged 1.32 points per game through the 2026 QMJHL playoffs and sits third across the league in scoring (6-19—25 in 19 GP).

\* Played the bulk of the 2024-25 season with Cushing Academy in the USHS-Prep league, where he posted 6-21—27 (30 GP) and helped the team win the New England High School League championship.

\* Represented Team USA at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, earning a fourth-place finish.

\* Committed to Michigan State Univ. for 2026-27.

\* Learned about hockey for the first time when he was two years old at a Learn to Skate program with his older sister. By age four, Bleyl knew he wanted to play in the NHL.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

His overall skating could be in the top of his draft class. He has a smooth, effortless stride and generates speed that he uses to his advantage. He's also very mobile with his back stride making him hard to beat 1v1. He runs the first power play unit of a strong Moncton squad. He excels in all situations of the game, impacts the game as a power play quarterback but also as an ultra-efficient puck mover from the back end. His vision, puck skill and poise are impressive. He defends well and is amongst the best plus-minus players in the entire league. Produces offense with a mature style, excellent risk and reward choices. Lots to like about the trajectory that this prospect is going towards.

## **XAVIER VILLENEUVE**

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

**Born: Laval, Que.**

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

\* Collected 6-32—38 (37 GP) this past season in a campaign shortened due to injury. He finished with the third-highest points-per-game rate among all QMJHL defensemen and the fourth-highest point total (tied) among blueliners in the playoffs (6-8—14 in 17 GP).

\* Won 2024-25 QMJHL Defenseman of the Year after topping all blueliners in assists, tallying 12-50—62 in 61 GP. He also set a Blainville-Boisbriand franchise record for most assists in a single campaign by a defenseman.

\* During his rookie season in 2023-24, Villeneuve topped all QMJHL rookie defensemen in scoring (8-35—43 in 54 GP).

\* Won gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and finished the tournament tied atop all defensemen in goals (4-4—8 in 7 GP). He also played for Team Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-3—3 in 7 GP).

\* His uncle, **Steve Maltais**, was a third-round pick by the Capitals in the 1987 NHL Draft (57th overall) who skated in 120 career games with the Capitals, North Stars, Lightning, Red Wings and Blue Jackets from 1989-90 to 2000-01. Maltais also captained the AHL's Chicago Wolves to a Calder Cup championship in 2002.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A dynamic, proactive player with elite skating and offensive skills. Undersized defenseman who compensates effectively defending with his skating and smarts. Deceptive and elusive skater in all directions, he's very agile and shifty in tight areas. Controls the puck well, finds his outlets with precision but also has a strong puck carrying game. Creative and composed game at the offensive blue line, at even strength or while running the power play. Great escape capabilities making him hard to check or defend against. Quick read and react, has excellent vision seeing the ice and finding his teammates. Good understanding of positioning to defend effectively, takes smart routes and angles and makes clever choices managing risks. His overall game continues to keep getting better and he projects as an offensive defenseman at the next level.

**EGOR SHILOV**  
**Center | Victoriaville (QMJHL)**  
**Born: Tyumen, Russia**  
**No. 19-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Recorded 32-50—82 (63 GP) during his rookie season in the QMJHL, concluding 2025-26 seventh in scoring across the league and tops among all rookies in points.

\* Won 2025-26 QMJHL Offensive Rookie of the Year (Michel Bergeron Trophy).

\* In 2024-25, Shilov collected 11-17—28 (39 GP) in the USHL for a Green Bay Gamblers club that captured a berth into the 2024-25 Clark Cup Playoffs. His 0.72 points per game were the fourth highest by a Gamblers rookie since 2012-13, topped by current Bruins forward **Casey Mittelstadt** (1.25 in 2016-17), and his 11 goals were the most by a Green Bay rookie since current Blackhawks rookie and No. 2 pick in the 2024 NHL Draft, **Artyom Levshunov** (13 in 2022-23).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Impactful, offensive player with a lot of creativity. Excellent puck skills mixed in with a great IQ and vision to execute at a high level. Very agile on his edges, controls the pace of the game and will find openings. Elusive, composed and confident with the puck on his stick, the type of player who wants to have the puck. Elite passer and set-up man, he finds his teammates all over the ice. Good shot release which makes him a dual threat as a playmaker and finisher. A special offensive prospect.

## **LIAM RUCK**

**Right Wing | Medicine Hat (WHL)**

**Born: Osoyoos, B.C.**

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

\* Finished second in scoring in the WHL this past season after recording 45-59—104 (68 GP), behind his twin brother, **Markus**. Ruck also tied for second in goals and fifth in assists – his season was highlighted by a nine-game goal streak, which was the longest across the league in 2025-26.

\* Led all WHL rookies in goals in 2024-25 after tallying 25-16—41 in 61 GP with the Medicine Hat Tigers. He was selected by the club ninth overall in the 2023 WHL Prospects Draft.

\* Recorded 6-4—10 in 18 GP during the 2025 postseason to help the Tigers win the WHL championship for the sixth time in franchise history. His playoff run included an overtime winner in the second round and scoring in Game 3 and 4 of the WHL Final.

\* Won the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge with Team Canada White, finishing tied for the seventh-most assists in the tournament (0-4—4 in 5 GP). Ruck also tallied 2-1—4 in 5 GP at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup en route to a bronze medal win.

\* Plays on the Medicine Hat Tigers with his twin brother, **Markus**, who is the No. 23-ranked North American skater. The two are mirror twins who were born eight minutes apart and inseparable ever since.

\* His father, **Derek**, played three seasons with the WHL's Lethbridge Hurricanes (1998-99 to 2000-01), recording 18-49—67 in 206 GP.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Plays on all special teams and in key situations. Versatile player who is smart and effective on both sides of the puck. Deceptive skater with good pace, speed and elusiveness. Plays a tenacious, high-energy game and doesn't shy from the battle areas. Effective on the fore-check and in pressure situations. Smart hockey IQ player with good anticipation, vision and reads. Always attacking and generating offensive opportunities, creates time and space for his own shots. Volume shooter who consistently puts himself in prime scoring areas and can finish. Heavy shot (all types). Competes hard, drives play through effort/skill, and finds ways to impact even when not scoring.

**BROOKS ROGOWSKI**  
**Center | Oshawa (OHL)**  
**Born: Sacramento, Calif.**  
**No. 21-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Recorded 15-27—42 (46 GP) during the 2025-26 season and finished with the sixth-highest point-per-game average among players age 17 or younger across the OHL (min. 2 GP). His totals marked a 19-point improvement over his rookie season despite playing in 20 less games.

\* Amassed 11-12—23 (66 GP) as a rookie in 2024-25 to top the Generals in points by rookies. He also tallied 3-3—6 in 19 playoff games en route to the OHL Finals – tied for the most postseason points among rookies across the league.

\* Won gold for Team USA at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP) and represented his country at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Prior to being selected 38th overall by the Oshawa Generals, Rogowski was playing high school hockey in Detroit.

\* Months before being drafted into the OHL, Rogowski said that he wasn't really a hockey player and had his sights set on baseball. Rogowski was pursuing trying to get a baseball scholarship, following the footsteps of his father, **Casey**, who was drafted by the Chicago White Sox, while his uncle **Ryan** was selected by the Los Angeles Dodgers – both played in the minor leagues.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A big 6'7" center who does the little things well down the middle. Utilizes his excellent size and reach asset and is hard to contain. Has a strong net front game and effective puck protection game down low. He plays the game with good habits. Skates and gets around really well for his stature, able to arrive on time on plays. Playing in all situations. A player that always brings his work boots and rarely loses a puck battle. A solid pro prospect with a high ceiling.

## **BEN MACBEATH**

**Defense | Calgary (WHL)**

**Born: Calgary, AB.**

**No. 22-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 7-44—51 (67 GP) in 2025-26 for the second-most points among rookie defensemen across the WHL, while skating for his hometown team.

\* Played in the BCHL in 2024-25 season with the Salmon Arm Silverbacks, where he posted 4-30—34 (53 GP) and helped the team extend its run of consecutive playoff appearances to nine dating to 2015-16 (excludes 2019-20, cancelled due to COVID-19).

\* His 30 assists were the most by any Silverbacks rookie defenseman since 2015-16 and tied the franchise's most by any rookie during that span (also **Matthew Verboon**: 30 in 2018-19). They were also tied for the fifth most across the BCHL. Macbeath went on to be named to the BCHL's all-rookie team.

\* Represented Canada at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Was born and raised in Calgary and called playing for his hometown team, "a dream come true".

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Rookie WHL season and quickly excelled. Top pair with top usage in all situations. Elite, smooth skater who handles the puck confidently and with poise in all situations. Able to pull away from opponents with ease including effortless spins and cuts to gain time and space. Impressive combination of size, skating, and puck skills. Good vision and creativity. Playmaker and driver of offense from along the offensive blue line and as a puck transporter. Able to carry the puck up ice and make plays. Reads the play well away from the puck. Consistently puts himself in smart, strong defending positions. Well-rounded tool set that brings value in all areas of the game.

## **MARKUS RUCK**

**Center | Medicine Hat (WHL)**

**Born: Osoyoos, B.C.**

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

\* Topped the WHL in points (108) and assists (87) through the 2025-26 season. His campaign was highlighted by a 13-game point streak (3-22—25), 33 multi-point games and seven outings with four-plus points.

\* Posted 8-21—29 (62 GP) during the 2024-25 season en route to a WHL championship. He was teammates with **Gavin McKenna**, the No. 1-ranked North American prospect.

\* Won a gold medal with Team Canada White at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-2—4 in 5 GP) and earned a bronze at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-4—4 in 5 GP).

\* Plays on the Medicine Hat Tigers with his twin brother, **Liam**, who is the No. 20-ranked North American skater. The two are mirror twins who were born eight minutes apart and inseparable ever since.

\* His father, **Derek**, also played three seasons in the WHL with the Lethbridge Hurricanes.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Top usage in all situations. High IQ two-way forward and asset at both ends. Precision passer who can dish under pressure and create scoring looks. Executes difficult, creative reads and consistently moves pucks with pace and accuracy. Effective transporter who shows elusiveness in the offensive zone. Plays hard and finishes checks. Competes on every shift and applies effective puck pressure to force turnovers. Anticipates plays well without the puck, creating steals and interceptions. Reliable presence who supports low, wins draws and helps sustain possession. Was one of their key contributors in the playoffs last season and continues to show growth in confidence and impact. Highly productive two-way center with vision, playmaking touch and compete who can drive the offense and be impactful in all situations.

## **CASEY MUTRYN**

**Right Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)**

**Born: Norwell, Mass.**

**No. 24-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished 2025-26 with 18-28—46 (62 GP) – fifth in scoring on USA Hockey’s National Team Development Program Under-18 Team. In December, he was named team captain.

\* In 2024-25, he split time between the USA Hockey’s NTDP Under-17 and Under-18 teams, recording 16-16—32 in 46 GP with the former and 3-2—5 in 20 GP with the latter. His point totals with the U-17 team ranked him fifth among all NTDP skaters.

\* Earned bronze at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship as the youngest player on his team. Mutryn also represented his country at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship and the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, tied for third in tournament points with 3-5—8 in 5 GP.

\* His brother, **Teddy**, was a third-round pick by the Sharks in the 2025 NHL Draft (95th overall) who averaged more than a point per game with the QMJHL’s Moncton Wildcats in 2025-26 (31-37—68 in 54 GP). Teddy currently plays for the Moncton Wildcats but committed to Boston College for 2026-27, the same school Casey is expected to join a season later. The brothers both played together at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

\* His dad, **Scott**, is a former professional football player who signed with the NFL’s New England Patriots as an undrafted free agent in 1999 and later signed with the Amsterdam Admirals of NFL Europe. Scott spent his entire college football career with the Boston College Eagles.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Plays with energy and confidence, showing the ability to create separation in one-on-one battles. He combines elite vision with soft hands, making him a constant threat to generate offense both off the rush and in zone play. Competes with purpose, tracking back hard defensively and showing the kind of detail coaches can trust in key moments. His blend of skill and hockey sense gives high pro potential.

## **RYDER CALI**

**Center | North Bay (OHL)**

**Born: Lugano, Switzerland**

**No. 25-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Amassed 16-20—36 (47 GP) in his first OHL season for a 0.77 points per game, which was the sixth-highest average (tied) among rookies across the league (min. 2 GP).

\* Spent the majority of the 2024-25 season in the OJHL with the Milton Menace, averaging over a point per game (24-30—54 in 51 GP). He finished third across the OJHL in goals by rookies and fifth in scoring. Cali posted 6-7—13 (20 GP) en route to the OJHL final.

\* Was part of Canada's entry at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship and skated for Team Canada East in the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (0-2—2 in 5 GP).

\* Cali was born in Switzerland, where his mother, **Fiona McLeod**, played professional hockey for the Lugano Women's team in the Swiss professional women's league after three years at St. Cloud State University. Ryder lived in the Cayman Islands prior to moving to Canada and didn't begin playing ice hockey until he was seven – in fact, he was playing BB hockey until his under-14 season.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Finished his first full year in North Bay. A hard player not to like as he plays that power forward type game. Plays heavy but skates really well with that quickness in tight. He tends to go through players rather than around them. He plays the game the right way with good details. He can make plays with limited time and space and really fire the puck.

## **CHASE HARRINGTON**

**Left Wing | Spokane (WHL)**

**Born: Prince George, B.C.**

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

\* Concluded the 2025-26 season with 28-29—57 (61 GP) to finish atop the WHL's Spokane Chiefs in goals (tied) and third in points. His campaign was highlighted by six multi-goal efforts and 14 multi-point performances.

\* Recorded 19-31—50 (68 GP) in 2024-25 and added 6-8—14 (20 GP) in the playoffs en route to an appearance in the championship series.

\* Skated for Team Canada Red at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he posted 3-0—3 (7 GP).

\* Works construction in the summer with his father, **Daryl**, who is a carpenter.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A very solid all-round winger with a strong two-way game. A coach's player that can be utilized up and down a lineup and is capable to contribute in all situations. Makes an impression on both the power play and penalty kill. The type of player that works hard, battles and will stand up for his teammates. A very good skater with speed and quickness. He is smart away from the puck in both ends and shows good attention to detail.

## **ADAM NEMEC**

**Left Wing | Sudbury (OHL)**

**Born: Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia**

**No. 27-Ranked International Skater**

\* Nemec started the season with HK Nitra in Slovakia's professional men's league where his 3-12—15 (28 GP) finished as the second-highest point total among players age 18 or younger across the league. He then joined the Ontario Hockey League, where he tallied 14-21—35 (31 GP) for the fourth-highest points-per-game average among draft-eligible skaters.

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 skating in Slovakia's junior league, amassing 28-23—51 (32 GP) and finishing with the third-highest points per game (min. 10 GP). Nemec also finished fifth in goals and points (tied). He also skated in 20 contests in the country's top men's league, finishing tied for the third-most points among skaters 17 or younger (3-4—7 in 20 GP).

\* Represented his country four times on the international stage: 2026 World Junior Championship (1-4—5 in 5 GP), 2025 and 2024 Under-18 World Championship, as well as at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

\* His brother, **Simon**, was a first-round pick by the Devils in the 2022 NHL Draft (2nd overall) and just completed his third season with New Jersey setting career highs for goals (11) and points (26). Simon is the highest-drafted Slovak born defenseman in NHL history, and was selected one pick after fellow countryman, **Juraj Slafkovsky**, became the first Slovak-born player to be selected first overall.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A good-sized winger who has earned steady minutes with a strong work rate and responsible two-way play. Offensively, he shows good zone awareness, gets into dangerous shooting areas and is more naturally a finisher than a pure playmaker. His skating has improved, giving him a strong stride that helps him pressure opponents, recover pucks, and be the first forward back defensively. He plays at an extremely high pace, which fuels his forechecking and energy. Along the boards he shows flashes of puck protection and small-area skill. Overall, he is a high-motor prospect who competes hard.

## **RYAN ROOBROECK**

**Left Wing | Niagara (OHL)**

**Born: London, Ont.**

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

\* Recorded 30-28—58 (49 GP) to finish second on his team in scoring despite missing the final 19 games of the season due to injury. His 1.18 points per game average was the third highest among draft-eligible skaters.

\* Finished 2024-25 as the Niagara IceDogs top scorer after tallying 41-46—87 in 64 GP. Roobroeck finished the campaign ranked sixth (tied) for goals across the OHL and 13th in points.

\* During his rookie season in 2023-24, he finished second in goals among rookies (28), fourth in points (51) and tied for fifth in assists (23).

\* Won gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, where he recorded 4-5—9 in 7 GP and scored in the semifinals. He also represented Team Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-1—4 in 7 GP).

\* His brother, **Dylan**, was a sixth-round pick by the Rangers in the 2023 NHL Draft (178th overall) who skated for the AHL's Hartford Wolf Pack in 2025-26. He also played part of his junior career with the IceDogs.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Big and strong with a really soft touch around the net and an NHL shot release. He has the ability to score in bunches and in different ways. Has good vision and sense as he sees the ice well and moves the puck quickly and with precision. He is effective with the puck in traffic and has a good puck protection game. When he brings his best effort, he's a scoring threat and difference maker - a prospect with tons of talent.

## **JAXON COVER**

**Right Wing | London (OHL)**

**Born: Coral Springs, Fla.**

**No. 29-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Amassed 20-32—52 (67 GP) to conclude the season fourth in rookie assists and points across the OHL. Cover was named OHL Rookie of the Week in his fourth week after producing five points through his first 7 GP of 2025-26.

\* Spent the majority of the 2024-25 season with St. Andrew's College (21-19—40 in 55 GP) and won the Prep Hockey Conference (PHC) Championship, the top tournament for North American prep schools.

\* Made his OHL debut in 2024-25, appearing in three games with the London Knights and collecting two assists.

\* Was born in Florida but only lived there a month before moving to the Grand Cayman Island where he spent his childhood. He began his ice hockey journey on roller skates, started attending skating camps at age 10 in Toronto, did not go to his first ice hockey tryout until he was 13 and did not play competitively until he was 14.

\* Cover continues to play roller hockey – he competed in the North American Roller Hockey Championships (NARCh) in the professional division last summer.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A true rookie in the OHL this past season and a late bloomer finding out how good he can really be. Very talented player that does everything well. He has great wheels, is shifty with the puck on his stick and can make things happen. Has great sense and awareness for the game. Huge upside and only scratching the surface.

**RUDOLFS BERZKALNS**  
**Center | Muskegon (USHL)**  
**Born: Valmiera, Latvia**  
**No. 30-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Skated to a 17-point improvement over his rookie season and finished third on his team in game-winning goals (4). Berzkalns is currently fifth in playoff scoring across the USHL (tied; 4-6—10 in 12 GP).

\* Played 43 games for the Muskegon Lumberjacks in 2024-25, where he scored five goals and collected three assists.

\* Represented his Team Latvia at both the 2025 and 2026 World Junior Championship, where he scored against Canada with under two minutes in regulation to force overtime.

\* Committed to Boston College for 2026-27.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

Player who does it all on the ice. Can play all three forward positions while contributing on both special teams. Takes important face-offs while being very responsible defensively. Has nice size to go with his strong sense and pucks skills. He anticipates the play smartly to put himself into position for quality scoring opportunities. Willing to go into heavy traffic areas to win puck battles and help get his team on offense. A very solid two-way prospect that continues to improve his game.

## **JAKUB VANECEK**

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

**Born: Pelhrimov, Czechia**

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

\* Concluded the 2025-26 season atop rookie defensemen across the OHL in goals and sixth in rookie scoring (tied) after posting 14-21—35 (59 GP).

\* In 2024-25, Vanecek split the season between Bili Tygri Liberec's under-17 team and their junior team. He finished the campaign with the sixth-most points by a 16-year-old defenseman in Czechia's junior league (0-4—4 in 31 GP).

\* Earned bronze at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship, where he finished with the most goals among defensemen across the tournament after tallying 3-2—5 (7 GP), and was part of the Team Czechia's silver-medal winning roster for the 2026 World Junior Championship but did not dress for any games – he was the youngest player on his team.

\* Has also represented his country internationally at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-2—2 in 4 GP) and at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (0-2—2 in 4 GP).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Stepped right in and made an impact on the Tri City American's blue line. Good size, reach and range. An excellent skater that can get up to speed very quickly. The type of player that plays with a lot of urgency and compete. Good hockey smarts, always trying to push the play and generate chances. Defends well with his size, reach and mobility. Good, active stick in the defensive zone. Potential top four defenseman who can play all situations.

## **MATHIS PRESTON**

**Right Wing | Vancouver (WHL)**

**Born: Penticton, B.C.**

**No. 32-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Collected 18-26—44 (46 GP) in a 2025-26 season shortened due to injury. Preston was averaging nearly a point per game with the Spokane Chiefs (14-18—32 in 36 GP) before being traded to the Vancouver Giants, where he operated at a 1.20 points-per-game clip prior to being held out of the lineup (4-8—12 in 10 GP).

\* In 2024-25, Preston recorded 23-22—45 (54 GP) to finish with the third-most goals and seventh-most points (tied) among WHL rookies.

\* Led all rookies in scoring during the 2025 WHL playoffs (9-7—16 in 20 GP) where his team made a Western Conference Finals appearance.

\* Selected third overall in the 2023 WHL Prospects Draft and went on to score four goals in five games in 2023-24.

\* Won gold for Team Canada White at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, finishing the tournament with the most goals (6-1—7 in 5 GP), and bronze at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he finished tied atop Canada in scoring (4-3—7 in 5 GP). He also represented his country at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship (2-4—6 in 5 GP).

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

One of the most dynamic forwards in this year's draft. Quick and fast, he plays a high-paced game with a non-stop motor and finds ways to contribute. Excellent vision and playmaking ability, capable to make plays at speed and beat defenders one on one. Plays a 200-foot game and shows a lot of determination applying back pressure when the play is going towards his defensive zone. Not intimidated to execute in any situation.

## **BECKETT HAMILTON**

**Center | Red Deer (WHL)**

**Born: Huntersville, N.C.**

**No. 33-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Hamilton led Red Deer in goals, assists and points with 24-38—62 (67 GP). He also finished ninth in points among all draft-eligible skaters across the WHL.

\* In his first season with the Rebels in 2024-25, Hamilton recorded 14-11—25 (67 GP) and was named their Rookie of the Year. His 14 goals were the fifth most by a 16-year-old in club history.

\* Represented Team Canada at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Hamilton's family has a history of hockey – his father, **Lee**, skated in the WHL for Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Kelowna from 1993-97 while his great uncle **Bruce** is the owner, president and general manager of the Rockets.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Heavy usage in all specialties and key situations. Elite skater with high-end top gear and quickness. Quickly changes directions and gets back to top speed. Impactful on both sides of the puck. Uses speed and quickness to force turnovers, rushed plays and create havoc without the puck. Beats defenders wide and creates time and space with the puck on his stick. Uses speed, quickness and smarts to create his own shots. High-volume shooter who consistently creates his own looks. Also moves well without the puck to make himself a constant shooting option. Big-time asset on both special team units. Consistently affects the game in a positive way on both sides of the puck.

**JACK HEXTALL****Center | Youngstown (USHL)****Born: Arlington Heights, Ill.****No. 34-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Posted 20-38—58 (59 GP) in 2025-26 to finish 10th in assists across the USHL and 15th in league scoring. Hextall helped the Youngstown Phantoms finish atop the league and with their highest point total in franchise history.

\* Tallied 8-26—34 (53 GP) in 2024-25 to finish fourth among players age 16 or younger in points and second in assists across the USHL.

\* Won gold with Team USA at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he finished second on the team in scoring (2-5—7 in 5 GP), and at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge, where he posted 1-2—3 (4 GP).

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

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A very tough and skilled center that can create offense for himself and his teammates. Plays a two-way game and is responsible in all three zones. He creates and finishes off scoring chances with his positioning and quick shot release. Just a good all-around player that continues to improve his game.

## **THOMAS VANDENBERG**

**Center | Ottawa (OHL)**

**Born: Ottawa, Ont.**

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

\* Skated in his first OHL season as a member of the Ottawa 67's – he finished tied for third in goals by rookies and ninth (tied) in assists after collecting 25-25—50 in 59 GP.

\* Recorded 9-9—18 with the USHL's Cedar Rapids RoughRiders in 2024-25 and finished within the top 15 across the league for goals and points among players age 16 or younger.

\* Represented Canada at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

In his first year in Ottawa he took the reigns as the number one center. Gets around the ice really well with his skating, elite footwork and has that glide where he makes it look easy. He's a smart two-way player with natural offensive instincts. Gets involved all over the ice and in the trenches to come up with the puck. Takes pucks hard to the net, knows how to play fast and make things happen under pressure. Solid prospect who is climbing on everyone's radar.

## **ZACH OLSEN**

**Right Wing | Saskatoon (WHL)**

**Born: Calgary, Alta.**

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

\* Collected 18-16—34 (57 GP) in his second full season with the with the Saskatoon Blades, highlighted by scoring four goals in under 11 minutes during the second period on Dec. 9.

\* Posted 11-12—23 in 60 GP in 2024-25 and was one of five players on his team to score a playoff goal that season.

\* Skated for Team Canada at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in Grade 2 and attributed **Max Domi** as a role model which allowed him to keep his aspirations of becoming a high-level athlete alive. Olsen says he has read Domi's book and hopes to one day inspire others in the way Domi inspired him.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Strong, powerful skater who brings a legit physical element. Plays a true power-forward type game. Straight-line north/south attacker. Takes pucks hard to the net. Strong on skates and able to power through defenders. Uses size effectively to shield and win pucks. Heavy on sticks and difficult to knock off his line. Strong along the boards in both zones. Consistently gets to the interior and provides net-front presence. Right shot with a pro frame. High-end physical tool set – willingness to go to hard areas gives him a pro look. Plays with an edge – finishes checks and jumps in and stands up for teammates. Competitive presence who can change momentum with his physical game

## **TYUS SPARKS**

**Center | Spokane (WHL)**

**Born: Meridian, Idaho**

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

\* Sparks began 2025-26 with the Vancouver Giants, where he recorded 16-21—37 (40 GP) – a 20-point increase over his rookie season (11-6—17 in 53 GP). He was traded to the Spokane Chiefs on Jan. 5, where he averaged nearly a point-per-game (0.97; 12-16—28) – the highest rate on his team.

\* His combined 28-37—65 (69 GP) in 2025-26 finished as the sixth-most goals and seventh-most points among all draft-eligible players in the WHL.

\* Sparks can become first player born in Idaho to be selected in the NHL Draft and the third to play in the NHL, joining **Pat Shea** (10 GP) and **Guyle Fielder** (6 GP)

\* Sparks comes from an athletic family: his father, **Nate**, was a quarterback at Boise State and played professionally for the B.C. Lions of the Canadian Football League while his mother, **Debbie**, was a college gymnast at Boise State.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A player that has really come a long way over the past season and a half. He was in and out of the lineup as a 16-year-old. He had a good offseason and showed that he is a top-six scoring/playmaking type of winger in the WHL. Has a heavy shot and scores regularly from the half wall with a one timer on the power play. His play with the puck has improved and he has shown he can be an excellent play maker to go with the shot.

## **LIAM LEFEBVRE**

**Center | Chicoutimi (QMJHL)**

**Born: Montréal, Que.**

**No. 38-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Lefebvre recorded 32-27—59 (59 GP) in 2025-26 split between Rimouski Océanic and Chicoutimi Saguenéens. His 32 goals were tied for the second most among all rookies in the QMJHL.

\* Posted 3-6—9 in 17 playoff games with the Saguenéens in 2026, tied for the fourth-most assists and fifth-most points among all rookies. His nine points also ranked as the most in a postseason by a Saguenéens rookie since **Stanislav Lasek** in 2004 (5-13—18 in 18 GP).

\* Averaged 2.28 points per game in 2024-25 while skating in the USHS-Prep, which was the sixth-highest production rate across the league (21-36—57 in 25 GP).

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

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Good size player with puck skill and scoring ability. Quickly became a go to player on a rebuilding Rimouski squad and continues to flourish as a prospect with Chicoutimi. Contributes as a middle six forward and on the power play. Fits in the power forward category. Capable to change the momentum of a game with his physical presence on the forecheck. Excellent shot release and is a threat all over the ice. Quality skating stride and will continue to add speed in coming years. His transition from prep hockey to the CHL was smooth and seems to get better every viewing. Lots to like about the potential of this prospect, he does have lots of pro elements in his game.

## **CHARLIE MORRISON**

**Defense | Quebec (QMJHL)**

**Born: Miramichi, N.B.**

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

\* After missing the start of the season due to injury, Morrison went on to tally 4-9—13 (41 GP). He finished with the third-highest points-per-game rate among defensemen on his team.

\* Named to Team CHL for the 2025 CHL USA Prospects Challenge and played in all three games.

\* Finished fifth across the QMJHL in scoring among rookie defensemen after tallying 2-13—15 in 63 GP as a rookie with the Quebec Remparts in 2024-25. He also finished third on his team in scoring by defensemen.

\* His great uncle, **Dan Bouchard**, was a goaltender and second-round selection by the Bruins in the 1970 NHL Draft (27th overall) who appeared in 656 games with the Flames (ATL & CGY), Nordiques and Jets.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A big defender who can contribute in all areas of the game. Strong on his skates with good skating / mobility to shut things down on the defensive side. Plays a physical game, will finish checks and be tough to play against. Retrieves pucks well and sorts out his options in order to execute on zone exits and transition plays. Has some offense in his game, which should translate into a solid two-way pro defenseman. A solid prospect with a good upside.

## **MAKSIM SOKOLOVSKII**

**Defense | London (OHL)**

**Born: Petropavlovsk, Kazakhstan**

**No. 40-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Tallied 2-6—8 (44 GP) with the OHL's London Knights in 2025-26. At 6-foot-8, he was the second-tallest player in the league this season behind 7-foot **Alexander Karmanov** (No. 214 ranked NA skater).

\* Recorded 34-50—84 (65 GP) with Atlantic Coast Academy U16 AAA in 2024-25, where he finished first in goals and tied for first in points among all defensemen.

\* Can become the 28th Kazakhstan-born player drafted to the NHL and third in the past 20 years, following **Vladimir Nikitin** (No. 207 in 2023 by OTT) and **Andrei Buyalsky** (No. 92 in 2021 by COL).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Improved immensely since the start of the season. At 6'7", 238lbs he's a big body that gets around the ice well and is very solid on his skates. He has smoothness to him for a big guy. He's more comfortable and confident with the puck on his stick, has good instincts and can make plays. He's created a lot of room for himself as well with his physical style and doesn't hesitate to stand up for his teammates.

## **ALESSANDRO DI IORIO**

**Center | Sarnia (OHL)**

**Born: Vaughan, Ont.**

**No. 41-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Missed the start of 2025-26 due to injury and then went on to tally 12-19—31 (45 GP) for the third-highest point-per-game average on the OHL's Sarnia Sting (0.69; tied).

\* Tallied 11-27—38 (58 GP) in 2024-25 to finish tied for fifth in assists among all rookies across the OHL. His season began without a point through his first six contests before posting a seven-game point streak and finding the score sheet in 13 of his next 19 outings. Only one other Sting rookie since 2011-12 has recorded as many assists in a single season: **Nikolay Goldobin** (38 in 2012-13)

\* Has collected a medal of every color with Team Canada, including gold at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship, silver at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge with Team Canada Red and bronze at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. Di Iorio also played in the 2026 Under-18 World Championship.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A playmaking center who played a prominent role on Canada's Under-18 team at the Hlinka-Gretzky tournament. He has the smarts and drive to push the pace and plays hard and fast. He can control and set up the play while making the players he plays with better. Reliable defensively and not afraid to play physical. Soft hands with good sense and can fire the puck. An exciting prospect who will garner a lot of NHL interest.

## **VICTOR PLANTE**

**Left Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)**

**Born: Duluth, Min.**

**No. 42-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Had the fourth-most points among USA Hockey's National Team Development Program Under-18 Team this past season after he recorded 21-27—48 (57 GP).

\* Spent the bulk of the 2024-25 campaign with the USA Hockey's NTDP Under-17 Team, recording 13-20—33 (48 GP) to finish fourth on his team in assists and points.

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

\* Averaged a point-per-game with Team USA at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 5 GP) and also played in the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he tallied 2-7—9 (5 GP) for the most points among all skaters (tied) and was named to the tournament All-Star Team.

\* His father, **Derek**, was an eighth-round pick by the Sabres in the 1989 NHL Draft (161st overall) who recorded 96-152—248 in 450 career games with the Sabres, Stars, Blackhawks and Flyers and helped Dallas win a Stanley Cup in 1999. He has two brothers who played together at the Univ. of Minnesota-Duluth in 2025-26: **Zam**, a fifth-round pick by the Penguins in the 2022 NHL Draft (150th overall) and **Max**, a second-round pick by the Red Wings in 2024 (47th overall) – Max won the 2026 Hobey Baker Award.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A strong blend of creativity and competitiveness, consistently driving play with his high-end puck skills and vision. He shows excellent instincts in the offensive zone, finding soft areas and making quick, deceptive plays that create scoring chances for his linemates. His edgework and agility allow him to maneuver through traffic while maintaining control and balance under pressure. His combination of offensive touch, hockey IQ and relentless compete level make him a highly promising prospect with top-six potential.

**EGOR BARABANOV**  
**Center | Saginaw (OHL)**  
**Born: Saint Petersburg, Russia**  
**No. 43-Ranked North American Skater**

\* After signing with the OHL's Saginaw Spirit as an undrafted player in 2025-26, Barabanov went on to tally 28-63—91 in 68 GP. He finished second in the league in assists and fourth in points after being named the OHL Player of the Week twice.

\* Represented the Western Conference and scored the opening goal in the 2026 Connor McDavid OHL Top Prospects Game.

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 in the USHL with the Madison Capitols where he recorded 14-24—38 (53 GP).

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

**SCOUTING REPORT**

Playing in his first year in Saginaw, Egor turned heads right off the hop as he can make it look easy. Smooth skater with elite hockey sense. Knows how to win battles using his body and stick. Has a quick release as well and knows how to light the lamp.

**BREK LISKE**  
**Defense | Everett (WHL)**  
**Born: Winnipeg, Man.**  
**No. 44-Ranked North American Skater**

\* More than doubled his point total from his rookie season, recording 7-17—24 (52 GP). He finished tied for eighth in goals among draft eligible defenseman to help the WHL's Everett Silvertips finish with their highest point total in franchise history and atop the league in the standings.

\* Has collected 3-12—15 (17 GP) through the playoffs – the fifth most among defensemen – en route to his club's WHL Final appearance.

\* Recorded 2-9—11 (66 GP) during his rookie campaign in 2024-25, the second-highest point total by a rookie defenseman on his team.

\* Made his WHL debut as a 15-year-old in 2023-24, where he tallied 1-1—2 (3 GP) and was one of only three under-16 defensemen to post multiple points that season.

\* His uncle, **Adam Pleskach**, played professionally in the ECHL and AHL, and was coached at American Intentional College by Everett's current assistant coach, **Mike Field**.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

Has really taken a step forward this year. Has grown and added weight and strength over last year. Now playing a top-four role with Everett and contributing in all situations. Good puck game. He can make plays and has shown the ability to contribute on the power play at this level. Solid defender that will play physical. Good transition game. Quick ups and will join the rush to contribute to the offense.

**LUKE SCHAIRER****Defense | USA U-18 (NTDP)****Born: Charlotte, N.C.****No. 45-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished second on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program Under-18 Team in points among defensemen after tallying 1-21—22 in 62 GP.

\* Played the bulk of the 2024-25 season with the USA Hockey's NTDP Under-17 Team, where he posted 3-21—24 (48 GP) for the third-most assists.

\* Played in the 2026 Under-18 World Championship (0-4—4 in 5 GP) and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he tied for the most points among all defensemen (1-4—5 in 5 GP).

\* Committed to Boston Univ. for the 2027-28 season.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A strong combination of speed, compete and intelligence that stands out every shift. He reads the ice exceptionally well, anticipating plays before they develop and executing with precision in both transition and offensive-zone situations. His skating mechanics and edgework give him the ability to attack with pace or recover defensively without losing structure. His maturity, consistency and ability to impact the game in multiple ways make him a strong pro prospect.

**GIORGOS PANTELAS****Defense | Brandon (WHL)****Born: Laval, Que.****No. 46-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Pantelas skated for the WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings in 2025-26, where he ranked second among defensemen in assist and points as well as third in goals (6-31—37 in 68 GP). He also finished eighth in assists and points among draft-eligible defensemen in the WHL.

\* Registered 1-6—7 (61 GP) in his first season in the WHL – the fifth-most points by a Wheat Kings rookie in 2024-25. He also tied for the second-highest plus-minus (11) by a Brandon rookie.

\* Won gold at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge with Team Canada White and took home bronze at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A top-usage defender with steady minutes in all situations. He is a strong two-way defender that does a lot well with fluid mobility. He handles the puck often, capable of moving play in pressure situations and reads the play well. He also brings a physical element, finishing checks and defends with excellent stick work. He has good mobility to avoid forecheck pressure and can carry the play up ice. He is a playmaker along the offensive blue line and distributes the puck well. A solid two-way defensive prospect.

## **VLADIMIR DRAVECKY**

**Defense | Brantford (OHL)**

**Born: Manchester, N.H.**

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

\* Signed with the Brantford Bulldogs in 2025-26 and went on to record 9-19—28 (58 GP) in his first OHL season. He finished second in scoring by defensemen on his team and tied for fifth in points among draft-eligible blueliners across the league.

\* Notched 6-10—16 (37 GP) for the Rogle BK junior team in 2024-25 and played three games for the SHL team. He was one of just 14 defensemen age 17 or younger to skate in the SHL that season.

\* Won silver with Team Czechia at the 2026 World Junior Championship and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. He also represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

\* His father, also named **Vladimir**, had a long professional career overseas where he won five championships in Czechia's top men's league and two in Slovakia. His father also represented Czechia at the World Championship four times including as captain in 2017. Vladimir says his father is his idol and the reason why he takes practice and preparation so seriously. He now works with his dad's strength and conditioning coach in the offseason.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Made an impact right away in Brantford. He's a very composed player who can be deceiving and creative with the puck on his stick. Excellent game instincts, always seems to be a step ahead of everyone out there and in the correct position. He has a good head for the game and knows when to turn it off and on to get the job done. He's very solid on his feet as well and plays all 200 feet.

## **TIMOFEI RUNTSO**

**Defense | Victoria (WHL)**

**Born: Los Angeles, Calif.**

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

\* Runtso signed with the WHL's Victoria Royals as an undrafted defenseman and went on to lead the team in goals, assists and points by blueliners in 2025-26 after posting 11-33—44 (68 GP). Across the league, he finished tied for second in goals by rookie defensemen and third in assists as well as points among that cohort.

\* Spent 2024-25 skating in the North American Hockey League, the tier 2 junior league in the U.S., where he tallied 8-19—27 (53 GP) and led all blueliners across the league age 17 or younger in goals and points.

\* Committed to Miami Univ. the 2026-27 season.

\* His father, **Andrei**, is a former Belarusian professional hockey player, with stints in Belarus and France before ending his career in the United States. Andrei later became a stuntman and actor, featured in films and TV shows including *The Amazing Spiderman 2*, *Fear the Walking Dead*, *Malcolm in the Middle* and *You*.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Good sized, right-shot defenseman that has stepped in and been the go-to guy in Victoria as a first year player. Smart and skilled with the puck. Very good on the power play where he plays the top. Distributes the puck well to all areas. Jumps down from the point effectively to get into scoring position. Has the speed to get up on the rush. More of a distributor off the rush than leading the charge. Good, active stick defensively. Takes away passing lanes and space. Very good vision and transitions the puck up ice quickly and effectively. A player that has continued to improve and is an impact player in Victoria.

**ALEXANDER BILECKI**  
**Defense | Kitchener (OHL)**  
**Born: Mississauga, Ont.**  
**No. 49-Ranked North American Skater**

\* More than doubled his output from his rookie campaign, collecting 9-20—29 (66 GP) in 2025-26 for the fourth most points among draft-eligible defensemen in the OHL.

\* Collected 2-9—11 (18 GP) to help the Kitchener Rangers win the OHL championship.

\* Tallied 3-11—14 (45 GP) with the OHL's Kitchener Rangers in 2024-25, finishing tied for fourth in points among all defensemen age 16 or younger.

\* Represented the Western Conference in the 2026 Connor McDavid OHL Top Prospects Game.

\* Is a straight-A student in high school, studying world history, sports analytics, data management and advanced functions.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A smooth skating defender who has the ability to make the game look easy. He has a quick transition game, likes to get on the attack and picks his spots well when he does. He has good sense with the puck, knows how to make things happen with some deception. He also defends well with good angles and uses his footwork to stay out of trouble.

**COOPER WILLIAMS**  
**Center | Saskatoon (WHL)**  
**Born: Calgary, Alta.**  
**No. 50-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Improved his points-per-game pace over his rookie campaign (23-34—57 in 66 GP) and finished third on the WHL's Saskatoon Blades in goals and second in points.

\* Finished the 2024-25 season second on his team in scoring with 21-36—57 and co-led them with 68 GP.

\* Earned bronze with Canada at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and scored the game-opening goal in the medal-winning contest.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

Top-six role with prime minutes in all key offensive situations. Skilled, smooth and confident with the puck. Executes creative plays under pressure both off the rush and in the offensive zone. Sees and makes passes few others attempt or execute. Willing to engage physically and battle for space. Goes to the net and competes hard for loose pucks. Creates and finishes scoring chances consistently. High-end offensive instincts complemented by elite puck skills.

## **BLAKE ZIELINSKI**

**Center | Des Moines (USHL)**

**Born: Berlin, N.J.**

**No. 51-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Ranked second on the USHL's Des Moines Buccaneers in goals, assists and points during 2025-26 (25-30—55 in 53 GP). Zielinski also won the [2026 Gaudreau Award](#), a yearly honor awarded to the player in the USHL that best embodies the legacy of **Johnny** and **Matthew Gaudreau**.

\* Ranked within the USHL's top 10 in scoring among rookies in 2024-25 (9th: 13-19—32 in 41 GP) and paced all rookies on the Buccaneers in goals, assists and points. He was named to the USHL All-Rookie Second Team.

\* Won gold at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, leading Team USA in points and assists (tied) with 4-5—9 in 5 GP, and at the 2026 World Junior A Challenge (2-2—4 in 5 GP).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A very skilled player that can play all three forward positions. Uses his excellent sense to create opportunities for himself and his linemates. Very willing to go into traffic areas to retrieve pucks and play physical. Good shot release that makes him a dual threat as a playmaker and scorer. Plays a solid two-way game with lots of good habits and details. Easy player to like for his consistency and compete level. Was chosen as the winner of the USHL Gaudreau Award which goes to the player which best embodies the legacy of Johnny & Matthew Gaudreau.

## **JAKE GUSTAFSON**

**Center | Portland (WHL)**

**Born: San Jose, Calif.**

**No. 52-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Amassed 13-12—25 (68 GP) to top the WHL's Portland Winterhawks in goals among rookies and to help his team qualify for the playoffs for the 15th straight year.

\* Played the 2024-25 season with Shattuck St. Mary's U16 AAA team, registering 17-19—36 in 54 GP before signing a WHL Scholarship and Development agreement with the Winterhawks in May 2025.

\* His father, **Jon**, was a goaltender who played in the AHL and ECHL and is currently working in the Sharks organization as the President of the AHL's San Jose Barracudas and Senior Vice President of SAP Center and Sharks Ice.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Tall, rangy player that has shown significant improvement over the course of the season. Started the season on the wing but transitioned to center in the second half showing he can play all three forward positions. Learning to use his size and reach effectively to create time and space for himself. Good skill level. Has shown he can score and make plays in traffic. Playing a middle-sox role with secondary power play time on a solid Portland team. The type of player that has a very high ceiling.

## **JONAH SIVERTSON**

**Right Wing | Prince Albert (WHL)**

**Born: Regina, Sask.**

**No. 53-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished 2025-26 with 24-29—53 in 66 GP to rank eighth across the WHL in rookie scoring and fifth on his team in points.

\* Tallied 3-7—10 (19 GP) during the 2026 playoffs, including a goal in Game 6 of the Conference finals to help the Raiders advance to the WHL Finals for the first time since 2019, when they last won the Ed Chynoweth Cup.

\* Spent the majority of the 2024-25 season playing AAA hockey in Saskatchewan where he amassed 32-45—77 (30 GP) for second in scoring across the league and paced all skaters in points per game (2.57; min. 10 GP). He also made his WHL debut skating in 14 games as one of three 16-year-old forwards on his team (0-2—2).

## **MATIAS VANHANEN**

**Left Wing | Everett (WHL)**

**Born: Nokia, Finland**

**No. 54-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Led the Everett Silvertips in points with 21-66—87 (62 GP) in 2025-26 and finished the season with the most assists by a rookie in the WHL. Vanhanen currently has 12-12—24 (17 GP) in the WHL playoffs, which ranks third among all skaters.

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 skating in Finland's junior league where he led HIFK with 17-30—47 (42 GP) en route to Rookie of the Year honors. He also collected 6-5—11 (9 GP) in the playoffs with their Under-18 team to earn a bronze medal in the league championships.

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2024-25 skating in 5 GP in Finland's top men's league. He was one of eight players age 17 or younger to play that season.

\* Represented Finland three times internationally: 2026 World Junior Championships (0-6—6 in 7 GP), 2025 Under-18 World Championship (2-3—5 in 5 GP) and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-1—3 in 4 GP).

\* His sister, **Sanni**, played for Ohio State University in 2025-26 and has represented Finland on the international stage many times including in two Olympics (2022; bronze & 2026) and five Women's World Championships (bronze in 2021, 2024 & 2025). His father, **Juha-Matti**, played professionally for over a decade in Europe.

**LANDON NYCZ****Defense | Univ. of Massachusetts (NCAA)****Born: Brownstown, Mich.****No. 55-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Was a freshman with the Univ. of Massachusetts this past season and was one of three draft-eligible defensemen to play in the NCAA (1-2—3 in 35 GP).

\* Skated in the USHL in 2024-25, where he tallied 8-19—27 (56 GP) and led all defensemen age 17 or younger in scoring. He finished second in scoring by Black Hawks defensemen despite being traded to the Sioux City Musketeers after 34 GP.

\* Finished 2023-24 tied for ninth in assists among rookie defensemen across the USHL when he posted 1-12—13 (52 GP).

\* Played forward until he was 12 before he switched to defense.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

An excellent skater with good balance and mobility, allowing him to keep pace, close gaps defensively, and support the attack through transitions. He shows consistency and a strong two-way presence to his game. He processes very good hockey sense, reading plays well and positions himself effectively in all three zones. He is a smart, efficient puck mover who makes sound decisions under pressure. He plays with composure, keeps his game simple and can extend plays in the offensive zone. Defensively, he is responsible and detail-oriented, showing commitment to winning puck battles with consistently strong work ethic.

## **PIERCE MBUYI**

**Left Wing | Owen Sound (OHL)**

**Born: Mississauga, Ont.**

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

\* Wore an 'A' for the Owen Sound Attack where he produced at a 1.1 points-per-game clip to top his club in goals, assists and points (32-43—75 in 68 GP). Mbuyi finished third in points among draft-eligible skaters across the OHL.

\* Posted 29-23—52 in 63 GP in 2024-25 and was one of only two players on his team to cross the 50-point threshold. He topped all rookies across the league in goals and points, was named the OHL Rookie of the Year and was selected to the CHL's all-rookie team.

\* Earned a silver medal with Team Canada Red at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and a bronze with at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

\* Committed to Penn State Univ. for 2026-27.

\* His father, **Joseph**, was born in Russia before moving to Canada for school. He has African roots, his mother, **Irene**, grew up in a big family near rural Searletown, PEI. Pierce spent two weeks every summer visiting the rural community and spending time with cousins, aunts and uncles.

\* His mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2019 and she passed away in 2021. Pierce was very close with his mother, who often managed him and his brother's minor sports teams where she earned the nicknames "Miss Irene" and "Reener." Pierce was a [Hockey Fights Cancer advocate](#) with the for Owen Sound this past season.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Plays bigger than he is and is comfortable in the hard areas. Plays the right way with good habits. He has good wheels and is really quick in tight areas. Has good vision, playmaking abilities and knows how to find the back of the net.

## **WILL MCLAUGHLIN**

**Defense | Portland (WHL)**

**Born: Canmore, Alta.**

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

\* Registered 9-21—30 in 68 GP in 2025-26 with the Portland Winterhawks, finishing second on the team in scoring by defensemen and 11th among blueliners age 17 or younger across the entire WHL.

\* Skated in the AJHL in 2024-25 where he tallied 3-26—29 in 47 GP with the Drumheller Dragons for fifth in League-wide defensemen scoring.

\* Represented Team USA at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, recording three assists in five contests, including a helper in the final to help his country win the tournament for the first time in 22 years.

\* Committed to Colorado College for the 2026-27 season.

\* His father, **Kyle**, played four seasons with the Nepean Raiders of the Canadian Junior Hockey League between 1991 and 1995 before playing his collegiate hockey with the St. Cloud State Huskies for four seasons, amassing 144 games played. His older brother, **Finn**, currently plays as a defenseman with St. Cloud State after spending two seasons in the USHL.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Plays on both special teams. A smart, and skilled puck moving defenseman. He has poise and vision. Plays the top on the power play and distributes the puck well. Good zone exits and entries. Smooth skater that has a good stick defensively.

## **KAYDEN LEMIRE**

**Right Wing | Prince George (WHL)**

**Born: Edmonton, Alta.**

**No. 58-Ranked North American Skater**

\* Finished 2025-26 with 9-20—29 in 68 GP for a 23-point improvement over his rookie campaign to help the Prince George Cougars finish third in the WHL's Western Conference during the regular season. He went on to tally 1-3—4 in 12 playoff games.

\* In 2024-25, Lemire recorded 4-2—6 in 66 GP to rank fourth on his team in rookie scoring.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Tall, rangy winger that plays a physical, power forward type of game. Playing on a good Prince George team, he has primarily been used as a third line winger with time as a net front presence on the power play. There has been some games where he played on the top line and showed that he can play and contribute with skilled players. The type of player that has a high ceiling to be an effective power forward type of winger.

## **COLE ZURAWSKI**

**Right Wing | Owen Sound (OHL)**

**Born: Barrie, Ont.**

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

\* Skated to a 15-point improvement over his rookie campaign and finished third on his team in goals (tied) and fifth in points after amassing 24-22—46 in 63 GP. Zurawski has the eighth-most goals and 12th-most points (tied) among all draft-eligible skaters across the OHL.

\* Began the 2024-25 campaign with the Flint Firebirds (6-9—15 in 32 GP) before being traded to the Owen Sound Attack (10-6—16 in 29 GP) for a combined 16-15—31. He finished the season tied for sixth in goals among rookies across the OHL.

\* Won a gold medal with Canada White at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* Committed to Univ. of Notre Dame for 2026-27.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A great skater who's strong on his feet but can also be quick and agile in tight. His best asset is his release as he can really fire it. He's more of a shoot first type of player but can make plays as well. He's smart and knows how to find those quiet areas to score. Plays a reliable defensive game as well.

## **CAELAN JOUDREY**

**Center | Wenatchee (WHL)**

**Born: St. Albert, Alta.**

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

\* Nearly doubled his year-over-year point total after he tallied 19-10—29 in 67 GP with the WHL's Wenatchee Wild during 2025-26, where he ranked second on his team in goals and fifth in points.

\* In 2024-25, Joudrey led his team in rookie scoring after tallying 5-11—16 in 66 GP.

\* Featured in seven contests as a 15-year-old player with Wenatchee in 2023-24, scoring twice in his first three WHL games.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Played primarily on right wing in 2024-25. This year he has moved to the middle and has been a consistent top-six presence. Plays on both special teams. Takes key face offs. Big body that can play a physical, 200-foot type of game. Willing to stick up for his teammates. Does a lot of the little things to help his team.



## INTERNATIONAL SKATERS



### IVAR STENBERG

Left Wing | Frolunda (SWEDEN)

Born: Gothenburg, Sweden

No. 1-Ranked International Skater

\* Leads all teenagers in Sweden's top professional hockey league in scoring with 11-22—33 in 43 GP – he finished the campaign five-points ahead of **Anton Frondell** (No. 3 overall by CHI in 2025). Stenberg finished 2025-26 with the most assists and points by an SHL junior and helped his club win the Champions Hockey League championship.

\* Stenberg concluded 2025-26 with the fifth-highest single-season point total ever by a player age 18 or younger in the SHL behind **Daniel Sedin, Markus Naslund, Tomas Sandstrom** and **Henrik Sedin**. Stenberg's 22 assists matched Henrik for the highest single-season total in SHL history by a player age 18 or younger.

\* In 2024-25, he spent half of the season with Frolunda's junior team where he topped Sweden's highest junior league in points per game (min. 3 GP) after operating at a 1.96 point-per-game pace and posting 26-27—53 (27 GP).

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2024-25, playing in 25 SHL games (1-2—3) and finishing tied for the third-most points by a teenager in the playoffs (3-3—6 in 12 GP).

\* Won gold with Team Sweden at the 2026 World Junior Championship where he tied the fifth-most points in the tournament and the team lead (4-6—10 in 7 GP). He has silver medals from the 2025 Under-18 World Championship and 2024 World Junior A Challenge, a tournament he led in goals (7) and points (11).

\* He also has two bronze medals in international competition: 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, topping both tournaments in goals.

\* His brother, **Otto**, was selected in the first round of the 2023 NHL Draft (25th overall). He spent last season and the first half of this campaign skating in the AHL with the Springfield Thunderbirds and has since been skating with the Blues.

### SCOUTING REPORT

Has established himself as a top prospect, already playing regular minutes with powerhouse Frölunda in the Swedish Hockey League. His blend of speed, first-step quickness, and balance makes him a dangerous, dynamic skater who can both create and finish plays. Offensively, he displays elite hockey IQ and patience with the puck, often distributing with precision on the power play and in tight spaces. His vision and timing enable him to open up lanes and create high-quality scoring chances, as demonstrated by his multi-assist performances at both club and national levels. Also contributes defensively, maintaining clever positioning and showing a mature awareness uncommon for his age. Though still physically developing, his compete level and confidence make him effective in board battles and transition play.

## **ALBERTS SMITS**

**Defense | Munchen (Germany)**

**Born: Valmiera, Latvia**

**No. 2-Ranked International Skater**

\* Skates for Jukurit in Finland's top professional league where he has produced 6-7—13 in 38 GP, the second-most points by a player age 18 or younger in Liiga this season (at any position). Smits finished third among teenage defensemen in scoring, behind two drafted skaters.

\* Smits started 2025-26 averaging two points per game in Finland's top junior league (6-4—10 in 5 GP) and finished the campaign by being loaned to Munchen in the Germany's top men's league, where he contributed 2-4—6 in 10 postseason appearances.

\* Played for Team Latvia at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 (0-2—2 in 4 GP).

\* Finished tied for the third-highest point-per-game pace (1.00; 10-10—20 in 20 GP) among defensemen in Finland's Under-18 league in 2024-25. He also played 21 GP for Jukurit's junior team (4-5—9 in 21 GP) and made his professional debut (1-1—2 in 9 GP).

\* Has represented his country on the international stage two other times – at the 2026 World Junior Championship, where he averaged a point per game (1-4—5 in 5 GP) and 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Could become the highest-selected Latvian player in NHL history, a distinction currently held by **Zemgus Girgensons** (14th overall in 2012).

\* Moved away from his family in Latvia to pursue hockey in Finland at the age of 13.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Has emerged as one of the standout young defensemen in Finland's Liiga, combining size, mobility, and poise far beyond his years. At just age 18, he has logged over 20 minutes of ice time regularly, with dominant performances that showcase confidence and control throughout. A strong skater with excellent balance and surprising acceleration, he transitions smoothly from defense to offense, often leading the rush himself. His hockey IQ is exceptional, as evidenced by his ability to read plays, make intelligent first passes, and position himself effectively in both zones. He plays a physical yet clean game, utilizing his size and reach to win battles and neutralize one-on-one attackers. Offensively, Smits is dangerous from the blue line, with a heavy, accurate one-timer and the instincts to quarterback the power play. His calmness under pressure and maturity on the puck make him look like a seasoned pro rather than a teenager.

**OLIVER SUVANTO**  
**Center | Tappara (FINLAND)**  
**Born: Turku, Finland**  
**No. 3-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of 2025-26 playing in Finland's top pro league with Tappara, where he concluded the campaign with the most points by a player age 17 or younger in Liiga with 2-9—11 (48 GP).

\* Spent the 2024-25 season in Finland's Under-18 league where he posted 11-31—42 (42 GP), won the league championship and was named Best Forward in the league.

\* Represented his country internationally three times: 2026 World Junior Championship, 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His father, **Harri**, played professional hockey in Europe for over a decade.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

One of the most complete and mature 17-year-old centers seen in Finland's Liiga since Aleksander Barkov. He has already been trusted in key roles for powerhouse Tappara. His strong skating, balance, and physical strength make him highly effective in faceoffs, battles and defensive coverage. A natural two-way player, he combines reliability and intelligence, rarely making mistakes while consistently supporting both ends of the ice. Offensively, can create space for teammates with intelligent positioning and strong puck protection, often generating second chances or assists through simple but effective plays. Forechecking and work ethic stand out, and he plays with pro-level consistency and awareness.

## VIGGO BJORCK

Center | Djurgarden (SWEDEN)

Born: Stockholm, Sweden

No. 4-Ranked International Skater

\* After recording 1-4—5 in 4 GP with Djurgardens' junior team, Bjorck has been skating in the Swedish Hockey League where he led all players 17 or younger (6-9—15 in 42 GP) in scoring and finished with the seventh-most points by a teenager.

\* Set single-season records in Sweden's junior league in 2024-25 for assists and points after registering 27-47—74 (42 GP). He also helped Djurgarden's junior team win the league title, finishing second in postseason points with 4-11—15 (9 GP).

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2024-25 and was the only 16-year-old in Sweden's second division to score that season (1-0—1 in 1 GP).

\* Won gold at the 2026 World Junior Championship and finished the tournament with the second-highest point total on his team (3-6—9 in 7 GP). He also medaled at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship (silver), 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (bronze) and 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (bronze).

\* His brother, **Wilson**, was selected 143rd overall by the Canucks in 2025 and is currently playing in the NCAA for Colorado College. Last season, Viggo and Wilson played on a line together. His father, **Jesper**, played professional hockey in Sweden for nearly two decades.

\* His aunt, **Charlotte Perrelli**, is a famous singer and television host in Sweden, winning the 1999 Melodifestivalen and Eurovision Song Contest.

## SCOUTING REPORT

Displays elite skating and creativity, standing out as one of Sweden's most dynamic young forwards. His acceleration and edgework allow him to separate instantly from defenders, while his hockey IQ shines through clever puck movement and spatial awareness in tight areas. He plays with confidence and flair, using deceptive hands and a quick release – particularly on his wrist shot – to generate dangerous scoring chances. Has strengthened his lower body, demonstrating improved balance and competitiveness in board battles. He contributes effectively on both special teams, managing the puck well on breakouts and serving as a deceptive playmaker on the power play. His energy, forechecking, and two-way commitment make him a valuable all-situations forward. With his blend of speed, skill, and evolving physical maturity, projects as an A-level prospect.

## **ELTON HERMANSSON**

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

**Born: Ornskoldsvik, Sweden**

**No. 5-Ranked International Skater**

\* After collecting 3-6—9 (13 GP) playing with MoDo's junior team, Hermansson made his pro debut and concluded 2025-26 with the most points by a 17-year-old in Sweden's second division (11-10—21 in 38 GP). He also finished fifth in scoring by teenagers.

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 playing in Sweden's top junior league where he amassed 17-19—36 (41 GP). He finished with the third-most goals (17) and fourth-most points (36) among 16-year-olds across the league that season.

\* Won gold at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship, totaling 4-8—12 (7 GP) to finish with the most assists and points in the tournament, a performance that earned Best Forward honors. He also earned silver at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he finished second in goals (6) and points (tied; 11), and bronze at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His father, **Lennart**, played professional hockey in Europe for 15 years. His brother, **Simon**, also has been playing hockey in Sweden for over a decade.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Showcases elite puck-handling and offensive creativity, standing out as one of the most technically skilled prospects in Europe this year. Ability to carry the puck through traffic and create space for teammates makes him a constant threat, particularly on the power play, where his one-timer and quick release are deadly. Demonstrates vision and patience, often manipulating defenders with deceptive stickhandling and creative passing plays. His offensive instincts consistently put him in high-danger scoring areas. His skating is smooth and agile. His experience in Sweden's second division suggests he can adapt to higher levels as he gains strength and pro habits. Projects as a player with first-round potential, blending flair, intelligence, and a high offensive ceiling that promises significant upside.

## **JUHO PIIPARINEN**

**Defense | Tappara (FINLAND)**

**Born: Lahti, Finland**

**No. 6-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of 2025-26 playing professional hockey in Finland, where he skated in 29 GP and finished with the most points by an Under-18 defenseman (0-3—3). He also skated in 15 games with Tappara's junior team (1-12—13 in 15 GP).

\* In 2024-25, Piiparinen played for Tappara's junior team and tallied 2-14—16 (40 GP). He topped the league in assists and scoring (tied) by players age 16 or younger. He also helped their Under-18 team win the league's championship, collecting 3-9—12 (9 GP).

\* Captained Team Finland at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship and also represented his country at the 2026 World Junior Championship, 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, 2025 Under-18 World Championship and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His father, **Jarkko**, was an 11th-round pick by the Devils in the 1984 NHL Draft (212th overall) who had a lengthy career playing in his home country of Finland.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

Quickly established himself as one of the most improved young defensemen in the Finnish Liiga, holding a regular spot on Tappara's roster at just 17 years old. Plays with poise and confidence, showing excellent hockey sense and a calm approach under pressure. His skating and mobility are solid, featuring good balance and top-end speed once he is in motion. Reads the game very well, moving the puck effectively and joining the rush when opportunities arise while staying disciplined defensively. Uses his size and strength well in board battles and one-on-one situations, rarely getting outmuscled despite his youth. Offensively, he has started to show flashes of playmaking skill and composure with the puck, though his shot and offensive assertiveness are still developing. His maturity, consistency, and improving two-way presence make him an A-level prospect.

**MALTE GUSTAFSSON**  
**Defense | HV71 (SWEDEN)**  
**Born: Vackelsang, Sweden**  
**No. 7-Ranked International Skater**

\* Tallied 4-8—12 (19 GP) playing in Sweden's top junior league before making his professional hockey debut in the Swedish Hockey League. Gustafsson has the second-most points among 17-year-olds in the SHL, the only player with more is fellow draft-eligible prospect, **Viggo Bjorck**, who is a forward (0-3—3 in 27 GP).

\* Skated the majority of the 2024-25 season with HV71's junior team, where he finished with the second-most points among defensemen age 17 or younger across the league (2-6—8 in 36 GP).

\* Won gold at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship, silver at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he averaged over a point per game (2-4—6 in 5 GP) as well as two bronze medals at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His brother, **Viggo**, was a third-round pick by the Predators in the 2024 NHL Draft (77th overall) who helped Team Sweden earn gold at the 2026 World Junior Championship and split the 2025-26 season between playing in Sweden and with the AHL's Milwaukee Admirals.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

Shows remarkable composure and confidence beyond his age. He skates well, handles the puck cleanly, and doesn't look nervous even in the SHL. His mobility and poise under pressure stand out, allowing him to contribute effectively in both zones. His decision-making generally reflects maturity and game awareness. Defensively, he is strong positionally, using an active stick and body to close space and win battles. He demonstrates control and calm when quarterbacking the power play, distributing crisp passes, and showing the ability to create offense from the blue line. His performance typically showcases his offensive upside, blending skill and vision with physical reliability. His skating agility and balance for a player of his size make him a modern two-way defenseman with legitimate top-pair potential.

## **MARCUS NORDMARK**

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

**Born: Stockholm, Sweden**

**No. 8-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of 2025-26 in Sweden's top junior league, where he finished with the sixth-most points by under-18 players (14-24—38 in 25 GP). He also made his professional debut and was one of just three 17-year-olds with points in the SHL (0-1—1 in 8 GP).

\* In 2024-25, he split the season between Djurgarden's Under-18 team (22-24—46 in 27 GP) and their junior team (9-9—18 in 17 GP), helping both clubs with gold.

\* Collected gold with Sweden at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship. Nordmark also earned silver at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and led the tournament in goals (7) and points (12) – in fact, only five players in that tournament's history have recorded more points. He has two bronze medals at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge (1-4—5 in 5 GP) and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he topped the tournament with 2.00 points per game (5-3—8 in 4 GP)

\* His father, **Robert**, was a third-round pick by the Blues in the 1987 NHL Draft (59th overall) who patrolled the blueline for 236 NHL games with the Blues and Canucks from 1987-88 to 1990-91. His brothers, **Eric** and **Steven**, are both playing professional hockey in Sweden.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

Combining size, skill, and creativity to drive his team's offense. His blend of strength and refined technique makes him dangerous at times, particularly on the power play, where he orchestrates plays from his off-wing. He showcases both playmaking and finishing abilities, threading smart passes and unleashing accurate shots that consistently creates scoring chances. He plays with high confidence and flair, occasionally holding onto the puck too long, but his growing team awareness has improved his overall effectiveness. With strong hands, good skating, and offensive instincts, he gets in scoring positions. His offensive toolkit and poise make him one of the most complete forwards in his age group. Overall, Nordmark projects as a top-line, two-way scoring forward and a legitimate A-prospect with first-round potential.

## **GLEB PUGACHYOV**

**Right Wing | Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)**

**Born: Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**No. 9-Ranked International Skater**

\* Collected 10-14—24 in 33 GP skating in Russia's top junior league. He also made his professional hockey debut, skating 13 GP in the KHL and finishing with the most points by a player age 17 or younger (2-1—3). He also played 15 GP in Russia's second-highest league and concluded the campaign with the second-most points among players of that age group (1-4—5 in 15 GP).

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 in the MHL, where he collected 5-12—17 in 42 GP. He was the second-highest scoring 16-year-old on his team. In the postseason, Pugachyov finished second in the league in scoring among players age 16 or younger (5-6—11 in 14 GP).

\* Named to the 2025-26 MHL All-Star game.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

He is a big, strong top-line winger with smooth skating mechanics at top speed, strong puck protection, and the ability to drive play through size and skill. He can win pucks, backcheck hard, and create offense with quick passes, smart separation moves, and the ability to beat defenders 1-on-1. His shot is powerful, his hands are good in tight areas, and he shows natural instincts on the cycle, making him effective as a playmaker on the power play. His pace and skating techniques have improved a lot during the season and nowadays he is a hardworking skater all over the ice. He competes well, plays big minutes in all situations, and shows flashes of high-end upside thanks to size, skill, and hockey IQ.

**SIMAS IGNATAVICIUS**  
**Right Wing | Geneve (SWISS)**  
**Born: Memphis, Tenn.**  
**No. 10-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of the 2025-26 season skating in Switzerland's top professional league, where he finished with the most points by a skater age 18 or younger (7-6—13 in 52 GP). He was also loaned to HC Thurgau, where he played 8 GP in the country's second division (7-4—11 in 8 GP) as well as 4 GP in their junior league (4-3—7 in 4 GP).

\* Topped Switzerland's junior league in goals and points (both tied) after tallying 23-27—50 (25 GP) in 2024-25. He also made his professional debut, after being loaned to EHC Visp in Switzerland's second-highest league, where he skated in three games.

\* Was born in Memphis, Tenn., but is a Lithuania national and has represented Lithuania six times on the international stage. He won gold at the 2025 World Junior Championship Division 2 A, finishing with the most goals (8), assists (6) and points (14) in the tournament, and the 2023 Under-18 World Championship Division 2 A. He also earned silver at the 2024 and 2025 Under-18 World Championship Division 1 B and the 2024 World Junior Championship Division 2 A.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A 6'3 center/winger who generally shows his best moments by using strength and body positioning to protect the puck before delivering smart passes to the slot. Even when his execution hasn't been the best, his ideas are consistently strong, as he repeatedly tries to attack the middle and make plays under pressure. His game is highlighted by his vision, processing speed, and composure, including cutbacks along the goal line and creative passes. While his straight-line foot speed is getting better during the season, he is improving his pace management and can generate speed through effective crossover use. Defensively, he remained reliable, often covering for pinching defensemen and showing mature positioning in his own zone. He brings a versatile, pro-ready toolkit with size, puck protection, battle ability, and intelligent puck management, even if higher-end offensive skill flashes are still developing.

**ALEXANDER COMMAND**  
**Center | Orebro Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**  
**Born: Stockholm, Sweden**  
**No. 11-Ranked International Skater**

\* Led Sweden's junior league in scoring among all draft-eligible players in 2025–26 with 17-27—44 in 30 GP.

\* Finished the 2024-25 season with a combined 30-26—56 (26 GP) between Sweden's two Under-18 leagues, including averaging nearly two points per game (16-17—33 in 17 GP) in the country's top junior league. Command had the second-most goals (tied) and points among those skaters.

\* Won gold at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship and bronze at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge, averaging a point per game at both tournaments.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A smart, skilled playmaking center who consistently drives play with quick acceleration, strong skating and excellent puck protection. He shows high-end vision, sharp decision-making and the ability to move the puck quickly and effectively under pressure. His offensive instincts stand out. Despite average size, he competes hard, wins battles, and uses his balance and confidence to control play in both open ice and along the boards. He also displays mature two-way awareness, showing defensive responsibility and strong anticipation without sacrificing creativity. Regularly used on top lines and power play units, he proves capable of leading shifts and elevating teammates. Overall, he profiles as a prospect with clear playmaking upside, strong hockey sense and a well-rounded, competitive game.

**WILLIAM HAKANSSON**  
**Defense | Lulea (SWEDEN)**  
**Born: Stockholm, Sweden**  
**No. 12-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent most of the 2025-26 season playing professional hockey, split between Sweden's first and second league. He was one of just three defensemen age 18 or younger with multiple points in the SHL (0-2—2 in 22 GP).

\* Recorded 7-15—22 in 42 GP in 2024-25, the sixth-most points among defensemen age 17 or younger in Sweden's junior league. He was called up to Lulea's men's team and went on to capture the club's first SHL championship since 1996.

\* Helped Sweden win a gold medal at the 2026 World Junior Championship, where he tied for fourth in points by a draft-eligible defenseman (0-2—2 in 7 GP). He also won bronze at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* Hakansson learned to skate on a backyard rink that his father built.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A big, physically imposing defenseman with a long reach, strong hands and impressive poise for his size. He defends well using active stick-checking, good gap control, and smart reads, especially on the penalty kill. With the puck, he shows calm decision-making, making simple, effective first passes and getting pucks through from the point. While he occasionally struggles under pressure or against faster wingers, he typically recovers well and plays with maturity. He battles effectively around the boards and the net front, showing reliability in defensive situations. Overall, he projects as a solid prospect with size, defensive value, and tools that NHL teams appreciate.

**NIKITA SHCHERBAKOV**  
**Defense | Ufa Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)**  
**Born: Chelyabinsk, Russia**  
**No. 13-Ranked International Skater**

\* Shcherbakov's 2025-26 campaign (4-6—10 in 35 GP) was in Russia's second division of professional hockey, where he became the youngest player in VHL history to score a hat trick and finished the second in scoring among players age 18 or younger.

\* Made his debut in Russia's junior league in 2024-25 and recorded 1-7—8 in 40 GP.

#### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A tall, long-reaching defenseman who skates smoothly for his size and plays with a calm, poised demeanor. He moves the puck intelligently, showing strong passing ability both on breakouts and from the point on the power play. His hockey IQ stands out, allowing him to read plays well and keep his game simple and efficient under pressure. While already showing shutdown qualities and maturity beyond his age, he still needs to add strength. He also has the confidence to join the rush, demonstrating flashes of offensive potential with clean transitions and controlled entries. Overall, he is a prospect with upward potential as he grows physically and sharpens his defensive assertiveness.

**ADAM GOLJER**  
**Defense | Trencin (SLOVAKIA)**  
**Born: Trencin, Slovakia**  
**No. 14-Ranked International Skater**

\* Played in Slovakia's top professional men's league in 2025-26, where he tallied 4-7—11 in 43 GP for the most points by any skater age 17 or younger across the league.

\* In 2022-23, Goljer made his debut in Slovakia's junior league at age 14 – he is one of just three skaters to accomplish that feat in the past 10 seasons. The next year, he made his professional hockey debut at age 15 in the country's top men's league.

\* Earned a silver medal at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship and posted 2-3—5 in 7 GP for the tournament's Best Defenseman honors. He also represented Slovakia at the 2026 World Junior Championship, 2025 Under-18 World Championship and in the 2024 and 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he recorded the most points among defenseman on his team in both of those appearances.

#### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A good-sized, right-shot defenseman who has established himself as a mature and reliable player in men's competition. He was most active early in games, showing confidence in transition with smart outlet passes and occasional offensive support. Defensively, his long reach, strong stick positioning and sound gap control allow him to disrupt plays and shut down attackers effectively. He logs heavy minutes in all situations, though fatigue can show later in games, leading him to prioritize defensive responsibility over risk. With the puck, Adam remains calm, makes intelligent decisions, and consistently avoids panic under pressure.

## **NIKLAS AARAM-OLSEN**

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

**Born: Oslo, Norway**

**No. 15-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of the 2025-26 season skating in Sweden's junior league and amassed 20-20—40 (29 GP), tied for the fifth-most goals across the league. He also made his professional hockey debut, skating in 16 games in the SHL.

\* Has a combined 43-38—81 in 71 GP over the past two seasons in Sweden's top junior league, the third most all-time by a Norwegian.

\* Won a gold medal at the 2026 Division 1 A World Junior Championship, where he tallied 6-4—10 in 5 GP to lead the tournament in goals and helped Norway earn a promotion. He also earned a bronze at the 2025 Division 1 A World Junior Championship (3-3—6 in 5 GP)

\* Aaram-Olsen has also represented his country at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship, where he scored a hat trick in the relegation match to lift Norway to a 4-3 victory over Germany, and at the 2024 and 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A high-tempo, offensively driven winger with strong skating, good hands, and excellent puck control. He regularly challenges defenders 1-on-1 and creates scoring chances through creativity and confidence with the puck. His offensive impact was highlighted by a hat trick performance and a remarkable 13 shots in one game this season. He competes hard, forechecks with speed and shows the drive needed to threaten on nearly every shift. Overall, he has a clear offensive upside but room to grow defensively.

## **VILHO VANHATALO**

**Right Wing | Tappara Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)**

**Born: Tampere, Finland**

**No. 16-Ranked International Skater**

\* Made his professional debut in November 2025 with Tappara but spent the majority of the season with their junior team, where he collected 10-9—19 in 38 GP and finished third in the league in playoff goals with 7-5—12 in 13 GP.

\* Won the Under-18 championship in Finland in 2024-25. That season, Vanhatalo led the league in goals during the regular season (37-21—58 in 41 GP) and playoffs (10-4—14 in 12 GP).

\* Won a championship with Tappara's Under-16 team in 2022-23.

\* Represented Finland at the 2026 Under-18 World Championships (1-0—1 in 5 GP), 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-1—3 in 5 GP) and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he led his team in points with 1-2—3 in 4 GP.

\* His two older brothers are both involved in hockey. **Miika** is the Head Coach of Tappara's Under-18 team, while **Lassi** is playing in his eighth season of professional hockey in Finland.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A big, mobile winger with a heavy, accurate shot and natural scoring instincts, but his overall consistency wavers from game to game. His best performances highlight his ability to drive the slot, forecheck actively, and generate offense through volume shooting, rebounds, and strong puck protection. When he is assertive, he looks like a potential top-line contributor with flashes of playmaking and strong two-way energy. His size, skating and shooting toolkit give him intriguing upside. However, he must improve consistency. A raw but promising prospect who just debuted in men's top League.

## **SAMU ALALAUURI**

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

**Born: Lahti, Finland**

**No. 17-Ranked International Skater**

\* Played 40 GP in Finland's top junior league, where he recorded 6-19—25. Alalauri tied for second in scoring among draft-eligible defensemen and was named to the league's First All-Star team.

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 skating in Finland's top junior league where he tallied 2-3—5 (26 GP) for the second-highest point total by a 16-year-old defenseman across the league.

\* At 15 years old, Alalauri scored 3-14—17 in 2023-24 in his debut season in Finland's top Under-18 league and was awarded Rookie of the Year honors.

\* Represented Finland at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship, where he tallied 1-3—4 in 5 GP, leading all defensemen on his team in scoring. Also competed for Team Finland at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

\* Committed to Univ. of Massachusetts for the 2027-28 campaign.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A mature, mobile right-shot defenseman who logs heavy minutes in all situations and brings a steady two-way presence to every lineup he joins. His skating stands out as one of his best tools, allowing him to close gaps, support transitions, and occasionally jump into the rush with confidence. Physically strong and already well-built for his age, he defends with poise and positioning rather than aggression, winning battles through balance and leverage. Offensively, he provides reliable puck movement, a heavy point shot on the power play, and flashes of smart activation, though he isn't particularly dynamic or flashy. His consistency, hockey sense, and workload capacity make him a solid prospect for now, with potential if his offensive game and confidence continue to grow. Projects as a reliable, well-rounded defender with pro tools and room to elevate his impact as he develops.

## **MANS GUDMUNDSSON**

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

**Born: Skovde, Sweden**

**No. 18-Ranked International Skater**

\* Played the majority of the 2025-26 campaign in Sweden's junior league, where he posted 1-24—25 in 35 GP to lead his team in assists and points among blueliners. His 24 assists also finished as the third-most (tied) across the league by defensemen.

\* Made his professional hockey debut on March 10 with Farjestad BK's SHL team.

\* In 2024-25, he skated in two of Sweden's Under-18 junior leagues and recorded 2-5—7 in 17 GP in the top league.

\* Won gold at the 2026 World Under-18 Championship (0-4—4 in 7 GP) and led the tournament with a plus-8 rating. Gudmundsson also took home bronze at both the 2025 World Junior A Challenge and the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

\* His father, **Mattias**, played professional hockey in Sweden and Norway. He was also an assistant coach with Skovde's J20 Division 1 team when Mans played for the organization.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A modern, right-shot defenseman who consistently looks to support and join the offensive game. He shows good puck poise and vision, highlighted by a reliable first pass and the ability to use short, efficient passes to solve pressure in tight areas. On the power play, he is a clear asset, regularly trusted at the point where his handedness, shot and quick puck movement make him a constant threat. He remains actively involved offensively in all games. Projects as a pro prospect with offensive upside, especially if he improves his skating power and consistency in puck execution.

**JONAS LAGERBERG HOEN**  
**Right Wing | Leksand Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**  
**Born: Mora, Sweden**  
**No. 19-Ranked International Skater**

\* Missed the majority of the 2025-26 campaign with an injury, before collecting 9-7—16 (9 GP) in Sweden's junior league where his 1.78 points-per-game average was the second best across the league. He also made his professional hockey debut, skating in two contests with SHL's Leksand.

\* Finished tied for fourth in goals in the Swedish junior league in 2024–25 after recording 27-3—30 in 38 GP. He collected 2-3—5 in seven postseason games to help his team reach the league semifinal.

\* Earned a bronze medal at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup in his first international appearance.

\* His older brother, **Lucas**, has played professional hockey in Sweden for parts of the past five years.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A dynamic, attack-minded winger who plays with excellent balance, mobility and constant offensive pressure. His speed, puck skill, and 1-on-1 ability make him a threat to create chances every shift, highlighted by a dangerous shot that consistently generates scoring opportunities. He competes with grit, uses his size effectively along the boards and shows strong puck protection in traffic. While his skating mechanics aren't perfect, his quick feet and hands allow him to drive play with pace and confidence. Defensively, his engagement level varies, but when he commits, he can use his frame to disrupt plays and win battles. Despite some junior-level habits and a need to diversify his attacking patterns, he remains a clear game-changer with legitimate scoring upside.

**ADAM ANDERSSON****Center | Leksand Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)****Born: Stockholm, Sweden****No. 20-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent most of the 2025-26 season with Leksand's junior team, accumulating 3-14—17 in 30 GP. He also skated in six Under-18 games this year, earning 1-2—3 in 3 GP at the regional level and 2-4—6 in 3 GP at the national level.

\* Tallied a combined 11-26—37 in 37 GP in Sweden's two Under-18 leagues in 2024-25 and made his debut with Leksand's junior club (0-1—1 in 7 GP).

\* Won gold at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship (1-3—4 in 7 GP), with his lone goal coming as the winner in the championship game against Slovakia. Andersson also won silver at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and bronze at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A big, hard-working two-way center who uses his size effectively to win battles, drive the net, and maintain strong puck control. His reads and positioning are consistently sound, allowing him to contribute reliably in both penalty kill and power play roles. Offensively, he shows poise as a passer and can transport the puck well, though his finishing touch remains an area for improvement. He plays a simple but effective game, competing hard, staying involved in traffic, and making good decisions with the puck. While not flashy, he has all the physical tools, attitude, and hockey sense needed for further growth. Projects as a solid prospect with upside if his offensive confidence and scoring efficiency continue to develop.

## **SIMON KATOLICKY**

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

**Born: Havlickuv Brod, Czechia**

**No. 21-Ranked International Skater**

\* Amassed 6-11—17 in 29 GP during his first season in Finland's top junior league to finish with the third-most points among players on his team age 17 or younger.

\* In 2024-25, Katolicky recorded 15 multi-point games in Finland's top Under-18 league, including a seven-point performance. He finished the season seventh in league scoring (24-28—52 in 30 GP).

\* Helped Tappara win the 2024-25 Under-18 championship and earned Second All-Star Team honors.

\* Earned bronze for Czechia at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship and represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A big, skilled power winger who plays top-line minutes and contributes in a shooter/playmaker role on the power play. His frame, reach, and strong puck protection make him effective along the boards and in 1-on-1 situations, while his high-end puck skills and smooth stickhandling give him clear offensive upside. After an injury-delayed start, he steadily improved game by game, showing rising pace, sharper execution, and growing confidence. He forechecks well, plays physically within the rules, and has shown strong work ethic and competitiveness as the season progresses. His hockey sense stands out, allowing him to make quick, intelligent passes and create plays even when he is not at full game shape. Overall, he is a solid top-level prospect with the potential to rise once he fully regains speed, sharpness, and scoring touch.

## **FILIP NOVAK**

**Left Wing | Sparta Jr. (CZECHIA-JR.)**

**Born: Chomutov, Czechia**

**No. 22-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of 2025-26 with Sparta Praha's junior team (11-24—35 in 28 GP), where he finished third in scoring across the league among draft-eligible skaters. He also made his professional hockey debut, playing nine games in Czechia's highest league before spending the remainder of the year in the country's second division.

\* Missed most of 2024-25 due to injury but averaged over a point per game (5-7—12) during his 8 GP in the Czech Under-17 league. He also made his regular season debut in the country's junior league (2-1—3 in 6 GP).

\* Represented his country at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-3—4 in 4 GP).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A big, powerful winger whose game is built around strong skating, puck control, and physical presence. He likes to carry the puck through the neutral zone, using his stride and balance to protect possession over long stretches of ice. On the power play he is effective on the off-wing, attacking with speed, shooting instincts, and a willingness to drive pucks and bodies toward the net. He also contributes on the penalty kill, showing reliability, work ethic, and good defensive awareness. In even-strength play, he thrives in battles along the boards and around the crease, where he is hard to knock off the puck and consistently wins contested situations. While his raw scoring totals can fluctuate, his shot, quick release, and net-front play give him clear offensive upside. Overall, he profiles as a dependable power forward with strong pro tools and his consistency and offensive impact should continue to grow.

**VIKTOR FYODOROV****Center | Torpedo-Gorky Nn (RUSSIA-2)****Born: Tomsk, Russia****No. 23-Ranked International Skater**

\* Split the 2025-26 campaign between multiple professional and junior leagues in Russia. His 1-3—4 (13 GP) in the KHL was the most by a player age 17 or younger and his playoff production in the MHL finished tied for sixth in goals and 10th for points (6-4—10 in 17 GP).

\* Participated in the longest game in MHL history on April 8, 2026. The contest lasted 142:49 seconds with Irbis Kazan defeating Fedorov's Chaika Nizhny Novgorod 3-2. Fyodorov recorded 56:44 TOI and scored a goal.

\* Played in Russia's junior league in 2024-25 and finished the season tied for first on his team in goals and second in points (13-17—30 in 45 GP).

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A skilled high-IQ center who consistently drives play as a first-line leader, contributing both as an organizer and a scorer. His skating and puck skills allow him to make smart, timely passes, support play in all zones, and provide value on both special-teams units. Despite being smaller, he plays with notable energy and competitiveness, even showing a physical edge with multiple hits across games. His ability to forecheck, backcheck, win faceoffs, and read the ice at a high level gives him strong two-way reliability. His poise, vision, and workload make him effective at higher levels, including KHL action. Projects as a good prospect with the potential to rise further as his offensive consistency and physical impact continue to develop.

**TOMAS CHRENKO**  
**Center | Nitra (SLOVAKIA)**  
**Born: Nitra, Slovakia**  
**No. 24-Ranked International Skater**

\* Recorded 9-22—31 in 44 GP in 2025-26, setting a record for the most points by a draft-eligible player in Nitra's franchise history and scoring the overtime goal in Game 7 to lead Nitra to a Slovak league championship.

\* Tallied 30-31—61 (28 GP) in Slovakia's junior league in 2024-25 – he scored in 24 of 28 GP and led the league with a plus-42 rating. In the playoffs, Chrenko averaged two points per game with 4-16—20 in 10 GP to help his club earn a bronze medal.

\* Chrenko also recorded 2-7—9 in 26 GP in Slovakia's top men's league in 2024-25, assist and point totals that topped all players age 17 or younger.

\* Led Slovakia with 5-3—8 in 5 GP at the 2026 World Junior Championship, tying for second in tournament goals. Chrenko added his second career international hat trick in a 4-1 win over Germany, after first doing so at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship. He was named a Top 3 player on his team in both tournaments.

\* He also represented his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and the 2024 Under-18 World Championship.

\* His father, **Tomas**, is Nitra's all-time leading scorer, and now serves as the club's general manager.

**SCOUTING REPORT**

A skilled, right-handed finesse forward with strong offensive instincts, capable of both creating and finishing plays. His smooth hands, excellent passing ability and calm puckhandling allow him to navigate pressure, delay with purpose, and consistently find open lanes in the offensive zone. He carries the puck with confidence through the neutral zone, using his vision and awareness to generate transition chances and set up teammates with sharp, accurate passes. Defensively, he shows responsibility and maturity, supporting low in the zone and making smart reads. While he protects the puck well for his size, adding physical strength will be key for him to take the next developmental step at higher levels. Projects as a smart, poised prospect whose hockey IQ and playmaking ability consistently stand out.

**ALAN SHAIKHLISLAMOV**  
**Right Wing | Ufa Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)**  
**Born: Izhevsk, Russia**  
**No. 25-Ranked International Skater**

\* Posted 18-17—35 in 31 GP with a plus-15 rating in 2025-26, which tied the third-most goals among draft-eligible skaters in the MHL. His season was highlighted by a 10-game point streak – he averaged two points per game through that run.

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2025-26, skating in one KHL game.

\* In 2024-25, Shaikhlislamov tallied 20-13—33 in 46 GP, which was the most goals and second-most points among all players age 16 or younger in Russia’s junior league.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A speedy winger who works hard. He has good pace and is hungry for scoring chances. He mainly plays as a screen cleverly in front of the net on the power play.

**VSEVOLOD MATVEYEV**  
**Defense | Spartak Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)**  
**Born: Sochi, Russia**  
**No. 26-Ranked International Skater**

\* Split most of the 2025-26 season between Russia’s second division of professional hockey (1-1—2 in 28 GP) and their junior league (2-9—11 in 38 GP). His plus-18 rating with Spartak Jr. was second-best among defensemen age 18 or younger on his team.

\* Made his KHL debut in September 2025, skating in four games.

\* In 2024-25, the blueliner skated in the MHL (0-5—5 in 39 GP) and helped Spartak Jr. win their second championship.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A tall, finesse right-shot defender who plays a calm, stay-at-home style built on smooth skating and smart puck decisions. His agility and four-way mobility stand out, allowing him to manage space effectively and support clean transitions with accurate short and long passes. He shows good stick skills and soft hands, helping him control plays under pressure and maintain poise in traffic. He reads the game well, rarely panics and logs trusted minutes in key situations. His frame offers clear long-term potential once he adds strength and becomes more aggressive in contact situations. Overall, he projects as a B-range prospect with NHL upside if his physical game and offensive execution continue to develop.

## **NOEL PAKARINEN**

**Left Wing | K-Espoo Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)**

**Born: Palo Alto, Calif.**

**No. 27-Ranked International Skater**

\* In 2025-26, Pakarinen recorded 13-17—30 in 31 GP to finish fourth in scoring among players age 17 or younger across Finland's top junior league. Pakarinen helped Kiekko-Espoo win the league championship (4-6—10 in 15 GP).

\* Awarded 2025-26 Rookie of the Year honors in Finland's junior league and became the first player in Kiekko-Espoo's history to win this award.

\* Pakarinen completed the 2024-25 season with 22-32—54 in 37 GP. His 1.46 points per game were third best in Finland's Under-18 league

\* Represented his country at the 2026 World Under-18 Championship (1-1—2 in 5 GP).

## **OSCAR HOLMERTZ**

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

**Born: Linkoping, Sweden**

**No. 28-Ranked International Skater**

\* Spent the majority of the 2025-26 campaign with Linkoping's junior team, where he maintained a point-per-game pace through the regular season (13-23—36 in 34 GP) and playoffs (3-2—5 in 5 GP). Holmertz also made his professional hockey debut in October 2025 and went on to play 11 SHL games.

\* In 2024-25, he skated in Sweden's junior league, where he tallied 10-20—30 in 32 GP. He finished with the fifth-most goals and sixth-most points by players age 16 or younger across the league.

\* Won silver at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-5—7 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2025 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-5—6 in 4 GP), finishing in the top-10 in scoring at both tournaments. He also earned bronze at the 2026 World Junior A Challenge.

\* His father, **Mikael**, and uncle, **Anders**, are retired professional swimmers. Anders won five Olympic medals (4 silver, 1 bronze) across three Summer Games (1988, 1992 & 1996).

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

A smart, reliable two-way center from Linkoping, Sweden. He drives play with strong skating, good balance, and excellent anticipation. He shows high-level vision, quick one-touch passing, and poise under pressure, often creating separation with sharp turns and slick small-area puckhandling. Trusted in all situations, he plays significant minutes on both special teams and regularly centers a top-six or top-line unit. Offensively, he is more of a playmaker than a shooter, though he has a quick release and can finish when opportunities appear. While skilled and creative, he can be too deferential at times, and adding more initiative would elevate his overall impact. He competes hard along the boards, forechecks effectively, and consistently makes responsible decisions in all three zones. Overall, he projects with clear playmaking upside, strong hockey IQ, and the potential to rise further if the offensive assertiveness continues to grow.

## **AXEL ELOFSSON**

**Defense | Orebro Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**

**Born: Ulricehamn, Sweden**

**No. 29-Ranked International Skater**

\* In 2025-26, Elofsson recorded the most assists and points among all defensemen in Sweden's top junior league (9-32—41 in 32 GP) and earned Defensive Player of the Year honors. He has operated at a point-per-game pace during his two seasons in Sweden's top junior league.

\* Made his SHL debut in 2025.

\* Elofsson's 2023-24 campaign (3-15—18 in 18 GP) is the second best by a defenseman age 15 or younger in the Swedish Under-18 league's history and ended with a league championship.

\* Won gold at the 2026 Under-18 World Championship (0-4—4 in 7 GP) and silver at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup while amassing the most assists in the tournament (2-9—11 in 5 GP). Elofsson also earned bronze at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge – he was the highest-scoring defenseman at both tournaments.

\* His uncle, **Jonas**, was a fourth-round pick by the Oilers in the 1997 NHL Draft (94th overall) who had a lengthy career in Europe with stops in Sweden, Finland, France, Denmark and Norway. His other uncle, **Daniel**, played over a decade of professional hockey in Europe, while his cousin, **Melvin**, is currently playing professionally in Sweden.

## **SCOUTING REPORT**

An offensively gifted, highly mobile defenseman who controls pace, drives transitions, and quarterbacks the power play with confidence, vision, and high-end puck skills. His smooth skating, poise, and ability to manipulate defenders make him one of the most talented puck-moving blueliners in his class, consistently creating plays along the offensive blue line. He excels at finding passing lanes, executing deceptive moves and activating into the rush, though at times he can be overly ambitious with the puck, leading to risky turnovers. He defends effectively through positioning, an active stick and smart reads, compensating for what he lacks in size. Across multiple tournaments and league games, he has shown consistent offensive impact and strong hockey sense, even if his defensive reliability fluctuates under heavy pressure. Projects as a high-upside offensive defenseman with clear NHL potential if he can grow stronger, refine his risk management and add physical maturity.

## **YAROSLAV FEDOSEYEV**

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

**Born: Chelyabinsk, Russia**

**No. 30-Ranked International Skater**

\* Split 2025-26 between Russia's top junior league (2-11—13 in 24 GP), where he was named to the MHL All-Star Game, as well as the country's second-tier professional league where he recorded 1-5—6 (25 GP) to finish with the third-most points among 18-year-old defensemen.

\* Made his professional hockey debut in 2025-26 skating in nine KHL games – he was one of just two defensemen age 18 or younger to tally a point (1-0—1).

\* Spent the majority of 2024-25 skating in Russia's top junior league and finished with the third-most points among defensemen age 17 or younger across the league (6-11—17 in 33 GP).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A good-sized, right-handed two-way defenseman who has already earned minutes in both the KHL and VHL, showing promising poise for his age. His skating and mobility stand out, allowing him to escape pressure, handle the puck confidently, and make clean breakout plays. Offensively, he has shown flashes, but he still needs to improve the power and consistency of his shot. Defensively, he positions himself well and uses a quick stick to disrupt plays. He often plays a safe, low-risk game at higher levels, suggesting room to unlock more assertiveness with experience. With refinement in his reads, offensive confidence, and lower-body strength, he has the tools to grow into a top-four caliber blueliner.



## NORTH AMERICAN GOALIES



### **BRADY KNOWLING**

**Goaltender | USA U-18 (NTDP - USHL)**

**Born: Toronto, Ont.**

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

\* Bolstered a 12-11-1 record in 2025-26 with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program Under-18, which marked a 10-win improvement over his first season with the program.

\* Played for USA Hockey's NTDP Under-17 team in 2024-25 (2-8-1).

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

\* Won gold with Team USA at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and represented his country at the 2026 World Junior Championship.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A big pro presence - his positional play is excellent - he doesn't leave much room for shooters - he plays most of the game at the top of the paint and square to the shots - he plays with a lot of confidence - well balanced strong stance - excellent butterfly and leg extension sealing the ice and far corners - very tough to beat in the low portion of the net - he also keeps his body upright when down in the butterfly to protect the upper corners - he's very smart at reading the pass across plays - solid in tight situations and on wraparound attempts - tracks the pucks well through traffic and he does well with rebound control - his lateral crease play is very efficient - Excellent NHL potential.

## **MICHAL ORSULAK**

**Goaltender | Prince Albert (WHL)**

**Born: Pilsen, Czechia**

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

\* Led the WHL in goals against average (2.22) as a rookie and topped all rookie netminders in wins after posting a 28-4-4 record.

\* Currently tied for the second-most wins in the playoffs, holding a 13-5 record.

\* Played in Czechia's junior league in 2024-25, posting a 14-20-0 record and a 4-0-0 mark in the playoffs (2.93 GAA, .917 SV%).

\* Has two silver medals from international competition with Czechia from both the 2026 World Junior Championship and the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. He also represented his country at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A big pro presence that catches with his right hand - he has a very good command of his crease area - he plays an aggressive style - he challenges smartly and he shows very good reaction and recovery quickness - he's quick and strong in his power lateral pushes - quick reflexes to flare out the pads on the low corner attempts - capable of making the big saves for his team - he's had a very good and consistent season - very efficient crease lateral movements - square to shots and he doesn't leave much room for shooters - good overall rebound control and he has a good catching glove - he played extremely well for the Czechia team at the World Jr's helping his team earn the silver medal - good pro upside - there is a lot to work with.

## **TOBIAS TREJBAL**

**Goaltender | Youngstown (USHL)**

**Born: Most, Czechia**

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

\* Posted a 30-9-3 record for the Youngstown Phantoms to lead the USHL in goals against average (2.12) and finish second in save percentage (.916; tied) in his first year playing in North America.

\* Named USHL's 2025-26 Goalie of the Year while receiving All-Rookie Team and First All-Star Team honors.

\* Played in Czechia's junior league in 2024-25 with HC Litvinov, posting a 18-20-0 record (2.33 GAA, .930 SV%) and went 1-3-0 in the playoffs (2.63 GAA, .920 SV%). His seven shutouts stood as the most among all goalies.

\* Trejbal also made his professional hockey debut in Czechia in 2024-25, skating in one game with HC Litvinov men's team.

\* Represented his country at the 2025 Under-18 World Championship.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A big pro presence - he has good quickness and athleticism - catches with his right hand - good intensity in his game - quick reactions and recovery skills - good positionally - he plays mostly at the top of the paint on most initial shots - he's quick to recover loose pucks - he's got a very good extended butterfly sealing the ice and far corners - while in the butterfly he keeps his body upright to protect the upper corners - good use of his gloves - good feet which helps getting around the crease quick and efficiently - he's got a well-balanced strong stance - he does well tracking pucks through traffic - very good focus - very good NHL potential.

## **FILIP RUZICKA**

**Goaltender | Brandon (WHL)**

**Born: Trinec, Czechia**

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

\* Ranked eighth in the WHL in save percentage (.906) after posting a 26-14-1 record with the Brandon Wheat Kings, the second-most wins among rookie netminders across the league.

\* Played four games in the playoffs, where his .936 save percentage continues to rank second among all goalies.

\* Named an Eastern Conference finalist for 2025-26 WHL Goaltender of the Year.

\* Played in Czechia's under-17 league in 2024-25 and backstopped his team to a 23-15-5 record, the second-most wins, second-best goals against average (1.80) and second-highest save percentage (.943).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

He has that big pro presence - not much room for shooters especially on initial shot - he's got the wide arm and leg span which helps him covers corners quickly - he's quick and able to make the big stretch pad and glove saves - he's quick to butterfly and flare out the pads to seal the ice - strong and effective coverage on wrap chances - very good compete on in tight plays - he's very efficient in his lateral crease play - good focus and concentration - does well tracking the puck through traffic - he is flexible and shows good athleticism - he has a confident glove hand - he has steadily improved over the season and into the playoffs - he has a very good pro upside - potential to be a good number one goalie down the road.

## **JAN LARYS**

**Goaltender | Drummondville (QMJHL)**

**Born: Ostrava, Czechia**

**No. 5-Ranked North American Goalie**

\* Posted a 26-10-2 record for the QMJHL's Drummondville Voltigeurs in 2025-26. He ranked atop the league in wins among rookies, second in save percentage (.908) – eighth among all goaltenders in that category – and third in goals against (2.86)

\* Split the 2024-25 season skating with HC Vítkovice's junior team (6-8-0), where he had the third-best save percentage (.917) among goaltenders age 16 or younger, and their Under-17 team (8-7-0).

\* Was a part of Team Czechia's bronze-medal entry in the 2026 Under-18 World Championship, but did not play any games, and represented his country at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

He's calm, poised and composed - he's a good pro size goalie that has a lot of pure skills - he has exceptional positional play - holds his ground well top of the paint and square to shots - also holds strong when players cut hard to the net - always seems to give himself a good chance on initial shots and when moving laterally to get set - very smart knowing when to challenge - he's got very good mechanics in his play - he's got quick reactions and recovery skills - he's very efficient in his crease movements - very smart at reading the plays - very quick to butterfly and flare out the pads - tough to beat down low - he's got a huge pro upside - has a chance to become an NHL number one goalie down the road - very good NHL prospect.



## INTERNATIONAL GOALIES



### **DMITRI BORICHEV**

**Goaltender | Loko-76 Yaroslavl (RUSSIA-JR.)**

**Born: Vologda, Russia**

**No. 1-Ranked International Goalie**

\* Played 24 GP for Loko-76 Yaroslavl in Russia's top junior league, where he posted a .929 save percentage and 2.25 goals against average with a record of 12-8-3. His save percentage was the third best in the league among all netminders age 17 or younger.

\* Spent the bulk of the 2024-25 season with Lokomotiv Yaroslavl in Russia's Under-17 league, where he appeared in 20 games.

\* Was one of 13 goaltenders age 16 or younger to play in the MHL in 2024-25 (2 GP). His .974 save percentage was the highest among all netminders in that cohort (min. 2 GP).

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

He consistently shows himself to be a poised, athletic young goaltender with strong size and impressive reflexes. Demonstrates reliable puck tracking, good structure and the ability to stay calm under pressure. His athleticism stands out through quick recoveries, sharp lateral movement, and strong balance, though rebound control still fluctuates at times. Easy to note his growing confidence handling the puck and helping his team in transition. While screens and occasional positional lapses can create problems, he generally reads plays well and rarely overcommits. His performances range from solid to outstanding, including shutouts, high-shot-volume games, and resilient outings where he improves as the game progresses. He has clear pro upside and room for refinement.

### **YEGOR RYBKIN**

**Goaltender | Nizhny Novgorod Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)**

**Born: Yegoryevsk, Russia**

**No. 2-Ranked International Goalie**

\* Played 11 GP with Chaika Nizhny Novgorod in Russia's top junior league, posting a 5-2-0 record with a 2.56 GAA and .915 SV%.

\* Split 2024-25 between Russia's under-18 league (1.83 GAA), their junior league (2-3-3; 2.95 GAA, .891 SV%) and he made his professional debut appearing in three games in Russia's second division.

### **SCOUTING REPORT**

A huge, right-catching goaltender who naturally covers the net extremely well and uses his massive frame to his advantage. Despite his size, he is athletic, active throughout the game, and shows strong compete when under pressure. He reads plays well, battles for sightlines, and uses good hands and an active stick to help control rebounds and assist his defense. His fundamentals are solid in a traditional butterfly style, and he makes routine saves calmly and efficiently.

**DAVID VERMIROVSKY****Goaltender | Pardubice Jr. (CZECHIA-JR.)****Born: Cordoba, Spain****No. 3-Ranked International Goalie**

\* Recorded a .904 save percentage, 3.23 goals against average and 13-14-0 record through 27 GP with HC Dynamo Pardubice in Czechia's junior league in 2025-26. His 13 wins were the fifth most among all netminders age 17 or younger.

\* In 2024-25, Vermirovsky appeared in 37 GP with HC Dynamo Pardubice's Under-17 team, posting a .927 save percentage, 2.39 goals against average and 21-16-0 record for the fourth-highest win total across the league.

\* Can become the first Spain-born player (skater or goaltender) selected in the NHL Draft.

**DMITRI IVCHENKO****Goaltender | Omsk Jr. (RUSSIA-JR.)****Born: Novotroitsk, Russia****No. 4-Ranked International Goalie**

\* Skated in Russia's top junior league where he finished with the third-lowest goals against average (1.91) among netminders age 17 or younger and the eighth-best save percentage (.922) in that category.

\* Played all but one game in 2024-25 in Russia's Under-17 league where he recorded a 29-4-0 record – the most wins among all goaltenders – with a 1.26 goals against average and a .940 save percentage (also best in the league).

**DOUGLAS LINDBERG NILSSON**  
**Goaltender | Farjestad Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)**  
**Born: Eskilstuna, Sweden**  
**No. 5-Ranked International Goalie**

\* Played the bulk of the 2025-26 season with Farjestad BK in Sweden's top junior league, where he recorded an .889 save percentage, 3.16 goals against average and 7-7-0 record over 14 GP.

\* Also played 6 GP in the U18 Region league in 2025-26, where his .958 save percentage was the second-best mark among all goaltenders (min. 2 GP).

\* Played 20 GP for Farjestad BK in the J18 Region and J18 Nationell leagues in 2024-25. He posted a .912 save percentage and 2.51 goals against average in the J18 Nationell, and an .889 save percentage and 2.81 goals against average in the J18 Region.

\* Backstopped Team Sweden to silver at the 2025 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he had the fourth-best save percentage among all goaltenders (.932), and bronze at the 2025 World Junior A Challenge and 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.