



2021 NHL DRAFT Prospect Profiles



Owen Power

No. 1-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'6"

Weight: 213 lbs

Team: University of Michigan (Big 10)

- In 2020-21, recorded 3-13—16 in 26 games with the University of Michigan during his freshman season
- Burst onto college scene with 1-2—3 in his first career NCAA game (8-1 W vs. Arizona State)
- Named to Big 10 All-Rookie Team and Big 10 Second All-Star team in 2020-21
- Led all USHL defensemen in 2019-20 with 12-28—40 in 45 games with the Chicago Steel
- USHL Defenseman of the Year and USHL First All-Star Team honors in 2019-20
- Member of Team Canada at 2021 World Championship

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Power is an excellent package of NHL size, skating and attributes which he utilizes effectively in all situations. His hockey sense is intuitive and instinctive. A very fluid and agile skater who can transition quickly on plays and separate himself from checking. He plays a mature game for his age and is at the top of this Draft class."



William Eklund

No. 1-ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 176 lbs

Team: Djurgarden (SWEDEN)

- Spent the entire 2020-21 season in the Swedish Hockey League where he tied for second on his team in goals as an 18-year-old (11-12—23 in 40 GP)
- Named SHL Rookie of the Year and Swedish Junior Hockey Player of the Year in 2020-21
- Helped Sweden earn bronze at the 2019 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he tied for first on his team with 1-4—5 in 5 GP
- His father, **Christian Eklund**, was a longtime pro player in Sweden where he spent the majority of his career with the same Djurgarden club William currently plays for

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Eklund is a speedy winger who played a big role on Djurgarden in the Swedish Hockey League. He competes and works hard with excellent hockey sense, quickness and elite puck skills to be both a playmaker and a scorer. A scoring threat on every shift, he plays bigger than his size and plays to win."



Mason McTavish

No. 2-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 207 lbs

Team: Peterborough (OHL)

- A Canadian national who was born in Zurich, Switzerland, McTavish played the 2020-21 season on loan with Olten of the Swiss second division where he averaged nearly a point per game (9-2—11 in 13 GP)
- Helped Team Canada earn a gold medal at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship with 5-6—11 in 7 GP. It was Canada's first gold at the tournament since 2013.
- Named to OHL Second All-Rookie Team in 2019-20 after finishing the season tied for second in rookie scoring with 29-13—42 in 57 GP
- His father, **Dale McTavish**, played 16 seasons of professional hockey including nine games with the Flames in 1996-97 (1-2—3 in 9 GP) and 10 seasons in Switzerland

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"McTavish is that coveted skilled power center who is capable of making a difference in any situation. He's big and plays a smart, competitive game. McTavish has deceptive speed and quickness. He utilizes his size effectively to protect pucks while driving to the net and can still make plays while being checked."



Kent Johnson

No. 3-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 167 lbs

Team: University of Michigan (Big 10)

- Ranked second among all freshmen with 9-18—27 in 26 GP in 2020-21, behind only teammate and Sharks prospect **Thomas Bordeleau** (8-22—30 in 24 GP)
- Opened his collegiate career with a four-game point streak (1-6—7 in 4 GP)
- Named to Big 10 All-Rookie Team in 2020-21
- BCHL Most Valuable Player in 2019-20 after leading the League in goals (41), assists (60) and points (101) as a member of the Trail Smoke Eaters
- CJHL Top Forward in 2019-20

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Johnson is that rare breed of natural scorer who you always see on highlight reels. Deceptively quick and fast, he has exceptional offensive instincts and puck skills to create chances. One of the most skilled prospects in the Draft class and one of the most dangerous scoring threats when he's on the ice."



Luke Hughes

No. 4-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 184 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

- Recorded 6-28—34 in 38 GP with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team, where his 0.89 points per game topped all defensemen on the team
- Helped Team USA earn silver at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-3—4 in 6 GP)
- Can become the third sibling in his family to be selected in the first round of the NHL Draft, joining brothers **Quinn Hughes** (No. 7 in 2018 w/ VAN) and **Jack Hughes** (No. 1 in 2019 w/ NJD).
- His mother, **Ellen Hughes**, played soccer, lacrosse and ice hockey at the University of New Hampshire and is a former member of the U.S. Women's National Hockey Team. His father, **Jim Hughes**, was a member of the U.S. Selects team that won the 1988 Spengler Cup and has held a number of coaching and player development positions in the NCAA, IHL, AHL and NHL.

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Hughes is a dynamic defenseman who takes control of the play with his exceptional skating and smarts. He has a quick read-and-react game and moves ultra-quick to gain the advantage and be on top of plays. Competes with his size and contributes responsibly in any situation. Capable of being a difference maker."



Dylan Guenther

No. 5-ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Edmonton (WHL)

- Averaged 2.00 points per game for Edmonton of the Western Hockey League in 2020-21 with 12-12—24 in 12 GP
- Played four games on loan to the AJHL's Sherwood Park Crusaders in 2020-21, where he notched 3-2—5 in 4 GP
- Member of Team Canada's gold medal-winning entry at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (4-3—7 in 7 GP).
- Named WHL Rookie of the Year in 2019-20 after recording 26-33—59 in 58 GP and a plus-26 rating

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Guenther has exceptional NHL speed and quickness – he is lightning fast on plays. He possesses an NHL shot making him a true finisher and legitimate threat who can score with a variety of shots. A natural scoring threat who is a force whenever he is on the ice."



Matthew Beniers

No. 6-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: University of Michigan (Big 10)

- Averaged a point per game in his freshman season at the University of Michigan with 10-14—24 in 24 GP, where he was named to the Big 10 All-Rookie Team
- Tied for eighth among all NCAA skaters with a plus-21 rating
- Helped Team USA win gold at the 2021 World Junior Championship where he registered 1-2—3 in 7 GP
- Led USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in goals and ranked second on the team in points in 2019-20 with 18-23—41 in 44 GP
- Skating for Team USA at the 2021 World Championship

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Beniers is that rare breed of smarts, skills and sandpaper that all NHL Clubs covet particularly in the Stanley Cup playoffs. A hardworking and ultimate competitor, he has an intuitive game and dogged determination to not be denied on plays. He possesses the offensive skills to contribute, particularly when it matters most."