



# NEWS RELEASE



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## NHL RELEASES MID-SEASON RANKINGS FOR 2022 NHL DRAFT

Kingston Frontenacs forward Shane Wright tops list of North American skaters

**NEW YORK (Jan. 12, 2022) – Shane Wright** (Burlington, Ont.), a center from the Ontario Hockey League’s Kingston Frontenacs, ranks No. 1 among North American skaters for the 2022 NHL Draft as the NHL Central Scouting Bureau today released its mid-season rankings. Wright can become the first Frontenacs player selected No. 1 overall in the NHL Draft and the first OHL player since **Connor McDavid** in 2015.

Wright has recorded 11-19—30 in 22 games with Kingston this season (1.36 P/GP). He was granted exceptional player status to enter the OHL early and was selected with the No. 1 pick by Kingston in the 2019 OHL Priority Selection before claiming Canadian Hockey League and OHL Rookie of the Year honors in 2019-20.

“Shane Wright is a strong stride skater who possesses elusive outside speed to beat defenders and quickness to evade checks or lead a rush,” said **Dan Marr**, Director of NHL Central Scouting. “He has elite hockey sense with vision, anticipation and composure and has proven that he can carry the load and lead the way when it’s needed in game situations. He has carried himself remarkably despite many disruptions and distractions endured the past year and a half.”

**SHANE WRIGHT**  
NO. 1 NORTH AMERICAN SKATER

- \* Averaging 1.36 points per game in 2021-22
- \* Captained Canada to gold at 2021 Under-18 World Championship
- \* CHL & OHL Rookie of the Year in 2019-20
- \* Can become first player in Kingston Frontenacs history to be selected No. 1 in the NHL Draft

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**Logan Cooley** (Pittsburgh, Penn.), a center for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team who ranks fourth on the club in points (14-20—34 in 24 GP), is the No. 2-ranked North American Skater. Cooley, who grew up in the Pittsburgh area, [was part of the first-ever season](#) of players who took part in **Sidney Crosby's** Little Penguins Learn to Play Program, an introductory program for children ages five to nine that provided first-time participants free head-to-toe equipment along with on-ice instruction by the Penguins captain.

"Logan Cooley plays an attack game with his speed and smarts," said Marr. "To say he has speed that makes a difference is an understatement – he has speed that impacts the game. Logan plays with high energy and his ability to process the game and execute plays at top speed make him one of the highest-ranked players in the 2022 Draft class."

**LOGAN COOLEY**  
NO. 2 NORTH AMERICAN SKATER

- \* Leads USA Hockey NTDP's Under-18 team with 1.42 P/GP
- \* Youngest player named to Team USA's roster for 2022 World Junior Championship
- \* Represented Team USA at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship
- \* University of Notre Dame commit (2022-23)

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**Matt Savoie** (St. Albert, Alta.), a center for the Winnipeg ICE of the Western Hockey League, is the No. 3-ranked North American skater. Savoie, a rookie, leads all WHL skaters in assists and points with 18-34—52 in 34 games including a 13-game point streak from Oct. 30 – Dec. 4, 2021 (8-17—25 in 13 GP).

"Matt Savoie is one of the best natural scorers and offensive players in the 2022 Draft class," said Marr. "A strong skater with very good balance for his size, he possesses deceptive speed and quickness to lead a rush and navigate through traffic. He's the type that wants the puck on his stick and has a good shot variety in which to finish his scoring chances."




## MATT SAVOIE

NO. 3 NORTH AMERICAN SKATER

- \* WHL points leader in 2021-22 (18-34-52 in 34 GP)
- \* Has recorded three or more points in nine of 34 games played in 2021-22
- \* Named to USHL All-Rookie Team in 2020-21
- \* His brother, Carter, was a 4th-round pick by the Oilers in 2020 (100th overall)

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Rounding out the top-five North American skaters are No. 4 **Conor Geekie** (Strathclair, Man.), a center for Winnipeg (WHL) and the brother of Seattle Kraken forward **Morgan Geekie**, as well as No. 5 **Pavel Mintyukov** (Moscow, Russia), a defenseman for the OHL's Saginaw Spirit who ranks tied for 10th among OHL defensemen in points (6-16-22 in 29 games).




## NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS

▶ MID-SEASON RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	NAT	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE
1	SHANE WRIGHT	CAN	C	KINGSTON	OHL
2	LOGAN COOLEY	USA	C	USA U-18	NTDP
3	MATT SAVOIE	CAN	C	WINNIPEG	WHL
4	CONOR GEEKIE	CAN	C	WINNIPEG	WHL
5	PAVEL MINTYUKOV	RUS	D	SAGINAW	OHL
6	CUTTER GAUTHIER	USA	LW	USA U-18	NTDP
7	JACK HUGHES	USA	C	NORTHEASTERN	H-EAST
8	JIMMY SNUGGERUD	USA	RW	USA U-18	NTDP
9	DENTON MATEYCHUK	CAN	D	MOOSE JAW	WHL
10	TRISTAN LUNEAU	CAN	D	GATINEAU	QMJHL

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**Joakim Kemell** (Jyvaskyla, Finland), a right wing for JYP in Finland's top professional league, ranks No. 1 among international skaters, with No. 2-ranked **Juraj Slafkovsky** (Kosice, Slovakia), a left wing for TPS in Finland and No. 3-ranked **Danila Yurov** (Chelyabinsk, Russia), a right wing from Magnitogorsk of the KHL making up the top three.



**JOAKIM KEMELL**  
NO. 1 INTERNATIONAL SKATER

- \* Leads all rookies in the Finnish Elite League with 12 goals (21 GP)
- \* Led JYP's junior team in points in 2020-21 with 22-14-36 in 38 GP
- \* Named to Team Finland for the 2022 World Junior Championship
- \* Scored 5 goals in 5 GP at 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup

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“Joakim Kemell had a sensational start to the season where as a 17-year-old rookie he was leading the league in scoring until an injury late in October,” said **Goran Stubb** of European Scouting Services. “Kemell is an excellent, smooth skater with great offensive instincts – a highly-skilled playmaker who plays a competitive two-way game.”






## INTERNATIONAL SKATERS

▶ MID-SEASON RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	NAT	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE
1	JOAKIM KEMELL	FIN	RW	JYP	FINLAND
2	JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY	SVK	LW	TPS	FINLAND
3	DANILA YUROV	RUS	RW	MAGNITOGORSK	RUSSIA
4	DAVID JIRICEK	CZE	D	PLZEN	CZECHIA
5	BRAD LAMBERT	FIN	C	JYP	FINLAND
6	SIMON NEMEC	SVK	D	NITRA	SLOVAKIA
7	MARCO KASPER	AUT	C	ROGLE	SWEDEN
8	IVAN MIROSHNICHENKO	RUS	LW	OMSK KRYLIA	RUSSIA-2
9	JONATHAN LEKKERIMAKI	SWE	RW	DJURGARDEN JR	SWEDEN-JR
10	ALEXANDER PEREVALOV	RUS	LW	YAROSLAVL 2	RUSSIA-JR

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**Tyler Brennan** (Winnipeg, Man.) of Prince George (WHL) is the No. 1-ranked North American goaltender and **Topias Leinonen** (Jyvaskyla, Finland) of JYP's junior team tops the list of international goaltenders.

The final rankings feature the top 224 skaters and 32 goaltenders in North America as well as the top 135 skaters and 10 goaltenders internationally.

In its 47th year of operation, NHL Central Scouting provides evaluation and scouting of draft-eligible players to NHL member clubs. Headed by Director of Central Scouting **Dan Marr**, NHL Central Scouting employs eight full-time scouts throughout North America. To report on prospects playing internationally, the NHL employs the services of **Goran Stubb** and his staff at European Scouting Services based in Finland.

The 2022 NHL Draft is scheduled from July 7-8, 2022 and will be hosted by the Montreal Canadiens at Bell Centre in Montreal, Que.

For NHL Draft history visit <https://records.nhl.com/draft>.

Additional prospect profiles are available in the attached document.

### (01/12/22)