



2022 UPPER DECK NHL DRAFT Prospect Profiles

Shane Wright

No. 1-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 191 lbs

Team: Kingston (OHL)

- Ranked eighth in the OHL with 32-62—94 in 63 games during the regular season.
- Was granted exceptional status to enter the 2019 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection early where he was drafted first overall by the Frontenacs. He was the sixth CHL player to be granted exceptional status and [fifth OHL player to do so](#), joining **John Tavares**, **Aaron Ekblad**, **Connor McDavid** and **Sean Day**.
- Captained Team Canada to a gold medal at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship. He concluded the tournament with the highest points-per-game rate (2.80) and finished tied for second in scoring with 9-5—14 (5 GP), behind Russia's **Matvei Michkov** (12-4—16 in 7 GP).
- Tallied 39-27—66 in 58 games to [lead all OHL rookies in 2019-20](#) – 24 points more than the next-closest on the list, **Mason McTavish** (29-13—42 in 57 GP).
- Earned CHL and OHL Rookie of the Year honors in 2019-20 – he was the [second-youngest recipient](#) of the CHL Rookie of the Year Award behind only Tavares.
- Was named to Team Canada's entry to the 2022 World Junior Championship.

NHL Central Scouting:

An excellent all-around player who contributes in all areas of the game. A team captain and leader who plays heavy minutes in all situations and excels. Unselfish with exceptional hockey IQ – makes his teammates better. High-end offensive talent with an NHL shot and release who plays a two-way game with winning habits. Has potential to be a star in the NHL and become the type of player you can build a team around.

Plays Like:

Bruins forward **Patrice Bergeron**



Logan Cooley

No. 2-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 174 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

- Ranked second on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team with 27-48—75 in 51 games – his 1.47 points-per-game rate topped all skaters on the team.
- At 17 years of age, Cooley was the youngest player named to Team USA for the 2022 World Junior Championship.
- Represented his country at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (0-2—2 in 5 GP).
- As a child, Cooley participated in **Sidney Crosby's [Little Penguins Learn to Play Program](#)**, an introductory program for children ages 5 to 9 that provided first-time participants free head-to-toe equipment along with on-ice instruction by the Penguins captain.
- Can become the highest Pennsylvania-born player to be selected in the NHL Draft – currently **R.J. Umberger** (No. 16 in 2001 by VAN).
- Committed to the University of Minnesota for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting:

A complete player with good offensive instincts including very good puck skills and the ability to find the open space for scoring opportunities. A very good skater that uses his quickness to generate offence. Possesses a good mix of passing skill and scoring ability – smart and patient with the puck in the offensive zone. Can be shifty and creative with the puck in the offensive zone.

Plays Like:

Lightning forward **Brayden Point**



Cutter Gauthier

No. 3-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 189 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

* Ranked second on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team with 34 goals (34-31—65 in 54 GP).

* Helped Team USA earn silver at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (3-6—9 in 6 GP).

* His father, **Sean Gauthier**, was a goaltender and ninth-round pick by the original Winnipeg Jets in 1991 (181st overall) who had a 14-season professional career that included stops in the NHL, IHL, AHL, ECHL and Sweden. He was tending goal for Skelleftea in 2003-04 when Cutter was born.

* Gauthier was born in Skelleftea, Sweden, grew up in Scottsdale, Ariz. and played minor hockey in the Detroit Honeybaked program. While in Michigan, he would attend NTDP games and watch players like **Adam Fox**, **Clayton Keller** and **J.D. Greenway**.

* Committed to Boston College for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting:

A big winger who skates well. Possesses good speed with the puck and is elusive low in the zone. Takes the puck hard to the net with an ultra-quick release. A threat every time he is on the ice. Can adapt to play a skill game or physical game with a solid compete level.

Plays Like:

Jets forward **Mark Scheifele**



Matt Savoie

No. 4-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Winnipeg (WHL)

- Led all WHL rookies and ranked seventh in the league with 35-55—90 in 65 games to help the Winnipeg ICE top the overall league standings in 2021-22.
- Recorded a 13-game point streak from Oct. 30 – Dec. 4, 2021 (8-17—25 in 13 GP).
- Named to USHL All-Rookie Team in 2020-21 after finishing [fifth in rookie scoring](#) with 21-17—38 (34 GP) for Dubuque.
- Skated for Canada White at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge where he tied for the team lead in scoring with 1-5—6 (6 GP).
- His brother, **Carter**, was a fourth-round pick by the Oilers in 2020 (100th overall) and currently skates for the University of Denver.

NHL Central Scouting:

A very strong skater with a quick step and exceptional acceleration who creates separation in all areas with his speed. Displays excellent edges to elude the opposition combined with very good offensive abilities including good vision, high playmaking abilities and soft hands. Possesses a quick release from either side of the net and is difficult to contain. Can dominate a power play – a game changer on most nights.

Plays Like:

Islanders forward **Mathew Barzal**



Conor Geekie

No. 5-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 196 lbs

Team: Winnipeg (WHL)

- Averaged more than a point per game with Winnipeg of the WHL, where he ranked fourth on his team in scoring (24-46—70 in 63 GP) to help the Winnipeg ICE top the overall league standings in 2021-22.
- Ranked second among all WHL rookies in 2020-21 with 9-14—23 (24 GP), [behind only Connor Bedard](#).
- His brother, **Morgan**, was a third-round pick by the Hurricanes in 2017 (67th overall) and currently plays for the Seattle Kraken.
- His father, **Craig**, played 213 WHL games over four seasons between the Brandon Wheat Kings and Spokane Chiefs from 1990-91 to 1993-94.

NHL Central Scouting:

A strong skater who plays with confidence. Once in motion after a few steps, displays deceptive speed and is hard to contain in all facets of the game. Very shifty in tight quarters with excellent vision and playmaking abilities. Doesn't panic when pressured and has the ability to speed up or slow down a game. Hard to contain with a high compete level. Can play any style needed and is very poised in most situations.

Plays Like:

Rangers forward **Chris Kreider**



Pavel Mintyukov

No. 6-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 197 lbs

Team: Saginaw (OHL)

- Ranked third among OHL defensemen in points in 2021-22 (17-45—62 in 67 GP).
- Mintyukov was a member of Team Russia's gold medal entry at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, finishing the tournament with 0-5—5 (6 GP) – tied for third in scoring among defensemen and as his team's highest scoring blueliner.
- Spent the majority of the 2019-20 season with Dynamo Moscow 2 in Russia's junior league (1-2—3 in 33 GP).
- Models his style of play after Canucks defenseman **Quinn Hughes**.

NHL Central Scouting:

A strong skater and confident puck carrier who can exit defensive zone pressure while beating defenders with regularity. Possesses quickness to create space and a top gear to pull away from and/or back defenders off. Uses puck control and high-end dangles to beat defenders one-on-one. An active defenseman who is always looking to push the pace by jumping into and often leading the attack. Pinches down and makes plays in the offensive zone. A physical player who is strong on his skates and steps up to deliver well-timed hits. Has the strength to win battles and separate players from the puck.

Plays Like:

Predators defenseman **Roman Josi**



Kevin Korchinski

No. 7-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Seattle (WHL)

- Korchinski ranked third among all WHL players in assists and ranked second among defensemen in points in 2021-22 with 4-61—65 in 67 GP
- Appeared in 23 games with Seattle in the shortened 2020-21 season where he recorded 10 assists
- His father, **Larry Korchinski**, was a forward who played three seasons in the WHL from 1981-82 to 1983-84 with the Saskatoon Blades.

NHL Central Scouting:

A high-end offensive defenseman who is very skilled and can generate scoring chances in all situations. Excellent on the power play while creating time and space at the offensive blue line – walks the line effectively to create passing and shooting lanes. A creative player with the puck that is difficult to defend. Has good size combined with good mobility and quickness that allows him to be a strong defender. He is the type of defenseman that can play big minutes in all situations.

Plays Like:

Golden Knights defenseman **Shea Theodore**



Juraj Slafkovsky

No. 1-ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'3.5"

Weight: 218 lbs

Team: TPS (FINLAND)

- Named MVP of 2022 Olympic Games after leading the tournament in goals and tying for the lead in points (7-0—7 in 7 GP) to help Slovakia earn bronze – the country's first ever Olympic medal for ice hockey
- Spent the majority of the 2021-22 season with TPS of the Finnish Elite League (5-5—10 in 31 GP). He also averaged nearly two points per game in 11 appearances with their junior team (6-12—18 in 11 GP).
- Has represented Slovakia internationally on multiple occasions including at the World Junior Championship (2021 & 2022) and World Championship (2021).
- Helped Slovakia earn a silver medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he tied for fourth in scoring with 3-6—9 (5 GP).

NHL Central Scouting:

Uses his great size, reach and strength well. Possesses excellent vision and with his combination of size, hockey sense and puck skills he is tough to defend against. Is an active and effective checker both in the offensive and defensive zone. A surprisingly mobile, fast skater for a player of his size that plays a smart, mature game beyond his age.

Plays Like:

Maple Leafs forward **Auston Matthews**



Joakim Kemell

No. 2-ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 171 lbs

Team: JYP (FINLAND)

- Led all Finnish Elite League rookies with 15 goals in 2021-22 (15-8—23 in 39 GP).
- At 17 years of age, Kemell became the [youngest Finnish Elite League](#) player to score a goal in each of his first two career games.
- Key contributor to Finland's bronze medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship.
- Led JYP's junior team in goals and points in 2020-21 with 22-14—36 (38 GP).
- Named to Team Finland for the 2022 World Junior Championship.
- Named an alternate captain for Team Finland at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he finished the tournament tied for third in goals (5-1—6 in 5 GP), behind only **Matvei Michkov** (8 in 5 GP) and **Dalibor Dvorsky** (8 in 5 GP).

NHL Central Scouting:

A prospect with a great set of tools including an ability to score game-winning goals. A very good skater with acceleration and speed who is solid on his skates. Possesses a very good shot that he gets away quickly. A highly-skilled playmaker who sees the ice very well and uses smooth hands and passing abilities to move the puck through traffic. Although not a big player, protects the puck well and plays a competitive two-way game.

Plays Like:

Capitals forward **Alex Ovechkin**



Simon Nemec

No. 3-ranked International Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 190lbs

Team: Nitra (SLOVAKIA)

* Spent the entire 2021-22 season in Slovakia's top professional league where he registered 1-25—26 in 39 regular-season games and added 5-12—17 in 19 postseason appearances.

* Collected medals internationally for Slovakia in 2021-22 including bronze at the Olympic Games (7 GP), marking the country's first-ever Olympic medal for ice hockey and captaining his country to silver at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he was named tournament MVP.

* Named a Top 3 Player on his team at the 2021 World Junior Championship after recording 0-4—4 in 5 GP.

NHL Central Scouting:

A modern, mobile finesse-type of defenseman with excellent vision. A world class passer and playmaker who has a tendency to look for the perfect pass over a shot. Smooth with the puck with good hands. His overall skills are excellent, including passing, puckhandling, vision, attitude, defensive awareness and offensive instincts. Plays with a lot of confidence in his skills.

Plays Like:

Sharks defenseman **Erik Karlsson**