

CONNOR BEDARD

Center | Regina Pats (WHL)

Born: North Vancouver, BC

No. 1 Ranked North American Skater

* [CLICK HERE](#) for #NHLStats: 10 Things To Know About Connor Bedard

ADAM FANTILLI

Center | Univ. of Michigan

Born: Nobleton, Ont.

No. 2 Ranked North American Skater

* Paces all University of Michigan skaters as a freshman with 11-15—26 (16 GP) and his points-per-game rate (1.63 P/GP) ranks second among NCAA skaters in 2022-23.

* Started university as a 17-year-old freshman alongside his older brother, **Luca**, after he graduated high school early by taking extra courses through the summers to get ahead. Adam and Luca also skated together with the USHL's Chicago Steel.

* Concluded the 2021-22 season with the USHL's Chicago Steel with 37-37—74 (54 GP), finishing third in the league in goals and seventh in points.

* In 2020-21, Fantilli won the USHL's Clark Cup championship with the Steel and was named the Clark Cup Most Valuable Player as a rookie after tallying 8-1—9 in 8 GP – the [second-most goals by any player that postseason](#).

* Tallied 2-3—5 (7 GP) in Team Canada's gold-medal entry at the 2023 World Junior Championship.

* Models his game after **Nathan MacKinnon** and **Patrice Bergeron**.

* He is friends with the Hughes Brothers (Quinn, Jack and Luke) and worked out in the summer with a group of former USA Hockey National Team Development Program players that included **Kyle Connor**, **Trevor Zegras**, **Cole Caufield** and **Dylan Larkin**.

WILLIAM SMITH

Center | USA U-18 (NTDP)

Born: Boston, Mass.

No. 3 Ranked North American Skater

* Ranks second on USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-18 Team with 22-37—59 in 31 GP. His 1.90 P/GP rate is tops on the club (min. 5 GP).

* Helped Team USA earn a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship while averaging a point per game across four appearances in the tournament (2-2—4 in 4 GP).

* The only player on Team USA's NTDP Under-17 team to average more than a point per game in 2021-22 (1.06 P/GP; 17-20—37 in 35 GP).

* A native of Boston, Mass., who is committed to Boston College for the 2023-24 season.



STATS AND INFORMATION

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RYAN LEONARD
Right Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP)
Northampton, Mass.
No. 4 Ranked North American Skater

* Ranks third on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team with 22-21—43 in 29 GP – averaging 1.48 P/GP.

* Ranks first (tied) on USA Hockey's NTDP Under-18 Team with eight power-play goals in 2022-23.

* Helped Team USA earn a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship while averaging a point per game across six appearances in the tournament (5-1—6 in 6 GP). His five goals were tied for the sixth-highest total in the tournament that year and just one less than **Connor Bedard** (6 in 4 GP) produced at the event.

* His brother, **John**, is a forward who was a sixth-round pick by the Sharks in the 2018 NHL Draft (182nd overall) and currently plays in the Predators organization. He has recorded 4-11—15 in 58 career NHL games.

* A native of Northampton, Mass., who is committed to Boston College for the 2023-24 season.

BRAYDEN YAGER
Center | Moose Jaw Warriors (WHL)
Born: Saskatoon, Sask.
No. 5 Ranked North American Skater

* Currently ranks second on his team in scoring and tied for 12th in the WHL with 18-32—50 in 40 games.

* Tallied 34-25—59 in 63 games as a WHL rookie in 2021-22, concluding the campaign third in the league in goals among rookies and setting a Moose Jaw Warriors franchise record for goals as a 16-year-old player.

* Named 2021-22 CHL Rookie of the Year. The first player in Moose Jaw Warriors history to claim the title.

* Won gold at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he concluded the tournament tied for second in scoring (5-4—9 in 5 GP).

* Yager was a season ticket holder for the WHL's Prince Albert Raiders as a kid and grew up idolizing **Leon Draisaitl**. When Yager was a six-year-old fan, Draisaitl gave him a hockey stick – Yager attests that Draisaitl's generosity stuck with him and he thinks about that when he meets young fans now as a WHL player.

LEO CARLSSON
Center | Orebro (SWEDEN)
Born: Karlstad, Sweden
No. 1 Ranked International Skater

* Is playing in Sweden's top professional league (SHL) where he is tied for the most points by a junior age player in 2022-23 with 4-11—15 (26 GP), matching **Marco Kasper** (5-10—15 in 33 GP), who was drafted eighth overall by Detroit in 2022.

* Represented his country in their gold-medal entry at 2022 Under-18 World Championship (2-1—3 in 2 GP) and earned a bronze medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP).

* Tied for third in team scoring for Sweden in their fourth-place finish at the 2023 World Junior Championship (3-3—6 in 7 GP).

* Grew up a fan of Penguins captain **Sidney Crosby** and models his game after **Auston Matthews** and **Anze Kopitar**. His father, **Kenneth**, played professional hockey in Sweden from 1995-96 to 2003-04.



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MATVEI MICHKOV
Right Wing | Sochi (RUSSIA)
Born: Perm, Russia
No. 2 Ranked International Skater

- * Currently skates for Sochi of the KHL where he has recorded 4-1—5 in 9 GP since joining the team on Dec. 20.
- * Won a junior league championship in 2021-22 after posting 30-21—51 in 28 GP – his 30 goals were tied for 10th most in the league. He followed that up by leading all skaters in postseason goal-scoring with 13-4—17 in 17 GP for SKA St. Petersburg's junior team.
- * Named Best Forward and Most Valuable Player at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship where he led all skaters in goals and points (12-4—16 in 7 GP) while earning a silver medal.
- * Earned gold at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he led all skaters in goals (tied) and points with 8-5—13 in 5 GP.

AXEL SANDIN PELLIKKA
Defense | Skelleftea (SWEDEN)
Born: Gallivare, Sweden
No. 3 Ranked International Skater

- * Has split the 2022-23 season between Skelleftea's junior team (13-13—26 in 20 GP), where he ranks tied for fourth in points among league defensemen, and their team in Sweden's top men's league (2-3—5 in 14 GP).
- * A member of Sweden's fourth-place entry at the 2023 World Junior Championship (0-1—1 in 7 GP) who also helped his country earn a silver medal at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-2—2 in 5 GP).
- * His current teammates on the Skelleftea men's team include former NHL players **Par Lindholm** (TOR, WPG, BOS), **Joakim Lindstrom** (CBJ, PHX, COL, STL, TOR) and **Tom Kuhnhackl** (PIT, NYI).

DALIBOR DVORSKY
Center | AIK (SWEDEN-2)
Born: Zvolen, Slovakia
No. 4 Ranked International Skater

- * Has spent the majority of the 2022-23 season with AIK in Sweden's second division (4-4—8 in 22 GP) and also added 3-5—8 in 5 GP with their junior team.
- * Represented Slovakia at the 2023 World Junior Championship (1-2—3 in 5 GP) and also helped his country win a gold medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Junior Championship – Division 1A while ranking second on the team with 5-6—11 in 5 GP.
- * Helped Slovakia earn a silver medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he led the tournament in goals (tied) and finished second in scoring with 8-4—12 in 5 GP.
- * Played the 2021-22 season for AIK's top junior team, where he ranked tied for second on his team with 20-20—40 in 33 GP.



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EDUARD SALE
Left Wing | BRNO (CZECHIA)
Born: Brno, Czechia
No. 5 Ranked International Skater

- * Plays for Brno in Czechia's top men's league where the 17-year-old forward has posted 3-4—7 in 27 GP – the highest point total in the league among players age 17 or under in 2022-23.
- * Averaged nearly a point per game for Czechia at the 2023 World Junior Championship (1-5—6 in 7 GP) to help Czechia earn silver and mark their first medal win in the tournament since a bronze in 2005.
- * Internationally, Sale also was a member of Czechia's fourth-place entry at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (1-8—9 in 6 GP) and twice represented his country at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 4 GP in 2021 and 4-2—6 in 5 GP in 2022).