PROSPECT PROFILES: TOP 5 NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS

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 (BIG 10) Born: Nobleton, Ont. No. 2 Ranked North American Skater

* As a freshman, Fantilli (30-35—65 in 36 GP) led all U.S. College Hockey skaters in goals, points and points per game (1.81 P/GP) and became the third freshman in NCAA history to win the Hobey Baker Award, joining **Jack Eichel** (2015) and **Paul Kariya** (1993)

* 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 <u>second-most goals by any player that postseason</u>.

* 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

* Concluded 2022-23 ranked second on USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-18 Team with 42-62—104 in 52 GP. His 2.00 P/GP ranked tied atop the club will fellow eligible draft prospect **Gabriel Perreault** (No. 10-ranked N.A. Skater).

* 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.



MATTHEW WOOD Right Wing | Univ. of Connecticut (H-EAST) Born: Lethbridge, Alta. No. 4 ranked North American Skater

* Led the Univ. of Connecticut in scoring as a freshman with 11-23—34 (35 GP), while being the youngest player in the NCAA this season.

* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2022 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he produced at a point-per-game pace (2-3—5 in 5 GP).

* Led the BCHL in 2021-22 in goals and points as a rookie after tallying 45-40—85 (46 GP) and earned the Brett Hull Trophy as the BCHL Rookie of the Year.

* Wood, who grew up in Nanaimo, B.C., and fellow prospect **Connor Bedard** were teammates together in minor hockey, playing spring hockey together on the Vancouver Vipers for five seasons (2015-2019). Their friendship included being billet brothers as 14-year-olds when <u>Wood lived with the Bedard family</u> – the pair would have shooting competitions in Bedard's infamous backyard practice area.

* Models his game after Sabres forward Tage Thompson, a UConn alumnus.

RYAN LEONARD Right Wing | USA U-18 (NTDP) Northampton, Mass. No. 5 Ranked North American Skater

* Finished third on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 Team with 42-34—76 in 49 GP and averaged 1.55 P/GP, a season highlighted by two hat tricks including a four-goal outing.

* Led all skaters on USA Hockey's NTDP Under-18 Team in 2022-23 with 13 power-play goals.

* 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 5-11—16 in 64 career NHL games.

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



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

* Was named Swedish Junior Hockey Player of the Year in 2022-23 after topping Sweden's top professional league (SHL) in his age category in assists (15) and points (25), as well as finishing second in goals (10).

* Represented his country in the gold-medal game at the 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, was a defenseman who played professional hockey in Sweden from 1995-96 to 2003-04.

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

* Tallied 9-11—20 (27 GP) with Sochi of the KHL after being loaned to the club by Ska St. Petersburg on Dec. 20, 2022 and finished fourth on the team in scoring, despite playing in 28+ fewer games than the three players who finished above him.

* 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.

* Helped his country earn gold at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he led all skaters in goals (tied) and points with 8-5—13 in 5 GP.



DALIBOR DVORSKY Center | AIK (SWEDEN-2) Born: Zvolen, Slovakia No. 3 Ranked International Skater

* Spent the majority of the 2022-23 season with AIK in Sweden's second division (6-8—14 in 38 GP) and finished as the league leader in points by an Under-18 junior. Dvorsky also added 10-11—21 in 10 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.

EDUARD SALE Left Wing | BRNO (CZECHIA) Born: Brno, Czechia No. 4 Ranked International Skater

* Spent 2022-23 playing for Brno in Czechia's top men's league where the 17-year-old forward posted 7-7—14 (43 GP) and finished with the most points by a junior-aged player across the league.

* Averaged nearly a point per game for Czechia at the 2023 World Junior Championship (1-5—6 in 7 GP) to help his country earn silver and mark their first medal in the tournament since winning 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).

DAVID REINBACHER Defense | Kloten (NL) Born: Hohenems, Austria No. 5 Ranked International Skater

* Collected 3-19—22 (46 GP) in the top Swiss professional league (NL) with EHC Kloten and finished with the most points by a teenager across the league.

* In 2021-22, Reinbacher made his Swiss League debut at age 16 and appeared in 14 games to earn a SL Championship with EHC Kloten.

* Wore an "A" on his jersey while he represented his country at the 2023 World Junior Championship and was named a top three player on his team (0-2—2 in 5 GP).

* Can become the seventh Austrian-born player to be taken in the first round of the NHL Draft and the third since 2020 after **Marco Kasper** (8th overall in 2022) and **Marco Rossi** (9th overall in 2020).

