



NEWS RELEASE



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CELEBRINI REMAINS ATOP LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS AS NHL RELEASES FINAL DRAFT RANKINGS

Defenseman Anton Silayev finishes as top-ranked international skater


NEW YORK/TORONTO (April 16, 2024) – Macklin Celebrini (North Vancouver, B.C.), a center from Boston University who was named the [2024 Hobey Baker Memorial Award winner](#) on Friday, remains No. 1 among North American skaters for the 2024 Upper Deck NHL Draft as the NHL Central Scouting Bureau today released its final rankings. **Anton Silayev** (Sarov, Russia), a 6'7" defenseman, moved up one spot to become the top-ranked international skater.

Celebrini, who can become the fourth NCAA player selected first overall and just the second U.S. college forward to do so, became the fourth player to win Hockey East Rookie of the Year and Hockey East Player of the Year in the same season following **Jack Eichel** (2014-15), **Paul Kariya** (1992-93) and **Brian Leetch** (1986-87). As a 17-year-old freshman, Celebrini finished third among all NCAA Division 1 skaters in points (32-32—64 in 38 GP) and led a Boston University team in scoring that included 13 players already drafted to the NHL.

"Macklin Celebrini has had a remarkable freshman season at Boston University accumulating the NCAA Hobey Baker and Hockey East Player and Freshman of the Year award," said **Dan Marr**, Vice President of NHL Central Scouting. "He possesses that rare, elite ability to thrive with his skills and smarts while competing with a consistent passion to face every challenge head-on and generate results, all the while making himself a better player."

NO. 1

NORTH AMERICAN SKATER



FINAL RANKINGS

MACKLIN

CELEBRINI

CENTER
BOSTON UNIV.
NCAA

2024 Hobey Baker Memorial Award Winner

- * Hockey East Player of the Year & Rookie of the Year
- * Ranked third in NCAA with 32-32—64 in 38 GP
- * Led Team Canada in points at 2024 World Junior Championship
- * His father, Rick, is VP of Player Health and Performance with the NBA's Golden State Warriors

#NHLStats

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Joining Celebrini among the top-five North American skaters are fellow college freshmen No. 2-ranked **Artyom Levshunov** (Zhlobin, Belarus), a defenseman from Michigan State, as well as No. 4-ranked **Zeev Buium** (San Diego, Calif.), a defenseman who on Saturday won the national championship with the University of Denver and was named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team. There have been only two draft years in NHL history in which three U.S. college players were selected among the top 10 picks: [2015](#) and [2021](#).

Rounding out the top five are No. 3-ranked **Cayden Lindstrom** (Dawson Creek, B.C.), a center from Medicine Hat of the Western Hockey League and No. 5-ranked **Zayne Parekh** (Markham, Ont.), a defenseman from Saginaw of the Ontario Hockey League. Parekh moved up five spots from No. 10 at mid-season after finishing as the OHL leader in points by a defenseman with 33-63—96 (66 GP), which stood as the highest single-season total by a blueliner in that league since **Ryan Ellis** in 2010-11 (24-76—100 in 58 GP).

No. 9-ranked **Tij Iginla** (No. 11 mid-season) of the WHL’s Kelowna Rockets and son of Hockey Hall of Fame forward **Jarome Iginla**, and No. 10-ranked **Michael Hage** (No. 19 mid-season) of the United States Hockey League’s Chicago Steel both moved into the top 10 after sitting outside that grouping in NHL Central Scouting’s Mid-Season rankings.

NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS

FINAL RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	NAT	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE
1	Macklin Celebrini	CAN	C	Boston University	NCAA
2	Artyom Levshunov	BLR	D	Michigan State	NCAA
3	Cayden Lindstrom	CAN	C	Medicine Hat	WHL
4	Zeev Buium	USA	D	Denver University	NCAA
5	Zayne Parekh	CAN	D	Saginaw	OHL
6	Trevor Connelly	USA	LW	Tri-City	USHL
7	Sam Dickinson	CAN	D	London	OHL
8	Berkly Catton	CAN	C	Spokane	WHL
9	Tij Iginla	CAN	C	Kelowna	WHL
10	Michael Hage	CAN	C	Chicago	USHL

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Anton Silayev, a towering 6’7” defenseman who plays for Nizhny Novgorod in the KHL, is the top-ranked international skater. Silayev, who won a junior championship in 2022-23, spent the entire 2023-24 season playing professional hockey at 17 years of age, where he led all under-18 skaters in the league with 3-8—11 in 63 GP.

“It’s not often that there is a 6’7”, 211 lb. defenseman who is a fluid skater and has the puck skills, attributes, and intangibles to be considered a franchise-type prospect,” says Marr. “He has quick smarts, instincts, and composure to read and react on the play and has a very efficient transition and puck movement game. His play this year displayed a level of compete and maturity that will transcend to the NHL game and his ceiling is projected to be the highest of any player on our international ranking.”

The remaining members of the top-five on the international skaters list include: No. 2-ranked **Ivan Demidov** (Sergiyev Posad, Russia), a right wing from Ska St. Petersburg's junior team; No. 3-ranked **Konsta Helenius** (Ylojarvi, Finland), a forward from Jukurit in Finland; No. 4-ranked **Adam Jiricek** (Klatovy, Czechia), a defenseman who plays for Plzen (CZECHIA) and is the brother of Blue Jackets defenseman **David Jiricek**; and No. 5-ranked **Michael Brandsegg-Nygard** (Oslo, Norway), a forward who skates for Mora in the Swedish second division.

INTERNATIONAL SKATERS						FINAL RANKINGS	NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING
RANK	PLAYER	NAT	POS	TEAM	LEAGUE		
1	Anton Silayev	RUS	D	Nizhny Novgorod	RUS		
2	Ivan Demidov	RUS	RW	Ska St. Petersburg Jr.	RUS-JR.		
3	Konsta Helenius	FIN	C	Jukurit	FIN		
4	Adam Jiricek	CZE	D	Plzen	CZE		
5	Michael Brandsegg-Nygard	NOR	RW	Mora	SWE-2		
6	Emil Hemming	FIN	RW	TPS	FIN		
7	Leo Sahlin Wallenius	SWE	D	Vaxjo Jr.	SWE-JR.		
8	Aron Kiviharju	FIN	D	HIFK	FIN		
9	Igor Chernyshov	RUS	LW	Dynamo Moscow	RUS		
10	Linus Eriksson	SWE	C	Djurgarden	SWE-2		



Mikhail Yegorov (St. Petersburg, Russia) of Omaha (USHL) is the No. 1-ranked North American goaltender and **Eemil Vinni** (Vantaa, Finland) of Jokipojat (FINLAND-2) 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 136 skaters and 18 goaltenders internationally.

In its 49th year of operation, NHL Central Scouting provides evaluation and scouting of draft-eligible players to NHL member clubs. Headed by Vice President 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 **J-P Vuorinen** and his staff at European Scouting Services based in Finland.

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

Over 20 prospect profiles and scouting reports are available in the attached PDF.