

2025 Upper Deck NHL Draft: Prospect Profiles



NORTH AMERICAN SKATERS



MATTHEW SCHAEFER

Defense | Erie (OHL)

Born: Hamilton, Ont.

No. 1-Ranked North American Skater

* Schaefer's 1.29 points per game in 2024-25 is the third-highest mark by any OHL blueliner (min. 2 GP) trailing only Saginaw Spirit blueliner **Zayne Parekh** (1.75 P/GP) and London Knights defenseman **Sam Dickinson** (1.65 P/GP).

* Was named to Team Canada's roster for the 2025 World Junior Championship and tallied 1-1—2 in 2 GP before an injury forced him out of the tournament.

* Named to OHL First All-Rookie Team in 2023-24 after posting 3-14—17 in 56 GP.

* Followed Erie Otters franchise cornerstones **Connor McDavid** (2012) and **Ryan O'Reilly** (2007) as the third OHL first overall selection in the organization's history.

* He captained his team to gold at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

* His brother, **Jonathan**, also a defenseman, played for the OHL's Niagara IceDogs (2015-16 to 2018-19) and at Brock University (2019-20 to 2022-23).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A second year OHL defenseman who was selected first overall in the 2023 OHL priority selection. After successfully leading Canada's Under-18 team to gold as captain at the Hlinka-Gretzky, he missed the start the OHL season and has returned with strong play as a top defense prospect who's on everyone's radar. He does it all on the ice – defends well as an elite skater with good gap control and has the ability and smarts to consistently produce offensively. He has a great feel for the game and knows when to make a simple play, when to block a shot and how to get the job done. His puck retrievals are on point, he can skate his way out of trouble and capably lead the rush offensively. He quarterbackes the power play and is an offensive threat to score or set up teammates. A special talent and top prospect for the Draft.

MICHAEL MISA
Center | Saginaw (OHL)
Born: Oakville, Ont.
No. 2-Ranked North American Skater

* Misa led the CHL in scoring after posting 62-72—134 (65 GP). His season was highlighted by a 28-game point streak – the third-longest across the CHL – 46 multi-point outings (70% of all games he played this season), 16 multi-goal performances, three hat tricks and eight games with four-plus points.
* Became the first Saginaw Spirit player to lead the CHL in scoring – his point total is tied with **John Tavares** (2006-07 w/ Oshawa Generals) for the most by an OHL U-18 skater since 2000.

* Was granted “exceptional player” status by Hockey Canada making him eligible for the 2022 OHL Priority selection at an earlier age and was selected first overall by the Saginaw Spirit. In his rookie season of 2022-23, Misa was named OHL Rookie of the Year after leading all first-year skaters with 22-34—56 in 45 GP.

* Helped Saginaw win the Memorial Cup in his second OHL season (2023-24), where he produced at a point-per-game rate in the tournament with 0-5—5 in 5 GP.

* Helped Canada earn a gold medal at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he tied for the team lead in assists and produced 2-6—8 in 5 GP. He also won silver at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-3—6 in 7 GP).

* His brother, **Luke**, was a fifth-round pick by the Flames in the 2024 NHL Draft (150th overall) and skated for the OHL's Brampton Steelheads in 2024-25.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

The eighth player granted exceptional status by Hockey Canada and the sixth to play in the OHL as a 15-year-old. Drafted No. 1 overall in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection by the Saginaw Spirit. Playing in his third OHL season after winning the 2024 Memorial Cup. Named assistant captain to start the season, he has taken his game to another level and is putting up big offensive numbers. He's bigger, stronger and faster than previous seasons. His first three steps are lightning quick and when you add the elite skill set and elite hockey IQ he's a very dangerous offensive threat. A clever playmaker who makes plays at speed and knows how to put the puck in the net. Plays with a consistent, impressive compete level and knows how to use his body to win puck battles. When he's on the ice his quickness, creativity and hockey sense are off the charts.

JAMES HAGENS

Center | Boston College (NCAA)

Born: Hauppauge, N.Y.

No. 3-Ranked North American Skater

- * Concluded the season fourth in points among freshmen across the nation (11-26—37 in 37 GP) and third on Boston College in scoring behind his teammates who have already been drafted: **Ryan Leonard** (49 pts; No. 8 in 2023 by WSH) and **Gabriel Perreault** (48 points; No. 23 in 2023 by NYR).
- * Won gold at the 2025 World Junior Championship and finished tied for the fourth-most goals in the tournament (5) and fourth on Team USA in points (9) behind three players already drafted into the NHL.
- * Led USA Hockey's National Development Program's Under-18 Team in 2023-24 after posting 39-63—102 (58 GP) – 13 points more than the next-closest player (**Cole Eiserman**: No. 20 in 2024 by NYI).
- * Finished his NTDP career ranking fifth in program history for career points (187) and career assists (115).
- * Won gold at the 2023 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 7 GP) and the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he averaged three points per game to finish with the most assists (13) and points (21) in the tournament.
- * Earned a silver medal at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship – Hagens was named tournament MVP and best forward after finishing with the most assists and points (9-13—22 in 7 GP).
- * He currently plays with his brother, **Michael**, at Boston College. Their father, **Michael Sr.**, played three seasons of college hockey at SUNY-Brockport (NCAA Division III).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

An NCAA freshman playing center for a very talented Boston College team. A very good skater with a dynamic heads-up game who plays with confidence, patience and savvy with the puck. Ultra quick ability to read and react. Always a scoring threat off the rush and can set up his teammates from anywhere on the ice. Elusive with the puck and can deceive defenders by looking them off and making a pass or taking a shot that is unexpected. Excellent hands and makes creative plays that others just can't see. A special player with elite hockey sense and compete level. The type of player that elevates his game when it counts the most. He wants the puck on his stick and has "Game Changer" ability. The complete offensive package with a very high hockey intelligence in all three zones.

JAKE O'BRIEN

Center | Brantford (OHL)

Born: Whitby, Ont.

No. 4-Ranked North American Skater

* Finished the season tied for seventh in assists and points across the OHL after amassing 32-66—98 (66 GP), while his 41 power-play assists led the league. His season included two hat tricks, a five-point outing and 14 games with three-plus points which helped Brantford finish first in their conference.

* Won MVP honors for Team East in their overtime win at the OHL's Inaugural Connor McDavid Top Prospects Game after posting 0-3—3, including setting up the game winner.

* Led the OHL in points and assists among rookies in 2023-24 after posting 13-51—64 (61 GP), which included 19 multi-point games. His 51 assists were 15 more than the next-closest rookie.

* Won the Emms Family Award as the OHL's rookie of the year in 2023-24 and was named to the CHL All-Rookie Team.

* Won gold at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and represented Team Canada Red at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Possesses a lot of offensive tools in his toolbox— his hockey sense being the biggest one. Natural ability and instincts to see the ice and read the play very well. The type of player every teammate wants to play with as you know he'll find you with the puck for a scoring chance. Great hands, puck skills and creativity as well as the finishing touch to put the puck in the net. Responsible. Uses his smarts defensively and is always in the right spot with good details. A very high ceiling as he still has lots of room to grow and get stronger.

RADIM MRTKA**Defense | Seattle (WHL)****Born: Havlickuv, Czechia****No. 5-Ranked North American Skater**

* Recorded 3-32—35 (42 GP) in his first season playing in North America to finish third in points per game (0.81) among rookie defensemen. He also finished tied for fifth on his team in scoring and tops among both defense and rookie categories.

* Split the 2023-24 season between HC Ocelari Trinec's Under-17 team and their junior team. With the U-17 club, Mrtka posted 3-10—13 (18 GP) for the 12th-highest points-per-game rate among defenseman, while his 4-7—11 (19 GP) among their junior team was the third-most points by a 16-year-old defenseman across the league.

* Made his professional debut in 2023-24 skating in three games in the highest level of hockey in Czechia.

* Won silver with Czechia at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup. He also represented his country at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A huge 6'6" right-handed two-way defenseman. He looks like the proto-type of an NHL player. A mobile, strong skater with good acceleration and speed for a player of his size. Plays with confidence, handles the puck well, and likes to use his big frame in battles. Good reach and a fine understanding of the game. Plays a solid two-way game and likes to join the rush. Makes smart passes. Tough to play against close to the net. Fine work ethic. Very good with the puck under checking pressure. Generates many shots from the back end, especially when playing on the power play. Good at jumping down from the point to finish off a scoring chance. Boxes out and protects his net-front well. Wins board battles with consistency. Sticks up for and comes to the aid of teammates. Effective on the penalty kill with a good and active stick to strip and disrupt.

PORTER MARTONE

Right Wing | Brampton (OHL)

Born: Peterborough, Ont.

No. 6-Ranked North American Skater

* Captain of the OHL's Brampton Steelheads in 2024-25, Martone concluded the season seventh in points (tied), fourth in game-winning goals (tied) and 11th in goals (tied) across the league (37-61—98 in 57 GP).

* Recorded 4-5—9 in their first round series against the Oshawa Generals in the 2025 postseason, where he averaged 1.50 points per game despite falling to Oshawa in six contests.

* Split his 2022-23 OHL rookie season with Sarnia and Mississauga, where he ranked 11th in rookie scoring with 19-16—35 in 61 GP. He doubled that output in his second OHL season, leading his team in goals while producing 33-38—71 in 60 GP.

* One of three draft-eligible players on Team Canada's roster at the 2025 World Junior Championship (1-0—1 in 3 GP).

* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (2-3—5 in 5 GP) and at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship, where he captained his country and finished second in the tournament for assists (12) and third in points (17). He also has a silver from the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (7-5—12 in 7 GP) and bronze from the 2023 Under-18 World Championship.

* His father, **Mike**, was a fourth-round pick by the Sabres in the 1996 NHL Draft (106th overall) who captained the OHL's Peterborough Petes in junior and played pro in the AHL and ECHL – winning the ECHL's Kelly Cup in 1998-99 with the Mississippi Sea Wolves.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A third-year OHL player originally selected fifth overall by the Sarnia Sting in the 2023 OHL Priority selection. Named captain of the Brampton Steelheads to start the 2024-25 season. Putting up outstanding offensive numbers and can play any type of game which will translate well at the next level. Elite hockey sense which allows him to slow the game down to the pace he chooses. He also has the elite puck skills and hands to take advantage of the time and space he creates. Can play physical and will back it up. Has a nose for the net that you can't teach, utilizing his puck control, reach and skills to lead his team's offense. Can score goals in all different ways. Plays the right way in all situations and is his team's leader for a reason.

CALEB DESNOYERS

Center | Moncton (QMJHL)

Born: Saint-Hyacinthe, Que.

No. 7-Ranked North American Skater

* Amassed 35-49—84 in 56 GP to finish the season tied for fifth in scoring across the league and ninth for assists. He also recorded a 15-game point streak (12-15—27), which was the third longest this by a QMJHL player this season.

* Finished third in rookie scoring across the QMJHL in 2023-24 after posting 20-36—56 (60 GP), second in assists and seventh in goals.

* Is a three-time gold medalist, winning the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-2—5 in 8 GP), where he wore an 'A', the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-4—5 in 5 GP) and at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-4—5 in 5 GP).

* His brother, **Elliot**, was selected by the Flyers 135th overall in the 2020 NHL Draft. He spent four years playing in the QMJHL and concluded his time in the league by captaining the Halifax Mooseheads. Elliot has spent the past three seasons playing in the AHL.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Second season in the QMJHL. Played an important role with Canada at the Hlinka-Gretzky Cup. A versatile, two-way player who can contribute to a team in a variety of ways. His hockey IQ is very good and he has a good sense of anticipation. Good offensive skills with his vision and feel for the game. Very good playmaker who also displays a scoring touch around the net. He's willing to do most of the dirty work to retrieve 50-50 pucks and will play a physical style when needed. His skating is good and will continue to get more powerful as he matures physically. Plays the center position well, supports his defensemen down low in his zone and will break up plays. Prospect who has lots of transferable pro elements in his game.

ROGER McQUEEN
Center | Brandon (OHL)
Born: Saskatoon, Sask.
No. 8-Ranked North American Skater

* McQueen missed 51 games this season yet produced at least a point in 71% of the contests he did play and finished the campaign with the highest point-per-game rate on his team (1.18).

* Finished second on the Wheat Kings with a 0.96 points per game rate in 2023-24 (21-30—51 in 53 GP) as well as topped the team in power-play points with 15 (7-8—15). He also led his club in goals and points (tied) during the WHL playoffs with 4-1—5 in four GP.

* Paced all Wheat Kings rookies in assists and points with 4-10—14 in 55 GP during the 2022-23 season.

* Was the fourth overall pick in the 2021 WHL Bantam Draft.

* Won gold with Team Canada at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship and at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he posted the third-most goals and fourth-most points (tied) among his fellow countrymen (4-3—7 in 5 GP). He also played at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, where he topped his team in points (tied; 4-4—8 in 6 GP).

* His father, **Scott**, played defense in the WHL for 88 GP with the Red Deer Rebels and Saskatoon Blades (6-9—15).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Playing in his third full WHL season. An elite combination of size and skill. A huge center that can do it all. Has the ability to take over and dominate games with his high-end puck skills along with deceptive speed and quickness. Can create his own shots and set up chances for teammates. Excellent puck control and can dangle to beat defenders off the rush with speed and in traffic. Great playmaking and a touch with the puck to finesse it through tight spots and onto teammates sticks. A high compete level with an imposing frame, he can play both a skilled and physical game to battle and power his way through checks to make plays. Can play with an edge and will stand up for his teammates.

KASHAWN AITCHESON**Defense | Barrie (OHL)****Born: Scarborough, Ont.****No. 9-ranked North American Skater**

* Tied the eighth-most points in a single season by a Barrie Colts defenseman in franchise history after posting 26-33—59 (64 GP). He owned the third-most goals among all blueliners across the OHL this season and the seventh most points. Aitcheson also finished as his team's overall scoring leader.

* Collected 8-31—39 (64 GP) in 2023-24 to finish fifth on his team in assists and points. It marked a 36-point improvement from his rookie campaign where he tallied three points through 23 GP.

* Helped Team CHL sweep the 2024 CHL USA Prospects Challenge, with a performance that included scoring in the second game.

* Won gold with Canada at the 2024 Under-18 World Championship (1-2—3 in 7 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A third-year OHL defenseman who will be a very versatile option for any team. A good skater with solid puck skills. The quarterback for Barrie's power play and has some flare offensively. On the defensive side, he can also be a shut down, in-your-face type player. A fierce competitor that plays with grit, along with good detail in his defensive game, gap control and awareness. Plays a physical style and will back it up. A very good defenseman who ticks a lot of boxes for the next level.

CARTER BEAR**Left Wing | Everett (WHL)****Born: Winnipeg, Man.****No. 10-Ranked North American Skater**

* Concluded the 2024-25 season tied for seventh in goals and second in game winners (also tied) across the WHL after tallying 40-42—82 in 56 GP. Bear became just the sixth different player in Everett Silvertips history to score 40 in a single season.

* Represented Team CHL at the 2024 CHL USA Prospects Challenge and helped his team earn a victory over Team USA's NTDP.

* Collected 25-32—57 (67 GP) in 2023-24, to finish fifth in goals by a rookie across the WHL and seventh in points.

* In 2022-23, he won Winnipeg AAA's Under-18 MVP and top forward, while posting 32-27—59 (31 GP) and captaining his team.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

In his second full year in the WHL and is now a top-line winger on a good Everett team. A versatile player who can play center but looks best suited on the wing. Has grown in size and strength which is noticeable on the ice. Skates well and has a good base to build upon. An asset on special teams, he plays bumper on the power play and is deployed on the penalty kill. A high compete level and hounds the puck in all zones to create turnovers. Goes hard on plays and finishes his checks. Can play up and down the lineup and is proving to be an offensive scoring threat in the WHL with good hands and moves in tight to generate chances.



INTERNATIONAL SKATERS



ANTON FRONDELL

Center | Djurgarden (SWEDEN-2)

Born: Stockholm, Sweden

No. 1-Ranked International Skater

* Started the 2024-25 season with Djurgarden's junior team (5-2—7 in 10 GP) but quickly graduated to their men's team in Sweden's second division (11-14—25 in 29 GP). He is one of 11 17-year-olds to have played in the league this season and tops that cohort in goals, assists and points. In fact, among all players age 18 or younger, his totals are the second most behind fellow draft eligible forward **Victor Eklund**.

* Led Djurgarden's junior team in scoring in 2023-24 with 18-21—39 in 29 GP, including a plus-25 rating that tied for sixth best in the league.

* Internationally, Frondell has helped Sweden earn medals at the 2024 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (bronze; 6-1—7 in 7 GP) and the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (silver; 2-2—4 in 5 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Skilled two-way player. Strong player with strong legs, which shows up in his skating. Has perfect balance in his skating and makes it difficult for opponents to catch him. Wins most of the one-on-one battles with his attitude, power and quick stick. Delivers intelligent passes and is a real asset, especially on the power play. Has a nifty wrist shot and his release is solid and accurate. His hockey IQ shines with intelligent moves, with or without the puck. Likes to set up teammates using small moves and tricky passes. Shows resilience and perseverance. Advances the puck quickly and plays a heads-up game. Makes good choices as he is a competent and skilled stick handler.

VICTOR EKLUND

Right Wing | Djurgarden (SWEDEN-2)

Born: Stockholm, Sweden

No. 2-Ranked International Skater

* Is skating in Sweden's second-highest league with Djurgarden this season and as an 18-year-old currently tops the league in goals and points by a teenager. He sits second in points in that category 19-12—31 (42 GP).

* As a 17-year-old, Eklund played the majority of the 2023-24 season with Djurgarden's junior team and finished third on the team in assists (18) and sixth in points (25). He also made his professional hockey debut in Sweden's second-highest league (1-3—4 in 15 GP) and won a silver medal with Djurgarden.

* Collected a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2025 World Junior Championship and 2024 Under-18 World Championship, finishing atop his country in goals. He also represented his country at the 2023 World Junior A Challenge, 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup and 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

* His brother, **William**, was drafted in the first round by the San Jose Sharks in 2021 (7th overall) and has played in the NHL for the past three seasons. His father, **Christian**, played professional hockey in Europe for over two decades.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

An active and alert player who plays with a lot of confidence and intensity. A robust checker who uses his acceleration and speed on every shift. Strength will come over time due to his great mentality and work ethic toward hockey. Has great skating ability, accelerates and moves from side to side. His fakes and dekes on defenders are very good. Safe zone entries, great speed and a good "drive" to the net. Plays at a higher tempo than many others in a game. Effort, intense playing style and emotions show a tremendous overall mentality. Very "quick" with his stick and while puck handling. Can get himself time and space in traffic. Has a quick shot when skating. He is a playmaker who plays with his head up with the puck looking to create. Very good vision and creativity. Comfortable and confident and has good patience with the puck.

MILTON GASTRIN

Center | MODO Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)

Born: Ornskoldsvik, Sweden

No. 3-Ranked International Skater

* Has tallied 18-24—42 in 40 GP, the top of his team in goals and second in assists and points while wearing an 'A'. Gastrin also finished seventh in Sweden's junior league in points among players age 17 or younger and made his professional hockey debut, skating in eight games with MoDo's men's team.

* Gastrin nearly doubled his point production from the 2023-24 campaign in 16 fewer games, after posting 12-16—28 in 25 GP last season. His point total finished as the sixth-most points among 16-year-olds in Sweden's top junior league.

* Captained Sweden to a bronze at both the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he concluded the tournament tied for third in points (3-7—10 in 5 GP), and at the 2022 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-2—5 in 7 GP).

* His father, **Magnus**, played professional hockey in Sweden and Switzerland for over a decade, while his brother, Malcom, is currently his teammate with MODO Jr.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Can play either center or wing. A strong skater, including acceleration, straight-away speed and balance. Always involved in the play, active and intelligent. Comes out as a winner in most battles. Not flashy, plays a simple and very effective game using his skating, smartness and winning attitude on every shift. Plays an effective two-way game. Drives the net with purpose and gets many chances off the cycle. An intelligent player who makes good decisions with and without the puck. An ace in the face-off circle.

VOJTECH CIHAR

Left Wing | Karlovy Vary (CZECHIA)

Born: Chomutov, Czechia

No. 4-Ranked International Skater

* Cihar spent the 2024-25 season skating for Karlovy Vary in Czechia's highest professional league (4-5—9 in 43 GP). He spent most of the campaign as a 17-year-old and was one of 14 skaters of that age to have played a game in the league this season – he tops that cohort in goals, assists and points, six more than the next-closest player.

* In 2023-24, he skated in Czechia's junior league, where he tallied 14-12—26 in 35 GP. He finished with the third-most goals and fifth-most points by players age 16 or younger across the league.

* Won silver at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2025 World Junior Championship (1-1—2 in 7 GP) – the country's third straight year with a medal at the tournament. He also represented Czechia at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-2—4 in 8 GP).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A good-sized forward who is strong over the puck and can protect it in tight spaces. Effectively utilizes his physical attributes and has excellent offensive smarts and tools. Dangerous player with the puck on his stick and can produce. An excellent, deceptive puck handler. Outstanding vision and playmaking ability. Owns a great shot with power and accuracy. Has a high offensive hockey IQ and can make his teammates better. Dangerous on the power play. Wants the puck on his stick in crucial moments and delivers. Can be a difference maker. Strong on his skates with good speed – tough to stop when on the move. Good balance, hard to knock down in battles. Reliable and useful team player.

ALEXANDER ZHAROVSKY
Right Wing | UFA Jr. (RUSSIA-JR)
Born: Klin, Russia
No. 5-Ranked International Skater

* Averaged over a point per game in his first season playing in Russia's junior league (24-26—50 in 45 GP), where he finished tied for 10th in points. He also topped his team in goals and points.

* Was awarded Forward of the Month and Rookie of the Month honors through the 2024-25 season.

* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season, skating in Russia's National Junior Hockey League, the country's second level of junior hockey. He produced 25-22—47 (35 GP) to top his team in scoring and finish tied for ninth in points across the league.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

His development throughout the season was exceptional. A sizable winger whose strengths lie in his hockey vision. Generously shares the puck with perfect passes, thanks to his remarkable awareness. His puck-handling skills shine, and he possesses the long reach necessary to control the puck effectively. Can shield the puck well with his body and is swift enough to drive to the net using clever dekes. All his actions are highly productive, and he excels at give-and-go plays. Assists his teammates effectively by retrieving lost pucks and can easily locate open ice and vacant spots. By reading the play, he can adjust his direction or slow down at key moments. His defensive play is solid, and he can intercept passing lanes. Quickly emerged as a top prospect for the first round of the Draft throughout the season.

EDDIE GENBORG**Right Wing | Linköping HC (SWEDEN-JR)****Born: Trollhattan, Sweden****No. 6-ranked International Skater**

* Collected 19-15—34 in 28 GP and finished atop his team in goals and fifth in points despite playing just a portion of his season with the club. He also made his professional hockey debut where he scored twice through 28 games, which were the most goals among players age 17 or younger in the league.

* Split the 2023-24 campaign between Linköping HC's junior team (4-1—5 in 25 GP) and with their U18 team, where he recorded a combined 7-4—11 in 16 GP).

* Earned a bronze medal for Sweden at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (1-2—3 in 5 GP), silver at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (1-2—3 in 5 GP) and bronze at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (1-2—3 in 7 GP). He also tallied three points at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A physical, high-energy forward with a strong presence on the ice. Known for his toughness, he's a force in front of the net, where it's nearly impossible to move him, earning him comparisons to Tom Wilson. A power forward who excels at finishing checks and playing hard in all situations, though sometimes his intensity can get the better of him. His role on the power play is key, as he screens the goalie and battles in tight areas to create opportunities. While his physicality is a huge asset, his puck skills still require development. A solid player with potential but still lacks some creativity. His work ethic and competitive approach make him a valuable asset to his team. His skating is strong. Defensively, he's effective in blocking shots and maintaining solid positioning. Used in multiple situations, including on the penalty kill and power play, where he adds value through his physicality and net-front presence. Though his offensive vision and playmaking need refinement, his effort and high compete level make him a reliable player on every shift. With continued growth, his powerful style and physical attributes should translate well to a pro career.

ERIC NILSON

Center | Djurgarden Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Born: Calgary, Alta.

No. 7-ranked International Skater

* Averaged over a point per game in Sweden's junior league this season after tallying 12-26—38 (37 GP). He finished tied for 10th in scoring among players age 17 or younger across the league. Nilson made his professional debut, playing four games in Sweden's second league (0-1—1).

* Spent the 2023-24 season with the Örebro junior team and was tied for fourth in playoff points during the J18 Nationell postseason (4-9—13 in 7 GP).

* Captured a bronze medal with Sweden at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and again in the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he was one of five Swedish players to score at least three goals in the tournament.

* His father, **Marcus**, was selected by Florida in the first round of the 1996 NHL Draft (20th overall) and played nine seasons in the League. His 15-year-old sister, **Alice**, also plays hockey and has already skated in the NDHL – the second-highest women's hockey league in Sweden.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A well-rounded, two-way center with strong skating and excellent puck skills. Displays a high hockey IQ, making quick and accurate passes while taking responsibility in all three zones. His reliability and work ethic make him a valuable asset as he contributes effectively to both the power play and penalty kill. Strong on his skates, difficult to knock down, and competes hard in battles for loose pucks. He has shown flashes of creativity and playmaking ability. Possesses a quick release and can finish plays when given the opportunity. His defensive awareness is solid, and he takes pride in playing a responsible game. With continued development, he has the potential to be an effective NHL player in a middle-six role.

JAKOB IHS WOZNIAK
Center | Lulea Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Born: Adelaide, Australia
No. 8-ranked International Skater

* Finished tied for sixth in points across Sweden's top junior league after posting 23-34—57 (40 GP) despite spending part of the campaign in the SHL. Ihs-Wozniak made his professional hockey debut with Lulea and was one of six 17-year-olds to record multiple points in the SHL this season.

* Spent the majority of 2023-24 in Sweden's top junior league with Lulea Jr. and led his team in points with 22-28—50 in 36 GP. He was also tied for first on his team in playoff goals that season (3-2—5 in 4 GP).

* Represented Sweden at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge where he was tied for the second-most goals on the team (3) and won bronze for his country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he co-led his team in goals (4).

* He can become the second Australian-born player to play in the NHL, following the Los Angeles Kings defensemen **Jordan Spence**, who was born in Manly, Australia.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A highly-skilled offensive forward with an intense hockey IQ and natural scoring ability. Excels on the power play, showing great vision, quick decision-making, and an accurate shot, including a dangerous one-timer. Positions himself well in the offensive zone, finding open spaces to capitalize on scoring chances. His skating is smooth, but his pace and physicality need improvement, especially in high-intensity games. Playing alongside strong linemates enhances his effectiveness, but he must learn to contribute more consistently at even strength. Overall, a promising prospect with a high offensive upside but areas to refine.

KURBAN LIMATOV**Defense | MHK Dynamo Moskva****Born: Moskva, RUS****No. 9-ranked International Skater**

* Led all defensemen age 17 or younger in scoring in Russia's top junior league this season after posting 8-15—23 (46 GP). His totals mark a 17-point improvement from his rookie campaign in the league.

* Limatov played his first MHL season in 2023-24 and collected 1-5—6 through 30 GP with MHK Dynamo Moskva.

* Was drafted 118th overall by the Omaha Lancers in the 2023 USHL Futures Draft.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A mobile, two-way defenseman with impressive size and physical strength. A key player for Dynamo Moscow's junior team in the MHL, logging heavy minutes on the first pair. His skating is strong for his size, showing good mobility and agility, though he still needs to refine his decision-making. Offensively, he has been productive, contributing both as a puck-mover and a shooter. Defensively, his long reach and physical presence make him effective. He tends to be overly aggressive in transition, sometimes leaving his team exposed. His hockey IQ is decent. Possesses high-end tools and courage. His performance has been uneven. Development has been good during the season.

THEODOR HALLQUISTH
Defense | Orebro-Jr. (SWEDEN-JR)
Born: Taby, Sweden
No. 10-ranked International Skater

* After tallying 1-3—4 in a game with the Orebro's U-18 team, Hallquist joined their junior team where he collected 5-17—22 (41 GP), which was tied for sixth in scoring by defensemen age 17 or younger across Sweden's top junior league. He also made his professional debut, playing in 12 SHL games.

* In 2023-24, Hallquist spent the majority of the season playing in Sweden's top league for U-18 players, where he combined for 5-24—29 (38 GP).

* Earned a silver medal for his country at the 2024 World Junior A Challenge (0-5—5 in 5 GP).

* His brother, **Wilhelm**, is an ice hockey player in Sweden. He spent the majority of this past season playing professionally and represented his country at the 2025 World Junior Championship.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

An active, two-way defenseman with a strong competitive level and solid physical presence. He stands out in defensive and offensive situations, showing good puck distribution, especially on the power play. His active feet and stick allow him to close gaps quickly and disrupt plays effectively. While his explosiveness helps him compensate for less fluid lateral movement, his overall agility and skating still need refinement. He plays with confidence, stepping up in transition and making smart, creative decisions under pressure. Defensively, he battles hard, uses his size well, and is difficult to beat in one-on-one situations. His passing is generally strong, but he has moments of inconsistency under pressure. Has earned top-pair minutes, contributing to penalty kill and power-play situations. His frame suggests room for further physical development, which could make him an even more imposing presence. A reliable two-way defenseman with the tools to carve out a role in pro hockey.



GOALTENDERS



JOSHUA RAVENSBERGEN

Goaltender | Prince George (WHL)

Born: North Vancouver, B.C.

No. 1-Ranked North American Goaltender

* Finished the season with the second-most wins (tied) after posting 33-13-4. Ravensbergen was one of five goalies to appear in 50 games in 2024-25 and his save percentage (0.901) was tied for 13th across the WHL.

* Finished his rookie season with a 26-4-1 record – the seventh-most wins among all goaltenders. His 2.46 goals against average was the fourth lowest across the WHL that season.

* In 2023-24, he tied the WHL record for most shutouts by a rookie after posting six. He tied **Jamie Tucker** (2008-09), **Matt Keetley** (2004-05), **Tyler Plante** (2004-05), **Dustin Slade** (2003-04), **Kelly Guard** (2002-03), **Donavan Nunweiler** (1996-97) and **Ray Martyniuk** (1968-69).

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

Playing in his second year in the WHL after going undrafted in the Bantam Draft. Has a huge pro presence and plays big even when down in the butterfly with excellent low net coverage. Plays with a lot of confidence and moves extremely well throughout the crease with very good structure in his game. Utilizes quick reactions and recovery skills and has an excellent glove hand. Tracks the puck well through traffic. Strong in tight and on the post, quick to eliminate any holes. A combination of size and ability, he has a good chance to become an NHL starter. A top-end goalie talent for the 2025 NHL Draft.

PYOTR ANDREYANOV**Goaltender | CSKA Jr. (RUSSIA-JR)****Born: Volsk, Russia****No. 1-Ranked International Goaltender**

* Posted a 23-6-6 record while playing in Russia's junior league. His win total finished tied for the fourth highest across the league, while his save percentage was the third best at .942 and his goals against average was the sixth lowest (1.75).

* Andreyanov was selected to play in the MHL All-Star game this past season and was named the league's goaltender of the month twice.

* Spent the majority of the 2023-24 season playing in the MHL, Russia's junior league, where he posted a 9-8-0 record (3.04 GAA, .916 SV% & 1 SO). He was one of three 16-year-olds who played more than 10 games in the MHL last year.

* Posted a 2.65 goals-against average in five games during Russia's U-17 Finals to help his team earn bronze.

NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING

A decent-sized goalie who is active, quick and explosive. Has an excellent catching glove. Has perfect balance on his feet. Moves well in all directions. Aggressive in a good way. Helps players around the net by being active and playing the puck fast. Good reflexes when needed and looks in control, often in challenging situations. Tracks pucks well when facing screens and does not allow rebounds easily. Plays low in his net. Regarding skill, may be one of the best goalies in this draft class.