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# FCHOCKEY

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**OUR STORY:**

Created and developed in the summer of 2007, FCHockey is hockey's premier source for information on NHL Draft eligible prospects around the world. With a staff of scouts all around North America and in Europe, FCHockey is truly a global effort.

But what is FCHockey?

The quest to find the NHL's next superstar is always ongoing for teams. It's no different for us. FCHockey is continually looking at hockey's next generation, both evaluating their talents and telling their stories for you – the fan.

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# FCHOCKEY

# COMING UP

## 2022 NHL DRAFT GUIDE

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# SCOUT SERIES

***EACH SCOUT HAS  
THAT PROSPECT  
THAT LEAVES  
THEM IMPRESSED.***

***UNFORUTNATELY,  
THEY HAVE THE  
ONE THAT  
FRUSTRATES, TOO.***

We do a little thing every time the NHL Draft starts rolling around. Call it an exercise.

We ask each member of our scouting staff a simple question.

Who impressed you?

It's very open-ended. It's not 'Who is the best prospect you watched this season?' It's not 'Of all the players you watched, either live or on video, who do you think should be the highest rated?'

It simply boils down to 'Who, when you close the chapter on this season in your scouting notebook, left you the most satisfied?'

It can mean something to one scout, and something different to another.

It can be a sense of satisfaction in watching a young prospect blossom right before their eyes. It can be a slow-starter who just simply improved with each outing, each viewing, until they met or exceeded expectations.

The answers are always fascinating.

And they almost never feature the No. 1-ranked prospect.

That's not to take anything away from the top player in the draft. It does lend to the idea of how an open-ended question as simple as 'Who impressed you?' can lead to such a variety of answers.

Now, there's a regional element in all this as well. Normally.

This year was unique. That doesn't need to be explained any further. But it also opens the floor to any and all prospects, in any and all regions.

It's the same scenario when we ask them our next question.

Who disappointed you?

Again, it's an open-ended query designed to be interpreted however the scout should choose. Some opt for the highly-anticipated player whose performance didn't match the hype. Others lean on the injury-prone prospect who didn't get the chance to put his best foot forward. A few will point to the enigma-wrapped-in-a-riddle eligible who looks like a top pick one night and a tough argument to draft at all. In this strange season, the option of dissatisfaction of not being able to see some prospects put a foot forward at all was all too real, too.

We then ask one final question.

Who surprised you?

Another intentionally vague question.

It can be a prospect who started low, or off, an individual scout's draft board and rose high enough to be ranked. It can be a player passed over last year reaffirming his stock with a standout season in a second (or sometimes third) bid to live out an NHL Draft dream. It can be a projected third or fourth rounder who cemented a first-round status with a stellar season. On the flip side, it can be interpreted as the exact opposite, too.

We do it to offer a glimpse into each of the participants, 15 in all this season, and what they saw as the scoured (primarily) computer screens and (the rare) in-person viewing this season.

It also offers a window into the class itself. What did Prospect A do to impress? Why did Prospect B disappoint? How did Prospect C impress?

It tells a tale, in a brief 100-or-so word count, into the season of an NHL Draft eligible and how their on-ice efforts were interpreted.

It also serves as a timestamp to remind that one season is just one season in the development of a hockey player. The player who impresses isn't guaranteed anything more than the one that disappoints, or the one that surprises.

There was work to do to get to this point.

There's work to do beyond this point, too. The work isn't over, nor is the journey.

For the 224 players that will get to live out an NHL Draft dream this July, congratulations on your special day. Share it with family, friends, coaches and teammates.

For those that will come away from the date disappointed, the journey is far from over.

With that, welcome to the 2022 edition of FCHockey's Scout Series.

JOSEPH  
**ALEONG**



**ROLE: REGIONAL**  
**REG: ONTARIO**  
**LOC: ONTARIO**  
**SEASONS: 6**

Pavel Mintyukov arrived in the OHL without much fanfare, but was quick to show the high skill level that made him a highly-touted Russian junior player. Despite playing for a Saginaw Spirit team devoid of much scoring depth, Mintyukov's dynamic skating ability and offensive instincts allowed him to consistently generate offense in all situations and led to some highlight-reel plays in transition and off of broken plays. His defensive vision and physicality aren't consistent, but his rangy skating allows him to lock opponents up one-on-one and he has the awareness and aggressiveness to become a force at both ends in the NHL. On the other end of the spectrum, Ruslan Gazizov was a player with some hype upon his arrival to the London Knights following a starring performance at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup as well as a clear path to an offensive role with the team. Despite a solid start, he struggled to carve out a scoring-line role and his offensive production was inconsistent as flashes of his game-breaking skill were sporadic. Gazizov has the puck-handling ability and playmaking vision to become a dynamic scorer at the junior level, but his subpar foot-speed and wavering compete-level could drop him down draft boards this summer. David Goyette took an unusual route to the OHL before his rookie season with the Sudbury Wolves. He quickly became one of the more electrifying rookies as his effortless skating ability and flashy stickhandling allowed him to settle in as the top scorer for a young team without much support up front. While a mediocre Under-18s hurt Goyette's chance to improve his stock after missing out on the OHL playoffs, his improvement through the season and elite offensive potential could make him one of the first forwards from Ontario taken after Shane Wright.

JOSHUA  
**FROJELIN**



**ROLE: CROSSOVER**  
**REG: EUROPE**  
**LOC: CALIFORNIA**  
**SEASONS: 1**

This season, the most surprising player for me has been Alexander Pelevin. He's a fantastic defenseman with great capabilities at both ends of the ice. As a crossover scout who focused on leagues outside Canada, I saw a large variety of players throughout the season. However, none quite stick out in my mind like Pelevin. His mobility is great, and his processing of the play as it develops in front of him – or while he's got the puck on his stick – is clearly on a higher level than his junior counterparts. He's a solid defender who uses mobility and stick positioning to make large impacts on opponents, who is still unlocking his full offensive potential. If one player were to have underwhelmed me this season, I would probably have to pick Joakim Kemell. As I expected, he could not maintain his ridiculously good scoring rate from the start of the season. In my viewings of the Finnish prospect, I felt his points were coming from some lucky bounces, and I much preferred the process and abilities of former teammate Brad Lambert. Outside his shot, Kemell's offensive game is not elite. I think against more capable defenders at higher levels of hockey, Kemell will need to adjust to the lacking available space and physicality. I am incredibly impressed by Frank Nazar. The center has a massive work rate, and his shots, scoring chances, and points all come from his use of practical skill and awareness. He fits the ideal 'second-line center' mold. The American knows how to work well within tight spaces, shield the puck from defensemen, and drive to the net. His off-puck play is already solid, constantly active and looking for pockets of open ice or shooting lanes. I expect Nazar to have a terrific career in his stint at Michigan, before developing into a great, all-situations player for his NHL club.

FREDRIK  
**HAAK**



**ROLE: REGIONAL**  
**REG: SWEDEN**  
**LOC: SWEDEN**  
**SEASONS: 4**

Jonathan Lekkerimaki did for sure take a few steps forward every time he took to the ice this season. With a deadly shot and an offensive mindset that really stood out, he showed that he could score goals also in SHL with and against players well outside his age range. He can really utilize his quick puck-handling and great offensive hockey IQ to get an advantage when he crosses the offensive blue line. Lekkerimaki has the potential and tools to become a successful player in the NHL in just a few years ahead. It won't be much longer after that that he's making a significant impact. I am not really a fan of making negative comments about prospects like disappointed, especially not when we still talk about a player as good as Ludwig Persson. But, before this season, I had high expectations about this quick-moving forward and I thought that with his hands, view and scoring ability, he would be a surefire first round pick. This season I did not see him take the next step and he has most likely gone down on most scouting list after the campaign he had. There's still plenty of upside offered in Persson, however. Calle Odellius is a player that has played on a high level for many years, but the last season was kind of a breakthrough at U20 level – which also gave him the chance to play in SHL against players with more experience, size, and strength. With excellent puck-moving, Odellius was a defenseman that could be relied on in all three zones. Odellius is a modern player that really stood out for his team and for the whole U20 league in Sweden as one of the best defensemen to come out of the country this year. If he continues to improve and his ability to adjust his game to the right level I would not be surprised if he will become a top-four defenseman for a NHL team in the future.

BRANDON  
**HOLMES**



**ROLE: CROSSOVER**  
**REG: EUROPE**  
**LOC: NEW YORK**  
**SEASONS: 2**

After missing a full year of play in 2021, I was unsure what to expect from Pavel Mintyukov coming into the year. To say he left me any less than impressed whenever I was able to catch the Saginaw Spirit this year would be an understatement. Mintyukov quickly became one of my favorites in this class, routinely showcasing what I believe to be sky-high potential as a modern day NHL defenseman. He plays with an attacking mindset, consistently looking to push the pace when he's on the ice and attack the opposition with skill and high-end offensive awareness. Sticking in the OHL, coming into the year I heard plenty of buzz around Bryce McConnell-Barker as a potential first-round prospect, and I couldn't help but be left wanting more after viewings of the Soo Greyhounds. McConnell-Barker is a generally sound two-way player who makes efficient plays at both ends of the ice, but his skill, mobility, and creativity left with question marks regarding his ultimate ceiling. He still may project as a bottom of the lineup player at the NHL level, but his offensive tools and problem solving ultimately left me wanting more. My biggest surprise throughout the year grew to be Gleb Trikozov, who just continued to get better and better as the season went along. He began the year with a strong performance the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, and was enough to make a note of heading into the MHL season. There, he blossomed throughout the year into one of the league's top players. He's an incredibly skilled and creative problem-solver with the puck on his stick, able to wait out opposing defenders to open up attacking lanes and owns dual-threat ability with crisp passing ability and high-end vision as well as a strong shot, showcasing upside as a potential impact player at the pro level.

JAKE  
**JANSO**



**ROLE: CROSSOVER**  
**REG: RUSSIA**  
**LOC: NEW JERSEY**  
**SEASONS: 1**

At the beginning of the season, Ivan Miroshnichenko was one of the most talked about prospects in this draft class and monopolized the gaze of anyone watching Omskie Yastreby. However, it didn't take long for scouts to notice his teammate Gleb Trikozov. Trikozov is a creative and skillful offensive-leaning winger with a fantastic shot and a great awareness of the play around him. He can use his powerful frame and stride to generate speed with the puck, or he can slow things down and use his creative passing and stickhandling to open space for his teammates. In my opinion, Trikozov is the top Russian prospect in the draft and has impressed me all season. On the flip side, Alexander Perevalov is a prospect that I expected to see more from but came away a bit disappointed. Perevalov is an elusive winger with soft hands and a quick release. He's an all-offense type of player and contributes almost nothing defensively. A lot of his game revolves around volume shooting and play anticipation. However, against better defensive systems and stronger players I don't think this style will work. He lacks any kind of explosive skating ability and relies on teammates to create space for him. Similarly to Trikozov, Viktor Neuchev is a player who surprised me early this season and continued to surprise me throughout the year. Initially, my impressions of his play were that he relied on his size, speed, and shot to beat defenders but ultimately was too one-dimensional. However, his game has undergone a bit of a metamorphosis over the season. He's still using his size and speed but has displayed adept puck-handling skills and some interesting pace manipulation. He projects as a solid middle-six scoring winger, but if his growth continues he could be more than that.

WIGE  
**KARLE**



**ROLE: REGIONAL**  
**REG: FINLAND**  
**LOC: FINLAND**  
**SEASONS: 1**

The offensive upside of Gleb Trikozov impressed me the most this season. He came in looking like a somewhat offensively skilled player, but throughout the year started showing off more and more elements of a highly-skilled player with a well-rounded set of tools. His offensive toolbox is impressive already as it is and with consistent development and jumping up to play in tougher leagues, namely the KHL and second-tier VHL, he could very well be the steal of this draft. Consistency is an issue for Trikozov, but on a good day he's a clear top-end prospect for me. I was expecting Brad Lambert to build on his poor season last year and not much has changed as of yet. Development-wise, Lambert still looks like the same guy we've seen and talked about for a couple seasons now. He takes too many nights off, simply put, for my liking. The expectations are obviously high for a guy as skilled as Lambert is – the tools are certainly there – and the team drafting him will do it solely based on that offensive potential. But with huge consistency issues that's a difficult bet to be taking. Jiri Kulich, on the other hand, surprised most scouts this year, I think. He came in as a relatively under-the-radar prospect and improved gradually all season long, never seeing a dip in his trajectory as he continued to build throughout the year. In my initial viewings I saw a very defensively responsible forward with low offensive upside, but as the season went on Kulich got more comfortable and flashes of skill appeared more and more as that comfort level rose. I think there's still a lot to unlock in his game as he builds on his frame. He's a pretty low-risk pick for a team looking for a good bottom-six forward as his floor, with some high reward with potential to be more if he continues trending upward.

**DONESH MAZLOUM**





**ROLE: REGIONAL**  
**REG: WEST**  
**LOC: ALBERTA**  
**SEASONS: 9**

I was lukewarm on Denton Mateychuk as a potential first round pick coming into the season, however he impressed me more and more with each viewing this year – culminating in a dominant performance against the best of his peers at the CHL Top Prospects Game. He plays such a unique style of hockey that it's tough to find a comparable for him at the NHL, but his play this year solidified me as a believer that his blend of shiftiness, puck skill, and elite hockey sense will track and translate to the NHL game. It'll be fun watching that evolution. One player who I expected more from this year was Prince George defender Keaton Dowhaniuk. The former third overall pick in the WHL Bantam Draft had all the tools to be a two-way force from the back end. He is an excellent skater with power and grace in his stride, but the rest of his game has stagnated over his junior career. He is still too passive in all three zones and, while the resulting product is a mistake-free defensive defenseman who may be picked in the later rounds, there was a time when I envisioned more from Dowhaniuk in his future. There's still some untapped stuff there, so there's no reason to completely sour on his game. A player who came from way off my draft radar and quickly became one of my favourite players to watch in the WHL is Marcus Nguyen. One of the last players selected in the WHL Bantam Draft, Nguyen is far from a high-pedigree player. His relentless pace, however, and ability to make plays at high speed has vaulted him from obscurity into the thick of the draft conversation where he simply can't be ignored. He may never be an elite point producer as he advances, but I think he has a great chance to work his way onto a roster with his committed buzzsaw style of play.

**DEREK NEUMEIER**







**ROLE: HEAD**  
**REG: WEST**  
**LOC: ALBERTA**  
**SEASONS: 9**

Heading into the season, I expected it to be a two-horse race between Matthew Savoie and Conor Geekie for my top player from the west, but by the halfway point Kevin Korchinski had joined the discussion. By the end, Korchinski was decisively the top guy for me. The lanky defender is a gazelle-like skater, with a superb combination of quickness, agility and balance, and his playmaking is almost as good. Now, his positioning and decision-making do need a lot of polish, but the long-term upside for him is through the roof if his development goes according to plan. It'll be interesting to see where he lands. Even though I do still see him as a lock for the first round, my biggest disappointment has to be Geekie. I once thought could be a top-five player from this class, but he just fell like a stone all season. The blend of size, shooting, puck skill and vision that he possesses is enticingly rare, which is why it was so frustrating to see him floating and being a passenger far too much of the time. He has all the tools to be driving the play, instead, leading to frustration. His pacing, effort and overall impact are wildly inconsistent. He could still figure it out and put everything together, but it's hard to see not him as a major wildcard now. I don't know if there was a more improved player in the WHL this season than Reid Schaefer, and him becoming a top-100 player in the 2022 draft is a massive surprise to everyone. Give him credit, though, as he really put in the work on his game. A big, strong forward with powerful skating ability and a plus shot, he is a scoring threat from distance or in tight, on the rush or in the cycle. What's more, he is committed and effective defensively too. He could develop into a top-six scorer or bottom-six checker, and that versatility is very appealing.

**MIROSLAV SIMURKA**

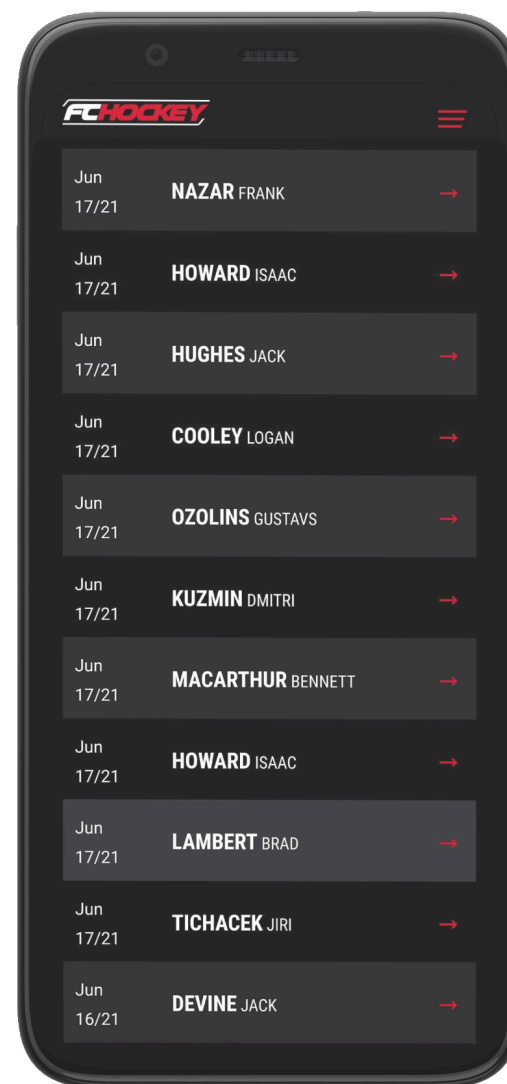




**ROLE: REGIONAL**  
**REG: EUROPE**  
**LOC: AUSTRIA**  
**SEASONS: 3**

This was an exceptional season in regards of quantity and especially quality of draft prospects playing in the middle European leagues. The player that stood out the most to me was Simon Nemec. Nemec started the season very strong at Hlinka Gretzky Cup in August and was able to strengthen his position during the year as the best defenseman in this draft class, in my eyes. Nemec is a very good puck-moving defender. He is a strong skater, he moves on the ice with ease, has very good first-pass and he was a quarterback of the 1st power play unit in professional team as a 17-year-old. His hockey-IQ in all three zones is exceptional. The player that in my opinion was not able to fulfill the expectation was Simon Slavicek, who was considered to be a potential top-100 pick before summer – and even higher by some. He missed a part of the season early due to injury and moved to OHL later on, but I do not feel like he secured his position on draft day. Adam Sykora, however, surprised me the most and there is no doubt he improved his position the most since January among players from this area. He was solid at Hlinka Gretzky Cup and, besides the obvious first round candidates coming from Slovakia, he was one of the players that impressed scouts the most. Having a slow start in the league play, with zero points in his first 13 games combined at professional and U20 level, there have been more questions than answers. Sykora then picked up his game and production, and earned a bigger role on his team and more ice-time. As a result, he established himself as a likely top-100 pick. Sykora is skilled on the puck and is a solid skater, but what really separates him from other prospects is the high energy and huge defensive potential he possesses.



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# WRIGHT OR THE REST?

***THE RACE FOR  
NO. 1 SEEMED  
SEWN UP ALL  
SEASON.***

***UNTIL IT WASN'T.***

***AND NOW THERE'S  
THREE LEGITIMATE  
SKATERS BATTLING  
FOR FIRST IN THE  
2022 NHL DRAFT.***

**BY JOSEPH ALEONG**

The 2022 NHL Draft is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and unpredictable in recent memory, with divergent opinions about the top prospect creating excitement and uncertainty over who the Montreal Canadiens will select first overall and who will emerge as the class's biggest star in five or 10 years.

Shane Wright, the current presumptive No. 1 pick, has been on the national radar as a top-flight prospect since he was in middle school, with his Ontario roots and rare 'exceptional' status granted to him by Hockey Canada for early entry into the Ontario Hockey League -- making him one of the most hyped young players this decade.

However, a cancelled season caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and an up-and-down pre-draft season has allowed two main contenders to creep into the conversation surrounding the top player in the 2022 NHL Draft.

Enter Juraj Slafkovsky and Logan Cooley.

Slafkovsky first burst onto the international scene for an upstart Team Slovakia at the 2021 World Junior Championship. He didn't log a point, but was able to keep pace and make plays at a high level for a player nearly three years younger than his average opponent. The Kosice product, who has developed in the Finnish junior ranks for the past few seasons, has a hulking 6-foot-4 frame and has elevated his game in a big way at multiple international events this season. His power and size, combined with soft hands and some ability to raise his level of play in high-leverage games, have made him the top contender to Wright's throne.

The US National Development Team Program has produced both star prospects and NHL players in droves over the last few years, and this year's iteration looks to be more of the same with multiple players possessing strong chances to go in the first round. The cream of this year's crop appears to be Cooley, a University of Minnesota commit with speed and skill to burn.

The National Team Development Program leader in points-per-game this season, Cooley has the skating ability and the elite awareness at both ends necessary to remain down the middle despite being undersized for the position. However, his 5-foot-10 frame and his lack of dominance at the recent Under-18 World Championship likely have him behind Wright and Slafkovsky in the running for first overall pick.

But we'll let the scouts decide.

And let's get to know each.

Wright is an elite two-way center whose game is built off of his strong skating ability. He sits in a low, powerful stance and gets great extension and power from each stride due to near-ideal ankle bend and an extremely powerful lower half. Wright shows a knack for playing through contact and using a low center of gravity to attack tight spaces or find open space through a check. His edgework is strong but could use some work, as he shows a tendency to use quick cutbacks and pivots while under pressure but doesn't create much separation when using his agility.

Wright is a confident and frequent puck-carrier in transition at the OHL level, but his foot-speed could be improved and he might not have the open ice speed to be a true separating threat at the NHL level.

Slafkovsky's huge frame, meanwhile, will have most suggesting that he'll never be a burner like Wright or Cooley, but he's worked diligently to improve his skating and his elite athleticism is evident in his smooth skating stride and high work rate.

His foot-speed limits his acceleration and ability to create separation in his first few strides, but his stride power allows him to get to a great top speed and makes him a threat to carry the puck off the rush by using his long reach and downhill momentum to weave through the neutral zone. He's nearly impossible to knock off the puck and his strength on his edges makes him a terror to handle on the offensive cycle. He uses his frame and balance to attack the middle lane and he has the offensive toolkit to take advantage of high-danger areas even while under heavy pressure.

Cooley despite being the smallest of this trio, could be the best all-around skater of the bunch.

He is a dynamic speedster with a low, balanced stance and elite footwork that allows him to separate in open ice and make quick moves at high speed. Cooley shows impressive edgework when carrying the puck, allowing him to dangle through checks and avoid opponents to create clean zone entries and open ice in the offensive end. He is a bulldog off the puck as well, using his speed to make an impact on the backcheck and showing good aggressiveness pursuing opponents on the forecheck. While common concerns over Cooley's size have to do with his ability to stay at center as he progresses levels, he does everything at a breakneck pace and has the clear skillset needed to consistently drive a line in the NHL.

He's the leader of the bunch when it comes to making his way around the ice.

Cooley is also the best of the bunch when it comes to puck skills.

He plays at an insanely high pace and he has the requisite stickhandling ability and carrying vision to take advantage of the defensive breakdowns and open lanes that his speed creates. He has arguably the most impressive pair of hands in the entire draft class, regularly using difficult dekes to beat his checks and showing an innate understanding of

He has long opened eyes with his unique and sought-after combination of small-area skill and athletic prowess in his skating and coordination.

While Slafkovsky has the tools to eventually become a solid NHL-level skater, he is arguably pro-ready when it comes to his confidence with the puck and ability to use his reach to beat defenders in open ice. He has soft hands for a huge winger and routinely makes opponents miss in open ice -- making him effective in transition even with checkers draped on his back. His strength and edgework along the boards makes him tough to handle even against older, more experienced players and he generates plenty of good looks and puck touches in dangerous areas by using his frame to gain position on opponents.

So what happens when each player works himself into a shooting situation? Wright shines.

His standout tool is undoubtedly his wrist shot, which has the accuracy to score from all over the offensive zone and makes him a true scoring threat on the power play. He has a quick release and shows some deception in changing his shooting angle to get the puck through screens and defenders.

Wright is a volume shooter when he's at his best, using his release off the rush and showing the awareness to find soft spots in the offensive zone to get a quick shot off. However,



## IT IS THE CLOSEST COMPETITION WE'VE SEEN FOR THE NO. 1 PICK WE'VE SEEN IN SOME TIME AND NONE WOULD BE A SHOCK TO SEE GO FIRST.

how to position the puck under pressure to maintain control despite his smaller wingspan.

His aggressiveness attacking the middle and putting defenders on their heels belies his small stature, and he's fearless hunting down pucks in high-traffic areas or fighting through physicality to make a play.

Cooley's prowess transitioning the puck makes him a one-man zone exit and entry, but he can be guilty at times of not utilizing his teammates enough on the rush and handling the puck into traffic as frequently as Cooley does can cause headaches for a center at the NHL level.

Wright, meanwhile, is constantly around the puck and is very effective at controlling play at both ends of the rink with his stick skills and positioning.

He has strong puck-handling skills, showing the confidence and ability to maneuver through traffic and make quick dekes to find an open lane for an entry or pass out of pressure. While he shows poise against checkers and can use his small-area skill to win battles along the wall, Wright isn't as effective beating defenders one-on-one in open ice, and can be passive towards the outside of the zone after gaining the offensive blue line.

However, he has the vision and quick decision-making to potentially play at the NHL level as soon as next season.

Don't sleep on Slafkovsky in this category, either.

he could do a better job moving the puck into high-danger areas before shooting, perhaps partially explaining a notable drop in his shooting percentage, 19.7 percent down to 12.3 percent, from his rookie season.

Slafkovsky is no slouch, either.

He has a quick, heavy release as well, getting great power on his shot from a variety of setups and angles. He isn't much of a high-volume shooter, instead using his frame and vision to get into dangerous areas and give himself higher-percentage looks.

His size gives him great leverage on one-timers and quick snap shots, making him a dangerous player off the puck and a special teams weapon from his off-wing. Slafkovsky is aggressive and displays good anticipation around the net, using his size to disrupt the goalie's vision and showing a knack for tipping pucks and pouncing on rebounds quickly.

Cooley approaches things a different way.

He, on the other hand, is more of an opportunistic scorer, using his speed and smarts to create space inside the offensive end and then firing at a screened goalie or moving his feet to create a high-danger cross seam pass. While Cooley has a fast and accurate release on his shot, he usually relies more on smart positioning and setting up high-percentage plays with his vision over shooting through

traffic or trying to score from outside the home plate area.

He isn't much of a threat for a one-timer or to score from distance, but he excels at finding shooting lanes and has the accuracy to present a shooting threat from the side wall on the power play.

Slafkovsky's size doesn't just benefit the big winger with his shot.

The defining element of his game is his physical dominance, with the 6-foot-4, 218-pound teenager showing aggressiveness throwing his weight around to separate opponents from the puck. He has a huge wingspan and the coordination to hold off opponents with one arm while still surveying his options for a shot or pass.

Slafkovsky is able to bully some opponents, even at the Liiga level, and push his way to optimal areas of the ice without much resistance. He isn't elite at tracking opponents in transition but can absolutely tilt the ice with his physical play once he's engaged and involved in puck battles.

Wright has packed on muscle since entering the OHL and has a frame ready to withstand the rigors of professional hockey.

He doesn't shy away from traffic on offense, using his strength to fight through checks and attack the middle lane and showing strong puck protec-

tion against bigger players along the wall. He doesn't initiate contact often outside of his own end, but he displays poise under physical pressure and will duck his shoulder and use his reach to force his way into the slot area.

Wright plays more positionally sound and conservative in the defensive end, but he will initiate contact to disrupt the cycle and force opponents out of dangerous areas.

Cooley's the most limited amongst the three when it comes to size and strength.

He'd also be among limited company were he to become a full-time center at his size in the NHL, but he absolutely has the mentality and relentless puck pursuit to fulfill the off-puck demands of the position. His low center of gravity allows him to fight off checks and stand his ground in board battles.

Cooley's powerful lower half and constant movement also allows him to angle opponents off the puck and create loose pucks in the neutral zone, which drives his elite transition game. He'll never be the type of player to throw big hits in open ice, but Cooley invites contact when he has the puck to open up passing lanes to find his teammates.

So what'll Montreal do when it's time to take center stage at Bell Centre?

We'll find out soon whether Wright can fend off the late charge after a season of disappointment, relatively speaking, as a combination of rotating linemates and a new coach and system led to inconsistent production and stretches where Wright failed to stand out or take over games with his skill.

Cooley certainly passes the eye test with flying colours, but concerns over what his future role in the NHL will be and a failure to stake his claim to the first overall pick in falling short of a gold medal at the U18 Worlds likely cost him a chance at overtaking Wright in the race for first overall.

Slafkovsky was an international darling at the Olympics, where he was named tournament MVP after leading Slovakia to a bronze medal. However, he hardly made a statement with his play in Liiga, failing to produce in line with other draft-eligible top prospects out of the league in the past decade and ultimately landing him behind both Wright and Cooley in FCHockey's Final ranking.

It is the closest competition for the No. 1 pick we've seen in some time, and none would be a shock to see go first.

And it would not be the least bit surprising to see any of these three prospects end up as the best player of the bunch five years down the line.





# BLUELINE BATTLE

## ***NEMEC & JIRICEK:***

### ***THE 2022 NHL DRAFT HAS TWO TOP DOGS ON DEFENSE.***

### ***HERE'S HOW THEY MATCH UP WITH ONE ANOTHER.***

#### **BY BRANDON HOLMES**

From nearly the first day of the 2022 NHL Draft cycle, the debate at the top of this class for the title of the best defenseman has come down to two two-way, eastern European blueliners – Simon Nemeč and David Jiricek.

Nemeč, a 6-foot-1 right-shot defenseman from Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia has been on the draft radar for quite some time while playing in his native country at the junior, professional, and international levels.

The exact same thing can be said of Jiricek, a 6-foot-3 right-shot from Klatovy, Czechia.

The pair will almost certainly be the first two defensemen off the board at the 2022 draft on July 7, but what sets these two apart from the pack, and what sets them apart from each other?

Nemeč and Jiricek have long been considered the two top defensemen available in the 2022 draft class, but have also been considered among the top prospects in their region for quite some time now.

Nemeč made his debut at the professional level at age 15, skating in 12 games for HK Nitra in 2020 – placing him in rare company as one of the youngest players to ever play in Slovakia's Tipos Extraliga. Throughout his three-year Extraliga career, Nemeč tallied 48 points in 88 games, placing him third in the league's all-time U18 scoring only behind two of the greatest Slovak players to ever play in the NHL in Marian Gaborik and Marian Hossa.

His 26 points in 39 games this season share the same third all-time honor by a draft-eligible Tipos Extraliga skater behind the same two players. Throughout the past three years, Nemeč has been a staple for Slovakia at international events, already making two appearances each at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, World Junior Championships, and the Men's World Championships, as well as skating in a significant role for Slovakia at the 2022 Olympics in Beijing.

Jiricek followed a similar path of his own, coming through junior and professional hockey in Czechia. Jiricek made his professional debut at the age of 16 in the Czech Extraliga, skating in four games for HC Plzeň in 2020 before earning his full-time spot on the big club the following season. During the 2021 and 2022 seasons, Jiricek cemented himself as one of the top junior-aged defensemen in the history of the Czech Extraliga, holding the record for most points by a U19 defenseman in that league with 20 points in 67 games.

Like Nemeč, Jiricek has also become a staple for his country at the international level, skating regularly in junior tournaments such as the U18 and U20 World Junior Championships, and also made an appearance this year for Czechia at the Men's World Championships.

Moving into how these two players differ in their strengths and playstyle, their skating ability and overall mobility is a good place to start due to the increasing pace of play in the NHL.

Though Nemeč is not one of the fastest nor most dynamic skaters in the 2022 draft, his game on both sides of the puck is built upon his agility and four-way mobility. Nemeč is a capable north-south skater, able to build decent enough speed – though he could use more power through his stride extension to add an extra gear to his top speed. But it's his ability to pivot and play on his edges that allows him to separate from his opponents. His hip and ankle flexion in his skating posture allows him to quickly make cuts and stay active while skating, allowing him to react to play quickly on both sides of the puck and his use of practical skill allows him to stay mobile with the puck on his stick.

Despite being a capable skater for a player his size, Jiricek could stand to improve multiple facets of his skating and overall mobility. Like Nemeč, Jiricek's straight-line speed and north-south speed are roughly average with inconsistencies in his stride extensions that limit his ability to build and maintain his speed – though unlike Nemeč, Jiricek is fairly inconsistent with his agility as well. Jiricek could stand to improve his knee bend and correct his more upright posture when compared to Nemeč, which would allow him to make quicker cuts and play more on his toes rather than on his heels. Jiricek



HK NITRA

is also a roughly basic puckhandler as well, and though I would not categorize him as a poor stickhandler, he is more prone to bobbles of the puck when compared to his counterpart Nemeč. It isn't to say Jiricek is a poor skater, as he profiles more at around the NHL average in his current state. But when compared to the other top

to keep his head up while handling pucks and can find teammates with efficient and crisp breakout passes out of his own end.

While I find Nemeč is more consistent in his ability to start efficient breakouts, I find Jiricek's ability to stretch the ice with passes out of his own zone to be more effective. Jiricek is

The downsides of each defenseman's puck-moving tool kits I believe can be coached out of them, but in terms of raw puck-moving ability, I have to once again give the advantage to Simon Nemeč.

On the other side of the game, this is where the skills start to tip in favor of Jiricek. Nemeč is the superior four-

## IT WILL BE FASCINATING TO SEE HOW THESE TWO STACK UP AGAINST EACH OTHER IN JUST A FEW YEAR'S TIME.

defenseman in this class in Nemeč, the advantage has to go to the young Slovak defenseman.

Mobility is often tied very closely with puck-moving ability when it comes to the modern day defenseman, and the skating bases of Nemeč and Jiricek does inform portions of their ability to transition pucks and start breakouts.

Due to his higher-end ability as a skater, Nemeč has an easier time of carrying pucks out of his own zone when compared to Jiricek. Nemeč's ability to spin off checks, use quick cuts and shoulder fakes to gain separation on opposing forecheckers allows him to carry pucks out of his end and through the neutral zone more consistently. Nemeč is a very poised and cerebral puck-carrier, often able

capable of sending long stretch passes to teammates and is consistently looking to generate quick-strike offensive opportunities, and this key difference is what differentiates these two defenseman as puck-movers.

Nemeč is a reliable distributor who has more raw ability in his skating ability and is far more risk adverse than Jiricek, sometimes to a fault as he is guilty of at times dumping pucks out of his own zone in lieu of looking for plays to teammates. Jiricek is the far riskier of the two in his puck-moving tendencies – he stretches the ice with his long passes but is far more prone to poor reads at times and can turnover the puck in the middle of the ice when he fails to survey the ice completely.

way skater, which in theory should make it easier for him to control gaps against oncoming attackers. While this is something I believe could be coached into his game and will need to be for him to become a legitimate top-pairing defenseman, Nemeč does show inconsistency in his ability to read and react to oncoming speed while defending the rush and in turn is prone to allowing easy zone entries against.

Nemeč's gap control at times can be loose and more reserved, often opting to play it safe and protect the interior of the ice rather than playing more aggressively to generate turnovers and deny controlled entries against. When Nemeč does challenge attackers with aggression, his stick is generally well

positioned and he's able to make plays with well-timed pokechecks, and it's more about getting him to play with that aggression and defensive urgency with more consistency.

With Jiricek, he's able to mitigate some of his shortcomings in his four-way mobility precisely due to his ability to react to speed, read and control gaps, and play with that aggression and intensity at his own blue line. Jiricek is able to maintain tight gaps when defending the rush, constantly using his reach combined with his stick body positioning to close on puck-carriers and limit time and space, forcing quicker decisions with the puck by carriers and in turn is able to generate more failed zone entries in those situations. Jiricek is guilty at times of committing too much to puck-carriers and can get caught puck-watching, but overall, the advantage in rush defense goes to him, however.

Keeping in theme with aggression and the ability to separate puck-carriers from the puck, each player's physical traits and their engagement in that area of the game informs how they play on their half of the red line.

Jiricek, the bigger of the two, is the more physically mature player and in turn, is able to win battles for positioning deep in his own zone more consistently than Nemeč. Due to Jiricek's higher success rate of coming out on top in physical situations, how Jiricek and Nemeč each handle play in their own zone is quite different.

Jiricek is very aggressive in pursuing physical play, often looking to lay open ice hits on opposing skaters to separate them from the puck or play physically in front of his own net to clear the crease. Nemeč on the other hand is a much more patient and cerebral in-zone player, more often opting to shy away from physical contact in favor of angling away attackers with his stick positioning. Nemeč is able to hold his own in his own end but will need to add more strength to his frame in order to consistently win those battles in high-danger areas in front of his own goal. As the more physically mature and overall more aggressive player, Jiricek clearly wins this area of the game.

On the offensive side of the puck, it's not so much which player is better in that area of the game, but rather whose playstyle you prefer if you're building your ideal top-pair defenseman, as their strengths and approaches in the opponent's zone can be quite different.

Nemeč is among the draft's top puck distributors in the offensive zone, as he's poised when handling the puck along the offensive blue line and displays high-end playmaking vision and crisp passing ability. Nemeč is adept at generating scoring opportunities through his vision, whether it be finding teammates for one-time shots both in the slot and from the circles or by shooting for deflections.

Both defensemen are willing to activate from their



offensive blue line and make themselves available to teammates as an option, though Nemeč is more adept at carrying the puck down from the offensive blue line to create attacking lanes on a more consistent basis than Jiricek.

Where Jiricek really finds his niche as an in-zone attacker is in his ability as a shooter and perimeter attacker. He is capable of distributing pucks and quarterbacking the power play, but what he has that Nemeč lacks is a powerful point shot, allowing him to be a scoring threat high in the offensive zone. He can shoot from the circles when given time and place shots well with power on his snap shot, but the power he is able to get on his one-timer and slap shot allows him to be a centerpiece on the power play and score from distance.

If you're looking for a shooting centerpiece on your power play, Jiricek is your guy offensively; if you're looking for a high-end puck distributor who can quarterback offensive play from the blue line, Nemeč is your man in that department.

While Nemeč ultimately claimed the top defensive spot on FCHockey's final draft board, the space between these two defensemen is quite narrow, and we really won't truly know who ultimately goes first until their names are called on draft day. While both categorizing as two-way defensemen at their cores, the two of them differ in their characteristics and strengths as hockey players, and it will come down to what each individual team values in a top-pair defenseman.

Both Nemeč and Jiricek are projected by FCHockey to be first-pair quality defensemen, and it will be fascinating to see how these two stack up against each other in just a few year's time.

RANK	NAME	TEAM	LEAGUE	POS	HT	WT	CSS	REG
1	Wright, Shane	KINGSTON	OHL	C	6-0	191	1	NA
2	Cooley, Logan	USA U-18	NTDP	C	5-10	174	2	NA
3	Slafkovsky, Juraj	TPS	FINLAND	LW	6-4	218	1	ITL
4	Nemec, Simon	NITRA	SLOVAKIA	D	6-0	190	3	ITL
5	Jiricek, David	PLZEN	CZREP	D	6-3	189	4	ITL
6	Gauthier, Cutter	USA U-18	NTDP	LW	6-2	189	3	NA
7	Nazar, Frank	USA U-18	NTDP	C	5-10	175	21	NA
8	Korchinski, Kevin	SEATTLE	WHL	D	6-2	185	7	NA
9	Lambert, Brad	PELICANS	FINLAND	C	6-1	175	10	ITL
10	Mintyukov, Pavel	SAGINAW	OHL	D	6-1	197	6	NA
11	Kemell, Joakim	JYP	FINLAND	RW	5-11	171	2	ITL
12	Lekkerimaki, Jonathan	DJURGARDEN	SWEDEN	RW	5-11	165	6	ITL
13	Savoie, Matthew	WINNIPEG	WHL	C	5-9	175	4	NA
14	Yurov, Danila	MAGNITOGORSK	RUSSIA	RW	6-1	178	7	ITL
15	McGroarty, Rutger	USA U-18	NTDP	RW	6-1	200	22	NA
16	Kasper, Marco	ROGLE	SWEDEN	C	6-1	183	5	ITL
17	Mateychuk, Denton	MOOSE JAW	WHL	D	5-11	188	14	NA
18	Ohgren, Liam	DJURGARDEN JR.	SWE-JR.	LW	6-0	187	8	ITL
19	Pickering, Owen	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	D	6-4	178	15	NA
20	Chesley, Ryan	USA U-18	NTDP	D	6-0	195	18	NA
21	Trikozov, Gleb	OMSK 2	RUS-JR.	LW	6-1	185	15	ITL
22	Howard, Isaac	USA U-18	NTDP	LW	5-10	182	9	NA
23	Miroshnichenko, Ivan	OMSK KRYLIA	RUS-2	LW	6-1	185	11	ITL
24	Ostlund, Noah	DJURGARDEN JR.	SWE-JR.	C	5-11	163	18	ITL
25	Firkus, Jagger	MOOSE JAW	WHL	RW	5-10	153	12	NA
26	Geekie, Conor	WINNIPEG	WHL	C	6-3	196	5	NA
27	Kulich, Jiri	KARLOVY VARY	CZREP	C	6-0	172	13	ITL
28	Bichsel, Lian	LEKSAND	SWEDEN	D	6-5	216	9	ITL
29	Gaucher, Nathan	QUEBEC	QMJHL	C	6-3	207	16	NA
30	Mesar, Filip	POPRAD	SLOVAKIA	RW	5-10	167	20	ITL
31	Hutson, Lane	USA U-18	NTDP	D	5-9	148	25	NA
32	Casey, Seamus	USA U-18	NTDP	D	5-10	162	29	NA
33	Beck, Owen	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	C	6-0	185	10	NA
34	Luneau, Tristan	GATINEAU	QMJHL	D	6-2	188	24	NA
35	Bystedt, Filip	LINKOPING JR.	SWE-JR.	C	6-3	187	17	ITL
36	Lutz, Julian	MUNCHEN	GERMANY	LW	6-2	185	30	ITL
37	Goyette, David	SUDBURY	OHL	C	5-11	172	13	NA
38	Snuggerud, Jimmy	USA U-18	NTDP	RW	6-1	186	11	NA
39	Lamoureux, Maveric	DRUMMONDVILLE	QMJHL	D	6-7	197	20	NA
40	Odelius, Calle	DJURGARDEN JR.	SWE-JR.	D	5-11	185	16	ITL
41	Nelson, Ty	NORTH BAY	OHL	D	5-10	196	32	NA
42	Havelid, Mattias	LINKOPING JR.	SWE-JR.	D	5-9	165	19	ITL
43	Del Bel Belluz, Luca	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	C	6-1	175	8	NA
44	Nyman, Jani	KOOVEE	FIN-2	RW	6-3	212	24	ITL
45	Poitra, Matthew	GUELPH	OHL	C	5-11	174	45	NA
46	Sapovaliv, Matyas	SAGINAW	OHL	C	6-3	182	23	NA
47	Grudin, Vladimir	CSKA 2	RUS-JR.	D	5-10	158	53	ITL
48	Salomonsson, Elias	SKELLEFTEA JR.	SWE-JR.	D	6-0	172	12	ITL
49	Ingram, Adam	YOUNGSTOWN	USHL	C	6-2	165	27	NA
50	Forsmark, Simon	OREBRO	SWEDEN	D	6-2	191	33	ITL

RANK	NAME	TEAM	LEAGUE	POS	HT	WT	CSS	REG
51	Lorenz, Rieger	OKOTOKS	AJHL	LW	6-2	184	17	NA
52	Ludwinski, Paul	KINGSTON	OHL	C	5-11	176	49	NA
53	Minten, Fraser	KAMLOOPS	WHL	C	6-1	185	28	NA
54	Pelevin, Alexander	NIZHNEKAMSK	RUS-JR.	D	6-1	183	78	ITL
55	Schaefer, Reid	SEATTLE	WHL	LW	6-3	213	31	NA
56	Hamara, Tomas	TAPPARA JR.	FIN-JR.	D	6-0	185	21	ITL
57	Hughes, Jack	NORTHEASTERN	H-EAST	C	6-0	170	26	NA
58	Neuchev, Viktor	YEKATERINBURG	RUS-JR.	LW	6-2	165	34	ITL
59	Haight, Hunter	BARRIE	OHL	C	5-11	173	44	NA
60	Kaplan, Devin	USA U-18	NTDP	RW	6-2	199	61	NA
61	Rohrer, Vinzenz	OTTAWA	OHL	C	5-10	163	42	NA
62	Rinzel, Sam	CHASKA	HIGH-MN	D	6-4	177	19	NA
63	Lucius, Cruz	USA U-18	NTDP	RW	6-0	178	41	NA
64	George, Isaiah	LONDON	OHL	D	6-0	195	53	NA
65	Kulonummi, Kasper	JOKERIT JR.	FIN-JR.	D	6-0	178	29	ITL
66	Salin, Otto	HIFK JR.	FIN-JR.	D	5-11	187	23	ITL
67	McConnell-Barker, Bryce	SAULT STE. MARIE	OHL	C	6-1	193	34	NA
68	Warren, Noah	GATINEAU	QMJHL	D	6-5	216	33	NA
69	Perevalov, Alexander	YAROSLAVL	RUS-JR.	LW	6-0	191	14	ITL
70	Kaskimaki, Aleksanteri	HIFK JR.	FIN-JR.	C	6-0	181	25	ITL
71	Zhilkin, Danny	GUELPH	OHL	C	6-1	189	35	NA
72	Sykora, Adam	NITRA	SLOVAKIA	LW	5-10	172	42	ITL
73	Fimis, Pano	NIAGARA	OHL	C	5-10	175	75	NA
74	Kyrou, Christian	ERIE	OHL	D	5-10	182	48	NA
75	Duda, Artem	CSKA	RUS-JR.	D	6-1	187	28	ITL
76	Duke, Tyler	USA U-18	NTDP	D	5-8	179	201	NA
77	Devine, Jack	DENVER	NCHC	RW	5-11	173	65	NA
78	Lindgren, Mats	KAMLOOPS	WHL	D	5-11	173	47	NA
79	Sova, Spencer	ERIE	OHL	D	6-0	185	80	NA
80	Orlov, Daniil	YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK	RUS-JR.	D	6-2	180	36	ITL
81	Koromysov, Arseni	SKA ST. PETERSBURG	RUS-JR.	D	6-3	180	50	ITL
82	Donovan, Jorian	HAMILTON	OHL	D	6-1	182	81	NA
83	Hayes, Gavin	FLINT	OHL	LW	6-2	177	51	NA
84	Suzdalev, Alexander	HV 71 JR.	SWE-JR.	LW	6-2	172	26	ITL
85	Livanavage, Jake	CHICAGO	USHL	D	5-10	157	54	NA
86	Dumais, Jordan	HALIFAX	QMJHL	RW	5-8	165	73	NA
87	Matikka, Miko	JOKERIT JR.	FIN-JR.	RW	6-3	187	32	ITL
88	Persson, Ludwig	FROLUNDA JR.	SWE-JR.	LW	6-0	178	46	ITL
89	Kvochko, Ilya	MAGNITOGORSK	RUS-JR.	C	5-9	167	81	ITL
90	Spicer, Cole	USA U-18	NTDP	C	5-10	175	121	NA
91	Langlois, Jeremy	CAPE BRETON	QMJHL	D	6-0	186	60	NA
92	Jansson, Ludvig	SODERTALJE	SWE-2	D	6-0	176	35	ITL
93	Wagner, Fabian	LINKOPING JR.	SWE-JR.	C	5-11	170	27	ITL
94	Konyen, Evan	SUDBURY	OHL	RW	5-10	169	85	NA
95	Toms, Connor	SAULT STE. MARIE	OHL	D	6-0	163	-	-
96	Brennan, Tyler	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	G	6-4	184	1	NA
97	Gazizov, Ruslan	LONDON	OHL	LW	5-11	180	149	NA
98	Filmon, Josh	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	LW	6-2	160	38	NA
99	Verreault, Antonin	GATINEAU	QMJHL	LW	5-8	162	140	NA
100	Jelsma, Beau	BARRIE	OHL	C	5-10	174	88	NA

RANK	NAME	TEAM	LEAGUE	POS	HT	WT	CSS	REG
101	Savoie, Samuel	GATINEAU	QMJHL	LW	5-10	189	90	NA
102	Bump, Alex	PRIOR LAKE	HIGH-MN	LW	6-0	195	63	NA
103	Moravec, David	ML. BOLES LAV	CZREP	D	6-1	189	44	ITL
104	Kurth, Connor	DUBUQUE	USHL	RW	5-11	207	209	NA
105	Ronni, Topi	TAPPARA JR.	FIN-JR.	C	6-2	179	31	ITL
106	Alscher, Marek	PORTLAND	WHL	D	6-3	196	177	NA
107	Seminoff, Matthew	KAMLOOPS	WHL	RW	5-11	180	72	NA
108	Siepmann, Grayden	CALGARY	WHL	D	5-10	175	79	NA
109	Furlong, Jake	HALIFAX	QMJHL	D	6-1	189	68	NA
110	Robertson, Tucker	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	C	5-11	190	162	NA
111	Booth, Angus	SHAWINIGAN	QMJHL	D	6-0	177	92	NA
112	Knuble, Cole	FARGO	USHL	RW	5-10	175	84	NA
113	Buchelnikov, Dmitri	SKA ST. PETERSBURG	RUS-JR.	LW	5-10	168	-	-
114	Hokkanen, Otto	SAIPA	FINLAND	C	6-2	184	55	ITL
115	Lundell, Kasper	HIFK JR.	FIN-JR.	C	5-11	174	48	ITL
116	Gustafson, Jordan	SEATTLE	WHL	C	5-11	178	43	NA
117	Nguyen, Marcus	PORTLAND	WHL	RW	5-10	172	-	-
118	Ponomaryov, Alexandr	TOGLIATTI	RUS-JR.	RW	5-9	165	92	ITL
119	Burnside, Davis	DUBUQUE	USHL	RW	5-11	176	199	NA
120	Dyck, Reid	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	G	6-3	190	8	NA
121	Fleming, Maddox	SIoux FALLS	USHL	C	5-11	182	200	NA
122	Davydov, Daniil	ST. PETERSBURG	RUS-JR.	C	5-11	165	82	ITL
123	Petrovsky, Servac	OWEN SOUND	OHL	C	5-10	172	58	NA
124	Arnsby, Liam	NORTH BAY	OHL	C	5-10	181	115	NA
125	Zhigalov, Ivan	SHERBROOKE	QMJHL	G	6-3	167	2	NA
126	Dolzhenkov, Kirill	CSKA 2	RUS-JR.	RW	6-6	234	22	ITL
127	Gardner, Daimon	WARROAD	HIGH-MN	C	6-4	200	97	NA
128	Laakso, Elmeri	SAIPA JR.	FIN-JR.	D	6-1	185	66	ITL
129	Pettersson, Elias	OREBRO JR.	SWE-JR.	D	6-2	185	37	ITL
130	Jonsson, Joel	MORA JR.	SWE-JR.	RW	5-9	152	-	-
131	Lund, Cameron	GREEN BAY	USHL	C	6-2	185	40	NA
132	Stonehouse, Brady	OTTAWA	OHL	RW	5-10	182	152	NA
133	Weir, Jace	RED DEER	WHL	D	6-2	183	56	NA
134	Yakupov, Raul	NIZHNEKAMSK	RUS-JR.	C	6-1	168	-	-
135	Bourosh, Daniil	ROUYN-NORANDA	QMJHL	RW	6-1	181	143	NA
136	Lisowsky, Brandon	SASKATOON	WHL	LW	5-8	171	74	NA
137	Loshing, Yoan	MONCTON	QMJHL	LW	5-9	162	128	NA
138	White, Gavin	HAMILTON	OHL	D	6-0	181	-	-
139	Karabela, Jake	GUELPH	OHL	C	5-11	160	62	NA
140	Buchinger, Michael	GUELPH	OHL	D	6-0	175	30	NA
141	Ali, Brennan	AVON OLD FARMS	HIGH-CT	C	6-0	193	83	NA
142	Silverstein, Dylan	USA U-18	NTDP	G	6-0	179	3	NA
143	Kudryavtsev, Kirill	SAULT STE. MARIE	OHL	D	6-0	200	108	NA
144	Mayer, Samuel	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	D	6-3	200	139	NA
145	D'Amato, Luca	FLINT	OHL	D	5-8	154	-	-
146	Sulku, Santeri	JOKERIT JR.	FIN-JR.	LW	6-3	185	54	ITL
147	Kangas, Gabriel	VASTERAS	SWE-2	C	5-11	174	-	-
148	Asplund, Oskar	ALMTUNA	SWE-2	D	5-11	174	65	ITL
149	Jugnauth, Tyson	WEST KELOWNA	BCHL	D	5-11	155	66	NA
150	Guindon, Cedrick	OWEN SOUND	OHL	LW	5-10	170	59	NA

RANK	NAME	TEAM	LEAGUE	POS	HT	WT	CSS	REG
151	Leinonen, Topias	JYP JR.	FIN-JR.	G	6-4	214	1	ITL
152	Milne, Mikey	WINNIPEG	WHL	LW	5-10	185	119	NA
153	Allard, Owen	SAULT STE. MARIE	OHL	C	6-1	181	-	-
154	Lavoie, Zakary	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	RW	5-11	170	134	NA
155	Ward, Mathew	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	C	5-8	156	137	NA
156	Havelid, Hugo	LINKOPING JR.	SWE-JR.	G	5-10	170	2	ITL
157	Filak, Zach	SARNIA	OHL	C	6-2	185	-	-
158	Wright, Charlie	SASKATOON	WHL	D	6-0	175	142	NA
159	Leddy, Charlie	USA U-18	NTDP	D	6-1	184	117	NA
160	Sedoff, Christoffer	RED DEER	WHL	D	6-1	190	-	-
161	Ivanov, Sergei	SKA ST. PETERSBURG	RUS-JR.	G	5-11	165	-	-
162	Tourigny, Miguel	ACADIE-BATHURST	QMJHL	D	5-8	168	147	NA
163	Sward, Graham	SPOKANE	WHL	D	6-2	180	93	NA
164	Kapanen, Konsta	KALPA JR.	FIN-JR.	LW	5-9	163	111	ITL
165	Barbashev, Maxim	MONCTON	QMJHL	LW	6-1	181	98	NA
166	Hemmerling, Ben	EVERETT	WHL	RW	5-10	159	86	NA
167	Isogai, Kenta	YOUNGSTOWN	USHL	C	5-11	154	-	-
168	Greene, Ryan	GREEN BAY	USHL	C	6-1	174	46	NA
169	Roersma, Rylen	BRANDON	WHL	C	5-10	161	87	NA
170	Mathurin, Tnias	NORTH BAY	OHL	D	6-3	200	126	NA
171	Rymon, Dominik	KARLOVY VARY JR.	CZREP-JR.	RW	5-11	147	90	ITL
172	Serpa, Joseph	KITCHENER	OHL	C	6-0	165	-	-
173	Abraham, Ryan	WINDSOR	OHL	C	5-8	168	-	-
174	Styf, Helmer	MODO JR.	SWE-JR.	C	5-11	165	105	ITL
175	Castle, Aiden	NIAGARA	OHL	RW	6-0	177	151	NA
176	Proos, William	ALMTUNA	SWE-2	LW	6-3	192	-	-
177	Bryant, Gavin	OWEN SOUND	OHL	C	5-10	190	179	NA
178	Stefan, James	PORTLAND	WHL	RW	6-0	173	157	NA
179	Locmelis, Dans	LULEA JR.	SWE-JR.	C	6-0	170	-	-
180	Ballard, Harrison	WELLINGTON	OJHL	C	6-2	181	-	-
181	Jedlicka, Maros	ZLOVEN	SLOVAKIA	LW	6-1	181	-	-
182	Kokko, Niklas	KARPAT JR.	FIN-JR.	G	6-3	184	9	ITL
183	Brunet, Frederic	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	D	6-2	176	113	NA
184	Pinkas, Matej	KOLIN	CZREP-2	D	6-2	190	88	ITL
185	Hejduk, Marek	USA U-18	NTDP	RW	6-0	184	159	NA
186	Gendron, Alexis	BLAIN-BOISBRIAND	QMJHL	RW	5-9	175	141	NA
187	Moldenhauer, Nicholas	CHICAGO	USHL	RW	5-10	170	39	NA
188	Jordan, Taos	OWEN SOUND	OHL	D	5-9	150	-	-
189	Lassila, Jere	JYP JR.	FIN-JR.	C	5-9	173	40	ITL
190	Crane, Brody	LONDON	OHL	LW	5-11	181	-	-
191	Mittelstadt, Luke	MADISON	USHL	D	5-11	175	168	NA
192	Fegaras, George	NORTH YORK	OJHL	D	6-1	188	82	NA
193	Smith, Colton	LONDON	OHL	LW	6-2	207	-	-
194	Muszelik, Tyler	USA U-18	NTDP	G	6-3	195	4	NA
195	Alfano, Sam	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	RW	6-4	205	207	NA
196	Johnsen, Martin	FARJESTAD JR.	SWE-JR.	C	5-10	168	64	ITL
197	Beaupit, Mason	SPOKANE	WHL	G	6-5	188	5	NA
198	Nordberg, Filip	SODERTALJE JR.	SWE-JR.	D	6-4	207	52	ITL
199	Hopkins, Ryan	PENTICTON	BCHL	D	6-2	175	101	NA
200	Anderson, Kent	GREEN BAY	USHL	D	6-3	200	189	NA

RANK	NAME	TEAM	LEAGUE	POS	HT	WT	CSS	REG
201	Littler, Cade	WENATCHEE	BCHL	C	6-3	197	187	NA
202	Malyavin, Andrei	SARNIA	OHL	D	5-10	150	-	-
203	Davies, Josh	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	LW	5-10	197	69	NA
204	Dowhaniuk, Keaton	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	D	6-0	165	120	NA
205	Edmonds, Lucas	KINGSTON	OHL	RW	5-11	185	104	NA
206	Thornton, Hudson	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	D	5-11	178	109	NA
207	Slavicek, Simon	FLINT	OHL	LW	6-0	170	-	-
208	Berard, Brady	USA U-18	NTDP	C	6-0	192	138	NA
209	Steklov, Kirill	LONDON	OHL	D	6-4	187	221	NA
210	Mori, Josh	PORTLAND	WHL	D	5-11	170	-	-
211	Namestnikov, Max	SARNIA	OHL	C	5-8	175	211	NA
212	Thompson, Ryder	PORTLAND	WHL	D	5-11	176	-	-
213	Divincentiis, Domenic	NORTH BAY	OHL	G	6-2	184	24	NA
214	Gaidamak, Vsevolod	OTTAWA	OHL	C	5-11	198	-	-
215	Ratkovic Berndtsson, Joel	FROLUNDA JR.	SWE-JR.	RW	6-0	179	-	-
216	Dorrington, Jackson	DES MOINES	USHL	D	6-2	192	71	NA
217	Dionicio, Rodwin	NIAGARA	OHL	D	6-2	207	118	NA
218	Woodworth, Luke	DRUMMONDVILLE	QMJHL	C	5-9	155	198	NA
219	Tichacek, Jiri	KLADNO	CZREP	D	5-9	170	-	-
220	Jackson, Kyle	NORTH BAY	OHL	C	6-2	191	158	NA
221	Delic, Kocho	SUDBURY	OHL	C	5-10	184	122	NA
222	Pettersson, Oscar	ROGLE JR.	SWE-JR.	RW	6-2	198	43	ITL
223	Flamand, Nolan	KELOWNA	WHL	C	5-9	171	218	NA
224	King, Ben	RED DEER	WHL	C	6-3	205	96	NA
225	Suomi, Jimi	TPS	FINLAND	D	5-10	154	112	ITL
226	Oster, Jacob	GUELPH	OHL	G	6-3	187	18	NA
227	Finley, Quinn	MADISON	USHL	LW	6-0	168	36	NA
228	Raiman, Lauri	PELICANS JR.	FIN-JR.	C	5-10	160	117	ITL
229	Spacek, David	SHERBROOKE	QMJHL	D	6-0	174	55	NA
230	Bookman, Zachary	BROOKS	AJHL	D	5-10	175	163	NA
231	Cerbone, Andon	CHICAGO	USHL	LW	5-9	150	-	-
232	Komarov, Vsevolod	QUEBEC	QMJHL	D	6-2	182	170	NA
233	Cooke, Brice	NIAGARA	OHL	LW	6-2	190	183	NA
234	Marcel, Marcel	PLZEN JR.	CZREP-JR.	LW	6-3	216	77	ITL
235	Buckberger, Boston	BROOKS	AJHL	D	5-11	172	-	-
236	Chyzowski, Kyle	PORTLAND	WHL	C	5-10	157	-	-
237	Sim, Landon	LONDON	OHL	RW	5-10	166	215	NA
238	Karlsson, Gustav	OREBRO JR.	SWE-JR.	C	6-1	165	59	ITL
239	Newcombe, Jacob	CHICOUTIMI	QMJHL	C	6-0	198	133	NA
240	Hay, Kolby	EDMONTON	WHL	G	6-4	186	20	NA
241	Dezoete, Justin	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	RW	6-0	183	-	-
242	Hardie, James	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	LW	6-0	183	148	NA
243	Noren, Jakob	MODO JR.	SWE-JR.	D	5-9	170	-	-
244	Murashov, Sergei	LOKO-76 YAROSLAVL	RUS-JR.	G	6-0	167	7	ITL
245	Hvidston, Connor	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	LW	6-2	164	107	NA
246	Juntorp, Nils	HV 71 JR.	SWE-JR.	LW	6-1	185	-	-
247	Wilmer, Jeremy	TRI-CITY	USHL	C	5-7	141	-	-
248	Vilmanis, Sandis	LULEA JR.	SWE-JR.	LW	6-1	192	39	ITL
249	Zloty, Ben	WINNIPEG	WHL	D	6-0	174	-	-
250	Rolofs, Stuart	OSHAWA	OHL	LW	6-2	201	-	-

RANK	NAME	TEAM	LEAGUE	POS	HT	WT	CSS	REG
251	Becher, Ondrej	HAVIROV JR.	CZREP-JR.	C	6-1	172	74	ITL
252	DeAngelis, Nicholas	WINDSOR	OHL	D	5-11	174	-	-
253	Babcock, John	KELOWNA	WHL	D	6-0	201	-	-
254	Hauser, Petr	SPARTA JR.	CZREP-JR.	RW	6-3	200	100	ITL
255	Dubinsky, Aiden	TRI-CITY	USHL	D	6-0	185	176	NA
256	Gaudet, Marc-Andre	ACADIE-BATHURST	QMJHL	D	6-3	180	100	NA
257	Gustafsson, Lukas	CHICAGO	USHL	D	5-10	190	-	-
258	Rochette, Theo	QUEBEC	QMJHL	C	5-10	168	-	-
259	Almgren, Tim	OREBRO JR.	SWE-JR.	C	5-10	152	-	-
260	Feist, Layton	REGINA	WHL	D	5-10	167	212	NA
261	Bell, Parker	TRI-CITY	WHL	LW	6-4	192	112	NA
262	Hujer, Jakob	ROUYN-NORANDA	QMJHL	C	6-3	190	150	NA
263	Perkins, Matthew	HUMBOLDT	SJHL	LW	5-11	175	106	NA
264	Boucher, Evan	HALIFAX	QMJHL	LW	6-2	201	-	-
265	Healey, Ryan	SIOUX FALLS	USHL	D	6-0	172	70	NA
266	Young, Ty	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	G	6-3	181	6	NA
267	Spunar, Jan	OLOMOUC JR.	CZREP-JR.	G	6-3	185	3	ITL
268	Vidicek, Markus	HALIFAX	QMJHL	C	5-9	155	116	NA
269	Croteau, Emmett	WATERLOO	USHL	G	6-3	195	10	NA
270	Bocharov, Pavel	MEDICINE HAT	WHL	D	6-0	184	185	NA
271	Cote, Justin	DRUMMONDVILLE	QMJHL	LW	5-6	158	202	NA
272	Schuurman, Brayden	VICTORIA	WHL	C	5-10	191	76	NA
273	Mangbo, Axel	SIOUX CITY	USHL	G	6-3	174	26	NA
274	Mathieu, Jacob	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	C	5-10	168	204	NA
275	Szturc, Gabriel	KELOWNA	WHL	C	5-10	176	-	-
276	Filion, Vincent	MONCTON	QMJHL	G	6-0	181	13	NA
277	Sotek, Alex	BRATISLAVA	SLOVAKIA	RW	6-0	176	45	ITL
278	Dorey, Noah	KELOWNA	WHL	D	6-3	192	-	-
279	Trenholm, Connor	SAINT JOHN	QMJHL	C	6-1	192	-	-
280	Muir, Kaden	USA U-18	NTDP	D	6-1	185	-	-
281	Graham, Max	KELOWNA	WHL	C	6-2	181	156	NA
282	Iasenza, Francesco	MONCTON	QMJHL	D	5-11	180	154	NA
283	Milic, Thomas	SEATTLE	WHL	G	6-0	175	28	NA
284	Roy, Pier-Olivier	VICTORIAVILLE	QMJHL	D	5-10	173	160	NA
285	Biggar, Zach	ACADIE-BATHURST	QMJHL	D	6-0	179	-	-
286	Bowman, Braeden	GUELPH	OHL	RW	6-1	204	194	NA
287	Plos, Lukas	LIBREC JR.	CZREP-JR.	C	6-4	198	58	ITL
288	Savard, Tyler	SAULT STE. MARIE	OHL	LW	6-2	179	-	-
289	Reynolds, Peter	SAINT JOHN	QMJHL	C	5-10	168	-	-
290	Geisel, Paxton	DUBUQUE	USHL	G	6-1	189	19	NA
291	Kieper, Matthew	REGINA	WHL	G	6-1	181	-	-
292	Mancini, Roberto	SAGINAW	OHL	D	6-3	202	222	NA
293	Canonica, Lorenzo	SHAWINIGAN	QMJHL	C	5-11	179	-	-
294	Edward, Jackson	LONDON	OHL	D	6-3	186	123	NA
295	Beland, Julien	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	LW	6-3	184	195	NA
296	Kmec, Viliam	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	D	6-2	198	186	NA
297	Powell, Seamus	USA U-18	NTDP	D	6-0	166	169	NA
298	Robin, Louis	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	RW	5-7	148	-	-
299	McCutcheon, Logan	LETHBRIDGE	WHL	D	5-9	150	-	-
300	Dunbar, Tyler	MUSKEGON	USHL	D	6-1	189	175	NA

**SHANE WRIGHT**

**1**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 199**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KINGSTON	OHL	63	32	62	94	22

Shane Wright is an elite two-way center with incredible offensive ability. It's not often you watch players where you really struggle to find too many weaknesses at this level, but he has been that way for a while now. His intelligence on the ice is second-to-none and on full display in his playmaking, his lane pursuit, and his awareness. Wright adds a pro caliber shot to his toolbox that will allow him to be a multi-dimensional offensive threat at the NHL level, sooner rather than later. He's so mature in his defensive game and because of that, he is just as effective defensively as he is offensively. He knows the nuances of playing the center position and can properly support his defenders on every play. He never seems to be caught out of position and remains engaged and effective on both the rush and the cycle. The biggest issue with Wright's game this season was his inconsistent offensive production. Through the Christmas break, he wasn't producing the way a top-tier draft eligible prospect would in the OHL, but he put most of the questions about his production to rest with his amazing second-half explosion. There was an odd amount of discourse surrounding Wright's stature as the top player in this class given the way his season went. While it wasn't completely unwarranted, it is important to remember he missed essentially the entire 2020-21 season due to the pandemic, and had insane expectations coming off his rookie season. The way Wright rebounded in the latter half of the year showed enough to remind people why he can be a future top-line center in the NHL for years to come and why he is considered the odds-on favorite to be the number one selection in the NHL Draft.

**LOGAN COOLEY**

**2**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 174**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U18	NTDP	51	27	48	75	67

Logan Cooley gives the draft class two legit options down the middle for the first time in a few classes. He is an exciting, creative center that has skill in spades. What jumps out first is his skating ability. He's so light on his feet, almost floating around the ice with fluid, yet crisp, edgework. His ability to change his pace and direction at the drop of a hat really pop off the page when you watch him play, to the chagrin of defenders. He is a very intelligent player, reading the play well, knowing how to get open, and most importantly, where he needs to be to best support his teammates. He has a good, quick release in his shot. He possesses great vision moving the puck around. He shows some promise defensively as well, rushing back to support his team and defenders. One of the few flaws in his game is his tendency to try and do too much with the puck in high-traffic situations. He can handle the puck in a phone booth with a masterful set of mitts, and has the confidence and skill to try high-risk, high-reward moves, but can do this to a fault on occasion and to the detriment of his own game. If he learns when to rein in his confidence with the puck and pick his spots a little more carefully he will be a much more dangerous and unpredictable player off the rush. It's difficult to find any other glaring faults in his game, but I would like to see him add some strength to his game, as it will allow him to make the transition to the college and professional ranks that much easier. If he's able to beef up that size and strength, Cooley has the potential to become a true No. 1 center in the NHL, and whoever drafts him should feel very confident they're getting a crucial building block for their organization's future.

**JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY**

**3**



**POS: LEFT WING**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-4**  
**WEIGHT: 229**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	TURKO	FIN	31	5	5	10	33

Juraj Slafkovsky drives offense from the wing. He's a massive winger who has made a strong case to challenge for first overall. He can play at a high pace and has impressive agility for someone his size. Using strong strides with his long legs, he can generate a lot of speed with just a few steps. While he lacks that extra gear to create separation, it's how well he protects the puck when challenged that makes up for any speed or burst concerns that may follow him. With strong stickhandling and the ability to move the puck in tight, he can control possession as well as the pace of the play. On-ice awareness in all three zones is another aspect of his game where he excels, making the extra effort on backchecks as well as going down low to support his blueliners when defending. He also uses his stick very well, taking advantage of his long reach to win battles to loose pucks. He has such immense offensive potential that it can be frustrating to see him pass up great scoring opportunities for himself and teammates. Learning how to take what's given to him and remove moments of tunnel-vision from his game is something he will need to improve on to be a more consistent impact player when attacking. His unique blend of size and skill could make him a dominant player at the NHL level. He is the ultimate swing on upside while still having a solid floor. If he becomes the player he is capable of developing into, there is little doubt Slafkovsky will be a force at the NHL for the next 15 years and people will wonder why there was even a debate about the top pick in this class. If he doesn't hit his that potential, he's still got potential as a top-six scoring winger who impacts the game regularly.

**SIMON NEMEC**

**4**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 199**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NITRA	SVK	39	1	25	26	20

Simon Nemeč is a mobile two-way and highly-intelligent Slovak blueliner with all the makings of an elite top pairing defenseman. The standout in his game is his poise and confidence with the puck on his stick and how that is able to fuel his advanced playmaking game. He's a heads-up player at the offensive blue line, constantly surveying the offensive zone with his head on a swivel when the puck is on his stick to identify where teammates and potential offensive threats are. He's a smooth skater who is able to walk the line and use his legs to activate from the point when the puck is on his stick, allowing him to open up passing and shooting lanes with his mobility as well as making opposing checkers bite with his hands and shoulder fakes. His offensive vision is excellent, as he's capable of finding teammates with cross-ice passes to set up one-time opportunities and can feed teammates in the slot when handling the puck along the boards. He's a crisp and accurate passer who can deliver passes on the tape with purpose, as well as being capable of making soft finesse passes off both his forehand and backhand. He is also a more than capable puck-mover, as when he's working at his best his mobility, vision, and passing ability all combine to allow him to move pucks to teammates to start the breakout or move pucks himself. He's a capable defender who owns a good stick to breakup opposing rushes when defending in transition and he's generally well-positioned when defending in his own zone. In order to maximize his potential, Nemeč will need to continue to work on his consistency in his reads to trim out some defensive turnovers out of his game, as well as show more growth in his strength and physicality.

**DAVID JIRICEK**

**5**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-3**  
**WEIGHT: 189**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PLZEN	CZE	29	5	6	11	49

David Jiricek is an exceptional two-way defenseman who really helps drive the transition play with his mobility and his puck skills. He possesses a ton of patience and poise with the puck on his stick, using his head to scan the play, oftentimes looking like a veteran well above his age. He rarely rushes a decision with the puck, scanning all possible options before delivering a pass. His passing is one of his best attributes, making strong outlet dishes from the defensive zone to push the play up ice. There is not a pass on the ice that he doesn't feel he can't make, which makes it even more impressive that he rarely forces a low percentage pass that'll result in a turnover. His size and high-end skating make him a force at the defensive end of the ice. His ability to defend the rush is top-notch, using his body and stick to maintain solid gap control and easily steer oncoming attackers away from the center lane and completely negating their offensive momentum. Like any young player, there is some mental errors in his game that will start to disappear as he gets older and gains more playing experience and maturity. There are some mistimed pinches at times, leaving him having to race back to catch the play after getting burnt. On occasion, he tries to add some creativity in his game, from a little stutter-step at the blue line to a squeeze down the boards. This tends to end up in a turnover, so he should try to keep his game a little simpler. He projects as a top-pairing defenseman who will be heavily relied on to play in all situations in the NHL. Jiricek has the physical gifts and the skillset to make a massive impact from the back end. It would not be a surprise if he is the first defenseman taken in the NHL Draft.

**CUTTER GAUTHIER**

**6**



**POS: LEFT WING**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-2**  
**WEIGHT: 189**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	54	34	31	65	49

Cutter Gauthier is a power forward with higher-end skill than your average player of his cut. He makes his presence felt on every shift, throwing his body around and getting involved in every scrum he can. He has the ability to drive transitional play, which is a trait that scouts will value highly. He has impressive puck-handling skills for a player who plays a power game and has above-average skating ability that allows him to keep up with a higher pace of play. He has risen up the ranks all season because of his ability to get to the high-danger scoring areas and use his NHL-caliber shot to beat goalies with a high consistency rate. He has positional flexibility as well, playing both the wing and down the middle. Although he's more comfortable on the wing, it's a nice insurance policy knowing that he is capable of playing multiple positions. He's not an overly flashy player, and won't make any jaw-dropping one-on-one moves that bring the crowd to the edge of their seats, or even out of it. But what he will do is pick up the puck, stick his head down and drive the center lane to create a quality primary scoring chance for himself or a second-chance opportunity for a teammate. If there were any issues or concerns with his game, it's his consistency. One night he will look like the best player on the ice and a go-to threat for his team, but on another he will blend into the crowd a little too much and be a passenger when he's on the ice. This can easily be fixed as he develops and matures more with age. Gauthier is the one player who could very well go earlier than people expect because of his attributes and the fact that NHL teams really value the rare combination of skills that this player possesses.

**FRANK NAZAR**

**7**



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	56	28	42	70	20

Frank Nazar is a versatile forward who has potential as a dynamic, offensive winger with a knack for setting up his teammates in prime shooting locations. He has excellent patience with the puck on his stick, and because of his playmaking instincts he always seems to know where his teammates are on the ice. He's a strong skater with long, powerful strides, allowing him to push the pace of play as he carries the puck up and down the ice. He combines his high-end skating ability with quick hands and good puck control, allowing him to be a deadly creator when attacking off the rush. He has the ability to take defenders out wide and bait them into overcommitting before he quickly changes pace and leaves them in the dust. Defensively, there are some inconsistencies in his game. At times he shows a strong sense of positional discipline and high-effort making him a strong defensive player, but at other times he leaves a lot to be desired. He can get caught puck-watching too, forcing him to wander out of position or into his teammates area and leaving his assignment wide open for a pass. He seems to have a split opinion of him amongst some people in the draft community, but there is a lot to like about a player with his skillset. The next steps for him are to become more reliant on his own skillset and become a more consistent play driver rather than deferring to his teammates, which he does too frequently. With his skillset, he can develop into an effective two-way winger with the potential to be a play driving winger and slot in anywhere in a team's top-nine. Nazar's skillset and ability to play anywhere in a team's lineup should make him very appealing to NHL teams looking to add skill to their lineup.

**KEVIN KORCHINSKI**

**8**



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SEATTLE	WHL	67	4	61	65	40

Kevin Korchinski is one of the top offensive defensemen available in this year's NHL Draft. He's a magnificent skater who will dazzle you with his edgework and crossovers as he patrols the offensive blue line. He does a fantastic job of working the puck on the blue line and getting it towards the middle of the ice to get a better shot towards the net. He's got a nice long stride and great acceleration, which allows him to retrieve pucks before anyone else. It also aids him in catching opponents off guard and closing the gap on them quickly. His puck-handling abilities are also a strong point of his game. If he gets the puck under pressure he's able to shake them off with a quick spin, head-fake or some nice stick work and dance around them. He's a solid passer who won't miss any open options, but he also has the odd turnover when an easy option isn't available, calling into question a little bit his ability or desire to keep things on the safer side at times. He is a highly intelligent player who plays at a high pace. While this is great when he or his team has the puck, when it comes to defending he can get a little over-zealous and lose his positioning. He also struggles at times when it comes to using his body to defend physically, though that's an element that may simply come with time. One-on-one battles become a struggle if he's not able to use his stick to strip someone. However, the good news with this is he has size and with lots of room on his large frame to beef up, which may help him tune the physical part of his game. Korchinski showed this season he's got the potential to become a top-four defenseman in the NHL who could also contribute regularly on the power play.

**BRAD LAMBERT**

**9**



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PELICANS	FIN	49	4	6	10	43

Brad Lambert is a great-skating forward with the offensive tools to be an elite player, while also showing large flaws that justify his plummet down NHL Draft boards. Comfortably, he is a top skater in this year's class. Aided by the wider ice in Finland, he uses this skill to be a constant threat in transition. He has two main threats when in the offensive zone. First, his vision can find open teammates' sticks and set them up with great chances. When not given the space to fire off these special passes, he can easily create that space. His great hands, aided by strong skating, makes him shifty and slippery for opposing defenders. His vision and puck skills are also among the top of his class. His shot is fairly average among first-round caliber players, but is also a secondary part of his game. In the offensive zone, there is some fair criticism of his game. Far too often, he can go for a home run when more practical options are available. He is less adept in the defensive zone, too. He struggles on defensive zone coverage. Additionally, risky plays at the offensive blue line and neutral zone can also harm his team when he does not capitalize. And, of course, the lacking point production is a major red flag. He is a risky prospect, but his game tape shows a massively gifted offensive threat with the potential to be a great playmaking center in the NHL. Due to his struggles in Finland this season, it would not be surprising to see him continue his development in North America, either at the AHL or in the CHL. Lambert is comfortably a top-10 talent in the draft, with potential to be a great play-driving center in an NHL top-six should he pan out. The question is whether or not he will overcome his flaws to.

**PAVEL MINTYUKOV**

**10**



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 197

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAGINAW	OHL	67	17	45	62	28

Pavel Mintyukov is an offensive-minded defenseman who plays the game with an aggressive mindset. He uses his skating and offensive instincts to jump into the play every chance he can get. His vision and ability to read the defensive zone coverage are impressive for a blueliner. He can anticipate the play really well and adjust his positioning to get into an excellent position to create an offensive chance. When he's at his best, he has excellent playmaking instincts, and can manipulate passing lanes with his eyes and deliver crisp and accurate passes to his teammates in prime scoring areas. He has strong lateral mobility with the puck on his stick, making him a strong power play quarterback and facilitator from the top of the offensive zone. The concerns about him are mostly in relation to his high 'boom or bust' label. He has flashes of being an elite offensive zone player, but he can go a long time without being at the top of his game. There are inconsistencies in his passing and puck-handling ability, and if he can find a way to level that off it will significantly impact his long-term outlook in apposite way. Defensively he struggles to maintain solid gap control and at angling his opponents away from the perimeter. He's not a liability on defense, but goes through severe ups and downs when it comes to his defending. His game oozes confidence and he can process the game quickly, he just needs to improve on a few key defensive skills and consistency before jumping to the next level. Mintyukov has the potential to be a top-six, maybe even top-four blueliner at the NHL level who plays a significant role running a power play unit. If he doesn't develop, he may struggle to make any five-on-five impact.

**JOAKIM KEMELL**

**11**



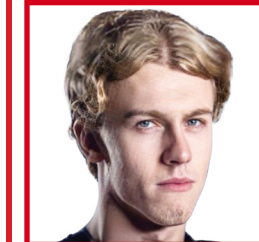
POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 171

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	JYP	FIN	39	15	8	23	2

Joakim Kemell is a talented forward who shot up draft boards to his incredible hot streak to start the season. The first thing is evidently clear about his game is his stellar puck skills. His hands set him up for success and has even seen him embarrass professional competition at select moments. Additionally, he possesses what most would argue is a top-5 shot in the draft class. He is also a fine skater. He can generate speed quickly, which allows him to be effective at transitioning from defense to offense. Even better, his forechecking is always a quality trait due to his stellar acceleration and strong edges. These tools also help in the defensive zone, allowing him to close in on opposing defensemen quickly, pressuring them into mistakes. In the defensive zone, his positioning is fairly adequate but his inactive stick in these instances does allow for plays to be made at the blue line. The other concern for him is how effective his offense is outside of his sniping ability. He is sometimes seem primarily as a perimeter player who benefited from his strong shot and some lucky bounces to inflate his scoring. He's not particularly strong, either, so driving towards the net is not something he does at a frequent enough pace. However, a lack of strength should be expected for a draft-eligible playing in a top professional European league. Given time and the right program, this is an element that shouldn't have long-term concern, and his strong skating and elite shot make a solid prospect worthy of his draft position. Kemell could, too, outperform that draft slot should he develop a more well-rounded offensive attack to compliment his shot and stay as an average defensive talent.

**JONATHAN LEKKERIMAKI**

**12**



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DJURGARDEN	SWE	26	7	2	9	0

Jonathan Lekkerimaki is one of the top wingers in the NHL Draft, and one who uses his elite shot and top-notch offensive instincts to be a force on the ice. He is a sniper through and through, make no mistake. He has a quick release and powerful shot that has the potential to score from almost any spot in the offensive zone. In order to allow himself the chance to show off that shot, he is smart and knows how to position himself in the way of opposing defenders in order to protect the puck. He is also a pretty strong skater who can hit a solid top speed. He is just an overall dynamo when on the power play, too. His primary option is to shoot, but his passing and ability to carry the puck towards the net are also super solid and allows him to be a bit more multi-dimensional. He has great agility and mobility, which affords him these chances to score on the rush or drive toward the net. On the defensive side of things, he is less thrilling. He can use his strong skating to be a large forechecking threat. Otherwise, he will need to continue maturing as a defender. As a smaller winger, he should not be expected to carry a massive load defensively, but his sense of open opposing skaters and stick positioning still needs to develop further, which should be expected just given time and more experience playing on the senior circuit as much as he did. His goal-scoring habits translated on professional level already, which is a positive sign, and he used it to exploit competition when at the junior level. Lekkerimaki has all the potential to be a contributor in a team's top-six and first unit power play, and his value to a team at the NHL Draft is that of a player who makes an impact when he crosses over the offensive blue line.

**MATTHEW SAVOIE** **13**





POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WINNIPEG	WHL	65	35	55	90	32

Matthew Savoie is an extremely intelligent playmaking forward who plays the game at a very high pace and was a very effective player in all situations this year, whether it was five-on-five, the power play, or even the penalty kill. He has the ability to play the game effectively at whatever pace is dictated. If the game is wide open, he's able to use his explosiveness to blow by blueliners the second they make a mistake trying to defend him, and if the game is more controlled he has a firm grasp on his defensive assignments and won't lose his positioning. Some players are able to move quickly when they have the puck but their hands aren't able to keep up. That's not the case with him. He's able to handle the puck extremely well at full speed and can make defenders look silly when he's one-on-one. He was lethal this year on the power play, and he's so deceptive when he has the puck he keeps opponents guessing what he's going to do. He displays a high compete-level, he's a hound on the forecheck and despite his size is not afraid of any puck battle. His defensive game also doesn't get enough credit. He's got good defensive positioning and shows good heart while killing penalties. He also has the ability to use his high hockey IQ to read the play and cause turnovers. The big knock on him really comes down to his size. He can sometimes get bottled up when he's going on a rush and get pushed off the puck, and although he is a hound on the puck he can't really use his body to separate anyone from the puck. Despite the physical limitations, a team will undoubtedly select Savoie early in the draft with the hopes he's able to develop into a top-six playmaking center.

**DANILO YUROV** **14**








POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 178

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MAGNITOGORSK	RUS	21	0	0	0	2

Daniilo Yurov has emerged as one of this year's highest upside prospects, and with good reason. He is a highly-skilled, dual-threat forward who is able to attack with a blend of creativity and high-end smarts. The most noticeable aspect of his offensive game is his skill and creativity with the puck on his stick. He's capable of making flashy one-on-one dekes to beat opposing defenders while attacking on the rush, leveraging his smooth puck skills, intelligence and patience to wait out defenders to open up holes to attack through. He sees the ice very well, particularly in the offensive zone where his spatial awareness allows him to identify soft areas of ice to make himself available as a shooter or set up passing lanes into high-danger areas for his teammates. He has a very capable shot that can beat netminders from medium range with either a well-placed wrist shot or a strong one-timer from the circles, while also showing advanced ability as a puck distributor that allows him to make quick reads and find teammates with difficult passes. He also has demonstrated strong smarts on the backcheck and in his own zone, able to pick off errant passes and quickly transition those turnovers into scoring chances. He has been a dominant player at the junior level, and will simply need to learn to penetrate the middle of the ice against stronger and quicker opponents at the pro level with more consistency as he develops. He has the potential to become an impact top-six forward at the NHL level with the ceiling to become a bonafide top-line winger and cornerstone piece for the NHL franchise that decides to draft him. That is, if Yurov is able to continually put all of his tools together while on the ice.

**RUTGER MCGROARTY** **15**

POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 200

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	54	35	34	69	65

Rutger McGroarty is an underrated, highly competitive scorer. He has such a specific profile that many NHL teams will covet. He possesses elite offensive traits, including high-end scoring instincts that will translate well to the professional level, but it's his physical gifts that will set him apart from other prospects. An extremely competitive player, he isn't shy to engage in physical play and throw his body weight around at both ends of the ice. There are many solid attributes in his game, but his shooting ability is his bread and butter and is what will make him a nightmare to play against. He generates a ton of power off his quick release and unlike a lot of younger players, his accuracy is very well refined. While many will consider him a sniper, he is a capable facilitator who can spot passing lanes and take advantage when the defense gives him an opening. He's a multi-dimensional player who poses a threat both off the rush and out of the cycle down low. If there are any weaknesses in his game, it has to be his overall skating ability. He has decent speed when he gets to reach his full execution, but has a choppy stride that doesn't allow him to generate quick bursts of speed and push the pace as a puck-carrier. Normally bad skating would be a big red flag, but we know that it's easier to improve than it once was and the other facets of his game easily outweighs any risk his skating ability poses. No doubt, NHL scouts value goal-scoring, leadership, and high-effort levels, and certainly he brings all of that to the table. McGroarty's physical traits, hockey skills, and production are tough to ignore and he has the potential to be a top-six scoring forward for a decade-plus if he should hit his full potential.

**MARCO KASPER** **16**






POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 183

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ROGLE	SWE	46	7	4	11	17

Marco Kasper is a speedy and skilled forward with so much to like in his game. With a strong willingness to play in the high-danger areas of the ice, he will take a beating to create scoring chances and drive offense. Playing at an extremely high pace, his feet are constantly moving, and he's able to build up a ton of speed quickly through crossovers and quick cuts. His speed makes him difficult to defend on the rush as he can easily beat defenders wide when attacking the zone. When going wide isn't an option, he has the puck skills to play one-on-one and beat his man with the use of quick hands. With how intense he plays, it's no surprise that he thrives in tight spaces where his high-end motor enables him to drive through checks and win battles on the board for possession of the puck. He doesn't back down or shy away in these instances one bit. Because of this skill, he directly makes positive impacts to his teams overall possession time while on offense. He doesn't have the greatest velocity on his shot, however, which limits his effectiveness from further out when putting the puck on net. This is something he will eventually get better at as he builds up strength but again, he succeeds because of how well he is able to get to the front of the net. With how strong his effort level is, it's no surprise that he is already showing signs of a solid two-way player. He's got some versatility as well, with the option of placing him down the middle or on the wing depending on the set of circumstances. The offensive production may never be elite at the NHL level for him, but the micro-stats is where Kasper will be very impactful given his willingness and determination to attack with ferocity.

**DENTON MATEYCHUK** **17**





POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 188

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MOOSE JAW	WHL	66	13	51	64	15

Denton Mateychuk is an offensively gifted defenseman who exudes confidence when he has the puck. His desire to be a difference-maker is noticeable every time he steps on the ice. He's a terrific skater who has a wide stance with a low center of gravity which allows him to get a lot of power with each stride. Coupled with the powerful stride, he displays great edgework that he's able to utilize in many ways, whether it's working the offensive blue line to get a better lane to the net, making opponents miss as he's rushing the puck up the ice, or shaking forecheckers off as he retrieves the puck in his own end to start a breakout. He also processes the game at an elite level, which makes him a force in the offensive zone. He's great at picking his spots to pinch in order to sustain pressure for his team, and he reads the play so well that he's able to jump off the blue line into some open ice to make himself a dangerous option. The odd time one of his reads doesn't go as planned, he's got the determination to get back in time defensively to minimize any opportunity against his team. He can be an aggressive defender in his own zone, too. He uses his anticipation to cut off cycle attempts or any cross-ice passes near him. Due to him trying to read the play so often, there are moments where he can lose his check because he's trying so hard to beat the puck to where it's going next. He can shore that up as he matures. He could also benefit from adding weight to his frame. He's just not able to impose himself physically on others, which may hinder his defensive abilities. Mateychuk's best-case projection could be as high as a top-pair blueliner, but can become a top-four who quarterback's a power play unit.

**LIAM OHGREN** **18**





POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 187

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DJURGARDEN	SWEJR	30	33	25	58	6

Liam Ohgren is a phenomenal offensive winger who has a variety of ways to create offense if given space in the opponent's zone. For one, he is a fantastic puck distributor. He can dish the puck to open teammates, especially below the circles on his usual power play spot. When with the puck, he can deke and dangle opponents when needed to bypass defenders. In flashes, he shows top-end skill and brilliance that indicate he is one of the highest-upside players in the draft class. While the skill with his hands and playmaking ability are his primary offensive tools, he also does impress with his shot. He can quickly change angles and manipulate his shot angle in order to release quick pucks off that can either beat goalies or create rebound opportunities. The only thing he needs to do to his offensive game: simplify. Too often he will try to do too much and lose possession of the puck, causing ill-timed turnovers. With a more developed, simple, and practical game, he can become an even better offensive threat. In the defensive zone, his play takes an expected dip. His positioning could be better, often seen cheating for offense. Probably most worrisome, his use of his stick is not ideal. He tries too often to pokecheck his opponents, when a less aggressive, more positional style of defense would have been more suitable in defending the rush. He should see his name called in the first round of the NHL Draft, considering his multifaceted offensive game is one of the best in the draft class. With a more patient attitude in the offensive and refinement in the defensive zone, best-case Ohgren should develop into a second-line scoring winger who performs well on the power play for his team.



**OWEN PICKERING**

19



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 178

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	62	9	24	33	39

Owen Pickering is a tall, rangy defender whose long-term potential has scouts salivating. He's a solid two-way defender who is only just scratching the surface of what he can do in all facets of the game. He's already the top guy for Swift Current, logging massive minutes. For a blueliner of his huge size his skating is his best attribute, skills that were honed before a late growth spurt. He has a powerful, clean stride and good foot speed. He likes to carry the puck up from his own zone and has the fluidity of feet and the sureness of hands to do it well. He's just as impressive skating backwards, able to crossover cleanly, which helps him maintain a good gap while defending rush opportunities. He is an effective passer. He makes good decisions on breakouts and is able to pass the puck to teammates while they're breaking out in stride. He possesses both an NHL-caliber wrist and slap shot from the point. He uses his long reach to his advantage while defending in his zone, as he is able to break up cycle attempts by poke-checking or he can easily pick off passes simply because his reach is so long. An attribute he could try and develop a bit more is his offensive instinct. He more often than not makes the safe decision when it comes to things like pinching in the offensive zone or taking open ice given to him, not truly opening things up himself or helping drive the puck to the net. While making the safe decision definitely isn't a horrible thing, he could benefit his team by being more aggressive and assertive in certain situations. Pickering has taken major strides in his development, and it still seems like he is only just getting started. That thought makes him an intriguing fit for a team looking to the blue line.

**RYAN CHESLEY**

20



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 195

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	59	12	17	29	69

Ryan Chesley is a strong, two-way defender who does tend to place more emphasis on the defensive side of the game. With his strong skating and positional discipline, he is a strong rush defender and more than adequate when the opposition has a longer stay in his end. He uses his footwork and his stick positioning to force puck-carriers away from the center lane to negate potential high-danger chances off the rush. Offensively, he does have the ability to drive transitional play. He's a strong skater with good vision and a knack for making a crisp and accurate first pass. His offensive production doesn't jump off the page at all, which may lower some people's opinion of him, especially with the way the game is evolving but just because his production isn't impressive doesn't mean his ability to play the offensive game is lacking. There may be some hidden offensive creativity however, after he played the de facto stay-at-home role when routinely paired with the offensive Lane Hutson, who loved to push the envelope offensively. His biggest issue is his ceiling. He's not all that flashy and won't wow anyone with an abundance of highly skilled plays, but what he will do is play quality minutes and rarely put his team behind the eight-ball whenever he is out there. He flashed a bit of his offensive potential at the Under-18s and showed what he can do when he decides to take the reins off himself. If he can be the player he was at that late-season tournament more consistently, then there'd be more belief he has a much higher ceiling at the NHL level. Chesley isn't the flashiest of prospects, but is the type of player who will carve out a long and quality career because of the reliable presence he brings when he's on the ice.

**GLEB TRIKOZOV**

21



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OMSK	RUSJR	35	23	22	45	22

Gleb Trikozov is a skilled and creative forward who thrives at generating offense through extended periods of puck possession. He is immediately noticeable with the puck on his stick due to his advanced puck skills and offensive creativity. He is a very shifty and elusive player, able to stickhandle through traffic in the offensive zone and evade checks through quick pivots, allowing him to extend offensive zone possession of the puck and open up attacking lanes. He often shows high-end offensive instincts, displaying equal ability as both a finisher and a set-up man. He reads the offensive zone very well, able to make plays off the cycle to set up teammates or find soft spots of ice for himself to make himself available as a shooting option. He's a capable shooter, able to pick spots on opposing netminders while shooting from a standstill, though he could show improvement in his ability to shoot in stride as his shots while attacking on the rush generally lack the strength required to score from medium-to-long range. Though he shows high-end offensive traits, there are deficiencies in his overall decision-making that will need improvement for him to become a reliable pro player. He's guilty of working himself out of room and into situations where he's forced into turnovers, whether that be by having the puck poked off his own stick or by throwing the puck away when faced with limited space. He could also stand to show more engagement in his own zone. Overall, Trikozov has the potential to become a top-six forward at the NHL level, and will need to overcome his hurdles in his decision-making, defensive engagement, and add more strength to his frame to be a frequent contributor in the NHL.

**ISAAC HOWARD**

22



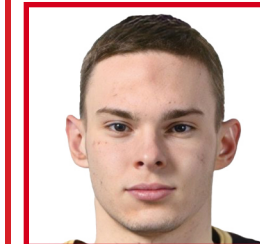
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SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 182

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	60	33	49	82	42

Isaac Howard is a high-end offensive creator whose hallmark appears to be his playmaking and ability to facilitate his team's offensive attack. He is a strong skater and has a bit of an edge, allowing him to be effective in 50/50 battles and creating opportunities out of the cycle because he isn't afraid to go into the high-traffic areas with the puck. He has a quality shot, and shows strong patience with the puck on his stick. Whether it be out of the cycle, or off the rush, he spots a lane he wants to attack and has the ability and confidence to attack that lane and create a quality chance for himself or a teammate. Confidence is never an issue with him, as he thinks he's the best player whenever he's on the ice and oftentimes his ability can back that notion up. In other words, he has a swagger to his game. When you examine him closely, there are two areas that may bring you some pause about him as a prospect. Those areas are his consistency and tendency to force a play rather than taking what the defense gives him. As he progresses closer to the professional ranks, he will need to get better at risk-management, and learn to take the easy play rather than forcing something that isn't there – otherwise NHL defenders will eat him up and cause him to turn the puck over at a high-rate. The other thing is his consistency. When he is on, he's arguably the best player on the ice. As he develops and matures he will have to learn to play at the same level on a nightly basis, otherwise his ceiling at the NHL level could be limited. Howard can be a top-six winger at the NHL level if he can level out the up-and-down swings, but because of his consistency issue he may end up being more of a complimentary middle-six player.

**IVAN MIROSHNICHENKO**

23



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OMSK KRYLIA	RUS2	31	10	6	16	6

Ivan Miroshnichenko, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in March, is a goal-scoring winger who excels at shot generation and owns one of the draft's best shots. He has long been considered one of the top scoring talents due to his advanced ability as a shooter and his ability to get open in soft areas of ice to make himself available to teammates. He owns a quick and deceptive release on his wrist shot, and he's able to shoot in stride and shoot off both feet with power and accuracy to beat netminders from range. He also owns a great one-timer, able to generate tremendous torque on the shaft of his stick get the puck on goal with power. It makes him a major weapon on the power play when set up in the circle on his off-wing. He also displays puck skills as a plus attribute, particularly when it comes to his hand-eye coordination. He's able to corral off-target passes in his feet or away from his body, which increases his threat as a scorer as it does not take a perfect pass to set him up in a high-danger scoring area. He is also a plus skater, able to move north-south well with good speed and acceleration that allows him to attack in transition. He's also a regularly engaged player and is able to fight through checks, showing good strength with the puck on his stick. Where he will need to find improvement in order to become a top-flight producer at the pro level is an added level to his creativity with the puck on his stick. He's capable of delivering passes to teammates and has reliable instincts, but struggles to break down well-positioned defenses. Miroshnichenko is a well-rounded forward with the tools to be a high-end top-six scorer, and will need to improve creativity to reach that.

**NOAH OSTLUND**

24



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 163

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DJURGARDEN	SWEJR	32	9	33	42	6

Noah Ostlund is an undersized center with potential to be one of the top offensive catalysts in the NHL Draft. He primarily makes his money in the offensive zone, using a variety of tools. For one, he processes the game at an immensely high level, allowing him to succeed as both a puck-carrier and passer. Even with opponents on his heels, he remains calm and collected, and can either use his elusiveness or vision to transport the puck. His shiftiness and quick edges allow him to separate from opponents and carry the puck, making up for his smaller frame. With space, he is a pass-first player who can hit the tape of a teammate's sticks quickly. Both the youngster's quickness and passing allow him to transition his team to the offensive zone efficiently. His shot is far from top notch, but he does possess a solid release that can fool netminders or allow for rebounds. In the defensive zone, he is a capable middle-man. He positions well, backchecks, and can use his stick and body to interfere with passing and shooting lanes. As expected, his main defensive flaw is his lackluster size. He rarely outmuscles opponents, and he can be easily outworked on 50/50 puck battles. He is too easily shielded from the puck by opposing skaters, too. Adding strength is an absolute necessity for him. In order to remain a center at the next level, he must develop physically, which should happen with time. He is an exciting prospect for the NHL Draft. His ability to process the game quickly and make great decisions in the offensive zone is among the best in this class. With more physical development in terms of his muscle mass, Ostlund should be a middle-six forward with high offensive and power play upside.

**JAGGER FIRKUS**

25



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 153

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MOOSE JAW	WHL	66	36	44	80	34

Jagger Firkus may be the biggest wildcard in this year's draft. His skillset and offensive potential scream top-six scoring winger who could also be dynamite on the power play. However, his size and skating leave question marks. It seems like every time he touches the puck he's going to do something to get you out of your seat. He's a top-notch playmaker who always knows what he's going to do with the puck before it reaches his stick. This is evident by how well he is able to find open seams and complete one-touch passes with regularity. His ability to process the play and understand where everyone is, friend or foe, is excellent. Off the rush or cycle, he's got a knack for feathering passes into a soft area of the ice that teammates are navigating their way towards. Another trademark trait is his slingshot-like wrist shot. He's got an extremely deceptive release and is able to pull the puck close to his body as he's releasing it to change the angle of the shot and fool goaltenders. The major worry with him is how much his physical traits will hold him back at the pro levels. As of right now, he's able to hold his own by using his smarts and puck skill. But will that be enough when everyone else is much bigger and stronger than him? Being short isn't a dealbreaker so long as a player is sturdy or a plus skater, but he is neither. There are a lot of times even at this level where he gets bottled up and eliminated from the play too easily, so that's an element of his game he needs to be sure to remedy. It'll be hard for Firkus to carve out a regular role in the NHL if he's not able to get stronger and faster. If he does, however, he may become a true steal because of the potential and upside he possesses.

**CONOR GEEKIE**

26



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 196

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WINNIPEG	WHL	63	24	46	70	49

Morgan Geekie is a center who's combination of size and elite puck skills are unlike any other available in this year's class. He's a puck possession monster that causes major headaches for those trying to defend him. He uses his frame extremely well to shield the puck from others and create time and space. He has so many tools to use offensively – it's almost unfair to opponents when he has the puck. He can use his size to drive the puck to the net, has surprisingly soft hands for a guy his size, and is able to stick-handle his way through defenders. He also possesses a lethal wrister. It's a heavy heavy shot but his release is deceptive and seems effortless. Another area he excels at is his play off the rush. He's a threat with the puck, but even without it he drives lanes with a purpose of either getting himself in a better scoring position or to occupy a defender and create more ice. Even though he has all of these amazing offensive skills, there are two things that may hold him back from reaching his full potential. He doesn't have great acceleration, and his top speed isn't very high. He can just seem slow in general. It raises questions as to how effective he can be in a modern NHL that is based on speed. His competitive level is questionable, too. He's fantastic when he has the puck but when he doesn't, he too often seems disengaged with the play. He doesn't show much urgency in his own zone to provide support for his defensemen, and he's not really one to be the first guy in on the forecheck. Put it all together and you get one of the most intriguing prospects. If Geekie is able to work on his skating and better his 200-foot game, the team that picks him may have snagged a top-six center with huge offensive upside.

**JIRI KULICH**

27



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KARLOVY VARY	CZREP	49	9	5	14	4

Jiri Kulich is a goal-scoring winger who relies heavily on his off puck movement and elite-level shot to make have an impact on the game. His shot is by far his best asset, possessing a ton of power and accuracy in his shooting ability. He combines it with a lightning-quick release that he can get off from any angle and from a variety of puck placements. His offensive zone IQ and ability to find the soft spots in the defensive zone coverage make him an even more lethal option for his team. He rarely remains stagnant in the offensive zone, making it tough for his opponents to shadow him and eliminate him out of the play. Primarily, he works as an off-the-puck player but he is a capable puck-carrier as well, using his above-average puck skills and mobility to carve through the neutral zone and generate chances for himself or teammates off the rush. There are times where he moves too quickly and tries to do too much with the puck. If he can learn to slow down and think for an extra moment it will allow him to read the developing play much easier and result in fewer turnovers or ill-advised passes. Another thing he will want to do is add some strength to his game so he can fight through contact and get the puck to the high-danger areas more frequently. He has the potential to be a top-six scoring winger, and his shooting ability and offensive instincts will allow him to compliment a play-driving center quite well. His skillset will thrive if a team gives him the opportunity to be a trigger man on a power play unit. With his shot and offensive IQ, getting Kulich extra time and space will do his game a lot of good, especially as a confidence-builder early in his career. He's one of the draft's foremost snipers.

**LIAN BICHSEL**

28



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-5  
WEIGHT: 216

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LEKSAND	SWE	29	1	2	3	16

Lian Bichsel is a physical freak with his impressive stature, and is already and playing meaningful minutes in a men's league in Sweden. His strength is arguably his best asset, as he has no issue boxing out older, stronger, more mature professionals in Sweden's top circuit. He makes it seem effortless at times. He is not one to just camp in front of the net, as he engages in board battles any chance he gets. Showing good defensive awareness, he scans the ice well and is ensuring no one gets behind him. With such a long reach, ohe is very good at challenging attackers and taking away space from them, forcing turnovers in the process. His gap control helps aid in his ability to defend the rush. He is not afraid to jump into the rush on the other end of things, and has shown some offensive instincts that haven't necessarily shown up on the score-sheet for him. There's some skating issues in his game that limit his overall upside. Lacking flex in his ankles, he struggles to generate full power and speed, especially while going backwards. This impacts his ability to prevent skaters from beating him wide with speed as his lateral mobility is also affected by this lack of speed. He could really benefit from working with a skating coach and changing his stance and stride. This would allow him to better leverage that length in his legs that are already very strong. There's definitely a ton of upside with him, as he looks every bit to be an NHL level defender. Slight improvements to his skating will only make him a more effective player who can drive positive impacts on possession and offensive zone shot attempts. At his peak, Bichsel will be a top-four blueliner who plays in every situation at the NHL level.

**NATHAN GAUCHER**

29



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 207

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	QUEBEC	QMJHL	66	31	26	57	74

Nathan Gaucher is a highly competitive two-way center who has a formidable frame and some good physical tools. He uses his big body effectively, throws his weight around, leans on opponents, has a rocket of a shot and some really nice touch around the net. He does it all in every situation. He's a beast on the cycle, can make the occasional sneaky pass and, while he doesn't string together a collection of maneuvers in sequence, his hands are decent enough to go forehand to backhand and show some patience to out-wait a goalie. He's a nightmare for defenders to face, as he's very comfortable with the puck on his stick while at top speed. When he wants access to a patch of ice there isn't much that stops him. He challenges opponents one-on-one, can drive to the net like he's skating downhill, shoot in-stride, or dip his shoulder and pull pucks around the defenseman. As an offensive net-front presence he is at an NHL level already. He creates screens and can slip away from defenders and find loose pucks and rebounds. He has no wasted movements or hesitation and the puck is on and off his stick in an instant. He comes back deep in his zone to support his defensemen, and he's really good at picking up speed behind the puck and gaining possession in full flight. Defensively, he puts in a lot of effort on the backcheck, takes away passing lanes and attempts to gain inside positioning. He can anticipate sudden changes in possession, defend the slot area and identify potential threats. Gaucher doesn't have a lot of glaring deficiencies but he would benefit from increased stride frequency. Continued skill development will show he's NHL potential as a second line center or first line winger.

**FILIP MESAR**

30



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 167

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PROPAD	SVK	37	8	8	16	8

Filip Mesar is a highly intelligent, skilled forward who can positively impact the game at both ends of the ice. His ability to process the play and understand how to properly position himself in the offensive zone is a standout trait of his. He handles the puck extremely well, using his skating ability to drive the puck to the center lane with speed and get the puck to the high slot for a quality chance. A gifted shooter and passer, he has the ability to provide multiple threats, making him difficult for the opposition to defend against. He has the skill to make plays from both the high-danger areas and the perimeter, aided by the fact he can stickhandle in and out of traffic. Defending players always need to have their heads on a swivel when he is on the ice. For a skill guy, his defensive game is better than one would expect, using his awareness and mobility to quickly identify where his assignment is and effectively shadow them and negate any offensive chances they may have. He has the skillset to play multiple roles. With his high skill potential and skating ability he can also be an effective option on the power play. His defensive zone ability and quickness make him an effective penalty killer, and he has a solid impact at even-strength, too. He needs to mature physically before becoming a full-time NHLer, but the skills and work ethic are present, which will inevitably help. It won't be long before he's coming to North America and playing regular minutes in the league. His upside is sky high, and he could end up being a steal in the middle or later half of the first round. Mesar has the potential to be a top-six winger who plays a ton of minutes in multiple roles, and produces quality offensive numbers as a pro.

**LANE HUTSON**

31



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 148

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	60	10	53	63	51

Lane Hutson is an exciting, offensive-minded defender who has quick feet and even quicker hands. With his quick stride, high-end agility, and footwork, he is one of the most elite skating blueliners the class has to offer. He loves jumping into the rush and carrying the puck up the ice from the defensive zone. He has a lot of patience with the puck on his stick, allowing him to scan the entire ice surface for a lane of attack. A fearless offensive player, he is never afraid to use his speed and creativity to exploit opposing players in one-on-one situations. His physical traits can pose a bit of an issue for him, especially when trying to adjust to the NHL or even the NCAA. His frame limits the range he has while defending, particularly when defending the rush. It's difficult for him to use his body to angle opponents away from the center of the ice, and when he does try to cut off a lane with his body or his stick, he overextends himself, making vulnerable to quick changes of direction. His defending improves in close quarters situations when his reach isn't as big of an issue, but he will want to add some strength to his frame to help improve his close-quarters defending. With his high offensive ceiling and defensive issues, it's not unreasonable to qualify him as a potential boom-or-bust player, but there is a solid foundation present in his game. His positives easily outweigh his negatives, and drafting Hutson likely gets you a top-four defenseman who can run your top power play unit for a long time. In a class loaded with quality defensemen, Hutson, for both his flaws and positive characteristics, might just be the most exciting defenseman in the entire draft. He's certainly already one of the most dynamic.

**SEAMUS CASEY**

32



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 162

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	48	10	23	33	14

Seamus Casey is an electrifying offensive defenseman who has the potential to go end-to-end every time the puck touches his stick. He has an extremely high ceiling and if he lives up to his potential, he could be one of the best offensive blueliners from the draft class. He has high-end skating ability, generating good speed with long and powerful strides. He loves to have the puck on his stick, driving transition play with his skating and puck-moving ability. He can manipulate the other team's defensive setup with his puck movement and his vision, creating quality passing lanes and exploiting them whenever they present themselves. He's the type of player who can run a top power play unit at the next level, not only because of his vision and passing but also because of his ability to get off shot attempts from the high-danger areas. His two-way game has really progressed as the season went on, but if there are any concerns about him, it's on the defensive side of the puck. He has the skating and the IQ to be an effective defender, but still has the tendency to become too focused on the puck, allowing his assignment to slip by him and get open for a high-quality scoring opportunity. The maturity he's shown throughout the season to continuously improve his defensive game is a big positive for his game, but it will be something he will want to work on. While he is a high-ceiling player, his floor may be lower than some of his teammates, which might give teams a bit of cause for concern in selecting him. But that 'boom' potential will be really intriguing to a lot of NHL teams, too. If he pays off, Casey will end up being a top-four mainstay for whoever drafts him and a key cog on the power play.

**OWEN BECK**

33



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	68	21	30	51	14

Owen Beck is a two-way center who excels at taking time and space away from his opponents while showing the ability to be a skilled puck-carrier and offensive threat. His ability to play excellent positional hockey and anticipate the play allows him to read the opponent's eyes and jump on the plays as they develop. After he creates turnovers he has the ability to quickly transition to offense, while he doesn't possess elite speed he can be more than capable of creating separation for himself on offense. Offensively, he doesn't do anything at an elite level but he can read plays well, has quality puck skills that will allow him to be a consistent contributor at the next level and has the ability to chip in and help drive the bus in the transition game. His bread and butter is his IQ and his ability to read plays, and if he ever gets his skill level to come anywhere close to his mind, he can turn into an elite player. He is the type of player that all coaches will love to have on their team, as he has the skillset to play multiple roles and in multiple situations. He has the skillset to be a contributor on the power play, and the work ethic to be a key cog of the penalty kill. He may never be an elite offensive producer, but he will be able to consistently put up respectable numbers while having great underlying impacts on a nightly basis. If there were any concerns with his game, it's that he could already be close to his ceiling. He's the perfect high-floor prospect. If you draft him you know you're getting an NHL-caliber player who will be a vital member of your middle-six forward group for the next decade, but where in that range he slots will be the question, as there might not be any more upside than that range to Beck's game.

**TRISTAN LUNEAU**

34



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 188

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GATINEAU	QMJHL	63	12	31	43	20

Tristan Luneau is a calm and self-assured defender that exudes confidence in all three zones. His skating is silky smooth with fluid four-way mobility, good speed in transition, and the agility to manage pressure and escape into open ice. Slick hands, strong and accurate passing, and great vision allow him to initiate zone exits, move pucks through the neutral zone and gain the offensive blue line. He can quarterback a power play, get shots to the net, shield pucks from the opposition and prolong offensive zone possession. In his own end, his positioning is first-rate and, although he isn't one to run around and bang into anything that moves, he can rub guys out along the wall, battle for pucks, and play a smart physical game when that is called for. He can be expected to continue to refine the little details of his play. His hockey IQ is already high, but that will naturally continue to develop as he matures. His speed, specifically his quickness over short distances, is something that he is likely to address. Directional changes, especially in his pivots, are a little choppy and he loses power in his stride due to being a little too upright in his stance. A correction would help make him more effective. Having said that, all the elements of a premier defenseman are in place and, while he doesn't come with a top-pair guarantee, he is certainly not a gamble either. How well and how much of his skillset he can transfer to the next level will determine where he fits into the lineup, but there is little doubt that he is a future NHL defenseman. A team wanting to add a sound two-way game to their back end with offensive upside and the potential to blossom into a steady fixture on their top unit could see Luneau as exactly what they're looking for.

**FILIP BYSTEDT**

35



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 187

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LINKÖPING	SWEJR	40	16	33	49	40

Filip Bystedt is a towering center who is impressively skilled for someone his size. With smooth hands and great hockey sense, he can play chess in the offensive zone while others are playing checkers. There's a strong de-fensive game he has shown that makes him a huge suppressor of shot attempts against, too. Showing a strong ability to support well in his own end, he always has his head on a swivel and anticipates where the play is going. With the ability to process the play quickly, he can head to where the puck is going just a split second ahead of the opponent. He also applies pressure very well to the puck-carrier, using his long reach to dictate where he wants the play to go to help snuff out plays. He is fun to watch on offense as he attacks in so many ways, making him unpredictable to opposing defenders. He's impactful all over, not just from one spot on the ice. There's some speed in his game that could make him a very good transition player, too. He just doesn't use it as consistently as he can. Another area where he can improve is his ability to maintain control of the puck. He gets the puck knocked off his stick at times, so learning how to protect it better – and get stronger when carrying it – will help him drive offense more efficiently. Playing the center position and possessing the traits he does gives him a very high ceiling provided he's able and willing to work on some of the shortcomings in his game. The foundation in his game leaves room for a ton of potential, which is even more encouraging. If there are improvements in these deficiencies, then Bystedt can be a top-two center at the NHL level who has significant underlying impacts both the offensive and defensive ends of the ice.

**JULIAN LUTZ**

36



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MUNCHEN	DEL	14	1	2	3	8

Julian Lutz is a tenacious forechecking forward who plays the game with a high-motor and an relentless compete-level. His compete and ability to use his body to gain an advantage in 50/50 puck battles is a big part of his game. He is quick with his decision-making, thinking a few moves ahead and always knowing where his outlets are. He's a plus-level passer, showing a knack for making simple and effective passes to set his teammates up for quality chances. While not a flashy player, he does have the odd high-skill rush from time-to-time, getting the puck to the high-danger areas so he can use his shot. His shot is strong, generating a ton of power and accuracy in his release. He gets a ton of velocity behind his shots, and his mechanics allow him to usually get the shots off clean. If he gets the puck in the slot he's going to score on most of his chances. His skating was a bit up and down this year, which makes sense considering he had a back injury that held him out for some time. The skating concerns, for the most part, seem more a product of the injury more than any deficiency in his game. If he can get his skating back to the level it was before pre-injury his pace it will be less concerning, but as of right now it is fair to question his top-level speed. He has the potential to be a versatile player that can slot in up and down a lineup and play multiple situations. His high compete-level and forechecking ability will allow him to play a quality top-nine forward role and his shooting ability could make him an option on the man-advantage. The injury may cause teams to be a little cautious, but it is still possible he ends up being an early round pick. If Lutz does slide to the later rounds, he will be exceptional value.

**DAVID GOYETTE**

**37**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 172**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SUDBURY	OHL	66	33	40	73	33

David Goyette is a two-way winger with high-end speed who gets involved in the offense and is still the first one back when the play goes the other way. His stride is characterized by a deep knee bend, strong leg and arm drive, and a quiet upper-body. His skating allows him to effectively drive transition when he's on the ice. He's calm under pressure and has the ability to carve through the neutral zone with his skating. He makes quick and easy entry passes, allowing his team to gain entry to the offensive zone with full control of the puck. He has solid puck skills, possessing the ability to be an adequate facilitator, but he's at his best when he uses his shot. He has solid shooting mechanics, allowing him to release the puck off his stick quickly. He generates a lot of power and accuracy when he pulls the trigger, and there's little hesitation to do so. He will want to add some strength to his frame as he progresses towards the professional ranks because there are times opponents can easily knock him off the puck and strip him of possession. He also has a tendency to be too passive and wait for the perfect play. There are times he skates himself into trouble waiting for a perfect lane rather than taking what the defense gives him and making the simple play. He's the type of player that can drive play whenever he is on the ice, so if he can work on becoming more confident and more willing to take what's presented in front of him as opposed to waiting for the perfect play, he will become a much more effective player. Goyette won't have to wait too long before hearing his name called, and whoever drafts him will get a player that can eventually slot into their middle-six and play multiple situations at the next level.

**JIMMY SNUGGERUD**

**38**



**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-1**  
**WEIGHT: 186**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	59	24	39	63	32

Jimmy Snuggerud is a speedy, offensive winger who can create chances in a multitude of ways for his team. He has high-quality puck skills, with fast hands and an elite shot that can beat goalies from almost anywhere in the offensive zone. He has a knack for getting the puck into the high-danger areas, and coupling that with his shot makes him one of the better scoring forwards the USNTDP has to offer this year. His skating is a plus for him, too. He has solid footwork that makes up for his lack of explosive speed. He's a good puckhandler and a capable transition player, but there is a tendency in his game to try and do too much with the puck on his stick. As he gets older and matures, he will need to learn when to try a high-risk, high-reward move and when to take what the defense gives him. Simple is better in this case. His offensive game is his bread and butter, and whoever drafts him will be doing so because of his ability to put the puck in the back of the net with regularity. His defensive game is a work in progress, though. He has good vision and understands where to be defensively, but he just needs to continue to work on his consistency. He might not slot in as a surefire top-six winger in the NHL, but with his skillset he has what it takes to be a middle-six offensive player who will be effective at five-on-five and carve out a role on special teams. He has seen his game improve as the season has progressed, and has found himself rising up the draft ranks as a result. It wouldn't be all that surprising to hear his name called a lot earlier than most would have predicted. This year's USNTDP was full of high-end forwards, and Snuggerud's name is rightfully among that list of intriguing options.

**MAVERIC LAMOUREUX**

**39**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-7**  
**WEIGHT: 197**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DRUMMONDVILLE	QMJHL	54	4	20	24	69

The combination of size, puck-moving ability and skating make Maveric Lamoureux a very interesting draft target. He can be really nasty at times and with an imposing frame he can play a shutdown role and be generally tough to go up against. He's the type of defenseman that can be mean and hit like a truck, but can also jump into the offense and unleash a one-timer that is an absolute rocket. He gets around the ice well and, when given a bit more time and space, he is a very good puck distributor who can initiate quick zone exits, make clever and accurate passes and advance the puck through zones. He is good skater with a great top speed. His agility may not be his best asset, but he is still able to navigate the offensive blue line and defensively he can mirror the puck-carrier and, in tandem with his long reach, can angle the opposition into limited space. In his own end he is very effective at taking away passing lanes and disrupting possession with an active and well-timed stick. He controls his gap well and can pin players along the wall and rub them out in the corners. When he's under a heavy forecheck, he sometimes treats the puck like a hot potato, and can have difficulty defending against shifty players in tight spaces and corralling pucks around his feet can be a challenge. With that said, if he can tidy-up some of his decision-making, leverage his strengths to offset some of his weaknesses, he could develop into a truly special two-way defender who could become a defensive menace with immense offensive potential. Even with everything he can currently do, Lamoureux remains more of a long-term project rather than an NHL-ready prospect. He's definitely going to need a lot of time and patience.

**CALLE ODELIUS**

**40**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 185**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22-22	DJURGARDEN	SWEJR	43	7	23	30	24

Calle Odellius is a very steady defenseman who acts as a calming presence on the back end due to how well he's able to control the game and play position. There's no hesitation in his game when he has the puck on his stick, as he always knows what he wants to do with it. He does well in his own end to quickly move the puck out of danger, keeping his head on a swivel and making good, hard passes to clear it. This processing of the ice around him before getting the puck on his stick is something he does at a high level and prepares him for what's coming next. He is capable of carrying the puck up ice but, he will not force it if a lane isn't there – instead opting to make a crisp pass to a teammate in a better position. In general, his decision-making is very consistent regardless of where he is on the ice. Playing with a high effort level, he defends really well and understands his assignments. By playing physical when necessary, he is able to pin opponents along the boards and retrieve the puck. He could box out better, positioning himself between the opponent and the puck. He does not have a ton of offense to his game as he lacks the high-end creativity to set up prime scoring chances. With how well rounded he is, he's got an excellent chance of making it to the NHL but he is definitely one of the safer picks available, albeit with a lower ceiling than most of the higher-end options available. Given the range where he is likely to go, a team can't go wrong with a defensive prospect this polished and mature. This class is loaded with defensive prospects, especially in the first few rounds, but Odellius deserves to have his name in the conversation among the upper-echelon blueliners available early the second round.

**TY NELSON**

**41**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 196**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NORTH BAY	OHL	66	9	42	51	39

Ty Nelson is an offensive defender that loves to activate himself into the rush using his skating ability. He has strong skating ability, using his powerful lower body to generate powerful strides, allowing him to get up to full speed quickly. When he has the puck on his stick he's displayed high-end vision with the puck, finding teammates on the move and hitting them with crisp and accurate passes in stride. Defensively he's a bit of a mixed bag, but because of his skating ability and vision on the ice he shows a knack for being a successful rush defender. He uses his skating ability and body positioning to angle defenders into the boards and he gets his stick into the lanes to take away passes and knock the puck off opponents sticks. His game really starts to struggle when the opposing team gets the puck below the goal line and starts to operate out of the cycle. He seems a step behind the play when it comes to his processing speed and it really hurts him in the defensive zone as he has a tendency to wander out of position and overcommit to the puck, allowing his assignment to get open and generate a quality scoring chance. His defensive zone play did improve as the season progressed, which is a big positive for his future outlook and draft status and if he does continue to show steady improvement he can easily become the top-four defenseman he is projected to be by scouts. The NHL Draft is loaded with two-way defensemen, and given his skillset and the fact that he's a right-shot blueliner will certainly make Nelson appealing to scouts. He can be a solid five-on-five defender and play a significant role on the power play if he continues that development and reaches his full potential at the next level.

**MATTIAS HAVELID**

**42**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-9**  
**WEIGHT: 165**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LINKOPING	SWEJR	29	10	9	19	2

Mattias Havelid is an undersized, smooth-skating defenseman with the capabilities to be a dynamic blueliner at the NHL level. Havelid is on the smaller side of things, but can make up for his lacking frame in a variety of ways. Most notably, his skating could be among the best for draft-eligible defenders. This ability is best seen when walking the offensive blue line with ease. From there, he has a developed offensive skillset. He has a quality wrist shot, which can score or allow a rebound for his teammates to pounce on. His vision is also superb. At both even-strength and as a power play quarterback, he can fire off solid passes to the tape of teammate's sticks. He also succeeds as a catalyst for offensive transitions. His vision and skating afford him opportunities to make strong breakout passes or carry the puck himself in order to set up possession in the offensive zone. In the defensive zone, there's concerns. He physically takes up less space and has a shorter reach than the majority of defensemen available in this draft class. His mobility and skating skills make him a decent defender against opposing rushes, and he manages gaps well, but he has to go about positioning over strength in all situations. He must improve his board battles. Even against fellow junior players, he is too often outmuscled in 50/50 situations. He can also be passive in these battles, in instances when he could have made a large impact on the play. He is a terrific offensive talent with great upside who must develop a stronger defensive game in order to rise the ranks of professional hockey and outdo the normal expectations set for a short blueliner. Still, there's plenty to like in the package Havelid does currently possess.

**LUCA DEL BEL BELLUZ**

43



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	68	30	46	76	28

Luca Del Bel Belluz is an intelligent, two-way attacker with an all-around offensive tool kit that he combines with a strong 200-foot game. He's a multi-dimensional offensive threat and has the ability to read and react in both the transition game and out of the cycle. His IQ at both ends of the ice allows him to consistently position himself in the correct spot to get off a quick shot or deliver a simple pass that sets up a teammate. His size is a plus for him and, while he's not the strongest player right now, he will likely grow and add more weight to his frame which will allow him to become more effective in the 50/50 puck battles that are crucial to retaining possession for his team. He's the type of player that makes his teammates better just by stepping on the ice. He doesn't do anything at an elite level, but he's so good at so many different things that he's tough to defend against and can consistently generate offensive chances. The concerns surrounding him will be around his ceiling and ability to perform at a consistent level once he makes the jump to the professional ranks. He had a solid season in the OHL and has the tools to be a solid contributor at the NHL level, but his lack of any elite skill and an upright and choppy skating stride which limits his acceleration and top-end speed could hold him back once he plays against tougher competition. He has the ability to be a middle-six forward if he hits his ceiling, who can play in all situations and bring lineup versatility to the organization that drafts him. There has been talk about Del Bel Belluz sneaking his way into the first round, but if he doesn't go on Day One, he will be a hot commodity to be plucked early on the second day of the draft.

**JANI NYMAN**

44



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 212

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KOOVEE	FIN2	34	18	17	35	20

Jani Nyman is a power forward who is at his best when attacking on offense. With a natural ability as a goal-scorer, he is also a very good set up man, making him versatile with the puck on his stick and dangerous. If he wants to keep producing, though, he needs to rely on his heavy shot, which is accurate and quick even from a standstill. He can look a bit awkward at times while skating as he is clearly still growing into his body and working on moving his feet with that height. That coordination will simply come with time. Still, he moves decently as it stands given his current size. He applies pressure well and is especially active on the forecheck, forcing defenders to make quick plays and turn the puck over. He has a great effort level and plays a very solid two-way game even at the top Finnish league level. When the puck is on his stick, he protects it well and has impressive stickhandling for someone his size. On offense is where he thrives. He's not shy to challenge one-on-one or put pucks on net from all over the offensive zone. It's his defensive game where he needs the most work. Getting caught watching the puck and struggling to make simple exit plays are a few things that he must improve on as he gets more comfortable playing at a higher pace. Correcting these issues in his game is tough at the Liiga level, but he needs to prove he is capable of playing at the highest level of hockey in Finland if he's to continue developing to an NHL career. If he develops and hits his ceiling, he can turn into an effective power forward who thrives in the condensed areas of the offensive zone. He is a bit risky, but Nyman can pay off big time if everything goes right for him over the next few seasons.

**MATTHEW POITRAS**

45



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GUELPH	OHL	68	21	29	50	58

Matthew Poitras is a highly-intelligent forward who plays the game at a high pace, showing a knack for being a facilitator. He flashes high-end puck skills, combining them with great vision and a patience with the puck on his stick. He has the ability to create a play out of nowhere because, even when it looks like he's in trouble, he knows where his outlets are and has the ability to hit them with accurate passes. It helps him get defenders to overcommit. He thrives when he's driving the bus. His ability to drive play and serve as the engine for his team is really noticeable and should translate well to the next level. He does tend to struggle and become less engaged when the play isn't flowing through him. He needs to work at his off-the-puck game, becoming a more engaged player will help but he also needs to learn the nuances of getting open, finding dead areas, and providing an outlet for his teammates. It's one thing to be effective with the puck, but the truly great players are just as effective when someone else is carrying the play. Coupling in with his off-puck play, he struggles in the defensive zone. He zones in on the puck too often and forgets where his assignment is, resulting in an open player finding their way to the slot for prime scoring chances. It's not so much an effort issue as a focus issue. This can easily be improved with a little bit of coaching, and if his off-puck effort can come up to a level anywhere near his effort level with the puck, he will become one of the more well-rounded players the OHL has to offer. If Poitras hits his full potential, he will be a top-six playmaking center who creates for his linemates and with his passing and puck skills he can easily help run one of his team's power play units.

**MATYAS SAPOVALIV**

46



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 182

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAGINAW	OHL	68	18	34	52	26

Matyas Sapovaliv is a two-way forward who possesses impressive physical gifts that allow him to succeed in all areas of the ice. He's a big-bodied forward with impressive strength that give him an advantage in 50/50 puck battles. He already shows a good understanding of how to use his body to his advantage, oftentimes overpowering and boxing out opposing players, allowing him to retrieve loose pucks easier. His size allows him to effectively fill the role of the net-front presence, outmuscling opponents in the slot and putting himself in position for deflections and screens. While he doesn't have elite puck skills, he shows the potential to be a capable playmaker, finding teammates in the slot and delivering accurate passes into their wheelhouse. His future is likely filling the role of a complimentary player, as he's more effective working away from the puck than being the primary puck-carrier. When he does carry the puck, he can try too hard to make something out of nothing, forcing himself to attempt a low-percentage move and turn the puck over a little too frequently. His skating may cause some issues for him as he tries to adjust to the NHL, he doesn't possess high-end speed which may make it difficult for him to keep up. While skating is easier to improve on than it once was, bigger players who don't have high-end skating ability may struggle for their first few years in the pros. He has the skillset to turn into an excellent bottom-six forward, with his size and strength he would excel in a forechecking, puck possession type of role and with his physical gifts Sapovaliv may force his way onto a power play unit. The physical gifts will be intriguing to a lot of scouts, and he should be an early Day 2 pick.

**VLADIMIR GRUDININ**

47



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 158

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CSKA	RUSJR	18	2	11	13	0

Vladimir Grudinin is a smooth-skating offensive defenseman who excels at playing a puck-rushing style of play. The standout aspect of his game is his high-end edge work. He's very smooth on his edges, allowing him to explode out of his crossovers and carry the puck through the neutral zone with speed. He's an advanced puck-carrier who excels as transitioning the puck, showcasing the mobility and vision with the puck on his stick required to consistently gain zone exits and entries with control. His mobility also allows him to control his gaps well on the defensive side of the puck, able to stay with quicker opponents and limit chances against while defending the rush. He also shows very good offensive instincts, particularly as a puck distributor while controlling the puck high in the offensive zone. He displays strong vision, able to find teammates with efficiently placed passes and can make crisp cross-seam passes while quarterbacking the power play. His mobility allows him to walk the offensive blue line to open up passing and shooting lanes, and he also picks his spots well to activate. Where he will need to show improvement in order to make it as a pro defenseman is in his in-zone defensive play. He is generally sound with his gap control and stick positioning, but his body positioning and physical engagement during extended periods of defensive zone time leave something to be desired. He is an undersized defenseman, and in turn is often prone to losing net-front battles. He's also guilty of puck-watching. He will need to add strength and improve his defensive play to make it at the pro level, but Grudinin's package of mobility and offensive awareness leave plenty of optimism in his game.

**ELIAS SALOMONSSON**

48



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SKELLEFTEA	SWEJR	35	11	11	22	10

Elias Salomonsson was once heralded as a top defenseman in this class. While his stock has plummeted, he is still a solid add in the draft, due to his smooth skating and offensive skillset. It's also worth noting as a late-August birthday, making him one of the youngest players eligible. His skating allows him to walk the blue line, create time and space, and use his vision to fire a pass to an open teammate. He could use his large frame, strength, and stick to dispossess opponents. In the offensive zone, he also has a decent shot, which can also create scoring chances for teammates. However, there are still several issues with his game. His transition offense is still a work in progress, which is surprising given his strong skating and plus vision. He can be too aggressive or take an unideal path which sees him stripped of the puck. It puts into question either his ability to read and process what's presented to him. There are simpler plays to be made that he either ignores or doesn't see. While in the offensive zone, as is the case with most young offensive defenseman, he can be too aggressive with his pinches which see him leave his defense partner to defend an odd-man rush. However, he does have the great skating speed to regain ground if he's just a few steps behind. Overall, he is a great two-way defenseman that should see his name called in the late first or early second round. His combination of strong defense and great offensive tools saw him generate at a positive clip at the U20 level and even earn a spin in Sweden's top circuit. The team that selects Salomonsson will hope to develop a solid defenseman with power play capabilities and a strong two-way impact.

**ADAM INGRAM** 49



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	YOUNGSTOWN	USHL	54	26	29	55	30

Adam Ingram is one of the most physically gifted players in the top half of the draft class. He has a unique skillset that will be coveted by NHL scouts. He's a gifted forward who has size, can play a power game and score at will. He can drive transition play as a puck-carrier but he's at his best when working off the puck and using his size and smarts to get open in the prime shooting areas of the offensive zone. Once he finds himself open in the slot, he's able to utilize his best asset – his elite shot. He has a knack for getting the puck on and off his stick in the blink of an eye when he's in a prime scoring area. Whether he powers his way there himself or receives a pass from a teammate, he has a quick and accurate release that terrorized goalies this season. His skating has gotten better as the season progressed, too, and has become a strong tool in his toolbox. His size and wide base make him tough to knock off the puck when he gets up to full speed, making him a virtually unstoppable force when he drives the center lane. He also has the ability to dictate pace, slowing the play around him to better evaluate his options. Speeding up his tempo in other situations would be beneficial, though. The main issue with him is that he doesn't consistently use his size and strength to his advantage. He's come a long way since September, but he needs to start using his body and strength more regularly if he wants to take his game to another level. He has the size and strength to be a premier power forward, but the willingness and drive to do so isn't always there. Ingram is a capable scorer from anywhere, but if he continues to develop a consistent power game, he will be an excellent player at the NHL level.

**SIMON FORSMARK** 50

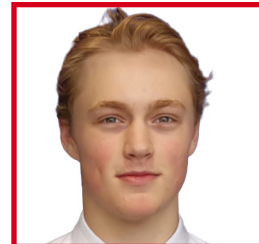


**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 191

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OREBRO	SWE	41	0	3	3	2

A polished two-way defenseman who plays a steady game, Simon Forsmark is another one of the safer picks in this class. He defends against the rush very well and denies zone entries through his ability to control gaps and play angles to force opponents into the boards. He accomplishes this with his stick and body positioning as well, not allowing attackers to get to the middle of the ice. With a long reach, he disrupts plays well and intercepts pass attempts, turning them up ice quickly. From a skating perspective, he is very fluid and his strides are smooth, enabling him to generate good straight-line speed. He also has good edgework that allowed him to easily pivot his body, allowing him to easily deal with incoming forwards. When skating backwards, Forsmark uses this smooth stride to pivot his body and defend opponents coming at him with speed. There's some offensive upside with him, and he has shown a willingness to jump up into the rush. When the play is in opponent territory, he will strategically wait for an opportunity to sneak down to the high slot for scoring chances. There's not a ton of dynamism in his game as far as generating offense goes, but he does seem to have a good head on his shoulders to contribute in this aspect of the game. He projects to be a steady defenseman who could play in a top-four role at the NHL level and even work his way onto special teams play. There are tons of two-way blueliners available in this year's class, and while he might not be in the upper tiers in terms of talent, Forsmark is a worthy prospect of a late second, early third round pick. He has the potential to outplay his draft status and become a fixture at the NHL level.

**RIEGER LORENZ** 51



**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OKOTOKS	AJHL	60	38	47	85	54

Rieger Lorenz is an athletic, energetic forward who displays a strong two-way game at even strength, while also being successful on both sides of special teams. His head coach gave him a massive workload this past season and he was able to single-handedly carry the team at times. When used defensively he is as reliable as almost any other forward in this year's draft. He does so many little things consistently well. He understands the importance of face-offs and does everything in his power to help his center if it's a scramble draw. He recognizes his duties in his own zone, whether it's dropping to the slot when he's the weak-side winger to prevent any backdoor passes, or closing the gap on opposing defensemen and taking away the shooting lane. When he needs to backcheck hard he can be incredibly effective at chasing guys down. He isn't all defense, though, as his impressive scoring totals from this year will attest. First of all, he's a fantastic forechecker. He has such a high motor and pretty good straight-line speed, which allows him to get in on the forecheck quickly and helps him be able to create turnovers. He can also create bursts of separation in transition, creating plenty of breakaways and odd-man chances. When he has the puck on his stick he is quite confident. He can take it hard to the net, and is getting better at hanging onto it as long as he has to while maneuvering through or around the zone to create or find opportunities. He doesn't quite have an NHL-caliber shot yet, but he's not far off. All in all, he is a prospect who seems to have a pretty high floor as far as potential goes. He looks like he'll become a serviceable middle-six forward who's able to contribute in multiple ways.

**PAUL LUDWINSKI** 52



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-11  
**WEIGHT:** 176

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KINGSTON	OHL	67	16	27	43	20

Paul Ludwinski is a playmaking forward who plays with a high motor and tenacity on the forecheck. His two key attributes are his ability to facilitate for his team when he's in possession of the puck and his ability to put pressure on the opponents when he's not. He is constantly pushing the pace of play, battling hard for loose pucks and fighting for the positional advantage despite having a smaller frame. His playmaking is high-end, whether it be a quick one-touch pass in transition or a cross-ice pass through traffic to spring teammate on a rush. He shows the ability to make any pass on the ice. He's not an elite defensive player but he shows good positional discipline in his own zone and an awareness of where his assignment is most of the time. He's no shutdown forward, but his coaches will feel comfortable putting him out there knowing he won't make crucial mistakes at critical times in his own zone. Size and strengths are his two biggest drawbacks. While he's a tenacious player who loves to engage in puck battles, he tends to get himself caught up in the fight too often. He struggles to pull himself out of the battle even though the puck is long gone. He will need to learn when to break away and open himself up as an outlet, or to get back on the backcheck. He struggles with puck protection, as opponents can knock him off stride a little too easily. Adding some weight to his frame should help this improve drastically. He has the skillset and versatility to play both the wing and down the middle, and play at both even-strength and special teams minutes. Ludwinski can comfortably play on the second or third line and play his role effectively at the next level, making him a versatile and interesting option.

**FRASER MINTEN** 53



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KAMLOOPS	WHL	67	20	35	55	57

Fraser Minten is a forward who won't knock your socks off offensively, but he uses his hockey IQ to play a solid 200-foot game that coaches love. For a bigger guy he's quite smooth and really in control of his physical attributes. While not a burner of a skater he still manages to cover ice quite efficiently and fluidly, and is incredibly hard to knock off balance or off his feet. He's responsible in his own end, understanding the need to be on the defensive side of puck battles and always providing ample support to his defensemen. When he does have the puck he's not one to make any low-percentage plays and risk turning it over. With his smart, responsible and consistent he is it's easy to project him being able to stay a center at higher levels. He uses his teammates well, with the caveat that he seems to lack a bit of offensive creativity. He's not a player who is going to create many highlight-reel plays on his own, even though he has fairly good playmaking abilities. He shows some flashes of above-average vision, threading passes between feet and under sticks, and at times that catch opponents by surprise. He's also not afraid to hold onto the puck to allow the play to develop further into a better scoring opportunity for his team. In order to make himself more dangerous of the offensive end of things, he could work on developing his puck skills a bit further. He's often prone to losing the puck in tight-quarter battles. Minten doesn't quite show enough offensive skill to comfortably say he has the ability to produce consistently at the next level, but he more likely than not will become a quality third-line, shutdown center who can sporadically chip in offensively and helps on the penalty kill.

**ALEXANDER PELEVIN** 54



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 188

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NIZHNEKAMSK	RUSJR	29	3	5	8	61

Alexander Pelevin is an intelligent two-way defenseman who uses his ability to read and react to plays as they develop to create turnovers and drive possession for his team. The standout element in his game is his ability to read and cut off attacking lanes, both in his own zone and while defending the rush. He is a heads-up player who is constantly surveying the ice, able to recognize play away from the puck-carrier in order to eliminate options by getting his stick and body into both shooting and passing lanes. He is not a dynamic skater, but he moves well in all four directions and, in turn, is able to control his gaps and force opposing attackers to the perimeter of the offensive zone while defending. His poise and ability to read the play also extend to his ability as a puck-mover, as he's able to deliver efficient first passes out of his own zone to start the breakout or carry it himself when he's able to identify skating lanes through the neutral zone. He is not a dynamic player in the offensive zone, but as he is in most aspects of his game, he is efficient as an offensive player due to his ability to distribute pucks from the blue line well. He's a very capable passer and can deliver pucks to teammates reliably, though he does lack a sense of high-end creativity to his game. He is also an average to below-average shooter, not often able to get enough weight behind his point shot to create dangerous opportunities or second-chance rebounds when shooting from distance. He will need to add more offensive creativity to his game in order to be a true impact defenseman, but Pelevin currently owns upside as a bottom-four defenseman at the NHL level with the ability to play a major role on the penalty kill.

**REID SCHAEFER**

55



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 213

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SEATTLE	WHL	66	32	26	58	88

Reid Schaefer is a prototypical power forward who brings different appealing elements to the table. Few players shot up draft lists as rapidly and surprisingly as he did this season. His most attractive quality is the fact that he's able to be effective in so many different ways. With his size and strength he loves to play a hard physical game, and he backs it up with an offensive toolkit that is improving rapidly. He can finish from a distance, as he has a heavy wrist shot and a lethal one-timer. There aren't many players in this class who can shoot as well as he does. He has some accuracy to it, too. He is great on the cycle, using his body to shield the puck from defenders and create time for himself, and is happy to fight and grind in those kinds of situations. He has a real nose for the net, and has the knack for finishing up plays in tight. There's no shying away from that area in his game. He is also a decent skater for a man his size. He gets plenty of power with each stride, and while he doesn't have the greatest top speed, all that momentum behind him makes him hard to contain when he really gets going. He could still improve upon his balance and coordination, but those are usually things that take a bit more time for power forwards still trying to sort out their bodies. For such a big man he has surprisingly soft hands and is able maneuver the puck through or around closed gaps, although he is prone to the occasional bobble. He almost gets ahead of himself at times and leaves the puck behind. Is an intimidating and effective presence on the penalty kill. Schaefer oozes NHL potential. If he isn't able to fully develop into a top-six forward he should have no trouble finding a role for himself in the bottom-six.

**TOMAS HAMARA**

56



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	TAPPARA	FINJR	32	6	19	25	16

Tomas Hamara is a very good skating defenseman who possesses above-average puck skills. When pressured on zone exits, he is very impressive in fending off the opposition all while maintaining control of the puck. He has solid size and this helps him win a lot of puck battles in his own end. He also uses a smart stick and positioning to win these battles, often coming out with possession of the puck. He can be stifling at times, adept at cutting all options for the attacker and breaking up the play right at the blue line. He anticipates plays well and gets into passing lanes. He could stand to improve on his decision-making, as he can make some ill-advised passes which get intercepted. Learning how to slow things down at times and not force plays that aren't there is part of the maturation process in how he plays the game. He has the skating and skill to be a puck-moving defenseman, so there is some untapped offensive potential that he has not reached yet. He is not as offensively skilled as some defenders in this class, but he has definitely flashed some potential from time to time. He will need to get stronger if he's going to be more effective defending and boxing out larger opponents. The need to build up strength will also have an impact on his shot, which currently is lacking in velocity from the point. Taking a chance on him is hoping that the base set of traits he has, highlighted by the smooth skating, will turn into a defender at the NHL level who can drive offense with speed. He was great for Czechia at the Under-18 Worlds, where he was able to showcase his true ability. If he can translate his offensive skillset to the NHL, Hamara has the workings of a top-four blueliner who plays on the power play.

**JACK HUGHES**

57



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 170

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NORTHEASTERN	NCAA	39	7	9	16	28

Jack Hughes is a gifted facilitator of the puck with strong offensive awareness making him a fun player to watch when he has the puck on his stick in the offensive zone. The biggest asset in his game is his passing ability and there's no question about that. He has high-end vision and confidence with the puck. He is patient when examining the ice for a pass, allowing passing lanes to open up and he has the ability to deliver crisp and accurate passes through tight windows right onto his teammate's sticks. He has the potential to be a solid second unit power play facilitator, maybe even a top unit if he hits his full potential. While passing is his calling card, he's not a one-dimensional offensive threat. He has a capable shot that will allow him to freeze goalies in odd-man rush situations because they will have to be weary of the passing and shooting threat he presents. Defensively, he's a capable player, understanding his positioning in the defensive zone. He has the ability to stick to his assignment and rarely loses site of the opponent he's guarding. The biggest area of concern is his consistency. Throughout the season he would flash high-end potential one game, but then completely disappear offensively the next. That may be partially attributed to his age and the depth his team possessed up front, but if he is able to find a consistent effort in his game his long-term outlook would drastically improve. He has all the tools to become a quality NHL player, he just needs to find a way to put everything together on a more regular basis. Hughes has the versatility to play in all situations, and play a nice top-nine forward role for whoever drafts him. That makes him an attractive package to say the least.

**VIKTOR NEUCHEV**

58



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	YEKATERINBURG	RUSJR	61	40	27	67	14

Viktor Neuchev is a goal-scoring winger who is able to contribute on the scoresheet due to a high-end shot and smooth puck skills. The standout element in his game is his shot, as he owns a quick and deceptive release that allows him to get the puck on goal in a hurry. He can shoot off both feet with power and accuracy, and his puck skills and hand-eye coordination allow him to catch and release the puck off a pass effortlessly. He rarely passes up an opportunity to shoot the puck, too. He is very creative in one-on-one situations with the puck on his stick, able to pull off flashy dekes to beat opposing defensemen and find lanes to the net. He can handle the puck in tight and around his feet, allowing him to score in tight spaces while also being able to snipe from medium-to-long range. He has a light frame for his height, but often displays good control and strength on his skates while protecting the puck against opposing defenders. Where he needs to improve in order to make it as a pro forward is in his defensive awareness and his engagement away from the puck. His mind is constantly on offense, and in turn he's guilty of flying his defensive zone too early in order to attempt to create quick strike opportunities – at times making life difficult on his defensemen both in terms of puck retrieval and controlled breakouts. He's not involved in his own zone or in assisting his teammates near frequently enough in this regard. He will need to improve his defensive commitment as well as fill out his frame in order to crack the NHL. Both will be key elements, but the good certainly outweighs the questionable. Neuchev has the skill and scoring punch to play in the middle-six of a forward group with power play upside.

**HUNTER HAIGHT**

59



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 173

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	BARRIE	OHL	63	22	19	41	13

Hunter Haight is a Swiss Army knife style of forward. He has the skillset to play an effective role in all zones and in all situations. He has a solid 200-foot game and can comfortably play his role at both even-strength and on both special teams units. He has a high IQ, both with and without the puck. He flashed strong playmaking instincts throughout the season, showing the ability to deliver passes through tight windows with pinpoint accuracy. If given extra time and space, he can carve through the opposing team's defensive setup and carry the puck to the high-danger areas for a quality chance. His skating is solid, not high-end or elite, but he is more than capable of keeping up with higher paces of play. He won't burn down the wing and fly by defenders on the rush, but he can maneuver through the neutral zone and create controlled zone entries for his teammates. He's not the flashiest player, but he will go out there every shift and give his best effort. He's the type of player you throw out on the ice and know that he's going to play within the system and within his skillset. There needs to be some physical development for him. As he matures physically and gets stronger he will become more dangerous on the ice, but as of right now some teams may be a little worried about his size and the style of game he plays. Typically smaller players are flashier, his game relies on work ethic. By adding strength he will become even more effective and able to amplify the skillset he already possesses. With his versatility and ability to play anywhere in a team's lineup, Haight will become a coach's favorite and will have no issues endearing himself to whoever drafts him at the draft.

**DEVIN KAPLAN**

60



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 199

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	53	13	25	38	59

Devin Kaplan is a big-bodied forward who plays a physical game in all three zones of the ice. He has a unique combination of size, speed, and skill that make him an interesting prospect in the draft. His work ethic and strength allows him to outmuscle any opponent on the ice and consistently win 50/50 puck battles in any zone. He already has a strong understanding of his physical advantages and knows how to use his skating and his frame to protect the puck, making it difficult to poke it away from him when he drives the net. His puck skills are a bit of a work in progress but he does flash the potential to be a strong playmaking winger, and when he does get the puck in the slot his shot is more than capable of beating any goalie he plays against. His skillset screams a north-south style of hockey player. He's big, strong, and fast, and is nearly impossible to stop when he gets the puck at full speed, though he could generate more off the rush. Like any player who doesn't possess elite puck skills, there are questions about his ceiling. He is likely a complimentary player on any line he will be apart of going forward, but that doesn't mean he won't have an impact. He has the all-around game, the physicality, and the speed to be a really good player at the next level. He is likely a middle-six winger who will be good at hemming his opponents in their own zone and wearing them down with his physical play. He could address some defensive deficiencies to make himself more of a 200-foot player, and there are some mechanics in his stride to sort out. If he can become an all-situations type player, Kaplan will be a solid NHLer and will carve out a long career for whoever selects him at the upcoming NHL Draft.

**VINZENZ ROHRER** **61**





**POS: CENTER**  
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**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 163**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OTTAWA	OHL	64	25	23	48	14

Vinzenz Rohrer is a goal-scoring forward who can effectively blend his high-motor with flashes of high-end skill. He has a lot of jump in his game, attacking with pace and putting defenders on their heels. He is great at attacking off the rush, using his speed and puck protection ability to drive the puck to high-danger areas and get himself into prime scoring positions. He lives in the high-traffic areas, and with his shot he has the ability to beat any goalie from in close. He has a quick, accurate release that gives him an advantage over goalies when he's in the high slot. His playmaking is above-average, showing the ability to work the puck from below the goal line to the slot, regularly hitting teammates in their wheelhouse. Defensively, he uses his speed and reach to be an effective backchecker. His active stick allows him to intercept passes and with his speed he can quickly turn these turnovers into chances going the other way. He can play in all situations, but is most suited to play at five-on-five and on the power play. He has a raw, untapped potential that will take time to develop, but if a team shows the right amount of patience with him, he can make them look extremely smart. He improved immensely between the start of the OHL season and the end, becoming a key cog in his team's offensive attack. He's a tootsy player who hasn't quite figured out how to mold all of his tools together to maximize the benefit of each. The faster he does, the sooner he will be able to make the jump to the NHL. He has the potential to be a second-line scoring forward and if he adds some strength behind his shot, Rohrer can become a trigger option for a team's power play unit on top of the elements he already brings.

**SAM RINZEL** **62**





**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-4**  
**WEIGHT: 177**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CHASKA	USHS	27	9	29	38	22

Sam Rinzel is a raw, but talented two-way blueliner who has a very impressive set of skills. He's big, strong, he can skate and has great puck skills, He has the potential to be a very effective NHL defenseman but needs to figure out how to blend all his skills together. Individually, there's a lot of diverse skill in his game. He just needs to learn how to incorporate them together more frequently. Defensively, he relies on his size and skating ability to make his presence felt. He can use his body and long reach to angle defenders away from the center lane and then use his skating to close them out and pin them to boards. In the defensive zone, his ability to get his sticks into the passing lanes and break up high danger passes stand out. Offensively, he likes to push the pace of play as a puck-carrier. He was effective at running his team's breakout and creating successful zone exits and zone entries for his team. In the offensive zone, he's effective at carrying the puck from high to low, allowing passing lanes to open. He can effectively exploit these passing lanes with his high-quality vision and passing ability. Like any raw prospect, the biggest issue for him is finding a way to put everything together on a regular basis. He split time between high school and the USHL. At times, Rinzel looked like one of the most dominant players on the ice for his team, but there were times where he disappeared or was a detriment to his team. He has all the tools to be an all-situations top-four defenseman at the NHL level, but needs more reps and playing time against high-level competition before Rinzel can truly figure out who he is as a player. He will likely go way earlier than expected because of the high ceiling he has.

**CRUZ LUCIUS** **63**





**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 178**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	23	9	8	17	10

Cruz Lucius is an offensive-leaning winger who excels when the puck is on his stick. He has great skating ability with quick feet, allowing him to accelerate to his top speed and change his direction at the drop of a hat. He has strong puck skills and can handle the puck in tight areas to beat opponents while attacking one-on-one. But his best asset has to be his playmaking, through and through. He's a gifted passer, with a lot of patience. He will wait for the play to develop in front of him before making an accurate pass into his teammates' wheelhouse. There is rarely a time he forces a pass that isn't there. His shot, while not overpowering, isn't a detriment to his game. If he gets the puck in the high slot with some space he becomes a lethal goal-scoring threat. But he's much more of a facilitator than a finisher. While his agility, and footwork is strong, there is no presence of elite speed in his' game. However, the other aspects of his skating ability more than make up for the fact that he isn't a burner. Defensively, he needs to improve. He isn't a bad defensive player by any means, but whenever the play is in the defensive zone he becomes a non-factor. If he can get better at getting his stick and body into passing and shooting lanes, he will be able to have some defensive impact on the game. More effort while defending would be nice to see down the road, though it's not going to transform him into an elite own-zone player. He missed a lot of time this season, so it's hard to get a gauge on his true value, but there is no denying the offensive potential present in his game. If he can round out his all-around game Lucius will become an effective top-nine forward at the NHL level for whoever selects him at the draft.

**ISAIAH GEORGE** **64**





**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 195**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LONDON	OHL	67	6	17	23	32

Isaiah George is a two-way defender with a nice combination of skating, puck skills and vision. He does a number of things well on the ice, but his most effective attribute is his ability to contribute in the transition game. He can create controlled breakouts and zone entries all on his own, using his skating ability to navigate up and down the ice while in control of the puck. In the offensive zone, he likes to have the puck on his stick at the blue line. He takes the puck from the wall and moves it towards the center lane, allowing for a potential shot or passing opportunity that leads to a scoring chance. Defensively, he uses his size to maintain good gap control and the odd time a player does get past him. He has the ability to recover and knock the puck off his stick negating the potential chance. There are inconsistencies in his game, particularly in the defensive zone. Like many young players, he can get caught puck-watching, allowing for his assignment to breakaway and get open in the slot. Thankfully he has the size and mobility to recover when he does lose his assignment, but it's certainly a red flag, nonetheless. He has all the tools you want to see in a modern defenseman, even with the inconsistent production there's a lot of upside in his game. Scouts will see his skillset and bank on their organization being able to get the most out him. He will likely be a mid-round pick, but it wouldn't be all that surprising if he significantly outperforms his draft position and becomes an all-situations player at the NHL level given what he's working with. In a class full of talented two-way blueliners, George most likely finds himself in that second or third wave of defensemen to come off the draft board.

**KASPER KULONUMMI** **65**






**POS: DEFENSE**  
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**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 178**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	JOKERIT	FINJR	40	3	26	29	12

Kasper Kulonummi is an offensive-minded defenseman who skates very well and finds ways to create chances for his team when on the attack. Using his combination of skill and speed, he is at his best when the puck is on his stick. Agile maneuvers enabled by strong edge work helps him navigate the neutral zone and enter opponent territory with possession of the puck. While on offense, he has shown above-average vision and the ability to get the puck to the front of the net, generating chances for himself and teammates. He has established himself as a very good passer at both ends of the ice, and is able to hit the tape of teammates in motion. He's possession-driving defenseman thanks primarily to his feet and his brain. Both tend to remain active for the full duration of his shift, sometimes to his detriment. Using aggressive pinches, he is always looking to keep the puck in the offensive zone and will take a lot of risks to ensure this happens. He does struggle in his own end, where his decision-making is very suspect at times. Learning how to reign in the offense first mentality a bit would help him take fewer chances that lead to shot attempts against. As with many young defenders, he needs to get stronger such that he can be more effective winning puck battles and fighting for position. Being a right shot defenseman, he will get a boost in how he's viewed by NHL teams – but the flaws in his game will need some work if he wants to ascend to the professional level in North America and become an everyday member of a team's top-six. Kulonummi's ceiling is a top-four puck-moving defender, but he has some work to do before that ceiling can become a reality.

**OTTO SALIN** **66**


**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 187**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HIFK	FINJR	11	4	8	12	10

Otto Salin is a very confident defenseman, using his strong skating and offensive mindset to drive play up ice. When he has the puck on his stick, he is very calm regardless of what end of the ice he's in. There's a patience in his game that allows him to slow the game down and give himself the space and time he needs to make plays. He does have the ability to move up ice with possession quickly, passing the puck off as needed to ensure his team can enter the offensive zone with possession. He is also very creative when he is forced to dump the puck in, sending the puck into the corner at angles that allow his teammates a chance to win the race there. Other times, he isn't afraid to make risky plays and his confidence seems to be endless -- which sometimes doesn't necessarily always work in his favor. There's some promising defensive habits in his game that make him adequate at defending, but he has a few areas that would make him more effective in this area. Using his stick to take away passing lanes is something he would benefit from. This will come with better anticipation and processing of the play around him. He also needs to build up his physicality more as he can be out-matched at times against larger opponents. If he can add strength and improve his physical play then he will limit any potential issues that may arise when he tries to engage in puck battles or in boxing opponents out for rebounds. An injury during the season caused him to miss some time so he may fall a bit under the radar as far as what his true potential is. The mobility and the poise Salin displays with the puck will really jump out to scouts and they may see him as a future fixture on their blue line in multiple situations.



**BRYCE MCCONNELL-BARKER** **67**



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**WEIGHT: 193**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SOO	OHL	68	23	26	49	14

Bryce McConnell-Barker is a speedy, shoot-first center who plays a solid north-south style of game. When he's at his best, he is lethal off the rush, attacking the defense with speed, forcing them to pivot from backward to forward giving him the advantage. He drives the puck to the center lane with his speed and size and puts himself into position to get off a prime shooting opportunity. He has an NHL-ready shot with great power and accuracy that can beat goalies from anywhere, especially when he's attacking off the rush. He has the potential to be a productive scorer at both five-on-five and on the power play because he combines his lethal shot with solid off the puck movement that allows him to get open in the offensive zone. He has to develop the rest of his offensive game, though. He's a capable play-making threat but at times leaves a lot to be desired. He struggles to make passes under pressure and can be forced into turnovers when he has a defender in his face. For a bigger player, he needs to be better along the boards. He has a tendency to throw the puck away into the middle of the ice when opposing players start to close in on him. The red flags are nothing overly concerning because he's a young player that will work his way out of these habits as he gains more playing experience. He has the skillset and physical gifts to be a solid contributor at the NHL level. He can develop into a top-six player, but likely caps out as a middle-six forward who can play in multiple situations. Players like McConnell-Barker, who have the speed and can blend in size are always coveted by scouts. The beauty of his game is he has the potential to turn into a quality NHL player for years to come when he puts them together.

**NOAH WARREN** **68**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-5**  
**WEIGHT: 216**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GATINEAU	QMJHL	62	5	19	24	52

Noah Warren is a big, strong two-way defender who always lets opponents know they're in for a tough night. He's just a pain in the ass to play against. He uses his stick to steer the opposition away from the best ice and takes away their time and space and when he closes in, he doles out a heavy impact. With his size and wingspan, he prevents a lot of zone entries and is very tough to pass by. He's aggressive along the walls and will deliver punishing hits without mercy. With his imposing stature, he can dominate board battles, shut down zone entries, and is a terrific skater who has remarkable speed and agility for a player of his size, giving him excellent gap control. He consistently joins the rush as the fourth attacker over the blue line, but he's also willing to transport the puck up ice and lead the rush. He defends well and is very composed under pressure, and he can push the pace and surprise his adversaries with clever fakes and the ability to drive wide. His shot explodes off his stick, as he can hammer the puck from higher in the zone and can step off the blue line and release a rocket in stride with just a flick of his wrist. It should be pointed out that he is not yet a finished product and, although there is a lot there, he could still use a fair bit of polish and refinement. His overall high-end potential remains a debate, but he has already made great strides in his game and expanded his degree of influence. Puck management and footwork are things that can always be improved upon. With a size and physicality that projects well to the pro game, if Warren can continue to develop the technical and tactical elements of his play, he has the potential to be a future second pair defender in the NHL.

**ALEXANDER PEREVALOV** **69**

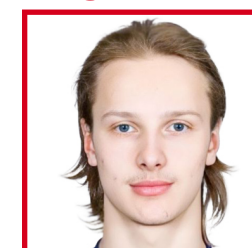


**POS: LEFT WING**  
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**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 191**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	YAROSLAVL	RUSJR	44	25	26	51	32

Alexander Perevalov is a skilled goal-scoring winger who excels at reading the offensive zone to pounce on opportunities when they present themselves. The standout aspect to his offensive game is his puck skills and how he's able to leverage that skill to find his way into high-danger areas in the offensive zone. His ability to read and anticipate chances in the offensive zone is arguably his most interesting trait. He's a very creative stickhandler who's able to beat defenders in one-on-one situations and open them up into order to find ways to drive to the net. He excels at getting to scoring areas in the offensive zone, making himself available to teammates as a shooting option or able to capitalize on rebound on opportunities. He can score from in tight, but also shows an ability to score from the circles as well with a strong wrist shot. There's still room to improve the quickness of his release and velocity, however. He's constantly looking to get the puck on net, rarely passing on opportunities to either shoot the puck or shovel the puck to high-danger areas to generate scoring opportunities. His skill allows him to be elusive in transition, but his skating grades as below average, as his stride is clumsy at times and limits his ability to accelerate quickly. He needs to pepper in a bit more pace and urgency, too. He also shows inconsistent effort on the defensive side of the puck, at times opting to float high in his own zone rather than assisting his defensemen in puck retrieval. He will need to provide more consistency and willingness in his own zone and improve his skating to make it at the NHL level, but Perevalov projects as a scoring option in an NHL bottom-six due to his skill and shot generation ability.

**ALEKSANTERI KASKIMAKI** **70**



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**WEIGHT: 181**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HIFK	FINJR	31	19	21	40	20

A center who is able to push the pace of play with his strong skating and speed, Aleksanteri Kaskimaki can drive transitions through the neutral zone when carrying the puck. He has flashy elements to his game and plays at a high tempo. His ability to maintain his speed even when controlling the puck makes him difficult to defend against as he can weave in and out of traffic and create space for himself, or his teammates by drawing attackers away. Because teams have to respect this speed, he is given time and space to use his high-end vision to set up dangerous scoring chances through the use of crisp and accurate passes. With how much space and time he's allotted, he could improve how consistently he's able to take advantage of his situations. He would benefit from reading the play better on breakouts as his timing can be off, making it challenging for defenders to get him outlet passes. With a very clear offensive mindset, he also has a tendency to take shots into traffic that lead to blocks and changes of possession. Learning how to be more responsible with his shot selection is an important area of his game that he must improve on to be more effective at driving offense. His off-puck play is inconsistent at times, too, as he'll get caught being a pedestrian if he's not driving the rush. There's no questioning his talent when he has the puck, it's his play away from it that needs some refinement for him to be an excellent two-way forward. He has a lot of upside in his game that can be realized if his game matures. His transition ability may fly under the radar, but if he can translate this ability to the NHL Kaskimaki will be an effective player who has great advanced metrics and can contribute offensively.

**DANNY ZHILKIN** **71**

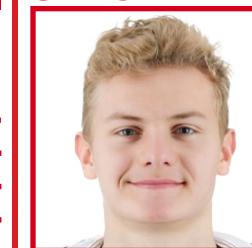


**POS: CENTER**  
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**HEIGHT: 6-1**  
**WEIGHT: 189**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GUELPH	OHL	66	23	32	55	24

Danny Zhilkin is a sharpshooting center who oozes skill and power and has a nose for the prime scoring areas in the offensive zone. He has one of the better wrist shots in this entire draft class. He can have the puck on and off his stick in a flash with his lightning-quick release and he can generate a lot of power in that split second. On top of his shooting ability, he has high-end puck skills that allow him to work his way through traffic as he carries the puck up and down the ice. He has quick lateral mobility and can carry the puck on a string, making it tough for opponents to strip him of the puck when he's going at his full speed. He has a solidly built NHL-ready frame but doesn't always use it to his advantage, likely because he plays more of a skilled role and can defer to the perimeter when he's not locked in. His off-puck play is a bit concerning, as he tends to disappear and become less engaged when he's working away from the puck. This is frustrating because if he could consistently get open for his teammates he would likely have a chance to fill the back of the net due to his shooting ability. This needs to be a point of greater emphasis in his attack. He needs to find that consistency in his offensive game to truly take his game and scoring production to the next level. He has all the skill in the world and the ability to be a lethal scorer in multiple situations. If he finds his stride and becomes better at anticipating the play away from the puck, he will be a nightmare to defend in the offensive zone and will have no issues adapting to a number of different roles in the NHL. Teams will take a swing on him based on his high-end offensive potential and allowing him to work out his kinks over the next few seasons.

**ADAM SYKORA** **72**



**POS: LEFT WING**  
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**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 172**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NITRA	SVK	46	10	7	17	6

Adam Sykora is a two-way forward who combines a skill game with a high-octane motor that never stops. Defensively, he uses his speed and his work ethic to pressure his opponents and force them away from the prime scoring positions. He's never shy to try and play a physical game, either, separating opponents from the puck by delivering timely body checks. He has a knack for forcing the opponents to make puck decisions before they are ready too and shows an ability to create turnovers on a regular basis. Offensively, he has gotten more comfortable carrying the puck and started to drive transition later in the season. He became an effective rush attacker, taking the puck out wide to create space before driving the center lane with his skating and skills to generate a quality scoring chance. Improving his speed and willingness to regularly carry the puck up and down the ice will really help his long-term offensive outlook. He already has a mature defensive game, but becoming a more dynamic offensive threat will really make take his game to another level. Some teams may be deterred by his size, but he will definitely add some weight to his frame as he matures and become a much more physically stable player, allowing him to use his physicality and motor to compete with NHL level competition. He has the skillset to become a middle-six winger who plays effective five-on-five minutes and provide some offensive spark. At worst, Sykora could be an effective shutdown forward who plays valuable defensive minutes and negates the opposing team's offense. Sykora would be a smart gamble because he appears to have a high ceiling and a higher floor than most mid-round prospects.

**PANO FIMIS**

**73**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-9**  
**WEIGHT: 175**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NIAGARA	OHL	54	14	30	44	26

Pano Fimis is a gifted playmaking center who loves to act as the primary facilitator when he's on the ice. His mentality revolves around finding his teammates in scoring positions and setting them up with accurate passes right on their tape. He can find open passing lanes both off the rush and out of the cycle, showing a strong understanding of how to identify the weak spots in the opponents defensive setup and exploit those weaknesses with his passing ability. He has a more mature 200-foot game than most of his peers, using his IQ to put himself in the right position to break up a passing attempt or get his body into an opponent's shooting lane. Skating and strength are two areas he will want to improve on heading into next season, as there were times where Fimis struggled to keep up with the pace of play and was easily out-muscled by opposing players. As he gets older and develops more, these red flags should become less concerning, and if he continues to elevate his all-around game he could be a nice steal in the middle rounds of the draft should he slide. His team had a tumultuous year, shedding a lot of their veterans making it more difficult to insulate younger players like this prospect in their lineup. He battled through and really came into his own as the season progressed, which is an encouraging sign heading into the draft. He was a driving force for their offensive output in the back half of the season and really showed that he has the skillset to be a quality player. Pre-season, he was considered a potential first-round talent. Although he will go later in the draft there is a chance Fimis can live up to that past hype if his trajectory remains on the level it was at the end of 2022.

**CHRISTIAN KYROU**

**74**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 182**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ERIE	OHL	68	18	42	60	44

Christian Kyrou is an exciting, offensive-minded defender who loves to push the envelope and jump into the rush every chance he can get. He was one of the more dynamic offensive-defenders in the OHL during the season, showcasing his strong offensive instincts and skating ability. His skating pops off the page when you watch him play. He has impressive four-way mobility allowing him to cover large areas of ice in a quick manner. He can drive transition on his own, taking the puck on end-to-end rushes multiple times a game. In the offensive zone, he's a quality shooting and passing option. He can spot passing lanes quickly and deliver a crisp pass right to his teammates stick. Defensively he's no slouch either, using his high-end skating to maintain great gap control on the rush and blanket himself to his assignment in the defensive zone. The main issue with him will be his consistency. He has all the tools to be a quality player at both ends of the ice but needs to find the consistency in his game and not allow himself to go through peaks and valleys as often as he does. When he's not feeling it, he needs to find a way to still impact the game. There's a ton of upside in his game. He wasn't handed an easy assignment by his team in filling the shoes of Jamie Drysdale, but the task did not seem too tall for him at all. He finished the year as one of the most productive offensive blueliners in the draft class and really put himself on the NHL radar. He has the potential to be a top-four defenseman at the next level who logs big minutes on the power play. Kyrou's floor is a lot higher than it once appeared and there won't be a lot of risk in taking a right-shot defender who can consistently push the pace of play.

**ARTEM DUDA**

**75**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-1**  
**WEIGHT: 187**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CSKA	RUSJR	52	14	27	41	0

Artem Duda is a pure offensive defenseman who is constantly looking to get pucks on goal and play with skill in the offensive zone. The standout in his game is his skill with the puck on his stick. He's very smooth while cradling the puck on the offensive blue line, able to use hand and shoulder fakes to open up shooting and passing lanes to create scoring chances. He is capable of beating opposing checkers with flashy dekes while carrying the puck, allowing him to haul the puck down from the point or beat checks while transitioning the puck to teammates. He relishes the opportunity to shoot the puck, rarely passing up an opportunity to wire a wrist shot towards the net from the point or let loose a strong one-timer when set up at the top of the umbrella on the power play. He is a capable skater who is more slippery than he is fast, able to change directions quickly with quick pivots but owns relatively average speed when skating in a straight line. Where he needs to find improvement to become a pro defenseman is in his attention to detail on the defensive side of the puck and his overall engagement when playing away from the puck. He is prone to poor decisions in his own zone, at times turning over pucks in key areas of the ice leading to high danger chances against. His work rate away from the puck is also very low, not often engaging in battles for positioning or in loose battles, leading to very poor puck retrieval habits while in his own defensive zone for extended periods of time. He will need to improve his defensive play and work habits greatly to eventually make the NHL, but currently Duda projects as a potential third-pairing defenseman with power play upside.

**TYLER DUKE**

**76**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-8**  
**WEIGHT: 179**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	54	3	15	18	95

Tyler Duke is an undersized two-way defenseman who has great awareness in all three zone and can make a lot happen while he is on the ice. He has solid mobility, with strong edge-work and the ability to change pace and directions quickly, allowing him to navigate up and down the ice. His mobility is his best asset, because it allows him to impact the game both offensively and defensively. He can angle off opponents and take away their space because he is able to close in on them quickly. Offensively, he can jump into the rush either as a puck-carrying or an off-puck option. He has the IQ and awareness to attack the open lanes and put himself in the best possible to be an offensive threat off the rush. His awareness and IQ are further along than expected, but with someone of his smaller stature there are some limitations to his game right now that give reason to pause. He's not the strongest player, making it difficult to be seen as a true scoring threat from the point with his shot. It can also be easy for his opponents to outmuscle him along the boards or in the high-slot while he's defending. He is still young, and will look to add muscle as he gets older and spends a few seasons in the NCAA before making the jump to the pros. The good news for him is he has proven he can be an effective player even with his limited physical tools. If he can develop them it'll open up greater upside. As it stands he can be a top-six blueliner who can play at five-on-five and on a second power play unit. If he does add some more mass and physicality to his game his ceiling would drastically improve, but even right now there is still enough to bet on Duke developing into a solid everyday NHLer.

**JACK DEVINE**

**77**



**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 173**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DENVER	NCAA	36	3	16	19	16

Jack Devine is an all-around player who possesses high quality skating, a high on-ice IQ and has the potential to be a gifted playmaking winger at the next level. With his combination of skating ability and vision on the ice he is able to navigate through the neutral zone easily with the puck on his stick, making him a consistent threat to generate controlled zone entries. Once he gains access to the offensive zone with the puck on his stick, he possesses a knack at getting the puck into the high scoring areas. Whether he cuts to the center lane himself or spots a streaking teammate and hits him with an in-stride pass, he knows how to get the puck into the right areas at the right time. On the defensive side, he is able to consistently get back on defense and help his defenseman negate any scoring chances his opponents may generate. He has all the tools you want to see in a prospect and is the type of player that NHL coaches would love to get their hands on to help shape. He played on a loaded Denver team and helped contribute to their National Championship run, but he will likely be one of the focal points for the team next season. He needs to show that he can take his offensive game to another level in that situation. He's a solid offensive contributor right now, if he can become a more consistent offensive threat his NHL ceiling will skyrocket. He has all the tools to be an effective third-line, two-way player and carve out a role on the power play and penalty killing units. Devine is the ultimate team guy. He does a little bit of everything and excels at stuff that doesn't necessarily always show up on the scoresheet, but his teammates appreciate. Every NHL team will want a player like him.

**MATS LINDGREN**

**78**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 173**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KAMLOOPS	WHL	68	5	39	44	42

Mats Lindgren is a defenseman who does his best work while in the other team's zone, and looks very comfortable and confident running a power play. He displays good mobility along the blue line, combining his quick hands and agility to create room laterally and open up shooting or passing lanes. He is very noticeable in the transition game. He anticipates plays well and is good at cutting off passes in the neutral zone. He usually keeps his head on a swivel and knows where he's going with a puck before he digs it out of a scrum or retrieves it from his own end, which leads to quick transition play for his team. He has strong edges and can throw in the odd flashy spin while at middle or high gears to shake an oncoming forechecker, giving him ample time to make a decision up ice. He isn't a particularly fast skater himself, however. His skating form has him hunched from his shoulders, which limits his stride length and the power he's able to get off, and hinders his potential ceiling a bit. His mechanics need an adjustment on this. This is most notable in the defensive end, where his game isn't as impactful as in the offensive and neutral zone. He's a capable defender at the junior level, however, to be successful defending at the next level it would be nice to see some of that desire to be a difference-maker that we see on the offensive side happen in his own zone. He can also defer a little too much when he's working with the man advantage. Lindgren has the offensive tools to likely crack an NHL roster one day. He's likely to be a power play specialist kind of player who might slot in on the bottom pair at even strength, but if he can improve his skating and defending maybe he works his way to a top-four role.

**SPENCER SOVA**

**79**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-0  
**WEIGHT:** 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ERIE	OHL	64	9	19	28	14

Spencer Sova is a reliable blueliner who plays a strong defensive game while showing some occasional moments of offensive upside. His best asset is his ability to show poise and calmness whenever he is on the ice. He has strong backward mobility, allowing him to maintain solid gap control and calmly angle opponents away from the middle lanes. He learned to throw his body around and use physicality to his advantage more as the season progressed. He is able to outwork and outmuscle opponents for loose pucks particularly in the defensive zone allowing his team to quickly transition to the offensive attack. His mobility and passing ability allowed him to jumpstart breakouts for his club, but he isn't the type of player who will jump into the rush every chance he can get, rather he played more of a support role allowing his teammates to drive the rush attack. In the offensive zone he rarely rushes a pass or shot attempt, rather he would walk the puck to a different area and wait for the lanes to open up. He had a slow start to the season but really came into his own as it went on. He is the type of player who will usually defer the puck to other players on the ice rather than push the envelope himself, but that shouldn't be viewed as a limiting factor. He will be at his best when playing with a truly offensive-minded partner, allowing him to use his mobility and physicality to cover up for his partner. He can play both in even-strength and on special teams situations, likely slotting in on one of the bottom two pairings. Sova won't be a dynamic player at the NHL level, but he will be a calming presence who can be trusted in all situations, and that's something that coaches will appreciate in him.

**DANIIL ORLOV**

**80**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-11  
**WEIGHT:** 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAKHALIN	RUSJR	54	9	21	30	45

Daniil Orlov is a mobile two-way defenseman who is able to play large minutes due to his ability to be effective in all situations. The best aspect of his game is his fluidity and mobility. He's very smooth on his skates and, in turn, this makes him a very capable player in transition on both sides of the puck. He displays good four-way mobility in his movement. His gap control and ability to track forwards through the neutral zone allows him to shut down plays before they enter his zone. He can be a physically imposing defenseman that does a great job of preventing entries. He is able to use strong one-on-one defending skills and an active stick, and is able to transition pucks efficiently the other way with his ability to evade pressure with his mobility. He is a fairly basic offensive player when handling the puck in the offensive zone, often opting to make efficient passes in the offensive zone rather than playing with creativity to open up space. He is more efficient in his offensive reads and plays rather than displaying any high-end creativity with the puck on his stick. He is, however, able to contribute on the power play due to a strong point shot that he often makes use of. He can generate great power when shooting from distance and had good mechanics in his one-timer to make him a shooting threat from the top of the offensive zone. He will need to continue to add more skill and creativity to his offensive game, as well as add more strength to his frame, to be a true 200-foot force at the NHL level. But currently, Orlov shows enough upside in his mobility and one-on-one defensive ability to be a depth defenseman at the pro level with upside on both special teams units given the various tools at his disposal.

**ARSENI KOROMYSLOV**

**81**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-3  
**WEIGHT:** 180

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ST. PETERSBURG	RUSJR	42	4	15	19	36

Arseni Koromyslov is a rangy defensive defenseman who excels at using his reach to disrupt plays and cause turnovers. The standout in his game is how well he's able to cover large areas of ice due to his size, reach, and mobility. He owns a lanky frame that allows him to extend the reach of his stick to deflect pucks and break up plays. He also owns good four-way mobility with smooth crossovers for a player his size that allows him to control and maintain his gaps well while defending in transition. He is an engaged player while he's on the ice, willing to use his frame to separate players at the junior level from the puck and should find more success in this area at the pro level as he develops and adds more strength to his frame. Where he needs to find improvement to make it as an NHL defenseman are in his reads, skill game, and overall creativity in the offensive zone. He is very inconsistent in his ability to read and adapt to play in his own defensive zone, at times able to find and shutdown attacking lanes as they develop, but more often allows to develop around him due to poor awareness of his surroundings and a tendency to puck-watch while defending in his own zone. He is also a very basic player on the offensive side of the puck, showing roughly average skill with the puck on his stick but lacking imagination. He's a very passive player at the offensive blue line, often sitting at the blue line waiting for pucks to come to him rather than getting involved in play. Koromyslov's size and mobility allows him to be projectable to the next level as a shutdown defenseman, but he will need to add more to his offensive game and find more consistency to play higher in a professional lineup.

**JORIAN DONOVAN**

**82**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 182

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HAMILTON	OHL	64	3	19	22	29

Jorian Donovan is speedy, puck-moving defender with excellent mobility who can double as an effective power play quarterback. His confidence with the puck stands out, especially when afforded time and space in the offensive zone. He has a great first stride and can get up to his top speed quickly, allowing him to beat opponents to open ice and create plays when he has the puck on his stick. He isn't afraid to jump into the rush and attack these open lanes, and at times displays a power element to his game, driving the center lane through opposing defenders. On the power play he can really shine, as he is a solid passer who can use his mobility to create open passing and shooting lanes. He knows how to use the extra ice that being on the power play affords him and he displays the awareness you want to see in a power play quarterback. His skating ability allows him to capably defend the rush, using his legs and size to maintain solid gap control and take away his opponent's ice and force them away from the center lane. In the defensive zone, his positioning and ability to know where his assignment is at all times is a work in progress. Like many young defenders, he gets caught puck-watching a little too often and loses his assignment. Without improvement, he can become a liability in the defensive zone and higher levels of competition will be able to exploit him whenever they have him hemmed in his own zone. He has the skills to be an effective offensive defender, but will need to show improvements in his two-way game before Donovan can become an all situations type of player. Teams will take a swing on his puck skills and offensive upside somewhere in the middle-rounds.

**GAVIN HAYES**

**83**



**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 177

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	FLINT	OHL	65	19	30	49	18

Gavin Hayes is an energy player who plays the game with a lot of pace and has a nose for the prime scoring areas in the offensive zone. He plays a north-south style of game and uses his speed and size to make himself available for scoring opportunities in the slot. His combination of high-motor and mobility allows him to excel when working away from the puck. He has high top-end speed and with his aggressiveness he is keen at separating his opponents from the puck and because of his work ethic is great at retrieving the loose pucks he creates. His puck skills are good, not great, but his game doesn't rely on him driving play. He's a complimentary player who will get himself open for teammates and finish off plays when he gets the puck in the offensive zone. He will want to work on his play in the defensive zone. He has good positional discipline, but doesn't support the play as much as he should. He's almost too cautious of his assignment and doesn't want to do anything that may allow him to lose his positioning. The other knock against him will be his lack of play-driving potential, but some players aren't meant to be drivers on their line, and he appears to be aware that he's one of them. He won't carry a line by himself, or necessarily elevate his linemates to another level, but what he will do is play with tenacity and a high pace on each and every shift, and that element can be contagious for teammates. He is the perfect energy player – likely a bottom-six winger at the next level – who plays in multiple situations at different times of the game. He has the skillset that will endear him to his coach and teammates and although Hayes won't ever be dynamic, he will carve out a quality pro career.

**ALEXANDER SUZDALEV**

**84**



**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HV71	SWEJR	45	15	36	51	10

Alexander Suzdalev is a large winger who uses his speed to cover ice north-to-south. Aggressive when on the forecheck, he is very good at forcing turnovers because of how quickly he's able to close in on his target. His speed helps him be effective in transition, heading up ice quickly and entering opponent territory. Playing in the offensive zone is where his hockey sense starts to shine. With good timing and positioning, he finds himself in front of the net uncovered and able to grab rebounds. These rebounds turn into either another dangerous shot attempt for him or continued possession for his team. He really needs to work on his defensive game as he often gets beat by his man. This is especially true when defending against the rush where his lack of lateral mobility prevents him from cutting off angles well or engaging with the attacker physically. The NHL size he does have makes him an intriguing prospect who will need a lot of time as a project. The challenges he has defensively are things that can be fixed provided he puts the work in, as he exhibits strong hockey sense to anticipate plays better. With his straight-line speed, he will always be a threat on offense and his large frame is going to help him in front of the net as he continues to develop. His skating and speed combination, while raw and in need of polishing, will be enough for scouts to be chomping at the bit to draft him. His lateral mobility, for example, needs improvement and a quicker first step will always be encouraged. Both elements would make him even more threatening. Suzdalev has great potential that, if tapped into properly, will pay off big time in the future for whoever calls his name on draft night.

**JAKE LIVANAVAGE**

**85**



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 157

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CHICAGO	USHL	61	3	42	45	40

Jake Livanage is an offensive-defenseman who uses his skating ability and his high hockey IQ to impact the game from the back end. He's a great skater, and combines high-level lateral movement and good speed to allow himself to pull away from opponents as he jumps into the rush or carries the puck through the neutral zone. He's a quality facilitator, both off the rush and in the offensive zone. He can spot open lanes and deliver passes right onto his teammates stick with ease. He is patient with the puck on his stick. He doesn't rush his decisions and his mind is capable of thinking one or two steps ahead of the play. He's most comfortable in the offensive zone, and while he possesses strong passing skills and vision, his shooting ability does leave something to be desired. He has a powerful shot but can take a long time to release the puck off his stick, allowing opponents to get into the lane and disrupt his vision of the net. Defensively there needs to be some improvement, particularly in his aggressiveness to try and hold the offensive blue line. He needs to learn when to back off and respect his opponents speed, otherwise he will get burned when he pinches and surrender a lot of odd-man rushes going the other way. If he can learn the nuances of when and where to be aggressive when pinching and when it's better suited to back off and be cautious it'll really help his ability to keep the game in front of him, making him a more effective defender at the next level. That'll be critical in his game. He's a bit of a project, but with the proper time and development Livanage can be an everyday NHL defenseman who plays solid five-on-five minutes and carve out a role running a team's power play unit.

**JORDAN DUMAIS**

**86**



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-8  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HALIFAX	QMJHL	68	39	70	109	6

Jordan Dumais is a clever winger who reads and reacts to situations as they develop and is a bit of an opportunist. He sees the ice well and utilizes his vision to be a dual threat as both a playmaker and a shooter. He has great offensive instincts and can find linemates as they drive to the net, but also shows off a smooth set of hands, making him elusive in tight spaces where he is able to escape pressure or make plays with a defender right in his face. His skating wouldn't be considered dynamic and he does lack some of the quickness that you might look for in an attack-minded player, but he is able to get into open ice, drive through or around opponents, and make up for not having the additional burst of speed with timing and quick decisions. As a shooter, he can find lanes and get pucks through to the net. He rolls off pressure, has both a really good stationary and in-stride release, and while he can get pucks on net from a distance, he's more of a threat from mid-range or while crashing toward the crease. Although he might be considered a bit undersized, he is as competitive as they come. He jumps on rebounds, battles all over the ice, and gets his stick into lanes to disrupt plays and steal pucks. Improving his foot-speed will no doubt be part of his future development plan but, even without that element his offensive instincts in combination with good defensive play and his willingness to compete in all three zones, should make him an intriguing early round draft target. At the NHL level, Dumais projects as a third-line winger with the intelligence to play higher in the lineup in the right circumstances, and that's not necessarily a versatility a lot of players have further down the draft charts.

**MIKO MATIKKA**

**87**



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 187

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	JOKERIT	FINJR	30	19	14	33	22

Miko Matikka is a strong winger who thrives when hanging onto the puck and finding a way to drive to the net with possession. When he has the puck on his stick in the offensive zone, he is very good at fending off checks to work the cycle down low. His work with the puck on his stick leads to extended attack time while on offense as his strength and stickhandling ability allow plays to open up. He has a shoot-first mentality and has an excellent one-timer that he's able to get off at challenging angles at times. His desire to score is also evident in the frequency with which he shoots the puck. While not the greatest skater, he can open things up for himself when he does get a chance to rush the puck up ice. Injuries this season might've slowed him in this regard. Decision-making is arguably the area in his game that he needs the most improvement as it can be very inconsistent at times. For every good rush up ice with possession, there's a bad pass into sticks or a shot into traffic that gets blocked. There are times where he's on the right side of the puck and helping drive play, though there are other times where he gives up possession too easily by forcing things. Effort level with him can also be a bit inconsistent as there's times where he shows a willingness to backcheck but others where he can be seen coasting into his own end. There's not a ton of ceiling with him as he projects to be a relatively safe floor type player who could find his way to the NHL someday. He will have to improve his consistency at both ends of the ice and work on improving his decision-making. If Matikka can do this, he has a good enough shot to be a dangerous player down the road for whichever team drafts him.

**LUDWIG PERSSON**

**88**



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 178

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	FROLUNDA	SWEJR	41	25	36	61	16

Ludwig Persson is an explosive winger who has tremendous speed that he uses to outskate opponents to the puck. With a huge burst of acceleration in his first few steps, he can get up to top speed quickly and this allows him to create separation. He is pretty creative when in possession of the puck as there's simple plays available to him that he takes but is not afraid to welcome more challenging options. This opens up a bit of unpredictability in his game, which keeps defenders honest when he's out on the ice. His puck-handling ability is very good and he has above-average vision to make him a weapon on offense, often creating scoring chances for himself and teammates. His wrist shot is very quick as well and he is not afraid to use it. He is tenacious when he doesn't have the puck and plays a hard game at both ends of the ice. He could be a more effective player if he shot even more, as he is already good at finding the middle of the ice and has a strong release. While his effort level cannot be questioned, how he utilizes that effort could be refined in his own end. He can get caught a bit too far down low on defense, leaving the point wide open. He needs to better channel his enthusiasm to work smarter, not harder. It's not the worst problem for a prospect to have, though. With the skill and speed he has, he is an exciting prospect that has a ton of upside to be a good scoring two-way forward. If he hits his ceiling, Persson can be a second-line winger who impacts the game in multiple ways. But his worst-case scenario will be a bottom-six defensive winger who contributes offensively on a semi-regular basis. It's not the worst floor to have in a player in this range of the draft.

**ILYA KVOCHKO**

**89**



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 167

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MAGNITOGORSK	RUSJR	51	17	32	49	18

Ilya Kvochko is a quick playmaking center who is able to create in the offensive zone due to his elusiveness and a high motor. He plays with an abundance of energy. He is a very strong passer who is able to make difficult dishes in the offensive zone due to his high-end vision with the puck on his stick. He can recognize passing lanes into high-danger areas of the ice and is capable of delivering difficult passes off both his forehand and backhand to find teammates for scoring opportunities. He is a shifty player who is able to spin off and evade pressure due to his edgework and agility. He shows good control in tight and is able to cradle the puck to change angles on defenders and goaltenders to open up both passing and shooting lanes. His straight-line speed is relatively average – especially for a player his size. His stride is short and at times somewhat choppy, limiting his overall acceleration. He is an undersized forward, to say the least, who can struggle to find and win space against larger opponents. However, his workmanlike attitude while attacking in the offensive zone allows him to at times extend play below the goal line or fight his way in close to the goal mouth. He is an excellent passer, but lacks dual-threat ability to his below-average shot. He struggles to get enough velocity on his shot to beat netminders from medium range, and is only able to score when shooting pucks from in tight to the goalmouth. He will need to add strength, more straight-line speed, and improve his shooting to become a meaningful pro contributor, but his ability as a passer and his motor leave room for optimism that Kvochko could become a depth contributor with power play upside at the NHL level.

**COLE SPICER**

**90**



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	58	20	19	39	22

Cole Spicer is a two-way centerman who can play an effective game in all three zones. The defensive side of his game is an area he excels in. He can easily identify his assignment in the defensive zone, and he is able to stick to him like glue. He is an above-average skater. He has a quick stride and powerful lower body that allows him to generate good speed as he goes up and down the ice. When he combines his skating and high motor, he is able to frustrate his opponents in a variety of ways. He never lets his size hold him back, and he loves to get into the dirty areas and engage in physical battles. He has shown a knack for winning 50/50 puck battles and getting possession for his team. Offensively he makes his money as a facilitator, because he has good vision and patience with the puck on his stick. He can work from the half-wall or below the goal line, and deliver crisp and accurate passes into the slot, setting his teammates up for quality scoring opportunities. His offensive game has developed nicely over the season – a positive sign – and if he continues to work on that aspect, he has the potential to become a quality player at the next level. Adding some weight to his frame will allow him to become more dominant in 50/50 puck battles and will allow him to physically outmatch his opponents more frequently, something he's currently on the wrong end of. If he finds consistency in his offensive game, he can become a great middle-six center who can excel as a checking forward while chipping in some solid offensive production. Spicer has a future as a good even-strength player and a potentially elite penalty killer thanks to the skillset and processing of the game he is already in possession of.

**JEREMY LANGLOIS**

91



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 186

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CAPE BRETON	QMJHL	60	13	34	47	58

Jeremy Langlois is a high-end skater with great agility and four-way directional mobility. He has a beautiful stride, really good top speed and steady edges that can carve up the ice and stop on a dime. Although he is a two-way defenseman who can play a solid defensive game, it's his ability to activate into the rush and play off the puck that quickly becomes apparent. He is noticeably confident once he gains possession and his patience enables him to break pucks out of with a strong first pass or with his feet as he transitions the play through the neutral zone and into offensive end. On the attack, he has enough speed to separate himself from opponents and take pucks into quality shooting areas. He routinely makes plays with only limited space, beats defenders with well-timed accurate passing, and prolongs possessions with evasive moves and the ability to access quiet spots on the ice. He walks the blue line with his head up, opening up passing and shooting lanes and can activate down the wall and deeper into the zone. He doesn't play a particularly physical brand of hockey but he doesn't seem to need to in order to be an effective defender. His ability to maintain gap control is excellent and he wins puck battles through situational reads, anticipation, stick placement, and body positioning. Overall, he could use a bit more explosiveness in his first two steps and he does have a tendency to try to make something out of nothing at times but, as he continues to make improvements in those areas, Langlois appears to have the skills from the back end to carry the puck up ice and develop into a valuable offensive contributor at the next level while still being able to look after his own zone with respectability.

**LUDVIG JANSSON**

92



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 176

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SODERTALJE	SWE2	47	2	3	5	10

Ludvig Jansson is an offensive-minded defenseman who loves to move the puck up ice on his stick. He has great vision that he uses to create offense both at even-strength and on the power play. Playing the point very well, he calmly moves the puck where it needs to go. Whether that's finding a way to get a shot through to the net or dishing it off to a teammate for a chance in the middle of the ice, he has tremendous upside in generating offense. He is confident with the puck and often finds it's evident in how he tries to generate. His speed is a trait of his that he uses all over the ice, especially to join the rush and support the forward group attacking. He is not afraid to follow the play all the way to the net and look for a rebound as if he's a fourth forward on the ice. He does not do this carelessly though, as it's strategically thought out and often-times a low risk by him where he knows he has coverage behind. As with most offensive-minded defenders, he needs to work on things in his own end if he's going to make it to the NHL. He can regularly get lost at times and end up on the wrong side, causing confusion with his partner. He also needs to learn how to better use his stick and positioning to force the play outside and prevent the opponent from driving towards the middle of the ice. The red flags on defense will need to be corrected for him if he ever wants to have a net positive impact on dangerous shot attempts for and against. Looking like a project who will need several years to develop, Jansson fits the mold of the new age NHL defenseman and could reward a team willing to show the patience to bring him along and live with the mistakes he'll inevitably make given the style of play that makes him successful.

**FABIAN WAGNER**

93



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 170

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LINKOPING	SWEJR	43	12	26	38	4

Fabian Wagner is a very intelligent center who plays a strong two-way game, showing high-end instincts and positioning when he's away from the puck. He can carry a lot of speed through the neutral zone, but is patient enough to allow a lane to open up for himself before attacking it. When he enters the offensive zone, he has his head up looking for a pass, and has the confidence to wait for a play to open up before dishing it off. He can attack on offense in a variety of ways and will get creative in generate scoring chances for himself and his team. It's difficult to contain him as he can be slippery and tough to knock down because of his excellent balance. His passing ability is his primary offensive threat. He can find open teammates and put the puck on their tape, especially from behind the net. His shot is decent, but does not have a great release or accuracy when using it. Seeing the improvements he has made year-over-year defensively is a reason to be optimistic about where his development is headed. Working hard at both ends of the ice, he is excellent at applying pressure and winning battles for the puck. He also supports his defense very well and does so through excellent positioning and communication. He is not the strongest player on the ice and will need to improve in this area, but he does play with no fear so it does not limit him as much as it could. Even though he is relentless while skating, he lacks high-end speed. Working on his lower-body strength could help him get faster and allow him to create even more separation than he already does. Two-way centers at this age can be a rare commodity and the base package Wagner has to work with is enough to invest a mid round pick on at the draft.

**EVAN KONYEN**

94



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 169

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SUDBURY	OHL	66	16	34	50	35

Evan Konyen is an offensive-minded winger who specializes in finding the soft areas of the defensive zone coverage to make himself available to use his lethal shot. The shooting ability is his best asset. He has a lethal snap shot and a one-timer that can beat goalies from anywhere below the top of the circles. He has a quick release, getting the puck off his stick in a hurry and the ability to generate a ton of power behind his shot with pinpoint accuracy. His skating is average, but he has a knack for generating controlled zone entries and getting the puck to the prime scoring areas in the transition game. His skillset is that of a complimentary piece. He works well off his teammates and has a knack for getting open and getting his body in prime position to receive a pass and get his shot off quickly. With his ability he should have no problem finding a role on the power play at the next level and excelling as a primary shooting option. His puck skills and playmaking ability are a work in progress, however. They aren't a liability, but he will want to try and improve his area of his game so he can become a more multi-dimensional threat. Currently, opponents can just stick to him like glue to take away his shooting lanes and if they do that, they erase any potential big impact he can have on the game. In other words, he's too easily silenced at the moment, and needs to combat that. He's shown a willingness to learn and work on his mistakes each and every game which bodes well for his development, but currently looks like a depth piece and specialist player at the next level. Konyen will be able to score on the man-advantage but until he adds another offensive dimension to his game, he will struggle at five-on-five.

**CONNOR TOMS**

95



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 163

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SOO	OHL	56	4	15	19	19

Connor Toms is a mobile two-way defender who uses his puck skills and skating ability to drive transition from the back end. His best trait is his skating, accelerating quickly up and down the ice with the puck on his stick, constantly examining the ice for his next pass. His' puck skills are a plus for him, having above-average hands and using his stickhandling and skating combination to weave through traffic in the neutral zone. His passing stands out in all three zones, constantly looking for his nearest outlet and he rarely ever forces a low percentage pass. Defensively, he uses his skating to maintain good gap control and to keep his opponents from breaking free into the open space. His processing speed and ability to make decisions under pressure need some work. There are times he keeps the puck on his stick for a split second too long, allowing opponents to take away his passing lane or even force him into a turnover. His size makes him susceptible to being knocked off the puck, or to even hesitate in the high traffic areas. Adding some weight to his frame and becoming more confident in his decision-making will really help bring his game to another level. He has the skating ability to puck skills to be an effective blueliner at the next level. He will likely be a bottom-four defenseman who plays most of his minutes at even-strength. He could force his way onto a power play unit if his processing speed develops, giving him more time and space on the ice will really allow him to take advantage of passing and shooting lanes. Toms is worthy of taking a gamble on near the middle of the draft because of an adequate package that just needs to find some refinement and development time.

**TYLER BRENNAN**

96



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	39	2098	3.58	4	.899

Tyler Brennan uses his edges really well to push with power, shift direction and control his mobility. He can go post to post with speed and accuracy. He enters the posts in control and locks-in establishing a vertical seal with his pad along the lower post and his body and active hands protecting the upper post. He quite possibly has the best projection in this draft class and much of the interest in him revolves around the combination of his NHL-ready frame and his unusually high-level of athleticism for a prospect of his size. He shows a high hockey IQ with his situational breakdowns and ability to read attack sequences. He has really strong lateral movement and can do so in control that's in keeping with his overall calm approach. He tracks pucks well, can employ a variety of saves depending on the surrounding circumstances and can close off his five-hole quickly and maintain a compact form dropping into his butterfly or entering and exiting from a slide. He can sometimes react slowly and give up goals that are very saveable on shots that are in tight to his body, especially on his glove side. He also needs to improve his decision-making when he comes out of the net for pucks, as he will occasionally get jammed up behind the net, and he tends to simply fire the puck away rather than doing something constructive with it. Both of these concerns are fixable and can be addressed in the near future through focused instruction. Going forward, Brennan's development plan will be crucial in the coming years to help him reach his potential, but one thing seems apparent – he is more than just a draft piece to add positional depth to an organization. He's likely the most coveted goalie in the draft.

**RUSLAN GAZIZOV**

97



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 180

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LONDON	OHL	54	10	18	28	22

Ruslan Gazizov is highly-skilled player who struggled to adjust to the North American style a bit in his first year making the jump. When you see him play you can see the offensive gifts – he’s a talented skater with high-end puck skills but just hasn’t quite figured out how to put everything together yet. He has a lot of speed in his stride and the ability to move laterally with ease at his top speed, making it tough for defenders to slow him down when he gets moving through the neutral zone. He’s comfortable making high-risk moves in traffic because he knows his puck skills and speed give him the ability to pull off any shake he wants to make. He has the dual threat of solid playmaking ability and a high-quality shot that allow him to freeze the defenders when he attacks off the rush. While he has the upside and skill to be a great NHL player, his consistency and engagement level wavered at times throughout the season. He will have shifts where he’s engaged and one of the best players on the ice, but then disappear the next shift and have no impact on the game whatsoever. When he’s engaged and is on his game, there isn’t a play he can’t make. But when he’s off his game, he struggles to play with intensity, misses easy passes and struggles with his puck control. The inconsistency will scare some teams from taking a player with his skillset earlier than the middle or late rounds of the draft, but there’s no denying the skill and offensive potential he possesses. If Gazizov can find a way to keep himself engaged more consistently, there’s no denying he can become an effective middle-six scoring forward for whoever takes a shot on him in the draft. That is, however, a pretty big if.

**JOSH FILMON**

98



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 160

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	67	23	22	45	26

Josh Filmon is a power-forward type of player who’s still quite raw and inexperienced, but showed good growth throughout this season and could still have plenty of untapped upside. He doesn’t really have one standout trait, but does multiple things well. His large frame certainly provides some natural advantages for him, and he’s still far from getting his strength and conditioning as high as they can go. He has a pretty good skating technique and long strides, which allow him to hit a good top gear and help him be effective on the backcheck. He’s got an above-average shot already, and it’s easy to see it improving over time as he adds strength and hones his skills a little more. He finds those all-important scoring spaces at a nice rate, and uses a longer stick than most guys his size and is effective at using it in quick catch and release situations. He has the offensive creativity to read the play and try some high-level skill moves or tricky passes when the time is right, and while he’s not always successful in completing them, you like that he’s confident enough to try. He will need to work on his shift-by-shift consistency, as he is prone to looking like a passenger some shifts rather than being a difference-maker, but with his variety of tools he could become someone who leaves his mark in plenty of different ways. He will need to better learn how to use his size to his advantage. You have to do a lot of projecting and wish-casting with him, but his club is going to put a lot of ice time on his plate soon, and they’re already dabbling with playing him down the middle. Filmon’s ceiling is likely as a middle-six forward, and many teams will be excited to take him on as a project given the collection of tools and size he has.

**ANTONIN VERREAULT**

99



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-8  
WEIGHT: 162

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GATINEAU	QMJHL	56	14	32	46	12

Antonin Verreault is an energetic forward who sees the ice well and recognizes opportunities that allow him to move the puck into quality offensive locations. He is slippery, makes sharp cuts and accelerates through the slightest of gaps that allow him to attack seams and generate chances off the rush or through in-zone play. His skating is impressive in transition, has pace with lots of agility, and he’s able to get up to full speed in just a few strides from a standing or in-motion start. At times it can look like he has the puck on a string. His hands are soft and quick and, when combined with his elusiveness, he becomes difficult to track. He has a good enough shot and can vary his release to be either quick or a bit delayed. Being a bit of a smaller player is where the concern comes in. He can be physically outmatched in battles. He’s catered his play to account for this so in puck protection he prefers to employ deception and rolling off of pressure rather than an outright shoulder-to-shoulder battle. Defensively, he is good in his own zone and constantly scans the ice and maintains position. He is effective at disrupting opponents with his stick and taking away their space, but he can have some difficulty defending against opponents who have well established puck possession. He will likely never become the strongest player on the ice, but if he can gain an ability to steer puck-carriers that might be enough to translate his game. At the next level, he looks like a puck distributor and mid-range shooter. He could provide an offensive spark or excel on the power play. This scenario really only makes sense if he is in a top-six role, so the test for Verreault will be his ability to make things happen when he gets his opportunity.

**BEAU JELSMa**

100



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	BARRIE	OHL	68	27	20	47	23

Beau Jelsma is a two-way forward who is extremely diligent at both ends of the ice. He makes smart on-ice reads in all three zones and uses his excellent positional discipline to cause turnovers and transition to the offensive attack. He is a tenacious forechecker, using his strength and work ethic to outmuscle opponents and win 50/50 puck battles. He understands how to use his body to protect the puck from his opponents and work his way through traffic into the open ice. He plays a responsible defensive game, getting back into the defensive zone to support his teammates and help negate any opposing chances. He’s a quality player who can bring versatility his team’s lineup and play multiple roles. He doesn’t have spectacular puck skills but is more than capable of getting the puck to the prime scoring areas. In terms of improvement, he needs to work on his skating to become a more lethal player off the rush. He doesn’t have explosive speed, meaning it’s tough for him to create separation in the transition game or when breaking wide on an opposing defenseman. He isn’t slow by any means, but his lack of foot-speed will be an issue for him as he progresses through junior to the pros. Working on his speed will allow him to become more of a play driver and more active member in the transition game. While unspectacular, he has all the tools that coaches would love to get their hands on. A toolsy player who can play up and down the lineup and play in all situations with a motor that won’t stop. He is a potential bottom six player who will thrive in a puck possession style of play. Jelsma can play a checking line role and be a vital member of the penalty kill at the next level.

**SAMUEL SAVOIE**

101



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 189

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GATINEAU	QMJHL	64	18	15	33	45

Samuel Savoie is a powerful skater with a thick frame who is a dynamic attacker that plays a physical game and never stops working. He has decent puck skills at top speed and a relentless style that is most effective when he’s finishing checks, winning battles and taking pucks to the net or finishing with his heavy shot. He gives defensemen trouble below the goal line, wins races and knocks defenders off pucks and recovers possession. His agility and shiftiness also allow him to be a good puck protector. He has ability to drive plays and create offense on a zone entry or an offensive rush, thanks to his speed and powerful frame. His skating is another strong element of his game. He can quickly get up to speed in open ice. He accelerates past defenders and he’s shifty and agile enough to escape pressure, protect the puck and prolong control. He is strong at five-on-five, highly involved on the power play, and brings energy and effort to the penalty kill. Defensively, he has an active stick and can take away space and clog up passing lanes. He puts in the extra effort on the backcheck and takes away the middle of the ice. He seems ready and willing to throw his body in front of shots, though it can pull him out of position. Although it can be expected that he will continue to work hard and develop, there isn’t really a lot of risk in his game. He controls what he can control and doesn’t worry about the rest, staying well within his skillset regardless of circumstance. He can play his game, of which energy, effort and drive are the hallmarks, no matter who his linemates are or where he sits in the lineup. Right now, he projects to the NHL level as a tenacious middle-six checker who is capable of shifting momentum and adding some scoring.

**ALEX BUMP**

102



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 195

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PRIOR LAKE	USHS	31	48	35	83	44

Alex Bump is a highly-skilled winger who excels when he has the puck on his stick. If you give him any time and space with the puck, he has the skill to make any defender look silly. He’s a multi-dimensional offensive weapon who can act as both a playmaker and a scorer. He can effectively create chances out of the cycle and off the rush but is at his best when working in one-on-one situations. He has high-end puck skills that allow him to beat opponents with slick moves and the ability to make risky plays look routine. He split time between Prior Lake and playing with Omaha in the USHL, having a ton of success in the high school circuit and some quality games in the USHL. He’s a raw player who has an extremely high ceiling, but there are some risks involved with him. The biggest concern is his ability to make decisions quickly when under pressure. There are times he was able to do whatever he wanted while at Prior Lake because the level of competition wasn’t always the best, but when playing in the USHL he would hold the puck too long, allowing opponents to close in on him and either block his opportunity or take the puck away from him all together. Like any young player, he will need to learn that you can’t always create space for yourself at the collegiate and professional levels. If he can get more comfortable playing in close quarters situations it will go a long way for his offensive game. He’s a swing-for-the-fences type of prospect, which can either excite teams or make them nervous to take him. If Bump develops properly, he can turn into an elite skill player who dominates at five-on-five and on the power play for years to come. If he doesn’t, there isn’t much upside for him on an NHL roster.

**DAVID MORAVEC**

**103**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 189

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ML. BOLESLAV	CZREP	40	0	4	4	8

David Moravec is a safe, reliable defender who plays a low event style of hockey that won't jump off the page. He has a sound defensive game already, playing a very responsible, quiet brand of hockey in his own zone. He stays tight to his check and doesn't allow them to grab any free ice, and has a knack for clearing second chance pucks away from the front of the net and away from harm's way. He's not the biggest player, but he is effective at using his body to box out opponents and keep them away from the puck. He anticipates the play well and, despite having average mobility, can jump into the lanes and create turnovers on a regular basis. His skating does hinder his ability to become a consistent threat when jumping into the rush, but when he picks his spots correctly, he can be an effective option once in a while. He has average puck skills and a decent shot, but he won't be a regular offensive contributor at the next level. With his skillset he can play an effective role at five-on-five and be a mainstay on a penalty killing unit. His game isn't attention-grabbing, but it's effective and he knows exactly how to play his role. He has the potential to be a very solid NHL defenseman if he can improve his skating and offensive game a little bit. He may develop in to a solid safe-thinking defenseman who can also support the offense, exit the zone cleanly with a good pass or skating the puck up ice himself. The game is full of high-octane offensive defense-men, but players with his style can still find a way to play an effective role for a long time. He's a lower-ceiling player, but there is a chance he improves his offensive side of the game and becomes a much more well-rounded blueliner.

**CONNOR KURTH**

**104**



**POS:** RIGHT WING  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-11  
**WEIGHT:** 207

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DUBUQUE	USHL	62	35	46	81	40

Connor Kurth, an overaged player in this draft class, is a skilled forward that generates a lot of offensive chances for his team. His shot is his best weapon offensively, as he's a strong kid which allows him to generate a lot of power behind his shot. Add in a quick release and solid accuracy and you get a dangerous sniper who can score at will when he's all alone in the slot. The other calling card of his game is his tenacity on the forecheck. He's a hound on the puck and causes a lot of issues for opposing puck-carriers when they're trying to create separation from him. When he wants to, he can be a physical force on the ice. If he gets going at full speed and uses his frame to drive the center lane, he's virtually unstoppable at the USHL level. One of the issues with him has been his willingness to do a lot of these things on a regular basis. The other area of concern for him is his defensive game, particularly his involvement in his own zone. He has decent positional instincts but can be a pedestrian a little too often in the defensive end. If he were to become a more consistent power forward, it would add another dimension to his game and make him more dangerous as he reaches higher levels of hockey. He has the upside to be a middle-six power forward if he shows willingness to live in the net-front and the high slot areas, and could have a role on a power play unit because of his size and skillset. But he needs to show that consistency to be painted with such upside, otherwise he's going to fall short of the flashes of potential he's shown. He was passed over in his true draft year, but after his impressive USHL season, it's hard to imagine that he slips through the entire draft this time around.

**TOPI RONNI**

**105**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 179

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	TAPPARA	FINJR	30	11	18	29	53

Topi Ronni is a big-bodied center who uses a combination of size and skill to make himself stand out. He understands how to use his body to his advantage, using his frame to protect the puck and keep opposing players from knocking off the puck off his stick while he examines the zone for an outlet. His size and effort level makes him tough to play against, especially at the junior level in Finland. He has just average mobility and puck skills that he flashes on occasion. His passing and vision with the puck are very noticeable, especially as he uses his body positioning to open up space for himself. At times he can be too reliant on his passing and force a few plays rather than taking an easy shot or an easier option available to him. His mobility won't hold him back at the next level, but he definitely wants to work on his explosiveness and stamina to help him keep up with higher paces of play. He has the physical traits and developing skillset that will appeal to a lot of scouts, but he's a raw prospect that will take some time and patience to develop. He has an intriguing set of skills, combining generally above-average skating with good hands and offensive awareness. Players with his size and the knowledge of how to use it to his advantage always find a way to carve out a role at the next level. He definitely has the potential to develop into a middle-six forward at the next level, but if all else fails he has the skillset to play a bottom-six checking forward who can wear down the opposition, too. With him, you're betting that the skillset will eventually match up with his physical gifts he has and, if he develops properly, you could be getting a solid impact player in the middle rounds of the draft.

**MAREK ALSCHER**

**106**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-3  
**WEIGHT:** 196

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PORTLAND	WHL	61	7	9	16	48

Marek Alscher is a defenseman who uses his size well and plays an effective modern defensive game. He plays with a high level of awareness and assertiveness. He has a competitive edge in puck battles along the boards and down low, often coming out with the puck thanks to his strength and reach, and he occasionally makes life tough for those who try to stand in front of his net. He is a reliable defender, effective at using both his stick and his body when trying to separate a player from the puck. He keeps a good gap while defending the rush and is fleet of foot enough to not get burned often by speedy opponents. He's not overly physical, but he's focused and is able to defend smartly and cleanly without getting into penalty trouble. He does seem to react to plays as they're developing rather than anticipate plays to try and get ahead, which is something that may limit his overall effectiveness. On the offensive side of the puck he lacks pop. When in the offensive zone he doesn't seem fond of jumping in and getting involved, and he can get too static standing on the line. When exiting the zone he's just content to make the first pass up the ice and then hang back himself instead of trying to add a second wave to the attack. Every now and again, though, he'll find a burst of confidence and activate on the rush, and maybe even try carrying the puck into the zone himself. It's not frequent, however. His puck control isn't actually bad at all, it's surprisingly good, and he'll tease you with flashes of it that make you wonder how much better that aspect of his game can get. He has a lot of room left to grow as a defender, and his odds of becoming a top-four defender one day are better than most blueliners his age.

**MATTHEW SEMINOFF**

**107**



**POS:** RIGHT WING  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-11  
**WEIGHT:** 180

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KAMLOOPS	WHL	64	26	31	57	8

Matthew Seminoff is a forward who plays the game with a ton of energy and is very well-rounded. He contributes on both special teams units, being slightly more effective on the penalty kill. His positional awareness while shorthanded is fantastic, making life hard for defenders as they rarely ever have shot lanes, and if they do decide to shoot he is more than willing to lay his body on the line. His stick-work while killing is great. He doesn't just swing it around without purpose; he's very aware of how his stick positioning will influence the next play the opposition will make, and then uses his anticipation to disrupt the play. He is also effective on the offensive side of things. He shows as an intelligent forechecker, doing so with that same high energy but again using that energy effectively. He won't chase guys unnecessarily, but goes in with a purpose and often is able to disrupt defenders and create turnovers for his team, or force defenders into less than desirable options. He's got good enough puck-handling abilities to create offense in tight spaces. He's a smart player and has good enough playmaking abilities that he can play with offensive players, and help them elevate their game. He has all the attributes you want in a player that would slot into the middle-six of your lineup, but there is one thing he could try to improve upon – his straight-line speed. When he gets the puck and has to cover quite a bit of ice, he seems to struggle and gets caught from behind too often. If he can tweak his skating stride to allow him to get more power and extension in each push, he most certainly has the potential to be an effective NHLer who can play a big role on a team's penalty killing unit.

**GRAYDEN SIEPMANN**

**108**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-10  
**WEIGHT:** 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CALGARY	WHL	66	9	16	25	28

Grayden Siepmann is an undersized defender, but can make up for his lack of strength with quality skating and a good stick. He's a smooth, agile skater who has tremendous control with his edges and beautiful footwork. Couple that with his great puck skill and you have a defender who excels at puck retrievals in his own end, leading to quick transitional breakouts. He plays the game at a high pace, which allows him to avoid tight battles in his own end by constantly beating opponents to loose pucks using his quick feet. His defensive zone positioning is also above average, again thanks to his speed and agility. He's able to keep close contact with his man and quickly bounce out to any loose pucks. He saw time on the second unit of both specialty teams this year, however, he failed to be a major difference-maker on either. When on the man-advantage he doesn't quite have that strength yet to be a real threat. His shot from the point isn't very dangerous, and his passes can come off soft. When down a man he again doesn't have the physical strength to consistently box opponents out. He doesn't consistently keep his foot on the gas, and his intensity can waver. For a guy whose job it is to carry the puck he will need to clean up the amount of turnovers happening now. The main question becomes just how high his ceiling goes. His sublime skating will take him a long way, but he is going to need to find ways to use it that make him more of a difference-maker, or begin stacking other elements on top of it. He should be able to become a transitional, possession-driving blueliner at even strength, with some mystery about what he will be able to contribute on special teams down the road.

**JAKE FURLONG** **109**






**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-1**  
**WEIGHT: 189**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HALIFAX	QMJHL	67	4	38	42	16

Jake Furlong is a smooth-skating, puck-rushing defenseman who is offensively-minded and more than comfortable with the puck on his stick in all three zones. He consistently initiates controlled zone exits through his accurate passing or his excellent skating and use of linear crossovers to gain speed and drive through the neutral zone in puck transport. He can access space and create a speed differential to gain the offensive blue line and attack defenders. In the offensive zone he's really effective. He displays confidence and makes bold decisions like coming down the wall to challenge for pucks and keep possessions alive. He can crank up the pressure by shrinking the zone and drifting up to and beyond the tops of the circles. Furlong's mobility and offensive instinct lets him navigate into dangerous areas, jump into open ice and with little effort return to a defensive posture as needed. Defensively, he takes good routes to pucks, surveys the ice well, and relies once again on his skating to control the interior of the ice and manage his gap. He's not the most physical defender but is still willing to bump and bang along the boards. He has excellent stick placement to get onto pucks, close off passing lanes, and disrupt opponents. There are some concerns, such as his backward-to-forward pivots against speedy attackers or his occasional shaky decision-making. For as good as he is at creating offense through passing, he will sometimes get tunnel-vision and let the puck go whether the opportunity exists or not. Overall, he has an interesting package that could turn into something quite special. If he is able to leverage those talents, Furlong has the potential to develop into a top-four candidate at the NHL level.

**TUCKER ROBERTSON** **110**






**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 190**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	68	41	40	81	48

Tucker Robertson is a high-energy, two-way forward who excels in his ability to play in all situations. He plays an effective north-south style, using his high-motor and mobility. He has a solid frame, allowing him to be effective in the hard areas of the ice in the offensive zone and he shows a willingness to take the puck and drive through traffic to the goalmouth. He's not the flashiest player on the ice. Rather than trying high-skill moves, he uses the chip-and-chase method to get the puck into the offensive zone. His high-motor allows him to excel at retrieving the puck below the goal line and start the cycle for his team. Defensively he has strong positional discipline, allowing him to help out his team in his own zone by getting his body and sticks into the lanes and breaking up potential opportunities for the opponents. He doesn't possess elite puck skills, but he has a plus-level shot that will beat goalies from the prime scoring areas. In terms of improvement, the rest of his puck skills need some work. His playmaking is inconsistent at times, flip flopping from high-end vision and passing accuracy to a complete lack of awareness of where his teammates are in the offensive zone and throwing pucks into high-traffic areas without looking. If he can work on his puck skills and find a happy medium with his playmaking and offensive awareness, he has the potential to be a nice hidden gem on the second day of the draft. With his motor and finishing ability he can be a top-nine forward who plays a checking role and works well off his teammates. If paired with a gifted playmaker, he will be able to fill the net on a semi-regular basis while still playing a hard-nosed, forechecking game.

**ANGUS BOOTH** **111**






**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 177**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SHAWINIGAN	QMJHL	42	1	22	23	32

Angus Booth is a mobile two-way defenseman whose priority is to look after his own end before turning his focus up ice. He shows strong defensive zone positioning, clogs up shot lanes, gets under sticks in front of the net, and controls his opponents. He effectively tracks the play and the opposition as they move through the zone. He reacts quickly, establishes control of skating lanes, and takes good routes to pucks. In the corners and other high traffic areas he plays with a bit of jam. He takes away the puck-carrier's time and space and applies stick-on-stick pressure before hitting and pinning his opponent along the wall. In open ice, he has great gap control and angling skills to steer the attack away from danger and into limited ice. He also shows good protection skills with the puck on his stick, especially below his own goal line or in small space situations, and he can move the puck quickly without appearing rushed. He initiates breakouts and advances the puck through zones by completing high probability short passes that kick starts the counterattack. Perhaps not the fastest skater, he still has a fairly strong stride, quick directional changes, balance and slick edges for great lateral mobility as he drags pucks across the offensive blue line to open up shooting and passing lanes. He's a fixture on the power play and penalty kill and while he's good in both disciplines there is room to improve his play with the man-advantage. He tends to prefer to use his passing to create opportunities for others and will sometimes lack the assertiveness to jump into the attack when openings arise. He gives indications of becoming a third pair defender at the next level with limited offensive upside.

**COLE KNUBLE** **112**






**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 175**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	FARGO	USHL	62	20	29	49	14

Cole Knuble is an energetic, two-way forward who plays the game with a high compete-level in all three zones of the ice. When he's at his best, his enthusiasm and work ethic are evident on every shift. He doesn't just give one-way effort. He's an extremely competitive player who has the work ethic and drive to be effective all over the ice. He's a strong player who has above-average skating ability, which allows him to outwork his opponents for open space in the offensive zone. When he's open in the slot, there is nothing that you can do to stop him because the puck is on and off his stick before you can react. He doesn't shy away from physicality and isn't afraid to go into the corners to try and separate his opponents from the puck. When he's engaged, he plays the grinder role perfectly, but the biggest issue with his game is that he's not engaged on a nightly basis. When you watch him, you're not sure what player you are going to get. Without the puck, he can get into the habit of stopping his stride and gliding up and down the ice, making him a non-factor at either end of the sheet. He can be extremely frustrating because he has a lot of natural ability that sometimes gets swept under the rug because he isn't consistent enough with his performances. He has the potential to be an all-situations player who plays a checking role while being able to chip in offensively from time to time without it being a surprise. He's a young kid and so there's no need to throw all his positives out the window, but when you see a player with the potential he has, it can be disheartening to see his effort level waiver from night to night. If he finds that consistency, he will be a regular NHLer who coaches will love to have on their team.

**DMITRI BUCHELNIKOV** **113**






**POS: LEFT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 168**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ST. PETERSBURG	RUSJR	56	41	34	75	22

Dmitri Buchelnikov is a shifty winger who constantly looks to push the pace of play with the puck on his stick. It's his second go-round at the draft after going unselected in 2021. The highlight of his offensive game is his agility and high-end puck skills, which allows him to weave through traffic with control of the puck and attack in tight spaces in the offensive zone. He is a shoot-first forward who is constantly looking to generate shots and get pucks on goal, aiming to shoot to score with his strong wrist and snap shots while also generating rebounds in front for his teammates on occasion. He is an undersized forward with a slight frame, but he is able to somewhat counteract his size deficit with a high work rate that allows him to find his way to those dirty areas of the offensive, increasing his ability to be available for those high-danger scoring opportunities. As he continues to develop, he will need to add more tools to his defensive and playmaking kits to become a well-rounded pro. He does not do much to retrieve pucks in his own zone or assist in generating turnovers, which is an area that will need to be improved for him to crack an NHL bottom-six. He is also a fairly basic playmaker, able to make efficient perimeter passes but not able to set up linemates with dangerous scoring attempts. If he can add a dimension there it'll make him a more threatening, multi-faceted attacker that keeps teams guessing. Overall, he shows deficiencies in his size and defensive game, some of which remain from when he was eligible for the draft last season, but may be able to stick in an NHL lineup as a depth option with power play upside due to his blend of skill, shot generation ability, and high motor.

**OTTO HOKKANEN** **114**






**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-2**  
**WEIGHT: 184**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAIPA	FIN	30	1	0	1	0

Otto Hokkanen is a two-way center who is reliable with the puck on his stick. He has solid playmaking instincts, particularly in the offensive zone. He can work the puck to the slot in a variety of ways, setting up his teammates for quality scoring chances. He has decent mobility moving up and down the ice with good pace, and has little issue keeping up with the pace of play in Liiga. His frame is pro ready, and he has little problems when engaging in physical battles in the dirty areas. If he can become a little more consistent at winning those puck battles and in the face-off circle, he will be a much more valuable asset – particularly in the offensive zone. He has some struggles with his processing speed, oftentimes needing a lot of time and space to properly examine the ice before making a decision with the puck. When the opponents put pressure on him and take away his space he sometimes throws the puck off his stick or turns it over, allowing a transition chance the other way. He split time between Liiga and U20 action last year, but did have some nice flashes at the men's level. His performance next year will provide a much better idea of his longterm outlook. As it stands, he looks like he's got the potential to slot into a bottom-six role if he makes it to the NHL. His two-way prowess and size makes him well suited for a cycling, puck possession type of role. If he can work on his red flags, become better under pressure, and more consistent with his puck battles, he will be a smart choice in the middle of the draft. He won't ever wow with his play – and in certain cases there's nothing wrong with that – but he can be a smart and efficient player in the right role, and there's value in that.



**KASPER LUNDELL**

115



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HIFK	FINJR	31	8	18	26	24

Kasper Lundell is a defensively responsible forward who has good play-making instincts in all three zones. His work ethic, on both the forecheck and the backcheck, really stands out when he plays. He has a relentless motor that makes him a pain in the ass to play against, constantly hounding the opposition trying to force turnovers and get the puck back for his team. He has good on-ice awareness, using his smarts and anticipation to negate the opposition's offensive chances. Offensively he's a bit limited, but he has solid playmaking instincts that allow him to take advantage of open passing lanes in the offensive zone. Aside from his passing, there needs to be some improvements in his puck skills. He doesn't get to the prime areas consistently enough to be a regular scoring threat and isn't the type of player who can regularly create offensive opportunities by himself. For a hardworking, defensive style of forward, he will want to add some explosiveness to his skating. It'll aid in his effectiveness at both ends of the ice. His motor and positional awareness make up for his lack of speed, but as he gets to higher levels he may struggle to keep up if his skating doesn't get an extra gear. He's a very coachable player, and his style will fit into any system that a coach has. He will always play within himself, rarely trying to do anything outside of his ability. If a team is looking for a lower-risk, but lower-reward type of player he may be the prospect for them. He will have solid defensive impacts and play his way onto a team's penalty killing unit. A bottom-six defensive winger isn't a sexy prospect, but it's a key piece and teams may be intrigued by his skillset enough to add him to their stable.

**JORDAN GUSTAFSON**

116



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 178

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SEATTLE	WHL	58	23	29	52	16

Gjordan ustafson is a center who won't necessarily wow with any part of his game, but is comfortable and does well handling the defensive duties asked of a center. You can count on him to always be between his man and the net while defending in his zone, and he's always aware of what the threat could be. He understands when to jump into puck battles to help out his defensemen and when to sit back and get ready to be the easy outlet pass. He plays the game with a high compete-level, which contributes highly to his success on the penalty kill. He gets in shooting lanes and moves quickly to close gaps on opponents and limit their options. He's smart and mature beyond his years and gets the kind of trust and usage that most players his age would kill for. The big question with him is whether or not he'll be able to develop his offensive skills enough to make himself more of an all-around player at the next level, as his short stature and so-so skating hurt his ceiling as a defensive forward. He shows promise with the puck at times, but seems to be lacking high-end offensive vision and creativity. When he has the puck under pressure he has issues finding plays to make. For a player his size he would benefit from an extra gear with both his acceleration and his top speed, as he can struggle to create any extra time or space for himself, and when he gets caught he usually gets outmuscled. He is fairly sturdy on his feet, though it costs him a little in terms of agility and elusiveness. The best path to the NHL for him is most likely by improving his skating and offensive skillset while still leaning on his defensive smarts and persistence to become a plug-and-play forward who is highly trusted by his coaches.

**MARCUS NGUYEN**

117



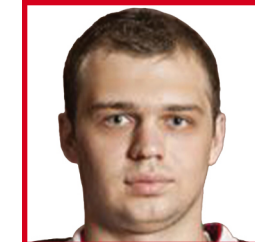
POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	PORTLAND	WHL	68	22	18	40	38

Nguyen is a small, speedy winger who fills the role of complimentary goal-scorer very well. He is comfortable handling the puck, receiving passes and shooting while at full speed, which is good because he's at his most dangerous off the rush. He has great shooting mechanics, using his stick properly to generate a lot of power behind his wrist and snapshots, and being able to change angles as he's releasing the puck to deceive goalies. He's a fearless player who will take the puck to the net at full speed if the opportunity is there, and has quick enough hands to weave through traffic or open up holes on the goaltender when in tight. He's not the most effective on the cycle, and he lacks the size and strength to bump off guys, fight through checks or avoiding getting pinned or boxed out, but he has no issues planting his feet in front of the goaltender when the puck goes up high and trying to hang in there to either screen the goalie or get a stick on a point shot. He is an agile skater with decent top gear and prefers to play a north-south type of game, though he's great east-west at times too. He uses his skating to his advantage well on the forecheck, getting on defenders quickly and, even though he's not the biggest or strongest guy, using his body effectively to separate opponents from the puck. He isn't a huge difference-maker in his own zone, but he doesn't hurt his team either, frequently putting in an honest effort and rarely, if ever, cheating the other way. He understands where he needs to be and is quick to get to loose pucks. The team that drafts him will be hoping he can one day develop into a middle-SIX winger who brings energy all over the ice and chips in offense.

**ALEXANDR PONOMARYOV**

118



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	TOGLIATTI	RUSJR	55	15	19	34	10

Alexander Ponomaryov is an under-sized – but highly skilled – winger who is constantly looking to create offense with flash when the puck is on his stick. The highlight of his game is his dynamic skill. He's a very creative puckhandler who's capable of beating defenders one-on-one with flashy dekes. He is, at times to a fault, always willing to challenge opposing defenders with his skill, relishing the opportunity to attempt to drive to the net through traffic and take on multiple defenders in the process. He definitely needs to realize when to attack and when to make a safer, low-event play. It looks spectacular when he's able to dance into the zone, but leads to turnovers when it doesn't and it can catch himself and teammates in bad spots when the play turns the other way. He shows strong compete when attacking and works hard to find his way into hard areas of the ice, but lacks the physical size and strength required to win those battles for positioning against bigger and stronger opponents. The effort is there, but the stature certainly prevents him from winning his fair share. The main drawback to his game is his tendency to play with his head down, limiting his ability to quickly read defensive coverage, see how the play is naturally developing, or find open teammates – though he does show efficient ability as a passer when he does take a moment to survey the situation in the offensive zone. He's not nearly as aware of his surroundings as an offensive player needs to be. He will greatly need to improve his puck management skills, his ability to play off of teammates, and add significant strength to have an NHL career, but currently projects as a potential skill depth winger.

**DAVIS BURNSIDE**

119



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 176

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	DUBUQUE	USHL	60	18	25	43	50

Davis Burnside is a high-paced, play-making forward who uses his speed and passing instincts to create offensive chances for his team. He is a great transition forward, using his speed and passing ability to knife through the neutral zone and generate quality zone entries either by himself or with accurate, timely entry passes to his teammates. In the offensive zone, he plays a style you might not expect from him given his stature. He's not the biggest player on the ice, but offers a power game by lowering his shoulder and driving through opponents to get to the scoring areas. On the forecheck, he shows a relentless motor, wearing down his opponents with physicality to generate loose pucks and win possession battles for his team. His shot can be a positive for him, but he needs to hone in his accuracy for him to be considered a regular scoring threat at the next level. He can pick a corner on one play, but completely miss the net from the high-slot on the next. If he irons this out he can really make opposing teams fear his offensive capabilities. There are times he tries to do too much all by himself, to little success. He's a strong player and has the ability to power through anyone on the ice, but if he learns the nuances of using his teammates more frequently rather than doing it all himself it will go a long way for his development. He will carve out a third-line power forward role at the NHL level and provide some flashes of high-end offensive production while being a solid defensive forward if he's able to reach his potential. He will be a great prospect to take a shot on in the middle or later rounds, and if he's able to round out his deficiencies he could offer up great value as a player who outperforms his rank.

**REID DYCK**

120



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 190

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
2021-22	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	23	1267	4.26	0	.884

Reid Dyck has a big frame and battles hard to get in front of pucks. During the flow of play, he moves with speed and shows off good body control. He favors a series of shuffles while standing in pre-shot preparation and when he goes into his butterfly stance he has a great deal of mobility for a big goalie. He reads attacks that enter the zone off the rush really well, and he's able to break down odd-man situations. He challenges by setting up at or beyond the top of his crease and gliding back to mirror the play. He's not quite as comfortable facing attacks from in-zone play, such as off the side wall or from below the goal line, but his lack of technical approach is overcome by effort and creativity. He can be a bit shaky at times but when he's on he's on and when his team is under siege, he elevates his game and can make spectacular desperation saves. He tracks pucks well and is particularly good going post-to-post, leading with his pad and gaining a firm seal along the ice. One concern stemming from this however, is that he will often finish the play – even when it's not necessary – sprawled out on his belly with limited chance of staying engaged in the sequence. This inability to transition into follow up saves does not happen off every play and there are lots of times he gobbles up rebounds and displays perfect form, but it happens enough that it should be considered as a development target. He projects nicely to the NHL level, but to what degree will be determined by his development in the coming years. Every team likes a goalie with size, and every team likes a stopper who can who can fight off challenges and make the big saves that turn the momentum of a game, and he certainly fits that bill.

**MADDOX FLEMING**

121



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 182

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SIoux FALLS	USHL	47	10	24	34	14

Maddox Fleming is an offensive-minded winger who stands out when operating in the offensive zone, particularly off the puck and out of the cycle. He can use both his passing and shooting ability to be effective offensively, but he is at his best when he controls the puck below the goal line and can find a teammate hanging around the high slot. He brings an aggressiveness to the game, especially on the forecheck. He's constantly hounding opposing players until they lose the puck or are forced to move it to a teammate. His skating is average at best. This makes it tough for him to keep up at times in transition, but when limited to the offensive or defensive zone he has no trouble using his skating ability to get himself into the proper position. This is reflected a bit in his numbers, so he could see an overall spike in production if he's able to improve his stride and arrive on time to areas in the offensive zone. The defensive zone is a bit of a concern, though, as the tenacity we see from him on the offensive side of the ice hasn't quite translated to his defending just yet. He can allow his assignments to fly under the radar and slip by him to get open in a prime scoring area. If he can find a way to have the same level of effort and drive at both ends of the ice it will make him a much better player and a much more useful player at the next level. He had a tough season, starting out with the USNTDP before heading to Sioux Falls in the USHL. While the year wasn't quite what he envisioned, he still has an appealing skillset. If he develops his defensive game and brings that same effort level we see in his offense, he can become a nice top-nine winger who provides depth to the bottom half of a team's forward group.

**DANIIL DAVYDOV**

122



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DYNAMO	RUSJR	54	10	21	31	64

Daniil Davydov is an intelligent two-way center who plays with poise and awareness in all three zones. The standout aspect of his game is his ability to read and react to play when playing away from the puck. He does a very good job of assisting his defensemen low in the defensive zone with coverage of high-danger areas and assists in generating turnovers and retrieving pucks, and owns plus mobility to move the puck out of his own zone upon retrieval. He plays with great poise in all three zones. He is a quick skater with a smooth skating stride that allows him to carry pucks through the neutral zone. He can appear to lack a high-end gear when it came to speed and acceleration. He keeps his head up with the puck on his stick in order to identify both skating and passing lanes. His main asset as an attacker is his playmaking vision, as he's capable of finding teammates with cross-ice passes on occasion. He has a tendency to pass up shot attempts available to him, instead opting to make a pass when he's got a clear look. What he lacks is high-end creativity and imagination in the offensive zone. He's a very by-the-book offensive player, making smart and efficient reads to find teammates along the perimeter of the offensive zone, but lacks the problem-solving skills necessary to break down coverage at higher levels of play. He displays good individual tools, but doesn't frequently enough put all of those tools together in the offensive zone. He will need to add more skill and creativity into his game, and unpredictability, to become a better, more effective offensive contributor at the pro level. He currently projects as a depth center who is capable of playing on a pro team's penalty kill.

**SERVAC PETROVSKY**

123



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OWEN SOUND	OHL	65	28	26	54	28

Servac Petrovsky plays a solid two-way game, knowing how to use his body positioning and stick to jump into passing lanes and cause turnovers before grabbing loose pucks and transitioning to the rush attack. He shows solid defensive IQ and strength, knowing how to position himself in the right spot to create havoc for the opponents. Despite his slighter frame he's really strong on his stick, and is able to use his stick to get under the opponents' hands and strip them of the puck. His puck skills are coming along nicely. He can handle the puck in space and if he corrals a pass in the high-slot he has a capable shot that can challenge goalies because of his quick and accurate release. On offense, he needs to become more deceptive with his puck skills. This area has developed nicely, but still needs some improvement. He gives away his decisions before the play is made, often tipping to the opponent where he will go with the puck by locking onto his teammate for too long before deciding to deliver the pass. If he can keep defenders guessing while he's on the attack it will make him a much more lethal player on offense and add another dimension to his game. When at his best he's active and engaged in all three zones, making an impact with his defensive prowess or his effort level. But the effort wasn't always there on a regular basis this season. Finding a way to add some strength and keep his intensity level at 100 percent on an every-game basis will be key for him over the next few years. He has some quality assets that will appeal to NHL teams and, even though he's a bit of a long-term project, he is a solid prospect to take a stab at in the middle of the draft.

**LIAM ARNSBY**

124



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NORTH BAY	OHL	46	9	17	26	70

Liam Arnsby is a physical grinder that plays a highly aggressive game with a competitive motor. He battles extremely hard every time he steps foot onto the ice, jumping into every physical battle he can and putting his body on the line to help wear down the opposing team. He has solid mobility that allows him to get up and down the ice quickly, and he uses his skating to get a competitive advantage along the boards to put himself in positional advantages when engaging in puck battles. For a young player, he does understand the nuances of playing a physical game. He understands when to pick his spots to be physical and doesn't often wander out of position to throw a hit. Outside of a relentless physical presence, there is not a whole lot that he can bring to the table. His skating is average, his puck skills need to be developed if he wants to become a more consistent producer, and he struggles to read the play with the puck on his stick. He lacks that explosive top-end gear to help him push the pace as a puck-carrier and will likely only be able to scratch an NHL lineup because of his effort-level and coachability. He has the perfect skillset to be a fourth liner player who keeps the opposing team hemmed in their own zone and works the puck below their goal line. It's not necessarily a sexy role, but remains a necessary one. He will be able to play that low event, puck possession game but will likely struggle to produce quality chances on a regular basis. He is the type of player to play on the fourth line and the penalty killing unit who will go out and annoy the opponents whenever he's on the ice. His ceiling is low, but so too is his floor, which makes him a sensible option later in the draft.

**IVAN ZHIGALOV**

125



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 167

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	SHERBROOKE	QMJHL	42	2347	2.84	0	.892

Ivan Zhigalov is a second-year draft eligible goalie who enjoyed a breakout season after seeing only limited appearances while playing in Europe last year. He has a solid grounding of fundamentals from pre-shot preparation through to the save and into post-save recovery. He favors a hybrid style and displays patience as he engages with shot attempts from a standing or butterfly position. He makes deliberate movements, reads and anticipates the attack and turns away shots with good rebound control. He moves very efficiently through his crease. His post-to-post mobility is fluid, and he can telescope to the top of his crease and back again with very little disruption to his stance or his ability to address the shooter. His post entry and RVH play is top-notch. He seals any openings and attaches with a strong toe-lock on the post, he gets up and down quickly, takes away the high short side but can still flair his legs to deal with any weakside attempts or a puck-carrier moving across the face of the net. Over the past year he has shown some real improvements in his play. He's built up his technique to handle most shots with a reassuring comfort and he's upgraded his athleticism to add speed and scrambling ability to his skillset. He can be expected to continue to develop aspects of his play and, although he has a good glove hand, there is still some room to improve that skill in particular. At the moment, he projects nicely as an eventual NHL backup, but given enough time and the right support, taking on a more prominent role is not out of the question, especially after seeing a spike in his development over the course of the past year. He could be a steal if he matches that growth spurt next year.

**KIRILL DOLZHENKOV**

126



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-6  
WEIGHT: 234

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CSKA	RUSJR	33	14	14	28	35

Kirill Dolzhenkov is a massive winger who combines his blend of size, strength, and puck control to create in the offensive zone. His size and strength is immediately noticeable every time he steps on the ice, as he stands with both an imposing height and weight, making it incredibly difficult for opposing defenders to knock him off pucks or gain body positioning against him in front of the net. He is well aware of the advantage he has every time he hops over the boards, and he's able to leverage his size and reach to protect pucks from opposing checkers. He controls pucks very well for a player his size, able to shield it away from opposing defenders with his body while also showcasing his ability to handle the puck in tight spaces around the goal mouth. He also shows ability as a scorer, as he's not only able to find pucks close to the goal but also is able to get his weight behind a powerful wrist shot at times as well. Where improvement needs to come for him, unsurprisingly, is in his mobility. He, understandably, lacks agility and pace in his skating as he lumbers around the ice. He skates flat-footed and has no burst. His stride is generally sluggish and at times clumsy, making it difficult for him to generate speed quickly and play the game with pace. Defensive awareness and overall work rate are issues, too. He also shows a very low engagement rate away from the puck, often floating in his defensive zone and lacking attention to positional detail that allows chances to develop. He will need to improve his mobility to play at even-strength at higher levels as well as improvement his defensive commitment, but has the upside to be a depth piece who can play the net-front on the power play.

**DAIMON GARDNER**

127



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 200

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WARROAD	USHS	30	45	38	83	18

Daimon Gardner is a skilled forward with a big frame that has a lot of upside and potential to develop into an effective offensive player. He's an absolute raw prospect but shows flashes of high-end puck skills. His footwork is solid for a player his size, showing some strong skating ability and good agility that allows him to navigate effectively up and down the ice. His shot is a plus for him, as he uses all of his frame to generate a lot of power and has a quick and accurate release when he has a lot of space. An underrated aspect of his game is the understanding he has of his own body. Not many young guys understand the subtleties of using their physical gifts to their advantages, but he does. He will outmuscle players in puck battles, or drive through opponents' bodies to get open in the offensive zone. He struggled with his skating ability early, especially in the USHL but after he went back to the high school circuit, he looked a lot more comfortable with his movements. There's upside with him, but he's so far from being a polished player that you have to wonder what his true ceiling will be at the next level. He shows flashes of high-end skill, but when he plays against higher levels of competition it will be way harder for him to rely solely on that skill. If he can continue to develop his offensive game while adapting to more of a checking role, it will really make him a more versatile player. He is just scratching the surface in what he can do and will take plenty of time learning what can make him successful. A player like him makes perfect sense in the late rounds of the draft because he's a true boom-or-bust player and if he works out, he can be a diamond in the rough for whoever drafts him.

**ELMERI LAAKSO**

128



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAIPA	FINJR	25	7	11	18	16

Elmeri Laakso is a mobile, puck-moving defender who likes to be active in the transition game. His ability to carry the puck and be effective at breaking the puck out of his defensive zone stands out when you watch him play. He likes to start the transition from defense to offense, usually with a quick and accurate breakout pass. He has good vision and passing ability, he can spot open passing lanes and deliver accurate passes to teammates in stride. He is comfortable carrying the puck and can walk the line in the offensive zone to help open up lanes for a shot or a pass. His skating is an area that will want to improve on, as he's a little slow to react and can get beat in one-on-one situations because his foot-speed isn't anything special. Another thing he will want to work on is his tunnel-vision. On too many occasions he can get too focused on one play, making it easy for opponents to read his eyes and allowing them to jump the lane and pick off his passes or knock the puck off his stick. He's not super flexible in defending. There can be a bit of a mean streak in his defending, which is always nice to see. It makes him more miserable to play against. He projects as an NHL defenseman, and his ability in transition and passing ability stand out when you watch him play. Those qualities should translate to the next level quite easily. Despite the lack of foot-speed and his vulnerability in defending the rush, he has enough positive traits in his game to warrant a mid-round pick. If he adds a gear to his skating and works on his tunnel-vision, he can slot into a bottom-four defenseman role and make an impact on the power play. He's a bit of a gamble, but has the potential to pay off and become an everyday NHL defenseman.

**ELIAS PETTERSSON**

129



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OREBRO	SWEJR	37	10	8	18	38

Elias Pettersson is a defensive defenseman with strong skating ability, making him a nightmare to attack in one-on-one situations. He has a high level IQ, great physical attributes, and solid mobility that allow him to maintain high-end gap control and angle opponents away from the center lanes to keep them to the perimeter. He uses his body to his advantage, boxing players out and driving them into the boards to separate them from the puck. He is the perfect player to have out on the ice in a close game because you know he's going to do his best to shut down the opponents. He's an adequate distributor, making quality passes when he has time and space to hit his teammates in stride, and has no issues waiting out his opponents to allow a lane to present itself. His puck skills will be the biggest concern for NHL scouts, as they are average at best. While he didn't have any glaring issues at the men's level in Sweden, if he doesn't develop them, the NHL competition will eat him alive. His offensive impact at the next level may be negligible, but his defensive impacts and ability to frustrate the opposition by shutting down their best players will be a big selling point to whoever drafts him. He can be a multi-situational player, playing tough five-on-five minutes against the opposition's top players and playing a big role on the penalty kill. His style of game isn't flashy and may be tough for some to appreciate because he won't be a regular on the scoresheet, but he the type of defender you need on your team so the offensive-minded players can do their thing without the fear of wondering if they've got backup. He will be a low ceiling player, but he's a safe bet to make the NHL in some capacity.

**JOEL JONSSON**

130



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 152

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MORA	SWEJR	30	8	26	34	101

Joel Jonsson is an offensive-minded winger, using his high IQ and puck skills to breakdown the opposition and create offensive chances. He has great puck-handling ability and vision with the puck, using his skill to create time and space for him before attacking the defensive coverage. He can manipulate the coverage to open up lanes, and attack with speed or use his passing ability to deliver a strike to a teammate down the lane. Primarily a playmaking threat, he does have an adequate shot that allows to pose multiple options when attacking off the rush. He needs to get into the habit of using his shot more often. His shot is good enough to beat goalies consistently but, more importantly, it will make him a more threatening option when attacking off the rush. His explosiveness could use a little improvement, because with his skill and IQ if he can add another gear to his skating he could be a nightmare to defend against. As he gets older he will mature more physically and become a much stronger player. His size wasn't that big of an issue at the U20 level, but in the NHL or even the SHL he may run into stronger opponents who can easily knock him off the puck and negate any positive impact he will have. There's a lot of upside in his game, but he's a massive unknown and anyone drafting him will be betting purely on his upside. If he hits his ceiling, he could be an offensive middle six-forward who will chip in offensively. But if he busts, he will absolutely struggle to make the NHL because his skillset does not allow him to play a non-offensive style of role. He's a boom-or-bust swing-for-the-fences type, which means he might make a team look really good, or strike out completely.

**CAMERON LUND**

131



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GREEN BAY	USHL	62	25	25	50	49

Cameron Lund is a big-bodied two-way forward who creates a majority of his offensive chances when operating out of the cycle. His strength and skating ability are big pluses for him. He moves well through the neutral zone and can change directions rather quickly, and with his strength on the puck he's a lot to handle when he gets moving at full speed. His ability to get into the dirty areas and engage in loose battles really highlights his strength and tenacity on the puck. He is excellent in physical situations and has a knack for coming away with a lot of 50/50 pucks. He's a relatively raw prospect and his situational awareness is very inconsistent when you watch him. He needs to develop a better feel for the time and space he has available to him, especially when he has the puck on his stick. Oftentimes he makes a great rush through the neutral zone and has time to let a lane develop, but instead rushes a pass that either misfires or ends up going to no one. Other times he gets the puck in the slot and needs to release a quick shot, but he waits a second too long and is either stripped of the puck or gets his shot blocked. More of a killer instinct with the puck will fix this. His offensive production at the next level seems quite limited and is likely better suited as a facilitator than a finisher, but he does have a well-rounded two-way game that will make it easier for him to carve out a role as a top-nine player or, if need be, a fourth-liner with some additional pop from time to time. He has the physical traits of an NHL player but needs to develop a better feel for the game before he'll be able to make the jump to the NHL. He will never be a feature player, but has the potential to be a nice complimentary piece.

**BRADY STONEHOUSE**

132



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 182

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OTTAWA	OHL	68	18	17	35	52

Brady Stonehouse is a high-energy forward who uses his great mobility to play at a fast pace whenever he is on the ice. He has strong skating ability with great two-step quickness and bursts of speed that allows him to create separation from his opponents. He is an aggressive forechecker, using his skating to close in on the opposition and pressure them into making mistakes and creating turnovers. In the offensive zone he shows solid off-puck movement, finding soft spots in the defensive coverage and presenting himself as an option for his teammates. He is an adequate defensive player who works hard but is rarely matched up against top competition. He's not a shutdown winger by any means, but he knows where to position himself in the defensive zone to put himself in the position to negate his assignment's offensive impact. He will primarily be a complimentary depth piece if he manages to carve out any NHL role. He struggles as a puck-carrier, as he'd often drive the lane effectively but a lot of his rush attempts seemed to lead to nowhere and failed to create any quality chances. Sometimes a more simple play is better for him. For a player who plays an aggressive style, he needs to add some weight to his frame, as he was easily knocked around far too often during the season – and that greatly hindered his ability to play the style of game he likes. If he adds strength and continues to develop his puck skills a little bit he has a shot at turning into a bottom-six forward who can play sheltered even-strength minutes and play a role on the penalty kill. He probably won't ever have the skill to fill a scoring-line role in the NHL, but he's a battler and has the ability to be a quality supporting player.

**JACE WEIR**

**133**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 183

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	RED DEER	WHL	64	5	20	25	37

Jace Weir is a physically mature defenseman whose biggest impact on the game comes in his own end. He uses his body in his own zone well. He's hard on guys who stand in front of his net, does a good job boxing opponents out when needed, and is strong down low and along the wall in puck battles. His defensive stickwork is solid as well, always tying up his check and using it to fish pucks cleanly out of scrambles. His bread-and-butter is the effort and enthusiasm he displays while defending. He projects quite well in terms of physical shutdown ability. Things start to get a little dicey with his game when he's not defending in his own zone. First thing of concern is his overall skating. He can run into issues when he's skating backwards defending against the rush, and that issue is only going to magnify as he progresses to the pro level unless significant work is conducted. His pivots and crossovers aren't very smooth and can cause him to lose momentum and slow down. Weir's puck skills aren't anything to write home about. He's not one to carry the puck on his own for breakouts, as he has a lot of trouble evading traffic and getting up to any kind of reasonable speed. His passing can get sloppy when under pressure with the puck. His offensive instincts at the blue line are virtually a non-factor, too. On the bright side, he's going to play a lot of minutes in Red Deer over the next few seasons, which should help him add the polish that his game needs. His chances of becoming a mainstay at the NHL level will solely depend on his ability to improve his skating and carve out a role as a one-dimensional shutdown, purely defensive style player who also helps on the penalty kill.

**RAUL YAKUPOV**

**134**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NIZHNEKAMSK	RUSJR	54	30	16	46	66

Raul Yakupov is a shoot-first forward who owns an excellent release and is able to read off his teammates well to get himself into scoring position. The standout in his game is his shot, as he's a powerful and accurate shooter who can score from medium range with a quick and deceptive release. He doesn't take shots from out far out, but instead opts to carry it to the middle of the ice or closer to the net, giving him a better chance at scoring from a higher-percentage area. He's willing to battle to get to those areas, too, showing good puck protection skills along the way. He owns a lanky frame that he could stand to add more muscle to, but it enables him to add length to his game and protect pucks from opposing checkers with his reach. He handles pucks well with practical skill that allows him to move through high-traffic areas, though he is not a dynamic stickhandler that can beat defenders one-on-one to open up more space. He also applies pressure on opponents and can win puck battles by showing a bit of his physical element. He does not skate around looking to make a hit but he will finish a check hard when the situation warrants it. He reads the play well and can step into prime shooting areas to score goals, but his overall game lacks a sense of creativity and problem solving that is required to be an offensive force at higher levels of play. He was used on the penalty kill for his club this year, but his defensive acumen is roughly average as he shows strong commitment but is prone to puck-watching and missing assignments at times. Overall, he owns upside as a depth scoring option at the pro level, but will need to add strength and creativity to his game in order to truly get there.

**DANIIL BOUROSH**

**135**



**POS:** RIGHT WING  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ROUYN-NORANDA	QMJHL	67	29	15	44	24

Daniil Bourosh is an energetic power forward who, thanks to great instincts and focus, excels at inserting himself into the play – notably as a scoring menace. He engages physically, has a relentless forecheck, and can acquire pucks. His top asset is his shot. He has a one-timer that is a weapon, and he is regularly able to set up in open space and be ready to fire upon reception. He tends to consider his shot a first, second, and third option when it's on his stick in the offensive zone. For the most part, that's rightly so. He has a tremendous snap shot that has power and accuracy. He doesn't need much space to get it off and when he does, he can take advantage of any holes the goaltender is showing. He fires relentlessly and from all angles. On the power play, his team has him play the point where he can unload shots and take advantage of his shoot-first mentality. Even with a desire to hammer pucks at the net, he still makes quick decisions, finds open lanes, and rarely turns the puck over. He is, however, predictable in his approach in the offensive end, which can hinder his effectiveness. The area of biggest concern centers around his skating. Although his top speed is actually quite decent, his stride lacks fluidity and his overall posture can sometimes be pitched too far forward and is distinctly unbalanced. It's the sort of thing that can be overcome in junior but becomes increasingly exposed as a player ascends to higher levels. This will undoubtedly have to be addressed going forward but, even with this concern, he is a talented enough offensive player to receive strong consideration from a number of teams as someone with the potential to develop into a middle-six scoring winger with size and physicality.

**BRANDON LISOWSKY**

**136**



**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-8  
**WEIGHT:** 171

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SASKATOON	WHL	64	33	25	58	34

Brandon Lisowsky is a winger who possesses that natural goal-scoring ability. He's that rare breed whose hands and feet are able to keep up with how quickly he's able to process the game when the puck is on his stick. He's got a heavy and accurate wrist shot, and is capable of unloading it off either foot which allows him to catch goalies off guard. He's also able to change his release with a nifty curl-and-drag motion that can surprise. He's a determined offensive player that, despite his size, likes to take to the puck to the front of the net and slot to create better scoring chances for himself. He uses his offensive instincts and quick-twitch movements well to identify small open areas between defenders and is able to burst to those spots. When he doesn't have the puck in the offensive zone, you can again find him in the high-danger areas, making himself an option for teammates or anticipating potential rebound plays to clean up. He is also a puck hound on the forecheck. He gets on defenders fast and with a purpose, often using his body to cut off their stick from the puck so he can strip them. Although his calling card isn't defense, he won't hurt his team in that aspect. He has the defensive awareness to do his job, the only issue that arises sometimes is he can get outmuscled along his wall when he doesn't get a clean pass. His size will most definitely give pause to some teams come draft day. That said, he's willing to finish his check on a defender when he's the first man in on the forecheck -- so the willingness is there. The team that selects him will do so with the hopes he can continue to develop and play an offensive middle-six role and also adds another option to one of their power play units.

**YOAN LOSHING**

**137**



**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-9  
**WEIGHT:** 162

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MONCTON	QMJHL	50	19	23	42	38

Yoan Loshing is a high-energy forward with a ton of speed and a motor that doesn't stop. He's always in the middle of the play, either pressuring defenders, competing for possession, or pushing the pace offensively. He is an above-average skater and his mobility is the basis of his game and everything he does builds off that speed and agility. He has a really fluid stride, and shows agile feet in all directions. He also uses sudden stops and crisp edges to create space or stick to other shifty opponents. It doesn't just happen in one zone, either. His defensive game is probably a little underrated but he is good in his own zone. He understands his responsibilities, closes in on puck-carriers, and often plays tight to defensemen to limit their impact and force turnovers and counterattacks. On breakouts, he makes and receives passes well, stretches the ice with timely zone exits, and provides some limited ability to transition the puck up ice. He has the type of speed that lets him separate from opponents, and he uses his speed to take defensemen wide and be a threat to score both off the rush and from in-zone play. He's a good shooter – not overly powerful but he identifies shot lanes, targets just inside the post and has a sneaky quick wrist shot that gets off the blade fast. He is highly competitive and fairly reliable in his own end, with an active stick and the ability to crowd opponents and take away their space. With potential as an NHL middle-six winger, he should have the time to focus on his development. Like many undersized prospects, future development for him will no doubt include trying to gain some size and strength and could also involve speeding up his hands a bit to match his foot-speed.

**GAVIN WHITE**

**138**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-0  
**WEIGHT:** 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HAMILTON	OHL	66	10	46	56	21

Gavin White is an offensive puck-moving defenseman who is constantly challenging opponents with his high-end mobility and creativity with the puck on his stick. The standout aspect of his game is his explosive skating ability, as he is one of the fastest players on the ice whenever he hops over the boards. He is a gifted skater who is able to build speed quickly out of his crossovers and also owns very good agility and edgework with the puck on his stick. He is an excellent asset in transition, as he is able to start the breakout with a crisp outlet pass or by skating the puck out of his own zone himself. He is also a creative attacker who often looks to join in on offensive play, rarely passing up an opportunity to come down from the point to aid in the cycle or create a scoring opportunity. He's a gifted puckhandler who can beat opposing players one-on-one to open up space, and also owns very good playmaking vision and can find teammates in the offensive zone with ease. Where he needs improvement is in his defensive zone decision-making. He is guilty of holding pucks in his own zone for too long by looking to beat oncoming forecheckers with his agility and stickhandling, and in turn, is too frequently turning pucks over in his end rather than making the safe play on the breakout. It's a habit that will infuriate coaches. He has the offensive skillset to be an effective impact player at the professional level but will need to improve these defensive zone lapses and learn to make the simple, quick, and easy play a little more often. He could potentially be a second-pair defenseman, but likely caps out as a bottom-pair guy who finds a way onto a power play unit because of his offensive ability and puck skills.

**JAKE KARABELA**

139



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 160

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GUELPH	OHL	68	12	33	45	28

Jake Karabela is a smart, well-rounded player who showed the ability to slide into multiple roles with his team and have success. He is a strong, albeit not elite, skater who uses his lower-body strength to generate powerful strides and maintain his top speed for long periods of time. He has a surprisingly strong ability to escape traffic and navigate the neutral zone as a puck-carrier despite lacking that elite speed. Offensively, his bread and butter is working away from the puck and putting himself into the prime scoring areas so he can use his shot. He has a hard shot with a powerful release and quality accuracy. He never has the puck on his stick for too long, as he quickly finds an outlet and defers the puck to his teammates so they can carry the play. He was able to cover up his lack of high-end speed in the OHL with his solid positioning and on-ice awareness, but that may be a tougher task for him at the next level. He will want to work on his explosiveness if he wants to be an effective offensive threat. Without elite speed, higher level players will be able to keep up with him and negate any positive impact he may have in the offensive zone. He's tough to project at the next level because he doesn't have that element of skating in his game to be a skill guy in the top-six, but he hasn't shown enough tenacity and aggressiveness to play a bottom-six checking role. He might develop into a case where he's held out of a top-six position and can't crack a checking role, either. It'll be up to him to decide what type of player he wants to be and he will need to work hard at adapting his skillset to fit that archetype. A move to the wing may help his career long-term, too, and a team selecting him might have that in mind.

**MICHAEL BUCHINGER**

140



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	GUELPH	OHL	63	5	39	44	47

Michael Buchinger is a mobile, two-way defenseman who possesses great four-way mobility. With the puck on his stick he plays a calm game and reads the ice extremely well, he rarely wastes energy with his movements. He is a calculated player, making smart and efficient decisions with the puck. Defensively he is able to get his stick under his opponents and not allow them to get the sticks on the ice in the high slot. For a slither player he controls the net-front well, not allowing his assignment to get easy chances in the prime scoring areas. He focuses in on his defensive game before worrying about his offensive impact. He is a quality skater, capable of carrying the puck out of his own zone and creating controlled breakouts for his team. His puck skills are a little lacking, likely limiting the offensive impact he will be able to have at the next level. He's at his best when he makes those split-second decisions and moves the puck quickly, and isn't afraid to stretch out his passes to create odd man chances. If he plays within himself he's a capable two-way player. He runs into issues when he tries to push the envelope and do something outside of his own ability. He will be a limited player at the next level and it's unsure how his offensive game will translate to a professional level. He will be in the lineup for his defensive prowess and quick decision-making. The biggest thing he needs to do is add strength. It'll allow him to continue to play a tough defensive game and outmuscle opponents and keep them away from the slot. He's likely a low ceiling, potential third pairing or seventh defenseman type of player. He will be a later round pick and he needs to work on a lot, but there's NHL potential.

**BRENNAN ALI**

141



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 193

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	AVON OLD FARMS	USHS	27	15	19	34	0

Brennan Ali is an energetic player who relies on his smarts and his high work-ethic to impact the game. He's an excellent skater, generating speed with ease and using quick strides to accelerate quickly. He shows good agility while carrying the puck, too. He has the tools to be a point producer, and the strength and work ethic to play a grinding and puck possession style of game – a combination that not many players have. He thinks the game really well and can identify soft spots in the coverage and get open in the slot. If an opponent tries to box him out from the net-front, he has the strength to easily outmuscle them and get the positional advantage. He can be frustrating because he has the IQ and the tools to be an impact player on any team, but the execution just isn't there all the time. He's prone to making simple mistakes and simply offloading the puck under pressure when there are better options. He can carry the puck through the neutral zone and generate chances through the transition game, but when it comes time to make the pass or take the shot the play had a tendency to just die on stick far too often this season. It seems like his mind is two steps ahead of his body, resulting in poorly executed plays. This can improve as he continues to play in the USHL and he develops, but he likely caps out as a prototypical middle-six forward who can adequately touch both sides of the game. He will be able to chip in offensively from time-to-time because he does have some flashes of high-end skill, but he will likely make his presence felt by being a possession player who wears down opponents by working the puck below their goal line and waiting for the odd offensive play to fall into their lap.

**DYLAN SILVERSTEIN**

142



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 179

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	20	1006	3.52	2	.878

At six-feet, many would consider Dylan Silverstein right on the cusp of being labelled as a smaller goalie. But there is a lot to like about him, and his high level of athleticism is just the tip of the iceberg. He moves through the crease with quickness, but is almost always very controlled and deliberate in his movements. He is quick enough to make the difficult saves, but he has the composure to play a quiet style and maintain a sense of calm when facing quality scoring chances. He consistently presents a nice stance with quiet feet and forward projected hands. He keeps his chin down and actively tracks the puck throughout the zone, reading the shot release and following the puck through to the save and into post-save tracking. In the down position, he can handle anything around the crease by keeping the puck in front of him and staying on top of the play. He establishes a good pad seal on the ice, and his upper body and arms lean forward to cut down angles. Overall, he plays a tidy game with reassuring confidence. One area that could cause a moment of pause is when considering his development path in the years to come. He has been extremely well trained which begs the question – how much untapped potential remains? If there is still growth potential then he could have a higher upside, but even if future improvement comes in smaller increments, he may just simply develop into what he is now, and end up with a lower ceiling. If nothing else, that would make him a safe pick. Right now, he projects as a long-term backup but could have the ability to assume a leading role for short stints. He will have lots of time to work on his game before transitioning to the pro ranks at the college level.

**KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV**

143



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 200

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SOO	OHL	68	5	34	39	10

Kirill Kudryatsev is a very skilled two-way defender who plays a mature and patient game. His ability to react to loose pucks, take advantage of opponent's mistakes, get his stick into lanes, and straight up steal pucks is very impressive. He makes great decisions off the puck in the offensive zone, understanding where and when to be aggressive with his pinches and when to hold off and retreat to defensive positioning. While his positioning is strong, his lack of high-end skating ability can expose him when defending against quicker players on the rush and when he gives his assignment too much space in the defensive zone. He doesn't have the speed to recover. Once he's beat, he is beat and there's little he can do to stop it. In his own zone, he can drift towards the puck, moving himself out of position and leaving an open man behind him – allowing for quality scoring chances against. The mobility will be his biggest concern going forward. Despite having the skill and patience to make plays, the inability to push the pace of play and consistently defend against speed will hinder his potential. Improving on the skating ability and his processing speed will help him adjust to higher levels of play quicker. There's a lot in his game to like, and the right situation will be key for him. Patience and time in his program will be required to develop him into a full-time NHLer more than most of his peers, but he has the potential to be a nice depth piece who plays a majority of his minutes at five-on-five. The puck skills are certainly adequate, but he has a lot of mobility issues that will cause him to fall in the draft and limit his long-term potential. He makes sense as a late-round gamble in the draft.

**SAMUEL MAYER**

144



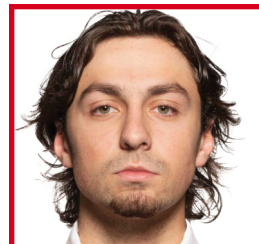
POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 200

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	68	11	26	37	78

Samuel Mayer is a big-bodied defender who uses his mobility and physical gifts to make an impact at both ends of the ice. He moves surprisingly well for a bigger player and has above-average puck skills that allow him to create lanes and chances in the offensive zone. He can move the puck from the outside to the middle lane and open up a potential passing or shooting lane. Defensively, he uses the combination of his size and skating ability to keep opposing players away from the center of the ice, and he forces them to the perimeter where they are limited in their ability to create chances. He plays a physical game, using his big frame to throw hits and separate his opponents from the puck. With his size and strength he can easily outmuscle opponents and win loose-puck battles. A raw and physically gifted player, there is plenty to be encouraged about in his game but there are some things that cause concern for his long-term outlook. For a big, physical player, he has yet to learn the nuances of the physical game. He can too frequently chase the play and leave his position to try and throw an unnecessary hit either leading to a penalty or an odd-man rush going against him. If he learns to pick his spots better and to let the game come to him, it'll help him long-term. Consistency is the other issue at both ends of the ice. He started the year out well but disappeared down the stretch. He needs to find a way to level out the highs and lows in his performance and become a more balanced player. With his size and physical gifts, he is worth a late-round gamble and has the potential to turn into an everyday NHLer. There's just a lot to like in the package he can offer a team.

**LUCA D'AMATO**

145



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-8  
WEIGHT: 154

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	FLINT	OHL	67	7	23	30	28

Luca D'Amato is a fleet-footed defender who makes up for his small stature with quick feet and strong positioning at both ends. He is confident with the puck on his stick, and is able to maneuver through traffic and pressure the opponents well. He is able to cover short areas well using his quick first steps. His puck skills are a plus for him. He has solid vision with the puck on his stick, hitting teammates in stride for easy breakouts and transition attacks. On the other side of the puck, he has no issues defending in space because of his quick bursts, but when it comes to defending in traffic and preventing the cycle his small stature starts to cause him some issues. His strength and lack of high-end skating ability are two of his biggest red flags. Typically, slighter defenders can make up for their size with blazing speed or elite agility and unfortunately he doesn't have that. He can be knocked off stride easily and struggles to recover because his foot-speed holds him back a bit. He was able to produce quality numbers at the OHL level, but it's tough to see it translating to the next stage if he doesn't significantly improve his skating ability or his strength. Both are must-adds to his skillset. If improvements are made on both fronts, he has the potential to be a regular on a team's third pairing playing sheltered minutes focusing on offensive zone starts. If he can't improve his skating or strength, he likely caps out as a tweener that struggles to consistently stay in an NHL lineup. He's a risky pick because he doesn't have any elite defining traits, but if a team is confident that his skating will improve than he's worth taking a gamble on because he does possess solid puck skills and quick bursts of acceleration.

**SANTERI SULKO**

146



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	JOKERIT	FINJR	35	13	19	32	30

Santeri Sulku is a big-bodied forward who has been gifted with an impressive set of physical traits. He has a big frame, with even more room to fill out before he makes his way to North America. He can effectively use his body to box out opponents and protect the puck from the opposition, or chip in physically to help force pressure and create turnovers. Not a booming hitter, he's more nuanced with his physicality – taking away time and space with his body positioning and lengthy reach on the ice and occasionally throwing a body check to separate the opponents from the puck. Though puck skills are average, he is a capable puck-carrier who can power his way to the prime scoring areas in the offensive zone. His shot is a plus for him, using the full brunt of his frame to generate power to help him beat opposing goalies from in close. His mobility is an issue, though. He can keep up with U20 play no problem, but his foot-speed may cause him some issues as he gets to higher levels of competition. He produced well this year, but the biggest challenge will be in watching to see how he develops his skill and how he can pair his game with his physical gifts while playing at higher levels. If the skillset can come anywhere near his physical prowess, he has the chance to turn into a very capable power forward with some intriguing upside. As it stands, he will be suited for a bottom-six role, focusing on puck possession and working the play below the opposing goal and picking his spots to try and generate offensive scoring chances. He can potentially play on the penalty kill, too, because of his size and reach. Scouts will be intrigued by his physical stature, unquestionably.

**GABRIEL KANGAS**

147



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	VASTERAS	SWE2	45	3	3	6	2

Gabriel Kangas is a well-rounded winger who brings a skillset that can be utilized in any situation. He plays the game with a lot of intensity regardless of the score. That intensity allows him to excel on the forecheck and at recovering loose pucks when in battles with the opposition. He displays a high level of off-puck awareness as well, as he is able to identify the soft spots of the defensive setup and knows how to position himself better in the right spot to receive a high-danger pass. Defensively he's positionally disciplined, staying in his assigned area so he can break up any pass that tries to make it's way to his assignment. The foot-speed and ability to play at higher paces may be a tough adjustment for him as he progresses to the next level. He lacks that explosive top gear that is needed to push the pace of play at the NHL level. His size isn't a hinderance, but it's not a plus asset for him either. He could benefit from bulking up and adding some strength to his game, especially given his tenacity on the forecheck and willingness to engage in loose-puck battles. The puck skills are good, not great, but he does flash some potential as a skilled puck-carrier. This is particularly evident on the power play where he is afforded a little extra space. He would fit right in on a team's bottom two lines, playing a forechecking role that isn't relied on to produce a ton of offense. He can occasionally produce, but his money will be made by dominating the puck possession game below the opponents goal line and simply outworking the opposition. He has the potential to play on special teams, which should boost his draft status, but there's no guarantee he's anything more than an even-strength shutdown type of player.

**OSKAR ASPLUND**

148



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ALMTUNA	SWE2	48	3	11	14	10

Oskar Asplund is a high-IQ defenseman with solid puck-moving skills that allow his team to transition to the offensive attack. When he has the time and space to move the puck up the ice, he's a threat to jump into the rush with his skating. He's just as eager at hitting a teammate in stride with a quick stretch pass. He controls the pace of play with his skating ability and is unafraid to carry the puck into high-traffic areas. He has a good understanding of when to jump up into the play and when to hold back and let his forwards handle things, which is a big plus for a player his age. He's rarely taken out of position by a bad decision in this regard. He recognizes situations quite well. Defensively he is average, and uses his mobility to maintain gap control and keep the opposition in front of him. But he really tends to struggle when his opponents get physical with him. In areas along the boards or in the slot he can get knocked around easily, allowing his opponents to gain open ice and position themselves for prime scoring chances. He spent time at the U20 and second pro level, and at times he seemed to be a little disinterested at the junior level – which could be a cause for concern. All in all, he will want to work on his strength and physicality so he can handle more work in the defensive zone. Offensively he has a moldable skillset that will continue to develop and will have no issue translating to the next level. If he can find a way to get his defensive prowess anywhere near his offensive ability, he can turn into a solid blueliner. As it stands, he has the offensive tools that will get him a crack at the NHL, but it remains to be seen if it'll be enough to keep him there if he doesn't round things out.

**TYSON JUGNAUTH**

149



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 155

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WEST KELOWNA	BCHL	52	9	41	50	26

Tyson Jugnauth is a defenseman who possesses a good offensive mind and toolkit. He's a very smooth skater who likes to have the puck on his stick and does so with a lot of poise. He's confident in his breakout ability to make that first forechecker miss him, all while scanning the ice ahead of him and deciding what his best options are. He is extremely comfortable with the puck on the offensive blue line and is calculated when working it around the outside. He routinely threads passes to teammates arriving at the back door. He has that subtle ability to fool opponents by using his eyes, looking like he's going to pass to one side of the ice, and then firing a tape-to-tape, no-look pass to a teammate on the other side. His footwork along the line is active and coordinated. He's capable of opening up shooting lanes for himself, however, his shot doesn't pose much of a threat on its own, so he'll have to be more of a deflection shooter. He uses his feet and stick to keep tight positioning when defending in his zone, which is good because he doesn't possess the strength to separate players using his body and likely won't be able to add a lot to his frame. He can get caught flat-footed at times when skating backwards defending on the rush, so look for him to try and improve that aspect of his game, which shouldn't be a problem given his skills. He is still underdeveloped physically, but will luckily get much-needed development time in the college ranks. Whoever drafts him will be looking for him to round out his game to become more reliable defensively, but his real calling card will be as an offensive defenseman who transports the puck up ice and can also open things up from the offensive blue line.

**CEDRICK GUINDON**

150



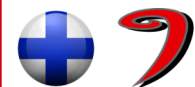
POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 170

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OWEN SOUND	OHL	68	30	29	59	16

Cedrick Guindon is a quick-skating center who likes to fly around the ice with his speed while looking for opportunities to generate offense. He can keep the puck away from defenders with a talented set of hands and still set up teammates for scoring chances. There's a lot of skill in his game that certainly gives him NHL potential, albeit more in a bottom-six type role. While a bit on the smaller side, he has time to fill out his frame and has not let it prevent him from becoming successful at the junior level. He could stand to improve on his consistency as when he flashes his energy and skill, he's very noticeable and effective. On the flipside, there are lapses when he can disappear and fail to make an impact at either end of the ice. There's a complete 200-foot forward with an aggressive streak in him at times and that type of compete level is something NHL teams strive to add to their organizations. Transitioning to the wing to help ease his defensive responsibilities and allow him to focus on creating with the puck on his stick is something that could help him as he gets older and plays against higher levels of competition. Given the tremendous amount of skill he possesses with the puck on his stick, he appears to be flying a bit under the radar in this draft class. He has the skill to potentially turn into a capable middle-six forward who chips in some offensive production on occasion and can play a bit of a shutdown role. He was a highly-touted midget player but the year off for the OHL gives him a limited track record. In the right situation, he could really flourish, but patience will be required when drafting him. He's well worth a gamble could very much outperform his eventual draft position.

**TOPIAS LEINONEN**

151



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 214

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	JYP	FINJR	21	1263	2.28	2	.916

Topias Leinonen has what might just be the perfect frame for a goalie. It's hard to imagine a better build for a puck stopper, and while his list of high-end traits start and end with his size, he still comes with some other decent, albeit unspectacular skills. Unfortunately, he comes with a number of concerns, too. He can take away the bottom of the net with ease thanks to his lengthy limbs. His pads seal the ice well and quite frankly, any player trying to stickhandle around him and slip the puck just inside the post had better think twice. His legs are fairly quick and can extend back and take away the slightest of opportunities. He may have an unsettled stance with active feet, but he's also reasonably patient and while he does tend to favor staying in a butterfly position when the puck is low in the zone. Unlike some other netminders of his stature, he prefers to face the rush on his feet and time his descent to coincide with the attack. His crease mobility is a bit clunky at times, although he does move post-to-post and challenge to the top of the blue paint – but not much beyond the edge of the crease unless diving for a loose puck and flopping further away from his net. The bigger concerns revolve around rebound control, which always seems to be an adventure, and the fact that shots from the top of the circles to the low slot seem to just go through him. These are both issues that can be worked on as part of a training strategy and any team drafting him is aware of his limitations and are selecting him more so for the size he's got as a starting point. If development targets can be reached, he could have an enormous upside, but without improvements the road ahead could be a short one.

**MIKEY MILNE**

152



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WINNIPEG	WHL	68	38	43	81	55

Mikey Milne is a tenacious forward who plays a very straightforward game at a high pace, which allows him to slot into any part of a lineup. He recognizes he's not a player who is going to create boatloads of offense for himself, so when paired with more skilled linemates he's more than willing to keep things simple and tackle the necessary dirty jobs to help his trio be effective. Very high character kid. He's effective on the forecheck, retrieving pucks and displaying good vision from down low to find teammates in dangerous areas, and he's more than willing to put his body on the line and create traffic in front of the net. When he does get the puck in the offensive end he's not flashy, but he has enough feel for the puck and lower-body strength to twist and turn from defenders to prolong possession until he can find a good outlet. His work ethic also allows him to be an effective penalty killer. He has an aggressive mindset and takes time and space away from puck-carriers in hopes of forcing turnovers. He enjoyed a very successful offensive season for someone who was passed over in last year's draft. Teams may need to be wary, as playing on an offensive juggernaut team may have skewed his point totals in significantly favorable way. There are also fair questions that need to be asked about his skating and how well he will be able to get around the ice at the NHL level. However, his well-rounded game and high-level work ethic make him a high-floor, low-ceiling type of prospect who is worth a gamble given his production numbers. He'll most likely need quite a bit of seasoning time in the minors, but could one day develop into a reliable and popular complimentary forward down the road.

**OWEN ALLARD**

153



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SOO	OHL	66	14	10	24	14

Versatility is the name of Owen Allard's game, as he's a two-way center who has the ability to chip in offensively or shut down an opponent defensively. He has good size already and skates very well, and his agility and athleticism helps him be effective on the forecheck. By being relentless in puck pursuit, he is able to disrupt plays with his speed and physicality. It's incredible to see how well he can fight through checks while maintaining control of the puck and his speed. This comes in handy in creating enough separation for himself to get shots off as he attacks in the offensive zone. It's no surprise that he is excellent on the backcheck because of his speed and consistent ability to apply pressure to the opponent. While his effort level cannot be questioned, there's some limits in what he can do with the puck as far as beating defenders one-on-one and creating under pressure. He can get a bit of tunnel vision at times, failing to utilize his teammates as potential outlets for scoring opportunities. Learning how to process the game around him and take advantage of available plays will help him develop his offensive game further, and make him more of a threat when working inside the offensive zone. While he is currently able to succeed at the junior level with these flaws, it will only become more challenging as he plays against tougher competition. Understanding his limits and learning how to play within them while managing to lean on the strengths of his game could earn him a bottom-six checking line role at the next level. He's a bit of a lower ceiling prospect but there's definitely an NHL skillset waiting to be unlocked. He offers a team plenty of reasons to nab him with a mid- to late-round pick.

**ZAKARY LAVOIE**

154



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 170

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	64	23	21	44	18

Zakary Lavoie is a very skilled winger who uses a combination of edgework and high intensity play to generate offense. Finding open ice in opponent territory is a natural ability for him, and he's adept at seeking out those dead spots in the offensive zone. He puts himself in a position to use his excellent shot frequently and, with a quick release, his shot is very accurate. He knows how to create shooting lanes for himself, even through traffic. It's impressive when players don't let their lack of size deter them from engaging with contact and that's exactly what he does. Whether it's driving to the front of the net or working a cycle down below the hashmarks, he has a fearless style about him with strong effort. While these traits help him on a personal level, there's some development needed in how he uses his teammates effectively. Focusing on creating shot attempts for himself can be a good thing, but he will occasionally pass up opportunities to set up a teammate for a better scoring chance. Working on slowing the game down and better seeing where teammates are will help his overall offensive game and keep defenses guessing a bit more – which in turn opens up more opportunity. With his shot being his strong suit, becoming a more balanced shooter and playmaker will only force teams to respect him more. The offensive tools are there, but he is still learning how to piece his entire game together. Drafting him will purely potential based, and whichever team takes him will be confident that he will figure everything out. Patience will be a virtue with him, and teams shouldn't expect him to push for an everyday spot but rather a quality depth piece that makes his impact felt later in his career.

**MATHEW WARD**

155



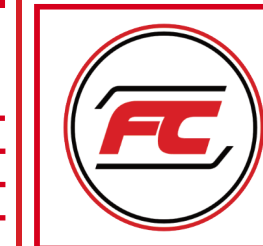
POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-8  
WEIGHT: 156

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	64	22	35	57	96

Mathew Ward is a forward who really impressed early in the season, but seemed to regress a little past the halfway point of the year. When he's at his best, he processes the game at an advanced level and shows a stronger will to win compared to anyone else. He can motor like few others in this draft class, and he can be effective in applying pressure and forcing opponents to make bad decisions. He's not afraid to throw his body around despite his small stature, and he can actually lay some solid checks just due to the fact he'll build up so much momentum and just launch himself. He's an intelligent offensive player who was leaned upon heavily by his team for most of the year. When he's on his game he is able to handle that responsibility, and then some. He is a very good playmaker who sees the ice well and is able to distribute the puck into high-danger areas. He was the primary distributor on his club's top power play unit, sitting either on the half-wall or at the top of the umbrella, and looked very confident when doing so. His shot isn't the most powerful – and that's understandable given the physical limits he's working within – so he'll have to continue to push himself into high-danger areas to continue producing offensively as he moves up the ranks. He's not as much of a burner as you would want someone his size to be, which can make him easier to defend at times. He also crosses the line sometimes with his attitude, and can get himself into penalty trouble that he shouldn't with undisciplined play. With his smarts and compete level Ward could potentially be a fit in a team's bottom-six one day as an energy player who contributes on the power play.

**HUGO HAVELID**

156



POS: GOALIE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 170

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	LINKOPING	SWEJR	28	1684	1.82	5	.920

Hugo Havelid is rightfully garnering a great deal of attention following his performance at the Under-18s. No doubt, he is an undersized goalie. But he also possesses great mobility and quick movements. He has an abundance of patience and can stay on his feet until the very last possible moment, giving himself more time to react and planting a seed of doubt in his opponent's head. Favoring a butterfly style, his patience is key, along with his ability to read the attack and anticipate potential points of danger because once in a down position, he does sacrifice more of the upper net than some of his peers. He may have a high degree of calm attentiveness but he isn't just the poster boy for zen goaltending. He has a competitive fire that burns hot and the athleticism to support it. He refuses to give up ground and battles through traffic, challenges shooters, and will almost violently throw his body across the crease to block a shot. He tracks pucks really well by looking around screens and finding sightlines where they seemingly do not exist. He can retreat to either post with speed and accuracy, too. The concern in his play are the obvious ones – size being first and foremost. But he has a tall stance in his butterfly and a lightning-quick glove so while there is some justification for this the truth is he can cover more of the net than you might expect. Where he does have trouble is some rebound control issues and that he will crouch low to deal with net-front traffic and therefore not get the good luck of a seeing-eye puck just unknowingly hitting him. Although his transition to pro hockey could be seen as a bit of a gamble, it's difficult to ignore his tremendous abilities and he may be a gamble worth taking.

ZACH FILAK

157



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SARNIA	OHL	62	10	12	22	35

As a center who is at his best distributing the puck on offense, Zach Filak has made some big strides in his game since the beginning of the year. Improving on his sense of urgency and speed when in possession of the puck, he started to show the ability to dictate the pace of the play when he was on the ice. He attacks the middle lane and can play through physicality to get to his spots on offense. This high-end compete level makes him very good on the forecheck. There's a need for him to be more consistent in his defensive zone coverages as he can get caught chasing the play and getting drawn out of position on occasion. If he can further develop his skating so that he's stronger on the puck, he will become more proficient at driving transition via controlled zone entries. There are times where he can get knocked off the puck a little too easily, so adding some more strength would be beneficial to his overall game as well. As with most forwards, there's a lot of potential for a player like him to turn into a bottom-six type role player at the NHL level. By working on his positioning in his own end, he could be more impactful at suppressing shots against and not need to exhaust more energy than he currently does. With where he is in his development, he may be a long shot to get his name called on draft day but there is some potential for this creative center, hence his ranking. He has a long, patient path ahead of him but for teams looking for a potential play-making center who can play a bottom-six, checking style of game, he would be a nice project and worthy gamble late in the draft. It's just a matter of finding a team willing to invest the time in patience to see him blossom, and leaving the rest to him.

CHARLIE WRIGHT

158



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SASKATOON	WHL	58	1	18	19	6

Charlie Wright is a defenseman that one needs to watch closely to fully appreciate all the little things he does. He's an above-average skater who moves fluidly. His crossovers are clean, he's able to pivot without losing momentum, and he's effective in moving backwards while defending the rush. It's tough to beat him one-on-one, he won't get caught looking at the puck and can play it stick-on-stick or then body-on-body. He's got good awareness in his own zone, playing tight to his man and establishing stick and body position. He knows when to start breakouts using his feet, or does well to establish a good outlet pass if he has no skating room. His potential begins and ends with his defensive abilities, as he doesn't have much – if any – offense to his game at all. He's not very keen on jumping up into the play and joining any rushes. He doesn't look comfortable carrying the puck for any extended period of time, and when he does try he loses control too often, so perhaps he's right to stay within his means. He's not much of a threat on the offensive blue line, as he doesn't show any willingness to read plays and jump into the slot, and his shot on its own won't scare opponents. Given his late birthday and how experienced he already is you have to worry to a certain degree about how little depth and variety he has incorporated into his game. On the flip side of that coin, there is still a positive trait in all of that, being the fact that he knows his limits and isn't shy to stay within his own game. All that being said, his defensive abilities should garner him some attention at this draft. He's a high-floor prospect who could one day be a bottom-pairing defensive defenseman tasked with some penalty killing duties as well.

CHARLIE LEDDY

159



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	55	0	17	17	61

Charlie Leddy is a defensive-minded blueliner who primarily makes his impact by shutting down the opponent's offensive attack. There isn't anything flashy or exciting about his game that'll lift an observer off their feet, but he knows his role and is very effective at playing it. Defensively, he has strong positional discipline, knows how to manage his gaps, and has an active stick to help break up rushes and scoring opportunities. He plays the physical game well and has the strength to knock anyone off their stride and retrieve a loose puck when it's in his area. He can be described as a low-event player and that style of play works for him. Offensively is where the questions in his ability start to come into play. He has very little offensive skill to speak of and he struggles to have any sort of impact in the attacking zone. He is not the type of player who excels with the puck on his stick, either. He can rush decisions and be pressured into making mistakes frequently, leading to turnovers and odd-man rushes going the other direction. His skating ability is average at best, which makes it difficult for him to be effective in the transition game. His below average offensive instincts severely limit his ceiling. His defensive prowess and ability to shutdown his opponents on a nightly basis will get him to the next level. If he can develop his offensive game a little bit he will be able to have a larger role as he starts playing higher levels of hockey. There is still room in today's game for shutdown defenders who don't significantly impact the offensive side of the game, but he still has a ways to go before he can be considered a sure-fire NHL prospect. He likely caps out as a third-pairing or seventh defenseman in the NHL.

CHRISTOFFER SEDOFF

160



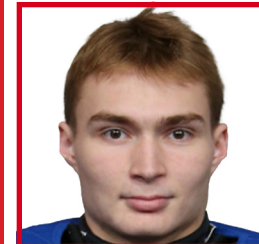
POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 190

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	RED DEER	WHL	65	7	54	61	52

Christoffer Sedoff is a defender who has been passed over in the draft on two occasions now, but just keeps getting better and making it harder for teams to justify skipping him. His game doesn't have any one trait that really jumps out at you, but he's developed into a sound, all-around player who forces his coaches and teammates to have faith in his abilities. While not the fastest or strongest, he stays in constant motion and uses his body to defend as well as he can. His focus and professionalism are very impressive, rarely getting caught asleep or taking shifts off. He plays with a bit of a chip on his shoulder and isn't afraid to give guys the business when they're in front of his net or below the goal line. He anticipates plays well and jumps at any opportunity to break them up, and makes quick decisions when starting transitional breakouts from his own end. Moves the puck out of his zone and up the ice with calculation much more than bravado. He moves well on the offensive blue line, and can help keep the play alive when his team has the pressure on. His edgework is smooth as he opens up shooting lanes. However, he can take too long to release the puck, and when he does fire he doesn't get much power behind his shots. The fact that he has continually progressed the past few years should be a good sign for teams that his game will continue to grow and improve, and that he doesn't need a ton of hands-on attention in order for that growth to blossom. His ceiling might not be overly high, probably a plug-and-play blueliner who isn't a team's go-to guy for anything, but you have to like his chances of hitting that ceiling with the progression he's made over the course of his junior career.

SERGEI IVANOV

161



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	ST. PETERSBURG	RUSJR	26	-	2.17	4	.928

Sergei Ivanov is a small but athletic goaltender who uses his high-end agility to get himself into position to make saves. He has an aggressive style of play in his net and shows explosive athleticism in his movements. He has a low posture and wide butterfly that allows him to cover the bottom of the net well, and is able to move post-to-post incredibly well to shut down one-time opportunities on cross-ice feeds. Despite his smaller frame, he is able to read the play well when facing traffic in front of his own net, showing an ability to track the puck well and find incoming pucks when opponents are shooting through bodies. This is aided by an upright, narrow pre-shot stance. He does face a common obstacle for smaller netminders, and that is his ability to effectively cover the top portion of the net. His tracking with his glove and blocker leave something to be desired at times, as he's prone to getting beat up high. His low posture exacerbates that issue as well. He will need to improve his ability with his hands to make stops and find ways to make himself appear bigger in goal in order to find ways to block the top portion of the net, but his athleticism and puck-tracking ability leave optimism that he could be a pro-level goaltender with the proper development. He uses his stick very well to block passes from behind the goal line. He does have a willingness to venture out of his net to stop and play pucks and aid in breakouts, but generally his puck-playing is poor. His rebound control is another area of concern, and he can seem to lose track of the puck at times after it hits him. His athleticism, though, gives teams a reason to consider him. There will always be questions about smaller goalies, and is no different.

MIGUEL TOURIGNY

162



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-8  
WEIGHT: 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ACADIE-BATHURST	QMJHL	65	31	49	80	96

Although he is in his third season of draft eligibility, Miguel Tourigny might just get the chance this season. It'd be fitting as, arguably, the best offensive blueliner coming out of the QMJHL this season. He's certainly the most mature. He's a fluid skater who can advance the puck up ice and join the attack or even lead the rush at times. With the puck on his stick, he is slick and can make clever moves to prolong possession and access quality shooting and passing locations. He can push the pace over distance and show great quickness in small bursts to close in on opponents or win puck races. As an undersized defender his physical play is going to be questioned, but he eagerly gets involved in battles and can be a focused physical player when the situation calls for it. Defensively is where he has some issues, unsurprisingly. His gap control was rather loose and typically allowed for uncontested zone entries and room for opponents to activate their offense. He has trouble taking away passing lanes or filling shot lanes. His net-front coverage and defense away from the puck were both characterized by a lacklustre attention to detail and little effectiveness. He's not scared to get involved in physical battles, but his focus and intensity in his own zone is subpar. Overall, defending was simply something he had to do to fill his time between offensive attacks. If you're a team that drafts him then you're doing so for his offensive contributions, not to lock it down defensively. A development plan to address and lessen the impact of his defensive faults could lead to the trust needed to give him an opportunity. Offensively, he is an NHL talent but defensively the jury is still out and future improvements will determine the outcome.



**GRAHAM SWARD**

**163**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 180

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SPOKANE	WHL	57	10	33	43	46

Graham Sward is a defenseman who was entrusted with big responsibilities on a weaker team this year and really made the most of the opportunity. He plays a very simplistic and reliable defensive game. His positional awareness is spot-on in his own end. He utilizes his stick well to disrupt sequences and he's got quick enough and smooth enough feet to mirror opponents, keeping a tight gap and angling them to low-danger areas. He's decently hard to play against, but if he added some more physicality to his game it would make him an even better defender. The offensive side of his game is coming along in terms of both consistency and effectiveness, but could still use a lot more seasoning. His shot is a strength, good enough to beat goalies clean from distance and just controlled enough to make it good for deflections. He makes safe, correct decisions when he does have the puck, but it would be nice to see him try to hold onto it for a split second longer in some situations and create a better option. The problem is he doesn't quite have the puck skills to be confident in holding onto it for too long without mishandling it. There's an element of panic when he's holding on too long, which can force him into mistakes. His breakout passes are usually pretty clean, however, and if there's no easy option he'll often resort to off the glass and out. His skills on the offensive blue line are limited to holding the puck in and usually dumping it back into the zone. He was passed over in last year's draft, but how much he grew this season while playing a large role under difficult circumstances will certainly draw the attention of teams. He projects as a defensive defender who could slot into the bottom pair for a team.

**KONSTA KAPANEN**

**164**



**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-9  
**WEIGHT:** 163

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	KALPA	FINJR	39	17	23	40	40

Konsta Kapanen is an undersized forward who relies on his skating and puck skills to create space for himself and make an impact on the game. He has high-end level skating ability with great acceleration and the ability to change pace and direction on a dime. That makes him tough to defend when he picks up the puck in space. While in control of the puck, he is a pass-first type of player, constantly looking to find open teammates both through the cycle and off the rush. He has the speed and the skating ability to push the pace and keep defenders on their heels but will need to learn to overcome his lack of size. His size brings up some concerns, especially with his physical ability and his shooting ability. Physically he's smaller than almost every single one of his opponents, making him easy to knock off the puck and box out of position. Shooting wise, he struggles to generate power on a consistent basis. This makes it tough for him to beat goalies from distance. His game is totally reliant on his ability to use his skating to create separation, and if opponents can keep him close they can eliminate him from the game. He has immense upside because of his skating and puck skills and if he adds strength and learns to battle through traffic, he can turn into a capable NHL producer. His skillset likely makes him suited for a middle-six role and potentially a spot on the power play. His vision and passing will make him a good option to run the man-advantage from the half wall, while his skating makes him an ideal zone entry option. He is total boom or bust prospect, but if a team believes he can add upper and lower-body strength to his game, then there's a real shot he can be a diamond in the rough.

**MAXIM BARBASHEV**

**165**



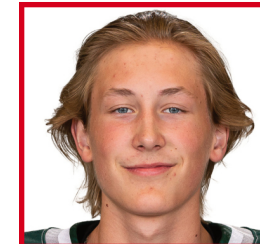
**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	MONCTON	QMJHL	59	15	27	42	66

Maxim Barbashev can score, create turnovers, and give a big effort shift-in and shift-out. He plays with a physical edge and throws his weight around, making him very effective with and without the puck. He will attack out of any situation and likes to take the puck to the net. He's really dangerous when controlling the puck in the offensive zone as he displays smooth and quick edges to protect the puck and navigate towards the blue paint. He leans on defenders and drives through them with his strong hips to create turnovers and gain space, but it's his net-front presence and ability to set up just outside the crease that is so continuously productive for him. He is a high-end mid-range shooter with a quick release and accuracy that makes him dangerous on anything from about five to 15 feet out. He can anticipate the play, close in on intended targets, and is often the first man in on the forecheck. He angles the puck-carrier, limits their options and runs them out of space or forces them into hurrying their play. He isn't the fastest skater off the rush but over shorter distances he's quick and explosive. He provides puck support in his own end, picks up pucks off the boards, and makes clean zone exit passes. He displays effort in checking and on defense in general, but general awareness needs to improve. He can play a bit of a possession game but often prefers to quickly move it and go for a return pass in open ice. The quick and elusive puck movement suits him well since he is particularly good at scanning the ice and reading open teammates and options. While his passing game is good, it's as a trigger man that his future lies. He has eventual top-six potential as a power forward.

**BEN HEMMERLING**

**166**



**POS:** RIGHT WING  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-10  
**WEIGHT:** 159

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	EVERETT	WHL	57	10	37	47	25

Ben Hemmerling is an energetic forward who plays a mature two-way game and occasionally blends in some high-end playmaking abilities. Despite putting up respectable offensive numbers this past season, his game resembles more of a third-line energy player. He's an aggressive puck pursuer, however, he doesn't just chase blindly. He has the ability to chase pucks down while being positionally aware, which allows him to use his stick to disrupt opposing players and either pick off passes or get pieces of the puck to help his team regain possession. When he does have the puck on his stick he can really catch opponents by surprise. He's confident enough to try some risky passes to high-danger areas if he sees even the smallest opening, and he has the ability to successfully thread those passes through narrow lanes. On the flip side, there are occasions where he could be better suited not forcing a pass and holding onto possession. A big knock on him is that he is fairly undersized, especially for the type of game that he plays. He has a decent first few steps that help him avoid open-ice conflicts but he also doesn't challenge the middle of the ice much and can get stuck to the perimeter. He gets around the ice with hustle and determination more so than pure skating skill, as none of his acceleration, top speed, or agility are top-notch. Still, it's really hard to not like a player like this who outworks almost everyone else night-in and night-out. He'll get continued great seasoning next season in a program that is very good at developing prospects, and should he add on some weight and improve his skating he could conceivably contribute to an NHL roster one day.

**KENTA ISOGAI**

**167**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-11  
**WEIGHT:** 154

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	YOUNGSTOWN	USHL	54	26	29	55	30

Kenta Isogai is an exciting, skilled forward who's at his best when he has the puck on his stick and acts as a facilitator for his team. He possesses a ton of high-end skill and shows flashes of being a lethal rush player, but just needs to find the consistency in his game to become an everyday threat. His skating is his best asset by far. He has explosive speed and can put defenders on their heels when attacks at full freight. He will help carry the transition play whenever he's on the ice because his game relies on him having the puck on his stick. He has the ability to stickhandle his way out of sticky situations but can't regularly rely on his puck-handling ability to bail him out of close-quarters scenarios. He has the vision and passing ability to be a capable playmaking threat, but mostly finds his success when attacking off the rush. The biggest concerns with his game right now are his strength and ability to work off the puck. He's not blessed with height and has a slight frame, to put it mildly. This makes him struggle to drive the puck to the front of the net when he attacks off the rush. It's simply too easy for opponents to keep him to the outside, forcing him to be a perimeter player and limiting his effectiveness. He also struggles with his skillset relies on him to be the primary puck-carrier when he's on the ice. He tends to become a little pedestrian and blend into the crowd when he's working as an off-puck attacker. As he physically matures, he will become stronger and will likely become more effective in the high-traffic areas. He struggled to translate his talent to the scoresheet, but with his high-ceiling potential he's a great name to watch for in the later rounds.

**RYAN GREENE**

**168**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GREEN BAY	USHL	59	19	32	51	53

Ryan Greene is a speedy two-way forward who makes a significant impact on the defensive side of the game. He's a good skater who has solid top-end speed, allowing him to push the pace of play at both ends of the ice. His defensive game is one of his best assets, as he always has his head on a swivel giving him the opportunity to survey the defensive zone. With his speed, he can jump into plays with ease. He's usually the most engaged player when he's on the ice, as his motor and tenacity on defense really shine through in his game. It makes him a pain in the ass to play against. Offensively he's a bit of a mixed bag. His good skating ability allows him to drive transition at times. His playmaking ability is further along than his scoring prowess and, while he's not an elite playmaker, he is more than capable of running his team's power play unit. His offensive awareness and ability to get the puck into the prime scoring areas needs some work. A lot of the time he carries the puck into the opponent's end and stays on the perimeter rather than attacking the slot or trying to make a pass to a teammate in a position of advantage. The inconsistencies on offense were evident in his attack all season long, and if he wants to become a more impactful player as his career progresses he's going to have to re-evaluate his attack and show significant progress in his efforts to find more dangerous areas. He has the skillset to be a solid bottom-six forward who can occasionally chip in on the offensive side of the game, but there could be more there. He would be a nice complimentary piece on a checking line because of the strengths in his defensive game.

**RYLEN ROERSMA**

169



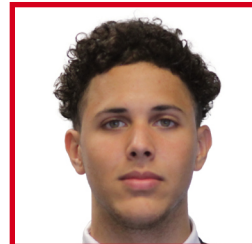
POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 161

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	BRANDON	WHL	68	19	10	29	28

Rylen Roersma is one of the most athletically gifted prospects in this year's crop. When he really gets moving it's impossible not to notice him. He has a wonderful skating stride that makes him seem like he's flying around the ice at times, which allows him to be a quality forechecker and backchecker. He can be a real pest out there, taking away personal space from his enemies and poking away with his stick. His motor and conditioning are quite good, which allows him to buzz up and down the ice and outskate opponents. His edgework is smooth and controlled, and it allows him to maneuver through traffic unscathed. He is able to handle and manipulate the puck well while in full flight and can shoot the puck with a deceptively quick release. The nagging issue with his game is that even though he possesses these fantastic tools, he has a hard time thinking the game well enough to fully maximize them. He's pretty reactionary at this point, waiting for opposition breakdowns rather than anticipating how the play is going to develop and forcing those mistakes. As much as his skating and high intensity benefit his game, they can also hurt him at times. Rather than taking an extra second or two to explore his options he often jumps to the first one that comes to mind, which isn't always the right one. He can get way too focused on what's in front of him, whether that's getting horse blinders offensively and not playing off his teammates well enough, or chasing the opposing puck-carrier for too long instead of breaking off and finding better space for him to be in to help limit options. With a bit of refinement and experience he has the potential to become a middle-six complimentary forward in the NHL.

**TNIAS MATHURIN**

170



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 200

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	NORTH BAY	OHL	44	3	12	15	26

Tnias Mathurin has NHL-ready size and was able to physically impose his will on opponents this past season. As more of a traditional defensive defenseman, he knows how to throw his weight around and play a conservative style. He plays within his means and defends well in his own end with solid awareness of where his man is as well as where the puck is. As should be expected for a player of his size playing at the junior level, he is excellent in front of the net, making life difficult for forwards who choose to fight for position there. He's aggressive and his wide skating base allows him to hand out big open-ice hits across the neutral zone. Because of his stay-at-home style, he doesn't show off his skating ability and top-end speed in open ice as much as he likely could, which has limited his impact on offense and in the transition game. Another area where he could get better is in his urgency when in control of the puck. Mathurin flashes some decent stickhandling ability and can beat forecheckers with fakes and using his wingspan to skate around opponents. Poise and patience can be a good thing but he has moments where it's as if he doesn't expect the attacker to reach him as soon as they do, forcing him into bad decisions. Better processing of the speed of forecheckers will help him be more effective at moving the puck out of his end and up to teammates. There may not be a future where he turns into a driver of offense at even strength, but his size and simple game can be appealing to an NHL club. Honing his skills and offensive instincts and gaining more confidence with the puck on his stick is crucial for his development as he already has the one thing – size – that cannot be taught.

**DOMINIK RYMON**

171



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 147

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	KARLOVY VARY	CZEJR	37	27	19	46	14

Dominik Rymon is a hard-working two-way player who uses his compete-level to positively impact the game in all three zones. He's a relentless worker when he's on the ice, never backing down from a loose-puck battle and never giving up on the puck even if his opponent comes away with the puck. Despite having a smaller stature, he plays much bigger when he's on the ice. He never avoids contact and tries to drive the puck through opponents to the prime scoring areas, almost thriving through the contact. He's not a dynamic player, though. He does not possess great skating ability or high-end puck skills, but he manages to play within himself and it works for him. He has quick strides that allow him to accelerate quickly which helps offset his slower foot-speed. When he does have the puck on his stick he's more of a north-south player and you won't often see him stickhandle through multiple opponents, but he is an effective player in a dump-and-chase style of system. He can be used in all situations and play in multiple roles, and this versatility makes up for his lack of dynamic skill. He has the skillset of a bottom-six player who can occasionally chip in offensively but who's game is defined by his ability to suppress the opponent's offensive attack and work the puck below the opponent's goal line. It will be interesting to see how adding some mass to his frame affects his acceleration, but if he can keep it at the current level or even improve it with added lower-body strength, he will be able to translate this forechecking style to the next level. He won't be a flashy pick but he will be able to endear himself to his team and coaches with the way he approaches the game.

**JOSEPH SERPA**

172



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KITCHENER	OHL	62	20	49	69	34

Joseph Serpa made a huge leap in production this season after going undrafted the two drafts prior. In his final year of eligibility he showed that he is capable of driving offense from the pivot position. With a pass-first instinct, he is a creator of offense by finding ways to distribute the puck to the high-danger area of the ice. While Serpa's skating is not at an elite level and his top speed, he is able to weave his way through the neutral zone and has the agility to beat opponents in open ice to perform controlled zone entries. He has good athleticism and can settle difficult passes and make another play in a split second. Because he is such a creative player with the puck on his stick, building his upper-body strength will improve his puck-handling ability, ensuring he does not lose control of it when under physical pressure. His defensive game needs some work as well, as he has a tendency to be more reactive to the play around him as opposed to forcing plays to go where he wants them. He is sound positionally but doesn't have the strength or physical style to be effective in board battles and high-traffic areas around the net, indicating a move to the wing could be in the cards for his future. While he made positive strides in his game, it may not have been enough to get drafted, even with him missing a key development season the year prior to this. Regardless, it's difficult to find players with the level of great vision and creativity that he possesses, and a quality playoff run may have swayed some towards investing in Serpa. A team drafting him is likely grabbing a quality depth piece that can work his way toward being a supporting forward in the NHL, or as a bubble player even if he isn't an everyday NHL player.

**RYAN ABRAHAM**

173



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-8  
WEIGHT: 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WINDSOR	OHL	64	15	31	46	60

Ryan Abraham, a very undersized playmaking center, did not make it seem like it was his first year in the league. Making his first appearance in the OHL, he has high-end agility that make him fun to watch. Showing the dynamic ability to use his edges to evade contact, his agility in using quick cuts when challenged to shake checkers is fun to watch. He is a natural puck-carrier and seems to enter the offensive zone with ease at times. Players of his size usually need to rely on their quick skating and offensive ability to be impactful and get noticed. For him, his offense is driven primarily through his vision and passing ability. Identifying his target and sending passes for scoring chances is something he did well at this season for his club. He also shows quick hand-eye coordination when around the blue paint. Being on the younger side of the first time draft eligible players, he could certainly grow a bit more and is likely to further develop his overall processing ability -- both mentally and physically. This extra development time is something that allows teams to take a chance on a player like him before he has a breakout season as kind of a buy-low option. One area that he will need to improve on next season is his consistency, especially away from the puck. When he is engaged in the play, he can seem to have the puck on a string and he is at his best. Unfortunately, there are moments where he can seem disinterested and not be as active or impactful. He is worth a selection in the later rounds because of the undeniable skills he has as a player who can play in all situations. While he would be a gamble due to his diminutive size and limited physicality, he's worth the swing because of the offensive potential he possesses.

**HELMER STYF**

174



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MODO	SWEJR	40	13	14	27	36

Helmer Styf is an offensive-minded winger who likes to try unexpected things when he enters the offensive zone with the puck on his stick. He has quick hands and solid puck control that allow him to exploit over aggressive defenders, especially in one-on-one situations. He is not a big player with the best strength, but he is not afraid to put his head down and go into the dirty areas and engage in loose-puck battles. He is a player that wants to score goals, looking for openings in the defensive coverage that he can attack so he can get into the prime scoring areas and use his shot. He is a dangerous man to have in front of the goal and always seems to find time and space for himself to get a rebound or a deflection. He's not discouraged to go there despite his average frame, and his hand-eye coordination makes him effective as a result. He isn't the fastest skater, which isn't an issue at his current level, but it may cause some issues when he tries to make it to higher levels. He can keep up with the pace of play, but will want to try and work on his explosiveness so he can attack quicker defenders and get past them while on the rush. Defensively he has okay positioning but can be guilty of puck-watching and letting the play develop unimpeded around him. It's an awareness issue more than anything. The foundation is there – his skills just need a little polishing and he can potentially make a go at it in the NHL. He has good offensive instincts, but really only fits in as a scorer so if he can't carve out a roster spot in the top-nine, it may be difficult to consistently find playing time. His scoring ability will be worth a gamble in the final rounds of the draft and a team may take a chance on him because of it.

**AIDEN CASTLE**

**175**



**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 177**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NIAGARA	OHL	68	15	28	43	24

Aiden Castle is a very exciting player to watch because of the high energy he brings, shift-in and shift-out. This strong work ethic makes him extremely hard to play against due to his relentless puck pursuit in the offensive zone. His high pressure style forces turnovers and is something that helped him have success winning puck battles this past season. With him, there's not great top-end speed but decent agility and acceleration. Even though he is not the fastest on the ice, his quick processing ability allows him to make up for any perceived lack of speed and ability to separate from his check. He consistently knows where he needs to go with the puck when he gets it on his stick, and is decisive when making plays. He evades pressure well with his good hands and buys himself time to wait for a play to open up. It's interesting that while he can be such a strong attacker on the forecheck, he seems to be hesitant in playing this style in his own end. Perhaps it's an attempt to be conservative and not take himself out of position, but he would be more impactful defensively if he attacked the puck carrier more and pressured in his own zone with his long reach. His tenacity is going to help him progress as he gains more valuable playing experience. With Niagara, it was a tough season for a lot of players on the ice, but he was able to break out and turn into one of the driving forces behind their offense. He has the vision and hands to become a top-end scorer in the OHL. He's a very raw physical specimen and he'll need some time, but if he hits his ceiling he can be a late round gem who eventually finds a way into a second or third-line role and plays on a power play unit at the next level.

**WILLIAM PROOS**

**176**



**POS: LEFT WING**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-3**  
**WEIGHT: 192**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ALMTUNA	SWE2	34	6	5	11	6

William Proos is a big-bodied forward who uses his size and strength to effectively play a power forward style of game. His strength and size come in handy for him in the offensive zone when he makes his way to the net-front and uses his body to outwork opponents for positional advantage and create chances off rebounds. He has a powerful shot and doesn't need a lot of time or space to get the puck off his stick. He generates a lot of power in his stride and is not afraid to grab the puck and lower his shoulder to barrel through opponents and get the puck to the high-slot area. He has the ability to be a handful on the forecheck, but hasn't quite figured out how to bring the same consistent effort on a shift-by-shift basis. One shift he looks like a physical force that cannot be stopped, the next he's passive and doesn't impose his will on the opposition. The passivity can be frustrating to watch because of his physical gifts. He has the ability to impact the game more frequently than he does. He won't be a spectacular puck-carrier nor will he do something flashy on a nightly basis, but what he will do is bring energy and physical prowess that allow him to impact the game positively. He seems to know his strengths and plays to them. He has the perfect skillset to play a bottom-six role, and will potentially carve out a role on either special teams unit. His strength and physical gifts are an intriguing combination, and if he ever finds the consistency that his game is missing he has the potential to be an effective forechecking forward who teams will hate to see step over the boards. He will be a late-round pick if he's drafted, and it will not be surprising to see him turn into an effective NHL player someday.

**GAVIN BRYANT**

**177**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 190**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OWEN SOUND	OHL	63	9	29	38	15

It was a respectable rookie season in the OHL for Gavin Bryant, who already possesses solid size and strength despite being one of the younger draft eligibles in this class. With excellent playmaking ability, he sets up teammates for scoring chances through his tape-to-tape passes and patience to open up passing lanes. He thinks the game very well as evidenced by him constantly moving around in the offensive zone trying to find space. It's a habit like this that is very translatable to the NHL and is something that aids in him creating scoring chances for himself and teammates. His defensive game is pretty well polished and he even acts like a coach on the ice in his own end by directing teammates on where to go and how to adjust their positioning. He is able to force turnovers and change possession by taking away passing lanes with his active stick and anticipation. Another area where he is strong is in transition – timing his exits to get open for a breakout pass. Bryant's struggles come in the form of puck battles and compete-level. He's an agile skater who can keep his feet moving under pressure but doesn't have true separating speed. It would be nice to see that develop to further build on the skills he does have. On occasion, he appears to avoid engaging in plays which is frustrating for a player who excels in so many other areas of the game. Regardless of his flaws, the natural instincts he has shown are very positive and indicate that he's a player who can be very coachable because of his high hockey IQ. He warrants consideration in the middle portion of the draft as he has tremendous upside and a ton of room to develop his already solid foundation of skills.

**JAMES STEFAN**

**178**



**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 173**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PORTLAND	WHL	68	34	45	79	42

James Stefan is a winger who uses his ability to process the game at a high level to be an opportunistic offensive contributor. He likes to dissect the play as it's moving up the ice to find a lane for himself that will give him the best chance at receiving the puck. When he does get the puck in the offensive zone, he often knows what he's going to do with it before he gets it. He's an effective playmaker who loves to dish quick little one-touch passes to teammates, or he has the ability to put some nice touch on saucer passes if need be. He is an able shooter. He gets a lot of velocity on his wrist shots and is a good finisher in tight. He uses body and hand positioning to hide his intentions with the puck when he has it on his stick, and then takes whatever options the defender wants to give him. His skating doesn't hurt him – he just doesn't have that high-end top speed or agility you'd like from pure offensive guys. He does, however, use his acceleration well to attack tight spaces when he gets those opportunities. He's a decently competitive player, though not in a physical kind of way, and he could stand to get better at winning 50/50 puck battles. He wasn't relied upon to play a very big defensive role this season with his team, and with his skillset that probably will remain the case as he progresses through the ranks. Still, he will need to chip in a little bit more in this area to maintain the trust of his future coaches, and show it's an element he can play with. He was passed over in last year's draft, but a team will likely call his name this time around due to how much his offensive abilities grew from last season to this season. That growth will give teams a reason to wonder if there's another level he can jump to next year, too.

**DANS LOCMELIS**

**179**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 170**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LULEA	SWEJR	44	18	16	34	16

Dans Locmelis is a center that shows a great two-way hockey sense. He displays smarts and makes effective, efficient decisions on the ice and is the type of player who can play in many different situations. It's like he just knows what decision to make and when to make it. His hockey IQ is high, and as a two-way center he is effective on both the forecheck and on the backcheck. He is great at breaking up plays in the defensive zone and then quickly making a transition pass up the ice to help his team get on the counterattack. He shows creativity and energy almost every shift when he is in the offensive zone with or without the puck. Even though he isn't the biggest player on the ice, he is able to get into the dirty areas and play with a lot of intensity during loose-puck battles. He is well-balanced and looks strong in his legs and quick when turning so, and even if he gets forechecked, he handles situations well and often finds a smart solution before absorbing the hit. He needs to get stronger to help him in loose-puck battles and while carrying the puck into the prime scoring areas as at times he can be easily knocked off the puck and diverted from his original path. He plays a mature game and has the skillset that will translate well to the NHL level. Adding strength will effectively make him a solid bottom-six center, allowing him to work through contact and become a force during 50/50 battles. His offensive ceiling is a tad limited, which will hurt his long-term outlook, but he's still the type of player you want in your lineup on a nightly basis. He will be a good defensive player who can occasionally find himself chipping in offensively, providing great value in the middle rounds.

**HARRISON BALLARD**

**180**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-2**  
**WEIGHT: 181**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WELLINGTON	OJHL	54	14	14	28	18

Harrison Ballard is a big-bodied power forward who plays a north-south style of game and best fits into the lineup as a grinding, puck possession type of player. His size and work ethic are two of the best assets he has in his arsenal. He is successful when he uses his strength and body positioning to outwork opponents for loose pucks and quickly distributes to his teammates. He has decent mobility that allowed him to comfortably keep up with the OJHL's pace of play. When the puck is on his stick he's best at working from the cycle game, using his body to keep opposing players away from the puck and working below the goal line so he can wear down his opponents. His puck skills are average, but he isn't suited to drive transition or play a flashy game nor does he try to play outside his means. He's best at dumping the puck into the offensive zone and using his body to punish the opponents on retrievals. There's some concerns in his game, one being that he wasn't a superstar standout in a lower tier junior league. It's tough to project how his offensive game will translate to tougher levels of competition as a result. The right role will be crucial for his future. He has a commitment to UMass for next year and if his program puts him in a bottom-six role and allows him to focus on playing a physical game he will have no issues contributing. If they expect high-quality offensive output from him, they may have some issues with his game. He has a lower ceiling than most, but with his size, strength, and work ethic he has all the potential in the world as an effective fourth-line player in the professional ranks. The right fit will be critical for him, and he's likely a later round target in the upcoming draft.

**MAROS JEDLIČKA**

181



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ZLOVEN	SVK	44	17	21	38	59

Maros Jedlicka is a big-bodied forward who can skate and possesses solid puck skills. He can play multiple positions but his skillset might have him better suited to be a winger at the next level. He has good straight-line speed that allows him to get up and down the ice both as a puck-carrier and an off the puck option. He has the skills to be handle the puck at high speeds but is really best served as a north-south style of player. He struggles to create separation with his agility. His ability to make quick cuts and avoid contact needs to be worked on in order for him to be a true threat as both a puck-carrying option and as a player who can create time and space to allow teammates to get into prime positions. Defensively he is good, not great, but he can effectively play his role in the defensive zone. You'd like to see a bit more confident decision-making in the back-half of the ice, though. He knows how to play within his system and is a coachable player. His original draft year was 2021 and he went unselected, but he did show some great improvements this season and has a way higher chance of being plucked this time around because of the advancements he's made in his game. It remains to be seen if his game can translate to the NHL level because he is a one-dimensional skater. If he can work on his lateral mobility he has a much better shot of making in the North American professional game. He is an interesting name at the bottom half of the draft, but would be a big risk. He should be considered a boom-or-bust type of player. If the improvements in his skating are made he can definitely carve out a role as a depth player, but there is a chance he doesn't hear his name called yet again.

**NIKLAS KOKKO**

182



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	KARPAT	FINJR	29	1691	2.06	6	.914

Niklas Kokko has a number of traits that are really intriguing but he's still very much a work in progress so you have to take an optimistic approach with him. He has the size that most would agree is great for the position. He moves through the crease well and in particular he's extremely fluid when down in a butterfly. He can push with power in either direction and he works hard to track pucks and maintain visual attachment through a series of screens and obstructions. He effectively uses his stick to jam up wrap around plays or net-front scrambles and he's extremely focused and battles to find loose pucks. When addressing an attack in tight quarters, he looks really good. As the puck-carrier cuts to one side or the other he can stay with them and use his long legs to take away almost everything on the lower half. It's a bit of a different story when he faces mid-range shots. He seems to have a lot of holes through his torso and would benefit from maintaining a more compact stance. The five-hole can sometimes be a problem and shots near his torso are almost as big a concern. He also plays with a wide stance which does allow for lateral movement but really limits his ability to adjust his depth, not to mention that in combination with a tendency to crouch over, a fair amount of his height is nullified. The positive side is that these issues are all very much fixable and shouldn't act as a deterrent when it comes to projecting his future potential. It would seem that at the moment his path to becoming an everyday NHLer is a long one, but given his highly competitive streak, NHL-ready frame and a sound base of mobility, developmental improvements could come in leaps and bounds.

**FREDERIC BRUNET**

183



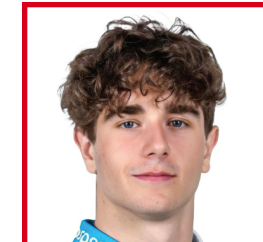
POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 176

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	63	12	34	46	16

Frederic Brunet is a mobile puck-rushing defenseman who is offensively-minded and can quarterback the power play from the point. Even in high pressure situations he shows the confidence to take charge of break-outs but will, at times, show some questionable decision-making. He actively tries to disrupt the opponent's attempts at controlling the puck through a cycle and once he gains possession, he is generally strong and elusive against the forecheck. He will still need to continue to make strides in his defensive play but the foundation is there and a little added quickness and focus will lead to further improvements. He is an excellent puck-carrier who can walk the offensive blue line with above-average lateral mobility and survey the ice to identify soft spots where he can step off the point to gain access to those areas. He is an efficient puck-mover and playmaker and any opportunity to gain an extra second or two with the play on his stick means there is a good chance he can find a play that opens up. Occasionally he will hold on to the puck a bit too long and pass-up a simple play that could have resulted in an easy zone exit or offensive chance. At the moment his skillset against his peers can overcome such situations but going forward things like hesitation and wasted opportunities will have a way of coming back to haunt him if not tidied up. He is a particularly intriguing draft target because for as good as he is right now, there is still plenty of room for growth. He has that effortless stride that lets him flow across the ice and move from the back end to the attack and return with ease. There is a lot of potential as a future impact offensive blueliner if development is the focus and patience is exercised.

**MATEJ PINKAS**

184



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 190

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KOLIN	CZREP	37	1	3	4	8

Matej Pinkas is a low-key blueliner who plays a steady, reliable defensive game. He's a stay-at-home player who uses his IQ and positioning to effectively stick to his assignment in the defensive zone. He is a go-to guy in his own zone, using his mobility, length, and aggressiveness to break up plays both off the rush and out of his defensive zone setup. He is effective at defending the rush, using his body to angle opponents away from the center of the ice and effectively remove them from the play by pinning them up against the boards. He's not a big hitter, but a smart hitter nonetheless. He won't wow anyone with bone-crushing hits or even deliver open ice hits on a regular basis but he can use his body effectively and win positioning in loose-puck battles. Offensively he is very limited, struggling to generate a lot of quality offensive chances. Jumping into the rush is not a big part of his game and he won't be able to challenge goalies with his shot from the point. He's a low ceiling, safe selection who will be able to play bottom-pairing minutes with a high reliance on defensive zone starts, should his development go to plan. He can potentially play on the penalty kill because of his defensive awareness. If teams are looking for a low-risk option who won't provide massive offensive impact than he is a name that will be on their draft lists. He won't show be the most dynamic player by any means but if he does carve out an NHL career it's because he is able to efficiently shut down the opposition's offensive attack frequently and efficiently. While not commonplace in today's game, purely defensive defenders have had success in the NHL in recent years and if he hits his peak he'll be one who fits that description.

**MAREK HEJDUK**

185



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	52	10	9	19	32

Marek Hejduk is a defensive forward who struggles to have significant offensive impacts on the game. His ability to help suppress the opposing team's offensive attack is the thing that stands out most about his game. He's a smart player who understands where to be in the defensive zone and can get his stick or body into lanes and take away plays before they develop. Offensively he's pretty limited, though he tries to play a power game when he has the puck. Because his skating ability needs work he often struggles to create separation from his opponents and can easily be caught. He is at best in the offensive zone when he's engaged in puck battles along the boards. His strength and tenacity allow him to outwork opponents and retrieve loose pucks. He lacks the high-end puck skills to be a consistent scorer, and because of his below-average skating and lack of puck skills he struggles to consistently get open when working off the puck. He will likely never be a high-end player that many will assume based on his surname, but if he does find a way to bring the tenacity and work ethic he shows on defense and in physical battles to other aspects of his game he will be a much more effective player in all three zones. If he does crack an NHL lineup in the future, it's likely as a fourth-line type of player who has a lot of defensive zone starts and is more tasked with not getting scored on. He's the type of player of who will play within the system that his team employs and will be able to carve out a role on a team's penalty killing unit. If he can find any semblance of an offensive game he can be better than expected, but team's will be looking at him for his defensive game.

**ALEXIS GENDRON**

186



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	BLAINVILLE	QMJHL	66	30	16	46	60

Alexis Gendron is a very active and dynamic attacker who can push the pace with outstanding quickness and linear-speed through transition. He has a great first couple steps to gain speed quickly and his stride is fluid and effortless. He is tenacious and competes to create offense with a non-stop motor. He has fast feet and fast hands, and excels at driving into quality locations on the ice to access dangerous scoring chances. He can get off the boards with a sudden cut to the inside, and on the rush he can take a defender wide or lose an opponent with a clever outside-in fake. His puck protection is good and he shields it away from the opposition with his body or evasive maneuvers. He does, at times, attack with a bit too much risk which can lead to ill-timed turnovers, but the approach is commendable and we could expect him to hone that skill as time goes on. He can zip the puck around, find teammates, and complete passes both under and over sticks. He goes hard into puck battles and physical situations. Although he lacks the build to dominate battles, he never shies away from contact and puts himself in the middle of the action. He gets a pile of puck touches through the course of a game. He also racks-up shot attempts and has an excellent wrist shot that pops off the blade. He does give up a bit of defensive ability with all that offensive focus, which is an adjustable concern. He can get out of position in his own end or get caught puck-watching, but these things should improve as his game matures. If he can tidy up his defensive zone play and reduce turnovers through better decision-making, he looks like a guy that can develop through the AHL, into an NHL middle-six role.

**LUKAS MOLDENHAUER**

**187**



**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-10**  
**WEIGHT: 170**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CHICAGO	USHL	41	18	25	43	4

Lukas Moldenhauer is a speedy two-way winger who uses his skating to have an impact at both ends of the ice. His skating ability is his most intriguing asset, as he has quick feet allowing him to accelerate to his top-speed in just a few strides. He uses his skating ability as fuel for his high-motor. He is aggressive on the puck in all three zones, and doesn't shy away from using his speed to contribute at both ends of the ice. He shows a tendency to spot loose pucks before anyone else and uses his quick feet to retrieve it. He'll do a lot of little things that don't show up on the scoresheet but has the potential to be a regular contributor on the offensive side of the game. He has good vision and passing instincts, making him a capable playmaker. He can scan the ice off the rush or the cycle and deliver accurate passes to his teammates in scoring situations. Strength is his biggest drawback because even though he flashes some high-end skill potential, he likely won't be consistent enough to be a top-six forward at the next level. He will have to adapt his game to become a bottom-six style of winger and to do that he needs to get stronger and play a more physical brand of hockey in order to be more effective in the puck possession game. Despite missing time with an injury earlier in the year, he was able to recover nicely and play an effective role for both his team and with Canada at the Under-18s. A team will take a swing on him later in the draft because he has a good all-around game and has the ability to be a flashy offensive type of player. If he hits his ceiling, he will likely be a third-line winger who can find his way onto a team's second power play unit at the NHL level.

**TAOS JORDAN**

**188**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-9**  
**WEIGHT: 150**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OWEN SOUND	OHL	54	1	10	11	14

Taos Jordan is an interesting defender in the sense that he's not your typical undersized defenseman who drives offense with elite speed. Playing a more stay-at-home style, he is actually pretty physical despite his smaller stature and slight frame. What sticks out about his game is his passing ability, which he utilizes to execute breakouts with speed. He skates well but lacks that extra gear that would really aid him in driving transition and beating forecheckers to skate the puck out of the defensive zone on his own. There's still something left to be desired in his offensive game as he fails to time plays well and jump up into the rush or pinch low in the offensive end when the right moment presents itself. The silver lining to this is the fact that he is making attempts to contribute offensively and just needs to refine some of his processing ability. He is going to need to lean on his defensive game for the time being and focus on becoming elite at that since he's already shown high-end competency in his positioning and effectiveness defending against larger opponents. His lack of offensive skillset and the fact that he doesn't possess elite size or skating likely has an impact on his potential draft stock. Typically smaller defenders excel in their quickness and offensive skillset, but he doesn't fall into that category. While there is still a place in the NHL for a high-quality defensive defenseman, they usually have elite size and physical traits. Unfortunately for him, he doesn't fall under that category, either. He will have to find a way to increase his acceleration and top-end speed to overcome his smaller stature and translate his defensive style to the next level, otherwise it'll be tough for him to find a role.

**JERE LASSILA**

**189**



**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-9**  
**WEIGHT: 173**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	JYP	FINJR	17	8	7	15	14

Jere Lassila is an undersized forward but brings a versatile skillset to the game that allows him to play up and down a team's lineup. He can play top-line minutes, using his offensive tools, or he can play a bottom-six style of game with his defensive capabilities. He is difficult to knock off stride and to take the puck away from despite being smaller. He uses his lower center of gravity to get low and keep his body between the puck and the opposing players. He has good skating ability and is comfortable with the puck on his stick. He can be a bit too pass-happy making him easy to read at times, but he is a capable passing threat anywhere on the ice. He'd be better served to mix in a bit more aggressive approach with the puck on his stick. He's a rare case – his size will likely be held against him but it wasn't much of an issue for him at the U18 level. If he can get stronger then there is no reason to believe that his size will hold him back as he progresses through U20 and professional level hockey. The size will likely lower his draft stock, but one of the biggest detractors will be that he doesn't have any elite tools and that he's on the lower-end in terms of his potential. He has some offensive tools, but he doesn't forget about his defensive duties either. He has a well-rounded game that can be utilized in many different lineup spots but will rarely ever make a flashy play that makes people remember his performance. He can be a Swiss Army knife, playing on the bottom two lines while having great defensive impacts and chipping in on the offensive side more than the typical bottom-six player. If he were a bit taller, he'd be a lock in the middle rounds, but he likely goes in the later half of the draft.

**BRODY CRANE**

**190**



**POS: LEFT WING**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 181**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LONDON	OHL	56	8	7	15	27

Playing a style that really focuses on creativity and skilled maneuvers with the puck, Brody Crane had a rather pedestrian season in the OHL from a production standpoint. Showing good puck control and the ability to protect the puck, he has excellent hands and uses them most effectively in the offensive zone. As a winger, he is still able to find the front of the net and does well to create scoring chances in this area of the ice. He can struggle in the defensive zone at times, having trouble picking up his man and not contributing to forcing changes of puck possession. When a player like this hits the ice, it's clear to see the talent he possesses so it can be frustrating at times to not see him play at his full potential. Learning how to more effectively dictate the play in his own end will naturally help his offensive game. By processing things in his own end faster, he would ideally be able to force where the play is going and take away ice from opponents. The areas of improvement for him are not easy to adjust, but if he does show growth in these areas his long-term outlook becomes a lot better. He's more of a late-bloomer, so whoever drafts him will be looking solely at his future potential as opposed to the body of work he's already presented. His club usually bring rookies along slowly, so he could be a candidate to break out in a bigger role next season with a bit more ice time thanks to his puck skills and creativity. Normally you see a solid foundation and expect the player to continuously improve, but with him you're banking completely on his future and not the present. It will be interesting to see just how much he can elevate his game in the upcoming season as his talent could really blossom – making his NHL club quite happy.

**LUKE MITTELSTADT**

**191**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 175**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MADISON	USHL	60	19	36	55	22

Luke Mittelstadt is a smooth-skating, offensive-minded defenseman who at times can act as a fourth forward when he's out on the ice. His skating and offensive instincts are two of his defining traits. He loves to activate from the back end and jump into the rush as a both a puck-carrying option and complimentary option. He has good footwork and agility on his feet, and can quickly change direction and navigate through the neutral zone – allowing him to create controlled zone entries at a high rate. Defensively is where his game starts to have some issues. As effective as he is at jumping into the rush offensively, he has issues with his skating when moving backwards, which is far from ideal in a blueliner. He can struggle with his gap control in one-one-one situations, allowing opponents to drive by him and attack the center lane to generate a scoring chance. The other area in his game that will give scouts some pause on him is his aggressiveness. There isn't a play on the ice that he doesn't think he can make, which causes him to force the issue a little too much at times resulting in turnovers or poorly executed plays. He will be entering the draft for a second time after going unselected in 2021, and it would be a safe bet to assume someone will take a gamble on him in the final rounds of this year's process. He has the skating and offensive skillset to be an effective player on a team's second power play unit. With the evolution of the game and the blue line position, his upside would be a great gamble for NHL team's this year. If he can upgrade his defensive game just a little bit he can become an effective third-pairing guy who plays sheltered five-on-five minutes.

**GEORGE FEGARAS**

**192**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-1**  
**WEIGHT: 188**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NORTH YORK	OJHL	52	13	35	48	40

George Fegaras is a solid two-way player who uses his big frame and strength to have an impact in all three zones. He has NHL-ready size and solid mobility to pair with it. He also has no issues getting up and down the ice with his legs. He's able to overpower his opponents on both sides of the puck. In the offensive zone he's comfortable as a puck-carrier, working the puck from the outer perimeter to the center lane and waiting for lanes to open up. He has quality puck skills, and because he's an adequate playmaker and quality shooter, his skill allows him to keep the opponents guessing on what he will do with the puck. Defensively he uses his skating to keep up with his opponents and maintain quality gap control. On the rush he can use his size and physicality to separate opponents from the puck or angle them away from the center lane and keep them away from the prime scoring areas. He was great against OJHL competition this season, but there may be some concerns with how his game would translate to higher levels of competition. He produced at close to a point-per-game for North York and has a commitment to the NCAA in the future. He has a lot of potential and would be a nice gamble in the mid-to-late rounds of the draft, and his next few seasons will be crucial for his development. He has the potential to be an all-situations defender who plays big minutes at the next level, but it remains to be seen how his skillset will translate to the professional or even collegiate ranks. He's a draft-and-stash type player, and teams will be more than aware he's a long-term project that could pay off big in a few years with an abundance of guidance and a little bit of patience.

**COLTON SMITH**

193



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 207

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LONDON	OHL	41	13	5	18	30

Colton Smith is a winger with incredible size and uses it very well in a power forward role. He loves the front of the net and uses his body to fight his way there regardless of how much resistance he faces. He can bully defenders as he drives towards the blue paint, a bit of a unique gift in this class. He was most effective on the power play, naturally setting up camp in front of the goalie and use his hand-eye to change shots and create chaos in the slot. It's impressive how well he is able to move in front of the net and pick up loose pucks for second-chance scoring opportunities and goals. His skating isn't a strong suit of his and, while he can rely on his sheer power and size at the OHL level to be successful, he will need to improve in his first step quickness and increase the power in his stride to be more impactful. Layering in improved skating would be an added bonus. Defensively is another area where he will have to develop his game as he doesn't use his size and long reach as much as he should and isn't consistently physically engaged. At times, he shows little urgency in trying to apply pressure to the puck-carrier and this leads to extended zone time for the opponent. NHL teams will love his size so it's likely he gets a chance over some of the other smaller, more skilled forwards in the back end of this class. Entering next season, he should really start to dominate his league with an expanded offensive role for London and any improvements he makes to his game will increase his likelihood of making it to the NHL. He's likely a later round pick but if all goes well he's the type of player who can outplay his draft stock and carve out a bigger secondary scoring role in the NHL than most would have anticipated.

**TYLER MUSZELIK**

194



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 195

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	35	1896	2.91	2	.900

With his size and frame, Tyler Muszelik presents a large obstruction for would-be goal-scorers to face. He employs a really good butterfly style characterized by great lateral movement, quick slides, and great balance, in addition to the ability to throw out his legs on low shots. He has strong legs that keep his weight centered and, when he goes from post-to-post, he has incredible control and adherence to boundaries. His movements are quick. He can re-adjust to last-second moves by an attacker or directional changes that a puck might take on its route to the net. His legs can flair out quickly and his hands are just as fast. His glove and blocker projection are well out in front and inline with the shot trajectory, too. His pre-shot stance is tall and he can look past traffic and maintain sightlines on the puck. He keeps his hands high and torso upright and tall when he does go down into the butterfly. His level of engagement increases as the play travels from low-to-high-danger locations and he challenges and prepares accordingly. He generally is able to direct rebounds to non-dangerous areas. He has a good amount of patience but is susceptible to moving a bit early and tipping off his save selection to the shooter. He shows good patience when facing a shot in most cases, but can move a little bit early -- particularly to the blocker side -- opening room towards the glove. Particularly vulnerable to attacks off the wing, he will often find himself square to the shooter but off his angle and giving up some of the net. Not unlike most of his peers, he has some of the pieces figured out but still has work to do going forward. Right now, he looks like a goaltender who can add depth and potentially fill a back-up role.

**SAM ALFANO**

195



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 205

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	65	13	12	25	29

Sam Alfano is a very intriguing prospect as a power forward who is already physically built well and plays a well rounded two-way game. Effort is never a question in his game as he applies pressure consistently on the forecheck, forcing the opponent to move the puck sooner than they'd like. He's got a good pace and tempo built into his game that rarely wavers. It's easy to see the intelligence in his game with how well he's able to position himself and be in the right place at the right time. This strong hockey IQ helps compensate for his skating, which is a work in progress at this point in time. Realizing the physical advantage he has over opponents, he is not afraid to carry the puck through defenders. This ability to drive to the net enables him to create primary chances for himself and second-chance opportunities for teammates. He exhibits a strong commitment to playing a sound defensive game, supporting his defensemen when needed and using his long reach to take away passing lanes. His NHL-ready frame and excellent intelligence give him a ton of potential. At this current moment, his skating is what could really hold him back from further developing his game. The lack of a quick first step hampers any ability he could have to drive transition and be a puck-carrier. He needs to get lower to the ice to maximize every stride extension. Skating is a bit easier to work on nowadays than it once was, but with him it's likely the make-or-break asset that will determine how far his hockey career goes. If he can't improve on his stride he likely flames out and fails to become an NHLer. But if he does work hard on his skating and make the necessary adjustments, he has the makings of a bottom-six power forward.

**MARTIN JOHNSEN**

196



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	FARJESTAD	SWEJR	29	13	10	23	46

Martin Johnsen is an offensive-minded forward that controls the play with his quick hands and vision with the puck. He's strong on the puck for the most part, and uses his body positioning to keep distance between himself and the opposition, making it difficult to strip him or poke possession away. This allows him to effectively navigate the neutral zone and generate zone entries for his team. With the puck on his stick, he displays a calmness and patience that allows him to wait for passing lanes to open up. He rarely throws the puck away to no one. He is a plus level playmaker, showing the ability to hit his teammates in stride both off the rush and through the cycle in the offensive zone. Some areas of improvement that he will need to focus on are his physicality and play in the defensive zone. He isn't shy when it comes to engaging in the physical play -- he just doesn't have the strength to come out of battles successfully at the moment. The encouraging thing is he doesn't get discouraged by that fact. He will become a much more effective physical presence on the ice if he continues to grow and add mass to his frame. Defensively he needs to work on his puck-watching, as he can become too focused on the ongoing play. This causes him to stop moving his feet and, because of that stagnation, allow his assignment to slip past him into an open area on the ice. He has some great puck skills to build off of and he may have enough talent for a team to take a swing on him with the hopes he turns into a solid top-nine forward option. If he can maintain his level of skill while improving his strength and defensive game, he can potentially slot in as a checking center who produces offensively on occasion.

**MASON BEAUPIT**

197



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-5  
WEIGHT: 188

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	SPOKANE	WHL	49	2791	3.63	1	.893

Mason Beaupit's size makes an impression right from the start. He covers a lot of the net and gains some advantage over shooters by his sheer volume alone. He can come out to the top of his crease to challenge the play, retreat back with a nice level of control, and his east-west mobility is good -- especially while down in the butterfly position. That is fortunate because he relies on going down early and often, almost too frequently. At the risk of stating the obvious, size is a good thing, but when it is your top skill that means there is room for improvement in a lot of areas. There's an upside and a downside to that, and he can be a frustrating goaltender in that regard. Like most goalies of his stature, there are holes in his body and shots can find a way through. This will be difficult to tidy up simply because his five-hole and underarm gaps are so big, but it's not impossible and he will make improvements. His rebound tracking from shots that hit his chest could use a bit of attention as well. He's frequently unable to follow the puck out and once he loses sight of it things go from bad to worse in a hurry, and panic starts to set into his game. He will scramble and make some terrific saves while sprawled on his back on pucks that should have reached the back of the net, but often times the initial shot should have been contained in the first place. The projection for him is a difficult one. If a team sees him as big but with limited development potential, then there will be little interest. But if he is seen as raw and capable of adding skill and some fundamental technique to that big frame with some extensive work alongside a team's goalie development staff, then things become a lot more intriguing for a goaltender as raw as he is.

**FILIP NORDBERG**

198



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 207

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SODERTALJE	SWEJR	42	6	21	27	88

Filip Nordberg is an old-school style defender, using his massive frame and overpowering strength to make life tough for his opponents. He has a long reach and big body that allows him to keep the opposition at bay and away from the prime scoring areas. He's a pain to play against. Anytime the puck is along the boards or near the net-front he is going to be there and he's going to physically punish any opposing player who comes within his reach. He has learned to quickly move the puck to his teammates and let them do the leg work, rarely holding the puck too long or trying to do anything risky with it. That selection will come with maturity. Offensively he is still a work in progress, but he did show growth throughout the season. He won't be the guy who carries the puck all over the offensive zone and makes a highlight-reel play, but he can make an efficient pass through and open lane or use his strength to power a shot through a lane. Like any bigger player, his size can often make up for his lower-end foot-speed but if he can get a little bit quicker with his acceleration than he will have no issues defending against quicker opponents. He has shown a desire to get better offensively, as opposed to simply relying on his defense to help push his career along, and if he does continue to improve in this aspect of the game he will have a skillset that any NHL team would love to have. His physicality and defensive game are already high-end, but if he can find a way to become more threatening in the offensive game he could be an everyday NHLer who plays difficult minutes at even-strength and on the penalty kill. His style isn't flashy by any means, but he can be an effective defenseman.

**RYAN HOPKINS**

199



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PENTICTON	BCHL	47	7	24	31	10

Ryan Hopkins checks a few major boxes that teams look for in depth defenseman. He's a defender who uses his size and adequate skating and puck control abilities to his advantage. A solid backwards skater, he's usually able to keep tight gaps on more speedy and agile forwards. He can use his body to separate his man from the puck by angling him into the corner, boxing him out or tying him up, and can do so without getting into penalty trouble. When defending in his own zone, he shows good awareness of support he may or may not have around him, which dictates how aggressive he will play his man. There is a mature, professional poise to how he goes about things, and it's easy to see him being a favourite of his coaches. He was a good two-way defender this year for his club, however, his best chances of carving out a permanent role will most likely be through his defensive capabilities. His decision-making with the puck could use some refinement. He's got a powerful shot, but sometimes gets horse blinders on and passes up opportunities to make a better play just so he can use that shot. When he does move the puck, whether it's starting a breakout or on the line in the offensive zone, he tends to make the easiest play available rather than trying to create another opening for a better chance. He has the tools to play a modern style defensive game in the NHL, he just needs to trust his abilities more, whether that is activating more from his own zone to become an option when his team regains possession, or holding onto the puck longer and getting his feet moving to create more passing options for himself. These are things that proper coaching can help develop.

**KENT ANDERSON**

200



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 200

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GREEN BAY	USHL	61	2	26	28	18

Kent Anderson is a big-bodied, two-way defenseman who can bring versatility to his team's lineup. He has decent puck skills, playmaking ability, and is an above-average skater. His skating allows him to be an effective transition player when he decides to activate from the back end. He's a smart player – he doesn't do anything spectacular or outside of his skillset but rather he makes simple plays that allow him to defer to other players on the ice. Defensively he is able to use his size and skating ability to take away time and space from the attacking players, and if you get within in his range he will lay the body on you and separate you from the puck. The issue with him is his ceiling. There's not one skill that he excels in or defines his game. He rarely does anything spectacular on the ice, severely limiting his ability to make any significant impact on a nightly basis. On the flipside, he stays within his own game. He has the tools to be a solid player at the next level, but it'll be tough for him to become an everyday NHL player. He is the guy teams should be targeting if they are looking for a safe bet late in the draft. He doesn't have any dynamic traits, but what he does do is play a smart and steady game that allows him to be effective in his own way. He can likely become a depth player in an organization, and may be a regular player that bounces from the minors to the big league. But if he is developed properly he will provide some value to whoever drafts him. Even with his limitations, it's not hard to see a lot of teams having interest in him. He's the type of player that will rarely garner any outside attention but will come to the rink focused and determined every night – and that's an endearing element to teammates.

**CADE LITTLER**

201



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 197

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WENATCHEE	BCHL	50	20	25	45	32

Cade Littler is a big, gritty, exuberant power forward who is well equipped to play in a shutdown, matchup center role. He's very detail orientated in his own zone and was relied on heavily this year in on his club despite his young age. He's an aggressive player who uses his size and strength to his advantage, throwing huge hits when the opportunity presents itself or imposing his will in corners and along the wall in puck battles. He is a tough guy to deal with when he's standing in front of the net, either his own or the opponent's, because of his frame. He's already an extremely polished penalty killer, and doesn't get phased when asked to take important draws. He uses his anticipation and long reach to take away lanes and force opponents into making low-percentage plays. His skating has its pros and cons. He has long strides that generate tons of power and result in a good amount of straight-line momentum, but his edgework and balance could use some work moving forward. He's a brave, driven player who seems like he always wants the puck on his stick, and although he doesn't have the nimblest hands, he's effective at dropping his shoulder and taking defenders wide and then going hard to the net off rushes. He didn't put up gaudy scoring totals this season, but his whole team rarely generated offense and he did lead them in goals, so it's fair to wonder if there is still some untapped potential to that area of his game. He is also a player who displays some solid leadership qualities, which will only help endear himself to teams. With his determination, physical tools, and attention to detail it's very easy to project him eventually becoming a reliable, effective defensive center at the NHL level.

**ANDREI MALYAVIN**

202



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 150

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SARNIA	OHL	44	2	11	13	10

Andrei Malyavin is a very good left-shot defenseman who excels in multiple roles. Where he succeeds in his own end is challenging opponents to force turnovers. Once he is able to get the puck on his stick in his own end he possesses a very good outlet pass to get his team up ice quickly. He can also use his excellent skating ability to push the pace of play and drive transition into the offensive zone. Using smooth strides, he has good speed overall and natural agility to help him weave through traffic in the neutral zone. He covers a lot of ground in this regard. Even though he is very good at driving play on his own, his defensive tendencies appear to prevent him from making this a main part of his game. There's a hesitancy to jump into the middle of the ice in the opposition's zone, so this limits his upside offensively. Regardless, his strong defense by taking away shooting lanes and keeping teams to the perimeter helps suppress dangerous shots against. If he can find a way to take his natural skating ability and use it to create offense, there's a ton of room for him to be a strong offensive defender. There's certainly growth potential in this regard, but it'll be an uphill battle. He's quite undersized both in terms of height and weight. He has elements of his game that compensate for this at the junior level, but it'll be a battle as he progresses down the line against older, bigger, stronger competition. That said, his skillset matches that of the modern day offensive blueliner and because of this, he is certainly worth a selection in this year's draft to see if a team can help him reach his true ceiling. Best-case scenario is a third-pairing blueliner who plays sheltered minutes and potentially plays a role on a power play unit.

**JOSH DAVIES**

203



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 197

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	64	16	20	36	119

Josh Davies is a forward whose entire game revolves around his speed. He's one of the fastest skaters in this whole draft class and often uses his speed in different ways. He can use his fantastic acceleration to reach his top speed so quickly, it allows him to catch defenders flat-footed so he can get behind them quite frequently. He can force defenders to panic when he's on the forecheck because he closes on them with such quickness, and he's also not afraid to use his momentum to finish checks. His hands are good enough to handle the puck while he's at top speed, which allows him to create a lot of clean zone entries for his club. Defenders have to respect his speed coming through the neutral zone, which allows him some time and space to create offense. He can beat goalies shooting off the rush, and he also does a good job selling a shot if he sees a teammate open for a cross-ice pass. He isn't quite as effective in his own zone. Positionally, he can get lost due to puck-watching and standing still, and he's not physically mature enough to impose his will along the wall or in the corner. But when it comes to loose pucks or pressuring his defenseman on the blue line, his speed becomes an asset again. The issue with him and the reason he may fall to the later rounds in this upcoming draft, is he doesn't always seem to be involved and giving 100 percent every shift. He can go prolonged periods throughout games where he just blends into the play. If he's not using his speed to create space and offense for his team, then he's not helping. If he can sort out his consistency issues, a team may find themselves with a future third-line player that skates on a power play unit as well.

**KEATON DOWHANIUK**

204



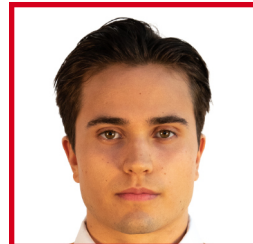
POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	64	1	21	22	48

An athletic defender whose best asset is his mobility, Keaton Dowhaniuk's footwork is crisp and smooth. Crossovers are clean and he is able to use his edges to maintain speed while moving backwards and transferring weight while moving laterally. This allows him, at his best, to be an excellent one-on-one rush defender. He can keep a tight gap with almost anyone and is able to use his stick to disrupt the oncoming player and angle him towards the outside, which are valuable tools in today's NHL. He is able to make safe and easy outlet passes with strength and precision, however, he doesn't show much interest in transporting the puck around to open up better passing options. He could stand to add some weight to his frame, as it would help him win physical battles in his own zone. His main weaknesses stem from the mental aspects of the game, both when he has the puck and during his in-zone defending. He can be prone to making mistakes with the puck, especially when under pressure. In his own zone he can struggle with reading what the opposing team is trying to do and can't always figure out where to go or what man to take in order to help regain possession for his team. There were also a lot of times where he simply did not look engaged, or flat-out quit working, though in fairness his team was badly overmatched most of the time. Still a discouraging characteristic, though. He didn't frequently play in an offensive role, but he also didn't seem to try to take any offensive chances when they did present themselves, either. He has the raw tools to potentially become a regular NHL defenseman, it's just a question of whether or not he can shore up the little details of the game.

**LUCAS EDMONDS**

**205**



**POS: RIGHT WING**  
**SHOT: RIGHT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 185**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KINGSTON	OHL	68	34	79	113	14

In his final year of draft eligibility, Lucas Edmonds exploded for his team and finished third in the OHL in points. This extreme jump in production was not expected for him, but he really proved that he was able to grow his game and be one of the best players in the entire league this past year. He has a heavy shot that displays very good accuracy, making him appear to be a goal-scorer at times even though he had gaudy assist numbers. His ability to find shooting lanes and get the puck on net helps him create many scoring chances off of rebounds. Where his game really grew this past season was using his excellent vision to set up teammates. Whether that was threading passes through sticks or finding teammates back door, he showed elite level vision and playmaking ability to execute. He is able to use his speed selectively to find open ice in the offensive zone, creating opportunities to facilitate both for himself and teammates. Because of how dominant he was when he was on the ice his defensive game did not need to be elite, but he did find ways to turn the puck up ice in transition. There's a lot to like about where his game has developed over the past few seasons and it's a testament to his commitment in improving his on-ice play in a lot of different aspects. It's likely he has his name called at the draft but it will be interesting to see how he can continue to grow. He has the added advantage of going directly into the pro ranks because he's a double overaged player, so it will be interesting to see when and if a team calls his name in the draft, and what their immediate development plan is for him after adding him to the organization's prospect pool given the influence they could have.

**HUDSON THORNTON**

**206**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 178**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	65	14	31	45	26

Hudson Thornton is a defender who played in all situations this past year for his team. He's a good power play quarterback, using deceptive body language and quick feet to move along the line and open lanes. When those lanes open, he is smart enough to wait for traffic and is capable of firing off both wrist and slap shots with velocity and precision to create offense around the net. Both his shots and passes display equal parts heat and precision. He likes to play on his toes, as he's frequently waiting for turnovers in the neutral zone so he can jump up in the play and create odd-man rush opportunities. He is a capable junior defender, although there are questions as to whether or not he'll be able to transfer those skills to the next level. He does well with puck retrievals in his own end, frequently shoulder checking to identify options, combined with his deceptive footwork which allows him to lose forecheckers and gives him time and space to start the breakout. Where he starts to struggle is his skating and physical capabilities due to his size. He's got short strides and it limits his backwards skating momentum. He can get caught flat-footed on the rush, and his shorter reach can make it difficult to use his stick effectively to help buy himself time to recover. When in his own zone he's positionally aware, but he doesn't show that bite that you want from a defender when they're trying to take care of the front of their net or battle it out in the corners. With all that said, his best-case projection would be that of a bottom-pairing defender who contributes as a power play facilitator, and not much more. There are real questions about how projectable his overall playing style is in its current form.

**SIMON SLAVICEK**

**207**



**POS: LEFT WING**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 170**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	FLINT	OHL	40	6	7	13	8

Playing a hard-working style, Simon Slavicek is a very competitive forward with extremely good forechecking and backchecking ability. His effectiveness when applying pressure is a direct result of him taking away time and space from his opponents through the smart routes he takes to the puck. He also uses his stick well to take away passing lanes, which is something he's able to do because of excellent positioning. On offense, he moves around the ice to get open for passes and has great timing on when to head to the front of the net. His shot isn't anything to get excited about, as it can float to the goalie at times -- a strength issue more than anything. He is very impressive in puck battles, playing fearless and taking hits and bumps along the way to complete plays despite possessing a slight frame. It's very challenging to play against him due to his high compete-level, though he is limited by a lack of strength. He would benefit greatly from improving his puck skills, especially when pressured as he's fine when given time and space, but can struggle to make good plays with the puck otherwise with limited time. Possessing decent speed, he relies on a smooth stride to push the pace and make quick changes in direction. Prospects like him tend to be very coachable and the issues in his game can be fixed under the right guidance. With a strong two-way game already, he is well on his way to being drafted and developing under the eyes of an NHL team. He has the makings of a coach's favorite who plays in crucial situations late in games. He's the type of player that the coaching staff will trust to play within their system and will rarely try and deviate from that plan, making him a reliable and predictable -- in a good way.

**BRADY BERARD**

**208**



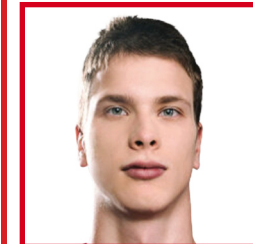
**POS: CENTER**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-0**  
**WEIGHT: 192**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	47	4	6	10	18

Brady Berard is a two-way center who plays the game right on the edge while rarely crossing the line. He plays the game the right way, showing a lot of effort and bringing a physical presence every time he steps foot on the ice. He has a high hockey IQ, showing an understanding of positional discipline at both ends of the ice. He is a disruptor at both ends of the ice. He can use his body to his advantage in both the offensive and defensive zone, physically dominating almost anyone he plays against. He's not the most talented player and he seemed to figure out that his role won't be that of an offensive producer, but he had no issues adapting to the role his team needed him to fill. His self-awareness on this front is good. His skating and lack of raw offensive skill are going to be his biggest detractors at the NHL level. He is by no means a bad skater, but for a player who needs to play a two-way grinding style he needs to use his lower-body strength to generate more power behind his stride. This will allow him to keep pace with his opponents more regularly. He doesn't possess the puck skills to create any offense on his own, but instead he will be purely a complimentary piece on the attack who will need to rely on his ability to work away from the puck in order to create chances in the dirty areas. He can be the perfect fourth-line player at the next level, as he shows an ability to wear a team down by cycling the puck on them and using his physicality to slow them down. He can be a frustrating opponent in this regard. While there is very little offensive potential right now for him, but his smarts, work ethic and physical attributes are more than enough to warrant a team taking a chance on him late in this year's draft.

**KIRILL STEKLOV**

**209**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 6-4**  
**WEIGHT: 187**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LONDON	OHL	34	2	10	12	17

A third-year draft eligible player, Kirill Steklov is a towering defenseman who has used his massive size advantage to physically overpower opponents. He is an impressive passer, showing a good ability to make quick breakouts with accuracy. When defending, he maintains good gaps and uses his long reach to force the play where he wants it to go. When playing along the boards, he is at his best, especially at the OHL level. There's not many players who can match up to his strength as he will both pin forwards against the wall and still take the puck away or move it to a teammate. There's some solid offensive tendencies in his game but unfortunately he doesn't have a very strong shot, even for someone his size. He has shown the awareness to jump into the high slot when appropriate and camp there for a moment while waiting for a pass. When he's not floating to open ice on offense, he is making accurate passes to the slot to create scoring opportunities. He is interesting, and it's tough to determine his next steps as he's an older prospect with some uncertainty around him. Even with him not being a very dynamic defender, his size is something lucrative to NHL teams and will give him a chance at finally being selected this year. Returning to the OHL after a couple seasons in Russia, Steklov looked more confident and coordinated in his skating stride for a highly competitive team. He has the makings of a seventh defenseman, and when he does get in he will play that shutdown role and be relied on to make simple plays and physical contributions that get his team out of trouble. The juggling act will be determining if he's hit his ceiling as one of the most mature players in the class.

**JOSH MORI**

**210**



**POS: DEFENSE**  
**SHOT: LEFT**  
**HEIGHT: 5-11**  
**WEIGHT: 170**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PORTLAND	WHL	36	2	6	8	18

Mori is a smart, speedy defender who unfortunately didn't get to showcase himself all that much this year due to Portland having such a deep and talented defensive corps. Despite his limited minutes, he displayed flashes of tantalizing upside. He has confidence while retrieving pucks in his own end, shoulder checking frequently and reading the forechecker's line of attack, and then using body position to shoulder him off or fake him out to kickstart zone exits. He's a well-balanced skater with an explosive first step. This allows him to jump on opponents and close gaps early, and his footwork is good enough to adjust and maintain pressure until he's able to angle guys out. He isn't shy about getting engaged physically. He makes his presence felt by laying hits and dish-ing out some punishment on opponents in front of his net or below the goal line, though he is on the smaller side for defenders, so his effectiveness in these situations can vary. His offensive game as a defenseman was a bit difficult to get a read on this past season just due to the fact that he did play such limited and inconsistent minutes. He didn't get much opportunity to showcase his offensive creativity, how well he can maneuver along the line with the puck, or how he would do as a puck distributor from the top. To his credit, whenever he stepped back into the lineup and got a chance to play he never lost a beat. The big question mark is just how much depth and remaining growth there is to all the different aspects of his game. There is a lot of untapped upside with him, enough that it could make him an effective, full-time, puck-moving and possession-driving defenseman in the NHL, and that makes him a worthwhile selection in the later rounds.



**MAX NAMESTNIKOV**

211



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-8  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SARNIA	OHL	68	16	24	40	49

Max Namestnikov is a smaller forward who plays well in all three zones of the ice when he's engaged and on his game. By playing at a high pace, he is hard on the forecheck and pressures opponents to make plays sooner than they'd like. He has a mean streak and doesn't back down from physical play before or after the whistles. When defending, he uses his stick to take away passing lanes and shows decent positioning to help force the play towards the perimeter while also suppressing dangerous shot attempts against. His best trait is arguably his vision. When in control of the puck as he has strong creativity to make plays happen. Whether it's getting the puck through traffic or finding teammates in the slot for scoring chances, he can really make a difference on offense when the puck is on his stick. His low base enables him to have good first-step quickness which, as noted above, helps him apply pressure to his checks and change directions quickly. There's a need for him to develop his strength as he can get knocked off the puck easily, even at the OHL level. With how creative he is with the puck, combined with his quickness, he would also greatly improve his positive impact by carrying the puck in transition more often rather than playing off the puck. There's open ice to skate into that too frequently he passes on, so having better awareness to take advantage of this and create scoring chances is something he needs to do. His skill and speed are clearly there, making him a bit of a flyer in the later rounds of the draft. He faces an uphill battle at his size to become an NHL regular, so adding on some muscle to his slight frame should see a massive uptick in production for him.

**RYDER THOMPSON**

212



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 176

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PORTLAND	WHL	58	1	17	18	10

Ryder Thompson is a defender who plays a very sound, well-balanced game. He shows good positional awareness while defending, displaying a strong understanding of his job within the given system and rarely looking out of place doing so. He makes safe and smart decisions with the puck and isn't afraid to move with it to create better options. He was effective on the penalty kill this year for the team. He offers good determination and will to be a factor on each shift. The difficult aspect of trying to project a player like him is he plays a solid game at the junior level but doesn't have any real elite standout qualities that will enable him to succeed at the next level. While he's got good defensive positioning, he doesn't have high-end physical attributes with his skating, strength, and reach, which will make it harder for him to close gaps or fight with opponents and cause turnovers once he gets to a quicker, stronger level. His offensive game is limited to making those simple plays for his team, too. He doesn't jump up in the rush much and doesn't possess much offensive creativity while handling the puck in the offensive zone. He seems like someone who should be more active and effective up the ice than he currently is, given the positive elements to his game. Portland had a deep blue line this year and will again the next few years too, which raises questions about how much ice time he will get and how easily he will be able to work on his weaknesses. He has the hockey knowledge teams look for – he just needs to develop those physical attributes to complement his mind or carve out more of a niche for himself if he is to be an effective defender at the next level.

**DOMENIC DIVINCENTIIS**

213



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	NORTH BAY	OHL	27	1481	2.59	0	.907

Domenic DiVincentiis is a battler who tracks pucks well through low-danger zones and really buckles down and focuses when the attack enters high-danger territory. He appears calm in the crease and has good edgework and mobility, particularly his lateral movement. He can make a strong push across the crease, arrive early, on angle and square to the puck. He takes away weakside opportunities well, too. He plays his butterfly stance with a really good, tall posture with his weight balanced and a bit of a forward lean to surround pucks. This allows him to find loose pucks around the crease and be ready to make second-chance saves. His rebound control overall is very good, as he can punch pucks away from the net with his blocker or his pads, and anything that hangs around he can find and cover to slow things down. He's a bit of a leader out there and you can see him talking to his defenders and orchestrating the play. This is perhaps most noticeable in two-on-one situations where the communication between he and his teammates ensures both parties remain on the same page. He will sometimes venture out of his net to play the puck. He skates well enough to be comfortable and safely get out and back, and his ability to move the puck is pretty good. He will mostly just corral it and set it up for his defense, but he can clear the zone or make a pass when the opportunity is there. There are no glaring issues in his play, so if he simply continues to develop he looks like a safe draft selection that has some upside. He also has a chance to leapfrog guys that are currently ahead of him and down the road he may have as much, or more, potential as any goalie in the draft class.

**VSEVOLOD GAIDAMAK**

214



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 198

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OTTAWA	OHL	60	16	17	33	26

Vsevolod Gaidamak is an overaged forward who came to the OHL from Russia this season and acquitted himself well. He had his struggle adjusting to North American hockey but was able to display some impressive offensive instincts throughout the season. He has a solid frame, allowing him to play through contact well and drive the puck to the prime scoring areas. His skating allows him to effectively navigate up and down the ice and he doesn't have any struggles keeping up with the pace of play in the OHL. Offensively he can act as both a playmaking and goal-scoring option, playing well both as a puck-carrier and a complimentary piece. He had some inconsistencies throughout the year – often having long stretches where he didn't do much – but when he was at his best he was able to help spark his club's offensive attack. It's as easy thing to forgive given the circumstance. For his first year in the league – and on the continent for that matter – he had a decent season and will look to build off that at Niagara next season. If he can work on his consistency and find a way to impact the game on a nightly basis it will help his overall long-term outlook. He can play both a power and skill game, allowing him to slot up and down a lineup. In terms of his NHL potential, he has a long way to go before he can become an everyday player but the foundation is there for him, and if he polishes his skills he can be a quality depth piece that chips in offensively from time-to-time. He wasn't taken in his original draft year last summer, but teams may take a gamble on him in the middle rounds and bank on him breaking out now that he is more comfortable having had a year of North American hockey under his belt.

**JOEL RATKOVIC BERNDTSSON**

215



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 179

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	FROLUNDA	SWEJR	47	22	27	49	34

Joel Ratkovic Berndtsson is an offensive winger who becomes a scoring threat as soon as the puck enters the offensive zone. He is comfortable with the puck on his stick, combining a finesse and power game that allow him to get into the tight areas and find loose pucks in the prime scoring areas to generate scoring chances. He is able to handle the puck at full speed, and can challenge defenders in one-on-one situations thanks to his speed and puck-handling ability. He is a true-blue goal-scoring forward who loves to use his shot in multiple ways. If he has an opening, he will fire the puck on net with the intention of beating the goalie – but if you take away his perfect shooting lane he will use his shot to generate rebounds and power his way through traffic to jump all over the loose pucks. Defensively, he needs some work. He oftentimes becoming a pedestrian, just simply watching the play and allowing himself to lose his positioning and lose track of his assignment. To get to the next level he needs to round out his skating ability. Becoming quicker is important, but for him improving his agility will make him much more effective when cutting through traffic or simply trying to create. He has the upside of a potential NHL-caliber player, but he has a long road ahead of him if he wants to become a consistent everyday NHL option. His skillset can be utilized in multiple spots and potentially on the power play, but it will be up to him to improve on his shortcomings before he can be penciled in as a high caliber prospect. He is worth a gamble because players with his scoring ability are heavily sought after by scouts, and there aren't a lot of other options late in the draft with his offensive upside.

**JACKSON DORRINGTON**

216



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 192

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DES MOINES	USHL	41	3	8	11	51

Jackson Dorrington is a two-way defender who has the tools to impact the game in multiple ways. He uses his size and strength to play with an active stick and he brings a physical edge to the way he defends. One of his best attributes is his ability to defend on the rush. His footwork allows him to pivot well to both sides and maintain solid gap control when defending one-on-one situations. Once in the defensive zone, he maintains that physical edge. He consistently finds himself in the correct position, and when he needs to get involved in 50/50 puck battles he's more than capable of holding his own. Offensively he's a bit limited, but he has shown that he is comfortable being a puck-carrier when the opportunity presents and has the playmaking ability to make quality passes on a regular basis. He won't ever run a power play unit, but if he gets time and space with the puck on his stick he can make quality plays that lead to offensive chances for his team. He doesn't have elite speed or agility, which might make it difficult for him to keep up with the better players he will be playing against as he progresses through the hockey ranks. He will need to work at improving his foot-speed and lateral movement in order to improve his overall mobility and allow him to keep up speedier players coming down on him off the rush. There are enough positives in his game to warrant using a late-round pick on him and he did improve on some of his deficiencies as the season progressed, which should be promising to NHL scouts as he's identified the areas he needs improvement in. If everything goes well for him, he can comfortably play a seventh defenseman role, maybe even a regular third-pairing situation at the NHL level.

**RODWIN DIONICIO**

**217**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 207

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NIAGARA	OHL	57	6	25	31	45

Rodwin Dionicio showed very well for a team that had a bit of a rough go this past season. He logged heavy minutes in his first year in the OHL, and he was able to display his NHL-ready size and skating ability. He moves extremely well, especially given his vitals. Possessing great athleticism, his extension on his stride generates a ton of power that enables him to create separation as he carries the puck up ice. His hands are very impressive as well, protecting the puck and maneuvering it out of harm's way when he skates with it. He shows a lot of physicality in puck battles on the boards and in front of his net, where he is able to easily box out opponents with his size and strength. It's not hard to see why he thrives in that circumstance. Offensively, he has a decent shot but does well to get pucks through traffic and on net. He also activates well off the blue line to fill gaps and present himself as an outlet while the puck is being cycled down low. While he skates well in a straight-line capacity, he has some limits moving laterally that see him struggle when forwards attack him wide with speed. This vulnerability is due to his having issues with quickness to maintain gap control that culminates in him taking some penalties to compensate. The foundation to his game, however, is very solid though, and after some technical improvements to his skating he could see himself really take off in his development. His defensive inefficiencies are worrisome, but if a team trusts him to improve in that area then his offensive skillset will provide a ton of optimism for whoever selects him. Coupling that with his thick physical stature makes him a pretty enticing prospect for NHL teams late in this year's draft.

**LUKE WOODWORTH**

**218**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-9  
**WEIGHT:** 155

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DRUMMONDVILLE	QMJHL	68	16	34	50	20

Luke Woodworth is a crafty and creative forward with a combination of vision and patience that allows him to generate scoring chances off the rush or through in-zone play. He's a smooth skater with good speed over distances and polished edges in tight spaces. His offensive IQ jumps out right away and although he can produce in five-on-five situations, it's while on the power play that he really puts on a display. With his on-puck offensive skills he becomes an architect who builds the attack and manufactures opportunities by threading passes through seams and breaking down defenses with deceptive maneuvers and agile skating. His off-puck ability enables him to access pockets of space between defenders and slip into and out of open ice and utilize a one-time shot that quickly jumps off the blade and is effective more for its accuracy than its velocity. On the defensive side of the puck, he is a good backchecker and a responsible defender in his own zone. He can scan the ice, read situations and actively assess threats and contribute in puck acquisitions. He is also frequently involved in zone exits and neutral zone transitions where his excellent passing ability is utilized to advance the puck up ice. He often creates space off the rush by slowing down and using the ice in front of defenders, but expanding his ability to attack the space behind an opponent will add another wrinkle to guard against. It's should also be expected that he will look to become stronger in an effort to better handle the physicality at the next level. With his first-rate offensive acumen, Woodworth could be an intriguing mid-to-late round draft target who possesses a skillset often reserved for those early round selections.

**JIRI TICHACEK**

**219**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-9  
**WEIGHT:** 170

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KLADNO	CZREP	41	2	6	8	14

Jiri Tichacek is smooth-skating defender who relies on quickness and on-ice IQ to make up for his smaller stature. He is light on his feet with quick strides that allow him to accelerate to his top speed both forward and backwards. For a smaller blueliner, he goes against the mold – excelling more at the defensive side of the game rather than the offensive side of the puck. His quickness allows him to maintain solid gap control and using his body positioning and active stick he is a quality rush defender. He doesn't bring a lot to the table offensively. His skating allows him to be an active member of the transition attack but his decision-making and anticipation on offense need some improvement. He needs to learn when to step up offensively because he can get caught pinching too frequently, allowing too many odd-man rushes going the other way. The size is also a concern. While his mobility allows him to succeed in defending the rush, he struggles to keep opponents away from the center lane. Opponents can out-power him with regularity and brush him off. Improving his strength will be paramount for him if he wants to have any chance at the next level. Another concern for him is the fact that he's entering his second year of eligibility and some of the same red flags persist in his game still. He's improved some aspects of his game which is a positive sign, but there hasn't been much too much improvement in his offensive gameplay and his strength. His play style is tough to project to the next level, it remains to be seen if a player with his smaller size can become an effective defensive defenseman and if he can't succeed in a defensive role, he may struggle to make the NHL.

**KYLE JACKSON**

**220**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 191

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NORTH BAY	OHL	45	30	32	62	23

An overaged player in this draft class, Kyle Jackson saw his goal-scoring take off for his team this past season as he established himself as an effective offensive producer. He is at his best when he has the puck on his stick and is strong at reading the play to intercept the puck as well as force turnovers. When carrying the puck, he seeks open lanes and will drive to the middle of the ice to put himself into a more dangerous shooting position. There are times where he could be more patient with the puck as he has a tendency to force passes into traffic or simply just throw it away when feeling pressure from behind. He is very good at providing support defensively, using an active stick to disrupt passing and shooting lanes. These instincts of his really help him impact changing possession and driving transition play towards the offensive zone. It seemed that his play got stronger and more consistent as the season went on. Earlier in the year he had moments where he was a bit quiet and not making a difference in the game. Towards the tail end of the season though, he was making positive impacts through his well-rounded two-way game. Still, he could fade in games to the point he'd be a low-impact player. For a player known for filling the net he, at times, could also show improvement in his stick preparation to give teammates a target. The goal-scoring will surely interest NHL teams but it's the work ethic and mature game he plays that will ultimately allow him to develop into an NHL player. He can be the prototypical bottom-six forward who outworks his opponents on every shift and occasionally finds himself in a prime scoring position and produce offense every now and then.

**KOCHA DELIC**

**221**



**POS:** CENTER  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-10  
**WEIGHT:** 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SUDBURY	OHL	65	17	29	46	29

Kocho Delic is a ball of energy on the ice, pushing the pace at both ends of the ice while having positive impacts. Playing the center position, he shows high-end intelligence and does many little things that don't show up on the score sheet. He finds ways to be disruptive on the forecheck by driving through traffic and using his relentless speed to chase down the puck. The strategic means that he attacks is a testament to his strong anticipation of where the play is headed as opposed to being reactive to things. His support defensively is very impressive for someone this age and a sign of his commitment to playing a 200-foot game. By keeping his feet moving, he is able to chase down forwards carrying the puck and disrupt zone entries. It's amazing to see how well he reads the breakout in his own end, using quick crossovers and acceleration to get open and attack lanes where his team can transition to offense with ease. This ability of his to find these pockets of ice opens up the game for his teammates, making life easier on them. While his compete-level is unquestioned, there's some puck management issues that limit his upside offensively. He can make some poor passes on occasion that lead to turnovers and he would stand to benefit from slowing the game down at times and letting plays develop as opposed to just forcing low-percentage options. He has a lot of value moving forward and it's likely he improves some of the flaws he has to be a more consistent player on offense. Projecting as more of a bottom-six NHL player due to his high-end motor he is likely waiting patiently for his name to be called, but could in turn reward said team should they too show patience in his development.

**OSCAR PETTERSSON**

**222**



**POS:** RIGHT WING  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 198

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ROGLE	SWEJR	46	25	11	36	26

Oscar Pettersson plays a straightforward game built around playing with speed, strength, and intensity. He's always engaged when he's on the ice, working hard to be near the puck or to open himself up in space for his teammates. He is capable of closing space on opponents at both ends of the ice and fits in nicely playing a dump-and-chase style of play. When he has the puck on his stick he looks for opportunities to get the puck up the ice and far away from his end. H has solid enough puck skills to navigate through traffic. When he gets the puck in space and is able to pick up steam he can be a tough player to slow down or disrupt. He's primarily a defensive, puck possession type of forward who will wear down the opposition by possessing the puck and forcing his opponents to exert all their energy chasing him. It's an annoying style to play against. Offensively he can chip in occasionally, but his long-term outlook is better suited to be a shutdown winger who takes the opponents best players out of the game. His skillset screams bottom-six winger who has a lot of defensive zone starts and makes his way onto one of his team's penalty killing units. If he can develop his offensive game a little more he has the potential to be a well-rounded player who plays up in the lineup, but worst-case scenario for him is a defensive-minded player who plays tough minutes. His lower ceiling may cause him to be a late-round pick, but if you're getting a safe bet NHL player in the final rounds of the draft it is tough to complain about. He has the makings of a coach's favorite if he makes his way into the NHL, which isn't at all out of the question despite being a player ranked late in the draft. He's not a longshot – he just won't wow.

**NOLAN FLAMAND**

223



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 171

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KELOWNA	WHL	60	10	30	40	8

Nolan Flamand is a forward who doesn't let his small stature stop him from getting involved in every aspect of the game. He has a fantastic work ethic and, although he doesn't have elite offensive talents, he's very good at being a complimentary offensive piece to a line. He has above-average hockey IQ and is able to read and anticipate plays in all three zones. Most of his offense stems from putting himself in good positions to receive high-danger passes from teammates or getting to the net to clean up garbage. He's a quick skater who is a hound when it comes to applying pressure and is regularly successful in causing turnovers. His pace and work rate are high-end, and he plays with an infectious enthusiasm, the type of player who can help keep his linemates awake and focused. He is also a reliable defender. He shows good positioning most of the time and provides ample puck support when needed. He uses his intelligence to get ahead of plays in his own zone and avoid any real physical battles, which is good for a player of his small size. He is capable on the penalty kill right now and will really need to master that kind of work to hold down a roster spot as he advances in his career. He's a regular center right now and has a genuine chance of staying as a pivot at higher levels. At the moment, he's a very low threat to score from distance or beat a goalie who has a clean read on him. He's not much of an offensive driver as it stands, however, with his smarts and his drive it's easy to imagine him flushing that part of his game out more over time. With his skillset, the hope is that he can keep playing to his strengths and one day fill a bottom-six, energy-supplier type of role at the next level.

**BEN KING**

224



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 205

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	RED DEER	WHL	68	52	53	105	57

Ben King is a big, power-forward type of center who was passed over in the last couple drafts but made notable progress this past season. He relied heavily on his advantageous size and awareness this season to put up some very good numbers for Red Deer. He's able to create offense in several different ways. He's got a nose for the net, and often finds himself within the inner slot getting quality scoring chances. He plays the cycle game very well. He's strong enough to use his body to shield the puck. He also has great vision and a surprisingly soft set of hands that allow him to create and finish plays. He has the ability to beat goalies clean from distance with his shot, though he usually needs the help of his teammates to get those kinds of looks. He's always possessed a nice release, however he's really worked on his accuracy and his stats exploded in kind. The lingering issue in his game has always been his skating ability, and that still hasn't changed. He seems to always be a step behind most players in terms of speed. His edgework clearly needs lots of work, and he doesn't keep his feet moving as much as he needs to in order to compensate for his heavy boots. It would also be nice to see him use his size and strength to impose his will more often and inflict more punishment, too. While his offensive output this season can't be fully ignored, teams do have to keep in mind the fact that he was one of the older and more experienced players in the WHL, and was therefore more physically and mentally mature than his opponents. He won't be an elite producer at the NHL level, but he has some tools that may allow him to find himself in a bottom-six power-forward role.

**JIMI SUOMI**

225



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 154

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	TPS	FIN	30	1	5	6	10

Jimi Suomi is an undersized blueliner who has excellent mobility that allows him to move the puck up and down the ice. He has solid instincts with the puck, combining his skating and passing ability to help him drive transition from the back end. He can navigate his way out of trouble with his speed and agility, showing poise under pressure and hitting the closest outlet to make sure the play doesn't die on his stick. Despite being smaller in stature, he is rather efficient in his own zone, using his mobility and speed to close in on players and take away their open ice rather than his size. The size issue, however, begins to come into play when he tries to engage physically in the game. He doesn't shy away from contact but because of his smaller stature he can be easily outmatched physically and take himself out of the play whenever he tries to throw his body around. He will need to learn how to let the play come to him rather than constantly chasing the puck, especially while defending the rush. In the NHL teams will easily exploit him whenever he is over aggressive. He went undrafted in 2021 despite having immense offensive upside, but his chances of getting picked this time around seem greater given his growth. His game has a ton of potential if he can just get a little stronger. He doesn't shy away from the dirty areas, so he just needs to mature physically so that his strength can match his willingness to engage in physical battles with opponents. He has the offensive tools you want in a defender, and the defensive game has improved since his first year of draft eligibility. He can be multi-situational blueliner if he develops properly, it will be interesting to see if he is selected this time around.

**JACOB OSTER**

226



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 187

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	GUELPH	OHL	34	1845	2.93	0	.892

Jacob Oster has prototypical size that NHL teams are looking for and plays very good position in his crease, rarely exposing more net on one side than another. Even when play gets chaotic in front of him, he's still able to square back up to the puck while knowing his body position relative to both the puck and the net. He shows as a confident goaltender who very rarely gets out of position and is very sound in his crease. He is excellent at tracking the puck, following it through traffic well and having decent rebound control when is not able to snag it with his glove. Laterally, he moves side to side very well, covering his posts tightly and leaving no gaps when he does have to hug them. His anticipation is pretty average at this point in time and he would stand well to better predict when passes across ice are coming. This lack of anticipation would force him to rely on his strong lateral movement to make some difficult saves moving side to side. While he lacks anticipation, his reactionary element is solid. Regardless of this desperation style saves, he remains very calm and poised in the net, staying focused and not getting rattled when the play gets hectic in front of him. He would benefit from honing his rebound control, as even though it's not a liability in his game currently it will only get harder for him as he plays higher levels of competition. Directing the puck into the corners or behind the net with more consistency will help him reduce some of the challenging saves he's had to make when the puck bounces back into the high slot. He's definitely got work to do before scouts will consider him to have NHL potential even as a backup, but goal-tenders are always a wild card this late in the draft.

**QUINN FINLEY**

227



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MADISON	USHL	39	12	17	29	16

Quinn Finley is a speedy, offensive-minded winger with good instincts and that allow him to be effective in the offensive zone. His pace is a strong asset for him. He can put defenders on their heels when he attacks them with the puck, using quick strides to accelerate to top speed and pull away from his opponents. He can be used as a primary puck-carrier, but he is at his best when he works away from the puck. He constantly keeps his feet moving, rarely remaining stagnant in the offensive zone. This makes it tough for the opposing players to keep track of him in the high-danger areas. His puck skills are not overly impressive, but he can flash the odd high-end skill play from time-to-time. He should be considered a project by scouts who are looking to draft him, as there some red flags in his game that would give teams pause about him. In the defensive zone, he has a tendency to be far too pedestrian, often focused on movements that aren't his assignment and allowing his man to get behind him and into open ice for a prime scoring chance. The other issue with him is that he has some great tools but it's hard to project how his game will translate to the next level. He has skill, but not enough to play a scoring role at the NHL level. He doesn't have the adaptability to convert his game into a bottom-six style of player, either. It's almost all-or-nothing in terms of his ability to contribute at the next level. That said, there's enough in his game to warrant a draft pick, but he's the type of prospect that will require a lot of patience. Whoever drafts him will have to determine what style of game they want him to play and find a developmental path that will allow him to carve out the right role for him at the next level.

**LAURI RAIMAN**

228



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 160

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PELICANS	FINJR	42	7	13	20	18

Lauri Raiman is a smooth-skating center with solid offensive zone instincts. He uses his speed and puck-handling skills to create his own space on the ice. That, in turn, helps him generate quality scoring chances for either himself or his linemates. His skating stands out, and he uses his speed and acceleration to quickly get up and down the ice. He has a good internal drive, combining it with his speed to help be effective on the forecheck and generate turnovers by hounding the opposing puck-carriers while they try to transition up the ice. He has great skating and puck skills, but the frequency in which he has the puck on his stick can lack at times. He is the type of player that needs to carry the puck to contribute offensively. His off the puck work needs some improvement in order to truly round out his offensive zone. In the defensive zone he struggles to stick with his assignment at times, and has a difficult time getting his body or stick into the open lanes. Teams can take advantage of him and it will be something to monitor, especially if he continues to play center at the next level. His skating alone will appeal to scouts, but the rest of his game needs some quality improvements if he's going to become an NHL player. Right now he will be suited for a more middle-six offensive role, but without the improvements in key areas it's hard to see him being able to elevate his game to that next level. He will need to drastically improve or find a way to adapt his game to a different playing style if he wants to make it to the NHL. He's worth a late-round gamble because of his current skillset and growth potential. He could pay off in the long run, he is likely a late-round pick.

**DAVID SPACEK**

229



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SHAWINIGAN	QMJHL	57	12	38	50	44

David Spacek is a clever two-way defenseman who plays a responsible game and shows a lot of quality offensive traits. He's not a flash and dash type of guy, but rather very poised under pressure and able to escape into open ice and he exudes confidence on the defensive side of the puck. He plays one-on-one situations well by controlling the inside of the ice and maintaining a great gap and, although he lacks explosiveness while skating backwards he can, at least at the junior level be very effective. He willingly goes into puck battles along the boards and ventures into open ice with enthusiasm and decisiveness. He uses an active stick, good body positioning, and a bit of toughness to challenge opponents and win possession. On the offensive end of things, he reads the ice in front of him really well. He initiates zone exits with a crisp and accurate first pass, works the offensive blue line at five-on-five, quarterbacks the power play, and finds shooting lanes in order to get pucks to the net for first or second-chance opportunities. There is no question that gaining another step in his skating will be important, as will continued improvements in mobility and edgework. He can also upgrade his net-front defense as he will sometimes get a bit too puck focused and lose track of opponents and leave their stick available. None of these concerns are particularly fatal on their own and can certainly be addressed. Collectively, though, it leaves questions in his game. If he's able to address these concerns one-by-one it'd go a long way to creating some calmness in his game. Assuming he is able to make those advances, he could make his way into an NHL lineup as a bottom-four defenseman.

**ZACHARY BOOKMAN**

230



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	BROOKS	AJHL	55	21	81	102	30

It's not often a player from the AJHL that gets passed over twice in the NHL draft hears his name get called in his final year of eligibility. However, Zachary Bookman's tremendous season will definitely get some NHL teams to think about taking him towards the end of the draft. He's an extremely smooth and elegant skater who keeps his crossovers real clean and his edgework sharp. He also has very impressive top speed, often blowing by opponents. He's confident with the puck and is able to handle it well while moving at top speed and zig-zagging through traffic. Put all that together and you've got a defender capable of moving the puck from his end and all the way into enemy territory. And that's exactly what he did all season long. He was basically a one-man breakout machine. In the offensive zone he displays poise and patience with the puck, moving all throughout the zone to create better lanes for himself, and he is happy to hold onto it for as long as he needs to. He is not afraid to shoot the puck as well, as he has a quick release, but he won't overpower goalies. There really isn't much notable about his defending, but he is smart and dedicated enough to survive in his own end and not be a liability. It must be noted that he played against weaker competition compared to most other prospects, especially considering his age, but his talents are still undeniable, as is his year-over-year growth. Players with his kind of raw offensive abilities are hard to find, so you could see a team reach to select him in hopes of him being able to become a depth defender who can work a power play. He's one of the wildcards in the back-half of the draft because of his boom-or-bust nature.

**ANDON CERBONE**

231



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 150

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CHICAGO	USHL	61	11	27	38	46

Andon Cerbone is a smooth-skating winger who can be a solid player at both ends of the ice, but is best used as a facilitator. He's comfortable acting as a puck-carrier, using his skating ability to effectively carry the puck up and down the ice for his team. When attacking off the rush he shows strong vision and patience with the puck, allowing for passing lanes to present themselves rather than trying to force a play that isn't there. There's potential in his game that he has yet to unlock, as he flashes strong skills in the offensive zone. But needs to work on finding a consistency in his game to become a more well-rounded, frequent scoring threat. Strength and consistency are the two biggest concerns for him. Both very much elude him at the moment. He doesn't have the physical strength to assert himself. Opponents can knock him off the puck way too easily, but there's a lot of time for him to work on bulking up and adding that physical edge to his game. Other areas in his game should improve immensely if he is able to add a bit of bulk to his undersized frame. He needs to become more confident in himself, too. He will make impressive plays on occasion but has yet to realize that he has the potential to make those plays on a regular basis. The lack of consistency and physical maturity will hurt his draft stock, but he has the potential to be a bottom-six forward who plays effective minutes at five-on-five. Teams will want to wait until the last few rounds of the draft before selecting him, but he definitely has the potential to turn into a quality depth piece if he develops properly. He has a commitment to the University of Michigan where he will get quality coaching and all the opportunity to reach his ceiling.

**VSEVOLOD KOMAROV**

232



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 182

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	QUEBEC	QMJHL	60	2	17	19	40

Vsevolod Komarov is a smart defenseman that can play physical and excel on zone exits with an effective first pass. He's poised with the puck, keeps it simple and isn't afraid to crush his opponents along the boards. Against the forecheck there's no panic in his game as he uses his body well to protect the puck. He can find pass options with opponents draped over him and he can battle his way out of the corner and up ice. He is generally well positioned in the defensive zone and doesn't give up much space around the net. Against the rush, he can get into the attacker's space and neutralize plays with ease thanks to his long reach. He's not an offensive defenseman, but can join the rush and chip in. He patrols the offensive blue line well and can get off a sneaky little wrist shot or make passes off fakes. He isn't the fastest guy and he lacks quickness in his first two steps, but he can pick up the pace in transition through a series of linear crossovers and has decent speed once he gets up to top gear. His backwards skating is fluid, but again, the lack of explosiveness makes gap control a chore. Even though he doesn't possess the best skating ability, his hockey IQ and decision-making certainly makes up for it. There's not much of an offensive game to speak of, though. He can get pucks through traffic and on net, but that's about the extent of his contributions at the far end of the ice. He can flash the odd fake, but that's more to open up a lane than to dangle an opposing checker. Without that offensive upside he will hit a ceiling at the next level, but there is enough there to go with some really strong defending that ultimately, he has the potential to become a third-pairing defenseman in the NHL.

**BRICE COOKE**

233



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 190

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	NIAGARA	OHL	64	18	10	28	42

A big-bodied winger, Brice Cooke is strong in transition and is able to make quick decisions with the puck by knowing what he wants to do with it before it gets to him. With a quick and deceptive release, he knows how to put himself into a dangerous shooting position frequently, generating a high volume of shot attempts. He understands how to use his size to protect the puck when he's carrying it, which comes in handy entering the zone and working the cycle down in the corners of the offensive end. For a larger player, he is impressive handling the puck in tight and has surprisingly soft hands. His defensive game is mature beyond his years as his advanced level of positioning at this age makes it difficult on the opponent to complete cross ice passes both in the offensive zone and on breakouts. His skating stride is something that limits his upside at the moment as he can be too upright, which prevents him from generating as much power and speed as he's capable of. Another area that he can improve on is his aggressiveness in puck pursuit, something that his skating may be preventing him from being more effective on. If he is able to improve his skating, there's no question he would be much more impactful at both ends of the ice. With a good head on his shoulders, his decision-making gives him a ton of potential to develop into a nice prospect with some offensive upside. His high-end hockey IQ can compensate for any hindrance his skating presents to his game at the moment, but that's no reason for him to believe there's not strides to be made on that front. He has the strong combination of size and skill to eventually develop into a strong complementary player in the NHL.

**MARCEL MARCEL**

234



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 216

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PLZEN	CZEJR	35	10	27	37	59

Marcel Marcel is a big-bodied, physical winger who plays a punishing power game. Not the fleetest of foot, he relies on his size and long strides to close in on opponents and deliver punishing hits to separate them from the puck. His puck skills are solid for a player his size, comfortably handling the puck in space and navigating it into the opposing zone with control. Understandably given his stature, he works well out of the cycle and as an off the puck option. He can use his frame to outwork opponents and get positional advantage in the slot. He needs to work on his mobility and finishing ability to become an impact player at the next level. If he can add a little speed and agility to his game he will become a capable puck-carrier and a bigger part of the transition game. His shot is not that impressive for a player with his size. The mass is there, but the technique fails him a bit. He fails to get the full force of his body behind his shot, oftentimes resulting in unimpressive shots directly into the opposing goalie's chest. Speed and accuracy eludes his wrist. If he can learn to use his size behind his shot to generate more velocity he will be much more lethal as a shooter. In a best-case scenario, he has the potential to be an effective third-line player who cleans up a lot of loose pucks at the net-front. He thrives in the cycle game and will be able to wear down opponents with his physical nature. With a few tweaks to his skating and minor improvements in his shooting technique he could carve out an effective NHL career. His physical traits are more than enough for a team to be interested in taking a late-round flier on him and if he develops properly, he could be a hidden gem for whoever drafts him.

**BOSTON BUCKBERGER**

235



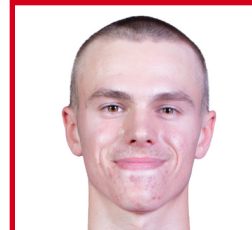
POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	BROOKS	AJHL	59	13	18	31	38

Boston Buckberger grew nicely into a top-pair defenseman on a club that is usually led by its older players, and he became the defensive anchor for an organization that is best known for its offensive explosiveness. His confidence is growing, and as it does so does the role his coaches give him. He is a steady, all-around presence with plenty of smarts, focus, and work ethic. His defensive positioning is strong and he's active while doing it, whether that involves stepping up in the neutral zone, sticking to a man he needs to cover in the cycle or jumping into a situation to provide support for a teammate. He finds ways to gain inside body positioning. He is precise with his pokechecks and also has the strength to pin and box out opponents. All his off-puck tendencies combined make him someone who is very adept at regaining possession for his team. He is often active at the offensive blue line, as he likes to walk the line, interchange with his partner or drive along the wall to help open things up, though he's never going to be a guy who creates a lot of scoring chances for his teammates. He has a big shot that he gets off with pretty clean mechanics, including on the one-timer, and isn't shy about using it in the right instances. This helps in generating second-chance opportunities via rebounds. Right now he's not much of a factor when it comes to carrying the puck up ice due to middling speed and agility, but with his athleticism he is capable of improving in that area. He made great progress over the course of this season, and that should continue as he moves on to the NCAA. He would be a worthwhile selection as a defender whose game should translate well to the pros when given sufficient time to mature.

**KYLE CHYZOWSKI**

236



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 157

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PORTLAND	WHL	68	13	22	35	48

Kyle Chyzowski is a well-rounded forward who is still trying to find the right spot for himself in a lineup. He can play up or down a forward corps, and fend for himself at either at center or on the left wing. He has fast hands, good vision, great balance, keeps his feet moving, and will find some sort of fluidity of spacing and chemistry with whoever you put him with. He is capable of adding fakes, hesitations, and drags to other protection positions as a puck-carrier to make his passes and shots a bit more deceptive. He is an honest worker who operates at a good pace. You just often find him in the mix of the play, whether that's being supportive in board battles, accelerating to apply pressure on the forecheck, or being a passing option. What is essentially holding him back is that he just lacks that difference-making element to his game to truly project him forward with confidence. Nothing about his game truly pops at this point. He gets a fair amount of touches but rarely extends possession or opens things up for his teammates. On the plus side, however, is that he'll be a big part of this club the next few seasons one way or another, and he's smart enough that they could develop him in different directions. He is still one of the youngest players in this draft class too, and that adds a bit of intrigue to where he is now. He needs to add more overall strength to his game, as that will let him be a more prolonged puck-carrier, give him more puck protection capabilities, and give him a harder snap on his shot release from different balance points. It's easy to see him eventually becoming an AHLer, though anything beyond will most definitely depend on a whole host of factors, including a hands-on approach from the right organization.

**LANDON SIM**

237



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 166

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LONDON	OHL	64	12	9	21	56

Landon Sim is a very young draft eligible player who plays a high intensity style as a center who could be described as being very gritty at times. With the ability to make quick cuts through impressive edgework, he skates very well and has a high pace of play. There's rarely a time in the game where he doesn't play without a sense of urgency, applying pressure to the opponent relentlessly. He is quick to loose pucks and will immediately turn it up ice to drive the rush offensively. His ability to read the play has made him good at setting up scoring chances and does not seem to be slowed down when he does have control of the puck. Even though He is not the largest player on the ice he still is strong on the boards and is fearless when engaging in puck battles. He's got a chippy attitude about his approach. Defensively, it would seem that his style would make him very effective at suppressing shots and forcing turnovers, but it almost acts as a hindrance to him. He can be too focused on disrupting things in his own end physically as opposed to positionally by keeping tight coverage of his man. High-pace players are only as effective as their ability to strategically force the play where they want it to go. His play in his own end can be aimless at times, expending energy that is for naught and leading to extended zone possession time against. It's a teachable correction, and adding a touch of patience to his game would make him more effective. His high motor is still a coveted trait and is something an NHL team could cling to in hopes of refining his game. He is certainly on the fringe of being drafted and may likely get passed over this year so teams can get another look at how he grows his game year over year.

**GUSTAV KARLSSON**

238



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 165

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OREBRO	SWEJR	41	31	17	48	10

Gustav Karlsson is a mobile winger that always looks for opportunities to put the puck in the net. He's good at creating chances off the rush. Every time he crosses the offensive blue line with the puck on his stick he looks for passing lanes or a way to challenge the defensive zone coverage to create a quality offensive chance. He has an effective shot, both when he releases a quick wrister and when he winds up for a powerful slap shot. Defensively he's okay, but needs to work on the nuances of his defensive game. At times he can over-pursue the puck, zeroing in on whoever has control of it and allow an opposing player to get open in space. This will be exploited by better competition and if he doesn't clean it up he may become a bit of a defensive liability when he's on the ice. He does try to get into shooting and passing lanes, but in that can create gaps in his own coverage by committing too much to one player. His physicality is an issue, purely based on his strength. He's not a physical player by nature but will need to add weight to his frame so he can easily fight through contact and get to open spaces so he can use his shot to his advantage. He still needs to work more on his skating to reach higher speed over both short and longer distances, too. He has a solid foundation to build on and if he takes a big step next season, he should be on track to eventually fight for an NHL spot in the future. He has the offensive skillset to produce at any level, now it's up to him to improve on his shortcomings and take his game to another level. He's a late-round prospect, but if a team gambles on him they will be getting a really intriguing player who brings some offensive pop to their prospect cupboard.

**JACOB NEWCOMBE**

239



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 198

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CHICOUTIMI	QMJHL	66	14	22	36	15

Jacob Newcombe has a tremendous work ethic and plays with an abundance of energy. He has a great combination of balance and strength and can remain stable in battles while opponents lean on him. He doesn't have high-end speed which makes it no small feat to play center in the QMJHL, but he certainly gets around the ice well enough and has a decent first two steps from a standing start. He seems to make up for any lack of speed by playing a really smart game and repeatedly putting himself in good situations to find success. His fundamentals are excellent, and his ability to understand and anticipate plays is a big part of how he's able to be effective. He comes all the way back defensively, has his head on a swivel and gets his stick into lanes to take away passes. His net-front play in the offensive zone is very effective. He forces defenders to constantly have to deal with him by establishing position before they can box him out, keeping his stick available, rolling off pressure and finding open space. He's also adept at moving in and out of busy zones to shake coverage around the opposing net. He is frequently involved in breakouts and is able to transition the puck up ice by either skating or passing it. On zone entries he attacks defenders by using his feet to drive around them rather than stickhandling through traffic and when confronted with limited space or outnumbered situations he tends to play it safe by chipping pucks in. He shows a lot of potential in his play, and has the work ethic to continuously get better. He reads the ice well and a move from center to the wing would suit his abilities and could eventually pan out to a bottom-six role. Developing his skating could keep him down the middle.

**KOLBY HAY**

240



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 186

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	EDMONTON	WHL	25	1349	3.11	0	.885

Kolby Hay is the type of goaltender that you keep close tabs on more so because of their long-term best-case scenario, and less so because of where their game is currently at. The most appealing thing about him is undoubtedly his gigantic frame, which provides plenty of natural net coverage. His wingspan is enormous and he gets great extension with his legs, giving him a nice advantage for covering shots aimed for the corners. He is pretty good overall with his angles and net positioning, and displays adequate control and process when dropping into the butterfly or going post to post, nothing flashy, but by the book. For a bigger goalie, he is pretty slight, and the absence of extra weight on his frame allows him to have a manageable baseline for quickness and reflexes. He doesn't have a lot of power in his legs right now, but he should be able to develop that over time through sufficient training. Pucks tend to get lost in his large equipment, which is an asset for rebound control. His technique fundamentals aren't bad, but he will need to focus hard on tightening up his form, as right now he is too leaky and allows too many weak goals. He's a little too laid back at the moment, so you'd like to see more battling against net traffic, more focus and attention, and just more of a crease presence in general. He'll be a starter next season on a team likely heading to a rebuild, so he should face a ton of rubber. That'll give him plenty of opportunity to refine and fine-tune things. He is the type of goalie that you draft not because of where his game is at right now, but rather because of the existing foundation that can be built upon and how good the remaining runway is for his development.

**JUSTIN DEZOETE**

241



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 183

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PETERBOROUGH	OHL	64	11	12	23	6

Justin Dezoete is a very competitive forward who consistently makes an impact every time he touches the ice. There's some high-end hockey IQ that he exhibits as his on ice awareness is very strong. By identifying open areas of the ice to attack – especially in the middle – he is able to present himself as a target and as a shooting option. The release on his shot is very strong and he is able to get it off quickly, even in stride. He shows high compete and energy, being hard on the forecheck and pressuring opponents to make plays earlier than they'd like to. When entering a puck battle on the boards, he is very good at coming out with possession because of how hard he fights for the puck and his small-area skill. He shows some good instincts in driving transition and carrying the puck but his limited acceleration and lack of top-end speed limits his effectiveness in this area. The confidence to carry the puck despite his shortcomings is impressive and he displays decent vision maneuvering through traffic. Some minor changes to his stride could help him get better acceleration. This would, in turn, make him more dangerous when carrying the puck. The intelligence in his game is something that will entice NHL teams who want to take a chance on this project if he can re-work his skating and become more explosive in his first few steps. There's some refinement needed in his game before he can seriously challenge to make an NHL roster, but his high-end effort level will help carry him a long way while he works on some of his flaws. He can turn into a prototypical checking role player who thrives at working the puck below the opposing goal line and annoyingly wears out his opponents shift after shift.

**JAMES HARDIE**

242



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 183

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MISSISSAUGA	OHL	68	41	36	77	31

James Hardie is a favorite in the NHL Draft community as the talented winger enters his final year of draft eligibility. Missing the entire 2020-21 season due to COVID really hurt his chances at getting selected last year but make no mistake, he has done everything in his power to change that in 2022. He is a prolific goal-scorer at the OHL level with a very powerful shot and quick release. His ability to generate offense is aided by his strong skating ability. With good balance on his edges and a low center of gravity, he is very agile and is able to weave through traffic with ease at times. With a shoot-first mentality, his creative side can get overlooked as he has shown the ability to create dangerous chances with passes to teammates in the slot. One of the issues in his game that has likely been a big reason he has been passed over in recent years is his defensive approach. Showing a lack of engagement at times, his defensive game has improved since his first year of eligibility but it is still very much a work in progress. The steps, however, are both noticeable and encouraging and shows his commitment to bettering himself. There's also a need for him to continue to get stronger as, while he has gotten better at winning puck battles, it's still an area of his game that would help make him more effective in controlling play. The ability to send him to the professional ranks right out of the gate is sure to entice an NHL club to select him this year. It'll give a team the chance to get right to work on continuing his development in a fresh environment. With unquestionable ability as a goal-scorer, he needs to work on a few of the simpler aspects of his game to earn a shot in the NHL down the road.

**JACOB NOREN**

243



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 170

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MODO	SWEJR	41	4	7	11	39

Jacob Noren is a mature defensive prospect who plays the game with a veteran-like presence. He makes smart and effective decisions – with and without the puck -- in all three zones and knows how to play within his own skillset. He rarely tries to do something that's out of his usual range or comfort zone. He has solid mobility allowing him to move around the ice with ease and get himself in the prime defensive position to take away the opponent's offensive chances. He gives his best effort on every shift and brings an enthusiasm to the defensive side of the game that is tough to overlook. Offensively, he's comfortable carrying the puck, working his way up the ice while constantly looking for his nearest outlet. He makes quick and efficient passes to his teammates, allowing them to handle the workload offensively. He has a great skillset, but considering his defense-first approach he will want to add strength in the coming years so he can properly compete with the NHL talent he may be up against. He has success in loose-puck battles and at boxing opponents out of the slot, but it will be much tougher to succeed when he plays against better competition. If he gets stronger and continues to develop offensively, he has the makings of a potential top-six defender who plays on the penalty kill. His defensive skills are polished, but the offense is a work in progress and anyone taking a swing on him will be banking on some offensive development. He won't be a flashy player, but will play valuable minutes and play his role effectively. The coming years will be key for him as he starts to play pro in Sweden more regularly. NHL team's will likely have him on their radar in the final rounds of the draft.

**SERGEI MURASHOV**

244



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 167

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	LOKO-76	RUSJR	41	2405	2.49	6	.927

Sergei Murashov is a very intriguing goalie who plays with a decent amount of speed and energy in his game. He explodes across the crease and stays square to the shooter, but if things get desperate he isn't afraid to stray from the script and make an unconventional, desperation save. He will dive head first, lead with a leg or kick up his feet behind him scorpion-style in a last-ditch effort to get something in front of the puck. His attitude screams 'by any means necessary.' He gets around the crease well and in addition to his lateral mobility, he telescopes out beyond the top of the crease and efficiently glides back to match his depth with the oncoming attack. He's able to stick with attackers as they make last-second moves. He cuts down the angle when facing shots and his up-down and down-up actions are extremely fast. Sometimes his speed can work against him, though, as a quick movement can take him away from a squared-up position. It's not all dynamic saves and exciting plays for him, though, and he has plenty to work on in his game. First off, he is a long-term project who will have to fill out more to handle the rigors of NHL hockey. Listed at a generous in terms of his height and frame, his stature isn't optimum in the eyes of many, and he doesn't seem to play bigger than he is. But the bigger focus is his slight frame which will take time to bulk up. He also seems to shrink when he's in his butterfly and will often give up the top of his net, both on the blocker side and glove side, and be beaten routinely on high shots. Projected as an NHL back up or an organizational depth component with an expected long route to ever make it to the NHL, he will have time to build his strengths and limit his shortcomings.

**CONNOR HVIDSTON**

245



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 164

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SWIFT CURRENT	WHL	58	13	19	32	14

Connor Hvidston is a very well-rounded and thoughtful player. His game builds from the defensive end out, and he is one of the more diligent defensive forwards in his region. He positions himself behind the puck throughout a shift and will never get caught cheating up ice. His defensive consciousness is not a trait shared with many of his teammates, and as a result he does a lot of the heavy lifting in his own end and sacrifices some potential offense. He does possess some latent, underlying skill, however, and could manifest more up the ice if given more opportunity offensively. He plays a simple game through the neutral zone off the rush, but as he gets deeper in the offensive zone he becomes more audacious and daring in his attacks. He possesses plus hands, impressive poise and excellent spatial awareness, which allows him dice through net-front traffic better than most. He is one of the youngest players available in the draft, and as such is quite raw. The power through his stride and efficiency in his footwork improved leaps and bounds from the start of the year, lending however, his posture still needs improvement. He has learned to sink into his edges more effectively in turns and transitions, but his straight-line stance is still upright and saps him of high-end speed. Luckily, he looks like he will be able to add a lot more lower-body power in due time. He should remain a top-six center for a team that will be a championship contender in two years, and that experience will help necessitate the growth he needs to undergo. Overall, the effort and smarts he brings to all three zones should play well at the pro level, and he's hasn't taken his biggest step forward yet.

**NILS JUNTORP**

246



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HV71	SWEJR	44	17	24	41	18

Nils Juntorp is a slight-framed winger who plays the game with a high intensity and doesn't let his slight frame effect his desire to get physical. He enjoys going to the net-front and battling through contact to put himself into the best possible position to get a scoring chance. He plays the game with skill, having the puck-handling ability to challenge defenders in one-on-one situations and the discipline to keep the puck close to his body making it tough to knock off his stick. He has a fearless mindset, both with and without the puck. He's not afraid to go out of his comfort zone and try something risky with the puck or challenge a much stronger opponent in a physical battle. He doesn't necessarily look for the path of least resistance in his attack, and this unpredictability aids in his game. Obviously the strength will be the biggest need for improvement. He's not a shorter player by any stretch, so he just needs to add some weight to his frame – which will make it easier for his play style to translate to higher levels of competition. The battle in his game is there and the body will eventually follow. He has the skill and the tenacity to play multiple roles in a lineup which bodes well for his future. He can play an offensive role or slot lower in the lineup and play a grinding puck possession type of responsibility. As long as his strength develops, he could be an effective bottom-six winger who is a thorn in the side of his opponents every time he steps on the ice. With his skillset and the fact that he can play multiple styles, he will be an intriguing name to watch in the final rounds of the draft. If he gets stronger while maintaining this same work ethic he will be able to carve out an NHL role and even contribute offensively from time-to-time.

**JEREMY WILMER**

247



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-7  
WEIGHT: 141

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	TRI-CITY	USHL	60	25	73	98	82

Jeremy Wilmer is an undersized offensive forward who has great hands and playmaking ability. An effective puck-carrier, he uses his strong edges and lateral movement to evade traffic and search for a lane to attack. His ability to work with the puck in space makes him an effective player on the power play. He has strong playmaking instincts and sees the ice very well. As such, he could be an effective quarterback on the power play even at the NHL level. He has an extremely high ceiling because of the skill he possesses but there is a long way to go for him. He's a featherweight out on the ice and it's very easy for opposing players to knock him off the puck and cause a lot of turnovers. He's a good skater but doesn't have the elite speed to create separation for himself on the ice. Players with his skillset often rely on possessing the puck and having space to make plays, and without them they can easily disappear and become pedestrians on the ice. He's no different. He has skill in spades but when he doesn't have the puck he has virtually no impact on the game, and that greatly hinders his ability to be a regular difference-maker for his team. The upside in his game is worth a late-round gamble because if he does hit, he can be a home run. At his best he can be a middle-six scoring winger who plays at both five-on-five and runs a power play unit, but because there's little to no chance that he can adapt his game to a checking role, he won't be able to carve out an NHL role unless he's a producer. Adding strength to his frame has to be his top priority, if he gets stronger and learns to play in the dirty areas a little more frequently there's a chance he can translate his game to the NHL.

**SANDIS VILMANIS**

248



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 192

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LULEA	SWEJR	40	18	14	32	8

Sandis Vilmanis is a goal-scoring winger who plays the game with tons of skill. If you're in need of a goal he's the type of player you want on the ice. He has smooth puck-handling ability that allows him to weave in and out of traffic with the puck and generate controlled zone entries for his team. He has deceptive puck skills, lulling defenders into a state of comfort before making a quick move and making them miss in one-on-ones. He is both a capable passer and shooter, making him difficult to defend especially when he reaches his top speed. Defensively is where there are some concerns with his game. In his own zone he can get caught standing still too often allowing his assignment to get open and create a quality scoring chance. There are times he looks uninterested in playing on the defensive side of the puck, which may not be that uncommon with young skilled players but it is something that he needs to work on if he wants to make it to the next level. He's impatient in waiting for the play to turn the other way, too. Without the puck, he can disappear becoming anonymous for long stretches of the game. With the puck he's a different story, but this night-and-day approach to the game might cause some scouts to be concerned because it simply won't fly the further along he advances in his career. When he's engaged, he's a beast offensively and has the upside and the skill to be a solid scoring winger in the NHL. It all comes down to how risky teams want to be. If they bank on him finding that desire to play more consistently in the defensive zone then someone will take a swing on him and potentially get a late-round steal. If he doesn't improve, he's going to have a tough road to the NHL playing a one-way game.

**BEN ZLOTY**

249



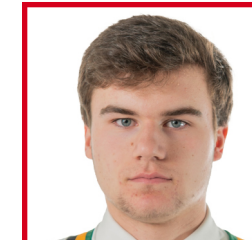
POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WINNIPEG	WHL	62	8	56	64	13

Ben Zloty is a defenseman whose best attributes are his puck-moving abilities and vision. He's an extremely creative passer, able to outthink opponents to put pucks past them into soft areas for teammates to get to. He'll also use crafty body and footwork to sell a pass to one side and then go the other way. He's just as efficient of a passer on his backhand as he is on his forehand. He's able to complete tape-to-tape passes from almost any angle and body position while the puck is on his backhand. It can't be understated -- his vision and execution accompany each other perfectly, and he makes impossible plays through tight lanes look routine. He uses it on the breakout or in the offensive zone, either finding seams or putting pucks in places near the goal for redirects. He also processes the game at a fairly high pace, and is able to weight risk versus reward before making decisions. He manages to play a heavily offensive focused game without selling out with high-risk plays. This ability allows him pick good times to pinch into the offensive zone and help his team maintain possession. He's a capable defender while protecting against the rush, keeping tight gaps and defending with an active stick. However due to his smaller size and frame he can run into issues defending in the dirty areas. He has issues separating the puck from his opponent, particularly on the cycle. His compete-level also seems to dissipate slightly when he doesn't have the puck on his stick and is stuck defending against sustained pressure. These issues raise the question as to how well he will handle defensive responsibilities moving forward. He will likely need a sheltered role as a puck-distributing power-play quarterback.

**STUART ROLOFS**

250



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 201

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OSHAWA	OHL	47	13	26	39	21

A power forward entering his second year of eligibility, Stuart Rolofs plays hard every shift and does an excellent job of having a positive impact on the ice. He moves his feet very well for a larger player and is constantly engaging in the play because of how active his skating is. He supports his team defensively. He accomplishes this by skating back hard and using an active stick to take away passing lanes while also playing strong angles to keep opponents from entering the middle of the ice. He processes the game very well in general, but especially in the offensive zone where he frequently finds open ice and is a big part of creating scoring chances for his team. There's an innate desire for him to drive transition as we will head to the middle of the ice looking to create space for teammates, passing off the puck as needed to ensure a controlled entry. His effectiveness in transition is limited by his skating, which is hampered by a stiff, upright stance. It hurts his ability to accelerate and play through checks as easily as his size would suggest. While his straight-line speed is fine, it's the ability for other quicker opponents to beat him or apply pressure to him which can minimize some of the good he does. With how intelligent he is, combined with his NHL size and work ethic, he is well worth consideration. He thrived offensively upon being moved to a team with more opportunities for scoring-line roles and power play time. There's definitely bottom-six potential in him with his skill and physicality and even though he doesn't need to be a great skater to make it to the NHL, it's something that will further increase his odds of making it and becoming a valuable physical presence in a bottom-six role.

**ONDREJ BECHER**

251



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HAVIROV	CZEJR	45	22	14	36	38

Ondrej Becher is a two-way center who plays within the coach's system and understands exactly how to execute his role. He has solid mobility and, while not the fastest player, he has good agility and can make quick changes of direction to create separation. He can effectively move the puck through neutral zone, making smart end effective passes to quickly get the puck to his teammates so they can create zone exits/entries. He is an adequate facilitator in the offensive zone. If he gets time and space below the dots he can examine the ice and make passes that hit his teammates directly in their wheelhouse for effective chances. Defensively he's a stout pivot, playing his position effectively and knowing how to stick in his assignment's hip and effectively take them out of the play. He's effective in the face-off dot, allowing his team to gain possession and transition to the offensive attack. His lack of speed and strength are two of the biggest concerns facing his game right now. A player typically has at least one of high-end speed or high-end strength and they use that to positively impact the game. He doesn't have either, so it's tough for him to fly down the wing and create chances off the rush or lower his shoulder and outmuscle an opponent for a loose puck. It's a detriment in other areas of his game, too. If he works on these areas and can bring at least one to the table, his NHL potential will really see an uptick. He's a coachable player who will always give his best effort on every shift. Now it just remains to be seen if he can add a defining trait to his game. He seems like the perfect bottom-six two-way center who plays tough minutes, he will likely be a late-round pick in this draft.

**NICHOLAS DEANGELIS**

252



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	WINDSOR	OHL	63	4	9	13	26

Nicholas DeAngelis plays a strong defensive game, showing very responsible habits that make him consistent in his own end. As a left-handed defenseman, he must separate himself from many others like him and relies on his solid positioning to suppress dangerous chances against. He challenges opponents by maintaining good gaps and getting physical when necessary. He also reads the play very well, getting a jump on opponents to try to disrupt or deflect a pass, or get to loose pucks first. There's not a ton of offensive upside with him at the moment but he does have good passing ability, which he mostly uses in efficiently breaking out the puck. With how well he reads the play around him, he would be more impactful offensively by being more aggressive in his attack of the offensive zone. He certainly should have more confidence to do so. There are gaps that he could fill on offense more regularly that would make defending his team more of a challenge. He needs to also improve his backwards skating, which is limited by a lack of generating a lot of speed quickly. Without improvements in his backward skating, he could struggle to defend quicker players, especially at the next level when most players can attack with speed on a regular basis. When trying to assess what he could become, it's easy to focus on his potential reliability with some improvements to his skating. While it shouldn't be expected for him to turn into an offensive dynamo, there's some minor changes to his game he can make to be more impactful at the far end of the ice. Simply jumping up into the rush more often or filling open lanes upon zone entry would help him stand out in a more positive light.

**JOHN BABCOCK**

253



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 201

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KELOWNA	WHL	57	3	20	23	41

John Babcock is a strong, stocky defender who thrives in one-on-one battles. He's not afraid to get physical and impose his will on opponents and has a high compete-level that results in him emerging with the puck in many 50/50 situations. He's defensively aware while in his own zone, staying on the right side of the puck and not allowing his man any free ice. While he's not a big bruiser, there is still some sandpaper to his game and he doesn't back down from challenges. When it comes to starting breakouts, he is an efficient passer who's able to make hard tape-to-tape passes. He does well to assess his pass options, usually choosing the safest option, but he's not opposed to just chipping it out if he doesn't like what he sees. He does a good overall job at this level staying on the positive side of puck possession. As for the offensive part of his game, he's not the most effective in that regard. He doesn't have a very good skating stride, so carrying the puck up the ice is an issue for him, and he can't create much on the offensive blue line because his footwork is also lacking in terms of fluidity and coordination. He does have a pretty hard shot, though he's not great at opening up opportunities to utilize it. For a defense-first defender there are worries about how well he will be able to guard the rush against speedy opponents, not just because of his skating but also because his reach is limited. There's no glaring red flag to his game, but there's no standout trait that grabs attention, either. His best shot at making the NHL is most likely as a bottom-pair defensive guy, although it is going to take a few years and a lot of development for him to reach that point, and his ceiling is limited.

**PETR HAUSER**

254



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 200

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SPARTA	CZEJR	41	25	34	59	63

Petr Hauser is a power forward with great physical traits that allow him to impact the game in all three zones. He uses his size to his advantage, powering through his peers to get into the prime scoring areas and generate offensive chances. His size and work ethic make him a force on the forecheck, knocking opponents off the puck and recovering it for his team. He is a big hitter, throwing his weight around whenever he gets the chance. Defensively he knows when to cover for his teammates and he knows where to position himself in his own zone to effectively break up plays. He doesn't have a lot of confidence in himself as a puck-carrier, which is why he primarily serves as an off-puck option. He doesn't scan the play near well enough, and his puck skills could use some improvement as he doesn't have the skill to haul the puck all over the ice. On the flipside, he can be too quick to get rid of it, too, tossing it away when not under pressure. In the offensive zone, the longer he has the puck on his stick the more he doubts what he sees. He's at his best when he's thinking quickly and moving the puck with a purpose. If he can improve on his puck-handling a little bit, his confidence should increase and effectively help reduce some of the concerns in his game – but it remains to be seen if he will be able to. He has the size and physical gifts to make the NHL but with the lack of skating ability and puck skills it could be a tough road ahead for him. If he does make his way to the NHL it will be as a fourth liner who uses his physicality to wear down the opposing team. There's always a spot for a player who can do that. He's potentially a late-round pick in the draft but could wind up as an undrafted player this year.

**AIDEN DUBINSKY**

255



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	TRI-CITY	USHL	59	3	12	15	50

Aiden Dubinsky is an effective two-way defender who likes to push the pace of the game, he's a smart player and possesses a high hockey IQ. He consistently makes the right reads at both ends of the ice. He's the type of player that likes to possess the puck when he's on the ice, with his strong north-south skating ability he can effectively join the rush and create chances off the rush. The issues with him come into play when he has to use his agility and lateral movement to defend the rush. He's an effective north-south guy but he struggles immensely when speedy players attack him one-on-one. If he has to turn to keep up with the attacking player, usually he gets burned badly. He also tends to shy away from physical play. He can effectively use his size and reach to close in on opponents, but when it comes down to laying his body to separate them from the puck he doesn't seem to have that edge to his game. In the defensive zone, he's a bit of a mixed bag. There are times where he's positioned perfectly and can use his stick to break up opposing chances but there are too many times, he wanders out of position allowing opponents to generate quality scoring chances. His lack of recovering ability will severely limit his defensive impact, unless he drastically improves his agility and ability to move east to west opponents will have a field day picking on him in one-on-one situations. Also, as much as he likes the puck on his stick, he might be better served in certain situations to try to move it quicker. A player like him is worth a flyer in the final rounds of the draft because he can turn into a nice depth piece, but there's a long road ahead of him before he can become an everyday NHL player.

**MARC-ANDRE GAUDET**

256



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 180

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ACADIE-BATHURST	QMJHL	68	13	25	38	34

Marc-Andre Gaudet is a two-way defenseman with puck-moving ability heading up ice, and a grinding shut-down style when in the defensive zone. He logs a lot of minutes, is a steady five-on-five player and on the penalty kill his read and react skills allow him to get into shot lanes and block pucks, use his reach to break up passes and keep tabs on attackers. He is reliable and seems to usually be in great position to take away opponent's time and space around the crease and he gets under sticks, plays with some grit and can time his coverage to tie guys up and take away their ability to reel-in rebounds. He's also adept at blocking shots and generally disrupting a lot of high-end scoring chances in and around the paint. He's strong in one-on-one situations and uses good stick placement and his big sturdy frame. He has a respectable offensive game and will join the rush and activate down the wall to support the cycle which shows a willingness to get involved and attempt to influence the play. His outlet passing is probably his greatest contribution to the offense, though. His ability to begin a breakout before retrieving a dump-in helps greatly at alleviating pressure. He always has a head on a swivel in this regard. He already sees some power play time where he mostly fills the role of a puck distributor, but he still has room to grow his offensive play and there is a lot of untapped potential there it seems like. If he can continue to improve his impact in the offensive zone while still maintaining his steady, effective defensive play, puck acquisition ability and four-way skating, then he has a real opportunity to be a middle-pair defenseman in the AHL or a bottom-four defender in the NHL.

**LUKAS GUSTAFSSON**

257



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 190

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	CHICAGO	USHL	59	11	27	38	42

Lukas Gustafsson is a two-way defender who locks down his own zone and can contribute offensively from time-to-time. His skating ability and puck control allow him to succeed in the transition game, carrying the puck up and down the ice creating controlled zone exits and entries for his team. He likes to be involved in the play, and frequently plays a mistake-free brand of hockey. He's surprisingly shifty, using head fakes and shoulder dips to avoid defenders when he has the puck on his stick. A patient player, he doesn't seem to be rattled when the opposing players close in on him. He consistently makes smart plays under pressure and rarely makes an untimely turnover. On the defensive end he keeps everything in front of him, allowing him to consistently see the play and jump in and break up plays in his own zone. The downside in his game is that there's not one area that he is elite in. He would be considered a safe pick in the mid-to-late rounds of the draft. He has a high floor but low ceiling and would make a serviceable player at the NHL level. He can play anywhere in a team's bottom-four defense, playing quality minutes at even-strength and would likely be a solid option on the penalty kill. He was passed over in his original draft year, and after a solid post-eligible season in the USHL will likely hear his name called this time around. Two-way defenders who can play quality minutes in multiple scenarios are highly sought after and the fact that he was passed over once shouldn't be held against him. He will take time to get his game up to NHL level speed but there's little reason to believe that he won't carve out a nice career in the NHL even if he won't ever be a spectacular player.

**THEO ROCHETTE**

258



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	QUEBEC	QMJHL	66	33	66	99	28

Theo Rochette was first eligible back in 2020 and will now be one of the older prospects available for the draft. His extra development time, however was spent wisely and he enters with an array of skills to take notice of. He has great hands and his puck skills enable him to control and protect the puck and create dangerous chances in the offensive zone stemming from the rush or out of the cycle. His puck distribution is impressive and he can be a little sneaky with a drop pass or a fake shot into a seam pass and he's often just able to find outlets that are a bit unexpected and clever. Not one to push the offense himself, he doesn't take pucks to the net or drive into good shooting positions. At the next level he will need to create opportunities for himself more consistently and find ways to bring the puck into high-danger areas and be a threat to shoot. Overall, he works hard all over the ice. He is an agile and speedy skater with an effortless stride who uses his edges to make some quick turns and cut off plays with pressure and anticipation in the offensive zone and backcheck through the neutral zone and into his own end by taking away the middle of the ice and having his stick in lanes. In his zone, he will have tidy up some defensive positioning and gain strength to improve puck battle situations, but these seem like attainable goals and he remains an interesting prospect. The NHL may be a bit of a reach because he lacks the ability to play lower in the lineup, so there will need to be very specific opportunities in the top-six for him to go after. He's easy to consider as a boom-or-bust longshot, but an intriguing one at that with a track record of producing, even if it is just at the junior level at this point.



**TIM ALMGREN**

259



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 152

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	OREBRO	SWEJR	44	19	21	40	12

Tim Almgren is an offensive-minded winger who uses his puck skills to attack the defensive coverage and weave in and out of tight areas. He has deception in his puck-handling, trying unexpected moves in traffic that catch the opposition off guard and he has the confidence to try and pull them off on a regular basis. He can accelerate quickly, getting up to his top speed in his first few strides allow him to push the defenders back while he attacks on the rush. He has solid off-puck movement, working his way to the open spaces in the offensive zone to open himself up for a pass in the slot. When he receives a pass he needs to focus on shooting more, however. He has a quick release and a hard wrister, he just needs to put them on display more. He needs to improve on his forechecking ability. He is great when his team has the puck in the offensive zone but needs to work harder to try and get the puck back once they lose it. It boils down to an effort thing. He isn't that strong, so bulking up and adding muscle to his frame will be paramount to his success as he works his way towards the professional ranks. His lack of strength makes it tough for him to win puck battles and keep his positioning in the defensive zone. He's a guy with lots of skill but needs to find a way to get his physical traits to a similar level. He has a nice foundation, but it remains to be seen if he can develop it into a potential NHL prospect. Late in the draft you're just looking for anyone that has some translatable skills and there are some evident in his game. He could potentially play an offensive role, but if can become more aggressive as a forechecker he can slot into a third-line role checking role, making himself more valuable to NHL scouts.

**LAYTON FEIST**

260



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 167

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	REGINA	WHL	64	6	22	28	31

Layton Feist is a defenseman who, at this time, really only contributes on the offensive side of the game. He's a confident puck-carrier even though he isn't the best skater. He reads the ice in front of him well enough to find lanes to successfully attack, both by activating with his feet or finding stretch passing lanes. On the point in the offensive zone he's a volume shooter, opting more often than not to just get the puck towards the net to create second-chance scrambles. He doesn't have a very powerful shot but he can have some success aiming for sticks to get some tip-in goals, too. He likes to play a bit of an assertive game when he's on the offensive blue line, pinching fairly often and jumping into the zone to create an extra layer of potential offense. However, that assertiveness comes at the expense of his defense. It's not uncommon for him to get beat while pinching, resulting in odd-man rushes against. It's apparent he sacrifices the defensive side of things to help prop up his offense. He is an undersized defender and struggles in his own end. Regina sheltered him quite a bit this season, but when he got caught out there defending opposing cycles he struggled regaining possession, due to a lack of strength his stickwork not being effective enough to fish pucks out of scrums. His skating is fine at this level, though he doesn't have high-end speed or agility right now, so he'll definitely need to work on those things to be able to fill the role that an NHL team would want him to fill. His abilities really only translate into the position of a bottom-pair defenseman who can chip in on the power play, but even for that to happen there is work to be done in certain offensive aspects of his game for him to get there.

**PARKER BELL**

261



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 192

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	TRI-CITY	WHL	64	18	31	49	33

Parker Bell is a forward blessed with NHL size and he uses it accordingly. He's a feisty player who loves to get into the thick of things and is rarely seen floating while on the ice, and he gets full marks for doing that on the struggling team that he played for this season. He simply attacks the game with verve and tenacity. He commits to the forecheck and can really punish defenders when he gets the chance to line them up, and his high activity level means he's always in the thick of the action. His play with the puck is a fairly underrated aspect of his game. He confidently carries it with his head up and likes to actually bring it into the offensive zone rather than playing chip and chase. Due to his size, he's got a longer stick than most and shows good control with the puck while extending it from his body to keep it in areas opponents can't reach. It also helps him dig pucks out of scrums. He is also a fairly dangerous shooter, using his quick release to catch goaltenders off guard. The biggest weakness to his game is his skating. He can trip himself up while trying to use crossovers or his edges to twist and turn, and he doesn't have particularly great top speed or acceleration. He's simply quite heavy on his feet and has issues with his coordination. These problems may hinder his offensive abilities as he progresses through the ranks, especially since he's older for this class and already further along in his development. It would be nice to see him have more of a presence as a defensive player and really prove his worth in those kinds of roles. Based purely on the fact he has the size and work ethic to be a factor down-low, he may be able to develop into a bottom-six, physical presence type of role player.

**JAKUB HUJER**

262



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 190

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ROUYN-NORANDA	QMJHL	49	9	15	24	34

Jakub Hujer is a tall and lanky offensive forward who works hard to help out in his own end. He has a good defensive foundation that can become even better. He has a long reach and uses it like an extension of his body to close in on opponents, clog up passing lanes and get touches on loose pucks. He has good puck protection ability and can release a heavy shot with not much space needed. He plays a heads-up game with playmaking talent and good puck skills. Even when pressured he holds onto the puck until he finds the proper play, and does well in in his puck-protection game. He doesn't necessarily play a particularly physical brand of hockey, but he can handle high contact situations. He sees opportunities as they develop and takes advantage by moving the puck with speed and accuracy to linemates. On the power play he is equally effective on the half-wall as a puck distributor or set up as a net-front presence where he is able to shift away from coverage, jump on loose pucks and have a good stick in tight spaces. He is a good skater who gains speed with some strong crossovers, has a nice long stride and is pretty solid on his feet. His defensive game is constantly getting stronger as he backchecks with maximum effort, pressures opponents and supports his defensemen. Even with that good basis there is still room for some improvement as he can sometimes stop moving his feet -- instead coasting around his own zone -- and he can get caught watching or get stuck out of position, neither of which is particularly unfixable. He looks like a safe bet to advance through an organization and could potentially become a strong AHL winger with a ceiling of bottom-six forward in the NHL.

**MATTHEW PERKINS**

263



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HUMBOLDT	SJHL	57	23	36	59	34

Matthew Perkins is definitely the SJHL's best chance at having one of their players drafted this season. He is a fast, agile winger who moves around the ice with impressive agility and smoothness. His edgework is very good and he can shift his body weight and change directions with ease, helping him a lot with zone exits and entries, as well as carrying the puck through the middle of the ice. He always seems to be in motion, keeping a high pace and staying involved in what's unfolding, and he can really open up the ice quickly when the play comes to him. He will regularly come in fast on the forecheck and apply himself getting back on the backcheck. He has a pretty good set of mitts, and can make or receive passes at high speeds, as well as drag the puck in traffic to find shooting lanes. He can switch things up offensively, whether by taking the puck to the net directly, circling around defenders wide, or looking for cross-seam passes. He thinks the game decently well in all three zones and puts forth an honest effort with or without the puck. He's a pretty slight kid, which will make things difficult for him at higher levels, both in terms of 50/50 battles and how much power he can get behind his shots and passes. While the tools he possesses are good, the results on the score sheet are a little concerning considering the quality of competition he faced this season, especially his playoff numbers. He is committed to a very good University of Minnesota-Duluth program, which has to be factored into the equation surrounding his long-term potential. Perkins has some interesting upside as a bottom-six support scorer, and would be a worthwhile project to take on with a late pick.

**EVAN BOUCHER**

264



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 201

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HALIFAX	QMJHL	37	25	15	40	28

As a mid-season addition to his team's roster, Evan Boucher was the offensive shot in the arm that any team would hope for. He is a hard-working power forward with a heavy shot and plenty of scoring ability whose goals come in bunches. His thick frame is tough to handle when he gets to the front of the net or becomes engaged in puck battles along the boards. He has a heavy stride and isn't much of a speedster, but he does get around the ice well enough and is particularly good at reading the flow of play and positioning himself to take advantage of where the puck is going. He has a high hockey IQ, plays a really mature game with no panic and a lot of patience with the puck even when under pressure. He has a calm approach in his own zone and is actively involved in breakouts. He has a pretty slick set of hands, especially for a big guy, and can dangle a bit as he pushes the play into the offensive zone. He can also prolong a possession sequence and survey the ice while defenders are leaning on him. Passed over twice already, he might be a little under the radar of many NHL organizations. A player of his ilk and age should be a standout, however, but he's got just half a season at this level so he's a bit of a wild card. Still, he produced at more than a point-per-game pace and scored seemingly at will, so the odds are that hidden gem approach is a bit more difficult. It may turn out that he is just a strong junior player but he has the potential to become a bottom-six power forward in the AHL if his scoring touch translates to the next level. If he can develop a reliable defensive game, continue to score and still be an absolute beast in the offensive zone then the NHL is not out of the question.

**RYAN HEALEY**

265



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 172

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SIoux FALLS	USHL	59	3	18	21	22

Ryan Healey is a puck-moving defenseman with a high IQ and quality puck skills. He's a strong skater with a smooth, powerful stride that allows him carry the puck in all three zones. His puck skills are a plus for him. He has good hands and can evade traffic while keeping the puck close to his body. He can be an effective facilitator in the offensive zone, delivering accurate passes to his teammates in quality scoring areas. He has the potential to run a power play unit at the next level, with his skating and puck skills he really benefits from the extra time and space being on the power play affords him. Defensively is where the concerns for him come into play. His physicality is far too inconsistent. He can become less engaged when the puck is brought up the boards or into the dirty areas and he struggled mightily all season long in loose-puck battles. In the defensive zone he has a tendency to drift out of position and follow the puck too much, allowing the opposing forwards a lot more time and space than he should. His drifting really hurts his game because he doesn't have the active stick and physicality to recover and break up quality chances. Once he loses his man it's game over for him. The defensive inconsistencies in his game are hard to ignore, but his flashes of upside really give him some hope to turn into an NHL player, and how he could intrigue an NHL team. He has the puck skills and offensive ability to play sheltered minutes with a lot of offensive zone starts and potentially play a role on the power play. When drafting in the later rounds teams tend to bank on upside and at the very least he has the potential to 'boom' to his game if everything goes right for him in his development.

**TY YOUNG**

266



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	23	1182	3.50	4	.899

Ty Young was a surprise revelation for his team this season after coming over from the AJHL, winning the team's starting job for a little while, and helping them reach the post-season through some heroic performances. There is nothing especially notable about his game or style, but he goes about his business with impressive steadiness and consistency, and that reflects in his stat line. He came into a difficult environment and situation midway through his year, making the jump to a higher league, and handled it with remarkable poise and professionalism. He displays workmanlike composure even when he is being bombarded with a high number of shots. He is definitely above-average when it comes to following the play in front of him and seeing pucks through traffic. He keeps his form nice and tight so it's hard for shooters to get pucks through him or over his shoulders. His rebound control is fairly clean and controlled. The main drawbacks on him right now are his quickness, movement, and reflexes. He isn't especially fluid in how he moves around in his crease and he doesn't get great extension with his limbs, so opposing teams can find a lot of net to shoot at when they move the puck around him. He needs to get quicker and more agile to help with second and third saves, or to adjust to blocked or redirected shots. Once he's dropped into the butterfly he gets a little too stuck there. It would be nice to see him project out of his net quicker to cut down angles, since relying too much on size and positioning works well enough at this level but won't be enough moving forward. In a draft class that is weaker for goalies, he will likely be worth taking on as a project.

**JAN SPUNAR**

267



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 185

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	OLOMOUC	CZEJR	31	1777	2.57	3	.911

Jan Spunar is a very raw goaltender who will require a patient approach and an extensive development plan. The first thing that's evident in his game, naturally, is that he boasts great size -- which is likely why any organization would zero in on him in the first place. That's not to imply that he has no redeeming qualities in his play, but he has a tall and lean frame that any number of goalie gurus would like to get their hands on to help shape and mold. He tracks pucks really well, follows his rebounds and is able to view over net-front traffic. Although he looks a bit awkward at times with a stiff stance and sloppy up-down movements, he can read the rush, play odd-man attacks well, and has managed to figure out how to deal with breakaways by being really good at mirroring the attacker and taking away the bottom of the net. His movements post-to-post, for the most part, is quieter, and he can frequently play a calm, simple game and can inspire confidence in the defenders in front of him. He's patient in waiting for the shooter to make the first move. Against higher competition, though, he can get a bit more scambly as the pace quickens around him and traffic heightens in front of him. He's going to need some work on tidying up his five-hole and he will often have to reach and stretch for glove and blocker saves because he's not puck-centered when he addresses shots. Overall, his glove could use some improvements as could his rebound control, as he's prone to giving up second-chance opportunities with his lack of puck directing off his pads. His projection is a little uncertain at this point, but any team selecting him is playing the long game and hoping to turn a chunk of coal into a diamond.

**MARKUS VIDICEK**

268



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 155

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	HALIFAX	QMJHL	68	18	47	65	34

Markus Vidicek has very good defensive instincts supported by an offensive skillset that includes some quality puck-handling, passing and vision. He consistently gains pucks, shows some nice speed and uses his stick to take away passing lanes and disrupt the opposition. He has good defensive reads and anticipation, closes in on opponents quickly, plays with a lot of energy and enthusiastically goes into battles. The most likeable thing about him is his two-way game. His offensive play is good, although he tends to follow pucks into prime scoring areas rather than taking them there himself. He can hold his own offensively against his peers but there are concerns on whether his game will translate to the next level. He can be guilty of being too focused on feeding his teammates, leading to forced plays when a shooting lane is present for him. He was the passer of too many plays, too. He can sometimes be inconsistent and a bit underwhelming. When he is the one initiating contact, taking pucks to the net, and forcing defenders to react he is tough to defend. But if he's less shifty and assertive he seems to be outmuscled and knocked off the puck with little difficulty. He does have a knack for being able to play with various wingers -- primarily on the second line -- but he's also able to step into a first line role and not skip a beat with his performance. At well under six-feet there is a strong chance he will slide over to the wing as he advances through the levels of play. He will likely continue to add strength over the next couple years and round out all parts of his game but his play will need to very reliable defensively to establish himself as a bottom-six forward in the NHL.

**EMMETT CROTEAU**

269



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 195

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	WATERLOO	USHL	35	1997	3.00	1	.899

Emmett Croteau is an exciting goalie to watch. He can make big sweeping saves and at his size he covers a large portion of the net. He can make small movements and stay with shooters in tight, and his wide and low stance lets him push laterally with power. He can read the rush well and is especially good at adapting to broken plays and attacks that quickly turnaround on him. He stays on pucks that bounce around the crease. He plays with a good tempo when pacing oncoming shooters. He's able to leave the blue paint and make passes up ice. Along with the benefits of a large frame, he also has the drawbacks. He moves well in the butterfly and can go post-to-post, but he's a little rough going into his RVH and he's not particularly fast in moving from sequence to sequence. His five-hole is also a bit too slow to close at times and he needs some more consistency with his rebound control. But, more than anything, he is an example of a really good goaltender who still has a number of development challenges ahead of him. Whether it's while getting handcuffed on shots from long range or playing with the exuberance and structure, or lack there of, of a street hockey goalie and over sliding the play, he has some improvements to make. The good news is he battles and does all he can to give his team a chance to win. He seems to be able to shake off anything that goes wrong and just reset and get ready for the next play which indicates a mental toughness that he will need to have in the years to come. He is slated to play NCAA hockey for Clarkson beginning next season which gives him a sound and proven development path as he strives to improve towards the goal of an NHL net.

**PAVEL BOCHAROV**

270



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MEDICINE HAT	WHL	69	3	11	14	33

Pavel Bocharov is a high-character two-way defenseman who stands out with the urgency he shows on the ice. There aren't many shifts that go by without him in the thick of the action. His best physical attribute are in his lateral movement and the power he generates in backwards crossovers. His east/west coverage is strong both defensively, where he angles attackers to the wall, and offensively, where he generates lanes at the offensive blue line. He uses his shiftiness to create space, and combined with his sturdy lower body he manages forechecks effectively by weathering contact and finding lanes to escape. Curiously, while his side-to-side movement is an asset, he is noticeably sluggish in his straight-line forward skating stride. His forward progress is devoid of any real linear crossovers to generate power and he seems to lose his center of gravity through his extension, which results in a flailing follow through. While he keeps the majority of attackers in front of him with his agility, there is noticeable panic when a player does get past him as he lacks the ability to recover and chase them down. With possession he shows potential, however he is very raw in his puck skill. He has a good sense of what he needs to do with the puck, but his execution is not always on point. While his agility and deception at the offensive blue line create lanes to the net, he needs to work on his shot to become a truly dangerous threat, as at this point it is wild and inconsistent in velocity. He is a long way out and struggled at times this season on a rebuilding club, but he will get plenty of ice time and opportunity to grow over the next few seasons as both he and his team develop.

**JUSTIN COTE**

271



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-6  
WEIGHT: 158

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	DRUMMONDVILLE	QMJHL	64	26	30	56	14

Justin Cote is a tenacious attack-minded player who has a knack for scoring goals. In the offensive zone he hunts loose pucks around the net and below the goal line and when he gets the puck on his stick he can drive into dangerous scoring areas. He is a good shooter and can generate offense at five-on-five and on the power play. From a standing position at the top of the circle or off a cross-ice pass, he has a deadly one-timer from his off-wing. He also has the ability to shoot in stride and change his release angle when attacking off the rush. He is a pretty good skater with a high-frequency stride and lots of quickness over short distances but a real lack of efficiency and length which reduces his top-end speed. He is really shifty and able to weave and pinball his way through defenders and make his way into good shooting spots or drive right to the net. Where he had some difficulty was in being outmuscled. He's a smaller player so he does get knocked around a bit, but he is relentless and bounces back up without missing a beat. Still, his struggle against stronger opponents is evident, which bleeds into his potential adaptation to the next level. He also has deficiencies in his own zone, where his effort is good but when things break down he freezes a bit and reacts slower than he otherwise would. Overall, he has shown some flashes of talent -- namely his shooting prowess, offensive awareness, and hustle -- that will interest many teams and although that interest may be tempered by his defensive zone play and size, he is a very good goal-scorer that would be considered a high value selection if taken later in the draft. There is a very real possibility that he could find success at the next level.

**BRAYDEN SCHUURMAN**

272



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 5-9  
WEIGHT: 191

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	VICTORIA	WHL	68	29	25	54	14

Brayden Schuurman is a center with a fairly diverse and broad set of tools. He isn't a player with any genuine high-end skill, however, he brings a calm and steadying presence to the ice when he's on it. He just kept taking a bigger and bigger role on Victoria this season, earning all of his ice time. He has some chops as a goal-scorer, but plays more as an opportunistic scorer rather than a true play creator. He possesses a quick release and uses his smarts and sneakiness to find open lanes where he's able to use it. He's comfortable handling the puck in tight spaces, using his stocky frame and low center of gravity to shield the puck from opponents. The amounts of confidence and determination that he regularly displays are undeniably appealing. He is the picture of calm on the ice and seems to have an answer in any situation. He's so easy to like, but just as easy to worry about. His skating isn't nearly where you would like it to be for a player his size, but he is able to process the game fast enough to mask some of his speed issues. There are times when you can tell he wants to try to make a certain play or notices an opening, but he just isn't capable of pulling them off skill-wise. His in-zone defending is decent at this level, as he has a good understanding of when to play man-on-man and when to play more of a zone support role, but with his physical limitations his defending could realistically be a big liability at higher levels. Again, better skating would help. He has an uphill battle to prove to teams that the strong parts of his game are good enough to overcome the weak parts -- and the risk is real -- but it's not hard to imagine a future where he finds a way to make it work as a bottom-six forward at the NHL level.

**AXEL MANGBO**

273



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 174

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	SIoux CITY	USHL	19	1058	2.89	0	.893

Axel Mangbo, a second-year draft eligible goaltender, gets around the crease well and battles to always stay in the play. He's really proactive in challenging shooters and can drive to the top of his crease and after the shot he can contain rebounds or track anything that is uncontrolled. He can make those big saves that are taken from high probability locations but, more importantly, he generally makes the saves he should make and has an element of reliability. He is good against the rush, centers himself on the puck, and looks calm and comfortable. He moves post-to-post in the butterfly and takes away a great deal of the bottom half of the net. He uses his stick really well to take away passing lanes when the puck is below the goal line to disrupt puck-carriers near the net and to create a barricade to defend the lower portion of the net and protect the five-hole. He gets down quickly and pops up very fluidly and fast. He doesn't give up anything soft from the perimeter and he's always engaged in puck tracking and focused on making the save. An area that could use some attention revolves around his butterfly stance, which is very good but he does go down a bit early and he sits a little low when he's in his butterfly. He's still able to react quickly from this lower seated position but adjustments could be made. More concerning is where he gets beat. He is vulnerable on high shots to the glove and blocker. This will likely be addressed as he works on his game but for right now the University of Vermont commit has a save percentage on those high shots that is disproportionately low when compared to other shot locations. He has potential in the AHL and as an NHL back-up.

**JACOB MATHIEU**

274



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	68	23	12	35	33

Jacob Mathieu is a dynamic forward who is speedy and has explosive quickness to attack defenders and push the pace in transition. His stride is smooth and his linear crossovers are fluid and allow him to accelerate quickly and get up to top gear almost effortlessly. With this kind of speed he can lead the attack through the neutral zone or be the last forward out of his zone and still climb back into the rush. He can cruise past defenders and make them have to turn to keep up with him or he can drive between the defense pair and force a man to go with him to the net. With the puck on his stick, he likes to enter the offensive zone wide and drive around the defense. He can be electric at times with this approach. He's physically strong and hard to knock off the puck with a low center of gravity, strong edges and great agility to get into quality offensive zone locations. These same traits help him in battles along the boards and in the corners to acquire pucks and make plays. He's more than willing to engage physically with his opponent. He does have an excellent shot but too often he settles for attempts from distance rather than stepping into a prime location but his patience with the puck is sure to increase as he continues to develop. Finding ways to create more occasions from the inside might be the next step into his offensive development. He has strength in his lower body, but needs to focus attention on beefing up in all areas to help unlock his full potential. He could work on his footwork, too, but those deficiencies could be a result of him still growing. In all, there's a lot to like. He projects as an eventual dynamic middle-six forward with a high-motor who is involved in all three zones.

**GABRIEL SZTURC**

275



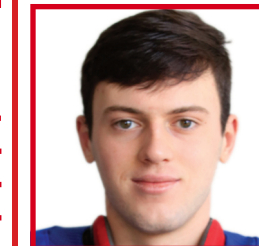
POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 176

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KELOWNA	WHL	67	16	25	41	6

Gabriel Szturc is quite an interesting prospect. A player who has quite the offensive abilities, but can be held back due to his drive and compete-level. When the puck is on his stick and he has an opportunity to create offense he's able to find another gear and can be dangerous. Off the rush he's capable of making some defenders look silly. He's a fairly quick player and has some soft hands that can fool opponents, but once he does he's too content to stick around the perimeter rather than take it to the net. It's a frustrating element because he does read pressure well and understands where support might be coming from. He's got a good shot, which may contribute to him being so content on staying around the perimeter, but as if he wants to continue scoring as he progresses he's going to have to try to score different ways. There also isn't much there defensively with him. His awareness is fine, again it just boils down to his compete-level. He doesn't often engage first on loose pucks, opting to rather let a teammate go first and then just provide support if needed. He can shy away from physical contact along his wall which can lead to the opposition getting sustained pressure. He does the majority of work to close off opponents, but just lacks a desire to eliminate them from the play. It feels, generally, that he needs to be more aggressive in all facets of the game in order to fully find out what type of player he can be at his peak. That type of player can be either intriguing or frustrating to scout. He will only go as far as he will allow himself, he's got the offensive tools to possibly contribute at the NHL level one day, the question is whether he can improve in other areas to make him a more well-rounded asset.

**VINCENT FILION**

276



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 181



YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	MONCTON	QMJHL	31	1768	4.17	1	.877

Vincent Filion is a hybrid style goaltender who is very athletic. He has a wide stance and can make desperate saves and take away high probability scoring chances. He isn't the biggest guy but he's able to take away much of what a shooter sees by playing an aggressive style and cutting down the angle. He stands his ground in one-on-one situations, challenging the shooter. He tracks pucks through high and low parts of the zone and he's very fast moving both post-to-post and out to the top of his crease and bad. He can be guilty of sliding around too much, however. He lacks an economy of movement and will rely on his athleticism to fly around the crease. He has quick up and down movements and good stick placement to take away passing lanes on passes coming from below the goal line. He's very comfortable playing the puck and skates well enough to go beyond the crease to make plays to either set up his defensemen or to sail out an outlet pass. His pre-shot preparation is good but his finish on first saves will often leave him sliding out of position and therefore starting his recovery for a second save from a difficult location. Although he has quick hands and feet and a high compete-level that projects well beyond the junior ranks, there are second-save recovery and size concerns that plague him. If he can quiet his game down, be available to consistently make more positional saves and still be able to make reactionary saves when required, then some of those whispers of size concerns go away and NHL teams should be more comfortable. He would likely have to continue to prove himself at each rung along the way but an NHL second-string role isn't a stretch for him after overcoming his shortcomings.

**ALEX SOTEK**

277



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 176

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	BRATISLAVA	SVK	41	2	0	2	2

Alex Sotek is a highly skilled winger with the ability to drive play and create chances for his team. He has great vision and poise with the puck on his stick both off the rush and out of the cycle. He can make many different passes, working the puck from low to high, or quickly tipping the puck for an accurate one-touch pass into his teammate's sweet spot. He was heavily relied on to create chances for his team whenever he was on the ice. He has the skill to do so at lower levels, but it remains to be seen how he translates those tools. He has powerful legs that allow him to accelerate to his top speed in a few long strides and can carry the puck through the neutral zone when he has time and space in front of him. The concerns come when he has to battle through contact or engage in a lot of loose-puck battles. His size isn't all that concerning but his willingness to engage and involve himself in physical battles really wavers on a game by game basis. He can easily allow his opponents to outwork him and gain positional advantage or simply separate him from the puck. If he wants to have any chance at making it to the next level his strength and willingness to battle through contact will need some serious improvements. He could also benefit from adding another gear to his skating ability too, he has good lateral mobility but doesn't have the speed necessary to push the pace of play near as much at the NHL level. He's a raw prospect with loads of skill. He would be a risky pick in the final rounds of the draft, but he does have a higher upside if everything goes properly for him over the next few years. He may be worth a gamble to teams because the skill he currently possesses.

**NOAH DOREY**

278



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 192

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KELOWNA	WHL	60	3	18	21	61

Noah Dorey is a tall, sturdy, well-rounded defenseman. He's very comfortable using his long stick to disrupt plays in many ways, such as using it while defending one-on-one rushes to angle opponents to low-danger areas of the ice, as well as getting it in lanes to break up passes when in his own zone. He uses his stick with an impressive level of control and doesn't seem to take many penalties while using it. He is also fairly mobile for a defender listed at his height and weight. He's quick to get back to his end to retrieve pucks, and is able to evade most pressure on the forecheck and still successfully start a breakout. His footwork and stride mechanics are quite clean, and he has level of agility and deception that can catch opponents by surprise. His game doesn't have much offensive flair to it. He's not one to skate the puck any further than he has to and isn't inclined to take many risks. In the offensive zone he's usually content with just dumping the puck back in if it comes up his wall. This is fine, because if he is going to find a role to play at the next level it's going to be primarily on the defensive side of the puck. The only thing missing from his defensive game right now is an element of physicality. He's got enough size that he could be throwing his body around, grinding to maintain or regain possession, and patrolling his crease with impunity – but he doesn't do these things often enough. His frame isn't a concern in this, but he could stand to add some beef to his profile to better aid in some crunching of opponents. If a team selects him, it'll be in the hope that he is able to add a bit more of that mean streak and possibly develop into a bottom-pairing shutdown blueliner who also contributes in a penalty kill role.

**CONNOR TRENHOLM**

279



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 192



YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAINT JOHN	QMJHL	63	9	16	25	59

Connor Trenholm is an extremely hard worker who plays a 200-foot game with a keen attention to detail. He makes smart decisions in all three zones and contributes on both sides of the puck. He is fast on the forecheck and has an active stick to strip pucks or steer opponents into tough situations. He applies the body intelligently to disrupt possession, recovers above the puck and controls the inside of the ice and pressures outward from there. He has a variety of skills and can play up and down a lineup. Prior to being traded to Saint John, he was Cape Breton's second-line center who was relied on for everything including taking on a leadership role. Since the trade, he has centered the fourth line and has been the stabilizing pivot his team had needed in their bottom-six. He's a commanding presence in the face-off circle and can battle with enthusiasm and never gave an inch. He doesn't gamble on plays, he is very trustworthy, won't get you into trouble and he can do everything from play key situation to grinding out valuable minutes. Since he is such a reliable player, he sacrifices some personal offensive stats in favour of good team-first habits. He can still produce some offense with his vision, passing and highly accurate shot. He has decent puck skills and he accelerates quickly with good straight-line speed. He does lack the evasiveness and agile puck control to really excel in tight spaces but with the slightest bit of room he can put points up. He is a second-year draft eligible but he very young his first time through and should get serious consideration this time around by any team looking to draft a bottom-six guy who is mature beyond his years and can play up the middle or on the wing.

**KADEN MUIR**

280



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 185



YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	59	2	6	8	85

Kaden Muir can be best described as a defensive defenseman who brings a physical edge to the game. He's a stay-at-home style of player who carefully picks his spots to be aggressive and push the puck down the ice. He looks most comfortable in the defensive zone. He constantly has his head on a swivel and has a knack for identifying the shooting/passing lanes and has the awareness to get either his body or stick in the lane. He plays a low-event style of game and is at his best when he can slow the play down and lull the opposing players into a bored state. Offensively there's not a lot of skill at his disposal. He will occasionally use his skating to push the puck down the ice but he won't ever consistently impact the game offensively. He is a tough prospect to gauge because there's no obvious holes in his game, but at the same time there's nothing he does at a high level. At the end of the game if you don't remember him, he likely had a good night because he's the type of player that wants to fly under the radar and ensure he doesn't make any obvious mistakes. He likely caps out as a third-pairing defender who plays a low-event style best complimented by a more dynamic partner. More likely, will probably be a seventh defenseman who finds himself in and out of the lineup. While the game is evolving and speedy, offensive backs are becoming the hot commodity, there is still a place for the stay-at-home guys who bring some edge to their game. There's no real upside in his game but there's no real bust potential in his approach either. He won't ever wow anyone and score a ton of points, but he has the skillset, size, and right-shot to be a blueliner that'll play, at minimum, at the pro level.

**MAX GRAHAM**

281



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 181

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	KELOWNA	WHL	64	10	23	33	43

Max Graham is a tall, lanky center who is still trying to fully figure out what he is capable of. Starting in his end he likes to use his long stick to help come out of scrums with the puck, and he's positionally aware and does well to support his defensemen. Has the tools and know-how to regularly help turn possession back over to his team. He kills penalties right now and will probably get heavily developed as a shutdown center by his team. He's a hound on the forecheck and isn't afraid to use his frame to punish defenders if he has the opportunity. He plays at a good clip most of the time, chugging up and down the ice. He has a quick and unique release that is able to fool goalies at the junior level, although he may have to get more power behind it if he hopes to keep doing that. Additionally, he's not great at pulling pucks off the wall and into the middle, or at finding the puck in shooting areas. He should be better than he is at winning loose pucks around the opposing crease. As of right now, he is a pretty raw prospect who still needs to grow into his frame a bit more and get more involved in the play. He could benefit from extending his stride to get more power and increase his top speed. His puck-handling can also still a little attention, as he doesn't seem the most confident or capable carrying it in open ice, which isn't great for someone playing down the middle. He has the compete-level and physical attributes that may allow him to develop into a bottom-six center who handles tough matchups, grinds, chips pucks in and tries to wear down opponents, and while that's not glamorous work, NHL teams will often make room for guys who can do that sort of work well.

**FRANCESCO IASENZZA**

282



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 180

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MONCTON	QMJHL	62	2	16	18	89

Francesco Iasenza is a two-way defenseman whose abilities light up once he has the puck on his stick. He pushes the attack and can transition pucks up ice with his feet. He is calm in possession and makes good decisions, initiates zone exits and zone entries, takes pucks to the net, and when out of options he can chip pucks behind the defense. His skating is good and he has some really deceptive speed on the rush but lacks a bit of quickness in small areas, making his blue line play more average and with limited ability to escape pressure. He moves pucks to linemates in good shooting locations, but does get a bit overzealous at times and will make a blind pass that has led to turnovers and missed opportunities. Defensively, he is very good in the neutral zone and able to turn back attacks and intercept pucks before plays develop. Once in his own end, he isn't quite as effective and his net-front coverage has room for improvement as he sometimes gets overwhelmed when tracking puck movements and net drives. Consistency, at times, can be an issue that plagues his game as well. He can offer an up-and-down performance. He is an intriguing prospect because he is so good in transition with the puck on his stick that it's bound to interest a number of teams, but there are other parts of his game that need to be tidied up. He should develop more ability to get pucks on net to be a legitimate shot threat and his play away from the puck needs to improve with respect to defensive zone coverage and responsibilities. If he can expand his defensive play and reactionary ability and pair that with his confident puck possession game he may have a really good chance to outperform his draft position.

**THOMAS MILIC**

283



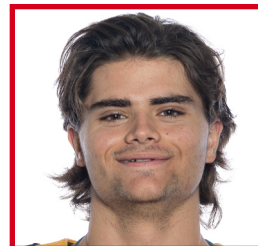
POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 175

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	SEATTLE	WHL	47	2781	2.44	3	.912

Thomas Milic is a second-year draft eligible goalie who seems to have his height continually brought up as a reason for concern when considering him for the draft. At six-foot tall, he is certainly not short, but when you play a very well-rounded and reliable game, without a pile of question marks surrounding you, then something has to be suggested as a concern. Milic is very focused with a calm approach and great play-reading skills. He moves well throughout the crease and shows speed and fluidity which makes up for any lack of size he may have. Milic's athleticism combined with good tactics and confidence allow him to arrive early to address shots, be square and telescope out to challenge. Milic has a high degree of patience and can outwait shooters to determine the danger of a shot and hold his feet. He's also able to show five-hole and take it away quickly and seal it tight. He covers the top of the net with good glove placement and reads shots as they come off the blade. He's quick to move and re-establish positioning as he adjusts to changing puck locations and quick attacks. Milic battles to maintain sightlines and work through screens. Milic really impresses with his mental toughness. The moment is never too big for him and he thrives in high-pressure situations and elevates his play. He was an absolute rock for Seattle in their playoff success this past spring, the linchpin of a couple series upsets. He has surely played well enough to garner attention from a number of NHL teams who are looking for a goaltending option who could be three to five years away. With the ability he has, Milic could turn into a valuable draft choice that could rise to an NHL backup position or better based on his recent history.

**PIER-OLIVIER ROY**

284



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 173

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	VICTORIALVILLE	QMJHL	66	5	21	26	35

Pierre-Olivier Roy is a highly mobile defenseman who is at his best with the puck on his stick, weaving through traffic and pushing the play toward the offensive zone. He's a comfortable skater who is quick to jump up to transition the puck or join the rush with an almost effortless stride that is extremely efficient, fast and also leads to good gap management defensively. His skating forms the basis for everything he does and even at top speed or hemmed into limited space he is poised with the puck, highly skilled and able to make plays. He is very involved in the offensive zone. His puck support is really good, he is able to come off the blue line and find soft areas in the zone and he activates down the wall to keep plays alive and maintain possession. His ice reads and routes with the puck frequently opens up options and consistently creates offensive opportunities. He is an accurate and crisp passer who can hit seams and thread the puck under and around sticks. He's dangerous on the power play and, at the junior level, can chip in on the penalty kill with an all-out effort. Not really known for his defensive game, he is still able to break up plays, block a shot and initiate zone exits but he gets outmuscled at times and is slow to react to plays moving laterally across the zone. He can get beat by a simple pass because he gets too focused on the puck-carrier. He pushes the envelope and tries to make things happen and can be expected to continue that dynamic style at the next level. His ability to leverage that style of play and mitigate the inherent dangers of a more run-and-gun approach will be crucial in determining his development ceiling as an offensive-minded puck-moving defenseman.

**ZACH BIGGAR**

285



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-0  
WEIGHT: 179

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	ACADIE-BATHURST	QMJHL	63	4	28	32	45

Zach Biggar is a two-way defenseman in his second year of draft eligibility. He plays a strong game with great gap control and mobility which makes it near to impossible to gain the offensive zone on his side. He has excellent anticipation and play-reading ability to go along with some pestering stick work to disrupt opponents on the rush and force dump-ins. He may lack high-end speed but his hockey IQ seems to enable him to think the game quickly and be one step ahead in many instances. He can turn attackers back and deny their access to high danger areas, battle along the boards and gather rebounds that bounce around the front of the net. He will throw caution to the wind at times and step up in the neutral zone in an attempt to pick off passes and counter-attack. When it works it looks good but when he misses, he's often caught out of position. He makes a good first pass to initiate zone exits and he does all he can to get going and jump into the rush. He doesn't have the speed to curl and get back sometimes but he generally picks his moments well and avoids trouble. He's useful in any situation and logs time on the penalty kill and can quarterbacked the power play. He moves well along the offensive blue line, can come down the wall to keep pucks in and makes probing passes deeper into the zone to find linemates in good scoring locations. He can escape pressure and find a bit of space but needs to move the puck quickly or risk being tracked down from behind. He could slot into any junior lineup and contribute but his projection to the NHL is limited. He's going to have to add to his puck skills and offense and gain another step or two in his quickness. At most, he looks like a bottom-pair defenseman.

**BRAEDEN BOWMAN**

286



POS: RIGHT WING  
SHOT: RIGHT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 204

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	GUELPH	OHL	60	27	10	37	18

Braeden Bowman is a huge power forward who possesses excellent net-front presence that enabled him to score many goals this season for his team. He is not shy when attacking the middle of the ice and will position himself in the slot regardless of how much resistance he faces. He lives in the high-traffic areas of the offensive zone. With his ability to physically hold his position in front, he does a great job of corralling loose pucks or receiving passes, setting himself, and getting a shot off. He can be hit or miss in being prepared to receive a pass or grab a rebound, though. He is also engaged in the corners of the offensive zone, showing a strong desire to win puck battles by using both his size and stick. There's definitely some understanding by him that he has an edge physically over most players in the OHL and that can impact his effort level on occasion. He knows it's his bread and butter. When watching him, it can be frustrating to see how there's a stark difference in his effort level in the defensive zone. Learning how to more consistently attack and apply pressure in his own end is something he will need to figure out, as his goal-scoring ability is not enough to offset his flaws he displays behind his own blue line. NHL teams love prospects with size so it stands to reason he could get drafted on that merit alone. In his second year of draft eligibility, he has shown what he can do on offense and will need to really focus on improving his play on defense. If the defensive part of his game does improve he can force his way into an NHL lineup in a bottom-six and potentially a penalty killing role, but without any significant improvement he may end up just being a dept piece that struggles to play regularly.

**LUKAS PLOS**

287



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-4  
WEIGHT: 194

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LIBEREC	CZEJR	40	13	13	26	36

Lukas Plos has a massive frame that he uses to his advantage, playing a power game that can be difficult to defend at times. He has a pretty good understanding of how to use his body to shield the puck and drive through traffic, knowing he has the strength to outwork most opponents. He uses his size to effectively impact the game defensively as well, using his long reach and body to disrupt opposing rushes and cause issues along the boards. Offensively, he is best suited as an off the puck player who can use his size and body to gain position in the slot or at the front of the net to provide screens and jump on loose pucks. He has solid mobility for a bigger guy, generating more speed than you would expect. He's also good at holding the puck and delaying until he's joined by teammates in the offensive end, but he can be guilty of throwing pucks into spaces. Scouts may be deterred by the fact that he doesn't have a ton of skill and is a little hesitant to throw his weight around. With his size you would expect him to be a physically punishing player, but he uses his body more for protection than he does for imposing his will on the opponents. His vision, passing, and confidence with the puck on his stick need to improve though, before he thinks about getting to the next level. He can lock onto a teammate and forget that other outlets exist, causing his eyes to give away his pass before he makes it. If he can learn a little deception, or just figure out how to spot other teammates in the area he will be a much more effective passer. There are a few red flags, but the physical gifts may be enticing enough to make a team take a chance on him. He's long-term prospect if he is drafted, but it could pay off in the future.

**TYLER SAVARD**

288



POS: LEFT WING  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 179

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SOO	OHL	49	9	19	29	58

Tyler Savard is a power forward with a big frame who brings a physical element to the game whenever he steps onto the ice. He has NHL-ready size with room to add some weight to his frame. He can use his body to his advantage and overpower opponents for loose pucks or to get the puck into the prime scoring areas. Offensively he has average skills but does display quality vision and passing from below the goal line. He won't be a high-end point producer but he can create offense by wearing down the opponents with his body and the cycle game. Working on his skating will be a big key for him. He doesn't have the elite mobility you want in a NHL prospect, and speedier opponents can easily take him out of the play and negate any impact he may have. It'll be critical for him to address this, as it'll likely end up being a fatal flaw if it goes unresolved. His puck skills can use some work, but his game isn't really about carrying the puck up and down the ice – it's about getting the puck behind the defenders and wearing them down before picking his spot to attack. If he wants to play that grinding, puck possession style of play at the next level he will want to bulk up a bit. He's tall and has a solid frame but will benefit from adding some extra strength to his game. Another area of concern is his understanding of an effective physical attack. If he learns to pick his spot and allow the opponents to come to him rather than chasing the play it will make him a much more effective player. After going undrafted in 2021 -- he didn't play a single game last season because of the COVID-19 pandemic -- he could hear his name called in the latter half of the 2022 draft. He has a potential future as a bottom-six checking forward.

**PETER REYNOLDS**

289



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-10  
WEIGHT: 168

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAINT JOHN	QMJHL	58	18	21	39	8

Peter Reynolds is a two-way play-making forward who catches your attention with his offensive play and is a very good skater. His ability to hold an edge and carve out a tight turn or sudden changes of direction give him an impressive level of agility. There is still room to improve the explosiveness of his first few steps, as well as the power of his stride, but even at its current rate he remains a very good skater who can reach a decent top speed. He has good puck protection skills, jumps into open ice very well and moves through the offensive zone trying to create passing lanes for his teammates and positioning himself in dangerous spots. He also attacks scoring chances in-tight and can manufacture scoring opportunities off the rush. In addition to this he can lead zone entries, create a speed differential against defenders and he generally does a lot of things offensively that triggers interest. Unfortunately, there are drawbacks too. He doesn't generate near enough shooting opportunities for himself, and when he does his release is a little delayed and lacks pop. He has the skills to be a dual threat, but just needs to take more chances offensively. He can also be a bit inconsistent and fade into the background too frequently. Like many of his peers, he would benefit from adding more strength to his frame and continuing to develop his tactical and technical abilities. A second-year draft eligible player, he has plenty of pro potential but will have a challenge in front of him to rise to the NHL. With a lot of sound offensive elements, he projects as an eventual AHL middle-six forward with the possibility of an NHL opportunity should he discover how to better use his tools to impact more areas of the game.

**PAXTON GEISEL**

290



POS: GOALIE  
CATCHES: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 189

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	DUBUQUE	USHL	40	2317	3.33	2	.897

Paxton Geisel is a goaltender who is fun to watch. That's not to say that every save is of the exciting variety, he does play a really tidy game and looks in control and deliberate in his actions, but when things go wrong and heroics are required he can make a big save. Having that control with splashes of athleticism is the exciting part. His up-down movements, lateral mobility and explosiveness in combination with his patience and ability to challenge shooters at the top of the crease makes him very tough to beat. Even off pre-shot cross-zone passes, he gets across and makes the first save. He's fully engaged, a great puck tracker through screens and is aware of where potential threats are coming from. He looks big in the net with an NHL projectable frame that can handle the wear and tear of banging around the crease and net crashing. While in the butterfly, he has a sound pad seal along the ice and he goes into and out of his posts very fluidly. Right now, it seems that most shots that go past him involve a second-chance scoring opportunity that gets banged in or a screened shot that sneaks through. He will occasionally mis-read a shot or get beat going post-to-post but overall, he reads the play and does all he can to stop the puck. He doesn't have any glaring weaknesses that require a frantic concern to remedy but his rebound control could be improved and he will undoubtedly work on that and, being a University of Denver commit, he has a great development path laid out ahead of him. There is a tremendous amount of upside in Geisel's play and although there is no guarantee that his trajectory leads to the NHL, a strong college career could proceed an AHL assignment and possibly more.

**MATTHEW KIEPER**

291



POS: GOALIE  
CATCH: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-1  
WEIGHT: 187

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	MIN	GAA	SO	SV%
21-22	REGINA	WHL	35	1909	3.68	1	.876

Kieper had a turbulent, trying season, but remains intriguing as a long-term option. There are certainly some things going for him, first and foremost his quickness and reflexes. He moves around his crease well and gets down in his butterfly and back up with ease. His reaction times are well above average, and he has the flexibility to easily kick out his legs to make some flashy pad saves. He is explosive side-to-side while preparing for second opportunities. He's the type of goalie that always seems like he has at least some chance, however small, of getting a piece of a puck to keep it out. Unfortunately, his quickness and enthusiasm in the net also lead to problems. He's a skinny teenager who doesn't cover much net by default, and making matters worse is that his technique is very leaky. He opens up a lot of holes for shooters to aim for when he gets moving around too much. He routinely gives up juicy, uncontrolled rebounds, and pucks don't really stick to him unless he can glove them. He needs to tighten his edges to avoid unnecessary motion, overplaying, and falling forward during scrambles. Furthermore, he tends to crouch and make himself smaller as the play approaches, and in turn makes himself susceptible up high. You'd also like to see him consistently track the play and find pucks through traffic better than he does. While he's a goalie who can make occasional highlight-reel saves, he's also too prone to letting in stinkers. He started out as his team's go-to guy but then had his usage dialed back a lot after too many poor outings. Overall, his game is just very unpolished and immature at this point. With the right support he might be able to solidify himself again and go from there.

**ROBERTO MANCINI**

292



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-2  
WEIGHT: 202

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SAGINAW	OHL	64	11	17	28	79

Roberto Mancini enters his second year of draft eligibility making great strides from his inaugural season back in 2019-20. When in control of the puck, he makes good first passes and plays very calmly under pressure. As a defenseman with impressive size, he is not afraid to drive the play from his own end, using crossovers and strong edges to generate speed. His top end speed is not the greatest but he is still able to maintain good gaps with opponents while also ensuring they stay to the outside. His effort level is very strong in his end of the ice as he is not afraid to lay down to block shots and will also engage in puck battles in the corner on offense. He has solid hands and is able to use his vision to find teammates for outlet passes. When opting to get pucks on net, he has a powerful shot that he is able to get through traffic, creating rebounds in front for his forwards. Improving his ability to pinch and keep the puck in the offensive zone would help him create more offense. Pinching requires great timing and body position. At the moment, there's some issues with timing these plays for him that see him struggle in these one-on-one situations. He also can seem hesitant in terms of when to try to keep a play alive and when to retreat. There's some rawness in his game, but he is also showing to be a very well-rounded defenseman who will need more time to develop his approach. It's important to remember he did lose an entire season's worth of development because of the COVID-19 pandemic -- a big reason he went unselected last year. He is worth a shot this time around and can pay off as a long-term low ceiling type of player who plays responsible minutes whenever he's in the game.

**LORENZO CANONICA**

293



POS: CENTER  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 5-11  
WEIGHT: 179

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	SHAWINIGAN	QMJHL	53	15	29	44	18

Lorenzo Canonica is a talented athletic forward who brings a competitive fire and a ton of energy, quickness and skill to each shift. He is active in puck pursuit, constantly badgering opponents with a persistent stick-lift and forechecking with speed and aggressiveness. His skating is very good with a fluid and powerful stride. His acceleration is outstanding and he can facilitate offensive zone entries and drive past defenders on the rush. He is willing to give a hit and receive a hit so he has no problem battling in the corners or driving to the front of the net. In the offensive zone he can get to rebounds and maneuver through traffic. He has a pretty slick set of hands and can protect the puck under pressure and maintain mobility and elusiveness while at top speed. He is crafty and will throw together a sequence of clever moves to create an offensive opportunity or make something out of nothing. He strives to play a 200-foot game -- he backchecks with purpose and in his own end he supports his defensemen, gets into shot lanes, pressures sticks and closes in on puck-carriers. He makes it hard on the opposition to generate with a high-guy on the rush, as he frequently identifies the right player to cover to eliminate passing options. After just barely being eligible in 2021, he enters the 2022 draft a little bigger and a little stronger and with a lot more potential this time around. There's still room to add a bit more muscle to his slightly bel-waverage frame which should help any difficulty he continues to have consistently driving to the inside of the ice, but even without it he is an enticing draft target. Should everything go well on the development side, he looks to have potential as a middle-six forward.

**JACKSON EDWARD**

294



POS: DEFENSE  
SHOT: LEFT  
HEIGHT: 6-3  
WEIGHT: 186

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LONDON	OHL	54	0	6	6	51

With a perfect physical projectable frame for the NHL, Jackson Edward is a very raw prospect who has flashed some high-end skill that leaves you wanting more. He is an impressive skater for his size who shows good coordination in his stride and controls the puck very well, especially while on the rush. One thing that he has been able to develop this year is playing on his off side. While there's arguments to leave defenders on their strong side, this ability is quite the asset to a prospect and something that shows off the versatility he has. With how good he can be on the rush, it's surprising to see just how little his offensive production was this past season. Even though he has excellent size, his shot lacks some power that one would expect a prospect like him to have. Fortunately for him, he has very high-end accuracy from the point and is able to get shots through. This ability to find those shooting lanes is important as it leads to rebounds and chances in front of the net. He has shown the ability to be solid in shot suppression, taking away passing lanes and keeping the opponent to the outside. He uses his frame to his advantage when defending the cycle, wrapping up opponents physically and boxing out the low slot area. There's a lot of risk in taking a player like him but his tools, if harnessed, could turn into a very good NHL defender if developed properly. A bigger role in the OHL next season could be what he needs to gain more confidence with the puck. The physical assets alone will entice scouts to take a shot on him at some point, most likely, but with the proper development plan he can unlock another level of his game and become an effective NHL player someday.

**JULIEN BELAND** **295**



**POS:** LEFT WING  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-3  
**WEIGHT:** 184

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	56	10	19	29	14

Julien Beland is a power forward with a combination of size and speed and a healthy competitive streak. He always keeps his feet moving, plays with a high motor, and pressures the opposition on the backcheck and the forecheck. In puck acquisition situations, he uses his tall frame and long reach to cut off passing lanes and angle opponents into limited space along the boards. He likes to mix it up and get involved physically and, although already fairly effective, there is room for improvement as he becomes a bit thicker and adds a few more pounds to his frame. He can protect the puck and orchestrate offensive-zone entries. He's powerful on the cycle and can barge into high quality locations in the offensive zone. Away from the puck he improves scoring opportunities by driving to the net and pushing defenders back and opening up space. He also shows flashes of high-end skills and creativity like stick-handling around opponents, smoothly executing spins on zone entries, and more. It's not a staple of his game, but it's encouraging to see even if it's only in brief moments. He has a great shot and finds shooting lanes or uses defenders as a screen to conceal his quick release that snaps off his blade. Defensively, he disrupts scoring chances with second efforts and has a determined backcheck taking away passing lanes through the middle of the ice. In his own end, he finishes checks, battles along the boards, and supports his defense. He is a bit of a longer-term project with bottom-six potential. He will have to add some strength, clean up his turnovers, and refine his puck skills but there is definitely and intriguing player there worth investing in and developing further in the hopes he can piece it together.

**VILIAM KMEC** **296**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-2  
**WEIGHT:** 198

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	PRINCE GEORGE	WHL	62	2	12	14	27

Viliam Kmec plays a very simple, straightforward brand of hockey, but he's effective enough at what he does that he could carve out a specialized role in the NHL one day. He's a boring defender in the way that it's not always necessarily a bad thing. He is a big, right-shooting blueliner who can manage his shifts while keeping the number of mistakes low. He is smart and workmanlike in his approach, reliably getting his body and stick where they need to be to slow down his opponents or drive them to the outside. He doesn't get beat very often positioning-wise. He can tie up, box out or pin his man without getting into penalty trouble, and you'll find him consistently battling physically along the boards or net-front to establish position, though you would like to see him play with a little more fire and inflict some more punishment. He likes to grind his way towards regaining possession for his team, and has adequate power and balance in his lower body. Despite skating and puck control abilities that are below average overall, you can nevertheless find him up in transition from time-to-time because he wants to help drive the play and occasionally finds the right times to try doing so. As of right now he displays very little upside as someone who can crack opposing defenses in the offensive zone, transport the puck by himself through open ice or contribute points, but you do have to wonder if some of that was tied to his environment and being part of a team that was usually stuck chasing the play around. If he does hear his name get called in the draft it will be because a team thinks they can help him reach his relatively low ceiling of third-pair defender and penalty killer without having to invest too much in him.

**SEAMUS POWELL** **297**

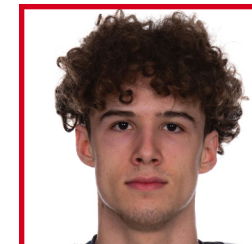


**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-0  
**WEIGHT:** 166

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	USA U-18	NTDP	58	1	13	14	2

Seamus Powell is a defensive-minded defender who shows some flashes of offensive upside. He appears to be a player that can be a solid two-way game but often chooses to play a more defensive style. His mobility is a plus for him. He is more than capable of pushing the pace of play at both ends of the ice. He has a knack for excelling at defending the rush, his skating and his active stick allow him to push opponents away from the scoring areas and keep them to the perimeter. When he wants to he can play a physical style that wears down the opponents. If he gets you in his sights he is going to separate you from the puck. He's a simple player and doesn't really stray away from his comfort zone which can be viewed as both positive and negative. He flashes the ability to be a regular offensive contributor but rarely decides to play that style. Whether it's by his own design or just the role that the US-NTDP expected him to play, he can leave you wanting more from him. He is likely still figuring out what kind of player he wants to be. While his play this year likely has him leaning towards a stay-at-home guy, there is no denying that he has some untapped offensive upside in his game. If he doesn't have more to give on the offensive side than he will likely stay as a shutdown defenseman who plays a strong role on the penalty kill and plays simple but effective five-on-five minutes. He can play the role of a fifth or sixth defender at the NHL level and carve out an effective yet unspectacular career, but when you get drafted in the later rounds that can be considered a big success. If there's more to his game than meets the eye then there's an even more intriguing late-round option in him.

**LOUIS ROBIN** **298**



**POS:** RIGHT WING  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-7  
**WEIGHT:** 148

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	RIMOUSKI	QMJHL	53	11	22	33	4

Louis Robin is a high-end skater who uses his speed and mobility to boost his offensive skillset. He has good vision, can attack open ice on the rush and, although he may be smaller, he will dig in along the boards and play a fearless style. He has a great motor and is always chugging, always pushing the pace and consistently providing a strong mid-lane drive to draw the attention of defenders and cause havoc at the crease. A bit of an opportunistic player, he is a puck hound around the net and jumps on rebounds. His work ethic is high, he reacts quickly and the puck is on and off his stick in an instant. He is a really good passer and is able to do a variety of things in puck distribution. He can be extremely deceptive and will often give hints of misdirection by indicating the play in one direction and slipping the puck the other way. He also likes to advance the puck and then skate into a strong support position for a return pass. He is a very intriguing prospect who may be a little under the radar, but certainly has a lot to offer. His quick stride repetition and ability to get up to top speed in just a few steps and win puck races projects well to the next level, as does his good angling skills and play away from the puck. There is no guarantee that he will be able to translate all of his talents beyond the junior ranks, but any skills he can successfully apply would be a good sign. His speed will undoubtedly be effective at the highest level, and if he can continue to see the ice well and move the puck he has third line potential at some point down the road. The biggest key for him will be continually developing the assets he does have, while overcoming his size as time and space continues to dwindle the higher he advances.

**LOGAN MCCUTCHEON** **299**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** RIGHT  
**HEIGHT:** 5-9  
**WEIGHT:** 150

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	LETHBRIDGE	WHL	68	4	24	28	8

Logan McCutcheon is a prospect with some skill, but a trying season on a struggling team made his projection murky. He is committed to playing the right way and never looks to be going through the motions. His puck protection abilities are impressive, as he displays poise when handling the biscuit, as well as an understanding of how close pressure is and when it's going to reach him. He's quite slippery man-to-man, pulling spins and quick direction changes to evade pressure. He works alright as a power play quarterback, moving the puck around quickly, moving himself around to ensure that he has time and space to operate, and making good decisions about when to pass or when to put a shot on net. However, there isn't much in the way of advanced creativity. He moves the play along, though you wouldn't exactly call him dangerous with the puck on his stick. His passes and shots lack power, but they're accurate and have the right purpose behind them. Despite all of this good, there are major physical limitations that severely hurt him. He is too slow in a straight line for a player his size, resulting in lost races to pucks. His edges and agility are fine, but his strides are very short and he's not as light on his toes as one might think. Making matters worse, he doesn't have much wingspan, so his stick isn't often getting to loose pucks first either. He can find some success carrying the puck up the ice, but it's hard to see him consistently creating separation or cutting through holes in the NHL. Even though his lack of size and strength hurt his ability to separate opponents from pucks, he at least displays good awareness in his own zone. He will need to improve his foot-speed to have a chance at higher levels.

**TYLER DUNBAR** **300**



**POS:** DEFENSE  
**SHOT:** LEFT  
**HEIGHT:** 6-1  
**WEIGHT:** 189

YEAR	TEAM	LEA	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
21-22	MUSKOGON	USHL	61	4	21	25	53

Tyler Dunbar is a two-way defenseman who makes his biggest impact on the defensive side of things. His mobility is nothing special, but he does show a strong ability to shut down offensive attacks, particularly when defending the rush. In one-on-one situations he can use his footwork and his size and physicality to take away time and space from his opponents and angle them away from the high-danger areas. Offensively he is okay, and the odd time he will make a flashy play that sets up a great chance. But for the most part he doesn't appear to have any high-end skill to develop. His consistency at both ends needs some work, but mostly at the offensive end. He is prone to mental lapses with the puck on his stick. He struggles to read and react quickly in the offensive end. He's just too slow at the moment in understanding what is developing in front of him. When he does read the zone coverage properly, he struggles to execute on his passing and shooting decisions. There's not a lot to mold in his skillset, but if he can improve on his skating ability and his processing speed he will come a long way. He may end up being a career depth guy who spends his time going back and forth from the NHL to the minors, but if he does make it to the NHL he will primarily be an even-strength player. His skillset screams bottom-pairing defenseman who will need to be deployed in a low event system. If a team expects him to be a high-event, chaotic style of player they will be trying to force a square peg into a round hole. He will succeed if he is deployed in simple situations and isn't asked to do much other than break up opposing chances and relay the puck quickly to his teammates to turn the play the other way.



# SLEEPER SERIES

**EVERY DRAFT HAS A BATCH OF PROSPECTS WHO OUTPERFORM THEIR SELECTION SPOT.**

**THE 2022 CLASS IS NO DIFFERENT**

**BY MARK DUBRIEL**

There are players that slip through the ranks of every NHL Draft season and end up getting selected later than their skillset or defensive prowess suggest they should.

It happens each and every year, and to no surprise.

It's usually a result of an element that turns teams off, too.

There may be some glaring issues with either their skating, hockey IQ, physicality, or some other factor that may dissuade an NHL team from selecting said player early in the draft, though their stats or play may suggest they should get drafted higher.

Years after the fact, NHL teams and even fans of the game may scratch their head and say to themselves, "How did that player slip so low in the draft?"

This year is no different.

And, after consulting with the cast and crew of FCHockey, the 2022 NHL Draft has more than its fair share of players that will wind up as potential 'steals' of the class based on the current rankings and analysis.

Jordan Dumais of the Halifax Mooseheads is certainly one of those players.

Dumais had one of the most productive offensive outputs among all draft eligible players this season. In 68 games for the Mooseheads, he tallied a whopping 109 points (39 goals, 70 assists). His 1.60 points-per-game was best in the entire CHL for draft eligible players -- even ahead of the FCHockey's consensus No. 1 ranked prospect, Shane Wright's 1.49 points-per-game effort.

"Of the players that will more than likely be available outside of the top two rounds, Dumais I believe would be the highest swing on offensive potential," FCHockey scout Brandon Holmes said. "He's been a prominent producer everywhere he's been along the way throughout his junior hockey career and led all first-year eligible CHL skaters in scoring this year. He's an undersized player and has below average speed and skating technique for a player his size, but he's a slick small areas puckhandler who owns excellent playmaking vision and is a capable shooter.

"If Dumais can improve his skating and add strength, I believe there is enough skill and offensive intelligence there to be an offensive contributor at the next level."

Dumais looks to be a third round selection, with FC Hockey ranking him at No. 95 and NHL Central Scouting slotting him at No. 73 among North American skaters.

There is no question that Dumais has strong offensive instincts and a soft touch around the net combined with a high hockey IQ which helps him to process the game at high speeds.

The one weakness in his game that stands out is his skating, which is not that strong and mechanically inefficient. Some power skating may help him improve upon that, but making it to the next level and maintaining the pace of the NHL will be his biggest obstacle to emerging as a sleeper from this class.

Isaiah George of the London Knights also has upside to be just that -- and skating won't hold him back.

George, a defenseman, is an effortless skater with good puck-handling abilities. He is defensively responsible and has good gap control, which along with the aforementioned strong skating translates into a well balanced defender.

"In an NHL that has continued to get faster and faster year over year, George fits the mold of the modern defenseman," Holmes said. "He is an excellent skater who can get up and down the ice with ease, transition pucks through the neutral zone, and can control gaps against opposing attackers and deny zone entries when defending on the rush. George plays for a famously strong program at churning out NHL talent in the London Knight, and if he continues to find more ice time and round out his game-to-game consistency he has the potential to become a meaningful contributor at the NHL





QMJHL

level."

The only concerning part of his game is his hockey IQ. George, slotted at No. 70 at FCHockey and No. 53 among North American skaters by NHL Central Scouting, tends to stumble with distribution when entering the offensive zone and lacks the

The one thing that stands out with Hemmerling is his ability to find open lanes when passing the puck. He is a very good disher and can thread a pass at a high pace of play and also finds the open player in crowded spaces.

His hockey IQ is above-average and

big of a role he is likely to play for them the next two seasons."

It will be interesting to see how his game evolves next year and will determine his progression into a solid pick or someone who will just be a good minor league player.

Back on the blue line, defenseman

## IN AN NHL THAT HAS CONTINUED TO GET FASTER AND FASTER YEAR OVER YEAR, GEORGE FITS THE MOULD OF THE MODERN DEFENSEMAN.

offensive awareness sought after by most hockey clubs. His offensive numbers were only subpar compared to many of the top blueliners in this draft class. He ended up with 23 points (six goals, 17 assists) in 67 games.

In order for George to become more of an offensive threat, he needs to simplify his offensive-zone entries and not rush and/or force plays as much, which could potentially translate into better offensive numbers.

Ben Hemmerling, with 47 points (10 goals, 37 assists) in 57 games, had respectable offensive numbers in limited opportunity with the Everett Silvertips.

this helps him accomplish skilled passes. His skating and physicality needs some improvement in order for him to compete at higher levels, and next season will determine if he can elevate his game to accomplish that task.

"Hemmerling is already a mature player with strong details to his game," FCHockey scout Derek Neumeier said. "He doesn't have a very high ceiling, but I really like his odds of eventually finding an NHL support role, which won't be the case for a lot of boom-bust guys taken ahead of him. However, what gives me the most hope about him is the quality of Everett's program, and how

Jake Livanavage has a bit of that boom-bust potential.

Livanavage had himself a respectful offensive season, scoring 45 points (three goals, 42 assists) in 61 games played. But don't let the numbers fool you -- most of his points, including 24 of his assists, came on the power play. His shot was obviously not the biggest threat from the point, with only three goals during the season, but his dishes more than compensated.

Another weakness that might limit Livanavage, No. 87 at FCHockey and No. 54 for North American skaters NHL Central Scouting, from being that 'steal' down the road is his skating. He can manage against players his own

age at the junior level, but he will need to broaden his straight ahead speed and lateral movement in order to keep pace at the professional ranks, especially for a defenseman who is only 5-foot-10.

"He has all the makings of a true top-four defender," Broad said. "He plays big minutes, is a great puck mover who can drive transition play. In the offensive zone he's a high-end playmaker who shows immense poise with the puck. He's also an adequate defender using his skating to effectively maintain gaps and take away time and space from his opponents."

"Players with his skillset scream top-four defender, and if you can get that outside of the top two rounds you take that every day of the week."

If Livanavage can improve upon his five-on-five play and firm up his defensive abilities, he may become a dependable middle-to-bottom pairing in the NHL and a value pick in the 2022 draft.

Viktor Neuchev might as well.

Neuchev is a highly skilled and creative forward who spent most of the season in the MHL, Russia's top Junior league, where he posted 67 points (40 goals, 27 assists) in 61 games with Avto Yekaterinburg in Russia's junior circuit. Yes, his 40 markers was good enough for third-highest in the entire circuit.

The 6-foot-2 Russian enjoys attempting creative plays against defenders anytime he breaks into the offensive zone. The only issue is with that confidence comes mistakes and

turnovers, where at times making an easy play or passing off would deliver better results and potentially more scoring chances for the team.

"Neuchev very quietly put together a very strong season for Yekaterinburg in the MHL this year, and in my eyes he stands out as one of the top goal-scoring talents that will likely be available in the middle rounds of the draft," Holmes said. "Neuchev has many attributes that you look for in a goal-scorer, with a strong wrist shot, deceptive shot release, a shoot-first mentality with the puck on his stick, and strong one-on-one puck skills that allow him to open up space when attacking on the rush. Neuchev will need to round out his all-around game, add strength, and show more consistency in his effort to make it at the pro level, but the upside on his scoring potential I believe is quite high if he's able to put everything together."

Skating, if you can sense a theme, may be an issue for the big forward, as he lacks the explosiveness and first step acceleration needed to pull off one-on-one moves he likes to attempt against opposing defensemen. Neuchev is slotted in at No. 64 by FC Hockey and NHL Central Scouting has him ranked at No. 34 among International skaters.

He could outpace that projection, though. And he won't be alone in this class.



CHL IMAGES



# SECOND-CHANCE CLUB

***THE 2022 DRAFT IS  
A PRIMED  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PAST NHL DRAFT  
ELIGIBLES TO HAVE  
A SECOND.***

***IN SOME CASES,  
IT'S THE FINAL  
CRACK AT A DRAFT  
DREAM***

**BY MARK DUBRIEL**

The NHL Draft is a chance for many young hockey talents to hear their name called to the podium, one step closer to fulfilling a life-long dream of playing in the NHL.

Some players who were eligible last year and missed that opportunity -- especially due to the impact of COVID-19 -- will be given a second chance to make that walk to the stage this July.

This year's crop of overage players may be one of the best groups of prospects to be re-inserted into the NHL Draft. More than a handful of players eligible last season didn't get a chance to step on the ice. That's changed, with a somewhat regular schedule in the 2021-22 campaign that has some regions doubling up on draft talent.

It could allow an overager to fulfill a dream.

And Tucker Robertson of the Peterborough Petes is an excellent candidate.

Robertson was one player who definitely had a solid production at the junior level in his second kick at the can, and finished the season with the most goals by any draft-eligible player -- first or second chance -- in the Ontario Hockey League with 41.

"Robertson I believe is worth a pick for teams looking for the perfect future role player in the NHL," FCHockey scout Brandon Holmes said.

The right winger started the season off with a bang, up until the new year, posting 41 points in the first 26 games. Nineteen were goals.

But it's not just offense. Robertson is a versatile player who can get under the opposition's skin.

At the same time, he'll more than hurt the opposition on the scoreboard. He ended up with 81 points (41 goals, 40 assists) in 68 games, placing him second on the team in scoring. The all-around effort had Robertson at No. 110 in FCHockey's Final ranking for the 2022 draft. He slots at No. 162 among North American skaters on NHL Central Scouting's final list.

"Tucker is a high-motor forward who never takes a shift off, gets engaged in the dirty areas of the offensive zone and is constantly applying pressure to opposing defenses on the forecheck," Holmes said. "Teams need players like Robertson to win in the playoffs, as he reminds me so much of that line of Coleman, Gourde, and Goodrow that the Tampa Bay Lightning deployed en route to two Stanley Cup titles."

Connor Kurth, like Robertson, is going to get an extended look on the second day of the 2022 draft.

Kurth continued his strong play in his second season in the USHL by posting the fifth-best point total in the entire league while still only being 18-years-old. A late birthday, the Dubuque Fighting Saints forward won't flip the calendar to 19 until late July.

The University of Minnesota commit is a versatile forward who displays good puck protection and is hard on the puck at all times. The skillset has Kurth No. 104 on FCHockey's list.

"With Kurth it's simple. He's taken a massive leap this season and added a different gear to his game that makes him a must draft this time around," FCHockey scout Austin Broad said.

Kurth ended the season second on his team in scoring, posting 81 points (35 goals, 46 assists) in 62 games.

"His ability to see the game and understand how to use his body to his advantage has really improved," Broad said. "Kurth has the size; and the developing puck skills that really intrigue me. I think when you look at his game as a whole, and the trajectory he's on, he's definitely worth a pick this time around."

So too might be Russian forward Dmitri Buchelnikov, who is another player with a late birthday. He missed the cutoff for being eligible for the 2022 draft by just nine days.

"Buchelnikov is worth the swing for teams looking for an immediate injection of skill and shot generation into their lineup," Holmes said.

Buchelnikov is usually not the biggest player on the ice -- listed at 5-foot-10

MARK PETERSON MEDIA



**HE REALLY JUMPED ON THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THEIR TOP DEFENDER...DISPLAYING GROWTH IN ALL AREAS OF HIS GAME.**

and 168 pounds may be generous -- but what he lacks in size, he makes up with speed and puck-handling. He always seems to find the open lanes and uses his speed and slick stick-handling to make opposing defese-men lose their positioning on him, allowing for scoring chances.

The forward torched the Russian junior circuit this season and was second in total points among all players in the MHL and his 41 goals was also second in the entire league.

It landed him at No. 113 on FCHockey's list.

"Buchelnikov is undersized, but works hard to mitigate that size disadvantage as much as he can and is shifty and smooth with the puck,"

Holmes said. "He's always looking to get pucks on goal, and teams who are simply looking for players who can get pucks to the front of the net should look Buchelnikov's way."

Graham Sward of the Spokane Chiefs offers some similar intrigue -- at a different position.

Sward missed the 2022 cutoff by just three days, making him the youngest draft re-entry in 2022 instead of the oldest first-year eligible.

The blueliner finished the season with 43 points (10 goals, 33 assists), which was good enough to be among the top 10 defensemen under the age of 19 in the Western Hockey League. Sward possesses a decent shot from the point and has good maneuverabil-

ity in the defensive zone. The result was a No. 163 ranking at FCHockey, and a No. 93 mark among North Americans on Central Scouting's tally.

"Sward was one of the more pleasant surprises in the west this year after a 2020-21 season that saw him only play 11 games," FCHockey scout Derek Neumeier said. "Spokane wasn't a very strong or deep team, but that gave him a chance to really grow his abilities and show what he is capable of. He really jumped on the opportunity to be their top defender, eating a lot of minutes and displaying growth in all areas of his game."

There is, however, some room for improvement with his forward skating and acceleration from a starting posi-

tion.

Sward is tenacious on the puck defensively and has an edge to him that can be a thorn in the side of opposing forwards -- everything you want from a defensemen on your team.

"Consistency and versatility are hard to find, and with the growth he showed this season you have to like his odds of continuing to figure things out as he ascends levels," Neumeier said.

Sward has some company in the WHL, too.

Mikey Milne of the Winnipeg ICE is another re-entry candidate to keep an eye on. He is a player that probably should have been picked up by some team in last year's draft, but again with a shortened season owing to the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19, he fell through the proverbial drafting cracks.

"Instead of being disappointed that he was passed over last year, it seems like it pissed Milne off more than anything," Neumeier said. "He had one heck of a chip on his shoulder this season and was a real force at times for Winnipeg."

The spark plug winger elevated his game this year on a strong Winnipeg team, finishing the season with 81 points

(38 goals, 43 assists) in 68 games.

"When he played alongside their main skill guys he didn't look out of place one bit, but when they asked him to do dirty work he didn't change his attitude or start cheating," Neumeier said.

With Milne, a team is going to get a hard-working, two-way forward who is always pushing the pace. He is continuously moving around the ice, scanning for the next course of action.

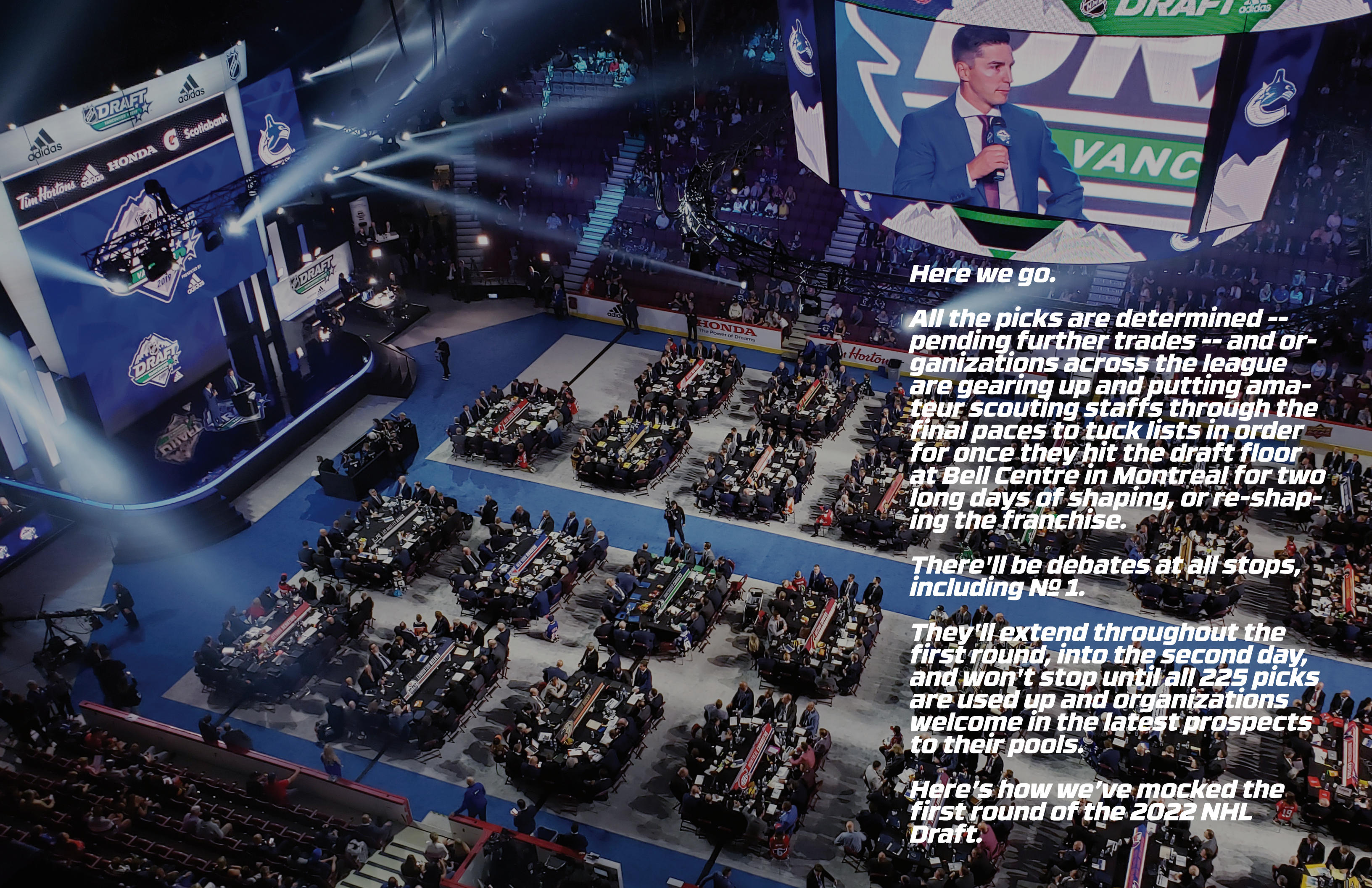
Milne, No. 152 on FCHockey's list and No. 119 among North Americans by Central Scouting, is great on the forecheck and always causes havoc on defenders. He also possesses a soft touch around the net, but wouldn't necessarily consider him a one-on-one threat, but more of a player who is better suited on off the puck positioning.

"While there are some questions about how much skill he really has, and how much of what is there is translatable, his character is off the charts and he's very easy to root for," Neumeier said.

Milne has plenty of company in that regard, as there's going to be a soft spot for some of these players getting a second chance to share in a special day.



JAMES DOYLE



**Here we go.**

**All the picks are determined -- pending further trades -- and organizations across the league are gearing up and putting amateur scouting staffs through the final paces to tuck lists in order for once they hit the draft floor at Bell Centre in Montreal for two long days of shaping, or re-shaping the franchise.**

**There'll be debates at all stops, including No 1.**

**They'll extend throughout the first round, into the second day, and won't stop until all 225 picks are used up and organizations welcome in the latest prospects to their pools.**

**Here's how we've mocked the first round of the 2022 NHL Draft.**

## MTL SHANE WRIGHT

7



The Montreal Canadiens retain their first overall slot in the lottery and receive the privilege to select this year's consensus top prospect -- Shane Wright. Wright is a highly-intelligent two-way center who models his own game after Bruins forward Patrice Bergeron. He plays committed to both ends of the ice, can make plays and reads to dictate the pace of play and control possession of the puck for his team, and is able to finish with one of the best shot releases in the draft. Wright, who was selected with the No. 1 pick in the 2019 OHL Draft after being granted exceptional status into the Canadian Hockey League, will join Nick Suzuki at the center position to form a formidable 1-2 punch down the middle for the Habs, and will be coming into his rookie season fresh off of a 32 goal, 94 point season with the Kingston Frontenacs this season.

"Wright is an elite two-way center with incredible offensive ability," said Josh Bell, FCHockey's head crossover scout. "It's not often you watch players where you really struggle to find too many weaknesses at this level, but Wright has been that way for a while now. His intelligence on the ice is second to none and on full display in his playmaking, his lane pursuit, and his awareness."

## NJD JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY

2



After moving up three spots in the NHL Draft Lottery, the New Jersey Devils will have their pick from a number of intriguing options at the top of the draft -- and you would be hard-pressed to find a better fit than Slovak winger Juraj Slafkovsky. He is a big, strong power forward who boasts a potent goal-scoring tool kit with good offensive and spatial awareness and a heavy shot. He is able to dominate below the hashmarks in the offensive zone, shielding pucks from opposing defensemen and winning battles around the goal, which would make him a perfect fit for New Jersey's skilled center group with Jack Hughes and Nico Hischier. Slafkovsky turned heads at the Olympics, where he produced at a goal-per-game clip and was named the MVP.

"With his collection of high-end tools the sky is the limit with his potential," said Derek Neumeier, FCHockey's head Western scout. "It's incredibly rare to find a player who has Slafkovsky's combination of huge size, slick hands and smooth mobility. When he gets a head of steam going he's a real treat to watch, carrying the puck up the ice with purpose and using his agility and impressive puck control to either navigate through traffic or power around defenders to the outside."

## ARI LOGAN COOLEY

3



With the third overall selection, the Arizona Coyotes add a foundational piece to their forward group with Logan Cooley -- the top American-born player available in this year's draft. Cooley is a well-rounded and highly-skilled center with a plethora of tricks up his sleeve in the offensive zone. He's a very skilled and creative player, able to make flashy plays in tight spaces to beat opposing checkers while also displaying strong playmaking vision to set up linemates and make those around him better. Cooley is also no slouch when it comes to his two-way commitment, which makes him very projectable as a pro player and it's easy to see the fit in Arizona's system alongside scoring wingers such as Clayton Keller and Dylan Guenther. Cooley is coming off a high-flying offensive season for the NTDP this year with 75 points (27 goals, 48 assists) in 51 games and is committed to a strong developmental system in the NCAA at the University of Minnesota for next season.

"Cooley is a dynamic two-way center who has a significant impact on the game at both ends of the ice," said Austin Broad, FCHockey's head US scout. "His ability to drive play and create chances with the puck on his stick is the most impressive. Cooley can handle the puck in a phone booth, and does so while examining the defensive setup to find weak spots or potential passing lanes."

## SEA SIMON NEMEC

4



After selecting their No. 1 center of the future in Matty Beniers one year ago, the Seattle Kraken add a cornerstone to their blue line with Simon Nemeč. Nemeč is a smooth-skating two-way defenseman who excels in the offensive zone with his exceptional vision with the puck on his stick and is able to transition pucks out of his own end with ease by utilizing either his mobility or an accurate outlet pass. He is among the best in this class at reading and reacting to space on both sides of the puck. He has been a fixture internationally, appearing twice at both the World Juniors and Hlinka Gretzky Cup, and is set to make his second appearance at the World Championship. Nemeč was a top producer at the pro level this year, netting 26 points (one goal, 25 assists) in 39 games during the regular season before putting up 17 points (five goals, 12 assists) in 19 playoff games, and his growing resume while playing against men should quell concerns about his projectability to the NHL.

"Nemeč is a very intelligent two-way defenseman who has to ability to impact the game all over the ice," European FCHockey scout Miroslav Simurka said. "He is a very good skater who moves with ease on the ice. He has the ability to beat forecheckers with his skating or to catch players in transition from offense to defense, and thanks to his great stamina and work ethic he can do this all the time."

## PHI DAVID JIRICEK

5



The Philadelphia Flyers grab a high-end piece for the future of their defense with the selection of David Jiricek, a high-ceiling right-shot defenseman who already plays with the essence of classic Flyers hockey. Jiricek is a physical blueliner who relishes finishing checks against oncoming attackers, using his 6-foot-3 frame to separate opposing players from the puck while also showcasing high-end skills on the offensive side of the puck. Jiricek impressed scouts while playing at the professional level in Czechia this year, finishing with a final regular season total of five goals and 11 points in 29-game campaign that was cut shorter due to a mid-season knee injury suffered at the 2022 World Juniors. Jiricek will skate for the Czechs at the upcoming World Championship, where he will look to solidify his standing as a top-five candidate for the 2022 NHL Draft.

"Jiricek is an exceptional two-way defender that shows a strong transition ability," said Bell. "He reads the play so well, playing like a veteran defender well above his age. He regularly shows very impressive reads, noting where players are and correctly attacking or hanging back as needed."

## OTT JOAKIM KEMELL

7



The Ottawa Senators add a high-end finisher to their forward group with the selection of Joakim Kemell, whose goal-scoring tool kit would fit in nicely alongside Ottawa's growing catalog of young skilled forwards such as Tim Stutzle, Brady Tkachuk, Drake Batherson, and Josh Norris. Kemell is able to find his way onto the scoresheet due to a blend of high-end offensive awareness and excellent shooting mechanics. He displays excellent spatial awareness in the offensive zone, able to find his way to open areas of ice to make himself available to linemates, and owns a quick release on his wrist shot that allows him to deliver the puck with power and accuracy. Kemell cooled in the back-half of the Liiga season after coming back from a midseason injury, but finished the regular season with 15 goals and 23 points in 39 games before going to the 2022 World Under-18 Championship, where he was a key player for Finland's bronze medal-winning club.

"Kemell is an absolutely electrifying player to watch with his blend of speed, puckhandling and finishing ability," said Finnish-based FCHockey regional scout Rasmus Tornqvist. "He always seems to find ways to make plays and go for goal even when there seemingly is nothing there."

## CBJ MATTHEW SAVOIE

6



The Columbus Blue Jackets add to a growing pool of forward talent with the addition of Matthew Savoie, a nimble and highly-skilled forward who would add to Columbus' ability as a quick-strike offense. Savoie is a gifted skater who can make plays at full speed with the puck on his stick, showcasing his edgework to build speed and uses his hands to find space in traffic and open up lanes in the offensive zone to find teammates in high-danger scoring areas. Savoie was among the top first-year-eligible scorers in the CHL this year, recording 35 goals and 90 points in 65 games for the Winnipeg ICE. His combination of pace and skill makes him a high-ceiling selection for the 2022 draft, and his overall tool kit would fit in nicely on Columbus' forward group alongside the likes of Patrik Laine, Kent Johnson, and Cole Sillinger.

"Savoie's strengths come from his balance, the speed and power of his inside edges to explode laterally, and the quickness of his hands," FCHockey Western scout Joel Henderson said. "Everything is based on the speed of play and how he is able to create enough separation and space in order to be consistently effective."

## DET FRANK NAZAR

8



After going with a defenseman and a goaltender with their top two picks in the 2021 NHL Draft, the Detroit Red Wings add another much-needed dynamic piece to their forward group with Frank Nazar. Nazar has emerged as a top player for the US National Team Development Program over the past two years due to his blend of pace, vision, and high motor. He's a very quick skater who drives opposing defenses back on their heels and plays with an attacking mindset, driving the center lane in the offensive zone and relishes pushing the pace of play when the puck is on his stick, all while being a very creative playmaker who can find teammates in high-danger areas with excellent vision and passing ability. Nazar soared this season with the NTDP with 42 assists and 70 points in 56 games and will be playing nearby at the University of Michigan next season in the NCAA.

"Nazar is an offensively productive player who has outstanding foot-speed and a shot that flies off his stick," said Shaun Richardson, FCHockey's head Eastern scout. "He projects as a versatile middle-six center at the next level who can add some defensive responsibility when played higher in the lineup or add offensive upside when further down the depth chart."

**BUF BRAD LAMBERT****9**

The Buffalo Sabres continue to rebuild their forward group with the addition of Brad Lambert, a dynamic Finnish forward who is oozing with offensive potential. Though the results didn't quite come for Lambert at the Liiga level this year, with just 10 points in 49 games split between two clubs, he brings a tantalizing high-ceiling package of speed and skill to the rink every time he steps on the ice. Lambert is a dynamic skater who is able to push the pace of play whenever he has the puck on his stick, able to push through the neutral zone at top speed and put defenders on their heels when attacking. Lambert is at his best when challenging opposing defenders in tight spaces, allowing him to change directions to open up shooting lanes and is able to get the puck off his stick with a quick release. "Lambert is an offensive dynamo who is very dangerous in the offensive zone given his sublime skating and fast hands," FCHockey video scout Sebastian Death said in a report. "His skating stride is quick and powerful, and he generates a lot of torque with every push. His edgework is phenomenal and he makes quick cuts very effortlessly, making him hard to cover 1-on-1 as he can easily shed defenders."

**ANA CUTTER GAUTHIER****10**

The Anaheim Ducks add a powerful goal-scoring winger to their forward group with the selection of Cutter Gauthier, who would be an excellent complement to the finesse skill game brought by Calder nominee Trevor Zegras. Gauthier worked his way up the depth chart for the USNTDP over the past two years due to a blend of power, skill, and high-end shot. Gauthier is very strong on pucks, utilizing his 6-foot-3 frame blended with his excellent puck skills to shield pucks away from defenders. He can beat defenders 1-on-1 by going through or around them and is able to finish with a heavy wrist shot or score from the circles with his one-timer. Gauthier had a strong scoring season for the NTDP this year with 34 goals and 65 points in 54 games while playing top-line minutes, and will be able to continue to hone his craft at the NCAA level with Boston College starting next season. "Gauthier is a power forward who skates well and is adaptable to any role in the offensive zone," said Richardson. "He can make quick decisions but still exhibits a level of calm and patience with the puck that allows the play to develop."

**NYI DENTON MATEYCHUK****13**

The New York Islanders look to add more skill and pace to their defensive group with the addition of Denton Mateychuk, a skilled and highly-mobile left-shot defenseman who put together a great offensive season for the Moose Jaw Warriors in the WHL this year. Mateychuk is a gifted skater who can carry the puck out of his own zone and jump into the offensive zone with ease. He's smooth on his edges and can make 1-on-1 plays to find space while the puck is on his stick. Mateychuk was among the top scoring defenseman in the WHL this year with 13 goals and 64 points in 65 games while adding another eight points in as many playoff games for Moose Jaw, cementing himself as one of the draft's top talents on the blue line. "Mateychuk's game is built around his flexibility, creativity, and general quickness in mental processing," FCHockey scout Donesh Mazloum said. "Every aspect of his game is proactive and purposeful. He is as dangerous as they come with the puck on his stick. His head is always up surveying the ice and he is always a threat to thread a home run stretch pass."

**WPG PAVEL MINTYUKOV****14**

After selecting forwards Chaz Lucius and Cole Perfetti with their previous two first round picks, the Winnipeg Jets add an exciting prospect on the back end with Pavel Mintyukov. Mintyukov is a skilled defenseman who plays with an attacking mindset. He relishes finding opportunities to carry the puck into the offensive zone and plays unafraid to challenge opposing checkers with his puck skills to open up lanes to the net. Mintyukov leans on his skill and mobility to impact games offensively, but also demonstrates strong defensive skills as well with an active stick and good skills while defending the rush. "Mintyukov is a high-energy defender who is aggressive at both ends and can use his skating ability to create rush chances as well as contribute inside the offensive zone," said Ontario-based FCHockey scout Joseph Aleong. "His mobility in all directions is impressive, with quick feet and acceleration as well as strong edges that allow him to maintain tight gaps when defending the rush. His skating allows him to be aggressive jumping into the offense, showing off good straight-line speed and confidence handling the puck at high speed."

**SJS KEVIN KORCHINSKI****11**

The San Jose Sharks begin to replenish their blue line with the selection of Seattle defenseman Kevin Korchinski, who has been a force in the WHL playoffs thus far with nine points in seven playoff games after a 65-point campaign with the Thunderbirds. Korchinski is an exceptionally mobile and fluid defenseman, able to effortlessly move pucks through the neutral zone and join the play from the offensive blue line to help contribute to his team's puck possession. He displays excellent vision with the puck on his stick, able to find lanes to carry the puck through or find teammates in the offensive zone with his crisp passing ability. His mobility and pro frame make him incredibly projectable as a top-four defenseman at the NHL level with the potential to be a truly special player if he continues to make strides in his offensive game, where he's continued to get better and better throughout the duration of the WHL season. "Korchinski has made huge progression this season and continues to look more and more like one of the top prospects in the 2022 draft," Derek Neumeier, FCHockey's head Western scout, said. "He plays with an incredible abundance of fluidity, moving effortlessly and gracefully in all directions. And when you add in his long strides and great mechanics, it allows him to cover huge swaths of ice in no time and with little energy expended."

**CBJ DANILA YUROV****12**

With their second pick of the draft, the Jackets dip back into Russia and add another highly-skilled winger in Danila Yurov, who is among the draft's most versatile forwards. Yurov is a complete offensive threat who is equally capable as both a scorer and a playmaker, displaying incredible smarts with the puck on his stick and is able to quickly identify holes in opposing defenses at a moment's notice. His shot release, power, and accuracy are all very good and he's able to shed checks with smooth puckhandling ability and creative 1-on-1 dekes, all while displaying strong two-way commitment and smarts. Yurov's KHL season with Metallurg Magnitogorsk was mired with exceedingly low ice-time totals, leading to a blank stat line in 21 games, but he was a force while playing in the MHL with 36 points in 23 games, leaving plenty of reason for optimism that his offensive game will translate to the pro level. "He's an intelligent winger who excels in fast-paced offensive situations," said FCHockey crossover scout Jake Janso. "He's athletic and possesses a clean, balanced stride with soft hands. His shot is powerful and he likes to let it rip in motion and between defender's legs."

**VAN JONATHAN LEKKERIMAKI****15**

The Vancouver Canucks will still get good value for their pick in Jonathan Lekkerimaki, a Swedish scoring winger who would come in and add more scoring depth alongside Elias Pettersson, Brock Boeser, and Bo Horvat. Lekkerimaki is among the top pure goal scorers available in the 2022 draft due to his ability to bury pucks in a variety of ways. He can score from the circles using either a strong one-timer or his heavy and accurate wrist shot, and does a very good job of reading off of his teammates to find soft areas of ice to make himself available as a shooting threat -- all while possessing a good skill game that allows him to be effective in tight spaces. Lekkerimaki played his way on to Djurgarden's SHL club throughout the duration of the season, finishing with seven goals in 26 games before leading Sweden to a gold medal at the Under-18s, where he had 15 points in just six contests. "Lekkerimaki is a pure sniper and goalscorer that wants to deliver every night," said Swedish-based FCHockey scout Fredrik Haak. "He has a tendency to always find space to release his hard wrist shot. What makes it even better is that he does not need a lot of time; he can fire away before anyone has reacted."

**BUF RYAN CHESLEY****16**

With their second first round selection, the Sabres add a steady presence to the right side of the blue line with the selection of Ryan Chesley. Chesley is a steady and efficient two-way defenseman who excels particularly on the defensive side of the puck. He has a very active stick that allows him to break up plays in transition and deny zone entries while also having excellent positioning in his own zone to clog up passing lanes in high-danger areas. He has a sturdy frame that also allows him to play physically and defend the front of his net from oncoming attackers. Chesley was a consistent and efficient presence on the USNTDP's top defense pairing all season while also recording 29 points in 59 games for his team, and would be an excellent complement to the likes of Rasmus Dahlin and Owen Power in Buffalo. "Chesley is a physical two-way defenseman who excels in transition," US-based FCHockey scout Douglas Larson said in a report. "He's always moving around and has a long powerful stride that allows him to get up the ice. He made his presence felt laying the body every chance he got this game. It seemed to separate the opposition from the puck nearly every time."

**NSH OWEN PICKERING**

**17**



After spending recent first round draft capital on forwards and goaltending, the Nashville Predators add a piece to their blue line with the selection of rangy two-way defenseman Owen Pickering. Pickering is a highly mobile defenseman for a player his size, as he moves his 6-foot-5 frame effortlessly around the ice with a fluid skating stride, allowing him to fully utilize his reach to limit space for opposing attackers. He is also capable of moving pucks efficiently out of his own zone using either his mobility or a crisp outlet pass and is a reliable contributor at both ends of the ice. Following a strong season for Swift Current in the WHL with 33 points (nine goals, 24 assists) in 62 games, Pickering played a critical role for Canada at the Under-18s, where he drew assignments as the team's No. 1 defenseman. "Pickering is a versatile two-way defender, who uses his high-end mobility to impact the game," Broad said. "His skating is his best asset, he has the speed, power, and agility in his stride that allows him to close gaps, and cover large areas of space in the blink of an eye."

**DAL RUTGER MCGROARTY**

**18**



The Dallas Stars add more goal-scoring talent to their system with the selection of Rutger McGroarty, a highly-competitive shoot-first forward with one of the top deliveries in the draft. McGroarty's top offensive tool is his shot, as he owns a very quick release that allows him to get the puck off his stick with power and accuracy in a hurry. McGroarty works hard to find space in high-danger scoring areas and is a natural leader due to his high-end work ethic, which would make him a natural fit with a blue-collar club such as Dallas. McGroarty has long been considered among the top Americans available in his age group, which was punctuated this year with 35 goals and 69 points in 54 games for the USNTDP before putting together a standout performance at the Under-18s, where he captained USA to a silver. "He has such a specific profile that many NHL teams will covet," FCHockey scout Josh Bell said. "While he's known for his goal-scoring, his strength may be a defining factor to his game. He's extremely strong on his feet and definitely isn't afraid to hold his own and throw his body around. He's also extremely competitive, often the first forward back to support his defenders, jumping into every battle he can, and always looking to drive the play forward."

**PIT CONOR GEEKIE**

**21**



The Pittsburgh Penguins add reinforcements to their center ice position with selection of Conor Geekie, a power forward who plays with a blend of skill, size, and strength. Geekie owns an imposing pro-ready frame, already standing at 6-foot-4 and 205 pounds, allowing him to impose his will at the junior level with his size and strength on the puck. He is dominant along the boards with his ability to shield off defenders and handle pucks in tight, while also owning a powerful wrist shot that makes him capable as a scorer in high-danger areas of the ice. The former No. 2 pick in the 2019 WHL Bantam Draft, Geekie put together a strong sophomore campaign for the Winnipeg ICE with 24 goals and 70 points in 63 games, as he was a regular in the team's top-six and was a constant on the team's power play units as well. "Geekie is simply always dangerous with the puck on his stick in the offensive zone," Henderson said. "He possesses a combination of puck protection, playmaking vision, and effortless release that makes him a hard threat to read for goaltenders."

**ANA JAGGER FIRKUS**

**22**



With their second first round selection, the Ducks add more goal-scoring punch to their system with Canadian forward Jagger Firkus, who has been a consistent riser in the draft landscape throughout the year. Firkus is a shifty and skilled forward who plays with great creativity with the puck on his stick, able to find holes in opposing defenses to open up attacking lanes and is capable as a dual offensive threat with good playmaking instincts and an excellent shot. He turned the heads of scouts at the CHL Top Prospects Game this year with an absolute standout performance and was a top player for the Moose Jaw Warriors this past season in the WHL, tallying 36 goals and 80 points in 66 regular season games. "He is so slippery and dangerous when he gets the puck on his stick in the offensive zone," Neumeier said. "The way he is able to control the puck, move it around and keep a play alive is incredible. When he senses an opportunity to strike he doesn't hesitate to do so, and he can generate or complete multiple scoring chances on a single shift."

**MIN MARCO KASPER**

**19**



Austrian forward Marco Kasper is a highly athletic and fleet of foot forward who is able to leverage his speed and mobility effectively due to his high-end motor and strong puck skills. He displays very good skill in tight spaces, able to handle pucks around his feet and close to his body, allowing him to find pucks and bury chances close to the goal-mouth and he's able to find his way to those high-danger areas due to his willingness to drive hard areas and keep his feet moving. Kasper was among the SHL's top U20 scorers this past season with seven goals and 11 points in 46 games for Rogle BK before putting together an impressive playoff run where he elevated his game and scoring pace. Kasper was also a fixture for Austria at the international level this year, appearing at both the World Juniors and the IIHF World Championships. He'll fit right in, in time, with the Minnesota Wild. "With his high-end offensive awareness, Kasper finds himself open frequently in the offensive zone, due in part to him constantly moving his feet," FCHockey scout Curtis Schwartzkopf said. "Kasper also has high-end agility, which allows him to skate away from crowded areas with subtle changes in direction and an efficient stride that generates a lot of power but looks effortless."

**WSH IVAN MIROSHNICHENKO**

**20**



The Washington Capitals can step up the plate and select one of the draft's biggest wild cards in Ivan Miroshnichenko, a Russian sniper who came into the year as one of the 2022 class' most highly-touted prospects. Miroshnichenko has long been considered potentially the top goal-scoring talent of the group, showcasing a powerful wrist shot that he can release in stride as well as a booming one-timer on his off-wing that he lets loose often from the left circle. Miroshnichenko spent the year in Russia's second-tier professional league, recording 10 goals and 16 points in the 31 games he was available to play in, while also being a constant in recent international tournaments for Russia with his performance at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup being a standout on his resume with nine points in five games en route to a gold medal. Unfortunately, Miroshnichenko was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma back in early March of this year. We all wish him a full and speedy recovery. "Miroshnichenko has the potential to be a top-six, scoring winger," Bell said prior to the diagnosis. "With some small tweaks/improvements to his game, he could be very close to the NHL level. He's a strong top-five contender in the 2022 NHL Draft."

**STL JIRI KULICH**

**23**



The St. Louis Blues add another piece to the future of their forward group with the selection of Jiri Kulich, a versatile forward whose trajectory is trending up after a standout performance at the Under-18s. Kulich is a very versatile and well-rounded forward, able to play both sides of the puck efficiently while also having the ability to play both center and wing. He is effective on both special team units but excels particularly as a power play threat, owning a very good shot including a powerful one-timer on his off-wing. Kulich earned a full-time spot in the Czech pro league this past year and led all U20 skaters in scoring with nine goals and 14 points in 49 games before exploding at the Under-18s with nine goals and 11 points in just six games played, earning him tournament MVP honors while captaining Czechia. "Kulich is a skilled, speedy two-way forward who can play both as center and as a winger as well," Simurka said. "He is a fast skater both with and without puck, especially in straight lines when he can beat opponents in races regularly. Kulich often collects the puck in the neutral zone, takes the puck to the offensive zone, beats defenders with his speed but then shoots from perimeter."

**MIN LIAN BICHSEL**

**24**



The Wild also add a top prospect to their defensive core with the selection of Lian Bichsel, a Swiss two-way defenseman who was able to play his way into consistent ice time at the SHL level this year. Bichsel is a very mature defenseman who checks a lot of boxes in terms of projectability, as he owns a pro-ready frame at 6-foot-5 and 225 pounds, moves well for a player his size, and plays a reliable, physical brand of hockey in his own zone. Bichsel started the year with Leksands J20 squad, tallying seven points in 11 games before earning his full-time spot with the SHL club, where he put up three points in 29 games throughout the SHL season. He also played a major role for Switzerland in international competition this year, appearing at both the World Junior Championships as well as the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he captained Switzerland's U18 team. "Bichsel is a physical, two-way defender that plays above his age," Bell said. "His strength might be his biggest asset, already holding off men in the SHL and making it seem effortless. He definitely makes his presence felt every time he hits the ice with hits or getting involved in board battles. He keeps his head on a swivel, scanning the ice regularly and always checking his shoulder before turning up the ice."

## TOR GLEB TRIKOZOV

25



The Toronto Maple Leafs grab more forward reinforcements with the selection of Gleb Trikozov, a skilled and versatile Russian forward who is among the youngest top prospects available in this year's draft. Trikozov is a dual-threat forward who is able to be effective as both a scorer and a playmaker, due in large part to his ability to use his skill to prolong offensive zone possession and allow attacking lanes to open up. He displays strong playmaking vision while also owning a strong shot while shooting from the circles. After a point-per-game performance for Russia at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, Trikozov became one of the MHL's premier forwards this year, tallying 23 goals and 45 points in 35 regular season games before putting together a play-off run with 18 points (10 goals, eight assists) in 13 games. "Trikozov is one of the most dynamic offensive talents in the draft," FCHockey video scout Jake Janso said. "His combination of size, speed, and skill makes him one of the most intriguing prospects in the class. His shot is powerful and accurate, making him a constant threat to score from distance. His ability to control the pace of play has really grown this season."

## MTL ISAAC HOWARD

26



The Canadiens continue to round out the future of their forward group with Isaac Howard, another available forward from a particularly strong USNTDP crop this year. Howard is a skilled, high-motor forward who is able to create high-danger scoring opportunities due to his willingness to drive hard areas of the offensive zone and play with skill in tight areas. He's capable of beating both defenders and netminders with 1-on-1 dekes and can score with a capable wrist shot while also possessing strong playmaking vision and puck delivery skills. He was the top-scoring American on this year's National Team Development Program squad, recording 33 goals and 82 points in 60 games this year before putting together a dominant Under-18s performance for Team USA, tying for third in tournament scoring with 11 points in six games.

"Howard is a high-end offensive forward with excellent mobility and a filthy set of mitts," Richardson said. "His skating in combination with his puck skills and vision really jumped out during this game. His edges made him difficult to contain. He cut away from pressure, darted between defenders and accessed the inside of the ice."

## EDM LIAM OHGREN

29



The Edmonton Oilers add more skill and offensive punch on the wing with the selection of Liam Ohgren, another one of the draft's top goal-scoring talents. Ohgren is a highly skilled and intelligent attacker, showcasing high-end skill that he uses to beat defenders 1-on-1 to open up space for himself and lanes to the net and shows the awareness to find soft areas of ice to make himself a shooting option for his teammates. Ohgren put together a stellar season this year in Sweden's J20 circuit for Djurgardens, finishing with a league-leading 33 goals in 30 games while also tacking on 25 helpers en route to being named the league's top forward. Ohgren was also a standout for Sweden in international play, culminating in a nine-point in six games performance at the U18s while captaining the squad to a gold medal.

"Ohgren is a hard-working, smart, skilled forward with tremendous offensive instincts," FCHockey scout Wige Karle said. "His offensive game is very consistent and he has a variety of tools in his toolbox. He can pull off impressive creative dekes, he can take on multiple defenders while playing with no fear whatsoever."

## WPG NATHAN GAUCHER

30



With their second pick of the first round, the Jets add more size and strength to their organization with the selection of Nathan Gaucher, a physically mature power center with a good blend of offensive skills. Gaucher owns an imposing 6-foot-3, 207-pound frame that he uses to fight his way into high-danger areas, win puck battles, and shield pucks from checkers. He owns strong skating ability and skill for a player his size as well, able to get up and down the ice efficiently and play in tight spaces. Gaucher put together a strong campaign for the Remparts in the QMJHL this year, finishing third in team scoring with 31 goals and 57 points in 66 games.

"Gaucher is a strong power forward who displays a complete two-way game," Labrie said. "He puts his nose everywhere on the ice and he works hard every time he's on there. He skates with a lot of power and he his very hard for defenders to contain. When he chases pucks on the forecheck or when he drives the net, he comes forward with such speed and power that however stands in front of him, won't stop him to get that puck or net."

## ARI MAVERIC LAMOUREUX

27



With the second of their three first round picks this year, the Coyotes add a much-needed piece to the right side of their blue line with Maveric Lamoureux. Lamoureux is a towering defenseman who stands at just a hair under 6-foot-7 with room to fill out his frame with more muscle. He moves well for a player his size, making him incredibly rangy and imposing for opposing attackers to deal with and his size advantage makes it easy for Lamoureux to play a physical brand of hockey when defending the front of his own net. He is noted more for his defensive abilities, but he does show capable offensive tools at times as well, as he recorded four goals and 24 points in 54 games for Drummondville in the QMJHL this past season.

"Lamoureux is a nasty, tough to play against type of defenseman that plays solid defensively and can also jumps on the offense," Quebec-based FCHockey scout Zacharie Labrie said. Considering his imposing 6-foot-7 frame, his skating is pretty surprising. Lamoureux makes his presence known by pushing around opponents or by being nasty in the corner or in front of the net. No one has a fun time battling the puck with him."

## BUF NOAH OSTLUND

28



With their final pick of the first round, the Sabres add Noah Ostlund to a growing group of young, talented forwards. Ostlund is a highly skilled and creative playmaking center, capable of flashing high-end, dynamic skill to beat opposing defenders and open up lanes to the net. He is an agile skater who's capable of attacking on the rush and owns excellent playmaking vision, able to find teammates with ease with good looks in the offensive zone and crisp tape-to-tape passes. Ostlund leaned into his role with Djurgardens J20 squad this past season, tallying 33 assists and 42 points in 32 regular season games before putting together a strong U18 World Junior Championship for Sweden where he had ten points in six games en route to a gold medal.

"Ostlund has the hockey sense and the playmaking abilities that many just dream about," Haak said. "He reads the game at a very high level and seems to put himself in the right spots all the time both with and without the puck. He has a high intensity on the ice and moves the puck fast. When Ostlund gets the puck, he never seems to get stressed even though he gets forechecked a lot."

## TBL OWEN BECK

31



Fresh off their third consecutive trip to the Stanley Cup Final, the Tampa Bay Lightning look to replenish their forward depth with the selection of speedy two-way forward Owen Beck. Beck is a highly-intelligent forward who sees the ice incredibly well on both sides of the puck. He's well positioned in his own zone, able to assist defensemen in coverage and help generate turnovers while also displaying strong playmaking vision with the puck on his stick in the offensive zone, leaving plenty of optimism that he can carve out a top-nine role at the NHL level. Beck solidified himself as Mississauga's second line center throughout the year and finished third in team scoring with 21 goals and 51 points in 68 games.

"Beck is a skilled two-way center who has great positional awareness and an ability to make an impact every shift," FCHockey scout Mat Sheridan said. "His on-ice awareness and confidence with the puck stand out when he is on the ice. He has great vision in the offensive zone and showed an ability to make passes through traffic to find teammates in high danger areas."

## ARI JIMMY SNUGGERUD

32



With the final pick of the first round and their third of day one, the Coyotes round out their first round class with American forward Jimmy Snuggerud. Snuggerud is an excellent complementary player who settled in nicely this year alongside Cooley on the U.S. National Team, showcasing his high-end offensive intelligence and flashes of skill to make an impact on the scoresheet throughout the year. He owns dual-threat ability with underrated playmaking vision and a very strong shot and is able to read and react to play well to find himself in the middle of scoring opportunities. Snuggerud was above a point-per-game both for the NTDP this year as well as the USA U18 team, totaling 24 goals and 63 points in 59 games during league play this year.

"Snuggerud is a skilled winger with a wicked shot and some solid playmaking ability to go with it," said Larson. "While he's got numerous traits that make him a good player, I think the one that defines him the most is his shot. His shot is hard, accurate, and comes with a quick release as well. He really doesn't need a lot of time and space to get the puck on net."





**FC HOCKEY**