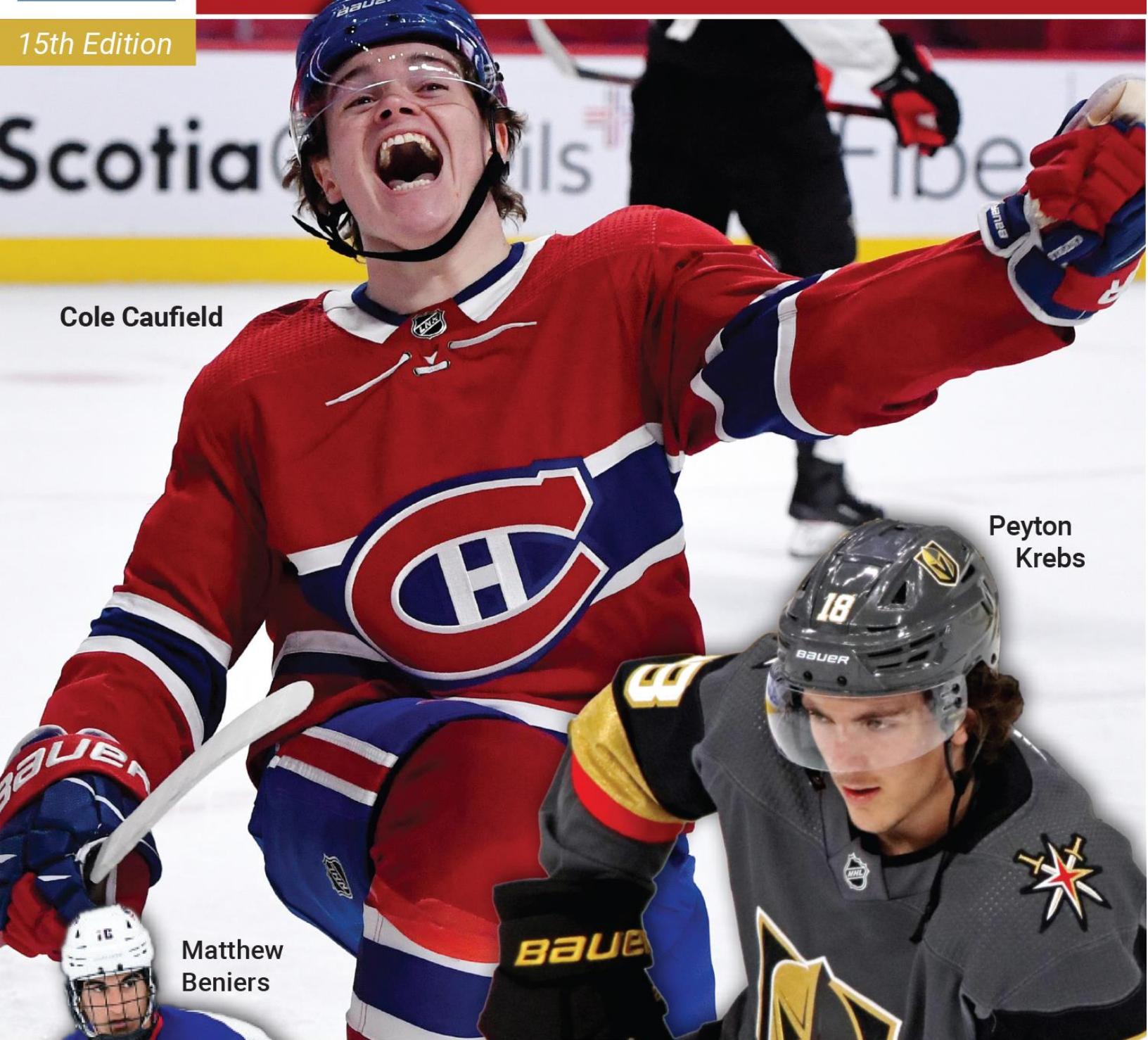


DobberHockey's 2021

FANTASY PROSPECTS REPORT

15th Edition



Cole Caufield



Peyton
Krebs



Matthew
Beniers

BONUS
2021 NHL
Draft Section



Dobber's 2021 Fantasy Prospects Report

Home of the Top Fantasy Hockey Player Rankings

A year ago, the world was being impacted by a pandemic. Hockey, and by extension fantasy hockey, was no different. Seasons were messed up, drafts were messed up, timelines were screwy and a great many fantasy owners just threw their hands up and decided to take a leave of absence from the game. But many owners stuck around. They plowed through. Much like the NHL did when team after team had to go into quarantine and reschedule their games.

But we got through it. And although timelines are still a little messed up this year, there is at least some semblance of order. The NHL Draft is late, but only by about four weeks. Free agency opens late, but again only by three weeks. The 2021-22 regular season begins late, but by just one week. We're back on track! That semblance of normalcy in our hockey pools has returned. Drafts are being planned. And the Fantasy Prospects Report? Well, that never left! If you took last year off, I want you to admit something. You missed it. While everyone else was muddling through the twists and turns of a pandemic-weird season, you looked on with a twinge of jealousy and regretted not going ahead with it. Admit it!

For the 15th time, my team and I are releasing our scouting reports on all drafted players with some fantasy value. Some will help out right away. Others may take five or six years. Still others may not pan out at all. But we'll present to you our odds of that player making an impact and our best guess as to when. This is no easy task. After all, the AHL played just half a season, the WHL not even that and the OHL not at all! But with this group of DobberProspects scouts eagerly gobbling up whatever footage was out there, we still have enough to form a reasonable basis for our evaluations.

We finally seem to be making the slow return to normalcy. The real world, the hockey world and the fantasy hockey world are getting back on track. An 82-game schedule returns, and all the minor leagues and junior circuits are back with full slates. No more making assessments based on partial seasons and minimal data! Here's to our precious, precious past time never getting interrupted like that again *raises glass*.

Now go kick ass at your summer draft!

- **Dobber:** @DobberHockey / @DobberProspects

Profiles added in future updates, after the initial July 10 release:

Pyotr Kochetkov, CAR

Ryan O'Rourke, MIN

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DobberHockey's 2021 Fantasy Hockey Prospects Report

Published and distributed on July 10, 2021

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Top 50 Skaters: Prospects 2021

Here is our 16th annual list of the Top 50 players that our experts would select, in order, for their keeper leagues. Because of the expanded roster of writer/scouts contributing, we rolled up the lists into: 1) Dobber's list; 2) Staff consensus; 3) Tony Ferrari's (Managing Editor of DobberProspects.com) list.

Different from the online Fantasy Hockey Prospect Rankings, this list excludes **all** prospects that have played even **one single regular season NHL game**. Top players that will be drafted in 2020 are included, as well. One more difference: **defensemen** were **weighted** such that for them a goal is worth two points and an assist counts for one (forwards are one each). With that in mind, Dobber and Ferrari pit their lists against a consensus from a panel of DobberProspects.com writers consisting of: Duggan, Ferrari, Hall, Main, Ewasiuk, Hall, Olafson, Mongillo, Kalakeche, Soboleski, Quinn. We took into consideration how close a prospect is, how certain they are of reaching their potential, as well as their offensive upside.

Note: Players that have played even one or two regular season NHL games, such as Connor McMichael, Cam York and Arthur Kaliyev are **ineligible** for this list. However, playing a playoff game does **not** render a player ineligible.

Dobber			Consensus			Ferrari		
1	Marco Rossi	MIN	1	Lucas Raymond	DET	1	Marco Rossi	MIN
2	Cole Perfetti	WPG	2	Marco Rossi	MIN	2	Lucas Raymond	DET
3	Philip Tomasino	NSH	3	Cole Perfetti	WPG	3	Cole Perfetti	WPG
4	Nils Lundkvist	NYR	4	Alexander Holtz	NJD	4	Alexander Holtz	NJD
5	Moritz Seider	DET	5	Anton Lundell	FLA	5	William Eklund	'21
6	Lucas Raymond	DET	6	Philip Tomasino	NSH	6	Anton Lundell	FLA
7	Anton Lundell	FLA	7	Matthew Boldy	MIN	7	Philip Tomasino	NSH
8	Matthew Boldy	MIN	8	William Eklund	'21	8	Seth Jarvis	CAR
9	Seth Jarvis	CAR	9	Seth Jarvis	CAR	9	Matthew Boldy	MIN
10	Thomas Harley	DAL	10	Moritz Seider	DET	10	Alex Turcotte	LAK
11	Alexander Holtz	NJD	11	Alex Turcotte	LAK	11	Nils Lundkvist	NYR
12	William Eklund	'21	12	Nils Lundkvist	NYR	12	Mavrik Bourque	DAL
13	Jakob Pelletier	CGY	13	Vasili Podkolzin	VAN	13	Matthew Beniers	'21
14	Jonatan Berggren	DET	14	Matthew Beniers	'21	14	Dylan Guenther	'21
15	Connor Zary	CGY	15	Dylan Guenther	'21	15	Rodion Amirov	TOR
16	Scott Perunovich	STL	16	Mavrik Bourque	DAL	16	Fabian Lysell	'21
17	Lukas Reichel	CHI	17	Rodion Amirov	TOR	17	Moritz Seider	DET
18	Vasili Podkolzin	VAN	18	Owen Power	'21	18	Kent Johnson	'21
19	Owen Power	'21	19	Samuel Poulin	PIT	19	Luke Hughes	'21
20	Dylan Holloway	EDM	20	Kent Johnson	'21	20	Brandt Clarke	'21
21	Alex Turcotte	LAK	21	Jakob Pelletier	CGY	21	Dylan Holloway	EDM
22	Samuel Poulin	PIT	22	Luke Hughes	'21	22	Jakob Pelletier	CGY
23	Luke Hughes	'21	23	Dylan Holloway	EDM	23	Samuel Poulin	PIT
24	Mavrik Bourque	DAL	24	Dawson Mercer	NJD	24	Vasili Podkolzin	VAN
25	Fabian Lysell	'21	25	Lukas Reichel	CHI	25	Dawson Mercer	NJD

Dobber			Consensus			Ferrari		
26	Jack Dugan	VGK	26	Scott Perunovich	STL	26	Lukas Reichel	CHI
27	Riley Damiani	DAL	27	Fabian Lysell	'21	27	Scott Perunovich	STL
28	Ryan Merkley	SJS	28	Brandt Clarke	'21	28	Connor Zary	CGY
29	Jonathan Dahlen	SJS	29	Jack Quinn	BUF	29	Owen Power	'21
30	Kaiden Guhle	MON	30	Connor Zary	CGY	30	Adam Beckman	MIN
31	Adam Beckman	MIN	31	Jonatan Berggren	DET	31	Jonatan Berggren	DET
32	Brendan Brisson	VGK	32	Hendrix Lapierre	WAS	32	Noel Gunler	CAR
33	Thomas Bordeleau	SJS	33	Thomas Harley	DAL	33	Mason McTavish	'21
34	Robin Salo	NYI	34	Thomas Bordeleau	SJS	34	Thomas Harley	DAL
35	Hendrix Lapierre	WAS	35	Noel Gunler	CAR	35	Hendrix Lapierre	WAS
36	Vladimir Tkachyov	LAK	36	Brendan Brisson	VGK	36	Thomas Bordeleau	SJS
37	Jamieson Rees	CAR	37	Mason McTavish	'21	37	Brendan Brisson	VGK
38	Yegor Chinakhov	CBJ	38	Yegor Chinakhov	CBJ	38	Jack Quinn	BUF
39	Alex Beauchage	COL	39	Adam Beckman	MIN	39	Jacob Perreault	ANA
40	Bode Wilde	NYI	40	Simon Edvinsson	'21	40	Chaz Lucius	'21
41	Dylan Guenther	'21	41	Chaz Lucius	'21	41	Simon Edvinsson	'21
42	Alexander Alexeyev	WAS	42	John-Jason Peterka	BUF	42	John-Jason Peterka	BUF
43	Alex Khovanov	MIN	43	Jacob Perreault	ANA	43	Tristen Robins	SJS
44	Lukas Elvenes	VGK	44	Riley Damiani	DAL	44	Aatu Raty	'21
45	Rodion Amirov	TOR	45	Dominik Bokk	CAR	45	Jean-Luc Foudy	COL
46	Ryan Suzuki	CAR	46	Ryan Merkley	SJS	46	Kirill Marchenko	CBJ
47	John-Jason Peterka	BUF	47	Kirill Marchenko	CBJ	47	Ryan Merkley	SJS
48	Kirill Marchenko	CBJ	48	Jack Dugan	VGK	48	Cole Sillinger	'21
49	Lukas Cormier	VGK	49	Cole Sillinger	'21	49	Jake Sanderson	OTT
50	Matthew Beniers	'21	50	Jake Sanderson	OTT	50	Tyler Madden	LAK

Tomorrow's Stars... today

DobberProspects.com




Top 50 Skaters: Consensus Breakdown

One hundred and twenty-seven players were on one Top 50 list or another. See below for where the participating writers/scouts had each player ranked.

Prospect		Dobber	Duggan	Ewasiuk	Ferrari	Hall	Kalakeche	Mongillo	Olafsson	Quinn	Soboleski
L. Raymond	DET	6	5	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	3
Marco Rossi	MIN	1	8	3	1	1	1	4	2	3	2
Cole Perfetti	WPG	2	13	5	3	7	3	5	12	10	1
A. Holtz	NJD	11	7	8	4	3	5	6	10	2	6
Anton Lundell	FLA	7	6	7	6	8	21	10	4	6	8
P. Tomasino	NSH	3	24	11	7	6	7	14	25	11	5
M. Boldy	MIN	8	51	4	9	4	6	7	15	7	7
William Eklund	'21	12	16	10	5	20	8	30	3	5	10
Seth Jarvis	CAR	9	12	26	8	10	4	18	13	12	11
Moritz Seider	DET	5	4	2	17	30	25	3	5	34	12
Alex Turcotte	LAK	21	11	16	10	5	13	8	9	27	19
Nils Lundkvist	NYR	4	30	9	11	13	51	9	14	4	13
V. Podkolzin	VAN	18	17	37	24	9	19	2	16	14	17
M. Beniers	'21	50	3	12	13	36	28	13	11	8	4
D. Guenther	'21	41	2	13	14	26	22	17	18	51	21
M. Bourque	DAL	24	40	39	12	21	15	28	19	22	24
R. Amirov	TOR	45	21	31	15	11	27	23	24	18	32
Owen Power	'21	19	1	14	29	51	51	11	17	42	14
Samuel Poulin	PIT	22	35	23	23	16	18	21	51	21	26
Kent Johnson	'21	51	10	6	18	38	40	27	7	51	9
Jakob Pelletier	CGY	13	38	19	22	14	11	51	30	36	25
Luke Hughes	'21	23	9	21	19	46	51	26	8	31	29
D. Holloway	EDM	20	27	27	21	15	51	25	51	30	15
D. Mercer	NJD	51	29	28	25	22	23	15	31	28	51
Lukas Reichel	CHI	17	31	38	26	51	20	20	41	35	30
S. Perunovich	STL	16	43	15	27	18	51	32	28	51	31
Fabian Lysell	'21	25	51	17	16	50	51	35	6	17	51
Brandt Clarke	'21	51	18	22	20	45	51	24	27	51	16
Jack Quinn	BUF	51	23	47	38	12	41	12	51	32	20
Connor Zary	CGY	15	36	32	28	24	51	46	50	20	28
J. Berggren	DET	14	51	30	31	39	51	51	21	29	18
H. Lapierre	WAS	35	34	51	35	19	9	42	51	15	51
T. Harley	DAL	10	14	51	34	51	51	51	38	24	27
T. Bordeleau	SJS	33	46	51	36	23	10	51	43	51	22
Noel Gunler	CAR	51	51	51	32	27	16	36	23	46	35
B. Brisson	VGK	32	45	36	37	28	51	51	22	38	34

<i>Prospect</i>	<i>Dobber</i>	<i>Duggan</i>	<i>Ewasiuk</i>	<i>Ferrari</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Kalakeche</i>	<i>Mongillo</i>	<i>Olafson</i>	<i>Quinn</i>	<i>Soboleski</i>	
<i>M. McTavish</i>	'21	51	42	20	33	51	51	29	39	16	50
<i>Y. Chinakhov</i>	CBJ	38	20	43	51	40	51	50	51	13	33
<i>A. Beckman</i>	MIN	31	51	42	30	43	12	51	37	49	46
<i>S. Edvinsson</i>	'21	51	15	33	41	51	51	19	32	51	51
<i>Chaz Lucius</i>	'21	51	28	18	40	35	51	37	34	51	51
<i>J-J Peterka</i>	BUF	47	33	44	42	51	51	22	51	23	47
<i>J. Perreault</i>	ANA	51	51	51	39	17	51	31	51	26	51
<i>Riley Damiani</i>	DAL	27	32	41	51	51	51	51	51	25	44
<i>Dominik Bokk</i>	CAR	51	51	51	51	51	51	16	26	33	48
<i>Ryan Merkley</i>	SJS	28	48	51	47	25	51	51	51	43	37
<i>K. Marchenko</i>	CBJ	48	51	51	46	42	33	51	51	9	51
<i>Jack Dugan</i>	VGK	26	26	51	51	48	51	51	29	51	51
<i>Cole Sillinger</i>	'21	51	25	25	48	49	51	51	48	39	51
<i>J. Sanderson</i>	OTT	51	19	51	49	31	51	34	51	51	51
<i>A. Khovanov</i>	MIN	43	51	51	51	29	51	51	51	19	49
<i>Ryan Suzuki</i>	CAR	46	41	51	51	51	26	33	51	51	51
<i>Tyler Madden</i>	LAK	51	51	51	50	32	51	51	20	51	51
<i>J. Neighbours</i>	STL	51	47	51	51	51	38	51	51	51	23
<i>Tristen Robins</i>	SJS	51	51	51	43	51	17	51	51	51	51
<i>Alex Beaucage</i>	COL	39	51	51	51	51	34	51	51	51	41
<i>Tyson Foerster</i>	PHI	51	51	49	51	37	51	39	46	45	51
<i>D. Gushchin</i>	SJS	51	51	50	51	51	14	51	51	51	51
<i>V. Tkachyov</i>	LAK	36	51	40	51	51	51	51	51	40	51
<i>F. Svechkov</i>	'21	51	44	24	51	51	51	51	49	51	51
<i>Khusnutdinov</i>	MIN	51	51	51	51	51	24	51	44	51	51
<i>Bobby Brink</i>	PHI	51	51	48	51	51	51	51	36	51	36
<i>J. Dahlen</i>	SJS	29	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	41	51
<i>Kaiden Guhle</i>	MON	30	51	51	51	51	51	41	51	51	51
<i>Akil Thomas</i>	LAK	51	51	51	51	34	37	51	51	51	51
<i>B. Schneider</i>	NYR	51	22	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>N. Abruzzese</i>	TOR	51	51	51	51	51	31	51	42	51	51
<i>J-L Foudy</i>	COL	51	51	51	45	51	32	51	51	51	51
<i>Aatu Raty</i>	'21	51	51	34	44	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>O. Olausson</i>	'21	51	51	29	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>K. Simontaival</i>	LAK	51	51	51	51	51	29	51	51	51	51
<i>Jamieson Rees</i>	CAR	37	51	51	51	44	51	51	51	51	51
<i>A. Pashin</i>	CAR	51	51	51	51	51	30	51	51	51	51
<i>Philip Broberg</i>	EDM	51	37	51	51	47	51	49	51	51	51
<i>Lukas Cormier</i>	VGK	49	39	51	51	51	51	45	51	51	51
<i>S. Fagemo</i>	LAK	51	51	51	51	33	51	51	51	51	51

<i>Prospect</i>	<i>Dobber</i>	<i>Duggan</i>	<i>Ewasiuk</i>	<i>Ferrari</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Kalakeche</i>	<i>Mongillo</i>	<i>Olafson</i>	<i>Quinn</i>	<i>Soboleski</i>
<i>S. Robertsson</i>	'21	51	51	51	51	51	51	33	51	51
<i>Robin Salo</i>	NYI	34	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Helge Grans</i>	LAK	51	51	51	51	51	38	47	51	51
<i>M. Coronato</i>	'21	51	51	35	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Scott Morrow</i>	'21	51	51	51	51	51	51	35	51	51
<i>Stranges</i>	DAL	51	51	51	51	35	51	51	51	51
<i>Jack Drury</i>	CAR	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	37	51
<i>Ridly Greig</i>	OTT	51	51	51	51	36	51	51	51	53
<i>Raphael Lavoie</i>	EDM	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	38
<i>Yegor Sokolov</i>	OTT	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	39
<i>Zion Nybeck</i>	CAR	51	51	51	51	39	51	51	51	51
<i>Bode Wilde</i>	NYI	40	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Xavier Bourgault</i>	'21	51	51	51	51	51	51	40	51	51
<i>Cole Sillinger</i>	'21	51	51	51	51	51	40	51	51	51
<i>Sean Durzi</i>	LAK	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	40
<i>Brayden Tracey</i>	ANA	51	51	51	51	41	51	51	51	51
<i>A. Alexeyev</i>	WAS	42	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Z. Bolduc</i>	'21	51	51	51	51	51	48	45	51	51
<i>M. Abramov</i>	TOR	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	42
<i>Boris Katchouk</i>	TBL	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	43
<i>Roni Hirvonen</i>	TOR	51	51	51	51	51	43	51	51	51
<i>Lukas Elvenes</i>	VKG	44	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Egor Afanasyev</i>	NSH	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	44	51
<i>Lassi Thomson</i>	OTT	51	51	51	51	51	44	51	51	51
<i>B-O Groulx</i>	ANA	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	45
<i>N. Chibrikov</i>	'21	51	51	45	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Sasha Pastujov</i>	'21	51	51	46	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>G. Hofmann</i>	CBJ	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	47	51
<i>Carson Lambos</i>	'21	51	51	51	51	51	47	51	51	51
<i>P. Dorofeyev</i>	VKG	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	48	51
<i>Justin Barron</i>	COL	51	49	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Jeremie Poirier</i>	CGY	51	50	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Bobby Nardella</i>	WAS	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	50	51
<i>Otto Somppi</i>	TBL	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Taylor Raddysh</i>	TBL	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Garrett Pilon</i>	WAS	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>T. Fix-Wolansky</i>	CBJ	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Antoine Morand</i>	TBL	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Lauri Pajuniemi</i>	NYR	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Ivan Morozov</i>	VKG	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51

<i>Prospect</i>		<i>Dobber</i>	<i>Duggan</i>	<i>Ewasiuk</i>	<i>Ferrari</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Kalakeche</i>	<i>Monajlo</i>	<i>Olafson</i>	<i>Quinn</i>	<i>Sobolecki</i>
<i>Nikita Alexandrov</i>	STL	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Valtteri Puustinen</i>	PIT	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>Thomas Novak</i>	NSH	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<i>M. E. Pettersen</i>	CGY	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51

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Top 25 Goalies: Prospects 2021

Criteria: Goaltender cannot have played more than five NHL regular season games. Here are the 25 goaltender prospects (five regular season games or fewer) to own in a keeper league, based on a combination of upside, wait-time and certainty. Dobber focuses more on opportunity and internal politics, whereas Ferrari tends to put more emphasis on overall talent level.

Dobber			Ferrari		
1	Spencer Knight	FLA	1	Spencer Knight	FLA
2	Yaroslav Askarov	NSH	2	Jesper Wallstedt	'21
3	Daniil Tarasov	CBJ	3	Yaroslav Askarov	NSH
4	Lukas Dostal	ANA	4	Lukas Dostal	ANA
5	Jesper Wallstedt	'21	5	Justus Annunen	COL
6	Ivan Prosvetov	ARI	6	Daniil Tarasov	CBJ
7	Justus Annunen	COL	7	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	BUF
8	Mads Sogaard	OTT	8	Dustin Wolf	CGY
9	Michael DiPietro	VAN	9	Pyotr Kochetkov	CAR
10	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	BUF	10	Michael DiPietro	VAN
11	Adam Werner	COL	11	Ivan Fedotov	PHI
12	Joel Hofer	STL	12	Joel Hofer	STL
13	Pyotr Kochetkov	CAR	13	Hugo Alnefelt	TBL
14	Ivan Fedotov	PHI	14	Adam Werner	COL
15	Keith Petruzzelli	DET	15	Sebastian Cossa	'21
16	Hugo Alnefelt	TBL	16	Drew Commesso	CHI
17	Alexei Melnichuk	SJS	17	Jack Lafontaine	CAR
18	Dustin Wolf	CGY	18	Ilya Konovalov	EDM
19	Jack Lafontaine	CAR	19	Ivan Prosvetov	ARI
20	Ilya Konovalov	EDM	20	Veini Vehvilainen	TOR
21	Drew Commesso	CHI	21	Alexei Melnichuk	SJS
22	Sebastian Cossa	'21	22	Devon Levi	FLA
23	Stuart Skinner	EDM	23	Mads Sogaard	OTT
24	Connor Ingram	NSH	24	Connor Ingram	NSH
25	Logan Thompson	VGK	25	Keith Petruzzelli	DET

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Always Updated

The Fantasy Prospects Report gets updated until just before the NHL Draft, with reader-voted added profiles and the Mock Draft. There is also a small update after the NHL Draft where we indicate in the draftee profiles section which team selected that player and when he was drafted.

But the updates don't actually end there. Each player in this document is hyperlinked to his profile on DobberProspects.com.

That profile page is where our staff of over 30 writers and editors is updating constantly. Illustrated on the left is the top half of such a player page. Let's take a look:

The screenshot shows a player profile for Caufield, a winger for the Montreal Canadiens. The top section displays the team, a photo of the player, and the source (HockeyProspect.com). The right side is a table of attributes. Below that is a 'Fantasy Summary' section with a brief description. At the bottom is an 'Observations' section with a note to click to expand.

Attributes	
Fantasy Upside	9.0
NHL Certainty	9.9
Country	USA
Position	RW
Roster Type	System
Shoot/Glove	Right
Date of Birth	January 2, 2001
Height	5'7"
Weight	163 lbs
Drafted	2019 Round 1; Overall: 15

Fantasy Summary
Undersized winger that oozes high-end potential. A devastating finisher who can beat you in any number of ways. Lacks true speed.

Observations
▼ Click to Expand
May 2021 – Caufield won the Hobey Baker award as the top player in NCAA men's hockey. He spent the season dominating the NCAA with 30 goals in 31 games, as well as leading the league in point with 52. He started his professional career in the AHL with Laval where he put up three goals and four points in the two games he played before getting called up in the NHL. Caufield played in the Canadiens' last two games of the season scoring four goals which

Fantasy Summary – This is where we summarize the player in a sentence.

Attributes:

Fantasy Upside – We give an upside out of 10 for production. Clicking the little question mark will give you the legend/guidelines.

NHL Certainty – Also out of 10, gives our relative odds of that player becoming an NHL regular in some capacity.

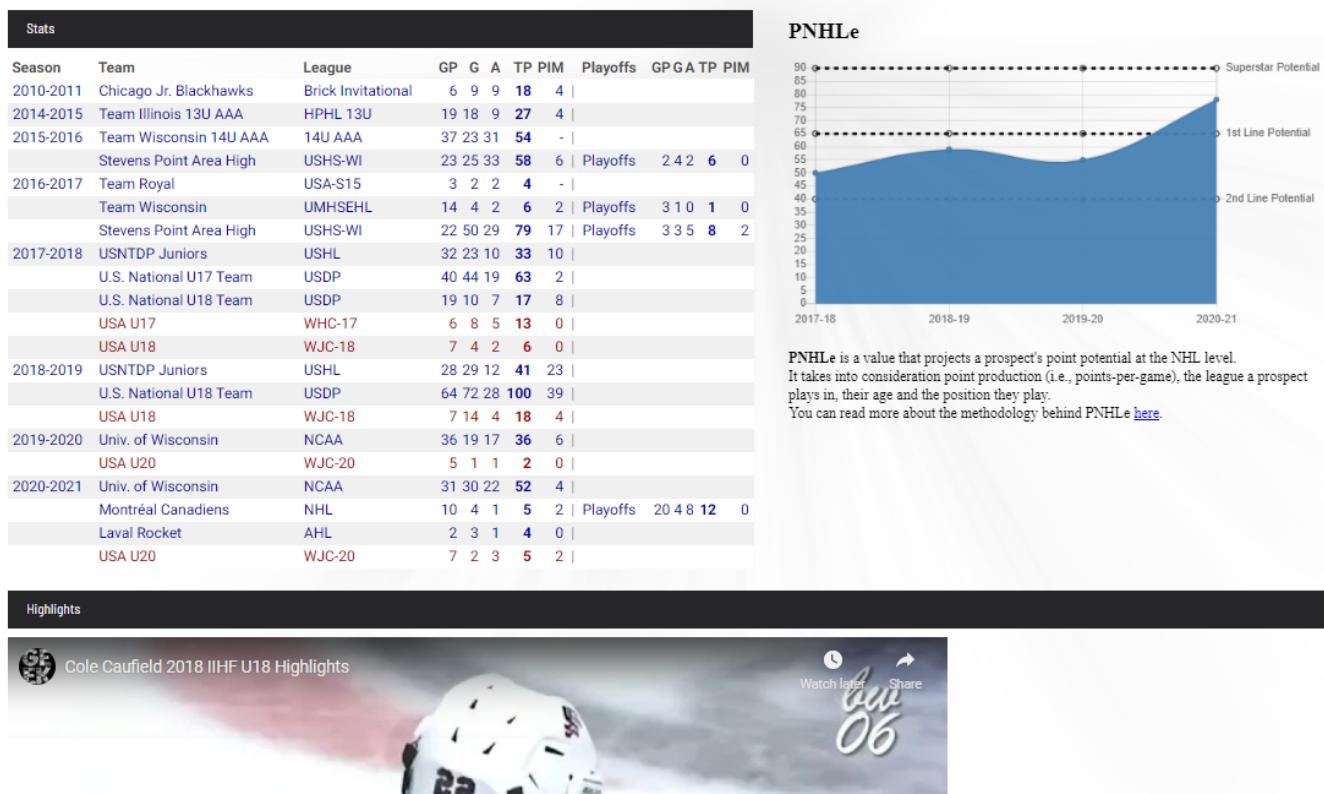
Observations – This is where we update with the latest. Clicking 'Read More' here will expand all the notes dating back to, in some cases, before he was even drafted.

Stats – These are pulled from Elite Prospects and you are given that player's up-to-date career stats.

After the stats section is the prospect's PNHL chart. This is a chart developed by our contributor Mason Black that takes the historical production of a player at that age and in that league and extrapolates it to an NHL future.

As you can see here with Montreal prospect Cole Caufield, he has near-superstar potential based on his prolific scoring rate in the NCAA.

Underneath the PNHL chart is a Highlights clip for your viewing pleasure.



So, you see, the Fantasy Prospects Report really never stops being updated.

Each year on June 1 (this year an exception, for obvious reasons), we just organize and gather everything we've learned about all the prospects on the website, tighten it up, rank them and present it to you in this document. Then we go back to updating the website

And since you are likely reviewing this on your tablet or lap top, clicking from this PDF to the website and back is easy.

About Prospects' Profiles

1. The number after each player name in the profile section is the ranking as of July 10, 2021. The number in brackets with 'LY' indicates the ranking in last year's Fantasy Prospect Report. Rankings are from Dobber's Fantasy Prospect Rankings. 'TY' is 'this year', 'NR' is not ranked, though he was/is drafted or signed (and thus was/is eligible), 'N/A' means the player was not drafted or signed last year and thus could not have been ranked.
2. Defensemen have their own chart on the Fantasy Prospects List. This is why there is a 'D' at the end of their ranking.
3. WJC is short form for World Junior Hockey Championships. USNTDP is an acronym for the United States National Team Development Program.
4. Player comparisons are for stats only (fantasy purposes). We are not implying that the player plays like the comparable. Only that his numbers could wind up being very similar.
5. 'Upside' is traditionally high with DobberHockey. An 'Upside' is essentially 'What Could Be'. It covers off ideal scenarios (coaching, chemistry with linemates, perfect development, etc.). It is a number set at a level that they will in all likelihood not surpass. If you heard 10 years ago that Brad Marchand's upside was 55 points...well, it turns out that wasn't his upside after all, since he surpassed that by miles in 2017, 2018 and 2019. An extreme example, of course. Here is a better one: Patrick Kane. In his draft year, hockey analysts conservatively stated that he could one day tally as many as 80 points. And yet he's racked up 110 before! The upside we had given Kane was 100 and even that lofty number was surpassed. But we try our best to give an educated **best-case** scenario. With 19-year-old unproven prospects, we don't have the luxury of seeing how they do over a couple of AHL seasons and a few NHL games. Our goal is to not have our upside surpassed, yet keep it as low as possible while achieving this.
6. '3YP' is a predictive stat that was introduced with the 2010-11 Midseason Fantasy Guide. It refers to 'Three-Year Probable'. It takes a snapshot of what we believe will be the three best years of this player's NHL career going forward and takes an average of those years. Unlike upside, which is rarely adjusted, the 3YP is constantly being adjusted as we see more from the player. **The 3YP does however, assume that he will make the NHL.** If a player's 3YP is 61 points, but he never makes the show, well, that's the result of unlucky breaks, or not performing when his next big opportunity called for it. In the case of a prospect, if his 3YP is a low number, then he will probably be a depth player if/when he makes the NHL.

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About DobberHockey Draft Advice

We base this advice on keeper leagues (keep everyone) with 12 to 15 teams and 25 to 35 players per team as they head into their annual re-entry draft (a draft that is anywhere from three to five rounds). Generally, teams in these leagues carry four to eight prospects. All leagues are different, but this should cover most of the keeper league scenarios as a decent guide. If your league is deeper, then you'll want to 'bump up' our suggested draft-round advice.

We tried to stick to a few different suggestions for you. They are:

1. Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Self-explanatory. Even shallow leagues will want/need these guys.

2. Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

This player should be drafted early, but don't sell your first-born son to do it. Many shallow leagues will want to consider these players too.

3. Middle-round option.

You can draft this player in a middle round and it should work out for you. He may even slip later.

4. Final-round option.

Same as above, but you could get him later. You'll either have to sit on him for a year or two, or he won't blow out the doors with his production early on.

5. Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

This option is to let you know that he could make the team this year and post 30 to 50 points over the next several years. But he either has low upside, or he won't hit any kind of decent upside for a long time.

6. Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

This prospect could potentially become an early round pick in your league next summer, so if you have the room you may want to scoop him up now and sit on him. Those in deeper leagues then described above should probably draft him.

7. Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

He's not elite enough to draft and sit on, or you'd have to sit on him for a few years. Best to wait unless your farm system is very deep. This does not mean that next year you would for sure draft him. It means wait a year and see a little bit more from him.

8. Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Far too long of a wait to consider drafting in your league.

9. Do not draft.

If you're in a deeper league, it's your call. But in the league described above, you are best not to draft these players.

Note: We comment on drafting for points-only leagues, but occasionally we'll comment on a player if he is particularly useful for Hits and PIM

Note on Expected Arrival: This is the date when he should be ready and given a chance. However, if the prospect is in another league and chooses not to come...or, he is beaten out of a roster spot and never makes the jump, then obviously his arrival date is 'never'.

Missing in Action

Every year when we put this Fantasy Prospects Report together, we leave out a few players who rank somewhat high on the list. This is mainly so that we can focus our time on lesser-known prospects.

You see, the prospects we leave out are prospects who are 'on the cusp'. We've seen them plenty of times in the NHL, but at the same time they're not quite ready to be removed from the Fantasy Prospects Ranking. Or, in a few cases, the prospect just wasn't 'must-know' enough to add them to their team section.

The missing players are listed here (by their team, with their ranking indicated) as a reference.

2	ANA	Trevor Zegras	132	TOR	Joey Anderson
5	NSH	Eeli Tolvanen	134	SJS	John Leonard
9	BUF	Dylan Cozens	135	TOR	Adam Brooks
28	NYI	Oliver Wahlstrom	136	SJS	Alexander Barabanov
31	ANA	Isac Lundstrom	137	TBL	Mitchell Stephens
40	LAK	Jaret Anderson-Dolan	138	LAK	Lias Andersson
41	NJD	Janne Kuokkanen	22D	CHI	Ian Mitchell
45	NJD	Nick Merkley	28D	TBL	Cal Foote
46	DET	Michael Rasmussen	32D	WPG	Logan Stanley
49	NJD	Jesper Boqvist	35D	VGK	Dylan Coghlan
50	CBJ	Emil Bemstrom	36D	LAK	Tobias Bjornfot
68	CAR	Morgan Geekie	51D	VAN	Olli Juolevi
70	BOS	Trent Frederic	54D	BOS	Jakub Zboril
74	ANA	Alexander Volkov	62D	FLA	Noah Juulsen
76	BUF	Tage Thompson	67D	VAN	Brogan Rafferty
78	BUF	Rasmus Asplund	69D	CBJ	Mikko Lehtonen
100	DET	Evgeny Svechnikov	70D	NSH	Alexandre Carrier
103	CBJ	Kevin Stenlund	76D	MON	Cale Fleury
125	LAK	Matt Luff			

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Anaheim DUCKS

At a Glance	Most Fantasy Upside
Top Prospect: Jamie Drysdale	Forward: Jacob Perreault
Boom/Bust potential: Bryce Kindopp	Defense: Jamie Drysdale
Long-term project: Blake McLaughlin	Goalie: Lukas Dostal
Top sniper: Jacob Perreault	Points only: Jacob Perreault
Best setup man: Jamie Drysdale	Multicategory: B-Olivier Groulx
2021 Draftee: coming soon	

by Lucas Main



Benoit-Olivier Groulx, C

(2021: 82) (2020: 91)

Groulx's first professional season was a major success for the type of player he is. The Gatineau native showed off his mature, two-way game and contributed in the offensive zone, as well. He finished with 10 goals and 29 points, to go along with a plus-14 in 42 games. If he is having an off-night offensively, he will in other ways make it that much harder on his opponents to get their game going. Tough to play against every night, leagues with peripheral categories such as Hits, BLKS, and faceoff wins will love him. The centers that the Ducks have in the pipeline are all finesse, skill type of players, so a heavy sandpaper guy like Groulx will be the perfect Robin to their Batman (Trevor Zegras).

Upside Comparable: Bo Horvat (30-40-70, 65 PIM)

3YP: (21-27-48, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Brayden Tracey, LW

(2021: 118) (2020: 77)

Being able to start his pro career a little early seems to have done wonders for Tracey. He saw the work ethic being put in by AHLers and went back to Victoria with that in mind. Going back to a raw Royals team after the WHL decided to have a season, he put in the time and effort and led the team's young players. Statistically, the organization had one of the worst years ever by a CHL team, but the Calgary native collected nine goals and 21 points in 22 games, as well as 24 penalty minutes. Consistency is still an issue, but the 20-year-old has plenty of time to develop his game, since the Ducks have a number of young wingers currently in the NHL. The Ducks could lose a winger in the Expansion Draft, which would help him climb the depth chart.

Upside Comparable: Jaden Schwartz (30-40-70, 60 PIM)

3YP: (25-32-57, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Jacob Perreault, RW (2021: 146) (2020: N/A)

Another player who started his pro career off early because of the pandemic, Perreault played in 27 games for the AHL San Diego Gulls. While he did not post the flashy stats of other rookies (three goals and 17 points in 27 games), the coaching staff in San Diego worked with him on the defensive side of the puck, as that's where he needs improvement. The Montreal native was one of the best shooters to come out of the 2020 draft class and his skating is one of his best assets. He will need to play at the OHL level this season because he is not eligible for the AHL. Regardless, this will not be a step back. It would give him time to work on both sides of the puck and see if he can develop into a top-line player or just a power-play specialist.

Upside Comparable: Jake Guentzel (40-30-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (31-25-56, 36 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Sam Colangelo, RW (2021: 271) (2020: N/A)

The former second-round selection started off his 2020-21 season by making Team USA at the World Junior Championship. Even though Colangelo only received fourth-line minutes, he scored one goal for the gold-medal-winning squad. After playing on the international stage, he went the NCAA route and played for the Northeastern Huskies. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 and injuries, the Massachusetts native only suited up for eight games and tallied three assists. Colangelo possesses a big frame that he uses to protect the puck and has top notch puck-handling skills. The Chicago Steel alum will return to school for his sophomore year and most likely continue to develop in college for another season after that.

Upside Comparable: Blake Wheeler (25-45-70, 55 PIM)

3YP: (22-31-53, 43 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Albin Sundsvik, C (2021: 277) (2020: N/A)

It was quite a surprise that the Ducks were able to nab Sundsvik in the sixth round of the 2020 entry draft. He spent the 2020-21 season in the Swedish Elite League and played for his country's team during the 2020 World Junior Championship. At the tournament, he skated in five games and recorded one goal and two assists while playing some top-line minutes. For Skellefteå, the Stockholm native suited up in 45 games (and 12 playoff contests) and registered six goals and eight assists. He has a strong work ethic and can play a mean, physical game at times, perfectly suited for a middle-six role. Anaheim has drafted and developed many Swedes over the past decade and Sundsvik aims to be part of their future NHL plans.

Upside Comparable: Gabriel Landeskog (30-35-65+, 16 PIM)

3YP: (21-23-44, 16 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Bryce Kindopp, RW (2021: 348) (2020: 312)

For an undrafted winger, Kindopp had a respectable professional rookie season. He scored 10 goals and 20 points in 39 games for the San Diego Gulls and provided strong two-way play. He earned more playing time as the season went on and the respect of his coaches for his work ethic and dedication to training. With that added time on ice, he finished with points in seven of his final eight games, tallying a total of nine points. The Alberta native will be entering the second year of his entry-level contract so he will unlikely see much time in the NHL unless he has a stellar camp, but if he keeps playing with the same pace and attitude, we could see a couple cups of coffee for the 22-year-old winger.

Upside Comparable: Reilly Smith (30-30-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (21-20-41, 34 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Jamie Drysdale, RD (2021: 1D) (2020: N/A)

The sixth-overall pick in 2020 had a solid rookie season in the pro ranks. Because of COVID-19, the OHL did not get going and that allowed Drysdale to start his pro career. He began with the San Diego Gulls in the AHL and that was a seamless transition for the Ontario native, registering nine points in his first 10 games and being named CCM/AHL Rookie of the Month for February. With injuries mounting in Anaheim, he made his NHL debut and finished with three goals and eight points in 24 outings. While he did have some hiccups in his own end, that is understandable for a teenager playing in the NHL. Especially given that he wasn't sheltered in the least, facing top lines from the other team and plenty of defensive-zone starts. With his contract started and the Ducks needing a puck-mover on the backend, all signs point to him being an NHLe in 2021-22.

Upside Comparable: Shea Theodore (18-52-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (11-38-49, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Josh Mahura, LD (2021: 23D) (2020: 28D)

In his third professional season, Mahura took the bull by the horns and flourished. He tallied six goals and 20 points in 28 games for the San Diego Gulls and played in 13 contests for the parent club, collecting one goal and three assists. The six goals in the AHL were a career high and one can tell he is getting comfortable playing against older players, having the confidence to hold onto the puck for a second longer to make that outlet pass or create an opportunity at the blue line. The Ducks were fleeced by Vegas at the last Expansion Draft, losing Shea Theodore, and Mahura could be a player Seattle's scouting staff has on their radar. Wherever he lands, he has proven he deserves a shot on the big stage.

Upside Comparable: Devon Toews (12-48-60, 42 PIM)

3YP: (9-31-40, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Axel Andersson, RD

(2021: 46D) (2020: 58D)

Andersson moved back to Sweden at the start of 2020-21 to keep developing, while leagues in North America closed. The Sodertalje SK defender played in 51 games and scored 11 points before crossing the Atlantic yet again to play for the San Diego Gulls of the AHL, where he suited up for 17 games, tallying two goals and five points. Offense isn't the main dish he will bring to the table; Andersson plays a shutdown type of game. Still, he does possess a great skating stride to occasionally lead the rush, as well as the ability to create offense with a crisp outlet pass. The Ducks do a great job of developing Swedish players – with the potential of losing a defender in the Expansion Draft, Andersson could see his name move up the Ducks' depth chart pretty quick.

Upside Comparable: Alex Edler (10-40-50, 50 PIM)

3YP: (6-25-31, 41 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Brendan Guhle, LD

(2021: 72D) (2020: 28D)

Guhle was surpassed in the team depth chart by a number of defensemen this past season. After acquiring Axel Andersson at the 2020 Trade Deadline, drafting Jamie Drysdale sixth overall in 2020, Guhle sustaining an MCL sprain in training camp, and the Ducks acquiring Haydn Fleury at the 2021 Deadline, a logjam has formed on the blue line in Anaheim. Guhle was able to suit up for 23 games with the San Diego Gulls and tallied two goals and 10 helpers, but it was the first time in four campaigns that the Edmonton native did not play an NHL game. He has one year left on his one-way contract, but he's cleared waivers once and with potential Band-Aid Boy status looming, may have topped out as an AHL defenseman.

Upside Comparable: Sami Vatanen (10-30-40+, 32 PIM)

3YP: (6-25-31, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Jackson LaCombe, LD

(2021: 85D) (2020: 169D)

Another Ducks prospect selected for Team USA during the latest WJC, LaCombe may not have been a big contributor to winning the gold medal, but he gained a lot of valuable experience. The Minnesota native returned to school after the international tournament and enjoyed a breakout season, where he scored four goals and 21 points in 27 games for the University of Minnesota, the most among team defensemen. His skating would be considered his best asset, as he uses his stride to compete at both ends. He can lead the rush to create opportunities or keep up with opposing forwards. The Golden Gopher will return to school for his junior year and focus on gaining weight and becoming stronger with and without the puck.

Upside Comparable: Aaron Ekblad (10-45-55, 40 PIM)

3YP: (8-32-40, 38 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star. Draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Henry Thrun, LD (2021: 142D) (2020: 149D)

Because of COVID-19, Harvard University put their season on hold. As a result, Thrun moved over to the Dubuque Fighting Saints of the USHL where he amassed eight goals and 22 points in 24 games. The Massachusetts native also competed for Team USA at the World Junior Championship, where he was one of the team's top shutdown defenders. With a number of able puck-movers already on the team, the coaching staff wanted him to fill the role of leader in his own end and he played it to a tee. Thrun has the ability to move the puck up ice with patience and poise, while also being able to blast a shot through traffic. He will return to school this fall, but has the possibility of signing out of school at the end of the year.

Upside Comparable: Jeff Petry (15-40-55, 40 PIM)

3YP: (9-29-38, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Ian Moore, RD (2021: 241D) (2020: N/A)

After spending the abbreviated 2020-21 campaign with the Chicago Steel, Moore is going to the NCAA in 2021, where he has committed to Harvard. He enjoyed a successful first season out of high school, scoring 10 goals and adding 14 assists in 45 games. He has a knack for getting the puck through at the point, is adept at walking the line and keeps the play alive in the offensive zone. When on the other side of the puck, his high IQ helps him read the play, as he uses his long reach to break up offensive forays. Moore will use the short college schedule to focus on gaining weight and fill out his frame, since he still gets knocked off the puck too often.

Upside Comparable: Nate Schmidt (15-30-45, 30 PIM)

3YP: (8-23-31, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Lukas Dostal, G

Dostal began his professional AHL career with the San Diego Gulls shortly after North America re-opened following the global pandemic. He started 2020-21 with Ilves, the team he won Goaltender of the Year honors with, and continued his dominance with a 10-1 record and a sparkling 1.64 goals-against average and 0.941 save percentage. With nothing else to prove, he crossed the Atlantic and finished the season with a respectable 15-9 record, 2.87 GAA, and 0.916%. Incumbent John Gibson has six years left on his contract, but the pipeline is pretty thin after him. Dostal should see a full-time workload for the Gulls this season and could enjoy a couple of spot NHL starts due to Gibson's inability to stay healthy for a whole year. Look for the 21-year-old to possibly be the Ducks' backup by 2022.

Upside Comparable: Star NHL Starter

3YP: 35-20-6, 2.34, 0.932

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Olle Eriksson Ek, G

In his second season in North America, Eriksson Ek saw some backup action in the AHL, as NHL teams had to carry three goalies. He played in 15 games with a 3.14 GAA and a 0.901 save percentage. Top prospect Lukas Dostal has already hopped over him on the depth chart, as he saw rubber in 24 contests, but goalies take a lot longer to develop – so, if Eriksson Ek can stick to his mechanics, he should be fine. At the age of 22, he is still adjusting to the smaller North American ice. The Swedish netminder has one thing that can't be taken away from him and it's something that every goalie hopes to have and that's size (6-3). As EE gains more experience, he'll be able to use his big frame even more so to his advantage.

Upside Comparable: NHL backup

3YP: 15-14-5, 2.67, 0.912

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 50%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

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Report Range

N. MACKINNON, A. MATTHEWS, C. MCDAVID

2018-2019 Regular Season

Name	Pos	Age	Team	Category Wins	GP	G	A	PTS	SH%	PTS/G	Pace	EVG	E
NATHAN MACKINNON	C	23	COL	14	42	25	38	63	12.9	1.50	123	19	
AUSTON MATTHEWS	C	21	TOR	7	27	19	17	36	22.4	1.33	91	12	
CONNOR MCDAVID	C	21	EDM	13	39	23	38	61	17.7	1.56	127	17	

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Arizona COYOTES

At a Glance

Top prospect: Victor Soderstrom
Boom/Bust potential: V. Nussbaumer
Long-term project: Aku Raty
Top sniper: Barrett Hayton
Best setup man: Barrett Hayton

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Barrett Hayton
Defense: Victor Soderstrom
Goal: Ivan Prosvetov
Points only: Barrett Hayton
Multicategory: Jan Jenik

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Keith Duggan



Barrett Hayton, C

(2021: 12) (2020: 3)

After suiting up for 20 NHL games in 2019-20, most observers expected to see the Coyotes top prospect take the next step and a larger role last season. After a brief eight-game stint with Finland's Ilves prior to the 2020-21 NHL campaign, Hayton found himself once again a frequent healthy scratch or barely playing when back in the Arizona lineup. After two goals and three points in 14 games with the Coyotes, he was assigned to the AHL for more playing time. There, Hayton struggled offensively to the tune of six goals and 10 points in 26 games. Not terrible numbers, but more was expected from a player hailed as the organization's future No. 1 center. Fortunately, Hayton started to come alive near the end of the campaign, as his usually strong 200-foot game returned and the offense followed thanks to five points in the final six games. Hayton is still a top prospect, so don't give up on him yet, he's just going to take a little longer.

Upside Comparable: Ryan O'Reilly (30-50-80, 30 PIM)

3YP: (20-40-60, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 99%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.



Jan Jenik, W/C

(2021: 30) (2020: 41)

After practically missing the entire calendar year due to a knee injury, as well as the pandemic, it was meant to be an adjustment year for Jenik in his first pro season. After faring well in the second-tier Mestis with eight points in seven games, it took him a little while to get going in the AHL. After a hot start, five points in his first four games, Jenik went ice cold in his next 14 outings. He came alive to finish the campaign, highlighted by a recall late in the NHL season, scoring two goals in as many games for Coyotes. While the offense wasn't consistent, Jenik's gritty play was. He hit anything that moved, stuck up for teammates and generally got under the skin of opponents. Jenik is an intriguing package, valuable in multi-cat leagues.

Upside Comparable: Nazem Kadri (25-50-75+, 100+ PIM)

3YP: (18-33-51, 85 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Michael Bunting, LW/RW (*Unrestricted Free Agent if not signed*) (2021: 66) (2020: 271)

At 25 years old, Bunting was looking like a hockey 'tweener'. A good player in the AHL, but for a host of reasons he couldn't cut it in the NHL. Coyotes' coaching staff noticed a different Bunting last season – one that was committed to a better training regimen, a 200-foot game and avoiding bad penalties. One of the AHL's top scorers to start 2020-21, Bunting was recalled about a quarter of the way in and made a big impression, recording five points in his first four games, which included a hat trick. He remained as a member of the team's top-six and could regularly be found in front of their opponent's net, smack dab in the dirty areas. Bunting finished the season with an impressive 10 goals and 13 points in 21 games. It looks like he's in the NHL to stay now and considering the Coyotes lack of depth, should play a similar role.

Upside Comparable: Patric Hornqvist (35-30-65+, 85 PIM)

3YP: (21-15-36, 47 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Matias MacCelli, LW (2021: 141) (2020: 172)

It was another excellent campaign for MacCelli in the Liiga. He finished 21st in scoring with 15 goals and 39 points, which was also second-highest among under-21 players. This despite averaging fewer minutes per game (16:03) than most of the players ahead of him in the scoring race. MacCelli is a shifty player that can handle the puck at a high level. The skating issues and lack of pace in his game – the main reasons he fell to the fourth round during his draft year in 2019 – have vastly improved over the past two years. He's expected to play in the AHL this upcoming season, as the Coyotes have no plans to rush him. His 200-foot game still needs some work and it will be an adjustment period for him, but he's looking like a potential draft-day steal.

Upside Comparable: Clayton Keller (30-40-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-32-47, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Lane Pederson, C (2021: 144) (2020: 232)

After clearing waivers and being sent to the AHL to start 2020-21, Pederson got off to a red-hot start. He was among the circuit's the top-10 scorers during the first quarter of the season and earned a call-up to the Coyotes. He scored in his NHL debut and then played a bottom-six role the rest of the way, finishing with one goal and three points in 15 outings. Solid on faceoffs and a reliable two-way player, he's also not afraid to play a gritty game, digging pucks out of corners or going hard to the net. Heading into 2021-22, it looks as though Pederson will push for that same role, but could surprise with added responsibility, since he's shown to be a reliable AHL scorer.

Upside Comparable: Adrian Kempe (20-40-60+, 70 PIM)

3YP: Sean Kuraly (10-25-35, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 55%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).



Liam Kirk, LW/C (2021: 150) (2020: 307)

NHL prospects from England are definitely not the norm, but Kirk is looking like a potential sleeper. Since being drafted by the Coyotes, he's enjoyed two strong OHL campaigns, capped by a 21-goal, 50-point effort in 47 games during the 2019-20 COVID-shortened season. With OHL play in limbo, then cancelled due to the pandemic, Kirk found himself splitting last year between Hanhals in Sweden's third-tier league and his hometown Sheffield squad in the EIHL Elite Series. He put up good numbers in both circuits, including a sixth-place finish in the EIHL scoring race. Arizona still didn't seem to be interested in signing him to an ELC at that point, but that all changed after an awesome 2021 World Championship for Britain. There, Kirk led his team in points (nine) and finished tied for the tournament lead in goals (seven). The latter especially, an incredible feat when you are a marked man on a club with few scoring options. He needs to get stronger, but Kirk has some good offensive skill, so monitor his progress in the AHL this year.

Upside Comparable: Kailer Yamamoto (25-45-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (17-29-46, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



John Farinacci, C (2021: 153) (2020: 266)

While Farinacci didn't play a lot last year, he still made it a memorable campaign. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the Ivy league to cancel 2020-21, so instead of Harvard, Farinacci caught on with Muskegon of the USHL, where he put up eight points in seven games before joining Team USA for the 2021 WJC. Farinacci was outstanding, doing his part to help the Americans win gold, as he showed off his NHL-quality shot by collecting seven points in as many games. Moreover, his five markers were fourth-most in the tournament. Instead of returning to the USHL, Farinacci decided to train in Florida with his Crimson teammates, preparing for the upcoming Harvard season. Look for a big offensive year from Farinacci in the ECAC, he's a prospect on the rise.

Upside Comparable: Logan Couture (30-45-75, 50 PIM)

3YP: (20-33-53, 38 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Alexandr Darin, LW (2021: 325) (2020: 419)

Last year saw Darin play in three different leagues (KHL, VHL and MHL), never spending too much time in either one. Decent production in each, though. For example, he put up two goals and four points in 13 games with Lokomotiv Yaroslavl of the KHL, where he's expected to return this season. Despite limited usage, Darin showed he could impact a KHL game with his timing and skill. Speed, pace and a deceptive shot, along with underrated skills are his best attributes. Much like fellow team prospect Matias MacCelli, Darin is a fun player to watch as he works his magic in the offensive zone. Not especially big at 5-11 and 190 pounds, he's a strong skater and employs a low stride to dart through contact. Darin is an intriguing prospect. A potential middle-sixer.

Upside Comparable: Alex Galchenyuk (25-40-65+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (15-25-40, 50 PIM)

Alexandr Darin continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Valentin Nussbaumer, C/LW

(2021: 363) (2020: 504)

Looking for a potential sleeper? Nussbaumer, once considered a top prospect for the 2019 NHL Draft, might be your man. At 17, he had already debuted in Switzerland's top league and represented his country at both the U18 and U20 tournaments. A move to Shawinigan of the QMJHL in 2018-19 didn't work out, though, as Nussbaumer struggled (minus-49) and he slid down to the seventh round, where Arizona grabbed him. His fortunes changed last year, thanks to a trade to HC Davos from EHC Biel-Bienne. After just two assists in 22 games with Biel, Nussbaumer put up six goals and 18 points with his new club in the next 23 games. A supremely-skilled and smart playmaker, he's very dangerous inside the offensive zone. His skating isn't the best and his play away from the puck needs improvement, but if Nussbaumer keeps producing like he did with Davos, he'll rekindle his earlier rating as a quality prospect.

Upside Comparable: Anthony Duclair (30-40-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (20-20-40, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Aku Raty, RW

(2021: 401) (2020: 496)

The older brother of highly-regarded 2021 NHL Draft prospect, Aatu, Aku's potential NHL future looks to be that of a checking-line forward rather than a top-six winger. It's unfortunate he's been already typecast into that role because Raty has shown glimpses of being more. All in all, what you get with Raty is a hardworking, defensively-consistent winger that supports the play and wins puck battles. While his numbers with Karpat (Liiga) in 2020-21 were underwhelming (4-3-7 in 36 games), we saw a confident Raty push the offense during the 2021 WJC. He didn't rack up a ton of points (three in seven games) but was consistently around the puck, as he enjoyed a solid tournament for Finland. If Raty can play more like that, there could be more to him.

Upside Comparable: Kasperi Kapanen (25-35-60+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-15-25, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New!

Ben McCartney, LW

(2021: 456) (2020: N/A)

A seventh-rounder in 2020, McCartney is beginning to look like a quality pick for the Coyotes. There is nothing complicated about his game: He's a whistle-to-whistle pest that plays an ornery forechecking style. McCartney gets up close and personal with the opposing team's goalie, scoring nearly all his points below the goal line (assists), or in the slot. He's reliable on the power play and can finish. McCartney ended 2020-21 with 13 goals and 37 points in 24 games, which was good for second in WHL scoring. His footspeed isn't great, so if he makes to the NHL, it will likely be as a fourth-line/net-front presence.

Ben McCartney continued

Upside Comparable: Andrew Shaw (25-25-50, 100+ PIM)

3YP: (20-15-35, 80 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Victor Soderstrom, RD (2021: 6D) (2020: 11D)

It was an up-and-down campaign for Soderstrom. He was good, but not great with AIK of Swe-1 – at least compared to how Soderstrom performed in the previous SHL season. Moreover, he was solid at the 2021 WJC but it was a letdown considering Soderstrom was one of the tourney's best defensemen in 2020. In North America, he looked great for a couple of games in a Coyotes uniform before heading to the AHL for more consistent playing time. At first, he struggled before getting going and finishing strong. All in all, Soderstrom's 2020-21 concluded on a high note, as he played in Arizona's last two games and scored his first career NHL goal. His skill and hockey IQ stand out and point to future top-four defender, if not a No. 1 or 2. Even if he settles into a middle-pairing role, expect him to post positive possession numbers and more than half a point per game. The Coyotes expect him to compete for a roster spot at camp.

Upside Comparable: Oliver Ekman-Larsson (15-45-60+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (12-35-47, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple rounds.

Kyle Capobianco, LD (2021: 38D) (2020: 33D)

After starting the 2020-21 season on the Coyotes taxi squad, Capobianco was pressed into duty when injuries hit the team's blue line. However, he once again struggled in his own zone and quickly found himself out of the lineup. He cleared waivers and just like that was back in the AHL. And, as was the case in past years, Capobianco looked like a completely different player in Tucson. He performed with confidence and put up some decent numbers: 2-11-13 in 20 games. While he'll never be a Norris candidate, he can run an efficient power play and isn't bad in his own zone, either. A serious opportunity and some confidence would go a long way. On a one-way contract, with a new coaching staff and several spots potentially open, it's now or never.

Upside Comparable: Shayne Gostisbehere (10-35-45, 60 PIM)

3YP: (8-27-35, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Michael Callahan, LD (2021: 88D) (2020: 110D)

After being one of the NCAA's top-scoring defensemen in 2019-20, Callahan came back to earth last year. That's not to say there's no more hope for the future, as his three goals and 14 points output in 25 games was still pretty good. Captain of Providence College, he was once again his team's top scoring d-man. Callahan's strengths are his mobility, transitioning the puck quickly up ice, demonstrating pro-level, power-play ability with laser-beam passing, and unleashing a quality

Michael Callahan continued

shot. A decent skater with good size, he can toil the tough minutes and assume penalty-killing duties. Despite all that, play in his own end still needs some work before he can be considered a legit NHL prospect. Callahan has dark horse potential.

Upside Comparable: Keith Yandle (10-35-45+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (7-22-29, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Cam Dineen, RD

(2021: 127D) (2020: 234D)

After posting a 0.85 points-per-game average in the OHL, Dineen's pro progression hasn't developed as hoped. Coming out of his ELC, his NHL odds seem thin right now, but there is more offensive skill to his game than we've seen at this point. Since turning pro, Dineen has sacrificed offense to focus on play in his own zone. An average skater that's generously listed at 5-11, he'll need to show more in order to separate himself from other young, puck-moving defensemen in the Coyotes system. Last season's three goals and 10 points in 22 outings are his best offensive numbers in the pros thus far, but it's nothing to get excited about. There is still some upside to Dineen as a potential bottom-six blueliner that can drive possession.

Upside Comparable: Jared Spurgeon (10-35-45, 30 PIM)

3YP: (6-18-24, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 55%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Ivan Prosvetov, G

It was a tough development year for Prosvetov. As injuries hit the Coyotes crease, Prosvetov found himself in the NHL either as Adin Hill's backup or on the taxi squad. While it was good to be around the NHL, a 21/22-year-old goalie needs to get some game reps. Unfortunately, he appeared in only three contests during his time with the Yotes – two in relief, one as a starter and his numbers were not good: 4.15 goals-against average and a 0.824 save percentage. In the AHL, where he was Tucson's undisputed starter, Prosvetov fared somewhat better thanks to playing time. A big (6-5) and athletic goalie, he's technically sound, but he can get caught flailing in his net at times. Learning to hold his lines and remaining calm is something that every goalie coach will tell you comes with time and experience. Despite a tough go, he still has NHL-starter potential to him – he just needs more AHL time before he's ready.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: (31-20-5, 2.50 GAA, 0.916 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Boston BRUINS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Jack Studnicka
Boom/Bust potential: Mason Lohrei
Long-term project: Jakub Lauko
Top sniper: Jack Studnicka
Best setup man: Oskar Steen

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Jack Studnicka
Defense: Mason Lohrei
Goal: Jeremy Swayman
Points only: Jack Studnicka
Multicategory: Mason Lohrei

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Tony Ferrari

Jack Studnicka, C

(2021: 29) (2020: 31)

The promising forward was given the opportunity to play with the big club for much of 2020-21, bouncing up and down the lineup when in uniform. His first real stint in the NHL had been a bit underwhelming, as he played on all four lines at various points as either a center or wing. With little consistency regarding his position in the lineup, Studnicka was unable to really get going last year offensively, but he's in a good spot as he heads into his second season with the NHL club. With the center depth on the Bruins advancing in age, Studnicka would be the next man up and his skill set would fare better in the top six. Despite a bit of a slow season on the offensive production front and a stint in the AHL, Studnicka remains a very good prospect and he should be a target for you in any prospect draft.

Upside Comparable: Sean Couturier (30-45-75, 35 PIM)

3YP: (22-34-56, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.



Jakub Lauko, LW

(2021: 170) (2020: 188)

Splitting the season between the Czech league and the AHL due to the global pandemic, Lauko managed to put together a fairly solid campaign. With his blazing speed and mature two-way game, Lauko has been a player that can be relied upon in a number of situations and his fantasy profile looks to track the same way. With the ability to contribute in a number of categories across the board, Lauko could be one of those under-the-radar, multicategory players that helps out a bit all over. His skating should help him continue to progress as an offensive player, as Lauko more than doubled his AHL point total and may be poised to truly impact the AHL. There will be opportunities through injuries and performance issues, but is most likely a year away.

Upside Comparable: Pavel Buchnevich (30-35-65+, 35 PIM)

3YP: (18-24-42, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



John Beecher, C

(2021: 191) (2020: 151)

Some players were affected more than others by the COVID-19 pandemic and Beecher was definitely one of them: the Big-10 starting a bit late, a conference-only schedule and a shortened season. His journey to the WJC was once again halted as false positives held him out of the tournament over the holidays. Back with the Michigan Wolverines, his season ended prematurely as he needed shoulder surgery. All indications point to him being ready for next season but the physically-imposing center will be looking to erase the past season as soon as possible. His eight points in 16 total games were stagnant in terms of growth from the previous year, but the injuries, stoppages and re-starts to the season all likely played a factor. He will be looking for a big junior year and shouldn't be rushed. Could still turn into a valuable multi-cat asset.

Upside Comparable: Pierre-Luc Dubois (30-40-70, 60 PIM)

3YP: (26-28-54, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Oskar Steen, RW

(2021: 165) (2020: 196)

Steen is an undersized forward that thrives on playing with pace and using his energy to his advantage. He doesn't blow the doors off in any one area, but his shot is the strength of his offensive game. He has some untapped potential on the offensive end, and his passing game has shown more consistency of late. Without having truly dominated at any level, Steen may have to find himself a role as a feisty, bottom-six forward that can chip in here and there. The young Swede has been showing improvement in the AHL. He has upped his scoring and continues to be one of the more engaged players on the ice. Understanding how to leverage his smaller frame will be big steps to ensure that if the Bruins need a bottom-six forward, the choice becomes obvious.

Upside Comparable: TJ Oshie (25-40-65, 50 PIM)

3YP: (17-23-40, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Zach Senyshyn, RW

(2021: 282) (2020: 298)

It's put up or shut up time for Senyshyn, as the 24-year-old's status as a prospect is expiring. His play has improved over the last couple of seasons, though. Last year he nearly matched his previous AHL campaign's point total in 24 fewer games. Although a small sample size, the increased production rates are encouraging for a former first-round pick that possesses so many intriguing tools. When Senyshyn is at his best, he is able to use his speed as an effective puck-carrier and his release makes him a threat on offense. The issue thus far is that he has been wildly inconsistent. There are games, or even strings of games, where he disappears and then turns it around for another stretch. If he wants to be a top-sixer, he needs to be better nightly.

Upside Comparable: Alex Tuch (25-30-55+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (18-15-33, 14 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 55%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! Trevor Kuntar, C/LW (2021: 299) (2020: N/A)

After transferring to Boston College when Harvard and the rest of the Ivy League schools cancelled their season, Kuntar got off to a blazing-hot start. With four goals and five points through six games, it was looking like the transition to the NCAA ranks would be seamless, but his production slowed. With just four points in the remaining 17 games of his season, Kuntar did continue to flash his potential, but it was also made clear he'll need to grow into a consistent offensive role as a college player before thinking about the pro level. The sturdy pivot possesses a sweet release and should be a scoring threat at any level because of it. He has soft hands and is excellent in tight areas. He has to improve his mobility, as the need for a more diverse skill set is evident, but he has a solid base to build on. Could one day find a role on lines two to four.

Upside Comparable: Bryan Rust (25-35-60+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (20-15-35, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Curtis Hall, RW (2021: 386) (2020: 327)

An intriguing prospect to keep an eye on as he brings excellent multi-cat value as a physical player that can also find the back of the net. Hall is a few years away, so instead of drafting him now, place him on your watchlist to ensure that you keep track of his progress. Because he is so far away, we have enough time to evaluate just how much value he'll bring across in a few categories. If he can translate the shot and touch around the net that he displayed at Yale in the NCAA, Hall may very well develop into a solid middle-six scorer with size that can be a force on the power play. If you're in a deep pool, he may be worth a stash if you value the skill set.

Upside Comparable: Jordan Staal (25-30-55+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (15-15-30, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Jake Schmaltz, LW (2021: 527) (2020: NR)

A prospect that may not bring much on the offensive side of the puck, Schmaltz seemed to find a bit of a scoring touch as he put up just over a point per game in the USHL last season. That's an encouraging sign, since the high-motor winger has shown intriguing ability on the forecheck as an energy player that can create a mess below the offensive goal line. Until last season, the issue was that once he went in and worked his tail off for the puck, he would often miss out on offensive chances. While he is filling out his frame and getting stronger, he still has much to do, but he is starting to show why the Bruins gambled on him late in the 2019 Draft.

Upside Comparable: Connor Brown (20-35-55+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (13-18-31, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do no draft.

Jack Ahcan, LD (2021: 55D) (2020: 47D)

Playing across three levels, from the ECHL to the NHL, Ahcan was solid in his first professional season. In the AHL, Ahcan put up a respectable 10 points in 19 games, showing that his puck-moving ability translated from his time with St. Cloud State of the NCAA. He was unable to find the scoresheet in the NHL, but with just three games under his belt, he was primarily just testing the waters at the top level. There is a pretty good chance that Ahcan will be given an opportunity to win a job in camp, but the competition will be stiff. He isn't going to be given anything, but he has proven capable of playing a solid two-way game at every level he's been at thus far.

Upside Comparable: Nick Leddy (10-40-50+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-28-33, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2021-22.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Mason Lohrei, LD (2021: 93D) (2020: N/A)

After scoring at over a point-per-game pace in the USHL last season, the young blueliner is headed to Ohio State University. His offensive explosion wasn't exactly a surprise because he's always shown the ability to move the puck and find teammates in the offensive zone. All told, he could easily step into a decent role early on with Ohio State. A big defender, he will provide pretty good value in leagues that value Hits, BLKS and penalty minutes. Lohrei is still a few seasons away from the NHL, but the diverse skill set and steady progression are encouraging signs, as the Bruins prospect looks to prove that he wasn't a reach where he was chosen in 2020 (58th overall).

Upside Comparable: Vince Dunn (10-35-45+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (6-18-24, 45 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Urho Vaakanainen, LD (2021: 130D) (2020: 132D)

The 2017 first-round pick has been a bit of a slow burn thus far. He got another cup of coffee in the NHL this past season and looked more comfortable this time around. Playing in nine games and collecting a couple of assists, the team seemed to like what they saw, as he remained on the Bruins taxi squad at various points last season. Vaakanainen provides a steady presence on the backend. Likely to never be an offensive threat, his value comes in shot blocking, Hits and the non-offensive categories, as he provided some multi-cat value in his short time in the NHL.

Upside Comparable: Brandon Montour (5-25-30, 40 PIM)

3YP: (3-18-21, 35 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Victor Berglund, RD (2021: 152D) (2020: NR)

Berglund enjoyed a blazing-hot start to his first full SHL campaign, collecting 13 points in his first 17 games. Unfortunately, the prospect's production stalled and he finished with just 21 points in 50 games. Realistically, though, his production was somewhat of a career-outlier, since he's always been more of a defensive-leaning, two-way blueliner. There is a chance that he finds that scoring touch on a more of a consistent basis and this past year showed indications of that, but the young Swede will also be valuable when looking to add a few hits and blocks to your fantasy roster. The 2017 seventh-round pick showed to be more than capable at the SHL level, so a trip to North America and some time in Providence should be on his itinerary.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Murray (5-30-35+, 35 PIM)

3YP: (3-21-24, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Jeremy Swayman, G

With both Jaroslav Halak and Tuukka Rask out of the lineup at various points last season, Swayman stepped up and performed far better than anyone expected. Playing in 10 NHL contests, Swayman put up a gaudy 0.945 save percentage. This led to some overreaction from the Bruins fan base, though, as calls for him to immediately replace Rask as the team's starter were a bit misguided. Nonetheless, it goes to show just how well the former University of Maine netminder played during his first taste of NHL action. If he's not part of the Bruins' starting tandem this season, Swayman will most likely get the bulk of the workload at the AHL level.

Upside: Star NHL Starter

3YP: 34-20-2, 2.36 GAA, 0.918 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Daniel Vladar, G

Despite a few ups and downs at the NHL level, Vladar continued to show that he's at least ready to take that test this upcoming season. Both Tuukka Rask and Jaroslav Halak are free agents this summer and if the Bruins opt to save some cash, Vladar could be the backup in the ballcap. That would be an excellent next step for the soon-to-be 24-year-old, who put up excellent numbers in both the Czech league and AHL this past year. Vladar is no longer the clear-cut No.1 goalie prospect, however, as Jeremy Swayman has started to challenge for the title. While Vladar should get the leg up in the battle for the backup role, nothing is ever guaranteed at the NHL level.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: 27-20-5, 2.40 GAA, 0.914 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Buffalo SABRES

At a Glance

Top prospect: Jack Quinn
Boom/Bust potential: A. Ruotsalainen
Long-term project: J. Peterka
Top sniper: Jack Quinn
Best setup man: Linus Weissbach

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Jack Quinn
Defense: Ryan Johnson
Goal: Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen
Points only: J. Peterka
Multicategory: Brett Murray

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

New! Artru Ruotsalainen, C

(2021: 60) (2020: N/A)

Ruotsalainen went undrafted because – while the skill level was there – the numbers weren’t. And when you’re 5-9, you need to show more than a player that’s three inches taller with more bulk. But as with many diminutive forwards, Ruotsalainen bloomed late. The Sabres were one of several teams interested in him after he posted 42 points in 59 games in the Finnish SM-liiga. He followed that up in 2019-20 with 43 in 44 and then took things to an elite level in 2020-21: 27 points in 19 Liiga games before the AHL was allowed to begin play. Upon arriving in North America, the 23-year-old remained dominant, debuting with 13 points in 13 games and earning a call-up to the big club, where, once again, Ruotsalainen made a splash, posting five goals in his first 13 games. He’s close to being NHL-ready and it won’t be to kill penalties. Dark horse.

Upside Comparable: Tomas Tatar (25-45-70+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (18-30-48, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 75%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: A middle-round option.

New! John-Jason Peterka, C/W

(2021: 92) (2020: N/A)

The high second-round pick, 34th overall in 2020, surged onto the radar of fantasy owners when he posted 10 points in five games at the WJC for Team Germany. Peterka is a skilled complimentary winger with the speed to keep up with top-line players and the hands to get them the puck. He also boasts a good, accurate shot with a finish that should translate well to pro hockey. He worked seamlessly with Ottawa star Tim Stutzle at the WJC, which inflated his production, but that could very well happen in Buffalo with another star. He is expected to play another season in the men’s pro league (DEL) there. In 2020-21, he began the season on the fourth line for EHC Munchen, but quickly worked his way up to the third unit. He should be a top-sixer in the year ahead.

Upside Comparable: Mike Hoffman (35-40-75+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (18-24-42, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

John-Jason Peterka continued

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Jack Quinn, RW

(2021: 93) (2020: N/A)

Last summer's eighth-overall draft pick was forced to play pro hockey in Rochester due to the OHL never getting started. Quinn struggled at times against bigger, faster players and ended with a team-worst minus-14 rating in 15 games. His ice time was often limited as a result. The gifted sniper scored 52 goals in his draft year for Ottawa, but in Rochester his shot volume plummeted, partially due to the reduced TOI. Quinn's rookie-pro season ended prematurely when he underwent surgery to repair a hernia. He boasts a lethally-accurate shot and that was a key reason why he was selected so high in the Draft. He'll be ineligible for the AHL in the fall, so another season in the OHL to regain confidence in his shot will be good for him.

Upside Comparable: Brock Nelson (40-30-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (26-21-47, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Lukas Rousek, RW

(2021: 168) (2020: 375)

The Sabres signed their 2019 sixth-round pick after Rousek impressed once again in the Czech League. The skilled winger boasts good speed and has progressed quickly, padding his offensive stats from 29 to 38 points (in 49 games) for HC Sparta Prata. That was good for fourth on the team behind two former NHLers and just ahead of another in Vladimir Sobotka. Already 22, and having been drafted a year after being eligible, the wait time on him won't be as long as many late-round picks from that year. He is expected to cross the pond and play hockey for Rochester in the fall. How quickly he adapts to the North American game will determine his rate of ascension, but he's of similar age, skill set, draft position, and European scoring numbers to Victor Olofsson, who only needed one year of AHL time.

Upside Comparable: Victor Olofsson (30-35-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (14-14-28, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Matej Pekar, C

(2021: 171) (2020: 169)

After dominating the Canadian junior circuit, Pekar was forced to make his pro hockey debut in his native Czech Republic due to the pandemic delaying things in North America. Offensively, the numbers weren't there (just four points in 13 games), but he did show that he could still be his physical, agitating self against bigger and more experienced players. Later, in the AHL, he started off tentatively, as if unsure that he could get away with being the same player. Things changed in mid-April when he boldly dropped the gloves against a heavyweight. While he lost the scrap, he did hold his own and the confidence that came as a result was tangible. He posted five points in

Matej Pekar continued

his next six games after going pointless in the 17 before that. Pekar will require more bulk on his 6-1, 185-pound frame if he wants to play it scrappy, but he's clearly starting to figure it out.

Upside Comparable: Max Domi (25-45-70+, 80+ PIM)

3YP: (18-28-46, 74 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Brett Murray, LW

(2021: 196) (2020: 414)

Last year, we called Murray a 'bit of a hidden gem' because he had wasted a couple of seasons trying to navigate the NCAA eligibility rules. But his transition to the AHL as a rookie was a very promising one and his sophomore campaign even better. The big 6-5, 228-pound power forward truly figured things out at the pro level, garnering 19 points in just 23 contests to lead Rochester in scoring. The improvement in his game was very tangible. He asserted himself much better physically, made his presence felt and earned himself an end-of-season call-up to the big club. He mostly played on the third line, but did get a couple of shifts with Sam Reinhart and Victor Olofsson. The organization covets his size and if he can show that he can keep up with the scoring-line players, they would love to try him there.

Upside Comparable: Patrick Maroon (25-40-65+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (13-16-29, 58 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Linus Weissbach, LW

(2021: 198) (2020: 239)

From what we've seen so far, the 5-8 Weissbach is heavily reliant on his linemates. A solid producer as a sophomore for the Big-10's University of Wisconsin in 2018-19, Weissbach was knocked down the lineup the following year and his numbers suffered due to the arrivals of Alex Turcotte (Los Angeles) and Cole Caufield (Montreal). However, with Turcotte turning pro in 2020-21, Weissbach was back on the top line and he flourished playing alongside Caufield and Dylan Holloway (Edmonton). He posted 29 assists (and 41 points) in 31 games, many of them recorded as setups to Caufield's incredible 30 goals. Weissbach signed with the Sabres, but as a smaller player, it is very likely the 23-year-old spends two seasons in Rochester. Forming chemistry with a sniper like Jack Quinn would help secure a future as a fantasy hockey asset.

Upside Comparable: Gustav Nyquist (25-45-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (12-31-43, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Aaron Huglen, RW

(2021: 435) (2020: 409)

Huglen is a bit of a dark horse in that he was off the ice for a big chunk of two years due to back issues. A fourth-round pick in 2019 (102nd overall), Huglen has tremendous hockey sense, which

Aaron Huglen continued

can't be taught. He also has pretty good puck skills. Unfortunately, back surgery to repair a bulging disk kept him out of action for over a year and a half, so his progress has been stalled. Returning in January of this year, Huglen posted 35 points in 39 games, good for 34th in the USHL. The plan is for the 20-year-old Minnesota native to attend university there, so he is several years away. Huglen is a name to keep tucked away for now.

Upside Comparable: Josh Bailey (20-50-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (11-27-38, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Mattias Samuelsson, LD (2021: 27D) (2020: 85D)

Samuelsson made the jump to pro hockey seamlessly, having signed with the Sabres immediately after his junior year with Western Michigan. He boasts tremendous size at 6-4, 223 pounds and is a defensive stalwart, much like his father Kjell, a former NHL rearguard. Samuelsson has some untapped offensive upside and we saw a bit of that in Rochester when he posted 11 points in 19 games. As a 32nd overall draft pick in 2018, he is highly regarded throughout the organization and is being groomed for a top-four role in the future, perhaps even alongside Rasmus Dahlin. Samuelsson is a born leader, serving as team captain for his NCAA team and for Team USA at the both WJC U18 and the U20. As solid a lock for the NHL as you'll find, though his upside may depend on whom he is paired with. If it ends up being Dahlin, you'll get a good one here.

Upside Comparable: Jay Bouwmeester (5-40-45+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (3-25-28, 73 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Oskari Laaksonen, RD (2021: 68D) (2020: 153D)

A two-way defender, Laaksonen really found the offensive side of his game last season as a 21-year-old. Chosen late in the third round of the 2017 Draft (89th overall), the Sabres initially envisioned him as a No.4 or No.5 defender able to chip in on both special teams. The 6-2 Finn posted 12 points in 20 Liiga games before making a pretty big splash in the AHL as a rookie. With Rochester, he led the team in assists with 15 (in 25 games) and defensemen in points with 17. It's enough to have the organization re-evaluate where he'll fit – both of his goals and six of his assists were via the power play, as he proved to really excel as a quarterback. Another big step forward as an AHLer in the year ahead could make him a potential fantasy stud.

Upside Comparable: Nick Leddy (5-40-45+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (4-28-32, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Ryan Johnson, LD (2021: 95D) (2020: 97D)

The 31st-overall pick in 2019 has been progressing, albeit somewhat slowly. Johnson was always going to be a longer-term prospect, though, and the organization is thrilled with the strides he has taken over the past year. He is a two-way defenseman that's still gaining confidence offensively. He showed what he could do in that department at the WJC when he tallied four points in seven games for Team USA. While his role with the Big 10's University of Minnesota did grow, it will be nice to see him handle even more responsibility in 2021-22. The California native is a contentious, but responsible player and the Sabres will give him the time he needs to reach his potential as a middle-pairing guy. Bulking up his 6-0, 174-pound frame is a must, especially given the aggressive nature of his game.

Upside Comparable: Brett Pesce (5-40-45+, 50+ PIM)

3YP: (3-23-26, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, G

The 6-4 netminder from out of Finland's goaltending factory continues to be groomed as the club's 'next one'. But the results so far have been rather lukewarm. 'UPL' is still trying to adjust to the faster pro game. His first full AHL season saw numbers that were marginally better, but he was plagued by inconsistency. He followed up two great games with a seven-goal stinker and later, three good games with a pair of tough outings. In his four NHL games, the 22-year-old was pelleted with rubber, facing an average of 37 shots per game. He handled the pressure well and didn't get rattled. All the same, it looks as though Luukkonen will be a longer-term wait not unlike Jacob Markstrom's slow ascension with Florida/Vancouver. Drafted higher than most goalies (54th overall in 2017), the Sabres have a lot invested in him.

Upside: Star NHL starter

3YP: 37-18-6, 2.55 GAA, 0.919 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Erik Portillo, G

The 6-6 Swedish netminder has the size and raw skills to become a starting NHL goalie in a few years. Portillo, who was drafted rather high for a goalie at 67 in 2019, is quite agile for a man of his stature. So far, he has enjoyed success at other levels, including being named a First Team All-Star in the USHL a year ago, and posting very impressive numbers as an NCAA freshman. He was a backup behind the undrafted Strauss Mann and since the latter has now turned pro, the net will belong to Portillo. The added workload and a full non-COVID schedule will give us a better picture with regard to Portillo's projected timeline. We can also get a better feel for his potential as a starter versus being a backup. His career high for games played at any level is 27.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: 30-19-4, 2.55 GAA, 0.917 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next

Calgary FLAMES

At a Glance	Most Fantasy Upside
Top prospect: Connor Zary	Forward: Jakob Pelletier
Boom/Bust potential: Jeremie Poirier	Defense: Jeremie Poirier
Long-term project: Dmitry Zavgorodny	Goal: Dustin Wolf
Top sniper: Connor Zary	Points only: Jakob Pelletier
Best setup man: Jakob Pelletier	Multicategory: Connor Zary
2021 Draftee: coming soon	

by Dobber



Jakob Pelletier, LW

(2021: 27) (2020: 58)

Pelletier had quite the encore to what was an incredible 2019-20 season (82 points in 57 games). It started with him on a checking line for Team Canada at the WJC, where we saw him move rapidly up the depth chart to the top line, and then finishing 12th in QMJHL scoring despite playing fewer games than anyone else in the Top 22. He had seven points in seven games at the WJC, which is more impressive considering he was on the checking line during their 16-2 win over Germany. So, while his teammates padded their stats in that initial game, Pelletier recorded his numbers gradually (and consistently). The offensive upside is obvious, but what we love just as much is his character. He will take the job that's given to him and then show he can do more. He was Val-d'Or's team captain last season and Moncton's the year prior.

Upside Comparable: JT Miller (25-55-80+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (21-42-63, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

New! Connor Zary, C/LW

(2021: 38) (2020: N/A)

The scrappy Saskatoon native was Calgary's top pick last summer, going 24th overall. His feisty nature makes him a fit on any line, but his elite-level hands make him a potential top-line guy. His style of play does carry some risks in terms of injuries and he did suffer a concussion that ended his WHL season (not his fault). But by the same token, it could see him make the NHL sooner and start off in a depth role for a couple of seasons before ascending. With Team Canada at the WJC, he played more of a checking role. Later, during his brief AHL stint, the 19-year-old was arguably Stockton's top player. Currently a center, Zary may be a better fit on the wing due to his incredible shot and aggressive nature. That's the position he played in Stockton.

Upside Comparable: Brad Marchand (30-50-80, 80+ PIM)

3YP: Sam Bennett (21-33-54, 35 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect. Draft ASAP.



Matthew Phillips, RW

(2021: 120) (2020: 89)

Phillips surged onto our radar after 2017-18 when he posted 112 points in 71 WHL games. He moved up once again the following year when he successfully transitioned to the AHL and then in 2019-20, he posted nearly a point per game. Drafted late in 2016 (sixth round, 166th overall), and diminutive at 5-7, Phillips has a bit of a hill to climb. He doesn't get the opportunities that higher-round draft picks, or bigger players enjoy. That's why 2020-21 was somewhat of a disappointment. He finished tied for scoring lead in Stockton, but the team as a whole struggled and Phillips had just 21 points in 30 games (on top of being a minus-10). The Flames love his work ethic and he got into his first NHL game in the last contest of 2020-21, seeing over 14 minutes and creating more chances than his line gave up. He'll either be a second-liner or bust. The 23-year-old is no longer exempt from waivers.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Marchessault (30-45-75, 50 PIM)

3YP: (12-25-37, 35 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Glenn Gawdin, C

(2021: 147) (2020: 142)

Like Phillips, Gawdin's prospect status in fantasy hockey has made tremendous gains since joining the organization. He signed as a free agent in 2017 after the club that drafted him, St. Louis, didn't sign him. But Gawdin may have taken a small step sideways when it comes to fantasy value. Offensively, as with everyone on Stockton, his numbers (13 points in 22 games) plummeted last year, but the slip was possibly impacted by the high-ankle sprain he suffered in the fall. He played seven games with the big club, but often gave up puck possession despite heavily-sheltered minutes. Gawdin also needs to clear waivers in the fall, but because he's bigger (6-1) than Phillips (5-7) and can fit on a checking line, the Flames will probably lean more toward him. Competition in camp will be between the two of them, if the younger players such as Jakob Pelletier and Connor Zary don't leapfrog them.

Upside Comparable: Anthony Mantha (25-40-65+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (13-20-33, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Emilio Pettersen, C/LW

(2021: 149) (2020: 257)

Nicknamed 'The Norwegian Gretzky' because of his YouTube video showing off some serious skills as a 10-year-old, Pettersen is now 21 and in the pro game. Drafted late in 2018 (sixth round, 167th overall), Pettersen spent two years with the University of Denver and collected solid numbers. Foregoing his sophomore year to turn pro, his AHL rookie season was pretty good, too. He posted a point every two games on a team that struggled to score. His hockey smarts and soft hands are those of a first-line talent, while his speed is enticing, as well. Defensively, he needs work, but that will come with more time in Stockton. In 2021-22, he and fellow prospect Jakob Pelletier could do some serious damage as linemates.

Upside Comparable: Mats Zuccarello (20-45-70+, 36 PIM)

3YP: (10-26-36, 24 PIM)

Emilio Pettersen continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Adam Ruzicka, C

(2021: 169) (2020: 284)

The budding power forward had a tremendous sophomore season, one of the few players in Stockton to take a step forward. Ruzicka led the squad in scoring with 21 points in 28 games, and although he was also a team-worst minus-12, that's more a reflection of his being out on the ice during all key moments. His hard work earned him an end-of-season call-up, when he saw a couple of shifts alongside Matthew Tkachuk. At 6-4 and 203 pounds, Ruzicka has a projectable frame that NHL teams covet. He needs to better use that size to his advantage, though. He seems destined for the third line in a couple of years, but that untapped offensive potential could help him develop into a top-sixer if given the right opportunity. He is still waivers-exempt, so look for one more year of AHL time.

Upside Comparable: Anthony Mantha (25-40-65+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (15-20-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Dmitry Zavgorodny, W

(2021: 254) (2020: 211)

The 5-9 Zavgorodny's rookie-pro season was a rocky one to say the least, but that was to be expected. Smaller players entering the AHL at 20 tend to struggle early on. In fact, many end up seeing time in the ECHL. His four points in 29 games were fewer than expected and while his shot volume was very good – considering his limited ice time – the pucks weren't going in. That will come with experience and development. Before the AHL started, Zavgorodny got into six KHL games and he was more noticeable there, where the other players tend to be a little smaller. The native of Avangard Omsk (Russia) is still several years away, so we shouldn't write him off based on the disappointing production as an AHL freshman.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Marchessault (25-45-70+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (12-20-32, 25 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Emil Heineman, LW

(2021: 389) (2020: N/A)

Heineman is a two-way forward that was taken a round or two higher than expected in last year's NHL Entry Draft. The Panthers really liked his work ethic, though, and felt that it would do wonders for molding his skill set into NHL-worthy tools, so they drafted him 43rd overall. The Flames obviously agreed, as they made him a key part of the return when they traded away Sam Bennett. At the WJC, the 6-1 Swede was given a checking-line role with limited minutes. In his first full season playing against men in the SHL, Heineman held his own, posting 13 points in 43 contests for Leksands IF. He will remain in Sweden for another year before putting in his AHL

Emil Heineman continued

time. Barring a surge in offense in 2021-22, Heineman seems earmarked to be a bottom-six player at the NHL level.

Upside Comparable: Zach Hyman (20-35-55+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-18-28, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Martin Pospisil, C/LW (2021: 228) (2020: 368)

The feisty Pospisil was off to a pretty good start for Stockton before a knee-on-knee collision took him out for the season. At the time, he had 11 points and 35 PIM in just 14 contests. The knee didn't require surgery but since he was sidelined anyway, he underwent surgery for his shoulder. It was something that had been troubling him for months. The 21-year-old, who once had 253 PIM in a USHL season, also had 102 penalty minutes in Slovakia prior to the AHL starting up. At this point, it's pretty clear what kind of player we're going to get here. The only question is whether his offense will translate. Given his playing style, he could stand to bulk up his lanky 6-2, 172-pound frame.

Upside Comparable: Andrew Shaw (25-40-65, 140+ PIM)

3YP: (14-26-40, 95 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Ryan Francis, C/RW (2021: 256) (2020: N/A)

A great example of a player falling in the Draft simply due to his size. If a 5-9 player such as Francis doesn't have the talent of a first- or second-rounder, then it's pointless to rate him in the third or fourth round (because those types always slide). We had Francis 60th last year – most prognosticators had him in the Top 100 – and he wound up going 143rd. And what did Francis end up doing in 2020-21? He tore the QMJHL to shreds, finishing sixth in scoring with 50 points in 32 games. (Note: he was the second-youngest player among those top six.) In fact, the shifty forward only got better as the season went along, posting a six-point effort in mid-April and adding 10 points in six playoff outings. All that and he's still too young for the AHL this fall. It's scary to think what his numbers will look like this upcoming season in the QMJHL.

Upside Comparable: Andrew Mangiapane (30-40-70+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (18-32-50, 34 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Johannes Kinnvall, RD (2021: 60) (2020: N/A)

The undrafted rearguard tallied 11 goals and 40 points in 51 games in the SHL, garnering the attention of more than a few NHL teams. That was second among all defensemen in that league. The Flames had the inside edge, though, since he attended Calgary's development camp in 2019.

Johannes Kinnvall continued

His two-year contract was set to kick in for 2021-22, so regardless of the pandemic, he was going to remain in Sweden last season. His production tailed off a little (22 points in 32 games), but he had been off to a hot start before a late-January injury took him out of action for nearly two months. Upon returning, it took him a few games to get his timing back. Kinnvall's defensive acumen is still suspect, so he will likely need a season in the AHL first. He turns 24 in late July, so his wait time shouldn't be too long.

Upside Comparable: Alex Edler (10-35-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (9-23-32, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Jeremie Poirier, LD

(2021: 80D) (2020: N/A)

An offensive dynamo from the blue line, Poirier can run a power play with aplomb. But with the gaudy offensive numbers comes a high-risk style of play that lends itself to the occasional gaffe. And that's the primary reason Poirier slipped to the third round last summer (72nd overall). If the NHL drafted strictly on offense, Poirier would have been a first-rounder. He boasts excellent puck control, makes crisp passes and has high-end vision. He led all QMJHL defensemen in scoring with 37 points in 33 games. There is nothing left for him to prove in the Q, but he'll be back there in 2021-22 anyway because he's ineligible for the AHL. Don't be surprised if his numbers make you give a double-take. Fantasy owners should be very interested, but he has to make the NHL first and that will only happen once he shores up his defensive side of the game.

Upside Comparable: Tyson Barrie (20-45-65+, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (12-30-42, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Connor Mackey, LD

(2021: 144D) (2020: 212D)

The 24-year-old was a highly sought-after free agent coming out of college and the Flames emerged the victors, signing him to a contract in March of 2020. An aggressive puck-mover that plays with sandpaper, Mackey had a very good camp and just about made last season's opening-night roster. He ended up going to Stockton, where he led the team's defensemen in scoring with 16 points in 27 games. Moreover, he was second on the squad in penalty minutes (33), showing a glimpse of multicategory potential. There are still some holes in his game defensively, so he should be a bottom-pairing player in the fall. Whether he can move up the depth chart from there will be up to him. His appeal to the Flames lies more in his all-around play than just his offense.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Graves (10-30-40+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (7-15-22, 63 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).

New! Ilya Solovyov, LD (2021: 230D) (2020: N/A)

Solovyov slid through two drafts in part because he was buried in the Belarus development system. While that's not exactly a hotbed for hockey scouting, what little was seen of Solovyov was middling to underwhelming. However, he crossed over to North America and played in the OHL, where he posted 40 points in 53 games with Saginaw. His solid offense, along with an aggressive style of hockey, put him on the radar and the Flames nabbed him with the 205th pick overall last summer. The pandemic forced Solovyov to stay in Russia, but he actually got meaningful minutes in the KHL. For a 20-year-old, that's a feat unto itself. Signed to his entry-level deal, you won't have to worry about Solovyov staying in Russia. Expect him to play in Stockton as of this year. How well he transitions will be telling; he's one to watch.

Upside Comparable: Mackenzie Weegar (10-35-45+, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (6-16-22, 56 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Dustin Wolf, G

Wolf continues to dominate the junior ranks, leading Everett (WHL) in 2020-21 with a 18-3-0 record to go alongside his 1.80 GAA and 0.940 SV%. And we thought his 2019-20 numbers were ridiculous. He also won a WJC gold with Team USA (a shutout in his one start) and got into three AHL games. All the tools are there: agility, reflexes, instincts and cool demeanor. If he was 6-5, we would be hailing him as the next superstar prospect goalie. Unfortunately, he's 6-0 and just under 170 pounds. How well he transitions to the faster, harder game in the AHL will give us a glimpse of his NHL certainty. We'll see that in the year ahead as the 20-year-old joins Stockton. A seventh-round pick in 2019, the fourth-last pick of the entire draft, Wolf is looking like the steal of the decade early on. Just don't forget that Jacob Markstrom is signed through 2025-26.

Upside: Star NHL starter

3YP: (34-22-5, 2.45, 0.921)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Artyom Zagidulin, G

The undrafted netminder signed as a free agent with Calgary back in 2019 after earning stellar numbers in the KHL. His rookie season in the AHL was a little rocky, but he made real strides last season as a sophomore by posting a 3-3-0 record with a 0.911 SV% on the weakest team in the division. When not on the taxi squad, he also got into a game with the NHL Flames, although it was in relief. He'll be 26 in the fall and no longer exempt from waivers, so the Flames will give him a long look as their backup, provided they don't sign a proven one this summer. It is doubtful the 6-2 netminder could ever grow into becoming an NHL starter, as he has never played more than 40 games in a season at any level.

Upside: 1B NHL split starter

3YP: (24-20-5, 2.65, 0.911)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

Carolina HURRICANES

At a Glance

Top Prospect: Seth Jarvis
Boom/Bust Potential: Stelio Mattheos
Long-term Project: Zion Nybeck
Top Sniper: David Cotton
Best Setup Man: Jamieson Rees

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Seth Jarvis
Defense: Anttoni Honka
Goal: Jack LaFontaine
Points Only: Seth Jarvis
Multicategory: Noel Gunler

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Austin Broad

New! Seth Jarvis, C

(2021: 17) (2020: N/A)

Jarvis has a full arsenal of moves that allow him to attack the opposing team's defense in a variety of ways. Like Sam Reinhart, Jarvis has a reputation as a smart and prolific passer, but his shot flies somewhat under the radar. Drafted 13th overall in 2020, Jarvis split last season between the AHL's Chicago Wolves and the WHL's Portland Winterhawks. His production level in the WHL was expected, scoring 27 points in 24 games, but it was his AHL production that left an impression on those around him. He recorded 11 points in nine games and will get a chance to build off that this year, since he is probably headed toward a full-time AHL role to adjust to the pro game. His size (5-10, 174) might pose some concern, but because of his skating and offensive creativity, he has the potential to be a first-line player in the NHL.

Upside Comparable: Sam Reinhart (25-50-75+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (22-38-60, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Jack Drury, C

(2021: 80) (2020: 276)

One of the best prospects in the Canes' system, the 42nd pick in 2018 enjoyed a solid career with Harvard of the NCAA, collecting 63 points in 60 career games. Due to the pandemic, Drury spent last season over in Sweden, where he played for SHL-champion Vaxjo. He scored 10 goals and 20 assists in 41 games and earned himself a nomination as the SHL rookie of the year, losing to 2021 NHL Draft prospect, William Eklund. Drury can do a little bit of everything. He has enough offensive instincts to produce at the next level, but he also sports a mature defensive game that will allow him to adjust to North American pro hockey rather quickly. Expect him to spend at least a year in the AHL before seriously applying for an NHL on a full-time basis.

Upside Comparable: Ryan O'Reilly (25-40-65+, 20 PIM)

3YP: 20-30-50, 14 PIM

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Noel Gunler, RW
(2021: 81) (2020: N/A)

A multi-faceted player that can contribute in any aspect of the game, Gunler has a sniper's mindset. He loves to get open and unload his already famous shot: quick release, high-end accuracy and power that will allow him to challenge goalies at the next level. Gunler missed some time last season in the SHL, appearing in only 29 games, but he did finish with a 7-5-12 log. Gunler will also throw his weight around and contribute to the physical game when it's needed. He has the ability to impact multiple categories on the stat sheet. After another year in the SHL, expect him to find his way to North America, where some AHL time may be required to help him adjust to the smaller ice surface and pace of the game.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Marchessault (30-40-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: 15-30-45, 24 PIM

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

 Ryan Suzuki, C
(2021: 89) (2020: 98)

Suzuki is an all-around offensive threat, as he uses his skating and offensive IQ to position himself in prime scoring locations. Similar to former Cane Elias Lindholm, he can hurt you in a number of ways, but he prefers to create plays for his teammates rather than do it all himself. Passing is his best attribute, whether it be from the offensive zone setup or creating off the rush. Due to the cancelled OHL season, Suzuki spent the year in the AHL and produced 10 points in 26 games for the Chicago Wolves. Another full campaign in the AHL is the likely scenario for Suzuki. In fact, using the upcoming year to fully adjust to the pace of the pro game before making the jump to the Hurricanes makes the most sense. At 6-0 and 176, he might want to add some weight to his frame. Brother Nick is a rising star for the Canadiens.

Upside Comparable: Elias Lindholm (25-45-70+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (18-35-53, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (If you can afford to wait a few years).

 Jamieson Rees, C
(2020: 100) (2021: 137)

A playmaking forward, Rees has excellent vision and passing ability. He's a constant threat to open up passing lanes on the rush, or through offensive zone setups. Unafraid to get creative with the puck, he uses his skating ability and hands to confuse defensive lines and hit teammates in stride with passes. He flashed in his first AHL season last year, playing in 29 games for the Wolves and recording 14 points, outproducing fellow Canes' 2019 draft pick Ryan Suzuki. Rees is ready for the AHL and likely needs at least one more full season before cracking the Hurricanes lineup as full-time NHLer. Considering his offensive skill set, Rees has the potential to be an excellent playmaker at the next level. His is a name to start watching out for right now.

Upside Comparable: Elias Lindholm (25-45-70+, 50 PIM)

3YP: 15-32-47, 40 PIM

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).



Dominik Bokk, RW

(2021: 103) (2020: 66)

Bokk has quick hands and the ability to challenge any goalie with his shot – his game resembles that of Nino Niederreiter's because of their strength on the puck and their ability to score goals from anywhere in the offensive zone. Drafted by St. Louis at 25th overall in 2018, Bokk made his North American debut this past year with the AHL Chicago Wolves. After an adjustment period, he settled in nicely and began playing with confidence. Finishing the season with nine goals and nine assists in 29 games, Bokk developed into a player that the Wolves leaned on for offense. With only one year of North American pro hockey under his belt, Bokk will likely start with more seasoning in the AHL before potentially getting some looks at the NHL level.

Upside Comparable: Nino Niederreiter (30-35-65+, 26 PIM)

3YP: (20-20-40, 14 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



David Cotton, C

(2021: 130) (2020: 194)

Cotton is a gifted offensive player with a knack for scoring goals. His combination of size, high-end speed and sweet hands make him a nightmare to defend against. He can beat you in multiple ways, but his 'bread and butter' is finishing off plays. He had a great showing as an AHLer last year, leading Chicago with 14 goals in 26 games and finishing third on the club with 21 points. Cotton has established himself as one of the more talented goal scorers in Carolina's system and after one more year in the AHL he should be ready to make the jump to the NHL full-time. His 2021 production should have him on your radar as a goal-scoring threat.

Upside Comparable: Max Pacioretty (35-30-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: 23-20-43, 20 PIM

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 80%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Patrik Puistola, RW

(2021: 140) (2020: 123)

The 73rd overall selection in 2019 has great goal-scoring instincts and has often been referred to as a one-trick pony because his shot – his best weapon. Puistola uses his speed to create separation and if you give him space in the offensive zone, he has the potential to make you pay with his quick release and accurate shot. He struggled in Liiga play last year, but everyone playing for JYP had a down year because of the team's overall lack of success. While Puistola has provided a less-than-stellar showing over his four campaigns in the Liiga, he's only 20 years old and still possesses the potential to blossom into a legit goal scorer. It still seems like he could be a few years away, but a bounce-back this season could change things.

Upside Comparable: William Karlsson (30-35-65+, 20 PIM)

3YP: 18-15-33, 8 PIM

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Yegor Korshkov, RW (2021: 181) (2020: 182)

Korshkov spent last year in the KHL (17-17-34 in 59 games) and was acquired by the Hurricanes in a trade that sent Alex Galchenyuk to the Leafs. He has the ability to create for his teammates and loads the kind of shot that will challenge any goalie. At 24 years of age, Korshkov's time to make the NHL is now, as he's played in the KHL for most of his career and has already enjoyed a stint with the Marlies in the AHL. Time could be running out on him given his age and professional experience, so he needs to grab a roster spot this season, or could potentially see his shot at making the Hurricanes disappear given the strength of their prospect pool.

Upside Comparable: Bryan Rust (20-45-65, 40 PIM)

3YP: (14-25-39, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Now or Never.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Stelio Mattheos, RW (2021: 226) (2020: 133)

Mattheos has the type of offensive skill set that allowed him to produce a ton of points during his junior career. For example, 278 points in 253 outings over five seasons with the Brandon Wheat Kings. Quick on his feet, Mattheos possesses the necessary vision to roam the ice with the puck and beat you with his shot, set up teammates and/or contribute in the physical game. He struggled to get into AHL Chicago's lineup last year due to the split affiliation and found himself in the ECHL with Fort Wayne for a brief stint. Between the two circuits, Mattheos appeared in only nine games. Hopefully, things will be back to normal in 2021-22 and Mattheos can get his career going again in the AHL.

Upside Comparable: TJ Oshie (25-40-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (12-18-30, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Zion Nybeck, C (2021: 239) (2020: N/A)

A gifted offensive player, Nybeck's impressive speed and puck skills allow him to generate offensive chances in transition. The Canes' 2020 fourth-round pick spent most of last season struggling to find a regular role in the SHL. Fortunately, he found his confidence after a three-game stint in HockeyAllsvenskan, where his team (HV71) will be playing this season after being relegated. Somewhat like Chicago's Alex DeBrincat, Nybeck is an undersized forward with the offensive tools needed to generate scoring in a variety of ways. He has a high offensive ceiling, but will need to continue his development over in Sweden before crossing the pond to North America. Even then, though, he will surely need some AHL seasoning before being considered for an NHL role.

Upside Comparable: Alex DeBrincat (30-45-75+, 30 PIM)

3YP: 10-24-34, 20 PIM

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Vasiliy Ponomarev, C (2021: 246) (2020: N/A)

Ponomarev is a gifted skater with excellent hands and great passing ability. He was excellent for Shawinigan during the 2020-21 QMJHL campaign, finishing with 10 goals and 28 assists in 33 outings. He's a creative, multi-dimensional threat, using his ability to generate offense off the rush or in the offensive zone. He can score but only as a secondary option, focusing instead on creating opportunities for his teammates first. Ponomarev is committed to the KHL's Spartak Moskva for this season, but once that commitment is over, he should be back in North America with the Hurricanes organization. There is offensive upside and playmaking ability in this package – he's a player to keep tabs on over the next couple of years.

Upside Comparable: Alexander Radulov (20-45-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: 10-28-38, 30 PIM

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Joey Keane, RD (2021: 45D) (2020: 43D)

Keane is a hard-nosed defender with offensive upside; all in all, elements that make him a nightmare to play against. Oddly, he's not a huge physical presence at 6-0 and 187 pounds, but his style of play makes him a pain to play against at both ends. Drafted 88th overall by the Rangers in 2018, Keane has come a long way and even made his NHL debut last season with the Hurricanes. He spent most of the campaign with the Wolves, collecting 13 assists in 24 contests. Carolina has excellent depth on defense, but Keane is showing that he'll be an NHLer in the future. A likely scenario for him this year is starting in the AHL and getting called up to the show for a few stints along the way.

Upside Comparable: Jake Muzzin (8-32-40+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (2-13-15, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Anttoni Honka, D (2021: 163D) (2020: 206D)

Honka is a smooth skating, offensive-minded defenseman. Despite lining up with a lackluster JYP club, his 31 points in 58 Liiga outings was excellent production last year. Honka has the highest upside of any defenseman in the Hurricanes farm system right now, as he resembles a young John Klingberg thanks to his ability to make plays in the offensive zone because of his vision and lightness of foot. The 83rd overall pick in 2019 turns 21 this year and will likely spend it in Finland before making a decision on a future North America venture. Although he's on the smaller side (5-10, 179), his mold fits perfectly that of a modern-day, offensive-minded blueliner. Despite the uncertain timeline, Honka is a player that is worth monitoring.

Upside Comparable: John Klingberg (10-40-50+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-25-30, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Alexander Nikishin, LD (2021: 238D) (2020: N/A)

Drafted 69th overall in 2020, Nikishin is a big 6-4, 216-pound rearguard with a howitzer. Despite the powerful shot, Nikishin does not have a history of scoring goals, as his production has come via his passing skill and ability to see the game rather well. He has the potential to beat any goalie but prefers setting up his teammates. For a bigger player, he skates well and that allowed him to play in the three big Russian leagues last year. Spending most his time in the KHL, Nikishin had five points in 20 games. He's committed to the KHL for the next couple of seasons, so it's uncertain as to when he'll make his way to North America (if he ever does).

Upside Comparable: Nick Leddy (5-40-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (2-10-12, 10 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Do not draft this year or next.

Jack LaFontaine, G

Drafted 75th overall in 2016, LaFontaine has played in the NCAA and BCHL over the last few years. After leaving Michigan to play in Penticton, he went to the University of Minnesota where he revived his career. With decent size (6-2) and great reflexes, LaFontaine became a huge part of the Golden Gophers' success in recent years. Coming off a big 29-game workload in 2020-21, he fashioned a 0.934 SV% and a 1.79 GAA to capture the Mike Richter Award as the nation's best goaltender. For now, LaFontaine has decided to remain in school for another year. While the emergence of Alex Nedeljkovic has muddied the waters somewhat, LaFontaine could choose to sign after his final season and form a great duo in Carolina, or he could exercise his right and become a free agent.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: (23-15-3, 2.60 GAA, 0.912 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 55%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



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The advertisement features a large, bold headline "UPEND your prospects" in white text with a red outline. Below the headline is the website address "DobberProspects.com" in red. To the right of the text, there is a photograph of a hockey player in mid-air, performing a shot or pass. The player is wearing a black jersey with the number 46 and the name "ZEGARSKI" on the back. The background shows a hockey rink with a blue wall and some equipment. In the top right corner, there is a small graphic of a man with a beard and sunglasses, pointing upwards, with the text "DOBBER PROSPECTS.COM" next to it.

Chicago BLACKHAWKS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Lukas Reichel
Boom/Bust potential: Wyatt Kalynuk
Long-term project: Niklas Nordgren
Top sniper: Lukas Reichel
Best setup man: Henrik Borgstrom

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Lukas Reichel
Defense: Wyatt Kalynuk
Goal: Drew Commesso
Points only: Lukas Reichel
Multicategory: Landon Slaggert

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

New! Lukas Reichel, C, LW

(2021: 43) (2020: N/A)

Former NHL star Robert Reichel's nephew was on most teams' Draft lists as a second-rounder last year, but Chicago chose him 17th overall and the jury is still out on that move. There no question that Reichel has top-six upside and he is far and away Chicago's top prospect, but can he be a future first-liner? It would have been nice to see him at the WJC, where blossoming hockey hotbed Germany struggled without him, but he was forced to miss the tourney due to a positive COVID test. As a solid two-way player, Reichel is destined to be an NHLer in two to three seasons. Has a decent shot, but since his move to center, his focus has been more about dishing it. How he develops will determine if he ends up on the first, second or third line down the road.

Upside Comparable: Dylan Larkin (30-40-70+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (23-31-54, 24 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

↔ Henrik Borgstrom, F

(2021: 67) (2020: 74)

A skilled two-way forward with excellent size at 6-3, 200 pounds, Borgstrom's fantasy value has come crashing down the last two seasons. A star in the NCAA, he made a huge splash after turning pro, splitting his time in the AHL and NHL and producing well in both. It was 2019-20 when disaster struck. A poor camp, injuries, demotion and terrible AHL production all came at the wrong time, just as Borgstrom's contract ran out. Frustrated, he took his game back to Finland, where he split time as a first-line winger (alongside Florida prospect Anton Lundell) and a third-line center. There, he regained his confidence and was moderately productive with 21 points in 30 games. The Hawks acquired him at the Trade Deadline and consider him their potential third-line center in the fall. Since he's not waivers-exempt, he'll break camp with the team.

Upside Comparable: Brayden Schenn (30-40-70+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (19-26-45, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Mike Hardman, C (2021: 163) (2020: N/A)

Hardman is never going to be a top-sixer, but he could help fantasy teams in other ways. He has a wonderful work ethic and loves to throw his 6-2, 205-pound frame around with abandon. The Massachusetts native was never drafted, but there were several NHL teams courting his services when he was with Boston College of the NCAA. He decided to turn pro after his sophomore campaign (19 points in 24 contests) and chose Chicago because they were able to insert him right into their lineup. Which they did. In eight games, he tallied three points, which is impressive in itself. But he also added an eye-popping 38 hits (!) and six BLKS, just to make fantasy owners drool a bit. The 22-year-old still needs to earn a spot in the fall, but if he lands one, he will be a solid asset in Hits leagues.

Upside Comparable: Adam Lowry (20-35-55+, 50 PIM, 220 Hits)

3YP: (12-17-29, 46 PIM, 180+ Hits)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2021-22.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).

Evan Barratt, C (2021: 172) (2020: 113)

After a very productive three-year career in the NCAA, Barratt made the jump to pro hockey in 2020-21. The versatile, two-way forward transitioned well, posting around a point every two games on a Rockford team that struggled for offense. Barratt is a tweener in the sense that his offense could develop into that of a second-line guy, but his checking and agitating talents could also see him man a solid third unit. Given Chicago's options for their top-six in the immediate future, it seems likely that Barratt will be earmarked for the latter. He's very coachable and possesses intangibles that are assets in any room. He still needs a couple of years to marinate, with focus on his skating, or more specifically his acceleration.

Upside Comparable: Brandon Dubinsky (20-45-65, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (17-30-47, 55 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Andrei Altybarmakyan, RW (2021: 180) (2020: 272)

The Blackhawks waited over three years for Altybarmakyan to come to North America and it was worth the wait. In his AHL rookie season, he displayed a tenacity and competitive edge that told the world he would let nothing stop him on his quest to make the NHL. His 12 points in 29 games were modest numbers, but he absolutely has another gear. Potentially, and with the right linemates, he could be a point-per-game player in the AHL thanks to his excellent hockey sense and coachability. In the NHL, he seems earmarked for a checking line, but he's still only 22 and there is lots of room for growth. Will have value in multi-cats due to his Hits and PIM.

Upside Comparable: Patrick Hornqvist (25-40-65, 75 PIM)

3YP: (15-15-30, 45 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Artur Kayumov, LW

(2021: 202) (2020: 224)

Kayumov has developed his defensive acumen over the past two seasons and is now a somewhat effective two-way player. His offensive skills don't seem to have made any gains, though he is still quite good in that area. He saw a lot more ice time and responsibility in 2020-21 for Lokomotiv, averaging over 16 minutes per game. He's not a very physical player, so it may be a case of 'second line or bust'. Had he come to North America last season, he likely would have made the team over Philipp Kurashev. He won't be with the team in 2021-22, either, as he's signed for one more year with Lokomotiv. As a second-round draft pick, you can bet that Chicago will make certain they get him here next year (if that's what they want).

Upside Comparable: Conor Garland (25-40-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (13-26-39, 24 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Michal Teply, RW

(2021: 317) (2020: 213)

Contrary to 2019-20, Teply's 2020-21 campaign is a tough one to figure out. In the prior year, after he was drafted, he enjoyed a productive season in the WHL and also led Team Czech Republic in scoring at the WJC (five points in as many games). But last season, he bounced from the Czech second league to the top league before crossing the pond to play in the AHL as a 19-year-old. Moreover, he once again played in the WJC, but only managed two assists on a team that had some serious struggles to score. Tall and lanky, Teply plays a bit of a perimeter game. And despite a pretty good shot, he didn't use it very much last year. In fact, he didn't score once in a combined 27 games across the three leagues and the WJC tourney. Needs strength and bulk.

Upside Comparable: Alex Killorn (30-35-65+, 22 PIM)

3YP: (18-22-40, 14 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Landon Slaggert, LW

(2021: 376) (2020: N/A)

The Blackhawks reached a little when they drafted Slaggert as the 79th-overall pick last summer because they saw some Andrew Shaw in him. Although he doesn't agitate like Shaw, he is surprisingly strong along the boards despite his 6-0, 181-pound frame, as he enjoys throwing his weight around. Slaggert has some offensive potential. He posted nice numbers (22 points in 25 games) as a freshman at the University of Notre Dame, where he was named the team's Rookie-of-the-Year. Just 18 at the time (he turned 19 in June), he was a key part of both UND's special teams. He also was on Team USA's gold-medal team, though he played the role of checker and was held without a point. If his offensive skills continue to develop, Slaggert could do everything for your fantasy team that Andrew Shaw did – perhaps without Shaw's injuries, too.

Upside Comparable: Andrew Shaw (25-40-65+, 80+ PIM)

3YP: (18-27-45, 63 PIM, 135+ Hits)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Niklas Nordgren, RW (2021: 471) (2020: 520)

The diminutive winger was drafted relatively high at 74th overall back in 2018. He was coming off a dominant campaign in the SM-liiga's U20 division by posting 42 points in 28 games. But translating that production to the next level against men has been a bit of a struggle. This past season, however, he was loaned from HIFK to the Pelicans. He had just returned from an injury that sidelined him for much of 2020-21 and only got into three games prior to the trade. Once he joined the Pelicans, however, his ice time increased by two minutes per games and he tallied three assists in three outings. As with smaller players, Nordgren (5-9) will need time to develop. He will remain in Finland for the upcoming campaign and next, as he just signed a two-year deal.

Upside Comparable: Mats Zuccarello (25-40-65, 20 PIM)

3YP: (13-22-35, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Nicolas Beaudin, LD (2021: 21D) (2020: 44D)

Beaudin made huge strides in his second pro season at Rockford. After posting 15 points in 59 games as a rookie, he tallied an impressive 10 points in just nine contests this past season. Recalled by the Hawks in late January, he made an early impression with five points in his first nine outings. Defensively, however, there were still a lot of holes. His possession metrics were the worst on the team and after those initial nine games, his ice time was held in check and he would get scratched at times. While the upside here is high, there is also a risk that he could be too one-dimensional. However, he is still only 21 and was the 27th overall draft pick in 2018. Being drafted so high means that the team will give him plenty of chances and as much time as needed.

Upside Comparable: Duncan Keith (10-45-55, 66 PIM)

3YP: (7-28-35, 36 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Wyatt Kalynuk, LD (2021: 19D) (2020: 92D)

It was amazing that Kalynuk slipped by all 30 teams in 2015 and 2016 before Philadelphia finally grabbed him 196th overall in 2017. After dominating the NCAA for three years with gaudy numbers (78 points in 110 games for Wisconsin), he refused to sign with the Flyers and went the free agent route, eventually signing with Chicago. In eight games with Rockford this past season, he had 10 points. The Hawks called him up and he earned nine more points in 21 games. However, after a four-game points streak, defensive holes started to show, as he posted a minus-7 rating in his next three games. The advanced metrics show that he drove possession better than Beaudin and wasn't quite as sheltered. Kalynuk will never be a defensive stalwart, but if the coach can monitor his minutes, he can be a productive, albeit one-dimensional, defenseman.

Upside Comparable: Erik Gustafsson (15-50-65, 60 PIM)

3YP: (6-32-38, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.



Alex Regula, RD

(2021: 83D) (2020: 113D)

Regula had a very nice pro debut after wrapping up his OHL career with 60 points in 56 games. Those OHL numbers rocketed Regula onto fantasy radars and he's certainly capable of becoming a productive defenseman when he eventually makes it to the NHL. But with the likes of Adam Boqvist, Wyatt Kalynuk, Ian Mitchell and Nicolas Beaudin already filling offensive roles, Regula is earmarked to become more of a stay-at-home guy. Defensively, he is the best of the latter group, and his 6-4, 207-pound frame gives him the right size for the job. A former third-round pick (67th overall in 2018) acquired from Detroit for Brendan Perlini, Regula will need a couple of years to gain experience and add more urgency to his game.

Upside Comparable: Brent Seabrook (10-35-45, 80 PIM)

3YP: (8-22-30, 58 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Alex Vlasic, LD

(2021: 147D) (2020: NR)

Vlasic, the cousin of Sharks' stalwart Marc-Edouard, was drafted high (43rd overall in 2019) primarily because of his size and defensive acumen. At 6-6, 200 pounds (and growing), Vlasic has skill that is hard to find in prospects of his stature. As a sophomore at Boston University, his offense really blossomed as he posted eight points in 16 games. However, much of that was due to being often paired with Nashville stud David Farrance. That's not to say that Vlasic doesn't have upside, he does. But any fantasy hockey future he has will be directly tied to who he partners up with. Being alongside an Adam Boqvist or any other offensive rearguard in Chicago's system will help him put up some solid numbers. The 20-year-old will need some time to develop.

Upside Comparable: Marc-Edouard Vlasic (5-35-40+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (5-18-23, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Drew Commesso, G

As the second goaltender drafted in 2020 – after Yaroslav Askarov went to Nashville – expectations are high for Commesso, whose name was called at No.46. He has a projectable NHL frame at 6-2, 181 pounds and his forte is how well he reads the play, anticipates and positions himself for the save. He doesn't have the scrambly agility that some of today's top netminders offer, but because he's always where he needs to be, the saves get made. As Boston University's starter, he posted solid numbers as a freshman and will likely spend at least two more seasons in the NCAA. Right now, Chicago has nobody promising in the system and if nothing changes over the next four years, then Commesso is their best bet to be their next homegrown star.

Upside: Star NHL Starter

3YP: 34-22-4, 2.50 GAA, 0.918 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 75%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Colorado AVALANCHE

At a Glance

Top prospect: Alex Newhook
Boom/Bust potential: Alex Beauchage
Long-term project: Jean-Luc Foudy
Top sniper: Alex Newhook
Best setup man: Alex Newhook

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Alex Newhook
Defense: Bowen Byram
Goal: Justus Annunen
Points only: Alex Newhook
Multicategory: Bowen Byram

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Hayden Soboleski

➡ Alex Newhook, C

(2021: 4) (2020: 6)

Expectations were high after Newhook wowed as an NCAA rookie and rose to every occasion. As a Team Canada invitee attending an American school, he spent weeks in quarantine but didn't miss a beat anywhere he played. He put up 16 points in 12 NCAA contests, six in six at the WJC, and then nine in eight when he signed his ELC and joined the AHL Eagles. He transitioned to the pro game seamlessly, grabbing a top-six role and putting up over two SOG per night. The Avalanche didn't hesitate, as he began his NHL career shortly thereafter. Newhook's level of engagement is always pushing 100% – he's always battling and minding the minor details. His NHL faceoff percentage was weak and he was moved to the wing during the postseason, but he'll be back at center. An NHL spot is waiting for him at training camp and he'll be relevant in points-only and multicategory formats right off the bat.

Upside Comparable: Brayden Point (40-50-90, 30 PIM)

3YP: (30-45-75, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



↑ Sampo Ranta, LW

(2021: 96) (2020: 388)

Ranta clearly took offense to being considered a long-term project when he was drafted by the Avs, since he broke out for a point-per-game pace in his third NCAA season. He put up 19 goals in 31 games and a career-high 3.4 SOG/game. His shooting percentage rose to 18%, which may not be sustainable, but he showed remarkable consistency: only six pointless contests and two shot-less ones. Moreover, his numbers weren't juiced up because of power-play ice time: only three goals with the man advantage. Ranta signed his ELC last April and joined the AHL Eagles, where he put up seven points in 14 outings. He looked rather comfortable in his 6-2, 205-pound frame against his toughest competition yet, but the bar got raised yet again when he briefly joined the Avalanche for his first taste of NHL playoffs. His development is proceeding much faster now that he has attained his playing size, so expect a full season of AHL reps with more NHL auditions in the near future.

Sampo Ranta continued

Upside Comparable: Tyler Toffoli (35-30-65, 30 PIM)

3YP: (25-25-50, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Alex Beaucage, RW

(2021: 108) (2020: 160)

Beaucage had little left to prove in his fourth and final QMJHL campaign. With a championship, multiple point-per-game seasons and a 40-goal effort already under his belt, his goal was simply to be as dominant as possible. And he didn't disappoint. After being traded this past season for the first time in his junior career, he was the Q's playoffs leading scorer on his way to another championship title, this time with Victoriaville. Not to ignore his regular season – his pace of 17 goals in 22 games ranked top-five in the league. Beaucage's upside is undeniable, but the transition from QMJHL to AHL isn't always smooth and the Eagles don't provide big minutes unless a prospect can hold his own in all three zones. Like everyone else who turns pro, he will need to fulfill greater defensive responsibilities. If Beaucage can hold down a power-play role and continue to find shooting lanes from all angles, he has 40-goal upside.

Upside Comparable: Kyle Connor (40-40-80, 60 PIM)

3YP: (15-20-35, 45 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).



Martin Kaut, RW

(2021: 128) (2020: 106)

Kaut was expected to crack the Avs roster out of camp in 2020-21, but the timing wasn't right for the first-round pick in 2018. Initially on pandemic loan in the Czech league, he moved to the Swedish Allsvenskan when production wasn't clicking. He fared better in Sweden, but upon returning to Colorado for NHL training camp, he suffered an undisclosed upper-body injury that sidelined him for several weeks. After a couple of difficult months, Kaut returned to the AHL and reaped the rewards of recommitting to his simple north-south game. His six goals, 16 points and 43 SOG in 20 contests represented career-high AHL paces as and he never went pointless again for more than two outings. Moreover, the 21-year-old was used regularly on both special teams thanks to his consistency. He's ready for a bottom-six role in the NHL, but he remains waivers-exempt, so a full-time spot on a competitive Avalanche roster won't be awarded easily.

Upside Comparable: Alex Killorn (20-35-55+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (15-20-35, 45 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

New!

Jean-Luc Foudy, C

(2021: 245) (2020: N/A)

When the OHL suspended play in 2020-21, Foudy enjoyed the rare opportunity of being an 18-year-old allowed to play in the AHL. Not only did he get the chance to play against mature competition, but the AHL Eagles gave him regular top-six minutes, as he rotated positions

Jean-Luc Foudy continued

between center and right wing. Foudy still stands out as a quick skater at the AHL level, but his best talent may be his use of space to create offensive. His on-ice awareness is evident with every move and play he makes, which is exactly why he has thrived at all levels thus far. His strong performance expedited his development process, as he earned an ELC at the conclusion of 2020-21. Unfortunately, he'll be only 19 at the September threshold and be forced back to the OHL for 2021-22. Expect a return to the AHL as soon as he is eligible.

Upside Comparable: Josh Bailey (15-55-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-35-45, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Nick Henry, RW (2021: 328) (2020: 209)

A former WHL star, Henry has undergone ground-up development in the AHL. For example, 2020-21 was his second year with the Eagles and his second as a full-time bottom-six winger seeing infrequent minutes. Yet, despite the limitations, Henry upped his point pace and shot volume and was rewarded with occasional ice time on the second power play. He finished the season in the ECHL, where he managed more than a point-per-game pace until a shoulder injury abruptly ended his campaign. Entering the final year of his ELC, the 22-year-old will need to take a big step forward if he hopes to earn another pro contract. The organization will need to evaluate what they have before cutting the cord, so expect a more consistent presence in the Avs' AHL depth chart, which is poised to have the most firepower it's had in years for Henry to work with.

Upside Comparable: Blake Comeau (20-30-50+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 55%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

Bowen Byram, LD (2021: 2D) (2020: 6D)

Despite being NHL-ready, there were concerns that the Avalanche would not risk sacrificing competitiveness by adding another young defenseman in the lineup. Not only did the 19-year-old Byram earn a regular spot alongside Makar (22), Girard (22) and Timmins (22), but the Avs were comfortable enough to trade vet Ian Cole thanks to the confidence they had in their young group. Byram sat fourth in even-strength TOI among defenders just weeks into his rookie season, but his truculent play caught up to him. He missed time with both lower- and upper-body injuries (including a concussion) and also spent time on the COVID protocol list, resulting in a severely shortened campaign. His two points in 19 games was underwhelming for a top prospect and will increase, but with so many weapons already present on the Avs blue line, his short-term value is highest in multicategory leagues. Byram will be an NHL regular as long as he can remain healthy.

Upside Comparable: Drew Doughty (15-40-55, 80 PIM)

3YP: (10-30-40, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Conor Timmins, RD (2021: 18D) (2020: 19D)

After two consecutive pro seasons without a major injury (though two minor ones), Timmins has successfully removed the red flag that had emerged during his development phase. Despite ample internal competition and only one AHL campaign under his belt, the right-shot defender stuck in the NHL for 31 games in 2020-21, putting up seven points. His ice time was certainly minimized: only 13:33 per game, while his special team usage was limited to occasional second-unit PK appearances. No matter, this approach allowed him to gain confidence with the puck and he quickly became yet another threat on a stacked Avs' backend. He is as dangerous as his peers when walking the blue line on the offense, while his reach as a 6-2 defender serves him well. Unfortunately, his short-term upside is limited by mates that hog the choice minutes, but his moderate SOG, Hits and block stats bring immediate peripheral value.

Upside Comparable: Thomas Chabot (10-40-50+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (5-30-35, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple rounds.

Justin Barron, RD (2021: 103D) (2020: N/A)

As captain of the QMJHL Mooseheads, Barron put up a career-high 31 points in 33 games and earned a nomination as the league's Top Defensive Defenseman. These were welcomed achievements, but his most exciting development came when he joined the AHL Eagles for a tryout at season's end. With Connor Timmins in the NHL and Jacob MacDonald holding down taxi squad duties, the top prospect had ample responsibility as the Eagles' go-to blueliner. And he didn't disappoint. He managed to collect an impressive seven points in nine contests, while seeing time on both special teams. Barron is pro-ready; he has his three-year ELC in pocket and can return to the AHL as a 19-year-old thanks to his four completed CHL campaigns. If he returns to the AHL and achieves the same impact as during his brief stint in 2021, the former first-rounder won't be long for the minor leagues.

Upside Comparable: Noah Hanifin (10-35-45+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (5-30-35, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Drew Helleson, RD (2021: 143D) (2020: 250D)

Drafted for his reliability in the defensive zone, Helleson enjoyed a breakout offensive campaign by putting up 15 points in 22 NCAA games after just six in 28 as a freshman. His rising ice time and shot volume is partially responsible for the jump, but more so is his increased comfort level when handling the puck. These days, he's joining the rush or moving the puck to create chances in the offensive zone much more often than previously. This evolution didn't come at the expense of his bread and butter, though, as Helleson was named Hockey East's Top Defensive Defenseman. While playing at the latest WJC, he was out there in the final minute defending Team USA's lead just before winning gold. The Avs like to reinforce the fundamentals when their blueliners turn pro, so his timeline hasn't necessarily been shortened, but his upside has increased enough to move the needle on fantasy radars.

Drew Helleson continued

Upside Comparable: TJ Brodie (10-35-45, 40 PIM)

3YP: (5-30-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

↔ Danil Zhuravlyov, LD

(2021: 249D) (2020: 258D)

In his second full KHL campaign, Zhuravlyov's squad led the league standings yet again and made it to the conference finals. His stat lines look stagnant and underwhelming given the team's success, but his role is becoming less of an all-defense niche. The year prior, his eight points ranked sixth on the team, but in 2020-21, his 13 points in 38 games represented one of the top paces among team rearguards. His TOI rose by only a minute to 14:55, but his club distributed ice time more evenly than other units around the league. A broken arm gave the 21-year-old a late start to the season and may have contributed to his lack of bulk. He's still listed at 163, so some added mass would help the 6-0 defender play bigger minutes against tougher matchups.

Upside Comparable: Anton Stralman (10-30-40+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 55%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Justus Annunen, G

Annunen set a high bar after being a top Liiga netminder in 2019-20, but his follow-up season was lackluster by any standards. In the same 1A/1B rotation and on the same team as the year prior, his save percentage collapsed from 0.929 to 0.884. The team in front of him was less competitive, which didn't help, but his partner's numbers took a much smaller hit and remained above league average. A silver lining is that he did record some outstanding outings (including three shutouts) amidst some long cold spells. Annunen flew to Colorado for an AHL tryout at season's end and performed well in two of three appearances. At 6-4 and 209, he can look like a brick wall and has the agility to make highlight-reel, side-to-side saves. Now he needs to play consistently enough to earn more time in the starter's crease, in either the Liiga or the AHL.

Upside Comparable: Star NHL starter

3YP: (30-16-4, 0.915 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Adam Werner, G

Colorado's goaltending was a merry-go-round in 2020-21 because of injuries and taxi squad shenanigans. As a result, the AHL Eagles were forced to start seven different netminders over the course of the year and Werner's 11 outings led the group. His 0.908 save percentage is steady (it was 0.909 in 2019-20), but the number was dampened by an initial freezing-cold return to play. There is still ample room for improvement, as he often sits too deeply in his crease to fully utilize

Adam Werner continued

his 6-5 frame. If Werner can maintain the consistency level he showed in last season's second half, he has the makings of an NHL splitter or backup.

Upside Comparable: 1A NHL split starter

3YP: (20-15-5, 0.908 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



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Columbus BLUE JACKETS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Yegor Chinakhov
Boom/Bust potential: Kirill Marchenko
Long-term project: Samuel Knazko
Top sniper: Yegor Chinakhov
Best setup man: Trey Fix-Wolansky

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Yegor Chinakhov
Defense: Samuel Knazko
Goal: Daniil Tarasov
Points only: Yegor Chinakhov
Multicategory: Kirill Marchenko

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Hadi Kalakeche

↔ Liam Foudy, C

(2021: 32) (2020: 32)

Foudy's first real shot at the NHL came last year, as the young center earned more than his fair share of points (3-13-16 in 13 games) in the AHL and quickly earned a call-up to the big league. His results, however, were underwhelming, as he only recorded four assists in 24 games and couldn't crack the top-six or get on the power play. As Foudy enters the upcoming season as a 21-year-old, he will need to find a way to showcase his skill at high game-pace and utilize his linemates a lot better than he did during last year's sample. He shouldn't have much trouble remaining in the Blue Jackets' thinning lineup, as the organization seems headed for a rebuild. Bulking up his 6-0, 174-pound frame would go a long way to help.

Upside Comparable: Jean-Gabriel Pageau (25-35-60+, 25 PIM)

3YP: (14-26-40, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Yegor Chinakhov, RW

(2021: 55) (2020: N/A)

The most eye-widening first-round pick in recent NHL Draft history, Chinakhov proved to everyone that the Blue Jackets were not that crazy when they picked him 21st overall in 2020. His 10 goals in 32 games amounted to the third-best goals-per-game average for Omsk of the KHL. The only two teammates with higher scoring rates than the 20-year-old were ex-NHLers Reid Boucher and Corban Knight, both of whom are well within their prime as hockey players. Chinakhov signed his entry-level contract last May, ending his KHL run with the stroke of a pen. If he continues working on his defensive involvement and composure under pressure, there is very little that may stop him from becoming a 30-goal-scorer at the NHL level. In fact, he could very well get a chance to prove as much at training camp this year.

Upside Comparable: Brock Boeser (40-30-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (25-20-45, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Kirill Marchenko, RW (2021: 109) (2020: 116)

Marchenko's 2020-21 campaign was outstanding to say the least, as the lanky (6-3, 187 pounds) and energetic winger collected 28 points (15-13-28) in 41 KHL games, in arguably the second-best professional hockey league in the world. Marchenko's understanding of time and space allows him to make plays off the boards with excellent timing and/or fire his heavy shots on the opposing goal. His jump in production this past campaign indicates an active development curve. Just 21 years old, there's room to grow into his frame and to learn how to play with pace. Marchenko will likely return to SKA St-Petersburg and play the full 2021-22 schedule there, but expect him to sign an entry-level deal and get a look-see as soon as SKA's 2022 playoffs are over, as Columbus risks losing his rights after June 1, 2022.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Toffoli (35-35-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (20-15-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Trey Fix-Wolansky, RW (2021: 114) (2020: 166)

Fix-Wolansky's 2020-21 campaign came to a halt in March due to an ACL injury that required surgery, limiting him to only nine games in the COVID-shortened AHL campaign. His impact in those nine outings, however, was noticeable, as he recorded four goals and five assists thanks to outstanding pace and dynamic puck play. This comes after a strong stretch that ended his rookie AHL season in 2019-20, in which he earned 23 points in the last 29 games. Fix-Wolansky seems to build off previous years' performances. Hopefully the ACL surgery leaves no repercussions, as the shifty forward's strength stems from his skating ability. A dark horse, he could conceivably earn a spot in Columbus at some point. As a smaller forward (just 5-7, though 187 pounds), the production will take longer than with most players.

Upside Comparable: Jack Roslovic (25-45-70+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (13-29-42, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Gregory Hofmann, LW (2021: 129) (2020: NR)

After trading a seventh-round pick to Carolina for his rights in February of 2021, the Blue Jackets signed Hofmann this past June to a one-year, one-way contract worth \$900,000. This all happened after Hofmann's outstanding 2020-21 campaign for Zug in the Swiss National League, in which the winger tallied 41 points in 36 games, including 18 goals. The 1992-born "rookie" will experience his first attempt at the NHL level this fall at camp, as the Jackets saw enough in him not to go the two-way route. His dynamism, puck skills and above-average shot should translate well, although there are questions about his physicality despite being 6-0 and 201 pounds.

Upside Comparable: Alex Iafallo (25-35-60+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-20-35, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Tyler Angle, C (2021: 229) (2020: 545)

There was no way to guess that Angle, the 212th pick in the 2019 NHL Draft, would be in the AHL before he turned 21, much less that he would be above a point per game in his rookie season. That's exactly what the Niagara Falls native accomplished last year with 24 points in 23 games for the Cleveland Monsters. He signed his entry-level contract last March, after seven points in six tryout games for the Jackets' AHL affiliate, at which point the skill, vision, shooting and skating abilities were clear to everyone – from the coaching staff to management. Angle should continue to refine his scoring touch in the AHL this year and could earn a call-up at some point if he continues along the same development path.

Upside Comparable: Conor Garland (25-40-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-20-35, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Dmitri Voronkov, C (2021: 313) (2020: 320)

Voronkov managed to more or less maintain his scoring pace for the past two seasons, with his most-recent campaign ending with 19 points in 53 KHL games. His pace of play is decent for his size, as his skating is polished and carries him well in all directions. His execution speed, however, leaves much to be desired. He can make some plays in the KHL and create a reasonable number of chances using the larger ice surface to take more time in his decisions, but that time and space is not as available in the NHL, so he'll benefit from much less reaction time. Still, Voronkov will be only 21 in September, which leaves lots of time to work on his weaknesses. As a power forward (6-4), his potential won't truly be seen until well into his 20s. His six points in eight games for Team Russia at the Worlds in May opened eyes.

Upside Comparable: Tomas Hertl (30-35-65, 50 PIM)

3YP: (18-17-35, 43 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Carson Meyer, RW (2021: 358) (2020: N/A)

Meyer earned a two-way NHL contract last April following an impressive rookie AHL season with the Cleveland Monsters. The Ohio State graduate joined the Jackets' AHL affiliate and immediately made an impact with 20 points (nine goals, 11 assists) in 26 games. Meyer's work ethic and knack for plays in tight areas have allowed him to flourish in the AHL's high-tempo, high-intensity environment, which should carry well into NHL fourth-line duties that might await him if injuries arise this season. He turns 24 this August so he has a small window to make his mark.

Upside Comparable: J.T. Compher (25-25-50+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-10-20, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! **Samuel Knazko, LD**
(2021: 215) (2020: N/A)

Knazko's promising start to 2020-21 – 13 points in 22 games from the backend – was abruptly cut short by a severe knee injury sustained during the World Junior Championship. Upon his return, he picked up two points in the final game of the season in Finland and was signed by Columbus to an entry-level deal in June. The young defender's ability to navigate offensive pressure in all three zones, as well as his puck-carrying tendencies, should become staples of his game in the future. He needs to keep working on his decision-making before he's close to NHL-ready, but that's what the AHL is for. At least two years in the minors to polish up his defensive side-of-things should turn him into a legit top-four defender.

Upside Comparable: Dmitry Orlov (10-35-45+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

 **Andrew Peeke, RD**
(2021: 73D) (2020: 50D)

Peeke saw only 18 games in total between the NHL (11 GP, 0-3-3) and AHL (7 GP, 0-4-4). Peeke's offensive capabilities were never going to be a strength, but his lack of involvement in transition and his conservative puck play made him a more defensive-minded rearguard in a John Tortorella-coached system that favored offensive involvement from the blue line. As Brad Larsen takes over coaching duties this year, perhaps there will be a full-time spot for Peeke on the Jackets' backend. An injury, time on the taxi squad, as well as of course the pandemic, contributed to his limited action last year. The 23-year-old could add some bulk to his 6-3, 194-pound frame.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Murray (5-35-40, 50 PIM)

3YP: (5-10-15, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 80%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

 **Jake Christiansen, LD**
(2021: 114D) (2020: 106D)

Christiansen's offensive tendencies have been obvious ever since he was signed as an undrafted prospect in May of 2020, when he was coming off a 50-point, 38-game campaign with Everett of the WHL. His adaptation to the AHL this past season was difficult though, with only two points in his first 21 outings with Stockton and Cleveland, but he picked up his scoring pace with 13 points in 16 games to end 2020-21. Christiansen's shot and his skating ability make him a power-play threat, while his defensive ability helps him fulfill responsibilities in his own zone. There is top-four defenseman potential here, but also a high risk of fizzling out as a prospect. He only turns 22 in September, so there's plenty of time.

Upside Comparable: Nate Schmidt (15-30-45+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! Ole Julian Bjorgvik-Holm, LD

(2021: 207D) (2020: N/A)

The Norwegian defender had been playing for the Mississauga Steelheads prior to COVID-19 shutting down the OHL in 2020-21, which led him to reroute back to Norway to get some game action under his belt. As a result, Holm finished the season 19th in scoring among all defensemen in the Norwegian top flight thanks to 10 points in 22 games. That doesn't seem like much at first glance, but no other U20 defender outscored him, as he also finished fifth among all Norwegian U20 skaters in scoring, behind four forwards. Holm then joined the AHL Monsters for a short stint, earning five points in 16 games. It is extremely difficult to project point productions from such an obscure league in Norway, but it is promising to see Holm succeed amongst men on two different continents. Expect to see him return to the OHL this year as the league reopens.

Upside Comparable: Jaccob Slavin (10-35-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-10-15, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Daniil Tarasov, G

Tarasov's showing in the KHL this past campaign really put him on the map as a high-end goaltending prospect. Check out his numbers: 2.07 GAA and a 0.925 save percentage through 16 games in the world's second-best league. That earned him a late-season stint with AHL Cleveland, but the 22-year-old struggled with a 0.899 save percentage through six games. No matter, he is still on the way toward becoming a starting goaltender given his ability to track pucks and make desperation saves with regularity. The organization see him as a future starter and are grooming him as such. However, he'll need some AHL time before he's NHL-ready, as is often the case with goalies. At 6-5 he certainly has ideal size for an NHL netminder.

Upside Comparable: Star NHL starter

3YP: 25-10-5, 2.20 GAA, 0.918 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.



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HOT/COLD Players

Playing the waiver wire? Check out who's heating up... and cooling down!

Report Type: Hot		Position: F		Team: ALL	
Player	POS	Team	GP	G	A
NIKITA KUCHEROV	R	TB	10	24	24
SEAN MOHANIAN	C	CGY	5	1	10
JOHNNY GAUDREAU	L	CGY	15	13	17
COUNINAH MULWAU	C	BOS	10	10	18
MATTHEW BARZAL	C	NYI	6	8	3
LEON DRAISL	C	EDM	5	6	3
MITCHELL MARIER	R	TOR	8	9	5
SIDNEY CROSBY	C	PIT	11	4	15
BRAD MARCHAND	L	BOS	12	8	12
JOHN TAVARES	C	TOR	8	7	6
STEVE STAMKOS	C	TB	15	15	19
DAVID PERRON	L	STL	5	2	6
ELIAS LINDHOLM	C	CGY	9	4	10
PHILIP DANAHY	C	MTL	5	5	4
TYLER SEGUN	C	DAL	4	4	2
JOONAS DONSKOI	R	SJ	4	4	2

Report Type: Cold		Position: F		Team: ALL	
Player	POS	Team	GP	G	A
JASON Pominville	R	BUF	13	0	0
AUSTIN WATSON	L	NSH	13	1	0
JASON ZUCKER	L	MIN	9	1	1
BRYAN LITTLE	C	WPG	9	0	2
BRANDON SUTTER	C	VAN	9	2	0
T.J. OSHKOSH	R	WSH	13	3	0
KODIE SCHNEIDER	L	WPG	12	3	0
DEVIN SHORE	L	DAL	12	0	3
PONTUS ÅBERG	L	ANA	8	1	1
PAUL BYRDON	L	MTL	4	0	1
ALEXANDER WENNBERG	C	CBJ	4	0	1
VALTTERI FILPPULA	C	NYI	4	1	0
DERICK BRASSARD	C	PIT	4	0	1
JOAQUÍN HO-SANG	R	NYI	4	0	1
PAVEL BUCHnevich	R	NYR	4	1	0
KYLE OKPOZO	R	BUF	4	1	0
JARED McCANN	C	FLA	4	1	0

Dallas STARS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Thomas Harley
Boom/Bust potential: Jordan Kawaguchi
Long-term project: Riley Tufte
Top sniper: Ty Dellandrea
Best setup man: Adam Mascherin

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Maverik Bourque
Defense: Thomas Harley
Goal: Adam Scheel
Points only: Riley Damiani
Multicategory: Riley Tufte

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Mike Kosciesza

↔ Ty Dellandrea, C

(2021: 23) (2020: 26)

Dellandrea is a strong two-way player. He already displays a mature forechecking game and is effective around the opposing goal. His playmaking skills are underrated, as he can handle the puck with enough panache to earn some power-play time. His numbers have been far from eye-popping, even in junior, but he may still produce a few seasons as a valuable fantasy asset. Dellandrea is ready for a full-time NHL job. Just don't expect power-play time early on, especially with the emergence of Jason Robertson. It was a pretty unique year for Dellandrea, as he split most of his NHL time between the Stars' main roster and taxi squad, collecting five points in 26 outings in Dallas. With Texas of the AHL, he tallied six points in eight games.

Upside Comparable: Brayden Schenn (25-45-70+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (15-25-45, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

New! Maverik Bourque, C

(2021: 48) (2020: N/A)

As captain of the Shawinigan Cataractes last year, Bourque posted 43 points in 28 contests, finishing second in team scoring behind Olivier Nadeau by two points, despite playing in six fewer games. While the role of captain won't earn you fantasy points, it does show that Bourque stands out as a leader among his peers, which speaks for itself. Bourque has now tallied 168 points throughout his 141 career games in the QMJHL, which translates to a 1.19 point-per-game average. Bourque has intriguing potential. He's flying under the radar in a lot of circles as most late-first-round picks usually do, but considering the deep class of prospects that he graduated with, it's quite possible the Stars committed grand larceny on that particular Draft Day. The natural sniper needs to work on his defensive game.

Upside Comparable: Travis Konecny (35-45-80+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-35-50, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.



Riley Damiani, C/LW

(2021: 62) (2020: 208)

Damiani is known first and foremost for his wheels and agility. His is the type of top-end speed that can be compared to elite NHL players. And as we know, that's a huge asset in today's game. The biggest concern directed his way was consistency. Could he produce at the pro level? He answered that question this past year with a nomination to the AHL's All-Rookie Team thanks to a point-per-game showing over 36 contests, most points among first-year players and a fourth-place finish in overall league scoring. Needless to say, that earned him his three-year ELC. Damiani probably won't be a 30-goal scorer at the next level, but his intelligence, speed and hockey IQ should one day mean some top-six and PP minutes. A top-nine role would be his floor.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Marchessault (25-55-80, 30 PIM)

3YP: (20-30-50, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Jacob Peterson, C

(2021: 216) (2020: 248)

Peterson has been part of winning teams in the SHL and Champions League, and that's the type of experience NHL general managers love. He plays both sides of the puck quite well thanks to his speed and elusiveness, other assets GMs love. Any doubts about his offensive production were quickly met with a counterpoint by the fifth-round selection in 2017, as he more than doubled his point totals in the SHL, going from 16 in 2019-20 to 33 this past season. The NHL is still too early, but keep an eye on his AHL totals this season, since he should be in Texas for pretty much the entire campaign. The 6-1 pivot needs to add much-needed bulk to his wiry 170-pound frame.

Upside Comparable: Tanner Pearson (25-35-60, 40 PIM)

3YP: (15-20-35, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/ NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Riley Tufte, LW

(2021: 223) (2020: 179)

Let's start with the obvious: he stands 6-6, has soft hands and he can fly despite his large frame. He also wore an alternate captain's sweater this year in Texas. But here's the part you're not going to like: he had but nine points in 36 games, which isn't better than his 15 in 53 outings he had during his rookie season the year prior. Some believe there's an NHL player in the 2016 first-rounder, that if properly surrounded by the right talent and given some power-play assignments, he could turn out. It just seems less likely as time goes by. One thing to consider that's in Tufte's favor is the fact he's a larger player. Although it seems counter intuitive, larger players often don't translate as quickly if they play a power forward's game like Tufte. Be patient with him if you choose to throw a flier his way – eventually, he could be a nice payoff in multi-cat leagues, as his PIM numbers are usually high.

Upside Comparable: Jordan Greenway (25-35-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Jordan Kawaguchi, C (2021: 235) (2020: N/A)

Captain of a solid North Dakota squad, Kawaguchi recorded 35 points in 27 games last year for a robust total of 126 points in 136 career NCAA games. Strong edgework promotes his playmaking skills, the feature that really makes him stand out, but he's also good around the net and can easily finish. A coveted college free agent last March, he was a finalist for the Hobey Baker, so don't let his 5-9, 180-pound frame deter you. A fun note: he holds North Dakota's school record for overtime goals, so he may just know the way of coming up big when it's most needed. (North Dakota boasts alumni such as Zach Parise, Jonathan Toews and T.J. Oshie, all notable clutch players). Kawaguchi could be a good late-round claim in a dynasty league.

Upside Comparable: Vincent Trocheck (25-45-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-23-38, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting

Adam Mascherin, C/LW (2021: 260) (2020: 309)

An intelligent, creative playmaker, Mascherin's level of playmaking ability made him a 100-point player (1.14 points per game over 259 games) during his junior career with Kitchener of the OHL. Unafraid to skate through the gritty areas needed to get on the scoreboard, he's another case of an undersized (5-10) forward that's guided by work ethic and competitiveness. Don't count him out, his energy and ability to produce offense should ultimately get him a crack at the show. He'll start the 2021-22 campaign with the Stars' AHL affiliate in Texas, where he has collected a 0.52 points per game pace through his first 105 games. This past season he racked up 34 in 36. Originally drafted by Florida but never signed, he was re-drafted by Dallas in 2018. He's now 23 so his window will start to close next year. Mascherin has to clear waivers to be sent down.

Upside Comparable: Claude Giroux (30-45-75, 30 PIM)

3YP: (18-31-49, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting

Fredrik Karlstrom, C (2021: 306) (2020: 394)

He's tall at 6-3, but he's lanky and would need to need to fill out, since he hovers around 190, give or take a couple of pounds. For a player with no truly elite tools in his box, more bulk would help him with the next step. He hasn't shown that extra gear to make the jump to the North American game, either. On loan to Vaxjo of the SHL, he put up 25 points in 51 games last year and while those are far from being eye-popping numbers, his output of 10 points in 14 playoff games was a bit more encouraging. A big year of development in Texas awaits him. He's now 23 so he needs to make his mark sooner rather than later.

Upside Comparable: Joel Armia (25-40-55+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! Antonio Stranges, C
(2021: 447) (2020: N/A)

Everyone in the Stars organization is aware of Stranges' speed and flashy style. All told, the tools necessary for an effective and even dangerous offensive player are in place. However, consistency has been a problem at times. It's no secret that being consistent at the next level is probably the toughest of assignments, but it's still concerning when a young player fails to do so on a nightly basis. Stranges didn't get an opportunity to play a whole lot last year, only nine games in Texas, so he'll look to build on his 2019-20 with London of the OHL, when he put up a 19-21-40 log in 61 games. If there's a Stars' prospect that needs to show what he's got in the tank this year, it's Stranges.

Upside Comparable: Chandler Stephenson (20-35-55+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 10 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Daniel Ljungman, C
(2021: 455) (2020: N/A)

While a strong wrist shot is his biggest asset, Ljungman has good on-ice instincts that benefit his positioning and two-way game. This bodes especially well on the defensive side of the puck, a prime quality needed to play in the NHL. The 154th selection in the 2020 Draft is somewhat of a project, but his smarts and offensive acumen may provide him with a chance to crack an NHL lineup at some point. However, a lot of the latter will depend on offensive production – can his above-average wrister be that little something extra that will tip the balance in his favor? A high-scoring junior player in Sweden, he just finished 42 games in the SHL. He only managed four points, but his ice time was minimal. That's to be expected as was 18 years old at the time.

Upside Comparable: Dominik Kubalik (25-35-60+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

 Thomas Harley, LD
(2021: 16D) (2020: 16D)

Big and strong at 6-3, 190 pounds, Harley is the kind of quarterback you want leading your zone breakout. Strong crisp passes. An intelligent two-way player in transition, Harley's current obstacle is the blue line depth in Dallas. Cream always rises to the top when you have talent like Harley and NHL GMs don't often let that kind of asset squander, so expect him with the big club very soon. He collected 25 points in 38 games for Texas in 2020-21 in his rookie-pro campaign. A Canada/US dual citizen, Harley represented Team Canada at the WJC where he was a shutdown defender. He posted just one goal, but was a team-best plus-14. He was near a point-per-game average for his final year in the OHL and 0.69 throughout his career.

Upside Comparable: Alex Pietrangelo (10-45-55+, 35 PIM)

3YP: (7-29-36, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Ryan Shea, LD (2021: 126D) (2020: 129D)

Packs a lot of what NHL GMs want to see in a defenseman: mobility, positioning and some offensive upside. Ryan Shea captained several teams prior to the start of his pro career, which is an asset and a good indicator of character. His production in college was pretty steady, too, although there are now concerns about his tools translating to the NHL level. For example, in his first 26 games as an AHLer in Texas, only six points and a minus-13 in 27 outings last season as a pro rookie. This, after 31 points in 34 contests for Northeastern University in his senior year. The fourth-round pick in 2015 needs to take a serious step forward this upcoming season to remain relevant. Now 24, he only has a small window.

Upside Comparable: Nick Leddy (5-35-40+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (2-20-22, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Adam Scheel, G

Scheel split the 2020-21 campaign between North Dakota and the AHL Stars. He fashioned a stingy 1.74 GAA and brilliant 0.931% for the former and a 3.06 GAA and 0.908% in 12 outings for the latter after signing a two-year ELC in April. Scheel is promising and looks the part of a goalie. However, one wonders how much NHL action the 6-3 college star will see in the near future while Jake Oettinger works on wresting the crease away from Ben Bishop and Anton Khudobin in Dallas. Expansion and the ebbs and flow of the NHL may help speed that up at some point, but the potential to see an NHL crease in a 1B role is there (if you can wait a few years). He's 22 years old now, so he still has time to make his mark.

Upside: 1A NHL split starter.

3YP: (18-13-6, 2.70 GAA, 0.910 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Remi Poirier, G

Poirier is another Stars' project. Ranked far down the team depth chart, opportunities in the near future will unfortunately be few behind Ben Bishop, Anton Khudobin, Jake Oettinger, Adam Scheel and Colton Point. His 6-2, 217-pound frame is encouraging, as size and power is also the way with today's goaltender, and he enjoyed a decent season with Gatineau of the 'Q' last season (14-8-2; 2.62; 0.908), but he's several years away from even a 1B role. At the moment, time to develop is on his side. Fortunately, he's been a workhorse in the QMJHL, seeing action in 69 games over the last two seasons (both abbreviated, too).

Upside: NHL Backup

3YP: (12-10-2, 2.70 GAA, 0.910 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 50%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Detroit RED WINGS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Lucas Raymond
Boom/Bust potential: Theo. Niederbach
Long-term project: Elmer Soderblom
Top sniper: Lucas Raymond
Best setup man: Lucas Raymond

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Lucas Raymond
Defense: Moritz Seider
Goalie: Keith Petruzzelli
Points only: Lucas Raymond
Multicategory: Moritz Seider

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Nick Richard

New! Lucas Raymond, RW

(2021: 15) (2020: N/A)

Raymond's 2020-21 SHL campaign came to an early end as he missed Frolunda's final 18 games with an injury, but his performance at Sweden's top professional level and his strong showing at the WJC were enough to earn him an entry-level contract with the Red Wings. He is expected to be fully recovered by the time NHL training camps open in the fall and could push for a job with the big club right away, but he will likely require some AHL seasoning. Raymond is a dual offensive threat, able to create chances for his teammates with outstanding vision, while also having the finishing ability to put the puck in the net himself. Though the elite offensive production might not come right away, his strong work ethic and well-rounded game should have him knocking on the NHL's door sooner rather than later.

Upside Comparable: Mikko Rantanen (35-55-90, 36 PIM)

3YP: (21-42-63, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Jonatan Berggren, LW/RW

(2021: 36) (2020: 159)

Berggren broke out in a big way in 2020-21, leading all U21 SHL players with 45 points in 49 games for Skellefteå. The potential has always been there for the young Swede and his progression this season was rewarded with an entry-level contract from the Red Wings back in May. Berggren is an electrifying offensive player with exceptional vision and the ability to complete creative passes, but he still needs to add strength to his frame while he rounds out his play away from the puck. There is a bit of boom-or-bust potential with Berggren, but he possesses high-end skill and has proven he can produce at the pro level. He is likely ticketed for the AHL, or perhaps even a loan back to the SHL, but he that could reward your patience.

Upside Comparable: Teuvo Teravainen (25-50-75, 20 PIM)

3YP: (19-39-58, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.



Joe Veleno, C (2021: 59) (2020: 40)

With the NHL and AHL seasons on hold last fall, the Red Wings loaned Veleno to Malmo of the Swedish Hockey League where he finished with 11 goals and nine assists in 46 games before returning to North America. After recovering from a concussion, he got into a handful of games with the Red Wings to close out the campaign and figures to be a regular in their lineup this coming season. Veleno has been lauded for his two-way game and though he isn't the most dynamic offensive player, he does have the requisite skill to eventually blossom into a productive second-line center in the NHL. In the meantime, he has the potential to be an effective player in multicategory leagues and should be drafted accordingly.

Upside Comparable: Bo Horvat (25-35-60+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (23-28-51, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Theodor Niederbach, C/RW (2021: 189) (2020: N/A)

Niederbach, who has been a dominant player at Sweden's U20 level for the last two seasons, earned his first taste of SHL action in 2020-21, picking up three goals and two assists in 20 games while playing limited minutes. With the Swedish roster decimated by COVID, he was thrust into a prominent role at the WJC and faired admirably (given the circumstances) with two goals across five contests. Niederbach is a skilled puck-handler and passer. He can run a power play, but he is still a few years away from being in the conversation for an NHL job. There is still a lot of physical maturation that needs to take place, but if you are in a deep league, or you can afford to wait, Niederbach could be worth a late-round swing.

Upside Comparable: Mikael Granlund (20-50-70, 20 PIM)

3YP: (17-32-49, 16 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).



Taro Hirose, LW/RW (*Unrestricted Free Agent if not signed*) (2021: 195) (2020: 105)

Signed as an undrafted free agent in 2019 following a prolific NCAA career, Hirose was immediately given an NHL opportunity and produced seven points in his first 10 games. But things haven't gone as smoothly for him in the years since. For the second straight season, Hirose was productive in the AHL but failed to establish himself in the NHL, getting into just six contests with the Red Wings. He will be 25 years old next season and his chances to prove himself as a productive player in the NHL appear to be dwindling, even with a franchise going through a full-blown rebuild. If he is going to become a regular NHLer, it will likely be as a result of his strong playmaking ability and power-play utility, but he probably isn't a player you should be targeting in your fantasy drafts.

Upside Comparable: Paul Stastny (20-40-60+, 24 PIM)

3YP: (12-25-37, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! Elmer Soderblom, LW/RW
(2021: 326) (2020: NR)

Drafted in the sixth round of the 2019 Draft, Soderblom has always been viewed as a long-term project, but he put himself on the map at last year's WJC when he scored a pair of highlight-reel goals for Sweden. He is a massive young man (6-8, 238) with great hands for his size, making him a difficult player to contain in front of the net, where he can be a weapon on the power play. Despite his size, he is not an overly-physical player and will likely have to make his living as a power-play specialist working in a net-front role. The package is enticing, but he needs to significantly improve his mobility and is still a few years away from being considered a realistic NHL option.

Upside Comparable: James van Riemsdyk (30-35-65+, 22 PIM)

3YP: (19-16-35, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

 Kirill Tyutyayev, LW/C
(2021: 512) (2020: 403)

Tyutyayev enjoyed a productive season in the Belarussian professional league, racking up 11 goals and 21 assists in 43 games. There is no questioning his skill. He utilizes great speed and puck-handling ability to find passing lanes and create chances for his teammates, but he is extremely small, standing at just 5-9 and weighing in at less than 150 pounds. There is still a long way to go and the rigors of North American professional hockey could prove to be too much for the undersized Tyutyayev, but he will get his first opportunity to erase those doubts in 2021-22 after signing a one-year contract with Detroit's AHL affiliate. The Red Wings will have to wait and see... and that's what fantasy managers should do, as well.

Upside Comparable: Mats Zuccarello (20-45-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-18-28, 14 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 45%

Expected Arrival: 2024-25.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

 Moritz Seider, RD
(2020: 12D) (2020: 17D)

Seider appeared set to become an NHL regular in 2020-21, but with the season delayed, Detroit wanted their top prospect playing meaningful games, so they loaned him to Rogle of the Swedish Hockey League. He was absolutely dominant in the SHL, playing a physical and responsible defensive game, while showing off his offensive upside with seven goals and 21 assists in 41 outings. He capped off his outstanding campaign with five assists in 10 contests for Germany at the World Championships and should immediately step into a prominent role on Detroit's blue line when the puck drops for 2021-22. Seider has all the makings of a true No.1 defender that will contribute across multiple categories. If he is available in your league, draft him immediately.

Upside Comparable: Drew Doughty (15-45-60, 85 PIM)

3YP: (12-38-50, 90 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Dennis Cholowski, LD (2021: 37D) (2020: Grad.)

Cholowski split time between the AHL and NHL in 2020-21, registering a goal and two assists in 16 games with the Red Wings. Though he has yet to nail down a permanent NHL role, he has shown the ability to produce offense from the backend – most notably on the power play. To this point in his career, it has been his defensive game that has prevented him from becoming a full-time NHLer. Detroit will surely be looking to augment their lineup this offseason, but Cholowski should have an opportunity to earn a roster spot out of camp, albeit as a depth option. With the emergence of Filip Hronek and Moritz Seider's imminent arrival, PP TOI could be tough to come by on Detroit's blue line and that could limit Cholowski's overall fantasy value moving forward.

Upside Comparable: Jeff Petry (12-33-45+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (8-22-30, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 80%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round option (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Jared McIsaac, LD (2021: 49D) (2020: 41D)

After missing a large portion of 2019-20 due to a shoulder injury, the Red Wings were eager to get McIsaac's development back on track and opted to loan him to HPK of Liiga in Finland. Unfortunately, he only got into one game before injury struck again and forced him to miss more crucial development time. He returned to North America to treatment, but got into just 10 AHL games the rest of the way, registering two assists in the process. McIsaac is an intelligent two-way defenseman that moves the puck efficiently and doesn't hesitate to engage physically, but he will have to make up for lost time before pushing for NHL minutes. He still holds top-four potential and there is a chance he sees some power-play time eventually, so he is worth drafting if you don't need him to step into your lineup immediately. Warning: he has had two shoulder surgeries.

Upside Comparable: Nick Leddy (10-35-45, 50 PIM)

3YP: (6-30-36, 46 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Antti Tuomisto, RD (2021: 153D) (2020: 160D)

An early second-round selection in the 2019 NHL Draft, Tuomisto is a towering right-handed blueliner with a heavy, accurate point shot that has seen him find the back of the net regularly over the last few seasons. He produced at over a point-per-game pace in Finland's U20 league in 2019-20, staying at the junior level in order to maintain his NCAA eligibility, where he began his collegiate career at the University of Denver in 2020-21 (2-9-11 points in 24 games). Tuomisto skates well for his size, moves the puck efficiently and his defensive game continues to improve, but his booming point shot will be his meal ticket at the pro level. His development path could take a bit longer, but Tuomisto has legitimate top-four, power-play quarterback upside.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Pulock (10-35-45+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (7-25-32, 46 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Albert Johansson, LD
(2021: 176D) (2020: NR)

Johansson is a smooth-skating puck-mover that's coming off a nice season with Farjestad of the SHL, where he tallied 19 points in 44 games. He also represented Sweden at the WJC, where he added three assists in five games and logged big minutes alongside top prospect Victor Soderstrom (Arizona). Johansson is at his best when he is using his agility and vision to elude forecheckers and drive play from the backend, but he still needs to add some muscle to his slight frame in order to effectively defend against bigger, stronger forwards. He is under contract with the Red Wings and could make the jump to North America this season, but will require additional development time, whether that is in the AHL or on loan back to the SHL. He could be worth a late-round swing in deep leagues, but it's best to wait on Johansson for at least another year.

Upside Comparable: Cam Fowler (10-35-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-25-30, 16 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! William Wallinder, LD
(2021: 182D) (2020: N/A)

Wallinder was drafted by the Red Wings with the 32nd overall pick in the 2020 Draft and spent most of last season playing in Sweden's Allsvenskan with MODO, where he finished with six points in 43 games. He is a fantastic skater with decent puck skills, but his processing speed and decision-making are things he will have to work on as he continues his development overseas for the foreseeable future. Not a natural offensive threat, Wallinder has the tools to develop into a modest offensive producer if he reaches his potential. He is under contract with Rogle of the SHL for the 2021-22 season and how he handles the step up in competition will be telling in terms of his NHL timeline. For now, it is probably too early to spend a valuable draft pick on Wallinder.

Upside Comparable: Will Butcher (5-35-40, 20 PIM)

3YP: (3-22-25, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2024-25.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Alex Cotton, RD
(2021: 222D) (2020: NR)

Cotton has been one of the most productive defensemen in the WHL for the last two seasons, totaling 93 points over 87 games. He has good size and offensive instincts, but his skating is average, making it difficult for him to recover when he takes risks to create offense. Cotton is still very much a project but his production at the junior level is difficult to ignore. If he can improve his mobility and risk management, there is path for him to become a power-play specialist at the NHL level someday. He is still without a contract for next season, however, and it remains to be seen what the future holds for him. Cotton is not worth a draft pick at this stage of his career.

Upside Comparable: Erik Gustafsson (15-35-50, 50 PIM)

3YP: (5-17-22, 36 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 55%

Expected Arrival: A long wait - 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Keith Petruzzelli, G

Petruzzelli put up impressive numbers after taking over the starter's role for Quinnipiac University in 2019-20 and he built off that success last season, finishing with a 1.89 GAA and 0.926 SV% in 29 games. He has great size for the position (6-5) and moves well in his crease for a big man, taking openings away from shooters. It remains to be seen what the immediate future holds for Petruzzelli, as he has now completed four years of college hockey but is still without an NHL contract. The year-over-year improvements have put him back on the NHL radar and though his arrival is far from imminent, he could prove to be a valuable asset in the future if your fantasy team is thin on goaltending prospects.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: (28-24-5, 2.54 GAA, 0.913 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Edmonton OILERS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Evan Bouchard
Boom/Bust potential: Philip Broberg
Long-term project: Carter Savoie
Top sniper: Raphaël Lavoie
Best setup man: Tyler Benson

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Dylan Holloway
Defense: Evan Bouchard
Goal: Ilya Konovalov
Points only: Evan Bouchard
Multicategory: Dylan Holloway

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Jameson Ewasuk

New! Dylan Holloway, C (2021: 42) (2020: N/A)

What a season it was for Holloway. From 'questionable pick' in the eyes of stat watchers back in October to Hobey Baker finalist in March. The young forward's 35-point effort in just 23 games for Wisconsin University was undoubtedly impressive, as it was good for fifth in the entire NCAA. Though to be fair, he was teammates with Montreal stud Cole Caufield. Holloway's combination of leadership, grit and speed helped him earn a spot with Canada's WJC squad last year. In April, the Oilers opted to sign him to an entry-level contract. Edmonton is desperate for wingers, which means that Holloway could see time with the big club as early as this season. As an aggressive forward playing a power game, he may make the NHL early but could be several years getting to that peak production.

Upside Comparable: Bill Guerin (30-45-75+, 100 PIM)

3YP: (19-36-55, 70 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

↑ Ryan McLeod, C (2021: 87) (2020: 149)

There is an argument to be made that no Oilers' prospect raised his stock more last season than McLeod. The speedy pivot began his season playing for EV Zug of the Swiss National League, where he recorded four goals and 11 points in 15 games before returning to the AHL Condors for his sophomore season. That's where his game took a big step forward. From the 23 points in 56 games of the season prior, the young forward amassed 14 goals and 28 points in 28 games, as he centered one of the AHL's best lines with Cooper Marody and Tyler Benson. He earned a call-up to the show, where he dressed in 10 games late in the regular season and four in the playoffs. And McLeod did not look out of place thanks to his speed and defensive play. Time will tell if he can develop into a Dylan Larkin type of top-sixer, or more like a Darren Helm third-line center.

Upside Comparable: Dylan Larkin (20-45-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Raphael Lavoie, RW

(2021: 107) (2020: 139)

Likely Edmonton's top goal-scoring prospect in the system, Lavoie played the majority of the past campaign (on loan) with Vasby IK of the Allsvenskan in Sweden. The young winger acquitted himself well, as he finished tied for 12th in the league in points with 45 and tied for fifth in goals with 23 in 51 games. His production was solid, but it would have been nice to see what he could have done in the bigger SHL. Upon conclusion, Lavoie traveled back to North America, where he produced five goals and 10 points in 19 outings to finish off the regular season as a rookie for the AHL Condors. He then took part in six playoff games and put up four points. Edmonton is on the lookout for wingers that can produce offense and finish plays, so Lavoie will be given every opportunity to fill a top-six role in the future.

Upside Comparable: Max Pacioretty (30-40-70+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (14-25-39, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Tyler Benson, LW

(2021: 112) (2020: 63)

As of right now, 23-year-old Benson is an effective AHLer that has yet to translate his offensive production to the NHL level. Last season, Benson failed to earn a spot on the Oilers' taxi squad, but enjoyed yet another successful season for the Bakersfield Condors, as he finished third in league scoring with 36 points in as many outings. With only seven NHL games under his belt, it would have been nice to see the Oil's prospect suit up in at least one game for the big club in 2020-21, especially when we consider how poorly a few of Edmonton's bottom-six vets played. Time will tell if he can be full time NHLer, or end up a tweener.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Nugent-Hopkins (20-40-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Cooper Marody, C/RW

(2021: 187) (2020: 117)

Much like Benson, there was hope that Marody would push for a spot on the big club last season, or at the least make the taxi squad. Also, like Benson, Marody does not seem to have one defining skill that screams future NHL player. He did enjoy a bounce-back season for the AHL Condors, though, by leading the league with 21 goals and placing third in points with 36 in 39 games, which was a positive given that he'll turn 25 in December. His contract with the Oilers is now expired, but it is not unreasonable to think he will be re-signed. At worst, he's a top-line forward in the AHL; at best, he'll push some inconsistent veterans out of the Oil's bottom-six come training camp. The term now or never is quickly approaching.

Upside Comparable: Alex Killorn (20-35-55+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-15-25, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Kirill Maximov, RW

(2021: 214) (2020: 129)

After an underwhelming 2018-19 campaign as a rookie in the AHL (13 points in 53 games), where he was not exactly put in the best position to succeed, last season didn't offer much more in the way of answers as to what Maximov's upside is. The 22-year-old wing was productive in one circuit, not as much in another. He recorded 12 goals and 27 points in 25 games with Zvezda Moskva of the VHL and three points in 16 games with CSKA Moskva of the KHL. His minutes in the big Russian circuit were limited and although his VHL production was solid, scoring in the latter does not give an accurate prediction as to what he will do as an AHLer. As an Oiler, Maximov will be entering the last year of his entry-level contract. As a power forward, his production will take longer to arrive.

Upside Comparable: Timo Meier (25-35-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (10-15-25, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Carter Savoie, LW

(2021: 330) (2020: N/A)

You could not have asked for a better season from Edmonton's 2020 fourth-round pick. Savoie was a unanimous choice for the NCHC All-Rookie Team, as he recorded 20 points in 24 games for the University of Denver. He led all freshmen in shots (77), goals (13), power-play goals (six), game-winning goals (three) and he finished second in rookie points behind Veeti Miettinen. Not a bad first campaign in the NCAA, eh. However, he's below-average in terms of both size (5-10, 181) and skating and he can leave something to be desired outside the offensive zone. He can also be somewhat streaky, so he'll look to become more consistent on a game-to-game basis as a sophomore. Savoie is still far from being a fully-rounded player, but he is a pure finisher that excels on the power play and will be given time to develop.

Upside Comparable: Mike Comrie (30-35-65+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (10-10-20, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Tyler Tullio, C

(2021: 410) (2020: N/A)

Last season, Tullio found himself on loan and playing in the Slovakian league with HK 32 Liptovsky Mikulas. And he wasn't in a position to succeed, either, as his club was the league's worst, winning just seven out of 50 games. Tullio's four goals and 13 points to go along with 77 penalty minutes in 19 games is nonetheless impressive for a player that had not played European hockey, or in a men's league, before. An argument could also be made that the Oilers' draft pick was a top-three forward on the squad. So, after acquitting himself well in Slovakia, Tullio traveled back to the AHL in March, but failed to get into a game with the Condors. It's tough to gauge the progression in Tullio's game due to the fact he played in only 19 games in total last year, but Edmonton could have themselves a sleeper here.

Upside Comparable: Brendan Gallagher (25-35-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (10-10-20, 30 PIM)

Tyler Tullio continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Maxim Denezhkin, C

(2021: 515) (2020: 509)

A player that typically passes the eye test, Denezhkin hasn't really taken a step forward since being drafted in 2019. The young Russian displays a solid work ethic, the ability of a team leader and he flashes the type of offensive skill that makes one think there's more in terms of potential production than currently on display. His 22 points in 34 games for Buran Voronezh of the VHL is okay production, but his nine points in 18 games for Loko Yaroslavl was underwhelming when compared to the 0.68 points per game that he put up during his MHL career (prior to last season). Until we see Denezhkin start producing offense on a more consistent basis, it is hard to predict when we'll see him cross the pond for a stab at an NHL career.

Upside Comparable: Yanni Gourde (20-35-55+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (5-10-15, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 55%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

Evan Bouchard, RD

(2021: 3D) (2020: 4D)

Simply put, Bouchard is one of the Oilers' top prospects and arguably the most likely to make a significant impact this upcoming season. He has been an offensive producer in every league he has played and that did not change last season in Sweden, where he recorded 6-11-17 in 23 games for Sodertalje SK of the Allsvenskan. The young defender then finished off his campaign with the Oilers by recording a respectable five points in 14 outings. Unfortunately, Bouchard was scratched fairly often as 2020-21 came to a close, which was disappointing in itself, and he wasn't necessarily utilized in ways that benefited his skill set when he did dress. With Tyson Barrie likely moving on after a very productive showing in Edmonton, Bouchard may step right into the former's role as the offensive leader from the backend, as well as the team's PP quarterback.

Upside Comparable: Zach Werenski (15-50-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (11-35-46, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Philip Broberg, LD

(2021: 34D) (2020: 66D)

A lot has been said of this player since Edmonton selected him as a top-10 pick in the 2019 Draft. When playing against his age group, Broberg stands out as a top defender, but he can leave the viewer wanting more when he's skating against men in the SHL. His size and impressive mobility make him an enticing prospect, but his hockey sense has been questioned. Last season, Broberg recorded a respectable 13 points in 44 games for Skelleftea AIK of the SHL and also took time to captain Sweden's WJC entry. While he started the junior tournament on the right foot, recording three points in four outings, he was beset by an injury shortly thereafter. Time will tell whether or

Philip Broberg continued

not the Swede can put it all together. Darnell Nurse had his hockey sense questioned early in his career and Broberg has been a more productive player than Oscar Klefbom at the same age, so if those comparisons bear any meaning, Broberg should be fine.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Suter (15-30-45+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (5-20-25, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Dmitri Samorukov, LD (2021: 110D) (2020: 78D)

Evan Bouchard and Philip Broberg get all the attention as blue line prospects in Edmonton, but Samorukov may also fill a key role in the club's future plans. All in all, the young Russian plays a poised and mature defensive game that takes care of business in the defensive end. Although he is not projected to be an offensive producer in the NHL, he would perfectly compliment an offensive-minded guy like Bouchard. For example, the young Russian played for CSKA Moskva of the KHL last season and recorded a pedestrian two goals and eight points in 48 games. That being said, Samorukov has a chance of cracking the Oilers' roster this season, or even get a look-see at some point if injuries occur.

Upside Comparable: Jonas Brodin (5-40-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Stuart Skinner, G

It was nice to see Skinner's numbers jump up to 0.914 SV% and 2.38 GAA in 32 games last year with AHL Bakersfield, as opposed to the 0.893 and 3.31 in 41 outings the season prior. With rumors of the Oilers possibly bringing back Mike Smith (after the solid season he had) and Mikko Koskinen playing the role of overpaid backup, Skinner will be hard-pressed to break camp with the club. Even if Edmonton does have only one of Smith or Koskinen after this summer, they will most likely look to pursue another option via free agency or a trade. If the young netminder continues to improve this season and Koskinen gone next summer, Skinner could become the full-time backup in 2022-23. The wrench in that plan, though, is that the Oilers just signed Russian Ilya Konovalov to an ELC and he should instantly challenge Skinner.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: (35-22-4, 2.60 GAA, 0.915 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Ilya Konovalov, G

Konovalov is an interesting prospect. He has put up strong numbers at every level in Russia and is coming off a season in which he posted a solid 0.923 SV% and 2.29 GAA in 19 games for Lokomotiv Yaroslavl of the KHL. In May, the Oilers opted to sign him to a two-year entry-level

Ilya Konovalov continued

contract, which was an exciting development for the team, since there seemed to be some uncertainty as to if/when the Oilers would be able to get him over to North America. It is unlikely that either Konovalov or Stuart Skinner make the big club out of camp this season. Mike Smith might be re-signed and Mikko Koskinen is still around, but Konovalov should instantly challenge Skinner for the starting job with the AHL Condors. Whichever goaltender proves to be ahead of the other may earn a spot as Edmonton's backup for 2022-23.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: (37-20-4, 2.55 GAA, 0.917 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

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Florida PANTHERS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Spencer Knight
Boom/Bust potential: Aleksi Heponiemi
Long-term project: Serron Noel
Top sniper: Grigori Denisenko
Best setup man: Anton Lundell

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Anton Lundell
Defense: Max Gildon
Goal: Spencer Knight
Points only: Grigori Denisenko
Multicategory: Grigori Denisenko

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

Grigori Denisenko, LW

(2021: 10) (2020: 12)

One of Florida's two elite forward prospects was ready to play in the NHL last season, but was left to marinate one more year. This was partially due to the fact that the Panthers had a good roster, and if they needed him, they could always turn to him. But if not, then an extra year of development could only help. It did. He saw tons of playing time with Syracuse, posting nine points in 15 games. In late February he was recalled to the taxi squad, where he stayed for a month, getting into seven NHL games (four points). In terms of pure offense, he could be the Jonathan Huberdeau to Lundell's Aleksander Barkov. His vision is as elite and he has quick hands with great hockey sense. Plays with tenacity that will make him a clutch player.

Upside Comparable: Artemi Panarin (40-45-85, 70 PIM)

3YP: (26-35-61, 46 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

New! Anton Lundell, C

(2021: 16) (2020: N/A)

Lundell may have been the steal of the first round when he fell to Florida as the 12th pick in the draft. He was definitely the steal of the first round with his performance over the next few months. A two-way player with leadership qualities and strong defensive acumen, Lundell flashed his tremendous offense for HIFK when he garnered 16 goals and 25 points in just 26 games. He led the team in goals despite missing half the games for the WJC. He was also alternate captain of that men's team even though he was only 19 years old! If that's not enough to sell you, Lundell was captain of Team Finland's bronze medal squad at the WJC and his 10 points in seven games put him third in tournament scoring. Yes, he's a two-way center, but so is Aleksander Barkov – and you can see what Barkov does production-wise.

Upside Comparable: Aleksander Barkov (35-45-80+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (30-38-68, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 99%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Aleksi Heponiemi, C/LW

(2021: 44) (2020: 62)

The highly-talented Heponiemi has disappointed fantasy owners with his slow progression. But that makes him easy pickings in keeper leagues as his owners grow impatient. Heponiemi was drafted 40th in 2017 and exploded in his final WHL season with 118 points in 57 games. The following season he was highly productive in Liiga, posting a point-per-game as well as having a great WJC (nine points in seven games for Team Finland). But 2019-20 was a letdown in his first North American pro hockey season as he struggled at both ends. Last campaign was a solid rebound, and team brass credit his attitude and work ethic. After a solid stint in Sweden, he then posted six points in six games for Syracuse before earning a second callup to the Panthers. He was used in more a defensive role, which is alarming for fantasy owners, but reassuring that he can play a complete game and stands to have an NHL future.

Upside Comparable: Jesper Bratt (20-50-75, 30 PIM)

3YP: (16-33-49, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Aleksi Saarela, C/RW

(2021: 98) (2020: 54)

Don't forget about Saarela, when discussing Florida prospects with good upside. Saarela was on the cusp of an NHL job when the pandemic hit and he was a restricted free agent. Rather than worry about the instability of an NHL job or start date, he felt a strong loyalty to stay with Rauma Lukko for the entire season and win a championship. It's where his brother (Chicago prospect Antti) played and where his father, Parsi, was a star. Mission accomplished: Aleksi, just like his father before him in the 90s, was Lukko's second-highest scorer in the SM-liiga playoffs en route to the championship win. A smart hockey player with a good, accurate shot, he's ready for what comes next. Now 24, he'll be looking to sign with Florida and make a huge push for a roster spot. Dark horse.

Upside Comparable: James van Riemsdyk (35-35-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (16-16-32, 16 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Logan Hutsko, RW

(2021: 159) (2020: 143)

After a fantastic breakout season with Boston College in his junior season, Hutsko was having a pretty good senior year before injury struck. An ankle injury cut his season short, holding him to just 11 games (11 points). He could have explored unrestricted free agency, having completed his senior year, but elected to sign with the Panthers. Hutsko is a talented offensive player with second-line upside, but he has struggled with injuries throughout his career, so that's a definite concern for fantasy owners. As a sniper, chemistry with the right centerman is all that is needed for him to see his upside. Well, that and good health. The 22-year-old will need at least a year of AHL seasoning to help him transition to the pro game.

Upside Comparable: Bryan Rust (30-35-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (13-18-31, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Logan Hutsko continued

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Serron Noel, RW

(2021: 178) (2020: 178)

Noel saw minimal action in 2020-21, mainly because he was a first-year player on a shared AHL team. The Lightning graciously offered to let the Panthers share their affiliate, but the downside of that is that there isn't enough ice time to go around. Still, in the eight games that he appeared in, the power forward did well in posting four points and asserting himself physically. The hulking 6-5, 216-pound right wing took advantage of his limited ice time by using his size and making his presence felt. Defensively, he kept mistakes to a minimum and that's all that the organization could ask. With that first year under his belt, Noel will look to apply that experience as a regular part of the third line when Florida gets a full-time farm team again (this year it will be the Charlotte Checkers). As with most big players, Noel will need a few years to develop.

Upside Comparable: Evander Kane (30-40-70, 80 PIM)

3YP: (21-28-49, 57 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Cole Schwindt, RW

(2021: 300) (2020: 293)

Instead of enjoying a breakthrough OHL season, Schwindt was forced to play AHL hockey as a 19-year-old because of the OHL never starting. He got into 10 pro games, but didn't see a lot of ice time. He held up well playing against men, though was prone to use his stick and take bad penalties. Still, he was good enough to get promoted to the taxi squad and practice with the big club in late April and during the (brief) playoffs. He plays a strong two-way game, which bodes well for his NHL outlook. But his offensive upside is still an unknown. We think there is tremendous potential there, and had expected quite a dominant OHL performance in his final year there. But it was a year that never happened, and now that he's eligible for the AHL he will have to show that potential in the pros.

Upside Comparable: Pavel Buchnevich (25-45-70, 50 PIM)

3YP: (13-30-43, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Justin Sourdif, C

(2021: 338) (2020: N/A)

Sourdif is another player who fell a full round from projections and right into Florida's lap. Taken at No. 87, the hardworking pivot rewarded his new organization with a huge 2020-21 playing for WHL's Vancouver Giants. He's a bit of an agitator, which bodes well for PIM leagues. But he also has pretty good offensive upside thanks to his tremendous hockey sense. Sourdif led the Giants in scoring with 34 points in just 22 contests – and that was good enough for third in the entire league. His 29 PIM were second among the Top 20 scorers in that league. The Surrey, B.C. native needs to add strength to his 5-11, 183-pound frame given his hard-nosed style of play, and he could also work on his footspeed.

Justin Sourdif continued

Upside Comparable: J-G Pageau (25-40-65+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (17-30-47, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Ty Smilanic, C

(2021: 436) (2020: N/A)

Smilanic enjoyed an excellent NCAA debut for Quinnipiac University, tying for the team lead in goals with 14 (in 29 games) and fourth in points despite being several years younger than most. Smilanic fell a little in the draft last summer, sliding to the Panthers at 74. He has good offensive instincts, with accuracy in both shooting and passing, as well as the wherewithal to know which one to use at the right moment. He's a versatile player – as a centerman, his setup skills are apparent. But last season he was primarily used on the wing, lining up alongside a playmaking center (Tampa Bay's Odeen Tufto) and so his shot was used more. With Tufto now signed to a pro contract, expect Smilanic to lead Quinnipiac offensively.

Upside Comparable: Andrew Cogliano (25-40-65, 50 PIM)

3YP: (17-30-47, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Max Gildon, LD

(2021: 31D) (2020: 39D)

After a successful (i.e. productive) three years in the NCAA that saw him finish his junior year with 29 points in 34 games, Gildon made a strong transition to pro hockey. The 2017 66th overall pick was fortunate to be loaned to Bakersfield (Edmonton's affiliate), rather than be buried in Syracuse and have to battle the 17 different defensemen to dress for Tampa Bay's affiliate. He finished tied for second in the AHL among defensemen for assists with 17 – eight of which came via the power play. He was also named to the AHL's All-Rookie team. Still just 22, he could use one more year of seasoning with Florida's own affiliate, and he will also focus on bulking up his lanky 6-3 frame. He is potentially a multicategory asset, as he averaged over a PIM per game throughout college and had 27 PIM in 32 games in the AHL.

Upside Comparable: Darnell Nurse (15-35-50+, 80 PIM)

3YP: (9-30-39, 60+ PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Lucas Carlsson, LD

(2021: 41D) (2020: 91D)

The Panthers acquired Carlsson in a swap of players who, for one reason or another, were not being used (or not being used properly) by their respective teams. The crux of the deal had Florida acquiring Carlsson for highly-touted but disgruntled forward Henrik Borgstrom. Both prospects are on the cusp of NHL readiness. At the time, Carlsson had 62 points in 124 career AHL games, proving himself to be a capable puck-moving defenseman at that level. But in 18

Lucas Carlsson continued

games with Chicago, he had been unable to show that he belonged. With so many other young prospects trying to fill the role of quarterback, it's not surprising that Carlsson was unable to stand out. After the trade, however, Carlsson made a big splash when he posted nine points in 11 games with Syracuse. Needs to clear waivers in order to be sent down, so that ups his chances.

Upside Comparable: Jared Spurgeon (5-40-45+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (5-23-28, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick if you need immediate help and don't mind a lower ceiling.



John Ludvig, LD

(2021: 59D) (2020: 68D)

The rough-and-tumble defenseman was drafted for his sandpaper, as well as his leadership and stay-at-home acumen. Taken in the third round, 69th overall in 2019, Ludvig then pulled another weapon from his arsenal – offense. As captain of the Portland Winterhawks, he posted 62 points in 60 games in 2019-20. He transitioned well to pro hockey last season, although he was buried among 16 other defensemen on Tampa Bay's affiliate (Syracuse). Despite the numbers game, he still managed eight points in 13 contests while showing off his abrasive style and reliable defense. Ludvig is a potential multicategory stud, though how the Panthers' depth chart on defense looks in two or three years will determine how much room there is to use him in an offensive role.

Upside Comparable: Jake Muzzin (10-35-45+, 80+ PIM)

3YP: (7-22-29, 65 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New!

Matt Kiersted, LD

(2021: 112D) (2020: N/A)

In high demand by NHL teams these past two NCAA seasons, Kiersted settled on Florida after completing his senior year. An aggressive defender with excellent passing skills, he garnered an impressive 51 points in his final 62 games with the University of North Dakota. And each of those two years were as an alternate captain. In seven games with the Panthers, Kiersted seemed overwhelmed at times and more often than not he surrendered possession. The 23-year-old will probably need to apprentice in the AHL. How well he adapts there will determine how quickly he gets his next shot. Kiersted needs to show some of the aggression and assertiveness that were prominent in his college game, so adding more strength and bulk would obviously help.

Upside Comparable: Mike Reilly (5-40-45+, 56 PIM)

3YP: (3-18-21, 45 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New!

Michael Benning, RD

(2021: 197D) (2020: N/A)

Drafted in the fourth round last summer (95th overall), Benning boasts tremendous hockey smarts and agility. The son of former NHLer Brian, and nephew of Vancouver GM Jim, Michael has higher

Michael Benning continued

puck-moving potential than either of them had as players. He would have been drafted in the first two rounds had he been more than six feet tall, but he's undersized at 5-10 (and several publications list him as short as 5-8). Benning had a solid freshman campaign with the University of Denver (11 points in 21 games), already solidifying his spot as their power-play quarterback by the end. He's an intelligent, deceptive puck-handler who can find the seams with his passes, but because he has a pretty good shot from the point, he keeps the opposition thinking.

Upside Comparable: Damon Severson (5-40-45+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (4-18-22, 36 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Spencer Knight, G

Brilliant (sarcasm) of the Panthers to make the decision to sign Sergei Bobrovsky to a seven-year deal just days after drafting a franchise goalie in Knight. Goalies drafted 13th overall are about as close to certainty as a prospect gets – and they rarely take seven years. While Bobrovsky still has five years left on a buyout-proof contract, Knight is showing team brass and fans that he's ready. Now. Undefeated in the season (4-0-0, 2.32 GAA, 0.919 SV%) and even better in two playoff games that he was forced to play because Bobrovsky flopped, Knight seems poised to take over. The 20-year-old will likely apprentice in the AHL in the season ahead, with some NHL spot starts to give him a taste. But that's only because the Panthers have to use Bobrovsky. Have to. And in 2022-23 he'll split starts with Bob. It may be after 2023-24 before this mess is straightened out enough for Knight to give fantasy owners the numbers they want.

Upside: Elite NHL Starter

3YP: (38-20-4, 2.30 GAA, 0.920 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 40%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Devon Levi, G

Pundits couldn't agree on Levi last summer, as Central Scouting had him as the eighth top goalie available for the draft and TSN had him as a late second rounder, whereas others had him ranked as a late-round pick or not at all. Florida ended up taking him in the seventh round. It is hard to assess performance in a lesser-viewed league like the CCHL (Central Canada Hockey League). What's easy to assess is the fact that Team Canada's coaching staff loved what they saw in camp and gave him the starting job at the WJC. Levi was outstanding in helping Canada take silver, finishing 6-1 with a 0.964 SV%. He suffered a rib injury though, and it cost him the full NCAA season. The 19-year-old is quick, agile, and obviously clutch, but as a late-round pick who is only 6-0, he has his work cut out for him. Still years away.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: (32-20-4, 2.55 GAA, 0.915 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Los Angeles KINGS

At a Glance	Most Fantasy Upside
Top Prospect: Quinton Byfield	Forward: Quinton Byfield
Boom/Bust potential: Vladimir Tkachyov	Defense: Jordan Spence
Long-term project: Helge Grans	Goal: Lukas Parik
Top Sniper: Arthur Kaliyev	Points only: Quinton Byfield
Best setup man: Alex Turcotte	Multicategory: Quinton Byfield
2021 Draftee: coming soon	

by Julian Mongillo

New! Quinton Byfield, C (2021: 3) (2020: N/A)

The Kings got a glimpse into the future of the franchise when 6-4 Byfield made his NHL debut near the end of last season. Earlier, he had benefitted from the cancellation of the OHL season, which allowed him to play for the AHL's Ontario Reign, where he posted eight goals and 20 points in 32 games. As for his first-ever NHL stint, he recorded his first point, an assist, during a six-game affair late in the season. The big-bodied center should be able to assert himself into a top-nine role for the Kings as of this season. He has elite-level skill and the vast potential of a multicategory stud for years to come. In fact, it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone if he's the Kings' second-line center by season's end. But patience will be needed for his next level – that could/should be several years away.

Upside Comparable: Auston Matthews (50-50-100, 52 PIM)

3YP: (36-41-77, 44 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Alex Turcotte, C (2021: 33) (2020: 20)

This past season was Turcotte's first taste of professional hockey since coming over from the University of Wisconsin and his report card stipulates a passing grade. All told, he enjoyed a solid rookie season despite battling a lower-body injury after helping USA capture a gold medal at the WJC. Reliable at both ends of the ice thanks to a strong two-way game, Turcotte managed to accumulate 21 points through his first 32 pro games, which included 15 assists while playing in a top-six role for the AHL Reign. He still needs some seasoning in the minors considering he is not yet accustomed to a full 82-game regular season, but that won't stop him from being a focal point of the Reign's offense in 2021-22.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Toews (30-45-75+, 65 PIM)

3YP: (25-37-62, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Arthur Kaliyev, LW (2021: 35) (2020: 37)

Kaliyev was on a mission last year: after slipping out of the first round of the 2019 Draft to be selected early in the second (33rd overall), he was out to prove everyone that passed on him was wrong. He was a dominant offensive force for the AHL-affiliate Reign, leading the team in goals (14), assists (17) and points (31) through his first 40 games at the pro level. As previously advertised, Kaliyev possesses elite scoring ability, as he can thread the needle a number of ways: heavy slapshot, wicked wrist shot, or solid one-timer. Depending on what the Kings choose to do with the free agent market, there's an outside chance he forces GM Rob Blake's hand to find him a spot sooner than expected. Last year with the Reign, Kaliyev toiled on both the top line and first power-play unit. He also scored in his first and only NHL game to date.

Upside Comparable: Vladimir Tarasenko (45-35-80, 56 PIM)

3YP: (31-27-58, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple rounds.

Rasmus Kupari, C (2021: 39) (2020: 64)

The Finnish pivot just completed his second pro season after his first one in 2019-20 was cut short due to a torn ACL. And he bounced back with flying colors, finishing third on the AHL Reign with 23 points in 32 outings. Most notably, though, he made his NHL debut and even notched his first career goal. The center depth the Kings have will make it tough for Kupari and his full-time job aspirations, but his offensive upside and nifty playmaking ability predict a strong NHLer in due time. Consistent at both ends of the rink, Kupari's commitment to improving the defensive side of his game is commendable. Now 21, he's no longer a slide candidate, meaning we should see him on the Kings sooner rather than later, although one more year in the AHL seems likely.

Upside Comparable: J.T. Miller (25-50-75, 50 PIM)

3YP: (17-30-47, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Tyler Madden, C (2021: 71) (2020: 42)

A key part of the package the Kings received when they traded Tyler Toffoli to Vancouver back in 2020, Madden was on loan when he suffered a broken finger before his 2020-21 campaign began in Germany, so he shuttled back to North America and eventually managed to play 14 games as a rookie in the AHL, tallying one goal and four assists. These are far from the numbers that are expected from a player of Madden's caliber, so further development and patience will help. The former third-rounder in 2018 will push for a roster spot out of camp, but may have a tough time making the Kings at his natural center position because of the depth the team has down the middle. His durability and size (5-11, 152) are concerns, but his speed, tenacity and strong hockey IQ could make him a solid contributor in the future.

Upside Comparable: David Krejci (25-43-68, 28 PIM)

3YP: (20-30-50, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 82%

Tyler Madden continued

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Samuel Fagemo, LW (2021: 72) (2020: 53)

The Swedish winger put himself on the map following his seven-game, 13-point performance at the 2020 WJC. He was loaned to Sodertalje SK to start 2020-21 and later joined the Ontario Reign for his inaugural campaign in North America, where he immediately displayed his knack to find the net: 10 goals and 18 points in 32 rookie games. Although there are higher-rated prospects in the Kings' organization, Fagemo's ability to play both left and right wing gives him an edge considering the lack of depth the team has on the wings. Fagemo has shown he can be a consistent point producer and goal scorer wherever he's played, so he'll look to make a big leap forward in his second season in the AHL.

Upside Comparable: T.J. Oshie (35-35-70, 32 PIM)

3YP: (24-22-46, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Vladimir Tkachyov, W (2021: 111) (2020: N/A)

An offseason free-agent acquisition, Tkachyov is no stranger to North American hockey – over two seasons, he played a total of 66 games (26-53-79) in the QMJHL before heading back to Russia in 2015. A crafty forward with good hands and the ability to finish, the Kings could use some NHL-ready depth on their wings, so this is a low-risk, high-reward signing considering the offensive upside he possesses. Last year with St. Petersburg of the KHL, Tkachyov recorded an offensive log of 11-27-38 in 45 games. Still just 25, he will get a long look at camp with hopes he can put his playmaking and scoring touch to good use. Need a sleeper in your dynasty draft? Here's one, especially if he gets exposure to the Kings' top-six, as well as some power play time.

Upside Comparable: William Nylander (30-45-75, 40 PIM)

3YP: (14-30-44, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Akil Thomas, C (2021: 139) (2020: 121)

Thomas is another in a long list of Kings prospects that made his professional hockey debut last season by making a big impression, as he recorded 11 goals and 26 points through AHL 40 games with the Ontario Reign. While he primarily occupied a third-line center role, he was also employed on the power play because of his creativity and scoring ability. His speed makes him dependable in his own zone to retrieve pucks and transition to offense – all in all, he's a well-rounded player that can play in a variety of situations. Despite the Kings having a plethora of centermen in their prospect pool, Thomas' speed and versatility should eventually propel him into a full-time NHL role. He'll look to build off his rookie season in Ontario (California), where he finished second in team scoring.

Akil Thomas continued

Upside Comparable: Bo Horvat (25-40-65+, 54 PIM)

3YP: (20-20-40, 38 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 12%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Aiden Dudas, C

(2021: 173) (2020: 252)

In his second pro season, the former captain of the Owen Sound Attack took another step forward in his development. Dudas was point-producer during his junior hockey years, but has had to adjust to more of a checking-line and energy role in the AHL. He's physical and plays bigger than his 5-9 frame would suggest. Moreover, he's an effective penalty killer because of his speed and defensive-minded approach. Unfortunately, because of the logjam at the center position in the Kings organization, Dudas has begun to shift away from his natural position toward the left side. Having to adjust to a different position as a first-year pro could have been the reason behind his paltry 11 points in 37 games last season. Moving forward, Dudas should see most of his time in a bottom six-role, but his tenacity and work ethic could get him an NHL stint at some point this year.

Upside Comparable: Max Domi (25-40-65, 70 PIM)

3YP: (18-30-48, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2021-22.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Kasper Simontaival, RW

(2021: 193) (2020: N/A)

In 2020-21, the Finnish winger split his playing time between the Liiga and the Mestis league in his native Finland. He played 30 games for Tappara, registering three goals and seven points before joining TUTO Hockey on loan for another five games, posting seven points. While the numbers don't necessarily jump off the page, the biggest thing to remember is that he's still only 19 years old and playing amongst much bigger and tougher competition. Simontaival was a point-per-gamer during the 2020 WJC, where he showcased his elite scoring upside. He's also a good skater with a lethal wrist shot, strong two-way game and all the right tools required to develop into an effective NHL player as he continues to mature. All in all, he's still unsigned and will likely play another year in Finland before the Kings make a decision on his future, especially with several other prospects still awaiting their opportunity.

Upside Comparable: Nikolaj Ehlers (25-45-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (20-32-52, 24 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Kale Clague, LD

(2021: 20D) (2020: 20D)

Now heading into his fourth professional season, Clague has split the previous two between the AHL and NHL. He has done everything that's been asked of him since arriving from junior hockey and is developing into a competent pro. Formerly known as primarily an offensive-minded

Kale Clague continued

defenseman because of his skating and puck-moving ability, he is maturing into a leader and has been awarded the alternate captaincy in Ontario. By the looks of it, the patience the Kings have shown in him is starting to pay off. Despite most of the team's blue line remaining intact, he'll put in a good audition to stick full-time with the NHL roster, especially with Tobias Bjornfot being waivers exempt. He's arguably the team's most NHL-ready prospect on the backend.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Pulock (10-40-50+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (7-32-39, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Helge Grans, RD

(2021: 66D) (2020: N/A)

Coming off a newly-signed ELC, the Kings' second-round selection in 2020 (35th overall) is a good, mobile skater that's defensively sound, which allows him to contain attackers, break up plays and create offensive opportunities at the other end. Extremely mobile despite his 6-3 frame, he makes good decisions with the puck. He played the 2020-21 season for the Malmo RedHawks of the SHL, posting 12 points in 43 games with a minus-21 rating. Although the plus-minus rating is alarming, let's note that Grans was a 19-year-old defender playing against men in the SHL, which will only benefit his development. Expect him to make his way overseas and begin his adaptation to the fast-paced, AHL style of play.

Upside Comparable: John Klingberg (12-38-50+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-34-44, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Sean Durzi, RD

(2021: 71D) (2020: 76D)

It has now been two years since the Kings acquired Durzi from Toronto and they're starting to see the fruits of their labor. The 22-year-old blueliner will enter his third AHL season after recording his highest minor-pro totals in a season last year: 4-16-20 in 39 games with the Reign. His skating remains his biggest asset and he has made good strides in his defensive game, enabling him to become a more complete player since joining the Reign. Durzi should be in the mix with Kale Clague for an NHL roster spot. If he doesn't get it, expect him to be a minute-eating defenseman in the minors this year and the next man up in the event of an injury.

Upside Comparable: Jared Spurgeon (10-40-50, 50 PIM)

3YP: (8-25-33, 45 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Jacob Moverare, LD

(2021: 91D) (2020: 98D)

The former fourth-round selection in 2016 (112th overall) has spent parts of the last three seasons on loan in both the SHL and the Liiga. He came over to North America for the 2020-21

Jacob Moverare continued

campaign to make North American pro debut in the AHL. Never known as an overly-offensive defender, he did show some scoring ability thanks to a 15-point effort over 26 games in Ontario. He prides himself on defense-first hockey and making good decisions in his own zone. Moverare uses his smooth skating ability to close out opponents and launch quick passes for easy breakouts. He has what it takes to become a solid two-way defenseman if he can keep up his offensive ways, but a trustworthy, stay-at-home blueliner is a more likely outcome. His play last year will earn him more minutes and a larger role this season in the AHL.

Upside Comparable: Alex Edler (10-35-45+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (8-27-35, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Jordan Spence, RD

(2021: 92D) (2020: 183D)

The 20-year-old blueliner, one of the best offensive defensemen in the QMJHL over the last few seasons, signed his entry-level deal with the Kings back in June of 2020. And yet again, he displayed his offensive upside this past season thanks to a 10-goal, 40-point performance in 32 games split between Val d'Or and Moncton. Not to be outdone, he also added 20 points in 15 postseason games for good measure. Spence is an excellent skater – his acceleration, in-flight speed and agility mesh and allow him to skate pucks out of his zone with ease. He is also a strong passer. While there are improvements to make in terms of defensive play, the offensive talent is hard to ignore, making him a high-risk, high-reward prospect. He should be a regular for the Reign this season and most likely quarterback one of the team's power-play units.

Upside Comparable: Tyson Barrie (15-45-60, 40 PIM)

3YP: (9-31-40, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Brock Faber, RD

(2021: 116D) (2020: N/A)

The Maple Grove native completed his rookie campaign with the home state University of Minnesota last year to the tune of 12 points in 27 games – he had made the jump to the NCAA from the USNTDP. Faber is a great defender and while he's not overly physical, he's smart and keeps offensive flurries in check by effectively using his stick and high hockey IQ. His defensive-first mindset makes him trustworthy in all situations, as he helps his offensive mates by forcing turnovers and by making rapid outlet passes out of the danger zone. Faber will continue to hone his game during his upcoming sophomore season at the University of Minnesota, as he should see an increased role and more ice time this time around.

Upside Comparable: Ryan McDonagh (10-35-45+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (6-28-34, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23, but may play final few games this season after college year.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Minnesota WILD

At a Glance

Top prospect: Marco Rossi
Boom/Bust potential: Mason Shaw
Long-term project: Nikita Nesterenko
Top sniper: Marco Rossi
Best setup man: Marco Rossi

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Marco Rossi
Defense: Calen Addison
Goal: Hunter Jones
Points only: Marco Rossi
Multicategory: Alexander Khovanov

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

New! Marco Rossi, C

(2021: 8) (2020: N/A)

The first European to win the OHL scoring title, Rossi nonetheless slipped to the ninth pick last summer. Which works out great for the Wild, arguably the NHL team most in need of a top center. At 5-9, Rossi is a little on the small side, but his fitness was elite. We use the term 'was' because after the WJC he tested positive for COVID-19. The virus hit him hard, affecting his respiratory system and keeping him off the ice for five months. His playing just five games in total last season may scare some fantasy owners. Four of those games were at the WJC where he was held pointless. However, Team Austria only scored once in the entire tournament and were one of the weaker teams. Rossi's work ethic, elite hockey sense and puck skills will ensure that he is back on track to becoming an NHL star. Now is the time to acquire him from a nervous owner.

Upside Comparable: Nathan MacKinnon (35-60-95+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (32-45-77, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Matthew Boldy, LW

(2021: 18) (2020: 34)

It was a huge statement year for Boldy, who had a lot to prove after a somewhat disappointing 2019-20. He failed to make Team USA in 2019 and his production at Boston College, while decent, wasn't as impressive as other NHL drafted prospects on his team. But he used that as a driver in 2020-21. Not only did he make Team USA this time around, but he was second on the team in goals (five in seven games) en route to a gold medal. He then led Boston College in scoring by a wide margin (31 points in 22 games). Boldy then turned pro – and his transition to the AHL game was excellent. He posted 18 points in 14 games for Iowa, dominating the offense almost every time he stepped on the ice. His shot volume was impressive, managing at least three shots on goal in 12 of those 14 contests.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Huberdeau (30-55-85, 30 PIM)

3YP: (17-36-53, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Matthew Boldy continued

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Alexander Khovanov, C

(2021: 51) (2020: 59)

Rather than deal with the uncertainty of COVID-19 in North America, Khovanov returned to Russia where he was the second-top scorer on his VHL team (24 points in 30 games). He also got into seven KHL contests (zero points) playing pro hockey against men. A prolific offensive producer at any level he's played in, he didn't lose any of his sandpaper either. His 50 PIM were one shy of being tops on the team, and 33rd in the entire VHL despite missing a third of the season. The Wild are grooming him to be a second- or third-line center. If he maintains this aggressive streak with heavy sin-bin time, he'll top out on the third line. If he can dial it back a little, he easily has the skills, smarts and talent to be a stalwart in the top six.

Upside Comparable: Brad Marchand (30-50-80+, 90+ PIM)

3YP: Blake Coleman (18-29-47, 75 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Adam Beckman, LW

(2021: 91) (2020: 92)

Beckman followed up a WHL-leading 107-point season with another impressive campaign, in what will be his final season of junior hockey. The Spokane Chiefs no longer had Ty Smith to anchor the power play and so goal scoring was down by a lot. Despite that, Beckman still managed 17 goals in just 21 contests (second in the WHL). Prior to the WHL opening back up, Beckman played nine games of pro hockey, posting three goals and five points for Iowa. Defensively there are still holes in his game, but he showed team brass that he's ready to turn pro. The transition to the AHL full time in the fall should be a smooth one. The Wild would like to see him add more strength in preparation for this step.

Upside Comparable: Travis Konecny (35-45-80+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (26-27-53, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Connor Dewar, C/LW

(2021: 154) (2020: 219)

Dewar is progressing on schedule. His second season with Iowa saw steady improvement in all areas of his game. Already very good defensively (a top penalty killer), Dewar's offense is rounding into form after exceeding his 19 points as a rookie by four, and doing it in 20 fewer games. His 23 points in 32 games were second on the team. A third-round pick in 2018 (92nd overall), Dewar has shown very nice offense in the past when he posted 81 points in 59 games for Everett as their team captain in his final year of junior hockey. He also has a track record of taking his game up a notch come playoff time. He plays that hardnose style and can be tough to play against. If you want a potential J-G Pageau, but with more of an edge, look no further than this 21-year-old.

Connor Dewar continued

Upside Comparable: J-G Pageau (30-35-65, 60 PIM)

3YP: (16-18-34, 47 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Mason Shaw, C

(2021: 158) (2020: 184)

Shaw is a skilled forward, but unfortunately has encountered so many injury obstacles that it's difficult to see him becoming a legit fantasy asset. An astute fourth-round pick from the WHL in 2017 (97th overall) after notching 94 points, Shaw suffered a devastating ACL injury that wiped out 2017-18. He got through most of the following season and was starting to come along as an AHLer when he suffered yet another ACL setback that required surgery and wiped out most of 2019-20. Sadly, that's a lot of missed development time. There's also the risk of re-injury that will loom over his name for years. In 2020-21 he stayed relatively healthy, finishing third on Iowa in scoring with 22 points in 30 games, and second on the team in penalty minutes (39). He was also an alternate captain for Iowa at just 22. He'll need to clear waivers to be sent down in the fall, so he'll get a long look.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Marchessault (25-45-70, 70 PIM)

3YP: (12-25-37, 46 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon at this point. Wait until next year to draft.



Damien Giroux, C

(2021: 183) (2020: 319)

The 2018 fifth-round pick (155th overall) ended a solid OHL career with 44 goals and 75 points in 61 games before the pandemic cut things short. His transition to pro hockey last season was a strong one, as Giroux played a physical brand of hockey, was solid defensively (was on the PK unit) and even contributed well offensively with seven goals and 12 points in 34 contests. He's a character guy who was captain of his Saginaw team those final two OHL seasons (and an alternate for one before that), so it should be no surprise that he took to the AHL quickly.

Primarily a sniper at the junior level, the Wild seem to be grooming him to be a centerman and he's learning to distribute the puck better. If he stays the course then he is likely earmarked for a bottom-six role there. But worth watching to see if he overachieves.

Upside Comparable: Nick Foligno (30-35-65+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (17-18-35, 47 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon at this point. Wait until next year to draft.

New! Marat Khusnutdinov, C

(2021: 190) (2020: N/A)

Not only did the Wild get Nick Bonino in the trade that sent Luke Kunin and a third-round pick to Nashville, but they also received two draft picks, including 37th overall which was used to draft Khusnutdinov. Rated as a late first-rounder by many (including us), the 5-9 pivot fell to the Wild

Marat Khusnutdinov continued

likely due to his size and Russian birth certificate. Khusnutdinov works hard, has very good hockey sense, and offers tremendous speed both in full flight and from a standstill. At the WJC he was Team Russia's second-leading scorer, and in league play he graduated to the KHL by the end of the season (two points in 12 games). A shoulder injury cut his campaign short, but he's back skating this summer. He will remain in Russia for another year, but the Wild hope to bring him to North America for 2022-23.

Upside Comparable: Vincent Trocheck (30-45-75, 40 PIM)

3YP: (18-31-49, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Mitchell Chaffee, RW

(2021: 231) (2020: N/A)

The undrafted Chaffee was a highly-coveted free agent upon deciding to turn pro in March of 2020, foregoing his senior year with UMass. As the UMass team captain, he tallied 71 points in his last 70 games there playing alongside San Jose forward John Leonard. Chaffee had a place on Iowa's power play in the first half, tallying 15 points in 19 games. But his ice time and PP time were cut as soon as Matt Boldy turned pro. Chaffee finished with 17 points in 28 contests. He was averaging 2.5 shots on goal per game before tailing off down the stretch and finishing at 2.07. And as a sniper, more of those need to go in (he only scored twice). He has offensive talent and upside, but he's not standing out enough to make his mark among the Wild's great prospect forwards. Now 23, it's unlikely that he will be a top sixer in the NHL.

Upside Comparable: Joonas Donskoi (25-30-55+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (13-15-28, 44 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

Vladislav Firstov, LW

(2021: 252) (2020: 261)

Firstov's season with the University of Connecticut was delayed because he was with Team Russia at the WJC. He was held pointless in a depth role with his country. But upon returning to the NCAA circuit, he was immediately a big part of that squad. A lower-body injury limited him to just 13 games, but he tallied 12 points in that span (also consider that one of those games was cut short with the injury). Firstov is pretty good defensively, and he plays a bit of a power style. But it is his offensive game that has really come along. Do not be surprised if his production as a third-year player is well over a point-per-game. If he does take that next step, you can expect him to turn pro in 2022.

Upside Comparable: T.J. Oshie (30-35-65+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (18-16-34, 44 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Ivan Lodnia, RW

(2021: 274) (2020: 223)

With the pandemic causing uncertainty in North America, the Wild loaned Lodnia to Dinamo Minsk in the KHL, where he joined fellow prospect Brennan Menell. The Los Angeles native played 27 games in Russia's professional men's league, managing seven points. Lodnia doesn't have any one thing that stands out. He is defensively aware, has a decent shot, good hockey sense and can pass the puck. He is strong on his skates and tough to knock off the puck. His only impressive offensive season, however, was in his overage year in the OHL when he tallied 62 points in 41 contests. Strong likelihood that if he makes the Show, it will be as a third-line player at best.

Upside Comparable: Josh Bailey (25-40-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (12-24-36, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Nikita Nesterenko, C

(2021: 489) (2020: N/A)

The Wild rolled the dice on Nesterenko at 172nd overall in 2019 despite being unable to watch him play against tough competition. The raw skills on display in high school programs are sometimes difficult to gauge when four- and five-point games are so common. After being drafted, Nesterenko played in the BCHL where he led Chilliwack in scoring with 56 points in 56 games. That was 15th in the entire league, just 10 points fewer than Philly prospect Jay O'Brien, who is two years older. His NCAA freshman year was a good one as the native of New York stepped right onto the second line and made a quick impression, finishing fourth on the team with 19 points (24 games). With teammates Matt Boldy (MIN), Alex Newhook (COL) and Logan Hutsko (FLA) now in the pros, look for Nesterenko to take a top-line role with Boston College in the year ahead

Upside Comparable: T.J. Oshie (30-35-65+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (16-18-34, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Calen Addison, RD

(2021: 4D) (2020: 18D)

The defenseman was a near-point-per-game player in each of his final three seasons in the WHL with Lethbridge, so you know fantasy owners are excited about him. The Wild were excited too, insisting he be part of the Jason Zucker deal. In his rookie-pro season, Addison didn't disappoint. He had 22 points in 31 games with Iowa and got into Minnesota's lineup three times. He wasn't eased in either, as he averaged nearly 19 minutes per game and was paired up mostly with Ryan Suter. He also saw tons of power-play time, which is rare for prospect defensemen new to the NHL. He's defensively sound and he also plays a physical game despite his smaller frame (5-11, 180 pounds). It'll be hard for the organization to keep him off the NHL squad in 2021-22.

Upside Comparable: Kevin Shattenkirk (15-50-65+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (9-36-45, 56 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Brennan Menell, RD

(2021: 53D) (2020: 31D)

After a huge breakout campaign in the AHL in 2019-20, Menell looked as though he had a shot at a roster spot in the fall. And he would have been on the radar of most fantasy owners. But in a surprise move, he elected to sign in the KHL. In hindsight it was a good move, since North American leagues started so late. In the KHL he posted 38 points in 47 games, third on his team and the highest points-per-game average among defenseman in that league. He also had 60 penalty minutes, so fantasy owners in multicategory leagues are watching what he does next with interest. Menell being a right-handed shot, a job in the fall could come down to him versus Addison (also a righty), as Matt Dumba and Jared Spurgeon also shoot right. The contract he signs (one-way or two-way) will also influence his chances. Has to clear waivers to be sent down.

Upside Comparable: Mackenzie Weegar (8-42-50+, 50+ PIM)

3YP: (5-23-28, 34 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Daemon Hunt, LD

(2021: 156D) (2020: N/A)

In Hunt, the Wild have themselves the full toolbox. He a quick skater with enough physicality to get the job done, and the size to do it. Currently 6-1 and a shade under 200 pounds at just 19, he'll certainly get bigger. He's very good in his own end and is a leader in the dressing room (as exemplified by his being named captain of Moose Jaw last season). When he was still 18 he got into six games with Iowa before the WHL started up, and acquitted himself very well against men. Hunt also has offensive potential, and that started to take form last season when he finished second on the Warriors with 18 points in 23 games. Injuries limited Hunt's games played to just 28 in 2019-20, which allowed him to fall to the third round when the Wild took him (65th overall).

Upside Comparable: Alec Martinez (8-42-50+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (5-26-31, 44 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Ryan O'Rourke, LD

(2021: 172D) (2020: N/A)

Gritty, hardworking, leads by example – these are all descriptives when you speak to someone about O'Rourke. Drafted by the Wild in the second round, 39th overall last year, not only because of these intangibles, but also because of his play on the ice. Very strong and aggressive defensively, he is also quite capable of moving the puck forward and creating offense. He needs to fill out his 6-2, 181-pound frame, especially given the way that he plays, but he offers the organization a full toolbox that will see him in the NHL on the bottom-six at the very least. And at best he could top out as the defensive conscience for an elite offensive guy like Addison or Matt Dumba. His experience in the AHL as an 18-year-old was very valuable, but he will be returning to the OHL once again as Sault Ste. Marie's team captain.

Upside Comparable: Brent Seabrook (10-35-45, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (5-28-33, 65 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

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Montreal CANADIENS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Cole Caufield
Boom/Bust potential: Sean Farrell
Long-term project: Sean Farrell
Top sniper: Cole Caufield
Best setup man: Cole Caufield

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Cole Caufield
Defense: Kaiden Guhle
Goal: Cayden Primeau
Points only: Cole Caufield
Multicategory: Ryan Poehling

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber



Cole Caufield, RW

(2021: 1) (2020: 21)

Last season could not have gone better for Caufield if he scripted it himself. Well, maybe he could have pushed his team to win the Stanley Cup, but... close enough! After helping Team USA win gold at the WJC, Caufield then dominated the NCAA, leading the nation with 52 points in 31 games and winning the Hobey Baker Award. This was as a sophomore. He turned pro straight away and as much as the Habs tried to bring him along slowly – he wouldn't have it. Four points in two AHL games showed quickly that he was too good for that. In the NHL he made an immediate splash, posting more than a point every two games, including several clutch overtime performances in the playoffs. Caufield is quick, elusive, and has a deadly-accurate shot that he gets off quickly. He's about a surefire of a superstar prospect as can be had in fantasy hockey.

Upside Comparable: Alex DeBrincat (45-45-90+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (32-36-68, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 35%, 100%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Ryan Poehling, C

(2021: 73) (2020: 60)

When Poehling made his NHL debut in the last game of the 2018-19 season, he had fantasy owners excited because he scored a hat trick plus the shootout winner. But 2019-20 was disappointing as he struggled to produce in the NHL and when he was sent down, he wasn't much better in the AHL. He's a tenacious two-way player who is projected as a tweener, able to play either the second line as a scorer or the third line as a checker. The 22-year-old is also versatile, able to play center or either wing. Last season was much better. Montreal kept him in the minors, with no pressure and he stepped up. Poehling's 25 points in 28 games led Laval, though a wrist injury in early May cut his season short. The 6-2 pivot could add bulk and strength to his frame.

Upside Comparable: Ryan O'Reilly-light (25-35-60+, 80 PIM)

3YP: (16-28-44, 65 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Jesse Ylonen, RW

(2021: 86) (2020: 102)

The unheralded Finn/American dual-citizen boasts good speed and incredible agility. He can also handle the puck well on the fly, so he has great potential. He was a key member of Team Finland's gold-medal WJC run (six points in seven games) in 2018-19. The reason Ylonen is under the radar is because in Liiga his ice time was limited. As one of the youngest players in the 2018 draft, he started playing against men as a 17-year-old. Finally playing in the AHL, Ylonen saw plenty of ice time and posted 17 points in 29 games last year. There are concerns about the defensive aspect of his game, as well as some lingering on the perimeter, but the 21-year-old has time to work on those traits. He showed some chemistry in Laval alongside Ryan Poehling.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Toffoli (30-35-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (22-27-49, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Jan Mysak, C/LW

(2021: 162) (2020: N/A)

A hard worker and born leader, Mysak's prospect status gets boosted just from sheer willpower and desire to succeed. He has good speed and above-average skill, but it's that work ethic and coachability that will ensure he gets to the NHL. He was the captain of Team Czech Republic at the WJC (five points in seven games) and those leadership intangibles only pad his resume further. As an 18-year-old he began the season in the Czech league playing against men, and after the WJC he joined Laval. The numbers weren't there (two points in 22 games), but keep in mind he was one of the youngest players in the division. Mysak is very much a long-term prospect, but certainly not a project. He'll get there.

Upside Comparable: Gabriel Landeskog (35-40-75, 50+ PIM)

3YP: (17-26-43, 47 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Joel Teasdale, LW

(2021: 267) (2020: 390)

Teasdale is a bit of a late bloomer who is starting to find his place. After going through three drafts without hearing his name called, Teasdale finished off his overage junior season with 80 points in 66 QMJHL games. He also led the 'Q' in playoff points and led his team to the Memorial Cup, getting named MVP. That earned him a training camp invite from the Habs and they took all of a week to sign him to an entry-level contract. An injury (followed by the pandemic) cost him 2019-20 in its entirety, so he didn't make his AHL debut until last season. After starting with two points in seven games, Teasdale finished with 16 in 19 and was one of the better rookies in the league. The 22-year-old has an excellent work ethic and very good hockey sense.

Upside Comparable: Alex Killorn (30-40-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (18-17-35, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Sean Farrell, LW
(2021: 297) (2020: N/A)

Had Farrell been 6-1, he may have been a late first-rounder last year. But he's 5-9, so the diminutive winger slipped to 124th overall (fourth round). After the draft he played one last season in the USHL... and boy did he ever. His 101 points in 53 games were the most of any USHL player since Kevin Roy had 104 in 2012. It was just the sixth time anyone has topped 100 points in that league's history. As a comparable, at the same age Kyle Connor tallied 80 points in 56 USHL games. Farrell dishes more than he shoots (72 of his points were assists) and he is at a size disadvantage. That means he will have to do more to earn his chances. But definitely stick him on your long-term radar.

Upside Comparable: Conor Garland (20-55-75+, 60+ PIM)
3YP: (14-33-47, 37 PIM)
Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%
Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.
DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Luke Tuch, LW
(2021: 318) (2020: N/A)

You recognize the last name and yes this is Alex's brother. At 6-2, 202 pounds he's not as big as his older sibling and doesn't have quite as much upside either. That being said, he does still have potential for decent offense at the NHL level, and he's definitely a more physical player. The latter trait should give him some value in leagues that value Hits and PIM. With Boston University, where he played with such notables as Jay O'Brien (Philadelphia) and David Farrance (now signed with Nashville), Tuch posted 11 points in 16 games. That was good for third on the team, and by the end of the season he was playing on the top line despite only turning 19 in March. Expect him to spend at least two more years at BU.

Upside Comparable: Max Comtois (25-40-65, 70 PIM)
3YP: (16-26-42, 63 PIM)
Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%
Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.
DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Kaiden Guhle, LD
(2021: 24D) (2020: N/A)

Last year's 16th overall pick brings a full toolbox to work. The young Guhle has it all – offensive smarts, defensive acumen, speed, toughness, leadership and a good stick for both the pass and the shot. If he excels at any one thing it's probably his ability to bring up the level of play of his teammates. Whether that's through his leadership, or his smart plays, or just an attitude, the players around him seem to perform better. After helping Team Canada win silver at the WJC, Guhle got a taste of pro hockey. He played three games with Laval before the WHL opened up. Once back with Prince Albert, this time as their team captain, Guhle had two points in two games before a hand injury ended his season prematurely. At 6-3, 209 pounds he already has NHL size. He won't be long developing.

Upside Comparable: Duncan Keith (10-40-50+, 60+ PIM)
3YP: (6-28-34, 48 PIM)
Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%
Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.
DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Mattias Norlinder, LD

(2021: 33D) (2020: 64D)

The Swedish defender had a solid debut in the SHL after spending the better part of two seasons in Allsvenskan. He had 10 points in 37 games, which isn't spectacular, but consider that he suffered a shoulder injury that cost him time, followed almost immediately by a minor knee injury that cost him a few more games. In the postseason Norlinder was one of Frolunda's better players, posting five points in seven games. The 21-year-old is a sublime skater, and very quick at transitioning the puck up the ice either on his stick or via the pass. The Canadiens signed him to his entry-level deal so he will cross the pond for training camp. If he doesn't make the team (unlikely, this year), they may loan him back to Frolunda.

Upside Comparable: Roman Josi (20-35-55, 20 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).



Jordan Harris, LD

(2021: 48D) (2020: 150D)

When Chicago prospect Ryan Shea graduated and turned pro, the mantle of Northeastern University's power-play quarterback was given to Harris. And he delivered, posting 19 points in 19 contests. Only he and Nashville prospect (since signed) David Farrance topped a point-per-game average among all defensemen in the NCAA last season. Harris has tremendous hockey sense, always finding teammates and making the smart pass. The organization would still love to see him get more physically involved in the play, as he is a little soft. And ideally, he would add more bulk to his 5-11, 185-pound frame. The 21-year-old will return to Northeastern for his senior campaign, this time as the team's captain. He could have easily turned pro.

Upside Comparable: Torey Krug (10-45-55, 20 PIM)

3YP: (5-31-36, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Josh Brook, RD

(2021: 58D) (2020: 45D)

After leading all defensemen in the WHL in scoring in 2018-19 with 75 points in 59 games, Brook was expected to immediately slot into the top four for Laval upon turning pro. That didn't happen, and although he was starting to heat up in the second half, the pandemic shut things down and he finished with a mere 13 points in 60 games. A smart, physical player who can sometimes be too aggressive, Brook needs to improve his consistency and give his all shift in and shift out. Last season was much better. After just an assist in the first four games, Brook was scratched for two games. It proved to be a wakeup call because when he returned, he was a man on a mission, posting 13 in 29. It took him 60 games to do that in the prior season. Assuming he's now figured it out, Brook may only be a year away from making the jump.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Graves (10-40-50, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (5-33-38, 49 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 25%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Jayden Struble, LD

(2021: 168D) (2020: 221D)

A quick, hardworking and tenacious rearguard, Struble was taken 46th overall by the Habs in 2019. At 6-0, 205 pounds he's like a bulldog, outmuscling his opponents (sometimes taking it too far) to come away with the puck. And he's not at all afraid to drop the gloves. He has very good speed and acceleration, though while he has a pretty good shot, he doesn't use it enough. He is entering his junior campaign with Northeastern University, where he joins teammate and fellow Montreal prospect Jordan Harris. The Rhode Island native needs to focus on toning down his aggression and, as already noted, shoot the puck. He will put himself out of position to throw a hit, so his decision making is questionable at times.

Upside Comparable: Matt Dumba (10-35-45+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (7-23-30, 73 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Gianni Fairbrother, LD

(2021: 228D) (2020: 235D)

Fairbrother has developed steadily in the WHL, finishing up his fourth full season with Everett – a team renowned for its defensive and team-first style of play. Already a strong shutdown defender, the further training he received in that system will only make him better for it. Last season he was also team captain, so he has that leadership intangible too. But he produced pretty good numbers as well, posting 42 points in his last 60 games there. Montreal signed him to his entry-level contract in March and Fairbrother joined Laval for three games to end the season (one assist). Yes, the 20-year-old is going to be a shutdown guy, but enough talent is there that were he to partner with an offensive-minded player he could chip in nice peripheral points.

Upside Comparable: Mattias Ekholm (5-35-40+, 50+ PIM)

3YP: (4-19-23, 63 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 5%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Cayden Primeau, G

In his second pro season, Primeau took a step sideways. This is why goalies shouldn't be counted on in fantasy hockey until they are in their mid-20s because there are a lot of kinks still to be worked out. Primeau turns 22 in August, so these hiccups are to be expected. His AHL numbers improved a little, but his four games in the NHL were nothing to write home about. Primeau is technically sound and very agile. He also has good size (6-3) much like his father, the former NHLer Keith. With Carey Price signed for five more seasons, Primeau won't even be an NHL backup until 2023 at best. The organization will use that time to steadily increase his workload. Look for him to play at least 45 games for Laval this season, which would be the most in his career at any level.

Upside: Star NHL Starter

3YP: 32-20-5, 2.30 GAA, 0.920 SV%

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 35%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Nashville PREDATORS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Yaroslav Askarov
Boom/Bust potential: Yegor Afanasyev
Long-term project: Ethan Haider
Top sniper: Phillip Tomasino
Best setup man: Alexander Campbell

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Phillip Tomasino
Defense: David Farrance
Goal: Yaroslav Askarov
Points only: Phillip Tomasino
Multicategory: David Farrance

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Hadi Kalakeche

↔ Philip Tomasino, C

(2021: 14) (2020: 11)

Tomasino's 2020-21 campaign truly calmed the draft-day doubts around his projectability. The smart, speedy center joined the Chicago Wolves, who took over for the Milwaukee Admirals after they opted out of last year's campaign, and immediately got to work in his first pro season with 32 points in 29 games. Since the NHL Lockout in 2006, among similar-aged players with 15 or more AHL games, only three recorded more points per game than Tomasino: Trevor Zegras (also this past year), Derrick Brassard (2007-08) and William Nylander (2015-16). Excellent company for Tomasino, who seems destined for a career as a top-six matchup center with both offensive and defensive responsibilities, starting this year if he breaks camp.

Upside Comparable: William Nylander (35-40-75+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (23-31-54, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



↑ Tanner Jeannot, LW

(2021: 105) (2020: 399)

Jeannot's 2020-21 season was essentially the definition of a breakout season: going from 20 points in 57 games the year prior to 21 points in 13 games in 2020-21, despite seeing a couple of ECHL stints in both seasons. Struggling to score as a team, Jeannot received the call from the Predators and the rugged rookie contributed five goals and two assists in his first 15 games as an NHLer. Expect the 6-2, 210-pound wing to stick in the fall and carve out a role as a bottom-six regular. But at the rate he always seems to exceed expectations (never drafted), keep an open mind. All it takes is an injury for him to take advantage of, and voila – fantasy relevance.

Upside Comparable: Alex Killorn (20-35-55+, 40 PIM)

3YP: Mark Jankowski (10-19-29, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Rem Pitlick, LW (2021: 121) (2020: 90)

Pitlick finally received a 10-game stint with the Predators last year after taking the AHL by storm with eight goals and two assists in only eight outings to start the 2020-21 campaign. In those 10 games with the Preds however, Pitlick was utilized mostly in a depth role, with sheltered competition and little time on either special team units. As a result, he only collected a pair of assists with Nashville, which were also his first two career points in the NHL. Now 24, the former third-round pick in 2016 has a limited timeline left in order and carve out a role in the NHL, or he could end up being a back-and-forth shuttle-type of guy for the rest of his career.

Upside Comparable: Brendan Gallagher (20-40-60+, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (5-19-24, 47 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Egor Afanasyev, LW (2021: 124) (2020: 161)

After starting out in Russia's MHL last season, Afanasyev quickly showed he was overly talented for the under-20 level, so CSKA Moscow quickly promoted him to the KHL. In 16 professional games, the then-20-year-old accumulated two goals and four assists, which shows promise for future pro success. His unique blend of size and skill makes him hard to stop when he gets going, but his physical game is underwhelming despite being 6-4 and more than 200 pounds. If he can continue improving his skating, which he has been doing, the Russian winger could turn his decent KHL production into an excellent AHL performance, as he gears toward his rookie season with the affiliate Admirals. As a bigger player, he needs a couple of extra years of seasoning.

Upside Comparable: Josh Anderson (30-35-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (20-15-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Thomas Novak, C (2021: 131) (2020: 237)

Novak's sophomore campaign in the AHL went especially great, as the center collected 32 points in 27 games for the Chicago Wolves. His hockey sense and stickhandling mesh well with his passing accuracy, allowing him to find teammates in the open with regularity. As it stands, Novak seems likely to top out as a third-line pivot that can occasionally chip in with the top-six gang, where he could conceivably also end up sticking if he manages to incorporate further shooting proficiency within the next couple of seasons. He's 24, having put in the full four years of college before pro, so his window is this year or next. Bulking up his 6-1, 190-pound frame would help.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Bozak (15-45-60+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (5-25-30, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Jachym Kondelik, C

(2021: 298) (2020: 285)

While plying his trade in the NCAA, Kondelik has been working on improving on his production rate, which he has done quite well incidentally, jumping from a 0.68 point-per-game rate two years ago to 0.96 in 2020-21. Now heading into his senior year, he'll be aiming for more. His 6-6, 227-pound frame, impressive wingspan and mature game allow him to read plays effectively, pick off passes and block shots with regularity. His skating seems to have somewhat maxed out, but if he keeps improving elsewhere, he could very well earn a spot as a bottom-sixer for a spell. A player of his size will need a lot of time for his skills to catch up to his body. He will return for his senior year at the University of Connecticut. Pivots of his size don't grow on trees.

Upside Comparable: Pavel Zacha (25-35-60+, 60 PIM)

3YP: Brian Boyle (5-15-20, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Grant Mismash, LW

(2021: 301) (2020: 410)

Mismash's 2020-21 campaign earned him a two-year entry-level deal, as the winger scored 10 goals in 20 games, surpassing his previous year's total in almost half the matches played (8 goals in 35 games in 2019-20). His grit and physical game bring his floor up, but his ceiling is more or less questionable due to spotty NCAA production paired with a lack of inside play to his game. If Mismash pans out, expect him to be a fixture in the bottom-six, troubling other teams' supporting units and becoming a decent multicategory pick-up in the process.

Upside Comparable: Cal Clutterbuck (20-30-50+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Juuso Parssinen, C

(2021: 343) (2020: 516)

Parssinen's game has grown a bunch since his draft year, as the seventh-round pick in 2019 was left to improve his game back home with TPS Turku of the Liiga, Finland's highest level of hockey. He joined the latter circuit in 2019-20, putting up 12 points over 31 games and more than tripled his production last year thanks to 42-point in 55 outings. That was good for a 0.764 points-per-game rate, which beat out the likes of Alexandre Texier, Jussi Jokinen and Joel Armia for production by a Liiga player at the same age. While defensive acumen has always been a strength, adding improved production to his stats line makes him twice as exciting a prospect. Expect Parssinen to continue his progress in Finland until he is deemed ready to take a shot at the Preds' lineup. As a bigger (6-3, 198 pounds) player, you'll need to give him more time.

Upside Comparable: Phillip Danault (20-50-70, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (5-20-25, 35 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Luke Evangelista, RW
(2021: 347) (2020: N/A)

After the OHL shut down its 2020-21 operation due to COVID-19 concerns, Evangelista was left without a team to play with until the AHL Chicago Wolves summoned him for his first pro league lace-up. In 14 games, the then 19-year-old managed to earn four assists. The lack of playing time might delay his development slightly, but Evangelista is a sound offensive facilitator – a jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none profile that may eventually fill a role on a middle-six unit that's looking for added drive. Expect him to either return to the OHL for his final year, or stick with the Preds AHL affiliate. Either way, there's still some growing to do, both physically and mentally, before he's ready for the NHL.

Upside Comparable: Jiri Hudler (25-40-65, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

 Alexander Campbell, C
(2021: 484) (2020: 482)

The Preds' third-round pick in 2019 earned himself a college opportunity with Clarkson last season and immediately made his presence felt as one of the team's top-three producers with 17 points in 22 games. However, for a center that rarely encountered problems threading the needle in the past, only four of those 17 points were goals, which may not bode well for whomever is asking. All in all, it's proof that scoring in various junior leagues is not as challenging as it is against goaltenders aged 20 or more in the NCAA. Expect to see the quick, skilled, but slight-of-build (5-10, 151 pounds) pivot attempt a comeback or sorts with his goal production this year. He also needs to prove he has the rest of the toolbox to eventually forge an NHL career.

Upside Comparable: David Desharnais (15-40-55+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-25-30, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

 David Farrance, LD
(2021: 14D) (2020: 32D)

From 2019 to 2021, Farrance has combined for 59 points in 45 NCAA games. That alone should put him on more than one fantasy hockey scout's radar, as it most especially convinced the Predators to sign him right out of college. Which they did, as they threw him into their lineup for two games at the end of last season. He didn't get on the scoresheet, but he did seem impressively comfortable both with and without the puck. His ability to dictate the play and move the puck forward and away from danger areas are assets that could very well make him the Predators' next key blueliner. However, if he wishes to settle into their lineup as of this fall, he'll have to outplay a very strong defensive core already in place.

Upside Comparable: Neal Pionk (10-45-55+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (5-30-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Frederic Allard, LD (2021: 75D) (2020: 77D)

Allard's showing last year through 25 games in the AHL led most around the team to believe he has untapped offensive potential, as his 18 points during that span placed him among the Chicago Wolves' most prolific blueliners. Playing 25 games in Austria (4-9-13) during the pandemic put him in a situation to continue working on his strengths and the defenseman seems to have seized his moment. He's already cleared waivers before, so the team isn't afraid of losing him. The 23-year-old made good work of his one-game stint with the Preds in March and should be back with the big team sooner than later.

Upside Comparable: Tucker Poolman (5-30-35+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-10-15, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Jeremy Davies, LD (2021: 111D) (2020: 158D)

After collecting nine assists in as many AHL outings last year, Davies earned a call-up to the Preds and got in 16 games. His one assist during that span wasn't ideal, especially for an offensive-leaning blueliner, but better ice-time allocation wasn't in the cards this time out. The defender didn't receive much power-play time, nor did he benefit from many offensive zone starts. Davies might have to start from scratch next year, as the team is likely to leave him in the minors to develop, since they're clearly not satisfied with his level of play so far. At 24 years of age, he'll need to make the jump within the next year, or risk being forever on the cusp.

Upside Comparable: Victor Mete (8-27-35+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (5-10-15, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

Yaroslav Askarov, G

Askarov's 2020-21 season was extremely volatile, as the netminder played in three different leagues (MHL, VHL and KHL), as well as three different tournaments (Euro Hockey Tour, WJC and World Hockey Championship) in a season that was chopped into bits by COVID-19. However, the 19-year-old's performances at each level were simply outstanding, especially against men in the KHL, where Askarov posted a 1.21 goals-against average and a 0.951 save percentage in nine games. Even more impressive, Askarov smothered his competition in the MHL, one of the highest-scoring leagues in the world, as he allowed but one goal in two games. Numbers like those truly put Askarov in the mix for best goaltending prospect of any NHL team. A must-have for your dynasty league.

Upside Comparable: Elite NHL Starter

3YP: 40-15-7, 1.98 GAA, 0.935 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect. Draft ASAP.

Connor Ingram, G

Ingram seemed to have lost most of his footing during the COVID-19-shortened season, which is understandable. The 1997-born netminder took a leave of absence for the several months to enter the league's substance abuse program. Upon his return, he struggled to stay above the 0.900 save percentage barrier in the HockeyAllsvenskan (Sweden's second tier of hockey behind the SHL) before his return to North America just as the AHL Milwaukee Admirals were shutting it down for 2020-21. He then played in five games with the Chicago Wolves, still under 0.900, and lost his starter's job with the AHL affiliate in preference for a revolving-door of goaltenders including Antoine Bibeau and Beck Warm. Ingram should get back on track in 2021-22 and show what he can do once he gains his confidence back, and put last year behind him.

Upside Comparable: NHL starter

3YP: 29-18-5, 2.55 GAA, 0.917 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Ethan Haider, G

The Preds' fifth-round pick in 2019 (148th overall) has made quick work of the NCAA, posting a 2.00 GAA and a 0.921 save percentage through 16 games with the Division 1 program – stats that bode well for his future. To be the starting goalie in the NCAA as a freshman is a rare honor, and he did well with the responsibility. A conservative and energy-efficient goalie with decent size and lateral explosivity, Haider seems like the kind who'll eventually make his way to the NHL eventually and stick there for a while. At 6-2, 207 pounds he has pretty good size for the position. He turns 20 in September, so he still has a few years.

Upside Comparable: NHL starter.

3YP: 30-10-5, 2.30 GAA, 0.920 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



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New Jersey DEVILS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Alexander Holtz
Boom/Bust potential: S. Mukhamadullin
Long-term project: Ethan Edwards
Top sniper: Alexander Holtz
Best setup man: Dawson Mercer

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Alexander Holtz
Defense: Shakir Mukhamadullin
Goal: Nico Daws
Points only: Alexander Holtz
Multicategory: Nolan Foote

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Hadi Kalakeche

New! Alexander Holtz, RW

(2021: 22) (2020: N/A)

Holtz's bread-and-butter at every level has been his tremendous goal-scoring ability, headlined by a heavy, unpredictable shot. He generates a massive amount of velocity on both his wrist shot and one-timer and can find open ice on a regular basis, which ups his scoring arsenal. Drafted seventh overall in 2020, Holtz more or less maintained his draft-year pace, scoring seven goals and 11 assists in 40 games, playing mainly with hot prospects Lucas Raymond and William Eklund in the SHL. His tendency to shoot from anywhere and everywhere can lead to dead plays, but he usually spots the right one quite easily and executes well. He signed his entry-level deal right away and reported to Binghamton at the end of his SHL campaign, earning three points in 10 games. He should hit the upcoming year on a high mark, earning himself an NHL spot ASAP.

Upside Comparable: Phil Kessel (45-35-80+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (30-20-50, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple rounds.



Nolan Foote, LW

(2021: 69) (2020: 120)

A prolific goal-scorer, Foote has always relied on his heavy, booming shot that's powered by his 6-4 frame, but he has improved his play without the puck, as well as his playmaking ability, since his trade to the Devils from the Tampa Bay Lightning. As a result, Foote enjoyed an impressive rookie season in the AHL last year, recording 17 points in 24 games and looking as complete a player as most veterans on his team. He also received a short six-game stint with the Devils near the end of 2020-21, earning a goal and an assist. Foote should be a staple in the Devils' lineup this year, but it all depends on his showing in camp.

Upside Comparable: James Neal (40-30-70, 60 PIM)

3YP: (25-15-40, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

New! Dawson Mercer, RW (2021: 84) (2020: N/A)

A tremendous hockey mind, Mercer often seems ahead of the play, reading the opponent's intentions and cutting them off efficiently with an active stick. He's a decent dual-threat, as his excellent playmaking and shooting talents led him to collect 19 goals and 17 assists for 36 points in 23 games last year with Chicoutimi in the QMJHL. Mercer still has two more years of junior eligibility, although he has already signed his entry-level deal and can hop into the Devils' lineup for nine games without burning a year of it. This should result in some early-season NHL time before he's sent to junior for further development. If Mercer can further grow his offensive toolkit, he could become a staple of the Devils' lineup for years to come. At worst, he should still develop into a decent two-way winger.

Upside Comparable: T.J. Oshie (25-45-70+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-25-40, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Tyce Thompson, C (2021: 106) (2020: 148)

Thompson's puck skills and offensive potential helped make him the 96th-overall pick of the 2019 NHL Draft. In the two years since his selection, Thompson saw his point totals explode during his sophomore year (44 in 34 games) in college when he had Vegas prospect Jack Dugan alongside. But then he cratered back to reality (25 in 25) after Dugan turned pro, as Thompson captained Providence College in 2020-21. Soon after joining the Binghamton Devils in the AHL last spring, Thompson got the call to the NHL, where he spent most of his seven games in a fourth-unit support role, earning his first-ever assist in the show. In total, his four points in 11 games with the AHL Devils are a promising sign of things to come, as the young pivot will likely gain greater confidence with the affiliate this year.

Upside Comparable: Mathieu Perreault (20-40-60+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (9-26-35, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

New! Patrick Moynihan, C/RW (2021: 283) (2020: NR)

When Moynihan joined Team USA at the WJC last year, he was mainly brought in to dominate opposing bottom-six matchups and create offensive support for Trevor Zegras, Alex Turcotte and the rest of the high-end American prospects. His two points in five games at the tournament don't jump off the page, but he certainly displayed his defensive prowess and his impressive work ethic, even earning considerable ice-time with Zegras and Turcotte near the end of the American's gold-medal run. Moynihan displays maturity and intensity every time he hits the ice and that alone could see him crack an NHL lineup sooner rather than later. At Providence College last year, he completed his sophomore season with 15 points in 17 games and is now looking toward 2021-22 with hopes of exceeding the point-per-game barrier as a Senior.

Upside Comparable: Jean-Gabriel Pageau (25-35-60+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (20-25-45+, 25 PIM)

Patrick Moynihan continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23, but might play some games this year after his college season.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Arseni Gritsyuk, LW

(2021: 428) (2020: 528)

After an impressive performance during Russia's fourth-place finish at the latest WJC, Gritsyuk made his way back to the KHL to complete his 2020-21 campaign. There, he capped off his return to Omsk with two points in five games, a decent improvement when compared his first seven games of pointless hockey with the KHL club. Gritsyuk's tenacity and drive headline his game, making him a handful for opposing defensemen on each and every shift. He also owns a decent array of puck skills that help him get around the offensive zone. He could one day develop into a useful complementary piece of the Devils' top-six group down the line.

Upside Comparable: Cam Atkinson (25-40-65, 40 PIM)

3YP: Artturi Lehkonen (15-23-38, 25 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Nate Schnarr, C

(2021: 194) (2020: 175)

Schnarr's defensive acumen and passing abilities have been a staple of his game since he was drafted 75th overall by Arizona in 2017 and he's been working on those assets even more so since joining the Devils in the Taylor Hall trade. His 15 points in 33 games with AHL Binghamton this past season were a slight improvement in point production (0.45 per game) when compared to his output from the year prior (0.40). It may not seem like much, but he has also worked on refining his decision-making with and without the puck. As a former 102-point player in the OHL, Schnarr has some potential there too. He could see some NHL action at some point this season, or even start 2022-23 on the Devils' opening night roster.

Upside Comparable: Pavel Zacha (25-35-60+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Marian Studenic, RW

(2021: 186) (2020: 282)

Despite a drop in AHL production from 2019-20 to last season, Studenic earned himself a stint with the Devils just as 2020-21 came to a close, playing eight games and earning a goal and an assist. His blend of scoring ability, skating prowess and defensive responsibility have helped him earn his way into the Devils' bottom-six, but there are still questions as to whether he can develop more than he already has. If he does, it will be due to his above-average shooting ability, which he could potentially use to score 20-plus goals in a support role. The 22-year-old would need skilled linemates to become fantasy relevant.

Upside Comparable: Andreas Johnsson (25-30-55+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (15-10-25, 30 PIM)

Marian Studenic continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Reilly Walsh, RD

(2021: 42D) (2020: 61D)

Walsh's jump from the NCAA to the AHL last year went smoothly, as the young defenseman earned 15 points in 33 rookie games with AHL Binghamton and looked solid enough in the defensive end to expect even better results this upcoming year. His ability to generate shots from the point and distribute crisp passes on breakouts and in the opposing zone project a future specialist on the power play, likely on a second unit. Walsh should be able to earn a look-see this season, as the Devils continue their youth movement. He has offensive potential as he tallied 58 points in his last 63 NCAA games when he was at Harvard.

Upside Comparable: Brandon Montour (10-35-45+, 45 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will get cups of coffee/get a look this year, full time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Michael Vukojevic, LD

(2021: 179D) (2020: NR)

Vukojevic's one goal and 10 assists in 26 games were more than most observers expected from the shutdown defenseman playing in his first pro season as an AHLer. In fact, he was also extremely solid in front of his own net, keeping forecheckers to the outside, thus making it easier for his goaltender to see the puck. He gets into shot lanes, troubles attackers with an active stick and shows enough mobility to close gaps efficiently. A huge physical specimen at just 20 years of age, he stands at 6-3, 212 pounds. Expect Vukojevic to marinate in the AHL for a couple more years before he gets his shot in the NHL. Has all the tools of a solid PK defenseman.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Myers (10-35-45, 60 PIM)

3YP: (5-10-15, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Shakir Mukhammadullin, LD

(2021: 221D) (2020: N/A)

Mukhammadullin's blend of skill, skating and size make him one of the most intriguing blue line prospects in the NHL. His impressive start to the KHL's 2020-21 campaign led him to be drafted as a first-rounder in the 2020 NHL Draft, held a month after his season began in September. Since then, though, the offense and ice time dried up. His decision-making, especially in his own zone, will likely be the make-or-break factor for him to maximize his skill set. Oddly, he tends to get lost out there and/or miss his assignment. If he manages to straighten out the tendency to crack under pressure, Mukhammadullin could become a dynamic, reliable presence on the Devils' backend for years to come. As of now, though, he's definitely a couple of years away from being close to the final product.

Shakir Mukhamadullin continued

Upside Comparable: Rasmus Andersson (10-30-40, 30 PIM)

3YP: (5-10-15, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Nico Daws, G

Daws' selection at 84th overall in 2020 as an overaged player came after impressive showings in the OHL. Last year, though, Daws was sent over to the DEL, Germany's top level of hockey, to play with Ingolstadt against pros for the first time in his career, since the OHL cancelled their calendar because of COVID-19. The result was an underwhelming performance, as he struggled to adapt to pro hockey in a foreign country, playing in only 10 games and finishing the season with a 0.898 save percentage. Hopefully, the Devils can get him back on North American ice sooner rather than later, so that they can keep close tabs on his development and his confidence, which are essential to building a future starter.

Upside Comparable: 1A NHL split starter

3YP: (25-15-8, 2.55 GAA, 0.918 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Akira Schmid, G

In his final year of USHL eligibility, Schmid's goaltending performances seemed to have stabilized following a terrible 2019-20 campaign. The Swiss goaltender earned a 0.921 save percentage and a 2.01 goals-against average last year. These results closely resemble Schmid's performance from his brilliant 2018-19, but the goaltender faced much tougher opposition than in previous seasons, since the Chicago Steel and many other USHL programs had abnormally deep rosters due to COVID-19 displacements from all over the world. This is evident due to the fact that Schmid's aforementioned numbers were the best of any USHL goaltender. This year, Schmid is likely destined to Binghamton after signing his entry-level contract in May of 2021, as he cannot join any NCAA side with a professional contract in hand.

Upside Comparable: NHL Backup

3YP: 15-7-3, 2.75 GAA, 0.915 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 40%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New York ISLANDERS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Robin Salo
Boom/Bust potential: Ruslan Iskhakov
Long-term project: Henrik Tikanen
Top sniper: Kieffer Bellows
Best setup man: Collin Adams

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Kieffer Bellows
Defense: Bode Wilde
Goal: Henrik Tikanen
Points only: Simon Holmstrom
Multicategory: William Dufour

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber



Otto Koivula, C

(2021: 88) (2020: 71)

After five seasons of playing against men in Liiga and the AHL, Koivula is NHL ready. And now that he has to clear waivers to be sent down, he will most certainly be on the Islanders roster in the fall. Whether he gets into the lineup on a regular basis will be up to him. A skilled center of his size (6-4, 220 pounds) is highly coveted in the NHL and Koivula needs to dominate the play physically if he wants to thrive. After a 21-goal AHL rookie campaign two years ago, Koivula managed just two goals in 20 games last season and was even scratched at one point. But in his defense, only four players on the entire Bridgeport roster had 10 points. Still, as a bigger player, Koivula will need several years to produce anything decent for fantasy purposes.

Upside Comparable: Alex Tuch (30-40-70, 50 PIM, 200 Hits)

3YP: (21-22-43, 32 PIM, 180 Hits)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Kieffer Bellows, LW

(2021: 47) (2020: 78)

Bellows actually made the Islanders last season, though you wouldn't know it since he only played 14 games. But he remained with the team from start to finish, skating mostly on the taxi squad. Every time he did manage to get into the lineup, he frustrated Coach Barry Trotz with his inconsistent play. The 6-0, 195-pound son of former NHL star Brian plays a power forward style despite not being a big guy. His first game he shelled out eight Hits. But in his second game – zero. Two-thirds of his total even-strength shifts were alongside either Mathew Barzal or Brock Nelson, so he's getting his chances. It's up to him to decide if he's going to seize them. Now that he's 23, the clock is ticking for the 2016 19th overall pick.

Upside Comparable: Evander Kane (35-35-70, 90+ PIM, 210 Hits)

3YP: (23-21-44, 75 PIM, 190 Hits)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Anatoly Golyshov, LW

(2021: 138) (2020: 530)

Now 26, the diminutive Russian was drafted five years ago by the Isles and they have waited patiently ever since. He's a hard-working, hustling winger who is likely destined for the middle-six at the NHL level. Whether that means the second line or the third line will depend on how well he transitions. As a smaller player at 5-8, Golyshov will need to make an impact on the scoresheet early in order to stick. In the KHL he was a top scorer on his team Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg (say that three times fast!) for several years until they acquired big names (Pavel Datsyuk and Peter Holland) and his role changed. When Golyshov wasn't the go-to guy he became an excellent checking-line player. With the Islanders already set with their scoring lines, expect only a modest offensive impact, unlikely to see his upside.

Upside Comparable: Conor Garland (25-40-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (11-16-27, 36 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Simon Holmstrom, RW

(2021: 185) (2020: 101)

The Islanders reached for Holmstrom in the first round in 2019 at 23rd overall. Then they may have compounded their mistake by rushing him straight into the AHL. But they felt that they could keep better tabs on his ice time in Bridgeport versus having him play in Allsvenskan over in Sweden. Well, 70 games into his AHL career he has just 22 points to show for it, plus an ugly minus-29 rating. On the plus side, playing with his peers at the WJC he picked up five assists in five games for Team Sweden. So we know the upside is there for Holmstrom. But this is going to be a long and painful wait. He only turned 20 in late May, so there's certainly time.

Upside Comparable: Travis Konecny (30-45-75, 40 PIM)

3YP: (16-26-42, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Ruslan Iskhakov, RW

(2021: 205) (2020: 308)

After two matching seasons of 21 points in 32 games for Univ. of Connecticut of the NCAA, Iskhakov decided to turn pro and play in Liiga rather than wait on pandemic restrictions in America to ease. His 38 points in 54 games for TPS ranked him tied for third on the roster. If you include preseason and playoffs, Iskhakov actually got in 80 games, which is almost unheard of during the pandemic. But the Islanders still didn't sign him to a contract, so the diminutive center (5-8, 155 pounds) will be playing in the German League in 2021-22. Adding size and strength will be an absolute must if he wants to enjoy success in North America. As a high draft pick (second round, 43rd overall in 2018), the Islanders have most definitely not given up on him.

Upside Comparable: Cam Atkinson (30-40-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: Rocco Grimaldi (14-16-30, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Josh Ho-Sang, RW (*Unrestricted Free Agent if not signed*) (2021: 209) (2020: 96)

A quick look at the stats and the headlines for Ho-Sang would likely lead to a roll of the eyes and a 'here we go again'. But there's more to the story of this troubled and controversial 25-year-old. Yes, Ho-Sang asked for a trade in late 2019 and sat out. He also returned. Last season he signed with an SHL team and was released after five games. He later signed with another one, played just four games before getting scratched. Both teams swear he was a true professional. The first team had him join them when they had played 33 games already, whereas he had played 22 in the prior two years. The second team had healthy players return to the lineup, pushing him out as he struggled to catch up. Now finally a UFA, it will be interesting to see if he can impress enough with a fresh start to actually stick in the NHL.

Upside Comparable: David Krejci (20-45-65+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (9-33-42, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 50%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Colin Adams, C (2021: 290) (2020: 445)

Talk about a long-term project. After Adams was drafted in the sixth round (170th overall) in 2016, he played a full season in the USHL. Then he played the full four years of NCAA hockey. Now, five years after being drafted, he signed a pro contract. With his breakout junior year and Hobey Baker-nominated senior year, teams would have been knocking on the door had he not been drafted. But the Isles had the relationship with him all along and it paid off. As a 5-9 forward, he will need to produce better offense than most of his peers in order to get that NHL shot. And last season he had 34 points in 29 games for UND, which was good for sixth in the nation. The 23-year-old will play a year in Bridgeport. He could be a sleeper.

Upside Comparable: Cam Atkinson (30-40-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (16-24-40, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New!

William Dufour, RW

(2021: 341) (2020: N/A)

The power forward slipped to No. 152 in the draft last year due to question marks surrounding his skating. But he's a hard-hitting, no-holds-barred power forward who goes north/south whether a player is in his way or not. Seventeen games into last season in the QMJHL he was second in goals with 14 before a lower-body injury sidelined him from early March onward. He also missed the playoffs. At 6-3, 201 pounds and not yet eligible for the AHL, Dufour is poised to tear the QMJHL apart. A full healthy campaign could see him as a top scorer in the league, but he'll have to do it on a new team as he was traded to Saint John. This is a team poised to make run, already boasting offensive stalwarts (and Calgary prospects) Ryan Francis and Jeremie Poirier.

Upside Comparable: Tom Wilson (30-40-70+, 100 PIM, 250 Hits)

3YP: Cal Clutterbuck (16-15-31, 87 PIM, 210 Hits)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Reece Newkirk, C (2021: 364) (2020: 330)

The talented pivot finished off his junior career with 151 points over his last 147 WHL games with Portland. He was an alternate captain during the last two campaigns. Although his numbers haven't popped off the page, his offensive skills are solid. And while he likely won't be a top scorer at the NHL level, he has the work ethic and intangibles that could see him center the fourth line in a few years. Newkirk will turn pro in the fall and how well he adapts to the AHL level of hockey will shed some light on whether or not he has enough in him to make a case for a second-line job. He's not the biggest player, at just 5-11, but he works hard and hates to lose.

Upside Comparable: Jordan Staal (20-40-60+, 60 PIM)

3YP: Casey Cizikas (14-25-39, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! Alex Jefferies, LW (2021: 460) (2020: N/A)

As a high school product, Jefferies could have been drafted anywhere from the third round...to not at all. His 69 points in 32 games for The Gunnery (that's the name of the prep school 'Frederick Gunn' in Connecticut) look fantastic, but the competition just isn't there so it's hard to gauge. The Isles ended up grabbing him 121st overall last year. It looks like a smart pickup, as in his first NCAA season with Merrimack he posted 10 points in 12 games and was named to the Hockey East All-Rookie team. Jefferies, a 6-0 Massachusetts native, saw his pandemic-delayed college debut get delayed even further as he recovered from a preseason knee injury. He has good speed, a great shot and an underrated passing touch, but he needs to work on his play away from the puck. Still several years away.

Upside Comparable: David Perron (30-40-70+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (16-22-38, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Bode Wilde, RD

(2021: 25D) (2020: 22D)

The high-scoring junior is having his share of difficulties transitioning to the pros. A one-dimensional but very dynamic and skilled offensive defenseman, Wilde showed improvement defensively over 22 games with Bridgeport last season. In an organization such as the Barry Trotz-coached Islanders, there is no room for one dimension. It is imperative that he rounds out his game and that's been the focus. He's 6-3, 192 pounds so he has the size and range to at least become adequate defensively, and given his competitive nature it's safe to say that he'll continue to make progress. In terms of pure offense though, Wilde could well have the highest upside of any rearguard in the organization. Still only 21, the Montreal native has plenty of time.

Upside Comparable: Dougie Hamilton (15-40-55+, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (11-28-39, 52 PIM)

Bode Wilde continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Robin Salo, LD

(2021: 29D) (2020: 88D)

Training camp will determine Salo's ability to slot directly into the NHL roster, but at this point the consensus seems to be that if he's not NHL-ready right now, he's at least very close. The Islanders' second-round pick in 2017, 46th overall, has shown over the last several years to be a reliable two-way player. He led Liiga in 2019-20 with the highest average time on the ice (23:28 per game). Last season in the SHL he showed his offensive potential, really coming into his own with 30 points in 51 contests. That was good for 10th among blueliners. Salo is a strong skater with very good hockey sense. The 22-year-old will one day be a big part of both special teams.

Upside Comparable: Jonas Brodin (8-37-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (6-32-38, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 80%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Samuel Bolduc, LD

(2021: 56D) (2020: 89D)

Bolduc will be competing with Salo for an NHL job in training camp. While Salo is two years older and a much more complete player, Bolduc is huge (6-4, 212 pounds), has more offensive upside, and he seriously impressed the organization last year. Drafted in the second round in 2019, 57th overall, Bolduc had a solid final year of the QMJHL (43 points in 61 games). But most impressive was his training camp last year, followed by a tremendous AHL rookie campaign that saw him nearly lead Bridgeport in scoring. Now, that's not saying much since Bridgeport was a low-scoring team, but he had 14 points in 24 games playing with lesser-skilled teammates so that's something. His physical style transitioned well to the pro game and he's learning that his strength is something that gets respected even going against men.

Upside Comparable: Oscar Klefbom (10-40-50+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (6-19-25, 38 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Henrik Tikkanen, G

It seems to be a tradition in the NHL to use one of your late-round draft picks on goaltender. If you're not sure of said goalie due to minimal exposure to your scouts, then use your final pick on him if he's really tall. The Isles saw the 6-8 Tikkanen as a bit of long shot when they took him 214th overall last year. His numbers in the U20 SM-liiga hadn't been great, but his workload was increasing and he would graduate to Mestis (the Liiga minor league) in 2020-21. A dozen games into his Mestis career he was recalled to KalPa due to an injury. He Liiga debut was spectacular – in seven games he posted a sparkling 1.94 GAA and 0.921 SV%. Besides his size, the organization is impressed with his maturity and hockey I.Q. He will spend the next two years in Liiga and then likely a couple more in the AHL.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: (33-18-7, 2.40, 0.915)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 50%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New York RANGERS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Nils Lundkvist
Boom/Bust potential: Ty Ronning
Long-term project: Brett Berard
Top sniper: Lauri Pajuniemi
Best setup man: Nils Lundkvist

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Vitali Kravtsov
Defense: Nils Lundkvist
Goal: Dylan Garand
Points only: Nils Lundkvist
Multicategory: Braden Schneider

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Brayden Olafson

↔ Vitali Kravtsov, RW

(2021: 26) (2020: 22)

After a couple turbulent years, the former first-round selection finally earned a regular role in the Rangers lineup after a 49-game campaign in the KHL. Before making it to Manhattan, though, Kravtsov contributed regularly on Traktor's power play and developed his ability to play without the puck. Kravtsov embraced his depth deployment under David Quinn, gaining confidence by leveraging his speed and energy. Through 20 contests, he shuffled through the team's middle-six, but with limited opportunity on the power play. Still, his level of comfort became quite apparent over the last half-dozen games, which is promising for his continued development. His immediate competition for additional opportunity will come from Kaapo Kakko, whose development and timing appear to be slightly ahead. All of the foundational elements are in place for Kravtsov to continue his development in the NHL. The next step? Keep improving his timing to see how far he can push his offensive output.

Upside Comparable: Kevin Fiala (30-45-75+, 65 PIM)

3YP: (15-35-50, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Morgan Barron, C

(2021: 58) (2020: 94)

The former Cornell captain did not disappoint in his long-awaited pro rookie year. Playing the majority of the season with the AHL's Hartford Wolfpack, Barron exhibited many of the same strengths that he was recognized for in the ECAC. The sizable centerman is a Swiss-Army knife style of player that possesses the necessary skill, truculence and timing to be a successful middle-sixer in the NHL. His early professional success has been a validation of our previous projections for him and an indication that there is likely more growth potential in his game. When observing Barron's demeanor during games and in between whistles, it's hard not to see the future leadership qualities. With a solid foundation of confidence laid in the AHL, Barron transitioned into the Rangers bottom-six to close out 2020-21. His modest contributions and apparent comfort level bode well for his both his long and short-term trajectories.

Morgan Barron continued

Upside Comparable: Ryan Strome (20-45-65+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2021-22.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Lauri Pajuniemi, RW

(2021: 119) (2020: 177)

After a breakout campaign in his draft+2 year with TPS of the Finnish, Liiga, the developing sniper regressed slightly in terms of his production in 2021. The Finn's shot remains his greatest and most NHL-ready characteristic, however, his timing will undoubtedly be put to the test as he transitions to a smaller ice surface this fall. While it's possible that his entry-level contract results in an NHL debut within the next 12 months, it seems more likely that he will spend his first year in North America with one of the Rangers' affiliates. A gradual transition shouldn't entirely disappoint fantasy owners, though, as his long-term offensive upside as a goal-scorer will rely heavily on his ability to properly develop and hone his lateral movement and evasiveness.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Toffoli (30-35-65+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Tim Gettinger, LW

(2021: 211) (2020: 163)

As he enters his fourth full professional campaign, the former Soo Greyhound remains largely in a state of uncertainty in terms of his future. As a pending RFA, Tim Gettinger will likely be renewed to a one-year prove-it deal, in which he'll need to demonstrate growth in his ability to shut down opposing team's best forwards. Gettinger's rate of production has steadily increased since joining the Rangers AHL affiliate in Hartford, however, his increase in production is quite closely correlated to his substantial climb in deployment, especially on the man advantage. His sheer size allows him to cover a substantial amount of ice in a single stride, as well as defend a broad span of ice in transition. At the NHL level, Gettinger will likely be relied on for supplemental offense, in addition to a primary role in a shutdown capacity.

Upside Comparable: Alex Tuch (20-35-55+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-15-25, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2021-22.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Ty Ronning, RW

(2021: 212) (2020: 334)

After a discouraging initiation to the pro circuit in which he played the better part of his first two years with the Rangers' ECHL affiliate in Maine, Ronning seemed to find his groove in the AHL last year. While contributing at a point-per-game clip in Hartford, Ronning revived his status as a skilled and productive forward, as he embraced the lessons learned of adjusted timing and selectiveness from his experience in the ECHL. As a result of his apparent slowdown in

Ty Ronning continued

development since leaving the WHL, there were undoubtedly a large share of stakeholders who had resigned themselves of investing in Ronning. The revitalized version of Ronning, however, seems to hint at some late-blooming potential, which could make him a low-risk, high-reward buy at this point in his career.

Upside Comparable: Yanni Gourde (25-35-60+, 25 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee / get a look this year, full time in 2021-22.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Brett Berard, LW

(2021: 278) (2020: N/A)

As a freshman at Providence College, Berard demonstrated many of the same characteristics that helped him to excel with the USNTDP. With regular production and considerably high deployment for a rookie, the former fifth-round selection left it all on the ice for the Friars. His elusiveness away from the puck makes it a challenge for opponents to defend against him effectively, despite his diminutive stature. His ability to use his feet to find space with the puck is something which still requires development before it's NHL caliber. Berard should not be expected in Manhattan for at least a couple of years, possibly longer. If and when he does find himself in a Rangers uniform, the 5-9 winger has the potential to make significant contributions both at even strength and on the man-advantage unit.

Upside Comparable: Clayton Keller (25-45-70+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (10-30-40, 15 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

Karl Henriksson, C

(2021: 344) (2020: 477)

As a rookie in the SHL, the Rangers second-round draft selection in 2019 was subject to a role in which his deployment was not always favorable. With Frolunda regularly rolling four balanced lines, Henriksson's production didn't quite align with what many were expecting of him, especially considering his draft pedigree. His lack of production with Frolunda, however, was not for a lack of trying, or for a lack of ability. The 20-year-old center is far from being on a regression curve – in fact, he's more than likely on the brink of a considerable uptick in production. While his potential star-power may not match that of an NHL top-sixer, Henriksson certainly possesses many of the valuable attributes needed to supplement offense and earn himself a considerable role in North America one day.

Upside Comparable: J-G Pageau (25-35-60+, 35 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Evan Vierling, C (2021: 478) (2020: N/A)

With the 2020-21 OHL campaign lost to the pandemic, Vierling was left without a team to play on in his draft+1 slate. The lost season might be written off simply as unfortunate circumstance for the former fifth-round pick, however, with many of his peers having found a way to get on the ice in some capacity, Vierling's absence was a tough pill to swallow. In a year where he otherwise might have competed for a role on Canada's U20 roster, the Barrie forward was left aside due to an abundance of star prospects that awaited assignment to their respective organizations. Luckily for him, the Rangers' pipeline isn't exactly flush with center depth, meaning that he will likely retain his position in the depth chart for now, regardless of his lack of game action. With three years of OHL competition under his belt, Vierling will return to Barrie this fall with the hopes of proving himself as a reliable two-way forward.

Upside Comparable: J.T. Miller (30-40-70+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (13-19-32, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Nils Lundkvist, RD (2021: 5D) (2020: 8D)

After significant speculation that Lundkvist would be playing in North America as of the the fall of 2020, the Swedish defenseman ultimately decided to remain with Lulea for the duration of his draft+3 slate. While averaging almost 22 minutes per night, the right-shot defender solidified his role as a power-play specialist and concluded his 52-game run as the SHL's leading scorer among defenseman aged 24 and under. At the completion of Lulea's seven-game playoff run, Lundkvist agreed to terms on a long-awaited entry-level contract with the Rangers. His supreme mobility, paired with obvious physical maturity, strength and balance inspire confidence for his immediate future. Considering the success of the Rangers defensive depth as of late, it wouldn't be entirely surprising to see Lundkvist start the year in Hartford, albeit for a brief adjustment period. But considering his budding offensive upside, it's going to be hard to keep him out of the NHL.

Upside Comparable: Kris Letang (15-50-65+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (12-35-47, 45 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Zac Jones, LD (2021: 44D) (2020: 162D)

Once again, with so many stories of uncertainty and stunted development around the prospect world, Jones' abrupt and well-deserved promotion was a bright spot in Rangers-land. The club's third-round draft pick in 2019 began the year as a sophomore with the University of Massachusetts, where he played first-pairing minutes and led team defensemen in scoring. Knowing what they had in the reliable and productive blueliner, the Rangers pursued Jones immediately following the completion of his college campaign, inking him to an ELC agreement. The contract brought Jones directly to Broadway, foregoing the AHL, and rocketing up the depth chart over a span of 10 games. His eager and reactive style of play thrived in the organization's high-flying system and enabled him to minimize defensive zone time, while optimizing offensive opportunity. Jones has proven that he's capable of playing at the NHL level.

Zac Zones continued

Upside Comparable: Neal Pionk (5-40-45, 35 PIM)

3YP: (5-25-30, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.



Tarmo Reunanen, LD

(2021: 74D) (2020: 170D)

The minute-munching Finn kicked off the first year of his ELC with the Rangers AHL affiliate in Hartford after graduating from the Liiga in 2019. As a 23-year-old rookie, the regularity and immediacy of his contributions to the Wolfpack's cause were impressive. Reunanen's creative and refined decision-making, more so than his technical ability, are what enabled him to have such an instant impact. Among a lineup of peers that boasted greater experience, Reunanen regularly earned considerable even-strength and power-play deployment. In addition to his contributions on the scoreboard, the left-shot defenseman became a reliable shot suppressor for the 'Pack. Toward the end of his impressive run in Hartford, Reunanen received a number of spot call-ups to the Rangers. While he displayed promise, it remains to be seen whether it was quite enough to guarantee himself a spot as of this fall.

Upside Comparable: Nikita Zaitsev (5-35-40+, 65 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New!

Braden Schneider, RD

(2021: 78D) (2020: N/A)

Among team prospects, Schneider concluded his draft+1 campaign as one of the most decorated of future Blueshirts. Beginning the year by being named captain of the WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings, Schneider was relied upon for his offensive and shutdown abilities. His strong intuition and timing matches that of more experienced defenders and will be one of his primary qualities as a pro. Further, Schneider boasts physical maturity and his strength gives the perception that he's much older than 19. His impressive, albeit truncated run with Brandon earned him an entry-level-contract, as well as an Amateur Tryout agreement to get his feet wet in the AHL. His opportunity with the Wolfpack preceded a similar opportunity to play for Canada at the World Championship. Despite a banner campaign, he'll likely spend at least one more full year in the AHL before getting a real opportunity in the show.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Ellis (10-35-45+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (7-20-27, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Matthew Robertson, LD

(2021: 90D) (2020: 148D)

In a year where so many prospects were plagued with uncertainty, Robertson was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to play a partial campaign in the WHL with the Edmonton Oil

Matthew Robertson continued

Kings. As a four-year veteran with the team, Robertson once again donned the 'A' and led the club's defensemen in scoring. With a respectable cast of supporting members in the lineup, Robertson's value was most appreciated at the opposing blueline. His contributions to pinning oppositions into their defensive zone was a massive factor in enabling the Oil Kings to dominate their opposition. While his mobility remains in the average percentile, the 20-year-old can provide excellent value at the pro level, simply by retaining his ability to read opposing breakouts and inhibit them with his superior angles play, as well as selective and well-executed pinches. With the pipeline of defensemen packed, Robertson should be in Hartford this fall.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Pulock (10-35-45+, 65 PIM)

3YP: (5-15-20, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Dylan Garand, G

The supremely-athletic goaltender was like a suitcase in the pandemic-disrupted draft+1 slate. While the WHL delayed their start date, Garand suited up for Team Canada at the WJC as the team's second-string netminder. His size and athleticism seemed to be a bit less than what was required of the starting role, which he failed to secure after a less than spectacular win over Germany. After a shortened run with the Kamloops Blazers, Garand slotted in for two contests with the AHL's Hartford Wolfpack on an Amateur Tryout contract, in which he demonstrated good composure and rebound control. With Igor Shesterkin only just getting started in his role as the Rangers long-term solution in the crease, Garand's path through professional hockey will be long and uncertain. With his 19-year-old slate in the WHL pending, Garand will likely return to Kamloops for a year before beginning the challenge of competing against his peers in Hartford.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: (30-15-5, 2.40 GAA, 0.915 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25% 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



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Ottawa SENATORS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Jake Sanderson
Boom/Bust potential: Logan Brown
Long-term project: Philippe Daoust
Top sniper: Ridly Greig
Best setup man: Ridly Greig

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Ridly Greig
Defense: Jake Sanderson
Goal: Mads Sogaard
Points only: Ridly Greig
Multicategory: Ridly Greig

2021 Draftee: coming soon

By Dobber



Shane Pinto, C

(2021: 25) (2020: 135)

Many prognosticators thought the Senators reached for Pinto at 32 in the 2019 NHL Draft. But he quickly put those concerns to rest in the ensuing season when he was named a Top 3 player on Team USA's WJC entry (seven points in five games) and then was later named the NCHC Rookie of the Year, making the NCAA All-Rookie Team. In his second year with the University of North Dakota, Pinto took things to another level when he tallied 32 points in 28 games and garnered Hobey Baker consideration. He also won the NCAA Best Defensive Award, Forward of the Year, and Player of the Year! The Sens signed him to a contract and he made an impact immediately, tallying seven points in 12 games. The 6-3 center plays a power game and as he adds bulk to his frame, he will become quite formidable. Possibly the fastest riser in this Report.

Upside Comparable: Brayden Schenn (30-40-70+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (23-29-52, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: He should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.



Alex Formenton, LW

(2021: 61) (2020: 45)

One of the fastest skaters on the planet, Formenton none-the-less seems to be earmarked for a bottom-six role. Despite the blazing speed and very good numbers at both the OHL and AHL level, the Sens have enough forward prospects with first-line upside and not enough speed and checking potential for the third line. Formenton only had four points in 13 games for Belleville, but the team as a whole was struggling prior to his call-up to the big club. In 2019-20 he had 27 goals and 53 points in 61 AHL games. In 20 games with Ottawa, Formenton was primarily a checking-forward who was out for key draws in the defensive zone. He was also on the secondary PK unit. He also wasn't sheltered from the other team's top players – he was just thrown right out there and the metrics tells us he did okay. Picture Carl Hagelin, but with a more effective and accurate shot.

Upside Comparable: Tomas Tatar (30-35-65, 70 PIM)

3YP: (23-24-47, 63 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 90%

Alex Formenton continued

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Ridly Greig, LW

(2021: 90) (2020: N/A)

The lesser-hyped of Ottawa's three first-round draft picks last year, Greig (28th overall) nonetheless put together a very strong campaign. After testing positive for COVID, ruling him out of the WJC for Team Canada, the Alberta native got into seven games for Belleville (three points) before rejoining Brandon when the WHL opened up. He posted 32 points in 21 games, good for second in league scoring. His 39 PIM also put him second in the league. He's a feisty player, though at 5-11, 163 pounds he'll never be a power forward. Greig works hard, hustles and is tenacious on the puck. He also has leadership qualities and takes his game up a notch when it's needed most. He reminds, in a way, of a certain Boston player.

Upside Comparable: Brad Marchand (30-50-80, 90 PIM)

3YP: (26-33-58, 73 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Logan Brown, C

(2021: 126) (2020: 29)

One of Ottawa's top prospects over the past three years, Brown's 2020-21 season can be summed up with one word: disastrous. Horrible. Ugly. Well, okay you pick the word, as long as it's negative. He did not look good in training camp, and early in the AHL season he seemed disinterested. A back injury wiped out much of the schedule for him, and that's been the biggest problem with him over the years – injuries. Perhaps the sore back influenced Brown's poor play, but regardless of that, the fact remains that it's always *something* with him. As a hulking 6-6 centerman with tons of skill and 70 points in 71 AHL games heading into last season, expectations were high. To take a step back at the age of 23, while dealing with yet another injury, is not very promising. Could use a change of scenery.

Upside Comparable: Blake Wheeler (25-45-70, 60 PIM)

3YP: (17-25-42, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Vitali Abramov, LW

(2021: 151) (2020: 69)

Abramov's rise up the fantasy hockey prospect rankings has been slow, but steady. He has tremendous potential and very good upside. That rise would have continued in this year's Report... had he not decided to sign in the KHL right when he was on the cusp of finally making the NHL jump. A two-year deal. Whereas with Ottawa he is finally eligible for waivers, which would force the club to keep him. The former QMJHL star was finally coming into his own as a pro, finishing second on Belleville in scoring (19 points in 23 games) and getting into two games with Ottawa. Now 23, he'll be 25 when he's eligible to return and Ottawa will still retain his rights. A big splash in the KHL could see a quick NHL transition if and when he does return.

Vitali Abramov continued

Upside Comparable: Teuvo Teravainen (25-50-75, 38 PIM)

3YP: (15-25-40, 38 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Egor Sokolov, LW

(2021: 156) (2020: N/A)

In hindsight, Sokolov probably shouldn't have slipped through his first two drafts. He was big (now 6-4, 222 pounds), he put points on the board, had a great shot and pretty good hockey sense. Scouts pointed to his skating as huge question marks. But after 92 points in 52 games in 2019-20 for Cape Breton (QMJHL) and a strong showing at the WJC for Team Russia, the Sens grabbed him in the second round, 61st overall. He worked hard throughout the very (very) long offseason and when he joined the AHL the transition was seamless. He had a team-high 25 points and 15 goals in his rookie-pro season with Belleville. Skating is still a concern and he does need to use his size more to his advantage, but those areas are coming along.

Upside Comparable: Pat Maroon (30-40-70, 70 PIM)

3YP: (24-21-45, 43 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Angus Crookshank, LW

(2021: 335) (2020: N/A)

Crookshank emerged from out of nowhere in 2020-21 after what had been a rather uneventful career since being drafted in the fifth round (126th overall) in 2018. In his junior season at the University of New Hampshire, he posted nearly a point per game (18 in 20). Foregoing his senior year, Crookshank turned pro and transitioned very well to the AHL level. His 16 points in 19 games for Belleville actually led the team in points-per-game average. On an NCAA team that struggled to score (not one teammate reached 26 points in his three seasons there), Crookshank's production is misleading. But he was their top goal scorer with 25 markers over his last 54 games there. Still only 21, this may be a sneaky-good pick for two years down the road.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Toffoli (30-30-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (18-16-34, 43 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Roby Jarventie, LW

(2021: 339) (2020: N/A)

The Senators reached a little for Jarventie at 33rd overall last year in the draft, as most prognosticators had him going late in the second round. But team brass saw loads of potential. As one of the youngest players in the entire draft, Jarventie is nearly a full year younger than many of his peers. That means a full year of growth, strength and skills development. At 6-3, 198 pounds, Jarventie is on track to become a very effective power winger. He has great hands that boast a quick, accurate shot. His 14 goals in Liiga last year led all rookies. He was a part of Team

Roby Jarventie continued

Finland's bronze medal WJC team, but in more of a depth role. Next year he'll likely be a key component – he only turns 19 on August 8. Jarventie fit right in during a four-game AHL stint with Belleville, scoring twice and adding an assist while asserting himself physically.

Upside Comparable: James van Riemsdyk (35-35-70, 60 PIM)

3YP: (21-19-40, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Viktor Lodin, C/LW

(2021: 393) (2020: N/A)

Lodin was signed to his entry-level deal in early June after being an integral part of Timra IK's Allsvenskan League title run and subsequent promotion to the SHL for next season. He broke out with 40 points in 47 games plus another nine points in 13 all-important qualification games. He focused his energy on improving on the ice after running into some trouble off it. Last fall he was arrested for drug possession (speculation is marijuana, but that is only speculation) and he took full responsibility for his actions. His play on the ice seemed to treat the incident as a wakeup call. He also dialed back his aggression – in junior hockey he collected 132 PIM in his last 62 games. But last season he totaled just 20, which obviously did wonders for his production.

Upside Comparable: Sam Bennett (20-45-65, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (11-20-31, 65 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Philippe Daoust, C/LW

(2021: 504) (2020: N/A)

In what looks to be yet another savvy pickup by the Senators, Daoust broke out in a big way in the abbreviated 2020-21 campaign. After being taken in the sixth round (158th overall), Daoust nearly earned in 21 games what he took 58 games to tally in his draft year: 28 points. A lower-body injury sustained in late March was what prevented him from finishing in the Top 10 among QMJHL scorers. Although he desperately needs to bulk up, as he clocks in at just 167 pounds, he became much more of a physical presence for Moncton as their alternate captain. In the year ahead, expect some staggering numbers in the 'Q' before he makes his AHL debut in 2022-23. But with the strides that he has made and his versatility, he's on track to beat the odds.

Upside Comparable: Travis Konecny (20-50-70, 70 PIM)

3YP: (12-32-44, 43 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Jake Sanderson, LD

(2021: 30D) (2020: N/A)

A steady two-way defenseman, Sanderson has very good offensive upside. But it's his poise and defensive acumen that makes Ottawa's top prospect. Son of former NHLer Geoff Sanderson, Jake

Jake Sanderson continued

has dual USA/Canadian citizenship but chose to represent Team USA at the WJC. He was the key shutdown defenseman during the big gold medal run. And that sets off some red flags in the fantasy world. He'll still get his points – and he most certainly will – but his defensive responsibilities will hold them lower than expectations in many future NHL seasons. Similar to the way Alex Pietrangelo should have eight 50-point seasons under his belt right now, but he actually has just four. He'll return to the University of North Dakota for his sophomore season after being named to the NCAA All-Rookie Team.

Upside Comparable: Alex Pietrangelo (10-40-50+, 40 PIM)

3YP: Jaccob Slavin (5-34-39, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23, but may play final few games this season after college year.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Lassi Thomson, RD

(2021: 39D) (2020: 38D)

A great season in the WHL led to Thomson being drafted 19th overall. The Sens have reached for some of their prospects and many seem to be paying off. Thomson isn't one of them. Projected as a mid-second rounder by many, Thomson seems to have stagnated. He returned to Finland for the last two seasons and often looked lost. A return to North America post-pandemic seems to have helped. He posted 12 points in 35 games for Belleville and is settling back in. He has a good, heavy shot that he needs to use more. He also boasts underrated hockey sense. The upside is there, we just haven't seen it yet since he was drafted. He'll be 21 in the fall and 2021-22 will be pivotal.

Upside Comparable: Devon Toews (15-35-50+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (9-23-32, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Jacob Bernard-Docker, RD

(2021: 61D) (2020: 59D)

The two-way defender decided to forego his senior year with the University of North Dakota, where he was an alternate captain, and sign with the Senators. Although the team envisions him as a shutdown defenseman, he does have some offensive flair as evidenced by his 43 points over his last 59 NCAA contests. Bernard-Docker was a last-minute addition to Team Canada at the World Championship. His ice time was minimal and he was pointless in 10 games, but accrued valuable experience. In five games with Ottawa, he was given very sheltered minutes and was still a little shaky with them. He'll need to marinate in the AHL for at least a year. A future in fantasy hockey will rely on who he's paired with, similar to Brent Seabrook doing well alongside Duncan Keith. But he'll definitely help in leagues with physical categories (Hits, PIM, BLKS).

Upside Comparable: Mattias Ekholm (10-35-45+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (8-25-33, 43 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Mads Sogaard, G

The Sens are excited about this hulking 6-7, 201-pound netminder who they drafted quite high in 2019 (second round, 37th overall). After a somewhat disappointing 2019-20 campaign with Medicine Hat of the WHL, Sogaard returned to his former team in Denmark and posted career numbers. He gained confidence as the season went on, posting a 14-5-3 record (in 22 regular season and playoff appearances) but finishing 12-1-1. His 0.922 SV% was also a career best. He joined Belleville late in the season for seven games and went undefeated (7-0-0) with a 0.917 SV%. He's still going to need several years, mostly just his agility catching up to his long frame. But when he does make the jump, it could happen quite suddenly, when the Senators are in another goalie jam.

Upside: Star NHL Starter

3YP: 35-18-6, 2.40 GAA, 0.921 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).



Filip Gustavsson, G

Finally, Gustavsson has arrived. After struggling for a couple of seasons after turning pro, the 23-year-old regained much of his swagger when he went back to Allsvenskan in Sweden to play during the pandemic. The 6-2 netminder returned to North America on a high note, posting good numbers on a struggling team (Belleville turned it around late, on the back of Mads Sogaard). Ottawa ran into injury troubles in the second half and when they turned to Gustavsson he was at his best. He went 5-1-2 with a 2.16 GAA and 0.933 SV%, possibly his most impressive showing at any level of hockey in his career. A calm demeanor lets Gustavsson rise to the more difficult challenges. He is still exempt from waivers for another year, but he might be ready to back up Matt Murray in the coming season. Given Murray's fragility, Gustavsson will get his starts sooner rather than later.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: 26-18-5, 2.50 GAA, 0.914 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

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ANDREI VASILEVSKIY (G) TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

Age	24	Birth Date	1994-07-25
Catches	L	Draft Year	2012
Height	6'3"	Draft Round	1
Weight	207	Draft Pick	19
Country	RUS	Status	Veteran
2018-2019 Regular Season			
GP	W	GAA	SV%
13	9	2.29	0.927
			69.2
			1

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Contract Information

Year	Salary	AAV
2018-2019	3,500,000	3,500,000
2019-2020	4,000,000	3,500,000

Latest News & Analysis

Date	News
2018-11-19	Fantasy Hockey Podcast – Chytil Mania
2018-11-18	20 Fantasy Hockey Thoughts
2018-11-16	Looking Ahead: Wilson a Great Immediate Pickup
2018-11-16	Rambling: ...portance and length was that of Andrei Vasilevskiy being sidelined for "a...
2018-11-05	Rambling: ...hey skated away with a 4-2 win. Andrei Vasilevskiy faced 37 shots from a bad of...
2018-10-25	Rambling: ...a third-period power play while Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped all 22 shots he face...
2018-10-12	Rambling: ...eason, only being bailed out by Andrei Vasilevskiy to win in a shootout. ...
2018-10-07	Rambling: ...he faced in a winless run. And the villain who started it? ...

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Philadelphia FLYERS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Morgan Frost
Boom/Bust potential: Ivan Fedotov
Long-term project: Bobby Brink
Top sniper: Bobby Brink
Best setup man: Morgan Frost

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Morgan Frost
Defense: Cam York
Goal: Samuel Ersson
Points only: Morgan Frost
Multicategory: Zayde Wisdom

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

↔ Morgan Frost, C

(2021: 6) (2020: 2)

Last year's No.2 prospect in the fantasy rankings was set to make the Flyers and take a good run at the Calder Trophy. The former high-scoring junior transitioned wonderfully to pro hockey in 2019-20, even getting into 20 games for the big club and notching seven points. But a shoulder injury in his second game of 2020-21 shut him down for the entire year. He will be ready for camp in the fall, but the loss of a full year coupled with the pandemic shutdown took away a key development year. He may need a bit of AHL time to get all that back, but the expectation is that he will play the majority of the season ahead with Philadelphia. An elite prospect center with All-Star upside, thanks to a very good shot and high-end hockey sense. He is also not a liability defensively and can play physical when he needs to.

Upside Comparable: Claude Giroux (35-50-85+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (23-39-62, 38 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

↔ Tanner Laczynski, C/RW

(2021: 85) (2020: 81)

A point-per-game player throughout his four-year NCAA career, Laczynski is a valued prospect because of his overall skill set and character. His first year as a pro was a success – on the ice. The problem is, he wasn't on the ice as often as he'd have liked. Core-muscle surgery delayed the start of his campaign, but when he returned, he scored six goals and 10 points in 14 games with Lehigh Valley and also got into five games with the Flyers. But then he injured his hip, and *that* required surgery too, effectively ending his season the same way it started. When he played, he injected much-needed energy into the team, creating offense that wasn't initially there. He fits the mold of third-line center, but could move up to the second if he can tap into his potential.

Upside Comparable: Charlie Coyle (25-40-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (11-20-31, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Tyson Foerster, C
(2021: 94) (2020: N/A)

With the OHL being shut down, Foerster was thrust directly into AHL action. He promptly broke his leg in the first game. Despite the setback, Philly's top draft pick last summer (23rd overall) returned a month later and scored 10 goals in 24 games, actually finishing second on Lehigh Valley in that department even with the missed action. Blessed with natural talent, the now-19-year-old can dish the puck as well as he can shoot it. He has excellent instincts at both ends of the ice and he uses his still-growing 6-2 frame to his advantage. A potential first-liner who is accustomed to dominating the competition, but needs to be tested. Returning strong to the AHL level after a broken leg was an impressive response to his first real challenge.

Upside Comparable: Brayden Schenn (30-40-70+, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (23-28-51, 56 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

 Bobby Brink, RW
(2021: 117) (2020: 103)

The diminutive winger was selected higher up in the 2019 draft at 34th overall, but he hasn't exactly taken the hockey world by storm. Smaller players generally take a couple of years longer to get there and at 5-8, 163 pounds Brink definitely fits the bill. He has incredible drive that surfaces at the most important times, pushing him to the next level when the team needs it most. His elite-level hockey sense finds and creates plays that most wouldn't see in advance. But Brink also has a very good shot that he has not shown enough with the University of Denver, nor with Team USA at the WJC (even though he got six points in seven games, just two were goals). He is not as quick as most highly-touted diminutive prospects, and although his hockey sense compensates for much of that, he really does need to shoot more.

Upside Comparable: Cam Atkinson (35-40-75+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (22-23-45, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

 Wade Allison, RW
(2021: 142) (2020: 126)

Allison is a power winger who has the upside to work his way up to the second line, but injuries keep hitting at the most inopportune times. That's our polite way of calling him a Band-Aid Boy. After two straight injury-riddled campaigns that included a torn ACL, Allison was enjoying a healthy campaign in his senior year with Western Michigan until it was cut short by COVID-19. Turning pro last season, he kicked things off with a strong training camp that was cut short by an ankle injury. There were bone fragments that required surgery, wiping out his first two months. Upon returning, he took to the AHL immediately, posting nine points in 10 games. When he was called up by the Flyers he also fit right in, garnering seven points in 14 games. At 6-2, 205 pounds, Allison already has NHL size and if he can ever stay healthy, he should be a fantasy asset. Therein lies the risk.

Upside Comparable: Josh Anderson (25-35-60+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (15-20-35, 70 PIM)

Wade Allison continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).

New! Zayde Wisdom, C (2021: 145) (2020: N/A)

The Flyers displayed great wisdom when they selected Zayde in the fourth round last summer, 94th overall. He had been ranked as a high third-rounder heading in. A July birthdate made him one of the younger players in the draft, and when the OHL never got started, he became one of the younger players in the AHL. He didn't hold back. An aggressive, agitating, in-your-face player who likes to throw the body, Wisdom didn't seem to care that he was no longer barreling into teenagers. Throwing himself into bigger, stronger men would work just fine. He impressed team brass with his fearless tenacity. His compete level is such that he could be one of those players who makes the NHL several years before he's expected. He got off to a blazing start to his pro career, potting six goals in his first seven outings before hitting a goal-scoring wall.

Upside Comparable: Dustin Brown (25-35-60+, 80+ PIM, 200+ Hits)

3YP: (14-18-32, 68 PIM, 150 Hits)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Isaac Ratcliffe, LW (2021: 176) (2020: 164)

The 6-6, 201-pound giant made his pro debut in 2019-20 and struggled with the transition. Used to pushing around kids half his size, he found the men in the AHL a lot stronger. It's a learning curve that most big power forwards face upon graduating junior. Ratcliffe's 2020-21 season got off to a delayed start due a rib and lung injury suffered just prior to training camp. When he finally returned, his production improved only slightly. But he seemed more fit and more determined. His defense is still a concern (second-lowest on Lehigh Valley with a minus-7 rating), but that should iron itself out well enough with experience. The 22-year-old is still exempt from waivers and will benefit greatly with a third AHL season. Ratcliffe had 150 points in his last 132 OHL games, including 50 goals in his final season there, so his offensive upside is very good, he just needs time.

Upside Comparable: Milan Lucic (35-30-65+, 80+ PIM)

3YP: (24-25-49, 75 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon at this point. Wait until next year to draft.

Jay O'Brien, C (2021: 201) (2020: 203)

The Flyers really reached when they snagged O'Brien with the 19th overall draft pick in 2018. He had been ranked as a mid- to-late second rounder heading in. His first season post-draft was a disaster. Buried in the Providence College lineup, he struggled to make his mark. In deciding to switch colleges, he was forced to sit out a year due to NCAA rules. He played that season in the BCHL, dominating the league and finishing fifth in scoring, effectively regaining his confidence.

Jay O'Brien continued

After that 'career reboot', O'Brien started again in the NCAA, this time with Boston University. He led the squad in scoring with 16 points in 16 games. An intelligent player with an above-average shot, O'Brien's stock had bottomed out and only now can be considered back to the level it was when he was drafted. A fine rebound season, but we need to see the next step now.

Upside Comparable: Kyle Turris (30-40-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (16-18-34, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Elliot Desnoyers, LW

(2021: 308) (2020: N/A)

The Flyers moved up in the draft last summer to take this two-way winger who has loads of upside (fifth round, 135th overall). And we didn't have to wait long to see it. After posting 35 points in 61 QMJHL games in his draft year, Desnoyers exploded for 49 in just 37 last year. As alternate captain for Halifax, he led the squad by wide margin not just offensively, but with his on-ice drive and determination. If he wants the puck, there isn't much the opponent can do to stop him. Look for him to take a run at leading the 'Q' in scoring (he finished seventh in 2020-21). In a 2020 re-draft, this kid would easily go in the first two rounds.

Upside Comparable: David Perron (30-45-75+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (14-26-40, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Connor McClennon, RW

(2021: 434) (2020: N/A)

Despite getting 49 points in 42 games as alternate captain for Winnipeg of the WHL, McClennon slipped through the draft all the way to 178th overall. Even though, a year earlier, McClennon led Team Canada's U17 in scoring at the WHC-17 over prospects such as Cole Perfetti, Jake Neighbors and Mavrik Bourque. This is size bias at its finest. McClennon is 5-8, 157 pounds. Out to prove everybody wrong, McClennon stormed out of the gate when the WHL resumed and he ended up with 33 points in 24 games (sixth in the league). He also turned the sandpaper up a notch, managing 27 PIM. Relentless on the forecheck, he comes up big when it's needed most. Plays with a chip on his shoulders, like those smaller players overcoming all obstacles to make it.

Upside Comparable: Conor Garland (30-40-70+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (16-23-39, 55 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Cam York, LD

(2021: 11D) (2020: 55D)

The 2019 14th overall draft pick really came into his own last season. In his sophomore campaign with the University of Michigan, he showed tremendous confidence and patience with the puck,

Cam York continued

particularly on the power play. He picked up 20 points in 24 games, exceeding his production as a freshman in six fewer contests. And this was on the heels of captaining Team USA to a gold medal at the WJC. He was the second-highest scoring defenseman in that tournament with six points in seven games. York didn't miss a beat after turning pro. He tallied five points in eight games for Lehigh Valley and played three with Philly at the end of the year. With the Flyers he was given nearly 20 minutes of ice time per game and wasn't sheltered with those minutes – he was thrown right out there. He could probably still use at least a half-season back with Lehigh Valley, but he should be an NHLer soon enough.

Upside Comparable: Sam Girard (10-45-55+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (7-35-42, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

↔ Yegor Zamula, LD

(2021: 43D) (2020: 37D)

Zamula's rookie-pro season was a bit of a learning curve, but he handled it with poise. He had a strong training camp with the Flyers and when he was with Lehigh Valley, he focused on just making the right decisions and playing mistake-free hockey. It was enough to earn a brief cup of coffee in Philadelphia. He was used mostly in a defensive capacity yet he managed five shots on goal in those two NHL games. The undrafted Russian was given sheltered minutes, but did well with them and drove possession. He has a projectable frame at 6-3, but needs to fill out and add more strength. A prolific puck-mover at the WHL level, he is doing all the right things as a pro and the offense will come.

Upside Comparable: Zach Werenski (15-40-55, 50 PIM)

3YP: (7-26-33, 34 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2021-22

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

↑ Ronnie Attard, RD

(2021: 119D) (2020: 215D)

After Cam Lee (Pittsburgh) and Mattias Samuelsson (Buffalo) turned pro, Western Michigan turned to Attard for their quarterbacking needs. Boy, did he deliver. Attard finished third in the nation among defensemen for goals with eight and sixth in points with 22 (in 24 games). He was named the NCAA (NCHC) Best Offensive Defenseman. A smart puck-mover with a very good shot, Attard's attributes also include a rough, feisty style. This can be intimidating for opponents as he stands at 6-3 and weighs 207 pounds. Defensively he is still rough around the edges and he isn't the greatest skater, but the former third-round pick in 2019 (72nd overall) compensates with aggression. Attard will return to UWM for his junior season, but with another great year he could turn pro afterward.

Upside Comparable: Darnell Nurse (15-35-50, 80 PIM)

3YP: (8-18-26, 65 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Ivan Fedotov, G

The 6-8 giant is a goaltender to keep an eye on. As things stand today, a lot of indicators are pointing in Fedotov's direction. If Carter Hart's struggles continue through 2021-22, the Flyers will be a desperate team when it comes to goaltending. Fedotov is a 24-year-old whom Philadelphia drafted in 2015 (seventh round, 188th overall). He has posted dominant numbers in the KHL for two years now while playing for Traktor Chelyabinsk. This offseason he was traded to CSKA Moscow, generally the best team in the league. The potential for gaudy numbers is tremendous, and his contract runs out next summer. If the Flyers sign Fedotov next year after he puts a great campaign together, and if Hart does indeed struggle, then this guy will be on everybody's radar.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: 29-18-7, 2.60 GAA, 0.916 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 50%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).



Samuel Ersson, G

Ersson continues to improve on a struggling SHL team (Brynas). In 2020-21 he was a workhorse, appearing in 42 contests. And although he lost 26 of them, he kept his team in it and was often the main reason the game was close. He's a competitor, who finds another gear when there is more on the line. In the relegation round, with Brynas struggling to stay in the SHL, Ersson went 4-1 with a 1.30 GAA and 0.949 SV%. At 6-2, the 21-year-old has NHL size. The Flyers signed their 2018 fifth-round pick (143rd overall) in June, so Ersson will be crossing the pond to join Lehigh Valley. He will need at least two years of AHL time and how quickly he transitions to the North American style (and rink size) will determine his future.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: 31-20-7, 2.60 GAA, 0.916 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 55%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

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Pittsburgh PENGUINS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Samuel Poulin
Boom/Bust potential: Valtteri Puustinen
Long-term project: Lukas Svejkovsky
Top sniper: Nathan Legare
Best setup man: Samuel Poulin

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Samuel Poulin
Defense: Pierre-Olivier Joseph
Goal: Blomqvist/Clang (tie)
Points only: Samuel Poulin
Multicategory: Samuel Poulin

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

↔ Samuel Poulin, LW

(2021: 34) (2020: 30)

Poulin had a very strong camp with the Penguins last year and nearly made the team. He already has NHL size at 6-2, 214 pounds. His two-way game already translates – he's responsible in his own zone and he creates offense at the other end. He is also a born leader, a great presence in the room. Back in the QMJHL his production dipped slightly because Sherbrooke began a rebuild phase, and when they traded Poulin to Val-d'Or he was no longer the guy they leaned on. Val-d'Or had Jakob Pelletier (CGY), fellow Pittsburgh prospect Nathan Legare, plus a couple of overage players. All the same, Poulin had 25 points in 19 games with them and added 11 goals and 19 points in 15 playoff contests, which was fifth in the entire postseason. Now 20, he'll get a very long look in camp and the Penguins have a need in their top six for what he offers.

Upside Comparable: Matt Tkachuk (35-45-80+, 80 PIM)

3YP: (19-32-51, 62 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

New! Radim Zohorna, LW

(2021: 75) (2020: N/A)

The 6-6 giant caught fantasy owners off guard last year when he went from undrafted longshot to NHL player in less than a year. The now-25-year-old was nearly a point-per-game player in his AHL rookie season (11 in 12) and when called up to the Penguins he picked up four points in eight games. That's with minimal ice time, so his points-per-60 was a whopping 3.3. He was given sheltered minutes (obviously) and did lose relative possession. There are questions about his skating and his defensive acumen, but offensively he is very gifted and his 229-pound frame is quite an asset to have barreling down the wing. He only played in the NHL alongside checking-line players so it will be interesting to see how he does on a scoring line with a little more rope.

Upside Comparable: Alex Tuch (30-35-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (12-16-28, 24 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Valtteri Puustinen, RW

(2021: 127) (2020: 202)

Puustinen's stock is soaring and just two years after being drafted late, he has become a very intriguing prospect for fantasy owners. Now 22, he was actually eligible to be drafted in 2017, but went through both that draft, the following one, plus another 202 picks in 2019 before the Penguins smartly took a chance on him. The diminutive winger (5-9) tripled his production for HPK in Liiga that year, and then last season took it a step further. His 21 goals in 51 games were eighth in Liiga, but third in goals-per-game average. The Pens signed him to a contract in May and he'll cross the pond to make his North American debut in the fall. He is being called the Finnish Phil Kessel in many circles and the name is starting to stick. The comparison isn't far off, as Puustinen doesn't play a physical game, but has a sniper's instinct.

Upside Comparable: Viktor Arvidsson (30-40-70+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (21-22-43, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Drew O'Connor, LW

(2021: 148) (2020: 204)

Last year we called O'Connor a 'Zach Aston-Reese without the injuries' and so far, that's looking very apt. After starring for Dartmouth in the NCAA, O'Connor signed with the Penguins as a free agent. The pandemic forced him to go to Europe to get in some ice time and he had 10 points in seven games playing for a Norwegian team. When things started back up in North America, O'Connor made the big club early on, but struggled to produce and wasn't the physical presence the team was hoping to see. In the AHL for most of the rest of the season, he was one of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's top players, posting 19 points in 20 games. Still only 23, he is one of several prospects to keep an eye on as there is a chance one of them sneaks into a top-six role.

Upside Comparable: David Perron (30-35-65+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (17-19-36, 53 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Kasper Bjorkqvist, RW

(2021: 197) (2020: NR)

Bjorkqvist had a miserable time in 2019-20. After turning pro, his season with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton was delayed due to shoulder surgery. After six games, he suffered a season-ending knee injury. In 2020-21, he played the full season in Liiga where his 26 points in 48 contests was fourth on the team. Bjorkqvist is touted for his peak conditioning. He's a two-way player who plays physical, and he has the body strength to do it effectively. Although he is exempt from waivers for another year, the Penguins will take a long look at him as a replacement for Colton Sceviour or (if they lose him to expansion) Zach Aston-Reese. The 6-1, 215-pound Finn is a prototypical third-line winger who has goal-scoring upside if matched up with a setup man at center. And on this team, there are some pretty good ones in the lineup.

Upside Comparable: Jere Lehtinen with an edge (25-30-55+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (15-14-29, 57 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Kasper Bjorkqvist continued

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).

Nathan Legare, RW (2021: 210) (2020: 235)

Although not overly big at 6-0, 205 pounds, Legare plays a power game on the wing. Pittsburgh's third-round pick in 2019 (74th overall), Legare hasn't noticeably improved his production in the QMJHL over the last two seasons. But much of that was due to a talent drop-off, and his offense picked back up after he was traded to the high-powered Val-d'Or Foreurs. He ended up leading that very talented team in playoff goals with 14 in 15 games. Legare is a high-volume shooter, and considering he had an impressive camp back in January, he is a dark horse to sneak onto this roster sooner rather than later. With his quick release, and his love for using it, he would fit right in with a Sidney Crosby or Evgeni Malkin.

Upside Comparable: Evander Kane (35-35-70, 80+ PIM)

3YP: (24-18-42, 73 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Jordy Bellerive, C (2021: 217) (2020: 207)

The former junior star and Lethbridge captain is starting to reinvent himself as a pro. Not quite able to translate his prolific offense to the AHL (although it's still not bad), Bellerive is leaning more on his talent for getting under opponent's skin. But although he's more of an agitator, he won't shy away from the fisticuffs. Despite being just 5-11, he's fine with dropping the gloves when he needs to, averaging three per year over the last six seasons. Never drafted, but signed in 2017, Bellerive has noticeably improved his skating. He also nearly matched his goal totals as an AHL rookie in his sophomore campaign, in barely half the games (10 goals in 29 contests last season versus 12 in 59 the year prior). He is still exempt from waivers for another year. Reminds some of former Penguin Matthew Barnaby.

Upside Comparable: Micheal Ferland (25-35-60+, 80+ PIM)

3YP: (15-22-37, 65 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).

Jonathan Gruden, LW (2021: 405) (2020: 440)

Pittsburgh's return for goaltender Matt Murray (along with a second-round pick) in the trade with Ottawa, Gruden made his pro debut last season with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. The son of Islanders' assistant coach John, Gruden is a hard worker who boasts a pretty good shot and strong hockey sense. The 21-year-old will need at least a couple of years of development time with WBS and he'll also need to add bulk to his wiry 6-0, 170-pound frame. It's difficult to gauge Gruden's

Jonathan Gruden continued

progress, as he had one unenjoyable year in the NCAA before going to the OHL and playing for the high-powered London Knights. His 30 goals were second on that team behind Connor McMichael's (Washington) 47. He only had 14 points in his rookie-pro season, but WBS wasn't a very offensive team. A full AHL season ahead with Poulin and Legare joining them will be telling.

Upside Comparable: Dominik Kubalik (35-35-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (16-14-30, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Lukas Svejkovsky, RW

(2021: 409) (2020: N/A)

A smart, shifty winger who can also play center, Svejkovsky was selected in the fourth round last year, 108th overall. The Penguins only had five picks in the draft and he was their third selection. As alternate captain for Medicine Hat (WHL), his production improved over the year prior (22 points in 22 games), but only a little. At 5-10, 165 pounds, Svejkovsky is undersized for the pro game and could use another year of junior hockey. He has the goal-scorer's instinct that probably makes him a better fit on the wing, but he needs to get stronger. With Pittsburgh's prospect cupboard nearly bare, Svejkovsky is one of the top options in their system by default. He is the son of Jaroslav 'Yogi' Svejkovsky, a former first-round pick with Washington.

Upside Comparable: Connor Brown (30-35-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (14-13-27, 14 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Pierre-Olivier Joseph, LD

(2021: 10D) (2020: 21D)

Joseph continues to impress in both real and fantasy hockey, and now finally the wait seems to be over. The 22-year-old is still exempt from waivers so there's still a chance he gets sent down one more time, but he showed in a 16-game stint last season that he's very close. The 6-2 rearguard is a good skater with great agility, and he sees the ice better than most. He plays with a lot of poise and is the heir apparent to Kris Letang. He can also play with Letang's physicality. His 2019-20 AHL stats were a disappointment, but much of that was due to his recovery from mononucleosis that cost him the first month of the season. As a first-round pick (23rd overall in 2017) who was the key piece acquired from Arizona in the Phil Kessel trade, the organization has very high hopes for Joseph and will do everything they can to ensure his success.

Upside Comparable: Kris Letang (10-45-55+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (9-37-46, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/ NHL Certainty – 25%, 95%

Expected arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.



Jesper Lindgren, RD

(2021: 63D) (2020: 197D)

Lindgren was the other key piece acquired by the Pens from the Leafs in the Kasperi Kapanen trade. They felt that the 24-year-old (he was 23 at the time) was close to NHL readiness and was a solid two-way rearguard with some offensive upside. It looked like a genius move early on, as the pandemic forced Lindgren to play in Allsvenskan and he broke out for 17 assists and 18 points in 25 games. And when he returned to North America, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton put him on the top defense pairing. But the undersized (6-0, 165-pounds) blueliner crashed into the boards early in preseason and his AHL/NHL season ended before it started. Now, without that added development time, Lindgren is eligible for waivers. The Penguins will need to make a decision in camp. They won't want to lose him, so he may end up being kept in the press box for fear of losing him (i.e. 'Franky Corrado'ed').

Upside Comparable: Alex Goligoski (5-40-45+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (2-27-29, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Cam Lee, LD

(2021: 79D) (2020: 71D)

A nephew of former NHL goaltender J-S Giguere, Lee was nonetheless never drafted. After an outstanding NCAA career with Western Michigan that saw Lee post 71 points in his last 99 games. The Penguins were the lucky team to get him to sign a contract, and he spent his rookie-pro season with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. He has excellent vision and hockey sense, although he doesn't boast the greatest shot. Lee is a physical player who is not afraid to dish out the big hit despite not being overly huge at 6-0, 185 pounds. Already 24, he will need to see a few NHL games this season and make the jump by 2022-23 if he hopes to solidify an NHL career. If he does, he will be an asset in the assists and the physical categories for fantasy.

Upside Comparable: Alex Edler (5-40-45+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (2-23-25, 57 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Joel Blomqvist, G

The Penguins had absolutely nothing in the goaltending pipeline. Completely barren. So last year they used two of their five draft picks on the position, including their second and third best picks. Blomqvist was taken 52nd overall because of his smarts and the way he positions himself in the net for a given situation. At 6-2 he has a projectable NHL frame, but needs to fill out a bit and gain strength to better move post to post. He is a solid goaltender when it comes to being proactive, but he is not as good at being reactive. But the former quality is a great foundation to have and the latter quality will come with time and experience. The Penguins would like to see him build up his workload to 40 games for Karpat (Liiga) in 2021-22.

Upside: Star NHL starter

3YP: 32-18-7, 2.55 GAA, 0.919 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 50%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Calle Clang, G

The second goalie chosen by the Penguins last year (77th overall), the difference in talent, upside and wait time between he and Blomqvist at this point is razor-thin. Flip a coin, and the winner could just as easily be the one who ends up with the better career. Clang is the opposite of Blomqvist in many ways in that he is more agile and athletic. He's more reactive, than proactive. Clang's numbers last season were quite impressive, considering the fact that he was on the worst team in Allsvenskan. He won the league's Best Junior player award. Both Clang (Sweden) and Blomqvist (Finland) were named to their U20 teams for the showcase tournament this summer. With former NHLer Johan Gustafsson moving to a new team, Clang has an opportunity to stick with Rogle BK and play in the SHL full time this season.

Upside: Star NHL starter

3YP: 32-20-7, 2.55 GAA, 0.919 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 50%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

The advertisement features a red background with a black and white graphic of a man with a mustache and sunglasses, holding a finger to his lips. Below him is the text "DOBBER PROSPECTS.COM". To the right is a photograph of a hockey player in a red jersey and blue helmet, looking off to the side. The main text "FLIP your fortunes" is displayed in large, bold, white letters, with a small circular logo containing a stylized "F" positioned between "FLIP" and "your". Below this, the website "DobberProspects.com" is written in blue.

San Jose SHARKS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Thomas Bordeleau
Boom/Bust potential: Daniil Gushchin
Long-term project: Daniil Gushchin
Top sniper: Alexander Chmelevski
Best setup man: Thomas Bordeleau

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Thomas Bordeleau
Defense: Ryan Merkley
Goal: Josef Korenar
Points only: Thomas Bordeleau
Multicategory: Ozzy Wiesblatt

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dave Hall

↔ Sasha Chmelevski, RW

(2021: 37) (2020: 43)

Despite falling to the sixth round in the 2017 NHL Draft, expectations for Chmelevski to reach his full potential are rather high. Given the club's supporting prospect depth, there is pressure for his offensive toolkit to propel him toward becoming a top-nine staple in the somewhat near future. The quicker the better. Although, his 0.68 point-per-game clip over a two-year AHL career does not quite resemble that of a knight in shining armor. This is concerning, as his game is derived from his ability to produce and consistency remains a question mark. Despite some late-season struggles, he enjoyed his first taste of NHL action to close out the 2020-21 campaign. He cashed in with two assists, while enjoying third-line minutes. At this point, it's safe to assume that he finds himself a cozy spot on the Sharks opening night roster. He's a workhorse and if he's able to fulfill his potential, there is tons of offensive upside.

Upside Comparable: David Pastrnak (35-45-80, 40 PIM)

3YP: (21-28-49, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: (20%, 80%)

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

New! Thomas Bordeleau, C

(2021: 53) (2020: N/A)

Based on his performance during his freshman year with the Michigan Wolverines, it's hard to believe that he slipped to the 38th spot of the 2020 draft. But the Sharks are not complaining. The 19-year-old solidified himself as the club's top-ranked prospect last season, leading all first-year college players with 30 points. His 22 helpers sat comfortably among the top-10 nationwide and was a major impact player in all situations. Of course, his efforts were rewarded with the NCAA's Freshman of the Year Award. As an added cherry on top, Bordeleau was the first recipient of the organization's inaugural Sharks Prospect of the Year Award. The Texas product is a dynamic, silky-smooth playmaker with an abundance of natural talent. He's expected to return to college to enjoy his sophomore year, but could very well close out the Sharks 2021-22 season. He should be targeted just outside of the usual list of elite-level prospects.

Upside Comparable: Nicklas Backstrom (30-50-80, 45 PIM)

3YP: (21-32-53, 25 PIM)

Rule Your Pool!

Thomas Bordeleau continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Joachim Blichfeld, RW (2021: 57) (2020: 72)

The 2020-21 campaign was a continuation of a strong AHL rookie season from the year prior. Following a brief stint (on loan) in his hometown of Frederikshavn, Denmark, posting 12 points in as many games, Blichfeld solidified himself as one of the Barracudas' go-to forwards. The 6-2 winger led the club with 22 points, showcasing promising trends in both his offensive and two-way ability. While his offensive upside may never reach the height of his 114-point season as the WHL's Player of the Year in 2018-19, he should slide in as a strong option to seek regular minutes in the Sharks' bottom-nine. San Jose's right-side will be competitive in 2021-22, as a number of prospects look to earn permanent residency. Blichfeld checks off all of the boxes to be considered for this duty. If he's not a Shark come opening night, expect the lanky 6-2 forward to be on the short-list for midseason promotions.

Upside Comparable: David Perron (35-35-70, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (23-25-48, 55 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Jonathan Dahlen, LW (2021: 83) (2020: 87)

Dahlen is set to embark on his second North American tour after reaching a one-year deal with the Sharks. The now 23-year-old returns with an extensive set of accolades, following an outright dominant two-year run in the Allsvenskan. His resume is highlighted with back-to-back MVP awards, thanks in part to his 77- and 71-point seasons. Both officially sit second and seventh all-time with regard to (Allsvenskan) points-per-season, respectively. As an added bonus, he was honored as the 2020-21 playoff MVP, leading his club to a Championship title while collecting 22 points. Of course, even with all of the statistical bells and whistles, the big question remains: can he translate this growth to the North American game? While his first stint was passable, he certainly failed to deliver the sort of tantalizing impact that he has achieved in his home country. If recent growth is any indication, he could jump in and add immediate fantasy value.

Upside Comparable: Filip Forsberg (35-35-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (19-27-46, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Ivan Chekhovich, LW (2021: 95) (2020: 83)

Given the lack of AHL hockey, Chekhovich began his sophomore pro season (on loan) in the KHL. Following a lackluster rookie season in 2019-20, it was beneficial for him to seek continuous game action, grinding amongst the highest competition possible. He pulled his weight, finishing

Ivan Chekhovich continued

the season fourth in team scoring with 34 points in 42 outings, with an additional two goals in a short playoff stint. It was a needed boost of confidence before returning across the pond for his redemption tour in California. Upon his return, he looked much more versed as a player and was granted his first NHL promotion, registering a single assist over four games. The Russian winger continues to hold solid offensive potential and given his explosive numbers at the Junior level, it's clear that they are lying dormant somewhere. Look for him to be an in-and-out player for the Sharks in 2021-22, with hopes of cracking a permanent spot the following year.

Upside Comparable: Max Pacioretty (35-35-70, 55 PIM)

3YP: (21-24-45, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Tristen Robins, RW

(2021: 133) (2020: N/A)

Despite being cut short from injuries, Robins enjoyed a promising draft+1 year. It began with a brief two-game sniff with the Barracuda, followed by a strong 23-point (16 games) WHL performance, leading his Saskatoon Blades with a 1.44 pace. Although his 5-11 frame is considered 'undersized', his edgy and fully-rounded game offers much to be excited about. He brings tons of bite, while his hands and heavy release are enough to keep him offensively relevant. He mirrors everything that a team could ask for in a middle-six player, with some extra garnish sprinkled on top. With his ELC already signed, the next question is whether he spends his 2021-22 campaign dominating the junior ranks, or developing in the AHL. Regardless, he is a prospect to keep close tabs on going forward.

Upside Comparable: Travis Konecny (25-45-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (14-26-40, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Alexander True, C

(2021: 143) (2020: 110)

Now 23, True has solidified himself as an everyday depth piece at the Sharks' center position. With four years of consistent AHL production under his belt, there are no more surprises in his game. The club knows what they have in him. He continued that said consistency over the past year, posting 20 points over 27 games, finishing third teamwide in that regard. He was announced the Barracuda's Most Valuable Player. In addition, he enjoyed brief stints with the big club for the second consecutive season, embracing his usual bottom-six role. Going forward, there is no reason to assume heavy production out of him. Rather, consistent role-playing minutes with multiple categories on a platter.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Bozak (20-40-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (16-21-37, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).

New! Ozzy Wiesblatt, RW
(2021: 203) (2020: N/A)

The Sharks' most recent first-round pick brings a water bug mentality, playing the game with both skill and tempo. While none of his intangibles come off as elite, all are extremely sound. With a lack of junior hockey, he was fast-tracked to the AHL for the 2020-21 season, skating in six games with the Barracuda. He compiled three points before being forced back to assume his role as assistant captain with the Prince Albert Raiders. His return saw him finish as one of the WHL's top performers, finishing eighth in assists (21) league-wide and tops on his club with 28 points. Given his non-stop motor and mature demeanor, combined with a strong set of offensive potential, his game is almost undoubtedly bound for the NHL. Yet, it will take some time. Look for him to continue his development in the minors. He's a multicategory format dream.

Upside Comparable: Brendan Gallagher (25-35-60+, 55+ PIM)

3YP: (16-29-45, 35 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

 Scott Reedy, C
(2021: 294) (2020: 366)

Reedy, 21, set career-bests in almost every category during his senior year (2020-21) with the Minnesota Gophers of the NCAA. Subsequently, he agreed to a two-year entry-level deal with the Sharks and joined the Barracuda to wrap up the campaign. Enjoying middle-six minutes, there seemed to be little-to-no growing pains, as he produced eight points over 17 games. The former fourth-rounder brings a variety of intangibles and is willing to toil tough minutes to get the job done. Has strong instincts and a nice mix of categories for fantasy owners. Do not expect him to make the Sharks any time soon. Yet, understand his potential as a well-versed, bottom-six pivot.

Upside Comparable: Derek Stepan (20-40-60+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (8-17-25, 25 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! Jasper Weatherby, C
(2021: 319) (2020: NR)

The Sharks recently waved an entry-level contract in Weatherby's face, taunting him with the opportunity to turn pro. However, given his drive to capture a National Championship, he committed to play out his senior year with the UND Fighting Hawks. He is fresh off of a career-best 14-goal, 24-point campaign and found himself in tremendous company while doing so, as the only player to score more goals in the second half of the 2020-21 season was Montreal's Cole Caufield. Jasper carries a solid 6-4, 214-pound frame, can play at both ends of the ice and with a 57% faceoff rate, can take important draws. While considered a long-term project, Weatherby brings a touch of everything to the table, with peripherals serving as the main course.

Upside Comparable: Jordan Staal (25-30-55+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (10-10-20, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).

New! Adam Raska, LW (2021: 463) (2020: N/A)

Raska, one of the Sharks four seventh-round picks in 2020, doubled-down during his 2020-21 sophomore season with the Rimouski Oceanic of the 'Q'. Despite playing half of the games, he added four points to his previous season's totals, finishing the year with 25 in 22. Throughout his young career, he has been a prominent staple to his country's (Czech) international teams, suiting up in almost every tournament going. Listed at just 168 pounds, you would not assume his aggressive, heavy-hitting nature. Yet, he thrives on taking the body and is relentless on both sides of the puck. High numbers and explosive offensive upside may be out the window, but his feisty demeanor could catch glimpses on the Sharks bottom half. Multi-cat formats, he is looking at you. While still junior eligible, he could find himself back in the QMJHL for a third stint.

Upside Comparable: Brendan Gallagher (20-35-55+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (7-13-20, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

Ryan Merkley, RD (2021: 8D) (2020: 12D)

Merkley continues to keep the Sharks fan base on their toes. With high expectations to provide significant upside to the club's backend, his play has been kept under a microscope. However, the results have yet to live up to the incredible hype. Past character issues aside, his deficiencies in the defensive zone have been well documented. Of course, given his tremendous upside, the club was able to look past them come draft day. Unfortunately, his inaugural pro season came with its usual defensive lows, but lacked his notorious offensive highs. He contributed just one goal and 11 points while finishing the year with a team-worst minus-13 rating. Slack can be given, considering his lack of top-unit power-play minutes and overall level of professional experience. Yet, considering his ambitious pedigree, one might hope for a little more. With grizzled vets still patrolling the blue line in San Jose, there is still time for him to develop his huge potential.

Upside Comparable: Kris Letang (15-50-65+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Brinson Pasichnuk, LD (2021: 64D) (2020: 51D)

Pasichnuk has climbed vast mountains to get to where he is today. Undrafted, the now 23-year-old is coming off a respected NCAA tenure, with four years as an Arizona State Sun Devil. The three-year captain sits second all-time in club scoring with 107 points over 136 games. Moreover, in his senior year, he finished third in defenseman scoring nationwide behind a couple of notable names, David Farrance and eventual Hobey Baker winner, Scott Perunovich. His inaugural pro tour saw him post eight points with the Barracuda, as he leap-frogged his way onto the Sharks six-man rotation to close out 2020-21. Pasichnuk is often praised for his high-end motor and can be heavily relied upon in the defensive zone. Furthermore, he can run a power play and shows strong vision. His game has a boom/bust feel to it, though.

Upside Comparable: Jacob Trouba (10-40-50+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (8-21-29, 56 PIM)

Brinson Pasichnuk continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling or if your league tracks PIM or Hits).



Artemi Knyazev, LD

(2021: 140D) (2020: 187D)

The 2020-21 campaign was a busy one for the 20-year-old defender. Getting things going in Russia, Knyazev split his time between the MHL and VHL tiers, before returning to the Chicoutimi Saguenois to see out his third QMJHL campaign. Unsurprisingly, he added over a point-per-game to his already offensively plush (QMJHL) junior hockey statistics, which he's now firing at a 0.79 clip for a total of 95 points. In addition, he was a key cog in Russian's 2020 WJC team, leading the defensive core with four points over the tournament. His development has turned him into an intriguing addition to the Sharks defensive core. He's an adequate skater and drives most of his offense by being a mistake-free, heads-up puck-mover. Further polishing is needed with regard to his supporting attributes – which he likely does at the AHL level in 2021-22 – yet, top-four NHL upside remains a comfortable goal.

Upside Comparable: Filip Hronek (10-40-50+, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (6-24-30, 42 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Josef Korenar, G

By now, it's no secret that the Sharks do not carry the most luscious goaltending depth. In fact, Korenar, an undrafted 23-year-old, carries a career 0.901 save-percentage with the Barracuda and sits as their best depth option. Despite a strong 2018-19 season in the AHL, posting a 23-8-3 record, Korenar has struggled during his three-year tenure. Even so, he managed to squeeze his way into 10 games with the Sharks last year. He posted a 3-5-0 record to go with an underwhelming 3.17 goals against and 0.899 save percentage. Assuming he is not taken in the Expansion Draft, he'll find himself on a two-man rotation for the backup position with the Sharks. Draft with caution, as he could be a short-term fix.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: (30-15-1, 2.35 GAA, 0.919 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Alexei Melnichuk, G

Melnichuk enjoyed a strong KHL 2019-20 rookie season with powerhouse SKA, posting a 8-5-1 record, 1.68 GAA and 0.930 SV%. This piqued the interest of many in the NHL world, but the opportunity to work with respected goaltending coach, Evgeni Nabokov, eventually became the driving factor to choose San Jose. With COVID shutting down his North American debut, he would return to the KHL on loan, posting a 6-6-2 record with the Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod. Upon his return to the Barracuda, the 23-year-old enjoyed starting duties and posted a respectable 7-7-4

Alexei Melnichuk continued

record. He even saw a few looks with the Sharks, although, highly forgettable. He's likely to carry on with AHL starting duties, but will be considered amongst the rotation for backup duties.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: (33-15-2, 2.20 GAA, 0.925 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

The advertisement features a dynamic photograph of a hockey player in mid-air, performing a shot or pass. The player is wearing a black and orange jersey with the number 46. The background shows a blurred arena setting with a 'Gazet' sign. On the left, large white text with a red outline reads 'UPEND your prospects'. Below this, the website 'DobberProspects.com' is written in red. In the top right corner, there is a small graphic of a man with glasses and a beard, pointing, with the text 'DOBBER PROSPECTS' next to it.

Seattle Kraken

At a Glance

Top prospect: Luke Henman
Boom/Bust potential: Luke Henman
Long-term project: Luke Henman
Top sniper: Luke Henman
Best setup man: Luke Henman

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Luke Henman
Defense: (none)
Goal: (none)
Points only: Luke Henman
Multicategory: Luke Henman

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber



Luke Henman, C

(2021: 315) (2020: 387)

Henman became the first player in Seattle Kraken history when he signed a pro contract on May 12. The 21-year-old center was drafted by Carolina in the fourth round in 2018 (96th overall), but did not sign a contract as of June of 2020 when, at that point, he became a free agent. The Kraken love his offensive potential and his character – he's been Blainville-Boisbriand's team captain the last two seasons. They point to his strength and bulk as areas that need improvement, as the 6-0 pivot weighs in at just 172 pounds. He's a good skater, but not great, and he has above-average hockey sense. In his last 95 QMJHL contests, he has 117 points (41 goals). Translating that to the AHL is the next step.

Upside Comparable: Andrew Copp (25-40-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (11-16-27, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

St. Louis BLUES

At a Glance

Top prospect: Scott Perunovich
Boom/Bust potential: Klim Kostin
Long-term project: Mattias Laferriere
Top sniper: Klim Kostin
Best setup man: Nikita Alexandrov

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Jordan Kyrou
Defense: Scott Perunovich
Goal: Joel Hofer
Points only: Jordan Kyrou
Multicategory: Tyler Tucker

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

➡ Klim Kostin, LW

(2021: 77) (2020: 75)

A mistake poolies (and fans) often make is in giving up on a big forward drafted high after several years. Most of these forwards 6-3 and even taller (Kostin is 6-4) need five, six or even seven years to figure out how best to use their size to dominate. Any dynasty league owner drafting Kostin in 2017 after seeing the Blues select him 31st overall should not have expected anything from him at this point, four years later. Today is actually when you should start looking at him, and actually draft him a year or two from now. Kostin returned to the KHL during the pandemic and really started finding his stride in the second half. He plays a dominant power game and is starting to figure that out at the pro level. He should make the Blues within the next year-and-a-half, but don't expect fantasy-worthy numbers until he is 26.

Upside Comparable: Matthew Tkachuk (32-43-75, 90 PIM)

3YP: (18-22-40, 83 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



↑ Nikita Alexandrov, C

(2021: 123) (2020: 167)

The high-scoring QMJHL and WJC star started 2020-21 playing for KooKoo in Liiga. Although his numbers there were unimpressive (3-6-9 in 28 games), the league is low-scoring in general and it was a great way to stay sharp and prepare for North America. Joining Utica afterwards, he posted five points in seven games. Alexandrov's strengths are his puck smarts, on-ice vision and puck-handling skills. His speed could use improvement and he could definitely add strength and bulk (he's 5-11, 185 pounds). The pipeline is pretty empty when it comes to prospect centermen, so look for Alexandrov to be Springfield's top pivot this year. A productive AHL rookie campaign would make him more difficult to draft or acquire in dynasty leagues next summer.

Upside Comparable: Vincent Trocheck (25-45-70, 50 PIM)

3YP: (14-27-41, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Jake Neighbours, LW (2021: 152) (2020: N/A)

The hardworking, versatile forward wears his heart on his sleeve. Neighbours has a reputation for doing what it takes to give his team the edge. He takes that sandpiper and combines it with excellent playmaking and on-ice vision to form a complete player. At 6-0 and 200 pounds he's quite sturdy, and as he bulks up entering his 20s, he'll be a tank. He has no big holes in his game, as he is very strong on his skates, is dependable defensively and leads by example. He could stand to shoot more. Neighbours has the upside to become a first-line player in the NHL in a few years, but he's also good enough to fill a role on any of the other lines. Team need and available job openings could determine his early output as a pro.

Upside Comparable: David Backes (25-45-70+, 80+ PIM)

3YP: (18-37-55, 73 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Mathias Laferriere, RW (2021: 227) (2020: 192)

As a sixth-round draft pick (169th overall in 2018), Laferriere has a bit of a hill to climb in order to make the show. A smart hockey player who boasts a good shot and crisp passes, the 21-year-old finished up his QMJHL career without upping his production on a new team. Now that he's turning pro, the transition to the AHL will be challenging. If he doesn't get off to a strong start, he may see time in the ECHL. Laferriere is looking like a longer-term project that once thought, but if given proper development time, he still has the upside to eventually crack the top six. Adding bulk to his lanky 6-2, 181-pound frame would expedite things, but for now just put him on your long-term radar.

Upside Comparable: Mikael Granlund (25-45-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (14-27-41, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Alexei Toropchenko, RW (2021: 238) (2020: 231)

The Blues selected Toropchenko in the fourth round, 113th overall in 2017. At the time, he hadn't played in a North American league so using such a pick on a Russian was risky, but it speaks to how highly he was regarded as a prospect. The 6-3 winger was seen as a potential second-line power forward with untapped offensive potential. After two years in the OHL and one in the AHL, the power game started to emerge, but we're still waiting on the offense. Toropchenko spent last year in the KHL due to the pandemic, and the numbers didn't get much better. However, he did asset himself physically and his power game along the walls is really coming along. It's looking more and more as if he will be a bottom-six forward who throws the body around and turns momentum around for his team.

Upside Comparable: Marcus Foligno (20-35-55+, 60+ PIM)

3YP: (12-23-35, 55 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Keenan Washkaruk, C (2021: 375) (2020: 376)

When the OHL took a while to get going (and it turns out it never did), Washkaruk took his trade overseas to play 21 games in Slovakia's lower league. He barely played half the season, but led the league in penalty minutes with 110. He also led his team in points-per-game average with 0.90. After the season, he returned to North America and got into three games with Utica as a 19-year-old. He's a hardworking jack-of-all-trades, a player who can do a bit of everything. An aggressive player with pretty good speed, he is earmarked for an energy line who will help with the physical fantasy categories, but chip in with production. However, a strong AHL transition could certainly change that as Washkaruk is still quite young.

Upside Comparable: Travis Konecny (25-35-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (20-20-40, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Scott Perunovich, LD (2021: 9D) (2020: 10D)

After winning the 2020 Hobey Baker Award as MVP of the NCAA, Perunovich was excited to show the Blues why he is widely considered one of the top offensive defensemen prospects in hockey. A strong skater with the IQ and puck skills to control the pace, Perunovich has the level of skill required to step in and contribute immediately. But things were derailed when Perunovich never got into a game last season. He had shoulder surgery in early February, wiping out his entire season. The announcement came as a surprise, as beatwriters and observers did not see the injury and there is speculation he may have had the issue prior to camp but had tried rehab as a first step. Surgery was the last resort, but in the end it was necessary. With a lost year of development, he may not slot directly into the lineup. But any AHL stay will be brief.

Upside Comparable: Duncan Keith (10-50-60, 65 PIM)

3YP: (6-32-38, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Mitch Reinke, RD (*Unrestricted Free Agent if not signed*) (2021: 107D) (2020: 96D)

Now 25, the window of opportunity for Reinke is closing quickly. He's in a now-or-never situation. But as a Group 6 UFA, where he signs will determine what type of opportunity he gets. Signed out of college after his sophomore season with Michigan Tech, Reinke is a pure puck-moving defenseman. He posted strong numbers as a rookie-pro with San Antonio, but team brass needed him to work on his defensive game. That hasn't gone overly well over the last two seasons, and although he did get into a playoff game, that was the extent of his NHL opportunity in that timeframe. He only played 9:19 in that game, but his shift starts were almost exclusively in the offensive zone and yet he still gave up more chances than he created. Strictly a PP specialist.

Upside Comparable: Erik Gustafsson (10-35-45+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (2-17-19, 24 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Tyler Tucker, LD

(2021: 118D) (2020: 87D)

Tucker is doing well in overcoming the odds of a seventh-round pick (200th overall in 2018) making it to the NHL. A tough two-way defender, Tucker posted 115 points in his last 123 OHL games with the Barrie Colts, giving us a glimpse of what he can do offensively. But in his first year as a pro, he focused on the basics. He played his hardnosed brand of hockey and kept things safe and simple. At 6-2 and 205 pounds, he already has NHL size, but he also has the strength to back it up. Tucker keeps opponents honest, and makes them think twice about going to the net. The Blues rewarded him with a call-up to the taxi squad for the playoffs, though he didn't get into a game. He'll help fantasy squads in the physical categories soon enough, but the points will be several years away if they ever come.

Upside Comparable: Mackenzie Weegar (10-40-50, 75+ PIM)

3YP: (7-20-27, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New!

Matt Kessel, RD

(2021: 195D) (2020: N/A)

No relation to Phil. With that out of the way, Matt was the Blues' fifth-round draft pick last summer (150th overall). He has great NHL size at 6-3, 203 pounds and is fairly mobile for such a big guy. He slipped so deep in the draft because of concerns that he had no second gear when it came to creating offense, and that he was overly aggressive at times and took bad penalties. Kessel addressed all that last season, chopping his penalties per game down to a third (16 in 29 NCAA games). Staying out of the box allowed him to enjoy more PP time and ice time in general, and he more than doubled his point total in fewer games, ending up with 23. He boasts a very heavy shot and he's learning to use it more. With Zac Jones turning pro, Kessel is the quarterback for UMass and he was also named alternate captain for the season ahead.

Upside Comparable: Jeff Petry (15-35-50, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (8-20-28, 55 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Joel Hofer, G

The star for gold-medal-winning Team Canada at the 2020 WJC, Hofer launched himself as the Blues' hopeful for goalie of the future in four or five years. After a successful junior career with Portland of the WHL, Hofer's transition to pro hockey was more than a little rocky. But the organization stuck with him through thick and thin (great indicator for future opportunity and success). Utica used five other goalies, four of whom performed better. And yet it was Hofer who started the most games (10). He coughed up at least five goals in three of his first four games. To be fair, those games were in April, after he had been idle for over a year. In his next six, the big 6-5 netminder settled down and posted a 0.911 SV%.

Upside: Star NHL starter

3YP: 31-22-4, 2.35 GAA, 0.920 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Colten Ellis, G

The 20-year-old polished off his junior career by posting ridiculously good numbers for Charlottetown (QMJHL). In the regular season he was 23-1-0 with a 1.78 GAA and 0.926 SV%, winning the Jacques Plante Trophy for best GAA in the 'Q'. That GAA was the lowest in QMJHL history. His 18 career QMJHL shutouts also set a league record. At 6-1, 187 pounds he doesn't have ideal NHL size for the position, but he makes up for it with his poise and agility. He gets it done. It's been five years since Ellis has had a losing record, and he's gone 117-32-11 since that season. Turning pro in the fall, he will either back up Hofer in Utica or get more game action in the ECHL. Likely a bit of both.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: 32-24-3, 2.30 GAA, 0.918 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

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Tampa Bay LIGHTNING

At a Glance

Top prospect: Alex Barre-Boulet
Boom/Bust potential: Samuel Walker
Long-term project: Jack Finley
Top sniper: Alex Barre-Boulet
Best setup man: Odeen Tufto

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Alex Barre-Boulet
Defense: Quinn Schmiemann
Goal: Hugo Alnefelt
Points only: Alex Barre-Boulet
Multicategory: Quinn Schmiemann

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Pat Quinn

Alex Barre-Boulet, C/LW (2021: 19) (2020: 35)

Barre-Boulet has figured out the AHL and the only reason he has been kept there has to do with the numerous players remaining on Tampa Bay's roster from the Stanley Cup-winning roster. He is seemingly next in line if the Lightning can open up a roster spot, as he was recalled to the NHL twice and was able to play in 15 games, with the remaining few on the top line as head coach Jon Cooper knows that's where he'll succeed. He did look nervous in his first taste of NHL action, as he often differed the puck when he had a chance to shoot. Barre-Boulet loves to shoot when he can. He has all the makings of a top-six forward that's a two-fold threat. He's energetic, can score and set up plays with ease.

Upside Comparable: Cam Atkinson (35-40-75+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (21-26-47, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Otto Somppi, C (2021: 97) (2020: 221)

Somppi just continues to look better and better with each passing year. In fact, he's starting to look like a steal as the 206th-overall pick in 2016. Somppi is much more of a playmaker than a scorer, as he sees the ice very well and competes hard every shift. He managed to finish third last season in points on AHL Syracuse with 26 in 32 games, upping his per-game average to 0.81 from 0.40 and initially 0.15. Somppi's biggest issue when he originally arrived to North America was his skating, but it's getting better and better. His hockey IQ keeps him from falling behind in plays and helps him put points on the board. If he can't become a top-sixer in the NHL, he could easily fill the role of a bottom-sixer, since he's a very safe prospect.

Upside Comparable: Tomas Plekanec (25-45-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-32-47, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Taylor Raddysh, RW (2021: 99) (2020: 97)

Raddysh was seeing his stock decline since he moved from the CHL to the AHL. Once he made the AHL, his points-per-game rate started at an impressive 0.65 in 70 games, but dropped to 0.56 in 2019-20. Last season in the AHL, everything seemed to come together for Raddysh as he finished second on the team in points (29) and tied for first in goals (12) in 27 games. The most impressive part for Raddysh was how much he increased his shots total, as he started with 1.26 per game when he first arrived to the AHL, slightly upped that to 1.60, and then just decided to shoot as much as he could by ripping out 3.04 shots per game. If Raddysh gets to the pros, he it will be as a middle-six winger.

Upside Comparable: Tomas Hertl (30-40-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (21-23-44, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Boris Katchouk, LW (2021: 102) (2020: 140)

The Bolts drafted three players in the second round of 2016: Libor Hajek, Taylor Raddysh and Katchouk. Hajek is now patrolling the Rangers blue line, while both Raddysh and Katchouk seem like they're not too far off from making the Lightning roster. Katchouk seems slightly closer, as his production has been more impressive since joining Syracuse, leading the team in points last season. Katchouk has improved every time he joins a higher competitive league. He doesn't stand out in any particular area, but he produces points and plays a strong two-way game, seemingly prerequisites if you want to fill the role of a middle-sixer on Tampa Bay's roster. Katchouk will be a middle-six winger when he makes an NHL squad.

Upside Comparable: Jaden Schwartz (30-40-70, 40 PIM)

3YP: (17-28-45, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Antoine Morand, C (2021: 116) (2020: 189)

Traded from the Anaheim Ducks to the Lightning along with a seventh-round pick for Alexander Volkov, there has to be something Tampa Bay management sees in Morand, as they specifically asked for him in the trade. Career-wise, Morand recorded more than a point per game in the QMJHL, as he racked up 270 of them in 243 outings. However, his transition to the AHL was a slow burn until he would up in on the Syracuse Crunch. Back in San Diego, Morand had a 0.29 points-per-game average, but it has shot up to 0.63 with the Crunch (albeit in a limited 19-game sample size). Morand was a second-round pick in 2017, so NHL scouts obviously saw some skill in him. If he makes the NHL, he could be a solid bottom-nine pivot.

Upside Comparable: Kevin Hayes (20-45-65+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (14-23-37, 35 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

New! Odeen Tufto, C
(2021: 188) (2020: N/A)

Speaking of small, skilled forwards, Tufto is 5-7 and 171 pounds. Tampa Bay signed the diminutive pivot after four productive years at Quinnipiac University, where he never had a season under a point per game. Additionally, Tufto is a playmaker first and foremost, as he prefers to weave in and out of coverage and set teammates up from his perimeter spot. Tufto has a way to go before he can make an NHL squad and even though he is already 24, there is still hope. He needs to produce in the AHL, learn how to get around bigger players and come out with the puck after a board battle. His age and size work against him in the fantasy prospect world, but he still has a shot of making an impact on an NHL power play.

Upside Comparable: Henrik Sedin (20-50-70, 16 PIM)

3YP: (13-35-48, 12 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

 Sammy Walker, C
(2021: 199) (2020: 176)

Walker completed his third season for the University of Minnesota last season, once more upping his point-per-game total to 0.94 from previous years of 0.81 and 0.70, respectively. The 2017 seventh-round selection is developing nicely and Tampa Bay management will need to sign him before he becomes a free agent in the summer. Walker is a prototypical Lightning prospect, slightly short at 5-11 and light at 170, but with the skill to score in a top-nine role. It would have been much better to see him record more than a point per game in the NCAA, but that does not mean his future projection will remain low. If he keeps developing upward, he could be yet another smaller skilled forward on the Bolts.

Upside Comparable: Yanni Gourde (25-35-60+, 38 PIM)

3YP: (20-25-45, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

 Maxim Cajkovic, RW
(2021: 242) (2020: 227)

Cajkovic was loaned to the Bratislava Capitals of the ICEHL, Austria's top league, so he could guarantee a spot on the Slovak team for the World Junior Championship. There are some character flaws that have come up as Cajkovic was excluded from Team Slovakia for *serious violation of sports and human values*. According to the team, he apparently delivered dirty bodychecks in practice, cursed his teammates out and didn't immediately apologize. He finished 2020-21 in the QMJHL, where he was yet again one of the circuit's top players for the Val-d'Or Foreurs. Cajkovic can pass and skate, but he's at his best when he shoots and shoots often. He also needs to get his attitude in order and develop his two-way game to pro standards.

Upside Comparable: Ondrej Palat (35-30-65+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (25-20-45, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Gage Goncalves, C (2021: 253) (2020: N/A)

The Lightning selected the overaged Goncalves with the 62nd-overall pick in 2020 after he had exploded earlier in his draft year thanks to an effort of 71 points in 60 games, dwarfing his previous 15 points in 67 games. Last season, once the WHL recommenced, Goncalves kept up the scoring ways with 34 points in 23 games. He also got to play in two AHL games last year, registering one assist in the two outings. Goncalves, who will be back in the WHL this upcoming season, is an asset on the power play thanks to his wicked one-timer, but he can also set up plays and contribute at five-on-five because of his vision and hockey IQ. His skating is pretty good and that helps his two-way play. Goncalves will need to show that he is not just a typical overaged player scoring points, but an also a future asset for the Bolts.

Upside Comparable: Alex Galchenyuk's potential (30-35-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (25-25-50, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Jack Finley, C (2021: 379) (2020: N/A)

Finley was the first selection Tampa Bay made in the 2020 NHL Draft at spot 57. He's an enormous center, standing 6-6 and weighing in at more than 220 pounds. Unfortunately for Finley, he was only able to play in three games last year, two in the AHL for Syracuse and one for his Spokane Chiefs once the WHL started up again – that was just before he injured his shoulder, requiring surgery that will keep him out at six months at most. The hulking center will be back in the WHL once his surgery heals around October. It will take Finley some time to adjust and reach his full potential, but he looks the part of a large shutdown center that can also put-up points.

Upside Comparable: Jordan Staal (25-40-65+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (14-30-44, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Nicklaus Perbix, RD (2021: 135D) (2020: 125D)

Perbix has been steadily progressing in the NCAA, playing entirely for St. Cloud State University. Last season was his most productive with 23 points in 31 games. Perbix was selected more for his size, standing at 6-4, and his defensive ability than his offensive potential. An overaged player, he was drafted in the sixth round in 2016. Perbix has not decided whether he will stay in college or sign his ELC. The Lightning probably don't have any qualms about him remaining in school an additional year considering the team's cap issues. Perbix is a smooth-skating and transition-pass defensive type – he'd rather hold onto the puck and make a play than chip it off of the boards.

Upside Comparable: Jaccob Slavin (10-35-45, 50 PIM)

3YP: (6-21-27, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23, but may play final few games this season after college year.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Sean Day, LD

(2021: 171D) (2020: 243D)

After bouncing between the AHL and ECHL for the New York Rangers' affiliates, Day became a free agent and the Lightning took a chance on the former teenager that was granted exceptional status back in 2013, signing him to a one-year deal. Day managed to stay put last year, as he played only in the AHL. The story of why Day is not in the NHL is simple: he is a phenomenal skater that can make crisp passes, but his hockey IQ and on-ice play recognition have lacked so much that he may not even evolve into a consistent AHL defenseman. Last year saw the work he has done since being drafted in 2016 finally pay off, but it's unknown if the Bolts will keep him, or if he'll sign with another organization, maybe even overseas. If Day can keep improving, he could still become an NHL player.

Upside Comparable: Brian Campbell (10-35-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (4-18-22, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 55%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Alex Green, RD

(2021: 175D) (2020: NR)

Signed out of college, the fourth-round selection in 2018 completed his first pro season with some ups and downs. The down portion was playing most of February in the ECHL, after one AHL game, where he posted two points in nine games. The positive part was him being recalled to the AHL for the remainder of 2020-21. Being sent down had more to do with Syracuse hosting two sets of team's prospects than his play being poor. His play, however, will not wow fantasy GMs in points leagues, but in leagues that count blocks and the occasional hit, he will be a nice depth piece. Green will be a player NHL GMs love more than fantasy GMs.

Upside Comparable: Nate Schmidt (10-30-40, 40 PIM)

3YP: (3-16-19, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Hugo Alnefelt, G

Alnefelt signed his ELC last May, as he will look to come to North America and immediately play in the AHL to develop further under Tampa Bay's guidance. He has spent his entire career in Sweden, playing the majority of the last two years as a backup for HV71. Additionally, he has played internationally for Sweden's junior squads since 2017, and as a starter for the WJC teams in 2020 and 2021. There are times when Alnefelt looks dominate and times when he completely loses his composure, allowing a boatload of bad goals. The Lightning will take their time with Alnefelt in the system. And with Andrei Vasilevskiy currently in place, they have all the time they need. Alnefelt can develop into a starting goalie under the right direction. He has the size, athleticism and quickness, but consistency and composure are areas where he is lacking.

Upside Comparable: NHL starter

3YP: (33-18-10, 2.15 GAA, 0.925 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Toronto MAPLE LEAFS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Rasmus Sandin
Boom/Bust potential: Mikhail Abramov
Long-term project: Veeti Miettinen
Top sniper: Nick Robertson
Best setup man: S. Der-Arguchintsev

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Nick Robertson
Defense: Rasmus Sandin
Goal: Ian Scott
Points only: Nick Robertson
Multicategory: Rasmus Sandin

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Hayden Soboleski

↔ Nick Robertson, LW

(2021: 21) (2020: 17)

After a hype-filled 2019-20 that concluded with an NHL playoff audition, Robertson's development trajectory came back down to earth in 2020-21, as the OHL's top goal-scorer in 2019-20 was sent to the AHL, where he was a top-six regular. His 16 points in 21 contests were good numbers for a rookie, but for a high-volume shooter known for his shot, the total was too assist-heavy (5-11-16). In addition, he was not as lethal with the man advantage as usual, putting up only four power-play points. Robertson may not be as dynamic as he was in junior, but he still put up his points against top AHL competition and earned brief NHL auditions with positive expected goal numbers (although suffering a knee injury in his first game may have raised flags about his durability). Same as last year, he will have a legitimate shot at an NHL job in camp.

Upside Comparable: Steven Stamkos-lite (35-45-80, 60 PIM)

3YP: (30-35-65, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple rounds.

New! Rodion Amirov, LW

(2021: 64) (2020: N/A)

The Leafs' top prospect was in the spotlight on Team Russia's top line at the WJC, where he led the squad in scoring. The takeaway from the tournament matched his pre-draft scouting: pro-level, two-way play that makes him useful everywhere on the ice. In the KHL, he saw career-high ice time totals and production rates, proving to be a reliable middle-six option but not as a 'go-to' option (yet). To cap off a strong campaign, he signed his three-year ELC, but with clauses indicating he would return to the KHL if he fails to crack the NHL roster. Can play anywhere in the lineup and his inexpensive contract makes him a legit roster candidate to break camp.

Upside Comparable: Reilly Smith (30-40-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (20-35-55, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.



Filip Hallander, W (2021: 113) (2020: 275)

Like most prospects acquired by Toronto, Hallander's fantasy stock has risen thanks to increased coverage of the prototypical do-it-all complimentary winger. His best 2020-21 stat was his average TOI, which rose yet again to 17 minutes (second-highest among his SHL teammate forwards) and then again to 19 minutes in the playoffs. Despite the increase, his point production (24 points in 51 contests) has remained steady over three seasons, since he lacks the scoring upside of other prospects in the organization. His inexpensive contract and pro experience with a classic low-ceiling, high-floor, bottom-six skill set should speed up his arrival, but his waiver-exempt status may hinder his short-term NHL-liability.

Upside Comparable: Jakub Silfverberg (30-30-60+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (15-25-40, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Nicolas Abruzzese, C (2021: 161) (2020: 152)

The 2020-21 season aimed to be a quiet one for Abruzzese due to the pandemic shutting down the NCAA Ivy League Division, but it became even more of a write-off when the sophomore underwent hip surgery. Given the significant pause in on-ice development, the centerman is now even more likely to remain in school for another year or two before turning pro. This isn't all negative, though, as it gives the 22-year-old more time to put on weight, since his 5-9, 161-pound frame could be a roadblock on his path to pro anyway. This will also give coaches time to evaluate whether to keep him at center ice (his natural position) or convert him to the wing (where he thrives on the PP). The time off won't affect his hockey IQ, which is his greatest asset, but surgery and a year absence at this stage always brings additional risk for fantasy owners.

Upside Comparable: Teuvo Teravainen (25-50-75, 40 PIM)

3YP: (15-25-40, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Mikhail Abramov, C (2021: 200) (2020: 296)

In his third season (and first as captain) with the QMJHL's Victoriaville Tigres, Abramov led his team to the championship title with a clutch 24 points in 19 playoff games. This came on the heels of a regular season that saw him put up 30 points in 25 games. Abramov was among the most noticeable threats on the ice during his stint with Team Russia at the WJC. While he showed some poor discipline during the international tournament, that hasn't been the case in junior hockey. He remains strong in the faceoff dot and at 6-0 and 185 pounds, is working on filling out his frame. Now AHL-eligible, his performance at the WJC demonstrated that he can be engaged and effective even when not receiving top-line minutes.

Upside Comparable: Mikael Granlund (20-50-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (15-35-50, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Semyon Der-Arguchintsev, C

(2021: 222) (2020: 289)

SDA's campaign in 2020-21 was predominantly spent on loan to the KHL – a significant step up from his previous pro audition in the ECHL. Despite his first pro tryout being lackluster, the playmaker fared quite well overseas and earned himself consistent third-line minutes, which is no small feat as a KHL rookie. He hit a speed bump when a lower-body injury took him out of action for a month, but he returned at full capacity and later joined the Marlies, where he reconfirmed his readiness to turn pro. He has some speed and despite measuring in at just 5-11 and 170 pounds, his stocky build and burgeoning physical maturity allow him to protect the puck well enough to be a high-end distributor even among bigger bodies. He still needs to round out as an offensive threat in the AHL before we should expect a call-up, though.

Upside Comparable: Nicklas Backstrom (15-60-75, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-35-45, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

New! Roni Hirvonen, C

(2021: 281) (2020: N/A)

Chosen 59th overall in 2020, Hirvonen was considered a value pick 2020 thanks to his diverse toolbox, which is helping him develop into a multi-faceted player. Despite his below-average size (5-9, 172), he is more aggressive than ever, unafraid of planting himself in the slot or battling for the puck along the boards. And with 54 PIM in 54 games during his sophomore season for Finland's Assat, he is starting to display the potential of a modern-day agitator. Effective on faceoffs (52%), he will remain in Finland for the 2021-22 campaign, citing a need to improve his strength and skating before testing the North American waters. The 19-year-old has lots of time to refine his game, but he projects to be a slow-cooker within the Leafs organization.

Upside Comparable: Yanni Gourde (25-40-65+, 65 PIM)

3YP: (10-30-40, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Alex Steeves, C

(2021: 302) (2020: N/A)

Steeves was one of the top free agents available out of the NCAA in 2021, so he enters the organization as 'found money' on a three-year ELC. In his third year with Notre Dame, he led his squad with 15 goals and 32 points in 29 games, accumulated mostly at even-strength. The goal-scoring came according to a reasonable 12% shooting percentage. However, it also came with an average of over four shots per game, which will be difficult to maintain in pro. Steeves enters 2021-22 with the hope that his versatility will earn him useful middle-six minutes in the AHL, while he works on his puck-handling and speed, which both need further development. As a projected bottom-sixer, he will likely require a year or two of seasoning.

Upside Comparable: Jared McCann (25-35-60+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Pontus Holmberg, LW
(2021: 334) (2020: N/A)

An under-the-radar prospect since being selected in the sixth round three years ago in 2018, Holmberg has been quietly converting his strong possession numbers into moderately productive SHL campaigns. For example, he stole the spotlight just a few months ago by earning the SHL's Playoffs' MVP award with 14 points in 14 games and several clutch game-winning moments along the way. That said, while the 22-year-old signed a two-year ELC with the Leafs following his golden run, his regular season total of 23 points in 45 games is a more reasonable pace when one considers his low-shot volume (57). His three full years of experience in Sweden's top league may be the difference in receiving consistent AHL minutes and/or call-up opportunities with the Leafs.

Upside Comparable: Connor Brown (20-35-55, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Veeti Miettinen, RW
(2021: 356) (2020: N/A)

Despite being one of the oldest players selected during the 2020 NHL Draft, Miettinen raised some eyebrows last year when he chose the NCAA rather than Finnish pro hockey. In hindsight, it was a great decision for his fantasy stock, which has skyrocketed since moving to North America. Miettinen excels at finding holes around the net and has a rare combination of soft hands in tight and a laser of a shot from a distance. In fact, he has quickly become one of the top snipers in the Leafs' system. He capped off the 2020-21 campaign with the NCHC Rookie of the Year title and earned his team's Hobey Baker Award nomination with 10 goals and 22 points in 21 games. Despite the success, expect him to stay in the NCAA for two or three more years. Filling out his smallish 5-9, 161-pound frame and improving his play away from the puck are priorities.

Upside Comparable: Jake Guentzel (40-30-70+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (25-20-45, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

New! Dmitri Ovchinnikov, LW
(2021: 518) (2020: N/A)

As is often the case with Russian youngsters swinging between junior and pro hockey, Ovchinnikov's stat lines vary drastically by league. For example, in junior, he ranked fifth in the MHL for points per game among regular skaters. Thanks in part to an obscene average TOI of more than 24 minutes, he recorded more than three SOG per game and was scoring with ease at even strength, on the power play and even on the penalty kill (at times). In the KHL, however, he saw just over six minutes per game and managed only one point and five total shots in 16 contests. The speed and puck talent are bountiful, but Ovchinnikov has a lot of maturing to do. Among tasks, he needs to play better within a team system and be effective in a smaller role.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Marchessault (15-60-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-35-45, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Rasmus Sandin, LD (2021: 7D) (2020: 7D)

Despite plenty of high-quality NHL time the year prior, offseason UFA signings put Sandin back on the bubble following training camp this past season, while his waiver-exempt status made him the odd man out. And upon returning to the AHL, a broken foot sustained when blocking a shot knocked him out for more than a month. Luckily, talent eventually wins out over bad luck. When the injury bug changed its target and gave him another shot with the Maple Leafs, he took full advantage of it, as Sandin once again displayed exceptional hockey IQ to make the right play in whatever zone he happened to be. Furthermore, his confidence landed him in the power-play mix during both the regular season and playoffs. Considering the risk/reward he brings, Sandin has proven himself too valuable to sit out the majority of another year.

Upside Comparable: Oliver Ekman-Larsson (15-40-55, 50 PIM)

3YP: (10-30-40, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple rounds.

Timothy Liljegren, RD (2021: 26D) (2020: 34D)

Let's address the elephant in the room: 21-year-old Liljegren's lack of NHL games is due to the deep, competitive organization he plays for and not from a lack of development. The AHL All-Star has succeeded in a top-pairing role for two seasons and when fully engaged, he can be the most noticeable player on the ice. Now stronger at 6-0 and 198 pounds, Liljegren is not an overly-physical presence, but he does now show more grit along the boards and when protecting his goalie's net. At times, his decision-making is still cause for frustration, as it can waver between overassertiveness and overcautiousness, so it's time for him to fine-tune this inconsistency. Entering the final year of his ELC and with enough AHL seasoning to warrant a serious big-league audition, expect him to see him in Toronto more often, or his name to appear in trade rumors.

Upside Comparable: Jeff Petry (15-35-50+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-35-45, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Mac Hollowell, RD (2021: 87D) (2020: 67D)

Hollowell ranked second with 27 games played among the rotating cast of Marlies defenders in 2020-21, as he was mostly used on the second and third pairings. Becoming a regular means that expectations are higher, however, and it's evident that the 22-year-old won't be able to rely on his skating prowess alone to move up the team depth chart. Hollowell shows excellent acceleration when moving the puck out of his own end, but it has yet to translate into reliable offense. As was the case during his rookie campaign, he suffered extended cold streaks in production, finishing his sophomore campaign with a so-so 10 points. Despite his smooth skating, his gap control when defending on the rush is timid and at 5-9 and 170 pounds, he has yet to find a consistent way of neutralizing bigger opponents in the slot. His toolbox promises tremendous upside, but he needs to be useful every shift before seeing call-up opportunities.

Upside Comparable: Sam Girard (5-45-50, 30 PIM)

3YP: (3-32-35, 20 PIM)

Mac Hollowell continued

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Topi Niemela, RD

(2021: 89D) (2020: N/A)

Niemela exploded onto the scene in 2020-21 after being selected in the third round of the 2020 NHL Draft just months earlier. The highlight? He was named the WJC tournament's best defenseman thanks to an impressive eight points in seven games en route to the bronze medal captured by Finland. In a word (or two), he stands out at both ends of the ice: offensively, he likes to put pucks on the opposing net and defensively, he closes gaps and smartly defends his zone despite being undersized at 5-11 and 156 pounds. Unfortunately, upon returning to the Liiga at the peak of his hype, he suffered an upper-body injury and missed nearly two months of action. Luckily for those that invested in his fantasy stock, he looked like himself upon returning during the postseason, as he manned the second pairing and managed two points and 10 shots in four outings. Despite the breakout, expect slow and steady development for the 19-year-old, who has committed to another year in Finland, having not yet signed his ELC.

Upside Comparable: Devon Toews (10-40-50, 40 PIM)

3YP: (5-35-40, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Joseph Woll, G

Woll had nowhere to go but up after a porous showing as an AHL rookie in 2019-20, meaning that his 0.892 save percentage recorded last season was technically a step in the right direction. On good nights, his potential is evident and at 6-4 and 201 pounds, he fills the net and isn't shy about playing at the top of his crease. Unfortunately, this can lead to overcompensation after deflections or scrambles and his reaction speed tends to be a touch slow. Also, troubling is that he doesn't seem able to string hot streaks after victories, as he suffered extended cold spells of six sub-0.900 starts in eight games last year. The organization gave him a public show of faith by lauding his poise and character, but there's little doubt the 'goalie of the future' role needs to be addressed in Toronto if current prospects can't step up their game. Don't expect to see Woll in the NHL in the near future.

Upside: NHL Starter

3YP: (25-20-5, 2.50 GAA, 0.906 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Vancouver CANUCKS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Vasiliy Michael DiPietro
Boom/Bust potential: Arvid Costmar
Long-term project: Arvid Costmar
Top sniper: Kole Lind
Best setup man: Vasily Podkolzin

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Vasily Podkolzin
Defense: Jack Rathbone
Goal: Michael DiPietro
Points only: Vasily Podkolzin
Multicategory: Vasily Podkolzin

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by *Dave Hall*

Vasily Podkolzin, RW (2021: 20) (2020: 19)

After signing his ELC in late May, Podkolzin will cross the pond and join the Canucks in training camp. Fantasy owners should be set to realize returns on their investment, as he borders as a shoo-in to debut on opening night. Given his NHL-ready frame (6-4, 203 pounds), combined with his extensive toolkit, there is little doubt toward his ability to step in and contribute among the club's middle-six. He is highly adaptable and can take care of business on both special team units, offering a nice platter of categories for owners to feast on. While he is most often praised for his strong 200-foot game, he is no slouch in the offensive department. He displays terrific vision and an uncanny drive with the puck. During the 2020-21 KHL postseason, he matched his regular-season point totals (11) in 19 fewer games, finishing as SKA St. Petersburg's top producer. He now sits in a tie as the league's all-time U20 playoff producer (14). The complete package.

Upside Comparable: Mark Stone (35-45-80, 80 PIM)

3YP: (25-40-65, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

Kole Lind, RW (2021: 65) (2020: 108)

The club's second-rounder in 2017, 33rd overall, is developing consistently by the year, upping the ante on his point totals in the process. Despite a short absence as a result of a broken nose, Lind was firing at a point-per-game clip during the 2020-21 campaign in Utica, contributing five goals – four of which came on the power play – and three assists. Thanks to an injury-stricken forward group, his consistent output earned him his first cup of coffee in a Canucks uniform. He skated in seven games and enjoyed middle-six deployment, but went pointless during his stay. Fret not, his promotion is a strong indication of where his game is trending. His booming one-timer, inept ability to find teammates and blossoming abrasiveness should help him find his spot in the league. Expect the 22-year-old to contest for a role among the top-nine come opening night. Meanwhile, keep close tabs on this year's Expansion Draft, as he stands as a strong candidate to be plucked away.

Kole Lind continued

Upside Comparable: Max Pacioretty (35-35-70+, 80 PIM)

3YP: (24-25-49, 65 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Jonah Gadjovich, LW

(2021: 184) (2020: 249)

Since being drafted 55th overall in 2017, Gadjovich's game had remained somewhat stagnant. Yes, he is a heavy-set power forward that enjoys crashing the net and getting paid off in the dirty areas, but he had struggled to fully translate that game to the pro level. That all changed in 2020-21, as he developed an important piece to his overall repertoire – his skating. This had been widely considered a major 'flaw', likely to hold him back from making that next leap, but he took major strides in improving this department and it paid off. He would offer his best statistical pro season to date, contributing 15 goals and 18 points through 19 games in Utica. With one year remaining on his entry-level deal, he will need to bring those newly acquired improvements to training camp, as he fights for his future within the organization. His 209-pound frame and strong net-front presence could be a nice addition to the club's bottom-six.

Upside Comparable: Alexander Radulov (30-35-65, 70 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



William Lockwood, RW

(2021: 237) (2070: 270)

Establishing his reputation as a pacey role player, Lockwood took his first reps as a pro with the Utica Comets last season. With a number of organizational call-ups throughout the year, the 23-year-old enjoyed a heavier role than expected. While he did not overwhelm the scoresheet, he posted a respectable 4-7-11 with 17 PIM, embracing middle-six minutes. He was awarded a quick cup of coffee in the big leagues, where he showcased his steam-train speed and high energy thanks to a two-game stint. He failed to record a point, but his high-octane motor gave the fanbase something to embrace for the future. While heavy point production won't be in the cards, there is no denying his ability to compete as a thriving role player. A return to the AHL is likely, but don't be shocked to see him earn a rotating position among the Canucks' bottom-six throughout the 2021-22 campaign.

Upside Comparable: Joonas Donskoi (25-25-50+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 55 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 75%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Aidan McDonough, LW

(2021: 377) (2020: 359)

Now 21, McDonough continues to show strong value as a seventh-round prospect. Despite a condensed 2020-21 campaign in the NCAA, the sharpshooting soph contributed 10 goals,

Aidan McDonough continued

producing at a 0.95 point-per-game pace. His most notable attribute continues to be his ability to produce on the man-advantage unit, where he finished top-10 in power-play markers (six) nationwide for the second consecutive season. Setting up on his forehand half-wall, he has proven to be a goaltender's nightmare – a gift that will surely be of value as he eases into his professional career. In addition to his lethal shot, he brings a solid two-way work ethic and continues to tread the line as a strong late-round steal for the organization. Although the option of turning pro is available, he is likely to return back to Northeastern to fulfill his junior year.

Upside Comparable: Alex Killorn (25-30-55+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (20-20-40, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Arvid Costmar, C

(2021: 427) (2020: 513)

Despite having his 2020-21 campaign cut short as a result of a shoulder ailment, Costmar enjoyed his first extended stint in the SHL. With just one goal to show throughout his 22 games in Linkoping, it was not the most lucrative season as far as the stat sheet is concerned. However, both his confidence and responsibilities continued to grow as the season progressed, as he was enjoying top-six minutes by the time of his injury. The exclamation point was his play during the 2020 WJC, where he posted two goals and won over the hearts of Canucks' fans. A tireless competitor, he was a shift-by-shift headache for his opposition. Costmar complements this with the bonus ability to cash in on the offense as a creative contributor. With his game still raw, expect him to take his time crossing the pond. Yet, he's got the gusto to become a sturdy bottom-six multi-cat option.

Upside Comparable: Yanni Gourde (20-35-55+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Lukas Jasek, RW/C

(2021: 441) (2020: 290)

With no AHL club to report to, Jasek began his 2020-21 campaign overseas, where he returned home to suit up for HC Ocelari Trinec of the Czech League. He posted 12 points over 19 outings. Back in Utica, he has been steadily adding to his points-per-game throughout his three-year tour. This trend continued last season, as he enjoyed a career year, firing at a 0.82 clip and contributing 23 points. The 23-year-old has blossomed into a steady piece of the Canucks' pipeline, transitioning into a well-versed, two-way forward. He has experience contributing in almost every role, can kill penalties and has made steady progress in his ability to play up the middle. Despite these positives, he has signed a two-year deal in Finland and while the Canucks' have an option to tender his (RFA) rights, his long-term future with the club is now in doubt.

Upside Comparable: Lars Eller (20-35-55+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 65%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Linus Karlsson, C (2021: 444) (2020: 318)

Karlsson, whose rights were acquired in the 2017 Jonathan Dahlen deal, was one of the organization's most improved prospects throughout the 2020-21 campaign. Skating in his fourth year among the second-tiered Allsvenskan League, the 21-year-old blew his previous career totals out of the water, finishing a hair under a point-per-game pace with a 20-31-51 log over 52 contests. Impressively, his total finished second all-time with regard to single-season (Allsvenskan) points by a U22 skater. Karlsson continues to bring a versatile game and has successfully proven his readiness to embark on his next challenge. Unfortunately, that challenge will be the SHL, as he recently agreed to a two-year deal with Skelleftea AIK. Assuming he plays out that contract's entirety, he will become a UFA and free to join a team of his choice – be it North American, or not. For now, he remains a compelling prospect, but one at a distance.

Upside Comparable: Brock Nelson (25-30-55+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 40 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Petrus Palmu, LW (2021: 451) (2020: 273)

The Palmu show continues on, but only from afar. With one year left on his ELC, the now 24-year-old moved to Germany's DEL for the 2020-21 campaign. He compiled a 9-13-22 offensive log over 32 games, which falls as a massive disappointment considering his previous numbers in a superior league (Liiga). Palmu is slated to suit up for his fifth team in as many years after signing a two-year deal in Jukurit (Liiga) over the offseason. The undersized winger will become an RFA this summer, at which point, the Canucks will decide if his rights are worth holding. While he continues to hold some offensive upside, his future in North America is a massive question mark.

Upside Comparable: Jakub Vrana (25-30-55+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (10-15-25, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Jack Rathbone, LD (2021: 17D) (2020: 49D)

As a result of Harvard's decision to forfeit the 2020-21 season, Rathbone elected to sign his ELC and take his talents to the pro level. To no surprise, his transition was rather seamless, slotting immediately into a top-four role with the Utica Comets. His fluid skating ability and knack for dictating the play were on full display right out of the gate. He immediately took over the reins as a go-to power-play quarterback, an area in which he thrives. He compiled nine points over his eight-game stay, earning himself a well-deserved promotion, as he closed out the season a member of the Canucks. While his game was by no means flawless during his NHL audition, it was evident that his talents are on par with the competition. The 22-year-old is an offensive, transitional defenseman that can quarterback a power play with the best of them. Although he is destined to skate in the shadow of Quinn Hughes, his offensive upside is very real.

Upside Comparable: Torey Krug (10-40-50+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (5-31-36, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 95%

Jack Rathbone continued

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.

Jett Woo, RD (2021: 47D) (2020: 53D)

Despite firing at a respectable 0.66 clip over his four-year service at the WHL level, you can expect a slight step back with regard to his offensive production. Instead, Woo will be leaned upon for his ability to compete and bring the heat in the defensive zone. Considering his mobility and fearlessness toward putting his body on the line, he should find a comfortable home with this role. The 21-year-old mustered up five points in his debut season, leading the Comets' defensive core with three goals. While being a heavier-set, right-handed shot bodes well for his spot in the Canucks' pipeline, his game still has some polishing up to do as a pro. Look for him to continue his development at the AHL level, as he attempts to shed the training wheels from his young career. He continues to hold strong multi-cat upside.

Upside Comparable: Jacob Trouba (10-40-50, 65+ PIM)

3YP: (7-20-27, 50 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 80%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Michael DiPietro, G

Prior to the pandemic, DiPietro's development was moving along swimmingly. He was enjoying starting minutes as a rookie netminder in Utica, posting strong numbers (21-11-2 record).

Moreover, he was taking positive steps in his journey toward becoming an NHL pro.

Unfortunately, that all took a backseat during the 2020-21 campaign. Despite both the NHL and AHL running, the 21-year-old was forced to tend goal as third-string among the Canucks' taxi squad and wasn't given any game action. Following the club's regular-season finish, he was sent back to Utica, where he slotted in four games, going 3-1-0. From there, he headed to Latvia to serve as third-string for Team Canada at the World Championship. Yet, he once again failed to make an appearance. While a year of stunted growth is not ideal, his upside remains strong. Expect him to revert back to his starting status in the AHL, while remaining first for a mid-season injury-based promotion.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: (30-15-5, 2.35 GAA, 0.919 SV%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

Vegas GOLDEN KNIGHTS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Peyton Krebs
Boom/Bust potential: Pavel Dorofeyev
Long-term project: Lukas Cormier
Top sniper: Brendan Brisson
Best setup man: Peyton Krebs

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Peyton Krebs
Defense: Lukas Cormier
Goal: Logan Thompson
Points only: Peyton Krebs
Multicategory: Brendan Brisson

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber



Peyton Krebs, C

(2021: 13) (2020: 39)

Where to begin, when discussing Krebs' season? He was Team Canada's second leading scorer at the WJC with eight points in seven games. When the WHL delayed opening, he got in five games in the AHL and posted five points. When the WHL started, he returned to junior where he was team captain for the third straight year. His 43 points in 24 games led the entire league, six points ahead of second. After that season ended, he joined Vegas, getting into four NHL games, notching an assist, but then suffering a broken jaw. Elite hockey sense, leadership intangibles, plays with grit, quick on his skates, strong defensive acumen – Krebs has it all. He can join Vegas immediately and play a third-line checking role and perform it well. As the offense comes, he'll move up the depth chart. Probably quickly.

Upside Comparable: Jonathan Huberdeau (25-60-85, 50+ PIM)

3YP: (20-47-67, 46 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Jack Dugan, LW

(2021: 24) (2020: 88)

Drafted out of high school, Dugan was a bit of a hidden gem because the competition at that level is generally considered weak. His post-draft season was in the USHL, where again he dominated, but again the competition isn't as strong as in the CHL or NCAA. But then he joined Providence College in the NCAA, and when he continued to dominate – he got everyone's attention. Nearly a point-per-game player as a freshman, his sophomore season nearly landed him a Hobey Baker. He was a finalist for the prestigious award thanks to his 52 points in 34 contests. He then turned pro and as a rookie with Henderson Silver Knights he, well, dominated. He led the team in assists and posted 33 points in 37 games. Everything the 23-year-old is doing right now is reminding us of Jake Guentzel's quick ascension with Pittsburgh.

Upside Comparable: Jake Guentzel (25-50-75+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (18-38-56, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 85%

Jack Dugan continued

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.
DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

New! Brendan Brisson, C/LW (2021: 52) (2020: N/A)

The first-round pick from Vegas last summer (29th overall), Brisson is a bit of a project. Widely considered one of the three or four most intelligent players of the 2020 draft in terms of hockey sense, he has other tools that still need to develop. His skating doesn't reach nearly the level of his quick thinking, and he also needs to build strength. However, he does boast a very good shot and could end up as a winger at the NHL level. With the University of Michigan, Brisson posted 21 points in 24 games, with 10 of them goals. His teammates – 2021 draftee Matthew Beniers (24 points) and Thomas Bordeleau (30 points) – out-produced him. Bordeleau was taken by the Sharks in the Draft nine picks after Brisson. With improved skating and strength-training, which you can bet will happen, Brisson could be a star. He just needs time.

Upside Comparable: Mike Hoffman (35-40-75+, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (28-34-62, 57 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 90%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

↔ Lucas Elvenes, RW (2021: 63) (2020: 65)

The Golden Knights struck gold late in their inaugural draft back in 2017, first with Elvenes in the fifth round, 127th overall, and then with Jack Dugan at 142nd. Elvenes broke out the following season, dominating Allsvenskan until he earned a promotion to the SHL. After producing well at that level (and also at the WJC), the shifty Swede made a heck of a splash as an AHL rookie too. But there is where the holes in his game became exposed. Elvenes is a skilled player who likes to dazzle, but the higher the level the bigger and faster the players. He doesn't get away with as much using the slick moves. He needs to find a little more sandpaper, and add bulk to his wiry 6-1, 172-pound frame. However, when he puts it all together his upside is tremendous.

Upside Comparable: William Nylander (10-60-70+, 36 PIM)

3YP: (8-45-53, 16 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

↔ Pavel Dorofeyev, LW (2021: 115) (2020: 109)

Dorofeyev wasn't getting much in the way of ice time in the KHL in 2019-20, and after being traded last offseason, he wasn't getting into the KHL at all. So, it was a blessing when the AHL opened up and he crossed the pond to join the Silver Knights. The 20-year-old has incredible hands, reminding us of Kristian Huselius with his seeming ability to stickhandle in a phone booth. He's also very intelligent on the ice and he has good speed. However, there have been questions as to his work ethic and consistency. Two big reasons why he slipped to 79th in 2019 when he was rated in the Top 40 by many prognosticators. Dorofeyev had nine goals and 13 points in 24 games as an AHL rookie. He is a dark horse to become a top-line NHL player in several years.

Pavel Dorofeyev continued

Upside Comparable: Alex DeBrincat (35-35-70+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (25-25-50, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Ivan Morozov, C

(2021: 122) (2020: 141)

In a league that doesn't easily give opportunities to young players, and on a team already deep with veterans, Morozov emerged as a star last season. SKA St. Petersburg was scratching players like Vasili Podkolzin (Vancouver) early on while Morozov got top-six minutes. The two-way center tallied 31 points in 55 games. He even made Team Russia at the men's Worlds, holding down a third-line spot and chipping in three points in 10 contests. Strong on the puck and very responsible in his own end, Morozov is signed with his team for another year so he'll remain in the KHL until next summer. But as a high draft pick (61st overall in 2018) who is performing well, you know the Knights will push hard to sign him and bring him over.

Upside Comparable: Chris Kreider (35-35-70, 50 PIM)

3YP: (21-24-45, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Brandon Kruse, LW

(2021: 266) (2020: 337)

As an alternate captain with Bowling Green in his senior year, Kruse led his team in scoring with 34 points in 31 games. The diminutive (5-9, 155 pounds) winger is making the rare decision to play a super senior year to finish his diploma. For his fifth season he has been transferred to Boston College, where he will help replace the departed Matt Boldy (MIN), Alex Newhook (COL) and Mike Hardman (CHI). A smart, quick and shifty player, Kruse has the talent and upside to be a star. However, given his small size he needs to make up for that with elite production. And although his production has been good, it hasn't been elite. While smaller players like Johnny Gaudreau and Cole Caufield can make a dent in the NHL, Kruse is likely one step below that kind of talent. Still, he's only 22 years old and there is time to find that extra gear.

Upside Comparable: Conor Garland (20-50-70, 50 PIM)

3YP: (17-31-48, 44 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New!

Lukas Cormier, LD

(2021: 50D) (2020: N/A)

Cormier was a top offensive defenseman in the QMJHL the moment he entered the league at the age of 16. In three seasons since then his production has done nothing but rise. After the Golden Knights snagged him 68th overall in last year's draft, Cormier went on to post 54 points in just 39 games. That led the league in both points and assists by a defenseman. He also took home the Defenseman of the Year. He's a little on the small side at 5-10, 176 pounds, but has a great shot,

Lukas Cormier continued

good speed and shifty moves. He also has vision and hockey sense that help him get to the right place at the right time. Although there is nothing more for him to learn at the junior level, he's ineligible for the AHL so he'll be in the 'Q' for another year.

Upside Comparable: Tyson Barrie (15-45-60, 60 PIM)

3YP: (9-34-43, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 75%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

New! Kaedan Korczak, RD

(2021: 52D) (2020: 200D)

The big 6-4, physical blueliner is a stay-at-home type who has the skills to put up secondary offense. Vegas' second-round pick in 2019 (41st overall) has the size and shutdown presence that all teams covet. He played the shutdown role for Team Canada at the WJC and got in 11 games with Henderson (two points) prior to the WHL opening up. His production in 2019-20 (49 points in 60 games) gave us an indication of what he can do, but his numbers dipped in the 15 games he played with Kelowna last season. But that was due to the Rockets losing three top offensive guns. He's already pro-ready, he just needs to add bulk (listed at 194 pounds). His offensive potential will rely heavily on who he is paired with and how much PP time he gets.

Upside Comparable: Jaccob Slavin (10-35-45, 65 PIM)

3YP: (7-20-27, 60 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

New! Daniil Miromanov, RW/RD

(2021: 105D) (2020: N/A)

When Miromanov was 16 his family moved him to Toronto in hopes of playing in the OHL. After two years there and not getting drafted, he moved to Quebec to play in the QMJHL. It was there, in his second year, that he started getting used as a defenseman. When the NHL overlooked him at the draft the next three years, he bounced around the ECHL, the KHL and Czech leagues. Last season at the age of 23 he finally made the KHL full-time – and made a huge splash. Still as a defenseman, he posted 29 points in 58 games. Vegas offered him a contract and brought him over after the KHL season. The 6-4, 200-pound rearguard has good smarts and great hands, but is a one-dimensional PP specialist. The Golden Knights introduced him as a defenseman so that is where his future lies. A high risk/reward fantasy pick who overcomes the odds.

Upside Comparable: Erik Gustafsson (10-35-45+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (8-18-26, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

Peter Diliberto, LD

(2021: 188D) (2020: 236D)

A later pick in the 2018 draft (sixth round, 180th overall), Diliberto is a two-way defenseman who plays with a chip on his shoulder. Despite his below-average hockey frame of 6-0, 180

Peter Dilibertore continued

pounds, he plays a physical brand of hockey. He's had more PIMs than games played in each of his three years of NCAA action. After posting 20 points in 29 games in his junior year with Quinnipiac, including six goals that all came on the power play, Dilibertore decided to turn pro and sign with Vegas. In 13 games with Henderson the offense didn't yet transition, however the sandpaper certainly did (21 PIM). The 21-year-old will need at least another year in the AHL, and if he can find his offensive game, then a second-pairing future in the NHL could be in the cards.

Upside Comparable: A smaller Ryan Graves (5-40-45, 70+ PIM)

3YP: (4-20-24, 57 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Isaiah Saville, G

After a rare opportunity to take on the starting goalie job as a freshman, Saville shouldered an even heavier workload for Univ. of Nebraska-Omaha in 2020-21. Vegas' fifth-round pick in 2019 (135th overall) played in 24 of the team's 26 contests. And although he finished with the same 0.907 SV% as the prior year, he was actually much improved until his team was blown out in his last game and he gave up five goals on 10 shots before getting yanked. Not ideal size for an NHL goalie at 6-1, Saville nonetheless plays the angles properly and minimizes the net target on the shooter. Quick and agile, the Alaska native still needs to work on his rebound control. However, just turning 21 in September, he still has several years to work on this.

Upside: NHL starter

3YP: 32-20-6, 2.55 GAA, 0.910 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 50%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Logan Thompson, G

A wonderful tale of a player going against the odds to prevail, Thompson made his NHL debut on March 10 in relief, stopping both shots he faced. He was also Marc-Andre Fleury's backup in two playoff games. The 6-3 netminder was never drafted despite a solid WHL career with Brandon. He then elected to play Canadian University hockey with Brock, where his numbers were fantastic. Signed to an AHL tryout contract, he was unimpressive in one game and released. Signing another contract, this time with Hershey, he spent all of 2019-20 in the ECHL, finishing second with a 0.918 SV%. That caught the attention of Vegas. Thompson led the AHL in SV% and GAA last season at 0.943 and 1.96, playing the fourth-most games (23). A repeat of this in 2021-22 will put him on everyone's radar. At 24, he is now at an age where most goalies start making their mark. A sleeper, not unlike Chris Driedger.

Upside: Star NHL starter

3YP: 33-19-6, 2.45 GAA, 0.914 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 35%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

Washington CAPITALS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Connor McMichael
Boom/Bust potential: Bobby Nardella
Long-term project: Alexei Protas
Top sniper: Connor McMichael
Best setup man: Hendrix Lapierre

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Connor McMichael
Defense: Bobby Nardella
Goal: Mitchell Gibson
Points only: Connor McMichael
Multicategory: Alexander Alexeyev

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Pat Quinn

➡ Connor McMichael, C

(2021: 7) (2020: 10)

McMichael did nothing to dissuade the notion that he is the Capitals top prospect and a future top-line talent. He had 27 points in 33 games with Hershey of the AHL. Seven of those points (including a hat trick) came in his first 13 games and 20 in his remaining 20. Not surprisingly for McMichael is that he led AHL rookies in shots on goal with 127 (3.85 per game) and that total was also good enough for third-overall in the AHL. The Caps essentially have no room up front with 11 forwards signed to one-way deals for 2021-22 (and Alex Ovechkin a UFA). Unless contract politics play a role, it would be incredibly difficult to keep McMichael out of opening night.

Upside Comparable: Auston Matthews (40-45-85, 30 PIM)

3YP: (32-35-67, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 99%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.

New! Hendrix Lapierre, C

(2021: 54) (2020: N/A)

Lapierre's post-draft year was impacted by COVID shutdowns. He started off great for Chicoutimi in the QMJHL with eight points in four games, but the team was then sidelined for two weeks in mid-October because of positive tests. Not long after, Lapierre left for Team Canada's WJC camp, but he didn't make the cut. He then had to wait until late January to play as the QMJHL itself paused for about two months. He later played the remainder of the year, finishing second on his team in points during the regular season and third in the playoffs (combined 43 points in 30 games). Lapierre is a fantastic play-controlling center that can find players in the open. He looks to be the next big scoring star in Washington.

Upside Comparable: Nicklas Backstrom (25-60-85, 30 PIM)

3YP: (20-38-58, 16 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.



Garrett Pilon, RW

(2021: 110) (2020: 174)

Pilon broke out for the AHL Hershey Bears last year. It follows his usual track record of taking the first year to get used to a new league before eventually adapting and putting up great numbers. The Bears brought him along slow, though, as he routinely played bottom- or middle-six minutes early in his career, but he was given top-six ice time and posted an impressive 16 points in 14 games in the 2020-21 shortened season. Pilon likes to shoot. A lot. He posted 41 shots in those 14 games, increasing to 2.92 shots per game from prior years of 2.26 and 1.37, respectively. Pilon was enjoying his hot play, but the Capitals called him up to the taxi squad in late March and he only got into one NHL game in early May to finish his season. At 23, Pilon still has plenty of time to make the Caps.

Upside Comparable: Logan Couture (25-45-70, 30 PIM)

3YP: (18-21-39, 12 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Alexei Protas, C

(2021: 208) (2020: 277)

The 6-6 playmaking center was loaned to the KHL in August 2020 and stayed there until Dinamo Minsk lost in the playoffs. Thankfully, the AHL was only about halfway through, so Protas got into more game action before getting an invite to play for Belarus at the World Championship. Protas had an odd role in the KHL, as he was given the usual minimal ice time for a rookie, but was also afforded top power-play time throughout the season. Protas may have just had 18 points in 58 games for Dinamo Minsk, but when injuries occurred, he was afforded even more ice time in the playoffs, when he posted four points in five games. In Hershey, he was reunited with his former Prince George linemate, Brett Leason, and recorded seven points in his 16 AHL games. Protas might end up being the steal of the 2019 draft if he keeps improving at this rate.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Getzlaf (25-45-70+, 20 PIM)

3YP: (21-35-56, 14 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 80%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Brett Leason, RW

(2021: 219) (2020: 306)

Leason improved dramatically in his second AHL season for Hershey. The key to success was simple: more ice time and better linemates. His shooting percentage jumping from 5.2% to 12.2% also helps, but that includes Leason doing the work by doubling his shots per game from 1.12 to 2.24. The Bears noticed how improved his play was and Leason never saw the bottom-six again. As good as he was, he was still inconsistent at times, but as he grows more into his 6-5 frame, the production will come. With his size and shot, Leason is a power winger that needs a playmaking center who can hold the puck for longer lengths of time to make plays. Perhaps most surprisingly with a player of Leason's size is that he does not take a lot of penalties, or get overly physical, and that may hurt him in multicategory leagues.

Upside Comparable: Mike Knuble (35-25-60+, 45 PIM)

3YP: (25-20-45, 16 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 75%

Brett Leason continued

Expected Arrival: 2022-23

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Joe Snively, LW

(2021: 286) (2020: 321)

The Capitals re-signed Snively to a one-year two-way contract to allow him to develop for another year in the AHL. Last season, the small playmaking forward produced at roughly the same offensive clip (0.57 points per game) as in 2019-20 (0.53). The Capitals would have liked to have seen additional development with Snively, especially with all of the forwards wanting to compete for jobs on the Washington roster and while they plan to add more youth to their roster going forward, Snively may not be part of that plan just yet. He will need to impact the AHL, as he can still dangle too much and lose puck battles with ease. There is skill here, but it just may take some additional time to find it.

Upside Comparable: Tyler Johnson (25-40-65+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (13-26-39, 18 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Damien Riat, RW

(2021: 295) (2020: 268)

The Capitals were finally able to get Riat signed to an entry-level contract once the Swiss National League shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, but he was not invited to the return-to-play camp as the Capitals kept him 'on loan' for the remainder of 2020. Once the 2020-21 AHL season was announced, Riat made his way over to Hershey with a most-productive year for Genève-Servette HC in his back pocket (18 points in 20 games). His debut in the AHL proved to be a complete change of pace and it showed in his production, nine points in 33 games, but only four other players on the Bears had 20 or more points. Riat has become more of a playmaker than the shooter he was when initially drafted as, but he will still need to up his AHL performance if he has a hope of making the Capitals in the future.

Upside Comparable: Alex Tanguay (20-40-60+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (15-30-45, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New!

Oskar Magnusson, RW

(2021: 422) (2020: N/A)

Magnusson is a long-term prospect. In fact, he has the chance to be a steal of a seventh-round pick, as he oozes skill and creativity. Magnusson moved around three leagues again last year, but this time, aside from the SHL, the other two leagues proved to be tougher: J20 Nationell and HockeyEttan. He struggled in the J20, seemingly losing the confidence that helped him produce 48 points in 38 games in 2019-20, as he collected only nine points in 12 games. And while he once failed to record a point in the SHL, as he's obviously still not ready for that league, he did manage to register 13 points in 24 games for Tyringe SoSS of the HockeyEttan, which is a step above the J20. The next step for him will be to begin producing in the SHL and start to show up on some fantasy GM prospect radars.

Oskar Magnusson continued

Upside Comparable: William Nylander (30-45-75, 30 PIM)

3YP: (18-26-44, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Kody Clark, RW

(2021: 423) (2020: 350)

It was the same story as the previous year for Clark, as injuries derailed his season. He played in 19 games before getting sidelined with an upper-body injury. At the time of his injury, he was tied for the Bears lead in goals with seven through 19 games, but that was with a 21.2% shooting percentage, as Clark was seeing bottom-six duty. Clark was utilized in more important situations when the Bears were ahead in the score, as the organization does think highly of him. His points per game increased from 0.29 to 0.47, as did his shots per game rate, from 0.84 to 1.74. However, until he can stay consistently healthy, there may not be an NHL future for him.

Upside Comparable: Zach Hyman (20-35-55+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (12-18-30, 35 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Alexander Alexeyev, LD

(2021: 13D) (2020: 24D)

Alexeyev was another player the Capitals loaned and stashed in the KHL for 2020-21. He was a rock on Salavat Yulaev Ufa's shutdown pairing, playing in all 55 games and finishing second on the team in defensemen scoring with 16 points. Alexeyev doesn't hesitate to pinch up in the play when the opportunity presents itself. Salavat Yulaev was eliminated in the second round of their playoffs, so Alexeyev made his way back to the AHL in April. He proceeded to produce nine points in 12 games, which ended up being the third-best total for defensemen on the team. There are still a few warts to his game, but Alexeyev looks like everything an NHL team would want in a future top-four defenseman. The only thing that can delay his ascension to the Caps blueline is the number of one-way contracts already on the squad.

Upside Comparable: Alex Pietrangelo (14-38-52, 32 PIM)

3YP: (10-32-42, 20 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 22%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Should be drafted in the first couple of rounds.



Martin Fehervary, LD

(2021: 57D) (2020: 48D)

Fehervary would have made the Capitals blueline in 2020-21 had it not been for Washington signing three defensemen to one-way deals, which kept him yo-yoed between the taxi squad and the AHL for the remainder of the season. Fehervary is a smooth-skating, two-way defenseman that's excellent at shutting down the rush, but has started to add more offense in to his game of late. He finished last season with 17 points in 24 games, upping his points per game to 0.71 from 0.25, when he had 14 points in 56 games. When playing for the Bears, Fehervary was the team's No.1 defenseman, as AHL play even looked too easy for him. More offense to his game

Martin Fehervary continued

would surely be beneficial to poolies, but Fehervary is likely a player that will be a better NHLer than fantasy player.

Upside Comparable: Brian Dumoulin (5-35-40, 34 PIM)

3YP: (5-21-26, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 99%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).



Bobby Nardella, LD

(2021: 96D) (2020: 79D)

The Capitals loaned Nardella to Djurgardens of the SHL for the entirety of 2020-21, as there was no room on the NHL roster and he was playing so well in Sweden. Nardella ended up leading Djurgardens in scoring by five points, as he finished fifth-overall in defense scoring with 33 points in 47 games. He is an excellent offense-minded defenseman that can rush up the ice and quarterback a power play, but coaches will not trust him out there to defend a lead in the last minute. He is also an RFA and at 25 may choose to stay overseas if there is not a good enough NHL opportunity. Nardella could become a fantasy star on the backend for points, but the issue for him will be if NHL coaches trust him enough to put him in a spot to succeed, or if they will think he is just another T.J. Brennan and never give him a chance.

Upside Comparable: Tyson Barrie (10-45-55+, 26 PIM)

3YP: (8-34-42, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 65%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.



Lucas Johansen, LD

(2021: 205D) (2020: 114D)

Johansen cannot catch a break from injuries at all and that has been the story of his career since 2018-19 as he played in just five games before getting hurt and not returning for the remainder of the season. This was after taking part in only nine games in 2019-20, meaning that Johansen has played but 14 games in the last two years. There was a rumor that Johansen was on the Capitals' trade block and he has already stated being open to a change of scenery, since he's been tumbling down the team depth chart more each year. Johansen is just running into bad luck playing with the Bears, so a trade to a new team may just keep the injury bug away from the former first-round selection.

Upside Comparable: TJ Brodie (10-35-45, 40 PIM)

3YP: (7-22-29, 28 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Mitchell Gibson, G

Unfortunately for Gibson, he lost an entire year of development due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as Harvard University cancelled its entire 2020-21 campaign in the NCAA. Gibson was not loaned anywhere and played in exactly zero professional games. There was still some development and

Mitchell Gibson continued

practice time, but that only goes so far versus actual game action. He has stated before that he's fully committed to getting his degree at Harvard. Unfortunately, a full year of 'game inaction' can potentially hinder his long-term development and the next two NCAA seasons will tell us just how much. Going forward, Gibson still has a chance to be an NHL starter due to his athleticism and positioning, even though he is slightly on the small side at 6-1.

Upside Comparable: NHL starter

3YP: (35-19-12, 2.15, 0.921%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star. Draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).



Garin Bjorklund, G

Bjorklund was able to play in 22 games as the WHL managed to get in a partial season. In 2019-20, he acted as backup to Mads Sogaard, but was seeing more playing time than most backups when the latter left for the WJC. His season's final tally: 20-5-1 with a 0.897 save percentage. One year later, as starter for the Medicine Hat Tigers, his save percentage went up to 0.921, but his record paled to 10-7-1, as that version of the Tigers wasn't as effective as the season prior. Another year of WHL development is in store for Bjorklund and he may be in line to compete for the crease with Canada's entry at the 2022 WJC. Bjorklund is one to watch as the Capitals have been one of the best producers of goalie talent in the NHL.

Upside Comparable: NHL Starter

3YP: (30-17-7, 2.25, 0.917%)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2025-26 at best

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



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Winnipeg JETS

At a Glance

Top prospect: Cole Perfetti
Boom/Bust potential: Leon Gawanke
Long-term project: Nathan Smith
Top sniper: Kristian Vesalainen
Best setup man: Cole Perfetti

Most Fantasy Upside

Forward: Cole Perfetti
Defense: Ville Heinola
Goal: Arvid Holm
Points only: Cole Perfetti
Multicategory: Nathan Smith

2021 Draftee: coming soon

by Dobber

New! Cole Perfetti, C

(2021: 11) (2020: N/A)

The 10th overall draft pick last year was unable to follow up his 111-point performance in the OHL last season because the league never got underway. However, he didn't have a whole lot left to learn at that level and it was probably a blessing that he could play in the AHL. After a bit of a slow start as a 19-year-old playing against men professionally, Perfetti finished the season with 17 points in his last 13 games for Manitoba. He also joined Team Canada at the Worlds as a depth player. Skilled and with elite hockey sense, Perfetti is a potential first-line center. With a capable sniper on his wing, he could be a Top 5 assists man in his prime as he can set them up as well as anyone. Unless he makes the Jets, he'll be in the OHL this year, since he's ineligible for the AHL.

Upside Comparable: Nicklas Backstrom (30-55-85+, 30 PIM)

3YP: (23-45-68, 22 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 95%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP.



Kristian Vesalainen, RW

(2021: 56) (2020: 73)

Two things you need to remember about Vesalainen. One, he only just turned 22. And two, he is a 6-4 winger in a sport where that kind of size requires several years of development. So, although he was a top prospect four years ago, his value today should be higher, not lower. Because he's only now coming into his own. Despite modest AHL numbers, Vesalainen has been quite productive in the Liiga. Last season, he only played six AHL games (five points) because he spent time on the taxi squad. The 24th overall pick in 2017 has excellent vision, creativity and he boasts a good shot. He could use his size more to his advantage, though. But he has honed his defensive acumen and can now contribute on any of Winnipeg's four lines. To put up fantasy-worthy points, he will need 300-400 games in the NHL first, so be patient.

Upside Comparable: Jamie Benn (35-40-75, 50 PIM)

3YP: (16-32-48, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 85%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Final-round option.

David Gustafsson, C (2021: 79) (2020: 180)

Gustafsson provides value in all the ways outside of goals and assists. He is excellent at the faceoff circle, is a relentless checker and gets under opponents' skin without taking a penalty. He is good size at 6-2, 196 pounds and is seen as a prototypical third-line forward. However, he's such a smart player that he can't help but create offense, which makes him so intriguing for fantasy owners. In Allsvenskan last year, he had 17 points in 16 games before joining Manitoba where he added another 19 points in just 22 contests. Those are scoring-line numbers. Given Winnipeg's depth up front, and how good Gustafsson is as a checker, his ceiling is limited. But he is looking more and more likely to reach said limited ceiling.

Upside Comparable: Scott Laughton (20-40-60+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (14-27-41, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 90%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Late-round pick (if you need immediate help but don't mind a lower ceiling).

Nathan Smith, C (2021: 160) (2020: 229)

Don't sleep on Smith. A late bloomer, who didn't even begin playing ice hockey until he was 11, has been making huge strides since being drafted in the third round in 2018 (91st overall). The Tampa native played road hockey for five years before trying his hand at the version on the ice – and he hasn't looked back. In his sophomore campaign for Minnesota State Univ. (Mankato) he finished second on the team in scoring with 25 points in 28 games. A quick skater who is said to be in excellent shape with a very good (and strict) workout regimen, Smith has a pass-first mentality. But that's okay – he's very good at it. Now entering his junior year, do not be surprised if he takes that big next step that dominates the score sheets and has Winnipeg pushing for him to turn pro early.

Upside Comparable: Vincent Trocheck (25-45-70, 70 PIM)

3YP: (13-24-37, 44 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.

New! Pavel Kraskovsky, C (2021: 258) (2020: N/A)

A classic late-blooming European who was drafted late as a flier, with his rights being held for six years and if he pans out – bring him over. If Kraskovsky does come over, he'll follow the footsteps of the likes of Nikita Gusev, Carl Soderberg and others. He turns 25 in September and is signed in the KHL for another year, but Kraskovsky was drafted by the Jets back in 2014 164th overall. Until now he hadn't shown us anything special. But as with many 6-4 forwards, he is coming into his own now that he's entering his mid-20s. He tallied 17 goals and 38 points in 56 games for Lokomotiv, shattering his previous highs of eight and 18. Those numbers led the team in both categories and there is a strong likelihood we see yet another gear from him in 2021-22. If so, he'll be a coveted fantasy own next summer.

Upside Comparable: Ryan Strome (30-40-70, 60 PIM)

3YP: (17-24-41, 47 PIM)

Fantasy Upside / NHL Certainty: 15%, 60%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Potential star, draft in late rounds (if you can afford to wait a few years).

New! Daniel Torgersson, LW
(2021: 365) (2020: N/A)

Prognosticators had a hard time agreeing on Torgersson last year. Already with NHL size at 6-3, 205 pounds, he also boasts pretty good speed. His hands are quick and sure, and he makes good decisions with the puck at lower levels. But the thinking was that offensively, his production wouldn't translate well to pro hockey. He was projected to go anywhere from just inside the Top 20 to as low as 114. We had him at 30 in the 2020 FPR and the Jets ended up taking him at 40. Last season, he only got into two games at the SHL level. As a power forward, we won't truly get a feel as to his upside until he's well into his 20s – maybe even as late as 27 or 28.

Upside Comparable: Michael McLeod (30-35-65+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (17-18-35, 47 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 70%

Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

 Ville Heinola, LD
(2021: 15D) (2020: 14D)

After a surprise 2019 that saw him initially make the Jets out of training camp a mere four months after being drafted 20th overall, Heinola continues to pad his resume. He had four points in seven games for Team Finland at the WJC and named a Top 3 player on the team in their bronze medal win. Heinola then posted 14 points in 19 games in Liiga, fifth among rearguards in points-per-game average. Later, he also led Manitoba blueliners in points-per-game average. There is no reason why Heinola can't play for the Jets this season, but the team is taking it slow with him. The philosophy being 'you can never have too much development'. But he's a brilliant two-way defenseman – a game-on-the-line player in close matches for years to come.

Upside Comparable: Jacob Trouba (10-40-50+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (7-35-42, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 95%

Expected Arrival: This fall.

DH Draft Advice: Middle-round option.

 Dylan Samberg, LD
(2021: 40D) (2020: 42D)

Samberg chose to forego his senior year with University of Minnesota-Duluth to sign a pro contract with the Jets in April of 2020. He had nothing left to prove at that level and both he and the organization felt he was ready to turn pro. It turns out they were right. A fantastic puck distributor, Samberg is also very good defensively. He is adept at getting the puck out of the zone, usually putting it on the stick of a teammate as he makes the seamless pass. At 6-4, 215 pounds, he obviously has NHL size. The Jets would like to see him use that size a little better. They would also like to see him shoot more, as his pass-first game can get predictable. But he's only 22 and has plenty of time to develop those areas. For fantasy purposes, he will need a couple of seasons in the NHL for his production to come.

Upside Comparable: Brent Seabrook (10-35-45+, 70 PIM)

3YP: (5-18-23, 48 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 10%, 85%

Expected Arrival: Will have cups of coffee with club/get a look this year, full-time in 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Sami Niku, LD (2021: 65D) (2020: 23D)

The AHL Defenseman of the Year in 2018 is not good enough to play in the NHL. Go figure. But the biggest problem right now for Niku is that his skills are eroding while he sits in the press box. Sure, he practiced with the team and the taxi squad, but the reality is that Niku played exactly 91 competitive games over three full years, and just six in the past year. The Jets were afraid to lose him on waivers, yet also afraid to put him in the lineup due to the defensive risk. Oddly enough, this offensive defenseman has nine minutes of total PP time in his 54-game NHL career and last year his Offensive Zone Starts was just 28.3%! So, he hasn't even been used to his skill set. He'll be 25 in the fall and if he goes somewhere else (via waivers?) then he'll be of fantasy interest, but otherwise his appeal is very limited.

Upside Comparable: Kevin Shattenkirk (12-43-55+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (7-27-34, 26 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 55%

Expected Arrival: Now or never.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Declan Chisholm, LD (2021: 120D) (2020: 184D)

After posting a whopping 117 points in his last 126 OHL contests, Chisholm graduated to the AHL. He made quite a debut in his rookie-pro season, actually scoring in his second ever shift. By season's end, he had shown poise and confidence en route to posting 13 points in 28 contests. The Jets would like to see him round out his game in his own zone and dial back some of the risks that he takes. What would help is adding more strength to his 6-1, 190-pound frame. He missed the last eight games due to an undisclosed lower-body injury that occurred in late April. But all told, his career is on the right development track and proceeding at the expected rate.

Upside Comparable: Jake Gardiner (10-40-50, 40 PIM)

3YP: (6-15-21, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 25%, 70%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Leon Gawanke, RD (2021: 122D) (2020: 117D)

After what was an excellent rookie-pro season in the AHL, Gawanke took a step backwards as a sophomore as soon as there was competition for his job. With Ville Heinola and Declan Chisolm in the fold, Gawanke's role altered and he struggled with the change. Gawanke's team-worst minus-13, to put into context, was just one of three players on the entire Manitoba roster to be in the red. Another part of his struggles was due to a concussion suffered in March. He managed just three points in 14 games after returning from that. A near point-per-game player in his final QMJHL season, Gawanke was invited to join Team Germany at the Worlds in May, where he posted two goals in 10 games and played very well. In order to thrive, the 22-year-old needs the right partner. That kind of requirement is always a risky 'hope' to have as a fantasy owner.

Upside Comparable: Erik Gustafsson (15-35-50+, 40 PIM)

3YP: (10-25-35, 32 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 5%, 65%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Too soon. Wait until next year to consider drafting.



Simon Lundmark, RD

(2021: 192D) (2020: 263D)

The Jets drafted Lundmark in the second round in 2019, 51st overall. He's an all-tools, jack-of-all-trades blueliner with some offensive upside, albeit limited. He's also a right-handed shot, which in this organization is a positional need. At 6-2, 201 pounds, he has NHL size and the strength to match. And despite being just 20 years of age he has already played two-and-a-half years in the SHL. That alone is impressive, but Lundmark posted 10 points in 47 games last season despite averaging just 10:43 in ice time per game. Now signed to a pro contract, it is expected that he will cross the pond and play next season with Manitoba, where they will give him the ice time needed to grow into a minute-munching, two-way defenseman.

Upside Comparable: Jonas Brodin (10-30-40+, 50 PIM)

3YP: (7-21-28, 36 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 75%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.



Arvid Holm, G

The 6-5 netminder was, as is typical, taken late in the 2017 NHL draft, going 167th overall (sixth round). His development in Sweden has been steady, and after his first full pro season in the SHL in 2019-20 the Jets signed him to a contract. He embraced the heavy workload that Farjestad gave him, getting into 31 games and posting 2.27 and 0.915 stats. Farjestad, expecting to lose him to North America, then signed a veteran goalie for 2020-21. The pandemic, of course, changed everything and Holm ended up staying in the SHL. But he had to share the workload, and became noticeably frustrated at times by his lack of consistent ice time. Now ready to join Manitoba, he will have to outplay Mikhail Berdin. Regardless of who wins, he should get into enough games to exceed his career high of 39, which was his workload back when he was 18.

Upside: 1A NHL split starter

3YP: 23-18-5, 2.65 GAA, 0.912 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 55%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.



Mikhail Berdin, G

After staying in the AHL for a full season for the first time in his career in 2019-20, Berdin was forced to remain in Russia due to the pandemic. He played 14 games for SKA St. Petersburg and performed quite well. Returning to the AHL after things started up again, he got into 30 games but was quite inconsistent. Manitoba didn't have a lot of options so they played him in almost every game. He gave up six goals in three different games, and allowed at least three markers in each of his last six outings to close things out. The prevailing sentiment around the hockey world is that Berdin is a very good backup, but when the workload piles up, he struggles. The 23-year-old has one more year of waivers exemption, so the Jets will soon have a decision to make.

Upside: NHL Backup.

3YP: 14-11-2, 2.55 GAA, 0.914 SV%

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 30%, 60%

Expected Arrival: 2022-23.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

Unrestricted FREE AGENTS

Either they weren't signed when the deadline arrived, or they were released by the club. These prospects had profiles written up and those profiles were moved to this section.

↔ Matej Blumel, RW – Unsigned – Now a UFA (2021: 485) (2020: 492)

By not signing Blumel before the June 1, 2021 deadline, the Oilers no longer hold the rights to the young Czech. This came as a surprise after the fourth-round selection in 2019 saw his production explode last season to the tune of 17 goals (top 20) and 32 points (top 30) in 49 games for HC Dynamo Pardubice of the Czech league. These numbers are especially impressive considering he recorded just five points in 31 games the season prior. Social media has already turned to questioning Edmonton's thought process for not signing the Czech forward and we don't know their side of the story. Blumel is praised for his one-shot scoring ability, as well as his agitator-type style, two things the Oilers could use in their lineup. Theoretically, Edmonton could still sign the young winger in the near future.

Upside Comparable: Blake Coleman (25-25-50+, 60 PIM)

3YP: (10-20-30, 30 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 20%, 60%

Expected Arrival: Probably 2023-24.

DH Draft Advice: Do not draft.

↔ Quinn Schmiemann, LD – Unsigned – Now a UFA (2021: 269D) (2020: 276D)

Schmiemann was able to play in 22 games for the Kamloops Blazers of the WHL in the shortened 2020-21, and was named an assistant captain as well. He posted his best points per game mark at 0.77 and plays in all the important situations. There is also a mean streak to Schmiemann as he is prone to taking a lot of penalties in a season. He is an outlier in the Tampa Bay system as he plays a truculent game but can also make plays in the offense zone while transitioning out of his own end, as well. There is still a way to go for the 2019 sixth round selection as he will not be ready for a few years at least. For some reason, the Lightning couldn't (or wouldn't) come to terms on a contract by the deadline, so he goes back into the draft.

Upside Comparable: Kevin Bieksa (10-40-50, 100 PIM)

3YP: (4-20-24, 90 PIM)

Fantasy Upside/NHL Certainty: 15%, 50%

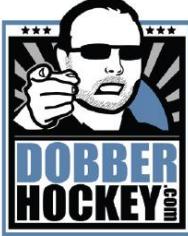
Expected Arrival: A long wait – 2024-25 at best.

DH Draft Advice: Long-term prospect. Don't draft, this year or next.

Blue-chip Prospects – 2021

We have gathered up all the prospects that we gave the draft advice: ‘Blue-chip prospect, draft ASAP’ and flowed them into the chart below for your convenience. This does not necessarily mean that every blue-chip prospect is listed here. There may be some great ones, but because they are several years away there is no need to trip over yourself in an effort to draft them. These players have an appealing combination of upside, NHL performance certainty and very little wait time. Music to a keeper-league owner’s ears.

Blue Chippers 2021	
Jakob Pelletier	CGY
Connor Zary	CGY
Seth Jarvis	CAR
Alex Newhook	COL
Bowen Byram	COL
Thomas Harley	DAL
Lucas Raymond	DET
Moritz Seider	DET
Evan Bouchard	EDM
Grigori Denisenko	FLA
Anton Lundell	FLA
Spencer Knight	FLA
Quinton Byfield	LAK
Alex Turcotte	LAK
Marco Rossi	MIN
Matthew Boldy	MIN
Calen Addison	MIN
Cole Caufield	MON
Philip Tomasino	NSH
Yaroslav Askarov	NSH
Vitali Kravtsov	NYR
Nils Lundkvist	NYR
Morgan Frost	PHI
Vasily Podkolzin	VAN
Peyton Krebs	VGK
Connor McMichael	WAS
Cole Perfetti	WPG



DobberHockey's 2021

NHL DRAFT SECTION



Rule Your Pool!

Who's Who in 2021

Please note: Due to the player's youth, we tone down the level of our 'upside' definition here to something that's a little more achievable. Bear in mind that a 50-point upside in this section this year could very well blossom into a 65-point upside in the team-by-team section next season. And/or, perhaps the upsides remain as is. When you're an 18-year-old prospect, potential fluctuates wildly.

Also note:

- Player comparisons are ballpark in terms of statistical upside, not so much of playing style.
 - We are specific about player position. So, LD = left defense, RC = right-shooting center, etc.
 - The 'Rank' is our overall NHL rank – not our fantasy-hockey ranking.
 - Players appear in alphabetical order.
-

by Tony Ferrari

Nolan Allan, LD, Prince Albert, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 88

Allan is going to be one of those players that winds up being more of an impact player in real life than fantasy, but he brings a nice toolset that is highlighted by his mobility and defensive acumen. Understanding how to read the offensive rush, Allan will rack up hits and blocks, so there is value to be had here in leagues that factor in peripheral stats. He has some offensive tools that could lead to favorable production if given the opportunity on a power play, but his consistency on the offensive end of the ice is nothing to write home about. Bank on his peripherals, enjoy whatever offense he can give.

UPSIDE: 8-30-38 | **3YP:** 3-18-21 | **COMPARABLE:** Esa Lindell

Marcus Almquist, W, HV71 J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 98

Let's get the biggest red flag out of the way right off the bat. Almquist is small. Very small. He plays an incredibly-skilled game that relies on his ability to just outdo his opponent with his puck skill. The Danish forward, who played in Sweden, was often able to exploit small openings and find open ice with and without the puck, but he could get lost in the shuffle at times because of

(Almquist continued)

his diminutive stature. His passing game is impressive, as he is able to spot lanes that many players don't even think about. Almquist is a long-term prospect, but he could be a late-round boom-or-bust player, too. Top-six or not in the lineup.

UPSIDE: 20-35-55 | **3YP:** 15-25-40 | **COMPARABLE:** Tyler Ennis

Jack Bar, RD, Penticton, BCHL**DH pre-Draft: 46**

A two-way defenseman that thinks the game at a high-level. He has an urgency to his game that is commendable, as he rarely lets the play come to him. He understands how to inject himself in to the play in all three zones, with excellent spatial awareness in the offensive zone. He has a knack for pinching in from the blueline and then fading into soft spots. He will utilize bumps and picks throughout the offensive zone to find space. May not be a top power-play option at the next level, but his even-strength offense and second power-play unit production should be admirable.

UPSIDE: 12-35-47 | **3YP:** 7-25-32 | **COMPARABLE:** Matt Dumba

Sean Behrens, LD, U.S. U18, USNTDP**DH pre-Draft: 96**

Behrens is a highly skilled defenseman who thrives on pushing the pace and attacking the play in the offensive zone. A good skater that doesn't struggle with his mobility regardless of where he is on the ice. The biggest knock of the U.S. National Team Development Program product is that he is undersized and lacks strength. Often times, a player can overcome those lacking areas with elite quickness and skill, combined with a high-end motor that Behrens has displayed, but the consistency wasn't there for much of his draft year. He's an excellent stash option as a player with high upside but also a pretty big bust factor.

UPSIDE: 7-40-47 | **3YP:** 3-20-23 | **COMPARABLE:** Jared Spurgeon

Isaac Belliveau, LD, Gatineau, QMJHL**DH pre-Draft: NR**

Belliveau's is a name that was much higher on boards to start the year than it was by the end of it. The QMJHL defender was elevated last season with a Rimouski team led by Alexis Lafreniere and the point totals reflected as much. The good sign for Belliveau is that after a slow start in Rimouski, he looked much more confident and effective following a mid-season trade to Gatineau. He was able to skate with the puck a bit more, became more willing to defer to teammates in tough situations and he was much calmer when dealing with pressure. His defensive game is still a weak point, but there is time for him to work on it, as he likely won't be rushed to the pro ranks. As a fantasy asset, it might be best to stash him if you can. Next year's fantasy prospect draft is a better bet.

UPSIDE: 8-35-43 | **3YP:** 4-20-24 | **COMPARABLE:** Filip Hronek

Matthew Beniers, C, Michigan, NCAA**DH pre-Draft: 1**

One of, if not the top player in the 2021 NHL Draft class, Beniers is the most NHL-ready of them all, as he brings an element of assuredness. He has a safe floor and should be a shoo-in as a top-six center that can match up against the opponents' best players, win the possession battle and on most nights, push the pace offensively, as well. He has a very good shot and his playmaking is crafty and consistent. Simply, he understands how to play hockey. His skating may need some

(Beniers continued)

technical polish, but it's nothing to hinder success. His value will only increase in leagues that count peripheral statistics, since Beniers is a stud in terms of contributing all over the stats sheet. He should be near the top of your board, but if you want to play it safe, he should be your No.1.

UPSIDE: 30-40-70 | **3YP:** 25-35-60 | **COMPARABLE:** Sean Couturier

Zachary Bolduc, C, Rimouski, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: 57

An averaged sized center prospect with a lot of the raw skills and tools that you look for in an NHL prospect. However, there are some lapses in decision-making and puck security. His penchant for throwing pizzas up ice on breakouts that lead to turnovers or icings is a bit of a concern. He seems to have the ability to pull you out of your seat once or twice a game with his pure skill. Bolduc was just over a point-per-game in a shortened QMJHL season. There is plenty of offensive potential here, but the biggest question is just how much will translate to the pro-level and whether or not the plays he has done successfully thus far are reasonable and responsible enough for the NHL. The reality of Bolduc's game is that there are some decision-making flaws that are often covered up by a high-level toolset. He may be worth a stash, or to toss on the 'watchlist'.

UPSIDE: 20-40-60 | **3YP:** 15-25-40 | **COMPARABLE:** Oliver Bjorkstrand

Tyler Boucher, W, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 81

Playing in just over a dozen games this season due to injury, Boucher is a sneaky-good value pick late in the fantasy draft process if you have a spot to stash a player for a couple of seasons. He will be attending Boston University in the fall and his development in a program like that should be quite solid. He isn't an overly-large player, but he plays with force, utilizing his thick and sturdy frame. His biggest draw for NHL teams will be his versatility, but for your fantasy team, his blend of physical play and goal-scoring prowess should bring excellent multi-cat value. This draft is littered with middle-of-the-lineup players and Boucher may be one of the most versatile contributors from the group. Keep an eye on him and stash for a couple years.

UPSIDE: 18-27-45 | **3YP:** 14-18-33 | **COMPARABLE:** Christian Dvorak

Xavier Bourgault, C/W, Shawinigan, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: 21

Often referred to as the ultimate complimentary player, Bourgault is capable of putting up some impressive point totals if he gets the chance to play with a skilled teammate. His ability to find space and exploit his opponents' mistakes in defensive coverage is impressive. Playing much of the year with Mavrik Bourque, the QMJHL forward was given every opportunity to showcase his offensive game. He has defensive flaws, but they shouldn't affect his fantasy value. With few junior-aged players capable of putting up totals the way Bourgault can – if/when given the right opportunity – the risk of drafting a player that plays a bit smaller is mitigated by the fact there is a good chance Bourgault is waiting around until late in the first round.

UPSIDE: 28-42-70 | **3YP:** 18-37-55 | **COMPARABLE:** Sam Reinhart

Tristan Broz, C, Fargo, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 67

A late-season riser, the Fargo playmaker has been a topic of discussion since mid-season with much of the talk surrounding whether the creativity and ability to exploit small passing windows

(Broz continued)

will translate once the game gets faster. Broz seemed to find his game and click this season, as he was consistently able to create dangerous chances from the outside and work pucks to high-danger areas. He shows a penchant for finding lanes and seams where others do not and being successful when sending the pucks to those spaces. His shot is underrated and he could be more of a goal-scoring threat should he use it more. His quick release in tight is enviable. Depending on how high he is drafted, there should be some solid mid-round value.

UPSIDE: 25-35-60 | **3YP:** 20-20-40 | **COMPARABLE:** Gustav Nyquist

Lorenzo Canonica, C, Lugano, U20-Elit

DH pre-Draft: 75

Canonica is consistently among the best players for Switzerland when he plays at the international level. His shiftiness and skill allow him to keep up with some of the better players in the world and produce some pretty solid numbers. His stint in the QMJHL this year was a bit up and down as he regularly flashed all of the skill that was advertised, but the stretches of inconsistency or disappearing acts are cause for concern. He's likely a few seasons away from pro hockey and will likely need some AHL seasoning before getting to the NHL on a consistent basis. His international play is where the scouts were put on notice, but he wasn't able to compete at the U18, unfortunately. This meant that summer showcase games in the preseason and his play in the QMJHL could be what teams look at. Stash him late if you absolutely want him this year, but you should probably wait.

UPSIDE: 24-31-55 | **3YP:** 14-19-33 | **COMPARABLE:** Ryan Dzingel

Corson Ceulemans, RD, Brooks, AJHL

DH pre-Draft: 36

One of the most intriguing players in the 2021 class, Ceulemans is the top junior A player available. He's a great skater and among the best offensive-zone passers among rearguards. His ability to control play with the puck is impressive, as he possesses the mobility and skill to create space for himself. He is very strong in transition with the ability to join the rush at any given moment. He has some issues with his defensive positioning, particularly during physical battles, but the young defender does a good job of using his other tools to soften his weaknesses. Ceulemans is an excellent power-play playmaker from high in the zone with the ability to pinch and attack the slot when given the chance. He may have the widest range of any player in the class. If he's on the board beyond 20, some team will get a pretty solid prospect.

UPSIDE: 11-36-47 | **3YP:** 7-26-34 | **COMPARABLE:** Josh Morrissey

Daniil Chayka, LD, CSKA, KHL

DH pre-Draft: 50

A defensive blueliner that's not offensively weak, but he likely won't be a big point producer at the next level, either. He's struggled to maintain offensive success over the years with the majority of his value coming from his play in his own end. He is mobile and makes a good first pass, but he likely won't be much of a fantasy asset. Even in leagues that value hits and other peripheral stats, Chayka may be a low-impact fantasy player, but he will likely play some solid minutes at the NHL level regardless because of his defensive ability. The best advice on a player like this is to hype him up, watch him get drafted in the Draft's first round and then let someone else make the pick in your pool. He's not worth filling a roster spot; take a bigger swing later.

UPSIDE: 4-27-33 | **3YP:** 2-14-16 | **COMPARABLE:** Jason Demers

Nikita Chibrikov, W, SKA, KHL

DH pre-Draft: 27

Russia's captain at the World Under-18, Chibrikov possesses the kind of speed and skill that scouts generally salivate over. The issue is the wild inconsistency with which he utilizes his tools to their full extent. Chibrikov is the kind of player that can pull you out of your seat with a dirty dangle in the neutral zone before walking a defender to the outside and then out-skilling the netminder with quick hands and a slick release. The upside is likely greater than most players in the 2021 Draft, but the worry of whether the effort and consistency is there from shift to shift will be the big concern. His stock likely jumped a bit after a masterful performance at the U18 even if his underage teammate – Matvei Michkov – stole the show. Chibrikov should be a valuable prospect in fantasy, especially as a high-level swing for the fences.

UPSIDE: 25-45-75 | **3YP:** 20-35-55 | **COMPARABLE:** Clayton Keller

Brandt Clarke, RD, Barrie Colts, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 4

A defender that tops numerous lists, Clarke is an offensively-skilled youngster that understands the modern game at a level which few others have grasped at the same age. His ability to transition the puck with his passing or his skating is impressive. He likes to draw in forecheckers in order to find the open man. His instincts in all three zones are among the best, while his improving defensive play is a welcome sight. He still needs some refinement, but with the puck on his stick, he can create magic. His shot is accurate and he likes to attack the dots before unleashing it. As a playmaker, he is deceptive and understands how to play through layers of the opposing defensive structure. There aren't many players in the Draft that will be more valuable fantasy assets, so he should be in consideration right at the top.

UPSIDE: 12-38-50 | **3YP:** 8-30-38 | **COMPARABLE:** Kris Letang

Matthew Coronato, W, Chicago, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 24

An offensive dynamo that should develop into a valuable fantasy asset, Coronato tore apart the USHL as a Draft-eligible. He was a man on a mission, finishing second in the league in scoring with a sizable gap between himself and third place – teammate and 2020 draft pick Sean Farrell was the only one that bettered him. The Chicago Steel star has a blistering snap shot and slick hands in tight. He's a threat to score whether he just crossed the offensive blue line, or whether he's pinned at the side of the net. His playmaking improved as the season wore on, as well, as he became more willing to defer to teammates. His skating will need a bit of work but the skill, offensive instincts and motor should be enough to find his way onto an NHL roster as a lethal offensive contributor.

UPSIDE: 40-40-80 | **3YP:** 30-20-50 | **COMPARABLE:** Jaden Schwartz

Sebastian Cossa, G, Edmonton, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 22

One of the top goaltenders to enter the Draft recently, he's being overshadowed somewhat by goaltending super-prospect Jesper Wallstedt. Cossa has incredible size at 6-6, as well as the mobility that many big 'tenders lack. While he isn't in the same tier as Wallstedt, Yaroslav Askarov and Spencer Knight from the last couple of seasons, Cossa is closer to those goalies than the rest of the pack. His post integration has improved each season and he's been more fluid coming out of his butterfly this year, as well. He can be a bit over-aggressive, particularly on

(Cossa continued)

plays to the side of his net, but his length helps make up for the space left vacant on the backside at times. He should be taken in the first round of the NHL Draft and high on your fantasy board if you want to fill your goalie pipeline with a high-quality talent.

UPSIDE: High-end starting NHL Goalie

Zach Dean, Gatineau, C, QMJHL**DH pre-Draft: 39**

A toolsy forward with intriguing offensive capabilities, Dean plays fast, utilizing his speed and quickness on every shift to disrupt the opponent in all areas of the ice. He thinks the game aggressively, which leads to some passes that are needlessly dangerous. His shot is decent, but he'll make his money as a playmaker that takes risks and hopes for more reward than punishment. With some refinement and maturity in decision-making, there is a very good chance he could become a cerebral passer at the next level. He just needs to figure out how to mitigate the risk factor and continue attacking with speed and quickness through the middle of the ice. He is certainly a fantasy asset worth keeping an eye on.

UPSIDE: 23-37-60 | **3YP:** 16-28-44 | **COMPARABLE:** Kevin Fiala

Liam Dower-Nilsson, C, Frolunda J20, Nationell**DH pre-Draft: 61**

Dower-Nilsson is rounding out his game as a quality two-way center that understands the importance of play in his own end. He is a good skater that works off his edges through the neutral zone to evade his opponents and does a good job of providing support when not on the puck in transition. He shows neat puck skill at times, but there are other times when he seems to be trying to force a move when a simpler play could have been made. The young Swede has produced at a solid clip during his time against his age group, but understandably struggled at the men's pro level. He may not be the flashiest fantasy option, but there will be real-life value that likely exceeds that of the former.

UPSIDE: 18-28-46 | **3YP:** 12-20-32 | **COMPARABLE:** Nick Bonino

Dylan Duke, W, U.S. U18, USNTDP**DH pre-Draft: 37**

Along with Sasha Pastujov, Duke was the most consistent offensive threat for the U.S. National Team Development Program. His ability to play with anyone in the lineup and continue to be a dual-threat weapon is very encouraging for his NHL translatability. He was a scoring threat from dangerous areas and continuously made his teammates better with solid playmaking in the offensive zone. He lacks the top gear or real dynamic skill to be a top-line option at the NHL level, but he should make a tidy career out of being a consistent middle-six scorer that rarely robs you of effort and plays a smart game at both ends of the ice. He isn't a flashy player and he will likely be a secondary scorer on your fantasy squad, but he'll be a quality depth piece to have on your roster in a couple of years.

UPSIDE: 25-35-60 | **3YP:** 20-20-40 | **COMPARABLE:** Josh Bailey

Simon Edvinsson, LD, Vasteras IK, Allsvenskan**DH pre-Draft: 10**

One of the most intriguing players in the Draft from a wait-and-see perspective. The range of player that Edvinsson could become is wide. He has a big frame at 6-5, but he skates as if he is

(Edvinsson continued)

5-11. His defensive play is solid, but there are times where he is late to his pivot. He breaks up cycles quite well and should continue to develop along the boards and in front of the net, where improvement has been made already this season. His offensive game is where there seems to be some division amongst analysts and scouts. He is quite skilled and his puck-carrying ability should translate to the NHL level. The questions come when he's making passing decisions on the breakout. Edvinsson has a tendency to air-mail passes to no one should there be no option open. His in-zone offensive play should get him on a second power-play unit, but that won't rack up too many points. The upside and skill are there, but his decision-making could hold him back.

UPSIDE: 8-33-41 | **3YP:** 4-20-24 | **COMPARABLE:** Hampus Lindholm

William Eklund, C/W, Djurgarden, SHL

DH pre-Draft: 2

Eklund enjoyed quite a nice season in the SHL this season with Djurgardens. Primarily on a line with 2020 seventh-overall pick, Alexander Holtz, it was often Eklund that was driving play more consistently for the line. His playmaking ability is a sight to see at times with crisp passes through traffic while in motion or at a standstill. Eklund doesn't get the credit he deserves for his playmaking ability. He has a very good shot, as well, with an incredible ability to score off the rush and beat a goalie by pinpointing the open space. His accuracy is what drives his goal scoring, so it will be essential that he continue to attack the dangerous areas of the offensive zone as he continues to advance toward the NHL. He does have some ability to play center and there is belief that an NHL team will give him a shot there, but he may be at his best on the wing, where he can exploit his excellent transition ability.

UPSIDE: 34-48-82 | **3YP:** 26-35-61 | **COMPARABLE:** William Nylander

Kalle Ervasti, RD, Lukko U20, SM-sarja

DH pre-Draft: 69

One of the biggest sleepers in the Draft, Ervasti has been quite good everywhere he has played. The young Finn has improved his skating ability quite a bit since his Draft-minus-1 season, allowing him to utilize his other tools to their fullest extent. His vision in the offensive zone is impressive, spotting players on the backside with regularity and finding creative ways to get them the puck. He is not afraid to shoot the puck, either but does a good job of penetrating the offensive zone just before firing it. His defensive play is fairly average, but his instincts and quick, controlled stick are signs of potential growth in that area. He may wind up being just a good transitional defender, but the potential to put up a few points exists.

UPSIDE: 6-32-38 | **3YP:** 3-15-18 | **COMPARABLE:** Will Butcher

Hugo Gabrielson, LD, Frolunda J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 68

An offensive creator that leaves defense to the wayside, Gabrielson is an interesting boom-or-bust prospect that could find himself working an NHL power play and finding ways to get himself on the scoresheet with impressive offensive instincts. The flip side of that coin, however, is that he may never step foot into the NHL. His defensive awareness is worrisome at times and his skilled offensive game can't make up for everything. He showed the ability to play well against men in HockeyEttan, the third-tier men's league in Sweden, but wasn't a true difference maker. His play against peers has been much better, but his defense still lags quite far behind. If he can get his defense sorted out, he could be a valuable asset in fantasy, since the former earns ice time. He's probably a safe bet to sit on and watch.

UPSIDE: 8-35-43 | **3YP:** 3-18-22 | **COMPARABLE:** Mike Matheson

Andre Gasseau, C, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 62

A smart and detail-oriented two-way center, Gasseau is a player that projects to the NHL quite well, but his role is what's to be determined. His defensive play and intelligence across the board should allow him to play a depth center role at the NHL level. At 6-4, the young American is an imposing force on the forecheck and positions himself well in board battles. He needs to continue to fill out, as he moves through the NCAA and eventually toward pro hockey, or his frame won't be enough once he is playing against men. The offensive side of his game is where the questions begin. He has a heavy shot but needs to work on directing it on net with a bit more consistency. His playmaking is solid and safe, but the dynamism is missing from his game at this stage. He's a bit of a safe bet as far as mid-late round picks go, though there could be something here in a deep league that factors in peripheral statistics.

UPSIDE: 22-32-54 | **3YP:** 14-18-32 | **COMPARABLE:** Brian Boyle

Benjamin Gaudreau, G, Sarnia, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 71

Without an OHL season this year, the young Canadian netminder was limited to just the World Under-18 tourney this past season and showcase himself he did. He came into the tournament in a battle for the crease, since nothing was given, especially it being his first game action since March 2020. He earned the starting gig by the end of the round robin and was excellent throughout the elimination and medal rounds. He wound up being a factor in a number of games down the stretch, as the Canadians were dominant but a bit loose defensively at times. Gaudreau should be a solid NHL starter if his career continues down the path it's on. He carried a poor Sarnia team as a 16-year-old, recording multiple 50-plus save games in his final month of play. Gaudreau is a good prospect but he played very little last year.

UPSIDE: Starting NHL Goalie

Dylan Guenther, W, Edmonton, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 12

After tearing apart the WHL's East Division with the Edmonton Oil Kings, Guenther was expected to put on a show at the World Under-18. While solid, he took a back seat and played a more secondary role to players like Mason McTavish and Connor Bedard, amongst others. Guenther is a very good shooter and may have the best one-timer in this year's crop. His power-play prowess is impressive, as he seems to take complete control on the ice whether he has the puck or not. He has a bit of a pace issue at times, but the winger is intelligent and deliberate with his movements and ability to turn on the jets when needed. There is a high-end offensive winger here that should find a role on an NHL top-six, while being a major weapon on the man advantage.

UPSIDE: 35-45-80 | **3YP:** 27-36-63 | **COMPARABLE:** Timo Meier

Brett Harrison, C, Oshawa, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 45

Playing in Finland while the OHL was unable to because of the pandemic, Harrison had an up and down stint overseas. He showed off his strong shot and ability to generate offense at times, but there was also a clear step missing from his skating that left him behind the play on occasion. He showed much better at the World Under-18 in that regard, creating plays and helping generate quite a few scoring chances from a bottom-six role. He is a dual-threat scorer, but his shot is what he leans on most and he certainly is not shy about using it. Harrison has some offensive

(Harrison continued)

ability, particularly as a shooter, but there are questions as to whether it will be good enough at the next level. He's no lock and will need to continue developing his skating. Between his shot and intellect, though, he should be drafted in the first few rounds.

UPSIDE: 30-30-60 | **3YP:** 25-20-45 | **COMPARABLE:** Anthony Cirelli

Aleksi Heimosalmi, RD, Assat U20, SM-sarja

DH pre-Draft: 33

Was named the top defender at the World Under-18 this past season and while it wasn't a runaway win, Heimosalmi was quite impressive at the annual event. His silky-smooth skating and shifty agility make him hard to hit when he has the puck, giving him excellent tracking ability when defending the rush. He needs to get stronger and clean up some areas of his defensive game, but the puck skills and instincts that the young Finn possesses are impressive traits for a player his age. If he makes it in the NHL, there will be a power-play element to his game, since he excels there, but he is quite good at even strength generation, as well. That is the area that separates him from other mid-round defensive prospects – little reliance on the PP.

UPSIDE: 7-36-43 | **3YP:** 5-26-32 | **COMPARABLE:** Ryan Ellis

Samuel Helenius, C, JYP, Liiga

DH pre-Draft: 49

Helenius is likely going to go higher in the NHL Draft than he should in your fantasy draft. His role is primarily as a defensive center and while he has flashed offensive ability at times, he has never been able to string together a long and sustained stretch of high-level offensive production. He is a capable scorer, particularly from in tight thanks to his long reach and excellent body positioning, but his rush-attack game is average at best and he will need to work on increasing his use of the power game. He has a big frame and has the strength to do it, especially against his peers, so the continued development of that area will go a long way toward securing him a plum role in the lineup. A reliable player with a safer floor than most day-2 prospects.

UPSIDE: 25-30-55 | **3YP:** 14-22-36 | **COMPARABLE:** Scott Laughton

Aidan Hreschuk, LD, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 56

Playing in the shadow of Sean Behrens and Luke Hughes for much of the year, Hreschuk enjoyed a solid yet unspectacular year. His offensive production was good and he was a capable power-play playmaker, but he didn't seem to take the step that many had assumed he would. That's not to say he was a bad player, though, as he consistently found ways onto the scoresheet and maintains the toolsy package that gave him such high esteem coming into last season. He will need to take his time developmentally and going to Boston College will be a good spot for him to do so. His physical game evolved a bit more this season and he has a good stick in transition, so there was some defensive development that was encouraging. He may be a longer-term prospect, but there is still plenty to like about Hreschuk's game.

UPSIDE: 7-33-40 | **3YP:** 6-23-29 | **COMPARABLE:** Nate Schmidt

Cole Huckins, C, Acadie-Bathurst, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: 53

A big, strong forward that uses his size to his advantage, Huckins is a modern-day power forward. The Acadie-Bathurst forward has some excellent positional versatility as a legitimate

(Huckins continued)

option at all three forward positions, but teams will push to have him play center because of his size, strength and overall two-way ability. He has a good shot from both off the rush and from a standstill, giving him a diverse set of scoring tools. His playmaking is smooth and crisp, but he does have a tendency to throw pucks to areas without a plan at times. As a fantasy asset, his ability to contribute to the hits, faceoffs and blocks columns should make him more valuable in leagues that count those stats, while less of a points-only threat.

UPSIDE: 25-28-53 | **3YP:** 21-18-39 | **COMPARABLE:** Pavel Buchnevich

Luke Hughes, LD, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 7

One of the best packages of pure talent in the Draft, Luke Hughes is an elite level skater with a predatory offensive mindset. He thrives on attacking off the rush, playing a run-and-gun style of game as the NHL is starting to move toward that a bit more. He is an excellent 'free-flow' player that can act as a rover, actively participating at both ends of the ice. His playmaking offensively is predicated on his ability to pass on the move and stay mobile throughout the offensive engagement. His defensive play is improving and his mobility and puck skills should make him a solid rush defender as he develops and fills out his 6-1 frame. There is big-time potential offensively with Hughes and going to Michigan should continue to aid him in his development.

UPSIDE: 14-46-60 | **3YP:** 8-33-41 | **COMPARABLE:** Morgan Rielly

Vincent Iorio, LD, Brandon, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 63

Iorio has been a bit of a divisive prospect through the draft process with some thinking that his offensive game had been muted by playing in Brandon's system, while others believe he will fit a more transitional role at the next level with underwhelming offensive production. His skating is good and while he will need to clean up some of his in-close agility, he is a very good athlete overall with some nice explosiveness. His defensive play is good when he's aggressive and pressuring his opponents. Iorio will be a player that brings a solid package but needs refinement. Sometimes, the ball of clay turns into a solid top-four defender, which could be the case here.

UPSIDE: 5-28-33 | **3YP:** 4-18-22 | **COMPARABLE:** Travis Sanheim

Brent Johnson, RD, Sioux Falls, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 40

Johnson was on the rise until an injury cut his Draft season short. He is one of the best defensemen in the Draft when it comes to retrieving a puck and evading a forecheck. He has some decision-making lapses at times when passing the puck, but he generally makes a solid first outlet and regularly shows that his crisp passing works in all three zones. He has a good wrist shot but as a defender, he doesn't get to display it as often. The Sioux Falls blueliner shows some good instincts when it comes to positioning and when to join the rush or offensive attack. He has the looks of a solid and quick turnaround defender that can be a capable contributor on offense.

UPSIDE: 7-32-39 | **3YP:** 4-22-26 | **COMPARABLE:** Noah Hanifin

Kent Johnson, C, Michigan, NCAA

DH pre-Draft: 11

The ultimate video game player in the sense that there are things Johnson can do with the puck that no one else in this year's crop can. His ability to get creative is impressive beyond belief at

(Johnson continued)

times. The issue in his game, however, is that he often doesn't play at the pace needed to make those things translatable. His skating is average at best and he struggles to be his line's driver despite his incredible passing ability. Of all of the top-10 range prospects, Johnson may be the least refined, but he also comes with possibly the highest ceiling thanks to his incredible skill level. The top boom-or-bust prospect of the 2021 class.

UPSIDE: 25-45-70 | **3YP:** 22-33-55 | **COMPARABLE:** Sebastian Aho

Wyatt Johnston, C, Windsor, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 74

Johnston's game is built around his intelligence. The Spitfires' center has the innate ability to adapt his playing style to his teammates and while he'll likely never succeed as the best player on his line, he is an excellent complementary center that plays to his linemates strengths. Whether it was with Jean-Luc Foudy or Will Cuylle in Windsor, or a number of the linemates at the 2021 World U18, Johnston showed his versatility. As an offensive weapon, his shot is the main draw. His quick release allows the puck to jump off his stick, as he locates it well. He is a simplistic but effective playmaker, as well, which allows him to not get pigeonholed as a sniper.

UPSIDE: 25-25-50 | **3YP:** 20-18-38 | **COMPARABLE:** Blake Coleman

Cole Jordan, RD, Moose Jaw, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 52

An incredibly raw athlete, Jordan is a rangy defender that uses his tools to their fullest extent. A fluid skater, he can generate power seemingly instantaneously and join the rush or start it with an aggressive, up-ice pass. He will need to refine his game a tad, but the potential to be a solid two-way transitional defenseman is there. He may not be the most fantasy-relevant prospect, but his ability to do a bit of everything will give him value in multi-cat leagues. His defensive acumen is impressive and his offensive potential is interesting, making him an intriguing prospect in the mid-rounds. A player to add to your watchlist to track his development.

UPSIDE: 6-30-36 | **3YP:** 4-18-22 | **COMPARABLE:** Brett Pesce

Oliver Kapanen, C, KalPa U20, SM-sarja

DH pre-Draft: 55

Oliver plays the game very differently than his cousin, Pittsburgh forward Kasperi Kapanen. His skating is actually the big knock against him, as he is average at best and sometimes struggles to accelerate to get a step up during a puck race. What the young Finn does well is anticipate the game at a high level. His calling card offensively is his goal scoring ability and whether its ripping a snap shot from the faceoff dot, or cleaning up a mess in the crease, Kapanen finds ways to find twine. His playmaking is limited, as he'll gets tunnel vision at times, but a goal-scoring, two-way center that plays with some physicality will be a hot commodity.

UPSIDE: 30-25-55 | **3YP:** 20-20-40 | **COMPARABLE:** Tanner Pearson

Dmitri Katelevsky, C/W, Kazan, VHL

DH pre-Draft: 58

A reliable two-way pivot, Katelevsky played pro hockey for the vast majority of this past season. This led to muted point totals, but he was successful at the VHL level, where he displayed the excellent off-puck anticipation that a 200-foot forward needs if he is going to enjoy success. He excels when using his smarts to anticipate plays both offensively and defensively. He is excellent

(Katelevsky continued)

at shutting plays down and then turning them around. He needs to speed up his decision-making offensively, but he has shown the ability to make some creative passes. He can get pushed to the outside a bit in the attacking zone. Katelevsky plays a consistent game all over the ice.

UPSIDE: 22-28-50 | **3YP:** 14-21-35 | **COMPARABLE:** Phillip Danault

Riley Kidney, C, Acadie-Bathurst, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

After a solid regular season, Kidney absolutely exploded in the playoffs to a tune of nearly two points per game. The Acadie-Bathurst center is a playmaker through and through. His on-ice vision continuously improved throughout the year and his 15 assists across 7 playoff games did nothing to dissuade that belief. He puts excellent touch on passes and finds ways to get pucks through thick traffic with a higher rate of success than most players at this stage of their careers. He lacks a goal-scoring touch and may never even top 20 goals at the NHL level, but the playmaking should translate.

UPSIDE: 21-44-65 | **3YP:** 16-33-39 | **COMPARABLE:** Mikael Backlund

Matthew Knies, W, Tri-City, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 80

Knies' draft-eligible season did not go as planned, as the Tri City forward struggled with consistency. While there were stretches of brilliance with multi-point effort after multi-point effort, there was also stretches of play where it just seemed like Knies wasn't able to translate his puck skills and speed toward any sort of production. His rank in the Draft will depend on whether the evaluator feels he's a player that finds ways to rack up points, or one that struggles for long periods. The raw skill and ability to embarrass an opponent are there – he has insane puck skills, but can also lack finish as both a scorer and passer. Big wild card.

UPSIDE: 21-37-58 | **3YP:** 13-26-39 | **COMPARABLE:** Kasperi Kapanen

Ville Koivunen, W, Karpat U20, SM-sarja

DH pre-Draft: 28

Koivunen is a player who has not been given the love he deserves save for a few in the prospect world. Playing on a line with fellow draftee, Samu Tuomaala, for much of the season, he was the playmaker and play driver of the line on most nights. While Tuomaala has the higher skill level and potential, it's Koivunen that could be the more valuable player at the end of the day. He plays such a smart and diagnostic game with the puck. He also does an excellent job of making everyone around him better and finds his way onto the scoresheet most nights. He may be an option in the late rounds of your fantasy draft, since the hype has been minimal thus far.

UPSIDE: 18-40-58 | **3YP:** 14-28-42 | **COMPARABLE:** Tomas Tatar

Ryder Korczak, C, Moose Jaw, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 32

Korczak is a skilled skater. His playmaking is high-end with an uncanny knack for finding the seam in the defensive structure no matter how small. This can lead to turnovers, but the quick and agile forward does a good job of making up for mistakes thanks to his wheels. His shot is good but he doesn't use it enough. Adding a bit more volume in that area could make him a more dangerous and diverse offensive threat. He is older than most in the Draft class, so we are seeing a player that's a bit closer to a finished product than most. He may not have blown the doors off

(Korczak continued)

last season on an underwhelming Moose Jaw team, but his points-per-game pace and continued development as a skater are promising.

UPSIDE: 23-40-63 | **3YP:** 14-29-43 | **COMPARABLE:** Ryan Nugent-Hopkins

Dmitri Kostenko, RD, Togliatti, VHL**DH pre-Draft:** 76

Has a major boom-or-bust label tied to his game. For one, he's an offensive defenseman that could care less about the defensive side of things most of the time. His penchant for attacking up ice with the puck and being the creator on a shift was a factor of his superb offensive talent and his team's inability to do it themselves. He has some impressive maneuverability with and without the puck that allows him to get into good positions to generate play. He is efficient and skilled in man-advantage situations and should find ways to put up points if he makes it to the NHL. However, he could be held back if he doesn't round things out.

UPSIDE: 7-29-36 | **3YP:** 4-20-24 | **COMPARABLE:** Alex Goligoski

Dmitri Kuzmin, D, Dinamo-Molodechno, Belarus**DH pre-Draft:** 51

One of the most skilled defenders available this year, Kuzmin is a Belarusian blueliner who showed out at the World Under 18, as he scored a lacrosse-type goal – yes, as a defender – and pushed the pace of play against some of the best teams in the tournament without much help from his roster. His puck skills are incredibly impressive and his shiftiness with the rubber disc makes him dangerous whenever he's handling it. There are some defensive flaws to worry about, but nothing too major that further development and maturity won't fix. He may be a bit of a longer burn as a prospect, but the skill and cerebral attitude should be worth a late flyer in fantasy if you can stash him for a couple years, or keep him on your watchlist.

UPSIDE: 10-38-48 | **3YP:** 6-29-35 | **COMPARABLE:** Cam Fowler

Zachary L'Heureux, C/W, Halifax, QMJHL**DH pre-Draft:** 31

If L'Heureux would stop being suspended, that'd be great. The Halifax star is an incredibly talented power forward with a great shot, excellent physicality and an underrated passing game. His willingness to engage physically in all three zones, drop a shoulder and drive the net, or mix it up in the crease are all traits that teams in the NHL absolutely love in their lineup. His suspensions have come largely from fights and surpassing the QMJHL limits on such things but, he has had a couple of less-than-ideal moments this season, which has started to garner attention. A total of four suspensions in a shortened season is concerning.

UPSIDE: 33-45-78 | **3YP:** 25-25-50 | **COMPARABLE:** Matthew Tkachuk

Carson Lambos, LD, Winnipeg, WHL**DH pre-Draft:** 30

The pandemic forced players into unique and uncomfortable situations and Lambos was among the first to jump ship from the CHL to playing in Europe. His play in Finland was average at best, but he was clearly adjusting to the larger ice surface and learning how to play a different style of game. While he enjoyed flashes of what made him a top-10 prospect to start the year, the inconsistency was wild. His return to Canada when the WHL rebooted lasted just two games before a medical issue forced him out of the lineup, unfortunately. While the tools are still there –

(Lambos continued)

powerful skating and aggressive offensive instinct combined with a good defensive stick in transition – the whole package never really came together last season. Lambos is a first-round wild card; where he ends up on Draft Day will be interesting.

UPSIDE: 12-34-46 | **3YP:** 7-24-31 | **COMPARABLE:** Damon Severson

Tristan Lennox, G, Saginaw, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 78

With no games to his season because of COVID-19, Lennox's statistical log this year is missing from the books. While he is a bit of a wild card because of this, he has shown to be a more than capable goaltender in the past. His play for Saginaw as a rookie in the 2018-19 playoffs was impressive to say the least, he went through an up-and-down sophomore effort one year later – he was able to string together some wins, but also had streaks of just downright poor play.

Playing a larger workload likely played a factor in that, but the technical elements of his game are solid and he has displayed excellent athleticism in the past. A wait-and-see prospect.

UPSIDE: Starting NHL Goalie

Connor Lockhart, C, Erie, OHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

Here's one of the harder players to evaluate, as he failed to get into game action this past season. However, he is a good player with nice puck skills that would have most likely moved up the draft boards had an OHL season gotten underway. His biggest issue in his draft minus-1 season, though, was that he didn't have the strength to battle through traffic despite his hands being upper level. With a year off to work out and improve his strength, Lockhart should be a player worth watching as he brings silky hands and smooth playmaking with a decent amount of creativity. The layoff may scare some teams and fantasy owners, but give him a year on your watchlist and see how he does next season.

UPSIDE: 23-35-58 | **3YP:** 16-23-39 | **COMPARABLE:** Ondrej Palat

Chaz Lucius, C/W, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 17

One of the best goal scorers in the 2021 NHL Draft, Lucius is uber skilled and does a good job of finding his way into the scoring areas. He missed much of the year with a lower-body injury, but returned in February and scored at a goal-per-game pace over a short 13-game stretch. He has some skating concerns which may move him to the wing at the next level, but he has shown improvement despite the injury. His hands in tight are quite nifty and his ability to score from the top of the circles and down is as good as just about anyone else in his class. Will be heading to the U. of Minnesota to develop and gain more strength after a season lost largely to injury.

UPSIDE: 40-30-70 | **3YP:** 25-25-50 | **COMPARABLE:** Max Pacioretty

Fabian Lysell, W, Lulea HF, SHL

DH pre-Draft: 5

Lysell plays an extremely up-tempo game that attacks the defender before they can make a move. He has the skill to beat an adversary wide and the deception to cut to the inside when opportunities arise. He needs to learn to rein in the speed at times, but the high-octane Swede has some very nice offensive upside. His effort level rarely wanes and his defensive game took a big step when he was traded to Lulea at the midseason mark. Playing in the SHL forced him to

(Lysell continued)

commit defensively and although the points didn't shoot through the roof, Lysell was killing it with his innate ability to drive play forward and attack opponent defenses.

UPSIDE: 32-48-80 | **3YP:** 20-35-55 | **COMPARABLE:** Nikolaj Ehlers

James Malatesta, C/W, Quebec, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: 91

Malatesta has been a difficult player to gauge due to decent but not overwhelming results in the QMJHL this past season. He plays it fast thanks to his excellent skating and willingness to push the intensity meter. He puts in a solid effort and plays a more physical game than one would expect from a slightly undersized player. His scoring rates didn't increase from his previous season, which is a bit of a concern, but the skill and speed were on display fairly regularly. There is a nice package to Malatesta but there will need to be some solid commitment to player development and he will need to become a bit more aggressive in the offensive end of the ice. He could end up being a decent option in a multi-cat format.

UPSIDE: 30-35-65 | **3YP:** 20-20-40 | **COMPARABLE:** Yanni Gourde

Aleksi Malinen, LD, JYP, Liiga

DH pre-Draft: 66

Has good mobility in all directions and shows some very nice edgework working around the ice. His defensive game is fine, but he'll need to continue improving as he starts moving up through his developmental path. He is very patient with the puck and waits for the passing lanes to open as he evades pressure, but he can sometimes be too patient. He will need to work on increasing his panic threshold in order to better confront incoming forecheckers. As an offensive contributor, Malinen shows some nice passing ability. He makes good crisp passes both on the breakout and in the offensive zone, looking for the open man at all times. He may not blow the doors off offensively, but he projects as a second- or third-pair defender at the NHL level.

UPSIDE: 6-28-34 | **3YP:** 2-20-22 | **COMPARABLE:** Alex Goligoski

Jacob Martin, RD, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 38

Martin is the U.S. National Team Development Program's under-the-radar player this season. He has been a steady contributor, playing a smart defensive game that relies on intelligent stick work and angling. He quickly turns play around using his strong positioning and quick thinking on the breakout. He isn't likely to quarterback a power play at the next level, but he should be a capable contributor at even strength because of his quick defensive and transitional game. While he will need to get a bit stronger and add more physicality to his game, what we have here is a potential top-four, modern-day defensive blueliner.

UPSIDE: 7-32-39 | **3YP:** 4-21-25 | **COMPARABLE:** Jared Spurgeon

Ayrton Martino, W, Omaha, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 18

From the OJHL to the BCHL and finally the USHL, Martino has been on a quite journey since the pandemic hit. He plays a high-energy offensive game that produces a boatload of highlights. He isn't the fastest of players when he hits top speed, but his acceleration and agility give him the edge more often than not in puck races. He is a silky-smooth playmaker, identifying passing lanes all over the offensive zone. He also boasts the unique ability to pass from different hand positions

(Martino continued)

- whether it is a hook pass or passing cross-body with his hands up close and tight, Martino's mitts translate to his entire game. His defense needs work at even strength, but he's excellent on the PK. There could be big-time points potential here.

UPSIDE: 30-50-80 | **3YP:** 22-38-60 | **COMPARABLE:** T.J. Oshie

Mason McTavish, C, Peterborough, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 8

Whether it was in the Swiss League or at the Under-18, McTavish's stock seemed to rise every time he stepped on the ice this year. With a robust frame and impressive strength for a player his age, McTavish does an excellent job of bringing out his power game to go along with skill. His skating has improved in a major way since the last time he played with Peterborough of the OHL. The young Canadian has a big-time shot that can beat goalies clean from distance, while his power game gets him to opportune areas around the net. He is one of the Draft's best players off the cycle and should be able to add a physical and goal-scoring element to any team's top-six.

UPSIDE: 40-40-80 | **3YP:** 25-25-50 | **COMPARABLE:** Joe Pavelski

Verner Miettinen, C, Kiekko-Espoo U20, SM-sarja

DH pre-Draft: NR

Miettinen is a bit of a boom-or-bust player that could nonetheless turn into a quality secondary scoring option if his tools translate as he moves up levels. His shot is quite good, popping off his stick with haste. He is good on his feet and possesses excellent speed when he gets going. He shows good agility and quickness in small areas, as well, which is another promising sign. His passing can be very good at times, but he often looks off passes and elects to hold onto the puck. He needs to utilize his teammates more, since his passing skill is actually quite good. Miettinen will be an interesting prospect to watch develop if the right team selects him on Draft Day.

UPSIDE: 25-25-50 | **3YP:** 14-20-34 | **COMPARABLE:** Andrew Mangiapane

Scott Morrow, RD, Shattuck USHS-Prep

DH pre-Draft: 19

An incredibly smooth-skating defender with some big-time potential. Morrow possesses some of the most incredible four-way mobility in the class with the ability to stop and start with more precision and agility than most NHL blueliners. He attacks every play regardless of whether his team has the puck or not. Defensively, he is quick and decisive with no hesitation when thwarting the rush. Offensively, he pushes the pace to a degree that many defenders couldn't dream of. He funnels the puck to middle of the ice and has the feet to get it there himself should he spot an opportunity. His play at the U.S. high school level was incredibly impressive, but seeing how well he played in a big role during the USHL playoffs was quite a sight. While any high school prospect is a risk, Morrow presents a high reward for anyone willing to take it.

UPSIDE: 10-43-53 | **3YP:** 5-28-33 | **COMPARABLE:** Mikhail Sergachev

Oleksii Myklukha, C, Rouyn-Noranda, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

His season was somewhat disappointing if we are being honest, but the skill that intrigues scouts is still there. He has the type of breakaway speed that can force opponents into mistakes. He has very good vision and knows just how to time a pass properly. He needs to get stronger physically, though, so that he does not get pushed around as much as he does right now. He is a playmaker

(Myklukha continued)

at heart, but his shot is perfectly good enough – he just needs to use it a bit more often from high danger areas. He has a bad habit of staying too far to the outside, which mitigates his dangerous play. He is a big swing in the late rounds, but could be worth a watchlist addition or a flier late in the process.

UPSIDE: 21-34-55 | **3YP:** 12-21-33 | **COMPARABLE:** Alex Wennberg

Evan Nause, LD, Quebec, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: 48

A defensive blueliner that shows traits of being able to produce offensively from time to time. Projections for Nause across the prospect world are varied to a great degree. Some observers believe that there may be secondary power-play potential in his game, while others feel like he could be a quality third-pair defender. If there's one thing that everyone can agree on, though, it's that Nause is one of the best defenders available when it comes to dealing with a forecheck. His ability to read one as he chases the puck into a corner is impressive, as he always seems to have his escape route planned out a step or two ahead. His ability to turn plays around quickly could lead to some offensive production. He may be worth waiting for. Nice late-round target.

UPSIDE: 6-33-39 | **3YP:** 2-18-21 | **COMPARABLE:** Esa Lindell

Oskar Olausson, W, HV71 J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 26

Olausson is a Swedish prospect that's been getting lost in the shuffle amongst the country's strong class for the 2021 Draft. He is an excellent transitional forward that excels when he's skating the puck through the middle of the ice. He works off his edges quite well and although he doesn't have the level of skill that could make him an elite transitional player, he does an excellent job of getting the puck from point A to point B. He's also be a better overall passer if decided to use his teammates a bit more consistently. Olausson uses his speed in all three zones and his work ethic rarely wanes. Like much of the 2021 class, the upside is somewhat questionable, but the potential for a quality transitional middle-sixer is there considering his tools.

UPSIDE: 25-35-60 | **3YP:** 18-23-41 | **COMPARABLE:** Alexander Kerfoot

Robert Orr, LW, Halifax, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: 65

The new Bobby Orr is on the scene! The Halifax forward made a name for himself with a few highlight reel plays during his draft season. He isn't a player that necessarily sits in high danger areas, but rather one that swoops in at the right time to collects rebounds or tip shots from distance as he crosses the goalie's sight lane. A very creative passer with a willingness to use the boards or feather passes from difficult hand and/or body positions. Plays a bit too much on the outside when he isn't swooping through the home plate area, which is going to have to change as he moves up to more physical leagues. His offensive potential is fairly uncertain, since he is such a raw prospect, but the hope is that Orr can work his tools with a bit more cohesiveness.

UPSIDE: 27-32-59 | **3YP:** 21-17-38 | **COMPARABLE:** Kevin Fiala

Brennan Othmann, W, EHC Olten, SL

DH pre-Draft: 34

Othmann was one of the first players to travel overseas from the OHL, as he joined EHC Olten of the Swiss League. His improvement from his rookie season in the OHL was impressive. He

(Othmann continued)

seemed more confident against men and brought an element of physicality to the game that wasn't previously there. He has a very good wrist shot, which he whips off the rush, or sets up in the zone with equal effectiveness. The pass-first mindset that he had in the OHL was less of a deterrent on his ability to score in the Swiss League, as he was more consistently involved in the play below the dots. He has a bit of a pest-demeanor to his game, as well, which is another nice quality teams look for, that is, players that walk the line without crossing it.

UPSIDE: 30-35-65 | **3YP:** 22-26-48 | **COMPARABLE:** Brayden Schenn

Sasha Pastujov, W, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 47

The U.S. National Team Development Program's most consistent scorer for much of the year, Pastujov is an impressive offensive player at the junior level. His biggest flaw is in his mobility, though, which is why there is concern. No one is questioning his offensive ability, but where and when they would draft him is another question. Pastujov is a good shooter and puts himself in the best position to score. He finds the soft spots and fades in and out of zones to ensure that he has the time and space to unleash his shot. His playmaking can at times leave a bit to be desired, but the young American has displayed some slick passing ability on occasion. He needs to get around the ice with a bit more urgency. Potential power-play threat at the NHL level.

UPSIDE: 32-27-59 | **3YP:** 24-21-45 | **COMPARABLE:** Victor Olofsson

Jack Peart, LD, Fargo, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 41

Splitting his season between Grand Rapids High School and Fargo of the USHL, Peart showed that he was a dominant in both places. He has the ability to close on attacking forwards and maintain good gap or win foot races for pucks while managing a forecheck at an impressive level. He plays with deception, utilizing head fakes and good hands to throw off his opponents and free up time and space. In the offensive zone, he has a good shot and projectable passing, but his impact isn't likely going to be felt as a top power-play option. He walks the blue line well and evades traffic to open passing and shooting lanes. The potential for him to figure it out offensively is there.

UPSIDE: 6-38-44 | **3YP:** 3-21-24 | **COMPARABLE:** Mattias Ekholm

Francesco Pinelli, C, Kitchener, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 25

One of the most intelligent forwards in this year's Draft, Pinelli will pick apart his opponents with his passing game and then threaten them as a shooter. He doesn't always play with the pace you'd like to see from a high-end prospect, but his intellect makes up for it more often than not. He did show a bit more pace this past season, albeit in a small sample, and looked particularly good at the World U18, helping Canada to a gold medal. Pinelli brings a nice compete level, as well. He will need to get stronger, though, as he physically matures, but his mind is already ahead of the game. It is not really a question of whether Pinelli will be an NHLer, it's mostly one of how far his skating and pace will take him.

UPSIDE: 31-38-69 | **3YP:** 18-24-42 | **COMPARABLE:** David Krejci

Oscar Plandowski, RD, Charlottetown, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

A smooth-skating defender that loves to join the rush, even if it's not always appropriate at the time. He likes to take risks and uses his mobility to make up for it when he does make a mistake.

(Plandowski continued)

There is a lot to like in Plandowski's game when you look at the raw tools that make an NHLer, but at the same time, he rarely finds a way to put them together consistently. He may display his mobility and big shot on one shift and then be an overly-reserved defensive presence on another. He's still trying to figure out what kind of player he is, which makes his projection a bit more difficult. There is quite a bit of risk with Plandowski, but if you can get him late, there could be a good depth blue line piece on a fantasy or NHL roster.

UPSIDE: 8-24-32 | **3YP:** 4-18-22 | **COMPARABLE:** Nick Jensen

Prokhor Poltakov, W, Krasnaya Armiya, MHL**DH pre-Draft: 84**

A power forward in a league where they are few and far between. Poltakov is a unique talent coming out of the MHL, Russia's top junior league. His ability to drop his shoulder and drive the net or power his way through traffic is impressive, but there are concerns that doing it in the MHL is fairly easy, since very few players actually play with the physical edge it takes to thwart that kind of attack – especially at the junior level. He has some good skill and shoots with aplomb, but he doesn't really have game-breaking ability. He will certainly be a player that could help out a bit in multi-cat leagues should he bring the physicality with a bit more consistency.

UPSIDE: 25-30-55 | **3YP:** 20-20-40 | **COMPARABLE:** Andre Burakovsky

Owen Power, LD, Michigan, NCAA**DH pre-Draft: 6**

Power has been atop most draft boards for the vast majority of the draft calendar thanks to his massive frame and impressive straight-line speed. The 6-6 defender played a key role for Michigan in the NCAA this season before having a good performance at the Men's Worlds with Team Canada. He has some work to do throughout his game and likely should spend at least one more year in the NCAA. He is incredible as a puck rusher who drives up ice with good speed. He falters at times once in the zone and hesitates a bit too long which can leave him exposed low in the offensive zone. He very well could be the best defender overall in the bunch because of the incredible natural tools he is blessed with, but there is work to do.

UPSIDE: 10-35-45 | **3YP:** 7-25-32 | **COMPARABLE:** Tyler Myers

Aatu Raty, D, Karpat, Liiga**DH pre-Draft: 9**

Once considered one of the top-rated players for the 2021 Draft, Raty has somewhat slid down boards following an underwhelming draft year. His potential as a low-end No.1 center or 1A/1B type of player isn't as shiny as it once was. What remains, however, are the tools that made him the player everyone once projected quite highly. His wrist shot remains one of his more impressive traits, popping off his stick. A good skater with a pro-ready frame that can transition the puck with the best of them, he understands how to push play in the right direction. He may not project quite as highly as he once did, but he should fill a second-line center role with some goal scoring, quality two-way effort and heady transitional play.

UPSIDE: 30-40-70 | **3YP:** 25-25-50 | **COMPARABLE:** Ryan O'Reilly

Peter Reynolds, D, Saint John, QMJHL**DH pre-Draft: 73**

Reynolds is a high-work rate player that pushes defenders back with his speed and quickness. He has impressive wheels and utilizes them in all three zones. He has a slight frame, so he'll need to

(Reynolds continued)

add some muscle and strength, but as long as he can keep his swift wheels running, which shouldn't be an issue, he'll very likely become an effective middle-six contributor. Reynolds flashes some very high-level puck skill with creative and deceptive hands, pairing them with his agility and quickness in the offensive zone. The consistency of his top end is the biggest question, though. As a fantasy option, his value may be muted depending on whether or not those skills translate. Could be worth a late-round flyer, especially if he starts tearing up junior hockey.

UPSIDE: 22-36-58 | **3YP:** 16-23-39 | **COMPARABLE:** Andreas Athanasiou

Simon Robertsson, W, Skelleftea J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 13

The young Swede is one of the best shooters in his Draft class. Robertsson's ability to threaten from all over the offensive zone is impressive to say the least. He is able to use his snap shot from above the dots and beat goalies clean or penetrate the slot and pick a corner. His passing ability is fairly inconsistent, showing off some nice touch on one play to set up a scoring chance and then air-mailing a pass that's whistled down for icing on the next shift. His skating is another strength, as he is able to get the puck moving through the neutral zone in order to attack with speed. There is some concern that he may not be able to stay as effective of a scorer if he's not on the rush, but there are plenty of examples of his shot doing its job in all situations.

UPSIDE: 35-32-67 | **3YP:** 25-18-43 | **COMPARABLE:** Kyle Connor

Justin Robidas, C, Val-d'Or, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

The Val D'Or center and son of former NHLer Stephane Robidas is one of the more divisive players in the class of 2021. He is undersized and while the NHL is trending smaller and diminutive players are creating impact, the concern will probably always be present. Robidas plays to the outside fairly consistently, as he struggles to get to the middle of the ice in the attacking zone, certainly not for lack for effort, though. He needs to get stronger. His passing is creative and there are some interesting traits as an offensive playmaker, especially when you see how he processes the game and attacks. Classic undersized boom-or-bust player.

UPSIDE: 25-25-50 | **3YP:** 15-22-37 | **COMPARABLE:** Connor Brown

Isak Rosen, W, Leksand J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 16

If Rosen's name wasn't being mentioned in conversations regarding this year's first round prior to the Under 18, it better well be now. The shifty and agile Swede brings a ton of firepower to the table. His skating is flawless on most nights and his ability to feign directional changes, look off defenders and manipulate play when the puck is on his stick is incredibly effective and fun to watch. Rosen is an excellent shooter with a quick release and a nose for the net. His motor can come into question at times defensively. He is an offensive creator at heart and that's the reason you should be drafting him if you're an NHL team or fantasy owner. The upside is high-end if he continues adding strength and rounding out his two-way play.

UPSIDE: 28-48-76 | **3YP:** 22-22-44 | **COMPARABLE:** Mathew Barzal

Joshua Roy, C, Sherbrooke, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

Roy had a weirder season than most players, which is saying a lot considering the pandemic raging on throughout last season. A midseason trade from Saint John to Sherbrooke was

(Roy continued)

supposed to allow him to boost his draft stock, but his stat line remained roughly the same. He is a tactical player that picks his spots and puts his creativity on display when given the chance. His 200-foot game has improved a bit thanks to a more consistent effort, but there is still work to do. He works well off the cycle and does a good job through traffic and in board battles. He needs to play with a bit more pace through the neutral zone, though, as his game can get a bit stagnant at times. Roy is an effective forward with some creativity and high IQ.

UPSIDE: 26-31-57 | **3YP:** 20-18-38 | **COMPARABLE:** Nino Niederreiter

Martin Rysavy, W, Prerov, Czech2

DH pre-Draft: 85

A speedy playmaker that loves getting involved on the forecheck, Rysavy is a player that might end up surprising people. Due to the fact that he played in the second Czech league, he wasn't seen very often last year, but those who did watch him witnessed a lot of translatable skills. His skating allows him to pressure both offensively and when in puck pursuit. He can be a hound through the neutral zone. While his defensive play can be of the hit-or-miss variety in his own end, he puts provides effort all over the ice. As an attacker, his passing ability is impressive. He blends the skill and speed of his playmaking with high work rate and forechecking prowess to combine for an interesting prospect that will likely fly under the radar in both the NHL Draft and your fantasy hockey setup. Keep an eye on the young forward.

UPSIDE: 20-30-50 | **3YP:** 15-20-35 | **COMPARABLE:** Andrew Copp

Samu Salminen, C, Jokerit U20, SM-sarja

DH pre-Draft: 44

An intelligent center with size, Salminen is sure to attract NHL attention earlier than some would expect at the NHL Draft. His skating is his one major flaw, but he plays with great anticipation in all three zones. His offensive skill is quite impressive, as he has a good shot and soft touch as a passer. He is able to spot and feather a pass across ice from above the dots, or work off the cycle and spot a man in the middle. Salminen has shown the ability to ably use his 6-2 frame when needed, but he doesn't impose his will on a consistent basis, which would be nice to see at the junior level. Should he improve his skating, there could be a very valuable player in Salminen, but there are concerns as to whether he can keep up at the NHL level.

UPSIDE: 26-36-62 | **3YP:** 17-18-35 | **COMPARABLE:** Kevin Hayes

Matthew Samoskevich, W, Chicago, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 42

The Chicago Steel have been an NHL draft factory for prospects recently and Samoskevich is one of the most fun players to watch come out of the program. His instinctual puck skill is impressive and his ability to seemingly bounce around the offensive zone is unique. He plays a very creative game that can make for some very impressive highlights. He is a skilled passer that relies on being able to find teammates attacking the net. He is a good but not great shooter with a knack for picking corners rather than beating a goalie with a powerful shot. He will fake a pass to dangle on one rush and then fake the dangle and pass on the next rush, which creates deception moving up ice. He should score at the NHL level, but the question will be how much.

UPSIDE: 22-42-64 | **3YP:** 14-30-44 | **COMPARABLE:** Jakub Vrana

Red Savage, C/W, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 72

Every year, the U.S. National Team Development Program seems to produce a quality player that's somewhat buried in their lineup due to their abundance of talent. Savage is the player a lot of analysts like in that sense. His motor and consistency are what jump off the screen right away. His sneaky skill and understanding of what to do next on any given play will make him a player coaches can lean on in important moments. In fact, Savage's skill is what makes many believe he could develop into more if given the opportunity. He rarely overcomplicates things. Instead, he'll make the simple, correct play time after time, but he will bust out a dirty dangle once in a while. Savage could be sneaky valuable in fantasy leagues that count hits and other peripherals.

UPSIDE: 20-31-51 | **3YP:** 15-18-33 | **COMPARABLE:** Zach Hyman

Cole Sillinger, C, Medicine Hat, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 14

There may not be a better shooter in the 2021 class than Sillinger. He seems to score from everywhere on the ice. His mobility has been improving, but it will need to continue that way if he wants to reach his full potential as the best goal scorer in this group. With legitimate 40-goal potential and a pro-ready frame, Sillinger is going to attract a lot of eyes on draft night. He may wind up on the wing at the next level, but that should not impact his goal scoring in any way. His playmaking is a bit selfish at times, as he looks off passes to take lesser shots a bit too often. That said, there is a reason he does it. It's because he has the better odds of scoring. With major scoring potential, Sillinger is going to be a hot commodity in fantasy drafts.

UPSIDE: 42-38-80 | **3YP:** 28-27-55 | **COMPARABLE:** Bo Horvat

Logan Stankoven, C/W, Kamloops, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 20

By this point, we've heard it all from he's too short to he's not quick enough. The fact of the matter is that Stankoven is one of the top players available and if he falls into the second round, there could be a lot of teams feeling pretty stupid. For starters, he is a top-five shooter in all situations within his class. His 200-foot game is impressive despite his size, as Stankoven truly plays without fear and doesn't let stature impact his play. He does everything that a smaller player does to be successful at the next level, combining elite-level awareness, a strong frame and intelligent play in all three zones – everything is built into a motor that doesn't stop. Stankoven may end up being the steal of the Draft when it is all said and done. Don't shy away from taking him fairly early in your fantasy draft, either.

UPSIDE: 40-45-85 | **3YP:** 27-27-54 | **COMPARABLE:** Brayden Point

Elias Stenman, C, Skellefteå J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 94

A highly intelligent forward that plays with a good level of skill. Stenman has flown under the radar for a lot of folks, but thanks to some impressive play at the J20 Nationell and Hockey Ettan levels this season, he should be more of a hot commodity. A classic, skilled sleeper pick, Stenman plays the game with intent on every play. He may not be the flashiest passer or playmaker, but he is always looking to make his teammates better. He is a bit slight and will need to get stronger and bulkier, but that will come with physical maturity. He may not be a player that you jump all over in your fantasy draft, but he is an intriguing flier for the late rounds.

UPSIDE: 22-32-54 | **3YP:** 16-18-34 | **COMPARABLE:** Anthony Beauvillier

Chase Stillman, W, Sudbury, OHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

With a motor that never quits and flashes of offensive flair, Stillman shows NHL potential. He stays engaged in every play and shows a willingness to play in any role that's asked of him. Aside from his work ethic, he does not possess a true standout skill or quality, but all of his tools play up when working together. At times, his shot has looked good with some solid pop. His playmaking has been inconsistent, but it does show signs of high-end ability. If he wants to be more than just a bottom-six scorer and energy guy, he needs to continue working on his puck skills and offensive tools. All in all, he should provide value in whatever role he fills, especially in multi-cat leagues, where he can provide a bit of everything.

UPSIDE: 26-28-54 | **3YP:** 17-19-36 | **COMPARABLE:** Craig Smith

Victor Stjernborg, C, Vaxjo J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 89

A highly competitive, high-energy forward with an endless motor. His offensive tools are solid, but play up a bit because of his nonstop effort. He plays an excellent two-way game, giving full effort on the backcheck and during defensive coverage. His shot is one of his better offensive tools, but he'll need to continue driving into high-danger areas for it to be most effective, since he's not going to be able to score from distance on a consistent basis at the next level. As a playmaker, he finds open teammates regularly and has decent touch when feathering the puck through traffic. At the end of the day, Stjernborg may not be the most prolific offensive player, but his effort and compete level will make him valuable in multi-cat leagues that count hits and blocks.

UPSIDE: 26-29-55 | **3YP:** 14-16-30 | **COMPARABLE:** Joel Eriksson Ek

William Stromgren, W, MODO J20, Nationell

DH pre-Draft: 43

A physical package that would attract any scout, Stromgren is one of the most intriguing players in the Draft. His skating can be impressive when he gets his feet moving and drives up ice. When you combine that with his big frame and sneaky silky mitts, he has the potential to be a very effective player at the next level. The big issue is that the consistency wanes. He looks like a surefire first-rounder in some games, while in others, you may pause and wonder if the fourth round is too high. Stromgren looked very good as last year went on, finding some of that consistency for a stretch before the season came to a close. While he could develop into a good player for an NHL team and even your fantasy club, he could also wind up being a career SHLer.

UPSIDE: 27-35-62 | **3YP:** 24-20-44 | **COMPARABLE:** Alex Tuch

Fyodor Svechkov, W, Togliatti, VHL

DH pre-Draft: 15

Togliatti was not a good team this past season, but Svechkov was very good for them. The young Russian plays one of the most NHL-ready games of any prospect in this year's class. His defensive presence and understanding are advanced beyond his years. While playing for the Russian U18 squad, his offensive ability was put itself on display with greater frequency thanks to superior teammates, but it was his 200-foot game that sprung everything together. Whether he was stripping the puck from an opponent to start the rush, or cutting off a pass and moving up ice himself, his defensive consistency led to offensive chances. He may not have No.1 center upside, but he could be among the top two-way centers in the game if he continues pushing it.

UPSIDE: 25-35-60 | **3YP:** 20-21-41 | **COMPARABLE:** Jordan Staal

Stanislav Svozil, LD, Kometa Brno, Czech

DH pre-Draft: 23

Svozil is a bit of a mystery defenseman in that his projections are all over the place. He is a good skater that can carry the puck up ice with quality puck-handling ability and evasive footwork on his crossovers. He just doesn't seem to do it as often as one would expect. His shot from the blue line is heavy and accurate, as well, which is a good sign. He needs to work on his decision-making in all three zones to ensure that his play doesn't end up doing his team more harm than good. Svozil is a hot commodity. He may be a player that winds up being drafted somewhat early in your fantasy draft, but he is primarily a defensive player, so do remember that his upside is limited. There is some room for growth and he should have solid value in the NHL, but don't expect him to a high scorer.

UPSIDE: 6-28-36 | **3YP:** 3-18-22 | **COMPARABLE:** Travis Sanheim

Jiri Tichacek, LD, Rytiri Kladno, Czech2

DH pre-Draft: 64

An interesting boom-or-bust prospect that may not be drafted until fairly late in this year's NHL Draft, Tichacek brings some intriguing potential. Playing in the Czech Republic against men despite his smallish stature, he has shown that he can deal with many of the physical rigors of pro hockey. He is a creative and play-driving defender with incredible pace. In all likelihood, there's a long road ahead of him, which will be cause for pause on Draft Day, but the potential to develop into something special as a late-round pick exists. His ability to defend the rush thanks to his stick work is impressive, as well. With high-end puck skills, high-pace mindset and two-way ability, Tichacek is a sneaky-good dark horse.

UPSIDE: 4-32-36 | **3YP:** 3-16-19 | **COMPARABLE:** Matt Grzelcyk

William Trudeau, LD, Charlottetown, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

If Trudeau makes it to the NHL, it's because he will have rounded out his game beyond the offensive, puck-rusher that he currently is. That said, if he makes it to the show, he should be able to find ways to contribute some numbers. He shows the confidence needed to lead the rush and he uses evasive skating to weave his way to the offensive zone. His defensive play will need some major work, though, as he is very hit-or-miss in his own end. Being somewhat more patient defensively will also go a long way, as he often jumps at the attacker and can open himself up to being beat wide. While he could conceivably quarterback a power play, he likely profiles as a decent second power-play option instead.

UPSIDE: 6-31-37 | **3YP:** 3-18-21 | **COMPARABLE:** Nikita Zaitsev

Sean Tschigerl, W, Calgary, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 83

Thanks to a nice blend of speed and power, Tschigerl is a name that has been hotly debated in 2021. He works his way through a lot of problems on the ice with his quick-burst acceleration, helping him pull away from crowds and getting the upper hand in puck races. He likes to drive to the net and doesn't shy away from contact in order to do so. Protecting the puck well, he is able to work his way around the offensive zone and straight to the slot. Tschigerl possesses a solid defensive game, as well, which should give him some value with blocks and hits – he is unafraid to engage. Tschigerl may not have high-end upside, but could be a fairly good fantasy asset.

UPSIDE: 28-25-53 | **3YP:** 21-18-39 | **COMPARABLE:** Chris Kreider

Samu Tuomaala, W, Karpat U20, SM-sarja

DH pre-Draft: 29

The Finnish sniper put together a solid season as an NHL Draft-eligible. His performance in the U20 league in Finland was solid, but it's his U18 performance that truly won the hearts of scouts. He seemed to score all of Finland's crucial goals and when he wasn't the player finding twine, he was generally the setup man. As is generally the case, he was playing with a high level of confidence and the scoring followed suit. Tuomaala is a great skater, he attacks the play with speed. His edgework is very good when he works his way around the ice. When Tuomaala is at his best, he qualifies as one of the most dangerous scorers of the 2021 Draft class. However, his tendency to disappear at times and/or float a bit has given some pause as to just how dangerous he will be as he moves through the leagues on his way to the NHL.

UPSIDE: 37-34-71 | **3YP:** 27-21-48 | **COMPARABLE:** Brock Boeser

Pavel Tyutnev, C/W, Loko, MHL

DH pre-Draft: 87

An offensive-minded, overaged forward that could be a valuable fantasy asset, or absolutely nothing. Tyutnev uses his speed and skating to open up passing and shooting lanes regularly and he possesses all of the other requisite skills to take advantage of the opportunities he finds. The young Russian is a quality puck-handler, showing ample-enough skill to retrieve bad passes with ease. His lack of a defensive game is a big red flag, though, and one that will likely cause him to be passed over in the Draft. His offensive potential is what makes him one of the top overaged players in the class. If you want to take a big swing, he might just be your guy.

UPSIDE: 24-27-52 | **3YP:** 18-21-39 | **COMPARABLE:** Andreas Johnsson

Ryan Ufko, RD, Chicago, USHL

DH pre-Draft: 79

Ufko is an offense-first blueliner who has shown some improvements defensively, but it can't stop there if he wishes to carve out an NHL career at some point. A good passer that can run a power play with efficiency, his ability to find teammates across ice or down low is impressive as he unloads passes through traffic and finds tape. The Steel defender is a good skater, but lacks that upper gear that one would like to see from a defenseman that plays his style of game. He evades checkers through the neutral zone with good puck skills and crossovers to change his skating lane. There is a lot to like in his game, but there's also a lot to work to do. An excellent project.

UPSIDE: 6-30-36 | **3YP:** 4-20-24 | **COMPARABLE:** Ryan Murray

Ty Voit, W, Sarnia, OHL

DH pre-Draft: 60

The game tape on Voit in the last year has been limited to say the least, but there's no denying the energy that the undersized forward brings to the table, all mixed within a nice blend of speed and skill. He may be the best OHLer that didn't find another team to play this past year, which is unfortunate because Voit was poised for a breakout season when one considers the expected added size and strength of an extra year in age. Despite his smallish stature, Voit does not shy away from the middle of the ice, as his plays are timed with precision, allowing him to swoop in at just the right moment. Meanwhile, his fearlessness around the net, as well as his lower-body strength, allow him to fend off bigger defenders with regularity. If he makes it to the show, it will likely be on the back of his mobility and playmaking ability, as well as feisty play around the net.

UPSIDE: 23-38-61 | **3YP:** 17-18-35 | **COMPARABLE:** Nick Schmaltz

Jesper Wallstedt, G, Lulea, SHL

DH pre-Draft: 3

Reliable goaltending is hard to come by, but Wallstedt is as surefire of a goalie prospect as they come. He is one of the most technically sound goalies at this stage of their development. The young Swede played in the SHL for the vast majority of the past season, a rarity for draft-eligible netminders. His ability to track the puck is elite, keeping his frame on square footing, while looking through bodies and traffic. Wallstedt is fluid throughout his crease, moving in, out and off his posts cleanly, as he challenges shooters. He is athletic enough to spring out of his form to make a desperation save, whether it be a dive across the net or an acrobatic sprawl on a bouncing puck, and then immediately reboot back to his stance. Wallstedt has franchise-changing potential, an element many players in 2021 do not possess.

UPSIDE: Franchise Goaltender

Cameron Whynot, LD, Halifax, QMJHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

With all of the tools to be a two-way NHL defenseman in the modern game, Whynot should be more highly regarded. The issue is that he can't seem to put it all together at the same time. He has good mobility and his long strides get him into position quicker than one would expect. He has a big shot from the blue line and it finds its way through traffic quite well. As a passer, Whynot sends crisp lasers up ice and throughout the offensive zone. He can bring a physical element when he needs to, as well. If he can get most of these tools all working together at once and up his decision-making, he could be a valuable bottom-of-the-roster fantasy asset.

UPSIDE: 7-23-30 | **3YP:** 4-17-21 | **COMPARABLE:** Colin Miller

Jeremy Wilmer, W, U.S. U18, USNTDP

DH pre-Draft: 54

The great thing about the NTDP is that it brings a great deal of talent together. The unfortunate part is that too often, there are talented players playing too low in the lineup. Wilmer was stapled to the bottom-six on most nights, but still managed to find a way onto the scoresheet fairly consistently. He was able to showcase his creativity and smarts whenever given the chance and he found ways to contribute. He is a good shooter, but it's his ability to make the small, simple play that makes a big difference. He certainly needs some refinement across his game – for example, skating is a major flaw – but there is a lot to like in the undersized winger. A slow, steady burn in development could bear a solid middle-sixer.

UPSIDE: 25-25-50 | **3YP:** 15-20-35 | **COMPARABLE:** Jesper Bratt

Trevor Wong, C, Kelowna, WHL

DH pre-Draft: NR

His slight frame is going to need more bulk, but there is puck skill and talent oozing from Wong. He has some water bug elements to his game that make him a delight to watch. When he is able to make plays with his hands and agility, he is a very good player. He does not have a great shot, but his calling as a playmaker will more than make up for that. He has unique creativity and craftiness to his game that so many players lack. If he can round out his game away from the puck and improve on his true speed, with and without the puck, Wong has a chance to be a surprise producer in the NHL. He will either be a top-six player, or not on an NHL roster.

UPSIDE: 23-40-63 | **3YP:** 13-23-36 | **COMPARABLE:** Sam Gagner

Olen Zellweger, LD, Everett Silvertips, WHL

DH pre-Draft: 35

Zellweger's game has been a hit late in the draft process. His incredible mobility allows him to play aggressively in all facets of the game. His defensive game is predicated on his skating, giving him the ability to choke off the opposing rush by cutting it down in the neutral zone or at the blue line. He is agile enough to turn and win a puck race, as well, should the attacker dump it past him. Zellweger's offensive gifts are fairly evident, as his mobility and passing giving him some very intriguing power-play upside. He loves playing in the middle of the ice when leading the rush, using head fakes and good hands to maneuver through defensive structure. He is undersized, but his mobility and instincts should allow him to thrive as a two-way, offensive-leaning defender in the modern game.

UPSIDE: 6-39-45 | **3YP:** 3-22-25 | **COMPARABLE:** Samuel Girard

Dmitri Zugan, C, Krasnaya Armiya, MHL

DH pre-Draft: 70

One of the lesser-known names in our list of top 2021 Draft-eligibles, Zugan is a high-motor workhorse. He plays a very meat-and-potatoes game and doesn't shy away from getting involved physically. He never seems to stop moving his feet and is a disruptive force on the forecheck. His persistence on every play keeps him involved. He owns a good shot, but none of his traits are of the standout kind. Zugan can play center or wing and that should afford him some opportunity as a disruptive middle-six force that teams are starting to employ on top-six lines to alleviate some of the physical pressure their stars receive. If Zugan can find the right fit, he could very well be the perfect worker bee that can chip in offensively with more skilled linemates.

UPSIDE: 20-30-50 | **3YP:** 15-20-35 | **COMPARABLE:** Zach Hyman

Steer Clear

Here are players who will be drafted rather high in 2021 by NHL teams, but don't be dazzled by the lofty draft position. In points-only leagues, they should not be owned...

Valtteri Koskela, D

Artyom Grushnikov, D

Liam Gilmartin, LW

Topias Vilen, D

Tony Ferrari's Top 64 for the NHL Draft

NOTE: This is not a Mock Draft.

Throw away all of the uncontrollable factors that concern NHL teams come Entry Draft Day – notably nationality (ahem, Russian, KHL) and size. This ranking is simply based on skill and potential. Voila, you have our DobberProspects' managing editor's personal ranking for the upcoming Draft class. The purpose of these rankings is not to reflect a player's fantasy value but rather how Ferrari's draft-day list would appear.

1	Matthew Beniers	33	Aleksi Heimosalmi
2	William Eklund	34	Brennan Othmann
3	Jesper Wallstedt	35	Olen Zellweger
4	Brandt Clarke	36	Corson Ceulemans
5	Fabian Lysell	37	Dylan Duke
6	Owen Power	38	Jacob Martin
7	Luke Hughes	39	Zach Dean
8	Mason McTavish	40	Brent Johnson
9	Aatu Raty	41	Jack Peart
10	Simon Edvinsson	42	Matthew Samoskevich
11	Kent Johnson	43	William Strömgren
12	Dylan Guenther	44	Samu Salminen
13	Simon Robertsson	45	Brett Harrison
14	Cole Sillinger	46	Jack Bar
15	Fyodor Svechkov	47	Sasha Pastujov
16	Isak Rosen	48	Evan Nause
17	Chaz Lucius	49	Samuel Helenius
18	Ayrton Martino	50	Daniil Chayka
19	Scott Morrow	51	Dmitri Kuzmin
20	Logan Stankoven	52	Cole Jordan
21	Xavier Bourgault	53	Cole Huckins
22	Sebastian Cossa	54	Jeremy Wilmer
23	Stanislav Svozil	55	Oliver Kapanen
24	Matthew Coronato	56	Aidan Hreschuk
25	Francesco Pinelli	57	Zachary Bolduc
26	Oskar Olausson	58	Dmitri Katelevsky
27	Nikita Chibrikov	59	Valtteri Koskela
28	Ville Koivunen	60	Ty Voit
29	Samu Tuomaala	61	Liam Dower-Nilsson
30	Carson Lambos	62	Andre Gasseau
31	Zachary L'Heureux	63	Vincent Iorio
32	Ryder Korczak	64	Jiri Tichacek

Top-10 Lists

Fantasy Draft	Offensive Defensemen	Most NHL-Ready
1. William Eklund	1. Luke Hughes	1. Matthew Beniers 50/50
2. Luke Hughes	2. Brandt Clarke	2. Owen Power 50/50
3. Matthew Beniers	3. Owen Power	3. Aatu Raty (longshot)
4. Owen Power	4. Scott Morrow	4. William Eklund (longshot)
5. Fabian Lysell	5. Olen Zellweger	5. Mason McTavish (longshot)
6. Brandt Clarke	6. Corson Ceulemans	6. Fyodor Svechkov (longshot)
7. Jesper Wallstedt	7. Simon Edvinsson	7. Simon Edvinsson (longshot)
8. Dylan Guenther	8. Aleksi Heimosalmi	8. Dylan Guenther (longshot)
9. Aatu Raty	9. Sean Behrens	9. Cole Sillinger (longshot)
10. Kent Johnson	10. Jack Peart	10. Matthew Coronato (longshot)

Goal Scorers	Centers - Fantasy	Wingers - Fantasy
1. Cole Sillinger	1. Matthew Beniers	1. William Eklund
2. Mason McTavish	2. Mason McTavish	2. Fabian Lysell
3. Dylan Guenther	3. Aatu Raty	3. Dylan Guenther
4. Samu Tuomaala	4. Cole Sillinger	4. Kent Johnson
5. Chaz Lucius	5. Logan Stankoven	5. Isak Rosen
6. Matthew Coronato	6. Fyodor Svechkov	6. Simon Robertsson
7. Simon Robertsson	7. Francesco Pinelli	7. Nikita Chibrikov
8. Logan Stankoven	8. Samu Salminen	8. Ayron Martino
9. Aatu Raty	9. Brett Harrison	9. Xavier Bourgault
10. Brennan Othmann	10. Wyatt Johnston	10. Zachary L'Heureux

Playmakers	Top PIM Guys	Power Forwards
1. William Eklund	1. Zachary L'Heureux	1. Mason McTavish
2. Kent Johnson	2. Alexander Kisakov	2. Zachary L'Heureux
3. Brandt Clarke	3. Brennan Othmann	3. Brennan Othmann
4. Luke Hughes	4. Liam Gilmartin	4. Prokhor Poltakov
5. Matthew Beniers	5. Roman Schmidt	5. Cole Huckins
6. Fabian Lysell		6. Samuel Helenius
7. Mason McTavish		7. Oliver Kapanen
8. Francesco Pinelli		8. Sean Tschigerl
9. Nikita Chibrikov		9. Tyler Boucher
10. Ayron Martino		10. Red Savage

Top 25 Forwards Points-only Leagues

Dobber		Ferrari	
1	William Eklund	1.	William Eklund
2	Fabian Lysell	2.	Matthew Beniers
3	Dylan Guenther	3.	Fabian Lysell
4	Matthew Beniers	4.	Dylan Guenther
5	Mason McTavish	5.	Aatu Raty
6	Kent Johnson	6.	Kent Johnson
7	Cole Sillinger	7.	Mason McTavish
8	Aatu Raty	8.	Cole Sillinger
9	Logan Stankoven	9.	Chaz Lucius
10	Ayrton Martino	10.	Isak Rosen
11	Matthew Coronato	11.	Simon Robertsson
12	Isak Rosen	12.	Ayrton Martino
13	Chaz Lucius	13.	Xavier Bourgault
14	Simon Robertsson	14.	Logan Stankoven
15	Nikita Chibrikov	15.	Zachary L'Heureux
16	Xavier Bourgault	16.	Nikita Chibrikov
17	Samu Tuomaala	17.	Francesco Pinelli
18	Ville Koivunen	18.	Matthew Coronato
19	Oskar Olausson	19.	Fyodor Svechkov
20	Francesco Pinelli	20.	Sasha Pastujov
21	Matthew Samoskevich	21.	Ryder Korczak
22	Ryder Korczak	22.	Ville Koivunen
23	Zach Dean	23.	Samu Tuomaala
24	Zachary L'Heureux	24.	Brennan Othmann
25	Zachary Bolduc	25.	Oskar Olausson

15th Annual Mock

Time for our annual NHL Mock Draft, as DobberProspects' Managing Editor, Tony Ferrari, will be doing the honors for the first time.

A combination of team drafting history, system needs and gut instinct are part of his formula. A Mock Draft is not an order of players in terms of talent, nor is it in order of their fantasy value – it is meant to predict which team will take whom, even if it means dropping down a few spots on the list to grab the guy they want.

Notes:

- BPA = Best Player Available
- For more information on these players, check out [DobberProspects' NHL draft-eligibles here.](#)

Onto the mock...

by Tony Ferrari

Round 1

1. Buffalo – Owen Power, LD

The one pick in the Draft that seems to have some certainty, Buffalo takes the player that's been the most consistently ranked at No.1 all year. They get a 6-6 defender to give them two pillars to build their blueline around with Rasmus Dahlin already in the fold. Power needs time but the raw tools are pretty insane.

2. Seattle – Matthew Beniers, C

What better way to start your franchise off than drafting the player who could be your future captain? Beniers is the most NHL-ready prospect and he is also the most surefire center. He may not have No.1 upside, but the relentless motor and incredible IQ give him a chance to be a great two-way second-line center.

3. Anaheim – Simon Edvinsson, LD

He can skate like the wind, has a projectable frame and plays a solid two-way game. Edvinsson has a slightly more boom-or-bust intangible than Owen Power, but many of the same raw tools are evident. Edvinsson is often miscast as an offensive blueliner. Rather, he projects as a two-way transitional defender that leans defensively.

4. New Jersey – Luke Hughes, LD

The Devils could look at pairing up last year's top pick, Alexander Holtz, with current Djurgardens teammate William Eklund, but instead they unite two of the Hughes brothers by bringing in the silky-smooth Luke. The youngest Hughes brother brings a solid frame (6-2, 176 pounds) and an elite skating package. The upside is among the best in the class.

5. Columbus – William Eklund, W/C

It's a shame Eklund fell to five, but the Blue Jackets will be laughing if this is the case. The premier offensive talent in the draft, Eklund blends elite transition play with high-level playmaking. His ability to read defensive structures and exploit the soft spots is impressive.

6. Detroit – Jesper Wallstedt, G

The Wings fan base is split on this one, but at the end of the day, this gives Detroit a chance to set their crease up for 10-15 years. Set it and forget it. Wallstedt is one of the most technically-sound netminding prospects in years. His ability to read plays and make virtually every save look effortless is a testament to his intelligence and athletic ability.

7. San Jose – Dylan Guenther, W

The Sharks are in transition: from a highly-competitive window with multiple Cup runs to not capturing the ultimate prize at all finally. They fell hard the last couple of seasons, but adding a player like Guenther to their pipeline should be a major win. One of the best shooters in the class and maybe the best one-timer of any prospect.

8. Los Angeles – Brandt Clarke, RD

The Kings prospect pool may very well be the best in the league, but the one thing they seem to lack is a truly dynamic presence on the backend. Clarke fills that void. With a realistic chance of being the best player in the class, him falling to the Kings would be a huge get. He is inventive offensively and his defensive game has been improving after playing against men in Slovakia.

9. Vancouver – Mason McTavish, C

The Canucks would more than welcome a player like McTavish into their system. He brings a physical element to the game that Canucks' management team seems to love, but he also has the skill to make a legitimate difference at both ends of the ice. He and Elias Pettersson can form a 'thunder & lightning' pair down the middle for Vancouver.

10. Ottawa – Fabian Lysell, W

The Senators have been building quite the young core throughout the last couple of Drafts with last year being the big influx. This year, they are set up to take a swing at 10 and with Jesper Wallstedt gone, Lysell may be the one they're looking for. A high-octane forward that punishes defenders with his speed, Lysell is an exciting player to watch.

11. Arizona's Forfeited Pick

11. Chicago – Kent Johnson, W

The Blackhawks are another team rebuilding after a long Cup window came to an end. Adding a player like Johnson to the fold would be a very interesting move. With a season or two at Michigan likely still, Johnson would be able to learn from a fellow dangler in Patrick Kane when he gets to the Hawks. Johnson's skill is undeniable, it's all about whether it translates.

12. Calgary – Cole Sillinger, W

Possibly the best shooter in the Draft, Sillinger has an unreal release. He can score from just about anywhere in the offensive zone. His skating will need to improve a bit, but it's not a major concern. His play away from the puck outside of the offensive zone is one of the reasons he lasts until Calgary is on the clock. They'll be more than happy to snag him.

13. Philadelphia – Chaz Lucius, C/W

There was plenty of talk about Lucius being one of the players that found his way into the top 10 at the start of the season, but a lower-body injury then kept him off the ice until February. At that point, he had put up a goal-per-game in the USHL through 13 games. It was a small sample, but a very good one at that and the Flyers could always use some added scoring punch.

14. Dallas – Carson Lambos, LD

Lambos is a bit of a divisive player with some of the hype waning from his time in Finland and limited WHL season. Others feel like there is still a very projectable transitional defender that can chip in at both ends of the ice. The Stars take the chance at bringing in a player many initially thought would be locked into the top 10 at the start of the year.

15. NY Rangers – Aatu Raty, C

The demise of Raty's game has been vastly overblown. He still has a wicked release of a wrist shot and drives play positively. He understands how to attack a defense corps and he showed flashes of the higher-end offensive upside he was once thought to have. Safely projecting as a middle-six center, the Rangers are happy to help bolster their center position.

16. St. Louis – Zachary L'Heureux, LW

Despite the four suspensions in a shortened season, L'Heureux is a player that teams will covet because he brings an edge to go along with his offensive skill set. With a good shot and some sneaky playmaking ability, the undisciplined forward will be able to play the modern-day enforcer role. Let's just hope the undisciplined play doesn't match Tom Wilson's in the NHL.

17. Winnipeg – Corson Ceulemans, RD

This is one of those situations where the best player available and the team's needs may very well align in the eyes of some evaluators. Ceulemans has been all over rankings, but Winnipeg takes the chance on the AJHLer with tools for days. With time to refine his game at the NCAA level, Ceulemans could be a key building block for the Jets moving forward.

18. Nashville – Isak Rosen, W

The Preds have seemingly been searching for offensive talent for years. With the addition of Rosen, they certainly add some punch. He also brings an impressive shot and some crafty playmaking ability. He lacks away from the puck at times, but his offense makes up for it. Rosen tore up the U18, as well, which made the conversation around him become more favorable.

19. Edmonton – Sebastian Cossa, G

The Oilers need a goalie of the future; Cossa already plays with the Edmonton Oil Kings and he has put up some phenomenal numbers in the WHL. The 6-6 goalie is a legit first-round talent and could even go earlier, but Edmonton is ecstatic that he falls in their laps in this scenario.

20. Boston – Xavier Bourgault, W

Bourgault is the ultimate complimentary player in this Draft. He adapts to his teammates extremely well, playing whatever role that's needed. He can be the shooter, he can be the passer, or he can be the puck hound. There is a lot to like in Bourgault's game, but he really hasn't shown the ability to truly drive play yet. Put him in Boston with that group and he could flourish.

21. Minnesota – Fyodor Svechkov, C

The Wild is undergoing some major changes recently. With Ryan Suter and Zach Parise on their way out and cap implications from their buyout hampering the team for years, injecting quality youth will be key. Svechkov is a strong two-way center that plays the style Minnesota thrives under. With his offensive potential and counter-strike ability on display at the U18, he could be a building block going forward.

22. Detroit – Francesco Pinelli, C/W

After nabbing their goalie of the future in Wallstedt, the Wings are happy to add Pinelli. He was solid in Slovenia playing against men with no OHL season. His game is all based on his high-IQ and passing vision. He understands how to not only identify lanes, but exploit them, as well. He has a good, not great, shot to pair with his passing game.

23. Florida – Samu Tuomaala, W

The Panthers are always a bit of a wild card at the Draft it seems and adding one of its best goal scorers is a good way to go. There was a dip among scouts in his draft stock before the U18, but his heroics for the Finnish team seemed to quell the worries. He attacks with speed and shoots lights out. There are holes, but you can deal with them when he's scoring at a high level.

24. Columbus – Stanislav Svozil, LD

Svozil has been all over draft boards this year, but we know the Blue Jackets and Jarmo Kekalainen aren't afraid to take a chance. Svozil is a good skater that can move the puck from his own end with efficiency. There may not be power-play quarterback potential here, but his skills should play well as a second-pair defender.

25. Minnesota – Daniil Chayka, LD

Some team is going to take Chayka in the first round and the Wild seems like a solid fit for the defense-first blueliner. His offensive game has shown some potential at the OHL level, but it fell off when he went back to Russia last season. A potential penalty-killing, shutdown defender that should fit in nicely on the Wild.

26. Carolina – Simon Robertsson, W

Love him or hate him, Robertsson can shoot a puck and fly up the ice when he's moving his feet. He is a menace at times on the forecheck and has a knack for finding space and getting to his spots at the right time. Carolina adds some more offensive pop to their prospect pool here. Robertsson may have work to do in his own end, but the upside is pretty neat.

27. Colorado – Matthew Coronato, W

His production can't be argued with: 57 goals in 59 games between the playoffs and regular season in the USHL, as Coronato was an absolute beast. He doesn't have that game-breaking tool, though. He shifts gears in stride, which helps create some room to use his best weapon – his shot – but there is a lack of dynamism. Should be a solid secondary scorer in the NHL.

28. New Jersey – Nikita Chibrikov, W

The Devils have been adding dynamic talent through the last few NHL Drafts and with the top-5 selection of a second (Luke) Hughes brother, as well as the late first-round addition of Chibrikov, they certainly won't be your parents' New Jersey Devils. Speed, skill and pizzaz are what highlight the young Russian's game. He is a high-level offensive performer, but has a tendency to disappear at times. His U18 was fantastic.

29. Vegas – Olen Zellweger, LD

One of the most impressive skaters in the Draft regardless of position, Zellweger has seen his stock rise since the beginning of the shortened WHL season. He uses his mobility to kill opposing offense by jumping on them in the neutral zone and then bursts up ice with the puck on his stick or while joining the rush. He plays the game the way the NHL is skewing.

30. Montreal – Evan Nause, LD

A smart defender that may have some limited offensive upside. He may be the best rearguard when it comes to reading and recovering a dump-in and dealing with the forecheck. He shows good 'escapability' and makes a solid first pass. He needs to work on what to do with the puck outside of his own end, but the base of a solid defender is there.

31. Columbus – Logan Stankoven, C/W

It is a crime that Stankoven has to wait this long, as the young Canadian would arguably be a top-12 talent had he not been 5-8. He plays the game as if he were four inches taller, consistently cutting to the inside. He may be one of the more complete offensive players in the class. He toils without fear, playing a solid two-way game driven by an unrelenting motor. He's only falling this low because teams shy away from the vertically challenged.

Round 2

32. Buffalo – Brennan Othmann, W

A skilled shooter, he has added some physicality to his game while playing in Switzerland against men. He has a bit of pest factor to his game, as well, finding joy in getting under players' skin.

33. Anaheim – Matthew Samoskevich, W

He could easily fit in the first round, Samoskevich is a highly skilled player with the ability to beat the goalie clean with a shot, or embarrass a defender with silky hands before feathering a pinpoint pass. Lots to like here.

34. Seattle – Jack Peart, LD

A defender for the modern game, Peart won the state of Minnesota's Mr. Hockey this year. His USHL play did nothing but enforce the notion that his mobility, intelligent defensive game and emerging offensive confidence will translate.

35. Vegas – Sasha Pastujov, W

If his skating was better, he likely lands in the top 15. The NHL is too fast and generally plays at a such a high pace that players like Pastujov can struggle to adapt. His shot, vision and anticipation are all high level. If he can take a big step in his mobility, no pun intended, he could be a steal.

36. Arizona – Brett Harrison, C

Arizona had to forfeit their first rounder due to NHL sanctions with regard to some pre-draft funny business last year, which means they could opt to be a bit safe here. Harrison is that type of player: a projectable two-way center with a good shot and some crafty playmaking. Add some speed and you have a player.

37. Detroit – Ville Koivunen, W

An intelligent winger that can be the shooter or passer on a line. He was often the play-driver on a line with first-round prospect Samu Tuomaala. He lacks lethal top speed, but his quickness and agility can make him hard to handle at times.

38. Ottawa – Roman Schmidt, RD

The Sens are always good for one of these picks in the Draft and this year, it's Schmidt, a raw mammoth-sized defender. He has a unique combination of size and skating, but there's work elsewhere to be done.

39. Nashville – Oskar Olausson, W

A versatile winger that can play up and down a lineup, he's a very good transporter of the puck from his own end and into the o-zone, which could solidify him a middle-six role. It will be all about where his offensive game winds up, though – that will determine his role.

40. Vancouver – Zach Dean, C

Dean is one of the more talented players in the draft when it comes to his ability to deke and dangle, but his offensive numbers never seem to be where you'd expect. There is a sweet package to work with here and he could pop off next season.

41. Ottawa – Ryder Korcak, C

Arguably worth a late first, the Sens nab Korcak early in the second. His skating has improved and his agility has made him even more dangerous. His playmaking is where he'll make his money, but it will likely come from the wing position at the next level.

42. Arizona – Nolan Allan, LD

A physical defender that showed flashes of puck rushing ability at times, Allan is a technically-sound skater and intelligent defender positionally. There may not be much in terms of offense, but there is a lot to like if you need a defensive presence.

43. Chicago – Vincent Iorio, LD

Iorio is a masterful breakout passer with marksman-like precision. He has shown some impressive defensive play at times thanks to good positioning and instinctual timing to break up plays on a regular basis.

44. Calgary – William Stromgren, W

A physical freak, Stromgren owns a raw package and had some wondering whether he'd sneak into Round 1, but alas, the Flames will be happy to grab the 6-3 forward. He has the puck skills to make opponents look silly, as well as a quick release.

45. Philadelphia – Aleksi Heimosalmi, RD

A modern-day defender that we may one day ask ourselves: why didn't he go in the first round? He lacks blazing top speed, but his maneuverability and agility with his strong instincts at both ends of the ice make him a solid two-way blueliner with a boatload of offensive creativity.

46. Dallas – Dylan Duke, W

One of the NTDP's most consistent players, Duke was a scoring machine. He is rarely going to blow your mind, but he makes himself dangerous by finding space around the opposing net, establishing his positioning and then using his skill and touch to find twine.

47. Detroit – Scott Morrow, RD

Possibly the draft's biggest 'What if?', Morrow is an exceptional skater that can make space for himself at any moment. He controls the play at all times and thrives with the puck on his stick. A high-level transition defender, Morrow could be the steal of the Draft, or be completely forgotten.

48. Los Angeles – Brent Johnson, LD

Johnson is always trying to stay involved in the play. Whether he's cutting down a gap defending the rush or pinching down the boards offensively, the desire to do something always seems there. This can get him burned but he is generally smart enough to pick his spots.

49. Winnipeg – Samuel Helenius, C

A defensive center that understands how to shut down his opponents. Brings a massive frame and physicality that is reminiscent of his father, Sami Helenius. His offensive ceiling is somewhat limited, but every team needs a solid third-line center.

50. Nashville – Sean Behrens, LD

The Predators have had success with undersized defenders in the past and Behrens falling into their lap would be a dream come true. He has incredible offensive processing and skill. He needs to get stronger and faster and learn to be more consistent defensively, but the tools are fun.

51. Detroit – Zachary Bolduc, C

The skill is there. He can dodge, dip, duck and dive his way through traffic. He has a good shot and can make some pretty sweet passes. He just doesn't do it consistently enough to warrant a top-round selection.

52. Buffalo – Samu Salminen, C

His skating isn't where it needs to be, but the methodical center has an intelligence that allows him to slow things down. He has a very good shot and finds ways to score goals from all over. He finds his soft spots and presents himself as an option at all times.

53. Minnesota – Jacob Martin, RD

Martin plays the brand of simple game that may not collect many points, but he is consistently on the right side of possession. He defends the rush with the best of them, timing his pounce perfectly and then making a quick pass to move the puck to skilled forwards.

54. Washington – Ayrton Martino, W

If there is any team that can truly appreciate Martino, it may just be the Caps. He is an all-out offensive force that uses everything from dirty dangles to quick, agile feet to open up space to make a dazzling play. He will need to refine things in college, but could be dangerous in the NHL.

55. Florida – Aidan Hreschuk, LD

An up-and-down season has pushed him from mid-first round pick to late second. His skating and offensive game remain solid, but neither is so great that they stand out in a crowd of good-but-not-great defenseman. He should still be a top-six defender at the next level with patience.

56. Toronto – Jack Bar, RD

A solid two-way rearguard that may have been overlooked somewhat on a loaded Chicago Steel team. He plays with physicality at both ends of the ice and picks his spots offensively extremely well. Bar is a modern-day defensive blueliner.

57. Pittsburgh – Tristan Broz, C/W

A hunter in the offensive zone, he stalks the puck, getting himself in just the right position and then attacking the play. He is a skilled playmaker that's unafraid to shoot. The Pens need high-end complimentary players and Broz fits the mold.

58. Carolina – Cole Jordan, RD

A physical specimen, Jordan is a player that's been on the rise throughout the year. He does a lot of things well, but nothing so exceptionally that he could find some top-pairing upside. He is raw, but with some refinement and patience, Jordan could turn out into a solid two-way guy.

59. NY Islanders – Oliver Kapanen, C

Unlike his speedster cousin, Kasperi, Oliver is a bit more of an instinctual goal scorer at heart. He identifies lanes toward the net and puts himself into good high-danger scenarios. He needs to work on his skating stride, but his shot and scoring prowess are legit.

60. New Jersey – Cole Huckins, C

A big forward that plays a solid two-way game and brings a big frame, 6-3 and 200 pounds, he may not project highly into the lineup, but the Devils aren't looking for a top-six center here. They are getting a third-line center that can be a calming presence.

61. Chicago – Benjamin Gaudreau, G

Gaudreau has been under fire since the first time he stepped into the Sarnia Sting's crease. With multiple 50+ save performances during his D-1 season, as well as his stout play at the U18, helping Canada to the gold medal, Gaudreau has a ton of upside. Hasn't played this year outside of the U18, though.

62. Montreal – Andre Gasseau, C

A big two-way center that may not have been given the most opportunity with the NTDP because of their typically loaded roster, he has the size teams covet in a bottom-six center role. Can also bust out some sneaky skill from time to time.

63. Montreal – Dmitri Kostenko, RD

The skill, skating and creativity are undeniable, as is his lack of production. He played on a really poor team, where he had little help, but picking him is a risk nonetheless. Montreal has a few picks early, so they can gamble here on a skilled Russian defenser.

Round 3

64. NY Rangers - C/W Peter Reynolds**65. Anaheim – Liam Dower-Nilsson, C****66. Seattle – Dmitri Kuzmin, LD****67. New Jersey – James Malatesta, C/W****68. Columbus – Pavel Tyutnev, W**

69. Detroit – Kiril Kirsanov, LD
70. San Jose – Wyatt Johnston, C
71. Los Angeles – Matthew Knies, W
72. Vancouver – Topias Vilen, LD
73. Ottawa – Robert Orr, W
74. Washington – Joshua Roy, W
75. Montreal – Isaac Belliveau, LD
76. Calgary – Artyom Grushnikov, LD
77. Philadelphia – Riley Kidney, C
78. Dallas – Matvei Petrov, W
79. NY Rangers – Prokhor Poltakov, W
80. St. Louis – Anton Olsson, LD
81. Winnipeg – Gulliaume Richard, LD
82. Nashville – Tyler Boucher, W
83. Calgary – Sean Tschigerl, W
84. Boston – Liam Gilmartin, W
85. Minnesota – Aleksi Malinen, LD
86. Montreal – Ryan Ufko, RD
87. Buffalo – Red Savage, W
88. Los Angeles – C/W Lorenzo Canonica, C/W
89. Minnesota – Victor Stjernborg, C
90. Carolina – Valtteri Koskela, LD
91. Colorado – Chase Stillman, W
92. NY Islanders – Verner Miettinen, C
93. Detroit – Jiri Tichacek, LD
94. Buffalo – William Trudeau, LD
95. Tampa Bay – Ty Voit, W

Summary – Mock Draft

NOTE: This is a Mock Draft, not a ranking of value.

1	BUF – Owen Power	32	BUF – Brennan Othmann	64	NYR – Peter Reynolds
2	SEA – Matthew Beniers	33	ANA – M. Samoskevich	65	ANA – Liam Dower-Nilsson
3	ANA – Simon Edvinsson	34	SEA – Jack Peart	66	SEA – Dmitri Kuzmin
4	NJD – Luke Hughes	35	VGK – Sasha – Pastujov	67	NJD – James Malatesta
5	CBJ – William Eklund	36	ARI – Brett Harrison	68	CBJ – Pavel Tyutnev
6	DET – Jesper Wallstedt	37	DET – Ville Koivunen	69	DET – Kiril Kirsanov
7	SJS – Dylan Guenther	38	OTT – Roman Schmidt	70	SJS – Wyatt Johnston
8	LAK – Brandt Clarke	39	NSH – Oskar Olausson	71	LAK – Matthew Knies
9	VAN – Mason McTavish	40	VAN – Zach Dean	72	VAN – Topias Vilen
10	OTT – Fabian Lysell	41	OTT – Ryder Korczak	73	OTT – Robert Orr
11	ARI – FORFEIT	42	ARI – Nolan Allan	74	WSH – Joshua Roy
11	CHI – Kent Johnson	43	CHI – Vincent Iorio	75	MTL – Isaac Belliveau
12	CGY – Cole Sillinger	44	CGY – William Stromgren	76	CGY – Artyom Grushnikov
13	PHI – Chaz Lucius	45	PHI – Aleksi Heimosalmi	77	PHI – Riley Kidney
14	DAL – Carson Lambos	46	DAL – Dylan Duke	78	DAL – Matvei Petrov
15	NYR – Aatu Raty	47	DET – Scott Morrow	79	NYR – Prokhor Poltakov
16	STL – Zachary L’Heureux	48	LAK – Brent Johnson	80	STL – Anton Olsson
17	WPG – Corson Ceulemans	49	WPG – Samuel Helenius	81	WPG – Guillaume Richard
18	NSH – Isak Rosen	50	NSH – Sean Behrens	82	NSH – Tyler Boucher
19	EDM – Sebastian Cossa	51	DET – Zachary Bolduc	83	CGY – Sean Tschigerl
20	BOS – Xavier Bourgault	52	BUF – Samu Salminen	84	BOS – Liam Gilmartin
21	MIN – Fyodor Svechkov	53	MIN – Jacob Martin	85	MIN – Aleksi Malinen
22	DET – Francesco Pinelli	54	WSH – Ayrton Martino	86	MTL – Ryan Ufko
23	FLA – Samu Tuomaala	55	FLA – Aidan Hreschuk	87	BUF – Red Savage
24	CBJ – Stanislav Svozil	56	TOR – Jack Bar	88	LAK – Lorenzo Canonica
25	MIN – Daniil Chayka	57	PIT – Tristan Broz	89	MIN – Victor Stjernborg
26	CAR – Simon Robertsson	58	CAR – Cole Jordan	90	CAR – Valtteri Koskela
27	COL – Matthew Coronato	59	NYI – Oliver Kapanen	91	COL – Chase Stillman
28	NJD – Nikita Chibrikov	60	NJD – Cole Huckins	92	NYI – Verner Miettinen
29	VGK – Olen Zellweger	61	CHI – Benjamin Gaudreau	93	DET – Jiri Tichacek
30	MTL – Evan Nause	62	MTL – Andre Gasseau	94	BUF – William Trudeau
31	CBJ – Logan Stankoven	63	MTL – Dmitri Kostenko	95	TBL – Ty Voit

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