



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Canes sign van Riemsdyk to two-year contract

By Chip Alexander

calexander@newsobserver.com

July 05, 2018 06:53 PM

Updated July 06, 2018 08:37 AM

The Carolina Hurricanes have signed defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk to a two-year, \$4.6 million contract, the team announced Thursday.

The deal will pay van Riemsdyk \$2.1 million in the 2018-19 season and \$2.5 million in the 2019-20 season.

"Trevor was a steady presence on our blue line last season," Canes general manager Don Waddell said in a statement. "He's shown progression each year of his NHL career and is a well-liked player in our locker room."

Van Riemsdyk, 26, was acquired by Carolina in a trade with the Vegas Golden Knights last June and became a restricted free agent after the 2017-18 season. He filed for salary arbitration on Thursday before the 5 p.m. deadline, but the deal was later announced.

Van Riemsdyk's plus-9 rating led the Canes' defensemen in plus/minus last season and he was second among the D-men with 113 blocked shots. He set a career high with 13 assists and tied his career high with 16 points.

A former college teammate of Canes defenseman Brett Pesce at New Hampshire, van Riemsdyk was a member of the Chicago Blackhawks' 2015 Stanley Cup champions. He was selected by the Golden Knights in the 2017 expansion draft, then traded to Carolina.

Hurricanes D corps

2018-19 salary

Justin Faulk \$6 million

Dougie Hamilton \$5.75 million

Jacob Slavin \$5.5 million

Brett Pesce \$4.025 million

Calvin de Haan \$4 million

Trevor van Riemsdyk \$2.1 million

Haydn Fleury \$832,500

Hurricanes make another change, add defenseman de Haan. Is Faulk next to go?

By Luke DeCock

ldecock@newsobserver.com

July 03, 2018 09:46 PM

Updated July 05, 2018 12:56 PM

Calvin de Haan didn't need anyone to remind him the Carolina Hurricanes haven't made the playoffs in the past nine seasons. It was part of the reason he wanted to play for them.

The retooling of the Carolina Hurricanes' defense took another step Tuesday with the free-agent signing of the 27-year-old de Haan from the New York Islanders to a four-year, \$18.2 million contract, all but assuring Justin Faulk will be traded by the end of the offseason.

De Haan, the 12th overall pick in the 2009 draft, spoke with both coach Rod Brind'Amour and owner Tom Dundon over the past few days as the Hurricanes made their sales pitch, and liked what he heard. He also thought of them as "annoying to play against," a strong compliment from an opponent. There was interest from the Islanders and other teams, but de Haan ended up turning down more lucrative offers elsewhere to sign with the Hurricanes.

"I get to play with one of the best young blue lines in the NHL, and that to me is very important," de Haan said. "I feel like I can step in and help this team win. I'm aware the Hurricanes haven't made the playoffs in the past nine years, and I feel like I can be part of the solution here."

De Haan was limited to 33 games by a shoulder injury last season that required surgery but had 12 points in that limited action and has played 304 games in his NHL career.

A 6-foot-1, 196-pound left-sided defenseman who posted top-pairing scoring-generation numbers while playing second-pairing minutes for the Islanders, de Haan completes the rebuilding of the Hurricanes' top two defensive pairings, with Dougie Hamilton arriving last month in a trade from the Calgary Flames to go with the lockdown pairing of Jacob Slavin and Brett Pesce.

With \$19.6 million tied up in those four players in each of the next three seasons – a bargain by NHL standards – the Hurricanes are now in a position where there isn't enough money or playing time to go around for Faulk, who with his history of offensive production and two years left on a reasonable contract that pays him \$4.83 million per season should be a valuable asset to the right team.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

"I don't feel an urgency to do something," general manager Don Waddell said "Certainly we'll look at all our options."

That leaves restricted free agent Trevor van Riemsdyk with Haydn Fleury on the third pairing. The Hurricanes gave van Riemsdyk a qualifying offer last week to retain his rights but continue to negotiate a long-term contract for the 26-year-old.

The addition of de Haan on the left side to replace the departed Noah Hanifin stabilizes the top two pairings

regardless of what happens with Faulk, and the appeal of being part of that group was not lost on de Haan.

"The period leading up to free agency, we received a good amount of calls, we got some offers here and there, but the Hurricanes seemed very intriguing for me," de Haan said. "It seemed like a good fit. At the end of the day it seemed like the right decision to make. You never know, but I'm very intrigued and very happy."



Canes continue facelift with signing of defenseman de Haan

The former New York Islander signed a four-year, \$18.2 million deal and will help address a need for a left-handed defenseman

[July 3, 2018 Cory Lavalette Article, NHL, Sports](#)

RALIEGH — The Carolina Hurricanes made their young defense even better Tuesday night — and more crowded.

The team announced it signed free agent defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year, \$18.2 million contract, adding a needed left-handed defenseman to its roster while also increasing the possibility it will trade a right-handed blueliner during the offseason.

De Haan, 27, was the 12th overall pick by the New York Islanders in the 2009 NHL Draft and played his entire professional career with the team, scoring 81 points in 304 regular season games since making his debut in 2011.

"To be honest, it was a pretty simple one," de Haan said of the Hurricanes' sales pitch to him. "I get to play with one of the best young bluelines in the NHL. That to me is very important.

The Carp, Ontario, native has been a reliable defender throughout his career, playing more than 17 minutes a night and more than two minutes a game on the penalty kill. Barring an unlikely addition to the Carolina defense, de Haan will be the oldest player in the group.

The next closest player in age could be the one on the way out.

Justin Faulk's future with the team was already in question after the acquisition of Dougie Hamilton on day two of the NHL Draft. While general manager Don Waddell previously hinted the team could move right-handed defenseman Brett Pesce to the left side next season, the addition of de Haan gives the team three lefties — de Haan joining Jaccob Slavin and Haydn Fleury — and four righties — Hamilton, Faulk,

Pesce and Trevor van Riemsdyk, a restricted free agent the team is still negotiating with on a new contract.

"It may give us an option to look at some other either need for need or restocking the shelves with young players and draft picks," Waddell said. "But we've got some time on our side ... so I don't feel an urgency to do something, but certainly we'll look at all our options."

The only red flag on De Haan is he is coming off a season in which he was limited to just 33 games when a shoulder injury led to surgery.

"My shoulder feels great, to be honest," he said Tuesday night. "It's public knowledge now: I had surgery in January. I've been skating for two months, playing golf, doing all the normal human being things, and I feel really good and I'm confident in the procedure I had and confident in myself as well."

The Islanders allowed a league-high 296 goals last season and missed de Haan's veteran presence during his injury, and losing him to a fellow Metropolitan Division team adds insult to injury to a team already reeling after failing to re-sign captain and franchise cornerstone John Tavares. Tavares signed a seven-year, \$77 million deal with the Maple Leafs instead, and de Haan did say it played some role in him leaving the Islanders.

"That's a tough one," de Haan said when asked if Tavares' decision influenced his. "I don't really know. Yes and no. When you have a guy in your lineup like that, you're going to win more games often than not. But at the end of the day, it's JT's decision. You can't really fault a guy for making a decision to want to play for his hometown team.

De Haan's arrival also puts the Hurricanes in a position to trade Faulk — who will cost \$4.833 million against the salary cap the next two seasons — without having to worry about not reaching the cap floor of \$58.8 million.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

With the team also shopping Jeff Skinner — a \$5.725 million cap hit in 2018-19, the final year of his deal — Carolina could attempt to use Faulk in a trade to replace Skinner's goal scoring and then deal the former Calder Trophy winner for picks and prospects. Or the Hurricanes could simply hold on to Skinner to start the year and look to move Faulk for young assets.

Most important, however, is the team trying to end its playoff drought, a cause de Haan said he wants to be a part of.

"Not making playoffs for nine years, it sucks," de Haan said. "But like I said as well, I want to be part of that solution to help make the team better, to help the fans in Raleigh appreciate the Hurricanes, and we want people in those seats."



Canes sign de Haan to four-year deal

Posted 9:52 p.m. Tuesday
Updated 10:34 p.m. Tuesday

Raleigh, N.C. — Don Waddell, President and General Manager of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes, today announced that the team has signed defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year, \$18.2 million deal.

"Calvin is a solid, puck-moving defenseman who will bring a veteran presence to the blue line," said Waddell. "He is a strong two-way player who is capable of shutting down opponents' top lines, and he will help solidify the left side and upgrade our defense."

De Haan, 27, recorded 12 points (1g, 11a) in 33 games with the NY Islanders last season prior to missing the final 49 games of the season due to a shoulder injury. The 6'1", 198-

pound defenseman set career highs in points (25), goals (5), assists (20) and games played (82) during the 2016-17 season and ranked fourth in the NHL in blocked shots (190). Since the 2013-14 season, de Haan leads Islanders defensemen in blocked shots (687), ranks second in plus/minus (25) and third in games played (303). In addition, he ranks tied for second in the NHL in blocked shots per game (2.3) since 2013-14 (min. 100 GP). The Carp, Ont., native was drafted by the Islanders in the first round, 12th overall, in the 2009 NHL Draft and has registered 81 points (12g, 69a) in 304 career NHL games with the Islanders.

De Haan has represented Canada in a number of international tournaments, winning silver with Canada at the 2017 IIHF World Championship. He also captured silver with Canada at the 2010 and 2011 World Junior Championship and served as an alternate captain for the team in 2011.

Hurricanes sign defenseman van Riemsdyk to 2-year deal

Posted 6:54 p.m. Thursday
Updated 9:12 a.m. Friday

By Derek Medlin, WRAL sports director

Raleigh, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes have signed defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk to a two-year contract.

The team announced the deal Thursday afternoon. It will pay van Riemsdyk \$2.1 million in 2018-19 and \$2.5 million in 2019-20.

"Trevor was a steady presence on our blue line last season," team President and General Manager Don Waddell said in a statement. "He's shown progression each year of his NHL career, and is a well-liked player in our locker room."

In his fourth season, van Riemsdyk led the Hurricanes in plus/minus (+9) and ranked second among Carolina defensemen in blocked shots (113).



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018



De Haan a Statement Signing for Canes

One of the league's best defenses gets better

by Michael Smith [@MSmithCanes](#) / CarolinaHurricanes.com

July 3rd, 2018

One of the best defensive corps in the National Hockey League just got better - again.

After acquiring [Dougie Hamilton](#) from Calgary in a five-player, draft-day trade, the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday signed defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year contract worth \$18.2 million.

It's a statement signing for the Canes, snagging one of the top defensemen on the unrestricted free agent market to bolster what's already one of the league's most formidable blue lines.

"I get to play with one of the best, young blue lines in the NHL," de Haan said on a conference call. "I feel like I can step in and help this team win. I'm aware that the Hurricanes haven't made the playoffs in the last nine years, and to be honest, I really want to be part of the solution here."

The Hurricanes made just one move as free agency opened on Sunday, signing goaltender [Petr Mrazek](#) to a one-year deal, but they had made contact with de Haan's camp. On Monday, President and General Manager Don Waddell, majority owner Tom Dundon and head coach Rod Brind'Amour each had a chance to speak with de Haan before negotiations began with his representation on Tuesday.

"Once everyone had a chance to talk to him, we understood what a good person he is," Waddell said.

"The other day was the first time I spoke with Rod. Obviously I know who he was as a player, the character he played with and the type of guy he was when he played," de Haan said. "Hopefully he brings the same kind of leadership being the bench. I think it's going to be a fun group to play for."

De Haan, 27, has totaled 81 points (12g, 69a) in 304 career NHL games with the Islanders. De Haan recorded a plus-11 rating in 2017-18 on a team that had a minus-32 goal differential, and over the last four seasons, the defenseman was a plus-32 player.

In the last four seasons, de Haan has recorded 583 blocked shots, which ranks him in the top 20 of all NHL skaters. His

2.3 blocked shots per game average since the 2013-14 season ranks tied for second in the league (among skaters who have played at least 100 games).

De Haan's 2017-18 campaign was cut short by a shoulder injury, but that will not threaten his readiness for training camp in September.

"My shoulder feels great," he said. "I had the surgery in January, and I've been skating for two months, playing golf, doing all the normal human being things. I feel really good."

The addition of the left-shooting de Haan, drafted 12th overall by the Islanders in 2009, helps balance out the Canes' defense. Waddell mused earlier in the week about moving [Brett Pesce](#), a right shot, to the left side, but that should no longer be necessary.

Assuming the Hurricanes can re-sign restricted free agent [Trevor van Riemsdyk](#), the team will have a glut of right-shooting, NHL caliber defensemen on the roster.

"We have pretty good depth on the blue line right now," Waddell said. "It gives us some options to look at some other needs or re-stocking the shelf with young players and draft picks. We've got time on our side. ... I don't feel an urgency to do something, but certainly we'll look at all our options."

In any case, the Canes' stout defense is only looking stouter. That's part of what sold de Haan on signing with the team.

"They were an annoying team to play against as a defenseman. They've got fast, skilled forwards up front. When you look at the overall team possession numbers over the last few years, they're annoying to play against," he said. "It's a good, young, solid, underrated D corps ... and I'm really looking forward to it."

It's been a summer of change for the Hurricanes, who first re-tooled things behind the bench and have now, in just a few short weeks, shaken up their roster and seemingly improved in every facet, even at a position that was already viewed as the team's forte.

"I want to be part of the solution to help make the team better, to help the fans in Raleigh appreciate the Hurricanes," he said. "I want to help. I'll do my best to help the winning cause and hopefully put the Hurricanes and Carolina back on the map."



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018



Hurricanes Sign Calvin de Haan

By Andrew Forbes July 4th, 2018

The frustrating offseason continued for the New York Islanders late on Tuesday evening when news broke that the Carolina Hurricanes had signed defenceman and former Islander Calvin de Haan to a four-year contract, according to Luke DeCock.

The deal is reportedly worth \$18.2 million over the course of the four years and carries a cap hit and annual average value (AAV) of \$4.55 million per season. Not only does it lock up the 27-year-old for the Hurricanes through the 2021-22 season, but it also solidifies the future for the young blueliner who is coming off a one-year deal with the Islanders in which he made \$3.3 million.

De Haan Looking for Bounce Back

With the Islanders last season, de Haan collected just one goal and 12 points in 33 games – missing the final 49 due to injury. However, it's worth noting that while he was healthy he did earn himself a plus-11 rating, but was sub-50 in Corsi-For Percentage at 49.1%.

Prior to last season, de Haan did show how valuable he can be when healthy playing in all 82 games for the Islanders – the team that drafted him 12th overall back in 2009. Having played in every contest, it gave him the opportunity to have a career-year offensively with five goals, 20 assists and 25 points.

In parts of six seasons with New York, de Haan has collected 12 goals and 81 points in 304 regular season games. He

Hurricanes Hope for Magical Petr Mrázek

By Mark Shiver July 4th, 2018

Petr Mrázek is now signed with the Carolina Hurricanes. He is starting out as the backup goaltender, but he may have to be ready to carry more of the load as Cam Ward did last season, should starter Scott Darling flame out again.

In fact, Hurricanes general manager Don Waddell said that there would be a healthy competition in the starter's crease this fall. Mrázek may wind up being the Hurricanes' starting goaltender.

With a couple of pen strokes, Waddell got a comparable backup to what he had in Ward and saved a ton of money. [Ward signed with the Chicago Blackhawks](#) for \$3 million while Mrázek signed a one-year deal with the 'Canes for \$1.5 million.

Mrázek had a magical outing against the Hurricanes three years ago. Fans in Raleigh are hoping that is the Mrázek they have acquired, not the one who has struggled over the

also brings some playoff experience to Carolina with three assists in 16 postseason games with the Islanders.

Hurricanes Picking Up the Pieces

The signing of de Haan gives the Hurricanes yet another major defensive pick up this offseason following their acquisition of Dougie Hamilton in a five-player deal with the Calgary Flames. It also solidifies the team's left side on the blue line and gives them a good young core on the back end.

"Calvin is a solid, puck-moving defenceman who will bring a veteran presence to the blue line," said Hurricanes' [general manager Don Waddell to NHL.com](#). "He is a strong two-way player who is capable of shutting down opponents' top lines, and he will help solidify the left side and upgrade our defense."

While the acquisition of de Haan gives [the Hurricanes six defensemen signed to contracts](#) for the upcoming season – five of whom are due \$4.025 million or more – it does open up the possibility that the team could look to move Justin Faulk and his \$4.83-million contract.

The contract also makes him the third blueliner the Hurricanes have locked up through the 2021-22 season – including Jaccob Slavin and Brett Pesce.

While the Islanders have been able to add veterans like Valtteri Filppula, Leo Komarov and Matt Martin over the last few days, the losses of John Tavares and de Haan will certainly be felt in New York this season.

past two years to regain the former magic he had in-between the pipes. In about three months, the team and the fans will know.

Meet Petr Mrázek

Mrázek is a 26-year old Czech hockey player who was [drafted by the Detroit Red Wings](#) in the fifth round of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft. His career record is 78-64-23, and his goals-against average (GAA) is 2.66, and his save percentage (SV%) is .911. He has not been considered an elite goaltender but has been serviceable and at times above average for much of his career.

It was not until the 2015-16 season that Mrázek saw a lot of action, playing in 54 games and starting 49 of them in place of starter Jimmy Howard. On Oct. 11, 2015, I wrote an article called "[The Magic of Mrázek](#)" after he shut down the Hurricanes and their best efforts in a 4-3 Red Wings victory.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

The score does not tell the story, but I tried to capture the magic in the article:

But, the combination of Carolina's zeal and relentless attacking, fended off time and again by Mrázek, made this game one to remember. Unfortunately for the home crowd, the result is one that they'd rather forget.

Mrázek was magical that night, fending off a barrage of shots by the Hurricanes. He was beginning to be the topic of speculation that he might even replace Howard as the Red Wings' starter. But, Howard would not go quietly and eventually, the play of Mrázek began to falter, culminating in his being moved to the Philadelphia Flyers last season.

Little Mrázek Magic on Broad Street

Mrázek's time in Philadelphia was spotty. He still had the reputation of someone who could rise to the level of being a team's starter, but, not unlike Darling of the Hurricanes, has not been able thus far to carry that mantle. [Joe Pergola wrote at Broad Street Hockey](#) on Monday, July 2, giving an insightful look at Mrázek's time with the Flyers.

Pergola began with a great synopsis of the Mrázek saga: "For the last few seasons, Mrázek has been touted as a player who had the potential to be a number one goalie in the NHL but was never able to fully beat out Jimmy Howard in Detroit. Some would say it's because when Mrázek faced competition he would falter. Others would say he was never ready for a starting role, to begin with. More would blame the poor Detroit defense for his lapses."

Does that sound familiar?

There is so much similarity to Darling—even though he has only tried to be a starter for one season—that it is uncanny. The question for the Hurricanes now is, "Will Mrázek be able to rise above his recent past, regain the former magic that characterized his play a few years ago, and wrestle the starter's job away from Darling?"

Pergola summed up Mrázek in a very accurate fashion: "Petr Mrázek is a certainly athletic, and it can really set him apart

from other goalies. However, one of the major flaws is his consistency. One night Petr can really take control of the game and stop everything thrown at him. But, the next night he could be the hockey equivalent to swiss cheese. If he is ever going to take the next step in his career, that is an area that he has to focus on."

Hurricanes fans do not need more swiss cheese. They have had their fill of that over the past two seasons with Eddie Lack and Darling. They need Mrázek to find the magic and deliver it consistently.

Mrázek Looks for Easy Transition to Hurricanes' "D"

Also, on Monday, July 2, Mrázek met with the Hurricanes media via telephone conference call. Since the play of the defense in from of him has at times been blamed for his poor results, I asked Mrázek what he has observed as the biggest difference defensively between the Hurricanes and the Red Wings and Flyers.

Mrázek answered,

"You have to know the defensemen, how they talk to you and how you have to play the puck to them and stuff like that...I'm going to be starting the season with the team and we're going to have the time in training camp to get used to it. The defensemen are really, really good and we all know how good and how important they are for Carolina. I think it's going to be easy."

Whether or not Mrázek will have an easy time transitioning into the Hurricanes' system remains to be seen. Also on Monday, new Hurricanes head coach [Rod Brind'Amour was quoted by Chip Alexander](#) in the *Raleigh News & Observer* as having said, "Hopefully between Petr and 'Darls' one of these guys will get it together and can lead us."

Translation for fans: We sure hope Mrázek can find the magic and lead us to the playoffs. Not that it would not be appreciated if it turns out to be Darling who has a playoff-caliber season. But, at this point all eyes are on Mrázek, looking for the magic and hoping it is there.

Hurricanes Re-Sign van Riemsdyk

[By Brandon Share-Cohen](#) July 5th, 2018

The Carolina Hurricanes have re-signed defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk to a two-year contract worth \$4.6 million, [according to Frank Seravalli](#) and later [confirmed by the team](#). The deal comes with an annual cap hit of \$2.3 million per season and will keep van Riemsdyk locked up through the 2019-20 season.

While van Riemsdyk originally filed for an arbitration hearing to settle his contract, the Hurricanes were ultimately able to offer him a deal that was suitable for both sides. For van Riemsdyk, it's an increase on the \$825,000 per season he made in each of the last two seasons as well as the \$925,000 he made in his first two seasons on his entry-level deal. For the Hurricanes, this is a very affordable bridge contract that will allow them to see exactly what they have in the 26-year-old van Riemsdyk who was traded to the Hurricanes prior to the 2017-18 season.

"Trevor was a steady presence on our blue line last season," [said Hurricanes' president and general manager Don Waddell](#). "He's shown progression each year of his NHL career, and is a well-liked player in our locker room."

Though van Riemsdyk is far from a prospect (he's set to turn 27 years old at the end of July), he's only been in the league for parts of four seasons. With his ability to play a solid two-way game coupled with his right-hand shot and size at 6 foot 2 and 188 pounds, van Riemsdyk was locked up for a very team-friendly deal and will still get a chance to cash in at 28 years old when his contract expires.

Last season, his first in Carolina, van Riemsdyk scored three goals and 16 points in 79 games. In his career, he's scored 11 goals and 47 points in 237 games and has been much more of a puck-mover and defensive-minded player than a true two-way offensive threat. With that in mind, there is



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

certainly room for van Riemsdyk to grow offensively if paired with better offensive players around him in Carolina.

Major Changes to the Hurricanes

The Hurricanes have made some major moves this offseason on defense by adding Dougie Hamilton from the Calgary Flames and Calvin de Haan out of free agency. This of course also came with the subtraction of Noah Hanifin who was a part of the Hamilton trade. Even more, the Hurricanes could realistically move Justin Faulk at some point this offseason which would just add to the carousel on their blue-line.

It's unclear what type of team the Hurricanes will be next season. With their plans to revamp the team already in full-effect with the aforementioned moves on defense as well as

the subtraction of Elias Lindholm but additions of Micheal Ferland and Andrei Svechnikov up front, the 2018-19 season for the Hurricanes could be an interesting one. Whether they are able to compete for a postseason berth or not, the team is doing all they can to break free from the status-quo – something that's been necessary for some time in Carolina.

The Eastern Conference is full of powerhouses in the Tampa Bay Lightning, Boston Bruins, Toronto Maple Leafs, Washington Capitals, Pittsburgh Penguins and Columbus Blue Jackets. With that in mind, teams like the Hurricanes, Florida Panthers, Philadelphia Flyers and New York Islanders (minus John Tavares) could legitimately make a push for wildcard spots in 2018-19. The opportunity is there for the taking.

Hurricanes Have Potential Stud in Necas

By Carter Fricano July 6th, 2018

Finishing in or around the NHL basement over the past nine seasons has been a tough pill to swallow for fans of the Carolina Hurricanes, but the rewards that come after failure are becoming apparent. Prospects-turned-lineup-regulars like Jaccob Slavin, Brett Pesce, and Sebastian Aho have kept the 'Canes competitive and given the team and fans hope for the future, and prospect [Martin Necas is poised to become another example](#).

Former GM Ron Francis drafted Necas 12th overall in June 2017, and he put on quite a show at the prospect development camp last week. Here's a look at what Necas brings to the ice and his potential impact at the NHL level, including his timetable to make the team full time.

Necas' Dynamic Arsenal

The most exciting aspect of Necas' playing style is that he is not one-dimensional. The Czech-native boasts the ability to capitalize on the smallest mistakes made by the opposition. While he is not big at 6-foot-1, 180 pounds, Necas can create space with power maneuvers and he has tremendous skating ability, agility and the stick and puck handling skills to keep the puck away from opposing defenders. He's got a decent shot too. When he can marry his skills into a cohesive unit, he will be a real threat.

Solid Foundations

While he was not a top-10 pick, Necas was drafted high at 12th in 2017. This was due, in large part, to his strong showing internationally at the World Juniors and at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he showcased both his dynamic skillset and his ability to get on the scoresheet. At the draft, he was considered a project because of his small stature, but he has since filled out nicely in just over a year.

Over the past year, Necas has "wowed" spectators with his performance in the Czech Extraliga. With HC Kometa Brno, he improved on his 0.37 points per game from the 2016-17

regular season to 0.71 points per game in 2017-18. He then scored four goals and nine points in 14 playoff games en route to Kometa Brno's second consecutive Extraliga title.

He impressed again at the World Juniors with three goals and 11 points in seven games, leading the Czech Republic to a fourth-place finish, their best since a 2005 bronze medal. Coming into the 2018-19 season, Necas is looking to move to North America and build on his success.

How Do the Hurricanes Utilize Necas?

Predicting the potential impact of teenagers is a fool's errand but in many ways, Necas's game has matured so much recently that we have a grasp on what he could accomplish at the NHL level.

Some natural centers need time to grow into the role but it seems that Necas will [begin his North American career down the middle](#), as he has a strong two-way game already. With that being said, the position he plays may influence what team he's assigned to, either in Charlotte or Carolina.

[At the development camp](#), Necas dazzled. He was one of, if not the, best youngsters and he and Andrei Svechnikov showcased their skill and surprising chemistry. Watching the two play together was a treat, and while Svechnikov is a lock to make the Hurricanes' **opening night roster**, **Necas is almost** guaranteed to make the big club at the start of this season.

If Necas does make the 'Canes roster, we can anticipate that he will initially play in a bottom-six role unless he earns his way into a higher position and deserves more ice time. Head coach Rod Brind'Amour won't be giving handouts, but Necas has already proven that he can both drive a line and play well with other skilled players, so it is possible that he earns a top-six role at some point.

The future is bright for the Hurricanes, and all signs point to Martin Necas being a part of [the solution in Raleigh](#).



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

Calvin de Haan Improves an Already Stout Hurricanes 'D'

By Mark Shiver July 6th, 2018

The Carolina Hurricanes announced Tuesday that the team has signed defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year, \$18.2 million deal. Based on his career so far in the NHL, it can be said that he improves an already stout Hurricanes defense.

[The addition of Dougie Hamilton](#) was already a strong improvement on the blue line, adding de Haan is a very strong improvement.

de Haan In Review

For the four-plus seasons that de Haan has been in the NHL, he has played for the New York Islanders. He was drafted 12th overall in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft. The 27-year-old Carp, Ontario native has progressed in his development, however, he was sidelined last season with a shoulder injury, only playing in 33 games.

The general manager Don Waddell said in the [Hurricanes' press release](#):

Calvin is a solid puck-moving defenseman who will bring a veteran presence to the blue line. He is a strong two-way player who is capable of shutting down opponents' top lines, and he will help solidify the left side and upgrade our defense.

There is no question that the team feels de Haan is the real deal given his four-year deal. His career was also summarized in the Hurricanes' announcement:

"De Haan, 27, recorded 12 points (1g, 11a) in 33 games with the NY Islanders last season prior to missing the final 49 games of the season due to a shoulder injury. The 6'1", 198-pound defenseman set career highs in points (25), goals (5), assists (20) and games played (82) during the 2016-17 season and ranked fourth in the NHL in blocked shots (190).

Also, since the 2013-14 season, de Haan leads Islanders defensemen in blocked shots (687), ranks second in plus/minus (25) and third in games played (303). In addition, he is tied for second in the NHL in blocked shots per game (2.3) since 2013-14 (min. 100 GP). The picture comes into focus of a young player growing into his craft, only to be sidelined by injury at an inopportune time.

What stands out, in particular, are de Haan's plus/minus numbers. He was plus-11 last season and plus-15 in 2016-17. His positive numbers over the past four seasons indicate that he is playing his position well and he is unlikely to take unnecessary chances that would put an already fragile goaltending tandem in a precarious position.

The elephant in the room is whether he can come back 100 percent and continue the upward trajectory of his career. [De Haan said](#): "My shoulder feels great. I had the surgery in January, and I've been skating for two months, playing golf, doing all the normal human being things. I feel really good."

Waddell and the 'Canes made an \$18.2 million wager that the answer will be an unquestionable yes.

De Haan and a Good, Young Blue Line

De Haan is joining a blue line that consists of Jaccob Slavin, Brett Pesce, Dougie Hamilton, Trevor van Riemsdyk, Haydn Fleury and last year's team co-captain and three-time All-Star, Justin Faulk. (Van Riemsdyk was signed Thursday to a two-year, \$4.6 million contract.)

That's not a bad group of defensemen that new Hurricanes head coach Rod Brind'Amour has in the stable. In fact, de Haan said in a conference call with the media: "I get to play with one of the best young blue lines in the NHL. That to me is very important." That young, stout blue line is one of the compelling reasons de Haan made the decision to join the club.

Making the playoffs is another reason he gave for wanting to be part of the Hurricanes. He also said: "I feel like I can step in and help this team win. I'm aware that the Carolina Hurricanes haven't made the playoffs in the past nine years. To be honest, I really want to be a part of the solution here...I feel like I can help this team win."

De Haan said he feels that the good, young solid defensive corps can be one of the best in the NHL. [Greg Wyshynski of ESPN rated the move](#) by the Hurricanes a B-: "I'm not going A-minus here because, frankly, it's a move that sets up another one or two that will address the Canes' other needs. So, the quality of the signing is somewhat linked to that. I'm also a little worried about de Haan's durability. But the potential is there for us to look back at this signing as a major building block towards Carolina becoming a championship contender."

Wyshynski makes a valid point. Between the defensive players under contract and those in the system, the Hurricanes' defensive cupboard is pretty full. Andrew Forbes of The Hockey Writers [noted when the deal was announced](#): "While the acquisition of de Haan gives [the Hurricanes six defensemen signed to contracts](#) for the upcoming season – five of whom are due \$4.025 million or more – it does open up the possibility that the team could look to move Justin Faulk and his \$4.83-million contract."

With van Riemsdyk's signing on Thursday, moving Faulk seems like a foregone conclusion. Waddell said during the de Haan conference call with the media that there's no sense of urgency at the moment to do something. But few would be surprised if a deal to move Faulk was announced very soon.

It's a new day for the Hurricanes. A stout defense was improved on with de Haan. The management team has been busy, which in itself is new for the team. Moving Faulk is likely and if Waddell can pull off moving him for a legitimate scoring forward, the offseason will have gone exponentially better than anyone expected.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018



Carolina, van Riemsdyk agree to 2-year, \$4.6M deal

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Hurricanes and defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk have agreed to a two-year contract worth \$4.6 million.

Under terms of the deal announced Thursday, van Riemsdyk will make \$2.1 million this season and \$2.5 million in 2019-20.

Van Riemsdyk and the team agreed to the deal after the defenseman filed for arbitration. He led the team with a plus-

minus rating of plus-9 last season and had a career-best 13 assists.

Carolina acquired van Riemsdyk from Vegas a day after the expansion draft, and the new deal bolsters the Hurricanes' depth on the blue line. They picked up Dougie Hamilton last month in a five-player trade with Calgary and signed free agent Calvin de Haan earlier this week.

Carolina signs D de Haan to 4-year, \$18.2M deal

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Hurricanes have signed free-agent defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year contract.

General manager Don Waddell said Tuesday night that the deal is worth a total of \$18.2 million.

De Haan had a goal and 11 assists in 33 games with the New York Islanders last season but missed the final 49 games with a shoulder injury. A year earlier, he set career

highs with 25 points, five goals and 20 assists while playing all 82 games.

The 27-year-old was a first-round draft pick in 2009 and is the second notable defensive acquisition this offseason for Carolina, which picked up defenseman Dougie Hamilton in a five-player trade with Calgary.

Waddell calls de Haan "a strong two-day player" who "will help solidify the left side and upgrade our defense."



Hurricanes make another splash on D, sign de Haan

Andrew Schnittker, Sports Editor

Jul 4, 2018

The Carolina Hurricanes continued to wheel and deal Tuesday night, signing free agent defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year deal worth \$4.55 million per season.

De Haan was one of the more sought after free agents on the market, particularly among defensemen, and chose Carolina as his long-term home.

"To be honest it was a pretty simple [pitch]," de Haan said. "I get to play with one of the best young blue lines in the NHL. That to me is very important. I feel like I can step in and help this team win. I'm aware that the Carolina Hurricanes haven't made the playoffs in the past nine years and to be honest I really want to be a part of the solution here."

While Carolina was relatively quiet with the opening of the NHL's free agency period Sunday, this deal started to come together then.

"We started talking about it on Sunday and then a couple conversations with Andy Scott, the representation for Calvin," Hurricanes general manager Don Waddell said. "And then Monday we had set up some interviews where I talked to Calvin, [owner] Tom Dundon talked to Calvin and [head coach] Rod Brind'Amour talked to Calvin also."

In six seasons with the New York Islanders, de Haan compiled 12 goals, 69 assists and plus 26 rating. He's developed a reputation as one of the better shot blockers in the league, with 687 blocks in 304 career games.

In addition to his on-ice strengths, de Haan should bring a boost to the Canes' locker room as well.

"Once everybody had a chance to talk to him, they understood what a good person he is," Waddell said. "We all know him as a player but you want to get to know him as a person as much as you can. And we made a decision late last night that we committed to today."



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

As a team that has missed the playoffs nine consecutive years, Carolina has not been a marquee destination for free agents, but de Haan wanted to join up and be a part of the solution. Having faced the Canes many times as a member of a Metropolitan division foe in the Islanders, he knows this is a talented team with potential.

"The Carolina Hurricanes are an annoying team to play against as a defenseman," de Haan said. "There's fast, skilled forwards up front. When you look at the overall team's possession numbers over the past few years, they're annoying to play against. It's something I took into consideration. I respect those guys. Not making the playoffs for nine years, it sucks. I want to be a part of that solution to help make the team better, to help make the fans in Raleigh appreciate the Hurricanes. We want people in those seats. I will do my best to help the winning cause and put the Hurricanes and Carolina back on the map."

The de Haan signing, coupled with the blockbuster deal with the Calgary Flames at the draft that netted the Canes Dougie Hamilton, gives the team an absolutely stacked blue line that includes, for now at least, Hamilton, de Haan, Justin Faulk, Jaccob Slavin and Brett Pesce.

Waddell said the signing gives him added flexibility to make a move on the blue line, and trade rumors continue to swirl around Faulk.

Hurricanes re-sign van Riemsdyk

Staff Report

Jul 5, 2018

The Carolina Hurricanes took care of another piece of business to shape next season's roster Thursday, as general manager Don Waddell announced that the team re-signed restricted free agent Trevor van Riemsdyk to a two-year deal worth \$2.3 million per season.

In 79 games with the Hurricanes last season, van Riemsdyk put up three goals, a career-high 16 assists (matching his points career high at 19) and led the team in plus/minus at +9.

De Haan signing a statement for Hurricanes

Andrew Schnittker, Sports Editor

12 hrs ago

There were some questions coming into this offseason about new Carolina Hurricanes owner Tom Dundon's willingness to spend to improve his club. Those sprang from internal hires of former business president Don Waddell as the team's new GM, and former assistant coach Rod Brind'Amour as head coach.

Both Dundon and Waddell talked about the (legitimate) dangers of adding players via free agency, and Canes fans thought they would see another offseason of bargain hunting.

"We have pretty good depth on the blueline right now," Waddell said. "If we didn't do anything, I think we'd probably have one of the top blue lines in the whole league. But it may give us an option to look at some other needs or restocking the shelves with young players and draft picks. We've got some time on our side and ... I don't feel an urgency to do something but certainly we'll look at all our options."

De Haan missed most of last season with the with a shoulder injury, but confirmed he's recovered from a January surgery and will be ready to go come training camp.

For Waddell in his first year as the Canes' GM, landing a player of de Haan's caliber in free agency is an affirmation of what he, Dundon and Brind'Amour are trying to build.

"I think it's always important when you have the opportunity to sign good players and you can actually get them," Waddell said. "Because so many teams are looking for these type of players so to be the winner on it makes you feel good. First I give credit to Tom Dundon obviously for stepping up and being willing to go after free agents. Like Tom says, if we like the player and it's going to make us better, he's all in. ... Our team is on the rise right now with all the young players that we have. To put some key veteran players as Calvin, Dougie Hamilton, who we traded for last week, these types of players in our lineup, that's going to make us a better hockey club."

"Trevor was a steady presence on our blue line last season," Waddell said in the team's official release. "He's shown progression each year of his NHL career, and is a well-liked player in our locker room."

The Canes acquired van Riemsdyk in a trade with the Vegas Golden Knights for a second-round draft pick last summer. His signing makes it even more likely a defenseman will be dealt, as the Canes now have van Riemsdyk, Justin Faulk, Brett Pesce and Dougie Hamilton on the right side of their blue line, and Faulk's name has been circulated in trade rumors all summer.

Those doubts should have been washed away by the slew of moves Waddell has made so far this offseason. After swinging a trade at the draft to land top offensive defenseman Dougie Hamilton from the Calgary Flames, the Canes had a need for a defenseman that could play the left side after losing Noah Hanifin in that deal. So, Waddell went out and signed free agent Calvin de Haan for four years at an AAV of \$4.55 million.

The deal is significant for two reasons. The first is that Dundon green lit a free agent deal for a top player. The Canes needed a left-side defender, and Waddell was able to snag arguably the best on the market. De Haan's total deal of \$18.2 million over four years is the largest external free agent contract the Hurricanes have signed in the post 2004-05 lockout era.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

In addition, the Canes' current projected payroll of over \$66 million is also the largest in that span. None of this seems to paint a picture of an owner who's unwilling to spend to improve his team, does it?

"I think it's always important when you have the opportunity to sign good players and you can actually get them," Waddell said. "Because so many teams are looking for these type of players so to be the winner on it makes you feel good. First I give credit to Tom Dundon obviously for stepping up and being willing to go after free agents. Like Tom says, if we like the player and it's going to make us better, he's all in."

Of course, it takes two sides to make a deal. Just as the Hurricanes have to be willing to pay market value for a free agent, that player has to want to sign in Carolina. A nine-year playoff drought hasn't exactly turned Carolina into a marquee destination for free agents, but that could be changing.

The team is on the rise, led by its young core of forwards Sebastian Aho, Teuvo Teravainen, Andrei Svechnikov and Marin Necas as well as defenseman Hamilton, Jaccob Slavin and Brett Pesce.

Despite the Hurricanes' lengthy postseason absence, de Haan saw a situation he wanted to be part of and help the Hurricanes take the next step, even reportedly leaving more money on the table elsewhere to do so.

"The Carolina Hurricanes are an annoying team to play against as a defenseman," de Haan said. "There's fast, skilled forwards up front. When you look at the overall team's possession numbers over the past few years, they're annoying to play against. It's something I took into consideration. I respect those guys. Not making the playoffs for nine years, it sucks. I want to be a part of that solution to help make the team better, to help make the fans in Raleigh appreciate the Hurricanes. We want people in those seats. I will do my best to help the winning cause and put the Hurricanes and Carolina back on the map."

While one free agent signing certainly won't completely turn things around for the Hurricanes, getting de Haan makes a statement that this is a team that wants to win. If Dundon and Waddell can continue the positive momentum they've built so far this offseason, better days could be ahead.



SB NATION
CANES COUNTRY

Hurricanes sign Calvin de Haan to four-year, \$18.2 million contract

The Canes make a splash on the free agent market, signing arguably the top defenseman available.

By [Brian LeBlanc@bdleblanc](mailto:Brian_LeBlanc@bdlblanc) Updated Jul 3, 2018, 10:57pm EDT

The [Carolina Hurricanes](#) had a vacancy on the left side of their defense after trading [Noah Hanifin](#) to Calgary in the deal to bring [Dougie Hamilton](#) to Raleigh. To replace [Hanifin](#), the Canes have pulled in one of the top free agent defensemen on the market.

The Hurricanes announced late Tuesday that they have signed former [New York Islanders](#) defenseman Calvin de Haan to a four-year contract worth \$18.2 million, for an average annual value of \$4.55 million. "It was a pretty simple decision," de Haan told the media on a conference call Tuesday night. "I get to play with one of the best young bluelines in the NHL. That to me is very important. I want to be part of the solution here. I feel like I can help this team win."

De Haan, 27, is coming off a one-year, \$3.3 million contract and a season that ended after 33 games due to shoulder surgery in late December. De Haan told the media that his shoulder is fully healed and, in fact, he was playing golf earlier in the day while his agent finalized the deal.

De Haan embraces the challenges presented by signing with a team that's trying to end a lengthy playoff drought. "Not making the playoffs for nine years sucks, but I want to be

part of the solution to make the team better, and help the fans in Raleigh appreciate the Hurricanes," he said. "I will do my best to help the winning cause and put the Hurricanes and Carolina back on the map."

The Islanders' first-round draft pick in 2009, when he was taken 12th overall, de Haan had been a second-pairing mainstay for the Islanders the past four seasons until his shoulder injury. His defense partners have varied over the past three years: [Travis Hamonic](#) and [Johnny Boychuk](#) three seasons ago, [Dennis Seidenberg](#) in 2016-17, and [Adam Pelech](#) last season.

Hurricanes GM Don Waddell said that the deal came together rather quickly, making first contact with de Haan's agent on Sunday when free agency opened. "Monday we had set up some interviews where I talked to Calvin, and Tom Dundon and Rod Brind'Amour talked to him also," he said. "Once everyone had a chance to talk to him, we understood the kind of person he is, and we made a decision late last night that we would pursue it today, and opened negotiations this morning."

De Haan is coming to a team that he is largely unfamiliar with, one he described as an "annoying" team to go play against as a defenseman. He comes in only knowing - even in passing - one player: Jeff Skinner, who was his teammate on the Canadian squad at the World Championships in 2017. He was sold on the vision by speaking to the Canes' braintrust, and he can't wait to get started.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

"At the end of the day I get to play in the NHL for four more seasons," he said, "and I'm pretty excited about that."

Why Calvin de Haan's Signing Heralds a New Direction for the Carolina Hurricanes

The idea of a top free agent signing with the Hurricanes might be even more noteworthy than the actual act of Calvin de Haan doing so.

By [Brian LeBlanc@bdleblanc](mailto:Brian_LeBlanc@bdlblanc) Jul 5, 2018, 2:03pm EDT

The list of players the [Carolina Hurricanes](#) have acquired through free agency over the years who didn't have a prior connection to the organization in some form has been, to be charitable, rather underwhelming.

The hits? [Cory Stillman](#) and Ray Whitney in the summer of 2005 are obvious. Ron Francis in 1998 sticks out as a signing meant to make a statement for a team struggling for relevance in the wake of moving to North Carolina moreso than a pure hockey move, although even as seen through that lens it was a successful signing. (Yes, he played for the club in Hartford, but was traded away before the Karmanos regime took over, so we'll count it here.) Arturs Irbe wasn't a bad call, and neither was (gulp) Alexander Semin in the year he joined the team on a one-year deal. The less said about his five-year extension the subsequent summer, the better, but that came after he was a known quantity.

In the middle you find guys like Patrick Dwyer, [Alexei Ponikarovsky](#) (hey, don't laugh, he wasn't bad for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a season and then turned into the draft pick that became [Jacob Slavin](#)), [Frantisek Kaberle](#) and Jay Harrison. None of them were unqualified successes, but they at least held their own.

But then at the bottom? The likes of [Stephane Yelle](#), Trevor Letowski, [Josef Melichar](#), [Brad Isbister](#), [Tomas Kaberle](#), [Jakub Nakladal](#) and Jamie Storr would like a word.

In fact, there are way more swings and misses in the Canes' free-agent history than there are hits, which justifies Tom Dundon's belief that shopping for free agents is largely an exercise in picking through other teams' recycling bins - and makes the Canes' signing of Calvin de Haan on Tuesday even more notable.

Not since (shudder) Tomas Kaberle signed in 2011 have the Canes splashed more than two years on a free agent from outside the organization. Before that, it was [Tom Kostopoulos](#) (!?) in 2009. Stillman and Oleg Tverdovsky got three years on the open market from Carolina, and Francis signed for four years in the summer of 1998.

That's it. That's the list. Five free agents - six if you count de Haan - in the Canes' 22 offseasons in North Carolina have received deals longer than two years.

The Hurricanes, of course, are far from alone in avoiding big-ticket free agent signings, with examples like [the ones Andrew mentioned on Tuesday](#) serving as cautionary tales in how to spend money foolishly. But ponying up for de Haan in both money and term serves notice from Dundon and Don Waddell that they will be willing to spend when it's appropriate to do so.

For a team that's been the target of "team in crisis!!" headlines since Francis' departure in March, this is a noteworthy rebuttal. It should - but, we all know, it won't, not in some quarters - prove that the Canes aren't going cheap for the sake of simply making a buck on the back of underpaid front-office executives.

Obviously it's too early to declare de Haan's signing an unqualified success; there's still plenty of time for the deal to go sideways, and as James Wisniewski will tell you, the best-formulated plans sometimes have plot twists in store that no one sees coming. But enjoy this deal for what is it: a bold statement from the Hurricanes' new braintrust that, if the right player for a situation is out there, commitments of time or money won't stand in the way of improving the club.

Who knows what the future holds, but at least for right now, it's fair to say that the Canes will no longer be reduced to shopping in bargain bins in free agency, crossing their fingers that a player signed on the cheap will pan out while knowing all along that it's highly unlikely to happen. It's been a long, long time since Canes fans could realistically say that, and it's a breath of fresh air years in the making.

Hurricanes Sign Trevor van Riemsdyk to Two-Year Contract Extension

TvR was arbitration-eligible and elected for arbitration, but the two sides agreed to a deal on Thursday.

By [Brett Finger@brettfinger](mailto:Brett_Finger@brettfinger) Jul 5, 2018, 6:54pm EDT

It was announced Thursday evening that restricted free agent Trevor van Riemsdyk had elected for arbitration, but that only lasted for about 45 minutes.

The [Carolina Hurricanes](#) and van Riemsdyk have agreed to terms on a two-year contract extension worth a total of \$4.6 million. He will get \$2.1 million in 2018-19 and \$2.5 million in 2019-20.

The 26-year-old right-handed defenseman skated in 76 games for the Hurricanes last season and only missed time due to an early-season concussion. He tallied three goals and 16 points as a steady presence on the team's third defensive pairing. In 237 career NHL games, he has 47 points with a plus/minus of +21.

"Trevor was a steady presence on our blue line last season," said general manager Don Waddell in a statement on Thursday. **"He's shown progression each year of his NHL career, and is a well-liked player in our locker room."**



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

With the official re-signing of van Riemsdyk, combined with the acquisitions [Dougie Hamilton](#) and Calvin de Haan, it now seems inevitable that the Hurricanes are going to trade Justin Faulk. Faulk has two years remaining on his contract and has been in the middle of a growing number of trade rumors over the past few weeks.

The official press release from the Hurricanes is below:

Don Waddell, President and General Manager of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes, today announced that the team has agreed to terms with defenseman [Trevor van Riemsdyk](#) on a two-year, \$4.6 million contract. The deal will pay van Riemsdyk \$2.1 million in 2018-19 and \$2.5 million in 2019-20.

"Trevor was a steady presence on our blue line last season," said Waddell. ***"He's shown progression each year of his NHL career, and is a well-liked player in our locker room."***

During his fourth NHL season in 2017-18, van Riemsdyk led all Hurricanes skaters in plus/minus (+9) and ranked second among Carolina blueliners in blocked shots (113). The Middletown, NJ, native established a new career high in assists (13) and matched his career high in points (16). He was acquired by the Hurricanes from the Vegas [Golden Knights](#) on June 22, 2017, one day after being selected by the Golden Knights in the 2017 Expansion Draft. The 6'2", 188-pound defenseman made his Hurricanes debut on Oct. 7, 2017 and played his 200th career NHL game on Jan. 14.

Originally signed by the [Chicago Blackhawks](#) as an undrafted free agent out of the University of New Hampshire in 2014, van Riemsdyk has totaled 47 points (11g, 36a) and 82 penalty minutes in 237 career NHL games with Chicago and Carolina. He has one goal in 15 career playoff games and was a member of the Blackhawks' [Stanley Cup](#) Championship team in 2015.



Checkers Sign Zack Stortini To AHL Deal

Written by Nicholas Niedzielski

Published: July 05, 2018

The Checkers are bringing some veteran leadership back into the fold for next season, signing Zack Stortini to a one-year AHL contract.

The 32-year-old forward only appeared in 23 games last season but ranked third on the team with 71 penalty minutes and tallied one goal along the way. Stortini's biggest asset to the team, however, was his leadership, with the coaching staff lauding the ways he helped the younger corps of players.

"His character and his leadership is awesome," said head coach Mike Vellucci during the season. "I've talked about putting him on the bench as an assistant coach because he's so good on the bench with his teammates."

In his exit interview at the end of the season, Stortini made

his desire to return known.

"Mike's such a great coach and a great guy, I love playing for him," said Stortini. "I would love to come back here if they're willing to have me back. I love playing for the Checkers, it's a fantastic organization and if I have the opportunity to come back I'm definitely going to be here."

Stortini got his opportunity and will join a Checkers team next year that will again feature an abundance of young prospects.

Heading into his 14th pro season, Stortini brings with him a ton of experience. In the AHL, the Ontario native has logged 109 points (55g, 54a) and 1,776 penalty minutes in 579 games with Toronto, Iowa, Milwaukee, Hamilton, Springfield, Oklahoma City, Norfolk, Lehigh Valley, Binghamton, San Jose and Charlotte. In the NHL Stortini has notched 41 points (14g, 27a) and 725 penalty minutes in 257 games with Edmonton and Nashville.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

Checkers Win AHL Community Service Award for 2017-18 Season

Published: July 06, 2018

The American Hockey League today announced that the Charlotte Checkers received the Eastern Conference's Excellence in Community Service Award for the 2017-18 season at the annual Board of Governors' meeting in Hilton Head, S.C. on Thursday.

This marks the fourth time in eight AHL seasons that the Checkers have won their conference's award for exceptional community relations efforts. This season, the team reached its highest fundraising total in five years with total donations of \$383,415 through cash and in-kind contributions.

Dating back to when Michael Kahn took ownership of the Checkers in 2006, the Checkers have made \$4.4 million in total contributions to the Charlotte community.

This season's community relations efforts were highlighted by four specialty jersey sales totaling \$84,000, the Pass it Forward program with Verizon that surprised patrons with \$10,000 worth of gift cards throughout the season, special events such as Tip-a-Checker at Pizza Peel and the Teddy Bear Toss presented by Novant Health, and several school programs that resulted in nearly \$100,000 worth of grants.

Through monetary donations, ticket donations and volunteer appearances, the Checkers worked with more than 250 local organizations throughout the campaign.



Hurricanes earn a B-plus for Calvin de Haan deal

Jul 4, 2018

Greg Wyshynski/ESPN

The player: [Calvin de Haan](#), 27, defenseman

The terms: Four years at \$4.55 million against the cap annually from the [Carolina Hurricanes](#).

Where does he fit in?

Well, this was a surprise, as the rich got richer. The Carolina Hurricanes are more known for their inefficiencies (center, goalie, making the playoffs) than their true strength, which is incredible depth on defense. They got deeper when they traded for [Dougie Hamilton](#) of the [Calgary Flames](#), and got deeper still in winning the Calvin de Haan derby.

The 27-year-old [New York Islanders](#) unrestricted free agent got serious interest from several teams, including [John Tavares](#) of the [Toronto Maple Leafs](#), but settled on a four-year term with the Hurricanes. The move gives the Hurricanes a left-handed defenseman to join [Jacob Slavin](#) and [Haydn Fleury](#), the No. 7 overall pick in 2014 who played 67 games last season for the Canes.

On the right side, they have Hamilton, [Justin Faulk](#), [Brett Pesce](#) and restricted free agent [Trevor van Riemsdyk](#). If that seems like a logjam, it is. The assumption that Faulk will be moved for help up front was underscored by adding de Haan to the deepest part of the team.

As for de Haan, he's a borderline top-pairing guy based on his analytics. (And continued kudos to Carolina analytics

guru Eric Tulsky for finds like this.) His relative goals-for percentage was plus-6.22 vs. the rest of his team during the last 115 games, putting him in the top 25 defensemen in the NHL for that metric.

Does this deal make sense?

Here's the catch: Those 115 games were a total for the last two seasons. Calvin de Haan was limited to 33 games last season with a shoulder injury that required surgery, and 2016-17 was the only season in which he appeared in all 82 games. Injuries have been a factor for him, and that can't be ignored in this evaluation.

That said, the investment seems sound. Assuming Faulk and his two remaining seasons with a \$4,833,333 cap hit are moved, de Haan slots right into that salary spot. The Hurricanes have done a good job getting their blue line locked up for manageable hits, including Slavin (\$5.3 million through 2025) and Pesce (\$4.025 million through 2024), and de Haan continues that trend if he's healthy.

Solid signing, and according to owner Tom Dundon, they won de Haan without offering the most money.

Overall Grade: B-plus

I'm not going A-minus here because, frankly, it's a move that sets up another one or two that will address the Canes' other needs. So the quality of the signing is somewhat linked to that. I'm also a little worried about de Haan's durability. But the potential is there for us to look back at this signing as a major building block towards Carolina becoming a championship contender.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

TODAY'S LINKS

<https://www.newsobserver.com/sports/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/canes-now/article214402729.html>
<https://www.newsobserver.com/article214287649.html>
<http://nsionline.com/article/2018/07/canes-continue-facelift-with-signing-of-defenseman-de-haan/>
<https://www.wralsportsfan.com/canes-sign-de-haan-to-four-year-deal/17673919/>
<https://www.wralsportsfan.com/hurricanes-sign-defenseman-van-riemsdyk-to-2-year-deal/17678047/>
<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/calvin-de-haan-statement-signing-for-canes/c-299410340>
<https://thehockeywriters.com/carolina-hurricanes-de-haan-signs/>
<https://thehockeywriters.com/carolina-hurricanes-mrazek-darling/>
<https://thehockeywriters.com/carolina-hurricanes-sign-van-riemsdyk/>
<https://thehockeywriters.com/martin-necas-hurricanes-potential-stud/>
<https://thehockeywriters.com/de-haan-improves-hurricanes-defense/>
[https://apnews.com/1ea9dcf60f404eae8e0c2c6401f61f1f/Carolina-van-Riemsdyk-agree-to-2-year-.\\$4.6M-deal](https://apnews.com/1ea9dcf60f404eae8e0c2c6401f61f1f/Carolina-van-Riemsdyk-agree-to-2-year-.$4.6M-deal)
[https://apnews.com/e93be096f6f840c3a955f0ab0645676a/Carolina-signs-D-de-Haan-to-4-year-.\\$18.2M-deal](https://apnews.com/e93be096f6f840c3a955f0ab0645676a/Carolina-signs-D-de-Haan-to-4-year-.$18.2M-deal)
http://www.technicianonline.com/sports/article_26601cdc-7f3f-11e8-8806-23cdbaacf081.html
http://www.technicianonline.com/sports/article_98fb48a8-80b0-11e8-a52e-979d68bd83c9.html
http://www.technicianonline.com/sports/article_7b51de22-8310-11e8-8695-0b3f2b2c25a4.html
<https://www.canescountry.com/2018/7/3/17533402/carolina-hurricanes-calvin-de-haan-nhl-unrestricted-free-agent-contract-new-york-islanders>
<https://www.canescountry.com/2018/7/5/17536916/calvin-de-haan-carolina-hurricanes-free-agent-signing-don-waddell-tom-dundon-cory-stillman>
<https://www.canescountry.com/2018/7/5/17538648/carolina-hurricanes-sign-trevor-van-riemsdyk-to-two-year-contract-extension-rfa-arbitration-nhl>
<http://gocheckers.com/articles/transactions/checkers-sign-zack-stortini-to-ahl-deal>
<http://gocheckers.com/community-news/checkers-win-ahl-community-service-award-for-2017-18-season>
http://www.espn.com/nhl/story/_/id/23998260/2018-nhl-free-agency-grade-calvin-de-haan-deal-carolina-hurricanes

SportScan

Articles from outlets covering the Hurricanes' upcoming opponents and league-wide news

1101698 Websites

The Athletic / Does Artemi Panarin want to spend the next 8 years in Columbus? A Q&A with agent Daniel Milstein

By Aaron Portzline Jul 8, 2018

Adam Foote kept moving the goalposts when it came to signing a contract extension in 2007, making it clear to Blue Jackets management that he didn't want to be in Columbus any longer.

Rick Nash tried to pass off his trade request in 2012 as a noble act of charity, that he came up with the idea as a way to help the Blue Jackets' pending roster rebuild.

Darryl Sydor rocked catatonically at his locker stall in 2004, gone mad by the hopelessness and dysfunction in the early days of the franchise. Jeff Carter skulked and schemed about the dressing room until ownership demanded that he was traded in 2012.

The Blue Jackets have witnessed several "exit strategies" through the years, and there is growing concern that they are in the early stages of another with left winger Artemi Panarin.

To be clear: Panarin has not requested a trade and has not been anything other than a model citizen and teammate.

But Panarin's unwillingness "as of now" to negotiate a contract extension is being seen by many around the NHL, and by some within the Blue Jackets' organization, as an indication that he wants to move on when his contract expires after the 2018-19 season.

Panarin isn't doing anything wrong or anything outside the NHL's collective bargaining agreement. His ability to choose which team he plays for beginning in 2019 is the very definition of the phrase "unrestricted free agent." And this is reminder No. 129 that he could always change his mind and decide to negotiate with the Jackets.

By all accounts, Panarin is trying to make a painful situation as pain-free as possible for the Blue Jackets. General manager Jarmo Kekalainen plans to meet with Panarin in Europe within the next two weeks to discuss the future.

The Athletic caught up with Panarin's agent, Daniel Milstein, to ask a few questions:

Aaron Portzline: Has there been any change in the situation since Panarin's unwillingness to negotiate became public last month before the NHL draft?

Milstein: Absolutely nothing. Zero. Jarmo and Artemi are going to meet, probably, but absolutely nothing has changed. I have spoken to Jarmo and (assistant GM) Billy Zito because I have two other players in the (Blue Jackets') system. But right now there's nothing (with Panarin).

Portzline: The fact that he isn't wanting to negotiate is being read a couple of different ways. One way is "I may want to sign here, I may not want to sign here, but I just don't want to do it right now." The other is



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

that Artemi wants to play somewhere else, which is his right, and he's trying to be as nice about it as possible. Which of those is true?

Milstein: Both of those things are true, partly. He's not ready to sign. Is he gonna sign? Look at it this way, I don't even know what they're going to offer. I've read some comments that this is the agent's work, that we're holding out to get the most money out of them, but it isn't. I think they'd give him 11 million dollars if he really wanted it. But I haven't even discussed anything with them. I've seen reports of \$9 million to \$10 million. You've seen the recent signings that are happening. We're not holding out for more money, because if I called Jarmo right now, he'd probably drive up to my house and we'd put a deal together. (Panarin's) biggest thing is ... he loves the team, he loves the coach. It's not the team or the way they treat him. It's about, does he want to spend the next eight years in Columbus? That's the only thing at stake right now. If it was a two-year deal we probably would have done it. But it isn't a two-year deal. It's gonna have to be an extended, seven- or eight-year deal put in place.

Portzline: It seems as if you and Artemi are being careful to handle this in a certain way, so that ...

Milstein: Panarin and I ... we didn't want to do a dog-and-pony show like we've seen with players in the past. The way he's treated in Columbus, I don't think it's possible to be treated any better anywhere else. He's well taken care of, let's put it that way. He didn't want to mess with them. That's basically the message: "I don't know if I want to be here for the next eight years. I haven't decided." I've told (Panarin) he could end up in a (different) market (via trade) for the next year if you tell (the Blue Jackets) about it now. He basically said, "That's OK. I just don't want to mess with the team. If I decide not to stay, no one would ever blame me and say I played games (with them) and walked for nothing at the 11th hour. So if they can get something ... (But), if they decide to keep me, they should know the risks associated with that." There's never been a disagreement or an argument. We've been truthful and honest. I told (Panarin) of the risk, but he said it was a good time to let the team know so that they can plan ahead. We told them before the draft.

Portzline: Has Panarin made it clear to the Blue Jackets which teams he would negotiate with on a long-term deal?

Milstein: No. No. The list that you have seen out there, it's all speculation. I've seen some cities on that report that ... it isn't the list, I can tell you that much. No list has been provided to Jarmo.

Portzline: Kekalainen has indicated that he expects Panarin on the roster when the season starts. Is that your sense, or do you get a sense that something might get done this summer?

Milstein: Jarmo's trying to find a trade partner, and if the team wants to know about his long-term plans, Jarmo would have to give (the opposing GM) permission to speak with me. I have not asked (Kekalainen) to speak to any clubs and, certainly, he hasn't asked me if I would be willing to talk to any clubs. I believe all (30) clubs would love to have him, but I can't see anybody trading for him without picking up the phone and checking with me first.

Portzline: It's been surmised by some that Panarin simply wants to see if the Blue Jackets can re-sign goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky (also a UFA after 2018-19), and may want to see what other moves Kekalainen makes this summer, before signing on long term with Columbus.

Milstein: Absolutely, positively no truth to that.

Portzline: What do think the chances are that Panarin signs with the Blue Jackets?

Milstein: He doesn't want me to negotiate yet, so you know ... if I was the Blue Jackets, I would do the same thing (consider trades).

Portzline: Can this be done in a way that doesn't sour Blue Jackets fans to Panarin for the rest of his career?

Milstein: I would sure hope so. Artemi walks from his apartment to each game, stops at church along the way and gets into the game. After the

game, he rides home with his girlfriend. They walk with the dog along the riverside downtown, stop at Starbucks on the way ... it's not a bad thing at all. Now, we're talking about an eight-year commitment (with his next contract). But there are zero bad feelings toward the team or the fans.

The Athletic LOADED: 07.09.2018

1101699 Websites

The Athletic / Source: St. Louisan Pat Maroon expected to sign with hometown Blues

By Jeremy Rutherford Jul 8, 2018

Blues general manager Doug Armstrong is staying busy this summer. After last week's trade for Ryan O'Reilly and the signings of Tyler Bozak and David Perron, Armstrong could add another piece as soon as Sunday.

Free-agent forward Pat Maroon, a native St. Louisan, is expected to sign a contract with his hometown team, the Blues, a source has told The Athletic.

Terms of the deal aren't yet known and may not even be finalized yet.

The Blues had put a full-court press on Maroon in recent days, with Armstrong meeting him in person in St. Louis to go over his potential role and current players such as captain Alex Pietrangolo calling to encourage him to join the club.

In the end, the 30-year-old Maroon has apparently decided to stay home, where he attended Oakville High and played for the St. Louis Bandits of the North American Hockey League under Jon Cooper, now the coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The potential signing of the 6-foot-3, 225-pound rugged left winger will address a couple of concerns for the Blues. No. 1, the roster is lacking in physical, gritty players and Maroon will bring that element. No. 2, Robby Fabbri will be back after missing 18 months with two ACL, but still considered a question mark, Maroon will give the team another established NHL player on the left side.

It also continues an overhaul of the Blues' forwards with potentially six newcomers: O'Reilly, Bozak, Perron and Maroon, along with with prospects Robert Thomas and Jordan Kyrou. The departed include Patrik Berglund, Vladimir Sobotka, Kyle Brodziak, Scottie Upshall and Tage Thompson.

Maroon, who was drafted by Philadelphia in the sixth round in 2007, has 78 goals and 178 points in 375 games with Anaheim, Edmonton and New Jersey. He had career-high 27 goals and 42 points in 81 games with the Oilers in 2016-17, playing on a line with Connor McDavid.

Maroon played 57 games with Edmonton last year, but with his contract expiring and his return to the Oilers in question, they traded him to New Jersey. He had one goal in five postseason games with the Devils, who were eliminated by Tampa Bay in the first round.

During that series, The Athletic's Joe Smith wrote a piece about the relationship between Maroon and Cooper, and how if the two hadn't been brought together by former Blue Kelly Chase, neither might have gone onto a career in the NHL.

"No question he was a hidden talent," Cooper said in the story. "An untapped talent."

"He took a chance," Maroon said. "And the rest is history."



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

That was in 2006-07 when they were in St. Louis together. Now more than a decade later, Maroon is said to be returning, but to play in the NHL, not the NAHL.

He is coming off offseason back surgery to repair a herniated disc in his back, a procedure called a "microdiscectomy." But that was performed in May and typically has a six-week recovery period, so he should be fine for the start of training camp.

Prior to Maroon's pending arrival, the Blues have just over \$5 million remaining in salary-cap space, and they still need to sign restricted free-agent Joel Edmundson, who opted this week to take his case to arbitration.

Edmundson could cost the Blues as much as \$4 million, so it remains to be seen how Armstrong will fit both the defenseman and Maroon under the salary cap. Maroon is coming off a three-year, \$6 million contract (\$2 million AAV), but was expected to command more this summer. It's possible that he will be giving the Blues a hometown discount.

The Athletic LOADED: 07.09.2018

1101700 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / NHL Off-Season Power Rankings: Who's improved most (so far)?

Luke Fox | July 6, 2018, 10:09 AM

Monster signings, a few juicy trades, and four weeks have passed since Alex Ovechkin hoisted sport's most storied chalice, officially triggering hockey's off-season.

With an intriguing draft, a free agency bombshell, coaches fired and hired, and RFA cases settled and less so, the league has undergone some drastic roster shuffling over the past month.

We step back to evaluate the NHL landscape and rank the moves its 31 general managers have made so far this summer in our NHL Off-Season Power Rankings.

While there's still plenty of time to tinker and trade, and a whopping 44 players have filed for arbitration, some clubs have improved for the better and others have taken a step back — on paper, of course.

All teams have been ranked from 1 through 31 according to off-season performance only. (This is not an order of strength heading into 2017-18 but strictly an assessment of recent front office moves.)

1. Toronto Maple Leafs

John Tavares took a hometown discount to come to Toronto, the AHL Marlies ended 50-plus years of championship-free pro hockey in the city, and Kyle Dubas let someone else sign Leo Komarov for four more years. Pretty good month. Now, about those William Nylander and Auston Matthews extensions....

2. Tampa Bay Lightning

Able to see cap space the rest of us are blind to, Steve Yzerman pitched John Tavares and is on the brink of landing Erik Karlsson. He's also been busy re-committing to players already on the roster: Slater Koekkoek, Louis Domingue, Cedric Paquette, the versatile J.T. Miller, and top-four D-man Ryan McDonagh. McDonagh will be 37 when his massive \$47.25-million extension expires. We like the player, but this big contract could come back to bite the Bolts down the road.

Don't expect any #TBLightning deal for Erik Karlsson anytime soon, per source. Not saying it won't happen eventually, but nothing imminent or close.

— Joe Smith (@JoeSmithTB) July 6, 2018

3. Washington Capitals

Any off-season that begins with a parade is a good one. The loss of Barry Trotz isn't a good look, but Todd Reirden has been heavily involved as an associate coach, so the transition could be smoother than we think. We love the Philipp Grubauer and Brooks Orpik trade, because there was no way either was coming back, and re-signing defenceman John Carlson was top priority. Jay Beagle will be missed, but retaining Devante Smith-Pelly for \$1 million was a no-brainer.

4. Vegas Golden Knights

George McPhee continues to impress. He made Paul Stastny, the second-best centre on the UFA market, the highest-paid Knight (\$6.5 million cap hit) but was smart enough to trade dollars for term and not signing him beyond age 35. That's the reason he was fine to walk away from James Neal. Ryan Reaves' raise (\$2.75 million) is steep for a fourth liner, as we've just watched the Maple Leafs trade away Matt Martin — another enforcer type who cashed in on July 1. Big decisions await on RFAs William Karlsson, Colin Miller and Shea Theodore.

5. Calgary Flames

Give Brad Treliving kudos for being proactive. Bill Peters gives the room a new voice, and the additions of James Neal and Elias Lindholm fill the void of secondary scoring that buried Calgary in 2017-18. I'm fine swapping Dougie Hamilton for the younger Noah Hanifin, who should grow into a solid second-pair guy.

6. St. Louis Blues

The Blues new-look centre depth — Brayden Schenn, Ryan O'Reilly, Tyler Bozak — is solid, and we fully expect ROR to arrive reinvigorated. Four years and \$16 million is steep for winger David Perron, now on his third tour in St. Louis, but we approve of Robby Fabbri's one-year, prove-it deal at \$925,000, and backup goalie Chad Johnson (\$1.75 million) might end up being one of this summer's better value deals. He'll look much better behind St. Louis's D than he did behind Buffalo's.

NHL-Maple-Leafs-Bozak

7. Colorado Avalanche

The future is bright in Denver. Grubauer is now positioned to succeed Semyon Varlamov in net, Ian Cole bolsters the D, and Matt Calvert represents a nice bargain pickup. Oh, and the Avs now have \$14 million in cap space plus five picks in the first three rounds of the 2019 draft. Plenty of flexibility heading into October.

8. San Jose Sharks

Doug Wilson did an excellent job of clearing cap space to go deep-sea fishing this summer. He went hard after Tavares and came up short. He was able to lock up under-30 forwards Evander Kane and Logan Couture for the remainder of their prime and extend Tomas Hertl. Wilson's best move was pawning off Mikkel Boedker, who never quite fit, to Ottawa and immediately flipping Mike Hoffman to Florida at a gain.

9. Florida Panthers

Provided Mike Hoffman finds a niche, the Florida Panthers are my pick to make it back to the playoffs. Their forward core is all under 30 and under \$6 million, and Michael Hutchinson was a nice insurance add to the goaltending tandem of Roberto Luongo and James Reimer.

10. Winnipeg Jets

GM Kevin Cheveldayoff cleared Steve Mason's salary and lost a top-nine forward in Joel Armia. He tried to retain second-line centre Paul Stastny, an excellent fit, but lost a bidding war to Vegas. Now he must focus on



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

re-signing core members Jacob Trouba, Connor Hellebuyck, Josh Morrissey and Adam Lowry. So many RFAs. Plus, Patrik Laine is now eligible for a monster extension, and 2019 could well be the Jets' last kick at championship before captain Blake Wheeler leaves. The cap crunch is here.

Ryan Dixon and Rory Boylen go deep on pucks with a mix of facts and fun, leaning on a varied group of hockey voices to give their take on the country's most beloved game.

11. Los Angeles Kings

Old getting older. We don't blame the Kings for going for it. How Ilya Kovalchuk adapts after his five-year NHL sabbatical will be one of this fall's most compelling story lines, while Drew Doughty's \$88-million extension on July 1 robbed us of 12 months of trade rumour fodder.

12. Arizona Coyotes

Some nifty work by John Chaya in locking up both Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Niklas Hjalmarsson a year in advance. If Jakob Chychrun turns into a player, Arizona will have a nice D group. The off-season will go from good to great if Alex Galchenyuk, 24, turns into the centre Chayka believes he can be and Marc Bergevin believes he can't be.

13. Boston Bruins

Sensing they have a contender, the Bruins were in the mix for big UFA tickets like John Tavares and Ilya Kovalchuk but had to settle for smaller moves. Out the door walk backup goalie Anton Khudobin and Nashes Rick and Riley. In comes defenceman John Moore at a reasonable \$2.75 million cap hit, the same salary as new backup Jaroslav Halak — who somehow cashed in after posting his lowest save percentage (.908) in five years.

14. Pittsburgh Penguins

Jim Rutherford is nothing if not decisive. He quickly made up his mind that Bryan Rust was more valuable than Connor Sheary, and that Jack Johnson would be an upgrade from Matt Hunwick. Matt Cullen's return at age 41 feels a tad sentimental, but he's not sapping the cap and his presence should only strengthen a room of guys who expect to win more Cups. With so much smoke, we can't help but wonder if a Phil Kessel deal is still a possibility.

Jack Johnson; Columbus Blue Jackets; NHL Trade Deadline

Jack Johnson fires a shot on net. (Jamie Sabau/Getty)

15. Edmonton Oilers

Peter Chiarelli tinkered with the fringes of a roster that largely disappointed, bringing in new assistants under Todd McLellan and picking up a couple nice value buys in Tobias Reider and Kyle Brodziak. The big gains must come from within, so we've awarded a bonus point for not doing anything irrational. P.S. — 23-year-old defender Darnell Nurse still needs a deal.

16. Minnesota Wild

New GM Paul Fenton made a series of low-risk gambles on veterans Eric Fehr, J.T. Brown, Greg Pateryn, and Matt Hendricks. Not exactly difference-makers. More intriguing will be how he handles the forthcoming extensions for RFAs Matt Dumba and Jason Zucker, each of whom enjoyed superb seasons. ALSO: We like that Fenton didn't fire Bruce Boudreau, who isn't to blame for the roster's offensive shortcomings and cap trouble.

17. New York Rangers

Firing Alain Vigneault and going full rebuild was a bold move for a showtime club, but at least the Rangers are sticking to their plan and didn't fall victim to July 1 mistakes. Rookie bench boss David Quinn has nothing to lose now that expectations have plummeted.

18. Buffalo Sabres

Any off-season that begins with the No. 1 overall pick ain't bad. We also like the return Jason Botterill fetched in from Pittsburgh and St. Louis, a pair of moves that helped both sides. Bringing in more veterans and removing a frustrated Ryan O'Reilly could shake up a fragile dressing room. Nice to see Carter Hutton get a chance to be a Number 1 goalie, although he'll have his work cut out for him playing behind a softer defence.

Buffalo Sabres select Rasmus Dahlin with the No. 1 overall pick in the NHL Draft. (Bruce Bennett/Getty)

19. Philadelphia Flyers

As many as 12 teams expressed interest in James van Riemsdyk, the best winger still available on July 1, and the Flyers got him. Philly now has three forwards making a minimum of \$7 million for the next four seasons, and that doesn't include Wayne Simmonds, who is due for a raise in less than a year's time.

20. Dallas Stars

God bless Jim Nill, who never shies away from the big move. He took an honest shot at both Tavares and Karlsson. The return of Valeri Nichuskin is a positive; the inability to move Jason Spezza is a negative. The Polak Door remains open.

21. Columbus Blue Jackets

Riley Nash was a decent UFA pickup, Anthony Duclair is a low-risk gamble, and letting Pittsburgh (over?)pay Jack Johnson was the right call. But the Blue Jackets' off-season is marred with knowledge that 26-year-old star Artemi Panarin (UFA 2019) has no interest in signing an extension. He'd mark a huge loss for a franchise that can never seem to get over the hump. So, do the Jackets go all in now while they still have the Bread Man and Sergei Bobrovsky under contract? Or will they ultimately sell off two integral pieces to their 2018-19 hopes?

22. Anaheim Ducks

The Ducks' window feels like it's closing. Corey Perry is untradeable, Ryan Kesler is unhealthy, and while Bob Murray isn't afraid to make big moves, he's been relegated to cheap depth pickups (Brian Gibbons could be a good one) as he works on raises for Ondrej Kase and Brandon Montour, each coming off breakout campaigns.

23. Carolina Hurricanes

Owner Tom Dundon has wasted no time making his mark: new GM, new coach, new goaltending tandem, new power-play quarterback. And we still might get a Jeff Skinner and/or Justin Faulk trade. Petr Mrazek is younger than Cam Ward, but is he better? Will the offensive-leaning Dougie Hamilton ultimately have a better career than Noah Hanifin? We'll see. From an entertainment standpoint, the Hurricanes haven't been on the radar like this in a while.

24. Montreal Canadiens

Marc Bergevin did well to not overpay for Ryan O'Reilly or trade the third-overall pick in a panic. But the news that Montreal will start the season without a true No. 1 centre or a No. 1 defenceman (Shea Weber needs up to six months to recover from surgery and will have been off the ice roughly a year when he returns) illustrates the state of a franchise a long way from contention. The Joel Armia pickup was nice, though.

25. Chicago Blackhawks

Not sure we would've signed a 38-year-old Chris Kunitz, but we do like Cam Ward at one year and \$3 million. Last season was proof that Chicago needs a proven backup behind Corey Crawford, whose health is still a concern.

26. Nashville Predators

David Poile's relatively quiet off-season is a testament to his already building a contender. RFA depth forwards Ryan Hartman and Miikka Salomaki still need contracts, and two big contract decisions loom for the



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

near future: top-four defenceman Ryan Ellis and Vezina champ Pekka Rinne both turn UFA in 2019 and can be signed to extensions now. Most pressing is the case of Austin Watson, who was arrested on a domestic assault charge.

27. Detroit Red Wings

A seeming embrace of the rebuild — trading away Petr Mrazek and Tomas Tatar for picks at the deadline — was oddly offset by older acquisitions like Thomas Vanek and Mike Green. We loved seeing Jonathan Bernier bounce back with Colorado, but a three-year deal is surprising. Ken Holland was gifted Filip Zadina major work is still to be done. He must re-sign RFAs Dylan Larkin and Anthony Mantha.

28. New Jersey Devils

Ray Shero was surprisingly quiet this spring, a point to which his \$23 million in project cap room can attest. The GM exercised patience in letting UFAs John Moore, Michael Grabner and Patrick Maroon all walk. His UFA bids either came up short or he's playing the long game.

Dimitri Filipovic provides entertaining and thoughtful dialogue about the game of hockey with an analytical edge. Not as nerdy as it sounds.

29. Vancouver Canucks

We won't be the first or last to say that four years is too much term for Jay Beagle and Antoine Roussel. That said, drafting Quinn Hughes — a potential power-play quarterback for years — was a major win, and re-signing Sven Baertschi for a \$3.37 million cap hit might look like a bargain if he keeps raising his game.

30. New York Islanders

Finally stripping Garth Snow of his power: Check mark. Hiring Barry Trotz at top dollar: Check mark. Losing the face of the franchise for nothing and then signing Leo Komarov for four years: Uh-oh.

31. Ottawa Senators

An utter gong show. Mike Hoffman and his 30 goals are gone, No. 1 goalie Craig Anderson wants out, and all signs point to Erik Karlsson's departure. Next up: Sens fans can look forward to Mark Stone's arbitration case. There's a silver lining, however. We like the Brady Tkachuk pick.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 07.09.2018

1101701 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Time for Canadiens GM Bergevin to level with fans

Eric Engels July 5, 2018, 4:32 PM

We now know that when Montreal Canadiens general manager Marc Bergevin stood up at his July 1 press conference and talked about icing a competitive, young and fast team that should be able to make the 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs, he wasn't selling hope; he was selling a fantasy.

You have to wonder what good could possibly come from that.

Perhaps people would've seen it as fantasy regardless — looking at a team that hadn't done much to improve on paper between April and July after finishing in 28th place in the NHL standings this past season. But in the wake of news breaking Wednesday that top defenceman Shea Weber underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee to repair a torn meniscus, how will anyone see it any other way? The operation, which was done on June 19, will keep Weber out of action until December, and that's the kind of roster problem that can't be solved immediately.

Bergevin was obviously aware of that when he fielded questions from the Canadiens' south-shore practice facility just a few days ago, but he opted to conceal the Weber news and push the hope of a quick turnaround anyway.

Continuing to do so now seems like a fruitless endeavour. Montreal's top prospects are at least a year away from becoming impactful NHL players, the team has a gaping hole up the middle of the ice and several of them on defence, and a soon-to-be 33-year-old Weber is stuck recovering from two major surgeries (he's barely three months into his six-month rehab from an operation to repair torn tendons in his left foot).

By the time he steps back on the ice for a game, he'll have gone an entire calendar year without playing. There's no hope to find in any of that.

"We were very disappointed to learn that this knee injury will extend Shea's recovery period," said Bergevin via press release. "Unfortunately, this is out of our control and we have to fully trust the medical group in these situations. We are confident that his recovery will go as scheduled and that Shea will return to action as soon as possible."

Per Dr. Mulder, Shea Weber was due for a minor arthroscopic procedure June 19, once the surgeon got in there he noticed the damage was more extensive, so he immediately operated on Weber's knee. The original procedure would have had him out three weeks. Instead it's 5-6 months.

— Arpon Basu (@ArponBasu) July 5, 2018

So to be clear, when Weber went under on June 19 he was expecting to have that minor arthroscopic procedure, a clean up. He woke up to find that his knee had been repaired and he was out 5-6 months.

— Arpon Basu (@ArponBasu) July 5, 2018

But there's no telling how this will affect Weber's ability to be the player Bergevin traded for when he sent P.K. Subban to the Nashville Predators two summers ago. At his best, Weber is a force to be reckoned with: a six-foot-four, 230-pound menace; a 25-minute-per-night-skater; a contributor at both ends of the ice; an elite player in every category.

But it would be too much to ask him to be those things in December — coming off the type of rehab he needs to go through and wading into the season two months after everyone else gets a head start. And the only thing worse than pretending everything will be fine and continuing to sell false hope for the season would be overtaxing Weber when he returns in order to help the Canadiens claw their way into a playoff spot with a sub-par roster.

Doing that could have a devastating impact on the long-term plan, and that would be far more unforgiveable than continuing to pedal in fantasy.

If Bergevin is right in his belief that both Weber and soon-to-be 31-year-old franchise goaltender Carey Price will always be able to perform as expected — even in the later stages of the eight years they're under contract — now is the time for him to face reality and proceed with caution. That's something he can do while still giving fans something to be excited for.

He'd be wise to shift the focus to the young core of players emerging on the current edition of the team. They will face adversity next season, but they will have ample opportunity to grow. He should sell the willingness to live with their mistakes and the acceleration of their development that will come with that approach.

Young defencemen like Victor Mete and Noah Juulsen, who took great strides in 2017-18, will have to play bigger roles in Weber's absence. Bergevin should sell the value in that and give Weber every last second he needs to take in order to return to full health.

Bergevin should also lean on backup Antti Niemi and third stringer Charlie Lindgren to lighten Price's load. He should sell the value in developing Lindgren and keeping Price fresh for the future.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 9, 2018

And there's no reason for Bergevin to be shy about continuing to sell the value in building up the team patiently and methodically — even if it means sitting on unused salary cap space.

It's not an easy road to go down, but it's the only one for the Canadiens to take right now. Pretending it isn't shouldn't be an option they continue to exercise.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 07.09.2018

1101702 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Panarin's agent provides update on potential trade, extension talks

Sonny Sachdeva | July 8, 2018, 8:19 PM

It's been a wild off-season for NHL clubs looking to add some dynamic offensive skill to their rosters.

While John Tavares swapped orange for blue as a free agent and talks continue regarding a potential Erik Karlsson deal, another game changer is waiting in the wings, potentially set for relocation as well.

In June, Sportsnet's Elliott Friedman reported Columbus Blue Jackets winger Artemi Panarin could also be available due to the winger's unwillingness to negotiate an extension past the 2018-19 campaign, in which he'll play out the final season of a two-year, \$12-million deal signed with Chicago.

There is word today that Artemi Panarin has told CLB that he is not ready to consider an extension "at this time." (UFA July 2019.) As a result, the Blue Jackets are testing the market for him.

— Elliott Friedman (@FriedgeHNIC) June 19, 2018

Blue Jackets GM Jarmo Kekalainen told Friedman at the time that the club would prefer to keep Panarin in Columbus long-term — no surprise given the winger's franchise-best 82 points last season — and feels both sides have plenty of time to iron out a solution.

On Sunday, Panarin's agent, Daniel Milstein, provided an update on his client's position in a lengthy interview with The Athletic's Aaron Portzline, confirming that the winger informed the Blue Jackets before the 2018 draft of his indecision regarding an extension with the club.

It appears the central issues for the former Chicago Blackhawk are the term of a potential deal and simply the franchise's location, as Panarin hasn't yet decided whether he wants to spend much of the next decade in Columbus, according to his agent.

"[Panarin] loves the team, he loves the coach. It's not the team or the way they treat him," Milstein explained to Portzline. "It's about, does he want to spend the next eight years in Columbus? That's the only thing at stake right now. If it was a two-year deal we probably would have done it."

"But it isn't a two-year deal. It's gonna have to be an extended, seven- or eight-year deal put in place."

Milstein also confirmed that Kekalainen is indeed still testing the waters on a trade for the dynamic winger, though it appears nothing significant has materialized up to this point.

"Jarmo's trying to find a trade partner," Milstein said. "And if the team wants to know about his long-term plans, Jarmo would have to give (the opposing GM) permission to speak with me. I have not asked (Kekalainen) to speak to any clubs and, certainly, he hasn't asked me if I would be willing to talk to any clubs. I believe all (30) clubs would love to

have him, but I can't see anybody trading for him without picking up the phone and checking with me first."

There's no question Panarin would serve as a marquee upgrade for any team able to add his elite scoring touch to their attack. Through three seasons in the big leagues, he's amassed 233 points in 244 games, coming up with more than a few highlight-reel displays along the way.

Friedman pointed to the Kings, Rangers, Islanders, Lightning, and Panthers as potential destinations for the smooth-skating winger.

The Kings and Panthers have begun working to upgrade their forward corps already via the additions of Ilya Kovalchuk and Mike Hoffman, respectively. Tampa Bay, meanwhile, reportedly remains in on the efforts to lure Karlsson away from Ottawa, while the Rangers and Islanders could both certainly use an upgrade in star power given the roster turnover seen in each dressing room over the past year.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 07.09.2018