



CAROLINA HURRICANES

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10 players who impressed at World Junior Summer Showcase

[Sweden's Andersson, Dahlin among those who stood out competing to play in 2018 WJC](#)

by Adam Kimelman [@NHLAdamK](#) / NHL.com Deputy Managing Editor

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PLYMOUTH, Mich. -- The players, coaches and executives at the World Junior Summer Showcase know that summer hockey results have little bearing on how a season could unfold.

"It's summer," United States coach Bob Motzko said. "All the athletes here, you're not in midseason shape."

However, many players stood out during the eight days of games and practices at USA Hockey Arena and made strong first impressions in their goal of playing at the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship, which will be held Dec. 26-Jan. 5 in Buffalo.

Here are NHL.com's top 10 players from the World Junior Summer Showcase, in alphabetical order:

Lias Andersson, F, Sweden (New York Rangers)

Andersson scored three goals in five games, including two in a loss to the U.S. on Wednesday. He played a role at the 2017 WJC but has the look of someone who wants to be a leader in 2018.

"Lias was here last year and he was good but he didn't make the same impression he does now," coach Tomas Montén said. "Lias is a player that leaves everything on the ice every time. That's a big key factor for your team. We need the leadership, that kind of work ethic on the ice."

Rasmus Dahlin, D, Sweden (2018 draft eligible)

Dahlin, expected to be a top pick at the 2018 NHL Draft, played two games because of an illness, but he showcased his dazzling skating and puck-handling skills. He also didn't shy away from physical play and had a game-saving shot block in the third period of a tie game against USA Blue on July 29, his first game.

"For us he's a two-way defenseman," Montén said. "He's always going to be recognized for his puck movement and his skating. He made some nice plays on the blue line as well. We feel that in Rasmus we have a player that can play both ends of the ice. He's going to play our penalty kill, he's great at the man-on-man play down low. I think he could be a complete defenseman."

Adam Fox, D, U.S. (Calgary Flames)

He was used solely in an offensive role at the 2017 WJC but showed during camp he can also be relied on defensively and could slide into the all-situation role [Charlie McAvoy](#)

(Boston Bruins) filled for the U.S. He had nine points (three goals, six assists) and was a plus-3 in five games.

"He's taking it to another level," Motzko said. "Last year he was a designated hitter on our team, coming off the bench from an offensive standpoint and making plays for us. He's at a whole other level for us right now. ... He's comfortable now playing the game in any situation for 60 minutes. That's a pretty special player. We all see it from the offensive side but he can handle tough minutes too."

Carter Hart, G, Canada (Philadelphia Flyers)

He's looked like the same calm, smooth goaltender who helped Canada reach the 2017 WJC gold medal game. And his play since that shootout loss to the U.S. showed [how easily he put it behind him](#).

"I don't think last year can faze him," Canada coach Dominick Ducharme said.

Quinton Hughes, D, U.S. (2018 draft eligible)

His dominant skating, vision and puck skills were on display every time he stepped on the ice, and he had five points (two goals, three assists) in five games.

"He's definitely a special player," Fox said. "He's a real smart player out there, really good skill. He's definitely dynamic. He has the ability to change the game on one shift."

Jordan Kyrou, F, Canada (St. Louis Blues)

He brought speed and energy to almost every shift. His best game was Friday, when he had two goals and an assist against Sweden. He finished camp with four goals in three games.

"He's got really good habits," Ducharme said. "He's doing little things that provokes turnovers. He's got the speed and the skills to be making the most of them."

Timothy Liljegren, D, Sweden (Toronto Maple Leafs)

He missed the 2017 WJC because of mononucleosis but is healthy now and making the most of his opportunity. He had four points (two goals, two assists) and a team-high 17 shots on goal in five games.

"I'm healthy, feel good," Liljegren said. "Been on the ice now for a couple weeks and it feels good. Just looking forward to next season."

[Casey Mittelstadt](#), F, U.S. (Buffalo Sabres)

He tied Fox for the lead among all players with nine points (three goals, six assists) in five games. Mittelstadt was dominant every game, and his line with center Logan Brown (Ottawa Senators) and right wing Kailer Yamamoto (Edmonton Oilers) was explosive.



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"Everywhere I go I want to be one of the main contributors and make a lot of plays on the ice," Mittelstadt said. "That's what I think I do best."

Brady Tkachuk, F, U.S. (2018 draft eligible)

Tkachuk was a wrecking ball in the offensive zone and had five points (one goal, four assists) in five games.

"He plays the game at an extreme high level with energy," Motzko said. "You can see as he gets stronger he's going to be a player that's not very fun to play against. He's rugged, he's going to bang around, he's got hockey sense. He's going to get better and better. He's the type of player you want to have around."

Granato to coach U.S. in 2018 PyeongChang Olympics

13-year NHL veteran coached Avalanche twice; Chelios, Young, Allain, Rolston named assistants

by Adam Kimelman [@NHLAdamK](#) / NHL.com Deputy Managing Editor

August 4th, 2017

PLYMOUTH, Mich. -- Tony Granato will coach the United States men's ice hockey team at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics, USA Hockey announced Friday.

The Olympics will be held Feb. 9-25.

"When USA Hockey asks if you'd like to be part of an Olympic staff, a national team staff, you're there," Granato said. "That's what shows how special these events and tournaments mean to those lucky enough to play in them. I've experienced a lot through the game of hockey and there's nothing better than to walk into an Olympic village, to walk into an Olympic arena, to walk into an opening ceremony and to have your colors and represent your country."

Jim Johansson, who will be the general manager, said Granato was his first choice as coach.

"For me, Tony made the most sense for a whole lot of reasons," he said.

Granato will be assisted in South Korea by Chris Chelios, Scott Young, Keith Allain and Ron Rolston. Ben Smith will be the director of player personnel.

Johansson, who played at the University of Wisconsin with Granato and Chelios, said what stood out was the competitiveness of the staff assembled.

"These guys are all great competitors," he said. "Tony is one of the best competitors I ever played with. Chris Chelios' career speaks for itself. Scott Young very quietly was one of the best competitors to ever put the USA jersey on. I know they're going to instill that in the players that we get. I also know they're going to have the ultimate respect the players are giving us."

NHL players are not eligible to play in the 2018 Olympics.

The roster is expected to be comprised of Europe-based players, as well as those eligible from the American Hockey League. NCAA players also will be considered.

Juuso Valimaki, D, Finland (Calgary Flames)

He had one assist in five games but was second on Finland with 18 shots on goal. He played in all situations and already has been named captain for the 2018 WJC.

"He has big-time leadership qualities," Finland coach Jussi Ahokas said. "He takes charge on the ice, defends well, also can make smart plays with the puck. The big thing is on the team he is a leader and we need those kind of guys."

Honorable mention: Logan Brown, F, U.S. (Ottawa Senators); Sean Dhooghe, F, U.S. (2018 draft eligible); Kasper Kotkansalo, D, Finland (Detroit Red Wings); Matthew Phillips, F, Canada (Calgary Flames); Aarne Talvitie, F, Finland (New Jersey Devils).

An early test will come at the Deutschland Cup, to be held in Augsburg, Germany, from Nov. 10-12, and include primarily Europe-based players. Johansson said he expected the goaltenders to be Ryan Zapolski, who plays for Jokerit in the Kontinental Hockey League, and David Leggio, who plays for EHC Red Bull Munchen in Germany.

"There's players playing internationally, there's world-class Americans playing all over the world," Granato said. "And we're looking forward to finding the best 25 that will represent our country with pride, passion and energy. I think we can be a real competitive team with how we skate. There's plenty of skilled players that will allow us to compete with the world's best."

Granato, 53, is entering his second season as coach at the University of Wisconsin. He had two stints as coach of the Colorado Avalanche (2002-04, 2008-09) and was an assistant with the Avalanche, Pittsburgh Penguins and Detroit Red Wings.

As a player, Granato was second in scoring for the United States at the 1988 Calgary Olympics with eight points (one goal, seven assists) on a team that finished eighth.

Granato played 13 NHL seasons with the New York Rangers, Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks.

Chelios, 55, has been an assistant coach with the Red Wings since 2015. He played for the United States four times at the Olympics (1984, 1998, 2002, 2006). He was the captain and helped the United States win the silver medal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

In his 26-season NHL career with the Montreal Canadiens, Chicago Blackhawks, Red Wings and Atlanta Thrashers, Chelios played 1,651 games, most among NHL defensemen and sixth all-time, and won the Stanley Cup three times (1986, 2002, 2008). He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2013.

Young, 49, was hired as director of player development of the Penguins on July 28. He spent the previous two seasons as an assistant coach at Boston University.

He was a teammate of Granato on the 1988 Olympic team and also played in the Olympics in 1992 and 2002.

Young played 1,181 games in 17 NHL seasons with seven teams. He won the Stanley Cup with the Penguins in 1991 and the Avalanche in 1996.



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Allain, 58, is going into his 12th season as the coach at Yale University. He was an assistant coach for the United States at the 1992 and 2006 Olympics.

Rolston, 50, served as coach of USA Hockey's National Team Development Program from 2004-11, and coached the Buffalo Sabres for two seasons.

Johansson, 53, has been with USA Hockey since 2000, and since 2007 has been assistant executive director of hockey operations. He also played for the United States at the 1988

and 1992 Olympics. He has been the GM of the U.S. World Junior Championship team the past eight years, and won the gold medal in 2010, 2013 and 2017. Johansson said his role involving the 2018 WJC will not change.

Smith, 71, works with USA Hockey in player evaluation. He was an assistant on the 1988 Olympic team and coached the U.S. women's team at the Olympics in 1998, 2002 and 2006.

The Hockey News

The day everything changed for Bryan Bickell

By: [Jason Buckland](#) Aug 6, 2017

The news left Bryan Bickell shocked, stunned, speechless. Retiring was the right decision, but by no means an easy one.

On the day he received the news that his life would never be the same, Bryan Bickell strode unsure from a Raleigh, N.C., medical office. It was last fall, early afternoon, as he walked toward his wife, Amanda, who sat in the driver's seat of the family car. In the back were the couple's two young girls, Makayla and Kinslee, who had slipped into a nap after lunch.

Amanda didn't normally accompany Bryan to doctor's [appointments](#), but something felt different about this visit. During the 2015 playoffs, Bickell, then with the Chicago Blackhawks, was felled under mysterious circumstances. He couldn't catch his legs. He was dizzy, easily winded. He first believed the culprit was an infected tooth, but despite treatment he never could seem to feel quite right.

To some doctors, the symptoms suggested vertigo, and Bickell, who was traded to the Carolina Hurricanes in 2016, underwent every test under the sun to determine a course of treatment. Eventually, when nothing seemed to take, an MRI was ordered, and when the results came in last fall, Bickell was summoned into the office of Dr. Josh Bloom, the Hurricanes' team doctor.

While Bryan met with Dr. Bloom, Amanda stayed in the car with the sleeping kids, her feet on the dash, tapping away on her phone. Suddenly, after just 15 minutes inside, Bryan emerged at the car door. Something was off.

He stared blankly at his wife. "Hey," she said. "What's up?"

"Can you go in to talk to the doctor?" Bryan asked.

Amanda did her best not to read too much into the request.

"I just said, 'OK,' got up and walked in," she recalled. "Initially, my mind didn't go very negative. I kind of thought maybe he just didn't understand what the doctor was saying."

While Bryan waited by the car, Amanda walked to the reception area, where she was led back into Dr. Bloom's office. Almost immediately, she was greeted with looks of concern. Someone asked her if she'd prefer one of the

nurses go outside and stay with the girls, so that Bryan could come back in before the doctor began.

Now, she feared, things were getting serious.

"No," Amanda said, "it's OK. Just let me hear it."

According to the [Multiple Sclerosis](#) Foundation, some 2.5 million people around the world suffer from the disease, a disabling [neurological](#) condition that's particularly prevalent in young adults.

Certainly, far fewer are diagnosed while they are playing in the NHL.

Before last fall, when Dr. Bloom told him he had MS, Bickell was a solid pro, four times eclipsing 20 points over [parts](#) of nine seasons with Chicago, where he won two Stanley Cups. His career hallmark came in the 2013 playoffs: Bickell scored nine goals during the Blackhawks' title run, including the tying goal with 1:16 left in the third period of Game 6 against the Boston Bruins. Chicago took the lead seconds later, and the rest is history.

He was traded to Carolina last year along with Teuvo Teravainen, casualties of the Hawks' salary cap constraints. Still a respected vet, the hope was Bickell might help shape a young team, but his diagnosis prevented him from making the impact the club thought he could.

Once they left Dr. Bloom's office that day, Bryan and Amanda scrambled to grasp what their new life would become. At first, Bryan was more irritable, stress finding him more easily than it had before. He struggled with fatigue, and his motor skills began to fail him. The cold seemed to augment his symptoms, which he learned would affect him more or less depending on the time of day.

Before he could decide his hockey future, Bickell first had to decide on a course of treatment. Doctors placed him on a drug called Tysabri, which he would be administered once a month, hooked up to an IV for about an hour. In some ways, it was a miracle. Though Bickell's MS is in its early stages, the drug seemed to relieve his symptoms completely. Only



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during the later days in the month, when the medication wears off, do they return.

“Those days,” Bickell said, “you’re kind of looking forward to the next treatment.”

He was able to return to the ice last February, fighting his way back to playing pro again with Carolina’s AHL affiliate, the Charlotte Checkers. Yet Bickell had a tough choice ahead of him. At his best, with MS, he could reclaim his old game, the speed, stamina and strength that made him the player he was. But it was fleeting. Sometimes, as soon as he regained what he had been on the ice, it was gone again.

The decision was brutal. Bickell, still only 31, believed he had plenty left in the tank. But ultimately his disease wouldn’t allow him to be the player he needed to be, as consistently as he needed to be it. He leaned on Amanda to make the call.

“She’s the rock in our relationship,” he said.

Before he would officially hang it up, Carolina called him up for the last four [games](#) of the season, including its final game

against Philadelphia, where, in front of nearly 20 visiting family and friends, Bickell scored a thrilling shootout goal on the final shot of his career. Of his choice to retire, Bickell said, “It was the smarter thing for my health.”

His days now are spent with his wife and daughters. He and Amanda will become faces of this disease, making public appearances and raising funds. Each dollar, Bickell hopes, will bring researchers closer to a cure.

Largely, Bickell’s MS is under control. Most days, aside from fatigue, he shows no symptoms at all. But of course there will be hurdles to come in his life, not all of them physical.

Bryan and Amanda haven’t yet told Makayla and Kinslee of Bryan’s condition. Bryan isn’t quite sure how that will go, other than he knows it’ll be something he has to one day do.

But his philosophy toward how he’ll tell them is maybe a window into how he views his life with this disease, how he refuses to be defined by multiple sclerosis, how he’ll continue on as the same man he has always been.

“They know me as daddy,” he said. “They don’t know me as daddy with MS.”



NHL: Players under contract in minors can’t go to Olympics

Not only will Sidney Crosby, Connor McDavid, Auston Matthews and most of the best hockey players in the world not be going to the Olympics, neither will anyone on an NHL contract.

The league has decided that players with active NHL contracts, even those in the minors, will not be allowed to participate in the Olympics next February in South Korea. Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly confirmed the league’s stance to The Associated Press on Monday

The league announced in April it wouldn’t be stopping its season to go to the Olympics for the first time since 1994, but questions had remained about players in the American Hockey League and [ECHL](#).

“A decision has been made that all players under NHL contract will be subject to similar treatment,” Daly said.

This means players signed to two-way NHL contracts or who are loaned to minor league affiliates by their clubs won’t be available to the United States, Canada or other [national teams](#). The [AHL](#) said earlier this summer that general managers could [decide](#) to allow players on AHL contracts to play in South Korea.

Daly confirmed that players signed to NHL deals but who are playing in Europe, like Dallas Stars first-round pick [Miro Heiskanen](#) who is expected to spend the season in Finland, would not be precluded from playing in the Olympics. Those players loaned to European teams wouldn’t be playing the season on their NHL contracts, which is the same situation

for those on entry-level deals in Canadian major junior leagues.

Jim Johansson, USA Hockey’s assistant executive director of hockey operations and the U.S. general manager for the 2018 Olympics, said that organization will honor its partnership with the NHL and not put anyone under contract in its player pool. [Hockey Canada](#) is also expected to avoid any potential conflicts.

Johansson said Friday the official Olympic regulations hadn’t been finalized until recently.

“For me the bottom line is if they’re not on the NHL [registry](#), meaning an NHL registered contract, then they’re eligible,” Johansson said.

That means top American-born AHL players like 2016-17 leading scorer Kenny Agostino, [defenseman](#) T.J. Brennan and goaltender Troy Grosenick won’t be part of Team USA because they’re signed with NHL clubs for this season. Chris Bourque, son of Hockey Hall of Famer Ray Bourque, and goaltender John Muse are examples of U.S.-born players on AHL contracts who could be selected.

The U.S. team is expected to be made up of a mix of current [college players](#), those on AHL deals and professionals playing in European leagues. Canada, as it showed with rosters for two exhibition tournaments in Russia this week, will lean heavily on European-based players with others mixed in.



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Sportsnet.ca / Taylor Crosby pokes fun at brother Sidney in college hockey bio

Emily Sadler

Taylor Crosby is a goaltender for the women's hockey team at St. Cloud State University. She also happens to be Sidney Crosby's younger sister.

We can only imagine that she's been referred to as Sid's kid sister more often than not—especially considering the elder Crosby just happens to be the sport's greatest player right now—which is what makes her St. Cloud Huskies player bio especially great.

The clever write-up pokes fun at the Pittsburgh Penguins captain with the line "Older brother Sidney also plays hockey."

Sidney Crosby's sister Taylor plays hockey at St. Cloud State.

Her bio is fantastic. pic.twitter.com/sJVkcEXnXS

— Brad Galli (@BradGalli) July 16, 2017

Whether the idea came from Taylor herself or the media team at St. Cloud State, we think it's great. (Little sisters unite!)

Crosby—Taylor, that is—finished her sophomore season with a career-best 4.14 goals-against average and .891 save percentage in six games (four starts) in 2016-17 while earning All-WCHA Academic Team honours. Like her brother, she also honed her game at Shattuck-St. Mary's prestigious prep hockey program.

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