



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 13, 2018

## THE NEWS & OBSERVER

### Hurricanes to start training-camp practices Thursday

By Chip Alexander

The Carolina Hurricanes will have 50 players begin their preseason training camp, with the first on-ice sessions now set for Thursday at PNC Arena.

The Canes initially were to take the ice for the first time Friday but received approval from the NHL to begin Thursday because of the impending threat of Hurricane Florence, the team announced Wednesday. That will allow the team to cancel practices either Friday or Saturday, depending on the severity of the weather.

The players will be divided into two squads, called Team Grit and Team Grind. The first on-ice practice Thursday will be at 2:45 p.m. for Team Grit and 4 p.m. for Team Grind.

The Canes' first preseason game is Sept. 18 against Tampa Bay.

"Everyone has to earn their spot," said the Canes' Rod Brind'Amour, beginning his first year as an NHL head coach. "That's what training camp is all about."

That includes first-round draft picks. Rookies Martin Necas and Andrei Svechnikov will compete for spots among the top forwards after finishing play in the four-game Traverse City (Mich.) NHL prospect tournament.

The Canes won their opener, then dropped the last three games, losing 7-3 Tuesday to the Dallas Stars.



### Hurricanes Adjust Start of Training Camp

Team will hit the ice on Thursday, take either Friday or Saturday off for safety

by Terrell Williams

RALEIGH, NC - Don Waddell, President and General Manager of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes, today announced that the team has received approval from the NHL to begin training camp practice on Thursday afternoon. The move will allow the team to cancel practice on either Friday or Saturday in order to keep players and staff off of the roads when Raleigh is expected to face its worst effects from Hurricane Florence.

UPDATED TRAINING CAMP SCHEDULE | TRAINING CAMP ROSTER | TRAINING CAMP GROUPS

The Hurricanes will practice in two groups on Thursday, beginning with Team Grit from 2:45-3:45 p.m. Team Grind will hit the ice from 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

Please note that due to potential inclement weather, practices on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be closed to the general public.

The Hurricanes play their first exhibition game of the 2018 preseason at Tampa Bay on Sept. 18, and open their 2018-19 regular season against the New York Islanders on Oct. 4 at PNC Arena 7 p.m. For information about Hurricanes ticket

packages, please visit [Hurricanes.com/Tickets](http://Hurricanes.com/Tickets), or call 1-866-NHL-CANES (1-866-645-2263).

#### 2018 Training Camp Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 13	AIHF (Raleigh) PNC Arena PNC Arena	7:00 a.m. 2:45 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Closed to public Team physicals/testing Team Grit practice Team Grind practice
Friday, Sept. 14*	PNC Arena	8:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Closed to public Team Grit practice Team Grind practice
Saturday, Sept. 15*	PNC Arena	8:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Closed to public Team Grind practice Team Grit practice



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Sunday, Sept. 16	PNC Arena	8:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Closed to public Team Grit practice Team Grind practice	Monday, Sept. 24	PNC Arena	8:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Team Grit practice Team Grind practice
Monday, Sept. 17	PNC Arena	8:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Team Grind practice Team Grit practice	Tuesday, Sept. 25	PNC Arena PNC Arena Nashville	10:15 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Morning skate Non-game group practice at Nashville
Tuesday, Sept. 18	PNC Arena PNC Arena Tampa Bay	10:15 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Morning skate Non-game group practice at Tampa Bay	Wednesday, Sept. 26	PNC Arena	9:45 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Team Grind practice Team Grit practice
Wednesday, Sept. 19	PNC Arena	10:15 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Morning skate Non-game group practice vs. Tampa Bay	Thursday, Sept. 27	PNC Arena	8:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Team Grit practice Team Grind practice
Thursday, Sept. 20	PNC Arena	9:45 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Team Grit practice Team Grind practice	Friday, Sept. 28	PNC Arena PNC Arena Washington	10:15 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Morning skate Non-game group practice at Washington
Friday, Sept. 21	PNC Arena	10:15 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Morning skate Non-game group practice vs. Washington	Saturday, Sept. 29	PNC Arena	12:00 p.m.	Team practice
Saturday, Sept. 22			OFF	Sunday, Sept. 30	PNC Arena	1:30 p.m.	Caniac Carnival vs. Nashville
Sunday, Sept. 23	PNC Arena	8:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Team Grind practice Team Grit practice	Monday, Oct. 1			OFF
				Tuesday, Oct. 2	PNC Arena	10:00 a.m.	Team practice
				Wednesday, Oct. 3	PNC Arena	11:00 a.m.	Team practice

DATE LOCATION TIME EVENT

All times local

\*Subject to change due to Hurricane Florence



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## Carolina Hurricanes Announce 2018 Training Camp Roster and Updated Schedule

Camp begins Thursday with 50 players and an adjusted schedule to work around Hurricane Florence.

By Brian LeBlanc

The Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday announced their roster for the team's 2018 training camp, which begins with physicals on Thursday and on-ice sessions on Friday. Due to the anticipated effects of Hurricane Florence, which is expected to impact the Triangle beginning Thursday night, the on-ice sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be closed to the public. As of now, the sessions on Monday at 8:45 and 10:45 will be open to the public, but that could change as the weather dictates.

UPDATE 9/12/18 6:30 pm: The Hurricanes have announced a change to the training camp schedule. In anticipation of the most severe weather hitting the Triangle on Friday and Saturday, the team has received permission from the NHL to start camp on Thursday afternoon, and will forego one of either the Friday or Saturday practice sessions depending on weather circumstances. The two groups will take the ice at 2:45 pm and 4:00 pm on Thursday.

Fifty players will join the Hurricanes' 2018 camp, all of whom are under contract to the team except for Josiah Didier, who is on an AHL contract with the Charlotte Checkers, and Michal Cajkovsky, who is in camp on a professional tryout agreement. Thirteen players who were on the roster of the Hurricanes team that finished in sixth place at the Traverse City prospect tournament have been invited to camp. The camp roster also includes eleven players new to the Hurricanes organization who joined via free agency or trade over the summer.

The roster for the camp is listed below, and the updated training camp schedule and training camp groups have been released as well.

### Carolina Hurricanes 2018 Training Camp Roster

Number	Player	Position	Acquired	17-18 Team	League
4	FLEURY, Haydn	D	Draft '14 (1-7-1)	Carolina/Charlotte	NHL/AHL
7	Di GIUSEPPE, Phil	LW	Draft '12 (1-38-2)	Carolina/Charlotte	NHL/AHL

Number	Player	Position	Acquired	17-18 Team	League
8	MAENALA, Saku	C/RW	Free Agent (5/18)	Karpat	Finland
11	STAAL, Jordan	C	Trade w/ PIT (6/12)	Carolina	NHL
13	FOEGELE, Warren	LW	Draft '14 (3-67-3)	Carolina/Charlotte	NHL/AHL
14	WILLIAMS, Justin	RW	Free Agent (7/17)	Carolina	NHL
15	SAARELA, Aleksi	C	Trade w/ NYR (2/16)	Charlotte	AHL
19	HAMILTON, Dougie	D	Trade w/ CGY (6/18)	Calgary	NHL
20	AHO, Sebastian	RW	Draft '15 (2-35-2)	Carolina	NHL
21	GAUTHIER, Julien	RW	Draft '16 (2-21-1)	Charlotte	AHL
22	PESCE, Brett	D	Draft '13 (2-66-3)	Carolina	NHL
23	McGINN, Brock	LW	Draft '12	Carolina	NHL



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Number	Player	Position	Acquired	17-18 Team	League	Number	Player	Position	Acquired	17-18 Team	League
			(2-47-2)			44	de HAAN, Calvin	D	Free Agent (7/18)	NY Islanders	NHL
24	BEAN, Jake	D	Draft '16 (1-13-1)	Calgary/Tri-City	WHL	45	GEEKIE, Morgan	C	Draft '17 (4-67-3)	Tri-City	WHL
26	FORA, Michael	D	Free Agent (6/18)	Ambri	Swiss	46	CARRICK, Trevor	D	Draft '12 (5-115-4)	Charlotte	AHL
27	FAULK, Justin	D	Draft '10 (2-37-2)	Carolina	NHL	48	MARTINO OK, Jordan	LW	Trade w/ARI (5/18)	Arizona	NHL
29	POTURALSKI, Andrew	RW	Free Agent (3/16)	Charlotte	AHL	49	RASK, Victor	C	Draft '11 (2-42-2)	Carolina	NHL
33	DARLING, Scott	G	Trade w/CHI (4/17)	Carolina	NHL	50	HELVIG, Jeremy	G	Draft '16 (8-134-5)	Kingston	OHL
34	MRAZEK, Petr	G	Free Agent (7/18)	Detroit/Philadelphia	NHL	51	MATTHEOS, Stelio	RW	Draft '17 (6-73-3)	Brandon	WHL
35	NEDELJKOVIC, Alex	G	Draft '14 (2-37-2)	Charlotte	AHL	52	HENMAN, Luke	C	Draft '18 (3-96-4)	Blainville-Boisbriand	QMJHL
36	BROWN, Patrick	C	Free Agent (4/14)	Charlotte	AHL	55	McKEOWN, Roland	D	Trade w/LA (2/15)	Carolina/Charlotte	NHL/AHL
37	SVECHNIKOV, Andrei	RW	Draft '18 (1-2-1)	Barrie	OHL	57	van RIEMSDYK, Trevor	D	Trade w/VGK (6/17)	Carolina	NHL
38	WESLEY, Josh	D	Draft '14 (4-96-4)	Charlotte/Florida	AHL/EC HL	58	ROY, Nicolas	C	Draft '15 (4-96-4)	Charlotte	AHL
42	McKEGG, Greg	C	Trade w/PIT (2/18)	Pittsburgh/WBS/Charlotte	NHL/AHL						



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Number	Player	Position	Acquired	17-18 Team	League	Number	Player	Position	Acquired	17-18 Team	League
59	KUOKKANEN, Janne	LW/C	Draft '16 (3-43-2)	Carolina/Charlotte	NHL/AHL	74	SLAVIN, Jaccob	D	Draft '12 (6-120-4)	Carolina	NHL
61	PU, Cliff	RW	Trade w/ BUF (8/18)	London/Kingston	OHL	75	SMALLMAN, Spencer	RW	Draft '15 (6-138-5)	Florida	ECHL
62	DE JONG, Brendan	D	Draft '17 (7-166-6)	Portland	WHL	76	RENOUF, Daniel	D	Free Agent (7/18)	Grand Rapids	AHL
64	BISHOP, Clark	C	Draft '14 (6-127-5)	Charlotte	AHL	78	LORENTZ, Steven	C/LW	Draft '15 (9-186-7)	Charlotte/Florida	AHL/ECHL
65	DIDIER, Josiah	D	AHL Free Agent	Charlotte/Florida	AHL/ECHL	79	FERLAND, Micheal	LW	Trade w/ CGY (6/18)	Calgary	NHL
70	BOOTH, Callum	G	Draft '15 (3-93-4)	Charlotte	AHL	84	CAJKOVSKY, Michal	D	PTO '18	Yekaterinburg	KHL
71	WALLMARK, Lucas	C	Draft '14 (5-97-4)	Carolina/Charlotte	NHL/AHL	86	TERAVAINEN, Teuvo	C	Trade w/ CHI (6/16)	Carolina	NHL
73	ZYKOV, Valentin	RW	Trade w/ LA (2/16)	Carolina/Charlotte	NHL/AHL	88	NECAS, Martin	C	Draft '17 (1-12-1)	Carolina/Brno	NHL/Czech



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## Hurricanes Training Camp Preview: Roster Openings and Potential Candidates

The Canes enter camp after an offseason makeover. What spots are open and who is poised to take them?

By Andy House

As the Carolina Hurricanes gather in Raleigh on Thursday, just hours before another hurricane is set to crash into the shores of North Carolina, they will begin their training camp perhaps with more questions than they have had in the last several seasons. These questions are not necessarily indicative of a team that will be less competitive, though; the Canes enter the season with renewed high expectations, but these questions represent a bit of a refreshing change for a roster that quickly had gotten stale over the past few seasons.

With those changes, jobs will be in play during September and into the season's first month, as new head coach Rod Brind'Amour attempts to put together a winner in his maiden voyage as the Canes' bench boss.

To clarify the "openings" that are available, we must first look at the roster and line-up "locks" as best we can surmise before we head into camp. In some form or fashion, the below names are almost guaranteed to be in the lineup on Opening Night (barring trades or injury):

Forwards (9)

Sebastian Aho

Jordan Staal

Teuvo Teravainen

Andrei Svechnikov

Justin Williams

Victor Rask

Martin Necas

Micheal Ferland

Brock McGinn

Defensemen (6)

Jacob Slavin

Dougie Hamilton

Calvin de Haan

Brett Pesce

Trevor van Riemsdyk

Justin Faulk

Goalie (2)

Petr Mrazek

Scott Darling

If we assume that these 17 players are slated for the roster, it becomes clear that the battle for real playing time exists up from with the forwards, with what appears to be the starting lineup on defense set. Let's start with the battles at forward.

Three regular spots will be available, as well as room for a healthy scratch or two:

Valentin Zykov

Off the bat, I imagine some of you are already screaming that I left off Valentin Zykov from my roster "locks". I too believe he is very likely to join the other young additions and be an integral part of the Hurricanes lineup, but I would simply put him in play here because I don't know exactly where he is going to slot in as the Canes begin to piece together lines.

A talented scorer, Zykov is not the type of player you want to have languish away with 6-8 minutes of ice time per night on a fourth line. I am fairly confident he will find a role as a top-nine forward, with someone like McGinn, Ferland, or even Rask receiving the shorter end of the stick instead. Think of Zykov's exclusion as just another chance to discuss how great he is! In his limited 10-game stint last season, he tallied seven points (including three goals). Expect to see plenty of Zykov this season.

Jordan Martinook

Acquired as part of the trade that shipped Marcus Kruger out of town, Jordan Martinook brings three seasons of NHL experience to Raleigh, all with the Arizona Coyotes. Martinook put together a rather disappointing season in 2017-18, as he failed to build on his 11 goal, 25 point season from the year before, only posting six goals and nine assists (15 points) in 81 games played.

Part of his offensive reduction likely had to do with the exaggerated defensive role. With 64.9% of his zone-starts occurring in the defensive zone (the highest percentage of his career), and already playing on an offensively challenged roster, perhaps his offensive issues were enhanced by circumstances.

Nevertheless, Martinook looks like a clear candidate for a potential fourth line role, and the hope from the team-builders is that he can provide what Kruger and Joakim Nordstrom provided on the Penalty Kill, while also being a more suitable and regular contributor on the fourth line.

Lucas Wallmark

Another young Hurricane, Wallmark has also received short cups of coffee in Raleigh each of the last two seasons. He notched his first career NHL goal last season, but has yet to establish himself as an NHL-caliber player. This training camp may be his last chance to break camp with the Hurricanes, as the talent pipeline continues to fill with younger, perhaps more dynamic, talents. Wallmark must show consistency and a mature style of play in order to grab a roster spot and a shot at the fourth line.

Cliff Pu

Acquired as a piece in the Jeff Skinner trade, Pu is coming off of a junior season in Canada that was split between the London Knights and Kingston Frontenacs that saw him pot 29 goals and 55 assists (84 points). Just 20-years-old, Pu is likely slated for Charlotte, as he is now eligible for that



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assignment, but it does not preclude the Hurricanes from taking a long look during camp (as well as in Traverse City, where he missed time with injury), if he is healthy enough to perform. Expect him to head to Charlotte, but keep an eye on him.

Phil Di Giuseppe

A veteran of the Charlotte-Raleigh shuttle, Phil Di Giuseppe has never been able to establish himself and stick with the Canes. His energy and intensity has been a needed punch at times, but his inability to translate that into scoring opportunities for himself or his teammates has limited his effectiveness.

For the soon to be 25-year-old, sticking in Raleigh this season is a must. While consistent playing time may be difficult to come by, a roster spot may be available for Di Giuseppe if he can prove that he is ready to provide the type of performance he has displayed in a few of his short spurts of action over the past three seasons. Expect Di Giuseppe to be given every chance to crack the roster, if not the lineup on Opening Night.

Janne Kuokkanen

Janne Kuokkanen made his NHL debut late last season, but the second round pick from Finland will enter his 20-year-old season seeking to claim a regular NHL job for the first time in his career. Coming off of a 40-point campaign in Charlotte in just 60 games played, Kuokkanen has established himself as a true contender for the Hurricanes roster for the upcoming season, as well as far beyond.

Flying under the radar of more heralded youngsters such as Necas, Svechnikov, and the wunderkind Aho, Kuokkanen has continued to develop. He may be ready for his NHL close-up, but training camp will go a long way in determining if he will gain more seasoning at the AHL level before he returns to Raleigh for the long haul. If ice time opens up due to an injury in camp, expect Kuokkanen to be the first person looked to fill a serious role.

Other possible forward contenders:

Warren Foegele  
Aleksi Saarela  
Julien Gauthier

The openings on the blue line appear to be much more difficult to come by as former first-rounder and full-time regular last season Haydn Fleury appears to be the odd man out of the top-six currently. Who else may contend for a roster spot?

Haydn Fleury

An uneven first season in Raleigh saw Fleury see a decent amount of ice time in 67 games, but due to the...wait for it...flurry of offseason activity, he would seem to be the seventh D-Man at this moment in time.

At 22, Fleury still has plenty of potential upside, but the timetable for him to put that talent to use in Carolina may be running short if he is unable to retain a starting role. With no goals and only eight assists a season ago, the offensive development for Fleury left plenty to be desired, and inconsistency marred much of his campaign that was spent in the third pairing. Fleury is a potential trade candidate as well, so the next month may provide greater clarity on his standing with the Canes going forward.

Other possible defenseman contenders:

Dan Renouf  
Jake Bean  
Michal Cajkovsky

While the Hurricanes do have some talent in the minors in goal, given their current contract statuses everyone is expecting the tandem of Mrazek and Darling to be firmly entrenched in net. If something were to occur to change that, it would most certainly be Alex Nedeljkovic who would step into a backup role if needed.

With training camp just days away, the Carolina Hurricanes roster is far from set. Expect to see some interesting battles as the month-long process of putting together the team for Opening Night begins. Trades are still a possibility, as cap considerations and training camp injuries become closer to reality. Look for the Canes to be engaged if not active during that process.

## TODAY'S LINKS

<https://www.newsobserver.com/sports/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/canes-now/article218235410.html>

<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/hurricanes-adjust-start-of-training-camp/c-300080020>

<https://www.canescountry.com/2018/9/11/17848448/carolina-hurricanes-training-camp-roster-2018-rod-brind-amour-don-waddell-justin-williams>

<https://www.canescountry.com/2018/9/12/17845908/carolina-hurricanes-training-camp-preview-roster-spots-valentin-zykov-haydn-fleury-jordan-martinook>



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## SportScan

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

1104194 Carolina Hurricanes

2018-19 NHL Season Preview: Carolina Hurricanes

By Dom Luszczyzyn

Sep 12, 2018

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me, like, six or seven times in a row, shame on me.

Once again, an analytics nerd is projecting the Carolina Hurricanes to have a breakout season and threaten for a playoff spot. What a shocking revelation.

Every year it's the same story: Carolina looks good on paper, but the team never reaches those expectations. Then they make a sexy off-season move or two that improves how they look on paper and we're right back to square one. I want off this ride, but here I am again, being talked into the Carolina Hurricanes.

Sigh.

Will Carolina finally make the playoffs this season? The odds are 50/50 – either it happens or it doesn't.

Most people would bet on "it doesn't," and I don't blame them for a second when it comes to this team. But once again (I really could just turn all future Hurricanes previews into a template at this point) there's reason for optimism. It won't be easy in a very competitive Metropolitan division, but Carolina looks like it should have the talent to be in the mix. I know we've been saying that for a while, but with another year of experience under everyone's belt, this could be the year. Really.

If the Hurricanes do finally make it, they'll likely be first-round fodder for a better team. But I'm sure they'll gladly take a taste of the playoffs for now and wait for the next step later.

The question for the Hurricanes remains the same, though: do they have the requisite shooting and goaltending talent to translate the team's massive shot differential into a respectable goal differential? While goaltending continues to be sketchy, there are inklings that this team is finally turning things around on offence. A new coaching staff and front office vision might be a factor in that, too.

On paper this team does look improved, but much of that hinges on a number of rookies making big contributions, as well as a new superstar defender making a big impact in a bigger role – neither of which is guaranteed.

Let's start with the large, red elephant in the room: the team's extreme sub-replacement level goaltending.

Scott Darling was brought in to be the saviour last season and he panned out just like every recent Hurricanes goalie: extremely poorly. It's likely a referendum for how we measure the position; it seems no matter how good a goalie looks elsewhere, he's struggled to survive in Carolina's system under Bill Peters. That's also part of the problem in throwing darts on largely unproven netminders.

Darling went from a .923 save percentage in 75 games in Chicago to an .888 save percentage in 43 games in Carolina, the lowest mark in the league last season. Factor in shot quality and he improves to second last, with a delta save percentage (the difference between actual and expected save percentage) of minus-0.018, a sharp drop from his plus-0.010 from his time in Chicago. A small sample size before coming over made a season like this possible, but given how strong Darling looked prior to coming to Carolina, it was hard to fathom a collapse of this magnitude, even after factoring for shot quality.

With Cam Ward leaving in the off-season, the Hurricanes had to scramble to fill the hole behind Darling by finding the best available goalie who was willing to come to the goalie graveyard in Raleigh. That goalie is Petr Mrazek, who's had his own performance dips to this point in his NHL career, which doesn't bode well considering the team's history.

To his credit, most of Mrazek's issues are on the penalty kill (even more volatile from year-to-year than regular save percentage) and being on a bad team. At 5-on-5 he comes off slightly below average over the last couple of seasons meaning he might be better than expected this season. But that's a difficult bet to make when his new environment is on a team that always struggles to field competent goaltending.

Without poring over video and better data it's hard to tell exactly what's really been going on in Carolina the past few seasons. The team's expected goal share hasn't been much lower than its shot share over the past few seasons meaning the problem likely lies outside the realm of public data. However, a coaching change may answer some questions this season as it's possible Peters' systems put too much weight on shot quantity and not quality, hindering the team's goal share.

If true, it's possible Darling can bounce back and live up to the potential he showcased as one of the league's best backups. Goaltending has been this team's Achilles' heel for the past decade or so and if the Hurricanes finally get it, then look out because the rest of the team is much better than anyone gives it credit for. They wouldn't rack up all those Corsis otherwise.

It starts up front where the team has a deep, though unspectacular top nine highlighted by a pair of flashy Finns in Sebastian Aho and Teuvo Teravainen. Aho is on the cusp of elite status and is likely one of the more underrated players in the league (in part due to the team he plays for). He was the engine that drove the team's offence last season and took a major step forward to get there, going from 1.45 points per 60 at 5-on-5 all the way to 2.38, one of the highest marks in the league last year. A look at his micro-stats profile pretty much tells the whole story as Aho went from average across the board to borderline elite in every facet. He was a wizard with the puck last season and at 21 he's only getting better.

What will be interesting about Aho this season is that the team may continue to experiment with playing him up the middle, a near necessity given the state of the team's depth at the position after him. It began in mid-March and though he wasn't very strong at faceoffs, he did just fine elsewhere. The sample size is very tiny (just 12 games), but it's nevertheless extremely encouraging to see that Aho did much better by points per 60 (2.71 vs. 2.35) and shot rates (61.4 per cent vs. 53.9 per cent, with much of that effect on the defensive side) while playing centre than he did on the wing. The 'Canes might have something here and that could give them more versatility with lineup construction, something that's still very much up in the air at this point.





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What likely won't change is having Teravainen next to Aho. The two both eclipsed the 60-point mark last season, something that hadn't been done in Carolina since the 2010-11 season. Teravainen has been a terrific defensive player (according to his shot suppression ability at least) since his first full season in Chicago, but had only shown glimpses of his offensive potential prior to this past season. That all changed in 2017-18 as Teravainen became more confident with the puck and created more offence with Aho as a result.

Whoever earns a spot next to those two could be in for a good season. For now, that job looks like it may go to newcomer Micheal Ferland, who proved in Calgary he can do well in a role next to skilled players.

More question marks arise further down the lineup, mostly due to the uncertainty surrounding some of the team's rookie players. The team is hoping its last two first-round picks, Martin Necas (12th overall, 2017) and Andrei Svechnikov (second overall, 2018), can make a sizeable impact this season. While they definitely have the skill, it's a lot to ask from two players under 20. What is likely is that the two will be split up early and given a veteran presence to lean on for support. For Necas that looks to be right winger Justin Williams, one of the most responsible and experienced two-way wingers in hockey, while for Svechnikov that could be Jordan Staal, one of the most trustworthy defensive centres in the league. The kids are in good hands with those two in what looks like a very balanced middle six.

The team also has Valentin Zykov looking to break in as a 23-year-old rookie and he looked excellent in a 10-game tryout last season. Playing with the team's two fantastic Finns will do that and it wouldn't be surprising to see the team go back to that combination in order to give Necas another veteran winger on his left side. Considering the trio dominated opponents down the stretch, outshooting them 94-49 and outscoring them 6-1 in 84 minutes together, it's not a bad strategy – though it remains to be seen if that dominance holds steady in a larger sample.

The emergence of the rookies will be crucial in whether or not the team misses Jeff Skinner's offence. That's a lot of pressure to put on first-year players, but the Carolina trio is arguably collectively skilled enough to cover any value lost on offence from Skinner's exit. The trio is expected to contribute 46 (Zykov), 43 (Svechnikov), and 37 (Necas) points next season, though something higher – especially for Svechnikov – isn't out of the question.

With three rookies slated to make the team and take top six spots, that leaves Victor Rask in a bit of an awkward position as the man outside Carolina's top nine. He was seventh among forwards in 5-on-5 ice-time last season, but with the young guns coming in and Aho shifting to centre, it looks likely that his role will be lessened. It's not without merit either as he's one of the team's weaker play-driving forwards and isn't a very efficient scorer. He does get a high number of shot assists, but with his actual assist numbers so low it's fair to question how effective his playmaking actually is. He may not fit the top nine, but that could make him one of the league's best fourth line centres.

The bottom six should be strong because of the team's depth, but the top six is still on the below average side. That's due to a lack of star-power, arguably the team's next biggest issue outside of goaltending over the last few seasons. That may change with a number of youths ready to surge, but they're not there yet. Svechnikov will get there one day and Aho is close, but the high-end talent up front is still lacking.

That's not the case on defence anymore, though, after the Hurricanes acquired Dougie Hamilton. That's what makes this season different for Carolina in terms of expectations. Every other move that Looked Good On Paper in the past addressed the team's depth or middle group. Acquiring Hamilton was a swing for the fences, the first move in this current era that addressed the team's lack of immediate high-end talent.

Hamilton has his warts (penalty differential, low give-a-shit meter, high museum visits per 60) and I understand that my model may overrate his services, but he's still an elite defender and I would personally struggle to name 15 defenders that will be better than him this season, especially as

he firmly enters the prime of his career. He's built in the Brent Burns mold of defenders that shoot a lot (hence why my model likely overrates him) and his 17 goals was tied for the league lead among defencemen. That was without much top unit power play time, too, meaning he could see an increase in his goal and point totals this season if he gets a spot on Carolina's top power play. He's shown enough offensive ability at evens to suggest he could do well as the top guy and may be able to help boost a Carolina power play that was in the league's bottom 10 last season. He hasn't exactly shown a knack for excelling on the power play yet in his career, though. If it's not Hamilton, the team still has Justin Faulk to fall back on while Hamilton remains an elite 5-on-5 player.

Hamilton's biggest strength was his ability to not only drive play at a very high rate, but do so against the opponent's best every night. That he played with another elite defender in Mark Giordano needs to be taken into account, but Giordano has never been more effective than when he was with Hamilton. The new Cane deserves appropriate credit for being one half of the league's best defensive pair and Carolina can expect more of the same with its top pair this season. Jaccob Slavin is no Giordano, but he's a bonafide top pairing defender with underrated puck skills who should be a perfect complement to Hamilton. He's an excellent shot suppressor who also succeeds despite the usage he faces. The only pair in the league projected to provide more value this season is Columbus's top pair of Seth Jones and Zach Werenski.

The Slavin-Hamilton pair is what drives Carolina's defence rank all the way to second in the league, behind only Nashville, and what gives the team a huge competitive advantage. Faulk and Calvin de Haan are another pair that looks to be a perfect fit in terms of complementary skills, collectively providing low-end top pair value despite not being obvious top pair defenders themselves. Faulk had an off-year offensively last season, but should bounce back at least at 5-on-5 if he loses top power-play duties.

The issue with Faulk has always been on the defensive side and it's always been curious that his on-ice goal stats have never aligned with his on-ice shot attempt stats. Generally, you can chalk up that difference to random variation, but Faulk's persistence in getting outscored on a team that has a persistence for getting outscored brings pause as to whether there's something missing from current data and whether he's part of the problem. A new system should shed light on that, but at the very least de Haan should provide defensive stability and support in that regard. It's no coincidence that the Islanders season completely went off the rails defensively once he went down with injury as he was their most competent blueliner in his own end.

If Faulk does falter, it might be worth exploring sheltering him on the third pair and bringing up Brett Pesce, another very capable defensive defender. He could form a shutdown pair with de Haan – as he once did with Slavin – and that could free up the top pair to play in more offensive situations. Either way, there's plenty of versatility and depth here. When a decent player like Trevor van Riemsdyk is on the outside due to the logjam on the right side, it speaks volumes about the talent on hand. Haydn Fleury is the lone weak spot here, but there's plenty of room for significant improvement for the 22-year-old after an awful rookie season.

Defence is the team's biggest strength and the main reason to be optimistic about the Hurricanes' chances this season. Hamilton is on another level compared to the players usually acquired by Carolina to boost their on-paper talent level, and changes the whole dynamic of the team's back end. Whether the improvements on defence help the team's goaltending situation is another big question facing the team, as it always does, and that largely depends on the new system put in place by new coach Rod Brind'Amour. The old one, despite the huge possession advantage, may not have been working.

There's always warranted skepticism when it comes to a team that's disappointed as consistently as Carolina has, but off-season improvements should mean the team is right back in the mix. More so than in previous years, anyway, as the team addressed its top end issues and perhaps its entire system altogether.



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Some question marks remain, especially in net, but this team looks good enough on paper to compete for a playoff spot in 2018-19. That's what we say every year, though. It's time for the Hurricanes to actually prove it on the ice.

### What Other Models Say

Emmanuel Perry, Corsica: 92.3 points, 18th

Rob Pizzola, Semi-Professional Sports Bettor: 88.5 points, 22nd

Andy MacNeil, Vegas Stats & Information Network: 92.1 points, 17th

Over/Under Point Total, Bodog (Opening Line): 84.5 points, 22nd

Over/Under Point Total, Pinnacle (Current): 88.5 points, 22nd

Though Pizzola is slightly more pessimistic than the rest, it seems the four models agree: Carolina should be better than expected this season. So... same as last year and every year before that then, right guys? It is worth noting that the over/under line has moved significantly at a sharper book since opening, meaning "smart" money is on the over, a bet that has paid off in two of the last three seasons.

Public Sample: 1,956

Fan Sample: 80

The public, as expected, isn't high on Carolina after years of consistent disappointment. The distribution of results is very interesting, as the survey results peak at 90 points with a longer tail toward being bad. As for the team's own fans, they seem pretty certain somewhere between 90-to-100 points is fair with 78 per cent expecting the team to make it to the playoffs. After nine straight seasons of missing, it's good to see the fan base hasn't lost hope despite the consistent disappointment.

### What The Athletic Insider Thinks

Scott Burnside: Dom has, as usual, hit all of the nails right on the tops of their flat little heads when it comes to the Hurricanes and what looks to be a 50-50 proposition when it comes to whether the beleaguered NHL franchise ends a playoff drought that extends to 2009 when they surprisingly advanced to the Eastern Conference final. But not unlike Colorado and New Jersey of a year ago it's the intangibles that have me so curious about whether they might ascend to that kind of 'Cinderella' status this season.

First is the presence of rookie head coach Rod Brind'Amour. Always tough for first-time head coaches but Brind'Amour knows that franchise as well as anyone having been there for almost two decades. This team is going to be much harder to play against under Brind'Amour. It's why Jeff Skinner was shown the door. And then there is the blueline. With Hamilton et al in the fold this is as good a group one through six as they've ever had in Raleigh. If Necas and Svechnikov even approach what they're capable of up front there is good reason for optimism and one of the reasons I like the 'Canes to sneak into the playoffs as a wild card.

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The Athletic / Analysis: Why are Monika Caryk and Melinda Karlsson going to court on Friday?

By Tyler Dellow Sep 12, 2018 68

On Friday, one of the many storylines that emerged from last year's messy Ottawa Senators' season will enter a new forum, as a Toronto court will hear an application brought by Monika Caryk, the partner of

former Senator Mike Hoffman, against Melinda Karlsson, the wife of Senators' captain Erik Karlsson. Caryk is seeking what's known as a Norwich order, requiring that Ms. Karlsson "...disclose and provide any and all information and knowledge...that is in any way relevant to [Ms. Karlsson's] allegations that [Ms. Caryk] has engaged in cyberbullying against [Ms. Karlsson]."

Some explanation is probably helpful.

So is there going to be a trial?

Not in the sense of witnesses in the box, no. (In Canada, we have a witness box, not a stand. Old Canadian lawyers will bark at you if call it the stand because of your exposure to American television.) An application can be thought of as a paper trial. The evidence is put before the judge by way of affidavits and cross-examinations. The lawyers then make their arguments to the judge on the basis of that evidence.

Do we already know the evidence on which the parties are relying?

We do. Ms. Caryk has filed an affidavit in support of her application. Counsel for Ms. Karlsson cross-examined Ms. Caryk on that affidavit in early August. Ms. Karlsson has not filed an affidavit of her own.

She hasn't? Is that unusual?

Not really, no. You don't have to file any evidence simply because you're named as the respondent to the application. As we'll see, the issue on this application is really about whether or not the circumstances outlined by Ms. Caryk in her affidavit support the granting of a Norwich order.

Why do they call it a Norwich order anyway?

Like hockey analytics people, the legal community is prone to naming things after the case in which they were developed or the case in which the test for a certain order was stated. Presumably, there is also a group of lawyers who complain about naming things this way. The Norwich order takes its name from a 1974 decision of the British House of Lords in Norwich Pharmacal Co. v. Customs and Excise Commissioners.

Basically, the Norwich order exists to respond to a specific problem: what if someone has wronged you in a way for which you could sue them, you don't know who it is but someone else does? If you think about it, that's a very strange thing. If you make a contract with someone and they breach it, you know the identity of the person with whom you've made the contract. If I'm riding my bike down the street and someone hits me with his car and injures me, I'll know who it is. Most of the time we'll know who we should sue when we're wronged.

What if we don't know though? And what if someone else does? Should that person have to tell us? It's a basic principle of life in Canada that we don't have to just answer questions from anyone. If a reporter phones you up and asks you something, you're perfectly entitled to refuse. Should the rule be different if you're trying to identify someone who has wronged you that you would like to sue?

The British House of Lords held that, in certain circumstances, a person with such information should be compelled to share it. In time, this crossed the Atlantic and became part of Canadian law. In Ontario, the Court of Appeal stated that, in order for a Norwich order to be granted, the person seeking it has to demonstrate that the order is necessary. In order to be "necessary", the applicant has to show the following things:

Sufficient evidence to raise a bona fide or reasonable claim;

A relationship with the respondent third party (Ms. Karlsson, in this case) from whom the information is sought;

That the respondent is the only practicable source of the information;

That the respondent can be indemnified for costs to which the respondent may be exposed as a result of the disclosure; and

That the interests of justice favour the obtaining of the disclosure.

What does any of that mean?



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It's sometimes easier to work through these things when they aren't abstract. If we take a look at Ms. Caryk's affidavit, we can see what she's sworn to give her lawyers evidence with which to argue that the legal test is met. A word about Ms. Caryk's affidavit: to me, she comes across as being very reasonable. This is a good thing to do, particularly in a case where she's essentially responding to a claim that she behaved unreasonably. It's also good because Ms. Karlsson's refusal to disclose this information does, on its face, seem a little unreasonable. A judge looking at this will wonder: "Why not just tell Ms. Caryk why you think she did this?"

The critical points of Ms. Caryk's evidence can be summarized as follows:

On or about March 19, 2018, Ms. Caryk learned that she was being accused of harassing and/or cyberbullying Ms. Karlsson. Ms. Caryk denies having done this. She views Ms. Karlsson's statement (although it's not clear, presumably this refers to Ms. Karlsson's sworn statement in support of the peace bond that Ms. Caryk had posted thousands of times about her) as meaning that Ms. Karlsson has information indicating that Ms. Caryk was responsible for the cyberbullying.

She believes that Ms. Karlsson honestly holds the view that Ms. Caryk was harassing and cyberbullying her.

Ms. Caryk claims she didn't engage in harassment and cyberbullying and as she believes Ms. Karlsson honestly holds that view, Ms. Karlsson must have information suggesting that Ms. Caryk has engaged in this behaviour. Ms. Caryk would like to clear her name and identify the real perpetrators and she requires that information to do so.

Ms. Caryk believes that she has a bona fide action against the perpetrators.

After the Karlssons' child was stillborn, Ms. Caryk suggested to Danielle Ryan that the Senators' wives send flowers to Ms. Karlsson as a gesture of sympathy. Within a day or two, she received emails from the wives of NHL players or former NHL players, telling her to stay out of it and suggesting that she had engaged in harassment and cyberbullying.

In an effort to understand why she was being accused of this, she visited a website that provides a forum for discussion of the wives and girlfriends of NHL players. When she visited the site, she saw a number of harmful posts about Ms. Karlsson. Ms. Caryk was also of the view that the posts were harmful to her and her reputation, as she was accused of having posted them. She contacted Randy Morin, who owns the site. Mr. Morin declined her request to take them down.

On June 12, 2018, the Ottawa Citizen reported that Ms. Karlsson had sworn an application for a peace bond against Ms. Caryk on May 4, 2018. The following day, she learned that this was true by way of an article on Forbes.com. In her application for a peace bond, Ms. Karlsson swore that "Monika Caryk has uttered numerous statements wishing my unborn child dead. She also uttered that she wished I was dead and that someone should 'take out' my husband's legs to 'end his career.' Monika Caryk has posted over 1000 negative and derogatory comments about me as a professional."

Ms. Caryk denies that any of Ms. Karlsson's sworn statement is true but accepts that Ms. Karlsson honestly believed those statements.

Ms. Caryk was never served with the application for the peace bond.

The Ottawa Senators claimed that they were investigating the matter but no investigation occurred.

Mr. Karlsson was asked by Mr. Hoffman to provide him with basis for the allegation that Ms. Caryk was harassing and cyberbullying her. He declined to provide that information. Counsel for Ms. Caryk asked counsel for Ms. Karlsson to provide that information. He declined.

Does anything in this particularly stand out to you?

Yes. Ms. Caryk denies, in pretty plain language, having had anything to do with cyberbullying and harassing Ms. Karlsson. That will matter to the

judge. It's one thing to tell the media that you didn't do this. It's quite another to swear an affidavit stating that you had nothing to do with it. That's a serious thing to do. The judge will put weight on that.

All right – now explain how this ties back to the test you set out above.

With the information in Ms. Caryk's affidavit, along with the written argument (a document called a factum) submitted by her counsel, we can see how Ms. Caryk will argue that she meets the test and that Ms. Karlsson should be required to disclose her information.

As you'll recall, Ms. Caryk is required to show sufficient evidence to raise a bona fide or reasonable claim. This requirement gives the court some control over the circumstances in which information is ordered to be provided. Ms. Caryk has sworn that she has a bona fide or reasonable claim. It's not difficult to imagine that she would have a claim against someone behaving in such a fashion as to cause Ms. Karlsson to think she was harassing or cyberbullying her.

The second prong of the test is one of relationship. This is intended to distinguish what the case law calls "mere witnesses" from people who are somehow involved. This doesn't mean that they've done anything wrong, just that they were involved somehow. An example that comes up in the case law is that of a bank which has received funds procured by fraud. The bank hasn't done anything wrong but it is involved. In this case, Ms. Caryk is saying that Ms. Karlsson is more than a mere witness because she's arrived at the view (which she swore to) that Ms. Caryk is responsible for the abuse and harassment.

The third element of the test is establishing that the respondent (Ms. Karlsson) is the only practicable source of the information. This seems fairly obvious. Ms. Karlsson is the person who knows why she believes that Ms. Caryk is responsible for the abuse.

Ms. Caryk has agreed to indemnify Ms. Karlsson for any costs to which she may be exposed in making disclosure of her information, which satisfies the fourth prong of the test.

The fifth prong, that the interests of justice favour the obtaining of the disclosure is a way for the court to consider unique circumstances that might not arise under the other prongs. This is an equitable remedy, which means that it's flexible – the courts are looking to do justice, not be tied down by a strict formula. Ms. Caryk's evidence sets out a story of a person who has been unjustly accused. Her counsel argue that it is in the interests of justice for her to have an opportunity to clear her name, Ms. Karlsson to have the benefit of Ms. Caryk having done so and for the true perpetrators to be unveiled. It's a reasonable argument.

So what does counsel for Ms. Karlsson say about all this?

This is where things get really interesting. As is mentioned above, Ms. Karlsson didn't file an affidavit in this matter. Accordingly, the most important document from her side is the factum filed by her counsel. By the standards of legal writing, it's pretty strong stuff. Some examples:

"Caryk's Application for a Norwich Order is frivolous, a public relations exercise, and ought to be dismissed with costs on a substantial indemnity basis."

"The possibility that Caryk is the perpetrator cannot be [sic] definitively ruled out on this Application."

"...Caryk decided to pick on Karlsson – someone she unreasonably hates – with this frivolous Application."

"Caryk has lied in crucial parts of her evidence."

"Caryk has not exhibited an honest intention to find the perpetrator or to assist Karlsson."

"The submission of a pirated copy of a sealed court record in this judicial proceeding requires the admonishment of this Court."

"Caryk became jealous when she learned news of Karlsson's engagement."



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"Caryk's denial of hating Karlsson on this Application is self-serving."

"In her affidavit, Caryk testified about Talk-Sports:

'I think this website is shameful. I have steered clear from this website and only posted on it ever once...'

That is a lie. Caryk has not 'steered clear' or avoided this 'shameful' site."

"Caryk's singular effort consists of a handful of anonymous text messages sent to Morin on March 21, 2018. In the messages, she does not state her name or disclose who she is. In fact, she misleads Morin by saying she is the wife of a player, when in fact she is not."

"Immediately after being accused by Winnik, Caryk commissioned a sham investigation into the Talk-Sports site – a site nobody accused her of posting at."

"Caryk's stated purpose in bringing this application is to take any information she receives from Karlsson and to discredit it, spin it, and to publicize it in the media, in order to 'demonstrate to the public' that she is not the perpetrator."

"The possibility that Caryk is the perpetrator cannot be [sic] definitively ruled out on this Application. Caryk is still a legitimate suspect."

Is that what factums are usually like?

No, this is pretty aggressive. Parts of it, I think, aren't really a fair interpretation of what Ms. Caryk said in her affidavit or cross-examination. For example, according to the factum filed by Ms. Karlsson's counsel, "Ms. Caryk's stated purposes in bringing this application is to take any information she receives from Karlsson and to discredit it, spin it and to publicize it to the media..." There are no quotation marks on "discredit" or "spin" and it seems unlikely that Ms. Caryk would state that that was her purpose, even if it was.

Similarly, I'm not really sure that Ms. Caryk was misleading when she told someone she was the wife of an Ottawa Senator. She's Mr. Hoffman's long-term partner and, according to her cross-examination, they're common-law spouses. Speaking as someone with a common-law partner, it doesn't seem an unreasonable description. Courts don't expect that people speak with legal precision. There are a number of examples of things like this in the factum.

Is any of this relevant?

A lot of it seems pretty irrelevant to me. Ms. Caryk could loathe Ms. Karlsson; it's not really relevant to the question of whether Ms. Karlsson should be obliged to provide information she might have as to why she thinks Ms. Caryk has been attacking her online.

Why would counsel for Ms. Karlsson have proceeded this way?

Well, Ms. Karlsson's counsel is stuck in an awkward position. To start with, any judge looking at this is going to wonder why Ms. Karlsson wouldn't simply disclose the basis of her belief that Ms. Caryk was harassing and bullying her. Moreover, Ms. Caryk has filed an affidavit in which she denies having done it. If the judge believes her, that's all the more reason to make the order that she's requesting. Discrediting Ms. Caryk is critical to resisting the application because there isn't any evidence contradicting her – as you'll recall, Ms. Karlsson didn't file an affidavit. If Ms. Karlsson's counsel can convince the judge that Ms. Caryk has lied repeatedly, it might make the judge less inclined to trust her evidence and make the order.

The task before counsel for Ms. Karlsson is particularly complicated because he can't refer to the evidence that Ms. Karlsson has that Ms. Caryk was responsible for the defamatory posts. If he does, he's defeating the purpose of resisting the application. (Although, again, it makes you wonder why Ms. Karlsson simply wouldn't release the evidence.)

Talk-Sports.com comes up a lot. What's that all about?

Talk-Sports.com seems to be at the centre of this. In her affidavit, Ms. Caryk references it. In his factum, counsel for Ms. Karlsson seems to confirm that posts at Talk-sports are at issue here. Ms. Caryk suggests that Talk-Sports is well known within the community of NHL wives and partners.

Talk-Sports is a forum that hosts discussions of the wives and girlfriends of NHL players. If you type the name of most NHL players and "girlfriend" or "wife" into a search engine, one of the top results will generally be this website. Ms. Caryk gave evidence that it's well known in the community of NHL wives and girlfriends. That doesn't seem surprising to me. Unsurprisingly, it's a cesspool of a site, like Twitter but without the discipline that comes from having a user name.

How bad is it?

There's a passage in the factum filed by counsel for Ms. Karlsson that gives you a pretty good taste of the sort of stuff that ends up on Talk-Sports.com.

"Talk-Sports published heinous comments about the Karlsson's [sic] and the loss of their baby soon after the tragedy. One such vile comment that Caryk raised in her cross-examination was the defamatory allegation that Karlsson was 'a pill popper' and that the still-born baby did 'not have a chance.' Ironically, Caryk identified herself as a pill popper at the cross-examination as a reason she would not call Karlsson such a thing."

Is that ironic?

Not really, no. I'm not sure it's a fair summation of Ms. Caryk's evidence either.

Is there a legal argument anywhere in there?

Yes, although it has difficulties. It seems to be kind of conflating two wrongs that are alleged to have occurred. The first wrong is the harassment and cyberbullying endured by Ms. Karlsson. The second alleged wrong is someone acting in such a fashion as to cause Ms. Karlsson to believe that Ms. Caryk was responsible for the harassment and cyberbullying. In looking at the argument advanced by counsel for Ms. Karlsson, the two wrongs seem to be repeatedly muddled together.

Can you give me an example?

Sure. In his factum, counsel for Ms. Karlsson advances the following argument:

"Caryk swears that she needs Karlsson's information so that she can take action against the perpetrators in order to "determine who is truly behind these acts [of cyberbullying]. At the same time, Caryk has known about and failed to act on crucial first-hand evidence that would assist in identifying the perpetrator."

"Caryk knows of other parties, such as Rogers Inc., Tech Savvy [sic], and Randy Morin, who have relevant forensic evidence. Such forensic evidence is highly relevant to the identity of the perpetrator. Caryk acknowledges being in possession of a list of IP addresses associated with the cyberbullying of Karlsson, for nearly as long as she's been accused. Those IP addresses were traced to a short list of Canadian ISPs that leased those IP addresses to their subscribers on their network. Presumably, the ISPs know who their customers are. Caryk has inexplicably failed to obtain the subscriber information from any of the ISPs...Nor does it appear that she asked any of the ISPs to preserve evidence related to those IP addresses. She has sat on crucial first-hand forensic evidence for more than five months. Such evidence could conceivably go stale with time if not preserved."

What's wrong with that?

The evidence that Canada's various internet service providers might have as to who owns the IP addresses in question isn't really relevant to the wrong allegedly done to Ms. Caryk. She wants to know what prompted Ms. Karlsson to accuse her of having been responsible for comments on the internet. Tracking down the people behind a bunch of IP addresses who said awful things doesn't address that.



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Imagine that she's able to identify some people who made unfounded defamatory comments. Given the volume of comments made about Ms. Karlsson, that doesn't really exonerate her. In order to be exonerated, she needs to be able to respond to whatever it is that has prompted Ms. Karlsson to blame her for the abuse.

What does counsel for Ms. Karlsson say about the test for a Norwich order?

Like counsel for Ms. Caryk, counsel for Ms. Karlsson works his way through an argument about the test for granting a Norwich order. On the first issue, establishing a bona fide or reasonable case, he makes the following comment:

"Caryk has failed to submit any evidence to show that there is a set up, or how she is being set up. Caryk's sham investigation is completely at odds with her speculative theory that she was 'framed'. The email accompanying the report and the report itself make no mention of being framed. To the contrary, the sender of the report stated that it is 'very clear that Monika wasn't the one making the comments.'"

The problem with this argument is that Ms. Caryk has submitted evidence that she wasn't responsible for the online abuse. She's also said that she accepts that Ms. Karlsson honestly believes she did it. If both of those things are true, well, what else could it be? It could be that Ms. Karlsson's honest belief is honest but unreasonable. That's not an argument that her lawyer can make. The theory that Ms. Caryk was framed flows naturally from a) her denial of having done it and b) Ms. Karlsson's honest belief that she did.

On the second point, that of connection to the wrongdoing, counsel for Ms. Karlsson says "It is ludicrous to suggest that Karlsson is 'somehow involved in the acts in question'. The 'acts complained of' by Caryk are acts done to Karlsson. Karlsson has not 'unwittingly facilitated its perpetration'."

Again – this seems to mix up the two wrongs. Ms. Caryk isn't complaining about the online abuse suffered by Ms. Karlsson as a whole. She's complaining that someone has engaged in a course of conduct to make Ms. Karlsson believe that it was Ms. Caryk. Insofar as Ms. Karlsson has been fooled by some rogue actor and acted as if Ms. Caryk was responsible for the abuse, she has unwittingly facilitated the perpetration of the wrong suffered by Ms. Caryk.

On the third prong of the test, that of Ms. Karlsson being the only practical source of the information, counsel for Ms. Karlsson identifies all sorts of other people and entities that might have information as to the identity of the perpetrators of the abuse sustained by Ms. Karlsson. He then concludes that Ms. Karlsson is not the only practical source of the information.

Once again, this seems to mix up the two wrongs. It is certainly true that if Ms. Caryk wanted to act as a sort of Batman of the internet, there are other entities and people who could give her information as the perpetrators of the abuse suffered by Ms. Karlsson. (Whether they would be obliged to do so is another question.) That misses the point though. Ms. Caryk wants the information that has caused Ms. Karlsson to believe that she is responsible for the abuse. Rogers doesn't have that. Those who emailed Ms. Caryk and accused her don't have that or, at best, have secondhand information about what Ms. Karlsson knows.

That leads to the fourth prong of the test and the question of whether Ms. Karlsson can be compensated for the costs of making disclosure. Counsel for Ms. Caryk takes the position that Ms. Karlsson would be prejudiced in a way for which she cannot be compensated if she's obliged to make this disclosure. He raises two arguments. First, he states that, assuming Ms. Karlsson can prove Ms. Caryk to be the perpetrator, she has an action against her and that Ms. Karlsson would be prejudiced if forced to show her evidence before any such action proceeded. Second, he expresses concern that the ongoing police investigation could be prejudiced.

Ms. Karlsson's counsel doesn't identify the action that Ms. Karlsson might have against Ms. Caryk but the most obvious cause of action would be defamation. A defamation action would have problems at this point unless Ms. Karlsson has served a libel notice on Ms. Caryk. We don't know that one hasn't been issued but if it had, it likely would have been mentioned – it would certainly bolster the argument being advanced.

From my perspective, the strongest point in the argument advanced by Ms. Karlsson's counsel is the argument that it might jeopardize an ongoing police investigation. It does seem reasonable to think that Ms. Caryk would share what she learns from Ms. Karlsson with the media. It's less clear whether this would somehow impact the investigation but anything is possible. This seems like the strongest point in the argument.

On the final point, of the test, that of the interests of justice, counsel largely repeats his prior arguments. He suggests that Ms. Caryk could continue to make her case in the media and says that the media has treated Ms. Caryk fairly by treating her as accused rather than guilty. Again, this is a somewhat difficult argument to make – "trial by media" doesn't seem like a particularly appetizing thing for the courts to sign off on.

There's a final interesting point about relying on the statement that Ms. Karlsson made in her peace bond application. As a rule, statements made in legal proceedings are privileged. If someone goes to court and lies about you, you can't sue them for defamation. Counsel for Ms. Karlsson suggests that this should also be true of a Norwich order. Basically, he's saying that the only instance of which Ms. Caryk is aware of in which Ms. Karlsson said that she is responsible for the abuse was covered by privilege and that the court should respect that privilege and not order disclosure.

On the surface, it is an intriguing argument. Practically though, it doesn't really go anywhere. The issue isn't the statement that Ms. Karlsson made in the peace bond. It's the belief that she has. Ms. Caryk has become aware of that belief in a number of different ways, even if Ms. Karlsson has never publicly stated her belief. She was aware of that belief before the application for a peace bond was filed in May of 2018. It's a red herring.

So where is all of this headed?

Predicting the outcome of litigation is for suckers but on balance, Ms. Caryk seems to me to have an easier argument to make to the judge that she should be provided with disclosure of the Ms. Karlsson's evidence as to her involvement in the matter. On a basic level, judges try to be fair to people. While it's nice that the media have characterized Ms. Caryk as having been accused of bullying someone who had just experienced a traumatic event rather than characterizing her as guilty, it's still an awful thing to be accused of. There are questions as to whether this will affect Mr. Hoffman's value as an unrestricted free agency, which is relevant to Ms. Caryk due to their relationship.

Put simply: it's doesn't seem fair that Ms. Caryk doesn't really have an opportunity to clear her name. On Friday, she'll see if a judge agrees with that.

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The Athletic / LeBrun: Players focused on two big-ticket items in next CBA discussions — escrow and Olympic participation

By Pierre LeBrun Sep 12, 2018 51

Escrow. No Olympics.



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If you want to make an NHL player make a lemon face, mention either, or if you're looking for maximum effect, slide in both in one sentence.

In the second part of our look at the NHL-NHLPA CBA question, which looms a year from now with the decision on re-opening for 2020, we take a look at the players' two biggest bugaboos.

You can find all you want about escrow on page 254 of the official CBA, section 50.4 (d), after which you may also want to poke your eyes out.

The simple explanation is this: the players every season fork out a percentage of their paycheques into an escrow fund and eventually get some of it back after the NHL and NHLPA finalize the tally on Hockey Related Revenue with each side getting a 50-50 share. If the players en masse ended up making more than 50 percent of HRR, well, they don't get all of their escrow money back.

It's not that complicated. It's just a mechanism to ensure the hard cap reality of a 50-50 HRR split.

But it's annoying as hell for the players.

"It's definitely something players aren't happy about," said Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane. "The percentage has gone down a little bit but the players would probably agree it's still a bit too high."

He speaks for every single player in the NHL when he says that.

To wit, here's the year-by-year escrow breakdown during the current CBA:

2017-18 –Final HRR and escrow TBD by NHL and NHLPA. The average escrow withholding rate from players' paycheques last season was 11.5 percent.

2016-17 – NHL and NHLPA still finalizing final numbers. The average escrow withholding rate was 15.5 percent for the season.

2015-16 – The final result was that each player took home 86.18 percent of their 2015-16 contract. The average escrow withholding rate was 16.96 percent.

2014-15 — Each player took home 87.05 percent of their 2014-15 contract. The average escrow withholding rate was 15 percent.

2013-14 — Each player took home 89.7 percent of their 2013-14 contract. The average escrow withholding rate was 14 percent.

2012-13 (lockout-shortened season) — Each player took home approximately 50 percent of their 2012-13 contract. The average escrow withholding rate was 16.26 percent.

So, you see why players hate this. They want to earn closer to what their actual salaries are.

It's why it is imperative for the league to continue to grow revenues as high as possible. But the more obvious solution is to slow down the rise of the salary cap so that players aren't eating up more than 50 percent of HRR. In some ways, the NHLPA has done just that by negotiating less than the five percent "growth factor" with the league the past few years when determining the final salary cap number.

But it probably needs to be even more than that.

"Stop escalating the cap to an artificially high number and the escrow percentage falls, funny how that works!" said one NHL team owner, who requested anonymity because the league forbids owners from talking CBA with the media.

Enter veteran Eric Staal, who has survived two NHL lockouts, a player who clearly understands the system. When The Athletic colleague Eric Duhatschek pointed out to him during our sitdown in Chicago last week that the simplest way to mitigate escrow would be to freeze the salary cap for two years, well, Staal didn't flinch. He understood exactly what Duhatschek was saying.

"You just don't raise the cap," said Staal of the temporary idea. "To me it's 50-50 regardless (share of HRR between players and owners). If we don't escalate the cap there's going to be a year or two where there's going to be guys who just don't get a job. That's why it's hard. There will be guys who will not play again. That's the hard part. But there are guys who are on long-term deals saying, 'Yeah, freeze it, freeze it.' Which I don't blame them either because they signed long-term deals and that's a lot of money coming off the deal that you're actually not making."

And this is coming from a player who will be a UFA next summer. So he would be among the players being affected negatively if the cap were frozen.

The point is, there are ways to make escrow less painful in the new CBA.

Enter Donald Fehr, the veteran union chief and executive director of the NHLPA. He'll be dealing with this in-depth with players as he attempts to find a solution for his membership in the next CBA.

"You have to differentiate escrow from how much money the players get," Fehr told The Athletic. "What I mean by that is this: in theory, you could do a version of what the NBA does and instead of setting the cap on 50 percent we're going to set it on 42 percent or 43 or whatever they are. What that will do is lower the cap and lower the face value of all the contracts. So you won't have escrow. Because they won't add up to as much on paper. The amount of money the player gets is going to be the same in aggregate because they're still going to get 50 percent (of HRR). You could do that, or you could play around the benefits, or you could come up with exceptions of one kind or another. There's a lot of different approaches you can take. The players' interests are going to be different obviously than what the owners' interests are, at least in certain respects. And from time to time, the players' interests are going to be different from other players in the same sense that the owners, Toronto's interest in what the cap should be is different than Arizona's."

Notice how Fehr mentions that maybe there could be "exceptions" in the next CBA. He didn't elaborate but it's easy to find possible ideas — what about taking the 35-and-over players, as an example, and perhaps having more flexibility in how their compensation counts versus the cap and HRR. Or could the NHLPA try to have players on Long-Term Injured Reserve not count or count at a discount for purposes of escrow and the cap? There are other ideas out there, too, that I'm sure the NHLPA will examine.

But any "softening" of the rules in this area might be seen by the NHL and owners as a threat to the hard cap system.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly, when asked about escrow last week, responded that the league would be open to talking about a number of issues in collective bargaining, but...

"I think we are very satisfied with the type of system we have and I don't think our ownership would be inclined to revisit the structure of the system we have," he said.

The interesting thing about slowing down the rise of the salary cap as a potential solution to curb escrow is that you have another constituency that may not be particularly happy with that: big-spending clubs who want as high a cap as possible to get players.

Fehr had an interesting take on the notion of a lower cap to help mitigate escrow.

"Let's take the current salary cap, it's \$79.5 million," Fehr said. "What we're going to do is we're going to eliminate escrow, we're going to make (the salary cap) \$70 million. That does two things: it adversely affects the face value of the contracts that are being negotiated. But it has another effect, which can be pretty invidious, it means that a whole bunch of teams can't sign anybody. So here you are as a player, do you want arguably a higher cap with some escrow or do you want a lower cap without escrow but ex-number of teams (which can't sign players). Which do you want? It's a process of discussion . . . Players have to look at it globally and I'm pretty sure they will."



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This is an issue that basically pits the players against each other in some ways: players with long-term contracts who want to curb escrow (and therefore slow the growth of the cap) against players entering their free-agent year who want as high a cap as possible to cash in.

There is no perfect solution here, but again, I can't imagine this is worth having a labor war with the league over, is it?

Unless the players actually want to go after the notion of a hard cap, get back more than the 50-50 HRR split — and who knows, maybe the players decide to take a harder stance; otherwise if players and owners are ultimately ok living in a 50-50 HRR world, then it's really about finding a cleaner solution to escrow within that context.

Olympics

Vladimir Tarasenko began shaking his head before the question was even halfway through being asked.

"I still don't understand the decision of not going to the Olympics. I can't believe still they made it," the St. Louis Blues star said last week.

Olympic participation is a must for players moving forward, whether that's part of the next CBA or negotiated in a side agreement.

Missing out on last February's Games in South Korea was a crushing blow for the game's top players. Beijing 2022 has to be on the table for them, that much is clear.

"Players have to go, ultimately," said Edmonton Oilers superstar Connor McDavid. "I think the NHL and the players and the hockey world missed out on what could have been an amazing Olympics. You look at this time in hockey with the mix of veteran players around the league and the mix of young talent coming in, I think they missed out on an unbelievable opportunity. Maybe not in a market (South Korea) that they want to go into I guess, but still, it's the Olympics and everyone is watching. It's the biggest stage in sport. I think they missed out on a huge opportunity and I don't think the NHL or the players will miss out again."

McDavid joined the likes of Auston Matthews, Jack Eichel, Nate MacKinnon, Patrik Laine and many others from the new wave of young stars in the NHL that had their first potential Olympic dream dashed.

Beijing has to happen for them.

"Yeah, I feel the same way," Matthews said when relayed McDavid's stance. "Especially, you miss out on this first year, missing out on playing with some guys you grew up watching like Kane, JVR, (Zach) Parise, a number of different guys. You have to hope that 3-4 years down the line we get the opportunity to get back in there. Because not only is it an exciting event for players but it helps to grow the game of hockey. And everybody I've talked to that's played in the Olympics says there's nothing like it. It's definitely an experience all of us want to have."

Added Eichel:

"When you think back, I think every Olympics has memorable moments, whether it's in Sochi when Osh was scoring shootouts every two seconds, or Sid's goal in Vancouver, it's only every four years. That window of opportunity to play in it is short. It's unfortunate we weren't able to go. ... That's the biggest of biggest stages. To not be able to go was frustrating. As a league we want to grow our game, we want to continue to make it more popular on a worldwide scale and I think the Olympics is a good opportunity to do that. I think we kind of handcuffed ourselves with not going. ... We'll see what happens the next few years but I would have a hard time thinking we're not going to be there for the next one."

Alex Ovechkin had always warned of going to South Korea anyway and facing an NHL suspension. But he got denied that chance when the IIHF essentially closed the door on that option by assuring the NHL it wouldn't allow any suspended NHL players in the tournament. The IIHF runs the Olympic tournament and decides the player pool.

So the only way back into the Olympics is through the front door.

"If you're lucky enough, how many Olympics you can play in? Three, if you're lucky, four," said Tarasenko. "This is a thing you don't want to miss. It was really sad when I found out we couldn't play there."

Tampa Bay star Nikita Kucherov underlined why, as a Russian, the desire to be an Olympian is deep-rooted.

"As a kid, I always watched the Olympic Games and always dreamed of being an Olympic gold medal winner," he said. "I wish I could play one day and all my family could be proud of me being in that tournament. ... We were raised wanting to be Olympic medallists. I grew up hoping I can be in their shoes."

Two-time Olympic gold medallist Jonathan Toews has been an outspoken critic of the South Korea decision. Just as he believes the NHL and NHLPA must do what's right and avoid labour strife in a new CBA, he feels those same principles of putting the game first applies here on the Olympic issue.

"To be part of that bigger team of athletes, representing your country, being in that village, the entire world is watching and it's always great for our sport," said Toews. "We shouldn't be the only ones identifying the fact that that's helpful for everybody. That's an example of what I'm saying as far as, let's use our common sense and move forward with that mindset."

It's important to remember that it was the IOC that began this fight before the South Korean Games by telling the NHL and NHLPA it wouldn't afford the same carrying costs for players' insurance and travel as the IOC had in previous Olympics.

That small crack was all the NHL needed to say no thanks, owners long ago fed up with Olympic participation, the interruption in the schedule long a thorn in their side. The league has long maintained the Olympics have never meant a boost to its bottom line.

And maybe that's true. But what about the sport itself? What about doing what's right for hockey? Never mind the business of the NHL.

Daly didn't slam the door shut on future Olympic participation.

"You never say never. Our difficulties with the Olympics are apparent and well-documented. Every time Gary (Bettman) gets the question he has the answer," Daly said. "I don't think those issues go away. It doesn't mean that given a different reality or a different formula we might come to a different decision. Again, I'm not going to pre-suppose that issue and I'm certainly not going to make a decision on behalf of our Board."

It may well be that the league would be willing to change its stance on the next Olympics as a potential "giveback" in CBA talks. But the NHLPA can see that coming from a mile away.

"The players aren't going to pay them to go back to the Olympics," Fehr said.

"I don't know what the IOC's position is going to be, I don't know what the IIHF position is going to be, and I don't know since it's in China, what the NHL's position is going to be," added Fehr. "But the players are not going to pay the NHL to go to the Olympics anymore that they're not going to play the IOC to go to the Olympics. And that's not something that the NHL doesn't understand. They understand. I just hope we can find a way to work it all out, to mesh everything, and really try and develop the international marketplace."

As a few players pointed out last week, the NHL once again this month is having preseason games in China, this time involving Calgary and Boston. If that's not a true sign of where the league's intentions are for Beijing 2022, then what is?

"I think the NHL wants to go to China, it's a big market," said Avs star Nate MacKinnon. "I don't think it's a secret they want to get into China."

Added Hart Trophy winner Taylor Hall: "I think the NHL wants to go to the Olympics, there's no doubt about that, with it being in China. They



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certainly see it as a market that they want to branch into. I imagine the China Olympics is something we're both on the same side for."

Surely, the Olympic experience, done better than ever, is something all sides can benefit from.

"There's got to be something wrong with us if we can't sell this to a mass audience and in a much bigger way than we've been able to do," Fehr said.

All of which feeds into the broader international schedule, a future World Cup of Hockey, other events in Europe, it should all be part of a big, mass-scale vision the league and players need to agree to and share in.

But the Olympics? That's a must for players. Case closed.

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The Athletic / The grandson of Greek immigrants, Jordan Kyrour's NHL career seems 'meant to be'

By Jeremy Rutherford Sep 12, 2018 24

They were there to learn English, but looking back, 18-year-old Iordanis Kyrour was studying 14-year-old Maria Broumas.

Their families came to Toronto from Greece in the early 1960s, and enrolled them in the same night school to help learn a new language.

"He kept flirting with me," Maria recalled. "But of course I was quite young at that time. At that time, our parents were very, very strict. We couldn't even go to the corner store without someone coming with me, so it was a hard time to try and see him."

The English class lasted a year, after which they went their separate ways without striking up a relationship. Maria never forgot Iordanis, but never knew, of course, whether she'd see him again. Then one-and-a-half years later, Iordanis coincidentally came in contact with Maria's cousin, Martha, who also attended the class, and asked about the young girl who had him smitten.

"She called and said, 'Guess who's asking for you?'" Maria said. "I was excited, yeah, I was really happy to hear from him. He asked for my phone number, he called me and we went out. I was 16 at the time. At 17 we got married — so young we were — and by 18 I had my daughter (Fanoula) and by 19 I had my son (Aki). I guess it was meant to be."

When Blues prospect Jordan Kyrour takes the ice Friday for the start of training camp, coming off Tuesday's hat trick and tournament-best five goals at the NHL Prospect tourney in Traverse City, Mich., his grandmother, Maria (nee Broumas) Kyrour, holds the same sentiment — maybe an NHL career was meant to be.

As Greek immigrants, Iordanis and his future wife didn't know English, much less anything about the sport that every Canadian spoke so fluently. It wasn't until her brothers, who lived in Edmonton during the Oilers' dynasty, urged the Kyrours to allow Aki to play hockey, creating a passion that later led Jordan onto the ice. Two decades later, their 20-year-old grandson, the Blues' second-round pick in 2016, is perhaps one of the most gifted skating prospects in the NHL, as The Athletic's Scott Wheeler documented last October.

"The way I think, sometimes things are meant to happen ... there's no coincidences sometimes in life," Maria, who goes by Mary, said. "Things are just meant to be. If those things weren't in (Jordan's) life, maybe things weren't going to be that way, the way his path turned out."

Shortly after being married, Iordanis, who went by "John," took a job at one of the first Tim Horton's in downtown Toronto.

He was 19 at the time. The store was on Yonge Street and Kyrour's boss was none other than founder, Tim Horton, the longtime NHL defenseman who spent 20 seasons with the Maple Leafs.

"When they first started making the donuts, my husband was the first one who had tried the recipe with Tim Horton," Mary said.

But while Horton and John discussed donuts, they rarely talked about hockey.

"That was not his thing because in Greece it was soccer," Mary said. "Tim Horton was always questioning, 'John, why don't you ever ask me for tickets? I can give you free tickets.' Of course my husband was not interested in hockey at that time."

John worked at Tim Horton's for three years before deciding to go into the restaurant business. But not before Horton made him an offer to stick around, according to the family.

"He asked him to go into partnership with him, to open up more stores," Mary said. "But my husband decided to go on his own and actually open his own restaurants. That's how they parted."

John opened up a restaurant in Toronto called the "Hilltop," while Tim Horton's, despite some early challenges and the untimely death of Horton at age 44 in a single-vehicle automobile accident in 1974, went on to become Canada's largest quick-service restaurant chain. It was sold in 2014 for more than \$11 billion.

"The Greeks always got into restaurants back then — they just worked very hard to provide for their kids," Aki said. "He did have success with his own restaurants, but in hindsight, probably should have stayed with Tim."

Aki was born two years after his sister in 1969. With no history of hockey in the family, he didn't put on his first pair of skates until age 6 or 7, and that was at the urging of his uncle on his mom's side, George Broumas.

But Broumas, a season-ticket holder in Edmonton and the owner of a sports bar that Oilers' players frequented, didn't stop at putting Aki on the ice. He wanted John to find a team for Aki and eventually that happened when his son turned 11.

"My uncle would always tell my dad, 'Put him in hockey,'" Aki remembers. "My dad was like, 'I don't know,' because he didn't understand the sport. Eventually he did, so I've got to credit my uncle for doing that."

After being limited to the frozen backyard rinks, Aki began playing organized hockey at the Malton Minor Hockey Association and quickly progressed to AA and AAA. They didn't have hockey at his high school, Morning Star secondary school, where he played volleyball, basketball and ran track, but he continued to pursue the sport.

"Hockey was just something that I took a liking to," Aki said. "I kind of wished that I got into it earlier, but that's how it came about, me getting into hockey and then it just sort of evolved there."

Aki's uncle added to his passion for the game when he gave him a game-used Wayne Gretzky stick from the 1981-82 season, when "The Great One" netted 50 goals through 39 games and finished with an NHL record 92.

Broumas, whose bar in Edmonton was called the "Windmill Bar & Grill," secured a stick from that season, which Aki admits he can't authenticate but has every reason to believe it's real.

"They managed to get me a Gretzky stick — the Titan one — which I still have today," Aki said. "It was signed by all the players. The signatures have faded unfortunately, but it's something that I still cherish."

Aki went on to play with the Toronto Red Wings in what was then called the Metro Toronto Hockey League (MTHL), now called the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL). In his final year, the Red Wings won the





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Ontario championship and advanced to the Air Canada Cup, where he played against former NHLers Joe Sakic and Rod Brind'Amour.

"We lost in the finals in that tournament," Aki said, "but it was cool because my uncles were watching me in Edmonton on TV because it was broadcast nationally."

Aki went on to play two years at the Junior B level, but despite being recruited by the University of Toronto, he hung up his skates after meeting his future wife, Roula (nee Economou), and deciding to focus on his degree that year.

"He says that he stopped playing because he fell in love," Roula said. "That's his excuse. I always say, 'That's not true, Aki. The reason that you didn't play hockey was because you weren't good enough.' Don't try to blame me, right?"

Aki's career ended, but not before making a huge hockey fan out of his father, John.

"My husband was really into it," Mary said. "We had a banquet business at the time, and we had a wedding one night and my son was playing in North Bay in a tournament. John finished his banquet at 4 o'clock in the morning and drove to North Bay to catch the last game the next day. He traveled everywhere. He was a hockey fanatic."

That love for the game only deepened when Aki and Roula got married and welcomed Jordan, the oldest of the three Kyrour children, in 1998.

The name carried special meaning.

"In our tradition, usually the first child will be named after the dad on the father's side," Raoulo said.

So their son was to be named after "Iordanis," but since he went by "John" and the couple wasn't keen on that, they chose the actual Greek translation of Iordanis, which was Jordan.

"We call him Iordanis and then Jordan," Roula said.

Their relationship was as close as their names.

"John spent a lot of time with Jordan," Mary said. "Jordan was over at our house a lot and John babysat him for many years. They even built a deck together and I have a picture of them building that deck — a beautiful deck."

Unlike his father, Jordan was introduced to the ice at an early age.

"Aki loves hockey, so obviously he was going to put his kids into hockey, right?" Roula said. "Jordan ended up being really good and he loved it. It was just full speed ahead after that."

Aki could tell that Jordan, who played his house league hockey at Parkdale, had some athleticism.

"He always had a bounce to his step," Aki said. "He had that a little bit naturally, but we always worked on his skating. The one thing about Jordan, he was always very easy-going in terms of whatever I needed him to do, he would just do it. He wouldn't say, 'Nah, I don't want to do it.' His was just always like, 'Let's go!'"

Jordan's grandpa, John, didn't miss a stride.

"He loved watching Jordan," Aki said. "We'd drop him off and he would always play with him, especially at a younger age, in the basement. Then as he got older, he would come watch a lot of his games."

John was in the stands on Feb. 25, 2010, watching a 12-year-old Jordan play with the Toronto Jr. Canadiens at the Hershey Center in Mississauga.

"We were all there — all the grandchildren, too," Mary said. "We were joking and laughing. I remember that so well."

She remembers because the next day, tragedy struck.

While Jordan was in class at Parkdale, John died at age 67 of a massive heart attack. Aki and Roula picked up their three kids, including son Christian and daughter Matina, from school early that day.

"We took them home and sat them on the couch and told them what happened," Roula said.

Jordan said he was "just a little kid" and "doesn't remember too much," but his family admitted that the news "hit him pretty hard."

"It was very tough on him because he was the oldest grandchild and he had spent a lot of time with him," Mary said. "It was very difficult."

John wouldn't be around to see Jordan get drafted No. 38 overall in 2014 by the Sarnia Sting of the OHL, or hear about his grandson, who is represented by the Orr Hockey Group, getting a phone call from the great Bobby Orr.

"I got an unknown number on my phone and picked up and he's like 'This is Bobby Orr,'" Jordan recalled. "I was like, 'Are you serious?'"

Aki recalled: "Jordan answers and he's like wording to me, 'It's Bobby Orr!'"

Added Jordan: "He was saying this was the first step in my career. It was unbelievable that I got to talk to him."

Jordan was a player that Sarnia GM Nick Sinclair coveted in the OHL draft.

"We had him very, very high on our list in the first round and, watching all these other names come off, the excitement started to build because we thought we potentially had a superstar in the making," Sinclair said. "When he came in for his first rookie camp, he scored two unbelievable, highlight-reel goals that I'll never forget. I think some fans of the Sarnia Sting still talk about today. It was an indication of really what was to come."

John wouldn't be around to see Jordan net 30 goals and 87 points in his first two seasons with the Sting, leading the Blues to take him with the second-round pick (No. 35 overall) they received from Calgary in the Brian Elliott trade.

"We had a feeling that maybe St. Louis would take him there," Aki said. "He had some good interviews, but there were a few that stuck out in his mind and St. Louis was one of them. I remember asking Jordan, 'Who would you like to go?' And his first response was 'St. Louis, I really like them.' We're glad that it worked out the way that it did."

John wouldn't be around to see Jordan win a gold medal with Team Canada at the World Junior Championships last January. He called his grandma immediately after and made sure she knew who he was thinking of.

"Jordan said to me, 'Yia Yia,' which means grandma in Greek, 'This is for my 'Papou!' which is grandpa," Mary said. "I said, 'I'm so proud of you!' That again re-affirmed to me like how much he still thinks of his grandfather. He said, 'I know he's watching me.'"

When Jordan returned from the tournament in Buffalo, he was honored as one of three former Sarnia players to win a WJC gold medal. The others were Trevor Letowski, who was Jordan's head coach in his first season with the Sting and assistant coach with Team Canada, and current Tampa Bay Lightning star Steven Stamkos.

"That was a really great night," Jordan said. "Steve congratulated me and then I remember after the game I actually saw him in the staircase and he shook my hand again, gave me like a little hug and said, 'That's awesome.' It's just pretty cool to be on the same level as him with only three of us won a gold, me, him and Letowski."

When Jordan was an OHL rookie, Letowski told Sinclair that the youngster would lead the league in scoring one day. He came close this season, finishing third in points (109) behind Barrie's Aaron Luchuk (115) and Sault Ste. Marie's Morgan Frost (112), despite playing 11 fewer



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games than those two. He won the Red Tilson Trophy as the most outstanding player.

"He's only continued to evolve on and off the ice," Sinclair said. "His first year, he was a very shy kid, very polite, but very shy. It was hard to get two words out of him when you talked to him, and now when you sit down with him, it's like he's matured by about 15 years. He doesn't seem to be too intimidated, he just goes with the flow. He's a pretty chill kid."

Roula heard about that personality after attending a Sarnia game in London, Ontario, where the family now lives.

"The Greek friends of mine, some girls about my age, they met Jordan afterwards," she said. "And they came up to me and said, 'Oh my gosh, Jordan is such a gentleman. He came up and shook our hand like an adult, not like normal kids. Jordan is talented, but on top of that, he is really good character. He cares about people and he's genuine.'"

Jordan has greatly benefited from the steady influence of his maternal grandfather, George Economou, who also immigrated from Greece and has become a No. 1 fan.

"He goes to all the games and knows all the stats," Roula said.

"He knows more stats than I do," Aki added.

But Mary has long believed that Jordan has taken a lot of character from her late husband.

"His grandfather was a great person," she said. "That's what everybody remembers him by, what a great person he was and very low-profile. I see a lot of those traits in Jordan, even the way he's a people person, the way he interacts with everybody, his patience. I see it a lot."

'Papou' would be so proud of his grandson.

"Oh yeah, he would be over the moon right now," Aki said.

Maybe, things were just meant to be.

"My dad, he's been with me since day one," Jordan said. "He's taught me so much and I continue to learn from him. He's been a great role model for me, someone to look up to. But a lot of credit goes to (Grandpa Kyrou) for getting my dad involved in hockey. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be in this situation and my family wouldn't be here."

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The Athletic / Pronman: Top 100 NHL prospects entering the 2018-19 season

By Corey Pronman Sep 12, 2018 316

Welcome to my look at the top prospects within NHL organizations.

Like with my breakdown into the farm systems of each NHL team, these rankings are based on thousands of hours of research, spanning many trips to rinks across the hockey world, watching a lot of video, analyzing player's production, and discussions with scouts, coaches and executives. While I seek input from many sources, these are solely my opinions and will deviate from NHL sources, even significantly in some instances.

These rankings also have minor tweaks from the analysis I published in August going through each team's farm systems, given that seasons have already started for some players, I've attended some prospect camps and I've incorporated those viewings into these rankings.

My preference is for highly skilled players with upside. I look for prospects with speed, skill and intelligence. Skating is a little more important to me in forwards than defenders, and physicality is more important to me in defenders than forwards. I prefer forwards to defensemen, and centers to wingers. My ranking philosophy is the No. 1 goal of drafting and development is to find stars, and even a minor chance of becoming a star has significant value.

To help illustrate players' strengths and weaknesses, each player profiles has the grading scale I use for players' attributes. I am a fan of the 20-80 scale, borrowed from baseball. The 20-80 range represents three standard deviations from the mean, a grade of 50. A grade of 50 means the skill projects as NHL average in that category, 55 is above average, 60 is top 33 percent, 70 is top 10 percent, 80 is one of the best of all-time. A 45 is below average, 40 is fringe NHL level. A 20 is beer league level. Given how a normal distribution usually looks, most grades are within the 40-60 range. I almost never assign an 80 unless it's Connor McDavid's skating; in fact, I've assigned no 80s to any prospect on this list. I only make note of a shot grade when a player stands out in that regard.

I split players up into tiers that will be seen throughout this feature. Here is how you should interpret them:

**Special prospect:** Projects to be one of the very best at their position in the league.

**Elite prospect:** Projects to be top 10-15 percent of the league at their position.

**High-end prospect:** Projects as a legit top-line forward who can play on your PP1/top pairing defenseman.

**Very good prospect:** Projects as a top-six forward/top-four defenseman/starting goaltender.

**Legit NHL prospect:** Projects to play, probably not in a top role, but is close enough that he could realistically get there.

**Have a chance:** Probably not an impact guy but could play in the league and has the toolkit to have an outside chance to be a real player. Have a chance refers to probability to be a good player, not his probability to play NHL games.

I value goalie prospects very conservatively due to the massive uncertainty in projecting the position and the massive variance in production when they reach the NHL. In the past 10 years or so, I've only rated one goalie who I thought would be a top-tier player (Andrei Vasilevskiy) and only a handful who I'd project to be a starting goalie in the NHL.

A player is no longer considered an NHL prospect if he has played more than 25 NHL games in any single season, 50 career NHL games or is older than age 27 as of Sept. 15, 2018. All other players are considered eligible.

### SPECIAL PROSPECT

1. Rasmus Dahlin, D, Buffalo

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 70

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 70

Dahlin was one of the best defense prospects of the modern era as a first-year, draft-eligible player. His skill and IQ ranked among the very best in the class. He can play at such a quick pace and make highly creative plays versus pros, which at his age is unusual. What stands out to me is not his elite skill but his elite awareness. He understands how to attack defenses so well and attempts things I don't see players his age try. He sees gaps in coverage before they develop, makes great feeds, and knows how to angle guys out and when to go for a risky play. He



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also has a low panic threshold and doesn't tend to force plays. He's a very good skater who, while not exceptionally fast, has good speed and is very agile for a player his size. His offense drives his value, but he is quite good defensively, as he battles hard, is physical and plays a quiet position game. He has the potential to be a franchise defenseman.

### ELITE PROSPECT

#### 2. Andrei Svechnikov, LW, Carolina

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 60

Hockey sense: 60

Shot Grade: 60

Svechnikov is an offensive dynamo on the wing, showing an ability to create scoring chances in many ways with one NHL scout coining him a "five-tool prospect" — a term borrowed from baseball to describe that he's very good at everything with no glaring weakness. He's a good skater and very quick for a player with a pro frame. He often surprises opposing players with how quickly he can close, forcing a ton of turnovers. He's a very powerful player due to his speed and size, and he gets to the net as well as anyone from his draft year. He can make high-skilled plays off the rush and is a very creative playmaker. He's one of the better passers in this draft class who can make tough dishes with consistency and looks for his teammates. Svechnikov has also been one of the more dangerous goal scorers in major junior and can finish chances from afar.

#### 3. Casey Mittelstadt, C, Buffalo

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 70

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 60

Mittelstadt was the MVP of the world juniors and had a decent initial showing with the Sabres as a teenager. He's a player who stands out due to his elite offensive abilities. There are very few players outside the NHL who can create offense like he can, and often he can bring fans out of their seats. He skates well, has arguably the best set of hands outside the league and has great overall offensive instincts as a playmaker. Off the puck, he's not the best. Despite having fine size, he isn't going to be a high-end physical player and needs work defensively. However, he shields pucks fine and, given his size and elite skill package, he still has the potential to be a star in the league. I have small reservations about his production at various levels relative to his age, but I've watched him so much and see a consistently high-end guy that I'm not too concerned.

#### 4. Robert Thomas, C, St. Louis

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 65

Thomas was the most dangerous player I saw in the OHL last season and was the MVP of the playoffs. He's a fantastic do-it-all type of forward with no clear weakness. His puck skills are fantastic, and he has near elite-level hockey sense. Thomas drives play due to his skill and offensive instincts, as he's always dangerous, sees the ice very well and is always finding a way to create a scoring chance. His speed isn't at the same level as those other traits, but he skates well and has a powerful first few steps. He's not the biggest guy, but Thomas is a reliable defensive center who can kill penalties and take tough minutes. He has the potential to be a No. 1 center.

#### 5. Henrik Borgstrom, C, Florida

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Borgstrom was one of the best players in college hockey last season. His talent level is off the charts and he has the potential to be an impact player in the NHL. He has elite hands, great vision, skates well, and is 6-foot-3. In other words, he's the total package in terms of tools to be a top scorer in the NHL and appeared on college highlight reels with regularity. He does have to round out his game however. He played some penalty kill for Denver but I have some doubts about how he'll do defensively at the top level, especially with his physical play. His production over years at various levels has also never lined up with the talent even though he put up big numbers this season in the NCHC.

#### 6. Filip Zadina, RW, Detroit

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 60

Zadina skates well, with a powerful stride that eats up ice efficiently. He has near elite-grade hands, which allow him to be quite elusive. He can create as a playmaker and tends to make good decisions moving the puck, but he's known as a trigger man with one of the better wrist shots in the draft class. What I love about Zadina is how multi-dimensional he is. He can attack defenses by dangling through guys, he can protect pucks and drive around guys, and he can power his way past defenders or utilize an inch of space to score from long distance. He is a highly competitive player who gets high marks for his character and competes his butt off to win puck battles on the ice.

#### 7. Quinn Hughes, D, Vancouver

Skating: 70

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 35

Hockey sense: 65

Hughes is one of the best skating defensemen I've ever seen at his age. He has incredible agility, ability to get up to a dangerous top speed quickly and the power he gets from each stride is special. I've never seen a defenseman that can pivot from backward at full speed to dashing up the ice like he can. He can transition the puck well due to his feet, but his great puck skills and IQ allow him to drive play. He processes the game so well at both ends of the rink and is extremely creative with the puck, allowing him to make unique rushes and distributions. He controls the puck in a unique way and is very tough to dislodge due to his skating, skill and work ethic. The main drawback on him is his size — and it's valid — but his sense and feet allow him to disrupt enough plays to be useful defensively, and he's not a huge liability. His point shot could be a tad stronger, as well. He's returning to Michigan for his sophomore season.

#### 8. Jesperi Kotkaniemi, C, Montreal

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60



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Kotkaniemi played center for Finland and was a winger for his pro team, but he projects as a center. He has very good hands that are high-end, if not flashing elite. He can make very skilled plays off an entry, but what impresses me is how well he can control the puck and keep plays alive. With his frame and skill, it's very hard to strip him of possession. He is also a very smart playmaker. Kotkaniemi sees the ice very well and can be the primary guy to set up along the wall on a power play and move the puck around. He understands how to create chances and isn't afraid to attempt difficult plays. His skating isn't amazing, but when I've seen him, his speed looks fine but his stride is a bit awkward.

9. Elias Pettersson, C, Vancouver

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 65

Shot Grade: 70

Pettersson had a marvelous season, as he was named MVP of the SHL regular season and playoffs. I've had concerns about him in the past. I don't love how he skates and he loses a lot of battles, but the skill level is too good and the production too high for those concerns to keep him outside elite status. Pettersson is an elite puckhandler with the hands to make even the best defenders look foolish. He's very creative with the puck in terms of his individual skill, but he's also a fantastic passer. He makes plays at a pro pace and creates a ton of chances for himself and his teammates. Pettersson also has a high-end shot, and due to all these threats, he's a nightmare to stop on the power play with the multiple ways he can beat a team. His skating stride is a tad awkward, but fine in a straight line, and he still needs to bulk up a ton.

## HIGH-END NHL PROSPECT

10. Martin Necas, C, Carolina

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 60

Necas had a simply fantastic season. He was very good in the top Czech league, led the World Juniors in scoring, and was a valuable part of the Czech team at the World Championships. Just about everything about his skill set is dynamic. He's a high-end if not an elite skater who can push the pace as well as anyone. Necas is highly-skilled, and a great passer who can beat a defender wide, pull up and make a bullet feed on the tape. He projects to one day carry a line down the middle at the NHL level and will arrive next season.

11. Gabriel Vilardi, C, Los Angeles

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 60

Hockey sense: 65

Vilardi is one of the better players outside the NHL. He has the unique combination of being a high-end playmaker and tough to handle physically. He's big, strong and can make fantastic passes and dekes seem routine. When he returned from injury this season and was traded from Windsor to Kingston he dominated the OHL. He's a below-average skater, which is a reasonable concern about his game, and the biggest reason why he may not end up a star, but I still believe a lot in his skill set. He's such an advanced player physically that he could possibly make the Kings next season and be a good top-six forward for them

soon. Staying healthy will be important for him and it's something he has struggled to do.

12. Cody Glass, C, Vegas

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 60

Hockey sense: 65

Glass had a second straight season where he was a dominant player in the WHL. He's a fantastic playmaker, as his vision is one of the best in the entire CHL. He's highly-skilled, can make some very imaginative offensive plays and be a guy who runs a power play with great effectiveness. He skates decent, but one of my main concerns with Glass is how much pace he has in his game. There are moments when the games get quicker and he can get lost in the speed/physicality. He has too much skill to be overly concerned and one reason I think for his issue with speed is how much he has grown in a short amount of time and has continued to grow even this season.

13. Oliver Wahlstrom, RW, New York Islanders

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 70

Wahlstrom is an elite goal scorer who also has the capability to carry a line due to his skill and creativity, and he generates a lot of clean entries. He's more of a shooter than a playmaker, but he can certainly make tough passes when he needs to. Wahlstrom has an elite shot and can score from a distance, with a special instinct in terms of seeing shooting lanes develop and knowing how to beat goalies. He's OK defensively, I've seen him be passable on the PK and, while he can be strong on the puck, he's not going to throw his body around a ton. He can skate fine, although I think sometimes he plays slower than he should, but he can get around the ice without issue and push defenders back off zone entries.

14. Brady Tkachuk, LW, Ottawa

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 70

Hockey sense: 60

Tkachuk has one of the best physical games outside the NHL. He's a strong 6-foot-3 forward who wins battles and bulldozes his way to the net as well as any teenager I've seen in the college ranks. His skill isn't dynamic, but he has good hands, a good wrist shot and makes smart plays with the puck. He's a very smart player, can distribute the puck well and doesn't make many poor decisions. I saw the occasional high-end flash of vision from him, but he does make quick decisions and plays at a pro pace. His skating is solid, as well. I've seen him turn the corner on defenders numerous times, but he's never going to wow you with his speed. Coaches will love him because he plays well in any situation or role.

15. Miro Heiskanen, D, Dallas

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 45



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Hockey sense: 65

Heiskanen is coming off an incredible season where he was named the top defenseman in Finland's Liiga as an 18-year-old. What stands out about Heiskanen is his hockey sense. It's high-end, if not elite. He's not typically going to make a highlight-reel rush, but he's so smooth, calm, makes good decisions and plays with pace. He likes to slow the game down, but he skates very well and can lead an attack. Heiskanen generates offense with his feet and vision. He has skill, but his puck skills are not at the same level as those other attributes, and for those reasons, I don't know if he'll be a true PP1 guy in the NHL. He's so good defensively at his age though that he projects to be a tough minutes top pairing guy.

16. Jordan Kyrrou, RW, St. Louis

Skating: 65

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Kyrrou was named the Most Outstanding Player in the OHL after scoring at a near two points per game rate. He has dynamic qualities in his game. He's a great skater and puckhandler who can push the pace and make highlight-reel rushes. Kyrrou's decision making used to worry me, but he's getting better in that regard and his playmaking looked very good this season. He's averaged about an assist per game for the past two seasons. He still can be prone to the odd bad turnover, but you take a lot of the good with some of the bad. His shot is solid, as well. His play off the puck can still be better, particularly physically, but with the puck, he can change a shift. He could be an impactful scorer in the NHL.

17. Vitaly Kravtsov, RW, New York Rangers

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 55

Kravtsov is 6-foot-2, skates rather well, has dynamic hands and is pretty coordinated for his size. He can push defenders back with speed and gain the offensive zone with control. While he can make some nice plays and shows good creativity, I think he's more of a finisher than a playmaker; someone who could drive his offense in the NHL through leading on zone entries and finishing chances from a distance. His vision looked better to me this season than last, but he's not going to be a guy who hovers around looking for options. He'll need work off the puck, too, as he can get pushed off pucks a little too easily for a big man. But when he uses his body, his frame protects the puck well.

Note on tier change: Kravtsov was rated as a high very good prospect in August, but upon watching his performance for Russia in the summer and his early KHL games, I bumped him up and changed his skill grade from a 60 to a 65.

18. Rasmus Kupari, C, Los Angeles

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 55

There are a lot of tools to like in Kupari's game. He's a very strong skater who explodes out of his first few strides and puts pressure on defenders using his speed. His stride is incredibly smooth, with so much power coming from every push off. Kupari also has high-end puck skills and can make skilled plays in tight and off the rush. I've seen flashes of good playmaking from him, but I don't think he's a high-end passer but he's

fine in that area. He also has an above-average shot. He needs time to round out his game, and to learn when to play quick and when to slow plays down.

Note on tier change: Going into the draft, Kupari was rated as very good, but after watching him in the summer and early parts of his season, I bumped him up and moved his hockey sense from a 50 to a 55.

19. Eeli Tolvanen, RW, Nashville

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 35

Hockey sense: 65

Shot Grade: 70

Tolvanen had an absolute monster year. He was one of the best teenage players in KHL history, making their All-Star team as an 18-year-old. He was also great internationally between the world juniors, Olympics and world championships. He's a highly skilled player with one of the best shots outside the NHL. He can consistently beat goalies from far distance like few can in the game. Tolvanen couples that with great hands and offensive instincts. He plays with pace, moving the puck well at the KHL level and creating lots of chances. His speed is decent, not poor but not great for a smaller player. His size is a concern, but he will pressure physically.

20. Cale Makar, D, Colorado

Skating: 65

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Makar had a very good, albeit unspectacular, freshman season at UMass and was one of the top defensemen at the world juniors. His skating is fantastic. He explodes out of his first step and can push the pace with the best of them. Makar is also a highly skilled puck handler and puck mover. He can make a skilled play off the rush, but also has the hockey IQ to make difficult feeds and run a power play. With Makar, the notable drawback is defense. He's not the biggest guy and his overall play in his own end is average at best in terms of his positional work.

21. Dominik Bokk, RW, St. Louis

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Bokk's pure puck skill is up there with the very best in his draft class. He dances with the puck on his stick and can make flashy dekes seem routine. His hands also translate to making him one of the best pickpockets (of pucks) I've seen at his age. He's a good playmaker who looks to makes plays to his teammates and has the patience and skill to hold the puck and let an option develop. He can finish chances, too, and when he's played internationally, the German team has looked to him as a trigger man. His skating is fine, not explosive, but good. The main criticism of him is off the puck. He's not a very intense physical player nor is he great defensively.

22. Lucas Elvenes, RW, Vegas

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45



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Hockey sense: 65

Elvenes had a breakout season, putting up fantastic numbers between Sweden's top division and second division pro league for a young 18-year-old. He's a player with a high skill level who can create a lot of offense. Elvenes is always looking to make a skilled play. He has very good offensive instincts, showing the ability to make incredible passes at a pro pace. Although when I watched him I saw a few too many overly risky plays/bad turnovers, you take a lot of the good with some of the bad. One big reason for his improvement was an addition to his foot-speed. He was an OK skater in his draft year, but he's added some more speed to his game.

23. Filip Chytil, C, New York Rangers

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Chytil opened eyes in training camp for the Rangers, starting the season up on the big club briefly before being sent down to the AHL where he was one of the best 18-year-old players in that league in recent years. The 21st overall pick from last year's draft is a center with high-end speed and skill who can make a real impact on any given shift. He has shown his instincts are there to use his talents. He doesn't take over consistently, more in flashes. Chytil needs to get stronger, and engage a little better. Even if he doesn't end up a star he can still drive a lot of controlled entries and make plays, which has value.

24. Kirill Kaprizov, LW, Minnesota

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Shot Grade: 60

Kaprizov had yet another great KHL season, and showed well at both the Olympics and World Championships. He has a well-rounded and dynamic skill set. Kaprizov can beat you with his speed, hands or vision, all of which I think are high-end. He can make plays at a NHL pace and be a guy who drives a line. Kaprizov makes a lot of plays, but he also has a good shot to finish off plays. He's not the biggest guy, with his size being his main issue, but he works hard and has some two-way ability. As Wild fans are aware, he is signed in the KHL through the 2020 season and plans to see that deal through.

25. Adam Boqvist, D, Chicago

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 35

Hockey sense: 65

Boqvist's hands and IQ all get very high grades. He's very skilled and creative with the puck, on top of displaying top level, if not elite, vision. What I love about him is his attacking mindset. He's always looking to jump up and make a play, looking for opportunities and wants to make a difference in the game. Boqvist skates fine with the ability to lead a rush and he closes his gaps well defensively. But his skating isn't as much of a standout trait as his brain. His shot from the point is quite good as well and he's very skilled at getting it through traffic, showing high shot generation numbers everywhere he goes. On defense, he's small and not that physical. I've seen him make stops effectively versus players his age — not at an elite level, but more than passable.

26. Dylan Strome, C, Arizona

Skating: 40

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 65

It may seem like Dylan Strome has been around forever, but he's only three years out from his draft, was one of the best players in the AHL last season and was good in his late season call-up to the Coyotes. His skill and particularly his hockey sense can take over a game. He's a big center who is a fantastic playmaker who thinks the game in a unique way. Strome also has a good shot, and when he gets into the offensive zone, he can be a threat to score in multiple ways. He needs to be tougher in battles, and his foot-speed will never be a selling point, but he's slowly and steadily getting better.

27. Daniel Sprong, RW, Pittsburgh

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 60

Sprong was one of the most dangerous offensive players in the AHL this season and looked good in a brief call-up for the Penguins. He has all the components you want in a top scorer. Sprong is a high-end skater and puck handler who can push the pace. He's also an intelligent offensive player with the creativity, instincts and vision to make tough plays. There are times he tries to do too much, but the good significantly outweighs the bad. Sprong also has one of the best shots outside the NHL. His game off the puck has never been a selling point. He's not very physical and frustrates coaches at times, but he also puts up numbers wherever he goes.

28. Ryan Merkley, D, San Jose

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 35

Hockey sense: 65

Merkley is one of the best passers I've ever seen at his age. He has the vision to attempt and execute plays most players don't think about and has the composure to move the puck at an elite level. When he's on his game, he makes everyone around him look better. While he won't attempt end-to-end rushes, Merkley can make a highlight-reel skill play to open up space for his vision. He skates very well, but he's more of an elusive skater with great edge-work than a guy who blazes through the neutral zone, though he does possess above-average speed. Merkley is small and can be a headache defensively with some of his decisions, coverage and physicality — although I've seen him lay out a huge hit here and there. He has severe ups and downs, where he looks dominant one game and can be a major negative another. He also can let his emotions get the best of him.

VERY GOOD PROSPECT

29. Sam Steel, C, Anaheim

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 65



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Steel wasn't quite the exact same dominant force he was in 2016-17, but he was still very good as the top center for Canada's gold medal World Junior team, and he had a great Memorial Cup. He's a skilled puck handler and a fantastic playmaker. He can run a power play like few others and plays with a pro pace. He's somewhat undersized and not very physical, but Steel is fine defensively due to his excellent IQ, has killed penalties at various levels for years and projects as a center at the top level. While he's not slow, Steel needs to show a little more explosiveness, especially from his first few strides. As of now, I'd say his skating is about average.

30. Owen Tippett, RW, Florida

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 60

Tippett was one of the most dangerous offensive player in the OHL after briefly making the Panthers out of camp and showing fine in his initial NHL stint at 18 years of age — although he wasn't invited to Canada's World Junior Championships selection camp. He's one of the most dangerous forwards in junior because of his great speed and shot, on top of having very good puck skills. His east-west game has never been great, but defensemen know when he has the puck. He creates a ton of offense by himself and I saw more flashes of top-end playmaking from him this season. His issues come more without the puck in terms of effort as well as making smart decisions on when to make the extra play, but I do think he has potential on the PK due to his speed.

31. Nikita Gusev, LW, Vegas

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 30

Hockey sense: 65

Gusev was the MVP of the KHL and the best forward at the Men's Olympic Tournament. Yes he's 26 years old, but he's still a very legitimate prospect on his talent if he chooses to cross the pond and has only continued to get better over the years. Skill is what makes Gusev so attractive. He has a ton of it. His individual creativity and vision are all high-end and his hands are bordering on elite. Gusev can control a shift and run a power play. He's not a very fast skater, but he has great edge work and can be very tough to check due to his shiftiness. He's small, and not great in battles, putting doubts into how he'll handle the NHL, but the talent level is too high.

32. Timothy Liljegren, D, Toronto

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 60

Liljegren had a very good bounce-back to a troublesome draft season, refining his game and being one of the better 18-year-old defensemen I've seen at the AHL level. He has a high skill level, but Liljegren calmed his game down a lot this season, relying on his high-end offensive instincts to make plays and be a very good puck distributor instead of doing it all himself. He's an elusive skater, with good edges, ability to walk the blueline and has good speed. Defensively he was decent too and ahead of where I thought he'd be for the level at his age. His calling card is with the puck and he could improve his D-zone work still especially when it comes to strength in battles, but it wasn't a negative.

33. Philippe Myers, D, Philadelphia

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 70

Hockey sense: 50

Myers had a solid first pro season. There were some ups and downs, but mostly the impressions I got from him were positive. Few 6-foot-5 defenseman can skate like Myers can and watching him lead a rush can be a treat. He won't blow you away with skill, but he's got nice hands for a big man and decent instincts. There were times you'd like him to cut down on the mistakes, especially defensively but nothing alarming to me. He defends well, using his size, wingspan, and feet to make stops. My major question with him is how high his upside is offensively, but I think he's got enough in him to be a second power play guy.

34. Nick Suzuki, C, Montreal

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 65

Suzuki had his second straight 40-goal season and his first 100-point season in the OHL, being one of the league's top offensive threats yet again. He's a highly-skilled forward with very good if not elite hockey sense. The way he sees the ice and makes plays is distinct and he made some of the most creative plays I saw all season. Suzuki has a good shot too, but his strength is creating scoring chances for his teammates. His downsides are his size, and his mediocre-at-best foot-speed. Despite the fact he's small and not overly physical Suzuki has been a decent defensive forward at the OHL level due to his IQ.

35. Grigori Denisenko, LW, Florida

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Denisenko is dynamic around the puck. His puck skills and vision are high-end. He controls the puck so well and is always looking to make a play. His speed isn't as dangerous as his skill, but he skates well and can push defensemen back, which, combined with his skill, leads to lots of controlled entries. I've seen him take draws at times in the Russia league and kill penalties well. He can be dangerous shorthanded. I'd like to see his shot be more lethal, but it's about average. He's a small guy who also has some discipline issues, but I see so many plus components that I'm a big believer in his potential.

36. Noah Dobson, D, New York Islanders

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Dobson shows good vision and has QB'd the first PP unit for Bathurst, making excellent decisions with the puck, showing great poise and getting a ton of shots through. He's a high-end skater who can activate quite well into the attack for a big man and, with his size/mobility, can stay with most attackers without issue. His puck skills aren't as standout as his brain/skating, but he can handle it fine and make the odd move to create space. He could be a second unit power play guy as a pro, while taking tough defensive matchups in a team's top-four.



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37. Kailer Yamamoto, RW, Edmonton

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 30

Hockey sense: 60

Yamamoto had an interesting season. He was great at Oilers camp, making the team for the first few weeks of the NHL season. He was then just fine in the first half of the WHL season, so-so at the world juniors and went on a tear in the second half. He has high-end offensive abilities. Yamamoto is a plus skater, puck handler and passer. He can push the pace with his speed, but also QB a power play and make tough distributions. He's tiny but competes hard and has been a good penalty killer at the junior level.

38. Jesse Ylonen, RW, Montreal

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Ylonen's skating is high-end, as is his playmaking. He's incredibly elusive with his skating, able to jet up the ice, as well as turn on a dime. He can dangle, but he also makes plays to his teammates well and shows very good instincts. That combination allows him to be a real nuisance coming through the neutral zone and to check overall. He's more of a playmaker to me, but he has a fine shot, and I've seen his one-timer and wrist shot be dangerous from a distance. My main criticism of Ylonen is he doesn't always grind as hard as he should for pucks, and it doesn't help that his frame is quite slender, which led to him struggling when trying to win pucks from men, but since last season it seems like he's bulked up a bit.

39. Ty Smith, D, New Jersey

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 65

Smith is a good skater who can get up the ice and lead a rush. He has above-average puck skills and can make the odd dynamic play, showing skill on the attack or creating space for a zone exit. His best trait is his hockey IQ, as his instincts and decision-making with the puck are very good. He's so smooth handling the puck and rarely seems to get pressured, even in tight spaces. For better or for worse, he likes to slow the game down. He has a unique look to his game, where he always has his head up processing everything going on around him. Smith is small, but he's decent defensively due to his feet and IQ. He works to get to pucks and can be trusted to play in all situations — even if his calling card is more on the offensive side of the puck.

40. Klim Kostin, RW, St. Louis

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 65

Hockey sense: 55

Kostin was one of the better players at the world juniors but was just so-so in his first AHL season as an 18-year-old. He has a unique combination of attributes because he's 6-foot-3, can play a power forward style of game but also has the skill to make plays. I'm consistently impressed by Kostin's vision and ability to create from the perimeter due to his hands and IQ. He gets to the net well and can be

tough to dislodge from pucks due to his frame. His skating isn't a standout tool, but it's about average. Kostin will need to up his pace for the pro game. He also had some consistency issues in the AHL with his reads.

41. Barrett Hayton, C, Arizona

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Hayton's hockey IQ is quite impressive. He has the reliable defensive forward sense and work ethic off the puck where he makes good defensive plays and wins pucks, but he has great vision and composure with the puck as well. He can hold it for an extra second to make a play and has fantastic creativity. Hayton also has very good hands and can make a high-end skilled play to create space. He features a heavy shot and can finish chances well. Hayton really doesn't have an explosive element and can struggle to push defenders back off the rush but his skating looked a little better to me this summer.

Note on tier change: Hayton was rated as a high legit prospect at the draft, but after watching him in the summer and consulting with scouts, I bumped him up largely due to changing his skating from a 45 to a 50.

42. Erik Brannstrom, D, Vegas

Skating: 70

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 35

Hockey sense: 65

Brannstrom was impressive all season between the SHL, Sweden's U20 team and Sweden's National team. He's an elite skater, one of the best outside the NHL. He has an explosive first step, evades pressure easily, and can lead an attack through the neutral zone with his speed. Brannstrom has good skills, but his offense comes less from his individual skill and more from his skating and hockey sense. He has great vision and can make some very imaginative plays. Despite being quite undersized, Brannstrom more than holds his own defensively due to his great gap control and intelligence.

43. Joseph Veleno, C, Detroit

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 55

Veleno is an excellent skater and he gets up to top speed quite easily with a powerful stride. Veleno works hard and plays a powerful style on the puck without taking many bad penalties. I don't think he's a dynamic playmaker, but he's certainly above-average with the puck and can flash a tier higher. I like his puck skills. He's a very smart player and he can consistently make above-average plays. While his shot/finishing ability is a bit worrying, Veleno has the speed, skills, smarts and physicality to be a very good playmaker and zone entry artist as an NHLer, combined with being a reliable two-way center.

44. Ryan Poehling, C, Montreal

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60





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Poehling was one of the better players on arguably the best team in college hockey. He's not a flashy player, but he's also a very complete prospect. He is very smart though and his offense comes through his excellent vision with the ability to run a power play. He's a fierce competitor who battles hard in each zone, is strong on the puck, and is quite good defensively down the middle. His skill level and skating aren't great, but they're not poor, both being around the average to above-average range. He could be a tad more explosive to project as a legit NHL scorer though.

45. Evan Bouchard, D, Edmonton

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Shot Grade: 60

Bouchard put up a lot of points for a reason. He has a hard, dangerous shot and can be a primary trigger guy on an NHL power play. He has great vision and a lot of poise in the offensive zone to wait out options, with one scout referring to him as a general in how he sees things develop. I think his hands and skating are fine but not great. He can get a little upright in his stride, which takes away power, but he can get up the ice well. He'll need to continue improving defensively in his reads/battles to be solid as a pro, but he's shown progress there and took the tough matchups this season.

46. Kieffer Bellows, LW, New York Islanders

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Shot Grade: 70

Bellows bounced back nicely after a disappointing 2016-17 after he departed college for the WHL. He has one of the best shots outside the NHL and can score a ton of goals. He has skill, but he needs someone to get him the puck to put up big numbers as I wouldn't describe his skill as dynamic. Also, he could use an extra gear in his skating. Bellows is a very smart player though who moves the puck well and plays with pace. He's hard on pucks and can be tough to push around.

47. Logan Brown, C, Ottawa

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 60

Hockey sense: 55

Brown is a frustrating prospect because of his immense potential. He's been up and down the last few years, but when he's up he can look lights out. He's a 6-foot-6 center with high-end skill. He looks to make plays and can be a driver on a line. He's not super slow and skates decent for his massive frame. Brown does need to improve his pace though. He can struggle when the games get fast and particularly physical. He won't give you 100 percent at times but can still win battles just due to how easily he boxes guys out. Staying healthy, improving his conditioning and working on being more consistent will be keys for him going forward.

48. Kristian Vesalainen, LW, Winnipeg

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 60

Vesalainen had a great 18-year-old season. He was sixth in Liiga in goals and was a dangerous player for the eventual league champions Karpat, which he was loaned to late in the season. Vesalainen has a toolkit that screams impact guy. He's 6-foot-3, with impressive speed and puck skills, and has a big shot. There are moments where he can take over a shift. I've thought for a while he was a little too north-south and lacked hockey IQ, but he showed me a little more playmaking and offensive IQ this season. His main hurdle is that his compete level can waver, but I overall like the direction he's trending as a prospect.

49. Alexander Nylander, LW, Buffalo

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 65

Nylander is a tough player to evaluate. He's had a tough go at it in the pro level the past two seasons, with the pace of the game and the work off the puck being issues for him. He's done much better when playing against his peer group at the U20 level. He has moments where he shows why he was a top-10 pick. He has great hands and vision and can be a driving force for an offense. I think he skates fine but often I find he plays too slow, meaning he doesn't hit the blueline with speed and can struggle to play a game at the pro pace. He has a lot of work to do, but there's so much potential in his game.

Note on tier change: I had Nylander as a high legit prospect in August, but after many discussions with scouts, insight into his injury issues last season and watching him in camp I bumped him up marginally.

50. Morgan Frost, C, Philadelphia

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 65

Frost was one of the best players in the CHL this season, and was runner-up for OHL MVP. He was the best player on the best team in the CHL for most of the season. He has a high skill level and his hockey sense is well above-average. He controls the play very well, has the hands to make standout plays and dictates the pace of a shift with his vision and patience. Frost can make the highlight-reel play, but he prefers to be the playmaker who finds his teammates. While he has a good skating technique, Frost will need to play with a little more pace for the NHL level, as well as the typical growth in strength for a player his age.

51. Troy Terry, RW, Anaheim

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 55

Terry had a great season. He was one of the best players in college hockey, was a key member for the USA at the Olympics and played briefly for the Ducks at the end of the season. He's highly skilled, smart, quick, tenacious and makes plays at both ends. It's hard to find a weakness in his game. Like all young players, he'll need some bulk, but he can win battles. I've talked to some NHL scouts who feel he has the



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potential to be a true impact guy at the NHL level. I'm not 100 percent of the way there on that assessment, but I don't think it's unreasonable.

52. Michael Rasmussen, C, Detroit

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 75

Hockey sense: 55

Rasmussen, when healthy, had a solid third season in Tri-City and was very good in the WHL postseason. He's a great playmaker, especially for a big man, who makes quick reads and shows good vision. He's tough on the puck along the walls using his massive 6-foot-6 frame, is good in front on the power play getting his stick on pucks and taking up space, and has a quality shot to finish chances. Rasmussen is also solid defensively and wins puck battles using his size. He skates fine for a giant with a decent top gear but he's not incredibly quick on his first few steps. With strength it's possible the latter won't be as much of an issue. He gets a bad rap, but he can play. Will he be a star? No, but he could be a top-six center.

53. Ruslan Iskhakov, LW, New York Islanders

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 65

Physical Game: 20

Hockey sense: 65

Iskhakov's a tiny forward at 5-foot-8 and that might be generous, but his puck skills are fantastic. His brain is also high-end, if not elite. He sees plays developing so well and can outsmart defenders with his hands and vision. He made some of the best passes I saw all season, and the way he improvises on the ice to get out of tough situations with his creativity is worth the price of admission. The major issue I have in his projection isn't his size but rather he's not a blazing skater, which isn't ideal for a guy his size. He lacks a dangerous top gear, but he does have above-average speed. He's good on his edges and he can be elusive.

54. Jesper Boqvist, C, New Jersey

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 55

Boqvist injured his wrist early in the season, which might have taken longer to heal than ideal, but there were still moments from him, such as at the World Junior summer camp and in the SHL, where he looked very good (although he was mediocre at the world juniors). When he's going, Boqvist can drive a line. He's a very skilled and quick forward who makes plays and run a power play. The issues with Boqvist are outside his skill set. He's not the biggest guy, tends to disappear and gets pushed off pucks too easily. The upside with him is massive, though.

55. Kirill Marchenko, RW, Columbus

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 60

Hockey sense: 50

Marchenko is a 6-foot-3 forward who can skate and make highly skilled offensive plays. When I've watched Marchenko this season, there are quite a few times he brought folks out of their seats with his display of skill and ability to create offense out of nothing. He's not a blazer, but he

skates well for a tall guy and can gain the offensive zone fine with his speed. I'm not sold on his instincts being at a very high level, but he can make some nice passes here and there. He's just OK defensively, as he can win a few battles but isn't a premier defender. The rumor in NHL scouting circles is he wants to stay in Russia for a few years, so patience could be needed.

56. Ryan Donato, C, Boston

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 60

What a season Donato had. He was one of the best players in college hockey, led the Olympic men's tournament in goals and was quite good for the Bruins down the stretch. Donato is highly skilled, showing great hands and ability to create chances for himself and teammates. He's also a top-end goal scorer who can score from a distance, generates a ton of shots on goal and prefers to shoot when given a chance. What was important to how he's improved as a prospect was getting his skating to be quicker. I have some questions on how strong he'll be away from the puck in the NHL, but the offensive potential is top-six level for sure.

57. Bode Wilde, D, New York Islanders

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Wilde's speed and skill level for a 6-foot-2 defenseman is elite. You see rushes from Wilde where he looks like a top three-to-five pick with the way he can blow by guys, create a clean zone entry and start the offense for his club. I'm impressed at times by his offensive instincts in how creative he is with the puck, and the way he moves it out of his zone with skill or can hit a teammate through a tight seam in the offensive zone. Despite being known as an offensive player, he can close on guys and is quite physical. He's not afraid to lean on guys with his frame. The big issue with him is decision making. I generally am fine with high-skill guys turning pucks over – It's a necessary evil that comes with having the puck a lot – but he makes a lot of overly risky plays, poor turnovers and can be on the butt end of too many highlight reels for the opposing team.

### LEGIT NHL PROSPECT

58. Filip Hronek, D, Detroit

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 60

Hronek had a successful first pro season, being one of the top rookie scoring defensemen in the league and one of the better 20-year-old players overall. He moves the puck with skill and confidence and shows great overall offensive instincts. For most of the season he quarterbacked the top power play unit in Grand Rapids. His skill/IQ drive his value but he moves well and showed he could skate at the pro level. The main issue for Hronek as a pro was dealing with the defensive side of the puck in terms of his reads and turnovers. He works hard enough that I think he can improve his battles with added strength but he'll need to work on the risk in his game.

59. Lias Andersson, C, New York Rangers

Skating: 50



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Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Andersson had an impressive season between the SHL, AHL and NHL. He was also good at the World Juniors and solid for the Swedish national team as a teenager. His two best traits are his hockey sense and work ethic. He's the kind of player who will go through a wall to win a puck. He's also a very smart playmaker who understands how to create offense. Skill wise he's above-average, showing the occasional great flash. His skating is very average and may limit his offensive potential in the NHL.

60. Luke Kunin, C, Minnesota

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 60

Kunin had a good season between the AHL and NHL, and when healthy he showed flashes of the two-way forward he projects to be with the Wild. He tore his knee though which could set him back. He's not a spectacular player, but he does a lot well. Kunin can play with pro pace, he has good hands, he has the vision to create for his teammates, and he has a big shot. He is also a fierce competitor who can contribute defensively on top of his offensive tools. He won't be a highlight-reel kind of guy, but he's a player coaches will love and could be a future captain.

61. Nick Merkley, RW, Arizona

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

After being maligned by injuries the last few years, Merkley had a great bounce-back season, being one of the more dangerous scorers in the AHL in his rookie pro year. He's a highly skilled player who is entertaining to watch due to his talents as well as the fact he will play a physical game. Merkley has great hands and vision, and can create chances off the attack or from the half wall. He isn't a fantastic skater for a smaller guy, but he has fine speed and with how hard he works he gets up and down the ice fine. If he can stay on the ice, he looks like he may have returned to top prospect status.

62. Alex Formenton, LW, Ottawa

Skating: 65

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 50

The name of the game with Formenton is speed. He can fly like very few players at the junior rank. Combine that with the fact he's not a tiny player and Formenton can be a handful for defensemen to deal with when he's barreling down the wing. I don't think he's ever going to be a dynamic skill guy in the NHL, but this season I did see Formenton trying to be more creative with the puck and create chances aside from just using his feet. He's above-average with the puck, has skill and can make plays. His work ethic is also top-end, and with his speed he can be a fantastic forechecker and penalty killer.

63. Janne Kuokkanen, C, Carolina

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Kuokkanen made the Hurricanes out of camp and while he didn't have a great World Juniors, he was quite good for a teenager at the AHL level. He's a very smart all-around player. He seems to be always be around the play due to how smart he is. He plays at a pro pace and has excellent vision. While he skates and handles the puck fine I don't see him as a highlight-reel kind of player, rather I think he'll be a solid two-way forward with the vision to play on a NHL power play.

64. Adam Fox, D, Carolina

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 35

Hockey sense: 65

Fox had another great season between college and the World Juniors. He was traded to Carolina from Calgary after his signability became an issue. Fox is a very smart and skilled puck-mover who makes difficult offensive plays seem routine and can control a shift with his vision and offensive instincts. He's not a big guy and is an average skater, but he defends fine due to his intelligence. The big question with Fox isn't if he'll play in the NHL, it's with whom.

65. Kale Clague, D, Los Angeles

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Clague was the top defenseman in the WHL this season. He's an excellent skater with the mobility to evade pressure and lead a rush. He's skilled with the puck, but his offense comes more from his feet and his great vision as a puck-mover. He can make unique plays as a distributor and projects to be able to QB a power play at the NHL level. Clague can be decent defensively, but he's not the biggest guy and can be prone to being exposed a little too much on the defensive side of the puck. He's smart and mobile enough though to make enough stops to be reliable as a pro. Projecting him into the NHL, Kale will be part of any team's healthy blueline.

66. Jonatan Berggren, LW, Detroit

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Berggren's skating is good, as he often shows the ability to beat defenders wide with speed and can change speeds very well. His hands are also impressive. You'd like to see a little more creativity, but he can make defenders miss. I like his vision a lot. He's always looking to make a play and seems to have eyes in the back of his head. What I also like about his game is the pace he plays with. He's always attacking, hitting the zone with speed and doesn't make plays from a standstill. Berggren also has the hustle you like to see in a smaller player and can play on both special teams.

67. Filip Chlapik, C, Ottawa

Skating: 45



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Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Chlapik was quite impressive as a rookie pro, continuing an upward trend in his development. He's a highly skilled playmaker. He can control the puck well and create offense through his skill and offensive instincts. Often, I would see him lead a rush, gain the zone and be the catalyst for the Belleville offense. He has some flaws that are keeping him from the NHL though. He's not a great skater and has trouble turning the corner on pro defenders but he's better in that area than where he was a few years ago. Defensively he needs to be more refined as well. His point totals don't jump out at you, but Belleville was an underwhelming offensive team around him.

68. Urho Vaakanainen, D, Boston

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Vaakanainen had a solid 18-year-old season, with his prospect stock trending in the right direction. He was very good for his Liiga team SaiPa, being leaned on in all situations and often leading his team in ice time. He's a mobile, smooth two-way defenseman with decent size. His skill isn't elite, but he moves the puck well and gets the puck moving in the right direction. He's able to provide offense while playing tough minutes defensively, and makes stops due to his strong IQ and mobility. While I don't see him as a future NHL star, given how well he's played versus men already, I don't think he's that far out from pushing for time with Boston.

69. Dylan Sikura, LW, Chicago

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 35

Hockey sense: 55

Sikura was one of the best players in college hockey and is a dynamic offensive threat. He is a great skater with high-end puck skills and good offensive instincts. He's a play-driver who generated a ridiculous amount of chances and shots for Northeastern albeit as a 23-year-old in college. My concerns with Sikura are more off the puck, as he's not the biggest guy or known for being the most engaged physically or defensively. He's ready to play real NHL minutes though due to his skill set and experience.

70. Drake Batherson, RW, Ottawa

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

I love the Drake! He had the definition of a breakout season in the QMJHL, as a top player in the league and their leading playoffs scorer, on top of being a leading goal scorer at the world juniors. Usually excitement over a 19-year-old CHL player having their first big year is an unwise bet, but it's different with Batherson. A late growth spurt has resulted in a pro frame, and when you combine that with very good puck skills, excellent hockey IQ and a decent shot, he's a heck of a player. His feet have been his main weakness, but he's shown progression in that area and gotten them up to roughly an average level.

71. Alexander Volkov, RW, Tampa Bay

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Volkov made a lot of noise at Tampa's camp and followed it up with a very good first AHL season. He has all the tools you want. His skills are high-end, he makes plays, he has size and he skates well. His toolkit shows a player with top-six forward upside. Over the years he's shown a willingness to battle, as well, and play a 200-foot game. There were some consistency issues for him as he made the transition to the North American pro game, and there were times I watched him fade a bit into the background, but the indicators for him were much more positive than negative.

72. Jordy Bellerive, C, Pittsburgh

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 55

Shot Grade: 60

Bellerive could be one of the best post-draft free agent signings of the past few years. The former second-overall pick in his WHL bantam draft was very impressive from Penguins camp through the end of the WHL season. Bellerive is a well-rounded prospect. He skates quite well, he's got a lot of skill and intelligence, he has a big shot and he works hard. He can make an impact on either special team and play both center and wing. I don't know if he'll be dynamic enough to be a legit top-six scorer in the NHL, but it's certainly possible with the way he thinks the game. He was involved in a scary incident off the ice during the summer where he was burned, but he should make a recovery.

73. Alexandre Texier, C, Columbus

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Texier, one of the youngest players in last year's draft who came up playing in France, had an adjustment period to his first season of high level hockey, but he showed flashes of a guy with a very high talent level. He's got great puck skills and is always on the cusp of making a highlight reel play. Texier also has high-end offensive instincts and can be a great playmaker. Despite playing pro for nearly two years now, his game needs to mature a lot. He needs to be a lot better defensively and he needs to get faster. He's got average height and needs to bulk up, but he is a competitor who works hard on the ice. He's a bit of a longshot due to where he is in his development but has significant upside.

74. Aleks Heponiemi, C, Florida

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 30

Hockey sense: 65

Heponiemi had a fantastic season, where he led the WHL in assists in both the regular season and playoffs. As you can imagine, he's an excellent playmaker. He QBs a power play as well as anyone, displaying near elite level vision and processes the game at a very quick pace. He couples that with good stick skills and feet although for a small guy he doesn't possess blazing speed. Hepo still has a lot of work to do in terms



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of bulking up which may help add a little more speed to his game and aid with winning more battles though he's not a very gritty player to begin with.

75. Conor Timmins, D, Colorado

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Timmins was one of the best defenders in the OHL and at the world juniors this past season. He's never going to wow you with an end-to-end rush or big display of speed and skill. What he does do though is move the puck with pace and exhibit high-end hockey sense. He has great vision, makes good decisions and plays an efficient game. Timmins is also solid defensively and can be a solid shutdown defender. There are minor upside questions with him, but his game should transition to the pro level well.

76. Oliver Kylington, D, Calgary

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Kylington took significant steps forward this past season, becoming an all-situations player for Stockton and one of the most dangerous offensive defenders in the AHL. He's an excellent skater and puck-mover. Kylington has the speed to jump up into the attack and evade checkers. He has good skill and very good offensive instincts, showing top level creativity and vision distributing the puck. Kylington was always known for taking too many risks, which is still true to some extent, but that didn't seem like an issue when I watched him. He can defend OK at the AHL level due to his skating, but he can get overpowered in one-on-one battles.

77. Jack Studnicka, C, Boston

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Studnicka's offensive totals might not jump off the page for an 18-year-old in the OHL, but every time I watched Oshawa, he impressed in a significant manner. He's a very smart center who drove play anytime he was on the ice. Studnicka has the vision and touch to QB a power play well, while also having the work ethic to be one of his team's better defensive forwards. I'm not convinced his skills are high-end for the NHL level, but he can certainly project to create offense versus pros. The biggest thing for Studnicka is improving his strength and skating, but when I watched him in the summer, he looked noticeably quicker than during the season.

78. Cal Foote, D, Tampa Bay

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 65

Hockey sense: 60

Foote was one of the best defensemen in the WHL this season and looked decent at the WJC and AHL levels, too. He's 6-foot-4, is very smart and poised moving the puck. He can be a reliable defender, as

well, who leans on his checks and makes a lot of stops. He's a steady pillar for his coach to deploy and can play in any situation. There is a bit of an upside question for him as his hands are average, good for a big man but he won't make standout plays, and his skating is subpar.

79. Adam Gaudette, C, Vancouver

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Gaudette was named the Hobey Baker recipient as the top player in college hockey this past season after scoring 60 points in 38 games and being an all-situations center for Northeastern. He grew on me as I watched all season. I knew about the work ethic – Gaudette plays the game hard, grinds for pucks and has the size to win a lot of battles. What I was impressed by more this season was his offensive creativity. Gaudette would flash some real high-level hands and vision, showing the ability to make plays at the NHL level. He's just an OK skater and I don't know if he's going to be a true scorer guy in the NHL, but I think there's a real possibility.

80. Juuso Valimaki, D, Calgary

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Valimaki had a great training camp with the Flames and followed it up with a very good third WHL season. He's a well-rounded player. Valimaki skates well, defends well and has some puck skills. His best trait is his hockey IQ. He's a composed player with the puck, makes good decisions and has above-average vision. Valimaki plays a controlled game at both ends and doesn't hurt his team. I have questions on the offensive upside, but it's more about whether he'll be a true PP1 guy in the NHL, because he has skill and will make plays in the NHL.

81. Jordan Greenway, LW, Minnesota

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 70

Hockey sense: 55

Greenway had an up and down season. He started off slow, converted to center mid-season which coincided with more offense coming, and had a good Olympic tournament. He has all the tools. He's 6-foot-5, and can both skate and handle the puck well for a guy his size. He plays with an edge, is impossible to win pucks from down low and gets to the net hard. He's not all brawn though, as I like his vision and ability to make plays. I don't think his offensive creativity is high-end and thus may not end up as a true NHL scorer, but he has enough to do some damage at even strength.

82. Joel Farabee, LW, Philadelphia

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Farabee handles the puck at an above-average level, makes defenders miss, and both creates chances and finishes them. He skates fine. He lacks a true separation gear, but he can push the pace when he needs



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to, works hard and gets to where he needs to go with his hustle. Farabee wins battles despite being undersized, being a reliable defensive forward, and was one of the best penalty killers for the NTDP, including being a shorthanded threat. His best attribute is his intelligence. Farabee shows great overall instincts as a playmaker and makes consistently good decisions at a quick pace.

83. Boris Katchouk, LW, Tampa Bay

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Katchouk was one of the top players in the OHL this season and led the OHL postseason in scoring. I had my skepticism about his upside going into the season but really liked what he did offensively. He played a lot with Morgan Frost but by no means was Katchouk riding Frost's coattails. Katchouk showed his trademark energy and physicality but also played with skill, executing difficult plays with his hands and vision. His feet have progressed, too, where he's able to get up and down the rink at a decent pace. He projects as a guy who can play anywhere in a lineup.

84. Kole Lind, RW, Vancouver

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Shot Grade: 60

Lind had yet another highly productive season in the WHL. I don't see a guy who has a ton of dynamic tools, but he seems to always make a positive play and has no glaring weakness. Lind is a very smart offensive player who plays with pace, has good vision and has a real understanding of how to get himself into scoring position. He has the skill to make plays, but Lind's shot is more impressive. He skates fine, has size and competes hard. He's got all the attributes to be a scorer at the pro level.

85. Vladislav Kamenev, C, Colorado

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Kamenev was part of the Duchene trade, coming from Nashville. He missed most of the season due to injury. Kamenev isn't a super flashy player, but he's good at a lot of things. He's a very good passer with great overall two-way hockey sense. Kamenev makes plays due to his vision and offensive touch, but he's also a center with size who can win battles. His ability to make plays at both ends earns him the tough minutes from coaches. His speed isn't bad, but it's just decent.

86. Henri Jokiharju, D, Chicago

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 60

Jokiharju was one of the top defensemen in the WHL last season. He won't stand out with a flashy rush, but he makes a lot of quality plays all over the ice and can QB a power play. Jokiharju's skating stands out when you watch him due to how fluid a skater he is and how he can

transition the play with his feet. He has excellent vision and makes a lot of high-level passes. He has some skill but I don't see him as a player who relies on his hands. Defensively he's solid for his age, but he needs to get stronger and more confident checking good players before he reaches the NHL.

87. Andreas Johnsson, LW, Toronto

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 60

Johnsson was one of the best players in the AHL this past season, and was impressive when the Leafs called him up. He is a very smart two-way forward who can create offense. His offensive IQ shows in terms of the pace he plays at while making things happen, and the great vision he shows. He has good hands, at times flashing very good, and skates well too. Johnsson is an undersized forward, but hustles and can kill penalties. Besides from his size he's a very complete player, and I'm not sure if he's dynamic enough to be a top-six forward, but it's not outside the realm of possibilities.

88. Noah Juulsen, D, Montreal

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 55

Juulsen had a very solid season between the AHL and NHL despite not having real significant point totals. He's very mobile, especially for a defenseman with size. Juulsen can activate into the attack as well as most NHLers and stay with quicker forwards in maintaining his gaps. He's a smart two-way defenseman. He moves the puck with pace, some creativity and displays good vision. His IQ, feet, size and work ethic allow him to be a very good defender who projects to take on tough minutes. Juulsen's major issue is a mediocre skill level and not having a ton of offensive upside but his vision shows some promise in that area.

89. Samuel Blais, LW, St. Louis

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 45

Hockey sense: 60

Blais has been a significant riser in recent years. He sat around a point per game in his second pro season and had a strong training camp with the Blues. Blais' calling card is his offensive ability. He's a highly skilled playmaker with high-end hockey sense. He can make things happen on the power play and has the vision to make difficult passes. Blais is not the quickest or most engaged player off the puck, and working on rounding out his game in terms of improving his speed and conditioning will go a long way to solidifying himself in the Blues' lineup.

90. Alexander Chmelevski, C, San Jose

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

Chmelevski's numbers weren't off the charts this past season, but I was very impressed when I watched him. He was one of the best playmakers in the OHL in games I saw. He has legit high-end puck skills and hockey



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sense. Chmelevski can break a shift open and has the vision to run a power play. He makes unique plays and can make those tough plays at a quick pace. He's not a perfect player by any means, as he's an average skater who is not great at winning one-on-one battles and is just decent defensively. He has top-six forward upside if he puts the pieces together though and looked like a better two-way forward at the World Junior camp.

91. Andrew Mangiapane, LW, Calgary

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 60

I've been hesitant in the past to get fully on the Mangiapane bandwagon. He's so small and he's not super dynamic for a small guy, but this season he was so impressive that it was hard not to. He was one of the most dangerous forwards in the AHL in his second pro season. You could argue he is the Flames' top prospect and it would be reasonable. He's a good, if not a very good, skater with impressive puck skills and offensive instincts. He makes a ton of great plays with the puck due to his vision and the way he can push the pace, and he can finish chances. Mangiapane may be small, but he battles hard.

92. Mason Appleton, RW, Winnipeg

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Appleton was one of the top breakout prospects of the season. He was one of the best players in the AHL as a rookie pro in his 21-year-old season. He was named AHL rookie of the year and a first-team All-Star. His hockey sense gives him a lot of value. Appleton has good vision and makes a ton of clever plays with the puck at a pro pace. He has good skill, but he prefers to make a play to his teammate. Appleton has size, competes hard and could plausibly play center like he did in college. His skating has been his major weakness over his career, but I thought it looked a lot better this season. He's not a blazer, especially on his first step, but it's been a part of his improvement as a player.

93. Olli Juolevi, D, Vancouver

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 50

Hockey sense: 60

Juolevi has been a very up and down prospect over the years. I haven't seen enough from him in recent years to say he's a true high-end prospect, but he's still quite talented and has played well, even though not incredibly well. He's a good if not a very good skater with the mobility to escape pressure and close on quick forwards. He moves the puck very well at times and at his best he's a very solid, quiet two-way defenseman. Juolevi can be prone to brain cramps with the puck and on defense but overall his instincts stand out and he can make skilled plays. He's a good player and I believe in him, but I'd like to see him have a big season.

94. Oskar Lindblom, LW, Philadelphia

Skating: 45

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 60

Lindblom was one of Lehigh Valley's best players in his first AHL season and was decent in the NHL during his lengthy call-up with the Flyers. The details in his game are very good and coaches always praise him. He's a very smart player who can make plays at a quick pace. Lindblom will never dazzle you. His hands are just good and his skating mediocre, but his IQ, size and his competitiveness allow him to maintain possession and create offense. With a good summer, he'll be ready for full-time duty in the NHL.

95. Jaret Anderson-Dolan, C, Los Angeles

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 55

I went from being lukewarm on Anderson-Dolan last season to becoming a huge fan of his this season. Clague gets more of the press from the Kings system but for my money Anderson-Dolan is as good a prospect. He was one of the best players in the WHL this season. He has great speed, plays hard, but I was really impressed this season by the level of skill and playmaking he showed on top of his quality shot. He's not like his teammate, Kailer Yamamoto, but he's not miles off in terms of the quality of plays he makes. You add in the fact he's a competent two-way center and the only issue with him is size. He was one of the youngest players in his draft and with added development we're seeing a player who could make the Kings' lineup shortly.

96. Dylan Samberg, D, Winnipeg

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 60

Hockey sense: 55

Samberg had a good freshman season, taking tough minutes for the eventual NCAA champions. He's not going to wow you, but Samberg is a well-rounded player. He's a very good defender because he's big, plays hard, is mobile and is smart with his positional play. He projects to take tough defensive minutes in the NHL. His counting numbers were not great this season, but when I watched him, I saw flashes of legitimate skill and puck-moving ability. It's not high-end, maybe average, if not above-average, but he has pro skill. Scott Perunovich took the PP minutes, but I think Samberg would've been able to thrive in a PP1 role.

97. Brendan Guhle, D, Buffalo

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 50

Physical Game: 55

Hockey sense: 55

Guhle had a fantastic 2017-18. He changed my impression – and other NHL scouts who I also knew were skeptical of his upside – of his NHL projection. His calling card is his skating, as Guhle is an incredibly fluid skater for a big man who can close gaps quickly and transition on the rush well due to his feet. I liked how he showed more confidence carrying the puck this season, and while his skill isn't great, he moved the puck well and was a useful power play guy. Guhle was also a go-to defender for his team, playing a lot of tough minutes and being an important part of one of the best teams in the AHL.

98. Sami Niku, D, Winnipeg

Skating: 60

Puck Skills: 55

Physical Game: 45



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Hockey sense: 55

Niku had a fantastic season in the AHL, like his teammate Appleton, he trended way up and was named the top defenseman in the AHL. He's a fantastic skater with the speed, edge work and explosiveness to make an impact on the rush. He's skilled, moves the puck well and has impressive offensive instincts. The main thing for Niku to improve on before he hits the NHL is his defensive play. His skating helps him close gaps well, but his positional play is just OK, and he's not a very physical defender, losing a few too many battles and being boxed out of the tough areas.

99. Vitaly Abramov, LW, Columbus

Skating: 50

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 30

Hockey sense: 60

For the third straight season, Abramov was a top player in the QMJHL, although he didn't have a great world juniors. The former QMJHL MVP has a ton of skill. He makes highly skilled dekes at a fast pace and does so consistently. Abramov is also a quality goal-scorer, who can score from mid-range and isn't afraid to get to the dirty areas. He's also a top-level playmaker who makes unique plays. His warts are that he's small, not a real speedster, which isn't ideal at his height. He has a decent work ethic and energy level, but his game off the puck will be a major question as he turns pro.

100. Jonathan Davidsson, RW, Columbus

Skating: 55

Puck Skills: 60

Physical Game: 40

Hockey sense: 55

Davidsson was a favorite of mine from back in his early amateur days and has since developed into a solid pro. He does a lot of things well. Davidsson is skilled, makes plays and has good speed. Despite being a smaller player, I've seen him over the years be a decent penalty killer and I like his work ethic. I think despite offense and skill being his calling card, there are reasonable questions if he has the dynamic traits at his size to be a legitimate NHLer. He's trending well, though, and has put himself in the conversation.

Honorable Mentions (Alphabetical Order)

Rasmus Andersson, D, Calgary

Daniel Brickley, D, Los Angeles

Anthony Cirelli, C, Tampa Bay

Jonathan Dahlen, LW, Vancouver

Semyon Der-Arguchintsev, C, Toronto

Joni Ikonen, C, Montreal

Mathieu Joseph, LW, Tampa Bay

Ryan McLeod, C, Edmonton

Ivan Morozov, C, Vegas

Isaac Ratcliffe, LW, Philadelphia

Mikhail Vorobyev, C, Philadelphia

Jake Wise, C, Chicago

Colin White, C, Ottawa

Goalies

VERY GOOD NHL PROSPECT

1. Ilya Samsonov, Washington

Samsonov has been an elite performer wherever he's gone, between junior, all levels of international play and the KHL. He has the skill set to match the numbers, as well. He's a big, physically developed goalie with high-end athleticism. He recovers out of his butterfly quickly and doesn't shy away from playing an aggressive style. Samsonov is a very competitive goalie who battles in the crease well. He's aggressive and plays a confident style of goaltending high in the crease with the ability to get to any spot to make a save. His reads aren't perfect and he makes the odd error, but overall, he makes a ton of tough stops and doesn't hurt his team. That's a No. 1 goalie.

LEGIT NHL PROSPECT

2. Thatcher Demko, Vancouver

Demko was one of the best goalies in the AHL in his second pro season, having dominant stretches where he looked unbeatable. Demko stands out as a huge goalie who moves well, can be aggressive with his positioning and recover well, but generally holds in a good position and doesn't get too out of control. Demko's 6-foot-4 frame has always been a selling point, but as he's filled out and maintained quality athleticism, it has allowed him to become a top-end player at the pro level.

3. Ilya Sorokin, New York Islanders

Sorokin is the complete package in goal, and NHL-ready when his KHL deal expires following the 2020 season. Sorokin has good size and can make stops due to his top-level athleticism moving across the crease at the level of a typical smaller goalie. He's a reasonably smart positional player, and as well he's a battler between the pipes who doesn't shy away from playing aggressive angles, although that can sometimes lead to being over-aggressive.

4. Igor Shesterkin, New York Rangers

Shesterkin had another fantastic season in Russia, as he continues to establish himself as one of the top goalies outside the NHL. Shesterkin is a very athletic goalie with high-end reflexes. His glove can get him out of tough situations with consistency, and his lateral agility helps him make a lot of difficult saves. He's become more sound in tracking pucks and squaring up shots, but his value comes from getting to pucks other goalies can't. He is signed in the KHL through the 2018-19 season and could be an NHL goalie once that deal is up.

5. Carter Hart, Philadelphia

Hart is a two-time CHL goalie of the year and three-time WHL goalie of the year and one of the best goalies outside the NHL. Hart is a very smart and technically sound netminder. His knowledge of how to read the game, track pucks, and his positioning in the net is high-end if not elite. He's a calm goaltender who never seems to get out of his technique on tough saves. His athleticism is decent. He moves around at a solid level, and he has an above-average glove hand, but he doesn't have an explosive element in his game.

6. Ville Husso, St. Louis

Husso was one of the better goalies in the AHL and looks on the cusp of making the jump to the NHL. He thinks the game at a very high level, showing great anticipation in his positioning with his big frame and looks unique with some of the creative ways he stops pucks. He's not a dynamic athlete, but he moves more than adequately in the net and competes for loose pucks. Husso is more at home being calm and outsmarting the opponent than flying all over his crease. He has all the tools to be an NHL goalie.

7. Filip Gustavsson, Ottawa

Gustavsson has been one of the top goalies in his age group for the last few years. He was the top goalie at the World Juniors and he was decent at the pro level this season. He's a big, smart goalie with good athleticism





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for his size. He looks like a pro in the net with his size, the way he moves, and very structured game. Gustavsson isn't an incredibly dynamic player, but he consistently makes tough stops without letting easy ones get through due to very good hockey sense.

### 8. Michael DiPietro, Vancouver

DiPietro was named the top goaltender in the OHL as he was often asked to carry a mediocre Windsor team to wins. He is one of the most entertaining goalies to watch outside the NHL due to how dynamic an athlete he is. He gets to pucks an average CHL goalie would have no chance at, he has a great glove hand and is a common name on the highlight reel. DiPietro is a smart goalie too, and while there are times he can be a little all over the place, he generally makes good reads and tracks pucks well. His main issue is his height, as high shots from good shooters can squeak by him too easily.

### 9. Cayden Primeau, Montreal

Primeau was the top goalie in Hockey East last season, having one of the most surprising years across the prospect spectrum. He's a smart, steady goalie who has subtle movements but has good lower half movements and a decent glove hand. Two things improved that led to his massive season, first being he added a tad more explosiveness to his game. Second being he dialed back on the bad/low percentage goals. Also, he seemed to be really focused and competing hard each game.

### HAVE A CHANCE

### 10. Joseph Woll, Toronto

Woll was a solid goalie this past season. He's a big man who is very nimble for a big goaltender. He can get across his crease with ease, and make dynamic saves with regularity. He doesn't shy away from playing high in his crease. His aggressiveness can backfire at times. He's so quick and at times jumpy in the net that he can get out of position. He'll need to improve his decisions and lower the amount of soft goals he allows, but he has significant upside.

### 11. Linus Ullmark, Buffalo

Ullmark was one of the top goalies in the AHL last season. He's a technically sound goalie, who is smart and squares up a lot of pucks without making it seem like he's putting forth much effort. He's reasonably athletic and can make some tough saves but relies on his brain to make most of his stops. He's developed well lately and could be in the mix for NHL time next season.

### 12. Jake Oettinger, Dallas

Oettinger had a rough start to the season, but his second half was much better, with him being the driving force to why BU won their conference. Oettinger is tall and looks like a pro in the net with his technique, size and ability to absorb pucks. While he's not a dynamic, athletic type of goalie, Oettinger moves well and can make tough stops. I generally like his hockey sense, but he can get caught in bad situations with over-aggressive plays and positioning that isn't optimal. He'll need to improve on those aspects and cut down on soft goals, but the tools are there to succeed.

### 13. Cal Petersen, Los Angeles

Petersen's performance was up and down this season as a rookie, but had dominant stretches. He's a smart goalie, with economical movements and decent ability to get across the net. He's not the biggest guy or the most explosive but he can make the difficult save and there were some moments during the season where he showed the ability to steal a game.

### 14. Colton Point, Dallas

Point was one of the best goalies in the country for Colgate and worked his way onto Canada's World Junior team. I wouldn't describe him as a dynamic goalie, but Point has a lot of the typical attributes you covet in a netminder. He's big, moves quite well, has hockey sense and looks

refined in the net. I don't think he's going to make that huge highlight-reel save with consistency, but he consistently squares up pucks due to his IQ and athletic traits. I don't see a glaring hole in his skill set, and with the numbers he put up this season, it's hard to be pessimistic about him. I'll look forward to seeing if he can repeat it next season.

### 15. Jon Gillies, Calgary

Gillies is a monster in the net and, when healthy, he can be effective. He's around 6-foot-5, so when he's in a butterfly stance, his shoulders are nearly at the crossbar. He moves around the crease like a smaller goalie. Gillies positioning and reads have never been perfect, but he's worked on quieting his game down.

### 16. Felix Sandstrom, Philadelphia

It's been a rough go for Sandstrom the last few years to be healthy, get consistent playing time and when he is playing to perform well. I believe in his toolkit. He has athleticism and the ability to steal a game, but hopefully he gets back on track next season.

### 17. Lukas Dostal, Anaheim

Dostal's not a goalie who blows you away with highlight reel saves, but he's very smart and technically sound. I've seen more than one occasion where he stops a cross-crease pass and made it seem simple. He can react fine to tough saves and battles when pucks get close to him, but I don't find he's able to get to pucks far away from his body. Dostal is also quite light, barely weighing 160 pounds at the moment, so he needs to bulk up.

### 18. Connor Ingram, Tampa Bay

Ingram was solid as a rookie pro, being a serviceable starter at the AHL level. He's a smart goalie with decent athleticism who is composed in the net. I don't know if the tools are high-end enough to be a top NHL goaltender, but he's good enough to get to the league.

### 19. Garret Sparks, Toronto

Sparks was the top goalie in the AHL this past season and despite being on the older side, showed NHL potential. He's a big goalie who fills the net up. His athleticism isn't high-end, but he can get around the net and make high level saves when he needs to even if he'll look unorthodox at times. This season he showed the ability to be very economical and smart in his movements and positioning.

### 20. Malcolm Subban, Vegas

After it seemed like Subban may never get a real NHL opportunity in Boston, Vegas picked him up and he found his way into NHL minutes. He's not a perfect goalie by any means, but Subban has dynamic athletic qualities with the ability to make the tough save. In past years his main issue has been over-aggressiveness/poor positional awareness, and while I don't think he showed he's great in that regard yet, he was able to make reads at an NHL level to maintain a decent performance level.

### Honorable Mentions (Alphabetical Order)

Justus Annunen, Colorado

Adam Huska, New York Rangers

Filip Larsson, Detroit

Olof Lindbom, New York Rangers

Olivier Rodrigue, Edmonton

Jakub Skarek, New York Islanders

Stuart Skinner, Edmonton

Linus Soderstrom, New York Islanders

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The Athletic / The emotional toll of celebrating felt by Oshie, Kuznetsov — and the Cup

By Scott Burnside Sep 12, 2018 15

T.J. Oshie is sure that any bumps and bangs the Stanley Cup might have sustained during the summer of revelry with the Washington Capitals were not the result of the now-famous keg stands done with the revered trophy.

Well, he's pretty sure that's the case.

But the veteran winger is a little defensive that the Caps might have ruined future Cup keg stands for future generations of Stanley Cup winners as Hall of Fame officials have put a moratorium on the act of drinking while upside down out of the great bowl.

"I feel like that's, I can understand, but I feel like it's a little unfair because no one really knows if it happened during a Cup stand," Oshie explained to The Athletic last week.

So how the heck do you actually do a keg stand with the Stanley Cup?

Oshie was happy to educate.

"It's kind of just like putting your face, just dipping it in like a lake or something with just your face," he explained. "That's kind of what it is. Usually you can do it with no hands because there's two guys holding you up, the hands are really just to kind of guide you, and so I feel like maybe they should open it up for players that can still do it and maybe just not other people."

In other words?

"Leave it to the pros," Oshie suggested.

Fair enough. And no one would know better than Oshie who, in fact, came up with the idea early in the Capitals' long summer of celebration.

"I remember we were sitting there, we were at a place called Nick's. It was where we went in the fountain. And it was right before we went in the fountain actually and there's fans just everywhere crowded around us," Oshie recalled. "And it was fine. They weren't allowed to actually come into our booth but they were just crowded around with their phones. ... And we were sitting there like 'well, what do we do now?' And I was like, I just got this idea. I was talking to Tom Wilson, I was like, 'Hey, let's do like a keg stand.' And he was like, 'Yes, let's do it.'"

The rest, as they say, is history.

It began, of course, with the captain, Alex Ovechkin, which seemed both logical and well, hard on the back.

"I was like, 'We have to let Ovi go first' and so we grabbed Ovi," Oshie said. "I think Tom and me held everyone."

But, Ovechkin is, well, not a slight man.

"Ovi was heavier. He's a big guy," Oshie acknowledged. "But it's still like, the way you grab him, if you know how to grab him, you've got two people, it's just like leaning 100 pounds over the side, so it's fine."

Oshie mimed performing how you'd grab the future Hall of Famer around the waist area and then just sort of tilt him toward the beer-filled mug affixed atop the world's most famous sporting trophy.

Well, at least we got that cleared up.

The obvious question after seeing the myriad emotions that were expended in celebrating a franchise's first championship is how best to move on from that.

Oshie grinned.

"O's (Ovechkin) an animal, so I mean, he'll be fine no matter what. Maybe it's the guys that don't have much experience that we got to worry about," he said.

Make no mistake, the expenditure in celebrating can't be denied when it comes to how does a team prepare to try and repeat the arduous process. The sheer amount of hockey played is part of the equation. That's a given. The Capitals played 24 postseason games, the 82 regular season games plus whatever preseason games the regulars would have taken part in.

But when you talk to players about winning the Cup — Brooks Orpik was the only Washington player to have won a Cup before — the moments they'll never forget are having the Cup either in their sole possession or at team events throughout the summer. Those moments are not inconsequential to the equation either and must be factored into the recovery from the summer of celebration, just as the number of beers inhaled through a t-shirt.

Oshie, for instance, took the Cup to his adopted hometown of Warroad, Minnesota, where he and his father, Tim, moved when Oshie was a teen. The small northern Minnesota town has produced an inordinate number of Olympic and NHL players, and for Oshie, the return to a town so vital to his development with the Cup left an indelible mark.

"It was awesome. It was really cool to see the expression on everyone's faces and see a lot of people up there that I knew when I was in high school and a lot of them were teammates' parents and teammates' younger brothers and sisters. Some of them were teammates' kids that were in the youth program," Oshie said. "It was just cool to be able to bring that up there to them because, when I was there, I was kind of the, not really the outsider, but I didn't grow up there. And so it was a constant thing of — I didn't really need to feel this way I don't think — but I always felt like I was trying to fit in and trying to bring something to the table up there, and so to bring the Stanley Cup there, it felt really good."

Funny how even a simple act of sharing can produce memories that are so meaningful. It was something that surprised Oshie.

"I think you just don't really realize how proud and happy you get when you get the Cup around you and you're allowed to pick it up and you're allowed to touch it whereas before every time you saw it you weren't supposed to," he said. "I think that was kind of the coolest part of really the whole thing. Any time the Cup was around I might have got selfish a little bit, but when it was around, I was next to it."

Think the emotions were any different from playoff hero Evgeny Kuznetsov — remember his series-clinching goal against arch-nemesis Pittsburgh in the second round? — when he took the Cup home to Chelyabinsk, Russia?

Nope.

"It was so emotional," Kuznetsov told The Athletic. "I see so many people and they stay on the line for the picture over two-and-a-half hours, and then I have to go different place and they don't get the picture. That's probably the worst feeling. That's very hard."

Like Oshie, there were many who shared Kuznetsov's day who were part of his journey from young man playing for his hometown youth organization to his time in the KHL and then to his first experiences as an NHLer.

He took the Cup to his hometown arena — where he got married, by the way — and raised \$50,000 for his hockey camp.

"I really feel like all those fans, they all understand the hockey, they're all watching hockey since they're young," the talented center said. "If you play bad, they understand; if you play well, they understand the hockey,



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and they saw me since I was 5 all the way to junior team. Then I play for the kind of AHL (farm) team and then I made the KHL team. They always believe in me. I feel like that's the kind of the big moment for them too. So I change from KHL to NHL and if I would have a bad year and everyone wasn't sure if I can play in NHL and I can see so many people they was truly happy for me. That's amazing feeling."

For both Oshie and Kuznetsov the transition from summer of celebration to autumn of trying to repeat hasn't been exactly without some misgivings.

Kuznetsov joked that it didn't take much for people dropping by to help celebrate, interrupting his summer workout schedule. He'd be working out for six or seven days and then all of a sudden three days are gone — poof.

Still, not a bad problem to have for a young man who elevated his game to star status last season with 83 regular season points and then an NHL-best 32 points in the postseason. Truth be told, he was my top pick for the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP — an honor that went, not surprisingly, to Ovechkin.

Now rookie head coach Todd Reirden, taking over for the departed Barry Trotz, is going to be counting on Kuznetsov to be more of a leader as the 26-year-old continues to push the boundaries of his talent. Kuznetsov is OK with that as long as it doesn't mean he has to produce any big locker room speeches.

"For me, I think you can be leader not only in the locker room, you can be on the ice. You can say, 'OK guys, let's put the puck deep and you skilled guy, right? You can dangle but you put the puck deep' and you show other guys, 'Hey, I did that so we're all going to do this,'" Kuznetsov said. "Then you can be leader on the ice. You can score some big goals, you can say, 'OK, we play bad after a game but next game we're going to rip our ass and the next game you show it.' That's the leader for me."

As for his own game, Kuznetsov is hoping to deliver more consistency year-in and year-out now. Maybe it means fewer points but — and here he holds his hands out in a straight line — it's not so much up and down.

"I always said, if you feel comfortable inside the locker room and your coach, your GM, the whole organization, they build a team the way we have right now, it's so, so easy to focus on the hockey," Kuznetsov said. "And you can try some new things on the ice because you know your partner's got your back and no one's going to yell at you and you know no one's going to say anything bad for you. You just understand the hockey."

Both Kuznetsov and Oshie pointed to the consistency in the lineup that will return for the defense of the Cup as something that is comforting and should prove to be a galvanizing element as they try and become just the second team in the salary cap era (post-2004/05 lockout) to successfully defend a Stanley Cup win.

"You just have to understand the team spirit inside the team we have right now, it's something amazing," Kuznetsov said. "I know it's impossible to explain but you can actually feel it, especially young guys. When some guys come from Hershey (where the Capitals' AHL team is based), they come and they feel so comfortable because we're really friendly and never made the bad jokes. We're always trying to help and the guys like Ovi, Backy (Nicklas Backstrom), Orpy (Orpik), the veteran guys, they make the jokes and they can handle it. And you know when you come from the minors and you're kind of quiet but at the same time you know that Ovi can come and make a joke, whatever, that gives the young guys the opportunity to feel more comfortable off the ice. If they can be comfortable off the ice, that's when they can be comfortable on the ice."

Oshie believes there has to be a lot of dialogue with Reirden, who spent the past four years as an assistant/associate coach in Washington, about how to best navigate the tricky back-to-back waters.

"Our style of play defensively changed right at the end of the year last year and we stuck with that throughout the playoffs. I think it really

frustrated some teams. I think it eliminated the number of Grade A scoring chances that were against us," Oshie said. "And then I think there's going to be a little bit of a feeling out process. Do we need to condition more? Do we need to rest? Do we need to practice? Do we need to work out? And you kind of got to pick, so I think that's going to be a harder job than probably for Todd. ... I think there's going to be a lot of communication there probably between him and Ovi and the leadership group to figure it out."

One good thing as far as Oshie is concerned? It's not October yet.

"I guess I won't know until we get going," Oshie said with a laugh. "I can tell you if it was Oct. 1 right now I wouldn't be very confident about my start. But we still get three weeks to kind of kick it into gear."

The Athletic LOADED: 09.13.2018

1104327 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Max Pacioretty joins Golden Knights: 'My emotions are excitement'

Rory Boylen | @RoryBoylen September 12, 2018, 4:46 PM

Two days after he was traded to the Vegas Golden Knights, Max Pacioretty has landed in Sin City.

Pacioretty hasn't slept much the past two days as he scrambled to his new home, and was at the rink early this morning, getting a chance to see the room at 5:30 a.m. Later, he stepped on to the ice for the first time with his new team.

Max Pacioretty takes the ice for the first time with the @GoldenKnights. pic.twitter.com/pPkQdHHk11

— Sportsnet (@Sportsnet) September 12, 2018

With training camp just about to open, Pacioretty couldn't be happier about his new opportunity.

"My emotions are excitement," he said at Wednesday's press conference. "Excitement to be a part of this group."

In just their second year of existence, the Golden Knights already have an aura about them. Although the team lost David Perron and James Neal to free agency, Paul Stastny was signed and GM George McPhee traded for Pacioretty, who signed an extension shortly after. Both players can be viewed as upgrades.

This is already a destination for players and their families. Pacioretty talked a lot about how much positivity he had heard about how the city and its fans treated those tied to the Golden Knights. He said his son was over the moon excited that his dad was headed to the team that put on all those flashy pre-game shows he saw during the playoffs.

"If I had got taken in the expansion draft I wouldn't be feeling the way I am today. Everyone had question marks about what this franchise would be like," Pacioretty said. "No one knew it would be a hockey town."

"When we came here (with the Canadiens) and we played them I'm not sure exactly what I said, but it was something along the lines of 'it was one of the more amazing experiences of my hockey life.'"

Refreshed, rejuvenated and clearly excited to move on, Pacioretty looks primed to recover from his 17-goal season. He scored at least 30 goals in each of the four seasons before last and that level of production would more than make up for the loss of Neal.

Consider, too, that Pacioretty is most likely to play alongside Stastny, since the top line of Jonathan Marchessault, William Karlsson and Reilly



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Smith was so effective last season. The playmaking Stastny was a beautiful complement to Patrik Laine and Nik Ehlers after he was traded to the Winnipeg Jets last season and should do the same for Pacioretty's tendencies.

The two already know each other well and Pacioretty said he even discussed Stastny's free agency with him "as a friend" this summer. When the trade rumours picked up around Pacioretty the past few weeks, the two even dreamed of potentially teaming up.

"We talked about how great it would be if I did end up here," Pacioretty said.

Pacioretty no longer has to deal with the pressures of being an NHL captain. No one on Vegas has the 'C' stitched on their jersey and as often as we hear about how the Golden Knights are a team full of leaders, Pacioretty was already able to confirm that after one skate.

"They mentioned there would be 23 captains on this team and I could feel that today."

The last few days of Pacioretty's tenure in Montreal were rocky, between an awkward handshake with Marc Bergevin at a charity golf tournament, to the conflicting stories on whether or not he had asked for a trade last season.

Although he again insisted that he would have signed an extension to stay in Montreal, this is a player clearly ready for a fresh start, and who couldn't be happier with where he finally ended up.

"I think (the Canadiens are) going in the direction of a rebuild or reset and I'm ready to move on to something new and I'm very excited this is where that is going to be," he said.

Last year Vegas caught everyone by surprise, but in 2018-19 expectations are high as the Golden Knights return with an even better lineup this time around.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 09.13.2018

1104328 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Senators start amid confusion: 'It's cool right now to dump on this team'

Luke Fox | @lukefoxjukebox September 12, 2018, 5:50 PM

OTTAWA – Sometimes, the words unspoken scream loudest.

In Monday night's oddly timed and awkwardly executed "Between Two Blazing Ferns" episode with interviewer/player/good sport Mark Borowiecki, Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk's state of the union address, while intended to be encouraging, was by turns vague, confounding, and consistently awkward.

The promises of roster and character overhaul, a youth-fuelled rebuild, and a forthcoming "watershed year for us" raised more questions than they answered.

In the five-minute clip, Melnyk's issues a reassurance that he's not going to move a franchise he himself threatened to move ("The franchise is not going anywhere. That's, like, totally solid," he says, convincing someone, maybe), he boasts about being "loaded up" with draft picks while failing to mention 2019's first-rounder Ottawa surrendered to Colorado on the day they traded away top-line centre Kyle Turris to Nashville, and he says 10 new players will be on the club's roster next month, "15, maybe 16" by 2019-20.

In his consequent open letter to the club's shrinking faithful, the Barbados billionaire admitted the 2017-18 Sens, who won all of 28 games, "were horrible," but that they will embrace the underdog role and regain the hearts of the Ottawa citizens.

Not once in either release does Melnyk mention the words Erik or Karlsson — an insult to his fan base's intelligence.

The Ottawa Senators are proud to share the vision for the future of our team and this organization. We are about to launch an exciting plan to rebuild our team and we are inviting you to be a part of our rise to new heights. #OttawaRising pic.twitter.com/hok2jYCUVi

— Ottawa Senators (@Senators) September 11, 2018

We're not here to pile on or beat a dead horse. Sens fans are smart and loyal and don't deserve the last 12 months. And, for what it's worth, we don't believe Ottawa will finish at the bottom of the Atlantic Division, let alone the league, standings.

But lottery balls can bounce funny ways, and Jack Hughes is the real deal.

Big picture: We can't recall an NHL training camp opening under such a maelstrom of uncertainty.

"It's cool right now to dump on this team, right? That's the cool thing to do online. I get it," Borowiecki told reporters at Wednesday's team charity golf tournament. "It's been a trying year for everyone."

Borowiecki is an affable veteran and an Ottawa native, a straight shooter who simply said yes to his employer's request to help with the video. The defenceman admits he sat quiet as a dressing room of guys who'd come within a goal of the 2017 Stanley Cup Final splintered into cliques, the ugliest rift filtering into a lawyers' offices.

"Shame on me for doing that," Borowiecki said of his silence last winter. "People think we're in there running around clawing each other's our eyes out? That's just not true."

OK, then. Let's dig into some truth as the remaining Sens dig into some necessary team-building.

- Karlsson himself did participate in the organization's golf tourney, making it one step farther than Max Pacioretty, but declined to speak. The captain has also resisted responding to questions about his future with the club multiple times over the summer as GM Pierre Dorion continues to find fair return on a trade.

"Erik has every right to explore whatever option he wants," Borowiecki said. "If Erik feels the best route for him to go somewhere else, explore free agency, good on him. He has every right to do that."

- Of the 2017-18 Senators' top six point-scorers, two have already been traded for futures (Mike Hoffman, Derick Brassard) and not one is signed beyond this coming season. The seventh-highest scorer, Bobby Ryan, is being shopped in a potential Karlsson deal because of his not-so-friendly \$7.25-million cap hit.

- It was only a few months ago that Mark Stone told me he wished "to be part of the solution in Ottawa, not part of the problem." On Wednesday, the 2019 UFA said, "For now, I'm here." Although a multi-year deal was discussed, that's been shoved to the back burner until Jan. 1 or later.

- No. 1 centre Matt Duchene (UFA 2019) was originally enthused by last season's trade from Colorado to Ottawa. Recently, he's said he's curious to see how things shake out for Karlsson and Stone before committing long-term.

Wednesday, Duchene announced the Sens will use their collective chip on the shoulder for good.

"I know probably from the outside it looks like a disaster," Duchene said. "On the inside, it's very different. I love our locker room, I love our guys. We all get along very well."



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"If there's anything we can do, we can be a little louder in terms of, like, bringing each other together and maybe spending a bit more time together on and off the ice. But we're all really tight, so that should be easy."

- Opting for arbitration this summer, top-four defenceman Cody Ceci was handed a one-year deal at millions less than he asked for and did not enjoy the process.

- Top goaltender Craig Anderson has denied making a trade request. He's also said this: "I'm too old for drama, and I don't want anything to do with drama. Hopefully, we've resolved all that. Ottawa, I've been there for eight years now, and that's my home. I've got no interest in going anywhere else as long as we can clean up what was going on this summer."

- The Sens bought out Alex Burrows and will pay \$1.75 million of Dion Phaneuf's salary for each of the next three seasons.

- Icon Daniel Alfredsson and short-lived CEO Tom Anselmi left abruptly after short stints in the office.

- Randy Lee stepped down from his assistant GM post in late August amidst harassment charges, to which he's pleading not guilty. GM Pierre Dorion is currently without an assistant GM.

- Perhaps most concerning, especially to Melnyk, attendance is falling off a cliff. As recently as five years ago, Ottawa was a top-six NHL box-office draw. Imagine: In 2013, the Sens drew an average of 19,408 fans per game, just 18(!) shy of Toronto. Ottawa now ranks 24th in the category, averaging 15,829 per game last season, and is in danger of tumbling further.

To combat that, the Sens dropped rink parking in Kanata to 12 bucks and unveiled a family ticket priced at \$35 that includes a \$10 food and beverage coupon.

The hope here: Drama over, rebuild on.

"Rebuilds can take two months, 10 months, it can take three years," said Stone, likely the best player standing when the puck drops.

"Whoever's in that locker room when we start on Oct. 4, we're gonna try to win."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 09.13.2018

1104329 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Q&A: GM Brad Treliving on Flames' China trip

Eric Francis | @EricFrancis September 12, 2018, 11:24 AM

The Calgary Flames departed Tuesday on a nine-day adventure in China where they'll play two exhibition games with the Boston Bruins.

On top of games in Shenzhen (Sept. 15) and Beijing (Sept. 19), their busy schedule will also include four practices, two receptions, a visit to the Great Wall of China and multiple player appearances.

In the midst of it all, the Calgary Flames are tasked, first and foremost, with re-building its on-ice structure under new coach Bill Peters.

Newcomers like Derek Ryan, Noah Hanifin, Elias Lindholm, Austin Czarnik and James Neal will not only have to learn the new system, but will be working towards getting to know their new teammates.

Some would see it as a general manager's worst nightmare, given the distractions and logistics involved.

However, after sitting down to discuss the excursion, Brad Treliving said he long ago started embracing the benefits of their unique starting assignment.

Sportsnet: Given how many new faces you have, is this trip a blessing?

Brad Treliving: No question. In hindsight, with the new people here, I think it's advantageous we've got all the people together in one spot.

The good news is we have the group together from Day 1, but the biggest challenge is the travel. A 14-hour flight and 12-hour time change. How do we make sure we maximize the time we're there and, just as important, how do we get over it when we get back?

We get back the middle of the night on the 19th and they get two full days off. From when we land it's two weeks until the opener. Not a ton of time. It's a long ways to go but the beauty of getting a large portion of your team together is it's a large portion of your camp that group probably wouldn't be together for two weeks.

Sportsnet: What are some of the questions you hope to have answered about your team in China?

Brad Treliving: I don't necessarily know if any personnel questions will be answered there. But it's really about instilling the foundation for how Bill wants the team to play.

The four practices are probably more important than the games because it sets a standard of how we're going to play. Getting the system down – that's what I'm looking for. There aren't huge systematic differences, although there are always little changes from one coach to the next.

Bill will get a feel for combinations, but when we get back, we'll have a real foundation for how we want to play.

Sportsnet: What did you learn from sending assistant coach Martin Gelinas and team travel director Sean O'Brien on a scouting mission to China this summer?

Brad Treliving: We're going to have curve balls thrown at us, but we have everything planned out from meals to food to restaurants to hotels and how long it takes to get to practice.

After Gelly and Obie got back we checked in every day to see how they felt. The first day they came back they didn't feel very good. Day 4 they plateaued out. Marty recovered a lot quicker because he's active. These players are finely tuned machines so it shouldn't be too hard on them.

We gave the players booklets on how to prepare for the trip, which included changing their sleeping patterns several days ahead of our departure.

Sportsnet: Tell us a little more about the preparation booklets players were given before the trip?

Brad Treliving: There are two things – there's the sports science piece where (strength and conditioning coach) Ryan Van Asten and his people have spent the whole summer putting together a plan.

The biggest obstacle for us is the travel. I go to Europe a lot and usually you give it one day and you're fine. But we're almost preparing more to come back, because when we come back we have six exhibition games in nine nights.

We have a whole plan for when you get on the plane, when you sleep, what to eat, what to eat to help fall asleep... the sports science piece is pretty detailed. The other stuff is, 'bring your phone but you're not going online a lot and doing stuff on the internet.' Don't plan on doing a whole lot of online banking while you are over there. It's just a safety thing with the wifi. Nothing out of the ordinary.

We hope to keep them busy during the days and make the best use of our time. There are two receptions we've got to go to, including a trip to the Canadian embassy, and a team thing to the Great Wall of China. A lot of the afternoons are left open.



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We've got to try to keep them active so they're not sleeping. We want to get them on the schedule as quickly as you can so the guys can be fresh for practice.

Sportsnet: Should anybody read into the roster decisions you made for China, which sees opening night hopefuls like Juuso Valimaki, David Rittich, Andrew Mangiapane and Spencer Foo left behind for the camp in Calgary?

Brad Treiving: Somebody said to me the other day, 'so and so got left off.' Nobody got 'left off.' What we looked at all summer is we've got two camps. The priority of going to China is that everybody knows who is going to be on the team. Well, Bill Peters needs to get to know Johnny Gaudreau, Sean Monahan, Mark Giordano, Matthew Tkachuk and that group.

If you're a guy trying to make the team, going to China is probably not the best thing. There are probably going to be four games (in North America) when it's all said and done that nobody in China is going to participate in. It's a great opportunity for those staying here. We designed it specifically for that.

(VP Hockey Operations) Don Maloney and (assistant GM) Brad Pascall will be in Calgary. Bill will probably be up watching every game (from China) and he'll be talking to the coaching staff. Nothing is going to happen here that we don't know about right after it happens. We've got it fully covered.

When we get back we'll make one big group and go from there.

Sportsnet: Safe to say the guys this will disrupt the most are equipment managers?

Brad Treiving: It's miserable for them. The guys who really do all the work is them. We say, 'We're having training camp 10,000 km away, so just bring everything we need and figure it out.' A nightmare.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 09.13.2018

1104330 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Caleb Jones ready to compete for spot on Oilers blue line

Mark Spector | @sportsnetspec September 12, 2018, 12:11 AM

EDMONTON — They say that prospects don't progress in a straight line, but rather like a graph, with spikes and dips.

And so we bring you Caleb "Spike" Jones, the basketball player's son who looked like a slam dunk to end up in AHL Bakersfield this season.

Not so fast, says Bakersfield head coach Jay Woodcroft, who watched Jones pump home two goals and add two assists in a 9-1 mismatch between the Oilers rookies and a local college all-star team from NAIT and Grant MacEwan Tuesday night.

"I think he's in the mix (in Edmonton)," Woodcroft said of Jones. "He has a year of professional hockey under his belt, he put a lot of really good work in over the summer. If he keep progressing through rookie camp, he is in the mix, for sure."

It's the message Jones has been getting ever since he arrived in Edmonton, fresh off a long summer of training with his older brother, Columbus blueliner Seth Jones. Paul Coffey made it clear to Caleb: he may be only 21 years old, but the time has come to compete for an NHL job.

"He's the one guy who said, 'You've got to come in here with the mindset that you're going to steal a job,'" Jones said of Coffey, the Oilers skills

and development coach. "He's the one who first told me, 'You've got to believe you're the best, every time.'"

You've likely heard the story on Jones, whose father Ronald "Popeye" Jones played 11 NBA seasons and currently is an assistant coach with the Indiana Pacers. He's that kid, like Oiler Darnell Nurse, who grew up around professional athletes, and now is trying to make his way as one himself.

He watched Popeye as a kid, but really, it's Seth that paves the way for Caleb now, a second-year pro who looks ready to take a step this winter.

"I've seen it from a young age, just how hard guys have to work to stay at a high level. You can consider that an advantage, if you wanted to," said Caleb, who lived at home in Dallas with Seth for the summer, where they trained together. "Every day, no matter how he feels, he's at the gym. He works hard, puts in the effort, and he's just gotten better every year. That's what I'm trying to do."

Every young prospect, or at least the successful ones, figure it out eventually: At this level everyone is skilled, so if you're not in absolutely top shape, you don't have a prayer of standing out.

Both Jones and Ethan Bear got the message last spring and wowed their bosses with their fitness results this camp. With Andrej Sekera (Achilles) out for a half a season, and perhaps Nurse missing camp on a contract holdout, it's a good time for a young defenceman to shine here.

Jones held the puck patiently, rather than shoot it into a defender's shin pad, circled the net and tucked home a wraparound in the second period. Then he delayed, before rifling home a wrist shot in the third.

He's very mobile, with decent size (six-foot-one, 194 lb.), and can really skate. At least against opponents of this calibre, Jones shows the ability to walk the blue line, improving a shooting angle so he can get his shot through to the net.

He played on a pairing with Evan Bouchard Tuesday, a sight we may see again some day, as the Oilers finally begin to build a stockpile of young defencemen with a real chance to play.

"I don't believe I'm far," Jones said. "There are still things in my game I've got to work on — but little things. I think I can skate well, at an NHL level, to jump up in the play and create offence. But really trying to simplify my game is something.

"Confidence is a huge thing," he said. "You hear it a lot, but it really makes a huge difference. I put in the work. I'm in a little better shape. I'm faster. I worked on my skating even more trying to become a more dynamic skater. I feel confident that I can push for a spot."

You hear it everywhere today. If you can skate, you have a chance.

"His gift is that he can really skate," agreed Woodcroft. "He has things to work on, just like every young player, but through the first three, four days of camp here, he has to feel real good about himself ... to come in, top shape, and really push for a spot here in Edmonton."

Another smart trait for a young kid trying to make his way? Listening — like when Coffey speaks.

"He actually got me to use a shorter stick, and that's helped me out a lot," said Jones, who sawed nearly an inch off his sticks prior to summer training. "You get lower, and you have better control of the puck, shooting and stickhandling."

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TSN.CA / Ten points to ponder as Canucks open training camp



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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Jeff Paterson

VANCOUVER – With weigh-ins and media availability Thursday unlikely to yield many clues, Vancouver hockey fans will likely have to wait until the Canucks hit the ice in Whistler on Friday for the first day of training camp to start getting answers about how the team may line up when the season opens on Oct. 3. In the meantime, here are 10 pre-season points to ponder ahead of Friday's first on-ice session at Meadow Park Sports Centre:

- 1) Where can Travis Green improve as a head coach in his second year behind the Canucks bench? When hired just over a year ago, Green expressed interest in the amount of data collected and available at the National Hockey League level. He dropped several clues last season about paying close attention to the numbers, but how will he use them moving forward? Will Green use advanced statistics to aid in his decision-making to optimize line combinations and defensive pairings? The numbers can tell him who played well together and perhaps more importantly who did not.
- 2) Can Jacob Markstrom pick up where he left off at the end of last season when he posted a 5-0-1 record with a 1.96 goals-against average and a sterling .937 save percentage allowing just 12 goals on 190 shots? Or were those numbers the product of a tighter system in front of the 28-year-old netminder and aided further by the fact workhorse Alex Edler averaged nearly 27 minutes a night over that span? Markstrom started 57 times last season and appeared in 60 games overall. He goes to camp as the clear-cut number-one goaltender in the system, but questions remain about whether there is still room for his game to grow or if those final few weeks of last season were merely a mirage when there was nothing on the line?
- 3) Is there a true battle for the backup job? If Markstrom is the main man in goal, then what's happening behind him on the depth chart? Anders Nilsson won only one of his 15 starts after Dec. 1 last season. Thatcher Demko also won once in that timeframe – but that was his NHL debut and his only big-league appearance. Nilsson back-stopped Sweden to a gold medal at the World Championship in May and perhaps that helped him regain his confidence. But Demko is clearly the goalie of the future. So does the future start now? Can Demko win the backup job with a strong showing over the next few weeks or do the Canucks go with Nilsson and allow Demko another year of development in the American Hockey League? What if Demko is considerably better than Nilsson at camp and in the preseason? The Canucks talk often about making room for youngsters who outperform veterans. I'll be curious to see if that promise holds true between the pipes.
- 4) How, exactly, will the same group of blueliners produce more offence than last season? Travis Green was emphatic at his year-end media availability about needing more production from the Canucks defence corps. One way to address the issue would have been to change personnel in the off-season. That did not happen. Not even a little. Quite remarkably, the team returns the same eight defencemen that underwhelmed a year ago and now the challenge is clearly to squeeze more out of the group. There will be plenty of talk in the weeks ahead about systems and activating defencemen to join the attack. But are any of the eight defencemen under contract really likely to make sizable gains in production this season? Ben Hutton would seem to stand the best chance considering he had zero goals and just six assists last season. But Hutton has to get into the lineup in order to contribute and that's not a sure bet, given the way his season played out last year.
- 5) It's not a great time to be a Canuck forward if your name starts with the letter G. Gaunce, Goldobin, Gagner, Granlund. Even Gaudette. Can anyone be certain how any of those players slots into the Canucks depth chart to start camp? And how many of those are locks to be in the opening night lineup? Gagner and Granlund are likely to be here based on their contractual status, their versatility and the fact they have performed and produced in the NHL in the past. But are they wingers? Are they centres? Does either of them project in a top-six role to start the

season? It's even murkier for Gaunce and Goldobin who both likely have to play their way onto the team with strong preseasons. And then what about Gaudette? The reigning Hobey Baker Award winner didn't look out of place in his five-game taste of NHL action at the end of last season and was arguably the best all-around player at the Young Stars prospects tournament in Penticton last weekend. Still, with the log jam in front of him and the addition of Jay Beagle, Antoine Roussel and Tim Schaller as free agents on July 1, Gaudette may have to start the season with the Utica Comets in the American Hockey League.

6) What happened to the secondary-trade market Canucks general manager Jim Benning talked about after the draft in Dallas in June? There was much speculation (and I think plenty of hope) that the Canucks may work a deal or two on the draft floor in Big D. That didn't happen, but Benning expressed optimism that a secondary trade market would develop. Earlier this week, the Montreal Canadiens and Vegas Golden Knights made a significant deal while the Bruins and Rangers completed a smaller swap, so teams are trading. But the Canucks go into camp in Whistler without having made a dent in the trade market since last year's deadline. Does that indicate the players they'd be inclined to move have little or no value? Will they find a way to alleviate the glut of forwards on the training camp roster? Remember, the Canucks are hosting the 2019 NHL Entry Draft next June and Benning is on the record indicating he'd like to add more picks.

7) With the departure of Daniel and Henrik Sedin, what will the Canucks' power play look like? Remember that after mid-November last season, this was a top-five power play in the league. So, Newell Brown has his work cut out for him re-inventing the Canucks' PP. It would be ideal if Elias Pettersson could step in and fill Henrik's role in the right faceoff circle with Brock Boeser camped out on the left side of the ice. That would give the Canucks two shooting options to keep defences guessing and giving Alex Edler a good problem to have trying to decide how to distribute the puck from the top. Bo Horvat and perhaps Loui Eriksson could round out the first unit by standing their ground in front of the net. But what does that leave for a second unit – Sven Baertschi, Sam Gagner, Brendan Leipsic, Markus Granlund and Derrick Pouliot? (We mentioned above that there is no guarantee Gagner or Granlund will be on the team.) Could you find room for Jake Virtanen – with one career power-play goal in 140 NHL games – in front of the net? After that it gets awfully thin. Antoine Roussel has scored seven career power play goals, but he averaged just five seconds of power play time per game last season. Do the Canucks revert back to the Willie Desjardins era and look to Brandon Sutter who scored eight power play goals in three seasons under the previous coach? The construction of the power play – particularly the second unit – deserves plenty of attention in the coming weeks.

8) How will the Canucks line up down the middle to start the season? Horvat is the team's top centre right now and there can be no debate about that. Ideally, the Canucks would love Pettersson to develop into a legitimate first-line centre with Horvat behind him on the depth chart. The plan is to start Pettersson in the middle at training camp and gauge his ability to adapt to NHL life. Can he handle the workload as a centre and can he hold up his end of the bargain defensively? The Canucks sure hope so because that would give them options. If the Pettersson experiment isn't ready for prime time, then who slots in behind Horvat? Is it Gagner or Granlund? Does Gaudette get a look there? Or does Brandon Sutter play much higher in the lineup than he ought to? That's not an ideal scenario for Sutter or the hockey club. And what does the arrival of Jay Beagle mean for Sutter in terms of his matchup and defensive role? There are some who believe the Canucks may look to go with two scoring lines and two checking lines this season. But for a team that struggled to produce offence last season (29th in the NHL in even-strength goals for), it seems hard to believe that the Canucks would devote six forwards to defensive responsibilities and expect the other six to be able to carry the scoring load. That sounds like a plan to limit opponents and hope they win games 2-1. I think we saw how that worked for a couple of seasons prior to the last one.



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9) Is Boeser absolutely, completely, 100 per cent healthy? The last time Canucks fans saw the Calder Trophy runner-up in person he was being taken off the Rogers Arena ice on a stretcher. Not exactly good times for Boeser, the organization or the fan base. Then came word that in addition to the back injury sustained on March 5 against the New York Islanders, Boeser was going to have a procedure performed on the wrist he'd injured in Tampa Bay in February. That's a lot for anyone to deal with in one off-season let alone a 21-year-old scoring star expected to put the organization on that injured back and carry it on many nights moving forward. Boeser returned to the ice and looked no worse for wear winning MVP honours in Minnesota summer league last month. But that's a non-contact league for professionals looking to get a sweat on ahead of training camp. Now comes the real test for Boeser. All indications are both his back and wrist have healed and he's ready to go. But after bursting onto the scene last season and scoring a team-high 29 goals, Boeser will not sneak up on opponents and no one will take him lightly. He'll likely see tougher matchups this season and he'll be tested both physically and mentally. In his short time in Vancouver, Boeser has shown that very little fazes him, so he'll likely take the added attention in stride. But it's clear the Canucks need him to score from the start of the season so it's vital that he has a strong training camp and carries that into the preseason schedule.

10) How quickly will the Canucks get down to manageable numbers? They're taking 59 players into camp who will skate in three groups for the first three days in Whistler. That's fine. But keeping 20 defencemen and six goaltenders around doesn't seem ideal even with a hectic start to the preseason next week. The Canucks play home games on three consecutive nights next week (against the Edmonton Oilers, a depleted Flames roster of those left behind from Calgary's China junket and the Los Angeles Kings) before heading to Calgary for a fourth game in five nights. So sure, the Canucks will need bodies to fill out the rosters of those early games on the preseason schedule. But, hopefully, they'll get down in numbers by the midway mark of the preseason so that true battles can emerge – and be settled – in the second week of exhibition action.

TSN.CA LOADED: 09.13.2018

1104332 Websites

TSN.CA / Senators reveal more pieces of rebuilding plan

Ian Mendes

Inside a boardroom at Canadian Tire Centre on Wednesday morning, Ottawa Senators general manager Pierre Dorion showed select members of the media his projected lineup for the upcoming season.

Eyes inside the room quickly scanned for the position of the top, right-shot defenceman on the roster. And sure enough, Erik Karlsson's name was right there for everyone to see — penciled in for opening night.

"He's here. Here's part of the team," Dorion said.

When pressed to divulge more information about Karlsson's status — and if there had been any concrete trade or contract negotiations — Dorion politely declined to elaborate.

"When it comes to contract negotiations, we don't believe you can negotiate in the media," Dorion said.

The general manager emphasized that he was willing to start the season with Karlsson in the fold and didn't appear too worried about any potential distractions that may come as a result of his presence.

"We are prepared for every scenario," Dorion said, leaving the door open for multiple scenarios to play out.

For his part, Karlsson declined to speak to the media at the club's annual charity golf tournament on Wednesday, but he is expected to address reporters when training camp opens on Thursday.

Dorion, Senators owner Eugene Melnyk and chief operating officer Nicolas Ruszkowski were part of an editorial meeting with members of Bell Media in Ottawa today — which included TSN 1200.

The meeting — which had been scheduled well in advance — was to allow the club an opportunity to discuss their rebuilding plan with key stakeholders in the marketplace.

The first step in the process was the club releasing a video late Monday night, featuring Melnyk in a conversation with defenceman Mark Borowiecki. That video has been widely panned by critics in the past 48 hours, who dismissed it as an awkward attempt to reveal a rebuilding plan.

Ruszkowski acknowledged that the reception from the video had not been overly warm, but firmly said that was merely a "first step" in trying to change the narrative around the team.

The organization did try and clear up one misconception from Monday's video, involving Melnyk's suggestion that 10 new players would be on the roster for opening night of this season.

Melnyk — they say — was actually comparing this year's opening-night roster to last year's, which featured the likes of Kyle Turris, Mike Hoffman, Derick Brassard, Dion Phaneuf, Nate Thompson, Alex Burrows, Johnny Oduya, Andrew Hammond and others.

The club says that comparing those two rosters side-by-side is how Melnyk came up with the number of 10 fresh faces for the 2018-19 campaign.

In the 90-minute session Dorion repeatedly used the word rebuild and suggested all his decisions would be based on the long-term health and stability of the franchise. They would no longer be in the market for quick-fix, stop-gap solutions that have landed them in trouble in the past.

Dorion alluded to the fact that he did not own his own first-round pick for next season because of the Matt Duchene trade with Colorado. When asked if he would be motivated to finish high in the standings in order to worsen the Avalanche's draft standing, Dorion said that would not be the case.

"That ship has sailed on the first rounder," Dorion said. "Every move we make is geared towards the rebuild."

Dorion said the club's new philosophy in the rebuild will be predicated on a couple of key pillars.

"We will rebuild by trading for younger, faster, stronger players who commit to our team-first philosophy, play with discipline and earn the freedom to take risks that help the team," said Dorion.

As part of the presentation, Dorion showed a slide that indicated the club's average age by the 2020-21 season would be 25 years old. By comparison, last year's opening night roster had an average age of 29.

The general manager alluded to the broken dressing room from last season and said that there is "no question" those issues have been resolved to his satisfaction. He believes that the chemistry inside the locker room will be better this season, which should lead to improved results on the ice.

The general manager also said that analytics will play a role in their decision-making. "We will embrace the power of data and insights to measure our impact."

Dorion — who has been working without an assistant general manager since Randy Lee stepped down last month — said he should be ready to announce Lee's replacement in that role within the next few days.

Dorion also indicated the team needs to play with a defence-first philosophy — something that cost the team dearly last season. He added





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that head coach Guy Boucher would be changing his tactics on things like the power play and forechecking.

In particular, Dorion said, the club would move away from a passive approach and deploy an “unrelenting” forecheck.

Based on how things are going to shake out to start training camp, it appears as though Jean-Gabriel Pageau has an inside track on the second-line centre position. As it stands now, Pageau is set to be flanked by Mark Stone on the right side and an educated guess would put rookie Brady Tkachuk on the left.

Dorion was gushing about Tkachuk’s ability and believes he may be ready for NHL games right away.

At this point, Duchene heads into the season as the club’s number-one centre. Ryan Dzingel — who tied for the team lead in goals last season — is pencilled in as the left winger, while the right spot is up for grabs.

Dorion didn’t rule out Colin White — who he said Boucher was pushing for all last season — to be the opening-night right winger. Rookie Drake Batherson is also said to have a shot there.

The only line that appears to be fully formed at this point is the club’s third unit. At the present time, it features Zack Smith back in his role as a centre, with Bobby Ryan on his left side and newcomer Mikkel Boedker on the right.

Max McCormick and Tom Pyatt will be the fourth-line wingers and there will be an audition for the fourth-line centre job in camp. Logan Brown and Filip Chlapik could fit that need — though more seasoning in Belleville might be in store for them.

The status of Marian Gaborik was addressed, as the winger has been in limbo since suffering an injury late last season. The injury prevented him from being a buyout candidate and, according to Dorion, Gaborik is still recovering from surgery in Los Angeles.

“He still has back issues and has not been cleared medically,” Dorion said.

On the back end, the club appears poised to maybe let Thomas Chabot start the season alongside Karlsson.

Cody Ceci is locked into his usual spot of the second pairing right-shot defenceman, with Christian Wolanin and Ben Harpur battling for the job to be his partner.

The third pairing appears set with Mark Borowiecki playing the left side, with Chris Wideman on the right.

The club also announced a number of marketing initiatives, aimed at winning back fans to games at Canadian Tire Centre.

For starters, the club will announce that the price for parking in all general lots for this season will be reduced to \$12. In the past, parking had become a major source of frustration with fans, as the prices in certain lots reached \$30 on a nightly basis. The team was adamant that they listened to their feedback on this issue.

The Senators will also be re-opening the top portion of the 300 level of the west end of the arena — an area that was infamously covered in tarp last year.

The team is unveiling a new social area in that section, which will be geared towards standing and mingling in a fully licensed area. It is slated to be called the Coke Zone and the club is hoping to offer tickets for as little as \$29 in that new area.

The Senators will also wear their red Centennial Classic jerseys for every Thursday night home game this season — that is the jersey they sported for the outdoor game against the Montreal Canadiens last season.

According to Ruskowski, the club is working diligently on a plan for a permanent logo for the 2019-20 season — and he did not dismiss

returning to the original 2-D Sens logo or moving forward with the Heritage O version.

Dorion said he’s not going to be bothered if media and fans constantly bring up the swirl of negativity that has surrounded the team for the past few months. He said that by laying out the plan in a clear and transparent fashion, he’s hoping that everyone can move forward and focus on the future.

“We can’t control the outside stuff,” said Dorion. “We’ve past the tipping point, I think. For us, this rebuild started in February.”

TSN.CA LOADED: 09.13.2018

1104333 Websites

TSN.CA / Statistically Speaking: Position-by-position fantasy hockey rankings

Scott Cullen

There is one player above all the rest when it comes to fantasy hockey rankings. That’s right, Pekka Rinne.

Okay, a little joke to get things going. Rinne is my top-ranked goaltender. He’s in his mid-30s and has had some ups and downs in his career, but he’s coming off his first Vezina trophy and, more importantly for fantasy owners, he’s a durable starter on a very strong team. That means lots of games played — he’s started 250 games over the past four years — and, potentially, lots of wins to go along with a better-than-average goals against average and save percentage.

But, as much as it can make or break the outcome of your fantasy season, goaltending is a fickle business, so there is no need to invest early picks — the cornerstone picks for your season — on a goaltender. Even top ones like Rinne, Andrei Vasilevskiy or Connor Hellebuyck aren’t sure things in the same way that top skaters tend to be, so risk starts appearing very early at goaltender, but it’s possible that’s just my perception.

The safer play is to take the best player. Using this novel approach, you quickly land on Connor McDavid, who is both the best player and the one with the highest ceiling. Other top centres behind McDavid include Sidney Crosby, Auston Matthews, Tyler Seguin, and Nathan MacKinnon. The position is deep, too.

In general, if players are of similar value, I’ll drift towards selecting wingers first, because the depth at those positions is typically not as strong.

Stanley Cup champ and fantasy superstar.

On left wing, Alex Ovechkin remains an elite performer. Even if he’s not automatic for 50 goals — he finished with just 49 last season! — Ovechkin is the game’s top goal-scoring threat and sets himself apart for fantasy owners with outstanding hit and shots totals. Being ultra-durable doesn’t hurt his value either. After Ovechkin, Jamie Benn, Taylor Hall, Brad Marchand, Claude Giroux, and Artemi Panarin offer more high-end skill.

The top right winger on the list is Tampa Bay’s Nikita Kucherov, a premier scorer on one of the league’s top teams. Sam goes for Blake Wheeler and Patrick Laine in Winnipeg. There’s Patrick Kane, too, but he’s there based on his rare scoring track record more than the likelihood of the Blackhawks elevating his performance.

On the blueline, shot launcher Brent Burns is still the most productive option, but Victor Hedman, Drew Doughty, Erik Karlsson and Roman Josi are close by on the top tier. If Karlsson finds himself playing somewhere other than Ottawa, that could quickly push him into Burns’ territory. In



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terms of urgency at the position, it's nice to get one of the top dozen or so as a building block but, over the course of a full season, there isn't necessarily a major difference between a high-end offensive defenceman who might score 55 points and a decent puck-mover who can get 40-45. As always, be aware of what's left on the board when it's your turn to pick.

Here are my 2018-2019 position-by-position Fantasy Rankings.

1	Connor McDavid	Edmonton	C	80	39	69	108	22	24	28	31	38	263
2	Sidney Crosby	Pittsburgh	C	80	59	94	9	29	40	80	33	250	
3	Auston Matthews	Toronto	C	76	34	77	14	23	16	43	72	283	
4	Tyler Seguin	Dallas	C	79	42	78	3	26	32	36	35	313	72
5	Nathan MacKinnon	Colorado	C	76	53	88	2	28	36	35	32	266	44
6	Evgeni Malkin	Pittsburgh	C	69	49	83	12	30	79	34	27	208	41
7	Evgeny Kuznetsov	Washington	C	81	26	58	84	13	26	46	61	39	195
8	Anze Kopitar	Los Angeles	C	80	27	48	75	16	22	20	64	63	182
9	John Tavares	Toronto	C	80	42	75	3	24	32	33	29	256	38
10	Patrice Bergeron	Boston	C	72	34	62	16	21	32	28	47	258	57
11	Steven Stamkos	Tampa Bay	C	73	28	45	73	10	26	54	69	30	193
12	Mark Scheifele	Winnipeg	C	74	41	73	14	19	33	32	36	176	59
13	Aleksander Barkov	Florida	C	72	43	70	12	17	12	27	53	211	38
14	Vincent Trocheck	Florida	C	81	39	67	-3	21	50	28	53	251	152
15	Nicklas Backstrom	Washington	C	79	21	54	75	11	29	42	43	47	155
16	Ryan Getzlaf	Anaheim	C	69	53	68	16	18	47	15	66	144	100
17	Jack Eichel	Buffalo	C	75	42	70	-9	24	30	28	37	275	48
18	Brayden Schenn	St. Louis	C	81	37	64	1	22	46	27	36	194	171
19	Pierre-Luc Dubois	Columbus	C	80	36	60	6	17	59	24	42	192	131
20	Eric Staal	Minnesota	C	81	33	61	7	17	38	28	43	223	50
21	Mathew Barzal	N.Y. Islanders	C	80	21	57	78	-2	26	34	21	30	162
22	Brayden Point	Tampa Bay	C	78	27	33	60	11	14	20	36	48	205
23	Sean Couturier	Philadelphia	C	73	23	35	58	17	11	32	58	40	183
24	William Karlsson	Vegas	C	81	29	56	15	10	10	27	46	184	48
25	Sean Monahan	Calgary	C	77	33	62	1	19	22	29	22	200	35
26	Jeff Carter	Los Angeles	C	72	27	27	54	9	12	16	75	31	251
27	Leon Draisaitl	Edmonton	C	78	26	43	69	-2	16	26	40	26	175
28	Elias Pettersson	Vancouver	C	78	25	34	59	5	13	22	30	30	220
29	Nazem Kadri	Toronto	C	80	28	54	-5	17	63	26	32	229	115
30	Ryan O'Reilly	St. Louis	C	76	42	64	-5	23	6	22	46	202	30
31	Jonathan Toews	Chicago	C	75	36	59	6	13	48	23	29	200	47
32	Logan Couture	San Jose	C	72	28	55	2	18	16	27	64	185	39
33	Nico Hischier	New Jersey	C	80	23	32	55	6	11	28	62	43	198
34	Ryan Johansen	Nashville	C	80	43	58	8	19	69	15	32	149	92
35	Dylan Larkin	Detroit	C	81	38	60	-8	13	53	22	37	240	79
36	Mika Zibanejad	N.Y. Rangers	C	77	25	27	52	-9	17	20	92	57	212



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37	Derek Stepan	Arizona	C	79	17	56	Radek Faksa	Dallas	C	80	15
	37 54	2 17		22 42			18 33	8 2		52	101
	48 205						59 125				
38	Kyle Turris	Nashville	C	77	21	57	Alexander Wennberg	Columbus	C	70	
	33 54	8 18		34 20			10 31	41 10		10	12
	45 158						37 48	89			
39	Matt Duchene	Ottawa	C	79	27	58	Adrian Kempe	Los Angeles	C	78	
	31 58	-15 15		20 54			15 21	36 6		5	36
	46 196						94 20	123			
40	Jordan Staal	Carolina	C	79	19	59	Bryan Little	Winnipeg	C	70	18
	28 47	-1 11		30 167			26 44	-4 12		22	46
	31 158						28 126				
41	Mikko Koivu	Minnesota	C	81		60	Jack Roslovic	Winnipeg	C	77	15
	16 34	50 8		17 40			25 40	4 6		6	58
	42 55	151					29 124				
42	Adam Henrique	Anaheim	C	81	25	61	Nolan Patrick	Philadelphia	C	75	
	23 48	3 12		26 69			16 21	37 2		9	34
	62 148						50 23	155			
43	Tomas Hertl	San Jose	C	75	21	62	Casey Mittelstadt	Buffalo	C	77	11
	23 44	2 8		34 91			31 42	3 8		24	28
	67 182						28 125				
44	Derick Brassard	Pittsburgh	C	76	19	63	Brock Nelson	N.Y. Islanders	C	81	
	25 44	6 9		28 91			20 16	36 -4		7	38
	23 180						54 53	159			
45	Alex Galchenyuk	Arizona	C	77	23	64	Victor Rask	Carolina	C	76	16
	31 54	-13 20		22 43			23 39	-4 12		16	50
	38 195						31 150				
46	Mikael Backlund	Calgary	C	82	18	65	Martin Necas	Carolina	C	78	17
	31 49	-5 12		56 58			23 40	-5 8		20	30
	43 195						20 152				
47	Paul Stastny	Vegas	C	74	15	66	Tyler Bozak	St. Louis	C	74	14
	34 49	2 20		26 43			28 42	-1 10		26	41
	38 134						26 133				
48	Joe Thornton	San Jose	C	70	14	67	Artem Anisimov	Chicago	C	71	21
	41 55	4 21		44 41			19 40	-4 10		22	25
	24 88						37 132				
49	Jonathan Drouin	Montreal	C	78	16	68	Phillip Danault	Montreal	C	77	12
	37 53	-11 21		32 67			25 37	2 2		38	74
	23 164						50 126				
50	David Krejci	Boston	C	71	18	69	Christian Dvorak	Arizona	C	78	16
	30 48	3 14		22 34			21 37	-6 6		24	85
	43 129						54 124				
51	Jean-Gabriel Pageau	Ottawa	C	80		70	Frans Nielsen	Detroit	C	79	16
	15 20	35 1		2 32			22 38	-9 9		16	57
	156 75	159					58 148				
52	Kevin Hayes	N.Y. Rangers	C	77		72	Gabe Vilardi	Los Angeles	C	70	
	20 23	43 4		7 22			13 25	38 5		4	20
	48 33	164					40 25	125			
53	Bo Horvat	Vancouver	C	75	21	73	Andreas Athanasiou	Detroit	C	74	21
	26 47	-9 12		18 55			17 38	-8 4		26	33
	41 171						31 175				
54	Henrik Borgstrom	Florida	C	75	20	74	Adam Lowry	Winnipeg	C	67	10
	26 46	3 8		26 30			14 24	3 4		33	179
	30 115						44 93				
55	Ryan Kesler	Anaheim	C	63	14	75	Robert Thomas	St. Louis	C	75	11
	19 33	1 10		63 126			24 35	4 4		28	40
	61 127						30 120				



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76	Dylan Strome	Arizona	C	77	14	15	Jonathan Huberdeau	Florida	LW	77
	22 36	-2	8	32	30		24 41	65	7	16
	42 119						41 36	188		
77	Joel Eriksson Ek	Minnesota	C	76		16	Max Pacioretty	Vegas	LW	73
	9 15	24	3	0	26		29 56	-5	16	34
	152 52	135					32 249			101
78	Lars Eller	Washington	C	80	15	17	Jason Zucker	Minnesota	LW	78
	17 32	-3	3	36	81		27 26	53	13	11
	51 147						84 45	209		36
79	Anthony Cirelli	Tampa Bay	C	77		18	Evander Kane	San Jose	LW	73
	15 20	35	3	2	26		26 53	-6	9	92
	74 26	113					30 287			150
80	Patrik Berglund	Buffalo	C	66	16	19	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	Edmonton	LW	11
	14 30	-4	6	30	118		72 26	30	56	11
	36 115						24 48	41	197	11
1	Alexander Ovechkin	Washington	LW	81		20	Gabriel Landeskog	Colorado	LW	76
	46 34	80	8	28	42		32 55	1	15	53
	179 27	356					52 176			146
2	Jamie Benn	Dallas	LW	80	36	21	Jake Guentzel	Pittsburgh	LW	80
	46 82	7	25	61	132		31 56	2	10	36
	57 233						43 168			142
3	Taylor Hall	New Jersey	LW	77		22	Anders Lee	N.Y. Islanders	LW	81
	33 45	78	4	26	38		34 21	55	-9	19
	71 42	270					144 38	209		51
4	Brad Marchand	Boston	LW	73	34	23	Jaden Schwartz	St. Louis	LW	67
	41 75	17	23	75	48		33 55	15	11	22
	30 210						37 155			57
5	Claude Giroux	Philadelphia	LW	81		24	Matthew Tkachuk	Calgary	LW	74
	26 56	82	8	32	34		34 55	8	17	93
	53 28	207					21 189			81
6	Artemi Panarin	Columbus	LW	81	30	25	J.T. Miller	Tampa Bay	LW	82
	50 80	13	22	26	25		34 55	5	12	38
	17 214						39 138			131
7	Rickard Rakell	Anaheim	LW	74	35	26	Jeff Skinner	Buffalo	LW	81
	31 66	8	17	18	124		27 56	-9	12	36
	34 227						24 290			33
8	Filip Forsberg	Nashville	LW	75	29	27	Ilya Kovalchuk	Los Angeles	LW	75
	35 64	12	18	38	96		26 35	61	-8	23
	35 210						23 15	219		30
9	Johnny Gaudreau	Calgary	LW	78	25	28	Mike Hoffman	Florida	LW	79
	56 81	1	21	18	17		31 55	-6	20	34
	15 213						29 245			32
10	Jonathan Marchessault	Vegas	LW	76		29	Chris Kreider	N.Y. Rangers	LW	75
	27 35	62	4	18	38		22 24	46	3	12
	105 22	237					142 31	170		56
11	Nikolaj Ehlers	Winnipeg	LW	82	28	30	Jake DeBrusk	Boston	LW	75
	37 65	7	12	32	42		28 47	11	11	22
	28 224						31 169			82
12	Sebastian Aho	Carolina	LW	80	28	31	Boone Jenner	Columbus	LW	78
	37 65	2	19	26	58		18 36	0	5	52
	16 207						79 203			209
13	Clayton Keller	Arizona	LW	80	25	32	Kyle Connor	Winnipeg	LW	77
	49 74	-6	21	26	9		27 53	2	10	18
	31 230						29 184			18
14	James van Riemsdyk	Philadelphia	LW			33	Kevin Fiala	Nashville	LW	77
	80 32	25	57	2	19		25 45	11	8	26
	28 62	22	248				25 187			47



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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34	Milan Lucic	Edmonton	LW	81	53	Mathieu Perreault	Winnipeg	LW	69	14
	16 27	43 -1	12	73		27 41	-4 14	36	105	
	238 23	148				27 136				
35	Ondrej Palat	Tampa Bay	LW	68	54	Anthony Beauvillier	N.Y. Islanders	LW	75	14
	14 28	42 12	11	20		18 18	36 2	5		
	113 55	136				94 33	139			
36	Patrick Marleau	Toronto	LW	82	55	Valentin Zykov	Carolina	LW	75	21
	20 46	-4 14	18	79		18 39	6 7	16	24	
	30 203					11 142				
37	Tanner Pearson	Los Angeles	LW	81	56	Patrick Maroon	St. Louis	LW	75	15
	17 23	40 9	5	22		16 31	3 6	83	160	
	115 35	171				16 141				
38	Nick Foligno	Columbus	LW	74	57	Andrew Cogliano	Anaheim	LW	82	12
	23 40	-4 10	52	168		23 35	9 0	34	90	
	54 152					29 165				
39	Brandon Saad	Chicago	LW	81	58	Tomas Tatar	Montreal	LW	82	20
	22 45	2 4	12	32		17 37	-6 12	30	71	
	29 229					24 161				
40	Zach Parise	Minnesota	LW	67	59	Max Domi	Montreal	LW	76	13
	22 20	42 -1	10	26		45 -6	11 65	40	32	25
	48 55	197				141				
41	Alex Killorn	Tampa Bay	LW	81	60	Andre Burakovsky	Washington	LW	70	24
	16 25	41 10	8	50		15 21	36 6	4		
	85 24	161				45 31	123			
42	Ryan Donato	Boston	LW	77	61	Ryan Spooner	N.Y. Rangers	LW	69	14
	20 46	7 10	14	39		13 30	43 -2	12		
	20 156					52 17	131			
43	Eeli Tolvanen	Nashville	LW	77	62	Carl Hagelin	Pittsburgh	LW	76	10
	21 44	7 6	22	60		21 31	8 0	26	94	
	25 150					32 161				
44	Nick Ritchie	Anaheim	LW	77	63	Brendan Perlini	Arizona	LW	78	19
	18 30	3 3	71	243		13 32	-4 10	32	80	
	27 140					32 141				
45	Conor Sheary	Buffalo	LW	74	64	Chris Kunitz	Chicago	LW	79	12
	21 43	5 7	18	34		18 30	6 3	35	172	
	28 161					28 104				
46	Vladislav Namestnikov	N.Y. Rangers	LW	74	65	Leo Komarov	N.Y. Islanders	LW	74	34
	79 17	23 40	6	10		12 15	27 -3	5		
	42 71	38 133				238 43	118			
47	Zach Hyman	Toronto	LW	82	66	Marcus Johansson	New Jersey	LW	68	20
	22 35	9 0	34	113		16 25	41 -2	12		
	49 152					25 21	108			
48	Alexander Steen	St. Louis	LW	74	67	Andrew Ladd	N.Y. Islanders	LW	76	32
	31 46	-5 15	34	46		17 15	32 -2	5		
	52 149					99 42	137			
49	Charles Hudon	Montreal	LW	74	68	Justin Abdelkader	Detroit	LW	74	13
	24 38	-6 7	38	139		20 33	-12 9	82	175	
	37 178					38 119				
50	Thomas Vanek	Detroit	LW	76	69	Ryan Dzingel	Ottawa	LW	80	19
	29 49	-5 14	28	30		19 38	-5 6	32	66	
	14 154					20 130				
51	Micheal Ferland	Carolina	LW	75	70	Artturi Lehkonen	Montreal	LW	75	17
	17 34	-2 4	37	185		15 32	-6 5	14	77	
	28 136					26 171				
52	Erik Haula	Vegas	LW	75	71	Andreas Johnsson	Toronto	LW	75	18
	20 39	-2 9	34	71		16 34	-4 5	38	40	
	47 155					35 152				



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72	Jakub Vrana	Washington	LW	75	11	Viktor Arvidsson	Nashville	RW	79	30
	15 17	32 3		7 12		31 61	13 8		32 27	
	32 19	143				48 247				
73	Marcus Foligno	Minnesota	LW	77	12	Jakub Voracek	Philadelphia	RW	80	48
	10 13	23 2		1 74		18 54	72 -2		29 48	
	211 47	84				32 30	231			
74	Blake Coleman	New Jersey	LW	72	13	Mitch Marner	Toronto	RW	80	21
	10 10	26 0		0 54		49 70	1 25		32 38	
	200 50	123				34 196				
75	Brock McGinn	Carolina	LW	79	14	Brock Boeser	Vancouver	RW	75	18
	17 32	-11 2		22 147		34 30	64 -6		27 18	
	26 145					37 26	225			
76	Tyler Bertuzzi	Detroit	LW	77	15	William Nylander	Toronto	RW	81	22
	23 33	-3 2		57 95		44 66	8 21		20 24	
	55 125					18 207				
77	Jordan Greenway	Minnesota	LW	75	16	Dustin Brown	Los Angeles	RW	81	44
	8 18	26 14		0 52		21 28	49 10		10 44	
	98 28	49				211 30	222			
78	Sven Baertschi	Vancouver	LW	67	17	Alexander Radulov	Dallas	RW	79	22
	16 16	32 -4		7 18		41 63	7 19		67 76	
	33 34	107				52 182				
79	Frank Vatrano	Florida	LW	68	18	Kyle Palmieri	New Jersey	RW	74	36
	11 25	-2 3		36 96		26 25	51 1		22 36	
	32 171					110 47	194			
80	Paul Byron	Montreal	LW	69	19	Mark Stone	Ottawa	RW	73	23
	12 27	4 3		18 106		40 63	6 14		24 56	
	37 83					51 152				
1	Nikita Kucherov	Tampa Bay	RW	78	20	Nino Niederreiter	Minnesota	RW	79	44
	39 53	92 10		33 38		23 27	50 15		12 44	
	38 20	254				107 22	179			
2	Patrick Kane	Chicago	RW	82	21	Cam Atkinson	Columbus	RW	76	28
	55 90	-3 27		30 25		25 53	7 14		20 36	
	16 287					33 232				
3	Blake Wheeler	Winnipeg	RW	81	22	T.J. Oshie	Washington	RW	74	33
	55 79	7 29		50 95		22 27	49 9		17 33	
	60 252					119 55	146			
4	Patrik Laine	Winnipeg	RW	78	23	Alex DeBrincat	Chicago	RW	80	29
	28 71	7 24		24 81		25 54	7 13		10 44	
	40 236					28 199				
5	Vladimir Tarasenko	St. Louis	RW	80	24	Teuvo Teravainen	Carolina	RW	81	23
	35 71	9 20		20 65		40 63	2 19		16 27	
	34 288					28 184				
6	David Pastrnak	Boston	RW	78	25	Mikko Rantanen	Colorado	RW	78	25
	40 74	9 25		36 64		41 66	-7 24		28 31	
	32 254					37 166				
7	Joe Pavelski	San Jose	RW	82	26	Evgeni Dadonov	Florida	RW	77	26
	42 69	9 24		36 116		32 58	3 9		16 59	
	70 226					32 185				
8	Phil Kessel	Pittsburgh	RW	82	27	Wayne Simmonds	Philadelphia	RW	78	97
	48 76	1 30		28 10		25 23	48 -9		16 97	
	16 256					153 53	202			
9	Patric Hornqvist	Pittsburgh	RW	73	28	Mats Zuccarello	N.Y. Rangers	RW	80	32
	25 50	8 19		44 166		18 38	56 -1		16 32	
	61 244					75 64	177			
10	Mikael Granlund	Minnesota	RW	79	29	Tyler Toffoli	Los Angeles	RW	77	18
	23 45	68 9		21 18		24 23	47 11		11 18	
	58 49	181				68 15	197			



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30	Corey Perry 31 53 35 192	Anaheim RW -2 16 71 78	77 22	49	Timo Meier 17 35 39 211	San Jose RW 2 4 44 121	80 18
31	Ondrej Kase 26 48 38 210	Anaheim RW 9 5 31 66	78 22	50	Pavel Buchnevich 16 31 50 32	N.Y. Rangers RW 47 2 153 15	77 24
32	James Neal 21 47 27 219	Calgary RW 3 11 37 69	73 26	51	Nick Schmaltz 35 51 39 113	Chicago RW 7 9 16 20	77 16
33	Reilly Smith 27 48 31 165	Vegas RW 11 11 24 60	74 21	52	Alex Tuch Vegas 39 -2 161	RW 9 24 95 44	77 16
34	Sam Reinhart 32 55 40 191	Buffalo RW -6 20 18 38	81 23	53	Nick Bjugstad 24 40 20 194	Florida RW -4 8 39 93	71 16
35	Travis Konecny 21 24 108 46	Philadelphia RW 45 8 177 3	76 53	54	Charlie Coyle 15 28 96 62	Minnesota RW 43 7 136 5	76 22
36	Yanni Gourde 21 27 52 35	Tampa Bay RW 48 12 135 9	78 46	55	Richard Panik 21 38 41 146	Arizona RW 5 7 48 142	77 17
37	Jakob Silfverberg 25 45 57 204	Anaheim RW 7 7 22 60	79 20	56	Tom Wilson 12 20 248 47	Washington RW 32 4 119 1	80 167
38	Craig Smith 22 43 26 203	Nashville RW 7 9 30 74	80 21	57	Elias Lindholm 33 48 42 158	Calgary RW -6 11 18 102	79 15
39	Justin Williams 30 49 42 191	Carolina RW 3 11 50 54	81 19	58	Gustav Nyquist 26 44 29 193	Detroit RW -2 10 24 62	81 18
40	David Backes 22 40 38 157	Boston RW 3 8 63 174	74 18	59	Josh Bailey 15 36 27 36	N.Y. Islanders RW 51 -8 145 18	78 16
41	Josh Anderson 15 36 41 198	Columbus RW 5 2 79 160	79 21	60	Danton Heinen 27 42 31 128	Boston RW 5 10 16 46	77 15
42	David Perron 38 53 24 137	St. Louis RW -1 15 54 116	73 15	61	Robby Fabbri 24 41 15 136	St. Louis RW -6 10 32 69	72 17
43	Brendan Gallagher 24 47 31 200	Montreal RW -2 12 34 73	70 23	62	Filip Zadina 15 31 25 172	Detroit RW 2 7 24 45	76 16
44	Anthony Mantha 23 46 38 181	Detroit RW 1 9 57 74	75 23	63	Daniel Sprong 13 30 25 162	Pittsburgh RW 3 0 0 83	75 17
45	Jordan Eberle 24 30 37 30	N.Y. Islanders RW 54 -5 187 11	79 18	64	Bryan Rust 19 33 40 143	Pittsburgh RW 5 2 20 120	72 14
46	Andrei Svechnikov 19 41 25 190	Carolina RW 5 8 53 60	75 22	65	Ryan Hartman 16 31 34 150	Nashville RW 7 1 71 117	77 15
47	Kyle Okposo 32 50 33 170	Buffalo RW -9 22 38 71	74 18	66	Oliver Bjorkstrand 24 37 34 146	Columbus RW 5 6 10 52	74 13
48	Tyler Johnson 19 27 47 37	Tampa Bay RW 46 2 167 14	75 24	67	Michael Grabner 10 31 41 153	Arizona RW 7 1 14 54	79 21



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68	Kyler Yamamoto 11 24 52 25	Edmonton 35 2 187	RW	75 6	18	7	John Klingberg 51 61 101 186	Dallas 11 21 30	D	80 30	10 43
69	Christian Fischer 19 36 22 159	Arizona -10 8 14	RW	78 14	17 114	8	Dustin Byfuglien 36 48 103 210	Winnipeg 8 18 110	D	75 110	12 169
70	Kevin Labanc 26 39 22 136	San Jose 2 9 32	RW	78 32	13 30	9	P.K. Subban 41 54 91 183	Nashville 8 23 71	D	75 71	13 101
71	Valeri Nichushkin 20 33 30 137	Dallas 4 3 12	RW	79 12	13 80	10	John Carlson 12 42 50 133	Washington 54 6 195	D	74 24	74 22
72	Brett Ritchie 9 22 18 155	Dallas 6 2 44	RW	75 44	13 176	11	Shayne Gostisbehere 77 13 28 46	Philadelphia 43 56 101 207	D	81 2	14 28
73	Loui Eriksson 17 21 15 45	Vancouver 38 2 154	RW	74 7	10	12	Mark Giordano 30 44 175 198	Calgary 8 13 60	D	81 60	14 82
74	Jason Pominville 24 38 35 175	Buffalo -5 7 8	RW	79 8	14 38	13	Kris Letang 43 53 102 196	Pittsburgh -2 21 53	D	68 53	10 106
75	Patrick Eaves 12 27 30 149	Anaheim 3 8 20	RW	60 20	15 71	14	Ryan Suter 7 41 74 129	Minnesota 48 10 160	D	80 20	80 34
76	Mikkel Boedker 25 40 30 140	Ottawa -8 10 12	RW	77 12	15 54	15	Alex Pietrangelo 36 49 155 199	St. Louis 6 13 22	D	78 22	13 46
77	Bobby Ryan 22 36 41 130	Ottawa -9 7 20	RW	67 20	14 102	16	Dougie Hamilton 34 49 94 244	Carolina 1 14 62	D	81 62	15 82
78	Stefan Noesen 14 11 107 33	New Jersey 25 6 122	RW	71 0	38	17	Zach Werenski 30 44 95 207	Columbus 13 16 16	D	78 16	14 52
79	Andrew Shaw 16 29 28 117	Montreal -2 7 71	RW	68 71	13 114	18	Torey Krug 43 53 81 212	Boston -1 23 36	D	78 36	10 70
80	Tobias Rieder 15 18 72 43	Edmonton 33 -8 152	RW	79 5	8	19	Ivan Provorov 12 26 135 176	Philadelphia 38 5 191	D	82 5	82 28
1	Brent Burns 51 71 140 334	San Jose -4 27 48	D	82 48	20 82	20	Mikhail Sergachev 10 35 110 77	Tampa Bay 45 9 171	D	80 19	80 46
2	Victor Hedman 15 47 109 121	Tampa Bay 62 17 195	D	78 26	50	21	Jake Muzzin 8 32 175 126	Los Angeles 40 2 174	D	78 13	78 48
3	Drew Doughty 12 42 127 121	Los Angeles 54 16 197	D	82 21	52	22	Matt Dumba 13 27 124 97	Minnesota 40 8 175	D	80 13	80 49
4	Erik Karlsson 57 70 154 215	Ottawa -7 22 38	D	75 38	13 67	23	Rasmus Ristolainen 34 41 125 181	Buffalo -12 22 44	D	77 44	7 180
5	Roman Josi 41 55 136 231	Nashville 11 20 26	D	76 26	14 68	24	Colton Parayko 30 37 136 204	St. Louis 5 9 22	D	81 22	7 111
6	Seth Jones 41 55 129 214	Columbus 6 18 28	D	77 28	14 88	25	Ryan Ellis 40 16 155	Nashville 8 20 52	D	71 52	13 123





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26	Keith Yandle	Florida	D	82	7	45	Brandon Montour	Anaheim	D	79	8
	46 53	1	20	40	32		23 31	10	9	44	92
	91 181						84 164				
27	Charlie McAvoy	Boston	D	75	6	46	Shea Theodore	Vegas	D	78	9
	31 37	15	9	65	167		28 37	4	11	34	37
	100 95						94 178				
28	Oliver Ekman-Larsson	Arizona	D	79		47	Ryan McDonagh	Tampa Bay	D	70	
	15 30	45	-12	19	58		6 23	29	11	8	26
	147 78	194					80 156	116			
29	Dmitry Orlov	Washington	D	82		48	Darnell Nurse	Edmonton	D	78	
	9 26	35	11	4	34		6 16	22	2	1	71
	144 111	133					190 136	177			
30	Zdeno Chara	Boston	D	75	8	49	Josh Morrissey	Winnipeg	D	81	7
	20 28	14	5	63	137		18 25	9	2	45	149
	125 146						160 105				
31	Matt Niskanen	Washington	D	74		50	Mattias Ekholm	Nashville	D	81	8
	6 24	30	14	6	36		24 32	12	7	42	69
	135 109	136					112 126				
32	Alec Martinez	Los Angeles	D	79		51	Justin Schultz	Pittsburgh	D	69	6
	9 21	30	1	12	34		27 33	15	12	20	44
	125 190	123					87 122				
33	Jake Gardiner	Toronto	D	81	7	52	Brady Skjei	N.Y. Rangers	D	81	
	38 45	6	14	34	65		5 31	36	-8	8	46
	89 129						157 110	156			
34	Morgan Rielly	Toronto	D	78	7	53	Marc-Edouard Vlasic	San Jose	D	76	9
	37 44	-4	17	20	50		22 31	9	6	38	30
	103 176						156 146				
35	Josh Manson	Anaheim	D	78	6	54	Hampus Lindholm	Anaheim	D	73	11
	22 28	16	0	75	197		18 29	10	9	36	88
	91 110						101 127				
36	Brent Seabrook	Chicago	D	81	7	55	Oskar Klefbom	Edmonton	D	74	
	27 34	2	10	34	101		9 22	31	-3	11	12
	159 143						46 141	202			
37	Jeff Petry	Montreal	D	75	9	56	Adam Larsson	Edmonton	D	72	
	36 -11	15	24	154	129		4 12	16	9	0	50
	163						246 147	84			
38	Tyson Barrie	Colorado	D	72	12	57	Jacob Slavin	Carolina	D	82	7
	38 50	-10	23	24	37		26 33	9	3	12	41
	79 169						158 127				
39	Shea Weber	Montreal	D	50	12	58	Alex Goligoski	Arizona	D	80	9
	22 34	3	14	24	111		27 36	-7	9	28	116
	109 130						152 120				
40	Aaron Ekblad	Florida	D	78	14	59	Johnny Boychuk	N.Y. Islanders	D	68	
	20 34	-1	10	62	81		7 15	22	3	3	28
	105 205						147 136	164			
41	Justin Faulk	Carolina	D	73	12	60	Alexander Edler	Vancouver	D	65	
	27 39	-13	17	38	121		6 24	30	-9	11	54
	83 207						126 163	148			
42	Ryan Pulock	N.Y. Islanders	D	76		61	Kevin Shattenkirk	N.Y. Rangers	D	67	
	11 23	34	-2	10	18		10 32	42	-12	20	50
	120 93	190					72 93	145			
43	Jared Spurgeon	Minnesota	D	70		62	Will Butcher	New Jersey	D	80	
	10 26	36	7	11	12		6 39	45	-1	24	14
	57 138	122					23 70	98			
44	Duncan Keith	Chicago	D	78	5	63	Jacob Trouba	Winnipeg	D	65	7
	38 43	-3	13	24	30		19 26	6	4	48	105
	138 172						129 137				



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64	Sami Vatanen 5 27 86 111	New Jersey 32 -2 137	D	72 16 32	4	Braden Holtby 39 2.56 .916 3	Washington G	4.83	59
65	Radko Gudas 4 14 231 132	Philadelphia 18 2 137	D	71 0 93	5	Jonathan Quick 34 2.32 .919 5	Los Angeles G	4.73	65
66	Nick Leddy 9 34 88 101	N.Y. Islanders 43 -14 141	D	81 16 20	7	Devan Dubnyk 35 2.40 .919 5	Minnesota G	4.80	63
67	Anton Stralman 6 18 104 93	Tampa Bay 24 14 129	D	77 3 20	8	Tuukka Rask 2.37 .916 5 4.47	Boston G	59	34
68	Colin Miller 23 32 61 144	Vegas -2 11 66 133	D	75 66 133	9	Sergei Bobrovsky 2.41 .920 4 4.13	Columbus G	60	34
69	Justin Braun 21 25 151 110	San Jose 6 0 30 130	D	80 30 130	11	John Gibson 2.28 .924 5 4.03	Anaheim G	60	31
70	Cam Fowler 26 34 116 136	Anaheim 1 13 26 28	D	72 26 28	12	Matt Murray 2.56 .917 3 3.20	Pittsburgh G	55	34
71	Esa Lindell 16 23 126 119	Dallas 9 5 24 95	D	78 24 95	13	Frederik Andersen 2.74 .918 4 3.63	Toronto G	62	36
72	Erik Johnson 17 25 156 167	Colorado -7 4 44 122	D	67 44 122	14	Martin Jones 2.44 .915 4 3.53	San Jose G	63	33
73	Tyler Myers 23 30 98 131	Winnipeg 6 8 55 56	D	70 55 56	15	Carey Price 2.63 .919 2 0.37	Montreal G	56	27
74	Dion Phaneuf 6 21 149 132	Los Angeles 27 -10 135	D	77 10 69	16	Henrik Lundqvist 29 2.79 .915 2	N.Y. Rangers G	0.37	62
75	Calvin De Haan 16 19 162 99	Carolina 10 1 22 117	D	71 22 117	17	Antti Raanta 2.25 .923 5 2.77	Arizona G	52	27
76	Olli Maatta 16 21 105 122	Pittsburgh 10 4 22 104	D	72 22 104	18	Ben Bishop 2.41 .917 4 1.70	Dallas G	54	27
77	David Savard 16 20 130 136	Columbus 4 0 38 135	D	75 38 135	19	Marc-Andre Fleury 2.45 .921 3 1.70	Vegas G	47	28
78	Noah Hanifin 28 35 73 150	Calgary -8 11 24 72	D	80 24 72	20	Jake Allen 2.56 .912 3 1.03	St. Louis G	57	28
79	Vince Dunn 22 28 69 159	St. Louis 3 10 22 34	D	77 22 34	21	Mike Smith 2.69 .915 3 -0.30	Calgary G	55	25
80	Thomas Chabot 23 34 90 132	Ottawa -9 11 20 63	D	78 20 63	22	Roberto Luongo 2.49 .923 3 -0.37	Florida G	43	22
1	Pekka Rinne 2.38 .920 6 6.23	Nashville 6 6.23	G	61 6 6.23	23	Corey Crawford 2.37 .925 2 -0.90	Chicago G	35	20
2	Andrei Vasilevskiy 39 2.55 5 5.63	Tampa Bay .919 5 5 5.63	G	62 5 5.63	24	Brian Elliott 24 2.48 .914 2	Philadelphia G	-0.30	44
3	Connor Hellebuyck 2.49 .919 5 5.17	Winnipeg 5 5.17	G	64 5 5.17	25	Cam Talbot 25 2.75 .913 3	Edmonton G	-0.57	48
					26	Philipp Grubauer 2.46 .922 2 -1.30	Colorado G	44	20
					27	Craig Anderson 2.87 .911 3 -1.03	Ottawa G	54	25
					28	Cam Ward 2.64 .907 2 -1.40	Chicago G	49	23
					29	Cory Schneider 23 2.70 .913 2	New Jersey G	-1.40	50
						Mikko Koskinen 18 2.51 .916 3	Edmonton G	-2.00	36
						James Reimer 2.76 .917 3 -2.13	Florida G	43	20



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30	Carter Hutton 2.55 .918	Buffalo 3	G -2.40	37	17	Ilya Samsonov	Washington	G	
31	Semyon Varlamov 2.63 .916	Colorado 2	G -2.40	41	19	Jon Gillies	Calgary	G	
32	Linus Ullmark 2.61 .916	Buffalo 1	G -2.67	45	19	TSN.CA LOADED: 09.13.2018			
33	Scott Darling 2.83 .904	Carolina 2	G -3.13	43	20	1104334 Websites			
34	Jonathan Bernier 2.72 .913	Detroit 2	G -2.80	42	19	TSN.CA / Statistically Speaking: Projected Top 300 Scorers			
35	Robin Lehner 19 2.79	N.Y. Islanders .915 2	G -2.97	47		Scott Cullen			
36	Malcolm Subban 2.73 .909	Vegas 1	G -3.30	35	19				
37	Jacob Markstrom 18 2.69	Vancouver .912 1	G -3.40	45		There is one player above all the rest when it comes to projecting the top scorers for the 2018-2019 NHL season.			
38	Petr Mrazek 2.86 .906	Carolina 3	G -3.50	41	18	When it comes to the player at the top of the heap, there's no question, it's Connor McDavid. He led the league in scoring during a miserable season in Edmonton last year and while there's no guarantee that it will be better next year, he's the prohibitive favourite to win his third straight scoring title.			
39	Jimmy Howard 2.65 .914	Detroit 1	G -3.53	44	17				
40	Juuse Saros 2.40 .924	Nashville 2	G -4.03	24	11	There were 5.94 goals per game scored in the National Hockey League last season, the highest per-game rate of red lights since the power-play-fueled 2005-2006 season.			
41	Garret Sparks 2.48 .919	Toronto 2	G -4.13	22	12	Generally, more goals makes for a more entertaining product, so that should be a positive, but for those of us forecasting point totals, the question is: will it last?			
42	Keith Kinkaid 16 2.74	New Jersey .912 1	G -4.23	33		It appeared that a slashing crackdown had a positive effect early last season, though that standard seemed to slip (as seems to be the case with virtually every rule crackdown in the history of the league).			
43	Aaron Dell 2.32 .922	San Jose 1	G -4.50	21	10	But, it's important because we know it's possible that calling the games by the rules is enough to keep sufficient offence in the game.			
44	Ryan Miller 2.55 .918	Anaheim 2	G -4.73	27	11	Last season there were three 100-point scorers, nine 90-point scorers and 21 80-point scorers. By contrast, in 2013-2014, there were seven 80-point scorers, and two of those players landed exactly on 80 (though there were four more at 79).			
45	Casey DeSmith 2.51 .916	Pittsburgh 1	G -4.67	28	12	In any case, if last season's numbers are any indication then the guys at the top end may have a little bit of a higher ceiling than they had in previous seasons.			
46	Anton Khudobin 2.62 .910	Dallas 1	G -4.90	29	13	After McDavid, the rest of the challengers may be great players, but it's difficult to project them over 100 points, which isn't so tough with No. 97 as long as he stays healthy.			
47	Darcy Kuemper 2.65 .912	Arizona 2	G -4.93	30	12	Sidney Crosby finished 10th in the league in scoring last season, but had a career-low on-ice shooting percentage (6.1%). If his percentages bounce back, and the Penguins power play stays lethal, Crosby is still a safe bet.			
48	Michal Neuvirth 12 2.57	Philadelphia .912 1	G -5.00	26		While Crosby is tried-and-true, Nikita Kucherov is on the way up. He put up 100 points last season, but his on-ice shooting percentage (10.2%) was rather lofty and that could make it tough to duplicate his production.			
49	Thomas Greiss 16 2.93	N.Y. Islanders .906 1	G -5.07	37		Like Crosby, Patrick Kane is a proven scorer coming off a season with a relatively low on-ice shooting percentage, so a recovery is a reasonable expectation.			
50	Jaroslav Halak 2.87 .913	Boston 2	G -5.97	26	11	Nathan MacKinnon had a bust-out season in 2017-2018, his point total jumping from 53 to 97, but is it safe to assume that he just carries on from that season? Is that MacKinnon's new normal?			
	Ville Husso	St. Louis	G			These are the kinds of questions necessary not just for the top players, but for players throughout the league. Was last year for real? Can this			
	Carter Hart	Philadelphia	G						
	Thatcher Demko	Vancouver	G						
	Eric Comrie	Winnipeg	G						
	Charlie Lindgren	Montreal	G						



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player be trusted to stay healthy? How safe is a player's spot in the lineup? Is that lineup written in pen or pencil? Remember, the best-laid plans in the offseason can get changed very quickly once the games start for real. Last year, for example, Jordan Eberle was going to play with John Tavares and Kyle Conner started the year in the AHL. Stuff happens.

But, this is a fun time of year. Hockey is on its way back and we get to start debating the merits of players and teams.

Today, you get my Top 300 projected scorers for the 2018-2019 NHL season. Tomorrow, full fantasy rankings will be online, with Google sheets available for the die-hards who want to make their own calculations.

Keep your stick on the ice, and good luck!

1	Connor McDavid	Edmonton	C	80	21	Anze Kopitar	Los Angeles	C	80
	39 69	108				27 48	75		
2	Sidney Crosby	Pittsburgh C	80	35	22	Nicklas Backstrom	Washington	C	79
	59 94					21 54	75		
3	Nikita Kucherov	Tampa Bay	RW	78	23	David Pastrnak	Boston RW	78	34
	39 53	92				40 74			
4	Patrick Kane	Chicago RW	82	35	24	Clayton Keller	Arizona LW	80	25
	55 90					49 74			
5	Nathan MacKinnon	Colorado C	76	35	25	Mark Scheifele	Winnipeg C	74	32
	53 88					41 73			
6	Evgeny Kuznetsov	Washington	C	81	26	Steven Stamkos	Tampa Bay	C	73
	26 58	84				28 45	73		
7	Evgeni Malkin	Pittsburgh C	69	34	27	Jakub Voracek	Philadelphia	RW	80
	49 83					18 54	72		
8	Jamie Benn	Dallas LW	80	36	28	Patrik Laine	Winnipeg RW	78	43
	46 82					28 71			
9	Claude Giroux	Philadelphia	LW	81	29	Vladimir Tarasenko	St. Louis RW	80	36
	26 56	82				35 71			
10	Johnny Gaudreau	Calgary LW	78	25	30	Brent Burns	San Jose D	82	20
	56 81					51 71			
11	Alexander Ovechkin	Washington	LW	81	31	Jack Eichel	Buffalo C	75	28
	46 34	80				42 70			
12	Artemi Panarin	Columbus LW	81	30	32	Aleksander Barkov	Florida C	72	27
	50 80					43 70			
13	Blake Wheeler	Winnipeg RW	81	24	33	Mitch Marner	Toronto RW	80	21
	55 79					49 70			
14	Tyler Seguin	Dallas C	79	36	34	Erik Karlsson	Ottawa D	75	13
	42 78					57 70			
15	Taylor Hall	New Jersey	LW	77	35	Joe Pavelski	San Jose RW	82	27
	33 45	78				42 69			
16	Mathew Barzal	N.Y. Islanders	C	80	36	Leon Draisaitl	Edmonton	C	78
	21 57	78				26 43	69		
17	Auston Matthews	Toronto C	76	43	37	Mikael Granlund	Minnesota	RW	79
	34 77					23 45	68		
18	Phil Kessel	Pittsburgh RW	82	28	38	Ryan Getzlaf	Anaheim C	69	15
	48 76					53 68			
19	Brad Marchand	Boston LW	73	34	39	Vincent Trocheck	Florida C	81	28
	41 75					39 67			
20	John Tavares	Toronto C	80	33	40	Rickard Rakell	Anaheim LW	74	35
	42 75					31 66			
					41	Mikko Rantanen	Colorado RW	78	25
						41 66			
					42	William Nylander	Toronto RW	81	22
						44 66			
					43	Sebastian Aho	Carolina LW	80	28
						37 65			
					44	Nikolaj Ehlers	Winnipeg LW	82	28
						37 65			
					45	Jonathan Huberdeau	Florida LW	77	
						24 41	65		
					46	Brock Boeser	Vancouver	RW	75
						34 30	64		



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47	Filip Forsberg 35 64	Nashville	LW	75	29	73	William Karlsson 29 56	Vegas	C	81	27
48	Brayden Schenn 37 64	St. Louis	C	81	27	74	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins 72 26	Edmonton		LW	
49	Ryan O'Reilly 42 64	St. Louis	C	76	22	75	Jake Guentzel 31 56	Pittsburgh	LW	80	25
50	Teuvo Teravainen 40 63	Carolina	RW	81	23	76	Mats Zuccarello 18 38	N.Y. Rangers		RW	80
51	Mark Stone 40 63	Ottawa	RW	73	23	77	Shayne Gostisbehere 77 13	Philadelphia		D	
52	Alexander Radulov 41 63	Dallas	RW	79	22	78	Anders Lee 34 21	N.Y. Islanders		LW	81
53	Sean Monahan 33 62	Calgary	C	77	29	79	Logan Couture 28 55	San Jose	C	72	27
54	Patrice Bergeron 34 62	Boston	C	72	28	80	Mike Hoffman 31 55	Florida	LW	79	24
55	Jonathan Marchessault 27 35		Vegas	LW	76	81	Gabriel Landeskog 32 55	Colorado	LW	76	23
56	Victor Hedman 15 47	Tampa Bay		D	78	82	Nico Hischier 23 32	New Jersey		C	80
57	Viktor Arvidsson 31 61	Nashville	RW	79	30	83	Sam Reinhart 32 55	Buffalo	RW	81	23
58	Eric Staal 33 61	Minnesota		C	81	84	Jaden Schwartz 33 55	St. Louis	LW	67	22
59	Ilya Kovalchuk 26 35	Los Angeles		LW	75	85	Matthew Tkachuk 34 55	Calgary	LW	74	21
60	John Klingberg 51 61	Dallas		D	80	10	J.T. Miller 34 55	Tampa Bay		LW	82
61	Brayden Point 27 33	Tampa Bay		C	78	87	Joe Thornton 41 55	San Jose	C	70	14
62	Pierre-Luc Dubois 36 60	Columbus		C	80	24	Roman Josi 41 55	Nashville		D	76
63	Dylan Larkin 38 60	Detroit		C	81	22	Seth Jones 41 55	Columbus		D	77
64	Elias Pettersson 25 34	Vancouver		C	78	90	Alex DeBrincat 25 54	Chicago		RW	80
65	Jonathan Toews 36 59	Chicago		C	75	23	Jeff Carter 27 27	Los Angeles		C	72
66	Matt Duchene 31 58	Ottawa		C	79	27	Nazem Kadri 28 54	Toronto		C	80
67	Evgeni Dadonov 32 58	Florida		RW	77	26	Jordan Eberle 24 30	N.Y. Islanders		RW	79
68	Sean Couturier 23 35	Philadelphia		C	73	94	Alex Galchenyuk 31 54	Arizona		C	77
69	Ryan Johansen 43 58	Nashville		C	80	15	Kyle Turris 33 54	Nashville		C	77
70	James van Riemsdyk 80 32		Philadelphia		LW	96	Derek Stepan 37 54	Arizona		C	79
71	Jeff Skinner 27 56	Buffalo		LW	81	29	P.K. Subban 41 54	Nashville		D	75
72	Max Pacioretty 29 56	Vegas		LW	73	27	John Carlson 12 42	Washington		D	74



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99	Drew Doughty 12 42	Los Angeles 54	D	82	125	Dougie Hamilton 34 49	Carolina	D	81	15
100	Cam Atkinson 25 53	Columbus RW	76	28	126	Alex Pietrangelo 36 49	St. Louis	D	78	13
101	Evander Kane 26 53	San Jose LW	73	27	127	Henrik Zetterberg 38 49	Detroit	C	74	11
102	Jason Zucker 27 26	Minnesota 53	LW	78	128	Wayne Simmonds 25 23	Philadelphia 48	RW	78	
103	Kyle Connor 27 53	Winnipeg LW	77	26	129	Adam Henrique 23 48	Anaheim	C	81	25
104	Corey Perry 31 53	Anaheim RW	77	22	130	Ondrej Kase 26 48	Anaheim	RW	78	22
105	Jonathan Drouin 37 53	Montreal C	78	16	131	Reilly Smith 27 48	Vegas	RW	74	21
106	David Perron 38 53	St. Louis RW	73	15	132	Yanni Gourde 21 27	Tampa Bay 48	RW	78	
107	Kris Letang 43 53	Pittsburgh D	68	10	133	David Krejci 30 48	Boston	C	71	18
108	Torey Krug 43 53	Boston D	78	10	134	Elias Lindholm 33 48	Calgary	RW	79	15
109	Keith Yandle 46 53	Florida D	82	7	135	Dustin Byfuglien 36 48	Winnipeg	D	75	12
110	Mika Zibanejad 25 27	N.Y. Rangers 52	C	77	136	Ryan Suter 7 41	Minnesota 48	D	80	
111	Kyle Palmieri 26 25	New Jersey 51	RW	74	137	James Neal 21 47	Calgary	RW	73	26
112	Nick Schmaltz 35 51	Chicago RW	77	16	138	Tyler Toffoli 24 23	Los Angeles 47	RW	77	
113	Josh Bailey 15 36	N.Y. Islanders 51	RW	78	139	Brendan Gallagher 24 47	Montreal	RW	70	23
114	Patric Hornqvist 25 50	Pittsburgh RW	73	25	140	Bo Horvat 26 47	Vancouver	C	75	21
115	Nino Niederreiter 23 27	Minnesota 50	RW	79	141	Jake DeBrusk 28 47	Boston	LW	75	19
116	Kyle Okposo 32 50	Buffalo RW	74	18	142	Jordan Staal 28 47	Carolina	C	79	19
117	Mikko Koivu 16 34	Minnesota 50	C	81	143	Pavel Buchnevich 16 31	N.Y. Rangers 47	RW	77	
118	Tyson Barrie 38 50	Colorado D	72	12	144	Ryan Donato 20 46	Boston	LW	77	26
119	T.J. Oshie 22 27	Washington 49	RW	74	145	Patrick Marleau 20 46	Toronto	LW	82	26
120	Dustin Brown 21 28	Los Angeles 49	RW	81	146	Anthony Mantha 23 46	Detroit	RW	75	23
121	Thomas Vanek 29 49	Detroit LW	76	20	147	Chris Kreider 22 24	N.Y. Rangers 46	LW	75	
122	Justin Williams 30 49	Carolina RW	81	19	148	Henrik Borgstrom 26 46	Florida	C	75	20
123	Mikael Backlund 31 49	Calgary C	82	18	149	Tyler Johnson 19 27	Tampa Bay 46	RW	75	
124	Paul Stastny 34 49	Vegas C	74	15	150	Alexander Steen 31 46	St. Louis	LW	74	15



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151	Brandon Saad 22 45	Chicago	LW	81	23	177	Danton Heinen 27 42	Boston	RW	77	15
152	Travis Konecny 21 24	Philadelphia	RW	45	76	178	Ondrej Palat 14 28	Tampa Bay	LW	42	68
153	Kevin Fiala 25 45	Nashville	LW	77	20	179	Tyler Bozak 28 42	St. Louis	C	74	14
154	Jakob Silfverberg 25 45	Anaheim	RW	79	20	180	Casey Mittelstadt 31 42	Buffalo	C	77	11
155	Oliver Ekman-Larsson 15 30	Arizona	D	45	79	181	Kevin Shattenkirk 10 32	N.Y. Rangers	D	42	67
156	Max Domi 45	Montreal	LW	76	13	182	Andrei Svechnikov 19 41	Carolina	RW	75	22
157	Mikhail Sergachev 10 35	Tampa Bay	D	45	80	183	Robby Fabbri 24 41	St. Louis	RW	72	17
158	Jake Gardiner 38 45	Toronto	D	81	7	184	Marcus Johansson 16 25	New Jersey	LW	41	68
159	Will Butcher 6 39	New Jersey	D	45	80	185	Alex Killorn 16 25	Tampa Bay	LW	41	81
160	Eeli Tolvanen 21 44	Nashville	LW	77	23	186	Mathieu Perreault 27 41	Winnipeg	LW	69	14
161	Tomas Hertl 23 44	San Jose	C	75	21	187	Alexander Wennberg 10 31	Columbus	C	41	70
162	Derick Brassard 25 44	Pittsburgh	C	76	19	188	Rasmus Ristolainen 34 41	Buffalo	D	77	7
163	Bryan Little 26 44	Winnipeg	C	70	18	189	Artem Anisimov 19 40	Chicago	C	71	21
164	Gustav Nyquist 26 44	Detroit	RW	81	18	190	David Backes 22 40	Boston	RW	74	18
165	Zach Werenski 30 44	Columbus	D	78	14	191	Nick Foligno 23 40	Columbus	LW	74	17
166	Mark Giordano 30 44	Calgary	D	81	14	192	Martin Necas 23 40	Carolina	C	78	17
167	Morgan Rielly 37 44	Toronto	D	78	7	193	Vladislav Namestnikov 79 17	N.Y. Rangers	LW	23 40	
168	Conor Sheary 21 43	Buffalo	LW	74	22	194	Tanner Pearson 17 23	Los Angeles	LW	40	81
169	Craig Smith 22 43	Nashville	RW	80	21	195	Nick Bjugstad 24 40	Florida	RW	71	16
170	Kevin Hayes 20 23	N.Y. Rangers	C	43	77	196	Jack Roslovic 25 40	Winnipeg	C	77	15
171	Milan Lucic 16 27	Edmonton	LW	43	81	197	Mikkel Boedker 25 40	Ottawa	RW	77	15
172	Charlie Coyle 15 28	Minnesota	RW	43	76	198	Ryan Ellis 40	Nashville	D	71	13
173	Ryan Spooner 13 30	N.Y. Rangers	LW	43	69	199	Matt Dumba 13 27	Minnesota	D	40	80
174	Nick Leddy 9 34	N.Y. Islanders	D	43	81	200	Dylan Sikura 28 40	Chicago	RW	75	12
175	Duncan Keith 38 43	Chicago	D	78	5	201	Jake Muzzin 8 32	Los Angeles	D	40	78
176	Zach Parise 22 20	Minnesota	LW	42	67	202	Valentin Zykov 18 39	Carolina	LW	75	21



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203	Erik Haula 20 39	Vegas	LW	75	19	229	Anthony Beauvillier 18 18	N.Y. Islanders	LW	75
204	Victor Rask 23 39	Carolina	C	76	16	230	Boone Jenner 18 36	Columbus	LW	78
205	Alex Tuch Vegas 39	RW	77	16	23	231	Christian Fischer 19 36	Arizona	RW	78
206	Kevin Labanc 26 39	San Jose	RW	78	13	232	Andre Burakovsky 15 21	Washington	LW	70
207	Justin Faulk 27 39	Carolina	D	73	12	233	Adrian Kempe 15 21	Los Angeles	C	78
208	Andreas Athanasiou 17 38	Detroit	C	74	21	234	Bobby Ryan 22 36	Ottawa	RW	67
209	Ryan Dzingel 19 38	Ottawa	LW	80	19	235	Dylan Strome 22 36	Arizona	C	77
210	Loui Eriksson 17 21	Vancouver	RW	74	38	236	Alexander Kerfoot 25 36	Colorado	RW	76
211	Richard Panik 21 38	Arizona	RW	77	17	237	Jared Spurgeon 10 26	Minnesota	D	70
212	Frans Nielsen 22 38	Detroit	C	79	16	238	Jeff Petry 36	Montreal	D	75
213	Jason Spezza 23 38	Dallas	C	75	15	239	Alex Goligoski 27 36	Arizona	D	80
214	Charles Hudon 24 38	Montreal	LW	74	14	240	T.J. Brodie 31 36	Calgary	D	74
215	Jason Pominville 24 38	Buffalo	RW	79	14	241	Brady Skjei 5 31	N.Y. Rangers	D	81
216	Gabe Vilardi 13 25	Los Angeles	C	70	38	242	Timo Meier 17 35	San Jose	RW	80
217	Ivan Provorov 12 26	Philadelphia	D	82	38	243	Anthony Cirelli 15 20	Tampa Bay	C	77
218	Tomas Tatar 17 37	Montreal	LW	82	20	244	Jean-Gabriel Pageau 15 20	Ottawa	C	80
219	Nolan Patrick 16 21	Philadelphia	C	75	37	245	Nikita Scherbak 22 35	Montreal	RW	72
220	Christian Dvorak 21 37	Arizona	C	78	16	246	Zach Hyman 22 35	Toronto	LW	82
221	Oliver Bjorkstrand 24 37	Columbus	RW	74	13	247	Andrew Cogliano 23 35	Anaheim	LW	82
222	Phillip Danault 25 37	Montreal	C	77	12	248	Devin Shore 23 35	Dallas	LW	82
223	Jesper Bratt 12 25	New Jersey	RW	77	37	249	Robert Thomas 24 35	St. Louis	C	75
224	Shea Theodore 28 37	Vegas	D	78	9	250	Kyler Yamamoto 11 24	Edmonton	RW	75
225	Colton Parayko 30 37	St. Louis	D	81	7	251	Dmitry Orlov 9 26	Washington	D	82
226	Charlie McAvoy 31 37	Boston	D	75	6	252	Noah Hanifin 28 35	Calgary	D	80
227	Josh Anderson 15 36	Columbus	RW	79	21	253	Andreas Johnsson 16 34	Toronto	LW	75
228	Brock Nelson 20 16	N.Y. Islanders	C	81	36	254	Micheal Ferland 17 34	Carolina	LW	75





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255	Mattias Janmark 17 34	Dallas	LW	77	17	281	Andrew Ladd 17 15	N.Y. Islanders 32	LW	76
256	Aaron Ekblad 20 34	Florida	D	78	14	282	Sven Baertschi 16 16	Vancouver 32	LW	67
257	Derek Ryan 21 34	Calgary	C	74	13	283	Jakub Vrana 15 17	Washington 32	LW	75
258	Shea Weber 22 34	Montreal	D	50	12	284	Brock McGinn 17 32	Carolina	LW	79 15
259	Sam Gagner 12 22	Vancouver 34	RW	71		285	Lars Eller 17 32	Washington C	80	15
260	Ryan Pulock 11 23	N.Y. Islanders 34	D	76		286	Chris Tierney 19 32	San Jose C	81	13
261	Thomas Chabot 23 34	Ottawa	D	78	11	287	Ryan Strome 12 20	Edmonton 32	C	76
262	Mike Green 25 34	Detroit	D	69	9	288	Tom Wilson 12 20	Washington 32	RW	80
263	Cam Fowler 26 34	Anaheim	D	72	8	289	Josh Ho-Sang 11 21	N.Y. Islanders 32	RW	75
264	Brent Seabrook 27 34	Chicago	D	81	7	290	Pavel Zacha 10 22	New Jersey 32	C	77
265	Tobias Rieder 15 18	Edmonton 33	RW	79		291	Colin Miller 23 32	Vegas D	75	9
266	Radek Faksa 18 33	Dallas	C	80	15	292	Mattias Ekholm 24 32	Nashville D	81	8
267	Ryan Kesler 19 33	Anaheim	C	63	14	293	Sami Vatanen 5 27	New Jersey 32	D	72
268	Bryan Rust 19 33	Pittsburgh	RW	72	14	294	Michael Grabner 10 31	Arizona RW	79	21
269	Logan Brown 19 33	Ottawa	C	75	14	295	Filip Zadina 15 31	Detroit RW	76	16
270	Michael Frolik 20 33	Calgary	RW	72	13	296	Calle Jarnkrok 16 31	Nashville C	75	15
271	Justin Abdelkader 20 33	Detroit	LW	74	13	297	Patrick Maroon 16 31	St. Louis LW	75	15
272	Valeri Nichushkin 20 33	Dallas	RW	79	13	298	Ryan Hartman 16 31	Nashville RW	77	15
273	Travis Zajac 12 21	New Jersey 33	C	70		299	Connor Brown 16 31	Toronto RW	80	15
274	Carl Soderberg 21 33	Colorado	C	79	12	300	Riley Nash 19 31	Columbus C	75	12
275	Tyler Bertuzzi 23 33	Detroit	LW	77	10	301	Evan Rodrigues 20 31	Buffalo LW	72	11
276	Valtteri Filppula 10 23	N.Y. Islanders 33	C	79		302	Jan Kovar 21 31	N.Y. Islanders C	70	10
277	Jacob Slavin 26 33	Carolina	D	82	7	303	Carl Hagelin 21 31	Pittsburgh LW	76	10
278	Justin Schultz 27 33	Pittsburgh	D	69	6	304	Oskar Klefbom 9 22	Edmonton 31	D	74
279	Brendan Perlini 13 32	Arizona	LW	78	19	305	Marc-Edouard Vlasic 22 31	San Jose D	76	9
280	Artturi Lehkonen 15 32	Montreal	LW	75	17	306	Brandon Montour 23 31	Anaheim D	79	8



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STATISTICALLY SPEAKING: Projected Top 300  
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— Scott Cullen (@tsnscottcullen) September 11, 2018

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TSN.CA / Humboldt 'Believes' until the last Bronco comes home

Frank Seravalli

HUMBOLDT, Sask. — Chris Beaudry will forever hear Broncos head coach and general manager Darcy Haugan's refrain from last season.

Whether it was November or January, the message was the same: Believe.

"He would just tell the guys all year, 'We're not a fifth-place team. You guys have gotta believe,'" Beaudry, the Broncos' assistant coach last season, said Tuesday. "He told them, 'Once you start believing, that's when we'll turn it around.'"

The message took hold on Jan. 13, just after the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's trade deadline. Haugan's Broncos lost to the Notre Dame Hounds the night before.

"My message to the guys was we need to start believing. Why not us? Why can't we do this?" Haugan said on March 24. "Somebody please give me an answer, a reason, why we can't do this. We need to start believing."

Haugan found an older, yellow piece of rink kickplate laying in the bowels of Elgar Petersen Arena. He took it to his office and wrote "BELIEVE" across it. Every member of the Broncos signed it, almost a contract of sorts, to stick together and buy-in completely.

Haugan bolted the kickplate to the wall above the Broncos' dressing room door, that covenant being their last vision on the way out to the ice. The Broncos won 13 of their next 16 games and Haugan had special shirts made with "BELIEVE" printed on the front for the start of the SJHL playoffs.

"It was just engrained in our minds," said Brayden Camrud, one of two bus crash survivors who will lead the 2018-19 Broncos forward. "I think one of the reasons our team was so tight last year was we believed in one another. Anything that we believed, it would happen either way."

Believe. It's one small word that has taken on an entirely different meaning in the wake of an unthinkable April 6 tragedy that claimed the life of Haugan and 15 others on the Broncos' bus.

Two days after the accident, Beaudry was mulling around the Broncos' dressing room trying to gather his thoughts when he looked up and saw it.

The assistant coach who was somehow spared so he could help pick up the pieces, ripped the signed piece of kickplate off the wall.

"I have to take this to the hospital," Beaudry thought. "That's where this belongs."

"I said, 'It's staying here until the last boy comes home.'"

That is where the kickplate has remained, in Saskatoon at the hospital, being passed from room to room helping the Broncos recover.

Believe has become the rallying cry, the daily motto, for two Broncos who are still fighting. Layne Matechuk and Morgan Gobeil remain in Saskatoon City Hospital recovering from traumatic brain injuries. They are unable to attend Wednesday night's season opener.

"#believe is the word we are holding onto these days," the Matechuk family said in a statement this summer. "We #believe in the strength and determination that brought Layne success on the ice will bring him success in the months and years ahead. We ask that you continue to send your prayers and support to him - and think of him. And most of all, we ask that you #believe with him and us."

This word holds so much meaning now  #believe #humboldtstrong #yougotthis [pic.twitter.com/kK7xPpaIyB](https://pic.twitter.com/kK7xPpaIyB)

— Carley Matechuk (@carleymatechuk) May 27, 2018

Both families recently provided medical updates in a statement, but requested privacy from the media.

"(Morgan) is now focused on rehabilitation where he participates in physio, occupational and speech therapies and does all this with a good demeanour," the Gobeil family wrote. "Although he knows he was in a bus accident on the way to his game in Nipawin, he does not know the extent of what has happened. And because Morgan does not yet know