mckeen's
HOCKEY
Pool Yearbook

MATTHEWS & MARNER MAGIC

TOP 300 PROSPECTS EXCLUSIVE RANKINGS

UNDER THE RADAR
FANTASY ALL-STARS

TOP 20 PROSPECTS PER TEAM RANKINGS AND PROFILES

LATE, LATE ROUND STEALS

TOP 23 ROOKIES FOR 2023

PLAYER PREDICTIONS AND OVER 1000 PROFILES

mckeen's HOCKEY
POOL YEARBOOK
THE ESSENTIAL HOCKEY ANNUAL

2022-23

mckeenshockey.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MATT BOLDY

PREVIEW 2022–23
BREAKOUTS & HIDDEN GEMS

McKeen's Breakout and Hidden Gems are developed following our exhaustive prediction research for the coming season and highlight some picks that we think will exceed expectations and help you win your pool. We look at points and point per game differentials, league and team trends, and then trim the list to players that will not be obvious to your opponents.

NAME	TM	AGE	POS	2021-22 FINAL					2022-23 PREDICTIONS							
				GP	G	A	PTS	PPG	GP	G	A	PTS	PPG21	PPG22	DIFFPPG	DIFFP
Alex Tuch	Buf	26	RW	50	12	26	38	0.76	77	26	35	61	0.76	0.79	0.03	23
Martin Necas	Car	23	RW	78	14	26	40	0.51	81	22	34	56	0.51	0.69	0.18	16
Seth Jarvis	Car	20	RW	68	17	23	40	0.59	76	19	33	52	0.59	0.68	0.10	12
Bowen Byram	Col	21	D	30	5	12	17	0.57	69	6	30	36	0.57	0.52	-0.04	19
Miro Heiskanen	Dal	23	D	70	5	31	36	0.51	77	15	48	63	0.51	0.82	0.30	27
Ty Dellandrea	Dal	22	C	1	0	0	0	0.00	65	10	20	30	0.00	0.46	0.46	30
Quinton Byfield	LA	20	C	40	5	5	10	0.25	67	14	14	28	0.25	0.42	0.17	18
Matthew Boldy	Min	21	RW	47	15	24	39	0.83	77	27	34	61	0.83	0.79	-0.04	22
Cole Caufield	Mtl	21	LW	67	23	20	43	0.64	78	32	26	58	0.64	0.74	0.10	15
Kirby Dach	Mtl	21	C	70	9	17	26	0.37	77	13	33	46	0.37	0.60	0.23	20
Dawson Mercer	NJ	20	RW	82	17	25	42	0.51	82	21	34	55	0.51	0.67	0.16	13
Jack Hughes	NJ	21	C	49	26	30	56	1.14	74	38	50	88	1.14	1.19	0.05	32
Philip Tomasino	Nsh	21	RW	76	11	21	32	0.42	79	19	28	47	0.42	0.59	0.17	15
Oliver Wahlstrom	NYI	22	RW	73	13	11	24	0.33	78	22	19	41	0.33	0.53	0.20	17
Alexis Lafreniere	NYR	20	RW	79	19	12	31	0.39	80	30	28	58	0.39	0.73	0.33	27
Filip Chytil	NYR	23	C	67	8	14	22	0.33	81	17	25	42	0.33	0.52	0.19	20
Kaapo Kakko	NYR	21	RW	43	7	11	18	0.42	73	22	18	40	0.42	0.55	0.13	22
Drake Batherson	Ott	24	RW	46	17	27	44	0.96	75	24	47	71	0.96	0.95	-0.01	27
Josh Norris	Ott	23	C	66	35	20	55	0.83	77	39	35	74	0.83	0.96	0.13	19
Thomas Chabot	Ott	25	D	59	7	31	38	0.64	77	10	61	71	0.64	0.92	0.28	33
Scott Laughton	Phi	28	LW	67	11	19	30	0.45	82	17	33	50	0.45	0.61	0.16	20
Mikhail Sergachev	TB	24	D	78	7	31	38	0.49	81	11	40	51	0.49	0.63	0.14	13
Andrei Kuzmenko	Van	26	LW						77	19	31	50	0.00	0.65	0.65	50
Ilya Mikheyev	Van	27	LW	53	21	11	32	0.60	75	22	25	47	0.60	0.63	0.02	15
Connor McMichael	Wsh	21	LW	68	9	9	18	0.26	75	18	27	45	0.26	0.60	0.34	27
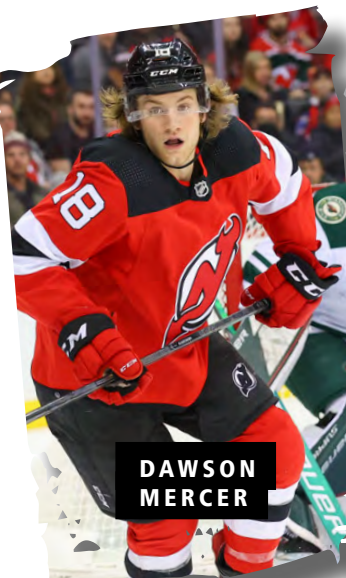
DAWSON MERCER

JOSH NORRIS

COLE CAUFIELD

THOMAS CHABOT

CONNOR MCMICHAEL

5

UNDER THE RADAR
FANTASY ALL-STARS

SCOTT CULLEN

JAKUB VRANA

JACK HUGHES

Finding excess value is the goal for every fantasy hockey draft.

Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl, and Cale Makar are outstanding players and the opportunity to draft one could make or break your fantasy draft, but they do not offer much potential to exceed their preseason value because their preseason value is already at the top of the league. There is upward mobility, of course, but not relative to the potential value that can occur further down the draft board.

It is the players that do not go at the top of the draft that offer the opportunity find surplus value, players with an opportunity to outperform their draft position, and those are the players that can also make a difference for your fantasy squad.

There are several paths to finding players who might be candidates for the Fantasy All-Star team.

BREAKOUT PERFORMERS

Last season was the highest scoring season since 1995-1996, with an average of 3.11 goals per game for each team. There were 60 players that played at least 50 games and scored more than 0.90 points per game in 2021-2022. That list included the likes of Tyler Bertuzzi, Nick Schmaltz, Chris Kreider, Jesper Bratt, Dylan Larkin, Timo Meier, and Jordan Kyrou – players that were exceeding their previous levels of production. Successfully hitting on a few of those players can change the trajectory of your fantasy team.

BOUNCING BACK FROM INJURY

One of the factors that will drop a player's draft value is uncertainty that comes when a player is returning from injury. It can be tough to trust that a player who missed significant time in a season will suddenly be healthy, but that is where the value proposition exists. If the injuries are not chronic, maybe all it takes is a healthy season for a player to reach his potential.

PLAYING PERCENTAGES

Over the years we have learned that statistical aberrations tend not to hold, so if a player typically scores on 12% of his shots on goal, but suddenly scores on 7% one season, the most likely scenario, all things being equal, is that he will rebound to his career norms. Same goes for on-ice shooting percentage – how a player's linemates finish when he is on the ice. Players coming off seasons with low percentages are prime value plays.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

These can come if a player changes teams but even while remaining on the same team a player might move up the depth chart, get better linemates, see more power play time. These are all considerations related to why a player might be able to surpass expectations with their production.

Dylan Larkin, Jesper Bratt, Jared McCann, Rasmus Dahlin, and Noah Dobson were among the Fantasy All-Stars to pay the biggest dividends last season. Here are the Fantasy All-Stars for the 2022-2023 season, players that should be able to offer excess value relative to where they are selected.

Hitting on a few of these players will give your team a better shot at taking home a fantasy championship.

FANTASY ALL-STARS

JACK HUGHES, C, NEW JERSEY

This is not digging deep on the sleeper scale to suggest the No. 1 overall pick in the 2019 Draft, but Hughes has not had a full breakout season just yet. He was on his way last season, putting up 56 points in 49 games, including 48 points in 36 games after Christmas. The Devils have been upgrading their supporting cast and 21-year-old Hughes has shown marked improvement in three NHL seasons. If he can stay healthy this year, 100 points is not out of the question.

JAKUB VRANA, LW, DETROIT

Limited to just 26 games last season as he recovered from shoulder surgery, Vrana has scored 21 goals in 37 games for the Red Wings since he was acquired from the Washington Capitals. He has scored on 21.6% of his shots on goal with Detroit, so that is not going to last, but a full season for Vrana, with an improving supporting cast around him, should set him up for the most productive season of his career.

TYLER TOFFOLI, RW, CALGARY

Traded from Montreal to Calgary last season, Toffoli finished with 49 points in 74 games, his most since 2015-2016, when he played for Los Angeles. He is 30 years old and yet still offers potential value this season because he just might get the opportunity to play with Jonathan Huberdeau on the Flames' top line. Huberdeau elevated the production of his linemates in Florida, including former Flames center Sam Bennett, and could very well do the same for Toffoli in Calgary.

BOONE JENNER, C, COLUMBUS

Despite never scoring 50 points in an NHL season, Jenner has offered fantasy value because of a decent shot rate that leads to goals, and he has had five seasons with more than 150 hits, so he fills in some peripheral categories, too. Jenner just might get a chance to center a line with Columbus' big free agent acquisition, Johnny Gaudreau. If that happens, then Jenner will have more scoring opportunities than ever before.

ARTURI LEHKONEN

ARTTURI LEHKONEN, LW, COLORADO

Traded from Montreal to Colorado last season, the 27-year-old winger was an integral part of the Avalanche Stanley Cup victory. Not only did Lehkonen play a bigger role in Colorado, finishing with 19 goals and 38 points last season, both career highs, he then went on to contribute eight goals and 14 points in 20 playoff games. Now Lehkonen seems set for a second-line role with power play time on an elite team.

SEAN COUTURIER, C, PHILADELPHIA

Back surgery sidelined the Flyers center after 29 games last season and even though he had solid shot rates (2.72 shots per game), Couturier scored on just 7.6% of his shots, his lowest shooting percentage since 2012-2013, and his on-ice shooting percentage of 6.0% was the lowest of his career. If Couturier is healthy and the percentages bounce back, Couturier's point totals could get back on track.

SETH JARVIS, RW, CAROLINA

The Carolina Hurricanes were so good last season that they could ease Jarvis into the lineup. The rookie winger had 20 points in his first 46 games, playing 13:19 per game, but as the season progressed, Jarvis earned a bigger role and he finished the regular season with 20 points in his last 22 games, playing 15:03 per game in that stretch, with a regular spot on the Hurricanes' top line. It is entirely fair to expect the 20-year-old to continue his career ascent in Year 2.

SETH JARVIS

BRENDAN GALLAGHER, RW, MONTREAL

After scoring seven goals and 24 points in 56 games last season, it is a good time to buy low on the crease-crashing Canadiens winger who has two 30-goal seasons to his credit. Gallagher scored on just 4.9% of his shots last season, easily the worst mark of his career, even though he ranked eighth in high danger shot attempts per 60 minutes among players to play at least 500 5-on-5 minutes. The Canadiens should be better than they were last season and Gallagher can bring much more to the table than he did in 2021-2022.

LAWSON CROUSE, LW, ARIZONA

The 25-year-old power forward scored a career-high 20 goals and 34 points last season, even though a broken hand limited him to 65 games. Crouse has also recorded at least 150 hits in four consecutive seasons and given the state of the Coyotes depth chart, there is not much competition for ice time, so Crouse ought to have ample opportunity to play an elevated role. With enough offensive production, Crouse's hit totals can make a difference.

ALEXIS LAFRENIERE, LW, N.Y. RANGERS

The top pick in the 2020 Draft, Lafreniere has not set the league ablaze, but that is in large part due to lack of power play production. 50 of his 52 career points have come at even strength and his 31 even-strength goals in the past two seasons is tied for 66th in the league – the same number as Claude Giroux, one more than John Tavares. There is an opportunity for Lafreniere to move up the Rangers' depth chart this season and with any kind of improvement on the power play, his production could spike.

ALEXIS LAFRENIERE

PHIL KESSEL, RW, VEGAS

He will turn 35 before the season starts and has not missed a game since the 2009-2010 season, but Kessel also scored just eight goals last season while scoring on a career-low 4.6% of his shots on goal. Moving to a competitive Vegas team ought to keep Kessel motivated and they will need him to provide secondary offense. Given his age and last season's scoring woes, he should be a late-round bargain.

CASEY MITTELSTADT, C, BUFFALO

Progress has been uneven for the eighth pick in the 2017 Draft, as he has managed 80 points in 195 career games. How is that possibly going to lead to him making a difference this season? He did score on a career-low 7.6% of his shots on goal last season and is still considered skilled enough to have an opportunity to play on a scoring line and the power play for the Sabres. He is a late-round consideration, and maybe only for deep leagues, but there is a chance that Mittelstadt bursts through with more production than he has ever had in an NHL season which, at this point, has topped out at 25 points.

FANTASY PROSPECTS RANKINGS

PETER HARLING

MATT BENIERS

COLE PERFETTI

SCOTT PERUNOVICH

LUKAS DOSTAL

When preparing for a fantasy draft or evaluating prospects for a trade in your fantasy league you need to understand the difference between rankings, and fantasy rankings.

The difference can be subtle, or significant depending on your leagues scoring and format. Generally speaking, fantasy rankings are based on projected point production. I have found that the vast majority of readers that read and follow my work are in dynasty keeper leagues with peripheral stats, or bangers leagues.

The following rankings are based on projected point production and include added value to players that can contribute other stats, such as hits, blocks, PIM's and faceoff wins.

In fantasy hockey, we have a limited number of prospect roster spots and as such I put higher value on prospects that have a quicker ETA to the NHL or have superstar upside.

This will help you identify the top 30 forwards, 20 defencemen and ten goalies to target in your fantasy leagues.

To be considered a prospect, skaters must be under 26-years-old, and have played in under 60 career games, or less than 35 in a single season. For goalies, less than 30 games played, or 15 in a single season.

MASON MCTAVISH

1. MATTY BENIERS, C – SEATTLE KRAKEN

The Kraken are poised to get an offensive boost this coming season with the additions of Andre Burakovsky and Oliver Bjorkstrand. Those two new wingers will be centered by the Krakens first ever draft pick Matty Beniers, who finishing the season in the NHL scoring nine points in the final ten games. Beniers is a Calder favorite.

2. MARCO ROSSI, C – MINNESOTA WILD

I projected Rossi to make the Wild after his draft in 2020, but he lost a year of development to COVID. He returned last year in the AHL and is now poised to crack a top six with the Wild. Another Calder favorite.

3. COLE PERFETTI, C/LW – WINNIPEG JETS

Thanks to the pandemic, Perfetti now has two seasons of pro development, and the 20-year-old is NHL ready to take a top six role with the Jets. "Goal" Perfetti could develop into a 40-goal scorer.

4. MASON MCTAVISH, C – ANAHEIM DUCKS

The power forward played nine games to start the season with the Ducks before returning to junior to lead Hamilton to an OHL championship. In multi-cat leagues, McTavish will check all the boxes, points, PP points, hits, FOW, he will do it all.

5. KENT JOHNSON, C – COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

Johnson may start on the wing, and may not offer much in peripheral stats, but he will rack up points early and often in his career. If Johnson can lock down a top six center role, he will have either or both Patrick Laine and Johnny Gaudreau on his wing.

6. ALEXANDER HOLTZ, RW – NEW JERSEY DEVILS

The Swedish sniper scored 26 goals and 51 points in the AHL as a rookie. He only had two points in nine NHL games, but he is poised to secure a top six role with the Devils. He is a future 30 goal scorer.

7. QUINTON BYFIELD, C – LA KINGS

Bigger players can take a little longer to develop and the Kings are taking their time with Byfield. The big, smooth skating center can evolve into a dominant NHL first line center, and a dominant multi-cat fantasy asset as well. This one may take a few years yet, but he will be well worth the wait.

8. JACK QUINN, RW – BUFFALO SABRES

I was very critical of the Sabres selecting Quinn ahead of Rossi in the 2020 draft. I still am, but Quinn has been excellent since then dominating the AHL. The gap between the two may be indistinguishable when all is said and done. Quinn is a blue-chip prospect.

9. SHANE WRIGHT, C – SEATTLE KRAKEN

The projected number one prospect in the 2022 Draft fell to fourth. It lit a fire in him and falling to Seattle may be the best thing for him as he has less competition to make the roster. Wright could make Montreal regret passing him by.

10. WILLIAM EKLUND, LW – SAN JOSE SHARKS

Eklund nearly made the Sharks out of his draft but was sent back to the SHL for one more year of development. Eklund will make the team this year and be a top six winger with Calder aspirations.

11. JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY, LW – MONTREAL CANADIENS

The first overall pick in the 2022 draft may start in the NHL, but will need Mike Hoffman and Jonathan Drouin to falter to allow an opportunity for Slafkovsky to step in. As he showed in the World Championship and Olympics, he is up for the task.

12. NICK ROBERTSON, LW – TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

Injuries limited him to just 28 AHL games last year, but he managed 28 points. The Leafs need cap friendly roster players and Robertson could step into a top six role on the high-octane offensive Leafs roster out of training camp.

13. DYLAN GUENTHER, LW/RW – ARIZONA COYOTES

Guenther torched the WHL with a 91-point season and has one more year of junior eligibility to play. Their will be some more wait time before he is lighting NHL goal lamps, but his upside is tremendous.

14. SHANE PINTO, C – OTTAWA SENATORS

Pinto looked to be a lock for 2C, but injuries ended his season after just five games. If he can stay healthy, he would be third line centre at worst providing points, hits, and FOW.

15. LUKAS REICHEL, LW – CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

The German winger was excellent as a rookie in the AHL and showed he is NHL ready. The Hawks are rebuilding, and he is a part of their future. Reichel will see ice time in the NHL and as the Hawks continue to ship out veterans for futures, his role will increase.

ALEXANDER HOLTZ

2022-23 TOP 25 CALDER TROPHY CANDIDATES

BY BROCK OTTEN

1. OWEN POWER – BUFFALO SABRES

As we saw at the end of last year when Power turned pro, he is going to step right into a key role on the Buffalo Sabres blueline. In his eight games last season, Power averaged over 22 minutes per game and played in all situations. If Power can secure a spot on Buffalo's powerplay and put up the kind of numbers that he is capable of, he could easily be a Calder front runner.

2. MATTHEW BENIERS – SEATTLE KRAKEN

Another former Michigan star who was an immediate standout upon turning pro at the end of last year, Beniers may already be Seattle's most talented offensive player. The numbers (in a small sample size) spoke for themselves as he was just under a point per game through 10 contests. He is going to get all the ice time he can handle and has a real chance to be the highest scoring rookie in the NHL this season.

3. KENT JOHNSON – COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

Even with the addition of Johnny Gaudreau, the expectation is that Johnson has a real chance to be a top six forward and powerplay presence for the Blue Jackets this season. His game has improved considerably in the last calendar year, and he should be ready to be an immediate impact player.

4. MASON MCTAVISH – ANAHEIM DUCKS

Is Anaheim truly rebuilding? They may be operating near the cap floor, but they also brought in Klingberg, Ryan Strome, and Frank Vatrano this offseason to support a collection of great young talent. McTavish already got his cup of coffee to start last season and may have stuck had he not gotten injured. This year, he seems like a lock to make the roster. It's just a matter of how much ice time and powerplay time he gets.

5. JACK QUINN – BUFFALO SABRES

Without question, Quinn was one of the AHL's best players last year. As a result, he has emerged as one of the top forward prospects on the planet. It seems pretty likely that Buffalo will give him a spot in the lineup this year, but just how much responsibility he gets remains to be seen with some other talented wingers already in the lineup.

6. MARCO ROSSI – MINNESOTA WILD

After a strong first pro season, Rossi seems well positioned to earn a spot in Minnesota's top nine this season. Moving out Kevin Fiala certainly opened up a spot, even if they play different positions. Maybe the Wild ease him in as a third line pivot behind Eriksson Ek and Hartman, but there's also plenty of opportunity available to him to get a ton of ice time with good wingers. Much like Quinn (these two seem to be forever linked), he could have a big year if he gets enough ice time.

OWEN POWER

MATTHEW BENIERS

KENT JOHNSON

MARCO ROSSI

11. WILLIAM EKLUND – SAN JOSE SHARKS

After a strong start to his NHL career (in a limited audition to start last year), Eklund's development stalled upon returning to Sweden, much to the disappointment of many. This coming year, there's not much blocking Eklund from significant ice time and responsibility on a rebuilding Sharks team. Hopefully he bounces back strong.

12. COLE PERFETTI – WINNIPEG JETS

After two years in the AHL, it's definitely time for Perfetti to take that next step as a permanent fixture in Winnipeg's top nine. He got into 18 games last year with mixed results. With no more Paul Stastny or Andrew Copp, there is an opening on a scoring line. If Perfetti can grab a hold of that, he could have a really nice statistical season.

13. ALEXANDER HOLTZ – NEW JERSEY DEVILS

Holtz was incredible in the AHL last year, his first season in North America. On talent alone, he should be higher on this list. But how much of an opportunity is there for Holtz to be an impact player for New Jersey full time this season? The Devils brought in Ondrej Palat and Erik Haula to an already talented forward group. If Holtz can work his way in, he could have a big year, but it will be tough.

7. JAKE SANDERSON – OTTAWA SENATORS

A hand injury prevented Sanderson from making his debut after signing late last season. This same hand injury prevented him from participating in Senators development camp. Will he be healthy enough to start the year? It seems likely and if so, much like Owen Power, there's not a lot holding Sanderson back from being an immediate top four defender and someone who sees ice time in every situation. The other question is, will he produce enough offensively to be a Calder candidate?

8. VITALI KRAVTSOV – NEW YORK RANGERS

We've done this dance before. Kravtsov was supposed to be one of the top Calder candidates heading into last year. But he struggled to start and returned to Russia for the bulk of the year, before returning again to close out the season in the NHL. His 20 games played makes him barely still eligible for the Calder this season, but the immensely talented winger should be more confident this time around when he tries to crack the top nine yet again.

9. JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY – MONTREAL CANADIENS

The reigning first overall selection in the NHL Draft is usually a slam dunk candidate to be a Calder favourite. For the second year in a row (after Power returned to college last year), we're not even sure that the recent first overall pick plays immediately in the NHL. Slafkovsky will be given every chance to crack Montreal's roster and he very well could be an imme-

diate impact player (as his international success may have proven last year), but there's also a chance that he returns to Europe for another year of seasoning.
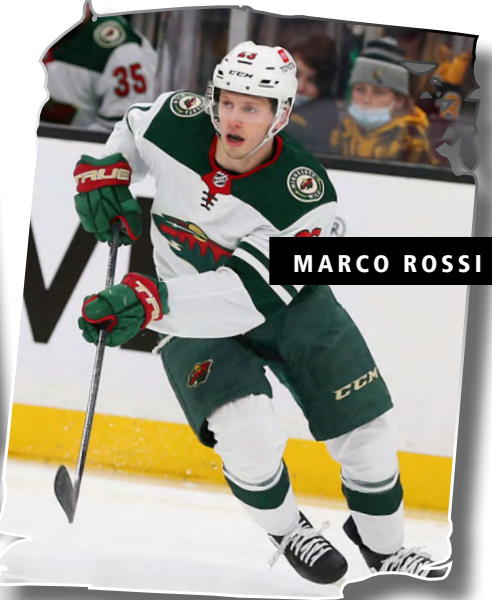
10. SHANE WRIGHT – SEATTLE KRAKEN

Will there be a single player from the 2022 NHL Draft in the NHL this year? It's no slam dunk…but Slafkovsky and Wright have the best odds and opportunity. If Wright comes into Seattle camp and proves that he is ready to be an NHL player, he will make the roster and would be set up to put up some points (similar to the aforementioned Beniers). If not, he will be sent back to the OHL for another season after last year's somewhat indifferent performance.

JACK QUINN

THE LATE LATE SHOW

SLEEPERS

BY PETER HARLING

One of the keys to a champion dynasty team in fantasy hockey is finding value in the draft.

Cherry-picking blue chip prospects in the early rounds is easy and requires little to no homework. Knowing who to pick after the mid rounds while others are frantically flipping through pick lists and magazines is when you can separate yourself from the pack.

Each year there is an influx of new fantasy prospects that have the potential to deliver early round points in the final rounds of your draft. These imports can come from Europe or the NCAA, or some late blooming prospects poised for a breakout. To help give you a competitive edge in your fantasy league, here are some of the prospects that could prove to be gems, mined in the late, late rounds.

ANDREI KUZMENKO

COMING TO AMERICA – EUROPEAN IMPORTS

ANDREY KUZMENKO, LW – VANCOUVER CANUCKS

It seems each year there is at least one import from the KHL that has a high profile and fantasy GM's scramble to acquire. Artemi Panarin set the bar as an undrafted free agent and since then the likes of Vladimir Tkachev, Vladimir Shipachyov and Nikita Gusev have failed to deliver. Kuzmenko is a dynamic offensive forward that was second in KHL scoring in 2021-22 season. He is speedy, and shifty and deceptive. Will his skill translate to the NHL? If t does, he will be a top six winger and very fantasy relevant. If not, he will have no impact whatsoever.

DENIS MALGIN, C – TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

Malgin may be a familiar name as he returns to the NHL where he played a total of 192 games with Florida. He spent the past two seasons in the Swiss league and got NHL scouts attention recently at the Olympics and World Championship where he scored 12 points in eight games. He is

penciled in for the Leafs third line center position where the 25-year-old has the high skill level, and low cap hit the Leafs are looking for.

ANTON LEVTCHI, LW – FLORIDA PANTHERS

With the Matthew Tkachuk trade dominating all the headlines, Levtchi is flying under the radar. He is coming in hot on the heels of leading the Liiga in scoring with 61 points, winning the Golden Helmet (MVP) and leading Tappara to a Championship. He has his work cut out to crack the Panthers roster, but the 26-year-old could be a money sleeper pick if he does.

MARKUS NURMI, LW/RW – NASHVILLE PREDATORS

The 6-5 Finn had two solid seasons in the Liiga with TPS and had a breakout playoff with 19 points in 18 games. The former Sens draft pick has signed his ELC with the Predators and will make the move to North America. He should see some time in the AHL but should also get at least a cup of coffee in the NHL, and if he shows well, he could stick.

DENNIS MALGIN

BEN MEYERS

NICK BLANKENBURG

NATHAN SMITH
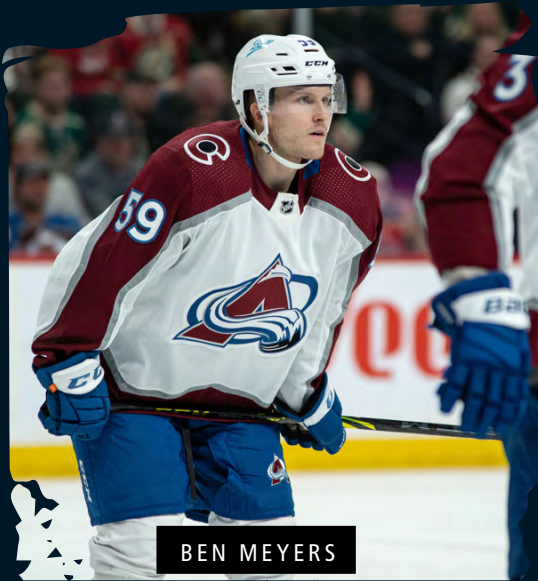
TOP OF THE CLASS – NCAA IMPORTS

BEN MEYERS, C/LW – COLORADO AVALANCHE

Meyers is the top of this list with a bullet. He had a dominant senior campaign in the NCAA and was a Hobey Baker finalist. He played some regular season games in the NHL at the end of the season, but his contract did not allow him to play in the playoffs, so he got more international experience at the World Championships. The 24-year-old will step right into a roster spot with the Avalanche and with Nazem Kadri departing as a free agent, it could open the door for Meyers.

NICK BLANKENBURG, D – COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

Blankenburg was the unsung hero on the vaunted Michigan Wolverines roster. Insulated from the limelight behind mega stars Owen Power and Luke Hughes, Blankenburg provided veteran stability to the roster. Blankenburg will offer more value to the bangers leagues as he will offer some offensive upside along with a blend of hits and blocks.

BRANDON BUSSI, G – BOSTON BRUINS

After four years at Western Michigan University, he is ready to turn pro after a 26-12-1 record. Bussi got into five AHL games to end the season and looked right at home with a 3-2-0 record including a shutout. Bussi is more of a long shot, and the 24-year-old could still need a year or two of AHL development before he is ready for the Bruins.

DRYDEN MCKAY, G – TORONTO MARLIES

While he has not signed an NHL contract, McKay has signed an AHL contract with the Toronto Marlies. This is a big gamble and a curious file to keep an eye on. Named after legendary netminder Ken Dryden, McKay had legendary NCAA career stats. He closed his career with an NCAA Championship and won the Hobey Baker Award. The concerns are his height, and limited shot volume he faced with Minnesota. The Toronto prospect depth in goal is very questionable and it is very possible for McKay to step in, dominate at the AHL level immediately and by mid season find himself in the Leafs crease if Matt Murray and Ilya Samsonov fail to deliver. It's long shot sure, but its possible.

LATE BLOOMERS – ROOKIES

NATHAN SMITH, C – ARIZONA COYOTES

The Winnipeg Jets draft selection had a banner season posting 50 points in his junior season in Mankato, then playing for USA at the Olympics posting two points in four games. He finished the season in the NHL posting four points in ten games with the Coyotes. He should step right into a top six role on the lowly Coyotes while they continue to turn over the roster for their latest rebuild.

LOGAN THOMPSON, G – LAS VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

The 25-year-old undrafted netminder had a breakout season posting a 13-9-5 record in the AHL. Injuries on the Golden Knights roster opened the door for him to play 19 NHL games where he performed well with a 10-5-3 record. With the news that Robin Lehner will miss the entire season, Thompson becomes the Knights starting goalie.

NICK CICEK, LD – SAN JOSE SHARKS

The former Portland Winterhawks defender went undrafted, signed an AHL deal and scored 25 points and 62 PIMS in 53 games with the Barracuda. His play with the Barracuda earned him an NHL contract with the sharks. His fantasy upside is limited to the deeper multi-cat leagues where he can contribute hits, blocks, PIM's and some points.

ARBER XHEKAJ, LD – MONTREAL CANADIENS

The 6-4, 225-pound defender went undrafted in both the OHL and the NHL and yet has played his way into an NHL contract. He dominated the OHL as an over age on the Hamilton Bulldogs blueline and helped lead Hamilton to the Memorial Cup. The 21-year-old will make his pro debut in Laval may take some time to get to the NHL. His offensive upside is limited, but he could be a monster in multi-cat leagues in the footsteps of Radko Gudas.
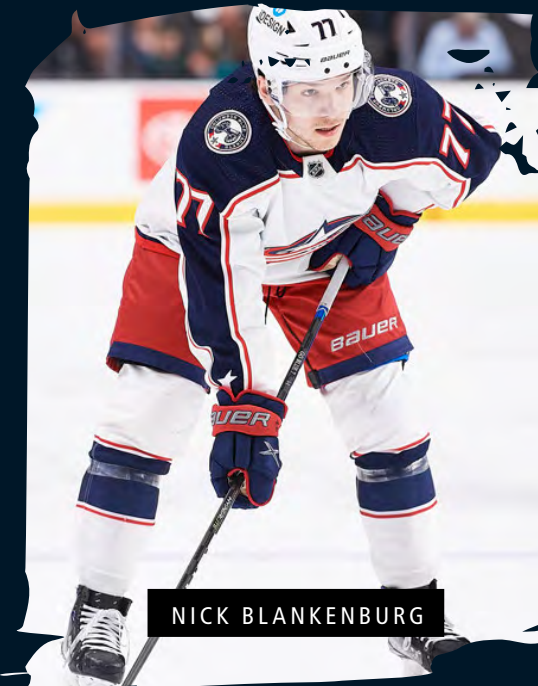
LOGAN THOMSON

BUFFALO SABRES

TAGE THOMPSON

2022-23 NHL STANDINGS PROJECTION

ATLANTIC	W	L	OL	PTS	GF	GA
Florida Panthers	54	20	8	116	311	250
Toronto Maple Leafs	53	20	9	115	304	249
Tampa Bay Lightning	53	22	7	113	280	228
Boston Bruins	48	27	7	103	254	225
Ottawa Senators	41	30	11	93	253	261
Buffalo Sabres	**39**	**33**	**10**	**88**	**242**	**277**
Detroit Red Wings	34	36	12	80	261	282
Montreal Canadiens	33	38	11	77	238	285

2022-2023 PREDICTION

RK	PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS	PPG
1	Tage Thompson	80	36	30	66	0.83
2	Alex Tuch	77	26	35	61	0.79
3	Rasmus Dahlin	78	15	45	60	0.77
4	Jeff Skinner	81	27	31	58	0.72
5	Victor Olofsson	77	26	28	54	0.70
6	Dylan Cozens	78	17	29	46	0.59
7	Owen Power	77	8	35	43	0.56
8	Casey Mittelstadt	74	14	25	39	0.53
9	Peyton Krebs	75	13	25	38	0.51
10	Kyle Okposo	65	14	19	33	0.51
11	Rasmus Asplund	75	9	14	23	0.31
12	Henri Jokiharju	73	3	20	23	0.32
13	Mattias Samuelsson	75	3	18	21	0.28
14	Vince Hinostroza	65	7	13	20	0.31
15	Zemgus Girgensons	64	7	8	15	0.23
16	Anders Bjork	66	7	7	14	0.21
17	Jacob Bryson	75	2	12	14	0.19
18	Riley Sheahan	61	5	8	13	0.21
19	Ilya Lyubushkin	81	1	10	11	0.14
20	Jack Quinn	22	4	5	9	0.41

2022 DRAFT PICKS

Dft Rd	Selected	PLAYER	POS	AGE	HT/WT	TEAM
1	9	Matthew SAVOIE	C	18	5-9/180	Winnipeg (WHL)
1	16	Noah OSTLUND	C	18	5-10/165	Djurgardens (Swe J20)
						Djurgardens (SHL)
1	28	Jiri KULICH	C	18	5-11/180	Karlovy Vary (Cze)
2	41	Topias LEINONEN	G	18	6-5/230	JYP (Fin-U20)
3	74	Viktor NEUCHEV	LW	18	6-2/165	Avto Yekaterinburg (MHL)
4	106	Mats LINDGREN	D	18	5-11/175	Kamloops (WHL)
5	134	Vsevolod KOMAROV	D	18	6-2/185	Quebec (QMJHL)
6	170	Jake RICHARD	RW	18	5-11/165	Muskegon (USHL)
6	187	Gustav KARLSSON	C	18	6-1/165	Orebro (Swe J20)
7	202	Joel RATKOVIC-BERNDTSSON	RW	18	6-0/165	Frolunda (Swe J20)
7	211	Linus SJODIN	C	19	6-0/165	Rogle (SHL)

TEAM STATS REPORT

CATEGORY	STAT	RANK	CATEGORY	STAT	RANK
RECORD	32-39-11	24	GF	229	22T
HOME	17-18-6	24	GA	287	25
ROAD	15-21-5	24	PP	21.2	16
SHOOTOUT	3-3	17T	PK	76.4	23

NEW ARRIVALS
Kale Clague-D (Mtl), Eric Comrie-G (Wpg), Jeremy Davies-D (Nsh), Ilya Lyubushkin-D (Tor), Chase Priskie-D (Fla), Riley Sheahan-F (Sea)

DEPARTURES
Will Butcher-D (Dal), Drake Caggiula-F (Pit), Brandon Davidson-D, Aaron Dell-G (SJ), Cody Eakin-F, John Hayden-F (Sea), Michael Houser-G, Mark Jankowski-F (Nsh), Ryan MacInnis-F, Colin Miller-D (Dal), Ethan Prow-D, Mark Pysyk-D (Det), Jimmy Schuldt-D, Dustin Tokarski-G (Pit)

TEAM AT-A-GLANCE
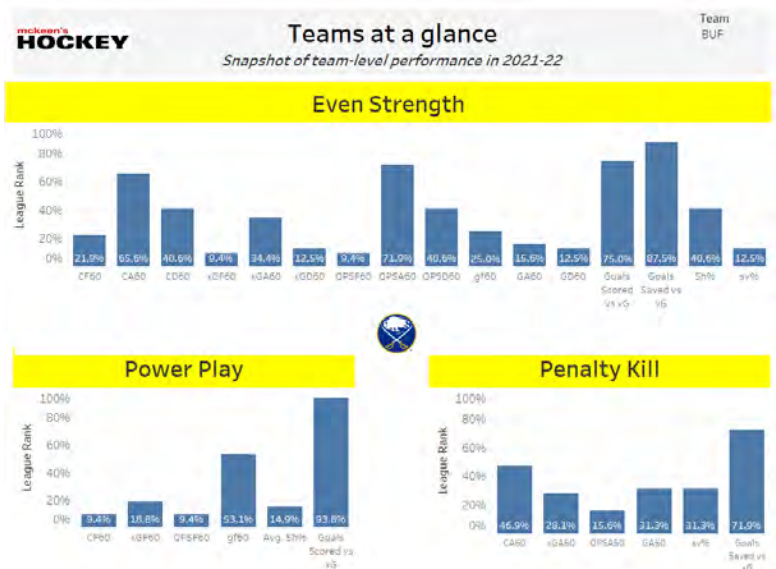
Missed out on a playoff spot for the eleventh straight season, while trading away disgruntled star center, Jack Eichel. Sabres struggles offensively continued, generating quality scoring chances in the lower third of the league. Defensively they excelled – which put them in a position to be challenging for a playoff spot later in the season than they have in recent years. Special teams scoring goals on the power play and keeping them out of their net shorthanded could improve from some competitive balance.

TEAM: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull in the NHL
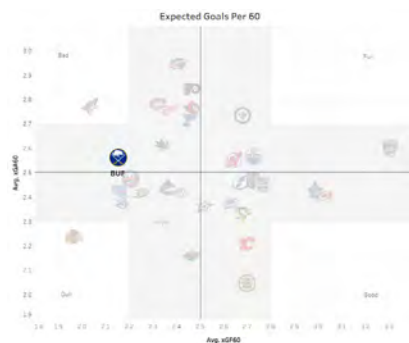
The offensive struggles featured two 30-goal scorers and a bunch of under-achieving support players, cratering quality scoring chance generation overall – as seen by similar teams struggling to generate quality chances in the chart, like the NY Islanders, Anaheim Ducks and expansion team Seattle Kraken. With the deficiency up front, better attention to defensive detail produced results that were marginally higher than NHL average – a bright spot for coaching staff to rally around as they enter 2022-23.

DEFENSE: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull NHL skaters in 2022-23
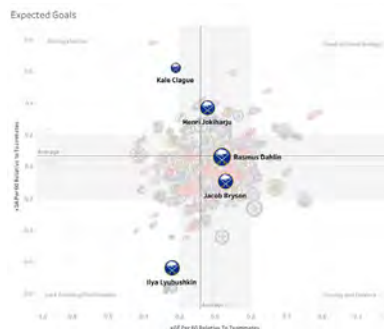
Added ex-Yotes and Leafs blueliner Ilya Lyubushkin in the off season for additional sandpaper and could be pushed up the roster here after a decent outing along top pairings for the Leafs in the postseason. Rasmus Dahlin remains the main offensive catalyst from the blueline and the young Swede is stamping his place as the de facto first pairing, all-round usage defender. Where the Sabres go on the back end will be primarily driven by Dahlin – can add another veteran to stabilize an increasingly mobile overall unit.

FORWARDS: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull NHL skaters in 2022-23
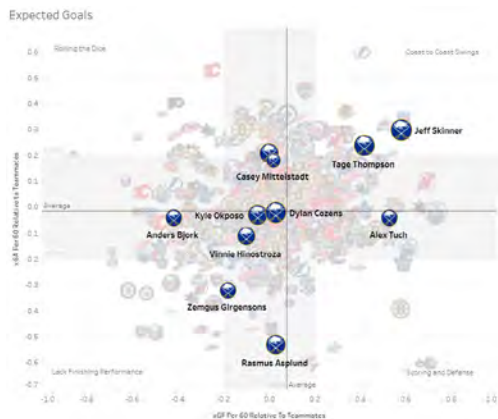
Bounceback and breakout seasons from Jeff Skinner and Tage Thompson respectively were lone bright spots for the Sabres, but what they brought to the table generating quality shots at a decent clip, they lacked defensively, being on the wrong side of goals against rates in comparison to teammates. Trading Eichel to Vegas hurt, but Alex Touch injected offensive spark when returning to the lineup following the trade. The foundation to build up front at the top end exists, but offensive support from lower roster forwards is deeply missing.

GOALTENDING: GOALS SAVED VS EXPECTATION
A look at how goalies performed relative to the workload they faced in 2022-23
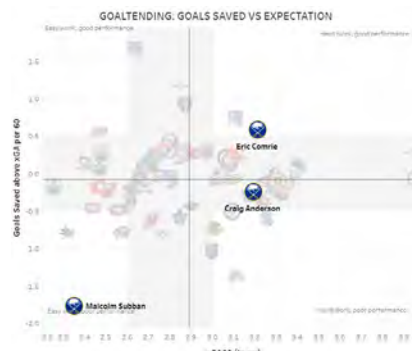
Forty-year old veteran Craig Anderson handled the bulk of the work in the crease in 2021-22, with a lineup of temporary replacements making appearances for relief as backups. The old-timer performed better than NHL average considering the high volume of quality shots faced during the season, but can he be expected to duplicate efforts at his age, or consistently enough moving forward. Buffalo brought in insurance in Eric Comrie and Malcolm Subban, in case Anderson falters.

LINE COMBINATIONS

TOI	LW	C	RW	xGF	GF	HD/60	MD/60	LD/60	Fwd xGF%
17.17	Jeff Skinner	Tage Thompson	Victor Olofsson	47.3%	0.86	0.31	0.39	0.16	
10.39	Peyton Krebs	Casey Mittelstadt	Alex Tuch	45.0%	0.56	0.20	0.26	0.09	46.0%
16.61	Rasmus Asplund	Dylan Cozens	Kyle Okposo	48.3%	0.64	0.25	0.23	0.15	
11.91	Anders Bjork	Zemgus Girgensons	Vince Hinostroza	43.3%	0.49	0.19	0.24	0.06	

TOI	LD		RD	xGF	GF	HD/60	MD/60	LD/60	Def xGF%
18.86	Rasmus Dahlin		Mattias Samuelsson	46.0%	0.17	0.10	0.03	0.04	
10.33	Owen Power		Henri Jokiharju	49.5%	0.15	0.06	0.09		47.7%
19.57	Jacob Bryson		Ilya Lyubushkin	47.5%	0.07	0.06	0.01		

G	Predicted	xGF/60	GF/60
Craig Anderson	PP1	3.80	4.52
Eric Comrie	PP2	1.63	3.01

Incremental progress for the Sabres, anchored around newly signed, Tage Thomspon, and a full season from former Golden Knights, Alex Tuch. The goals dry up quickly after the top unit, even with players like Vince Hinostroza and Bjork that can provide some scoring deeper in the roster. The powerplay may struggle as well if Thompson struggles to duplicate double digit goals at 5v4. The blueline gets a much-needed injection of skill with Owen Power, while being led by Rasmus Dahlin at even strength and at 5v4. The uphill climb continues.

BUFFALO SABRES

FORWARDS

72 TAGE THOMPSON — RW

AGE: 24 **H/W:** 6-5/200 **NHL:** 4 **SALARY:** $1,400,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Rochester (AHL)	16	6	6	12	8		0.75
19-20	Buffalo (NHL)	1	0	0	0	0	7.0	0.00
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	38	8	6	14	17	13.5	0.37
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	78	38	30	68	37	17.5	0.87
	Career	223	56	47	103	86		0.46
	Prediction	**80**	**36**	**30**	**66**			**0.83**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	196.20	3.27	5.91	19.61	19.35	12.72	68.18
5on5	1066.68	17.78	14.5	14.12	47.45	11.38	70.77

As breakout seasons go, perhaps none were more out-of-the-blue and stunning as Tage Thompson's 38-goal, 68-point year in 2020-2021 all while playing a position he hadn't played in the NHL. Coach Don Granato moved Thompson to center and watched the six-foot-seven score more than twice as many goals in one season as he did in his first four with Buffalo and St. Louis. Thompson going from a player you wondered if he would ever pop off in the NHL to suddenly being the Sabres No. 1 center without a doubt is an incredible glow-up. Thompson's rise to the top of the line-chart saw him team up with Jeff Skinner and Alex Tuch to provide the Sabres' first dangerous top line since Skinner skated next to Jack Eichel and Sam Reinhart. Of his 38 goals, 26 came at even strength and 10 on the power play. Adding a couple of shorthanded tallies was a chef's kiss on top of an incredible season. On top of that, Thompson trailed only Skinner in shots taken and he was fourth among six players on the roster to have a greater than 50 percent CorsiFor at 5-on-5 last season. The Sabres believe he can do it again and signed him to a seven-year, $50 million contract prior to training camp.

53 JEFF SKINNER — LW

AGE: 30 **H/W:** 5-11/200 **NHL:** 12 **SALARY:** $9,000,000 **CONTRACT:** 2027

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Buffalo (NHL)	59	14	9	23	18	16.3	0.39
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	53	7	7	14	14	14.3	0.26
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	80	33	30	63	42	17.1	0.79
	Career	853	298	244	542	378		0.64
	Prediction	**81**	**27**	**31**	**58**			**0.72**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	215.67	3.59	6.97	10.87	20.36	11.92	47.83
5on5	1103.40	18.39	21.08	12.08	52.48	9.63	74.60

Jeff Skinner's Sabres career has been an incredible journey and he just finished his fourth season in Buffalo. After he scored 40 in his first season and landed an eight-year, $72 million contract his following two seasons had him buried in the lineup by then coach Ralph Krueger and his offense disappeared posting the worst seasons of his career in back-to-back years. With Krueger out and Don Granato in, Skinner found himself back on the top line and thrived. Skinner finished second on the Sabres behind Tage Thompson in goals (33) and points (63). As he's done throughout his career, he thrived at even strength scoring 28 goals and his time on the power play increased greatly and led to five goals. Having

Sit	Situation - 5v5 or 5v4		O-IxG (OI xG delta)	On-Ice Expected Goals Differential – OI goals scored minus expected OI goals for – positive = outperforming negative = underperforming.
TOI	Time on Ice		OISh%	On-ice shooting percentage
IxG (XG Delta)	Individual Expected Goals Differential Goals scored, minus expected goals for positive = outperforming negative = underperforming		IPP	Individual Point Percentage – % of points earned on goals scored while on the ice.
iSh%	Individual shooting percentge			

a player with the offensive ability of Skinner made it seem like a no-brainer to put him with other players who can drive play and teaming up with Thompson and Alex Tuch helped make everyone better. Skinner's ice time even recovered to a normal level as his average per game jumped by 2:35. What Skinner will look to avoid is the roller coaster effect he's had year to year going from a big goal season to a more average one. After breaking free of the restrictions of the past, Skinner will aim to keep the good times rolling.

89 ALEX TUCH — RW

AGE: 26 **H/W:** 6-4/220 **NHL:** 5 **SALARY:** $4,750,000 **CONTRACT:** 2026

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Vegas (NHL)	42	8	9	17	8	14.4	0.40
20-21	Vegas (NHL)	55	18	15	33	28	16.5	0.60
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	50	12	26	38	14	18.2	0.76
	Career	305	73	104	177	85		0.58
	Prediction	**77**	**26**	**35**	**61**			**0.79**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	137.13	2.29	2.19	13.33	15.4	14.29	47.06
5on5	670.75	11.18	9.17	6.67	30.96	10.65	60.98

It's not often when a player is traded for a superstar that he turns into the breath of fresh air needed to give a team life. This was the story for Alex Tuch after arriving in Buffalo from Vegas in the Jack Eichel trade. Tuch embraced being a Sabre as he was a fan of them growing up outside of Syracuse, NY and impressed fans in Western New York with his big frame he uses to drive the net and create opportunities close to the net. Tuch returned from offseason shoulder surgery to play 50 games for Buffalo and posted 12 goals and 38 points tying him for fifth with Dylan Cozens on the team. Tuch teaming up with Jeff Skinner and Tage Thompson on the top line for most of the season allowed him to be the power forward while Thompson and Skinner thrived with the room he provided. Tuch's scoring rate of 0.76 points per-game was also a career high and his best since 2018-2019 with the Golden Knights. He was second on the Sabres behind Rasmus

Asplund with a 51.6 percent CorsiFor at 5-on-5 and when you've got the puck more than the opponent does, you're doing it right. Tuch also showed characteristics of being a possible future captain of the team, if not this season, then certainly down the road. With a complete offseason of training and a full season, it should mean the best is yet to come for Tuch.

71 VICTOR OLOFSSON — RW

AGE: 27 **H/W:** 5-11/180 **NHL:** 3 **SALARY:** $4,750,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Buffalo (NHL)	54	20	22	42	6	18.2	0.78
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	56	13	19	32	6	17.2	0.57
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	72	20	29	49	6	15.2	0.68
	Career	853	298	244	542	378		0.64
	Prediction	**81**	**27**	**31**	**58**			**0.70**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	153.28	2.55	4.29	15.91	13.82	13.61	60.00
5on5	920.42	15.34	9.39	9.35	35.24	8.57	80.00

Victor Olofsson has one of the best shots in the NHL and he found ways to grow his game when his shot wasn't there. For a span of time that's somewhat unclear, Olofsson dealt with a wrist injury that appeared to take the speed and accuracy away from his laser beam of a shot and held him to 20 goals. Although he missed only 10 games, having his best weapon unavailable for any amount of time would be frustrating. Consider that he scored on 12.2% of his shots last season, a normal season would've meant scoring closer to 25 or 30 goals. The last time the Sabres had more than two 30-goal scorers in a season was 2006-2007 when they had four. Watching Olofsson evolve into a player who can do more than just score laser beam goals on the power play to one who can set up others and score for himself is a very welcome change. This isn't to say Olofsson's play ever disappointed the front office, but when you add more to a player's game that can make them a better threat and keep opposing defenses on their toes, it makes a difference. This evolution in his game shows

POWER PLAY

FIRST UNIT

LW — Jeff Skinner
RW — Victor Olofsson
LD — Rasmus Dahlin
C — Tage Thompson
RD — Alex Tuch

SECOND UNIT

LW — Peyton Krebs
RW — Dylan Cozens
LD — Owen Power
C — Casey Mittelstadt
RD — Kyle Okposo

DEPTH CHART

LW
Jeff Skinner
Peyton Krebs
Rasmus Asplund
Anders Bjork

Jack Quinn
Brett Murray
Brandon Biro

C
Tage Thompson
Casey Mittelstadt
Dylan Cozens
Zemgus Girgensons

Riley Sheahan
Sean Malone
Matej Pekar

RW
Victor Olofsson
Alex Tuch
Kyle Okposo
Vince Hinostroza

John-Jason Peterka
Lukas Rousek
Olivier Nadeau

LD
Rasmus Dahlin
Owen Power
Jacob Bryson
Casey Fitzgerald

Jeremy Davies
Lawrence Pilut
Ryan Johnson

G
Craig Anderson

Eric Comrie

Malcolm Subban
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen
Erik Portillo

RD
Mattias Samuelsson
Henri Jokiharju
Ilya Lyubushkin
Kale Clague

Chase Priskie
Oskari Laaksonen
Albert Lyckasen

that sometimes out of the most difficult situations, solutions arise. With a new two-year contract signed and set, Olofsson will be eager to show off all his weapons.

37 CASEY MITTELSTADT   C

AGE: 23 **H/W:** 6-1/200 **NHL:** 4 **SALARY:** $2,500,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Rochester (AHL)	36	9	16	25	6		0.69
19-20	Buffalo (NHL)	31	4	5	9	2	12.5	0.29
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	41	10	12	22	10	15.5	0.54
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	40	6	13	19	4	16.1	0.48
	Career	195	33	47	80	28		0.41
	Prediction	**74**	**14**	**25**	**39**			**0.53**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	98.17	1.64	0.96	7.14	8.32	18.46	58.33
5on5	505.57	8.43	3.97	7.02	18.81	7.23	55.56

Last season was supposed to be Mittelstadt's opportunity to show what he can really bring to the lineup. He had a great training camp and appeared ready to have his best season at the most important time of his career. Instead, an upper-body injury in the first game of the season kept him sidelined until December where he re-aggravated it and didn't return until late January. He missed two more weeks with a separate injury in February. In all, injuries cost him 42 games and kept him to six goals and 19 points in 40 games. Mittelstadt's career has had plenty of ups and downs to this point, but provided injuries stay away, he'll be in the same position to show what he can bring to a rejuvenated lineup. His hands and shot are excellent as we've seen in the past and whether he stays at center or slides to wing, he can be a productive forward. He'll have a bit more competition this year with Peyton Krebs, Jack Quinn, and J-J Peterka set to challenge for bigger roles and spots on the roster. He found success last season playing with Victor Olofsson and Rasmus Asplund as those three were able to have strong possession and shot generation. With good health and ice time to match it, the best of his career may be yet to come, but competition for spots among forwards will be stiff.

24 DYLAN COZENS   C

AGE: 21 **H/W:** 6-3/185 **NHL:** 2 **SALARY:** $894,167 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Lethbridge (WHL)	51	38	47	85	38		1.67
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	41	4	9	13	16	14.2	0.32
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	79	13	25	38	55	15.5	0.48
	Career	120	17	34	51	71		0.43
	Prediction	**78**	**17**	**29**	**46**			**0.59**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	145.42	2.42	1.91	10.00	12.49	17.97	39.13
5on5	1040.37	17.34	12.75	8.73	38.59	7.57	65.79

The 21-year-old native of Yukon enters his third NHL season and while he's been fine during those seasons, he's in the best position to have a breakout season in Buffalo now. For roughly the first half of last season, Cozens was one of the Sabres most impressive young players. He showed great aptitude for carrying the puck into the zone and he helped drive play on his line. For a time, he was on a 20-goal pace, but things cooled off a little and he finished with 13 goals and 38 points. The rates on his offensive metrics all improved quite a bit and he further developed the edge to his game that won't allow larger players to take advantage of him. He's also not afraid to drop the gloves if the situation calls for it. Cozens saw more of his shift starts come in the offensive zone going roughly 60-40 offensive to defensive zone. This may seem a bit sheltered, but he played most of the season with Vinnie Hinostroza and Kyle Okposo and giving lines that may or may not be a bit lower in the lineup a bit more juice to get some scoring chances never hurts. With Cozens' ability to possess the puck up the ice and able to gain the zone with the puck under control, he may be able to help get the team out of danger more often. With an expected influx of young scoring talent, it may open things up for Cozens to boost his own offensive output.

19 PEYTON KREBS   LW

AGE: 21 **H/W:** 5-11/180 **NHL:** 1 **SALARY:** $863,333 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Winnipeg (WHL)	38	12	48	60	38		1.58
20-21	Winnipeg (WHL)	24	13	30	43	28		1.79
20-21	Henderson (AHL)	5	1	4	5	0		1.00
20-21	Vegas (NHL)	4	0	1	1	0	11.3	0.25
21-22	VGK-Buf (NHL)	57	7	15	22	22	14.4	0.39
21-22	HSK-Roc (AHL)	20	4	16	20	16		1.00
	Career	120	17	34	51	71		0.43
	Prediction	**75**	**13**	**25**	**38**			**0.51**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	114.62	1.91	0.43	0.00	11.78	15.24	62.50
5on5	694.77	11.58	4.33	15.91	21.57	6.69	52.38

As the other key acquisition in the Jack Eichel trade, Krebs joined the Sabres as a potential future top-six centerman. Although he was drafted by Vegas, he's done most of his pro hockey development with Buffalo last season. He joined the Sabres organization having played seven AHL games with Henderson and 13 with the Golden Knights. Over 48 games in Buffalo he posted seven goals and 22 points and showed an adept ability to thread passes to teammates and create scoring chances or set up goals. Like Cozens, Krebs was a first-round pick in 2019 but his road to the NHL was a bit more methodical, not to mention slowed by injuries, but his time to start shining is approaching. Something that will help Krebs get to the NHL and be a top-six or top-nine forward is the improvement in his defensive game. While his vision on the ice as well as his passing ability are outstanding, he struggled in his own end. When he was sent to the AHL at the conclusion of the NHL season, his play in there showed he's not far off in general, but he put a lot of work in his play away from the puck and it helped him immensely. Building off that will help him in the competition for minutes in the lineup. With his offensive gifts already showing a lot of promise, he'll have a huge opportunity to capitalize in competition with teammates.

PPG BY QTR				2021-2022 TEAM SCORING											PLAYOFFS				
1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q		GP	G	A	Pts	BST	YR	+/-	PIM	S	S%	MIN	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
0.75	0.72	0.91	1.11	Tage THOMPSON	78	38	30	68	68	21-22	-17	37	253	15	17.52	-	-	-	-	-
0.60	0.79	0.70	1.11	Jeff SKINNER	80	33	30	63	63	21-22T	-14	42	262	12.6	17.06	-	-	-	-	-
0.60	0.76	0.52	0.78	Rasmus DAHLIN	80	13	40	53	53	21-22	-22	68	170	7.6	24.00	-	-	-	-	-
1.08	0.38	0.38	1.11	Victor OLOFSSON	72	20	29	49	49	21-22	-16	6	164	12.2	15.22	-	-	-	-	-
0.60	0.65	0.62	0.56	Kyle OKPOSO	74	21	24	45	69	13-4	-15	43	174	12.1	16.46	-	-	-	-	-
0.50	0.56	0.48	0.39	Dylan COZENS	79	13	25	38	38	21-22	-19	55	160	8.1	15.53	-	-	-	-	-
-	1.11	0.70	0.67	Alex TUCH	50	12	26	38	52	18-9	-3	14	139	8.6	18.24	-	-	-	-	-
0.60	0.19	0.24	0.33	Rasmus ASPLUND	80	8	19	27	27	21-22	-5	10	130	6.2	14.16	-	-	-	-	-
0.45	0.50	0.50	0.22	Vince HINOSTROZA	62	13	12	25	39	18-9	-11	24	92	14.1	13.52	-	-	-	-	-
0.00	0.43	0.48	0.44	*Peyton KREBS	57	7	15	22	22	21-22	-26	22	56	12.5	14.35	-	-	-	-	-
				…VGK	9	0	0	0			-6	2	10	0	13.43					
				…Buf	48	7	15	22			-20	20	46	15.2	14.44					
0.00	0.33	0.39	0.61	Casey MITTELSTADT	40	6	13	19	25	18-9	-14	4	79	7.6	16.07	-	-	-	-	-
0.25	0.38	0.24	0.33	Henri JOKIHARJU	60	3	16	19	19	21-22	-8	20	83	3.6	21.52	-	-	-	-	-
0.45	0.23	0.20	0.28	Zemgus GIRGENSONS	56	10	8	18	30	14-5	-7	27	92	10.9	14.47	-	-	-	-	-
0.55	0.08	0.67	0.00	Colin MILLER	38	2	12	14	41	17-8	-2	21	48	4.2	18.58	-	-	-	-	-
0.33	0.14	0.13	0.10	Cody EAKIN	69	4	8	12	41	18-9	-15	22	74	5.4	13.35	-	-	-	-	-
0.20	0.19	0.15	0.14	Mark PYSYK	68	3	9	12	18	19-20	-4	16	64	4.7	17.49	-	-	-	-	-
0.25	0.15	0.09	0.06	Jacob BRYSON	73	1	9	10	10	21-22	-9	12	43	2.3	18.20	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	0.18	0.38	*Mattias SAMUELSSON	42	0	10	10	10	21-22	-10	16	44	0	19.59	-	-	-	-	-
0.20	0.13	0.00	0.29	Anders BJORK	58	5	3	8	19	19-20	-14	10	51	9.8	12.02	-	-	-	-	-
0.13	0.20	0.00	0.60	Will BUTCHER	37	2	6	8	44	17-8	-10	0	35	5.7	16.29	-	-	-	-	-
0.00	0.35	-	-	*Brett MURRAY	19	2	4	6	6	21-22	-3	23	14	14.3	12.59	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.25	0.18	0.13	*Casey FITZGERALD	36	0	6	6	6	21-22	-19	36	41	0	16.52	-	-	-	-	-
0.28	-	-	-	Drake CAGGIULA	18	2	3	5	23	18-9	-4	4	23	8.7	14.38	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.36	0.13	-	Mark JANKOWSKI	19	2	3	5	32	18-9	2	4	14	14.3	13.38	-	-	-	-	-
0.25	0.00	-	-	*Arttu RUOTSALAINEN	18	2	2	4	6	20-21	-1	6	23	8.7	11.53	-	-	-	-	-
0.06	0.06	0.11	0.00	John HAYDEN	55	2	2	4	13	17-8	-12	84	65	3.1	10.50	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	0.38	*Owen POWER	8	2	1	3	3	21-22	3	2	10	20	22.05	-	-	-	-	-
-	1.00	-	-	*Jack QUINN	2	1	1	2	2	21-22	0	0	6	16.7	14.52	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.25	-	-	Ethan PROW	4	1	0	1	1	21-22	-1	0	2	50	12.44	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	0.00	-	*Brandon BIRO	1	0	0	0	0	21-22	0	0	0	0	13.30	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	-	-	Ryan MACINNIS	1	0	0	0	1	19-20	0	0	2	0	10.00	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	-	-	*John-Jason PETERKA	2	0	0	0	0	21-22	0	0	3	0	16.07	-	-	-	-	-

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74 RASMUS ASPLUND — LW

AGE: 24 **H/W:** 5-11/185 **NHL:** 3 **SALARY:** $825,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Rochester (AHL)	33	3	16	19	2		0.58
19-20	Buffalo (NHL)	29	1	2	3	6	10.5	0.10
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	28	7	4	11	0	12.5	0.39
20-21	Vasteras IK (Allsvenskan)	14	4	5	9	6		0.64
20-21	Rochester (AHL)	3	0	2	2	0		0.67
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	80	8	19	27	10	14.2	0.34
	Career	137	16	25	41	16		0.30
	Prediction	**75**	**9**	**14**	**23**			**0.31**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	81.97	1.37	2.29	16.67	6.02	12.50	50.00
5on5	978.77	16.31	9.59	1.87	36.88	6.76	52.94

It's true that many forwards who excel defensively fly under the radar unless they're also outstanding scorers. After all, doing the grunt work doesn't usually get on the highlight reels. But when you did through the numbers and search out players whose possession and shot suppression numbers look, perhaps no one went as unnoticed as Rasmus Asplund. At 5-on-5, Asplund was the Sabres best at CorsiFor percentage (53.3), he trailed only Alex Tuch in Shots For percentage and expected goals for percentage. Even more impressive is that he had most of his zone starts in the offensive end. Asplund is not an offensive dynamo. He had eight goals and 27 points and 22 of those were at even strength. He went 46 games between goals, when he scored Nov. 21 and not again until March 27, but his defensive work earned him a few votes for the Selke Trophy for best defensive forward. Given his defensive abilities, he'll likely be deployed on an energy line or will line up with other players whose main skills are not centered around shutting down opponents. That Asplund has emerged like this gives Buffalo someone they can rely on to forecheck and pressure the puck relentlessly all over the ice and to play smart on the penalty kill. If Asplund were better at finishing he'd have a few more goals as he can generate chances, but for now it's not his main mission.

DEFENSE

26 RASMUS DAHLIN — D

AGE: 22 **H/W:** 6-2/185 **NHL:** 4 **SALARY:** $6,000,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Buffalo (NHL)	52	9	10	19	28	12.5	0.37
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	35	2	11	13	0	13.5	0.37
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	74	21	24	45	43	16.5	0.61
	Career	277	31	129	160	166		0.58
	Prediction	**78**	**15**	**45**	**60**			**0.77**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	235.13	3.92	1.71	10.34	21.31	12.69	80.00
5on5	1547.70	25.80	4.56	6.98	56.64	7.69	45.76

It would feel wrong to say that Dahlin has been a bit beleaguered in his four NHL seasons, but there's a lot of truth to it. He's played for three head coaches, each with different systems and ideas for how Dahlin should play, and it's hurt him, particularly early on in seasons. Last season started similarly as the player who went No. 1 in the 2018 NHL Draft seemed like he

would never show up. But that changed in the second half of the year. Dahlin became a puck-rushing force, particularly in the offensive zone. Dahlin's moments to pinch in were well-timed, his reads on plays were spot on, and his ability to finish chances improved as the season wound down. He had 13 goals and 40 assists when it was all said and done, and it seemed like the new energy surrounding the team manifested itself within his game. Ten of his goals came at even strength, as did 21 assists. On the power play which he was the quarterback on the top unit, he scored three goals with 18 assists and even had a shorthanded assist as well. He played the most minutes per game in his career (over 24:01) and was hands-down their No. 1 defenseman. These are key reasons to be excited about what's to come this season, all he must do is not stumble out of the gate and play like that for a full season. It's a big ask, but it's the ask that's always been made of him from the beginning.

23 MATTIAS SAMUELSSON — D

AGE: 22 **H/W:** 6-4/220 **NHL:** 1 **SALARY:** $925,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Western Michigan (NCHC)	30	2	12	14	41		0.47
20-21	Rochester (AHL)	23	3	10	13	12		0.57
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	12	0	2	2	4	18.0	0.17
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	42	0	10	10	16	20.0	0.24
21-22	Rochester (AHL)	22	2	13	15	16		0.68
	Career	54	0	12	12	20		0.22
	Prediction	**75**	**3**	**18**	**21**			**0.28**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	2.08	0.03	0		0		
5on5	715.95	11.93	2.02	0.00	27.01	9.12	28.13

The one thing that kept the 6-foot-4, 226-pound rookie from being a Sabre all season was an injury sustained during a prospects challenge game before the start of training camp. That blocked shot kept him out of action for some time and meant he started the season in the AHL when he was cleared to play. It wasn't long after that he was off to Buffalo where he instantly became a top pairing defender with Rasmus Dahlin and made Buffalo's blue line that much better. Over 42 games, Samuelsson had 10 assists and averaged an even 20 minutes per game. While he played most his minutes with Casey Fitzgerald to start, his time with Dahlin is what has everyone in Buffalo excited about what's to come. In 140 minutes of time at 5-on-5 with Dahlin, he posted a 54.6 percent CorsiFor and a 51.3 percent expected goals for. Even with all that, there was some bad luck as their PDO together was .967 (average is 1.000). Samuelsson also provides a physical element to the roster that's severely lacking. He was third on the team with 100 hits. Dahlin was first with 121 but he played in 38 more games. The best is yet to come for Samuelsson, and he'll be counted on to play top pairing minutes, likely with Dahlin. His throwback style with a modern twist is the exact kind of thing Buffalo has needed for a long time.

10 HENRI JOKIHARJU — D

AGE: 23 **H/W:** 6-0/180 **NHL:** 4 **SALARY:** $2,500,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Buffalo (NHL)	69	4	11	15	32	17.1	0.22
20-21	Buffalo (NHL)	46	3	5	8	4	18.2	0.17
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	60	3	16	19	20	21.5	0.32
	Career	213	10	44	54	72		0.25
	Prediction	**73**	**3**	**20**	**23**			**0.32**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	64.17	1.07	0.71	0.00	5.12	14.04	50.00
5on5	1095.80	18.26	1.98	2.94	40.71	7.82	30.23

A lot had been asked of Jokiharju in his first couple seasons with Buffalo. He was originally Rasmus Dahlin's partner and stayed there for a few seasons. The importance of that pairing playing most minutes and being tasked the toughest matchups began to show that perhaps that wasn't the ideal role for the now 23-year-old Finn. Now that Mattias Samuelsson has assumed that role on the top pairing, Jokiharju has slid back to the second pair where, while the minutes are fewer, it's allowed Jokiharju to settle in and take better advantage of the lesser matchups. What that really means is it's a long-winded way of saying Jokiharju was fine but unspectacular. His numbers, both standard and advanced, don't jump off the screen. He had three goals and 19 points in 60 games and his possession numbers were middle of the road both in terms of the Sabres and in general. He had some power play time and a bit more on the penalty kill, although it stands to reason with Owen Power's full-time arrival, power play time will be scarce for Jokiharju from here on out. What will make or break him is how steady and consistent he can play.

46 ILYA LYUBUSHKIN — D

AGE: 28 **H/W:** 6-2/210 **NHL:** 4 **SALARY:** $2,750,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Arizona (NHL)	51	0	4	4	18	14.1	0.08
19-20	Tucson (AHL)	2	0	0	0	2		0.00
20-21	Arizona (NHL)	42	1	1	2	10	15.4	0.05
20-21	Lokomotiv Yaroslavl (KHL)	5	0	0	0	2		0.00
21-22	Ari-Tor (NHL)	77	2	13	15	51	17.3	0.19
	Career	211	3	22	25	92		0.12
	Prediction	**81**	**1**	**10**	**11**			**0.14**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	2.77	0.05	0		0.02	0.00	
5on5	1171.38	19.52	1.79	1.96	40.85	8.53	27.27

There were stretches last season where his play was a bit off and left fans frustrated. Saving him from top pairing minutes should do well to eliminate that from occurring and allow Buffalo to get the best from him. True defensive-defensemen are a bit scarcer in the modern NHL, but when there's a need for one on a team it's always apparent. Therefore, one of the Sabres few free agent signings addressed that need for the blue line and it was former Coyote and Maple Leaf defender Ilya Lyubushkin that fit the bill. While Mattias Samuelsson provides a lot of that bite on the top pair, Lyubushkin will provide another option on a lower pairing. One thing that makes Lyubushkin stand out is his consistency. The player he was when he came up with Arizona is the same guy he is now.

BUFFALO SABRES

His shot suppression numbers were decent with Arizona considering how poorly they've played the past few seasons. In his short time with the Maple Leafs, those numbers naturally improved but his game held strong. He's not a big time shot blocker nor is he overwhelmingly physical, but at 6-foot-2, 210 pounds he can fill the space and close the gaps with attention to detail. If there's someone Lyubushkin seems ideal to line up next to it's Owen Power. His defensive-minded play counters Power's strong puck carrying ability and offensive play. That's a spot he may have to compete with Jokiharju to lock down. Make no mistake though, Lyubushkin is a Sabre because he can handle himself very well in his own end of the ice, anything else he can add is gravy.

GOALTENDER

41 CRAIG ANDERSON　　　　　　　　G

AGE: 41 **H/W:** 6-2/190 **SALARY:** $1,500,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SPVC
19-20	Ottawa (NHL)	34	11	17	2	3.25	0	0.902
20-21	Washington (NHL)	4	2	1	0	2.13	0	0.915
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	31	17	12	2	3.12	0	0.897
	Career	683	308	264	71	2.85	42	0.912
	Prediction	35	16	12	4	3.05	2	0.906

It seems like Craig Anderson just doesn't want to quit – at 41-years old, he'll be one of the oldest players in the league, much less in net. With the announcement that Mike Smith will likely miss the 2022-23 campaign, that leaves Anderson as the league's only over-40 goaltender – and the next closest in age, Marc-Andre Fleury, will only be 38. It's hard not to root for him to keep having fun, especially given the mentor status he'll assume during the upcoming year.

Buffalo found itself scrambling when former up-and-comer Linus Ullmark left in free agency last summer, and they still haven't quite recovered. That leaves them in a position where they need Anderson for as long as he's happy to skate out and dress the part, even if his numbers during the 2021-22 season were far from exemplary. He remains one of the league's most old-school holdouts from a technical standpoint, which becomes more and more apparent with each passing year; as the game speeds up and requires faster and smoother lateral work, he struggles to keep up. But despite the fact that his game clearly doesn't seem suited for going the distance on a postseason run anymore, he continues to have one of the most consistent game styles out there. That's an incredible asset for a Buffalo franchise that's not necessarily trying to win a cup this year but is trying to ingrain good habits in the up-and-coming players they have on roster. Add in the guidance that Anderson can provide for the newly-acquired Eric Comrie and the stable reliability he offers for the team's coaching staff as a backup, and there's a lot to like about his continued presence in the Niagara region – even if he signifies yet another year of a seemingly-endless rebuild.

It seems like Eric Comrie has been just a step away from regular league action for years now, but he'll

1 ERIC COMRIE　　　　　　　　G

AGE: 27 **H/W:** 6-1/180 **SALARY:** $1,800,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SPVC
19-20	Tuc-Mtb (AHL)	20	10	9	0	2.56	1	0.915
19-20	Detroit (NHL)	3	0	2	0	4.28	0	0.864
20-21	Manitoba (AHL)	4	3	0	1	1.23	1	0.947
20-21	New Jersey (NHL)	1	1	0	0	3.00	0	0.909
21-22	Winnipeg (NHL)	19	10	5	1	2.58	1	0.920
	Career	28	13	10	1	3.06	1	0.912
	Prediction	52	23	21	6	2.94	2	0.905

finally get his chance this season. With Malcolm Subban on the injured reserve list, Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen coming off a lackluster year spent nearly entirely in the AHL, and Erik Portillo still developing at the University of Michigan, the door is wide open for Comrie to finally establish himself as a consistent NHL presence. Comrie had a stellar coming-out year for Winnipeg this past season, posting his first career NHL shutout and boasting a .920 save percentage in all situations through 19 games. It seemed as if he finally took the technical precision he was so well known for during his prospect years and added a bit more confident from a decision-making standpoint. During some of his brief earlier showings at the NHL level, he struggled with keeping his movements fluid and minimal after allowing a tough goal. This past year, though, he managed to keep his game consistent through entire 60-minute showings, relying on smart technique and a lack of over-aggressive challenging to give himself an edge in a season where so many goaltenders were still re-establishing their own game baselines post-covid shutdowns. Now, though, he'll have to replicate that success with what's likely to be a much higher workload, behind a team that's dealt with far less success than Winnipeg has seen in the last few years. Buffalo has struggled with not just structure to their games, but with consistency – particularly in how they manage their blue line. That means that although Comrie is going to be given more responsibility, he'll be given less direction in how to handle it. Hopefully, he'll be fine with Craig Anderson as a reliable mentor, but he wouldn't be the first goaltender to see his confidence rattled by a scattered system offered up by the Sabres.

PROSPECTS

1 OWEN POWER

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN		
D	19	6-6/215	22-Nov-02		
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**	
1	`21(1st)	Buf	2021	1	
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Michigan (B1G)	26	3	13	16	6	0.62
21-22	Michigan (B1G)	33	3	29	32	12	0.97
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	8	2	1	3	2	0.38

The top prospect of the 2021 draft, Owen Power has met all the lofty expectations placed upon him, if not exceeded them. Power's unorthodox choice to play an extra season in the NCAA after being drafted proved useful to his development, as he used his sophomore season at Michigan to refine his offensive toolbox and add some more polish to his game. Power's choice to wait a bit longer to join the Sabres also allowed him to take part in the Beijing Winter Olympics, where he represented Canada and looked the part playing against some of the best players outside the NHL. By the time he stepped into the Sabres' lineup in the spring of 2022, Power looked comfortable on NHL ice and found himself ready to weather the challenges of being a minute-eating defenseman at the game's highest level. Power's size is what most immediately sticks out to observers and forwards looking to score when he's on the ice. Standing at six-foot-six, Power's size allows him to impose himself on puck carriers and interrupt their plans in his zone. Power has exceptional reach and that reach when combined with his size and hockey IQ gives him a strong floor to work with as an NHL prospect. Even if his NCAA scoring doesn't translate to the professional game, he should still be able to have

a career as a high-end defensive defenseman. But, thankfully for the Sabres, Power has a strong chance to become a difference-maker offensively as well. Power is an extremely good skater for someone of his size, and his skating and exceptional on-ice vision help the Sabres' transition game immediately next season. If Power can continue to grow more comfortable with the puck on his stick, he should be able to become a do-it-all top-of-the-lineup number-one defenseman. - EH

2 JACK QUINN

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN		
RW	20	6-0/180	19-Sep-01		
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**	
11	`20(8th)	0	2020	8	
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Rochester (AHL)	15	2	7	9	8	0.60
21-22	Rochester (AHL)	45	26	35	61	23	1.36
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	2	1	1	2	0	1

The 8th overall selection in the 2020 NHL Draft, Jack Quinn has emerged as one of top prospects outside of the NHL after a dominating performance in the AHL this past season. The former Ottawa 67 hasn't had the easiest ride to prospect stardom, but not all paths to the NHL are created equally. After a breakout OHL campaign that saw him earn a spot in the top 10 of the 2020 draft, Quinn had a rough start to his pro career during the 2020-21 season, when the pandemic forced the cancellation of the OHL season, pushing him into an AHL role likely before he was ready. Inconsistent performance and a season ending hernia injury mired that season. However, just as he had done during

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his OHL career, Quinn made the necessary adjustments to find success and this has him positioned for a full time NHL role this coming season. Two of Quinn's best assets are his shot and his on-ice awareness. He is fantastic at finding space inside the offensive zone, positioning himself for quality scoring chances. This, in combination with his great shot, makes him a terrific complementary player to pair with a quality playmaking center. However, Quinn proved this year that he can create his own chances at the pro level by improving his explosiveness and confidence with the puck. He was often the primary play driver for Rochester, and this should have Sabres fans excited about his potential as an offensive star. Furthermore, he is more than just a one-dimensional offensive player. He excels in all three zones and his high IQ allows him to be a terrific defensive player too. As long as he can avoid injury (a lower body injury prevented him from emerging as a full time NHL'er late last season), Quinn should be a lock to be in the NHL this year. - BO

3	MATTHEW SAVOIE						
POS	**AGE**	**HT/WT**	**BORN**				
C	18	5-9/180	1-Jan-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
19	`22(9th)	Buf	2022	9			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Dubuque (USHL)	34	21	17	38	8	1.12
21-22	Winnipeg (WHL)	65	35	55	90	32	1.38

Savoie is one of those players that is impossible to not root for when you watch him play. He makes up for his lack of stature with an entertaining package of slick puck skill, high-end hockey IQ, an abundance of heart and an enviable fearlessness. He is difficult to defend when he has some time and space to work with, because he innately thinks the game one step ahead of his opponents and can dissect them offensively in different ways. The Winnipeg Ice successfully convinced their 1st-overall selection in the 2019 WHL Bantam Draft to join the club, eschewing a prior verbal commitment he had made to the NCAA's University of Denver, and after COVID-related detours to the AJHL and USHL in 2020-21 he finally made his full-time WHL debut in 2021-22, scoring a sparkling 90 points in 65 contests. For his efforts he was nabbed by the Buffalo Sabres in the 1st round, 9th overall, of the 2022 draft. He is still at least one full year away from NHL duty, which will be bad news for almost all of the WHL, as he will be reuniting on the Ice with fellow 2022 top prospect Conor Geekie and 2023-eligible phenom Zach Benson. It will also be the best-case situation for him health-wise, as it will allow him time to add on some much-needed muscle to better handle the physical challenges of the sport, which will be especially useful considering his love of attacking the net and lack of shyness about getting into the dirty areas. Savoie has plenty of upside as a possession-driving offensive forward, and since the Sabres have an abundance of talented young forwards that they can spread heavy lifting and difficult matchups between, you have to love his odds of reaching that ceiling. – DN

4	JOHN-JASON PETERKA						
POS	**AGE**	**HT/WT**	**BORN**				
LW	20	5-11/190	14-Jan-02				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
22	`20(34th)	0	2020	34			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Rochester (AHL)	70	28	40	68	28	0.97
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	2	0	0	0	0	0

Part of the reason why the Rochester Americans were so fun to watch last year was the dynamic duo of Jack Quinn and John-Jason Peterka. The two showed tremendous chemistry together as they tore apart the AHL. Peterka ended up leading the AHL in rookie point production (68) and goals (28). If you are a history buff, it is worth noting that Peterka's 68 points were the third most all time by a U20 player in the AHL, and the first to top 60 points since Patrice Bergeron scored 61 in 2005 and Mikko Rantanen scored 60 in 2016. That is mighty impressive. This has caused Peterka to rocket up the rankings, making him one of the better young forwards currently outside of the NHL. That may not be for long. Many have him penciled into the Sabres lineup for the coming season, perhaps even as part of a "kid" line with Jack Quinn. Peterka has a skill set built for the modern NHL game. Not only is he a dynamic skater who can lead the attack or support it, but his development as a skilled puck carrier has been tremendous. Peterka is also someone who won't hurt you playing limited minutes to start (increasing his odds of making the NHL this season) because he competes hard at both ends and already has an advanced understanding of how to play without the puck. The excitement over this budding German star is legitimate. - BO

5	DEVON LEVI						
POS	**AGE**	**HT/WT**	**BORN**				
G	20	6-0/185	27-Dec-01				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
34	T(Fla-7/21)	0	2020	212			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**T**	**GAA**	**SO**	**SVPC**
20-21	Northeastern (HE) - DNP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21-22	Northeastern (HE)	32	21	10	1	1.54	10	0.95

Despite posting an extremely good 941 save percentage in his draft season for the Carleton Place Canadians of the CCHL, Devon Levi had to wait until the seventh round of the 2020 draft to hear his name called, going 212th overall to the Florida Panthers. The main reason for that? While his,941 save percentage mark was elite (albeit against lower-tier competition) NHL teams seemingly cared far more about another number: 72. That's how many inches Levi stands above the ground, clocking in at just six feet tall. He's undersized by the standards modern NHL front offices apply to goalies, and as a result his future projection was cloudy. He could be an elite goalie at a lower level, sure, but would his lack of size leave him exposed at the more difficult NCAA level? In his freshman year at Northeastern University, Levi resoundingly answered that question. Levi posted a .952 save percentage and authored one of the most impressive individual seasons by any prospect this year. He already flashed that talent last year, representing Canada at the World Juniors, and now he proved it by laying waste to the college hockey landscape. Now a Buffalo Sabre, Levi's incredible performance has solidified his place as their presumed "goalie of the future." Levi's game shares a lot of similarities to another legendary college performer, Jonathan Quick. Like Quick, Levi relies on his athleticism and mobility to make saves, aggressively challenging shooters and making himself look bigger than he is. Levi's size will always bring those who question whether his game will work at the pro level, and there have been many talented junior or college goalies who flame out against more dangerous offenses. Levi's no guarantee, but there are few goalie prospects who ooze talent like Levi does. - EH

6	NOAH OSTLUND						
POS	**AGE**	**HT/WT**	**BORN**				
C	18	5-10/165	11-Mar-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
47	`22(16th)	Buf	2022	16			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Djurgardens (Swe J20)	32	9	33	42	6	1.31
21-22	Djurgardens (SHL)	11	0	0	0	0	0
21-22	Djurgardens (Swe J18)	1	0	2	2	0	2

The 16th overall selection in the 2022 draft, Ostlund is one of three centres the Buffalo Sabres selected in the first round this year. Buffalo has now selected a player from Sweden in back-to-back first rounds after selecting Isak Rosen last year. Ostlund should be considered a two-way centre, as he excels at both ends of the ice. He is agile and has a smooth skating stride with four-way mobility. He is strong in the faceoff circle and on both special teams. His calling card on offence is his strong playmaking ability. He is a menace in transition using his silky hands and smooth stride to weave through defenders. When he is given time and space, Ostlund will draw the opposition's attention and wait for a passing lane to open up before rifling the puck to a teammate. The concern with Ostlund is his lack of size and strength, which could affect his ability to play down the middle over the long run. If he can add strength, Ostlund could be a staple down the middle for the Sabres in the near future. At worst, he projects to be a middle-six playmaking forward with the ability to contribute on both special team units. After dominating the J20 league last year, Ostlund will look to split time this year between the J20 and the SHL with Djurgårdens. - ZS

7	JIRI KULICH						
POS	**AGE**	**HT/WT**	**BORN**				
C	18	5-11/180	14-Apr-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
50	`22(28th)	Buf	2022	28			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Karlovy Vary (Cze)	49	9	5	14	4	0.29
21-22	Karlovy Vary (Cze-U20)	2	2	2	4	4	2

The Czech forward made a huge impression at the recent World Juniors, scoring twice and adding six assists in seven matches. He was one of the main reasons for the Czechs reaching the semifinals. The Buffalo Sabres first rounder is a smart two-way forward who plays the game at a high pace. He has an absolute cannon of a shot and cannot be left unguarded. He excels at finding open spots for himself and shooting one-timers. Kulich has no notable weakness to his game; he is very good at both ends of the rink, can withstand the physical play, is very good along the boards, and he reads the game well. Kulich has proven himself at the senior level, scoring 14 points (9+5) in 49 games for Karlove Vary in Czech top tier league last year. Moreover, he absolutely tore up the last U18 World Championships, scoring 9 goals (and 2 assists) in six games as Czechia's captain, earning an MVP title. Kulich should remain with Karlove Vary next season, although we could see him in North America at some point. He is ready to play with the pros with his well-rounded game, as he has already demonstrated. Kulich´s versality and confidence bring a lot of hope for Sabres fans that he should appear in the NHL within a few years. - MD

8	PROKHOR POLTAPOV						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
LW	19	6-0/175		1-Feb-03			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
75	`21(33rd)	Buf	2021	33			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
21-22	Zvezda Chekhov (VHL)	25	3	4	7	8	0.28
21-22	CSKA (KHL)	17	0	0	0	1	0
21-22	Krasnaya Armiya (MHL)	13	5	10	15	6	1.15

Selected #33 overall by Buffalo Sabres, Prokhor Poltapov continues to show steady progression. This year he has played for the Russian U-25 national team and for CSKA (KHL). Thus far, playing against men (last year and this year), Poltapov has proven to be an effective player because of his ability to work below the goal line and his high skill level. However, it is also obvious that he still needs to get stronger to perform well at higher levels. Poltapov is a proactive player with great hockey sense who can compete effectively at both ends of the ice. A competitive goal scorer, he also possesses a strong shot and scoring instincts. Poltapov battles hard for the puck, especially in the offensive zone, and is solid in the corners and behind the net. He shows great potential physically against his peers. He protects the puck extremely well and is difficult to knock off stride. While Poltapov has to be considered a mobile player with good agility, he could still stand to improve his quickness. His KHL contract ends after the 2024-25 season, which means that he will continue to develop in Russia until then. However, this will give him the chance to be a strong pro player even before coming to North America, meaning that at that time, he could step right into an NHL lineup and be an effective role player. His upside is probably that of a strong two-way middle six forward. - DB

9	ISAK ROSEN						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
RW	19	5-11/160		15-Mar-03			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
120	`21(14th)	Buf	2021	14			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
21-22	Leksands (SHL)	28	2	2	4	0	0.14
21-22	Leksands (Swe J20)	8	4	5	9	0	1.13
21-22	Mora (Allsvenskan)	3	1	1	2	0	0.67

Rosen was selected 14th overall by the Buffalo Sabres in the 2021 NHL draft. He is a speedy winger who possesses a lethal shot, good puck handling skills, and strong playmaking ability. Rosen's skating stride is textbook, as he is light on his feet with good ankle flexion and the ability to stop and pivot on a dime. He combines his skating stride with elite hands, allowing him to have plenty of success in transition. If you give Rosen enough space, he will hurt you with his scoring ability. One of the best pure scorers in last year's draft, Rosen can beat you with a wrister or one-timer. When Rosen shoots, he has immaculate accuracy. If you give him too much time and space, he will find a way to put it in the back of the net. Last season, Rosen spent the majority of his time in the SHL in a sheltered bottom-six role where, considering the ice-time limitations, he was still able to put up 4 points in 28 games. When Rosen played in the J20 league with a larger role, he produced 4 goals and 9 points in 8 games. He recently made a strong impact for team Sweden in the August World Juniors, playing top-six minutes and contributing 4 points in 6 games. It is expected that Rosen will make the leap over to North America this upcoming season, where he will get a look from the NHL club during training camp, although he is most likely to spend majority of the season in Rochester playing for Buffalo's AHL team. - ZS

10	UKKO-PEKKA LUUKKONEN						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
G	23	6-4/195		9-Mar-99			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
127	`17(54th)	Buf	2017	54			
YR	TM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SVPC
21-22	Rochester (AHL)	35	15	14	6	3.28	1	0.90
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	9	2	5	2	2.74	0	0.92

The road to becoming an NHL netminder has not been easy thus far for the former OHL Star and Red Tilson winner (given to the league's best player). His first pro season in 2020 was a near write-off as he attempted to return following offseason hip surgery. Then each of the last two seasons have also seen him battle various other injuries. However, last year was unquestionably his most promising as a pro. He performed extremely well in the NHL for the Sabres…before ultimately suffering a lower body injury that kept him out for a month. Upon returning to Rochester after the injury, he was not nearly as successful either. Without question, Luukkonen is talented enough to be an NHL netminder. He proved that this past year. He has the size. He has the athleticism. He reads the play well and competes for angles. There is a reason why he dominated the OHL and the World Juniors not too long ago. However, with each accumulating injury, you have to worry about Luukkonen's long-term health and ability to succeed. First, and foremost, staying healthy will be important this season. The Sabres signed Eric Comrie from Winnipeg to split time with Craig Anderson in the Buffalo crease, putting less pressure on UPL. However, it seems likely that he sees some NHL action this year, even if only as an injury fill in. With Devon Levi knocking on the door as the Sabres goalie of the future, Luukkonen likely has a limited window to prove that he still deserves to be in that discussion. - BO

11	RYAN JOHNSON						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
D	21	6-0/175		24-Jul-01			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
145	`19(31st)	Buf	2019	31			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
21-22	Minnesota (B1G)	39	3	16	19	14	0.49

In a surprise turn of events, the former first round pick will return to Minnesota (NCAA) for his senior year, rather than turn pro. Will there be signability concerns with the smooth skating defensively oriented rearguard?

12	ERIK PORTILLO						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
G	22	6-6/210		3-Sep-00			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
156	`19(67th)	Buf	2019	67			
YR	TM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SVPC
21-22	Michigan (B1G)	42	31	10	1	2.14	3	0.93

The 6'6 netminder was one of the best goaltenders in the NCAA last season with Michigan, his sophomore year. Now he returns to Michigan for his junior year and is a top candidate for the Mike Richter award.

13	ALEXANDER KISAKOV						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
LW	19	5-10/160		1-Nov-02			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
185	`21(53rd)	Buf	2021	53			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
21-22	JHC Dynamo Msk (MHL)	51	26	30	56	40	1.10
21-22	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	4	0	0	0	0	0

After a small step backward in the MHL last year, Kisakov has decided to turn pro and will play in Rochester of the AHL this year. The Sabres will be looking for more consistency from the skilled, but competitive winger.

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14 JOSH BLOOM

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
LW	19	6-2/180	8-Jun-03				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
244	`21(95th)	Buf	2021	95			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Saginaw (OHL)	67	30	31	61	39	0.91

The Saginaw Spirit weren't great last year, but Bloom emerged as an excellent prospect. A high IQ winger, Bloom excels as a playmaker and shows potential as a strong two-way forward.

15 OSKARI LAAKSONEN

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	23	6-2/165	2-Jul-99				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
261	`17(89th)	Buf	2017	89			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Rochester (AHL)	71	5	29	34	44	0.48

A former third round pick of the Sabres, Laaksonen's first full season in North America was a major success as he became one of Rochester's most dependable defenders. A mobile puck mover, he could be in play as a Buffalo call up this year.

16 MATS LINDGREN

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	18	5-11/175	26-Aug-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
280	`22(106th)	Buf	2022	106			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Kamloops (WHL)	68	5	39	44	42	0.65

Drafted later than we anticipated he would be, Lindgren is a mobile, pucking moving defender. The focus for him will be to improve his play in the defensive zone while maintaining his strong offensive play.

17 VIKTOR NEUCHEV

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
LW	18	6-2/165	25-Oct-03				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`22(74th)	Buf	2022	74			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Avto Yekaterinburg (MHL)	61	40	27	67	14	1.10

A recent third round selection by the Sabres, Neuchev has a very high offensive ceiling due to his combination of speed and skill. He will continue his development in Russia this coming season.

18 OLIVIER NADEAU

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
RW	19	6-2/205	15-Jan-03				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`21(97th)	Buf	2021	97			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	65	35	43	78	62	1.20

The playmaking winger won a QMJHL championship with Shawinigan last season. His athletic tools are still developing, but his offensive zone awareness is a major strength that makes him the perfect complementary player on a scoring line.

19 TOPIAS LEINONEN

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
G	18	6-5/230	19-Jul-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`22(41st)	Buf	2022	41			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**T**	**GAA**	**SO**	**SVPC**
21-22	JYP (Fin-U20)	21	0	0	0	2.28	0	0.92
21-22	JYP (Fin-Liiga)	4	0	0	0	5.02	0	0.83

The highest selected goalie in the 2022 NHL Draft, Leinonen is a massive netminder who pairs his size with improving athletic traits. Consistency is an issue he has a long time to iron out.

20 BRETT MURRAY

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
LW	24	6-4/215	20-Jul-98				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`16(99th)	Buf	2016	99			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Rochester (AHL)	52	15	17	32	35	0.62
21-22	Buffalo (NHL)	19	2	4	6	23	0.32

The big, power winger, formerly of Penn State, has played well the last two seasons with Rochester of the AHL. After a strong NHL audition last year, he will be looking to make the jump permanently this season.

OWEN POWER

54

CAROLINA HURRICANES

SETH JARVIS

2022-23 NHL STANDINGS PROJECTION

METROPOLITAN	W	L	OL	PTS	GF	GA
Carolina Hurricanes	52	21	9	113	268	211
Pittsburgh Penguins	48	25	9	105	273	231
New York Rangers	46	28	8	100	268	222
Washington Capitals	44	28	10	98	261	246
New Jersey Devils	43	29	10	96	272	278
New York Islanders	42	30	10	94	230	229
Columbus Blue Jackets	39	31	12	90	258	281
Philadelphia Flyers	34	38	10	78	231	275

2022-2023 PREDICTION

RK	PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS	PPG
1	Sebastian Aho	77	39	52	91	1.18
2	Andrei Svechnikov	79	37	41	78	0.99
3	Teuvo Teravainen	80	26	46	72	0.90
4	Brent Burns	77	12	46	58	0.75
5	Martin Necas	81	22	34	56	0.69
6	Seth Jarvis	76	19	33	52	0.68
7	Jesperi Kotkaniemi	74	13	29	42	0.57
8	Paul Stastny	68	16	22	38	0.56
9	Jaccob Slavin	78	5	33	38	0.49
10	Jordan Staal	76	16	21	37	0.49
11	Brady Skjei	82	7	29	36	0.44
12	Jesper Fast	82	12	18	30	0.37
13	Brett Pesce	74	6	19	25	0.34
14	Ondrej Kase	63	8	14	22	0.35
15	Ryan Dzingel	60	7	11	18	0.30
16	Jordan Martinook	68	7	11	18	0.26
17	Ethan Bear	66	5	12	17	0.26
18	Max Pacioretty	25	7	9	16	0.64
19	Dylan Coghlan	69	2	14	16	0.23
20	Jack Drury	45	5	10	15	0.33

2022 DRAFT PICKS

Dft Rd	Selected	PLAYER	POS	AGE	HT/WT	TEAM
2	60	Gleb TRIKOZOV	LW	18	6-1/185	Omskie Yastreby (MHL)
3	71	Alexander PEREVALOV	LW	18	6-0/190	Loko (MHL)
4	101	Simon FORSMARK	D	18	6-2/195	Orebro (SHL)
						Orebro (Swe J20)
4	124	Cruz LUCIUS	RW	18	6-0/185	USN U18 (USDP)
5	156	Vladimir GRUDININ	D	18	5-10/160	Krasnaya Armiya (MHL)
6	171	Jakub VONDRAS	G	18	6-3/180	HC Plzen U20 (Cze U20)
7	205	Alexander PELEVIN	D	18	6-1/185	Chaika (MHL)

TEAM STATS REPORT

CATEGORY	STAT	RANK	CATEGORY	STAT	RANK
RECORD	54-30-8	3	GF	277	9
HOME	29-8-4	5	GA	200	1
ROAD	25-12-4	2T	PP	22.0	13
SHOOTOUT	1-2	27	PK	88.0	1

NEW ARRIVALS
Brent Burns-D (SJ), Dylan Coghlan-D (VGK), Ryan Dzingel-F (SJ), Ondrej Kase-F (Tor), William Lagesson-D (Mtl), Mackenzie MacEachern-F (StL), Max Pacioretty-F (VGK), Lane Pederson-F (SJ), Zach Sawchenko-G (SJ), Malte Stromwall-F

DEPARTURES
Ian Cole-D (TB), Anthony DeAngelo-D (Phi), Max Domi-F (Chi), Jack LaFontaine-G, Josh Leivo-F (StL), Steven Lorentz-F (SJ), Alex Lyon-G (Fla), Eetu Makiniemi-G (SJ), Nino Niederreiter-F (Nsh), Andrew Poturalski-F (Sea), Spencer Smallman-F (Col), Brendan Smith-D (NJ), C.J. Smith-F (NYR), Derek Stepan-F, Vincent Trocheck-F (NYR)

TEAM AT-A-GLANCE
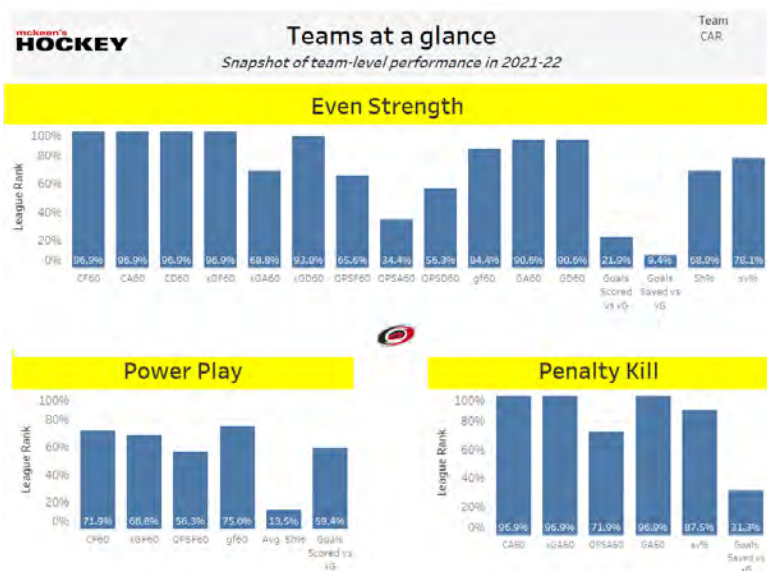
Firing most efficiently, the Hurricanes were as offensively dangerous as defensively stingy. At 5v5, they were among the best scoring chance generation clubs, and they allowed on of the least amount of scoring chances against – a truly dangerous mix of elite results for both key components of hockey strategy. Special teams weren't that far behind, except for a deflated shooting percentage while on the powerplay that could have been even more dangerous. The penalty kill – as stingy as exemplified – was really known for its aggressive offensive transitionary counter measures, dubbed 'power kill'.

TEAM: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull in the NHL
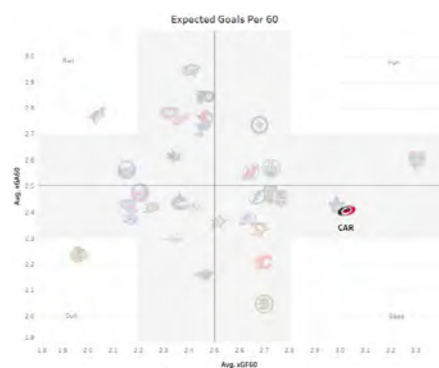
Sitting close to Toronto on this chart shows an explosive Hurricanes forward group, in comparison at even strength. They generated over three expected goals per 60 minutes and limited their competition to 2.4 expected goals against – lower than the NHL average. Both components on their own are very impressive, but placing in this area of the chart shows how balanced and dangerous they are at even strength. Goaltending toppled in the postseason and the team suffered, so questions arising from health in the crease can alter the results in 2022-23.

DEFENSE: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull NHL skaters in 2022-23
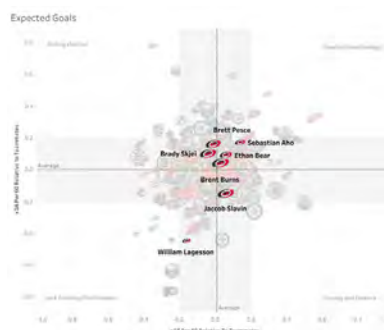
An already strong blueline with stalwarts like Jacob Slavin and Brett Pesce was made even more potent with the trade bringing Brent Burns from San Jose. Burns add another rover to the blueline already blessed with mobility – and should considerably enhance the power play. Modern archetype of a defensive defenseman, Slavin may be deployed somewhat differently in conjunction with more important moments, leaving any heavy offensive loads to the newly acquired Burns. Juggling impact blueliners to pass around time on ice is going to be the challenge for coaching staff.

FORWARDS: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull NHL skaters in 2022-23
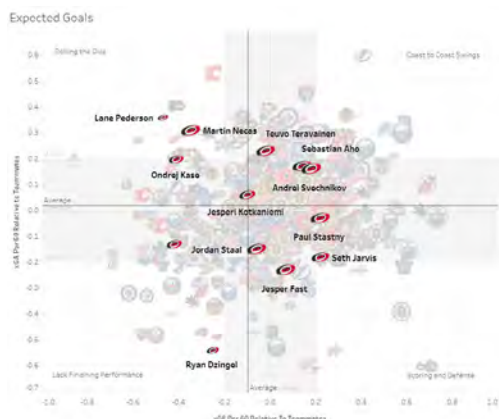
More dispersed results among forwards relative to teammates, showing the stars producing – with some questionable defensive consequences. Ex-Habs' pivot Jesperi Kotkaniemi performed at the NHL average level, and Seth Jarvis showed just how potent he can be as a support forward at 5v5. Newly added Paul Stastny and Ondrej Kase will provide support – as long as health permits, but overall there's a heavy reliance on team stars to produce, with support players holding the fort defensively and giving the Canes a chance to win every night.

GOALTENDING: GOALS SAVED VS EXPECTATION
A look at how goalies performed relative to the workload they faced in 2022-23
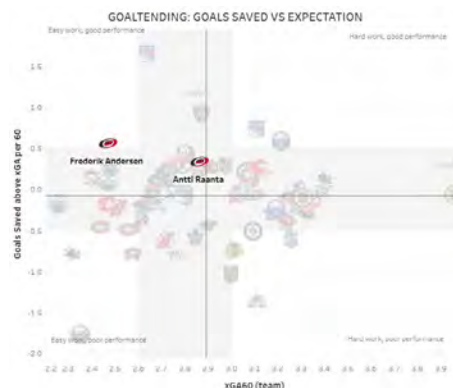
Injuries entering the postseason once again derailed an outstanding performance in a renaissance season by ex-Leaf, Frederik Andersen. Antti Raanta had to carry the team in the playoffs, until he too was injured, otherwise marring a decent season. Both goalies recorded better than NHL average results, while teammates did their best to limit high danger scoring chances. Repeating the regular season considering the make up of the team is likely, however, the postseason results from 2021-22 should make the club wary to keep a solid stable of goalies on hand, in case of injury.

LINE COMBINATIONS

TOI	LW	C	RW	xGF	GF	HD/60	MD/60	LD/60	Fwd xGF%
13.49	Andrei Svechnikov	Sebastian Aho	Seth Jarvis	51.3%	0.65	0.22	0.25	0.18	
14.69	Teuvo Teravainen	Jesperi Kotkaniemi	Martin Necas	52.7%	0.65	0.20	0.31	0.14	54.0%
16.85	Paul Stastny	Jordan Staal	Jesper Fast	57.0%	0.86	0.19	0.39	0.28	
6.85	Jordan Martinook	Jack Drury	Ondrej Kase	55.0%	1.16	0.27	0.47	0.42	

TOI	LD		RD	xGF	GF	HD/60	MD/60	LD/60	Def xGF%
22.21	Brady Skjei		Brett Pesce	54.5%	0.27	0.19	0.04	0.04	
25.14	Jaccob Slavin		Brent Burns	52.5%	0.20	0.15	0.04	0.01	53.7%
13.14	Ethan Bear		Dylan Coghlan	54.0%	0.25	0.18	0.04	0.03	

G		Predicted	xGF/60	GF/60
Frederik Andersen		PP1	5.15	4.81
Antti Raanta		PP2	2.21	3.21

The Hurricanes, fresh off a second-round exit in the playoffs loaded up on the back end, adding Brent Burns from the Sharks. Not finished, they added Max Pacioretty, Paul Stastny and Ondrej Kase up front. Goaltending was the greatest issue during the postseason that hasn't been addressed. Seth Jarvis and Marin Necas provide some extra pop up front. Burns will man the powerplay on his own and will have a solid partner in Jaccob Slain to cover up for any over exuberance.

CAROLINA HURRICANES

FORWARDS

20 SEBASTIAN AHO — C

AGE: 25 **H/W:** 5-11/175 **NHL:** 6 **SALARY:** $8,460,250 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Carolina (NHL)	68	38	28	66	26	19.3	0.97
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	56	24	33	57	32	19.3	1.02
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	79	37	44	81	38	19.0	1.03
	Career	445	182	219	401	172		0.90
	Prediction	77	39	52	91			1.18

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	25.85	0.43	0.47	0.00	2.33	15.00	66.67
5on5	551.53	9.19	1.22	7.14	17.38	10.04	43.48

The 24-year-old center has been Mr. Everything for the Hurricanes since joining the team back in 2016, leading the team in most statistical categories while producing at a point-per-game clip for the fourth year in a row. He has gone from the team's best offensive player to their do-it-all player, frequently playing over 20 minutes a night and getting the matchups usually reserved for Jordan Staal. This includes heavy usage on the penalty kill, an area where he isn't afraid to push for offense. He embodies Carolina's tenacious playing style. Looking to pressure and forecheck first but will create if the opportunity presents itself. His explosive skating and great vision give him plenty chances to do this but his knack for goal-scoring is what sets him apart. Whether it's from the bumper spot or in front of the net, Aho was a pain for goaltenders, potting a career high 37 goals with 13 of them coming on the power play. Game-breakers come in different packages and while Aho creates a lot in transition, most of his goal-scoring comes off "ugly" plays. He will always find a way to make space for himself off a cycle, get to a loose puck in the crease or get a decent one-time off from an awkward angle. This makes him the Hurricanes MVP when considering everything else he brings to the table.

37 ANDREI SVECHNIKOV — LW

AGE: 22 **H/W:** 6-2/190 **NHL:** 4 **SALARY:** $7,750,000 **CONTRACT:** 2029

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Carolina (NHL)	68	24	37	61	54	16.4	0.90
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	55	15	27	42	44	17.3	0.76
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	78	30	39	69	79	17.2	0.88
	Career	283	89	120	209	239		0.74
	Prediction	79	37	41	78			0.99

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	212.72	3.55	7.35	9.52	31.74	14.77	54.29
5on5	1049.43	17.49	16.64	9.94	55.34	8.90	69.09

While passing the Michigan torch to Trevor Zegras, Svechnikov has emerged as one of the better playmakers in the league, although his assist total didn't reflect that. Even after a 30-goal season, it felt like he left some offense on the table due to goalposts or poor finishing luck, both from him and his linemates. Creating offense has been so effortless for him since he came into the league and as he gets stronger, it's been easy for him to get a step on defenders off the rush or winning a battle in front of the net. His underlying stats reflect this, as he is one of the best players in the league at creating scoring chances and high danger passes. It's plausible to think there's

Sit	Situation - 5v5 or 5v4		O-IxG (OI xG delta)	On-Ice Expected Goals Differential – OI goals scored minus expected OI goals for – positive = outperforming negative = underperforming.
TOI	Time on Ice		OISh%	On-ice shooting percentage
IxG (XG Delta)	Individual Expected Goals Differential Goals scored, minus expected goals for positive = outperforming negative = underperforming		IPP	Individual Point Percentage – % of points earned on goals scored while on the ice.
iSh%	Individual shooting percentge			

another level to Svechnikov's game when taking this into account, especially with scoring increasing across the league. Right now, he's in that upper echelon of players but inconsistent scoring along with his habit of taking countless undisciplined stick penalties keep him from the elite tier. He could easily be the best player on the Hurricanes by this time next year, as it only takes one stretch where everything clicks to break that glass ceiling.

86 TEUVO TERAVAINEN — LW

AGE: 28 **H/W:** 5-11/180 **NHL:** 8 **SALARY:** $5,400,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Carolina (NHL)	68	15	48	63	8	19.1	0.93
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	21	5	10	15	4	16.3	0.71
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	77	22	43	65	24	17.4	0.84
	Career	526	118	251	369	100		0.70
	Prediction	80	26	46	72			0.90

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	214.68	3.58	4.79	12.31	31.99	14.64	82.86
5on5	946.52	15.78	9.65	8.93	47.47	8.90	50.00

Sometimes good players benefit from playing in great situations and that was the case for Teravainen, scoring 9 power play goals from the right circle as PKs focused on Aho and getting plenty of lay-up scoring chances from Svechnikov. Primarily known as a playmaker and someone you'd have to beg to shoot the puck, Teravainen regained some of his goal-scoring touch and made the most of getting to play with some talented linemates. It's nothing out of the ordinary for him, as he's usually Aho's wingman but his role is more about giving his linemates space, quick passes from the boards and great defensive positioning rather than highlight reel goals. As one of the smartest and longest tenured players on the team, Teravainen can probably excel in any role coach Brind'Amour puts him in. He might be leaned on for more goal-scoring now with Trocheck and Niederreiter going out the door and Pacioretty not available until February. Some of the extra offense they got from Teravainen came at the expense of his

usually elite defensive play, which is a sacrifice the Hurricanes might be willing to make if they need him to be more than just the steady, complementary piece on the top line.

67 MAX PACIORETTY — LW

AGE: 33 **H/W:** 6-2/215 **NHL:** 14 **SALARY:** 7,000,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Vegas (NHL)	71	32	34	66	44	17.5	0.93
20-21	Vegas (NHL)	48	24	27	51	14	18.0	1.06
21-22	Vegas (NHL)	39	19	18	37	33	17.2	0.95
	Career	850	323	319	642	466		0.76
	Prediction	25	7	9	16			0.64

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	100.10	1.67	3.24	8.33	12.18	14.58	71.43
5on5	546.87	9.11	8.7	14.14	25.95	9.06	72.41

When healthy, Pacioretty is exactly what the Hurricanes needed in the playoffs. A winger who can give them an "easy" goal while being a fit for the team's forechecking system. Unfortunately, they won't have him in their lineup for the first four months of the season, as he will be recovering from a torn Achilles tendon. This is after a season where he was limited to only 39 games after a foot injury in October and wrist surgery in December. Scoring only seven goals in the 22 games after surgery, it's fair to wonder if he is still has the power behind his shot that made him such a coveted goal-scorer. Not that players haven't recovered from injuries before, but the Hurricanes will only have Pacioretty for this season and need an immediate impact out of him. We saw him adjust after the injury, scoring most of his goals from close range or off deflections instead of the perimeter and finding sneaky ways to get himself open. Carolina was a perfect match for him on paper, as they're a team that dominates the territorial play and needs more finish. Pacioretty should give that to them in theory, but they will need to wait awhile before seeing it in action.

POWER PLAY

FIRST UNIT

LW		**RW**
Andrei Svechnikov		Martin Necas
	C	
	Sebastian Aho	
LD		**RD**
Teuvo Teravainen		Brent Burns

SECOND UNIT

LW		**RW**
Paul Stastny		Ondrej Kase
	C	
	Jesperi Kotkaniemi	
LD		**RD**
Jaccob Slavin		Seth Jarvis

DEPTH CHART

LW	C	RW
Andrei Svechnikov	**Sebastian Aho**	**Seth Jarvis**
Teuvo Teravainen	**Jesperi Kotkaniemi**	**Martin Necas**
Paul Stastny	**Jordan Staal**	**Jesper Fast**
Jordan Martinook	**Jack Drury**	**Ondrej Kase**
Ryan Dzingel	Lane Pederson	Stefan Noesen
Max Pacioretty	Ryan Suzuki	Dominik Bokk
Mackenzie MacEachern	Vasily Ponomarev	Malte Stromwall

LD	G	RD
Brady Skjei	**Frederik Andersen**	**Brett Pesce**
Jaccob Slavin		**Brent Burns**
Ethan Bear	Antti Raanta	**Dylan Coghlan**
William Lagesson		**Max Lajoie**
Jake Gardiner	Zach Sawchenko	Jalen Chatfield
Tarmo Reunanen	Pyotr Kochetkov	Joey Keane
Cavan Fitzgerald	Jake Kucharski	Aleksi Heimosalmi

CAROLINA HURRICANES

24 SETH JARVIS   RW

AGE: 20 **H/W:** 5-10/175 **NHL:** 1 **SALARY:** $894,167 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Portland (WHL)	58	42	56	98	24		1.69
20-21	Portland (WHL)	24	15	12	27	15		1.13
20-21	Chicago (AHL)	9	7	4	11	4		1.22
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	68	17	23	40	18	13.5	0.59
	Career	68	17	23	40	18		0.59
	Prediction	**76**	**19**	**33**	**52**			**0.68**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	91.72	1.53	1.64	15.38	8.09	10.26	75.00
5on5	826.73	13.78	12.09	15.56	45.24	10.11	66.67

It was impressive how seamlessly Jarvis fit into the Hurricanes lineup. Not seeing his first game until Halloween, it was obvious from the get-go that he wasn't going back to the WHL anytime soon. His speed and insane lower body strength made him a fit on the fourth line and he quickly earned a promotion to the top-six. Fitting in as a player who could bring a high-motor element to Aho's line for quick-strike offense and as a grinder who could get Aho or Svechnikov the puck from below the dots or vice versa. Being a right-shot wing also helped, as it was easier for him to receive some of Aho's passes in the slot or off give-and-go's in the neutral zone. Combine that with the pace he plays at and Jarvis was exactly what the team needed heading into last year and someone they could heavily rely on for offense next year. Only 20 years old, he should be trending upwards but there is going to be more pressure on him to produce with some of the roster departures. Jarvis was arguably the team's best forward in the playoffs, which is a great sign if the Hurricanes want him to be a core player going forward.

11 JORDAN STAAL   C

AGE: 34 **H/W:** 6-4/215 **NHL:** 16 **SALARY:** $6,000,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Carolina (NHL)	68	8	19	27	40	17.3	0.40
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	53	16	22	38	30	18.3	0.72
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	78	17	19	36	18	16.4	0.46
	Career	1092	258	353	611	523		0.56
	Prediction	**76**	**16**	**21**	**37**			**0.49**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	53.33	0.89	1.64	20.00	3.83	19.35	33.33
5on5	1000.20	16.67	15.7	11.02	51.29	8.21	60.87

Now in his mid-30's, Staal got off to the slowest start of his career, tallying only two goals and 11 points through the first 41 games. His size and strength kept him high in the lineup, but the lack of offense was a genuine concern for the Canes captain. Then the switch flipped in the second half of the year and the went on a mini tear, scoring 15 goals in his final 37 games and finishing with a respectable scoring line. Staal does so much for the team as their top defensive center that any offense he produces is just gravy, but those who have watched him for awhile knew it was a matter of time before the dam broke for him. His line with Nino Niederreiter and Jesper Fast was very important for the Hurricanes if they needed a good shift after a goal or when they got hemmed in. The approach was very basic, get below the goal line and go to work, but it was the team's identity and eventually Staal got some reward for it. Niederreiter leaving might be a big hit to Staal's goal-production, but the Hurricanes have enough worker bee type wingers that they should be able to find a good running mate for him this year. Hopefully the offense will be a little more consistent.

82 JESPERI KOTKANIEMI   C

AGE: 22 **H/W:** 6-1/190 **NHL:** 4 **SALARY:** $6,100,000 **CONTRACT:** 2030

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Montreal (NHL)	36	6	2	8	23	13.0	0.22
19-20	Laval (AHL)	13	1	12	13	16		1.00
20-21	Montreal (NHL)	56	5	15	20	12	14.5	0.36
20-21	Assat (Fin-Liiga)	10	2	6	8	8		0.80
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	66	12	17	29	37	12.0	0.44
	Career	237	34	57	91	98		0.38
	Prediction	**74**	**13**	**29**	**42**			**0.57**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	76.70	1.28	0.79	0.00	6.57	14.75	44.44
5on5	709.67	11.83	8.38	16.44	34.82	8.33	75.76

Carolina's decision to offer-sheet Kotkaniemi and treat him as if he's an older prospect was a little confusing. The 22-year-old spent most of last season on the fourth line and only saw an increased role in short spells. The decision to sign him to a seven-year contract is a steep bet, making him part of the team's core going forward. His first year with Carolina was solid, but there is always an asterisk when you're projecting someone who played fourth line minutes to jump into a 2C role. He played good minutes in Montreal, but some similar issues remain. He has one of the best shots on the team, but it takes an extra second for him to release it and will opt for the simple play more times than not. Most of his offense was off long cycles where the team was already setup in the offensive zone and while he made some progress there, it was against a lot of depth defensemen and checking line players. Some players can make the jump to the top-six seamlessly and Kotkaniemi will be setup to succeed with Carolina's great depth on the wings. It might work in his favor, as he will have some more space to create instead of having to constantly fight off checks on the fourth line. He will also be tasked with carrying more of a workload in transition and the defensive zone, something he can do but didn't have much of a role in last year. The former third overall pick might not live up to his draft status, but he has shown signs of becoming a good middle-six center, which is what the Hurricanes are paying him to be, if he can make the ice-time jump.

71 JESPER FAST   RW

AGE: 30 **H/W:** 6-0/190 **NHL:** 8 **SALARY:** $2,000,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	NY Rangers (NHL)	69	12	17	29	20	16.4	0.42
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	46	6	13	19	14	15.2	0.41
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	82	14	20	34	4	14.5	0.41
	Career	550	75	125	200	134		0.36
	Prediction	**82**	**12**	**18**	**30**			**0.37**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	23.35	0.39	0.08	50.00	1.25	11.76	100.00
5on5	1034.12	17.24	12.82	13.48	54.15	9.04	49.06

Someone is going to have to pick up the slack with Carolina's offense and a dark horse candidate for that is Jesper Fast. He was quietly one of the team's better 5v5 goal-scorers last year, recording a career-high 14 goals most of which coming while standing in front of the net after Nino Niederreiter or Jordan Staal won a puck below the goal-line. A responsible defensive forward, Fast has shown some offensive

	PPG BY QTR			**2021-2022 TEAM SCORING**											PLAYOFFS			
1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q		GP	G	A	Pts	BST	YR	+/-	PIM	S	S%	MIN	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
1.00	1.33	0.81	1.00	Sebastian AHO	79	37	44	81	83	18-9	18	38	221	16.7	18.57	14	4	7	11	0
1.00	0.94	0.81	0.79	Andrei SVECHNIKOV	78	30	39	69	69	21-22	19	79	249	12	17.15	14	4	1	5	-1
0.70	0.95	0.83	0.90	Teuvo TERAVAINEN	77	22	43	65	76	18-9	22	24	202	10.9	17.41	14	4	7	11	4
0.65	0.76	0.62	0.47	Vincent TROCHECK	81	21	30	51	75	17-8	21	78	168	12.5	17.52	14	6	4	10	7
0.95	1.00	0.70	0.55	Anthony DEANGELO	64	10	41	51	57	19-20	30	56	151	6.6	19.48	14	1	9	10	0
0.43	0.71	0.50	0.65	Nino NIEDERREITER	75	24	20	44	57	16-7	29	34	144	16.7	14.50	14	4	1	5	-5
0.45	0.68	0.43	0.58	Jaccob SLAVIN	79	4	38	42	42	21-22	35	10	165	2.4	23.31	14	2	6	8	6
0.54	0.58	0.25	0.90	*Seth JARVIS	68	17	23	40	40	21-22	11	18	110	15.5	13.52	14	3	5	8	-1
0.67	0.53	0.33	0.55	Martin NECAS	78	14	26	40	41	20-21	5	32	159	8.8	16.11	14	0	5	5	0
0.90	0.43	0.67	0.35	Max DOMI	72	11	28	39	72	18-9	10	55	104	10.6	13.02	14	3	3	6	6
				…CBJ	53	9	23	32			2	37	77	11.7	13.24					
				…Car	19	2	5	7			8	18	27	7.4	11.59					
0.25	0.57	0.38	0.70	Brady SKJEI	82	9	30	39	39	21-22T	22	48	184	4.9	21.08	14	1	2	3	-1
0.40	0.16	0.57	0.72	Jordan STAAL	78	17	19	36	50	11-2	11	18	146	11.6	16.37	14	1	5	6	0
0.40	0.33	0.38	0.55	Jesper FAST	82	14	20	34	34	21-22	24	4	97	14.4	14.48	14	1	0	1	-2
0.35	0.62	0.17	0.86	Jesperi KOTKANIEMI	66	12	17	29	34	18-9	3	37	81	14.8	12.01	14	0	2	2	-4
0.47	0.43	0.33	0.40	Brett PESCE	70	7	21	28	29	18-9	5	39	148	4.7	21.42	14	1	2	3	0
0.33	0.44	0.17	0.31	Derek STEPAN	58	9	10	19	57	13-4	0	14	96	9.4	10.47	3	0	0	0	-2
0.10	0.42	0.21	0.29	Ian COLE	75	2	17	19	26	19-20T	15	83	77	2.6	17.09	14	1	1	2	2
0.30	0.40	0.11	0.33	Jordan MARTINOOK	59	6	9	15	25	18-9T	1	22	77	7.8	11.12	6	0	1	1	0
0.38	0.08	0.26	0.20	Ethan BEAR	58	5	9	14	21	19-20	1	20	97	5.2	16.04	-	-	-	-	-
0.17	0.32	0.15	0.10	Steven LORENTZ	67	8	5	13	13	21-22	0	8	80	10	10.53	5	0	0	0	0
0.22	0.13	0.14	0.21	Brendan SMITH	45	4	4	8	19	13-4	6	36	63	6.3	13.55	14	1	3	4	0
0.00	1.00	0.00	-	Josh LEIVO	7	1	2	3	24	18-9	1	2	10	10	9.13	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.14	0.22	-	*Jalen CHATFIELD	16	0	3	3	3	21-22	1	8	25	0	14.47	-	-	-	-	-
-	1.00	-	-	*Jack DRURY	2	2	0	2	2	21-22	3	2	6	33.3	15.57	-	-	-	-	-
-	1.00	-	-	Andrew POTURALSKI	2	0	2	2	2	21-22	-1	0	4	0	10.08	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	-	-	*Joey KEANE	1	0	0	0	0	21-22T	0	2	1	0	13.38	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	-	-	C.J. SMITH	1	0	0	0	2	18-9	-1	0	0	0	9.22	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	-	-	Stefan NOESEN	2	0	0	0	27	17-8	1	0	4	0	14.19	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	-	-	Max LAJOIE	5	0	0	0	15	18-9	2	0	6	0	12.32	-	-	-	-	-

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flashes in the past and the defined role on Jordan Staal's line worked to his favor. Most of his game is based on positioning and making quick plays to help with breakouts and being a disruptive force on the forecheck, but he got to show some of his skill last year. Having some offensive pop on top of posting some of the best underlying numbers on the team is never a bad thing. It's tough to say if his goal-scoring ways will continue last year, as he lost a key linemate in Nino Niederreiter. That said, he should continue to be a key part of the Canes third line. He could see some second power play unit time, as he played the netfront role in the past.

DEFENSE

88 BRENT BURNS | D

AGE: 37 **H/W:** 6-5/230 **NHL:** 18 **SALARY:** $8,000,000 **CONTRACT:** 2025

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	San Jose (NHL)	70	12	33	45	34	25.2	0.64
20-21	San Jose (NHL)	56	7	22	29	36	26.1	0.52
21-22	San Jose (NHL)	82	10	44	54	42	26.1	0.66
	Career	1251	227	550	777	763		0.62
	Prediction	77	12	46	58			0.75

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	206.83	3.45	2.88	6.67	20.79	12.76	64.00
5on5	1612.02	26.87	4.47	4.65	65.57	9.41	39.71

Everyone knows what they're getting with Brent Burns, so the two questions heading into this year are how much he will play and how will switching teams effect his point total. The big change with him over the last two years is that his shot volume totals have plummeted, which in turn hurt his counting stats. Burns production has declined along with the Sharks play and now he's going to a team notorious for spending most of the game in the offensive zone. Logic suggests that Burns will see a bit of a return to form, as his puck skills haven't declined as much as his point totals suggest. Burns was still one of the better blue-liners in the league at setting up scoring chances, creating offense off the rush and exiting the zone. The only thing that has been missing is the shot volume and ability to command the offensive zone like he did in the Sharks heyday. Will that change with the Hurricanes and their strong forecheck, or will it be similar to last year with the Sharks as the Canes have seen some of their forward talent leave via free agency? It will be interesting to see this work in action. He brings a similar profile to what they had in both Dougie Hamilton and Tony DeAngelo but is much older with two careers worth of ice-time on his tires.

25 PAUL STASTNY | LW

AGE: 36 **H/W:** 6-0/205 **NHL:** 16 **SALARY:** $3,750,000 **CONTRACT:** 2022

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Vegas (NHL)	71	17	21	38	24	17.1	0.54
20-21	Winnipeg (NHL)	56	13	16	29	32	17.3	0.52
21-22	Winnipeg (NHL)	71	21	24	45	14	17.5	0.63
	Career	1072	284	516	800	484		0.75
	Prediction	68	16	22	38			0.56

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	42.00	0.70	2.91	36.36	7.86	29.17	57.14
5on5	579.05	9.65	9.51	9.09	24.06	6.82	85.71

A beacon of consistency, Paul Stastny is a player who can always pencil in for at least 40 points most years. He is coming off one of his more productive seasons in recent memory, hitting the 20-goal mark for the first time since 2014. The 16-year veteran wore a lot of hats for the Jets, playing on both special teams' units and providing some stability in the middle of their lineup. He played on the wing alongside Mark Scheifele, showing his versatility and his value as a complementary piece. Stastny's never been a fast player to begin with, relying on his vision and smarts to get by, so he's been able to age more gracefully than other players. It's allowed him to be one of the better play-driving centers in the league even in his late 30's, letting his linemates do most of the work with the puck while he drives the middle or looks for a soft spot in the defense. He plays more of a "passenger" role based on how often he has the puck but does a lot of good work away from it to make things easier for his linemates. Also has the hands to make creative, quick plays in short areas. He's a nice fit for the Hurricanes at only $1.5 million and should replace some of what they lost in Vincent Trocheck.

74 JACCOB SLAVIN | D

AGE: 28 **H/W:** 6-3/205 **NHL:** 7 **SALARY:** $5,300,000 **CONTRACT:** 2025

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Carolina (NHL)	68	6	30	36	10	23.2	0.53
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	52	3	12	15	2	23.0	0.29
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	79	4	38	42	10	23.3	0.53
	Career	508	36	172	208	70		0.41
	Prediction	78	5	33	38			0.49

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	107.12	1.79	0.93	7.14	11.77	12.04	46.15
5on5	1404.93	23.42	5.5	2.34	71.77	9.39	39.19

The modern-day shutdown defenseman, Slavin is the type of player who could put up zero points and still have a positive impact. There are few players in the league who are as good at skating forwards into a corner or using their stick as him. He also covers a ton of ground in the defensive zone, disrupting most plays before they even start and quickly getting the puck out of the zone to relieve pressure. He was tasked with more of an offensive role last year with Tony DeAngelo as his partner. He ended up having a career year in points and showed some real upside there, especially with shooting for deflections and making soft passes to the front of the net from the left point. It was the most growth he has shown in that part of the game, at least at even strength, running the power play is something he hasn't quite figured out yet. While he didn't play pure shutdown minutes, Slavin still played 23-25 minutes a night and was the Jenga piece for Carolina's blue line. If he had an off night, it was usually bad news for the Canes. Those were few and far between though as he had a stellar season and adapted to playing in more offensive situations. This should continue next year with the roving Brent Burns projected to be his defense partner.

76 BRADY SKJEI | D

AGE: 28 **H/W:** 6-3/210 **NHL:** 6 **SALARY:** $5,250,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	NYR-Car (NHL)	67	8	16	24	45	20.4	0.36
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	52	3	7	10	30	20.4	0.19
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	82	9	30	39	48	21.1	0.48
	Career	448	37	125	162	252		0.36
	Prediction	82	7	29	36			0.44

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	10.55	0.18	0.36	0.00	0.43	0.00	
5on5	1445.47	24.09	7.57	5.29	73.54	8.70	51.39

2021-22 was a revival for Skjei and it came out of nowhere. After seemingly topping out as a low-end 4/5 defenseman, he had a career year offensively and posted some of his best underlying stats since his rookie year. All awhile playing a tough shutdown role with Brett Pesce. The Hurricanes have done well to make the game easier for Skjei, giving him the greenlight to join the rush and allowing him to stand up at the line with Pesce or a forward backing him up if he gets beat. His size and skating were always going to be his calling cards and translating it to game situations was the challenge. This started to come around last year, he had a career season offensively and looked like a threat to score instead of someone who would spam low percentage shots from the boards. The high-risk nature of his game is still an issue, but it's something the Hurricanes are more content with now that they're seeing the rewards. It gives the Hurricanes second pair a different look even though their primary job is shutting down top lines. Skjei's aggressive nature and playing style was a big part of that with how often he would pinch to keep pucks in, push for offense or quickly re-enter the zone after a long shift. He had 39 points with zero power play time last year, so he could challenge for a spot on the second unit if Slavin continues to struggle there.

22 BRETT PESCE | D

AGE: 27 **H/W:** 6-3/200 **NHL:** 7 **SALARY:** $4,025,000 **CONTRACT:** 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Carolina (NHL)	61	4	14	18	27	21.5	0.30
20-21	Carolina (NHL)	55	4	21	25	20	22.5	0.45
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	70	7	21	28	39	21.4	0.40
	Career	475	31	124	155	164		0.33
	Prediction	74	6	19	25			0.34

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	30.75	0.51	0.39	16.67	2.8	13.64	100.00
5on5	1219.47	20.32	4.75	3.05	61.19	8.55	35.59

Looking at Brett Pesce's profile and watching him play is quite the contrast. He's tall but not towering, has a good frame but isn't physically intimidating. His shot isn't very powerful, a great skater with good edges but not a burner like Cale Makar. He looks like someone who would top out as a depth defenseman at the NHL level, but he is one of the better shutdown defenders in the league. Playing a pure defensive role with Brady Skjei for the past two years has been up-and-down for him. He can still break-up plays at the blue line better than most and can skate his way out of pressure. His defensive impact, however, usually varies depending on who he is paired with. A predictable partner like Slavin or Calvin de Haan will yield good results for him while a more aggressive,

roaming partner like Skjei or Edmundson will leave him covering for more mistakes and sometimes it's too much for him to handle. This was the case for him at times last year, but history suggests that he will rebound and return to the reliable defender he was for most of his career. A down year for him is a good year for most in the league.

GOALTENDER

31 FREDERIK ANDERSEN G

AGE: 32 **H/W:** 6-4/230 **NHL:** 9 **SALARY:** $4,500,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SPVC
19-20	Toronto (NHL)	52	29	13	7	2.85	3	0.909
20-21	Toronto (NHL)	24	13	8	3	2.96	0	0.895
20-21	Toronto (AHL)	2	0	0	1	3.77	0	0.885
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	52	35	14	3	2.17	4	0.922
	Career	445	261	114	51	2.59	23	0.916
	Prediction	**50**	**31**	**11**	**5**	**2.42**	**3**	**0.914**

When Carolina opted to jettison all their existing goaltenders in favor of a pair of over-thirty veterans with lengthy injury histories, it seemed hard to put big money down in favor of a successful Hurricanes year; after all, it would only take one ill-timed pair of injuries to both Frederik Andersen and Antti Raanta for the team to find themselves out in the wind with the playoffs on the line. Luckily, the gamble worked out in their favor – and while neither vet had been willing to sign on a year-by-year basis, Andersen's year was impressive enough to feel comfortable with him coming back for yet another season with the Metropolitan Division club. At 32-years old, Andersen .922 unadjusted save percentage and four shutouts were good for a whopping 35 team wins and the goaltender's best statistical season since his rookie year. Very few goaltenders are able to do a complete one-eighty after struggling as hard as Andersen did during his final year in Toronto – but whatever

Carolina did clearly worked. After a year of watching the Danish netminder struggle to accurately read shot rebounds and recover comfortably in order to face second shots, Andersen's sharp instincts looked good as new during the 2021-22 season. He didn't change much about his core style – he remained a goaltender who seems most comfortable pushing forward into shots and holding down the fort with clear sightlines instead of asking his defense to crowd his crease, with a preference for cutting down open space instead of waiting out shooters. But instead of fighting against the defensive system in front of him, which he seemed to be almost forced to do during his tenure in Toronto, he was able to play to his strengths with the Hurricanes and hit his stride. His only negative was the lack of consistency he posted; despite having some of the league's best numbers, his quality start percentage sat just a hair above the average. But as long as he's able to truly split the net with tandem partner Antti Raanta, which should prevent the more-consistent Finnish veteran from suffering more injuries, that shouldn't be a big enough problem to hurt the Hurricanes in their push to hit the Stanley Cup Final.

32 ANTTI RAANTA G

AGE: 33 **H/W:** 6-0/195 **NHL:** 9 **SALARY:** $2,000,000 **CONTRACT:** 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SPVC
19-20	Arizona (NHL)	33	15	14	3	2.63	2	0.921
19-20	Tucson (AHL)	1	1	0	0	0.00	1	1.000
20-21	Arizona (NHL)	12	5	5	2	3.36	0	0.905
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	28	15	5	4	2.45	2	0.912
	Career	226	108	70	24	2.46	15	0.919
	Prediction	**36**	**21**	**10**	**4**	**2.66**	**2**	**0.910**

After nearly a decade in the NHL, it seems fair to say that Antti Raanta is a known entity in net. The 33-year-old former Blackhawks, Rangers, and Coyotes

backstop remains one of the NHL's most reliable goaltenders from a performance standpoint – so long as you don't need him to hold down the fort entirely on his own for lengthy periods of time. Even when playing a true tandem with Frederik Andersen, Raanta suffered a slew of minor injuries that kept him out of games and left Andersen to man the pipes without him. As Carolina seems to have figured out, though, Raanta still provides incredible value in a tandem situation. He didn't put up quite the same level save percentage that Andersen did during his 28 regular season games with the Hurricanes, but that was more a byproduct of his consistency than it was a problem with his quality of performance. His quality start percentage matched Andersen's nearly perfectly, and he only posted one start that classified as a Really Bad Start using Rob Vollman's metric (which calculates the percentage of starts a goaltender actively inhibits his team's chance of winning a game, recording a save percentage below 85%). In comparison, Andersen – who played in just under double the number of games Raanta did – posted five Really Bad Starts; while Andersen clearly posted higher highs than Raanta, he also posted lower lows. That's a benefit of the structured, utilitarian style that Raanta plays; despite being one of the smallest goaltenders in the league, he keeps his skates within the blue paint and relies on patience to goad shooters into showing their hands before he drops to his knees. He lacks some of the high-end speed and lower body power that would likely push him into elite territory, particularly now that he's so prone to lower-body bumps and bruises. But despite a game that doesn't particularly challenge the Andrei Vasilevskiys and Igor Shesterkins of the league, his baseline remains incredibly strong – and best of all, he knows exactly what he is and what he's capable of. Raanta's spatial awareness sits among some of the best in the league, which gives him enough of an advantage to allow him to slow his game down a bit to ease up on his hips and groin. He may not be a sure bet as a reliable split-share netminder anymore, but he's unlikely to hurt Carolina much, either.

PROSPECTS

1 PYOTR KOCHETKOV

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN					
G	23	6-1/175	25-Jun-99					
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**				
71	`19(36th)	Car	2019	36				
YR	TM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SVPC
21-22	Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod (KHL)	23	10	10	2	2.23	2	0.93
21-22	Chicago (AHL)	15	13	1	1	2.09	0	0.92
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	3	3	0	0	2.42	0	0.90

It was quite the whirlwind year for Kochetkov, a former second round pick of the Hurricanes. He started the year in the KHL, where he performed well. Then he came over to North America in March to play in the AHL…where he performed well. This was followed by the necessity of Kochetkov being thrown into a handful of starts in the NHL playoffs for Carolina due to injuries to both Freddie Andersen and Antti Raanta. Lastly, his season culminated with a reassignment to AHL Chicago (after the Hurricanes were eliminated) where he helped the Wolves capture a Calder Cup. Not too shabby for a pro debut in North America. Kochetkov has proven to be so successful thus far because of his quickness and aggressiveness in the crease. A highly agile netminder, he can afford to cut down angles aggressively because he recovers so well moving post to post and front to back. Of course, NHL goaltending coaches (like Carolina's Jason Muzzatti) will work

to refine Kochetkov's movement to make him a little quieter in the crease. However, he definitely has the make-up and resume of a topflight goaltending prospect, something that is reflected in our prospect rankings. As of right now, Kochetkov is projected to start the season in the AHL as Chicago's starting netminder because both Andersen and Raanta have recovered from their knee injuries. A full year as a starter in North America will be great for his development. With the two goalies ahead of him set to become UFA's after this coming season, it seems likely that Kochetkov is being groomed for an NHL position in 2023-24. - BO

2 SCOTT MORROW

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	19	6-2/200	1-Nov-02				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
74	`21(40th)	Car	2021	40			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Shattuck-SM (USHS-MN)	30	8	40	48	30	1.60
21-22	Massachusetts (HE)	37	13	20	33	10	0.89

To a certain extent, Scott Morrow's freshman season at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst was a success. He was the team's second-highest scorer and flashed the sort of offensive talent that isn't commonly seen in defensemen, let alone defensemen who fall to the second round of the NHL draft. Morrow is a creative problem-solver in the offensive zone, acting with decisiveness and conviction when he has a chance in mind that he wants to create. For someone of his size (six-foot-two-, 195 pounds) Morrow moves very well and has definite upside as a transition defenseman in the NHL. He can deftly sift his way through traffic to facilitate zone entries, and the way he uses his big frame to protect the puck while he's carrying it through the neutral zone is absolutely notable. Morrow's offensive game is strong enough that he has the upside to eventually become a power play quarterback in the NHL. But while the offensive side to Morrow's game is quite promising and developed, it's the defensive side of his game that could hold him back. Morrow isn't a physical player yet, and his reads in the defensive zone need improvement. There's a great canvas of tools for an NHL development staff to work with in improving Morrow's all-around game, but he'll need to possibly make sacrifices in his offense in order to get there. If he can make some adjustments to make his game more sustainable and well-rounded, Morrow can become an extremely impactful NHL defenseman. If he remains an aggressive, risk-taking offensive force, he'll still get his NHL chances, and could become a power-play specialist at the next level if no defensive development occurs. - EH

3 JACK DRURY

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN		
C	22	5-11/180	3-Feb-00		
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**	
97	`18(42nd)	Car	2018	42	
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Vaxjo Lakers (SHL)	41	10	20	30	18	0.73
21-22	Chicago (AHL)	68	20	32	52	61	0.76
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	2	2	0	2	2	1

The son of former NHL'er Ted Drury, and the nephew of current New York Rangers General Manager Chris Drury, Jack was excellent in his first AHL season last year. He was among the rookie scoring leaders during the regular season and then took his game to another level in the playoffs, averaging over a point per game in helping the Wolves capture the Calder Cup. Drury was even rewarded with a brief NHL call up that saw him score in both contests, while playing key minutes on the penalty kill. At this point, he seems destined to be a long-time middle six player for the Hurricanes thanks to his well-rounded skill set. There really isn't anything that Drury does not do well, and this gives him such great versatility as a player. His coaches can employ him in any situation. With several openings in their bottom six this coming year, it seems likely that he will be a full time NHL player. Carolina believes that someone like Drury can replace Vincent Trocheck and Nino Niederreiter internally and on a cheap entry level contract, helping them to alleviate any cap concerns that they might have. One has to wonder if the Hurricanes see Drury as a replacement for pending UFA Jordan Staal in a year's time if he performs admirably this year. - BO

4 ALEXANDER NIKISHIN

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN		
D	20	6-3/195	2-Oct-01		
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**	
130	`20(69th)	0	2020	69	
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	20	1	4	5	4	0.25
21-22	Spartak Moskva (KHL)	46	8	4	12	37	0.26

It's amazing how much can change in just one year and Alexander Nikishin is a perfect example of it: on year ago, in August of 2021, the biggest concerns regarding the blueliner revolved around his cardiac abnormalities, which he had to overcome to be able to play regular hockey and have a chance to establish himself as a full-time KHL player, but he did all of that and much more. Over 2021-22, Nikishin has become the top young defenseman in the KHL and even earned himself an Olympic invitation, where he won a silver medal. In the offseason he was the main part of a blockbuster KHL trade in which the powerhouse SKA traded nine (nine!!!) player assets for him including some of their top prospects. For Hurricanes fans this trade had some negative side effects, as it was announced that Nikishin will not only earn notably more money now, but also will add one more year to his contract length, locking him to the KHL through the 2024/25 season. That said, he will be only 23 when he frees up and with the way he is developing we can expect him to become a reliable hard-hitting top-4 D with some nice attacking abilities including a hard shot and a solid first pass. Until then, playing for a top KHL contender would give Nikishin a chance to push his game to new heights. - VF

5 RYAN SUZUKI

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN		
C	21	6-0/180	28-May-01		
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**	
136	`19(28th)	Car	2019	28	
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Chicago (AHL)	26	5	5	10	2	0.38
21-22	Chicago (AHL)	34	7	7	14	20	0.41

Luck has not been on Ryan Suzuki's side since the Hurricanes selected him in the first round of the 2019 draft. The year after being drafted, Suzuki suffered a significant eye injury that has left him with a permanent blind spot in that injured eye. Then the pandemic happened, and Suzuki was thrust into the AHL in a limited role, rather than starring for the OHL in his final year of junior eligibility. Last season, injuries plagued him yet again, limiting him to only 34 games. This included him missing the entire Calder Cup playoffs. The younger brother of Montreal Canadiens young star Nick, 21-year-old Ryan is far too young to give up on as a serious NHL prospect. Ryan is actually a better skater than his older brother and he possesses the same kind of passing touch and sense in the offensive zone. Despite battling injuries, he has taken steps forward to become a better and more engaged player without the puck. That said, the younger Suzuki's calling card will be his ability to play as a top six center who can make plays with the puck for his wingers and push the pace of play. Until he stays healthy and emerges as a top producer at the AHL level, he likely will not push for a spot on the Hurricanes. Patience will be key here for Carolina and their development staff. - BO

6 GLEB TRIKOZOV

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN		
LW	18	6-1/185	12-Aug-04		
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**	
143	`22(60th)	Car	2022	60	
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Omskie Yastreby (MHL)	49	15	16	31	39	0.63
21-22	Omskie Yastreby (MHL)	35	23	22	45	22	1.29
21-22	Omskie Krylya (VHL)	11	1	1	2	0	0.18

Gleb Trikozov, selected No. 60 by the Carolina Hurricanes, had a remarkable second half of the season. He looked incredible in the MHL (Russia's 1st youth league) playoffs, helping his team make a deep run. A decent sized forward, Trikozov has an effective offensive game, good hockey sense and skill. His skating is great, and he uses it effectively, especially in assisting in zone entries for his team. His explosiveness with the puck is also excellent. Without the puck, Trikozov constantly applies pressure, but could stand to play a little more physically to help him secure turnovers. Offensively he is calm and patient. This helps him maintain possession deep into the offensive zone. Trikozov is also a strong shooter. He often moves to the right before he shoots; his size allows him to create separation from his opponent in two steps, creating a good shooting lane. He effectively finds free space in the offensive zone, reacting and adapting to the play smartly. Moving forward it will be about proving himself at the higher levels in Russia before making the jump to North America. Adding strength and improving his ability to utilize his teammates are key next steps. Look for him to split this year between the VHL, MHL, and KHL. - DB

7 ALEXANDER PEREVALOV

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN		
LW	18	6-0/190	16-Apr-04		
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**	
176	`22(71st)	Car	2022	71	
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Loko Yaroslavl (MHL)	17	4	2	6	4	0.35
21-22	Loko Yaroslavl (MHL)	44	25	26	51	32	1.16
21-22	Lokomotiv Yaroslavl (KHL)	5	0	0	0	0	0

CAROLINA HURRICANES

CAROLINA HURRICANES

The first half of Alexander Perevalov's MHL season was one of the most dominant performances of his age at this level that have been witnessed in years and even though the second half of the season wasn't as bright, it is still curious how or why he lasted until the third round of the 2022 draft. A right-handed left-wing sniper who needs just a bit of time and space to make goalies look just useless, Perevalov has clear top six upside, and the Hurricanes and their fans should be pleased to have him in the organization. It won't be a smooth path for him though, as his Lokomotiv KHL organization is a strong one and is not expected to give him big role next season, so the realistic outcome that we can hope for him will be splitting time between the MHL junior league and a 13th forward role in the KHL. Short-term role aside, Perevalov's abilities can allow him to be effective even in a limited role (especially if the inconsistency issues of the second half of the season are over) and, hopefully gradually earn him more trust and ice time. Perevalov's KHL contract runs for two more seasons so it is a bit early to discuss the possibility of him crossing the pond at this point, but it is a likely eventuality if he will not be getting enough development opportunities at home. - VF

8   VILLE KOIVUNEN

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
LW	19	6-0/165	13-Jun-03				
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
181	`21(51st)	Car	2021	51			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Karpat (Fin U20)	23	13	10	23	10	1
21-22	Karpat (Fin-Liiga)	53	11	18	29	20	0.55

A 2021 draftee of the Carolina Hurricanes, Koivunen continues to be very slenderly built with his 162-pound frame but that didn't stop him from spending this past winter excelling in the Finnish Liiga. In his draft year, Koivunen played for Kärpät's U20 team and was named the circuit's Rookie of the Year, earning a multi-year contract in the process. He already began paying that back in spades this year earning a regular spot among the club's top nine and collecting himself 29 points, making him one of the pro league's top rookies. After a 10-point effort at the U18 Worlds in 2021, Koivunen was quiet on the scoresheet in a checking line role for Finland at this summer's WJC but is staring at a prime spot on a scoring line for this winter's tournament. Talented as both a playmaker and finisher, Koivunen is a complimentary player who demonstrates a calm and collective game with strong hockey IQ. Adept with the puck, he avoids crumbling under pressure and makes it hard on opponents to separate him from the puck. Whereas continued practice and the addition of leg and lower body strength will surely have a very positive effect on his skating, he's still a ways away from possessing the type of skating that would allow him to make effective use of his skills at the NHL level. Intensity and conditioning over 60 minutes will need to improve as well, but there's plenty of time for the young winger. In light of the importance of Sebastian Aho and Teuvo Teravainen for the Canes, it's no wonder that the team enjoys success in selecting the few Finns is adds every couple of drafts. - CL

9   ALEKSI HEIMOSALMI

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	19	5-11/170	8-May-03				
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
196	`21(44th)	Car	2021	44			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Assat Pori (Fin U20)	23	2	5	7	16	0.30
21-22	Assat (Fin-Liiga)	47	0	3	3	24	0.06
21-22	Assat (Fin-U20)	3	0	1	1	0	0.33

A 2021 second round selection of the Carolina Hurricanes, Heimosalmi has continued in his development where he left off at the 2021 U18 Worlds, where he was named the tournament's top defender thanks to his two goal, eight point effort over seven games. Although his role was often quite small, he spent this past season entirely in Liiga action, learning many of the nuances of professional play. Those lessons were on full display in this summer's WJC as he put up a goal, seven points, and a +4 on his way to gaining a silver medal. There, he showed great edges, a strong command of the puck all along the blueline, and a keen ability to conduct productive transitions. His skating ability allows him to be highly effective in defending without having to overexert himself physically. The Hurricanes were all about accumulating bodies at the 2021 NHL draft, even moving back out of the first round to grab more darts in the second, where they selected Heimosalmi and fellow Finn Ville Koivunen. Both have continued to look like steals to date. For Heimosalmi, who is still under contract with Ässät, the key this season will be to take on more responsibility for his club team, ultimately exerting more of his exceptional talent along the opposition blueline. His fantastic skating and stickhandling

will be his calling card moving forward, but he'll need to continue adding strength every step of the way so as to avoid the kind of role he had last season. Having made 40 selections over the past four drafts, the Hurricanes have a stacked prospect bin and will happily give Heimosalmi all the time he needs. The hopes are high that he'll one day be a prime transitional defenseman at the NHL level. - CL

10   NOEL GUNLER

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
RW	20	6-2/180	7-Oct-01				
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
242	`20(41st)	0	2020	41			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Brynas (SHL)	29	7	5	12	8	0.41
21-22	Brynas (SHL)	52	13	10	23	36	0.44
21-22	Chicago (AHL)	11	3	2	5	2	0.45

The 41st overall pick in the 2020 NHL draft, Noel Gunler has proven that the inconsistency and character issues that were looming over him on draft day do not affect his immense skill for the game. The Carolina Hurricanes were able to take a flyer on Gunler in the 2nd round due to other teams' concerns about those issues and it has already paid dividends as the forward finished 5th in SHL scoring for players 21 and under. Gunler saw his role with Brynas decrease as the year went on finishing the year averaging 10-14 minutes of ice time while producing 23 points in 52 games. After his SHL season was over, the Hurricanes brought him over to North America where he finished off the year with the AHL Chicago Wolves. In his time with Chicago, Gunler netted 5 points in 11 regular season games before playing 10 playoff games. Gunler's game is based off the immense skill he possesses, and he has the unique ability to find the soft areas of the ice when off the puck, often positioning himself in high-danger areas of the ice. When he is in those high-danger areas, he uses his goal scoring instincts and quick release to beat goaltenders. In order to take his game to the next level, Gunler could work on improving his first step and his east-west movement. He is expected to be at NHL training camp with the Hurricanes and will most likely end up playing top-six minutes for Chicago in the AHL. Gunler projects as a top-nine forward who can inject scoring into the lineup. – ZS

11   VASILY PONOMAREV

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
C	20	5-10/180	13-Mar-02				
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
249	`20(53rd)	0	2020	53			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
21-22	Spartak Moskva (KHL)	14	1	1	2	4	0.14
21-22	Chicago (AHL)	11	3	7	10	4	0.91

The energetic, playmaking center played most of the year on loan in Russia but returned to North America in time to help Chicago win a Calder Cup Championship.

12   JOEY KEANE

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	23	6-0/185	2-Jul-99				
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
	T(NYR-2/20)	NYR	2018	88			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
21-22	Chicago (AHL)	62	7	26	33	81	0.53
21-22	Carolina (NHL)	1	0	0	0	2	0

In an odd turn of events, just as Keane was set to become a full time NHL defender, he signed a one year deal in the KHL. He was one of the better defenders in the AHL last year and Carolina will retain his rights.

JAKE GUENTZEL

2022-23 NHL STANDINGS PROJECTION

METROPOLITAN	W	L	OL	PTS	GF	GA
Carolina Hurricanes	52	21	9	113	268	211
Pittsburgh Penguins	48	25	9	105	273	231
New York Rangers	46	28	8	100	268	222
Washington Capitals	44	28	10	98	261	246
New Jersey Devils	43	29	10	96	272	278
New York Islanders	42	30	10	94	230	229
Columbus Blue Jackets	39	31	12	90	258	281
Philadelphia Flyers	34	38	10	78	231	275

2022-2023 PREDICTION

RK	PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS	PPG
1	Sidney Crosby	75	32	56	88	1.17
2	Jake Guentzel	81	38	47	85	1.05
3	Evgeni Malkin	64	32	42	74	1.16
4	Kristopher Letang	77	9	51	60	0.78
5	Bryan Rust	68	20	37	57	0.84
6	Rickard Rakell	75	23	26	49	0.65
7	Jeff Carter	69	21	19	40	0.58
8	Jason Zucker	76	18	21	39	0.51
9	Jeff Petry	75	6	32	38	0.51
10	Danton Heinen	78	16	16	32	0.41
11	Kasperi Kapanen	68	13	18	31	0.46
12	Ryan Poehling	65	11	16	27	0.42
13	Ty Smith	75	4	22	26	0.35
14	Teddy Blueger	68	7	17	24	0.35
15	Marcus Pettersson	77	3	19	22	0.29
16	Brock McGinn	68	10	11	21	0.31
17	Brian Dumoulin	79	5	14	19	0.24
18	Jan Rutta	77	4	12	16	0.21
19	Chad Ruhwedel	45	1	5	6	0.13
20	Mark Friedman	38	0	6	6	0.16

TEAM STATS REPORT

CATEGORY	STAT	RANK	CATEGORY	STAT	RANK
RECORD	46-25-11	12	GF	269	11
HOME	23-13-5	14	GA	222	5
ROAD	23-12-6	8T	PP	20.2	19
SHOOTOUT	3-7	28	PK	84.4	3

NEW ARRIVALS
Corey Andonovski-F, Josh Archibald-F (Edm), Drake Caggiula-F (Buf), Jordan Frasca-F, Taylor Gauthier-G, Ty Glover-F, Xavier Ouellet-D (Mtl), Jeff Petry-D (Mtl), Ryan Poehling-F (Mtl), Jan Rutta-D (TB), Ty Smith-D (NJ), Colin Swoyer-D, Dustin Tokarski-G (Buf)

DEPARTURES
Anthony Angello-F (StL), Nathan Beaulieu-D, Brian Boyle-F, Michael Chaput-F, Louis Domingue-G (NYR), Liam Gorman-F (Chi), John Marino-D (NJ), Michael Matheson-D (Mtl), Juuso Riikola-D, Evan Rodrigues-F

TEAM AT-A-GLANCE
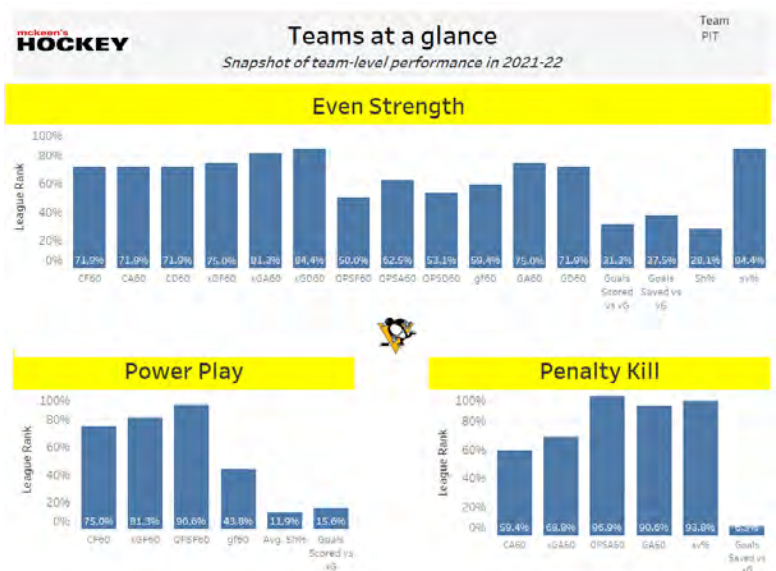
Among league leaders in killing off penalty situations, with a strong chance generating but ultimately toothless powerplay. Pittsburgh sorely underperformed their expected goals at 5v4 during the regular season. The powerplay didn't improve in the postseason, and they gave up a couple of shorthanded goals. Penguins faced plenty of adversity all season and still ended up third in their division. Goaltending was challenged in 2021-22, and should be tested similarly in 2022-23.

2022 DRAFT PICKS

Dft Rd	Selected	PLAYER	POS	AGE	HT/WT	TEAM
1	21	Owen PICKERING	D	18	6-4/180	Swift Current (WHL)
4	118	Sergei MURASHOV	G	18	6-0/170	Loko-76 (MHL)
5	150	Zam PLANTE	C	18	5-9/160	Chicago (USHL)
						Hermantown (USHS-MN)
6	167	Nolan COLLINS	D	18	6-3/195	Sudbury (OHL)
6	182	Luke DEVLIN	C	18	6-2/185	St. Andrew's (CHS-O)

TEAM: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull in the NHL
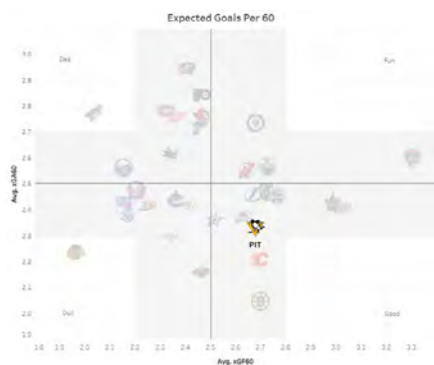
Extended periods without one of Sidney Crosby or Evgeni Malkin would have logically hurt the Penguins, but they fared well overall and finished among heady company in the Good quadrant lower right. Set in line with the surging Flames and Stanley Cup Champions, Avalanche, they generated chances at a good rate and suppressed quality shots with aplomb. A season with a full contingency should make them more dangerous offensively. Having both Malkin and Crosby under contract for a couple more seasons together sets their window of contention.

DEFENSE: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull NHL skaters in 2022-23
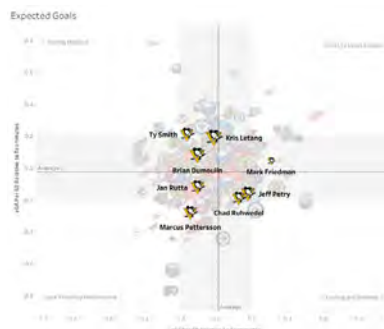
Kris Letang, fresh with the ink on his hands after signing a 6 year, $36 million deal will be leading the Penguins back end, coming off a career season in points. He partnered most often with Brian Dumolin who lagged offensively in relation to teammates – but provides pivotal support and transition. They brought in Jeff Petry from Montreal for Michael Matheson and adds some offensive and rushing. Wild card would be Marcus Pettersson who shows up relatively well defensively.

FORWARDS: EXPECTED GOAL RATES
A look at the good, bad, fun and dull NHL skaters in 2022-23
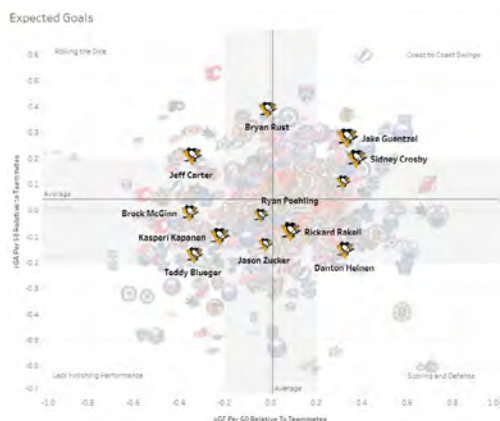
Players are seen scattered throughout each quadrant, with Crosby, Malkin (unnamed player) and Guentzel separate themselves as the offensive catalysts, from the rest of the club offensively, while battling injury trouble in 2021-22. There's a clear separation of forwards rate of expected goals after Rickard Rakell, and ex-Bruin, Danton Heinen, seen in the lower righ. Ryan Poehling was added in the off season, needing a reset, from Montreal. Support scoring at 5v4 would add a significant edge.

GOALTENDING: GOALS SAVED VS EXPECTATION
A look at how goalies performed relative to the workload they faced in 2022-23
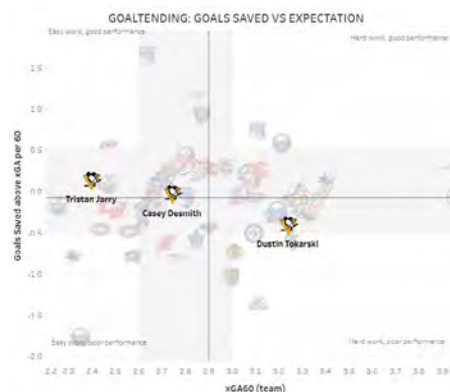
Pittsburgh's goaltending fell apart in the postseason with both goaltenders getting injured, relying on Louis Domingue to take the crease. Best described as vanilla, Tristan Jarry and Casey Desmith were presented with some of the league's best expected goals rates and they performed average, with Jarry performing marginally better. Penguins defensively were supported by decent goaltending at 5v5 and again at 4v5 – with some of the league's best penalty killing. Both goalies on short term contracts, with starter Jarry up at the end of 2022-23.

LINE COMBINATIONS

TOI	LW	C	RW	xGF	GF	HD/60	MD/60	LD/60	Fwd xGF%
17.19	Jake Guentzel	Sidney Crosby	Bryan Rust	52.7%	0.90	0.29	0.37	0.24	
12.05	Jason Zucker	Evgeni Malkin	Rickard Rakell	54.0%	0.75	0.27	0.29	0.19	52.2%
16.06	Danton Heinen	Jeff Carter	Kasperi Kapanen	53.3%	0.77	0.24	0.30	0.22	
12.31	Teddy Blueger	Ryan Poehling	Brock McGinn	48.7%	0.63	0.19	0.25	0.20	

TOI	LD		RD	xGF	GF	HD/60	MD/60	LD/60	Def xGF%
24.70	Brian Dumoulin		Kristopher Letang	51.0%	0.18	0.14	0.03	0.01	
18.72	Marcus Pettersson		Jeff Petry	52.0%	0.17	0.13	0.02	0.02	51.2%
17.99	Ty Smith		Jan Rutta	50.5%	0.17	0.12	0.04	0.02	

G	Predicted	xGF/60	GF/60
Tristan Jarry	PP1	5.36	4.17
Casey DeSmith	PP2	2.30	2.78

Glaring absence of Claude Giroux as the Flyers retool on the fly, with part of the return, Owen Tippett, lining up on the third line in 2022-23 with Morgan Frost and James van Riemsdyk. Tony DeAngelo was the biggest addition of the off season, penciled in to man the first unit powerplay and add offensive dynamic at even strength. Goaltending overall has to improve from the levels of the last couple of seasons. Roster changes aside, Carter Hart will have more pressure and scrutiny in 2022-23.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

FORWARDS

87 SIDNEY CROSBY — C

AGE: 35 H/W: 5-11/200 NHL: 17 SALARY: $8,700,000 CONTRACT:2025

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	41	16	31	47	15	20.2	1.15
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	55	24	38	62	26	20.2	1.13
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	69	31	53	84	32	20.0	1.22
	Career	1108	517	892	1409	731		1.27
	Prediction	75	32	56	88			1.17

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	216.35	3.61	5.12	14.58	30.22	15.65	72.22
5on5	1075.03	17.92	14.37	11.11	57.24	8.35	70.91

Sidney Crosby opted for surgery in September of 2021 in order to address a nagging wrist injury that had been bothering him over the course of several years. He did not make his season debut until October 30th and went into the Covid-19 protocol immediately after, delaying his full return until mid-November. Having to play a bit of catchup with timing and conditioning post-surgery, Crosby scored just four goals through his first 18 games and was off to a bit of a slower start than usual. What followed was a tear of 27 goals in 53 games and a 1.35 points per game pace to end the season. Crosby has never finished a year below a point-per-game average, and it does not look like that's going to change anytime soon. With the return of some of his familiar counterparts and a clean bill of health to his name, Crosby looks to get back to usual ways of manipulating the pace of the game to create passing lanes that enable him to use his otherworldly vision and puck distribution abilities to his advantage. His connection with Jake Guentzel continues to evolve into a dynamic offensive partnership that enhances the work of both players regardless of the third wheel. While his game has evolved over time, Crosby is as lethal with the puck on his stuck as he has ever been. Head coach Mike Sullivan will continue to lean on the Crosby unit for his most difficult matchups and he aims to continue to be the main distributor of the top power-play unit. Crosby's work in the boards and net front area with his low center of gravity and puck control abilities remain hallmarks of his game, while his backhand shot and pass from his flat blade continue to be as lethal as ever.

71 EVGENI MALKIN — C

AGE: 36 H/W: 6-3/200 NHL: 16 SALARY: $6,100,000 CONTRACT:2026

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	55	25	49	74	58	19.3	1.35
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	33	8	20	28	24	17.4	0.85
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	41	20	22	42	24	18.2	1.02
	Career	981	444	702	1146	1008		1.17
	Prediction	64	32	42	74			1.16

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	143.67	2.39	4.64	20.51	20.75	16.23	68.00
5on5	570.77	9.51	7.59	14.08	29.04	7.52	78.26

Evgeni Malkin will look to take advantage of a clean bill of health going into this season as he was sidelined until January of 2022 as he recovered from summer knee surgery. He ended the year over a point per game in the regular season and rounded out at a goals-per-60 rate that was 2nd on the team to Jake

Sit	Situation - 5v5 or 5v4
TOI	Time on Ice
IxG (XG Delta)	Individual Expected Goals Differential Goals scored, minus expected goals for positive = outperforming negative = underperforming
iSh%	Individual shooting percentge

O-IxG (OI xG delta)	On-Ice Expected Goals Differential – OI goals scored minus expected OI goals for – positive = outperforming negative = underperforming.
OISh%	On-ice shooting percentage
IPP	Individual Point Percentage – % of points earned on goals scored while on the ice.

Guentzel. While his contract negotiation came down to the wire, Malkin re-signed a four-year, $24.4 million dollar contract extension to round out the return of the Penguins core for additional runs at a Stanley Cup. Malkin's shot remains a high-powered howitzer and he continues to be a high-level puck distributor with quality puck distribution capabilities to his linemates. Power remains the essence of his game and despite his knee injuries he is still a strong skater with great lateral mobility despite some of his injuries. Malkin's ability to carry the puck in the zone successfully has taken a hit in recent years and his bullish approach with the puck on his stick may require revisiting at his age. Service time has been another concern for Malkin. He enters this season with his knee surgery behind him and a full summer of a traditional training schedule. Malkin has made it very clear that when he is in the lineup, he is a force to be reckoned with at even-strength and on the power-play. It would not be unreasonable to expect a renaissance-like season from him if he can remain healthy. It is a safe bet to assume he will remain the de-facto quarterback on the Penguins top power-play unit.

59 JAKE GUENTZEL — LW

AGE: 27 H/W: 5-11/180 NHL: 6 SALARY: 6,000,000 CONTRACT: 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	39	20	23	43	14	20.4	1.10
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	56	23	34	57	28	20.2	1.02
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	76	40	44	84	44	20.1	1.11
	Career	375	161	180	341	164		0.91
	Prediction	81	38	47	85			1.05

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	249.68	4.16	8.16	9.26	34.72	13.48	52.78
5on5	1185.38	19.76	20.95	13.59	62.56	8.92	77.78

It was a season of shaking narratives for Jake Guentzel. He showed he can perform without Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin in the lineup, registering 10 points in 12 games to carry the Penguins in their absence. He also proved he can still get it done in the

playoffs, registering 10 points in seven playoff games after a string of difficult performances in years prior. It was Guentzel's second time cracking the 40-goal plateau and his first season over a point per game average. An elaborate offensive toolbox is becoming the hallmark of Guentzel's game. He boasts an underrated shot with a deceptive release, high-quality puck distribution ability and understanding of the game that enabled him to hit a career-high 44 assists last season, and most notably a ghost-like ability to remain unmarked in the offensive zone. Guentzel has become the encyclopedia example of "Hockey IQ" as he exploits the smallest areas of time and space to his advantage. Guentzel's shot-quality generation rates were 2nd on the team behind Sidney Crosby. His 1.30 goals per 60 minutes at even-strength lead all Penguins last year. His consistency in finding the scoresheet was remarkable as he registered points in 20 of 21 games through December and January of 2021-22. Guentzel will look to build off this career year and will be granted every opportunity to do so alongside Sidney Crosby on the top line and power-play unit for the Penguins. A dynamic offensive talent, Guentzel's toolbox seemingly gets deeper year after year. A bit of added muscle and weight was a boost to his game last year and should continue to pay dividends moving forward.

17 BRYAN RUST — RW

AGE: 30 H/W: 5-11/195 NHL: 7 SALARY: 5,125,000 CONTRACT: 2028

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	55	27	29	56	30	19.5	1.02
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	56	22	20	42	18	19.4	0.75
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	60	24	34	58	14	18.5	0.97
	Career	424	124	146	270	136		0.64
	Prediction	68	20	37	57			0.84

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	193.35	3.22	8.39	17.02	30.77	14.76	58.06
5on5	833.08	13.88	11.74	8.55	41.37	8.75	66.67

Bryan Rust has become one of the most dynamic offensive threats in the Penguins forward group and

POWER PLAY

FIRST UNIT

LW Jake Guentzel
RW Bryan Rust
C Sidney Crosby
LD Evgeni Malkin
RD Kristopher Letang

SECOND UNIT

LW Jason Zucker
RW Kasperi Kapanen
C Jeff Carter
LD Rickard Rakell
RD Jeff Petry

DEPTH CHART

LD	C	RW
Jake Guentzel	**Sidney Crosby**	**Bryan Rust**
Jason Zucker	**Evgeni Malkin**	**Rickard Rakell**
Danton Heinen	**Jeff Carter**	**Kasperi Kapanen**
Teddy Blueger	**Ryan Poehling**	**Brock McGinn**
Drew O'Connor	Samuel Poulin	Josh Archibald
Drake Caggiula	Jonathan Gruden	Radim Zohorna
Alexander Nylander	Jordan Frasca	Valtteri Puustinen

LD	G	RD
Brian Dumoulin	**Tristan Jarry**	**Kristopher Letang**
Marcus Pettersson		**Jeff Petry**
Ty Smith		**Jan Rutta**
Mark Friedman	Casey DeSmith	**Chad Ruhwedel**
Owen Pickering	Dustin Tokarski	Pierre-Olivier Joseph
Xavier Ouellet	Filip Lindberg	Taylor Fedun
Antti Palojarvi	Taylor Gauthier	Josh Maniscalco

was rewarded for that in the offseason with a six-year deal worth a total of $30.75 million dollars. Deployed in any manner of situation at even-strength, Rust eclipsed the 20-goal mark for the third consecutive season and his 58 points in the regular season was a career high. A utility-like presence in the top-six, the coaching staff has deployed Rust alongside both Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin for extended periods of time depending on the perceived need of the respective centers at any given moment. Rust continues to exhibit a high level of competency around carrying the puck into the offensive zone with possession and using that to generate shots and high-quality passing attempts to his teammates. A menace around the net-front area, Rust can be found in all the traditional goal-scoring areas. While he does not boast any one overwhelming skill offensively, his hockey sense combined with his quickness and nose for the net make him a menace in the offensive zone. His shot has developed a quick release with pinpoint accuracy. Rust repeatedly shows the ability to hit the net from awkward and compromised positions and had a high number of deflections from around the mouth of the net last year. Rust will look to establish a bit more in the way of consistency in the coming season. For instance, he registered 21 points in 10 games in January of 2022, but only 3 points in 13 games in April of 2022. His shooting percentage varied wildly over the course of the year, and he suffered some missed time due to injury. Overall, Rust has proven to be a valuable presence anywhere he appears within the top two lines.

67 RICKARD RAKELL — RW

AGE: 29 H/W: 6-2/200 NHL: 8 SALARY: $5,000,000 CONTRACT: 2028

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Anaheim (NHL)	65	15	27	42	12	18.1	0.65
20-21	Anaheim (NHL)	52	9	19	28	12	17.5	0.54
21-22	Ana-Pit (NHL)	70	20	21	41	12	18.0	0.59
	Career	569	158	194	352	120		0.62
	Prediction	**75**	**23**	**26**	**49**			**0.65**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	156.40	2.61	3.09	16.67	14.65	16.10	52.63
5on5	1054.32	17.57	13.71	9.86	44.98	9.51	53.70

Arriving via trade in March of 2022 from the Ducks for Zach Aston-Reese, a 2nd round draft pick, and goaltending prospect Calle Clang, Rickard Rakell played 19 games for the Penguins in the regular season finishing with 13 points and a variety of roles played throughout the lineup. When all is said and done, the expectation is that Rakell will appear somewhere within the Penguins top-six forward group this season, either alongside Sidney Crosby or Evgeni Malkin. This sets Rakell up to have a year of career-highs in multiple offensive categories. Rakell's time with Crosby last year proved to be most fruitful. Rakell played a wrecking-ball role in the vein of a Chris Kunitz on the top line, opening space in the tough areas of the ice for Crosby and Jake Guentzel to work their magic offensively. Regardless of what center he appears with; Rakell has shown a willingness to retrieve pucks and take advantage of the open space that can come with playing alongside one of Crosby or Malkin. Rakell also showed a penchant for individual scoring chance creation in his own right, showcasing some high-level stickhandling and puck-carrying capabilities in his time with the Penguins.

Fresh off signing a new six-year, $30 million dollar contract, Rakell figures to be a fixture within the top two lines and second power-play unit of the Penguins. It would not be unreasonable to see his goal-scoring ability receive a significant bump this season given the change in his environment. While he may play a puck support and retrieval role, he will have plenty of opportunities to showcase his heavy wrist-shot playing alongside two playmaking centers.

16 JASON ZUCKER — LW

AGE: 30 H/W: 5-11/185 NHL: 10 SALARY: $5,500,000 CONTRACT: 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Min-Pit (NHL)	60	20	21	41	21	16.2	0.68
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	38	9	9	18	21	15.4	0.47
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	41	8	9	17	15	14.5	0.41
	Career	550	155	135	290	209		0.53
	Prediction	**76**	**18**	**21**	**39**			**0.51**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	58.53	0.98	2.82	6.67	7.67	11.76	16.67
5on5	543.18	9.05	6.15	6.17	23.45	7.84	58.33

Jason Zucker has simply not been able to stay in the Penguins lineup for any considerable period. He missed half of the regular season in 2021-22 and when he was in the lineup it was a story of being unable to convert prime scoring chances. Zucker finds himself in the right place at the right times and boasts some good numbers regarding zone entries and his ability to distribute the puck on the fly but has not been able to maintain any ability to deposit his chances in his time with the Penguins. Zucker is a strong skater with a great ability to angle away time and space and force the opposing breakout into bad decisions. His ability to retrieve pucks and gain the zone have been strong, but he has lacked an ability to effectively distribute the puck in the offensive zone and has struggled to get it into the hands of his teammates. His shot is strong, and his one-timer may be the hallmark of his offensive abilities. More than anything, Zucker needs to stay in the lineup and establish some level of consistency in his performances. His shooting percentage suffered immensely last year, and it is reasonable to expect that will change if he can remain a volume shooter. Zucker will be afforded the opportunity to crack the Penguins top-six forward group again this year this season. Remaining in the lineup will be the biggest focal point for Zucker as he has proven he is an extremely capable player that fits into the Mike Sullivan system despite his lack of availability. The scoring chances will be available to aid an increase to his finishing ability.

43 DANTON HEINEN — LW

AGE: 27 H/W: 6-1/185 NHL: 5 SALARY: 1,000,000 CONTRACT: 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Bos-Ana (NHL)	67	10	16	26	10	14.3	0.39
20-21	Anaheim (NHL)	43	7	7	14	0	14.5	0.33
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	76	18	15	33	16	12.4	0.43
	Career	348	62	92	154	60		0.44
	Prediction	**78**	**16**	**16**	**32**			**0.41**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	84.87	1.41	1.66	30.00	5.73	7.14	100.00
5on5	871.13	14.52	15.27	11.72	43.39	9.15	64.44

2021-2022 TEAM SCORING

1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q		GP	G	A	Pts	BST	YR	+/-	PIM	S	S%	MIN	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
0.89	1.44	0.95	1.20	Jake GUENTZEL	76	40	44	84	84	21-22	13	44	264	15.2	20.05	7	8	2	10	1
0.38	1.33	1.33	1.32	Sidney CROSBY	69	31	53	84	120	2006-7	19	32	208	14.9	19.58	6	2	8	10	2
0.69	1.14	0.81	0.80	Kristopher LETANG	78	10	58	68	68	21-22	20	49	214	4.7	25.46	7	1	3	4	-3
0.75	2.14	1.10	0.55	Bryan RUST	60	24	34	58	58	21-22	7	14	180	13.3	18.46	7	2	6	8	1
0.53	0.89	0.38	0.60	Jeff CARTER	76	19	26	45	84	2008-9	-8	38	200	9.5	17.40	7	4	1	5	-6
0.70	0.76	0.33	0.30	Evan RODRIGUES	82	19	24	43	43	21-22	3	14	243	7.8	15.50	7	3	2	5	-2
-	1.00	0.89	1.20	Evgeni MALKIN	41	20	22	42	113	2008-9	-10	24	129	15.5	18.19	7	3	3	6	2
0.60	0.48	0.60	0.68	Rickard RAKELL	70	20	21	41	69	17-8	0	12	184	10.9	17.59	2	0	0	0	0
				…Ana	51	16	12	28			-7	8	136	11.8	18.20					
				…Pit	19	4	9	13			7	4	48	8.3	17.01					
0.45	0.53	0.32	0.45	Danton HEINEN	76	18	15	33	47	17-8	6	16	138	13	12.42	7	3	0	3	-1
0.60	0.60	0.15	0.40	Kasperi KAPANEN	79	11	21	32	44	18-9	2	16	129	8.5	14.31	7	0	3	3	4
0.41	0.52	0.38	0.35	Michael MATHESON	74	11	20	31	31	21-22	12	33	140	7.9	18.47	7	1	5	6	-1
0.45	0.40	0.20	0.50	Teddy BLUEGER	65	9	19	28	28	21-22	12	10	93	9.7	15.01	7	0	1	1	0
0.45	0.38	0.14	0.26	John MARINO	81	1	24	25	26	19-20	1	23	90	1.1	20.38	7	0	1	1	2
0.45	0.28	0.22	0.50	Brock McGINN	64	12	10	22	30	17-8	0	14	99	12.1	14.59	7	1	1	2	1
0.13	0.23	0.35	0.50	Brian BOYLE	66	11	10	21	35	10-1	6	27	87	12.6	10.47	6	0	2	2	-1
0.31	0.29	0.21	0.25	Marcus PETTERSSON	72	2	17	19	25	18-9	8	38	83	2.4	15.39	7	0	2	2	3
0.13	0.52	0.10	0.15	Brian DUMOULIN	76	3	15	18	23	18-9	24	24	91	3.3	21.49	1	0	0	0	0
0.45	0.36	-	0.40	Jason ZUCKER	41	8	9	17	64	17-8	-2	15	102	7.8	14.49	5	0	2	2	-3
0.06	0.14	0.19	0.25	Chad RUHWEDEL	78	4	9	13	13	21-22	2	14	82	4.9	15.19	7	0	0	0	2
-	0.50	0.14	0.50	*Radim ZOHORNA	17	2	4	6	6	21-22	12	4	9	22.2	10.19	-	-	-	-	-
0.42	0.00	-	-	*Drew O'CONNOR	22	3	2	5	5	21-22	-1	4	40	7.5	10.17	2	0	0	0	-2
0.36	0.00	0.13	0.00	Mark FRIEDMAN	26	1	4	5	5	21-22	1	23	27	3.7	13.16	6	1	0	1	3
-	0.17	-	-	*Kasper BJORKQVIST	6	1	0	1	1	21-22	-1	2	8	12.5	8.22	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	1.00	-	*Valtteri PUUSTINEN	1	0	1	1	1	21-22	2	0	1	0	10.14	-	-	-	-	-
0.20	-	-	-	Juuso RIIKOLA	5	0	1	1	7	19-20	2	2	7	0	13.23	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	0.00	*Filip HALLANDER	1	0	0	0	0	21-22	0	0	0	0	5.52	-	-	-	-	-
-	0.00	-	0.00	Anthony ANGELLO	4	0	0	0	4	20-21	0	2	2	0	6.37	-	-	-	-	-
0.00	-	-	-	*Pierre-Olivier JOSEPH	4	0	0	0	5	20-21	-2	2	7	0	18.13	-	-	-	-	-

Table header groups: **PPG BY QTR** (1Q, 2Q, 3Q, 4Q) — **2021-2022 TEAM SCORING** — **PLAYOFFS**

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

Danton Heinen is not a household name by any means, but he did a lot with a little ice time last year and controlled the game at even-strength for the Penguins. Heinen's 57% share over the raw scoring chances while he was on the ice at even-strength put him top five among Penguin forwards in that regard. A volume shooter, Heinen's approach to play was simple but effective for his first year in Pittsburgh. Heinen put up solid performances through all three zones in his debut year with Pittsburgh. His defensive play was sound, he boasted quality returns in moving the puck up ice and into the offensive zone of attack, and he ended the season on the cusp of the 20-goal mark with 18 total in all situations. Heinen returns to Pittsburgh on a one-year, $1.1 million dollar deal that reportedly saw him take less money in the face of more lucrative offers to remain with the Penguins. Heinen did not find the scoresheet with a lot of consistency last season and went through a few dry patches, but his utility in driving play, controlling most of the scoring chances in the game, and playing sound defensive hockey make up for any lapses he experiences in the scoring department. Heinen is a safe bet to repeat or hurdle last season's performance given his environment and will continue to be used in a Swiss army knife fashion by Mike Sullivan and the coaching staff. That utility often includes appearances in the top-six forward group where he experiences success alongside Evgeni Malkin in particular.

42 · KASPERI KAPANEN · RW

AGE: 26 H/W: 6-0/185 NHL: 5 SALARY: $3,200,000 CONTRACT: 2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Toronto (NHL)	69	13	23	36	22	15.5	0.52
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	40	11	19	30	7	15.3	0.75
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	79	11	21	32	16	14.3	0.41
	Career	321	62	92	154	60		0.44
	Prediction	68	13	18	31			0.46

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	116.07	1.93	1.22	0.00	14.62	4.67	100.00
5on5	997.50	16.63	9.12	10.00	41.15	7.02	62.16

A great summation of Kasperi Kapanen's dismal 2021-22 campaign is the fact that he scored two more points than he did the prior season in 39 more games. Kapanen took a step back across the board and struggled to find the back of the net with any level of consistency. While he gained the offensive zone with possession on a frequent enough of a basis, these were often fruitless ventures that saw him miss the net on poorly selected shots, bypass opportunities passing opportunities, or simply lose possession of the puck for a turnover. It was not just that Kapanen struggled to score, it is that the peripheral statistics of play-driving and controlling the game at even-strength were also unkind to him. There was a brief reunion between Kapanen and Evgeni Malkin once the latter returned the lineup from knee surgery, but the sparks never flew from a chemistry perspective and Kapanen ended up sliding down the lineup as his goal-scoring droughts grew more and more frequent. The expectation is that Kapanen will play more of a support role outside of the top six forward group this season and that may net him a level of competition and deployment that enables him to control the play more than he did last year. A better grasp of the even-strength game would net him a greater total of scoring opportunities to work his way out of his slump. Kapanen was brought back on a two-year contract at a $3.2 million average per year. He will need to out-pace his performance in 2021-22 in order to make his cap value worth it.

77 · JEFF CARTER · C

AGE: 37 H/W: 6-3/215 NHL: 17 SALARY: 5,272,727 CONTRACT:2024

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Los Angeles (NHL)	60	17	10	27	36	17.0	0.45
20-21	LA-Pit (NHL)	54	17	13	30	22	16.3	0.56
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	76	19	26	45	38	17.4	0.59
	Career	1170	418	389	807	593		0.69
	Prediction	69	21	19	40			0.59

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	140.42	2.34	6.25	9.09	17.77	7.64	45.45
5on5	1022.05	17.03	11.86	8.03	40.06	7.58	68.42

Jeff Carter's initial impact for the Penguins upon arriving via trade from Los Angeles was stout and promising. Carter looked like a player renewed and that momentum carried over into the start of 2021-22. In the absence of Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, Carter stormed out of the gate as the top line center and general manager Ron Hextall responded with a two-year contract extension worth a total of $6.25 million dollars. Carter's performance took a precipitous turn downhill from that point forward. Carter spent much of his even-strength ice time hemmed in the defensive zone. There was a struggle to consistently create offense and elongate shift time spent in the offensive zone. While Carter's skating is not what it once was, it also is not a detriment to his game. He still possesses a tricky shot that is deceptive, hard, and difficult to track. Carter remains a difficult element to manage in front of the net and in the battle areas of the ice. He did not play a major role transitioning the puck out of the defensive zone or into the offensive zone. At his peak, Carter is a strong element on the cycle that can still take advantage of shooting opportunities in a variety of locations of the ice. The issue remains that his ability to control the play at even-strength has diminished in a significant fashion. Carter heads into the 2022-23 season at 38 years old. While he will not need to serve in the elevated role required of him last year due to injury, there's hope that he can level his performance with mitigated minutes and sensical deployments.

DEFENSE

58 · KRISTOPHER LETANG · D

AGE: 35 H/W:6-0/200 NHL:15 SALARY: $6,100,000 CONTRACT: 2028

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	61	15	29	44	38	25.4	0.72
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	55	7	38	45	32	24.4	0.82
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	78	10	58	68	49	25.5	0.87
	Career	941	144	506	650	661		0.69
	Prediction	77	9	51	60			0.78

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	253.40	4.22	2.56	7.14	36.97	13.86	51.35
5on5	1546.33	25.77	5.72	3.61	69.95	8.24	49.30

It was a renaissance year for Kris Letang on the blueline for the Penguins. He set career highs in assists with 58 and total points with 68. He finished seventh in Norris Trophy voting in his 16th year in the National Hockey League. Letang managed his highest ice time averages since the 2018-19 season and showcased his high levels of conditioning by playing over 25 minutes per night on average. Letang shot the puck a lot more than usual last year and landed among the top ten defensemen in the league with regards to gross shot volume, seemingly sacrificing power for accuracy in his shots to achieve that result. Despite the difficult nature of his deployments, Letang was able to control shot-attempts and raw scoring chances with a high level of regularity. A priority for management in the offseason, Letang signed a six-year contract worth a total of $36.6 million dollars that will likely round out his career as a member of the Penguins. Expect Letang to continue to be used in high leverage situations with a great deal of confidence from the coaching staff. He orchestrates most of the movement up ice on the breakout of the power-play. Letang's skating is still the backbone of his game, and it enables him to take risks offensively and provide positive impacts to the teams' offensive outputs as a result of that mobility and chance-taking. Letang's defensive work in transition is not what it was once, but he maintains an aggressive gap in one-on-one situations. Letang shows no signs of slowing down and his training regimen has enabled him to play 78 games last season despite his big minutes.

26 · JEFF PETRY · D

AGE: 34 H/W: 6-3/205 NHL:12 SALARY: 5,500,000 CONTRACT: 2025

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Montreal (NHL)	71	11	29	40	26	23.4	0.56
20-21	Montreal (NHL)	55	12	30	42	20	22.4	0.76
21-22	Montreal (NHL)	68	6	21	27	36	22.1	0.40
	Career	803	87	235	322	325		0.40
	Prediction	75	6	32	38			0.51

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	110.92	1.85	0.4	0.00	7.38	7.32	50.00
5on5	1176.80	19.61	3.33	6.25	49.18	8.40	38.46

Jeff Petry makes his way to Pittsburgh via a trade that sent defenseman Mike Matheson and a fourth-round pick to the Montreal Canadiens for Petry and forward Ryan Poehling. The Penguins wanted to get bigger and more physical on the blueline and they accomplish that in Petry without having to sacrifice anything in the way of offense. Landscape wise, it is going to be a much different environment for Petry. He will likely feature in similar role at even-strength, playing a puck carrying role on the second defensive pairing. While he does not produce the same type of elite play-driving offensive results he once did, he is still extremely competent with the puck on his stick and is a boost to the teams' offensive goals. He will have an opportunity to work steadily alongside Evgeni Malkin's unit, giving him a high-quality offensive-minded center to work with. A potential partnership between Petry and Marcus Pettersson would give Petry a steady, defensive-minded partner to enable him to focus on offensive outputs and carrying the puck on the breakout. Petry is coming off a year where his goal-scoring and offensive performance took a hit. A new landscape should bring about a return to success offensively. He still has a powerful, accurate shot that he uses with a high level of regularity and will sneak low into the offensive zone to put it to use. Petry is still a strong skater that can defend forwards

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

off the rush with a great deal of success. The Penguins will look for him to use his size to provide a stern presence in the home plate area of the net.

| 8 | BRIAN DUMOULIN | | | | | | D |

AGE: 31 H/W: 6-4/220 NHL: 7 SALARY: 4,100,000 CONTRACT: 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	28	1	7	8	10	21.0	0.29
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	41	4	10	14	12	22.2	0.34
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	76	3	15	18	24	21.5	0.24
	Career	464	18	96	114	130		0.25
	Prediction	**79**	**5**	**14**	**19**			**0.24**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	5.22	0.09	0		0.09	0.00	
5on5	1417.13	23.62	3.43	3.75	62.51	8.57	23.88

Brian Dumoulin will be returning to the lineup having suffered an MCL injury in the playoffs. That is a notable mention because Dumoulin has suffered a variety of lower body injuries over the course of the last several years that have seemingly impacted his mobility and ability to keep a strong gap in defensive coverage. Dumoulin's hallmark, a strong style of skating with great individual defensive coverage in the neutral and defensive zones, has taken a hit over time and attrition has made its mark in his game. For the first time last season, Dumoulin was removed from Kris Letang's side on the Penguins top defensive pairing. While that may not be a true harbinger of things to come, it is a testament to the theory that something seemed a bit off with the Penguins defensive guru last season. Dumoulin will look to enter the year healthy and shake some of the nagging problems that have bothered him over the course of the last few years. At his best, he is still a wet blanket over the other team's best offensive forwards. His patient and reliable approach to defense enables his more offensively gifted counterparts to take chances and risks in the offensive zone. Dumoulin is not afraid to use the body, but physicality has never been the backbone of his defensive game. His strong skating and pivot-ability in transition, combined with his long reach and active stick, make him a difficult player to move past for transitioning forwards. Those will be the elements Dumoulin looks to recapture as last year was an inconsistent performance from in him protecting his own blueline.

| 28 | MARCUS PETTERSSON | | | | | | D |

AGE: 26 H/W:6-4/180 NHL: 5 SALARY: 4,025,175 CONTRACT: 2025

YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	MIN	PPG
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	69	2	20	22	35	19.2	0.32
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	47	2	7	9	22	16.3	0.19
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	72	2	17	19	38	15.4	0.26
	Career	294	9	70	79	167		0.27
	Prediction	**77**	**3**	**19**	**22**			**0.29**

Metrics:

Sit	TOI	TOI/60	ixG	iSh%	O-ixG	OISh%	IPP
5on4	19.72	0.33	0.03	0.00	1.12	0.00	
5on5	1069.65	17.83	3.17	2.50	44.15	7.41	42.86

Marcus Pettersson is becoming the Penguins even-strength defensive specialist. While his game lacks a lot of flash and offensive utility, Pettersson produces great returns in preventing defensive zone entries from opposing forwards and can competently move the puck into the hands of safety. His strong

skating and heads-up approach to the game in the defensive and neutral zones gave him the ability to control the game at even-strength last season. Pettersson controlled over 54 percent of the quality shots taken while he was on the ice at even-strength. His offensive skills have never been the focal point of his game, but he is a competent passer who can handle and distribute the puck adequately enough to find himself in the assist column on a regular basis. Pettersson's hallmarks are a strong defensive gap that he uses to keep opposing forwards in front of him. He is a strong transition skater and can manage quick changes from offense to defense in a hurry without losing himself in the fray of the game. He has a good shot that is accurate and well-placed albeit used infrequently. Pettersson took on an elevated role in the post-season from an ice time perspective and that may be a harbinger of things to come with Jeff Petry in the fold alongside him. While lacking the pizzaz of some of his counterparts, Pettersson brings a unique and necessary defensive-minded focus to the Penguins defensive core that is more well-known for its ability to join the rush and play offense.

GOALTENDER

| 35 | TRISTAN JARRY | | | | | | G |

AGE: 27 H/W: 6-2/195 NHL: 4 SALARY: $3,500,000 CONTRACT: 2023

YR	TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SPVC
19-20	Pittsburgh (NHL)	33	20	12	1	2.43	3	0.921
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	39	25	9	3	2.75	2	0.909
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	58	34	18	6	2.42	4	0.919
	Career	159	93	47	13	2.57	11	0.915
	Prediction	**62**	**35**	**18**	**6**	**2.58**	**4**	**0.914**

Every year, it seems like there's a tertiary storyline floating around the NHL theorizing that this season will be the final season of Pittsburgh's Crosby-Malkin window. But while they certainly don't have Vezina-caliber goaltending at the helm under now-established starter Tristan Jarry, the Surrey, BC native certainly doesn't get enough credit for what he does for the team. Jarry has quietly racked up six years in net for the Penguins now, logging his heaviest workload yet this past year and performing perfectly up to expectations in the process. He quieted concerns that he was following the Matt Murray decline timeline by bouncing back soundly from his mediocre 2020-21 season, posting a .919 save percentage and logging quality starts in over 62 percent of his games. The biggest contributor to his return to form was his consistency; while he had been sitting well above average in his quality start percentage the year prior as well, Jarry eliminated the stretches of poor performances by seeming to clean up his ability to get rattled by bad goals. He posted one fewer game with a sub-.850 save percentage than he had recorded the year prior, despite playing in nearly twenty more games – and while a closer look at his overall numbers from the last few seasons reveals that he never fell out of the top half of performers in the league, he shot back into the top ten with the outcomes he posted last year in particular. Now, he'll get a chance to show that he can repeat that success for the Penguins this year, which could be one of the last years that Casey DeSmith backs him up before the team potentially takes a look at what a younger option like Joel Blomqvist to be his number two.

PROSPECTS

1   OWEN PICKERING

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	18	6-4/180	27-Jan-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
123	`22(21st)	Pit	2022	21			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Swift Current (WHL)	23	2	7	9	8	0.39
21-22	Swift Current (WHL)	62	9	24	33	39	0.53

To describe Pickering's progress and development over the past few years as "stratospheric" would still be something of an understatement. After all, it's not often that you see a prospect get picked as late as the 9th round of the WHL Bantam Draft only to get selected in the 1st round of the NHL Entry Draft three years later. Even more amazing, the 6'5" defender still seems like he's just scratching the surface of what he can accomplish and how good he can ultimately become. Growing up, he honed his mobility and puck control as an undersized blueliner, but he didn't lose those skills as he underwent a massive growth spurt in his mid-teens. While he is still filling into his new body right now, defensemen with his combination of size and mobility are hot commodities, so the Pens are likely thrilled to have landed Pickering at 21st overall in 2022. He moves around the ice effortlessly; he is comfortable having the puck on his stick in full flight and he thinks the game reasonably well in all three zones. While he might not currently be as polished as some other top prospects, his Swift Current team is rebuilding and is already giving him loads of ice time in all situations as their number-one defenseman. That kind of role and workload should be a big boon to his long-term development, getting the reps that will help him gain experience. The Broncos are also primed for big playoff pushes in the upcoming years, which will provide him with valuable learning opportunities. Few prospects have the raw, unrefined potential that Pickering possesses, and that will make him a fascinating player to continue following as his career moves forward. - DN

2   SAMUEL POULIN

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
LW	21	6-1/205	25-Feb-01				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
198	`19(21st)	Pit	2019	21			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	She-VdO (QMJHL)	24	11	20	31	14	1.29
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	72	16	21	37	51	0.51

The powerhouse Penguins haven't drafted in the first round very much in recent years, but Poulin is one of those rare selections (from 2019). His first pro season last year has to be considered a successful one. Upon first glance, his point totals likely won't excite you, but his 37 points actually placed him second in scoring on a low scoring Wilkes-Barre team. The stocky power winger was able to translate his high energy, pesky game to the pro level rather seamlessly. He is always in attack mode, hungry for the puck on the forecheck and backcheck. Poulin is more than just a run of the mill checker, though. He can attack the offensive zone with pace and create off the rush with soft hands. His strength on the puck is one of his best qualities as he can be difficult to knock off stride and separate from the puck. Poulin also has a goal scorer's touch, especially in tight. He projects as a versatile middle six winger who can play in any situation for the Penguins in the future, perhaps even working alongside Sidney Crosby at some point in the twilight of his career. However, that is not likely to be next season given the Penguins depth at forward. Poulin will return to Wilkes-Barre for another season, hopefully improving his offensive production further. He should then be ready for a full-time gig in 2023-24, just in time for several middle six contracts to come off the books in Pittsburgh. - BO

3   JOEL BLOMQVIST

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
G	20	6-2/185	10-Jan-02				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
212	`20(52nd)	0	2020	52			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**T**	**GAA**	**SO**	**SVPC**
20-21	Hermes (Fin-Mestis)	16	6	4	6	2.67	1	0.907
20-21	Karpat (Fin-Liiga)	2	2	0	0	1.5	0	0.914
21-22	Karpat (Fin-Liiga)	20	6	3	5	1.32	5	0.940

Pittsburgh's 2nd round selection in 2020, Blomqvist has spent two straight seasons seeing fairly limited time in Liiga play while racking up outstanding GAAs and save percentages. After his initial pro season in Finland in 20-21 saw most of his playing time and success coming in second tier Mestis, he saw his role grow with Kärpät this season, ultimately climaxing in the postseason during which he accumulated an astronomic 1.10 GAA and .950 save percentage over seven games, which followed a 1.32 GAA and .940 save percentage in 20 regular season contests. He ended the season with a single game cameo for Pittsburgh's AHL affiliate. Although not terribly large, he makes the most out of his 6'2 frame. A thinking man's goaltender, Blomqvist stands out for being calm and controlled in his movements. His technical skills indicate that he's very well-schooled. His performances have been very consistent thanks to strong composure, puck-tracking abilities, and a fantastically accurate understanding of when to commit himself in making his saves. Blomqvist remains unsigned at this time and is once again scheduled to suit up for Kärpät in Liiga play, with the starter's job on his plate. AN ELC with the Penguins should come soon, where he will be able to challenge fellow Finn Filip Lindberg for future time in the NHL crease. - CL

4   PIERRE-OLIVIER JOSEPH

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	23	6-2/170	1-Jul-99				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
272	`17(23rd)	Ari	2017	23			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	23	1	12	13	28	0.57
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	16	1	4	5	6	0.31
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	61	10	23	33	44	0.54
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	4	0	0	0	2	0

The Penguins are going to be facing quite the predicament this training camp when it comes to Joseph. The talented puck mover is no longer exempt from waivers, which means that if he does not make Pittsburgh's roster, they will have to make him available to other NHL teams. Given his pedigree as a prospect, it seems unlikely that he would pass through waivers unclaimed. A former first round selection of Arizona, he was acquired in the Phil Kessel trade in 2019. Joseph has improved in each of his three pro seasons thus far and the time is now for Pittsburgh to clear a path for him to make the big club and play regularly. His best asset is his mobility. Joseph is an extremely fluid mover whose game is completely built around his ability to cover the ice effortlessly. He is a skilled puck mover who can quarterback the powerplay and lead the attack in transition. Given the age of Pittsburgh's puck movers, it would be smart for the Penguins to see what they have in Joseph. When drafted, his defensive game and presence was a work in progress, however this has improved to the point where he is no longer a defensive liability. There would likely still be growing pains at the NHL level, however the reward is potentially worth the risk. The new one-way, two-year contract the Penguins gave Joseph this offseason points to him being a part of this team long term, but either way, he should be an NHL player next season finally - BO

5   DREW O'CONNOR

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
LW	24	6-3/200	9-Jun-98				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
298	FA(3/20)	0	0	0			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
20-21	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	20	7	12	19	14	0.95
20-21	Pittsburgh (NHL)	10	0	1	1	2	0.10
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	33	12	20	32	19	0.97
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	22	3	2	5	4	0.23

A free agent signing out of Dartmouth College a few years ago, O'Connor has emerged as one of Pittsburgh's top young prospects and players. He has split the first two years of his pro career between Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre, performing at a near point per game mark in his AHL time. He started off red hot with Pittsburgh to start the season, but then had some problem with injuries and he struggled to re-find that form. O'Connor is a big winger with a big shot who can play a power game. He is strong down low and near the crease and is difficult to separate from the puck. He also skates quite well, especially North/South, allowing him to compete hard for space and clear paths for linemates. At the NHL level, his physical play and two-way game have been fairly inconsistent, but that should improve as he gains confidence at the level. Armed with a one-way contract, O'Connor should start the year with Pittsburgh, barring a poor training camp. Playing

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

time will be hard to come by given the team's depth, but the Penguins really like what he can offer and there is a chance that he makes some veterans expendable. His NHL potential is not likely extremely high, but in a weak system, he stands out. - BO

6	VALTTERI PUUSTINEN						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
RW	23	5-9/185		4-Jun-99			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
	`19(203rd)	Pit	2019	203			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	HPK (Fin-Liiga)	51	21	20	41	14	0.80
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	73	20	22	42	14	0.58
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	1	0	1	1	0	1

One of the keys to Pittsburgh's sustained success has been their ability to find gems later in the draft and through the undrafted free agent market. Insert 5'9 Finnish winger Valtteri Puustinen, a seventh-round selection by the Pens in 2019. After two successful Liiga campaigns, he made his North American pro debut last year and it was an extremely successful one. He led Wilkes-Barre in scoring and even caught the eye of the Penguins coaching staff in his lone NHL game following a brief call-up. Puustinen is a highly intelligent offensive player. He has a very clear understanding of how to play without the puck, sliding in and out of coverage and showing great anticipation. He also has a very strong shot that allows him to be dangerous from anywhere on the ice. The combination of these two things makes him the perfect complementary winger on a scoring line. Somewhat undersized, it will be interesting to see how Pittsburgh employs Puustinen in the future. His talents would likely be wasted in a checking line role, so look for them to wait until an opening occurs on a scoring line before they give him a true audition. Look for him to be one of Pittsburgh's top call-up options this coming season, especially if someone inside their top six goes down. - BO

7	FILIP HALLANDER						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
LW	22	6-1/185		29-Jun-00			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
	T(Tor-7/21)	Pit	2018	58			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Lulea (SHL)	51	13	11	24	12	0.47
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	61	14	14	28	22	0.46
21-22	Pittsburgh (NHL)	1	0	0	0	0	0

Hallander only just completed his first pro season in North America, but he has had a pretty strange career already. A second-round selection by Pittsburgh in 2018, Hallander was traded to the Toronto Maple Leafs in the Kasperi Kapanen deal. A year later, the Penguins reacquired him in the famous Jared McCann deal (in which McCann was then lost to Seattle from Toronto in the expansion draft). At this point, Pens management and scouts are likely pretty certain in what they have in Hallander. His offensive upside is rather limited. He is not exceptionally skilled. His production in the SHL and at the AHL level last year prove that. However, he does have a skill set built for a bottom six role. He skates pretty well. He has positional versatility. He is very responsible defensively and can excel in a penalty killing role. The Penguins will definitely be grooming Hallander to be a bottom six player, perhaps even in a shutdown defensive role. How long it takes him to realize that potential remains to be seen. He will likely play out the entire year in the AHL in hopes of improving his confidence and ability with the puck, so that he is ready for the pace in the NHL. Pittsburgh is likely to be patient with him in hopes that he can develop a little further as an offensive player. - BO

8	LUKAS SVEJKOVSKY						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
C	20	5-10/165		23-Nov-01			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
	`20(108th)	0	2020	108			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Medicine Hat (WHL)	20	12	10	22	6	1.10
21-22	MH-Sea (WHL)	57	35	41	76	60	1.33

Svejkovsky had an eventful 2021-22 season. In his overage year, he got dealt midseason from Medicine Hat to Seattle, where he helped the Thunderbirds embark on a somewhat surprising run to the WHL finals and earned himself an entry-level contract with the Penguins in the process. Amazingly, he finished the season as the Tigers points leader

despite only playing half a season for them. A 2020 4th rounder, Svejkovsky is an undersized but creative, shifty forward. With a penchant for producing points at every level, Svejkovsky skates well and is engaged in all three zones. He does well with the puck on his stick, able to create opportunities sometimes out of nothing. His knock will always be lack of size, and the question is whether or not the son of former NHLer Jaroslav will be able to overcome this. He doesn't possess any elite skills that stand out, and although he's creative with the puck and responsible without it, there aren't many NHL regulars of his stature that don't compensate with high-end skill elsewhere. That being said, he acquitted himself well at the junior level and now is slated to move to the pro ranks in 2022-23 with the Penguins' AHL affiliate in Wilkes-Barre. He will likely need some time to adjust, and it will be interesting to see how he does playing against much bigger opponents. - AS

9	FILIP LINDBERG						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
G	23	6-0/180		31-Jan-99			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
	FA(7/21)	Min	2019	197			
YR	TM	GP	W	L	T	GAA	SO	SVPC
20-21	Massachusetts (HE)	15	10	1	4	1.24	5	0.915
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	7	4	2	0	2.76	0	0.92

A former NCAA standout and champion with UMass, Lindberg was a free agent signing by Pittsburgh last offseason. His season got off to a great start with Wilkes-Barre before he suffered an ankle injury in November that ended his freshman professional campaign. So, what the Penguins truly have in Lindberg remains to be seen. The 6'1 Finnish netminder is an excellent athlete. His play tracking ability is extremely impressive because of how quick he is post to post. As such, he has a penchant for the highlight reel save, taking away the bottom part of the net with ease. The Penguins goaltending development team will be working hard with him to harness his natural athleticism, improving the finer technical components of his game. In reality, Lindberg is probably the closest thing the Penguins have to a top goaltending prospect at the pro level right now and he will be splitting time with Dustin Tokarski in Wilkes-Barre. Tokarski likely serves as the team's top call-up and that means Lindberg can focus on staying healthy and improving over a full year of pro. Whether he has the potential to be an NHL starter or not remains to be seen, with more being known after this current season on the farm. - BO

10	JONATHAN GRUDEN						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
C	22	5-11/175		4-May-00			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
	T(Ott-10/20)	Ott	2018	95			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
20-21	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	32	6	8	14	13	0.44
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	75	10	17	27	78	0.36

Much like Filip Hallander, Gruden is being groomed as a potential checking line player by the Penguins. Since being drafted out of the U.S. NTDP, his development path has not been conventional. He started at the University of Miami but left school early to join the London Knights of the OHL, where he was solid as a point per game player in his lone season. Since then, he has improved over two pro seasons with Wilkes-Barre, establishing himself as a top-notch high energy forward. Like Hallander, Gruden is not the world's most skilled player, but he makes up for it with extreme tenacity. He competes consistently for pucks and has transformed himself into a fantastic forechecker and someone who wins the majority of his 50/50 puck battles. His ability to outwork defenders and sustain pressure deep in the offensive zone is an admirable trait. Additionally, Gruden is a strong defensive presence who takes a physical approach and proudly makes himself difficult to play against. The key for him will be to continue to improve his skating and speed so that he can be just as effective in that role at the NHL level. Pittsburgh will be looking for him to improve yet again at the AHL level this upcoming season before his waiver eligibility runs out the following year. - BO

11	NATHAN LEGARE						
POS	AGE	HT/WT		BORN			
RW	21	6-0/205		11-Jan-01			
2022 RK	ACQUIRED	DFT BY	DFT YR	SELECTED			
	`19(74th)	Pit	2019	74			
YR	TM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PPG
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	57	7	9	16	30	0.28

A big, physical, hardworking winger, Legare is coming off of his first pro season with Wilkes-Barre, where he played more of a depth role. The Pens will be looking for him to use his big shot more often this season.

12 — ZAM PLANTE

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
C	18	5-9/160	24-Aug-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`22(150th)	Pit	2022	150			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Chicago (USHL)	31	10	11	21	2	0.68
21-22	Hermantown (USHS-MN)	22	24	40	64	0	2.91

We liked Plante's potential to be an impactful middle six energy player heading into this year's draft. Improving his athleticism will be a must, but he'll have several years to do that. He likely spends another year in Chicago (USHL) this year before heading to UMD after that.

13 — TRISTAN BROZ

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
C	19	6-0/180	10-Oct-02				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`21(58th)	Pit	2021	58			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Minnesota (B1G)	36	6	5	11	10	0.31

It was tough for Broz to break into a deep lineup at the University of Denver this past season, but he did play a depth role for the NCAA champions. The power forward loves attacking the net and should see an increase in responsibility and production as a sophomore.

14 — JORDAN FRASCA

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
C	21	6-2/190	5-Jul-01				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	FA(3/22)	0	0	0			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Kingston (OHL)	61	42	45	87	30	1.43

Frasca used a strong overage year as a springboard to earn an ELC from Pittsburgh this season. The big center offers intriguing upside as a two-way stalwart at the pro level, but how his skill set translates (especially in terms of pace) is a mystery.

15 — TAYLOR GAUTHIER

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
G	21	6-1/195	15-Feb-01				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	FA(3/22)	0	0	0			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**T**	**GAA**	**SO**	**SVPC**
21-22	PG-Por (WHL)	42	31	9	0	2.34	4	0.928

Another free agent signing by the Pens, Gauthier has been one of the WHL's best goaltenders for a few seasons now. However, due to his average size, there has been a reluctance to draft/sign him previously. Pittsburgh took a chance, and he will start his pro career this season.

16 — ISAAC BELLIVEAU

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	19	6-2/185	26-Nov-02				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`21(154th)	Pit	2021	154			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Gatineau (QMJHL)	67	10	28	38	35	0.57

The 6'2 defender will return to the QMJHL for his overage season in hopes that he can continue to improve his four-way mobility and confidence with the puck.

17 — RAIVIS KRISTIANS ANSONS

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
RW	20	6-1/190	29-Jan-02				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`20(149th)	0	2020	149			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Bat-SNB (QMJHL)	56	18	42	60	27	1.07

There is a lot to like about this Latvian winger. He was great in a supporting role this season, helping Saint John capture the Memorial Cup. His versatility will impress pro coaches and he should be an immediate top nine player for Wilkes-Barre this season.

18 — SERGEI MURASHOV

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
G	18	6-0/170	1-Apr-04				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`22(118th)	Pit	2022	118			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**T**	**GAA**	**SO**	**SVPC**
21-22	Loko-76 (MHL)	41	21	16	3	2.49	6	0.927

An athletic netminder, Murashov was a fourth-round selection by Pittsburgh in 2022. Playing in the Lokomotiv program, he will try to break through into the KHL level this season, at least partially.

19 — RYAN MCCLEARY

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
D	19	6-2/180	9-Sep-03				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	`21(194th)	Pit	2021	194			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Portland (WHL)	63	6	24	30	22	0.48

The right shot defender showed great progression in Portland this past season, playing heavy minutes for a strong team. Pittsburgh will be looking for continued improvement in his skating ability before potentially signing him at some point this season.

20 — COREY ANDONOVSKI

POS	AGE	HT/WT	BORN				
RW	23	6-1/195	26-Mar-99				
2022 RK	**ACQUIRED**	**DFT BY**	**DFT YR**	**SELECTED**			
	FA(3/22)	0	0	0			
YR	**TM**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**PTS**	**PIM**	**PPG**
21-22	Princeton (ECAC)	31	10	12	22	34	0.71
21-22	Wilkes-Barre (AHL)	5	0	0	0	2	0

A free agent signing by Pittsburgh out of Princeton, Andonovski will be groomed as a potential defensive specialist and penalty killer. The big winger is intelligent, physical, and an improving skater, qualities that could make him a great fourth liner in the future.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

TOP 300 PROSPECTS
RANKING THE NHL FUTURE

PROSPECT CRITERIA

Players under 26 years of age as of the September 15th prior (Sep. 15, 2021) to the season in question who have appeared in less than 60 NHL games (30 for goalies) and less than 35 in any one season – or 25 last year (20 for goalies, 15 last season) are considered prospects

RANK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT	ACQUIRED	TEAM	GP	G (W)	A (L)	PTS (GAA)	PIM (SV%)
1	Owen Power	Buf	D	19	6-6/215	`21(1st)	Michigan (B1G)	33	3	29	32	12
2	Luke Hughes	NJ	D	19	6-2/185	`21(4th)	Michigan (B1G)	41	17	22	39	10
3	Bowen Byram	Col	D	21	6-0/195	`19(4th)	Colorado (NHL)	30	5	12	17	12
4	Matthew Beniers	Sea	C	19	6-1/175	`21(2nd)	Michigan (B1G)	37	20	23	43	16
5	Jake Sanderson	Ott	D	20	6-1/185	`20(5th)	North Dakota (NCHC)	23	8	18	26	6
6	Mason McTavish	Ana	RW	19	6-1/205	`21(3rd)	Pbo-Ham (OHL)	29	20	27	47	31
7	Shane Wright	Sea	C	18	6-0/200	`22(4th)	Kingston (OHL)	63	32	62	94	22
8	Logan Cooley	Ari	C	18	5-10/180	`22(3rd)	USN U18 (USDP)	51	27	48	75	67
9	Juraj Slafkovsky	Mtl	LW	18	6-4/220	`22(1st)	TPS (Fin-Liiga)	31	5	5	10	33
10	Simon Nemec	NJ	D	18	6-0/190	`22(2nd)	HK Nitra (Svk)	39	1	25	26	20
11	Jack Quinn	Buf	LW	20	6-0/180	`20(8th)	Rochester (AHL)	45	26	35	61	23
12	Simon Edvinsson	Det	D	19	6-4/200	`21(6th)	Frolunda (SHL)	44	2	17	19	18
13	Kent Johnson	CBJ	LW	19	6-1/170	`21(5th)	Michigan (B1G)	32	8	29	37	6
14	Marco Rossi	Min	C	20	5-9/185	`20(9th)	Iowa (AHL)	63	18	35	53	46
15	Alexander Holtz	NJ	RW	20	6-0/190	`20(7th)	Utica (AHL)	52	26	25	51	10
16	Wyatt Johnston	Dal	C	19	6-1/180	`21(23rd)	Windsor (OHL)	68	46	78	124	26
17	Brandt Clarke	LA	D	19	6-2/185	`21(8th)	Barrie (OHL)	55	11	48	59	29
18	David Jiricek	CBJ	D	18	6-3/190	`22(6th)	HC Plzen (Cze)	29	5	6	11	49
19	Matthew Savoie	Buf	C	18	5-9/180	`22(9th)	Winnipeg (WHL)	65	35	55	90	32
20	Pavel Mintyukov	Ana	D	18	6-1/195	`22(10th)	Saginaw (OHL)	67	17	45	62	28
21	Lukas Reichel	Chi	LW	20	6-0/170	`20(17th)	Rockford (AHL)	56	21	36	57	6
22	John-Jason Peterka	Buf	RW	20	5-11/190	`20(34th)	Rochester (AHL)	70	28	40	68	28
23	Yaroslav Askarov	Nsh	G	20	6-3/175	`20(11th)	SKA (KHL)	6	2	1	1.81	0.913
24	Dylan Guenther	Ari	RW	19	6-1/180	`21(9th)	Edmonton (WHL)	59	45	46	91	45
25	Jesper Wallstedt	Min	G	19	6-3/215	`21(20th)	Lulea (SHL)	22	12	10	1.98	0.918
26	William Eklund	SJ	LW	19	5-10/175	`21(7th)	Djurgardens (SHL)	29	1	13	14	4
27	Xavier Bourgault	Edm	C	19	6-0/170	`21(22nd)	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	43	36	39	75	20
28	Olen Zellweger	Ana	D	19	5-10/175	`21(34th)	Everett (WHL)	55	14	64	78	23
29	Cole Perfetti	Wpg	RW	20	5-10/180	`20(10th)	Manitoba (AHL)	17	6	9	15	2
30	Logan Stankoven	Dal	C	19	5-8/170	`21(47th)	Kamloops (WHL)	59	45	59	104	16
31	Mavrik Bourque	Dal	C	20	5-10/180	`20(30th)	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	31	20	48	68	30
32	Vitali Kravtsov	NYR	RW	22	6-3/185	`18(9th)	Traktor (KHL)	19	6	7	13	14
33	Brennan Othmann	NYR	LW	19	6-0/175	`21(16th)	Flint (OHL)	66	50	47	97	65
34	Devon Levi	Buf	G	20	6-0/185	T(Fla-7/21)	Northeastern (HE)	32	21	10	1.54	0.952
35	Frank Nazar	Chi	C	18	5-10/180	`22(13th)	USN U18 (USDP)	56	28	42	70	20
36	Denton Mateychuk	CBJ	D	18	5-11/190	`22(12th)	Moose Jaw (WHL)	65	13	51	64	15
37	Kirill Marchenko	CBJ	LW	22	6-3/190	`18(49th)	SKA (KHL)	39	12	8	20	17
38	Thomas Bordeleau	SJ	C	20	5-9/180	`20(38th)	Michigan (B1G)	37	12	25	37	35
39	Jakob Pelletier	Cgy	LW	21	5-9/165	`19(26th)	Stockton (AHL)	66	27	35	62	22
40	Philip Broberg	Edm	D	21	6-3/200	`19(8th)	Bakersfield (AHL)	31	4	19	23	18
41	Cutter Gauthier	Phi	LW	18	6-2/200	`22(5th)	USN U18 (USDP)	54	34	31	65	49
42	Jonathan Lekkerimaki	Van	RW	18	5-11/170	`22(15th)	Djurgardens (Swe J20)	26	20	15	35	8
43	Scott Perunovich	StL	D	24	5-10/175	`18(45th)	Springfield (AHL)	17	3	19	22	8

2022-23

TOP 475
PROJECTED SCORERS

RANK	NAME, TM	AGE	P	2021–22 FINAL					2022-23 PREDICTIONS			
				GP	G	A	PTS	PPG	GP	G	A	PTS
1	Connor McDavid, Edm	25	C	80	44	79	123	1.54	78	52	77	129
2	Auston Matthews, Tor	24	C	73	60	46	106	1.45	80	67	55	122
3	Leon Draisaitl, Edm	26	C	80	55	55	110	1.38	82	50	62	112
4	Nikita Kucherov, TB	29	RW	47	25	44	69	1.47	75	40	72	112
5	Mitchell Marner, Tor	25	RW	72	35	62	97	1.35	79	39	70	109
6	Nathan MacKinnon, Col	27	C	65	32	56	88	1.35	74	41	64	105
7	Kirill Kaprizov, Min	25	LW	81	47	61	108	1.33	80	45	58	103
8	Artemi Panarin, NYR	30	LW	75	22	74	96	1.28	77	28	73	101
9	Steven Stamkos, TB	32	LW	81	42	64	106	1.31	79	44	56	100
10	Aleksander Barkov, Fla	27	C	67	39	49	88	1.31	79	42	55	97
11	Mikko Rantanen, Col	25	RW	75	36	56	92	1.23	76	38	55	93
12	Matthew Tkachuk, Fla	24	RW	82	42	62	104	1.27	80	40	52	92
13	Kyle Connor, Wpg	25	LW	79	47	46	93	1.18	82	50	41	91
14	Sebastian Aho, Car	25	C	79	37	44	81	1.03	77	39	52	91
15	Filip Forsberg, Nsh	28	LW	69	42	42	84	1.22	77	44	46	90
16	Jonathan Huberdeau, Cgy	29	LW	80	30	85	115	1.44	80	28	62	90
17	Jack Hughes, NJ	21	C	49	26	30	56	1.14	74	38	50	88
18	Sidney Crosby, Pit	35	C	69	31	53	84	1.22	75	32	56	88
19	Mika Zibanejad, NYR	29	C	81	29	52	81	1.00	79	32	56	88
20	David Pastrnak, Bos	26	RW	72	40	37	77	1.07	77	45	42	87
21	Robert Thomas, StL	23	C	72	20	57	77	1.07	78	28	59	87
22	Johnny Gaudreau, CBJ	29	LW	82	40	75	115	1.40	82	32	54	86
23	Vladimír Tarasenko, StL	30	RW	75	34	48	82	1.09	80	38	47	85
24	Jake Guentzel, Pit	27	LW	76	40	44	84	1.11	81	38	47	85
25	Cale Makar, Col	23	D	77	28	58	86	1.12	82	24	61	85
26	Brayden Point, TB	26	C	66	28	30	58	0.88	77	32	52	84
27	J.T. Miller, Van	29	C	80	32	67	99	1.24	80	28	55	83
28	Matt Duchene, Nsh	31	RW	78	43	43	86	1.10	75	37	44	81
29	Adam Fox, NYR	24	D	78	11	63	74	0.95	79	15	66	81
30	Elias Pettersson, Van	23	LW	80	32	36	68	0.85	80	38	42	80
31	Mark Scheifele, Wpg	29	C	67	29	41	70	1.04	70	28	52	80
32	Patrick Kane, Chi	33	RW	78	26	66	92	1.18	75	27	52	79
33	Alexander Ovechkin, Wsh	36	LW	77	50	40	90	1.17	79	45	33	78
34	Andrei Svechnikov, Car	22	LW	78	30	39	69	0.88	79	37	41	78
35	Jack Eichel, VGK	25	C	34	14	11	25	0.74	78	35	43	78
36	Roman Josi, Nsh	32	D	80	23	73	96	1.20	82	20	58	78
37	Kevin Fiala, LA	26	RW	82	33	52	85	1.04	80	33	44	77
38	Jordan Kyrou, StL	24	RW	74	27	48	75	1.01	82	32	44	76
39	Jesper Bratt, NJ	24	RW	76	26	47	73	0.96	79	35	40	75
40	Mark Stone, VGK	30	RW	37	9	21	30	0.81	72	28	47	75
41	Victor Hedman, TB	31	D	82	20	65	85	1.04	79	18	57	75
42	Josh Norris, Ott	23	C	66	35	20	55	0.83	77	39	35	74
43	Evgeni Malkin, Pit	36	C	41	20	22	42	1.02	64	32	42	74
44	William Nylander, Tor	26	RW	81	34	46	80	0.99	82	31	43	74
45	Dylan Larkin, Det	26	C	71	31	38	69	0.97	80	30	44	74
46	Nazem Kadri, Cgy	31	C	71	28	59	87	1.23	73	27	47	74
47	Patrik Laine, CBJ	24	RW	56	26	30	56	1.00	74	40	33	73
48	Roope Hintz, Dal	25	C	80	37	35	72	0.90	81	34	39	73
49	Evgeny Kuznetsov, Wsh	30	C	79	24	54	78	0.99	81	25	48	73
50	Elias Lindholm, Cgy	27	C	82	42	40	82	1.00	81	34	38	72
51	Trevor Zegras, Ana	21	C	75	23	38	61	0.81	78	29	43	72
52	John Tavares, Tor	31	C	79	27	49	76	0.96	78	28	44	72
53	Sam Reinhart, Fla	26	RW	78	33	49	82	1.05	82	28	44	72
54	Tim Stuetzle, Ott	20	C	79	22	36	58	0.73	78	26	46	72
55	Teuvo Teravainen, Car	28	LW	77	22	43	65	0.84	80	26	46	72
56	Chandler Stephenson, VGK	28	LW	79	21	43	64	0.81	82	26	46	72
57	Quinn Hughes, Van	22	D	76	8	60	68	0.89	77	10	62	72
58	Jason Robertson, Dal	23	LW	74	41	38	79	1.07	76	37	34	71
59	Pavel Buchnevich, StL	27	LW	73	30	46	76	1.04	77	29	42	71
60	Drake Batherson, Ott	24	RW	46	17	27	44	0.96	75	24	47	71
61	Thomas Chabot, Ott	25	D	59	7	31	38	0.64	77	10	61	71
62	Alex DeBrincat, Ott	24	LW	82	41	37	78	0.95	80	37	33	70
63	Vincent Trocheck, NYR	29	C	81	21	30	51	0.63	80	25	45	70
64	Mats Zuccarello, Min	35	RW	70	24	55	79	1.13	74	21	49	70
65	Gabriel Landeskog, Col	29	LW	51	30	29	59	1.16	73	35	34	69

RANK	NAME, TM	AGE	P	2021–22 FINAL					2022-23 PREDICTIONS			
				GP	G	A	PTS	PPG	GP	G	A	PTS
66	Nico Hischier, NJ	23	C	70	21	39	60	0.86	75	22	47	69
67	Brady Tkachuk, Ott	22	LW	79	30	37	67	0.85	81	34	34	68
68	Brad Marchand, Bos	34	LW	70	32	48	80	1.14	62	30	38	68
69	Jonathan Marchessault, VGK	31	LW	76	30	36	66	0.87	75	28	40	68
70	Anze Kopitar, LA	35	C	81	19	48	67	0.83	77	18	50	68
71	Chris Kreider, NYR	31	LW	81	52	25	77	0.95	82	40	27	67
72	Timo Meier, SJ	25	LW	77	35	41	76	0.99	76	31	36	67
73	Nick Suzuki, Mtl	23	C	82	21	40	61	0.74	82	24	43	67
74	Aaron Ekblad, Fla	26	D	61	15	42	57	0.93	70	19	48	67
75	John Carlson, Wsh	32	D	78	17	54	71	0.91	77	15	52	67
76	Evander Kane, Edm	31	RW	43	22	17	39	0.91	75	40	26	66
77	Tage Thompson, Buf	24	C	78	38	30	68	0.87	80	36	30	66
78	Pierre-Luc Dubois, Wpg	24	C	81	28	32	60	0.74	82	27	39	66
79	Mathew Barzal, NYI	25	C	73	15	44	59	0.81	81	14	52	66
80	Adrian Kempe, LA	26	LW	78	35	19	54	0.69	81	37	28	65
81	Tyler Bertuzzi, Det	27	LW	68	30	32	62	0.91	74	32	33	65
82	Clayton Keller, Ari	24	RW	67	28	35	63	0.94	78	29	35	64
83	Joe Pavelski, Dal	38	RW	82	27	54	81	0.99	74	22	42	64
84	Nikolaj Ehlers, Wpg	26	LW	62	28	27	55	0.89	74	31	32	63
85	Valeri Nichushkin, Col	27	LW	62	25	27	52	0.84	72	29	34	63
86	Joel Eriksson Ek, Min	25	C	77	26	23	49	0.64	81	28	35	63
87	Matthew Beniers, Sea	19	C	10	3	6	9	0.90	76	25	38	63
88	Ryan Johansen, Nsh	30	C	79	26	37	63	0.80	80	24	39	63
89	Miro Heiskanen, Dal	23	D	70	5	31	36	0.51	77	15	48	63
90	Matthew Boldy, Min	21	RW	47	15	24	39	0.83	77	27	34	61
91	Carter Verhaeghe, Fla	27	LW	78	24	31	55	0.71	80	27	34	61
92	Alex Tuch, Buf	26	RW	50	12	26	38	0.76	77	26	35	61
93	Andrew Copp, Det	28	C	72	21	32	53	0.74	78	22	39	61
94	Anthony Mantha, Wsh	27	LW	37	9	14	23	0.62	70	25	35	60
95	Tomas Hertl, SJ	28	C	82	30	34	64	0.78	79	25	35	60
96	Jack Roslovic, CBJ	25	C	81	22	23	45	0.56	80	24	36	60
97	Taylor Hall, Bos	30	RW	81	20	41	61	0.75	77	22	38	60
98	Blake Wheeler, Wpg	36	RW	65	17	43	60	0.92	70	21	39	60
99	Rasmus Dahlin, Buf	22	D	80	13	40	53	0.66	78	15	45	60
100	Kristopher Letang, Pit	35	D	78	10	58	68	0.87	77	9	51	60
101	Brock Boeser, Van	25	RW	71	23	23	46	0.65	77	32	27	59
102	Troy Terry, Ana	25	RW	75	37	30	67	0.89	79	30	29	59
103	David Perron, Det	34	RW	67	27	30	57	0.85	70	23	36	59
104	Cole Caufield, Mtl	21	LW	67	23	20	43	0.64	78	32	26	58
105	Brock Nelson, NYI	30	C	72	37	22	59	0.82	78	30	28	58
106	Zach Hyman, Edm	30	LW	76	27	27	54	0.71	78	30	28	58
107	Alexis Lafreniere, NYR	20	RW	79	19	12	31	0.39	80	30	28	58
108	Ryan Hartman, Min	27	C	82	34	31	65	0.79	82	30	28	58
109	Jeff Skinner, Buf	30	LW	80	33	30	63	0.79	81	27	31	58
110	Ryan O'Reilly, StL	31	C	78	21	37	58	0.74	79	26	32	58
111	Patrice Bergeron, Bos	37	C	73	25	40	65	0.89	66	21	37	58
112	Zach Werenski, CBJ	25	D	68	11	37	48	0.71	77	14	44	58
113	Brent Burns, Car	37	D	82	10	44	54	0.66	77	12	46	58
114	Devon Toews, Col	28	D	66	13	44	57	0.86	77	9	49	58
115	Nick Schmaltz, Ari	26	LW	63	23	36	59	0.94	74	21	36	57
116	Sean Couturier, Phi	29	C	29	6	11	17	0.59	78	21	36	57
117	Bryan Rust, Pit	30	RW	60	24	34	58	0.97	68	20	37	57
118	Morgan Rielly, Tor	28	D	82	10	58	68	0.83	81	10	47	57
119	Andrew Mangiapane, Cgy	26	LW	82	35	20	55	0.67	80	31	25	56
120	Bo Horvat, Van	27	C	70	31	21	52	0.74	77	28	28	56
121	Phillip Danault, LA	29	C	79	27	24	51	0.65	80	26	30	56
122	Travis Konecny, Phi	25	RW	79	16	36	52	0.66	81	25	31	56
123	Martin Necas, Car	23	RW	78	14	26	40	0.51	81	22	34	56
124	Christian Dvorak, Mtl	26	C	56	11	22	33	0.59	77	18	38	56
125	Jakub Voracek, CBJ	33	RW	79	6	56	62	0.78	77	8	48	56
126	Nino Niederreiter, Nsh	30	LW	75	24	20	44	0.59	78	27	28	55
127	Andre Burakovsky, Sea	27	LW	80	22	39	61	0.76	82	24	31	55
128	Dawson Mercer, NJ	20	RW	82	17	25	42	0.51	82	21	34	55
129	Conor Garland, Van	26	RW	77	19	33	52	0.68	74	18	37	55