

EXCLUSIVE NHL PROSPECT RANKINGS –
IN-DEPTH PLAYER PROFILES

2023

mckeen's NHL PROSPECT REPORT



LUKE HUGHES



LOGAN COOLEY



LOGAN STANKOVEN



SHANE WRIGHT



SIMON NEMEČ

TOP 200 NHL PROSPECTS RANKED

TOP 15 PROSPECTS PER NHL TEAM

NHL TEAM RANKINGS

320 DETAILED PLAYER PROFILES

FEATURE ARTICLES

TEAM SYSTEM OVERVIEW

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McKeen's NHL PROSPECT REPORT

CONTENTS

3	A Look at McKeen's No. 1 Prospect Pool: The New Jersey Devils - by Josh Bell		
6	Risers and Fallers – by Brock Otten		
9	Frank Nazar - Chicago's Forgotten Prospect – by Tony Ferrari		
12	Immediate Fantasy Impact – by Peter Harling		
15	Top Five European Prospects – by Chapin Landvogt		
18	Top 200 Prospects and Prospect Organizational Ranking		
24	Team Reports – <u>Legend and Glossary</u>		
24	<u>Anaheim</u>	68 Edmonton	112 Pittsburgh
29	<u>Arizona</u>	72 Florida	116 San Jose
32	<u>Boston</u>	76 Los Angeles	120 St. Louis
36	<u>Buffalo</u>	80 Minnesota	124 Seattle
40	Calgary	84 Montréal	128 Tampa Bay
44	Carolina	88 Nashville	132 Toronto
48	Chicago	92 New Jersey	136 Vancouver
52	Colorado	96 NY Islanders	140 Vegas
56	Columbus	100 NY Rangers	144 Washington
60	Dallas	104 Ottawa	148 Winnipeg
64	Detroit	108 Philadelphia	

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McKeen's
HOCKEY

A LOOK AT MCKEEN'S NO. 1 PROSPECT POOL:



AKIRA SCHMID

THE NEW JERSEY DEVILS

BY JOSH BELL

ON the backs of two first-overall picks, the New Jersey Devils find themselves in an enviable position. On top of having a solid regular season, they made it back into the postseason after a four-year absence and for just the second time in 11 years. That goes back to the Martin Brodeur days and the Stanley Cup Final appearance against the Los Angeles Kings in 2011. But the cherry on top is that they also have the top-ranked prospect pool in the league meaning there's much more to come from this young team.

The turnaround for the organization truly started at the 2017 NHL Draft, with the Devils landing the first overall pick and selecting Nico Hischier. They were first to the podium again in 2019, winning the Jack Hughes sweepstakes. These two players have become the core that the team has built around in recent years and it's beginning to pay dividends.



JACK HUGHES

While these two have graduated and turned into NHL stars, they've been accompanied by Jesper Bratt (2016-162nd), Jesper Boqvist (2017-36th), Yegor Sharangovich (2018-141st), and Dawson Mercer (2018-18th) as forwards that have made the jump and become consistent, reliable, successful pieces in the NHL. And yet, they still have the top farm system in the league.

2023 MCKEEN'S PROSPECT GUIDE

RISERS AND FALLERS

BY BROCK OTTEN

The last time we ranked the NHL's top prospects was late in the summer when we published our annual Yearbook. A lot can change in a year and as such there were several significant movers and shakers in our latest rankings for this prospect guide. Here are fifteen of the biggest risers and five of the largest fallers.

RISERS

Jimmy Snuggerud (94 to 19) – St. Louis Blues

When Snuggerud was the 23rd overall pick at last year's draft, many were fans of his game, but there were certainly concerns that his success as part of the NTDP could be attributed to the stars he was playing with. However, early returns on this selection by St. Louis are fantastic as Snuggerud was one of the top performing freshmen in the NCAA this year with Minnesota and starred for Team USA at the WJC's, where he helped them capture a bronze medal. Snuggerud continues to improve his skating and play with the puck, and it has improved his odds of being a long time top six player in the NHL.

Marco Kasper (79 to 24) – Detroit Red Wings

In our draft guide last year, we ranked Kasper 24th over concerns regarding his offensive upside, but the 8th overall pick has progressed nicely in his second SHL season, improving his offensive production, in addition to dominating physically at times. While there is a chance that Kasper ends up as more of a middle six type, he has deservedly moved up our list because of his unique blend of power and skill.

Alexander Nikishin (130 to 27) – Carolina Hurricanes

It has been quite a development year for Nikishin as the 21-year-old defender has emerged as one of the top defenders in the KHL. He led the KHL in scoring among defensemen with 55 points. Not only was that the highest point total by a U22 defender in the history of the league, but it was also the highest point total of any player period, breaking Kirill Kaprizov's mark from a few years ago. The bad news? Nikishin's contract with SKA runs until 2025.

JIMMY SNUGGERUD

MARCO KASPER

ALEXANDER NIKISHIN



BY TONY FERRARI

FRANK NAZAR:

CHICAGO'S FORGOTTEN TOP PROSPECT

It's July 7th, 2022. The hockey world was focused on Montreal where the NHL draft had just gotten underway. Chaos ensued to start the draft with Shane Wright falling to fourth and Juraj Slafkovsky going first overall while trades were coming in hot.

Just prior to the draft, Chicago Blackhawks traded Alex DeBrincat to the Ottawa Senators for the 7th overall selection which was used to take defender Kevin Korchinski. Before the third overall pick was even announced, the Hawks showed that they were not done dealing as they sent 2019 third overall pick, Kirby Dach, to the Montreal Canadiens for the 13th and 66th overall picks.

The departures of DeBrincat and Dach signaled that the end of one rebuild was afoot while the new regime was setting themselves up for the future. At 13th overall, Chicago would select a massive part of that future.

Blackhawks general manager Kyle Davidson stepped up



to the podium to select center Frank Nazar. A dynamic and energetic center that tore it up with the U.S. National Team Development Program that was committed to the University of Michigan, Nazar was one of the most exciting players

IMMEDIATE FANTASY IMPACT

PROSPECTS WHO CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF SEASONS

BY PETER HARLING

Each year there are rookies that have an impact for their NHL team, and that often is impactful in fantasy hockey as well.

In dynasty leagues, and leagues with salary cap in particular, scouting for prospects that can make an impact is a vital ingredient for success.

Here are the top prospects coming to the NHL that can have an immediate impact on your fantasy team.

Connor Bedard, C - 2023 NHL Draft

There is no question Bedard will be the first overall selection at the 2023 Draft in Nashville. At the time this was written it remains to be seen who will own that selection. While the draft lottery results will not change his potential that much, it will make a difference. If Columbus wins the lottery and Bedard plays on a line with Johnny Gaudreau and Patrick Laine, it could lead to a slam dunk Calder trophy and a monster rookie season. On the other hand, if Arizona wins the lottery and his linemates are Lawson Crouse and Clayton Keller, it's less promising. Regardless of who wins the Bedard jackpot, he has proven to be a true generational player. His 71 goals and 143 points in 57 games in Regina are outstanding and he set scoring records for Canada at the World Junior Championships. Bedard is projected to be challenging for NHL scoring titles with the likes of Connor McDavid before his Entry Level Contract expires.

Luke Hughes, LD – New Jersey Devils

The third and younger brother of Jack and Quinn Hughes has just as much potential and upside as his older brothers. Luke has more size standing at 6' 2" but skates as well as Quinn and has just as much offensive upside. The fourth overall pick from the 2021 draft spent two years developing in the NCAA on an All-Star roster at Michigan University. Many felt he was NHL ready after his freshman campaign,

but he returned for a sophomore year and now his game is far more complete. Hughes scored 48 points in 39 games with the Wolverines, captained USA at the World Juniors and most importantly refined his defensive game. Hughes burned the first year of his ELC playing the final two NHL regular season games and had two points. Dougie Hamilton will continue to be given the top offensive opportunities for now, but Hughes will be a full time NHL player and will quickly play his way into the number one defender role.



CONNOR BEDARD

TOP FIVE DRAFTED PROSPECTS IN EUROPE

WITH HONOURABLE MENTIONS

BY CHAPIN LANDVOGT

1 Alexander Nikishin - D - KHL - Carolina Hurricanes 3rd rounder in 2020

We mentioned it earlier this season and we'll mention it again now; not a single NHL draft pick was able to have a bigger impact in Europe this season than 21-year old Alexander Nikishin. The former Olympian not only led SKA St. Petersburg in defensive scoring (second overall on the team to Dmitri Jaskin), but the entire KHL. In fact, his 11-44-55 in 65 games was good for 9th overall in KHL scoring, making him the only defenseman among the league's top 23 scorers. He also hovered around a +20 rating from December onward, finishing with a +19, which was second best among the league's top 20 scorers. Granted, his production slowed down a bit in the playoffs, when he collected "just" 8 points and a +4 rating in sixteen games, but his ice time rarely dipped below 22 minutes and peaked with a 38:41 showing in a thrilling overtime bout against the archrival CSKA Moscow. The 6'4", 216-pounder brings incredible mobility and hockey sense to the table. He also has another year on his current contract with St. Petersburg. Quite a shame, because young Nikishin is ready for NHL action now.

2 Aku Rätty - F - Liiga - Arizona Coyotes 5th rounder in 2019

While a very prospect-astute fanbase in Vancouver will be busy placing Aatu Raty under the microscope until he proves himself an NHL player of note, there's been a lot less fanfare in the prospect world for Aatu's slightly older brother Aku, who just signed his ELC to kick off May. And there has been good reason for that in recent years as Aku was busy building the profile of an offensively limited lower line role player whose NHL future, if there was to be any, would see him as a depth player on a 4th, maybe a 3rd line. The 21-year-old has been able to use his average 6-foot, 187-pound frame to carry out checking line duties adequately at the Liiga level for several seasons now, but something went click this year, when his offense picked up from the get-go and he went from plugger for Kärpät to producer for Ilves. By January, he already had new career highs with 24 points, but then exploded to go 9-9-18 over his final 19 regular season contests. He also went +13 in this period of time, ultimately ending the season with a +26. This all placed him 11th overall in league scoring and 1st overall in the +/- department. Unfortunately, he couldn't translate this success to the postseason, scoring but one goal and going -5 over ten games. We'll learn more next season in the AHL.



ALEXANDER NIKISHIN



AKU RATY

TOP 200 NHL PROSPECTS

2023 PROSPECT ORGANIZATIONAL RANKING:

1.	NEW JERSEY DEVILS	9.	ARIZONA COYOTES	17.	WINNIPEG JETS	25.	VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS
2.	ANAHEIM DUCKS	10.	ST. LOUIS BLUES	18.	DALLAS STARS	26.	NEW YORK ISLANDERS
3.	CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS	11.	COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS	19.	OTTAWA SENATORS	27.	WASHINGTON CAPITALS
4.	MINNESOTA WILD	12.	SAN JOSE SHARKS	20.	SEATTLE KRACKEN	28.	EDMONTON OILERS
5.	DETROIT RED WINGS	13.	CAROLINA HURRICANES	21.	TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	29.	COLORADO AVALANCHE
6.	NASHVILLE PREDATORS	14.	PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	22.	NEW YORK RANGERS	30.	FLORIDA PANTHERS
7.	MONTREAL CANADIENS	15.	LOS ANGELES KINGS	23.	VANCOUVER CANUCKS	31.	PITTSBURGH PENGUINS
8.	BUFFALO SABRES	16.	CALGARY FLAMES	24.	BOSTON BRUINS	32.	TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

OVERALL	PLAYER	TM	POS	AGE	HT/WT	ACQUIRED	TEAM	GOALIE =				
								GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
								P	W	L	GAA	SV%
1	Logan Cooley	Ari	C	18	5-10/180	`22(3rd)	Minnesota (B1G)	39	22	38	60	42
2	Luke Hughes	NJ	D	19	6-2/185	`21(4th)	Michigan (B1G)	39	10	38	48	26
3	Shane Wright	Sea	C	19	6-0/200	`22(4th)	Windsor (OHL)	20	15	22	37	6
4	David Jiricek	CBJ	D	19	6-3/190	`22(6th)	Cleveland (AHL)	55	6	32	38	36
5	Simon Edvinsson	Det	D	20	6-4/200	`21(6th)	Grand Rapids (AHL)	52	5	22	27	52
6	Dylan Guenther	Ari	RW	20	6-1/180	`21(9th)	Arizona (NHL)	33	6	9	15	10
7	Simon Nemec	NJ	D	19	6-0/190	`22(2nd)	Utica (AHL)	65	12	22	34	20
8	Brandt Clarke	LA	D	20	6-2/185	`21(8th)	Los Angeles (NHL)	9	0	2	2	6
9	Pavel Mintyukov	Ana	D	19	6-1/195	`22(10th)	Sag-Ott (OHL)	69	24	64	88	26
10	Alexander Holtz	NJ	RW	21	6-0/190	`20(7th)	New Jersey (NHL)	19	3	1	4	8
11	Jesper Wallstedt	Min	G	20	6-3/215	`21(20th)	Iowa (AHL)	38	18	15	2.68	0.908
12	Cutter Gauthier	Phi	LW	19	6-2/200	`22(5th)	Boston College (HE)	32	16	21	37	37
13	Yaroslav Askarov	Nsh	G	20	6-3/175	`20(11th)	Milwaukee (AHL)	48	26	16	2.69	0.911
14	Lukas Reichel	Chi	LW	20	6-0/170	`20(17th)	Rockford (AHL)	55	20	31	51	12
15	William Eklund	SJ	LW	20	5-10/175	`21(7th)	San Jose (AHL)	54	17	24	41	43
16	Marco Rossi	Min	C	21	5-9/185	`20(9th)	Iowa (AHL)	53	16	35	51	46
17	Dustin Wolf	Cgy	G	22	6-0/165	`19(214th)	Calgary (AHL)	55	42	10	2.09	0.932
18	Jiri Kulich	Buf	C	19	5-11/180	`22(28th)	Rochester (AHL)	62	24	22	46	18
19	Jimmy Snuggerud	StL	RW	18	6-1/185	`22(23rd)	Minnesota (B1G)	40	21	29	50	42
20	Lukas Dostal	Ana	G	22	6-1/170	`18(85th)	San Diego (AHL)	34	11	21	2.97	0.912
21	Olen Zellweger	Ana	D	19	5-10/175	`21(34th)	Evt-Kam (WHL)	55	32	48	80	40
22	Logan Stankoven	Dal	C	20	5-8/170	`21(47th)	Kamloops (WHL)	48	34	63	97	17
23	Kevin Korchinski	Chi	D	18	6-2/185	`22(7th)	Seattle (WHL)	54	11	62	73	54
24	Marco Kasper	Det	C	19	6-1/185	`22(8th)	Rogle (SHL)	52	8	15	23	72
25	Matthew Savoie	Buf	C	19	5-9/180	`22(9th)	Winnipeg (WHL)	62	38	57	95	26
26	Mavrik Bourque	Dal	C	21	5-10/180	`20(30th)	Texas (AHL)	70	20	27	47	18

ANAHEIM DUCKS

GRADUATED PLAYERS



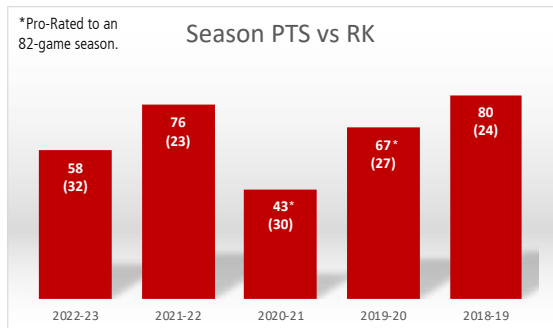
LUKAS DOSTAL

Prospect System Ranking – 2nd (2nd last year)

The first year in a new era in Anaheim under Pat Verbeek did not yield the on-ice step forward the franchise was hoping for. They have had three outstanding graduates from the 2019, 2020, and 2021 drafts in Trevor Zegras (9th), Jamie Drysdale (6th) and Mason McTavish (3rd) respectively. First round pick Isac Lundestrom (23rd) from 2018 has also made the club. They are joined by emerging star, Troy Terry.

Verbeek began his tenure moving veterans in Hampus Lindholm and Rickard Rakell for picks including a first (Nathan Gaucher, 22nd) and three second round picks. He has been relatively quiet since then, but likely to be active around the draft. They secured the second overall pick in the upcoming draft, and are likely to take Adam Fantilli, who would likely go first in most drafts not including Connor Bedard. That will give them a dynamite middle of the ice in Zegras, McTavish and Fantilli who will compete with any team in the league in a few years.

In addition to the second overall pick, they also have six picks in the first three rounds of the 2023 NHL Draft to add to a deep pool of prospects. That pool includes Lukas Dostal, who should graduate to the NHL next season, and represents their future in net, and one of the brightest goaltending prospects in the league. Named the best defenseman in the OHL this past season, Pavel Mintyukov, taken 10th overall in 2022, showed number one defenseman potential. Olen Zellweger, also named defender of the year in the WHL, is looking one of the steals of the 2021 draft. He is ranked #21 on our list of top prospects and he, Mintyukov and Drysdale will be the core of their defense for years. The Ducks have many of the pieces in place to begin climbing the standings.



YEAR	RD.	OVERALL	PLAYER	POS	LG	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
						GOALIE =	GP	W	L	T/O	SV%
2021	1	3	Mason McTavish	C	NHL	89	19	27	46	-16	46
2020	1	6	Jamie Drysdale	D	NHL	113	7	33	40	-41	24
2019	1	9	Trevor Zegras	C	NHL	180	49	90	139	-39	150
2019	1	23	Isac Lundestrom	C	NHL	212	26	32	58	-28	26

LAST 5 DRAFTS

YEAR	RD.	OVERALL	PLAYER	POS	AMATEUR TEAM
2022	1	10	Pavel Mintyukov	D	Saginaw Spirit (OHL)
2022	1	22	Nathan Gaucher	C	Quebec Remparts (QMJHL)
2022	2	42	Noah Warren	D	Gatineau Olympiques (QMJHL)
2022	2	53	Tristan Luneau	D	Gatineau Olympiques (QMJHL)
2022	4	107	Ben King	C	Red Deer Rebels (WHL)
2022	5	139	Connor Hvidston	LW	Swift Current Broncos (WHL)
2022	5	154	Michael Callow	RW	St. Sebastian's School (High-MA)
2022	6	178	Vyacheslav Buteyets	G	Chelmet Chelyabinsk (Russia-2)

YEAR	RD.	OVERALL	PLAYER	POS	AMATEUR TEAM
2021	1	3	Mason Mctavish	C	Peterborough Petes (OHL)
2021	2	34	Olen Zellweger	D	Everett Silvertips (WHL)
2021	3	66	Sasha Pastujov	RW	USA U-18 Development Team (USDP/USHL)
2021	3	76	Tyson Hinds	D	Rimouski Oceanic (QMJHL)
2021	4	98	Joshua Lopina	C	Massachusetts (H-East)
2021	5	130	Sean Tschigerl	LW	Calgary Hitmen (WHL)
2021	5	148	Gage Alexander	G	Winnipeg Ice (WHL)
2021	6	162	Kyle Kukkonen	C	Maple Grove HS (High-MN)

YEAR	RD.	OVERALL	PLAYER	POS	AMATEUR TEAM
2020	1	6	Jamie Drysdale	D	Erie Otters (OHL)
2020	1	27	Jacob Perreault	RW	Sarnia Sting (OHL)
2020	2	36	Sam Colangelo	RW	Chicago Steel (USHL)
2020	3	67	Ian Moore	D	St. Mark's School (High-MA)
2020	4	104	Thimo Nickl	D	Drummondville Voltigeurs (QMJHL)
2020	5	129	Artyom Galimov	LW	Ak Bars Kazan (Russia)
2020	6	160	Albin Sundsvik	C	Skelleftea AIK (Sweden)
2020	7	207	Ethan Bowen	C	Chilliwack (BCHL)

YEAR	RD.	OVERALL	PLAYER	POS	AMATEUR TEAM
2019	1	9	Trevor Zegras	C	USA U-18 Development Team (USDP/USHL)
2019	1	29	Brayden Tracey	LW	Moose Jaw Warriors (WHL)
2019	2	39	Jackson LaCombe	D	Shattuck-St. Mary's School (High-MN)
2019	4	101	Henry Thurn	D	USA U-18 Development Team (USDP/USHL)
2019	5	132	Trevor Janicke	C	Central Illinois Flying Aces (USHL)
2019	6	163	William Francis	D	Cedar Rapids RoughRiders (USHL)
2019	6	186	Mathew Hill	D	Barrie Colts (OHL)

YEAR	RD.	OVERALL	PLAYER	POS	AMATEUR TEAM
2018	1	23	Isac Lundestrom	C	Lulea HF (Sweden)
2018	2	54	Benoit-Olivier Groulx	C	Halifax Mooseheads (QMJHL)
2018	3	79	Blake McLaughlin	LW	Chicago Steel (USHL)
2018	3	85	Lukas Dostal	G	SK Horacka Slavia Trebic (Czech-2)
2018	4	116	Jackson Perbix	RW	Elk River HS (High-MN)
2018	5	147	Roman Durny	G	Des Moines Buccaneers (USHL)
2018	6	178	Hunter Drew	D	Charlottetown Islanders (QMJHL)

DRAFT YEAR	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4	ROUND 5	ROUND 6	ROUND 7
2023							
2024							
2025							

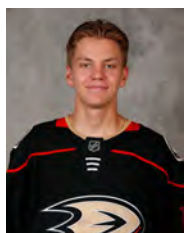
ANAHEIM DUCKS

01 PAVEL MINTYUKOV

D

AGE: 19 HT/WT: 6-1/195 BIRTHDATE: 25-NOV-03 DFT YR: 2022 NATION: RUSSIA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
9	'22(10TH)	ANA		10		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Saginaw (OHL)	67	17	45	62	28
2022-23	Sag-Ott (OHL)	69	24	64	88	26



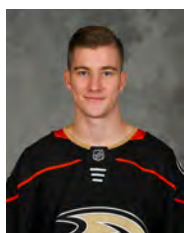
The Ducks are surely over the moon that they were able to land a prospect of Mintyukov' caliber with the 10th overall pick in the 2022 draft. Not only does he possess an enormous amount of raw skill, he also has an ideal frame and doesn't have any significant weaknesses. He went from playing on a high-flying, firewagon Saginaw team to a much more structured Ottawa club, and while his statistical output has since slowed down the change helped him round out his game while he chases a league championship. He shines the brightest with his offensive play and boy does he shine bright, but with the right development work he could become a premiere off-puck defender as well. If he reaches his full ceiling, he will be a true number-one defenseman who logs boatloads of ice time and contributes significantly on both sides of special teams.

02 LUKAS DOSTAL

G

AGE: 22 HT/WT: 6-1/170 BIRTHDATE: 22-JUN-00 DFT YR: 2018 NATION: CZECH

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
20	'18(85TH)	ANA		85		
YR	TEAM	GP	W	L	GAA	SV%
2021-22	San Diego (AHL)	40	18	14	2.60	0.916
2022-23	San Diego (AHL)	34	11	21	2.97	0.912



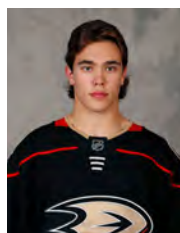
Sometimes playing on a bad team — or even two bad teams — can have its advantages. Both the Ducks and their AHL-affiliate Gulls have struggled this season, which has made it easier to give more starts to their hotshot young netminder to see what he can do. As it turns out, Dostal can do a lot, even with little to work with. That's not exactly a surprise, given his prior success in Europe, but it's been strongly reinforced now. His stats and record on the season don't tell the whole story, as he has faced high quality and quantities of shots at both levels, pulling out some heroic performances to keep games close and even steal a few wins. He's fast, flexible and does a great job of being controlled with his movements. His mental game is sharp and focused, while also equally competitive and calm. Expect him in the NHL full time next season.

03 OLEN ZELLWEGER

D

AGE: 19 HT/WT: 5-10/175 BIRTHDATE: 10-SEP-03 DFT YR: 2021 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
21	'21(34TH)	ANA		34		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Everett (WHL)	55	14	64	78	23
2022-23	Evt-Kam (WHL)	55	32	48	80	40



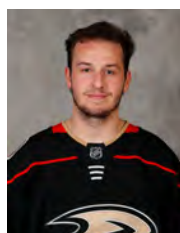
When you're a small defenseman you have to be very good in multiple different areas in order to be successful in the NHL. Luckily for Zellweger (and the Ducks), not only is he good in multiple different areas, he's flat-out exceptional in them. His ability to see the ice and read the play in front of him is almost unparalleled for his age group, and he applies that across all 200 feet of ice, whether that's breaking pucks out of his own end, carrying them through the neutral zone, or picking spots to attack offensively. He's poised under pressure but can also unleash a killer instinct. The reigning WHL defenseman of the year is well on his way to a repeat of that award, and with his padded resume of big-game hockey he shouldn't be phased at all by the bright lights of the Memorial Cup.

04 JACOB PERREAULT

RW

AGE: 21 HT/WT: 5-11/195 BIRTHDATE: 15-APR-02 DFT YR: 2020 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
88	'20(27TH)	ANA		27		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	San Diego (AHL)	55	14	23	37	62
2022-23	San Diego (AHL)	48	8	11	19	44



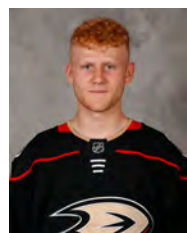
Perrault had a choice for where to play in the 2021-22 season: stay in the AHL under the continued transfer exemption caused by COVID-19, or head back to the OHL. He chose to stay in the AHL, and after a season of seemingly stalled progression it's hard to wonder if it was the wrong choice. His raw natural ability in the offensive zone has always been apparent, especially as someone who can finish plays by getting the puck into the back of the net. The questions have always been about his all-around play and transitioning his scoring from a junior style to more of a professional style. As of right now, following a setback points-wise, those questions remain unanswered. In fairness, some injury troubles and a bad team around him haven't helped. There is still untapped potential with Perreault, but the path is steeped than it was previously.

ANAHEIM DUCKS

05 NATHAN GAUCHER C

AGE: 19 HT/WT: 6-3/205 BIRTHDATE: 6-NOV-03 DFT YR: 2022 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
89	'22(22ND)	ANA		22		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Quebec (QMJHL)	66	31	26	57	74
2022-23	Quebec (QMJHL)	44	22	24	46	67

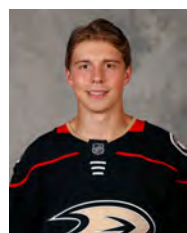


Gaucher plays a very specific style of hockey and fills a very specific kind of role, but his value comes from the fact that he's one of the best prospects in all of junior hockey with that kind of workload and assignment. He's a shutdown center through and through, with everything that entails: lots of penalty killing, closing out leads late in games, taking important faceoffs, defensive matchups against the top players on opposing teams, and dishing out some snarl and physical punishment. He does score at a point-per-game clip in the QMJHL, but that won't be a big part of his game at higher levels. What Gaucher does might not be glamorous work, but he was a 1st-round pick by the Ducks and appeared in two World Juniors with Canada because he makes a big difference with how he plays.

06 TRISTAN LUNEAU D

AGE: 19 HT/WT: 6-1/190 BIRTHDATE: 12-JAN-04 DFT YR: 2022 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
94	'22(53RD)	ANA		53		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Gatineau (QMJHL)	63	12	31	43	20
2022-23	Gatineau (QMJHL)	65	20	63	83	31



Luneau was the 1st overall pick in the 2020 QMJHL draft, and it's fair to say that he didn't quite live up those expectations in his first two years in the league. However, the foundation was always there for him to break out, and he did that in a huge way this season, exploding for a team-high 83 points in 65 games and leading Gatineau to one of the best records in the league. They're still going strong in the playoffs and could realistically win it all. There's so much to like about his game: his hockey sense is impressive, he has size and reach, his footwork is clean and mechanically sound, he's dangerous with the puck, and he relishes being a leader and top player on his team. There are a lot of different directions where his game can evolve from here.

07 JACKSON LACOMBE D

AGE: 22 HT/WT: 6-1/170 BIRTHDATE: 9-JAN-01 DFT YR: 2019 NATION: USA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
132	'19(39TH)	ANA		39		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Minnesota (B1G)	39	3	27	30	12
2022-23	Minnesota (B1G)	37	9	26	35	13



LaCombe's 2023-24 season ended in heartbreak, as his top-ranked University of Minnesota team was eliminated in the Frozen Four championship game by Quinnipiac. Even worse, he was on the ice for the overtime goal that sealed it. But you can't fault him for the loss, because he played his heart out, including blocking a shot with his face earlier in the game. That's not a fun way to end an NCAA career, but he is more than ready now to turn pro. Heck, he might even jump straight into the Ducks lineup, because the roster space is certainly there. He is an impressive skater, two-way contributor, fierce competitor and natural leader, and all those attributes are always valued in the NHL. He doesn't project as a true powerplay quarterback, but he'll be a guy who finds ways to produce points from the back end.

08 TYSON HINDS D

AGE: 20 HT/WT: 6-3/180 BIRTHDATE: 12-MAR-03 DFT YR: 2021 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
150	'21(76TH)	ANA		76		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Rim-She (QMJHL)	61	12	23	35	38
2022-23	Sherbrooke (QMJHL)	56	11	43	54	24



Hinds had size and athleticism going for him in his draft year, while the other main elements of his game were still a work in progress. But work on them he did, with the help of Anaheim's development staff. A season and a half later he made Canada's roster for the World Juniors, which is an impressive amount of growth for the former 3rd-round pick. The Ducks selected him for his long-term upside, but this much growth this quickly probably surprises even them. The current package he brings is very enticing, adding much-improved puck skill and 200-foot play to the existing size and athleticism. These kinds of defensemen eat a lot of minutes because they are so versatile. His floor for Hinds is very high, and the ceiling keeps looking higher and higher as time goes on.

ANAHEIM DUCKS

09 DREW HELLESON

D

AGE: 22 HT/WT: 6-3/195 BIRTHDATE: 26-MAR-01 DFT YR: 2019 NATION: USA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
194	T(COL-3/22)	COL		47		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Boston College (HE)	32	4	21	25	30
2021-22	San Diego (AHL)	17	0	2	2	4

The 2022-23 season has been aggressively unkind to the San Diego Gulls, and a campaign like that is usually hardest on defensemen. However, lessons can still be learned through struggle, and that will be what Helleston, a rookie professional, will need to focus on. If anything, he can contrast it with the success he has already gotten to experience in his career, first with the USA Hockey National Team Development Program and then Boston College. Getting a taste of both winning and losing will help him better understand what it takes to achieve the former. His best attributes are his smarts, work ethic and competitiveness, and he backs them up with a reasonably well-balanced skill package. While his overall profile might not seem very exciting, any coach worthy of his clipboard will know the value of a player like this.

10 NOAH WARREN

D

AGE: 18 HT/WT: 6-5/225 BIRTHDATE: 15-JUL-04 DFT YR: 2022 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
N/A	'22(42ND)	ANA		42		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Gatineau (QMJHL)	62	5	19	24	52
2022-23	Gatineau (QMJHL)	47	3	17	20	35

Warren's story is very similar to Hinds': a big, athletic defenseman out of the QMJHL who is still a little on the raw side but could be a very special player down the road with the right training, experience and development. Getting to play on one of the best teams in the league this season is a good kickstart in some ways, though Gatineau's competition for ice time among blueliners — especially on the powerplay — isn't exactly ideal for him. Regardless, his game would always lean more to the defensive side than the offensive side in any environment, and focusing on that isn't necessarily a bad thing, since he has all the tools necessary to become an elite shutdown defender one day. Anaheim's prospect pipeline is loaded with defensive depth, so they'll give him plenty of time to round out his game as much as possible at the lower levels.

11 SASHA PASTUJOV

RW

AGE: 19 HT/WT: 6-0/185 BIRTHDATE: 15-JUL-03 DFT YR: 2021 NATION: USA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
N/A	'21(66TH)	ANA		66		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Guelph (OHL)	65	34	42	76	33
2022-23	Gue-Sar (OHL)	60	41	57	98	39

12 BRAYDEN TRACEY

LW

AGE: 21 HT/WT: 6-0/175 BIRTHDATE: 28-MAY-01 DFT YR: 2019 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
N/A	'19(29TH)	ANA		29		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	San Diego (AHL)	55	11	20	31	40
2022-23	San Diego (AHL)	62	10	18	28	40

13 CALLE CLANG

G

AGE: 20 HT/WT: 6-2/195 BIRTHDATE: 20-MAY-02 DFT YR: 2020 NATION: SWEDEN

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
N/A	T(PIT-3/22)	PIT		77		
YR	TEAM	GP	W	L	GAA	SV%
2021-22	Rogle (SHL)	17	10	5	2.28	0.915
2022-23	Rogle (SHL)	25	12	10	2.69	0.901

14 BENOIT-OLIVIER GROULX

C

AGE: 23 HT/WT: 6-1/195 BIRTHDATE: 6-FEB-00 DFT YR: 2018 NATION: CANADA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
N/A	'18(54TH)	ANA		54		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	San Diego (AHL)	40	11	11	22	39
2022-23	San Diego (AHL)	63	18	21	39	41

15 IAN MOORE

D

AGE: 21 HT/WT: 6-2/170 BIRTHDATE: 4-JAN-02 DFT YR: 2020 NATION: USA

OVERALL RANK	ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT SELECTED		
N/A	'20(67TH)	ANA		67		
YR	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2021-22	Harvard (ECAC)	35	2	13	15	10
2022-23	Harvard (ECAC)	34	1	18	19	12