5. Anaheim Ducks
Prospect System Ranking – 5th (Last Year - 4th)
GM: Pat Verbeek Hired: February 2022
COACH: Joel Quenneville Hired: May 2025

The Anaheim Ducks missed the playoffs for a seventh straight year in 2024-25. But fret not, bright days are almost certain to be on the horizon.

With a young and blossoming core that includes several recent graduates such as Mason McTavish, Leo Carlsson, Cutter Gauthier and young defenders Pavel Mintyukov, Olen Zellweger and Jackson LaCombe, the team is on a direct path toward breakout.

Joel Quenneville, a controversial but undeniably successful head coach, will lead that breakout. With the experience brought in behind the bench, the Ducks now have a veteran voice to act as a sounding board for the budding core.

Sam Colangelo emerged as a surprise AHL rookie, firing at a point-per-game clip with 40 points for the San Diego Gulls. That strong season earned him 32 NHL games in Anaheim, much earlier than most anticipated. He should push for a full-time role out of camp next year.

Meanwhile, defenseman Tristan Luneau dazzled with 52 points in 59 AHL games, nearly a point per game, and is knocking on the NHL door despite Anaheim's crowded, youthful blueline.

Joining that American League roster is Stian Solberg, who's currently navigating through a very successful World Championships with four goals and six points for Team Norway. The physical stalwart is still likely a few years away, but a worthy wait once he does make his mark.

The real headlining prospect lies in the Canadian Hockey League, where Beckett Sennecke is fresh off yet another successful season with the Oshawa Generals. With 209 points in 180 games, there's little left to prove in Junior, meaning a nine-game NHL audition could be in the cards in 2025-26.

Under Quenneville's guidance, Anaheim's blend of NHL-ready prospects and a potent core signals that an end to their playoff drought is near. The Ducks' youth movement is ready to soar, with contention in sight.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
1	Beckett Sennecke		Ana	RW	19	6-2/175

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(3rd)	Ana	2024	3	28-Jan-06	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Oshawa (OHL)	56	36	50	86	66

No one was more shocked to see Sennecke drafted third overall last year than Sennecke himself, which made for some outstanding memes. However, he was worthy of a high selection thanks to his high-end physical tools, high-end skill, and improving frame. He got off to a late start this year thanks to a foot fracture, but he's had a positive draft year plus one as an offensive leader for the Oshawa Generals. He's dominating puck touches the way that you would expect, using his soft hands and reach to help protect the puck and prolong possession. He excels near the crease and has worked hard to improve his release, making him more dangerous in the scoring area. As he continues to build strength, his physicality and off puck play is also becoming more consistent. The projection for Sennecke has not changed, he remains a potential top six forward and should challenge for a roster spot as early as next season.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
2	Tristan Luneau		Ana	D	21	6-1/195

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(53rd)	Ana	2022	53	12-Jan-04	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
San Diego (AHL)	59	9	43	52	21

Last season was riddled with injuries for Tristan. However, even with pretty much a year removed from development, Tristan has exploded offensively in the AHL. Playing big minutes for the San Diego Gulls, the Quebec-born defenseman displays solid skating ability, using lateral and crossover movements to create space for himself offensively. With his good hockey IQ, he scans for the best options in breakouts and supports his team in zone entries. While Tristan is almost point-per-game at the AHL level, he does not possess a dynamic offense that will translate to the NHL. But a future as a top four defenseman playing the second powerplay unit is not too far off a reach. Having such a breakout season and being as intelligent as he is, it's hard to not see him as an NHL defenseman for the foreseeable future.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
3	Sam Colangelo	Ana	RW	23	6-2/205

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`20(36th)	Ana	2020	36	26-Dec-01	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
San Diego (AHL)	40	22	18	40	22

Colangelo completed the full four seasons of college hockey and spent a handful of games professionally last year, including scoring his first NHL goal with the Ducks. This year he has spent the majority of his season with the AHL squad while almost producing at a point-per-game pace. He also played a couple of games early in the big leagues but recently has been able to earn a spot regularly in the NHL to finish the season. For being a bigger guy, Sam has good north-south skating ability. The strength in his skating lies in transitioning through the neutral zone and possesses solid power in his first strides. He's got a solid shot but it's not going to beat goalies cleanly on a consistent basis at the NHL level. However, Colangelo is good at finding open space and with his strong net-front presence he will find opportunities to finish rebounds. The off-puck play is still a question mark, but he should find a future as a top nine winger that can play on a powerplay unit either as the bumper or the guy in front of the net tipping pucks home.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
4	Stian Solberg	Ana	D	19	6-2/205

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(23rd)	Ana	2024	23	29-Dec-05	Norway

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Farjestads (SHL)	47	3	9	12	16

As expected, the jump from top division Norwegian pro hockey to the third best pro league in the world was a challenging one for Solberg at first. He had his ups and downs with Färjestad BK, especially in terms of ice-time, but he was able to translate his in-your-face physical style of defending to the high skill, high speed of the SHL and learn a ton. He matched his offensive totals from the Norwegian league, too. At this point in time, it's all about reps for Solberg. Learning to gauge the intent of puck carriers, when and how to close gaps, where to position himself, when to chase the hit and when to go stick to puck. The more he plays and the higher the level he plays at, the more he'll learn. Having recently been recalled to AHL San Diego and looking great, it'll be a matter of when, not if, Solberg will earn his spot in Anaheim's bottom four.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
5	Tarin Smith	Ana	D	19	6-1/185

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(79th)	Ana	2024	79	24-Mar-06	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Everett (WHL)	65	16	44	60	50

Smith is one of the best-kept secrets in the WHL right now, but that likely won't last for long. The Silvertips emerged as the best team in the league this regular season and he was an essential piece of their success, using his explosive skating ability to drive play up ice and create offensive opportunities for both himself and his teammates. Not only is Smith soaking up the experience of Everett's current push for a WHL championship, and would-be corresponding berth in the Memorial Cup, he might get to do it all again with his mates next year on a roster that should be comparably strong and deep. Even though the Ducks are loaded with young defenseman, both inside and outside of the NHL, their success with fellow puck-rushers in Jackson LaCombe and Olen Zellweger suggests that they will find ways to utilize Smith's talents whenever he's ready.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
6	Sasha Pastujov	Ana	RW	21	6-0/187

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(66th)	Ana	2021	66	15-Jul-03	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
San Diego (AHL)	43	17	28	45	12

Ever since Pastujov was drafted in 2021, he has taken steps forward in his game every year, especially offensively. Two years were spent in the OHL, and he was a huge contributor to his team. The following year he had his rookie season with the AHL squad, putting up decent numbers. Now in his sophomore year, he has been a huge part of the San Diego Gulls top six and been a driving factor offensively. There have been question marks about his skating and off-puck play but Pastujov has removed those doubts. He skates hard and consistently gets up to speed in odd man rushes, while also improving his defensive game in both effort and making plays. The shot has always been good, and he continues to score in multiple different ways. With his ascending trend in development throughout the years, the sniper should be able to battle for an NHL spot next year. While it will be hard to crack the stacked top six for Anaheim, he has the skill to play there but only time will tell if he can reach his potential.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
7	Damian Clara	Ana	G	20	6-6/215

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`23(60th)	Ana	2023	60	13-Jan-05	Italy

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Farjestads (SHL)	21	9	10	3.19	0.879

Damian Clara is a huge 6-foot-6 goalie who is a very good skater regardless of size, something that is quite rare at his stature. He pairs it with solid positioning and a decent knowledge of what to do when he isn't pressured. At low intensities, he shows effective intelligence on when to play deeper and recognizes passing options well, taking efficient routes through the crease. However, when play is much faster and dangerous, he seems to lack the cognitive abilities to keep up with the play and stay with it. Clara will often just make poor save selections, forget to plant his feet, or just choose to move the wrong way. He also generally struggles in tracking the puck, often leading movements with his body rather than eyes, can easily lose the puck through traffic, and struggles to track the puck into his save, which can create some nasty rebounds. He can find himself behind the play even with his strengths because of these deficiencies in tracking and cognition, something that won't allow him to succeed at the NHL. As it stands, his ceiling is capped likely as a backup because of this, but his raw physical traits are interesting enough to hope he can figure it out with a lot more development.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
8	Rodwin Dionicio	Ana	D	21	6-2/205

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`23(129th)	Ana	2023	129	30-Mar-04	Switzerland

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
San Diego (AHL)	24	5	4	9	42

Bit of a roller-coaster season for the Swiss born defenseman, containing multiple healthy scratches, a game misconduct and a transfer back home to Switzerland. At the writing of this profile, Rodwin has been benched for 15 games through 41 games for the San Diego Gulls. But the final nail in the coffin that sent back Rodwin to Switzerland was his three-game suspension. Whether this was the reason for the transfer or if the Anaheim organization wanted Rodwin to get back to a more comfortable environment is unclear. Despite his tumultuous season, Rodwin has continued to show his offensive capabilities. The one-touch element of his puck skill, play drive and shooting ability from the point makes him a candidate to quarterback at least a second unit in the future. The decision making is still questionable and will make head-scratching errors regularly. But with some adjustment and getting used to the professional leagues, the pure talent might be good enough that the poor hockey IQ won't hold him back.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
9	Nathan Gaucher		Ana	C	21	6-3/207

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(22nd)	Ana		2022	22	6-Nov-03	Canada

TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
San Diego (AHL)		56	8	11	19	79

Nathan had a solid pro debut last season, displaying solid two-way play and the kind of offensive production that is expected from him. This season has been more of the same. When the Ducks drafted Nathan they were targeting a shutdown, middle-six forward, potentially even with top six upside. But as the offense has stagnated a bit and hasn't developed into that kind of offensive production that is needed for a middle six role (half his goals are from empty netters), Nathan projects more as a fourth liner. But since Anaheim has plenty of high-end talent already, they could use someone who can play on the penalty kill, trusted in high pressure situations and bringing a good defensive game night in-night out. Nathan brings exactly this. Next season should be a great opportunity for him to battle it out for a bottom six spot and start getting adjusted to the NHL speed.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
10	Lucas Pettersson		Ana	C	19	6-0/175

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(35th)	Ana		2024	35	17-Apr-06	Sweden

TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
MoDo Hockey (SHL)		29	0	1	1	4

Though not for lack of trying, Pettersson was not quite ready for the speed and physicality of the SHL yet. His loan to Östersunds IK may have saved his D+1 season. There, he was able to be "the guy", playing top six minutes, racking up points and building confidence in that role in the pros. Petterssons greatest asset remains his playmaking ability. He is able to find seams and pull off some ridiculous passes at high speeds. He's got the skill, IQ, and skating ability to push the pace of play both on and off the puck at the pro level, but he does so inconsistently. The hope is that Pettersson can build on what he learned during his time on loan and take another run at cracking the top nine of an SHL club next year. If not, the 35th overall pick of the 2024 draft may be trending more towards the "bust" side of his "boom-bust" NHL projection.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
11	Yegor Sidorov		Ana	RW	20	6-0/180

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`23(85th)	Ana		2023	85	18-Jun-04	Belarus

TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
San Diego (AHL)		59	17	17	34	18

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
12	Carey Terrance		Ana	C	19	6-1/175

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`23(59th)	Ana		2023	59	10-May-05	USA

TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Erie (OHL)		45	20	19	39	14

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
13	Maxim Masse		Ana	RW	19	6-2/190

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(66th)	Ana		2024	66	7-Apr-06	Canada

TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Chicoutimi (QMJHL)		47	33	26	59	24

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
14	Herman Traff		Ana	RW	19	6-3/215

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
T(NJ-3/25)	NJ		2024	91	31-Dec-05	Sweden

TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
HV 71 (SHL)		25	3	4	7	29

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
15	Nikita Nesterenko	Ana	LW	23	6-2/185

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
T(Min-3/23)	Min	2019	172	10-Sep-01	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
San Diego (AHL)	50	13	21	34	36