27. Boston Bruins
Prospect System Ranking – 27th (Last Year - 31st)
GM: Don Sweeney Hired: May 2015
COACH: Jim Montgomery Hired: July 2022

The Boston Bruins revolve around David Pastrnak, whose scoring nearly doubled that of the next closest teammate. With little high-end youth to bridge the gap, GM Don Sweeney has signaled a shift, trading heart-and-soul forward Brad Marchand to kickstart a retooling effort.

Up to the 27th spot, the prospect pool shows flickers of promise but lacks the depth to elevate Boston's NHL roster for the short term. Youngsters Mason Lohrei, John Beecher, and Matthew Poitras are carving out roles, but they're not enough to swing the pendulum to pin Boston as a contender or even close to one.

But they are on the right track. They made several profitable moves to provide hope for the future, acquiring established NHLer Marat Khusnutdinov along with a young third rounder in William Zellers, who's fresh off an explosive rookie season as the USHL's third-leading scorer with 71 points on the year.

But the big addition came from Toronto, as they acquired Fraser Minten, who instantly jumps up to round out the Bruins' top two prospects alongside Fabian Lysell, who's nearly ready to contribute at the NHL level in his own right.

The jury is still out on 2024 first-rounder Dean Letourneau (25th overall), who struggled in his Boston University freshman season. Jumping from high school, he managed just three assists in 36 games for the Terriers. Given his highest level of competition, questions about his readiness were always present, and his lacklustre debut certainly does him no favours in that regard.

After years of pedestrian drafts, they have shifted gears and stockpiled a healthy dose of picks. Eight picks are slated for 2025, the most since their famed 2015 draft (picks 13, 14, 15).

With an uncharted change of the guards, new beginnings are on the horizon in Bean Town. Highlighted by David Pastrnak, Charlie McAvoy, and goaltender Jeremy Swayman, it's time to change the focus and build up the roster from the draft up.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
1	Fabian Lysell	Bos	RW	22	5-11/180

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(21st)	Bos	2021	21	19-Jan-03	Sweden
Providence (AHL)	52	11	23	34	38
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The highly touted prospect Fabian Lysell finally made his NHL debut this season. Even though this season has been a downward trend in production compared to the previous, it looks like Fabian is ready to take the next step. While his defensive game is one of the worst parts of his game, he's never going to be a shutdown forward and is always going to lean more on the offensive side. His off-puck game is good enough at the AHL and he's going to develop much faster if he can get reps at the next level. One area of his game that immediately pops out is his skating. He loves to skate with the puck through the neutral zone, using his crossovers to shift from side to side to throw defenders off and when he gets past the defensemen he will drive hard towards the net. The skating combined with his versatile goalscoring ability and deceptive playmaking should project Lysell into a top six player. Next season he should be able to solidify a spot on the NHL roster playing a top nine role.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
2	Fraser Minten	Bos	C	20	6-1/185

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
T(Tor-3/25)	Tor	2022	38	5-Jul-04	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Tor-Pro (AHL)	37	9	11	20	12

Despite entering the season with only four games of pro experience, Fraser Minten has looked very comfortable and plays responsibly in professional hockey this year. Thanks to his hockey intelligence, he has been able to adapt to the pros very quickly and been a difference maker both in the AHL and NHL. Fraser got traded recently to Boston and it was probably the best for his development. Toronto has a stacked team and since Boston have become sellers this season, he has more opportunity in Boston's thinned out roster. He creates chances off the rush thanks to his quick first steps, plays a responsible two-way game and is a dual scoring threat in the offensive zone. Minten does not possess dynamic skill and is more of a play connector when getting his assists. Neither is he a sniper but he's so strong around the net that he's going to get his fair share of goals by slamming home rebounds. Minten's game is incredibly translatable to the NHL as he really doesn't have any flaws and is such a safe projection to be Boston's future third line center.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
3	Dean Letourneau	Bos	C	19	6-7/215

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(25th)	Bos	2024	25	21-Feb-06	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Boston College (HE)	36	0	3	3	6

Letourneau has experienced a challenging freshman season, struggling to adapt to the college pace. His skating remains a significant weakness, limiting his ability to be a consistent presence in both zones. While his size and strength offer the potential of a power forward, he often fails to use his physicality effectively. Puck handling remains inconsistent, though he has shown flashes of skill in tight areas. Defensively, he lacks awareness and engagement, contributing minimal impact. On the positive side, Letourneau has demonstrated solid puck protection and net-front presence, particularly during even-strength play. His willingness to engage in battles has improved slightly over time, but his effort remains inconsistent. Despite receiving power play opportunities, he has yet to make a meaningful impact. Currently, Letourneau projects as a potential third line forward. Significant improvements in skating, puck control, and physical assertiveness will be essential for him to maximize his size and develop into a reliable depth contributor.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
4	Georgii Merkulov	Bos	C	24	5-11/175

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
FA(4/22)				10-Oct-00	Russia

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (AHL)	59	15	39	54	16

Almost clipping along at a point-per-game, Georgii Merkulov has been one of Providence's most important point producers over recent years. Boston has made it a focus for Merkulov to improve his off-puck game, but apparently more work is needed as he's only appeared in six NHL games this year. The experiment to keep him at center might need to come to an end and moving him to wing instead is going to alleviate that pressure of being a stud defensively. There are no questions about his offensive game. The shifty Russian has amazing talent with the puck, using his great vision to find open lanes through traffic, throwing hard, accurate passes and is also quite deceptive when handling the puck in the offensive zone. Merkulov will be 25 years old at the start of next season and it's up to him to bring another gear outside of the offensive zone. If not, he's either going to be a top nine scoring support player in the NHL, or he's going to find himself overseas playing European hockey.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
5	John Farinacci	Bos	C	24	5-11/197

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
FA(8/23)	Ari	2019	76	14-Feb-01	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (AHL)	58	10	28	38	6

Drafted by Arizona originally from USHS Prep school, John Farinacci spent four full seasons with Harvard before making his pro debut with Boston's AHL affiliate. Having the profile of being a two-way center, Farinacci still continues to bring a solid defensive game without sacrificing the offense. He's consistently in the right spots in his own end and uses his feet to cover passing lanes in the middle. While his shot is decent, it's not going to beat NHL goalies cleanly on a consistent basis. While this might affect his chances cracking the top six, his playmaking ability enables him instead to play on a scoring line. Not a dynamic passer per se but rather uses his offensive instincts and vision to find his teammates, making passes with his back turned or firing the puck cross-ice perfectly on to the stick of another Bruin'. Farinacci will be an RFA by the end of the season and Boston will likely try to sign him as there will surely be spots in the bottom six that he could battle for.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
6	William Zellers	Bos	LW	19	5-10/165

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
T(Col-3/25)	Col	2024	76	4-Apr-06	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Green Bay (USHL)	52	44	27	71	59

A recent acquisition from the Colorado Avalanche, Zellers decided to hold off on joining North Dakota this year to play his post draft year in the USHL after playing previously with the Shattuck St. Mary's program. With the Green Bay Gamblers, Zellers was consistently one of the most dangerous players in the USHL this year, leading the league in goal scoring by a significant margin. Not only is Zellers a skilled finisher and a creative player, but he's also a hard-working player who finds success in higher traffic areas. The work rate and skill combination gives him a really solid chance of becoming a quality pro. The question mark remains his skating. For an undersized forward, he doesn't have the kind of speed or explosiveness that you prefer to see and that's why he was a third-round selection despite possessing solid upside. He's going to need a few years at the collegiate level to improve that.

RNK	Michael DiPietro		Bos	G	25	6-1/205
7	Michael DiPietro		Bos	G	25	6-1/205

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
T(Van-10/22)	Van	2017	64	9-Jun-99	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (AHL)	40	26	8	2.05	0.927

Michael DiPietro has finally broken out at the AHL level at 25, becoming one of the league's top goalies. He's a very aggressive and intense goalie who relies on speed and rapid movements to get things done. He skates very well and is so fluid, but because that is his whole identity, it can hurt him in certain areas. With the overly aggressive style of play, it means that he lacks composure in areas, often not setting his feet and opting to travel longer when he shouldn't have to, just to grab a little bit more depth on the shooter. He's a goalie that can have big games and, when hot, can be very impressive, but is unlikely to be able to cut it as a consistent starter in the NHL with how he plays. He has backup upside, but he will have to cut back on the erraticism and learn to trust a calmer style.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
8	Philip Svedeback	Bos	G	22	6-3/190

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(117th)	Bos	2021	117	28-May-02	Sweden

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (HE)	26	14	8	2.42	0.911

Svedeback is a decent goalie all around who doesn't possess too many flaws but also lacks truly definable qualities. There can be value in an all-around goalie without notable weaknesses, as they have their places as a stable third string option. But while his flaws aren't too abundant, he does seem to struggle with his skating and lacks power in his legs. These can be pretty harmful to any goalie, but especially in the NHL, as it will essentially determine how effectively you can keep up with play - and often, poor skaters either don't make the cut or can't hide the weakness enough to be more than a backup. His skating does need improvement, but it isn't horrible. With more lower body strengthening and improved edgework, he could become a nice depth piece to have in the back pocket.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
9	Riley Duran	Bos	C	23	6-1/175

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`20(182nd)	Bos	2020	182	25-Jan-02	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (AHL)	60	12	4	16	12

Riley Duran was recently called up for his first ever National Hockey League game. Playing third line minutes, Riley got to dip his toes in one of the last games for the Bruins. Only spending 11 games at the AHL level last year, he's pretty much a rookie and has shown great work ethic and reliable penalty killing down in the minors. More of the grinder type, Riley has solid skating ability that he uses in his forechecks, either as the F1 to create havoc or be ready as the F2 for support. Scoring 12 goals in a middle six role is quite decent, but he's not going to be a point producer at the NHL level. Riley is a hard-nosed guy that will fight for space in the crease and crash the net on odd-man-rushes. His ceiling is more than likely going to be a fourth liner that can play any position and kill penalties for you. Versatility is going to be valuable as a prospect and every NHL team is on the look-out for this particular toolset.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
10	Dans Locmelis	Bos	C	21	6-0/170

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(119th)	Bos	2022	119	21-Jan-04	Latvia

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Massachusetts (HE)	40	8	25	33	8

Latvian forward Dans Locmelis made a big leap in his sophomore season at UMass, more than doubling his point total from 14 to 33. He emerged as a reliable two-way center, trusted to contribute on the power play, penalty kill, and key defensive matchups. While not flashy, Locmelis plays a smart, responsible game and can be effective in all three zones. His work ethic and versatility make him a valuable asset at the college level and that skill set should translate into a depth option at the pro level. His ceiling would likely be as a bottom six NHL forward. Locmelis could carve out a solid role as a penalty killer and might be someone that can be plugged in up and down the lineup, but he will need some more offensive progression before he is given the opportunity to play that role.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
11	Andre Gasseau	Bos	C	21	6-4/205

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(213th)	Bos	2021	213	3-Jul-03	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Boston College (HE)	36	15	15	30	49

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
12	Oskar Jellvik	Bos	LW	22	5-11/175

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(149th)	Bos	2021	149	8-Feb-03	Sweden

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Boston College (HE)	23	4	9	13	10

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
13	Trevor Kuntar	Bos	C	23	6-0/205

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`20(89th)	Bos	2020	89	20-Jun-01	USA

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (AHL)	54	3	9	12	76

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
14	Frederic Brunet	Bos	D	21	6-3/196

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(132nd)	Bos	2022	132	21-Aug-03	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (AHL)	69	5	20	25	29

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
15	Jackson Edward		Bos	D	21	6-2/193
ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(200th)	Bos		2022	200	27-Feb-04	Canada
TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (AHL)		31	1	6	7	14