28. Vegas Golden Knights
Prospect System Ranking – 28th (Last Year - 27th)
GM: Kelly McCrimmon Hired: September 2019
COACH: Bruce Cassidy Hired: June 2022

They don't come any more cutthroat than the Vegas Golden Knights. In relatively short order, this organization has earned a reputation for being synonymous with ruthlessness, trading youth for immediate contention without hesitation.

This year, they continued their cutthroat approach, sending one-time top prospect Brendan Brisson to the New York Rangers to reunite with Reilly Smith.

Surprisingly, that was their lone deadline acquisition, as they remained relatively quiet and content with what they had to work with heading into the 2024-25 postseason. And if you could believe it, that meant 2024 first-rounder Trevor Connelly (McKeen's 108th) survived the chopping block and remains in the system. After signing his ELC, Connelly joined the Henderson Silver Knights following a single season at Providence College, where his shifty, dual-threat approach offers undeniable potential.

Elsewhere, 2023 sixth-rounder Tuomas Uronen erupted for 90 points in 63 OHL games with the Kingston Frontenacs and an outstanding playoff performance. In the QMJHL, Mathieu Cataford earned a World Junior spot and will enjoy an automatic berth in the Memorial Cup with Rimouski, capping his junior career with a bang. Both are poised to join the pro ranks soon.

On the backend, Lukas Cormier (141st) has been limited to 17 AHL games in 2024-25, while Viliam Kmec transitioned to Henderson after a 61-point junior campaign.

The prospect pool is relatively barren today, but the slots never stop in Vegas. With a core built for contention, GM Kelly McCrimmon treats prospects as trade chips, not cornerstones. As a result, Vegas's prospect system is a revolving door—who knows what's in the system tomorrow?

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
1	Trevor Connelly		VGK	LW	19	6-1/160

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(19th)	VGK		2024	19	28-Feb-06	USA

TM	GP		G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Providence (HE)	23		4	9	13	29

Connelly's season showed a mix of offensive flashes and inconsistent play. Playing top six minutes in games at Providence College, he was primarily deployed at even strength and on the power play. Being injured for a chunk of the season was also a challenge for him as a freshman. Early reports praised his creativity, deceptive puck skills, and offensive vision, projecting him as a potential top six NHL forward. However, as the season progressed, his inconsistency became evident. His offensive upside remained apparent, particularly in net-front situations and below the goal line, but his defensive game and compete level lagged. Connelly frequently cheated for offense and lacked defensive responsibility. While he displayed occasional physicality and board battle engagement, his low effort and poor positioning limited his overall impact. If he can improve his compete level and defensive awareness, Connelly has the tools to become a middle-six NHL scoring forward, but his long-term success will hinge on addressing these weaknesses.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
2	Lukas Cormier		VGK	D	23	5-10/180

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`20(68th)	VGK		2020	68	27-Mar-02	Canada
Henderson (AHL)	19		0	9	9	10
Henderson (AHL)	19		0	9	9	10

After missing almost the entire season due to injury, Cormier has recently returned to AHL action. The former two-time winner of the QMJHL's most outstanding defenseman award is a high end offensive blueliner. He can quarterback the powerplay. He walks and holds the offensive blueline well. He can lead the breakout. His mobility is a major asset for him. However, after a strong rookie season as a pro, the last two haven't exactly gone according to plan. Undoubtedly, Cormier will need to have a huge offseason and training camp if he wants to stay in Vegas' long-term plans. He is no longer exempt from waivers next year. There's still hope that he can develop into a quality offensive defender at the NHL level, but that hope is dwindling. Without a trade from their current roster, Vegas returns all of their rostered defenders next year.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
3	Carl Lindbom	VGK	G	21	6-1/165

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(222nd)	VGK	2021	222	20-May-03	Sweden

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Henderson (AHL)	36	18	15	2.65	0.912

Lindbom has transitioned smoothly into being one of the best AHL goalies. His elite positioning, footwork, anticipation, tracking, and high-end athleticism have transitioned well to the North American game. The biggest concern with his game last season was how he dealt with screens, either making poor decisions with how to play it, or being hesitant in making saves. He seems to have completely overhauled this aspect, learning to fight through screens more efficiently and rid himself of any hesitation. He still could improve upon his rebound control and be calmer in hectic situations (essentially make better decisions), but both of these aspects looked to have improved from last year in any case. His biggest concern now would simply be injury troubles. For the past two seasons, he has dealt with major injuries and missed significant time throughout a portion of the season. Because of this, he has never had the opportunity to shoulder a large workload at a high level, which, if he can't do so, will limit his capabilities as a true starter in the NHL. Nevertheless, the tools he possesses are so great and the weaknesses in his game so miniscule that he is still one of the best goalie prospects in the league with an elite ceiling if he stays healthy.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
4	Matyas Sapovaliv	VGK	C	21	6-3/180

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(48th)	VGK	2022	48	12-Feb-04	Czech
Henderson (AHL)	71	11	8	19	20
Henderson (AHL)	71	11	8	19	20

After making some great strides through a three-year OHL run with Saginaw, Sapovaliv turned pro this year and has spent the season with Henderson. The transition has been a bit of a tough one for him. He has struggled, at times, with the strength and pace of the pro game. He's had a hard time getting to the inside and he's had a difficult time maintaining possession in the offensive end. There's no question that his lean frame needs to bulk up. That makes Sapovaliv more of a project than initially thought. He's still a prospect that has the upside to be a solid and versatile middle six player. He possesses strong two-way awareness. He can build speed in straight lines. He has good vision and playmaking ability. Once the strength catches up, he should slowly be able to work his way up the Henderson lineup and earn a chance with Vegas.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
5	Mathieu Cataford		VGK	C	20	5-11/185

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`23(77th)	VGK	2023	77	1-Mar-05	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Rimouski (QMJHL)	54	19	45	64	38

Mathieu Cataford was drafted in the third round by Vegas, and this selection has aged fairly well. The following season, Cataford ended up scoring 90 points, 15 more than in his draft year, in three less games. This production from the right winger ranked him third in the QMJHL for points. After a quick exit in the 2023-2024 playoffs, he signed with the Golden Knights and had a short stint of four games in the AHL, gathering some experience in a pro league for the first time in his career while scoring two points. This season, he has joined the Rimouski Océanic. Over the last two years, he has been able to fix some of the concerns in his path to the NHL. Cataford was projected as an energy, north-south off-puck player who forechecks and wears down his opponents. Although he presents a well-rounded profile with minimal flagrant weakness, his upside in terms of his puck play has always been in doubt. After being drafted, he has shown massive improvement in his confidence when carrying the puck and in his passing skills. If he can maintain that improvement, Cataford will be able to play his bottom six penalty killing role while still being able to support his linemates offensively with intelligent positioning and average puck skills.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
6	Pavel Moysevich		VGK	G	20	6-5/180

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(83rd)	VGK	2024	83	29-Sep-04	Belarus

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
SKA St. Petersburg (KHL)	18	6	9	3.32	0.898

Moysevich is a behemoth of a goalie, standing at a staggering 6-foot-7 - a two-inch increase since last year. Unfortunately, however, his sophomore season with SKA did not have that same improvement after registering just a .898 save percentage - the third-worst clip on his team. He moves pretty well, given his size, and naturally takes up a ton of space. He also has surprisingly good control over his body, which is rarely seen in a 20-year-old with this stature. What he lacks is tracking and mental processing. He can often be behind plays and struggles to constantly follow the puck with his eyes. It can easily put him out of position, and he begins to scramble, losing all composure. He's still a very raw prospect going into his D+3, but his combination of size and solid mobility is intriguing. It will still take him a couple of years to be ready, but there's some possible NHL upside there.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
7	Cameron Whitehead	VGK	G	21	6-3/170

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(128th)	VGK		2022	128	13-Jun-03	USA
Northeastern (HE)	35		13	17	2.74	0.911
Northeastern (HE)	35		13	17	2.74	0.911

Cameron Whitehead is a decent under-the-radar goalie prospect for Vegas. His skating is very good, he keeps things precise and very quick. He does a really good job staying with the play, displaying solid play reading and tracking skills - often making the right decisions. Outside of that, nothing stands out on the positive end. Negatively speaking, how he uses his stance and operates with perimeter play is a major concern. He opts for a very tall and relaxed stance, something he would use to minimize energy expenditure. But in doing so, when shots come, his first movement will be to get into a normal set position when the puck is already coming, providing him with much less time to react and make a save. It gives him a real weakness with point shots, and with how good defensemen are at shooting in the NHL, it could very easily be exploited. He's a nice depth prospect to have and could turn into something more if given the proper development.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
8	Tuomas Uronen	VGK	RW	20	5-11/180

ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`23(192nd)	VGK		2023	192	19-Mar-05	Finland

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Kingston (OHL)	63	38	52	90	29

Without question, the highlight of Uronen's game is his shot. He can really rifle the puck and he works hard to earn his chances too. When you combine that with a deceptively quick stride and a power game, you have a player who has a high chance of developing into a solid complementary piece at the NHL level. The decision to return to the OHL and the subsequent trade to Kingston really did wonders for Uronen's game and development. Last year, with Ottawa, was a lost year due to injury. Additionally, his draft year was a disappointing one after he entered his draft year receiving first round hype; a poor year led to him falling all the way to the sixth round where Vegas selected him. However, he does look like he has his development back on a positive track.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
9	Arttu Karki	VGK	D	20	6-1/175

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`23(96th)	VGK	2023	96	8-Dec-04	Finland

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Tappara-Assat (Fin-Liiga)	43	3	11	14	8

Arttu Kärki, a 2023 third-round pick by the Vegas Golden Knights, is a skilled offensive defenseman still working to round out his game. After an impressive 2023-2024 season in the OHL with the Soo Greyhounds, where he tallied 45 points in 59 games and represented Finland at the World Juniors, Kärki returned to Finland for 2024-2025 to play in the Liiga. He began the season with Tappara, struggling to find consistent ice time, and was later loaned to Ässät, where his role expanded slightly. Offensively, Kärki stands out with his powerful one-timer, sharp playmaking instincts, and ability to generate scoring chances from the blue line. However, defensive lapses, difficulty handling pressure on breakouts, and inconsistent decision-making have limited his impact at the pro level. While his offensive tools are intriguing, he'll need to improve his defensive awareness and risk management to move beyond an AHL or call-up role in the future.

RNK	PLAYER	NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
10	Trent Swick	VGK	LW	21	6-6/215

ACQUIRED	DFT TM	DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`24(180th)	VGK	2024	180	25-Apr-04	Canada

TM	GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Kitchener (OHL)	60	27	34	61	48

Swick is a really interesting bottom six prospect for the Golden Knights. An overage selection last year, Vegas was impressed by the three-year progression of Swick's game as a Kitchener Ranger. Obviously, his massive frame didn't hurt his chances either. Returning to the OHL this year for a final season, Swick had another strong campaign, helping to lead Kitchener to a strong showing in the Western Conference. The power winger isn't a traditional power forward, per say. He's not a heavy hitter and he'll need to become an even stronger net front presence as a pro. However, he's a hard-working two-way player who excels as a playmaker because of his ability to keep plays alive along the wall and prolong possession. He finds a way to get himself or pucks to the middle of the ice and is largely an intelligent offensive support player. If he continues to improve his skating, he could be a Marcus Foligno type.

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
11	Abram Wiebe		VGK	D	21	6-2/185
ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(209th)	VGK		2022	209	28-Aug-03	Canada
TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
North Dakota (NCHC)		38	4	20	24	24

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
12	Braeden Bowman		VGK	RW	21	6-1/205
ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
FA(3/25)					26-Jun-03	Canada
TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Henderson (AHL)		68	14	22	36	12

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
13	Jakub Brabenec		VGK	C	21	6-1/175
ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(102nd)	VGK		2021	102	11-Sep-03	Czech
TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Henderson (AHL)		62	9	13	22	12

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
14	Ben Hemmerling		VGK	RW	21	5-10/160
ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`22(177th)	VGK		2022	177	21-Apr-04	Canada
TM		GP	G(W)	A(L)	PTS(GAA)	PIM(SPCT)
Henderson (AHL)		17	1	1	2	2

RNK	PLAYER		NHL	POS	AGE	HT/WT
15	Jakub Demek		VGK	C	21	6-4/195
ACQUIRED	DFT TM		DFT YR	DFT SELECTED	BIRTHDATE	NATIONALITY
`21(128th)	VGK		2021	128	6-Jun-03	Slovakia
`21(128th)	VGK		2021	128	6-Jun-03	Slovakia
Henderson (AHL)		31	6	13	19	2