2016 NHL

Draft Guide

Presented by:



Table of Contents

Player Rankings – Alphabetical_____29

2016 NHL Mock Draft_____56

Category Award Winners_____59

2017 NHL Draft Rankings_____61

Credits_____62

NACS Final Rankings for 2016 NHL Entry Draft – Alphabetical

Rank	Players Name	BirthDate	Team	League	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Comments
71	Abramov, Vitali	May 8/98	Gatineau	QMJHL	LW	5.09	175	Another Player that caused dissention at NACScouting. He was very impressive on some nights in Gatineau but his size and overall game cause us some concern. Will go much higher than this spot but we will wait to be proven wrong.
126	Allard, Frederic	Dec 27/97	Chicoutimi	QMJHL	RD	6.01	180	Kid started out the year as one of our favorites but seemed to fade away. Plays a complete game with some offensive instincts.
63	Allison, Wade	Oct. 14/97	Tri-City	USHL	RW	6.02	202	Allison certainly finished the year playing well but we saw things during the year that concerned us. He was able to take advantage of #5/6 D on opponents at times and we'd like to see him shoot more. Will go much higher as some teams love him.
92	Anderson, Joey	Jun 19/98	US-U18	NTDP	RW	6.00	192	Good skills and that was highlighted in his time with the Program. Both he and Keller and Bellows had a synergy and he is the forgotten man but his skills are very good. His strength will become a bigger issue but a couple years in Minnesota-Duluth will allow him to become a man.
118	Anderson, Josh	Aug. 29/98	Prince George	WHL	LD	6.03	222	We really like his ability to battle and compete. Moves ok for a large, strong kid but he keeps it simple, keeps opponents honest and keeps it clean in his own end. No high end traits but a warrior.
166	Ang, Jonathon	Jan 31.98	Peterborough	OHL	LC	6.00	168	Some of the best feet in the entire draft, he is still so slight and can get shy in the corners. The best hockey of his career was in the 2016 Playoffs against North Bay when he finally utilized that speed to become dangerous. He'll put up points in junior but he needs to add weight and bravery to his game.
191	Armstrong, Jamie	Aug 7/98	Avon Old Farms	US-HS	LW	6.00	180	Played well in some tournaments against some bad competition but struggled as the competition got better. Word was that he might leave to go to Saint John but nothing has materialized as of yet.
54	Asplund, Rasmus	Dec 03/97	Farjestad	SweJr	LC	5.11	175	Doesn't have a high offensive ceiling but he works hard. Will do whatever the Coach needs. Will block shots, win draws, finish checks and work hard. His size will make it tough but he might find a way.
190	Babenko, Egor	Feb 5/97	Lethbridge	WHL	RW	5.10	165	The little dynamic Russian came into Lethbridge as a high Import Draft pick and showed flashes of brilliance. He is very light and got pushed off the puck but if he grows, he will be hard to contain.
189	Bajkov, Patrick	Nov 27/97	Everett	WHL	LW	6.00	178	He isn't the biggest kid but he showed he has some offensive tools. Can play the point on the PP or work the half wall.
93	Barron, Travis	Aug 17/98	Ottawa	OHL	LW	6.02	195	A classic character guy that does things for winning teams. Barron will block shots, finish checks. fight and disturb. Those traits along with his size make him an NHL Prospect for us. He will keep putting up better number in the OHL but its his leadership and character that teams will be drafting him for.
22	Bastian, Nathan	Dec 06/97	Mississauga	OHL	RW	6.04	210	One of the most underrated guys in the entire Draft. We like him as a Centreman but he can play either. Bog power forward that plays a heavy game and does great board work and he has a passion for the game.

12	Bean, Jake	Jun 09/98	Calgary	WHL	LD	6.00	175	Kid has been great from start to finish. Not overly big but uses good technique defensively. Makes the right play and doesn't force it. Excellent outlet passes.
27	Bellows, Kieffer	Jun 10/98	US-U18	NTDP	LW	6.00	188	Has that ability to finish his chances almost every time. Accurate quick release is effective. A head for the game and although not quick, he reads the play very well.
75	Belyaev, Mikhail	Jan 17/98	Yaroslavl	MJU16	RW	6.01	185	Good size and ability to carry the puck. The Russian Federation isn't a huge fan but he has some skills. Is it enough to lure him away from the KHL? Whether or not he comes over in Import Draft will say a lot.
37	Benson, Tyler	Mar 15/98	Vancouver	WHL	LW	6.00	200	A potential Top 10 pick was derailed all year by injuries. You can't question his skills but the inability to stay healthy has made us nervous. Furthermore, he just didn't have that extra jump this year when he did play but he might get healthy and surprise us all.
112	Berdin, Mikhail	Mar. 1/98	Russia 18	Rus-Jr.	G	6.02	165	Was good from start to finish and in particular in some international events. Not a huge frame but he tracks pucks well, challenges and shows good rebound control. Leaves blocker a little low but that can be corrected.
173	Berglund, Filip	May 10/97	Skelleftea	SWE-Jr	RD	6.03	209	Another kid that has been bypassed by a Draft, Tommy Lange thinks this kid is just getting better. He has size, mobility and poise and wants to be a Player. These are the kinds of kids that win a Draft for a kid and whoever selects him might look back and be very happy.
128	Bernhardt, David	Dec 1/97	Djurgarden	SWE-Jr	LD	6.03	207	Good size and mobility but limited puck skills. If he comes to the CHL, we can see him developing his physical side a bit and potentially becoming a 5/6 guy in the NHL.
26	Bitten, William	Jul 10/98	Flint	OHL	RC	5.10	175	Plays every shift on fire. Has a nose for the net and is fearless. His size makes it tough to play that style but he will find a way. Better offensively than many give him credit for.
154	Bobyk, Colton	Mar 17/96	Red Deer	WHL	LD	6.02	200	Should be better than he showed for a lot of the year. Has the size and strength but still got beat too often. A long term physical project playing for a great coach.
66	Borgstrom, Henrik	Aug 6/97	HIFK	Fin-Jr	LC	6.03	188	Has good hands for a big kid but his skating is still an issue. Looks to make plays and seems to be an active participant. His stride isn't awful but it will need to be refined
65	Bratt, Jesper	Jul 30/98	AIK Jr.	Fin-Jr	LW	5.10	172	The kid has the "it" factor. He is dynamic and creative but shows a passion that we love. He will create offense and competes hard enough away from the puck that he can play in most situations. He isn't very big but everything about his game is something to like.
15	Brown, Logan	Mar 05/98	Windsor	OHL	LC	6.06	224	Brown has all of the physical tools that you would look for in a big pivot but he has been inconsistent. When he has been good, he has been very good but there have been nights where he wasn't as effective. He'll need a few years but the tools are all there.
43	Budik, Vojtech	Jan 29/98	Prince Albert	WHL	LD	6.01	190	Gets around the ice pretty well. Has some brain cramps at times. Started out the year well but seemed to tail off.
117	Bunnaman, Connor	April 16/98	Kitchener	OHL	RC	6.01	204	One of those kids that really doesn't have much of a presence but the Coach just loves him. Always on the right side of the puck and aware defensively, he will have a long path to the NHL but so did Andrew Desjardins.
155	Burke, Brayden	Jan 1/ 97	Lethbridge	WHL	LW	5.10	168	Under-sized kid that loves the puck and can make plays with it. He may ultimately just become a good Jr. scorer because he doesn't have enough to play in the Top 6 in the NHL but if his game rounds out, he could prove us wrong and become an effective depth offensive guy.

186	Caamano, Nic	Sep 7/98	Flint	OHL	RW	6.00	190	We weren't sure of his hockey sense coming into the OHL and although his game has developed a bit, he still needs to keep improving. His strong stride helps him and he has gotten stronger but we can't foresee a role for him in the NHL.
200	Cairns, Matthew	Apr. 27/98	Georgetown	OJHL	LD	6.03	201	Cairns was a lot higher at different times this year but there were too many nights where he just didn't assert himself enough. His game is to be a stay at home guy but he'll have to add more dimensions to become a good NHL prospect.
157	Candella, Cole	Feb. 13/98	Hamilton	OHL	LD	6.01	192	Candella certainly improved as the year progressed but we still aren't positive as to what he brings and what traits will translate to the NHL. Should play a lot for Hamilton this year but needs to determine an identity.
174	Carroll, Noah	Dec. 2/97	Guelph	OHL	LD	6.01	175	Kind of a 'tweener on the back end but his feet and IQ are his best traits. He can skate the puck out of trouble but he will never put up points and isn't overly aggressive so he'll have to develop those aspects of his game to become an NHL'er.
41	Cedarholm, Jacob	Jan 30/98	HV71	SweJr	RD	6.03	189	Will become a solid shut down guy. Keeps everyone outside of the dots. His long stride is awkward and needs refinement but he is good in smaller spaces.
74	Chebykin, Nikolai	Aug 1/97	Balashikha	Rus-Jr.	LW	6.04	193	Typical Russian that skates very well and has slick enough hands to make plays. Could still use his body more because when he does, he is hard to get the puck away from. 2nd year entry but has a big ceiling.
49	Cholowski, Dennis	Feb. 15/98	Chilliwack	BCHL	LD	6.01	170	We had the typical concerns about Cholowski as we do with a lot of Junior A Players and that is his level of competition. He did what he wanted for most of the year using his foot speed, feel for the game and skills but as the year progressed, we realized that he would have been great in any League. He still needs a couple years to get stronger and defensively more responsible but he is a 2nd rounder.
9	Chychrun, Jakob	Mar 31/98	Sarnia	OHL	LD	6.03	214	Tremendous skater that will join the rush and add to the offense. Was slightly inconsistent at times but has all of the tools.
34	Clague, Kyle	Jun 05/98	Brandon	WHL	LD	6.00	177	Started out the year as a consensus 1st round pick but really struggled at times. Came on in the 2nd half but still has some warts. He thinks the game well and gets the puck to his teammates which is a highly coveted skill in today's NHL.
158	Coghlan, Dylan	Feb 19/98	Tri-City	USHL	RD	6.03	182	A guy who was phenomenal in our first few viewings but then seemed to settle into a solid position on the Team. Has a bomb for a shot but doesn't get a lot of offensive opportunities. Solid steady piece that may develop.
139	Coleman, Luke	Sep 9/98	Prince Albert	WHL	LW	6.03	190	Typical power forward that loves to go into traffic and is a bear along the wall. Feet are heavy but once he gets moving, he is a load. A project but the LA Kings have had great success with these type of kids.
132	Cormier, Evan	Nov 06/97	Saginaw	OHL	G	6.03	200	Cormier bounced around our rankings all year and at one point was our highest ranked goaltender but his inconsistency is scary. He has all of the physical tools and he stole some games for Saginaw so he is good value but he'll need to put strong starts together, all of the time.
79	Dahlen, Jonathon	Dec. 20/97	Timra	Swe Jr.	LC	5.11	177	Ulf's kid, Jonathan had a tremendous year and showed his quickness, agility, IQ and puck skills but we still aren't sold on him being a star. He struggled at times against heavier defensemen but there is a lot to like.

85	Davidson, Dawson	Apr 7/98	Kamloops	WHL	LD	5.11	186	Small puck moving defender that came out of nowhere. He still has trouble handling bigger men but he makes plays and creates from the back end.
47	Day, Sean	Jan 09/98	Mississauga	OHL	LD	6.03	224	This years biggest enigma. Best overall skills in the Draft behind only Laine and Matthews. He lacks urgency and passion but he will be so tempting because if he figures it out, he could win the Norris.
140	De Wit, Jeff	Mar 14/98	Red Deer	WHL	RC	6.03	190	Lot of tools in the big toolbox but at times hasn't shown them all. We expected a bigger push in the Playoffs and in the Memorial Cup. Could become a 3rd/4th line guy down the road.
32	Debrincat, Alex	Dec 18/97	Erie	OHL	RW	5.07	165	The most polarizing kid in the Draft. All he does is score so we expect him to go between #20 and #30 but he lacks a separation speed and at that size, it becomes a challenge. Tremendous offensive instincts.
167	Dhillon, Stephen	Sep 14/98	Niagara	OHL	G	6.04	182	Dhillon hasn't really had a chance to show the hockey world what he can do. His size is intriguing and his incredible intelligence will help him down the road. At times, he over-commits but when he plays a quiet effective game, he can be hard to beat.
50	Dineen, Cam	June 19/98	North Bay	OHL	LD	5.11	185	Another smaller D that came out of nowhere. He quarterbacked the North Bay PP very effectively and racked up points all year. Smart passer and has learned to defend despite his slight stature.
185	Dodero, CJ	Dec 29/97	Sioux City	USHL	LW	6.03	197	Dodero has remained on our list because he has some serviceable abilities to go with good size but we have to confess we have been disappointed in his season.
28	Dube, Dylan	Jun 28/98	Kelowna	WHL	LC	5.10	180	Makes things happen every time he is on the ice. Good edge use and quick feet are utilized to trap defenders and he sticks his nose in.
7	Dubois, Pierre-Luc	Jun 24/98	Cape Breton	QMJHL	LW	6.03	200	Big power forward that just kept improving all year. Has good awareness. Will score but can defend too.
195	Duehr, Walker	Nov 23/97	Tri-City	WHL	RW	6.02	204	There will never be a lot of offense to Duehr's game but he grinds it out, chips it deep and can be miserable for opponents. He is a long term project that is committed to Minnesota State.
199	Duhaime, Brandon	May 22/97	Tri-City	USHL	RW	6.00	195	Like a lot of USHL forwards, he flew around and tried to make things happen without a lot of structure. He is committed to Providence so he will develop his overall game but it will take a couple years, at a minimum.
180	Eliot, Mitchell	Feb. 6/98	Muskegon	USHL	RD	6.00	181	Has always had the ability to create offense but he will have a hard time defending in Pro. He has a little bit of Tory Krug in his game but Krug really went to work to complete his game all over the ice and Mitchell will have to demonstrate that same work ethic and commitment.
152	Elyniuk, Hudson	Oct 12/97	Spokane	WHL	LC	6.05	201	In Spokane they were hoping for a lot more out of Elynuik and at times he showed it but it was infrequent. As a big kid, it sometimes looks like he isn't working as hard as smaller guys but we question his hockey IQ and commitment. The body is enticing but he needs to become a true power forward
14	Fabbro, Dante	Jun 20/98	Penticton	BCHL	RD	6.00	192	He dominated the BCHL and then he went in and dominated the Under 18's. Very poised and controlled and showed great leadership.

107	Falkovsky, Stepan	Dec. 18/96	Ottawa	OHL	LD	6.07	227	Falkovsky has already been through a Draft and we missed him, just like the 30 teams did but he has been a revelation in Ottawa. His size is what grabs you but his skills continually improved under Jeff Brown and he is now a legitimate 3rd or 4th rounder.
89	Fear, Erich	May 8/97	Springfield	NAHL	RD	6.05	220	We noticed the size early but he kept getting better. Still a little slow footed to loose pucks, he will have to improve that but he has size and strength and will have time to get better at Denver.
153	Felhaber, Tye	Aug8/98	Saginaw	OHL	LC	5.11	190	It was a tough year in Saginaw but we needed to see Felhaber produce more. He got better as the year progressed and he showed a serious feistiness that we didn't think he had but his job is to create offense and he needs to do it more consistently.
70	Filipe, Matt	Dec 31/97	Cedar Rapids	USHL	LC	6.02	200	The Northeastern commit has grown into his body and continues to show that skill that he showed as a younger Player. Showed flashes of being a Top 40 pick but seemed to tire down the stretch but still has a bright future.
51	Fitzpatrick, Evan	Jan 28/98	Sherbrooke	QMJHL	G	6.03	220	Top goalie in the Draft. Tremendous size and leaves shooters very little net. Had some rough patches this year but has the most upside of any goalie in the Draft. Quick hands.
40	Fox, Adam	Feb 17/98	US-U18	NTDP	RD	5.10	186	In a year with a lot of smallish defenders, this kid is special. It took us a while to get over his size and unwillingness to defend but he kept getting better in all areas. His elusiveness and offensive brain will translate into the Pro's in a couple years. He showed surprising strength and was dynamic at the Under 18's.
38	Frederic, Trent	Feb 11/98	US-U18	NTDP	LC	6.02	205	Another big strong kid that would benefit from playing in the CHL. We expected his game to jump to the next level this year but it really didn't. He had some nights where he showed he could simply dominate.
120	From, Mathias	Dec. 16/97	Rogle	Swe Jr.	LW	6.01	168	Late birth 97 that put on a good show at the World Juniors. He loves to challenge defenders off the rush and use his quick acceleration. He isn't a natural finisher but he certainly will increase the pace of play for his team, which causes headaches for his opponents.
172	Galipeau, Olivier	May 22/97	Val D'or	QMJHL	LD	6.01	203	Every time we saw Val D'or play, we couldn't take our eyes off of Galipeau. We understand he is a regular '97 but his game has improved so much from last year to this year. Not a flashy player but he can make plays in both the defensive and offensive end and he commands the ice. A sleeper.
16	Gauthier, Julian	Oct 15/97	Val D'or	QMJHL	RW	6.04	223	At one point this year he was in our Top 5 but a slow 2nd half caused him to fall. Body that many would kill for and he can skate and he goes to the dirty areas. A scorer who lacked consistency but he has tremendous physical tools.
194	Gerlach, Max	Apr 4/98	Medicine Hat	WHL	RC	5.09	174	At this point in the Draft, you are looking for kids that have a premiere ability in an area and Gerlach has the dash and offense to his game. It will be a challenge at his size but as a late round pick, he might grow and surprise a bunch of teams.
87	Gettinger, Tim	Apr 14/98	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LW	6.05	205	Very underwhelming year for Gettinger. Has the big frame and the soft hands that you want in a big-time Prospect but took too many nights off. Still think he has a chance to develop into an NHL Player but he must show more urgency and use that big body to his advantage.

159	Gignac, Brandon	Nov 7/97	Shawinigan	QMJHL	LC	5.10	177	Smaller kid that doesn't get cheated and has become very quick to pucks. The kind of kid a Coach loves but he lacks elite offensive skills to become a scorer in Pro and his tough will make it tough to become a role Player.
78	Girard, Samuel	May 12/98	Shawinigan	QMJHL	LD	5.10	160	Just not sure he does enough at this size to be considered a big-time NHL Prospect. He will have a great Junior career and will put up points from the back end. Will have trouble with big, strong forwards in Pro.
130	Gleason, Ben	Mar 25/98	Hamilton	OHL	LD	6.01	174	The trade from London to Hamilton really helped Gleason. We loved his feistiness coming into the OHL so we'd ;like to see more of that but his overall game is solid if unspectacular.
160	Gosiewski, Matt	May 10/98	Cedar Rapids	USHL	LC	6.04	212	You can't help but notice his size and ability to control the puck along the wall. Unfortunately, it takes a bit to get that big rig rolling so he needs leg strength and quicker feet but a likely NCAA commit, a team will have time to see if he develops.
116	Graham, Michael	Nov 27/97	Eden Prairie	Min-HS	LC	6.02	182	The Eden Prairie star is owned by Lethbridge and we could see him making that jump. He has good size and slick hands for a big kid. He was dominant against some bad teams this year but he could become a very good Centreman in the WHL and improve enough to become an NHL Prospect.
84	Green, Luke	Jan 12/98	Saint John	QMJHL	RD	6.00	190	Started the season in our 1st round but his season just seemed to go from bad to worse. Physically, he has the tools but he showed too many times that he has to think the game better. Puts the pucks into bad areas and turns it over. The tools are there so a Team will be hoping his game matures going forward.
99	Greenway, James	Apr 27/98	US-U18	NTDP	LD	6.05	216	Much like his older brother, he looks like he was born to play hockey and make a lot of money playing it. Unfortunately, he spends too much time watching and not enough time being assertive. His skills should make him a Top 20 Player but until he starts to show that he is going to put it together, he falls on our list.
76	Gregor, Noah	Jul 28/98	Moose Jaw	WHL	LC	6.00	175	On some nights he works hard but doesn't get a lot accomplished but on others, he has shown some higher end ability. May never be more than a 3rd line guy but he never cheats.
45	Grundstrom, Carl	Dec 01/97	Modo	SweJE	RW	5.11	190	Another under-sized Swede that does a lot of good things but nothing exceptional. Quick stick but lacks some creativity.
68	Gustavson, Filip	June 7/98	Lulea	SWE-Jr	G	6.02	188	Biggest riser in the goaltender crop. He really struggled early but since Christmas he has been dynamite. He topped it off with a great Under 18 tournament for the Swedes. So calm and poised between the pipes.
163	Hagel, Brandon	Aug. 27/98	Red Deer	WHL	LW	6.01	166	Has been coached up by Sutter to play hard on all of his shifts. Seems like he is afraid to make a play but rather make sure the puck is in a safe spot. That works well in Junior but at the NHL level, you have to show that you can make some plays. He'll keep getting better but we'll see if its enough.
30	Hajek, Libor	Feb 4/98	Saskatoon	WHL	LD	6.02	187	Skates well for his long frame. Really simplifies the game. Was a horse in both Saskatoon as well as for the Czechs. A little under valued but after a few years of pro, he will be a solid piece.

113	Hall, Connor	Jun 8/98	Kitchener	OHL	LD	6.02	200	We have been too late to the party on Connor Hall. All year we thought he was a good solid Junior defender but we weren't sold on his pro upside. His play down the stretch and at the Under 18's opened our eyes in a big way. If other Players had been eliminated from their CHL playoffs, he may not have secured a spot but he did and made the most of it.
59	Hart, Carter	Aug 13/98	Everett	WHL	G	6.01	185	Not the biggest kid but competes for every shot. Stays high and takes up more net than he looks like he should. Lightning quick reflexes but his size will scare some teams.
192	Hawerchuk, Ben	Mar 27/98	Barrie	OHL	LW	5.11	170	The son of Dale, he may be a surprise at this spot but we love his game. He has high hockey IQ, is willing to pay the price and understands the game. The bloodlines help us see him evolving into a potential NHL prospect down the road.
176	Headrick, Owen	Aug 23/97	LSSU	NCAA	RD	6.01	206	A hidden gem up in Northern Michigan who plays for Lake Superior State. Erie wanted him badly but he chose the NCAA route and it is paying off. Smart, heady decisions and a strong core allow him to battle grown men already. He had some rough outings as a Freshman but he is only going to get better.
184	Helvig, Jeremy	May 25/97	Kingston	OHL	G	6.03	195	We were as shocked as anyone that Kingston chose to sit him on the bench during their playoff run. He really came into his own this year and then to be shut down caused us a lot of concern. A big kid that has already been through Draft might be a late bloomer and worth a later pick.
42	Howden, Brett	Mar 29/98	Moose Jaw	WHL	LC	6.02	196	A potential 3rd line Centre that makes good decisions and can finish in Junior, when given the opportunity. Competes hard and can be a shut down in the NHL.
156	Hronek, Filip	Nov 2/97	Hradec Kralove	Czech	RD	6.00	170	Small but highly skilled defender that showed at the WJC's that he can make plays. Still struggles defending so that has to improve but he makes accurate passes to create scoring chances and help teammates. Would be a deadly CHL Import if he would leave Finland.
103	Ivanyuzhenkov, Artem	Mar 24/98	Russia 18	Rus-Jr	RW	6.03	223	Big Russian kid that hasn't become the sum of his parts. Skates well and can handle the puck but seems like just a guy. When he turns it on, he becomes much more interesting but he needs that more often.
57	Johansen, Lucas	Nov. 16/97	Kelowna	WHL	LD	6.01	176	Good sense of when and where to make the play. Uses his quick feet to his advantage. Looks smaller than 6'1 but still defends well. Ryan's brother so you know he has the bloodlines. Still needs a little urgency.
135	Johnson, Kenny	May 28/98	Shattuck St. Marys	Min-HS	LD	6.02	215	Jack's younger brother is built like a truck. Very strong on the puck and has shown he is fearless. He doesn't have nearly the skill of his brother but there is still room in the game for a rugged defender
13	Jones, Max	Feb 17/98	London	OHL	LW	6.03	208	Bull in a China Shop. Big power forward that will go around you or through you. His suspensions caused his development to have fits and starts but he has a huge ceiling with his skating ability and nasty disposition.
19	Jost, Tyson	Mar 14/98	Penticton	BCHL	LC	5.11	191	Like Fabbro, Jost was the class of the BCHL but he continued to play the right way. Strong on the puck and very heady, he may not score a ton in the NHL but he will become a solid NHL Player.
10	Juolevi, Olli	May 05/98	London	OHL	LD	6.03	180	Silky smooth defender that played tremendous at WJC's and down the stretch. Won't bring fans out of the seats but always makes the correct plays. Manages the puck so well.

181	Kachyna, Onreg	Apr 30/98	Hamilton	OHL	LD	6.04	192	Anytime we would see Hamilton play, you would want to see Kachyna do something that made you like him. He plays a simple game and tries to use his length but we don't see any overall skill set that will make him an NHL defender. He may develop so a late round pick might be worth it but he has a long way to go.
141	Karafiat, Jiri	Jul. 17/98	Zlin	Czech	RW	6.02	173	We like Karafiat more than most. His role in the Pro's is still to be determined but he has a long lean frame and he moves ok. He has shown some hands and although he will never rack up a lot of points, we can see him chipping in.
105	Karpukhin, Ilya	Jul 13/98	Chelyabinsk	Rus-Jr.	RD	6.02	196	Kid was just OK in Russia this year but he stood out at the World Junior A Challenge. He showed some snarl and nastiness that was impressive. Showed leadership by getting on his own teammates at times, which we like. His puck and still skills are just OK for a Russian defenseman but if he plays more like he did in Whitby and less like he did in Russia, he will have a good chance.
165	Kaspick, Tanner	Jan 25/98	Brandon	WHL	LC	6.00	197	A glue guy that Kelly McCrimmon uses in a bunch of situations. Didn't have a great Memorial Cup and his overall tools may preclude him from ever playing the in NHL.
23	Katchouk, Boris	June 18/98	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LW	6.01	183	Started the year in our 4th round and continued to improve with every viewing. He uses his foot speed effectively and has shown he can finish. Works hard and learning to play away from the puck has propelled him into the 1st round.
64	Kayumov, Artur	Feb 14/98	Russia 18	Rus-Jr.	LW	6.00	178	Smallish kid that has very good offensive sense. Can make plays off the rush or in the cycle. Very tricky stick and deceptive quickness.
5	Keller, Clayton	Jul 29/98	US-U18	NTDP	LC	5.10	176	Under-valued. Very slick. Changing game is perfect for him. Phenomenal vision. Thinks the game in slow motion. Offensive catalyst.
101	Knierim, William	Jan 22/98	Dubuque	USHL	RW	6.03	210	The biggest issue for Knierim to play in the NHL will be his skating. When he has time and space with the puck, he is OK but the pace of the game will really be a challenge for him.
169	Koivula, Otto	Sep 1/98	Ilves	Fin-Jr	LW	6.04	217	We love big Finns because they usually play the game hard and are difficult to play against but that doesn't describe Koivula. He has the size and strength but he tries to beat guys with his stick and hands instead of going through them. If he'd be meaner on a regular basis, he could become an effective Pro.
150	Kopacka, Jack	Mar 5/98	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LW	6.02	184	Kopacka is the 4th of the Greyhound forwards that will be selected in Buffalo. He looks like he should be a player because he can skate and generate opportunities but he rarely finishes and seems to work hard, not smart. Coming into the year we thought he was a 3rd round pick so we'll see where he ends up going.
148	Korenar, Josef	Jan 31/98	Jihlava	Czech	G	6.02	174	Looks bigger to use than his listed 6.01.5. He stays up and loves to be aggressive. His hands are well positioned but he still needs to get quicker with his lower half. A later pick would be value and let the Teams goaltending coach work with him.
44	Korshkov, Yegor	Jul. 10/96	Yaroslavl	KHL	RW	6.04	183	A '96 that should have been taken in one of the prior Drafts, he is a massive player that takes the puck hard to the net and does everything in a heavy way. Has learned to use that large frame and still has those puck skills that will allow him to finish.

82	Koukkanen, Janne	May 25/98	Karpat	Fin-Jr	LW/C	6.00	175	Started out slowly but really came on as the year progressed. We weren't sure about how high his compete was but it is good and he has the skills to match. Rising by the end of the year.
145	Kovalyov, Ivan	Apr. 27/98	Russia 18	Rus-Jr.	LD	6.02	190	A hard nosed Russian that keeps opponents honest. He will rack up some penalties and can get caught running around a bit but generally he keeps it outside the dots and makes guys pay the price who go to the net. Reminds me Alexander Mikulovich from Niagara.
39	Krys, Chad	Apr 10/98	US-U18	NTDP	LD	5.11	188	The new game is perfect for Krys in that he can skate it out of trouble and use his quickness. Still will need to get stronger and defend better but his instincts are good and he always gets his shot through.
17	Kunin, Luke	12/4/97	Wisconsin U.	NCAA	LC	5.11	194	A little off the radar at Wisconsin but well worth the trips. Used to be all about scoring but his game has matured. He still has good offensive tools but he also puts the pucks in good areas, defends and wins draws. Won't slip very far.
94	Kuznetsov, Vladimir	Feb 18/98	Acadie-Bathurst	QMJHL	RW	6.02	211	Came over as a very highly touted prospect for the 2016 Draft but he was generally disappointing. Size, skill and finish but at times he looked disinterested and didn't help himself at the Under 18.worked himself down the lineup.
35	Kyrou, Jordan	May 05/98	Sarnia	OHL	RC	6.00	180	An up and down year for Kyrou had him jumping all over our rankings throughout the year. He finished it off in style by playing very well at the Under 18's but we still think he will ultimately be a solid shut down guy as opposed to an offensive force but he can chip in.
58	Laberge, Pascal	Apr 09/98	Victoriaville	QMJHL	LC	6.01	166	Looks heavier and stronger than he is listed. Plays a robust style and has a quick release. Loves to shoot. Getting better in his own end but still cheats at times.
162	Lafontaine, Jack	Jan 6/97	Janesville	NAHL	G	6.03	200	Lafontaine has a tremendous base of knowledge and technique but at times he looked to be over thinking the position. When he was in Minor Midget, he had technique but he let the game come to him. He looks to be 'trying" to stop the puck instead of using his natural talents. Good size and upside so he is well worth the risk.
2	Laine, Patrik	Apr 19/98	Tappara	FinE	RW	6.04	210	Phenomenal finisher. Shoots the puck better than anyone outside of NHL. Needs to develop overall game. Will score a lot of goals in NHL.
86	Lajoie, Maxime	Nov.5/97	Swift Current	WHL	LD	6.01	187	A solid defender but nothing spectacular. He needs leg strength as he has heavy feet but he works hard and makes it difficult to play against him.
36	Lindgren, Ryan	Feb 11/98	US-U18	NTDP	LD	6.00	200	Always been a favorite of Seidel. Combines an ability to control the play with a high hockey IQ. Effortless feet allow him to challenge or jump into the play. Active stick.
134	Lindstrom, Linus	Jan 8/98	Skelleftea	SWE-Jr	LC	5.11	164	Undersized and light on his feet. Plays a solid game but needs to create more at his size. Would improve his stock by coming to North America.
187	Lockwood, Will	Jun. 20/98	US-U18	NTDP	RW	6.00	170	If he was bigger we could foresee him being a good 3rd line guy because he has good awareness and plays hard but without the high end offensive skills to go with his size, an NHL career will be difficult.
95	Luce, Griffin	Mar 10/98	US-U18	NTDP	LD	6.03	210	As a Minor Midget I swore that this kid would become a 1st round NHL pick. He has poise, size and an understanding of the game. He still seems to lack that urgency and I'd like to see him get mad every once in a while because the talent is there, it just needs to keep developing.

108	Makinen, Otto	May 21/98	Tappara	FinJrA	LC	6.01	182	Makinen came into the year high on our list but his season was just ok. He is kind of a 'tweener in that he isn't big but he isn't small and he has shown some offensive flair but not enough to guarantee an NHL career.
144	Maksimovich, Kyle	Mar. 10/98	Erie	OHL	LW	5.09	177	The kid is always overshadowed on the powerful Otters offense but he plays a fearless game and despite his small stature, will go into the scoring areas. His overall abilities aren't elite so it will be a long, tough road but he will do everything he can.
80	Malenstyn, Beck	Feb 4/98	Calgary	WHL	LC	6.02	193	Had a really up and down year. At times he was non-existent and didn't produce much but then there were stretches where he should that characteristic work ethic and heavy game that we fell in love with. Finished the year on a positive note at the Under 18's but he projects out as a 3rd or 4th line guy at best.
151	Maltsev, Mikhail	Mar. 12/98	Russia 18	Rus-Jr.	LW	6.03	190	Should be much higher in the rankings based on the tools in the big toolbox but he just never gets a lot accomplished. We can't say he doesn't work hard but he doesn't produce much either. Big body that someone hopes finds an identity and becomes a Prospect.
52	Mascherin, Adam	Jun 06/98	Kitchener	OHL	RW	5.10	205	Small fire hydrant that just scores. He is strong and loves to carry the puck and he can shoot it. Like Debrincat, he lacks that extra gear but he understands how to score and where to find seams in the offensive end.
197	Masonius, Joseph	Feb 17/97	U-Conn	NCAA	LD	6.00	190	Another '97 that showed he could step into the NCAA and compete. Despite his size, he showed good technique and he got more confidence as the season progressed.
1	Matthews, Auston	Sep 17/97	Zurich ZSC	Swiss	LC	6.02	197	Best Player in the Draft. Franchise Centreman. Wise beyond his years. Will become a God in Toronto.
56	Mattson, Mitchell	Jan 2/98	Grand Rapids	Mich-HS	LC	6.04	191	Started the year on fire against inferior competition but seemed to get bored. Tremendous package of size and ability and may become a sleeper in this Draft.
24	McAvoy, Charles	Dec 21/97	Boston U	NCAA	RD	6.00	205	Excellent feet to be able to add to rush and keep a tight gap on defense. Showed against men he can defend and moves the puck to the right go in all 3 zones. Has simplified his game and thus will become key part of a defense core in the NHL.
119	McEwan, James	Mar 15/97	Guelph	OHL	LC	6.00	190	Had a phenomenal year for the struggling Storm. He became their offensive catalyst and despite having gone through 1 draft, we think he is great value in this years festivities.
11	McLeod, Mike	Feb 03/98	Mississauga	OHL	RC	6.03	190	Loves to attack with speed and thrives to get into the dirty areas. Fearless and becoming more complete. May not put up huge offensive numbers but he is a winner.
77	McPhee, Graham	Jul 24/97	US-U18	NTDP	LW	6.00	179	George's kid that exhibits all of the traits of a 2nd generation kid. Very aware on the ice, hard on the puck, good decisions and finishes checks. His offense at the NHL will still need to be shown but he is a worker.
72	Mete, Victor	Jun 07/98	London	OHL	LD	5.10	176	Fleet footed defender helped lead the Knights to the Memorial Cup. Uses his foot speed to get back on dump in's and makes the right plays. Still has to work harder defensively but he has improved.
81	Middleton, Keaton	Feb 10/98	Saginaw	OHL	LD	6.06	235	We have always liked the game of the big Middleton kid because he knows what he is and doesn't try to get cute. He has had the advantage of watching his older brother play and uses his long stride, big reach and strength to keep the game simple. He'll never be an NHL PP guy but he will be an effective PK guy.

33	Morrison, Cameron	Aug 27/98	Youngstown	USHL	LW	6.02	207	Big power forward that we would have liked to see play in the OHL where his robust style could have been showcased. Feasted on weaker competition at times and had a great year in the USHL.
61	Moverare, Jacob	Aug. 31/98	HV71	Swe Jr.	LD	6.02	192	Been very well coached and it shows. Doesn't make a lot of mistakes and has good defensive positioning, active stick and clears the crease effectively. Not a high end defender but a winner.
96	Murray, Brett	Jul.15/98	Carleton Place	CCHL	LW	6.05	209	Another massive kid that over-powered and dominated Junior A this year. Lacks any high end offensive skills but will go get the puck and protects it well. A Project for down the road but he has upside.
127	Neveau, Jacob	Jan 12/98	Rouyn Noranda	QMJHL	LD	6.02	207	Looked heavy all year and was just OK at the Russian Super Series. With the run that Rouyn went on, you'd think that he would have helped himself but we aren't sure what he is.
60	Niemelainen, Marcus	Aug. 6/98	Saginaw	OHL	LD	6.04	190	Big Finnish defender that looked like a 1st rounder on some nights but then really struggled on others. Has all the tools you want but needs to be more assertive and use his size more. Intriguing package but needs to take the next step.
67	Nurmi, Markus	Jun 29/98	TPS Turku	Fin-Jr	RW	6.04	176	Big kid that never cheats. Not the most talented Player on the ice but may be able to fulfill a 3rd line role. Hits, blocks shots and plays without fear.
8	Nylander, Alex	Mar 02/98	Mississauga	OHL	LW	6.01	177	Slickest hands in the Draft. Still needs to engage more but he is so slippery. Creates space and time for himself and loves to score.
177	O'Brien, Brogan	Aug. 13/97	Prince George	WHL	LW	6.03	190	Liked him last year in Prince George but couldn't justify putting him on our list. Despite having gone through 1 draft, we think he is worth a late round pick. He can pass the puck, makes plays and he has learned to use his size more effectively.
142	O'Neill, Kevin	Feb 23/98	Albany HS	US-HS	RC	6.00	164	Not many know anything about this Yale Commit but he showed he could dominate his club team, as well as with the Boston Bulldogs Under 18. Sneaky stick that is elusive. He will go to Yale but be aware in a couple years when he is putting up big points for the Bulldogs.
196	Osmanski, Austin	Apr 30/98	Mississauga	OHL	LD	6.03	201	Osmanski benefitted by being coached by James Richmond this year and his game took some strides. He still looks a little like Bambi out there at times but as he simplifies his game and gets stronger, he might become a potential bottom pairing guy.
133	Paquette, Chris	March 27/98	Niagara	OHL	RC	6.01	206	It took Paquette almost 6 months to find his niche but he became a very key player for Niagara in their Eastern Conference championship run. He played up and down in the lineup and became a heavy guy to play against.
53	Parsons, Tyler	Sep 18/97	London	OHL	G	6.01	182	All year we have wanted to find reasons to pick his game apart but all he did was win. He kept that London team in some games when they went running and gunning and his mental strength might be his best attribute. We aren't fooled anymore.
98	Pastujov, Nick	Jan 21/98	US-U18	NTDP	LW`	6.00	200	We know we love Pastujov more than most but his overall skill set, including his hands, reminds us of a poor Sonny Milano. His foot speed still concerns us but he has slick offensive tools and if he figures how to play without the puck, he will have a chance.

123	Peeke, Andrew	March 17/98	Green Bay	USHL	RD	6.03	211	The Notre Dame commit has a lot of the physical tools to play Pro but he needs to put it together. He looks like he could contribute more offensively but rarely does and although he is tidy in his own end, we'd like to see some nastiness. He will have a few years at ND to get it straightened out but worthy of a mid-round pick.
106	Peeters, Wouter	Jul 31/98	EC2	Rus-Jr	G	6.04	205	None of our guys had heard of him until November. Massive kid that not only eats up the net but has surprising agility. His level of competition will improve but if a Team is looking for a diamond in the rough, this kid has a lot of potential.
182	Pezzetta, Michael	Mar 13/98	Sudbury	OHL	LW	6.01	200	The former 1st round OHL pick hasn't developed as most in the Nickel City would have hoped. He plays an energetic style and wants to finish every check but his overall offensive instincts are limited. His absolute ceiling is as a 4th line guy in the NHL but he still has a lot of work to do to get there.
124	Phillips, Matthew	Apr 6/98	Victoria	WHL	RC	5.07	149	At one point he went on a tear and we were convinced he was that small, skilled firecracker that could make the jump. He still has all that offensive ability but his size is going to make it difficult. The game is getting smaller so we'd draft him but just not as early as we would have in January.
102	Pilon, Garrett	Apr 13/98	Kamloops	WHL	RC	5.10	181	Rich Pilon's kid that has a lot of intangibles. Grew up around the game so he has a high hockey IQ and is deceptively good with the puck. Creates scoring chances and can finish. We just have to hope he grows a bit.
193	Pitlick, Rem	Apr. 2/97	Muskegon	USHL	LC	5.10	190	Pitlick had a phenomenal year in the USHL and we understand that he is an under-sized 97 but you can't deny what this kid did this year. Kids still retain the right to keep getting better and this kid is doing that.
91	Point, Colton	Mar. 4/98	Carleton Place	CCHL	G	6.04	220	Led his Team to the Royal Bank Cup and had some phenomenal nights where he was unbeatable. Unfortunately, he had some high profile stinkers which are hard to ignore but his size, athleticism and ability to steal games is interesting to us.
18	Pu, Cliff	June 3/98	London	OHL	RW	6.02	190	Biggest riser in the entire Draft. He has shed the label of being soft and become a very quick power forward that has just gotten exceptionally better under Dale Hunter. He uses his speed and size now to create opportunities and although he will never crush guys, he isn't scared.
3	Puljujarvi, Jesse	May 07/98	Karpat	FinE	RW	6.03	201	Big stronger Winger with high hockey IQ. Can set guys up and finish. Good teammate.
109	Quenneville, David	Mar 13/98	Medicine Hat	WHL	RD	5.09	185	Was languishing in the middle of the hundreds on our list until the last month of play and the Under 18's. His size is still a concern but he zips passes, gets shots through and makes good decisions so he has risen up our list.
143	Raaymakers, Joseph	March 17/98	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	G	6.01	188	Raaymakers was our top goalie coming into the OHL out of minor midget. You can't argue with the success that some of the goaltenders that have played in the Solo are having so perhaps he will follow. He looks bigger than he is and because of Halverson, he didn't get a lot of work this past year but we still can't get past that goalie we loved in minor midget against his peer group.
29	Raddysh, Taylor	Feb 18/98	Erie	OHL	RW	6.02	203	Big body that has really benefitted from Knoblauch coaching him. Still would like to see him play with more of an edge but he is big and strong and effective.

69	Rasanen, Aapeli	Jun 19/98	Tappara	Fin-Jr	RC	6.01	200	Very slick kid that will be a very good CHL Import selection. Is supposed to come over and play in Sioux City but he possesses good skill and will go into traffic to score or disrupt the opposition. Smart player with skill.
111	Reunanen, Tarmo	Mar 01/98	TPS Turku	FinJrA	LD	6.00	174	Seemed light and got pushed around a bit. At times, he is guilty of waiting for things to happen instead of making them happen. With the puck on his stick, he gets it up the ice and makes good decisions.
188	Ritz, Matteo	Mar 24/98	Lausanne	Swiss	G	6.02	205	A late addition to our list because he played well for Switzerland at the Under 18's. Good size and showed some athleticism.
125	Ronning, Ty	Oct. 20/97	Vancouver	WHL	RW	5.08	170	The debate between him and Phillips raged since Xmas and both have skills but it's a tough game for kids this size. Ronning has been incredible on the PP at times and he will be a hugely productive Junior but he'll have to keep developing.
110	Rossini, Sam	Jun 19/98	Waterloo	USHL	LD	6.03	201	Was a bit of an unknown but then stood out in a solid, quiet way at the All American Prospect Game. His feet are good for a large frame and he seems to understand when to push the puck or make the simple play. He showed a little more offensive jump with Waterloo but he isn't going to light up any offensive scoreboards. A young defenseman that shows promise and can keep improving.
114	Rubins, Kristians	Dec 11/97	Vasteras	SWE-Jr	LD	6.04	203	Big late Birthdate '97 that will end up being over 215 pounds. Not going to wow you but steady and able to keep opponents to the outside. Protects his goalie and will whack guys.
21	Rubstov, German	Jun 27/98	Russia 18	Rus-Jr.	LC	6.02	178	The big Russian Centreman that nobody is really mentioning can play. He is that big Centre that teams covet and he has evolved as a Player and will need a couple years but he will become a 2nd line Centre in the NHL.
168	Saigeon, Brandon	Jun 14/98	Hamilton	OHL	LC	6.01	200	Has had a disappointing start to his Junior career after being a Top 5 OHL Draft pick. He shows flashes of that offensive finish he had as a youngster and he gets to loose pucks with quick feet but his overall skating is just ok. The system in Hamilton didn't help him but he will have a chance to break out this year under Jon Gruden.
183	Salinitri, Anthony	Mar 5/98	Sarnia	OHL	LC	5.10	163	Kid has electric feet and can challenge guys and close their gap quickly but he just doesn't seem to finish enough. He gets a lot of chances but isn't a natural scorer and his defensive game still needs to get better.
48	Sambrook, Jordan	April 11/98	Erie	OHL	RD	6.02	190	All this kid does is go out quietly and play defense and move the puck and help his team win. Not flashy or dynamic but a winner.
179	Sanchez, James	Feb. 25/98	US-U18	NTDP	LW	6.01	185	Another kid that we have had big expectations for that just didn't materialize. HE certainly was overshadowed in Ann Arbor but we still thought he could have worked his way up the lineup. The Michigan recruit will get some time and coaching and we'll see if our early hope is justified.
175	Sarthou, Evan	Sep 24/97	Tri-City	WHL	G	6.01	191	Should be higher on this list because of his natural ability but he has a tendency to give up some bad goals at some bad times. Some of it might be psychologically so he is worth a pick but a smallish goalie with a habit of giving up softies is a bad recipe.

100	Sawchenko, Zach	Dec 30/97	Moose Jaw	WHL	G	6.01	182	Was highly touted as a youngster but his game hasn't become as solid as we thought it would. He doesn't possess incredible size so he has to be quick and display good technique. When he is on, he can be dynamite but he struggled at times
6	Sergachev, Mikhail	Jun 25/98	Windsor	OHL	LD	6.03	207	Tremendous combination of size, skill & nastiness. Very smooth on his edges. Understands the game. Will only get better.
161	Sevigny, Mathieu	Mar 12/98	Drummondville	QMJHL	LW	6.01	181	A kid that had a lot of promise as he was getting into the QMJHL but his game hasn't matured. We saw him work hard but it looks like he thinks he is a scorer but his future is more geared towards playing a 200 foot game.
88	Shvyrev, Igor	Jul 10/98	Magnitigorsk	Rus-Jr.	LC	6.01	194	Came into the year as a prolific scorer but struggled to get points during the season. Slick hands and hard to contain make him intriguing and he does pass the puck very well but its scary unless he comes over in the Import Draft.
55	Sissons, Colby	Jan 15/98	Swift Current	WHL	LD	6.02	174	Big long levers that struggled early. Lacked leg strength but got his confidence as the year progressed. Showed a big improvement from September to March.
83	Smith, Giavani	Feb 27/98	Guelph	OHL	LW	6.02	197	Based on his skill set, he should be a lot higher on our list. Big powerful kid that goes through opponents but at times, he doesn't seem sure of what he is. Should have displayed that toughness that he has and he let the situation in Guelph get to him.
90	Sokolov, Dmitry	Apr 14/98	Sudbury	OHL	RW/L	5.11	221	Sokolov started the year in our Top 5 and dropped into the early 100's at points during the season but he finishes as a 3rd rounder. He scored 30 goals with a bad wing on a bad team. His weight issues concern us but he can fire it better than almost anybody in this Draft. He is a great kid that wants to be a Player but its a risk.
46	Somppi, Otto	Jan 12/98	Halifax	QMJHL	LC	6.01	171	Still needs to fill out but has shown some soft hands. Plays a cerebral game and has good stick skills. Not a power forward but has ability.
171	Soustal, Tomas	Feb. 15/97	Kelowna	WHL	RC	6.02	198	We thought that this was a very shrewd pick by Kelowna in the Import Draft but Soustal still hasn't really adjusted to the game. His work ethic became better as the year progressed but his legs and skates look heavy and he wasn't able to get to the spots that he needed to be. If he comes back to Kelowna, he may have a breakthrough year because he has shown ability but it will be a big year.
137	Spaxman, Ethan	Nov 27/96	Merrimack	NCAA	LD	6.04	197	We are a sucker for big NCAA defensemen that move well and have continued to get better. We understand that he is a 96 but he will become a coveted Free Agent in a couple years if nobody drafts him so we'd advise Teams to get in front of this.
20	Stanley, Logan	May 26/98	Windsor	OHL	LD	6.07	220	At the end of last year, Stanley was the biggest project in all of the game. He had a big summer and allowed himself to be coached up this year and the result has been phenomenal. He has polished up his game and showed enough nastiness to keep opponents on edge. His length makes him hard to get around and he has learned to keep it simple.
73	Steel, Sam	Feb 03/98	Regina	WHL	LC	5.11	177	He has great skills but at his size and strength, we aren't sure he will become an NHL star. Very slick with the puck but had a tough year at times and we need to see him dominate more.

97	Steen, Oskar	Mar 9/98	Farjestad	SWE-Jr	RW	5.09	186	Doesn't look like much of a Player when you first watch him but he grows on you. Very heady kid that thinks the game well and isn't afraid to take a hit despite his size. The kind of kid that winning Teams have on their 3rd and 4th lines.
115	Stillman, Riley	Mar. 9/98	Oshawa	OHL	LD	5.11	193	Everything says this kid shouldn't become an NHL prospect because he isn't big and he isn't overly offensive and he lacks strength but the more you watch him, the more you love what he brings to his team. He will need a lot of time but he thinks the game well and manages the puck very well.
122	Stransky, Simon	Dec 21/97	Prince Albert	WHL	LW	5.11	174	Another kid that has been all over our list but he finishes the year with more question marks than answers. His skill is evident and he can beat guys all over the ice but the effort level and consistency just aren't there.
147	Stukel, Jakob	Mar 6/97	Calgary	WHL	LW	6.00	175	Some of the best feet in the game and uses that speed to beat defenders. His overall game is lacking and he shows poor body language if he doesn't score. He looks like he should be a Junior star with an eye to a Pro career but there are deficiencies.
121	Suthers, Keenan	Apr. 27/98	US-U18	NTDP	LW	6.07	227	Massive kid that leaves you wanting more but that doesn't mean he doesn't have a high ceiling. His skating is better than most give him credit for and although he could dominate physically, that aspect is coming in his game. You are drafting the frame and hoping it develops but there is lots to work with.
170	Svetlakov, Andrei	Apr 6/96	CSKA	Rus-Jr	LC	6.00	200	An average sized Russian with average offensive skills that skates good but not great. Our concern is that the pull of the KHL will be too great for a kid like this because otherwise, he'd be higher but it'll be hard to justify taking him instead of a North American kid. CHL Teams should be aware of him as an Import Draft pick but we haven't been able to determine his contract status.
178	Sylvestre, Gabriel	Jan 22/98	Shawinigan	QMJHL	RD	6.05	190	The big, tall kid from Shawinigan showed us at times that he should become a Draft. Unfortunately, there were other nights when he couldn't handle the speed of the QMJHL. He needs some work but at his size and experience he got this year, he is worth a selection.
25	Thompson, Tage	Oct 30/97	Connecticut	NCAA	RC	6.05	189	Big, deceptive kid that has teams divided. We think he lacks some urgency at times but we can't hide the fact that he played well against men and combines his size with awareness. The ultimate ceiling may not be huge but he will be a good 3rd line Centre.
4	Tkachuk, Matthew	Dec 11/97	London	OHL	LW	6.02	195	Warrior. Goes into the traffic areas. Great ability to pass. Has a scorers sense. Will only get stronger and tougher.
31	Tufte, Riley	Apr 10/98	Fargo	USHL	LW	6.05	205	A difficult read because he so clearly dominated his opposition at times. Showed hands and deftness that you love in a Prospect, especially one that is 6'5. At times, when he couldn't dominate, he got frustrated so his development still has to come but could become the next Blake Wheeler or Hugh Jessiman.
146	Tuulola, Eetu	Mar 17/98	Hameenlinna	Fin-Jr	RW	6.02	222	Tuulola is a thick kid that almost looks heavy but he makes it hard for opposing D. He cycles the puck well and has good stick skills to tip pucks and create offense. His feet are the issue but if he thins out a bit, his feet will improve.
62	Twarynski, Carson	Nov 24/97	Calgary	WHL	LW	6.02	199	Our Scout in Sylvan Lake, Jason Golden, kept telling us about this kid and it took a while to catch on. He plays hard and will separate the man from puck and when he does, he makes plays. Still a little raw but he just kept improving and was very good in the playoffs for Calgary.

129	Vala, Onrej	April 13/98	Kamloops	WHL	RD	6.05	210	The high Import Draft pick to Kamloops took a long time to adapt to the North American game. His overall skill set is something to work with and another year or two in the WHL will only help him.
136	Vehvilainen, Veini	Feb 13/97	JYP	Fin-Jr	G	6.02	183	We advocated for him last year but he went undrafted. Good size and has been taught very well. Might be a bit high for a re-entry goaltender but we don't think anyone should miss him again.
131	Verbeek, Hayden	Oct. 17/97	Sault Ste. Marie	OHL	LC	5.10	180	This kid is one of Seidel's 5 favorite Players. He literally NEVER takes a shift off and although his skills are somewhat limited, he gets every ounce out of his ability. The odds are against him at his size but kids like this find a way.
164	Volcan, Nolan	Jul 4/98	Seattle	WHL	LW	5.10	192	Small guy that works hard to get the puck and when he does, he can make things happen. He throws his body around and will go into traffic but his size will hurt him.
198	Walker, Zach	Aug 2/98	US-U18	NTDP	RW	6.00	200	Played well for the Program at times and was utilized to be a shut down guy at times. Defensively aware and strong for his size.
149	Wells, Dylan	Jan 03/98	Peterborough	OHL	G	6.02	190	Wells was the 1st drafted goalie into the OHL and had a great rookie year. As we headed into the 15/16 season, it was expected that he would carry the mail for the competitive Petes but he just never got the net for any extended time. We saw him play well on occasion but that aggressive, athletic goaltender seemed too passive. He is the kind of kid who might have just had a bad year and in 5 years we can't believe he slipped in the Draft because he is uber-talented.
138	Woll, Joseph	Jul 12/98	US-U18	NTDP	G	6.04	199	Woll has been the next big thing out of the USA in net for a long time but he just hasn't put it together. He has the size and pedigree that all teams are looking for but the weak goals have to stop.
104	Zimmer, Max	Oct 29/97	Chicago	USHL	LW	6.00	182	When I see Max Zimmer, I am constantly reminded of Billy Sweat. They both seem to fly around out of control at times but they put pressure on the opponents on every shift. His overall stick skills and defensive game need to continue to improve but his feet make him a Prospect.

2016 NHL Mock Draft

1. **Toronto**- Auston Mathews – The best Player in the draft who always fills a crucial need down the middle for the franchise. Don't let the hype fool you. It isn't even a consideration for them to take Laine.
2. **Winnipeg**- Patrick Laine – He has all the comfidence and tools that you want I n a scoori ng forwards. He has the best release in the Draft and will score a lot in the NHL.
3. **Columbus** – Logan Brown – If the Blue Jackets don't trade down here, I expect them to go off the board and select Brown. The massive Centreman fills a need and they think he can become a superstar.
4. **Edmonton** – Jesse Puljujarvi – If Puljujarvi falls then they will be in a serious bind because they love him but they need help on the back end. They could select Puljujarvi and look to make a couple deals with current Oilers to help the back end.
5. **Vancouver** – Matthew Tkachuk – The big ornery power forward has shown all year that he will be able to both score and be difficult to play against. Both are traits that the Canucks need.
6. **Calgary** – Mikhail Sergachev – The Flames love his mobility, nastiness and think that once he fills out, he will be a monster to play against. Dubois is in the discussion here but Calgary wants to build up their back end.
7. **Arizona** – Olli Juolevi – The smooth Finn showed on the biggest stages, the WJC's and the Memorial Cup that he can step up and play spectacular. There will be a lot of debate here between him & Chychrun but they'll opt for Juolevi.
8. **Buffalo** – Jakob Chychrun – Tim Murray will sprint to the stage, absorb the applause and quickly announce Jakob Chychrun. The fact he fell a bit is a testament to the guys ahead of him and less of a knock on him.
9. **Montreal** – Pierre Luc Dubois – Montreal won't take him because he is a French-Canadian but instead because he is the best Player left on the board and they can't believe he fell to them.
10. **Colorado** – Alex Nylander – Patrick Roy wants to keep upgrading his skill and this kid has it in spades. He will be fun to watch down the road with Duchesne and MacKinnon.
11. **New Jersey** – Mike McLeod – The Devils have to decide between the smaller but super skilled Clayton Keller or the lightning quick big Centreman in McLeod. They like McLeod's full 200 foot game and they need to get bigger and faster.
12. **Ottawa** – Clayton Keller - The Sens still need to keep selling tickets and putting pucks in the nets and this kid will do both. The fact he falls out of the Top 10 is silly but its based solely on his size.
13. **Carolina** – Julian Gauthier – The Canes want to get bigger and stronger and a few goals won't hurt so this kid fits the bill. His season fell off after the WJC's but there is huge upside here.
14. **Boston** – Jake Bean – The Bruins tried to address some needs up front last year so it makes perfect sense that Bean would be the selection here. He is much closer to the Top 3 D then most give him credit for.

15. **Minnesota** – Tyson Jost – He finished the year playing the best hockey of his career. He is off to school for a couple years but should come out as a stud Centreman for the Wild.
16. **Detroit** – Dante Fabbro – The 2 kids out of the BCHL go back to back as the Wings will take the talented blueliner. Like his buddy Jost, he improved his stock a lot at the Under 18's.
17. **Nashville** – Charlie McAvoy – The Preds go with the next best defender on the board but they would really love to get their hands on Fabbro so look for a deal. If they select here, it'll be McAvoy to replenish the blue line in a few years.
18. **Philadelphia** – Kiefer Bellows – The bloodlines help but this kid had a good year from start to finish. His scoring ability is hard to find and Flyers really like him.
19. **NY Islanders** – Luke Kunin – The star out of Wisconsin has slid under the radar but the Islanders saw him play a lot and he will eventually be a part of that great PP.
20. **Arizona** – Max Jones – The nasty kid that makes life difficult for his opponents showed that he can play too and will be attractive to ride shotgun with some of the Coyotes skill. Logan Stanley is a possibility here too.
21. **Carolina** – German Rubstov – He may not be as big as we all that after measuring in just over 6 feet at the Combine but he can play. He fits into the team that Ron Francis is building.
22. **Winnipeg** – Logan Stanley – The giant defender that can mix it up but also make some plays should add to Winnipeg's back end. He will take a few years but he will become a rock on their blueline.
23. **Florida** – Alex Debrincat – The smallish winger only scores but last time I checked, that was important. He will have some great tools to play with in Florida and continue defying the odds.
24. **Anaheim** – Tage Thompson – The arms race in the West continues to escalate. This monster will need a few years of development but he will be another big piece for the Ducks.
25. **Dallas** – Boris Katchouk - Joe McDonnell knows a player getting better every day and Katchouk is it. He plays with pace and works hard which are traits they love in Dallas.
26. **Washington** – Dennis Cholowski – We aren't as sold as many but some teams, including Washington absolutely love him. If he is here, I think the Caps take him.
27. **Tampa Bay** – Cameron Morrison – The big power forward had a great rookie season in the USHL and will add size and jam to the offense in Tampa.
28. **St**. **Louis** – Brett Howden – He isn't going to bring fans out of their seats but he will become a solid piece to the future of the Blues.
29. **Boston** – Nathan Bastian – I fully expect the LA Kings to trade into the 1st round to take Bastian but if they don't, the Bruins will take this big winger that does everything right.
30. **Toronto** – Cliff Pu – The relationship between London and the Maple Leafs continues. Pu came on more than any Prospect and he can skate and has size so he will fit well into their future.

Category Award Winners

Alexandre Daigle Award - Players who will get Drafted higher than they should (Overrated)

1. Logan Brown
2. Sam Steel
3. Marcus Niemelelainen
4. Dennis Cholowski
5. Vitali Abramov

Jonathon Ericsson Award - Players who will get Drafted lower than they should (Underrated)

1. William Bitten
2. Nathen Bastian
3. Carson Twarynski
4. Clayton Keller
5. Artur Kayumov

Tyler Johnson Award - Small Players that will make a Big Impact

1. Clayton Keller
2. Alex Debrincat
3. Matthew Phillips
4. Adam Fox
5. David Quenneville

Mike Gartner Award - Quickest Feet

1. Jakob Chychrun
2. Michael McLeod
3. Jonathon Dahlin
4. Cliff Pu
5. Max Zimmer

Wayne Gretzky Award Best Vision/IQ

1. Auston Mathews
2. Clayton Keller
3. Olli Juolevi
4. Jesse Puljujarvi
5. Adam Fox

Cam Neely Award – Toughness & Ability Foot Game

1. Max Jones
2. Logan Stanley
3. Giavani Smith
4. Matthew Tkachuk
5. Libor Hajik

Bob Gainey Award – Best 200

1. Nathan Bastian
2. Rasmus Asplund
3. Brett Howden
4. Noah Gregor
5. Connor Bunnaman

Tanner Pearson Award – Best Older Eligible Russian Factor Casualty

1. Yegor Korshkov
2. James McEwen
3. Nikolai Chebykin
4. Steven Falkovsky
5. Jeremy Helvig

Mikhail Grigorenko Award –

1. Michael Berdin
2. Artur Kayumov
3. Yegor Korshkov
4. Oleg Sosunov
5. Mikhail Maltsev

2017 NHL Draft Preliminary Rankings

1. Nolan Patrick; Brandon – Consensus #1 going into the 2016/17 season. Struggled at Memorial Cup
2. Max Gildon; US; NTDP – All kinds of physical tools. Can skate, shoot and play but needs to show it all the time.
3. Gabe Vilardi; Windsor – Big, strong powerful Centreman that will play right into the Memorial Cup.
4. Maxime Comtois; Victoriaville – Good under 18 as an underage to springboard into being the top QMJHL Prospect.
5. Nikita Popugaev; Moose Jaw – Wasn't as good in Moose Jaw this year but wait until he adapts.
6. Owen Tippett; Mississauga – Best shot in the Draft & has quickness to beat guys off the rush.
7. Michael Pastujov; US; NTDP – Not tall but very strong and slick with the puck. Will score a lot next year.
8. Nic Hague; Mississauga – Huge beast that has come out of nowhere & keeps improving. Bomb from the point.
9. Luke Martin; US; NDTP – Big, right shot defenseman that can defend and add to the rush.
10. Adam Thilander; Skelleftea – We like him more than most. Plays a smart game with a lot of upside.
11. Pavel Voronkov; Yekatarinburg – Dynamic offensive Player that should be a very high CHL Import selection.
12. David Farrance; US; NDTP – Smart but smallish defenseman that controls the play with his feet and head.
13. Juso Valimaki; Tri-City – Very steady defender that makes his teammates better. Leader and solid.
14. Jason Robertson; Kingston – Doesn't skate the best but a pure finisher. Great rookie season in Kingston
15. Alexei Lobanov; Bely Medvedi – Big, thick Centreman that can score in the offensive end but plays 200 feet.
16. Matthew Strome; Niagara – Skating still has to pick up but so smart & the bloodlines to help.
17. Urho Vaakanainen; Espoo – Moves well and already plays a heavy game. Will be a CHL Import Draft pick.
18. Brett Davis; Lethbridge – Instinctive Centreman that does everything that a Coach wants.
19. Josh Maniscalsco; US; NTDP – Offensive defenseman that loves to add to the rush or hit the seam pass.
20. Nico Hischier; Bern – Not big but very electric with the puck. Will be a point producer at any level.
21. Klim Kostin; Balashikha – The next big strong Centreman from Russia. Good skills and moves effectively.
22. Kole Lind; Kelowna – Smart 2 way Centreman that should put up big points for Kelowna next year.
23. Kailer Yakamoto; Spokane – Next year's tiny but incredibly skilled small American.
24. Nolan Kneen; Kelowna – Good feet allow him to defend and show very well as an underage.
25. Michael Dipietro; Windsor – Has all of the tools and if he takes the next step, he'll be starting in the Memorial Cup.
26. Sasha Chmelevski; Ottawa – Took him a while to adjust to the OHL & then got traded but has plenty of skill.
27. Scott Reedy; US; NTDP – Tremendous hockey IQ and has some finish to his game & will be showcased.
28. Kaspar Kotkansalo; Espoo – No weaknesses in his game but would benefit from playing in North America.
29. Hayden Davis; Niagara – All of the tools & made huge strides in 2nd half. He'll take the next step.
30. Jaret Anderson-Dolan; Spokane – Almost a late '99, he is quick, smart & will become a bigtime WHL star.

Credits:

Chief Scout

Mark Seidel

Regional Scouts

Jason Golden, Dave Bisson, Mike Lawrence, Tomas Kashtin, Kyle Kosier, Tommy Lange, Domenic Tremblay,

Sakari Veinot, Igor Dorostov, Jiri Slepik, Brandon Stevens