



NEWS RELEASE



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APRIL 8, 2014

NHL RELEASES FINAL RANKINGS FOR 2014 DRAFT

*Bennett Remains Top-Ranked North American Skater, Edging Ekblad, Reinhart and Draisaitl;
Kapanen and Nylander Named Top European Skaters*

TORONTO (April 8, 2014) – Center **Samuel Bennett** of the Ontario Hockey League's Kingston Frontenacs and right wing **Kasper Kapanen** of Finland's Kalpa have been named the top 2014 draft-eligible skaters from North America and Europe, respectively, by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau.

Bennett, a native of Holland Landing, Ont., led the Frontenacs and finished ninth in the OHL with 36-55—91 in 57 games this season. A two-time gold medalist, he was an assistant captain on Canada's gold-medal squad at the 2013 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament and also captured gold as the second-youngest member of Team Canada at the 2013 Under-18 World Championship. Bennett aims to be the sixth OHL player selected first overall in the past eight years, following **Patrick Kane** (2007, London Knights), **Steven Stamkos** (2008, Sarnia Sting), **John Tavares** (2009, London Knights), **Taylor Hall** (2010, Windsor Spitfires) and **Nail Yakupov** (2012, Sarnia Sting).

Kapanen, a 6'0" forward from Kuopio, Finland, recorded 7-7—14 in 47 games with Kalpa of the SM-Liiga during the 2013-14 season. He also finished second among all players with five goals, including the winner in the bronze-medal game against Russia, at the 2013 Under-18 World Championship. The son of former NHLer **Sami**, Kapanen is looking to become the first Finnish-born player selected No. 1 overall in the NHL Draft.

Defenseman **Aaron Ekblad** (Windsor, Ont.), center **Sam Reinhart** (North Vancouver, B.C.), center **Leon Draisaitl** (Cologne, Germany) and left wing **Michael Dal Colle** (Richmond Hill, Ont.) round out the top-five North American skaters. Ekblad, of the Barrie Colts, led all OHL defensemen with 23 goals in 58 games this season. Reinhart, the brother of recent draft picks **Max** and **Griffin** and son of former NHLer **Paul**, posted 105 points in 2013-14, matching Draisaitl for fourth in the Western Hockey League. And Dal Colle recorded 39-56—95 in 67 games to lead the OHL's Oshawa Generals to a first-place finish in the Eastern Conference.

Joining Kapanen among the European skaters is No. 2-ranked center/right wing **William Nylander** (Calgary, Alta.), the son of former NHLer **Michael**. Nylander posted 1-6—7 in 22 games with Modo of the Swedish Hockey League in 2013-14 and also played part of the season with his father on Rogle in Sweden's second division.

Thatcher Demko (San Diego, Calif.), a freshman at Boston College (Hockey East), remains the top-rated North American goaltender. The youngest player in NCAA hockey this season, he compiled a 16-4-3 record with a 2.16 goals-against average and .920 save percentage in 23 appearances with the Eagles. Demko aims to become the highest-drafted, California-born goaltender in NHL history.

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The final rankings feature the top 210 skaters and 30 goaltenders in North America as well as the top 140 skaters and 15 goaltenders from Europe.

The full rankings in all categories are available on NHL.com and media.NHL.com as well as from the NHL's Public Relations Department in Toronto (416-359-7900) and New York (212-789-2000).

In its 39th year of operation, NHL Central Scouting provides evaluation and scouting of draft-eligible players to NHL member clubs. Headed by Director of Central Scouting **Dan Marr**, NHL Central Scouting employs eight full-time and 15 part-time scouts throughout North America. To report on prospects playing in Europe, the NHL employs the services of **Goran Stubb** and his staff of seven scouts at European Scouting Services based in Finland. Combined, NHL Central Scouting and European Scouting Services will see in excess of 3,000 games this season.

The 2014 NHL Draft will be hosted by the Flyers at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia from June 27-28. It will be the first time the city and facility host the NHL Draft.

The 2014 NHL Draft Lottery will take place on Tuesday, April 15, at 8:00 p.m. ET on TSN in Canada and NBCSN in the United States.

Please see the attached for profiles on eight of the top-rated players.

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SAMUEL BENNETT

Kingston Frontenacs • OHL

6'0.25" • 178 lbs. • Center • Shoots: Left

Born June 20, 1996 in Holland Landing, Ont.

Hometown: Holland Landing, Ont.

No. 1-Ranked North American Skater



- Bennett was named the Frontenacs' finalist for the Red Tilson Trophy, awarded to the league's most outstanding player, after a breakout 2013-14 season that saw him lead the team and finish ninth in the OHL with 91 points in 57 games (36-55—91).
- He began 2013-14, his sophomore OHL season, with 20 points (10-10—20) during a season-opening, 10-game point streak.
- Bennett finished the 2012-13 OHL season among the top 10 in rookie scoring (18-22—40 in 60 games), earning second team OHL All-Rookie honors.
- A two-time gold medalist, Bennett was an assistant captain on Canada's gold-medal team at the 2013 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament, scoring the semifinal-winning goal against Russia. He also captured gold as the second-youngest member of Team Canada at the 2013 Under-18 World Championship, registering 2-5—7 in seven games. Bennett earlier represented his country at the 2013 Under-17 World Championship, posting 3-3—6 in five games.
- Bennett wears No. 93 as a tribute to his father's favorite player Doug Gilmour, who also is his general manager in Kingston.
- If he wasn't playing hockey, Bennett would be on the slopes: "I'd probably say something like maybe snowboarding, downhill skiing, something with jumps."

SCOUTING REPORT

NHL Central Scouting's David Gregory:

"He plays the kind of game you think cannot be sustained for a whole season because it's a high-energy game and compete game at all ends of the ice. He ends up playing that game for the whole year and has led his team. He just never stops, and put that with the skill package he has and how well he thinks the game, he's pretty much a top-notch player."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	P	PIM
2013-14	Kingston	OHL	57	36	55	91	118
2012-13	Kingston	OHL	60	18	22	40	87
2011-12	Toronto Marlboros	GTMMHL	37	33	36	69	34

KASPERI KAPANEN

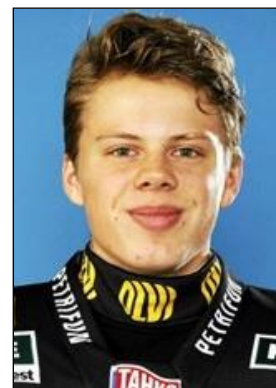
Kalpa • FINLAND

6'0" • 180 lbs. • Right Wing • Shoots: Right

Born July 23, 1996 in Kuopio, Finland

Hometown: Kuopio, Finland

No. 1-Ranked European Skater



- Kapanen has played the past two seasons on the same team as his father, former NHL player Sami, for Kalpa of the Finnish Elite League. Sami was drafted by the Hartford Whalers in the fourth round (87th overall) of the 1995 NHL Draft, and totaled 458 points in 831 games with the Whalers, Carolina Hurricanes and Philadelphia Flyers. "It's pretty incredible. I can't describe what it feels like to see him every day on the ice and be on the ice with him. But when we're on the ice I see him as a teammate, but when we go home and eat dinner I see him as a father."
- Kapanen finished second among all players with five goals, including the game-winner in the bronze-medal game against Russia, at the 2013 Under-18 World Championship in Sochi. He also led Finland with 3-6—9 in five games at the 2013 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. Kapanen was unable to play for Team Finland at the 2014 IIHF World Junior Championship due to injury.
- Kapanen lists Mike Richards, Jeff Carter and Kimmo Timonen as some of his favorite NHL players. All three were teammates of his father during his time in Philadelphia.
- Kapanen's grandfather Hannu Kapanen was a forward for five seasons with Jokerit and HIFK, and also played for Finland at the 1976 Canada Cup and 1976 Olympics.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of European Scouting Goran Stubb:

"He's a good-skating wing and can also play center. He has a smooth and surprisingly fast style that has surprised many unsuspecting defensemen. His tricky puck skills and quick release have paid off in many games and he has good hand-eye coordination. He's not overly physical, but does not shy away from rough situations."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	P	PIM
2013-14	Kalpa	FINLAND	47	7	7	14	10
2012-13	Kalpa	FINLAND	13	4	0	4	2
2012-13	Kalpa U-20	FINLAND-JR.	36	14	15	29	16

THATCHER DEMKO

Boston College Eagles • H-EAST
6'3.75" • 192 lbs. • Goaltender • Catches: Left
Born Dec. 8, 1995 in San Diego, Calif.
Hometown: San Diego, Calif.
No. 1-Ranked North American Goaltender



- Demko has backstopped Boston College to a Frozen Four appearance in his freshman year, posting a 16-4-3 record with a 2.16 goals-against average and .920 save percentage. He stopped 29 shots for the Eagles in their 4-3 victory over UMass Lowell during the NCAA Northeast Regional Final to help them advance to the Frozen Four.
- Internationally, Demko earned a silver medal with Team USA at the 2013 Under-18 World Championship, posting a 3-1-0-3 record in seven games. He also helped the United States to a second-place finish at the 2012 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, leading the tournament with a 1.90 goals-against average and .949 save percentage.
- Demko lists his most memorable hockey moment as beating Russia in a shootout during the semifinals of the Under-18 World Championship in Sochi in front of a crowd of about 10,000.
- Demko played his minor hockey in Southern California with the San Diego Junior Gulls and the Los Angeles Junior Kings. While growing up in San Diego, Demko's passion for hockey was fostered by his father, Brenton, who has a dual U.S. and Canadian citizenship.

SCOUTING REPORT

NHL Central Scouting's Al Jensen:

"He has that NHL pro-type potential. He just looks like a goalie in net. I can see him three or four years down the road becoming a monster in the net, and for any franchise in need of a future top goalie that's what you want. He's big, aggressive and confident, and has remained strong and focused most of the year."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	GAA	MIN	SO	SV%
2013-14	Boston College	H-EAST	23	2.16	1388	2	.920
2012-13	U.S. U-18 NTDP	USHL	45	2.06	2528	6	.911
2011-12	Omaha Lancers	USHL	15	2.87	754	1	.899

AARON EKBLAD

Barrie Colts • OHL

6'3.5" • 216 lbs. • Defense • Shoots: Right

Born Feb. 7, 1996 in Windsor, Ont.

Hometown: Belle River, Ont.

No. 2-Ranked North American Skater



- Ekblad led all OHL defensemen with 23 goals during the 2013-14 season, helping the Colts to a second-place finish in the Central Division.
- Ekblad was granted exceptional player status by Hockey Canada to be eligible for the 2011 OHL Priority Selection as a 15-year-old. He was only the second player in OHL history to be given exceptional player status, following John Tavares in 2005. In his rookie season with Barrie, he recorded 10-19—29 in 63 games to earn OHL Rookie of the Year honors. He also was named to the OHL All-Rookie Team.
- Ekblad finished with 7-10—17 and a plus-11 rating in 22 playoff games in 2012-13, helping Barrie finish first in the Central Division and reach the OHL Final against London.
- He played a top-four role as a 17-year-old on the Canadian defense at the 2014 World Junior Championship, registering 1-1—2 in seven games. Ekblad also has shown leadership on the international stage, captaining Canada to the 2013 Under-18 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament title and serving as captain of Team Ontario at the 2013 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

“He’s smart and an excellent all-round skater for his size. He handles and distributes the puck well in all zones, passes with authority and possesses an accurate shot from the point.”

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	P	PIM
2013-14	Barrie	OHL	58	23	30	53	91
2012-13	Barrie	OHL	54	7	27	34	64
2011-12	Barrie	OHL	63	10	19	29	34

WILLIAM NYLANDER

Modo • SWEDEN

5'11" • 169 lbs. • Center/Right Wing • Shoots: Right

Born May 1, 1996 in Calgary, Alta.

Hometown: Stockholm, Sweden

No. 2-Ranked European Skater



- Nylander is the son of Michael, who played for seven teams during a 920-game, 15-season NHL career. On his father's influence: "He's very influential, he's helped me every day. I played with him last season and he helped me a lot both on and off the ice."
- Nylander had seven points (1-6—7) in 22 games with Modo of the SHL in 2013-14, and played with his father for part of the season when he was loaned to Rogle in Sweden's second division (4-4—8 in 18 games).
- In 2012-13, Nylander led his junior team with 43 points (15-28—43) in 27 regular-season games before joining his father on the club's professional team. As a 16-year-old playing with Sodertalje, Nylander posted 6-3—9 in 28 regular-season and playoff games.
- Nylander won gold with Sweden at the 2013 Under-17 World Championship, leading the tournament with eight assists and finishing tied for second in scoring with 2-8—10 in six games. He also represented his country at the 2013 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament and at the 2013 Under-18 World Junior Championship in Sochi.
- Nylander played minor hockey with Team Maryland of the American Youth Hockey League before joining the Chicago Mission Under-16 team in 2010-11. He posted 34-27—61 in 29 games with Chicago, helping the team to the USA Hockey championship game.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of European Scouting Goran Stubb:

"He's a good, mobile skater with outstanding skills, including smooth hands, vision, puck-handling and shot. He can also set up scoring chances for teammates and can score in many ways from outside or in traffic. He's very competitive and effective on the power play."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	P	PIM
2013-14	MODO	SWEDEN	22	1	6	7	6
2013-14	Sodertalje	SWE-2	17	11	8	19	6
2013-14	Rogle	SWE-2	18	4	4	8	10
2012-13	Sodertalje J20	SWE-JR.	27	15	28	43	14
2012-13	Sodertalje	SWE-2	8	4	2	6	2

SAM REINHART

Kootenay Ice • WHL

6'0.75" • 185 lbs. • Center • Shoots: Right

Born Nov. 6, 1995 in North Vancouver, B.C.

Hometown: Vancouver, B.C.

No. 3-Ranked North American Skater



- Hockey runs in the Reinhart family. Sam's brother Max was selected by the Calgary Flames in the third round (63rd overall) of the 2010 NHL Draft, while his brother Griffin was drafted in the first round (fourth overall) by the New York Islanders in 2012. Their father, Paul, was selected in the first round (12th overall) by the Atlanta Flames in 1979 and played 11 NHL seasons with the Flames and Vancouver Canucks. Sam played alongside Max with the WHL's Kootenay Ice (in 2010-11 and 2011-12) and with Griffin on Team Canada at the 2014 World Junior Championship.
- Reinhart led the Ice with 105 points (36-69—105) in 60 games during the 2013-14 season, tying for fourth overall in the WHL with Leon Draisaitl of the Prince Albert Raiders. In Kootenay's first-round victory over the Calgary Hitmen, Reinhart posted 5-12—17 in the six-game series.
- In his WHL rookie season of 2011-12, Reinhart was the second-leading scorer for Kootenay (28-34—62), earning the WHL's Rookie of the Year award. In 2012-13, his second full season with the Ice, Reinhart led the team in scoring (35-50—85) and was named to the WHL (East) Second All-Star Team.
- Reinhart captained Canada's gold medal-winning teams at both the 2012 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament (3-5—8 in five games) and the 2013 Under-18 World Junior Championship (3-4—7 in seven games).
- He wears jersey No. 23, the same number that his father wore in the NHL.

SCOUTING REPORT

Director of NHL Central Scouting Dan Marr:

"Exceptional player with the puck, his offensive hockey sense is off the charts with his vision and playmaking. A good skater whose top-end speed can still improve. A responsible player who quietly leads his team."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	P	PIM
2013-14	Kootenay	WHL	60	36	69	105	11
2012-13	Kootenay	WHL	72	35	50	85	22
2011-12	Kootenay	WHL	67	28	34	62	2

LEON DRAISAITL

Prince Albert Raiders • WHL
6'1.5" • 204 lbs. • Center • Shoots: Left
Born Oct. 27, 1995 in Cologne, Germany
Hometown: Cologne, Germany
No. 4-Ranked North American Skater



- Draisaitl's father, Peter, was a Czech-born, German professional hockey player who participated in numerous international tournaments for Germany as a member of their men's national team, including the 1988, 1992 and 1998 Olympic Winter Games. Peter also has coached professionally in both Germany and the Czech Republic.
- Draisaitl led the Raiders in scoring during the 2013-14 season, totaling 105 points (38-67—105) in 64 games. He also was named the WHL Player of the Month for March after recording nine goals and 10 assists as well as a +12 rating in eight regular-season games.
- In 2012-13, his first season in North America, Draisaitl was the second-leading scorer for Prince Albert with 21-37—58 in 64 games.
- Draisaitl has represented Germany internationally at the junior level, most recently at the 2014 World Junior Championship, where he finished second on the team with six points (2-4—6) in six games. He also led the tournament with 52 penalty minutes.
- Growing up in Cologne, Germany, Draisaitl idolized fellow countrymen Marco Sturm and Jochen Hecht.

SCOUTING REPORT

NHL Central Scouting's B.J. MacDonald:

"He's the best prospect I've seen from this draft class at protecting and handling the puck; he's very Jaromir Jagr-esque. He protects the puck, makes those button hooks and hits guys coming in late. He'll hold onto that puck until he sees the right play to make. He has a great wrist shot and good snap shot, and can surprise a lot of goalies with it."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	P	PIM
2013-14	Prince Albert	WHL	64	38	67	105	24
2012-13	Prince Albert	WHL	64	21	37	58	22
2011-12	Mannheim-Jr	GERMANY-JR	35	21	35	56	39

MICHAEL DAL COLLE

Oshawa Generals • OHL
6'1.5" • 182 lbs. • Left Wing • Shoots: Left
Born June 20, 1996 in Richmond Hill, Ont.
Hometown: Woodbridge, Ont.
No. 5-Ranked North American Skater



- Dal Colle finished the 2013-14 regular season with 95 points (39-56—95) in 67 games to lead the Generals to first place in the Eastern Conference. He began the season with seven points (4-3—7) in Oshawa's opening two games to earn CHL Player of the Week honors.
- Dal Colle was picked seventh overall in the 2012 OHL Priority Selection and earned first-team OHL All-Rookie honors in 2012-13 after finishing fifth in rookie scoring with 48 points (15-33—48) in 63 games. He also recorded a plus-19 rating, third among first-year skaters, and was one of six finalists for the league's Rookie of the Year award.
- Dal Colle represented Canada at the 2013 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament, finishing with 2-2—4 in five games, including the winning goal in a 4-0 victory over the United States in the gold-medal game. He also represented his country at the 2013 Under-17 World Championship, posting 2-4—6 in five games.
- His role model is his older brother, Jonluca, who is autistic. His hero is his mom, Wendy, who seven years ago was diagnosed with breast cancer but fought and has been cleared since 2009.
- Dal Colle says his favorite NHL player is Evgeni Malkin, but he aims to model his game after Eric Staal: "I think I play more of an Eric Staal-type of game, but I really like Malkin and the way he plays. He's a good two-way player, but he's good offensively."

SCOUTING REPORT

NHL Central Scouting's Chris Edwards:

"I think the comparison with Eric Staal is a good one, although [Dal Colle] doesn't take many face-offs. He quietly goes about his business, is not flashy but always good. He kills penalties and plays the point on the power play. Dal Colle is a versatile guy. He's fluid and capable of scoring big goals. He's going to be a really good pro."

STATISTICS

SEASON	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	P	PIM
2013-14	Oshawa	OHL	67	39	56	95	34
2012-13	Oshawa	OHL	63	15	33	48	18