



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

The News & Observer

Seattle Kraken select forward Morgan Geekie from Hurricanes in expansion draft

By Chip Alexander

Morgan Geekie is headed to Seattle.

The Carolina Hurricanes forward was selected Wednesday by the Seattle Kraken, the NHL's newest team, in the expansion draft.

The Kraken, who begin play in the 2021-22 season, stocked their new roster in Wednesday's draft, taking one player from each NHL team except the Vegas Golden Knights, who entered the league in 2017 as an expansion team. It was a gala affair in Seattle, with several celebrities helping announce the draft picks.

"You are ready for NHL hockey," commissioner Gary Bettman told a large, loud crowd gathered at Gas Works Park. "These players will forever be known as the original Seattle Kraken, your Seattle Kraken."

The Kraken hope to follow the lead of the Golden Knights, who took advantage of the expansion draft to piece together a team competitive from the start. The Golden Knights reached the Stanley Cup finals in 2018. It was noted that season tickets for the inaugural season were sold out in 12 minutes, a testament to the support the new team will have.

A lot of the focus the past few days has been on Canes forward Nino Niederreiter and defenseman Jake Bean, who were left unprotected for the expansion draft by Carolina, giving the Kraken the option of taking a 20-goal scorer in Niederreiter or a 23-year-old D-man in Bean, a former first-round pick by the Canes.

There also was speculation before Wednesday that the Kraken might take defenseman Dougie Hamilton, soon to be an unrestricted free agent, as their Canes pick. The Kraken could still pursue Hamilton as a free-agent signing if he's not re-signed by the Canes before July 28, when free agency begins.

The Kraken turned in their list of draft selections to the league Wednesday morning. The media leaks soon began, and by 8 p.m. most of the Kraken's picks — including Geekie from the Canes — had been revealed in media reports and discussed on social media.

Geekie, 23, recently signed a one-year, two-way contract with Carolina that will pay him \$750,000 at the NHL level in 2021-22. A native of Strathclair, Manitoba, he was a third-round draft pick — the 67th overall selection — by Carolina in 2017.

Geekie's coming off an indifferent 2020-21 season with the Canes in which he played 36 games, mostly on the fourth line, and finished with three goals and nine assists.

Geekie was used in the Canes' lineup in three of the Stanley Cup playoff games against the Tampa Bay Lightning, averaging about seven minutes of ice time.

Geekie's most memorable moments with the Canes came when he made his NHL debut in the 2019-20 season. He had two goals and an assist in a Match 8, 2020 game against Pittsburgh, then scored again two nights later in a road game against Detroit.

The pandemic soon put an end to the 2019-20 regular season. When play resumed in August 2020, Geekie was a nonfactor in the playoffs in the Toronto bubble. He had one assist in eight games.

Geekie will be remembered for one of the most memorable quotes of the 2020-21 season that quickly went viral. On a media zoom call on April 29, he was asked how quickly he's able to handle losses and begin concentrating on the next game.

"If we stick to our game, at the end of the day you can't out-pizza the Hut, you know what I mean?" he said.

Full Seattle Kraken Expansion Draft list

Anaheim Ducks: Haydn Fleury, D

Arizona Coyotes: Tyler Pitlick, C

Boston Bruins: Jeremy Lauzon, D

Buffalo Sabres: William Borgen, D

Carolina Hurricanes: Morgan Geekie, C

Calgary Flames: Mark Giordano, D

Chicago Blackhawks: John Quenneville, C

Columbus Blue Jackets: Gavin Bayreuther, D

Colorado Avalanche: Joonas Donskoi, RW

Dallas Stars: Jamie Oleksiak, D

Detroit Red Wings: Dennis Cholowski, D

Edmonton Oilers: Adam Larsson, D

Florida Panthers: Chris Driedger, G

Los Angeles Kings: Kurtis MacDermid, D

Minnesota Wild: Carson Soucy, D

Montreal Canadiens: Cale Fleury, D

Nashville Predators: Calle Jarnkrok, C

New Jersey Devils: Nathan Bastian, RW

New York Islanders: Jordan Eberle, RW

New York Rangers: Colin Blackwell, C

Ottawa Senators: Joey Daccord, G

Philadelphia Flyers: Carsen Twarynski, LW

Pittsburgh Penguins: Brandon Tanev, LW



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

St. Louis Blues: Vince Dunn, D

San Jose Sharks: Alexander True, C

Tampa Bay Lightning: Yanni Gourde, C

Toronto Maple Leafs: Jared McCann, C

Vancouver Canucks: Kole Lind, RW

Washington Capitals: Vitek Vanecek, G

Winnipeg Jets: Mason Appleton, C

The Athletic

Morgan Geekie over Jake Bean? Rationalizing the Kraken's surprise expansion draft pick from the Hurricanes

By Sara Civian

We'd been expecting the Kraken to snag young defenseman Jake Bean from the Hurricanes in Wednesday's expansion draft, and we sat through rumors that they could go after unrestricted free agent Dougie Hamilton trying not to overthink it.

Then The Athletic's Pierre LeBrun reported on Wednesday morning that the Kraken had indeed had talks with Hamilton's camp but that they ultimately did not lead to a contract.

Then LeBrun reported that Seattle was passing on Bean and that general manager Ron Francis instead had chosen a different one of his former Hurricanes draft picks, forward Morgan Geekie.

Not that they needed to, but multiple sources have since confirmed this report. And while the expectation around the league is that there are plenty of side deals to come, my indication from within the Hurricanes organization is that they were not involved in any side deals relating to Geekie's selection.

Setting the Kraken's point of view aside for a moment — and no offense to Bean — but is it really worth losing another player and/or a first-round draft pick to make sure the Kraken don't select him? I'd bet if there were a side deal involving the Canes it would've been trying to convince the Kraken to take Jake Gardiner's contract off their hands.

So ... Seattle gets a freshly turned 23-year-old Geekie, who can play the center or the wing and excel on the fourth line or hold his own on the third. He's a solid pickup. He's young, full of potential, has a good attitude and is cheap. He's had six goals and 13 points in 38 regular-season games in his career, and he didn't look out of place at all in three playoff games this past season.

But it was a diversion from what was expected to happen. And again, though it doesn't necessarily mean there won't be any trades involving the Kraken and the Hurricanes in the near future, no side deals were involved in the Kraken selecting Geekie.

What gives?

The Kraken picking Geekie over Bean comes as a bit of surprise at first blush, but that's because we're looking at it through the lens of the Hurricanes. We speculated there might've been a side deal involved because that's who this benefits. With Hamilton's future in question and much of the once-stocked blue line traded away, the Canes would've had to find a replacement for a roster hole if Bean left.

Geekie has a lot of potential and is already reliable in a fourth-line role, but the Canes' bottom six is their most recently clogged area. Losing Geekie doesn't mean they'll need to outsource a replacement the way losing Bean would. There's an updated depth chart to come, but someone like Steven Lorentz or even up-and-comer Ryan Suzuki will have no problem replacing Geekie on the Hurricanes' fourth line.

So, what was in it for the Kraken, other than Geekie's potential?

1. A few days before submitting their protected list, the Canes re-signed Geekie to a one-year, two-way contract worth \$750,000 at the NHL level and \$75,000 at the AHL level with a \$125,000 guarantee. The Kraken would still have to negotiate with Bean, and it's likely his contract will be longer and/or a bit more expensive. A low-commitment, two-way contract is gold for a cap-savvy expansion draft GM.

2. While there will surely still be a few exciting side deals revealed later, center depth is clearly a glaring issue in this expansion draft pool.

3. Seattle's defense, on the other hand, looks much stronger on paper, with Mark Giordano, Vince Dunn, Jamie Oleksiak, Adam Larsson and Haydn Fleury among the picks.

Geekie was a surprise pickup, for sure, and surprisingly gentle on the Canes' depth chart. We'll know more about how it fits into any future Kraken maneuvering in the days and weeks that come, but for the Hurricanes, it looks like a standalone.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021



Kraken select Hurricanes' Morgan Geekie in expansion draft

Seattle, the NHL's 32nd team, will officially unveil its selections Wednesday night at 8 p.m.

By Cory Lavalette

The official reveal won't come until 8 p.m., but there won't be much left to unveil when ESPN hosts the Seattle Kraken's expansion draft picks Wednesday night.

Word of which players have been selected by the league's 32nd team leaked all afternoon, and despite speculation that the Kraken would likely select defenseman Jake Bean from the Carolina Hurricanes, it was instead forward Morgan Geekie who will head to the Pacific Northwest for the team's inaugural season, according to a team source. The news was first reported by DailyFaceoff.com's Frank Seravalli.

Geekie, taken in the third round of the 2017 draft when Seattle GM Ron Francis was running the Hurricanes, has six goals and seven assists for 13 points in 38 regular season games and totaled one assist in 11 career playoff games. He played his junior hockey in Washington state for the Tri-City Americans in Kennewick, about 3 1/2 hours from inland from coastal Seattle.

It's unclear if the Hurricanes made any kind of side deal with the Kraken to influence their selection — any trades cannot be announced until Thursday at 1 p.m. after the league's trade freeze has been lifted — but the decision leaves Carolina with more certainty on defense but less at forward.

The Hurricanes currently have five defenseman with significant NHL experience — Bean (a first-round pick by Francis in 2016), Jake Gardiner, Brett Pesce, Brady Skjei and Jaccob Slavin — for next season, though Bean is a restricted free agent and Gardiner's health is in question.

While Carolina has plenty of top-six forwards under contract for next season, the loss of Geekie further diminishes the team's depth in its bottom six. Jordan Martinook, Brock McGinn and Cedric Paquette are all unrestricted free agents, and Warren Foegele — a restricted free agent — has been in trade rumors this offseason.

The Hurricanes could attempt to re-sign any of those three UFAs, and they also have a few prospects who could compete for jobs — David Cotton, Jack Drury and two past first-round picks, Ryan Suzuki and Seth Jarvis are just a handful of players who could crack the NHL roster next year.



Geekie Selected by Seattle in Expansion Draft

Forward taken by Kraken

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Kraken have selected Carolina Hurricanes forward Morgan Geekie in the 2021 NHL Expansion Draft.

Geekie, 23, recorded six goals and seven assists in 38 career regular season games for the Hurricanes. Originally selected by Carolina in the Third Round of the 2017 Entry Draft, the Strathclair, Manitoba native made his NHL debut on March 8, 2020 with a two-goal, three-point performance in

Pittsburgh, and followed that outing with a goal in his second career game before the NHL season paused.

"We wish Morgan the best as he joins the Kraken," Hurricanes President and General Manager Don Waddell said. "He's a hard worker with a great attitude and has a bright future in this league."

Geekie also helped lead the AHL's Charlotte Checkers to the 2019 Calder Cup after scoring 22 goals and tallying 20 assists in 55 regular-season games.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021



SB NATION
CANES COUNTRY

Hurricanes draft profiles: Looking past the first round

The 2021 NHL draft is keeping everyone guessing. Here are a few players who could be available to the Hurricanes outside of the first round.

By Sarah.A

The 2021 NHL Draft may be one of the hardest drafts in recent history to really get a feel for in terms of prospect rankings. With many prospects playing limited amounts of games, if not having their seasons cancelled entirely, there's very little agreement among experts in terms of draft rankings, outside of the top two or three players. It's anyone's guess as to who may be available for the Hurricanes outside of the first round, but here are a few names projected to fall later in the draft who you should keep an eye on.

Scott Morrow

Defense, University of Massachusetts
2020-21 Stats: 30 games played, 8 goals, 40 assists
(Shattuck St. Mary's)

Morrow is a 6-foot-2 defenseman with a penchant for jumping up into the play, fooling opposing defenders with his deceptive playmaking and for making creative plays to teammates. He also has a penchant for clearly taking shifts off, getting visibly frustrated when the game isn't going his way and overall displaying low on-ice energy at times. He's an intriguing prospect because of the offensive side of his game, and how clearly he was able to dominate at the high school/prep level, but it's unclear so far as to how he will adapt to tougher competition.

At his best, Morrow makes opposing players look silly as he steals pucks and races off for highlight reel goals. At his worst, he looks disengaged and out of sync with his teammates. Morrow is committed to UMass, where he will have the opportunity to mature as a player and develop his game. His creative, offensive upside makes it easy to see why he's worth a pick in the draft, particularly if you can afford to be patient with his development. Morrow is ranked anywhere between 27th (Dobber Prospects) and 80th (FCHockey),

Ryan Ufko

Defense, Chicago Steel (USHL)
2020-21 Stats: 53 games played, 10 goals, 29 assists

With the powerhouse Chicago Steel, Ufko is developing into a two-way defenseman, dangerous on either side of the puck. His offense exploded recently, as he went from nine total points in 43 games in 2019-20, to 39 points in 53 games in 2020-21, plus seven points in eight playoff games en route to capturing the Clark Cup with the Steel. Ufko falls into the undersized defenseman category, listed at 5'10", but despite

his size, he wins his fair share of battles along the boards and can protect the puck well from opposing players. Next season will be a big test for Ufko to see if he can continue the upward trajectory in his development. Like many young, smaller players, Ufko could stand to gain some strength/weight as he progresses in his career. Ufko is also committed to UMass, but intends to play one more season in the USHL before heading off to college. Ufko is ranked anywhere between 50th (The Puck Authority) and 90th (TSN/Bob McKenzie).

Colton Dach

Forward, Saskatoon Blades (WHL)
2020-21 Stats: 20 games played, 11 goals, 9 assists

Like his older brother Kirby, Colton Dach is already a big guy, standing at 6-foot-4. Both Dachs are known as forwards who can play in all three zones, with Colton having a bit more grit to his game than Kirby. The biggest limitation in Dach's game is his speed, which keeps him from truly projecting out as a top-six NHL forward. He's played as a center in the WHL but could easily be shifted to wing and would excel at a role where he's expected to provide a lot of net-front presence. Dach's shooting ability is excellent, with Elite Prospects describing him as being one of the better shooters in the draft. Despite just playing 20 games this season thanks to the shortened WHL schedule, Dach's performance gathered enough attention from scouts to push him up the draft board. Initially projected as a late draft pick, Dach has mostly recently been ranked anywhere from 50th (Draft Prospects Hockey) to 95th (FCHockey).

Connor Lockhart

Center, Erie Otters (OHL)
2020-21 Stats: Did not play
2019-20 Stats: 57 games played, 9 goals, 18 assists

One of the most challenging aspects of this year's draft is deciding what to do about players who were unable to play in 2020-21. This largely impacts OHL players, who were unable to have any sort of season. If players were unable to go to Europe, get the attention of their national team, or find a showcase to play in, then they were left behind their peers who may have had more opportunities. This is the category Lockhart finds himself in. Lockhart is creative offensively, great at creating space for his teammates to make plays, and isn't afraid to play with a little bit of physicality. There's just no way to know how he's improved his game since his first OHL season, but what we saw in 2019-20 makes him an intriguing player to spend a late draft pick on. Due to the uncertainty around where he is in his development, Lockhart has been ranked from 58th (FCHockey) to 114th (McKeen's), in addition to being unranked by several other draft analysts.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

Kraken to Select Morgan Geekie from Hurricanes in Expansion Draft

According to multiple reports, the Kraken selected Morgan Geekie from the Hurricanes in the Expansion Draft, a move that will be made official tonight.

By Brett Finger

Update: The pick is officially in, and the Kraken did indeed select Geekie.

We didn't have to actually wait until tonight's NHL Expansion Draft coverage to learn... well... every single pick that the Seattle Kraken organization was going to make.

Amidst the spree of leaked expansion draft picks late this morning into the early afternoon, Frank Seravalli of Daily Faceoff reported that the Kraken selected forward Morgan Geekie in the Expansion Draft, passing on the likes Jake Bean and Nino Niederreiter in the process.

This report was confirmed by Sara Civian and Pierre LeBrun of The Athletic. Civian added that no side-deal was struck between the teams. It was a clean, no-strings-attached selection.

This selection came as a bit of a surprise. Most people expected the Kraken to choose Bean, the young offensive defenseman that Seattle general manager Ron Francis selected in the first round of the 2016 NHL Draft. Francis also selected Geekie, at the 2017 NHL Draft, his last draft as GM of the Carolina Hurricanes.

Geekie, 23, turned pro ahead of the 2018-19 season and instantly became an impact player for the Charlotte Checkers in the AHL before making his NHL debut in 2020 and becoming a full-time NHL roster player in 2021. In 38 career NHL regular-season games, he has scored six goals and has 13 total points while primarily skating in Carolina's bottom

six. He also appeared in three 2021 playoff games against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The restricted free agent was signed by the Canes to a one-year, two-way contract extension last week.

For the Hurricanes, this is an outcome that shouldn't move the needle much. Over the last several drafts, the organization has made drafting forwards a priority, and as a result, their pipeline has skewed away from higher-upside defensemen. The hope here is that guys like Seth Jarvis, Jack Drury, and Ryan Suzuki, among others, are on the horizon as guys who could come up and fill roles as young, inexpensive NHLers to fill out a competitive roster.

The same can't be said about the blue line. While I have plenty of reservations about Bean, losing him for nothing would have been a more detrimental outcome for the team given how their roster is currently constructed. There simply isn't as much defensive depth within the organization.

They also avoided losing an impact top-nine forward like Niederreiter, who has a year remaining on his contract and is coming off of a 20-goal campaign in the shortened NHL regular season.

While Bean remains on the team, for the time being, his future with the club is still unclear. He is an RFA and had some very noticeable rough patches in his partial rookie season in the NHL. Only time will tell if he sticks as a part of this blue line or if he plays his hockey elsewhere, but the Canes now aren't in jeopardy of losing a potentially valuable asset at a position of growing weakness for nothing.

The Seattle Expansion Draft selections will be made official during tonight's coverage on ESPN2.



Wolves host IceHogs Oct. 16

The Chicago Wolves will face the Rockford IceHogs on Saturday, Oct. 16, in the American Hockey League team's 2021-22 home opener at Allstate Arena.

This marks just the second time these fierce in-state rivals will meet in the Wolves' home opener. Chicago earned a 1-0 shootout win over Rockford on Oct. 13, 2012, in front of 14,505 fans in Rosemont.

The Wolves and the IceHogs, whose arenas are located just 74 miles apart, boast one of the most competitive rivalries in professional sports. Since the franchises' inaugural battle on

Oct. 19, 2007, the Wolves have earned 79 regular-season wins compared to the IceHogs' 77.

The rest of the Wolves' 76-game schedule will be released shortly. Led by head coach Ryan Warsofsky, the Wolves are seeking to defend their Central Division title while shooting for the organization's fifth league championship.

To learn more about the Wolves' customized ticket plans — everything from The First Five Mini-Plan to Alpha Wolf season-ticket packages to tailor-made group outings — click here or call 1-800-THE-WOLVES.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

TODAY'S LINKS

- <https://www.newsobserver.com/sports/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/article252922998.html>
- <https://theathletic.com/2720718/2021/07/21/morgan-geekie-over-jake-bean-rationalizing-the-krakens-surprise-expansion-draft-pick-from-the-hurricanes/>
- <https://nsjonline.com/article/2021/07/kraken-select-hurricanes-morgan-geekie-in-expansion-draft/>
- <https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/geekie-selected-by-seattle-in-expansion-draft/c-325718642>
- <https://www.canescountry.com/2021/7/21/22586375/carolina-hurricanes-draft-profiles-looking-past-the-first-round-dach-ufko-morrow-lockhart>
- <https://www.canescountry.com/2021/7/21/22587315/report-seattle-kraken-select-morgan-geekie-from-carolina-hurricanes-expansion-draft-nhl-rumors-bean>
- <https://www.chicagowolves.com/2021/07/21/wolves-host-icehogs-oct-16/>

SportScan

Articles from outlets covering the Hurricanes' upcoming opponents and league-wide news

1190645 Carolina Hurricanes

Seattle Kraken select forward Morgan Geekie from Hurricanes in expansion draft

BY CHIP ALEXANDER

Morgan Geekie is headed to Seattle.

The Carolina Hurricanes forward was selected Wednesday by the Seattle Kraken, the NHL's newest team, in the expansion draft.

The Kraken, who begin play in the 2021-22 season, stocked their new roster in Wednesday's draft, taking one player from each NHL team except the Vegas Golden Knights, who entered the league in 2017 as an expansion team. It was a gala affair in Seattle, with several celebrities helping announce the draft picks.

"You are ready for NHL hockey," commissioner Gary Bettman told a large, loud crowd gathered at Gas Works Park. "These players will forever be known as the original Seattle Kraken, your Seattle Kraken."

The Kraken hope to follow the lead of the Golden Knights, who took advantage of the expansion draft to piece together a team competitive from the start. The Golden Knights reached the Stanley Cup finals in 2018. It was noted that season tickets for the inaugural season were sold out in 12 minutes, a testament to the support the new team will have.

A lot of the focus the past few days has been on Canes forward Nino Niederreiter and defenseman Jake Bean, who were left unprotected for the expansion draft by Carolina, giving the Kraken the option of taking a 20-goal scorer in Niederreiter or a 23-year-old D-man in Bean, a former first-round pick by the Canes.

There also was speculation before Wednesday that the Kraken might take defenseman Dougie Hamilton, soon to be an unrestricted free agent, as their Canes pick. The Kraken could still pursue Hamilton as a free-agent signing if he's not re-signed by the Canes before July 28, when free agency begins.

The Kraken turned in their list of draft selections to the league Wednesday morning. The media leaks soon began, and by 8 p.m. most

of the Kraken's picks — including Geekie from the Canes — had been revealed in media reports and discussed on social media.

Geekie, 23, recently signed a one-year, two-way contract with Carolina that will pay him \$750,000 at the NHL level in 2021-22. A native of Strathclair, Manitoba, he was a third-round draft pick — the 67th overall selection — by Carolina in 2017.

Geekie's coming off an indifferent 2020-21 season with the Canes in which he played 36 games, mostly on the fourth line, and finished with three goals and nine assists.

Geekie was used in the Canes' lineup in three of the Stanley Cup playoff games against the Tampa Bay Lightning, averaging about seven minutes of ice time.

Geekie's most memorable moments with the Canes came when he made his NHL debut in the 2019-20 season. He had two goals and an assist in a Match 8, 2020 game against Pittsburgh, then scored again two nights later in a road game against Detroit.

The pandemic soon put an end to the 2019-20 regular season. When play resumed in August 2020, Geekie was a nonfactor in the playoffs in the Toronto bubble. He had one assist in eight games.

Geekie will be remembered for one of the most memorable quotes of the 2020-21 season that quickly went viral. On a media zoom call on April 29, he was asked how quickly he's able to handle losses and begin concentrating on the next game.

"If we stick to our game, at the end of the day you can't out-pizza the Hut, you know what I mean?" he said.

News Observer LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190646 Carolina Hurricanes

Morgan Geekie over Jake Bean? Rationalizing the Kraken's surprise expansion draft pick from the Hurricanes

By Sara Civian Jul 21, 2021

We'd been expecting the Kraken to snag young defenseman Jake Bean from the Hurricanes in Wednesday's expansion draft, and we sat through



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

rumors that they could go after unrestricted free agent Dougie Hamilton trying not to overthink it.

Then The Athletic's Pierre LeBrun reported on Wednesday morning that the Kraken had indeed had talks with Hamilton's camp but that they ultimately did not lead to a contract.

Then LeBrun reported that Seattle was passing on Bean and that general manager Ron Francis instead had chosen a different one of his former Hurricanes draft picks, forward Morgan Geekie.

Not that they needed to, but multiple sources have since confirmed this report. And while the expectation around the league is that there are plenty of side deals to come, my indication from within the Hurricanes organization is that they were not involved in any side deals relating to Geekie's selection.

Setting the Kraken's point of view aside for a moment — and no offense to Bean — but is it really worth losing another player and/or a first-round draft pick to make sure the Kraken don't select him? I'd bet if there were a side deal involving the Canes it would've been trying to convince the Kraken to take Jake Gardiner's contract off their hands.

So ... Seattle gets a freshly turned 23-year-old Geekie, who can play the center or the wing and excel on the fourth line or hold his own on the third. He's a solid pickup. He's young, full of potential, has a good attitude and is cheap. He's had six goals and 13 points in 38 regular-season games in his career, and he didn't look out of place at all in three playoff games this past season.

But it was a diversion from what was expected to happen. And again, though it doesn't necessarily mean there won't be any trades involving the Kraken and the Hurricanes in the near future, no side deals were involved in the Kraken selecting Geekie.

What gives?

The Kraken picking Geekie over Bean comes as a bit of surprise at first blush, but that's because we're looking at it through the lens of the Hurricanes. We speculated there might've been a side deal involved because that's who this benefits. With Hamilton's future in question and much of the once-stocked blue line traded away, the Canes would've had to find a replacement for a roster hole if Bean left.

Geekie has a lot of potential and is already reliable in a fourth-line role, but the Canes' bottom six is their most recently clogged area. Losing Geekie doesn't mean they'll need to outsource a replacement the way losing Bean would. There's an updated depth chart to come, but someone like Steven Lorentz or even up-and-comer Ryan Suzuki will have no problem replacing Geekie on the Hurricanes' fourth line.

So, what was in it for the Kraken, other than Geekie's potential?

1. A few days before submitting their protected list, the Canes re-signed Geekie to a one-year, two-way contract worth \$750,000 at the NHL level and \$75,000 at the AHL level with a \$125,000 guarantee. The Kraken would still have to negotiate with Bean, and it's likely his contract will be longer and/or a bit more expensive. A low-commitment, two-way contract is gold for a cap-savvy expansion draft GM.
2. While there will surely still be a few exciting side deals revealed later, center depth is clearly a glaring issue in this expansion draft pool.
3. Seattle's defense, on the other hand, looks much stronger on paper, with Mark Giordano, Vince Dunn, Jamie Oleksiak, Adam Larsson and Haydn Fleury among the picks.

Geekie was a surprise pickup, for sure, and surprisingly gentle on the Canes' depth chart. We'll know more about how it fits into any future Kraken maneuvering in the days and weeks that come, but for the Hurricanes, it looks like a standalone.

The Athletic LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190794

Websites

The Athletic / NHL Draft prospect Brennan Othmann is a goal scorer and 'ultra-high achiever' in pursuit of his hockey dream

By Scott Wheeler Jul 21, 2021

TORONTO — Those who know Brennan Othmann, NHL Central Scouting's eighth-ranked North American skater for the 2021 NHL Draft, all have the same thing to say about him.

He cares. A lot.

And they don't say it in cliched terms that parrot lines about work ethic and effort. He cares in the obsessive, need-to-be-better, fix-every-deficiency kind of way, they'll tell you.

If you ask around, you'll hear other things about him, too. Like that he's one of the 2021 draft class' best scorers. But everyone always comes back to the way he has immersed himself in the pursuit of his NHL dream.

Some describe it as a blessing, the kind of feverishness that they wish everyone had.

"I think he can get in his head but at the same time that's what makes him who he is. Sometimes caring too much can lead to getting in your own head a little bit but I've been working with him for many years now and I think that's a good problem to have," said Power Edge Pro skills coach Nick Quinn. "Every time he makes a mistake in PEP, he gets frustrated. And some guys don't care. I've said this to multiple people over the years but I think he has come a long ways over the years in that regard. He has improved the mental side of his game."

Others view it as both a blessing and a curse.

"The best way I can classify him is as an ultra-high achiever with ultra hypersensitivity. He's very aware of if he's not attaining his goals or he's not on the right path or other players are playing better than him. And having those things in your mind, it's just natural that you're hard on yourself. That's an area of improvement in my estimation," said Eric Wellwood, who coached Othmann in his rookie season with the Flint Firebirds in the OHL in 2019-2020.

But standing inside Toronto's Westwood Arena before one of those Power Edge Pro skates on a morning in July, Othmann knows that everything he's done, everything he has obsessed over, has brought him to this point.

And this point, is a likely first-round selection in the NHL Draft.

Growing up, Othmann was always judged relative to his minor hockey teammate and best friend, Shane Wright.

On that July morning in that Toronto arena, they're reunited at the rink for a skills session with a group of other top NHL prospects, and they spend their morning laughing and making plans for after the skate.

Wright was the titanic Don Mills Flyers' sensation who eventually got exceptional status into the OHL at 15 and is the front runner for No. 1 pick the 2022 NHL Draft.

Though Othmann was a star in his own right and the second pick in the 2019 OHL draft (immediately after Wright), he was always also Wright's wingman, a role that those who know him say motivated him in a big way.

At 13, Othmann had already set his sights on the NHL and began working with Bryan Knipe, a strength and conditioning coach, as his trainer.

In the five years since, he and Knipe have trained one-on-one, instead of in the larger groups that are typical, for two reasons.

The first, is the needs-specific training that Knipe can give him in that setting.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

"I always get 'why aren't you working out with guys' and I think it would be nice to work out with a guy like Shane," Othmann said, looking to his right. "But I just find working out by myself is 10 times better. Knipe's there for me, he's focused on me, and he can see if I'm doing something wrong and tell me what I'm doing wrong instead of veering off to another guy."

The second, Knipe guesses, is because his client prefers not to have to compare himself to others. And Knipe argues that mentality is a good thing, describing Othmann as a joy to work with because of how focused he is on what he needs to do to get to where he wants to go.

"Brennan's amazing," Knipe said. "He's extremely hardworking, he's very goal-oriented (and) once he sets a goal he's going to do whatever it takes to reach that goal. And that's just the type of player he is too. He has been a winner his whole career and he'll do whatever it takes to win and to help the team. And that carries over to the gym too. Once he sets a strength goal, he'll do whatever it takes to reach that goal."

When Othmann first began working with Knipe, those goals were just to develop the basics.

"When he was 13, he was kind of behind the 8-ball. He'd had a few other trainers but he hadn't been trained properly. So he didn't have full body control and we had to focus for the better part of a year on just the fundamentals, his form and also just having fun with the workouts because he actually hated the gym at that point," Knipe said.

But in time, Knipe found that Othmann was quickly playing catchup with his other elite-level clients. And then his fitness levels began to surpass them.

"He handled it tremendously," Knipe said of the way Othmann ramped up his training. "He's right up there with all the other top athletes strength-wise now. Speed-wise, he always beats everyone in his dryland training. And now he loves the gym. He'd probably spend a whole day in my gym now if he could."

Last year, in his first season out of Wright's shadow, Othmann's hard work paid off when he excelled on his own merits as a rookie with the Firebirds, scoring 17 goals and 33 points in 55 games as a 16-year-old, good for third in goals among all under-17 OHL players.

When it was over, Wellwood was "really pleased" with his top pick's season.

"Even from a statistical standpoint, it's not fair to try to compare him to a generational talent (like Wright) to see if he had a good season or not. From my perspective, he did," Wellwood said. "He made a lot of growth in areas of the game where in AAA, you don't really necessarily need with your play away from the puck, your defensive play, game management, when to dump it in, when it's time to try something a little bit riskier, things like that. He was a pleasure to coach."

Othmann had 17 goals in 55 games for Flint in 2019-20. (Terry Wilson / OHL Images)

But even after he was named to the OHL's First All-Rookie Team, Othmann told those around him that he was unsatisfied by the way he'd played and that some of his peers had outperformed him.

So into the summer before his draft year, he settled on a new area that needed work — his nutrition — and went all-in on changing what he put into his body in an effort to add muscle for the season ahead.

"His nutrition has come a long way. He was never really brought up properly with nutrition. This year he has taken a huge step forward in terms of learning what foods impact his body in which ways and how it impacts him on the ice at the end of a shift. So he has been learning a lot," Knipe said. "That's classic Brennan."

When the summer ended and the OHL opted not to return, Othmann's desire to prove himself and showcase the progress he'd made brought him to Switzerland when he was among the very first draft-eligible players to flee North America for European hockey.

There, following in the footsteps of his father Gery and his uncle Robert, who both played hockey professionally in Switzerland, Othmann, a dual citizen, signed with EHC Olten in the second-tier Swiss League, moving

in with team president Marc Thommen and his family. Othmann's father is also a dual citizen of Canada and Switzerland.

Though the year was again a success by any measure, with Othmann playing a regular role and scoring 18 points in 34 games in his first foray into professional hockey, it also came with constant comparisons when fellow 2021 prospect Mason McTavish, who was meant to fly over with him in the fall but was delayed until February after his 18th birthday, joined him with EHC Olten — and at Thommen's house.

Though the two grew close, having previously also played together at the Canada Winter Games (and eventually U18 worlds in the spring once they were done in Switzerland), it wasn't lost on either of them that they had long been competing with each other.

It was McTavish, taken three picks after Othmann in the 2019 OHL draft, who was the only player other than Wright to outscore him in his rookie season in the OHL. And now they were teammates, competing for the slotting at the top of the NHL Draft.

"It's something that I'm never going to forget. It's an unforgettable memory, especially with Mason there. He was great. We've built a good friendship," Othmann said of the experience. "It took me a while to get used to it. I'd never been there, even though I've got the passport, but it was lots of fun."

Thommen was "very impressed" by the way Othmann carried himself throughout, pointing in a recent phone call to his unending desire to improve himself. When Othmann had to leave to join Canada for U18 worlds in Texas, a tournament in which he scored six points in seven games and helped his draft stock on the way to a gold medal, Thommen was sad to see him leave both for the relationship they'd built and because his team was losing an important piece.

"(Brennan) was so well behaved and quickly settled into our home," Thommen said. "The whole team will watch the NHL Draft for the two boys. They were really so good."

Othmann, despite not having had the OHL platform year he expected, is proud of how he handled his unique season's circumstances.

"I think people recognize my name now and I played well in Switzerland. I don't want to sell myself short. I think I did a great job with what I had and developed well. I actually thought I got better over the season than I would have in the OHL, and that has nothing to do with Flint. I just think playing against men in Switzerland really helped," Othmann said. "I can't wait to show that at the next level. I know it's going to take hard work and it's going to be a grind play in a top-six role, but what I learned over in Switzerland is really going to make the transition a lot easier. It was a great decision. I have no regrets going."

Despite that confidence, though, he's still constantly looking inward too.

This summer, when criticism of his skating popped up into another offseason, Othmann made it his latest top priority with Knipe in the gym. And when he wasn't in the gym with Knipe, he was working on it on the ice with skating coach Lisa Clark.

His confidence is never going to waver, though. When he's asked to describe his game, he does so in great detail.

He talks about his shot, of course, but also his hockey IQ as a tool that you can't teach and his biggest advantage over his peers.

"It's just kind of in you as a kid," he said.

He talks about his defensive game as something that doesn't get talked about enough and the pride he takes in being a 200-foot player or blocking shots. He talks about his physicality and his ability to hunt and strip pucks from opposing players.

And when he gets to his skating, he doesn't concede there either.

"I'm working on my explosiveness and I wouldn't say it's a weakness but it's something that I want to get better and better at," he says.

When others talk about his game, they describe him in similar terms.

"He still needs to work on his skating but he has time to develop it. His hockey IQ, his vision, his skill level, his ability to score, his ability to work



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

with really good players in a top-six role, I think he's the real deal there 100 percent," said one source of Othmann.

Othmann reminds Quinn of one of his old teammates in his younger playing days, Canadiens forward Tyler Toffoli.

"He's definitely a natural goal scorer like (Toffoli). With (Toffoli), sometimes you'd be watching the game and you're just like 'He had three points? How did he have three points?' Brennan just has that natural knack around the net too. And I think his skating has improved from years ago, like Tyler's did," Quinn said.

After another summer of dedication in the gym, Knipe, who will be at the Othmann house to watch his big day play out, has big expectations for his pupil.

"Where he needs to work on is his first three strides and his explosiveness, so we've been doing that all this offseason and you'll be able to see that transition on the ice this year. It should be another breakout season for him," Knipe said. "I can't wait for him to get picked. He has been nervous about it, to say the least. I know it has been weighing on him heavily. I'm extremely excited for him. He's a great kid.

Wellwood said he wouldn't worry about Othmann's skating, either.

"I don't know if it matters so much with the way that he plays because he plays with his mind so much better that even if his speed and quickness isn't at a breakaway pace, his mind is so he can create separation through his timing and reading the play. He definitely needs to improve upon it. But I think he's a first-rounder all day anyways," Wellwood said.

And though Wellwood, who chose not to return to the Firebirds for the 2021-2022 season, won't be there to guide Othmann in the first post-draft chapter in his career in the fall, Othmann promised to do him proud and take over as a leader and the Firebirds' No. 1 guy.

"I think it's going to be my team next year and I'm confident with that," Othmann said, already planning for the next hurdle.

The Athletic LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190795 Websites

The Athletic / NHL Draft Consensus Big Board: Top 100 prospects for 2021

Scott Wheeler and Corey Pronman Jul 21, 2021

We are expanding our coverage of the upcoming 2021 NHL Draft with a project that we admit steals slightly from our NFL team. You've seen what we think of the draft-eligible prospects. Now we take a look at how the industry as a whole evaluates the players.

We hope this consensus project will be a helpful indicator for how the draft will actually play out this weekend. It comprises roughly 20 draft boards, ranging from individual evaluators in the public and private-sphere to independent scouting organizations.

Here is how the top 100 prospects rank:

NHL Draft Consensus Big Board 2021

RANK PLAYER POSITION LEAGUE SCORE

1

Owen Power

D

BIG10

1.9

2

Matthew Beniers

C

BIG10

2.5

3

William Eklund

LW

SWEDEN

3.5

4

Brandt Clarke

D

OHL

5.5

5

Dylan Guenther

RW

WHL

6.2

6

Luke Hughes

D

NTDP

6.7

7

Mason McTavish

C

OHL

6.8

8

Simon Edvinsson

D

SWEDEN-JR.

7.1

9

Kent Johnson

C

BIG10

8.3

10

Jesper Wallstedt

G

SWEDEN

9.4

11

Cole Sillinger



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

C

USHL

12.0

12

Chaz Lucius

C

NTDP

12.1

13

Fabian Lysell

RW

SWEDEN

12.9

14

Fedor Svechkov

C

RUSSIA-2

16.4

15

Matthew Coronato

RW

USHL

18.1

16

Sebastian Cossa

G

WHL

19.1

17

Aatu Raty

C

FINLAND

20.7

18

Brennan Othmann

LW

OHL

20.7

19

Isak Rosen

RW

SWEDEN

21.5

20

Carson Lambos

D

WHL

21.8

21

Nikita Chibrikov

RW

RUSSIA

23.0

22

Francesco Pinelli

C

OHL

24.6

23

Xavier Bourgault

C

QMJHL

25.3

24

Logan Stankoven

C

WHL

25.5

25

Oskar Olausson

RW

SWEDEN

26.3

26

Corson Ceulemans

D

AJHL

26.3

27

Zachary Bolduc

C

QMJHL

27.7

28

Zachary L'Heureux

LW

QMJHL

28.3

29

Simon Robertsson



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

RW	D
SWEDEN	HIGH-MN
28.4	42.6
30	39
Samu Tuomaala	Sean Behrens
RW	D
FINLAND-JR.	NTDP
30.2	42.8
31	40
Mackie Samoskevich	Olen Zellweger
RW	D
USHL	WHL
31.7	42.8
32	41
Zach Dean	Jack Peart
C	D
QMJHL	HIGH-MN
32.7	42.8
33	42
Daniil Chayka	William Stromgren
D	LW
RUSSIA	SWEDEN-2
35.9	45.1
34	43
Sasha Pastujov	Evan Nause
RW	D
NTDP	QMJHL
36.0	50.0
35	44
Stanislav Svozil	Wyatt Johnston
D	C
CZREP	OHL
41.1	50.2
36	45
Ayrton Martino	Tyler Boucher
LW	RW
USHL	NTDP
41.3	51.1
37	46
Prokhor Poltapov	Samu Salminen
LW	C
RUSSIA-JR.	FINLAND-JR.
42.3	51.2
38	47
Scott Morrow	Tristan Broz



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

C

USHL

52.6

48

Alexsi Heimosalmi

D

FINLAND-JR.

53.4

49

Dylan Duke

LW

NTDP

54.0

50

Ville Koivunen

RW

FINLAND-JR.

57.0

51

Chase Stillman

RW

OHL

58.8

52

Brett Harrison

C

OHL

60.5

53

Aleksandr Kisakov

LW

RUSSIA-JR.

61.8

54

Oliver Kapanen

C

FINLAND-JR.

63.6

55

Shai Buium

D

USHL

63.8

56

Benjamin Gaudreau

G

OHL

64.0

57

Anton Olsson

D

SWEDEN

64.2

58

Artem Grushnikov

D

RUSSIA-JR.

64.5

59

Samuel Helenius

C

FINLAND

64.8

60

Matthew Knies

LW

USHL

65.4

61

Brent Johnson

D

USHL

65.5

62

Ryder Korczak

C

WHL

65.7

63

Kirill Kirsanov

D

RUSSIA

67.2

64

Danila Klimovich

RW

BELARUS-2

71.0

65

Conner Roulette



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

LW	D
WHL	GOJHL
72.6	83.8
66	75
Colton Dach	Ryan Ufko
C	D
WHL	USHL
75.0	85.3
67	76
Redmond Savage	Dmitry Kuzmin
C	D
NTDP	BELARUS
78.6	86.9
68	77
Jack Bar	Ethan Del Mastro
D	D
USHL	OHL
78.9	86.9
69	78
Aidan Hreschuk	Riley Kidney
D	C
NTDP	QMJHL
79.3	88.6
70	79
Nolan Allan	Ryan Winterton
D	C
WHL	OHL
79.7	89.1
71	80
Justin Robidas	Tristan Lennox
C	G
QMJHL	OHL
81.2	90.8
72	81
Vincent Iorio	Cole Huckins
D	C
WHL	QMJHL
82.2	94.5
73	82
Cameron Whynot	Olivier Nadeau
D	RW
QMJHL	QMJHL
82.8	98.0
74	83
Logan Mailloux	Josh Doan



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

RW

USHL

101.8

84

Sean Tschigerl

LW

WHL

102.2

85

Topias Vilen

D

FINLAND

104.3

86

Guillaume Richard

D

USHL

104.6

87

Victor Stjernborg

C

SWEDEN

105.4

88

Roman Schmidt

D

NTDP

105.5

89

Alexsi Malinen

D

FINLAND

106.1

90

Liam Dower Nilsson

C

SWEDEN-JR.

107.0

91

Matvey Petrov

LW

RUSSIA-JR.

108.4

92

Peter Reynolds

C

QMJHL

109.6

93

James Malatesta

LW

QMJHL

110.0

94

Oscar Plandowski

D

QMJHL

110.3

95

Dmitri Kostenko

D

RUSSIA-2

113.0

96

Jayden Grubbe

C

WHL

114.0

97

Jack Matier

D

OHL

114.6

98

Liam Gilmartin

LW

NTDP

117.2

99

Vladislav Lukashovich

D

RUSSIA-JR.

117.4

100

Joshua Roy

RW

QMJHL

117.5

The tiers

Based on this survey, the tiers among evaluators broke down as follows:



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

Tier 1: Owen Power, Matthew Beniers, William Eklund

Tier 2: Brandt Clarke, Dylan Guenther, Luke Hughes, Mason McTavish, Simon Edvinsson

Tier 3: Kent Johnson, Jesper Wallstedt, Cole Sillinger, Chaz Lucius, Fabian Lysell

Tier 4: Fedor Svechkov, Matthew Coronato, Sebastian Cossa, Aatu Raty, Brennan Othmann, Isak Rosen, Carson Lambos, Nikita Chibrikov

While there was mild separation between Power and Beniers, and Beniers and Eklund, in the eyes of the evaluators these three players have clearly distinguished themselves from the pack. Power was listed at No. 1 on 11 boards, while Beniers was No. 1 on six.

Clarke is part of the second tier, but he separated himself slightly as a clear No. 4 prospect among the evaluators, while the rest of the second group were tightly grouped.

There was a bit of a gap between Johnson/Wallstedt and Sillinger/Lucius/Lysell, but these players were by and large bunched up among the rankings, establishing a clear top 13 prospects in the consensus.

After them, Svechkov led a much larger group from the teens into the 20s, before another clear break, with marginal decreases in value beginning from the end of the first round deep into the draft.

Variance

Biggest disagreement in the top 10: Simon Edvinsson, Jesper Wallstedt

Edvinsson got a few votes at second or third overall, while several others had him outside their top 10s. Wallstedt also got several top-five votes and several votes outside the top 10.

Biggest disagreement in the 11-20 range: Fedor Svechkov, Isak Rosen

Svechkov and Rosen got several top 15 votes, with Svechkov breaking into the top 10 at times; while both also got votes into the 20s or 30s.

Biggest disagreements in the 21-30 range: Zachary Bolduc, Corson Ceulemans

Bolduc and Ceulemans got a lot of top 20 placements, with many others ranking them outside or well outside the first round.

Biggest disagreements in the 31-60 range: Scott Morrow, Aleksii Heimosalmi, Tyler Boucher

Morrow had several evaluators place him in the 20s, with several others rating him well into the second or at times third round. Boucher and Heimosalmi got a few late first votes, while also frequently ranking into the third round of later.

Biggest disagreements in the 61-100 range: Roman Schmidt, Dmitri Kostenko

Schmidt and Kostenko had several second-round placements but also a lot of rankings that did not include them at all.

Logan Mailloux: On Tuesday, Mailloux renounced himself from the 2021 NHL Draft in a statement on Twitter one hour after the victim of the crime he was convicted of spoke out in an article on The Athletic. Mailloux's conviction in Sweden likely played a large part in the variance of opinions on him as all of the rankings, except for McKenzie's board, were released before Mailloux's conviction was first reported by Daily Faceoff on Friday — but most NHL teams were already aware of the situation, according to multiple sources. In total, Mailloux appeared on 10 of the lists featured in his project, with his highest ranking coming from McKenzie at No. 35. McKenzie noted in the column on Monday that "whether he's drafted in that range, or drafted at all, remains to be seen." Adding: "Mailloux's name appears on the TSN final draft rankings list simply because even for the teams that have decided not to select him under any circumstances, the player was still ranked by those teams."

The Boards

The sources that made up the dataset include but are not limited to:

TSN's Bob McKenzie

TSN's Craig Button

DobberProspects

Data analyst Rachel Doerrie (not released publicly at this time)

DraftPro

Elite Prospects

FC Hockey

Tony Ferrari

The Hockey News' Ryan Kennedy

McKeen's Hockey

Hockey Sense with Chris Peters

Red Line Report

Cam Robinson

Mark Seidel

Scouching

Smaht Scouting

The Draft Analyst

The Athletic's Corey Pronman

The Athletic's Scott Wheeler

Methodology

Given that McKenzie's list comprises its own consensus of 10 NHL scouts, it was weighted more heavily, with his ranking accounting for one-third of the average score (in essence giving each of the scouts he surveyed equal weight to one of the other 20 lists that made up the rest of the consensus arrived at here).

In order to maintain the integrity of the data, only rankings with a minimum of 75 players were included, so public lists running 32 deep were not considered.

The Athletic LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190796 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / In an era where cap space is king, Kraken draft with the long game in mind

Chris Johnston July 22, 2021, 12:47 AM

They carefully studied the menu and passed on the steak.

Not to mention the sizzle.

The Seattle Kraken looked at Carey Price, Vladimir Tarasenko, James van Riemsdyk, Ryan Johansen, Matt Duchene and others during the expansion draft process and said "No thanks, I'm good."

In doing so, the NHL's newest franchise put itself in pole position to race towards a new epoch of roster construction. The easy takeaway from Friday's made-for-TV event was that Ron Francis left talent on the table. But the most significant thing he did was avoid putting a bad contract on the books.

"We think that's a valuable thing to have right now, especially in a COVID environment with the flat cap," said Francis, the Kraken's general manager. "We went through our choices and there were some good players that were out there; maybe we weren't comfortable with the cap hit on some of them, so we tried to draft the best team possible we could and still keeping our cap space available just to hopefully do some things as we move forward."



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

In the very near term that will mean spending some money when the free-agent market opens next Wednesday. They staked claim to defencemen Jamie Oleksiak and Adam Larsson, plus goaltender Chris Driedger, during this week's UFA interview period and are expected to take a run at Jaden Schwartz, among others, on the open market.

But Seattle showed patience during the 72-hour period where the rest of the NHL sat and waited on the sidelines while it selected 30 players.

Price was the most difficult pass of them all because of what he represents: A generational performer with deep ties to Washington State coming off an appearance in the Stanley Cup Final.

He's not the kind of name you expect to find exposed in an expansion draft, but Francis couldn't look past the \$10.5-million cap charge he'd be absorbing for each of the next five seasons had he claimed Price rather than 22-year-old defenceman Cale Fleury.

It is a sign of quickly shifting sands.

Expect a flurry of activity in NHL in coming days, side deals with Kraken

Just as NHL general managers once had to adjust to the introduction of a hard salary cap in 2005, the industry is still coming to grips with the aftershocks that will be felt following the COVID event. The cap ceiling used to rise on a predictable schedule each year. Now it is locked flat because of the pandemic, guaranteeing that large contracts won't age as gracefully as they were originally intended.

Birthing into that environment, the Kraken's front office wisely recognized that their advantage was rooted in protecting cap space. They took on less than \$55-million in total cap commitments, with Jordan Eberle (\$5.5-million AAV) and Yannick Gourde (\$5.166-million AAV) the only players with meaningful term and dollars claimed in expansion.

The real story of the expansion draft was what Francis chose not to do -- looking past several proven performers while adding the likes of Gavin Bayreuther, Kurtis MacDermid, Kole Lind and Alex True.

He opened the wallet for Oleksiak, in particular, by signing him to a \$23-million, five-year contract. But he also fought like hell to preserve the Kraken's ability to pursue bargain free agents, add future assets as a potential go-between in retained salary transactions and remain nimble in an uncertain marketplace.

"We're excited about what we have right now. We feel very fortunate we were able to get Driedger and Larsson and Oleksiak to sign with us, so that was a nice boost," said Francis. "A lot of opportunities to sort of tweak our lineup over the next four or five months, and we'll look to try and take advantage of that if we can."

Kraken select Pitlick, Donskoi and Oleksiak from Central

Seattle is playing the longer game.

It didn't leverage a single trade out of the expansion selection process and it's only believed to have emerged from the draft with one or two moves ready to complete when the league's roster freeze lifts Thursday.

But the Kraken still have a surplus of defencemen to deal away -- selecting 12 on Wednesday -- and a surplus of cap space to maneuver around. That will likely prove even more valuable than it first appears on the surface.

The times are changing.

It wasn't enough for the Kraken to simply try and mimic what the Vegas Golden Knights accomplished in expansion four years ago.

Francis: GMs were afraid to make same mistakes from Golden Knights expansion draft

"We talked about that going into this -- this was going to be so much different than what Vegas went through," said Francis. "Vegas did a good job taking advantage of the rules and sort of everyone's lack of experience in that environment. But the minute that one was done, they knew we were coming in. It was supposed to be three years. It ended up four years, so they had a lot more time to prepare for us. ...

"And I think last time where GMs were more willing to, in a sense, overpay to protect certain assets, this time they learned from that and they weren't willing to make the mistakes that they made last time."

Even more importantly the Kraken didn't make any mistakes of their own.

We live in a time where cap space is king. And Seattle will soon be calling the shots from the throne.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190797 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Flames dealt devastating blow at crucial time as Kraken snag Mark Giordano

Eric Francis July 22, 2021, 12:07 AM

Known for 17 years in Calgary as the type of guy who'd block a shot with his face to win an exhibition game, Mark Giordano's ultimate act of selflessness came in the dying hours of his storied Flames tenure.

"Going through this process just tells you about the guy," said general manager Brad Treliving, who spoke "hourly" with his captain leading up to Seattle's decision to draft the fiercely loyal defender.

"He's telling me, 'you've got to make the smart play here -- remember, I'm 38 years old.' As much as he's dying to stay here he looks at it through, 'what's best for the long-term interest of the club.' Totally selfless all the time."

Simply put, no team lost more to the Seattle Kraken on Wednesday than the Calgary Flames.

For the Flames it's a devastating blow at a crucial time, depriving a reeling organization of its leader and its poster boy for perseverance, hard work and dedication.

Flames will work to move forward after losing Giordano to Kraken

He was their best defenceman and the one guy on the team whose give-a-crap meter never ran low on batteries, no matter how many setbacks the Flames endured.

"In a lot of ways the last 24 hours have been very difficult, very emotional," said Treliving, who held out hope he could keep his captain right up until Tuesday night when reality set in that the asking price from the Kraken couldn't be met to keep him in the fold.

"We don't have enough time here today to talk about what Mark Giordano means, and has meant to this team, this community, to his teammates and the fans and myself personally.

"He's a tremendous leader. I've said countless times he has been the moral compass of this team for a long time. His moving on is the closing of a really important chapter in this franchise. This is part of the cruel side of the business of hockey. Seattle got a great, great man today."

And yet, an organization that knew several years ago Seattle would come calling for someone still allowed this to happen.

Fact is, by committing to trying to climb back into the playoff race last season this became inevitable.

That said, Giordano was right -- this was the right move.

Expect a flurry of activity in NHL in coming days, side deals with Kraken

The team had to protect Noah Hanifin, Rasmus Andersson and Chris Tanev ahead of him and couldn't justify coughing up valuable draft picks to keep the soon-to-be 38-year-old.

"In order for this not to happen it was a price that we couldn't pay," said Treliving, who said off-season trade options weren't available for the \$6.75 million player.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

"If there was a way we could have done it, within reason, for this not to happen, we certainly would have pursued it. Mark understood the situation. At the end of the day we were looking at ways to not make it happen, but you have to make business decisions. It's a sad day with Gio leaving."

Giordano agreed, admitting the reality he'd be leaving the only NHL organization he's ever known hit hard when saying goodbye to teammates late Tuesday.

Yet, true to form, there was Giordano, walking out in front of thousands of enthusiastic Seattle fans Wednesday to usher in a new opportunity for a man who has overcome endless setbacks with an attitude and work ethic that will likely make him Seattle's first captain.

Kraken GM Ron Francis agreed No. 5 would be part of the captaincy discussion come training camp.

"This is a guy who has a reputation around the league, just the way he plays the game and takes care of himself and everything he does in the community," said Francis. "We get a chance to establish our culture from Day 1, and we certainly want him to be a part of that."

It's a two-way street, as the Kraken have already been able to give Giordano something no other team has.

"It's the first time in my career I've ever been drafted, so thank you," laughed the Norris Trophy winner in front of the crowd, adding some levity to a day that couldn't have been easy.

"I'm not gonna lie, it feels a little bit different. It's been a crazy last day or so. It was a little bit weird yesterday knowing I wasn't going back to Calgary."

Flames GM Treliving reflects on the impact Giordano has had on franchise

Giordano said he'd been in constant contact with Treliving throughout this uncomfortable process and said it wasn't until he officially appeared on the unprotected list last weekend that he started to realize his storybook run in Calgary could be over.

"I obviously understood this could happen, but I thought it was up in the air right until the end," said Giordano, who walked on as an OHL hopeful and wound up playing 949 games as an undrafted free agent signing in Calgary.

"It was a weird 24 hours for sure but after the initial shock I was excited to get out here and check out the city and I've had a good day. I'll just keep trying to move forward. It will be a new opportunity for me. It's something fresh and I'm going to turn that into a positive."

Of course he will, that -- and his award-winning charity work -- is what he does best.

"I think a big part of my goal here is to get to know the community, and city of Seattle, and create relationships," said the winner of the Muhammad Ali Sports Humanitarian Award. "I created so many great relationships in the city of Calgary and I look forward to doing the same here in Seattle."

His ability to positively impact everyone around him will endure.

"Since I've been here my first talk to all our young players is, 'when you get to Calgary you'll see a stall that's got No. 5 on it -- watch what he does,'" said Treliving.

"Just do that, and you'll be alright."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190798 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Oilers' potential long-term deal with Zach Hyman not pretty, but necessary

Oilers have big hole to fill on defence with Larsson headed to Kraken

Mark Spector

EDMONTON -- We hear it constantly here in Edmonton. And so does Ken Holland.

"The Edmonton Oilers can't waste any more years of Connor McDavid's career than they have already."

"The Edmonton Oilers should be all in at every opportunity, before McDavid asks out."

On any given day here in Edmonton, you can almost look skyward and see some version of those words trailing behind small aircraft, flying overtop of the Oilers corporate offices. It's graffitied on bridges, tattooed on bikers' forearms.

It is the provincial anthem here in Northern Alberta, and to a lesser extent, a common refrain across the hockey world.

Today, as the Oilers get ready to offer maximum term to left winger Zach Hyman, you should remember those words before you go online and carve up general manager Ken Holland for signing a 29-year-old to a seven- or eight-year deal.

Hyman spent the day in Edmonton with his wife Alannah on Wednesday, checking out a city that may become home to them and son Theo -- who is not yet a year old -- should Hyman decide to become McDavid's left-winger for the rest of his hockey life.

So, what are you going to hate about this deal? The term, that's what.

In an effort to keep the Annual Average Value as low as possible, Holland is planning to offer Hyman maximum term. That move defines trying to win a Stanley Cup in the nearer future, as the lower AAV will leave Holland more cap space with which to build.

The Toronto Maple Leafs have given the Oilers permission to host Hyman and speak with agent Todd Reynolds. As a free agent suitor, Edmonton can sign Hyman to a maximum seven-year deal, which would come in with an AAV of around \$5.5 million.

Flames 'reeling' after losing Giordano in Kraken expansion draft

But if the Leafs -- who can not afford to sign Hyman -- trade him to Edmonton, then Holland can offer an eight-year deal with an AAV of closer to \$5.125 million -- exactly the deal signed by Ryan Nugent-Hopkins on June 29.

So you can hate the term, which is truly excessive for a player who turned 29 on June 9. But if you are someone who expects Holland to go for it at every opportunity -- someone who is constantly reminded of the wasted seasons of McDavid and Leon Draisaitl -- then these are the kinds of things you had better come to accept.

Team culture just as important as talent for Kraken

So, why Hyman?

As UFA left wingers go, Hyman is in the Top 3 this summer along with Taylor Hall and Gabriel Landeskog, should the latter get to free agency in Colorado. Landeskog will command a much higher AAV, however, while Hall is happy and set to re-sign in Boston. He and Edmonton are two ships in the night that simply will not pass again.

Hyman, meanwhile, represents exactly what is required on McDavid's left flank. A right shot left-winger, Hyman has played more than 60 per cent of his NHL minutes next to Toronto superstar (and McDavid friend) Auston Matthews, where he has thrived.

Hyman is a cerebral player who knows what his role is and how to maximize it. His points per game average has gone up in each of the past four seasons, and he was a leading penalty killer and first-unit powerplay player in Toronto.

While McDavid has become as adept at scoring as he is at feeding his wingers, Hyman has made a reputation as a guy who can do whatever is needed as well. The biggest addition to Edmonton's Top 6 -- and to McDavid's line -- is his ability to score down low. Garbage goals, rebounds, tap-ins...



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

Edmonton lacks that player. McDavid lacks that player.

Hyman's nose is perpetually dirty, as they say, which makes him a nice fit across the rink from right-winger Jesse Puljujarvi, who can score from distance.

Hey -- the contract won't be pretty. UFA deals never are.

But in this case the player is in his prime, and able to fulfill the mandate of helping McDavid and Draisaitl reach the promised land in the next four years, with an AAV that is not crippling for a productive Top 6 left winger. For the first few years, at least.

In order to secure a trade from Toronto -- and that eighth year to keep the AAV down -- Edmonton could likely shuttle one of their two sixth-round picks to the Leafs. Or trade Oscar Klefbom and his LTIR space, a bit of business that has interested the Maple Leafs before.

At this time, the Oilers are believed to be the decided front runners in the race to sign Hyman.

The family visit on Wednesday could sway that, as Edmonton is not Toronto -- in size, proximity to their families, or amenities. But, it is a place where the Hymans can get the best contract they'll ever see, and a chance for Dad to play alongside a generational player.

And maybe, just maybe, to win a Stanley Cup while that player is still under contract here.

Because in Edmonton, that is really the only thing that matters.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190799 Websites

TSN.CA / Othmann surged up draft rankings thanks to strong effort at U18 Worlds

Pickering, Ont., product Brennan Othmann is No. 16 on TSN's Final 2021 NHL Draft Rankings as a result of his blend of skill and grit that was on full display at the IIHF U18 World Championship. Mark Masters has more in a Q&A with the big left winger.

By Mark Masters

Thanks to a strong performance at the IIHF U18 World Championship, Brennan Othmann surged up TSN's draft rankings. The Flint left winger came in 16th on the final list of prospects released this week, which was up nine spots from the mid-season list.

"His ranking went up considerably after the U18s," noted TSN Hockey Insider Bob McKenzie, who compiled the rankings. "Othmann is a guy who can score goals and he goes to the hard areas to do it. He's one of those guys who goes to the front of the net and makes things happen. He's a guy who might, accidentally on purpose, fall on the goalie while he puts the puck in the net."

That blend of skill and grit was on full display in Texas where Team Canada claimed its first gold medal at the under-18 event since 2013.

In Canada's first game against Sweden, Othmann took a huge hit from Victor Sjöholm at the offensive blueline to set up linemate and good friend Shane Wright for a goal. After the puck went in, the 6-foot, 175-pound Othmann tapped the Swedish defenceman on the head.

"Shaner made a nice play to cut through the middle and I knew where he was going to be," said the 18-year-old from Pickering, Ont. "I always know where he's going to be. I chipped it there and the next thing I know I'm looking up at the lights and thinking 'What just happened?' I bounced up and, something that's part of my game is I like to get under the skin of guys, and I just tapped him on the head and said, 'Thanks for the apple. I appreciate it. You're dash-one now.' It was kind of funny."

Goal number two for Shane Wright!

Canada leads 5-0 #U18Worlds pic.twitter.com/f8TuSqGOGj

— TSN (@TSN_Sports) April 28, 2021

It was a tone-setting moment for Othmann, who finished the tournament with three goals and three assists in seven games.

During a conversation with TSN, Othmann reflected on some of his big moments on the road to the gold medal and shared stories from his time playing on loan in Switzerland. The following is an edited transcript of the interview.

In the rematch against Sweden in the semifinal, Wright set you up for a between-the-legs goal on the power play. What did you see?

"I did it against Belarus [but it was stopped] and Shane and I talked about it after that game. We watched the video and he said, 'If we get that chance again step out and I'm going to give it to you.' We knew exactly that we were going to do that ... We came back to the bench [after the goal] and just kind of looked at each other and started laughing and saying, 'Video helps!'"

BETWEEN THE LEGS FOR OTHMANN! 🤪

WHAT A GOAL 🇨🇦 pic.twitter.com/P3S1SaVEDI

— TSN (@TSN_Sports) May 5, 2021

What's the degree of difficulty on that play?

"You just have to have the confidence to do it. It's a hard job to play in front of the net with guys on the half wall who are told to shoot it. So, you have to have confidence and be there in front of the net to screen the goalie and if you get the puck down there you can't be afraid to take it to the net."

Brennan Othmann was THAT close. 🤪 #U18Worlds pic.twitter.com/ZgNFgO5308

— TSN (@TSN_Sports) May 7, 2021

You also scored a big goal in the gold-medal game from a really tough angle. How did you know to shoot?

"Our goalie coach [Matt Weninger] put up some video before the game about the Russian goalies and we saw they were short guys. He told us, 'If you get the chance, if you're down low and coming off the wall, shoot high because he's going to drop.' I had that in the back of my mind. I got the puck from Ethan Del Mastro and I just wanted to try and drive wide and see how the play developed. The Russians did a pretty good job clogging up the middle so I said, 'You know what, I'm just going to pick the top left corner, high blocker and bury it,' and lucky enough it worked out."

CANADA TAKES THE LEAD! 🇨🇦

Brennan Othmann makes it a CA 3-2 RU game! #U18Worlds pic.twitter.com/5PNNmPc7j0

— TSN (@TSN_Sports) May 7, 2021

You and Wright also won an OHL Cup together with the Don Mills Flyers. Why do you guys have such good chemistry?

"Shane and I just play like each other a little bit. He's, obviously, an exceptional player. He's an unbelievable hockey player, but we think alike. Not many players can play with Shane, in my opinion. You have to read off Shane and he has to read off you and that's exactly what we do great. We know we're going to play with each other every chance we get, whenever we're on the same team, and we're probably going to be the most deadly duo in a tournament. We just seem to click. We just seem to know each other and where we are on the ice at all times."

Do you guys push each other?

"All the time. When we have skates together in the summer, we always have competitions against each other. Whenever I score, he wants to score, and whenever he scores, I want to score. We had a scoring competition and it was 8-8 and we had one more drill left and he had the last shot and he ended up scoring and I'm begging the coach, 'One more! Come on, we need one more!' And he's giving me the gears in the room and I'm like, 'If we had another one we'd be tied 9-9.'"



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

Who are your NHL role models?

"There's two guys. One guy in Winnipeg is Kyle Connor. I watch him a lot because he's very underrated. He's sneaky. He can score you 20 to 30 goals a year. He's got a great IQ for the game. He's got a great shot. He can be trusted. Another guy in Calgary is Matthew Tkachuk. I'm the type of player who likes to do what Kyle Connor does and score and make plays, but I'm also the type of guy who likes to play physical and get under the skin of guys and protect his teammates."

Where did your game grow the most during your time on loan with Olten in the Swiss second division?

"My physical game grew the most. I knew I had a good shot and could pass and could skate, but I really wanted to be able to hit and play more physical. I thought it was cool that a 17-year-old kid was knocking over a 30-year-old guy. So, that was pretty cool and the guys on the team loved it as well so that's where my game grew. It gave me a little bit more confidence to go out and hit guys bigger than me."

Thank you @EHC0lten #Switzerland

for an unforgettable time & experience. pic.twitter.com/aTg7K5Y0lJ

— Brennan Othmann (@BOthmann78) April 2, 2021

You picked up seven goals and 16 points in 34 games, but also racked up 64 penalty minutes. Were you a goon in Switzerland?

"Haha, I don't know. I didn't get the Swiss rules down pat right away. In my [OHL] rookie year I only had about 30 or 32 penalty minutes and then I went to Switzerland and had 64 so I was a bit shocked. Maybe I didn't get the rules right away."

Were they calling more stuff than the OHL referees?

"A little bit. One penalty I got a few times was hitting late. I really didn't understand that rule and I got a penalty like that at U18s as well. That probably cost me about 10 penalty minutes. I like to hit and do it every chance I get."

I know you have family connections to Switzerland with your dad Gery and uncle Robert playing there, but that was your first time in the country. What did you pick up?

"They just love their cheese. As a kid, we'd always have cheese at our table and I'd always ask my dad, 'What's the deal with all this cheese?' And he said, 'Buddy, when you go to Switzerland they got cheese, they have meat, crackers on the table and you have to eat it or else it's disrespectful.' So, whenever my mom or sister or I didn't eat the cheese, my dad would just be snacking on the cheese all night until it's finished."

Why do you wear No. 78?

"A couple reasons. My favourite player growing up was Sidney Crosby [who wears 87] so I reversed Crosby. Another reason is my birthday is January 5 and I didn't like 15, but seven plus eight is 15."

What's your focus this summer?

"I'm still working on my skating and my shot. I have a very good shot with a quick release and very accurate, but at the next level and in the NHL guys can all shoot the same and guys can skate the same and you got to get that much better."

TSN.CA LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190800 Websites

TSN.CA / Dach brothers push each other to greater hockey heights

Ahead of Friday night's NHL Entry Draft, Mark Masters caught up with the Dach brothers as Colton Dach looks to follow his older brother, Chicago Blackhawks forward Kirby Dach, into the NHL.

By Mark Masters

It was last month that Colton Dach really considered the possibility he could join brother Kirby in Chicago with the Blackhawks.

"I got a phone call from one of the guys with Chicago and it kind of hit me, like, hey, I could be going to camp with Kirby and training with him to try and make that team," the Saskatoon Blades forward said. "It would be pretty special. We would've been in Saskatoon together and unfortunately we didn't get to play together because he was in the NHL. It would be nice to go there and have someone there who knows how to get the best out of me. He knows what I can do the best and how to get that out of me."

"It'd be pretty cool," added Kirby, who was picked third overall by the Blackhawks in 2019. "Obviously, a lot of brothers grow up dreaming of playing in the NHL together. For our family, they'd maybe be a little worried about us living together in a city away from them, but it'd be a lot of fun. I'd love to have him in Chicago. That decision isn't up to me, so we'll see what happens."

Colton came in No. 61 on TSN's final ranking of draft prospects compiled by TSN Hockey Insider Bob McKenzie. Chicago owns the No. 62 pick.

Throughout the draft-year process, 18-year-old Colton has leaned on 20-year-old Kirby for support.

"One thing he told me at the start of the season was just wake up with a smile," said Colton, who led the Blades with 11 goals in 20 games. "Every kid is going to do his best when they're having fun and smiling all day. He's told me a lot about hockey and stuff like that to try and raise my draft stock, but the biggest thing was to come with a smile on my face."

The siblings, who both stand 6-foot-4, smiled a lot during a competition-filled childhood in Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. They reflected on that shared experience during a joint interview with TSN this week. The following is an edited transcript of the conversation.

TSN: What would it be like to play against Kirby in the NHL?

Colton: "I would absolutely love it. Since he was drafted to Chicago I said, 'I can't wait to play you.' My family always laughs and my mom gives me this look and says, 'You're not doing anything dumb.' It would be really cool to play against Kirby. It would be a moment we'd never forget. I don't think many of our friends or family would ever forget that either."

Kirby: "It'd be a lot of fun as long as the gloves stay on. I don't think we'd have any problems. It'd be a cool experience for our family."

TSN: You guys have gone up against each other quite a bit already. What was it like growing up?

Kirby: "A lot of mini-stick battles. We actually got those taken away when we were nine or 10. We were making too many marks on the walls and our parents weren't too happy, but it was fun. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Colton: "With the mini sticks, we had a desk we used for a net and somehow the desk collapsed and that was the final straw for our parents. Everything we did revolved around hockey. And everything was about one of us winning, and if the other one didn't win they were pretty upset. The next time we did something we did it twice as hard."

TSN: Somehow the desk collapsed? Was someone bumped into it?

Colton: "Yeah, probably. There were a couple holes in the walls that happened like that. We won't go into too much detail about all the dumb things we did together."

TSN: Do you have a favourite memory?

Kirby: "Being together at the lake. We always would go to the lake. Even now we spend our weekends there with our buddies, being on the water and doing water sports like skiing and wakeboarding. We played baseball. Now spike ball has become a new game, even though our parents don't like us playing that because it gets pretty competitive and usually fights break out at the end of those games. But, it's all fun and games. We love each other a lot and it's a fun way to grow up."

Colton: "My favourite memory is when we would play road hockey with our buddies. That was something that, after school, we always looked forward to. When I was younger I always wanted to be a goalie, so I



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

would always strap on the gear and he would always shoot on me. We'd have hockey cards and I'd always pretend to be one of the goalies [from the cards] and he'd pretend to be one of the players."

TSN: When did you stop playing in net?

Colton: "My dad let me try it one summer and go to a few camps. Then, during the winter, he put me on ice with Kirby and a bunch of his friends, who were pretty good players back in bantam. I spent an hour out there and came back to the house and said, 'I'm done. I don't want to be a goalie.' I think he knew if he put me out there with those guys I was going to say I don't want to do it."

TSN: Kirby, can you give us a scouting report on your brother?

Kirby: "He's a big, strong, physical forward that plays a good 200-foot game. He's super smart and that's an area where we're pretty similar. We like to read the play and react. But, I've always been jealous of his shot. For some reason, even though I was the one shooting on him, he always had a harder shot. It's something I try to take from him."

HIGHLIGHT REEL 📺 #NHLDraft prospect Colton Dach is a power forward with a purpose. #MeetTheFuture | @BladesHockey
pic.twitter.com/DbLz9d7IoT

— The WHL (@TheWHL) July 18, 2021

TSN: So, Kirby's jealous of your shot, Colton, is there something you want to steal from Kirby?

Colton: "I'd really like to have his hockey IQ and his hands."

TSN: Kirby, is there a guy you've gone up against or seen in the NHL that reminds you of Colton's style?

Kirby: "There's a few. Jamie Benn is one of them. Just that big, strong, power forward that carries the load and does it at both ends of the ice. Blake Wheeler is another guy. And he's got a little bit of that Tkachuk blood in him where he's pretty rough around the edges and can mix things up that way. That's another area where we're different. Colton's pretty physical and he's strong and he's big and he likes to get in there and battle hard and compete and be the guy that's in your face all game."

TSN: Where's that come from, Colton?

Kirby: "From me beating him up all the time."

Colton: "When we were younger, Kirby was pretty good at making me feel bad with some words and I wasn't very good at coming back with chirps, so I would come back with a right cross or something like that. So, that's where it started and it evolved from there."

TSN: What's something we don't know about your brother?

Kirby: "I don't know where to begin with this one. He's super kind and always had a soft spot for people. It's the cool feature to the person that he is because he's so outgoing and super competitive but, at the same time, he's super compassionate."

Colton: "We were raised the exact same way ... when I was in Grade 6 and he was in Grade 8, he would always come down and see how I was doing and see if anything was wrong or see how my day was going and he wasn't just like that with me. He was like that with my friends who would always hang around at the house. He was a guy who's always looking out for the best for you ... I hope I can be like that one day."

Kirby: "I'll add one more thing. We had a nickname for Colton growing up, 'Frank the Tank' from Old School, the Will Ferrell [character]."

TSN: How did you get that nickname?

Colton: "My parents gave it to me. I was like three or four and they saw the movie and they were like, 'Yeah, this guy looks just like him.' Obviously, growing up we did a lot of fun things. Well, things we thought were fun and ..."

Kirby: "They didn't."

Colton: "My parents didn't think so. There was one instance where we were sharing a room when we were eight or nine and we would shove pillows up our shirts and the other guy would run across the room and try and hit the other guy as hard as he could. One time I launched off the

bed and put a little hole in the wall and that was one instance where the nickname came from."

TSN: Colton, did you have the edge on Kirby in anything growing up?

Colton: "I had the edge in taking stuff too far. If we were playing basketball and the game was 21 and he got to 21 before me I'd make up some rule where he cheated or something. I'd always try and make it to an outcome where I won. And I'm going to continue to do that when I'm 30 years old or 40 years old. I always want to beat him and he always wants to beat me."

TSN.CA LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190801 Websites

USA TODAY / Winners and losers of the Seattle Kraken expansion draft

Mike Brehm

The Vegas Golden Knights took a Fleury in the 2017 expansion draft and reached the Stanley Cup Final in their first season.

The Seattle Kraken announced two Fleurys on Wednesday night during the expansion draft for the NHL's 32nd team.

Of course, brothers Haydn (Anaheim Ducks) and Cale Fleury (Montreal Canadiens) aren't star goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury, but the Kraken did assemble an interesting team when general manager Ron Francis selected 15 forwards, 12 defensemen and three goaltenders.

There's still an entry draft, free agency and trades to go before the full roster takes shape, but here are the winners and losers from the Kraken's expansion draft:

Winners

Francis: He said before the expansion draft that salary cap space was his biggest asset and he has assembled a team that according to Capfriendly.com, has nearly \$29 million available to spend. He persuaded free agents Chris Driedger, Adam Larsson and Jamie Oleksiak to join the team. He has solid organizational depth on defense and he picked versatile players who can move up and down the forward lineup.

Mark Giordano: The former Calgary Flames captain and Norris Trophy winner will assume a leadership role on the Kraken. And if Seattle doesn't take off in its first season, he could end up going to a contender as a pending unrestricted free agent.

Yanni Gourde: Tampa Bay Lightning coach Jon Cooper started Gourde's third line in playoff games for a reason. He's a high-energy player who can chip in key goals. He could become the face of this franchise.

Fans of physical play: Larsson, Oleksiak, Brandon Tanev and Nathan Bastian finished in the top 30 in the NHL in hits last season. Kurtis MacDermid is willing to drop the gloves.

St. Louis Blues: Francis could have taken Vladimir Tarasenko and flipped him for assets. But he didn't, and the Blues will be able to get some sort of return for the high-scoring player who's coming off a couple injury-filled seasons.

ESPN: The NHL's new broadcast partner had a great debut, once the wireless mic issue was fixed. Even though the roster had been leaked during the course of the day, Chris Fowler and Dominic Moore kept things lively and the taped standups by Kevin Weekes were fun. It was nice to feature all the famous places in Seattle and have famous Seattle athletes help announce the picks. Having an octopus reveal the Detroit Red Wings pick was a classic.

Losers

Lack of star power: A lot of big names with big salaries were available, including Carey Price, Ryan Johansen, Tarasenko, James van Riemsdyk and others. But Francis avoided those players. His biggest-name players



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

are Giordano, Gourde and Jordan Eberle. But star power isn't as important for expansion teams. The Kraken will sell out, regardless, and the team will develop its own stars.

Goaltending inexperience: Marc-Andre Fleury had played nearly 700 games when the Golden Knights chose him. The Kraken's three goalies – Chris Driedger, Vitek Vanecek and Joey Daccord – have 84 games. The first two had standout 2021 seasons, but if either regresses, that could spell trouble.

Hometown players: Everett, Washington, native T.J. Oshie made clear he wanted to stay with the Washington Capitals and was protected. Francis passed on Washington natives Tyler Johnson and Dylan Gambrell. But Driedger and Morgan Geekie did play their junior hockey for the Tri-City Americans in Kennewick, Washington.

Toronto Maple Leafs: They gave up a prospect and a seventh-round pick to land Jared McCann, then exposed him and lost him in the expansion draft. McCann would have been a nice addition, but at least the Maple Leafs held on to Alexander Kerfoot. They exposed both players after choosing to protect a fourth defenseman, Justin Holl.

Alberta teams: The Flames and Edmonton Oilers will have to face Giordano and Larsson a lot next season. The Flames could have received a nice return for Giordano had he stayed. The Oilers were unable to negotiate a new deal with Larsson, but he got a reported four-year, \$16 million contract with Seattle.

USA TODAY LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190802

Websites

USA TODAY / All 30 picks the Seattle Kraken made in the NHL expansion draft

Jace Evans

The NHL's 32nd team now has a full complement of players.

The Seattle Kraken took an exciting step toward the ice this fall by selecting 30 players in Wednesday night's expansion draft. One player each was selected from 30 of 31 NHL teams – the Vegas Golden Knights, who just completed their fourth season after joining the NHL in 2017, were exempt from losing a player. The Kraken were required to select at least 14 forwards, nine defenseman and three goalies.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman was (briefly) booed as he kicked off the night's proceedings, before turning hosting duties over to ESPN's Chris Fowler. Among the guest selectors for picks were Seattle SuperSonics champion coach Lenny Wilkens, rapper Macklemore, Storm star and Olympian Sue Bird, former Sounders star Brad Evans, hockey legend Cammi Granato, Sonics legends Gary Payton and Shawn Kemp, Seahawks great Marshawn Lynch and current star Bobby Wagner, and Mariners player Kyle Lewis.

Seattle's home opener was also announced during the broadcast: Oct. 23 vs. the Vancouver Canucks.

Here's who the Seattle Kraken selected from each eligible team:

Anaheim Ducks: Haydn Fleury, 25-year-old defenseman

A former top-10 pick, Fleury was on hand to speak to the fans.

Arizona Coyotes: Tyler Pitlick, 29-year-old forward

Boston Bruins: Jeremy Lauzon, 24-year-old defenseman

Buffalo Sabres: Will Borgen, 24-year-old defenseman

Calgary Flames: Mark Giordano, 37-year-old defenseman

The oldest player Seattle drafted, Giordano has played 15 seasons with the Flames, winning the Norris Trophy for best defenseman in 2018-19. Calgary's captain since 2013, Giordano also won the 2019-20 Mark

Messier Leadership Award. He was on hand to talk to the crowd Wednesday night.

Carolina Hurricanes: Morgan Geekie, 23-year-old forward

Chicago Blackhawks: John Quenneville, 25-year-old forward

Colorado Avalanche: Joonas Donskoi, 29-year-old forward

The former Sharks and Avs player has been a consistent 30-point producer.

Columbus Blue Jackets: Gavin Bayreuther, 27-year-old defenseman

Dallas Stars: Jamie Oleksiak, 28-year-old defenseman

The big, physical pending free agent will reportedly sign a five-year deal. He also was on hand and spoke with fans.

Detroit Red Wings: Dennis Cholowski, 23-year-old defenseman

Edmonton Oilers: Adam Larsson, 28-year-old defenseman

The former top-five pick, who has been among the Oilers' most dependable defensemen, has reportedly reached a four-year deal to join the Kraken.

Florida Panthers: Chris Driedger, 27-year-old goalie

Driedger, a pending free agent who reportedly will sign a three-year deal, helped the Panthers to the playoffs last season. He was on hand to show off the team's new home jersey and speak to the fans.

Los Angeles Kings: Kurtis MacDermid, 27-year-old defenseman

Minnesota Wild: Carson Soucy, 26-year-old defenseman

Montreal Canadiens: Cale Fleury, 22-year-old defenseman

His older brother, Haydn, was also selected by the Kraken.

Nashville Predators: Calle Jarnkrok, 29-year-old forward

Jarnkrok was a key member of the Preds' 2017 Stanley Cup Final team and their 2018 Presidents' Trophy-winning squad.

New Jersey Devils: Nathan Bastian, 23-year-old forward

New York Islanders: Jordan Eberle, 31-year-old forward

Eberle is the most prolific offensive player the Kraken drafted, with 241 career goals and 551 points in 779 games spent with the Oilers and Islanders. He was also on hand to show off the road jersey and speak to the fans.

New York Rangers: Colin Blackwell, 28-year-old forward

Ottawa Senators: Joey Daccord, 24-year-old goalie

Philadelphia Flyers: Carsen Twarynski, 23-year-old forward

Pittsburgh Penguins: Brandon Tanev, 29-year-old forward

The feisty Tanev was also on hand to speak with the Seattle fans.

San Jose Sharks: Alexander True, 24-year-old forward

St. Louis Blues: Vince Dunn, 24-year-old defenseman

Dunn has produced 20 points from the blue line in all four of his NHL seasons, including the 2018-19 campaign that ended in the Blues winning the Stanley Cup.

Tampa Bay Lightning: Yanni Gourde, 29-year-old forward

Gourde was a stalwart checking center for the back-to-back champion Lightning.

Toronto Maple Leafs: Jared McCann, 25-year-old forward

McCann was recently acquired by the Leafs from the Penguins in a deal ahead of last weekend's roster freeze.

Vancouver Canucks: Kole Lind, 22-year-old forward

Washington Capitals: Vitek Vanecek, 25-year-old goalie



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 22, 2021

Winnipeg Jets: Mason Appleton, 25-year-old forward

USA TODAY LOADED: 07.22.2021

1190803 Websites

USA TODAY / NHL expansion draft 2021: Time, how to watch, how it works, players available for Seattle Kraken

Mike Brehm

Two new eras will begin for the NHL on Wednesday night when the results of the expansion draft are revealed.

The Seattle Kraken will unveil the team that will begin play next fall in the Pacific Division as the NHL's 32nd team.

It will also be the first major event broadcast by the NHL's new television partners after the league ended its 15-year relationship with NBC Sports.

The Kraken are operating under the same rules that the Golden Knights had in 2017, though general managers will be more leery this time because Vegas reached the Stanley Cup Final in its inaugural season, aided by side deals.

EXPANSION DRAFT: Here's who could be going to NHL's 32nd team

WHO'S AVAILABLE: Protected and available lists from the 30 NHL teams

General manager Ron Francis said his most valuable asset is cap space.

"We've got \$81.5 million of cap space to play with, so that's certainly something we want to make sure we try to take advantage of moving forward," he said.

What to know about the expansion draft:

When is the NHL expansion draft?

The announcement will be at 8 p.m. ET, but the team's list must be submitted to the league by 10 a.m. ET on Wednesday. The Kraken will also unveil their uniforms and have some of their new players at the sold-out event at Seattle's Gas Works Park. Sue Bird, Marshawn Lynch, Lenny Wilkens, Jordan Morris, Gary Payton, Shawn Kemp, Bobby Wagner and Kyle Lewis will help Francis unveil the picks.

How can I watch the NHL expansion draft?

The announcement will be shown on ESPN2, with Chris Fowler, Dominic Moore and Kevin Weekes calling it. ESPN/Disney and Turner Sports landed the league's broadcast contracts in seven-year deals.

What are the rules for the NHL expansion draft?

The Kraken must select one player from every NHL team, except the exempt Golden Knights. Among the 30 taken, the group must include at least 14 forwards, nine defensemen and three goaltenders. At least 20 of the players selected must be under contract for next season. The Kraken had a 72-hour exclusive negotiating period with free agents on the available list and if they sign anyone, that would count as their pick from that team.

How much can the Seattle Kraken spend?

The players' contracts must total between \$48.9 million and \$81.5 million, or 60%-100% of the 2020-21 season's upper limit for the salary cap. The team can't buy out any player it selects until the summer after its first season. Francis says he has ownership's permission to spend to the cap if needed.

Were there surprises on the available list?

Plenty. Carey Price, Vladimir Tarasenko, Gabriel Landeskog, Mark Giordano, Max Domi, Nino Niederreiter, Jakub Voracek, James van Riemsdyk and others. But that doesn't mean Francis will take them. Giordano is a possibility to be the team's first captain.

Are players with Washington ties available?

The Golden Knights took Las Vegas resident Deryk Engelland with one of their 2017 picks and named the defenseman an alternate captain. Francis has opportunities to do that if he chooses.

Washington native T.J. Oshie was protected by the Washington Capitals, so he's unavailable. But Tampa Bay's Tyler Johnson is from Spokane, where the Kraken play their first exhibition game. Sharks center Dylan Gambrell is from nearby Bonney Lake.

Price, Chris Driedger, Ryan Murray, Brenden Dillon, Eric Comrie, Jujhar Khaira, Morgan Geekie, Dustin Tokarski and Calvin Pickard are among available players who played junior hockey in the state.

What's next for the Seattle Kraken after Wednesday?

The league's 2021-22 schedule, and the date of Seattle's home opener, is scheduled to be released on Thursday. The Kraken will pick second in the entry draft on Friday. Unrestricted free agency starts July 28.

USA TODAY LOADED: 07.22.2021