



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 3, 2021

The News & Observer

Tim Gleason named Canes assistant coach on Rod Brind'Amour's staff

By Chip Alexander

The Carolina Hurricanes will have another familiar face behind the bench this season.

The Canes announced Thursday that former defenseman Tim Gleason has been hired as an assistant coach by head coach Rod Brind'Amour. Gleason replaces Dean Chynoweth, who left after the season and later joined the Toronto Maple Leafs staff.

Gleason, 38, has served as Carolina's director of defensemen development since 2018. An intense player, Gleason competed in 546 games for the Canes during his 727-game NHL career and served as an alternate captain in four of his seasons with Carolina.

Gleason ranks first in blocked shots, second in hits (1,199) and penalty minutes (537) and ninth in games played in Hurricanes history and also played in 19 playoff games. He won a silver medal with Team USA in the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Gleason's hiring was one of several personnel moves announced Thursday by the Hurricanes.

Changes also made: Peter Harrold to lead defensemen development; Nick Roy named equipment manager; Zach Abdou named hockey operations coordinator; Mark Craig named director of pro scouting; Trace Linton named pro scout, and Rhys Jessop and Ian Meagher named amateur scouts.

In addition, Christoph Wyss has been named Chicago Wolves strength and conditioning coach and Cody Ward the Wolves' video coach.

Harrold, who played 274 career NHL games with Los Angeles and New Jersey, worked in skills development with the Canes during the 2020-21 season.

Roy joins the Canes' equipment staff along with Bob Gorman and Jorge Alves. Former equipment manager Dave Paul left the organization this summer.



Canes Earn High Mark in Pipeline Rankings

Svechnikov, Necas headline annual list from The Athletic

The future is still bright in Raleigh.

Corey Pronman of The Athletic released his annual Pipeline Rankings this week, where he ranks each NHL team based on their core prospects and under-23 players. The Canes checked in at third overall in this year's list, jumping up three spots from last year's rankings, and five spots from the 2019 list. Perhaps most impressive about the Hurricanes' five-spot jump, is the team hasn't possessed a Top-12 draft pick over that three-year span

Carolina's list is highlighted by 21-year-old Andrei Svechnikov, who just last week inked an eight-year extension, and Martin Necas, the 22-year-old winger who took a big step forward in the 2020-21 season when he tallied 41 points (14 G, 27 A) in 53 games.

Of the 15 players Pronman listed, 14 were originally drafted by the Hurricanes, including six in the 2021 draft. Svechnikov and Necas are the only two who have seen NHL ice time, but four skaters saw time with the Chicago Wolves of the AHL a season ago.



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Five questions facing Carolina Hurricanes

DeAngelo's ability to replace Hamilton, new-look goaltending among unknowns

By Tom Gulitti

NHL.com is examining where each team stands in preparation for the 2021-22 regular season, which starts Oct. 12. Today, five questions facing the Carolina Hurricanes:

1. WILL THEY TAKE THE NEXT STEP THIS SEASON?

The Hurricanes lost to the Boston Bruins in four games in the 2019 Eastern Conference Final, then lost to them again in the 2020 Eastern Conference First Round. Carolina appeared poised to break through when it went 36-12-8 to finish first ahead of the Florida Panthers (37-14-5) and the Tampa Bay Lightning (36-17-3) in the ultra-competitive Discover Central Division last season.

But the Hurricanes struggled to defeat the fourth-place Nashville Predators in six games in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs before losing to the Lightning, the eventual Stanley Cup champions, in five games in the second round.

2. HOW BADLY WILL DOUGIE HAMILTON BE MISSED?

The 28-year-old defenseman signed a seven-year contract with the New Jersey Devils on July 28 after thriving in Carolina's attacking system the past three seasons. Hamilton scored 121 points (42 goals, 79 assists) and averaged 21:30 of ice time in 184 games while helping lead a strong defenseman group with stalwarts Jaccob Slavin and Brett Pesce.

Attempting to replace Hamilton on the right side, the Hurricanes acquired Ethan Bear from the Edmonton Oilers in a trade for forward Warren Foegele and signed Tony DeAngelo to a one-year contract on July 28. Bear could get a chance to play a bigger role after the 24-year-old scored eight points (two goals, six assists) and averaged 17:58 in ice time in 43 games last season. DeAngelo, a 25-year-old who scored 53 points (15 goals, 38 assists) in 68 games with the New York Rangers in 2019-20, has the potential to replace Hamilton's offensive production.

3. THE GOALTENDING IS DIFFERENT, BUT IS IT BETTER?

The Hurricanes overhauled their goaltending despite being fourth in the NHL last season with a 2.35 team goals-against average and third with a .915 save percentage. Frederik Andersen, who was 13-8-3 with a 2.96 GAA and .895 save percentage in 24 games with the Toronto Maple Leafs, and Antti Raanta, who was 5-5-2 with a 3.36 GAA and .905 save

percentage in 12 games with the Arizona Coyotes, each signed a two-year contract July 28.

Andersen and Raanta replace Alex Nedeljkovic (15-5-3, 1.90 GAA, .923 save percentage, three shutouts), who was traded to the Detroit Red Wings; Petr Mrazek (6-2-3, 2.06 GAA, .923 save percentage, three shutouts), who signed a three-year contract with the Maple Leafs; and James Reimer (15-5-2, 2.66 GAA, .906 save percentage), who signed a two-year contract with the San Jose Sharks.

4. IS THE SUPPORTING CAST STRONGER?

Other than losing Hamilton, the core remains intact, including Slavin, Pesce and forwards Sebastian Aho, Jordan Staal, Andrei Svechnikov and Teuvo Teravainen. But in addition to revamping the goaltending, the Hurricanes made extensive changes to their depth.

Jesper Kotkaniemi signed an offer sheet Aug. 28 for one year and \$6.1 million. The Montreal Canadiens have until Saturday to match the offer and keep the restricted free agent forward or they will receive a first-round pick and a third-round pick in the NHL Draft as compensation from the Hurricanes. The 21-year-old scored 20 points (five goals, 15 assists) in 56 regular-season games with the Canadiens last season, and eight points (five goals, three assists) in 19 playoff games.

Defensemen Ian Cole and Brendan Smith arrive on one-year contracts to replace Jani Hakanpaa (signed with the Dallas Stars) and Jake Bean (traded to the Columbus Blue Jackets). Forwards Derek Stepan and Josh Leivo were also added on one-year contracts with Foegele, Brock McGinn (signed with the Pittsburgh Penguins), Cedric Paquette (signed with the Montreal Canadiens) and Morgan Geekie (selected by the Seattle Kraken in the 2021 NHL Expansion Draft) departing.

The roster turnover created a different mix, but it remains to be seen if it's improved.

5. WHICH OF THEIR TOP PROSPECTS IS READY TO STEP INTO THEIR LINEUP?

The Hurricanes' departures create an opening for at least one young forward in their lineup and Jack Drury, 21, Ryan Suzuki, 20, and Seth Jarvis, 19, are likely to get long looks in training camp. Drury, a second-round pick (No. 42) in the 2018 NHL Draft, might be the closest to being ready after scoring 30 points (10 goals, 20 assists) in 41 games with Vaxjo in the Swedish Hockey League last season.

Suzuki, the No. 28 pick in the 2019 NHL Draft, scored 10 points (five goals, five assists) in 26 games with Chicago of



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the American Hockey League last season. Jarvis, the No. 13 pick in the 2020 NHL Draft, scored 11 points (seven goals, four assists) in nine games with Chicago of the AHL and 27

points (15 goals, 12 assists) in 24 games with Portland of the Western Hockey League.



Hurricanes name Tim Gleason assistant coach, announce other hockey operations hires

The former long-time Hurricanes defenseman will join Rod Brind'Amour's staff.

By Andrew Schnittker

The Hurricanes have filled the vacancy left on Rod Brind'Amour's coaching staff left by Dean Chynoweth's departure, and they've filled it with a familiar face. The team announced Thursday that Tim Gleason, who previously spent the past three seasons as the director of defensive development, would be Carolina's new assistant coach.

Presumably, Gleason will take over Chynoweth's duties as the team's defensive coach. Gleason spent most of his 727-game career with the Hurricanes, playing in 546 contests over two stints, scoring 14 goals and 107 points.

The Hurricanes also announced a litany of other hockey operations hires Thursday, naming Peter Harrold director of defensive development, Nick Roy equipment manager, Zach Abdou hockey operations coordinator, Mark Craig director of pro scouting, Trace Linton a pro scout, Ryan Jessop and Ian Meagher amateur scouts, Christoph Wyss Chicago Wolves strength and conditioning coach and Cody Ward Chicago Wolves video coach.

The team's official release on all of the promotions/new hires follows:

'CANES NAME TIM GLEASON ASSISTANT COACH

Hurricanes also announce hockey operations changes

RALEIGH, N.C. – Don Waddell, President and General Manager of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes, today announced that Tim Gleason has been hired as an assistant coach. The Hurricanes also announced the following changes to the team's hockey operations department: Peter Harrold will lead defenseman development, Nick Roy has been named equipment manager, Zach Abdou has been named hockey operations coordinator, Mark Craig has been named director of pro scouting, Trace Linton has been named pro scout, Rhys Jessop and Ian Meagher have been named amateur scouts, Christoph Wyss has been named Chicago Wolves strength and conditioning coach and Cody Ward has been named Chicago Wolves video coach.

Gleason, 38, previously led defenseman development for the Hurricanes from 2018-21. Selected by Ottawa in the first round, 23rd overall, of the 2001 NHL Draft, Gleason played 727 career NHL games with Los Angeles, Carolina, Toronto and Washington from 2003-15, earning 142 points (17g,

125a). He was acquired by Carolina from Los Angeles on Sept. 29, 2006, and recorded 107 points (14g, 93a) in 546 games with the Hurricanes, serving as one of the team's alternate captains for parts of four seasons from 2010-13. Gleason ranks first in blocked shots, second in hits (1,199) and penalty minutes (537) and ninth in games played in team history (since relocation). Among Hurricanes defensemen, he ranks first in hits and penalty minutes, second in shorthanded points (8), third in games played and seventh in assists. Gleason also appeared in 19 playoff games with Carolina, scoring the overtime, game-winning goal in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals against New Jersey. The Clawson, Mich., native represented the United States at the 2001 and 2003 IIHF World Junior Championships and the 2008 IIHF World Championship and won a silver medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Harrold worked in skills development with the Hurricanes during the 2020-21 season. Harrold registered 42 points (13g, 29a) in 274 career NHL games with Los Angeles and New Jersey from 2006-15. Prior to turning professional, he played four seasons at Boston College from 2002-06, where he appeared in two Frozen Fours, including the 2006 National Championship game, and served as the Eagles' captain as a senior. The Kirtland Hills, Ohio, native also represented the United States at the 2009 IIHF World Championship.

Roy previously worked for the Charlotte Checkers from 2015-20, serving as the visiting locker room attendant and the equipment assistant before being named assistant equipment manager ahead of the 2019-20 season. He also gained experience as a clubhouse assistant for the Charlotte Knights in 2014. While in those roles, Roy also served as director of baseball operations for Wingate University from 2010-17. He graduated from Wingate with a bachelor's degree in Sports Management and a master's in sport administration.

Abdou previously served as a portfolio management analyst at Truist Securities within the Entertainment Industries Group. As hockey operations coordinator, he will focus on supporting the general manager and assistant general managers in managing the day-to-day activities of the organization. The Raleigh native is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School with a bachelor's degree in business administration.



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Craig has served as a pro scout for the Hurricanes since 2015. Craig coached in the Compuware Youth program in the early 1980s before being hired as head coach of the Windsor Compuware Spitfires in 1984-85 and then as a scout for the Philadelphia Flyers in 1985-86. He later worked in the automotive industry and served as president of the Alexander Mangin Company before returning to hockey as general manager of the Plymouth Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) in 2014-15.

Linton has served as the Hurricanes' video scouting coordinator since the 2017-18 season. Prior to joining the organization, Linton worked as a hockey operations intern and video scout with the Columbus Blue Jackets. He also previously interned with the Cincinnati Cyclones (ECHL) and the University of Cincinnati's men's ice hockey team. Linton attended the University of Cincinnati, where he majored in Sport Administration.

Jessop previously worked for the Florida Panthers, beginning as a statistical consultant in 2016 before transitioning into an amateur scouting role from 2017-20. Jessop graduated from the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business with a Bachelor of Commerce in 2014.

Meagher served as assistant general manager of the Hamilton Bulldogs (OHL) from 2017-21. He also previously worked as head scout for the Saginaw Spirit (OHL) from 2015-17, media relations coordinator for the Toronto Maple Leafs from 2014-17 and media and community relations coordinator for the Toronto Marlies (AHL) from 2012-14.

Originally drafted by Saginaw in the 2005 OHL Priority Selection, Meagher began as an area scout with the Barrie Colts (OHL) for parts of four seasons from 2011-15 and earned a degree in business administration from Western University's Richard Ivey Business School.

Wyss has worked as the Anaheim Ducks' assistant strength and conditioning coach for the past two seasons, assisting in the development and implementation of customized strength and conditioning programs for players throughout the season. Before joining the Ducks, he spent almost two years in China with the Chinese National Weightlifting and Speed Skating teams ahead of the 2020 Summer Olympics and 2022 Winter Olympics. Wyss has also previously worked at P3 (Peak Performance Project), a private facility in Santa Barbara, Calif., that uses applied sport science to train athletes. Wyss received a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and a master's degree in exercise physiology from California State University, Chico, and he is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Coach (CSCS) with additional certifications for USA Weightlifting (USAW) and Reflexive Performance Reset (RPR).

Ward started in hockey as the volunteer video coordinator for Die Adler Mannheim of the Deutsche Eishockey Liga (DEL) during their league championship season in 2014-15. He has worked for the Canisius College men's ice hockey team since 2017, serving as video coordinator and student manager while earning a degree in sports management.



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Hurricanes Prospect Profile: Bobby Orr Jr.

Bobby Orr plays a hard-nosed game that should carry him to NHL success.

By Matthew Somma

Robert "Bobby" Orr is always going to be compared to Hall of Fame defenseman Bobby Orr since they share the same name, but the two couldn't be more different. The Hurricanes' Bobby Orr was not named after the legendary defenseman and is trying to carve out a legacy of his own. Orr was selected in the fifth round, 136th overall in the 2021 NHL Draft and will play for the QMJHL's Halifax Mooseheads this coming season. In this profile, I'll break down Orr's game in order to discover what made him an NHL prospect and what tools he has that could help carry him to the NHL.

Skating

One of the first things that stands out about Orr's game is the pace that he plays at, a common theme with a lot of Carolina's picks over the past few years. Orr is almost always in top gear and can absolutely fly when he gets going. Judging from how he looked in the QMJHL preseason, Orr has already gotten at least a half step faster, making him a dangerous player in transition. Orr's top speed is close to elite and he can accelerate to his top speed faster than most QMJHL players can, meaning that he can gain separation and start an odd man rush or breakaway with ease.

Orr's stride is clean with very few imperfections, meaning that he can keep his balance and consistently reach high levels of speed. The phrase "unrelenting motor" gets tossed around a lot with prospects, and I'll have to use it to describe Orr. He rarely stops working, especially on the forecheck. Orr plays at a high pace and wants to disrupt the play, so he'll work hard to be as much of a pain in the offensive zone as possible. A common theme in this profile will be that Orr reminds me of Brock McGinn in many ways. There are a lot of similarities in the way each player operates, and pace is one of them. Both players never take a shift off and up the tempo as soon as they step on the ice.

Forechecking

Bobby Orr's skating helps him out a lot on the forecheck, but I decided to make this its own section because of how much of a pain he is to play against. Orr is going to make you work to get the puck out of the offensive zone. He has an active stick that gets in the way of breakout passes and creates a turnover. Most of the time, these turnovers will lead to a scoring chance. Orr can shift the momentum of a game back in the favor of his team and ensure that his team keeps applying the pressure. Orr is a smart player and can anticipate when an opposing player is going to make a breakout pass and where they'll be passing to. He'll get into those lanes and all of a sudden the defenders have to panic because Orr is taking the puck towards the net.

Orr could stand to add about 15-20 pounds in the next few years. He likes to play physically and can hit players in order to disrupt the play and knock them off of the puck. It's another method he uses for keeping the puck in the offensive zone, and he's already good at it. Adding more muscle will

make Orr more of a force on the forecheck and one of the most frustrating players for opponents to deal with.

Hockey Sense

I alluded to Orr's hockey sense earlier when talking about his abilities on the forecheck. Orr sees the ice at an above-average level, which is why he's able to create those turnovers on the forecheck. He does the same thing in the defensive zone, and while I do see that he is prone to some lapses in coverage, it's clear that he knows where to position himself. Defensively, what impressed me the most about Orr's hockey sense in the defensive zone was how quickly he was able to react to a pass and turn it the other way. He'll notice when he's in a player's blind spot and quickly move to take the puck and turn on the jets for a breakaway. Orr doesn't need more than a few steps to gain enough space between himself and a defender, making him a pain in transition and on the rush.

Orr is able to notice a bad pass and immediately take it the other way. No player is going to be perfect 100% of the time, and Orr has his lapses in all three zones. What's important is that you can rest assured knowing that Orr is only going to improve and he'll smooth out those rough patches over time. He thinks the game at a high level and that should help lead to NHL success.

Something else that I noticed while watching Orr was his uncanny ability to always be in the right place at the right time. It's as if he knew exactly where to be. Whether it was to intercept a pass in the offensive or defensive zone, put in a rebound, or make a pass, Orr was going to be in the perfect position to make it happen. This ties into his hockey sense because a player isn't going to be in the right position unless they're able to read and react to where the play is going.

Offense

The two tools that help Orr have success in the offensive zone are his skating and hockey sense. This isn't a knock on his shooting, passing or positioning but rather a testament to how impressive his skating and hockey sense are. Orr has a quick wrist shot that can beat goalies from a variety of angles and distances. I wouldn't call him a scoring threat from anywhere in the offensive zone, but his wrist shot is good enough to beat most QMJHL goalies from the high slot and closer. These two clips are from the QMJHL preseason. Now of course, the preseason doesn't necessarily have the highest levels of competition, but I'm more interested in the shot mechanics here.

This is likely one the goalie wants back. Sure, it's a quick wrist shot that is well placed, but it should be stopped from that distance. However, Orr does a good job of changing the angle of the puck right before he shoots, making it tougher for the goalie to react. It's subtle and it gives Orr the slightest amount of separation from the defender in order to get the shot off. Now look at this clip, which is what I'd call a perfectly placed shot.

This is a beautiful goal for a couple of reasons. The quick reaction to the dump in allows Orr to take off, losing the



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defender and firing a perfect shot upstairs for his second goal on the same penalty kill.

Orr's passing is average and I see him more as a grinding scoring threat more than a passer at the NHL level. Orr could prove me wrong on this, though. While he doesn't make any fantastic passes, all of his passes seem to find their mark and lead to scoring chances. He sees the ice at an above average to elite level, meaning that he could develop into a playmaker over the course of his time in the QMJHL. As of right now, He's more of a gifted scorer with the potential for more on the playmaking side of things.

Orr plays in a similar way to Brock McGinn in the offensive zone. He'll seek opportunities to keep the puck in the zone, win board battles, score timely goals and be an absolute pain to play against. They're not carbon copies of each other, but Orr definitely fits the system the Hurricanes have in place.

Defense

I've touched on a lot of what makes Orr such an effective defender. He's reliable and can be used on the penalty kill due to his defensive play. Very few QMJHL forwards are as mature as Orr is in the defensive zone, and while Orr isn't a perfect player, he's further along than most of the players in his age group. Part of this has to do with how aggressive he is in the defensive zone. He'll pressure forwards into making mistakes or taking the puck along the boards, where he'll hit them off of the puck and change possession. Again, the aggressiveness and ability to create turnovers is another reason why I see similarities between Orr and McGinn.

Orr isn't as polished as he needs to be in the defensive zone and there are times when he does get a little lost. He can lag behind the play and go through the motions, which usually results in a goal. I wouldn't call it lazy, but I would like to see Orr play at a high pace in the defensive zone a little more often. Other than that, there's not a lot to dislike about Orr in

the defensive zone. Once he adds some muscle he'll be tougher to play against along the boards and he'll knock players off of the puck on a more consistent basis. Orr should be able to play on an NHL penalty kill and would be a great fit for Carolina's "Power Kill."

Projectable Tools

Orr's skating and tenacity on the forecheck should propel him to the NHL. Teams need players that can wear down a defense and force them to make stupid mistakes. Orr can be that player for the Hurricanes down the road. He possesses a heck of a shot and could be a third line scoring threat for the Hurricanes, too. Orr fell to the fifth round because his upside can be questionable. Sure, a player with his two way skills is intriguing, but will he be enough of an offensive force to warrant top nine minutes? That's the biggest question. His playmaking is average and while he plays at a high pace in the offensive zone, the fact of the matter is Orr might only be good for 30 or so points at the NHL level. Still, there's value in that and the Hurricanes picked a potential NHL player in the fifth round.

With the way Orr plays, I wouldn't be surprised if he has one of the longer NHL careers out of the Hurricanes' 2021 draft class. Teams are always looking for a player like him. Hell, Brock McGinn has played in 345 NHL games doing a lot of what Orr can do for teams in the future. Orr may take some time to develop because there are a few areas of his game that are raw and unpolished. He could stand to improve his playmaking and I believe that he could use some work on odd man rushes. His defensive play is above average for the QMJHL but there are some aspects of his defensive game that could be improved upon. Still, if the Hurricanes are willing to wait four or five years for Orr to develop, they could be looking at a nice addition to the team's top nine. And Bobby Orr will look to carve a path of his own as number eight for the Carolina Hurricanes.

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SportScan

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

1219927 Carolina Hurricanes

Tim Gleason named Canes assistant coach on Rod Brind'Amour's staff

BY CHIP ALEXANDER

The Carolina Hurricanes will have another familiar face behind the bench this season.

The Canes announced Thursday for that former defenseman Tim Gleason has been hired as an assistant coach by head coach Rod Brind'Amour. Gleason replaces Dean Chynoweth, who left after the season and later joined the Toronto Maple Leafs staff.

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Roy joins the Canes' equipment staff along with Bob Gorman and Jorge Alves. Former equipment manager Dave Paul left the organization this summer.

News Observer LOADED: 09.03.2021

1219928 Carolina Hurricanes

NHL Pipeline Rankings: No. 3 Carolina Hurricanes carried by more than Andrei Svechnikov

By Corey Pronman

Sep 2, 2021

Carolina had a lot of draft picks the past three years, 35 to be precise. The system's high ranking is primarily due to Andrei Svechnikov being one of the premier young forwards in the game and Martin Necas emerging into a core player. Behind those two, though, is a very long list of players who project to play in the NHL or have a decent chance to play games. You can nitpick the system, there is no premier young defenseman yet, and the goalie depth is just OK, but there is a long list of skaters you can envision playing in the NHL.

Key additions: Scott Morrow, Aleksii Heimosalmi, Ville Koivunen, Aidan Hreschuk, Jackson Blake, Justin Robidas

2020 Ranking: No. 6

2021 NHL Draft grade: B

Full 2021-22 NHL Pipeline Rankings

Player Ranking

1. Andrei Svechnikov, LW, Carolina-NHL

Mar. 26, 2000 | 6-foot-2 | 188 pounds

Drafted: No. 2 in 2018

Tier: Projected elite NHL player

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Above-average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Above-average

Shot: Above-average

Svechnikov is everything you want in an NHL player. His point production took a minor step back this season, but I have no doubt he'll rebound and continue to put up big numbers for a long time. He has so many assets. He's a big, strong, competitive forward who can skate well and play a powerful style in how he wins battles and attacks the net using his speed and physicality. Svechnikov also has a ton of skill and playmaking ability, showing great creativity as a handler and making tough passes often. From the perimeter he's a pass and shot threat. I think he will become one of the best forwards in the league in due time.

2. Martin Necas, RW, Carolina-NHL

Jan. 15, 1999 | 6-foot-1 | 167 pounds

Drafted: No. 12 in 2017

Tier: Projected bubble NHL All-Star and top of the lineup player

Skating: Above-average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Below-average

Shot: Above-average



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Necas took a big step forward this season, becoming an important player on a good NHL team. He's a dynamic offensive player. His skating drives his game, as he can explode up the ice and be a real threat against most defenders with his speed. Necas combined his quickness with a high skill level and ability to make highly skilled plays on the move. From the perimeter he's a shot and pass threat, and can create a lot from the outside. The main criticism of his game is he can be too perimeter, with a lack of net drive and physicality. Even if he is not the most physical or best defender, he's such a talented scorer that he's a true first-line forward with a chance to be a star.

3. Seth Jarvis, RW, Portland-WHL

Feb. 1, 2002 | 5-foot-10 | 175 pounds

Drafted: No. 13 in 2020

Tier: Projected bubble top of lineup and middle of lineup player

Skating: Above-average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: High-end

Shot: Above-average

Jarvis opened eyes with how good he was right away in the AHL this season, scoring seven goals and 11 points in nine games right out of his draft season. He wasn't quite as dominant in the WHL as expected, but he was still very good. He has so many NHL assets. Jarvis is a great skater and an even better competitor. He's a force to deal with coming down the wing because of how well he attacks the net, and how quick and relentless he is on loose pucks to create rushes. He has great skill and can make creative plays to generate offense, on top of being a mid-range shot threat, but it's his quick, direct style of play that makes me think he'll be a good top-six forward in the NHL.

4. Dominik Bokk, RW, Chicago-AHL

Feb. 3, 2000 | 6-foot-1 | 180 pounds

Drafted: No. 25 in 2018 by St. Louis

Tier: Projected middle of the lineup player

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Below-average

Compete: Below-average

Shot: Above-average

Bokk's season was really up and down, with a terrible first half in Djurgarden in the SHL but a much better second half in the AHL. That somewhat symbolizes him as a prospect. The talent jumps out at you. He has great puck skills. He can skate, score, make plays and has good size. But he's so inconsistent with his offense and overall effort at times. Despite the great flashes of skill and playmaking, he doesn't generate as much offense as I thought he would by this stage. I still think he plays a middle-six role because of the talent, but I can see him frustrating an NHL coach, too.

5. Ryan Suzuki, C, Chicago-AHL

May 28, 2001 | six-foot | 176 pounds

Drafted: No. 28 in 2019

Tier: Projected middle of the lineup player

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Average

Suzuki held his own versus men this season as a teenager and played a semi-important role for Canada at the world juniors. He's a talented offensive player, showing great skill and playmaking frequently. He can run a power play and hit seams at a high rate. Suzuki isn't as dynamic a playmaker as his brother Nick in Montreal, but he's a better skater. He can generate clean entries with his speed and skill in the NHL. Some scouts think he's soft, but I've never had issues with his compete, and whichever coach he plays for he often ends up on the penalty kill. I think he can be a middle-six forward, if he stays down the middle he would likely be a 3C.

6. Jamieson Rees, LW, Chicago-AHL

Feb. 26, 2001 | 5-foot-11 | 172 pounds

Drafted: No. 44 in 2019

Tier: Projected middle of the lineup player

Skating: Below-average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Above-average

Rees was solid in the AHL as a teenager with no OHL season. He stands out with his skill level, he can put a lot of pucks around defenders to create chances. He's not a soft skill type, as he will make a lot of hard plays toward the net. He has an edge to his game and doesn't shy from physical play. Rees isn't the biggest or quickest forward though, so there is some skepticism about how his game will translate to higher levels. Given his strong compete though, I think he finds a way to make it work in the NHL, and I see him as a potential middle-six winger.

7. Noel Gunler, RW, Brynas-SHL

Oct. 7, 2001 | 6-foot-2 | 176 pounds

Drafted: No. 41 in 2020

Tier: Projected middle of the lineup player

Skating: Below-average

Puck Skills: Below-average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Below-average

Shot: Above-average

Gunler had a solid season in the SHL between Lulea and Brynas, and was good at the world juniors. His style lends itself to being used in a specific way. He's a great passer and shooter who can excel on the power play and make things happen in the offensive zone. The skill and shot, along with his good size and physicality, are NHL assets. But his effort can be inconsistent and he drifts to the perimeter. Gunler also lacks the footspeed to generate a lot of clean entries at even strength. I see a potential middle-six winger due to the talent, but I could also see it be an uphill climb to get regular NHL minutes.

8. Justin Robidas, C, Val-d'Or-QMJHL

Mar. 13, 2003 | 5-foot-8 | 173 pounds

Drafted: No. 147 in 2021

Tier: Projected middle of the lineup player

Skating: High-end

Puck Skills: Below-average



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Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Above-average

Robidas was an important player on a great junior team this season. He plays the game with a lot of speed and energy which is why despite being 5-foot-8, I think his game could translate to higher levels. He's a great skater, who often takes pucks up the ice with speed and charges right for the net. Off the puck, he hustles to win battles and can kill penalties. Robidas shows good instincts as a playmaker, and flashes of good puck skills but I wouldn't call his puck game what gets him to the NHL. Robidas projects as a middle-six NHL forward, likely on the wing, who will be a fan and coach favorite due to his speed and work ethic.

9. Scott Morrow, RHD, Shattuck St. Mary's-U.S. High School

Nov. 1, 2002 | 6-foot-2 | 195 pounds

Drafted: No. 40 in 2021

Tier: Projected to play NHL games

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Below-average

Morrow played most of the year at Shattuck's U18 team — for a third season — but did get some time with Fargo in the USHL to end 2020-21. It's been tough to get a read on him due to the caliber of opponent he's played, but he has a clear NHL toolkit. He's 6-foot-2, highly skilled, and can skate with NHL players. His skating has progressed over time into a strength, showing the ability to lead an attack and walk the line. He is very confident with the puck and attacks with his skill. He can make plays, but he overcomplicates the game and makes some questionable decisions. Defensively he's just OK. He can be a bit soft on his checks and lack physicality. Morrow projects to be an NHL player due to his offensive talents but as a third-pair defenseman until he shows he can clean up his defensive play.

10. Jack Drury, C, Vaxjo-SHL

Feb. 3, 2000 | 5-foot-11 | 175 pounds

Drafted: No. 42 in 2018

Tier: Projected to play NHL games

Skating: Below-average

Puck Skills: Below-average

Hockey Sense: Above-average

Compete: Above-average

Drury was an important player for the SHL champion, going to Sweden with Harvard's season not going forward. There's not a whole lot that's flashy about how Drury plays. He's not that big, not that fast and his puck skills won't jump out at you. He accomplishes a lot though because he's a very smart, detailed and competitive player who coaches lean on. You can see him killing penalties in the NHL, taking defensive zone draws, and contributing just enough offense through his playmaking to take a regular shift in an NHL team's bottom six.

11. Jackson Blake, RW, Eden Prairie-U.S. High School

Aug. 3, 2003 | 5-foot-10 | 158 pounds

Drafted: No. 109 in 2021

Tier: Projected to play NHL games

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Above-average

Blake was a great high school player, leading his team to a title in Minnesota. In the USHL he was up and down but had good stretches. Blake is a highly creative offensive player. He shows great puck skills consistently in how he attacks defenses and beats his checks. He is a very good passer, who can find seams, and makes plays from a standstill and on the move. Blake is undersized, but works hard to win pucks, plays in the tough areas of the ice and can take a hit. He's not a great skater for a player his size, which might challenge him at higher levels. Blake projects to play NHL games due to his skill and work ethic but might have issues sticking due to his size and skating combination.

12. Aleksii Heimosalmi, RHD, Assat-Finland Jr.

May 3, 2003 | 5-foot-11 | 170 pounds

Drafted: No. 44 in 2021

Tier: Projected to play NHL games

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Average

Heimosalmi was fine but didn't do a ton last season. At the U18 worlds, he really popped and was named defenseman of the tournament. Heimosalmi has very intriguing offensive elements with the puck. He's a strong skater, who can make a good first pass, and I've grown to appreciate his individual skill more with time as someone who can create in transition and moving off the blue line. At the junior level he's a solid defender due to his skating, but versus men that will be the question at his size without a ton of physicality in his game. Heimosalmi projects to play games but might have an issue defining a clear NHL role.

13. Aidan Hreschuk, LHD, U.S. NTDP-USHL

Feb. 19, 2003 | 5-foot-11 | 188 pounds

Drafted: No. 94 in 2021

Tier: Projected to play NHL games

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Average

Hreschuk was an important player for the U.S. NTDP and played all situations effectively. He does a lot of good things with the puck. He makes skilled plays often, be it quality outlet passes, creative seam plays, or putting pucks around opponents. He's not a blazing-fast skater, but he's quick enough to skate past guys and generate clean exits/entries with his skating and skill. Defensively he's OK. Due to the lack of size and high-end skating, he can get beaten wide now and then but he's good enough in that area to make stops. Hreschuk projects to play NHL games, but might have issues sticking due to his size and skating combination.

14. Ville Koivunen, RW, Karpat-Finland Jr.

June 13, 2003 | 5-foot-11 | 161 pounds

Drafted: No. 51 in 2021

Tier: Projected to play NHL games

Skating: Below-average

Puck Skills: Average



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Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Above-average

Koivunen had an impressive season between the Finnish junior level and the U18 worlds. Koivunen is a forward with a high skill level who can make a lot of plays. He shows great individual creativity to beat defenders with his stickhandling. He can make tough passing plays in small areas, but also can run the power play and create from the perimeter. He's not an exterior player as Koivunen works well in traffic and doesn't shy from going to the net. He's an undersized player, though, who lacks NHL footspeed. Koivunen projects to play NHL games but may not stick in a lineup due to his size and skating combination.

15. Vasilii Ponomarev, C, Shawinigan-QMJHL

Mar. 13, 2002 | 5-foot-10 | 180 pounds

Drafted: No. 53 in 2020

Tier: Projected to play NHL games

Skating: Average

Puck Skills: Average

Hockey Sense: Average

Compete: Above-average

Shot: Below-average

Ponomarev was a quality QMJHL player this season and was arguably better with Russia's U20 team. He's a skilled playmaker who can make creative, unique plays with the puck and do so under pressure. I don't see his offensive ability as dynamic, particularly since he's a fine not amazing skater for his size. But he has enough offensive touch to create in the offensive zone. Ponomarev lacks size, but he's a worker who can kill penalties and win battles. I think for that reason, with some offense, he plays NHL games; but without more speed he may not be a long-term guy in the NHL.

Has a chance to play

Joey Keane, RHD, Chicago-AHL: Keane can skate and make a good first pass, allowing him to create offense as a pro and his skating helps him make stops. The toolkit isn't overly exciting but has enough NHL elements to give him a real shot.

Beck Warm, G, Chicago-AHL: Warm was impressive in the AHL last season. He's got some quick-twitch in his lower half to help him make tough stops. He squares up a lot of pucks, showing great intelligence and play-reading skills. His only real drawback for the NHL is his size.

Pyotr Kochetkov, G, Nizhny Novgorod-KHL: Kochetkov is an athletic goalie with size who's been up and down as a pro. He can make tough stops, but I find his game a little erratic, and he doesn't always make the best decisions.

Ronan Seeley, LHD, Everett-WHL: Seeley is a strong skater with good hockey sense who can make plays at both ends of the rink. His game can be a bit bland, but the skating gives him a real chance to make it.

Zion Nybeck, RW, HV71-SHL: Nybeck has a lot of skill and is a great playmaker, but he's small and his lack of speed at his size is a concern.

Domenick Fensore, LHD, Boston University-Hockey East: Fensore is a fantastic skater and playmaker, which gives him a real chance. But he's very small and scouts have real concerns on if he'll be able to defend in the pro game.

Stelio Mattheos, RW, Fort Wayne-ECHL: Mattheos is a worker with good hockey sense and size, but may lack enough standout speed and skill to be an NHL player.

Lenni Killinen, RW, Assat-Liiga: Killinen has size, speed and some offense, which makes him intriguing. But he isn't that skilled or reliable off the puck.

Tuukka Tieskela, RW, Karpat-Liiga: Tieskela is a very strong skater with legit playmaking ability. He's not that big, but showed he could play in the interior. For a smaller player he may lack enough high-end qualities needed to be an NHL player.

Anttoni Honka, RHD, JYP-Liiga: Honka is a very skilled, elusive and creative defenseman, but he is a small, subpar defender, which causes concerns on his NHL projection.

Joel Nystrom, RHD, Farjestad-SHL: Nystrom is a very skilled and creative puck-moving defenseman, but he's undersized and not overly mobile for his frame.

Patrik Puustola, RW, JYP-Liiga: Puustola has great offensive skills with the ability to create and finish plays, but his lack of speed and physicality may keep him from doing a ton of damage versus pros.

Player Eligibility: All skaters who are 22 years old or younger as of Sept. 15, 2021, regardless of how many NHL games they've played, are included. Player heights and weights are from NHL Central Scouting measurements.

Tool grades: Tool grades are based on a scale with six separate levels with an eye toward how this attribute would grade in the NHL (Poor, below-average, average, above-average, high-end and elite). "Average" on this scale means the tool projects as NHL average, which is meant as a positive, not a criticism.

Skating, puck skills, hockey sense and compete for every projected NHL player is graded. Shot grades are only included if a shot is notably good or poor.

Tier Definitions: Tiers are meant to show roughly where in an average NHL lineup a player projects to slot in.

The Athletic LOADED: 09.03.2021

1219987 Websites

The Athletic / NHL's new COVID-19 protocols create financial impact, increased restrictions for unvaccinated players

By Michael Russo

Sep 3, 2021

In the second sentence of the NHL's 27 pages of COVID-19 protocols for the 2021-22 season, distributed to all 32 clubs Thursday, it was made crystal clear that vaccinated and unvaccinated players will be treated very differently this upcoming season.

Because "the health of player and club personnel remains the league's priority," the NHL and NHL Players' Association have adopted "a bifurcated approach for players and hockey operations club personnel (and those with whom they have direct interactions while in the workplace) based on the individual's vaccination status."

The objective, according to the protocols obtained Thursday afternoon by The Athletic, is to allow fully vaccinated players and club personnel to return to a more "normal" and less regulated approach from a COVID-19 perspective, while those who are not fully vaccinated remain subject to additional preventative and detection measures to help protect against the contraction and transmission of COVID-19.



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The biggest piece of news in the memo is consistent with what The Athletic reported was a possibility last month: Unvaccinated players won't be paid for each day they cannot perform their duties. That includes if the player contracts the virus, is determined to be a high-risk close contact of a COVID-19 positive work-related contact or if that player is unable to fly into Canada or other local and state jurisdictions because he's unvaccinated.

This is why last month the NHL Players' Association strongly encouraged all players to get fully vaccinated. As of Aug. 14, NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly told The Athletic that in excess of 85 percent of NHL players were fully vaccinated. He didn't have an updated percentage Thursday night, but he estimated in an email to The Athletic that number is now close to 95 percent.

The NHL noted that because the Canadian-U.S. border quarantine restrictions are related to a person's vaccination status, unvaccinated individuals might not be allowed to travel across the border or could be required to quarantine, which would impact their ability to play in a game or practice with the team. It added that the league currently does not have an exemption from Canadian health authorities so current restrictions would apply to all members of the NHL traveling party.

The Canadian government recently opened the border to Americans or Canadians living in the United States as long as they've been fully vaccinated for 14 days and show proof of a negative test result within 72 hours of their arrival. Unvaccinated individuals who arrive in Canada — whether a resident or not — still must quarantine for 14 days.

The NHL and NHLPA will continue to review potential resolutions to this issue and any other governmental regulations that may limit the ability of players to participate in NHL games and will meet no later than Sept. 17 to discuss and bargain in good faith the possibility of pursuing a National Interest Exemption from the Canadian government.

The protocols define an individual as fully vaccinated once two weeks have passed since receiving the final dose of an FDA, Health Canada or WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine. Fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to the majority of the restrictions unvaccinated individuals will be subject to.

However, if that fully vaccinated player contracts the virus, they would have to enter the league's COVID-19 protocol but won't be subject to lost pay.

An individual is considered unvaccinated if they haven't been vaccinated at all, if they have only received one dose of a two-dose vaccine or are not more than two weeks out from their final dose. In addition to the player not being paid if he can't participate in club activities, 50 percent of the incremental costs associated with being an unvaccinated player (such as testing, and additional hotel and travel costs) will be treated as player benefits and charged against the players' share of hockey-related revenue.

Unvaccinated players will also have strict protocols to adhere to.

- Unvaccinated players will be subject to a seven-day quarantine upon reporting for training camp, which opens league-wide on Sept. 23, or at any later point in the season (for instance, an AHL call-up) if it's determined they traveled from a high-risk environment or engaged in behavior that subjected them to a substantially higher risk of infection. The duration could be extended to 14 days if deemed appropriate. The unvaccinated player will be subject to RT-PCR testing on Day 1, 3, 5 and 7 of his quarantine.

- Fully vaccinated individuals have reduced circumstances in which they are required to wear face coverings. However, masks for fully vaccinated individuals are required in areas where there is substantial or high transmission of COVID-19 and must continue to be worn when inside club facilities or team spaces other than while actively exercising, playing in a game, sitting on the bench or while eating or drinking.

- Unvaccinated Players are required to wear face coverings at all times when with the team or in team spaces other than exercising, playing, etc.

- Unvaccinated Players are required to remain more than six feet from both unvaccinated and fully vaccinated individuals, including in meeting rooms, locker room stalls, when dining, etc.

- If physical distancing can't be controlled, like on the team charter, in the locker room or on a team bus, fully vaccinated individuals must always be masked for the entire time they are in close contact to an unvaccinated individual.

- Unvaccinated Players are not permitted to share small, enclosed spaces such as saunas, steam rooms or vehicles (e.g., carpooling, taxis or rideshares) with either fully vaccinated or other unvaccinated players. Each unvaccinated player shall be provided with his own hotel accommodation for the duration of his participation in training camp, as well as when on road trips during the regular season.

- Unvaccinated players on any team flight should avoid eating and drinking at the same time as others in the same row and remain masked except while actively eating or drinking.

- Fully vaccinated players shall be subject to PCR testing at least every 72 hours. Unvaccinated players get tested daily. On Nov. 1, the NHL and NHLPA will meet to determine whether the conditions are appropriate to increase or decrease the frequency of testing.

- On road trips, unvaccinated players shall not patronize or enter internal venues other than the team hotel, practice facility or arena. The one exception is for medical treatment or extenuating personal circumstances.

- Unvaccinated players cannot use the hotel gym, pool, sauna, steam room or other shared facilities. Unvaccinated players cannot have players, club staff or visitors inside their hotel room with the exception of fully vaccinated family members.

- Clubs shall arrange a big enough private meal room at each hotel to enable proper distancing between unvaccinated players and others.

- Unvaccinated players are not permitted to leave the hotel to eat or to purchase food or otherwise use any restaurants or bars (in the hotel or otherwise) that are open to the public. Unvaccinated Players are not permitted to pick up food from restaurants except where the restaurant provides "curb-side pickup" or similar service that does not require the player to enter the main restaurant.

- Unvaccinated players are asked to stay at home to the greatest extent possible and to not engage in unnecessary interactions with non-family members or other individuals whom they may be unaware of that person's vaccination status. This includes "diligently wearing face coverings and physically distancing when outside of the club facilities and avoiding social interactions."

- Unvaccinated players are asked to not go inside restaurants, bars and clubs. While outdoor dining at restaurants or bars is permitted, face coverings must be worn when not actively eating or drinking. They're asked to not engage in indoor dining, even at home, with others outside their personal household bubbles; and to avoid crowded situations, including schools, movie theaters and malls. They're asked to avoid any public transportation and to rely on delivery services for groceries, meals and other personal items.

- All players and team personnel will not be permitted to participate in organized interactions with fans (handshake lines, fist bumps, autograph sessions, charity events or speaking engagements).

- The event level, locker rooms, bench areas and club charters (for rightsholders) will be open to all media and broadcast personnel as long as the media members are fully vaccinated and masked at all times. Fully vaccinated players and hockey operations personnel may be unmasked during interviews, but unvaccinated players must remain masked during interviews or be six feet away from the interviewer.

The protocols also create a mechanism for players to opt out of the 2021-22 season.



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A player who is unvaccinated or fully vaccinated who can establish that an immediate family member (i.e., spouse, partner or child) with whom he shares a household is at substantially heightened risk of severe illness by contracting COVID-19 is entitled to opt-out by notifying the club of his intention to do so by no later than Oct. 1.

If a player opts out, they are not eligible to play any professional hockey nor can they participate in the Olympics. The team has the option to toll the contract to the 2022-23 season or not.

The Athletic LOADED: 09.03.2021

1219988 Websites

NHL's new COVID-19 protocols include mechanism for suspending unvaccinated players

Elliotte Friedman@FriedgeHNIC

September 2, 2021, 7:05 PM

The biggest news is a mechanism for teams to suspend unvaccinated players who are "unable to participate in club activities." This includes situations where a player cannot travel because of local, provincial/state and/or federal regulations "upon return." Such individuals would "forfeit the equivalent of one day's pay for each day" they are precluded from participating.

It's a major development considering the Canada/U.S. border and different rules/approaches across the NHL's North American landscape. General managers were warned about this possibility at their virtual meeting in July and began informing players about the possibility.

There are exceptions — unvaccinated status based upon medical reasons; a conflict with "sincerely held religious beliefs;" establishment "on the basis of a balance of the probabilities," COVID-19 "arised out of the course of employment as a hockey player;" or quarantine because of being a high-risk close contact.

If a fully vaccinated player is confirmed with a positive COVID test, his condition "shall be treated as a hockey-related injury for all purposes" under the CBA.

Unvaccinated players who are not exempted for the above reasons will not be paid if his team establishes, "on the basis of a balance of the probabilities, that the player failed to comply with the terms of this protocol in a manner that was reasonably related to his contraction of COVID-19 and/or any resulting or related illness."

Other notable points of emphasis:

- Any player who wishes to opt-out of the 2021-22 season because they are unvaccinated or fully vaccinated "but can establish that an immediate family member with whom he shares a household is at substantially heightened risk of severe illness by contracting COVID-19" can opt-out by Oct. 1. The team in question will then have 30 days to decide if the player's contract will be "tolled" (basically rolling it over to 2022-23) or if this season would be removed from the agreement. Anyone opting out would not be able to play in another league or the Olympics.

- Any person whose job, role, position or access entails or entitles them to have personal interactions (within 12 feet) of club hockey operations personnel (including players) must be fully vaccinated.

- Fully vaccinated players shall be subject to PCR testing at least every 72 hours. That guideline could change depending on how things progress. Unvaccinated players will be tested daily.

- There are stiff rules for unvaccinated players. On the road, they cannot enter "internal venues" other than the team hotel, practice facility, or game arena. They are not allowed to use the hotel gym, pool, sauna, steam room or other shared facilities. They are not allowed to have teammates, team staff or visitors inside their hotel room, with the exception of fully-vaccinated family. They are not allowed to leave the hotel to eat (or purchase food) or use any restaurants/bars (in or out of the hotel) that are open to the public. They can't pick up food except where the restaurant provides curbside pickup (or similar service) that does not require entrance to the main restaurant.

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