



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • July 29, 2022



Justin Williams' hockey camp hits the ice in Cary

By Kacy Hintz

Cary, N.C. — Two years removed from the game, and Justin Williams still has a little zip in his stride.

The former Carolina Hurricanes captain is back on the ice this week at the Canes training facility in Cary hosting his annual hockey camp.

"We have quite the facility here," said Williams. "There's a field outside, two hockey rinks, a workout facility upstairs. It's an all-in-one area here and it really makes the camp run smooth."

Since 2016, the camp has been held in Williams' hometown of Cobourg, Ontario, Canada, but with COVID restrictions the camp has been on hiatus for the last two years. This year is not only a return to action, but the first time its being held in the Triangle.

"This is my home, so it's nice to bring a camp of this caliber to the area," said Williams.

Kids from birth years 2007 to 2012 have come from all over the United States and Canada to learn from the three-time Stanley Cup champion.

"I think 13-14-years-old is kind of the best time of your life and they don't even know it," said Williams. "So if they can just bring everything in and take even a tiny bit of information they're getting this week, that should help them on their hockey path."

Even after being away for two years and moving the camp, there's some players who have been traveling and participating since it began in 2016.

"You still see the same faces and see the kids develop," said Williams. "It's really awesome to see them come back year after year after year because of what we're able to offer."

Willy has long been a proponent of kids playing multiple sports, so they're offering more than just hockey this week.

"They're outside playing soccer, they're playing kickball and they're able to workout with Bill Burniston - the Hurricanes strength coach," said Williams. "So there's a lot of things these kids have had this week they'll remember forever I would imagine."

There's one thing Jr. Cane, Nolan Roberts, won't be forgetting any time soon about his week at camp.

"Getting Rod Brind'Amour to come in and talk to us, I couldn't believe it" said Roberts. "He was so good, he really motivated me."

A motivator for Williams? Continuing to put Carolina hockey on the map.

"Our pre-registration shows just how much it has grown in this area. And it's not just your average hockey player," said Williams. "We have some elite hockey players from this area who are making names for themselves and developing nicely. So it's nice to not have to go anywhere to play elite hockey and the Junior Canes organization is doing a great job with it."



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Gardiner healthy for Hurricanes after not playing last season

Defenseman 'ready to get back' following hip, back surgeries

By Jessi Pierce

EDINA, Minn. -- Jake Gardiner is hungrier than ever to start the upcoming NHL season.

The 32-year-old Carolina Hurricanes defenseman missed the entire 2021-22 season after having hip and back surgeries. He last played May 10, 2021.

Gardiner was cleared to return to play in early June and is participating in Da Beauty League, a 4-on-4 summer hockey league for NHL, American Hockey League and NCAA Division I players living in Minnesota.

"It was hard," Gardiner said Wednesday of the missed time. "I've worked my butt off and done countless treatments and rehabs and exercises to be ready to get back."

The Hurricanes will certainly welcome back the veteran of 10 NHL seasons, who has played two seasons with Carolina after playing his first eight with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"Barring anything unforeseen, he'll come to camp and we'll go from there," Hurricanes general manager Don Waddell said at the 2022 NHL Draft in Montreal on July 7.

Gardiner has one season remaining on a four-year, \$16.2 million contract (\$4.05 average annual value) he signed Sept. 6, 2019.

How Gardiner will be used and whom he will play with in 2022-23 will be a big question mark because the Hurricanes have been aggressive in remaking their defensemen since he was injured.

The Hurricanes traded for veteran defenseman Brent Burns on July 13, sending forward Steven Lorentz, goalie prospect Eetu Makiniemi and a conditional third-round pick in the 2023 NHL Draft to the San Jose Sharks.

Burns won the Norris Trophy in 2016-17 as the NHL's best defenseman. The 37-year-old had 54 points (10 goals, 44 assists) in 82 regular-season games last season and has 777 points (227 goals, 550 assists) in 1,251 games with the Sharks and Minnesota Wild.

Burns will help offset the loss of defenseman Tony DeAngelo, who was traded to the Philadelphia Flyers on July 8. DeAngelo had 51 points (10 goals, 41 assists) in 64 games in his only season with the Hurricanes, including 20 points (two goals, 18 assists) on the power play.

The Hurricanes also lost defensemen Ian Cole (Tampa Bay Lightning) and Brendan Smith (New Jersey Devils) in free agency.

Last offseason, Carolina lost defenseman Dougie Hamilton while Gardiner was injured. Hamilton signed a seven-year contract with the New Jersey Devils following 2020-21 after scoring 42 points (10 goals, 32 assists) in 55 regular-season games for the Hurricanes that season.

"We lost Tony DeAngelo, who was a big power-play guy for us," said Hurricanes defenseman Brady Skjei, who is also participating in Da Beauty League. "But I think 'Burns' or [Gardiner] can fill that role right away."

"We know what Jake brings to our team, and it's great to get him back, but I think having a guy like Burns, who has had an unbelievable career and can play some big minutes for us, it's going to be really fun to see. I think he's going to have a really good year. He's going to fit right in with us."

The Hurricanes have been busy this offseason after losing in the second round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the second straight season.

They also added forward Max Pacioretty in a trade with the Vegas Golden Knights on July 13. Pacioretty had 37 points (19 goals, 18 assists) in 39 regular-season games last season. In the eight previous seasons, he's averaged 29 goals per season.

They lost top-six forwards Nino Niederreiter (Nashville Predators) and Vincent Trocheck (New York Rangers) in free agency, yet Skjei and Gardiner said they believe Hurricanes remain a contender for the Stanley Cup.

"We've gotten pretty dang close but haven't gotten there yet," Gardiner said. "And I think we have a really good team, it's just a matter of executing."



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Carolina Hurricanes re-sign D Ethan Bear to 1-year contract

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Hurricanes have re-signed defenseman Ethan Bear to a one-year, \$2.2 million contract.

The team announced the deal Thursday, exactly one year since the Hurricanes acquired Bear in a trade with Edmonton.

Bear had five goals and nine assists in 58 games last season. He struggled to find a rhythm after a bout with COVID-19 in late November and was a healthy scratch for Carolina's 14 playoff games.

"I've never been through something like that," Bear said in June. "Honestly, for a long time, it's tough; it's like you can't breathe but like you don't know if you're out of shape or can't push yourself to that point because you just simply couldn't. That was the most challenging part."

The 25-year-old Bear was a restricted free agent who had filed for arbitration, with a hearing set for Aug. 8.

Carolina has made the playoffs for four straight seasons but lost in a seven-game, second-round series to the New York Rangers in May.



Carolina Hurricanes re-sign Ethan Bear to one-year deal

Defenceman Ethan Bear has signed a one-year deal with the Carolina Hurricanes, the club announced on Thursday.

The deal is for \$2.2 million and will see the native of Regina, Sask., become an RFA after the season — one year away from unrestricted free agency.

Bear, 25, was drafted in the fifth round of the 2015 draft by the Edmonton Oilers but was traded to Carolina last summer for Warren Foegele.

The right-shooting rearguard has 13 goals and 34 assists for 47 points in 190 NHL games.



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Hurricanes Sign Bear to One-Year Extension

The Carolina Hurricanes have signed defenseman Ethan Bear to a one-year contract extension.

By Mike Stephens

Arguably the most unpredictable restricted free agent saga of the offseason has been resolved.

For now, that is.

The Carolina Hurricanes found common ground with one of their promising young defenders on Wednesday evening, reportedly agreeing to terms with Ethan Bear on a one-year contract extension.

PuckPedia was the first on the report.

The deal now ties Bear to Carolina for the 2022-23 season and comes just days before the two sides were set to meet before an arbitrator.

Did Bear have a great 2021-22 campaign? No, he didn't. And he'd probably admit that himself.

Bear suited up in just 58 games this past season, averaging the lowest ice-time total of his career thus far and racking up just five goals and nine assists for 14 points while displaying the same hesitancy in the defensive end that landed him outside the Canes' top-six towards the end of the season. Injuries played a factor in Bear's struggles, absolutely. But he could have been better.

Still, there is cause for optimism. Bear is a young player still trying to iron some things out. How many of those have we seen go on to accomplish great things?

Not to mention, Bear is a right-shot defenseman in a league with very few of them, who puts up encouraging underlying numbers and still has some room left to grow. A \$2.2 million price tag might be a bit of a risk for a reclamation project, but Bear has shown the ability to be a solid contributor in a playoff team's top-four before during his time in Edmonton.

If he can recapture that magic, the Hurricanes will be laughing all the way to the bank.

Prospect Pool Overview: Carolina Hurricanes

Hurricanes GM Don Waddell has done a wonderful job of building an NHL roster that has been a legitimate contender for the last few seasons, and the prospect pool hasn't suffered because of it, either.

By Tony Ferrari

Carolina Hurricanes GM Don Waddell has done a wonderful job of building an NHL roster that has been a legitimate contender for the last few seasons, and the prospect pool hasn't suffered because of it, either.

That isn't the case, though, as Waddell and the scouting staff has done an impressive job of scooping up quality talent through the draft.

One of the common themes in the Hurricanes' drafting is that they seem to value European prospects a bit more than other organizations. They are willing to take a chance on a highly skilled Finnish player or a Russian that some teams may fear because of the "Russian factor" which was ever more present this year.

The defensive pipeline is stocked with talent. They have decent defensive blueliners such as Alexander Nikishin and Tarmo Reunanen, and Aleksii Heimosalmi and Domenik Fensore handle the offensive side of things quite well. Add n Scott Morrow and Anttoni Honka, and it's clear defensive depth is a strength

Their forward group is much of the same in that regard. They have a diverse group of forwards, with high-end finishers such as Noel Gunler and Alexander Perevalov and silky playmakers such as Ryan Suzuki and Zion Nybeck, among others.

2022 NHL Draft Class

Round 2 (60 Overall) - Gleb Trikozov, L, Omskie Yastreby [MHL]

Round 3 (71 Overall) - Alexander Perevalov, L, Loko Yaroslavl [MHL]

Round 4 (101 Overall) - Simon Forsmark, D, Orebro HK [SHL]

Round 4 (124 Overall) - Cruz Lucius, R, U.S. National

Development Team [USHL] Round 5 (156 Overall) - Vladimir Grudin, D, Krasnaya Armiya [MHL]

Round 6 (171 Overall) - Jakub Vondras, G, Plzen [Czech Jrs.]

Round 7 (205 Overall) - Alexander Pelevin, D, Nizhny Novgorod [MHL]

The Carolina Hurricanes didn't have a first-round pick this year. but that didn't stop them from having a strong draft. A great deal of that intrigue comes from their lack of hesitance to draft Russian-born players; the Canes drafted four players out of Russia with their seven picks whereas no other team drafted more than two.



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Winger Gleb Trikozov was a sneaky good value selection at 60th overall. The Russian winger has a howitzer of a shot and plays with speed and pace to his game that NHL teams generally covet. His offensive mindset is cerebral and lethal as both a playmaker and shot creator. A few picks later, the Canes took winger Alexander Perevalov, another creative and skilled offensive player. Both Trikozov and Perevalov are high-upside, high-octane players who exemplify the Canes' draft philosophy.

Simon Forsmark was the Canes' fourth-round pick at 101st overall and while his offensive numbers may seem like he is an offensive blueliner, there is more to the story. His game is more of a two-way game that leans defensively. He uses his mobility and play-reading ability to defend well. He makes a good first pass out of the zone and moves play up ice efficiently.

Cruz Lucius is the younger brother of Winnipeg Jets' prospect Chaz. Cruz is more of a playmaker than his brother, with some deceptive passing ability and shifty hands. His skating will need work, but the offensive skill is excellent value in the fourth round.

Vladimir Grudinen and Alexander Pelevin are strong skating defenders who use their mobility in every facet of their game. From closing gaps when defending transition to attacking space with the puck on their stick, both Grudinen and Pelevin could be massive steals in the fifth and seventh rounds respectively. Yet again, the Canes just take advantage of players who fell in the draft.

Strengths

The strength of the Hurricanes is that they have a boat load of everything everywhere. Every position has a group of players with diverse skill sets and levels of risk. They even have a high-end goalie prospect in Pyotr Kochetkov who we saw a few times in the NHL last season. The Canes have done an excellent job of using trading back and maximizing assets by taking a chance on players earlier in the draft than other teams. From Trikozov to Suzuki and Morrow to

Nikishin, the insane variance in skill sets and talents in the Canes system is admirable.

Weaknesses

It's hard to pick apart a system as solid as Carolina's, but the fact is that they lack an A-level prospect. They have plenty of players with huge upside, such as Morrow on the blueline and Trikozov or Gunler up front, but don't have a true game-changer. That's the price to pay for being quite a good team for multiple years. With that said, they have 20-year-old Seth Jarvis and 22-year-old Andrei Svechnikov who both look like absolute studs in their own right, so they're in good shape.

Next Man Up: C Jack Drury

The Hurricanes have a very solid NHL roster but that doesn't mean they won't need a young player to come up and fill a role. The departure of Vincent Trocheck, Max Domi, and Nino Niederreiter were all important pieces to the squad last year and while some players such as Jesperi Kotkaniemi will step up and fill the void, they'll need more. Jack Drury has paid his dues at the AHL level after a year in Sweden during the pandemic.

He doesn't have a true standout skill, but the former Harvard University forward has an innate intuition for positioning, and with a high motor, Drury is greater than the sum of his parts. With a fourth-line center role and a possible wing position on the third line, Drury should have the opportunity to take a hold of a full-time roster spot.

Prospect Depth Chart Notables

LW: Gleb Trikozov, Zion Nybeck, Patrik Puistola, Vasili Ponomaryov

C: Ryan Suzuki, Jamieson Rees, Jack Drury, Justin Robidas

RW: Noel Gunler, Ville Koivunen, Alexander Pashin, Tuukka Tiekola

LD: Alexander Nikishin, Simon Forsmark, Domenik Fensore, Tarmo Reunanen

RD: Scott Morrow, Aleksii Heimosalmi, Anttoni Honka

G: Pyotr Kochetkov



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Canes re-sign Bear

The Hurricanes agreed to terms on a one-year deal for the right-shot defenseman.

By Alec Sawyer

The Carolina Hurricanes announced Thursday morning that they are officially bringing back defenseman Ethan Bear, as the team and the RFA agreed to terms on a one-year, \$2.2 million contract.

Bear had filed for arbitration and had a hearing scheduled for Aug. 8, but the team and player avoided salary arbitration by getting a deal done Thursday.

Bear had 14 points in 58 games in year one for the Hurricanes, playing on the top pairing early before some COVID issues sidelined him. From there, Bear never really quite found his footing with the Canes, often times being the odd-man out on the blue line.

With Bear's contract settled, the Hurricanes have one pending player who has filed for arbitration in Maxime Lajoie. Lajoie's hearing is scheduled for Aug. 9. The Hurricanes will have access to another contract buyout period for 48 hours which will begin three days after Lajoie's case is settled, either by hearing or contract agreement.

Here is the full press release from the team on the Bear signing;

RALEIGH, N.C. – Don Waddell, President and General Manager of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes, today announced that the team has re-signed defenseman Ethan Bear to a one-year, \$2.2 million contract.

"Adjusting to a new team and system can be challenging for a young defenseman," said Waddell. "We are confident Ethan will be able to take another step in his development this season."

Bear, 25, registered 14 points (5g, 9a) in 58 games with the Hurricanes in 2021-22, tying his career high in goals. The 5'11", 197-pound defenseman has tallied 47 points (13g, 34a) in 190 career NHL games with Edmonton and Carolina from 2018-22. Bear also played 89 American Hockey League games with Bakersfield from 2017-19, earning 49 points (12g, 37a). Prior to turning professional, he posted 192 points (66g, 126a) in 264 Western Hockey League games with Seattle from 2013-17, helping the Thunderbirds capture the Chynoweth Cup in 2017. The Regina, Sask., native also represented Canada internationally at the 2015 IIHF Under-18 World Championship, winning a bronze medal. Selected by Edmonton in the fifth round, 124th overall, of the 2015 NHL Draft, Bear was acquired by the Hurricanes from the Oilers in exchange for Warren Foegele on July 28, 2021.



Wolves welcome back Lodnia

The Calder Cup champion Chicago Wolves announced Thursday they have re-signed forward Ivan Lodnia to a Standard Player Contract (SPC) for the 2022-23 season.

The 22-year-old Los Angeles native capped his first full professional season with four goals during the Calder Cup Playoffs — each of which helped the Wolves win. He opened the scoring in Game 3 of the Central Division Semifinals to trigger the sweep of the Rockford IceHogs, scored in the Western Conference Finals Game 3 win at Stockton, delivered the game-winning goal in the clinching Game 6 win over Stockton and notched an important goal in Chicago's Calder Cup Finals Game 3 win at Springfield.

After signing with the Wolves last year at Thanksgiving, Lodnia posted 4 goals and 4 assists in 38 regular-season games and added 4 goals and 1 assist in 11 postseason appearances. He was a third-round pick of the Minnesota Wild in the 2017 NHL Draft.

The Wolves open their AHL title defense on Saturday, Oct. 15, when they host the Milwaukee Admirals in their 29th season opener. Prior to the game, the Wolves will raise a 2022 Calder Cup championship banner to the Allstate Arena rafters. To find the latest on Wolves tickets, Calder Cup champion merchandise and additions to the team's 2022-23 roster, visit ChicagoWolves.com or contact a team representative at WolvesTix@ChicagoWolves.com.



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SportScan

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

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Websites

28/07/2022

Adidas won't renew NHL deal after 2023-24 season, league confirms

The Athletic Staff

28/07/2022

Adidas will not renew its contract as the NHL's official supplier of uniforms and apparel after the 2023-34 season, the NHL confirmed to The Athletic on Thursday.

The company has two years remaining in a seven-year deal with the NHL and is not looking to return. The league has already begun reaching out to other apparel companies to let them know that uniform rights will be available in two years.

Adidas replaced Reebok after the 2016-17 season — Reebok had been the NHL's uniform supplier since the 2005-06 season. At the time of the deal, ESPN reported that Adidas paid at least double the \$35 million annually that Reebok had been paying for the rights.

Stars like Connor McDavid signed deals to promote Adidas. Players with expiring Adidas endorsement deals will also not be renewed, per ESPN.

The NHL has had a partnership with Fanatics for sales, and later manufacturing, since 2005. The company runs the NHL's e-commerce retail site and operates on-site retail at league events.

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1250562

Websites

Dave Elston, Canada's NHL cartoonist, 'was a gentleman in a business' for jerks

Sean Fitz-Gerald

Dave Elston is a semi-retired artist who lives in Calgary with his wife, Kaída, their cat, Annie, and their 26-year-old horse, Baby, whose residence in a nearby stable prompts Elston to describe it affectionately as: "The world's most expensive lawn ornament."

A wall in the basement of their home illustrates how much further his reach once extended, and not just to a stable across town, but across North America. For most of his career, Elston was commonly known as the only full-time editorial sports cartoonist in Canada, and he has a galaxy of autographs and framed keepsakes on display from the very same NHL personalities he was once paid to skewer.

His work appeared in Canadian newspapers, as well as The Hockey News and, for a while, as animated shorts on "Hockey Night in Canada" broadcasts. He was a two-time art-school dropout whose ability to tell a story in a single frame still makes his work instantly recognizable to readers of a certain age.

"He's a brilliant guy," said NHL executive Brian Burke.

"Wonderful," said retired forward Tim Hunter.

"He should be an Order of Canada guy," said TSN host Jay Onrait.

Elston, now 63, enrolled in what was then called the Alberta College of Art with dreams of becoming a commercial artist. He quickly felt out of place. Work judged to contain cartoonish imagery was panned, rather than praised. And beside that, he also loved sports.

In 1980, he reached out to his former high school football coach, who was an editor at the Calgary Sun, which had just recently launched. (Elston said he is 5-foot-2, and when he was a running back someone nicknamed him "The Galloping Fire Hydrant.")

The paper gave him \$25 per cartoon.

Within a few years, Elston wanted to expand his reach by syndicating his work across Canada. He sent packets of his cartoons to small papers across the country. He had a packet left after the mailing spree, and on a lark he decided to send it to The Hockey News, in Toronto.

Bob McKenzie was the editor-in-chief. He was still only a couple of years into the job when the packet landed on his desk. He wanted to separate



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the publication from the notion it was the editorial arm of the NHL — Ken McKenzie (no relation) founded the paper in 1947 while working at the league — and felt an editorial cartoonist would help that cause.

He hired Elston, and he gave him editorial freedom.

“He was a giant in terms of the impact that he had at The Hockey News,” said McKenzie, who is now a semi-retired NHL insider for TSN.

His favourite Elston cartoon involved Wayne Gretzky and a coach who badly misjudged his own influence behind the bench. Robbie Florek was coach of the Los Angeles Kings in the late 1980s, and he reduced Gretzky’s playing time, going so far as to bench The Great One for part of a game in November 1988.

McKenzie can still visualize the cartoon. Florek was drawn into a frame as one of the Three Wise Men, arguing as he peered into the manger: “I dunno, looks just like another baby to me.”

“It was absolutely fantastic,” said McKenzie. “It was one of the best cartoons I’ve ever seen.”

Hunter, the long-time NHL forward, was also a frequent muse. Now 61, he acknowledged his “famous nose” made him an easy mark. But it was also the star of his favourite Elston cartoon.

He was playing for the Canucks that season. In the frame, the Vancouver trainer is looking into a box of Breathe Right nasal strips, which some players used because they believed it boosted their performance on the ice. The trainer notices the fresh box is empty and asked who snatched all the bandages.

“I’ve got about 10 on my nose, and he’s holding an empty box,” Hunter said with a laugh. “I mean, that’s just classic.”

A few years later, as Hunter was wrapping his NHL playing career with the San Jose Sharks, Elston had an animated short appear on “Hockey Night in Canada” early in the season. With theme music from the film “Jaws” playing in the background, the cartoon showed what appeared to be a shark’s fin swimming across a pool toward the Stanley Cup.

“This thing hits the Stanley Cup,” said Hunter. “And up pops me: I was swimming on my back.”

“He does brilliant work, and he’s not mean,” said Burke, who is now president of hockey operations with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Burke said he sent Elston a hand-written note of appreciation after seeing a cartoon in 1989, following a hard-fought playoff series between Vancouver and Calgary. The Flames advanced after an overtime goal in Game 7 — eventually winning the Stanley Cup — but Elston’s frame showed how both teams were worn down and beaten up.

It was a sign of respect to the Canucks, with whom Burke was working.

“He would make fun of somebody, but he would do it in a way that you couldn’t stay mad at him,” said Burke. “He was truly a gentleman in a business where you had to be a little bit of a jerk.”

Burke is also now a co-star of his own cartoon series. With host Jeff Marek, he appears in the Sportsnet animated shorts “Hey Burkie,” which are available online. (Neels Britz is the artist behind the series, with Amil Delic and Jason Harding serving as the creative leads.)

“I can ramble in my stories,” said Burke. “I can explain things. Elston had one shot.”

“It was almost like an alternative comic, but in a mainstream publication,” said Onrait, the TSN anchor. “You couldn’t pass one of his comics without stopping and paying attention to it because of that unique style.”

Onrait has a personalized Elston cartoon framed in his office. He said it was a gift arranged by his wife. It shows a man pushing a TSN-branded baby carriage under the text: “The Onrait baby says his first word.”

The speech bubble coming from the carriage is a classic Onrait exclamation in bold letters: “Bobrovsky!!”

Onrait grew up in Edmonton during the height of the “Battle of Alberta,” when the Oilers and Flames would seem to meet every spring to decide which team would advance to win the Stanley Cup. Elston, he said, was a major component of that era in Calgary.

“A very important artist in the history of that city,” he said. “I don’t think that’s hyperbole. I don’t think I’m overstating it. I truly believe that he was not just a great artist, but also a chronicler of that time — especially that time in the ‘80s, when the teams were so good.”

If an NHL player reached out to ask for a print of his work, Elston said he would usually send two copies in the mail: One for the player, and one for the player to autograph and send back. Most of his subjects, he said, seemed to get the joke.

Most of them, he said, but not all.

“I’ve had the odd one where somebody will come up to me and go: ‘Oh, you did a cartoon of me back when I was playing football for the Stampeders,’” he said. “Then I’ll go: ‘Oh yeah?’ And they’ll say, ‘I didn’t like it.’”

He paused to laugh: “I’m kind of like, ‘OK, do you hit me now?’”

In 1991, Flames forward Doug Gilmour landed in an Elston cartoon after he was awarded \$750,000 in salary arbitration. It was just before the December holidays and, according to the Vancouver Province, the cartoon showed Gilmour asking for charity with a sign: “Young couple, one child, father making a lousy \$750,000.”

Gilmour was reportedly unhappy with his depiction, but he never reached out to the artist.

“His wife did,” Elston said. “She was not happy. I’m going to leave it at that.”

He said he still draws every now and again, mostly for his own amusement. He said he is open to new projects, but is otherwise settling into retired life. His wife, Kaida, is also retired.

“I’m grateful that I kind of hit that sweet spot where I managed to make a career out of it, and got out of it in time with enough to hopefully retire on,” he said, stopping to laugh again. “Or, I guess, I’ll find out.”

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1250563 Websites

Stanley Cup championship odds: Who helped or hurt their chances this offseason?

Jesse Granger

28/07/2022

A lot has happened since the Avalanche hoisted the Stanley Cup on June 26. There have been 352 contracts signed in the NHL, and 25 trades — excluding the draft-day pick swaps — with many of them reshaping the landscape for the 2022-23 season.

Hart Trophy candidate Johnny Gaudreau shocked the hockey world by signing in Columbus, which started a chain reaction that landed Matthew Tkachuk in Florida and Jonathan Huberdeau — who finished just behind Gaudreau for the Hart — in Calgary. Goalies changed seats like a game of musical chairs, and nearly a third of the league has a new coach heading into this season. There are still some changes coming (cough, cough ... Nazem Kadri and John Klingberg) but the dust has mostly settled on an NHL offseason that was wilder than most.

Now that we have a better picture of how each team will look heading into next season, it’s time to ask: Which teams improved or hurt their



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championship aspirations the most this summer? To quantify that, we've compared each team's Stanley Cup odds, courtesy of BetMGM, from June 26 to now. This obviously isn't a perfect representation of which teams got better or worse, but it's a glimpse into how oddsmakers and the betting public view each club's offseason maneuvers.

Because every dollar on the money line isn't equal, we'll be using "implied odds" for each team, which converts their odds into a percentage. For example, the Colorado Avalanche have the best odds to win the 2022-23 Cup at +425, which translates to a 19.5 percent chance. Meanwhile, the Blackhawks have the worst odds at +50000, which translates to a 0.2 percent chance.

Using this method accounts for the larger line movement by teams with longshot odds. A team like Columbus going from +10,000 to +8,000 is a 1,000-point shift in the odds, but in actuality, it only improves their implied percentage of winning the Cup from 0.99 to 1.23 percent. Meanwhile, Colorado improved from +450 to +425. That's only a shift of 25 points on the odds, but the implied percent of the Avalanche winning the Cup went from 18.18 to 19.05 percent — a much larger increase than for Columbus.

Over the last month, there were nine teams that improved their odds, 11 that had their odds decreased and 12 that saw their odds remain exactly the same. The full chart is at the bottom. First, we'll examine the top five on each end of the spectrum, starting with those whose odds improved the most.

1. Florida Panthers

June 26 odds: +1000 (9.09%)

Current odds: +900 (10.00%)

Percent change: 0.91%

High-profile moves probably influence the betting market more than they should, and this could be a perfect example. The Panthers entered the offseason with the fourth-best odds of winning next year's Cup, and have done more to improve their chances than any other team in the NHL according to the odds.

It's a bit strange to see Florida atop this list considering it lost its leading scorer in Huberdeau and several key pieces in forwards Claude Giroux and Mason Marchment, and defensemen MacKenzie Weegar and Ben Chiarot this summer. The Panthers obviously added another star in Tkachuk, as well as a few depth forwards in Nick Cousins and Colin White, but to say they've had the best offseason is a stretch.

Nothing fuels future bets in the summer more than a blockbuster acquisition, and Tkachuk is definitely that.

2. Colorado Avalanche

June 26 odds: +450 (18.18%)

Current odds: +425 (19.05%)

Percent change: 0.87%

The improvement in Colorado's odds this summer wasn't due to actual improvements to the roster. Colorado got weaker in net, losing Darcy Kuemper to Washington and quickly replacing him with Alexandar Georgiev. It also lost forwards Nicolas Aube-Kubel and Andre Burakovsky to free agency, and could still lose Kadri.

There is a chance bettors are banking on Colorado's young stars taking their game to yet another level, but this change in odds is more likely due to the lack of improvement from the teams around the Avalanche. The top three teams entering the offseason all improved their odds despite making little-to-no upgrades. That suggests no team below them made enough improvements to catch them, causing the market to hone in further on the favorites.

3. Ottawa Senators

June 26 odds: +8000 (1.23%)

Current odds: +5000 (1.96%)

Percent change: 0.73%

What a summer it's been for the Senators. General manager Pierre Dorion added two impact players in Alex DeBrincat and Giroux and potentially improved his goaltending with a cheaper starting option. The trade for DeBrincat alone would've made this a winning offseason for the Senators, adding the 24-year-old coming off an impressive 41-goal season for only a handful of draft picks. Signing the hometown veteran in Giroux could turn out to be an excellent free agency move, and swapping Matt Murray for Cam Talbot in net should improve Ottawa's goaltending. Talbot has out-performed Murray in each of the last three years in save percentage and goals saved above average, but will carry only a \$3.6 million cap hit.

Those moves resulted in a 0.73 percent swing in odds for Ottawa, improving from 80-to-1 to win it all to 50-to-1. The Senators are still obviously a longshot, but now have the fifth-best odds of winning the Atlantic Division despite finishing above only Montreal in 2021-22.

4. Toronto Maple Leafs

June 26 odds: +850 (10.53%)

Current odds: +800 (11.11%)

Percent change: 0.58%

Toronto has had a busy offseason, losing several contributors from down the lineup last year while adding two new goalies and a few new depth pieces through free agency. Perhaps this shift in odds is due to a confidence that Matt Murray will return to his 2016 form, or maybe bettors like the Leafs' under-the-radar moves such as signing Aube-Kubel and Calle Jankrok. Either way, Toronto remains amongst the favorites entering next season.

5. New York Rangers

June 26 odds: +2000 (4.76%)

Current odds: +1800 (5.26%)

Percent change: 0.50%

The Rangers lost forwards Ryan Strome and Andrew Copp via free agency, but replaced them by signing Vincent Trocheck. He'll be reunited with Gerard Gallant, who coached him in several of the best offensive seasons of his career in Florida.

The betting public's support of the Rangers likely has more to do with their developing young talent rather than actual offseason acquisitions. Watching Adam Fox, Filip Chytil, Alexis Lafreniere, K'Andre Miller, Kaapo Kakko and Ryan Lindgren (all under the age of 24) play as well as they did in the postseason paints a bright future in New York.

Now for the five teams that hurt their 2022-23 Cup odds the most this summer:

1. Calgary Flames

June 26 odds: +1800 (5.26%)

Current odds: +2200 (4.35%)

Percent change: -0.91%

General manager Brad Treliving did an incredible job to secure the return he did for Tkachuk, considering the circumstances, but there's no denying the Flames are in a worse spot after losing its two leading scorers from a year ago.

Tkachuk and Gaudreau combined for 82 goals in 2021-22, more than 28 percent of the team's total. Even after they acquired Huberdeau and Weegar, it's easy to see why the betting market is bearish on the Flames.



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2. Tampa Bay Lightning

June 26 odds: +900 (10.00%)

Current odds: +1000 (9.09%)

Percent change: -0.91%

The Lightning are still projected to contend for yet another Cup, but their salary-cap issues are slowly chipping away at their stacked roster. GM Julien BriseBois did well to lock up Mikhail Sergachev, Anthony Cirelli and Erik Cernak to long-term deals, but they lost two cornerstones in the dressing room in order to do so. With Ryan McDonagh and Ondrej Palat both heading out the door, Tampa Bay has questions to be answered.

Even with the 0.91 percent slip, the Lightning still have the fourth-best odds to win it all in 2022-23.

3. Philadelphia Flyers

June 26 odds: +6600 (1.49%)

Current odds: +15000 (0.66%)

Percent change: -0.91%

Entering the offseason, the Flyers were close to the middle of the pack in terms of odds to win the 2022-23 Cup (ranked 23rd in the league at 66-to-1). After trading for Tony DeAngelo, inking him to a \$10 million contract and missing out on the hometown hero (Gaudreau), the Flyers' odds have fallen to the sixth-worst in the NHL.

4. Chicago Blackhawks

June 26 odds: +10000 (0.99%)

Current odds: +50000 (0.20%)

Percent change: -0.79%

The Blackhawks entered the offseason as 100-to-1 longshots and still managed to get demonstrably worse. The list of players Chicago lost goes on and on. DeBrincat and Kirby Dach are the big two, but the Blackhawks also said goodbye to depth forwards Dylan Strome and Dominik Kubalik, and defenseman Calvin de Haan.

A month ago, the Blackhawks had the fourth-worst odds. Now they're tied with the Coyotes for the very worst odds in the NHL at 500-to-1.

5. St. Louis Blues

June 26 odds: +2200 (4.35%)

Current odds: +2500 (3.85%)

Percent change: -0.50%

It's been a quiet offseason in St. Louis. The Blues watched one of their top scorers (David Perron) and their No. 1 goaltender for most of last season (Ville Husso) walk out the door, but didn't add much to replace them. It's easy to see why the Blues' odds have slipped over the past month, especially now that they're out of the Tkachuk sweepstakes.

Here's how the odds changed for every team in the league over the last month:

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Sportsnet.ca / NHL's top 10 remaining UFAs: Latest rumours, reports

Luke Fox@lukefoxjukebox

July 28, 2022, 7:19 AM

Shockingly, we're more than two weeks removed from free agency's opening and the top centreman and defenceman available are... well, still available.

A flurry of trades and signings have taken a toll on our Top 10 UFA board, and yet a few major names — and plenty of intriguing second-tier ones — remain team-less.

Here's a quick rundown of the best UFAs still available in midsummer, and the latest on their situations.

Bargains are still there to be found.

1. Nazem Kadri

Age: 31

Position: Centre

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$4.5 million

The latest: One of 2021-22's greatest bargains, Kadri over-delivered big-time on his \$4-million salary.

Before temporarily going down to injury, Kadri was top-five leaguewide in scoring. The Cup champ enjoyed a phenomenal post-season, avoiding suspension, ripping hat tricks, scoring a big goal with a busted thumb, and proving the haters wrong.

Unless Kadri takes another discount, the cold math suggests there won't be room for him in Denver.

Sakic has already promised \$16.25 million annually to younger core forwards Mikko Rantanen and Landeskog, and he must begin carving out serious cap space (\$12 million?... more?) for Nathan MacKinnon in the summer of 2023.

Paying Kadri — what, \$7 million? — into his mid-30s feels like a luxury they won't be able to afford.

Kadri switched agents, from Brian MacDonald to Darren Ferris, in anticipation of finding the best possible deal this summer.

Why?

"I just felt like it was time, you know. Through my career, I feel like I've given myself an opportunity to explore, and I've had the same agent for a long, long time now. And I just wanted to see what else was out there for me," Kadri explained.

"It was just difficult to do, in general. [MacDonald] was a great friend of mine. And we formed a great relationship. So, it's always tough to have those conversations, but at the end of the day, I think I owe it to myself, and it's something that I've definitely earned."

Ferris negotiated Mitch Marner's lucrative 2019 deal and got creative with Taylor Hall's one-year bid in Buffalo as a UFA in 2020.

Plenty of suitors came through with juicy offers, but some centre openings are now filled (Rangers, Penguins, likely Bruins).

Calgary has money to spend now, and Columbus sure could use a playmaker for Johnny Gaudreau.

Kadri is reportedly waiting for some interested teams to clear cap room.

Still, Colorado is Kadri's first choice.

"How could it not be? The Kroenkes have been great supporters of mine and made it clear to me that they'd like me to stay also, but we understand that there's a business aspect involved. We're going to try to work together," Kadri told Real Kypre & Bourne on June 29.

"I think I've shown what my worth is and just looking forward to things playing out."



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A league source told reporter Kevin Kurz that there were “rumblings” the New York Islanders were making a push for Kadri.

Lou Lamoriello signed Kadri's last deal, and the offence-needy Isles have yet to make a summer splash, so this would make some sense.

2. John Klingberg

Age: 29

Position: Defence

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$4.25 million

The latest: Much like Nashville's Mattias Ekholm, a younger Klingberg signed a sweetheart team-friendly deal and is finally due a meaningful raise.

While Klingberg's production has dipped from his 67-point performance in 2017-18, top-four right-shot blueliners who can play in all situations never fail to command bidding wars.

That Klingberg — who got married last week — remains searching for the proper dance partner is curious.

A wild 24 hours suggested the Hurricanes, Kraken, Red Wings, and Senators were all in the mix here. Then, suddenly, the Dallas Stars were making a pitch to keep him in the fold.

A last-ditch return to Dallas fell apart, and the Hurricanes decided to trade for Brent Burns instead.

Where Klingberg — the top-rated D-man to hit the market — lands will be fascinating.

Red Wings speculation persists.

Did he overplay his hand? Is there still a small chance of returning on a short-term deal to Big D?

Well, Klingberg switched agents on July 27 — two weeks after free agency's opening — from Peter Wallen to Newport Sports. A statement on how well securing the D-man's next contract has gone to this point.

3. Patrice Bergeron

Age: 37

Position: Centre

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$6.875 million

The latest: Despite his age, Bergeron is still an all-world player. It would be disrespectful not to keep the Bruins captain and five-time Selke champ high on our list.

Bergeron announced in the fall that he'd skate out the final year of the eight-year, \$55 million contract he inked with Boston back in 2013 before making a call on the next stage of his career.

His body has been through the spin cycle. There is a chance he simply retires elite.

Upon a Round 1 elimination by the Hurricanes, Bergeron said that were he to continue skating, he only has interest in Boston. But he wants time to rest and ponder signing a one-year deal with the B's.

Club president Cam Neely wants to give the captain his space but would prefer an answer soonish.

"He understands that we have decisions to make coming up here," Neely said. "I hope he feels good about his game still, because he had a pretty damn good year. So, hopefully he's mentally prepared to have another one. You've got to give him some time to digest all that and talk with his family about it. But we have decisions to make coming up as well.

"It's tough to find a Bergeron. Hopefully, he does come back. But if he doesn't, we've got to go to work."

Speaking again in early June, Bergeron said he is in no rush to make a retirement call.

"I still think I have a lot of time ahead of me to make that decision," Bergeron said. "I'm going to make sure that I take all the time I need to make the right one."

Then came this eyebrow-raising report from plugged-in Boston reporter Joe McDonald:

Sweeney won't rush his first-ballot Hall of Famer into a choice. Still, what a pressure point for the organization.

"You could look at plans B and C and such, but let's be honest: You don't replace that type of player and what he means to our organization. That might take years to replace that player in that sense," Sweeney said. "He's given us indications that he's not going to hold us up in terms of what we may have to do subsequent to making a decision. But to be perfectly honest, I don't think there's a timetable on it."

4. David Krejci

Age: 36

Position: Centre

The latest: The former (and future?) Bruins second-line pivot spent 2021-22 ripping up the Czech league (46 points in 51 games) because he wanted to be near his family.

But the durable veteran is back training stateside and kept in close touch with Boston GM Don Sweeney.

That Sweeney traded Krejci's 2C replacement, Eric Haula, to New Jersey only fuels the sense that a double return of aging Bruins centres is in the works.

"I think we're in a really good place with Patrice," the GM said. "Just the timing and working out the details of his contract and allowing him to declare that he's good to go could be any timeframe there. Just working through some of the stuff, letting some of this day pass. He's the only one that's going to make that final announcement. He has the final say.

"David Krejci, we've had numerous discussions throughout the day. Going to try to continue to find some common ground there. It remains positive. But I just don't have a clear-cut answer for you."

5. Phil Kessel

Age: 34

Position: Right wing

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$8 million

The latest: The slippery sniper has gone to great lengths to keep his ironman streak active, so there is no doubt Kessel wants to thrill us with another contract and, at least, one more season of hockey.

That massive eight-year, \$64-million contract (shared by the Maple Leafs, Penguins and Coyotes) is finally over, and for the first time in his career Kessel will have to take a payout.

The winger is a second- or third-line option who can pinch in on the power-play at this stage.

Of all the UFAs hanging around still in free agency, only two (Kadri and Bergeron) were more productive than Kessel (52 points) in 2021-22.

There's still gas in the tank, and some loose Oilers rumours floating around.

6. Paul Stastny

Age: 36

Position: Centre / Left wing

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$3.75 million



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The latest: Another aging forward, true. But one who thinks the game so well that his decline has been gradual.

Stastrny managed 21 goals and 45 points while skating nearly 18 minutes a game and registering a plus-14 rating for an underwhelming Winnipeg Jets squad in 2021-22 — and did not hesitate to exert some hard-truth leadership at season's end.

He's also defensively shrewd and a face-off beast (56.6 per cent).

He'll make some team better. Word is, he wants to link with a contender.

"Yeah, we talked to Stas's group today," Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff said.

"I don't think any doors are closed, but whether he has options or choices, that will be up to him, I guess. But I guess you just never say never to him."

7. Anton Stralman

Age: 35

Position: Defence

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$5.5 million

The latest: Despite his age, the seventh-round wonder can still log meaningful minutes. Of all the remaining UFAs, only Klingberg averaged more ice time per night than Stralman (21:30), who left the Arizona Coyotes for the open market.

A smart penalty-killer, Stralman can still provide some offence (eight goals, 23 points) and play a position (right defence) that is highly sought-after. He's just 70 games away from a silver stick.

We wonder if Montreal may be a fit.

8. Sonny Milano

Age: 26

Position: Left wing / Right wing

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$1.7 million

The latest: The proud recipient of Trevor Zegras's remarkable "Dishigan" pass, Milano is blessed with elite skill.

And yet the winger has already been cast off by Columbus and now left unqualified as a pending RFA by Anaheim.

There is plenty of potential here for a middle-six forward who scored 14 goals and 34 points in 66 games for the Ducks last season.

Needs to improve his defensive game, though. Milano started 70.9 per cent of his shifts in the O-zone and still saw half of the action sway to his own end.

9. Evan Rodrigues

Age: 28

Position: Right wing / Centre

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$1 million

The latest: The undrafted Rodrigues took full advantage of an opportunity sent his way in 2021-22 with the Pittsburgh Penguins dealing with so many injuries up front.

An undrafted Toronto native, Rodrigues broke out late, crushing 19 goals, 43 points and a plus-three rating — career highs, all.

But with the Penguins reupping core veterans Evgeni Malkin, Kris Letang, Bryan Rust and Jeff Carter, there was little left over to give Rodrigues the raise he has earned.

The day before free agency, Rodrigues changed representation, leaving Peter Fish and joining Darren Ferris at Quartexx Hockey.

The Canucks reportedly inquired on the middle-six forward, and the Flames, Red Wings and Devils are rumoured to have interest.

10. Calvin De Haan

Age: 31

Position: Defence

2021-22 salary cap hit: \$4.55 million

The latest: A serviceable left-shot defenceman who can also patrol the ride side, De Haan has extended his 520-game career by prioritizing defence.

The 2009 first-rounder's offensive upside has taken a backseat on the back nine — De Haan put up eight points in 69 games for the Blackhawks this past season — but he skates a reliable 19 minutes a night and can help kill penalties.

As a second- or third-pairing guy, De Haan heard his name flying around the trade mill at the 2022 deadline but ended up staying in Chicago. He must be prepared for a pay cut on his next deal.

More notable UFAs: Tyler Motte, Zach Aston-Reese, Joe Thornton, P.K. Subban, Braden Holtby, Michael Stone, Zdeno Chara, Derek Stepan, Antoine Rousell, Jay Beagle, Jack Johnson, Sami Niku, Victor Rask, Sam Gagner, Tyler Ennis, Alex Galchenyuk, Sam Steel, Brian Boyle, Alex Chiasson, Tyler Bozak, Kris Russell, James Neal, Loui Eriksson, Daniel Sprong, Kyle Turris, Riley Nash, Cody Eakin, Jonathan Dahlen, Derick Brassard, Jimmy Vesey

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Sportsnet.ca / What we learned from Day 2 of the Hockey Canada hearings

Paul D. Grant@RealPDGrant

July 27, 2022, 6:43 PM

OTTAWA -- The second day of testimony in front of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage promised to be action-packed, with appearances by current and former executives of Hockey Canada, all three commissioners of Canada's major junior leagues as well as the president of the Canadian Hockey League.

Once again, plenty was learned on Wednesday.

Here are the main takeaways:

'I'm here to lead this change': Scott Smith says he will not resign from Hockey Canada

SCOTT SMITH IS NOT STEPPING DOWN

Scott Smith, who took over the leadership of Hockey Canada from the now-retired CEO Tom Renney on July 1, faced steady and often pointed calls by members of all four parties to resign.

Smith, 55, has been with Hockey Canada since 1995. In that time, he has been chief operating officer, president and now CEO.

Smith, in his opening statement and throughout the session, steadfastly maintained that he felt he was the leader to make the changes Hockey Canada needs to improve.

"I know you have questions about the leadership of Hockey Canada, about my leadership," Smith said in his opening statement. "You want answers and you want to see real action taken to end the culture of



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silence that allows toxic behavior and sexism to fester in corners of our game. I do too. You have asked for transparency. You've asked for accountability. You've asked for Hockey Canada to change. I'm here to lead that change."

That didn't seem to go over well with the committee members. The NDP's Peter Julian, Conservatives' John Nater, Bloc Quebecois' Sebastien Lemire and Liberals' Anthony Housefather all directly called, during their allotted question time, for change.

"Frankly, Mr. Smith, we agree, I'm sure we agree, that for the good (of) hockey, for the good of the countless volunteers across this country, the good work that countless blameless people are doing in the sport of hockey, I strongly believe there needs to be new leadership within Hockey Canada," Nater said. "Will you do that? Will you step down for new leadership to take over?"

To which Smith responded: "I believe I said in my opening statement that I'm prepared to take on this responsibility for change with our game. I believe I've got the experience to do it. Should our board or the governance review that we've outlined in our action plan suggest that I'm not the person, then I'm prepared to accept that."

Added Julian: "I feel, like many members of the Canadian public, that I've lost confidence in Hockey Canada, we have lost confidence in Hockey Canada, and I think it is time for new leadership."

"I'd like to add my name to the voices of those who say that despite your seeming sincerity, it seems that you're really not able to bring about the necessary changes in the structure of Hockey Canada," Lemire added, in French.

A subset of what we learned, speaking to organizational governance and efficiencies, is that Hockey Canada does not take minutes for its in camera, or private, meetings, which drew the ire of the committee (which takes minutes of its in camera meetings). This was particularly relevant because Smith said settlement discussions occurred in camera.

"In my experience, as a general counsel of a multinational, you would normally have board minutes that would state someone being authorized on behalf of Hockey Canada to sign the settlement agreement and the board authorizing a settlement agreement," Housefather said during the hearing. "You've now stated that the board authorized the maximum amount (of the settlement)? Where is that minuted? Any board of directors meeting?"

"So, basically, according to Hockey Canada's practices, you can never prove in the future whether they did or did not do what you said. I can only say you need better legal advice and you need better lawyers. If that is your practice, sir."

Further to that, Housefather brought forth pointed questions about why Hockey Canada settled on behalf of the players it did not know the identities of.

"They're either not being truthful or their decisions are just baffling," Housefather told Sportsnet afterward from Spain. "I've never heard of this," added Housefather, who holds two law degrees from McGill.

What it means: The Canadian government has limited powers to actually change Hockey Canada's leadership, but it can, conceivably, work on influencing the Hockey Canada board of directors, to which Smith reports. An ongoing governance review by Hockey Canada could spur that change.

But should new leadership be brought in, given the tenor of the statement issued by members of the women's program earlier in the week, there is speculation a woman could take over Hockey Canada. One MP said that might not be enough, however.

"I think it goes beyond that," Julian told Sportsnet on Tuesday. "I think what we've seen from Hockey Canada is a complete lack of responsibility. Changing one person isn't as important as completely changing the culture of Hockey Canada."

Housefather said that any potential change in leadership has to come from Hockey Canada's board of directors and membership.

"Some very good people have made some very bad decisions, and unfortunately they've lost the trust of Canadians," he said of the current executives.

WORLD JUNIORS IN EDMONTON WILL INCLUDE CANADA

One of the major takeaways for hockey fans in the country came in a scrum after the first session of the hearings, when Smith reiterated, in a response to a Sportsnet question, that Canada would participate in the upcoming 2022 World Junior Championship, to be held Aug. 9-20 in Edmonton. Smith said Hockey Canada wanted to hold the tournament for the players, especially after the tournament was postponed from the usual December-January window because of rising COVID-19 infections.

What it means: Sure, the tournament will go ahead with the host country included, but it will surely continue under a cloud. Unless they are shielded from it, participating players, especially from Canada, figure to be asked about Hockey Canada and the investigation.

HOCKEY CANADA HAS PAID OUT \$7.6M IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CLAIMS

Hockey Canada executives faced several questions from committee members about the use of funds set aside to handle sexual assault claims. One such fund, the National Equity Fund, drew particular attention.

Hockey Canada chief financial officer Brian Cairo, a late addition to the invitees list, spoke to questions about the fund.

"Out of the National Equity Fund, nine settlement payments have been made, totaling \$7.6 million; \$6.8 million of that is Graham James-related incidents," Cairo said. "And on insured settled claims, (there were) 12 in nature, for a total of \$1.3 million. One perpetrator has created four of those incidents and accounts for \$1 million of those." These incidents date back to 1989.

What it means: Although it sounds suspect, and the news of "slush" funds to cover sexual assault claims caused outrage, it apparently isn't all that unusual. During his session in front of the committee after the high-profile session involving the hockey executives, Barry Lorenzetti, founder, president and CEO of Hockey Canada insurance broker BFL Canada, testified that it was "prudent risk management" to have a reserve fund for sexual assault. He added that without such a fund, Hockey Canada might have had to increase registration fees to cover the cost of settlements.

MORE HEARINGS WILL BE HELD

Parliament is expected to resume in September, and some MPs on the Heritage committee believe that is when hearings will continue. A date has yet to be scheduled by committee chair Hedy Fry to discuss next steps, including when hearings would resume, but Parliament is not finished with this matter by a long shot.

What it means: More testimony by Hockey Canada officials and AIG, Hockey Canada's insurer, are ahead. Also expect to see appearances by Hockey Canada board members, who to this point have not been called to testify. Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez, Que., lawyer Michael Brind'Amour is the chair of the board.

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Sportsnet.ca / NHL Scout's Analysis: Why Cole Schwindt could be the wild card in Flames-Panthers trade

Jason Bukala



CAROLINA HURRICANES

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July 27, 2022, 4:50 PM

Over the past several days, I've had the chance to sit back and digest the recent trade between the Florida Panthers and Calgary Flames.

Was I shocked that the Panthers would make a pitch to acquire Matthew Tkachuk?

Absolutely not!

Why wouldn't Florida kick tires on an elite 24-year-old who plays the way Tkachuk does and is coming off a career year (42 G | 62 A | 104 PTS). His style of play is exactly what the Panthers needed to add to their core.

But at what cost?

The Flames win the trade with the Panthers and it's not because they add Jonathan Huberdeau and his production (30 G | 85 A | 115 PTS). It's because they also landed MacKenzie Weegar, Cole Schwindt and a first-round pick in 2025 (the Flames also gave up a conditional fourth-round pick in 2025).

During my time with the Panthers organization, we selected Weegar from Halifax in the QMJHL, 206th overall at the 2013 NHL Draft in New Jersey. Halifax also had a kid named Nathan MacKinnon on their roster that year and he went first overall to Colorado. The Panthers were also in on the draft lottery that year, so we had several eyes on MacKinnon throughout the season. Weegar, to his credit, jumped out to us as well. Paul Gallagher was the QMJHL scout for the Panthers at that time and provided us with the background information required to take a chance on a player like Weegar. The rest, as they say, is history.

Weegar has blossomed into quite the player:

But the developing story in this trade, in my opinion, is the acquisition of Schwindt by the Flames.

We selected Schwindt in Round 3 (81st overall) of the 2019 NHL Draft in Vancouver. What we liked about Schwindt was the year-over-year growth of his game. Steelheads head coach and general manager James Richmond clearly trusted Schwindt after his OHL rookie season as he was given a significant increase in responsibility and rewarded the team with 49 points (19 G | 30 A) in his draft year. The following season, he went to another level offensively, scoring 71 points in 57 games (28 G | 43 A) during the COVID-shortened 2019-2020.

Statistically speaking, Schwindt was displaying the ability to find space in the offensive zone and occasionally score off the rush. He was also showing that he could create coming off the boards down low while going to the net looking for tips and rebounds.

What impressed me most, however, was his attention to detail. Schwindt is a rangy, right-shot centre who can also play the wing. His ability to win draws in all three zones is an element teams look for in players and coaches love to lean on and trust. In time, the Flames will value him as well for his pedigree in the face-off circle. There isn't an ounce of cheat in Schwindt's game. He tracks back the full length of the ice. He never cuts corners. In my opinion, he has a chance to produce secondary offence at the NHL level. He likely won't land on one of the power-play units, but he can penalty kill and match up strategically.

The AHL is not an easy league to develop your trade, yet Schwindt produced 40 points (19 G | 21 A) playing for Charlotte in his rookie season. His production was tied for second most in team scoring. True to his identity as a player, he led the team with a plus-22 rating.

Like many NHL players, Schwindt will always have to work on his skating. He has improved his stride and leg strength significantly over the years, but the NHL is a Formula 1 race and he will need to fine-tune his pace throughout his career.

I have personally witnessed Schwindt's growth and believe in his potential moving forward.

The biggest thing players like Weegar and Schwindt have going for them is their character. Weegar wasn't supposed to be an NHL 'D' but has persevered and could be a top-pairing defenceman for the Flames. Schwindt isn't an NHL regular yet but he's not far off. A big body, right-shot, detailed centre is hard to find in the NHL at the right price. I have no doubt Schwindt will deliver for the Flames.

I also have no doubt that Flames director of scouting Todd Button is smiling from ear to ear with the acquisition of Schwindt (who he has tracked for years). Not to mention that he and his staff also get an extra chance to swing for the fences with the 2025 first-round pick they also inherited in the trade.

Something to think about ...

All NHL players are paid in US dollars. Some players from the USA would prefer to play in their home country. Conversely, some Canadian players take pride in playing in Canadian markets.

Both Huberdeau and Weegar are Canadians. They are both scheduled to become UFA's after 2022-2023. They appreciate the intensity associated with playing in a Canadian market and I believe they will thrive in the environment.

A player being paid \$9.5 million per year playing in places like Nashville, Dallas and Florida take home approximately \$5.7 million after taxes.

A player being paid the same but playing in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal will end with approximately \$4.5 million after taxes. A player looking to sign long-term in Calgary is looking at just shy of \$5 million annually after taxes.

However, other considerations must be taken into account. For instance: the conversion of the \$USD to \$CDN is a bonus that takes some of the bite out of the tax scenario.

The ultimate "win" for Brad Treliving in this trade will be getting both Huberdeau and Weegar signed to long-term extensions.

Should that happen, then we look back at this trade and truly applaud the Flames for landing all those assets. As great a player as Tkachuk is and can be in the future, having a roster with Huberdeau, Weegar, Schwindt and whoever their first-round pick in 2025 becomes makes this a clear victory for Calgary.

On the horizon ...

The annual summer Under-18 Hlinka/Gretzky Cup is being played from July 31 – August 6 in Red Deer Alberta. Countries competing are Canada, USA, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Czechia and Germany.

The 2023 NHL Draft is projected to be an elite class. The Hlinka/Gretzky Cup marks the beginning of a new scouting season so I, along with colleague Sam Cosentino, will report back on the top performers from the event, during and after the tournament.

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TSN.CA / When it comes to goaltending, bet on consistency

Travis Yost

Evaluating goaltenders remains one of the most difficult objectives in hockey, whether you are pouring through video or analyzing data.

So much of the position's performance hinges on the defensive structure and integrity in front of the goaltender, and our eyes frequently lie to us. What appears to be a great save may be a goaltender merely recovering



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poor positioning; what appears to be an ugly goal may have been a shot impeded by traffic in front.

But we aren't flying totally blind (pun not intended). We know the core deliverable of a goaltender is to thwart the opposition and minimize goals against. And we know a goaltender does this by, simply put, making lots of saves.

After hundreds of games, we get a sense for which goaltenders are better than others – Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevskiy, New York's Igor Shesterkin, and Winnipeg's Connor Hellebuyck have shown themselves to be a cut above the rest, regardless of how you analyze their play.

From a data perspective, we've made advancements to better quantify goaltending performance. Raw save percentage never seemed adequate enough a measure because it is comprehensively clouded by team effects.

More recently, we've used Goals Saved Above Expectations, which attempts to baseline all goaltenders by measuring saves in the context of the difficulty of shots faced. This measure may have helped us better differentiate between the likes of, say, Dominik Hasek and Martin Brodeur. Both are Hall of Fame goalies, but Brodeur's workload – no matter how you quantified it – was routinely less burdensome. Such is the luxury of backstopping a Devils team with impeccable structure and a knack for pushing shooters to the least dangerous areas of the ice.

Goaltenders are notoriously volatile, too. You can draw from endless examples. Between the years of 2016-18, Sergei Bobrovsky – then of the Columbus Blue Jackets – had an argument as perhaps the best goaltender in the game. He was stopping 92.6 per cent of shots across all situations, and bringing in shot quality, had erased a whopping 67 goals over a two-year span.

He parlayed that into a mega deal with the Florida Panthers. Since moving south, has stopped just 90.5 per cent of shots and has been 12 goals worse than expected in the process. It's been a disastrous ordeal.

For many reasons, this volatility – and the fear of volatility – is why general managers have become reticent to bet heavily in net. Platoons are much more common; teams will either invest more in '1B' or backup options, or bargain hunt for goaltenders on short deals to invest at other positions. Front offices, like the rest of us, are still struggling with how to separate most goalies from one another.

I started thinking about this in the context of today's goalie crop, and what makes the "better" goaltenders stand out from weaker ones. Ultimately, I think what you want to bet on is consistency. Goaltending performance will fluctuate, but what teams really want is a goalie they can rely on to not lose games. Outperformance at the position is, of course, always welcomed.

Let's look at 32 regular goaltenders over the past five seasons. We are looking at each goalie's Goals Saved Above Expectations by year on a percentile basis. To the right we have two bins: years in which a goaltender sank his team's play, and years where a goaltender outperformed.

What does it look like?

Embedded Image

Directionally, the table looks right – just look at the names in the top eight or so of the table, followed by the names at the bottom eight of the table. If you take an approach of "give me consistency, or better, just don't crush my hopes," you see the goaltenders who stand out.

No one has been more impressive on this front than Darcy Kuemper, freshly signed to a five-year deal with the Washington Capitals. Nashville's Juuse Saros and Winnipeg's Hellebuyck aren't far behind; you can't hang a single season around their necks, and they have outperformed across several seasons, erasing many more goals than the average netminder.

On the other end of the equation, look at the goalies with higher sink rates. Toronto's Matt Murray and New Jersey's Mackenzie Blackwood have really hurt their team's playoff chances in meaningful ways over the years. Columbus' Joonas Korpisalo hasn't put together a strong season yet. And, despite being 41 years old and showing woeful (and deteriorating) performance, the Buffalo Sabres decided to allocate a roster spot for another season to Craig Anderson.

This table isn't designed to give you a perfect pecking order of best goalies to worst, but it does give you a point of reference for the goaltenders you can have confidence counting on in a given season.

Goaltending is extraordinarily difficult to measure, but we must continue to evaluate these players in a meaningful light. The teams who can marry video and data analysis at the position as a basis for cap management and roster decision-making will win more games in the future.

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