

Whitby International Silver Stick U16 AAA Tournament

Dates: November 23-26th, 2023

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Tournament Recap

Another great showing at this year's Whitby Silver Stick Tournament as most of the top Ontario and US based teams were in attendance. The Vaughan Kings were able to take down the powerhouse Toronto Marlboros in the finals by a score of 5-3, capturing yet another championship for this group, albeit their first of this season. Vaughan was able to win despite being without star centreman Caleb Malhotra and productive winger Ben Bowen (hurt in round robin play), making this tournament win all the more impressive. They were led by tournament MVP, forward Gage Brandon, a strong defensive corps and good goaltending.

Top 10 scorers

11 ADAM VALENTINI, Toronto Marlboros	7GP	9G	11A	20P
44 RYDER CAREY, Oakville Rangers	6GP	8G	5A	13P
81 EVAN HEADRICK, Oakville Rangers	6GP	2G	10A	12P
61 ETHAN BELCHETZ, Oakville Rangers	6GP	5G	6A	11P
92 GAGE BRANDON, Vaughan Kings	7GP	8G	2A	10P
17 WESTON CAMERON, Toronto Marlboros	7GP	4G	5A	9P
9 ALEXANDER HAGE, Vaughan Kings	7GP	4G	4A	8P
21 PIERCE MBUYI, Toronto Marlboros	5GP	3G	5A	8P
11 GREG NAJDA, Oakville Rangers	6GP	3G	5A	8P
92 CHRISTIAN ARMSTRONG, Oakville Rangers	6GP	2G	6A	8P

Champions - Vaughan Kings

#9 Alexander Hage - Forward

Following in his older brother Michael's footsteps in winning the U16 Silver Stick Championship. Hage finished tied for second in team scoring with eight points (four goals, four assists) in seven games. Hage's hockey sense and anticipation on the ice paired with his above average to high level playmaking ability allowed him to keep the puck in the offensive zone and have a positive impact for his team whenever he was on the ice. With his head up and constantly aware of his surroundings on the ice, when receiving the puck on the breakout or in transition, Hage does well at getting his head up to check his surrounding as well as his feet facing up ice in an effort to be more in motion the second he receives a puck and thus allows him to be much quicker and efficient in advancing the puck up ice. Hage consistently did well at finding teammates in open ice, and completing his passes to them in stride at a high clip over the course of the tournament, contributing to Vaughans ability to generate lots of scoring chances in a multitude of ways. In addition to his puck distribution, with a solid shot and an element of deception through his upper body and shot angle, Hage found a way to move defencemen or open up holes in goalies, coming up with some clutch goals in both the semifinals against Pittsburgh and in the final against the Marlboros. Without the puck, his movement in support of puck carriers showed to be impressive, with his smart positioning he presented himself as a third forward off the rush, while also being able to scoop up loose pucks just outside battles in the offensive zone

#14 Zach Nyman - Defence

Nyman continues to prove why he is a top defensive prospect in this year's draft. Nyman plays an offensive heavy style of play from the back end, being able to creatively move the puck and be a force in transition. Nyman is an excellent skater with amazing edge work. Nyman is able to explode into top speed in a few quick strides from a total stand still. Nyman has the ability to dictate the pace of play, claiming it down when needed, or speeding it up and catching the opposing team off guard - a skill that is rare to see at this age. Nyman has an elite vision of the offensive zone, able to create and execute on complex plays. When a lane is open, Nyman will not hesitate to

unleash a quick and powerful shot. If a lane is not open, Nyman will use his puck handling abilities to create space and find new routes.

#17 Alessandro Di Iorio - Forward

Di Iorio had one of the best tournament's and I believe he was in contention for MVP of the tournament. He finished with 7 points (5 goals and 2 assists) in 7 games. He was a threat to score every time he touched the puck. He was somewhat neutralized from a production standpoint as the tournament advanced and the GTHL teams matched up, but he was still dominant with possession and scoring chances. He played on the powerplay for Vaughan which was super effective. He's a strong skater with good size, has a strong shot, and is smart at both ends of the rink. With Malhotra being out of the lineup, Di Iorio was being matched up against opposing teams top lines, where he did a good job shutting down opponents. I anticipate him to continue his strong play heading into the second half of the season.

#25 Elijah Chavez - Forward

Elijah had a strong showing at the Silver Stick tournament. He showed his strong two-way game throughout the tournament for the Kings. He stood out offensively hunting pucks and getting dirty. He was reliable to retrieve pucks and generate offensive zone time for the Kings. Chavez had 4 assists in 7 games, but he was effective on the ice neutralizing the other team, as well as generating possession and offense for Vaughan. He is quick on his feet, possessing good edges and has a good amount of skill to match.

#41 Cole Emerton - Defence

Cole had a great showing for the Kings and showed once again why he is a great defender in this year's draft class. Offensively he was the leading defenseman in points for the Kings with 1 goal and 7 assists in 7 games. He is a great skater and defender, and was relied on at all times of the game for the Kings. He has great vision on the ice and moves the puck super effectively. Outside of his 8 points he helped generate plenty of scoring chances, including plenty on the powerplay, which was super effective for Vaughan.

#73 Michael D'Alessio - Defence

While maintaining his strong defensive play throughout the tournament, D'Alessio also displayed an increased level of offensive aggressiveness that helped contribute to his team's high offensive output throughout the tournament. With good size and reach, D'Alessio consistently put these attributes to use while defending, playing an aggressive game against opposing forwards. Combining a good use of his body and his stick, off the rush D'Alessio maintained an active stick, leading with an aggressive stick to get stick on puck. In addition, D'Alessio is a strong player down below the goal line building on his good stick work, using his size to close off space and push forwards against the boards, finishing his checks and pinning against the wall to break up their offensive zone movement. With a good presence in the defensive zone, D'Alessio translated some of his aggressiveness to the offensive side of the puck as well. Throughout the tournament, especially as the tournament progressed into the elimination round, D'Alessio continued to recognize opportunities to jump up as a third option for his team off the rush as well as carry the puck up ice out of the defensive zone individually.

#92 - Gage Brandon - Forward

Gage had an outstanding Silver Stick and was named tournament MVP. He contributed at both ends of the ice, finishing the tournament with 10 points (8 goals and 2 assists) in 7 games. He is a great skater and aggressive on the forecheck generating plenty of scoring chances. He can be identified as a pure sniper that loves finding the back of the net with his quick release snap shot that's highly accurate. At the other end of the ice he is responsible and his coaches had him on the ice at important times throughout all of the games.

Finalists - Toronto Marlboros

#11 Adam Valentini - Centre

The star of the tournament, Adam Valentini showed exactly why he is deserving of a #1 consideration in this year's OHL draft. Valentini can be seen as a total package, carrying a dynamic skating ability, elite passing and puck handling, and an excellent shot that can be unleashed at any time,

anywhere. The Marlies #1 center, Valentini dominates in every aspect of the game, using his IQ and hockey sense to outsmart any opponent. When Valentini has the puck, alarms go off for the opposing team. When given space, he is nearly impossible to defend. Valentini is always 2 steps ahead of everyone else, as he sees the ice on a whole other level than his opponents and peers. When in possession of the puck, Valentini is nearly impossible to knock off his stride as he is able to keep the puck in tight and slip through traffic. Used on both the powerplay and the penalty kill, Valentini plays a complete game in both ends. On the power play, Valentini floats to soft spots on the ice, sneaking behind defenders and ready to receive passes. On the penalty kill, Valentini is an active defender, and is not afraid to use his body to block a shot or lay a hit. Valentini was the most exciting player to watch this tournament and will be a player to watch for the rest of the season.

#17 Weston Cameron - Forward

Weston was a big part of his team's success at the tournament and led his group by example, never shying away from battles and pulling through in the clutch to send them to the finals with a late goal against Oakville. He is a responsible 200 foot player that can break up plays on the backcheck and then turn up ice for a rush. He has a heavy shot that can beat goalies from far out and can also find teammates with nice passing plays and good vision. His offensive ability has developed at a good pace already this year, he has already shown visible improvement in his offensive mindset so far this year and as a group, we are excited to see where he can take his game.

#21 Pierce Mbuyi - Forward

An exciting player to watch for the Marlboros with lots of growth and development potential, Mbuyi is a player who, while he is still growing and getting stronger physically, already possesses a high hockey IQ that ultimately allows him to use his above average skills with the puck to create lots of offence for himself and his teammates. Light and nimble on his feet, in an effort to be more elusive, Mbuyi is rarely caught flat footed or back on his heels, allowing him to be more proactive than reactive when facing contact from opposing players. One of the most dangerous players when he had the puck throughout the tournament, he only got better and better as the games got bigger and bigger, scoring six of his eight points in the

Marlboros three elimination games. Moving with a purpose whether he has the puck or not, Mbuyi manipulates defencemen creating deception with his skating, attacking with speed then changing his pace to create more space to make a play. He consistently identifies seams and lanes at a high level, and with quick puck handling he not only works individually in small areas effectively but also understands when to distribute the puck and executes those passes at a high rate.

#22 Kayden Brand - Forward

While Brand isn't necessarily the biggest player on the ice, he wasn't necessarily hindered a great deal while creating offensive opportunities for himself and his teammates. With a deceptively quick shot, he keeps opposing teams honest as he can fire it on net with power as well as work his way in close to the front of the net. Brand did well when up against opponents along the boards or in tight areas, consistently keeping his feet moving quickly thus playing a role in his shiftiness and ability to wiggle out of contact. In addition, Brand showed he wasn't afraid to hold onto the puck for extended periods of time even while under pressure. With quick stick handling paired with his elusiveness he presented very little panic in the small area game.

#23 Ryan Chamberlain - Forward

With the Marlies having no shortage of elite offensive talent, Chamberlain has cemented himself as one of the extremely talented forwards on this team who should be considered relatively early in the upcoming draft. Chamberlain is a highly versatile forward who is deployed with confidence from his coaches in all situations, however the largest portion of Chamberlain's value comes from his high offensive upside. Chamberlain is deployed in the defensive zone both during even strength and on the penalty kill where he is able to use his positioning skills to both make himself an effective outlet as a breakout option, or apply pressure to his assignments while playing zone defence. Chamberlain's positioning skills aid him in the offensive end as well, where he is able to quietly get himself open to either receive an outlet pass to maintain possession, or evade opposing defenders to receive a pass which he can quickly convert to produce a scoring chance. With the puck on his stick, Chamberlain is able to quickly release a notably

hard and accurate shot which makes him a scoring threat from virtually anywhere in the offensive zone.

#54 Jude Bray - Defence

A mobile, smart puck moving defenceman, having been second in tournament scoring amongst defencemen with eight points, Bray's offensive capabilities were highlighted throughout the tournament. Bray's feet and vision played a big contributing factor in his ability to push the play up ice from his own zone, while also playing a strong quarterback role from the point in the offensive zone. As a dual threat defenceman on zone exits, he is patient with the puck but also decisive in his decision making with it as well. With his head up he looks to take space that is provided with his feet, but also progresses through his options quickly and can execute passes at high level through the different layers of the defence. At the offensive line, Bray puts his intelligence on display consistently aware of how he can use his feet direction and upper body to create deception and thus create offence for himself and his teammates by opening up shot lanes or passing seams.

#72 Harris Pangretitsch - Defence

A valuable part of the Marlboros defensive core, Pangretitsch is a highly mobile two-way defenseman who excels in transition. Pangretitsch loves to join the rush, often carrying the puck into the offensive zone himself and using his extremely long reach to effortlessly cut wide around defenders to both gain the zone and create space for himself. In the offensive zone, Pangretitsch is a highly effective puck distributor, consistently making smart plays which either lead to maintaining offensive possession at minimum, or creating high danger chances. Defensively, Pangretitsch is particularly effective in defending the rush, utilizing his size and reach to effectively maintain gap control and force forecheckers outside where he can deliver a clean hit or stick check to disrupt possession.

#77 Peter Koukouves - Defence

Koukouves is an extremely dangerous blueline presence for a Marlies team with tons of offensive talent upfront. As a result, Koukouves being on the ice alone forces the opposition to respect his presence and thus give more room

to the star forward group. Koukouves' most notable offensive talent is his cannon shot that he likes to shoot low from the point. Koukouves can get his shot off very quickly to either beat a goalie clean, force a dangerous rebound, or get a deflection in front. Regardless, Peter has little issue placing his shot well and is able to consistently create offensive chances as a result. Aside from his shot, Koukouves makes quick, smart decisions with the puck, being able to identify and reach open teammates with crisp, accurate passes. Defensively, Koukouves uses his active stick in combination with his defensive body positioning to eliminate opposing offense, especially when defending the rush.

Semi-Finalists

Oakville Rangers

#17 Callum Croskery - Defence

A calm, cool, and collected defenceman, Croskery uses his high hockey IQ to quarterback much of the play for his team both at even strength and on the powerplay. Croskey is a very deceptive skater, he is comfortable on his edges and does well at separating from forecheckers. Seeing the ice very well, the defenceman consistently has his head up ice, eyeing lanes and feeling pressure well. With incredibly soft hands, Croskery is able to execute his passes a variety of ways. Identifying the multiple layers up ice, a great deal of the time Croskery identified the right reads and made the right decisions passing, completing both short and stretch passes through traffic at a high rate. Croskery has cemented himself as one of the top defenseman available in this upcoming draft.

#44 Ryder Carey - Forward

Booming into this tournament, Carey showcased his talents to the max of his abilities. Finishing off the tournament with 13 points in 6 games, Carey was an offensive machine, creating scoring chances and capitalizing on them. Carey's offensive IQ provided the Rangers with a reliable and consistent asset each and every game. What stood out most with Carey was his ability to identify his best options at a high speed - whether it be an open shooting lane, passing options, or a simple route into the attacking zone. Combining

this with his immense tool kit of high end skills, Carey can not only put his line on his back, but his whole team too. Carey was an essential part to the success of the Rangers in this tournament.

#61 Ethan Belchetz - Forward

Belchetz continues to raise his draft stock by displaying his ability to utilize his size and skill to be a force in all areas of the ice. What is most impressive about Belchetz is his mobility. At his size, it is rare to see a player utilize his edges and strength to be an extremely effective skater. Belchetz explodes in his acceleration, able to go from a stand still to full speed in a few short strides. This was shown through beating opponents to pucks, and baiting defenders into closing their gap before he quickly changed his route to open ice. Belchetz is able to drive play effortlessly and use his hands to maneuver through traffic in tight. Belchetz shows good positional skills, as he is able to position himself well in the slot to be open for passes. On the power play, when Belchetz was able to find room, he unleashed a quick and powerful shot.

#81 Evan Headrick - Forward

With twelve points (two goals, ten assists) in six games, Headrick had one of the stronger Silver Stick performances on his team. While he is one of the smaller players on the ice, it did not hold him back from playing a very high speed, up tempo and dynamic offensive game. With great straight line speed, the forward excelled a great deal off the rush, where he could use his speed and quickness to attack defensemen head on. While he was able to push the defence back and often put them on their heels, Headrick was able to be quite shifty and elusive when encountering defensemen that would step up or look to initiate contact. He used quick, light feet to jump into open space, and at times also used the defenders hips as a leverage point for getting around and bursting past the defence.

#92 Christian Armstrong - Forward

Finishing the tournament with 8 points in 6 games, Armstrong was a steady and consistent presence for the Rangers' forward core. Armstrong is a skilled forward with a brain that works its best in the attacking end. Armstrong

views the ice well and is able to analyze plays at a high speed, allowing him to be a step ahead of the game. Armstrong's creativity and skill allowed him to execute on difficult plays, further emphasizing his IQ in the attacking zone. To add to this, Armstrong is a sneaky player who is deceptive to the opposing team's defense. Armstrong floats to soft space away from coverage to make himself a viable passing option.

Pittsburgh Penguins

#19 Nik Rossetto - Forward

The second of two players on the Penguins who transferred down from Sault Ste. Marie; Rossetto came up clutch in some big moments for Pittsburgh. Incredibly skilled and creative with the puck, Rossetto loved to attack the triangle of defending players utilizing their own skating against them as well as smart puck placement in space around and behind the defencemen. Although he isn't the biggest of players physically, he showed to be quite elusive with a combination of quick feet laterally and deceptive upper body movement. Unafraid to attack the house and crash the net, he generated chances from the house of the offensive zone, including scoring the overtime goal in a 1-0 win over Bishop Kearney in the quarterfinals.

#93 Luca Blonda - Defence

An incredibly poised two-way defenceman, taking his talents from up north in Sault Ste. Marie, Blonda showed why he is the number one defenceman on his Pittsburgh team. Driven by his strong skating ability, Blonda's comfortability with his edges and acceleration are a primary contributor to his ability to quarterback his team coming out of the defensive zone and from the point in the offensive zone as well. Countless times below the hashes in his own zone throughout the tournament, Blonda's patience was put on display. Looking up ice he continually showed to have no problem holding onto the puck and letting opposing forwards try and take the puck from him. With a good first three steps paired with smooth, well timed tight turns he used these skills effectively to lose checkers. As a mobile defenceman who could move the puck efficiently up ice, Blonda was a dual threat on breakouts keeping forwards honest as he could kickstart the breakout as a primary puck carrier with his legs and puck control, while also

being able to use his vision and puck skills to execute strong breakout passes up ice for the Penguins. Offensively, Blonda fits into that modern day defenceman, driving the powerplay for the Penguins and consistently being a defenceman activating and rotating in the offensive zone, and ultimately using his feet to open up lanes and create offence for his team.

Quarter-Finalists

Barrie Colts

#7 Troy Patton - Forward

Patton is a swiss army knife for an extremely talented Barrie squad with top end offensive talent and skill. While Patton has notable offensive talents of his own, he sets himself apart with his 200 foot effectiveness and ability to perfectly complement any line he is on. Patton is a high energy forward who effectively and consistently is engaged in puck battles to regain possession for the Colts, as well as providing relentless forechecking and backchecking skills where he applies significant pressure to the opposition and often forces turnovers. With the puck on his stick Patton displays a high aptitude for effectively distributing the puck to an open teammate for a scoring chance, or creating a scoring opportunity of his own via shot.

#9 Alex McLean - Forward

One of the smartest players in the class, McLean plays a very calculated and meticulous game. He doesn't blow you away with breakneck speed, but his awareness of his pace and speed when in transition allows him to be an extremely dangerous player on zone entries, oftentimes being the primary puck carrier for controlled zone entries for his team. He often uses his upper body and edges to be deceptive while entering the zone, and does well at not attacking the defence in a straight line. Coming in on an angle, he forces defenders to move laterally and McLean does well at applying his lateral quickness to shift-to-side in response to defencemen's backwards skating. With quick hands contributing to his high end puck skills, McLean excels in small area games, while also utilizing his teammates well to move the puck out of those tighter areas in the offensive zone in order to get it to the house.

#15 Logan Hawery - Forward

Of the many skills Hawery possesses as one of Barrie's top forwards, puck management sets him apart from his peers. While his elite physical skills are a large contributor to his dominance on the ice, Hawery is able to perceive the game at a step above the competition to effortlessly maintain possession and produce dangerous chances offensively, while effectively reading and disrupting opposing offense in his end. Hawery's vision makes him extremely effective in transition to either produce high danger rush chances or allow his team to get set up with possession to produce offense. With the puck on his stick, Hawery is always aware of where his teammates and opponents are positioned, and has the option to utilize his outstanding playmaking ability enabled by his vision and passing skills or his excellent shooting wherein he is able to quickly pick his mark and hit it with relative ease. Regardless of his choice, offensive chance production is an expectation every time Hawery is on the ice for the Colts.

#29 Nathan Amidovski - Forward

A dynamic forward with high end skating abilities, similar to his Colts team, Amidovski came into the Silver Stick with high expectations. While his team was knocked out via a 6-0 loss in the Quarter Finals against the Toronto Marlboros, Amidovski was a standout performer in that game along with being a consistent play driver throughout the round robin. His strong straight line speed was on display at various different points, with good acceleration he created separation from checkers, getting and finishing on several offensive opportunities as result of this. While Amidovski possessed great straight line speed, he utilized his quick feet effectively to move laterally through the middle of the ice. Although his speed allows him to be an effective perimeter player, the forward does not shy away from working his way to the house of the offensive zone, creating high danger chances for himself and his teammates. With above average puck skills, Amidovski's hands do well at keeping up with his feet, he uses small areas of open ice, good puck placement, and his hip pocket effectively to control the puck while under pressure and working through sticks and traffic.

#51 Brock Chitaroni - Forward

Chitaroni is a quick playmaking forward that consistently makes an impact for the Colts offensively all tournament. He does a great job in generating good acceleration with quick feet that gives him an edge over opposing attackers through the neutral zone in the transition game with his excellent stop and go skating ability. He then uses his speed to his advantage in the offensive zone by winning puck battles along the boards easily while protecting the puck close to his body to curl out for high grade scoring opportunities for his teammates in the offensive zone. Throughout this tournament, he also managed to maintain pressure on the opposing teams with an effective forecheck and a knack to create turnovers in the defensive zone. He is a dynamic forward that combines his playmaking skills with a great quick release shot leading to a great performance in a great tournament from the underage Chitaroni on the Colts.

#88 Blake Gowan - Defence

Blake stands out when he has the puck and that is for a very good reason, the shot he possesses is one of the best in this age group. It can be a wrister, snapper or slap shot, he can even be standing still, but his shot is still so hard and accurate it makes players not want to get in the way. When breaking out he uses heavy passes to stretch the zone and get his forwards breaking down the wings into the offensive zone. While defending, he has an active stick and maintains a good gap on forwards and knows when to pinch in or hold the line to keep odd man rushes at bay. Blake can lay huge hits when players least expect it, but he won't take himself out of the play to chase a hit, opting to seal off the boards and get the puck to his partner if the hit isn't there.

#91 Kent Greer - Defence

The #1 defenseman for the Colts put on a strong performance in this tournament to further solidify himself as a top defenseman in this year's OHL draft. Greer is excellent in all zones and all situations, however his main strengths are highlighted when the puck is on his stick. Greer is an excellent puck carrier with deceptive hands and strong skating which enables him to create his own chances offensively, forcing opponents to respect him as a

blueline threat and give more space to his extremely capable teammates. Greer is able to create space for himself with ease, which makes him effective for Barrie both in transition and in the offensive zone, where he can utilize his hard, accurate shot to create scoring chances of his own or complete a crisp pass to an open teammate as an alternative. Regardless, Greer's offensive capabilities cement him near the top of the 2024 defensive class. Defensively, Greer is well-positioned and utilizes his active stick well to disrupt scoring chances and possession for the opposition. Additionally, his stick checking skills, footspeed, and positioning to defend the rush and keep opposing forecheckers to the outside.

Toronto Junior Canadiens

#9 Julius DaSilva - Forward

A high octane, up tempo checking forward with some decent skill, DaSilva led the Jr. Canadiens in scoring in the tournament with five points (two goals, three assists), using his relentless speed to generate scoring chances off the rush and in the offensive zone. With good straight line speed through his quick feet, DaSilva consistently never stopped moving his feet upon entering the offensive zone and through the neutral zone as well. Continually using his feet and high compete, applying a strong forecheck with an active stick to take away opposing defencemen's time and space with the puck, something he did quite well, finishing his checks and forcing turnovers from opposing defencemen in their efforts to get the puck out of harm's way.

#31 William Camputaro - Goalie

Our team's top goalie in this class, while the Jr. Canadiens struggled to find their offensive power in the tournament, Camputaro was relied upon to shut the door in the opposition, allowing two goals total in three games including a 1-0 shutout against Halton in the round robin. Probably one of, if not the biggest goalie in the class at 6'5, Camputaro plays very controller and composed in the crease. While he obviously can cover a great deal of the net due to his big frame, he doesn't display a laziness in his game when moving side to side in net. Tracking the puck well, whether it be into his glove or down low, he didn't give up much beyond those first opportunities, and when he did he was able to recover quickly.

#47 Adam Kelly - Forward

Kelly is a speedy winger with great offensive instincts. He demonstrates this well with powerful strides and quick feet to evade opposing defenders through the neutral zone on the attack in the offensive zone generating time and space for high grade scoring opportunities. He also has great playmaking abilities with an exceptional quick release wrist shot. The way he uses his edges to protect the puck and make good passing plays lead to many chances in the high and low slot areas of the offensive zone for his team all tournament. While generating great playmaking opportunities in the offensive, he also uses his skill with great stickhandling that creates a quick release point on his shot. He demonstrated this well by using his speed and skill to stickhandle through opposing defenders and releasing the puck quickly off his stick for highlight reel goals to help his team win games and maintain strong position in the tournament standings. Kelly is the type of player you can rely on in the offensive zone with great instincts and speed to use all areas of the zone to capitalize on high grade scoring opportunities.

#50 Dima Zhilkin - Forward

Zhilkin came rolling in hot after a good start to the season. Zhilkin is a highly skilled forward with an exceptional ability to control the puck. When Zhilkin is on the ice, he automatically becomes an offensive threat. Possessing solid puck control, Zhilkin is able to weave in and out of traffic while keeping the puck in tight. Without the puck, Zhilkin is constantly moving his feet looking for soft spots on the ice - allowing himself to be open for passes or ready to pounce on a loose puck. In transition, Zhilkin uses his top end speed to blow past defenders to drive the net. When the puck begins to cycle, Zhilkin uses his creativity to engage in the cycle and consistently create chances. Zhilkin continues to prove why he is a top prospect for this year's OHL draft.

#76 Jet Kwajah - Defence

A pivotal player on the Jr. Canadiens backend, fitting into that Jr. Canadiens style of play with speed, skills, and a high hockey IQ. Kwajah represents that modern day two-way defenceman with his mobility, puck moving ability, and willingness to activate from the backend offensively. With his speed and

aggressiveness offensively, Kwajah was often able to turn even rushes (two on two's) into odd man rushes. Oftentimes he kickstarted the play up ice from below the hashes of his own zone, and would waste little to no time jumping up or following the play up ice in an effort to be a third option off the rush for his forwards. Managing the puck at a high level, he took care of the puck through his own end, making smart decisions with the puck through all three zones of the ice. Very comfortable quarterbacking for his team's offence in the offensive zone, he showed to have a strong understanding of how to create more shot or pass lanes from the point, through quick but also purposeful feet.

#77 Lucas Ambrosio - Defence

Standing as one of the biggest players on the ice, his size and presence can make him an intimidating player to go up against. While he is a slightly heavier skater in part due to his size, he does well at making sure that doesn't hinder his ability to shut down players off the rush or below the dots in his own zone. Finishing his checks to close off space in the defensive zone, Ambrosio also used his extended reach to his advantage defending the rush to take space away from rushing forwards. He played with good poise, simplifying his game in order to make both simpler short passes and more complicated breakout passes consistently over the course of the tournament.

#98 Jacob Xu - Defence

Xu has steadily shown to be one JRC's top defensemen through his strong skating ability, smart hockey sense, and compete level. When Xu is on the ice, it is almost a guarantee that an offensive chance is going to be generated. Xu has an exceptional vision of the ice, connecting on long stretch passes out his own zone, and using his speed and deceptive edge work to drive transition. With the puck, Xu moves well and is able to walk to the blueline to look for chances. When defending, Xu picks his man up and is able to effectively eliminate dangerous scoring chances against his net.

Rochester Bishop Kearney

#19 Gavin Weeks - Goalie

With only 2 goals against in 3 games, Weeks was on the top of his game this weekend. Ending with a stellar performance in a quarter-finals 1-0 OT loss to Pittsburgh. He tracks the puck extremely well, is a great skater and battles through contact. He showed really good reflexes and hand-eye coordination through his 3 games played and was one of the main reasons RBK was able to qualify for the quarter-finals and was the reason it remained a competitive game. He'll be a fun player to watch moving forward, although his intent to play in the OHL is unknown to our staff.

#61 Dain Gordon - Forward

The Bishop Kearney team certainly did not disappoint this weekend, with Gordon leading the way using his high level of playmaking IQ and strong skating ability to set himself and teammates up for success. Gordon is a big body forward who is not shy about using his size and positioning to be a threat in all areas of the ice. Offensively, Gordon is creative and dynamic, keeping his head up to find space to locate and capitalize on open lanes. When in possession of the puck, Gordon does not hesitate to use his quick release to catch the goalie off guard. His deceptive hands and skating ability allows for Gordon to beat defenders with ease, and drive pressure towards the net. Additionally, Gordon locates soft spots effectively and is always ready to receive a pass.

Chicago Mission

#77 Shaeffer Gordon-Carroll - Forward

A bigger body compared to the other Chicago forwards, Shaeffer had a non-stop motor that allowed him to be first on pucks and was very tough on the forecheck, flying into corners and forcing turnovers with a good stick and a good sense for how to use his size to his advantage. He isn't just an "energy" player either, as he has solid offensive IQ and can make stretch passes through a zone or short saucers to get the puck out of harm's way.

#91 Robin Kuzma - Forward

Kuzma is an extremely quick player who can use his tools at full stride while also being able to slow the game down when he wants to. He drives wide with the puck and flies past defenders while boxing out with one arm and can get pucks to the net front to create chances. He has very nice hands as well, completely undressing Peterborough's goalie on a breakaway for a nasty goal and can also get pucks on net consistently, finding gaps in coverage for accurate shots from anywhere below the blue line.

#95 Aurelio Garcia - Forward

Another one of Chicago's high-flying forwards, Garcia loves to work in the offensive zone, finding lapses in coverage to expose for a chance at the net with a heavy wrist shot that some goalies did not even see coming. He has extremely good hands and will attack a defenceman's triangle and work the puck around them. When down around the net and can make those small area passes to advance the puck that little bit to get past a defender. He battles hard in every fight for the puck and never shies away from corners.

#98 Jack Hextall - Forward

Hextall put on a show at this year's Silver Stick and got better as the weekend went on. He is an extremely elusive puck handler and stays poised with the puck, keeping his head up and his feet moving while he scans for options, transitioning play from the neutral zone to the offensive zone with ease. He is creative with the puck on his stick and delays passes a second to throw off pressure and hit his man in stride or can work down low in the zone and evade pressure with side steps and spins and fire pucks from anywhere once he finds a lane.

Round Robin Teams

Buffalo Jr Sabres

#52 Nicolas Rivet - Defence

Rivet was one of the most reliable players for Buffalo during the Silver Stick, with his high defensive-IQ paired with a calm demeanor when handling the puck, he was the most effective in his own zone. He supported board battles and provided an outlet for the puck and would know his next move upon receiving it, whether it was a simple play to clear the zone or getting his feet moving to wheel up through neutral ice. Nicolas would always make sure he was the last player out of the zone and would shut down the opponents chances at long stretch passes with a strong stick and good hand eye to bat pucks out of the air.

Cambridge Hawks

#13 Lincoln Baker - Defence

Baker is a high IQ, mobile defender who brings value to Cambridge from the back-end in all zones, particularly excelling in transition. Breaking out of the zone, Baker scans the ice as he is moving his feet to create room for himself, often identifying an open teammate and effectively creating an open lane to complete a crisp, tape-to-tape pass allowing for quick puck movement up the ice for the Hawks. When given space, Baker has no issue skating the puck up the ice himself, where he puts his agility on display to beat opposing players with a combination of speed and puck protection which allows him to gain the offensive zone with relative ease. Defensively, Baker has an aptitude for predicting where the puck will go, allowing him to constantly remain in good position and often be a step ahead of opposing forecheckers both when defending the rush and playing zone defense.

#71 Jonathon Herrington - Forward

Herrington proves to be a valuable part of Cambridge's offense, having the confidence from his coaching staff to be deployed in situations where the Hawks need to score a goal. Herrington possesses a quick shot which he

likes to use in generating scoring chances off the rush. When set up offensively, Herrington serves as a chance finisher by positioning himself in scoring areas and utilizing his shot to generate chances from teammate passes.

Carolina Jr Hurricanes

#2 Cade Strom - Forward

Strom is an effective two-way forechecking forward who has offensive upside through his playmaking ability. In both the offensive and defensive end, Strom applies pressure extremely well to force errors from the opposition and disrupt their possession. Offensively, Strom displays patience with the puck, being able to outwait defenders until a lane opens up for him to produce a scoring chance either by pass or shot. Additionally, Strom shows good positioning skills and consistently makes himself available to receive a pass from a teammate in the offensive end.

#73 Jaxon Williams - Forward

This tournament was the first viewing for Williams that our scouts got to see, and we were certainly not disappointed. Williams is a highly intelligent playmaking forward who uses his quick feet and agility to generate offensive impacts. Williams is electric with the puck, able to weave through traffic and create his own space. Williams identifies the right routes into the attacking zone, and possesses a quick shot that is able to beat goalies from anywhere. Additionally, Williams does an effective job at scanning the ice and finding open space - sneaking away from defenders and getting open for passes. Williams is one of the many players from American teams to keep an eye out for his name during the OHL draft.

#94 Alex Smyth - Forward

Smyth is a shot first forward who has a deceptive release and accurate shot which he effectively utilizes to beat the opposing goaltender. When given space to execute his release, Smyth usually has little issue picking his spot and hitting it, either forcing the goalie to make a difficult save or outright beating them. He has a good combination of skill and hockey IQ, always

trying to identify offensive opportunities through opposing defenders' mistakes or miscues.

Detroit Honeybaked

#9 Trevor Theuer - Forward

Theuer is a two-way forward with great hockey IQ. He has great on ice awareness with an ability to close out passing lanes and slowing down the attack through the neutral zone leading to more takeaways and faster breakouts for him and his teammates. He demonstrated this well by closing out the middle of the ice and forcing the opposing attacker to try and skate through him resulting in a turnover in the neutral zone and an odd man rush the other way where he uses his great speed and agility to attack the net with a hard quick wrist shot that makes it difficult for goalies to read on the rush. Theuer this tournament also has playmaking abilities to consistently utilize his teammates along the wings and defenders at the point to help shift the opposing team out of position for high grade scoring opportunities. For an underrated American player, Theuer stepped up and made some good impressions on the ice.

Detroit Little Caesars

#5 Brayden Hughes - Defence

Aggressive. High competition. And extremely dynamic. These are some words that describe Hughes as a player. Hughes gives it his all each and every shift. Standing at 5'8", Hughes plays a much larger game, making forwards think twice before entering a corner with him. Hughes finishes every check and isn't afraid to face adversity. Offensively, Hughes uses his mobility to get into open space. When he gets the puck, Hughes easily moves around the attacking end and will not hesitate to use his fantastic shot to get the puck on net. Hughes was an exciting player to watch for the Little Caesars in this silver stick.

#18 Beckham Edwards - Forward

After being a driving force for Elgin in the 2022/2023 season, Edwards decided to take his talents south of the border to play with Little Caesars. Playing in what could be considered the toughest group at the Silver Stick, playing against the York Simcoe Express, Toronto Jr. Canadiens, Halton Hurricanes, and Sudbury Jr. Wolves. Although he didn't see the level of production that he would have liked with three points in four games, Edwards skills and high end offensive capabilities were put on display at various points throughout the tournament. With a powerful shot that stood with some of the best in the class, Edwards got himself into small spaces in order to receive the puck. Where, within those small areas with a quick snap or almost flick of the wrist he is sending a high velocity, powerful shot towards the net. At 6 '0 tall, Edwards did well down low controlling the puck and working through contact in an effort to work to the middle of the ice of the offensive. As a centre, whether it be on offence or coming back on defence, he consistently worked his way through the middle of the ice. Utilizing a long, strong stride to hustle to different spots positionally in order to support his team through the defensive zone, or be there to make a play in the offensive zone.

#27 Logan Stuart - Forward

Stuart was one of the fastest skaters throughout the tournament. Watching him, He gains speed with a few crossovers in his own zone, then exploded through neutral ice, bobbing and weaving through traffic at top speed and was able to fire shots from off the wall and get them on net without traffic, as he burned defenders most of the time. Logan played with pace and forced his opponents to match his intensity or fail trying to play with him. He was reliable in his own zone as well, flying in on backchecks to disrupt shots and recovering loose pucks on the penalty kill to clear the zone.

#33 Christopher Baird-Gajdos - Defence

A solid and poised two-way defender, Christopher welcomed pressure when he had the puck and would draw fore checkers in tight before dishing out around them and starting the breakout for Detroit. He never panics and thinks the game at a high level, making sure he has his man covered, boxing

out in front of the net to let his goalie see every shot and battling in corners to secure possession.

Eastern Ontario Wild

#20 Camden McCuaig - Forward

Camden was the Wild's sharpshooter this weekend. He used a quick release to beat goalies from anywhere in the offensive zone and could work his way down low if a shot wasn't available and was very hard to knock off the puck, using his free arm to shield pucks and cycle the zone to look for chances. He drives the net hard and opens up his blade to look for tips on net or drops back to cover for pinching defenseman and can still wire shots from the blueline.

#26 Adam Levac - Forward

Levac is a highly talented forward who excels in driving transition for the Wild as well as being effective in playing zone offense. Levac's ability to gain the offensive zone in transition mostly comes from his puck carrying skills, including body positioning to effectively protect the puck and in-tight stick handling skills to evade opposing poke-checks. As a result, Levac made the jobs of opposing defenders extremely difficult as he was hard to strip off the puck, and produced high volumes of rush chances either by his own shot, or distributing the puck to an open teammate. Away from the puck, Levac shows strong positioning skills by making himself consistently available to teammates to receive a pass either for a scoring chance or as an outlet for a teammate under pressure.

#72 Nicolas Levesque - Defence

Nicolas is a big defender that uses brain over brawn to execute plays and create offense from the blueline. In the offensive zone he uses fake shots and passes to open up lanes that aren't there on the first attempt and can put hard shots on net that catch goalies looking around screens and fighting through traffic. In his own zone, he uses his long reach to eliminate plays as they cross into the zone and finds outlet passes with ease.

#96 Vincent Anderson - Forward

It seemed like Vincent was involved in every scoring chance the Wild had. He keeps his feet moving in transition and likes to attack the middle of the ice, shooting through defenders and using them as a screen to try and beat goalies off the rush. He fights hard for loose pucks and looks to get to the front of the net when he doesn't have it, creating havoc for defenders trying to get him out of the way.

#98 Sam Wathier - Defence

A big-bodied defender, Wathier is an extremely mobile player with an excellent two way vision of the ice. Wathier is good in transition, using his ability to break the puck out smoothly via a pass, or taking it for a skate, protecting the puck with his size and control. Wathier engages in cycles and has the ability to show some creative upside in his playmaking ability. When defending, Wathier keeps his gaps tight and anticipates the opposing players' next moves. Using his long reach, he breaks up plays easily and redirects the puck out of dangerous areas. Wathier battles hard in corners, and uses his size to intimidate the opponents.

Elgin Middlesex Canucks

#5 Mateo Craievich - Defence

A steady presence on the Elgin backend, Craievich was a defenceman who played with a high compete level below the dots, moved the puck effectively up ice, and showed some offensive promise from the offensive line for his team. With strong puck retrievals, Craievich used a high level of compete and hustle to win races to loose pucks, come out of 50/50 puck battles with the puck, and overall consistently come out of battles with the puck for his team. He rarely held onto the puck for extended periods of time in an effort to make breakout passes to his more skilled Elgin forwards. At multiple points throughout, especially in a big game against the Marlboros during the round robin, Craievich was counted upon from an offensive standpoint to quarterback and have an offensive impact. With a goal and an assist against the Marlboros he was able to use his feet and passing ability to not only get

shots through to the net but also distribute the puck to his octane offensive forwards.

#19 Lucas Van Steensel - Forward

Quietly being one of two players to lead his team in scoring with his five points (two goals, three assists) in four games. Van Steensel played a simple yet smart style of game throughout the tournament, and was a player at different key moments in games Elgin turned to, to have an impact. Through his calculated movement without the puck, he maneuvers himself quietly into soft spots on the ice to become an option for his teammates. Building upon that, his positional understanding also helped him to open up more space in transition and the offensive zone cycle, driving defenders heels, rotating through space based off the puck carriers movements, and ultimately taking defenders with him or forcing them to move or make a decision of where they need to go. With the puck on his stick, Van Steensel was a player who never felt the need to overcomplicate his game or try and make a flashy play. Executing simple but necessary plays through the breakout, he was consistently a winger who could be relied upon to make a strong first pass out of the defensive zone or simply use the boards or glass to get the puck up ice.

#88 Evan Guay - Forward

Guay is a creative forward who has offensive upside through his vision and physical skills. Guay is a skilled puck carrier who has a strong understanding of where his teammates are positioned relative to him. As a result, Guay is able to create positive chemistry with his teammates and maintain possession through effectively playing the cycle. Away from the puck, Guay positions himself well to receive passes and quickly convert for scoring chances. With the puck, Guay can effectively carry the puck and is often able to complete productive passes to teammates in high danger areas.

#92 Parker Vaughan - Forward

A highly skilled, dynamic forward who plays the game with pace and tons of energy, Vaughan is a forward who consistently looks to drive the play for his team. The combination of a high level of puck handling and powerful skating,

he consistently attacks the opposition with pace. With his confidence in his ability to maintain control of the puck under pressure with his stickhandling, he is unafraid to drive the puck into traffic forcing defenders to try and take away his space. Using his explosiveness, Vaughan consistently looks to get off the walls and into the middle of the ice, whether it be in the defensive zone, in transition, or in the offensive zone. He recognizes openings and bursts out of turns, using opposing players as a form of leverage, accelerating into space where he has his head up looking to make a play with the puck. Once in space, Vaughan is extremely dangerous with his quick release and heavy shot along with his high level playmaking ability he consistently presents as a dual threat.

#96 Austin Brekelmans - Forward

Brekelmans is a strong 200-foot player for the Canucks who possesses physical skills that give him offensive upside. Without the puck, Brekelmans is always well positioned both defensively and offensively to apply pressure and engage in battles with the opposition combining physicality and stick checking to win puck battles and regain possession for his team. With the puck, Brekelmans is an effective puck distributor who is able to make smart plays to open teammates even if under pressure. Additionally, Brekelmans physical playstyle allows him to be an offensive threat close to the front of the opposing net, making himself a potential high danger option for his teammates.

Guelph Gryphons

#20 Nolan Battler - Defence

Battler is a great skating defenceman that loves to compete and wants to make an impact on the game. He rarely watches the game unfold, he spots openings and goes for it. At the next level, that may need to be reeled in a little bit but our scouts love that about him. He wants to make an impact and has the skill and natural ability to do so. There isn't a question as to why he's played games at both the U18 and junior B level already this season. Guelph had an underwhelming tournament against stiff competition but Battler stood out in a number of ways, all positive.

Halton Hurricanes

#9 Cameron Hunchak - Forward

Hunchak is a player that we have been following very closely this season. His progression as a support player has certainly impressed throughout the season. Hunchak was a very solid two-way guy this tournament, displaying good hockey sense in all areas of the ice. In the Defensive zone, Hunchak is responsible positionally and shows a strong knowledge of his assignments. Through transition, Hunchak is also on time and makes himself a threat and passing option during break-ins. When in possession of the puck, Hunchak has his head up scanning for options. Hunchak doesn't panic, and makes smart plays to create chances. Without the puck, Hunchak works his magic in the slot, battling for position and ready to pick up a tip or a rebound. Additionally, Hunchak is a hard worker in puck battles and finishes his well calculated checks to separate players from the puck.

#22 Porter Fabbri - Forward

The Hurricanes captain was a standout player for the Halton Hurricanes in this tournament. Fabbri is a dynamic forward who is noticeable in all areas. Trusted by his coaches, Fabbri is used in all situations, using his responsible and smart play style to help limit chances against, and generate chances forward. Fabbri is a smooth skater with quick and agile reflexes, making him a deceiving player and hard to defend. Even though Fabbri may not have the scoring and finishing ability that his teammates like Kindree and Venne, Fabbri makes himself valuable through his reliability and leadership. Fabbri is an extremely engaged player, always active in cycles and in transition. Venne has a strong passing ability, as he is able to connect on passes from anywhere on the ice. Fabbri is also effective at protecting the puck through traffic by using his speed and puck handling ability to keep the puck in tight in congested areas.

#27 Tristan Venne - Forward

Although Venne is believed to be QMJHL eligible and not OHL eligible, we could not keep him off this report after the tournament he had. He was one of the most entertaining players to watch this weekend. He is one of the

most skilled and intelligent players in this age group and sees the ice like a pro. Whenever he regroups in the neutral zone after a broken play, he always has his head up analyzing defenders positions, and makes the appropriate play to attack the opposition in the quickest way possible. He uses his speed and puck handling to create in-zone possession and start the cycle game, or attack relentlessly off the rush if given the opportunity. He scored multiple highlight reel goals this tournament, at times seeming unstoppable vs flat-footed defensemen.

#44 Cooper Otterman - Defence

Otterman stepped his game up and reached another level in this tournament. Otterman played a very solid and structured two-way game, being a reliable defender on both sides of the puck. Otterman uses his size and strength to intimidate opposing players when defending. Otterman keeps his gaps tight and will use his body to separate the player from the puck. When regrouping for a breakout, Otterman executes on his first passes well, and is not afraid to use his powerful stride to begin the transition himself. In the attacking zone, Otterman walks to the blueline well, and can actively contribute to the cycle. When a lane opens up, Otterman will not hesitate to rip a powerful shot from the blueline. Otterman is used on both the Powerplay and the Penalty Kill, where he does an effective job at creating chances using his offensive IQ and eliminating chances using his body and stick.

#64 Mason Roy - Defence

Mason Roy continues to show his strong two way ability throughout the Silver Stick tournament. Roy is a smooth skater who uses his speed and agility to his advantage. When it comes to puck moving, Roy has the ability to move the puck at high speeds. Roy is able to identify his options and make the right plays to move the puck out of dangerous areas. When defending, Roy is able to use his stick to knock the puck off opponents and use his body positioning to box out dangerous chances. In the offensive zone, Roy can make plays to create scoring opportunities and hold down the blue line to keep the plays alive.

#95 Ethan Kindree - Forward

Staying consistent with his season-long two-way dominance, Kindree made himself an extremely effective option in all game situations during the Silver Stick tournament. Kindree excels at combining skill and physicality to take control of the game regardless of the zone he's in or whether his team is possessing the puck. Defensively, Kindree is active on the backcheck, aggressively applying back pressure to assist his defenders in breaking up the opposing forecheck. On top of this, Kindree is an active and effective part of Halton's breakout when he is on the ice, often making himself available low in the defensive end as an outlet and utilizing his speed to join the rush. Offensively, Kindree is an all-around threat who can beat defenders by forcing himself into high danger areas through combining his strength, edgework, and balance as well as his excellent puck control; or by beating defenders to the outside, creating space for himself to pull off his dangerous shot highlighted its quick release and accuracy.

Huron Perth Lakers

#2 Colton Radford - Forward

Radford fought hard for every chance he got. His compete level is very high and was willing to do whatever it took to get the puck for his team. He forechecked hard and would force bad plays with his imposing frame and the threat of a hit, getting the puck back and using strong edges to cut right to the net and create chaos in front. He has soft hands too and could work through players when a pass was not there.

Kingston Jr Gaels

#16 Jack Foley - Forward

Foley is Kingston's #1 centre and their #1 source of offence. He has a good ability to break down defences with his skating and puck handling skills and uses his hockey IQ to pull defenders towards him before dishing it off, creating time and spaces for his linemates. He runs the PP, has good deceptiveness to his game and has the vision to find teammates for back door tap-in goals.

#89 Jonah McCormick - Forward

McCormick is a bigger body but can move just as well as anyone on his team. He likes to slow the game down when in control of the puck and dissects each wave of pressure differently, whether it be using his hands to throw off pressure, cut down the wall and drop off to the blueline or set up a teammate with a quick cross seam pass. Very creative passer and can sauce it over multiple sticks. He is your prototypical scoring power forward that isn't afraid to mix it up and make an impact on the game.

London Jr Knights

#3 Eric Frossard - Defence

Frossard is a smooth skating defenceman that isn't afraid to jump into the play to drive offence. He is a tall rangy player that covers a lot of ice and has the ability to close the gap quickly against opposing forwards in transition. Defensively, he plays solid below the goal line containing opposing players and restricting their access to the front of the net. His skating is his best weapon and he uses it well.

#11 Ethan Dean - Forward

Dean is an offensively minded forward who excels in transition and play finishing with his puck carrying abilities. Dean's skating abilities and puck protection skills make him effective in gaining the offensive zone and producing chances off the rush. Away from the puck, Dean is a formidable forechecker who applies pressure to the opposition mid-breakout attempt to disrupt possession and/or force errors.

#13 Carter Hicks - Defence

Hicks is a highly intelligent and skilled defenseman who excels in both ends of the ice. Hicks is an extremely confident player, and consistently makes plays with high levels of poise. With the puck, Hicks is not afraid to hold onto the puck to create more open lanes for himself to either pass or skate into. With this being said, overcarrying the puck is not an issue for Hicks, as he is able to make quick effective decisions when the play calls for it, despite his

preference to adjust the pace of play to the speed he sees fit. Hicks has excellent vision which he uses to complete smart passes to teammates who are in a productive position to generate positive momentum for the Jr. Knights whether that be skating the puck up ice in transition or finishing on a scoring chance. Defensively, Hicks is well positioned and covers his assignments well. As a result, he is able to stifle opposing possession and help kickstart the breakout effort for his team.

#16 Raiden Doxtator - Forward

Raiden liked to work in open space, finding lapses in defensive zone coverages and getting into the sweet spots to receive a pass. He creates chances with his hands and likes to dangle down low and can lift the puck while he's in tight to get it up and over goalies. Backchecks hard and never gives up on the play if he turns it over and uses short but strong strides for decent north-south speed to get back in a hurry.

Mississauga Rebels

#59 Alexander Bilecki - Defence

Bilecki is a skilled puck moving defender who easily identifies open teammates both in the offensive zone and in transition. In transition, Bilecki is capable of making a quick, crisp tape-to-tape pass to a teammate virtually anywhere on the ice, making multiple impressive stretch passes to streaking teammates, as well as being able to identify and effectively complete more simple and safe breakout plays. In the zone, Bilecki continues to put his excellent vision on display, finding open teammates by identifying passing lanes quickly and completing an effective pass.

#67 Cole Zurawski - Forward

A presence every time he stepped on the ice, Cole loves to be in the middle of the ice and create offense for his team. He doesn't get scared when going into corners and will take a beating to secure the puck and will try and force turnovers any chance he gets, using good body positioning and a good stick, he knocks pucks away from other players and turns up ice for rush chances.

#68 Colton Woods - Forward

Woods is an effective forward who brings value to the Rebels with quick, smart decision making and strong positioning. Without the puck, Woods is able to identify soft spots on the ice where he can get open to receive a pass from a teammate and quickly convert for a potential scoring chance. With the puck, Woods makes quick decisions while under pressure to either pass the puck to a safe outlet and maintain possession, or produce a scoring chance either by shot or pass.

#73 Christian Colosimo - Defence

A big defender on the back end, Christian moves very well for his size. He walks the blueline with ease and deceives wingers into what his next move is, throwing it down low or driving it himself. He can also tee up a bomb of a shot from the line as well. Colosimo breaks up plays with his long stick and doesn't panic once he gets it back, he makes quick reads and moves pucks with a solid first pass.

North York Rangers

#13 Brady Smith - Forward

Finishing the tournament with 4 goals and 2 assists in 4 games, Smith is an offensive weapon for the North York Rangers. Smith is a smooth and sneaky player who is able to float to soft spaces on the ice and generate dangerous scoring opportunities. Throughout the first part of the season, it seems that Smith has evolved his game from a purely scoring winger, to a more dynamic sorcerer with playmaking abilities and high compete level. Smith showed his ability to use his competence to force turnovers, battle for pucks and positioning. When given time and space, Smith will capitalize on it and use his quick and accurate shot to beat goalies from anywhere in the attacking zone. Smith's goal scoring sense is one of the best in this year's draft, and it will be exciting to see how he progresses throughout the rest of the year.

#35 Max Grovestine - Goalie

Grovestine had 2 shutouts in 2 games. Although he's playing behind high-end goaltender Brady Knowling, who gets a lot of the tough matchups, this shouldn't discount the fact that when Grovestine is in net, the Rangers win hockey games. He is positionally sound, has quick and smooth foot work and makes saves when he has too. He made a couple of highlight reel saves in this tournament that really displayed his athleticism. He had a great tournament, and has had a great season so far, it'll be interesting to see his progression throughout the year and to see if he can work his way into some high pressure playoff games down the stretch on a solid NYR team.

#53 Jackson Kimelman - Forward

Kimelman is an effective forechecking forward who plays a strong two-way game and effectively applies pressure in all zones to help regain and maintain possession for North York. Kimelman is a high energy player who pressures the opposing puck carrier and often is engaged in puck battles. By combining his stick checking ability along with physicality, he does well to win battles and strip the opposition of the puck. Defensively both during even strength and on the penalty kill, Kimelman effectively utilizes his active stick while applying pressure to occasionally catch the opposition off-guard and either clear the zone, or create a rush chance for himself up ice.

#73 Kohyn Eshkawkogan - Defence

A player whose stock continues to grow playing in every situation for a highly ranked North York team, Eshkawkogan's strong puck management continued to be a standout feature of his game throughout the Silver Stick. With his head up ice and poise with the puck, Eshkawkogan was a defenceman throughout the tournament who wasn't afraid to hold onto the puck while under pressure as well as while the play in front of him would develop, in an effort to pass the puck up ice rather than simply chip the puck off glass and give it away. He identifies more than just direct tape to tape passes as a way to move the puck to his teammates, utilizing area passes and indirect board passes smartly to get up ice. Presenting a calm demeanor he isn't an erratic skater, using a controlled stride to accelerate and also

decelerate as a way for him to give himself more time to make a play with the puck.

#77 Luca Bonomo - Defence

Luca played well in the Silver Stick for North York. He had 2 assists in 4 games, but his game was highlighted through his play in the defensive zone. He is a big body defenseman who uses his size and strength to defend and protect the front of his net. He moves well for his size and is able to get pucks up ice quickly with the assistance of the dynamic forwards on North York. Bonomo also has a powerful shot which was on display from the point in the offensive zone.

#84 Tyler Challenger - Forward

Challenger is a highly skilled, highly physical player who effectively uses his size to his advantage to create offense. With his puck skills and size, Challenger is a very capable puck carrier and often drives transition as a result. In gaining the zone, Challenger is able to use his reach to protect the puck while simultaneously driving toward the middle of the ice. Challenger is also a very impactful netfront presence as he is able to battle for position and win net-front puck battles that arise from rebound chances. With this being said, Challenger's offensive abilities are not strictly limited to the front of the net, as he is able to use his deceptive shot from nearly anywhere in the offensive zone to create a potential scoring chance for himself. Defensively, Challenger is well positioned and does well to cover his assignments, helping to reduce chance production from the opposition.

Ottawa Valley Titans

#11 Chris Neil - Forward

Neil performed exactly as advertised for the Titans in this year's silver stick. Neil is a hard working forward that never shies away from battle. Neil plays a head-on style of game, always giving his best efforts every shift. Neil plays well on both sides of the puck, knowing his role and is aware of his assignments. Neil finishes his checks, and rarely loses a puck battle. With

the puck, Neil is able to generate chances in the O-zone, finding teammates with clean passes or getting a shot off in tight.

#91 Braydon Lindsay - Forward

Lindsay is a dynamic two-way forward with great hockey IQ. He has great body positioning by protecting the puck well to prevent opposing defenders from knocking the puck loose to keep puck possession in the offensive zone. Lindsay also uses his great body positioning by consistently intercepting pucks and creating turnovers in the neutral zone that leads to high grade scoring opportunities. He demonstrated this well by reading the breakout pass and intercepting the puck that led to a goal in the tournament that helped propel his team to a win. Lindsay is the type of the player you can rely on in all areas on the ice with great on-ice awareness whether it is being aggressive on the forecheck or intercepting passing plays through the neutral zone to create high quality scoring chances.

#96 Carter Stevens - Forward

Ottawa Valley didn't have the best tournament but that didn't stop Stevens from sticking out as a standout player. He's a strong 2-way centreman that has the skill to play on your top line but could also play up and down your lineup on a stronger team if needed because of his willingness to engage physically and compete for every puck. Defensively, he covers a lot of ice with his strong staking, possesses an active stick knocking pucks away from defenders and isn't afraid to lay the body. Offensively, he has a strong and accurate wrist shot and also uses his vision to find open teammates. He has soft hands in tight and can make plays in the small areas of the ice.

#98 Jordan Perrier - Forward

Perrier is a two-way forward with great on-ice awareness. He possesses a great skating ability with exceptional edgework combined with his puck skills to evade opposing defenders from stripping the puck off his stick. He has great playmaking abilities by staying strong on his skates and using his good long strides to separate himself and drive to the front of the net to set up high grade scoring opportunities. He establishes himself with good presence in the high and low slot areas for high grade scoring opportunities. He

utilizes his teammates well by facilitating the offense with great playmaking to find teammates for great scoring opportunities on the ice. He also has great body positioning where he would position himself towards the front of the net.

Peterborough Petes

#15 Matthew Souter - Forward

Souter is a highly skilled high-motor centre/winger that loves having the puck on his stick in offensive situations. He isn't overly physical in his approach due to his size, but uses excellent deceptive skating to control zone play and escape coverage in the offensive zone. He finds the soft spots on the ice and has the skill to capitalize when given the chance. He stands out because of his hockey sense in understanding where the puck should be going, and what the next play should be.

#27 Colin Fitzgerald - Forward

The #1 centreman for the Petes showed everyone why he deserves to be in the conversation to be a first round pick in this upcoming draft. He does it all for Peterborough, he wins faceoffs, wins puck battles, is highly skilled and highly intelligent. He understands both sides of the puck extremely well and has the ability to take over games. His competitiveness is on display every shift and he processes the game really quickly, while reading and reacting to situations to take advantage of defensive breakdowns. He can score goals on the powerplay and also shut down the other teams #1 centre. A fun 2-way prospect that oozes offensive potential.

#88 Ryland Cunningham - Forward

Ryland is an offensive machine for the Petes, generating scoring opportunities with his high IQ passes and creative hands to work his way closer for a shot at the net. He has a heavy one-timer that consistently beats goalies from long range and uses his teammates to his advantage, dishing off to create space for himself then receiving it back with tons of time and space.

Sudbury Wolves

#12 Dawson Morris - Defence

Morris is a shut-down defender that can stop plays in his own zone but also jump in the rush when needed. He has excellent body position, getting in front of pucks when retrieving them and cutting off forwards to be the first one to the puck. He's mean when clearing the crease and will beat up anyone that tries to create traffic at the net. In the offensive zone he mans the point well and finds lanes to feed the puck down low and also has a heavy one-timer that can go bar-down from the blueline.

Thunder Bay Kings

#4 Moe Kytör - Defence

Moe was a rock on the back end for the Kings, putting his body on the line to block shots and getting his stick in passing lanes to break up chances. His compete level is very high and would always look to separate his man from the puck, not with big hits but with good skating to close off angles and shut down rushes when they came his way and would almost never get turned around on rushes. His footwork along the offensive blueline was great too, opening up his hips and moving his feet to find another lane to put the puck through.

#5 Jacob Witoluk - Defence

Jacob was another solid defender for Thunder Bay throughout the weekend. He made multiple checks and scans when retrieving pucks and would not waste a second when moving it up ice, already knowing who was getting it before he got to the puck. Jacob's passes were also very hard and right on the tape, giving the receiver an extra step on a defender because of the spots he was putting them in. He is also a great skater and matches defenders coming in on the rush with quick crossovers and c-cuts.

#8 Jackson Breitsprecher - Defence

Jackson was one Thunder Bay's best players all weekend and impressed whenever he jumped over the boards. He has a solid base which allows him to box players out in front of the net and keep them out of shooting lanes. He also made several long stretch passes in which he would regroup behind his net and wait for options before starting the breakout and without the puck, would put himself in position to support the rush and break pucks out. With the puck in the offensive zone, he can find lanes and get pucks on net for rebounds and tips. Jackson would also attack the puck carrier and give them no time to breathe upon entering the zone, forcing them into a turnover or shutting them down along the boards. Always took the pass away on odd man rushes and made sure his goalie had good looks at shots.

Upper Canada Cyclones

#10 Jackson Taylor - Defence

Jackson is a dependable defender that uses his skating and IQ to jump in the rush and provide an extra layer of offense for his forwards. When carrying the puck, his awareness is top notch as he can almost sense when pressure is closing in from behind him and moves the puck without hesitation. He also has good separation speed and can get space with just a few strides up ice. Uses effective crossovers to open up lanes on the blueline and likes to set up teammates.

#23 Maximus Crete - Forward

The cyclones' number one center is a smart and responsible two way center who used his IQ and vision to anticipate plays and contribute to all scenarios. Crete possesses a large toolbox of skills that include a strong skating ability, puck handling skills, and play awareness and anticipation. Even though his stat line may have been underwhelming when comparing it to his regular season totals in HEO, Crete made a case for himself to be a top prospect through his play away from the puck. Crete views the ice at an elite level, allowing him to anticipate and read plays at a high speed. On the rush, he is a creative player that can set his team mates up for a scoring opportunity. Crete is able to conduct offensive play and set himself and

teammates up for success. When back checking, he consistently picks up his man and helps contribute to minimizing scoring chances against.

#92 Jay-Zeus Mbarushimana - Forward

The way he plays the game is based on speed and deceptiveness. He can get up to speed with a couple crossovers and uses his full bag of tricks when trying to work around a defender. He can toe drag, fake inside and go out, you name it, he can do it , and while at top speed, using strong edges to stop up and start again in the blink of an eye. Finds open space while in the offensive zone and can set up teammates with crisp passes.

Whitby Wildcats

#1 Arvin Jaswal - Goalie

Jaswal was a brick wall for the Wildcats this tournament, he started off with a solid performance against Detroit HoneyBaked, helping his team secured the victory, and followed it up with a stellar performance against the powerhouse Barrie Colts, where he stood on his head giving his team a chance to win in a high pressure situation, tied 1-1 in the third period in a winner moves on scenario. He eventually gave up a breakaway goal to Amidovski of the Colts, with under 2 minutes left but there wasn't much else he could do to help his team win. Scouts took notice of that performance and he is now a name to watch as the season moves along. He is a big, athletic goalie that moves around the crease well and competes hard.

#14 Rhys Huinink - Defence

Huinink is a two-way defenseman with great foundations. He skates well with great speed through the neutral zone in the transition game. He has great vision to make good tape to tape passing plays to drive the puck up the ice for quick efficient breakouts. He also has good playmaking abilities in the offensive zone for a defenseman as he can consistently make plays for high grade scoring opportunities. He demonstrated this well by scoring most of his points on the power play as he quarterbacks the PP unit for the Wildcats. He also has a good long reach with his stick work to consistently

poke pucks loose from opposing forwards giving him an advantage on the boards to win puck battles in his own defensive zone.

#22 CJ Kennedy - Forward

An electric offensive player, Kennedy loves to generate speed through the middle of the ice and fly into the slot. His shot is heavy and fast, especially off the rush when he is at top speed. He can also slow it down too and make plays, using give and go's to get around defenders and open up space for teammates. He has a strong base and isn't easily knocked off the puck and can also take and give big hits, never staying down and getting right back up to jump back in the play, he never quits on a shift and wants to generate offense whenever he's out there.

#86 Reggie Taylor - Forward

Taylor is a strong skating power forward that has a good amount of skill and grit to his game. He moves around the ice extremely well and uses his straight line speed to generate offence. He possesses good puck handling skills in tight and plays a strong game on the half wall. He does excel in open ice where he can use his size and skating ability to break down defences. He is a sniper that has a strong and accurate wrist shot but can also battle in front of the net for rebounds or tips. He finished tied for the scoring lead for Whitby with 3 goals and 1 assist in 4 games.

#90 Max Wetherup - Forward

Max was a dog off the leash for the Wildcats. He was forchecking hard and making other players uncomfortable by finishing hits and applying constant pressure to force bad plays. He works hard in all three zones and has a quick release on his shot, beating goalies from the top of the circles just after receiving the puck.

York Simcoe Express

#4 Bryson Morgan - Forward

The York Simcoe Express' captain was an impact player in all areas of the ice, showing his ability to make calculated plays in both the offensive and defensive zone. Morgan is not a flashy player, but is definitely a crucial asset to this forward core. Using his hockey sense, Morgan is able to identify his options at a high speed, and execute on high IQ plays. Morgan is smart positionally, making him a useful player in his own end. Ending the tournament off with 7 points in 4 games, Morgan has the ability to shine in the offensive zone. Harnessing a quick shot and aggressiveness, Morgan works hard to get open space and is not afraid to shoot the puck.

#7 Tucker Roberts - Forward

Offensively Tucker had a relatively quiet tournament for the Express, but his combination of speed and size was on display. Tucker is a reliable forward who is smart with the puck and was relied on in both the offensive and defensive zone. Tucker deserved to be highlighted from this tournament as his raw talent still stood out on this team, but the Express were just somewhat slowed down offensively throughout the tournament, and Tucker only played 3 of their 4 games.

#26 Jackson Halloran - Forward

Coming into the tournament, Holloran's name just started to receive some traction. With his strong performance this weekend, Holloran has certainly made a name for himself. Holloran is a hard working forward that plays every shift with a high compete level. Holloran is a playmaking forward with an excellent brain in the offensive zone. Holloran is able to connect on passes and demonstrate some creativity. Holloran is a smooth skater, and is able to consistently contribute to offensive chances. Additionally, Holloran works hard on the back check and is responsible for his own end.

#55 Colin Ellsworth - Goalie

Ellsworth is one of our highest ranked goaltenders and his performance this tournament did not disappoint. He posted a shutout against an albeit weaker Sudbury team then was able to produce a 2-2 tie against a strong Toronto Junior Canadiens team. Our team was able to see him play last year a few times as he played up for the U16 team a few times and he looks to have his name called amongst the first few goalies in this year's draft. He is a big, strong and positional sound goaltender that always seems to make the first save.

#87 Jaxon Cover - Forward

Cover is a high-event offensive player, who uses his skill and size to make the most out of every shift. Cover has the ability to get the puck on net, from any area in the attacking zone. He uses his size to protect the puck from opposing defenders, and is effective at finding his teammates for passes. Cover has a powerful stride and is able to use his edges to stop and start on a dime. His vision of the offensive allows him to complete complex plays and be an active contributor to the offensive generation.

#88 Justin Anselmo - Forward

Anselmo, along with Bryson Morgan, seemed to be the only Express players able to produce offence this tournament. He finished with 5 points in 4 games and was making an impact in every game. He's a rangy winger that can protect the puck well and has the ability to create his own breakaways with his speed and size. This tournament definitely elevated his draft stock as you could see the impact he was having on the game through his skating, size, skill and competitiveness.