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NHL mock draft, first round












By Kyle Woodlief, Special for USA TODAY

Red Line Report editor Kyle Woodlief, a former NHL scout, presents his mock draft leading up to the NHL's talent selection this Friday. He details the likely first-round picks.

Be sure to join Woodlief for his [live chat](#) with USA TODAY at 1 p.m. ET, Wednesday, June 18.

Pick	Team	Comment
1.		Steven Stamkos. No brainer. The Lightning have already stated their intentions and are trumpeting his arrival to fans on the team Web site.
2.		Nikita Filatov. There's no sign-ability issue here as there is with other Russians. Filatov's contract is up, and he's adamant about coming over to play in North America next year. Dean Lombardi fell in love with his skill level at the world U-18s, and salivates over the prospect of adding him to an already dynamic young offensive core.
3.		Drew Doughty. In their entire existence they've never had a true #1 defenseman with an explosive offensive game who could carry the mail. Now they do.
4.		Zach Bogosian. By adding him to Erik Johnson they may have the best young twin towers blue line combination in the league.
5.		Mikkel Boedker. With a bunch of lightly talented 5-11 smurfs on the blue line, it's hard to imagine they could pass on the premium huge rearguards still available. But they're also desperate for an infusion of speed and skill up front, and Boedker's marvelous Memorial Cup run won them over.
6.		Luke Schenn. They traded away Adam Foote, the premiere shutdown defenseman of his generation at the deadline. Now they pick up the next great shutdown defender to replace him.
7.		Alex Pietrangolo. They're thrilled the native son fell this far into their laps and don't hesitate for a second.

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8.  Tyler Myers. Theyve got a whole stable full of fresh young colts up front with Kyle Turris, Peter Mueller, Martin Hanzal, Brett MacLean, and Kevin Porter just getting started. The cupboards bare on the back end, and Myers really fills the bill.
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9.  Colin Wilson. The Preds lost a lot of character, heart, and team toughness with the departure of Scott Hartnell last year. Wilson is the perfect replacement.
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10.  Cody Hodgson. The Canucks really need an infusion of fresh blood on the forward lines, where theyve grown old and stagnant in recent years.
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11.  Zach Boychuk. Fits the mold of fast, gritty, skilled players Dale Tallon and Rick Dudley have been trying to inject into the lineup the last few seasons.
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12.  Colten Teubert. Leave it to Brian Burke to draft the meanest, toughest S.O.B. in the whole shooting match.
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13.  Josh Bailey. With Daniel Briere and Chris Drury long gone and Tim Connolly always injured, theyve got to get their hands on a traditional playmaking center to distribute the puck to their talented young snipers on the wing.
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14.  Mattias Tedenby. The 'Canes have a lot of mileage and general wear-and-tear on most of their key players up front. They dont often dip their toe in the European pool, but they really need to add speed on the forward lines.
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15.  Chet Pickard. This may be a tad early, but Nashville has a lot of pieces in place elsewhere and really wants to begin grooming a young stud to take ownership of their No. 1 job for the next 10 years.
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16.  Joe Colborne. Were not enamored with this pick quite so high, but the B's love him and really want to add a skilled big man up the middle.
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17.  Kyle Beach. On the surface it sounds crazy, but hes actually a guy in the Sutter mold. Darryl Sutter will love his burning desire to win at all costs, and Beach has enough respect for the Sutter name (and fear of what Keenan and Sutter could do to him) that hell check the rest of his attitude at the door.
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18.  Defenseman Jake Gardiner. They had good luck with a skilled, but raw, Minnesota high school defenseman a few years ago in Brian Lee. If they can duplicate that success this time around it makes dumping Wade Redden that much easier.
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19.  Brandon Burlon. Call this one a hunch. Theyre really looking for a forward in this spot after nabbing Schenn earlier, but they cant pass on this talented two-way defender, and theyll be happy they didnt.
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20.  Nicolas Deschamps. Jagr, Shanahan, Straka & co. are ancient up front. Deschamps is the type of mature two-way winger they can slide onto their second line in a couple of years.
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21.  Tyler Cuma. The complete rebuild of their blue line has to start sometime. Hes got the toughness and heart they need at this stage.
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22.  Luca Sbisa. They got to see plenty of the Swiss rearguard in Lethbridge, and they liked what they saw. Hes a safe pick at a position of need.
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23.  Maxime Sauve. The Caps need to build some offensive depth around Ovechkin, Backstrom, and Semin. Plus they could use another creative playmaker to get the two Russian snipers the puck.
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24.  Jordan Eberle. The Wild are on the prowl for someone who can score goals to take the pressure off Marian Gaborik, and Eberle is the best pure sniper left on the board.
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25.  Corey Trivino. You might think about top five talent Kirill Petrov at this point, but the Habs have been burned by both Alexei Emelin and Alex Perezhogin in the past year, so their appetite for Russians may be sated for awhile. Theyre really looking for a forward here and would love to have gotten one of the French kids, but instead theyll swing for the fences with a late riser.
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26.  Michael Del Zotto. He can be groomed as an offensive blue liner to replace Brian Campbell and run the PP.
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27.  John Carlson. The Flyers love to take New Jersey natives from just outside Philly and will have an extremely tough time passing over Carlson. Hes a good fit since theyre stacked up front and need some young, fresh legs to rebuild an old, slow blue line corps. But they really need to add a young goaltender to their system as well, and with the fast-rising Jake Allen staring them in the face, hell be very tempting. They gulp hard before ultimately selecting the defenseman.
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28.  Cody Goloubef. They got their high octane scorer early on. Now they go with a quieter, more subtle pick to aid the blue line.
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29.  Daultan Leveille. After nabbing their franchise defenseman early, they look to add speed to the front lines.
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30.



Jake Allen. They may be the newly crowned Cup champs, but they aint exactly sitting pretty for the future with 12 players on the roster over 30. Theyll be thrilled if the Flyers dont grab Allen ahead of them since their goalies are a combined 78 years old. But hey, Nicklas Lidstrom and Chris Chelios have to retire eventually too dont they? If Allen is gone, Erik Karlsson is kind of a miniature replica of Nik Kronwall, and the Wings would grab him and hope he turns out half as good.

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