



**Minnesota Wild**

**Prospect Handbook**

**2011/12 Season Review**

“This Minnesota Wild prospect handbook is the result of a beautiful marriage with First Round Bust and Hockey Wilderness, two dedicated Wild online blogs that bring you Minnesota hockey from a fan’s point of view.

The idea of this handbook is to offer some detailed insights into the world of hockey prospects, and what Minnesota hockey has to offer for the future.

Enjoy!”

Hockey Wilderness & First Round Bust

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Photo by Chris Jerina

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77<sup>th</sup> overall selection in  
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# YOUTH MOVEMENT

## The Next Wave Appears

BY DANIEL CHAN

Only about a season ago, there a sort of cloud that hung over the Minnesota Wild organization. There was very little optimism coming from the fans as they watched their favorite team miss the playoffs for consecutive seasons.

This was a result of numerous first round busts that Minnesota had. For six seasons, from 2004-2009, the Wild's first round picks produced nothing for the team, and ultimately left a huge drought of talent in the prospect pool.

That all started to change on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2010.

"With the 9<sup>th</sup> selection in the draft, the Minnesota Wild select from HIFK, Mikael Granlund"

With those words, GM Chuck Fletcher started the injection of talented youth into the Wild organization. The Granlund selection was followed up by names such as Brett Bulmer, Johan Larsson, Jason Zucker and Johan Gustafsson. This impressive draft class was followed up by the 2011 draft in which the Wild continued to add talent with the additions of Jonas Brodin, Zack

Phillips and Charlie Coyle.

All the names listed here are eligible to play with the Houston Aeros next season, and all have a very high chance to doing so. Not only that, but every single one of these prospects have the potential of being high impact players for the Wild.

For example, the most recent first round pick, Jonas Brodin, has exceeded fan expectations. He represented Sweden in the Men's World Championships, playing alongside NHLers Niklas Kronwall and Daniel Alfredsson, and did not look out of place. In fact, he appeared to play better than a few of the more veteran players.

With around seven high impact players all coming at once to the pros, the Wild have to adjust accordingly to give each prospect their deserved playing time.

But the real question is, what does this mean for the Minnesota Wild?

No longer will the team have to rely on one or two players to carry the team, no longer will the Aero call-ups be grinders and

depth defensemen, no longer will injuries mean a losing streak.

Although the Wild have been in Minnesota for 12 years, the team has never seen a time when its minor league has been so full of talent. This influx of youth will change everything, the way the team performs and the way fans perceive their hockey team.

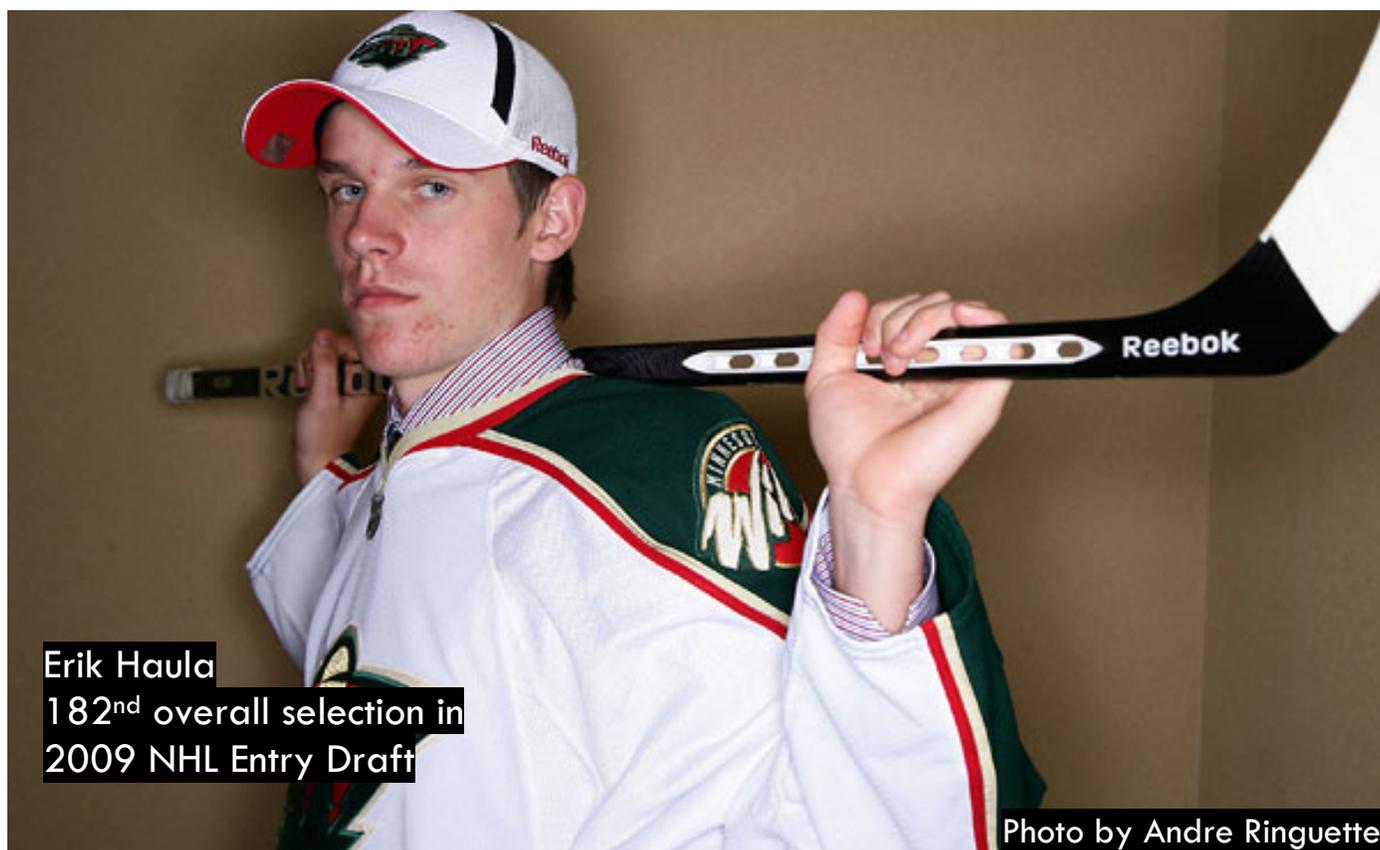
The most amazing thing is that the team did not have to sacrifice its youth or draft picks for this movement, and still have all its picks for the 2012 NHL Entry Draft, including the 9<sup>th</sup> overall selection.

There is new life to the organization and in fans, and in the next few years, the Wild finally have some talent that would be the envy of the rest of the NHL.



Jonas Brodin  
10<sup>th</sup> overall selection in  
2012 NHL Entry Draft

Photo by Nick Laham



**Erik Haula**  
182<sup>nd</sup> overall selection in  
2009 NHL Entry Draft

Photo by Andre Ringuette

## Close To Home On The Other Side Of The World

BY NATHAN WELLS

When it comes to prospects, draft day sticks out as the reward for years of hard work, 6 AM practices and hundreds of hockey games. But it's not the end.

A first round pick still needs develop and grow, even after being drafted, and the NHL is full of cases where top-ten picks flame out while guys drafted in the sixth and seventh rounds flourish in the league. It all comes down to taking the next step and for the Minnesota Wild, one prospect is doing so nine miles away from the Xcel Energy Center halfway around the world from home.

Erik Haula, a 7<sup>th</sup> round pick (182<sup>nd</sup> overall) by Minnesota in 2009, played an important role

in the University of Minnesota's run to the Frozen Four semifinals as a sophomore.

Born in Pori, Finland, Haula came to the United States to play hockey at Shattuck-St. Mary's – a boarding school in Fairbault, Minnesota that has iced NHL stars like Sidney Crosby, Jonathan Toews, Kyle Okposo and Zack Parise. After then being drafted by the Wild, he played a season with Lincoln in the USHL before heading to Minneapolis to play for the Gophers.

While the 5'10", 184 lbs center put up a respectable 24 points (6G-18A) in 34 games as a freshman (along with representing Finland in the World Junior Championships), he

took off this year finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in college hockey with 49 points (20G-29A). Playing on Minnesota's second line and making an effort to shoot more, Haula was en fuego early in the season and put up 15 points in the team's first 7 games. He then cooled off, however, only scoring 3 goals between November and the end of January before finishing the end of the season strong.

It began with a goal that blew the roof off of Mariucci Arena.

Down 1-0 and a man in the third period to rival Wisconsin in the Gophers' final regular season game, Haula and senior forward Jake Hansen were on a two-on-one when the Wild prospect saw the Wisconsin defender cover his teammate and made them pay.

"That's the loudest I've ever heard the place in my life," University of Minnesota defenseman Nate Schmidt told me after the game. "It's unbelievable. I was sitting next to (backup goalie Michael)

Shibrowski on the bench after the goal and couldn't hear him. The crowd was so loud it gave me goosebumps."

Over the next six games, Haula scored 11 points (5G-6A), including two goals in 18 seconds against Alaska-Anchorage and a power play goal against North Dakota that sent the Gophers to the Frozen Four. What makes it more impressive is that Erik stepped up in the postseason when other big names for Minnesota slowed down. His play as a sophomore dictated how the team would be (the Gophers started off hot, were .500 in the middle and hot again in February and March) and when Haula scored Minnesota was 12-1-1.

He wasn't alone among Wild prospects in finishing seasons strong. Four prospects that Minnesota holds rights to (Johan Larsson, Charlie Coyle, Zack Phillips and Mario Lucia) won their league playoff championships and Lucia's Penticton Vees ended the year as the Canadian Junior "A" Champions. Larsson and Coyle, meanwhile, also won awards as Swedish Elite League Rookie of the Year and QMJHL Playoff MVP, respectively.

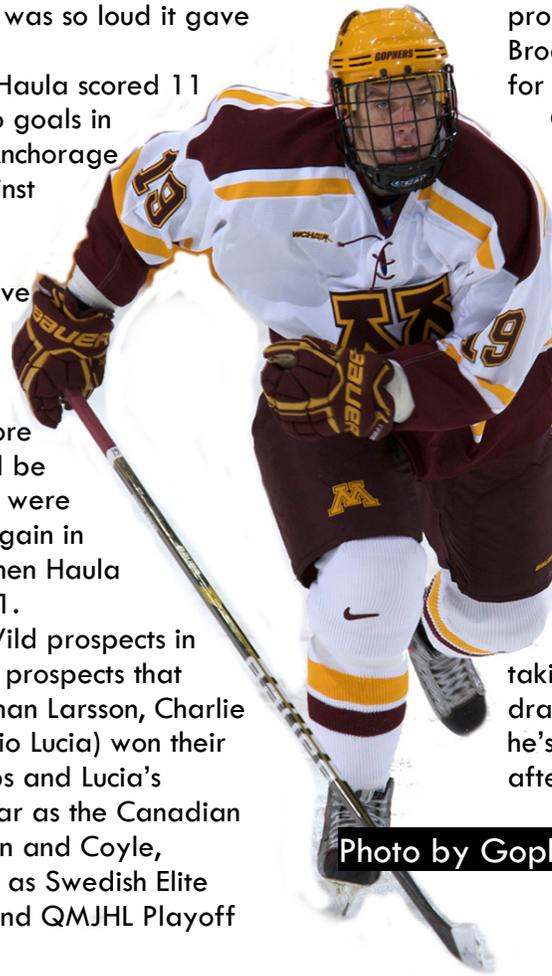


Photo by Gopher Athletics

And that doesn't include three prospects (Johan Larsson, Jonas Brodin and Mikael Granlund) playing for their country in the World Championships before a single game with the Minnesota Wild.

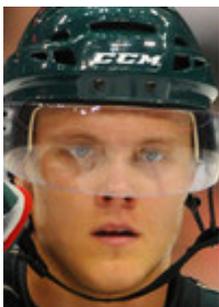
Despite everything - the accolades and finishing the season strong - Erik Haula still has to work on his game. The scoring and face-offs may have improved but he can be more consistent in all aspects, like skating, and for that reason is returning to the University of Minnesota for his junior season. The seventh round pick isn't alone in the Minnesota Wild organization in taking that next step after being drafted but in terms of draft position, he's developed far beyond being an afterthought.

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**1 – MIKAEL GRANLUND**



Pos: C/LW  
Ht: 5-9  
Wt: 170

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	HIFK Helsinki	SM-Liiga	45	20	31	51	18

A smart but undersized forward that plays with enormous confidence and poise. Has tremendous playmaking abilities, complimented with great creativity and on-ice awareness.

Although undersized, he plays hard and is very willing to throw his body around, which is a good amount of muscle.

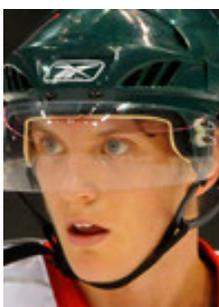
He recently signed a three-year entry level deal with the Wild.

Because of his success playing against men, he will have a very high chance of finding a regular top six role on the team.

**PROJECTION:**

Elite playmaking versatile forward.

**2A – JONAS BRODIN**



Pos: D  
Ht: 6-1  
Wt: 181

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Farjestad Karlstad	SEL	49	0	8	8	14

An extremely smart and mobile defenseman that moves seamlessly around the ice. He plays a safe, defensive game, and uses his mobility and active stick to shake off and evade forecheckers.

There are questions about his offensive upside as he struggles to run the offense from the blueline but he makes very good breakout passes and always makes smart and quick

decisions with the puck. This may or may not translate into points when he reaches the NHL.

He represented Sweden in the Men's World Championships and was considered one of the better defenders on the team through the tournament.

**PROJECTION:**

Top pairing mobile two-way defenseman

**2B – CHARLIE COYLE**



Pos: C/RW  
Ht: 6-2  
Wt: 207

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Saint John Sea Dogs	QMJHL	23	15	23	38	8

While Zach Phillips is the Sea Dog's season MVP, Charlie Coyle the team's playoff MVP. He started the year playing for Boston University but left for unknown reasons.

It is fair to say that his departure did good things for his development as he was able to play more games and tougher competition.

Coyle is a strong player that protects the puck well and can win

many of his board battles, as well as bull his way towards the net.

He will have his chance to show his stuff off as he heads towards Houston, but will first be able to audition for a Wild roster spot.

**PROJECTION:**

Top nine two-way forward

4 – JOHAN LARSSON



Pos: C/LW  
Ht: 6-0  
Wt: 203

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Brynäs Gavle	SEL	49	12	24	36	34

A versatile, two-way forward with a great number of intangibles. He uses his body very well to protect the puck and drive to the net while displaying a impressive array of offensive abilities.

He captained the U-20 Sweden team to gold at the 2012 WJC and won the SEL's Rookie of the Year award.

His ability to do everything well as well as bringing leadership skills is a combination that will be highly valued when he comes to North America next season. The question is, is he good enough for the Wild or will he start the year off in Houston?

**PROJECTION:**

Top nine two-way forward; possible future captain

5 – MATT HACKETT



Pos: G  
Ht: 6-2  
Wt: 179

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	W	GAA	Sv %	Svs
11-12	Houston Aeros	AHL	44	20	2.38	0.917	1116

A good sized goaltender that moves well laterally and possesses a lightning quick glove. He is an active goaltender, challenges the shooter well, and does a good job anticipating the play

He has found success at every level he has played at, which includes the NHL.

Like any young goaltender, he will have to continue refining his game and improving his rebound control.

It is widely discussed that Hackett will most likely stay in Houston next season as the number one goaltender, battling time with Darcy Kuemper.

**PROJECTION:**

1A Goalie

6 – ZACH PHILLIPS



Pos: C  
Ht: 6-1  
Wt: 181

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Saint John Sea Dogs	QMJHL	38	22	24	46	38

Phillips was named the Sea Dog's MVP this season and rightfully so. He has great vision, soft hands, and a well-rounded offensive toolset

He is an offensive prospect that has a wide range of skills to produce points. The problem is his average size and his below-average skating. He isn't the most explosive or the most dynamic but his hockey sense and offensive instincts make him a very

good opportunistic player.

Phillips is in fact old enough to join the Houston Aeros, and considering all the success he has had at the junior level, it seems it is time for him to move on.

**PROJECTION:**

Top six offensive forward

7 – MARIO LUCIA



Pos: LW  
Ht: 6-3  
Wt: 195

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Penticton Vees	BCHL	56	42	51	93	42

The Minnesota boy that was drafted by Minnesota in Minnesota. His first season out of high-school was a successful one, where he led the BCHL in PPG and tied for Rookie of the Year.

Lucia still has tons of room to fill out but has offensive skills and speed to make the Wild excited.

He committed to Notre Dame and will be heading there for the 2012-

2013 season, where he will be left there to slowly develop muscle and strength. It will be some time before he reaches the professional level.

**PROJECTION:**

Top six offensive winger

8 – JASON ZUCKER



Pos: LW  
Ht: 5-11  
Wt: 185

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Denver University	WCHA	38	22	24	46	38

Energetic and feisty, Zucker's quick speed gives him a good future as a checking forward for the Wild.

However, there may be more to his game as he does own a deceptive shot, competes hard, and likes to jump into the dirty areas and drive the net.

He also has had a great showing throughout his collegiate career by placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in scoring two years in a row.

He also shows leadership skills by captaining the 2012 U-18 USA Team.

He had a six game audition with the Wild and looked decent on the bottom six role. He will hope to develop more offense in Houston.

**PROJECTION:**

Bottom six forward

9 – BRETT BULMER



Pos: LW  
Ht: 6-3  
Wt: 193

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Kelowna Rockets	WHL	53	34	28	62	93

Bulmer is a competitive, gritty agitator who has a good frame to build off on and has decent offensive skills to compliment.

Bulmer played a few audition games with the Wild at the beginning of the season, and did not look out of place.

He was one of the last cuts during this year's Team Canada selection camp. It was his last year of eligibility

for the U-20s.

Bulmer will have a good chance of starting the year with the Wild during the 2012-13 season as a chippy bottom six player. However, he still has tons of room to fill out before he reaches his potential.

**PROJECTION:**

Bottom six agitator

10 – JOHAN GUSTAFSSON



Pos: C  
Ht: 6-2  
Wt: 209lbs

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	W	GAA	Sv %	Svs
11-12	Lulea HF	SEL	50	18	1.75	0.930	673

Another Swedish Wild prospect that now has a gold medal in his resume; there was some worry when the Wild seemed to have problems signing him. But now that he is signed, the Wild keep its goaltending pipeline deep with talent.

Gustafsson is a big sized goaltender that moves well in his crease and covers a lot of net. He needs to improve his consistency,

focus and rebound control, evident through his average WJC performance, but he did managed to play an impressive season in the top Swedish professional league.

He will return to the SEL and continue getting top minutes against men.

**PROJECTION:**  
1B Goaltender

11 – DARCY KUEMPER



Pos: G  
Ht: 6-4  
Wt: 212

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	W	GAA	Sv %	Svs
11-12	Houston Aeros	AHL	19	6	2.36	0.923	504

Kuemper started off the year in the ECHL where he amassed impressive totals. When goaltenders started to move around, Kuemper found himself promoted to the Aeros, and never looked back.

He is a big goaltender that covers a lot of net, moves well and is very athletic. He needs to continue working on his rebound control and refine the

rest of his game.

He will most likely split time with Matt Hackett in Houston.

**PROJECTION:**  
1B Goaltender

12 – NICK SEELER



Pos: C  
Ht: 6-2  
Wt: 209lbs

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Des Moines Buccaneers	USHL	26	2	11	13	33

A good sized defenseman that plays a solid all-round game. Seeler is decent in all areas of the game, and plays with a bit of jam. He was able to play in all situations and a chance to develop all aspects of his skillset.

He led his team in PPG by a defenseman and was named to the USHL All-Star Rookie Team.

He will heading to the University of

Nebraska-Omaha and will be developed slowly there..

**PROJECTION:**  
Bottom pairing two-way defenseman

**13 – KRIS FOUCAULT**



Pos: C  
Ht: 6-2  
Wt: 209lbs

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Houston Aeros	AHL	70	14	18	32	44

Foucault’s last season with his junior team was a bit disappointing, producing only 48 points in 65 games. However, his team was considered weak, and in his full season debut with the Aeros, he impressed, scoring 32 points in 70 games.

He is a solid offensive player that has a solid skillset, but needs to

improve his defensive game if he wants to find his way to the Wild pro roster.

He did manage to play a single game with the Wild, but did not do very much. He will most likely return to Houston as a key offensive player.

**PROJECTION:**

Top six offensive forward – boom or bust type of prospect

**14 – ERIK HAULA**



Pos: C  
Ht: 5-11  
Wt: 187

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	U of Minnesota	WCHA	43	20	29	49	30

In Haula’s freshman year, he was amongst seven players that scored 20 points or more. In his sophomore year, he emerged as a leader with 49 points in 43 games.

He will be returning to the Gophers for his junior year and will look to repeat his success and continue leading the team.

Considered undersized and

perhaps not speedy enough for his size, Haula plays hard and is still able to bring in an impressive offensive game.

**PROJECTION:**

Top six offensive forward – boom or bust type of prospect

**15 – TYLER CUMA**



Pos: D  
Ht: 6-2  
Wt: 192

YR	TEAM	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
11-12	Houston Aeros	AHL	73	0	9	9	48

Injuries have been the story of Cuma’s hockey career, but this season, he managed to play almost an entire season, which is a great accomplishment.

This defensive-defenseman plays an unspectacular game; safe and smart. He has solid skating and can make solid passes out the zone. His game may remind some people of ex-Wild player Nick Schultz.

Cuma played one game with the Wild in which is looked solid but if he wants to find a permanent space on the pro roster, he will have to battle a deep core of solid defensemen.

**PROJECTION:**

Bottom pairing defensive defenseman

FC

# TOP MINNESOTA DRAFT ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Minnesota continues to produce talent

BY DAN SHRADER

There is no doubt that the game of hockey and Minnesota are intertwined, almost as if the sport and the State are synonymous. In a lot of ways we watch kids grow up as adults and as players; what used to be kids who would pre-dress for practice are now seniors on their high school team

looking to try and get their team to the State Tournament. In between there are the away tournaments, the outdoor pond hockey, and the elements of the kids' progression from kid to adult, from peewee to bantam to starting forward; players are bred here.

Its why scouts spend their nights in rinks during those frigid winter months, because Minnesota has long been a hot bed for talent. From Phil Housley to Zach Parise to Grant Besse, NHL teams have fingers on the pulse of the hockey scene here because of the credibility and resume generated by the players who were at one time skating around the rink pushing a folding chair.

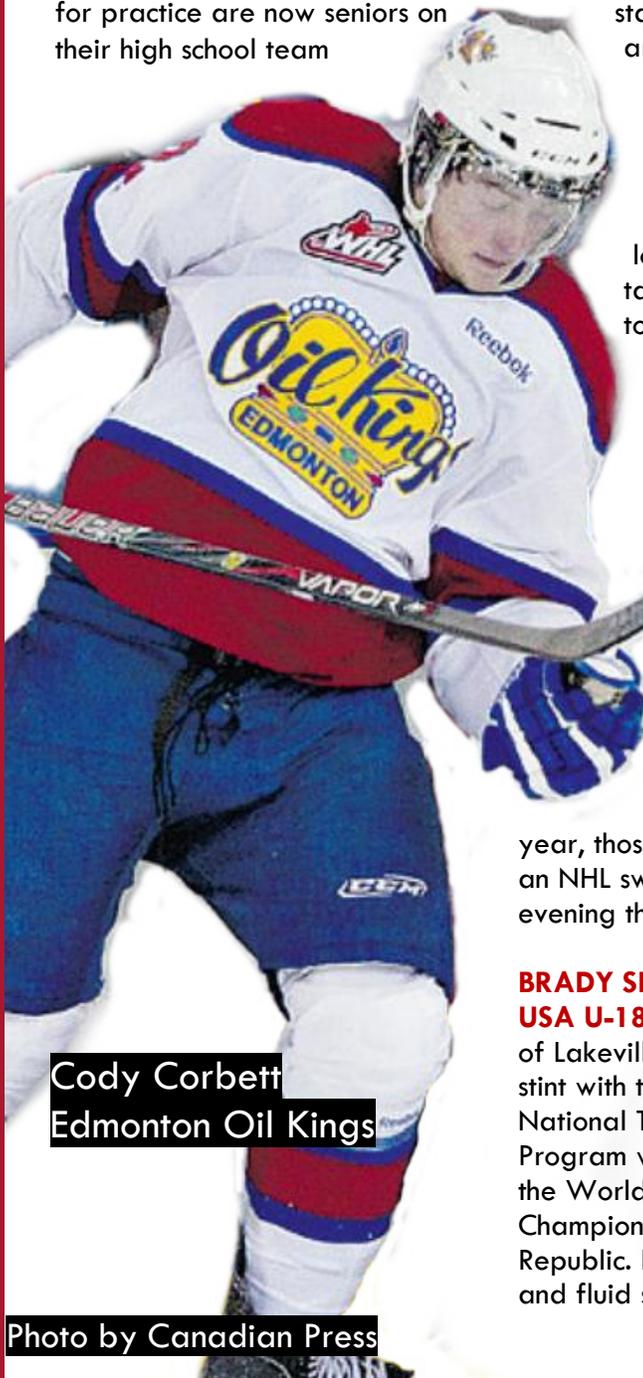
So who are the top Minnesota kids this year, those will be able to slip on an NHL sweater on a June evening this Summer?

**BRADY SKJEI, D, 6-3, 200, USA U-18 (USHL)** Brady Skjei, of Lakeville, just finished up his stint with the United States National Team Development Program with a Gold Medal in the World Under-18 Championships in Brno, Czech Republic. Known for his powerful and fluid skating ability, Skjei is

somewhat of a polarizing player. He has elements to his game that he has been knocked for having somewhat shoddy hockey sense and instincts. Whatever the final verdict may be, Skjei will likely be the first Minnesotan taken in June's Entry Draft.

**ZACH STEPAN, C, 6-0, 166, SHATTUCK ST. MARY'S (HIGH-MN)** Zach Stepan has been a fixture on a powerhouse Shattuck-St. Mary's Prep team that has won the last two USA Hockey Tier 1 National Championships. The Hastings native plays a feisty and gritty game, using his skating ability to interject himself into the offense and be a menace on the forecheck. He plays a physical game too- and in case you weren't aware, he is the cousin of New York Rangers forward Derek Stepan.

**CODY CORBETT, D, 6-0, 210, EDMONTON OIL KINGS (WHL)** Cody Corbett has been an interesting story this year; while manning the blueline in the Fall Elite League, and penciled in as a Captain for his hometown Stillwater High School team, Corbett opted to sign with the Edmonton Oil Kings of the Western Hockey League, forgoing his senior season for more exposure and a higher level of play in Major Junior. A big bodied defenseman, Corbett has been a mainstay on an Oil Kings squad riding a 21-game winning streak.



Cody Corbett  
Edmonton Oil Kings



Photo by Derek Gee

**JAKE BISCHOFF, D, 6-0, 178, GRAND RAPIDS (HIGH-MN)** Jake Bischoff of Grand Rapids took a step similar of that to Corbett; once his Thunderhawks were eliminated from post-season play, Bischoff joined the Omaha Lancers of the United States Hockey League for some games near the end of the and season. The University of Minnesota recruit has good size poise, and impressed many in the Fall Elite League.

**JOHN DRAEGER, D, 6-2, 186, SHATTUCKS ST.MARY'S (HIGH-MN)** John Draeger's been a rock for the same Shattuck squad that Zach Stepan plays for. The rugged 6'2" defenseman will likely play a more stay-at-home role at the next level, but makes life difficult for the opposition. His skating has improved as the season has gone on, and will likely

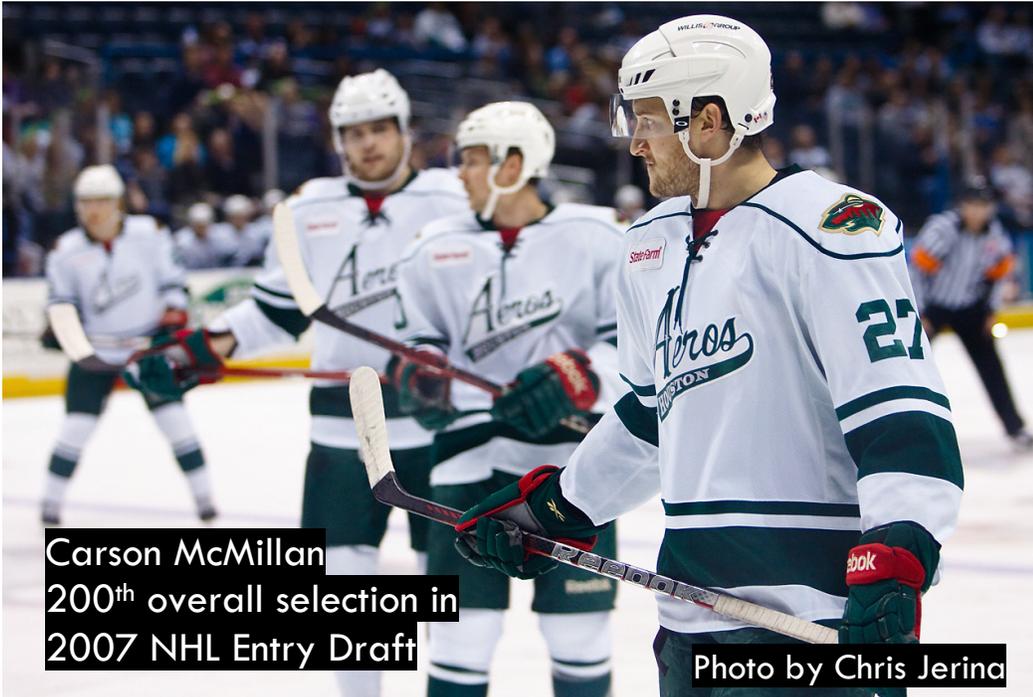
play a year of junior before heading to East Lansing and the Michigan State Spartans.

Of course there are more players worth mention; **Grant Besse, Justin Kloos, Jake Montgomery (SSM), Logan Nelson** (Victoria, WHL) amongst others- but these five stand out the most.

While this year is somewhat of a down year, and that is bound to happen from time to time- the group of kids who will be eligible for the 2013 NHL Entry Draft are reason to create excitement. Players like Connor Hurley, Michael Brodzinski, Vinni Lettieri, and Hudson Fasching all look like they could have some prominence this time next year.

# DABO HOCKEY MANAGER

Under Development



Carson McMillan  
200<sup>th</sup> overall selection in  
2007 NHL Entry Draft

Photo by Chris Jerina

## HOUSTON AEROS UPDATE

A full season update on the Wild's developmental team

BY HEATHER GALINDO

Often, the type of season an AHL team has couldn't be more divergent from the season its parent club had, but this year the Aeros were in lock step with the Wild.

While they did squeak into the playoffs on the last game of the season, a loss here or there and a win by certain other teams in the conference would have put the Aeros in 10th or worse to end the season. The point being, they were a bounce or two from having a nearly identical outcome to the Wild.

That said, the rookies came a long way this season, and that's really the Aeros' raison d'etre. Justin Fontaine showed he's got tremendous upside with great hands and good vision. Kris Foucault seems like a kid who just loves to play, and while he's having to retool his game a bit to be more defensively responsible,

if he can get both ends of his game going, he's going to be awfully fun to watch.

Chay Genoway has also put in a lot of work transforming his old habits into something more effective for the pros. He's grown more patient, mainly, and doesn't try to stampede through defenders to the net every time he has the puck (99.9% chance of a turnover doing that, even in the AHL)

Darcy Kuemper is the new guy we saw the least, due to injuries and spending part of the season down in the ECHL. Maybe the goalie duel that looked so promising this year will finally come to fruition next year. But this year it was all Matt Hackett. But ultimately, the constant roster shuffling stunted cohesiveness, and the distraction and travel fatigue for the Aeros' best players (those riding the yo-yo

between Houston and St. Paul), was too high a hurdle for the team to really ever get the traction they needed. And losing, not only valuable players, but also locker room cornerstones like Jed Ortmeyer and Warren Peters, who were so pivotal to last season's success, shifted the foundation of the team. Trading away Casey Wellman to the Rangers for stop-gap Erik Cristensen completely took away the reliable go-to scoring that could have kept the Aeros more competitive.

Coach John Torchetti and captain Jon DiSalvatore should be commended, however, for holding the team together as well as they did and getting into the post season at all. A significant roster overhaul this summer should make for an intriguing 2012-13.

# WILD SEARCHING FOR DRAFT TALENT

Minnesota needs goals and physicality

BY DANIEL CHAN

The Wild's recent success has many confident of the team's future. The draft class of 2010 and 2011, as well as the addition of Charlie Coyle, has the prospect pool ripe with two-way talent. The team also have a good amount of character players that display great character and work ethic. However, there are still a number of things that team needs to look to improve

**GOAL-SCORING** Ever since the departure of Marian Gaborik, the team has lacked a dangerous goal-scorer. The emergence of Mikael Granlund and Charlie Coyle has helped revive the talent in the forward position, but neither of them is considered a goal-scorer.

**OFFENSIVE DEFENSEMEN** The trade for Marek Zidlicky was suppose to solve the lack of blueline offense, but as evident through the recent trade with New Jersey, he just didn't fit in. As such, the team continues to look for someone to step in and be the answer.

**PHYSICAL DEFENSEMEN** Marco Scandella and Justin Falk have considerable size of the Wild blueline but they aren't especially physical. The team has lacked that blueline that can clear the net using his body

**DRAFT POTENTIALS** The Wild own the 7<sup>th</sup> overall pick this year

and can go many ways. One name they could consider is Finnish **Teuvo Teravainen**, who is a natural goal-scorer with agile skating and magnetic puck skills.

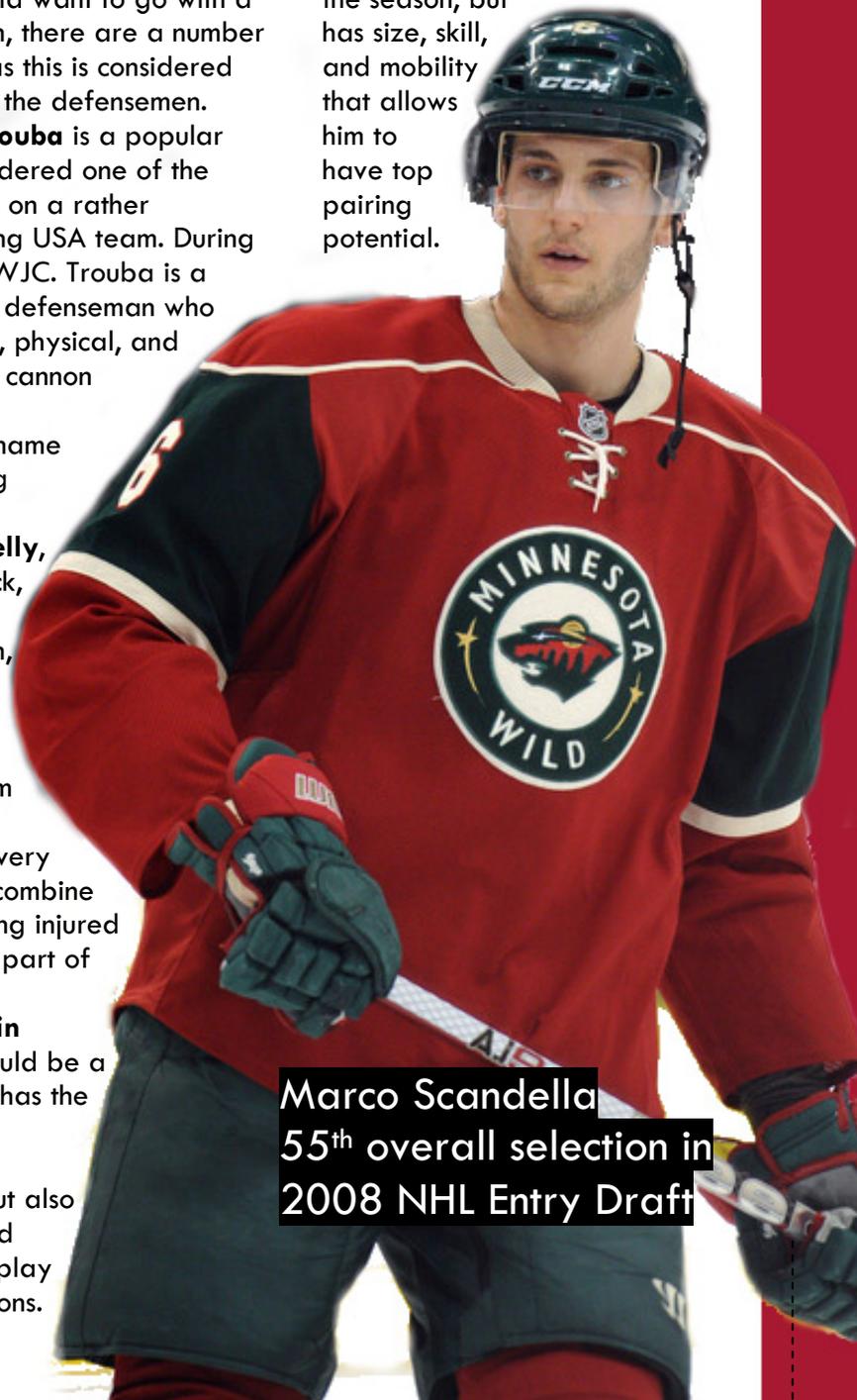
If the Wild want to go with a defenseman, there are a number of options as this is considered the year of the defensemen.

**Jacob Trouba** is a popular name, considered one of the bright spots on a rather disappointing USA team. During this year's WJC. Trouba is a big, mobile defenseman who plays smart, physical, and possesses a cannon for a shot.

Another name that is being discussed is **Morgan Rielly**, who is a slick, puckmoving defenseman, who can run any team's offense from the blueline and had a very impressive combine despite being injured for a large part of the season.

**Big Griffin Reinhart** could be a Wild as he has the size to stop opposing forwards but also the skills and mobility to play in all situations.

Last, but not least, two-way defenseman **Slater Koekkoek** was injured for most of the season, but has size, skill, and mobility that allows him to have top pairing potential.



Marco Scandella  
55<sup>th</sup> overall selection in  
2008 NHL Entry Draft



## 2012 NHL MOCK DRAFT

The team of Shrader, Wells, and Chan come together and pick one-by-one to see who goes off the board



### 1. RYAN MURRAY, D, 6-1, 201, EVERETT (WHL)

Whether they take him outright or trade down a pick or two, I suspect The Oil and Ryan Murray uniting.



### 2. NAIL YAKUPOV, RW, 5-11, 189, SARNIA (OHL)

Blue Jackets take the player they were tanking the season for - a forward with game-changing superstar potential.



### 3. ALEX GALCHENYUK, C, 5-11, 189, SARNIA (OHL)

Galchenyuk has arguably the highest upside at this point and injuries seem to be the past after an impressive combine.



### 4. MORGAN RIELLY, D, 5-11, 190, MOOSE JAW (WHL)

Isles love their puck moving D, and Ken Morrow let the cat out of the bag at the Lottery saying they want a D.



### 5. FILIP FORSBERG, LW, 6-2, 181, LEKSAND (SWE-2)

Brian Burke takes a player with size and who he sees as the most complete forward on the board.



### 6. JACOB TROUBA, D, 6-2, 193, USA-18 (USHL)

Ducks have plenty of offensive and smooth skating young defensemen so Trouba adds a physical element to that core.



### 7. SLATER KOEKKOEK, D, 6-2, 184, PETERBOROUGH (OHL)

Forgotten because he didn't play after November, but has everything the Wild look for in a player. Potential #1 D.



### 8. TEUVO TERAVAINEN, LW, 5-11, 165, JOKERIT JR. (FIN-JR)

Jim Rutherford basks at the fact that the only team who likes Finns more than the Hurricanes passed on Teravainen.



### 9. MATT DUMBA, D, 6-0, 183, RED DEER (WHL)

Besides Mark Schiefele, the Jets lack a bluechip prospect. Dumba brings tremendous upside to a team that needs a high upside player like him..



### 10. SEBASTIAN COLLBERG, RW, 5-11, 176, FROLUNDA (SWE)

Has a ton of offensive talent, but played in a defensive role in Sweden. Will provide secondary help to Steven Stamkos.



### 11. MIKHAIL GRIGORENKO, C, 6-3, 200, QUEBEC (QMJHL)

While George McPhee has drafted his share of Russians, the Caps could care less. Mikhail Grigorenko is available at 11 despite the Russian factor being overrated and he cannot be passed up regardless of nationality.



### 12. RADEK FAKSA, C, 6-3, 202, KITCHENER (OHL)

The Sabres have a decent prospect blueline but lack in the forward department, especially center. Faksa brings skill and a solid two-way game to help the team add more forward talent.



### 13. GRIFFIN REINHART, D, 6-4, 207, EDMONTON (WHL)

Yet another gigantic D to patrol the Stars blueline.



### 14. CODY CECI, D, 6-2, 207, OTTAWA (OHL)

The Flames need some depth on the blue line and what better way to address it by picking up a big two-way defenseman like Ceci.



**15. HAMPUS LINDHOLM, D, 6-3, 196, ROGLE-JR (SWE-JR)** The 2011 draft saw the Senators stockpile forward prospects and with an aging blueline, Ottawa adds a talented defenseman, much like their very own Erik Karlsson.



**16. NICOLAS KERDILES, C, 6-1, 201, USA-18 (USHL)** Hard working player, has offensive upside too- blue collar quality to bolster talented Caps.



**17. TOM WILSON, RW, 6-4, 203, PLYMOUTH (OHL)** A big (6'4") power forward who is underrated due to his role and knows how to use his size against CHL competition. Sounds familiar and Willson will be great trade bait when the Sharks end up needing to acquire the next piece that gets them over the hump.



**18. OLLI MAATTA, D, 6-2, 202, LONDON(OHL)** Deep in almost every single category, the Blackhawks choose the best player available, who seems to be a defensive defenseman with a very impressive and productive playoffs.



**19. JAKE MCCABE, D, 6-0, 195, U. OF WISCONSIN (WCHA)** An under the radar player, but will be a fixture on the Bolts blueline for years.



**20. ZEMGUS GIRGENSONS, C, 6-2, 198, DUBUQUE (USHL)** With McCabe off the board, Paul Holmgren takes the BPA in Girgensons, a big, speedy forward from the USHL.



**21. BRENDAN GAUNCE, C, 6-2, 215, BELLEVILLE (OHL)** The Sabres add another centerman to help strengthen its forward prospect pool.



**22. HENRIK SAMUELSSON, C, 6-2, 192, EDMONTON (WHL)** Maybe a name recognition thing, but will succeed in Crosby and Malkin's shadow.



**23. DERRICK POULIOT, D, 5-11, 186, PORTLAND (WHL)** Florida has the best prospect pool in all of hockey but if they have any issues it's on the blue line. Thankfully Pouliot fell into their arms.



**24. COLTON SISSONS, RW, 6-1, 189, KELOWNA (WHL)** Boston have a solid prospect so they add another player that works well in the Bruins system. Plays well in all zones and brings tons of character and leadership.



**25. PONTUS ABERG, LW, 5-11, 194, DJURGARDEN (SWE)** Blues grab one of the few skilled forwards left on the board.



**26. DALTON THROWER, D, 5-11, 189, SASKATOON (WHL)** Nothing has to piss off Mike Gillis more than seeing a Swedish left winger taken the pick before but the Canucks take the next best thing in a WHL Defenseman with a cannon of a shot.



**27. TOMAS HERTL, C, 6-2, 198, SLAVIA (CZE)** The Coyotes lack a player with both offensive talent and physical abilities and Tomas Hertl brings both.



**28. STEFAN MATTEAU, LW, 6-2, 210, USA-18 (USHL)** Yeah, another name recognition thing. Brings some jam to the Blueshirts.



**29. BRADY SKJEI, D, 6-3, 200, USA-18 (USHL)** Honestly, I'm going to assume that the Devils will forfeit this pick (they get to pick one of the next 3 firsts to lose because of the Ilya Kovalchuk salary cap fiasco a couple summers ago) so why not have them pick a future Golden Gopher?



**30. MARK JANKOWSKI, C, 6-2, 170, STANSTEAD COLLEGE (HIGH-QC)** The Kings have tons of talent in their prospect pool and with the very last pick of the first round, they go for a hail-mary type of pick with a very raw but very talented Canadian high schooler.



