

1. Edmonton — Taylor Hall. This is a no-brainer. He fits the Oilers' up-tempo speed game to a T, and can be the dynamic presence in the lineup they're missing.

2. Boston (from Toronto) — Tyler Seguin. Nobody had more trouble scoring goals than the Bruins this season. Seguin could come in and make a difference right away.

3. Florida — Mikael Granlund. Nothing would surprise us here. Their roster needs help everywhere, and Dale Tallon has proven he'll take the best player available, no matter where he comes from.

4. Columbus — Cam Fowler. They need a puck moving defenceman who can start their transition game in the worst way, and this is the ideal choice to fill that bill.

5. NY Islanders — Brandon Gormley. Do they go brains (Gormley), or brawn (Gudbranson). It's a tough choice, because they need both of these things on the back end. But in the end, Gormley's puck movement and PP ability wins out.

6. Tampa Bay — Jack Campbell. This team desperately needs a premier goaltender to backstop what is still a talented corps on offence. They haven't really had a goaltender since letting Khabibulin walk after the Stanley Cup — and believe it or not, that was already six years ago.

7. Carolina — Ryan Johansen. This franchise goes to sleep every night with visions of past glory from powerful two-way centres like Ron Francis and Rod Brind'Amour. They think this kid could be their clone.

8. Atlanta — Nino Niederreiter. They Thrashers get thrashed up front because they need more size and grit. El Niño brings size and grit, and throws in a few goals to boot. Who knew Switzerland was the new place to go for grit?

9. Minnesota — Jeff Skinner. A serious dose of goal scoring ability would be the perfect antidote to what ails this franchise, and few can provide that aspect any better than Skinner.

10. NY Rangers — Erik Gudbranson. The Blueshirts could use another mean, nasty, snarling rearguard to bookend Marc Staal. Right now, they're far too easy to play against in their own end, and Gudbranson could solve that problem.

11. Dallas — Derek Forbort. This is a club that could really use some size on the back end. The Stars lack size, strength,

and toughness in front of their goalies, and their organisational prospect chart is heavily weighted towards the forward group, so Forbort could give them a much-needed premium blue line chip.

12. Anaheim — Brett Connolly. They've got two first rounders, so they can afford to take the gamble on Connolly's hip holding up. If it does, they've got themselves a Top 5 talent who can step in and help offset the anticipated retirement of Teemu Sleanne on the wing.

13. Phoenix (from Calgary) — Austin Watson. They have a ton of smallish, highly skilled forwards in the pipeline. But they could use a big-bodied guy who can skate and protect his teammates, and become a team leader up front. Dr. Watson, I presume?

14. St. Louis — Nick Bjugstad. The Blues struck paydirt with one big centre from Blaine, MN, when they drafted David Backes. Now they hope lightning strikes twice with Bjugstad, the gigantic centre from Blaine H.S. They could use a young goalie in the system, but won't reach for one here.

15. Boston — Jon Merrill. With Seguin already on board to aid the attack, the Bs need to procure some help for their blue line. They could really use a puck moving defenceman with some size to take the pressure off Chara, so Merrill could be their guy.

16. Ottawa — Alex Burmistrov. He's the last of the premium offensive talents left on the board, and the lowest risk of the Russian "sign-ability" cases. He'll be a great two-way pivot centreing the second line behind Spezza in a couple of years.

17. Colorado — Dylan McIlrath. They just re-signed 39-year old Adam Foote, and the rest of Colorado's blue line is getting it done with smoke-'n-mirrors. This may be a tad early, but he gives them a dimension of toughness they sorely lack.

18. Buffalo — Jarred Tinordi. The Sabres' three best defensive blue-liners — Lydman, Tallinder, and Rivet — are all well over 30 and may not all be coming back. A big, defensive shutdown guy to complement Tyler Myers might be a nice addition for the future.

19. Nashville — Emerson Etem. Nashville loves speed and needs another sniper, so this makes too much sense not to get done.

20. Los Angeles — Evgeny Kuznetsov. If not for the sign-ability

issue, he would have been off the board in the top 10 picks. With an extremely deep system, The Kings can afford to take the most talented player available and wait to see if they can convince him to come over. He's rumoured to be coming to the CHL next year, so that's a start.

21. Pittsburgh — Justin Faulk. The last game of their season should have the Pens thinking about jettisoning Sergei Gonchar. Faulk would be nice to have in the pipeline for a couple years down the road.

22. Detroit — Vladimir Tarasenko. Drafting as low as they do every year, they rarely get a chance to grab a Top 5 talent, and they can't pass up this opportunity. They've had the highest character Russian culture of any team in the NHL (Larionov, Federov, Konstantinov, Datsyuk) over the past 15 years, so if any organisation has the guys who can talk Tarasenko into coming over, it's the Red Wings.

23. Atlanta (from New Jersey) — Tyler Pitlick. He's as safe and solid a pick as you can get at this point, and plays with an aggressive attitude that Atlanta could use.

24. Vancouver — Mark Alt. Might be a slight reach here, but the Canucks could desperately use a young defenceman with size and physicality to groom in the system.

25. Phoenix — Mark Pysyk. They got a safe kid they know will contribute with their first pick, so now they swing for the fences with this highly skilled, but soft and flighty, defenceman.

26. Washington — Riley Sheahan. If the Caps want to get over the hump and win a championship, he's the type of responsible, third line centre who does the little things that they're currently lacking.

27. Montreal — Brock Nelson. The Habs are perennially looking for someone with size/strength and offensive capabilities down the middle. Raw high schooler will take a while, but if he pans out, they've got their man.

28. San Jose — Brad Ross. This talented Sharks roster really needs a Steve Ott type to increase their grit factor.

29. Anaheim (from Philadelphia) — Jaden Schwartz. Could team up in a few years with Ryan Getzlaf as one of the best Mutt-'n-Jeff, one-two centre combinations in the league.

30. Chicago — Mathieu Corbeil. The Hawks go against the grain a bit and take a shot at greatness in a 6-6 goalie with superb athleticism.