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STEEL SELECT 10 PLAYERS IN PHASE 1 OF USHL DRAFT

Reigning Clark Cup Champions re-load with futures selections from 2005 birth year

GENEVA, ILLINOIS — The 2021 Clark Cup Champion Chicago Steel built the roster for the team's future on Wednesday night during Phase 1 of the 2021 USHL Draft, selecting 10 players from the 2005 birth year.

Chicago stockpiled six forwards, three defenseman and one netminder on the first day of the two-day USHL Draft.

"This was a very difficult scouting year but (Assistant GM) Noëlle Needham and her staff did a tremendous job identifying players who fit the Chicago Steel mold," said Steel General Manager Ryan Hardy. "We're extremely happy with the players we selected today and we are also thrilled to have acquired three 2022 Phase 1 picks by virtue of trading back throughout the day."

The Steel signed forward Jayden Perron to a tender agreement on December 17, 2020, surrendering their first round selection. Perron is the fifth Steel player to be signed to a tender agreement, joining Detroit Red Wings prospect Robert Mastro Simone and 2021 Clark Cup Champions Ryan Ufko, Jake Livanavage and Adam Fantilli.

Perron, a 5-foot-8, 138-pound, highly-skilled skater played the 2020-2021 season for the Sioux Falls Power 16U AAA club. The Winnipeg, Manitoba, native finished the campaign with 63 points (27G, 36A) through 38 games played.

Chicago selected forward Ben Yurchuk, a forward from Montreal, Quebec, with the ninth pick in the first round. Playing for the North Jersey Avalanche 16U AAA team during the 2020-2021 campaign, the 5-foot-10, 168-pound skater registered 11 points (4G, 7A) in 12 appearances, helping the Avalanche to the USA Hockey Tier 1 U16 National Championship.

After completing a trade with the Tri-City Storm, the Steel moved the #24 overall pick in the second round in exchange for a third round pick (#40 overall), a fifth round pick (#70 overall) and a 2022 Phase 1 pick in the seventh round coming back to Chicago.

Grayden Slipec was Chicago's second-round selection (#28 overall). A native of Surrey, British Columbia, Slipec skated in four games for Burnaby Winter Club Prep, located in Burnaby, British Columbia. The 5-foot-9, 170-pound forward ranked second on his club with five points (2G, 3A) over that stretch.

With the first of back-to-back selections in the third round, the Steel chose Nathan Murray with the 39th overall selection and Miles Roberts with the 40th pick.

Murray, a forward from Fowlerville, Mich., charted a goal over four games played for HoneyBaked 15U AAA.

Roberts, a 6-foot-2, 201-pound netminder from Coast Mesa, Calif., was Chicago's only goaltender selected in Phase 1. Through 18 games played for the Anaheim Jr. Ducks 16U AAA club, Roberts posted a .914 save percentage and a 2.05 goals-against average. Roberts was the first goaltender selected in Phase 1 of the USHL Draft.

The Steel took another forward off the board with the team's only selection in the fourth round. Harper Searles was chosen at #55 overall, a skater from Blaine, Minn. In 10 games for Centennial High in Circle Pines, Minn., the 5-foot-8, 161-pound skater registered 11 points (6G, 5A) in his first year with the team.

The Steel made another move mid-draft, again with the Tri-City Storm. This time, Chicago's fifth round pick (#70 overall) was packaged with a 2022 Phase 1 sixth round selection and sent to the Storm in exchange for a sixth round pick (#81 overall) and a 2022 Phase 1 seventh round selection.

Following the trade, Chicago made the #73 overall pick in the fifth round, taking forward Aidan Dyer off the board. The 5-foot-4, 119-pound forward posted just over a point per game with 61 points (13G, 48A) in 60 games played for Fox Motors 15U AAA during the 2020-2021 campaign. His 48 helpers paced the team while his 61 points ranked second on the club.

The Steel run on forwards came to an end in the sixth round when the team selected defenseman Olivier Beaulieu with the #81 overall pick. A Terrebonne, Quebec, native, Beaulieu was limited from registering any stats for College Esther-Blondin Phenix in Quebec this season. During the 2019-2020 season, the blueliner posted 14 points (5G, 9A) in 22 outings for Laurentides Conquerants Bantam AAA team, sharing the points lead among defensemen.

With the next selection, Chicago selected another defenseman from Quebec. Beck Majdell was taken with the #118 overall selection in the eighth round. Majdell, a 5-foot-11, 170 pound blueliner, was also limited from action this season but led the Montreal Nationals Bantam AAA program among defenseman with 17 points (4G, 13A) in 24 appearances.

Chicago rounded out its Phase 1 draft with a third consecutive defenseman in Ryan DeAngelis and a final forward in Tyler Chan, with back-to-back selections in the 10th and final round.

DeAngelis, selected with #147 overall pick, captained the Phoenix Jr. Coyotes 14U AAA club during the 2019-2020 season before playing in 16 games for the same program's 15U AAA team during the 2020-2021 season. The Phoenix Jr. Coyotes program produced two members of the 2021 Clark Cup Champion Chicago Steel with forward Josh Doan and defenseman Jake Livanavage.

The #148 overall pick, Tyler Chan, paced Burnaby Winter Club Prep in points with seven (4G, 3A) in four games. Chan, a 5-foot-7, 141-pound skater, was teammates with Grayden Slipec, selected in the second round.

The 2021 USHL Draft continues with Phase 2 on Thursday, May 27 beginning at 1:00 pm CT, with USHL clubs rounding out their rosters with players from the 2001-2005 birth years.

The Chicago Steel captured the club's second Clark Cup title in franchise history with a 3-1 victory against the Fargo Force on May 22, 2021 at Scheels Arena in North Dakota, completing the 3-1 victory in the best-of-five championship series.

Chicago has won the last two consecutive Anderson Cups as regular season USHL champions in addition to three of the last four Eastern Conference titles and two of the last four Clark Cup championships.

In the 2020 NHL Draft, the Steel had five players from the previous season's roster selected – the most of any independent junior team in the world. In all, eight players with Steel ties were selected in the 2020 NHL Draft, a franchise record.

Season Ticket Plans for the Clark Cup Champion Chicago Steel are on sale now by calling 855-51-STEEL or emailing info@ChicagoSteelHockeyTeam.com. Through Friday, May 28th, all fans who make a deposit on a season ticket package will receive two free playoff t-shirts while supplies last, one commemorating the 2019-2020 Anderson Cup Champions and one celebrating the 2021 Clark Cup Champions.

For more information, call 855-51-STEEL or visit ChicagoSteelHockeyTeam.com.

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