

Future Watch

Forecasting franchise goalies is notoriously difficult for NHL teams, but the following players are giving their teams something to smile about in the early going. Players must have been drafted in order to be eligible for the list. — RYAN KENNEDY



JACOB MARKSTROM



1. **JACOB MARKSTROM** ROCHESTER AMERICANS — AHL **DRAFTED** 31st overall by Florida in 2008
Playing for a weak Amerks squad, the big Swede is still standing tall.



2. **JAKE ALLEN** PEORIA RIVERMEN — AHL **DRAFTED** 34th overall by St. Louis in 2008
Rookie pro has some of the best stats in the American League including five shutouts.



3. **BRADEN HOLTBY** HERSHEY BEARS — AHL **DRAFTED** 93rd overall by Washington in 2008
Latest in a string of great young Caps goalies; already has NHL experience.



4. **MARK VISENTIN** NIAGARA ICEDOGS — OHL **DRAFTED** 27th overall by Phoenix in 2010
Best stats in the 'O' and really only let in one bad goal in that WJC gold medal game.



5. **MARTIN JONES** MANCHESTER MONARCHS — AHL **SIGNED** as a free agent by Los Angeles in 2008
Right up there with Allen in AHL stats; has consistently overachieved (see pg. 40).



6. **BRAD THIESSEN** WB-SCRANTON PENGUINS — AHL **SIGNED** as a free agent by Pittsburgh in 2009
Former Northeastern star now holding down the fort for the Baby Pens.



7. **DARCY KUEMPER** RED DEER REBELS — WHL **DRAFTED** 161st overall by Minnesota in 2009
Topped the Western League in GAA (1.88) save pct. (.930) and shutouts (seven).



8. **CALVIN PICKARD** SEATTLE THUNDERBIRDS — WHL **DRAFTED** 49th overall by Colorado in 2010
Has saved more shots than any major goalie in North America — including the NHL.



9. **PETR MRAZEK** OTTAWA 67'S — OHL **DRAFTED** 141st overall by Detroit in 2010
Politics kept him out of world juniors, but Czech star can steal games



10. **SAM BRITTAIN** DENVER UNIVERSITY — WCHA **DRAFTED** 92nd overall by Florida in 2010
Big Pioneers stopper is way ahead of schedule as a freshman (see pg. 41).

IN THE PIPELINE



SAM BRITTAIN

Great Brittain

Nick Bjugstad and Sam Brittain may be opponents in the WCHA, but they're also both prospects drafted by the Florida Panthers in 2010. And Brittain, a 6-foot-3, 215-pound goaltender from

Calgary, has made a name for himself early at Denver University. "Sam is probably ahead of schedule in terms of his development," said Scott Luce, Florida's director of amateur scouting. "We didn't anticipate he'd be this far along; we thought he would have freshman ice-time issues."

But Brittain's strong play made him the starter for the Pioneers

early and he hasn't given up that mantle, despite being a frosh. All his major stats were top four in the conference through mid-January, including a sizzling 2.06 goals-against average and .926 save percentage. "Puck focus and concentration are his biggest strengths," Luce said. "He battles hard and he knows where the puck is at all times."