

Golden Knights Add Prospects

By Dave Lukow

The Vegas Golden Knights didn't pick in the first round, but it was hardly a lost weekend in Dallas.

With the 61st pick in the NHL Draft at American Airlines Center June 23, Vegas took Russian center Ivan Morozov, who's expected to spend next season with SKA St.Petersburg in Russia's Kontinental Hockey League (KHL).

"We actually had him rated at No. 30, where we would have picked had we kept our first-round pick," Bob Lowes, the assistant director of player personnel for Vegas, said. "But he was still there for us at 61, so we were thrilled to be able to take him."

A 6-foot-1 playmaker, Morozov had 11 goals and 12 assists in 2017-18.

In the fourth round, the Golden Knights chose defenseman Slava Demin, who played with Wenatchee of the BCHL last year. Born in Cypress, Calif., Demin totaled nine goals, 45 points and 54 penalty minutes in 57 games.

With its second pick in the fourth round (115th overall), Vegas selected center Paul Cotter. Slated to play at Western Michigan in the fall, Cotter is known as a fast skater who wins battles in the corners. He had 18 goals and 21 assists for Lincoln of the USHL in 2017-18.

The Golden Knights also had two picks in the fifth round. With the 135th pick in the draft, they took Brandon Kruse, a forward from Bowling Green State University. He had eight goals and 25 assists as a freshman.

At 154, Vegas chose Connor Corcoran, a 6-foot-2 defenseman with Windsor of the OHL. In 63 games, he had three goals, 21 assists and 40 penalty minutes.

In the sixth round, the Golden Knights took another defenseman, Peter Dilibertore, from Salisbury Prep in Connecticut. Later in the round, at 185, Vegas picked Xavier Bouchard, a 6-foot-3 defenseman from Baie-Comeau of the QMJHL. Adept at moving the puck, he had three goals, 18 assists and 52 penalty minutes in 65 games.

With their final pick of 2018, the Golden Knights drafted a goalie, Jordan Kooy of London of the OHL. He went 10-8-1 with a shutout last season.