

Prospect Report on Bauer Select 1991 Garrett Peterson

Friday, July 23, 2010 USHL

Garrett Peterson (Lincoln) will be returning to the Lincoln Stars for his third year in the USHL, and will presumably be wearing a "C" or an "A", with a few veterans on the Stars team. Peterson isn't noticed very often, and I've never heard his name mentioned in the same sentence as the NHL. He's a bottom-six forward, that can play defense. He regularly swung back to defense when the Stars were shorthanded at the blueline, which happened quite often. With the Stars reloading at defense during the USHL drafts, Peterson will probably be playing forward all season, which will mean a significant boost in his offensive statistics. Peterson is in the perfect position to have a breakout year in the USHL before heading to Notre Dame to start his collegiate career.

As I said before, Peterson really doesn't get noticed as much as he should, but in the USHL, bottom-six forwards in checking roles don't get the attention scorers do. Peterson is an excellent two-way forward that loves contact. He thrives on getting dirty in the corners and laying big open ice hits. One of the knocks on Peterson is his size, he stands at 5'11, 185, but he plays like 6'2", 200 pounds. Peterson plays with grit that's unparalleled in the USHL. He played with a little-known shoulder injury and never slowed down. Peterson is constantly going for a huge hit to fire up the Stars, and that's a major reason why he's a fan favorite in Lincoln. While Peterson is a very physical player, he hasn't really showed his full scoring ability. Peterson scored six goals and picked up nine assists for a total of 15 points in 56 games played. Peterson should get some time on Lincoln's powerplay this season, and that should allow him to expand those numbers. Overall, Peterson is a good bottom-six forward who could find himself in a scoring role for the Stars if he can find a groove offensively.

Peterson will be headed to Notre Dame for the 2011-12 season, and if all the pieces fall together, he could find his way on to a ECHL or AHL team, or at worst, play minor league hockey. Peterson has a high ceiling in my opinion and he could be very successful if he reaches that ceiling.