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**(Colo.)-Avalanche looking at MacKinnon for 1st pick**



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 06/29/2013 04:20 PM

The Colorado Avalanche have plenty to choose from with the first pick of a talent-rich NHL draft.

Nathan MacKinnon and Seth Jones. Jonathan Drouin and Aleksander Barkov. They're all among the candidates to go first Sunday at the Prudential Center.

Colorado won the draft lottery and has flirted with the idea of picking a puck-moving defenseman in Jones. But it appears the Avalanche are leaning toward a forward to take No. 1 overall, possibly the 17-year-old MacKinnon.

MacKinnon, a 6-foot, 182-pound center, is a solid two-way presence with strong hands, stick handling and skating skills. He's considered a natural scorer and very good puck distributor.

The Florida Panthers hold the second draft pick and the Tampa Bay Lightning are No. 3.