

Ex-Saint Foegele signs NHL contract



By Jake Courtepatte

With the Erie Otters set to open the OHL Championship series against the Mississauga Steelheads this Thursday, no one enters more confident than Warren Foegele.

A whirlwind April saw the 21-year old centreman notch a Game Seven overtime winner against the London Knights, a shorthanded late game winner in the conference finals against the Owen Sound Attack, and most importantly for his future, an NHL contract. Three years after being taken in the third round, 67th overall by the Carolina Hurricanes, Foegele officially put pen to paper to sign an entry-level deal.

‘I’m really excited to be granted this opportunity,’ said Foegele. ‘It’s been a long road but the ‘Canes are a great organization and I can’t wait to take the next step.’

Ron Francis, General Manager of the Hurricanes, praised Foegele’s impressive rookie camp performance and big-body presence in a statement released by the club.

Born in Markham, Foegele cut his teeth with both the Toronto Nationals and Markham Waxers AAA programs before taking on a varsity role at St. Andrew’s College in Aurora, where he had attended since Grade Six.

Suiting up for a slew of games for the varsity Saints squad as just a sophomore, he led the junior varsity Saints in scoring in 2011-12, before joining the varsity squad in a full-time capacity the following season.

He once again led his team in scoring at over a point-per-game pace, with his scoring prowess and leadership skills combining to warrant an ‘A’ on his chest in his senior season.

Leading the Saints to a CISAA title, Foegele put up an outstanding 87 points in 44 games to attract the attention of some of the American college hockey’s top programs.

Foegele credits Saints coach David Manning for helping him flourish into a top-level player.

Originally slated to play junior hockey in the BCHL the following season, he instead chose to graduate and accept a scholarship to the University of New Hampshire, around the same time he was ranked the 66th skater for the upcoming 2014 NHL Draft. That June, the Hurricanes would take him 67th.

‘That moment was just surreal to me,’ said Foegele. ‘It’s something that I’ll never forget.’

Spending just one season with UNH, he made the choice to join the OHL’s Kingston Frontenacs, the team who took him in the OHL Draft two seasons prior.

Foegele was traded from the Frontenacs to the Erie Otters midway through the 2016-17 season, where he continued to flourish putting up sixteen goals and sixteen assists in 32 games.

As for the hockey factory known as the St. Andrew’s College Saints, three varsity players will be looking to follow in Foegele’s footsteps this June after making the final NHL Central Scouting Draft list: Morgan Barron, Corey Andonovski, and Ryan O’Connell.