

Muskegon Lumberjacks select five players in USHL dispersal draft

MUSKEGON, MI- The United States Hockey League (USHL) completed a dispersal draft Monday for players that were on the rosters and affiliate lists of the Cedar Rapids RoughRiders and Madison Capitols for the 2019-20 season. All players that have junior hockey eligibility for the upcoming 2020-21 season were eligible to be selected by USHL Member Clubs.

"It's unfortunate that Madison and Cedar Rapids are unable to compete this year," said Lumberjacks head coach Mike Hamilton. "We wish the best for them going forward and hope to compete against them again next season."

Both the RoughRiders and Capitols requested and received approval from the USHL to withdraw from participation in the 2020-21 season due to building damages and COVID-19 county restrictions, respectively. Former RoughRiders and Capitols players will return to the Cedar Rapids and Madison rosters upon their return to the league for the 2021-22 season.

The selection order for the dispersal draft was determined via a weighted lottery. Muskegon was awarded the sixth selection in the draft.

The NTDP did not participate in the dispersal draft as they hold a separate player-selection process that is completed in cooperation with the other USHL Member Clubs.

Muskegon selected the following players in the draft:

William Brenner (CR) defenseman, 2003 birthyear
Adam Flammang (CR) forward, 2001 birthyear
Alex Gagne (CR) defenseman, 2002 birthyear
Darian Gotz (CR) defenseman, 2000 birthyear
Christian Stoever (MAD) goaltender, 2000 birthyear

With the sixth overall selection, Muskegon selected Stoever, who has two seasons of USHL experience, playing for Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Youngstown and Madison, appearing in 66 total games.

"Our goal as an organization is to create competition in our organization," said Director of Hockey Operations Steve Lowe. "We believe that competition creates success, and we accomplished that at all positions today."

"We added some very strong players to an already strong roster," said Hamilton. "We are excited to get them in town as soon as possible so they can join camp, where we have an already special team."

The USHL has taken aim at a November 6 start date, and Muskegon's owners Dan Israel and Bob Kaiser have [issued an open letter stating their intent to play](#) in the 2020-2021 season whether Muskegon is allowed to host fans or not.