Written by Alessandro Seren Rosso Wednesday, 19 January 2011 18:45 - Last Updated Thursday, 20 January 2011 00:01

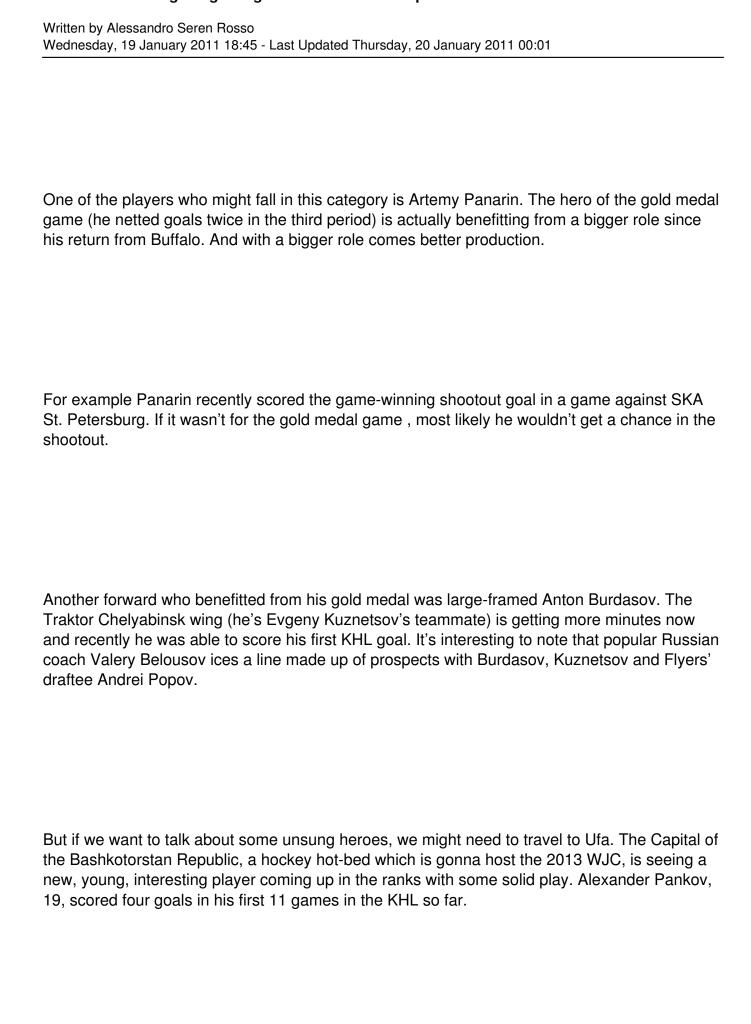


One of the KHL and RSL plagues has been the overlooking of some of the non-veteran players. After all, most of the players who left Russia for the CHL in recent years actually left because they had no reasonable alternative.

Alexander Burmistrov, for example, played only one pro game in Russia. The same for Evgeny Grachev. Andrei Loktionov had a chance to skate in five games and even managed an assist. Unfortunately for the young players, not all of them are Vladimir Tarasenko or Evgeny Kuznetsov, who can count on quality minutes in the KHL.

But after the recent WJC triumph, things are actually changing a little bit. Established players like Tarasenko, Kuznetsov and Dmitry Orlov continue playing big roles in their respective KHL teams, but other young players are getting more and more chances.

Juniors in Russia getting recognition after WJC triumph



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Solid numbers for a rookie, especially if we keep on thinking that the KHL is a relatively low-scoring league. And Pankov is showing that he can play pro hockey. While this is surely not enough to get drafted, this is however a definite indication that it's still possible to prove you can achieve good results even if you're a youngsters.

With this being said, one can get to any desired conclusion. But one thing is certain: the Motherland is still producing her share of talent.