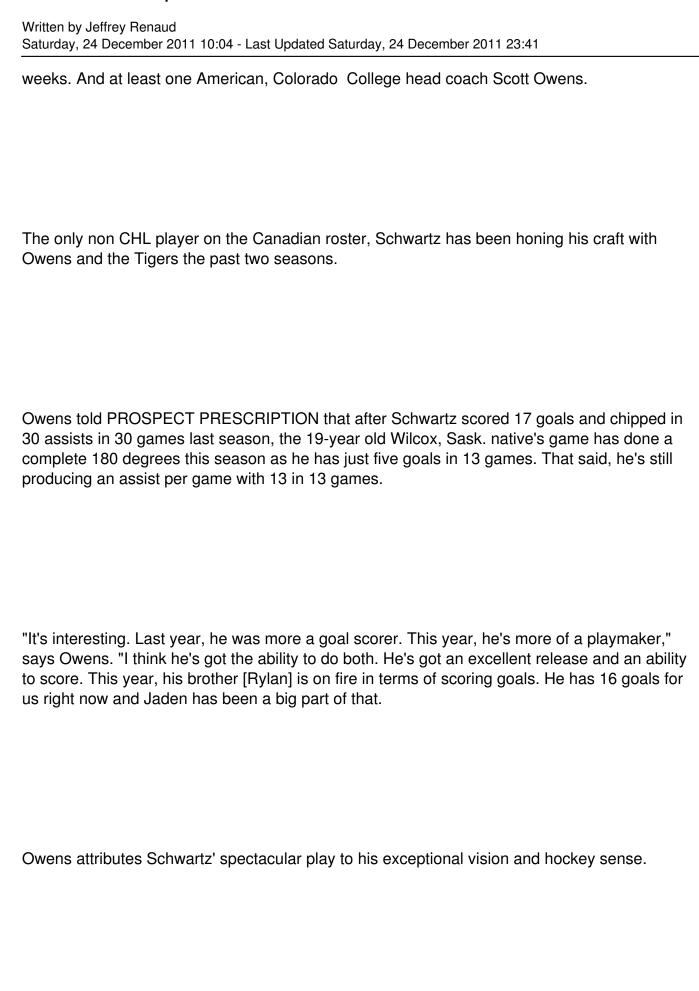


Projected as a late first rounder or early second rounder, the St. Louis Blues stunned the hockey world when then head scout Jarmo Kekäläinen encouraged President John Davidson to go off the board and nab Jaden Schwartz with the 14th pick.

While it's early to say the Blues got a complete steal with Schwartz, early returns show the five-foot-10 left winger is an absolute keeper.

Named Canada's captain for the 2012 World Junior Championship, which begins Boxing Day, Schwartz will have the spotlight – and a nation of rabid fans – focused on him the next two



Written by Jeffrey Renaud Saturday, 24 December 2011 10:04 - Last Updated Saturday, 24 December 2011 23:41 "Jaden has elite hockey sense. He sees the ice extremely well and he has great hands. He just has that unique skill set that just makes him a threat every time he's on the ice," says Owens. He's also a leader in every sense of the word, says Owens, which is why he wasn't surprised to hear Schwartz was being considered to serve as Captain Canada. (Editor's note: This interview was done just prior to Schwartz being named captain.) "Jaden's character and personality traits are as strong as his hockey playing ability. He's extremely mature for his age. He's extremely team-oriented. He's unselfish. He's got good, natural leadership abilities and it doesn't surprise me at all that he may be named the captain." Owens says Schwartz is obviously a dominant player at the college level but never is his mastery with the puck more evident than when the Tigers are playing with the man advantage. "We use Jaden on the half wall. He has the puck a lot. He's right there in the middle and he's handling it, he's distributing it both up to [Gabe] Guentzel up top and down low to his brother," explains Owens. "We have the third-ranked powerplay in college hockey and he's got the puck on his stick a lot of the time.



