

Roy, Undecided

Written by Russ Bitely

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Just this week, again the summer circus of hockey started up as a well-known player is undecided where to play for the upcoming season. Normally the discussion revolves around NHL prospects de-committing from their NCAA scholarship to pursue the Canadian major junior route of the CHL. USHL standout, Kevin Roy, informed the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference's (ECAC) Brown Bears that he would no longer be taking his game to Providence this fall. Now where he ends up is the big question.

Roy was selected in this year's NHL Entry Draft by the Anaheim Ducks in the fourth round (97th overall) after being bypassed by all 30 teams in last year's draft.

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Roy is a small-sized player but comes with big numbers, as he led the whole United States Hockey League in scoring last year by racking up 54 goals and 50 assists in just 59 games played with the Lincoln Stars. Now it is a mystery where the Lac-Beauport, Quebec native will end up. Well, kind of.

The latest rumor is he is definitely opting still for the Division I NCAA ranks after being pressed by the Quebec Remparts of the QMJHL. An organization that is co-owned, managed, and coached by Hall of Famer, Patrick Roy (no relation).

Prior to tearing up the USHL for a season, Roy prepped his game at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts.

Now the kicker in the Kevin Roy sweepstakes is the fact that he has an older brother that mans the pipes and was also slated to head to Brown University.

The up-to-the-minute news was Roy declined the offer north of the border. The two schools that were popping up in discussion were UVM (University of Vermont) and Northeastern.

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If one would use the six degrees of hockey separation, the easy answer would NU. You see the Huskies current assistant coach, Jerry Keefe, was formerly the assistant at Brown and recruited Roy a few years back so there is a direct connection.

But like many NHL prospects his arrival to the big leagues will certainly be a project with his small frame, thus his willingness to develop his game and body physically in the NCAA ranks. Since the college game is more geared to the late bloomer and older competition, the Ducks organization will surely support his decision to play college hockey.

Roy is a slick stick handler with a gifted set of mitts. He may not be blessed genetically with size yet he has been showing his playmaking and scoring ability at each level. He was an Internet sensation back when he was 13 years old dangling for the camera on YouTube with some fancy shootout moves.

But like all draft picks, only time will tell if they are a hit or bust and Roy is no different. Although for right now the most uncertain path in his career is where he will suit up for next season.