Paul Byron, C

Shoots: L

Height: 5-9

Weight: 170

Born: 1989-4-27

Hometown: Ottawa, Ont.

Drafted: 2007 6	th	round 179

Observations:

January 2013 – The theme in Abbotsford is ‘lack of production’ with Byron leading the charge. Expected to be a regular on the score sheet and provide leadership, he has been a dud. He finished 2012 with only 10 points in 23 games while throwing only 27 shots at the net. Needed a ‘wake-up’ call as he has been handed opportunity, with three points and 8 shots in his last 5 games, he may have found some fire. *Jason Banks*

July 2012 – Will continue to grow into his game in Abbotsford with a new one year contract. At

the age of 23 he still has to serve development time and make the most of recalls as they come. If continues to show signs of being consistent on the score sheet and plays with determination, the Flames will keep him around as depth. *Jason Banks*

March 2012 – Byron is a product out of the major junior ranks of the QMJHL. He already has over two AHL seasons under his belt, mostly with the Portland Pirates. He is considered a strong two-way centerman with some speed, acceleration, and offensive ability. He has earned some playing time in Calgary this season, although currently developing his game down on the farm with Abbotsford.

Fantasy Outlook : B-

A solid two-way center man who will challenge to compete at the NHL level if size doesn't get in his way.

Footage:

Paul Byron with a penalty shot goal for the Flames on 2/14/2012.

{youtube}kYe6qIJ4YSo{/youtube}

Fantasy Prospects Report Notes (Any FPR's released in the last 18 months will not be listed here):

2009 Fantasy Prospects Report:

A sixth round selection in 2007, 5'9 Paul Byron had just 44 points for the Gatineau Olympiques - a combination that would have almost killed his draft hopes had it not been for the sharp-eyed Sabres. Two years and 167 points later, and it's clear that Buffalo has not lost its touch in finding offensive talent. Byron was expected to challenge for the Q scoring in 2008-09 following a simply incredible 2008 playoff that saw him score 21 goals in 19 games. However, while he had as many assists in 2008-09 as points the year prior - setting a new career-high with 99 points - Byron seems to save his best for the post-season. Three to four years away.

Upside: Second-line forward, (25-45-70)

Certainty (NHLer; Upside): 65%; 30%

2008 Fantasy Prospects Report:

When your 5'9, 144 lbs sixth-round pick scores as many goals in his sophomore year as he did points in his rookie year, you'll take that. Throw in a monster playoff, and you've officially got yourself a steal. Such is the story of Gatineau Olympiques forward Paul Byron. Projected to go undrafted in the DobberHockey mock due to his size and relatively poor 44 points, the speedy finisher fell to 165th overall at the 2007 Draft. In just one season, the tiny pivot has proven all doubters wrong. Paired with blue-chip prospect Claude Giroux, Byron posted 37 goals and 68 points in 2007-08, second and third best on Gatineau respectively. But it's the Q playoffs that has seen him take to the next- next- level. With a stunning 15 goals in just 14 playoff games, the Briere clone has been a major reason the Olympiques are set to face off in the QMJHL finals. Still several years away, as with all small players.

Upside: Top-six forward, (35-40-75)

Certainty (NHLer; Upside): 45%; 25%

Buy the latest Fantasy Prospects Report here.

Paul Byron statistics courtesy of Elite Prospects