Evgeny Kuznetsov, RW

Shoots: L

Height: 6-3

Weight: 187

Born: 1992-05-19

Hometown: Chelyabinsk, Russia

Drafted: 2010 by Washington, 26th		overall

Observations:

November 2013 - Kuznetsov is getting into a groove after recovering from a shoulder injury. He has nine points in his last eight games, to bring his season total to 10 in 13 games. He also changed his jersey number this year to 84 from 92. *Nathan Kanter*

October 2013 - Kuznetsov hurt his shoulder in early September and missed the beginning of the KHL season. Since his return, he only has one point in five games and is a minus-7. He recently stated in an interview with Alexey Shevchenko that if he were offered a five to seven year deal to stay in the KHL, he would think "long and hard". At this point though, it is still expected that he will come to North America at the end of the season when his KHL contract expires.

Nathan Kanter

June 2013 - According to Uffe Bodin of hockeysverige.se, Kutznetsov has stated he fully intends to play in North America for the 2014-15 season, reiterating that even money won't be keeping him in Russia. He had another strong season in the KHL this past year, with 44 points in 51 games, though just 11 in 25 playoff games. He averaged over four shots on goal per game in the regular season, and over three per game in the playoffs, so he's likely to one day post some significant goal totals. Those who drafted him will only have to wait one more year, as he is likely to post some solid numbers right away. Certainly a Calder favourite already (he'll be 22). *Nathan Kanter*

July 2012 – Kuznetsov signed to stay in the KHL for two years, that doesn’t mean he will serve both years. He is apparently going to attend training camp for experience and an evaluation on where he is currently and then go back to Russia. Depending on where he is in development, he could cross for good next year. The fact Washington is not fighting KHL club Traktor on this, is showing good faith for future KHL dealings. Kuznetzov could likely be a solid NHL contributor now, as the Caps are rather gutted at the moment. He is still a very attractive prospect to acquire, just be aware you may be waiting on his contributions. *Jason Banks*

April, 2012- Evgeny Kuznetsov seamlessly shifts gears while skating and has a repertoire of offensive weapons that few have. Kuznetsov finds holes in defenses that most can’t see or capitalize on quickly as he can. He has a great touch both on his passes and his shots. He does need to get stronger and avoid getting knocked off the puck in the corners. The young Russian has been a consistent offensive spark for his country’s junior teams and put up very impressive numbers for a teenager in a league usually dominated by veterans with 40 points in 49 KHL games for Traktor Chelyabinsk during the 2011-2012 season. He had a much-publicized farewell skate for Traktor, which indicates he is probably coming over to the North America next

season. Although nothing is guaranteed, Washington will put considerable pressure on him to join the Capitals next season. Assuming Kuznetsov does join them next campaign, he should jump right into the NHL and generate points quickly. Eventually, as long as he stays and in the NHL, he likely could be regularly producing 70 or more points per season.

Fantasy Outlook : A

Assuming he joins the Capitals soon, Kuznetsov has the ability for a prolific offensive career. Star potential with some risk.

Footage:

Evgeny Kuznetsov's 4-point-game against Canada in the 2012 U20 WJC:

{youtube}tfBZlaRt0_4{/youtube}

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

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Evgeny Kuznetsov's statistics courtesy of Elite Prospects