

iceTimes



December 2010
Volume 14 Number 5

Published by International Ice Hockey Federation Editor-in-Chief Horst Lichtner Editor Szymon Szemberg Design Martin Merk

Let's go Buffalo - the perfect setting



Photo: Matthew Manor / IIHF- IIHF Images

ENCIRCLED BY THE FOE: *This is how Buffalo fans may feel during the "World Juniors"; surrounded by Canadians who will come down from across the border. Last year, American Ryan Bourque did very well despite being checked closely by Ryan Ellis, Taylor Hall (now Edmonton Oilers) and Nazem Kadri (Toronto Maple Leafs).*



They say timing is everything. And the timing to put the 35th IIHF World U20 Championship to Buffalo/Niagara couldn't have been better. This could be one for the ages.

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ ■ It's always a great thing to have the reigning World Champion defend its title on home ice. This is exactly the situation we have in Buffalo/Niagara as Team USA will try to show their fans that last year's win in Saskatoon was no fluke.

The tournament is going to one of the best hockey towns in the country, where fans have passionately supported their NHL Sabres for exactly 40 years, through highs and lows. On top of that, we are about 35 kilometers from the Canadian border and southern Ontario, probably the largest hockey market in the world.

■ ■ Just like in 2005, when we had fans driving in droves from Winnipeg over the border and into Grand Forks, I am sure that the host organizers count on support from the passionate fans from Toronto, Mississauga, Burlington, Hamilton, St. Catharines, and the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

But that the "World Juniors" is a major happening in Canada we already know. First and foremost, this is a wonderful opportunity for USA Hockey to expose this fantastic event in the eastern parts of the country and in the state of New York in particular.

■ ■ This will be the fifth time that USA Hockey has hosted the event. The most successful so far was the 2005 tournament in Grand Forks/Thief River Falls which attracted almost 200,000 fans, an average of 6,200 per game.

With the wonderful 18,690 HSCB Arena as the main venue we can have high hopes that the American attendance record from six years ago will be broken. Let me for a moment stay with the 2005 championship to show what kind of a quality tournament

this is and also what you can expect in a couple of years from now on the pro scene.

■ ■ On the winning Canadian team from Grand Forks there were seven (!) players who five years later would be selected for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver: Patrice Bergeron, Ryan Getzlaf, Sidney Crosby, Corey Perry, Mike Richards, Brent Seabrook, and Shea Weber. Other players from 2005 were Jeff Carter and Dion Phaneuf. What a team. Maybe the best "World Juniors" team ever?

On the silver medal Russian team there were Alexander Ovechkin, Evgeni Malkin, and Alexander Radulov. Team USA was led by Phil Kessel, Ryan Suter, and Ryan Callahan. This shows once again that the players that you will see in this championship will be world class pros in just a couple of years, and you can be sure that many of them will take part in the next Olympics, in Sochi 2014.

■ ■ You can read about the 35-year old history of the World U20 Championship in the new IIHF Media Guide & Record book which was launched recently and which will be on sale at the HSCB Arena as well as on IIHF.com.

It is a truly remarkable 604-page publication with which the IIHF has entered a new era of providing information - past, present, and future. With this publication, the IIHF now brings to the world its entire 102-year history in stats and facts under one cover.

This colossus includes information on every top level event, every IIHF member nation, and every player to appear in even a single game since international hockey first took hold in 1920. In all, more than 12,000 players are included, as well as every coach, every referee, and every linesman.

With the "World Juniors" and this book you will have no problems making it through Christmas and New Year's.

René Fasel
IIHF President

2010 Worlds break TV record

ZUG, Switzerland - Television coverage of the 2010 IIHF World Championship last May in Germany validated the annual event as one of the most popular winter sports tournaments in the world. Record broadcast exposure increased value for sponsors, hitting key target markets and reaching millions of fans worldwide.

■ ■ The 2010 Worlds had almost 190 broadcast partners in more than 100 territories and the highest cumulative television audience in the history of the event, at 734.7 million (previous record in 2004 with 702 million).

■ ■ There was an increase of around 88 million viewers over the previous year in Switzerland and of 165 million viewers more than the 2008 tournament in Canada. Coverage was excellent throughout Northern Europe, Canada, and Central and Eastern Europe. The top audience numbers were in Russia with 202.8 million (2009: 163.1 million), closely followed by host Germany with 178.4 million (59.7 million), the Czech Republic with 80.5 million (75.5 million) and Finland with 47.8 million (44 million). Program hours totalled more than 2,466.

The statistics come from an independent, conservative program analysis, including information provided by broadcast partners worldwide and applied exclusively to the 17 days of the tournament. The report was compiled by German sports research consultancy IFM on behalf of Infront Sports & Media.

■ ■ The World Championship's opening game, USA vs. Germany, had an impressive cumulative TV audience of 35 million viewers who followed Germany's victory in front of a world record crowd of 77,803 in Gelsenkirchen.

■ ■ The 2010 championship was produced in high definition television (HDTV). The production used 22 cameras in each arena and for every game.

■ ■ The 2010 IIHF World Championship also had impressive website figures. The official website had more than 4 million visits, 26 per cent more than in 2009.



The Czech world champions attracted many viewers.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE HOCKEY WORLD

■ **GERMANY:** Uwe Krupp extended his contract with the German Ice Hockey Association until the 2011 World Championship. He will leave the national team after the event and assume a position with the Kölner Haie (DEL).

■ **UKRAINE:** Canadian coach Dave Lewis signed a one-year contract as national team coach of Ukraine. He won three Stanley Cups with Detroit as an assistant to Scotty Bowman and later became head coach in Detroit and Boston. He was an assistant coach of the Belarusian national team in the last two years. The contract will be extended if Ukraine wins its Division I group in Kyiv.

■ **CZECH REPUBLIC:** The Czech association replaced the entire coaching staff for the World U20s. Miroslav Prerost succeeds Jaromir Sindel as head coach. He will be assisted by former Stanley Cup winner Jiri Fischer, who is also working for the Detroit Red Wings. The other assistant coach will be former U.S. U20 national team coach Terry Christensen. He's the first foreign coach to be hired for a Czech U20 national team.

■ **CZECH REPUBLIC:** Triple Gold Club member Jaromir Jagr became the 12th athlete to be awarded the country's Medal of Merit. He received the honour from Czech President Vaclav Klaus. Dominik Hasek, Ivan Hlinka and Augustin Bubnik were other hockey personalities who had previously received the state award.

■ **RUSSIA:** Russia re-established a B national team to test young players leading up to the 2014 Sochi Olympics. The team coached by Yevgeni Popikhin will play in exhibition games and tournaments.

■ **ICELAND:** Olaf Eller was named new head coach of the Icelandic national team that won Division II bronze last year. The father of Montreal centre Lars Eller represented Denmark as a player and was coaching club teams in Denmark, Sweden, and the Danish U20 national team.

■ **CANADA:** The women's national team enters a new era. Long-serving coach Melody Davidson left the head coaching position and was named head scout for the program. Former Team Canada player and Vancouver Canucks assistant coach Ryan Walter took over the team for the Four Nations Tournament in November.

■ **NETHERLANDS:** The Dutch women's national team joined the EWHL, a league that involves club teams from Austria, Germany, Slovakia and Slovenia. The team won two of its first eight games and will play most games on the road.

■ **SLOVENIA:** The congress of the Slovenian Ice Hockey Federation unanimously elected Matjaz Rakovec as new president. He takes over after IIHF Council member Ernest Aljancic, who held the position for 12 years.

■ **SERBIA:** During its assembly in Belgrade, the Serbian Ice Hockey Association elected Nebojsa Ilic its new president. Djordje Ljoljic was re-elected to serve as the general secretary.

■ **FINLAND/SWEDEN:** The Organizing Committee of the 2012 and 2013 IIHF World Championships started a mascot competition. Proposals for one or two mascots for the host countries can be sent to info@2012.iihfworlds.com by 31st January.

■ **DENMARK:** Canadian goalkeeper Alfie Michaud set a remarkable record in the Danish league. The goalkeeper of reigning champion and Continental Cup finalist, SonderjyskE Vojens, was undefeated for 360:58 minutes.

Sochi venues take shape

SOCHI, Russia - As Sochi 2014 reaches the midway mark in its preparations for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, the International Olympic Committee Coordination Commission paid its fourth visit to the Russian host city. The Commission praised Sochi's progress and said that, with slightly more than three years to go, the Russian organizers remain on track to host great Winter Games.

■ ■ Commission Chairman Jean-Claude Killy said: "Once again we have been impressed by the quality of the work that Sochi 2014 and its partners have presented to us. As they reach the halfway point in their preparations, we can see the progress that is being made, with sporting venues rising from the ground, new sections of road being used by the public, and environmental initiatives being undertaken. Sochi 2014 is delivering on its promises to the athletes, and preparations remain on track."

Killy continued: "It is also reassuring to see that the Sochi team has understood what still needs to be delivered, both in terms of infrastructure and in services to the athletes and others attending the Games. They are attentive to the task ahead, and this must continue until the Games are over. With the highly competent team they have in place, I have no doubt that this will be the case."

■ ■ René Fasel, IIHF President, IOC Executive member and member of the Coordination Commission, is also looking forward to great ice hockey tournaments after having observed the work being done at the venues.

"The construction of the two ice hockey venues is in very good shape," Fasel said upon his return from Sochi. "I am very happy with the progress of both the Bolshoi ("big") and the Maly ("small") Ice Palaces. Ice hockey will have two great venues in 2014."



The Bolshoi Ice Palace will be the main venue for hockey.

Miracle medal sold

DALLAS, USA - A rancher from the western United States bought a Miracle on Ice gold medal for \$310,700 in an auction in Dallas. The medal belonged to Mark Wells, who was a member of the U.S. team that won the 1980 Olympics.

For the college students, who built up the U.S. team, a dream came true in Lake Placid when they won the gold on home ice after defeating the heavily-favoured Soviet team and later Finland to win the tournament. It was a story as it is usually only produced in Hollywood, but that time reality became the inspiration for later movies, and the Miracle on Ice inspired many American kids to play the game.

The reason behind the sale is also a personal tragedy. Wells worked as a restaurant manager after a short playing career, but he had to stop working in his early 40s due to a rare genetic disease of his spinal cord discs. The illness has been plaguing the 53-year-old since, who decided to sell the medal to a private collector this year to cover the medical costs.

iceTimes is published bi-monthly.

International Ice Hockey Federation
Brandschenkestrasse 50
Postfach CH-8039 Zürich
Switzerland

Phone +41.44.562.22.00
Fax +41.44.562.22.29
Email office@iihf.com

www.iihf.com



Get your tickets for Slovakia

BRATISLAVA - The waiting for the ticket sales for the 2011 IIHF World Championship came to an end when the first packages found their new owners on 27th September.

The owner of the first ticket was long-serving Slovak team captain Miroslav Satan. The four-time Olympian, who played 1,050 NHL games, received the symbolic ticket from the mascot, Gooly, in one of the official Ticketportal outlets.

"The Organizing Committee has been receiving phone calls and e-mails for weeks. This shows how huge the interest in tickets is," the Organizing Committee's chairman Igor Nemecek said. Around 350,000 spectators in the two venues in Bratislava and Kosice and an estimated TV audience of 800 million viewers are expected.

One third of tickets were sold just one month after the beginning of the sales. The top internet orders have come from Slovakia, followed by the Czech Republic and Finland. Interestingly enough, tickets have been ordered by fans from as far away as Afghanistan, Israel, the Dominican Republic and even Swaziland.

Championship games can be witnessed first-hand for as little as 10 Euros (Relegation Round in Kosice, category 2). Preliminary Round tickets cost between 30 and 55 Euros and packages for six games are available from 150 Euros.



Miroslav Satan receives a symbolic ticket from Gooly.

While event passes, round tickets and day tickets are already on sale, single-game tickets can be purchased starting from 1st February.

Tickets can be purchased as follows:

- On <http://2011.iihfworlds.com>
- On the Ticketportal websites
- From Ticketportal ticket outlets in Slovakia
- From selected Ticketportal outlets in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, and later through partners in Austria, Belarus, Russia, Slovenia and Switzerland.
- Hotline +421 917 86 86 86 (9:00 - 21:00 CET)

Four questions to Tanya Foley

With the ambition of helping promote women's hockey better than before, the International Ice Hockey Federation took several measures including extending the Sport Department by a Women's Program Manager.

Tanya Foley started her work in Zurich on 30th November just after visiting the first Wickenheiser International Female Hockey Festival in the Vancouver area, and found time to sit down with Ice Times.

□ What according to you is the most important thing that must happen in order to improve the quality of women's hockey?

There needs to be more opportunities for young girls to play the game. Hockey is a sport that you generally need to start playing early to be able to reach an elite level, and women's sport in general is faced with the challenge of overcoming cultural norms. By increasing the number of players, the better the chances are of having a strong national team. As well, a national team needs the chance to play against other countries and other teams of similar or better calibre in order to continue to improve.

□ How did you like the Wickenheiser International Female Hockey Festival?

I was incredibly impressed with the weekend. I have attended a number of tournaments, and this was the first time I've seen so much being included in a single event. It wasn't just a hockey tournament, it was a true festival with seminars hosted by top experts that provided information for athletes, coaches, administrators and even parents; a used equipment drive and silent auction to support local charities; and there were even some NHL hockey celebrities! I would love to see others take this model and apply it to tournaments around the world as it is exactly the type of thing that not only provides the fun of playing the game, but offers an opportunity to develop elite athletes.

□ What changes would you like to happen come the 2014 Olympics?

The 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi will be a stepping stone to bigger and better things for women's hockey. It takes at least ten years to develop an elite hockey player, so there needs to be an element of patience for the overall sport. The Olympic Games will be a great indicator for some of the nations, who will be providing significantly more resources in the next couple years, that it is worth providing their national women's programs with strong coaching, administrative support, funding and, most importantly, the opportunity to play as a national team on the international level more often.

□ According to you, why do the countries ranked 3-6 have such difficulties in closing the gap to Canada and the U.S.?

One thing that often is overlooked is that the men's game, while incredibly strong today, has not always been that way. For the first 40-50 years, there were a small number of nations that competed for gold while the rest just tried to qualify for the tournaments. With the additional media access in today's world, the women's game seems like it is struggling, but it is really just going through the growing pains of any new sport. Canada and the USA were the first two nations to provide significant funding, respect and support for the sport and its athletes, and strong leadership and coaching so they have gained an early lead. If, or I should say when, the other nations start to do the same or more, they will start to gain ground and the gap will only exist in history books.



Photos: Dave Holland



GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN: The Wickenheiser festival in Burnaby was a full success.

OBITUARIES

■ **Guido Laczko.** Represented Switzerland in the 1985 World U20 Championship B Pool, passed away on 26th September at 44 years of age. He died from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Laczko was playing for Chur, Bern, Zug and Davos in the top Swiss league.

■ **Eduard Novak.** Czech hockey lost one of its greats from the '70s when the Czechoslovak team was able to break the Soviet supremacy on the world stage. Novak passed away on 21st October. He won the World Championship in 1976 and 1977, along with two silver medals (1971, 1975), Olympic silver (1976) and an Olympic bronze (1972). With his hometown team Kladno he won five Czechoslovak titles and the 1977 European Cup.

■ **Markus Wächter.** The 18-year old German player died in a junior game of his club Kaufbeuren in Augsburg on 1st November. Wächter, who suffered from a heart disease, collided with an opponent and collapsed a short time later. He died in hospital.

■ **Pat Burns.** The three-time NHL Coach of the Year lost his battle with cancer on 19th November. Burns coached in Montreal, Toronto, Boston and New Jersey from 1988 until 2004, leading New Jersey to the 2003 Stanley Cup. He was also an assistant coach at the 1987 World U20 Championship and at the 2008 World Championship that took place in his home province of Quebec.

STAFF NEWS

■ **Iris Hänni** started her work as a Legal and Administration Manager at the IIHF headquarters in Zurich on 18th October. Hänni graduated with a Master in Law from the University of Fribourg, and was working at the District Court of Zurich prior to joining the IIHF.



■ The IIHF announced the hiring of **Tanya Foley** for the new position of Women's Program Manager in the Sport Department. Foley worked for the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) from 2005 to 2010 as a Divisional Coordinator and as an Assistant Manager for Ice Hockey. Foley was a player and coach at University of British Columbia.



■ **Anna Eskola (Sport), Yves Vonlanthen (Administration) and Jenny Wiedeke (Communications)** decided to leave the IIHF in November to pursue other career opportunities. The IIHF thanks them for their contributions to international ice hockey and wishes them good luck in their future careers.

Hockey Night in Ankara

IIHF referee writes diary from an Oriental hockey setting

■ ■ ■ In late October, the first round of the European Women's Champions Cup was played in four cities. One of them was Ankara, Turkey where the home team Milenyum Ankara hosted Grenoble (FRA), Terme Maribor (SLO) and Aisulu Almaty (KAZ). Ice Times asked IIHF Sport Co-ordinator Anna Eskola - who also was one of the referees in the event - to write a diary from this rather unusual ice hockey setting.

October 28: We arrived in Ankara on the same plane as the Grenoble team and three other officials - a real tournament flight. Having these hockey people around also gave you sense of security - safety in numbers. It's not the most efficient airport I have seen, maybe the airport personnel were fascinated by the equipment as all the hockey bags came out last. Crazy drive to the hotel - lanes are more of a guideline. This is definitely not Switzerland. Only speed limits and traffic lights are obeyed. Sometimes.

First cup of coffee at the hotel. It comes in shot glasses with massive amounts of sugar. Everything smells different - a mixture of tea, tobacco and city life in general. It's not your usual hockey setting, that's for sure. But it will be very exciting.

October 29: Tournament opening day and first glimpse of rink, a figure skating rink. Ankara only has one hockey team, the women's team in a city of 3.7 million people. I was nervous whether they had lines. They did. Everything according to international standard, although the rink seemed really long. On the way to the rink we noticed Turkish flags everywhere. No wonder, it was the national day of Turkey, which is also my birthday, so there was a big celebration with parades and people had a day off from work. Big line-ups for museums and to see the presidential palace.

Men are everywhere. Big groups of men. Can almost count the number of women I saw. With my pale skin and blonde hair, I and the Danish linesman really stood out.

At rink: The dressing room was really nice, much nicer than what I see in most rinks back home. It smelled of chlorine, which means that the place was clean. Since it was my birthday, the Turkish organizers gave me a raspberry cake, it was my first cake in many years. It made me feel special.

I had the day off on the first playing day and watched the games from the stands, which gave me a new perspective. The crowd was surprisingly into it. For the evening game with the Turkish team, we had a festive crowd. You could tell they were interested in the sport, but they didn't understand the game that well. Nevertheless, they really seemed to enjoy themselves. Not a single person left during the game. Ankara lost its opening game 7-5 to the Slovenian side, but they put up a good fight.

Every day they played two songs throughout the day, but every day it would be a new two songs. Each day you would have those two songs in your head.

Food: Buffet breakfast and dinner, while lunch was a served dish. The food was a pleasant surprise, and the buffet had loads of bowls full of sauces that none of us could identify. A lot of really spicy food - sometimes, you would get a shock when you thought something was mild, when in fact it was on fire. Lots of veggies... lots of colours. Nice.

October 30: In the morning all the officials went to a big shopping mall, which was more modern than any you would find anywhere in the West. It would take 20 minutes to walk from one end to the other without stopping and it was on four levels. It had many modern stores mixed with Turkish specialty shops and a food market. The prices were a little cheaper than in Europe, but it wasn't bargain basement prices. You can tell Turkish economy is on par with many European nations. On the street things were much cheaper.

Got proposed to... think it was for a blonde and not a sign of true love. After shopping we went to the hotel and then to rink where I had my first game. Almaty vs. Maribor. We thought it would be an evenly played game, but the Slovenes came with a weaker team due to a loss of many of their best players. The game ended with a lopsided 16-0 score.

As a referee, it was one of the tougher games I've called because both teams had big players that wanted to play physically and after the score got lopsided things got chippy. I even had to call a match penalty, only the second time I have done so in my career.

After our game, the home team played vs. the French. Another fun crowd to watch. Already after the second day, it was clear that the Kazakh team would win the tournament, after two wins. But the good news is that the teams took it in stride and even hung out in the hotel together as a group. Some tried to sing and dance Turkish style. It was a really relaxed atmosphere and one that I'm sure the teams will remember.

It's not every day you can hang out with people from Turkey, France, Kazakhstan and Slovenia.

October 31: Ooops, not a good start to the day. Winter time and we forgot to set our watches, but we still managed making it to breakfast on time, phew. More shopping, but this time on the street as we walked around in bright blue skies and enjoyed the perfect fall weather. It was a good group of officials as we all gelled and got along very well.

Personally, I learned a lot of things from the others, including a few things that can help me in the future on the ice. There was a lot of positive feedback given between the group during games and meals.

Called the Almaty vs. Ankara game, another lopsided score, but this time I got to call in front of the home crowd, which made it a little more fun. With nothing on the line, this was a little bit more of a relaxed game, but it was refreshing that despite everything was decided, the Turkish girls showed up to play and competed well.

You could tell the toll that three straight game days took on many of the players. There were more injuries than normal and the fatigue showed. After the final game, everyone got a gift from the organizer at the closing ceremony - a glass memento with the EWCC logo and a bracelet with the all-seeing eye. It was nice that the crowd actually applauded us when we received our gifts, a far cry from the normal booing that greets the officials.

It was hockey as it should be - compete hard on the ice, be friends away from the ice. Back at the hotel, it was the last



CALLING THE SHOTS: IIHF referee Anna Eskola officiated at the EWCC in Ankara, Turkey - a memory for a lifetime.

Photo: City-Press

night to hang out - evening included karaoke, and lessons in hip-hop dancing to Slovenian music. But with an early flight the next morning, we called it a night early and said our farewells.

How many hockey officials can say that they refereed a women's hockey tournament in Turkey? Good bye, Ankara. It was a treat.

Anna Eskola

As told to Jenny Wiedeke



Marcus Vinnerborg NHL's first European official

By Andrew Podnieks

■ ■ Hockey history was made when Sweden's Marcus Vinnerborg became the first European referee to officiate an NHL game. Vinnerborg, a 37-year old native of Ljungby, made his NHL debut on November 16 when he called the Anaheim vs. Dallas game together with fellow Vancouver 2010 Olympic referee Paul Devorski.

The next day (November 17) Vinnerborg officiated the San Jose vs. Colorado game with Stephen Walkom.

Apart from being one of the most highly-rated referees in the Swedish top pro league (Elitserien) since 2000, Vinnerborg has also been one of the most prominent international referees since 2004. His resume includes all IIHF World Championships between 2006 and 2009 (including the gold medal games in Russia 2007 and in Canada 2008), the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship, the 2006 IIHF World U20 (Junior) Championship and lastly the 2010 Olympics.

When NHL referee supervisor Terry Gregson picked up the phone this summer and called Sweden, he knew what he was doing. Gregson had done his due diligence and knew that the person at the other end of the line was as good as it gets.

■ ■ Gregson had seen Vinnerborg work several IIHF events under the most arduous situations. Vinnerborg had worked the U20 in Vancouver in 2006 on the NHL ice of GM Place. He had held the whistle throughout the 2008 World Championship in Quebec City and Halifax. And, he was back in Vancouver for the 2010 Olympics, skating alongside the very best players in the world, notably Canadian and American NHLers who learned on and loved the small ice. Gregson knew Vinnerborg's talents superseded his passport or his accent. Vinnerborg was world class, plain and simple.

"He called me in the summer and asked me if I wanted to referee in North America," Vinnerborg related from his new country home just north of Toronto. "It wasn't a difficult

decision to make. I mean, you can't set this as a goal for yourself because until now the NHL has been a closed world to European officials. I feel fortunate to get this opportunity and to be appreciated by them."

"In 2008," Gregson said, "we starting our planning for the Vancouver Olympics, and we knew there would be blended crews. That fall, we held a seminar in Berne in conjunction with the Victoria Cup, and Marcus was one of the 14 officials there. He also worked the Victoria Cup game. Whenever I saw him, I was always pleased with how he worked. By the time of the Olympics, I was in charge of the officiating and again I thought he did a great job working with the best hockey players in the world."

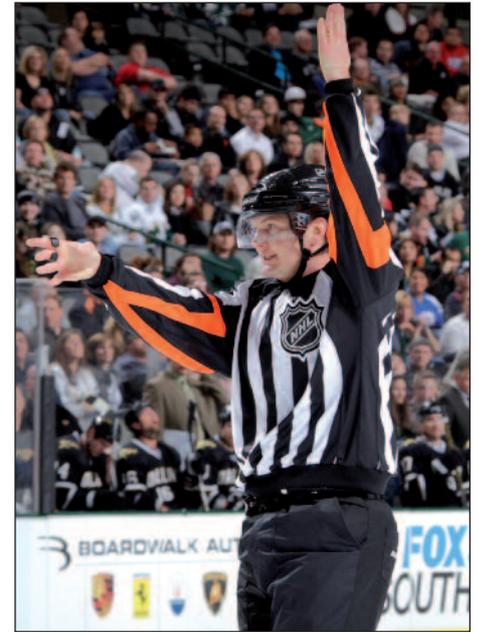
■ ■ The cumulative effect was that Gregson offered Vinnerborg a contract to become a referee in North America. This first year is going to pass mostly in the AHL because Vinnerborg has an 80-game contract there, but he'll see a decent amount of action in the big league as well. "I'd expect he'd get into 15-20 NHL games over the season," Gregson confirmed.

Because of his heavy workload, Vinnerborg will not be available for the World Championship, as he has been in previous years. "He's a North American referee now," Gregson explained definitively. "We expect to use him well into the AHL playoffs and that goes into May and June, but one day we would like to have some of our officials at the World Championships. We'll have some people at the Spengler Cup this year for the first time, so down the road it's very possible."

■ ■ What Gregson made quite clear is that any potential European candidate must have two important qualifications. First, he has to have experience with North American hockey, both by working on the smaller ice and working at the top level in which NHLers are involved, like the Worlds, or Olympics. And two, he must be prepared to start in the AHL like any other official. "It's a difficult competition getting to the NHL," he said. "They are working at the highest level in the NHL, a level they've never worked at before, so they have to be prepared."

Vinnerborg continues the tradition of Swedish "firsts" in the NHL. In 1964, Swedish forward Ulf Sterner became the first European trained player to sign an NHL contract with the New York Rangers. Defenceman Thommie Bergman became the first European trained player to play a full NHL season (1972-73) while defenceman Börje Salming opened the door for all Europeans after rising to immediate stardom in 1973-74 with Toronto.

■ ■ Europeans later made inroads in the coaching ranks when Alpo Suhonen and Ivan Hlinka became head coaches for a short time, and now officiating becomes the last bastion to fall for Europeans wanting to participate in the NHL.



WRITING HISTORY: On 16th November Marcus Vinnerborg became the first European to officiate an NHL game.

Photo: Glenn James/NHLI via Getty Images

Assignments of on-ice officials 2010-2011

World Championship

Referees

Baluska, Vladimir (SVK)
Bulanov, Vyacheslav (RUS)
Burchell, Darcy (CAN)
Jerabek, Antonin (CZE)
Kurmann, Danny (SUI)
Larking, Christer (SWE)
Odins, Eduards (LAT)
Olenin, Konstantin (RUS)
Orszag, Peter (SVK)
Partanen, Sami (FIN)
Persson, Soren (SWE)
Piechaczek, Daniel (GER)
Reiber, Brent (SUI)
Ronn, Jyri (FIN)
Sindler, Vladimir (CZE)
Sterns, Thomas (USA)

Linesmen

Arm, Roger (SUI)
Carlson, Chris (CAN)
Carnathan, Paul (USA)
Dediouli, Ivan (BLR)
Gebauer, Jiri (CZE)
Hollenstein, Manuel (AUT)
Hribar, Matjaz (SLO)
Murchison, Kiel (CAN)
Novak, Milan (SVK)
Schrader, Andre (GER)
Schulz, Sirko (GER)
Semionov, Anton (EST)
Shelyanin, Sergei (RUS)
Terho, Jussi (FIN)
Tillerkvist, Christian (SWE)
Valach, Miroslav (SVK)

World U20 Championship

Bauer, Stephan (GER)
Boman, Antti (FIN)
Claesson, Pehr (SWE)
Frano, Martin (CZE)
Jablukov, Georg (GER)
Kadyrov, Rafael (RUS)

Blaha, Jaromir (CZE)
Brown, David (USA)
Kaspar, Christian (AUT)
Kekalainen, Mikko (FIN)
Kicha, Andriy (UKR)
Morrison, Johnathan (USA)

World U20 Championship (cont.)

Referees

Kaval, Keith (USA)
Kirk, Matt (CAN)
Konc, Daniel (SVK)
Levonen, Jari (FIN)
Sjoberg, Patrik (SWE)
Smith, Pat (CAN)

World U18 Championship

Brueggemann, Lars (GER)
Grummen, Jacob (DEN)
Johansson, Morgan (SWE)
Klein, Devin (CAN)
Kubus, Jozef (SVK)
Salminen, Teemu (FIN)
Sidorenko, Maxim (BLR)
Sir, Robin (CZE)
Solem, Per Gustav (NOR)
Stricker, Daniel (SUI)
Vasilyev, Alexei (RUS)
Warschaw, Shane (USA)

Linesmen

Tvrdon, Jozef (SVK)
Wilmot, Jesse (CAN)
Winge, Daniel (SWE)
Winnekens, Felix (GER)
Birin, Viktor (RUS)
Dahmen, Jimmy (SWE)
Dalton, Andrew (GBR)
Dussureault, Francois (CAN)
Horinek, Martin (SVK)
Kowert, Andreas (GER)
Muller, Joris (SUI)
Pesek, Tomas (CZE)
Suominen, Sakari (FIN)
Wahl, Derek (USA)

World Women's Championship

Referees

Blair, Erin (USA)
Bordeleau, Melanie (CAN)
Hertrich, Nicole (GER)
Hove, Aina (NOR)
Sipila, Ulla (FIN)
Tottman, Joy (GBR)

Linesmen

Adler, Judith (GER)
Arazimova, Zuzana (CZE)
Bjorkman, Therese (SWE)
Boniface, Anne Sophie (FRA)
Hanrahan, Alicia (USA)
Rumble, Kerri (CAN)
Schipper-Poeteray, Bianca (NED)
Skovbakke, Malene (DEN)
Tauriainen, Johanna (FIN)

World Women's U18 Championship

Axelsson, Malin (SWE)
Hengst, Debbie (NED)
Langley, Kristine (USA)
Mutsaers, Sylena (CAN)
Ruzickova, Radka (CZE)
Ustinova, Arina (RUS)

Bjorkman, Therese (SWE)
Cerhitova, Magdalena (SVK)
Ivanova, Yelena (RUS)
Johnson, Laura (USA)
Leet, Kaire (EST)
Novotna, Ilona (CZE)
Partanen, Jonna (FIN)
Sandor, Zsuzsanna (HUN)
Wieler, Haley (CAN)



For referee assignments of all IIHF events, go to IIHF.com/refassignments

Today's U.S. miracle is spelled

Pilot program in 1996 now standard development for Americans

By Andrew Podnieks

The United States is the reigning IIHF World U18 and U20 champion and the men's Olympic team lost the gold medal game in overtime. Unlike the 1980 Olympic gold, the current success is no miracle. The explanation is the National Team Development Program in Ann Arbor.

The 1990s was a period of great advancement and development of hockey in the United States. Wayne Gretzky was doing his thing in California; more Americans than ever were being drafted into the NHL, not just in the first round but throughout the draft; and, the children who watched the Miracle on Ice in 1980 were now bona fide NHLers. The 1991 appearance in the Canada Cup finals was a prelude to the 1996 World Cup, the loss in the former turning into a watermark victory in the latter.

■ ■ Still, something was missing. There wasn't much cohesiveness to USA Hockey, and apart from this historic World Cup win in 1996, there wasn't yet a sense of the country as a hockey power. But in '96, the organization decided to try something new. It would gather together the best 44-46 kids in the country and put them in one place for two years, nurturing them, teaching them the game and the USA Hockey program, and giving them a focus.

"Jeff Jackson was out first coach," Scott Monaghan recalled of the beginnings of the National Team Development Program. "His job was to build elite teams for 16- and 17-year-olds, to give a group of kids the chance to get better, to understand what it takes to succeed, and to give them international experience. Before this, there was no regular schedule, nothing that prepared kids for the U20s or higher levels hockey."

Enter Bob Mancini, the first director of player personnel. He was the first man in charge of developing a network of part-time scouts (bird dogs, they used to say) to create a list of potential players for the program. This process started well before players were actually invited.

"We evaluate kids starting at about 14 on the sly," Monaghan explained. "But we don't communicate with them, just evaluate. We go to select festivals and narrow the pool of players, and then in March before they join the program we hold a tryout camp for 40 to 45 players of 15-year-olds. It also gives them a chance to evaluate us, to see if the program is right for them."

■ ■ From this camp most of the players are selected for the NTDP, but not all. Monaghan is quick to point out two of its star alumni - Patrick Kane and Eric Nystrom - were the last players selected in their year. In all, there are two teams of 22-23 players each that will compete at the U17 and U18 levels, before they go off to college, junior hockey, or, in rare cases, the NHL, at age 18.

Although the program is restricted to 44-46 players a year, there are an additional 10-20 players who benefit throughout the season as well. "We have injuries or add players for specific tournaments at times, so we always have extra players who gain from the program even for a short period," Monaghan explained.

The program is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the centre of the hockey universe in the United States in many respects. It's a short flight or bus ride to many states where the teams will play their games, and it's a great small city of about 100,000 with an excellent hospital. Players are billeted and don't stay in dorms, a conscious decision on the part of USA Hockey to ensure the kids live in a home environment with local families.

The daily lives of the players is nothing if not intense. A typical day sees them get up at 6:30-7:00am and be in school by 7:30am for six hours of classes. After lunch, they are on the ice at about 3:00pm for two hours, then they go to the gym or do off-ice training for another hour. They're home by 6:00pm for dinner and do their homework in the evening.



CAN THEY REPEAT ON HOME ICE? John Carlsson (centre) gave the U.S. its second World U20 title in Saskatoon last year. At home in Buffalo, Team USA has a perfect opportunity for a repeat. But

"It's a busy day and a hard place to be," Monaghan admits. "It's definitely not for everybody."

■ ■ On paper and in hockey history, the program has been a major success for American hockey. The team has consistently done well at the junior events in the last decade, and as we head into the U20 in Buffalo, the U.S. is reigning U20 and U18 champions. For the program in general, however, success is measured differently.

"If a player has a successful experience in Ann Arbor, I think he leaves with three or four areas of development," Monaghan explains. "First, he has to have grown as a player. Second, he has to be an excellent student. We stress the importance of academics every day. And, he has to have developed as a person. He has to understand life is a balance, no matter how great or talented a hockey player he may be. If a player has all these things going for him when he leaves, we believe the program has been a success."

led NTDP

Developing medal winners

Prior to 1996, the U20s won only two medals, bronze in 1986 and 1992; since then have won 2 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze. men's U18 national teams have won medals in eight of the last nine years, 5 gold.



Photo: Jeff Winnick / IHHOF-IHF images

U20 title by scoring the dramatic overtime goal against Canada in Canada can count on plenty of fan support in the border town.

There is a final level of success to measure the program by, and that is senior international experience. Of course, it's easy for a player to say yes to his country when he's asked to play at the Olympics, but a far more demanding task to commit to the World Championship at the end of a long season.

By teaching kids at formidable ages about the importance of playing for their country, USA Hockey has seen a noticeable improvement in the teams it sends to the Worlds every year.

"There's no question the NTDP has had a positive effect in this regard," Monaghan agrees. "It's been a gradual effect, but we think kids who understand USA Hockey through the NTDP are more likely to go than a generation ago."

Landeskog - is he the missing link to gold?

By Szymon Szemberg

Will Gabriel Landeskog be the difference between Sweden getting close and finally getting there at the IIHF World U20 Championship?

Quick fact: Despite producing some of the world's best players, Sweden has not won the World U20 tournament since 1981. Nobody has a really good answer to why, but several observers would suggest that the Swedes, despite being fundamentally sound as anyone, are too soft. At least, at that stage of their development (under 20).

Fast forward to 2010. Gabriel Landeskog has just been named captain of the Ontario Hockey League's Kitchener Rangers. That's in his second year with the club and the announcement came even before the Stockholm-born power forward turned 18.

Landeskog dominates the league (20 goals, 16 assists in 24 games by late November) and he topped the list of NHL draft-eligible players from the OHL in the rankings released in mid-November.

Why did you turn down a chance to play in the Swedish pro league and choose Kitchener?

To play junior hockey in Canada had for some time been a dream of mine. I visited Kitchener during the summer of 2009 and I was impressed with the club and the program. I know many have questioned this path, but I wanted to do what I felt was the best for my career.

What's the best about playing junior in Canada?

You play 68 games as opposed to 30-40 in the Swedish junior league. Everything is very professionally organized, on and off the ice. The road trips prepare you for what life will be in the NHL.

How important is it to position yourself for the draft? Is it important for you to be selected early?

There is no question that your draft number is a measuring stick of how you are valued as a prospect. But I am perfectly aware that there are players who were drafted in latter rounds and still became great players. The most important thing is to be drafted by a good organization.

Do you have a favourite NHL club?

Detroit and Ottawa. The Red Wings have a winning mentality and Swedes have traditionally done well there. Ottawa was the place where I saw my first NHL game when I was a kid and I have always admired Daniel Alfredsson - what a competitor!

Everybody is raving about how well you have adopted to the North American game and lifestyle and that your English is better than some of your Canadian teammates'. Comment?



Photo: Dan Hamilton

WEARING THE C: Gabriel Landeskog is the Kitchener Rangers' goal scoring leader.

Again, to play in Canada has always been a dream, so I was always focused during English classes. Often when I watched English TV-programs I tried not to read the subtitles. So I was well prepared when I got to Kitchener.

What are your thoughts leading up to the World U20s in Buffalo? Will it be difficult to focus on your game knowing that all scouts and many GMs sit there and watch every move?

The success of the team is the most important thing. If you contribute to success the other stuff takes care of itself. Knowing that there are scouts in the stands when I play is nothing new to me.

Despite producing great talent, Sweden has not won World Juniors gold since 1981. Do you have a theory why it is like that?

It's difficult to say. One reason could be that the Swedish junior league is not good enough and the players who already play in any of top leagues don't get enough playing time. Swedes usually develop a little slower than North Americans.

How does this year's Swedish junior team measure up against the top rivals?

We have a strong team. The age group 1991 is exceptional. So even though we won't have the players who already are in the NHL - Magnus Pääjärvi, Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Jacob Josefson or Robin Lehner - we will still have a good team. You must name Canada and the USA as favourites, but I like our chances.

What qualities will you add?

I hope to be able to contribute with experience from playing on small rinks and against North Americans basically every day. Some grit, some toughness. The qualities which are maybe not considered as typically Swedish.

He is physical, good in front of the net and he has a very good shot. Gabriel is a leader and a real competitor. U20 national team coach Roger Rönnberg on Landeskog



For the full interview, go to IIHF.com/Landeskog

Historic weekend at Hockey Hall of Fame

International Zone

■ ■ The Hockey Hall of Fame's 2010 Induction Weekend started on the afternoon of Friday, November 5, 2010, with several important unveilings, most notably the re-opening of the Hall's international zone after another significant expansion.

■ ■ The added displays and exhibit space for international hockey reflect the modern hockey world in which the stars of the NHL are also the stars of the international game. The two key elements to the new area are now a large display dedicated to the Top 100 greatest moments of all time announced by the IIHF in its centennial year of 2008, and the Triple Gold Club, which currently boasts 24 players and one coach. In the former, visitors can see memorabilia associated with the Miracle On Ice (the top story of all time), the Summit Series (number two), and many other of the most memorable events in hockey's international history dating to 1908 and the founding of the Ligue Internationale de Hockey sur Glace (precursor of the IIHF).

■ ■ The Triple Gold Club display focuses on those special players who have won Olympic gold, World Championship gold, and the Stanley Cup. The new zone also includes artifacts from the 69 member nations of the IIHF and a wall dedicated to the honoured members of the IIHF Hall of Fame. (AP)

Shootout history in Germany

The game EHC München vs. Straubing Tigers (4-5) of the German top league DEL ended with a shootout that is believed to have set a new world record in penalty shots in a top-level hockey game.



HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES: *Éric Meloche scores the GWG for Straubing against München goalie Sebastien Elwing with the 41st penalty shot. Photo: Harald Schindler*

The 4,999 spectators at Munich's Olympic Ice Rink got much action for their money. The home squad led 2-0 in the Bavarian derby, but Straubing turned the game around and led 4-3 with three minutes to play in regulation time, when Eric Schneider got the equalizer.

The ensuing game-winning shot competition was a tit-for-tat event with the two netminders, Sebastien Elwing for München and Dimitri Pätzold for Straubing, being in great shape. It went over 21 rounds and 42 shots with only nine goals scored until Éric Meloche netted the game winner and fellow Quebecer Stéphane Julien couldn't react again. Meloche's game-worn jersey and the stick will be shipped to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

In the NHL a New York Rangers vs. Washington Capitals game in 2005 set the shootout record of 15 rounds. In the now defunct minor league IHL, a game in 1991 between Milwaukee and Peoria also went over 21 rounds. The teams still exist and play in the AHL. (MM)



Photo: Andrew Podnieks

BURKE'S BOYS: *IIHF Historical Committee poses with Leaf GM Brian Burke (back row, far right) on team bench in front \$300 a piece Platinum Seats at the ACC. Front row, from left: Art Berglund, Tony Rossi, Jan-Ake Edvinsson and Seva Kukushkin. Back row, from left: Kimmo Leinonen, Szymon Szemberg, Christian Hofstetter and the host.*

Angela James, Cammi Granato enter Hockey Hall of Fame

■ ■ The Hockey Hall of Fame added five new members to its pantheon of greats on November 8. Canada's Angela James and Cammi Granato of the United States became the first women to join the ranks of male inductees two years after they were inducted into the IIHF's Hall of Fame. They were joined by 608-goal scorer Dino Ciccarelli and builders Jimmy Devellano and "Doc" Seaman.

■ ■ The sold-out gala at the hall itself was flush with excitement over the first-time honours bestowed upon women. James played at the 1987 World Women's Championship in Toronto, a highly successful invitational event that led to the IIHF's formal acceptance of the tournament into its roster of programs three years later. She led Canada to gold medals in each of the first four tournaments. That first was memorable for the huge crowd in Ottawa to watch the Canada-U.S. finals as well as for Canada's pink sweaters. James was an offensive star, both skilled and physical, a leader on ice and off.

■ ■ During her speech, she cut right to the heart of the matter. "The Hockey Hall of Fame has been a tremendous club," she began, "but until now it's been made up of only boys. It needs some girls now."

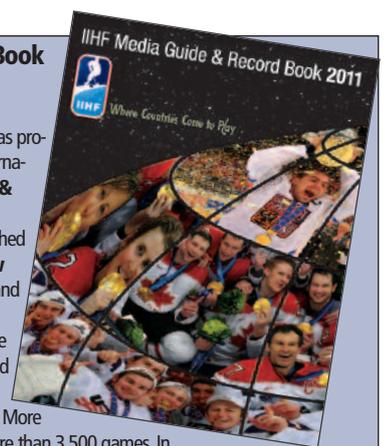
Granato captained her American team to gold at the initial Olympic participation for women, in Nagano in 1998, as well as the 2005 World Women's Championship. She also played in every top event from 1990 to 2005, winning silver every other year.

■ ■ Her speech was chock full of significant anecdotes, one in particular about playing a tournament in Kitchener, Ontario, where girls weren't allowed. "I registered using the name Carl Granato," she said, "but my billets supported me and helped me play, and for that I'm forever grateful."

Both women spoke of the significance of female players being inducted, and James, looking to the future, finished her speech by asking, "Who's next?" (AP)

Massive new Guide & Record Book

For the first time in its 102-year history, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has produced a book detailing every aspect of international hockey. The **Official Media Guide & Record Book 2011** is 604 pages of facts, stats, scores, and records, never been published anywhere previously. Produced by **Andrew Podnieks**, this book includes every score and every player for every top level tournament ever played in international hockey, from the Olympics to World Championships (men and women) to World U20 (Junior) Championships, to U18 (men and women). More than 12,000 players are included as are more than 3,500 games. In addition, records for every tournament are published for the first time, and all 69 member federations are profiled. There is, quite simply, no book like it.



IIHF historians bond with Burke

■ ■ The IIHF's Historical Committee met in Toronto during the Hockey Hall of Fame's Induction Weekend in November where it had two days of discussions regarding its own hall of fame. The newest inductees for 2011 were decided upon (to be announced later in 2010) after which the group was treated to a special tour of the Air Canada Centre by none other than Leafs' general manager Brian Burke.

■ ■ The tour included stops in the palatial dressing room and a trip to the team's players' bench where a group photo was taken. Burke then asked the committee members to turn around, where he explained that the Platinum seats sold for \$300 each, the most expensive hockey ticket in the world. The Leafs generate \$1.7 million in ticket sales for every home game.

■ ■ Following the tour, everyone sat at player stalls in the dressing room again and enjoyed a Q & A session with Burke on the state of the game, the league, and international hockey. In discussing the Hockey Summit from August 2010, he said he learned the most from Slava Lener's explanation of how the NHL is not allowing European prospects enough time to develop in their native countries.

■ ■ As a result, he now favours the four-year rule for signing drafted European players, believing this will mean Europeans can take longer to develop and come to the NHL as game-ready pros rather than teenage experiments. Burke also said the Leafs were resoundingly supportive of women's hockey. (SZ)



Photos from the Hall of Fame weekend by: HHOF-IIHF Images, Doug MacLellan, Matthew Manor, AJ Messier, Steve Poirier, Dave Sandford

IIHF RESULT SUMMARY

Continental Cup First Round

Group A - Jaca, Spain Sep. 24-26

CH Jaca - Bat Yam	15 - 0	(2-0, 7-0, 6-0)
Bat Yam - Ankara University	3 - 8	(0-3, 1-3, 2-2)
Ankara University - CH Jaca	1 - 7	(1-4, 0-1, 0-2)
CH Jaca	2 2 0 0 0	22 - 1 6
Ankara University	2 1 0 0 1	9-10 3
Bat Yam	2 0 0 0 2	3-23 3

CH Jaca (ESP) is qualified for the CC second round.

Note: Energija Elektrenai (Lithuania) couldn't travel to Spain due to insolvency of the country's air carrier the same week.

Continental Cup Second Round

Group B - Tilburg, Netherlands Oct. 22-24

Cracovia Krakow - Kohtla-Järve	9 - 1	(1-0, 4-0, 4-1)
Tilburg Trappers - CH Jaca	8 - 2	(2-1, 3-0, 3-1)
Cracovia Krakow - CH Jaca	10 - 1	(2-0, 5-1, 3-0)
Kohtla-Järve - Tilburg Trappers	7 - 4	(5-1, 0-2, 2-1)
Tilburg Trappers - Cracovia Krakow	4 - 5	(0-0, 2-1, 2-4)
CH Jaca - Kohtla-Järve	3 - 5	(2-1, 0-2, 1-2)

Cracovia Krakow	3 3 0 0 0	24 - 6 9
Kohtla-Järve	3 2 0 0 1	13-16 6
Tilburg Trappers	3 1 0 0 2	16-14 3
CH Jaca	3 0 0 0 3	6-23 0

Cracovia Krakow (POL) is qualified for the CC third round.

Group C - Maribor, Slovenia Oct. 22-24

Karaganda - Dunaujvaros	7 - 0	(3-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Maribor - Miercurea Ciuc	3 - 8	(1-3, 1-4, 1-1)
Miercurea Ciuc - Karaganda	4 - 3	(3-2, 0-0, 1-1)
Dunaujvaros - Maribor	2 - 3	(2-2, 0-0, 0-1)
Dunaujvaros - Miercurea Ciuc	5 - 2	(1-0, 1-0, 3-2)
Maribor - Karaganda	2 - 6	(0-2, 2-0, 0-2)

Miercurea Ciuc	3 3 0 0 0	14-11 9
Karaganda	3 2 0 0 1	16 - 6 6
Maribor	3 1 0 0 2	8-16 3
Dunaujvaros	3 0 0 0 3	7-12 0

Miercurea Ciuc (ROU) is qualified for the CC third round.

Continental Cup Third Round

Group D - Rouen, France Nov. 26-28

Coventry Blaze - Liepaja	6 - 1	(3-0, 3-0, 0-1)
Rouen Dragons - Cracovia Krakow	1 - 2	(0-1, 1-0, 0-0) OT
Cracovia Krakow - Coventry Blaze	1 - 6	(0-1, 1-3, 0-2)
Liepaja - Rouen Dragons	1 - 4	(1-1, 0-3, 0-0)
Cracovia Krakow - Liepaja	7 - 5	(3-0, 4-2, 0-3)
Rouen Dragons - Cracovia Krakow	7 - 3	(3-2, 3-1, 1-0)

Rouen Dragons	3 2 0 1 0	13-10 7
Coventry Blaze	3 2 0 0 1	12- 6 6
Cracovia Krakow	3 1 1 0 1	7 - 8 5
Liepajas Metalurgs	3 0 0 0 3	7-15 0

The Rouen Dragons (FRA) are qualified for the CC Super Final.

Group E - Asiago, Italy Nov. 26-28

SønderjyskE - Miercurea Ciuc	5 - 3	(1-1, 4-1, 0-1)
Asiago - Sokil Kyiv	4 - 3	(1-0, 2-1, 0-2) PS
Sokil Kyiv - SønderjyskE	2 - 3	(0-0, 2-1, 0-2)
Asiago - Miercurea Ciuc	6 - 1	(3-0, 1-0, 2-1)
Miercurea Ciuc - Sokil Kyiv	4 - 7	(1-2, 0-3, 3-2)
SønderjyskE - Asiago	4 - 3	(0-1, 1-0, 2-2) PS

SønderjyskE	3 2 1 0 0	12- 8 8
Asiago	3 1 1 1 0	13- 8 6
Sokil Kyiv	3 1 0 1 1	12-11 4
Miercurea Ciuc	3 0 0 0 3	8-18 0

SønderjyskE Vojens (DEN) is qualified for the CC Super Final.

Note: The Romanian champion that has played as SC Miercurea Ciuc in IIHF events until now uses a new name domestically: HSC Csiksztereda. Csiksztereda is the Hungarian name of the city that has a Hungarian-speaking majority, while ethnic Romanians call the city Miercurea Ciuc.

Continental Cup Super Final

Group F - Minsk, Belarus Jan. 14-16

Jan. 14	Red Bull Salzburg - Rouen Dragons	15:00
Jan. 14	Yunost Minsk - SønderjyskE Vojens	19:00
Jan. 15	Rouen Dragons - Yunost Minsk	15:00
Jan. 15	Red Bull Salzburg - SønderjyskE Vojens	19:00
Jan. 16	SønderjyskE Vojens - Rouen Dragons	15:00
Jan. 16	Yunost Minsk - Red Bull Salzburg	19:00

InLine Hockey Worlds Qualification

Namibia - South Africa	2 - 3	(0-1, 0-2, 1-0, 1-0)
Namibia - South Africa	3 - 4	(1-0, 1-0, 0-3, 1-1)

New Zealand and South Africa will play in Division I in 2011.

European Women's CC First Round

Group A - Bolzano, Italy Oct. 29-31

HC Lugano - Slough Phantoms	10 - 1	(4-0, 2-1, 4-0)
Bolzano - Valladolid	5 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Valladolid - HC Lugano	0 - 16	(0-11, 0-5, 0-0)
Slough Phantoms - Bolzano	1 - 3	(1-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Slough Phantoms - Valladolid	5 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 3-0)
Bolzano - HC Lugano	0 - 5	(0-3, 0-2, 0-0)

HC Lugano	3 3 0 0 0	31 - 1 9
Bolzano Eagles	3 2 0 0 1	8 - 6 6
Slough Phantoms	3 1 0 0 2	7-13 3
Valladolid Panteras	3 0 0 0 3	0-26 0

HC Lugano (SUI) is qualified for the EWCC second round.

Group B - Ankara, Turkey Oct. 29-31

Aisulu Almaty - Grenoble	4 - 0	(1-0, 3-0, 0-0)
Mil. Ankara - Maribor	5 - 7	(1-2, 1-2, 3-3)
Aisulu Almaty - Maribor	16 - 0	(5-0, 5-0, 6-0)
Mil. Ankara - Grenoble	0 - 10	(0-3, 0-1, 0-6)
Grenoble - Maribor	7 - 2	(3-0, 3-1, 1-1)
Aisulu Almaty - Mil. Ankara	15 - 0	(6-0, 3-0, 6-0)

Aisulu Almaty	3 3 0 0 0	35 - 0 9
Grenoble	3 2 0 0 1	17 - 6 6
Terme Maribor	3 1 0 0 2	9-28 3
Milenyum Ankara	3 0 0 0 3	5-32 0

Aisulu Almaty (KAZ) is qualified for the EWCC second round.

Group C - Jelgava, Latvia Oct. 29-31

Herlev Hornets - Vålerenga Oslo	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-2, 0-0)
Laima Riga - Polonia Bytom	8 - 1	(5-0, 1-1, 2-0)
Vålerenga Oslo - Polonia Bytom	8 - 4	(3-2, 3-1, 2-1)
Laima Riga - Herlev Hornets	0 - 6	(0-2, 0-0, 0-4)
Polonia Bytom - Herlev Hornets	5 - 15	(0-7, 3-5, 2-3)
Vålerenga Oslo - Laima Riga	2 - 1	(0-1, 2-0, 0-0)

Vålerenga Oslo	3 3 0 0 0	13 - 5 9
Herlev Hornets	3 2 0 0 1	21 - 8 6
Laima Riga	3 1 0 0 2	9 - 9 3
Polonia Bytom	3 0 0 0 3	10-31 0

Vålerenga Oslo (NOR) is qualified for the EWCC second round.

Group D - St. Pölten, Austria Oct. 29-31

Spisska Nova Ves - Miercurea Ciuc	12 - 1	(1-1, 5-0, 6-0)
Sabres Vienna - UTE Budapest	17 - 0	(5-0, 3-0, 9-0)
UTE Budapest - Miercurea Ciuc	6 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 3-0)
Sabres Vienna - Spisska Nova Ves	11 - 0	(2-0, 4-0, 5-0)
Spisska Nova Ves - UTE Budapest	3 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 2-1)
Miercurea Ciuc - Sabres Vienna	0 - 15	(0-8, 0-4, 0-3)

Sabres Vienna	3 3 0 0 0	43 - 0 9
Spisska Nova Ves	3 2 0 0 1	15-13 6
UTE Budapest	3 1 0 0 2	7-20 3
Miercurea Ciuc	3 0 0 0 3	1-33 0

The Sabres Vienna (AUT) are qualified for the EWCC second round.

European Women's CC Second Round

Group E - Slany, Czech Republic Dec. 3-5

HC Lugano - Sabres Vienna	8 - 3	(3-1, 3-1, 2-1)
SKIF Nizhni N. - Slavia Prague	4 - 3	(1-0, 0-2, 2-1) PS
SKIF Nizhni N. - HC Lugano	4 - 5	(0-2, 3-1, 1-1) OT
Slavia Prague - Sabres Vienna	6 - 3	(2-0, 0-2, 4-1)
Sabres Vienna - SKIF Nizhni N.	1 - 8	(0-3, 1-3, 0-2)
HC Lugano - Slavia Prague	5 - 3	(1-1, 2-0, 2-2)

HC Lugano	3 2 1 0 0	18 - 10 8
SKIF Nizhni Novg.	3 1 1 1 0	16 - 9 6
Slavia Prague	3 1 0 1 1	12 - 12 4
Sabres Vienna	3 0 0 0 3	7-22 0

HC Lugano (SUI) & SKIF Nizhni Novgorod (RUS) are qualified for the EWCC Finals.

Group F - Lohja, Finland Dec. 3-5

Ilves Tampere - OSC Berlin	2 - 1	(0-0, 2-0, 0-1)
Aisulu Almaty - Vålerenga Oslo	1 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Ilves Tampere - Aisulu Almaty	1 - 3	(1-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Vålerenga Oslo - OSC Berlin	1 - 5	(0-3, 1-1, 0-1)
OSC Berlin - Aisulu Almaty	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-0, 0-3)
Vålerenga Oslo - Ilves Tampere	1 - 4	(0-0, 0-2, 1-2)

Aisulu Almaty	3 3 0 0 0	7 - 1 9
Ilves Tampere	3 2 0 0 1	7 - 5 6
OSC Berlin	3 1 0 0 2	6 - 6 3
Vålerenga Oslo	3 0 0 0 3	2-10 0

Aisulu Almaty (KAZ) & Ilves Tampere (FIN) are qualified for the EWCC Finals.

European Women's CC Final

The final tournament will be staged Feb. 25-27 with the best two teams of each second-round group. Venue to be determined.

Women's Challenge Cup of Asia

Nikko, Japan Nov. 11-14

Preliminary Round

Japan - Korea	12 - 0	(5-0, 6-0, 1-0)
China - Korea	7 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 4-0)
China - Japan	2 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 0-1) PS

China	3 1 1 0 0	9 - 1 5
Japan	3 1 0 1 0	13 - 2 4
Korea	3 0 0 0 2	0-19 0

Gold Medal Game

China - Japan	1 - 3	(0-1, 1-0, 0-2)
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World U20 Championship

Top Division in Buffalo & Niagara, USA, Dec. 26 - Jan. 5

Group A: USA, Switzerland, Finland, Slovakia, Germany.
Group B: Canada, Sweden, Russia, Czech Republic, Norway.

Division I Group A in Bobruisk, Belarus, Dec. 13-19

Latvia, Belarus, Italy, Ukraine, Japan, Great Britain.

Division I Group B in Bled, Slovenia, Dec. 12-18

Austria, Denmark, Slovenia, Kazakhstan, Croatia, Lithuania.

Division II Group A in Tallinn, Estonia, Dec. 13-19

France, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Estonia, Iceland.

Division II Group B in Miercurea Ciuc, Romania, Dec. 13-19

Poland, Hungary, Romania, Korea, China, Australia.

Division III in Mexico City, Mexico, Jan. 9-18

Serbia, Mexico, DPR Korea, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, Turkey, Bulgaria.

World Women's U18 Championship

Top Division in Stockholm, Sweden, Jan. 1-8

Group A: Canada, Germany, Finland, Switzerland.

Group B: USA, Sweden, Japan, Czech Republic.



GO FOR THE PUCK: The Japanese women's national team defeats Olympic participant China for the Asian title. Photo: Maki Ikeda



SHOWDOWN IN ASIAGO: SønderjyskE's Jason Guerriero shoots against Asiago goalie Daniel Bellissimo. Photo: Paolo Basso

NOVEMBER INTERNATIONAL BREAK

MEN'S EVENTS

Euro Hockey Tour - Karjala-turnaus

Helsinki, Finland November 11-14

Czech Republic - Sweden *	3-4	(2-1, 0-0, 1-3)
Russia - Finland	1-0	(0-0, 0-0, 1-0)
Sweden - Russia	3-2	(2-1, 1-1, 0-0)
Finland - Czech Republic	5-0	(1-0, 3-0, 1-0)
Czech Republic - Russia	1-3	(1-2, 0-0, 0-1)
Finland - Sweden	4-1	(0-0, 0-1, 4-0)

* in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic

1. Finland 6, 2. Russia 6, 3. Sweden 6, 4. Czech Republic 0.

Deutschland Cup

Munich, Germany November 12-14

Switzerland - Slovakia	2-0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Germany - Canada	4-3	(3-0, 1-3, 0-0)
Slovakia - Germany	3-2	(1-0, 1-0, 0-2) OT
Switzerland - Canada	2-1	(1-0, 0-1, 0-0) OT
Canada - Slovakia	3-2	(1-1, 1-0, 0-1) PS
Germany - Switzerland	2-1	(0-0, 1-1, 1-0)

1. Germany 7, 2. Switzerland 5, 3. Canada 3, 4. Slovakia 3.

Euro Ice Hockey Challenge - Polesie Cup

Gomel, Belarus November 11-13

Norway - Slovenia	3-1	(1-0, 0-0, 2-1)
Belarus - Denmark	2-4	(1-1, 0-3, 1-0)
Norway - Denmark	2-3	(0-1, 1-0, 1-1) PS
Slovenia - Belarus	2-8	(0-2, 1-5, 1-1)
Denmark - Slovenia	3-2	(0-0, 0-1, 2-1) PS
Belarus - Norway	5-2	(1-1, 3-0, 1-1)

1. Denmark 7, 2. Belarus 6, 3. Norway 4, 4. Slovenia 1.

Euro Ice Hockey Challenge

Sanok, Poland November 11-13

Russia B - Ukraine	7-0	(2-0, 1-0, 4-0)
Poland - Netherlands	10-1	(3-0, 2-1, 5-0)
Russia B - Netherlands	9-1	(3-0, 2-0, 4-1)
Poland - Ukraine	6-3	(1-0, 5-1, 0-2)
Ukraine - Netherlands	3-0	(2-0, 1-0, 0-0)
Poland - Russia B	2-6	(0-2, 0-2, 2-2)

1. Russia B 9, 2. Poland 6, 3. Ukraine 3, 4. Netherlands.

Euro Ice Hockey Challenge - Hoki Kupa

Szokesfehervar, Hungary November 12-14

Austria - France	4-3	(3-1, 0-2, 1-0)
Japan - Hungary	4-2	(1-0, 2-2, 1-0)
Austria - Japan	4-0	(2-0, 1-0, 1-0)
France - Hungary	2-5	(2-2, 0-3, 0-0)
Japan - France	2-4	(0-1, 1-2, 1-1)
Hungary - Austria	1-3	(1-2, 0-0, 0-1)

1. Austria 9, 2. Hungary 3, 3. Japan 3, 4. France 3.

Euro Ice Hockey Challenge

Brasov, Romania November 12-14

Romania - Serbia	2-1	(0-0, 1-1, 1-0)
Croatia - Spain	6-1	(2-0, 3-1, 1-0)
Romania - Croatia	6-1	(2-1, 0-0, 4-0)
Spain - Serbia	6-4	(0-1, 3-1, 3-2)
Serbia - Croatia	0-7	(0-2, 0-2, 0-3)
Romania - Spain	4-0	(0-0, 4-0, 0-0)

1. Romania 9, 2. Croatia 6, 3. Spain 3, 4. Serbia 0.

JUNIOR EVENTS

U20 Tournaments

Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic November 12-14

Czech Republic - Russia *	6-3	(1-0, 2-3, 3-0)
Sweden - Finland	3-1	(0-0, 1-1, 2-0)
Russia - Sweden	2-6	(1-2, 0-3, 1-1)
Czech Republic - Finland	1-2	(0-1, 0-0, 1-1)
Finland - Russia	2-3	(0-3, 0-0, 2-0)
Czech Republic - Sweden	1-3	(0-1, 0-1, 1-1)

* in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic

1. Sweden 9, 2. Czech Republic 3, 3. Finland 3, 4. Russia 3.

Füssen, Germany November 11-13

1. Germany 9, 2. Slovakia 6, 3. Norway 3, 4. Switzerland U19 0.

Rødovre, Denmark November 9-13

1. Belarus 8, 2. Latvia 7, 3. Denmark 7, 4. Finland B 7, 5. Austria 1.

Courchevel, France November 11-13

1. Slovenia 8, 2. France 7, 3. Hungary 3, 4. Italy 0.

U18 Tournaments

Sundsvall, Sweden November 12-14

1. USA 8, 2. Finland 6, 3. Sweden 4, 4. Switzerland 0.
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Trnava, Slovakia November 11-13

1. Slovakia 7, 2. Germany 5, 3. Belarus 4, 4. Denmark 2.

Rødovre, Denmark November 9-13

1. Belarus 8, 2. Latvia 7, 3. Denmark 7, 4. Finland B 7, 5. Austria 1.

World Junior A Challenge (U18-U20)

Penticton, Canada November 8-14

Group A: 1. USA 6, 2. Canada East 3, 3. Sweden U19 0.
Group B: 1. Switzerland U20 7, 2. Canada West 4, 3. Russia U18 0.

Final Round

Russia U18 - Canada East (QF)	3-4	(0-1, 1-3, 2-0)
Sweden U19 - Canada West (QF)	2-3	(0-0, 2-2, 0-1)
Canada East - Switzerland U20 (SF)	4-2	(1-1, 2-0, 1-1)
Canada West - USA (SF)	1-5	(0-2, 1-2, 0-1)

Placement Games

Sweden U19 - Russia U18 (5th)	5-4	(2-1, 2-0, 1-3)
Canada West - Switzerland U20 (3rd)	3-8	(1-1, 1-1, 1-6)
Canada East - USA (1st)	4-6	(2-1, 2-2, 0-3)

WOMEN'S EVENTS

Four Nations Tournament

St. John's, Canada November 9-13

Finland - Sweden *	3-0	(0-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Canada - USA	2-3	(0-1, 2-1, 0-0) PS
Sweden - Canada *	1-8	(1-2, 0-3, 0-3)
USA - Finland	4-0	(2-0, 2-0, 0-0)
USA - Sweden	4-0	(1-0, 1-0, 2-0)
Canada - Finland	15-0	(3-0, 6-0, 6-0)

* in Clarenville, Canada

1. USA 8, 2. Canada 7, 3. Finland 3, 4. Sweden 0.

Placement Games

Sweden - Finland (3rd)	1-2	(0-2, 0-0, 1-0)
Canada - USA (1st)	3-2	(1-0, 1-2, 0-0) OT

Halloween Cup

Monthey, Switzerland November 12-14

Slovakia - Germany	1-3	(0-0, 1-2, 0-1)
Czech Republic - Switzerland	3-8	(1-2, 1-4, 1-2)
Germany - Czech Republic	5-2	(2-1, 2-1, 1-0)
Switzerland - Slovakia	1-2	(0-1, 0-0, 1-0) PS
Slovakia - Czech Republic	1-2	(0-0, 0-1, 1-1)
Switzerland - Germany	3-1	(0-1, 0-0, 3-0)

1. Switzerland 7, 2. Germany 6, 3. Czech Republic 3, 4. Slovakia 2.

Italy vs. Austria Series

Neumarkt, Italy November 13-14

Italy - Austria	1-4	(0-1, 1-1, 0-2)
Italy - Austria	1-2	(1-0, 0-0, 0-1) PS

Women's U18 Tournaments

Dmitrov, Russia November 5-7

Sweden - Germany	2-0
Russia - Finland	2-0
Finland - Sweden	3-0
Russia - Germany	5-2
Germany - Finland	0-1
Russia - Sweden	0-4

1. Sweden 6, 2. Finland 6, 3. Russia 6, 4. Germany 0.

Radenthein, Austria November 12-14

1. Austria 6, 2. Switzerland 3, 3. Norway 0.



Photo: Tobias Schlegel / hockeyfans.ch

For a full list of games, go to IIHF.com/novbreak

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COACHING PREMIERE OF A LEGEND: He won six Stanley Cups during his 25-year NHL career, along with three Canada Cups. Now, Hall of Famer Mark Messier has stepped into coaching. Team Canada at the Deutschland Cup in Munich was his first assignment. The selection of Canadian players from the German DEL league finished in third place. "It's very exciting to be this close to the game again and competing and having a chance to have some kind of impact on the game," Messier said. "It is fun and exciting and challenging."

The 49-year-old will also coach Canada at the 2010 Spengler Cup while the men's national team coach for the 2011 World Championship is yet to be determined.

For a full Messier interview from Munich, go to IIHF.com/Messier

"It's an opportunity no coach wouldn't want"

Hanlon looks forward to leading the 2011 Worlds' home team

By Martin Merk

■ ■ *After four World Championships with Belarus and the 2010 Worlds with Slovakia, Glen Hanlon is preparing the Slovak national team for one of the most important events in recent history as Slovakia will host the 2011 IIHF World Championship in Bratislava and Kosice, for the first time as an independent nation.*

The former NHL goalkeeper and Washington Capitals coach was put in charge of national team after Slovakia's surprising fourth-place finish at the Vancouver Olympics, replacing Jan Filc.

The Ice Times sat together with Hanlon after the team's first event of the year, the Deutschland Cup in Munich.

What are your conclusions after finishing in last place in Munich?

While the other coaches were looking for young players, we have to think which older players we want to keep as a generation change is coming. I want to give every player, who has played for the national team in the last few years, a fair chance.

In Munich we had a couple of young players, like defencemen Sersen and Mikus, and I was really happy with them and also with the young goaltenders, Hudacek and Konrad.

This kind of NHL competition and environment brings the best out of these young players and I hope it gives them confidence.

Were you surprised that some established players from the KHL didn't dominate?

It was indeed the Extraliga players who scored the goals. But I was very satisfied with Marcel Hossa, who also did the small things. He brings a level of intelligence into the game. If some veterans don't score in these games, it doesn't mean they won't in the future.

How has it been for you to live in Bratislava?

I love living in Bratislava. It's a nice city and I have everything I need. The federation and the people I work with treat me very well. With the World Championship coming up there's no better place and opportunity to be than in Bratislava.

Do you feel extraordinary pressure coaching the host nation of the next World Championship?

Fact File: Glen Hanlon

- Hometown: Brandon, Manitoba (CAN)
- Birthdate: 20th February 1957
- Career as a goalkeeper: Vancouver, St. Louis, NY Rangers, Detroit
13 years in the NHL, 477 NHL games
CHL rookie of the year & all-star team ('78)
- Coaching career: Six years assistant coach in Vancouver & Washington, head coach in Portland (AHL), Washington, Jokerit Helsinki and Dynamo Minsk
Four World Championships with Belarus (3 as head coach), one with Slovakia

I feel the excitement. I'm sure if you spoke to Uwe (Krupp) last year, he'd confirm it's an opportunity that no coach in the world wouldn't want, to be able to take a team in their own country.

What does your team need to do in order to improve from 2010?

We want to make sure in the preparation that our systems are just perfect, that we don't make any mistakes. In each tournament like the



POINTING THE WAY TO BRATISLAVA: Coaching the Slovak national team is both exciting and challenging for Glen Hanlon, who took over the team last spring. Photos: Jukka Rautio / HHOF-IIHF Images

Deutschland Cup, it comes down to power play and penalty kill, it comes down to good discipline, to be perfect without the puck.

When we become 100 per cent sure that we play the proper way no matter what the situation is, then we can start talking about if we're ready to win a medal.

Is it special for you, to be the first North American coach of the team?

I have a decent awareness of the space of the rink, the style of play, the level, the tolerance of penalties and all the things that go on with it.

The most important thing is you really embrace the players' culture, the food and do what you can to try to learn the language, as difficult as it is. Talk in terms of "we" in the country, and of "our" excitement, be part of the family.

Is there lots of talk among players about the Worlds on home ice?

Their focus right now is all with their (club) teams, especially the guys in the NHL. But I think for players that play in Europe there's a lot of talk about the World Championship.

What can you say about the rink that's being built in Bratislava? Will it be ready for the four nations' tournament in February?

From the outside it makes a lot of progress, and they feel very confident that the Skoda Cup will be played in Bratislava. All of the hockey structure will be ready, but probably not the luxury such as VIP boxes. If it won't be ready, it will be moved to Kosice.

Is it a concern for you that in the international breaks you always play the same teams such as Germany and Switzerland, while the Czechs, Finland, Russia and Sweden have their Euro Hockey Tour?

Right now we seem to have enough competition with Switzerland and Germany, so I'm not too concerned. I understand the economics and how things work with the Euro Hockey Tour. But in March and April in the next two years there will be some sort of interaction between them and the other countries.

We play Sweden and Finland next spring, which I think is good. I know as a coach that I love coming to Germany and I love going to Switzerland, and I would be disappointed if this wouldn't be part of our schedule. Their teams are so good, and so well coached. To me it has become kind of a rivalry.