



IceTimes

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The Olympics go east

PyeongChang 2018 Preview [>](#)

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From the IIHF President

Celebrating the game

By René Fasel

Every four years we are incredibly fortunate to gather together with our fellow colleagues and athletes from winter sport, in order to celebrate the passion that unites us all. The Winter Olympic Games are here!

We are very excited to begin the XXIII Olympiad in PyeongChang, Korea, beginning with the fact that for the first time ever we will be bringing top-level international ice hockey to this host country.

From the moment we granted Korea's men's and women's teams the right to automatic qualification at the 2015 IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Tenerife, the Korea Ice Hockey Association set itself to work preparing its program to compete at the Games.

The results we have seen on the way to PyeongChang have been encouraging. Not only will the Korean men's national team be participating in the Olympic Games, three months later

they will take to the ice at the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship for the first time in history. Full credit to the KIHA for their hard work, we hope that this will lead to future successes and to many more young Koreans picking up sticks and taking to the ice.

And the women's team? They will be making history and playing for more than just the result on the ice. Thanks to the efforts of the IOC, PO-COG, the KIHA, and the Ice Hockey Association of DPR Korea, for the first time ever a unified Korean ice hockey team will take to the ice in PyeongChang.

Ice Hockey is the ultimate team sport, and we hope that this joint effort between these two nations will help to promote peace and good relations. I would like to sincerely thank all the people involved in making this incredible cooperation happen. I would like in particular to thank the Korean women's team for supporting this initiative and working hard to integrate the North Koreans, especially on such short notice.

All in all, this sets up to be a very interesting Olympics! Ice Times has put together a preview with information on the men's and women's ice hockey events, the athletes competing, and some interesting facts and figures about Olympic ice hockey. You can read all about it starting on page 7.

Celebrating ice hockey is what 2018 is all about. We certainly got the new year started off right with an impressive organizational effort on the part of USA Hockey and Pegula Sports and Entertainment. This group worked hard not just to host the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship but also pull off an incredible outdoor game.

The atmosphere at New Era field perfectly fit the result, an exciting shootout victory for Team USA. Congratulations and thanks go out to all the staff who worked to bring this vision to a reality. Special thanks goes to the snow removal crew, who were absolute MVPs during the game!

We followed up the Juniors with a very successful women's U18 tournament in Dmitrov, Russia, where the organizers were happy to report a new European attendance record for this tournament!

Opening with a surprise opening win by the host team against Canada and closing with the first-ever appearance by a European team (Sweden) in the final, this tournament continues to progress well.

Whether it's men or women...Olympics or U18... ice hockey is our passion, and we are happy to celebrate this passion together in 2018!



News and Notes

IIHF

The IIHF has hired Adriaan Wijckmans as Junior Legal Counsel Assistant.



Wijckmans will be responsible for assisting IIHF Legal Counsel Ashley Ehlert.

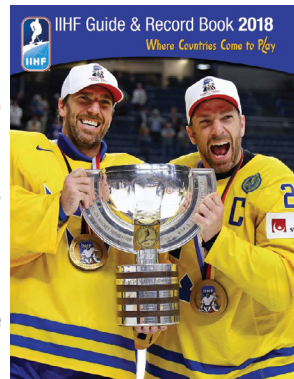
Born in Belgium, Wijckmans graduated with a Masters degree in International and European Law from the University of Brussels. Prior to joining the IIHF as a Legal Department intern in July 2017. He also completed a traineeship in the Sports Law Department for Altius in Brussels in the same year.

He is an avid football player and also has extensive experience as a football coach.

IIHF

The new 2018 IIHF Guide & Record Book is now available for hockey fans around the world as hardcopy or as a digital edition on a USB stick (8 GB) - inexpensive and easy to ship.

For fans around the world anticipating the upcoming World Championship events it has never been easier since the book is available through IIHF.com and on various Amazon market places in Europe and North America.



[Click here to order the IIHF Guide and Record Book](#)

RUSSIA

The 2018 U18 Women's World Championship held in Dmitrov, Russia was a success on and off the ice, with a Euro-record crowd, Europe's first ever finalist and a host of new stars.

22,653 fans came to the games in Dmitrov, the best ever attendance at any WW18 tournament played in Europe and the first time the average attendance at each game topped 1,000. The previous best, in 2012, saw 17,490 fans go to the games in Zlin / Petrova, Czech Republic; last year's tournament at the same venue was only the second in Europe to break the 10,000 barrier.

On the ice, of course, those fans saw Sweden become the first European nation to make it to a gold-medal game in this competition, and



only the second ever to play for gold in a major women's international tournament. And Russia had something to celebrate as well after beating Canada's girls for the first time ever.

[Click here to read more](#)

ISRAEL

Eliezer Sherbatov became the first ice hockey player from Israel to have played and scored in KHL.

The 26-year-old forward has played over 29 games, where he scored once and had three assists for Slovan Bratislava.

[Click here to read the full feature](#)

USA

It was a great day for hockey, but more to the point, it was a great day for outdoor hockey as the first-ever World Junior CHampionship outdoor game was held on 29 January in Buffalo, USA:

With 44,592 fans watching, the U.S. rallied from 3-1 down in the third to send the game to overtime, then scored the only two goals of the shootout to defeat Canada in an outdoor classic.

"The game, the crowd, everything was amazing," tournament top scorer and Buffalo native Casey Mittelstadt enthused. "The snow came down hard especially in the second period. At the same time it made it that much more fun. It was a little different than a normal game. It felt like you're back outside on the pond."



Obituaries

JIM JOHANNSON

Jim Johannson, longtime general manager and executive at USA Hockey, passed away in his sleep on 21 January. He was 53.

Johannson (pictured, on left) had recently selected the U.S. World Junior team for the 2018 U20 in Buffalo, New York and was preparing for the upcoming Olympics in Korea. Indeed, he was front and centre in Buffalo, leading the announcements of the men's and women's teams for PyeongChang on New Year's Day.

Admired and respected by everyone who knew him within the USA Hockey offices and equally personnel at national associations around the world, his loss has been deeply felt in the IIHF community.

"Jim was a close member of our hockey family, we truly are shocked at his passing," said IIHF President René Fasel. "His leadership both within USA Hockey and in the international ice hockey community is irreplaceable. Our sincerest condolences go to his family and all those who knew JJ."

Johannson—"JJ" to anyone who knew him well—joined USA Hockey in 2000 and quickly



rose through the ranks. He started as the manager of international activities and U.S. Olympic Committee relations and three years later moved up to Director of Hockey Operations.

Four years later, he was named assistant executive director of hockey operations, a position which involved selecting players and coaching staffs for all international competitions on the men's side, namely the Olympics, World Championships, World Junior Championships.

Under his leadership the American U20 program has grown to become a dominant force at the World Juniors, winning four gold and seven medals in the last 14 years.

"We are beyond shocked and profoundly saddened," said Pat Kelleher, executive director of USA Hockey.

"As accomplished as Jim was in hockey, he was the absolute best, most humble, kind and caring person you could ever hope to meet.

His impact on our sport and more importantly the people and players in our sport have been immeasurable. Our condolences go out to his entire family, but especially to his loving wife Abby and their young daughter Ellie."

Johannson came by his experience and savvy naturally. His father, Ken, played for the U.S. at the 1962 and 1966 World Championship, and Jim's brother, John, played at the 1981 World Juniors.

Jim, younger than John by three years, played at the 1983 and 1984 World Juniors and later played at the 1988 and 1992 Olympics as well as the 1992 World Championship.

He played for the prestigious University of Wisconsin team that won the 1983 NCAA championship before embarking on a pro career that included nine seasons in the IHL. In 1990-91, with the Indianapolis Ice, Johannson was given the IHL's Ironman Award for playing every game in the season while demonstrating excellence both offensively and defensively.

After retiring as a player in 1994, he became head coach of the Twin City Vulcans of the USHL before becoming the team's general manager.

Johannson leaves behind a wife, Abigail Tompkins and a daughter Ellie.

Together on the ice

United Korea Olympic team set to play

By Adam Steiss

For the first time in Olympic history, a combined ice hockey team of South and North Korean players will compete together in the Olympic Winter Games.

The unified Korea team was confirmed following a meeting between the IOC and a delegation of North and South Korean officials in Lausanne, Switzerland.

“This would have seemed impossible only a few weeks ago,” said IOC President Thomas Bach. “Today is a great moment for the Olympic Movement, because the Olympic spirit has brought us all together.”

“These great results could only be achieved with the enthusiastic cooperation of the Olympic Winter Sports Federations, in particular the International Ski Federation, the International Ice Hockey Federation, and the International Skating Union.”

For ice hockey, the IOC decided to allow the two National Olympic Committees, for the first time in their Olympic history, to form a unified team in



North and South Korean players got together for a group photo to mark the International Day for Peace and Sport in 2017.

a sport. This unified women's ice hockey team will be created by adding 12 players and one official from the NOC of the DPRK to the existing ROK Olympic squad of 23 players. With respect to fair play and the other competing teams, only 22 players will be entitled to play in each game, as is the rule for all participating teams.

“For the first time in their Olympic history, the two Korean teams will unite to compete as one team in a sport,” said Bach. “The unified women's ice hockey team will be represented by the Korean Unification Flag and will compete as Korea, with the anthem being the song “Arirang”

(a Korean folk song). This team will be a great symbol of the unifying power of Olympic sport.”

The head coach, responsible for the selection of the players, will be the ROK coach Sarah Murray. The head coach will at each match select at least three players from the NOC of the DPRK for the team.

The decision was welcomed by the International Ice Hockey Federation, which played a vital role to answer the sport-relevant questions regarding integration of the unified team into the women's Olympic ice hockey tournament.

“The inclusion of North Korea players to the South Korean women's ice hockey team marks a significant achievement for the Olympic ideal of peace through sport. It is an honour to have women's ice hockey, one of the fastest-growing team sports in the world, as the platform for this unprecedented initiative between these two countries,” said IIHF President René Fasel.

At the request of the IOC, the IIHF evaluated the best method for the integration of North Korean players into the South Korean teams and made recommendations to the IOC and the delegations.

On 25 January, a delegation of North Korean hockey players and officials crossed the border to the south and were welcomed by head coach Sarah Murray and Mongwon Chung, the President of the Korea Ice Hockey Association.

“This initiative by North and South Korea offers a tremendous opportunity to use ice hockey, one of the core team sports of the Olympic Winter Games, as a tool to foster create new connections and develop closer bonds across the Korea Peninsula. The IIHF will work with all the participating teams to make sure this endeavor for peace through sport is a success.”

Making the call

Coach's challenge in place for Olympics

By Adam Steiss

The IIHF has introduced its guidelines for the use of coach's challenges during the Men's and Women's Olympic ice hockey tournaments.

There are two situations possible for issuing the Coach's Challenge:

- 1) Off-side situation prior to the scoring of a goal
- 2) Interference on a goaltender

Only one Coach's Challenge per team per stoppage will be permitted.

If a goal is scored in the final minute of play in the 3rd period and at any point in Overtime (in any games), the IIHF Video Goal Judge Booth Operations can initiate the review of any scenario that would otherwise be subject to a Coach's Challenge.

The IIHF Office will implement at the 2018 OWG Men's and Women's Hockey Tournaments technology (either a handheld tablet or a television or computer monitor) that will allow On-ice Offi-



Coaches can request that certain officiating decisions, such as goals scored on a missed offside play, be reviewed via video.

cials, in conjunction with the IIHF Video Goal Judge Booth Operations (IIHF Referee Supervisor and Operators), to review replays if, and only to extent, a formal Coach's Challenge has been initiated. To the extent practical, the replays made available to the Game Officials on the ice will be the same replays that are being utilized by the IIHF VGJ Booth Operations.

A Coach's Challenge should be initiated by the Head Coach of the respective team by direct verbal notification to the Referee on the ice. Once a Coach's Challenge has been initiated

by the Head Coach, the Referee (or Linesman) responsible for the call on the ice will immediately establish contact with the IIHF VGJ Booth Operations via headset and will inquire and discuss with the IIHF Referee Supervisor, prior to the Referee (or Linesman) examining any video, the following: a) the Referee's (or Linesman's) "final" call on the ice; and (b) what the Referee (or Linesman) observed on the play.

The on-ice call will then be reviewed simultaneously by the appropriate On-Ice Officials at ice level and by the IIHF VGJ Booth Ope-

rations using any and all replays at their disposal. After reviewing the play and consulting with the IIHF VGJ Booth Operations, the appropriate On-Ice Officials will then make the "final" decision on whether to uphold or overturn the original call on the ice. Once the decision is made, the Referee will inform the Official Scorekeeper and will then make the announcement from the ice.

A Coach's Challenge initiated by the team should be based on the information provided from the coaching staff taking into consideration and using the technology in accordance with the IIHF Rule 26 – Teams Officials and Technology.

The Video Review mechanism triggered by the Coach's Challenge is intended to be extremely narrow in scope and the original call on the ice is to be overturned if, and only if, a determination is made that the original call on the ice was not correct. If a review is not conclusive and/or there is any doubt whatsoever as to whether the call on the ice was correct, the original call on the ice will be confirmed.

If during the issuing of the Coach's Challenge it become impossible to operate it due to technical problems, then the call on the ice stays, the Coach's Challenge request is canceled and the team remains its time-out and no penalty is assessed.

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PyeongChang 2018 Preview

It's almost time for the XXIII Olympic Winter Games! Ice Times takes you through some of the interesting notes about the men's and women's ice hockey tournament.

By Lucas Aykroyd



Two major ice hockey tournaments will form part of the list of 102 events that form the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, Korea.

2018 is the first time Olympic hockey has come to Korea. Japan was the only previous Asian nation to host the Winter Olympics in 1972 (Sapporo) and 1998 (Nagano).

The men's and women's ice hockey events will take place in the 10,000-capacity Gangneung Ice Hockey Arena and the 6,000-capacity Kwandong Ice Hockey Arena. The ice hockey events open on 10 February with Japan-Sweden kicking off the women's tournament, which concludes on the 22nd with the gold medal game in Gangneung Arena.

The men's tournament begins a few days later on 14 February as Slovakia takes on the Olympic Athletes from Russia. The tournament closes on 25th with the gold medal game being the final event of PyeongChang 2018.

14 countries will be represented in the ice hockey events. Check out our tournament primer for facts on Olympic ice hockey, Korean hockey history, and the participating athletes.

FAST FACTS: Olympic ice hockey

From host nations to leading scorers to medal winners, here's what you need to know heading into PyeongChang.

-Since 1920, Canada is the all-time gold medal leader in Olympic men's hockey (nine), followed by the Soviet Union (seven). The U.S. and Sweden are tied for third place (two).

-After the U.S. took the inaugural women's gold in Nagano in 1998, Canada has won four straight Olympics. The only nation besides the U.S. or Canada to earn Olympic silver is Sweden (2006). Finland has the most bronze medals with two (1998, 2010).

-Six-time Olympian Teemu Selanne (Finland) is the all-time leading men's scorer with 43 points. Five-time Olympian Hayley Wickenheiser (Canada) leads all women with 51 points. Both played their final Winter Games in Sochi (2014).

-Six Russians share the record for most Olympic men's gold medals (three): Vitali Davydov, Anatoli Firsov, Andrei Khomutov, Viktor Kuzkin, Alexander Ragulin, and Vladislav Tretiak. Four Canadians share the women's record (four): Gillian Apps, Caroline Ouellette, Jayna Hefford, and Hayley Wickenheiser.

-In the last 20 years, Finland has been the most consistent men's medal threat, earning three bronzes (1998, 2010, 2014) and one silver (2006) at five Olympics.

-The only country to capture the Olympic men's and IIHF World Championship gold in the same year is Sweden. It won the 2006 Olympics in Turin and the World Championship in Riga.

-The Olympic men's final has been decided in extra time twice. In 1994 (Lillehammer), Peter Forsberg's shootout goal against Canada gave Sweden its first gold medal. In 2010 (Vancouver), Sidney Crosby's overtime winner lifted Canada to home-ice gold over the United States.

-Only one Olympic women's final has gone to overtime. Canada rallied from a 2-0 third-period deficit to stun the Americans 3-2 in Sochi on Marie-Philip Poulin's (pictured on right) 4-on-3 power-play goal.



Crash course in Korean ice hockey

Curious about the 2018 host nation's hockey history? You might be surprised to learn what a long tradition Korea has in this sport. Here are some key years to keep in mind.

1928

The first Korean ice hockey association is founded

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1930

Yonsei University becomes the first national champion

1953

Canadian soldiers play hockey on the Imjin River in Korea. The Imjin Hockey Classic is now an annual re-enactment of a historic hockey game played there to honour Korean War veterans

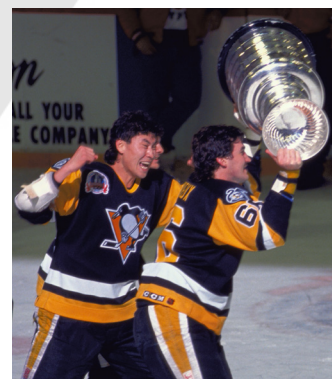


1960

Korea gains IIHF membership

1979

Korea finishes seventh in Barcelona at its first C-Pool World Championship



1991

Defenceman Jim Paek earns the first of his two Stanley Cups with the Pittsburgh Penguins

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2001

With five Division II wins in Madajahonda, Korea earns its first promotion to Division I

2003

Minnesota forward Richard Park gets big OT winner in Game 6 vs. Colorado in 2003 NHL playoff conference semi-finals

2004

Finnish legend Esa Tikkanen plays for Anyang Halla in Asia League

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2006

Anyang Halla's Dong Hwan Song becomes first Korean to lead Asia League with 31 goals



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2007

Seoul hosts a Division II tournament and Korea earns promotion to Division I again

2010

Anyang Halla wins Asia League title for the first time

[CLICK TO READ MORE...](#)

2011

On 6 July in Durban, PyeongChang, Korea wins IOC vote to host 2018 Olympic Winter Games



2016

Korea overtakes Japan as the top-ranked Asian nation for the first time

2017

Korea finishes second in the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A, becoming the first Asian team to play in the top division since Japan in 2004



January 2018

North and South Korea make historic agreement to ice unified Olympic women's team



February 2018

Korea to host men's and women's Olympic hockey (10-25 Feb.) in PyeongChang

May 2018

Korea to make its men's Worlds debut on 5 May vs. Finland in Denmark



Meet the players

From potential star teenagers to journeyed veterans, the 2018 Olympic ice hockey tournaments should have plenty of intriguing storylines.

Top teens

Men's tournament

With ice hockey getting more youth-oriented, some exciting teenage talents are getting ready to hit the ice at the 2018 Olympics.

Swedish defenceman Rasmus Dahlin, the projected

#1 overall pick in this year's NHL draft, will grab the spotlight at age 17. Finnish forward Eeli Tolvanen, who has tied Yevgeni Kuznetsov's record for most KHL goals by an 18-year-old (17), and defenceman Miro Heiskanen, who has shone as a two-way presence with HIFK Helsinki this season, will also be under the microscope.

History shows that U20 players can star at the Olympics. In 1972, Mark Howe played six games for the silver-medal Americans



From left: Heiskanen, Dahlin, and Tolvanen could be the young stars of PyeongChang.

in Sapporo when he was just 16. The son of the legendary Gordie Howe was a left wing for the Detroit Jr. Red Wings before he became a Hall of Fame defenceman with 929 career NHL games.

Eric Lindros was the most hotly anticipated prospect ever when he suited up for Canada at the 1992 Albertville Olympics. At 18, "The Big E" tied for fourth in tournament scoring as Dave King's team claimed silver, losing the final 3-1 to the Russians.

Lindros' unwillingness to join the Quebec Nordiques, who had drafted him first overall in 1991, prompted this quip from Russian assistant coach Igor Dmitriev: "If he doesn't like Quebec, then how about Moscow?"

The list goes on. At 19, Saku Koivu made his first mark as a senior-level IIHF superstar with seven

points for bronze-medal Finland at the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer. Yevgeni Malkin was also 19 when he got six points for a Russian team whose signature feat at the 2006 Olympics in Turin was ending Canada's Olympic reign with a 2-0 quarter-final win.

These are giant names, so if top teens like Dahlin or Tolvanen can even come close to emulating them in their Olympic debuts, it bodes well for the future.

The long road to the Games - Some of the pros hitting the ice in PyeongChang have taken a long road to get here. Here are a few of these true journeymen:

CANADA: Chay Genoway. After appearing in one NHL game for the Minnesota Wild in 2011-12, the 31-year-old Lada Togliatti defenceman has suited up for two AHL clubs and four KHL teams.



CZECH REPUBLIC: Michal Repik. The 29-year-old Slovan Bratislava forward got 72 games with the Florida Panthers over four seasons. Since 2012-13, he's also played in Finland, Switzerland, Russia, and his native country.



SLOVAKIA: Jan Laco. So far, the 36-year-old goalie, a second-time Olympian, has backstopped seven different pro clubs in Slovakia. Laco's KHL stops include Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and this season he's dressed for two Czech teams.



SLOVENIA: Ales Kranjc. The Jesenice-trained blueliner started his "European tour" in 2009-10 with Austria's Vienna Capitals. Since then, Kranjc, 36, has earned his living in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Germany, Russia, and Sweden. He's currently with Eispiraten Crimmitschau of the DEL2.

USA: Chris Bourque. At 31, Ray Bourque's son has played 703 AHL games with three clubs. The Hershey Bears left wing also earned 51 NHL games with Washington, Pittsburgh and Boston, plus stints in Russia and Switzerland.

Top teens

Women's tournament



On the women's side, you can find plenty of great examples of young players taking the mantle and performing well at the highest level of women's ice hockey competition: the Olympic Games.

Here's a look at the past top performers and who could step in their place in PYeong Chang.

Take Canada. In 1998, Hayley Wickenheiser, who'd become the all-time leading scorer in Winter Games history, tied for third in points (eight) at age 19 at the first women's tournament in Nagano. In 2010, Marie-Philip Poulin was just 18 when she tallied both goals in Canada's 2-0 gold-medal win over the U.S. in Vancouver.

Star American defenceman Angela Ruggerio, inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame last year, was just 18 when she won gold in Nagano. In her autobiography *Breaking the Ice*, the current Chairperson of the



Clockwise top right: Cayla Barnes, Fanuza Kadirova, Petra Nieminen, and Alina Muller could star in Korea.

IOC Athletes' Commission recalled: "On the road with this amazing group of women, sometimes I couldn't help but let my youth show through. Then again, what did they expect from a player who still read

Seventeen on the team bus while everyone else read *Cosmopolitan*? I was acting my age."

Meanwhile, goalie Kim Martin was 19 when she backstopped Sweden to an historic silver medal at the 2006 Olympics. Forward Pernilla Winberg was only 16 when she was credited with the shootout winner in the 3-2 semi-final upset over the Americans.

Also in Turin, Swiss netminder Florence Schelling shone at age 16 with a 2.40 GAA and 93.3 save percentage. And while Schelling was named tournament MVP eight years later in Sochi, her 15-year-old teammate Alina Muller led the way with two points when Switzerland made history by edging Sweden 4-3 in the bronze medal game.

That made the EHC Winterthur product the youngest Olympic hockey medal winner ever. Now 19, Muller can add to her teenage legacy this month, as she's on the Pyeong-Chang squad as well.

Finland's Petra Nieminen (18), the USA's Cayla Barnes (19), and the OAR team's Fanuza Kadirova (19) are among the other potential U20 Olympic heroes.

Without a doubt, the kids are all right.

The wily vets - The kids are good, but look out for these veteran Women's World Championship and Olympic female stars who could make noise in Korea:

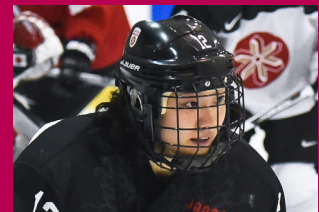
CANADA: Marie-Philip Poulin. Can't count out Poulin, who won Olympic gold in Vancouver and Sochi by scoring the game-winning goal in both finals. Still just aged 26, Pulin will be a force to be reckoned with.



FINLAND: Noora Raty. The Finnish goalie will compete in her fourth Olympics. She was a brick wall at the 2017 Women's Worlds, and in the past has held her own against the North American teams.



JAPAN. Chiho Osawa. Japan's captain and the team's top scorer in the 2018 Women's World Championship will be counted on to provide leadership and offensive production for Japan.



SWITZERLAND: Lara Stalder. Was the key to Switzerland's first -place finish in the final Olympic qualification tournament, finishing as the top point scorer with eight goals and four assists in three games.



USA: Amanda Kessel. After sitting out for nearly two whole seasons with concussion symptoms, Kessel is primed to be a major comeback story as USA chases its first Olympic gold since 1998.



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Canada juniors back on top

Ten things we learned from Buffalo 2018

By Lucas Aykroyd



The 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship concluded with a dramatic victory by Canada over Sweden.

Even with the Olympics and World Championship grabbing the attention of international hockey fans, there are lessons about the ten U20 nations in Buffalo that won't soon be forgotten.

1) Canada is truly clutch

From Paul Henderson in the 1972 Summit Series to Mario Lemieux in the 1987 Canada Cup to Jordan Eberle in the 2009 World Juniors, no nation does big late goals better than Canada. You can add Tyler Steenbergen to that hallowed pantheon after the Swift Current Broncos forward scored the gold-medal winner against Sweden with 1:40 left. It climaxed a genuine 22-man effort, as the Canadians topped the tournament in goal difference (39-11), power play (44.8 percent), and penalty-killing (88 percent), earning their first World Junior title since 2015.

2) Sweden missing killer instinct

Defenceman Rasmus Dahlin will likely emerge as the biggest superstar from these World Juniors. And with goalie Filip Gustavsson – a fellow tournament all-star – and snipers Elias Pettersson



Canada's Dillon Dube celebrates with the championship trophy after defeating Sweden 3-1 at the 2018 World Juniors.

and Lias Andersson, Sweden had ample talent to win gold. However, despite round-robin perfection, the Juniorkronorna continued their tradition of playoff futility versus Canada. Whether it's Peter Forsberg and Markus Naslund (1993) or Victor Hedman and Erik Karlsson (2009), the Swedes have settled for silver far too frequently. Their teamwork is superb. Their struggle to get somebody to step up when it's all on the line remains a systemic issue.

3) America's breeding great firepower

Kieffer Bellows led this tournament with nine goals, beating Jeremy Roenick's U.S. record (eight, 1989). He's the son of Brian Bellows, Best Forward at the 1989 Worlds and a 1993 Stanley Cup champion. Brady Tkachuk tied for third in World Junior points (nine). He's the son of Keith Tkachuk, a 1996 World Cup of Hockey winner and four-time Olympian. See the trend? Even setting aside genetics, few

teams boasted an attack as dazzling as USA Hockey's. World Junior scoring champ and Buffalo fan favorite Casey Mittelstadt (4-7-11) alone was worth the price of admission. Unsurprisingly, this squad medaled for a U.S. record-setting third straight year (2016 bronze, 2017 gold, 2018 bronze).

4) Czechs are (almost) back

Yes, the Czech Republic was outscored 16-5 in its last two playoff games en route to fourth place. But despite that dismal denouement, coach Filip Pesan and his boys should relish their accomplishments. A 5-4 tournament-opening upset of Russia and a 4-3 quarter-final shootout win over Finland were highlights. All-star Filip Zadina (seven goals) and playmaker Martin Necas (11 points) spearheaded the tournament's second-deadliest power play (36.3 percent). In 2020, the Czechs will host the World Juniors for the first time since 2008. Hearteningly, they appear on track to end a medal drought dating back to 2005's bronze.

5) Russia may need a new recipe

This wasn't vintage Valeri Bragin. 2018 marked the first time in six stints as head coach that he didn't lead Russia to a medal. Russia's streak of seven straight medals – the longest active World Junior streak – died with the 4-2 quar-

Matt Zambonin

ter-final loss to the host Americans. Under Bragin, the Russians often ride a roller coaster of lead changes: their last run to gold in Buffalo (2011) was a perfect illustration. But inconsistency undercut them in a mediocre 2018 preliminary round. Until the Russians learn to clamp down defensively and approach each game with the same mindset, the golden glories of their Soviet forebears will remain elusive.

6) Finland searching for identity

In the past, Finnish medal success hinged on all-star goaltending, from Tuukka Rask (2006, bronze) to Juuse Saros (2014, gold). Then in 2016, the powerhouse offence of Patrik Laine, Sebastian Aho, and Jesse Puljujarvi keyed Suomi to home-ice gold in Helsinki. But this year, all the sixth-place Finns had was their usual work ethic. Goalie Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen stumbled with a 3.13 GAA and 87.8 save percentage. And although his teammates fired the tournament's fifth-most shots (192) in just five games, their lack of creative flair yielded a paltry 12 goals. Similar offensive problems plagued the disastrous 2017 ninth-place squad. Who will shape Finland's identity in 2019?

7) Slovakia is making strides

Apart from 2015's surprising bronze medal, Slovakia has finished between sixth and eighth



th every year since 2012 under coach Ernest Bokros. So coming seventh in Buffalo wasn't some grand miracle. Still, after a disappointing 6-0 defeat against Canada, the Slovaks competed hard every night. Their never-say-die attitude sparked a 3-2 upset over the U.S., and they hung tough with Sweden in their 3-2 quarter-final loss. Even with just two 2017 NHL-drafted players (Adam Ruzicka and Marian Studenic), they proved they're not content to be an easy three points for top World Junior powers.

8) Swiss miss swagger

Before the quarter-final versus Canada, Swiss coach Christian Wohlwend told reporters his young team had no chance. Whether he was playing mind games or not, his prediction materialized as Switzerland fell 8-2. Objectively, if Switzerland could only finish seventh last year

with 2017 #1 overall NHL pick Nico Hischier and stud blueliner Jonas Siegenthaler, it was unsurprising this year's unheralded team came eighth. It's over 20 years since David Aebischer backstopped Switzerland to its lone World Junior bronze (1998). That makes it hard to build swagger.

9) Survival is Denmark's strength

Outscored 26-2 in group play, the Danes looked doomed. Yet in the best-of-three relegation round, they showed the moxie that brought them three straight quarter-final berths from 2015 to 2017. Denmark got two last-minute goals for a stunning 5-4 Game One victory over Belarus, and never gave up in a 3-2 shootout win in Game Two. Clearly, Olaf Eller's kids didn't want to start 2018 off badly with Denmark hosting the senior Worlds for the first time in May.

10) Parity is king

There are no more "automatic wins." Even relegated Belarus scared the Czechs in a 6-5 loss. And it's now nine straight years with no repeat World Junior gold medal winners. We also haven't seen the same finalists back-to-back since Canada and Sweden in 2008 and 2009. It heightens the intrigue heading into the 2019 IIHF World Junior Championship in Vancouver and Victoria.




January 2018 / Vol. 22, No. 1

Video Highlights:

2018 IIHF World Junior Championship



[Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship](#)

Directorate Best
Forward, All-Star



Casey
Mittelstadt, F,
USA

7 GP, 4 G, 7 A, 11 P, +8

The Buffalo Sabres' 2017 first round draft pick put on a show in front of the home crowd. Mittelstadt seemed to be in on nearly every scoring play during Team USA's bronze medal campaign, scoring 11 points in seven games.

Directorate Best
Defenceman, All-Star



Rasmus Dahlin,
D, Sweden

7 GP, 0 G, 6 A, 6 P, +7

He didn't pot a goal in the tournament, but Dahlin left no doubt as to his status as the top prospect in the 2018 draft, leading Sweden to the gold medal game. The 17-year-old will also represent Sweden at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang.

Directorate Best
Goalkeeper, All-Star



Filip
Gustavsson, G,
Sweden

6 GP, 1.81 GAA, 92.41 SVS%, 0 SO

The Pittsburgh Penguins prospect finished his World Juniors career with a strong performance, including a dominant game against tournament hosts USA in the semi-final to propel Sweden to the gold medal game.

U.S. wins WW18

Collect fourth consecutive gold medal

By Andy Potts



Team USA produced a blistering passage of offence in the women's U18 finale, scoring six goals in as many minutes to win 9-3 and defend its title once again.

With two goals apiece from Britta Curl, Katelyn Knoll, Abigail Murphy and Dominique Petrie leading the scoring, the USA ran rampant on its way to a 9-3 victory. But, for a fleeting moment, the first ever Europe vs North American gold medal game in this competition's history might have been very different.

Just 95 seconds into the gold medal match-up with the hot favourite from the USA, the Swedes stunned everyone with the opening goal of the game. Selina Aho's shot from the point was deflected by Thea Johansson, taking it away from Lindsay Reed in the American net and handing the underdog a shock lead.

But it was not to be, as Team USA stormed to its fourth consecutive gold medal in the U18



Team USA celebrate following a 9-3 win over Sweden at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship.

Women's World Championship with a devastating display of offensive power. A blistering sequence of six goals in just over six minutes either side of the first intermission turned an eagerly-awaited match-up into a procession.

The final hooter brought wild celebrations. For Gracie Ostertag, who was also named as the directorate's top defender of the tournament, this was her third time - and also her last as she leaves this age group. "I honestly can't say

which one means the most to me," she said. "It's the same incredible feeling every time. Playing for your country is an amazing feeling. You can't take it for granted because you never know when it might be the last time."

Canada ensured it departed from Russia with a medal after defeating a tired host nation in the bronze medal game. Alexie Guay led the scoring with 1+2. Canada claimed the bronze medal at the 2018 Women's U18 World Cham-

pionship in Dmitrov with a comfortable 5-1 win over a visibly drained Russian team. Alexie Guay had a goal and two assists for Canada, making her the most productive defender of the tournament ahead of Saturday night's Gold Medal Game.

The host was left shattered by its 2-1 semi-final loss against Sweden less than 24 hours earlier and, despite the support of another big crowd, struggled to get its game going against a team it sensationally beat a week ago at the start of the tournament. Russia, despite missing out on a repeat of last year's bronze in the Czech Republic, won many friends for its performances on the ice and the enthusiastic support for the competition throughout this week in Dmitrov.

Canadian coach Collins was warm in her praise for the way Russia had played and organised the tournament. "I think it was really good, not so much in terms of the results but in terms of the growth of women's hockey," she said. "The city of Dmitrov and the Russian Hockey Federation put on an incredible tournament, the fans were proud and fantastic and we can't say enough about the whole experience."

In the relegation round, Lisa Ruedi made it five goals in two games as Switzerland wrapped up the relegation round in two games, staying up at Germany's expense following a 3-0 win.

IIHF IceTimes January 2018 / Vol. 22, No. 1

Video Highlights: 2018 IIHF U18 Women's World Championship



[Click here to view game footage and highlights from the 2018 IIHF U18 Women's World Championship](#)

Directorate Best
Forward, All-Star



Taylor Heise, F, USA

5 GP, 4 G, 4 A, 8 P, +7

Playing in her third U18 Women's Worlds, Team USA's captain Taylor Heise finished her U18 international career with a bang, putting up eight points in four games and helping lead her team to a gold medal. Heise has collected three golds in three women's U18 tournaments.

Directorate Best
Defenceman



Gracie Ostertag, D, USA

5 GP, 0 G, 2 A, 2 P, +1

Ostertag also collected her third championship in the women's U18 category. The 17-year-old defenceman was a rock on the blue line for the Americans, who allowed 12 goals in five games. She will join the University of Minnesota next season.

Directorate Best
Goalkeeper, All-Star



Anna Amholt, G, Sweden

4 GP, 3.17 GAA, 91.85 SVS%, 1 SO

Notwithstanding a tough final against the United States, Amholt had a stellar tournament with team Sweden, helping lead the Swedes to the gold medal game with a strong performance against Russia in the semis. Prior to the final she had stopped more than 97% of the shots she faced.

Yunost gets triple

Minsk team claims Continental Cup

By Martin Merk



For the third time after 2007 and 2011 Belarusian club Yunost Minsk won the IIHF Continental Cup after beating Nomad Astana 5-2 in the deciding game.

Yunost got the winners' plate back after seven years and like last time the club won on home ice in Minsk as host of the final tournament.

Yunost Minsk will also earn a wild card to next season's Champions Hockey League pending formal approval by the CHL board. Yunost is currently also the leader back home in the Belarusian Extraliga.

Despite being outshot 33-29 by Nomad, the Belarusians had the upper hand during two periods and went up early in the game. Pavel Razvadovski contributed with two goals and an assist to the win. Dmitri Milchakov was a big help in the net saving 31 of 33 shots on goal.



Yunost Minsk won the Continental Cup for the third time in 2018, and for the second time ever on home ice.

"It was a hard victory. It's a tough team, everybody has good skill, young, fast. But we were better. Thanks to the guys. They gave 100 per cent," said Razvadovski.

"It's a huge victory for us. We were preparing a lot. We played six games in this competition. Each of us wanted to win. I think we deserved this victory," Milchakov said.

"We knew who we were going to face in the final game. We realized we need to have the lead as fast as possible in the beginning and not to allow any more goals. They played great in the slot, had good chances and some players have great puckhandling skills," Yunost head coach Mikhail Zakharov said.

"The Continental Cup is an important tournament for us and it allows us to play in the Champions Hockey League next season, which inspires many teams to take part and win the Continental Cup."

Nomad Astana finished in second place overall. Several times Kazakh teams have made it to the IIHF Continental Cup Final. Nomad Astana was hoping to become the first team from the country to win it.

The British club Sheffield Steelers earned a third-place finish at the 2018 IIHF Continental Cup Final after beating winless Italian champion Ritten Sport 2-0. For Ritten it was the second consecutive time the club made it to the final but also the second straight time it finished last in the final tournament.

Beside the medals there were also individual honours. Vladimir Kramar of Nomad Astana was named Best Goaltender of the tournament, the Sheffield Steelers' Mark Matheson won the Best Defenceman award and Nikita Mikhailis of Nomad Astana was voted Best Forward.

[Click here to view highlights and games from the 2018 IIHF Continental Cup Final](#)

Spain moves up

Edges ahead of Serbian host in WM20IIB

By Andy Potts



Spain won promotion to next season's U20 World Championship Division II Group A one year after missing out on home ice.

The Spanish team won the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division II Group B in Belgrade, leaving host nation Serbia in second place as Croatia took bronze. Turkey was relegated back to Division III after winning that section 12 months ago in New Zealand.

For the Spanish U20 national team it's one of the biggest victories in recent years. Spain did in several categories lose out on first place against Serbia and seldom beats Croatia in men's hockey.

The win means promotion to the next level after five consecutive years in the Division I Group B. The four previous years Spain had finished in second place.



Spain's U20 players were thrilled to win gold in Belgrade.

The final standings showed Belgium in fourth place. Mexico came fifth followed by Turkey who was relegated to Division III.

Spain's Raul Barbo was nominated as the top goalie by the directorate. In a high-scoring tournament, he played every minute of his country's games and allowed just eight goals for a GAA of 1.57. The other directorate awards went to Croatian D-man Luka Kramaric and Serbian forward Luka Vucicevic.

Israel wins Div. III

China, Bulgaria earn U20 medals in Sofia

By Ivan Tchechankov



Israel beat closest rival Iceland 6-2 and secured the first place in the tournament and promotion for the next's year Division II Group B.

Two days before the end of the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division III the winner was determined. It was a historic day for Israeli ice hockey as the U20 national team won its first IIHF U20 event in its fourth participation. Their debut was in 1997 and the next two were in 2016 and 2017 with a 4th and 5th-place finish.

Israel has played in 14 IIHF U18 Championships since 2001, but has just one first place in the Division III Group B in 2013. It completed the tournament with a perfect 5-0 record after shutting out New Zealand.

The silver and bronze medals were up for grabs on the final day in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia. Four teams had chances to finish in the top-three. Iceland was ahead in this race with seven points before the last game day, followed by



Israel cruised to a 5-0 record in the U20 Division III tourney.

China and Bulgaria with 6 and Australia with 5.

But a game-winning goal in the final seconds by Bulgaria against Iceland ended up securing bronze for the hosts, while China defeated Australia 6-1 and took the second place, having the tie-breaker against Bulgaria.

Expectations are high for China as the project to develop ice hockey in the country for the 2022 Winter Olympics is in full gear. The first two games were frustrating though – a 2-3 loss against Israel and 1-2 defeat to Iceland. But after that China won three in a row with a 27-7 goal record, including the big win over the Australians.

Iceland settled for fourth place while top-seeded Australia was fifth. Winless New Zealand is relegated to next year's qualification tournament.

Japan dominates

Women's U18 team returns to top division

By Andrew Podnieks



The Japanese women's under-18 team capped a dominant week in Asiago, Italy, by defeating Slovakia by a 3-0 score.

The win gives Japan a perfect 5-0 record at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship Division I Group A and earns the nation promotion to the top level for 2019.

This marks the sixth time the Japanese ladies have made it to the top, and they did so in impressive fashion. Not only did they win every game, they surrendered but one goal in five games, that to Hungary. They never trailed, scored 21 goals in total, and played poised hockey all week.

The Japanese played a virtually perfect tournament. They allowed a mere 51 shots over the course of ALL five games, didn't allow a power-play goal, recorded four shutouts, led the tournament with eight power-



Japan (left) and Denmark's (right) U18 women's national teams both went undefeated to win promotion in their tournaments.

play goals of their own, and were the least penalized team.

Slovakia won the silver medal. Hosts Italy finished in third place and 11th overall in the program – the best placing ever of an Italian women's hockey team in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship program.

Austria finished fourth and Hungary fifth. Norway finished in last place and will go down to Division I-B next year.



David Wassagruba, Michal Chwieduk

or the second time after a sound 2-0 win over France to earn first place in the round-robin standings of the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship Division I Group B in Katowice, Poland.

The Danes finished with a perfect 5-0 record while France lost only the last game in an otherwise impressive tournament. Last year, the Danes lost to Italy, 4-1, on the final day of competition to finish in second place and remain in I-B while the Italians moved up. This year, Denmark vowed to do things differently, and thanks to the determination of 13 returning players, they did.

The French, meanwhile, remain in Division IB another year. They were demoted only last year, for the second time in a row, after competing in the top level in 2016. The final match of the tournament saw hosts Poland shut out Great Britain, 2-0, to finish in third place with three wins and two losses. China finished in fourth and Great Britain fifth.

Australia finished in last place. The Aussies are new to women's U18 hockey, though, having first competed in the qualification event in 2016 and 2017, winning last year to earn one of the six spots in I-B this year. They will now be relegated for 2019, though.



Danes sweep

Defeat France on final day

By Andrew Podnieks

The Danish women's under-18 hockey team is returning to Division I Group A.

Denmark's U18 women's team won promotion

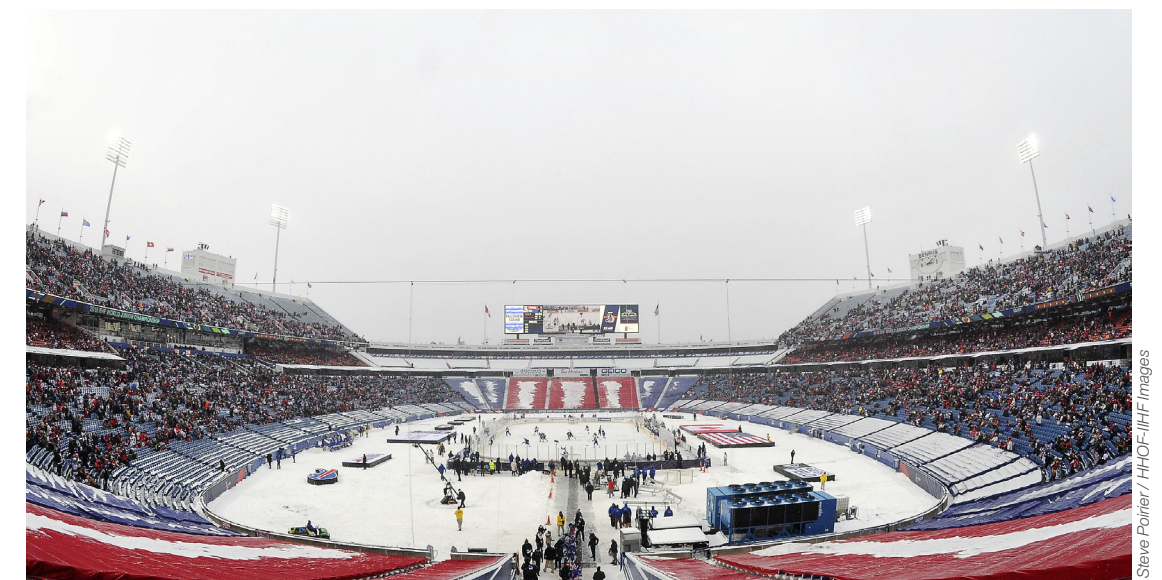
Gallery



Team Canada rushes goaltender Carter Hart in celebration after winning IIHF World Junior Championship gold in Buffalo, USA.



USA's Taylor Heise, Madeline Wethington, and Makayla Pahl celebrate a gold medal game win against Sweden at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship.



The New Era Field in Buffalo was the site for the first-ever IIHF outdoor game.



Francois Laplante / IIHF-Images

Russia's Oxana Bratisheva scores against Canada en route to a historic opening game upset at the U18 Women's Worlds.



Andrea Cardini/IIHF-Images

Tournament top scorer Casey Mittelstadt poses with a fan after winning the bronze medal at the 2018 World Juniors.



Andrea Cardini/IIHF-Images

Slovakia celebrates after pulling off a big win against tournament hosts USA at the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship.



The Japanese women's U18 national team players celebrated Division I gold in Asiago with tournament hosts and bronze medallists Italy.

David Wassagrub



Spain's U20 team was visibly emotional after winning the Division II Group B World Championship.

Ivan Mladinovic



The Danish U18 women's national team is all smiles after winning U18 Division I Group B gold.

Michal Chwieduk

Paek's passion

Korea coach thrilled to live Olympic dream

By Lucas Aykroyd

When Jim Paek won two Stanley Cups with the Pittsburgh Penguins, he was a journeyman defenceman surrounded by superstars like Mario Lemieux and Jaromir Jagr.

Today, the Seoul-born 50-year-old, who played in 217 NHL games, faces a very different challenge as the Korean men's national team head coach. Even though Paek's team has qualified for the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Denmark, they're a long shot to crack the quarter-finals in the Olympic tournament on home ice in PyeongChang. And it's showtime.

All set for the Games?

It's been a four-year process. Things are falling into place. We're just following our plan and moving forward. The guys are very excited and anxious to get going here. They've worked extremely hard.

Is hockey growing in Korea?

Absolutely, especially with the media coverage.



Jim Paek guided Korea to a historic World Championship berth, but first faces a big challenge on home ice in PyeongChang.

The exposure has been great. Our local media here in Seoul has been tremendous. Even globally, it's capturing a lot of attention, both on the women's and men's sides, which has given a lot of our young kids the desire to play. You see a lot of them trying out hockey, and it's great.

You played 48 games for the Canadian national team in 1990-91. What did you learn?

Preparation is very important – preparation meeting opportunity. That's what I learned. He

was always prepared. And playing internationally against every country's best, it gave me that leg up when I got called up to play with the Penguins in the playoffs.

Which other coaches influenced you?

As a young, impressionable junior player, Paul Theriault of the Oshawa Generals had an impact on my life and career. Every coach that I've had, all the way up, did something for me, and I can't thank them enough.

What does Richard Park bring to your staff?

He's my right hand. His experience internationally and professionally and his knowledge of the game has been an incredible asset for our team. How he communicates with both the staff and the players is very valuable.

How has the national team changed since you took over in 2014?

What we wanted to do was take away the entitlement. When you don't have a deep pool of players, the best players usually tend to stay on the national team, and that's a given. Well, we tried to cut that off at the knees. You have to earn everything you've got.

Culturally here, there's a huge respect level where younger players defer to older ones. But on our team, everyone's a piece of the puzzle, and we play accordingly. We have veterans who step up and young guys who step up. We're one team, and we act like one team. We work together, help each other and push each other.

How about the home-ice pressure at the Olympics?

They experienced that when they hosted the 2014 IIHF World Championship Division I Group



Paek (on left) with assistant coach Richard Park at the 2017 IIHF Annual Congress.

A [and finished last] in Seoul. They're human beings, and there is a lot of pressure on your home turf. You have to try to take those distractions away as much as possible. Have a game plan and be prepared. That's what we've tried to preach.

In the preliminary round, what do you expect from the Czechs, Swiss, and Canadians?

Great hockey! We've had a little taste. We were fortunate enough to play these top teams in exhibition matches. We had high-level competition at the Channel One Cup in Russia. I expect nothing less from those countries, with all their Olympic experience and the medals Canada and the Czechs have won.

And I know Switzerland is a very tough opponent. We've done a lot of homework on them. Each year, we see more of their kids getting drafted and NHL players ending up in Switzerland. It's going to be tough to match up against that level of hockey, but it's going to be exciting!

For you, are the Olympics a building block for the Worlds in May?

Absolutely. Our main focus is the Olympics on this world stage, but going through this experience and all the hoopla around it, it will help us at the World Championship too. That's an exciting time for hockey. It's a huge event.

Thoughts on the unified Korean women's team?

My opinion really doesn't matter. They're here. The coaches are doing an incredible job of putting this team together, unifying both teams.

Sarah Murray and her staff, as much as they're overworked right now, preparing for their Olympics and making this switch, they have such a positive attitude and energy, looking for solutions. It's a great experience, I think, for them and everyone involved.

For PyeongChang, what's your benchmark for success?

I think we have a lot of successes right now. It's our first time in the Olympics and we're going to the top 16 at the World Championship. We're developing our players, giving them experience.

You dream...you dream of a gold medal. When you're part of something this special, you want to enjoy every minute of it. When we step on the ice, we shall see what can happen. It'll be unpredictable.



Coming up

2018 Winter Olympic Games

KOREA; PyeongChang
09.02.-25.02.2018

Women's Ice Hockey Tournament

10.02.-22.02.2018

Men's Ice Hockey Tournament

14.02.-25.02.2018

2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship

Division III Qualification

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, Sarajevo
25.02.-28.02.2018

2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship

Division III Qualification

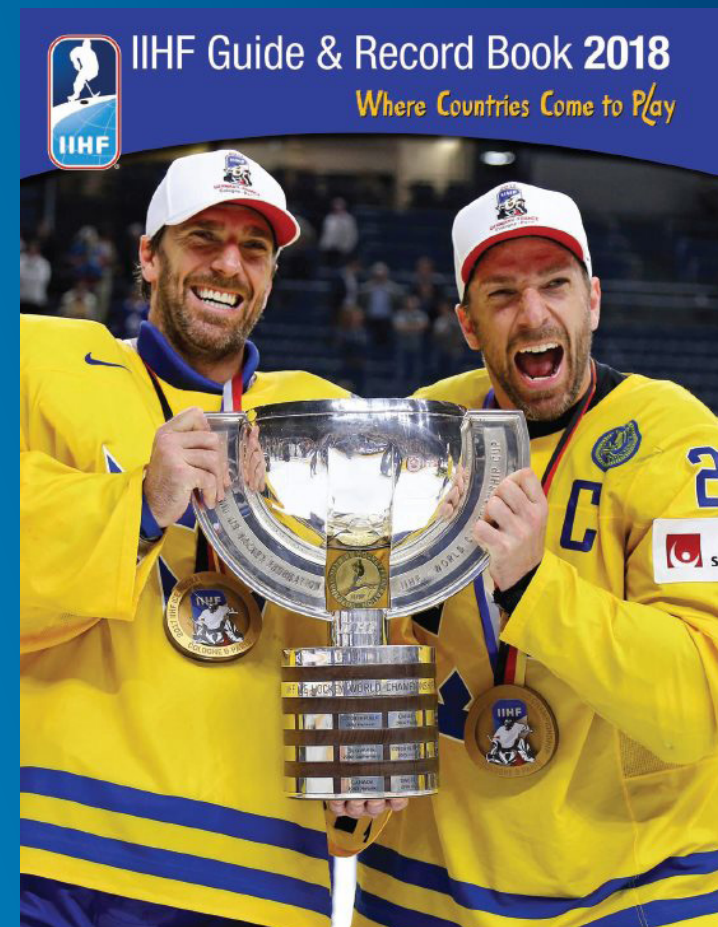
SOUTH AFRICA, Cape Town
05.02.-07.02.2018

2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship

Division I Group B Qualification

MEXICO, Mexico City
30.01.2018-04.02.2018

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