

# News Release



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Team captain and championship MVP Miroslav Satan powers the Slovak celebration train in Gothenburg, Sweden last year.

## Can the Slovak train make it again?

How many world championships in team sports can honestly claim that they have seven legitimate gold medal contenders? Not many, but ice hockey is one of them.

■ ■ As we approach the 67th IIHF World Championship, let's think back for a moment to May 11, 2002 when Peter Bondra scored the winning goal for Slovakia against Russia with 80 seconds left of the Gold Medal Game in Gothenburg. It was a defining moment in the IIHF World Championship history as the young nation won its first ever hockey gold medal and it was a wonderful exhibition of sportsmanship as the Slovaks were celebrated by thousands of Swedish sports fans in the streets of Gothenburg.

Slovakia became the eighth nation to win men's IIHF World Championship gold (can you name the previous seven?) and that tells something about the depth and the strength of international ice hockey. No one can, or wants to, dispute the fact that soccer is the global game and the game of the masses, but soccer's World Cup has only been won by seven different countries since 1930.

■ ■ There were years in the IIHF World Championship history when you could beforehand place your bet on the gold medal team and it was almost like money in the bank. We are in a totally different era. The 2003 IIHF World Championship in Finland has seven legitimate gold medal contenders. Host Finland, re-emerging Russia, the always contending Czechs, Olympic champion Canada, the foxy Swedes and the never-say-die Americans will all have a shot at the defending champions, the Slovaks, who will find

out that it's easier to get to the top than to defend that position. And who will be the "Belarus" of this championship? Maybe the returning Belarus themselves? Or the ever improving Germans, or maybe the highly unpredictable Swiss?

■ ■ For obvious reasons, this is a difficult time to stage a world championship and to fully focus on sport. In times of war, people often realize that things which seemed very important just yesterday become mere details when, suddenly, almost everything is overshadowed by a major conflict.

As the President of the IIHF, as a member of the International Olympic Committee, and as a life long sports fan, I am a staunch believer in the reconciling qualities of sport. The inner sole of all sport is friendship, human understanding, fair play and respect.

Some may call me naive (and I'll take that) but for me sport stands above all conflicts, because sport has shown that it has bridge-building qualities stronger than traditional politics and diplomacy. It was sports (remember "ping-pong" diplomacy) which defrosted the icy relationship between the USA and China in the 70s. It was sports that brought adversaries South Korea and North Korea under one flag in the Salt Lake Olympics last year and also for the Asian Winter Games some months ago.

■ ■ Ice hockey, from its humble perspective, can also contribute. I am sure that the historic 1972 Summit Series between Canada and the Soviet Union led to better understanding between the two cultures and systems. Players, who more or less hated each other then, were engaged in hugs when I visited the 30 year anniversary of the 72 Series in Moscow last autumn.

Continued on next page

## RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

Continued from page one

■ A hockey game, which had virtually no media attention, took place on March 25 this year at the IIHF World Championship Division II in Sofia, Bulgaria. North Korea and Israel, two countries who are not exactly political allies, met in this tournament, which means that a game of ice hockey is probably the only official contact that those countries have had for quite some time.

All those things make me convinced that, as hockey and sports people, we play an important role in establishing dialogues, where politicians or diplomats might have failed. This is one reason why the IIHF's annual program of 25 World Championships is so important, and not only for the sake of developing the game itself.

■ Since the wonderful experience from the 1997 World Championship in Helsinki and Turku, I have been eagerly waiting to return to Finland where the fans have a great love for the game. I also consider the Finnish fans very knowledgeable and fair.

Six years ago, the championship in Finland attracted a record attendance of 526,000 fans, a record which still stands. It was said then that those numbers can never be beaten. I hope that the hockey fans in Finland can challenge that statement.

■ As President of the IIHF, I want to extend my warmest regards to all ice hockey fans and welcome you to the 67th IIHF World Championship.

René Fasel  
President

## 2003 IIHF World Women cancelled - future is TBA

The International Ice Hockey Federation decided on Sunday, March 30, 2002 to cancel the 2003 IIHF World Women Championship, which were to be held in Beijing, China on April 3 - 9, 2003, due to the increased health risks caused by the SARS pneumonia.

"The health of the athletes must always be our prime concern and with the new reports regarding the spread of the pneumonia and the strong medical advice we received, this was really the only decision we could take. We were no longer in a position to guarantee the health of the athletes and team staff."

The IIHF will, together with the eight participating nations, explore all options and see if it is possible to stage the championship at a later date, possibly in the autumn of 2003.

The 2003 World Women Championship would have been the eighth since the inaugural tournament in 1991. Canada has won all the previous seven championships.



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# Your best source to the 2003 World Championship is IHWc.net

■ For the fourth consecutive year, IHWc.net will be the official website of the IIHF World Championship. The site initially covered the 2000 World Championship in St. Petersburg, Russia and the success continued in Germany in 2001 and in Sweden in 2002.

IHWc.net has quickly established itself as one of the biggest and best annual sport event websites in the world. The site recorded 6,634,464 page impressions during the last championship in Sweden. A new day record was set on May 3, 2002 when 588,325 hockey fans from all over the globe took the route via IHWc.net to stay updated with the latest news from international hockey.

Apart from the editorial material, including previews, game reports, features, interviews and columns, IHWc.net provides the full statistical package from the tournament, all updated team rosters and, of course, live game actions from all 56 games of the 67th IIHF World Championship.



■ Other functions feature the photo gallery, power rankings and the message boards. Klaus Zaugg, the hockey expert from the Swiss newspaper BLICK will as usual, provide his insights in the daily columns under IHWc.NET EXPERT.

## New rules to be evaluated at 2003 Championship

The 16 national associations participating in the 2003 IIHF World Championship in Finland will compete using three slight differences from earlier tournaments regarding the number of players and the overtime procedures.



**New overtimes:** Russia's Valeri Karpov scores the semi-final winner on overtime on Finland's Jussi Markkanen a year ago in Sweden.

1. From the start of the second round (Qualification round, May 2) of the 2003 IIHF World Championship, the teams are entitled to add to their roster an additional **two players or goalkeepers** in any combination. This means that a team can have a maximum of 22 players and 3 goalkeepers registered at the beginning of the second round. Teams can still only dress 20 skaters and 2 goalkeepers for a game. IIHF Bylaw 701, permitting teams to add five players for the Final Round, is deleted for this championship.

2. For all **overtime** periods of the 2003 IIHF World Championship, the **periods will be 20 minutes**

(earlier a 20 minute overtime applied to the Gold Medal Game only) and will end when a goal is scored. The teams will start the overtime period immediately after a 15 minute intermission during which the ice will be resurfaced. The teams will change ends. If no goal is scored in the 20 minute overtime period, then the Game Winning Shots procedure (penalty shoot-out) will apply. Also, all shots taken during the Game Winning Shots procedure

will be held at one end of the ice surface only.

3. The **overtime period** shall be played with **four skaters on four**. Specific rules for this are listed in the document "4-on-4 Overtime Operations".

**NB.** These rules apply for the 2003 IIHF World Championship only and they will be evaluated after the championship.

## IIHF Honorary member Berglund passed away at 80

IIHF Honorary member and future IIHF Hall of Famer Curt Berglund died on 2 April 2003, after losing his battle against a long illness, which he bravely fought.

Berglund passed away only five weeks before he was to be inducted to the IIHF Hall of Fame on May 9, 2003 during the 67th IIHF World Championship in Finland.

He will be inducted posthumously at the induction ceremonies in Helsinki.

Curt Berglund was recruited by the IIHF in 1975 as treasurer. He spent the next 15 years as the IIHF's Minister of Finance finally retiring in 1990, but not



before helping the IIHF further establish economically as well as prestigiously.

For these efforts and others, Curt Berglund has been an IIHF Honorary Member since 1990 and more recently handled Tournament Chairman duties at the 2001 IIHF World Championship Division I which was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Berglund was earlier also chairman of AIK Stockholm. Curt Berglund was born August 30, 1923 in Stockholm, Sweden. He spent his last years in Torrevieja, Spain.

Curt Berglund will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by the entire ice hockey family.





Photo: EXPRESSEN-PRESENS BILD

**NO MATCH:** Danish goaltender Fleming Jensen seems to stop this Canadian attack on February 12, 1949. On 47 other occasions, he wasn't equally successful.



Photo: HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

**THE BIG BAD WOLVES:** The Canadian team of 1949 which beat the poor Danes 47-0. But despite the result, the team did not win gold. Czechoslovakia did.

# Denmark is back - 54 years after 47-0 defeat

By Andrew Podnieks

■ As Finland prepares to host the IIHF World Championships again, the Danish are preparing to send a team to the competition for the first time since 1949, the only other time they competed with the world's top teams. Their participation in 2003 is the result of winning the group B of Division I play in Hungary last year by scoring a decisive 6-2 win over the host nation of the final day of the tournament and finishing first ahead of those same Hungarians. But although that victory rewards them with a new challenge, the country's recollections of 1949 are hardly tinged with sweetness.

■ It was only on April 27, 1946 that Denmark joined the IIHF to announce formally their intentions to compete in international hockey. Their first game came less than three years later, on February 12, 1949, in Stockholm, Sweden, a country hosting the World Championships for the first time. Unfortunately, their initiation came in the form of a preliminary-round game against Canada, and even more unfortunately the game produced the most lop-sided result in world championship history. Canada won by a score of 47-0, and the Danes never got the puck into Canada's half of the ice. It was a stunning loss for the Danes and an equally stunning win for Canada, which was represented by the Sudbury Wolves that year.

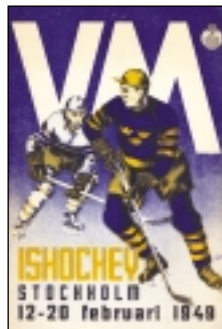
■ The Wolves were assembled by Max Silverman who had taken the Sudbury team to Prague in 1938 where Canada had won a gold. Again in 1949, he brought together the best amateur players he could find in Ontario. He trained them in Sudbury and took the team to Europe in December 1948 to tour and prepare the players for the championship the following February. At first, this plan seemed to backfire miserably. Upon arriving in England, the Canadian players had their sticks confiscated by customs officers who claimed the players were going to sell the sticks for a large profit. The accusation was preposterous, but the team had to take it seriously or else they could not proceed.

After paying a healthy tariff, the players went on their way, but in their first 13 exhibition games of the tour they won only twice. They lost three games by scores

of 7-3, 7-1, and 7-0 to local British teams, a rank embarrassment by Canadian standards, and by the time they arrived in Sweden no critic or fan predicted a strong Canadian showing.

■ But at 19.00 of the opening day of the WC, February 12, 1949, Canada faced Denmark and produced a record performance. Only 549 fans were on hand at Stockholms Stadion to see the match, and the Canadians scored 13 goals in the first period, 16 in the second, and, if that weren't enough, 18 more in the third.

As one newspaper account related: "The spectators often laughed heartily at the desperate Danish efforts to make a game of it. The chief thrill of the crowd was betting on whether Canada would top 50 goals or not."



Official 1949 World Championship programme.

The scoring was incredible. Every member of the Canadian team recorded at least a hat trick, Jim Russell leading the way with eight goals and Tom Russell with

six. Don Stanley, Joe DiBastiani, and Don Munro all had five goals, and three each were credited to Ray Bauer, Bud Hashey, Joe Tergeson, Emile Gagne, Barney Hillson, and Bill Dimock. Stanley, interestingly, was a late addition to the team and was the son of Hall of Famer Barney Stanley.

"They played with full force right from the beginning," Jorgen Hviid, star of the Danes, said years later, recalling that awful night. "Their coach was absolutely crazy. He was screaming, 'Kill them! Kill them!'"

■ The difference in the two countries' skill was reflected in their equipment as well. "We had awful equipment," Hviid acknowledged. "We put newspapers under our shin pads to ease the pain getting in the way of some of the hard Canadian shots."

Incredibly, goaltender Fleming Jensen was in net for all 47 goals and was none too pleased after the game. He lamented the fact that he should have stopped at least three of the goals, and was outraged that another

three had been, in his opinion, offside on the play leading to the score!

Despite the slaughter, though, Canada lost the gold medal because of a 3-2 defeat at the hands of the Czechs. The Danes, meanwhile, soldiered on.

■ Two days later, they lost to Austria by another great score, 25-1, but on February 17 they made a game of it against Belgium, losing only 8-3. In all, they were outscored 80-3 in their three games of the group schedule before going home to rue their initial performance in international hockey. It was Hviid who scored the country's first international goal in that Austria contest, and he counted for all three markers against Belgium playing alongside his brother, Erik. Half a century later, he can still claim to be the only Dane to score at the world championship.

Other members of that 1949 team included Borge and Ib Hamann, Svend Malver, Dan Dandry, Knud Lebech, Frede Sorensen, Ole and Poul Nielsen, Erik Halberg, Leif Ammenstrop, Lund Christiansen, and backup goalie Leif Jensen.

■ Denmark never made it back to the top pool of the IIHF World Championships for the next 54 years. In fact, after 1949, the nation didn't play again until 1962 when the team finished sixth in B pool and was relegated to C pool for the next year. They made it back to B pool in 1970, 1979, and 1989, and in 1992 they made their greatest strides when they returned to B pool to stay for the rest of the decade. Here they are now, back among the top 16 countries in the world. Canada, of course, will be back, and even if the two nations play again the Canadians won't be able to -- or won't want to -- rack up another four dozen goals. And the Danes will want someone other than Jorgen Hviid to score a goal for them.

<b>Denmark - Danmark</b> Teles: old. Bru: vik. Jersey: red. Shorts: white.	
1. Fleming Jensen (ruller) —	goalkeeper
2. Borge Hansen	
3. Svend Malver	
4. Dan Dandry	
5. Jorgen Hviid	
6. Erik Hviid	
7. Knud Lebech	
8. Frede Sorensen	
9. Ole Nielsen	
10. Erik Halberg	
11. Poul Nielsen	
14. Leif Jensen (reservemål)	— sub. goalkeeper

The Danish lineup from the official programme.

□ Andrew Podnieks is a Toronto-based hockey historian and is frequently associated with the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. Podnieks is also one of the reporters for the IHWC.net, the official website of the 2004 IIHF World Championship.



**325 AND COUNTING:** Raimo Helminen received an IIHF commemorative silver plate at the 2002 World Championship from IIHF President René Fasel when the Finn set a new record for international hockey games.

## No, Helminen is not done at 325

■ Raimo Helminen does not have any plans to hang them up. Not just yet, anyway.

The veteran Finnish forward played in the 2002 Olympics and became the first hockey player ever to participate in six Olympic hockey tournaments. Two months later, he established a new world hockey record when he finished his 11th IIHF World Championship in Sweden with 325 national team games.

Helminen was honoured on May 4, 2002 before the Finland - Russia game in Gothenburg when he played his 321st national team game and broke Jiri Holik's long-standing world record of 320 international games. Before the World Championship was over, Raimo added four more games and finished the 2001-2002 season with 325 games.

Most observers were convinced that this was the last we ever would see of Helminen, at least as far as the international game is concerned. But when Hannu Aravirta, the head coach of Team Finland, named his first exhibition game squad on March 24, 2003, the old fox from Tampere was on the list.

As this issue of the IIHF News Release went to press, Finland had just completed the two first exhibition games against Russia. Helminen played in both of them and thus boosted his already impressive numbers to 327 national team games.

The printing deadline prevented us to confirm whether Helminen was named to Finland's final roster, which would result in his 12th appearance in the IIHF World Championship. Considering Finland's current lack of depth at the centre position, the chances are pretty good for Helminen be around when Finland opens the 66th IIHF World Championship against Austria on April 26.

To Helminen's advantage are also his leadership abilities and his locker room presence. The veteran would also set his ego aside and be content with a limited role as fourth line centre and duty on the special teams. And when his career is over, Raimo Helminen is assured of a spot alongside the people who are featured on the right side of this page - as an inductee to the IIHF Hall of Fame.

Helminen's national team statistics following the two exhibition games against Russia: 327 games, 52 goals, 152 assists, 204 points and 72 penalty minutes.

# Eight new inductees to the IIHF Hall of Fame will be celebrated in Helsinki

■ Every season the International Ice Hockey Federation inducts former ice hockey greats and honours their achievements, contributions and dedication to the game of ice hockey. This year's induction will be the seventh since the introduction of the IIHF Hall of Fame in 1997. With the class of 2003, the IIHF Hall of Fame will raise the number of inductees to 119, representing 20 countries. The induction festivities will be held on May 9 in Helsinki.

## 2003 IIHF Hall of Fame Inductees

### PLAYERS

#### Bengt-Ake Gustafsson (SWE)

Gustafsson won two IIHF World Championship gold medals, one silver and one bronze, along with two All-Star Team selections. He also played in the 1992 Olympic Winter Games and in the two Canada Cups. Spent nine NHL seasons with the Washington Capitals where he accumulated 629 regular season games, for 196 goals and 359 assists. One of Sweden's best centres ever.

#### Timo Jutila (FIN)

Jutila took part in eight IIHF World Championships and was an instrumental part in Finland's first ever IIHF World Championship gold medal winning team in 1995. He also won two world championship silver medals and in his three Olympic Winter Games participations, Jutila won a bronze medal in 1994. His 246 national team appearances also include two Canada Cups.

#### Josef Malecek (CZE)

The Czechoslovak pioneer represented his national team at the age of 17, and starred in 17 different IIHF events from 1922 to 1939, including Olympic tournaments in 1924, 1928 and 1936. Aside from two IIHF World Championship bronze medals, Malecek helped Czechoslovakia earn four gold, four silver and four bronze medals as part of the IIHF European Championships. He scored 121 goals in 107 national team games! Posthumous.

#### Alexander Yakushev (RUS)

Yakushev's ten IIHF World Championship appearances produced seven gold medals, two silver and a bronze. Yakushev won two gold medals in his two Olympic starts, in 1972 and 1976. Named Best Forward at the 1975 IIHF World Championship. Led the Soviet Union in scoring in the 1972 Summit Series against Team Canada. He represented the Soviet Union in 218 national team games. Considered as the first modern Soviet superstar.

### BUILDERS

#### Curt Berglund (SWE)

Berglund was recruited by the IIHF in 1975 as treasurer. He spent the next 15 years as the IIHF's Minister of Finance, retiring in 1990, but not before helping the IIHF further establish itself economically as well as prestigiously. For these efforts and others, he was named

an IIHF Honorary Member in 1990. Berglund was a past chairman of AIK Stockholm. (See also page 2)

#### Heinz Henschel (GER)

Henschel was a founding member of the Berlin Ice Sport Federation, the Berlin Regional Sport Federation, the German Ice Sport Federation and, finally, in 1963, the German Ice Hockey Federation - the DEB. His work with the the German Ice Hockey Federation covered more than 25 years, during which time he served as the delegation leader of the national teams in eight Olympic Winter Games as well as 27 IIHF World Championships events.

### REFEREES/LINESMEN

#### Josef Kompalla (GER)

Kompalla's magnificent career as a referee saw him officiate 2,019 international and national league games. His international career included three Olympic Winter Games in 1976, 1980 and 1984, nine IIHF World Championships, three IIHF World Championship Pool B tournaments and two IIHF World U20 Championships. He totalled 157 international games as referee. Josef Kompalla refereed the famous 1972 Summit Series between the former Soviet Union and Team Canada as well as 1974 series between the former Soviet Union and the WHA Team Canada.

#### Unto Wiitala (FIN)

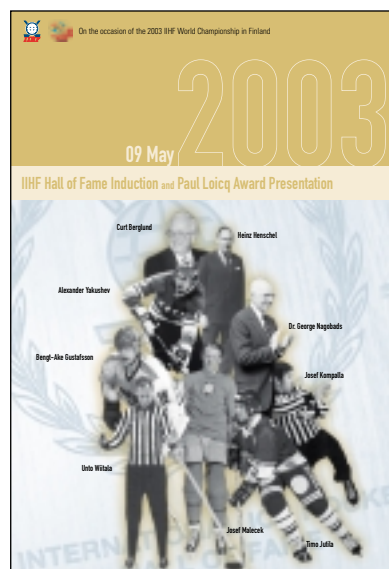
Immediately upon retirement as a player, Wiitala made a quick transition to a referee, a career which spanned over 15 accomplished seasons, including selection as Best Referee on four occasions in the Finnish League. During that time, he also officiated at two Olympic Winter Games and three IIHF World Championships. Later, Wiitala became a valuable member of the IIHF Referee Committee, and served many years as Referee-in-Chief for the Finnish Hockey League and, until recently, as Chairman of the Board to Finland's Hockey Hall of Fame Museum.

### 2003 PAUL LOICQ AWARD

#### Dr. George Nagobads (USA)

Born in Latvia and educated in Germany, Dr. George Nagobads has been associated with USA Hockey since 1967 when he joined as team physician for the IIHF World Championships in Vienna. Dr. Nagobads remained as part of USA's hockey teams for the next 23 years, culminating with the 1990 World Championship in Switzerland.

He was the chief medical officer of the American Ice Hockey Association between 1984 and 1992. Dr. Nagobads has been a member of the IIHF Medical Committee since 1990 and a member of USA Hockey's Safety and Protective Equipment Committee since 1984. He was also the team physician for the NHL Minnesota North Stars from 1984 to 1992 and with the WHA Minnesota Fighting Saints from 1973 to 1976.



2003 IIHF Hall of Fame induction programme





Photo: HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

**SPIRIT OF '96.** Team USA's Chris Chelios celebrates the final victory over Canada seven years ago.

## Six countries will host the 2004 World Cup

■ Seven years after the inaugural World Cup of Hockey in 1996, eight of the top hockey nations in the world will compete in the second World Cup of Hockey tournament August 30 - September 14, 2004. The schedule (see separate box on this page) was announced by the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) on April 3. The World Cup of Hockey is a joint effort of the NHLPA and NHL, in cooperation with the IIHF.

□ Defending champion of the 1996 World Cup and 2002 Olympic silver medallist United States will be joined by 2002 Olympic gold medal-winner Canada, the 2002 IIHF World Champion Slovakia and Russia in the North American pool.

□ The Czech Republic, winners of the 1998 Olympic gold medal, Finland, Germany and Sweden will compete in the European pool.

Helsinki, Stockholm, Cologne and Prague will be the European venues, while North American hockey fans will see World Cup action in Montreal, St. Paul and Toronto. The Air Canada Centre in Toronto will be the site of one quarterfinal, one semifinal and the championship game.

Each national association will announce at least 18 members of its full team roster (20 skaters and 3 goal-tenders) no later than February 1, 2004. Each team will conduct a 10 day training camp beginning August 20, 2004, and play two exhibition games.

NHL referees and linesmen will officiate in the tournament using NHL rules. USA won the 1996 World Cup after defeating Canada two games to one in the best-of-three championship series. Canada won the first game in Philadelphia 4-3 (OT) but the US came back winning both games in Montreal by the score of 5-2.

### 2004 WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY SCHEDULE

**European Pool (E):** Czech Republic (CZE), Finland (FIN), Germany (GER), Sweden (SWE)  
**North American Pool (NA):** Canada (CAN), Russia (RUS), Slovakia (SVK), United States (USA)

Date	Venue, City	Game
Mon., Aug. 30	Hartwall Arena, Helsinki	CZE vs. FIN
Tues., Aug. 31	Globe Arena, Stockholm Bell Centre, Montreal	GER vs. SWE CAN vs. USA
Wed., Sept. 1	Globe Arena, Stockholm Bell Centre, Montreal	CZE vs. SWE CAN vs. SVK
Thurs., Sept. 2	Cologne Arena, Cologne Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul	FIN vs. GER USA vs. RUS
Fri., Sept. 3	Sazka Arena, Prague Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul	GER vs. CZE USA vs. SVK
Sat., Sept. 4	Hartwall Arena, Helsinki Air Canada Centre, Toronto	SWE vs. FIN CAN vs. RUS
Sun., Sept. 5	Air Canada Centre, Toronto	RUS vs. SVK
Mon., Sept. 6	QUARTERFINAL - Home Arena of E1	E1 vs. E4
Tues., Sept. 7	QUARTERFINAL - Home Arena of E2 QUARTERFINAL - Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul	E2 vs. E3 NA1 vs. NA4 or NA2 vs. NA3
Wed., Sept. 8	QUARTERFINAL - Air Canada Centre, Toronto	NA1 vs. NA4 or NA2 vs. NA3
Fri., Sept. 10	SEMIFINAL - Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul	
Sat., Sept. 11	SEMIFINAL - Air Canada Centre, Toronto	
Tues., Sept. 14	CHAMPIONSHIP - Air Canada Centre, Toronto	



## Forsberg completes a unique quadruple

■ Peter Forsberg of the NHL Colorado Avalanche wrote yet another chapter in his phenomenal hockey career on April 6, 2003 when he surpassed countryman Markus Naslund on the last day of the 2002-2003 NHL regular season to become the first Swede to win the National Hockey League in scoring.

Forsberg finished with 29 goals and a league-high 77 assists for 106 points to become the first player in history to win the IIHF World Championship, the Olympic gold medal, the Stanley Cup and the NHL scoring title. Forsberg is one of 12 players in the Triple Gold Club, the exclusive group of players who have won the World Championship, the Olympics and the Stanley Cup.

Forsberg was part of the Swedish team which was victorious in both the 1992 and the 1998 IIHF World Championship and he scored the winning goal en route to the 1994 Olympic gold medal in Lillehammer. He also led the Colorado Avalanche to Stanley Cup victories in 1996 and 2001.

Amazingly, both Forsberg and Naslund are from the

same little town of Ornskoldsvik in north-eastern Sweden.

Forsberg is the second European to win the scoring race in NHL. Jaromir Jagr of the Czech Republic has won it on five occasions between 1995 and 2001.



Peter the great

## Did he score the biggest World Championship goal?



Photo: ROLLE RYGIN

■ To select the ten biggest goals in the 67 year old history of the IIHF World Championships is an impossible task, but it's fun. Some experts agree, others don't. On the next two pages you'll find what we felt are the ten biggest goals in the glorious history of one of the oldest team sport championships in the world. Mats Sundin, who proudly shows off his gold medal from the 1991 IIHF World Championship, was only 20 and the youngest player on his team when he scored the goal which tops our list. Mats is 32 today and still a world class player, but will he ever score a bigger goal?

# Sundin's solo raid is for the ages

We rank the -91 winner as the best goal in the history of the IIHF World Championship



Photo: ROLLE RYGIN

**BEST GOAL.** The puck is already behind goaltender Trefilov. Sundin prepares victory dance as he disappears from frame.

## 1. Sundin goes coast-to-coast to score gold medal winner.

May 4, 1991 in Turku, Finland. Sweden - Soviet Union 2-1.

It's almost midway through the third period of this last game of the 55th IIHF World Championship in Finland. Sweden and the Soviet Union are tied 1-1 and if the game ends with a draw, Canada wins gold. A 20 year-old rookie by the name of Mats Sundin takes the puck deep in his own zone and charges forward on the right side. Over the blue, over the red, and well into Soviet territory, Sundin is challenged by Vyacheslav Fetisov, arguably the best European defenseman ever. In a move one seldom sees, Sundin turns Fetisov inside and out while keeping perfect balance and possession. With only the Soviet goalie Andrei Trefilov left to beat, Sundin decides on a low shot which finds Trefilov's five-hole. Time: 9:41 of the third period. Sweden hangs on to the slim lead provided by the team's youngest player for their fifth IIHF World Championship gold. Great goals don't come bigger than this.

## 2. Jaroslav Holik prevents a Soviet ten-in-a-row with huge goal on home ice.

April 20, 1972 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Soviet Union - Czechoslovakia 2-3.

The mighty Soviets had won a record nine consecutive gold medals (1963 - 1971) coming into the 39th IIHF World Championships in Prague in 1972. Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union played a 3-3 tie eight days earlier and this second game would be the decider. The home team is leading 2-1 in front of 14,389 fans in a packed Sportovni Hala in Prague, but the Soviets are storming the Czechoslovak's net. Jaroslav Holik, who just had come back from a two-year suspension for his anti-Soviet statements, finds himself on a partial two-on-one break midway through the second period and everyone expects him to find the open man. But Holik takes the shot from between the circles.

Soviet goaltender Vladislav Tretiak can't stop the puck and the whole nation, which just four years earlier was invaded by the Warsaw-pact nations, erupts in collective joy. But this is far from over. Three minutes later the incredible Valeri Charlamov scores to narrow it down to 3-2, but goaltender Jiri Holecsek stops every Soviet effort during the remaining 28 minutes of play and Holik's goal stands as the game and world championship winner. Despite two more gold medals in the 70s, a great run of four world championship gold medals in six years between 1996 and 2001, and a

historic Olympic gold medal in Nagano in 1998, Jaroslav Holik's goal, which gave Czechoslovakia its first IIHF World Championship gold medal in 23 years, remains the defining moment in the country's hockey history.

## 3. Bondra puts Slovakia in seventh heaven with winner 80 seconds before end.

May 11, 2002 in Gothenburg, Sweden. Slovakia - Russia 4-3.

Eight years earlier Slovakia started in the C-Pool of the IIHF World Championships and now the young nation is playing in their second gold medal game in three years. In front of 11,591 fans in the Scandinavium arena, the Slovaks lead 2-0 and 3-1 when the Russians score two third period goals to even it up. A capacity crowd in the arena and millions of Slovaks watching the game back home on TV start preparing themselves for overtime when Zigmund Palffy hits Peter Bondra with a pass and the Ukrainian born sniper crosses the blue line, approaching goalie Maxim Sokolov from the left. With 81 seconds left of the 66th IIHF World Championships Bondra winds up for a slapper and the puck hits the left post and ricochets into the net, behind the Russian goalie. Time stops at 18:40. Slovak sports history is written right there as the country's President Rudolf Schuster and the Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda rejoice in the stands and celebrate Slovakia's first ever IIHF World Championship gold medal.

## 4. Maltsev's "slalom" gives Soviet Union eighth consecutive gold.

March 30, 1970 in Stockholm, Sweden. Sweden - Soviet Union 1-3.

Host Sweden won the first out of two games against the Soviet Union 4-2 and the Soviets need a victory in the second game to keep their incredible world championship streak of eight consecutive gold medals alive. The Soviets are holding on to a slim 2-1 lead in the third period. With fifteen minutes left, Alexander Maltsev gets the puck in the Swedish zone but he is well covered by the Swedish defence. Or so they think. Carrying the puck on his backhand, Maltsev skates around Lars-Goran Nilsson, veers by Hans Lindberg and moves towards goaltender Leif Holmqvist, as Nilsson tries to hook the Russian down from behind. Team-mate Alexander Yakushev is in a perfect position to receive a pass from Maltsev, but the magnificent number 10 puts a great move on Holmqvist and scores into a wide open net.

What makes a "big goal"? We chose to go with the following criteria:

1. The goal must be, in some way, a World Championship decider.
2. The goal must have historic proportions.
3. The goal must have been scored in a dramatic or spectacular fashion.

Here is the list of the 10 biggest goals in IIHF World Championship history (Olympic games not included). There is a notable absence of "big" Soviet goals, but most of the selected goals were scored against the Soviets or Russians. There is a simple reason for this. When the Soviets won, they usually beat the opposition 13-1 or 6-0. When they lost, it usually took an extraordinary effort to defeat the "Big Red Machine".



# IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL

## 5. Swedish tick-tack-toe in Vienna outplays Soviet's Super Five-Man Unit. May 1, 1987 in Vienna, Austria. Sweden - Soviet Union 2-2.

The Soviet Union is on its way to another world title, leading Sweden 2-1 with less than one and a half minute remaining in the playoff round game. The Soviets have their famous unit on the ice: Fetisov, Kasatonov, Krutov, Larionov and Makarov. Swedish centre Bengt-Ake Gustavsson gets the puck from defenseman Anders Eldebrink and Gus skates from his own end up the middle, puckhandling around a couple of checking Soviets. Inside the blueline, he turns and drops the puck to defenseman Tommy Albelin who crosses the puck from his right position to Hakan Loob, who is standing to the left of the Soviet goal. When Loob is checked by Kasatonov, he makes a turn-around backhand pass to Tomas Sandstrom who, meanwhile, has pinched in deep into the zone. With the Soviet defence collapsing around Loob, Sandstrom has a wide open net and he chips the puck into the empty goal. All five Swedish players touched the puck before it crossed the line. Time: 18.39. This tie gives the Tre Kronor their first IIHF World Championship in 25 years, while the undefeated Soviets have to settle with silver.

## 6. Peltonen's third of the game puts Finland into a national frenzy. May 7, 1995 in Stockholm, Sweden. Finland - Sweden 4-1.

Gold Medal Game between the Nordic rivals. Finland, which has never won an IIHF World Championship title, leads 2-0 as time expires in the second period. Ville Peltonen, who has already scored two goals in this game, works his way into the Swedish zone, together with defenseman Mika Stromberg and line-mate Saku Koivu. Koivu drops to a trailing Stromberg who slips it to Peltonen who finds top shelf as the Swedish goalie Thomas Östlund is down, confused and outplayed. When the puck hits the back of the net, the clock shows 19.56 of the second and the large Finnish contingent among the 13,850 in the Stockholm Globe Arena knows it's all over. The Finns not only win their first world championship title, they do it on their archival's ice, with a Swedish coach (Curt Lindstrom) and, to add insult to injury, they adopt the Swedish theme song of the 1995 World Championship ("Den glider in...") as the team is received by thousands of fans in Helsinki the next day for celebrations which last several days.

## 7. Maatta finds gap as Swedes silence 50.000 Russians at Lenin Stadium. March 5, 1957 in Moscow, Soviet Union. Sweden - Soviet Union 4-4.

The biggest crowd ever to attend an IIHF game gathers at the Lenin Stadium to see the decider of the 24th World Championship in 1957. No one really knows how many fans pack the soccer arena for the final game of the round-robin tournament, but the crowd is estimated at 50,000. The Soviets, the 1956 Olympic champions, have to win, while the Swedes will grab the gold in case of a tie. The guests take a 2-0 lead in the first, but the home favourites storm back with four unanswered goals in the second stanza to make it 4-2. Sweden gets one back early in the third. With twelve minutes to go Swedish forward Eilert Maatta picks up a loose puck in the right corner of the Soviet zone and cuts to the goal, skating along the goal line. With no one to pass to, Maatta sees that Russian goalie Puchkov, anticipating a centering pass, has left a small gap between his pads and the goal post. Maatta, a right hand shot, goes for a backhand shot and ties it up, 4-4. That is the first, and last, time any other team than the Soviet Union wins a world championship in Moscow. The Soviets win in 1973, 1979 and 1986 without as much as losing a single point in the process.

## 8. Czechs storm back from 0-2 as Moravec scores overtime winner. May 13, 2001 in Hanover, Germany. Czech Republic - Finland 3-2.



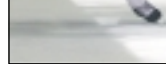
Photo: BRUCE BENNET STUDIOS

**AFTER 33 LONG YEARS.** Luc Robitaille gives Canada a World Championship gold with this magnificent penalty-shot backhand move on Finland's Jarmo Myllys in 1994.



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

**SLOVAKIA'S FIRST.** Maxim Sokolov reacts too late as Peter Bondra's winning puck hits the back of the net (to the right of the goalie) and Bondra can start his celebration (left).



The Czechs are going for their third consecutive gold at the 65th IIHF World Championship but the pesky Finns have a 2-0 lead going into the third period in the Gold Medal Game

in front of a capacity crowd of 10,513 at the Preussag Arena in Hanover. Martin Prochazka gets one back early in the third and Jiri Dopita deflects a shot past goalie Pasi Nurminen with six minutes remaining. The game is ten minutes into overtime when unsung hero, David Moravec, finds some room in the Finnish zone. As he is poke-checked by a falling Finnish defenseman, he veers to the right preparing for a backhand shot. Goalie Nurminen has to move sideways and he cannot cover as Moravec slides the puck under him, at 10.38 of overtime. Moravec' goal marks the climax of the most successful period in the history of Czechoslovak/Czech hockey. Five major finals, the 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2001 World Championships and the 1998 Olympics, result in five gold medals.

## 9. Lucky Luc penalizes Finns as Canada wins first gold in 33 years. May 8, 1994 in Milan, Italy. Canada - Finland 2-1.

Finland leads the Gold Medal Game against Canada 1-0 when Rod Brind'Amour gets the equalizer with less than five minutes left. After a scoreless ten-minute overtime period, the game is decided on Game Winning Shots (penalty shoot-out). The teams score two penalty shots each on the first five attempts as the GWS-competition goes into the second stage where teams shoot "one-and-one". Luc Robitaille, who assisted on Canada's regulation time goal and who scored on his first penalty shot just a couple of minutes earlier, gets the call again. Robitaille skates slowly towards goalie Jarmo Myllys, but midway into the Finnish zone he loses control of the puck on the scrappy ice - but he doesn't lose his cool. Lucky Luc retrieves the puck just a couple of metres in front of Myllys and finishes off with a sweet backhand move to put Canada ahead. Mika Nieminen misses the following attempt and Canada is IIHF World Champion for the first time since the 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters. This is the only time an IIHF World Championship Gold Medal Game is decided in a Game Winning Shot competition.

## 10. Garrison's overtime goal ends Canada's unbeaten streak. February 26, 1933 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. USA - Canada 2-1.

After winning the first six international tournaments (the 1920, 1924, 1928 and 1932 Olympics and also the 1930 and 1931 IIHF World Championship) without losing a single game, Canada plays USA in the final game of the 7th IIHF World Championship. The score is tied 1-1 after regulation time and USA's John Garrison scores after six minutes of "non sudden-death" overtime on a beautiful solo effort and the Toronto National "Sea Fleas" become the first Canadian team to lose a game in international competition. This is a goal which is almost totally forgotten. Even in the USA, very few hockey fans know about this one. Garrison's goal gave USA its first IIHF World Championship gold medal, and 70 years later, it is still the only men's senior world championship gold that the USA has won.

Szymon Szemberg  
IIHF

## IIHF World Championships\*

Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Venue
1910	Great Britain	Germany	Belgium	Les Avants
1911	Bohemia	Germany	Belgium	Berlin
1912	Cancelled			
1913	Belgium	Bohemia	Germany	Munich
1914	Bohemia	Germany	Belgium	Berlin
1920	Canada	USA	Czechoslovakia	Antwerp (Olympics)
1924	Canada	USA	Great Britain	Chamonix (Olympics)
1928	Canada	Sweden	Switzerland	St. Moritz (Olympics)
1930	Canada	Germany	Switzerland	Chamonix/Berlin
1931	Canada	USA	Austria	Krynica
1932	Canada	USA	Germany	Lake Placid (Olympics)
1933	USA	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Prague
1934	Canada	USA	Germany	Milan
1935	Canada	Switzerland	Great Britain	Davos
1936	Great Britain	Canada	USA	Garmisch-Partenkirchen. (Olympics)
1937	Canada	Great Britain	Switzerland	London
1938	Canada	Great Britain	Czechoslovakia	Prague
1939	Canada	USA	Switzerland	Zurich/Basle
1940-1946	No championships			
1947	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Austria	Prague
1948	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Switzerland	St. Moritz (Olympics)
1949	Czechoslovakia	Canada	USA	Stockholm
1950	Canada	USA	Switzerland	London
1951	Canada	Sweden	Switzerland	Paris
1952	Canada	USA	Sweden	Oslo (Olympics)
1953	Sweden	FR Germany	Switzerland	Zurich/Basle
1954	Soviet Union	Canada	Sweden	Stockholm
1955	Canada	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Krefeld/Dortmund/Cologne
1956	Soviet Union	USA	Canada	Cortina (Olympics)
1957	Sweden	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Moscow
1958	Canada	Soviet Union	Sweden	Oslo
1959	Canada	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Prague/Bratislava
1960	USA	Canada	Soviet Union	Squaw Valley (Olympics)
1961	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Soviet Union	Geneva/Lausanne
1962	Sweden	Canada	USA	Colorado Springs/Denver
1963	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Stockholm
1964	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Innsbruck (Olympics)
1965	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Tampere
1966	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Canada	Ljubljana
1967	Soviet Union	Sweden	Canada	Vienna
1968	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Canada	Grenoble (Olympics)
1969	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Stockholm
1970	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Stockholm
1971	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Berne/Geneva
1972	Czechoslovakia	Soviet Union	Sweden	Prague
1973	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Moscow
1974	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Helsinki
1975	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Munich/Dusseldorf
1976	Czechoslovakia	Soviet Union	Sweden	Katowice
1977	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Soviet Union	Vienna
1978	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Canada	Prague
1979	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Moscow
1981	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Gothenburg/Stockholm
1982	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Canada	Helsinki/Tampere
1983	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Canada	Dusseldorf/Dortmund/Munich
1985	Czechoslovakia	Canada	Soviet Union	Prague
1986	Soviet Union	Sweden	Canada	Moscow
1987	Sweden	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Vienna
1989	Soviet Union	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Stockholm/Sodertalje
1990	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Berne/Fribourg
1991	Sweden	Canada	Soviet Union	Turku/Helsinki/Tampere
1992	Sweden	Finland	Czech Republic	Prague/Bratislava
1993	Russia	Sweden	Czech Republic	Dortmund/Munich
1994	Canada	Finland	Sweden	Bolzano/Canazei/Milano
1995	Finland	Sweden	Canada	Stockholm/Gavle
1996	Czech Republic	Canada	USA	Vienna
1997	Canada	Sweden	Czech Republic	Helsinki/Turku/Tampere
1998	Sweden	Finland	Czech Republic	Zurich/Basle
1999	Czech Republic	Finland	Sweden	Oslo/Lillehammer/Hamar
2000	Czech Republic	Slovakia	Finland	St. Petersburg
2001	Czech Republic	Finland	Sweden	Cologne/Hanover/Numberg
2002	Slovakia	Russia	Sweden	Gothenburg/Karlstad/Jonkoping

### \*Notes:

1. The tournaments between 1910 and 1914 were European Championships
2. All Olympic ice hockey tournaments between 1920 and 1968 also counted as World Championships
3. In the Olympic years 1980, 1984 and 1988, no IIHF World Championships were staged.

**Gold medals:** Soviet/Union/Russia 23, Canada 21, Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic 10, Sweden 7, USA 2, Great Britain 1, Finland 1, Slovakia 1.

## Canada's GM Tambellini likes a team of (1997) winners

■ Team Canada's General Manager Steve Tambellini is a believer in winning tradition. And why shouldn't he? Steve's father Addie Tambellini led the legendary Trail Smoke Eaters to the 1961 IIHF World Championship gold medal, the last time a truly amateur team won the championship.

So when Steve, on March 31, announced who would be Team Canada's coach for the 2003 IIHF World Championship, not many people were surprised that he picked Andy Murray (head coach of the NHL Los Angeles Kings since 1999), the same man who led the team of the maple leaf to the 1997 IIHF World Championship gold medal - in Finland. Canada has not won a men's senior world championship gold since.

And when Tambellini announced the first ten players for the world championship on April 7, he showed that he continued the winning tradition. Goaltender Sean Burke (Phoenix), and forwards Anson Carter (NY Rangers) and Chris Gratton (Phoenix) were all on Murray's 1997 winning team which beat Sweden in a best-of-three final at the Hartwall Arena in Helsinki.

As this issue went to press, the Canadian GM had also announced the selection of two of the most exciting youngsters in the NHL: Florida's junior veteran defenseman Jay Bouwmeester and Atlanta's Dany Heatley, the 2002 NHL's Rookie of the Year and a returnee from the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden.

### IIHF NEWS & APPOINTMENTS

■ We would like to welcome Thomas Freyer, 31 to the IIHF family. He joined the Zurich office on April 1, 2003 taking over the position of the Marketing Manager.



In this position he will work on various marketing activities, i.e. he will manage and service the supplier contracts with the national associations and ensure that the sponsorship contracts will be implemented at the IIHF tournaments as agreed. Furthermore he will develop new marketing strategies for the IIHF and their websites in liaison with the commercial partner of the federation.

Before joining the IIHF Thomas has worked in the sports marketing field both on the organizers side as well as on the sponsors side of various prestigious tennis and golf events such as the ATP Tour World Championship, the Davis Cup and the World Golf Championships.

Thomas is originally from Augsburg, Germany but has also lived in Australia, South Africa and Spain.

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

■ Deok-bae Kim (picture) is the new president of the Korean Ice Hockey Association, replacing Hee Sang Moon upon his resignation. Kim is a member of the National Assembly of Republic of Korea and is elected for the period of 17 February 2003 - 30 June 2005.

Hee Sang Moon was named honorary president of the Korean Ice Hockey Association.





# Daniel from Jersey donates a mountain of gear to Romania

The American Ice Hockey Association (USA Hockey) and its national team coach Lou Vairo have been very active in the promotion of sending used ice hockey equipment to eastern Europe and underprivileged hockey programs in Romania, Latvia, Ukraine and Belarus. Here are two stories about youth hockey clubs in the USA, which have donated substantial amount of equipment to Romania.



**OFF TO ROMANIA:** The result of 13-year old Daniel Weiniger's efforts is quite impressive. Now, Daniel would want to establish contacts with young hockey players in Romania.

To: The International Hockey Federation

From: Daniel Weiniger, Age 13, Warren, New Jersey, USA

When I started thinking about what I wanted to do for a community service project, I wanted to do something that related to my favourite sport, hockey. I thought about the fact that I am so lucky to get good hockey equipment when I need it.

So I came up with the idea to collect used hockey equipment for underprivileged kids. When I came up with the idea, I contacted Lou Vairo at the USA hockey. He told me that it was a great idea and that he heard about children in Romania that had an outdoor hockey rink, but no hockey equipment. Then I was thinking on how to get the equipment. I decided to get a big cardboard box, and put the equipment inside. I covered the box in white construction paper. I decorated the box.

Next, I contacted the ice arena I play at, Bridgewater Sports Arena, and asked if I could put the box in the lobby for people to put the donations in. They kindly agreed. After that, I wrote a letter to every family that has a child on the New Jersey Rockets, the team I play for. The families got my email and they started to fill the box daily. Every time I went to the rink for a game or practice I emptied the box and stored the equipment at my house. Families were so generous. Everyone got into the spirit. Even two employees of the rink helped, one manager, Nick, offered all the equipment from the "lost and found" box and a maintenance man, Omar, offered all the pucks he had collected around the rink over the years. One family donated 3 huge boxes of skates that were used from three boys playing travel hockey over the years.

December 15th was the last time to put in donations. I then got everything out in my driveway, and started the hardest part of the whole procedure. My friend and teammate, Greg Zambon and I sorted all the equipment by type of equipment (i.e. skates, helmets, elbows, etc). This took about 2 hours. As we counted, we put everything in heavy contractor plastic bags. Then, the shipping company will soon arrive at my house to transport the equipment to Romania. Soon after that, the children will be playing hockey in Romania.

I would very much like to hear from some of these children. We could become "Pen Pals". This could start an international communication between children with the same common interest, the love of playing hockey.

Thank you.  
Daniel Weiniger

## Clean-up act in Knoxville generates second wave of overseas shipments

The Knoxville, Tennessee Amateur Hockey Association (KAHA) had to clean up its act.

After many years of renting youth hockey gear and hosting equipment swaps, it took a storage unit to house all the gear.

It soon was realized the KAHA had more gear than needed, but no way to dispose of it. No one in the Southern Youth Hockey Association needed it, no one at USA Hockey needed it, but then Lou Vairo at USA Hockey came to the rescue.

Lou explained to KAHA that there was a wonderful program through the International Ice Hockey Federation to donate gear to kids in eastern Europe.

After getting in touch with Dave Fitzpatrick at IIHF and Danzas, Switzerland, plans have

come together to donate skates, helmets, pads and all the other necessities for children to safely play ice hockey. Parents are currently working very hard to box up all the gear and get it shipped to Romania.

Knoxville Amateur Hockey is based in beautiful Knoxville, Tennessee and currently has approximately 200 youth players. KAHA has instructional leagues that play amongst themselves, travel leagues that play all over the southeast United States, and school leagues for middle and high school.

Thanks to John Cox, President of the Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association, Karyn Allen, director of Public Relations, and the entire Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association for coordinating such a needed donation.

**GEAR GIVERS:** The Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association joined the initiative to send hockey gear to eastern Europe. Young KAHA players were guided in their efforts by John Knox, President of Southern Youth Hockey League (left) and hockey mom Karyn Allen (back, right)



## RESULTS SUMMARY

## IIHF World U18 Championship, Div III, Group A

Mexico City, MEXICO March 05 - 08, 2003

Australia - China	6 - 3	(3-2, 2-1, 1-0)
Mexico - New Zealand	5 - 0	(3-0, 2-0, 0-0)
China - New Zealand	4 - 1	(2-1, 1-0, 1-0)
Mexico - Australia	2 - 8	(1-4, 1-2, 0-2)
New Zealand - Australia	1 - 14	(0-3, 1-7, 0-4)
China - Mexico	4 - 5	(0-2, 3-1, 1-2)

Australia	3	3	0	0	28 - 6	6
Mexico	3	2	0	1	12 - 12	4
China	3	1	0	2	11 - 12	2
New Zealand	3	0	0	3	2 - 23	0

■ Australia promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division II.

## Individual scoring

1. WEBSTER, Liam	AUS	3	5	4	9
2. DONG, Liang	CHN	3	3	5	8
3. DUNWOODIE, David	AUS	3	5	2	7
4. JAYAWARDENE, Warren	AUS	3	5	2	7
5. STEPHENSON, Scott	AUS	3	4	2	6
6. GLENNIE, Eduardo	MEX	3	5	0	5
7. MATUS, Peter	AUS	3	4	1	5
8. CERVANTES, Adrian	MEX	3	2	3	5
9. ESPOSITO, Adrian	JPN	3	2	2	4
10. MAKRIIS, Luke	AUS	3	2	1	3

## IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Alfonso De Alba (MEX)

Best Defenseman: Peter Matus (AUS)

Best Forward: Adrian Cervantes (MEX)

## IIHF World U18 Championship, Div II, Group B

Belgrade, YUGOSLAVIA 05 - 11 March, 2003

South Africa - Romania	1 - 7	(0-3, 0-1, 1-3)
Lithuania - Netherlands	0 - 5	(0-2, 0-3, 0-0)
Yugoslavia - Hungary	2 - 2	(2-2, 0-0, 0-0)
Hungary - South Africa	8 - 0	(3-0, 2-0, 4-1)
Romania - Lithuania	5 - 2	(1-0, 3-2, 1-0)
Netherlands - Yugoslavia	5 - 2	(2-0, 2-2, 1-0)
Hungary - Romania	1 - 6	(1-1, 0-4, 0-1)
Netherlands - South Africa	8 - 3	(2-1, 2-0, 4-2)
Lithuania - Yugoslavia	3 - 4	(0-2, 2-0, 1-2)
Romania - Netherlands	7 - 4	(3-2, 2-1, 2-1)
Hungary - Lithuania	11 - 4	(3-1, 2-2, 6-1)
Yugoslavia - South Africa	4 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 3-0)
South Africa - Lithuania	4 - 6	(1-4, 2-1, 1-1)
Netherlands - Hungary	0 - 5	(0-1, 0-1, 0-3)
Romania - Yugoslavia	8 - 2	(2-1, 4-1, 2-0)

Romania	5	5	0	0	33 - 10	10
Hungary	5	3	1	1	27 - 12	7
Netherlands	5	3	0	2	22 - 17	6
Yugoslavia	5	2	1	2	14 - 19	5
Lithuania	5	1	0	4	15 - 29	2
South Africa	5	0	0	5	9 - 33	0

■ Romania promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division I.

## Individual scoring

1. PETERS, Tivadar	ROM	5	11	6	17
2. MIHALY, Ede	ROM	5	8	7	15
3. VERDENSCHOT, Hubertus	NED	5	5	6	11
4. GEORGESCU, Mihail	ROM	5	7	3	10
5. MARKO, Istvan	HUN	5	4	4	8
6. SZAJBERT, Patrik	HUN	5	4	4	8
7. DONDEERS, Mark	NED	5	4	4	8
8. LELENAS, Marius	LTU	5	4	2	6
9. PAPP, Viktor	NOR	5	3	3	6
10. VAN ROOSMALEN, Bart	NED	5	3	3	6
11. NYERGES, Lajos	HUN	5	2	4	6

## IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Dominik Vinnai (HUN)

Best Defenseman: Jemo Mihaly (ROM)

Best Forward: Tivadar Petres (ROM)

MVP: Tivadar Petres (ROM)

## IIHF World Women Championship, Division I

Ventspils, LATVIA 09-15 March 2003

DPR Korea - Japan	2 - 6	(0-3, 1-2, 1-1)
Latvia - Kazakhstan	1 - 6	(0-1, 0-3, 1-2)
France - Czech Republic	1 - 4	(0-3, 0-0, 1-1)
Kazakhstan - DPR Korea	4 - 1	(0-0, 1-1, 3-0)

Japan - France	2 - 1	(1-1, 1-0, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Latvia	2 - 1	(2-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Kazakhstan - France	3 - 3	(2-1, 0-0, 1-2)
Japan - Czech Republic	8 - 3	(2-0, 4-1, 2-2)
Latvia - DPR Korea	5 - 2	(4-1, 0-1, 1-0)
Czech Republic - Kazakhstan	0 - 7	(0-4, 0-2, 0-1)
DPR Korea - France	0 - 3	(0-2, 0-1, 0-0)
Japan - Latvia	5 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Czech Republic - DPR Korea	6 - 5	(3-1, 3-2, 0-2)
France - Latvia	1 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Kazakhstan - Japan	0 - 2	(0-1, 0-1, 0-0)

Japan	5	5	0	0	23 - 6	10
Kazakhstan	5	3	1	1	20 - 7	7
Czech Republic	5	3	0	2	15 - 22	6
France	5	2	1	2	9 - 9	4
Latvia	5	1	0	4	7 - 16	2
DPR Korea	5	0	0	5	10 - 24	0

■ Japan promoted to the 2004 IIHF World Women Championship in Halifax, Canada.

## Individual scoring

1. YAKOVCHUK, Natalya	KAZ	5	7	4	11
2. MALITSEVA, Yekaterina	KAZ	5	5	6	11
3. KUBO, Hanae	JPN	5	5	5	10
4. TOGAWA, Yuki	JPN	5	4	4	8
5. FIALOWA, Drahomira	CZE	5	6	0	6
6. SATO, Masako	JPN	5	3	3	6
7. KRALOVA, Zuzana	CZE	5	3	3	6
8. HONG, Pong-Hwa	DPR	5	2	4	6
9. SHELMAISTER, Yelena	KAZ	5	1	5	6
10. CHOE, Jong-Sun	DPR	5	4	1	5

## IIHF World U18 Championship, Div II, Group A

Tallinn, ESTONIA 17 - 23 March 2003

Belgium - Korea	1 - 13	(0-6, 1-3, 0-4)
Spain - Croatia	4 - 9	(1-5, 1-4, 2-0)
Bulgaria - Estonia	0 - 17	(0-6, 0-3, 0-8)
Croatia - Belgium	4 - 4	(1-0, 3-2, 0-2)
Korea - Bulgaria	18 - 0	(5-0, 8-0, 5-0)
Estonia - Spain	12 - 0	(2-0, 6-0, 4-0)
Bulgaria - Spain	1 - 15	(1-5, 0-4, 0-6)
Croatia - Korea	4 - 9	(0-4, 1-1, 3-4)
Estonia - Belgium	11 - 0	(3-0, 4-0, 4-0)
Croatia - Bulgaria	20 - 0	(4-0, 5-0, 11-0)
Spain - Belgium	3 - 5	(2-1, 1-4, 0-0)
Korea - Estonia	7 - 6	(2-3, 2-1, 3-2)
Korea - Spain	9 - 1	(4-1, 4-0, 1-0)
Belgium - Bulgaria	10 - 1	(1-0, 3-0, 6-1)
Estonia - Croatia	3 - 1	(2-0, 0-1, 1-0)

Korea	5	5	0	0	56 - 12	10
Estonia	5	4	0	1	49 - 8	8
Croatia	5	2	1	2	38 - 20	5
Belgium	5	2	1	2	20 - 32	5
Spain	5	1	0	4	23 - 36	2
Bulgaria	5	0	0	5	2 - 80	0

■ Korea promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division I.

## Individual scoring

1. GROZAI, Tomislav	CRO	5	18	9	27
2. KIM, Ki-Sung	KOR	5	9	9	18
3. PARK, Woo-Sang	KOR	5	11	6	17
4. KWON, Tae-An	KOR	5	9	8	17
5. KUZNETSOV, Aleksandr	EST	5	10	6	16
6. SMERDELI, Miro	CRO	5	2	11	13
7. IVEZIQ, David	CRO	5	6	6	12
8. LEE, Seung-Jun	KOR	5	3	9	12
9. RADOVIC, Kresimir	CRO	5	1	11	12
10. CHANG, Jun-Il	KOR	5	9	2	11

## IIHF World U18 Championship, Div I, Group B

Briancon, FRANCE 22 - 28 March 2003

Poland - Norway	2 - 2	(1-1, 1-0, 0-1)
Italy - Ukraine	4 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 3-0)
France - Austria	6 - 4	(1-3, 3-1, 2-0)
Norway - Italy	5 - 2	(0-0, 3-1, 2-1)
Austria - Poland	1 - 2	(0-1, 0-1, 1-0)
Ukraine - France	1 - 7	(1-1, 0-4, 0-2)
Poland - Italy	4 - 3	(2-2, 1-0, 1-1)
Ukraine - Austria	5 - 6	(0-1, 2-3, 3-2)
Norway - France	4 - 2	(2-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Ukraine - Poland	6 - 0	(1-0, 5-0, 0-0)
Austria - Norway	3 - 4	(1-1, 1-1, 1-2)
Italy - France	5 - 3	(1-0, 2-0, 2-3)

Austria - Italy	1 - 1	(0-0, 1-0, 0-1)
Norway - Ukraine	7 - 4	(3-1, 3-3, 1-0)
France - Poland	2 - 3	(1-0, 0-0, 1-3)

Norway	5	4	1	0	22 - 13	9
Poland	5	3	1	1	11 - 14	7
Italy	5	2	1	2	15 - 13	5
France	5	2	0	3	20 - 17	4
Austria	5	1	1	3	15 - 18	3
Ukraine	5	1	0	4	16 - 24	2

■ Norway promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship.

## Individual scoring

1. KOLUSZ, Marcin	POL	5	4	3	7
2. ROTTER, Rafael	AUT	5	3	4	7
3. KRYCHENKO, Vitaliy	UKR	5	3	3	6
4. TRYGG, Mathias	NOR	5	3	2	5
5. WIOTTE, Lionel	FRA	5	3	2	5
6. HESBRATHEN, Lars Erik	NOR	5	3	2	5
7. KOWLAOWKA, Sebastian	POL	5	3	2	5
8. OLIMB, Mathis	NOR	5	3	2	5
9. MANTESE, Claudio	ITA	5	3	2	5

## IIHF World U18 Championship Div I, Group A

Ventspils, LATVIA 23 - 29 March 2003

Denmark - Slovenia	10 - 4	(6-2, 3-1, 1-1)
Latvia - Japan	1 - 1	(0-1, 0-0, 1-0)
Great Britain - Germany	0 - 13	(0-3, 0-5, 0-5)
Slovenia - Japan	7 - 2	(1-1, 5-0, 1-1)
Germany - Denmark	3 - 4	(2-1, 1-2, 0-1)
Latvia - Great Britain	6 - 2	(1-0, 3-0, 2-2)
Great Britain - Denmark	2 - 11	(1-3, 0-4, 1-4)
Germany - Japan	4 - 1	(2-1, 2-0, 0-0)
Slovenia - Latvia	6 - 4	(2-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Denmark - Japan	4 - 1	(2-0, 2-1, 0-0)
Slovenia - Great Britain	5 - 1	(0-0, 3-1, 2-0)
Latvia - Germany	1 - 4	(0-1, 1-0, 0-3)
Japan - Great Britain	10 - 3	(5-0, 1-2, 4-1)
Germany - Slovenia	10 - 2	(3-0, 4-1, 3-1)
Latvia - Denmark	2 - 2	(1-1, 1-1, 0-0)

Denmark	5	4	1	0	31 - 12	9
Germany	5	4	0	1	34 - 8	8
Slovenia	5	3	0	2	24 - 27	6
Latvia	5	1	2	2	14 - 15	4
Japan	5	1	1	3	15 - 19	3
Great Britain	5	0	0	5	8 - 45	0

■ Denmark promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship.

## Individual scoring

1. NIELSEN, Martin	DEN	5	4	7	11
2. HOSPELT, Kai	GER	5	7	3	10
3. NEDERMARK, Nikolaj	DEN	5	4	5	9
4. KINK, Marcus	GER	5	5	3	8
5. MAURER, Uli	GER	5	3	5	8
6. CARCIOLA, Fabio	GER	5	4	3	7
7. HANSEN, Jannik	DEN	5	2	5	7
8. PAJIC, Rok	SLO	5	3	3	6
9. VORUP, Jakob	DEN	5	2	4	6
10. SVETE, Ziga	SLO	5	1	5	6

## IIHF World Championship Div II, Group B

Sofia, BULGARIA 24 - 30 March 2003

DPR Korea - China	1 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 1-1)
Iceland - Israel	1 - 4	(0-1, 0-1, 1-2)
Bulgaria - Belgium	1 - 2	(0-1, 0-0, 1-1)
Belgium - Iceland	10 - 2	(4-1, 5-1, 1-0)
Israel - DPR Korea	2 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 1-1)
China - Bulgaria	5 - 2	(0-1, 2-0, 3-1)
China - Iceland	4 - 0	(1-3, 0-4, 1-4)
Belgium - Israel	9 - 0	(2-1, 2-0, 0-0)
DPR Korea - Bulgaria	2 - 5	(2-1, 2-0, 0-0)
Israel - China	4 - 6	(0-2, 3-0, 1-4)
Belgium - DPR Korea	2 - 4	(2-1, 0-1, 0-2)
Bulgaria - Iceland	6 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 4-0)
Iceland - DPR Korea	1 - 7	(0-4, 1-1, 0-2)
China - Belgium	1 - 6	(0-2, 1-1, 0-3)
Israel - Bulgaria	1 - 1	(1-0, 0-1, 0-0)



## RESULTS SUMMARY

Belgium	5	4	0	1	29 - 8	8
China	5	4	0	1	19 - 13	8
Bulgaria	5	2	1	2	15 - 10	5
DPR Korea	5	2	1	2	16 - 13	5
Israel	5	1	2	2	11 - 19	4
Iceland	5	0	0	5	4 - 31	0

■ Belgium promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship.

### Individual scoring

1. PELLGRIMS, Mike	BEL	5	4	9	13
2. JURECKA, Jan	BEL	5	4	4	8
3. KIM, Jong-Son	PRK	5	4	4	8
4. RI, Thae-Hwi	PRK	5	4	3	7
5. VOS, Tim	BEL	5	1	6	7
6. IOTOV, Alexei	BUL	5	4	2	6
7. SCHUCHHEWITSCH, M.	BEL	5	3	3	6
8. ZAK, Sergei	ISR	5	3	3	6
9. RAEKELBOOM, Jesse	BEL	5	3	3	6
10. RAVNIAGA, Eduard	ISR	5	2	4	6

## IIHF World Women Championship, Div III

Maribor, SLOVENIA 25 - 31 March 2003

Hungary - Belgium	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-1, 0-1)
Romania - South Africa	6 - 1	(3-0, 2-0, 1-1)
Slovenia - Australia	4 - 4	(2-1, 1-3, 1-0)
Australia - Hungary	7 - 0	(3-0, 3-0, 1-0)
Belgium - Romania	3 - 1	(0-1, 3-0, 0-0)
South Africa - Slovenia	1 - 6	(0-2, 1-1, 0-3)
Belgium - South Africa	1 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 1-1)
Australia - Romania	9 - 1	(2-0, 1-1, 6-0)
Slovenia - Hungary	1 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 0-0)
South Africa - Australia	0 - 8	(0-2, 0-2, 0-4)
Hungary - Romania	3 - 2	(0-0, 1-0, 2-2)
Belgium - Slovenia	2 - 2	(0-0, 2-1, 0-1)
South Africa - Hungary	2 - 2	(0-0, 2-0, 0-0)
Australia - Belgium	6 - 2	(3-0, 2-1, 1-1)
Romania - Slovenia	1 - 7	(0-2, 1-2, 0-3)

Australia	5	4	1	0	34 - 7	9
Slovenia	5	3	2	0	20 - 8	8
Belgium	5	2	1	2	10 - 12	5
Hungary	5	1	1	3	5 - 14	3
South Africa	5	1	1	3	7 - 23	3
Romania	5	1	0	4	11 - 23	0

■ Australia is promoted to the 2004 IIHF World Women Championship Division II.

### Individual scoring

1. ROSAR, Jasmina	SLO	5	8	8	16
2. BOXALL, Stephanie	AUS	5	9	6	15
3. PREZELJ, Ina	SLO	5	6	5	11
4. BIBBY, Melissa	AUS	5	7	2	9
5. ERZEN, Anja	SLO	5	4	2	6

### IIHF Directorate Awards

**Best Goalkeeper:** Celine Massee (BEL)

**Best Defenseman:** Kaylee Reitsma (AUS)

**Best Forward:** Jasmina Rosar (SLO)

## IHF World Women Championship, Div II

Lecco, ITALY 31 March - 06 April 2003

Great Britain - Slovakia	1 - 8	(0-5, 0-3, 1-0)
Denmark - Netherlands	4 - 1	(2-1, 2-0, 0-0)
Italy - Norway	2 - 4	(2-2, 0-1, 0-1)
Slovakia - Denmark	1 - 2	(0-1, 1-0, 0-1)
Netherlands - Italy	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Norway - Great Britain	8 - 3	(1-0, 5-1, 2-2)
Great Britain - Denmark	4 - 4	(1-0, 1-2, 2-2)
Netherlands - Norway	1 - 7	(0-2, 0-3, 1-2)
Slovakia - Italy	10 - 0	(3-0, 2-0, 5-0)
Norway - Slovakia	2 - 2	(1-0, 1-1, 0-1)
Denmark - Italy	5 - 4	(1-1, 2-2, 2-1)
Netherlands - Great Britain	4 - 2	(2-0, 1-2, 1-0)
Slovakia - Netherlands	2 - 2	(0-1, 2-0, 0-1)
Norway - Denmark	3 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 2-0)
Italy - Great Britain	4 - 2	(0-0, 4-0, 0-2)

Norway	5	4	1	0	24 - 9	9
Denmark	5	3	1	1	16 - 13	7
Slovakia	5	2	2	1	23 - 7	6
Italy	5	2	0	3	13 - 21	4
Netherlands	5	1	1	3	8 - 18	3
Great Britain	5	1	0	4	12 - 28	1

■ Norway is promoted to the 2004 IIHF World Women Championship Division II.

## SC Bern keeps status as top draw in Euro hockey

■ For the second consecutive season, SC Bern is the club with the best attendance figures in Europe. Bern, which reached the semi-final of the Swiss championship, averaged 12,359 fans over 22 home games. That's an increase of more than 1,000 fans per game from 2001-2002. Just like last season, the Kolner (Cologne) Haie of the German DEL league are second with 11,921 while the newly formed Hamburg Freezers, also of the DEL, are a surprise third with an average of 10,713 fans.

The team was transferred from Munich (where they were known as the Barons) before this season and the team had to play almost two months on the road before they could move into their new building in November.

As usual, Frolunda, Goteborg (9,966) was the best draw in the Swedish Elite League while Jokerit, Helsinki (9,614) held on to their number one position in Finland.

### Best attendance figures in European hockey leagues 2002-2003

Last season's position within brackets

1. (1)	SC Bern	(SUI)	12,359
2. (2)	Kölner Haie	(GER)	11,921
3. (x)	Hamburg Freezers	(GER)	10,713
4. (7)	Frölunda, Göteborg	(SWE)	9,966
5. (3)	Jokerit, Helsinki	(FIN)	9,581
6. (5)	Lokomotiv Yaroslavl	(RUS)	9,045
7. (6)	ZSC Lions, Zurich	(SUI)	8,837
8. (9)	Färjestad, Karlstad	(SWE)	7,821
9. (8)	TPS Turku	(FIN)	7,472
10. (11)	HC Pardubice	(CZE)	7,225
11. (10)	Djurgarden, Stockholm	(SWE)	6,626
12. (13)	HIFK Helsinki	(FIN)	6,550
13. (12)	HC Plzen	(CZE)	6,357
14. (16)	Düsseldorf Metro Stars	(GER)	6,269
15. (15)	HV 71, Jönköping	(SWE)	6,070
16. (14)	Karpat, Oulu	(FIN)	6,036
17. (x)	Adler Mannheim	(GER)	5,796
18. (4)	HC Lausanne	(SUI)	5,719
19. (20)	Frankfurt Lions	(GER)	5,640
20. (X)	Hannover Scorpions	(GER)	5,629

## Hockey has a nice upside in the land down-under

■ Watch out hockey world, 'cause the Aussies are coming strong in gigantic Kangaroo leaps. In the beginning of March, the Australian National Youth Team, which competed in the 2003 IIHF World U18 Championship Division III in Mexico City, won the gold medal and was promoted to next year's Division II. It was the best result by any Australian junior team in 25 years of international competition.

In the four-team championship, Australia defeated China 6-3, Mexico 8-2 and New Zealand 14-1. Liam Webster was the tournament's best scorer with nine



WINNING TEAM ... and great looking jerseys, too. Australia's team at Maribor, Slovenia.

points (5+4) in three games while Peter Matus was named best defenseman of the championship.

At the end of March, the Australian women went to work in Maribor, Slovenia at the 2003 IIHF World Women Championship Division III. After recording a 4-4 tie against Slovenia in their opener, the Aussie ladies beat Hungary 7-0, Romania 9-1, South Africa 8-0 and Belgium 6-2 thus winning the championship on nine points against Slovenia's eight.

Australia's Stephanie Boxall finished second in tournament scoring with 15 points (9+6) in five games and Kaylee Reitsmaa was awarded by the tournament directorate with the best defenseman honours. The success was even greater considering that this was the first time Australia competed in a women's championship.

This is the first time Australia has won two IIHF championships in one season. These are the first tournament wins since the men's senior team won the old D-pool in 1987 in Perth, where they hammered New Zealand 57-0.

Australia is obviously one of the emerging hockey powers making the most progress. According to the annual IIHF Survey of Players, Australia has 2,753 registered players and 20 indoor rinks. Compare this, for example, with A-pool nation Ukraine, which has 1,646 registered players and seven rinks, and Slovenia, with 980 players and seven rinks.

### Individual scoring

1. CELAROVA, Nikoleta	SVK	5	5	3	8
2. PERRY, Tine Chr.	DEN	5	3	4	7
3. LUND, Sofie	DEN	5	5	1	6
4. OLEN, Line Bialik	NOR	5	5	1	6
5. MARTINSEN, Helene	NOR	5	4	2	6
6. FLORIAN, Sabina	ITA	5	4	2	6
7. ASK, Hege	NOR	5	4	2	6

## IHF World Championship, Division III

Auckland, NEW ZEALAND 03 - 06 April 2003

New Zealand - Turkey	7 - 1	(0-5, 0-3, 1-0)
Luxembourg - New Zealand	2 - 7	(2-1, 2-0, 0-0)
Turkey - Luxembourg	3 - 5	(2-2, 0-1, 0-1)

New Zealand	2	2	0	0	14 - 3	4
Luxembourg	2	1	0	1	7 - 10	2
Turkey	2	0	0	1	4 - 12	0

### Individual scoring

1. NESTEROV, Eugene	NZL	2	6	3	9
2. MONK, Dennis	NZL	2	3	2	5
3. FINCH, Duane	NZL	2	3	1	4

### IIHF Directorate Awards

**Best Goalkeeper:** Michele Winter (LUX)

**Best Defenseman:** Tasdemir Gokturk (TUR)

**Best Forward:** Eugene Nestorov (NZL)



Photos: DAVE SANDFORD

**HE COVERS A WHOLE LOT:** Observers claim that Kari Lehtonen could be the best goalie to come out of Europe. Here, a save against Russia in the World U20 Championship.

# Can Kari carry the load for Finland?

**By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF**

■ On the 7th of May 1995, a 12 year Kari Lehtonen was glued to the television set with his parents in Helsinki as they watched the IIHF World Championship Gold Medal Game between Sweden and Finland from Stockholm.

Little Kari, who six years earlier had already started to skate and play hockey, saw his goaltending idol Jarmo Myllys stop the Swedes and Ville Peltonen score three goals as Finland won the gold medal for the first time.

A dream was born on that Sunday afternoon and Kari Lehtonen has been dreaming about it for seven years - to play for Finland and win gold in a World Championship.

"I remember that 1995 final game as if it were yesterday", says Kari. "I have dreamt of being part of such a thing almost everyday since that moment."

■ Not only will Kari represent Finland, luck has it that he will do it on home ice in his home town Helsinki, in the very same arena where he plays club hockey with top team Jokerit. The success story of the 19 year old goaltender is almost too good to be true.

After winning gold for Finland at the 2000 IIHF U18 World Championship and the silver medal at the 2001 IIHF World U20 Championship, Kari quickly established himself as the top young goaltender in the world.

■ At the start of the 2001-2002 season Kari, 18, was the backup goaltender at Jokerit, but very soon team management realized that the youngster was better than Canadian veteran Jamie Ram. After taking over between the pipes, Kari led Jokerit to the Finnish championship, posting an amazing 1.73 GAA in the process.

The same month, Lehtonen was selected to Finland's world championship team in Sweden, but he did not dress for any of the games. On June 22, 2002, the Atlanta Thrashers selected Kari second overall in the NHL draft, making him the highest drafted European goaltender ever.

■ This season, Kari is by far the best goalie in Finland, an established star and it's so easy to forget that he won't turn 20 until mid-November. Last fall, after he backstopped Finland to a victory in the annual Karjala Cup tournament, Atlanta scout and former NHL-great Pete Mahovich said this after watching Kari posting a 1.13 GAA against seasoned pros:

"I've always said that Patrick Roy is the best goaltender I've ever seen. This kid is going to get better."

Kari cannot help smiling when this comment is brought up. "First when I saw this, I laughed", said Kari. "But then I felt proud. After all, to become a top international goalie is my goal."

■ Lehtonen also admits that, although fellow countryman Jarmo Myllys always has been his number one idol, he has tried, to a certain extent, to adopt Patrick Roy's butterfly style. "When Roy is down on the butterfly, he is still big and keeps his shoulders high and square. I have tried to do the same. But otherwise I have pretty much developed my own style."

## His strengths?

"I am good on low shots, I have quick legs, so I am hard to beat down low. And because of my size (191 cm/6'3"), I also cover the net pretty well." Somewhat surprisingly, Kari credits New Jersey farm-hand, Ari Ahonen, as the other goalie, besides Myllys and Roy, who has had a positive influence on his career.

■ "When I played in my first World U20 in Moscow in 2000, Ari was the first goalie and he really showed me the importance of stretching before and after the game. This has been very important for my flexibility and also for preventing injuries". Finding time for stretching activities has never been a problem for him. Lehtonen is known as a notorious rink rat. He loves coming to the arena early and, as

some claim, never leaves.

"Yeah, I just love everything that has to do with the game. Taping my sticks, checking the gear, I like the practises, I love the games. It's always fun around the rink and I really enjoy myself."



Thrives on pressure

■ He is refreshingly straightforward and honest about himself and his game and he will tell you when he is not happy with his performance, like his showing at the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championship in Canada.

"It was an unbelievable tournament with a very special atmosphere and I played well until the game against Canada, the last one of the preliminary round (5-3 Canada win) and after that I played below what I consider as my standard, despite a 6-0 win against the Slovaks in the quarter final."

But in Kari Lehtonen's rapid career this is already old stuff. He is eagerly looking forward to the biggest happening in his young hockey life.

■ "To be part of the Finnish national team in a world championship on home ice is something very special", says Kari. "Finland has never won on home ice so the pressure will be even greater. We know that every Finland game will be a sell-out and these pressure filled games is what hockey is all about. In games like that I feel like I want to eat the puck."

It's Kari's own expression for being totally focused and up to the occasion.

Almost as soon as the world championships are over, another chapter will be written in the Lehtonen saga.

"It's a pretty sure thing that I will sign with Atlanta and go over and play in North America in the coming season", says Kari. "I want to go to the Thrashers' training camp and prove myself. If I need to start the season in the minor leagues, this is what I will do and I won't feel bad about. I need to learn to play the North American game and if it takes two seasons, so will it be."