



IceTimes

December 2017 / Vol. 21, No. 5

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From the IIHF President

Participation is what truly counts

By René Fasel

As the calendar moves closer to a new year, the first pucks have dropped on the international ice hockey season.

As is tradition, we open with great excitement and anticipation one of our flagship tournaments, the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship. The World Juniors occupy a special place in the calendar, right in the middle of the holiday season between Christmas and New Year.

For many of these players, the Juniors offer the final opportunity for them to don their national team jersey and represent their countries on the ice.

Some of course will go on to have great careers in ice hockey and will move on to the senior team, but for the majority this is one last chance for international glory.

These circumstances help to create one of our most compelling tournaments. The energy level, skill, and competitiveness of each and every player on the ice make the Juniors a fantastic event to watch. In the leadup to the Juniors we also have the chance to gauge the development of our other nations in the lower division U20 tournaments, the results of which you can read more on in this issue.

Once the World Juniors conclude, it will only be a few weeks before the flame is lit at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeong-Chang.

It is indeed unfortunate that we will be going into these Olympic Games without having a best-on-best men's tournament. We will also be without representation from the Russian Olympic Committee, though its athletes will be permitted to compete under an IOC flag.

Although we will not get the chance to see the world's best players participate on the Olympic stage, we must recognize the need to forge ahead and work hard to deliver the men's and women's ice hockey tournament to the best of our ability. In this time of uncertainty I am reminded of the message from International Olympic Committee founder Pierre de Coubertin, who pointed that above all else, "It's the participating that counts." Regardless

of what shape the ice hockey tournaments will take, I applaud each and every athlete that will take to the ice and compete in Korea.

At the end of the day, our goal here is to develop the sport, and seeing teams represented from North America, Europe, and Asia indeed reflects the positive growth of our game. All the players competing in Korea are upholding a proud tradition of Olympic ice hockey that stretches back decades.

In the last IIHF Council meeting we spoke at length about the development of the game and our efforts to continue to grow our sport. I am pleased to say that after the launch of the IIHF-Infront Growing the Game fund we received 17 applications from our membership to run their own Growing the Game projects.

These new projects will be announced at a later date, but it is extremely positive to see that our membership is taking the initiative to build comprehensive and well-researched development projects, which makes it easy for us to work together for the betterment of the sport.

In the meantime, I wish you all a safe and festive holiday season, and hope you enjoy all the best that our sport has to offer in the new year.



News and Notes

PYEONGCHANG 2018

The IIHF Council has confirmed the referees and linesmen who will officiate at the men's and women's ice hockey tournaments of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.



CLICK FOR REFEREE ASSIGNMENTS

In total 47 on-ice officials from 13 different countries got the call for the 2018 Olympics.

The 12-team men's tournament will be handled by 14 referees and 14 linesmen. The eight-team women's tournament will be officiated by 10 referees and nine linesmen.

In numbers the list is led by the United States with seven on-ice officials followed by Finland and Sweden with six each. Canada, the Czech Republic and Switzerland will send five each to the Olympics.

Several of the on-ice officials have experience from Sochi 2014. Among the referees Antonin Jerabek and Konstantin Olenin have been part of the crew on Sochi 2014 while Nicole Her-

trich and Aina Hove even bring in the experience of two Olympics and eight Women's World Championships as they were also in Vancouver 2010. Also on the ice in Vancouver 2010 was Nikoleta Celarova, however, not as a referee but as a player for the Slovak women's team.

For most of the referees and linesmen it will be the first Olympic Winter Games after several men's and women's World Championships under the belt. In total the officials combine for 135 World Championship participations.

GERMANY

The German Ice Hockey Association (DEB) and the country's top ice hockey league DEL have extended their co-operation with a new agreement valid until 2026.

The co-operation settles the relationship between the DEB as governing ice hockey body and the independent DEL and focuses on the development of ice hockey in German with the development concept POWERPLAY 26, which has the goal to make Germany a regular medal contender until 2026.

"It is a very ambitious goal but not impossible," Franz Reindl, the DEB President and member of the IIHF Council, said after the signing of the contract during the Deutsch-

land Cup in Augsburg. "Stability and continuity are important for our sport, both on the national and international level. The close collaboration on and off the ice makes sense and creates synergies for better marketing."

"Together we have already started a lot. It is important to find sustainable structures in the areas where the DEB and DEL have interfaces like it is the case for the national team and youth development," said DEL Chairman Jurgen Arnold.

The two parties are in the fourth season of the current contract and extended it long before its expiration. The agreement brings the biggest German stakeholders together and also clears the procedure for players joining the national team, international relations, transfers, officiating, youth hockey and financial support.

All 14 clubs of the DEL and the 14 DEL2 clubs have in the meantime become official members of the DEB, which facilitates the co-operation in German ice hockey.

RUSSIA

After the successful premier last year, the World Hockey Forum was organized in Moscow for a second time. The event took place on 14th & 15th December 2017 in Moscow at the Radis-

son Royal Congress Park.

"The World Hockey Forum is an excellent opportunity where people from the global hockey family meet and discuss about a wide range of topics to develop our great sport. I enjoyed visiting and speaking at the forum last year and can highly recommend joining this opportunity for an open dialogue," said IIHF President René Fasel.

The event is organized by the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia and more than 700 delegates representing several ice hockey nations were in attendance. Among the participants and honoured guests of the Forum were heads and board members from the IIHF, from various national ice hockey associations, leading ice hockey specialists, coaches, referees, sports industry experts and members of public organizations.

Experts from various countries in Asia, Europe and North America discussed key issues facing the development of ice hockey, strategies in increasing the popularity of the sport, studies from different universities from east to west, the current development of ice hockey in Asia, marketing and media aspects for ice hockey and at a coaching seminar.

[Click here to read more about the World Hockey Forum](#)

Obituaries

CHIA-YEN “DANIEL” CHUNG

The Chinese Taipei U18 national team is mourning the death of its captain. Chia-Yen “Daniel” Chung passed away unexpectedly on 20 November in his sleep.

Chung, played for the U18 national team during last season’s 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division III Group A. He was the team’s second-best scorer with 3 goals and 3 assists in 5 games. Chung was named the captain of the U18 national team and was to lead his team at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division III Group A in Turkey.

FLOYD CRAWFORD

Floyd Crawford, the man who captained Canada to World Championship gold in 1959, died in Belleville, Ontario, Canada on November 11 at age 88.

Playing with the hometown Belleville McFarlands, Crawford won the Allan Cup and was nominated by the CAHA (Canadian Amateur Hockey Association) to represent Canada at the 1959 World Championship in Czechoslovakia. The team won seven of eight games,

losing only to the hosts on the final day when the score was irrelevant.

After retiring, Crawford was active as a coach and mentor to thousands of kids over the decades. He and his wife Pauline raised a family of nine, among them three boys who went on to play in the NHL—Lou, Bobby, and Marc. Marc later became a coach in his own right, taking Team Canada to Nagano for the first NHL-participation Olympics in 1998. He also led the Colorado Avalanche to a Stanley Cup in 1996.

KAZIMIERZ CHODAKOWSKI

Former Polish national team player Kazimierz Chodakowski passed away on 21 October in Lodz at the age of 88.

Chodakowski participated in the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Winter Games as well as in four IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships (1955, 1957-59).

In domestic play he appeared in the top Polish league for his hometown team LKS Lodz, CWKS Warsaw and Legia Warsaw and won seven Polish championships. After ending his career as a player he remained with LKS Lodz on the coaching staff. His son Andrzej also played for the club.

JOHN MURRAY

Former British national team player John Murray passed away on 18 November. He was 93.

Murray played for the Wembley Lions between 1939 and 1968. During his era he made the national team at several occasions including the 1948 Olympic Winter Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland. He also played at the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships in 1950 where Team GB finished in fourth place and in 1962 when the British were promoted back to the top level for one season. Murray also played in two World Championship B-Pool tournaments and in some of them served as captain, coach and manager of the team.

After retiring as a player, Murray was involved with the British Ice Hockey Association where he served as Vice President and he was also working for the British Olympic Committee.

ANDREJS ZAKIS

Andrejs Zakis, a long-time official on and off the ice in Latvia, former goalie and former head coach of the Latvian women’s national team, passed away on Friday. He was 61 years old.

Zakis started his career as an on-ice official in 1978 and was for five years officiating games in the Soviet championship and was a supervisor

in IIHF tournaments. He was the LHF’s referee in chief for many years and worked as an off-ice officials at international tournaments in Latvia. He was the head coach of the Latvian women’s national team at the 1995 IIHF Ice Hockey Women’s European Championship the country hosted in Riga. From 2003 to 2008 and in 2012 he was the team’s head coach at six IIHF Ice Hockey Women’s World Championship Division I events as well as the Olympic Qualification in the 2012/2013 season.

ZARLEY ZALAPSKI

Zarley Zalapski, who played for Canada at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, died on 12 December at age 49. The puck-moving defenceman from Edmonton, Alberta played for Pittsburgh, Hartford, Calgary, Philadelphia, and Montreal before ending his 12-year NHL career in 1999/2000 with 384 points in 637 games. He later won two Swiss National League B championships with Lausanne HC in 2009 and 2010.

His achievements included being named Best Defenceman at the 1987 Izvestia Tournament in Moscow, where Canada upset the favoured host Soviets, and adding three assists at the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship that year as his nation came fourth in Vienna. Canada again placed fourth when it hosted the Winter Games for the first time in 1988, with Zalapski notching a goal and three assists.

Hall of Fame 2018

New inductees to IIHF legends

By Andrew Podnieks



The IIHF's Historical Committee has voted to induct into its Hall of Fame four Players and two Builders, all of whom have shown great leadership over long careers in the game.

Inducted as Players are **Daniel Alfredsson**, **Rob Blake**, **Chris Chelios**, and **Jere Lehtinen**. The two Builders are **Philippe Lacarriere** and **Bob Nadin**. As well, **Jesper Damgaard** will receive the Richard "Bibi" Torriani Award and **Kirovs Lipmans** will get the Paul Loicq Award.

The induction ceremony will take place in Copenhagen during the final weekend of next year's 2018 World Championship in Denmark.

"This is our 22nd year of inducting those who have given so much to the game, and you'd be hard pressed to find a more deserving group of Players and Builders," said IIHF president Rene Fasel.



From left: Daniel Alfredsson, Rob Blake, Chris Chelios, and Jere Lehtinen are the 2018 Player Inductees to the Hall of Fame.

Sweden's **Daniel Alfredsson** was the very embodiment of sportsman and competitor. In a career that spanned two decades, number 11 was a superstar both for Tre Kronor at the highest level of international play and for the Ottawa Senators in the NHL.

In all, "Alfie" played in five Olympics, including the historic team of 2006 which won gold. Additionally, he played in seven World Champions-



2018 IIHF Hall of Fame Player Inductee Daniel Alfredsson



2018 IIHF Hall of Fame Player Inductee Rob Blake

hips, winning four medals (two silver, two bronze) as well as the 1996 and 2004 World Cup of Hockey.

In the NHL, he captained the Senators for 14 years and played 1,246 regular-season games. He led the Sens to the Stanley Cup finals in 2007, the best year in the team's modern history.

Rob Blake, a member of the IIHF's famed Triple Gold Club, was part of his own history for Canada. He, too, had careers both internationally and in the NHL that were the equal of few. In his case, he was part of Team Canada's 2002 gold-medal team in Salt Lake, erasing half a century of frustration for the nation.

He had earlier won two gold medals at the World Championship, in 1994 and 1997. Blake also played in the finals of the 1996 World Cup, and



2018 IIHF Hall of Fame Player Inductee Jere Lehtinen

he joined the Triple Gold Club in 2001 when he led the Colorado Avalanche to a Stanley Cup championship.

A tough and skilled defenceman, Blake played in the NHL for 20 years and was captain three separate times (twice in Los Angeles and once with the Avs). The Kings retired his number 4 in 2015 for his outstanding career.

Another defenceman who had success in so many ways, **Chris Chelios** was the face of USA Hockey for a quarter of a century. His first tournament for his country was the 1982 World Juniors, and the last was in 2006 at the Turin Olympics. In between, he played in the NHL for 26 years, tying Gordie Howe for most seasons, and his 266 playoff games in the most by any player in the league's history.

Although he won a Stanley Cup with the Montreal Canadiens in 1986, surely the crowning glory of his career came with Team USA, when it defeated Canada in the third and final game of the 1996 World Cup finals. The win can be put alongside the 1960 Olympic gold medal and the "Miracle on Ice" team of 1980 as the three greatest triumphs in the nation's history.

The fourth Player inducted this year is Finland's **Jere Lehtinen**. A leader, defensive stalwart, and offensive threat, he might well be the best all-around player Suomi has ever produced. He made a name for himself before joining the NHL when he, Saku Koivu, and Ville Penttinen—nicknamed "Tupu, Hupu, Lupu"—led Finland to its first ever gold-medal at the World Championship, in 1995. The win immortalized the line and worked as a springboard to greater success for all three.

In Lehtinen's case, that meant joining the Dallas Stars, for whom he won a Stanley Cup, in 1999. He played all 14 of his NHL years with the Stars, and just two weeks ago the team retired his number 26.

Lehtinen continued to play for Finland when he could. That included an incredible five Olympics (one silver, three bronze), four World Championships (gold, three silver), three

World Juniors, and two World Cup of Hockey tournaments (runner-up in 2004).

Philippe Lacarriere played hockey for some two decades and then stayed in the game as an executive for the next 45 years.

The son of IIHF Hall of Fame Member Jacques Lacarriere, the two are the only father-son combination inducted both as Builders. Lacarriere has worked tirelessly for the French Federation and has served on IIHF Council and many IIHF committees.

In 1992, when the Olympic Winter Games came to Albertville, France, Lacarriere was named head of the hockey tournament for the organizing committee, his expertise respected by everyone in France and, by extension, the IOC.

Additionally, he was a member of the IIHF's Disciplinary Committee from 1990 to 1994, and at the end of that term Lacarriere was named to the IIHF Council, a position he held for two terms over nine years.

Like his father, he was also a longtime president of the CNHG (Comite national de hockey sur glace). In Philippe's case, that tenure lasted from 1972 to 1998.



2018 IIHF Hall of Fame Player Inductee Chris Chelios

Bob Nadin is making history of his own. The former Paul Loicq Award winner becomes the first person so honoured also to be inducted as a Builder.

Nadin, the Paul Loicq Award winner in 2007, reached the height of his refereeing career at the international level in Sapporo at the 1972 Olympics.

He was the CAHA (Canadian Amateur Hockey Association) referee-in-chief from 1976-86 during which time he created the referee certification program and wrote casebooks to enhance on-ice officials' knowledge of the game and how to interpret it.

From 1992 to 1996, Nadin was a supervisor for the NHL. With the IIHF he was part of the Federation's Rules and Referee Committee for some three decades, travelling the world over supporting, analysing, and assisting officiating crews at every level of the international game.

In 2013, at the World Championship in Sweden, Nadin was presented with the Pierre de Coubertin Medal from the Olympic Committee, one of the highest honours a non-athlete can receive.

Denmark's **Jesper Damgaard** is the fitting recipient of this year's Torriani Award.



From left: the 2018 Builder Inductees Phillippe Lacarriere and Bob Nadin, and Paul Loicq Award winner Kirovs Lipmans.

He played in 17 consecutive World Championships and was part of the first generation of players who took the team out of the second tier of play and into the top level, in 2003, where it has played ever since.

Damgaard was named national team captain in 1999, while the team was still in B Pool, and he was captain every year thereafter excepting 2006.

His eleven years wearing the "C" makes his tenure as leader one of the longest in IIHF history. In all, he played for his country more than

any other Dane and is the only player from his country to have his number (#7) retired by the federation.

Latvia's **Kirovs Lipmans** will receive the Loicq Award for his outstanding service to the game, both within the IIHF family and at home with the Latvian Ice Hockey Federation.

Under his direction the team went from C Pool in 1993 to B Pool the next year to A Pool in 1997, a ranking they have maintained ever since. Equally impressive, Latvia has participated in the last four Olympic Winter Games, from 2002 to 2014.



2018 Torriani Award winner Jesper Damgaard

In addition, Latvia joined the U20 and U18 tournaments on the men's side and the Women's World Championship as well, establishing an impressively diverse and successful program.

These results are rewards for grassroots development greatly encouraged by Lipmans, who has overseen the construction of many arenas across the small nation. Today, Latvia boasts 19 ice rinks and some 7,000 registered players, numbers that tower over what Lipmans saw when he became president of the federation two decades ago.

Lipmans was also very active within the IIHF family, notably as a delegate at Congress and within several committees. His contributions were recognized by his government, which in 2001 awarded him the Order of the Three Stars (4th Class), the highest honour a Latvian can receive.

Hockey time in Buffalo

World Junior city hosted many memorable hockey moments

By Lucas Aykroyd





When Buffalo hosts the 2018 World Juniors, it'll add another big moment to the rich hockey legacy of New York State's second-biggest city.

From the birth of the Buffalo Sabres to some wild international ice hockey moments, fans here have had plenty to cheer about over the years. Here's the IIHF's chronological rundown of Buffalo's top 10 hockey moments.

1) Bisons Stampede to Glory (1943)

For 30 years, the now-defunct Buffalo Bisons were among the more successful franchises in AHL history. Playing at the old Memorial Auditorium, they won their first of five Calder Cups in 1943. NHL and international legends who wore Bisons colours at various times include Doug Harvey, Jacques Plante, Brad Park, and Grant Warwick. The Bisons folded in 1970 when the Sabres entered the NHL.



2) The Perreault Pick (1970)

Although Sabres fans have sometimes cursed their luck, they rejoiced when their team beat out the Vancouver Canucks, the other new



Russia made a memorable run the last time the Juniors were in Buffalo, coming back from a 3-0 deficit against Canada.

NHL expansion franchise, for the top pick in the 1970 draft, based on spinning a roulette wheel. Buffalo chose centre Gilbert Perreault, while the Canucks settled for defenceman Dale Tallon.



The slick, smooth-skating Perreault became a Sabres legend, racking up a franchise-record 1,326 points in 1,191 career games. Internatio-

nally, he suited up for Canada's victorious 1972 Summit Series and 1976 Canada Cup teams.

3) First Time in the Finals (1975)

Coming off a league-leading 113-point season, the Sabres looked primed to contend for their first Stanley Cup. They were led by the dynamic French Connection line with Perreault, Rick Martin, and Rene Robert. But after toppling Chicago and Montreal in the first two

rounds, Buffalo's hopes crumbled in the finals against the defending Stanley Cup champion Philadelphia Flyers. The six-game triumph for the "Broad Street Bullies" is widely remembered for foggy on-ice conditions during Game Three, in which Sabres forward Jim Lorentz killed a flying bat by whacking it with his stick.

4) Stomping the Soviet Wings (1976)

From 1976 to 1991, Soviet clubs excelled in their semi-annual Christmas exhibitions versus NHL teams, known as the Super Series, winning 14 out of 16 series. However, the Soviet Wings (aka Krylya Sovietov) suffered the biggest loss in Super Series history versus the Sabres on 4 January 1976. Despite boasting the Summit Series line of Vyacheslav Anisin, Alexander Bodunov, and Yuri Lebedev, plus sniper Sergei Kapustin, the Wings fell 12-6 to their hard-hitting opponents. The French Connection line powered the onslaught with four goals and five assists as the capacity crowd at Memorial Auditorium went wild.

5) Barrasso's Remarkable Rookie Run (1984)

Goalie Tom Barrasso is famed for backstopping the Pittsburgh Penguins to the 1991 and 1992 Stanley Cups, but the Boston native laid his foundation for greatness in Buffalo. In 1984,

Jan Sukup

the 18-year-old rookie became the youngest goalie ever to win the Calder and Vezina Trophies. In IIHF competition, this U.S Hockey Hall of Famer's highlight was a silver medal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. Barrasso also appeared at the 1983 World Juniors and 1986 Worlds.

6) LaFontaine & Mogilny Make Magic (1993)

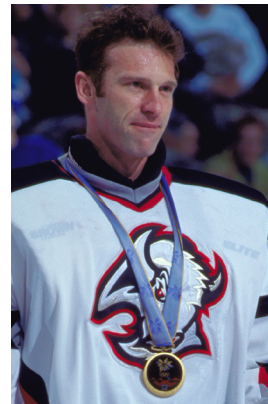
For pure creativity and speed, it was tough to top the duo of Pat LaFontaine and Alexander Mogilny. LaFontaine set a record for American NHLers with 148 points in 1992-93.

In fact, only six NHLers have scored more points in one season: Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Steve Yzerman, Phil Esposito, Bernie Nicholls, and Jaromir Jagr. Meanwhile, Mogilny, who defected from the Soviet Union in 1989, tied Winnipeg super-rookie Teemu Selanne for the league lead in goals (76).



7) The Year of Peak Hasek (1998)

Renowned for his unorthodox, acrobatic style, Buffalo goalie Dominik Hasek more than justified his nickname, "The Dominator," in 1997-98. He led the NHL with 72 games, 13 shutouts, and a 93.2 save percentage.



No wonder the Pardubice native captured his second straight Hart Trophy and Lester B. Pearson Award, along with the fourth of his six Vezina Trophies and First Team All-Star berths. But his crowning achievement came at the 1998 Olympics, where NHL players participated for the first time. Hasek led the underdog Czechs to gold, stunning Canada in a 2-1 semi-final shootout win and then blanking Russia 1-0 in the final.

8) Heartbreak Versus Dallas (1999)

Entering the 1999 NHL playoffs as the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference, low-scoring Buffalo wasn't favoured to contend for the Stanley Cup. Yet thanks to Hasek's stunning goaltending, coach Lindy Ruff's squad marched past Ottawa, Boston, and Toronto before facing the Dallas Stars in the finals.

However, Sabres fans were infuriated and saddened when Brett Hull scored the Game Six triple-overtime winner for Dallas despite an alleged crease violation with his skate. The goal stood, but they still call it "No Goal" in Buffalo.

9) Welcoming the World Juniors (2011)

When Buffalo hosted its first World Junior Championship, it was a spectacle for the ages. In the gold medal game, Russia, paced by Yevgeni Kuznetsov and Artemi Panarin, shocked Canada by scoring five unanswered third-period goals for a 5-3 victory. It was the second straight silver for Canada and tournament scoring leader Brayden Schenn (18 points). The host Americans salvaged some pride with a 4-2 bronze medal win over Sweden.

10) Girls Seize the Spotlight (2015)

2015 was a landmark year for women's hockey in Buffalo. Not only did the city add an NWHL franchise with the Buffalo Beauts, but it also hosted the IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship. USA Hockey rejoiced as Jincy Dunne potted the overtime winner against Canada in the final, kicking off a run of three straight U18 gold medals. Meanwhile, Russian captain Anna Shokhina had three points in a 5-1 bronze victory over the Czechs.



U18 women ready

Teams set to clash in Russia for first time

By Andrew Podnieks



The day after the 2018 World Junior Championship ends in Buffalo is the day the Women's World U18 begins in Dmitrov, Russia.

Russia is hosting the event for the first time in the eleven-year history of the tournament, but all signs point to a United States-Canada gold-medal game. Given that each of the previous ten final games have been contested between these two powerhouses, little is expected to change in Dmitrov.

Canada won the WW18 three years running (2012, 2013, 2014), but when Joel Johnson took over as head coach of the Americans, he put together the same hat trick of victories, capped by a 3-1 win over Canada last year in Zlin, Czech Republic. Johnson will be back looking for number four in early 2018.

Canada, meanwhile, has opted for change. Out is coach Troy Ryan and in is former national-team player Delaney Collins. She served as



Canada and the U.S. have met in the final of all ten U18 Women's Worlds, with the US winning six golds to Canada's four.

an assistant in 2015 and 2017, but she now has the daunting task of prying gold from the firm grip of the U.S.

Russia beat Sweden, 2-0, to win bronze in 2017, but that team was a veteran group with few players eligible to return in 2018. The same can be said for Sweden, a team that managed to score just six goals in as many games last year.

Finland has had such great success in the se-

nior Women's Worlds but has managed only a single bronze medal in WW18 history (back in 2011). Last year Suomi finished a disappointing fifth and had only one player in the top 15 of scoring (Petra Nieminen, who also won't be returning).

The Czech Republic finished 6th last year and, despite a chronic lack of scoring, managed to stay up again (they have never been demoted in WW18 play). Their task won't be any easier this

year, though, as the fight for goals among the third to eighth teams has gotten all the stronger in recent years.

Switzerland avoided demotion by sweeping Japan in the best-of-three relegation round. Indeed, Lisa Ruedi led the tournament in goals with five, although three came in one relegation game. Nonetheless, she'll be back with the Swiss this year hoping to avoid the elimination round and instead fighting for a medal.

Japan finished eighth last year and will play down in Division I-A this year. Germany has been exiled to Division I-A for the last four years, but a huge 2-0 win over Slovakia during last year's lower division battle helped propel the Germans back to the top for the first time since 2013. Franziska Feldmeier had a goal and an assist in that critical game but is now too old to return.

In the end, though, the greatest drama will likely play out among the North Americans, rival in 2008 in the tournament's first edition, and rivals evermore in 2018 in the eleventh.

The difference between winning and losing always seems to be one error, one power play, one blocked shot. Dmitrov will see some great women's hockey at the teen level early in the New Year.

Andrea Cardin / IIHF Images

Continental Cup set

Final Four teams advance

By Henrik Manninen & Andy Potts



The Continental Cup Final is set as participating teams from Belarus, Great Britain, Italy, and Kazakhstan prepare to challenge for the winner's plate in January.

Last-day victories in Group E lift Nomad Astana and host Ritten Sport to compete for the Continental Cup final tournament.

The two winners will join the Sheffield Steelers, and Yunost Minsk in the final tournament, which will be played from 12th to 14th January 2018 in the Belarusian capital of Minsk.

The reigning champions of Kazakhstan, Nomad Astana, marked their inaugural appearance in the Continental Cup with a top-place finish of Group E. Instrumental in Nomad Astana's success was their prolific first line. Team captain Ilya Kovzalov, Yaroslav Yevdokimov and Nikita Mikhailis,



From left: Yunost Minsk, Sheffield Steelers, Ritten Sport, and Nomad Astana will battle for the 2018 Continental Cup in January.

who recently joined from KHL team Barys Astana, added offensive prowess with the troika finishing joint-top of the Group E scoring charts. At the other end Dmitri Malgin's solid display between the pipes saw the team from the Kazakh capital only concede three goals in as many games.

An affiliate of the country's KHL contestants, Barys Astana, and changing to its current name in 2013, Nomad Astana clinched their place in the final round with a clinical performance as a hapless Grenoble Bruleurs

de Loups squad was blanked 4-0.

While Nomad Astana celebrated progress, a second straight chance for Continental Cup glory will come to Ritten, which last January hosted the 2017 IIHF Continental Cup Final.

In the closing game of the tournament, hosts Ritten Sport rose to the occasion with a spirited performance to leapfrog Hungary's DVTK Jegesmedvek Miskolc in the standings courtesy of a fine 3-1 win to progress into

their second consecutive appearance at the final stage of the competition.

In Group D, Yunost Minsk and the Sheffield Steelers are qualified for the final stage of the IIHF Continental Cup. Yunost Minsk won the tournament and the Sheffield Steelers join them into the final round as second-ranked team.

Few would have anticipated that outcome after the first game of the tournament, which began with Yunost powering to a 7-1 victory over the Steelers. But Sheffield, looking to match the success of Britain's Nottingham Panthers in this tournament last year, followed up with a shootout win over Rungsted, to set up a showdown with Kurbad. The Steelers came away with a 4-2 victory over the Latvian club to secure their trip to the Final. After topping Group D in style, hopes in Minsk are now high that January will see Yunost claim its third Continental Cup, matching the achievements of 2007 and 2011. For the Steelers, second place means a return to the final four after it reached the same stage in 2010.

[Click here for a video celebrating three decades of the IIHF Continental Cup](#)

Kazakhs go to BC

Earn promotion to 2019 World Juniors

By Chapin Landvogt



Kazakhstan won the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division I Group A and will play at the World Junior Championship for the first time since 2009.

Rarely do these tournaments see as dominant a team as the Kazakhs, who polished off host France 6-1 in the final game, allowing the team to go undefeated in collecting 13 of 15 possible points. Saturday's victory, as well as gaining first place, was due in part to defenceman Valeri Orekhov, who led the way in putting an exclamation point on the top spot with three assists, allowing him to tie for the lead in tournament scoring with seven points.

This amount was also tallied by teammate Artur Gatiyatov, who proved to be Johnny on the spot at several junctures of the tournament. He also tied for the tournament's lead in the plus-minus department with a +5. Clearly though, scoring over the five-game event



The Kazakh U20 national team celebrates promotion to the IIHF World Junior Championship for the first time in ten years.

was spread out across a number of shoulders. Another top point-getter was Nikita Nazarenko, who contributed four goals and two assists, despite often playing on a different line that Gatiyatov. All in all, 10 players accumulated two or more points.

The journey to first place experienced its first test when Kazakhstan required overtime to defeat eventual 3rd place Germany 3-2 in the opening game of the tournament. The exact

same path needed to be taken in their second game, having beaten eventual 2nd-place Latvia by the same score in overtime to set the pace. After that, the Kazakhs completed one mission after another, defeating the promoted Hungary by a tight score of 5-3, Austria in a 3-2 thriller, and then host France 6-1 in the only game of the tournament that saw the promoted Kazakhstan really dominate their opponent over 60 minutes.

After a very strong showing in 2016 followed by another respectable showing (and a bit of bad luck) in 2017, the Kazakh program has achieved its goal and will be a part of the big show in 2019 when the world's best juniors gather in Vancouver and Victoria in Canada's western province of British Columbia.

Home to a population of roughly 18 million inhabitants, the intentions and progress of the Kazakh ice hockey program have become very clear in recent years thanks to the achievements of the U18 and U20 teams, both of which have performed strongly in the respective Division I tournaments in the U18 and U20 categories.

Kazakhstan's success is seen as a positive development for the improvement of U20 international hockey, mirroring the type of progress that Belarus has enjoyed in recent years, as the Belarusians now prepare to play in the 2018 edition of the World Juniors.

Latvia finished in second place, followed by Germany, France, and Austria, who avoided relegation with a 5-2 win over last-place Hungary on the final day.

As such, things are getting tighter at the U20 level - something that every true ice hockey fan has to love to see.

Oliver Brajon

Norway advances

Shootout win earns promotion

By Andy Potts



Norway edged Poland in a thrilling tournament-deciding shootout to seal top spot in the IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division I Group B.

Norway eased into a 2-0 lead but the Poles refused to yield. Dominik Jarosz pulled one back in the middle frame, then Alan Lyszczarczyk potted a dramatic equalizer with seven seconds left. In the shootout Norway's strong goaltending made the difference: Jorgen Hanneborg, who plays his hockey in Finland with the Espoo Blues, won all his duels. Martin Ellingsen claimed the decisive score.

Host nation Slovenia had hopes of disturbing the top seeds in the group, but finished third after losing to Poland in a shootout after a 4-4 tie and then suffering a 1-5 drubbing against the Norwegians. Ukraine took fourth place.



Norway (left) and Japan (right) made strides in their U20 programs, each winning gold in their respective divisions.

At the foot of the table, Lithuania returns to Division II after picking up just two points from two overtime losses. Italy also finished on two points, but crucially defeated the Lithuanians 2-1 in overtime to preserve its status by virtue of the head-to-head record.

Among the individual awards, the two Polish hot-shots Lyszczarczyk and Jeziorski led the scoring, with Norway's Jacob Alexander Noer coming in third with 4+6=10 points.



Sara Ros, Duncan Speirs



Japan wins

U20s promoted to Division I

By Chris Ellis

After an absence of two years, the Japanese U20 national team returns to the Division I.

Japan posted a near-flawless week in Dumfries,

Great Britain, at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division II Group A. Five victories, with four in regulation time including a final-day win over hosts Great Britain, was enough to see Japan promoted from Division II Group A with 14 points out of a possible 15.

Korea, who won promotion from Division II Group B last season and was the tournament's lowest-seeded team, beat Romania 5-2 – a result which would ultimately secure them the silver medal.

It was agony for the host Great Britain who had to settle for bronze and they missed out on promotion after having come down from the Division IB, but Japan – who conceded the lowest goals in the tournament (seven) and scored the joint-highest (23) – makes a return to Division I in fine style.

Silver went to Korea, which finished the tournament in second place and the U20 World Championship program in 24th place overall – better than ever in the U20 category. Jong Min Lee and Juhyung Lee were the best scorers behind Kirk with six goals and four assists.

Estonia and Romania finished in fourth and fifth place respectively. The Netherlands pulled out a 5-6 win over the Estonians on the final day, but it wasn't enough to avoid relegation to Division II Group B.

Malaysia juniors win

Hosts roll at U20 Challenge Cup of Asia

By Martin Merk



For the first time in this format an IIHF Ice Hockey U20 Challenge Cup of Asia was held and the winner is... Malaysia!

The Southeast Asian nation won the tournament at its new home, the Malaysia National Ice Skating Stadium that opened earlier this year as the first full-size ice rink of the country just outside of the capital of Kuala Lumpur.

It was the first time an U20 Challenge Cup of Asia was held for countries that don't participate in the IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship program. The tournament was one of several that will be hosted in Kuala Lumpur after the inauguration with 2017 Southeast Asian Games four months ago. The 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia Division I on the men's side and the two IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Challenge Cup of Asia divisions will be hosted at the same venue in March.



Tournament hosts Malaysia dominated the competition in their new arena, allowing seven goals and scoring 36 in four games.

Malaysia's win came as a surprise considering that in senior hockey the country is ranked behind several of the participating nations. But the Malaysians allowed just seven goals in four games and scored 36. No opponent came closer than a five-goal margin against the hosts.

The biggest win came on the opening day with a 11-0 crushing of neighbouring country Philippines where the first goal was scored after just 31 seconds and the Malaysians got a 3-0 lead

after just over three minutes of play. Against India the hosts had a tougher fight in the beginning. The Indians managed to tie the score three times in the first half of the game before Malaysia eventually skated to a 12-4 victory.

The third game was the deciding one as both Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan started with a 2-0 record. Kyrgyzstan had beaten the Philippines (12-4) and the United Arab Emirates (10-2) before the Saturday night game with the hosts and

Zhanbolot Tagayev opened the scoring after 54 seconds to give the Kyrgyz the lead. It was the only time during the tournament the Malaysian were behind. However, Nurul Nizam Deen Versluis tied it up just two minutes later and Mohammad Hariz Mohammad Oryza Ananda followed up with two more goals en route to a 6-1 win.

On Sunday 826 fans saw Malaysia also win its last game, 7-2 against the United Arab Emirates, to celebrate the tournament win on home ice with a clean streak. Kyrgyzstan also won its last game, 13-2 against India, and had to settle for second place. The United Arab Emirates, the top-seeded among these nations in men's senior hockey, recovered and finished in third place thanks to its wins against India (6-0) and the Philippines (8-4). The Philippines beat winless India 11-5 in its last game to earn three points.

Malaysia led the scoring stats with three players. Mohammad Hariz Mohammad Oryza Ananda was the scoring leader and MVP with 11 goals and 7 assists followed by Nurul Nizam Deen Versluis (7+10) and Chee Ming Bryan Lim (6+7), the team captain who was named Best Forward. Philippines defenceman Benjamin Jorge Imperial was the best non-Malaysian scorer with six goals and four assists and was named Best Defenceman of the tournament. Abdulrahman Al Hosani from the United Arab Emirates was named Best Goaltender.

David Jorg

Gallery



French national team goaltender Julia Junca dives to cover the puck versus Kazakhstan at the IIHF U20 World Championship Division I Group A.



Austrian U20 forward Marco Rossi with a scoring chance against Kazakhstan.



Romania's Zsolt Reszegh pots a goal against Japan at the Division II Group A U20s.



Team France gets together for a pregame huddle ahead of their game versus Germany on home ice in Courchevel.

Patrick Pachio



The Norwegian U20 national team players celebrate after winning the 2018 IIHF World Championship Division I Group B.

Sara Ros



Croatia's women's national team qualified for the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II Group B.

BIHA



Duncan Speirs

The Japanese U20 national team returns to Division I after winning the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division II Group A.



Duncan Speirs

Korea forward Jong Min Lee scores against Estonia at the U20 Division II Group A in Dumfries.



Sara Ros

Norway's Markus Vikingstad gets the puck past Lithuania's goalie at the Division I Group B U20s.

Buffalo icon

Housley has great IIHF, NHL memories

By Lucas Aykroyd

After racking up points with Buffalo in the 1980's, Phil Housley is right back where he started. He's the Sabres' new head coach in the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship host city.

Housley, the highest-scoring American defenceman in NHL history (1,232 points), also played at six IIHF World Championships and led U.S. blueliners with five points en route to silver at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

Inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame (2012) and the Hockey Hall of Fame (2015), the 53-year-old Minnesota native brings a special perspective on our global game.

What does hosting the 2018 World Juniors mean for Buffalo?

It's an exciting time of the year. It's an opportunity to see some of the future stars around the world in today's game. It also gives fans a chance to see the U.S.-Canada rivalry at its best.



Housley (on right) guided the United States World Junior team to a gold medal at the 2013 tournament in Ufa, Russia.

Why has USA Hockey done so well at this tournament recently?

USA Hockey has done a tremendous job of developing players. You look at the American Development Model (ADM): it gives parents and coaches an opportunity to develop young kids.

And with the National Team Development Program (NTDP), they're giving these young

men the best competition, quality practice time, and the resources and facilities to develop as players.

What are your memories of playing at both the World Juniors and Worlds in 1982?

I was just 17, a high school senior. USA Hockey gave me an opportunity to play against great players. The World Juniors were held in my native Minnesota, so I was fortunate I didn't have

to go very far. In those days, our team didn't have the depth we do now, but I just loved the competition. It was exciting with the pace, another level from what I was used to.

For the '82 Worlds. I had a two-game tryout, I made the team, and I played against the best players in the world in Finland. That spearheaded my future, knowing I could play with these great players.

Why did you put on the American jersey so often?

Number one, it's a great honor. If you look at the 1980 Olympic team, that really started the progress in developing American players. It put us on the map. Not to forget the Miracle in 1960, but I think '80 was a huge step for USA Hockey. You felt a lot of pride in putting on a jersey to represent your country. Out of respect for what USA Hockey did for my career, I tried to represent my country every opportunity I could.

What was it like to play for coach Herb Brooks in Salt Lake?

I had great respect for him and the things he did, not only in 1980 but also at the University of Minnesota. Growing up in Minnesota, that was your goal, to play for the Maroon and Gold. As a young kid, being at games where Herbie



Jeff Vinnick / IIHF Images

Housley (pictured with René Fasel and former Council Member Tony Rossi) was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2012.

coached, it wasn't too far from where I grew up. Getting to play for him in 2002, he just knew the right buttons to push. It was something I'll never forget.

Our guys grew up together as a nucleus of USA Hockey back then. It was unfortunate we didn't win the gold, but Canada had a great team as well.

We had a tough battle against Russia in the semis, and I think we ran out of gas halfway through the final. But looking back, what we did on home ice was a great accomplishment.

How did you click with Teemu Selanne in his 76-goal rookie season of 1992-93?

It was a fun year. We had a very tight group in Winnipeg. Playing in a small market, we became even tighter. The Jets had great young players: Teemu, Keith Tkachuk, Alexei Zhamnov, Fredie Olausson.

It seemed like Teemu and I created really good chemistry in training camp, and that just went forward. It was a pleasure coming to the rink. To see Teemu grow as a player, the amount of quick success he had, it was just great to be a part of his historic run.

At the 2013 World Juniors in Ufa, Russia, what was the secret to USA's success?

In Ufa, it was a small family. We had to rely on each other. There wasn't too much support for us over there. We came together as a team. The way we started out the tournament, we lost some tough games against Canada and Russia, but we did play well. I could see us taking steps every day. We just needed to get into the playoffs, because we were moving in a great direction. We didn't stray from our goal, and each game, we got better. That's why we won.

Anybody remind you of how you played?

I think there are some good players now with mobility. I look at Erik Karlsson, Roman Josi, and Drew Doughty. They all have the uncanny ability to join the rush with a good plan heading into the offensive zone and make the next play. That's just to name a few. There are 20 guys like that in today's game, which has evolved. Defence is such a big part of your attack now.

What makes the city of Buffalo special?

I love the people. They're hard-working, they're blue-collar, they're passionate about the Buffalo Sabres and hockey in general. They provide great support. They're kind and have good hearts. That's why I love the people of Buffalo.



Coming up

IIHF World Junior Championship

USA, Buffalo
26.12.2017 - 05.01.2018

IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division II Group B

SERBIA, Belgrade
10.01. - 16.01.2018

IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division II Group A

BULGARIA, Sofia
22.01. - 28.01.2018

IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship

RUSSIA, Dmitrov
06.01.- 13.01.2018

IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship Division I Group A

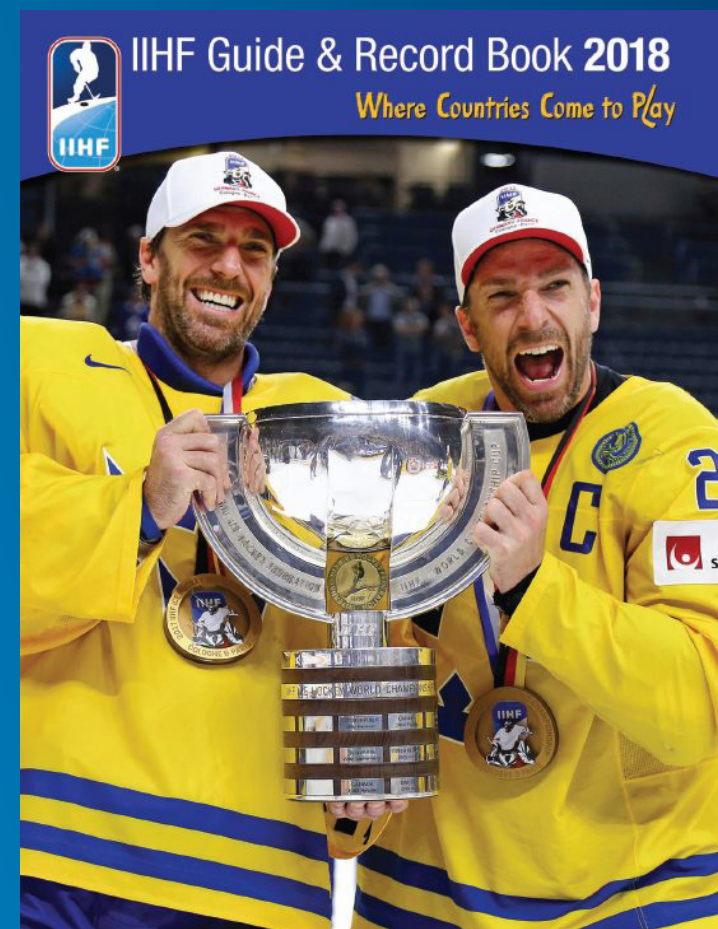
ITALY, Asiago
08.01.- 14.01.2018

IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship Division I Group B

POLAND, Katowice
06.01.- 12.01.2018

IIHF Continental Cup

BELARUS, Minsk
12.01.- 14.01.2018



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