

# Norway's Hove always on call

The golden girl among women's international officials

By Andrew Podnieks

■ ■ Aina Hove's rise to the top of the referees' pool in women's hockey has been swift. The Norwegian didn't referee her first top division game until 2007, and two years later she was in the gold-medal game. But she has been surrounded by hockey her whole life. Her brother was a player; her husband has been a linesman; and, her sister, Marta, was a linesman in 2006 in Turin. Hove talked about her career the day after she officiated the Canada-United States game for gold on February 25, 2010.

Norway's men's team isn't a powerhouse, so for a woman it must have been even tougher to play. How did you come to love hockey?

When I was a kid in Trondheim, my dad made an outdoor rink for the kids to play on. It was a soccer field in the summer. I had nice red, figure skates, like any girl. But, because I had an older brother, I inherited his hockey skates, and that's how I started to play.

To go from playing outdoors with your brother to refereeing the gold-medal game is quite a leap. What was the next step?

I was the only girl playing in my area, but I knew some girls in Oslo who used to be bandy players. They wanted something more physical, and two of the girls had brothers who also played hockey, and they wanted to play as well. That's how Norway's women's hockey program started. So, they took part in the first women's hockey tournament, back in 1989, in Germany. The next year, they played in Ottawa at the first IIHF tournament, and I started with the national team a year later.

I know you played for quite a long time with the national team. Does one memory stick out?

My best memory was in Kitchener in 1997 when we were trying to qualify for Nagano, the first Olympics for women. We were among the top teams that year, but we missed out. After that, our team changed quite a bit.

How did you get into refereeing?

I remember this one game very well, back in 1999. We played in the gold-medal game against Japan in B pool as it was called back then (today's Division I), and I played defence. On one play, all of a sudden, this Japanese girl took a dive, and the referee gave me a penalty. I wasn't very happy about that call, and I turned around in the penalty box and saw Sandra Dombrowski, who was the referee supervisor. She could see I was unhappy with the officiating, but she's a clever woman. She said to me after, if you think you could do a better job, you should start refereeing.

And so you did.

The next year I was pregnant and stopped playing, but I reffed my first tournament, Division II, in Hungary. I did really well, so the next year I did Division I, so my next step was to go up to the top pool. But the top pool was in China, which was cancelled because of SARS. Then I had another baby the year after.



**MAKING A STAND:** Aina Hove has gotten the nod to officiate the last two gold medal games at major international women's events. In 2009, she called the USA-Canada final at the Women's World Championship, while in February, she again got the call to whistle the same final at the Olympics.

You made the top pool in 2007 and just two years later called the gold-medal game at the World

Women's Championship. This year you called the Olympic gold game. Can you compare these?

They were two very different games. You expect the teams to want to play clean, but last year I found the teams more willing. I didn't call many penalties, only three. This year in Vancouver, I had to be more assertive and call more. They tested me a bit more this year, probably because of the pressure of the Olympics.

These two countries are so dominant and you are from a country that is not a hockey power. Did you have trouble earning the players' respect?

Players can see the differences in my nationality, of course. I'm not from a big hockey country, so I would understand if they don't respect me as much. But if you're a good player, they can see if you'll let them play or not, so that's the best feeling. Last year, some of the players came up to me and said thanks for just letting us play. That means they have respect for me, regardless what country I'm from.

And on a personal level, what has Vancouver meant to you?

To be honest, my legs were shaking. I felt heavy skating up and down because of the emotions, but I got going and everything was fine. It was a weird feeling for a few minutes. This year has been a dream because the Olympics is the goal and dream for everyone.

Is it true your husband flew from Trondheim to see you in the gold-medal game?

He's the most important guy in my life. His family just said we'll take care of the kids-you go. He had to leave before I knew I was doing the game. For him just to come here was amazing. He had to go to Oslo to fly here, and his parents live near there, so he dropped the kids off and flew here. He had to fly home the day after the gold-medal game.

Are your playing days over now that you are an accomplished ref?

No! I continue to play because I think the best referees need to play to understand the game as well as possible. I played in the first Olympic qualification last year and played for the women's top league for Astor Villa-like Aston Villa but with an "r" instead of "n". We have the same colours, though!

## Aina Hove Fact File

- Hometown: Trondheim, Norway
- Family Ties: Sister Marta was a linesman at the 2006 Olympics, husband is also a linesman and her brother plays hockey.
- Played in the 90s for the Norwegian national team before stopping in 2000.
- Officiated at the World Women's Championship three times (2007-2009) including the gold medal game in 2009.
- Called the 2010 Olympic Gold medal game, between Canada and the U.S.

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## Olympics take the game to the next level



**PUT IT IN THE BOOKS:** Canada's Sidney Crosby answered one of the most asked questions at the start of the 2010 season: Who will win the Olympic gold medal? Now that the bragging rights are in Canada's hands, the next question is on the tip of everyone's tongues: Who will win the World Championship gold medal?

## World Championship in Germany moves to center stage after Vancouver



We all saw the numbers; 80 percent of Canadians watched the men's Olympic gold medal game and the TV ratings in the United States reached Super Bowl-like figures. But this is not the main reason why a best-on-best Olympics is so important.

### RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ ■ After what was arguably the best hockey Olympics ever, it may not be that easy to determine the most important thing that decides the lasting value and the legacy from Vancouver 2010.

Was it the fact that the men's gold medal game was the most-viewed hockey game in the U.S. in 30 years and the most-viewed show of any kind in Canadian history?

Or was it because the games at UBC Thunderbird Arena and at Canada Hockey Place set an all-time Olympic attendance record for ice hockey with an average of 8,120 fans watching the women's games and 16,381 attending the men's event?

Yes, these are extremely encouraging figures. And in today's sports, where success is almost entirely measured in numbers that generate revenue, TV-ratings and attendance are always presented as the factors that determine whether an event was a success or not.

■ ■ But, no. Numbers can never be the most important factor. The legacy of the XXI Olympic ice hockey tournament is that the players took the quality of the sport to the next level. It is a level that can only be attained when the best players in the world compete for the biggest prize in sports, a prize that has nothing

to do with financial compensation - only with pride.

And this is the responsibility of everyone involved -- whether it's an international or national federation, a league and its owners or a players' union and its members - to contribute to elevating the sport to the highest possible level every four years.

■ ■ Why? Because we owe it to the fans, the constituency to which we all are accountable. It is the fans who carry the sport and pay for the show during the four years leading up to the five-ringed pinnacle. And yes, they pay for this as well.

Leading up to Sochi 2014, this is exactly what we all must keep in mind.

■ ■ The day after Sidney Crosby scored the golden goal, the countdown ticker on IIHF.com showed 67 days left to the 74th IIHF World Championship in Germany. One of the features in this edition of *Ice Times* talks about the 'post-Olympic curse' - in seven tries only, one nation and only eight players were able to win the Olympic gold and the World Championship gold in the same season.

On the other hand, this seems like a good year to disperse ghosts. Canada's men's win in Vancouver was the first by an Olympic host since 1980. It was also the first time since 1986 that a host won a major IIHF men's competition on home ice.

One thing we know; May 7 will mark the first time an international championship game will be played before 75,000 fans. Congratulations to the teams from Germany and the United States - and congratulations to the fans that got tickets.

René Fasel  
IIHF President



## NEWS &amp; NOTES

■ **UNITED STATES:** The NHL announced that its Board of Governors will vote on a rule this summer to help eliminate checking to the head. The actual rule reads: "A lateral, back pressure or blind-side hit to an opponent where the head is targeted and/or is the principal point of contact is not permitted. A violation of the above will result in a minor or major penalty and shall be reviewed for possible supplemental discipline."

■ **SWEDEN:** Peter Elander stepped down as the Swedish women's national team coach after nine years at the helm. During his tenure, Sweden won the Olympic silver in Turin 2006 and bronze in Salt Lake City in 2002. Elander also led the team to IIHF World Championship bronze in 2005 and 2007. He coached the team in over 200 national team games. He will be replaced by **Niclas Högborg**.

■ **SLOVAKIA:** The IOC announced that it has issued a reprimand against Slovakian **Lubomir Visnovsky** for an anti-doping rule violation during the Olympics. It was explained that the athlete had taken Advil Cold & Sinus to combat flu-like symptoms which was the reason for the positive test.

■ **RUSSIA:** The IOC also issued a reprimand against Russian **Svetlana Terenteva** for an anti-doping rule violation during the Olympics. The athlete admitted that she had used Rhinofluimucil under prescription to cure a bad head cold in January.

■ **UNITED STATES:** U.S. women's player **Angela Ruggiero** was elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission along with Adam Pengilly. The 19-member commission serves as the voice of the active athletes and includes four winter sports athletes elected at the Olympic Winter Games for an eight-year term. The commission serves as a consultative body and is the link between active athletes and the International Olympic Committee.

■ **UNITED STATES:** The IOC awarded **Walter L. Bush Jr.** the Women And Sport Achievement Diploma on Thursday. The former president of USA Hockey was one of the key figures in making women's hockey a World Championship and Olympic sport. Bush was also an IIHF Vice President.

■ **LATVIA:** **Leonids Beresnevs** was named the new head coach of the Latvian U18 team that will play in the top division this spring in Belarus.

■ **CHINA:** The New York Islanders will be the first NHL team to play in China, the native country of their owner Charles Wang. The club will play exhibition games with the Chinese national team. The team will hold part of their pre-season camp in Beijing, September 14-23, and practice and play in the 17,000-seat Capital Indoor Stadium, which was used for the 2008 Olympic Summer Games.

## CHL re-launch officially scrapped

■ The IIHF and Infront decided to discontinue its efforts to re-launch the Champions Hockey League as the necessity for a long-term commitment and the IIHF's and Infront's vision is not shared by the leagues and clubs to the required extent.

In December 2009, Infront was mandated to develop a proposal for a re-launch of the CHL together with the representatives of the top European Leagues.

■ The CHL played its inaugural season in 2008-2009, but had to cease operations for the 2009-2010 season.

The proposed plan for the new CHL included a revised competition format based on an initial format of eight teams and 14 games for the first three seasons involving the national champions from the leagues of Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Slovakia and Sweden.

■ The CHL would have been operated by an Infront-led company, in partnership with the IIHF, a new commercial partner, as well as with the leagues and clubs as minority shareholders. The structure was to secure long-term financing and a profit-share model for the leagues and clubs. 75 percent of the CHL's distributable income would have been allocated directly to the participating leagues and clubs.

## Germany 2010 updates

■ As the start of the 2010 IIHF World Championship comes closer, the organizing committee is putting the final touches on the May event in Cologne, Mannheim and Gelsenkirchen. Below is the latest news from Germany:

## OFFICIAL SONG RELEASED:

The official 2010 IIHF World Championship song has been released. It was created by a German band that is well known in Germany and several of the participating European nations. Scooter, the name of the band, is performing the official World Championship song called "Stuck on Replay". The single has been released for sale in Germany.

## HELP FROM HIGH PLACES

**Angela Merkel**, Germany's Chancellor was made a member of the World Championship's Honorary Committee. Her interest in joining the committee was confirmed in a letter from the chancellor's office to **Uwe Harnos**, President of the German Ice Hockey Federation. The letter expressed wishes "for good luck and success with regards to the further preparation and organization of the event".

## GOING FOR THE WORLD RECORD:

The capacity for the opening game between USA and Germany in Gelsenkirchen has been increased to 76,152 because of massive fan interest.

The game is expected to break the current world record hockey attendance of 74,554 set in 2001 in an outdoor game between Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

Because of the increased capacity, and thanks to some returned tickets, approximately 1,500 more single-game tickets went on sale, but all were quickly snapped up.

In total, the German organizing committee is expecting the championship to sell more than 500,000 tickets during the course of the event.



CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE

"Keep also in mind that we were prepared to make a significant financial contribution to both the CHL and to those clubs, who were deprived of 2009-2010 participation due to the cancelled season. I would like to thank all parties who invested a significant amount of time and resources to develop the new CHL concept. It is our opinion that it had a lot of potential to be very successful."

## OBITUARIES

■ IIHF Hall of Famer, three-time Olympian and two-time World Champion **Ronald Pettersson** passed away on March 6. He was 74. During his 16 seasons Pettersson played 252 national team games with Tre Kronor, a Swedish hockey record that stood for 25 years before it was broken by Thomas Rundqvist in 1993.

■ **Brendan Burke**, the son of Team USA and Toronto Maple Leafs General Manager Brian Burke, died in a car accident in Indiana at the age of 21.

## Hockey Summit on the horizon

■ The IIHF, Hockey Canada, and the NHL announced a summit in that will chart the future of hockey. It's slated for August 23 to 27, 2010 in Toronto.

Two days will be devoted to Hockey Canada's initiatives on player development, while another two IIHF-focused days will evaluate the 2010 Olympic Games, look at future international competitions, investigate player safety issues, and discuss how to grow both the women's and men's game worldwide.

"We should take the chance to study the impact of this Olympic tournament on our game," said Rene Fasel. Issues he cited included comparing the small NHL-sized ice to the traditional large international ice, as well as using the four-man officiating system, refining the rulebook, and maintaining player safety.

The 2010 event isn't the first summit of this type that Canada has hosted. A 1999 summit organized by Hockey Canada, Molson, and the Toronto Maple Leafs focused on improving grassroots hockey in Canada for some 550,000 participants. It came in the wake of Canadian angst over not winning the 1996 World Cup of Hockey or the 1998 Olympics. But this summit will have a significantly broader impact.

"I think we can bring a unique perspective from the history of our clubs," said Bill Daly. "We're looking forward to playing a meaningful role and helping the hockey summit succeed."

## 2010 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

## Will Worlds be a bust or bash for Olympic heroes? Canada hopes for gold again, but only Sweden has completed double gold feat

■ **Four years ago Sweden became the first nation to win the IIHF World Championship and the men's Olympic gold in the same season. No other team, not even the superior Soviet selections of the 70s, managed to win the World Championship in spring after collecting the Olympic gold medals a few months earlier.**

Now, the Mark Messier-led Team Canada will try to repeat Sweden's feat from 2006. Only 67 days separates Canada's opening-day game vs. Italy in Mannheim, Germany and Sidney Crosby's golden goal vs. the United States in Vancouver.

Four years ago when *Ice Times* interviewed Bengt-Ake Gustafsson between the Olympic gold in Turin and the start of the 2006 IIHF World Championship in Riga, the Swedish coach showed no doubts about his ambitions about the most elusive 'double' in international hockey:

"This is definitely our challenge this season," said Gustafsson in April 2006. "To win this double would be something unique and a huge honor for the team and for Swedish hockey." Gustafsson admitted that this was on his mind when he started the player selection process for the 2006 IIHF World Championship in Riga.

"When we talked to players, we made clear to them that they could be part of hockey history by becoming the first to win the two major international titles in the same year," said the coach.

Gustafsson, an IIHF Hall of Famer who as a centre led Sweden to its first IIHF World Championship in 25 years in 1987 and also four years later in 1991, also provided a theory why winning both titles had been so difficult:

"It is emotionally draining to win an Olympic gold and it's difficult to fully refocus after only two or three months when you play in the World Championship," said Gustafsson. "It's easy to feel content after an Olympic win. Another reason is that the teams who won the Olympics simply couldn't ice the same players for the World Championship."



An Olympic ice hockey tournament and an IIHF World Championship have been organized in the same year on eight occasions. Here is the list of six consecutive post-Olympic traumas and one success story.

## 1972

Olympics, Sapporo, Japan

The Soviets dominate and defeat Czechoslovakia 5-2 in the deciding game. Czechoslovaks finish in third.

World Championship, Prague, Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia wins its first gold in 23 years after beating the Soviet Union 3-2 in the key game. The Soviets get silver.

## 1976

Olympics, Innsbruck, Austria

The Soviet Union wins gold with a perfect 6-0-0 record. The Czechoslovaks (silver) are defeated 4-3 in nail biter.

World Championship, Katowice, Poland

The Soviets never recover from a shocking 6-4 opening-day defeat against host Poland and they finish 2nd. The Czechoslovaks win gold with 19 out of 20 points.

## 1992

Olympics, Albertville, France

Russia (CIS) wins gold, defeating Canada 3-1 in the final. Sweden finishes in fifth.

World Championship, Prague, Czech Republic

Sweden defeats Finland 5-2 in the gold medal game. Olympic champion, Russia, ends up in fifth place after an uninspired effort.

## 1994

Olympics, Lillehammer, Norway

Peter Forsberg's amazing shoot-out goal leads Sweden to the gold medal (3-2) in a thrilling final against Canada.

World Championship, Milano, Italy

Canada trounces Olympic champ Sweden 6-0 in semi-final and goes on to defeat Finland in a gold medal shoot-out. The Swedes earn the bronze medal.

## 1998

Olympics, Nagano, Japan

The Czechs win their first Olympic gold with a 1-0 win against Russia in the final. Sweden's fifth place finish is considered a fiasco.

World Championship, Zurich, Switzerland

Forsberg and Sundin-led Sweden defeats Finland in a two-game final where only one goal is scored over 120 minutes. Olympic heroes Czechs have to settle for bronze.

## 2002

Olympics, Salt Lake City, USA

Canada wins its first Olympic gold in 50 years after a win in the final against USA. The Slovaks fail miserably, finishing in only 13th.

World Championship, Gothenburg, Sweden

Slovakia becomes only seventh nation to win a World gold after dawning Russia, 4-3, in the final. Canada finishes in sixth place.

## 2006

Olympics, Turin, Italy

Sweden preys on Finland once again in the final as 3-2 thriller earns them second their Olympic gold.

World Championship, Riga, Latvia

Finally, Sweden overcomes the historic jinx, blanking the Czechs, 4-0, in the final to grab elusive double gold. Eight players from Turin are on the roster in Riga.

## 2010

Olympics, Vancouver, Canada

Sidney Crosby's overtime goal sinks the U.S. in gold medal game as Canada becomes first Olympic champion on home ice since 1980.

World Championship, Cologne, Mannheim, Germany

Did the jinx only take a rest in 2006 or will the curse continue?



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP GERMANY Cologne - Mannheim Gelsenkirchen



**A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION:** Sweden's Jonsson brothers celebrate the 2006 double-gold feat, while the Slovakia rejoices with their 2002 Worlds gold, spoiling Canada's chance for the double.

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## International Ice Hockey Federation

Brandschenkestrasse 50  
Postfach CH-8039 Zürich  
Switzerland

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

www.iihf.com





# The dream comes true: Canada wins on home ice

By Andrew Podnieks

■ ■ *IHF president Rene Fasel has called the 2010 Olympic ice hockey tournament the 'best ever', and given the excitement generated by the final game, not to mention the record television audiences, who's to argue?*

*Held in the motherland of the game for the first time since 1988, and with NHLers for the first time in Canada, the tournament was the most anticipated of all time, that's for sure. Canada was a pre-tournament favourite, of course, along with Russia, which featured its greatest players like Ovechkin, Malkin, and Kovalchuk.*

Team USA general manager Brian Burke wisely positioned his team as an underdog despite having arguably the best goalie in the NHL, Ryan Miller, and a host of young and skilled players. Defending champion Sweden had the Sedins, Peter Forsberg, and goalie Henrik Lundqvist, and a veteran Finland roster included Saku Koivu and Teemu Selanne along with goalie Miikka Kiprusoff.

■ ■ The format was a compelling one, allowing for three tremendous days in particular "Super Sunday," the final and critical day of the Preliminary Round which not only decided the four bye positions but also featured three games which coincidentally represented the past three Olympic gold-medal games Russia vs. Czech Republic, Canada vs. United States, and Finland vs. Sweden.

After that came the Qualification Round and then the quarter-finals, two days of four games each, all of them elimination variety. As the teams advanced or were sent home, it became clear a Canada-United States showdown loomed for gold, the same as eight years ago, the same as a few days ago when the visitors stunned the Vancouver crowd with an impressive 5-3 win.

■ ■ The final game was watched by 26.5 million Canadians (80 per cent of the population) as well as a huge number in the U.S. via NBC, and the game turned out to be a classic. Indeed, 2010 was the best Olympic hockey tournament ever, and the home side won by the slimmest margin of victory thanks to a dramatic goal in overtime from Sidney Crosby. Here's a look back some of the magic moments from Vancouver:

## GAME 2:

The host nation began nervously against Norway, but soon enough Sidney Crosby was working his magic, leading Canada to a one-sided result with a goal and two assists in an 8-0 win.

## GAME 8:

The Canadians expunged the ghosts of 2006 (when they lost to Switzerland 2-0), but only barely, beating La Suisse in Vancouver in a shootout. Crosby scored the winner.

## GAME 9:

Slovakia stunned Russia, 2-1, in a shootout. The Russians seemed in control until Marian Hossa tied the game midway through the third period, and Pavol Demitra got the winner on the 15th penalty-shot.

## GAME 13:

Switzerland avoided a shocker by beating Norway in overtime, 4-3. Both teams had leads in the game, but Romano Lemm scored the winner at 2:28 of the extra period.

## GAME 16:

Russia beat the Czechs 4-2 in one of the most entertaining games of the Olympics. It featured a colossal check by Alexander Ovechkin on Jaromir Jagr in centre ice.

## GAME 17:

The United States made an emphatic statement with a 5-3 win over Canada, ear-



Photos: IIHF/HHOF IMAGES

**THE CLASH OF THE TITANS** Many dubbed it the dream final - USA vs. Canada on North American soil for the ultimate prize, an Olympic gold medal. In the end it was a shame that there could be only one winner as flag bearer Sidney Crosby of Canada (above) and U.S. goaltender Ryan Miller (left) demonstrate.

ning a bye to the quarter-finals and chasing Martin Brodeur from the tournament altogether.

## GAME 18:

Sweden beat Finland by a 3-0 shutout, establishing itself as one of the favorites with goalie Henrik Lundqvist at the top of his game.

## GAME 21:

The Czechs avoided embarrassment by beating Latvia in overtime. David Krejci was the hero in this elimination, quarter-finals game after Mikelis Redlihs had tied the game late in the third period for the underdogs to force OT.

## GAME 26:

Slovakia stunned Sweden, 4-3, the second time in three Olympics Tre Kronor suf-

fered a stunning defeat in the quarter-finals. Slovakia took a 2-0 lead only to see Sweden tie the game, but Tomas Kopecky was the hero with his third-period goal to give the Slovaks a 4-2 lead, a lead they didn't relinquish.

## GAME 27:

In the most extraordinary start to a semi-finals game, the Americans scored six goals in the first 12:46 of their game against Finland en route to an easy path to the gold-medal game.

## GAME 28:

Canada appeared in complete control of its semi-finals match against Slovakia, leading



**FINNS FLY THEIR FLAG** Finland took home the bronze medal thanks to a come-from-behind win against Slovakia.

## What the media had to say...

■ *Buffalo News* "Has your heart stopped pounding? The hockey gods were kind enough to bless the gold medal game with overtime, bonus action in a classic matchup between the two superpowers. It merely added more drama, more intensity and more passion to what could go into the books as the most entertaining game in Olympic history. Or hockey history. Where does this one rank? Up there. Way up there."

■ *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* "It's not often games live up to every speck of hype, but this 67-minute, 40-second nail-biting, high-octane, physical, fight-for-every-feasible-inch-of-ice hockey game would be impossible to match."

■ *Columbus Dispatch* "In the purest hockey sense, the 2010 Olympic tournament now stands as the greatest display of the game ever put forth. Never have so many international teams been so stacked with talent. Never has so much compelling hockey been played over a stretch of 30 games in a span of a fortnight."

■ *U.S. Captain Jamie Langenbrunner* "This game showed all the good there is in hockey. The heart and determination everybody plays with, the battle level, the character of the athletes, it's a pretty special sport."

■ *Associated Press* "Barely 24 hours after the medals were doled out, players on both teams were scheduled to be back in the NHL. Yet the next time their paths cross, everyone who played in this game will be able to look one another in the eye and remember the magic they created."

## The best of the best



**DIRECTORATE AWARDS:**  
**Goaltender:** Ryan Miller (USA)  
**Defenseman:** Brian Rafalski (USA)  
**Forward:** Jonathan Toews (CAN)  
**MVP:** Ryan Miller (USA)



**MEDIA ALL-STAR AWARDS:**  
**Goalie:** Ryan Miller (USA)  
**Defensemen:** Shea Weber (CAN), Brian Rafalski (USA)  
**Forwards:** Jonathan Toews (CAN), Zach Parise (USA), Pavol Demitra (SVK)

3-0 midway through the third period. But when goalie Roberto Luongo allowed a soft goal, the Slovaks pressed and nearly tied the game in the dying seconds.

## GAME 29:

Slovakia rallied from a 1-0 deficit after 20 minutes to score three unanswered goals in the second, but Finland shocked them by pulling off a rally of their own and earning the bronze medal on the penultimate day of the Games. For Finland, the bronze medal was one step down from the silver in 2006, but the difference between winning bronze and losing gold was evident on the players' faces during the medal ceremony.

## GAME 30:

It was the most anticipated gold-medal game in hockey history, and arguably the most exciting. Canada won the gold medal with an overtime 3-2 win over North American foe, USA. Canada built a solid 2-0 lead and looked to have the gold in hand, but USA rallied capped by Zach Parise tying the game with just 24.4 seconds left in regulation. The goal set up an overtime that few of the millions of viewer will forget, paving the way for Sidney Crosby's golden goal at 7:40 of the extra period.



# Canada: Once, twice, three times a Champion

By Andrew Podnieks

■ ■ *Although the surprises were few in the women's tournament in Vancouver, the quality of play was, overall, superior, to Turin four years earlier. Players on the weaker teams were better skaters, goalies were more athletic, and passing and puck movement were impressive.*

In the end, there was no Swedish miracle from four years ago, and Canada and the United States once again faced off for gold on February 25, 2010. It was a game marked by the ebb and flow that one usually associates with these two powers. Canada was the better team in the first period in that it scored on its two best chances to take a 2-0 lead, but the Americans played a steady and relentless game for 60 minutes.

■ ■ The difference was clearly in goal. Canada's Shannon Szabados, who entered Vancouver as a seemingly constant backup, earned the starter's role for the gold-medal game and delivered a remarkable performance, stopping every shot she faced. The Americans had the greater number of top scoring chances but time and again were stopped by Szabados, who earned the Directorate Award as Best Goalie for her heroics.

Vancouver 2010 once again pitted Finland and Sweden in the bronze-medal clash, but other teams--notably China and Switzerland--showed marked improvement in their ability to play at the highest level. Read on for other noteworthy performances throughout the women's tournament.

## GAME 2:

Canada beat Slovakia in record fashion, winning 18-0, the most one-sided game in women's hockey history. Jayna Hefford led the way with three goals and three assists. The game, which was played in front of a sell-out crowd in Canada Hockey Place, was the kick-off to a lopsided preliminary round for both Canada and the United States, prompting critics to air concerns about the competitiveness of women's hockey as an Olympic sport.

## GAME 3:

The United States followed up on Day Two, also winning its first game in a lopsided fashion, walloping China 13-1. Veteran player, and mother, Jenny Potter had a hat trick and two assists for the Americans.

## GAME 9:

Canada embarrassed Sweden by a 13-1 score. The Swedes looked nothing like the team that advanced to the gold-medal game four years ago. The victory leaves many wondering if anyone, including the U.S., can stop the runaway train of the Canadian women's hockey team that is rolling over every team.

## GAME 12:

Russia edged China 2-1 in one of the most entertaining games on the women's



Photos: IIHF/HHOF IMAGES

**GOLD GLITTERS, SILVER HURTS** *Nowhere is it clearer that you win the gold and lose the silver than the rivalry between Canada and the United States in women's hockey. Above The Canadians celebrate their 2-0 triumph, while to the left, a U.S. player shows emotion after the tough loss.*

side. All three goals came in an exciting second period. After going up 2-0, Russia allowed the Chinese back in it when Fengling Jin scored late, but they could get no closer in the third period. It is the first glimpse that women's hockey is indeed competitive when the North American nations are taken out of the equation.

## GAME 16:

China rallied to defeat Slovakia, 3-1. The game was tied 1-1 after 40 minutes, the 17th-ranked Slovaks looking for their first point of the Olympics after becoming the lowest qualifier to make it to Vancouver. It wasn't meant to be, though, as China pulled away

in the final 20 minutes, beating goaltender Zuzana Tomcikova late in the game to earn their first win of the Olympics.

## GAME 18:

The only game of the women's side which went to a shootout saw the Swiss beat Russia, 2-1, on penalty shots in the fifth-place game. Russia scored the lone goal of the first and the Swiss got the only one of the second, and after that it was a defensive struggle until the shootout. Stephanie Marty scored the winning goal. For the Swiss, the fifth-place finish is the nation's best at an Olympics. It is a bright spot for the nation which struggled to avoid relegation at the 2009 Women's World Championship.

## GAME 19:

Finland came from behind to defeat rival Sweden, 3-2, to win the bronze medal. Led by goalie Noora Raty, the Finns won in overtime thanks to a goal by veteran Karoliina Rantamaki at 2:33 of the extra period, played 4-on-4. For the Finns, the bronze is redemption after they finished just shy of the medal podium at the last two Olympics. For Sweden, it is back to the drawing boards after a going from silver darlings in Turin to empty handed in Vancouver. It was announced days later that long-time head coach Peter Elander stepped down from his position.

## GAME 20:

Canada claimed its third straight Olympic gold after shutting out arch-rivals United States, 2-0. Marie-Philip Poulin scored both Canadian goals in the latter stages of the opening period and goalie Shannon Szabados, the Best Goalie according to the IIHF Directorate, was sensational in stopping all 28 shots she faced. The game is another classic chapter in the North American rivalry as now the Canadian women have the Olympic edge, with their North American counterpart nipping at their heels at the World Women's Championship -- winning the last two straight titles. Who will be on top in 2011? Stay tuned.

## Olympics impact World Ranking

The Olympics determined more than just bragging rights for the participating teams, it also played a key role in shuffling the IIHF World Ranking. The American women surrendered their sole claim to the top spot, while on the men's side Russia's quarterfinal defeat was enough to also oust the country from number one. Below are the updated rankings for both the men and women. The men's ranking will change again after the World Championship in Germany this spring.

### WOMEN'S RANKING

Rank	Country	Points
1	Canada	2950
2	United States	2950
3	Finland	2795
4	Sweden	2735
5	Switzerland	2640
6	Russia	2610
7	China	2515
8	Kazakhstan	2455
9	Japan	2435
10	Slovakia	2370
11	Germany	2350
12	Norway	2225
13	Czech Republic	2190
14	France	2155
15	Latvia	2105
16	Austria	2040
17	Italy	1950
18	Great Britain	1925
19	Slovenia	1260
20	Croatia	1235
21	PRK Korea	1185
22	Denmark	1165
23	Netherlands	1095
24	Bulgaria	720
25	Australia	535
26	Belgium	485
27	Hungary	470
28	Korea	455
29	Iceland	415
30	New Zealand	415
31	Romania	410
32	South Africa	400
33	Estonia	390
34	Turkey	360

### MEN'S RANKING

Rank	Country	Points
1	Canada	4105
2	Russia	3965
3	Finland	3880
4	Sweden	3855
5	United States	3825
6	Czech Republic	3655
7	Slovakia	3470
8	Switzerland	3465
9	Belarus	3400
10	Latvia	3285
11	Norway	3270
12	Germany	3145
13	Denmark	3085
14	Austria	2955
15	Italy	2860
16	France	2860
17	Ukraine	2805
18	Slovenia	2755
19	Kazakhstan	2745
20	Hungary	2675
21	Japan	2565
22	Poland	2415
23	Lithuania	2355
24	Great Britain	2335
25	Netherlands	2185
26	Estonia	2155
27	Croatia	2150
28	Romania	2000
29	Serbia	1810
30	Spain	1705
31	Bulgaria	1540
32	Mexico	1525
33	Korea	1395
34	Australia	1385
35	China	1260
36	Belgium	1255
37	Turkey	1230
38	Israel	1070
39	Iceland	1030
40	New Zealand	850
41	South Africa	790
42	Ireland	720
43	PRK Korea	705
44	Luxembourg	700
45	Mongolia	515
46	Greece	440
47	Bosnia & Herzegovina	150
48	Armenia	70



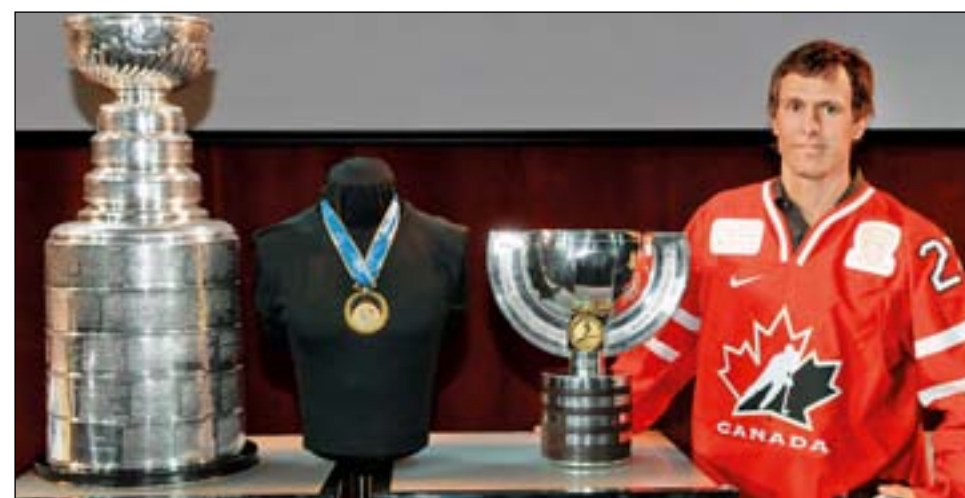
# It's Official...

## Triple Gold Club members formally inducted

*Imagine if you could get 22 of the Worlds greatest hockey players all together under one roof to be recognized for not one, not two, but three of their biggest career accomplishments.*

*That was the scene at the Molson Canadian Hockey House in Vancouver during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games when the 22 members of the Triple Gold Club were formally inducted on February 22.*

*The club, which recognizes players that have won the Stanley Cup, World Championship gold medal and the Olympic gold medal, includes stars from four countries, ten of whom are still active players. Each took time out of their busy schedule to join in the festivities and be recognized as a Triple threat.*



**AN EVENING TO REMEMBER:** Clockwise from top:  
All 22 members of the Triple Gold Club assemble in the IIHF Lounge before being inducted.

Sweden's Henrik Zetterberg is congratulated by the previous generations Hakan Loob upon his induction. Sweden has the most representatives in the TGC, with nine.

Scott Niedermayer poses with the three top prizes, the Stanley Cup, the Olympic gold medal from Nagano and the IIHF World Championship trophy. Niedermayer added the 2010 gold to his resume.

The induction brought out hordes of international hockey fans to the Molson Canadian Hockey House. The packed venue was festive, especially when the five Canadians were inducted.

René Fasel and Gary Bettman flank newest Triple Gold Club member Eric Staal after he won the Olympic gold medal against the U.S. Staal is officially the 23rd member of the TGC.

The top men representing each of the three accomplishments were on hand to congratulate the players. Left is Vladislav Tretiak the most accomplished hockey Olympian to recognize the Olympic gold, while René Fasel praised the World Championship gold. Gary Bettman was there on behalf of the NHL and Stanley Cup.



EWCC RECAP

# Tornado warning Moscow team wins EWCC

■ ■ The best club team from Europe in women's hockey is from Russia for the second straight year. Tornado Moscow Region won the 2009-2010 European Women's Champions Cup in grand style, sweeping through the round robin competition with a perfect record.

Tornado won all of their six games in the 2009-2010 European campaign. In the preliminary round, the Russians lost only one point in an overtime victory against Switzerland's HC Lugano and beat Czech champion, Slavia Prague, and Latvia's Laima Riga in regulation time.

■ ■ It was much the same in the final tournament which was held in Berlin. Tornado had its toughest test against Finland's Espoo Blues with a 4-3 win. Next up was a rout against Slavia Prague, 10-2, while Germany's OSC Berlin didn't do much better as the Tornado blew them away, 8-0.

Berlin was the only other team that could have won the tournament after two games, but the Russian Tornado was unstoppable and shut out the German host in their last game on Sunday to win the European club champion trophy.

■ ■ The only opponent that was able to scare Tornado was Espoo in the first game. After Tornado scored the 4-1 goal at 40:43, the Finns came back with two quick goals and played the last five minutes of the game with a man-advantage, but they didn't tie the game.

The Espoo Blues finished the tournament in second, ahead of OSC Berlin and Slavia Prague.

■ ■ Tornado had a roster with familiar faces from the women's national team, as well as some import players with Canadian defenceman Correne Bredin, Latvian forward Iveta Koka and Slovak forwards Jana Kapustova and Petra Pravlikova. Eleven players on the team participated in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games – nine Russians and the two Slovaks.

Ekatarina Smolentseva paced all players with six goals and three assists in three games.

Ivonne Schröder (OSC Berlin) was named the best goalkeeper, Emma Laaksonen (Espoo Blues) the best defenceman and Iya Gavrilova (Tornado Moscow Region) the best forward.

■ ■ The EWCC was in Swedish hands for the first four years of the event when AIK Solna won the title each season. Last year, Russia's SKIF Nizhny Novgorod was the first non-Swedish team to win the trophy thanks to a perfect record in the final tournament three points ahead of Swedish champion Segeltorps IF. This year, Sweden was the only top nation that did not send a team to the competition. 22 teams from as many European nations participated in the three-stage, seven-tournament competition in the 2009-2010 season

# The case of the missing puck Golden Olympic puck goes on quite a journey before finding home

■ ■ A week after Sidney Crosby's missing Olympic equipment was located, the IIHF announced that another piece of memorabilia was successfully retrieved - Crosby's game-winning goal puck from the gold-medal game. It has been shipped to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

"The IIHF is proud to help ensure that this valuable piece of hockey history will hold an honoured place for all to see it and to remember where they were and what they felt at the exact moment the goal was scored," said René Fasel. "The IIHF has a long standing relationship with the Hockey Hall of Fame and I am very pleased that VANOC joined us in donating the game-winning puck to the Hall."

Two missing artifacts dramas unfolded simultaneously during the days after February 28 when Sidney Crosby scored the goal.

As Hockey Canada, VANOC, and the IIHF were all working together to locate the scorer's stick and one glove, the IIHF and its partners were tracing leads to find the puck. Just as with the stick and the glove, the puck disappeared from the face of the earth.

"Together with the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, we had our usual post big-game puck-retrieving routine in place," said IIHF Communications Director Szymon Szemberg, who also acts as the secretary of the IIHF Historical Committee.

When the IIHF and Hockey Hall of Fame's curator Phil Pritchard realized that the puck was gone, a thorough search started which included all the investigative elements used by Hockey Canada when looking for Crosby's missing equipment, the stick and one glove. The IIHF studied replays of the moments after the goal. "The Hockey Hall of Fame worked all North American links while the IIHF followed leads to Europe," said Szemberg. "It is a pity when a treasure that can attract so many hoc-

key fans to the Hall becomes private property," said Pritchard. "We are extremely happy that our joint efforts resulted in locating the puck and that it is on its way to the Hall of Fame."



HOME SWEET HOME: A famous puck has a long journey

That the puck didn't follow the pre-determined path was simply a result of the general turmoil which occurred after the goal. The IIHF, VANOC and the Hockey Hall of Fame don't wish to disclose what happened to the puck between Crosby's goal and the present day.

"It is still a sensitive thing and we don't want people to think that someone who was part of the retrieving chain kept it on purpose," said Szemberg. "It was a matter of oversight and absent-mindedness, and we have 100 per cent trust that this was the case. We are positive that this is the actual puck."

"Maybe down the road the time will be right to tell what is actually a very funny but also an innocent story."

For now, though, all that matters is that the puck is safe at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

HE SOUPS, HE SCORES



■ ■ IIHF General Secretary, Horst Lichtner, made a special presentation to René Fasel on February 14 in Vancouver, in honor of Fasel's 60th birthday. Lichtner presented the IIHF President with a special edition book featuring 60 soups representative of 60 IIHF member nations.

"I love soups," Fasel said when asked to address the crowd. "I don't like to celebrate

birthdays, but I like soup."

■ ■ IOC president Jacques Rogge (pictured, right along with the NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly, left) praised Fasel for his role with the IOC in planning the Vancouver Olympics. Fasel was the chairman of the coordination commission and a member of the IOC executive committee. Rogge went on to note, "my term expires in four years, so, René... who knows?"

RESULTS SUMMARY

## 2010 Olympic Winter Games - Men's Vancouver, CANADA February 16-28

<b>Group A</b>				
United States - Switzerland	3	-	1	(1-0, 2-0, 0-1)
Canada - Norway	8	-	0	(0-0, 3-0, 5-0)
United States - Norway	6	-	1	(2-0, 1-1, 3-0)
Switzerland - Canada	2	-	3	(0-1, 2-1, 0-0) PS
Norway - Switzerland	4	-	5	(1-1, 2-2, 1-1) OT
Canada - United States	3	-	5	(1-2, 1-1, 1-2)

United States	3	3	0	0	0	14	-	5	9
Canada	3	1	1	0	1	14	-	7	5
Switzerland	3	0	1	1	1	8	-	10	3
Norway	3	0	0	1	2	5	-	19	1

United States earns direct berth to Quarterfinals

<b>Group B</b>				
Russia - Latvia	8 - 2	(3-0, 1-0, 4-2)		
Czech Republic - Slovakia	3 - 1	(1-0, 2-1, 0-0)		
Slovakia - Russia	2 - 1	(0-0, 0-1, 1-0) PS		
Czech Republic - Latvia	5 - 2	(3-0, 1-2, 1-0)		
Latvia - Slovakia	0 - 6	(0-3, 0-2, 0-1)		
Russia - Czech Republic	4 - 2	(1-1, 1-0, 2-1)		

Russia	3	2	0	1	0	13	-	6	7
Czech Republic	3	2	0	0	1	10	-	7	6
Slovakia	3	1	1	0	1	9	-	4	5
Latvia	3	0	0	0	3	4	-	19	0

Russia earns direct berth to Quarterfinals

Group C			
Finland - Belarus	5 - 1	(2-0, 1-1, 2-0)	
Sweden - Germany	2 - 0	(0-0, 2-0, 0-0)	
Belarus - Sweden	2 - 4	(0-2, 1-1, 1-1)	
Finland - Germany	5 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 2-0)	
Germany - Belarus	3 - 5	(1-1, 0-1, 2-3)	
Sweden - Finland	3 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 0-0)	

Sweden	3	3	0	0	0	9	-	2	9
Finland	3	2	0	0	1	10	-	4	6
Belarus	3	1	0	0	2	8	-	12	3
Germany	3	0	0	0	3	3	-	12	0

Sweden earns direct berth to Quarterfinals

<b><u>Qualification Playoff Games</u></b>			
Switzerland - Belarus	3 - 2	(1-1, 1-1, 0-0)	PS
Canada - Germany	8 - 2	(1-0, 3-1, 4-1)	
Czech Republic - Latvia	3 - 2	(2-0, 0-0, 0-2)	OT
Slovakia - Norway	4 - 3	(3-1, 0-2, 1-0)	

<b><u>Quarterfinal Games</u></b>		
United States - Switzerland	2 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 2-0)
Russia - Canada	3 - 7	(1-4, 2-3, 0-0)
Finland - Czech Republic	2 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 2-0)
Sweden - Slovakia	3 - 4	(0-0, 2-3, 1-1)

<b><u>Semi-Final Games</u></b>		
United States - Finland	6 - 1	(6-0, 0-0, 0-1)
Canada - Slovakia	3 - 2	(2-0, 1-0, 0-2)

<b>Bronze Medal Game</b>		
Finland - Slovakia	5 - 3	(1-0, 0-3, 4-0)

<b>Gold Medal Game</b>			
United States - Canada	2 - 3	(0-1, 1-1, 1-0) OT	

<b>Directorate Awards</b>									
Goaltender	Ryan Miller (United States)								
Defenseman	Brian Rafalski (United States)								
Forward	Jonathan Toews (Canada)								

<b>Media All-Star Team</b>									
Goaltender	Ryan Miller (United States)								
Defensemen	Brian Rafalski (United States) Shea Weber (Canada)								
Forwards	Jonathan Toews (Canada) Pavol Demitra (Slovakia) Zach Parise (United States) Ryan Miller (United States)								

<b>MVP</b>									
Ryan Miller (United States)									

<b><u>Final Placement</u></b>	
1. Canada	7. Czech Republic
2. United States	8. Switzerland
3. Finland	9. Belarus
4. Slovakia	10. Norway
5. Sweden	11. Germany
6. Russia	12. Latvia

## 2010 Olympic Winter Games - Women's Vancouver, CANADA February 13-25

Group A				
Sweden - Switzerland	3 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 1-0)		
Canada - Slovakia	18-0	(7-0, 6-0, 5-0)		
Switzerland - Canada	1-10	(0-2, 1-3, 0-5)		
Sweden - Slovakia	6 - 2	(3-2, 1-0, 2-0)		
Canada - Sweden	13-1	(5-0, 7-0, 1-1)		
Slovakia - Switzerland	2 - 5	(1-0, 0-1, 1-4)		

Canada	3	3	0	0	0	41	-	2	9
Sweden	3	2	0	0	1	10	-	15	6
Switzerland	3	1	0	0	2	6	-	15	3
Slovakia	3	0	0	0	3	4	-	29	0

Canada & Sweden qualified to playoff round

<b>Group B</b>			
United States - China	12-1	(5-0, 3-0, 4-1)	
Finland - Russia	5 - 1	(1-1, 2-0, 2-0)	
Russia - United States	0-13	(0-5, 0-7, 0-1)	
Finland - China	2 - 1	(0-1, 2-0, 0-0)	
United States - Finland	6 - 0	(4-0, 1-0, 1-0)	
China - Russia	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-2, 0-0)	

United States	3	3	0	0	0	31	-	1	9
Finland	3	2	0	0	1	7	-	8	6
Russia	3	1	0	0	2	3	-	19	3
China	3	0	0	0	3	3	-	16	0

United States & Finland qualified to playoff round

<b><u>Placement Round</u></b>			
Switzerland - China	6 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0)	
Russia - Slovakia	4 - 2	(2-0, 1-1, 1-1)	
China - Slovakia - 7th place	3 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 2-0)	
Switzerland - Russia - 5th place	2 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 0-0 PS)	

<b><u>Semi-Final Games</u></b>		
United States - Sweden	9 - 1	(2-0, 3-1, 4-0)
Canada - Finland	5 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 2-0)

<b>Bronze Medal Game</b>		
Finland - Sweden	3 - 2	(0-0, 2-1, 0-1) OT

<b>Gold Medal Game</b>		
Canada - United States	2 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 0-0)

<b>Directorate Awards</b>									
Goaltender	Shannon Szabados (Canada)								
Defenseman	Molly Engstrom (United States)								
Forward	Meghan Agosta (Canada)								

<b>Media All-Star Team</b>									
Goaltender	Shannon Szabados (Canada)								
Defensemen	Molly Engstrom (United States) Angela Ruggiero (United States) Meghan Agosta (Canada) Jenny Potter (United States)								
Forwards	Marie-Philip Poulin (Canada) Meghan Agosta (Canada)								

### **Final Placement**

1. Canada	5. Switzerland
2. United States	6. Russia
3. Finland	7. China
4. Sweden	8. Slovakia

## European Women's Champions Cup Berlin, GERMANY March 12-14

<b><u>FINAL ROUND</u></b>				
Tornado Moscow - Espoo Blues	4 - 3	(0-0, 3-1, 1-2)		
OSC Berlin - Slavia Prague	2 - 3	(1-2, 0-1, 1-0)		
Espoo Blues - OSC Berlin	1 - 3	(0-0, 1-1, 0-2)		
Slavia Prague - Tornado Moscow	2-10	(1-2, 0-6, 1-2)		
Blues Espoo - Slavia Prague	6 - 3	(1-0, 2-2, 3-1)		
OSC Berlin - Tornado Moscow	0 - 8	(0-3, 0-3, 0-2)		

Tornado Moscow	3	3	0	0	0	22	-	5	9
Espoo Blues	3	1	0	0	2	10	-	10	3
OSC Berlin	3	1	0	0	2	5	-	12	3
Slavia Prague	3	1	0	0	2	8	-	18	3

See page 10 for complete EWCC recap.

# Mirror, mirror on the podium

■ ■ For the first time in Olympic history, the medal finishers for both the men's and women's tournament featured the same three teams finishing in the exact same order. To honor the 132 hockey players that walked away from Vancouver with a medal around their neck, Ice Times has compiled the list of the 2010 winners.

### CANADA - DOUBLE GOLD

Men	Women
ROBERTO LUONGO	SHANNON SZABADOS</