

# News Release

FAIR PLAY  
AND RESPECT



**Publisher:** International Ice Hockey Federation, **Editor-in-Chief:** Jan-Ake Edvinsson  
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The new IIHF Council for  
the 2003-2008 term  
poses after the election  
in Marbella, Spain



## The Councilors

From left: Hannes Ederer (Deputy General Secretary), Ernest Aljancic, Alexander Steblin, Fredrick Meredith, Kalervo Kummola (Vice-President), Walter Bush (Vice-President), René Fasel (President), Shoichi Tomita (Vice-President), Hans Dobida, Murray Costello, Juraj Siroky, Frank Gonzalez and Jan-Ake Edvinsson (General Secretary).

Photo: Edward Groeger

## The mandate is given - it's our job to deliver

The IIHF General Congress in Marbella gave me a new mandate to lead the International Ice Hockey Federation until 2008. This will be my third term at the helm of the IIHF and I take on this task with a combination of humbleness, pride, privilege and great keenness for the future.

■ ■ We know that during this period we will have five World Championships, the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin and the 2004 World Cup of Hockey. We know that we will go to Riga, Latvia for the 2006 World Championship, the first time our showcase tournament will be organized in this country. The next IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in September will vote on whether the World Championship will go to Canada in 2007, for the first time. The term will end with the IIHF celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2008.

### RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

The future can hardly look more exciting than this.

I have been asked by media and by members of the hockey community about my "platform" for the coming term. These are the main issues which I will address in the coming years:



**KUDOS, ANSON.** IIHF President René Fasel congratulates Canada's Anson Carter to the overtime winner in the final game of the 2003 IIHF World Championship and the gold medal. More on Carter and the goal on pages 6, 7 and 12.

■ To continue making international hockey bigger and stronger by continuously enrolling developing hockey countries to the IIHF's Learn-To-Play program. Only by growing our game, will hockey develop and get better. This, of course, goes for women's hockey as well.

Continued on next page

Continued from page one:

## "There will be no free tickets to Turin 2006"

■ To continue and further develop our co-operation with the NHL and NHLPA regarding Olympic participation, NHL players' participation at the IIHF World Championships and the transfer agreement, which expires after this season.

■ To pursue the creation of an attractive European club competition where the champions of the top national leagues compete for European supremacy.

■ To diligently fight all doping in our game, by staying committed to the anti-doping code of WADA, a code which the IIHF just signed.

We are coming off another great IIHF World Championship. Finland 2003 will be remembered for spectacular game action, wonderful individual efforts and the 454,693 fans who visited the championship, the second best number in IIHF championship history.

For us who are so involved in the organisation of the tournament, it is sometimes difficult to be a fair judge of what's happening on the ice. But of all the media comments I have read, virtually all say that Finland 2003 was the best championship for quite some years. I trust them on this.

■ Personally, I will never forget the Sweden - Finland quarterfinal, where the hosts had a seemingly insurmountable 5-1 lead in the second period, but the Swedes fought back to win it 6-5. Obviously, it was a heartbreaker for the Finnish fans, but a truly great game. That's hockey for me.

This was a great year for Canadian hockey. It began with a rather (for Canadians) disappointing silver at the World U20 Championship in Halifax, but they more than made up for this by winning both the senior World Championship and the World U18 Championship.

We are getting closer to deciding the seeding, the qualification format and, also, the playing mode for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin. A lot will depend on whether the NHL and NHLPA decide to participate.

■ But whatever format will be chosen, there will be no free tickets to Turin. Some media and other experts have commented that some teams should be directly qualified, regardless of their performance leading up to the Olympics.

Fans, and especially media, must remember that we are not a business, this is not the Harlem Globetrotters. We are an Olympic sports federation and therefore we must have credibility in our system. The athletic and sportive values must always prevail. Let me give an example from Olympic basketball. In the last basketball

world championships Team USA, with NBA players, finished sixth and didn't make the cut to the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Everybody knows that an American team with the best NBA players most probably would win an Olympic gold medal. But because they didn't finish among the top four in the world championship, they have to play a special qualification this summer. There are no free tickets, whether it is FIBA (basketball's world governing body) or the IIHF.

Let me finally also respond to some concerns raised after the council elections in Marbella, that there is no one who will defend the interest of big hockey countries like Sweden and Czech Republic since the nominees from those countries were not elected.

■ First of all, if you run for council, you don't do it to defend the interest of the country you are from. Unfortunately, there is a misconception about this. If you are a member of the IIHF council you are elected by 63 member national associations to work for the development of international hockey and for the IIHF. And secondly, we are a very well structured federation with several means of expressing views and exercising influence. Just because a country is not represented on council, it doesn't mean that the interests of those countries are not acknowledged.

**René Fasel**  
IIHF President

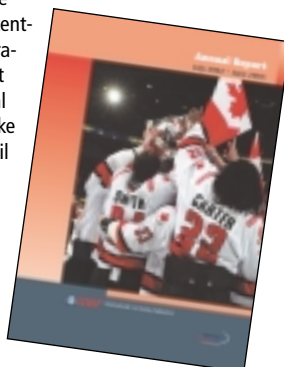
### IIHF COUNCIL 2003 - 2008

**President:** René Fasel (SUI)  
**Vice-President, Americas:** Walter L. Bush Jr. (USA)  
**Vice-President, Asia Oceania:** Shoichi Tomita (JPN)  
**Vice-President, Europe:** Kalervo Kummola (FIN)  
**Council members:**  
 Ernest Aljancic (SLO)  
 Murray Costello (CAN)  
 Hans Dobida (AUT)  
 Frank Gonzalez (ESP)  
 Frederick Meredith (GBR)  
 Juraj Siroky (SVK)  
 Alexander Steblin (RUS)  
 Jan-Ake Edvinsson (General Secretary)

## IIHF Annual Report now available

■ If you want to find out everything that went on in the world of hockey during the last year, you're in luck. The IIHF Annual Report, which includes results from every World Championship event from last year, photos, and reports, is hot off the presses.

The 100-page guide was mailed out recently to member federations. If you did not receive your Annual Report, or would like a copy, please email the IIHF offices at [media@iihf.com](mailto:media@iihf.com).



## Meet the New Council Members

Three members of the International Ice Hockey Federation are new to the Council. Learn more about the trio of newcomers:



### Ernest Aljancic (SLO)

Born on May 5, 1945 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Aljancic played ice hockey for 15 years for HC Olimpija in Ljubljana and played six games with the national team of former Yugoslavia. He also played handball on the youth national team level and worked later with the national

skiing program of Slovenia before returning to ice hockey in the capacity of vice-president of the Slovenian Ice Hockey Association, HZS, in 1994. Elected president of HZS three years later in 1997, and member of the executive Committee of the Slovenian Olympic Committee (NOC) and also a member of the IIHF Marketing Committee since 1998. Ernest Aljancic is a lawyer by profession.



### Frank Gonzalez (ESP)

Born on November 14, 1955 in Barcelona, Spain. Started to play youth hockey in North York, Ontario, Canada in the early 70s and went on to play at the Junior B level for the Preston Raiders in Ontario, Canada. Returned to his native Spain in the mid 70s and joined the ice hockey program of

the world famous FC Barcelona. Won several Spanish national championships with Casco-Viejo and later with C.G. Puigcerda. After representing Spain in several IIHF World Championships in the 70s and 80s, Gonzalez went into officiating and refereed his last IIHF World Championship (U18, Pool C in Sofia, Bulgaria) in 1991. Later served as referee supervisor in many IIHF championships. He oversaw the IIHF World Championship Division II in Majadahonda, Spain in 2001. Spanish delegate to IIHF congresses since 1991. Frank Gonzalez was a member of the IIHF World Championship Structure Committee 1998 - 2002.



### Juraj Siroky (SVK)

Born on December 29, 1953 in Kosice, Czechoslovakia. In 1994 he became the vice-president of HC Slovan Harvard Bratislava. Was elected president of this club in 1998. Later, he was elected president of the Slovak Ice Hockey Association and re-elected in 2002. Since 2001 he has

been a member of the Sport Council of the Slovak Olympic Committee. His IIHF career began in 1999 in the Development Committee. Since 2002 he has also been a member of the Championship Structure Committee. Juraj Siroky worked for the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of former Czechoslovakia in the 80s and was also employed at the Czechoslovak embassy in Washington, D.C., USA.

■ According to IIHF Statutes, the term between the General Congresses is four years. Before the election in Marbella, the council proposed to congress to extend the coming term to five years so it would overlap 2008, the year the IIHF celebrates its 100-years anniversary. The Congress approved.



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## WHERE IN THE WORLD

The IIHF congress voted to allocate the following IIHF Championships to the following cities:

- 2004 IIHF World Championship Division I, Group A**  
*Oslo, NORWAY, April 12 - 18*
- 2004 IIHF World Championship Division I, Group B:**  
*Gdansk, POLAND, April 12 - 18*
- 2004 IIHF World Championship Division II, Group A:**  
*Spain (venue TBD), April 04-10*
- 2004 IIHF World Championship Division II, Group B:**  
*Elektrėnai, Kaunas, LITHUANIA, April 11 - 17*
- 2004 IIHF World Championship Division III**  
*Iceland (venue & date TBD)*
- 2004 IIHF World Championship Far East Qualif.**  
*Tokyo, JAPAN & Seoul, KOREA, April 06 & 12*
- 2004 IIHF World Women Championship Division I**  
*Venue & Date TBD*
- 2004 IIHF World Women Championship Division II**  
*ITALY (venue TBD), March 15 - 21*
- 2004 IIHF World Women Championship Division III**  
*SLOVENIA (venue & date TBD)*
- 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division I, Group A:**  
*Berlin, GERMANY, December 14 - 20*
- 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division I, Group B**  
*Briançon, FRANCE, December 13 - 19*
- 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division II, Group A**  
*Sosnowiec, POLAND, Dec 28 - Jan 3*
- 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division II, Group B**  
*Elektrėnai, Kaunas, LITHUANIA, January 5 - 11*
- 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division III:**  
*Sofia, BULGARIA, January 5 - 11*
- 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship**  
*Minsk, BELARUS, Date TBD*
- 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division I, Group A**  
*Amstetten, AUSTRIA, March 27 - April 2*
- 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division I, Group B**  
*Selva Val Gardena, ITALY, March 28 - April 4*
- 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division II, Group A**  
*Debrecen, HUNGARY, March 28 - April 4*
- 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division II, Group A**  
*Elektrėnai, Kaunas, LITHUANIA, March 1 - 7*
- 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division III, Group A**  
*Mexico City, MEXICO, February 23 - 29*
- 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Division III, Group B**  
*Sofia, BULGARIA, March 8 - 13*

## Allocations of 2005 IIHF Championships

- 2005 IIHF World Women Championship:**  
*Linköping, Norrköping, SWEDEN*
- 2005 IIHF World U20 Championship**  
*Grand Forks, Thief River Falls, USA*
- 2005 IIHF World U18 Championship:**  
*Ceske Budejovice, Plzen, CZECH REPUBLIC*



**GRAND HOST:** Grand Forks, USA will host the 2005 World U20 Championship in its new and magnificent Ralph Engelstad Arena.

## Day-by-Day at IIHF Congress

## DAY ONE - JUNE 2, 2003

■ The 2003 IIHF World Women Championship, which was to be held in Beijing, China, was officially cancelled. The upcoming 2004 IIHF World Women Championship in Halifax, Canada will be organized with nine teams. The top eight teams (CAN, USA, RUS, FIN, GER, CHN, SWE, SUI) will be joined by Japan who won the 2003 IIHF World Women Championship in Ventspils, Latvia. Two teams will be relegated from the 2004 championship which will have a format of three groups with three teams in each.

■ The IIHF Congress voted unanimously to accept the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) anti-doping code.

■ The status of Bosnia and Herzegovina was upgraded from associate member to full member of the IIHF.

## DAY TWO - JUNE 3, 2003

■ René Fasel unanimously re-elected as IIHF President for a third term. The Fribourg, Switzerland native enters his third term as IIHF President, as he was initially elected in 1994. The upcoming term will last five years from 2003-2008, as the congress beforehand decided to extend the regular four-year term to five years, for the term to overlap 2008, when the IIHF will celebrate its 100-year anniversary.



**THIRD TERM:** René Fasel holds re-election speech.

■ IIHF Congress elected three new council members. Frank Gonzalez (ESP) 52 votes, Juraj Siroky (SVK) 50 votes and Ernest Aljancic (SLO) 48 votes.

■ The council also re-elected seven members, including: Walter L. Bush Jr. (USA), Vice-President, Americas; Shoichi Tomita (JPN), Vice-President, Asia Oceania; Kalervo Kummola (FIN) Vice-President, Europe; Murray Costello (CAN), 82 votes, Alexander Steblin (RUS), 81 votes, Hans Dobida (AUT) 80 votes, Fredrick Meredith (GBR) 77 votes.

■ Kummola defeated Steblin 52-40 for the European Vice-Presidency.

■ Votes received by the not-elected candidates: Patrick Franchetierre (FRA) 37 votes, Zbynek Kusy (CZE) 33 votes, Jan De Greef (NED) 32 votes, Kjell Nilsson (SWE) 29 votes and Eduard Pana (ROM) 24 votes.

■ Newly re-elected President René Fasel honored outgoing Vice-President Miro Subrt and council members Philippe Lacarrière and Rickard Fagerlund. (See more page 9.) The congress was visited by lifetime IOC Honorary President Juan-Antonio Samaranch.

## DAY THREE - JUNE 4, 2003

■ Council, delegates, IIHF staff and guests had a day-off after the first two long days of congress. The traditional IIHF Golf Tournament took place at the Los Naranjos Golf Club.

## DAY FOUR - JUNE 5, 2003

■ The big workshop day. Delegates were treated to five workshops on Thursday. It started early with guest presenter Lars Haue-Pedersen (of TSE Consulting in Lausanne) who spoke about the Image of Hockey. Before lunch two more workshops were held: Hockey Development in one room and Marketing in the other. After the break, the delegates again split into two major groups. One group attended the workshop about the IIHF Arena Project, while International Player Transfers was the topic of the other session. An overwhelming majority - 97 percent of those who attended the workshops - wanted them to become a regular feature at IIHF congresses.

## DAY FIVE - JUNE 6, 2003

■ A marathon day when the congress dug into a thick file of proposals for Statutes & Bylaws changes, additions and housekeeping. The most important change was to bylaw 204 regarding player eligibility for IIHF World Championships and Olympic tournaments. Congress approved council's proposal where a player can change national eligibility if he, providing being a citizen of that country, has played four consecutive years in the national competition of that country. See more on page 11 for details of this major rule change.

■ Congress also approved the proposal regarding "Class of Membership" whereby full membership is accorded only to an ice hockey association operating independently of any other organisation and solely controlling ice hockey. This is directed at to associations who are under control of a winter sport association or ice sport association. Those associations of the IIHF who are not operating independently within their countries (i.e. France, Italy, Spain) were given a two-year grace period by congress during which they must become fully independent ice hockey bodies in their respective countries. Only full members are entitled to vote and to submit motions to IIHF congress.

■ Congress also approved the proposal to make English the only official language of the IIHF.

## DAY SIX - JUNE 7, 2003

Congress finished off the Statutes & Bylaws session with housekeeping and minor changes. President René Fasel closed the IIHF General Congress at noon.

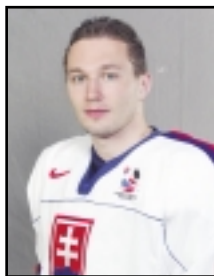


**OLYMPIC VISIT:** Juan-Antonio Samaranch was the guest speaker at the IIHF Congress.

## 2003 MEDIA ALL-STAR TEAM

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTORATE BEST PLAYER AWARDS:

Goalie: Sean Burke, CAN, Defenseman: Jay Bouwmeester, CAN, Forward: Mats Sundin, SWE

Goalie:  
Sean Burke, CANDefenseman:  
Jay Bouwmeester, CANDefenseman:  
Lubomir Visnovsky, SVKForward:  
Peter Forsberg, SWEForward:  
Dany Heatley, CANForward and MVP:  
Mats Sundin, SWE

**FULL HOUSE:** This was the scene at Hartwall Arena moments before the Finland-Sweden game. Fans flocked to this year's tournament in Finland. With a total attendance of 454,693, this was the second-best IIHF World Championship ever at the turnstile behind 1997, which also took place in Finland. Canada's gold medal game against Sweden drew over one million viewers, making it the second-highest rated world championship game ever on TSN.

## Top Five games in Finland 2003

**5** Denmark's stunning 5-2 defeat of Team USA on the first day of competition in Tampere. Denmark led 3-1 at the end of the first period and never looked back, cruising to victory and eventually the Qualification Round. The loss haunted the USA all tournament and was largely responsible for its Relegation Round appearance.

**4** Latvia's equally stunning 2-1 defeat of Russia in the Qualification Round. Neither team scored in the first two periods, making it anybody's game in the third. Despite the win, Latvia was eliminated from the Playoff Round. Russia still made it to the Playoff Round, but was ousted in the Quarterfinals by the Czech Republic.



**3** The Czech Republic and Slovakia bronze medal game. The little brother got the best of the big brother in a closely contested 4-2 decision. Neither team led by more than one goal until Slovakia sealed the game in the third period. There were smiles all around as the defending champions received their bronze medals.

**2** Anson Carter's overtime goal to lift Team Canada to the gold medal against Sweden. At the time, no one in Hartwall Arena was sure if the puck did indeed go in the net, but upon further review, Carter and Canada got to celebrate the goal and the gold. (See page 6 and 12 for more on this game).

**1** The Sweden-Finland Quarterfinal game. It had it all: great atmosphere, neighboring rivals, and a comeback performance that will have hockey fans talking for years to come. Sweden overcame a four-goal deficit in front of a sellout crowd at Hartwall Arena to defeat Finland 6-5, and advance to the Semi-final round. All Finland fans could do was watch in awe and horror as Sweden closed the seemingly insurmountable lead.

**SHOCKER STARTS HERE:** Latvia's Leonid Tambijevs nets the first of his team's two goals against Russia

## Looking ahead to 2004 in Czech Republic

Now that the 2003 World Championship has come to a close in Finland, all eyes are now on the Czech Republic for the 2004 World Championship. For the first time ever, the IIHF held a random draw to determine the groups for next year's World Championship. Two groups will play the preliminary round in Ostrava, which is close to the Slovakian border, while the other two groups will be based in Prague. The top four finishers from the 2003 World Championship were drawn for the top seeds in each group, followed by the 5th-8th place finishers for the second seeds, and so on. Next year's groups, as determined by the draw, are shown below:

IIHF 2004 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP			
PRAGUE		OSTRAVA	
GROUP A	GROUP D	GROUP B	GROUP C
CZE	CAN	SVK	SWE
GER	SUI	FIN	RUS
LAT	AUT	UKR	DEN
KAZ	FRA	USA	FEQ

The Czech organizers also unveiled the official website and logo for the 2004 World Championship. Visit [www.mshokej2004.cz](http://www.mshokej2004.cz) for more information.



[www.mshokej2004.cz](http://www.mshokej2004.cz)



# IHWC.net has record-setting year



■ As the internet becomes more and more popular, IHWC.net is playing an increasingly important role at the World Championship.

This year, the website, which is active only for the Men's World Championship, had a record number of "hits". At peak hours around 120,000 different users logged on to receive the latest information from the World Championship. The site had 1.25 million visitors.

This is three times more than in Sweden 2002. By the fourth tournament day, IHWC.net surpassed the total number of hits from the previous year. The average visit length was about 17.5 minutes.

Multiplied by the number of visits, this results in over 360,000 hours that users spent on IHWC.net.

■ IHWC.net has been the official website of the Men's World Championship for the last four years. The IIHF decided to launch IHWC.net to give fans a better look at the World Championship. Every year during the three weeks of the World Championship, IIHF.com is essentially shut down and all news travels through the IHWC.net website.

The IIHF is always looking for ways to improve the content of IHWC.net and welcomes suggestions through the official IIHF website.

## 2005 plans in Austria already underway

■ Even though the 2005 Men's World Championship is still over 700 days away, the Austrian Organising Committee is busy at work with preparations. During the IIHF World Championship in Finland, the Organising Committee for the 2005 tournament provided an update and showed off its logo and website.

The Committee gave a very positive report about the ongoing preparations. The 150 media-representatives in attendance were surprised of the fast progress the planning which has already taken place.

Vienna and Innsbruck will welcome the world's best hockey players from April 30 to May 15, 2005. In preparation, construction and renovation has already started on the Olympic Hall. Austria is hoping to put on a successful World Championship and will use the proceeds to promote the education of young hockey players.

[www.icehockey2005.com](http://www.icehockey2005.com)



## Construction in Latvia for 2006 begins



**MEN AT WORK:** IIHF President René Fasel gets into the action at the groundbreaking of the new arena in Riga, Latvia. Looking on are Gundars Bojars (Mayor of Riga) and Ainars Šlesers (Vice-Prime Minister). This is the first time ever that Latvia will host the World Championship. The groundbreaking erases any lingering doubts of Latvia's ability to organize the World Championship

## The goal not seen 'round the world

■ Just how important is video replay in sports?

Just ask any soccer fan who recognizes this photo.

Hockey fans might not remember this infamous soccer game, but it has essentially become the poster child for initiating video replay in several sports.

■ The year was 1966. West Germany and host England were playing in the final game of the World Cup. Geoff Hurst of England shot the ball off the crossbar and it was ruled a goal by the linesman. Looking at the photo today, it appears that the ball never crossed the line and the call should have been no goal.

The decision is still one of the most disputed calls in sports history.

Fast forward to 2003 at the World Championship in Finland. Anson Carter put the puck in the net during overtime of the gold medal game... or did he?



# Carter claims his place among



**TASTES SO GOLDEN.** Anson Carter received a heroes' welcome when he returned to his home town Toronto after scoring the dramatic overtime winner in the Gold Medal Game against Sweden. Carter is now a Canadian hockey hero.

By Andrew Podnieks

For the record, Canada's victory at the 2003 World Championships in Finland was its 22nd gold medal, just one behind Russia/Soviet Union on the all-time list. But for Anson Carter, the overtime hero of the gold-medal game against Sweden in the early evening of May 11 at Hartwall Arena, the victory was a watershed moment in a tremendous international hockey career.

■ A shortlist of Canadian hockey heroes in international competition includes Paul Henderson, Phil Esposito, Darryl Sittler, Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Paul Kariya and Joe Sakic. Now add Anson Carter to that list. Carter was one of four men from Team Canada 2003 who were on the country's last gold team in 1997 (the others were goalie Sean Burke, defenceman Cory Cross, and coach Andy Murray -- Carter also won gold with Canada's junior team in 1994).

Ironically, that victory also took place at the Hartwall Arena. Carter's game-winning shot this year snuck between the post and the right pad of Tre Kronor goalie Mikael Tellqvist, and after a lengthy video review, the celebration was on for Carter and his red and white teammates. After a team party that night, Carter went to Paris for two days to unwind, but when he got home to Toronto, he couldn't have imagined the mob scene that awaited him.

■ On May 15, fresh off the plane, Carter was whisked in a limousine to the SkyDome where he threw out the first pitch at a Toronto Blue Jays - Tampa Bay Devil Rays baseball game. He was besieged by autograph seekers and well wishers at the park, conducted a lengthy press conference, and then went to a local TV studio to do a half-hour talk show before returning downtown to do more interviews.

Meanwhile, back at the Hockey Hall of Fame, curators were putting the finishing touches on a special World Championship display case, the centerpiece of which was Carter's sweater and stick from the gold-medal game, as well as the "Helsinki loonie" the Canadian one-dollar coin that team officials had taped to the inside cross-bar of Tellqvist's net prior to the quarter-finals.

The display opened to the public a few days later, by which time Carter was in the Barbados taking a well-deserved week's vacation.

■ Carter's fairytale goal was hardly something his parents could have predicted when they were raising the young lad in Toronto's east end. They had emigrated to Canada from the Barbados in 1967, and when little Anson first started to skate he was nicknamed Zamboni because he was on the ice more often than gliding over it. But he persevered and, as he developed during his teen years, he became so good that he was offered a full scholarship from Michigan State University (NCAA) to play hockey and do his pre-med studies.

Soon, the dreams of becoming a doctor faded as his ice skills became exceptional.



**STRIKE THE POSE:** Team Canada celebrates its gold medal at the 2003 World Championship in Helsinki. The first-ever four-on-four overtime format was put to the test as Canada and Sweden tied 13-13 into overtime before Anson Carter scored the game-winning goal. **Insert photo:** Helmi sticks and gloves become identified flying objects in the Hartwall Arena as referee Vladimir Sirovka finally called it a goal after 340 seconds of consulting with the video goal judge.

He was invited to play for Canada at the '94 World Juniors, and from there his career took off. Carter played for Washington and Boston before joining Edmonton in the fall of 2000 and, at the trade deadline in March 2003, he was moved to the Rangers.

■ But in Finland, coach Murray played him on the Edmonton Line with former teammates Ryan Smyth and Mike Comrie, and the three clicked to form a high-scoring, defensively-responsible forward line that brought Canada gold and Carter fame. Amazingly, Canada went undefeated in the tournament (8-0-1), the only blemish being a 2-2 tie with Denmark, the same team that lost 47-0 the last time the teams played in 1949! But in the big scheme of things, it was something that both Carter and Team Canada could bare.



# Canadian hockey heroes



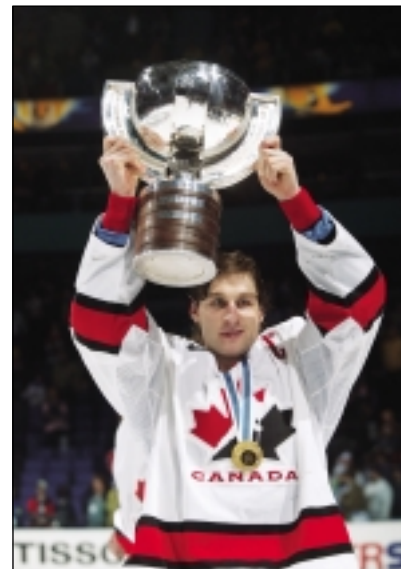
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**ONE FOR THE AGES:** Sweden's Mats Sundin celebrates his teams unbelievable 6-5 win over Finland in the Quarterfinal Round. Sweden trailed, 5-1 midway through the second period before mounting its amazing comeback.

FINLAND 2003 PHOTOS: Jukka Rautio, Europhoto



**THE ULTIMATE PRIZE:** Canadian captain Ryan Smyth had no problems hoisting the World Championship trophy after his team's overtime win against Sweden.



**THE LOVE BUG:** Loyal Latvian fans loved their team enough to make the journey to Finland in a true team car. The team rewarded their loyal fans with a 2-1 upset over Russia.



**PERFECT FIVE HOLE:** Pavol Demitra of Slovakia manages a sweet move on Czech goalie Tomas Vokoun in the Bronze Medal Game. Demitra scored and the Slovaks beat their neighbours 4-2 for third place.



**CIRLCING THE WAGONS:** Team Russia circles its troops around the net and goaltender Egor Podomatski.



**SO, WE MEET AGAIN:** Foes in the NHL and the World Championship. Peter Forsberg (Colorado Avalanche) and Kris Draper (Detroit Red Wings) face-off in the Preliminary Round. Draper earned bragging rights in both games.



# Canada jumps from sixth to first at 2003 U18 World Championship

■ If at first you don't succeed... try one more time. That motto worked for Team Canada as it captured the gold medal in its second-ever appearance at the World Under-18 Championship in Yaroslavl, Russia.

The U18 World Championship has been the biggest tournament for upsets in the last few years. Last year, the underdog Team USA captured its first gold medal at an IIHF World Championship event in 69 years. This year it was their North American counterpart's turn to steal the stage and walk away with the coveted gold medal.

Canada entered the U18 World Championship last year and finished a disappointing sixth. The squad took that lesson to heart and emerged this season with a renewed focus.

■ Canada snuck into the top spot in a year when the favorites could not cope with the pressure. Defending World Under-18 Champion USA cruised through the preliminary round, but fell to Canada in a heart-stopping 2-1 overtime game. The tournament host and favourites for the gold, Russia, executed a nearly flawless tournament until Slovakia stunned the squad in the Semi-final round in a double-overtime 2-1 thriller.

The U18 World Championship is becoming more of a showcase for the top young talent from all over the world each year. Its importance in the scouting world and its reputation for great hockey action has gradually grown over the last five years. This year it was Russia's Alexander Ovechkin's turn to steal the show. He was named the best forward at the tournament. He also led all scorers in 2002 with an impressive 18



**HARD-EARNED HARDWARE:** Canada Captain Braydon Coburn accepts the U18 World Championship trophy from tournament chairman Miro Subrt.

points in Slovakia where his team finished in second place.

■ The gold at the U18 World Championship adds to an already tremendous year for Canadian hockey. In a sixth-month span, teams in the red and white brought home a silver medal from the U20 World Championship and two golds (U18 World Championship and Men's World Championship.)

## The End of an Era: Outgoing council members say goodbye

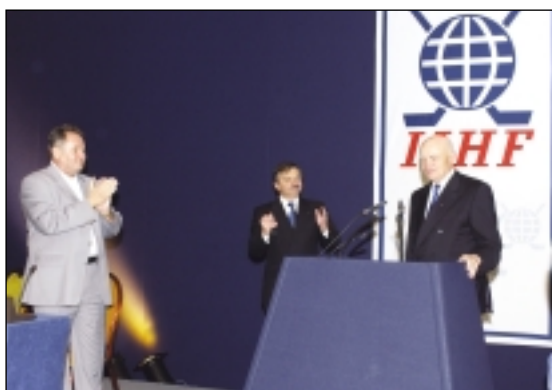
■ All good things must come to an end and such was the case at the General Congress in Spain. As the new council members took their place, three outgoing council members said goodbye and left the IIHF council having contributed many years of exceptional service.

Vice President Miro Subrt stepped down as the longest serving high-ranking official in the world of hockey after working in the sport for over 50 years. Subrt has not missed an IIHF congress since 1956 and worked his 44th consecutive World Championship recently in Finland. He has also been at every Winter Olympic Games since 1960 and was awarded the Olympic Order during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

For his efforts, Subrt, on the IIHF council since 1959, was named an Life President.

■ Rickard Fagerlund and Philippe Lacarriere were named Life Council Members after stepping down this year. Fagerlund contributed 19 years to the Swedish Federation and was on the IIHF Council for eight years, working with the marketing committee. Lacarriere was a member of the IIHF Council since 1994, working primarily with the rules and referee's committees.

■ The IIHF would like to thank all three men for all



**APPLAUSE WELL EARNED:** Miro Subrt is acknowledged by IIHF President René Fasel and by the new council member Ernest Aljancic. Miro steps down after 43 years (!) on the IIHF council.

their efforts throughout their terms and wish them the best of luck in all of their future hockey endeavours.



Rickard Fagerlund



Philippe Lacarriere

### DUMP & CHASE FROM HOCKEY WORLD

■ Team USA has brought in its most recent Miracle Maker to coach the 2004 USA team at the U20 World Championship. **Mike Eaves**, who most recently coached the 2002 USA U18 team to a goal medal at the U18 World Championships was named the head coach of the U20 squad. Eaves is currently the head coach of the University of Wisconsin. He will be assisted by Moe Mantha, head coach of the USA U18 Team, and John Hynes, assistant coach at the University of Wisconsin.

■ Canada has also named its head coach for its National U20 Team. **Mario Durocher** has been tabbed to lead the 2004 squad in Finland. Durocher is the head coach of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Lewiston MAINEiacs. He will be assisted by Dean Chynoweth, head coach of the Western Hockey League's Seattle Thunderbirds, and Jim Hulton, head coach of the Ontario Hockey League's Kingston Frontenacs.

■ The Finnish Women's National Team named **Hannu Saintula** as its new head coach. Saintula was also the head coach at the 2000 Women's World Championship, where Finland won a bronze.

■ **Jukka-Pekka Vuorinen** was named the Ice Hockey Manager for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. Vuorinen was the General Secretary for the 2003 IIHF Men's World Championship in Finland. In Torino, he will be responsible for the men's and women's Olympic Tournaments as well as the Sledge Hockey tournament.



J-P Vuorinen

■ The Hockey Hall of Fame announced two new appointments. **Craig Baines** is the new Vice President of Marketing and Facility Services, while **Phil Pritchard** was named the new Vice President for Hockey Operations and Curator. The pair have a combined 22-years experience with the HHOF.

■ The Canadian Hockey Association (CHA) has changed its name to Hockey Canada. The change was made to help people identify the organization more easily. The logo, structure and day-to-day operations will remain the same.

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

■ **Kjell Nilsson** was re-elected as president of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association on June 14.

■ **Ron DeGregorio** was elected as president of USA Hockey on June 15, replacing Walter L. Bush Jr. who stepped down after 17 years. De Gregorio became just the fourth USA Hockey President in the organization's 66-year history.



DeGregorio

■ The German Ice Hockey Association appointed **Franz Reindl** as the General Secretary. **Michael Pfuhl** was appointed as the Technical Director.

■ The Netherlands became a full-time European Ice Hockey Challenge (EIHC) member after sharing a spot with Austria last season.

■ Liechtenstein named **Michael Zanghellini** as its new president. Also voted in on March 23 were **Johannes Meier**, Vice President; **Monika Lang-Plüss**, Financial Chief; and **Patrik Vogt**, Director of Ice Hockey.

## RESULTS SUMMARY

## 2003 IIHF World Championship Div. 1, Group A

Budapest, HUNGARY April 15-21, 2003

Lithuania - Poland	2-8	(0-2, 1-2, 1-4)
Romania - Kazakhstan	2-8	(0-2, 2-5, 0-1)
Netherlands - Hungary	2-4	(2-0, 0-1, 0-3)
Kazakhstan - Lithuania	13-2	(2-0, 6-0, 5-2)
Poland - Netherlands	6-3	(2-0, 0-0, 4-2)
Hungary - Romania	4-4	(2-2, 1-0, 1-2)
Poland - Romania	6-0	(2-0, 3-0, 1-0)
Lithuania - Netherlands	2-2	(1-0, 1-1, 0-1)
Hungary - Kazakhstan	1-4	(1-3, 0-0, 0-1)
Netherlands - Romania	7-4	(3-0, 2-2, 2-2)
Kazakhstan - Poland	3-1	(0-0, 2-0, 1-1)
Lithuania - Hungary	0-4	(0-2, 0-1, 0-1)
Kazakhstan - Netherlands	6-3	(3-2, 2-0, 1-1)
Romania - Lithuania	3-1	(2-0, 0-1, 1-0)
Hungary - Poland	1-3	(1-1, 0-2, 0-0)

## FINAL STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	Kazakhstan	5	5	0	0	34:9	10
2	Poland	5	4	0	1	24:9	8
3	Hungary	5	2	1	2	14:13	5
4	Netherlands	5	1	1	3	17:22	3
5	Romania	5	1	1	3	13:26	3
6	Lithuania	5	0	1	4	7:30	1

- Kazakhstan promoted to the 2004 IIHF World Championship.  
 ■ Lithuania relegated to the 2004 IIHF World Championship Div. II.

## IIHF Directorate Awards

**Best Goalkeeper:** Levente Szuper (HUN)  
**Best Defenseman:** Tommie Hartogs (NED)  
**Best Forward:** Fedor Polichshuk (KAZ)

## 2003 IIHF World Championship Div. 1, Group B

Zagreb, CROATIA April 14-20, 2003

Estonia - Italy	3-1	(0-1, 1-0, 2-0)
Great Britain - France	2-2	(1-0, 0-1, 1-1)
Croatia - Norway	1-6	(0-0, 1-5, 0-1)
Italy - Great Britain	4-2	(1-0, 2-2, 1-0)
Norway - Estonia	3-0	(1-0, 0-0, 2-0)
France - Croatia	8-1	(3-0, 5-0, 0-1)
France - Norway	4-2	(2-0, 0-0, 2-2)
Estonia - Great Britain	4-3	(1-1, 2-0, 1-2)
Italy - Croatia	9-0	(4-0, 1-0, 4-0)
France - Estonia	6-0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Norway - Italy	5-2	(2-0, 2-2, 1-0)
Great Britain - Croatia	7-1	(1-1, 3-0, 3-0)
Norway - Great Britain	3-2	(2-2, 0-0, 1-0)
Italy - France	0-1	(0-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Croatia - Estonia	7-5	(3-0, 1-2, 3-3)

## FINAL STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	France	5	4	1	0	21:5	9
2	Norway	5	4	0	1	19:9	8
3	Estonia	5	2	0	3	12:20	4
4	Italy	5	2	0	3	16:11	4
5	Great Britain	5	1	1	3	16:14	3
6	Croatia	5	1	0	4	10:35	2

- France promoted to the 2004 IIHF World Championship.  
 ■ Croatia relegated to the 2004 IIHF World Championship Div. II.

## IIHF Directorate Awards

**Best Goalkeeper:** Fabrice Lhenry (FRA)  
**Best Defenseman:** Robert Wilson (GBR)  
**Best Forward:** Epsen Knutsen (NOR)

## 2003 IIHF World U18 Championship

Yaroslavl, RUSSIA April 12-20, 2003

## Group A

Sweden - Finland	3-3	(1-2, 1-0, 1-1)
Belarus - USA	3-3	(0-2, 0-1, 3-0)
Slovakia - Sweden	4-1	(2-0, 1-0, 1-1)
Finland - Belarus	8-6	(1-3, 4-2, 3-1)
USA - Slovakia	3-2	(1-2, 2-2, 0-0)
Sweden - USA	2-3	(1-0, 1-2, 0-1)
Finland - Slovakia	3-4	(1-2, 1-1, 1-1)
Belarus - Sweden	3-9	(1-3, 1-3, 1-3)
USA - Finland	2-0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Slovakia - Belarus	8-2	(2-1, 2-0, 4-1)

## Standings Group A

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	USA	4	3	1	0	11:7	7
2	Slovakia	4	3	0	1	18:9	6
3	Sweden	4	1	1	2	15:13	3
4	Finland	4	1	1	2	14:15	3
5	Belarus	4	0	1	3	14:28	1

## Group B

Kazakhstan - Czech Republic	3-5	(1-2, 1-1, 1-2)
Canada - Russia	3-6	(1-1, 1-0, 1-5)
Switzerland - Kazakhstan	13-2	(4-1, 6-0, 3-1)
Czech Republic - Canada	3-3	(0-3, 1-0, 2-0)
Russia - Switzerland	12-3	(6-1, 3-1, 3-1)
Kazakhstan - Russia	0-5	(0-3, 0-2, 0-0)
Canada - Kazakhstan	8-1	(3-0, 3-0, 2-1)
Czech Republic - Switzerland	4-1	(0-1, 2-0, 2-0)
Switzerland - Canada	0-5	(0-1, 0-2, 0-2)
Russia - Czech Republic	4-2	(1-0, 2-2, 1-0)

## Standings Group B

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	Russia	4	4	0	0	27:8	8
2	Canada	4	2	1	1	19:10	5
3	Czech Republic	4	2	1	1	14:11	5
4	Switzerland	4	1	0	3	17:23	2
5	Kazakhstan	4	0	0	4	6:31	0

## Relegation Round

Switzerland - Kazakhstan	13-2	(4-1, 6-0, 3-1)
Finland - Belarus	8-6	(1-3, 4-2, 3-1)
Finland - Kazakhstan	5-4	(2-0, 1-2, 2-2)
Switzerland - Belarus	3-5	(2-2, 1-2, 0-1)
Finland - Switzerland	2-2	(0-2, 1-0, 1-0)
Belarus - Kazakhstan	8-6	(2-1, 1-4, 5-1)

## Final Rounds

Slovakia - Czech Republic	2-1	(0-1, 1-0, 1-0)
Canada - Sweden	8-1	(3-0, 3-1, 2-0)
Russia - Slovakia	1-2	(1-0, 0-1, 0-0, 0-0, 0-1)
USA - Canada	1-2	(0-0, 1-1, 0-0, 0-1)
Czech Republic - Sweden	2-3	(0-0, 1-1, 1-1, 0-1)
USA - Russia	3-6	(2-3, 1-1, 0-2)
Canada - Slovakia	3-0	(1-0, 1-0, 1-0)

## FINAL RANKING:

1. Canada	6. Czech Republic
2. Slovakia	7. Finland
3. Russia	8. Belarus
4. USA	9. Switzerland
5. Sweden	10. Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan & Switzerland relegated to U18 Div. I in 2004

## IIHF Directorate Awards

**Best Goalkeeper:** Jaroslav Halak (SVK)  
**Best Defenseman:** Brent Seabrook (CAN)  
**Best Forward:** Alexander Ovechkin (RUS)

## 2003 IIHF World Championship

Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, FINLAND, April 26- May 5, 2003

## Group A

Germany - Japan	5-4	(4-2, 0-0, 1-2)
Ukraine-Slovakia	3-9	(0-2, 2-4, 1-3)
Slovakia - Japan	10-1	(3-1, 5-0, 2-0)
Germany - Ukraine	3-1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Slovakia - Germany	3-1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Japan - Ukraine	1-5	(0-2, 0-2, 1-1)

## Standings Group A

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	Slovakia	3	3	0	0	22:5	6
2	Germany	3	2	0	1	9:8	4
3	Ukraine	3	1	0	2	9:13	2
4	Japan	3	0	0	3	6:20	0

## Group B

USA - Denmark	2-5	(1-3, 0-1, 1-1)
Switzerland - Russia	2-5	(1-2, 1-2, 0-1)
USA - Switzerland	0-1	(0-1, 0-0, 0-0)
Russia - Denmark	6-1	(1-0, 5-1, 0-0)
Denmark - Switzerland	2-6	(0-2, 1-2, 1-2)
Russia - USA	3-2	(0-1, 2-0, 1-1)

## Standings Group B

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	Russia	3	3	0	0	14:5	6
2	Switzerland	3	2	0	1	9:7	4
3	Denmark	3	1	0	2	8:14	2
4	USA	3	0	0	3	4:9	0

## Group C

Canada - Belarus	3-0	(2-0, 0-0, 1-0)
Latvia - Sweden	1-3	(1-2, 0-1, 0-0)
Canada - Latvia	6-1	(2-1, 1-0, 3-0)
Sweden - Belarus	2-1	(1-1, 0-0, 1-0)
Belarus - Latvia	0-4	(0-1, 0-3, 0-0)
Sweden - Canada	1-3	(0-1, 0-1, 1-1)

## Standings Group C

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	Canada	3	3	0	0	12:2	6
2	Sweden	3	2	0	1	6:5	4
3	Latvia	3	1	0	2	6:9	2
4	Belarus	3	0	0	3	1:9	0

## Group D

Czech Republic - Slovenia	5-2	(3-0, 2-1, 0-1)
Austria - Finland	1-5	(0-1, 1-3, 0-1)
Finland - Slovenia	12-0	(4-0, 4-0, 4-0)
Czech Republic - Austria	8-1	(1-0, 5-0, 2-1)
Slovenia - Austria	2-6	(0-1, 1-2, 1-3)
Finland - Czech Republic	1-2	(1-0, 0-1, 0-1)

## Standings Group D

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	Czech Republic	3	3	0	0	15:4	6
2	Finland	3	2	0	1	18:3	4
3	Austria	3	1	0	2	8:15	2
4	Slovenia	3	0	0	3	4:23	0

## Qualification Round:

Austria - Finland	1-5	(0-1, 1-3, 0-1)
Ukraine - Slovakia	3-9	(0-2, 2-4, 1-3)
Czech Republic - Austria	8-1	(1-0, 5-0, 2-1)
Germany - Ukraine	3-1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Slovakia - Germany	3-1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Finland - Czech Republic	1-2	(1-0, 0-1, 10-1)
Slovakia - Finland	5-1	(1-1, 0-0, 4-0)
Czech Republic - Ukraine	5-2	(0-0, 4-1, 1-1)
Germany - Austria	5-1	(2-0, 2-1, 1-0)
Finland - Ukraine	9-0	(3-0, 4-0, 2-0)
Slovakia - Austria	7-1	(2-0, 3-1, 2-0)
Czech Republic - Germany	4-0	(1-0, 1-0, 2-0)
Slovakia - Czech Republic	3-3	(0-1, 2-2, 1-0)
Ukraine - Austria	2-5	(0-0, 0-3, 2-2)
Finland - Germany	2-2	(2-1, 0-1, 0-0)

## Qualification Round Standings

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	Canada	5	4	1	0	18:6	9
2	Sweden	5	4	0	1	20:9	8
3	Russia	5	2	0	3	16:14	4
4	Switzerland	5	2	0	3	14:16	4
5	Latvia	5	2	0	3	10:16	4
6	Denmark	5	0	1	4	8:25	1

## Relegation Round

USA - Slovenia	7-2	(3-2, 3-0, 1-0)
Belarus - Japan	3-1	(2-1, 0-0, 1-0)
Japan - Slovenia	3-3	(2-0, 0-1, 1-2)
USA - Belarus	4-2	(2-2, 2-0, 0-0)
Slovenia - Belarus	3-4	(1-2, 1-2, 1-0)
Japan - USA	1-8	(0-1, 1-3, 0-4)

## Relegation Round Standings

Rk.	Team	GP	W	T	L	GF:GA	TP
1	USA	3	3	0	0	19:5	6
2	Belarus	3	2	0	1	9:8	4
3	Slovenia	3	0	1	2	8:14	1
4	Japan	3	0	1	2	5:14	1

## Quarterfinal Round

Canada - Germany	3-2	(1-0, 1-0, 0-2, 1-0)
Slovakia - Switzerland	3-1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Czech Republic - Russia	3-0	(1-0, 2-0, 0-0)
Sweden - Finland	6-5	(1-3, 3-2, 2-0)

## Semi-final Round

Canada - Czech Republic	8-4	(1-0, 2-2, 5-2)
Slovakia - Sweden	1-4	(0-1, 1-1, 0-2)

## Bronze Medal Game

Czech Republic - Slovakia	2-4	(1-2, 1-1, 0-1)
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## Gold Medal Game

Canada - Sweden	3-2	(1-2, 0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
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## Final Ranking:

1. Canada	5. Finland	9. Latvia	13. USA
2. Sweden	6. Germany	10. Austria	14. Belarus
3. Slovakia	7. Russia	11. Denmark	15. Slovenia
4. Czech Rep.	8. Switzerland	12. Ukraine	16. Japan

- Belarus and Slovenia relegated to IIHF World Championship Div I  
 ■ Japan relegated to IIHF World Championship Far East Qualification

## IIHF Directorate Awards

**Best Goalkeeper:** Sean Burke (CAN)  
**Best Defenseman:** Jay Bouwmeester (CAN)  
**Best Forward:** Mats Sundin (SWE)



## Eligibility rule change enables players to switch countries

■ The IIHF General Congress at Marbella approved a major change to the existing player eligibility rules for participation in IIHF Championships and Olympic competitions.

Under the eligibility bylaw (204), a player who had represented a country after his 18th birthday in an IIHF championship or in an Olympic competition, could not later represent another country in an IIHF championship or in an Olympic competition.

■ That rule is now gone. The congress approved a new rule which permits a player to apply to the IIHF to represent another country provided that he is a citizen of that country and that he has participated for at least four consecutive years in the national competitions of his new country, during which period he has neither transferred to another country nor played ice hockey within any other country.

■ In addition, the player must have an International Transfer Card (ITC) permitting his transfer to the new country and that ITC must be approved and dated by the IIHF at least four years before the start of the IIHF competition (world championships or Olympics) in which he wishes to participate.

Such a change will be allowed only once in a player's life and is final and irrevocable.

■ It is important to point out that the new rule cannot be taken advantage of by IIHF players who become Canadian or US citizens and play in the National Hockey League for at least four years.

A transfer of an IIHF player to the NHL is not regulated under the International Player Transfer Program and the player is not eligible to represent Canada or the US under the new "four-year window" rule.

## Kazakhstan and France make it back to the big boys

■ Kazakhstan was on a mission to move up to the top level of the World Championship. It completed that mission in convincing fashion, going undefeated at this year's Division I World Championship in Budapest, Hungary and outscoring its opponents 34:9.

The deciding game of the tournament came in the fourth game for both Kazakhstan and Poland, who were both undefeated going into the game. A second period, two-goal surge by Kazakhstan allowed them to ease past Poland and into the World Championship next year in the Czech Republic.

Kazakhstan was paced by forward Fedor Polichshuk, who finished the tournament with two goals and eight assists and walked away with the IIHF Directorate Award for the Top Forward. Hometown favorite Levente Szuper was named the best goaltender after finishing with a 2.25 GAA and an impressive .927 saves percentage for Hungary. Rounding out the Directorate honors was Tommie Hartogs of the Netherlands, who was named the top defenseman after finishing second in overall scoring with 11 points on three goals and eight assists.



■ The Division I tournament in Zagreb, Croatia was a nip-and-tuck affair with two very strong teams, France and Norway, vying for the top spot. France tied Great Britain 2-2 in its first game of the tournament, leaving it one point behind Norway when the two teams met midway through the tournament. In that fateful meeting France jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first period. Norway scored twice in the third period but France responded to each goal, earning the 4-2 win.

Both teams had to survive last round scares as Norway squeaked past Great Britain 3-2 with a third-period goal. France clung to a 1-0 lead in its final game against Italy, which proved to be enough for the win and the promotion to the World Championship in the Czech Republic.

Fabrice Lhenry earned two shutouts during the tournament for France and was named the Top Goaltender. Norway's Epsen Knutsen was the Top Forward, leading all scorers with nine points on four goals and five assists.

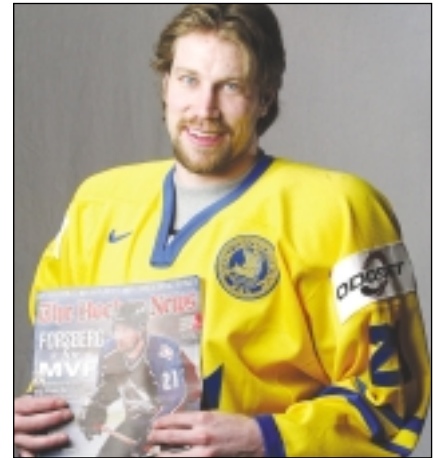
■ Group B host, Croatia, had a tough time at the tournament, finishing in last place and getting relegated to Division II next year. The one bright spot for Croatia came when they earned their only victory in the last game of the tournament in a 7-5 win over Estonia. Lithuania was relegated from Group A after finishing with one tie and four losses.

At next year's World Championship, both France and Kazakhstan will play in Prague. Kazakhstan will play in Group A which includes host Czech Republic, Germany and Latvia. France will be stationed in Group D along with Canada, Switzerland and Austria.

**MOVIN' ON UP:** Kazakhstan Captain Oleg Kovalenko (left) hold up the winners trophy in Budapest as his team makes a return to top division after a five-year absence.

**VIVE LA' FRANCE:** Most experts said "Norway" leading up to the Division I championship in Croatia. The Norwegians may have had the better team on paper, but France (right) was stronger where it counts - on the ice. France returns after three years in Division I.

## Forsberg becomes first Swede to be named MVP in the NHL (and we knew he would)



**NO NEWS FOR HOCKEY NEWS:** Already in the issue dated April 25 of *The Hockey News*, the magazine professed that Forsberg would receive the most prestigious trophy in the NHL.

■ If it wasn't written in the stars, it was at least written in *The Hockey News* in the April 25 issue, six weeks before June 12 when Peter Forsberg actually received the Hart Memorial Trophy, annually awarded to the most valuable player in the National Hockey League.

The cover of that THN issue had a photo of the magnificent Swede along with the headline "Forsberg for MVP - Avalanche star gives Hart-stopping performance".

The *IIHF News Release* also believed that the Professional Hockey Writers Association would cast their votes on Forsberg so we had the nerve of presenting Peter with a copy of the THN while shooting the official portraits of all Team Sweden players during the 2003 IIHF World Championship, on April 28.

Forsberg did not at all feel that we were jinxing his chances of winning the Hart Trophy and he was a good sport, posing for photographer Jukka Rautio for this special take. Peter Forsberg became the first Swede and only the fourth European to receive the MVP award.

This also enforces the long-standing belief that Forsberg is a better NHL player, while compatriot Mats Sundin is the superior international performer of the two super-Swedes.



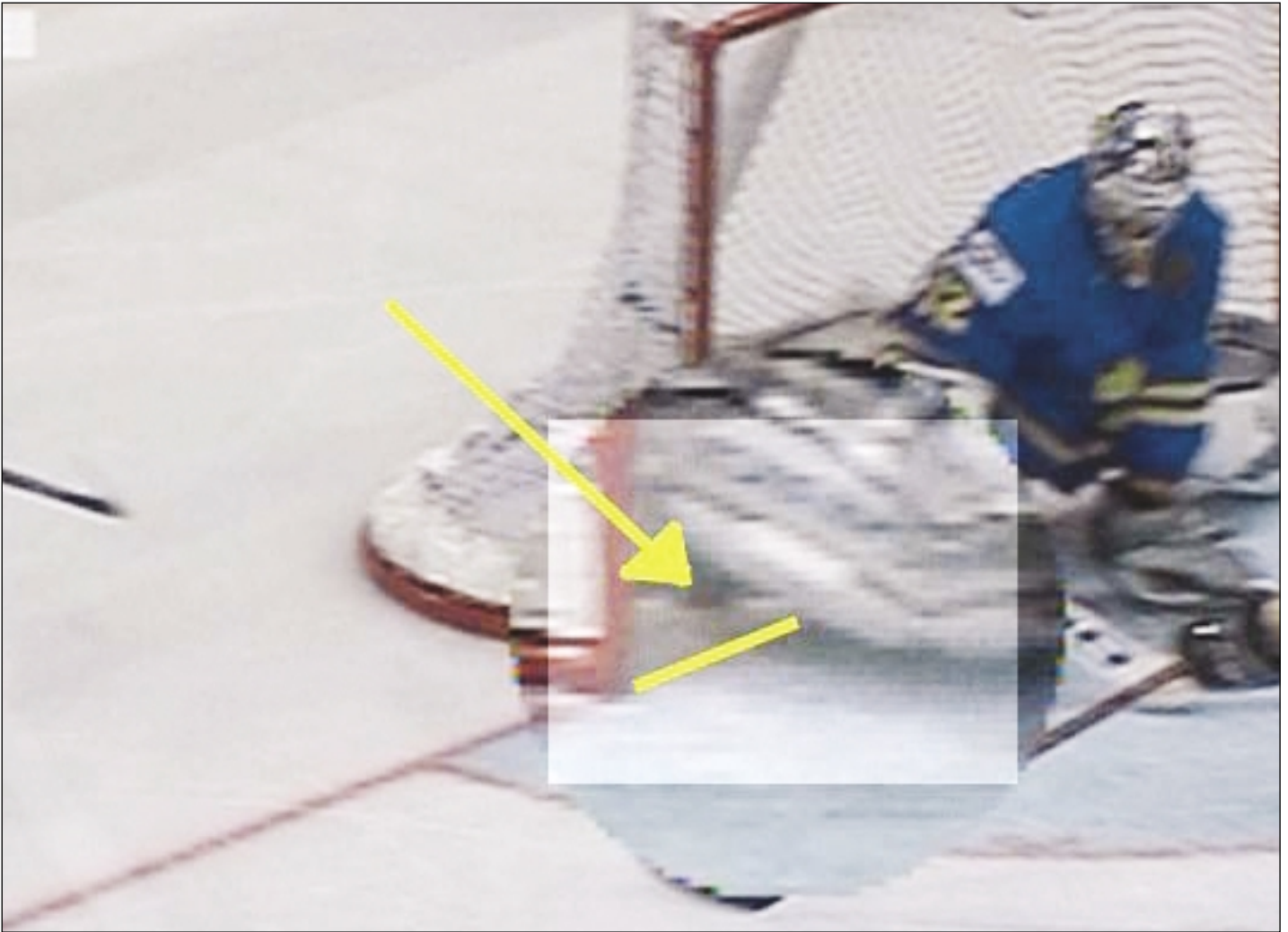


Photo: YLE, Finland

**NOT MUCH, BUT ENOUGH:** The arrow points to the puck which is clearly over the goal line, here enhanced by the yellow line. A tough call, but a correct one, by the video goal judge.

# No doubt about it - the puck was in

**By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF**

■ The longest five minutes in Team Sweden and Team Canada's lives were the hardest five minutes of Video Goal Judge Pavel Halas' career at the 2003 IIHF World Championship.

While everyone in Hartwall Arena waited to find out "is it in?", Halas was busy at work, looking at the goal from every angle imaginable to make sure that he made the right call.

"I knew I had to be 100 percent sure," The Czech-born Halas said. "There is no time for feelings, you have to get it right."

■ Being a Video Goal Judge is a thankless job. A mistake in any situation is a blemish, but in this particular situation, with a gold medal on the line at the World Championship, a wrong call would be a travesty.

Just look at the "goal" at Wembley in the 1966 World Cup Soccer final. Fans are still buzzing about the controversial call, 36 years later.

■ Which is exactly why the moment that referee Vladimir Sindler skated over to the phone to confer with Halas, he knew he'd better be at his best.

As soon as Anson Carter's overtime goal for Team Canada was called into question, Sindler skated over and called up to Halas, who was in a booth high up in

Hartwall Arena along with Referee Supervisor Matt Leaf and a Video Coordinator.

■ Sindler had no clear view of the puck on the ice and could offer little help as he was on the right side of the net, while the puck was on the left. Learning this, Halas started looking at all of the angles from the in-house feed. After looking at eight or nine different angles, Halas called the TV-truck of the Finnish host broadcaster YLE to get additional angles.

While reviewing them, Pavel had a gut feeling that he had found the magic angle that revealed where the puck had landed.

"I wasn't certain at first," Halas said. "It was more of a sense that this was going to be the angle that told us the truth."

■ Halas asked the Video Coordinator to zoom in as much as he could on the lucky angle. After a process that took nearly three minutes, Halas had his answer.

"It was clear from the angle that we chose to zoom that the puck was about 15 centimeters over the goal line," Halas said.

There were some complaints afterwards that the decision making took such a long time. Getting the correct call was well worth the wait, according to IIHF Sports Director Dave Fitzpatrick:

■ "If you face a decision which may be the last one of the championship and one which decides who gets the gold medal, your call better be correct", says Fitzpatrick whose department oversees all operations regarding officials, supervisors and video goal judges. "It would have been wrong not to take the required time."

Meanwhile, Canada and Sweden were waiting for what felt like an eternity for the ruling to be handed down. While they and thousands of fans waited, Halas spoke with Sindler, who is also Czech, on the phone.

■ "It helped that we both spoke the same language as our mother tongue," Halas said. "We also spoke in English because in this kind of a situation, you want to do everything according to the rules."

Fortunately for everyone concerned, no translation was needed when Sindler hung up the phone with Halas and crisply signalled that the goal was good and the gold was Canada's.

■ Celebration from the Maple Leaf side of the bench erupted, while disappointment was seen on the faces of the Swedes. Meanwhile, somewhere high atop of Hartwall Arena, Pavel Halas sat back knowing he had made the right call -- no thanks necessary. Just another day in the life of a video goal judge.

■ And hockey escaped its version of Wembley 1966.