



Photos: JANI RAJAMÄKI

**"GOTTA LOVE THE NEW GAME, EH, REF?":** Players like Canada's Sidney Crosby are major beneficiaries of the stricter rule interpretations that were introduced midway through the international 2005-2006 season. And it's important that the entire hockey community supports the referees (here Peter Jonak, Slovakia) in enforcing the tighter application of the rules, especially on the restraining fouls, holding, hooking and interference. There is no way back, writes IIHF President René Fasel in his editorial.

## New officiating standards here to stay

The 2006-2007-season will be one of the most important in many years in international hockey. It is the season when the stricter rule enforcement is in place from day one. And there is no going back.

### RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ The Olympic Winter Games in Turin and the IIHF World Championships in Latvia proved that letting the stars shine by getting holding, hooking and interference out of the game was the right decision. This definitely gave the fans more entertainment and many players felt that nourishing one's talent and practicing skill enhancing drills finally fully paid off.

This is a world-wide movement. The National Hockey League keeps the 30 NHL franchises under the new jurisdiction, while the IIHF enforces low-tolerance among the 64 member federations. This is also the first season that all top-7 European leagues will follow the same guidelines, which will make it so much easier for the 14 referees who take part in the IIHF Referee Exchange Program. (See page 11).

■ Although we are happy with the new era, we are perfectly aware that we are far from perfect. This is still a learning phase for the national associations, the leagues, the players, officials and referees. Probably the most important message to get across is that this is not about zero-tolerance, as many reporters like to describe this because it happens to be a catchy phrase.

There will always be judgment involved. The referees are instructed to crack down on fouls that impede a player that has gained a positional advantage over his opponent. They are not instructed to indulge in a fundamentalist interpretation of the rule book. This requires very difficult decision making and a very well-developed feeling for the game and its flow. We don't want the referees to take over the game and become stars, what we want is the offensive player skating without being hooked and held.

■ Through the process, we have noted that the changes are easier to implement in the top hockey nations where, obviously, the general skill level is higher. The opposition comes mainly from countries and leagues where obstruction is more a part of the game. The only way for these countries to close the gap is to start developing a new generation of skilled players who thrive under low-tolerance.

It is imperative that the hockey community is united. There will always be destructive forces who want to turn back time and we mustn't let it happen. The days of "clutch-and-grab" are over. The referees - the ultimate enforcers of the revolutionary turnaround - must get all the support they need from league officials, referee supervisors, coaches and managers.

■ The world governing body of ice hockey and the most influential hockey league in the world are united in their efforts to make hockey the most exiting game in all of sports. Now that we have reached this consensus, there is no going back. The rules must be enforced to keep the good players in the game and make the bad ones obsolete.

**René Fasel**  
IIHF President

# The passing of the puck: Edvinsson to Lichtner

■ The IIHF Annual Congress in Moscow in 1986 was Jan-Ake Edvinsson's first as the IIHF General Secretary. The Semi-Annual Congress in Athens, Greece on September 28-30, 2006 became his last in that capacity.

Jan-Ake Edvinsson was inducted as Life Member of the International Ice Hockey Federation on September 28. Mr. Edvinsson received a standing ovation from the delegates as President René Fasel presented the outgoing General Secretary with a commemorative medalion. Jan-Ake Edvinsson will be succeeded by Horst Lichtner on November 1.

□ Oscar Frei, former CEO of Infront Sports & Media, the IIHF's commercial partner, was inducted as IIHF Honorary Member for his long-time contributions to the IIHF and international ice hockey.

□ Malaysia was adopted as a new IIHF Member National Association. Malaysia, which is the IIHF's 65th member, will have associated status as the country has no international ice hockey program yet.

□ Serbia officially took over the membership of Serbia-Montenegro, as the latter has ceased to exist as a country. The new nation of Montenegro has not submitted membership application to the IIHF.

■ The Congress approved the date of February 29, 2008 as the International Day of Ice Hockey, which will be part of the IIHF's 100 Year Anniversary in 2008.



Photo: Thomas Freyer

**END OF AN ERA:** The IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Athens was Jan-Ake Edvinsson's last as the federation's General Secretary. On November 1, Jan-Ake leaves his chair to Horst Lichtner (right) as President René Fasel gets a new winger.

□ The 2008 IIHF World Women Championship was allocated to China (city TBA), while the 2008 IIHF World U18 Championship was allocated to Kazan, Russia.

□ The IIHF Rules Committee addressed the congress to clarify the implementation of the IIHF Rule 554(c) – Shooting or Throwing the Puck Outside the Playing Area. See the addition to the IIHF Case Book on

IIHF.com under Officials Development.

**The following announcements regarding the 2008 IIHF World Championship in Canada were made by Hockey Canada and its President Bob Nicholson:**

□ The 2007 IIHF Semi-Annual Congress, which is always organized by the national member association of the country that hosts the upcoming world championship, will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on September 15-18.

□ The dates for the 2008 IIHF World Championship will be May 1 – 18. The tournament, which will be the main event of the IIHF's Centennial Year, will be played in Quebec City, Quebec and Halifax, Nova Scotia, with the final stages including the Gold Medal Game on May 18 in Quebec City.

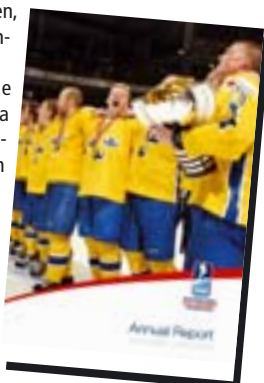
□ The IIHF General Congress, the highest legislative body of the IIHF, will be held in Montreal, Quebec on May 20 – 23. The General Congress will elect the President and the Council for the mandate period 2008-2012.

## The season at a glance

■ The IIHF Annual Report has it all. In this colourful 100-page report, you will find results and statistics from every IIHF senior, women, U20 and U18 championship.

It is an indispensable document for media covering the international game and people in the hockey business.

■ If you are currently not on the IIHF mailing list, you can request a copy of the Report by e-mailing [media@iihf.com](mailto:media@iihf.com)



## IIHF News & Appointments



■ **Veronika Mühlhofer** joined the IIHF Marketing and PR Department as an assistant on Aug. 21. She is responsible for assisting with different projects related to IIHF Marketing and PR. Veronika, originally from Vienna, Austria, has lived and studied in Lugano, Switzerland, and San Francisco, California. Veronika comes to the IIHF after working with Jukka-Pekka Vuorinen at the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games, organizing both the men's and women's ice hockey tournaments. Veronika speaks English, German and Italian.

## Appointments & Recognitions

■ IIHF's outgoing general secretary **Jan-Åke Edvinsson** was named to the Evaluation Commission for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games by the IOC. The commission, chaired by IOC Vice-President Chiharu Igaya, will analyse the candidature files that Sochi (RUS), Salzburg (AUT) and PyeongChang (KOR) will submit to the IOC by Jan. 10, 2007 and carry out inspections before issuing a report before the election of the host city in July 2007. Edvinsson will be the representative of the International Sport Federations on the commission.

■ **Dr Mark Aubry** (Ottawa, Canada), a member of the IIHF's Medical Committee, was on June 26, 2006 named winner of the Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award. Aubry was awarded for his contributions in establishing the reporting system on hockey related injuries and return-to-play guidelines after concussions. A 10,000 CAD cash prize comes with the award.

## Association News

■ **AUSTRALIA:** Ice Hockey Australia announced on Sept. 12 that **Steve McKenna** will serve as the head coach of the 2007 Australian national team. McKenna is an eight-year veteran of the NHL and a native of Toronto. He will lead the national team in the 2007 IIHF World Championship Division II in Seoul, South Korea.

■ **AUSTRIA:** Dr. **Dieter Kalt** was unanimously re-elected as president for a four-year term at the 61st Annual Congress of the Austrian Ice Hockey Association on June 21.

■ **ESTONIA:** The Estonian Ice Hockey Association appointed **Riho Soonik** as the new general secretary on Aug. 28. Mr. Soonik replaced Vladimir Makrov.

■ **HUNGARY:** The Hungarian Ice Hockey Association announced on Aug. 10 that **Pat Cortina** signed a one-year contract as head coach of the Hungarian national team.

■ **LITHUANIA:** At the General Annual Conference of the IIHF on June 29, the following elections and appointments were announced: **Rolandas Bucys** was elected as new president and **Algimantas Visockas** as the vice-president. **Gintautas Kuneikis** was named general secretary.

■ **NORWAY:** **Jon Haukeland** was appointed as general secretary of the Norwegian Ice Hockey Association on Aug. 24. He succeeds Terje Jorgensen who resigned from the position on July 24.

■ **POLAND:** The Polish Ice Hockey Association announced on June 26 that former NHL-player **Krzysztof Oliwa** was named manager of the Polish national team.

■ **SLOVAKIA:** The Slovak Ice Hockey Association announced on June 23, that **Juraj Siroky** was re-elected as president. This is Siroky's third term. Former national team coach **Jan Filc** was elected vice-president.

■ **SWEDEN:** The Swedish Ice Hockey Association announced on Aug. 9, that **Robert Falck**, 44, was appointed general secretary, replacing Michael Englund. Falck will officially assume office on Nov. 13, 2006.



Robert Falck

■ **TURKEY:** The Turkish Ice Hockey Association announced on Aug. 22, 2006 that **Elif Eksi** was appointed new general secretary.

■ **UNITED STATES:** USA Hockey announced on July 10, that **Mark Johnson** was appointed as head coach of the U.S. women's national team, replacing Ben Smith. Johnson, 46, was instrumental in USA's historic gold medal win at the Lake Placid Olympics in 1980.

## Obituaries

■ **Ike Hildebrand** passed away in St. Albert, Alberta, Canada on Aug. 2. He was playing-coach for the Belleville McFarlands team that won gold for Canada at the 1959 IIHF World Championship. Although he also played in the NHL, he was better known as a lacrosse player and was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame as such in 1985. He was 79.

■ **Billy Gibson** passed away on Aug. 29. The Canadian national team player was a member of the 1951 IIHF World Champion Lethbridge Maple Leafs and the 1952 Olympic Champion Edmonton Mercurys. He had 14 points in 6 games in the 1951 in event in Paris and had 21 points in 8 games at the Oslo Olympics 1952. He was 79 years old.

■ **Stefan Blaho**, 21, died in a car accident on Aug. 29. The crash happened in the vicinity of the Slovak town of Krasnany. Blaho represented Slovakia in the 2003 IIHF World U18 Championship and in the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship. The talented forward spent the three last seasons in the Ontario Hockey League playing for Sudbury and Sarnia, and was about to sign a contract with Slovak champion MsHK Zilina. He was a New York Islanders fourth round pick in the 2003 NHL Entry Draft.

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# European NHL-hopefuls for 2006-2007

■ The following list records players who have signed contracts with NHL clubs prior to the 2006-07 season. June 15 was the last date for signings by NHL clubs of players under contract with their IIHF teams. The last date for players drafted in the 2006 NHL Entry Draft on June 24-25, was July 15, 2006. Those signings are denoted with \*. This includes players who signed as free-agents, meaning that no signing deadlines apply. '07-08' indicates signing to transfer to NHL for that season. Go to IIHF.COM for updated list.

## SWEDEN (18)

| Name              | IIHF Club            | NHL Club         |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Jonas Almtorp     | Brynäs, Gävle        | Edmonton         |
| Alexander Edler   | MoDo, Örnsköldsvik** | Vancouver        |
| Jonathan Ericsson | Södertälje           | Detroit          |
| Johan Halvarsson  | HV71 Jönköping       | NY Islanders     |
| Johan Holmqvist   | Brynäs, Gävle        | Tampa Bay        |
| Fredrik Johansson | Frölunda, Göteborg   | Edmonton (07-08) |
| Lars Jonsson      | HV71 Jönköping       | Philadelphia     |
| Andreas Karlsson  | HV71 Jönköping       | Tampa Bay        |
| Magnus Kahnberg   | Frölunda, Göteborg   | St. Louis        |
| Liam Lindström    | Hammarby, Stockholm  | Phoenix          |
| Stefan Liv        | HV71 Jönköping       | Detroit          |
| Joel Lundqvist    | Frölunda, Göteborg   | Dallas           |
| Björn Melin       | HV71 Jönköping       | Anaheim          |
| Jonas Nordquist   | Lulea HC             | Chicago          |
| Johnny Oduya      | Frölunda, Göteborg   | New Jersey       |
| Daniel Rahimi*    | Björklöven, Umea-2   | Vancouver        |
| Carl Söderberg    | Malmö Redhawks       | St. Louis        |
| Daniel Widing     | Brynäs Gävle         | Nashville        |

\*\* Edler was signed from Kelowna Rockets (WHL)

## FINLAND (17)

|                   |                    |              |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Niklas Bäckström  | Kärpät Oulu        | Minnesota    |
| Janne Hauhtonen   | IFK Helsinki       | Columbus     |
| Ville Koistinen   | Ilves Tampere      | Nashville    |
| Lauri Korpikoski  | TPS Turku          | NY Rangers   |
| Lasse Kukkonen    | Kärpät Oulu        | Chicago      |
| Mikko Lehtonen    | Kärpät Oulu        | Nashville    |
| Perttu Lindgren   | Ilves Tampere      | Dallas       |
| Arttu Luttinen    | IFK Helsinki       | Ottawa       |
| Fredrik Norrena   | Linköping (SWE)    | Tampa Bay    |
| Petteri Nummelin  | HC Lugano (SUI)    | Minnesota    |
| Ville Peltonen    | HC Lugano (SUI)    | Florida      |
| Karri Rämö        | HPK Hämeenlinna    | Tampa Bay    |
| Tommi Santala     | Jokerit Helsinki   | Vancouver    |
| Aki Seitsonen     | HPK Hämeenlinna**  | Calgary      |
| Jussi Timonen     | Saipa Lappeenranta | Philadelphia |
| Ari Vallin        | Kärpät Oulu        | Florida      |
| Petteri Wirtanen* | HPK Hämeenlinna    | Anaheim      |

\*\* Seitsonen was signed from Prince Albert (WHL)

## RUSSIA (11)

|                   |                     |            |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Denis Arhipov     | Khimik Moscow Reg.  | Nashville  |
| Stanislav Chistov | Metallurg Magnit.   | Anaheim    |
| Alexei Kaigorodov | Metallurg Magnit.   | Ottawa     |
| Vadim Khomitsky   | CSKA Moscow         | Dallas     |
| Enver Lisin       | AK Bars Kazan       | Phoenix    |
| Alexei Mikhnov    | Lokomotiv Yaroslavl | Edmonton   |
| Evgeni Malkin     | Metallurg Magnit.   | Pittsburgh |
| Alexander Radulov | THK Tver/Dynamo M** | Nashville  |
| Alexander Semin   | Khimik Moscow Reg.  | Washington |
| Alexander Svitov  | Avangard Omsk       | Columbus   |
| Andrei Taratukhin | Lokomotiv Yaroslavl | Calgary    |

\*\* Radulov was signed from Quebec Remparts (QMJHL)

## CZECH REPUBLIC (9)

|                |                       |            |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Jan Hejda      | Khimik M. Reg (RUS)   | Edmonton   |
| Jakub Kindl    | HC M-Pardubice**      | Detroit    |
| Roman Polak    | HC Vitkovice          | St. Louis  |
| Tomas Popperle | Eisbären Berlin (GER) | Columbus   |
| Karel Rachunek | Lok. Yaroslavl (RUS)  | NY Rangers |
| Martin Richter | Bili Tygri Liberec    | NY Rangers |
| Marek Schwarz  | Sparta Prague         | St. Louis  |
| Petr Tenkrat   | Kärpät Oulu (FIN)     | Boston     |
| Jiri Tlustý    | HC Kladno             | Toronto    |

\*\* Kindl was signed from Kitchener Rangers (OHL)

## SWITZERLAND (4)

|                 |               |                  |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Patrick Fischer | EV Zug        | Phoenix          |
| Tobias Stephan  | Kloten Flyers | Dallas           |
| Daniel Manzano  | EHC Basel     | Carolina (07-08) |
| Tim Ramholt     | Kloten Flyers | Calgary          |

## GERMANY (3)

|               |                 |            |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Micky DuPont  | Eisbären Berlin | Pittsburgh |
| Thomas Greiss | Kölner Haie     | San José   |
| Peter Ratchuk | Adler Mannheim  | Minnesota  |

## SLOVAKIA (2)

|               |                   |          |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| Milan Macho   | Slovan Bratislava | San José |
| Andrej Sekera | Dukla Trencin**   | Buffalo  |

\*\* Sekera was signed from Owen Sound (OHL)

## BELARUS (1)

|                   |                 |          |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Mikhail Grabovsky | Dynamo M. (RUS) | Montreal |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|

## LATVIA (1)

|               |                       |         |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Janis Sprukts | HPK Hämeenlinna (FIN) | Florida |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------|

## DENMARK (1)

|               |                |              |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Frans Nielsen | Timra IK (SWE) | NY Islanders |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|

## NORWAY (1)

|                  |                      |          |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Patrick Thoresen | Djurgårdens IF (SWE) | Edmonton |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|

## International transfers for past season

■ All transfers between the IIHF member associations are handled by the IIHF. Each transfer must be registered on an International Transfer Card (ITC) which is signed by the player, the national association where the player comes from and the one he transfers to. The IIHF administered 4104 international transfers last season. The transfers to and from the National Hockey League are not included in this summary, as the NHL is not affiliated to any IIHF member association. As before, Canada was the biggest exporter while Germany again was the country importing most players. Canada's 801 outgoing transfers is almost 20 percent of all exported players while Germany's 602 ingoing transfers equaled almost 15 percent of all player import during the 2005-2006-season.

Summary of 2005-2006 transfers by national association:

| Country       | Out         | In          |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Australia     | 25          | 28          |
| Austria       | 93          | 197         |
| Belarus       | 64          | 217         |
| Belgium       | 24          | 68          |
| Brazil        | 2           | 0           |
| Bulgaria      | 2           | 2           |
| Canada        | 801         | 196         |
| China         | 7           | 32          |
| Croatia       | 14          | 8           |
| Czech R       | 424         | 311         |
| Denmark       | 46          | 87          |
| Estonia       | 22          | 18          |
| Germany       | 116         | 602         |
| G. Britain    | 81          | 224         |
| Finland       | 305         | 148         |
| France        | 59          | 277         |
| Hungary       | 19          | 84          |
| Iceland       | 6           | 11          |
| India         | 1           | 0           |
| Ireland       | 0           | 1           |
| Israel        | 5           | 0           |
| Italy         | 36          | 114         |
| Japan         | 21          | 20          |
| Kazakhstan    | 38          | 2           |
| Korea         | 10          | 10          |
| Latvia        | 68          | 40          |
| Liechtenstein | 0           | 9           |
| Lithuania     | 23          | 3           |
| Luxembourg    | 1           | 0           |
| Mexico        | 7           | 0           |
| Netherl.      | 50          | 93          |
| N. Zealand    | 4           | 8           |
| Norway        | 51          | 142         |
| Poland        | 28          | 38          |
| Romania       | 25          | 13          |
| Russia        | 306         | 197         |
| Serbia        | 7           | 17          |
| Slovakia      | 509         | 112         |
| Slovenia      | 33          | 22          |
| S. Africa     | 8           | 0           |
| Spain         | 2           | 39          |
| Sweden        | 360         | 327         |
| Switzerland   | 70          | 199         |
| Turkey        | 1           | 10          |
| Ukraine       | 106         | 9           |
| USA           | 227         | 169         |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>4104</b> | <b>4104</b> |

Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

**2nd RUN:** After five years in Europe, Ville Peltonen (left) returned to the NHL where he will again face off against Jeff Carter. Peltonen is one of 17 Finns who signed with NHL teams prior to 2006-2007.



## IIHF Disciplinary Announcements

# CAS annulled IIHF suspension on Ukrainian player

■ The Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS) in Lausanne on June 21, 2006 annulled the two-year suspension imposed on Ukrainian player **Oleksandr Pobyedonostsev** by the Disciplinary Committee of the IIHF. The IIHF's suspension was imposed on November 14, 2005 after the player tested positive in a random doping control on May 1, 2005 following the Ukraine-Sweden game at the 2005 IIHF World Championship in Vienna, Austria. Both the A-sample as well as the B-sample confirmed the presence of the metabolite norandrosterone of the anabolic steroid nandrolone.

Following the IIHF's decision of a two-year suspension, the player appealed to CAS. Mr. Pobyedonostsev claimed

that he, prior to the world championship, was treated for a heart ailment and that the prohibited substance was injected to his body, as part of the treatment, without his knowledge. The injected substance was Retabolil. A three-men CAS arbitration panel upheld the appeal filed by Mr. Pobyedonostsev which means that the player is no longer under suspension.

■ The IIHF Disciplinary Committee imposed a two-year suspension on Belarus player **Pavel Sibirtsev** on June 20, 2006 for an anti-doping violation in an out-of-competition testing. Sibirtsev's suspension was backdated to February 14, 2006 and will end on February 13, 2008.

■ At its session on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2006, the IIHF Disciplinary Committee decided that the player Mika Hannula (SWE) in addition to the suspension for the final of Latvia 2006, will be suspended for the first four games at the 2007 IIHF World Championship played by Sweden and has to pay a fine of CHF 5.000. Hannula was suspended for cross-checking Canada's Sidney Crosby to the neck and head area in the semi-final game.

## 2006 IIHF INLINE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

# United States back on top of InLine Hockey World

By Jenny Wiedeke, Budapest

After settling for bronze last year in Finland, the United States InLine Hockey team marched back into the golden spot, taking home its fourth-ever gold medal at the event and the nation's ninth overall top-three finish.

■ The Americans didn't just win the gold medal, they did it in emphatic fashion, cruising to a 6-0 win against defending gold medallist, Sweden in the final game. Overall the U.S. finished with an undefeated record.

But the best games of the championship came well ahead of the medal day. For the U.S., the ultimate key to its gold medal came in the preliminary round when the squad met powerhouse Finland. The Americans topped the Finns, 6-5 in a thriller in that game, giving the red, white and blue squad an easier path to the golden game.

■ Meanwhile the loss, gave Finland tough road ahead in the finals, which included a semi-final match-up against arch rival Sweden. The hyped semi-final game lived up to expectations early on, but Sweden was able to take advantage of a injury-riddled Finnish squad and push ahead for an 8-5 win. Unfortunately for both squads, a lot of emotional and physical energy was used in the game, leaving two very worn out squads to do battle for the bronze and gold medal games.

Finland fared better than its nordic neighbor on medal day, although the team struggled against a hungry German team to take home the prize. It looked as if the Finns had things well in control, but Germany took advantage of Finland's fatigue and staged a late-game comeback. Ultimately, the Finns were able to hold off the Germans in a 5-4 overtime win and take home their ninth overall InLine Hockey medal.

■ For Sweden, the story was not as happy as the well-rested Americans pounced early and never looked back, dominating the Swedes in a 6-0 win.

## Britain king of Division I InLine

■ Without a doubt, this year's Division I Championship was most exciting and closely contested in IIHF InLine Hockey Championship history. Close games were the theme of the event with 13 games decided by two goals or less, including four overtime decisions and one shootout finale.

But in the end, when the upsets and last-second victories were tallied up, it came down to the two best teams at this year's championship, host Hungary and Great Britain, vying for the gold medal.

The squads each came out on top of their respective preliminary round groups, earning the right to play the last-place top division teams to move up among the elite eight. When both top division bids failed Hungary and Great Britain refocused and set their sights for the Division I gold.

■ Both teams struggled through their quarterfinal game and had to rely on fourth quarter comebacks to move into the semi-finals. Once in the semi-finals, Hungary cruised with a 6-1 win against Japan, while Great Britain eked out a 4-3 victory against Brazil, both earning spots in the golden



**GOLDEN BOYS:** The American InLine team celebrates its 6-0 victory over Sweden in the gold medal game of the 2006 IIHF InLine Hockey World Championship in Budapest, Hungary. It is nation's fourth gold medal at the event.

The InLine Hockey story has followed an eerily similar plot line in the last four years with the combination of Sweden, Finland and the United States always finishing on the medal podium. The dominance of 'The Big Three' was once again felt this year in Hungary.

■ Germany and the Czech Republic had the potential to ruin the Big Three parade, but the Czechs got off to a slow start and were up and down throughout the championship, while the Germans put in the effort, but ultimately could not hang tough with the loaded rosters of Sweden, Finland and USA.

game. The hosts were hopeful that after such a draining game that Britain would be fatigued in the golden game, but after falling behind early, the Brits found their momentum and rallied for a thrilling 6-5 victory.

■ Ironically, Great Britain's finishes in the last three seasons exactly mirrors that of the top divi-

But Germany will have a chance to upset the balance next year when the championship returns within its borders for the fourth time in InLine history. Until then, the U.S., Finland and Sweden will savor their medals.

### ALL-TIME INLINE HOCKEY MEDALLISTS

| Year | Gold                 | Silver | Bronze | Venue         |
|------|----------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| 1996 | USA                  | CAN    | FIN    | United States |
| 1997 | USA                  | CAN    | SUI    | United States |
| 1998 | CAN                  | USA    | FIN    | United States |
| 1999 | No Championship held |        |        |               |
| 2000 | FIN                  | CZE    | USA    | Czech Rep.    |
| 2001 | FIN                  | USA    | CZE    | United States |
| 2002 | SWE                  | FIN    | GER    | Germany       |
| 2003 | FIN                  | SWE    | USA    | Germany       |
| 2004 | USA                  | FIN    | SWE    | Germany       |
| 2005 | SWE                  | FIN    | USA    | Finland       |
| 2006 | USA                  | SWE    | FIN    | Hungary       |

### Division I Medallists

| Year | Gold                 | Silver | Bronze | Venue         |
|------|----------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| 1998 | SWE                  | CZE    | SVK    | Slovakia      |
| 1999 | No Championship held |        |        |               |
| 2000 | NED                  | AUS    | BRA    | Czech Rep.    |
| 2001 | AUT                  | BRA    | HUN    | United States |
| 2002 | HUN                  | JPN    | NZL    | Germany       |
| 2003 | JPN                  | BRA    | AUS    | Germany       |
| 2004 | GBR                  | BRA    | JPN    | Germany       |
| 2005 | HUN                  | JPN    | GBR    | Finland       |
| 2006 | GBR                  | HUN    | BRA    | Hungary       |



**GREAT VIEW:** Members of Great Britain's InLine Hockey team enjoy the view of their flag while listening to the anthem after winning the Division I gold medal.

sion champion, USA. Both teams took bronze in 2005 after earning the gold the previous year.

■ For the defending champions, Hungary, the gold medal loss was a bit of a disappointment, but nevertheless, it was the nation's fourth overall medal at the InLine Championship. Meanwhile, Brazil, continued to add to their medal count, taking home the nation's fifth total medal with a bronze finish. The Brazilians now have more Division I medals than any other nation.



# National champions from all corners of the World

## All national (men's) champions from IIHF member associations:



**LATVIA:** Riga reigns supreme again



**CROATIA:** Mighty Medvescak



**BELARUS:** Jubilant Junost Minsk



**POLAND:** Cracovia in Pole Position



**HUNGARY:** Victorious Alba Volan

| Country            | Champion              |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Andorra            | no championship       |
| Armenia            | SCA Yerevan           |
| Australia          | Newcastle Northstars  |
| Austria            | SV Villach            |
| Azerbaijan         | no championship       |
| Belarus            | Yunost Minsk          |
| Belgium            | White Caps Turnhout   |
| Bosnia & Herz.     | no championship       |
| Bulgaria           | Akademika Sofia       |
| Canada (Allan Cup) | Powell River Regals   |
| Croatia            | Medvescak Zagreb      |
| Czech Republic     | Sparta Prague         |
| Denmark            | SonderjyskE Vojens    |
| DPR Korea          | Pyongchol             |
| Estonia            | HK Stars Tallinn      |
| Finland            | HPK Hämeenlinna       |
| France             | Rouen Dragons         |
| Germany            | Eisbären Berlin       |
| Great Britain      | Newcastle Vipers      |
| Greece             | no championship       |
| Hongkong           | Hongkong 3rd Team     |
| Hungary            | Alba Volan            |
| China              | Qiqihar               |
| Iceland            | Skautafelag Reykjavik |
| India              | Indian Army Red Team  |
| Ireland            | no championship       |
| Israel             | Haifa Hawks           |
| Italy              | Milano Vipers         |
| Japan              | Cranes Kushiro        |
| Kazakhstan         | Kazakhmys Karaganda   |
| Korea              | Yonsei University     |
| Latvia             | HK Riga 2000          |
| Liechtenstein      | no championship       |
| Lithuania          | Energija Elektrenai   |
| Luxembourg         | no championship       |

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Macao         | no championship         |
| Macedonia     | no championship         |
| Mexico        | San Jeronimo Osos       |
| Mongolia      | Baganuur City           |
| Netherlands   | Emperors Nijmegen       |
| New Zealand   | Southern Stampede       |
| Norway        | Valerenga IF Oslo       |
| Poland        | Cracovia Krakow         |
| Portugal      | no championship         |
| Romania       | Steaua Bucharest        |
| Russia        | AK Bars Kazan           |
| Serbia & Mont | Partizan Belgrade       |
| Slovakia      | MšHK Zilina             |
| Slovenia      | Acroni Jesenice         |
| South Africa  | Ama Horney Pretoria     |
| Spain         | Club Gel Puigcerda      |
| Sweden        | Färjestads BK, Karlstad |
| Switzerland   | HC Lugano               |
| Taipei        | Sharks Taipei           |
| Thailand      | no championship         |
| Turkey        | Kocaeli Spor Külübü     |
| Ukraine       | Sokol Kiev              |
| USA (NCAA)    | Univ. of Wisconsin      |

### International leagues:

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Asian Hockey League    | Kokudo Tokyo        |
| Intl Hockey League     | Acroni Jesenice     |
| National Hockey League | Carolina Hurricanes |

### Unofficial (non-IIHF) leagues

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hongkong             | Budweiser Hongkong    |
| Kyrgyzstan           | Kumtor Team           |
| Malaysia             | Wildcats Kuala Lumpur |
| Qatar                | Desert Heat           |
| Singapore            | M1                    |
| United Arab Emirates | Fritz Kohl Dubai      |



**SWEDEN:** Färjestad the fairest of them all



**RUSSIA:** Amazing Ak Bars Kazan



**SLOVAKIA:** It's easy being green Zilina



**CZECH REPUBLIC:** Super Sparta Prague



**SWITZERLAND:** Forza Lugano!

■ In addition to a full slate of World Championships for national teams, the IIHF will also be busy with a bevy of events for club teams throughout Europe. The 2006-2007 season will mark the third year of the European Champions Cup, the women's version of the same event also marks its third-year anniversary. Also on the slate is the Continental Cup, which is becoming increasingly competitive with each passing season. Below is an explanation of each of the tournaments:

### ■ European Champions Cup (ECC) - Jan. 11-14:

Three years ago, the IIHF started the European Champions Cup to help resolve the ongoing debate of which European nation was king of the ice. The top six European nation's club champions (according to the IIHF World Ranking) meet in a weekend tournament in St. Petersburg to claim European supremacy. Thus far, the ECC trophy has resided only in Russia with Dynamo Moscow and Avangard Omsk earning the first two titles. This year, HPK Hämeenlinna (FIN), Färjestads BK (SWE), MšHK Zilina (SVK), Sparta Prague (CZE) and HC Lugano (SUI) will look to knock Russian entry Ak Bars Kazan off the ECC throne. The six teams will be split into two groups of three for a round robin. Only the first place teams from the two groups, named after late hockey legends Ivan Hlinka and Alexander Ragulin, will move on, playing in the gold medal game.

## 2006-2007 IIHF Club Championship Program

### ■ European Women's Champions Cup (EWCC) - Final Round Dec. 5-10:

As with the men, the European women's club teams are also out to discover which will have bragging rights as Europe's best team. For the last two seasons, the EWCC trophy has felt right at home in Sweden with the women's AIK Solna team. Led by young goaltender sensation Kim Martin, AIK has earned back-to-back titles. AIK has an automatic berth in the final round, while the other four teams will be determined through a preliminary round process. Overall, there will be four preliminary groups (played Oct. 6-8) with the winner moving onto the finals for the five-team, round robin final.

### ■ Continental Cup (CC) - Final Round Jan. 5-7:

The Continental Cup is by far the most involved of the IIHF Club events, with six preliminary rounds involving 19 teams hoping to be the ones that earn a berth into the Super Final in Hungary. In the Super final, three teams await the lone qualifier for a round robin group to determine the Continental Cup champion. Already, the first two preliminary round groups were played with HK Partizan Belgrade (SER) and Medvescak Zagreb (CRO) moving onto the second round. Only the winners of the three second round groups will move onto a single, third-round group. And finally, the third round group will only leave one team standing, and that deserving team will get a shot to play in the Super Final against three awaiting squads, Alba Volan (HUN), Avangard Omsk (RUS) and Ilves Tampere (FIN).

# Hockey Night in Mongolia brings

■ International ice hockey history will be written on April 15, 2007 when the national team of Mongolia will enter the men's senior IIHF World Championship program and become the 46th nation to play hockey within the IIHF system. *IceTimes* takes a closer look at the game in a country which is widely unknown to most hockey people. **By Szymon Szemberg**

**W**hen the Mongolian national ice hockey team will travel over 7.000 kilometers to Dundalk, Ireland for the 2007 IIHF World Championship Division III, it will be the first time many of the team members will skate in an indoor rink. The young hockey nation joined the IIHF in 1999 and has only twelve rinks, all of them outdoor.

"Many of our league games are played in minus 20 to minus 30 degrees Celsius," says Choijiljav Purevdaavaa, the general secretary of the Mongolian Ice Hockey Association since 1998. He is simply known as 'Pujee' by people in the international hockey family. "But we love this game and play it with great passion."

Minus temperatures are one of the few things that are in abundance in the vast nation, which has three times the landmass of Spain and is twice as big as Alaska. Despite the enormous land mass, the Asian country has a population of just under three million people, 840 of which are registered ice hockey players.

"We have a long way to go, but we feel that we are ready to enter the IIHF's world championship competition," says Pujee. "All of our fans and players expect a good result in Ireland."

**I**t will be a truly unique assortment of national teams that will gather at the Dundalk Ice Dome in mid-April. Mongolia will play New Zealand, South Africa, Luxembourg, Armenia and host Ireland in the round-robin championship. Four continents will be represented in a championship which is about as far away from the top professional level as it gets.

While Team Mongolia is a newcomer to the world championship program, it is no stranger to national team competition. The same year Mongolia gained membership in the IIHF, the men's national team took part in the 1999 Asian Winter Games in Gangwon, South Korea. The preliminary round was a test of character as the Mongolians suffered a 40-0 thrashing at the hands of Kazakhstan and a 14-1 defeat against Korea. But already in the third game Mongolia got its first win. A 5-4 overtime victory over Kuwait in the placing

match for fifth place made for an easier trip home.

The history of Mongolian hockey started in the mid-60s when guest workers from ally Soviet Union introduced the game during their stay, mostly around the capital Ulaanbaatar. They left some equipment behind, and that was the start of Mongolian hockey.

**D**uring that period a few outdoor rinks were built in Ulaanbaatar and the cities of Darkhan, Erdenet and Shariin gol. The first national competition (with eight teams) was the championship of Ulaanbaatar in 1970. The Mongolian governing body of ice hockey was established on Nov. 30, 1991 and the first official Mongolian club championship was played in February the following year.

The Khodolmor club (later renamed to Eeremel) was the initial powerhouse of Mongolian hockey, winning four of the first seven competitions. The same club won the first championship following the formation of the Mongolian Hockey League in 1998, when the current format was adopted - six teams in a double round-robin tournament.

**T**he Mongolian Ice Hockey Association also organizes U18 and U14 national championships. The MIHA was admitted to the IIHF as member at the 1999 Semi-Annual Congress in Ft. Lauderdale, USA. The first-ever Mongolian participation in an official IIHF-event was at the 2000 IIHF Asia Oceanic U18 Championship, Division II in Bangkok, Thailand. Mongolia lost to New Zealand 5-1 and to Chinese Taipei 6-2, but tied Thailand, 4-4.

"A big step in the development of hockey in Mongolia, was our participation in the 2002 1st IIHF Asian Development Camp in Kurizawa, Japan," says 'Pujee'. "Development programs like that are very important to the growth of the game."

**S**o, all eyes will be on the opening game at the Dundalk Ice Dome on April 15 when Mongolia makes its "real" IIHF World Championship debut against host Ireland. One thing is certain, the Mongolian players won't complain about the cold rink.



**FOR THE PURE JOY OF IT:** All ice hockey in Mongolia is played outdoors as none of the country minus 20 degrees Celsius. Insert photo: The 2006 bronze medal team of the Mongolian Hockey League

## Mongolian Hockey League 2005-2006\*

| Team                      | GP | W | T | L | GF:GA | TP |
|---------------------------|----|---|---|---|-------|----|
| 1. Khangardi Erdenet      | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 57-31 | 17 |
| 2. Baganuur City          | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 47-34 | 13 |
| 3. Bilegtkhoo Ulaanbaatar | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 40-45 | 10 |
| 4. Otgon Od Ulaanbaatar   | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 50-49 | 9  |
| 5. Shariin gol            | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 42-43 | 8  |
| 6. Darkhan City           | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 41-80 | 3  |

### Playoffs, Semi-finals (best-of-three)

Khangardi Erdenet - Otgon Od 6-4, 6-5  
Baganuur City - Bilegtkhoo 3-4, 5-2, 7-5

### Bronze Medal Game

Otgon Od - Bilegtkhoo 4-2

### Gold Medal Game

Khangardi Erdenet - Baganuur City 3-6



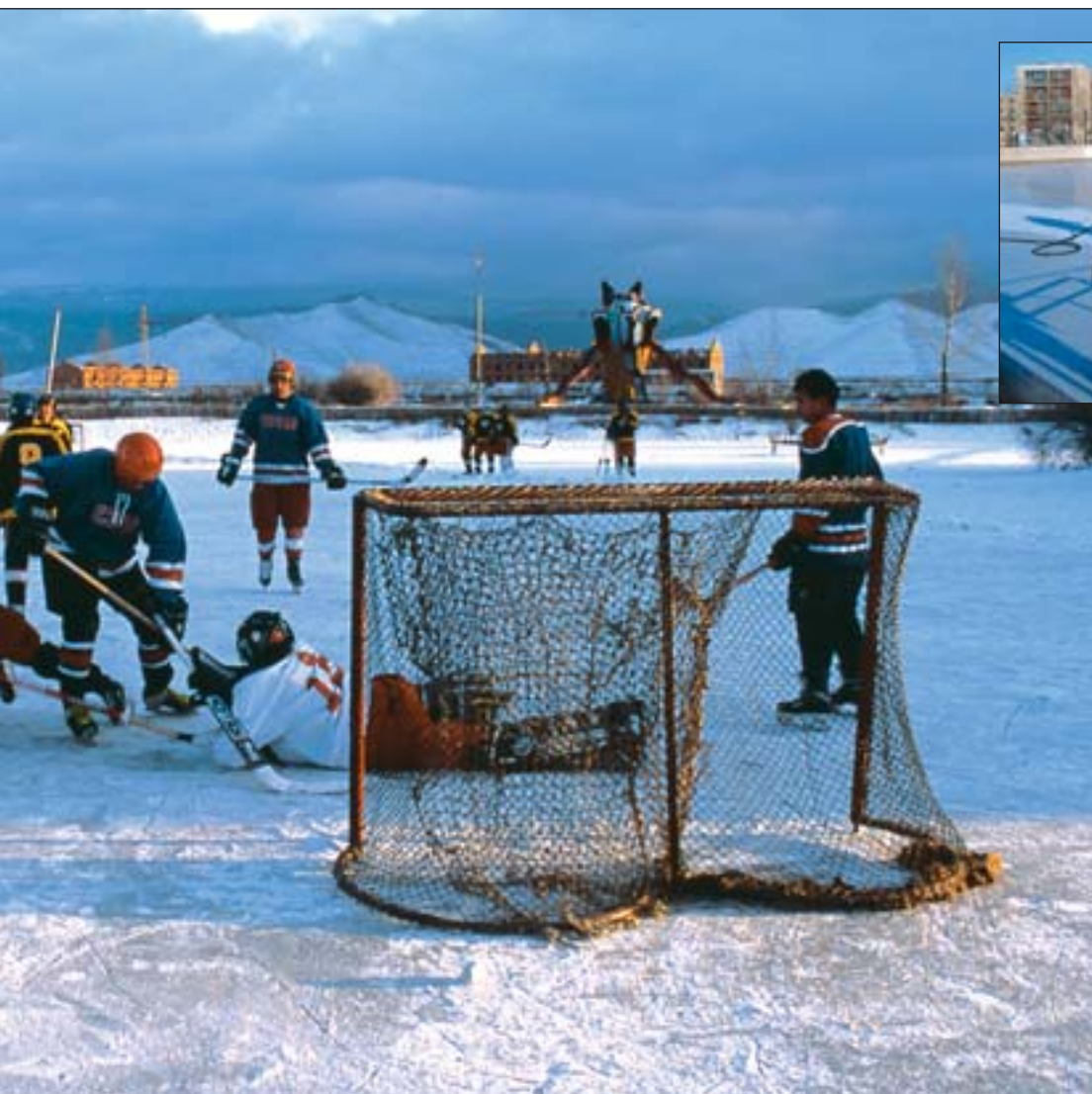
\* The Mongolian Hockey League regular season is played in two stages where the teams travel to one city and play a round-robin series during a five-day period. The first stage was played in the capital Ulaanbaatar on December 7-11, 2005 while the second round of games was played in Shariin gol on December 21-25.



**PIONEERS:** The first ever Mongolian national team that competed in the 1999 Asian Winter Games in South Korea.



# the game back to its roots



**NO NETS, NO WORRY:** Neither the goals nor the "zamboni" is up to an average standard but this doesn't hold back these enthusiasts at the rink in Baganul.

## Factfile: Mongolia

- **Population:** 2,832,224 (July 2006 est.)
- **Ethnic groups:** Mongol (mostly Khalkha) 94.9%, Turkic (mostly Kazakh) 5%, other (including Chinese and Russian) 0.1% (2000)
- **Religions:** Buddhist Lamaist 50%, none 40%, Shamanist and Christian 6%, Muslim 4% (2004)
- **Languages:** Khalkha Mongol 90%, Turkic, Russian (1999)
- **Registered ice hockey players:** 840
- **Rinks:** 12 (all outdoor)
- **Association:** Mongolian Ice Hockey Association was founded in 1990, and became a member of the IIHF in 1999.
- **National champions since 2000:**
  - 2000 Baganuur City
  - 2001 Economical University
  - 2002 Economical University
  - 2003 Economical University
  - 2004 Baganuur City
  - 2005 Baganuur City
  - 2006 Baganuur City

Photo: MIKE DOWNIE & MONGOLIAN ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION (insert)  
 ry's twelve rinks are covered. The larger photo shows a practise game in the capital Ulaanbaatar. Many games are played in temperatures around  
 League, Otgon od from Ulaanbaatar. Otgon od has the youngest team in the MHL and could soon surpass Baganuur as national champion.



Photo: THE WORLD FACTBOOK

**LANDLOCKED LAND:** Mongolia, squeezed between its giant-sized neighbours Russia and China, has an area of 1,564,116 square kilometers, which is about three times as big as Spain. But the vast country has a population of just under 3 million. Ice Hockey is mainly played in the northern parts of the country. The game was introduced to Mongolians in the 60s by Soviet factory workers.



**HISTORIC DEBUT:** Team Mongolia will wear the above jerseys for the nation's debut in a men's senior IHF World Championship event. The team will travel more than 7,000 kilometres to Dundalk, Ireland for the 2007 IIHF World Championship, Division III (April 15-21) where they will meet New Zealand, South Africa, Armenia, Luxembourg and host Ireland. The historic first world championship game of Mongolia at the Dundalk Ice Dome will be against the Irish, that also is the opening game of the championship.



Photo: USPENSKIY, Sport-Express

**BACK IN THE CSKA:** Vyacheslav Bykov played nine seasons for CSKA Moscow in the old Soviet Union league and he returned to the once invincible club as a coach two seasons ago after 14 years in Switzerland. On August 11 Bykov was named national team coach, the eleventh Team Russia head coach since 1995.

## Russian hockey soon to run out of options if Bykov won't succeed

By Szymon Szemberg

There was a time whenever you saw the Soviet national team you saw the same coach walking back and forth in front of the players. Those who are old enough to remember the 60s recall Anatoli Tarasov, who stayed for 14 golden years. The games that the CCCP team lost during that era could be counted on one of Tarasov's hand. After a short period of relative turmoil in the mid-70s, the name of Viktor Tikhonov became a synonym for stability and success between 1978 and until the collapse of the old system in the early 90s.

Since then the locker room of the Russian men's national team has had a revolving door. Some coaches hardly said "privet" before it was "dosvidanya". In the last 14 years the national team has had 15 coaches, although some of them were returnees. (See box.)

What once was the most stable and virtually unbeatable national team in hockey became confused by all the ins and outs - and they stopped winning. Every possible scenario was used after 1993 when Russia last won the IIHF World Championship.

One year it was a "hardliner" coach with only Russian league players, to be replaced the following season by a "moderate" coach with a heavy contingent of NHL Russians. When that didn't work it was time to test the "hardliner" approach with NHL Russians and after yet another failure the formula became a "player's" coach with a mixture of domestic talent and NHLers.

At the end Russian hockey ran out of scenarios and formulas. It went back to square one - looking for the best possible coach, with impeccable credentials, who is a man of the new era and who can be understood and trusted by players from both the domestic Superleague and by those from the NHL.

And at the end of the day there was really only one name left - Vyacheslav Bykov.

One of the best and most creative forwards in the world in the 80s (six-time IIHF World Champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist) never left for the NHL (although drafted and

highly demanded by the Quebec Nordiques) and spent his post-Soviet playing days at Swiss club Fribourg-Gottéron, before retiring at the age of 40 in 2000.

After gaining coaching experience for four years in his new adopted country (he became a Swiss citizen in 1993), Bykov, in 2004, accepted a position as head coach for the club he starred for in the 80s, the famous CSKA Moscow. On August 11 this year, Bykov was named head coach for the Russian national team, a position he will hold in unison with his CSKA duties.

So, what makes "Slava" Bykov think that he can do a better job than his forerunners? He told the Swiss daily *Tages-Anzeiger* in August:

"I have a different, more open, approach to the game than most of my predecessors, who all were protagonists of the old system. I hope that I will be able to correct most of their mistakes. The most important thing is to have an honest and open relationship with the players."

"I have only one goal: to bring together a team that can compete for the medals at the world championship in Moscow. If I do it with NHL-players or with Russian league players or with a mixture is of secondary importance."

This is Bykov's challenge for the 2007 IIHF World Championship:

To finally win it: Russia has not won the men's IIHF World Championship in 13 years, the longest winless streak in the history of Soviet/Russian hockey.

To break the jinx of the host: no organizing nation has won the IIHF World Championship gold medal since Soviet Union managed it in 1986, a streak of 20 years.

To keep the perfect Moscow record intact: In the four IIHF World Championships played in the capital (1957, 1973, 1979 and 1986) the hosts did not lose one single game.

For most Russian fans, achieving the first two goals would be enough.

## 2007 venue to open doors in December



Photo: KIMMO LEINONEN

**ALMOST THERE:** The 14,500-seat Hodynka Arena in the Hodynka Fields, northwest of Moscow downtown.

The IIHF announced on September 14 the schedule for the 71st IIHF World Championship in Moscow, Russia to be played on April 27 - May 13, 2007. Go to [IIHF.COM](http://IIHF.COM) for the schedule.

Russia 2007 will be played in the state-of-the-art 14,500-seat Hodynka Arena which is currently in the final stages of construction and in the 7,000-seat Mytishchi Arena which opened in November 2005 and is the home of Khimik Mytyschi of the Russian Superleague. The Moscow Arena will host the traditional December tournament, which has been renamed to Channel One Cup (previously Rosno Cup).

### Team Russia head coaches

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1978-1992       | Viktor Tikhonov        |
| 1992-1994       | Boris Mikhailov        |
| 1994 (Olympics) | Viktor Tikhonov        |
| 1994-1995       | Boris Mikhailov        |
| 1995-1996       | Vladimir Vasiliev      |
| 1996-1997       | Igor Dimitriev         |
| 1997-1998       | Vladimir Yurzinov      |
| 1998-2000       | Alexander Yakushev     |
| 2000-2002       | Boris Mikhailov        |
| 2002 (Olympics) | Vyacheslav Fetisov     |
| 2002-2003       | Vladimir Plyushev      |
| 2003-2004       | Viktor Tikhonov        |
| 2004-2005       | Zinetula Bilyaletdinov |
| 2005-2006       | Vladimir Krikunov      |
| 2006-           | Vyacheslav Bykov       |

This will be the fifth time the IIHF World Championship is held in Russia/Soviet Union. Moscow staged the event in 1957, 1973, 1979 and 1986 while St. Petersburg was the host in 2000.

## Finland and China join forces to develop the women's game

It may seem like an unlikely pairing, but for Chinese and Finnish women's hockey players, it is a match made in heaven. For the first time, the nations are working together to help the Chinese women's national team take the next step in its development.

Beginning on Sept. 22, the Chinese women's squad will travel to Finland for a four-week stay and will play 12 games against teams in the Finnish Women's Hockey League.

But don't think that the Finnish League teams will take it easy against their foreign opponents. Each game against China will be counted in the regular league standings. While in Finland, the Chinese team will stay at the Pajulahti Sport Training Center.

For the Chinese team, the month-long journey will be a critical step to help the nation improve its finish at the IIHF Women's World Championship and continue to close the gap between the women's hockey nations.



# IIHF Supplier Pool keeps teams looking sharp

■ ■ Summer may be a time for rest for the players and coaches, but for those outfitting the teams, it is the busiest time of year as contracts are renewed and new designs are conceived. The IIHF Marketing Department was busy renewing the contracts of its Supplier Pool and ensuring that when the players come back from their summer hiatus, nothing but the best will be waiting for them in the lockerroom.

So what exactly is the IIHF Supplier Pool? It is a group of equipment manufacturers that was established in 1999 to regulate the trademark exposure on hockey equipment used by players participating in IIHF events. This includes the IIHF World Championship, where millions of viewers watch on television and thousands watch live in person.

The various hockey manufacturing companies can sign up with the IIHF in the following product categories:

- Goalie equipment
- Sticks
- Gloves
- Skates
- Helmets, visors
- Pucks

Companies that belong to the pool have the right to display their trademarks on the product categories which they have entered.

Naturally, players may use products of other companies that are not covered by the Supplier Pool, but to protect those companies that have joined in the various categories, the trademarks have to be blacked out for the duration of the tournament.

At the conclusion of the 2006 IIHF World Championship in Riga, the contracts with all IIHF Supplier Pool members expired. This allowed the IIHF Marketing Department the chance to re-sign the members and recruit new faces as well.

During the summer break the Marketing Department prolonged the contracts with all of its previous IIHF Supplier Pool members, with the exception of Eagle Hockey. These new contracts will last through the 2010 IIHF World Championship. In addition the IIHF was able to recruit several newcomers to the Supplier Pool (see list). Ultimately this is ideal for the players as they now have more variety to choose from in the pool.

■ ■ This program allows the IIHF to control the trademark exposure at IIHF events and also gives the IIHF the opportunity to establish a worldwide hockey development program.

On the side of the manufacturers, the Supplier Pool Members pay a great extent of their annual contractual fee in "value

in kind". This essentially means that instead of money trading hands, the members pay for their exposure by giving away their equipment to the various hockey nations.

Normally, the companies send out approximately 40 shipments with sticks, gloves, skates and helmets to IIHF member associations around the entire world. Ultimately, players in non-traditional or smaller hockey nations are benefiting from the players in the bigger hockey countries wearing the equipment of the Supplier Pool Members.

■ ■ The equipment is used in these smaller countries to support players on a grassroots level. For the Supplier Pool Members, it is a unique chance to grow the base of customers using their products and contribute to the worldwide growth of the game.

The IIHF would like to thank the Supplier Pool members for their ongoing support.

## 2006-2010 IIHF Supplier Pool Members

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Nike Bauer:      | Goalies, Sticks, Gloves, Skates, Helmets |
| CCM:             | Goalies, Sticks, Gloves, Skates, Helmets |
| Reebok / RBK:    | Goalies, Sticks, Gloves, Skates, Helmets |
| Jofa:            | Helmets                                  |
| Oakley:          | Helmets                                  |
| ITECH:           | Goalies, Helmets                         |
| Mission:         | Sticks, Gloves, Skates, Helmets          |
| Easton:          | Sticks, Gloves, Skates, Helmets          |
| Sher-wood:       | Goalies, Sticks, Gloves                  |
| TPS:             | Goalies, Sticks                          |
| Composite Busch: | Sticks, Goalie Sticks                    |
| Montreal Hockey: | Sticks, Goalie Sticks                    |
| Rebellion:       | Sticks, Gloves, Skates                   |
| Graf:            | Skates                                   |
| GUFEX:           | Pucks                                    |

## New IIHF Supplier Pool members:

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Frontier Hockey: | Sticks, Goalie Sticks |
| Warrior Hockey:  | Sticks, Gloves        |
| Fischer:         | Sticks                |
| Tackla:          | Gloves                |



**NEW IN 2007!**



## South Africa and Kazakhstan celebrate 50th and 70th anniversary milestones



■ ■ The South African Ice Hockey Association celebrated its 70-year anniversary on July 29, 2006. The official day of formation for the S.A.I.H.A. was July 20, 1936 at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg and on February 17, 1937 the association became an IIHF member. In the left photo are: Alan Verwey (player legend), Richard Edwards (S.A.I.H.A. president), Shane Marsh (vice president). The celebration was in the House of the South African Olympic Committee.

■ ■ The right photo shows Jan-Ake Edvinsson and René Fasel at the celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of ice hockey in Kazakhstan. The pair travelled to Almaty for the ceremony which included the laying of a wreath on the grave of the 'Unknown Soldier' (pictured).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

|      |                                |                |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 2007 | RUSSIA, Moscow                 | 27.04-13.05.07 |
| 2008 | CANADA, Quebec City & Halifax  | 01.05-18.05.08 |
| 2009 | SWITZERLAND, Zurich & Bern     | 24.04-10.05.09 |
| 2010 | GERMANY, Cologne & Mannheim    | 07-23.05.10    |
| 2011 | SLOVAKIA, Bratislava & Kosice  | 30.04-15.05.11 |
| 2012 | APPLICANTS: DEN, FIN, HUN, SWE |                |

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

|      |                |             |
|------|----------------|-------------|
| 2007 | CHINA, Qiqihar | 15-21.04.07 |
|------|----------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

|      |                     |             |
|------|---------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | SLOVENIA, Ljubljana | 15-21.04.07 |
|------|---------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

|      |                 |             |
|------|-----------------|-------------|
| 2007 | CROATIA, Zagreb | 08-14.04.07 |
|------|-----------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

|      |              |             |
|------|--------------|-------------|
| 2007 | KOREA, Seoul | 02-08.04.07 |
|------|--------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

|      |                  |             |
|------|------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | IRELAND, Dundalk | 15-21.04.07 |
|------|------------------|-------------|

## Women's:

## IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP

|      |                               |             |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | CANADA, Winnipeg & Selkirk    | 03-10.04.07 |
| 2008 | CHINA, TBA                    | TBA         |
| 2009 | FINLAND, Vantaa & Hämeenlinna | 05-12.04.09 |
| 2011 | APPLICANTS: GER               | TBA         |
| 2012 | APPLICANTS: USA               | TBA         |

## IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I

|      |              |             |
|------|--------------|-------------|
| 2007 | JAPAN, Nikko | 02-08.04.07 |
|------|--------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II

|      |                           |             |
|------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | DPR Korea, Pyongyang City | 17-23.03.07 |
|------|---------------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

|      |                          |             |
|------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | GREAT BRITAIN, Sheffield | 05-10.03.07 |
|------|--------------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION IV

|      |                         |                |
|------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 2007 | ROMANIA, Miercurea Ciuc | 26.03-01.04.07 |
|------|-------------------------|----------------|

## Under 20:

## IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP

|      |                                     |                   |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2007 | SWEDEN, Mora & Leksand              | 26.12.06-05.01.07 |
| 2008 | CZECH REPUBLIC, Pardubice & Liberec | 26.12.07-05.01.08 |
| 2009 | CANADA, Ottawa                      | TBA               |
| 2010 | APPLICANTS:                         |                   |
| 2011 | APPLICANTS: USA                     |                   |

## IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

|      |                 |             |
|------|-----------------|-------------|
| 2007 | DENMARK, Odense | 11-17.12.06 |
|------|-----------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

|      |                      |             |
|------|----------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | ITALY, Torre Pellice | 11-17.12.06 |
|------|----------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

|      |                         |             |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | ROMANIA, Miercurea Ciuc | 11-17.12.06 |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

|      |                       |             |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | LITHUANIA, Elektrenai | 10-16.12.06 |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

|      |               |             |
|------|---------------|-------------|
| 2007 | TURKEY, Izmit | 08-14.01.07 |
|------|---------------|-------------|

## Under 18:

## IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP

|      |                          |             |
|------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | FINLAND, Tampere & Rauma | 11-22.04.07 |
| 2008 | RUSSIA, Kazan            | TBA         |
| 2010 | APPLICANTS: USA          |             |

## IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

|      |                   |             |
|------|-------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | SLOVENIA, Maribor | 06-13.04.07 |
|------|-------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

|      |               |             |
|------|---------------|-------------|
| 2007 | POLAND, Sanok | 04-10.04.07 |
|------|---------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

|      |                  |             |
|------|------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | HUNGARY, Miskolc | 15-21.04.07 |
|------|------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

|      |                         |             |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | ROMANIA, Miercurea Ciuc | 12-18.03.07 |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

|      |                |             |
|------|----------------|-------------|
| 2007 | CHINA, Beijing | 04-11.03.07 |
|------|----------------|-------------|

## IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III QUALIFICATION

|      |                |          |
|------|----------------|----------|
| 2007 | TURKEY, Ankara | 28.01.07 |
|------|----------------|----------|

## OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

|      |                   |             |
|------|-------------------|-------------|
| 2010 | CANADA, Vancouver | 12-28.02.10 |
|------|-------------------|-------------|

## IIHF IN-LINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

|      |              |     |
|------|--------------|-----|
| 2006 | GERMANY, TBA | TBA |
|------|--------------|-----|

## IIHF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

## IIHF EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP (ECC)

|      |                       |             |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | RUSSIA, St Petersburg | 11-14.01.07 |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|

## IIHF EUROPEAN WOMEN CHAMPIONS CUP

|  |                   |             |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
|  | Preliminary Round | 06-08.10.06 |
|--|-------------------|-------------|

|  |       |             |
|--|-------|-------------|
|  | Final | 05-10.12.06 |
|--|-------|-------------|

## IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP

|  |                        |             |
|--|------------------------|-------------|
|  | First Round (ROM, SER) | 22-24.09.06 |
|--|------------------------|-------------|

|  |                              |             |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|
|  | Second Round (FRA, POL, LTU) | 13-15.10.06 |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|

|  |                   |             |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
|  | Third Round (BLR) | 17-19.11.06 |
|--|-------------------|-------------|

|  |                                 |             |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|
|  | Final - HUNGARY, Szekesfehervar | 05-07.01.07 |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|

## NATIONAL TEAM BREAKS

## 2006/2007 Season

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st International Break - | Aug. 28 - Sept. 3, 2006 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 2nd International Break - | Nov. 6 - 12, 2006 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 3rd International Break - | Dec. 11 - 17, 2006 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 4th International Break - | Feb. 5 - 11, 2007 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

## 2007/2008 Season

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st International Break - | Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 2007 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 2nd International Break - | Nov. 5 - 11, 2007 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 3rd International Break - | Dec. 10 - 16, 2007 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 4th International Break - | Feb. 4 - 10, 2008 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

## OTHER INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

## IIHF WORLD OLDTIMERS FESTIVAL

|      |                |                |
|------|----------------|----------------|
| 2006 | RUSSIA, Moscow | 29.04-06.05.06 |
|------|----------------|----------------|

|      |                    |             |
|------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | SWEDEN, Gothenburg | 15-22.04.07 |
|------|--------------------|-------------|

|      |             |     |
|------|-------------|-----|
| 2008 | CANADA, TBA | TBA |
|------|-------------|-----|

## IIHF WOMEN'S INVITATIONAL U18 TOURNAMENT

|        |            |             |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| 2007 3 | Sites, TBA | 09-11.02.07 |
|--------|------------|-------------|

## EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

|      |             |             |
|------|-------------|-------------|
| 2007 | SPAIN, Jaca | 08-21.02.07 |
|------|-------------|-------------|

## WINTER UNIVERSIADE

|      |               |             |
|------|---------------|-------------|
| 2007 | ITALY, Torino | 17-27.01.07 |
|------|---------------|-------------|

## CONGRESSES

## IIHF SEMI-ANNUAL CONGRESS

|      |                |             |
|------|----------------|-------------|
| 2006 | GREECE, Athens | 28-30.09.06 |
|------|----------------|-------------|

|      |                   |             |
|------|-------------------|-------------|
| 2007 | CANADA, Vancouver | 20-23.09.07 |
|------|-------------------|-------------|

|      |                       |             |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 2008 | SWITZERLAND, Montreux | 25-27.09.08 |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|

## IIHF ANNUAL CONGRESS

|      |              |             |
|------|--------------|-------------|
| 2006 | LATVIA, Riga | 18-21.05.06 |
|------|--------------|-------------|

|      |                |             |
|------|----------------|-------------|
| 2007 | RUSSIA, Moscow | 10-13.05.07 |
|------|----------------|-------------|

|      |                  |     |
|------|------------------|-----|
| 2009 | SWITZERLAND, TBA | TBA |
|------|------------------|-----|

## IIHF ANNUAL &amp; GENERAL CONGRESS

|      |               |                    |
|------|---------------|--------------------|
| 2008 | FRANCE, Paris | 29.05-03.06.082006 |
|------|---------------|--------------------|



**IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO:** Above Ukraine's Kostiantyn Kasianchuk and Russia's Alexander Semin get tangled up with each other in something resembling ice dancing. The two teams will meet again at the 2007 IIHF World Championship on Russia's home turf.



## IIHF OFFICIATING NEWS

# Trading Places: 14 officials on the go in Europe

■ ■ Once again, the IIHF is sending its show on the road, well at least its officials that run the show.

For the third straight year, the IIHF is embarking on its Referee Exchange Program. After successful outings the first two seasons, the program is becoming a mainstay in the IIHF repertoire.

This year, the program will follow the same formula as in previous seasons with 14 of the best European officials taking part in the IIHF Referee Exchange Program. The program sends referees from the top seven European hockey nations (according to the IIHF World Ranking) to officiate games in each other's countries.



ANDERSSON - SWE

This year the countries taking part in the program are Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. Each of these nations will have two referees traveling with the program.



BULANOV - RUS

Typically, the officials will whistle 12 games (two in each country) through the course of the year. The referee will travel to the foreign nation for a weekend and get in two games. While there, the official will work with local linesmen and will also have a domestic Referee Supervisor to evaluate the performance of the guest referee. In total there are seven referee supervisors taking part in the program, one from each of the participating nations.



HOMOLA - CZE

■ ■ The idea behind the exchange when it first started was to allow the top IIHF officials the chance to call games in other professional leagues. Not only giving them the experience of skating in a different atmosphere among an entirely new group of players, but also allowing them to learn what rules are emphasized in other countries and what level of officiating is expected.



JONAK - SVK



KONC - SVK



KURMANN - SUI



LEVONEN - FIN



MINAR - CZE



RAVODIN - RUS



RANTALA - FIN

It is hoped that this introduction will give the game officials a better idea of the varying styles of play from nation to nation and ultimately lead to more consistent officiating across borders.

This year the Referee Exchange Program is particularly important with this being the first full season with the new officiating standards (see page 1). When the major IIHF events roll around this group of 14 officials will be looked upon to be the leaders of the referee group having experienced games in the varying cultures.

■ ■ In the previous seasons, both the players and journalists reacted well to the referee exchange program, noting that it not only gave the officials a glimpse of the game in a different nation, but also the players an idea of what standards are upheld in other nations.

## Notes from this year's group of officials:

■ ■ There are four newcomers to the IIHF Referee Exchange Program this year. Jari Levonen, Alexey Ravodin, Daniel Konc and Martin Homola are the four rookies.

■ ■ All of the non- NHL referees at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin had previous experience with the Referee Exchange Program. Three of this year's officials, Thomas Andersson, Vyacheslav Bulanov and Danny Kurmann were in Turin last winter, while Timo Favorin and Vladimir Sindler took part in the exchange program last year.

■ ■ Daniel Konc may be in his first season in the IIHF Referee Exchange Program, but he is no stranger as his brother, Juraj Konc, took part in the program for the last two seasons.

■ ■ Switzerland has the most experienced duo in this year's Exchange Program. Both Danny Kurmann and Brent Reiber have taken part in the program since its inception three years ago. Also bringing many games to the table are Sweden's duo of Thomas Andersson (third season) and Marcus Vinnerborg (second season).



VINNERBORG - SWE



SCHUTZ - GER



REICHERT - GER



REIBER - SUI

## Rulebook news for 2006-2010 - summary of major changes

This is a summary of the most important rule changes in the 2006-2010 IIHF Rule Book:

□ □ **Rule 233, 235:** Smaller goalkeeper's equipment (blocking glove, catching glove and leg guards.)

□ □ **260 d)** If the team that is two men short in the last two minutes of the game or in overtime requests an equipment measurement that proves to be legal, the referee shall award a penalty shot to the non-offending team.

□ □ **440 d)** All face-offs in the end zones shall be conducted in the end zone face-off spots.

□ □ **450 c)** Offside passes from the defending zone will be followed by a face-off in the end zone face-off spot.

□ □ **460 d)** Once the goalkeeper leaves his goal crease or when the goalkeeper is outside his crease during an icing situation and moves towards the puck, no icing shall be called.

□ □ **460 d)** The rule stating "no icing" if the puck goes through the goal crease is deleted. For clarification: if the puck passes through the goal crease, icing is called.

□ □ **502 b)** If, while a team is short-handed because of one or more minor or bench minor penalties, the opposing team scores a goal, the first of such penalties shall automatically terminate - unless such penalty was assessed at the same time as opposing player's penalty which originally caused both teams to play one player short. In that case

the next minor or bench minor penalty assessed to the scored upon team shall terminate.

□ □ **508 a)** Penalty shot shall be assessed if 1. the infraction takes place outside the player's defending zone, 2. the attacking player has control of the puck, 3. the infraction

is committed from behind, 4. the player is denied a scoring opportunity, 5. the player is on a breakaway.

□ □ **514 c)** If during a delayed penalty the non-offending team scores into its own goal, the goal shall be allowed.

□ □ **522** New definition of charging, referee's judgment regarding distance traveled and impact by checking (charging) player. Definition of "Two steps or strides" is deleted.

□ □ **550 f and 551 d)** Obscene gestures, making travesty and behavior detrimental to the game by players and officials result in a match penalty.

**554 c)** Minor penalty shall be assessed to a player or goalkeeper for shooting or throwing the puck directly outside the playing area.

□ □ **558 b)** If the goalkeeper falls on or gathers the puck in the area between the goal line and the

hash marks, he shall be assessed a minor penalty - unless he is being pressured.

□ □ **569 a)** Any player who throws his stick in the direction of the puck or the puck carrier in the attacking zone of his team or in the neutral area shall be assessed a minor penalty.



**GOALIES TAKE NOTE:** Pucks that go through the crease are now whistled for icing. It's just one of the new rules in the 2006-2010 IIHF Rule Book.

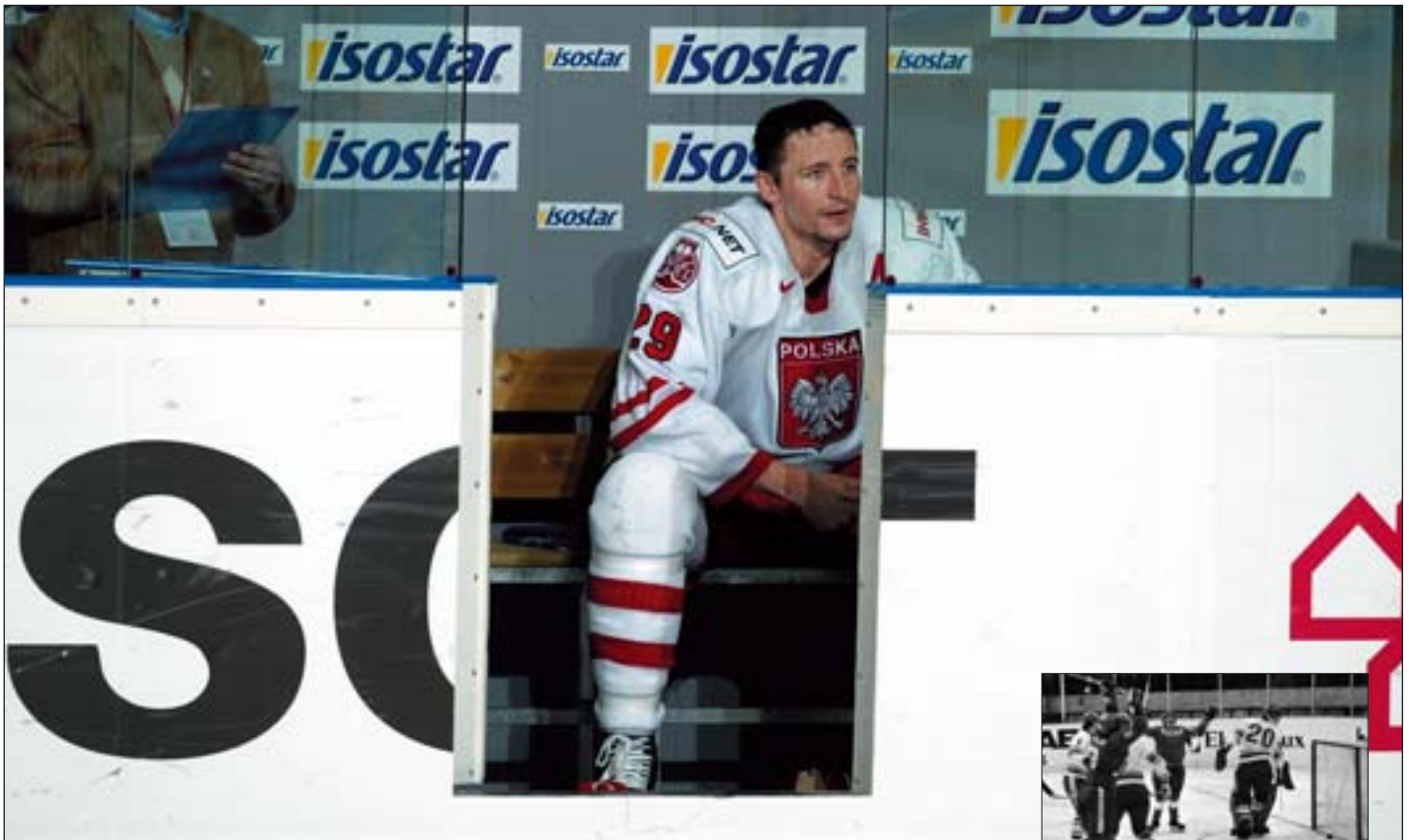


Photo: CITY PRESS, Berlin

**A MAN AND HIS OFFICE:** Krzysztof Oliwa made a career out of visiting penalty boxes all over North America. Here, he checks out the sin bin in Jönköping, Sweden during the 2002 IIHF World Championship where he played for his native Poland. Now Oliwa wants to revitalize the Polish national team program and hopefully bring it back to days when Poland could occasionally compete with the best. Insert photo shows Poland defeating the Soviet Union 6-4 in 1976, arguably the biggest upset in IIHF World Championship history.

# Oliwa is set to polish Polish hockey

By Szymon Szemberg

■ Krzysztof Oliwa realized early that he would never be a Wayne Gretzky. So when the giant Pole retired last year at the age of 33 after 15 seasons, he did it with 69 goals and a whopping 2,767 penalty minutes. Now, he is going back to his roots to help Polish hockey.

The story of Krzysztof Oliwa is one of the more interesting ones in hockey. He left tough living conditions in his native Poland and his club GKS Tychy as a 19-year old in 1992 and moved to Canada, hooking up with Welland, a minor junior club. Oliwa knew that the only way he could impress people was by throwing around his hulking 195-centimeter, 111-kilogram frame at his opponents.

■ Oliwa's inclination towards the physical part of hockey drew interest from professional clubs and the New Jersey Devils drafted him in 1993. He had his most productive NHL-season in 1999-00 when he had six goals and ten assists in 69 games, winning the Stanley Cup, and becoming the first Pole to get his name on the trophy. He was just one game from winning his second Cup title with Calgary in 2004, but Oliwa and the Flames lost game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals to Tampa Bay.

He helped Poland in the Olympic qualifications (for Turin 2006) during the NHL's lockout season in the autumn 2005, but played only a couple of games in the Polish league during that period. Following the lockout, he was not ready for the new and speedy NHL restarted and after just three games with New Jersey, he retired from the game in October last year.

■ It didn't take him long to show interest in the national team program of his native country. Oliwa surprised

many people by showing up at last year's IIHF World Championship, Division I in Tallinn, Estonia in some kind of shadow capacity. And he was not a bit amused after Poland's final 5-3 defeat to Austria. Although without having any official position on the team, Oliwa basically took over the post-game press-conference and declared that the attitude and performance of the Polish team was unacceptable.

His enthusiasm paid dividends. On June 26, two months after Tallinn, he was named manager of the Polish national team. *Ice Times* caught up with Krzysztof in New Jersey where he still resides and from where he runs his car business.

**What do you think that you can do for the Polish national team?**

"Bring in the right attitude and teach players how to prepare themselves mentally and physically. In Tallinn, I saw too many players who did not work hard enough. Under my leadership, if a player is not committed he is out. There are a lot of young players waiting for their chance."

**According to you, what elements are missing in Polish hockey?**

"Primarily there is no long term plan. Everything is just geared towards the next Division I Championship or the next Olympic qualifications. Polish hockey must today have a plan that goes beyond the next Division I Championship in China."

**What is a realistic goal of the Polish national team within the next five-year period?**

"The goal should be to be promoted to the elite pool of the world championship, to become a team that can

stay up there and to have a good run in the Olympic qualifications. It's been many years since Poland last participated in the Olympics. (1992)

**Is it really possible?**

"Everything is possible. I worked in a coal mine near Oswiecim from the year I turned 16 and I practiced hockey in the evenings and I made it to the NHL, won a Stanley Cup and played in two finals. You can do a lot of things if you really set your mind to it."

**People who know Polish hockey say that its program needs a complete overhaul, more youngsters who play the game, more rinks, more coaches and a more competitive league. In a country of almost 40 million people there are only 21 indoor rinks and just over 300 senior players. Where does one start?**

"Nobody said that this is going to be easy and I can't do everything by myself. But Poland is a country with a steady economical growth, there are many potential investors and hockey is a spectacular sport which must be exposed on TV. But we need more people who realize the potential as opposed to people who say that this doesn't work and that can't be done."

**What are your plans for Mariusz Czerkawski?**

"Well, Mariusz is playing out his career in Switzerland after a very good NHL-career and this is something that I want to discuss with him and the president of the Polish association. I am sure that he wants to contribute to make Polish hockey better and he certainly has experience that could be used."

**You seem to be very enthusiastic.**

"Yes, I am and I am really looking forward to start rebuilding the Polish national team according to my ideas."