

News Release

FAIR PLAY
AND RESPECT



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Photo: Edward Groeger

HOME OPENER. IIHF President René Fasel (left) is all smiles as IOC President Jacques Rogge drops the puck for the inaugural face-off between Fasel and the Mayor of Zurich, Elmar Ledegerber. The August 21 ceremony, which officially inaugurated the new IIHF offices, is witnessed by Christian Huber, the President Councillor of the Government of Kanton Zurich, and by Juan Antonio Samaranch, Lifetime IOC Honorary President. See more on the inauguration on page 11.

Careers are remembered by Olympic success

The 115th IOC Session in Prague, Czech Republic on July 1 was thrilling for sports fans and ice hockey fans in particular. And just like in hockey, there could only be one winner. Out of three very good bids for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, Vancouver came out victorious.

■ ■ As president of the International Ice Hockey Federation, I cannot deny that going to Canada with an Olympic ice hockey tournament presents a huge opportunity for our sport. At the same time, it must be pointed out that both the Austrian and the Korean bids were extremely well put together. I know how many resources and what effort was put behind the candidacies and presentations from Salzburg and PyeongChang. They each deserve respect.

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

On a personal note, I was very honoured and proud when IOC President Jacques Rogge, at the same IOC Session, offered me the position as chairman of the IOC's Co-ordination Committee for the 2010 games in Vancouver.

■ ■ The IOC President said in his speech at the inauguration of the new IIHF offices in Zurich on August 21, that ice hockey has always been the backbone of the

Olympic Winter Games. Indeed, the Olympics - and the Olympic ice hockey tournament - have an inner strength that goes beyond individual participation.

Heroes are made in the Olympics, regardless of what merit you bring with you coming into the Games. On August 11, a shock hit the world of hockey when Herb Brooks died in a car accident. In February 1980 a virtually unknown Brooks brought a group of college no-names to Lake Placid and proved that miracles can happen.

■ ■ None of his players became superstars and Brooks never won a championship in the pro-ranks after Lake Placid, but their careers will always be measured by what they accomplished in the Olympics. Most observers would claim that the USA could have assembled bigger names for Lake Placid, but would that team have won against the virtually unbeatable Soviets? Twenty-two years later that team was bestowed the highest honour, lighting the Olympic torch in Salt Lake City.

Olympic heroes don't become bigger than Peter Forsberg in Lillehammer in 1994 and Olympic miseries don't get any deeper than Paul Kariya's in the same Gold Medal game between Sweden and Canada.

While Forsberg executed his penalty shot into immortality, Kariya's attempt was thwarted by goalie Tommy Salo and Sweden won its first Olympic hockey gold.

Continued on next page

Continued from page one:

Is this game less memorable because neither team iced their necessarily most merited players? Of course not. This was an epic of a final and it will always be remembered as an Olympic classic in its own right.

■ With those two examples in mind, we can rest assured that we will have great Olympic hockey tournaments in Turin 2006 and also in Vancouver 2010, regardless of which players will be eligible for the national teams.

The depth in international hockey today is so great that any of the top nations have solid pools of more than 50 players of more or less equal quality.

At this stage, without a collective bargaining agreement between the NHL and the players' association after September 15, 2004, it's anybody's guess if NHL players will be able to participate in Turin 2006.

■ The playing format for Turin will be set regardless of NHL players' participation because the IIHF must notify the IOC and the Turin organizers about our playing modus very soon, while the NHL and the NHLPA are in a labour situation where very little can be said about the future.

The upcoming IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Crete (September 17 - 21) will discuss several of these issues and we will be able to make concrete announcements regarding the format and the number of participating teams following the congress.

■ Whichever format will be chosen, we can almost assure everyone that the two-stage format from Nagano 1998 and Salt Lake City 2002, where some teams started early and had to qualify for the main event, will not be repeated. And we can be assured that the Olympic spirit will continue to thrive.

René Fasel
IIHF President

Ovechkin, not yet 18, picked for Russian national team

■ One year ago, Alexander Ovechkin was virtually an unknown 16-year old junior hockey player from Russia. On a global scale, only full-time scouts knew the kind of a player that was developing through the Dynamo Moscow ranks.

Ovechkin, who led Russia to the gold medal last season in Halifax, Canada in his first IIHF World U20 Championship, was selected in mid-August to Russia's national senior team for the annual Ceska Pojistovna Cup in Pardubice, Czech Republic by "new" national team coach Viktor Tikhonov. (See page 12) Ovechkin, who will be 18 on September 17, will make his senior international debut against host Czech Republic, Finland and Sweden.



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Olympic final in 2010 could host 55,000 fans

Vancouver could set an Olympic record for attendance in men's ice hockey in just one day.

■ After being awarded the 2010 Winter Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee, the Vancouver Organizing Committee started looking into the possibility of playing the Men's Gold Medal Game at B.C. Place Stadium, a domed facility which seats 55,000.

John Furlong, president of Vancouver's bid committee said that the idea came to light when IIHF President Rene Fasel asked if hockey could be played at the B.C. Place, which is home of the Canadian Football League's B.C. Lions.

"What this is about is the notion of putting one of the premier events in front of one of the largest crowds ever to create an atmosphere of excellence," Furlong said.

■ It would be the largest audience to see an Olympic men's ice hockey game and would follow on the heels of the 'Cold War' game between the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, which had 74,554 spectators at Spartan Stadium.

This year the NHL is diving into the outdoor genre as well with a game scheduled between Edmonton and Montreal, which will be played on Nov. 22 in the 55,000-seat Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton.

■ IIHF President René Fasel was appointed as the chairman of the IOC's Co-ordination Committee for the Games in Vancouver after the city won hosting rights for the 2010 Olympics.

This means that Fasel will oversee the co-ordination between all Olympic winter sports leading up to the 2010 games. This will imply continuous meetings with the national organizers regarding venues, schedules



WATER, HOCKEY, MOUNTAINS: This scenery awaits the fans who will visit Vancouver in 2010. The GM Place, home of the NHL Vancouver Canucks, will get a nine million dollar facelift for the Olympics.

But the Olympic Gold Medal Game will hold the distinction of having the largest indoor audience as B.C. Place Stadium is a domed venue.

"Because we have exceptional technology today, and in seven years much better, clearly we are up to the challenge," Furlong said.

B.C. Stadium is already slated to host the opening and closing ceremonies. The stadium's round roof might also serve as the Game's olympic torch.

■ The rest of the men's and women's Olympic tournament will be held at G.M. Place, the current home of the NHL Vancouver Canucks. It is planned to receive a \$9 million facelift for the Olympic Games.

and infrastructure surrounding the games. Fasel is also the head of the Olympic Winter Sport Federation.

"I am of course very proud of this appointment", said René Fasel. "I did not expect it and I was a bit hesitant when I was approached about this by IOC President Jacques Rogge. But I realized that I couldn't say no to such an honour. This will mean lot's of work and lot's of travel, but it will also be very stimulating."

THE GOAL makes Carter the new key-figure

Pop Quiz: What do comedian Mike Meyers, the Rolling Stones and Canadian forward Anson Carter have in common?

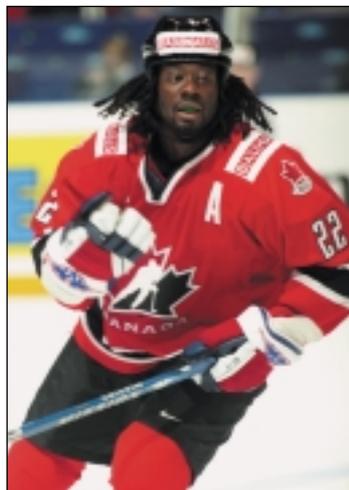
Answer: They all have the key to the city of Toronto.

■ Toronto-born Carter joined elite company at the end of July when he was presented with the key to Canada's largest city. Carter was awarded the key after netting the gold medal-winning goal in overtime against Sweden at the 2003 IIHF World Championship.

"It's a tremendous thrill," Carter said during the presentation in Mayor Mel Lastman's office. "I really don't see myself in the same light as these people. They've accomplished much more over the course of time."

■ Carter may be selling himself short. His game-winning goal against Sweden will go down in Canadian hockey history as a crowing achievement for the national

team, which was not a favourite going into this year's world championship.



ALL DOORS OPEN: Anson Carter has become a celebrity in his home town after scoring the gold medal winner in Helsinki.

"Everyone remembers what Paul Henderson did for Team Canada," Mayor Lastman said referring to Henderson's heroics in the 1972 Summit Series against the Soviet Union. "Well, that's what we're going to be seeing for I don't know how many years -- Anson Carter scoring that overtime goal."

■ Carter has spent his summer trying to avoid the glare of the spotlight, but more often than not, the spotlight finds him. People repeatedly thank and congratulate him for putting Canada back on top at the World Championship.

"All of those guys were really proud," Carter said of fellow NHL players calling to offer their congratulations. "I think and I hope that it will change a lot of guys' minds

when it comes time to play in the World Championships. That it is fun time and a great opportunity."

We are the champions of the World

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

Armenia:	Dinamo Yerevan
Australia:	Sydney Bears
Austria:	Black Wings Linz
Belarus:	HC Gomel
Belgium:	Phantoms Deurne
Bosnia:	HC Bosna, Sarajevo
Bulgaria:	Levski Sofia
Canada:	Ottawa Senators (highest Canadian NHL finisher) Kitchener Rangers (Memorial Cup) Ile-des-Chenes North Stars (Allan Cup Champions)
China:	Harbin A
Chinese Taipei:	TBD
Croatia:	HK Medvescak, Zagreb
Czech Republic:	HC Slavia Praha
Denmark:	Herning IK
DPR Korea:	Phyongchol
Estonia:	Valk 494 Tartu
Finland:	Tappara Tampere
France:	Rouen Dragons
Germany:	Krefeld Pinguine
Great Britain:	Belfast Giants
Hungary:	Alba-Volan SC
Iceland:	Skautafelag Akureyrar
Ireland:	TBD
Israel:	HC Maalot
Italy:	Milano Vipers
Japan:	Kokudo Tokio
Kazakhstan:	Kazzinc Torpedo, Ust Kamenogorsk
Korea:	Halla Winia
Latvia:	Liepajas Metalurgs
Lithuania:	Energija Elektrenai
Luxembourg:	Tornado Luxembourg
Mexico:	TBD
Mongolia:	Economical University
Netherlands:	Tigers Amsterdam
New Zealand:	Auckland
Norway:	Valerenga Oslo
Poland:	Unia Oswiecim
Portugal:	Lisbon HCP Pirates
Romania:	Steaua Bucuresti
Russia:	Lokomotiv Yaroslavl
Singapore:	TBD
Slovakia:	Slovan Bratislava
Slovenia:	Olimpija Ljubljana
South Africa:	TBD in October
Spain:	Club Hielo Jaca
Sweden:	Frölunda, Göteborg
Switzerland:	HC Lugano
Thailand:	TBD
Turkey:	Ankara BB
Ukraine:	Sokol Kiev
United Arab Em:	TBD
USA:	NHL- New Jersey Devils NCAA- University of Minnesota
Yugoslavia:	Vojvodina Novi Sad



AUSTRALIA: The Sydney Bears went all the way down-under.



BELARUS: HC Gomel's first ever national title.



CROATIA: Seventh consecutive championship for Medvescak.



FINLAND: Tappara surprised all experts - and foes.



SWEDEN: Frölunda back on top after 38 years.



SPAIN: CH Jaca 2010 back on the Spanish throne.



BELGIUM: Phantoms Deurne haunted the opposition.

IIHF News & Appointments

Claire Robinson is the new assistant to Federico Saviozzi in the Special Projects Department. Claire comes to the IIHF from Price Waterhouse Cooper. Claire is originally from England and will work part time with special projects and the Continental Cup.



Jenny Wiedeke joined the IIHF as a part of the Public Relations and Marketing Department on August 15. Wiedeke comes to the IIHF after spending four years with USA Hockey. She will assist with publications, writing and the IIHF.com website.

Simone Micheletti joined the IIHF Sport Department on August 18 as an assistant. Simone will focus on the transfers and the coordination of medical issues like the IIHF anti-doping procedure as well as the WADA program. She comes to the IIHF from the Kloten Flyers hockey club.



■ **IIHF Sport Development Manager, Magnus Eriksson** is leaving after three years in Zurich. Eriksson focused on youth hockey while with the IIHF. He and his wife Maria are moving to Canada.

IIHF Association News

■ **Mike Pelino**, the coach and manager of Canada's national team for the last four years will leave his post with Hockey Canada to join the NHL's Florida Panthers as an assistant coach.

■ The Icelandic Ice Hockey Association has named a new board. **Vidar Gardarsson** is the new President, while **Bjarni Bjarnason** is the new Vice President. **Sveinn Bjarki Sigurdsson** was also named General Secretary.

■ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has selected IIHF Chief Medical Officer **Marc Aubry** to be a part of a group that is collecting information across all sports regarding positive doping cases since 2001. The group will focus on factors that constitute "exceptional circumstances" in positive doping tests.

■ The German Ice Hockey Association appointed **Franz Reindl** as its new General Secretary, which will include duties as the sport director and with marketing. **Michael Pfuhl** was named the Technical Director and will mainly oversee junior hockey.

■ USA Hockey announced that **Jim Johannson** was promoted to Senior Director of Hockey Operations. Johannson will be responsible for the day-to-day management and integration of all sport-related issues within USA Hockey.

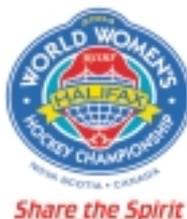
■ The Hungarian Ice Hockey Association elected **Ferenc Studniczky** as its new President on June 11.

■ **Shoichi Tomita**, the IIHF Vice-President and long time council member was elected as the new President of the Japanese Ice Hockey Association.

■ As of July 23, the Ice Hockey Association of Serbia and Montenegro replaces the former Yugoslav Ice Hockey Association. The country code for the re-named association is SCG.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HALIFAX AGAIN. Last season, Halifax organized the most successful IIHF World U20 Championship in the tournament's 28-year history. This season, the hockey world will again turn its eyes to the Canadian province of Nova Scotia as Halifax hosts the 2004 IIHF World

Women's Championship. This will be the first women's world championship in three years. There was no World Women's in 2002 (Olympic year) and the 2003 championship in Beijing, China was cancelled due to the SARS epidemic. Visit www.hockeycanada.ca for more information on the tournament.



IIHF Hall of Famer Brooks changed the North American game

■ ■ ■ Legendary USA Hockey Olympic Coach Herb Brooks died in a car crash on August 11 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was 66 years old. Brooks will go down in hockey history as an innovator and as the architect of the most celebrated moment in the history of USA Hockey.

His direction of the gold-medal winning team at the 1980 Olympic Games was achieved with a 6-0-1 overall record and a stunning 4-3 victory against the heavily favoured Soviet Union, which is considered by most experts as the biggest upset in the history of international hockey.

Most recently he led the 2002 U.S. Olympic Men's Team to the silver medal in Salt Lake City. In 1980, *Sports*

Illustrated him the Sportsman of the Year and 20 years later called the 1980's team's performance the "Greatest Sports Moment of the Century."

Brooks was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 1999 and into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1990.

■ ■ ■ "For me, Herb Brooks personified USA Hockey's commitment to Olympic and international hockey", said IIHF René Fasel. "Brooks was ahead of his time, an innovator. He was probably the first one in international hockey who introduced a mix of the North American and the European game and that was one of the reasons why his college team could win the Olympic gold in 1980. Many coaches followed what Herb Brooks introduced back then."

The American game, at the time, was based on power. Brooks taught his players to control the puck, encouraging them to hang on to it as long as possible and attempt high-percentage passes as they cycled across the ice.

■ ■ ■ "When we played, hockey was a north-and-south game," said Mike Eruzione, who scored the game winning goal against the Soviets. "You stayed on your wing. Once you got over the red line, you'd dump it in the zone. Herb would say, 'You worked so hard to get the puck. Why would you give it back to him?'"



Brooks: Will be remembered as a great coach and innovator.

This year's crop of European NHL hopefuls

European players who have signed with NHL teams during the 2003 off-season. List is still tentative.

April 8, David Turon (CZE), 19, D

April 29, Mikael Holmqvist (SWE), 23, F
May 28, Pierre Hedin (SWE), 25, D
May 30, Jonas Fiedler (CZE), 19, F

May 31, Milan Jurcina (SVK), 20, D

June 1, Igor Pohanka (SVK), 20, F

June 2, Pavel Vorobiev (RUS), 21, F
June 4, Eero Somervuori (FIN), 24, F
June 4, Kari Lehtonen (FIN), 20, G
June 5, Frantisek Lukes (CZE), 21, F

June 16, Mikko Luoma (FIN), 27, D
June 22, Christian Ehrhoff (GER), 21, D
June 22, Dimitri Patzold (GER), 19, G
June 23, Mikko Viitanen (FIN), 21, D
June 25, Libor Pivko (CZE), 23, F
June 25, Timofei Shishkanov (RUS), 20, F

June 26, Petr Kanko (CZE), 19, F

June 28, Mika Hannula (SWE), 24, F
July 1, Maxim Kondratiev (RUS), 20, D
July 2, Mathias Tjarnqvist (SWE), 24, F
July 4, Kiril Koltsov (RUS), 20, D
July 7, Jiri Hudler (CZE), 19, F

July 7, Thomas Pihlman (FIN), 20, F
July 7, Ilkka Pikkarainen (FIN), 22, F
July 7, Aleksander Suglobov (RUS), 21, F
July 8, Marek Zidlicky (CZE), 26, D
July 9, Hannu Toivonen (FIN), 19, G
July 9, Sergei Zinovyev (RUS), 23, F
July 11, Andreas Holmqvist (SWE), 22, D
July 11, Tommy Santala (FIN), 24, F
July 11, Alexander Perezhogin (RUS), 19, F
July 15, Evgeni Artyukhin (RUS), 20, F

July 15, Michal Barinka (CZE), 19, D
July 15, Sean Bergenheim (FIN), 19, F
July 15, Christoph Brandner (AUT), 28, F
July 15, Marcel Goc (GER), 19, F
July 15, Denis Grebeshkov (RUS), 19, D
July 15, Vladimir Gusev (RUS), 19, D
July 15, Petr Kadlec (CZE), 26, D
July 15, Mikko Koivu (FIN), 20, F
July 15, Alexander Kozhevnikov (RUS), 19, F
July 15, Jakub Koreis (CZE), 19, D
July 15, Niklas Kronvall (SWE), 22, F
July 15, Lasse Kukkonen (FIN), 21, D
July 15, Esa Pirtes (FIN), 26, F
July 15, Joni Pitkanen (FIN), 20, D
July 15, Roman Rozakov (RUS), 23, F
July 15, Denis Platonov (RUS), 22, F
July 15, Tomas Slovák (SVK), 20, D

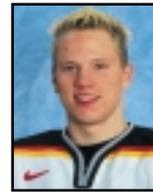
July 15, Martin Strebak (SVK), 28, D
July 15, Antti Miettinen (FIN), 23, F
Aug 15, Milan Michalek (CZE), 18, F
Aug 15, Nikolai Zherdev (RUS), 19, F

From HC Havírov to Toronto Maple Leafs (via Portland Winter Hawks, WHL)
From TPS Turku (FIN) to Anaheim Mighty Ducks
From MoDo to Toronto Maple Leafs
From Dukla Jihlava to San José Sharks (via Plymouth Whalers, OHL)
From Liptovsky Mikulas to Boston Bruins (via Halifax Mooseheads, QMJHL)
From Slovan Bratislava to Anaheim Mighty Ducks (via Prince Albert, WHL)
From Lokomotiv Yaroslavl to Chicago Blackhawks
From HPK Hameenlinna to Tampa Bay Lightning
From Jokerit Helsinki to Atlanta Thrashers
From Litvinov to Phoenix Coyotes (via Toronto St. Mikes, OHL)
From Tappara Tampere to Edmonton Oilers
From Krefeld Pinguine to San José Sharks
From Adler Mannheim to San José Sharks
From Espoo Blues to Colorado Avalanche
From HC Zlin to Nashville Predators
From CSKA Moscow to Nashville Predators (via Quebec Remparts, QMJHL)
From Sparta Prague to Los Angeles Kings (via Kitchener Rangers, OHL)
From MIF Malmo to Minnesota Wild
From Lada Togliatti to Toronto Maple Leafs
From Djurgarden to Dallas Stars
From Avangard Omsk to Vancouver Canucks
From Vsetin to Detroit Red Wings (via AK Bars Kazan, RUS)

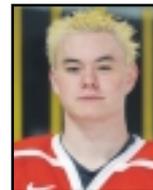
From JYP Jyväskylä to New Jersey Devils
From HIFK Helsinki to New Jersey Devils
From Lokomotiv Yaroslavl to New Jersey Devils
From HIFK Helsinki (FIN) to Nashville Predators
From HPK Hameenlinna to Boston Bruins
From AK Bars Kazan to Boston Bruins
From Linköping to Tampa Bay Lightning
From HPK Hameenlinna to Atlanta Thrashers
From Avangard Omsk to Montreal Canadiens
From Vityaz Podolsk to Tampa Bay (via Moncton Wildcats, QMJHL)
From Ceske Budejovice to Chicago Blackhawks
From Jokerit Helsinki to NY Islanders
From Krefeld Pinguine (GER) to Minnesota Wild
From Adler Mannheim to San José Sharks
From Lokomotiv Yaroslavl to Los Angeles Kings
From Sibir Novosibirsk to Chicago Blackhawks
From Slavia Praha to Florida Panthers
From TPS Turku to Minnesota Wild
From Krylia Sovetov to Chicago Blackhawks
From HC Plzen to Phoenix Coyotes
From Djurgarden Stockholm to Detroit Red Wings
From Karpat Oulu to Chicago Blackhawks
From Tappara Tampere to Los Angeles Kings
From Karpat Oulu to Philadelphia Flyers
From VVS Samara to Calgary Flames
From AK Bars Kazan to Nashville Predators
From HC Kosice to Colorado Avalanche (via Kelowna Rockers, WHL)
From HPK Hameenlinna (FIN) to Los Angeles Kings
From HPK Hameenlinna to Dallas Stars
From Ceske Budejovice to San José Sharks
From CSKA Moscow to Columbus Blue Jackets



Lehtonen: A new Thrasher



Ehrhoff: Thrown to the Sharks



Hudler: From red Czechs to Red Wings



Hannula: Swede goes Wild.



Suglobov: Russian becomes Devil

OBITUARIES

Former Soviet goaltender **Alexander Sidelnikov** died on Monday, June 23, at the age of 52. Sidelnikov was the back-up for Russian great Vladislav Tretiak for much of his career, including the 1972 Summit Series between Team Canada and the Soviet National Team. Sidelnikov won one Olympic gold medal and two IIHF World Championships. He retired in 1984.



Russian national team player **Roman Lyashenko** died on Monday, July 7 at the age of 24. Lyashenko had two assists in Russia's silver medal finish at the 2002 IIHF World Championship and was a part of Russia's gold medal-winning team at the 1999 IIHF World U20 Championship. Lyashenko played two seasons with the NHL Dallas Stars and was traded to the New York Rangers during the 2001-02 season. Lyashenko was vacationing in Turkey when he died.



Roman Lyashenko



Famed NHL Coach **Roger Neilson** died on June 21 after a lengthy battle with skin and bone marrow cancer. He was 69. Neilson coached Toronto, Buffalo, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Florida, Philadelphia, Ottawa and the New York Rangers during his career and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame last November. He was also invested as a Member of the Order of Canada in May. In Peterborough, Ontario, a two-block stretch of George Street was renamed in his honour.

Finland keeps rolling in the World of In-Line



Photos: KARI VATANEN

HOW ABOUT THOSE FLYING FINNS: When it comes to In-Line, Finland has ruled the 21st century winning three gold medals in the last four years. In Nurnberg they defeated rival Sweden, 5-3, in the gold medal game.



CLOSE CALL: Slovenia held off a hungry Japan team with a 9-8 overtime win in the qualification game.

PRELIMINARY ROUND			
Sat July 12th	Germany - Slovenia	10-7	Group B
Sun July 13th	Great Britain - Brazil	7-9	Group C
	N Zealand - Argentina	8-4	Group D
	Hungary - South Africa	6-3	Group C
	Germany - Slovakia	8-5	Group B
	Czech Rep. - USA	5-6 ot	Group A
	Japan - Australia	14-2	Group D
	Finland - Slovenia	17-3	Group B
	Sweden - Austria	3-0	Group A
Mon July 14th	Great Britain - S Africa	16-1	Group C
	Argentina - Japan	3-10	Group D
	Brazil - Hungary	6-5	Group C
	Czech Rep. - Austria	11-2	Group A
	N Zealand - Australia	6-5	Group D
	Slovakia - Finland	5-6	Group B
	USA - Sweden	3-2	Group A
Tue July 15th	South Africa - Brazil	1-14	Group C
	Japan - New Zealand	9-5	Group D
	Argentina - Australia	1-6	Group D
	Slovenia - Slovakia	7-8	Group B
	USA - Austria	15-3	Group A
	Hungary - Gr Britain	2-6	Group C
	Finland - Germany	7-3	Group B
	Sweden - Czech Rep.	6-7	Group A

QUALIFICATION ROUND			
Wed July 16th	Slovenia - Japan	9-8 ot	
	Austria - Brazil	8-6	
QUARTERFINAL ROUND			
Thu July 17th	N Zealand - Hungary	4-9	Div. I
	Finland - Austria	26-2	Pool A
	Gr. Britain - Australia	4-9	Div. I
	USA - Slovenia	8-5	Pool A
	Japan - South Africa	15-3	Div. I
	Czech Rep. - Slovakia	13-3	Pool A
	Germany - Sweden	5-9	Pool A
	Brazil - Argentina	5-3	Div. I
SEMI-FINALS AND PLACING GAMES			
Fri July 18th	SF: Finland-Czech Rep.	13-3	Pool A
	P: S. Africa-Argentina	7-8	Div. I
	P: Austria-Slovenia	5-6	Pool A
	SF: Sweden-USA	7-4	Pool A
	SF: Australia-Japan	4-5	Div. I
	P: Gr Britain-N. Zealand	9-5	Div. I
	P: Germany-Slovakia	9-8	Pool A
	SF: Hungary-Brazil	3-10	Div. I
FINAL GAMES			
Sat. July 19th			
Bronze:	Australia - Hungary	12-3	Div. I
Bronze:	Czech Rep. - USA	6-11	Pool A
Gold:	Japan - Brazil	11-6	Div. I
Gold:	Finland - Sweden	5-3	Pool A



HOME SWEET HOME? Germany takes advantage of home court scoring against Sweden, but the Swedes prevailed in the quarter-final.

Finland returned to the top of the podium at the 2003 IIHF In-Line Hockey World Championship, claiming the gold medal with a 5-3 victory over Sweden. It is the third time in four years that Finland has won the gold medal at the world championship.

■ The game was a highly anticipated re-match of last year's gold medal game between the two nations. Last year, Sweden earned bragging rights with an overtime victory.

After missing the podium for the first time ever at the IIHF In-Line Hockey World Championships last year, Team USA found its way back to familiar territory, winning the bronze medal at this year's world championship with an 11-6 win over the Czech Republic.

In the Division I In-Line Championship, Japan edged Brazil in the gold-medal game by a final score of 11-6. Australia won the bronze medal at the Div. I World Championship with a 12-3 victory over defending champions, Hungary.

■ The format of this year's IIHF In-Line Hockey World Championship was groundbreaking for the tournament. The 16 participating nations were split into the four groups. The top eight teams, Finland, Sweden, USA, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Germany and Austria were placed in the A and B Groups. While the remaining eight teams, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Hungary, Great Britain, Japan and New Zealand were in the C and D Groups.

A round-robin preliminary round was played and the last place finisher from the A and B Groups played a qualification game against the first place finisher from the C and D Groups, giving the emerging nations a chance to crack the top eight. Both Japan and Brazil came close to winning their qualification games, with one and two-goal losses, respectively but in the end, the eight teams remained in the same clusters.

■ 2003 was a year of firsts for the IIHF In-Line Hockey World Championship. Besides a new format, the tournament had its first-ever female referee, Bianca Walter from Germany. Australia's third-place finish was also its first-ever medal at the event. South Africa won its first-ever game at the tournament in its final game against Argentina, and Japan struck gold for the first time.

Other themes at this year's World Championship were more familiar. It was the second All-Scandinavian final, and the third gold medal for Finland. It was also Team USA's sixth overall medal at the World Championship and the second consecutive year that Germany played host to the Championship.

Final Standings Pool A (Win-Loss record)

1. Finland	6-0
2. Sweden	3-3
3. USA	4-2
4. Czech Republic	3-3
5. Germany	3-2
6. Slovakia	1-4
7. Slovenia	2-4
8. Austria	1-5

Final Standings Division I

1. Japan	6-1
2. Brazil	5-2
3. Australia	3-3
4. Hungary	2-4
5. Great Britain	3-2
6. New Zealand	2-3
7. South Africa	1-4
8. Argentina	0-5

IIHF Development Camp bring

The IIHF brought players, referees, coaches and instructors from all over the globe together in Finland for one week of learning, playing and fun. The result was an experience that the 400 participants will not soon forget.



Campers from all around the world converged on Vierumaki, Finland in July for the 2003 IIHF Development Camp.

More than 400 participants from 49 countries and five continents took part in 15 different programs both on and off the ice. The programs included: Learn to Play, Referee Instructors, Coach Instructors, Press and Media, Medical, and of course, on-ice development for 1988-born players.

"This camp is really something very special for everyone involved," IIHF President Rene Fasel said. "It's great to get all of these countries together to exchange ideas and knowledge."

Players from all over the world were divided into eight teams headed by top-level international coaches. Among the coaches were Rafael Ishmatov, who led the Russian Junior National Team to the gold medal at the IIHF World U20 Championship in Canada last year; Pat Cortina, who was a National Coach of Team Italy; and Timo Tuomi, a Finland native who was most recently the Head Coach of the Japanese national team. Tommy Boustedt, who is the Director of Sport Development at the Swedish Ice Hockey Association, was one of the coach instructors.

"When you see kids from all over the world together on one team it's amazing," IIHF Sport Director Dave Fitzpatrick said. "You see kids teaching each other and friendships forming that will last a long time after the camp is over."

Players weren't the only ones learning in Vierumaki. Coaches,



ONE GROUP, ONE PHOTO, ONE WORLD. The 400 participants of the 2003 IIHF Development Camp pose for the traditional group camp photo. *Insert: Sam Liebkind, left, student of the degree program at the Centre of Excellence, instructs Finnish players*

Referees and Media representatives were also all treated to seminars and hands-on practice throughout the camp. But the highlight was the on-ice action, which featured games between the eight teams and a Learn-To-Play tournament with local Finnish youth players on the final day of the camp.

Campers were also introduced to many Finnish traditions during their stay, including saunas, fish and jum-

ping into lakes. For many, the two-rink facility at Vierumaki was a foreign concept.

"We have players from some countries here that only

have five rinks in their entire nation," Fitzpatrick said. "So to come to a hockey center like Vierumaki is such a treat for those players."

Throughout the camp the IIHF's concept of 'Fair Play and Respect' was integrated.

"When you see kids from all over the world together on one team, it's amazing."

Dave Fitzpatrick, IIHF

Unites the hockey world together



■ ■ One month after the IIHF hosted its International Development Camp in Vierumäki, it held the Asian Development Camp in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

While the Vierumäki Camp was a multi-continental affair, the Asian Development Camp had a regional flare with five countries, India, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong, participating. This was the first year that the IIHF hosted the Asian Development Camp, which had 111 participants making up four teams.

■ ■ Like in Vierumäki, the U16 players from the nations were mixed on each team. Each team also featured a "Demonstrator Player" from New Zealand. The demonstrator player acted as a team captain and helped demonstrate drills and guide the teams on and off the ice.

The IIHF has made a five-year commitment to the Asian nations to host the Asian Development Camp in hopes that focusing on the region will strengthen its international hockey programs.

■ ■ By regionalizing the camp, the IIHF is able to give the Asian Nations more assistance in their overall development and ultimately help them to meet the standards to participate in IIHF World Championship events.

Photos: JUKKA RAUTIO
 photo in Vierumäki, Finland. This year, the camp participant Jarmo Arponen during practice.

It was just one of the many lessons that IIHF officials hoped the camp participants would take home.

"This week we've reached out to 400 players," Fitzpatrick said. "We hope it's just the beginning and these 400 players go home armed with their knowledge from this camp and reach out to even more people. It's the first small step in helping to expand hockey throughout the world."



Photo: SAKCHAI CHINANUYATANA

ONE GROUP, ONE PHOTO, SIX ELEPHANTS. The participants of the IIHF Asian Development Camp in Thailand put their own spin on the traditional group photo inviting some local animals to help hold up the IIHF banner.

Hydra will be IIHF's new statistics and information system

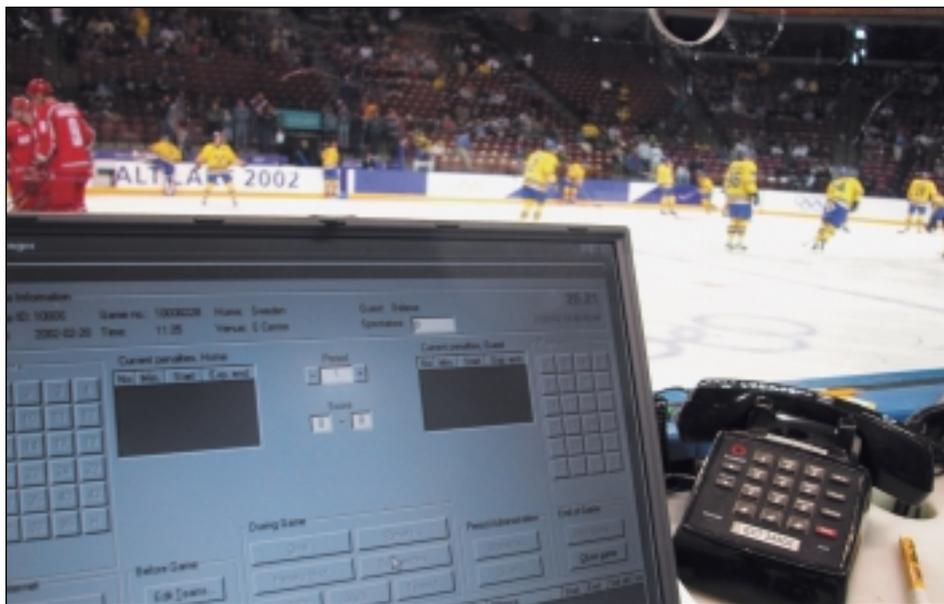


Photo: KEN INAGAKI

AS GOOD AS BEING THERE: IIHF's new information and live score system will provide everyone in the hockey community with the total info service from every game in the IIHF World Championship program and the Olympics. It will be introduced in late December.

The International Ice Hockey Federation will take a groundbreaking step in information technology with the introduction of the Hydra System at the World U20 Championship in Finland this December.

■ At the IIHF World U20 Championship, Hydra 1.0 will be tested and launched. The program will serve mostly as a statistics and capturing tool. Fans of IIHF.com will have enhanced statistical data, which is improved from the "real time" reporting that was formerly available on IIHF.com.

"Basically, the early version of the program that we'll use for the 2003-04 season will give fans on the internet a chance to follow the games live," the IT Manager of the Hydra Project Ken Inagaki said. "It will be sharpened from the previous real time scoring and give fans even more information."

■ The IIHF built the Hydra system from scratch and made it a hockey specific program. The Hydra 1.0 version is just the beginning for the team. In the Spring of 2004, Version 2.0 will become available and will build on the earlier version with TV graphics, accreditation and scoreboard and timing interfaces.

The final step will come with Version 3.0, which will be used for the 2004-05 season. If Hydra is proven to be stable, it will be released to member federations for

use in their various championships. "A program like Hydra is so dynamic that it can be used for many different purposes," Inagaki said. "It could be a huge tool for our member federations to generate consistent results and more fan interest on the internet."

The Hydra System consists of several modules: **Mensa** - Functions as both the central database located in Zurich as well as a smaller version found in the results room at venues. This will store all system data and settings.

Aquila - Game administration (players, officials, schedules etc). In addition it controls how, when, and where printed results and internet pages are sent to.

Orion - Data Entry for information collected at the scorekeeper's bench. This includes goals, penalties, attendance etc.

Gemini - Data Entry from high up in the stands which includes assists, plus/minus, shots, face offs etc.

The IIHF is currently in discussions with Swatch, the official Olympic timekeeper, to use the Hydra System at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino.

■ A brief presentation of the Hydra System will be made during the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress Meeting in Crete, Greece.

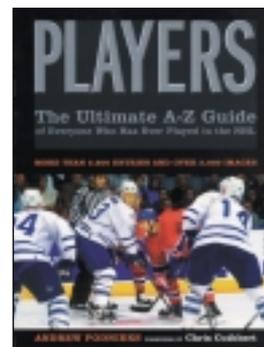
The Hockey Book

Title: Players, the Ultimate A-Z Guide

Author: Andrew Podnieks

Publisher: Doubleday Canada

Price: \$60 CAD, Euro 40 (www.amazon.com)



■ Who was the first European-born player in the NHL?

■ What Norwegian-born NHL player changed the spelling of his name to make it easier to play in the NHL, and then had his son go on to play for the Toronto Maple Leafs using the correct family spelling?

■ What member of Canada's 1928 Olympic hockey team had a son make his NHL debut more than 50 years later, in 1979?

These are just some of the questions which have answers in hockey historian Andrew Podnieks' amazing book *Players, the ultimate A-Z guide of everyone who has ever played in the NHL*.

For the first time ever there is a complete record - with biographies - of every player who has played at least one game in the NHL since 1917. This brick of a book takes the reader to the end of the 2002-2003 season. It features more than 5,600 biographical entries, along with over 3,000 photographs, from the game's superstars to its one-game wonders.

It's a unique contribution to hockey history for fans both in North America and Europe. The European hockey fan will be amazed how little really is widely known about the early pioneers from the old continent, about players like Sweden's Ulf Sterner and Thommie Bergman, the Finnish born Pentti Lund or Czechoslovakia's almost forgotten ground breaker Jaroslav Jirik.

Author Andrew Podnieks, who is one of Canada's best-known hockey historians and works closely with the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, has produced this must-have item for hockey diehards, providing unusual anecdotes, little-known trivia and hundreds of obscure life histories in a manner never before undertaken on this scale.

The fact that this book is a pure journalistic production, and not an official publication of any league or federation, makes the reading even more exciting.

Look on page 11 for answers to the questions above.

Revised goalie measurement standards will take effect at the start of this season

■ The players between the pipes may have to make some minor changes to their equipment after the IIHF Council endorsed revised Goalkeeper Equipment Measurement Standards. The revised standards and procedures will take effect at the start of the 2003-2004 season.

The Council approved the updated measurement standards for goalkeeper's equipment, which affect goalies primarily from the waist down. The changes limit the size of leg guards and help to ensure that knee and

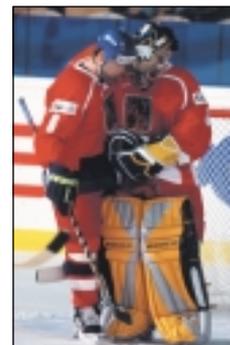
leg pads should follow the contour of the leg. Pants will also need to follow the natural contour of the leg to eliminate covering the 'five hole'.

■ In addition the Council included clarification to the rule that prohibits a goalkeeper to adapt equipment in order to enhance performance such as additional devices or grips to the skate that enable a goaltender to rise more quickly.

For a complete listing of the revised measurements

standards and procedures, please visit the official IIHF website at www.iihf.com.

ARE YOU SURE those pads are okay? The IIHF is revising the standards of goalie equipment measurements which will, among other things, limit the size of the leg pads.



39 teams ready to play for 2004 IIHF Continental Cup

■ Jokerit Helsinki will not be back to defend its two consecutive titles at the IIHF Continental Cup, Europe's prime club competition. However, 39 European teams will eagerly compete for bragging rights at the 2004 Continental Cup, which will end with a Super Final in Belarus on January 11.

■ The format will follow the established tradition and will consist of four rounds. (See schedule to the right.)

■ Previous winners of the Continental Cup: Kosice (SVK-1997), Ambri-Piotta (SUI-1998,1999), ZSC Zurich Lions (SUI-2000, 2001), Jokerit Helsinki (FIN-2002-2003)



Photo: Martin Zoellner

HARD HAT AREA: In less than a year the head gear at the new hockey arena in Prague will go from hard hats to hockey helmets. Sazka Arena in Prague, the main venue of the 2004 IIHF World Championship is moving right along. The exterior walls are now up and the next step is to install the roof and then move onto to working on the interior of the state-of-the-art arena. To keep tabs on the progress of the arena, check out www.halaszka.cz

DUMP AND CHASE FROM THE WORLD OF HOCKEY

■ The body of **Duncan MacPherson**, the 1984 first round draft pick of the New York Islanders was found on an Austrian glacier last month, 14 years after he disappeared.

MacPherson left for a tour of Europe after his contract with the Islanders expired in 1989. Before departing for Europe, he had accepted an offer to become a player-coach for the Scottish Dundee Tigers. MacPherson played three seasons in the American Hockey League, but never made it to the NHL. He was 23 when he disappeared.



RECOVERING: Igor Grigorenko, here receiving the Best Forward Award at the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championship in Halifax, is on his way back after a life threatening car accident.

■ Detroit Red Wings prospect **Igor Grigorenko's** condition has improved dramatically after being involved in a serious car accident earlier this spring.

The 20-year-old forward, the Red Wings' second-round draft pick in 2001, fractured his left tibia and hip in the accident according to published reports. While no date has been set for Grigorenko's return to the ice, he

has started to work on his conditioning and improving his strength.

Grigorenko was voted the top forward of the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championship in Halifax and played for Team Russia at the 2003 IIHF World Championship in Finland.

■ **Jordin Tootoo** could be the first Inuit Indian to play in the NHL if he makes Nashville's roster. The 20-year-old is from Nunavut, Canada, located on the Canadian tundra just below the arctic circle.

Tootoo played in the 2003 World Junior Championship in front of a Canadian crowd in Halifax, where he netted a goal and an assist and became a huge fan favourite with his gritty style of play. Drafted 98th overall at the 2001 NHL draft, the 5-9, 190-pound Tootoo is the first Inuit to be in the position to play an NHL game.

THE TOOTOO

TRAIN: Jordin Tootoo is about to write hockey history this coming season.



■ The United States U18 team claimed its first-ever victory at the annual U18 World Cup in early August in Slovakia as it rallied past Russia 3-2 in the Gold Medal Game. USA finished the tournament with a perfect 5-0 record.

The Czech Republic defeated defending champion, Canada, 8-2 to earn the bronze. Slovakia finished fifth, ahead of Sweden, Finland and Switzerland.

First round 26 - 28 September 2003

GROUP A

KHL Zagreb - CRO
Ankara BB - TUR
Miercurea Ciuc - ROM
HK Vojvodina* - YUG



GROUP B

Odense IK - DEN
Gothiques Amiens* - FRA
Slavia Ljubljana - SLO
Steaua Bucarest - ROM

GROUP C

Tigers Amsterdam - NED
FC Barcelona* - ESP
CH Jaca 2010 - ESP
Phantoms Deurne - BEL

GROUP D

Levski Sofia - BUL
Dunafer Dunaújvaros - HUN
Maalot/Maccabi - ISR
Medvescak Zagreb* - CRO

GROUP E

Energija Elektrenai - LTU
Stoczniowiec Gdansk - POL
Kazakhmys Karaganda - KAZ
HK Riga 2000* - LAT

Second Round 17 - 19 October 2003

GROUP F

Milano Vipers - ITA
Unia Oswiecim* - POL
Liepajas Metalurgs - LAT
Winner A

GROUP G

Rouen* - FRA
HC Asiago - ITA
Winner B
Winner C

GROUP H

Alba Volan* - HUN
Olimpija Ljubljana - SLO
Torpedo Kazinc - KAZ
Winner D

GROUP I

Jukurit Mikkeli - FIN
Sokol Kiev - UKR
HKm Zvolen* - SVK
Winner E

Third Round 21 - 23 November 2003

GROUP J

Valerenga Oslo - NOR
Herning IK* - DEN
Winner F
Winner G

GROUP K

Black Wings Linz* - AUT
Keramin Minsk - BLR
Winner H
Winner I

* Denotes organiser.

Super Final 8 - 11 January, 2004

GROUP M

HC Gomel BLR
HC Lugano SUI
Winner J

GROUP N

Severstal Cherepovets RUS
Slovan Bratislava SVK
Winner K

Female referee from Kazakhstan blazes new trail

■ Sometimes in the glare of the World Championship and the Olympics, it becomes easy to forget the dedication that people in emerging nations have for the sport of hockey. Irina Mogilnikova did not grow up watching CSKA Moscow or the Montreal Canadiens. She grew up in the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk in Kazakhstan watching her father play for the local Torpedo team.

"My hometown is known for hockey," Mogilnikova said. "There are cases where families devote their lives to hockey from generation to generation. This is the



FROM FAR AND WIDE: Irina Mogilnikova from Kazakhstan (left) seen together with Finland's Anne Haanpaa and Nashida Kotoe from Japan.

case with my family. My father, two uncles and two brothers are all involved in the sport."

Mogilnikova soon found herself added to the family list when she started to play hockey at the age of 15. One year ago, she became the first female official in her country. She started at the junior level, but was quickly promoted to officiate the Kazakhstan National Championship, the professional league that Mogilnikova grew up watching.

■ Her officiating career blossomed after her debut and she was soon on the international stage. Her first global experience was at the Winter Asian Games in Japan where she received a positive evaluation. After that event, she was asked to officiate the IIHF Division III World Women's Championship in Slovenia.

"I was filled with pride," Mogilnikova said. "I was given this huge opportunity from the IIHF and the Kazakhstan Ice Hockey Association. But I was also a little nervous because I had this burden of responsibility on my shoulders."

When Mogilnikova arrived in Slovenia, she met up with the other officials who had been assigned to work the Women's World Championship who were from all over the globe.

"It was very interesting when more than 10 women from different countries gathered in one place to do one job. Each had something to tell and to teach the rest." Mogilnikova said.

Before she arrived in Slovenia Mogilnikova's experience had been limited to mainly men's games, but IIHF Referee

Supervisor Manuela Groeger helped Mogilnikova and the other referees make their transition at the World Championship.

"Manuela told us from the beginning of the event that we are one team and should support and help each other," Mogilnikova said. "We all did that and I am still keeping in touch with many of the women that I met."

■ At every IIHF Championship, there is a referee supervisor. Depending on the event, the supervisor is there to support and review the referees. In an event such as the Division III Women's World Championship, the referee supervisor play a critical role in helping to develop the officials.

"Manuela was very communicative and cooperative during the championship," Mogilnikova said. "We could come to her with any questions and we were sure to get the right answer or information. Her attitude was equal towards everybody, experienced game officials and beginners."

■ After the IIHF Division III Women's World Championship, Mogilnikova returned to Kazakhstan ready to use the experience she gained from the tournament and hopeful that she will find herself at another IIHF World Championship in the future.

Irina Mogilnikova kept a diary of her three-day journey from her homeland to the World Championship.

Day One: I have a long journey today as I must get from Ust-Kamenogorsk to Chelyabinsk and then move onto Moscow. I'm a little worried because I am travelling alone without my instructor, who went with me to the Asian Winter Games in Japan. It was nice to have someone to travel with and he also helped me once I was there by encouraging me, and prompting me when I did anything wrong. Since I have been travelling all day, I have had a lot of time to think about the tournament. I hope that if I have good results there, it will help develop women's officiating in Kazakhstan not only in the cities of Almaty and Ust-Kamenogorsk, but in other cities of the republic as well.

Day Two: I was in Moscow once when I was a child and I always dreamed to look at the Capital of Russia again. My dream came true today. Moscow met me with snow and fuss. I was impressed with the huge city and its large areas that were filled with people that always seemed to be in a hurry. I don't have much time to spend here as I leave shortly for Slovenia, but I am happy that I got to spend a little time in the city.

Day Three: I arrived in Ljubljana, Slovenia. When I saw in movies that people were met at the airport with a sign, I never thought that would be me. So when I was met with a man with a sign, I couldn't believe it! On the way from Ljubljana to Maribor, I enjoyed the landscape. Three hours after being in snowy Moscow, I was greeted with summer weather. At the hotel I met all of the other referees and went to my room in the hotel for a good night's sleep.



REFS WITHOUT BORDERS: Norwegian referee Tor Olav Johnsen might find himself calling games in the Russian league if the IIHF proposal is implemented.

IIHF proposing new officiating program

■ The International Ice Hockey Federation hopes to take the first major step to help improve the level of officiating in Europe. With the proposed IIHF Referee Project, a professional pool of top referees from the top seven European National Associations will be put in place to become a part of an exchange and development program.

"We hope that this program will improve the consistency of officiating in different countries and ultimately help place European referees at a higher level," IIHF Officiating Sport Development Manager Konstantin Komissarov said.

The referees involved would be selected through a nomination process from their respective countries. Referee supervisors would also go through a similar process. Once chosen, those officials and supervisors would be involved in special clinics and camps and would then officiate professional league games in various nations. The referees would also be given assignments with international tournaments such as the Deutschland Cup, Baltica Cup and Spengler Cup.

"Officials from various nations could learn so much from each other," Komissarov said. "We would be putting those officials directly into such an environment and in a much better position to enhance that learning process. You just can't imagine how much a Swiss official could gain by officiating a professional game in Finland and vice versa."

■ The program would also aim to bring consistency to the officiating throughout Europe and establish a recognized standard of officiating within Europe. Currently, the number of referees in Europe is declining. The respect level and consistency has also dropped.

"This program will improve both the quality of officiating and games throughout Europe," Komissarov said. "This will hopefully lead to more European assignments at the World Championships, Olympics and eventually in the NHL."

The members of the seven nations involved in the project will nominate their representatives who will then formally propose the project to the IIHF Council.

Donated equipment makes to across the world from USA to Romania



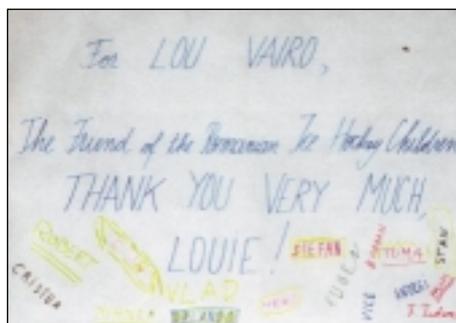
A HAPPY ENDING: After receiving the donated equipment, there are smiles all around for the youth team that benefitted from the donated equipment. **RIGHT:** Daniel Weiniger stands among the massive pile of donated equipment and, beside, Lou Vairo receives thanks from the Romanian team.

■ In the April 2003 issue of the IIHF News Release, we brought you the story of Daniel Weigner from Warren New Jersey. Daniel wanted to perform a community service project that related to his favorite sport, hockey. He decided to collect used hockey equipment for underprivileged kids.



■ For help, he turned to Lou Vairo and USA Hockey. Vairo happened to know of a team in Romania that had an outdoor rink, but no equipment. Soon Daniel and Vairo were working together to get a pile of used hockey equipment to Romania. Vairo has been very active in sending used

ice hockey equipment to underprivileged hockey programs in Romania, Latvia, Ukraine and Belarus.



■ After gathering all of the equipment, Daniel and USA Hockey sent the shipment to Romania where it was welcomed with open arms by a local youth team.

INAUGURATION OF IIHF HEADQUARTERS



Photos: Edward Groeger

THREE AMIGOS: People from all walks of life gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the IIHF offices. Former German football great, Gunther Netzer (left) attended the August 21 festivities at the new premises. He is joined by Oscar Frei (center), CEO of Infront Sport & Media, the IIHF's marketing partner, and Dr. Hans Dobida, the IIHF treasurer and chairman of the Building Committee, which oversaw the construction and planning of the buildings.



HALLELUJAH: Minister Ernst Heller blessed the new offices and premises as part of the opening celebrations.



HALLELUJAH PART II: After 10 months the new IIHF offices are complete. In the background to the left is the new office building, which houses 16 of the IIHF staff members. The villa (pictured in the foreground) hosts the remaining staff. Between the two is the tent which housed the celebration.

HOCKEY SHORTS

■ The Infront Sports & Media Group announced that it has reached an agreement with the German free-to-air broadcaster DSF for the broadcast rights to the annual IIHF World Championship in 2004, which will be hosted in the Czech Republic. It also has the rights to the 2005 World Championship in Austria.

DSF has exclusive rights to all 54 games and will show at least all live games of the German national team, plus one qualifying game, both semi-finals and the final game within the German territory.

"We very much welcome the deal with DSF, which will ensure superb coverage of the IIHF World Championships on free-to-air television in Europe's biggest market," said Oscar Frei, CEO of Infront Sports & Media. "This will further build the audience for the sport and will also be good news for sponsors who value the German market."

Infront, the International Ice Hockey Federation's exclusive marketing partner, has built up television coverage of the event to include 35 countries and a global television audience in excess of 700 million. In the last five years, television coverage of the event has more than doubled.

■ The International Olympic Committee has a new publication that is written by athletes for athletes. The Athlete's Bulletin is a semi-annual publication that will aim to improve communication between athletes. The publication is produced by the IOC Athlete's Commission and is free of charge. Athletes that are interested in receiving a copy of Athlete's Bulletin are encouraged to contact the IOC.

- Answers from page 8:
1. Sweden's Gus Forslund who played for Ottawa in 1932-33.
 2. Bill "Red" Johnson and son Trevor Johansen.
 3. Frank and Peter Sullivan.

The Tikhonov File

Born: June, 4, 1930 in Moscow.

■ Begins his 27th consecutive season as head coach of CSKA Moscow.

■ Started to coach the Soviet national team in the 1976 Canada Cup and finally took over as head coach at the 1978 IIHF World Championship.

■ Won gold at the 1984, 1988 and the 1992 Olympic Winter Games. Won silver at the 1980 Olympics and finished 4th in 1994.

■ Will coach in his sixth Olympic Winter Games in 2006 in Turin providing he fulfils his contract.

■ Won eight IIHF World Championships (1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1989, 1990)

■ Won 12 Soviet national championships with CSKA.

■ Won the 1981 Canada Cup.

■ Has a 147-12-23 (win-tied-lost) record in 182 international games including IIHF World Championships, Olympics and Canada Cup.



Photo: ALLSPORT, Olympic Museum

NEVER COUNT HIM OUT: *The most successful coach in international hockey is 73 years old, but Viktor Tikhonov came back for another ride with the Big Red Machine.*

Mission: Bring back Russia to old glory

On February 22, 1980 USA coach Herb Brooks outfoxed Soviet Viktor Tikhonov in the deciding game of the Olympic hockey tournament in Lake Placid. In an ironic twist of fate, 23 years later during the same week, the 66 year-old Brooks passed away in a car accident while the

73 year-old Tikhonov announced his first Russian national team roster, after returning from an eleven year absence on the international hockey stage. The IIHF spoke with Viktor Tikhonov at the start of the season.

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

■ **Why did you agree to come back to coach the Russian national team?**

"In recent years many countries have bypassed us. We have to come back. It was not an easy decision, but I want our national team to regain our lost positions. For me it is a challenge and I want to get those positions back."

■ **How exited are you to be back in international hockey?**

"Young coaches get excited. For me it's a job and I am used to new challenges. But I will be excited and happy if we achieve good results."

■ **According to you, how has international hockey changed since you left it following the 1994 Olympic Games?**

"The international scene has changed dramatically. Small countries are making big progress. For example, a small country like Slovakia is ahead of the Czechs. It was not possible before. But as far as the game is concerned, hockey is still the same game with sticks and a puck. Players are basically the same. Only the coaches are trying to create something new."

■ **Some coaches of your generation, for example Scotty Bowman, have said that you cannot be as hard on players as you could in the 70s and in the 80s and that coaches need to have a softer approach. Do you agree with this and have you changed?**

"No, I do not agree with that. The difference is that

most of the players have moved to where the money is. But at the same time the coaches can rule players with contracts. The players know exactly what is expected of them."

■ **What will you demand from a player who wants to wear the Russian national jersey?**

"Those players who want to play for our team have to follow the rules of the Russian national team. Not the rules of the German team, not the rules of the Swedish or Canadian team, but the rules of our team. When you come to play for our team, you have to follow the discipline which is the same for all. There will be no special treatment."

■ **Will you rely mostly on domestic players when selecting the 2004 World Championship team or will it be a blend between domestic talent and NHL players?**

"My opinion is that the best players -- and it doesn't matter from where they are -- will play on the national team. We are not going to create something new here."

■ **How will you use the European Hockey Tour tournaments in order to get the best possible team for the 2004 World Championship in the Czech Republic?**

"At this stage we know pretty much who our core players from the Russian League are. I won't be using them in the early stages of the tour because I want to use the tournaments to test younger players. The world championship team will start developing at the Baltica Cup in Moscow in December."

■ **Have you already started to plan for the 2006 Olympics in Turin? What are your thoughts on what will be your sixth Olympic games?**

"It's still far too early to speculate about Turin 2006. My task is to start moving, step by step. We have been losing ground and now we want to come back to where Russian hockey once was. At every stage of the preparations for 2006 we will solve the problems and issues as they occur."

■ **You make a comeback into international hockey virtually at the same time as Herb Brooks passes away. How do you remember Coach Brooks?**

"We were obviously rivals, but at this moment I consider him as my colleague and I want to express my deep condolences to his family. All coaches are members of one society. I did never get to know him very well and we never spent much time together."

■ **In your first national team selection of the season you picked the 18-year old Alexander Ovechkin. How do you rank him among the former all-time great Russian talents?**

"Ovechkin is one of the most talented boys that I have seen in recent times. I have seen players who are talented in skating, others in stick handling and others in passing. He is talented in virtually every aspect of sport, including coordination. Now it depends on him whether he develops into a real player. He has to work continuously and not stop in his development."

□ *Translation by Seva Kukushkin (Sport-Express, Moscow) exclusively for the IIHF News Release.*