



Photos: JANI RAJAWÄKI

**GOLDEN CROWNS & GOLDEN LEAFS:** Sweden had its most successful Olympic hockey tournament ever with the men winning gold the women claiming silver. Captain Mats Sundin (centre) starts the celebrations while Peter Forsberg (#21 behind) gets ready to join in. Canada (insert photo) had no problem winning the women's tournament, outscoring the opposition 46-2. Jayna Hefford, Cassie Campbell and Vicky Sunohara show off medals and the flag at the post game ceremonies.

## The way everyone wanted - stars ruled Olympics

Sometimes the best indication whether a decision was correct or not, is when it becomes a non-issue. During and after the Olympics in Turin the question about the new rules enforcement and refereeing was never raised by managers, coaches or media. This means one thing: success.

### RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ Now it can be admitted -- we were a bit concerned before the first puck was dropped in Turin. How would the new rule interpretations be received by the hockey family as they were enforced for the first time in the most prestigious sports event? Would the referees from the IIHF and the NHL find a common platform? Is one referee enough to run the enforced calling of the rules?

The IIHF is extremely pleased to say that the answers to the questions are: 1. Very well. 2. Yes. 3. Yes. We got the first indication after two rounds of the men's tournament when the IIHF invited world media to a brunch and a press conference at the House of Hockey. We expected many questions about the officiating.

The number of questions about the enforcement and the officiating were: zero. A clear indication that things were going according to plan. Because if the media finds something to address, they will. Here, there was simply nothing to address.

■ Personally, I was convinced that we did the right thing by going low-tolerance in Turin and also that one referee is enough to call infractions. But I wasn't sure if we had enough time to make the NHL and the IIHF referees call by the same standard. Here, I would like to thank the people in charge of the officiating program, on both the IIHF and NHL side, for an excellent job.

The new rule enforcement had the effects we wanted. The stars ruled the tournament. We saw great comebacks in international hockey by Teemu Selanne and Saku Koivu. We saw how much enthusiasm and happiness was displayed by Alexander Ovechkin and Martin Straka. How exiting is it when a player like Marian Gaborik can utilize his blazing speed without being held or interfered!

■ This was also the first time in many years we saw Peter Forsberg play like... Peter Forsberg. Not only is he an amazing player, but he is also a remarkable competitor. Given the circumstances (that several players who played every night in domestic leagues but still claimed to be injured) no one would have protested had Forsberg decided to stay home to treat his nagging groin injury.

But unlike some other players, Forsberg listened only to himself, to his heart. He wanted to compete with the best against the best and he didn't want to let his fans or country down. He went to Turin, paced himself in the beginning, and ended up with the gold medal. To me Peter Forsberg embodies the Olympic spirit.

■ Finally, addressing one last pre-Olympic concern. Leading up to Turin, doping was identified as a major issue in our sport. With the numbers in, we know that 88 players were tested in the Olympic ice men's and women's hockey tournaments. All were negative.

Almost 150 players were tested in out-of-competition tests prior to the Olympics and we had two positive results, both on players who were on the long-lists but not on the final Olympic rosters. USA's Bryan Berard tested positive for an anabolic steroid, while Canada's José Theodore tested positive for masking agent which was included in his hair restoration drug and both will pay a steep price, a two-year ban from international competition.



Photos: THOMAS FREYER, IIHF



**RIGA READY:** The capital of Latvia is virtually ready for the 70th IIHF World Championship, May 5-21. The main venue is Arena Riga (left) with a capacity of 11,000 and will feature club seating, private suites, restaurants and bars. The second venue is the Skonto Arena (insert), an existing exhibition hall reconstructed into a hockey arena for 6,700 spectators. The Skonto has a striking resemblance to the Torino Esposizioni, the second Olympic venue. See also: [www.arenariga.com](http://www.arenariga.com)

## Tre Kronor's gold scores record TV-numbers

■ The Sweden-Finland men's Olympic gold medal game on February 26 set a new all-time TV record for hockey in Sweden. The game drew 3,520,000 viewers, the most ever for hockey. It was also the fourth highest number for any sports event broadcast in Sweden, a country of nine million people. The three sport events with higher numbers were all for soccer.

■ The hockey final would probably have scored better than the existing Swedish TV record for sports (3,795,000 for Sweden - Denmark in the 2004 European soccer championship) had it been broadcast on prime time. The gold medal game from Turin started at 14:00 on a Sunday.

■ Also the silver medal winning women's team had unprecedented ratings in the Scandinavian country. The gold medal game against Canada drew 2,290,000 viewers while the upset win against the U.S. in the semi-final had 2,215,000 Swedes glued to the TV-sets. The men's final didn't go unnoticed in Finland either. Almost 50 percent of the population - 2.4 million - saw the Finnish national team win the silver medal.

## THN: Olympics help grow hockey in the world

Canadian weekly *The Hockey News*, the prime hockey publication in the world, wrote the following their post-Turin editorial:

"It is important to the development of the sport that many nations have a chance to win. That is good for the sport. The fact that neither Canada nor the U.S. - the gold and silver winners in Salt Lake City 2002 - made it to the final four in Turin speaks volumes about how much the sport has grown since there has been full NHL participation.

That Sweden, Russia, Finland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia enter the Olympics knowing that they have a legitimate shot at gold is good for the game. That Switzerland is able to pull off a stunning upset victory over Canada is good for the sport.

Some will continue to complain about the NHL shutting down for two weeks to allow its players to play in the Olympics, but if the NHL is concerned about that, than it could reduce the number of pre-season games in an Olympic year and start the regular season a week earlier. The NHL has everything to gain and little to lose by having its best players compete at the Olympics."

## Koreans unite in ice hockey exhibition games

■ CHUNCHEON, South Korea - South Korea and North Korea met in a series of historic ice hockey exhibition games on March 3 - 4 at the Chuncheon Euam Ice Rink. The event marked the first winter sports exchange between the two countries in any of the Korean nations since the Korean peninsula was divided more than 50 years ago.

"This is great news for the world, for sports and for the game of ice hockey as a unifying agent," said IIHF President and IOC Member René Fasel. "As IIHF

President I am happy and proud the countries have chosen hockey as a means of athletic reunification."

■ The game on March 3rd was played between two mixed teams of South Korean and North Korean players. The mixed teams appeared under the names 'Team Woori' and 'Team Hana'. 'Woori' is Korean for 'we' while 'Hana' means 'one'. Team Woori won the game 5-0.

The game on March 4th pitted North and South teams against each other. South Korean Team Kangwonland defeated a North Korean national selection team 3-1.

■ Although the countries remain divided, exchanges between the north and south have increased since their leaders met for the first time in 2000. The active south-north co-operation in sports is part of the bidding for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, where North Korea supports South Korean Pyeongchang's bid.

Both countries marched under a united flag during the opening ceremony of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Last time South and North Korea played against each other was in the 1990 IIHF World Championship, C-Pool, in Budapest. They also met in the C-Pool in 1989, in Sydney.

- with files from Associated Press

## IIHF Disciplinary Announcements

■ The United States Anti-Doping Agency confirmed on January 20, 2006 that **Bryan Berard** (USA) of the NHL Columbus Blue Jackets tested positive in November for steroids. The USADA announced that the 28-year-old Berard tested positive for the banned substance 19-norandrosterone. The Nov. 12 drug test was administered as part of the USADA's out-of-competition testing program. Berard has accepted a two-year ban from international ice hockey, effective Jan. 3.

■ Goaltender **José Theodore**, who was on Canada's long-list for the Turin Olympics, tested positive on January 14 for a masking agent. The substance, Propecia, is in a drug which Theodore was taking to promote hair growth. Theodore, now with the NHL's Colorado Avalanche, decided not to appeal. He is suspended for two years from international hockey.

## Obituaries

■ **Gennadi Tsygankov**, one of the great Soviet defencemen of the 1970s, died in St. Petersburg, Russia, on February 16 at age 58. Between 1971 and 1979 he won six gold medals at the IIHF World Championships and three silver medals as well as Olympic gold in 1972 and '76. He played most frequently with partner Yuri Lyapkin and was one in a line of great blueliners. When he was young, Tsygankov learned from Alexander Ragulin; later in his career, he in turn mentored a young Slava Fetisov. Tsygankov also played for CCCP during the historic, eight-game Summit Series against Canada in 1972.

■ **Pat Rupp**, goaltender for the 1964 and 1968 U.S. Olympic teams, died in Dayton, Ohio, USA on February 2, at the age 63 after a long battle with cancer. During the 1964 Olympics in Innsbruck, Rupp blanked East Germany 8-0 and it would take 28 years before an U.S. goalie had an Olympic shutout. Rupp also played for Detroit and Philadelphia in the NHL.

## Association News

**DENMARK:** The Danish Ice Hockey Association is looking for new National Team Head Coach. As the successful head coach of Denmark's National Team, **Mikael Lundstrom**, has recently announced that he will take up a position as Sports Director in the Swedish Elitserien club, Leksand, his position will be vacant after the upcoming IIHF World Championship. At the same time, the current - and equally successful - head coach of the Danish youth national teams, **Stefan Bergkvist**, will join Mikael in Leksand, leaving the Danish association looking for candidates for two exciting job positions. More on the job profiles and application details on: [www.ishockey.dk](http://www.ishockey.dk)

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**XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES WRAP-UP**

# Triple Gold Club adds two new members



**Nicklas Lidstrom**

Name	WS	OG	SC
<b>Tomas Jonsson (SWE)</b>	'91	'94	'82, '83
<b>Hakan Loob (SWE)</b>	'87, '91	'94	'89
<b>Mats Naslund (SWE)</b>	'91	'94	'86
<b>Valeri Kamensky (RUS)</b>	'86, '89, '90	'88	'96
<b>Alexei Gusarov (RUS)</b>	'86, '89, '90	'88	'96
<b>Peter Forsberg (SWE)</b>	'92, '98	'94, '06	'96, '01
<b>Vyacheslav Fetisov (RUS)</b>	'78, '81-83, '86, '89-90	'84, '88	'97, '98
<b>Igor Larionov (RUS)</b>	82-83, '86, '89	'84, '88	'97, '98, '02
<b>Aleksander Mogilny (RUS)</b>	'89	'88	'00
<b>Vladimir Malakhov (RUS)</b>	'90	'92	'00
<b>Joe Sakic (CAN)</b>	'94	'02	'96, '01
<b>Brendan Shanahan (CAN)</b>	'94	'02	'97, '98, '02
<b>Rob Blake (CAN)</b>	'94, '97	'02	'01
<b>Scott Niedermayer (CAN)</b>	'04	'02	'95, '00, '03
<b>Jaromir Jagr (CZE)</b>	'05	'98	'91, '92
<b>Jiri Slegr (CZE)</b>	'05	'98	'02
<b>Nicklas Lidstrom (SWE)</b>	'91	'06	'97, '98, '02
<b>Fredrik Modin (SWE)</b>	'98	'06	'04

**MAKE THAT TWO NEW MEMBERS:** Just how far under the radar does Sweden's Fredrik Modin fly? So far that he was almost left off as one of the newest members of the Triple Gold Club. The unassuming Swede, along with Nicklas Lidstrom joins the 18-member club that has won the World Championship, Stanley Cup and Olympic Gold Medal. After proudly taking Lidstrom's photo a great hockey mind pointed out that Modin, too, had joined the elite club, so it was back down to the locker room for a shot of a cleanly-shaven Modin wearing his warm-ups.



**Fredrik Modin**

## Post-Olympic men's & women's IIHF World Ranking

### MEN'S

For the first time since the IIHF World Ranking was introduced in 2003, there is a new name at the top of the standings. By winning the Olympic gold-medal game, Sweden has overtaken Canada as the number-one men's hockey nation. Canada finished 7th in the Olympics. The World Rankings take into account countries' performance over a four-year cycle. The current year (in this case, the Olympics) counts for 100% of total points available, the previous year 75%, two years ago 50%, and three years ago 25%. The maximum points available is 1,200 which is awarded to the champion. The final 2006 ranking will be established following the 2006 IIHF World Championship in Riga.

The number in brackets indicates the final position in the Olympic tournament (including the Olympic qualifications). DNP indicates that the country did not participate in neither the Olympic tournament, or in the Olympic qualifications.

- |                       |       |                         |       |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Sweden (1)         | 4,030 | 24. Estonia (25)        | 2,320 |
| 2. Canada (7)         | 3,940 | 25. Romania (24)        | 2,195 |
| 3. Czech Republic (3) | 3,930 | 26. Lithuania (26)      | 2,085 |
| 4. Slovakia (5)       | 3,805 | 27. China (27)          | 1,980 |
| 5. Finland (2)        | 3,765 | 28. Croatia (28)        | 1,970 |
| 6. Russia (4)         | 3,725 | 29. Serbia & Mont. (30) | 1,815 |
| 7. United States (8)  | 3,575 | 30. Bulgaria (29)       | 1,655 |
| 8. Switzerland (6)    | 3,525 | 31. Great Britain (DNP) | 1,610 |
| 9. Latvia (12)        | 3,335 | 32. Korea (DNP)         | 1,360 |
| 10. Germany (10)      | 3,270 | 33. Belgium (DNP)       | 1,255 |
| 11. Kazakhstan (9)    | 3,100 | 34. Australia (DNP)     | 1,195 |
| 12. Austria (15)      | 3,045 | 35. Israel (DNP)        | 1,140 |
| 13. Belarus (13)      | 3,035 | 36. DPR Korea (DNP)     | 1,105 |
| 14. Ukraine (19)      | 3,015 | 37. Spain (DNP)         | 1,090 |
| 15. Denmark (17)      | 2,990 | 38. New Zealand (DNP)   | 910   |
| 16. Slovenia (18)     | 2,900 | 39. Iceland (DNP)       | 875   |
| 17. Italy (11)        | 2,820 | 40. South Africa (DNP)  | 845   |
| 18. Norway (14)       | 2,760 | 41. Turkey (DNP)        | 795   |
| 19. France (16)       | 2,755 | 42. Luxembourg (DNP)    | 785   |
| 20. Poland (20)       | 2,635 | 43. Mexico (DNP)        | 775   |
| 21. Japan (21)        | 2,625 | 44. Ireland (DNP)       | 455   |
| 22. Hungary (22)      | 2,460 | 45. Armenia (DNP)       | 420   |
| 23. Netherlands (23)  | 2,400 |                         |       |

### WOMEN'S

On the women's side of the IIHF World Ranking, Canada and the United States were tied prior to the Olympics. In the pre-Olympic standings, the U.S. received the higher placement because it defeated Canada at last year's World Championship. But with its gold medal win in Torino, Canada not only regains first place, but puts the most significant distance between the teams since the start of the IIHF World Ranking. Meanwhile, Sweden edged to within 60 points of the U.S. after taking home the silver medal in Torino. Unlike the men's ranking, the following is final for 2006 women.

- |                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Canada (1)           | 2,970 |
| 2. United States (3)    | 2,890 |
| 3. Sweden (2)           | 2,830 |
| 4. Finland (4)          | 2,760 |
| 5. Germany (5)          | 2,635 |
| 6. Russia (6)           | 2,585 |
| 7. China (10)           | 2,485 |
| 8. Switzerland (7)      | 2,480 |
| 9. Kazakhstan (9)       | 2,445 |
| 10. Japan (11)          | 2,350 |
| 11. Italy (8)           | 2,015 |
| 12. Czech Rep. (14)     | 2,010 |
| 13. Latvia (12)         | 1,995 |
| 14. France (13)         | 1,995 |
| 15. Norway (15)         | 1,900 |
| 16. Slovenia (16)       | 1,700 |
| 17. Denmark (DNP)       | 1,070 |
| 18. DPR Korea (DNP)     | 1,005 |
| 19. Slovakia (DNP)      | 990   |
| 20. Netherlands (DNP)   | 935   |
| 21. Austria (DNP)       | 850   |
| 22. Great Britain (DNP) | 885   |
| 23. Australia (DNP)     | 850   |
| 24. Belgium (DNP)       | 830   |
| 25. Hungary (DNP)       | 825   |
| 26. Korea (DNP)         | 750   |
| 27. Romania (DNP)       | 730   |
| 28. South Africa (DNP)  | 465   |
| 29. New Zealand (DNP)   | 435   |
| 30. Iceland (DNP)       | 405   |



**JUMPING FOR JOY:** Canada's Charline Labonte has plenty of energy at the end of the gold medal game, at least enough to leap in the air in celebration of Canada's second consecutive women's Olympic gold medal.

# The highs, lows and oddities fr

■ ■ Lucas Aykroyd and Andrew Podnieks, who covered the XX Olympic Winter Games for the *IHF.com* and the *IHF Ice Times*, give their view on the very best and most memorable moments from Turin.

**GERBER'S GRAB:** During Team Canada's first major adversity of the 2006 tournament, Swiss netminder Martin Gerber committed grand robbery. At 15:07 of the second period, the starter of the Carolina Hurricanes stretched across the goal crease to pick off a close-range Rick Nash one-timer with his glove hand. Canada argued the puck had crossed the goal line, but an extended video review proved inconclusive, and the Swiss went on to win 2-0, the country's first ever win over Canada in 86 years of international competition.

**SMILE OF THE TOURNAMENT:** Star Finnish forward Teemu Selanne is known as a pretty happy guy, but he couldn't have been too thrilled when the USA's Derian Hatcher high-sticked him in the mouth and knocked out three teeth during Finland's 4-3 quarter-final victory. Still, Selanne kept things in perspective: "That's a little sacrifice to win a medal. You can always get new teeth." He flashed a gap-toothed smile many times thereafter as Finland marched to the finals.

**SLOVAK SPEED KILLS:** Looking like a combination of Pavel Bure, Alexander Mogilny, and Teemu Selanne in their prime, Marian Gaborik absolutely flew across the ice while zinging two late shots past Russia's Ilya Bryzgalov to give Slovakia a 5-3 tournament-opening win.

**DARIUS THE QUOTABLE:** After Russia defeated Sweden 5-0 in the Preliminary Round, Russian assistant captain Darius Kasparaitis said his team shouldn't get too caught up in making pretty plays: "Sometimes with the Russian team, we try to make hockey look pretty interesting, but you know, it's not about making hockey interesting, it's about winning hockey games."

**THE UNBELIEVABLE UNDERSTUDIES:** Antero Niittymaki of the Philadelphia Flyers wasn't even named to Finland's original Olympic roster. Expectations were that either Miikka Kiprusoff of the Calgary Flames or Kari Lehtonen of the Atlanta Thrashers would carry the load in goal for their country. But when both Kiprusoff and Lehtonen pulled out, it fell to Niittymaki and Linköping's Fredrik Norrena to take care of business between the pipes, and they responded in a big way, Niittymaki posting three shutouts and Norrena two heading into the finals. And Niittymaki, of course, was eventually named Most Valuable Player.

**O CANADA:** The 0 in O Canada this year represented no goals, for Canada failed to score in 11 of its final 12 periods of play in Turin, including shutouts at the hands of Switzerland, Finland, and, in the quarter-final elimination game, Russia. The defending champions flew home finishing in a distant and disappointing 7th place. Also, for the first time since the IIHF World Ranking was introduced in 2003, Canada was overtaken as number 1.

**BROKEN DREAMS:** Although Finland has so much to be proud of from its silver medal finish, the deciding goal was heart-breaking. To start the third period, captain Saku Koivu lost the draw to Mats Sundin and in the process broke his stick. While he raced to the bench to get a new stick, Nicklas Lidstrom took a Sundin drop pass and wired it over Niittymaki for what proved to be the winning goal.

**THREE CROWNS, TWO LIVES:** Sweden's 5-0 loss to Russia in the preliminary round was the worst loss suffered by a team that went on to win gold in the history of the Olympics (the second worst was Canada's 5-2 loss to Sweden four years ago). Coach Bengt-Ake Gustafsson got the players working as a team after that loss, and with great goaltending by Henrik Lundqvist the team went on to win gold for the first time since 1994.

**MIRAKEL WORKERS:** In perhaps the most significant game in the history of women's hockey, Sweden rallied from 2-0 down in the second period to beat USA 3-2 in a shootout. Maria Rooth was the first hero, scoring both goals to send the game into overtime and scoring the clincher in the shootout. Goalie Kim Martin was the second hero, stopping 47 of 49 shots and all four shooters in the shootout. And Pernilla Winberg was the third hero, the 16-year-old scoring the first goal of the shootout which stood as the winner.

**OH CANADA!** Not to be intimidated or distracted by Sweden, the Canadian women barged their way to a second straight Olympic gold, beating Sweden 4-1 in a gold-medal game that showcased Canada's superiority over all comers this year. Hayley Wickenheiser led the tournament in scoring and was named tournament MVP.

**ITALIA, ITALIA!** Despite modest performances from both the men's and women's teams, the fans gave their hockey heroes standing ovations following their last games. The women went home with a 1-32 goal differential and the men managed two ties before being eliminated. Nonetheless, their participation celebrated the Olympic spirit.

**FOPPA'S MYSTERIOUS FRIEND:** As the Swedes were celebrating the gold medals in the locker room, a little fan wearing a Team Finland scarf was waiting outside, begging to a security guard to see Peter Forsberg, the Swedish star. The guard of course wouldn't listen shoving the Finn away, but the persistent Finn-Fan finally caught the attention of the team's manager Mats Naslund. Realizing who the fan was, Naslund immediately invited him to the locker room so he could meet Forsberg, who was more than happy to pose for a picture with his friend, Kimi Räikkönen, the McLaren-Mercedes star driver of the Formula 1 circuit. Do the Finnish fans back home really know that their national hero was celebrating the Swedish gold in the "enemy" locker room together with the player who set up the winning goal? This embraces the beautiful spirit of international ice hockey.



Turin photos: Jukka Rautio & Jani Rajamaki



**THEY'VE GOT THE WHEELS:** The guy to the left performs his magic while going 300 km/hour. The chap to the right uses a little bit more finesse to get his job done. But there is no doubt that Finn Kimi Räikkönen and Swede Peter Forsberg hold a special affinity for each other. That Sweden just defeated Finland in the Olympic final, doesn't seem to bother the Formula One star.



# om the Olympic Winter Games



**TEAM PERFECT:** Neither Martin, nor Ruggiero, nor the Finnish trap, nor pressure of their nation stays these players from the perfect completion of their appointed mission. The defending Olympic champions swept through Turin with a 5-0 record while outscoring the opposition 46-2. MVP Hayley Wickenheiser is second from right, with son Noah.



**OLYMPIC WOES:** While Teemu Selanne was scoring all the goals, Saku Koivu was the spirit of the Finnish team and the one who set up most of Selanne's goals. But someone up there decided that Saku's stick would break in the opening faceoff of the 3rd period. While he raced back to the bench to get a new one, Sweden's Nicklas Lidstrom scored the gold winner. Koivu deserved better.

**"ROBBERY":** Swiss Martin Gerber makes this incredible save on Rick Nash's shot in Switzerland's 2-0 win over Canada. Video goal judge replays were inconclusive so the save stayed a save. Only later, too late for Canada, were pictures produced that showed that the puck was behind the goal line.



**HOCKEY HISTORY:** Sweden's Maria Rooth completes the upset of the Turin Olympics by scoring her team's deciding penalty shoot-out goal against the U.S. It was the first time that the North American Canada/USA domination in women's hockey was broken. A result of historic proportions for the women's game.





# Gold & Silver mark the 'Swedest' O

**As the men won the gold and the women silver, Turin 2006 marked the most successful moments in Sweden's 85-year history as a hockey nation. IHF's Szymon Szymborski explains why all pieces suddenly fell into the right places.**

■ Traditionally, the Olympics have never been Sweden's cup of tea. To put it simply; they never found a way to beat Canada during the pre-Soviet era and once the Soviets started to dominate after 1956, the Tre Kronor were never good enough to defeat the Big Red Machine.

It took Sweden 64 years to defeat Canada in an Olympic game (2-0 in Sarajevo 1984) and they never managed an Olympic win over the Soviet Union as long as the country existed. The breakthrough came as the guys in red changed their name to Russia, in a 4-3 semi-final win in Lillehammer 1994.

This was also the tournament which ended Sweden's 74-year wait for an Olympic hockey gold medal. Peter Forsberg's shoot-out penalty on Canada's Corey Hirsch and Tommy Salo's save on Paul Kariya's last effort belong to Swedish sports lore.

■ But it was back to the bad old days when the Olympics opened for NHL-players. All the Swedish NHLers failed miserably in both Nagano 1998 and Salt Lake City 2002. The entire Olympic four-year cycle following the 4-3-loss to Belarus in Salt Lake was a nightmare for Swedish hockey fans.

Their beloved Tre Kronor didn't even make the final in the 2002 IIHF World Championship at home, a tournament labeled as "The Revenge of the Nation". They lost consecutive finals to Canada in 2003 (in Finland) and in 2004 (in the Czech Republic) and they once again lost the semi-final to the Czechs in Austria 2005. The monumental fiasco in the 2004 World Cup of Hockey (a bad 6-1 quarter-final loss to the Czechs in Stockholm) just added to the misery.

■ The overall hockey morale in the country was so low leading up to Torino 2006, that many Swedish sports fans honestly believed Sweden had a better chance to win the soccer World Cup in Germany in the upcoming summer, than winning the Olympic hockey gold.

That Sweden was second in the IIHF World Ranking was poor consolation. That the Tre Kronor has, by far, been the most consistent of all national teams in the last 15-year period with three IIHF World Championships, six silver medals, four bronze, fourteen "final-four" appearances and one Olympic gold medal. But it was not enough.

The fans demanded a win. And very soon, because the core players like Nicklas Lidstrom, 35, Mats Sundin 34, Daniel Alfredsson, 33, and Peter Forsberg, 32 weren't getting any younger.

■ Everyone who had followed the fortunes of the Swedish national team for the last four decades knew that Sweden's chances to strike gold in Turin increased dramatically after the 5-0 thrashing at the hands of the Russians in the preliminary round.

**"Very few know how much the girls have been practicing and how much time we have spent together in camps to reach the level where miracles are possible"**

**Peter Elander**

It sounds funny, but all Swedish national teams, regardless of sport, perform better when there is no pressure. There is a saying in Swedish which goes: "Att slå ur underläge", which loosely translated means "To strike from below". To strike from below has almost become a part of the Swedish national character.

■ After being outplayed 5-0 by the Russians and later losing 3-0 to the Slovaks in a listless affair, the Swedes positioned themselves exactly where they wanted to be. The pressure was off, as all attention was on Canada, Russia and the streaking Finns and Slovaks. No one knew this better than national team coach Bengt-Ake

Gustafsson.

And after getting Switzerland in the quarterfinal -- the preferred opponent of coach Gustafsson -- the avenue to the gold was all but decorated in blue and yellow. As improved as the Swiss are, they are still inferior to a top Swedish selection. In the semis it was simply Sweden's turn to win an important game against the Czechs (you have to go back to 1997 to find Sweden winning an "all-



Photos: JUKKA RAUTIO & JANI RAJAMÄKI

**THE OLYMPICS OF YELLOW & BLUE:** By finishing 1 & 2 in Turin, Sweden was the most successful hockey nation of the XX Olympic Winter Games. The men's team (left) won its first major title since 1980, while Pernilla Winberg's shootout goal was the beginning of the end of USA's hopes to reach the women's final. Winberg, only 16, skates by a happy bench where the coaching duo of Peter Elander and Peter Bolin can't help but smile as they sense the sensation coming.

# olympic games ever



or-nothing" game against the Czechs) and if there is a team that Sweden prefers to play in a final, it's Finland. With the exception of the 1995 World Championship final, Sweden doesn't lose finals against its eastern brethren.

■ In an ironic twist of fate, the winning goal was produced by the three most coveted Swedish players in modern history. Peter Forsberg left it for Mats Sundin who dropped the puck to a trailing Nicklas Lidstrom, who one-timed it past MVP-goaltender Antero Niittymaki. Since the World Cup in 1996, the Swedish hockey fans have been constantly asking "how can our best players be rated so highly in the NHL and win all kinds of trophies, when they seldom do the same on the national team"?

Finally they did and at last, the ghosts of Salt Lake City, Belarus and Vladimir Kopat could be banished. Finally, Sweden's "Golden Generation" won gold.

■ The success of the women's team just adds to the prestige that Swedish hockey enjoys right now. No other country was anywhere near Sweden's record of gold and silver in Turin. But as opposed to the men's unpredictable ups-and-downs since Nagano 1998, the women's program has seen steady improvement.

A fifth place in Nagano, was followed by a celebrated bronze in Salt Lake City and when every reporter in Turin was writing about the women's game as a "two-horse-race" and questioning its Olympic status, Maria Rooth and Kim Martin shocked the U.S. in the semifinal, a win

that was heard around the world.

*Sports Illustrated*, maybe the best known sports publication in the world and one that doesn't spill too much ink on hockey, devoted two pages to the Swedish women's team.

Now, four years after the Swedish Olympic Committee didn't want to send the women's team to Salt Lake City, ("not competitive enough") Rooth and Martin are household names in Sweden, where almost 2,5 million TV-viewers (in a country of nine million) watched the semi-final and the gold medal game against Canada.

■ Coach Peter Elander, who inspired his team by making them watch the movie "Miracle" (about USA's gold medal quest in Lake Placid 1980) over and over again, has become a perfect PR-man for the women's game. He is well spoken, charming and if the Swedish association by any chance won't renew his contract, Elander can probably make up for it by traveling around the country and hold inspirational speeches for companies about leadership and what it takes to create a miracle.

One evening during a relaxed get together at the IIHF House of Hockey in Turin, Elander said: "Everyone is talking about a miracle, but very few know how much the girls have been practising and how much time we have spent together in camps to reach the level where miracles are possible".

So, with one Olympic gold and one silver in the bag, and the men's team on top of the IIHF World Ranking, all is well in the Kingdom of Sweden. At least until Riga.

## Koivu proved a point but deserved better



Photo: JANI RAJAMÄKI

**NO MOOD TO PARTY:** Half an hour after the disheartening loss to Sweden, Koivu was still able to produce something that resembled a smile.

■ When IIHF photographer Jani Rajamaki approached Saku Koivu thirty minutes after Finland's loss to Sweden in the gold medal game and asked for a silver shot, Saku stopped for moment, presented his medal and forced the above smile which spoke volumes.

The 31-year old Finn is proud of his medal, but he wanted - and maybe deserved - more. The XX Olympic Winter Games will always be remembered with mixed feelings by Koivu.

Until the gold medal game, Koivu was the spark plug on a team that went 5-0-0 in the preliminaries with 19-2 in goal differential. He led the Finns to the final game via 4-3 against the U.S. in the quarterfinal and 4-0 in the semis against an excellent Russian team in what surely was one of the best games ever played by a Finnish national squad.

■ He finished the Olympic tournament on top of the individual scoring (tied with teammate Teemu Selanne and he assisted on five of Selanne's six goals) with 11 points (3 goals + 8 assists) and proved what many observers have been saying since Koivu broke in to international hockey 12 years ago - Koivu is one of the prime forwards in the world, right up there with the likes of Peter Forsberg, Joe Sakic, Mats Sundin and Jaromir Jagr.

Yes, Koivu had this left to prove due to circumstances out of his control. Few players have been so unfortunate with a series of injuries and sickness as the diminutive centre. No one will forget that Koivu was stricken with a deadly form of cancer in 2001, a fight which he won, and was able to stage a miraculous comeback already in the spring of 2002.

The day before the gold medal game, Koivu was named as member of the IOC, the sole hockey player to have that distinction, a huge recognition and honor. But knowing, Saku, he would have exchanged that position for a gold medal.

"Of course it was a very big disappointment to lose," said Koivu after the game. "But eventually people will remember that we played a great tournament. We will be proud of that. We did not have the legs at the critical moment, but we must remember that Sweden played very well."

A typical Koivu quote, no excuses, just giving credit to the winner.

Szymon Szemberg



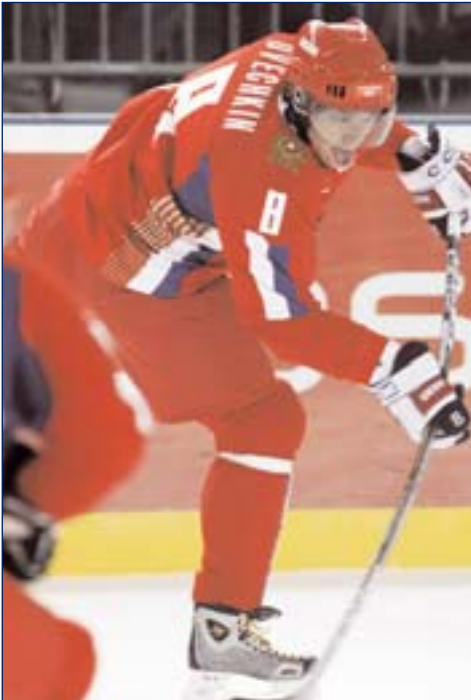
XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES PHOTO GALLERY



**THE NEW BIG RED MACHINE:** Switzerland's Mark Streit scores the surprise game-winner against the Czechs, while to the right Paul DiPietro and Martin Plüss celebrate another upset victory, this time against Canada. Streit had one goal against the Czechs and DiPietro added a pair against Canada.



**NOT IN THE SCRIPT:** USA captain Chris Chelios had a disappointing fourth Olympics, finishing well out of the medal race in 8th place.



**TONGUES ARE WAGGING:** Whenever Russia's Alexander Ovechkin takes to the ice. The rookie's skills leaves most onlookers in awe.



**ONE SMALL STEP:** Victories came in all shapes and sizes at the Olympics. For the Italian women's team, its first-ever Olympic goal was like a gold medal. Below, Maria Leitner lights up after the historic goal.



**NOT IN THE SCRIPT, PART II:** After watching the movie 'Miracle' many times, Sweden pulls off one of its own, in a semi-final win vs. USA. Here Maria Rooth celebrates her shootout goal



**OH MY:** Linesman Petr Blumel shows his surprise as Russia's Evgeni Malkin crashes into him.



**POST-GAME SHOWER:** No toast, or glasses, were necessary for Team Sweden in the lockerroom after its gold medal win.

**MAKING THE ROUNDS:** Slovakia's Peter Bondra skates by the bench in triumph after scoring while the arched roof of the Esposizioni makes for a picture-perfect backdrop.





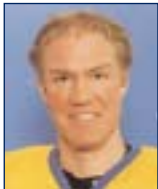
# New and old stars shine brightly in Torino



**Antero Niittymaki**  
Men's MVP  
Directorate Best Goalie  
Media All-Star

*It was an Olympics that was full of surprises for the men. No favorite was safe, and no underdog was out-matched. In the end it was two Nordic nations battling for gold with a surprise cast of stars taking home not only the Olympic hardware, but the individual honors as well.*

**Antero Niittymaki:** A Cinderella story at its best. A little-known NHL goalkeeper not even slated to be on the original Finnish Olympic roster comes to Turin and plays the tournament of his life. Niittymaki, the MVP, Directorate Best Goaltender and media all-star team member, stunned all observers with his stellar performance. He was calm, cool and collected in the face of every challenge as evidenced by his three shutouts and unmatched .951 saves percentage. In six games, he gave up a mere eight goals, which gave the Finns both the confidence and breathing room to go 7-0-0 leading up to the gold medal game. Unfortunately for Niittymaki and Team Finland, midnight struck one game too soon as the Finns suffered their only loss in the golden game -- but it is an Olympic tale that people will always remember.



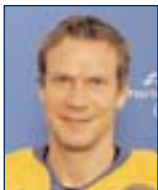
**Kenny Jonsson**  
Directorate Best  
Defenseman

**Kenny Jonsson:** To select the Best Defenseman at a fully loaded Olympics is not a simple task. But Kenny Jonsson's silently solid performance was impressive enough to net him the Directorate Best defenseman award. Looking on paper, Jonsson is an unassuming choice for the honor, he was sixth in defensemen scoring with four assists in eight games. But it was Jonsson's commanding presence on the ice that made the difference for Sweden, especially in the latter stages of the Olympic tournament where the difference between gold and silver is razor thin.



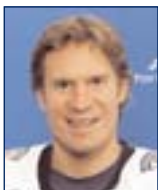
**Teemu Selanne**  
Directorate Best Forward  
Media All-Star

**Teemu Selanne:** Thanks to Finland's stellar defense, Teemu Selanne was able to do what he does best: score. Selanne led an all-star-packed Olympics in scoring with 11 points on six goals and five assists, which made him the natural choice to be named to both the media all-star team and the Directorate Best Forward. Selanne out-worked his opponents at every opportunity, setting the tone for a fiery Finnish squad that picked off teams one at a time. He took beatings in nearly every game, but bounced back for more, serving as the veteran back bone for a team that nearly made Finnish Olympic hockey history.



**Nicklas Lidstrom**  
Media All-Star  
Defense

**Nicklas Lidstrom:** The defenseman scored twice at the Olympics, but it was his second goal that will go down in history. On the opening shift of the third period in the gold medal game against Finland, the veteran defenseman fired in the game-winning shot. That goal, paired with Lidstrom's solid performance throughout the Torino Olympics, which included a total of six points, was more than enough for him to earn media all star team honors.



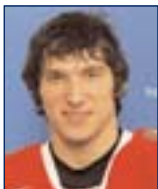
**Kimmo Timonen**  
Media All-Star  
Defense

**Kimmo Timonen:** On a team that was known for its stingy defense, Timonen set the pace. He and his surrounding cast of defensemen gave Niittymaki the support he needed, while allowing the Finnish offense to go to work. Timonen paced the Finns defensemen with six points, ranking third among all blue-liners. For his leadership, Timonen was a natural selection for the media all-star team.



**Saku Koivu**  
Media All-Star  
Forward

**Saku Koivu:** The heart of a Finnish team -- no player smiled bigger, or shed more tears throughout the roller coaster ride for the Finns. Like Selanne, Koivu ended the Olympics with a leading 11 points. But more than goals and assists, Koivu brought leadership and emotion to the eventual silver medallists. While Koivu is not certain if he will return for 2010, the hockey world would love to see this media all-star make another run for the gold.



**Alexander Ovechkin**  
Media All-Star  
Forward

**Alexander Ovechkin:** The new era of Russian hockey has been ushered in on the shoulders of the rookie sensation. The veterans take their cue from the passionate, emotional Ovechkin. The media all-star team member finished only 22nd overall in scoring with five goals, but his demeanor and attitude was enough to make a lasting impression as he was the only non-medallist to earn any individual honor in Torino. Ovechkin is sure to make the future of Russian hockey a bright one.

*For the women in Turin, the spoils truly went to the victors -- or at least the medal winners. Every player named to the Media all-star team or to earn a Directorate award also walked away from Turin with an Olympic medal. The six players honored truly represent the elite in women's hockey.*

**Hayley Wickenheiser:** The Women's MVP, Directorate Best Forward and media all-star team member is now the untested leader of women's ice hockey. There isn't much that Wickenheiser hasn't accomplished. She has two Olympic gold medals, five World Championship titles and has even played professionally in a men's league in Finland. In Turin, she lived up to her name, leading all scorers with five goals and 12 assists. More importantly, she led Canada to its second Olympic gold medal.

**Kim Martin:** The Directorate and Media Best Goaltender is the future of women's ice hockey. At the age of 15, Martin played in her first Olympics in Salt Lake City and helped Sweden to an unexpected bronze medal. Four years later, at the ripe age of 19, Martin was huge reason that the Swedes were able to jump a spot and once again stun the hockey world, this time with a silver medal. Starting in three games, Martin had an impressive .927 saves percentage and more importantly held her ground during the important semi-final shootout vs. USA.

**Angela Ruggiero:** When Cammie Granato was left off the U.S. team suddenly the Directorate Best Defenseman and Media All-Star team player was thrust into the role of the team leader both on and off the ice. Ruggiero was one of the last remaining veterans from the 1998 Nagano golden Olympic team and brought that experience with her to Torino. Although Team USA faltered in 2006, falling well-short of their gold medal expectations, Ruggiero still impressed, leading defensemen in scoring with six points.

**Carla MacLeod:** The media all-star team member is one of the novice Canadian players, but was quickly thrust into the spotlight in Torino as the media took notice of her four-point performance (two goals, two assists). More telling was MacLeod's tournament leading +15, evidence that when she is on the ice, good things happen. MacLeod has only been on the Canadian squad since the 2003-04 season and only had one World Championship under her belt. Ironically, the only medal she had earned at a major competition prior to Turin was a silver at the 2005 World Championship.

**Gillian Apps:** It's tough to stand out on a team that scored 46 goals in five games at the Olympics, but Apps managed to do just that, pacing the Canadian women with seven goals. Overall, the media all-star team member finished third in scoring with 14 points, only behind teammates Wickenheiser and Cherie Piper. Apps brings balance to the ice, setting up as many plays as she finishes. She struck gold in her first Olympic outing and has lost only one game, the 2005 IIHF World Championship final, since suiting up for team Canada.

**Maria Rooth:** In order to knock off one of the North American powerhouses, a miracle was needed -- or maybe just a skilled forward with confidence. Rooth single handedly finished off the United States' in the semi-final game and gave Sweden its first-ever berth in the golden game. It was also the first time ever that any non-North American team was in an Olympic or World championship final game. Rooth's pair of second period goals put the Swedes into a shootout against the Americans. Appropriately, it was Rooth's goal in the shootout that sealed the win for Sweden. Overall, the media all-star team member finished fourth overall in scoring with nine points. But more importantly, she propelled her team, and herself, into the women's hockey history books.



**Hayley Wickenheiser**  
Women's MVP  
Directorate Best Forward  
Media All-Star



**Kim Martin**  
Directorate Best Goalie  
Media All-Star



**Angela Ruggiero**  
Directorate Best Defense  
& Media All-Star



**Carla MacLeod**  
Media All-Star  
Defense



**Gillian Apps**  
Media All-Star  
Forward



**Maria Rooth**  
Media All-Star  
Forward

**Editor's Note:** For the men's and women's Olympic tournaments, there was a best forward, defenseman, goaltender and MVP selected by the tournament directorate. The media also selected an All-Star team with one goaltender, two defensemen and three forwards



# The hottest place in Turin: IIHF House of Hockey



Photos: JANI RAJAMAKI

**HOUSE BY NIGHT:** Visitors to the IIHF House of Hockey at Via Giovanni Agnelli were treated to this exterior setting. The success of the House, only 350 metres from the main ice hockey venue, was beyond expectations. LEFT: Many celebrities, who visited the House during the Olympics, signed the IIHF Wall of Fame.



■ ■ When Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote "The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it." He must have been referring to the IIHF's Hours of Hockey in Turin.

The House of Hockey was a first-ever ambitious project aimed at giving those in the hockey family a place to call home during the two week Olympic Winter Games. Spearheaded by IIHF Treasurer Hans Dobida and the IIHF Marketing Department, the House of Hockey provided those in the hockey world with a perfect place to go for good friends, good food and good company.

"I could not have been more pleased with the success of the House of Hockey," IIHF President Rene Fasel said. "So often at big events we in the hockey family only see each other around the rink -- so this provided the perfect opportunity for all of us to spend some quality time together, just relaxing and enjoying the atmosphere."

■ ■ While Italy is well-known for its outstanding cuisine, few could argue that a better meal could be found anywhere in Turin than between the four walls of the House of Hockey. With professional catering (from Munich, Germany) that varied its menu nightly, the top international dishes were available. And if you came without an appetite, there was always the quality beverages to be sampled -- or the best desserts to be tasted.

Of course, a hockey house wouldn't be complete without some of hockey's more famous faces popping in. The long list of VIP's making their way to the house included everyone, and everything, from Wayne Gretzky to Gary Bettman to Peter Forsberg to Finland's President Tarja Halonen the one and only Stanley Cup. One night, even Alan Eagleson, popped in.

Located right next to the Palasport Olimpico, the House of Hockey was the place to jump into before the daily games, or place to unwind after the games to talk about the day's action on the ice.



**TOTAL COVERAGE:** The IIHF House of Hockey hosted a Media Brunch on February 17, when 70 media representatives later took advantage of an availability session with (from left): NHLPA Executive Director, Ted Saskin, IIHF President René Fasel and NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly. BELOW: The House provided excellent food and a relaxed atmosphere before and after games.





**2006 Olympic Games - Men's Tournament**

*Tornio, ITALY February 15-26*

**Preliminary Round - Group A**

Italy - Canada	2 - 7	(0-1, 2-5, 0-1)
Switzerland - Finland	0 - 5	(0-1, 0-4, 0-0)
Germany - Czech Republic	1 - 4	(1-0, 2-0, 0-2)
Finland - Italy	6 - 0	(0-0, 4-0, 2-0)
Czech Republic - Switzerland	2 - 3	(0-1, 1-1, 1-1)
Canada - Germany	5 - 1	(3-0, 1-1, 1-0)
Italy - Germany	3 - 3	(1-0, 0-1, 2-2)
Canada - Switzerland	0 - 2	(0-1, 0-1, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Finland	2 - 4	(1-1, 1-1, 0-2)
Germany - Switzerland	2 - 2	(0-0, 1-2, 1-0)
Czech Republic - Italy	4 - 1	(2-0, 1-0, 1-1)
Finland - Canada	2 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Switzerland - Italy	3 - 3	(2-1, 0-1, 1-1)
Finland - Germany	2 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 0-0)
Canada - Czech Republic	3 - 2	(3-0, 0-1, 0-1)

Finland	5	5	0	0	19 - 2	10
Switzerland	5	2	2	1	10-12	6
Canada	5	3	0	2	15 - 9	6
Czech Republic	5	2	0	3	14-12	4
Germany	5	0	2	3	7 - 16	2
Italy	5	0	2	3	9 - 23	2

**Preliminary Round - Group B**

Kazakhstan - Sweden	2 - 7	(0-3, 1-4, 1-0)
Russia - Slovakia	3 - 5	(2-1, 1-2, 0-2)
Latvia - United States	3 - 3	(1-2, 2-0, 0-1)
Sweden - Russia	0 - 5	(0-0, 0-3, 0-2)
Slovakia - Latvia	6 - 3	(4-1, 1-2, 1-0)
United States - Kazakhstan	4 - 1	(3-0, 0-0, 1-1)
Kazakhstan - Russia	0 - 1	(0-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Sweden - Latvia	6 - 1	(1-0, 4-0, 1-1)
Slovakia - United States	2 - 1	(0-0, 1-1, 1-0)
Russia - Latvia	9 - 2	(3-1, 3-0, 3-1)
Slovakia - Kazakhstan	2 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 1-0)
United States - Sweden	1 - 2	(1-1, 0-0, 0-1)
Latvia - Kazakhstan	2 - 5	(1-1, 0-1, 1-3)
Sweden - Slovakia	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-0, 0-2)
United States - Russia	4 - 5	(1-2, 1-1, 2-2)

Slovakia	5	5	0	0	18 - 8	10
Russia	5	4	0	1	23-11	8
Sweden	5	3	0	2	15-12	6
United States	5	1	1	3	13-13	3
Kazakhstan	5	1	0	4	9 - 16	2
Latvia	5	0	1	4	11-29	1

**Playoff Round**

Switzerland - Sweden	2 - 6	(1-2, 0-3, 1-1) QF
Finland - United States	4 - 3	(2-1, 2-1, 0-1) QF
Russia - Canada	2 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 2-0) QF
Slovakia - Czech Republic	1 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 1-1) QF
Sweden - Czech Republic	7 - 3	(2-1, 4-2, 1-0) SF
Finland - Russia	4 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 1-0) SF
Russia - Czech Republic	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 0-1) Bronze
Finland - Sweden	2 - 3	(1-0, 1-2, 0-1) Gold

**Final Ranking**

1. Sweden	5. Slovakia	9. Kazakhstan
2. Finland	6. Switzerland	10. Germany
3. Czech Rep.	7. Canada	11. Italy
4. Russia	8. United States	12. Latvia

**Tournament Directorate**

Best Goaltender: Antero Niittymaki (FIN)  
 Best Defenseman: Kenny Jonsson (SWE)  
 Best Forward: Teemu Selanne (FIN)  
 MVP: Antero Niittymaki(FIN)

**Tournament Media All-Star Team**

Best Goaltender: Antero Niittymaki (FIN)  
 Best Defensemen: Nicklas Lidstrom (SWE); Kimmo Timonen (FIN)  
 Best Forwards: Teemu Selanne (FIN); Saku Koivu (FIN), Alexander Ovechkin (RUS)

**Individual Scoring**

1. Teemu Selanne	FIN	8	6	5	11
2. Saku Koivu	FIN	8	3	8	11
3. Daniel Alfredsson	SWE	8	5	5	10
4. Marian Hossa	SVK	6	5	5	10
5. Ville Peltonen	FIN	8	4	5	9
6. Olli Jokinen	FIN	8	6	2	8
7. Jere Lehtinen	FIN	8	3	5	8
8. Mats Sundin	SWE	8	3	5	8
9. Martin Straka	CZE	8	2	6	8
10. Pavel Datsyuk	RUS	8	1	7	8
11. Yevgeniy Koreshkov	KAZ	5	5	2	7
12. Marian Gaborik	SVK	6	3	4	7
13. Pavol Demitra	SVK	6	2	5	7
14. Jaromir Jagr	CZE	8	2	5	7

**XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES WRAP-UP**

**2006 Olympic Games - Women's Tournament**

*Tornio, ITALY February 11-20*

**Preliminary Round - Group A**

Sweden - Russia	3 - 1	(0-0, 2-1, 1-0)
Canada - Italy	16-0	(5-0, 4-0, 7-0)
Russia - Canada	0-12	(0-7, 0-2, 0-3)
Sweden - Italy	11-0	(3-0, 5-0, 3-0)
Italy - Russia	1 - 5	(1-1, 0-1, 0-3)
Canada - Sweden	8 - 1	(2-0, 5-1, 1-0)

Canada	3	3	0	0	36-1	6
Sweden	3	2	0	1	15-9	4
Russia	3	1	0	2	6-16	2
Italy	3	0	0	3	1-32	0

**Preliminary Round - Group B**

Finland - Germany	3 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 1-0)
United States - Switzerland	6 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 4-0)
Germany - United States	0 - 5	(0-2, 0-2, 0-1)
Finland - Switzerland	4 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 3-0)
Switzerland - Germany	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-2, 0-0)
United States - Finland	7 - 3	(1-2, 1-1, 5-0)

United States	3	3	0	0	18-3	6
Finland	3	2	0	1	10-7	4
Germany	3	1	0	2	2 - 9	2
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	1-12	0

**Consolation Round**

Russia - Switzerland	6 - 2	(1-1, 4-1, 1-0)
Germany - Italy	5 - 2	(3-1, 0-0, 2-0)
Switzerland - Italy	11-0	(4-0, 6-0, 1-0)
Germany - Russia	1 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 1-0)

**Playoff Round**

United States - Sweden	2 - 3	(1-0, 1-2, 0-0, 0-0, 0-1) SF
Canada - Finland	6 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0) SF
Finland - United States	0 - 4	(0-3, 0-1, 0-0) Bronze
Sweden - Canada	1 - 4	(0-2, 0-2, 1-0) Gold

**Final Ranking**

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

**Tournament Directorate**

Best Goaltender: Kim Martin (SWE)  
 Best Defenseman: Angela Ruggiero (USA)  
 Best Forward: Hayley Wickenheiser (CAN)  
 MVP: Hayley Wickenheiser (CAN)

**Tournament Media All-Star Team**

Best Goaltender: Kim Martin (SWE)  
 Best Defensemen: Angela Ruggiero (USA); Carla MacLeod (CAN)  
 Best Forwards: Hayley Wickenheiser (CAN); Gillian Apps (CAN); Maria Rooth (SWE)

**Individual Scoring**

1. Hayley Wickenheiser	CAN	5	5	12	17
2. Cherie Piper	CAN	5	7	8	15
3. Gillian Apps	CAN	5	7	7	14
4. Caroline Ouellette	CAN	5	5	4	9
5. Maria Rooth	SWE	5	5	4	9
6. Jenny Potter	USA	5	2	7	9
7. Katie King	USA	5	6	2	8
8. Sarah Parsons	USA	5	4	3	7
9. Janya Hefford	CAN	5	3	4	7
10. Jennifer Botterill	CAN	5	1	6	7
11. Danielle Goyette	CAN	5	4	2	6
12. Gunilla Andersson	SWE	5	3	3	6
13. Natalie Darwitz	USA	5	3	3	6
14. Angela Ruggiero	USA	5	2	4	6
15. Sarah Vaillancourt	CAN	5	2	4	6



Photo: JANI RALMAMAKI

**WINNERS AGAIN:**

Twelve years before the success in Turin-2006, Mats Naslund and Peter Forsberg were teammates on the Swedish gold medal team in the Lillehammer Olympics, 1994. This time around, Forsberg is still a player while Naslund is Team Sweden's manager. Both are members of the Triple Gold Club (see page 3) and Naslund is also an IIHF Hall of Famer. Forsberg will eventually get there too.



# "It was a big step, but there is a long way to go"

## Coach Krueger does not dream in all colors of the rainbow after upset wins over Czechs and Canada in Turin

By Szymon Szemberg

Swiss national team coach Ralph Krueger reached new highs in the Turin Olympics with wins over the Czech Republic and his native Canada. The *IIHF Ice Times* checked in with Krueger a couple of weeks after the historic wins, and with two months remaining until the next challenge, the 2006 IIHF World Championship in Latvia.

**How did it feel for you as a native Canadian when Switzerland, for the first time ever, beat Canada in the Olympics?**

I was more excited for what we did for Switzerland than what we did to Canada. Maybe I should have enjoyed it more emotionally, but after the win I was pretty cold to the fact that I was born in Canada. The win gave me a huge feeling because we as a team earned respect in places where we earlier didn't have any. That win, along with the 3-2 win over the Czechs was a huge step for our program. It was really the win over the Czechs that gave us confidence.

**Were the wins a coincidence or is Switzerland closing the gap to the Top-Seven?**

As much as I wish we were, we are still not there yet. In terms of individual technique and offensive skills we are still in the group with Germany, Latvia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. And we won't be a legitimate part of the Top-Eight until we have 10-12 players who are able to make it in the NHL. Why we, on some days, can compete with the best is because of our dedication, our defense and our overall team concept.

**What qualities are you looking for to be able to take the next step?**

Offense. The Swiss hockey player must become more creative and more skilled. This is also the reason why we, after beating teams like Czechs and Canada, struggled against Germany and Italy. Against those teams, we have the puck much more than what we are used to and suddenly we have to be creative. When it comes to tactics, strength, defensive discipline and positioning, we are right up there with the best.

**How much did you benefit from the fact that your team has been together as a group much more than the teams whose players all came from the NHL?**

A lot. This was one factor that neutralized our weaknesses. We have built this team over four years. Our players have, on average, a hundred national team games per player. No other team has so much international experience as a group as ours.

**Do you think that the 2006 Olympics will influence how the game will be played?**

We have already seen a huge change with the new rule

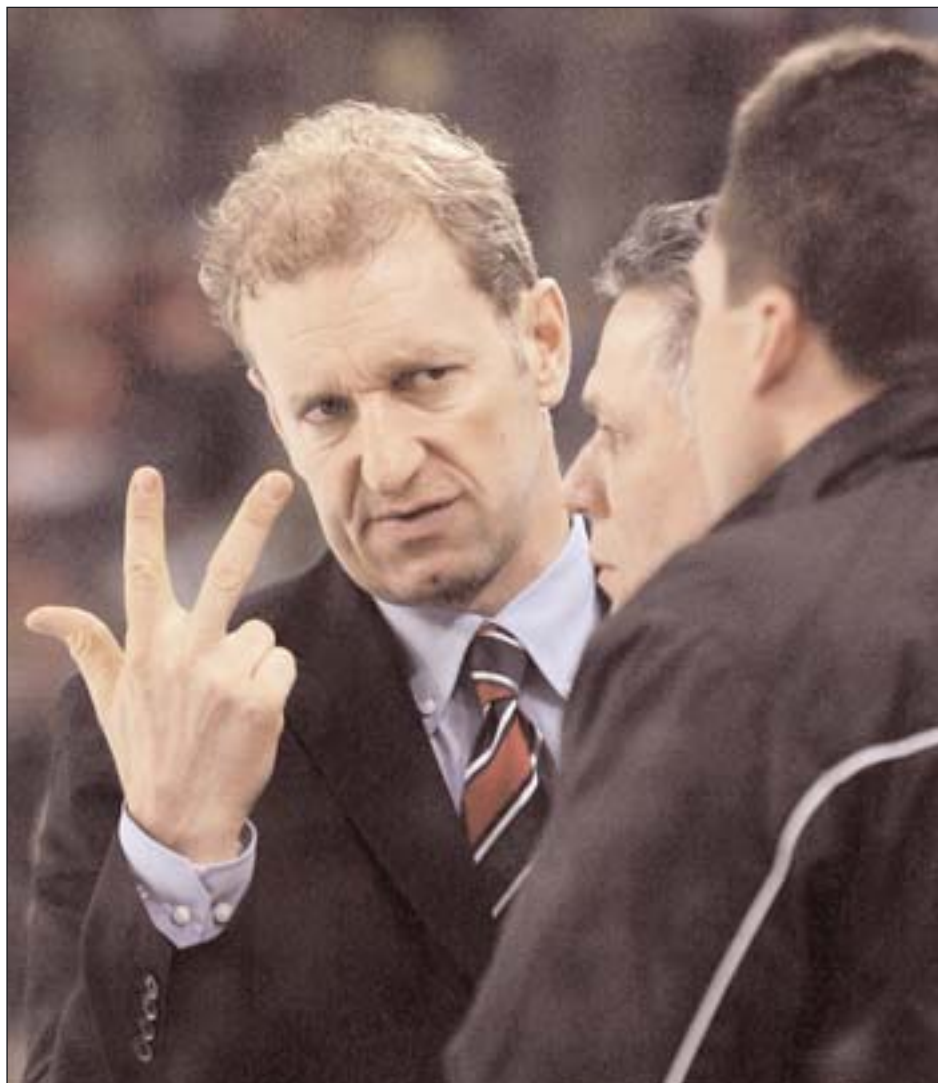


Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

**"NEXT TIME WE NEED THREE"** Swiss head coach Ralph Krueger is maybe saying this to his coaching staff. "Look guys, we know that we can beat two big nations in a major hockey championship. But in order to take the next big step, we must be able to beat three." Krueger has not had much time to enjoy the sixth place finish in Turin, as preparations for the 70th IIHF World Championship in Riga, Latvia started nearly immediately.

enforcement. It was a monstrous change, the biggest in hockey in decades and I feel it was a very good and courageous step to take, especially given the big stage that the Olympics provide. The result will be that speed and the ability to read the game will become even more vital. The average size of the players will probably be reduced. Size will still be an asset, but only when it's combined with speed. The guys who earlier could make up for lesser mobility with shortcuts like clutch and grab, will have no future in the new game.

**There is, in an Olympic year, always some criticism to why there is a World Championship in the same year. Your opinion?**

### RALPH KRUEGER

**Born:** August 31, 1959 in Winnipeg, Canada

**Coach:** VEU Feldkirch (AUT) 1991-1998. Won the national championship five times and the European Hockey League once (1998) with Feldkirch. Head coach of Swiss national team since 1997. Fourth place with Switzerland in the 1998 IIHF World Championship.

**Player:** Junior with New Westminster Bruins (WHL) 1978/79. 1979-1991: Three different clubs in the top German league. Represented West Germany in the 1981 and 1986 IIHF World Championship.

If we left out the World Championship in the Olympic year, it would be a missed opportunity to grow the game. If there is anyone who would have a reason to complain it's a country like Switzerland. Since we don't have the depth of Sweden, Canada or Finland, we have to reach out to the same pool of players every time, while the big nations can change almost the entire roster and still be competitive. But every time we compete on the world stage, Switzerland, Latvia and Kazakhstan have a chance to close the gap. It would also be a missed opportunity for a country like Latvia to benefit on long range from organizing a tournament like that. With the passion that the Latvian fans have for hockey, it should be a great championship. I see no reason why we shouldn't have it.

**You will still be behind the Swiss team in Vancouver 2010 if the team qualifies to the next Olympics. Where do you see your team in four years?**

This will be the start of the third four-year phase for me as the coach of the Swiss team and it will be very exciting to start this buildup process again. The core from Turin will, of course, get their chance to make the 2010 team, but obviously there will be new players coming in. Our goal is to close the gap to the big nations even more and build a team that will have a realistic chance of making it to the semifinal.