



# IceTimes

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## Olympic hockey delivers

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From the IIHF President

## The 2018 Olympics were like no other

By René Fasel

**The lights are out now in Gangneung and Kwandong Arenas, as the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Games have now drawn to a close.**

With time to sit back and reflect on PyeongChang 2018, I must say that the men's and women's tournaments delivered wonderful performances, incredible experiences and great memories.

I would start first of all with a huge congratulations and a sincere thank you to all the PyeongChang 2018 Organizing Committee staff and the volunteers. Facing the huge task of putting on not just one but two top-level international ice hockey tournaments...something that Korea had never done before...they nevertheless delivered above expectations and with excellent professionalism and 100% dedication.

Walking through the Gangneung and Kwandong arenas it was a pleasure to be greeted with a smile everywhere you went, and after talking with the teams and the IOC we at the IIHF are extremely grateful to POCOG for their hard work and courtesy.

Congratulations also to the Unified Korea women's team, which weathered intense pressure to become one of the stories of the Olympics. During the tournament I visited the players, and I was gratified to see a true team in that locker room. It was impossible really to discern who came from where. North or South, it didn't matter. What mattered is that these women came together to play ice hockey, and the shared passion they exhibited on the ice, coupled with the incredible support they received off it, was simply amazing.

Their passion and dedication was mirrored on the men's side, where the Korean national team showed it belonged among the elite countries by playing their hearts out before a very supportive home crowd. Full credit goes to the Korea Ice Hockey Association for their hard work in preparing both national teams for the Games. It is our sincere wish that PyeongChang will serve as a major milestone for ice hockey development in Korea, and I wish the best of luck to the men's team as it prepares to travel to Denmark for the upcoming World Championship.

I must also of course recognize the tremendous effort put forth by the two gold medal winners: Team USA on the women's side and the Olympic Athletes from Russia on the men's. The U.S. recaptured Olympic glory in another thrilling finale against Canada. While we are aiming as always for increased competitive parity in women's hockey, there is no doubt that when these two nations play for gold, the product on ice is inspirational and entertaining hockey.

Team OAR was very impressive, and played a wild final against a very tough opponent. Who could have predicted Germany would be less than a minute away from winning Olympic gold! In what was one of the greatest Olympic finals in recent memory, both teams exhibited the highest degree of sportsmanship and fair play. Congratulations to both Team OAR and to the Germans, whose silver medal deserves the highest praise.

As a former referee, I must also recognize the incredible job done by the IIHF officiating crew, who were absolutely at the top of their game in both tournaments. As we turn the page over to the final two months of the international hockey season, we look forward to more exciting hockey culminating with the 2018 World Championship in Denmark which, if the Olympics were any indication, should be a great tournament.





## News and Notes

### IIHF

The International Ice Hockey Federation has named 16 referees and 16 linesmen who will officiate at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Denmark.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE SELECTIONS](#)

The 32 on-ice officials were nominated by the IIHF Officiating Committee from a list of 64 candidates and will call the games at the annual World Championship that will take place in May in Copenhagen and Herning.

### OLYMPIC BIDS

Seven National Olympic Committees have officially expressed their interest in organizing the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

The candidate cities for 2026 are:

Austria: Graz

Canada: Calgary

Italy: Cortina d'Ampezzo/Milan/Turin

Japan: Sapporo

Sweden: Stockholm

Switzerland: Sion

Turkey: Erzurum

The host city for the Olympic Winter Games 2026 will be selected by the IOC Session in September 2019.

### CANADA

Hockey Canada announced the Team Canada coaching staff for the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, 4-20 May in Copenhagen and Herning, Denmark.



Bill Peters (Carolina, NHL) has been named head coach of Canada's National Men's Team, the second time he will serve in the role, while Mike Yeo (St. Louis, NHL) will serve as associate coach and Bob Boughner (Florida, NHL) as assistant coach.

Peters helped Canada to the championship at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey while serving as an assistant coach. He captured a gold medal as head coach of Canada's National Men's Team at the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship and also won a gold medal as an assistant coach in 2015.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

A two-time world champion as a player with ten seasons in the NHL, Vaclav Varada was named head coach of the U20 national

team. The 2019 IIHF World Junior Championship in Canada will be his first big event and a return for him to the World Juniors 23 years after being the top goal scorer of the 1996 edition.

Veteran coach Alois Hadamczik will be back in the program and take over the U18 national team. The 65-year-old coached the men's national team at six World Championships and two Olympic Winter Games between 2006 and 2014. Before that he was also the U20 national team coach for two years.

### FINLAND

Former Finnish ice hockey player Emma Terho (nee Laaksonen) has been elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission. The participating athletes of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games had the opportunity to elect two new members and a record number of 83.86 per cent made use of it with Terho getting the most votes from the six candidates.



Terho, 36, played in the top Finnish league for Espoo for 15 years in addition to four years of NCAA hockey at the Ohio State University and one season for SKIF Nizhni Novgorod in Russia. She represented Finland in five Olym-

pic Winter Games – every edition from the inclusion of women's ice hockey in Nagano 1998 until 2014 – and in eight IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championships. She won bronze medals at the 1998 and 2010 Olympics and in four World Championships.

She became active off the ice in sports as a member of the IIHF Women's Committee since 2016, as the first female board member of the Finnish Ice Hockey Association since 2014 and as a member since 2006 and most recently as the chairperson of the Finnish Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission.

### USA

USA Hockey has named the coaching staff led by Jeff Blashill for the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Denmark. Patrick Kane will serve as captain.

Blashill, who recently completed his third season as head coach of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings, will be joined by assistant coaches Dan Bylsma, Don Granato and Seth Appert.

A year ago, Blashill guided the U.S. Men's National Team to a fifth-place finish in his international head coaching debut at the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Cologne, Germany, and Paris, France.

## Obituaries

### JAN BOGOMIR

Slovenian forward Bogomir “Bogo” Jan passed away on 10 March at the age of 74 in Radovljica.

Born in 1944 in Jesenice, Yugoslavia, Jan joined HK Jesenice’s senior team during the golden hockey era of the northern Slovenian steel city with 15 consecutive Yugoslav championships between 1957 and 1971.

He eventually joined the Yugoslav national team and represented his country in 159 international games between 1961 and 1975 scoring 41 goals and 79 points. Jan played for Yugoslavia at the 1964, 1968 and 1972 Olympic Winter Games.

Jan also played in 10 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship B-Tool tournament. His debut in an IIHF-sanction event was when Yugoslavia played in the B-Pool during the 1963 Worlds in Stockholm.

In 2007 Bogomir Jan was inducted into the Slovenian Hockey Hall of Fame.

### ANTON GALE

On 25 March, Anton Joze “Tone” Gale passed away in Ljubljana at the age of 73, one day before his 74th birthday.

He was Yugoslavia’s number-one goaltender for three Olympics and attended two NHL training camps. Born in Jesenice on 26 March 1944, Gale moved to Slovenia’s capital when he was 17 to spend his career in senior hockey with Olimpija Ljubljana.

Between 1961 and 1973 he played 112 international games for the Yugoslav national team including 15 games at three Olympics in Innsbruck 1964, Grenoble 1968 and Sapporo 1972 and eight IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship tournaments (7 B-Pool, 1 C-Pool).

Only three goaltenders had more career games at the Olympics than him: Vladislav Tretiak (Soviet Union, 19), Jim Marthinsen (Norway, 17) and Dominik Hasek (Czech Republic, 16).

In Grenoble 1968 Yugoslavia won the B-tournament and reached its best overall placement in the world at that time, ninth. Gale had a 92.92 save percentage, was named the best goaltender of the competition and got an invitation to go to North America and attend the New York Rangers’ training camp. He eventually played the full 1968/69 season for the Syr-

acuse Blazers in the Eastern Hockey League. In 1972 he also attended the Chicago Blackhawks’ camp.

Later Gale worked in youth hockey for Olimpija Ljubljana and as goaltending coach for Slovenian national teams. In Slovenia he will be remembered as the most famous goaltender of the country. In 2007 he was inducted in the Slovenian Hockey Hall of Fame.

### LEV KONTAROVICH

Former Belarusian Ice Hockey Association President Lev Kontarovich passed away on 21 February. He was 83 years old.

Kontarovich was the second President of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Association chairing the organization from 1993 to 1997 when Belarus for the first time qualified for the Olympic Winter Games and the top-level World Championship for 1998. He remained involved for four more years as Vice President and as team leader of the men’s national team. He was also a member of the IIHF Sport Committee until 2003.

Kontarovich was living in Israel during the last few years where he died in Netanya. He was reported to have suffered from a brain tumour.

The international ice hockey family is in mourning after the tragic bus crash that occurred on 6 April in Canada, which claimed the lives of 16 members of the Humboldt Broncos Junior A ice hockey team.

### IN MEMORIAM



#### Players:

Adam Herold, 16  
 Connor Lukan, 21  
 Evan Thomas, 18  
 Jacob Leicht, 19  
 Jaxon Joseph, 20  
 Logan Boulet, 21  
 Logan Hunter, 18  
 Logan Schatz, 20  
 Stephen Wack, 21  
 Parker Tobin, 18

#### Personnel:

Brody Hinz, 18  
 Darcy Haugan, 42  
 Dayna Brons, 24  
 Mark Cross, 27  
 Tyler Bieber, 29

#### Driver:

Glen Doerksen, 59

A moment of silence was held during the final games of the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division II Group A in Tallinn, Estonia and in the Division I Group A tournament in Riga, Latvia.

“We were extremely saddened to learn of the tragic accident involving the Humboldt Broncos hockey team,” said IIHF President René Fasel. “The international ice hockey community extends its sincerest condolences to the families and friends of those involved.”



## New World Ranking

### U.S. women, Canada men still No.1

By Martin Merk

**Following the conclusion of the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games, the IIHF released its updated World Ranking following the results from the PyeongChang 2018 Men's and Women's Olympic tournaments.**

*Note: the 2018 IIHF World Ranking will be updated following the conclusion of all 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships*

The Canadian men's national team had to settle for bronze at these Olympic Winter Games but defended first place in the new IIHF Men's World Ranking.

**[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2018 MEN'S WORLD RANKING](#)**

Canada was leading the old World Ranking with a margin of 120 points to second-placed Russia. Now it's a mere five points after Canada has lost its points from Sochi 2014 and finished third in PyeongChang 2018 while the Olympic Athletes from Russia went all the way to gold. It will be a



*Korea improved in the IIHF Men's World Ranking, while Team USA cemented its top spot in the Women's Ranking.*

big head-to-head race for the number-one spot at the upcoming 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Denmark in May.

Sweden comes in third place followed by archrival Finland. The Czech Republic moved up to fifth place at the expense of the United States.

Germany's silver-medal campaign in PyeongChang made the team move up to seventh place at the expense of neighbouring country Switzerland, now 8th. It wasn't enough to move up more than a place but the Germans now hold a comfortable margin of 205 points to the Swiss.



Germany has never been ranked higher before since the IIHF World Ranking was introduced in 2004. The last time Germany was a top-seven nation over several years was in the early '90s.

Norway remains in ninth place and Slovakia is back in the top-10 overtaking Belarus, which failed to qualify for the Olympics. Thanks to its entry into the Olympics, Korea improved once again, from 21st to 18th place. This trend may continue since the Koreans were promoted to the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship and will thus earn points from a top-16 finish next spring.

**[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2018 WOMEN'S WORLD RANKING](#)**

Team USA remains first and the top-7 in the world are unchanged. The U.S. stays in first place and has increased its margin to Canada from 70 to 120 points thanks to the gold medal win in the 2018 Olympic women's ice hockey tournament.

Third-ranked Finland increases its gap as well thanks to the bronze-medal win and is now 80 points ahead of the Russians. Sweden stays fifth despite its disappointing seventh-place finish in PyeongChang 2018 but is now only 15 points ahead of Switzerland.

Germany, which failed to qualify, remains seventh in the 2018 IIHF Women's World Ranking but Japan moved up thanks to its historic Olympic campaign, overtook the Czechs (now 9th) and is now in 8th place just five points behind the Germans. Austria completes the top-10 while France improved two spots thanks to a strong Olympic Qualification campaign and is now 11th.

In total 38 countries who have competed in the IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship program and/or in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and Olympic Qualification during the last four years are ranked in the 2018 IIHF Women's World Ranking.



# Global Girls Game

**Women's hockey recruitment get a boost**

By Martin Merk



**Over 1,000 women and girls participated in the Global Girls' Game. The puck went around the world for this weekend-long game in 37 countries.**

It all started on Saturday, 10 March in Auckland, New Zealand, and ended a day later on Sunday night in Canada in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga. During these 37 games the teams scored goals representing Team Blue and Team White, before handing over to the next country. The score went back and forth, and in the end Team Blue beat Team White 134-129.

But the score didn't really matter. Over 1,000 women and girls were on the ice for the 37 games in 37 countries in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, North and Latin America – and many more in national events accompanying the Global Girls' Game.

For some countries organizing such a game even meant going abroad like for the Irish pla-



*The IIHF Global Girls' Game encompasses learn-to-play programs, women's hockey awareness, and recruitment.*

yers, who have to travel north to Belfast to play hockey due to the lack of an ice rink in the Republic of Ireland. Similarly the Singaporean women played north, in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, because most of the players were there for the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Challenge Cup of Asia.

In bigger hockey countries it was easier to organize such a game and some made it a big event of its own. Hockey Canada selected players from all across the country to convene in the Toronto area, visit sights like the Hockey Hall of Fame before ending the global event with the game in Mississauga. In some countries it was

a league game that represented their country like in the United States a game of the NWHL in Boston, in Russia a game of their league WHL in Ufa, and in the United Arab Emirates the clubs Dubai Gazelles and Abu Dhabi Storms played each other with mostly desert between their cities.

In the United States and in Australia, a national long game over several time zones was organized with one counting to the Global Girls' Game while involving many more female players in the other events. And in other countries there were activities surrounding the game from try-hockey events to Global Girls' Game cakes and real

penguins in blue and white for the ceremonial face-off of the second game in Japan. The Global Girls' Game, now in its third edition, also allowed women's hockey to recruit new players in new cities and new countries.

Take Lithuania, which didn't have women's hockey until it used the first Global Girls' Game to assemble its first-ever women's team to play against a Latvian team. One year later Lithuania had 34 female players for a domestic women's hockey game. And this year Lithuania has its first women's hockey club, the Hockey Girls based in Elektrenai. It plays all its games in Latvia where it became the fourth member in the league.

Estonia is trying to re-establish women's hockey and used the Global Girls' Game to launch a tournament and evaluate the level of interested players in the country.

The event has established itself as a global recruitment event for women's hockey beside the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend, that will go into its 8th edition on 6-7 October 2018.

The Global Girls' Game has shown how bigger and smaller hockey countries organize their events in many different ways but were connected by a passion for hockey and to grow the game. Despite counting the goals, the Global Girls' Game eventually only has winners.



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## OAR strikes Olympic gold

Top ten takeaways from the men's ice hockey tournament

By Lucas Aykroyd







The 2018 Olympic men's tournament offered an opportunity for everyone from raw college players to European league veterans to shine.

So what were the major lessons learned from the Games?

### 1) Russian cream rises to the top

The Olympic Athletes from Russia were the odds-on favorites to triumph in Korea, and their KHL superstars delivered in the end, even if barely. In the 4-3 gold-medal win over underdog Germany, it took Nikita Gusev's equalizer with 0:55 left and Kirill Kaprizov's overtime power play goal to secure the victory.

Still, after coming out flat in the opening 3-2 loss to Slovakia, coach Oleg Znarok's team was clearly superior to its competition. Even though the spotlight focused on snipers like captain Pavel Datsyuk (Triple Gold Club) and Ilya Kovalchuk (tournament MVP), this wasn't just about traditional Russian firepower. The OAR squad also had the top Olympic penalty-kill (95.4). No Russian team had won gold at the Games since 1992. It will be interesting to see how they fare if the NHL returns in 2022.



The star-studded Olympic Athletes from Russia team put it all together on the way to Olympic gold in PyeongChang.

### 2) Germany has arrived

From winning the 2013 IIHF World Championship silver medal to seeing Nico Hischier picked first overall in the 2017 NHL Draft, Switzerland has generally had bragging rights over neighboring rival Germany this decade. But when the Germans took silver in PyeongChang, they mo-



ved up to seventh in the IIHF World Ranking, while Switzerland fell to eighth. Yes, the Germans have arrived.

In a tournament peppered with upsets, coach Marco Sturm masterminded the biggest ones. Yannic Seidenberg's 2-1 overtime winner over Switzerland was a minor surprise, but when Patric Reimer kept the sudden-death magic going in a 4-3 quarter-final upset of reigning World Champion Sweden, it was jaw-dropping. Beating Canada 4-3 in the semi-final after 12 straight Olympic defeats since 1932 sparked hockey mania in Deutschland.

International respect is now assured, and the sport may grow beyond cult status at home.

### 3) Korean pride is strong

Unlike in Vancouver 2010 or Sochi 2014, the home team faced no pressure to win gold in PyeongChang. But coach Jim Paek, a two-time Stanley Cup winner with Pittsburgh, wouldn't just allow his Korean team to roll over.



Even with seven North American imports, they were certainly outmanned. But they battled the Czechs in a 2-1 opening loss, where Minho Cho got the first goal. And in the 5-2 qualification playoff loss to Finland, leading scorer Brock Radunske sparked an exciting mid-game rally. Now 18th in the World Ranking, the Koreans will aim higher at the 2018 IIHF World Championship in Denmark.

### 4) Canada's depth is remarkable

Before these Games, many NHL fans couldn't





have identified Maxim Noreau, who played six games for the Minnesota Wild in 2010 and 2011. But when the 30-year-old Bern SC defenceman tied Derek Roy for the bronze-medal Canadian team scoring lead (2-5-7), it showed how much depth the motherland of hockey has.

Coach Willie Desjardins couldn't throw Connor McDavid or Drew Doughty over the boards, but this KHL-heavy roster still tied Finland for the tournament's deadliest power play (36.6 percent). Apart from tactical missteps in the semi-final loss to Germany, Canada showed good discipline and performed to its potential.

### 5) Quarter-finals are Sweden's nightmare

Swedish fans will never forget where they were when defenceman Vladimir Kopat scored from centre ice on goalie Tommy Salo to give Belarus a 4-3 quarter-final victory over Sweden at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

When the Germans eliminated Tre Kronor 4-3 in PyeongChang, it wasn't as big of an upset because the Swedes lacked their elite NHLers. Nonetheless, it was another huge squandered opportunity. As in Salt Lake, the disappointment was compounded since the Swedes had a perfect round-robin. The Joel Lundqvist-captained squad allowed a tournament-low four goals, but left empty-handed. Could the little-used 17-year-old genius defenceman Rasmus Dahlin have been a difference-maker? We'll never know.



### 6) Youth is king

Gusev led the Olympics in scoring at age 25 (4-8-12), and Kaprizov, who is 21, came second (5-4-9). Yet these flashy Russians weren't the only youngsters who excelled. Finland's Eeli Tolvanen was third (3-6-9), and the 18-year-old parlayed PyeongChang plus his record-se-

ting KHL rookie season into a contract with the Nashville Predators. The 21-year-old Ryan Donato, who tied Kaprizov and Kovalchuk for the tournament goals lead (5-1-6) at 21, and 20-year-old Troy Terry (0-5-5) signed with Boston and Anaheim respectively after impressive Team USA stints.

### 7) U.S. men struggle overseas

It's impossible to ignore that the U.S., which supplies about 25 percent of NHL talent today, has never won Olympic gold outside North America. It hasn't even medalled overseas since 1972's silver in Sapporo. The easiest way to start killing this story would be for the U.S. to win its first World Championship gold since 1933 in May, as the road to Beijing 2022 begins.

### 8) Norway needs new scorers

Norway's offence doesn't rely completely on New York Rangers star Mats Zuccarello. The two-time Olympian didn't play when his homeland made the World Championship quarter-finals in 2011 and 2012. Yet after the Norwegians tallied just five goals in five games in PyeongChang (second-worst after Korea), it's as obvious as a Viking beard that they need to develop some kids who can score. Patrik Thoresen and the Olimb twins have done yeoman's service, but are getting past their prime.

### 9) For Czechs, fourth ain't bad

The Czechs haven't won IIHF gold since the 2010 Worlds in Germany, and nobody expected that to change in Korea. Still, without excelling in any team statistical category, they went undefeated through the quarter-finals before flatlining in a 3-0 semi-final loss to the OAR team. Fourth is the best Czech finish since the 2012 Worlds bronze. It's something.



### 10) NHL's absence has plusses, minuses

Germany's Cinderella run wasn't the only drama. If the NHL had participated, it's also unlikely we'd have seen Slovenia upsetting the U.S. 3-2 or the Czechs edging Canada 3-2. But even though the anything-is-possible quality of the men's tournament was fun, the level of skill and conditioning was admittedly lower than witnessed at the last five Olympics. Hockey fans worldwide hope to see the best available talent come Beijing.




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## 2018 Olympic Men's Ice Hockey All-Star Team & MVP

All-Star Team (as voted by media)

### Goaltender

Vasili Koshechkin (OAR)

### Defencemen

Maxim Noreau (CAN) Vyacheslav Voinov (OAR)

### Forwards

Ilya Kovalchuk (OAR), Pavel Datsyuk (OAR), Eeli Tolvanen (FIN)

Most Valuable Player: Ilya Kovalchuk (OAR)



With his gold medal at the 2018 Olympics, Russian captain Pavel Datsyuk joined ice hockey's elite Triple Gold Club.

## IIHF Directorate Best Forward



## Nikita Gusev, F, OAR

**6 GP, 4 G, 8 A, 12 P, +7**

Nikita Gusev took his international game to a new level in PyeongChang, leading the OAR team with 12 points in six games, including potting two goals in the final, most notably the tying goal to send the game into overtime and an eventual gold medal.

## IIHF Directorate Best Defenceman



## Vyacheslav Voinov, D, OAR

**6 GP, 2 G, 4 A, 6 P, +9**

Team OAR's top defenceman chipped in on the offensive side with two big goals in the Olympic Games playoff round, including the opener for the gold medal game. Stellar defensive play by Voinov and the team put up eight shut-out periods leading into the final.

## IIHF Directorate Best Goaltender



## Danny aus Den Birken, G, Germany

**6 GP, 2.71 GAA, 89.70 SVS%, 0 SO**

Germany's remarkable run to the silver medal began from the net-out with Aus Den Birken leading the way. Taking the hard road to the Olympic final, the 33-year-old helped defeat the Swiss, Canadians, and Swedes in the playoffs.





## American redemption

Top ten lessons from the Olympic Women's Tournament

By Lucas Aykroyd





In 2018, the world got to witness the most exciting, competitive and memorable Olympic women's hockey tournament ever.

Here are 10 key takeaways from February's PyeongChang showdown.

### 1) U.S. women got world-changing win

Edging archrival Canada 3-2 in a shootout had bigger implications than ending America's 20-year Olympic gold medal drought. It meant more than showcasing the skills of USA Hockey's stars, from the unflappable, beaming 20-year-old goalie Maddie Rooney to the great power forward Hilary Knight.

The February 22 victory was arguably the highlight of the entire Olympics for the U.S., and the women's team has since appeared everywhere from the Today Show to Saturday Night Live. The publicity jumpstarted the conversation about creating one top pro women's league like basketball's WNBA. Hockey enrollment among American girls is sure to spike.

### 2) Jocelyne's got jam

Like the Sedin brothers, Jocelyne Lamou-



Team USA recaptured Olympic glory for the first time since the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano.

reux-Davidson and her twin sister Monique are sometimes lumped together, but Jocelyne definitely distinguished herself in the U.S.'s gold medal run. The 28-year-old three-time Olympian, who cracked the tournament all-star team, will always be remembered for her outrageous shootout clincher, named "Oops, I Did It Again!" after the Britney Spears song.

But earlier, Jocelyne also set a new speed record with two goals in six seconds as the U.S. beat the Olympic Athletes from Russia 5-0. And when she wrapped herself in a U.S. flag after the twins became the first Winter Olympic champs

ever from that state, her pride was palpable.

### 3) Canada must learn from silver

The Canadians were one shot away from winning their fifth straight Olympics. It was heartbreak from Vancouver to Halifax when 2010 MVP Meghan Agosta missed her final shootout attempt. Now, silver is still a worthy achievement. However, the U.S. has won seven of the last eight Women's Worlds, and adding the Olympic crown consolidates their current supremacy.

Including Canada's 2-1 group-stage win, the U.S. outshot the Canadians 89-42 at these Olympics. Without the stellar play of net-minders Shannon Szabados and Genevieve Lacasse, who knows what could have happened? With due respect to 2018 MVP Melodie Daoust's magical hands and captain Marie-Philip's clutch goal-scoring, Canada must figure out how to catch up in the speed-and-skill department.

### 4) Finland's veterans deliver

When the Finnish women came fifth at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, it wasn't pretty. The Finns know they're capable of coming third – if not better – at every top-level IIHF women's tournament. Their 3-2 bronze-medal win over the OAR team was a refreshing culmination after they also won Women's Worlds bronze in 2015 and 2017. This achievement was driven by their veterans.

Michelle Karvinen, 27, led the team in scoring (3-3-6) for the second straight Games, and Riiikka Valila, 44, showed her ageless flair (4-1-5) as the only remaining player from the inaugural 1998 Olympic women's tournament. And captain Jenni Hiirikoski, 30, and goalie Noora Raty, 28, were named Best Defender and Best Goalie respectively.



### 5) Koreans have can-do attitude

It was a tough task for head coach Sarah Murray to integrate her host Republic of Korea (South Korea) team with players from the Democratic People's Republic (DPR) of Korea. The agreement to ice a unified women's team was only reached in January. But with good cheer and hard work, the Koreans did their best against stronger opponents, managing to score twice.

Having North Korean cheerleaders at their games, along with key government and IOC dignitaries, highlighted the quest for peace. The heartwarming tale of sisters Marissa and Hannah Brandt, competing for Korea and the U.S. respectively, also captured global attention.

### 6) Shining stars give hope for Swiss

Switzerland had a real shot at capturing women's bronze for the second straight Olympics, and getting eliminated in the quarter-finals by the Russians was disappointing. But there is reason for optimism. For instance, forward Alina Muller tied Olympic records with four goals and six points in an 8-0 win over Korea, and the 19-year-old prodigy won the tournament scoring title (7-3-10).

Top goalie Florence Schelling played well in her

fourth Olympics. She now co-owns the record for most Olympic wins with Noora Raty (10). Veteran blueliner Christine Meier earned a tournament-high eight assists. Forwards Lara Stalder and Phoebe Staenz were other standouts. This program continues to climb.

### 7) Japan has earned respect

Pre-Olympics, a New York Times headline read: "Japan's Women's Hockey Team Wants to Be Known for Wins, Not Smiles." However, "Smile Japan" was known for both qualities after beating host Korea 4-1 in the round-robin and Sweden 2-1 on Ayaka Toko's goal in classification play. After going winless in two previous Olympic stints (1998, 2014), the Japanese had to be proud of their sixth-place finish. They're still far from favorites, but they never make it easy for opponents.

### 8) You can't give Russians any room

Unlike their golden male counterparts, the OAR women were never expected to win this Olympic tournament. However, there was a similarity between how the German men handed away the championship to the opportunistic, highly skilled Russians and how the Swiss allowed the OAR team to exploit their errors in the women's quarter-finals.

The Russians had lost three straight Group A games by an aggregate of 15-1. But when Anna Shokhina opened the scoring with a brilliant shorthanded goal on a Swiss 5-on-3 power play, it set the tone. The 20-year-old Tornado Moscow Region captain was similarly cobra-like in the third period, adding another goal and an assist in the 6-2 romp. Lesson: you can't give Russians any room.

### 9) Sweden might need a reset

The last time the Damkronorna won an Olympic medal (2006's silver), 2018 Olympic rookie Maja Nylen Persson was five years old and Twitter didn't exist. So it's hard to dismiss Sweden's seventh-place finish in Korea (its worst ever) as some temporary aberration. What needs fixing? Leading Swedish scorer Fanny Rask said: "I think we need more support from our clubs and from the federation so that we can focus on just playing hockey and not worry about our future."

### 10) Beijing 2022 will be insane

Nine of the 22 games in PyeongChang were decided by one or two goals, reflecting the increasing parity in international women's hockey. As both the players' skill level and the audience grows globally, we can expect even more thrilling games at the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, China.






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## 2018 Olympic Women's Ice Hockey All-Star Team & MVP

All-Star Team (as voted by media)

Goaltender  
 Noora Raty (FIN)

Defencemen  
 Laura Fortino (CAN) Jenni Hiirikoski (FIN)

Forwards  
 Melodie Daoust (CAN), Alina Muller (SUI),  
 Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson (USA)

Most Valuable Player: Melodie Daoust (CAN)



Team Canada forward Melodie Daoust was selected as tournament MVP after scoring seven points in five games.

### IIHF Directorate Best Forward



## Alina Muller, F, Switzerland

**6 GP, 7 G, 3 A, 10 P, +5**

Playing in her second Olympic Games, Alina Muller made the transition from a 16-year-old rookie in Sochi to an veteran offensive star for Switzerland in PyeongChang. In the opening game versus Korea she tied records for most goals in a period (3), most goals in a game (4), and most points (6) in a game.

### IIHF Directorate Best Defenceman



## Jenni Hiirikoski, D, Finland

**6 GP, 0 G, 2 A, 2 P, +2**

As usual, Finland's top blueliner and captain Jenni Hiirikoski didn't make a splash on the scoresheet, but nevertheless was a steady presence in the Finnish defensive zone. Aside from games against Canada and USA, the Finns allowed just five goals in four games.

### IIHF Directorate Best Goaltender



## Shannon Szabados, G, Canada

**3 GP, 1.20 GAA, 94.94 SVS%, 1 SO**

Team Canada platooned its goalies for the preliminary round, but once playoffs came turned the keys over to Szabados. It took some great shootout moves by Team USA to get past the veteran goalie in the final.



## Mongolia wins!

### Country makes history at Challenge Cup

By Martin Merk



**For the first time ever, Mongolia has won an IIHF tournament! The men's national team won a tight three-team race for first at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia with a 4-1 record, beating out Thailand and host Philippines.**

For Mongolia this victory marks a huge milestone. The country joined the IIHF in 1999 when it participated in the ice hockey tournament of the Asian Winter Games, and between 2007 and 2013 also played briefly at the lowest level of the World Championship program. Until the last year at the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division III Qualification, the men's and U18 teams combined for 35 losses in 35 games before the Mongolians blanked Georgia for its first-ever win, 6-0.

The lack of a suitable indoor ice arena has made life difficult for the players to shine on



Mongolia celebrating a goal in their deciding win against Thailand at the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia.

the international stage but their remarkable passion has kept them in the game. According to the Mongolian Ice Hockey Federation there are 19 outdoor rinks in the vast country of three million people, several of them international size. But there exist only two smaller indoor rinks. These are too small to play a proper hockey game and the outdoor rinks are only available for two or three months in the winter.

"We normally only have one tournament a year outside of Mongolia and that is the Cha-

llenge Cup of Asia," head coach Mergen Arslan said during an interview on IIHF.com last year. "Basically we are playing on the lakes and the rivers. We have a lack of hockey equipment in Mongolia. We have approximately 150-200 kids playing on the open-ice conditions. We have a lack of a lot of things, but we love hockey. We don't have much infrastructure in Mongolia, so to get to this level it takes the players hearts and souls."

At the 2018 Challenge Cup of Asia Mongolia got off to a good start, turning a 2-1 deficit

against Singapore into a 5-3 win and one day later doing the same against recently-promoted Kuwait, skating to an 11-2 win.

Then came the game against the hosts, who defeated Mongolia by a score of 6-5. The loss was not the end of the world for Mongolia. Because the Philippines had lost the opening game 7-4 to Thailand, the game on Day 5 between Mongolia and Thailand was to decide the top of the standings. Mongolia cruised to a 5-1 win, which gave the team enough points to win the tourney, a historic success.

### Men's team wins 3rd trophy for Malaysia

Malaysia ends its first season with a full-size ice rink with all it could ask for in the three IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia tournaments the country participated.

The victory in the Challenge Cup of Asia Division I follows up wins for Malaysia at the women's Division I and U20 CCOA.

Malaysia swept through the preliminary round with wins against Indonesia (12-0), Macau (7-1) and India (10-1). It then beat Indonesia 12-4 in the semi-final, leading to a finale against Macau in which the Malaysians dominated 7-2. Indonesia took the bronze medals after beating India for third place, 4-1.



## Taipei girls win gold

### U18s win Women's Challenge Cup of Asia

By Martin Merk



One year ago the New Zealand U18 women's team joined the IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Challenge Cup of Asia and won it. This year they had a new competitor with the Chinese Taipei U18 women's national team that finished the event with gold.

The tournament also included the senior teams from Singapore and Thailand while four more teams played in the Division I competition. Both tournaments were held at the new Malaysia National Ice Skating Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

The team from Chinese Taipei started with a 5-3 win over last year's silver medallist Thailand before playing the New Zealanders in a game that eventually determined the gold medallist. A hat trick from Thai captain Nuchanat Ponglerkdee wasn't enough against the strong Taiwanese offence.



The Malaysia National Ice Skating rink in Kuala Lumpur hosted both Women's Challenge Cup of Asia tournaments.

Also against New Zealand the Chinese Taipei U18 team tried to dictate the game from the beginning. Two late goals in the first period paved the win against the junior Kiwis. With a penalty against New Zealand just expired, Yun-Chu Huang gave Chinese Taipei the lead with 92 seconds left and with three seconds left before the first intermission Ting-Yu Hsu made it 2-0. Two third-period goals from Hsuan Wang – the 14-year-old was the youngest player of the tournament her after one month younger linemate Ya-Ching Jan – sealed the 4-1 victory and gold.

On the last day Chinese Taipei beat Singapore 12-1 to finish the tournament with a clean record. The New Zealand U18 women's team beat Thailand 1-0 with Beth Scott scoring the only goal and Lilly Forbes earning a shutout with 25 saves to earn silver. The Thai had their only win against Singapore, 10-1.

Wang was named Best Forward of the tournament while the other awards went to Thailand. Wasunun Angkulpattanasuk, who had the best save percentage of all starting goalies with 94.12%, was named best goaltender

while Sirikarn Jittresin was the best defender. Nuchanat Ponglerkdee, who led the tournament in points (8) and goals (6), was named Most Valuable Player. She scored six of her team's goals and was on the ice for all 13 goals.

For six of the Chinese Taipei juniors the international season will continue soon as Chinese Taipei is the promoted team in the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II Group B that will be played in Valdemoro close to the Spanish capital of Madrid.

### Malaysia reaches top division at home

Malaysia won the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Challenge Cup of Asia Division I on home ice in Kuala Lumpur.

After growing pains in its first two years the Malaysian women's national team has improved to win its first tournament in its third year of existence. This year on home ice the Malaysians went all the way to first place on home ice at the Malaysia National Ice Skating Stadium.

The Malaysians swept the tournament with wins over Philippines, India, and UAE. UAE finished second followed by Philippines and India.

David Jong



## Latvia wins in Riga

**U18 team wins return trip to top division**

By Andy Potts



**Latvia made an immediate return to the top division after winning the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division I Group A.**

The Baltic nation wrapped up the title with a game to spare, winning its first four games in a competitive group. Going into game four against the Danes, Latvia knew that victory would bring gold. After an early scare, the host ran out 4-1 winners thanks to a trio of third-period goals before 2,200 fans.

This year's Latvian team was almost completely fresh. Incoming head coach Olegs Sorokins, a much-travelled defenceman in a playing career that began in 1991/92 and only came to an end last season, shuffled the pack. Only goalie Janis Voris returned from the roster that was relegated in Slovakia a year ago, and he impressed in a tournament where he allowed just two goals in his three starts with an SVG of over 96%. He was voted Best Goaltender of the tournament while two



*Latvia made an immediate return to the top division.*

Germans won the other awards: Moritz Seider as Best Defenceman and Yannick Valenti as Best Forward.

Germany took silver, with Denmark grabbing bronze. The Danes tied with Kazakhstan on six points, but the head-to-head verdict went their way thanks to a 4-2 victory when the teams met. At the foot of the table, Slovenia dropped to Division IB despite a promising start to the tournament.

## Gold for Brits

**U18s collect country's 3rd gold in 2018**

By Henrik Manninen



**Great Britain edged ahead of tournament favourites Poland and Lithuania to win gold and promotion to Division I.**

The victory in Tallinn marks a winning start for Tony Hand as head coach of Great Britain's U18 national team and a significant improvement to last year's fifth-place finish. 16-year-old Mason Alderson finished as Great Britain's top scorer with 9 (6+3) in five games followed by Kieran Brown on 8 (4+4) points.

Great Britain got a comfortable start to the tournament, courtesy of a 6-3 win against Estonia followed it up by putting nine past Australia. Their only blip came in their third game. Despite outshooting Poland 40-28 and rallying back from 1-3 to go in front, Poland hit back and replied with two unanswered final frame goals to take all three points.

With all left to play for, tight encounters against Lithuania and Korea awaited. Prevailing 3-2



*Captain Liam Kirk brings the U18 trophy to his teammates*

and 4-3 respectively saw Liam Kirk play a pivotal role scoring Great Britain's game winners in both games. Poland failed to come out with a win in regulation time against Estonia in the final game, sealing promotion for Team GBR.

Lithuania closed out the tournament in second place, followed by Poland, Korea, and Estonia, while last-place Australia was relegated to Division III.



## Spain stays hot

**U18s collect country's 3rd gold in 2018**

By Andy Potts



Spanish hockey is celebrating an unprecedented haul of three gold medals in 2018, following the U18 team's victory in Division II Group B.

The team topped the six-team pool, securing promotion to the Division II Group A with a convincing 4-1 victory over the host team Croatia in the decisive encounter in the capital city of Zagreb.

That means Spain's teams have taken gold in three of the four World Championships they've contested this year, with the men's U20s winning the Division II Group B in Belgrade back in January – again thanks to a final-day win over Croatia – and the women's senior roster sweeping all-comers to clinch the Division IIB on home ice in Valdemoro just over a week ago.

What a change it was after all the silver medals last year



*Spain's U18 players celebrate winning gold in Zagreb.*

For us, this feels like a miracle,” said Spanish Ice Sports Federation president Frank Gonzalez. “We’re here in the southernmost point of Europe, and we’re showing that we can compete against countries with a real tradition and culture in ice hockey. We’re still a long way from competing at the elite level, but the work of all our teams deserves a lot of credit.”

Croatia finished in 2nd place, followed by Serbia, Netherlands, China, and Iceland.

## Belgium victorious

**Win promotion in finale vs Israel**

By Andy Potts



Belgium returned to Division IIB after taking top spot in the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division III Group A in the eastern Turkish city of Erzurum.

it took a late goal from Ben Coolen – his fifth of the tournament – to claim a vital victory over Israel and deny Mexico a second successive promotion.

Going into the final day, four teams had at least a theoretical chance of top spot. Belgium and Mexico were out in front, but Israel and Turkey could still force a three-way tie on nine points if results went their way. The Mexicans were in action first, and a solid 5-2 victory over Chinese Taipei condemned the Asian team to relegation while ending Israel's hopes of moving up.

That left the decisive game between Belgium and Mexico, which was tied going into the final minutes and meant Mexico had one ska-



*Belgium's U18s made an instant return to Division IIB.*

te in Division II: an overtime win for Belgium would put the two teams level on 11 points, and the Mexicans had a 3-2 victory from their meeting on Friday which would give them the edge in a tie.

But Coolen, who finished the tournament with 10 (5+5) points, scores the decisive goal with a little over four minutes to play to seal promotion. The Belgian was also selected as the top forward by the tournament directorate, with Gonzalo Hagerman of Mexico getting the award for best defenceman and home goalie Muhammet Mutanoglu completing the prize winners.

Bulgaria took third place, with Israel edging the Turks for fourth. Chinese Taipei was relegated to Division B.



## Dutch delight

### Impressive Netherlands cruise to gold

By Andy Potts



**The Netherlands powered to gold in the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II Group A with a flawless week's work in Maribor, Slovenia.**

Unbeaten in five games, with just three goals allowed, the Dutch were a class above the opposition and wrapped up the title with a 4-0 victory over silver medalists Great Britain.

The Netherlands returns to Division IB. Relegation in 2016 in Asiago was followed by a silver medal in Korea last year at one of the preparation events for the Olympics in PyeongChang, but this time the Dutch went one better. For Britain, a silver medal was an improvement on bronze in 2017.

The tournament also brought a bronze medal for DPR Korea. The roster featured several players who gained Olympic experience as part of the Unified Korean team in PyeongChang in February. Un Hyang Kim, who made five Olympic



*The Netherlands (left) won promotion to Division I, while in the Division II Group B tournament Spain went undefeated at home.*

appearances, was the top goalscorer with six; Hyang Mi Kim, who featured in three games in PyeongChang, led the scoring with nine points. Su Hyon Jong, who famously joined her South Korean colleague Jongah Park to carry the Olympic Torch to the cauldron during the Opening Ceremony, contributed with six assists in five games.

Australia edged hosts Slovenia for fourth place, while Mexico was relegated after failing to win a game and scoring just three goals.



## Spain rolls

### Unbeaten on home ice

**Spain's women won promotion to Division IIA for the first time ever.**

The team top spot in 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II Group B. The gold medal triumph on home

ice in Valdemoro, half-an-hour's train ride from Madrid, snapped a streak of two near misses under Swedish head coach Christian Yngve.

The host nation delivered gold in style, winning its first four games to open up an unassailable advantage over the rest ahead of its concluding game against New Zealand. Chinese Taipei went into Wednesday's showdown hoping for a victory that would secure back-to-back promotions; instead Spain produced a comprehensive 6-1 victory to eliminate its last remaining rival and clinch top spot for itself.

However, Chinese Taipei's performance as it made its Division IIB bow was also hugely impressive, even if the team ran out of steam against the Spanish. The Asian country has only recently entered the IIHF's women's program and it came into this competition after winning the qualification tournament on home ice last season.

Iceland finished with the bronze medal, followed by New Zealand, Turkey, and Romania. Spain also collected two of the three individual Directorate Awards, with Elena Alvarez and Alba Golzalo winning best defenceman and Best Goaltender respectively. Iceland's Silvia Bjorgvinsdottir won Top Forward after scoring nine goals in five games.



## Gallery



Team USA rushes to celebrate with goaltender Maddie Rooney after defeating Canada and winning Olympic gold for the first time in 20 years.



OAR and Team Germany playing in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games men's final.



The Unified Korea team's first goal was a historic one and came against rivals Japan.





Germany's improbable run to the gold medal game was highlighted by a big upset victory over Canada in the semi-final.

Arne Ringue / HHOF-IIHF Images



Team Finland is all smiles after defeating the OAR team 3-2 to win the country's third women's Olympic bronze medal.

Matt Zamboni / HHOF-IIHF Images



Team Canada forward Wojtek Wolski puts the puck into the net on a shootout goal against the Czech Republic.

Arne Ringue / HHOF-IIHF Images





Team OAR head coach Oleg Znarok is lifted up by his players following their gold medal victory at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.



Monique Lamoureux-Morando with a scoring attempt in the women's semi-final against Finland.



Japan's win over Sweden is the first time a Japanese team beat a European nation in Olympic play.



## In their words

Quotes from the 2018 Olympic Games

By Lucas Aykroyd & Andy Potts



**“It’s a good advertisement for us. I hope we got some more fans.”** -Germany Captain Marcel Goc on his country’s Olympic performance



**“When we were down 2-3 and Gusev had that shot, I think everyone’s heart stopped on the bench. But when the goal went in, we all came back to life.”**

-Pavel Datsuk on Nikita Gusev’s game-tying score in gold medal game

**“I had my head down, listening to the crowd. I remember looking up at the last second of each shot and realising ‘one more save, one more save’.”**  
-USA goalie Maddie Rooney on the gold medal shootout vs Canada



**“We had the greatest support from the people in the stadium. Unfortunately we were not able to live up to their expectations, but we did our best. In that atmosphere, it felt like I was playing in my own country.”**

-Su Hyon Jung of DPR Korea on her experience playing with the Unified Korea team





**“When it all sinks in, I guess I’ll need a new dream to shoot for because all my dreams have come true.”**

**-OAR captain Pavel Datsyuk after winning gold and joining the IIHF Triple Gold Club**



**“What a special honor. A year ago, nobody in this locker room would even have been given a chance to be here. I’m 35 years old and I never thought I’d be at the Olympic Games. I’ll cherish this one for a long time.”**

**-Canada’s Andrew Ebbett on winning bronze**



**"You can't tell who's from the north and who's from the south. They're just girls playing hockey."**

**-Unified Korea coach Sarah Murray**

**“Players in Asia, and especially here in Korea, aren’t lacking in anything, we have the ability to compete in Finland and other European leagues.”**

**-Sanghoon Shin (Korea) on the improved development of Asian ice hockey players**



**“I was told after the fourth shooter that I was going to be the sixth one if it came to that. Coach Stauber asked if I wanted it and I said: ‘Absolutely.’ I knew that was what I was going to do. I knew I had to sell the shot, and I did.”**

**-USA’s Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson on her Olympic gold-medal-winning shot**





# Coming up

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A**  
HUNGARY, Budapest  
22.04.-28.04.2018

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group B**  
LITHUANIA, Kaunas  
22.04.-28.04.2018

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division II Group A**  
NETHERLANDS, Tillburg  
23.04.-29.04.2018

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division II Group B**  
GRANADA, Spain  
14.04.-20.04.2018

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division III**  
SOUTH AFRICA, Cape Town  
16.04.-22.04.2018

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship**  
RUSSIA, Chelyabinsk & Magnitogorsk  
19.04.-29.04.2018

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division I Group B**  
UKRAINE, Kiev  
14.04.-20.04.2018

**2018 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division III Group B**  
NEW ZEALAND, Queenstown  
14.04.-20.04.2018

[Click here for full IIHF Calendar of Events](#)

## About this issue

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