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UHF

Finland's Lions roar once more WSID What we learned: 2019 World Championship International club competions recap





From the IIHF President

Super Slovakia

By René Fasel

It was déjà-vu all over again! The 2019 World Championship closed out with Finland once again raising the trophy on the ice in Bratislava, just as it did eight years earlier. Congratulations Suomi!

This tournament was excellent right from the beginning. The team rosters included a combined total number of 120 NHLers, the most we have had in the last five years. This is a great sign for the health of the World Championship, that we must continue to work hard to make this tournament an attractive one to play in for the worlds' top players.

But of course hockey is a team sport. This was no better illustrated than by the Finns: a group of not so well-known players who came together and played their hearts out all the way to a championship. I congratulate the Finnish Ice Hockey Association for an amazing year with two golds at the World Championship and World Juniors along with a history-making silver at the Women's Worlds.

Slovakia was, once again, an amazing host. The decision to place the Slovak team in Kosice was a wise one, as the fans that bought day tickets to support their home team invariably attended the other games being held that day at Steel Arena. It turned the arena, the fanzone, and the entire city into a veritable hockey festival.

I also commend the Slovakia 2019 organizing committee for making a concerted effort to bring in fans from other nations to cheer on their teams. Having the Czech neighbours competing in Bratislava created the situation of a home team playing in each arena, but we also saw a large influx of visiting supporters from Finland, Sweden, Russia, Germany, and even Great Britain!

Congratulations to the runners-up Canada, and also to bronze medallists Russia. Special recognition should also go to the two teams that came up from Division IA last year: Great Britian and Italy. The Brits, playing in the top division for the first time since 1994, played a thrilling finale in the preliminary round against France, managing to come up on top in overtime to earn enough points to stay up. Later on, Italy edged Austria in a tense shootout to preserve their place among the world's elite teams. This is the first time since 2006 that both bottom-ranked teams have stayed up!

The World Championship also saw the introduction of the new 3-on-3 overtime format. Watching 3-on-3 sudden death hockey played at this level was an incredibly entertaining experience, and I thank the teams for supporting this new format. I commend the IIHF Competition Committee and the Sport Department for their work in coming up with this proposal, as well as for the new false faceoff rule which will now be adopted across all IIHF competitions.

In other news, the IIHF Annual Congress took place in Bratislava during the final week of the World Championship. You can ready about all the major decisions that were taken - including the amendments to our Statutes & Bylaws and Regulations - starting on page 7.

We also welcomed our latest class of inductees to the IIHF Hall of Fame. It has been a pleasure to watch this event grow through the years. The ceremony in Bratislava was our largest yet, with full TV coverage and over 250 guests in the room. Congratulations to the Induction Class of 2019 on their incredible careers.

And to the entire hockey family, thank you for your support and participation in this season, enjoy the summer and see you next year in Switzerland!



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News and Notes

2020 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Following organizational meetings in Bratislava, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has announced the groups for the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship that will take place from 8 to 24 May in Zurich and Lausanne, Switzerland.



Host Switzerland will play its games in Group B at the 11,200-seat Hallenstadion in

Zurich that was reopened in 2005 following a complete year-long interior renovation. The Swiss will be joined by new world champion Finland and bronze medallist Russia.

With 400,000 inhabitants in the city and 1.5 million in the region, Zurich is the largest city in the country. The arena in its old configuration hosted the Worlds in 1953 and 1998. Zurich was also a host in 1939.

Canada, the recent finalist and first-ranked nation in the 2019 IIHF Men's World Ranking. leads the seeding in Group A. The group will be played at the brand-new 9,500-seat arena in Lausanne that is currently being rebuilt to replace the old Malley rink. It will open in autumn and prior to the Worlds will also host the ice hockey competitions of the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

CANADA

Canada's Jay Bouwmeester became the 29th member of the Triple Gold Club as a result of the St. Louis Blues' game 7 Stanley Cup victory over Boston. The 35-year-old has now won World Championship gold (twice, in 2003 and 2004), Olympic gold (2014), and now the Cup.

At 35 years of age, Bouwmeester is also one sented at a press conference in Finland, a few of the oldest players to win (not far behind weeks after the national team's gold medal Pavel Datsyuk and Slava Fetisov, both of victory at the 2019 World Championship. whom were 39).

The city of Tampere was chosen as the main Such is his reputation and longevity, venue for the 2022 IIHF Ice Hockey World Bouwmeester had the honour of being Championship in Finland. The new arena will second in line to hoist the Cup. Captain Alex accommodate approximately 13,500 fans in Pietrangelo was first, of course, and after an ice hockey configuration and also be the his celebratory lift he turned to the veteran new home for the cities two top-league clubs Ilves and Tappara. The arena will also feature Bouwmeester. a second ice sheet that can serve as prac-**CZECH REPUBLIC** tice arena during the 2022 Worlds.

Milos Riha will continue to be the head coach of the men's national team after the fourthplace finish at the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Slovakia - the first time in four years the Czechs had reached the semi-finals.



Karel Mleinek and Robert Reichel will continue as assistant coaches while the head coach's son, Milos Riha Jr, will join the coaching staff. Riha Jr is currently the head coach of secondtier team Slavia Prague.

FINLAND

The main venue for the 2022 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Tampere was pre-





Tampere is one of the largest cities in Finland with a population of 225,000 in the city and almost a million within a 100-km radius. It is centrally located in the country.

One preliminary round group, two guarter-final games, both semi-final games and the medal games will be played at the Tampere Deck Arena, which is under construction and estimated to open in the later part of 2021.



SLOVAKIA

Former Slovak national team forward Robert Petrovicky is the new head coach of the Slovak U20 national team that will compete at the 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship. He replaces Ernest Bokros, who has coached the team during the past eight years.



Viliam Cacho and Martin Strbak will join Petrovicky as assistant coaches, Rastislav Stana was named goaltending coach.

Petrovicky was a member of Slovak's world champion team in 2002. He represented Czechoslovakia at the 1992 World Juniors and was part of the Slovak national team at Olympics and World Championships between 1994 and 2008.

The 45-year-old ended his career in 2016 where it began, at Dukla Trencin, and started as an assistant coach with the club. During the past two seasons he worked as an assistant coach for Slovan Bratislava in the Kontinental Hockey League and of Craig Ramsey at the Slovak men's national team.

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Ice Hockey Federation named Thierry Paterlini as new head coach of the Swiss U20 national team. He will replace Christian Wohlwend, who leaves after seven years with the national team program including the past three as head coach of the U20 national team.



UKRAINE

The Ice Hockey Federation of Ukraine named **Sergi Viter** new head coach of the Ukrainian national team. He will continue to coach Ukrainian champion HC Donbass.



Viter previously assisted then-head coach Andrei Nazarov at the 2014 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A. Since then the Ukrainian national team moved down to the Division I Group B where it finished in fifth place

TPS Turku, where his number 8 was retired. this year. Internationally he represented Finland in 115 in-The 44-year-old has been working with Ukraine's ternational games (33 goals, 62 points), in his top team HC Donbass in the Ukrainian league last years in the late '60s as captain. He repreand partly during the era the team played in the sented Finland in three Olympic Winter Games Russian-based Kontinental Hockey League. He and five World Championships. started as an assistant coach in 2010 and was promoted to head coach in March 2017. With him as head coach HC Donbass won the last three Ukrainian championships.

Wahlsten was on the team that finished the 1962 Worlds in fourth place had his best moment at the 1967 World Championship in Austria where he was named best player of his team. In Vien-Viter was born in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv na he scored two goals in Finland's first ever win during Soviet times but spent most of his career (3-1) over powerhouse Czechoslovakia as a player in Belarus.

He was inducted into the second class of the He will double up as club coach and national Finnish Hall of Fame in 1986 as number 43 and team coach in the upcoming season and thus entered the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2006. participate in several IIHF events.

Paterlini has been working in the national team program for the past six years and was the head coach of the U18 national team during the past four seasons. Paterlini was also an assistant coach with the U20 national team at the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship and with the men's national team at the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

Paterlini also played 158 games for the men's national team. He represented Switzerland at the 2006 and 2010 Olympic Winter Games and in nine World Championships (eight in the top division). He also played at two U20 World Championships including the top-level World Juniors in 1994. He won two Swiss championships with SC Bern (1997) and HC Davos (2002).

Paterlini will be replaced by Martin Hohener, who has been the head coach of the U17 national team for the past two years.



Obituaries

JUHANI WAHLSTEN

Former Finnish national team player Juhani "Juuso" Wahlsten passed away in Turku at the age of 81 on 9 June.



He played ice hockey in Finland from 1957 to 1971 and in 200 games racked up 219 points including 139 goals. In 1960 he won the Finnish championship with Ilves Tampere but spent most of his years as a player and coach with

Hall of Fame 2018

Country makes history at Challenge Cup

By Andy Potts



Eight new members were added to the roll of honour at the IIHF Hall of Fame in a ceremony in Bratislava during the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

Here in Bratislava, the focus was on Slovakia's golden generation, with two players who lifted the newly-independent country from the lowest level of international hockey to World Championship gold: Miroslav Satan and Zigmund Palffy.

For Palffy, a Skalica native, the defining moment of his career came in that 2002 gold medal game: a pass for Peter Bondra with 100 seconds left on the clock set up the title-winning goal against Russia and wrote an indelible chapter in Slovak sporting history. The three-time Olympian reflected on being part of his country's first ever national team in hockey. "The biggest moment of my career was probably playing for the first ever Slovak national team in the Olympic gualifications, and the Winter Olympics,".



From left: Viktor Alexandrov, Miroslav Satan, Jorgen Jonsson, Konstantin Mihaylov, Hayley Wickenheiser, and Zigmund Palffy.

"Of course, I'd also played before that for Czechoslovakia. Then all the times representing Slovakia, winning medals, and of course the gold medal in 2002. My childhood dream came true and hockey was always a great pleasure for me."

He was also delighted to be inducted at the same time as his fellow Slovak star Satan. "It's good to be going in with him because I've known him from back in Trencin and of course all the times playing together for the national team," he added.

Satan, whose long career saw him begin as a 19-year-old with Slovakia in Pool C in 1994 before winning the World Championship and a Stanley Cup, recalled his start in the small town of Topolcany.

"We had one chance to be a hockey player," he recalled. "You had to make it at the age of six or seven, you had to get into that group of 25 boys who were allowed to play hockey because there wasn't enough ice time for everybody else. That was the first time I was lucky to make it."

"We were always a small team that tried to beat the big teams and that was something I had to carry from this small town to the international level when we were playing against the big countries. For so long only six countries used to split



the medals and Slovakia was the first to break into that. It meant a lot for our country and produced many more players in our country."

Hayley Wickenheiser is perhaps the greatest woman to play the game. Her career has brought four Olympic golds and seven World Championship triumphs with Canada.

She was the first woman to score in a pro men's league, with HC Salamat in Finland, and she continues to be a great ambassador for women's hockey in current role as assistant director of player development with the Maple Leafs, showing that woman can make a contribution at the highest levels of the men's game.

At a time when the future of women's hockey is subject to intense discussion, Wickenheiser talked of her hopes for the next generation of girls taking up the game.

"I grew up with a Mom and Dad who believed that a girl could do anything a boy could do," she said. "When I asked to play hockey, the first thing my dad did was to flood the back yard and say 'have at it!'. Because of that I've been able to live my dream. I hope that for many years to come many girls around the world will have the chance to put their skates on, lace up and maybe win a gold medal for their country."

Another long-serving international star, Sweden's Jorgen Jonsson, enjoyed a 15-year international career with the Tre Kronor, making 285 appearances in his country's yellow jersey. His medal haul included two Olympic golds and two gold, three silver and four bronze in World Championship play. He and his brother Kenny were part of Sweden's unique golden double of 2006 when it won both the Olympics and the Worlds in the same year.

"When I was still a young kid someone asked my parents: 'why are you spending so much time on Jorgen and Kenny's hockey? They're probably not going to be any good at all.' Well, I proved them wrong. Working hard, believing in yourself and having fun can take you all the way to the IIHF Hall of Fame."

Recognition for USA Hockey Stalwart Jim Johannson, winner of this year's Paul Loicq Award, was a celebration tinged with sadness. Universally known as 'JJ' throughout the game, and widely respected and admired by all who encountered him, his work as assistant executive director saw him develop the American junior program and turn the country's U18s into a dominant force in that age group. His untimely death last year at the age of 53 robbed the hockey community of one of its best-loved and most respected members.

His wife Abby and young daughter Ellie were present at the ceremony in Bratislava, and Abby paid tribute to her husband.

"For anyone who knew JJ, you knew almost as soon as you met him what a wonderful and selfless man he was. He had an uncanny ability to identify the good in people and find the positive in almost any situation."

Another nominee from the USA, Mike Modano, was unable to attend the ceremony, but also passed on his tribute to Johannson.

"We spoke just yesterday and, most appropriately, he wanted to especially acknowledge and thank Jim Johannsson for everything that he did for Mike and all the American players," Ogrean said.

Modano's career brought him Olympic silver and Stanley Cup glory. Ogrean noted: "His GM at Dallas, Doug Armstrong, said that he looked like he was hovering just above the ice. Words like 'great' or 'amazing' just don't do him justice."

Kazakhstan, recently promoted back to the top division, gained its first representative in the Hall of Fame with the induction of the late Boris Alexandrov.

The former Soviet international was a key figure in the development of Kazakh hockey following the break-up of the USSR, serving his homeland as player and coach. Behind the bench, he lifted Kazakhstan to the top level of the World Championship and took the team to its first ever Winter Olympic hockey tournament in 1998.

Sadly, Alexandrov was killed in a car accident in 2002 aged just 46. His son, Viktor, spoke at the Hall of Fame ceremony and said: "This is a special moment for my family. We are pleased that the IIHF has recognized my father's love and passion for the game."

The Bibi Torriani award, presented annually to a player who offered great service to a lesser hockey nation went to Bulgaria's legendary goalie Konstantin Mihaylov. Of 52 Bulgarian World Championship campaigns, Mihaylov stood between the piping for 28 in a goaltending career that began when he stitched together his first goalie gloves from an old pair of hockey pants and trained on an outdoor rink in his hometown, Sofia. His World Championship debut came in 1985 in Megeve, France, and his final game was in 2014 at the age of 49.

"I couldn't ask for anything more than to receive an award for something I have done with love and passion throughout my life," he said.



Annual Congress

Statutes, Regulations changes approved

By Martin Merk



As part of an ongoing effort to modernize and streamline its governance structure, the **IIHF** made adjustments to its Statutes & Bylaws during hte 2019 Annual Congress.

The delegates from the IIHF membership amended the IIHF Statutes & Bylaws, several regulations and made a Rule Book update concerning face-offs at the 2019 Extra-ordinary and Annual Congress in Bratislava.

Here's a short overview of the major decisions:

The IIHF Council will grow from 13 to 14 members with a new position of a Senior Vice President as of the new Council term 2020-2024

The roles of the President, the Council. the IIHF Office and the Finance Committee have been amended to reflect the current practice and good corporate governance. The IIHF President shall in the future not be an employee of the IIHF but supervise the execution of the



The Annual Congress confirmed a new set of amendments designed to meet modern standards for good governance.

IIHF General Secretary, who will serve as Chief Executive Officer for the IIHE

As another step in governance, a new Ethics Board will be established as a body separate from the Council that has authority over ethical and integrity matters

Modifications of the IIHF Statutes & Bylaws (in 2022 and every four years), Regulations and Codes (2019 and every two years) and official playing rules, elections, honours and the admission and expelling of members will in the future be submitted to the voting at Semi-Annual Congresses, usually taking place in autumn. The Annual Congress usually taking place in May will have a bigger focus on sports matter such as the allocation of and reports from tournaments

The IIHF will not govern inline hockey an-vmore. That also means there will be no more Inline Hockey World Championship organized by the IIHF. The event planned in 2019 was can-



celled earlier due to lack of host applicants

If a female player wants to change her national eligibility after having played for a different national team earlier, the waiting period to change the eligibility and having to play in the new country was reduced from four to two years (730 days). Such a change can be done only once

The maximum number of teams compe-ting in an IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship category and qualification tournaments has been deleted. This allows the creation of new levels such as a Division IV in the men's and a Division III in the women's category as of the upcoming season

For the allocation of the top-level IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship where all member national associations with voting rights and the IIHF Council can vote, the countries that are participating in the top division at the time of vote will get an additional vote

The IIHF Sport Regulations were amen-ded with changes that were already in place at the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in agreement with the teams, namely the new semi-final seeding that does not necessarily follow the classic brackets but will be built with the top-seeded semi-finalist playing the lowest-see-

ded finalist in the early game and the 2nd-seeded semi-finalist against the 3rd-seeded finalist. The seeding is done based on the team-seeding regulation, taking into account the preliminary-round records according to the following criteria and order: 1) placement in the group, 2) points, 3) goal difference, 4) goals scored, 5) seeding coming into the tournament

The IIHF Disciplinary Code was amended to address requirements of the World Anti-Doping Agency in terms of procedures and hearings of doping cases

The IIHF Transfer Regulations were adjusted in terms of transfers of suspended players, transfer fees and players with try-out contracts

Adjustments were made in the IIHF Rule Book to formalize the false face-off rule that has already been used during the past six months at IIHF tournaments in agreement with the teams. To make the face-off procedure faster, players receive a violation warning while only a second violation in the face-off results in a bench minor penalty for delay of game

Tournaments for 2020 assigned

Congress also assigned the tournaments of the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship program for the upcoming season.



Switzerland's Cooly (on left) will welcome the 2020 Worlds.

Three of the biggest tournaments were already known: The 2020 IIHF World Championship will take place in Zurich and Lausanne, Switzerland; the 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship will be hosted by Ostrava & Trinec in the Czech Republic: and Canada will host the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Halifax and Truro from 31 March to 10 April.

The United States will host the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship outside of Detroit at the 3,800-seat USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth and at the smaller Ann Arbor Ice Cube in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The group and game allocation as well as the game schedule will be established at the Semi-Annual Congress in September.

Click here to see all assigned tournaments

2023-2025 IIHF Worlds hosts confirmed

The 2019 IIHF Annual Congress has assigned the hosting rights for the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships between 2023 and 2025 to Russia, the Czech Republic and Sweden.

Originally the three countries had bid for 2023 but the Congress accepted a proposal to assign three World Championships in a row with the first one going to Russia's second-biggest city of St. Petersburg.

"We have hosted the IIHF Ice Hockey World The second arena will be the Ice Place, the Championship seven times. We always provicurrent home of SKA St. Petersburg, that was de a high level of service and safety to teams built for the 2000 Worlds, offers a capacity and fans," assured Vladislav Tretiak, President for 12,300 spectators and is one of the best of the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia in his visited hockey arenas in Europe. presentation.

As in previous bids Russia applies with a new arena. One that shall become the biggest ice hockey venue in the world. The new arena will be a new landmark for St. Petersburg. It will be built by 2023 and offer a capacity for 21,500 to 23,000 fans according to the bid and be located in walking distance cord." Tretiak added.

"St. Petersburg is an important hockey city with a rich hockey tradition. It started with bandy in the 19th century and ice hockey became on of the most popular sports in the Soviet times. In 2016 the arena was sold out every time. More than 72'000 fans attended a Russia-Finland game at the Gazprom football arena breaking all Russian attendance refrom the Park Pobedy metro station (fittingly it means "Victory's Park" in English). It will inclu-In September a proposal from the IIHF memde 13 spacious dressing rooms with modern bership offered to assign the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Worlds to the three bidders at the 2019 facilities for athletes and staff.



The new arena in St. Petersburg will be the world's biggest.

IIHF Annual Congress. With no other applications coming in, the delegates followed the proposal to plan further ahead with the IIHF's flagship event.

The following IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships have been allocated:

2020: Zurich & Lausanne, Switzerland 2021: Minsk, Belarus & Riga, Latvia 2022: Tampere & Helsinki, Finland 2023: St. Petersburg, Russia 2024: Prague & Ostrava, Czech Republic 2025: Sweden

The Czech Republic will host the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in 2024. Same like in 2004 and 2015 the venues will be the O2 Arena in Prague and the Ostravar Arena in Ostrava where the Czechs successfully hosted two editions. The 2015 Worlds set a new attendance record four years ago with 741,690 fans (11,589 in average) coming to the games in the two Czech cities.

For Ostrava, which will be the main venue of next winter's 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship, it will be the third IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in the city while Prague has previously also hosted in 1933, 1938, 1947, 1959, 1972, 1978, 1985 and 1992 during the Czechoslovak era.

One year later, the 2025 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship will be hosted by Sweden. The cities are to be determined and the organizer announced its intention to make it a co-hosted event with Denmark, which will have to be confirmed by Congress.

Sweden was a single-country host in 1949, 1954, 1963, 1969, 1970, 1981, 1989, 1995 and 2002, and co-hosted the 2012 and 2013 editions with Finland. Denmark successfully hosted its first World Championship last year in Copenhagen and Herning.

Road to Olympics set

The 2019 IIHF Annual Congress approved the qualification criteria for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games men's ice hockey tournament in Beijing.

Like for 2018, the top-8 countries of the 2019 IIHF Men's World Ranking will be automatica-Ily qualified together with host China. In 2022 the same format will be used for the 12-team tournament with three groups consisting of four teams each. The seeding will be made next year according to the 2020 IIHF Men's World Ranking.

The qualified teams and the Olympic Qualification for the 10-team 2022 Olympic women's ice hockey tournament will be determined in a year and based on the 2020 IIHF Women's World Ranking that will be established following the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Canada.

In total a record number of 46 countries who applied to enter a men's team for the Olympics are eligible to participate in the qualification process, meaning 37 countries will battle it out for the three remaining spots in the 2022 Olympic men's ice hockey tournament.

The Olympic Qualification will be held in four stages starting in November 2019 with tournaments in Luxembourg and Hong Kong. The tournament winner of each group will advance to the next rounds until the Final Olympic Qualification as the fourth and last stage, which will be held 27 to 30 August 2020 keeping the possibility open for NHL players to ioin their countries.

The hosts of the 11 qualification tournaments were determined according to the seeding based on the 2019 IIHF Men's World Ranking, meaning the top-seeded team of each group had the right to host before it would be offered to the next teams in the seeding.

Click here for more information



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AMTILA

Finns strike second gold in Slovakia

Ten things we learned from the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship

By Lucas Aykroyd

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2019 was the second time the World Championship came to Slovakia. Thanks to fan fervor and wild games, it felt like the first.

Let's relive the magic with 10 key takeaways.

1) Finns don't need big names

As with the 2011 group that won gold, nobody thought this Finnish team would do great things. The no-name roster featured just two NHLers in Henri Jokiharju (Chicago) and Juho Lammikko (Florida). Yet after the opening 3-1 victory over Canada, it rapidly became clear that a total team effort could pay off.

Towering captain Marko "Morko" Anttila became legendary with four big goals in the 5-4 guarter-final win over Sweden, the 1-0 semi-final win over Russia, and the 3-1 gold-medal win over Canada. AHL goalie Kevin Lankinen finished with a tournament-leading 1.50 GAA. In the history of Worlds playoff games, dating back to 1992, no gold-medal team has beaten three better goalies consecutively than Henrik Lundgvist, Andrei Vasilevski, and Matt Murray.

2) Kakko wins IIHF battle with Hughes

Whether or not U.S. phenom Jack Hughes outs-



Slovakia is fast becoming a second home for the Lions, who have now claimed their second trophy in Bratislava

cores Kaapo Kakko in the NHL, the 18-year-old Finnish forward from TPS Turku has earned - for now – the bragging rights in IIHF competition.

Whenever this year's top two NHL draft picks have squared off internationally, Kakko has taken the gold, including the 2018 U18 Worlds, the 2019 World Juniors, and the 2019 Worlds. Fans worldwide hope to see this head-to-head rivalry grow at future Worlds and Olympics.

3) Stone is clutch

Canada's Paul Henderson famously scored a last-minute goal to defeat the USSR in Game Eight of the 1972 Summit Series in Moscow. This year, tournament MVP Mark Stone took a page out of Henderson's book.

First, the Canadians edged host Slovakia 6-5 on Stone's power-play goal with one second left.

Then in the guarter-final, Stone set up Damon Severson's equalizer versus Switzerland with 0.4 seconds left before potting the 3-2 overtime winner. Epitomizing Canada's "gold or bust" mentality, the 27-year-old winger hated settling for silver, but Vegas Golden Knights fans should love their new acquisition.

4) Great defence can confound Russia

As TSN broadcaster Gord Miller noted. the bronze-medal Russian squad amassed 212 NHL goals in 2018-19. However, in Slovakia, Art Ross Trophy winner Nikita Kucherov, Rocket Richard Trophy winner Alexander Ovechkin, and their teammates were blanked in the semi-finals by a Finnish team with zero NHL goals.

Failing to adapt to Suomi's relentless defence doomed coach Ilya Vorobyov's troops. It recalled Finland's wins in the 2011 and 2016 Worlds semi-finals and the 2014 Olympic guarter-finals. Russia, ironically, was the top defensive team in the preliminary round with just seven goals against.

5) U.S., Czechs can only shake their heads

"(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones could have been the theme song for both the U.S. and Czech teams. The Americans brought arguably their finest Worlds roster ever.

Captain Patrick Kane, Johnny Gaudreau, Jack Eichel, and Alex DeBrincat were just some of the aces. However, it all crumbled when they fell 4-3 to Russia in the guarter-finals. The U.S. hasn't won a World Championship tournament since 1933.

Meanwhile, led by tournament all-stars Jakub Voracek and Filip Hronek, the Czechs shone in the preliminary round and their 5-1 guarter-final win over Germany. But they left everything too late in a 5-1 semi-final loss to Canada, and Russian goalie Andrei Vasilevski made a whopping 50 saves in the 3-2 bronze-medal shootout defeat. The Czechs haven't won gold since 2010 or medaled since 2012's bronze.

6) Close but not enough for Slovakia

The Slovaks can take some pride in finishing ninth. In 2011, they came 10th on home ice with a far more talented squad. Still, this wasn't the result coach Craig Ramsay's team needed to jumpstart the struggling national program.

Shocking the U.S. 4-1 in the opener got the fans in Kosice excited. However, having the tournament's second-worst penalty kill (63.1 percent) and surrendering last-minute winning goals versus Canada and Germany destroyed Slovakia's dreams of winning a medal in Bratislava. It's six straight years with no guarter-finals now.



Finland's triumph was witnessed by a packed arena in Bratislava and millions of fans tuning in from around the world.

7) Swedes unable to three-peat

With 21 top NHLers, Sweden could have won its third straight gold medal. Yet in the end, Wi-Iliam Nylander's tournament-leading 18 points, Patric Hornqvist's seven goals, and the presence of legendary goalie Henrik Lundqvist added up to nada. Tre Kronor squandered 3-1 and 4-3 leads in its 5-4 quarter-final exit versus Finland.

Bottom line: putting other teams away doesn't come easily for Sweden. Even with their stacked 2017 and 2018 teams, they needed a shootout to win the gold medal game. If the systemic issue of getting individuals to step up at crunch time ever gets addressed, Sweden will top the podium more often.

8) Germans, Swiss are "Big Eight" nations

As the international hockey pecking order evolves, it's accurate to put Germany and Switzerland in the "Big Eight." That's not simply because they sit seventh and eighth respectively in the IIHF Men's World Ranking.

Are you pumped for the return of Cooly, the fa-Both nations won IIHF silver medals last year: mous Swiss cow mascot? The party will resu-Germany at the Olympics in Korea, Switzerme full blast at the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey World land at the Worlds in Denmark. Yet both are sti-Championship in Zurich and Lausanne (8-24 Il normally expected to get no further than the May).



guarter-finals, like this year. Despite legitimate superstars like Leon Draisaitl and Roman Josi, these rising powers need more game-breakers to contend annually.

9) Underdog dreams can come true

Among the lower-tier nations, France and Austria were favoured to survive. Instead, on 20 May, Great Britain stunningly rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat the French 4-3 and return for 2020. It ended France's top-division run dating back to 2008. And Sean McMonagle's shootout goal saved Italy from relegation with a 4-3 victory over Austria, whose tournament-long focus on defeating the Azzurri backfired. Overall, it was a testimony to the power of team play, heart, and determination.

10) Joyful fans bring Worlds alive Hockey has the world's greatest fans. The hopping Czechs, drum-pounding Latvians, and ju-

bilantly cheeky Brits were among the more than 470,000 fans who attended games in Bratislava and Kosice.

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Video Highlights: 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey **World Championship**



Click here to see highlights the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship

All-Star Team

Andrei Vasilevski, G, RUS

Filip Hronek, D, CZE Mikko Lehtonen, D, FIN

Mark Stone, F, CAN William Nylander, F, SWE Jakub Voracek, F, CZE

Directorate Best Forward, All-Star



Nikita Kucherov, Russia

10 GP, 6 G, 10 A, 16 P, +11

The best forward prize went to Russia's Nikita Kucherov, who came off a superb season in the NHL to impress here in Slovakia. He had 16 (6+10) points to help Russia to bronze and formed a dynamic partnership with Nikita Gusev, his onetime team-mate as a schoolboy.

Directorate Best Defenceman, All-Star



Filip Hronek, Czech Republic

10 GP, 3 G, 8 A, 11 P, +3

Czech defenceman Filip Hronek was the most productive blue liner, with 11 (3+8) points. Hronek helped to key the Czech blueline and lead the team all the way to the bronze medal game, where they were outlasted by Russia in the shootout.



Directorate Best Goaltender



Andrei Vasilevski, Russia

6 GP, 1.60 GAA, 94.58 SVS%, 2 SO

Russia's Andrei Vasilevski was the top goalie, stopping 94.58% of the shots he faced for a GAA of 1.6. Vasilevski also had two shutouts, and produced a stellar 48-save performance in the bronze-medal game against the Czechs. He also earned a selection to the All-Star team.

Kazakhs come back

Div. IA host and Belarus move up

By Martin Merk



The Kazakh national team won gold on home ice at the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A, ending the tournament with a perfect record.

It was a perfect ending of a successful season for Kazakhstan. After Kazakhstan had managed to stay at the World Juniors with a ninth-place finished and celebrated a Continental Cup triumph with Arlan Kokshetau winning it all in Belfast, the host nation won all five games in Nur-Sultan.

Kazakhstan along with second-place Belarus will move up to the top division of the World Championship.

It was the battle of these two undefeated teams - a 3-2 overtime win for Kazakhstan - a day before the final of the round-robin tournament which secured top spot for Kazakhstan in their race to promotion.



Kazakhstan (top) took the gold at home and together with Belarus will return to the top division for the first time since 2016.

Thanks to the extra point not only Kazakhstan but also Belarus will compete at the the Worlds in Switzerladn next year. Kazakhstan already got the news about promotion before the game because Korea, which was

chasing the two teams for a top-two spots, surprisingly lost to Lithuania. They then confirmed their first-place finish with a 3-1 victory over Hungary, coupled with a Belarusian loss to Korea on the final day.

For Belarus, the country returns to the top division after being relegated a year ago. The team started hot and put up some key wins against Lithuania, Hungary, and Slovenia before earning a point in the game against Kazakhstan. Their closest competitor Korea was looking good but stumbled against Lithuania 2-1, giving Belarus the clear path to promotion.

Individual awards were handed to players from three teams. Matt Dalton of Korea won the tournament directorate's Best Goaltender award and was also voted all-star goalie by the media.

Darren Dietz of Kazakhstan was the number-one choice as Best Defenceman. His teammate Leonid Metalnikov also made it to the All-Star Team as defenceman. Geoff Platt of Belarus won the Best Forward award of the directorate. He, Kazakhstan's Nikita Mikhailis and Sangwook Kim of Korea were voted as the three forwards on the All-Star Team. Mikhailis. who notched six points in five games, was also voted Most Valuable Player.

Despite having the services of All-Star NHLer Anze Kopitar, Slovenia found itself in a battle against Lithuania and Hungary to avoid relegation. But a 9-0 thrashing of the Lithuanians on the final day allowed Slovenia to finish in fourth place ahead of Hungary and Lithuania. Lithuania will move down to Division I Group B.

Romania roars

Earns sensational gold medal in Tallinn

By Henrik Manninen



Arriving as one of the main contenders for relegation at the start of the tournament, Romania instead took home gold in a shocking Division IB result.

Romania beat the Netherlands 3-1 in their final game at Tondiraba Ice Hall to surge through the tournament undefeated and take a significant leap upstairs in the international world of hockey.

Power-play goals by Gergo Biro and Attila Goga put Romania two goals in front against the Netherlands. It was to be a lead they never relinguished. The win sees Romania climb up to the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A.

Winning gold also means Romania will jump up on the IIHF Men's World Ranking and reach heights they have not been at since 1995 when they were 20th overall in the World Championship program.



Romania was the second-lowest seeded team going into the tournament, but still maanged to take home gold in Tallinn.

"This is incredible for us. We came here to try and stay in the group and here we are, winning all five games," said Romania's Daniel Tranca.

Having opened their sensational gold winning campaign in Tallinn by beating Estonia on penalty shots (4-3), they then downed Japan (3-2) which was followed up by an overtime win against Poland (3-2). Romania rolled on to topple Ukraine (5-1) before brushing aside the Dutch (3-1).

"It's euphoric, I cannot really describe it. I still don't really believe that next year we will be in the Division IA," said Romania team captain Roberto Gliga.

Two Romanian players cooped up individual While Romania celebrate their shock gold, awards at the tournament. Patrik Polc notnewcomers Netherlands will head straight ched two key wins and posted a 1.96 GAA to back down and compete at the 2020 IIHF earn Top Goaltender honours. His teammate Ice Hockey World Championship Division II Pavlo Borysenko won Best Defenceman. Group A.

Poland Patryk Wronka won the Top Forward title, scoring 5 points in as many games to In their previous meeting at this level, the Netherlands had pulverised Romania 9-1 at the go along with a +5 rating. His teammate 2014 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Damian Kapica finished atop the scoring Division I Group B in Vilnius, Lithuania. It was table, notching 6 goals and 4 assists for 10 a defeat which sent Romania down. Five points and a +11 rating in five games. years later, it was payback time.



"I just hope that with this win, we somehow can convince our authorities that they have to invest in our hockey. We have big potential, but if we and the next generation don't have the facilities, we are not going to be consistent and won't be able to fulfil our full potential," said Romania's captain Gliga.

In other IB news, Poland finished with a victotry over Japan to earn second place overall. Tournament hosts Estonia narrowly missed out on a medal, giving up third place to the Japanese after needing overtime to defeat fifth-place Ukraine. Estonia came tantalisingly close to equal last year's bronze medal from Division IB Kaunas. A win in regulation time would have been needed in order to leapfrog Japan for the third spot.

League roundup

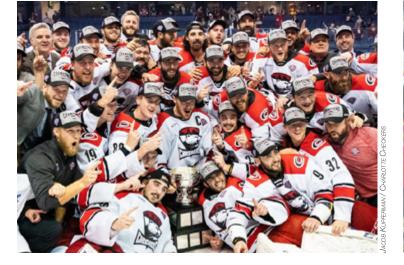
Club results from around the world

ALPS HOCKEY LEAGUE - Goalie Zan Us held his Pustertal Bruneck to one goal against in Game 7, completing an amazing three-win comeback to make Ljubljana this season's Alps Hockey League champion.

For the second season in a row, the AlpsHL, the second cross-border league in the area of Austria, Italy and Slovenia after the EBEL, required a 7th game in their championship series to crown a league champion. Both finalists, Pustertal named after the valley in South Tyrol in Italy and Olimpija Ljubljana from the Slovenian capital, which finished 1st and 2nd respectively in the regular season standings.

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE - Andrew Poturalski scored twice, including the winner, as the Charlotte Checkers defeated the Chicago Wolves 5-3 on Saturday night to capture the franchise's first Calder Cup.

After losing Game 1 of the series in overtime. the team from North Carolina went on to win four straight games, including the final three on the road, to capture the top prize in the AHL. Charlotte is the first Carolina Hurricanes/



Hartford Whalers AHL affiliate to win the Calder Cup since Springfield won in 1991.

ASIA LEAGUE - The Asia League has a new champion. After winners that previously came from either Japan or Korea, the new champion is PSK Sakhalin from the Russian island north of Japan. Sakhalin thus became the first Russian team to win the Asia League.

Sakhalin won all three games of the best-of-five final series against the Nippon Paper Cranes. The multi-sport club on the island of Sakhalin joined the Asia League in 2014.

BELARUS - Yunost Minsk is champion of Belarus once again after completing a 4-1 victory in the Extraliga final series against Neman Grodno. Yunost won its eighth title, taking the prize for the first time since 2016.



Yunost's eighth title makes it the most successful club in Belarusian championship history. Yunost's success means it returns to the Champions Hockey League for a third time.

BENELIGA – After having won the Belgian Cup and Belgian Championship, HYC Herentals CZECH REPUBLIC – For the second time in the defeated the Flyers Heerenveen in the BeNeLiga club's history, Ocelari Trinec is the champion of finals to complete the triple. Vincent Morgan the Czech Extraliga. They won the final series recorded 56 points in 20 regular season and led 4-2 over Bili Tygri Liberec, and won game six on his team in goals (8) during the playoffs. home ice by that same 4-2 score.

Trinec has been a consistent contender in the The BeNeLiga a joint Belgian/Dutch league that started in 2015/16 and this season had 12 teams Czech Extraliga. The team moved into a new participating (5 Belgian and 7 Dutch teams). arena in 2014, returned to the finals in 2018 and now has its second title.

CANADIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE -Three years after winning their first Clarkson DENMARK - Rungsted Seier Capital swept Cup, the Calgary Inferno defeated Les SonderjyskE Vojens in the final series and Canadiennes de Montreal 2-0 to win the 11th claimed its championship. It was the fourth in





edition of Canada's premier women's hockey championship. The victory was overshadowed by the announcement shortly after the end fo the season that the CWHL would cease operations in the next year.







the club's history but the second in the 21st century. 27-year-old Nikolaj Rosenthal led the team in goals in both the regular season and the playoffs. He scored 14 goals in Rungsted's 19 playoff games, and was named playoffs MVP.

ERSTE BANK EISHOCKEY LIGA - Klagenfurt AC are the 2019 EBEL champions following a 3-2 overtime victory over the Vienna Capitals in Game 6 of the finals.

Defenceman Adam Comrie scored his 6th goal of the postseason to give Klagenfurt its 31st overall Austrian title.

ERSTE LIGA - Ferencyaros Budapest. competing as FTC-Telekom, defeated SC Csikszereda to take the 2018/2019 Erste Liga and won their first title since 1997. Ferencyaros forward Attila Pavuk was voted the playoff MVP. FINLAND – HPK Hameenlinna are the newest Finnish League champions. A underdog even at the start fo the season, HPK managed to turn up its game in time for the playoffs to take itself all the way to the final series.

There, Markus Nenonen the scored championship-winning goal in the first OT of Game 7 against Karpat Oulu.

HPK finished fifth in the regular season, 38 points behind regular season winner, Karpat, and while their leading scorer, Teemu Turunen, finished third in the league scoring, none of their players dominated any of the stats categories.

FRANCE - Ten years after their last title, Grenoble Bruleurs de Loups lifted the Lique Magnus trophy again. Veteran forward Damien Fleury's goal late in the third period clinched the thrilling series against the Rouen Dragons.

The best-of-seven playoff final series between GREAT BRITAIN – The Belfast Giants secured the the two-top seeds needed the maximum number of seven games. It turned out to be a Elite Ice Hockey League championship, edging tight battle between both teams with six games the Cardiff Devils on points. The championship, decided by a single-goal margin that also met in Belfast's fifth, completes a double after the Giants defended its Challenge Cup. the 2017/18 finals.

GERMANY – For the first time in four years, the The team also got to the final stage of the IIHF DEL has a new champion. Adler Mannheim Continental Cup, hosting January's final four and missing out on the trophy following a shootout have officially dethroned the Red Bull Munich defeat to Arlan Kokshetau of Kazakhstan in the after three straight titles. last game of the tournament. With Arlan unable With 37 wins in 52 games, the Adler finished to take its place in the Champions Hockey the regular season 1st overall with 116 points. League, Belfast was invited to take part as Still, it took an incredibly dramatic Game 5 of Continental Cup runner-up and will make its first the DEL final to make their latest championship appearance in the competition. Cardiff will join possible. After a 4-1 lead 31 minutes into the the Giants by virtue of taking second place in the Elite League this season. game, Mannheim needed a slapshot goal from







defenceman Thomas Larkin in the 14th minute of overtime to win this 5th and final game 5-4.





ITALY - Ritten Sport won its fourth consecutive Italian championship. It's the fifth "scudetto" for the club from South Tyrol in six years. As often in the last few years the opponent for gold was Asiago, which won the championship in 2015. For Ritten, recently a regular IIHF Continental Cup participant as Italian champion, it's the fifth Italian championship in history.

KAZAKHSTAN - Kazakhstan has a new champion, with Beibarys Atyrau taking the crown from Arlan after a 4-1 series success against Nomad Astana.

KONTINENTAL HOCKEY LEAGUE - It's been a long wait - but CSKA Moscow reigns supreme in Russian hockey once again. The most-titled club in hockey history won the Gagarin Cup for the first time thanks to Friday's overtime triumph against Avangard Omsk. That wrapped up a 4-0 series sweep in the KHL's Grand Final and set records tumbling.

No team had previously won the KHL's regular season championship and followed it up with a championship. Second, no team had won a Gagarin Cup Final in four games. Third, no team has won as many games as CSKA this season.

In the regular season, Igor Nikitin's men won 53 out of 62 games. In the play-offs, a further 16 wins came in just 20 games. Goalie Ilya Sorokin was named MVP after becoming the first goalie to record two shut-outs in a Gagarin Cup final.

LATVIA - HK Mogo is Latvia's champion for the second time in its short history. The Rigabased club, which was founded in 2014,



produced a repeat of its playoff final series It's the second year in a row that the NHL has against Kurbads in its inaugural campaign, witnessed a first-time champion. St. Louis's winning in six games to to make it two titles in Ryan O'Reilly tied Boston's Brad Marchand for five seasons. Former KHLer Kaspars Saulietis the playoff points lead (23) and was voted the was crowned MVP and finished as the leading Conn Smythe Trophy winner as playoff MVP. post-season goalscorer with eight tallies.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE - The St. Louis - Lee Stecklein's seeing-eye point shot 49 Blues ended the longest Stanley Cup drought seconds into overtime gave the Minnesota in NHL history – 52 years – with a hard-fought Whitecaps a 2-1 victory over the Buffalo Beauts 4-1 road win over the Boston Bruins in Game to win the 2019 Isobel Cup. Seven on Wednesday.

The game was played at the sold out TRIA Rink This also marked arguably the most remarkable in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and gave the NWHL single-season turnaround ever for a franchise. its fourth champion in as many years as the Head coach Craig Berube's team was dead league has existed. The Whitecaps featured last in the standings on 3 January, but then several U.S. National Team players, notably posted the league's best record before ousting Kendall Coyne-Schofield, Hannah Brandt, and the Winnipeg Jets, Dallas Stars, San Jose Stecklein. Sharks, and Bruins in four playoff rounds.





NORWAY - Frisk Asker beat their rivals Storhamar in six games in a dramatic fashion. Frisk first tied Game 6 with three and a half minutes remaining in the third period, after Storhamar had had two goals disallowed. And then, just 2.19 into overtime, Christian Kasastul's shot hit Petter Kristiansen in front of the net, and the puck deflected into the Storhamar net. The championship was the fourth one in Frisk Asker's history.

POLAND – GKS Tychy battled past Cracovia Krakow to defend its Polish title and claim the country's top prize for the fourth time. In a series dominated by tight encounters, Tychy grabbed a 2-1 verdict on the road in game six to lift the trophy. Tychy forward Filip Komorski finished well up the scoring chart in this year's play-offs. He had 15 (7+8) points from 20 games.



Tychy will now return to the Champions Hockey League for the second time while Cracovia goes to the IIHF Continental Cup.

SWITZERLAND - There were some upsets in Switzerland's National League but the final ended up being a clash between the top-two teams of the regular season - with regular-season winner SC Bern as the new champion.

It would be Swiss national team defenceman Eric Blum, who scored the championshipclinching goal as Bern took a 4-1 victory in the final series against EV Zug. The championship is SC Bern's third in the last five years.

SLOVAKIA – HC 05 Banska Bystrica made it again. They won the Slovak Extraliga title

for the third year in a row and became the scored a big goal when it mattered the most second club after HC Kosice in Slovak history when he gave Frolunda 2-0 lead just seven minutes into the game. to do so.

The club from the centre of Slovakia defeated Just like in 2016, team captian Joel Lundqvist HK Nitra in five games and won the final got to hoist two championship trophies series 4-1. as the Gothenburg team also grabbed the Champions Hockey League title in February.

SWEDEN - Frolunda beat Stockholm's UKRAINE – HC Donbass is Ukraine's Djurgarden in the final, and clinched the title with a convincing 6-2 win in Game 6. champion once again after winning the final The hero of Game 6 was Max Friberg who series in five games against league newcomer Dnipro Kherson. flourished in the playoffs. He scored only 22 points in 52 regular season games but

potted then eight goals and 16 points in 16 Tie series opened with an upset win by games in the playoffs. Dnipro, but Donbass responded, reeling off four wins on the spin and securing the title Ryan Lasch was named playoffs MVP. He with a 4-1 success on home ice. In the end, led the league in scoring with six goals and the defending champion secured its seventh 19 points. The skilled playmaker once again national championship.







Gallery











Canada scored a goal with less than a second left to tie the quarter-final game vs the Swiss.

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Finland's Marko Anttila celebrates after scoring on Sweden in the quarter-finals.



After going goalless in the preliminary round, Marko Anttila scored four goals over the quarter-final, semi-final and final.



Top NHL Draft prospect Kaapo Kakko scored a pretty goal against Canada to open the 2019 World Championship.



Longtime captain Ladislav Nagy was honoured by the team in Kosice following Slovakia's last game at the Worlds.



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Finland's Marko Anttila (not pictured) scores a second period goal against Canada during the 2019 IIHF World Championship gold medal game.

Vilmos Gallo scores for Hungary against Kazakhstan at the World Championship Division IA





 $22 \langle \rangle$

Great Britain's Robert Dowd scored against France to help keep his team in the top division.



Leader of the Lions

History repeats itself for Jukka Jalonen

By Andrew Podnieks

When Finland defeated Canada, 3-1, to win gold at last month's World Championship in Slovakia, coach Jukka Jalonen made history.

He joins Mike Babcock (Canada) as the only men to win gold at both the World Juniors and the WM. As well, Jalonen has won a bronze at the Olympics, making him among Finland's greatest coaches.

This year's roster was a who's who of 'who are they'? How did you put together a championship team with so many little-known players?

We didn't have a lot of options this year. Not many players from the NHL were available for us, and a few players from the KHL didn't want to play because their season starts in July, so they don't have much time to recover. Most of the players on the team I know from the Finnish league, and we looked for players who we believed could play as a team. For us, that was the most important.



Slovakia has become a second home for Jukka Jalonen, who has won World Championship gold twice in the capital Bratislava.

Can you explain captain Marko Anttila? He doesn't look like much of a skater, but he scored so many important goals at critical times.

Marko is actually a pretty good skater! I know he might not look like it because he's a big guy, but he moves well and of course he is a leader in every way.

I have to say, we didn't select him because of his scoring ability, so it was a bonus when he scored so many big goals for us in the quarter-finals [the tying goal late in regulation], and semi-finals [the only goal in a 1-0 win over Russia} and the in the gold-medal game [the 1-1 goal in the second period]. But even in the earlier games, he had a lot of good chances, he just didn't score. He really had a fantastic tournament.

Did any players surprise you, players you picked for the team expecting one thing but then gave you more?

I would say we were fortunate because a lot of players maybe played better than we might have expected, or maybe even better than they expected. But it started with the team and believing in each other and playing for each other. We played the Czech Republic and Russia and Sweden in games before the tournament, and we won the first two and lost to Sweden, 2-1, so that really helped with our confidence. I think if we didn't play those games it might have been different for us, but the players started to believe in themselves. But I think if you looked at the way Kevin Lankinen played, he was really very good.

Did you come into the tournament thinking about gold? What were your honest expectations?

Of course, you always think about winning when you go into a tournament, but, sure,



Jalonen has won gold at the World Championship and World Junior level, as well as bronze at the Olympic Games.

if you look at some of the other rosters, we weren't perhaps a favourite. Russia and Sweden and Canada all had very good teams, but we played one game at a time. We lost two games in the round robin, but one was in overtime to the Americans, which could have gone either way, of course, and the other to Germany in the last game.

I think that was a good loss for us. We learned to deal with some adversity, and it helped prepare us for the quarter-finals.

How did you approach the gold-medal game? Just another game, or did you have different plans?

Of course Canada always has a good team, but we didn't think too much about that. We were confident in how we played, and that's what we worried about.

And I would say Kevin [Lankinen] was really excellent. In the gold-medal game, he was really the difference in the first period, and Canada could have had a bigger lead if he hadn't played so well. But we played better in the second period, and then when we got that second goal in the last period and went ahead, I knew we were on our way. The third goal was kind of unexpected.

We have seen Marco Sturm go to Los Angeles and now Ralph Krueger to Buffalo. Do you ever think about the possibility of coaching in the NHL?

I think if you are honest every coach in Europe dreams of going to the NHL, but it's not that easy. They have lots of coaches there, and we don't have a history of coaching there. And of course it's different with the smaller ice and the physical play. But, yes, if someone called and asked if I'd be interested, I'd say yes. But next year I still have a contract in Finland.

How different would it be? Is coaching just coaching no matter where you are, or would there be a huge adjustment?

Coaching is the same basically, but in the NHL the game is more direct and short passes, more north-south. You can't play east-west as much, and you have to go more to the net. But I don't think as a coach I'd need to change much about me. I think coaching translates anywhere, but it probably is easier to go from North America to Europe rather than the other way.





Comina

2019 IIHF DEVELOPMENT CAMP FINLAND, Vierumaki 06.-13.07.2019

2019 IIHF GOALTENDING DEVELOPMENT CAMP SLOVAKIA, Hamuliakovo 24.-30.06.2019

2019 IIHF SEMI-ANNUAL CONGRESS ITALY, Rome 25.-27.09.2019

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