



# IceTimes

March 2016 / Vol. 20, No. 2

## Canada hosts Women's Worlds

Youth Olympics a hit [>](#)  
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From the IIHF President

## New horizons

By René Fasel

**We are in the middle of the 2015/2016 ice hockey season, and so far so good.**

What pleases me most about this time of year is the number of international tournaments that are going on at different levels all around the world.

They say that variety is the spice of life, and here at the IIHF we have worked hard to advance ice hockey across the globe. The purpose of our expansion of the World Championship program was to provide countries, especially those with a developing hockey program, the chance to participate in and to also host an international ice hockey tournament at least once a year.

Aside from the obvious competitive benefits, the lower division World Championships also act as a mini-congress of sorts, where nations that are at similar stages of development in ice hockey can get together, exchange ideas, and potentially develop long-lasting partnerships that are mutually beneficial to their ice hockey programs.

With over 50 nations involved in the 2016 World Championship program, we hope that such knowledge-sharing and friendly competition can do more to advance the sport. The IIHF even went a step further in 2008 and created the Challenge Cup of Asia, which gives Asian countries outside the World Championship program a chance to compete internationally. We recently had our ninth men's CCOA tournament, and have also expanded to include a Division I and women's tournament.

Between the World Championships, the Challenge Cups, and the Olympic Qualification tournaments this year, the first quarter of 2016 is busy to say the least. With tournaments going on in four different continents, it is a situation we are pleased to find ourselves in.

Focusing on the next generation, I applaud the International Olympic Committee for a hugely successful 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games. This event is still very new, but in only its second edition the YOG took over Lillehammer, Norway and put on a very good show (story on **page 5**).

Visiting Lillehammer during the Games, it was great to see the camaraderie among all the young athletes, as well as the inclusiveness of events like the Skills Challenge, which saw Romania and Japan take home their first Olympic gold medal in an ice hockey event.

Moving to the top division tournament, our next big one on the calendar is the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship, held in the western Canadian city of Kamloops.

This has been a banner year for women's ice hockey, which now has two fully operational women's leagues in North America containing many of the players that we will see in the tournament. The increased opportunities for female hockey players to play more domestic games should benefit the Women's Worlds immensely, as the converge in Kamloops to compete for a medal. You can check out **page 8** for a preview of the tournament.

Later on in 2016 we will see the biggest addition yet to the hockey calendar as the World Cup of Hockey returns. In this issue of Ice Times we speak to German Ice Hockey Association President and President of Team Europe Franz Reindl to get his insight on how to build one of the World Cup's most unique teams (story on **page 19**).

Yes it is a banner year for our sport, and with the U18s and then of course the 2016 World Championship in Russia on the horizon, it is a good time to be a hockey fan anywhere in the world.



**"We have worked hard to advance ice hockey across the globe."**



## News and Notes

### IIHF

The IIHF Officiating Committee has selected 16 referees and 16 linesmen to officiate at the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Russia.

#### Full list of 2016 World Championship officials here

The officials were selected from a list of 63 candidates, whose performances in international and domestic competitions were closely observed during the last few months. The referees and linesmen come from a total of 12 different countries.

The group includes a mix of both experienced officials – combining for 62 World Championship and Olympic participations – as well as ten officials who will work for the first time at the top men's senior World Championship.

Russia's Konstantin Olenin (pictured, on left) called games at six World Championships and one Olympics. He officiated the gold medal game of the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Stockholm and the bronze medal game of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi. Another veteran is Daniel Piechaczek (on right) from



Germany, who even had one tournament more than Olenin, officiating several World Championships and one Olympics.

### IIHF-INLINE HOCKEY

The IIHF has announced the groups and participants for the 2016 IIHF Inline Hockey World Championship Qualification.

#### Click here for all groups and participants

While the top-13 teams from last year's event in Finland are automatically qualified, the remaining three participants will be determined through three regional qualification events.

The next tournament on the schedule is the Qualification Asia/Oceania that will take place in New Plymouth, New Zealand, 21-23 April 2016.

Japan, which was relegated last summer, will play host New Zealand, which last time played in the Worlds in 2012, India, Malaysia and Singapore in the five-team round-robin event.

For the Qualification Europe nine teams have announced their participation. They will play in three groups consisting of three teams each and the group winners will then determine the qualifier for 2017. Austria, Israel and Turkey will play in Group A; Latvia, FYR Macedonia and Serbia are seeded in Group B; and Belgium, Bulgaria and Ireland will play in Group C.

Brazil (pictured) as the only registered participant for the Qualification Americas/Africa is automatically qualified for the 2017 IIHF Inline Hockey World Championship where they will join fellow South American neighbours Argentina among other already qualified teams in the Division I competition.



### IIHF-CLUB ATTENDANCE STUDY

SC Bern (pictured) and the Swiss National League A remain in first position in the International Ice Hockey Federation's annual European attendance study.

#### Click here for all club and league rankings

SC Bern is in first place in Europe for the 15th consecutive time, averaging an attendance of 16,145 during the regular season.

The Swiss National League A (NLA) remains the league with the highest average attendance in Europe with 7,026. That's 3.9 per cent more than last season and it's the first time a European league has averaged over 7,000 fans in the regular season.



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### IIHF

The IIHF has hired **Kevin Mark** to join the IT Department as New Media Manager and Assistant to the IT Director as from 21 March 2016.



Kevin is a Canadian and Swiss Citizen, who grew up in Vancouver, Canada. In Vancouver he worked for SAP before moving to Switzerland in 2011.

Before joining the IIHF he has worked as Field Technician for Google Switzerland and as an Offshore Yacht Master in Gibraltar. He has a Business Administration Associates Degree from the Capilano University in Vancouver.

### USA

**Ken Klee** (pictured, on right) will once again coach Team USA at the upcoming 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Kamloops. Joining him as assistant coaches are Brett Strot and Chris Tamer.

This tournament marks the sixth consecutive event that Klee will be behind the bench for Team USA, including his second IIHF Women's World Championship. He has a 14-2-1-2 (W-OTW-OTL-L) record in 19 games as head



coach and has won four of the five events he has coached the team.

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USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, Michigan, has been selected to host the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship. The event is tentatively scheduled to run 1-8 April 2017.

The Women's World Championship will be held in the U.S. for the fourth time in its history.

"We are thrilled to be bringing the IIHF Women's World Championship to Michigan," said Dave Ogrian, executive director of USA Hockey. "We're confident Plymouth and USA Hockey Arena will provide a great environment for the teams and fans, and know those in the region will enjoy watching the best female hockey players in the world compete for a gold medal."

## Obituaries

### JOHN "JACK" P. RILEY

John "Jack" P. Riley, Jr., who as head coach led the U.S. to its first-ever gold medal in Olympic ice hockey in 1960, passed away on 3rd February at the age of 95.



Riley, who also played on the 1948 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, coached for more than 35 years at West Point and is a two-time recipient of the Spencer Penrose Award as the top coach in NCAA Division I men's ice hockey.

While serving as player/coach, he also directed the 1949 U.S. National Team to a bronze medal in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Stockholm, Sweden. The United States engineered a 6-2-0 record in the process.

He was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1979 and the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame in 1998. He is also a two-time recipient of the prestigious Lester Patrick Trophy (1986, 2002).

### KEN BRODERICK

Canadian goaltender Ken Broderick, one of the most respected puckstoppers in the game during the 1960s, passed away on 13 March in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada at age 74, from pulmonary fibrosis.



Broderick played at both the 1965 and 1966 World Championships and was a standout, posting a 4-0-1 record in the former and a 3-0-0 record in the latter when Canada won bronze. In all, he recorded four shut-outs to go with his 7-0-1 record in those two events.

He shared goaltending duties with Seth Martin at the 1964 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck. In 1968 in Grenoble, France, Broderick was one of the stars of the Olympics. After replacing Wayne Stephenson, he backstopped the Canadians to a bronze medal. He played for Minnesota and Boston in the NHL and finished his career with Edmonton and Quebec in the WHA.



## Young guns

### Youth Olympics a hit in Lillehammer

By Adam Steiss



**The 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway was a resounding success, in just the second-ever time that the event has been held in its short history.**

Bolstered by a strong local support for the four ice hockey events, the Youth Olympics attracted over 210,000 spectators. Over 29,000 people alone can to watch the men's and women's ice hockey tournaments and Skills Challenge competitions.

"The ice hockey was without a shadow of a doubt the star of the show, drawing in the biggest crowds. Over 29,000 people turned out to watch the hockey games in Lillehammer. Hamars' Olympic Amphitheatre followed closely racking up a grand total of 10,560 spectators for the Figure Skating events, with Gjøvik in a total of 7,500 spectators for the Short Track events," said the Lillehammer 2016 organising committee.



*The 2016 Youth Olympic Winter Games Skills Challenge participants pose together after a pickup game in Lillehammer.*

The YOG also received unprecedented broadcast coverage. In addition to the IOC live streaming the men's and women's gold medal games and the Skills Challenge Grand Final, 26 broadcasters showed coverage of the games, including Eurosport which reached 54 countries.

"Everything has gone according to plan, and we couldn't be happier," said Tomas Holmestad, the chief executive of Lillehammer 2016.

"We have had 70 medal events, an exciting educational programme and a free cultu-

re festival, the likes of which has not been seen in Norway. The only thing we had not accounted was the huge public interest we received."

The participants also enjoyed their time in Lillehammer. All of the participating teams in the men's and women's tournaments as well as the Skills Challenge athletes were engaged in the sport and with each other, through programs like the Learn and Share. The Skills Challenge athletes even got together for a pickup game after their event ended.

"These Games have been very well organised. The atmosphere has been really good and all the athletes seem very happy," said Ian Logan, chief executive of Lausanne 2020, the organising committee for the next edition of the winter Youth Olympics.

"Youth involvement will be a big mission for us in the build-up to the 2020 Games. We would really like to involve the whole of the country, just as they have done here in Lillehammer. Switzerland is a country with 26 cantons and four languages, so it will be a challenge. But we are also smaller than Norway, so I think we can expect big involvement from the entire country. That's the big challenge for us now."





Fredrik Olafsson

## Team USA golden at Youth Olympics

The United States are 2016 Youth Olympic men's ice hockey gold medallists. Team USA defeated Canada 5-2 to earn the country's first-ever medal in this event.

Down 3-1 in the third period a late goal breathed new life into Canada. But the late comeback wasn't to be as USA goalie Drew DeRidder made a great point-blank save on Luka Burzan with 1:13 left to preserve the lead. The States paid back their goaltender with two empty net goals to seal the gold medal victory.

"It's unbelievable, I can't describe that feeling when the clock runs out," said forward Tyler Weiss. "Best feeling in the world."

The United States won gold on the strength of an offence that produced 21 goals in five games and the play of DeRidder, who was rock solid in net for the Americans posting four wins, zero losses, and two shutouts along with a 1.00 GAA and a 94.94 save percentage.

Russia defeated Finland 6-2 in the bronze medal game, erasing an early Finnish lead then scoring four unanswered goals.

All the players were thankful for the entire Youth Olympic experience.

"It's crazy, everything they've done for us: the Learn and Share program, the Athlete's Village, the cafeteria always having food for us, it's amazing and made me feel like a pro," said forward Jack DeBoer. "When I get home it'll be back to reality, it's definitely going to be different but it's honestly amazing what they set up for us."

## Swedish women 2-for-2 with 2nd gold

The winner of the Youth Olympic women's ice hockey tournament in Lillehammer 2016 was the same as in Innsbruck 2012. Sweden defeated the Czech Republic 3-1 in the final to win the gold medals.

It was the Swedes' fifth consecutive win in the tournament after having started the Youth Olympics with a 2-1 shootout loss to bronze medallist Switzerland.

"It's really amazing to take home a gold medal, it's really big," said Sofie Lundin, Sweden's star forward who scored two goals in the game. "We played really good hockey and got better and better after each match. It was an unforgettable experience."

It was these scoring qualities that were missing on the Czech team. They didn't have forwards who shone individually like Lundin. They made it to the final with a strong team effort and tight, low-scoring wins but against a strong and skilled Swedish team that

wasn't enough. The Czechs had already lost to Sweden 2-0 in the preliminary round.

"We are very proud and happy about the silver medal. For us the silver medal means even more than the gold medal," said Czech captain Magdalena Erbenova. "It's just great for us. It can move women's hockey move forward and I think it's the best thing we've done this year."

Switzerland finishes its first participation in Youth Olympic ice hockey with a bronze medal for the women's team after a 5-2 win against Slovakia. The medal was won on the day two years after the first Olympic bronze for Swiss women's ice hockey in Sochi 2014.







### Skills Challenger puts Romania on map

Eduard Casaneanu of Romania won gold at the 2016 Youth Olympic Men's Skills Challenge, defeating several other contestants in the Grand Final in Lillehammer, Norway.

Sebastian Cederle of Slovakia won silver and Finland's Aleks Haatanen took home the bronze. Haatanen initially lost the medal to Eric Betzold of Germany, but following an IIHF review of Haatanen's performance in the Passing Precision event decided to award an extra point which gave the Finn the bronze medal.

As for Casaneanu, the 16-year-old now holds the distinction of winning Romania's first-ever Olympic event medal in the sport of ice hockey.

"It's amazing. I didn't think I had a chance when I came here, I didn't dream of winning, but I got the opportunity and it went well," he said.

### Japan's Takenaka wins Skills gold

With strong performances in the final four challenges, Sena Takenaka beat out the other finalists in a closely fought Women's Grand Final.

"I'm very happy," said the Osaka-born defenceman. "As soon as I started to hear the national anthem play I felt the medal getting heavier and heavier."

Anita Muraro of Italy won the silver medal, with Austria's Theresa Schafzahl taking bronze.

"I thought that to win a medal would be a dream and tonight my dream was realized," said Muraro, who plays in the Italian hockey town of Asiago.

"It's unbelievable, I didn't expect that," said Schafzahl. "I hope one day we will make it to the real Olympics but if not it makes it extra special for me. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience."







## Revenge...or repeat?

**Familiar faces battling for women's gold in Kamloops**

By Lucas Aykroyd

**Who will win the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Kamloops? Your answer might depend on how much stock you put in veteran experience.**





**Still stinging from a wild 7-5 gold medal loss to the archrival Americans last year, Canada is bringing back some vets in hopes of taking revenge on home ice.**

All-time leading scorer Hayley Wickenheiser missed Malmo with a foot injury; 2010 Olympic MVP Meghan Agosta was busy pursuing a career with the Vancouver police department; and two-time World Championship all-star defender Meaghan Mikkelson took time off to start a family. All three are back.

Wickenheiser and Mikkelson – along with fellow Calgary Inferno and national team members Rebecca Johnston and Brianne Jenner – are riding an additional high after winning the Clarkson Cup in the Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL) playoffs earlier this month.

Familiar faces abound for Canada, which has won the last four Olympic golds. Just two players will make their World Championship debut under head coach Laura Schuler: goaltender Erica Howe and forward Blayre Turnbull.

Barring a shocker like Sweden's 2006 Olympic semi-final upset of the United States, this year's Women's Worlds will culminate in another North American showdown.

The Americans are gunning for their third consecutive world title. That would set them up beautifully to host the 2017 tournament, slated for the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, Michigan.

USA Hockey isn't messing with success, either. Eighteen out of the 23 players selected were members of the 2015 gold medal squad in Sweden. And returning head coach Ken Klee's key attackers will be firing on all cylinders.

Hilary Knight, the world's top power forward, and Brianna Decker, Knight's fleet-footed linemate, teamed up to capture the first-ever Isobel Cup with the Boston Pride of the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL), which has become the CWHL's archrival as the first women's league to pay salaries. Decker's nine points in four games earned her playoff MVP honours. Not coincidentally, Knight and Decker also finished 1-2 in scoring at last year's Women's Worlds.

Scoring runs deep through the roster. For instance, Kendall Coyne is the only woman

to hit 50 goals in NCAA Division I play with Northeastern this season, and Boston College teammates Alex Carpenter and Haley Skarupa have excelled in the college scoring race too.

Factor in a deep blueline corps featuring the likes of 2015 all-star Monique Lamoureux, Kacey Bellamy and Megan Bozek, and the U.S. will be tough to knock off.

Still lingering over this event will be memories of Sochi. In the 2014 Olympic gold medal game versus Canada, the Americans had a 2-0 lead with under four minutes to play. But it fell apart. After Brianne Jenner cut the deficit to 2-1, U.S. forward Kelli Stack hit the post with Canada's net empty. Marie-Philip Poulin tied it up in the dying seconds before breaking U.S. hearts with the overtime winner at 8:10. (Poulin, who also scored both Canadian goals in the 2-0 gold medal victory in Vancouver 2010, was the CWHL's MVP this season.)

The Americans have not won an Olympic final since the inaugural one in 1998. So gold in Kamloops would also be an important stepping stone while building toward the 2018 Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea.







Andre Ringuette / HHOF-IIHF Images



Andre Ringuette / HHOF-IIHF Images



Francois Laplante / HHOF-IIHF Images



Andre Ringuette / HHOF-IIHF Images

Bronze is the target for Group A's other two teams, Finland and Russia. The Finns, in fact, have played for bronze at every Women's Worlds dating back to 1990, and came third in Malmo.

The Finns haven't had superstar Noora Raty between the pipes since 2014, but they're coming back with Meeri Raisanen, who made last year's tournament all-star team, and, like Raty, played against men in the Finnish third division this season. The ever-nifty and tireless Jenni Hiirikoski, named Best Defender at the last three Women's Worlds, anchors the blue line. Forward Riikka Valila, still shining at age 43, will spearhead the attack with the explosive Michelle Karvinen.

Can Russia medal for just the third time in its history after taking bronze in 2001 and

2013? Forwards Olga Sosina and Iya Gavrilova led the way offensively in Malmo. The diminutive but powerful 17-year-old Fanuza Kadirova was an all-star at January's U18 Championship in St. Catharines, and if she can muster up some Pavel Bure-esque finish in Kamloops, it'd be a huge plus. Buckling down on defence is a must, however. Russia's 13-1 loss to the U.S. was last year's most lopsided defeat.

In Group B action at the 1,000-capacity McArthur Island Centre, the Swiss and Swedes can't be discounted as bronze contenders either. Switzerland's Alina Muller joined Kadirova as a U18 all-star this year, and her fierce will to win matches her skills package. It'll be interesting to see how Swiss league scoring leader Christine Huni (nee Meier), a five-time Worlds participant

and two-time Olympian, fares in her return to international hockey after a five-year absence. Yet the key to success will almost certainly be goalie Florence Schelling, the 2014 Olympic MVP.

Despite successes at the Olympics, including the 2006 silver and 2010 bronze, the Damkronorna shockingly haven't medalled at the Women's Worlds since 2007.

Coach Leif Boork must hope his team produces more than in its last Kamloops appearance at the 2014 Four Nations Cup. There, Sweden was blanked in three straight losses before edging Finland for bronze. They'll need production from Pernilla Winberg and 2015 team scoring leader Anna Borgqvist. Sara Grahn's goaltending must also stand up.

Meanwhile, Japan and the Czech Republic will likely wind up in the best-of-three Relegation Round. The Japanese, who notched an historic shootout win over host Sweden to open last year's tournament, may have the edge. Nana Fujimoto was named 2015's Best Goalie. The newly promoted Czechs managed one win in their lone previous Women's Worlds (2013, 3-2 over Sweden), and will rely heavily on the leadership of forward Alena Polenska.

In 2015, interestingly, the first-day results mirrored the last-day results: the U.S. defeated Canada, and Finland beat Russia. Whether the medal game matchups on April 4 this year are the same or different, players, fans, media, and volunteers in Kamloops are in for a true spectacle at the Women's World Championship.



# Kamloops knows ice hockey

**City has hosted many hockey greats**

By Lucas Aykroyd



**If Hockey Canada was choosing one city as its “capital of excellence,” Kamloops would be on the final list. This city has a glorious hockey history.**

Current Hockey Canada president Tom Renney began his junior coaching career in the host city for the 2016 IIHF World Women's Championship. At age 37, Renney guided the Western Hockey League's Kamloops Blazers to the 1992 Memorial Cup, the top junior hockey tournament in the country.

That '92 team included future Hall of Fame defenceman Scott Niedermayer, who has won every available championship in North American and international competition. It also had blueliner Darryl Sydor (1994 IIHF World Championship gold medalist and two-time Stanley Cup champion) and skilled agitator



*Kamloops has a rich history tied to the local Blazers team, home to a considerable number of Canadian hockey figures.*



*From left: Scott Niedermayer, Mark Recchi, Hockey Canada president Tom Renney, coach Don Hay, and Shane Doan.*

Darcy Tucker (1995 World Junior champion). Tucker would earn two more Memorial Cups under coach Don Hay, who also led Canada at the '95 World Juniors. And power forward Jarome Iginla was on both those Blazers clubs in 1994 and 1995.

Iginla would win the 1997 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, plus two Olympic gold medals. In 2002, Iginla scored twice and added an assist as Canada beat the U.S. 5-2 in Salt Lake City to capture its first Winter Games title in 50 years. He fed Sidney Crosby for the legendary 3-2 overtime winner over the Americans in Vancouver in 2010.

Shane Doan, also on the '94 and '95 Memorial Cup teams, won World Championship gold in 2003 and 2007. He tallied Canada's winning goal against Finland at the 2004 World Cup of Hockey. You also can't overlook Mark Recchi, who starred for Kamloops in the 1980's under coach Ken Hitchcock. The 1998 Olympian and three-time Stanley Cup champion ranks 13th in all-time NHL scoring with 1,533 points.

Kamloops also hosted games during the 2006 World Juniors, which Canada ultimately won in Vancouver. The 2016 Canadian women's team must hope that the victorious vibe of Kamloops also rubs off on them.



# One step closer to PyeongChang 2018

**Men's Olympic Qualification shifts into final phase this September**

By Martin Merk

**With the three winners of the Men's Olympic Qualification Preliminary Round 2 known, the groups for the Final Olympic Qualification have been announced.**

The Final Olympic Qualification will be played from 1-4 September 2016. Thanks to the dates, teams can potentially use NHL players.

The winner of each tournament will qualify for the 2018 Olympic men's ice hockey tournament in PyeongChang and join the already qualified top-8 nations and host Korea in the 12-team tournament.



Yuuri Tanimoto

## Fukufuji leads Japan triumph

Stellar play from goalie Yutaka Fukufuji helped Japan edge Ukraine 2-1 on the final day of play in the Men's Olympic Qualification Preliminary Round 2 Group J at the Tsukisamu Arena in Sapporo.

Veteran centre Daisuke Obara scored the game winner and Fukufuji made 32 saves in the win.

The victory advances the Japanese men's national team to the next round of qualifying, where it will try to make the Olympics for the first time since hosting the 1998 Nagano Games.

"It was a tight game. We expected that and our defence played well," Fukufuji said. "We scored on a couple of chances and that was the difference."



Stefano Derini

## Italy advances

Italy's new-look team booked itself a trip to Norway for the Final Olympic Qualification after a first period full of pace and power proved too much for Great Britain in the decisive game. Earlier the Netherlands took third place in Group G with a 7-3 victory over Serbia.

Italy advancing is a good sign for the country following a reform of the national team structure. Following relegation from the top division in 2014 with a roster that included 10 dual-nationality players, the Italian hockey authorities decided to focus more attention on nurturing home-grown talent.

Players like Bolzano-born Anton Bernard, Marco Insam, and Armin Helfer accounted for 12 points in three games for the Azzuri.



Laszlo Mudra

## Shootout lifts Poland over Hungary

Ten month ago Hungary won 2-1 on Poland's ice in Krakow in a game for promotion to the top division. Poland avenged the loss and beat Hungary 1-0 in shootout in Budapest to advance to the Final Olympic Qualification.

It was the first win for Poland against Hungary in 13 years in an IIHF-sanctioned game. Krzysztof Zapala scored the game-winning goal while all three Hungarian shooters missed the net.

Przemyslaw Odrobny was the other hero for Poland with a 38-save shutout as Hungary outshot the Poles 38-27.

**Click here to see the game-winning goal, post-game celebrations and interviews**

### FINAL OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION (1-4 Sept, 2016)

#### GROUP D

Belarus  
Slovenia  
Denmark  
Poland

#### GROUP E

Latvia  
Germany  
Austria  
Japan

#### GROUP F

Norway  
France  
Kazakhstan  
Italy



## Australia rising

### Women's team wins Division II Group B

By Martin Merk



**Australia won the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II Group B that was held in Jaca in northern Spain**

Thanks to the win the team with the kangaroo on the jersey will be back in the Division II Group A with the nations ranked 21st-26th, the range that Australia had been playing from their first participation in 2001 until 2014 when they were relegated.

The Australians took over first place from Spain on Day 4 after winning 4-1 against the host nation. This after a bad start into the tournament with a 2-1 loss in shootout against Mexico despite a 46-13 shot-on-goal advantage. Australia continued with a 12-0 blanking of Turkey and a 12-1 against New Zealand. At the tournament Australia was ranked better than their neighbouring country for the first time in since 2013.

In front of 1,600 spectators Spain had the better start in the game that eventually decided the



Australian forward Alivia del Basso #8 led the tournament in scoring with 19 points (8G+11A) in just five games.

tournament as Ainhoa Merino opened the scoring against Australia after six minutes of play but goals from Kate Tihema nine minutes later and from Shona Powell with 42 seconds left gave Australia the lead before the first intermission.

Australia dominated the game and had 38-16 shots on goal. After a scoreless middle frame

Alivia del Basso made it 3-1 early in the third period and Tihema scored her second goal into the empty net with 106 seconds left in regulation time.

The Australians still needed another win on the last day again Iceland to defend first place. Although goals from del Basso and Sari Lehmann

built a two-goal cushion, the game remained tight. Flosrun Johannesdottir cut the lead one minute later and when in the third period Shar-na Godfrey scored Australia's third goal, Johannesdottir reacted with her second marker with 110 seconds left in the game. Iceland pulled the goalie but Australia's 3-2 lead remained.

Spain had a flawless tournament until the loss to Australia and had to settle for silver with 12 points, one less than the team from Down Under. With the silver medal the Spaniards tied their best-ever placing they also reached in 2012 and 2013.

Iceland suffered two 3-2 losses to both Australia and Spain but won the other three games to earn the bronze medals ahead of Mexico and New Zealand. Turkey, which was promoted to the Division II Group B after winning the qualification tournament last year, lost all games and will be relegated. New Zealand had its only win against the Turks, a 7-4 decision with hat tricks by Anjali Thakker for the New Zealanders and by Seda Demir for Turkey.

Del Basso led the tournament in goal scoring with eight markers and was named Best Forward of the tournament. Two other individual awards went to players from the host country as Alba Gonzalo was named Best Goaltender and Vanesa Abrisqueta Best Defenceman.



## Young Aussies win U18 by a goal

Junior team earns promotion on final day

By Ivan Tchechankov



**A wild set of events made the final day of the 2016 IIHF U18 World Championships Division III Group A one to be remembered.**

A year ago Australia was relegated from Division II Group B and the history shows that every time this happens, the Kangaroos were right back with promotion next year (2005, 2009, 2011, 2014).

They did it again this year, but in the most dramatic fashion by far. After a big upset win by Bulgaria over Turkey which gave them the chance to advance, the Aussies found themselves in a fight against bottom-ranked Mexico.

In a wild third period that saw both teams pull their goalies and a 3-1 Mexico lead evaporate in a four-goal comeback from the Australians, Ellesse Carini scored the game winner with just



*Facing second place before their last game, Australia got help from host Bulgaria and beat Mexico in a wild final to advance.*

over a minute left, winning the final game 5-4 and earning promotion for his team back to Division II.

It was a promotion that seemed lost to Australia only hours before.

Turkey, the surprise team of the tournament, overwhelmed Australia 9-6 in a matchup of the

two undefeated teams two days earlier, and was just one point from getting its second consecutive promotion in this age group.

Considering the Turks came into the tournament as the bottom seed, it was a shocking loss for Australia. But an upset by the host Bulgarians over Turkey on the final day opened up an unexpected chance.

In the last game of the tournament the Kangaroos had to take three points (regulation win) against the already relegated Mexico.

But it wasn't going to be easy. Down 3-1 in the third period, the Kangaroos kicked back with two goals in 1:23 to tie the game and Thomas Steven tallied another one at to make it 4-3.

But the real drama started in the last two minutes of the game. A tripping penalty to Evan Connard gave Mexico a power play. After a time-out the goalie Sebastian de la Vega was taken out for an extra attacker and the Aztecas scored just 8 seconds later at 58:29.

Now was Australia's turn to take their goalie out and the magic worked again in no time. Captain Ellesse Carini found the opponent's net at 58:54 for the final score 5:4. This way Australia finished in the first place, followed by Turkey and Bulgaria.

"The dominos had fallen for us. Again it was up for us to go out and do something for the gold medals. Our problem is that in our summer time we don't play hockey, so I have to bring the players here earlier to have some kind of preparation before the Championships. We are playing against teams that are in their winter time and this is a real disadvantage for us," said Australia head coach Stephen Laforet.



## Two in a row

### Taipei takes 2016 Challenge Cup of Asia

By Martin Merk



**Chinese Taipei defended its Challenge Cup of Asia title, coming on top 6-1 in a winner-take-all game with the United Arab Emirates, host of the 2016 edition in Abu Dhabi.**

The players from the island of Taiwan steamrolled through the tournament with an unbeaten record. Before the final game they had already beaten Thailand (8-1), Singapore (14-2) and Mongolia (18-2).

The United Arab Emirates entered the last day with a clean record as well defeating Thailand (6-1), Singapore (5-2) and Mongolia (5-1).

The final game started as a tight clash. Although Chinese Taipei outshot the UAE with a narrow margin (29-28), the team from Far East did much better in capitalizing on its chances.

To Weng, who led the tournament in scoring with 14 goals and five assists in four games,



The IIHF Challenge Cup of Asia, held at the Abu Dhabi Ice Rink, was won by Chinese Taipei for the second year in a row.

opened the scoring on a lengthy power play at 8:33 and Ping-En Lu made it 2-0 with 71 seconds left in the opening frame.

The Emirati outshot their opponent in the middle frame but late in the period captain Yen-Chin Shen and Yen-Chih Chen scored for



Chinese Taipei to make it a 4-0 lead after 40 minutes.

Early in the third period Lin and Weng both scored their second marker of the night and UAE captain Juma Al Dhaheri scored his team's only goal on a power play for the final

score of 6-1. Yu-Cheng Liao had a strong night in Chinese Taipei's net with 27 saves on 28 shots.

For Chinese Taipei it's the sixth Challenge Cup of Asia win after 2008, 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2015. The United Arab Emirates won in 2009 and 2012, Hong Kong in 2011.

Mongolia finished the event in third place after an 11-0 blanking of Singapore and a 7-3 win for third place on the final day against Thailand. Thailand was fourth getting its only victory against winless Singapore.

On 9th April the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia Division I will be played in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek to determine the team to be promoted. Beside the host country also Macau, Malaysia, India and for the first time Qatar participate in the event.

Prior to that the Women's Challenge Cup of Asia Division I will be played in Chinese Taipei with the hosts, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and India. For the women's national teams from Malaysia and India it will be the first tournament ever.

**Click here for more information on the IIHF Challenge Cup of Asia.**



## Gallery



Team USA celebrates a goal against Canada in the 2016 men's tournament final, en route to claiming its first-ever Youth Olympic medal.



Fredrik Olafsson



Fatima Al Ali

Top: Youth Olympic Skill Challenge winners Sebastian Cederle (SVK, silver), Eduard Casaneanu (ROU, gold), Eric Betzold (GER, bronze) and Aleks Haatanen (FIN, bronze). Bottom: Working hockey in Abu Dhabi, local commentators calling a game at the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia held in the United Arab Emirates.





In its second straight Final appearance, Swedish club Frolunda Gothenburg won the 2016 Champions Hockey League.

Martin Rose / CHL/Getty Images



Hungary's Natan Vertes in action during the Shooting Accuracy segment of the 2016 Youth Olympic Skill Challenge.

Fredrik Olasuen



Japan's men's team getting ready for its 2016 Olympic Qualification Preliminary Round 2 matchup against Romania.

Yuan Tanimoto





Laszlo Mudra

Fans showed up in droves for Hungary's Olympic Qualification games in Budapest. Although the team was not able to advance, the Hungarian supporters will get to see it compete in the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.



Laszlo Mudra

Poland celebrating after defeating Hungary in Budapest to advance to the Final Olympic Qualification round.



Fatima Al Ali

L-R: Challenge Cup of Asia organisers with Singapore, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, United Arab Emirates, and Mongolia captains.



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## Backchecking: Building a winner

**Franz Reindl charged with forming a Team Europe for 2016 World Cup of Hockey**

By Adam Steiss

**The return of the World Cup of Hockey features a team competing without a flag, but one that's aiming for nothing less than the trophy come this September in Toronto.**

The team is run by German Ice Hockey Association President Franz Reindl. Along with general manager Miroslav Satan and head coach Ralph Krueger, Reindl is trying to do something that's never been done: build a team comprised of players from European countries outside the top four nations, then have it compete in a best-on-best ice hockey tournament.

Ice Times caught up with Reindl to check on the team's progress.

**How were you approached to take over Team Europe?**

I was contacted by (NHL Deputy Commissioner) Bill Daly in the summer of 2015, I was very sur-



*With a wealth of experience as a player, coach, and administrator, Franz Reindl was an ideal choice to head Team Europe.*

prised and positive about it, for me as a former player and being a long time in the business, everyone dreams about being a part of the NHL business and this is something that I was very positive on from the first second.

We stayed in touch and started to structure the foundation of the team. One of the first things I realized is that as opposed to all the other teams there is no one federation behind Team Europe.

We don't have the benefit of a national association's administrative and managerial resources to draw from, so we needed to build it up. The other teams do have that, even the North American Young Stars have two federations working behind them.

It's a challenge, but it's a nice challenge to have because you develop a different point of view on how to structure a team.

**What was the first step in putting together the team?**

The first thing was to get the core management together, figuring out what kind of coach do we need and what kind of GM we needed. When we talked to (Satan) only needed a few seconds to decide and was totally onboard. There was no talk about money or contracts or anything like that, he had just great enthusiasm for the job right away which was great to see.

With (coach Ralph Krueger) it was the same, he has the experience in Europe, the experience internationally but also in North America and the NHL. He knows tournaments, how to prepare a group for a tournament, and he is the right person for the job. Ralph is a leader and a great motivator, his teams play fast and fair and he's a great ambassador for our sport.

**Several countries are represented among the first 16 roster names, if a Team Europe had been formed ten or fifteen years ago do you think it would have been the same?**

No, and that's what's so good about it. Team Europe represents in a way the progress we've made on the continent. It's a team that is competitive and there were so many good players to consider. We have the talent, but now we have to build the chemistry.



## How do you get this group of players – who won't have a flag on their chest to play for – motivated to win this tournament?

We have to find and build an identity in a short amount of time. The first impression after contacting the players is excitement. They have the same excitement that we have in the management because it's a unique concept and something new. Everyone's up for the challenge.

We're not playing as the European Union or for a flag or a logo anything like that. These are just a group of professionals looking to come together as a team and win a big tournament, all of these guys are competitors or they would have never reached the level they currently play at, so I have no doubt they will give it their best.

It's not playing for a country it's playing for a team, and as a former player I know that if you have a team that works together well they will play hard for each other, this is our philosophy, try to build a team for the team.

## Media always ask how chemistry is developing between a hockey team as they play. Obviously quality is important but is chemistry overblown?

No, this is very important. Ralph developed the scouting process and told them what to look for



Mix of veterans and youngsters among the first 16. From left: Anze Kopitar, Leon Draisaitl, Frederik Andersen, Marian Hossa.

when scouting a player. He also set the order of criteria of how to judge a player, and chemistry figured very importantly in this.

You think of how the four lines would work, who might fit in as the top goalie, what good defensive pairings would make...chemistry is important to consider here.

## With such a big talent pool to pick from, how did you get it down to the first 16?

In this I trust in the coaching staff and scouts. They have done an incredible amount of work and sent in over 275 scouting reports already, so I know we were in good hands. Still, the next seven will be hard to find.

## TEAM EUROPE INITIAL ROSTER: breakdown by country

### AUSTRIA

Thomas Vanek, Minnesota Wild

### DENMARK

Frederik Andersen, Anaheim Ducks  
Jannik Hansen, Vancouver Canucks  
Frans Nielsen, New York Islanders  
Mikkel Bodker, Colorado Avalanche

### SLOVAKIA

Jaroslav Halak, G, New York Islanders  
Zdeno Chara, D, Boston Bruins  
Andrej Sekera, D, Edmonton Oilers  
Marian Hossa, F, Chicago Blackhawks  
Tomas Tatar, F, Detroit Red Wings

### GERMANY

Leon Draisaitl, Edmonton Oilers  
Dennis Seidenberg, Boston Bruins

### SWITZERLAND

Roman Josi, Nashville Predators  
Mark Streit, Philadelphia Flyers

### SLOVENIA

Anze Kopitar, Los Angeles Kings

### NORWAY

Mats Zuccarello, New York Rangers



## **March 2016** / Vol. 20, No. 2

### **As president of German ice hockey, did you try to stay out of the decision to include (German forward) Leon Draisatl?**

I just agreed (laughs), I can't comment on German players but I did provide some feedback when asked about the coaching staff.

### **Still, it's not a surprise he and Dennis Seidenberg made the team...**

(Draisatl) had an unbelievable year and has developed so fast, and Seidenberg is a great player, They definitely have both earned it.

This does nothing but help our program, it's a big signal to all young German hockey players that the sky's the limit to what they can achieve. Thomas Greiss, Tobias Rieder, Filip Kuba, Christian Ehrhoff, Tom Kühnhackl, and Korbinian Holzer are other good examples. It's great also that these young stars have run through all of the development programs in German hockey, which shows other federations that it's possible to reach the highest level by going through your national development program.

### **Looking at the overall picture, how do you see the World Cup fitting in as part on the international ice hockey calendar?**

Seeing it as an Organizer of a World Championship in 2017, to be honest my first impression

was not positive, I thought that it would disturb our program. But having some time to think about it my perception changed.

It's best-on-best hockey, and so the advertising that the World Cup can generate for hockey can only help the sport to grow and develop. It's more important for our game than anything and it's worth it to see this great product on the ice.

### **IIHF President René Fasel has spoken about instituting a permanent hockey calendar with the cooperation of all member associations and professional leagues, what is your position on this?**

I fully support René on this, with the World Cup repeating every four years there is a need to have a common calendar in the hockey world.

The leagues, the associations, the clubs, the fans, the IIHF, the CHL, there are so many events going on that we need to work to streamline it all and ensure that every stakeholder gets what they need out of a calendar that supports them.

We are not opponents, we sit in the same boat when it comes to the health of our sport, and a common calendar keeps us strong and improving every year.

### **What is your opinion on NHL player participation in the Olympics?**

My principal opinion is this: the Olympic Games is the biggest stage that ice hockey has in the world, and as the biggest event it needs to have the best players. So I would love to see the NHL participating.

If they don't come, it might change the hockey tournament dramatically. We would need then to shift to something like a U-23 format, which we see in the Olympics in football. I really hope the NHL participates so we can retain hockey's pre-eminent position in the Winter Olympics.

### **Shifting to the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Cologne and Paris, how are preparations going?**

2017 is on schedule. We have two great arenas and two great locations. With the large capacity of both arenas, it's like we have two main venues. We expect that a lot of fans will visit the tournament and also to travel to Paris or Cologne for the games there through the fast train connection.

We are working as one group in the organizing committee even though it is made up of two different nations with two different cultures. Our French partners under the leadership of Luc Tardif are doing an phenomenal job. We still have some time to go but we're excited for it.

### **With the World Cup and then the World Championship, it's going to be a busy year for you...**

Oh yes, but really looking forward to it. We also have the Olympic Qualification tournament ahead of the World Cup too. In fact a lot of our players on Team Europe will be participating in these tournaments, which should help us at the World Cup since they'll have a few games under their legs by the time they get to Toronto. Should be a fun year!



## **Fact File:**

### **Franz Reindl, President, Team Europe**



- Born: 24 November 1954 (age 61) Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
- President of German Ice Hockey Association
- Played in 8 World Championships and three Olympic Games
- Won bronze at 1976 Olympics
- Coached Germany at 2004 World Cup of Hockey



# Coming up

**IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A**  
POLAND, Katowice  
23.04.2016 - 29.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group B**  
CROATIA, Zagreb  
17.04.2016 - 23.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division II Group A**  
SPAIN, Jaca  
09.04.2016 - 15.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division II Group B**  
MEXICO, Mexico City  
09.04.2016 - 15.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division III**  
TURKEY, Istanbul  
31.03.2016 - 09.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship**  
USA, Grand Forks  
14.04.2016 - 24.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division I Group A**  
BELARUS, Minsk  
09.04.2016 - 15.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division I Group B**  
ITALY, Asiago  
18.04.2016 - 24.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division II Group A**  
ROMANIA, Brasov  
04.04.2016 - 10.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division II Group B**  
SPAIN, Valdemoro  
26.03.2016 - 01.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship**  
CANADA, Kamloops  
28.03.2016 - 04.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division I Group B**  
ITALY, Asiago  
04.04.2016 - 10.04.2016

**IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II Group A**  
SLOVENIA, Bled  
04.04.2016 - 10.04.2016

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