



From the IIHF President

A proud heritage

By René Fasel

For the 80th edition of the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, we return to Mother Russia.

We are so pleased to bring this tournament back to the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, two beautiful venues and true capitals of European ice hockey. It's been too long since an IIHF World Championship has taken place in Russia, and we are very excited for what should be a tightly contested tournament.

80 years of World Championship hockey...you can't go through the decades of great memories and incredible moments without considering Russia's place in IIHF history. The legends born and trophies won during the Soviet days, and the consistent success of the Russian national team, is a point of pride in the love affair between this nation and the sport of ice hockey.

It is hard to imagine that 2016 will mark 80 years of the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship. This tournament has grown to become the world's biggest annual winter sports event, and not without good reason. The World Championship has developed into a true annual festival of hockey, bringing fans from so many different countries and backgrounds together to spend three weeks watching their country compete on the ice.

Thanks to our partnership with Infront Sports & Marketing, we've managed to develop and grow this event to the point where we often see the same fans travelling to the Worlds in May year in and year out. Thanks to the great work of the organizing committees, they will have plenty to enjoy in the host cities and in the fan zones next to the arena. The IIHF World Championship and the fanfare surrounding it is a tradition that I hope continues well into the future.

Moscow will also play host to the 2016 IIHF Annual Congress, which will see a new IIHF Council elected. I would like to sincerely thank the outgoing Council for their hard work and dedication these last four years. They are leaving the IIHF in a better position than when they arrived, and I can't thank them enough for the important contributions they made to make this happen.

I also look forward to seeing representatives from our member national associations at the

Congress. the IIHF has grown in the last two decades to include 74 member national associations covering nearly all parts of the globe. We are able to run tournaments all over the world thanks to the hard work and cooperation between the countries that host tournaments and the participants. It is gratifying to see these nations get together and exchange ideas and knowledge in order to benefit their programs, and I hope at the 2016 Congress we can continue this spirit of close cooperation and add some new members to the international ice hockey family.

In the spirit of cooperation, it is important that we work with all the key stakeholders in oursport. For example, close attention must be paid to the way the ice hockey calendar affects the players, their clubs and leagues, game officials, and of course the member national assocations. Keeping communication lines open and building consensus will ensure that ice hockey is put into a healthy annual schedule

that benefits everyone and leaves no stakeholder behind.

At the end of the day, ice hockey belongs to the players and to the fans, and we all must deliver. I look forward to Moscow and St. Petersburg coming together to host a fun 80th Worlds for both.







News and Notes

IIHF Council Elections

22 candidates have been proposed by the II-HF's membership for the election of the IIHF Council for 2016 to 2020.

The election will take place on 19 May during the 2016 IIHF Annual Congress in Moscow.

The Congress will elect the President, three Vice Presidents (one each representing the regions of Asia/Oceania, Europe/Africa and Americas) and nine other Council members.

Each full member of the IIHF in good standing was invited to propose a candidate. The nominated men and women come from 22 different countries:

IIHF President:

René Fasel, Switzerland (current President)

IIHF Vice Presidents:

Kalervo Kummola. Finland (current Vice President) Bob Nicholson, Canada (current Vice President) Thomas Wu, Hong Kong

(current Vice President) Chunlu (Lucy) Wang, China

IIHF Council candidates (female):

Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer, Hungary (current Council member) Marta Zawadzka. Poland Monique Scheier-Schneider, Luxembourg



The 2016 IIHF Annual Congress will be held at the Radisson Royal Hotel in Moscow, Russia, from the 19-22 May during the IIHF World Championship.

IIHF Council candidates (male):

Luc Tardif. France (current Council member)

Igor Nemecek, Slovakia (current Council member)

Henrik Bach Nielsen. Denmark (current Council member)

Frank Gonzalez, Spain

(current Council member)

Vladislav Tretiak. Russia (current Council member)

Franz Reindl, Germany

Petr Briza, Czech Republic

Matjaz Rakovec, Slovenia

Ron DeGregorio, USA

Vidar Gardarsson, Iceland

Robert van Rijswijk, Netherlands

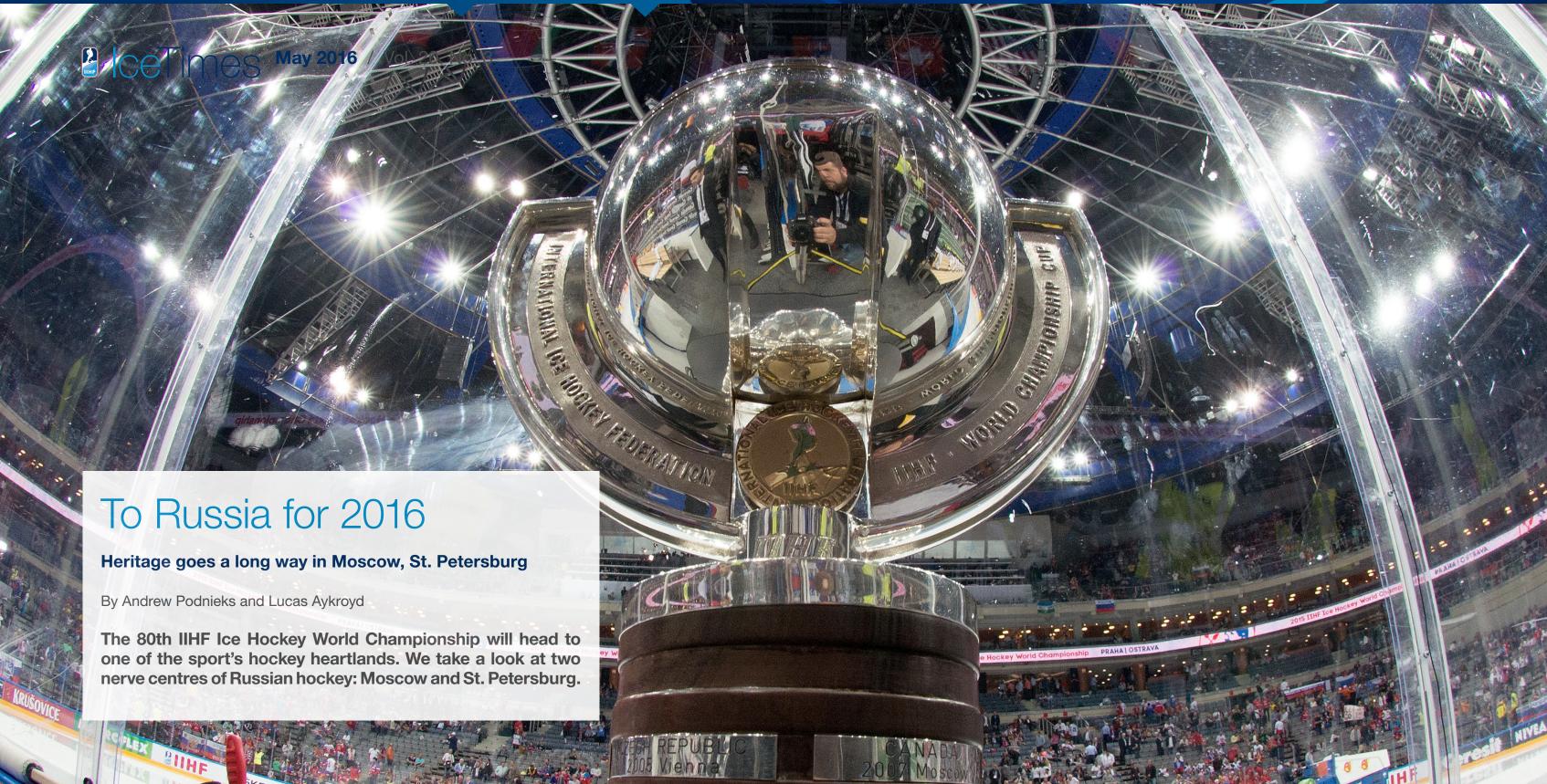
Peter Forsberg, Sweden

Sergej Goncharov, Belarus Joaquin de la Garma, Mexico

IIHF Auditors:

Christer Englund, Sweden (current Council member) Fabio Oetterli. Switzerland (current Auditor) Andrea Gios, Italy

The Council will consist of 13 voting members, of which at least two must be female members. and the General Secretary as a non-voting member. The Congress will also elect two internal Auditors for the period from 2016 to 2020.







Moscow: Every country has its hockey centre.

In the Czech Republic, it might be Kladno, the city of birth for Jaromir Jagr and other stars.

In Sweden the small northern town of Ornskoldsvik, home to Peter Forsberg, the Sedins, Markus Naslund, Anders Hedberg, shines brightest. Canada has focal points such as Toronto, which has produced some 475 NHL players, more than any other city in the world. USA might point to the state of Minnesota as its hockey capital.

But in Russia, that distinction must be given to the city on the banks of the Moskva River.

The biggest city in the world's biggest country, Moscow has produced many of its nation's world-class players. If you assembled a "virtual team" of players from Moscow alone, other capitals would have a tough time putting together a roster as formidable.

From the old days, we can start with Nikolai Sologubov, who helped the Soviets to gold at their first Olympics (in 1956). He played in nearly every major event with the team for almost a decade, winning two more gold, four silver, and three bronze medals. He was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2004.

The next generation of stars was led by Anatoli Firsov, who helped CCCP win three straight Olympic gold (1964, 1968, 1972) as well as six World Championship gold during the Soviet Union's unprecedented reign in the 1960s.

Yuri Blinov, another Muscovite, played in three major events in 1972, winning gold at the Olympics. Overlapping Firsov and Blinov was Alexander Ragulin, another Hall of Famer. He played in ten World Championships between 1961 and 1973, winning gold eight times. He also won three Olympic gold medals.

Vladimir Krutov and Slava Fetisov were teammates for many years and many victories. They were part of World Junior Championship teams that dominated the first few years of that new event in the late 1970s, and they continued to

Bure

MADE IN MOSCOM

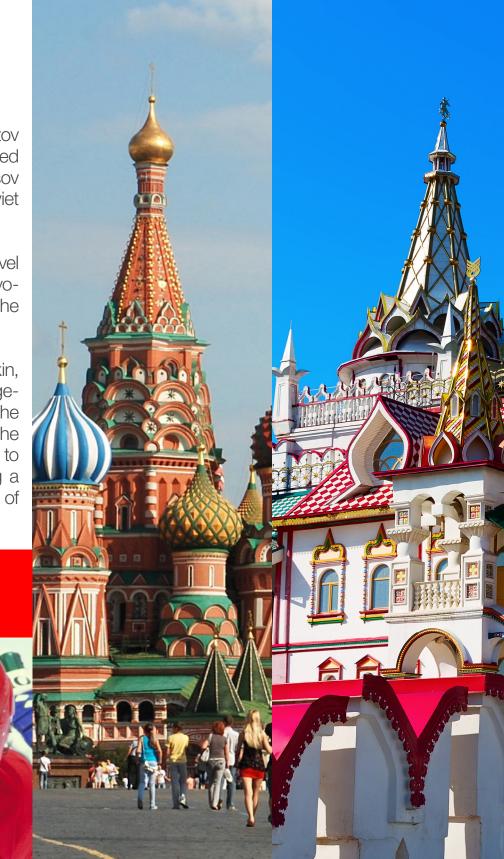
Ovechkin Fyodorov Fetisov

win with the senior team in the 1980s. Krutov anchored the KLM line, which also included Igor Larionov and Sergei Makarov, and Fetisov was long considered the Bobby Orr of Soviet defencemen.

More recently, Moscow has produced Pavel Bure, the "Russian Rocket," and Sergei Fyodorov (Fedorov), who will be inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame next month.

And of course we have Alexander Ovechkin. the best pure goalscorer of the current generation of Russians. A 50-goal scorer in the NHL. Ovechkin has played in eleven of the last 12 World Championships. His devotion to Russian hockey is unquestioned, following a lineage of great players who hail from one of the world's greatest hockey cities: Moscow.

Krutov









St. Petersburg: More than a few sights to see in the Venice of the North.

Burgeoning with canals and cathedrals, St. Petersburg is

among the most exciting and beautiful cities ever to host the IIHF World Championship.

While hockey fans think of it as the home of the KHL's SKA St. Petersburg, the world knows this Baltic Sea metropolis as the "City of the Tsars" and the site of the Russian Revolution almost a century ago.

Today, the iconic, gold leaf-laden palace by the Nevsky River is best-known for the Hermitage art museum. Some highlights of the Western European art collection include Cezanne's Girl at the Piano (for a change from the arena DJ) and Rembrandt's Old Man in Red (not a portrait of Pavel Datsyuk).

Architecture buffs will also relish viewing St. Petersburg's famous churches. The 1883-built Church of the Savior on Blood recalls St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square with its magnificent cupolas. Kazan Cathedral has regained its status as a Russian Orthodox landmark after serving as the Museum of the History

For a stimulating day trip, take a hydrofoil ride on the Gulf of Finland to Peterhof. It's home to the summer palace of Peter the Great, surrounded

Shoppers flock to central Nevsky Prospekt. Stroll, browse, and stock up on Russian staples like vodka and matryoshka dolls as well as the latest Italian and French fashions at Gostiny Dvor. The city's biggest department store dates from the 18th century.

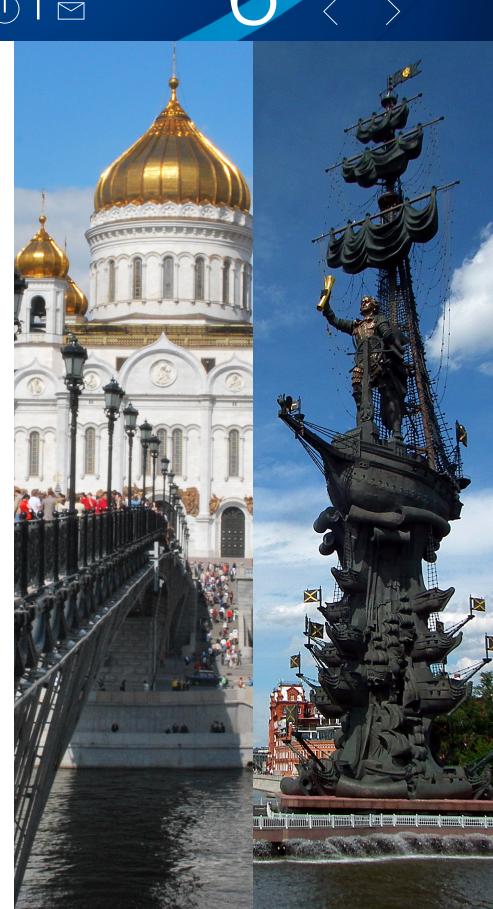
If you're traveling with children, check out the Grand Maket Rossiya, which features an 800-square-metre miniature depiction of Russia.

For a traditional Russian steam bath, head to the famous Yamskie banya. It was frequented by Lenin and Dostoyevski, and is noted for its traditional Russian kvass, a light fermented beverage made from rye bread. (And hey, what's more hockey than working up a sweat and having a drink?)

St. Petersburg also boasts a diverse array of restaurants. For a tribute to the great Russian author Nikolai Gogol, visit his namesake eatery, furnished in the style of a 19th-century apartment and serving beef stroganoff, Siberian whitefish, and Russian dumplings. If you're craving other ethnic cuisines, Francesco (Italian), Beau Rivage (French), and Tandoor (Indian) deliver the goods.

In this bustling city of 4.9 million inhabitants, there's always something happening, whether you're at the rink or seeing the sights. May is the perfect time to be in St. Petersburg.







Ten lessons from Kamloops

USA and Canada still rule the roost, but Europe is improving



By Lucas Aykroyd

From March 28 to April 4, fans were treated to one of the best-played, best-organized IIHF Women's World Championships ever. Here are 10 key take-aways from a memorable tournament in Kamloops, Canada.

1) U.S. women defend with style

USA Hockey continues to set the standard in women's hockey. The U.S. edged host Canada 1-0 in overtime in a thrilling gold medal game. It captured its third straight title and seventh gold out of the last nine Women's Worlds. Under coach Ken Klee, the defending champions played great defence.

They allowed just two goals, the fewest conceded by a champ since Canada in 1999 (two). It's another important victory for the Americans as they build toward the 2018 Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea, where they'll seek their first Olympic gold since 1998.

2) Special teams are a U.S. specialty

In 2015, the Americans relied on their power play to get gold, converting a whopping 44.8 percent of their chances. Their six power play goals were tied for second-best in Kamloops. In both 2015 and 2016, they had the tournament's best penalty kill, allowing just one goal while shorthanded.

The overall trend is crystal-clear: if you want a chance at beating Hilary Knight and Company, try to stick to 5-on-5.





3) Top teams can play it any way

The last two Women's Worlds gold medal games have been polar opposites. The wild 7-5 U.S. win in Malmo, Sweden in 2015 contrasted sharply with their 1-0 victory in Kamloops, a goalie duel between Canada's Emerance Maschmeyer and the U.S.'s Alex Rigsby.

Both were great hockey games in their own right. It's always worth seeing a clash between the North American archrivals.

4) Canada has some work to do

Up until the Americans won their first Women's Worlds in 2005, the Canadians appeared to have a distinct psychological edge. Now, that is far more tenuous.



Of course, Hockey Canada can still point to its clutch wins over the U.S. in the 2010 and 2014 Olympic finals. But it's clear that this year, bringing back wily veterans like Meghan Agosta, Meaghan Mikkelson, and Hayley Wickenheiser wasn't enough to turn the tide.

All told, the Canadians have won just five out of their last 16 Women's Worlds clashes with the Americans. Work ethic and intangibles only take you so far.

5) There are female answers to Jagr

This year, Switzerland's Christine Hueni returned to the IIHF Women's World Championship for the first time since 2011.

Hueni didn't miss a beat, tying Hilary Knight for the tournament points lead (nine). It was reminiscent of Jaromir Jagr's NHL



success after a three-year KHL hiatus. Meanwhile, Finland's Riikka Valila continued to shine as a playmaker at age 42 – just two years younger than Jagr. She tied for the overall lead in assists (five).

6) Russia picks its spots

From start to finish, did the Russians have a great Women's Worlds? It would be hard to say yes since they allowed a tournament-worst 31 goals, almost twice as many as the second-worst team, Finland (17).

But in classic Russian fashion, they elevated their game at the right time. Flashy Olga Sosina played the heroine with four points as they beat Sweden 4-1 in the quarter-finals, and then provided the 1-0 shootout winner for bronze against Finland.



7) Finland's close to an upset

Not everyone agreed with Finnish coach Pasi Mustonen's aggressive choices in terms of pulling his goalie in the 5-3 semi-final loss to Canada.

But his appraisal of what it'll take for Finland to upset a North American national team was bang-on: superb goaltending, a potent power play, a few lucky bounces, and an off-night for the opponents.

Then, the Finns will get their "one beautiful night," in Mustonen's words. They're not ready to compete on equal terms with the perennial finalists, but they're closer to surprising than any other European nation.





8) Never count the Czechs out

It's always challenging for a newly promoted team to stay in the elite division. Most observers thought the Czechs would wind up in the relegation round in Kamloops. After all, their only previous elite division stint was in 2013.

But they overachieved, beating Switzerland 3-1 and Japan 3-2 to secure a guarter-final berth. Captain Alena Polenska led the way with three goals and five points en route to the sixth-place finish.

Young forwards Denisa Krizova and Tereza Vanisova also made their presence known. Nobody will view this team as an easy three points next year.



9) Swiss, Swedes need to work

The Swiss, who won the 2014 Olympic bronze, should not have lost to the Czechs and ended up in the relegation round.

The Swedes, who are still seeking their first Women's Worlds medal since 2007's bronze, should have avoided the undisciplined streak of five straight second-period minors - including three to one player - that led to Russia's back-breaking 3-1 goal in a 4-1 guarter-final win.

These are nations that have enough experience at the top level to play with greater presence of mind. Will they come back refocused in 2017?

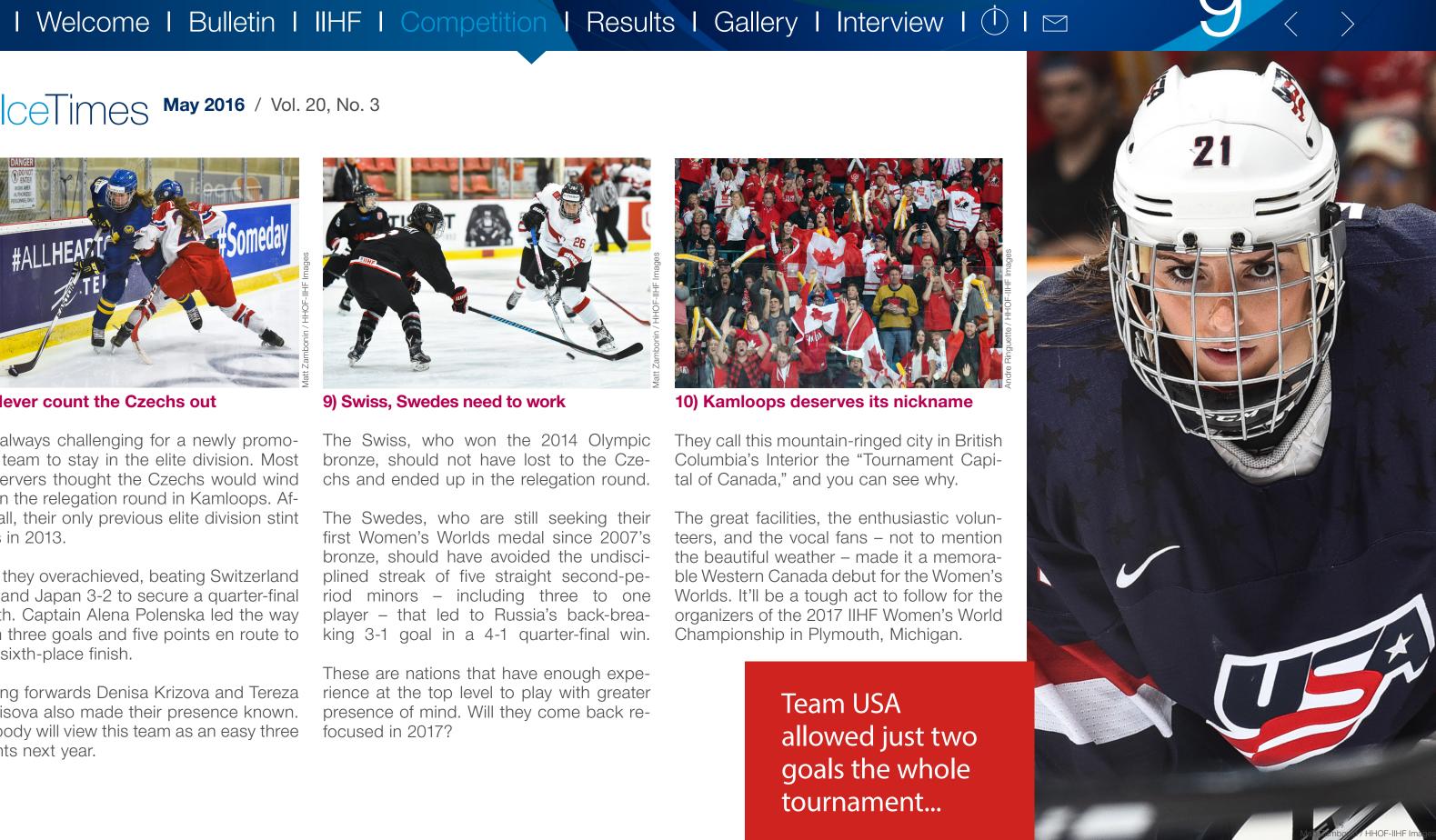


10) Kamloops deserves its nickname

They call this mountain-ringed city in British Columbia's Interior the "Tournament Capital of Canada," and you can see why.

The great facilities, the enthusiastic volunteers, and the vocal fans - not to mention the beautiful weather - made it a memorable Western Canada debut for the Women's Worlds. It'll be a tough act to follow for the organizers of the 2017 IIHF Women's World Championship in Plymouth, Michigan.

> Team USA allowed just two goals the whole tournament...



Video highlights: 2016 IIHF Women's World Championship



Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2016 IIHF Women's World Championship

Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Emerance Maschmeyer, Canada (3 GP, 1.25 GAA, 95.56 SVS%)

Best Defenceman: Jenni Hiirikoski, Finland (6 GP, 1 G, 3 A, 4 PTS, -3)

Best Forward: Hilary Knight, USA (5 GP, 7 G, 2 A, 9 PTS, +8)

Media All-Star team

Goalkeeper: Meeri Raisanen, USA Defence: Monique Lamoureux, USA Defence: Jenni Hiirikoski, Finland Forward: Hilary Knight, USA

Forward: Rebecca Johnston, Canada Forward: Christine Hueni, Switzerland

MVP: Hilary Knight, USA

Directorate Best Forward, All-Star, MVP



Hilary Knight, F, USA

Knight was spectacular once again playing in her eight Women's Worlds and collecting her sixth gold medal.

She equalled her personal best of seven goals in the tournament and proving once again why she belongs in the conversation as one of the best female hockey players on the planet.

Directorate Best Defenceman, All-Star



Jenni Hiirikoski, D, Finland

The captain and talisman of the Finnish women's national team was able to guide her group to the bronze medal game for the second year in a row.

Her consistent play at the blue line has set a high standard for the Finnish women's national team since she played in her first tournament in 2004.



Junior Finns golden

Finland tops Sweden in Grand Forks

By Lucas Aykroyd



Jesse Puljujarvi shone with a hat trick as Finland beat Sweden 6-1 to win the gold medal at the 2016 IIHF U18 World Championship in **Grand Forks, North Dakota.**

Welcome to the greatest era in Finnish junior hockey history.

After winning gold at the 2014 and 2016 World Juniors, the Finns are now U18 champions.

"Today everything worked," said Finnish coach Jussi Ahokas. "It was a great, great game. All our guys had a great effort."

It is Finland's first U18 gold since winning backto-back titles in the first two tournaments back in 1999 and 2000. Finland settled for silver last year in a 2-1 overtime loss to the United States.

"The semi-final and this game were unreal," said Finnish captain Juuso Valimaki. "I don't have any words. We just played so well."



Finland has won both IIHF men's junior tournaments in 2016, taking the gold medal at the U18s and World Juniors.

Despite the pain of losing, this silver should offer some consolation for the Swedes. It was Sweden's first U18 medal since earning silver annually from 2010 to 2012. They've never won the gold.

"If I look at the whole tournament, I'm really proud of the team, how we played and acted,"

said Swedish coach Torgny Bendelin. "We got to the final and took the silver medal. But I'm so sorry for the players. They couldn't show their really strong capacity they have. It just didn't come out today."

For both teams, it was a major accomplishment to make the final when most observers anticipated a U.S.-Canada showdown. Puljujarvi is now one of just three players who have won IIHF U18 and U20 gold in the same year. (Jason Zucker and Jack Campbell also achieved the feat with the U.S. in 2010.) The 2016 World Junior MVP was a force after joining the team for the playoff round.

Despite enduring a sore wrist and illness, he notched five goals and two assists in three games. Finnish goalie Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen won his third straight game since taking over from the ailing Leevi Laakso, who played all of Finland's group games. Finland outshot Sweden 34-18.

In the bronze medal game, The U.S. ran up a 6-1 first-period lead and thrashed Canada 10-3 to win bronze on home ice on Sunday.

It was the biggest blowout in U18 bronze history.

"It's definitely heartbreaking when you lose in the semis, but it definitely feels unbelievable to get a medal with the U.S. guys," said U.S. forward Kailer Yamamoto. "I'm going to cherish it for the rest of my life."

Latvia edged Denmark 4-3 in a shootout in Game Three of the relegation series. The Latvians stay in the elite division for 2017, while the Danes are relegated.



Video highlights: 2016 IIHF U18 World Championship



Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2016 IIHF U18 World Championship

Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Filip Gustavsson, Sweden (5 GP, 2.70 GAA, 90.58 SVS%)

Best Defenceman: Adam Fox. USA (7 GP, 1 G, 8 A, 9 PTS, +15)

Best Forward: Tyson Jost, Canada (7 GP, 6 G, 9 A, 15 PTS, +7)

Media All-Star team

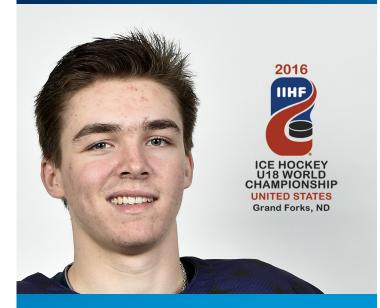
Goalkeeper: Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, Finland

Defence: Adam Fox, USA

Defence: David Quenneville, Canada

Forward: Tyson Jost, Canada Forward: Jesse Puljujarvi, Finland Forward: Clayton Keller, USA MVP: Clayton Keller, USA

All-Star Forward, MVP



Clayton Keller, F, USA

Keller was the top scorer on a United States team that potted an astounding 50 goals in seven games.

The 17-year-old recorded four goals and ten assists in the tournament, including three helpers in Team USA's 10-2 demolition of Canada in the bronze medal game.

All-Star Goaltender



Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, G, Finland

Coming in as a backup, Lukkonen started all three games in the playoffs for the Finns and turned in an All-Star performance.

He was the only goalie to hold the United States to under four goals, making 28 saves in the key 4-2 semi-final win.



Ukraine moves up

Wins gold after dramatic final day

By Henrik Manninen



Ukraine won the 2016 IIHF Ice **Hockey World Championship Division I Group B in Zagreb** after a helping hand from hosts Croatia.

Croatia edged Lithuania 2-1 after penalty shots in an pulsating thriller of a game, which saw Ukraine finish top of the table to move up to the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A.

Great Britain finished second while Lithuania won their third consecutive bronze medal at this level.

With the medal race being wide open ahead of the final game of the tournament between Lithuania and Croatia, Ukraine watched the drama unfold from the edge of their seats. Ukraine had earlier ousted Great Britain in a three-goal thriller and found itself rooting for Croatia to get a point off Lithuania in their final game, which would mean gold medals and a straight return to Division IA for the Ukrainians.



Team Ukraine recovered fast from a disappointing relegation last year to earn promotion right away back up to Group A.

Going into the final game between Lithuania and Croatia, both teams were stepping out on the ice chasing a regulation team win. Lithuania, the surprise team of the tournament, had what would have been a sensational gold medal achievement within reach, while Croatia was chasing a bronze medal to cap off a successful tournament for the host nation

Add to the mix Great Britain, who after their heartbreaking final day loss against Ukraine, also kept their fingers crossed for Croatia to take a point to win silver.

Croatia drew first blood with 49 seconds to go of the first frame. Michael Glumac unleashed a wrister from the right point past Artur Pavliukov in Lithuania's net.

Roared on by 2,500 fans inside the Dom Sportova, the level of excitement rose up yet another notch during the final frame. After Lithuania showed great spirit to get through a 3-on-5 boxplay they soon after hit on the break to pull the game level at 5:41. Daniel Bogdziul picked up the puck along the left boards ahead of Croatia's Marko Tadic, to pick out Donatas Kumeliauskas in front of net who made no mistake with a shot past Vilim Rosandic for 1-1.

As the Ukrainian players sitting in the stands got more nervous for each Lithuanian attack, a golden chance to win a sensational Baltic gold medal presented itself with two minutes left of the game. Bogdziul found Arnoldas Bosas clear in the slot who saw Rosandic keep the puck out of his net with a marvellous blocker save.

With the final seconds ticking down fast, the cheers from revelling Ukrainian players and supporters in the stands were in sharp contrast to the mood out on the ice after 60 minutes, as 1-1 meant both sets of players left wondering over what could have been.

For Ukraine, the party began as the players hit the ice in jerseys and street clothes to celebrate the team's return to Group A, after being relegated last year.

Germany back in

Promoted to top women's division

By Jeremy Darke



2017 is the year on the Germans' helmet. It will see the country host the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship and the women's team back in the top division.

After four out of five games the Germans won the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division I Group A in Aalborg, Denmark, to earn a swift return to the top division.

A double from Laura Kluge and a shutout from Jennifer Harss led to a 5-0 win over eventual silver medallists France, sending Germany back into the top division of women's hockey and booking the team on a trip to Plymouth, USA, in 2017.

"I can't find words. It was such a great team effort," explains an ecstatic Germany assistant captain Andrea Lanzl outside of her team's dressing room that has been filled



Germany's women's national team celebrates promotion back to the top division for the 2017 Women's World Championship.

with cheers and singing still 10 minutes after the win.

"It is amazing! It is my first championship that we win and I am very happy," said Laura Klu-

"It feels great! We are super happy about it. It feels awesome." says an excited German goalkeeper Jennifer Harss.

Young championship-leading goal and point scorer Laura Kluge netted twice in the key win over the French, helping her team onto victory.

The 19-year-old, who is in just her second year with the senior women's national team, impressed with her 6 goals and 3 assists, putting her atop the scoring leaders' table by the end of the tournament and earning her Directorate Top Forward honours.

With the goal of always returning to the top division and staying as competitive as possible, the Germans prepared for the Division I Group A by playing exhibition games against many of the top-flight European teams like Sweden, Finland and Russia. This strategy kept them as sharp and fast.

"We needed those games to play at the higher level, to have the speed of the game and be fast. To battle against the good teams helps us in this situation. We had to go and make the game," explained Lanzl.

"It is going to be great to go up. We are going to work hard in the summer for the World Championship and for the Olympic Qualification," says Jennifer Harss.

"We will take this self-confidence with us. We know there is no stop and we have to keep getting better every game and tournament. We know that there is more we have to bring. It takes time but we will take the time to work on those things," says a determined Andrea Lanzl.

France finished in second place, while Austria earned the bronze medal. Tournament hosts Denmark finished in fourth, followed by Norway and Slovakia, whose last-place finish meant relegation for next year.





Gold and Orange

Netherlands win out, go back to Division I

By Joeri Loonen



One year after being relegated from the Division I, the Netherlands are back.

The Dutch team did not slip up at the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division II Group A and claimed the gold winning all five games.

With many players being unavailable due to Tilburg Trappers' switch to the third-tier German Oberliga this season. Head coach Chris Eimers could put a cross through 12 names of the team that donned the orange jersey last year.

"It was a weird built-up to this tournament," reveals Eimers. "We didn't know who we could select as these playoffs were ongoing. We always had a backup plan in place."

That plan worked out better than expected. as the Netherlands went undefeated, beating hosts Spain 3-2 in overtime to claim the gold



Top: Dutch players listen to the national anthem Bottom: Australia posing for a team photo at the Mexico City Ice Dome.

ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

medals. Spain finished with silver and Belgium won bronze. Serbia and Iceland were 4th and 5th and China was relegated.

Dutch forwards Kevin Bruijsten and Julian van Lijden each had five goals while defenceman Erik Tummers was honoured the tournament's top scorer title with a goal and eight assists. Goaltender Sjoerd Idzenga was dominant in net with a Goals Against Average of 1.28 and a save percentage of 94.83%.

'Roos roll **Australia dominant in Mexico**

By Trevor Allen

Australia claimed gold in Mexico City to capture the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division II **Group B in stunning fashion.**

The Mighty Roos re-join Division IIA after scoring a combined 58 goals against opponents Bulgaria, Israel, DPR Korea, hosts Mexico and on arch-rivals New Zealand.

After being relegated last year, the Australians were determined to get back. But newly-appointed head coach Brad Vigon had to make do without their star player Nathan Walker.

"I couldn't be more impressed by the guys' buy-in and work ethic and everything we've done in preparation. The preparation the guys have done in the lead up has arguably been better than past years and they were ready to go before they boarded the plane."

After a tight 5-4 opening day win over Mexico, Australia turned up the offence the rest of the tournament, rolling over Bulgaria, Israel, DPR Korea, and New Zealand to cruise to the title.

Mexico claimed the silver medal after defeating DPR Korea 5-3 in their final game. Israel finished with the bronze medal ahead of New Zealand (4th) and DPR Korea (5th). Bulgaria is relegated to Division III after losing all five of their games.

"It was a close tournament overall with good hockey," said Mexico team spokesperson Daniela Montes de Oca. "The crowds really came out to support us and the players had fun."



Belarus moves up

U18 team beats Germany for promotion

By Alexander Yacobson



The Belarusian U18 national team moves up to the top divisionforthefirsttimesince2010, after winning the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division I Group A.

The team won promotion on the final day thanks to a 5-3 victory against eventual silver-medallist Germany.

Kazakhstan took the bronze medals ahead of France and Norway while Austria was relegated.

Germany entered the last day as the leader with 11 points while host nation Belarus had nine points from the first four games.

In the deciding game, Sergei Pishuk notched the game-winner at 4:01 and Igor Martinov scored his second of the game on an empty netter, sealing the win.



Top: Belarus rewarded the Chizhovka Arena crowd with gold on home ice. Bottom: Hungary U18s undefeated in Asiago.

The atmosphere at the Chizhovka Arena was incredible. 9,200 spectators filled the arena that was built as second venue of the 2014 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

"It's difficult to play bad when you have such support as we had today. We realized the whole country was looking on us and remembered well about it," Belarus head coach Yuri Faikov said.



Hungary wins

U18 team beats Germany for promotion

By Szabolcs Zavodsky

The Hungarian U18 national team took the gold medal in Asiago with one game left to earn promotion to the IIHF Ice Hockey

U18 World Championship Division I Group A for next year.

Japan took home silver and Ukraine earned bronze. tournament favourites Slovenia finished in fourth place, followed by Ital and last-place Korea.

In the key game against Japan, Hungary came back from a 3-1 deficit to win 4-2. Donat Szita was awarded a penalty shot that he converted to make it 2-2. Hungary took their first lead of the game on a Renato Toth goal which ended up as the game winner.

Thanks to an 6-2 win over Ukraine on the second day of the tournament, Hungary was able to earn enough points so wrap up the gold medal with one day remaining in the tournament. Still the team was able to close on a high note with a 5-4 win over Slovenia to preserve its undefeated record.

"We had a great compete level and great team spirit. I have never seen the Division IB play at such a high level before," said Hungary's head coach Glen Williamson.

"We learned a lot from last year and we have a young team so we decided to take it game by game. We wanted to play great and to get better as the tournament went on"





Gallery



Hilary Knight and the rest of Team USA gather together for a video after claiming the gold medal at the 2016 IIHF Women's World Championship.



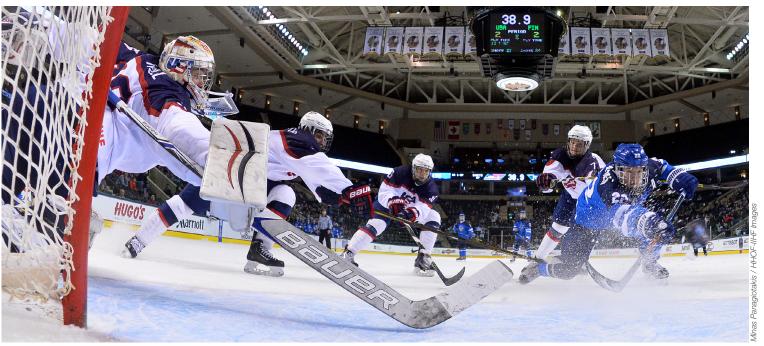


Tereza Vanisova gets a puck past Florence Schelling at the 2016 Women's Worlds.



After winning gold at both the 2014 and 2016 World Juniors, the Finns have now added U18 supremacy to their resume.





Aapeli Rasanen (right) scored twice, including the winner with 37 secs left, as Finland beat the United States in the U18 semis.



Turkey won the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division III tournament, going undefeated on home ice in Istanbul and winning promotion to Division II. Georgia won silver and South Africa took home the bronze medal.



nead coach Olexander Savitsky is lifted up by his players after winning the Division IB gold medal in Zagreb.



Silver medallists Mexico at the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division II Group B, held at the Ice Dome in Mexico City.



Backchecking:

Legend no. 20

Vladislav Tretiak talks IIHF Worlds

By Pavel Lysenkov

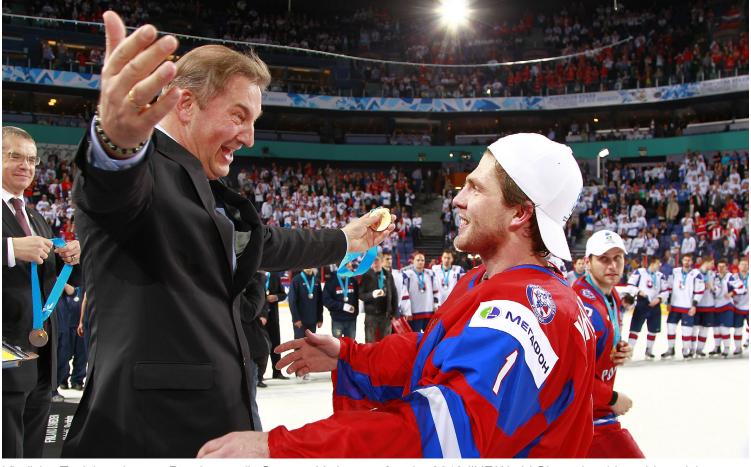
Vladislav Tretiak was a natural at No. 20. When he first joined the Soviet national team he was only 17 years old and was taken under the wing of Viktor Konovalenko, another legendary goalie.

When Konovalenko retired he passed his number on to Tretiak, who ended up winning three World Championships and an Olympic medal by the age of 20, on his way to becoming an icon of Russian ice hockey.

And now, as president of the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia, Tretiak is hoping for a gold medal on home ice. Ice Times sat down with Tretiak to discuss the big month ahead.

Days away from the start of the World Championship, what is the atmosphere like in Moscow and St. Petersburg?

It's an atmosphere of festivities. We are preparing for a very important event in the life of



Vladislav Tretiak embraces Russian goalie Semyon Varlamov after the 2012 IIHF World Championship gold medal game.

our country. We have traditions as the capital is hosting the World Championship for the sixth time in history and are all waiting for great hockey.

St. Petersburg, which hosted the World Championship in 2000, is nothing inferior to Moscow. They also love hockey there. We recently conducted test games at the «Yubileiny», playing twice against the Norway national team. The strong reaction of the fans showed that they will certainly come to watch the games against Canada, USA, Finland...

How is the new Ice Palace in Moscow?

It's a very nice palace with a capacity of 12,000 spectators. Moscow has been waiting for such a stadium for a long time. But I am glad that we also gave a second life to the «Yubileiny» in St Petersburg. It was so old but we have restored it and the city got a brand new arena.

The new Russian Ice Hockey Hall of Fame opens during the tournament, what can fans expect?

Actually, even I do not know because the Russian Ice Hockey Hall of Fame has not been presented yet. It is a surprise for me too. But I am sure that all the achievements of Soviet and Russian hockey will be on display there. All our big wins. All the unique games which make the whole country proud.

The Hall of Fame of Toronto was a template. I hope that with time, our museum will tend towards this ideal.

Three Russians - Sergei Fyodorov, Valeri Kamenski, Nikolai Ozerov - will be recognized by the IIHF Hall of Fame?

Almost every year, a Russian is recognized by the Hall of Fame - either at the NHL or the IIHF. We have many deserving players.

And I shall certainly congratulate Sergei Fyodorov and Valeri Kamenski. It is good that Nikolai Ozerov is being recognized - he is a legendary commentator in our country. He was a fan of Spartak, and I played for CSKA. But

I am grateful to Ozerov for never scolding me. We had a warm respectful relationship. He sympathized with me from the very first minutes of my career. He saw that a skinny-eared 17-year-old boy was strolling on the ice. Ozerov always praised me. I never heard any bad comments from him.

Of the ten World Championship golds you've won, is there any that is most memorable?

They are all memorable. But if I have to choose, I would pick the second gold. For the first World Championship in 1970 I was the second goalkeeper. I was behind the back of Viktor Konovalenko, I played two and a half matches. And then in 1971 I played in decisive games. I became the number one goalkeeper in the country.

And how could I forget year 1978, when we celebrated the 50 years of hockey of Czechoslovakia? We had to win with a goal difference of two. And we won in Prague with a score of 3-1.

In 1974 in Helsinki, when we were lagging behind CSSR (2-7)? We had to take the win for the second game and we did it – 3-1. You remember those tournaments best where you won the gold through hardships. In Moscow we won easily two times (1973, 1979.



Tretiak was the face of Soviet hockey during the nation's heyday and is now at the helm of Russian hockey as president.

What are some of the challenges you've faced since becoming president of the **Ice Hockey Federation of Russia?**

Our country is special. At a time we had not won anything for 15 years and would have been happy with any medal.

And then after 2008 we won four golds. Last year's silver in Prague was kind of bitter. Canada had gathered a very tough team.

But the people were not happy: "How come? Only silver..." Nowadays any medal is achieved through hardships. The class of the teams is more uniform. Switzerland, Germany, Norway





- any of them can give us a surprise. France has already won against Russia and Canada. Who can give an exact forecast that some team will win against the other?

We have to respect everyone. And any medal at the World Championship is a great result.

Do you have any goals for the Russian program through the next years?

In recent years, the interest in hockey in Russia has grown much. Officially there are 92,000 players in our country. In general, the sport attracts about 500,000 people.

We doubled the number of children involved. The number of hockey arenas with artificial ice has also doubled. We are now third in the number of rinks. However, we unfortunately still lag behind Switzerland or Finland per capita.

But we made a huge leap. Hockey is so popular in Russia, that it is necessary to create conditions for it. Then good players will certainly appear.

Ice hockey has changed a bit since you played, how would a young Vladislav Tretiak handle the game today?

Young Tretiak could calmly play for CSKA. The 20-year-old Ilya Sorokin had a great playoff for the CSKA. Was I any worse? (laughs)

On the contrary, it is easier to play now. Because the equipment has improved. Light and reliable, the whole body is protected.

Also, the game style of goalkeepers has changed. The techniques have changed. There is only one difficulty – hockey is now faster, shots are stronger. But you can get used to it upon training. And it is easier for the Soviet goalkeeper to adapt to the hockey of the future than the Soviet forward.

What is the biggest difference between Russian hockey today versus Soviet hockey in your time?

The most important is speed. The rules of the game have changed, now all hockey players fly like rockets. Before we used to put more emphasis on techniques and combinations.

Now the Russian style is tending more towards the Canadian style. Throw the puck into the zone, run, pressure. Many of our teams promote such a kind of hockey.

But watch how we played for the Super Series in 1972. It was a completely different style! What has changed? The red line has been removed, and it changed a lot.

Beyond the World Championship are you looking forward to the return of the **World Cup of Hockey?**

We have already announced the team composition of 16 players. The bridge from the World Championship to the World Cup will build itself. An athlete is not accustomed to

The September event in Toronto is another stage of preparation. It is very prestigious for our players to play for the World Cup. It is a test of their strength. And a challenge to find out our international level.

With the next Olympics in Korea, do you believe NHL player participation is key to raising the profile of the game in Asia?

It is difficult to say. It depends largely on the players themselves. If they act cohesively with the NHLPA, the best NHL stars will go to South Korea, Club owners will release them.

You've won so many accolades as a player, which one are you most proud of?

It is awkward to talk about myself... I believe I do not deserve it... But sometimes people say: "Vladislav Tretiak - the best goalkeeper of all times". My surname even features in songs.

It is not a correct phrase. There are many great goalkeepers who were nothing less. But when they say it even abroad, it is very pleasant. It means I have achieved something in hockey.



Vladislav Tretiak, President, **Team Russia**



- Born: 25 April 1952 (age 64) Orudevo, Russia
- IIHF Council member
- Ten-time World Championship gold medallist
- Three-time Olympic gold medallist
- Won 1981 Canada Cup, selected to All-Star team and chosen as MVP
- Member of 2008 IIHF Centennial All-Star Team

Coming

IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship RUSSIA, Moscow & St. Petersburg 06.05.2016 - 22.05.2016

IIHF Annual Congress RUSSIA, Moscow 19.05.2016 - 22.05.2016



Canada was the last nation standing in 2015, lifting the World Championship trophy in Prague. Who will it be in Moscow?



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