





From the IIHF President

# Celebrating 80 years

By René Fasel

The book is closed on the 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, a competition that we hope will provide a blueprint for the future.

We saw Canada defend its title with a team full of talent, coming from a country that is among the best in producing hockey stars. Watching Canada on the ice this year it was easy to forget that they only iced a handful of players from the 2015 gold medal team. Yet they still managed to go all the way, and for the second year in a row. Congratulations to Canada!

Congratulations also to Finland and hosts Russia for their respective silver and bronze medal wins, and to all the teams for their hard work on their ice.

There are a few reasons why I hope to see what happened in Russia continue into the future. The first is the great performances from some of the lower seeded teams in Moscow and St. Petersburg. 2017 tournament co-hosts Germany, for example, played a great tournament, finishing third in Group B and making it into the guarter-final round. Joining them in that round was Denmark, which equalled its all-time best placement at the top division.

Although the team was relegated, newly-promoted Hungary was one of the big stories of 2016, playing spirited hockey and drawing from the rabid enthusiasm of its fans to make a mark in St. Petersburg, culminating in a huge upset win over Belarus that sent their supporters into joyful celebration.

Hungary's and Germany's example shows that anyone can be competitive and find success playing in the top division. We are always working to improve the competitive balance of our tournaments and give the up-and-coming nations the opportunity to reach new heights in their hockey programs.

Our goal is to increase parity at the top level of our sport, and the more teams that are able to challenge the world's top hockey nations, the better.

Some of the best performances also came from some of the youngest players participating in the 2016 tournament.

The skills that some of the 18- and 19-yearolds put on display was incredible to watch, and is a good indicator for the future health of our sport as these athletes continue to grow, improve and inspire others with their play.

We welcomed our newly-elected IIHF Council during the Annual Congress in Moscow. I congratulate all of the winning candidates and look forward to working with them in the next four years.

We have a great mixture of new and old philosophies, along with plenty of experience and ability in our new Council members, all of whom I have no doubt can contribute to the betterment of our game.

In my speech to Congress I outlined my platform for the next four years:

- -A comprehensive ice hockey calendar
- -Improved player safety
- -A revised governance structure that is both effective and transparent.

Hitting all three targeted goals within the next four years will be a challenge, but I am encouraged by the motivation and resolve of this new Council to work towards this purpose.

Enjoy the summer and see you next season!





# News and Notes

### IIHE

The International Ice Hockey Federation has announced the groups of the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship that will take place in Germany and France.

The groups are based on the 2016 IIHF Men's World Ranking with minor amendments to take into consideration special requirements of the co-hosts since the event will be hosted in two countries.

Cologne, the largest city in the Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan region with a population of over 10 million people, will serve as the main venue for the event with its 18.500seat LANXESS arena (formerly known as Kolnarena), which is the biggest indoor sport venue used for ice hockey in Europe. It will host 34 games including the Group A, two quarter-finals and all semi-final and medal games.

In Paris, the French capital with a population of over 12 million in the metropolitan area, the legendary arena at Bercy will host 30 games including all games of Group B and two quarter-final games.

The arena was recently refurbished and extended into a state-of-the-art, 14,500seat venue that will incorporate a large fan zone nearby.

The event will take place from 5th to 21st May 2017 at the two venues that are linked by the Thalys bullet train with a trip from downtown to downtown taking three-anda-half hours.

The first stage of ticket sale has already started on www.iihfworlds2017.com with packages containing all games, all preliminary-round games and all final-round games at a selected venue.

# 2017 IIHF ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (5-21 MAY 2017)

GROUP A	GROUP B
Canada	Russia
Finland	USA
Czech Republic	Sweden
Switzerland	Slovakia
Belarus	Germany
Norway	Latvia
France	Denmark
Slovenia	Italy

The game schedule will be announced at a later date and day tickets and team packages will go on sale in the upcoming months, while single-game tickets will be available as of next spring.

The 2016 IIHF Annual Congress also assigned the tournaments of the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship program and the Women's Olympic Qualification.

Click here to see all tournaments. groups, and dates for the 2017 IIHF Ice **Hockey World Championship program.** 

Click here to see all the final dates for the 2018 Olympic Qualification program.

## **AUSTRIA**

Finnish veteran coach Alpo Suhonen, assisted by Roger Bader from Switzerland. will lead the Austrian men's national team in the upcoming season.

The change was made because Daniel Ratushny, who was coaching the team for the last two years, will focus on his club duties with Swiss NLA team Lausanne HC and won't be available to coach the Austrian national team. Suhonen has worked for the association as Sport Director while Bader has been the head coach of the U20 national team and manager of hockey development.

"Four years ago we began to develop an identity for Austrian hockey with Alpo Suhonen. We won't leave that path and will continue it even more intensively," Austrian Ice Hockey Association President Dieter Kalt said.

### **USA**

USA Hockey announced that **Joel Johnson**, associate head coach of the University of Minnesota women's ice hockey team, has been named head coach of the U.S. Women's National Under-18 Team for the 2016/17 season.

"Joel has played a significant role in our success over the last few seasons and will once again guide the development of our players," said Reagan Carey, director of women's hockey at USA Hockey. "We look forward to his continued contributions and helping our players reach their fullest potential."

Johnson will lead the U.S. Women's National Under-18 Team at the 2016 Women's Under-18 Series against Canada in Calgary, Alberta, 18-21 August, and at the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship in Prerov and Zlin, Czch Republic, 7-14 January 2017.

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# IIHF Congress

### **New IIHF Council elected**

By Martin Merk

Five new members join the IIHF Council after the 2016 IIHF Annual Congress in Moscow has voted on the leadership for a new four-year term.

The executive of the International Ice Hockey Federation includes 13 voting members and the General Secretary, Horst Lichtner, as a non-voting member. And the race for the places has been very tight in the end.

The elections began with the applications for the President and the three Vice Presidents. Rene Fasel was the only applicant to serve as President and was unanimously elected to serve a new four-year term in the position. The same with the three Vice Presidents: **Kalervo Kummola** will continue his mandate as Vice President representing Europe and Africa, **Bob Nicholson** for the Americas and **Thomas Wu** for Asia and Oceania.

"The success of international ice hockey has been achieved thanks to consensus among stakeholders. Consent and finding compromises are



The new IIHF Council has eight returning members as well as five new faces joining the federation's executive body.

important and our strategy won't change for the new term," Fasel said in his opening speech and underlined the goal to continue with NHL participation at the Olympic Winter Games for the sixth consecutive time, the Champions Hockey League that concluded its second season, ice hockey in Asia and the growth of women's hockey.

Next was the election of the statutory minimum of two female Council members with three candidates running for the vacancies. Returning Council member **Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer** was re-elected. Four years ago she came in as a new member having mostly been known as a long-time Hungarian national team player and chairing women's hockey in her country.

**Marta Zawadzka** was elected as a new Council member. She has been a board member and delegate for the Polish Ice Hockey Association for the last four years.

"I'm proud to be a member of this hockey family. My father was a hockey referee and thanks to him I learned all the rules and became passionate to play the game," Zawadzka said.

A new member, German Ice Hockey Association President **Franz Reindl**, received the most votes from the membership.

"Hockey is my passion. My three leading credentials are experience, affiliation and team work," Reindl started his presentation. "My whole career was marked by great teammates, employees and team work."

A former national team player and 1976 Olympic bronze medallist, Reindl has worked as an administrator for the German Ice Hockey Association for 20 years. He was the General Secretary until becoming President in 2014, has been working in IIHF committees for 18 years, as a General Secretary for two World Championship organizing committees (2001, 2010) and as the President and CEO of the 2017 Worlds. He was appointed as Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel in Sochi 2014 and as President for Team Europe at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey.

**Vladislav Tretiak**, the President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia and well known as a goalie legend, got the highest number of votes from the re-elected male members.

Luc Tardif from France was the next re-elected member. He was on the board of the French Ice Sports Federation until ice hockey became independent in 2006 when he became the President of the French Ice Hockey Federation. He has also served as Treasurer for the IIHF and was named Chef de Mission for France in Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018.

"The financial situation of the IIHF is better than four years ago. The income increased. Despi-













te having to reduce costs the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship structure could be kept for all categories and division. For the next four years my goal is to consolidate the financial stability and pursue financial transparency," he said.

Henrik Bach Nielsen, the President of the Danish Ice Hockey Federation, was elected for a second term as well.

"We need to be partners with the bigger and smaller nations and have the doors open to make such a journey possible and to benefit all. In my new term I want to continue my work to formalizing a mentoring program," he said.

The second new member to join the IIHF Council will be the youngest one: 32-year-old Sergej Gontcharov, who was nominated by the Belarusian Ice Hockey Association where he serves as a board member and previously as the general secretary. Gontcharov has also been working in Ukraine as CEO of the bidding committee for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games for Lviv and as an advisor to Sergei Bubka, the Ukrainian IOC Executive Board member and President of the National Olympic Committee.

"We need to have more players in more countries to play ice hockey. We need to realize the potential markets. There are hundreds of millions of people in countries where we can make ice hockey a bigger sport in the lower divisions. It must be in the interest of the bigger nations that smaller nations come closer to their level. Being elected doesn't mean mission accomplished, it means the work starts. Let's help each other and make hockey a truly global sport," he said.

Ron DeGregorio from the United States succeeds fellow countryman Tony Rossi, who retired from his position with the Council. The former player, coach, owner of an AHL franchise has served as an administrator for USA Hockey for 12 years, until 2015 as the President.

He mentioned how not only the U.S. is helping bigger countries but also how he learned to run

his own members in the various states thanks to the experiences in the IIHF.

"I hope my knowledge both in hockey, business and the financial side will help the IIHF. Working together is the crucial thing to move forward internationally but we have to move forward with mutual respect. Together we will grow," DeGregorio said.

Petr Briza was the final Council member to be elected. Briza is the General Manager of Sparta Prague, one of the biggest Czech clubs, a board member of the Czech Ice Hockey Association and of the Champions Hockey Leaque, and has served as a member of the IIHF Co-ordination Committee. He also worked as President of the Prague Organizing Committee for the hugely successful 2015 IHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

"I was very proud to represent my country in World Championships and Olympics Games," the former goalie said and is thrilled to become the first Czech IIHF Council member since the late Miroslav Subrt. "who served for an unbelievable 44 years".

"It has been great ten years working as an administrator internationally and we had an amazing World Championship in the Czech Republic one year ago with a record attendance and good financial figures. Even one year after I'm still very proud to have worked on this success," he said.

"We have to help middle and small countries to make them much stronger and help create new sport infrastructure and bring more kids to the rinks."

The 2016 IIHF Annual Congress also elected two IIHF Auditors for a four-year term. Outgoing Council member Christer Englund, who didn't run for re-election after retiring as President of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association, was elected and Fabio Oetterli was re-elected in this position.

# HF 2016-2020 Council -- CLICK HERE TO READ FULL COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES --



Kalervo Kummola













Henrik

Briza DeGregorio

Gontcharov

Franz Reindl

Luc Tardif |







# IIHF Congress

### OT format approved, three nations admitted

By Martin Merk

### **Overtime format**

The 2016 IIHF Annual Congress approved changes in the IIHF Sport Regulations including the overtime and shootout format.

As of the upcoming season, the overtime and shootout format will be changed in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship for men's, women's and junior categories at all levels.

In the preliminary round the overtime period will be played up to five minutes with three-on-three skaters. If still tied, a shootout with three rounds and if necessary tie-break shots will take place.

In playoff games (except for the gold medal game) the overtime period will be played up to ten minutes with four-on-four skaters. If still tied. a shootout with five rounds and if necessary tiebreak shots will take place. In the gold medal game the overtime period will be played up to 20 minutes with five-on-five skaters. If still tied, a shootout with five rounds and if necessary tiebreak shots will take place.



The introduction of new overtime operations and the admission of three new nations were atop the Congress agenda.

### **Growth in Asia**

The International Ice Hockey Federation grows to 77 countries after **Indonesia**. **Nepal** and the Philippines have been admitted as new associate members.

Ice hockey has been played in **Indonesia** since 1996 and been organized by the Federasi Hoki Es Indonesia for several years. Indonesia is the world's fourth-most populous country with 258 million people. More than half of them live on the island of Java, where the country's three ice rinks are located.

There are currently five senior clubs and three youth hockey clubs teams. The Sky Rink on the third level of the Mall Taman Anggrek in Jakarta Barat was opened in 1996. In recent years two more rinks opened with Gardenice (800 square metres) in Bandung and the 24-on-55-metre BX Rink at the Bintaro Jaya Xchange Mall in Tangsel in the Jakarta region that has become the country's premier ice sport facility.

"Becoming a member shows to everyone that anything is possible. A winter sport can grow in tropical countries, more ice rinks can open and more people could enjoy the thrill of ice hockey sport," said General Secretary Wiwin Darmawan Salim. "Our saying here is: the first time you try ice hockey, you will fall. The second time you try ice hockey, you fall in love."

**Nepal** is a landlocked country with over 31 mi-Ilion inhabitants in the Himalayas area with China bordering in the north and India in the south. Currently there are no ice rinks but four outdoor inline hockey rinks in the capital of Kathmandu, Pokara, Ilam and Kavree.

Nepal Ice Hockey Association President Lok Bahadur Shahi handed over a symbolic present to IIHF President Rene Fasel in form of a Khukuri knife, a symbol of Nepalese independence.

"With the support of the government and the IIHF, we are looking to build a new chapter in Nepalese sports with ice hockey," he told IIHF.com during an earlier visit at the IIHF headquarters in Zurich.

The association hopes that the first ice rink can soon be built in the capital Kathmandu and confirmed that the land for it has already been acquired. Currently ice hockey can only be played on natural ice during winter months.

Like Indonesia, the **Philippines** are an island country in Southeast Asia. 211 players from five clubs are registered in the Philippines where four ice rinks can be used, the main one being the SM Mall of Asia Ice Skating Rink in Pasay City next to the capital of Manila. The other ice rinks are at Megamall, Southmall and the Seaside Cebu Ice Skating Rink.

In 2017 the Southeast Asian Games are set to have an ice hockey tournament for the first time ever. The event that has taken place biannually since 1959 will take place in Malaysia and with Indonesia and the Philippines joining previous Southeast Asian IIHF members Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, all these countries could potentially enter a team.

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# IIHF adds legends

### Class of 2016 honoured in Moscow

By John Sanful



The 2016 IIHF Hall of Fame induction ceremony honoured international hockey's legendary contributors on the ice, behind the bench and in the broadcast booth.

The latest class in the Players category included Peter Bondra, Sergei Fyodorov, Valeri Kamenski, and Ville Peltonen. Gabor Ocskay was presented with the Richard "Bibi" Torriani Award. Pat Quinn and Ben Smith were honoured in the Builders category and Nikolai Ozerov given the Paul Loicq Award.

Ocskay, Quinn and Ozerov were inducted posthumously. The program began with Ozerov, a tennis champion, actor and the voice of the Russian nation. Ozerov covered some 30 World Championships and all Super Series in the seventies and eighties.

The first member of the class of 2016 honoured was Valeri Kamenski, a member of the elite Triple Gold Club.



Pictured: The 2016 IIHF Hall of Fame inductees. Gabor Ocskay, Pat Quinn and Nikolai Ozerov were inducted posthumously.

"I thought it would be easier [to give a speech]. But when they called my name, when they said a few words about me, I was overwhelmed by a lot of emotion," Kamenski said later. "Suddenly I got nervous - it's easier to go out on the ice than to say a few words in front of a crowd of people."

Finnish assistant coach Ville Peltonen's wife Hanna accepted the award on behalf of her husband. Peltonen represented Finland 19 times and won 13 medals, an unprecedented number among Finns.

Pat Quinn left a great hockey legacy and reputation in the NHL and internationally. His daughter Kalli delivered a moving tribute to her father.

"My father always said they don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. He cared but he also wanted to know as much as he could about the game of hockey."

Joining Quinn was coach Ben Smith, who led Team USA women to Olympic gold in 1998.

"Someone once told me that the key to being a good coach is getting off the bus with the best players," Smith said. "I took that early advice."

Former NHL star Peter Bondra is a legend in Slovakia for scoring the biggest goal in the country's history to win the 2002 World Championship.

"I'd like to thank Slovak hockey. I was always proud to play for my country, Olympics or World

Championships. My dream was to always play for the national team and score the game-winning goal for a gold medal. My dream came true."

Another moving tribute came when Gabor Ocskay's sister, Zsuzsanna, spoke. Ocskay helped elevate the team to the top division of the World Championship in 2008. Sadly, a few weeks before he could play in the 2009 tournament – the country's first top-division appearance in 70 vears – he died of a heart attack.

"The family and the whole Hungarian community, which is like family, have never forgotten him," she said. "The rink in his hometown of Szekesfehervar bears his name since 2009 and the ice hockey academy is named after him. Some of the players who trained there were members of this national team that competed in St. Petersburg."

Finally, Sergei Fyodorov was saluted for a career that included winning the NHL's Hart trophy as most valuable player and as a three time Stanley Cup champion.

"I am so honoured and so pleased that this life of hockey that has given me so much joy has brought me to this place and this special recognition." Fyodorov said. "I had a lot of fun during my career but it's not always that easy. There were a lot of tears and a lots of negative things. But all that is overcome when you achieve an honour like today's induction into the HoF."







### 1) Canada's got some depth

Not everyone believed the Canadians would defend their 2015 title. The 2016 team didn't look as good on paper.

The golden group in Prague boasted an Olympic-calibre goalie in Mike Smith, high-profile defencemen in Brent Burns and Dan Hamhuis. and star forwards from Sidney Crosby to Jason Spezza, racking up a Canadian World Championship-record 66 goals.

Yet while the 2016 team scored 20 fewer goals en route to gold, it also allowed just 11, improving on 2015 (15). The Stanley Cup-winning experience of captain Corey Perry and Brad Marchand, the scoring of Worlds debutants like Derick Brassard (11 points) and Mark Stone (10 points), and the prowess of lesser-known blueliners like Michael Matheson and Chris Tanev were all key elements for coach Bill Peters. Never count Canada out.

### 2) McDavid can seize the moment

Unlike Wayne Gretzky in 1982 and Sidney Crosby in 2006, Connor McDavid didn't win the scoring title as a World Championship rookie. The 19-year-old Edmonton Oilers phenom did something even better: he scored the winner in the gold medal game.

Despite earning eight assists, McDavid hadn't put a puck in the net until capitalizing on a spectacular rush in Canada's 2-0 victory over Finland. His timing was impeccable, much like when Crosby notched the OT goal that gave Canada Olympic gold in Vancouver 2010.

### 3) Heartbreak is still a Finnish specialty

With gold medals from the 2014 and 2016 World Juniors and the 2016 U18 World Championship. Finnish confidence in IIHF competition is peaking. Unfortunately, coach Kari Jalonen's team wasn't able to break the old blue-and-white habit of dominating a tournament but losing the crucial game. (A classic example is Finland's 2006 Olympic final loss to Sweden after going unbeaten with five shutouts up to that point.)



In the gold medal game, Canada outshot the Finns 33-16 and stifled them defensively. Assistant captain Jussi Jokinen said it was "probably one of our worst games of the tournament." Finland must hope its young, up-and-coming stars can eventually deliver senior IIHF gold again where their predecessors have too often fallen short.

### 4) Laine could become a legend

2016 was amazing for Patrik Laine. After winning World Junior gold and earning Finnish playoff MVP honors in Tappara Tampere's championship run, the 18-year-old winger was named a tournament all-star and MVP of the 2016 Worlds. His seven goals tied him with Sweden's Gustav Nyquist for the overall lead. It wasn't just about Laine's numbers – it was also the flair with which he scored and his easy guips to the media that pointed to a larger-than-life hockey star. Winnipeg Jets fans hope he'll grace their city as the second coming of Teemu Selanne.

### 5) Hosting is hard on Russia

Organizationally, Moscow and St. Petersburg did an outstanding job of hosting the 2016 tournament, and the 417,414 fans who flocked to the Ice Palace and Yubileiny enjoyed the action both on and off the ice. However, it was





tough for Russian fans – especially those raised on the hockey glories of the USSR - to settle for third place after losing 3-1 to Finland in the semi-finals and then topping the U.S. 7-2 in the bronze medal game.

Russia' matched Moscow 2007 result and bettered the 11th-place disaster from St. Petersburg 2000. But the spectre of being eliminated in the 2014 Olympic guarter-final in Sochi still lingers. Russia hasn't won gold at home since the 1986 Soviets in Moscow.

### 6) Matthews has got game

Auston Matthews didn't have as flashy of a tournament as Patrik Laine, but the potential #1 overall pick in June's NHL draft excelled as the

top American scorer (6-3-9). The 18-year-old Arizona native's signature moment was scoring both goals in the U.S.'s 2-1 quarter-final shootout win over the Czechs. Playing over 18 minutes a game, Matthews was effective all over the ice, and showed why he'll be a top centre for years to come.



# 7) Hungary's fans are magic

Historically, Latvia's boisterous, drum-pounding fans have been the most enthusiastic per capita at the Worlds. But this year, Hungary supporters gave them a run for their money. The Hungarians made their first top-division appearance since 2009 and third since 1939, and they were showered with love in St. Petersburg.

The Magyar faithful serenaded their boys after every game with the national anthem. It was pure ecstasy on 14 May when Hungary beat Belarus 5-2 for its first Worlds win in 77 years. Even though coach Rich Chernomaz's crew was relegated, this outing provided hope that they'll return for more top-division cheers soon.

### 8) Power plays will only take you so far

Thanks largely to a potent power play, Denmark achieved its second quarter-final berth of all time. In fact, ten of the Danes' 18 goals came with the man advantage. However, their well ran dry when Finland crushed them 5-1 in the guarter-final. Similarly, Kazakhstan's PP was hot, going 7-for-24, but that didn't stop the former Soviet republic from being relegated. Solid 5-on-5 play remains a must at this level.

### 9) Slovakia's still waning

Peter Bondra, who scored the winning goal when Slovakia beat Russia for its only Worlds gold in 2002, was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame this year. But it's been a rocky road for Slovakia since his playing days. Yes, there have been wonderful surprises like the 2012 silver medal and the 2015 World Junior bronze. But in St. Petersburg, four straight losses to Germany, Belarus, Canada, and Finland would doom Slovakia to its third straight ninth-place finish.

The undermanned Slovaks have only made the quarter-finals twice in the last nine years. Until thev start breeding more top-drawer talents like Bondra, Miroslav Satan, and Zdeno Chara, glory will mostly remain elusive.

### 10) The 2017 hosts are ready to roll

This year, Germany exceeded expectations by coming seventh, while France was underwhelmed by coming 14th. But the two co-hosts for the 2017 IIHF World Championship in Cologne and Paris are both poised to do a bang-up job. Altogether, Cologne's Lanxess Arena and the renovated Palais Omnisports Bercy in Paris will have 886,000 tickets available, and that could lead to breaking the 2015 Czech Republic tournament attendance record of 741.690. With Asterix and Obelix as the classic cartoon mascots, it'll be a rollicking ambience as France and Germany team up to welcome the world.







# Video highlights: 2016 IIHF World Championship



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

### **Directorate Awards**

Best Goaltender: Mikko Koskinen, Finland (8 GP, 1.13 GAA, 94.67 SVS%, 1 SO)

Best Defenceman: Michael Matheson, Canada (10 GP, 2 G, 4 A, 6 PTS, +11)

Best Forward: Patrik Laine, Finland (10 GP, 7 G, 5 A, 12 PTS, +4)

### Media All-Star team

Goaltender: Mikko Koskinen. Finland Defence: Michael Matheson, Canada Defence: Nikita Zaitsev, Russia Forward: Patrik Laine, Finland Forward: Vadim Shipachyov, Russia Forward: Mikael Granlund, Finland MVP: Patrik Laine, Finland

# Directorate Best Forward, All-Star, MVP



# Patrik Laine, F, Finland

The 18-year-old Finnish superstar had quite a season. Starting with a World Junior gold medal in January, Laine won the Jarri Kurri Award as the Finnish League's top performer in the playoffs.

Playing for Finland with the senior team for the first time, all Laine did was lead his team with 12 points in 10 games, coming up one win short of gold.

# Directorate Best Goaltender, All-Star



# Mikko Koskinen, G, Finland

Koskinen played just one game in the 2014 IIHF Worlds, a 4-2 loss to Russia. Two years later the 27-year-old turned into a brick wall for the Finns, allowing just nine goals in eight games.

The SKA St. Petersburg goalie turned up his game for the playoffs, giving up one goal on 29 shots in the semi-final matchup with the host Russians.

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# Slovenia advances

### Moves up with Italy to top division

By Martin Merk



Slovenia beat Austria for Division I gold, as it did in 2012 and 2014, to earn promotion to the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Germany and France.

They will be joined at the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship by tournament silver medallists Italy.

In a tightly fought deciding game the Slovenes defeated Austria 2-1. For Slovenia it's the country's fourth consecutive gold in Division I play after 2010, 2012 and 2014.

"I think we came strong and showed real team character. The third period was a tough one but our goalie was awesome in the net and I think it was a well-deserved victory today," Slovenia captain Jan Urbas said.

"It was a good and interesting tournament for us. We started the tournament really well, then didn't have a good game against Poland but





Slovenia (left) will be back up to the top division next season after a one year absence, joined by runners-up Italy (right).

we overslept, came out harder against Korea and today we beat our big rival Austria," Slovenia forward Rok Ticar said.

"I'm disappointed about our game. We had three wins and then only one goal in two games with that many chances. The players prepared so well and worked so hard on and

off the ice. We did so many battle drills for this game. But that's sport. That's life. Sometimes hockey is a metaphor for life. Sometimes you do everything and don't get the result you want. The players battled hard and should keep their heads up. They don't deserve to be embarrassed." Austria head coach Daniel Ratushny said.

"We have to make a step forward with our scoring. We need to score more goals as we saw last vear in Prague as well. If we want to become a top-division nation we have to improve that and keep investing in the development of young players, in good coaching, get more kids in. It's a long-term project to do that."

Moving up to compete in the top division along with Slovenia will be Italy, which capped off a suprise silver medal finish with back-to-back wins over Japan and Korea. The 2-1 win over Korea gave the Italians a guaranteed medal, and Slovenia's win over Austria in regulaiton time enabled the Azzuri to leapfrog the Austrians for second place and a berth in the top division.

"I feel great. To win is a great thing. Now we have to see how it continues. We thought we'll improve here but that we improved that much astonishes all of us and makes us happy," Joachim Ramoser said about improving from a fifth-place finish last year to silver and promotion.

Slovenian forward Jan Urbas scored six points in five games to earn the tournament MVP award. Poland's Patryk Wronka won Directorate Top Forward honours, Top Defenceman went to Thomas Larkin of Italy, and Top Goaltender was awarded to Bernhard Starkbaum.







# League roundup

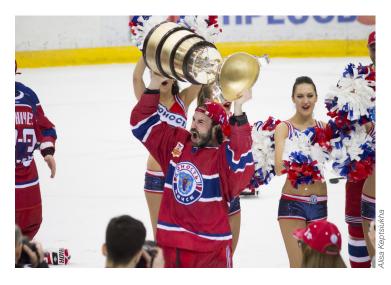
### Recap of results from around the world

AUSTRIA - Red Bull Salzburg has won the EBEL championship for the second year in a row.

After marching through the 2014/2015 postseason to win the championship in just 13 contests, Salzburg needed 19 games to earn the title, clinching its second championship in best-of-seven series against Znojmo, 4-2.

"It was a long series and now we're just so incredibly ecstatic about winning the championship again," said captain Matthias Trattnig. "We came together as a team at just the right time. We came back from behind three times in these playoffs. That just goes to show what potential we've got in this team and when all was said and done, that was the difference."

BELARUS - Yunost Minsk is back on top of Belarusian hockey after landing its first championship since 2011. The former Soviet republic's most successful club completed a 4-1 series victory over Shakhtyor Soligorsk to lift the title for the seventh time. It was a dominant run through the playoffs for Mikhail Zakharov's



team: the game three loss in Soligorsk was only the second post-season defeat for Yunost as it swept Khimik-SKA Novopolotsk in the guarterfinal and overpowered Neman Grodno 4-1 in the semis. Earlier, Yunost had edged Shakhtyor to the regular season championship, topping the table by just two points after 42 games, before sweeping them in the championship final 4-0.

CZECH REPUBLIC – Bili Tygri Liberec wentintoasold-outO2Arena,emerging with a 2-1 overtime victory over Sparta Prague and its first national championship.

Martin Bakos was the double-overtime hero, firing a wrister over the glove of Sparta goaltender Tomas Popperle at the 85:09 mark, setting off a celebration in the large arena that contained many Liberec fans among the 17,014 in attendance.



"I've never scored a bigger goal in my life," the 26-year-old Slovak said about his fifth goal of the playoffs. "I got the puck and I saw that their d-man was backing up. I thought I could beat him with a shot and it worked."

FINLAND – For three years in a row, the Tappara Tampere players had to stand on the ice and watch the other team celebrate. Not in 2016.

This time, they were the ones parading with the Canada Bowl wearing brand-new championship caps, hugging each other after having beaten IFK Helsinki 2-1 in Game 6 of the Finnish Liiga final, Patrik Laine was named the winner of Jari Kurri Trophy as the playoffs MVP. The forward projected to go very early in the upcoming NHL draft scored league-leading ten goals in the playoffs, two of which were game-winners.



FRANCE - A great season for the Rouen Dragons ends with celebrating the 14th French championship. It was already the third title this season for the team from Normandy after winning the French Cup and the IIHF Continental Cup in January.

The Rouen Dragons swept the Angers Ducs in four games in the final series of the Lique Magnus. The series started tight with a shootout win, but after three wins the Dragons dominated on home ice in Game 4 with a 9-1 victory.

For the Dragons it's already the seventh championship in the last ten years and one player, Quebecer Marc-Andre Thinel, has been part of all teams. Rouen most recently won the title four times in a row between 2010 and 2013 and now again after a two-year break form the top of the podium.







GERMANY - Red Bull Munich capped off the 2015/16 season as the DEL champion, sweeping the Grizzlys Wolfsburg in four games.

For the franchise, it's the first time ever. Red Bulls marched to 31 victories in 52 games and 94 total points, finishing in first place.

It was another title for the team's coach Don Jackson. A former two-time Stanley Cup winner with the Edmonton Oilers in the mid-80s, the Minnesota native has now coached six DEL champions since the 2007/08 season, a record that has gone unmatched in Europe in this period of time.

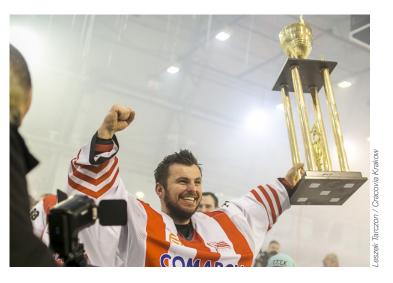
NORWAY - In a repeat of the 2012 finals, the Oilers defeated Lorenskog IK in SİX games.



Stavanger now has claimed five consecutive Norwegian titles and six in the last seven years. Mastermind behind all these titles is head coach Petter Thoresen. In each season he has been in charge, Thoresen has reached the finals with his team and on top of that won the Continental Cup in 2014. Thoresen is the father of former NHLer Patrick and faced his other son Steffen. playing for Lorenskog IK, in the Get Ligaen final series.

POLAND - Cracovia Krakow will be the first Polish participant in the Champions Hockey League ever.

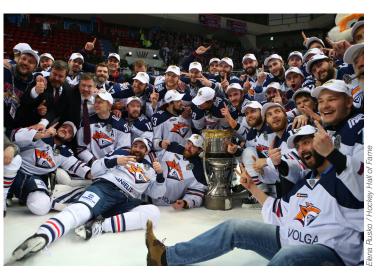
Cracovia Krakow coach Rudolf Rohacek's team won a narrow 2-1 victory against GKS Tychy in Game 7 to clinch the Polska Hokej Liga title for the 11th time in history and first since 2013. It was Rohacek's fifth title as coach.



"Before this season an advertisement campaign ran that stated 'Return of the Champions'. I am delighted that we have been able to deliver." said the Czech-born head coach. "It was a hard fought game but we were able to retain our lead in the third period. That's all that matters. I'd like to truly thank my players for the amazing job they have pulled off."

RUSSIA – Metallurg Magnitogorsk won the Gagarin Cup for the second time in three years, shooting down CSKA Moscow's hopes with a game seven win in the Russian capital.

Canadian defenceman Chris Lee was the architect of Tuesday's 3-1 victory, providing a superb assist for Yevaeni Timkin's first-period opener and scoring the game-winner himself late in the second period.



Ageless forward Danis Zaripov contributed another individual record, becoming the first player to pick up four Gagarin Cup winners medals, while Ilya Vorobyov, just 41 years old, set a new record as the youngest head coach to lift the Gagarin Cup. Captain Sergei Mozyakin won playoff MVP, topping the scoring charts with 11+14=25 and completing his second Gagarin Cup triumph. He also became only the third man to reach 400 goals in Russian hockey.

SWITZERLAND - After just squeaking into the playoffs, Swiss giant SC Bern awoke in time for the post-season, eliminating HC Lugano and winning the National League A as the eighth-seeded team to cap off a turbulent season.

SC Bern was staring at a spot for the relegation round when former player Lars Leuenberger



replaced Guy Boucher. They hit their stride in the new year however, and made the playoffs on the second-last day of the regular season where it finished in eighth place. A Lugano-Bern finals matchup was a surprise. Never before was a final played without any of the top-4 teams participating and never before did an eighthseeded team become champion.

SLOVAKIA - HK Nitra won its firstever Slovak championship. After a final series of six games, the team claimed the Vladimir Dzurilla Cup.

It was a wild run for Nitra that ended with the title after an tight final series against Banska Bystrica. Nitra ended up winning it all in the final game, a shootout deciding the new Slovak champion as Jamie Milam's shootout score gave Nitra its frist title.



SWEDEN - After 11 years Frolunda Gothenburg it golden again. Two months after their Champions Hockey League triumph, the Indians beat Skelleftea AlK 5-3 in Game 5 to win the final series of the Swedish Hockey League 4-1.

"We found a way to win, even if things didn't always go like we wanted. But when it mattered, we came through," said team captain Joel Lundqvist, who was the only remaining player from Frolunda's previous championship team.

It was Frolunda's fourth Swedish title (1965, 2003, 2005, 2016) and the first since the NHL lockout season 2004/05. They also played in the final 2006 but lost to Farjestad. At the same time Skelleftea was promoted to the top division for the first time after 16 years in the second-tier league.



### **WOMEN'S HOCKEY**

CANADA - Blair Turnbull scored twice in the second period to lead the underdog Calgary Inferno to an 8-3 upset victory over Les Canadiennes of Montreal to win the Clarkson Cup.

The game was played before an impressive crowd of 4.082 at the Canadian Tire Centre in Ottawa, home of the NHL's Senators. This was the fifth time in the last seven finals that Les Canadiennes qualified while the Inferno were making their inaugural appearance.

Tyler Fines of the Brampton Thunder won Coach of the Year honours, while Monreal's Marie-Philip Poulin earned the League MVP award after putting up 46 points in 22 regular season games.



USA – Iournament IVIVE and Co-captain Brianna Decker had two USA - Tournament MVP and cogoals and an assist to lead Boston to a 3-1 win over Buffalo and capture the inaugural Isobel Cup.

The win in the final for the championship trophy marked the end of the NWHL's first season of play. The Pride swept aside the Buffalo Beauts in two games of the best-of-three, winning the inaugural trophy named after the daughter of Lord Stanley of Preston. Both games were played at the Prudential Center practice arena in Newark, New Jersey.

Boston won the first game by a 4-3 score, and Saturday night the Pride won, 3-1, to cap a near-perfect season, the very first for professional women's hockey in the United States.



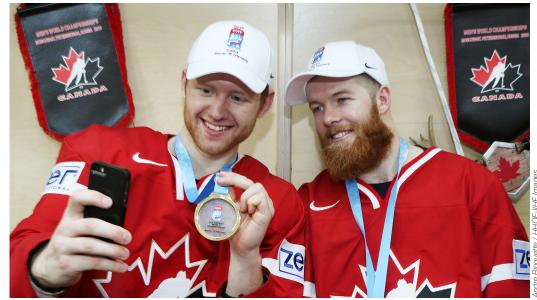
# Gallery



Team Canada captain Corey Perry raises up the IIHF World Championship trophy. Perry won himself a place in the Triple Gold Club in the process after his 2016 IIHF World Championship gold medal completed the trifecta following gold in Sochi 2014 and Vancouver 2010 and a Stanley Cup with the Ducks in 2007.



Perry poses with the trophy in a Triple Gold Club ceremony with President Fasel.



Canadian D-men Michael Matheson (left) and Ryan Ellis snap a selfie with their gold.



Connor McDavid became the youngest player in IIHF history to win gold at the World Championship, World Juniors, and U18s.





The surefire top two picks in the upcoming NHL draft: Patrik Laine (left) and Auston Matthews (right) had a great Worlds.



Hungary's inspiring performance was a highlight of the 2016 World Championship, but equally impressive was the massive amount of support shown by its enthusiastic fan base, which sang the national anthem to the team after each game.





Team Germany will come into 2017 as a confident host, following a strong campaign that saw the team to the quarter-finals.





# **Backchecking:**

# **Quotes by Council**

**New IIHF Council shares its vision for the next four years** 

# René Fasel, IIHF President

"Player safety touches all aspects of the sport, it influences whether or not a child will pick up a hockey stick for the first time, and affects whether a professional player finishes his career without regrets for playing the sport."

"Under the Agenda 2020 mandate, the IOC will only pay out Olympic Games funds to federations that have a proper governance structure. It is therefore necessary for the IIHF to conduct a full review of our current governance structure and determine where changes need to be made."

"We recognize the need for a fully independent Ethics Committee and Finance Commission to assist the IIHF Treasurer. We also have to implement a constant review of the operations of our World Championship programs, as well as the management structures that operate them."

"We also want to continue to work together with Infront in all areas of television and digital media to expand our degree of fan engagement, so that we can offer more resources to future World Championship hosts to market their tournaments. Technology is moving at a fast pace, and we need to constantly invent new ways to deliver our sport to fans and create new revenue streams."

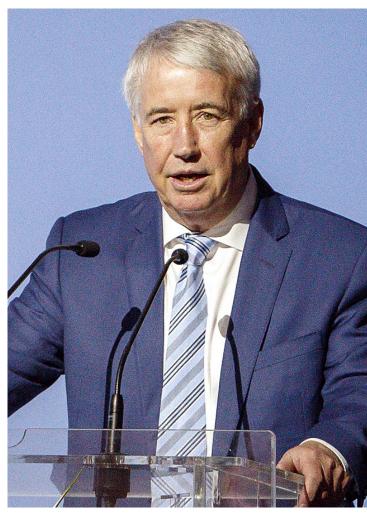






Kalervo Kummola, Vice-President

"I thank you for the confidence you gave to me to serve one more term. After resigning as the President for the Finnish Ice Hockey Association recently I have more time to work in international ice hockey. We have challenges in international ice hockey but we can find solutions."



**Bob Nicholson, Vice-President** 

"It's an absolute privilege to represent the International Ice Hockey Federation again."

We have to make sure young boys and girls play and that we put programs together whether you're a large or a small nation in a healthy and safe environment."



**Thomas Wu, Vice President** 

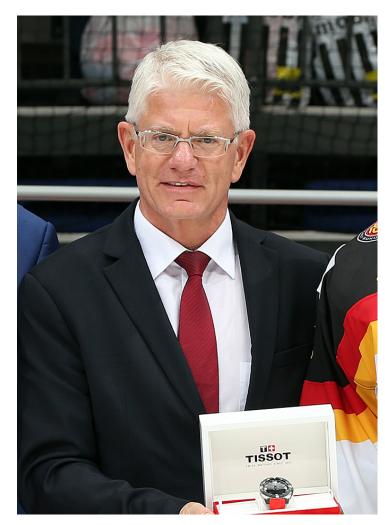
"We have two Olympic Games upcoming in Asia. Asia is a very big continent with a big population and I'm happy to continue to serve as a bridge and make hockey better known in Asia.

"It's an exciting time for hockey in Asia."



**Luc Tardif, Council/Treasurer** 

"One of the most important things for the new council is to do everything to have a best-onbest competition at the Olympics. We don't want to change what's been happening since Nagano. The players want to come and we want them there. It's not just about the competition, it's a big financial issue as well."



Franz Reindl, Council

"It's a dream come true for me, starting as a hockey player as a kid. I will do everything I can for the good of the game. We have huge challenges, starting with the positioning of our sport in the world of sport as well as maintaining the integrity of hockey. We are a family, we have to support each other."



Henrik Bach Nielsen, Council

"I think it's important that we are looking in the Balkan areas. I see a lot of potential there. We're going to Asia for the next two Olympics so we have to work together there too. There's every reason to take advantage of that opportunity. I just think we need to learn from each other. It's a lot about sharing our knowledge."



Petr Briza, Council

"I've been actively involved in European club competitions, which we started in Barcelona. I believe we're on the road to good goals. We need these competitions across the board. I'm happy we've added the champion of Poland, among other countries. As well, we have to attract kids to the rink. You need the base, the infrastructure, starting at the local arena."



**Vladislav Tretiak, Council** 

"It's vital to help the smaller nations by sharing experience, providing consultations, symposiums, advice on coaching programs.

"That's the most important, finding ways to do more to boost the smaller nations."





Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer, Council

"I really enjoy my work (with the women's committee), and I think we've made a lot of progress. Still, I think we have more work to do to close the gap between the U.S. and Canada and the rest of the world. It's getting better and better, but we still have to help European countries develop players."



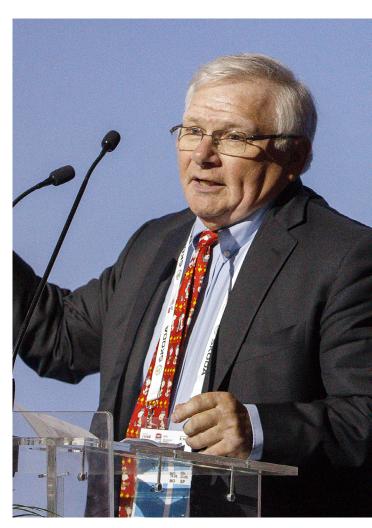
Marta Zawadzka, Council

"I've been involved in events and refereeing since 2000, and for the last four years I've been a council member for the Polish Ice Hockey Federation and with the women's committee. I think it's important Zsuszanna and I support women's hockey, but the referee committee and events committee are also important to me."



Sergej Gontcharov, Council

"I'm only 32, so I'm probably ten years younger than anyone else on the council. But now that I'm here, it's not mission accomplished; it's the work starts now. We have to earn the trust the delegates gave us. We have to listen to their needs and make ourselves available to come up with solutions to problems."



Ron DeGregorio, Council

"My strength is problem solving and vision. Growth of the IIHF and the brand is an important part of what I'd like to be a part of. Growth means we're going to do more to bridge the gap between the small and large nations in terms of activity. The mentoring program, for example, gets a small nation working with a large nation. The key is connectivity."





# Coming

2016 IIHF High Performance Camp

FINLAND, Vierumaki 06.07.2016 - 16.07.2016

**IIHF Inline Hockey World Championship Qualification Europe** 

AUSTRIA, Steindorf 22.06.2016 - 25.06.2016

**IIHF Semi-Annual Congress** 

FRANCE, Paris 07.09.2016 - 10.09.2016



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# Suppliers































