



IceTimes

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Time for hockey

Canada tops World Cup >

Men's Olympic groups set >

From the IIHF President

Turning a new leaf

By René Fasel

We have officially launched into preparations for the new season. With a new Council and a new mandate, there is much work to be done.

The 2016/2017 season should be a thrill. We will hit the ground running in just over a month when the 2017 World Junior Championship returns to Canada and the cities of Montreal and Toronto. Based on our experience from an excellent co-hosting effort by both cities back in 2015, the new year will definitely start out with a bang.

In what was an unusual but very exciting twist to the fall season, we got to have an early taste of international hockey when the NHL and NHLPA came together and set the stage for a spectacular return of the World Cup of Hockey.

Toronto was the ideal venue to host this best-on-best tournament, which brought together the world's top players in an innovative competition that finished with a victory for Cana-

da, coming against one of the most unique teams ever assembled in the history of international hockey. The story of Team Europe's success at the 2016 World Cup, coupled with the passion and memorable play produced by Team North America, made this tournament quite unique and memorable.

I welcome the return of the World Cup and look forward to the next edition. Hockey fans are the best in the world, and deserve to see the world's top players compete on these kinds of big stages as often as possible, because the international game is simply that good.

On the IIHF side, we closed out the summer with the 2016 Semi-Annual Congress, where the new IIHF Committees were confirmed and its members named (see **page 5**).

These Committees form an integral part of the IIHF's efforts to improve the game, and the tasks that each one has been assigned will shape our sport into the future.

There are a lot of issues and challenges ahead. We are approaching an Olympic year, and as the spotlight falls on ice hockey we want to showcase our efforts to promote and grow the sport, and also to make it as safe as possible for everyone to participate. These challenges won't be solved

overnight, but with the expertise that has assembled within our Committees, we are well prepared to face them.

This fall also saw the sixth edition of our annual World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend, which has continued to grow and develop to the point where we are being approached by nations from all over the world, seeking to host their own events.

As we continue to build new initiatives and invest into growing the women's game, this event will only increase in importance. We also have the women's Olympic qualification tournament set to continue through February 2017, when we will know which teams will join the Games in Korea.

But before we look too far ahead, there is a very exciting IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship to get excited about. This is could be one of the most intriguing co-hosting efforts we have yet seen, with Germany and France coming together to put on our annual tournament in Cologne and Paris. More details will come out in the next few months as we unveil our plans to bring the 2017 Worlds to these two countries, but in the meantime it's time to get ready for what should be another top notch international ice hockey season.



News and Notes

IIHF

The International Ice Hockey Federation hosted a Transfer of Knowledge Accreditation Workshop in October with FIFA and UEFA in October. Experts from each of the three sport federations gathered together to exchange knowledge of their respective accreditation systems. Security through RFID, biometrics or similar security features in the badge were among the topics discussed.

“This is exactly what the Transfer of Knowledge is about, to discuss, to exchange and to implement great ideas from these experts, on all areas incorporated within the realm of sport entities,” said IIHF Transfer of Knowledge Director Cornelia Ljungberg.

“The security topic is a major concern for all federations and event hosts. It goes without saying that the more we focus together on this topic the more we can all benefit and achieve the desired result.”

IIHF

431 men and women were nominated to officiate at IIHF tournaments of the World

Championship program, the Women’s Olympic Qualification and the IIHF Continental Cup for the 2016/2017 season.

The referees and linesmen come from 43 different countries from all around the world. The referees were assigned for most of the tournaments between now and next spring. An exception is the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Germany and France where 35 referees and 40 linesmen made the long list. The final assignments for this event will be done in February taking into consideration the performance of the on-ice officials in international and national play.

AUSTRIA

Gernot Mittendorfer was elected new president of the Austrian Ice Hockey Federation, replacing Dr. Dieter Kalt, who served as president for 20 years.

Vice President Dr. Siegfried Ledolter also announced his retirement after 20 years in office.

“I am very pleased that we have received the confidence of the General Assembly to work the next four years for the development of the Austrian ice hockey,” said Mittendorfer in his inaugural speech as the new president. “We hope for a good collaboration between the federation, leagues and clubs, so that we

promote our sport further and bring more kids to hockey. Without well-functioning communication we cannot achieve our goals with the national teams. We will launch a junior hockey advisory board with chairman Vice President Hofer. The project will create ideas to bring kids and teenagers to hockey. “

KOREA

Together with the PyeongChang Organizing Committee for the 2018 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games (POCOG) the International Ice Hockey Federation has found an agreement to host two tournaments at the same time in Gangneung, the city where the coastal cluster of the Olympics is located.

The 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division II Group A and the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey Women’s World Championship Di-



vision II Group A will take place at the same time in Gangneung at the new Olympic venues that will be completed by November, the 10,000-seat Gangneung Hockey Centre (pictured) and the 6,000-seat Kwangdong Hockey Centre at the Youngdong College. In total 12 teams – six men’s U18 teams and six women’s senior teams – will participate at these events.

LATVIA

The Latvian Hockey Federation elected former Latvian Prime Minister **Aigars Kalvitis** as its new president.

Kalvitis, 50, is currently chairman of the natural gas company Latvijas Gaze. He’s a co-owner and was a board member of Latvian KHL team Dinamo Riga.

He succeeds Kirovs Lipmans, who has headed the federation for almost 20 years (1994-1995, 1998-2016).

During Lipmans’ tenure Latvia became an established top-division nation and reached the top-8 at the World Championship three times and qualified four times for the Olympics including an eighth-place finish in Sochi 2014. During Lipmans’ era Latvia also hosted for the first time the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, in 2006 in Riga.

Obituaries



WALTER BUSH

IIHF Life Member and Hall of Fame member Walter Bush passed away on 22 September at age 86.

He served on the IIHF Council for 22 years and was an IIHF Vice President until retiring in 2008.

Bush was President for USA Hockey for 17 years. He was one of the driving forces behind women's hockey being accepted as a full medal sport for the 1998 Olympics in Nagano and creating the Women's World Championship in the early '90s. Bush is also credited with successfully integrating inline hockey into the IIHF program.

RICHIE DUNN

Richie Dunn played almost 500 NHL games and represented the United States in the 1977 World Juniors, the 1981 Canada Cup and the 1986 World Championship. He died on 20 September, age 59.

MATTI HAGMAN

Matti Hagman died on 11 October at age 61.

He was the first Finnish-born and -trained NHL player. He reached the Stanley Cup final with the Boston Bruins and played for the Edmonton Oilers. He played in the 1976 Olympics, in four World Championships and two Canada Cups.



JACK KIRrane

Jack Kirrane was a two-time Olympian for the United States and captain of the historic 1960 gold-medal winning team. He also represented his country at the 1958 and 1963 World Championships. Kirrane passed away on 25 September at age 88.

GEORGE KONIK

George Konik passed away on 21 October at age 79 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease. The Canadian-born player made the NHL when the league expanded with the Pittsburgh Penguins. After gaining American citizenship he represented the United States in two World Championship tournaments.

WILLIAM LOFQVIST

Passed away on 23 October at age 69. A former national team goalie for Sweden, Lofqvist won a medal every time he played internationally at the World Championships in 1971, 1973 and 1976, and at the 1980 Olympics.

MAREK SVATOS

Former Slovak national team and NHL player Marek Svatos passed away on 5 Novem-

ber in Lone Tree near Denver where he was living with his family after ending his career in 2014. He was 34. He wore the national team jersey at the 2006 Olympics and at the 2010 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Germany, and also played in one U20 and one U18 World Championship. He played 344 NHL games, most of them with the Colorado Avalanche.



VLADIMIR VACATKO

Passed away on 14 September at age 63. Between 1976 and 1981 Vladimir Vacatko played for every World Championship for Germany and at the 1980 Olympics. He was among the best scorers in Germany and won national championships with Dusseldorf and Rosenheim.

Vision for the future

New Council at Semi-Annual Congress

By Martin Merk

Delegates from most of the 77 IIHF member countries came together for the 2016 IIHF Semi-Annual Congress to discuss about the upcoming season but also about the future.



[Click here for a behind-the-scenes video from the 2016 IIHF Semi-Annual Congress interactive workshop](#)

It was the first Congress for the IIHF Council that was newly elected for a four-year term in May. The International Ice Hockey Federation's executive body wanted to use this opportunity to interact with the delegates in workshop sessions led by IIHF President René Fasel.

The new committees were also presented to the delegates by their chairpersons and the delegates and guests had the opportunity to ask questions and give their inputs.

The session began with A, as in Asia. With the next two Olympic Winter Games in the Far East, the session started with the Asian Committee led by IIHF Vice President **Thomas Wu**.



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

"Asia is a big market of growth. We have more than 20 members but the standard of hockey is at a very different state in the various countries and grows at different speeds. We work among the countries but also with the entire hockey world to get support from the bigger countries," Wu said.

Asked about the new KHL team in Beijing, Wu praised the initiative to bring that calibre of hockey to China and to make people interested in hockey. During the next winter, the Asian Winter Games will also be on the list. 20 countries expressed the interest to play with 20 men's and seven women's team at the event in Sapporo, Japan.

Next was IIHF Council member and former world-class goalie **Vladislav Tretiak** with the Athletes Committee.

"We think about safety, about respect. Some parents don't want to send the players into the game because they're afraid of injuries," said Tretiak, who expressed concerns with head injuries, and with the position he used to play.

"Today we have very big goaltenders who are up to two metres tall. We need to think about changing the equipment or making the goals bigger. Nobody wants to see 0-0 games. We will keep thinking about how to improve the game for the public," he said.

These and other topics will be discussed by the committee members, to make sure the athletes' voice is represented within the IIHF.

"We have to listen to athletes about their concerns on food, accommodation, formats and other topics. It's our mission to listen to them. We have to promote hockey especially in the field of player safety," he said.

That's a good buzzword as there will be a Player Safety Committee in place as well, with wide representation by experts from different areas.

"It's about rules, equipment, facilities, coaches. We will be working with all other committees to get inputs," said IIHF Vice President **Bob Nicholson**, who will chair the committee. "To recruit and retain players you need a safe game for top players, young girls and boys. We need to have rules and an environment in place to have the safest possible conditions."

Newly elected Council member **Franz Reindl** will chair the Competition & Coordination Committee where he has previously served as a member. As the title says it's about competitions but also to coordinate the efforts with representatives from different stakeholders – IIHF, national associations, leagues and clubs.

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“It’s more than 100 games for the best players, it’s incredible,” the Olympic bronze medallist of 1976 said. “We need to co-ordinate it. It’s homework on one side but on the other side we have to bring people together on one table to find solutions. To fulfil the mandate we need the right people to do it and we need to listen. Then we can create something together. We have a lot to talk and we have a lot to solve.”

The IIHF goes a slightly different way for the Coaching Committee where Hockey Canada President and CEO **Tom Renney** will be the chairman. He’s not a Council member but his experience in this area is second to none working with grassroots program to top-level hockey in Canada and having been a top-level coach with the Canadian men’s national team and NHL clubs until just a few years ago.

“I see opportunities for ice hockey to do exceptional things through our great game. The leadership of coaches is very important in the children’s lives,” he said.

“Once we understand where people are in the game of coaching development, then we can think about what to do. In today’s world coaching couldn’t be more important in any sport. It’s important for the lifestyle of people.”

The Event and Evaluation Committee will be led IIHF Vice President **Kalervo Kummola**, who



René Fasel with IIHF Council members Luc Tardif and Franz Reindl and the 2017 IIHF World Championship mascots.

talked in his speech about the immense development in the last decades that can also be seen in the World Championship program with many new venues that have been built.

“Getting new facilities is important not only to host championships but also the leave a legacy and help the local people,” he said. The Ethics and Integrity Committee has been newly established for the new four-year term and will be led by outgoing IIHF Council mem-

ber **Beate Grupp** and as an external person Michael McNamee.

“If you hear the word ethics, it’s not always associated with good thoughts,” Grupp said in reference to other organizations making headlines. “When we sit here in four years we want to have positive thoughts about ethics and integrity. It’s educational, advisory instruments that will have a positive impact in our family. We will have a lot of success and positive impact,” she said.

Michael McNamee is an expert in sport ethics and a professor at the University of Swansea in Great Britain.

“The principles of good governance, accountability, transparency and so forth are nowadays taken very seriously by international organizations,” he said and praised that “the IIHF doesn’t wait for a crisis but takes an active approach in topics like anti-doping, match fixing and player safety.”

Two newly elected Council members will co-chair the Officiating Committee with **Sergej Gontcharov** from Belarus along with **Marta Zawadzka** from Poland.

“One of the several tasks we have is to create a library of educational resources also to encourage young players to become referees and stay in the family, grow the pool of female referees, help also the smaller nations with their officiating programs,” said Gontcharov. Zawadzka will bring in valuable on-ice experience as a long-time referee and from the women’s hockey side.

The Youth & Junior Development Committee will be chaired by new Council member and former Czech national team goalie **Petr Briza**, who recently led the successful 2015 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship organizing committee and is the owner and chairman of Czech club Sparta Prague.

“We want to help the development process, what happens at the clubs with the kids between 6 and 15,” Briza said. “During the last five years we have had 250,000 more players who play around the globe, especially more female players. Everybody needs a long-term plan. More players means better quality of hockey. We have to make the work right because mistakes we do now will be felt in 15 years.”

The growth of women’s hockey remains in focus and the Women’s Committee will be co-chaired by the two female Council members, long-time Hungarian national team player **Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer** and **Marta Zawadzka**.

“Women’s ice hockey is still one of the fastest growing female sports in the world and the development globally is very fast,” Kolbenheyer said. “The North American countries are still far ahead and we need to support the other countries to develop women’s hockey. It’s a special committee since it touches many aspects of hockey and other committees as well.”

While many committees deal with core aspects of the sport there are also several committees dealing with other important topics surrounding it.

Kummola will chair the newly created TV/New Media/Marketing Committee with his business background from television in Finland and his



From left: Toni Rossi, Beate Grupp, Frank Gonzalez, and Christer Englund were recognized for their service with the Council.

role in the negotiation process of the new marketing contract with Infront Sport & Media.

“It’s a fast-moving world and we want to be at the top,” he said about the current development. “We want that people are following ice hockey every day.”

With **Ron DeGregorio**, a person with vast legal experience from USA Hockey will lead the Legal Committee as well as the new IIHF Governance Reform Group. He and IIHF General Secretary Horst Lichtner outlined that in 2018 it will be the

next time to make changes to the IIHF Statutes & Bylaws, so the work is starting soon and the membership can start thinking about proposals for the period changes can be suggested next summer.

IIHF Council member **Luc Tardif** will continue as Treasurer for the new four-year term and also chair the Finance Committee while Henrik Bach Nielsen will continue as chairman for the Medical Committee. IIHF President René Fasel will chair the Executive Committee and the Historical Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee will continue with **Gerhard Mossang** as an independent chairman. “We have to deal with rule violations, anti-doping infractions and ethics and we need inputs from both sides, judges and players,” he said reflecting the tendency to get more former players involved. **Frank Gonzalez** will continue with the Facilities Working Group.

“It is important to work with the countries and also other committees such as the Asian Committee with China having the ambition to build 1,500 new ice rinks,” he said but mentions also other examples as regions of potential growth such as South America and Turkey. “For new facilities it’s important not to do the same mistakes that others experienced before.”

Like in the past Beate Grupp will be responsible for Environmental & Social Activities. Her work in the past terms included environmental initiatives but also cooperation and promotion of sledge ice hockey. “There can be a lot of win-win situations for the federations not only money-wise when they think of the environment and social aspects,” she said.

After the committee structure has been determined, the composition of the various committees is being worked on. A kick-off meeting for the committees is planned in Zurich in December. **The full list of committees and members can be found on IIHF.com.**

Making sport safe

Concussion conference held in Berlin

By Adam Steiss

The fight against concussions in sport has been pushed to the center of the player safety debate, not just in ice hockey but across the sporting world.

With this in mind the IIHF, in cooperation with medical representatives from FIFA, the International Olympic Committee, World Rugby, and the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) have worked to develop the Consensus Conference on Concussion in Sport (ICCCS): a two-day conference bringing together many of the world's foremost experts on sport concussions.

[Click here to access the ICCCS website](#)

"This whole scientific meeting really brings sport and science together, the science and expertise delivers the knowledge that we in sport can use, and our athletes can be the beneficiaries of our knowledge," said IIHF Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mark Aubry.

If the fight against concussions is a war, then



IIHF Chief Medical Officer Mark Aubry addresses the 5th International Consensus Conference on Concussion in Sport.

the ICCCS is both a general mobilisation and a strategy meeting. The 5th ICCCS, held in late October, drew over 400 medical professionals and scientists.

"This is by far the biggest one we've had," said Aubry. "You have all the leading experts in the field of sport concussions under one roof, either in the audience or among the expert panel."

Some of the attendees included leading figures from the international sports world. IIHF President René Fasel, World Rugby chairman Bill Beaumont, and FEI General Secretary Sabrina Ibanez were on hand to greet the audience.

"As a sports federation what we can do is to make special rules to protect our athletes and players, in hockey we have players skating 45 kilometres per hour and weighing over 100 kilos, but we still need the research and evidence to back us up when we make rule changes," said IIHF President René Fasel.

The idea of a "consensus conference" – where the world's top medical professionals would gather to present new research and review and discuss established practices – was determined as the best approach.

Since the first conference, held in 2001 in Vienna, each successive ICCCS has been adapted and refined to the point where it now is the foremost scientific conference in this field.

A big advantage of the consensus conference is that it recognizes the inherent complexity of the concussion issue, and how often different conclusions drawn from past research can lead to an unguided, unorganized approach that fails to make real progress in protecting athletes from injury.

The ICCCS attendees are a "who's who" of top medical professionals representing not only sports federations but also hospitals, medical clinics, neuroscience research centers, international brain injury organizations, and some of the world's foremost medical university programs.

The three major achievements of the ICCCS have been the Pocket Concussion Assessment Tool (CRT), the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (currently in its third version known as SCAT3), and the Child Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (Child-SCAT3).

The Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport from the 5th ICCCS in Berlin will be published in early 2017, and will appear in various medical journals such as the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

Around the globe

Girl's Weekend brings worldwide appeal

By Martin Merk



The 6th World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend was kicked off in New Zealand and eventually grew to include over 40 participating countries.

Here are some highlight events from the 2016 Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend, held 9-10 October.

AUSTRALIA: Brisbane

Ice Hockey Queensland hosted one of four World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend events in Aca-cia Ridge in the Brisbane region together with the local women's hockey team Goannas, who helped with their coaches and players, and the club Southern Stars providing the ice time and equipment for the beginners. The community replied well with 47 participants. After getting their equipment the new players had one hour for skating drills various stations which included passing, shooting, puck handling and an obsta-cle course, which produced lots of smiles and laughing from all ages.



The World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend has served as a point of introduction for ice hockey to young women since 2011.

"I believe the World Girls' Ice Hockey weekend opens the eyes of many of just how many girls and women are interested in playing ice hockey. Many were asking when we can do it again, just for girls of course," said Lee Brown, Women's Director of Ice Hockey Queensland.

"The best part of this day is the smiles you see and the laughter you hear amongst the girls as they are enjoying being part of a great event. Can't wait for next year!"

CHINESE TAIPEI: Taipei City

Chinese Taipei was one of the newest IIHF members to join the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend and it did so with around 60 partici-pants on the ice under the slogan "come and have fun".

It's an important season for the Taiwanese sin-ce Chinese Taipei will compete in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship program not any-more in one but in four categories including for the first time with the women's national team.

[Click here for a video from Taipei City](#)

NEW ZEALAND: Botany Bay

One of the first events of the weekend took place in Botany near Auckland. It was one of several events as New Zealand joined the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend. 20 female players and 15 helpers were on the ice, among them women's national team head coach Andreas Kaisser and several women's national team players such as Helen Murray, Ashley Cunningham and Tessa Broadbent, and former men's national team pla-yer Darren Blong.

There were several figure skaters and inline hoc-key players who wanted to try out ice hockey as well and girls and women from New Zealand and abroad who wanted to get involved with the sport in the Auckland region.

The participants already met at 9:30 in the mor-ning to get the gear and warm up before being split into small groups to learn simple drills. Four were goalies who practiced with goalie coach and Vice President of the Auckland Ice Hockey Association, Paul Taillon. At the end of the ses-sions the girls played 4-on-4 cross-ice games.

"The participants I spoke to all really enjoyed it – 'It was great fun' was the comment most made," said Philippa Kaisser, the New Zealand Ice Hoc-key Federation's U18 women's team manager, who was happy about the involvement of the



local community as the Auckland Council paid for the ice time and is keen to promote girls playing sports.

"I hope that by offering this event, we will get more girls playing our awesome sport," Kaiser said.

GERMANY: Frankfurt

The first of two World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend events in Germany took place in Frankfurt. 44 participants came starting at four years and ending at over 30-year-olds.

Seven people helped them including former national team player Franziska Busch from the German Ice Hockey Association, persons from the local skating school, coaches from the junior club, organizer Siamak Nassi, who's coaching

the local women's team, and a professional player from the local men's team, Roman Pfenning with more players and staff helping off the ice.

The help started first in the locker room because for many it was the first time they tried hockey equipment. After getting ready for the session they hit the ice for two hours in different groups to try out several exercises and in the end play a game.

"The feedback was very positive from the girls, helpers and family and friends joining the girls was very positive," said Nassi. "Two girls join the senior team for a tryout and several girls will join practices at the youth teams."

HONG KONG: Hong Kong

40 participants from 6 to 43 years old joined the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend in Hong Kong, annually organized at Mega Ice, a full-size rink in a shopping mall.

Two hours of ice time were reserved for all girls and women interested in trying the sport, with eight players of the women's national team helping out. After getting the equipment, the participants were split into two groups for beginners and advanced skaters.

"The participants enjoyed it a lot and would love to participate in ice hockey events more often," said Leo Kan of the Hong Kong Ice Hockey Association. "I think the event really helps to promote the sport of ice hockey to females in Hong Kong as we don't have that many girls or women playing the sport in Hong Kong right now."



JAPAN: Yokohama

The Japan Ice Hockey Federation organized its World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend at the Shin-yokohama Skate Center.

The venue in Yokohama has a good history for women's hockey as the national team qualified for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games there.

On that day it was the next generation on the ice with 74 girls between 6 and 12 years of age. It was a great and long afternoon for them. First they heard first-hand what former Olympians told them about the sport and about dreams when they were at that age. The message was: never give up chasing your dream.

After that the girls eventually hit the ice themselves for a warm-up and a two-hour session to try hockey.

"Many of participants have never experienced ice hockey before and it was a very interesting sport for them compared to other sports they had played. Parents said that this event provided a good option to choose the best sport for their girls," said Toshi Takahashi of the Japan Ice Hockey Federation.

"It has a big impact for us and also our sponsors and partners. It's great to see the children's smile while they tried ice hockey. They showed us that it's a fun sport. We hope to expand the event in the future to have it organized nationwide by local associations."

POLAND: Katowice

One of the traditional hockey cities in Poland, Katowice for the first time hosted a World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend event and 50 participants



came. Mostly it was girls and young ladies between 5 and 18 years of age but some of the mothers tried ice hockey as well at the Jantor ice rink where the hockey club Kojotki Naprzod Janow organized the event.

The girls worked on hockey exercises, were presented the situation of girls' and women's ice hockey in Katowice and had a two-and-a-half-hour ice session.

The girls had the chance to wear the jersey of the Polish national team, and watch the senior women's hockey league game between Kojotki and Atomowki.

"Everybody was delighted to have the opportunity to take part in such an event. The reaction we heard most often was: 'It's not enough. We want more!' The girls had an opportunity to show their mothers, sisters, friends what kind of

sport they love and how it works. We will organize such an event more often than once a year," said Anna Rehlich, the President of the club.

SOUTH AFRICA: Port Elizabeth

South Africa: land of safari, surf... and a burgeoning hockey scene. The 2016 World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend saw more events than ever in the country, with youngsters taking to the ice in Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Erasmia and Amanzimtoti. New rinks and new teams are helping to develop the game in one of its remotest outposts. With ice hockey back in Port Elizabeth thanks to a new rink, the 43 participants coming to the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend were all new to the sport and many were even on the ice for the first time in their lives in the group with ages from 5 to 54 years.

After meeting in the Saturday morning the participants had a 90-minute ice session with several exercises. In the evening the senior team also had a game that was attended by some of the new players interested in joining the club. On Sunday morning the weekend at the Baywest Ice Rink continued with a second ice session for the new participants, who in the end got their certificates.



"We loved the idea [of the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend]. All the boys are jealous and want a similar event," said Carine van Eck of the Eastern Province Ice Hockey Association.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Abu Dhabi

As part of the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend, the Abu Dhabi Ice Sports Club organized a women's hockey game at Zayed Sports City in Abu Dhabi between two women's teams from different emirates, the local Abu Dhabi Storms and the Dubai Gazelles, which the local team won 13-1.

It was a women's hockey clash between emirates and also cultural mix of local players and expats from other countries living in the United

Arab Emirates trying the coolest sport on earth in the heat of the Arab peninsula.

"They were all happy to have this event and are excited to do it every year. It was interesting to organize the event in a friendly atmosphere," said Maher Dahoud, Assistant Sport Director of the Abu Dhabi Ice Sports Club. "It was a great event to raise awareness for ice hockey for women, to develop women's ice hockey in the region and also for social communication between cultures."

UNITED STATES: Chaska

The Chaska Chanhassen Hockey Association in Minnesota hosted a World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend event with 60 girls at the ages 5-18. They were kept busy for six hours. Off the ice with yoga, stick handling, strength and agility class, hockey craft, lunch and guest speakers including four-time Olympian Jenny Potter, and on the ice with a 45-minute fun skate event and 45 minutes of cross-ice games.

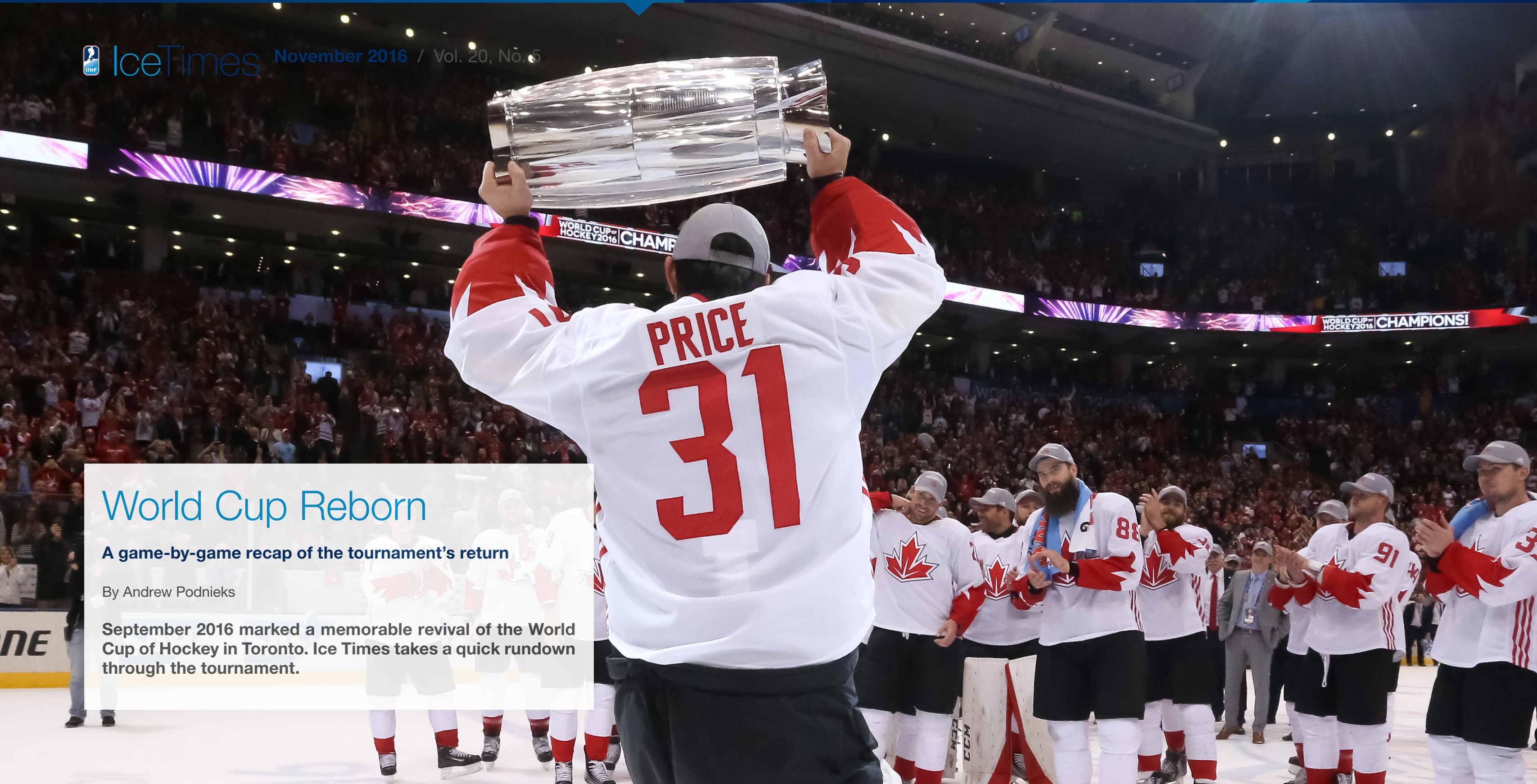
"There were lots of smiles and positive feedback from parents. The event we held today provided an environment for the girls to get to know each other better, try new things, encourage new participants to join our association. We hope this event helped to grow our program and help to retain current participants," said Keri Mack.

World Cup Reborn

A game-by-game recap of the tournament's return

By Andrew Podnieks

September 2016 marked a memorable revival of the World Cup of Hockey in Toronto. Ice Times takes a quick rundown through the tournament.





It was a 12-year wait, but when the NHL and NHLPA revived the World Cup, it brought together the best players from the NHL.

Eight teams played a total of 16 games at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto, creating memories that have become part of hockey's history.



Andre Ringuette / World Cup of Hockey/Getty Images

Sept. 17 Europe 3-United States 0

Jaroslav Halak stopped 35 shots and Marian Gaborik opened the scoring with what turned out to be the game-winning goal as Team Europe topped the Americans in the opening game. It was a result that foreshadowed events to come for both teams.

Sept. 17 Canada 6-Czech Republic 0

Goalie Carey Price might have posted the shutout, but it was the brilliant play of captain Sidney Crosby that carried Canada to victory. He had a goal and two assists and was the best player on ice by far.



Andre Ringuette / World Cup of Hockey/Getty Images

Sept. 18 Sweden 2-Russia 1

Day Two of the World Cup started with Jacob Markstrom earning a surprise start in goal for Sweden, but thanks only to illness befalling Henrik Lundqvist. No matter. Tre Kronor played a near flawless game, allowing a last-minute goal from Alex Ovechkin to break Markstrom's shutout bid.

Sept. 18 North America 4-Finland 1

The speedy kids ripped into their opponents to

the delight of a raucous crowd. Captain Connor McDavid, 2016 1st overall pick Auston Matthews, Jack Eichel, and the rest of the young players skated fast and furious all night, leaving an inexperienced Finland team looking the lesser of the two teams by a wide margin.

Sept. 19 Europe 3-Czech Republic 2

Team Europe was under the radar no more. After Leon Draisaitl's overtime goal on a breakaway, the all-star team was now 2-0 and the Czechs 0-2. Europe led 1-0 and 2-1 and deserved the win, which gave them a clear edge on a semi-finals spot, unthinkable even a week earlier.



Minas Panagiotakis / World Cup of Hockey/Getty Images

Sept. 19 Russia 4-North America 3

In traditional Russian fashion, the team took a close game and blew it open with a quick ba-

rrage, scoring four times in six minutes in the second period. The young guns, however, mounted a ferocious comeback late in the third and hit the post on a game-tying shot. It was a thrilling mix of skill and speed by both teams.



Minas Panagiotakis / World Cup of Hockey/Getty Images

Sept. 20 Canada 4-United States 2

The pre-game hype was relentless, but in the end Canada's win eliminated the U.S. from the playoffs and left its southerly neighbours with a disappointing 0-2 record. Matt Duchene had two goals for the winners, who were simply faster and more skilled than their gritty opponents.

Sept. 20 Sweden 2-Finland 0

Lundqvist was back in goal, stopping 36 shots and looking brilliant in Tre Kronor's 2-0 win over arch-rivals Finland. The loss more or less eliminated the Finns from playoff contention.

Sept. 21 Canada 4-Europe 1

This time it was Jonathan Toews who starred for Canada, scoring twice and adding an assist in a convincing win that presaged the championship finals. Europe looked outclassed much of the time, but this was a situation coach Ralph Krueger would soon remedy.

Sept. 21 North America 4 - Sweden 3

Possibly the most entertaining game of the tournament, the North Americans were ahead 2-0 before the game was five minutes old. Swedish experience rode the wave, and after 60 minutes it was 3-3. Nathan MacKinnon displayed breathtaking hands in close to beat Lundqvist with the OT winner, but it wasn't enough to get the young guns into the playoffs. They were eliminated but left the World Cup having acquired many admirers along the way.



Vaughn Ridley / World Cup of Hockey-Getty Images

Sept. 22 Czech Rep. 4 - United States 3

No one could have known before the tournament that this game would not have meaning, but both teams were already eliminated by the time the opening faceoff occurred. Still, the loss left the U.S. at 0-3, and the Czechs salvaged their only win of the World Cup round robin.

Sept. 22 Russia 3 - Finland 0

As in its previous game, the Russians used a mid-game outburst to secure victory, this time scoring two quick goals in the second to break a 0-0 tie. The loss sent Suomi home with an 0-3 record and lifted the Russians into the playoffs.

Sept. 24 Canada 5 - Russia 3

Sidney Crosby rose to the occasion against Alex Ovechkin and the Russians. Tied 2-2 after 40 minutes, Canada stunned its opponents with the only three goals of the third. Crosby was brilliant, scoring one goal and assisting on two others.

Sept. 25 Europe 3 - Sweden 2

Team Europe did the unthinkable. In a back-and-forth game, Tomas Tatar's second goal of the game in overtime launched the hybrid group into the World Cup finals at the expense of a shocked Sweden. The Swedes scored first but found themselves trailing late in the game, but after tying it with fewer than five minutes remaining in regulation they couldn't finish in OT.



Denis Pajot / World Cup of Hockey-Getty Images

Sept. 27 Canada 3 - Europe 1

The first game of the finals went as predicted, but the result was anything but quickly assured. Still, Sidney Crosby's line was the best, as it had been all tournament. Crosby made great passes to both Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron for goals in the victory.

Sept. 29 Canada 2 - Europe 1

Europe coach Ralph Krueger said after the game he made more than 75 adjustments to his team's strategy for game two of the finals. It almost worked. Nonetheless, a Brad Marchand goal set up by captain and MVP Crosby with only 43.1 seconds remaining in the third period lifted Canada to its second straight World Cup victory.



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The Olympic table is set

Germany, Norway, Slovenia heading to PyeongChang 2018

By Martin Merk, Risto Pakarinen, and Henrik Manninen

The Men's Final Olympic Qualification Round ended with a bang, as all three tournaments were decided on the final day.





Germany, Norway, and Slovenia each won their groups, earning the right to advance to the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, Korea.

[Click here for video highlights](#)

Germany qualifies in Riga

After missing out on Sochi 2014, the German men's national team will return to the Olympics

in PyeongChang 2018 after beating Latvia 3-2 in the deciding game of Group E.

The Germans were able to achieve a remarkable victory, beating the Latvians in front 10,035 fans at the Arena Riga, a tall order on any day.

Germany held an 8-1-3 record against Latvia at World Championships and Olympics, winning the last three encounters between 2013 and 2015. Fresh off back-to-back shutouts of Japan and Austria, Germany had a few reasons to feel confident.

Tom Kuhnackl scored the game winner with just over five minutes left in the game, winning the Olympic berth for Germany, the country's first appearance since Vancouver 2010.

Norway returns to Games

Norway was the only host country that won its Final Olympic Qualification group. They will play in the 2018 Olympics thanks to their 2-1 win over France on the final day in the Norwegian capital city of Oslo.

Norway's big hero was Mattias Norstebo who scored the game-winner with 2:29 remaining in the game.

"This is one of the best wins in my career, for sure. It's an unbelievable feeling. I grew up down here and this was probably my last game at this rink so it's a little emotional," said Mats Zuccarello, who scored Norway's first goal in the game.

"Playing in the Olympics is the biggest thing you can do with your national team, so to qualify there is amazing," he added.



Tom Kuhnackl (right) scoring the game-winning goal against Latvia to send Germany to the 2018 Olympic Games.



Mattias Norstebo (on left) reacts after winning the Final Olympic Qualification Group F and a trip to PyeongChang 2018.

Super Slovenia back among elites

Rok Ticar silenced the home crowd in Minsk with a hat trick against Belarus, his game winning penalty shot sending Slovenia to PyeongChang 2018, the second consecutive Olympics for the tiny ice hockey nation.

“We have once been at the Olympics and said before the game that if we give everything then we can at least look at ourselves in the mirror afterwards, so we kept battling because the prize is unbelievable,” said Ticar, who scored all of Slovenia’s goals in the final game, a 3-2 shootout win against the favoured Belarusians.

“The character of this team is indescribable. I think our guys are so passionate to play for our country and every time we come together we believe we can win and I think that is one of the biggest reasons why we did end up winning tonight,” said star forward Anze Kopitar.

In 2013 Nik Zupancic was assistant coach when Slovenia qualified for Sochi 2014, and will return to the Games as head coach of the team.

“We grew as a team during the tournament and this is huge for our team to come from such a small country and once again qualify for the Olympics,” said Zupancic.

Olympic groups confirmed

The groups for the Olympic men’s ice hockey tournament in PyeongChang 2018 have now been determined as Norway, Germany and Slovenia won the qualification tournaments.

The seeding was already done one year ago based on the 2015 IIHF Men’s World Ranking with the top-8 countries and host Korea already slotted in.

Norway was the only host country that won its Final Olympic Qualification group thanks to a late game-winner from Mattias Norstebo in the 2-1 victory over France.

Germany ended the Latvian streak of three consecutive tournament wins in the Final Olympic Qualification on home ice (for 2006, 2010 and 2014). Both teams will be seeded in the same group with Sweden and Finland in PyeongChang.

Slovenia, which surprisingly qualified for Sochi 2014 and even reached the quarter-finals, will be back for more in 2018. The Slovenes will be seeded with Russia, the United States and Slovakia in Group B in PyeongChang. Group A includes defending Olympic champion Canada, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and host Korea.

KOREA 2018 MEN’S SEEDING

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C
Canada	Russia	Sweden
Czech Republic	USA	Finland
Switzerland	Slovakia	Norway
Korea	Slovenia	Germany

Dates: 09 - 25.02.2018



In the final game Slovenia went up 2-0 then held off a Belarusian comeback attempt to come through 3-2 in a shootout.

Third round up next

2017 Continental Cup rolls on

By Martin Merk



The IIHF Continental Cup's 20th anniversary party moves on to the Third Round, following big wins by the Nottingham Panthers and GKS Tychy in Round 2.

The Nottingham Panthers entered Group B in Jaca as favourites and they ended up as winners. A 28-4 goal record in three games clearly spoke in their favour. The first game featured a 13-2 roll over tournament hosts CH Jaca. Brad Moran scored two goals and had four points. David Clarke and Robert MacMillan also netted the puck twice in front of 800 spectators at the small rink in the Aragonese city.

The Panthers continued with a 12-1 victory against Zeytinburnu Istanbul after generating 80 shots on goal of the Turkish champion. Nine different players scored for the Englishmen including Alexander Nikiforuk, Matthew Carter and Erik Lindhagen each having a pair of goals.



Great Britain and Poland will both have a club representing them in the Third Round of the 2017 IIHF Continental Cup.

The finale came against Latvian champion HK Liepaja. The game was tense and Liepaja had a 38-29 shot-on-goal advantage against Nottingham, but Matthew Carter capitalized with a goal during the Panthers' only power play of the second period to make it a 3-1 lead with 16 seconds left in the second period. The score remained until the final buzzer.



Miguel Ramon Hernandez, Michal Giel

Tychy does it again

Like one year ago GKS Tychy won its second-round tournament of the Continental Cup on home ice. Now the Polish team hopes to make the final round again.

Overcoming the first hurdle wasn't easy for the runner-up from the Polish league. After blanking Romanian champion Dunarea Galati 12-0 on the opening day including hat tricks from Adam Baginski and Mateusz Bepierszcz they struggled in the second game against Acroni Jesenice, needing an OT winner from Marjan Manfreda.

The loss put the tournament hosts in a difficult position. Hungarian champion DVTK Jegesmedvek Miskolc, which just needed a win or a regulation-time tie against Tychy to advance while the Polish hosts needed a regulation-time win to move back to first place.

Tied 2-2 the Poles eventually turned on the offence in the third period, putting up three unanswered goals in front of 2,650 fans for the 5-2 win and the right to advance to the third round.

In the next round GKS Tychy will travel to Italian champion Ritten Sport. The other teams in the group from 18 to 20 November will be Shakhtyor Soligorsk from Belarus and Kazakh champion Beibarys Atyrau.

Gallery



From left: NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA executive Mathieu Schneider award the 2016 World Cup of Hockey trophy to Sidney Crosby.



After helping their country qualify for the 2018 Olympic Games, German forwards Leon Draisaitl and Tobias Rieder played together with Team Europe at the World Cup.



Team North America's Nathan MacKinnon scored one of the nicest goals of the 2016 World Cup, coming in overtime against Sweden's Henrik Lundqvist.



Tom Kuhnackl celebrates a goal as Germany defeated Latvia in Riga on the last day of the Final Olympic Qualification.

Jelena Levsira



The Nottingham Panthers pose together for a team photo in Jaca, Spain after the second round of the Continental Cup.

Miguel Ramon Henares



GKS Tychy salutes the crowd after the Polish club earned the right to advance in the Continental Cup by winning Group C.

Michal Giel

Living the moment

Team Europe's Ralph Krueger reflects on World Cup success

By Andrew Podnieks

The World Cup of Hockey was the highlight of the ice hockey schedule this past September.

Six countries and two “all-star teams” competed at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto, and former Swiss national coach Ralph Krueger was named head coach of Team Europe, an amalgam of players from countries not represented in the World Cup.

Krueger did what many thought was impossible, taking this hodge-podge group of talented players to the best-of-three finals, where they lost to Canada. Krueger recently reflected on this experience.

How did you become involved in the 2016 World Cup of Hockey and what was the process of building the team?

I got a call from Franz Reindl in September 2015, and I immediately said let's do it. It was interesting, challenging, and after 25 years of



A former coach of the Swiss national team for over a decade, Ralph Krueger was the ideal choice to lead Team Europe.

coaching this was the perfect project for me.

The structure of the group was designed by me, but everyone was involved in the selection of the players. I was getting reports every day from Miro Satan, Sean Burke, Lorne Henning, Vaclav Nedomansky, Peter Bondra, Rick Olczyk. It was a great effort. We had three teams—the coaches, the staff, the players—and we all worked together and grew to-

gether to achieve what we did. It's something I'll never forget.

You lost your first two exhibition games to North America by scores of 4-0 and 7-4. How did you bounce back so completely in the coming days?

In retrospect, it was great for us for a lot of reasons. It made us the 8th team in every-

one's minds, so there were no expectations. The results didn't matter to me, but it made the players more proud, more determined, and with so many players coming directly from Olympic qualification in Europe, they were battle ready.

Of course, with Team Europe and Team North America this was not a typical tournament. Is that good or bad?

It was great. In the end, I think we represented ALL countries, not just those whose players were on our team.

We also represented countries like Belarus and Latvia because who knows what players from what nations will be on the team next time?

What was the most satisfying aspect of the format?

It gave players from smaller countries the opportunity to play in a tournament they would otherwise never have played in. Never.

Players were turning to me on the bench and saying, ‘We're beating the U.S.!’ Or, ‘We're beating the Czechs!’ They had never had that happen. It was incredible. Guys like Kopitar and Nielsen and Zuccarello were ecstatic.

Minas Panagiotakis / World Cup of Hockey/Getty Images


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You must have also felt something similar. After all, when you coached the Swiss team you could never hope to beat the top six nations.

Absolutely. As an international coach for 25 years, four Olympics, 12 World Championships, this experience resonates with me. We beat Sweden—I had never done that—the U.S. and Czechs. For me, personally, it was a special experience, for sure. This was definitely not a Swiss team. We never had the number of great players Team Europe had, so we always had to adopt a game plan based on the players and play a certain way, not the other way around as we did here.

Before the tournament many people felt you would be fodder. What does it mean to take the team to the finals?

The Team Europe results proved it was the perfect format. We proved we could play against all of the top teams. We weren't THAT good, but we were plenty good. Any of the eight teams could have won. We're proud that we proved we belonged. We created a lot of excitement, and if there are 10-year-old kids who dream of playing because of us, that's great. There is no way the World Cup can replace the Olympics. Ever. But I believe our success means we should be back.

Canada won both games of the finals—an expected result, for sure—but games were much closer than expected. How do you feel about those games in retrospect?

We had more puck possession than Canada, more offensive-zone time than they did. We had a general team philosophy, but we adapted every day based on our circumstances. I was in pain after losing. I thought we deserved more. I'm not saying we should have won, but we deserved more. But the depth of Canada is special. No one has that depth, the options at every position, the skill. No one.



Ralph Krueger
Head Coach,
Team Europe



- Born: 31 August 1959 (age 57)
Winnipeg, Canada
- Coached Swiss national team at 12 World Championships and three Olympic Games (2002, 2006, 2010)
- Chairman of Southampton football club since 2014
- Son Justin plays for SC Bern and German national team



Coming up

2017 IIHF World Junior Championship

CANADA, Montreal and Toronto
26.12.2016 - 05.01.2017

Women's Olympic Qualification

Preliminary Round 3

Group E

FRANCE, Cergy-Pontoise
15.12.2016 - 18.12.2016

Women's Olympic Qualification

Preliminary Round 3

Group F

NORWAY, Stavanger
16.12.2016 - 18.12.2016

2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division I Group A

GERMANY, Bremerhaven
11.12.2016 - 17.12.2016

2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division I Group B

HUNGARY, Budapest
11.12.2016 - 17.12.2016

2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division II Group A

ESTONIA, Tallinn
11.12.2016 - 17.12.2016

IIHF Continental Cup

Third round

Group D

DENMARK, Odense
18.11.2016 - 20.11.2016

IIHF Continental Cup

Third round

Group E

ITALY, Ritten
18.11.2016 - 20.11.2016

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



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