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# February 2017 / Vol. 21, No. 1 February 2017 / Vol. 21, No. 1

# **Stars in Stripes** 10 lessons from WJC Women's U18s recap





From the IIHF President

## Building winners

By René Fasel

### The season is underway, and with it new excitement for ice hockey worldwide.

Ice hockey has traditionally been the domain of a certain number of nations, who have been playing for decades and have meshed the sport into the fabric of their culture. These countries have evolved into leaders in our game, and with their development programs and reinvestment into the sport have set a great example for others to follow.

World Junior champions USA, Canada, Russia. Sweden and Finland, all of these nations are perennial contenders at all levels of the game. But what about the other countries. Can these nations reach the level of the Big Five, and where can the IIHF help?

Watching the 2017 World Juniors, it was pleasing to see the development of Denmark and Switzerland's junior teams into strong contenders. With the Danes hosting the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, I hope that they can set a strong example for other developing nations that there is a place for them to compete with the world's best.

It is important that we explore all opportunities to aid developing nations and encourage competitive parity in men's and women's ice hockey at all levels. While our member national associations have done great work at the grassroots level, the IIHF could take a larger role in ensuring that coaching and referee educations is of high quality and readily accessible.

Through the work of the IIHF and our committees, we are getting a clearer idea of the immediate needs of our MNAs and are working hard to make progress on our various projects designed to aid development.

This month we will find out which will be the final two teams to earn a spot in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games' women's ice hockey tournament in PyeongChang. Switzerland and Japan will host the Final Olympic Qualification groups, and no doubt the competition will be very tight.

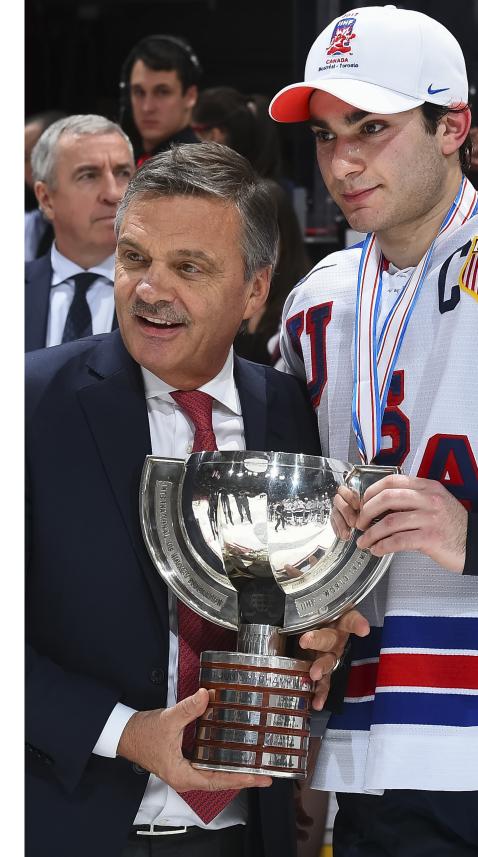
I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate our latest inductees to the IIHF Hall of Fame. It is hard to believe that this IIHF Hall of Fame Class is our 21st celebration of the legends of our game! And what's more incredible is that most of this year's inductees were in the prime of their careers in 1997, when we honoured that first class.

The men and women we honour today have a unifying theme-the Olympics. Looking at the player inductees, we cannot imagine the Olympics without the contributions of Finland's Saku Koivu and Teemu Selanne, Canada's Joe Sakic, and American Angela Ruggiero.

Add to the mix the NHL careers of Uwe Krupp, Sakic, and our Finnish legends, and the tireless efforts of Dieter Kalt to grow our sport in Austria, and we get a rich mix of international representation! Isn't that what this game is all about?

We also acknowledge the Herculean career of Tony Hand in Great Britain with the "Bibi" Torriani Award and the devoted work of Patrick Francheterre with the French Federation in the form of the Paul Loicg Award.

The hard work and dedication of such men and women serve as good examples to the tremendous passion and dedication that we need at all levels of the sport.



### News and Notes

### IIHF

Elizabeth Rembelska has just joined the IIHF in Zurich as Assistant to the General Secretary.

Her rich experience in planning and coordinating of

various events comes from different industries Elizabeth worked in. She was involved in developing start-up companies in Poland and Switzerland, spent over a year in Rotterdam and in Chicago working in a fast-paced environment of international trade and logistics where she was an assistant to senior management and officers.

Elizabeth studied applied linguistics at two universities and the theoretical background in languages contributes to her better understanding of the complexity of an international dialogue.

In her free time she goes hiking, rides motorcycles and explores the world of wine. Staying fit is crucial to Elizabeth because, as she quotes, "our body is the only place where we have to live".

### FINLAND, BELARUS/LATVIA

The 2017 IIHF Annual Congress in May in Cologne will decide who will host the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship. Two bids have been submitted.

Finland wants to bring the World Championship back to Tampere and Helsinki while the other application is a joint bid of Minsk, Belarus, and Riga, Latvia. The proposed dates of both bids are 7 to 23 May 2021.

The IIHF members will allocate the event during the 2017 IIHF Annual Congress, set to take place 18-20 May 2017 in Cologne, Germany, during the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

Originally Belarus planned to apply with two arenas in Minsk for the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, similar to the setup when the country hosted for the first time in 2014, but the Belarusian Ice Hockey Association and the Latvian Ice Hockey Federation announced the joint bid of the neighbouring countries with Minsk and Riga. Both arenas were opened to host the first World Championship in each county, the Arena Riga for the 2006 Worlds and the Minsk Arena for the 2014 edition.

### UKRAINE

The current President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Ukraine, Anatoli Brezvin, was re-elected for another term. That was the unanimous decision of the General Congress delegates of the

Ice Hockey Federation of Ukraine, which was held on 22 December 2016 at the National University of Physical Education and Sports in Kyiv.

"I am very pleased that we have received the confidence of the General Congress to work the next four years for the development of Ukrainian ice hockey," Brezvin said in his inaugural speech as the president.

During the Congress Brezvin he stressed the need to reform the system of children's and youth hockey, including the licensing of coaches in youth sports schools.

### USA

Dave Ogrean will retire as executive director of USA Hockey on August 1, 2017, but will remain with the organization in an advisory capacity. A national search for a new executive director will begin immediately. Ogrean has served as executive director of USA Hockey since August 1, 2005, and also held the position from 1993-99.









He began his professional career with the organization as its director of public relations from 1978-80.

"We've had someone in Dave Ogrean who has helped establish USA Hockey as truly one of the preeminent national governing bodies in America during his time as executive director," said USA Hockey President Jim Smith. "Over this last 12-year period since he returned and during his previous time in the position in the 90s, Dave has had an extraordinary impact on advancing our organization and growing the sport."

Ogrean serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Olympic Committee, as well as the Broadmoor World Arena in Colorado Springs, and is a member of El Pomar Foundation's Pikes Peak Council. He is also on the selection committee of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and the IIHF's Governance Reform Group.



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### **Obituaries**

### **RAFAEL KADYROV**

Former IIHF referee Rafael Kadyrov passed away on 19 January after serious illness. He was battling with a brain tumour.

Kadyrov was born on 4 April 1969 in Ufa, Russia. He has been officiating since 1998/99 and last September he reached the mark of 700 games in the top Russian league.

As an IIHF referee he officiated in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in 2009 and 2010, in two World Junior Championships (2006, 2011) and two U18 World Championships (2005, 2008) including the gold medal game of the 2005 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship and the bronze medal game of the 2009 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

"We knew Rafa as a person who always had a sparkle in his eyes and a great smile on his face when he was officiating games," recalls IIHF Officiating Manager Konstantin Komissarov. "He was a person who committed himself completely to officiating and worked his way up from the bottom to the top in his officiating career. He loved the life. Rafa's dedication to officiating and to be the best is a great example for young on-ice officials."

### **JAN KOBEZDA**

Jan Kobezda, a former top-level player and coach both in Slovakia and in Iceland, passed away at the age of 41.

The Slovak, who worked as head coach and GM of Slovak Extraliga team Dukla Trencin, suffered a heart attack before the team's departure to a league game in Kosice and was brought to hospital where he died.

Kobezda started his career as a defenceman in Dubnica and represented Slovakia in the 1993 IIHF U18 World Championship C-Pool shortly after the country's independence and the men's national team in two exhibition games.

After ending his career in Slovakia he played in Akureyri, Iceland, and was coaching the Icelandic U20 national team in 2003/2004.

#### **JAMES IRVINE MALACKO**

James Irvine "Shorty" Malacko passed away in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada on Christmas Day at the age of 86.

He started playing with the Lethbridge Maple Leafs in 1950, a season that culminated with the team representing Canada at the 1951 World Championship in Paris. Canada was dominant that year, winning all six of its game tee worked within the IIHF's guiding parameand outscoring its opponents by a 62-6 marters of fair play. gin to win gold.

In 2011, Sauer was named head coach of Malacko stayed in Europe after the win, playthe U.S. national sledge hockey team, a poing with the Harringay Racers in England and sition he held for six seasons, winning the moving to Germany a year later to help that gold medal in the 2014 Paralympics in Sochi. nation with its Olympic program for the 1952 He also earned the Lester Patrick Trophy in Games in Oslo. 2011, an annual honour given by the NHL for contributions to hockey in the United States.

#### **JEFF SAUER**

Jeff Sauer, a long-time coach active with USA Hockey and a respected member of the IIHF family, passed away in Madison, Wisconsin on 1st February at the age of 73. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer.

Sauer was head coach for Team USA variously at the 1989 Pravda Cup in Leningrad (St. Balazs Vigh started to play hockey at MAC Petersburg); the 1990 team at the Goodwill Budapest before moving to Ferencvaros Bu-Games in Seattle: the 1995 team at the IIHF dapest as a junior player where he debuted Ice Hockey World Championship in Stockin the top Hungarian league. He represented Hungary in the 2003 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 holm; and, the 1997 Tampere Cup in Finland. World Championship Division II Group B in Sauer was an integral member of the IIHF's Belgrade during that time.

Disciplinary Committee in its formative years, coming by that position as a result of de-The forward later played top-level hockey in cades experience as a coach at the college Hungary for city rival Ujpest and in the last level in the United States. Sauer sat on the two years joined Tisza Volan SC, a Hungarian Committee for several years and helped creclub that competes in the Serbian league. ate a system whereby players' actions on ice were dealt with objectively while the Commit-



### **BALAZS VIGH**

Balazs Vigh passed away on 20 January at the age of 30. He was among the victims of a bus crash in San Martino Buon Albergo, close to the Italian city of Verona, in which 16 people died.

## China aiming high

### **Development opportunities ahead of 2022**

#### By Adam Steiss

Ice hockey development in the Far East got a boost when Beijing was selected as the host city for the 2022 Olympic Games.

The selection has prompted a rise in interest in the sport, driven by a government initiative to raise Chinese ice hockey talent in time to ice a competitive team at the Games.

IIHF President René Fasel met with Chinese Minister of Sport and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) Gou Zhongwen in January at the IIHF office in Zurich.

"This was an important meeting, and a first step in what we hope is and aggressive and long-lasting development partnership that will introduce this great sport to millions of Chinese," said Fasel.

"It is our goal that, five years from now when the first puck drops in Beijing we can look back on this meeting as the catalyst for what will be a vastly improved and developed ice hockey landscape in the country."



IIHF Council member Thomas Wu, COC VP Yang Shuan, Fasel, COC President Gou Zhongwen, and Infront CEO Philippe Blatter.

The meeting was set up to discuss ice hockev development in China ahead of Beijing's hosting of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, and to explore further opportunities to enhance the sport's profile in the world's most populous nation.

With limited ice rinks and interest confined mostly to certain northern regions of the country, growing hockey in China has been a challenge. While men's national team has yet to gualify for an Olympic tournament, the women's team has participated in three Winter Games: in 1998, 2002, and most recently Vancouver 2010.

However, backed by the Chinese government which has called for a renewed focus on winter sports development ahead of the 2022 Olympics - ice hockey in China is on the upswing. Professional leagues like the National Hockey League and Kontinental Hockey League have begun to make inroads eastwards. The Toronto Maple Leafs and New York Islanders have run programs designed to build the sport, while the KHL launched an new team Beijing last November, Kunlun Red Star.

The Chinese delegation that came to the IIHF office included members of the Chinese Olympic committee, including Gou Zongwen, who also serves as China's Minister of Sport. Also in attendance were Philippe Blatter and Bruno Marty from Infront Sports, which was aguired by the Wanda Group corporation last year as part of an overall strategy to develop Chinese winter sports.

"It was a very productive meeting," said Infront President and CEO Philippe Blatter. "I think there is big enthusiasm for ice hockey, they understand it's a key winter sport with huge potential in China."

"We are excited about the development opportunities in China and great potential to work together, but also that we need to get started now, because time is important," said Executive Director for Winter Sports Bruno Marty. "The priority is to get a plan in place and implement it, starting with ice rinks and getting people to play at all different levels."

## A league of their own

### IIHF class of 2017 named

By Andrew Podnieks



The International Ice Hockey Federation's Historical Committee has announced the 21st induction class to the IIHF Hall of Fame.

Former players Saku Koivu, Uwe Krupp, Angela Ruggiero, Joe Sakic and Teemu Selanne, along with builder Dieter Kalt will be inducted in 2017. Former Great Britain national team player and coach Tony Hand has been selected to receive the Richard "Bibi" Torriani Award. French ice hockey executive and former player and coach Patrick Francheterre will be given the Paul Loicg Award.

### **Dieter Kalt**

Dieter Kalt has been the face of Austrian hockey for half a century and more, on and off the ice.





The 2017 Induction Ceremony will take place in Cologne, Germany on 21 May, the final day of the World Championship.

and 1972. In all, he played for Klagenfurt from 1957 to 1967 and again from 1969 to 1980. He also played for Graz from 1967 to 1969 while finishing his law degree.

Internationally, Kalt first represented his country at the 1962 World Championship in Colorado Springs (B pool). He played in every major IIHF event from 1962 to 1972 except the 1963 Worlds and captained the WM team in 1969 and 1972. As well, he wore the "C" for Austria at the 1968 Olympics, his second.

After retiring, Kalt worked as a referee and later a coach. In 1976, he started working with the Austrian Ice Hockey Federation (OEHV) as a team leader in charge of sport development.

From 1996 to 2016, he was President of the Austrian Ice Hockey Federation, and, upon retiring in 2016, Kalt was named Honorary President by his federation. Kalt is also a long-time member of the Austrian Olympic Committee.





### Saku Koivu

Saku Koivu was a player of skill, heart, dedication, and honour. In a career that lasted nearly two decades both internationally and in the NHL, Koivu captained his team to many great moments.



Although he was part of Suomi's bronze medal at the 1994 Olympics, and a silver medallist a few months later at the World Championship, it was a year later that Koivu first achieved something historic.

Playing on a line with Jere Lehtinen and Ville Peltonen at the 1995 World Championship, the trio led Finland to its first ever gold medal at that event.

It was in 1998 at the Olympics that Koivu wore the "C" for the first time as Finland defeated Canada, 3-2, in the bronze-medal game. In 1999, he was given the honour of wearing the "C" for the Montreal Canadiens, the first-ever European captain for the storied franchise.

Koivu's participation in the World Championship was as faithful as any player of his era. His credo was simple - if I can play, I will. He took Finland to another gold-medal game in 1999, this time against the Czech Republic. The best-of-two format culminated with a sudden-death overti-

me, where Jan Hlavac's goal forced Suomi to settle for a hard-fought silver.

In 2004, at the World Cup of Hockey, Koivu again wore the "C" and again took his team to the championship game, this time losing 3-2 to Canada. And in 2006, at the Turin Olympics, Finland capped another historic run to the finals before a narrow 2-1 loss to arch-rivals Sweden.

In all, Koivu participated in 11 top competitions for Finland, winning eight medals. In the NHL, he finished his career in Anaheim alongside Teemu Selanne before retiring in 2014.

#### Uwe Krupp

It is easy to name Uwe Krupp as the finest hockey player Germany has ever produced. A defenceman of imposing size, he was nevertheless a fluid skater who

brought the puck out of his zone with fluid consistency.

The Buffalo Sabres selected Krupp 214th overall at the 1983 draft, who was an NHLer for 14 seasons. Playing with the Colorado Avalanche in the 1996 Stanley Cup Final, Krupp scored to give the Avs the Cup and cement his own legacy. He was the first German to score a Cup-winning goal and the first German to win the Cup.

In addition to a brief appearance at the 1998 Olympics, Krupp was part of another Cup-winning team under Bowman, this time in Detroit in 2002. Krupp later returned to Germany to coach the junior and senior teams, leading the national program from the 2006 Olympics through the 2011 World Championship.

He started as a German pioneer in the NHL, made history during his career in North America, and returned home to teach a new generation of players what he had learned.

#### **Angela Ruggiero**

Ruggiero made her debut with the U.S. National team as a 17-year-old at the 1997 Women's World Championship. By the time she announced her retirement, in

2011, she had produced a career worthy of the Hall of Fame.

As a defenceman she became the cornerstone of the American blueline corps for more than a decade. The youngest player on Team USA at the 1998 Olympics - the inaugural event for women's hockey - Ruggiero helped her team stun Canada in the gold-medal game.

In 2005, it was Ruggiero's goal in the penalty-shot shootout that proved the margin of victory against Canada once again, the first Wo-

year. The team had wanted him to play right men's Worlds gold for the Americans. Ruggiero went on to win three more World Championsaway, but he insisted on taking another year in hips, and was a perennial All-Star. the WHL with Swift Current, during which time he helped Canada win gold at the 1988 World By 2011, though, having accomplished all that Junior Championship in Moscow.

she could on ice - and feeling the effects of injuries to her 31-year-old body – Ruggiero retired Sakic played in two World Championships earfrom the game. She was, however, only starting ly in his NHL career, winning silver in 1991 and her career in sport administration. gold three years later, the first for Canada since 1961.

She attended Harvard University where in 2004 she graduated and was also named the Patty Kazmaier Award winner as the best female hockey player in the NCAA. In 2010, Ruggiero was named to the evaluation commission for the 2018 Olympics. In 2013, she was named to the IIHF Athletes' Committee, and in 2016 she was promoted from Vice-Chair to Chair of the IOC's Athletes' Commission as well as being named to the executive board of the IOC.

She was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto in 2015.

### **Joe Sakic**

The 12th member of the IIHF's Triple Gold Club, Joe Sakic was a winner from the beginning of his career to the end.

Sakic started his NHL career in 1988 after being drafted 15th overall by Quebec the previous







The Nordiques, however, moved to Colorado in 1995, and in the first season won the Stanley Cup while Sakic had 51 goals, 69 assists, and a career high 120 points. In the playoffs, he scored the winning goal in six of the team's 16 wins and was named Conn Smythe Trophy winner. The Avalanche won the Cup again in 2001.



Sakic was also part of Canada's historic 2002 Olympic team that won gold for the first time in half a century. He scored a pivotal goal in the gold-medal game and was named tournament MVP for his brilliant play in Salt Lake. He won the World Cup in 2004 with Canada and two years later captained his country at the Turin Olympics.

Sakic's NHL statistics were staggering: 1,378 games played, 625 goals, 1,106 assists. He had his number 19 retired by the Avs the year he retired and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2012.

### **Teemu Selanne**

No hockey player has ever appeared in the Olympic Winter Games as many times as the six appearances by arguably the greatest hockey player ever to come out of Finland.

After being drafted by the Winnipeg Jets in 1988, Selanne played at every top international tournament possible, from the World Juniors in 1989 in Alaska, to the 1991 World Championship, 1991 Canada Cup, and 1992 Olympics in Albertville, where the 21-year-old tied for the goal-scoring lead with seven.

Making his NHL debut in October 1992 as a 22-year-old, Selanne scored a staggering 76 goals and 132 points, both records for a rookie and which might never be broken.

Selanne played in his second Olympics in 1998 when Finland beat Canada to win the bronze medal. A year later, the Finns lost in overtime to miss out on a World Championship gold medal, settling for silver.

He scored 684 goals in 21 NHL seasons, three times surpassing 50 in a season. In 1998/99, he won the "Rocket" Richard Trophy with 47 goals, tops in the league. In all, he recorded 1,457 total points in 1,451 regular-season games. His greatest memory of NHL play was the 2006/07 season when he helped the Ducks to their first, and only, Stanley Cup.

Ultimately, though, it was his storied career with Suomi that fans remember. Selanne donned the blue and white one last time, in Sochi in 2014 at age 43.

There he played so well while leading the Finns to a bronze medal that he was named tournament MVP. He retired as the all-time record holder in Olympic hockey for total points (43).

### "Bibi" Torriani Award **Tony Hand**

Tony Hand recorded more than 200 points in a single British Hockey League season four times, and played in the BHL and its successors for 32 years!

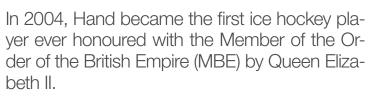
Starting with the Murravfield Racers of the BHL in 1983 as a 14-year-old, Hand went on to play in the British ISL (Ice hockey Super League), the BNL (British National League), the EIHL (Elite Ice Hockey League), and, finally, the EPIHL (English Premier Ice Hockey League). By the time he retired in 2015, he was 47-years-old.

From 2001 to 2015, he was a player-coach, most notably with the Manchester Phoenix for

whom he became full-time head coach in 2015 after finally retiring as a player.

His play was so impressive that Edmonton Oilers' general manager and coach Glen Sather, drafted Hand 252nd overall in 1986, the first British-trained player ever selected.

Internationally, Hand has the unique distinction of playing at the World Championship in A pool (1994), B pool / Division I (1993, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007), C pool (1991, 1992), and D pool (1989, 1990). He also played in three U20 events (C pool) and in all played in 91 IIHF games.



#### **Paul Loicg Award Patrick Francheterre**

Patrick Francheterre has been involved in French hockey for the better part of half a century. He started playing for Lille when he



was 13 and joined Croix (its successor) in the pro ranks at the age of 18. At the end of his first season Francheterre played at his first World Championship, C Pool, in 1967. That fall, despite still being a teen, he was named player-coach for Croix, a position he held for the next 12 years.





Francheterre played in every World Championship for France between 1967 and 1977 (eight tournaments, all C Pool) as well as the 1968 Olympics on home ice, in Grenoble, the first time France had played in the Winter Games since 1936.

In 1979 Francheterre started as an assistant for the national U20 team, and two years later he was head coach of France's U18 team.

In the fall of 1984, Francheterre became player-coach of the Bordeaux hockey club, and a year later he was named national team coach, a position he assumed for two seasons. In 1985, France won C Pool under his guidance, and a year later, in B Pool, the team finished fourth and has never played lower than that since.



Francheterre became team director for France in 1992 and three years later the assistant sports director. In 1999, he became club president of Bordeaux, a position he held for two years.

It was in 2001 that he started his involvement at the IIHF level, becoming the chairman for European tournaments.

He has also worked on the IIHF's technical commission and served as the general manager for France's hockey teams at the Olympics and World Championships, from 1993 to 1997 and again from 2004 to 2014.

### The final step

### Two Women's Olympic spots left

By Adam Steiss



The last two spots in the PyeongChang 2018 Winter **Olympic Games women's** ice hockey tournament are up for grabs this month in Arosa and Tomakomai.

Team Switzerland will take on the Czech Republic, Denmark, and Norway, on home ice in the Swiss ski resort town of Arosa.

The 2014 Olympic bronze medallists had to go through the qualification phase after falling to 6th in the IIHF Women's World Ranking following a lacklustre seventh-place finish at last year's IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship.

The Swiss will be raring to get back to the Olympics, the sight of the country's biggest international success in 2014 when it defeated Sweden in a wild 4-3 game in Sochi.

The team will have All-Star goaltender Florence Schelling, who stopped 45 shots in that



Japan (left) and Switzerland (right) will host the last two Final Olympic Qualification tournaments for PyeongChang 2018.

memorable game agains the Swedes, back in between the pipes in Arosa, after the star goalie missed a few months with a knee injury.

Up-and-coming players like forward Alina Muller along with veterans Phoebe Stanz and Lara Stalder will bolster the team up front. The biggest challenge to Switzerland's path to the Olympics will likely be the Czechs, who boast some solid goaltending of their own with Klara Peslarova, and finished ahead of the Swiss at the 2016 Women's Worlds.

In Group D of the Final Olympic Qualification, Japan will battle Germany, Austria, and France for the right to become the second Asian

nation after Olympic hosts Korea to qualify for the Games. If Japan wins, it will be the third time ever that the country's women's ice hockey team has gualified for the Olympics after reaching the highest summit in the women's game in Nagano 1998 and Sochi 2014.

"Smile Japan", as the team is known, has had some ups and downs since then, finishing ahead of Germany in the 2015 Women's Worlds but falling in the relegation round against Switzerland last year.

Playing in the city of Tomakomai on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, home to the Asian League's Oji Eagles, Japan will be facing off against some serious Olympic contenders. These include Team Germany, who will compete in the 2017 Women's Worlds Championship in Plymouth, USA in March.

The 2016 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division I Group A runners-up France are also in the mix, along with Austria.

The French just missed out on promotion last year while the Austrians finished third and just one point behind the leaders. All four teams are well-aquainted with one another from competing in the Division I Group A Women's Worlds, and the competition for the Olympic spot should be fierce.

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## Ten things we learned from Montreal and Toronto

2017 offered up another action-packed World Juniors

By Lucas Aykroyd









The 2017 IIHF World Junior Championship was a great learning experience, not iust for the teams involved. but for anyone who's charting the future of our sport.

Here are 10 key lessons from the 2017 tournament, held in Montreal and Toronto.

#### America's way is paying off

The U.S. is breeding both skill and teamwork with its U18 National Team Development Program. You can see it in the razzle-dazzle and committed effort of players like top World Junior scorer Clayton Keller and shootout hero Troy Terry.

When the Americans get the kind of superb goaltending they got from Tyler Parsons (44 saves in the 5-4 final win over Canada), they're tough to stop. In this decade, no nation has won more gold medals than the U.S. (2010, 2013, 2017).

#### Canada just misses out

It's strange to criticize Canadian goaltending. Montreal's Carey Price is the reigning Olympic and World Cup champion, Washington's Braden Holtby won the last Vezina Trophy, and Pittsburgh's Matt Murray took home the Stanley Cup.



Team USA is enjoying its most successful decade in World Junior competition, collecting three golds and five total medals.

However, this year's World Junior duo of Carter Hart (2.38 GAA, 90.57 save percentage) and Connor Ingram (2.57, 83.33 save percentage) struggled with consistency. Canada was so close to pulling off another gold on home ice, and better netminding against Team USA might have been the difference.

### **Russia still breeds stars**

As we've seen at recent Olympics and the World Cup of Hockey, Russia's team play no longer matches the Soviet era. But this vast nation continues to produce individual gems.

Case in point: goalie Ilya Samsonov, who cracked the tournament all-star team, leading Russia to bronze with his 2.11 GAA and 93.0 save percentage. The 19-year-old Magnitogorsk native brings size reminiscent of Andrei Vasilevski and guickness similar to Sergei Bobrovski. And captain Kirill Kaprizov shone with nine goals, tying him for the most goals in one tournament in the new millennium with Sweden's Max Friberg (2012). The compact left winger's feistiness was as impressive as his finishing ability.

### Swedes struggled at crunch time

Before Canada's 5-2 semi-final win over Sweden, Canadian coach Dominique Ducharme said: "They showed in the last 10 years that they're really good in the first round, but they have ways to lose when things get tougher."

That critique of the Juniorkronorna holds some validity. The Swedes have won 40 straight group games since 2006, but have earned just one gold medal (2012) in that span. Developing more stars like Peter Forsberg and Henrik Zetteberg who excel at crunch time is the next great challenge for Swedish hockey.

### **Bumpy start for Finnish youth**

The Australian rock band Airbourne had a hit with "Too Much, Too Young, Too Fast." That title

sums up the youthful Finns' demise in Montreal. They entered as defending World Junior champions, but made history for the wrong reasons when they had to play in the relegation round.

Head coach Jukka Rautakorpi was let go mid-tournament and replaced by Jussi Ahokas. Finland used seven players from Ahokas's golden 2016 U18 team, but none could deliver like current NHL stars Patrik Laine or Sebastian Aho. However, Finland should contend once again with emerging gunners like Eeli Tolvanen and Aapeli Rasanen next year.

#### Denmark needs a mental edge

Switzerland is the only nation outside the traditional "Big Seven" to ever win a World Junior medal (1998). But the Danes are showing signs that they might be next. They've made the guarter-finals three years in a row, and finished an all-best fifth this year.

Denmark has fantastic team spirit and camaraderie. They had the tournament's best penalty kill, allowing just one goal on 18 disadvantages. And beating Finland and the Czech Republic for the first time ever this year was huge. The Danes simply need to learn how to clamp down when things go sideways. They squandered a 4-1 round-robin lead against Switzerland and lost 5-4, and couldn't recover after goalie Lasse Petersen allowed the opening goal from centre ice in the 4-0 guarter-final defeat versus Russia.

#### Swiss can battle anyone

At the senior level, every top nation expects a tough game against Switzerland. The 2017 U20 team under first-time head coach Christian Wohlwend likewise made it easy on no one.

The Swiss iced few outstanding individuals, apart from forward Nico Hischier (4-3-7), a potential top pick in the 2017 NHL Draft, and defenceman Jonas Siegenthaler, who averaged 25 minutes per game. But they never lost any game by more than two goals, and hung tight with the eventual champion Americans in a 3-2 quarter-final defeat.

#### **Czechs, Slovaks meet low expectations**

Anyone who bet in Las Vegas that the Czech Republic would finish sixth and Slovakia eighth at this tournament wouldn't have gotten rich. It just wasn't surprising. The Czechs haven't won gold since 2001 or medaled since 2005's bronze. The Slovaks pulled a shocker in 2015 when goalie Denis Godla backstopped them to bronze.

The Czechs, at least, still spawn some stars like three-time World Junior participant David Pastrnak. But these two traditional hockey powers must continue to invest in coaching, training and facilities if they're ever to get their mojo back in U20 play.

#### Extra time reflects tighter competition

At the 2017 tournament, six games had to be settled either in overtime or a shootout. It wasn't as many as in Ufa 2013 (eight) or Calgary/Edmonton 2012 (seven), but it shows that competition at the World Juniors is intensifying over time. We're unlikely to ever see a rout that exceeds Czechoslovakia's 21-4 win over Austria on 28 December 1980, which set the single-game record for most goals.

#### There's always room to get better

As great as the 2017 World Juniors were, 2018 could be even better, as the host Americans trv to defend their title on home ice. When the tournament returns to Buffalo for the first time in seven years, the expectation is that fantastic games will be matched by fantastic attendance.

A 29 December clash between the U.S. and archrival Canada at the 71,608-seat New Era Field, the home of the NFL's Buffalo Bills, will make history as the first outdoor game in World Junior history. Fans are already pumped for another thrilling U20 party over the holidays.



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E CETIMES February 2017 / Vol. 21, No. 1

**Video Highlights:** 

### **2017 IIHF World Junior Championship**



Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2017 IIHF World Junior Championship

#### Media All-Star team

Goalkeeper: Ilya Samsonov, Russia Defence: Thomas Chabot, Canada Defence: Charlie McAvoy, USA Forward: Kirill Kaprizov, Russia Forward: Alexander Nylander, Sweden Forward: Clayton Keller, USA MVP: Thomas Chabot, CAN

Directorate Best Forward, All-Star



Kirill Kaprizov, F. Russia

### 7 GP, 9 G, 3 A, 12 PTS, + 7

Russian captain Kirill Kaprizov, who led the World Juniors with nine goals, was named Best Forward and made the all-star team along with teammate Ilya Samsonov. He is currently playing with Salavat Yulayev Ufa in the KHL, where as a 19-year-old he has already notched 40 points.

### Directorate Best Defenceman, All-Star, MVP



### Thomas Chabot, D, Canada

### 7 GP, 4 G, 6 A, 10 PTS, + 4

Chabot, a 19-year-old defenceman who plays for the QMJHL's Saint John Sea Dogs and appeared in one NHL game this season with the Ottawa Senators, led all defencemen in tournament scoring with 10 points (4+6), and led the World Juniors in ice time. averaging 26:14 per game.



### Directorate Best Goaltender



### Felix Sandstrom G, Sweden

### 7 GP, 2.17 GAA, 91.45 SVS%

The Philadelphia Flyers prospect keyed Sweden's run to the World Junior Championship bronze medal game, backstopping the Swedes to an undefeated record in the preliminary round. Despite a 39-save effort in the bronze game against Russia Sweden ultimately fell 2-1 in overtime.

## U.S. wins gold again

### American U18 women repeat in Europe

By Andrew Podnieks



The Unites States women's U18 team successfully defended its title at the 2017 **IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Wo**men's World Championship in the Czech Republic.

Canada came back in the third to tie the game 1-1, but Grace Zumwinkle scored on a twoon-one with just 2:32 remaining. An empty netter made the final 3-1.

"It's such an incredible feeling," said captain Cayla Barnes, who concluded her U18 career with a record-setting third gold medal. "We started preparing for this in the summer. January 14 has always been in the back of our minds, so we're so happy to be here. We had some fire in us. We didn't want to lose again to Canada [after a 1-0 overtime loss in the round robin]. We never looked back. For us, it's always 'never too high; never too low.'"

For the Americans, it's their second straight gold, and for Canada a second year of heart-



After dropping gold medal games to Canada from 2012-14, the States have evened the score with three straight U18 titles.

break. In all, the Americans move ahead 6-4 in gold medals at the U18 championship for women, an event that has matured and developed immensely in its ten years of existence.

"We had a really good mix of returning players and younger players," said coach USA Joel Johnson. "I think what made us special was that we got better as the tournament went on. The players trusted each other, and some took on different roles than they're used to. But the whole team stepped up."

In the bronze medal game, Valeria Merkusheva made 32 saves to record her second shutout in three games, and help Russia win the



bronze medal with a 2-0 win over Sweden.

Yelena Provorova's goal in the second minute of the third period was all the offence Russia needed to claim third place.

"I don't think the full impact of the victory has really sunken in yet, but it will soon. So many emotions right now," said proud Russian head coach Yevgeni Bobariko.

This is the second bronze medal win at the U18 World Championships for Russia, to go along with two bronzes at the senior women's level. Of course, Russia has never won gold or silver - and neither has any European country.

Bobariko thinks it's only a matter of time, however.

"The more we play against the North American teams, the more confidence we get against them," he figures. "For us, it's a valuable experience to get to play against them and see how they play."

Total attendance for the 21 games was 11,919, marking only the second time the event has exceeded the 10,000 mark in Europe. Not coincidentally, the first time was in Zlin/Prerov in 2012 when some 17,480 fans passed through the turnstiles.

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CeTimes February 2017 / Vol. 21, No. 1

**Video Highlights:** 

### 2017 IIHF **U18 Women's World Championship**



Click here to view all the medal game highlights from the U18 Women's World Championship

Directorate Best Forward



Sophie Shirley, F, Canada

### 5 GP, 2 G, 4 A, 6 P, +1

Although her team finished in second place, Shirley followed up last year's women's U18 debut with a six-point effort in five games and a Directorate Top Forward nod. The Saskatoon native finished with a share of the scoring lead and now has 11 points in two women's U18 tournaments.

### Directorate Best Defenceman



# Cayla Barnes, D, USA

### 5 GP, 3 G, 3 A, 6 P, +5

Team USA's stalwart defenceman became the only player to win three U18 Women's World Championship gold medals (2015, 2016, 2017). The California native, who has been touted as one of USA Hockey's top female prospects, also earned back-to-back Directorate Top Defenceman honours.



### Directorate Best Goalkeeper

15



### Valeria Merkusheva, G, Russia

### 6 GP, 2.28 GAA, 93.41 SVS%, 2 SO

Russia's upward swing at the women's U18s continued at the 2017 tournament as the team was able to capture its second bronze in three years. Playing in her second womens' U18s Merkusheva stepped into the starting goaltender slot and posted a pair of 2-0 shutouts in the playoffs.

### History makers

### **Nottingham wins Continental Cup**

By Martin Merk



**The Nottingham Panthers** have become the first British team to win the IIHF **Continental Cup, going 3-0** to win the tournament's 20th edition.

In the final game against tournament hosts Ritten Sport, the British club was more efficient and physically stronger than their opponents and decided the game with three power-play goals. Ritten tried hard to find back into the game and outshot Nottingham 37-28 but didn't manage to beat goaltender Miika Wiikman with a player-of-the-match performance more than once in a 4-1 win.

"We played good all weekend. My guys made the job really easy for me. It's nice to be part of a team that makes history," the Swedish-Finnish netminder said.

"The power play was good and the goaltending was excellent on our side. We controlled the neutral zone pretty well. It's an accomplishment



The Nottingham Panthers swept the field in three games to become the first-ever British Continental Cup champions.

for our team being able to be the first British team to win it," said Nottingham Panthers head coach and former national team player Corey Neilson.

Often in the shadow of the bigger European leagues, British ice hockey has a loyal fan base in many cities to run a professional league and lure players from abroad. Mostly it's North American players who dominate the league. While in many leagues there are a few import players The Nottingham Panthers had gualified for and players from the home country, it's the the Continental Cup Final as the first British other way around there with a few of the best team in seven years. Having now won the the British players on the team and reinforcement competition, the team's biggest ever interfrom abroad. The top-40 in league scoring innational success, the Panthers have earned clude two British, a Russian, a Swede, a Dutch an automatic qualification and will play in the and 35 players born in North America. Champions Hockey League next season.

"Before when Great Britain used to go to these international events there were guys fighting and doing crazy stuff and now it shows we can compete at the international stage and the level of hockey is very strong. Not only did we win the tournament but we won all three games. We won pretty much everything all the way through," said Neilson.

"It's amazing to be the first British team to do it. It's a huge achievement. We scored a couple of power-play goals and our goaltender was sensational all weekend," said national team forward Robert Farmer after the game.

It ended a wonderful tournament for the Panthers and let the party begin for the champions. Apart from the gold medals Wiikman also earned Best Goaltender honours. Beibarys Atyrau players Dmitri Stepanov and Albert Vishnyakov were named Best Defenceman and Best Forward respectively by the tournament directorate.

### Gold for Korea U20s

#### **Defeat hosts Spain to win promotion**

By Andy Potts



Two goals from Hyukjin Lee helped Korea U20 to victory over Spain in Logrono and sent his country back up to **Division IIA one year after** relegation.

In a breathless finale featuring five goals in barely six minutes, the Koreans came through in a 5-3 win for head coach Hyung Jun Cho and his team.

For the host, though, the defeat means another year of frustration in second place, just as Spain endured 12 months ago when Romania won this section.

The Spanish came into this winner-takes-all showdown against Korea with a one-point advantage after the two teams dominated the competition. Spain picked up crushing victories over Australia (15-2) and Mexico (10-0) to enjoy a goal difference of +28 from four games, while the Koreans also ran riot against the team from Latin America, winning 12-0 on its way to a +18



Korea's U20s rebounded after last year's relegation, putting up an undefeated record and outscoring the competition 27-7.

record. The only blemish for either team came in Korea's first game, when it needed a shootout to edge past Serbia after a 2-2 tie.

In the final stanza, with Spain desperate to come back into the game, the host made a lively start and was up 7-2 on shots after five minutes. But Hyounseop Shim in the Korean net was equal to the task and the play steadily became more open as Korea found space on the counter attack. Serna made a big save to deny Byung Gun Kim in front of the net, Spain failed in a one-on-one breakout. Then Korea's pair of Lees combined once again. Je Hui took the puck into the Spanish zone and set up Hyukiin for a wrist shot from between the hash marks

to open a two-goal lead with barely six minutes left, his second of the game as the Koreans held off Spain the rest of the way.

Spain missed out on gold, but did achieve some individual successes. Rubio's assist gave him 11 points for the competition, sharing the top scorer honours with Bruno Baldris and Serbia's Mirko Djumic.

Baldris and Rubio were selected as the best defenceman and forward respectively, while the top goalie was Serbia's Jug Mitic. Granell's double made him joint leading goalscorer alongside Serbia's Luka Vukicevic, with six apiece. Baldris finished with 10 assists, way out in front on that chart.

For Korea, Heedoo Nam led the scoring with 1+7=8 points, while Hyukiin Lee was the team's leading goalscorer with five.

Outside of the race for gold, Serbia completed the top three with 10 points from five games. The Serbian first line of Djumic (3+8), Vukicevic (6+3) and Lazar Lestaric (5+4) ensured the Balkan country was well-represented among the competition's leading scorers. Belgium took fourth place, and Mexico escaped relegation back to Division III with a nerve-jangling 6-5 overtime win over Australia. The Australians, without a victory all week, finished last and face the drop.

### Turks shake up D-III

### Upset China 2-1 in gold medal game

By Alistair McMurran



Turkey won the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship Division III final 2-1 over China at the Dunedin Ice Stadium and will be promoted to Division II Group B next year.

Turkey's underdog U20 national team proved the pundits wrong when it beat China in a cliff-hanger final. It was an emotional time for a Turkish team that played their hearts out, out-thought and outplayed their more fancied opponents.

It was a well thought out strategy by veteran American coach Keith McAdams, who has lifted the performance of Turkish hockey since becoming the under-20 and under-18 head coach over two years ago.

"Turkey hasn't won an under-20 medal in a long time so there was a lot of pressure on the players," he said. "It gives these players something to grow with when they reach the senior team. They are still young and can develop. We knew



Turkish captain Emrah Savas brings the trophy to his teammates to celebrate the U20 national team's Division III win.

it would be hard to compete with China with all the ice and financial backing they have.

"I'm so happy for the boys. We played very well as a team. The guys have worked hard on the tactics we are using."

McAdams plan began when he selected an

under-18 team for the under-20 Division III that was held in Dunedin as well two years ago. The same team also played in the under-18 tournament at Auckland the same year.

They were an experienced group when they came back to Dunedin this year. The players all bought into the plan and it worked.



The best Turkish player in the final and throughout the whole championships was aggressive forward Omer Kars. The forward from Erzurum is also a member of the Turkish senior squad.

McAdams has coached in Turkey for the last seven years with the Erzurum BBSK teams. They have won eight national titles.

Twelve members of the 20-man strong Turkish under-20 team play for the club.

Turkey finished sixth last year but has made a significant improvement over the last 12 months. The team beat New Zealand, 6-4. Bulgaria. 8-1, and South Africa, 6-0, in the group stage. The Turks beat Iceland 3-2 in the semi-finals coming back from a two-goal deficit with three unanswered third-period goals.

China won the gold medal in Dunedin two years ago but was not able to stay in the higher grade despite new Russian Coach Alexander Barkov's team coming into the tournament as favourites. Rudi Ying won the tournament scoring title with 19 points, including nine goals, in just five games. Yusuf Kars from Turkey and Raz Werner of Israel Won Top Defenceman and Top Goaltender awards respectively.

Iceland defeated tournament hosts New Zealand 10-0 in the bronze medal game.

## German girls back

### Tough goaltending wins out in Budapest

By Szabolcs Zavodsky



After just missing out on promotion to the top division in 2016 back in Miskolc, Hungary, the Germans achieved their goal this time around in the capital Budapest.

The tournament was filled with upsets right from the start. On paper France, the team that was relegated from the top division, was the top seed. But a 4-2 loss to the Germans on the final day sent them bottom of the group and Germany into the top division of the Women's U18s.

"I think this was a very important game and we were a bit nervous. We are just happy to win and we will go up to the top division," said a smiling German captain Franziska Feldmeier after the game.

"We worked together and that was the key for us, there wasn't one player on this team that did not work hard, I can say I'm just happy,"



With Germany winning promotion, it meant that Slovakia finished in second and Norway picked up the bronze. In the last game of the tournament Hungary defeated Austria for fourth place and France being relegated.

German netminder Johanna May backstopped her team to a 4-1 record, allowing just three goals and posting a 1.50 GAA through five games to earn the Directorate Award.

Norwegian Jene Tendenes took home the Directorate for Top Defenceman, and placed in the top five for points along with three of her teammates. Millie Sirum edged Emilie Johansen as the tournament's top scorer.

## Mattivi stars for Italy

### Captain leads team to promotion

By Andy Potts



Italy completed a perfect display in Katowice, Poland, sweeping aside Denmark 4-1 to top the group and earn promotion to next year's Division IA.

The deciding game, and the tournament as Eugenia Pompanin, Italy's starting netmina whole, was a personal triumph for Italy's der, had been flawless in her two previous captain Nadia Mattivi. Against the Danes games, blanking Great Britain and Poland, she had a goal and two assists on the night, while her understudy Elisa Biondi gave up taking her tally for the competition to 4+7, just two goals in her two starts. There was little between them in terms of territory or making her the top point scorer. Teammate Anita Muraro finished on top of the goal-scochances – both managed 19 shots on goal – ring chart with her sixth of the event. but Pompanin's greater assurance between the piping proved too much for the Danes

The teams went into this tournament as the favourites. Denmark was looking to bounce Outside the battle for top spot, host nation back after suffering relegation from Division Poland claimed third place thanks to wins I last season, while Italy missed out on proover Great Britain, China and Kazakhstan. motion in 2016 when it lost 3-2 to Austria in The Kazakhs, defeated in their showdown the gold medal game. A new, extended forwith the Brits, finished without a victory and mat this year placed both nations in Division will be relegated to next year's qualification I Group B, with hopes of promotion. tournament.



### Gallery



The 2017 IIHf World Junior Championship gold medal game was the jewel in the crown to a tournament with many highlights and great moments. Team USA's shootout victory saw the country rally from deficits of 2-0 and 4-2 in front of 20,173 spectators at the Bell Centre in Montreal, Canada.









USA's Clayton Keller opens the scoring with a diving shot during the first period against Russia in preliminary round action at the 2017 IIHF World Junior Championship.

Denis Guryanov scores the overtime winning goal on Sweden's Filip Gustavsson as Russia wins the bronze medal game at the 2017 IIHF World Junior Championship.



USA's Troy Terry scores the game winning goal on Team Canada's Carter Hart in the shoot-out to win 5-4 in the gold medal game against tournament hosts Canada at the 2017 IIHF World Junior Championship in Montreal.



Switzerland's top offensive prospect Nico Hischier scoring a first period goal against Denmark's Kasper Krog at the 2017 IIHF World Junior Championship. Both teams made it out of Group A and into the guarter-finals.



The Nottingham Panthers, who competed in Ritten with a strong travelling contingent of fans from the U.K., became the first British team to win the IIHF Continental Cup. The Panthers will compete in the 2017/2018 Champions Hockey League.



 $21 \langle \rangle$ 



The Americans move ahead 6-4 in gold medals at the IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship, an event that has matured and developed immensely in its ten years of existence. Over 12,000 spectators attended the tournament in Zlin and Prerov, Czech Republic.







Russian players celebrating with the trophy after a 2-0 win over Sweden in the bronze medal game at the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship.

 $22 \langle \rangle$ 

Japan's Remi Koyama looking for a scoring chance against Switzerland's Saskia Maurer at the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship.

## A flying start

### Rookie head coach Motzko wins gold

By Andrew Podnieks

### Bob Motzko took his first head coaching job with USA Hockey and ran with it.

The long-time coach of St. Cloud University in Minnesota guided the Americans to a thrilling 5-4 win against hosts Canada in the gold-medal game in Montreal, the winning goal scored by Troy Terry in a penalty-shot shootout after four thrilling periods of end-to-end action.

Ice Times sat down with Motkzo a few weeks after USA's World Juniors win to hear his reflections on the tournament.

### You had a successful evaluation camp in August. What did you take away from that?

The biggest thing for us was that we felt we had chemistry. There was camaraderie with the group. They had life, spirit; they were fun to be around. It was infectious. As for the hockey part, we felt strongly about our goaltending and our depth.



Under Motzko's guidance (centre), Team USA went undefeated in seven games and beat Canada on home ice for gold.

There were three players we thought would be with us in December and weren't-[Matthew] Tkachuk, [Brock] Boeser, and [Christian] Fischer.

Those were highly-talented players we lost, and yet we still had one heck of a hockey team. The question mark was our defensive corps, and that ended up being just fine.

### When you were putting the team together, what were you looking for in terms of the makeup of the group and the roles of the players?

From the 40 players we had at camp, there was going to be little difference in the team no matter who the coach was. Having said that, we wanted to play a fast, up-tempo style.

But what also happened was that we had a big, heavy team as well. We felt we could play both a transition game and a physical game.

### How do you go into a tournament thinking about winning gold but realizing the margins are so slim you could end up fifth?

Our mentality was to get to the point where we could play our best hockey by the time we arrived in Toronto. We didn't even talk about gold medals.

That's where we want to get to, of course, but we focused on playing our best when the tournament started. I think that served us well. But let's face it, you also have to have some breaks.

### Was there a turning point—a goal, a shift, a game-where you went from thinking this is a good team to thinking you can win gold?

Let me turn that around. We knew there would come a moment when we'd hit adversity head on. It was how we handled it that was crucial. That happened in the guarter-final game against Switzerland. Playing Canada on New Year's Eve was an event within the event, and that's not a good thing.



When we came out of that game, our foot came off the gas pedal and adversity hit. We were not plugged in. The Swiss tied the game, 2-2, then Greenway scored right after to give us the lead, and then we got a couple of big saves. But when we dodged that moment, I felt we would be ready to go.

### In the final game, Canada scored two quick goals early in the third to go up 4-2, a tough situation. How did you guys manage to hold your own and rally?

The critical thing is that we responded very quickly with the next goal [39 seconds later]. That guieted things down, and we got some momentum. When you're down, you need a play. And we got the next one. We had confidence. Four goals in the first eight minutes of the period. It was crazy!

### Did you know from practice Troy Terry was so good in the shootout, or did he surprise you as well?

Yep, I knew it all along! No, but really he was just one of five names we circled in the semi-finals. He scored, and I went back to him. So. of course, I'll go back to him again, and again. It was all in the moment and going with it.

### Do you prefer the shootout or unlimited overtime?

I'm an old traditionalist, so I'd like to see overtime until you get a winner, but we'll take it. It's part of the process, part of international hockey. I'm not for it, but it makes for great drama, and they handed out the gold medals for it.

#### You've been around a long time, but this is your first head coaching job with USA Hockey. How did that transpire?

I've had the opportunity to work for USA Hockey many times over the years, at various festivals. I was an assistant at the 2014 team. I have a long history of working with them.

You always hope one day the phone call comes your way, but you don't ever talk about it or send in a resume. The phone call just comes in. Any chance you get to work for USA Hockey, you jump on it. This is a career highlight for me.

### USA Hockey often doesn't use the same coach a second year. Is there a chance you'll be back next year?

Not next year, no. The time commitment of the job is unbelievable. I have two young kids who both play hockey, but I'm excited for the next person to pick up the baton. USA Hockey has a great system in place.



### **Bob Motzko** Head Coach, **USA**



- Born: March 27, 1961
- in Austin, Minnesota, USA
- National Collegiate Hockey Conference Coach of the Year (2014)
- Won US college national championship in 2002 and 2003
- Served as assistant coach with Team USA at 2014 World Juniors





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Coming

**Women's Final Olympic Qualification** Group C, SWITZERLAND, Arosa 09.02.2017 - 12.02.2017

**Women's Final Olympic Qualification** Group D, JAPAN, Tomakomai 09.02.2017 - 12.02.2017

**Asian Winter Games** JAPAN, Sapporo 19.02.2017 - 26.02.2017 **FISU Winter Games KAZAKHSTAN**, Almaty 29.01.2017 - 08.02.2017

**European Youth Olympic Winter Festival** TURKEY, Erzurum 11-18.02.2017

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