

This winter, Alberta will be hot



Photo: Andre Ringuette / IIHF-IIHF Images

WHO WILL IT BE THIS TIME?: The Russians (pictured) won an incredible comeback victory in Buffalo last year. With the 2012 tournament held in Alberta, will Canada take back the crown on home ice?

Future stars all set for potentially record-breaking tournament



We know there will be an attendance record at the 36th IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship in Calgary and Edmonton. The only question is, by how much?

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ ■ IIHF Hall of Famer and current director of NHL's European scouting, Göran Stubb, likes telling this story about one of the earliest World Junior events in Europe when some NHL scouts discovered the importance of this tournament.

After a couple of games, one scout approached Stubb and said, "There is nothing here to watch. I'm going home."

■ ■ You can say that things have changed since then. This event features players that we know will star in professional hockey, either in North America or in Europe, maybe as early as this year or next year. Some of them are already playing major league hockey. This event is a fixture on the agenda of every scout and GM in the hockey world. And they won't be going home early.

It seems like the Under-20 World Championship has grown so much that virtually every tournament sets a new mark or reaches an unprecedented level. The 36th edition will be the first one to be played exclusively in two NHL arenas, in Calgary and Edmonton. We have all reasons to believe that the previous attendance record of 453,282 from Ottawa 2009 will not just be broken but shattered.

■ ■ The 2012 tournament may also be the most evenly matched we have seen for some years. Canada has an incredible streak running with ten consecutive gold-medal-game appearances, but the last two finals have ended with bitter losses for this year's hosts, first to the United States and then to Russia. The pressure on Canada to avenge last year's shocking defeat against Russia in Buffalo will be substantial.

We know that the Russians will be strong again, and so will the USA and Sweden. I am told that Finland – with both the Granlund brothers – has a team which is capable of competing for medals again. Alberta may be cold at this time of the year, but the competition will keep us hot and excited.

■ ■ It's hard to believe how much can happen in two years. Just look at some U20 rosters from 2010 in Saskatoon – Canada had Jordan Eberle, Taylor Hall and Alex Pietrangolo; Mikael Granlund was on the Finnish team while Alexander Burmistrov played for Russia; Sweden had 13(!) players on the 2010 team who today are in the NHL; Luca Sbisa and Nino Niederreiter suited up for Switzerland while the USA had John Carlson, Derek Stepan and Cam Fowler.

Virtually unknown juniors two years ago – established professionals today. This is how good this tournament is.

With this, I take the opportunity to wish all hockey fans a wonderful Holiday Season and I hope to see as many as possible in Calgary and Edmonton.

René Fasel
IIHF President

New video board policy will serve fans

■ ■ The IIHF has amended its in-arena video board policy. Recognizing that the old policy was too restrictive, the new one will focus on providing the fans in attendance with more replays of important game action.

■ The most significant change is that footage from the video goal judge replay system may now be shown on the in-arena video board after a decision has been made. This was not allowed under the old policy. This meant that the fans in the arena were not provided with the footage which the video goal judge used to determine a situation which was under review, most often to conclude whether the puck had entered the net or not.

"The IIHF Council discussed this issue at the Semi-Annual Congress in Istanbul and all members agreed that we must provide better service and show more transparency towards the fans who pay for tickets to our top events," said IIHF Communications Director Szymon Szymberg.

■ By implementing the new rules, the IIHF comes closer to the NHL's in-arena video board policy. So when it comes to plays being reviewed by the video goal judge, this will be the policy:

Footage from the video goal judge replay system will be shown on the video screen once while the play is being



Fans at IIHF tournaments will be able to see replays for themselves on the big screen.

reviewed and one additional time after the replay call has been made.

After the replay call has been made, the camera angle that was relied on by the video goal judge to make the ultimate call must be the camera angle utilized on the video board.

■ Violent fights (fisticuffs), with players throwing repeated punches at each other, will not be shown on the in-arena video screen. Post-whistle scrums and harmless swings ("face-wash") do not fall under the fisticuff rule.

IIHF President receives Druzhba award



Photo: Agence France-Presse

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PREZ TO PREZ: IIHF President René Fasel has been awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples by Russia's President Dmitri Medvedev. The order, also commonly known as "Druzhba" ("Friendship"), is the highest Russian award that can be presented to a foreigner.

The ceremony took place in November at Mr. Medvedev's Gorki residence where Fasel was awarded along with with IOC President Jacques Rogge, Lamine Diack (President of the International Athletics Federation, IAAF) and Tamas Ajan (President of the International Weightlifting Federation, IWF).

René Fasel has been IIHF President since 1994 and member of the IOC since 1995.

2012 WM official mascot unveiled



■ ■ Is it a plane? No. Is it a bird? Yes. And a crowd pleaser, a team supporter, a tournament promoter, and a character that will be remembered in years to come.

The official mascot of the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships is a hockey playing bird, HockeyBird. The mascot was designed by Toni Kysenius at Rovio Entertainment, the company behind the hit game Angry Birds.

"For us, getting the Hockey Bird was fantastic. Angry Birds is Finnish, known worldwide, and one of the hottest topics of conversation wherever you go," says Mika Sulin, General Secretary of the Finnish tournament organisation.



OBITUARIES

Christos Chatziathanasiou - the President of Greece's IIHF member, the Hellenic Ice Sports Federation, passed away on November 12 at the age of 60. Chatziathanasiou founded the Hellenic Ice Sports Federation in 1986. During his 25-year presidency, ice hockey was introduced in Greece and the men's national team participated for the first time in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship program in 1992.

Kyle Fundytus - the 16-year old defenceman died on November 12 after sustaining severe injuries after being hit on the throat when attempting to block a shot. The tragic accident happened in Edmonton, Canada where Fundytus played for Don Wheaton Midget AA team in the Northern Alberta League.

NEWS & NOTES

■ **FINLAND:** Former IIHF Marketing Director and current member of the IIHF Historical Committee **Kimmo Leinonen** was inducted to the Finnish Hall of Fame in November.

■ **GREECE:** The Hellenic Ice Sports Federation has elected **Georgios Markouizos** as President and **Ioannis Makris** as Vice-President.

■ **LATVIA:** The Latvian Ice Hockey Federation held the 80-year anniversary celebration of ice hockey in Latvia on 4th December. The celebration at Arena Riga opened with a presentation and exposition about Latvia's hockey history followed by a game between hockey legends from Latvia and Russia.

■ **NETHERLANDS:** **Joop Vullers** resigned as the President of the Ice Hockey Association of the Netherlands. Vullers will remain active in Dutch hockey and will chair the organising committee of the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship Division II Group A in Heerenveen. He's succeeded by **Ruud Vreeman**.

■ **SERBIA:** The Serbian Ice Hockey Association elected **Aleksandar Milosavljevic** as President on November 19, 2011. The assembly also re-elected **Djordje Ljoljic** as General Secretary.

■ **USA:** IIHF Council member **Tony Rossi** received the Lester Patrick Award in October for outstanding service to hockey in the United States. The Lester Patrick Award has been presented by the National Hockey League and USA Hockey since 1966.



Inductees in a class of their own

2012 group to be honoured on Gold Medal Day in Helsinki

■ ■ The IIHF Historical Committee met at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto on November 15, 2011, to consider nominees for induction into the IIHF Hall of Fame. Four Players and one Builder were added to the list of international hockey greats, bringing the total number of inductees to 183. The ceremony will take place in Helsinki.

Pavel Bure

Born: March 31, 1971 Moscow, Soviet Union (Russia)

They called him the "Russian Rocket" and for good reason. Pavel Bure was among the most electrifying players of his generation, one of the first players to star on both the international stage and in the NHL.



He burst onto the world scene at the 1989 U20 Championship in Alaska, playing with Sergei Fyodorov and Alexander Mogilny to create arguably the greatest line in U20 history. Bure played at the 1990 and 1991 U20 as well, finishing his U20 career with two gold medals and one silver. He also played at the 1990 and '91 World Championship, winning gold and bronze.

By the end of his NHL first season he had 34 goals and 60 points and beat out Nicklas Lidstrom for the Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie. Bure then recorded two consecutive 60-goal, 100-point seasons and helped the Canucks advance to game seven of the Stanley Cup Finals in 1994. Bure went on to win the Rocket Richard Trophy twice (most regular season goals), scoring 58 goals in 1999-2000 and 59 goals the next year.

It wasn't until the NHL allowed full participation in the Nagano Olympics that Bure played for Russia. Not only did he help take the Russians to the gold-medal game, he also produced one of the most dazzling individual performances of the modern Olympics, scoring five goals in a game against Finland on February 20, 1998. He won a bronze in 2002 in Salt Lake, his last international appearance.

He becomes the 24th Russian named to the IIHF's Hall of Fame.

Raimo Helminen

Born: March 11, 1964 in Tampere, Finland

There is a simple way to describe Helminen's monumental contributions to the game both to his country and international hockey: By the time he played his final game for Finland in 2002, he had been part of every Olympic and World Championship medal team in Finland's history.

Helminen played in more Olympics than any other hockey player – six – and represented his country at the senior level more times than anyone in the game's history – 331 games, including 11 World Championships.

Helminen first made a name for himself at the 1984 U20 Worlds when he set a scoring record with eleven goals and 22 points, leading Finland to a silver medal. So impressive was the 19-year-old that he was named to the country's Olympic team the next month. Helminen also played at the 1988 Olympics, a watershed moment in Finnish hockey

history. The team won a silver medal, its first ever medal in hockey, and Helminen was a huge part of the team's success.

He was a key player in the team's magical run at the 1995 World Championship in Stockholm, when Finland won gold for the first time in its history after beating rivals Sweden, 4-1, in the deciding game. Helminen scored the winning goal against the Czechs in the semi-finals.

In all, he won that historic gold, four silvers, and a bronze in ten World Championships along with one silver and two bronze medals at the Olympics. When he played in 2002 at Salt Lake, his sixth Games, he established a record that might be equalled, but will surely never be bettered.

Phil Housley

Born March 9, 1964 in St. Paul, Minnesota, United States

Few American players in the long and great history of hockey in the U.S. can boast a resume with both significant NHL success and international participation. Phil Housley can, largely because he started his career at a young age and played for some two decades, representing nine NHL teams and his country with a pride and skill that few could match.

Always ready when USA Hockey called, Housley played for his country at the World Championships on six occasions. As well, he played for Team USA at the 1984 and 1987 Canada Cup tournaments and its successor, the 1996 World Cup of Hockey, USA Hockey's biggest success after Lake Placid 1980. His last great blaze of glory came when he helped his country to a silver medal at the 2002 Olympics at Salt Lake.

Housley was one of the first Americans to be drafted straight out of high school. Buffalo selected him sixth overall in 1982 while the 18-year-old was still at South St. Paul High School in his hometown, and he made the team at his rookie training camp that fall. Housley was a superior skater and pinpoint passer who also had a great shot. In each of his first eleven NHL seasons he had at least 60 points, scoring a career-high 97 points in 1992-93 with Winnipeg.

Housley becomes the 21st American to join the IIHF Hall of Fame.

Milan Novy

Born: September 23, 1951 in Kladno, Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic)

On skill alone, few could keep up with Milan Novy. He was a star in the Czechoslovak league, played a year in the NHL, and shone brightest on the international stage, winning a medal eight of nine times he played at the Olympics or World Championships.

From his first international tournament in 1975 to his last (1982), Novy failed to win a medal only once, the 1980 Olympics. At the Lake Placid games, Novy led all scorers with 15 points in just six games.

Novy still ranks as the best scorer in the Czech and Czechoslovak hockey history. In 214 national team games, he ranked up an impressive total of 122 goals. He ended his career with 594 goals in Czechoslovak league play, still the all-time leader today.

Novy was one of international hockey's greatest stars between 1975 and 1980, leading Czechoslovakia to two IIHF World Championship gold medals in 1976 and 1977. He was named to the Worlds' All Star Team in 1976. Novy was Czechoslovakia's best player in the inaugural 1976 Canada Cup – hockey's first best-on-best event – and was named to the tournament's All Star team.

Andy Murray (Builder)

Born: March 3, 1951 in Gladstone, Manitoba, Canada,

Gold. Gold. Gold. Not too many coaches can put that on their World Championship resume. In fact, since the World Championship became an annual event in 1930, only one coach not from the Soviet Union has ever coached his team to three gold medals at the Worlds – Andy Murray.

As coach of Team Canada, he had three completely different rosters when he took the country to gold in 1997, 2003, and 2007.

Murray turned to coaching early while in Brandon, Manitoba, eventually coaching Brandon University. From there Murray ventured to Switzerland, his first of several journeys back and forth across the Atlantic.

It was during a five-year European stretch that he got his first chance to coach Team Canada, at the 1997 Worlds in Finland. Canada won the best-of-three finals with a 2-1 win over Sweden in the decisive game, giving the country its second gold in four years after a 33-year drought.

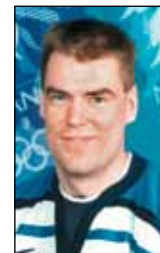
In 2003, he was again invited to coach Canada at the Worlds, winning the gold medal in overtime, again versus Sweden. In 2007, Canada blazed through the tournament, winning all nine games and outscoring the opposition 41-21. Murray had won his hat trick of gold medals – and a place in IIHF history. He is the ninth Builder from Canada to enter the Hall of Fame.

PAUL LOICQ AWARD

Kent Angus

Born: July 31, 1952 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Kent Angus is credited for the IIHF being the major international sports federation with arguably the best organised and unified jersey and apparel program. Working for long-time IIHF partner Nike, Angus has been in charge of providing jerseys and off-ice apparel to all top division teams of the IIHF's World Championship program and the Olympics since 1995, including 49 IIHF World Championship events and four Olympic Winter Games. His enthusiasm and personal ambition have made the IIHF jersey program widely admired by fans, partners, broadcasters and suppliers alike.



Calling shots in the desert

Swiss refs officiate hockey in the Middle East

By **Christian Maillard**, translated from Le Matin

■ ■ A body-check from a Thai player against an Indian opponent in front of sheikhs following the puck in their emirate? An unusual image to say the least, but Swiss referee Didier Massy and his linesmen will never forget their experience officiating games in Kuwait last summer.

Following the end of domestic hockey Massy, a 48-year-old player-turned-referee, accompanied by linesmen Daniel Zosso and Peter Küng, packed up and left for the IIHF Challenge Cup of Asia in Kuwait.

"It was something unbelievable. It was a life-enhancing experience," remembers Massy, who represented Switzerland in two World Championships as a player and recently joined the IIHF Referee Exchange Program among European leagues.

Welcomed almost like royalty, Massy did not only find him-

self in a splendid five-star hotel in a country with remarkable sandstorms where a litre of petrol costs 15 cents. In the Middle East he saw folkloric elements surrounding the tournament and women dressed in burkas who tried hard to skate on the ice.

■ Amidst the adventure, he noticed great respect from the players and staff and their enormous pleasure to participate in this event and have their games officiated by professional referees.

"Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and Thailand, who had certain players who studied in Canada, had the best teams. They played at a level comparable with an average third-tier team in Switzerland," says Massy. "And the Indians, who practise at an ice surface at an altitude of 3,000 metres, might have the talent of a team in the sixth- or seventh-tier league."



Photos: Le Matin

From left: Daniel Zosso, Didier Massy and Peter Küng - enjoyed a special adventure at the 2011 IIHF Challenge Cup of Asia.

Massy tells this anecdote about the Indians during a game at the magnificent 1,000-seat arena.

"The Indians lost a match to Kuwait 39-2, but it was wonderful to see the joy of the Indian player [Mohamed Igbal] after scoring his second goal when he was kissing the ice like the Pope does when descending his airplane."

"It was the first time his country scored two goals in an official game. Seeing such a spectacle in the middle of the desert, where there is not necessarily an established winter sports culture, is something entirely special."

Skills Challenges set for Youth Olympic Winter Games

■ ■ The individual Skills Challenge for women and men will be held for the very first time at an Olympic Games. In this event, the best 15 female and 15 male athletes from nations other than the ones in the tournaments are allowed to compete, plus athletes from the host country Austria.

The Skills Challenge tests take place during the 2012 Youth Olympic Winter Games at the Tyrolean Ice Arena in Innsbruck, Austria. The events will be made up of two phases: the Qualification and the Grand Final. All the skill tests will

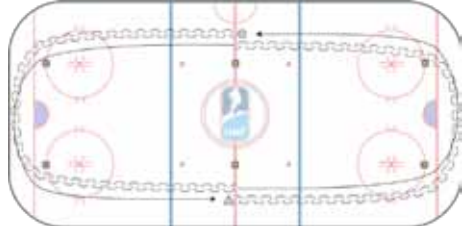
be conducted on a head-to-head, knockout basis, until a winner is declared and the participants will be seeded for each test. Players will earn points for their finishing position during each test.

The top-8 female and top-8 male players from the Qualification stage will progress to compete in the Grand Final.



For more information visit IIHF.com/YOGSkills

1. Fastest Lap



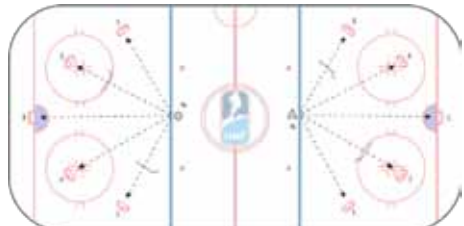
Players skate half a lap backwards before pivoting to forwards for the remainder of the lap.

3. Skating Agility



Players skate forwards and backwards around four pylons on a small area of just 7x7 metres.

5. Passing Precision



The passer must hit five mini goals, two of them with obstacles (hockey sticks) as fast as possible.

2. Shooting Accuracy



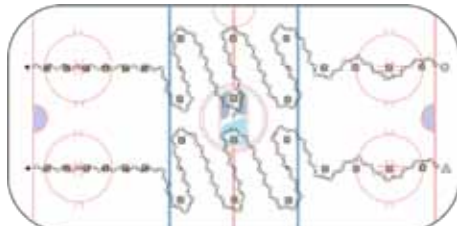
Players receive passes and shoot on the four breakable targets in the goal corners. The shooter that hits all four targets in the shortest time is the winner.

4. Hardest Shot



Players shoot the puck as hard and fast as they can. The faster of two shots measured by a speed gun counts.

6. Puck Control



Players have to stickhandle the puck through 32 pylons.

Two camps, one purpose: IIHF Women's Program stepping up in 2012

■ ■ The International Ice Hockey Federation has announced the details for this season's Camp Program, which will be held at the Vierumäki Sport Institute in Vierumäki, Finland from 15-22 July, 2012.

For the first time, two camps will be held in the same place and at the same time. In the summer of 2012, the IIHF Women's Hockey Development Camp will be held in conjunction with the Women's U18 High Performance Camp.

Entering into the second phase of the road "To Sochi and Beyond" – the strategic plan for the improvement of women's hockey – the IIHF will now look at the women's hockey nations ranked lower than 14, while still continuing many of its top nation programs aimed at the development and improvement of women's hockey towards and beyond the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.

Each camp will operate its own schedule and programs, but use the expertise and experience present at both camps to create valuable crossover opportunities. The High Performance Camp will see athletes from the top nations invited, while the Development Camp will feature athletes from any eligible IIHF member nation wishing to participate.

■ Hockey Development Camp

This season's camp will be the fourth Women's Hockey Development Camp. This season players will be girls born in 1996 and 1997. More than 250 participants from five continents representing 30 nations will be taking advantage of this unique development and educational event for players, coaches, instructors, managers, administrators and directors.

■ World Girls' Hockey Weekend set for 2012

At the same time, the IIHF is pleased to announce that next year's World Girls' Hockey Day – a global opportunity for girls to try out hockey as a new sport – will span an entire weekend. After the overwhelming success of this year's World Girls' Hockey Day on October 2nd, it was decided that next year's World Girls' Hockey Weekend shall take place on the weekend of October 13-14, 2012. Stay tuned to iihf.com for upcoming registration information for next year.

Hockey Day in Kyrgyzstan



The Ice Hockey Federation of the Kyrgyz Republic lists 218 registered players from six clubs in as many cities, including this goaltender manning the pipes.

Newest IIHF member second to none in passion for hockey

By **Martin Merk**

■ ■ Adam Sollitt, the IIHF's Project Coordinator Research & Audit, recently travelled to Kyrgyzstan, the IIHF's newest member nation.

The Central Asian country that lies between Kazakhstan and China was accepted as the 70th IIHF member by the IIHF Annual Congress in May. Last winter they won gold in the second-tier ice hockey tournament of the Asian Winter Games.

Tell us a bit about your recent trip for the audit to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

It was a well-organised audit by the local federation. You could see that they are excited to be a member of the IIHF and they really pushed to speed up the audit process and to have it early.

After their success at the Asian Winter Games they're now really motivated to do well internationally. That's why they joined the IIHF. They want to compete in the IIHF World Championship and of course before they compete we need to understand their programs better.

We need to understand what they have and what their current situation is. Because they really want to participate as fast as possible they pushed us to do the audit as quickly as possible, so I went there together with Harald Springfield, our Asian Sport Development Manager.

What impression did you get?

It was only a three-day audit, but it was organised very well. They wanted to make a good impression and also organised meetings with various politicians like the Minister of Sports, the Prime Minister, the President of the Olympic Preparation Centre and the Mayor of Bishkek to discuss the future of Kyrgyz hockey.

Our impressions were quite good. For a country that's so young in the IIHF and rather small in the number of registered players they have a lot of attention right now because they won a gold medal in the Asian Winter Games. They have a lot of opportunities to develop because they have the commitment and backing of the political leaders.

In this sense it's a very promising nation because they have something that a lot of other countries don't have and that's really good communication lines with the political leaders.



Have stick – want to play: There seems to be nothing wrong with the determination of this youngster. All he needs is a pair of skates.

What are Kyrgyzstan and its capital Bishkek like?

Bishkek is kind of a big city of about one million people. It is their largest city. It's quite clean, with most buildings being from the Soviet times.

I didn't see much of the country because we were only there for three days and it takes a lot of time to go through all the documents. But I heard that the country is very beautiful and they gave us a DVD so we can see what we missed.

In Bishkek we went to the ice rink and for lunch we went to these traditional yurts, some kind of tents, and we had horse meat, one of their national dishes. Once we also ate at the president's building, which is also called White House in Bishkek.

Actually their one ice rink was pretty nice. It's relatively new, just three years old, and it was in good condition. But they forgot benches for the players and officials. They have doors so the players have to sit in the stands, which might be interesting for the fans.

Did you watch a game there?

We did watch an exhibition game. Their league is split up into three mini-tournaments, but two of the teams that compete in this national championship played an exhibition game while we were there so we could get some kind of impression.

What's most surprising is that there are also many older players who are still playing. A lot of players were over 40 years old and there was one player who was about 63. We have to keep in mind that there is only one indoor ice rink in operation right now. Therefore most of the teams are practising outdoor. That's why their practice time and levels are not quite up to normal standards, although some of the players were pretty good.

There are also some Russian players who are playing in Kyrgyzstan and some of them are also living there.

Did you have any special experiences during your

time in Kyrgyzstan?

There was one evening we had a traditional Kyrgyz sauna night. The sauna was a bit like a Finnish sauna and they had a pool area where we were able to go. Afterwards they had set up a dinner where you could go between sauna and eat your food. And there it's apparently a tradition to bring their guests of honour a head of a lamb. So they brought in a cooked head of a lamb and put it in front of us and asked us to cut up the head. This was an interesting experience. It's something I haven't been given before.

How many audits do you usually do per year?

It depends on the year. Last year was a rather quiet year, but we're averaging about 20 audits per year. We've done totally 48 national association audits and seven female-specific audits for top countries.

What are you looking at when you go to a new country like Kyrgyzstan for an audit?

For a new member we're mostly looking at what exists and what doesn't. We need to know what opportunities there are for them and also for the IIHF. It's a good opportunity for them to learn about our programs, not only the World Championship but also for example the Recruitment Program or the Learn to Play Program or that they can participate in Development Camps and look at our officiating manuals they haven't been exposed to before.

We're also looking at their total structure and their organisation and strategies, their short-term and long-term goals. We are looking at all their programs and everything they do as a national association from organising their annual meetings to league operations. We're giving them some directions on what they're missing and what they could do and we give them some options and ask them to make decisions on where they want to improve and what is their priority and make it work together with us.



For the full interview visit IIHF.com/KGZ

2012 IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Alberta: Beef, oil and hockey players

By Lucas Aykroyd

Alberta is one of two Canadian provinces with two NHL clubs. The 2012 IIHF World Junior host cities of Calgary and Edmonton have been buzzing for a year about the chance to win Canada's first gold since 2009 – using some home-grown talent. And the chances are good that the 2012 edition of Team Canada will have a solid Alberta presence. The Western province is one of Canada's prime producers, not only of beef and oil, but also hockey players.

During the last NHL season (2010-2011) there were 91 Albertans in the league, far behind superior Ontario (208) but still second-best among Canada's ten provinces.

■ ■ Before the current NHL season started, there were hopes that Ryan Nugent-Hopkins might get to win a gold medal on January 5 at Calgary's Saddledome. The #1 overall pick of the Edmonton Oilers in the 2011 NHL draft tore up the Western Hockey League with the Red Deer Rebels over the last three seasons.

Yet now, the chances of Nugent-Hopkins being released to play in the World Juniors are slim to none. The 18-year-old rookie forward has shown so much maturity and top-level playmaking ability that he is already an integral part of the Oilers.

■ And keep in mind that when we're talking about Alberta products, Nugent-Hopkins doesn't truly qualify. He was born in Burnaby, the Vancouver suburb that produced Joe Sakic, and also played his minor hockey there.

Meanwhile, Alberta-born legends like Mark Messier and Grant Fuhr won Stanley Cups and Canada Cups during the Oilers' heyday of the 1980's and early 1990's, but they never got to wear the red Maple Leaf at the World Juniors.

■ So who are the most prominent players both born and trained in Alberta who either shone in World Junior competition with talent and tenacity or used the tournament as a springboard to future success?

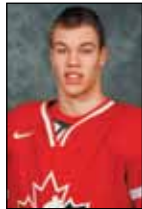
Here's IIHF.com's alphabetical top 10 list of those whose exploits have energized the "Energy Province."

□ Jay Bouwmeester

Only seven Canadian players have suited up at three World Juniors, and Jay Bouwmeester (2000-02) is one of them. The smooth-skating defenceman from Edmonton captured two bronze medals and a silver during his WJC run, and has parlayed that experience into a strong international career. His resume includes two World Championship golds (2003, 2004) and a silver (2008), a World Cup title (2004), and an Olympic appearance (2006). Now 27, the Calgary Flames alternate captain is also the NHL's reigning ironman (424 straight games).

□ Taylor Hall

Born in Calgary, Taylor Hall has accomplished a ton for a kid who hasn't even turned 20 yet. The 2010 #1 overall pick of the Oilers grabbed national attention with his two MVP performances in the Windsor Spitfires' back-to-back Memorial Cup titles in 2009 and 2010. But 2010 also saw the explosive left wing potting six goals and six assists as Canada claimed U20 silver with a heartbreaking overtime loss to the USA in Saskatoon. He's already earned comparisons to Mark Messier in Edmonton.



□ Greg Hawgood

Greg Hawgood went from disaster to triumph in his two World Junior stints. In 1987, the savvy, Edmonton-born power play quarterback was part of the Canadian team that was disqualified for fighting with the Soviets in the infamous "Piestany Punchup." But Hawgood got redemption the following year in Moscow. Not only did Canada edge the Russians 3-2 in what proved to be the gold medal-determining game, but Hawgood was named to the tournament all-star team with a nine-point performance. He went on to play nearly 500 NHL games with eight different clubs.

□ Jarome Iginla

When Jarome Iginla shows up to represent Canada in IIHF competition, he usually makes it count. The Calgary Flames captain set the tone in 1996 when he notched 12 points in Canada's fourth consecutive World Junior triumph. In 1997, the St. Albert product would capture a World Championship in Finland, and he also played for the 2004 World Cup champions. But Iginla, a



Photo: Matthew Manor / HHOF-IIHF Images

IN IGGY'S BACKYARD: Jarome Iginla (12) playing against Germany at the Vancouver Olympics. An Alberta native, "Iggy" became the first black captain in NHL history.

three-time Olympian, is best remembered for his exploits at the Winter Games. He had two goals and an assist when Canada defeated the American 5-2 in the 2002 gold medal game in Salt Lake City, and set up Sidney Crosby's overtime winner last year in Vancouver. Only a Stanley Cup has eluded this 1,006-point NHL power forward.

□ Trevor Linden

It was quality over quantity for Trevor Linden at the 1988 World Juniors. The Medicine Hat Tigers star scored just one goal at that tournament, but it came in the win over a Soviet squad featuring Alexander Mogilny and Sergei Fyodorov that ultimately gave Canada gold. Between 1988 and 2008, Linden would go on to play 1,382 NHL games, mostly with the Vancouver Canucks, good for 35th place in the all-time longevity derby. His post-junior highlights were tinged with heartbreak. The rangy right wing led the Canucks to a seventh-game loss versus the New York Rangers in the 1994 Stanley Cup final. He also suited up for Canada at the 1998 Nagano Olympics, where he scored a late tying goal in the semi-finals against the Czech Republic, but his mates couldn't solve Dominik Hasek in the shootout.

□ Dion Phaneuf

Hailing from Edmonton, Dion Phaneuf terrorized the 2004 and 2005 World Juniors with his bone-rattling bodychecks. The hard-shooting rearguard of the Red Deer Rebels made the tournament all-star team both years and was named Best Defenceman on the powerhouse 2005 squad that claimed top spot in North Dakota. Although his performance has tailed off in recent years, Phaneuf can answer his critics by pointing to his 2007 World Championship gold. The 26-year-old Toronto Maple Leafs captain also wore Canadian colors at this year's Worlds in Slovakia.

□ Chris Phillips

He might not be as flashy as some other #1 overall NHL draft picks, but Chris Phillips has still built a fine career off his two World Junior gold medals (1996, 1997). His journey started on the blueline of his hometown Junior A Fort McMurray Oil Barons. Since then, the Ottawa Senators veteran has also won senior World Championship silvers (2005, 2009), and made one unfruitful trip to the Stanley Cup finals (2007).

□ Ryan Smyth

"Captain Canada" hardly needs an introduction in an IIHF context. Ryan Smyth, a Banff native, made his international debut at the 1995 World Juniors in Alberta where a stacked Canadian squad marched to gold under coach Don Hay. But the famously mulleted Edmonton Oilers winger would earn his nickname by representing Canada at a whopping eight World Championships between 1999 and 2010, serving as captain six times. He also cracked two Olympic teams (2002, 2006) in large part due to that Worlds experience.



□ Scottie Upshall

Even if "close but no cigar" has been the story for Scottie Upshall internationally, you can't fault his effort. Yet another graduate of the Fort McMurray Oil Barons, he suffered through back-to-back one-goal losses to Russia in World Junior finals (2002, 2003). The often-injured right wing, a veteran of five NHL clubs, also played for the Canadian team that fell 2-1 to an Ilya Bryzgalov-backstopped Russian side in the 2009 IIHF World Championship final.

□ Glen Wesley

Like Greg Hawgood, Glen Wesley was kicked out of the 1987 World Juniors for fighting with the Russians. Unlike Hawgood, Wesley didn't return to win gold in 1988. But the smart, mobile blueliner got one more shot at IIHF glory – a silver medal at the 1996 Worlds in Austria. And this Red Deer boy made his mark quietly in the NHL. Playing until age 39, he won the 2006 Stanley Cup with the Carolina Hurricanes, and wound up with 1,457 career games, 20th best in NHL history.

Reiber comes home for U20

Canadian ref returns to Alberta after 15 years in Switzerland

By Andrew Podnieks

There is no doubting Brent Reiber is Canadian, but so much about him is Swiss that his Canadian self seems like a past life, one that he remembers and fondly returns to when he can but one that is no longer front and centre.

Reiber's accent is distinctly Western Canada, and his love for hockey began in a typical Canadian way, but he married a Swiss girl and has been living in his adopted homeland for many years now, with only a rare foray back to Canada.

■ ■ The Swiss-Canadian is one of 12 refs selected by the IIHF to call the 36th World Juniors in his old "hood".

"I grew up on a small rural farm 30 kilometres north of Lloydminster," Reiber explained. "We were right on the border. In fact, when I mowed the grass around our house, I mowed both Alberta grass and Saskatchewan grass! The house is on the Saskatchewan side, though, so technically I was a Saskatchewan resident."

Like most Canadian boys, Reiber played hockey, and like most he was very good—just not NHL good. He was wise beyond his years and realized both his skills and limitations early, but his passion for the puck game was not so easily diminished.

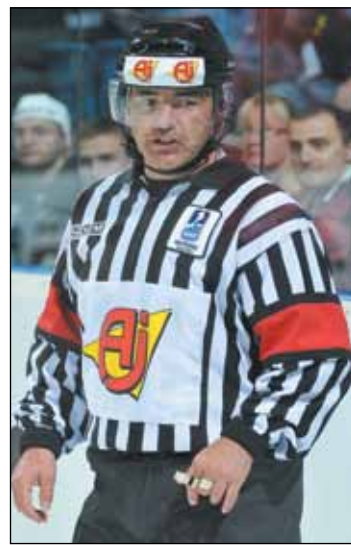


Photo: Matthew Manor / HHOF-IIHF Images

Swiss-Canadian Reiber returns home to ref the U20.

"I started refereeing early," he said. "I got my first referee card for the 1980-81 season when I was 13. I played hockey as well, of course, but when I was 17 I decided to focus on being a ref. I tried out for a Junior A team in Lloydminster, but my coach was old school and liked his players big and tough. I knew I wasn't going to make it."

■ ■ Reiber used his refereeing to advance his career on ice while getting an education just in case life brought him down to earth and took the whistle from him. "I went to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and studied history, paying for tuition with money I made refereeing games. Then I went to graduate studies at Rutgers in New Jersey and finished everything but my thesis."

All the while Reiber was establishing a reputation as an excellent arbiter, moving up from local levels to Junior A and then to the Western Hockey League, eventually earning a call to the Memorial Cup. Reiber joined the IIHF roster of officials in 1996 when he was assigned to the World Championship, B Pool, in Eindhoven, Netherlands. A year later, he moved to Switzerland and never looked back.

■ ■ Reiber's life took another turn soon after. "For the 1998 World Championship in Zurich, the IIHF hired me as the commercial coordinator," he related, "so I sat in the penalty box every game at the Hallenstadion and made sure everything worked with commercials and the timer. I met my wife there, and if there was any doubt as to whether we were going to live in Switzerland or Canada, that ended very soon after I met her father. He didn't speak much English, but he made it clear that he believed refereeing wasn't a real job and his daughter wasn't going anywhere!"

That was okay with Reiber, and although he misses Canada he sees his life in Switzerland continuing long after he has handled his last game. "I feel like I've found my niche here. I enjoy the job, and I see as I look to a life after refereeing the opportunities in the coming years are excellent here."

■ ■ Reiber was among that first group of officials in Europe to participate in the Referee Exchange Program, a unique opportunity which saw referees from top hockey nations throughout the continent work in other leagues to ensure a more uniform—and high—standard of officiating for the top international events. More recently, Reiber has been part of a similar exchange program between Switzerland and Germany.

The last two seasons has afforded Reiber two momentous career achievements. First, he was part of the crew to work the 2010 Olympics, and then at the 2011 World Championship in Slovakia, he was assigned the gold-medal game with partner Darcy Burchell, a Canadian. The two linesmen were also Canadian, marking the first time four Canadians had worked a gold-medal game (by birth anyway—Reiber is rightfully counted as a Swiss citizen now).

"Going to Vancouver was special," Reiber said with pride. "I've done close to 3,000 games in my life, about 1,700 pro, and I don't get nervous for games. But the night before my first game in Vancouver, I didn't sleep. The Olympics in Canada is once in a lifetime. It's a real treat to officiate in front of a crowd where they are students of the game. It makes you more excited, more accountable. I'll never forget it. I've been home only four times in 15 years, and each time I realize how the fans really SEE the game. It's such a treat."

■ ■ A year later, he was again prominent. "Doing the gold medal game in Bratislava was a personal highlight, of course, especially with Darcy whom I worked the last half of the tournament with. You always want to work the last game of the year, and when the IIHF President shakes your hand after, you feel good. Doing the Olympics definitely helped prepare me for the game."

Reiber returns home only every other year while his family visits him the years he stays in Switzerland. There is a practical reason for his extended absences, though. "Hockey isn't what it used to be," Reiber noted of a sport that operates pretty much 12 months a year. "This year's Worlds will end May 20, and our first training camp for the next season is four days later!"

■ ■ That being said, Reiber has already been named to the team of officials going to Alberta for the 2012 U20, and he can't wait for the chance to return home both to see family and to work the premier junior event in what should be the greatest U20 in tournament history. "This year is really special," he admitted. "I'll have eight or nine days at home in Lloydminster with my family at Christmas before the U20. It's a special opportunity for me and I'm thankful the IIHF gave it to me."





Photo: Mark Bradford

AUSSIE POWER: At just 17 years old, Nathan Walker has already represented Australia at the senior level. In 2012, he will take to the ice again for the Kangaroos at the World Championship Division I.

Czech mate: Australian Walker, 17, finds hockey paradise in Vitkovice

By Trevor Allen



Nathan Walker

The cold winters in the Czech Republic's steel city Ostrava are a far cry from the warm summers in Sydney, Australia. But for 17-year-old Nathan Walker, there no place he'd rather be.

The 175 cm left winger currently plays for Vitkovice Ostrava in the Czech Extraliga, and he still gets a few strange looks when people find out he's from the land down under.

"Yeah, people are definitely surprised," laughs Walker, who has progressed rapidly through the Vitkovice junior system and is now playing regular minutes in the men's first team, alongside former NHL defencemen Marek Malik and Pavel Trnka.

"It's awesome playing with former NHLers," says Walker. "I am always listening to what they have to say, trying to learn as much as I can."

■ ■ The club has nurtured his development from an early age, and he has been rewarded for his hard work with a regular roster spot with the first team.

Growing up in Australia, Walker played more traditional local sports such as rugby league, but was also a talented ice hockey player and a regular top scorer on his team.

He practised skating every day and his hard work paid off, with a little bit of luck thrown in. His big break came courtesy of his youth hockey coach who secured him a try-out with the Vitkovice club in 2007, aged just 13.

"[Czech-born] Ivan Manco coached me in Australia and he knew one of the coaches here in Vitkovice," Walker explains. "So he asked if I could go for a tryout."

■ ■ His quick skating and hard shot impressed the coaches and Nathan was rewarded with a place on the Vitkovice U18s team that same year. He became a regular on the U18 squad a season later. During the 2009-10 season, Walker's production exploded, as he scored 22 goals and

20 assists in 28 games, earning a place on the U20 team, where he posted a solid contribution.

■ ■ Walker's play hasn't gone unnoticed and he is ranked sixth overall among Czech-based skaters by Central Scouting for the 2012 NHL Entry Draft. Yet despite a rapid ascension through the Vitkovice system, Walker keeps his feet firmly on the ground.

"My goals for this season are to finish with Vitkovice men's team and put up some points," says Walker, who has adjusted to the Czech language and lifestyle with the help of his family and coaches.

"I talk to my parents two or three times a week," he says. "There are a lot of people who have been my mentors, but particularly my brother Ryan."

■ ■ Australia's national team coach Vladimir Rubes — another Czech native — has followed Walker's career progression closely.

"He's very talented for his age," says Rubes. "To be playing at that level and at such a high calibre with the big boys, is really amazing. He is an excellent skater, has a great shot and plays like an experienced player."

"He has a good chance at being selected in the [NHL] draft," Rubes adds. "Even though he may be a little undersized, the style of hockey he plays will mean he puts up a lot of points."

■ ■ Walker's remarkable start to his career saw him selected to Australia's senior men's team, and was named the team's best player, helping the Mighty Roos gain promotion to Division I at last spring's IIHF World Championship Division II in Melbourne.

"It was an awesome feeling playing in front of the home crowd in Melbourne," he says. "I was very pleased to hear that I had made the team."

Ice hockey participation and attendances in Australia have grown in recent years. The country's junior ranks are improving and the domestic Australian Ice Hockey League will expand to nine teams with the addition of Western Australia's Perth Thunder for the 2012 season.

But Walker says the sport still needs to improve to develop the next generation.

"I think hockey in Australia needs more funding. And the sport needs to be played in schools and instead of kids picking up a football, they need sticks and a puck in their hands," he laughs.



Photo: Petr Kotala

Walker joined the Vitkovice U18 team at 13, at 14 he had 41 points in 28 games.

Australia is currently 34th in the IIHF World Ranking, and Walker is looking to propel the sport's stature to even greater heights at the next IIHF World Championship Division I Group B in Krynica, Poland. He is optimistic of the team's chances against host nation Poland as well as against Korea, Netherlands, Lithuania and Romania.

"I do think we have a good chance of medalling," Walker says. "But all our games will be tough."



New hope for Great Britain

Son of Rod Stewart, Rachel Hunter aims to make his own mark

By Lukas Aykroyd

Coming from celebrity parents, Liam Stewart doesn't have the traditional pedigree for Canadian major junior hockey. However, that's not stopping this 17-year-old Spokane Chiefs centre from pursuing his dreams of a pro and international career.

Not only is Stewart garnering attention as a Western Hockey League (WHL) rookie, but he's also recently been declared eligible to compete for Great Britain internationally, providing another intriguing twist in his story.



"I'm known for my parents, but I focus on being known as me."
-Liam Stewart

Born in London, England, Stewart is the son of British rock singer Rod Stewart and New Zealand actress-model Rachel Hunter, but grew up in Southern California. He caught the hockey bug after attending a New York Rangers game at Madison Square Garden as a tyke, and has been skating since age 5.

Now, the great thing about this sport is that you have to work for whatever you get. For instance, neither of Wayne Gretzky's pro hockey-playing brothers, Keith and Brent, got a free pass simply due to their oldest sibling's fame.

■ ■ Accordingly, Stewart relishes the challenge of carving out his own identity. His father is noted for kicking soccer balls into the audience at his concerts, while his mother favours rugby. Hockey? That's Liam's passion. That's why he left behind the palm trees of Hermosa Beach, California to suit up in Washington State's second-largest city and experience the 72-game WHL grind.

"I think of myself being as normal as anyone else," explained Stewart in a November interview at the Spokane Arena. "I'm known for my parents, but I'm trying to focus on being known as my own person, not having famous parents."

Despite sniping 24 goals in 34 games last year with the Los Angeles Junior Kings, Stewart knew he'd have to improve his strength, conditioning, and intensity to compete in the WHL. He's currently listed at 6-1 and 180 pounds (185 cm and 82 kg).

"The physicality of the game, the speed, the strength of all the guys — it's a lot different from last year," Stewart said. "In the summer, I did a lot of explosive leg training to get my speed up. I also worked on my shot. And here, I've learned a lot from [head coach and ex-NHLer] Don Nachbaur. He really preaches work ethic and hard-nosed play."

■ ■ The work Stewart's put in so far has earned him third-line duties with the Chiefs, who last captured the Memorial Cup in 2008. Striving to get his offensive game going, he's recently centered wingers like Carter Proft and Connor Chartier.

Early reviews have been positive. Shane Malloy, the Vancouver-based author of the 2011 book *The Art of Scouting*, stated: "Stewart is a promising two-way centre with solid skating and good work ethic in all situations. Even with limited ice

time this season, he's showing good hockey sense and puck skills. He's also not afraid to pay the price to make a play, and that's encouraging to see."

Since Stewart often attended Kings games while growing up, it's not surprising some of his NHL role models come from that franchise. "I try to play a little bit like Jarret Stoll," he said. "He's more of a defensive player, and he has a good shot on the power play." Stewart has also enjoyed playing volleyball in the off-season with the likes of Drew Doughty and Matt Greene.

■ ■ However, while any hopes of stepping on NHL ice lie several years away, Stewart could get to wear the jersey of Great Britain as early as the 2012 IIHF U18 World Championship Division II Group A (March 31-April 6, Netherlands) if he's available.

Earlier this year, his mother, who has leased a house in Spokane, investigated the possibility of having him declared IIHF-eligible to wear a British jersey.

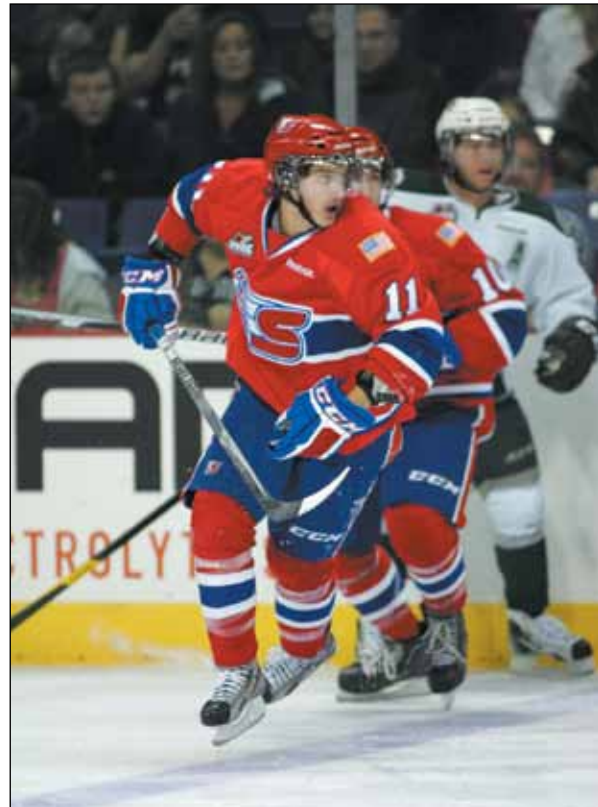


Photo: Gary Peterson / Action Sports Images Spokane Chiefs

LEGIT BRIT: After cutting his teeth in the Canadian Western League, Stewart was given a special exemption from the IIHF and is now eligible to play internationally for Great Britain.

■ ■ This unusual case presented interesting complexities. Although residing in the United States, Stewart holds dual British and New Zealand citizenship. He couldn't play for the Americans since he is not a citizen. And according to international eligibility rules, he couldn't represent Great Britain or New Zealand either, since he hadn't played a minimum of two years in either country.

So where would this leave him?

In writing, Stewart expressed his wish to play for Great Britain. This initiative was backed up by Andy French, the General Secretary of Ice Hockey UK, who told IIHF.com: "It was some-

thing that [British U18 coach] Mark Beggs had asked me to pursue, submitting all the relevant information I could obtain after speaking with Rachel Hunter and gathering everything that was required for the IIHF Council."

■ ■ Under the circumstances, the Council (the IIHF's executive body), which met during the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Istanbul, Turkey in September, made a special exemption so Stewart could play internationally. The feeling was that it would have been unwarranted at his age, to force him to move to another country and change his lifestyle and the level he was playing at, just to fulfill the two-year rule.



Rachel Hunter

Rod Stewart

In order not to have any bias, the information about Liam's well-known parents was withheld from the Council when the issue was presented. Only after the Council approved the exemption did IIHF Sport Director Dave Fitzpatrick mention their names.

This development should benefit both Stewart and Great Britain, which will aim to get back to the U18 Division I after suffering relegation in Division I play in Latvia last spring.

The British haven't made the top-level IIHF World Championship since 1994 — the year Stewart was born — and could potentially use him in both the near and long term.

"With Liam playing in the WHL, it would be anticipated that he'd be one of the marquee players at the U18 tournament and should provide the necessary offense for Great Britain," said Beggs.

■ ■ Meanwhile, New Zealand is known for many things — the Lord of the Rings movies, whitewater rafting, glow worm caves — but thus far, hockey hasn't emerged as a calling card for this Southern Hemisphere nation, which sits 38th in the senior men's IIHF World Ranking. So it just made more sense for a player of Stewart's talent to opt for his father's homeland.

"I'm really excited about it," said Stewart. "Hopefully I'll be able to go over there when our season in Spokane is over and hopefully my dad'll come watch too. He'll be really proud of that."

Rod Stewart is, of course, more of a Celtic Glasgow soccer fan than a puck aficionado, and his son shares his love of the Scottish club, although adding: "Cristiano Ronaldo is probably my favourite soccer player."

Overall, Liam Stewart has typical teenage tastes. He quips that playing the video game *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3* "consumes most of my day after practice," and likes chilling out with music ranging from hip-hop star Notorious B.I.G. to country performer Rodney Atkins.

When asked where he sees himself in five years, Stewart gives an answer that could have come from thousands of hockey-loving youngsters worldwide: "Hopefully either in the AHL or NHL. One of those would be a dream. If not, hopefully playing in Europe somewhere. Just playing hockey."

With ‘em hung up, Shanahan’s still the man

By Lucas Aykroyd

■ ■ As a player, Brendan Shanahan never backed down, and even in his post-athletic career, he’s got one of the toughest jobs in professional sports. The IIHF Triple Gold Club member and current NHL’s vice-president of hockey operations is best-known these days as the head of the league’s Department of Player Safety.

Previously, the left winger from Mimico, Ontario dished up one of the best blends of toughness and skill in NHL history en route to three Stanley Cups (1997, 1998, 2002) and 1,354 points in 1,524 career games – on top of Canadian victories at the 1991 Canada Cup, 1994 IIHF World Championship, and 2002 Olympics.

What motivated you to take your current job?

I worked for the NHL for a season and a half before I took on this particular role back in June. I started in December 2009. As a player, I was always a union representative for my team. I enjoyed being involved in the business of hockey. I enjoyed fighting for our rights. Then, as I got toward the end of my career, I also got involved in the NHL’s Competition Committee. I always felt the need to not just play the game, hang ‘em up, and move on. I wanted to do more for the game.

During your time with the Department of Player Safety, the NHL has moved toward a stricter standard on hits to the head. When you see stars like Sidney Crosby or Marc Savard sidelined long-term with concussions, do you feel that enough is being done with regard to head hits?

I think the Marc Savard incident was the last sort of straw for a hit that used to be considered legal, where the general managers finally said: “We have to create a rule that eliminates these types of hits from the game.” The Crosby collision with David Steckel was deemed to be accidental.

I always draw from my own experience. One of my last years, I collided with Mike Knuble. He and I are friends and former teammates from Detroit. On the collision, I was knocked out cold and had a concussion. He broke his jaw and his cheekbone. So I don’t know if, on that head contact, if I came to and got five games for breaking his jaw and he got 10 games for knocking me out, whether he and I would have thought that was fair.

I think that our rule takes the hockey IQ a little bit deeper than just a blanket rule that I think leads to potential inconsistencies.

You won all three of your Stanley Cups with Detroit with players like Steve Yzerman, Igor Larionov, and Dominik Hasek. Is it fair to say Detroit had not only some of the most talented international teams ever but also some of the smartest?

Well, that’s what Brett Hull used to say: “We’re not young, but we’re smart!” When I look back on my career, I played



BIG BOYS CLUB: NHL vice-president of hockey operations Brendan Shanahan is one of only 25 members of the IIHF’s Triple Gold Club. Here, he receives his prize from his new boss, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, IIHF President René Fasel and goaltending icon Vladislav Tretiak.

“I always felt the need not just to play, but also give back”

in some great places, but obviously, Detroit’s where I was the most. I feel like a former Wing. I just was lucky to have played at the height of my career with the best organization in the league and with the best players in the league. Players of the caliber of Yzerman, Larionov, Sergei Fyodorov, and Nicklas Lidstrom.

We’re just days away from the 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship. You played in 1987 and were part of the infamous “Punchup in Piestany,” when Canada and the Russians were both disqualified for fighting. How far has our game evolved and improved since that whole incident?

The World Junior tournament has become such a great event today. Even when you look at how that tournament was formatted at the time, it was the last game of the tournament and we were playing for the gold medal and the Russian team was out of the medal race. You had one team that was clearly frustrated. I’m not blaming the Russians. I’m just saying that I don’t think you would see that incident occur in a gold medal game if it was two teams battling for first and second. And I don’t think if it did happen today that the referees would leave the ice or turn off the lights.

You were also part of two landmark victories for Canada in senior IIHF competition: the 1994 World Championship in Italy and the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

I think winning a championship is amazing in any circumstances. But winning the first world title for Canada in 33

years, and then winning the gold medal for Canada at the 2002 Olympics – in both cases it had been a long drought. It’s always special. But when you do something that your country or city has waited multiple decades to do, and you’re part of a team that’s the first one to do it in that long, it makes it even more special.

In 2002, how much of your motivation stemmed from wanting to lay to rest the ghosts of Nagano in 1998, where Canada placed fourth after losing to the Czechs in a semi-final shootout?

From the moment I got home after Nagano, I definitely circled the 2002 Winter Olympics on my calendar and hoped I’d be part of that team. You’re always motivated to win at anything, but I think that we developed a level of respect at that Olympics in 1998, understanding just how hard it was, even with a great lineup, to win a one-and-done international tournament.

What does it mean for you to be one of 25 members of the IIHF’s Triple Gold Club?

It’s a great honour, especially when you look at the players that are in that club. There’s nothing better in team sports than winning. So to be in a group like that – every guy in that group has done his fair share of winning. It’s very special.

For the full two-part interview
visit IIHF.com/Shanahan

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IIHF RESULTS SUMMARY

Continental Cup Preliminary

Group A - Ankara, Turkey - 30 September to 2 October 2011

Baskent Y. - Turnhout	1 - 16	(0-6, 0-5, 1-5)
Tartu - Baskent Y.	11 - 2	(5-0, 3-2, 3-0)
Turnhout - Tartu	5 - 2	(5-0, 0-1, 0-1)
Turnhout	2	2 0 0 0 0 21 - 3 6
Tartu	2	1 0 0 1 13 - 7 3
Baskent Y.	2	0 0 0 2 3 -27 0

White Caps Turnhout advances to the next round.

Group B - Dunaujvaros, Hungary - 21-23 October 2011

Jaca - Turnhout	3 - 7	(1-1, 1-5, 1-1)
Dunaujvaros - The Hague	1 - 3	(1-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Turnhout - The Hague	5 - 3	(1-0, 3-3, 1-0)
Dunaujvaros - Jaca	7 - 1	(2-1, 3-0, 2-0)
The Hague - Jaca	11 - 1	(1-0, 3-0, 7-1)
Turnhout - Dunaujvaros	4 - 9	(1-1, 0-5, 3-3)
Dunaujvaros	3	2 0 0 1 17 - 8 6
The Hague	3	2 0 0 1 17 - 7 6
Turnhout	3	2 0 0 1 16 -25 6
Jaca	3	0 0 0 3 5 -25 0

Dunaujvarosi Acélbikak advances to the next round.

Group C in Miercurea Ciuc, Romania - 21-23 October 2011

Liepaja - Beibarys	3 - 2	(1-0, 1-2, 0-0)PS
Ljubljana - Csikszereda	3 - 8	(0-2, 2-2, 1-4)
Liepaja - Ljubljana	11 - 1	(4-0, 4-0, 3-1)
Csikszereda - Beibarys	1 - 5	(0-2, 1-3, 0-0)
Beibarys - Ljubljana	13 - 3	(1-1, 6-0, 6-2)
Csikszereda - Liepaja	0 - 6	(0-3, 0-0, 0-3)
Liepaja	3	2 1 0 0 20 - 3 8
Beibarys	3	2 0 1 0 20 - 7 7
Csikszereda	3	1 0 0 2 9 - 14 3
Ljubljana	3	0 0 0 3 7 - 32 0

Liepajas Metalurgs advances to the next round.

Group D - Herning, Denmark - 25-27 November 2011

Sheffield - Asiago	3 - 4	(1-0, 2-2, 0-1) PS
Dunaujvaros - Herning	3 - 1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Asiago - Dunaujvaros	3 - 2	(0-1, 1-1, 2-0)
Herning - Sheffield	3 - 0	(0-0, 3-6, 13-0)
Dunaujvaros - Sheffield	6 - 3	(2-0, 4-1, 0-2)
Herning - Asiago	3 - 2	(2-1, 0-1, 0-0) OT

Asiago	3	1 1 1 0 9 - 8 6
Dunaujvaros	3	2 0 0 1 11 - 7 6
Herning	3	1 1 0 1 7 - 5 5
Sheffield	3	0 0 1 2 6 - 13 1

HC Asiago advances to the Super Final.

Group E in Donetsk, Ukraine - 25-27 November 2011

Cracovia - Rubin	1 - 6	(0-2, 1-2, 0-2)
Liepaja - Donbass	2 - 6	(0-3, 1-0, 1-3)
Rubin - Liepaja	4 - 3	(0-1, 3-2, 1-0)
Donbass - Cracovia	3 - 1	(1-1, 1-0, 1-0)
Cracovia - Liepaja	3 - 1	(2-0, 1-0, 0-1)
Donbass - Rubin	3 - 1	(2-0, 0-1, 1-0)

Donbass	3	3 0 0 0 12 - 4 9
Rubin	3	2 0 0 1 11 - 7 6
Cracovia	3	1 0 0 2 5 - 10 3
Liepaja	3	0 0 0 3 6 - 13 0

Donbass Donetsk advances to the Super Final.

Super Final in in Rouen, France - 13-15 January 2012

Rouen Dragons (FRA)	
Yunost Minsk (BLR)	
HC Asiago (ITA)	
Donbass Donetsk (UKR)	

European Women's CC

Group A - Bytom, Poland - October 28 to 30, 2011

Planegg - Bolzano	6 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Bytom - Valladolid	10 - 2	(1-1, 5-1, 4-0)
Planegg - Valladolid	22 - 0	(3-0, 8-0, 11-0)
Bytom - Bolzano	3 - 6	(0-2, 3-1, 0-3)
Bolzano - Valladolid	9 - 0	(3-0, 2-0, 4-0)
Planegg - Bytom	19 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 3-0)

Planegg	3	3 0 0 0 47-0 9
Bolzano	3	2 0 0 1 15-9 6
Bytom	3	1 0 0 2 13-27 3
Valladolid	3	0 0 0 3 2-41 0

ESC Planegg advances to the second round.

Group B - Miercurea Ciuc, Romania - October 28 to 30, 2011

Minsk - Ankara	8 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 4-0)
Grenoble - Csikszereda	18 - 0	(6-0, 6-0, 6-0)
Minsk - Grenoble	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Csikszereda - Ankara	5 - 2	(2-0, 3-2, 0-0)
Ankara - Grenoble	0 - 14	(0-7, 0-4, 0-3)
Csikszereda - Minsk	0 - 14	(0-6, 0-5, 0-3)

Grenoble	3	3 0 0 0 35-0 9
Minsk	3	2 0 0 1 22-3 6
Csikszereda	3	1 0 0 2 5-34 3
Ankara	3	0 0 0 3 2-27 0

Grenoble Brûleurs de Loups advances to the second round.

Group C - Riga, Latvia - October 28 to 30, 2011

Herlev - Sarpsborg	5 - 3	(2-2, 1-0, 2-1)
Laima Riga - Sheffield	4 - 3	(2-2, 1-1, 0-0) PS
Sarpsborg - Sheffield	4 - 5	(2-0, 0-2, 2-2) PS
Laima Riga - Herlev	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-1, 0-1)
Sheffield - Herlev	1 - 4	(0-2, 1-1, 0-1)
Sarpsborg - Laima Riga	3 - 2	(0-0, 1-2, 3-0)

Herlev	3	3 0 0 0 11-4 9
Sarpsborg	3	1 0 1 1 10-12 4
Sheffield	3	0 1 1 1 9-12 3
Laima Riga	3	0 1 0 2 6-8 2

The Herlev Hornets advance to the second round.

Group D - Spisska Nova Ves - October 28 to 30, 2011

Slavia Prague - Sabres Vienna	2 - 6	(1-1, 1-3, 0-2)
Spisska N.V. - Budapest	3 - 2	(1-0, 0-1, 1-1) PS
Spisska N.V. - Sabres Vienna	3 - 5	(0-2, 1-2, 2-1)
Budapest - Slavia Prague	4 - 7	(3-3, 1-2, 0-2)
Slavia Prague - Spisska N.V.	5 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 3-0)
Sabres Vienna - Budapest	5 - 3	(0-2, 1-0, 4-1)

Sabres Vienna	3	3 0 0 0 16-8 9
Slavia Prague	3	2 0 0 1 11-13 6
Spisska N.V.	3	0 1 0 2 6-12 2
Budapest	3	0 0 1 2 12-12 1

The Sabres Vienna advance to the second round.

Group E in Hämeenlinna, Finland- December 2 to 4, 2011

Aisulu - Sabres Vienna	3 - 2	(0-1, 1-0, 1-1) PS
Hämeenlinna - Planegg	6 - 3	(1-1, 3-1, 2-1)
Sabres Vienna - Hämeenlinna	2 - 5	(0-1, 1-3, 1-1)
Aisulu - Planegg	2 - 3	(2-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Hämeenlinna - Aisulu	4 - 2	(0-1, 1-0, 3-1)
Planegg - Sabres Vienna	5 - 3	(2-0, 0-2, 3-1)

Hämeenlinna	3	3 0 0 0 15 - 7 9
Planegg	3	2 0 0 1 11-11 6
Aisulu	3	0 1 0 2 7 - 9 2
Sabres Vienna	3	0 0 1 2 7 - 13 1

Hämeenlinna and Planegg advance to the final tournament.

Group F in Dornbirn, Austria- December 2 to 4, 2011

Tornado Moscow - Grenoble	4 - 1	(1-1, 2-0, 1-0)
ZSC Lions - Herlev	10 - 2	(3-1, 2-0, 5-1)
Grenoble - Herlev	2 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 1-0)
Tornado Moscow - ZSC Lions	3 - 1	(1-1, 1-0, 1-0)
Herlev - Tornado Moscow	1 - 11	(1-3, 0-4, 0-4)
ZSC Lions - Grenoble	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)

Tornado Moscow	3	3 0 0 0 18 - 3 9
ZSC Lions	3	2 0 0 1 13 - 5 6
Grenoble	3	1 0 0 2 3 - 6 3
Herlev	3	0 0 0 3 3 - 23 0

Tornado Moscow Region and ZSC Lions Zurich advance to the final tournament.

Final Tournament, February 24 to 26, 2012:

Tornado Moscow Region (RUS)	
HPK Hämeenlinna (FIN)	
ZSC Lions Zurich (SUI)	
ESC Planegg (GER)	

Men's Events

Karjala Cup in Helsinki, Finland

Russia - Finland	2 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 0-1) PS
Sweden - Czech Rep.	2 - 5	(0-1, 2-1, 0-3)
Sweden - Russia	1 - 4	(0-2, 1-0, 0-2)
Finland - Czech Rep.	4 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Czech Rep. - Russia	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-0, 0-2)
Finland - Sweden	3 - 4	(1-1, 1-3, 1-0)

Standings: 1. Russia 2. Finland 3. Czech Rep. 4. Sweden

Deutschland Cup in Munich, Germany

Slovakia - USA	2 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 1-0)
Germany - Switzerland	4 - 2	(0-1, 2-0, 2-1)
Germany - Slovakia	3 - 6	(1-2, 0-1, 2-3)
Switzerland - USA	3 - 2	(2-1, 0-1, 0-0) PS
Slovakia - Switzerland	2 - 1	(0-1, 0-0, 2-0)
USA - Germany	1 - 3	(0-1, 0-0, 1-2)

Standings: 1. Slovakia 2. Germany 3. Switzerland 4. USA

Polesie Cup in Gomel, Belarus

Russia B - Denmark	5 - 0	(0-0, 3-0, 2-0)
Slovenia - Belarus	6 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Denmark - Slovenia	3 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Belarus - Russia B	1 - 4	(1-0, 0-0, 0-4)
Russia B - Slovenia	3 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 2-0)
Belarus - Denmark	2 - 8	(1-4, 1-3, 0-1)

Standings: 1. Russia B 2. Denmark 3. Slovenia 4. Belarus

ElHC-Sanok, Poland in Salnoc, Poland

Romania - Poland	0 - 9	(0-5, 0-2, 0-2)
Poland - Netherlands	5 - 1	(2-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Netherlands - Romania	4 - 2	(1-0, 2-1, 1-1)

Standings: 1. Poland 2. Netherlands 3. Romania

Négy Nemzet Torna in Miskolc, Hungary

Austria - Italy	2 - 3	(0-0, 1-1, 1-2)
Hungary - Japan	3 - 5	(0-0, 2-3, 1-2)
Austria - Japan	1 - 5	(0-2, 0-2, 2-2) PS
Italy - Hungary	3 - 2	(0-0, 1-2, 1-0) OT
Japan - Italy	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 0-0) PS
Hungary - Austria	1 - 4	(0-2, 1-2, 0-0)

Standings: 1. Italy 2. Japan 3. Austria 4. Hungary

Junior Events

U20 Four Nations Tournament in Vaasa, Finland

Finland - Russia	3 - 1	(1-0, 2-0, 0-1)
Sweden - Czech Rep.	4 - 2	(1-0, 1-1, 2-1)
Russia - Sweden	3 - 4	(2-0, 1-1, 0-2) PS
Finland - Czech Rep.	5 - 2	(1-0, 3-0, 1-2)
Finland - Sweden	0 - 5	(0-0, 0-3, 0-2)
Czech Rep. - Russia	0 - 1	(0-1, 0-0, 0-0)

Standings: 1. Sweden 2. Finland 3. Russia 4. Czech Republic

U20 Four Nations Tournament in Puchov, Slovakia

Norway - Switzerland	1 - 4	(0-2, 1-1, 0-1)
Slovakia - Germany	3 - 2	(2-2, 0-0, 0-0) PS
Germany - Norway	4 - 1	(0-0, 2-0, 2-1)
Slovakia - Switzerland	3 - 5	(2-1, 1-3, 0-1)
Switzerland - Germany	5 - 1	(2-0, 1-0, 2-1)
Slovakia - Norway	1 - 3	(0-1, 1-0, 0-2)

Standings: 1. Switzerland 2. Germany 3. Norway 4. Slovakia

Women's Events

IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship

Division I Qualification - Asiago, Italy

29 November to 4 December 2011

Great Britain - France	3 - 1	(3-0, 0-0, 0-1)
China - Hungary	1 - 10	(0-1, 0-5, 1-4)
Kazakhstan - Italy	0 - 12	(0-6, 0-4, 0-2)

France - Hungary	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-1, 0-2)
Kazakhstan - Great Britain	0 - 8	(0-4, 0-1, 0-3)
Italy - China	4 - 1	(1-0, 3-1, 0-0)

Kazakhstan - China	2 - 8	(0-2, 1-4, 1-2)
Great Britain - Hungary	1 - 8	(1-5, 0-1, 0-2)
France - Italy	2 - 1	(0-0, 2-0, 0-1)

Hungary - Kazakhstan	10 - 2	(2-1
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Looking back – and ahead – at U20 success



Photo: Hockey Canada Images

Bob Nicholson, seen here at the unveiling of the Team Canada jerseys for the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship, oversees hockey in Canada at both the grass roots level and internationally.

By Andrew Podnieks

■ ■ Bob Nicholson, President of Hockey Canada since 1998, is one of the most influential men in the world of hockey. *Ice Times* caught up with Nicholson prior to the 36th IIHF Ice Hockey U20 World Championship.

Bob Nicholson is in charge of putting together Team Canada for all international events, and from his office in Calgary, Alberta, he also oversees minor-league and amateur hockey across the country, making vital decisions on rules such as what age to start body-checking and how best to eliminate head shots from the game.

■ This Christmas he will be as busy as he's ever been, running what is likely to become the most successful World Juniors tournament in IIHF history. All games are being played in two NHL arenas, in Calgary and Edmonton, and all tickets were sold within days of the conclusion of last year's U20s in Buffalo.

The incredible success of Canada at the U20 started in 1982 with the creation of the Program of Excellence. What were you doing 30 years ago?

I was technical director of the British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association. The funny thing is that Dave Andrews, the president of the American Hockey League, hired me in 1979 and we started the B.C. Olympic program for under-17 players to expose the top 44 kids to the best coaching and training, and those coaches were guys like Dave King, Clare Drake, George Kingston.

Has the Program of Excellence become too suc-

cessful to the point that the U20 is no longer as competitive as it should be?

Absolutely not. We've been in 10 finals in a row, but look at how we got to some of them, like Ottawa. Sweden has done a great job the last few years, the Americans are challengers every year. Russia won last year, and Finland is always there. In any given year, any team that comes in well prepared has a chance for a medal, I believe.

How will you define success for the upcoming U20?

We'll be successful if we get big crowds to all games, not just Canada's games. We've sold the tickets, but now it's about getting the people in the seats. We also want to make the event a special experience for all teams and make it first class for all the players. And for us, we want to get back to winning gold.

- Nicholson

The U20 goes to Europe for the next two years. Is this good, or is it better to keep the event in Canada?

It's good to be going back to Europe. We have to make this work in other countries, have the juniors grow throughout Europe. I'm hoping we get better TV coverage in the next couple of years, and that fans have been watching the games in Canada and saying, 'Wow—look at those huge crowds. I want to see those games.' We have to get fans excited about seeing players who'll be playing pro very soon.

What's your fondest U20 memory?

I've had so many good memories because of the gold medals, but I think the most satisfying thing for me is the partnership we've achieved with the CHL and TSN, and

seeing [former Hockey Canada President, current IIHF Vice President] Murray Costello and chuckling about where we were and how far we've come. It has been partnerships that have made the World Juniors so special.

Part of the importance of the U20 is not just developing players but also coaches. Who are some of the ones you're most proud to have given them a first big chance?

We've also developed so many coaches, guys like Mike Babcock, Tom Renney, and hopefully Don Hay, who won gold in 1995 and is now back again 16 years later. And these guys, as well as coaches like Pat Quinn, always come back. They know how important this event is.

The U20 is so big that the U18 is now like the U20 used to be. How can you grow that event?

The IIHF deserves a lot of credit for how they've developed many tournaments, and the U18 is one. I hope we can host one soon and help develop that event here in Canada a little more. It's not at the best time of year for us, but other countries are happy with the time slot, so it's our job to work within that and try to make it better.

Bob Nicholson Fact File

President and CEO of Hockey Canada, the governing body of hockey in Canada

- IIHF representative for Canada
- Chairman of the 1999 World Junior Championship in Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Has been involved in 12 international gold medal campaigns for Team Canada, including two World Championships, five Women's World Championships, and five U20 championships.

