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DENIS HAINAULT

Born: March 20, 1957 in Montreal, Canada
With Hockey Canada
 Director, High Performance
 Team manager for the National U20 Team
 Team leader with Canada's Men's Olympic Hockey Team 1998 and 2002
 Event manager for the 1995 World U20 Championship
 Manager for the U18 team and U17 program from 1991-1996
In Vancouver:
 Will oversee the entire hockey tournament in two venues with hundreds of volunteers.

Mr. Ice Sport:

It's no easy task to take organize any event at the Winter Olympic Games, but Denis Hainault has a particularly hot seat as the man in charge of hockey for Vancouver 2010. He is in charge of making sure that everything runs perfectly with an entire nation's, and world's, focus on the two venues that he will be in charge of.

PHOTO: JEFF VINNICK

Getting Vancouver ready for the World

By Lucas Aykroyd

■ Denis Hainault is no stranger to international hockey events, but VANOC's director of ice sports is gearing up for the biggest challenge of his career: the 2010 Olympics.

The 52-year-old Montreal native worked for Hockey Canada for nearly 15 years, supervising and managing both men's and women's national teams. Among his career highlights, Hainault worked with the teams that won gold medals at the World U20s in the 1990's and 2000's, and served as a team leader with Canada's Olympic squad at the 1998 and 2002 Winter Games. He was hired by VANOC, the 2010 Olympic organizing committee, in 2005.

With just over five months left before the Games kick off, the Hockey Canada Cup women's tournament plays a vital role in testing Vancouver's operational readiness. IIHF.com caught up with Hainault at the Sweden-Finland game at GM Place on September 3 to get some more insight.

□ Why is it necessary to hold an Olympic test event?

It's really important for us to prepare and train our volunteers. These people are not necessarily used to the processes that are involved in the Olympic Games. A lot of our volunteers are experts in the roles they're playing, but even for, say, off-ice officials, the roles can be different from what they do in the Canadian Hockey League or the NHL. We also need to look at the modifications we're making for the Olympics. This time around, the size of the benches has been extended to accommodate more players on the roster. The penalty boxes and the scorekeeper's bench are also being expanded. We know that this facility, GM Place or Canada Hockey Place as it'll be known during the Games, is a very well-run facility. It has everything you need to stage a good hockey event. It's just a question of adapting it to international use.

□ What are the biggest challenges that you face as the VANOC director of ice sports?

For me, it's a challenge overall. It's about building a team. We have different people working for us with different needs, and we need to get them to all work together in the same direction and deliver what'll probably be the biggest hockey tournament ever. There are little challenges that come up daily, but we overcome those as we move along.

□ How hard was it to find volunteers for the Hockey Canada Cup?

For the Hockey Canada Cup, we have approximately 280 workers, including 190 volunteers. Hockey being as big as it is in Canada, it wasn't hard to get volunteers. People know how big the next step is, so we were able to find the proper people to run our programs. The biggest difficulty is for people to take time off from work. Many have travelled and found accommodations at their own expense to be part of this. I'm very impressed with the type of commitment these volunteers are willing to give.

□ And how many volunteers will you need for the Olympics for hockey?

For hockey specifically, we'll have about 130 volunteers at Canada Hockey Place, and about the same number at UBC Thunderbird Arena. To run the venues, when you add it all up, it'll be close to 1,000 volunteers, including everything from press services to medical services and so on.

□ Have you gotten advice from Jukka-Pekka Vuorinen, your predecessor as director of ice sports during the 2006 Olympics in Turin?

Jukka-Pekka was instrumental in giving me a lot of knowledge. He gave me an opportunity to work at the Turin Olympics along with the organizing committee. In the early days of this project, I had more communication with him. Now, because our project has become so much more specific to Vancouver, you have to focus on what you have to do here. But it's interesting, because right now I'm already starting to communicate with the people in Sochi about what needs to be done for the 2014 Olympics in Russia.

□ The physical layout of this arena is going to be different than the set-up during the Vancouver Canucks' NHL season, for instance, in terms of where the media is positioned or the dressing rooms. What goes into working out that configuration?

There are a lot of different groups that we have to accommodate during the Olympics, like the Olympic Family, the media, and the athletes. For instance, you need 12 dressing rooms to accommodate each team. Actually, in this building, we need 14, if I include the game-day dressing rooms. Right now, GM Place has a maximum of five dressing rooms. So there is a lot of space that we have to review. It's a big part of what we do on a daily basis. We look at every space in this building to see how we can accommodate the different groups.

□ At the end of this test event, how do you evaluate what was done well and what needs to be better?

We will have a debrief as part of our process. We'll sit down with everyone. Obviously, you can never operate any test event at the same level as the Olympics, because the Olympics are unique and they're on such a huge level. But our staff is directed to look not just as this event, but how they're going to do things during the Games. We look at things we can do differently.

□ The ultimate question: are you going to be ready in February 2010?

I'm totally convinced and comfortable in saying we'll be ready to host the world in 2010. Of course, that holds true for the Olympics in general. But from a hockey point of view, this is a country that's hosting events on a regular basis. This is a city and a province that's hosted big events recently, like the 2006 IIHF World Junior Championship. A lot of knowledge was gained from that. With the preparation, the commitment, and the interest of our population in the Olympic hockey tournament, there's no doubt we'll be ready.



Don't forget to expect the unexpected

2009 Victoria Cup a strong reminder not to count the underdog out.

30 years ago, the U.S. Olympic team taught the world a very valuable lesson - never count the little guy out. It was a lesson that was just reinforced a few weeks ago when extreme underdog Zurich upended NHL giant Chicago in the latest edition of the Victoria Cup. Could it be a lesson that continues to endure through the upcoming season as we look ahead to a watershed year for hockey? We will only know that answer in May.



RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ The second edition of the Victoria Cup showed that this event has a great future. Having NHL teams play against European clubs for a trophy on an annual basis has been the missing piece in the international hockey puzzle.

After the New York Rangers' inaugural win in 2008, the ZSC Lions of Zurich upset the Chicago Blackhawks, 2-1, at Zurich's Hallenstadion on September 29, thus equalizing the score to 1-1 between the continents.

Although the Finnish team Tappara defeated the Florida Panthers in an exhibition game in a shootout in Tampere one day earlier, the Lions' victory was the first 'real' win by a European club over an NHL team in 18 years.

It was a memorable game before an enthusiastic crowd which will cherish the triumph for a long, long time. Everyone was a winner, the NHL, the IIHF, Swiss hockey, the ZSC Lions and also the Chicago Blackhawks. After the event, which also included a 9-2 trashing of the Swiss champion HC Davos, the Blackhawks have established a new fan base in central Europe.

It's worth noting that both Victoria Cup games so far have ended with one-goal wins.

■ While the international calendar for national teams is nearly saturated (Olympics, World Championships, World Cup of Hockey and various events like the Euro Hockey Tour), it is international club hockey that has the potential to expand hockey's frontier.

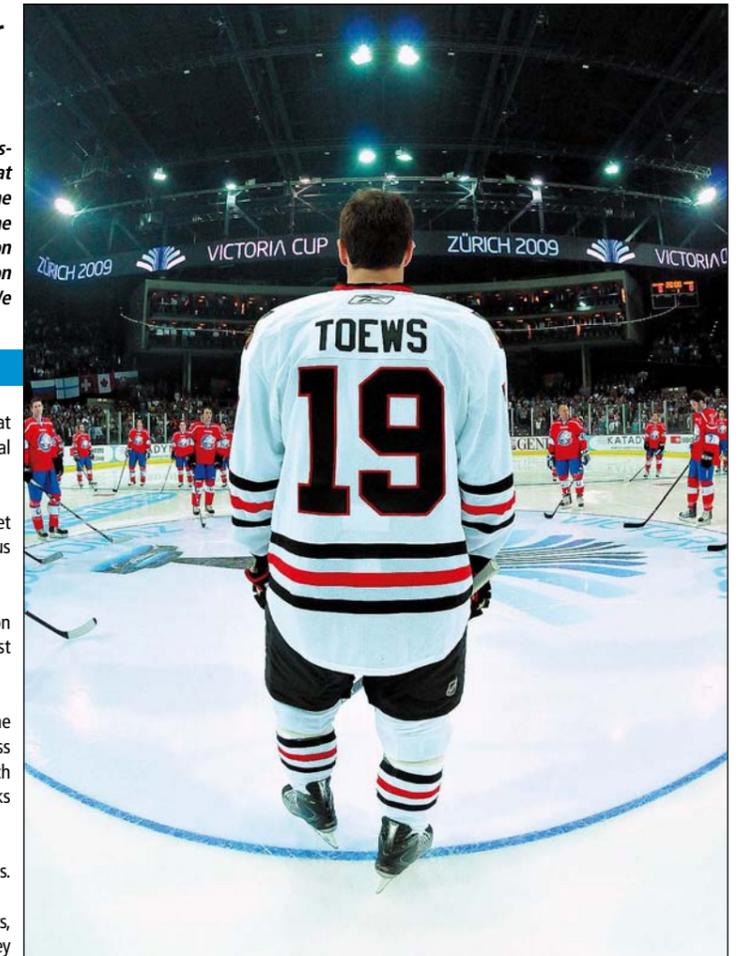
While the first NHL club vs. Euro club game was played in 1975, the games have never occurred on a regular basis, there has never been anything concrete at stake and there has never been a solid marketing strategy behind it.

All this has great potential to change with the Victoria Cup. Our sport has been blessed with a natural North America vs. Europe rivalry, a competition which has provided some of the most exciting moments in hockey history.

When the IIHF compiled the '100 Top Stories of the Century' during our centennial year in 2008, nine of the Top 10 stories were related to this transcontinental rivalry.

■ The ambition of the IIHF and NHL must be to develop the Victoria Cup into hockey's own Ryder Cup, the extremely popular USA vs. Europe matchup in golf. It is worth mentioning that the Ryder Cup started as a pretty insignificant event in 1927 when it was an England vs. USA affair, but it picked up in popularity when the format changed to Europe vs. USA.

Today, it's impossible to imagine the golf competition calendar without the Ryder Cup. It's a phenomenal event for the PGA of America and the PGA European Tour, for the golfers and, above all, for the fans.



THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS: Chicago captain Jonathan Toews and his teammates learned a valuable lesson at the hands of the Zurich Lions. After Chicago easily won its exhibition game against Davos in a 9-2 rout, the Blackhawks had a rude awakening against European Champion ZSC Lions Zurich, which earned an improbable 2-1 win in the Victoria Cup title game. It was an eye opener for the young forward and his NHL teammates.

Now, after two editions of the Victoria Cup, we must sit down with the NHL and the NHLPA and evaluate the events to see how we can improve. I am sure that we, for example, can find a format which is more appealing to the clubs, players and fans.

■ As you read this, there's approximately 100 days left until the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. Both the men's and women's events have the potential to be the greatest hockey tournaments ever.

Most hockey observers have already declared Canada and Russia as early favorites in the men's tournament, while the pre-Olympic women's event in Vancouver in September points towards a USA vs. Canada gold medal game. But just like the 2009 Victoria Cup has shown, as well as the Olympics in 1980, 1998 and 2006 -- never count the underdogs out.

René Fasel
IIHF President

Germany on track to break attendance record

Plus other highlights from the 2009 Semi-Annual Congress in Tunisia

■ The 2009 IIHF Semi-Annual Congress came to a close on September 19 and had several interesting developments.

Germany 2010

■ The ticketing for the 2010 IIHF World Championship in Germany continues to move along at a brisk rate. The organizers are still hoping, and are on pace, to break the indoor attendance World record on the Championship's opening day. Host Germany and the U.S. will play in a football stadium in Gelsenkirchen.



Germany also started the third phase of its ticket sales on September 19 with individual game tickets going on sale.

Vancouver 2010

■ The 2010 Olympic Winter Games was also on the agenda. Following the test event in early September, Technical Delegates Jan Ake Edvinsson and Dave Fitzpatrick were able to report to the Congress on the progress by the Vancouver organizing committee. Both were pleased to report that everything is on track for the opening of the Games.

Italy named full member

■ The Congress agreed with Council's recommendation that Italy have its membership status upgraded to that of a full member. Following a complete review of ice hockey activities in the nation, it was

decided that the European country meets all the criteria to be allowed full membership status.

IIHF World Championship 2015

■ Two nations have already formally put their hats in the ring to host the 2015 IIHF World Championship. Czech Republic and Ukraine formally declared their intent to bid for the rights to host the event.

Competition Committee Update

■ The Competition Committee has been hard at work to find an agreeable format for the IIHF Championship Program. The Committee presented a proposal to the congress that uses a set of nine requirements for IIHF Championship events in addition to a set of 16 principles.

Each member national association has until November 15 to respond to the Competition Committee's proposal with feedback and concerns. After the deadline, it is the goal of the committee to create a new championship format that both meets the needs of the member nations and satisfies the requirements and principles of the IIHF World Championship program.

In addition, the committee updated the minimum participation standards and created a way to more easily enforce those standards. Once the committee receives the feedback from the nations, they will reconvene to review the comments.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE HOCKEY WORLD

■ **EUROPE:** Hockey Europe named **Peter Gudmundsson** its new General Manager, replacing **Jukka-Pekka Vuorinen**. The position changes hands annually. Hockey Europe is relatively new, representing the interests of the top European hockey leagues; Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. Gudmundsson is the CEO of the Swedish Elitserien

■ **GERMANY:** The German Ice Hockey League, DEL, honored former goaltender **Robert Müller**, who died in May at the age of 28 after losing his fight against cancer. Teams began the season with a minute-long silence and will not use the Müller's jersey number 80.

■ **SWITZERLAND:** The IIHF approved an International Transfer Card for **Jiri Hudler**, allowing his transfer from the Detroit Red Wings to Dynamo Moscow of the KHL. The transfer was under dispute due to Hudler's contract status with the Red Wings.

■ **HUNGARY:** Hungarian Ice Hockey Federation president, **Ferenc Studniczky**, received the Hungary's Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit. The award was given for Studniczky's efforts in making hockey popular in Hungary.

■ **UNITED STATES:** The entire 1998 U.S. women's Olympic hockey team that won the gold medal in Nagano was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

■ **CANADA:** Because Canada cannot use the organization's logo with the Canadian maple leaf split by a hockey player's silhouette at the Olympics, it unveiled a new jersey for the 2010 Olympics. The new design can be seen on Hockey Canada's website.

■ **CHINA:** China hired former Belarusian national player **Andrei Kovalev** as its new head coach. He signed a contract through April 2010.

■ **ESTONIA:** Estonia has turned to Finland for its national team coaches. **Ismo Lehtonen** and **Jukka Ropponen** were hired for next season.

■ **UNITED STATES:** USA Hockey named **Kurt Kleinendorst** its new head coach of the National Team Development Program. Kleinendorst will coach the USA U18 team.

■ **POLAND:** The Polish Ice Hockey Federation named **Wiktor Pysz** its new head coach of the men's national team. The 60 year-old also coached the team from 1999-2004.

■ **FRANCE:** France named **Philippe Bozon** its new head coach of the U20 national team. Bozon is one of the best players in French hockey history. He went to the St. Louis Blues at age 25 to become the first Frenchman in the NHL.

■ **BULGARIA:** Argentina and Croatia won the Inline Hockey Qualification tournament that was held in Bulgaria and will play at the 2010 championship in Sweden.

■ **AUSTRIA:** The Austrian Ice Hockey Association named **Bill Gilligan** as the head coach of its men's national team. Austria will be aiming for the quick return to the top division after getting relegated last season.

IIHF mourns the loss of delegates en route to semi-annual congress

The IIHF was deeply saddened to receive information that delegates from the Ice Hockey Associations of Armenia and Georgia died in a car accident on their way to the Semi-Annual Congress in Tunis.

Karen Khachatryan (President), his wife **Gayane Harutyunyan** and their son **Levon Khachatryan** from Armenia, and **Denis Davidov** (Vice-President), **Lasha Tsagareishvili** (General Secretary) and his wife **Teo Berdenishvili** from Georgia were driving in a jeep to Istanbul, Turkey, to catch their flight to Tunis, Tunisia.

In the region of Erzincan in eastern Turkey, 300 km from the border to Armenia and Georgia, the six people were victims of a head-on collision with a bus early in the morning on the Erzurum-Erzincan highway.

The news of the deaths shook the congress, which recognized the delegates with a moment of silence before beginning business. The International Ice Hockey Federation expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and to the national member associations of Armenia and Georgia.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

■ **Cornelia Ljungberg** joins the IIHF as an Event Development Director. Ljungberg brings a wealth of sports experience to her role, most recently, working with the OC of the 2009 IIHF World Championship. In total, she has worked with 11 IIHF World Championships in five countries and was also the Head of Accreditation at FIFA's World Cup in 2006 in Germany.



■ **Ashley Ehlert** is a legal intern in the Administration Department. She graduated from Stetson University with a sports law degree in 2008. She obtained a masters degree from FIFA's MA program. Ashley has worked in both amateur and professional sports.



■ **Jukka Tiikkaja** is the first worker in the IIHF's Asian office. Tiikkaja worked as a Program Director with the Coaching Degree Program in Vierumaki. He also worked with the Center of Excellence while in Vierumaki. Tiikkaja has been active in coaching and development of coach education in Finland.



The season in review

■ Did you get your copy of the IIHF Annual Report? Published every autumn, the full-color, 100-page report is a complete recap of the 2008-2009 season. With everything from championship results, to unique photos, this is the one-stop book for international hockey fans.

■ If you are currently not on the IIHF mailing list, you can request a copy of the Report by e-mailing wiedeke@iihf.com



In Vancouver, our house is your house

Hockey fans from around the world got a peek at their future home during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics as plans for Molson Canadian Hockey House were unveiled.

Located just steps away from the on-ice action at Canada Hockey Place, Molson Canadian Hockey House will be the epicenter of hockey offering a packed schedule of live sporting broadcasts, top entertainment acts and local delicacies.

One of the key parts of the house will be the IIHF's International Lounge, which will serve as a host to hockey's VIPs during the Olympics. It is the second time that the IIHF has had such a hospitality set-up at the Olympics.

"The idea for a hockey house was born prior to the 2006 games in Turin and it was a huge success. Planning for 2010, we were committed to repeat the success formula in Vancouver," said René Fasel.

For more information on how to book your group into the International Lounge, please contact Christian Hofstetter at hofstetter@iihf.com.



No 2010 Vancouver ticket doesn't stop Belgium Olympic party

They may not be going to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, but that didn't stop the country of Belgium from promoting the upcoming Games in historic downtown Brussels.

'Golden Sunday' was an initiative to promote all of the winter sports that will be represented in Vancouver. But surprisingly, it was the Belgium sport that has not seen Olympic ice since 1936 that stole the show. The ice hockey display was among the most popular in the historic downtown square in Brussels that had more than 15,000 visitors during the weekend-long event. Johan Boule, a Learn to Play instructor, held demonstrations on a plastic ice sheet. Both newcomers and veterans got a chance to take part. Most were skating for the first time on plastic ice which was well received, if not a little different. Also on hand for the extravaganza were Belgian game officials and coaches.

OBITUARIES

■ German hockey mourned the death of national team goalie **Robert Müller** on May 21 after he succumbed to his battle with a brain tumor. Müller, born on June 25, 1980, played in two Olympics and eight World Championships. He played for Rosenheim, Mannheim, Krefeld, Duisburg and Köln in the German league, winning two titles. After his initial diagnosis, Müller made a comeback and even continued playing after he learned that his cancer had returned. He was on the German men's national team at the 2008 World Championship in Canada. He is survived by his wife and two young children.

Austria, including leading its national team, and also was an assistant with the New York Islanders during his career behind the bench.

■ Former Finnish star **Erkki Laine**, 51, drowned in a lake near by his hometown of Lahti. Laine represented Finland in two Olympics, 1984 in Sarajevo and 1988 in Calgary, where Finland won the silver medal. Laine was perhaps one of the most underrated players in Finnish history, yet he had a big impact on the national team program. Laine was known as an excellent scorer and represented the Finnish national team in 64 games.

■ The former General Secretary for Belgian Ice Hockey, **Jan Bergman**, died on June 7. He was 82. After a career as a player and coach, Bergman joined the Belgian Federation in 1971 where he was a referee before becoming the General Secretary from 1989-1995. He was named Honorary General Secretary later.

■ IIHF Hall of Fame member **Vladimir Kostka** died on September 18. Kostka was one of the most successful coaches in the history of Czechoslovakia, leading the nation to a World Championship gold in 1972 in Prague. Kostka also led the team to the bronze medal at the 1968 Olympics and silver at the 1972 Olympics and to four silver and four bronze medals at World Championships.

■ **Robert Louis-Dreyfus**, chairman of Infront Sports & Media, died on July 4, losing his battle against leukemia. Infront is the marketing partner of the IIHF World Championship. He best-known as the man who headed the renaissance of sports brand Adidas and his roles as managing director of Saatchi and Saatchi.

■ Canadian coach **Ron Kennedy** passed away on July 9 at the age of 56. Most recently he coached in Innsbruck, but a brain tumor forced him to resign in December 2008. He coached in Germany, Italy and



Report finds no evidence of undue payments

■ Deloitte did not find any evidence of financial impropriety on the part of IIHF President René Fasel relating to published allegations.

The enquiry focused on the allegations of financial impropriety on the part of Fasel made by a Swiss newspaper, in particular, allegations that Fasel received undue benefits in connection with an IIHF grant of rights relating to IIHF events.

The findings were presented to the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Tunis, Tunisia on September 17. The IIHF Council examined the report and concluded that no evidence of undue or improper payments was found. The IIHF Congress, after was satisfied with the findings of the Council and expressed its support to the President.

The IIHF Council concluded that no evidence was identified to show that the IIHF, and the other involved parties, suffered any financial damage arising from the allegations made against the Fasel.

Arising from the findings of the enquiry, the Congress decided to improve corporate governance procedures and practices in the future and will establish a working group to achieve this.

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Zurich puts on Cinderella sequel in Victoria Cup

Chicago Blackhawks become latest surprise victim of never-say-die Lions

By Risto Pakarinen

ZURICH - If hockey fans - and event organizers - around the world only walked away with one lesson from the Victoria Cup, it was this: Passion, or 'heart' in hockeyspeak, is the most important ingredient in putting together a great event, a show, and a hockey game that people will remember forever.

And the best way to ensure that there's passion in the game, is to make the game a high stakes one.

In Victoria Cup, the game between ZSC Lions and the Chicago Blackhawks, the stakes were as high as they can get.

Pride.

Last year, the New York Rangers beat SC Bern easily, 8-1, in the pre-Victoria Cup exhibition game, only to be pushed hard by Metallurg Magnitogorsk in the Victoria Cup game the following day. The Rangers, and the NHL, got away with a scare when the New York team came back from a three-goal deficit, and Ryan Callahan scored the game winning 4-3 goal with 20 seconds remaining.

After the Blackhawks routed reigning Swiss champions, HC Davos, 9-2, in their exhibition game this year, few experts gave the Lions a chance.

"We have a good league and are getting better but it's not at NHL calibre yet. Maybe it will be a close game, maybe a high score. We have to relax and play the way we can and do what we're capable of. We just have to believe, to be prepared and go onto the ice," the ZSC Lions head coach Sean Simpson said ahead of the game.

Believe.

"We just have to believe," he said over and over again.

To be fair, just believing isn't enough if you don't follow through. It's believing in yourself, your abilities, and your teammates, and then going out and delivering your best game of the season that counts. You have to believe you can skate as fast as the NHLers, and then outskate them. You have to believe you can work as hard as the NHLers, and then outwork them. Out-play them. Out-everything them.

"Tonight, we played against a well-organized and a very experienced team. That's why they're the European champions. They used the big ice well, and caused a lot of trouble for us all night," said Blackhawks goaltender Cristobal Huet.

"They outplayed and outworked us all night," he added, visibly upset after the Lions 2-1 win.

And for the moments when the team might have been wavering, there was the homecrowd to carry them. In Zurich, the Hallenstadion was cooking in the third period, as the Lions were nursing their 2-1 lead, throwing themselves in front of the Blackhawks' shots, and keeping the puck out of the zone.

As the clock was winding down, the crowd counting down - "fünf, vier, drei, zwei, eins..." - the sound of the buzzer sent people on their feet, and the Lions players and coaching staff jumping up and down, high-fiving and hugging each other. Veteran goaltender Ari Sulander, 40, who made 34 saves in his second game of the season, got buried under his teammates.

For the Lions, the win was big and the night unforgettable.



THE LIONS ROAR AGAIN: Zurich is getting used to grand celebrations after unlikely victories. The entire team gathers around captain Mathias Seger (with the Victoria Cup) to celebrate the team's triumph over the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks. The Lions had virtually the same roster as they did last winter against Metallurg Magnitogorsk -- of course the addition of 1-1 goal scorer and MVP Patrik Bartschi didn't hurt the line-up.

"I would like to win a medal at the Olympics, or the World Championship," said Ryan Gardner.

"But right now I'm just happy. We have a long season ahead of us. Everybody wanted to beat us last season because we won the Champions Hockey League and now they'll surely want to beat the team that beat the Chicago Blackhawks," he added.

Victoria Cup MVP, Patrik Bartschi, was just as enthusiastic.

"You could see that everybody believed in the team. We beat the Chicago Blackhawks, a team where our best players probably wouldn't get any ice time, so we can be very proud of what we've achieved. Now we have to celebrate and let it sink in, get our feet on the ground and come back to our league," he said.

A few days later, the Hawks, too, got back to their league, opening their regular season with two games against the Florida Panthers, in a small rink in Helsinki, Finland, in front of a practically sold-out arena. At stake: four points.

The fans got to see NHLers up close, witness the amazing skills of Patrick Kane, and admire two hometown heroes, Ville Koistinen and Antti Niemi, steal the show in the games, and add some magic to the mix.

For Chicago, the opening of the season was far from ordinary. An overseas trip where a little magic and a few surprises awaited, making the first week of the season anything but regular for the latest NHL Victoria Cup team.

Seen and heard around the Hallenstadion

■ On the European atmosphere:

"It was fun, the building was alive. It had the atmosphere of a real game like in the playoffs, like we were playing for a Cup. It was a fun place to be a part of it," - Chicago head coach Joe Quenneville

"They had the fans support, and they were loud. I liked it. Being a Swede, I love hearing the cheering and chanting, in a bit of a soccer style." - Chicago player Niklas Hjalmarsson

■ Said after the Davos Game

"We played our worst game of the year. Our players were paralyzed. We had the wrong kind of respect for them, and our forechecking was bad. It's a pity because Chicago was my favorite team as a kid. I loved the Indian logo." - Davos coach Arno Del Curto

■ On the NHL vs. the Swiss League

"NHL teams go straight to the net. In our league, the forwards go straight to the corners and well there, they take another seven turns before heading for the net". - Davos coach Arno Del Curto

■ On Zurich's upset victory

"They simply played better than us, and wanted to win more than we did. If there's a lesson in this, it's that we're going to have to work hard if we want to be successful." - Chicago goalie Cristobal Huet

"I knew that if we just believe in ourselves, we'll have a chance...Our guys helped me well, it's been years since the last time I've seen them block shots like they did tonight." - Zurich goalie Ari Sulander

■ Summing it up

"This is the highlight of my hockey career." - Zurich captain Mathias Seger

"It was a sensational team effort." - Zurich head coach Sean Simpson

"We had a plan and we saw it through the entire 60 minutes." - Zurich forward Ryan Gardner

CHL Q&A What went wrong, what lies ahead

The IIHF announced in June 2009 that the Champions Hockey League will not be played for the 2009-2010 and that it will be postponed to the 2010-2011 season.

Q: Why was the CHL postponed?

A: The investors withdrew their funding after the first year of a three-year contract due to the global financial meltdown. Since they came from the gas and oil business, they were severely hit by the rapidly falling prices on energy.

Q: Why weren't new investors found?

A: It was an enormous task to find new investors during a world-wide recession. In the end, the IIHF ran out of time and the CHL had to be postponed.

Q: What happens now?

A: The IIHF and the main stakeholders - the member national associations and the top European leagues - are in discussions about the conditions for a re-launch.

Q: What are the main challenges?

A: To secure the financing of the league, to have new investors in place and to determine the shareholding structure. A tender is planned to evaluate and select the most suitable investors.

Q: What would be the biggest difference from last year with regards to the structure?

A: The union of the Top-6 European leagues - Hockey Europe - wants an increased influence over the CHL.

Q: Does that pose a problem?

A: No. The leagues should have increased responsibility in shaping the future of European club hockey. They have the players, the clubs and the arenas.

Q: How would you summarize the inaugural CHL season?

A: It was a sportive success combined with the best presentation of a European club hockey event ever. European media raved about the clean approach with team jerseys, ice and boards. With just a few exceptions, the participating clubs had higher attendance numbers in the CHL than in their domestic league.

Q: Can some telling examples be given?

A: The German DEL had an average attendance of 5,867 per game, but Eisbären Berlin averaged 13,746 for CHL games. The two Russian clubs averaged 8,024 in the CHL, while the KHL average was 5,097. And in Sweden, HV71 and Linköping drew above the league average.

Q: What conclusions can be drawn?

A: These numbers kill the myth in European hockey that fans only care about their traditional, domestic rivalries. What's more, this was accomplished in the first season.

The hockey world comes to Finland

By Jenny Wiedeke

It's become an annual tradition each summer as hockey players from all over the world converge on Vierumäki, Finland for the IIHF's Hockey Development Camp. The week-long camp brings players from both top nations and developing nations together to enhance their hockey skills and knowledge. Now in its 11th year, the Development Camp has become a staple on the IIHF event calendar. But how did the camp get started, and just what exactly happens once the players arrive in Finland? Ice Times spoke with IIHF Sport Director Dave Fitzpatrick about the past, present and future of the Development Camps.

Q You just completed your eighth IIHF Hockey Development Camp in Vierumäki. Tell us, when you held the first camp 10 years ago, did you ever envision it becoming what it is today?

I think only in our wildest dreams did we think the Development Camps would turn into the success that they have become. When we first started, we had no idea what to expect by inviting players of such varying backgrounds and levels to play on mixed teams. Back then, we almost had to drag nations to the camp. The focus was also very much on the teams, whereas today we have several off-ice leadership programs for adults incorporated in the annual schedule.

Q For those not familiar with the structure of the IIHF Development Camp, explain what happens when the players arrive in Finland.

For boys camps we normally have over 400 'campers' and for girls camps we have around 300. Generally countries send anywhere between two and eight participants. The players (aged 14-16) travel with an adult to Finland. But once everyone arrives, their nationalities are thrown out the door and the players are placed on one of eight teams. It makes no difference to us if you come from a number-one nation or a number-50 nation, once you are put onto a team, you are all equal. Of course, the first challenge is overcoming language barriers. But it never fails, by about Day Two, the teams are truly one cohesive unit and are able to function like any normal hockey team.

Q And when the kids join their teams, what do the adults do?

This is one area where the camp has really evolved. With the players busy with team activities, we realized that it was equally important to have useful and worthwhile programs for the adults in attendance. Generally, we run anywhere between 10-15 programs for the adults ranging from Equipment Managers to Learn to Plan to Coaching Instructors. We've even had programs for the General Secretaries and media relations representatives. All of the adult programs have the goal of helping hockey's leaders in various countries gain vital knowledge that they can take home with them to their nations.

Q That is actually one of the mottos of the Development Camp 'take the message home', right?

'Take the Message Home' is much more than a motto for the camp, it's the



GATHERING AROUND THE CAMP FIRE: All of the 2009 IIHF Development Camp participants gather around the focal point of the camp -- the hockey rink -- for the group photo. The group was all smiles despite a very early wake-up call for the group photo. Perhaps it was camp mascot Finky who was responsible for putting a little energy into the group.

creed. For us, the only way we can say that the camp is a success is if the campers, both young and old, take what they have learned during the week in Vierumäki and pass it along to their teammates and colleagues back home. We don't have the resources to reach the thousands of worldwide hockey players, so we have to rely each year on the 400 campers to which we have direct access, to be our messengers.

Q Why does the IIHF hold the camp every year in Finland?

First, Vierumäki offers the perfect setting for the development camp. It is a natural setting that has too many sporting opportunities to list. There's a facility with two indoor rinks and plenty of locker room space. But beyond the logistics, Vierumäki along with the Degree Program Students offer such good support and structure that we can't imagine holding the camp anywhere else. It is also special for campers from non-traditional nations to come to such a hockey-rich country.

Q The IIHF also supports a coaching degree program based in Vierumäki. Tell us about that.

There is both an Ice Hockey Institute that does research and has an extensive archive located on site in addition to the Coaching Degree Program. What is great about having the camp in Vierumäki is it gives the students practical experience as they are each assigned a duty during the week. Most of the time the Degree Students serve as coaches with one of the teams, which prepares them for the real-life experiences they will face as coaches.

Q With so many campers that have come through the system, does anyone stick out in your memory?

Of course, we've had many players that have gone onto great careers like Sweden's Kim Martin, Slovenian NHL star Anze Kopitar or fellow NHLer Jeff

Tambellini. Most recently, we've had this year's #2 overall draft pick Victor Hedman. But the one player that I will always remember was a young man from Mongolia that needed seven days just to travel to the camp. It took him five days by train just to get to an airport in Moscow where he got on a plane for the first time in his life. When you hear a tale like that, you can't help but think of both the dedication that people have for hockey and of what a truly global game the sport has become.

Q You have held both boy's and girl's camps -- are there any big differences between the two?

Surprisingly, no. The girl's camps and boys camps are eerily similar. The girls are extremely hungry for any kind of knowledge and experience they can gain, while the boys are a little more laid back, but overall, there is very little difference between the two groups. Of course one key lesson we've learned is to make sure there are no cheerleading camps scheduled while the boys are in camp (laughs).

Q You have also held several regional development camps, tell us about those.

The Regional Development Camps, while having the same goal of promoting ice hockey, are very different from the camp in Vierumäki. With the regional camps, the IIHF staff travels to a hand-picked nation and works with players and coaches from three to five countries. Of course a regional

camp has the bonus that it is more personalized and doesn't involve the big travel costs of the bigger camp. But the drawback is the players don't gain the knowledge from a worldwide group. From the staff perspective, you don't reach as many people as you do with the Vierumäki Camp. Nevertheless, I think a combination of Regional Camps and the annual camp was crucial. Some nations are right on the cusp of taking the next step and a regional camp can help nudge things along. But there is no substitute for what the annual camp in Vierumäki offers.

Q What do you see as the future of the Development Camps?

I definitely see the camps continuing. The current format we have is very good. Eight teams is just enough to ensure a good mixture of players and nations, while not making it too big that it spirals out of control. Next season, we already have another camp planned for girls

Q What future goals do you have for the camps?

I would like to eventually see every one of our member nations taking part in the camp. I think that those that have joined the program have found it to be a valuable tool for developing hockey at home and if all of our members get on board, I think they will see huge benefits.

Looking Ahead: What's on the development horizon

Q During the recent IIHF Hockey Development Camp in Vierumäki, Finland, two groups were given the task of creating development plans for their National Associations.

The participants from the Technical Coaching Directors Workshop and Learn to Play Instructor Seminar came together along with members of the IIHF Development Committee to work on these plans. These participants were the leaders of education and development of ice hockey within their nations and offered a unique insight into the planning that many nations have already done.

Q The 60 participants began their session by listening to presentations about the IIHF Audit, IIHF Assistance Program and National Association development. Then under the leadership of the Development Committee members, they worked in smaller groups of three to four nations to construct development plans. The plans were put together and included many of the different areas of development including Player, Coaching, Referee and Managers.

These plans give the IIHF a view of the initiatives that are being organized our member National Associations and are a vital link in the ability to offer support and assist in a nation's development.

Q The yearly plans for the 2009-2010 season have been merged into one file that lists all the member Nation Association's monthly projects along with contact information and details of the location of the program. They will be available on iihf.com at the end of October and will be updated as more information is received.

Another initiative at the camp was complete documentation, which began two separate projects during the camp.

Q First, all of the programs that were being operated during the camp were recorded-- from on-ice practices to classroom sessions. These will be made into information and promotional videos about ice hockey and the Hockey Development Camp program. It is hoped that these videos will help in recruitment of people into all areas of ice hockey.

The other filming project during camp took place on Wednesday afternoon. Three local Under-10 players were invited to come to Vierumäki where they were filmed on the ice. This was very specific and involved short 20-30 second clips of technical skills from the IIHF Introduction to Coaching Manual. The players performed all the exercises for a beginning hockey player for the skills of skating and goalkeeping.

These clips will supplement IIHF Introduction to Coaching Manual and LTP manuals and during courses and demonstrations.

Q In the future the rest of the Introduction to Coaching Manual will be completed and then the next stage will be to film the skills and tactical in the IIHF Level I and Level II Coaching Manual.

Eventually these video clips will be linked to the IIHF Coaching Manuals so they can be used and viewed in conjunction with these programs.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY UPDATE

USA women pass a crucial test with flying colors

Vancouver 2010 test event gives organizers and top women's teams an idea of things to come

By Szymon Szemberg

■ Is a pre-Olympic test event an indication of things to come when real medals are at stake? It definitely was in Turin four years ago and we may have seen the same pattern in Vancouver in the first week of September.

After the pre-Olympic test event (Hockey Canada Cup), there is no question that the American women will enter the XXI Olympic Winter Games in this city as clear favorites, looking for their first Olympic gold since Nagano 1998. Signs that bode well for the Americans include:

■ Team USA has won the two last IIHF World Women's Championships (2008 in China and 2009 in Finland).

■ For the first time since its introduction in 2003, the Americans have overtaken the Canadians in the IIHF World Women's Ranking.

■ Despite playing before a pro-Canadian crowd in Vancouver, the U.S. defeated Team Canada twice in the test event; 4-2 in the preliminary round and 2-1 in the final.

The loss dropped Canada's all-time record versus the Americans to 48 wins, 33 losses, and one tie. It wasn't the tone Canada hoped to set at the host rink for February 2010 (to be known as Canada Hockey Place).

■ When comparing the test event in Vancouver with its counterpart four years ago in Turin, a few facts stand out:

Team USA came to the tournament in Italy as the reigning IIHF World Champion, winning the title for the first time in Sweden (Norrköping) one year earlier and putting an end to Canada's streak of nine consecutive world championship wins.

But in the Turin test event it was all Canada. They outclassed the U.S. twice, and carried the momentum to the Olympics six months later, winning all games, including a win against Sweden in the final, en route to their second straight Olympic gold medal.

■ This time around, the Americans look more solid than ever. Although the games against the eternal rivals were close, there is no question that the U.S. team has a clear upper hand.

The Canadian team may have more puck possession and more shots on goal, but the American approach is more selective, more opportunistic and with far better execution.

There is no question that coach Mark Johnson - the two goal scorer and hero of the 1980 'Miracle on Ice' win against the Soviets in Lake Placid 1980 - has done a splendid job with the team.

But Johnson didn't want to elaborate too much on the wins and the apparent U.S. dominance over Canada after the test event.

"It feels good, but you can't get complacent," said Johnson. "The real competition starts next February. Nobody will remember these wins once the Olympics have started."

■ Overall, the results of the Hockey Canada Cup were predictable. Finland, for instance, came in with an all-time record of six wins and two losses versus Sweden in World Women's bronze medal games, so no one was really surprised when the Finns defeated their Nordic rivals 1-0 in the bronze medal game.

But the score didn't reveal the whole picture; the Swedish team was outscored 40-23.



Although experience shows that Sweden has a knack of gearing up for the Olympics and producing exceptional performances against superior opposition, this Swedish team is still far away from the one which defeated the U.S. in the Turin semi-final four years ago and advanced to the gold medal game.

Coach Peter Elander's challenge is to address the lack of scoring. In the five games that Sweden played, they were scoreless in three of them. Their best performance was the 3-1 win over Finland in the preliminary round.

■ A hot-button topic during this tournament was the possibility of someday permitting hitting in the women's game.

Peter Elander decried as 'dinosaurs' those voices who would maintain the ban on hitting, feeling it reflects a lack of gender equity. Other team sports, such as basketball, soccer and even rugby have identical rules for men and women. But most observers felt there's still no immediate impetus to change the rules in women's hockey.

Where the teams stand going into Vancouver

With no Women's World Championship program in an Olympic year, the lower part of the IIHF Women's World Ranking will stay largely unchanged, however, the Olympics could provide major movement for the top-tier teams. Below is the current ranking:

Rank	Country	Points	08 rank	move
1	United States	2960	2	+1
2	Canada	2930	1	-1
3	Finland	2785	3	0
4	Sweden	2745	4	0
5	Switzerland	2630	5	0
6	Russia	2610	6	0
7	China	2485	8	+1
8	Kazakhstan	2475	10	+2
9	Japan	2465	9	0
10	Germany	2420	7	-3
11	Norway	2195	14	+3
12	Czech Republic	2180	12	0
13	France	2170	11	-2
14	Latvia	2135	13	-1
15	Slovakia	2040	17	+2
16	Italy	1980	15	-1
17	Austria	1875	19	+2
18	PRK Korea	1775	20	+2
19	Denmark	1760	18	-1
20	Great Britain	1645	23	+3
21	Netherlands	1645	21	0
22	Slovenia	1075	16	-6
23	Australia	890	22	-1
24	Belgium	810	24	0
25	Croatia	785	30	+5
26	Hungary	785	25	-1
27	Korea	760	26	-1
28	New Zealand	690	27	-1
29	Iceland	685	31	+2
30	Romania	685	29	-1
31	South Africa	675	28	-3
32	Estonia	650	32	0
33	Turkey	600	33	0

Sweden is Inline Hockey's first triple crown winner

Make it three in a row for the northern nation

■ Inline hockey has seen a lot of changes since it was first introduced to the IIHF championship program in 1996. But perhaps no change is as dramatic as Sweden's rise to the top of the standings. The Swedes have steadily climbed their way up, capped this June by the nation's third straight Inline Hockey title. Here's a look at the past, present and future for the Swedes, and the rest of the Inline Hockey world.



Yesterday:

■ When Inline Hockey was first introduced in 1996, the standings looked much like one would expect from an off-shoot sport of ice hockey. North American nations USA and Canada dominated the early years. There was a good reason for the early dominance, the two nations were among the first to embrace Inline Hockey as a full-fledged sport within their hockey programs. In the beginning, it was thought that Inline Hockey could be developed as an off-ice summer training for ice players. The biggest supporters of this theory were those countries with the highest participation numbers.

But at the turn of the century, there was a shift in the top of the standings. What was once North American dominance was suddenly taken over by Europe -- more precisely, Finland. The entire Inline championship took a break in 1999 and came back in 2000 with a whole new look. Gone were the dominant Canadians, replaced by new and hungry European teams. The South American continent also grew dramatically in 2000 with Argentina, Brazil and Chile joining in the record 14-team field.

ALL-TIME IIHF INLINE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

1996 USA: Minneapolis, St. Paul/ Minnesota	2004 GERMANY: Bad Tölz
1. USA	1. USA
2. Canada	2. Finland
3. Finland	3. Sweden
4. Germany	4. Germany
5. Russia	5. Slovakia
6. Switzerland	6. Czech Republic
	7. Austria
	8. Slovenia
	9. Great Britain
	10. Brazil
	11. Japan
	12. Hungary
	13. Australia
	14. New Zealand
	15. Belgium
	16. Argentina
1997 USA: Anaheim/ California	2005 FINLAND: Kuopio
1. USA	1. Sweden
2. Canada	2. Finland
3. Switzerland	3. USA
4. Russia	4. Czech Republic
5. Czech Republic	5. Germany
6. Finland	6. Slovakia
	7. Slovenia
	8. Austria
	9. Hungary
	10. Japan
	11. Great Britain
	12. Brazil
	13. Australia
	14. Namibia
	15. Portugal
	16. Chinese Taipei
1998 USA: Anaheim/ California (A-Pool)	2006 HUNGARY: Budapest
1. Canada	1. USA
2. USA	2. Sweden
3. Finland	3. Finland
4. Switzerland	4. Germany
	5. Czech Republic
	6. Slovakia
	7. Slovenia
	8. Austria
	9. Great Britain
	10. Hungary
	11. Brazil
	12. Japan
	13. Namibia
	14. Australia
	15. Croatia
	16. Argentina
2000 CZECH REPUBLIC: Hradec Kralové/Chocen	2007 GERMANY: Landshut/Passau
1. Finland	1. Sweden
2. Czech Republic	2. Finland
3. USA	3. Germany
4. Germany	4. Austria
5. Slovakia	5. Slovenia
6. Sweden	6. United States
7. Austria	7. Czech Republic
	8. Slovakia
	9. Brazil
	10. New Zealand
	11. Hungary
	12. Australia
	13. Great Britain
	14. Japan
	15. Namibia
	16. South Africa
2001 USA: Ellenton, Fla.	2008 SLOVAKIA: Bratislava
1. Finland	1. Sweden
2. USA	2. Slovakia
3. Czech Republic	3. Germany
4. Slovakia	4. Austria
5. Sweden	5. Slovenia
6. Germany	6. United States
	7. Czech Republic
	8. Slovakia
	9. Canada
	10. Great Britain
	11. Brazil
	12. Australia
	13. Japan
	14. Hungary
	15. New Zealand
	16. Bulgaria
2002 GERMANY: Nürnberg/Pfaffenhofen	2009 GERMANY: Ingolstadt
1. Sweden	1. Sweden
2. Finland	2. United States
3. Germany	3. Germany
4. Czech Republic	4. Finland
5. USA	5. Slovenia
6. Slovakia	6. Czech Republic
7. Slovenia	7. Canada
8. Austria	8. Austria
	9. Slovakia
	10. Great Britain
	11. Brazil
	12. Hungary
	13. Australia
	14. Japan
	15. Argentina
	16. Croatia

Also making its debut that season was Sweden, which finished a neutral sixth. In 2001, the Swedes followed up with a fifth-place finish and were still considered to be far from dangerous.

■ 2002 saw the next major change to the Inline Hockey Championship structure. The field grew to include 16 teams and was separated into two divisions with the top eight teams in the top level, and the next eight teams in Division I. It is the same format that stands today. Clearly it is a format that suits the Swedes as they came from out of nowhere in 2002 to capture the gold medal against then-powerhouse Finland.

It would prove to be the first of many memorable meetings between the two Nordic rivals. In 2003, Finland got its revenge by winning the gold medal against Sweden and in 2004, the Finns took silver against the U.S., but at least had the satisfaction of beating the Swedes in the semi-finals. During this era, USA, Finland, Sweden and Germany built themselves up as the top teams. But until 2007, none of the four was able to steadily claim the top spot in the standings.

Today:

■ Sweden won the gold medal in 2007. It was the country's third-ever gold at the event, despite spending much of the new decade among the top-four. In 2008, Sweden repeated the feat. It was an odd year when Finland struggled badly and both the U.S. and Germany had to settle for fighting for bronze after a surprise showing by Slovakia. Nevertheless, one thing remained consistent, Sweden's dominance.

This year, it was much of the same. Sweden started the tournament a little wobbly, but ultimately came through when it mattered. Trailing by one with just over three minutes left in regulation, Sweden put in a pair of goals coming 30 seconds apart to take home the 7-6 win.

The win made it three in a row, giving Sweden the longest gold medal streak in Inline history. The title made it five golds in total for the Swedes, while the U.S. silver was a return to the podium for the first time since 2006.

Tomorrow:

■ For Sweden, the future continues to look bright. Next season, the Inline Hockey World Championship will take place for the first time ever on Swedish soil when Karlstad hosts the event. Sweden will have the pressure of trying to become only the second-ever nation to win the Inline crown on home ice (the U.S. won in 1996 and 1997 at home). If they should succeed, the next problem will be finding a place for a fourth crown on the famous Tre-Kronor jersey.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IIHF MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

2010 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GERMANY, Cologne & Mannheim May 7-23, 2010

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Russia	Canada	Sweden	Finland
Belarus	Switzerland	Czech Republic	United States
Slovakia	Latvia	Norway	Germany
Kazakhstan	Italy	France	Denmark

2010 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

NETHERLANDS, Tilburg April 19-25, 2010

Austria, Ukraine, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Serbia

2010 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

SLOVENIA, Ljubljana April 17-23, 2010

Hungary, Slovenia, Great Britain, Poland, Croatia, Korea

2010 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

MEXICO, Mexico City April 11-17, 2010

Australia, Belgium, Spain, Bulgaria, Mexico, Turkey

2010 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

ESTONIA, Tallinn April 10-16, 2010

Romania, Estonia, China, Iceland, Israel, New Zealand

2010 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group A

GREECE, Athens April 13-17, 2010

Luxembourg, Greece, Ireland, United Arab Emirates

2010 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group B

ARMENIA, Yerevan April 15-18, 2010

DPR Korea, South Africa, Mongolia, Armenia

IIHF U20 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

2010 IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP

CANADA, Saskatoon, Regina December 26, 2009 - January 5, 2010

Group A	Group B
Canada	Sweden
Slovakia	Russia
United States	Czech Republic
Latvia	Finland
Switzerland	Austria

2010 IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

FRANCE, Megeve & St. Gervais December 14-20, 2009

Germany, Denmark, France, Slovenia, Ukraine, Japan

2010 IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

POLAND, Gdansk December 14-20, 2009

Kazakhstan, Belarus, Norway, Italy, Poland, Croatia

2010 IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

HUNGARY, Debrecen December 13-19, 2009

Hungary, Great Britain, Korea, Mexico, Spain, China

2010 IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

ESTONIA, Narva December 12-18, 2009

Estonia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Belgium, Serbia, Romania

2010 IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

TURKEY, Istanbul January 4-10, 2010

New Zealand, Iceland, Australia, Turkey, Bulgaria, DPR Korea, Chinese Taipei

IIHF WORLD WOMEN'S U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

2010 IIHF WORLD WOMEN'S U18 CHAMPIONSHIP

UNITED STATES, Chicago March 27 - April 3, 2010

Group A	Group B
United States	Canada
Czech Republic	Sweden
Finland	Germany
Japan	Russia

2010 IIHF WORLD WOMEN'S U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I

SLOVAKIA, Piestany April 3-9, 2010

Switzerland, France, Slovakia, Austria, Norway, Kazakhstan

IIHF U18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

2010 IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP

BELARUS, Minsk & Bobruisk April 13-23, 2010

Group A	Group B
United States	Russia
Canada	Finland
Sweden	Czech Republic
Switzerland	Slovakia
Belarus	Latvia

2010 IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

DENMARK, Herning April 12-18, 2010

Norway, Denmark, Austria, France, Japan, Korea

2010 IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

POLAND, Krynica April 11-17, 2010

Germany, Poland, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Great Britain

2010 IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

ESTONIA, Narva March 13-19, 2010

Italy, Estonia, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Iceland

2010 IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

UKRAINE, Kyiv March 22-28, 2010

Ukraine, Slovenia, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Australia

2010 IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group A

TURKEY, Erzurum March 8-14, 2010

China, Turkey, Chinese Taipei, Bulgaria, Mongolia

2010 IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group B

MEXICO, Monterrey March 14-20, 2010

Mexico, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa, Israel

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

CANADA, Vancouver February 12-28, 2010

Men's Tournament

Group A	Group B	Group C
Canada	Russia	Sweden
United States	Czech Republic	Finland
Switzerland	Slovakia	Belarus
Norway	Latvia	Germany

Women's Tournament

Group A	Group B
Canada	United States
Sweden	Finland
Switzerland	Russia
Slovakia	China

INLINE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2010 IIHF IN-LINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

SWEDEN, Karlstad 28.6.- 4.7.2010

2009-2010 IIHF EUROPEAN WOMEN CHAMPIONS CUP (EWCC)

First Round October 30-November 1, 2009

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
OSC Berlin	Sparta Sarpsborg	Slavia Prague	Cergy-Pontoise
Ravens Salzburg	Laima Riga	MHK Martin	Agordo
Herlev Hornets	Sheffield Shadows	Terme Maribor	UTE Budapest
Slavia Sofia	Valladolid Panteras	Milenyum Ankara	Miercurea Ciuc

Second Round December 4-12, 2009

Group A	Group B
Espoo Blues	HC Lugano
Aisulu Almaty	Tornado Moscow
Winner A	Winner B
Winner D	Winner C

Final Round March 12-14, 2010

2009-2010 IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP

Second Round October 23-25, 2009 (note: First Round was played in Sept.)

Group B	Group C
Miercurea Ciuc	Cracovia Krakow
Ujpest Budapest	Tallinn Stars
HYS The Hague	Energija Elektrenai
FC Barcelona	Sary-Arka Karaganda

Third Round November 27-29, 2009

Group D	Group E
Bolzano Foxes	Liepajas Metalurgs
Sheffield Steelers	Sokil Kyiv
HDK Maribor	Red Bull Salzburg
Winner Group B	Winner Group C

Final Round FRANCE, Grenoble January 15-17, 2010

Grenoble Bruleurs de Loups
Yunost Minsk
Winner Group D
Winner Group E

RESULTS SUMMARY

IIHF Inline Hockey World Championship

Ingolstadt GERMANY June 6-14

Preliminary Round - Group A (Top Division)

United States - Czech Republic	6-5 PS	(2-3, 1-0, 1-0, 1-2)
Canada - Sweden	4-6	(2-0, 2-3, 0-1, 0-2)
United States - Canada	7-4	(2-1, 2-0, 0-0, 3-3)
Sweden - Czech Republic	8-9	(2-2, 3-1, 2-4, 1-2)
Czech Republic - Canada	3-4	(2-1, 0-1, 1-1, 0-1)
Sweden - United States	7-6 PS	(0-2, 2-1, 2-1, 2-2)

United States	3	1	1	1	0	19-16	6
Sweden	3	1	1	0	1	21-19	5
Czech Republic	3	1	0	1	1	17-18	4
Canada	3	1	0	0	2	12-16	3

Preliminary Round - Group B (Top Division)

Germany - Slovenia	7-5	(3-1, 0-1, 3-2, 1-1)
Slovenia - Slovakia	8-7 OT	(2-0, 2-1, 1-2, 2-4)
Germany - Finland	7-1	(1-1, 2-0, 1-0, 3-0)
Slovakia - Finland	0-5	(0-3, 0-1, 0-1, 0-0)
Finland - Slovenia	4-3	(2-0, 2-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Slovakia - Germany	4-13	(0-2, 3-3, 1-3, 0-5)

Germany	3	3	0	0	0	27-10	9
Finland	3	2	0	0	1	10-10	6
Slovenia	3	0	1	0	2	16-18	2
Slovakia	3	0	0	0	1	11-26	1

Preliminary Round - Group C (Division I)

Australia - Japan	5-4 PS	(1-1, 1-2, 1-1, 1-0)
Chinese Taipei - Austria	5-19	(1-5, 1-6, 2-5, 1-3)
Australia - Chinese Taipei	18-3	(3-0, 7-1, 4-2, 4-0)
Austria - Japan	8-1	(2-1, 0-0, 4-0, 2-0)
Japan - Chinese Taipei	8-0	(1-0, 3-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Austria - Australia	7-0	(1-0, 3-0, 1-0, 2-0)

Austria	3	3	0	0	0	34- 6	9
Australia	3	1	1	0	1	23-14	5
Japan	3	1	0	1	1	13-13	4
Chinese Taipei	3	0	0	0	3	8 -45	0

Preliminary Round - Group D (Division I)

Brazil - Hungary	6-4	(2-0, 1-1, 0-3, 3-0)
South Africa - Great Britain	1-5	(0-3, 0-0, 1-1, 0-1)
Brazil - South Africa	5-3	(3-1, 1-1, 1-1, 0-0)
Great Britain - Hungary	10-4	(2-1, 3-0, 1-3, 4-0)
Hungary - South Africa	11-2	(4-1, 2-0, 2-1, 3-0)
Great Britain - Brazil	2-5	(0-0, 0-1, 1-0, 1-4)

Brazil	3	3	0	0	0	16- 9	9
Great Britain	3	2	0	0	1	17-10	6
Hungary	3	1	0	0	2	19-18	3
South Africa	3	0	0	0	3	6 -21	0

Qualification Round

Canada - Austria	4-3	(3-0, 0-1, 1-1, 0-1)
Slovakia - Brazil	6-3	(1-0, 2-1, 1-1, 2-1)

Canada & Slovakia stay in Top Division

Austria and Brazil return to Division I

Playoff Round - Top Division

Quarterfinals		
Sweden - Slovenia	8-3	(1-1, 2-0, 3-1, 2-1)
United States - Slovakia	6-2	(1-2, 0-0, 3-0, 2-0)
Finland - Czech Republic	4-3 PS	(0-1, 0-1, 2-0, 1-1)
Germany - Canada	8-3	(2-0, 1-0, 4-1, 1-2)

Placement Games

Slovenia - Czech Republic	6-4	(1-1,1-1, 1-2, 3-0)
Slovakia - Czech Republic	1-8	(1-1, 0-4, 0-1, 0-2)

Semi-finals

United States - Finland	8-4	(1-0, 3-1, 2-2, 2-1)
Germany - Sweden	6-8	(2-1, 3-3, 1-2, 0-2)

Bronze Medal Game

Finland - Germany	5-9	(2-4, 2-1, 0-1, 1-3)
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Gold Medal Game

United States - Sweden	6-7	(2-2, 0-2, 3-0, 1-3)
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Final Placement - Top Division

- Sweden
- United States
- Germany
- Finland
- Slovenia
- Czech Republic
- Canada
- Slovakia

Slovakia is relegated to Division I for 2010

Playoff Round - Division I

Quarterfinals

Australia - Hungary	4-5	(0-0, 1-0, 1-2, 2-3)
Great Britain - Japan	5-2	(0-0, 2-0, 0-1, 3-1)
Austria - South Africa	8-2	(2-0, 4-0, 0-2, 2-0)
Brazil - Chinese Taipei	10-0	(0-0, 5-0, 4-0, 1-0)

Placement Games

Japan - South Africa	9-2	(3-1, 3-0, 3-0, 0-1)
Australia - Chinese Taipei	15-7	(5-1, 4-0, 3-1, 3-5)

Semi-Finals

Brazil - Great Britain	3-5	(0-1, 0-2, 2-1, 1-1)
Austria - Hungary	9-1	(4-0, 2-0, 2-0, 1-1)

Bronze Medal Game

Brazil - Hungary	4-3	(0-2, 2-0, 1-1, 1-0)
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Gold Medal Game

Austria - Great Britain	2-1	(0-0, 2-0, 0-0, 0-1)
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Final Placement - Division I

- Austria
- Great Britain
- Brazil
- Hungary
- Australia
- Japan
- South Africa
- Chinese Taipei

Austria is promoted to the top division for 2010

Women's Hockey Canada Cup

Vancouver, CANADA August 31-September 6

Preliminary Round

United States - Finland	2-3	(2-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Canada - Sweden	7-0	(3-0, 1-0, 3-0)
United States - Sweden	7-0	(1-0, 3-0, 3-0)
Finland - Canada	2-10	(1-4, 1-2, 0-4)
Sweden - Finland	3-1	(2-0, 0-1, 2-0)
Canada - United States	2-4	(0-1, 0-0, 2-3)

United States	3	2	0	0	1	13-5	6
Canada	3	2	0	0	1	19-6	6
Sweden	3	1	0	0	2	3-15	3
Finland	3	1	0	0	2	6-15	3

Playoff Round

Bronze Medal Game

Finland - Sweden	1-0	(0-0, 1-0, 0-0)
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Gold Medal Game