

News Release



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This December issue of the *IIHF News Release* is almost entirely devoted to the upcoming Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Some players are very fortunate to have participated in several Olympics. Raimo Helminen, whom we featured in the September issue, has played in five Olympics and he could be on his way to a record breaking sixth. Vladislav Tretiak, the former great goalie of the Soviet Union, has three Olympic gold medals and one silver in four appearances. Tretiak is featured on the back cover of this issue.

But others are less fortunate. In an article in the *Edmonton Sun*, former Team Canada greats Bobby Orr and Mike Bossy regret never playing in the Olympics.

"That would have been wonderful", said Orr in the interview. "I would not have refused it". The 1976 Canada Cup was the only international tournament Orr played in.

Mike Bossy participated in the 1981 and 1984 Canada Cup, but the NHL did not take a break for the Olympics in those days. "If there is something today that I look back on, it would have been a heck of a lot of fun playing for the Olympic team" said the 44 year old sniper.

Bossy holds the memories of four Stanley Cup wins with the Islanders in high regard with the Canada Cups further down the list. "It would have been a lot different if it would have been the Olympics", he said. "The Canada Cups were sort of our Olympics, but they weren't the Olympics".



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Let everyone join the party

NHL teams should show the Olympic spirit and release the Slovaks, Latvians, Germans, Swiss and others for the Preliminary Round of the Olympic hockey tournament, writes IIHF president René Fasel in his Christmas editorial.

■ Things became clear to me when I happened to catch a glimpse of the Uruguay - Australia World Cup soccer qualifying game on TV. The commentator informed that Leeds United, the English Premiership team, released their Australian super pairing of Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell, for this home-and-away fixture, which meant that the players missed four vital games with Leeds. This in a league where teams play only 38 games (home and away) to decide maybe the most prestigious league championships in the most global of all team sports.

■ In soccer, and all other big team sports that I can think of, the general view is that major international competition like the Olympics or World Cup, always is above domestic league competition. Soccer is already mentioned, but it is the same case in basketball, volleyball, handball and rugby, just to mention some team sports with global appeal.

■ The IIHF and the NHL have, together, come a long way in making ice hockey a truly global Olympic sport where all top-level domestic competitions take a break for this great event, which comes along only once every four years. As most of you know, eight teams start their Olympic Preliminary Round on February 9, while players from the NHL are released on February 14 for the Final Round, which starts a day later. Among the eight teams which play their preliminaries, are Slovakia, Latvia, Germany and Switzerland, teams who have some of their best players performing in the NHL. Some of them, if not released in time, will miss the opportunity to represent their country in the Olympics, probably the biggest honour in sports.

■ As much as I am happy and appreciate our agreement with the NHL, it is somewhat difficult



Photo: CITY-PRESS

Irbe's last Olympic chance?: Latvia's goaltender Arturs Irbe is one of several players who could miss the Olympic Winter in Salt Lake City if he is not released by his club team.

to understand the position taken by the NHL managers who have announced that their players will not be released earlier. I am very well aware that the players are well compensated to perform for their teams and that the managers have a responsibility towards the fans who pay for the tickets.

But I am sure that the fans of the Washington Capitals would fully understand and support the idea of letting Peter Bondra play for Slovakia and Olaf Kolzig for Germany. I can not imagine that true Carolina fans would not wish Arturs Irbe good luck if he missed a couple of league games for what could be Irbe's first and last Olympics, playing for Latvia, something that we all know makes Irbe immensely proud. Would anyone in the Buffalo area not feel true joy if their hero, Miroslav Satan, performed some

Olympic magic while missing a couple of league games? How much would the Stanley Cup champions Colorado suffer if they let their backup goaltender David Aebischer go earlier and let Patrick Roy, maybe the best goalie in the league, handle the duty in the meanwhile?

As for the players themselves, needless to say, they want to play.

■ Their NHL fans would be happy for their heroes, the NHL players would be happy for their team mates and the league itself would support that gesture. I call on all relevant NHL teams, their boards and managers to show some true Olympic spirit and let their players go. They might miss a couple of games, but they will return as happier players and bring back the Olympic momentum to their teams for the rest of the regular season.

As President of the International Ice Hockey Federation I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous 2002. It should be a great year for hockey.

René Fasel
IIHF President

■ See also related article on page 5: "Stastny on crusade to get players."

Triple Gold Club

Hockey's most prestigious company

It takes extraordinary commitment, outstanding skill and - as Mats Naslund points out - lot's of luck and timing. Otherwise, the criteria, for joining the club are simple. You only have to win:

- The IIHF World Championship
- The Olympic hockey tournament
- The Stanley Cup

Welcome to the Triple Gold Club - at present an exclusive company of 10.

■ The IIHF conducted a very unscientific poll among a number of hockey experts and asked question: "If you were a hockey player and wanted to become immortal by winning the three most prestigious team championships in the game today, which would you want to win?" Each and every one in the panel listed the three above mentioned championships as *hockey's grand slam*. The next step was to jump into the archives and search the record books for players who have won all three honours. We found ten of them, all shown on these pages. Four Swedes and six Russians.

The most exclusive and prestigious society in international hockey.

■ The IIHF called one of them, Mats Naslund, one of the finest players in the international game and one of the best Europeans to play in the NHL. Naslund played for the Montreal Canadiens for eight seasons and he led them to a Stanley Cup victory in 1986 and another final in 1989. He won the IIHF World Championships in 1991 and was granted entry to the **Triple Gold Club** in 1994 by winning the Olympic gold in Lillehammer in 1994.

"When you are in the middle of your career, you shrug your shoulders at things like that", said Mats from Malmo, Sweden where he now resides. "But a couple of years after you retire, you really feel a sense of pride when you think about it. I mean, lot of things must work out in your career to be able to win all three. Lot's of luck and good timing, for example."

When Mats - at 170 cm (5'7) one of the best small players ever - started his career, there were really two hockey worlds and a Triple Gold Club lacked all relevance. European players dreamt about representing their country in the World Championships and the Olympics, while the North American counterparts focused entirely on the Stanley Cup. "When I grew up, the NHL hardly existed in my world and winning the Stanley Cup was something nobody even mentioned", says Mats. "To make the national team was the big goal and the players I idolized were Russians, Maltsev, Kharlamov and those guys. Even when I was drafted by Montreal in 1979, it took a couple of days before anyone told me about it, and even then I really did not know what being drafted really meant."

■ Things started to change in 1977 when NHL professionals were allowed to compete in the IIHF World Championships. In 1980, Swedes Stefan Persson and Anders Kallur were the first European trained players to win the Stanley Cup (with the New York Islanders) and that started an avalanche of Europeans going to the NHL trying to win Lord Stanley's mug. Ice hockey became truly global after the fall of the communist regimes in the East and finally, Nagano in 1998, the first time the Olympics became an opportunity for all players from all leagues.

■ February 27, 1994 saw the three first players become members of the TGC. At the same moment when Tommy Salo saved the last penalty from Canada's Paul Kariya in the Olympic final in Lillehammer, Naslund, Tomas Jonsson and Hakan Loob became the historical trio to hold all three championships.

"Of course, I was told by media then that we were the first to win all three, but I must admit that I did not know that this group had only ten members so far", said Naslund when the IIHF informed him about it. "I was sure that there were some Czechs... if you think about it, this group might not grow much bigger than this. If you happen to be drafted by Nashville and Atlanta, you will probably never get the triple. Or look at Borje Salming, probably the best European to have played in the NHL, he never won anything."

■ Mats Naslund, Aleksander Mogilny and Vladimir Malakhov are the most economical of the TGC members. They have won one of each championship. On the other side of the scale you have Vyacheslav Fetisov, the GM and head coach of Team Russia at the Salt Lake City Olympics, who won seven IIHF World Championships and two Olympic gold medals before he finally could join the TGC at the age of 39 when his Detroit Red Wings won the Stanley Cup. The two last members joined when New Jersey won the Stanley Cup in 2000. The Cup was the missing link for Aleksander Mogilny and Vladimir Malakhov.

■ Who could join the **Triple Gold Club** after the Salt Lake City Olympics? Well, there are four Canadians who would boost the numbers if Canada win their first Olympic gold medal in 50 years. Rob Blake, Joe Sakic, Mark Recchi and Brendan Shanahan have all won the Stanley Cup and the IIHF World Championship. Jason Arnott, who is a long shot to be picked, is also a two-out-of-three.

If Toronto win their first Stanley Cup in 35 years, Robert Reichel could join, and so could his countrymen Roman Cechmanek and Jiri Dopita if Philadelphia wins. Jaromir Jagr? He is just one of several two-out-of-threes. Jagr has never won an IIHF World Championship.



Golden moment: This fine trio was the first to join hockey's Triple Gold Club on February 27, 1994. The picture is taken minutes after Peter Forsberg scored his famous Game Winning Shot against Canada in the Olympic final in Lillehammer. From left: Hakan Loob, Mats Naslund and Tomas Jonsson.

Seven more players joined the club in the following years. Peter Forsberg had to wait until 1996 before he had his triple.



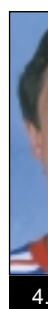
1. JONSSON



2. LOOB



3. NASLUND



4.

There are currently ten players who have won all three championships (In bold denoted when they won their triple. WS: World Series of Hockey, OG: Olympic Games, SC: Stanley Cup)

1. Tomas Jonsson (SWE)
WS 91
OG 94
SC 82, 83 (NY Islanders)

2. Hakan Loob (SWE)
WS 87, 91
OG 94
SC 89 (Calgary)

OLYMPIC PREVIEW SECTION - SALT LAKE CITY 2002



Photo: LENNART MANSON, Bildbyran, Hassleholm



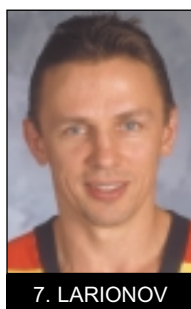
KAMENSKY



5. FORSBERG



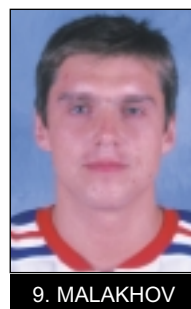
6. FETISOV



7. LARIONOV



8. MOGILNY



9. MALAKHOV



10. GUSAROV

Players who have
triple:
the player comple-
Seniors, OG:
Nehly Cup.)
E 12.04.1960)

07.60)

3. Mats Naslund (SWE 31.10.59)
WS 91
OG 94
SC 86 (Montreal)

4. Valeri Kamensky (RUS 18.04.66)
WS 86, 89, 90
OG 88
SC 96 (Colorado)

5. Peter Forsberg (SWE 20-07-73)
WS 92, 98
OG 94
SC 96, 01 (Colorado)

6. Vyacheslav Fetisov (RUS 20.04.58)
WS 78, 81, 82, 83, 86, 89, 90
OG 84,88
SC 97, 98 (Detroit)

7. Igor Larionov (RUS 03.12.60)
WS 82, 83, 86, 89
OG 84, 88
SC 97, 98 (Detroit)

8. Aleksander Mogilny (RUS 18-02-69)
WS 89
OG 88
SC 00 (New Jersey)

9. Vladimir Malakhov (RUS 30.08.68)
WS 90
OG 92
SC 00 (New Jersey)

10. Alexei Gusarov (RUS 08-07-64)
WS 89, 90
OG 88
SC 96 (Colorado)

Players are numbered in chronological order
after the year they completed their triple. If two
players got the triple in the same year, the year of
of the first championship won gives precedence.



Photo: AL BEHRMAN, Associated Press

The Goal: Peter Forsberg scores the most famous penalty shot in Olympic hockey history and photographer Al Behrman, sitting on a catwalk high up beneath the roof of the Lillehammer arena, get a shot that was published in most sports magazines around the world. Behrman caught the moment tenths of a second after Reuters colleague, Gary Hershorn, whose photo became a stamp a year after. (see right).

A GREAT SHOT! - but not only for Forsberg

Al Behrman does not get to cover much hockey. After all, he is from Cincinnati, Ohio, hardly a hockey hotbed. But Al was happy to be one of the Associated Press photographers to be assigned to work the 1994 Olympic ice hockey tournament in Lillehammer. He walked away with what has become one of the most famous shots in hockey.

■ Sometime in the late 70s Al Behrman was assigned to cover a press conference in Indianapolis when the Indianapolis Racers of the defunct WHA announced the signing of a 17-year old whiz kid by the name of Wayne Gretzky.

That was pretty much Al's hockey experience when he went to Lillehammer in 1994 to cover the Olympics. His special assignment: ice hockey. He was there for the entire tournament but, come the final between Sweden and Canada, all the regular photograph locations around the rink were taken. "Our photo editor got the idea of making some of us go all the way up to the rafters and shoot the game from there", says Al to the *IIHF News Release*. I was sitting in a catwalk in the same spot during the whole game and I was lucky that Forsberg's last shot

was to the goal beneath where I was sitting." Behrman knew that he had a shot of what eventually was the game winning shot, but he had no idea of the quality. "With today's digital cameras I would have known pretty much immediately if it was good or not", says the photographer. "But then we were still shooting film and I had to wait through the whole developing process to see how the picture came out. Of course, I was very pleased when I saw the result. It was definitely one of my career highlights."

■ On Al's photo, Forsberg has just flipped the puck with his one hand grip under goalie Corey Hirsch's catching glove. Within a split second the puck would slowly cross the goal line. Just beside Behrman was Reuters' photographer Gary Hershorn. His picture - taken a moment earlier - was chosen by the Swedish Post as a model for the stamp that was launched for the 1995 IIHF World Championship. Stephan Fransius of the Swedish Post marketing department tells this background story: "We had to ask the players in the picture for permission in order to reproduce the photo as accurately as possible so the players could be identified in the stamp. There was no problem with Forsberg, but when we called Corey



Stamp: With permission from Swedish Post

Photo: Gary Hershorn, Reuters

The Stamp: The Swedish Post published this stamp depicting the goal one year after it was scored when Sweden organized the 1995 IIHF World Championship in Stockholm. Canadian goalie Corey Hirsch did not sanction the reproduction so the post authorities had to change details on the goalie figure. The jersey is therefore blue and Hirsch wears number 11 in the stamp.

Hirsch he said no. Hirsch told us that this was the most embarrassing moment of his career, but he would agree if we paid him hundred thousand dollars. That was of course out of the question."

So the art designers at the Swedish Post changed the jersey colour to blue and Hirsch's number from 1 to 11.

■ Forsberg's incredibly hazardous move on Hirsch (how many players would dare to make that fake in an Olympic final?) gave Sweden a 3-2 lead in the penalty shoot-out after the game ended 2-2 in regulation time. Some moments after, goalie Tommy Salo made an incredible kick save on Paul Kariya's almost perfect shot and Sweden had won their first Olympic hockey gold medal.

What few remember is that the hero had a poor tournament in Lillehammer. Forsberg had only one regular goal in the Olympic tournament, against France. But that's another story.



René Fasel touring the Balkans: The IIHF president is about to drop the puck in the ceremonial face-off between Vojvodina Novi Sad (champions of Yugoslavia) and Croatian champions Medvescak Zagreb. The rivals squared off in the International Hockey League on November 20, 2001. Fasel and IIHF Event manager Hannes Ederer were visiting Yugoslavia to promote the upcoming World Championship Division II in Novi Sad in March 2002. The Yugoslav hosts also invited the IIHF delegation visit a 20,000 seat arena in Belgrade which can be used for future World Ice Hockey Championships.

■ **CZECH FEDERATION PRESENTS 2004 GUARANTEE.** The Czech Republic was initially awarded the 2003 IIHF World Championship, but they had to swap years with Finland as the federation could not guarantee a new arena in time. In a meeting with IIHF president René Fasel and IIHF treasurer Hans Dobida in Vienna on November 1, the Czech Federation and government representatives assured that a multi-purpose arena will be built in Prague by February 2004, just in time for the event. A national sports lottery agreed to fund the building of the facility. The construction of the arena is scheduled to start in June 2002.

Changed starting time of U20 Gold medal game

The Gold medal game of the IIHF World U20 Championship in Czech Republic will start at 20.30 on January 4, 2002 and not at 17.00 as initially stated. The tournament, which starts on December 25, can be followed on the IIHF.com where our game reports show every game action as they happen, live. The official site of the organizing committee is: www.iihfworlds20-2002.cz Most of the games featuring the defending world champions, Czech Republic, as well as the semi-finals and final, are sold out.

■ USA sweep Canada

USA are heavy favorites to win their second consecutive women's Olympic gold medal in Salt Lake City. The Americans swept Canada 5-2, 4-3 and 1-0 in the TSN Challenge in late November which means that USA is 5-0 vs their biggest rivals in exhibition play this fall. The US is 15-0 overall in pre-Olympic action.

Stastny on crusade to get players

■ **Slovakian GM Peter Stastny is "optimistic" he will be able to ice a competitive lineup for the Salt Lake Olympics in February.**

Speaking to the Ottawa Sun the other week in Ottawa, he confirmed that he's held talks with Ottawa Senators GM Marshall Johnston about getting defenceman Zdeno Chara and winger Marian Hossa released in time to play at the Olympics. Johnston himself represented Canada in the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble.

■ Stastny, who met with Johnston during the Hall of Fame meetings in Toronto, said he's been told by league officials that they will try to come to some kind of agreement to get some players released in time to play for Slovakia on February 9 in the Preliminary Round. According to the IIHF-NHL agreement, the NHL players are to be released as of February 14, just in time for the final round which starts February 15. "I know we're not going to be able to get one hundred percent of the

players, but I'm hoping that we can about half," said Stastny. "I've spoken with a lot of GM's and I'm just waiting to see what happens".

"It would be good for some of the players to get the chance to play at these games. They would come back refreshed and ready for the final 35 games of the season."

At this point, Slovakia would be forced to go into the games without the likes of St. Louis winger Pavol Demitra, Phoenix' Michal Handzus, Ziggy Palffy of L.A., Washington's Peter Bondra, along with Chara and Hossa.

■ Stastny said in most cases he simply wants the players to miss two regular season games.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime for most of these players and they should have the chance to play there," said Stastny. "I think the fans in the NHL cities would understand these players missing a few games. I speak to people in Germany and other countries and they understand. The only people who don't seem to understand are some NHL club people."

- OTTAWA SUN

McCREARY TO LEAD NHL OLYMPIC REFEREES: The National Hockey League has announced to the IIHF their game officials assigned to the Olympic Ice Hockey tournament in Salt Lake City. Bill McCreary, who before this season had officiated in 1088 NHL games, will be the most experienced referee. The other two referees will be Dennis LaRue (362 games) and Stephen Walkom (476). Four linemen were assigned: Tim Novak, Dan Schachte, Jean Morin and Mike Cvik. The names of the IIHF on ice officials were announced in the November issue of the *IIHF News Release*.

Walter Bush gets the Olympic Order

■ **IIHF Vice President and USA Hockey President Walter L. Bush, Jr. has been named a recipient of the Olympic Order, the highest possible individual honor in international athletics.** The IIHF and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will honor Bush with the Olympic Order at the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

"Walter's recognition for his efforts marks a great day for international hockey," said IIHF President Rene Fasel. "Walter's contribution to our global game has been outstanding and has lasted longer than anybody else's in North America. The IIHF congratulates Walter Bush for this honor. It is very well deserved."

■ The Olympic Order is awarded to a person who has illustrated the Olympic ideal through his/her actions, has achieved remarkable merit in the sporting world, or has rendered outstanding services to the Olympic cause. This includes personal achievement and contribu-



Walter L. Bush Jr.
Recipient of Olympic Order

tion to the development of sport. Nominations are proposed by the Olympic Orders Council and decided upon by the IOC Executive Board.

"I am humbled by this honor," Bush said. "I am proud and pleased to feel that I have made a contribution to the Olympic movement worldwide. It is a movement I feel very strongly about, and I have

made it a priority to further hockey's international relationships around the world."

■ One of the most recognized and respected leaders in the sport of hockey, Bush has served as president of USA Hockey for more than 15 years and has been a member of the IIHF council since 1986.

Other recipients within the sport of hockey who have received the Olympic Order include Tutt, Peter Stastny, Vyacheslav Fetisov, Miroslav Subrt and Wayne Gretzky. Other recipients include Steffi Graf, Jean-Claude Killy, Jesse Owens, Indira Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.

Finland 2003 logo unveiled



2003 IIHF World Championship

Dates: 26th April - 11th May 2003

Host cities: Helsinki, Turku and Tampere

World Championship 2003 office

Address: Areenakuja 1,
FIN-00240 Helsinki
Tel: +358 204 1997
Fax: +358 204 195 302

OLDTIMERS WORLD CUP.

Finland is also organizing the IIHF Oldtimer World Cup in the greater Helsinki area, April 16 - 20, 2002. A total of 157 teams from 18 countries have entered. Teams will be seeded by age classes 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+ and 60+. In total 350 games will be played.

VIENNA SUMMIT

a milestone in treatment of concussions in sport

The International Symposium on Concussion in Sport was a success from the moment it started. As symposium chairman, Murray Costello, put it: "We have assembled the best possible panel from the entire world in the field of concussions in sport, which has become a very big issue in our game."

■ The IIHF, the International Football Association (FIFA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) were the three sport bodies behind the symposium that was held in Vienna, November 2-3, 2001. "This joint venture marks the first collaboration between three major sport bodies, in an effort to bring forward current knowledge in conjunction with new research in the area of concussion in sport"

IIHF President, Renè Fasel, who was in attendance for the two days in Vienna had this statement upon

the conclusion of the event:

"This symposium was an unparalleled success in that we brought together for the first time, the top neuroscientists in the world to share their research. What we have gathered from this two-day meeting is that the experts still do not fully understand what happens to the brain after a traumatic brain injury, nor is there a universally agreed upon definition of what concussion means. Furthermore, the success of this symposium will be complete when the core group of these out-

standing experts within six weeks will unite behind uniform phrasing on those very important issues." (See "The Vienna Protocol" to the left).

■ Twenty high profile experts from three continents were on hand for the two days and their presentations ranged from being very scientific to practical assessments in every-day hockey. Dr. Yelverton Tegner, who for many years has been associated with the Swedish elite club, Lulea, lists three major reasons behind the increase of severe head injuries in hockey:

1. Bigger players
2. Faster game
3. More games and shorter rehabilitation

In addition to better helmet designs and increased education to players and team medical staffs, Tegner proposed two ideas that would definitely be considered as controversial by the managements and leagues.

"Having bigger team rosters where entire five man units could be rested every fourth or fifth game and a decreasing

number of games - that would be the cause", said Tegner.

Don't expect too see his ideas in the nearest future. Many teams are struggling financially and both of those would be cost effective, meaning less gate revenues.

■ Willem Meewis, a spokesman for the National Hockey League, said that things which players and teams are doing in order to decrease head injuries, such as wearing helmets correctly, to change helmets more often, to change the helmet after a

The problems with short rehabilitation periods and playing schedules was also

The Vienna Protocol

The International Symposium on Concussion in Sport, held in Vienna, Austria on November 2 and 3, 2001, endeavored to clarify major concerns in the growing problem of concussion in sport. One hundred and fifty medical experts, representing more than 15 sporting organizations, attended the conference.

The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), invited medical experts from around the world specializing in the area of brain injury, to present their research experience. Significant progress was made in consensus for the development of a concussion protocol, global in scope, led by a core group of the medical experts working with the sporting bodies. A unanimous decision by the sport medical representatives in attendance, to pursue the development of the Concussion protocol was made, which, essentially, will address the following areas:

- Concussion Identification
- Concussion Evaluation
- Implementation of New Concussion Research Techniques
- Concussion Management, Including Immediate Assessment, Return To Play, and Rehabilitation
- Concussion Prevention

As a result of the Meeting, a Concussion Working Group will move forward with the next steps. The sporting bodies, led by the IIHF and FIFA, are prepared to recommend the immediate implementation of the expected recommendations in a uniform manner in both sports, beginning with the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City and the World Cup of (Soccer) Football in the spring of 2002. Although the findings will be released as recommendations, it will mark the first time that multi-sport disciplines will uniformly apply medical research to respond to serious injury in their respective competitions.

The presentations by these outstanding medical experts were extremely detailed in dealing with response to serious head injuries. The clear message to the sporting community, however, is to diligently pursue preventative measures to eliminate concussion through such initiatives as respect and fair play.



Medical Dream Team in Vienna: Back row, Mark Aubry (IIHF Medical Director), James Kelly, Willem Meewis, Mark Lovell, Jiri Dvorak, Patrick Schanzer

Photo & portraits: **JUKKA RAUTIO**

Committee), Karen Johnston, Yelverton Tegner, Paul McCrory, Peter Jako, Vladimir Benes, Andrew McIntosh and Eric Matser. Front row: Bogdan Radanov, Beat Villiger (IIHF Medical Committee), Fasel (IOC), René Fasel (IIHF President), Toni Graf-Bauman, Murray Costello (Symposium chairman). The presenters who do not appear in this picture are featured in portraits.

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Tegner's suggestions
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injuries: to strap the helmets
every season and
a serious hit to the head.

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brought up by Eric



Robert Cantu



Peter Hamlyn



Barry Jordan



Inggard Lereim



Thomas Mussack



Paul Piccinini

Matser from the Netherlands, who has worked a lot with the PSV Eindhoven football club. "Mental fatigue is a significant factor. Our study shows an increase in head injuries when the schedule is heavy with two games a week as opposed to one", said Matser. Another study showed that at least 20 percent of all elite hockey players will sustain a concussion during his career.

Studies that looked at head injuries by playing

position, found that forwards are always most liable to concussions as opposed to defenseman and goaltenders. On the other hand, Yelverton Tegner had to tell a player to retire from the game after he had sustained his 12th concussion. That was a goalie.

The symposium was covered by reporters from the two biggest wire services in the world, the Associated Press and Reuters.



EHL - can it have a second coming?

Does the European Hockey League have any future?

The man who has been assigned the job to thoroughly look at the issue says yes, but, "We have to learn from our mistakes last time and we have to be very, very careful", says IIHF council member Rickard Fagerlund.



Fagerlund: "We must do our home work dilligently!"

■ The 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden will be Fagerlund's last major job as the President of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association. After 19 years, Fagerlund has decided not to stand for re-election, and at the age of 65 he has also retired from his regular job.

Rickard will devote his time to a possible re-launch of the European Hockey League, the

club competition which ceased operations after the 1999-2000 season

■ What are the major problems regarding a re launch of a top European club competition?

"When the EHL came to an end, it was a big blow for us. We failed. We must do our home-work very dilligently in order not to repeat the mistakes. We have to very thoroughly research two vital issues: Is there real interest from clubs, fans and TV, and what is the situation concerning the market - who do we compete against?"

■ Why did the EHL fail last time?

"It was a product which was not one hundred percent solid. It was a compromise from the very beginning and compromises do not last very long. Everything was a confusing mish-mash, which was not appealing to TV or to the viewers."

■ Do we need a major club league to start with?

"Yes, we do. I strongly believe that there is a market for a club hockey league in Europe. Football has it, basketball, handball, now even speedway is talking about a European circuit. It would be very strange if one of the most popular and trendy team sports in the world wouldn't be able to create a league in Europe. If the IIHF won't organize one, someone else will."

■ So what must we do so we don't fail again?

"The new league must be of top quality, with top players and top teams which are known to the fans. We can't have anonymous teams playing.

They must play in modern arenas, and we must do it on long term. In order to create a strong brand, you must have long-term thinking. You don't create brands in one year."

■ Money usually is an issue...

"Yes, the new venture needs money. Money always contributes to creating status. We need money to get it underway and we need serious prize money."

■ That means that the league needs a commercial partner who is willing to pay big time?

"Our last effort with the EHL showed that it is a gamble to rely only on one partner. If that partner loses enthusiasm, it's over. This is one of the most important issues we have to research. Maybe we should look at FIFA, they are big enough to do most of the work in-house."

■ Some say that the national leagues play so many games that there is no room for international club games?

"The national leagues play 50 games in eight months, that means that we have 190 free nights. But our product must be of such a quality that the fans will want to embrace the European league. Last time, not many of them really cared."

■ Are you of the opinion that the EHL champion must play the Stanley Cup champion in a final for world club supremacy?

"Yes, that must be the big catch. That was, by the way, one of the things that never materialized in the old EHL. We need a global super final, which would be played in September. And the NHL has, in principal, agreed to this."



Photo: Ti-Press, Stabio

Euro rivalry: The EHL created many exciting match-ups, like this one between Dynamo Moscow (blue) and Lugano from Switzerland. Lugano's superstar Christian Dubé tangles for position.

■ How will you proceede with this whole project?

"I will start by contacting all national federations, leagues, their top clubs, TV companies and marketing companies and thoroughly check their interest and commitment."

■ When can we expect a re launch of the EHL?

"At the earliest, for the 2003-2004 season."

NB. The EHL operated for four seasons. The EHL-champions were:

1996/97: TPS Turku, FIN

1997/98: Feldkirch, AUT

1998/99: Metallurg Magnitogorsk, RUS

1999/00: Metallurg Magnitogorsk, RUS

2003 World Juniors in Canada almost sold out

Do you plan to see the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championships in Halifax and Sydney?
Then you better hurry - the tickets are almost sold out - more than a year before the tournament gets underway.

■ After hosting a tremendous World U20 Championship in Winnipeg in 1999, the World Juniors are back in Canada. Halifax and Sydney, in the beautiful province of Nova Scotia, won the bid to host the 2003 championship in a tough battle with other Canadian bidding cities.

"The Halifax group showed very early that they had the commitment and the community support to organize a highly successful tournament", says Scott Smith, vice president of operations at the Canadian Hockey Association.

■ Well, that's the least you can say. Even before Halifax and Sydney were awarded the championship, the organizers had already sold 6,000 ticket packages for 21 games at the 10,000 seat Metro Centre in

Halifax. Which means that hockey fans in the city bought tickets to games when they didn't even know which teams were playing. And that was almost two years before the tournament.

When Halifax and Sydney were officially awarded the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championship, the ticket sales skyrocketed.

"As of now we have sold 189,000 tickets to the 21 games at the Metro Centre", said Scott Smith. "This is, of course, very good. There are only one thousand ticket packages left. But we will keep one thousand subsidized single tickets which can be purchased for ten dollars starting next fall".

■ Each 21 game package to the Metro Centre cost 609 CDA. A 10 game ticket package to the games at the 4,500 seat arena in Sydney costs 265 CDA. For the games in Sydney, 700 packages are sold. "We are right now targeting corporations in Sydney to buy packages and after New Year we will start targeting other groups", says Smith.



Photo: DAVE SANDFORD
Super Fan: Canadian fans have a way of showing their true colours.



Ihalainen honoured

■ As their first women ice hockey player ever, Marianne Ihalainen had her jersey, number 16, retired by Ilves in Tampere, Finland. Ice Hockey Club Ilves wanted to honour the spectacular career of the long time captain of the Ilves women's team and the most successful player in the history of women ice hockey in Finland.

Marianne Ihalainen represented Ilves for 19 seasons from 1982 to 2001 in the national league. She scored 320 goals and recorded 282 assists in 323 regular season games, adding 37 goals and 25 assists in 56 playoff games. Marianne was crowned eight times as Finnish champion adding four silver and four bronze medals to her merits.

Ihalainen represented Finland in 116 national team games scoring 73 goals and 64 assists. She was the captain of the 1998 Olympic bronze medal team, as well as five IIHF World Championship bronze medal teams, four IIHF European Championship gold medal winning teams and one bronze medal team. Marianne's retirement celebration was held before the Finland - Canada game in Tampere on November 4, 2001.



16 no more: First women's jersey retired

Dump & Chase from the World of Hockey



Johansson

■ **CAPTAIN WILL MISS GAMES:** Calle Johansson, the 34 year old Swedish defenceman of the Washington Capitals, will miss the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Johansson was hurt during the second game of the season on October 8 when he was checked by Boston's Kyle McLaren. Calle will need surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff and he will be out six to eight months. Johansson has won two IIHF World Championships with Sweden and he captained Sweden in both the 1996 World Cup of Hockey as well as in the 1998 Olympics in Nagano.

■ **IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY:** The fame of the Tambellini family is just growing. Eighteen year old center **Jeff Tambellini**, who played for Canada on the U18 national team, has opted to play for University of Michigan. Jeff is the son of **Steve Tambellini**, who represented Canada in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary and who now is the director of player personnel for Canada's Olympic men's team for Salt Lake City. Jeff is the son of **Addie Tambellini**, a member of the famous Trail Smoke Eaters, IIHF World Champions in 1961. The young Jeff honoured his grandfather by taking Addy's number 15 as his jersey number.

■ **CZECHS ENJOY OMSK:** First goalie **Jaroslav Kames**, than forward **Pavel Patera** and, as of midway of November, **Martin Prochazka**. All three Czechs are now members of Avangard Omsk of the Russian Hockey League. Patera and Prochazka are four time IIHF World Champions for Czech Republic and also Olympic gold medalists from Nagano.

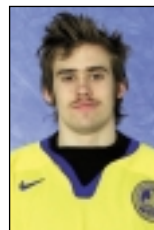


Prochazka

■ **MONEY IS NO PROBLEM:** The Russian Hockey League teams are able to pay serious salaries, and not only to Czechs. Canadian **David Nemirovsky** has signed with Lokomotiv Yaroslavl, the same team where **Andrei Kovalenko** (ex-Boston Bruins) plays.

■ **MONEY IS A PROBLEM:** Czech champions Vsetin are not able to overcome their financial troubles. Numerous reports in the Czech media outlined serious cash flow problems. At the end of November, Vsetin were also struggling in the domestic league. The champions were only ninth in the 14-team league.

■ **NO DEVILS FOR McSORLEY'S:** The attempt by the **McSorley** brothers, **Marty** and **Chris**, to buy the Cardiff Devils of the British Findus National League, has broken down. The asking price, believed to be around £500,000, was considered too high by the Canadian brothers.



Zetterberg

■ **NEW SWEDISH ZUPER KID:** **Henrik Zetterberg**, also called "Z", is the new hero of Swedish hockey fans. The 21 year old forward scored four goals in Sweden's 5-2 victory against Finland in the last game of the Sweden Hockey Games and led the Tre Kronor to the tournament win. But his club team, Timrå IK, is struggling badly. They are dead last in the 12 team Swedish Elite League.

■ **DOES NOT MASK HIS TASTE:** The goalie on the same Swedish team was **Stefan Liv** of HV71. Liv, who was born in the Polish city of Gdynia in 1980 and later adopted by a Swedish couple, uses his goalie mask to profile women of his taste. On the mask he donned during the Sweden Hockey Games, Liv had a painting of the Swedish **Princess Madeleine**. Pop artist **Britney Spears** is depicted on Liv's mask which he wears in league games with HV71.

■ **IT'S WAYNE & LANNY AGAIN:** The Canadian Hockey Association announced on October 30 that **Lanny McDonald** will be the General Manager of Team Canada for the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden. McDonald immediately announced that **Wayne Fleming** will be head coach. McDonald and Fleming led Canada at the 2001 IIHF World Championship in Germany. Fleming will also be one of the associate coaches to Pat Quinn at the Salt Lake City Olympics.



McDonald & Fleming

■ **GARPENLOV FORCED TO RETIRE:** Swedish forward, **Johan Garpenlov**, 33, announced his retirement on October 29. Garpenlov, who played for champions Djurgarden and also was a member of the Swedish national teams that won the IIHF World Championships in 1991 and 1992, suffered from a shoulder injury, which did not heal properly. Garpenlov also played for Detroit, San José and Florida in the NHL.

ICE HOCKEY 2000 PROGRAM - REPORTS FROM AUSTRIA & GERMANY

Our association welcomed the introduction of the *Learn to Play* program and the U16 and U17 development camps. We want to express our gratitude to the IIHF for having taken the initiative. We expect these two development tools to help us along the path of improving the game of hockey. We are confronted with the urgent need to develop own national players and to reduce the number of imports on our top teams. The only way this can be achieved is by putting the emphasis on improving our young players.

AUSTRIA

U10 Learn To Play Program

This program is targeted at improving the development program for our youngest players. While in the past it was common to use the full surface of the rink to practice with one team and also to play on the full surface, international experience has shown that skill improvement is greatly enhanced when switching to the cross ice technique. Here the kids are confronted with a much more "hockey-like" situations. There are also other appropriate changes in the equipment: kid-size hockey sticks, a lighter puck and smaller goals.

There is also an equally important change in attitude. Again, international experience has shown that it is necessary to decrease emphasis on competition and to underline the fun element. This is achieved by not counting goals and assists and by using leaders on the ice rather than referees. Within our association all these changes were implemented at the

"We need to start developing our own players - and this is the way to go"



Face-off: Phillipp (green jersey) from the Vienna Devils tries to win the draw against Lukas (yellow jersey) from the Vienna Kings. They are the future of Austrian ice hockey.

of training camps and by supplying top international instructors for the age group immediately under the players who have to carry the responsibility for the national hockey program.

Besides extending help to develop the players' technical skills, there is emphasis on international participation. Also, the dominant theme of the camps (Fair Play and Respect) is promoted, to create a game more in line with today's standards of society.

Our association has enthusiastically embraced the program and is supplementing it with its own actions, such as development camps for the U16 and U17 players during two weeks in the summer, and organising participation in international tournaments at home and abroad. Supplementing the work with players is a development program for coaches. Within our summer camps, the national association coach instructor is conducting coach development seminars to enhance the quality of coaching.

With the stepping up of all these efforts we are confident that the quality of our game will improve and the improvements in the neighbouring countries in this program will make for better and more popular hockey within our countries.

IIHF goes to Croatia for orientation session

■ IIHF representatives Pascal Stucki and Hannes Ederer visited Zagreb, Croatia in late November as a part of an orientation session in order to get acquainted with the situation of ice hockey within the country.

The purpose of the orientation sessions is to introduce the possibilities offered by the use of the individual IIHF training documentations in the field of Development Resources.

The IIHF places high priority on strengthening the cooperation with member national federations and direct contacts by means of personal discussions. The purpose of such discussions is to analyse the general situation of ice hockey in the countries.

Things like programs for player, coaching, and referee development are monitored as well as putting emphasize on programs like Partnership for Progress and Fair Play and Respect.

This is seen as a important step towards establishment of the IIHF Development Program in all IIHF member national federations.

Ice Hockey 2000

U16 and U17 Hockey Development Camps, November 2001

Facts:

Four camps (Hull, GBR, Kapfenberg, AUT, Füssen, GER, Pralognan, FRA)
Five days
Two age groups
Eight national associations (AUT, FRA, GBR, GER, ITA, NED, NOR, SLO)
16 National Teams including players, team staff, and game officials
15 total countries represented including IIHF staff (CAN, CZE, FIN, RUS, SWE, SUI, USA)
440 total number of participants

IIHF Learn To Play Program

Translation Update

Facts:

The program is approaching nine languages
□ Two official IIHF languages, English and German
□ Seven national associations have officially announced that they are translating the program, FRA, HUN, ITA, JAP, NED, NOR, SLO.



GERMANY

Cross ice extended to Under 11 in Bavaria

Learn To Play Program

- Cross-ice tournament season has started in all regional associations.
- Based on good feedback and long-term experience, Bavaria, the largest regional association, has extended cross ice tournament system to Under 11 category.
- IIHF **Learn to Play** (LTP) binders became compulsory in coaching education in all main regional associations in Germany.
- The German Ice Hockey Federation also incorporates LTP Program into coaching curriculum for A and B levels.
- Based on IIHF LTP Program, the German Ice Hockey Federation now has issued similar material for Under 12 and Under 14 age categories.

Under 16/17 Hockey Development Camps

- In November, Germany successfully hosted a **Hockey Development Camp** (U17) for the first time in Füssen.
- In February 2002, the German Ice Hockey Federation will again organize a HDC (U16) in Füssen, but, with eight teams. This is considered a big challenge for the federation since the eight team format has never been organised before.
- Nomination process for both U 16 & U 17 will be completed by January 10, 2002.

SCORELINE

SWEDEN HOCKEY GAMES

November 6-11, 2001

Finland - Czech Republic	2-7 (1-4, 0-2, 1-1)
Canada - Sweden	4-7 (0-3, 2-4, 2-0)
Russia - Canada	3-2 (2-0, 0-1, 0-1, 0-0, 1-0)
Finland - Russia	4-2 (2-1, 1-0, 1-1)
Sweden - Czech Republic	1-2 (1-0, 0-1, 0-0, 0-1)
Czech Republic - Canada	3-1 (1-0, 1-1, 1-0)
Canada - Finland	3-4 (0-2, 3-0, 0-2)
Russia - Sweden	1-2 (0-0, 0-1, 1-0, 0-0, 0-1)
Czech Republic - Russia	2-3 (0-1, 1-1, 1-1)
Sweden - Finland	5-2 (1-0, 2-2, 2-0)

1 Sweden	4	2	2	0	15:9	9
2 Czech R	4	2	1	1	14:7	8
3 Finland	4	2	0	2	12:17	6
4 Russia	4	1	2	1	9:10	6
5 Canada	4	0	1	3	10:17	1

Media All Star Team

Goaltender: Egor Podomatsky, RUS
 Defenseman: Michal Sykora, CZE
 Defenseman: Thomas Rhodin, SWE
 Forward: Jani Hassinen, FIN
 Forward: Henrik Zetterberg, SWE
 Forward: Valery Karpov, RUS

Scoring leaders

1. Henrik Zetterberg, SWE	4	4	3	7
2. Valery Karpov, RUS	4	1	5	6
3. Mattias Weinhandl, SWE	4	2	3	5

DEUTSCHLAND CUP

November 9-11, 2001

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

1 Switzerland	3	3	0	0	8:4	7
2 Slovakia	3	1	0	2	7:8	4
3 Germany	3	1	0	2	4:6	4
4 Canada	3	1	0	2	10:11	3

Scoring leaders

1. Peter Douris, CAN	3	2	2	4
2. Dusan Milo, SVK	3	2	2	4
3. Brad Purdie, CAN	3	2	1	3
4. Jeff Tory, CAN	3	1	2	3
5. Martin Kulha, SVK	3	1	2	3

IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP

Third Round November 23 - 25,

Group N : Asiago (ITA)

HC Milano - HC Lugano	4 - 2 (1-1, 2-1, 1-0)
Keramin Minsk - HC Asiago	2 - 5 (1-2, 1-2, 0-1)
HC Lugano - Keramin Minsk	3 - 1 (1-1, 1-0, 1-0)
HC Asiago - HC Milano	2 - 2 (0-2, 2-0, 0-0)
HC Milano - Keramin Minsk	3 - 0 (1-0, 1-0, 1-0)
HC Asiago - HC Lugano	4 - 4 (0-1, 3-2, 1-1)

1. HC Milano (ITA)	3	2	1	0	9 : 4	5
2. HC Asiago (ITA)	3	1	2	0	11 : 8	4
3. HC Lugano (SUI)	3	1	1	1	9 : 9	3
4. Keramin Minsk (BLR)	3	0	0	3	3 : 11	0

Group O : Zvolen (SVK)

HKM Zvolen - HC Prostějov	6 - 4 (3-0, 1-4, 2-0)
Oświęcim - ERC Ingolstadt	2 - 1 (2-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Oświęcim - HKM Zvolen	4 - 6 (1-3, 2-1, 1-2)
Ingolstadt - HC Prostějov	1 - 5 (0-2, 1-3, 0-0)
Prostějov - Oświęcim	4 - 1 (2-0, 2-0, 0-2)
HKM Zvolen - ERC Ingolstadt	2 - 0 (1-0, 0-0, 1-0)

1. HKM Zvolen (SVK)	3	3	0	0	14 : 8	6
2. HC Prostějov (CZE)	3	2	0	1	13 : 8	4
3. Oświęcim (POL)	3	1	0	1	7 : 11	2
4. Ingolstadt (GER)	3	0	0	3	2 : 9	0

Group P : Valerenga (NOR)

London Knights - Jukurit	2 - 5 (1-3, 1-2, 0-0)
Anglet Hormadi - Valerenga	1 - 4 (1-0, 0-3, 0-1)
Anglet H - London Knights	3 - 5 (1-1, 2-4, 0-0)
Valerenga - Jukurit	2 - 2 (0-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Jukurit - Anglet Hormadi	5 - 1 (1-0, 2-0, 2-1)
Valerenga - London Knights	4 - 4 (3-0, 1-2, 0-2)

1. Jukurit Mikkeli (FIN)	3	2	1	0	12 : 5	5
2. Valerenga (NOR)	3	1	2	0	10 : 7	4
3. London K (GBR)	3	1	2	1	11 : 12	3
4. Anglet H (FRA)	3	0	0	3	5 : 14	0

FINAL ROUND January 12 - 13, 2002

Group N : Zürich (SUI)

ZSC Lions Zurich	SUI
HC Milano	ITA
HKM Zvolen	SVK
Jukurit Mikkeli	FIN

January 12: Semifinals: 15.30: HKM Zvolen - HC Milano
 19.30: ZSC Lions - Jukurit, Mikkeli

January 13: Third place game, 13.00, Final game, 16.30

HOCKEY SHORTS

The Swedish Olympic Committee (SOK) postponed the decision whether to send the women's ice hockey team to Salt Lake City. The decision will be made on December 19 instead... Polonia Bytom had to withdraw from the Polish Extraliga due to financial difficulties. The decision was made on November 8. Polonia finished third last season... November was a dark month for coaches in the Swiss NLA league. Canadian **Larry Huras** was fired from champions ZSC Lions of Zurich while Russian **Vassily Tichonov** was released by Langnau. Tichonov, 43, is the son of former Soviet coaching legend **Viktor Tichonov**... The Spengler Cup, Europe's oldest club tournament, will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year. Check spenglercups.ch for all scores December 26 - 31. HC Davos, Team Canada, TPS Turku, Sparta Prague and Mannheim participate this year... Swiss-Canadian **Kent Ruhnke** is the newest member of IIHF's Rules Committee. Ruhnke led ZSC Lions to the Swiss championship 1999-2000... Poland and Slovenia had a rough ride in the Intrum Justitia Cup in Denmark in November. The newcomers in the IIHF World Championship finished third and fourth in the four team tournament. Slovenia lost all games while Poland lost to Denmark and Norway. The Danes beat Norway 4-3 to win the cup... Latvia beat France, Austria and Italy to win the Alps International Tournament in Grenoble. France finished second ahead of Austria and winless Italy... Czech Republic won the U18 Four Nation's tournament in Slovakia. Czechs beat Russia (finished 2nd), Slovakia (3rd) and Germany (4th). Czechs beat Russia 3-1 in the top game... **Martin Urban** (CZE) is the new member of the IIHF Technical Committee. Urban is a former Sport Manager of Pardubice and currently General Manager of Sparta Prague, of the Elite League. He also coached the Czech national junior team and was an assistant coach of the Swift Current Broncos of the Western Hockey League.

Abuse awareness guidelines will be integrated into IIHF education program

■ The IIHF held its second Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) Workshop on November 4, 2001, immediately following the International Symposium on Concussion in Sport. Representatives from 24 countries were in attendance. The purpose of the workshop was to receive feedback from the CMO'S on some of the initiatives undertaken by the IIHF Medical Committee.

■ At the first CMO workshop in November 1999, the issues discussed became part of the IIHF Medical Regulations, which now guide the medical programs operated at IIHF competitions around the world. Topics discussed in this workshop included "Fair Play and Respect", and the CMO'S were encouraged to carry this message back to their member national associations to incorporate into their educational and lifestyle development programs.

A resource booklet entitled "Nutritional Guidelines" was distributed, which contains guidelines for developing menus and sample menus for the many cultures participating in events, including Asian, western and European food choices.

■ Doping Control, the Emergency Action Plan and the IIHF Injury Reporting System were reviewed, but perhaps the most significant item on the day's agenda was the topic of "Harassment and Abuse". The experiences

of ex-NHL player Sheldon Kennedy, who went public with accusations of sexual abuse against his former coach, Graham James, were presented.

Kennedy's subsequent abuse lawsuit and James conviction of three years in prison resulted in Canadian Hockey developing an abuse awareness program that will be integrated into the IIHF education programs for use by national associations.

■ Abuse, which includes any form of physical, emotional and/or sexual mistreatment, can cause emotional damage or physical injury. The IIHF advocates the development of respect by all participants in the sport of ice hockey, including players, adult instructors and figures of authority.

■ During the workshop session, Dr. Serge Van Canneyt, a plastic surgeon from Belgium, demonstrated a new product from Johnson & Johnson called Dermabond, and Medtronic outlined the application of an automatic external defibrillator (AED) for use in an ice arena.

In acknowledgment of the enthusiastic feedback and wholehearted participation from the Chief Medical Officer's in attendance in Vienna, the IIHF Medical Committee is proposing to hold another workshop in the near future.

Olympics are something else, for legend Tretiak

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

The Olympic games will always bear a special significance for Vladislav Tretiak, 49, and not only because he is the only person in hockey history to have three Olympic golds and one silver.

"You have to wait four years not only to represent yourself, your national team but also your nations' Olympic movement. And nowadays the Olympics are even more important with all the best players there", says Tretiak.



■ The IIHF called up the man who many consider as the best goaltender to have ever played the game. If you want to talk about Olympic ice hockey success, whom do you talk to if not Vladislav Tretiak? No one has a more impressive collection of Olympic hockey medals in his drawer than "Vladislav the Great". Gold medals from 1972, 1976 and 1984 and a silver medal from 1980. And we know that the silver one from Lake Placid hurts.

"Yes, I will never forget that as long as I live", says Tretiak from his Moscow office from where he runs a Sports Academy which bears his name, and from where he runs youth hockey tournaments in Moscow, other Russian cities and Chicago. "Coach Viktor Tichonov pulled me from the decisive game against USA after the first period. He told me that I made a bad mistake on Mark

Johnson's 2-2 goal and that reserve Myshkin would play the rest. I would have had four gold medals if not for Tichonov's bad judgement."

■ Everyone knows the rest. The USA collegians scored two goals on Myshkin in the third period and 4-3 for the USA was the biggest upset in Olympic hockey history. Although Tretiak still believes that his team was far superior to the young Americans, he still -- almost 22 years afterwards -- gives Team USA a lot of credit.

"That was the first North American team I met that really played as a team, and not as individuals", says Tretiak.

It is strange really, but every time you talk to this magnificent athlete who has four Olympic medals, ten IIHF World Championship gold medals, one Canada Cup victory and who was the first European to be inducted to the Hall of Fame, you find yourself talking about things which did not happen.

Losing, like Tretiak and his comrades did in 1980 is, after all, a part of the game. But Tretiak will never forgive the old Soviet authorities for not letting him play in the NHL after his last Olympic gold in Sarajevo in 1984.

His voice is filled with resentment when he talks to us about that.

"I did everything possible for my country", says Tretiak. "I played every tournament and in fifteen years, I missed one practise when the coach told me to go home because I was so sick. I was hundred percent disciplined, I never smoked or drank, but when I asked them in 1984 to let me join the Montreal Canadiens who drafted me, they said no and the reason was that I was a soldier in the Red Army."

Tretiak had only one thing that he could counter with -- retirement.



Photo: SEVA KUKUSHKIN

Vlad the Great: As a 20 year old, he shocked the North American hockey establishment in September 1972 with his style and his strange bird cage mask and he continued to mesmerize opponents until his retirement in 1984. In 1989, Tretiak was the first European player to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

At the age of 32, when most goalies start to reach their peak, Tretiak told his club and his national coach that he was quitting the game. One of the most spectacular careers had a premature end.

"I had at least five to seven good years left in me", says Vladislav. "I was still very fit and in excellent shape. Montreal's general manager Serge Savard was in Moscow to negotiate my release, but it was useless. They wouldn't let me go."

■ It would have been a wonderful marriage because there was an ongoing love affair between Tretiak and the fans at the Montreal Forum. It seems that the more Tretiak stopped the home heroes, the more the Forum crowd adored him.

These Forum games will forever be etched in the history of hockey as maybe the three best performances by a goaltender ever:

■ **September 2, 1972:** The first of eight games in the Summit Series between Team Canada and Soviet Union. A totally unknown Tretiak stuns Canada as a nation: 7-3. "My best game ever", says Tretiak.

■ **December 31, 1975:** "The New Year's Classic", is also described by many as the best hockey game ever played between two club teams. Tretiak's CSKA Moscow played a 3-3 tie against the Montreal Canadiens and Vladislav stopped 35 out of Montreal's 38 shots. "An unbelievable game", says Tretiak. "I still have the picture of me with Yvon Cournoyer and Pete Mahovlich by my side. We were selected as the stars of the game."

■ **September 13, 1981:** Team Canada is all over Tretiak in the one-game Canada Cup final, but the hot goalie makes the home team lose all composure. Soviets win their only Canada Cup title by stomping Canada 8-1. "I really loved playing at the Forum because there was no place in the world where the fans knew their hockey as well as in Montreal. It was very emotional for me."

■ Today, Vladislav Tretiak does not need to ask any's permission when he travels once a month to Chicago where he is the goalie consultant for the Blackhawks. He has been with the organisation for eleven years and he will, of course, be back as a goaltender coach for Team Russia in Salt Lake City, just as he was in Nagano four years ago.

"Nikolai Khabibulin will most probably be our number one goalie", says Tretiak.

Will he be the new Tretiak?

"I hope so."

Vladislav does not want to say that, but we know his dream scenario. It is the first time the Olympic Winter Games return to the USA since Lake Placid 1980. Tretiak, still a fierce competitor, wants his Russia against

Team USA and coach Herb Brooks in the gold medal game. Twenty two years after he was humiliated by his own coach, Tretiak wants nothing more than to be part of a team which defeats USA in an Olympic final on American ice. It is the only thing that can make Tretiak forget about 1980. At least for a while.

NB. Vladislav Tretiak was voted the "Best Russian Hockey Player of the 20th Century" in 2000. He played every minute of the eight game series in 1972 vs Canada without letting in a bad goal. He lists Jacques Plante as the best goalie ever and Viktor Konovalenko as the best European goalie he has seen.

TRETIK, Vladislav Aleksandrovich
Born: April 25, 1952 in Dmitrovo, Soviet Union.

Olympic champion: 1972, 1976, 1984.
Silver medalist: 1980.

IIHF World Champion: 1970, 71, 73, 74, 75, 78, 79, 81, 82 and 83. **Silver medalist:** 1972, 1976. **Bronze medalist:** 1977.

Canada Cup champion: 1981.

■ 117 games in IIHF World Championships and Olympic Winter Games. Goaltender consultant for the NHL Chicago Blackhawks. President of a Moscow sports academy which bears his name.

■ Resides in Moscow with his wife Tatiana and their two children, Dmitri and Irina.

