

News Release

FAIR PLAY
AND RESPECT



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IIHF President René Fasel in an interview on the state of the game:



Photo: JAN DÜSING

FORMAT NEEDS SOME POLISH: IIHF President René Fasel wants to stay with 16 teams in the top group of the World Championship, but concedes that the championship format needs an overlook. "But if we change, we must be sure that it is for the better."

"Competing by overpaying doesn't work"

René, according to you, which are the most pressing issues in the hockey world today?

- In no specific order: to find the best possible format for the men's senior's World Championship which is our core business; future co-operation with the NHL and NHLPA, which virtually decides Olympic participation; and finally, club hockey in Europe. Although the leagues in Europe compensate the constant migration of players very well, I have some concerns regarding financial responsibility. Some leagues or clubs try to compete with the NHL by overpaying the players. That's not possible in the long run.

Why is a re-launch of the EHL vital for the IIHF?

- I don't think it's vital for the IIHF itself. It's more important for hockey in Europe in general. It's the most natural instinct in sport - to have the desire to compete against the best. It's important for the clubs to broaden their horizon and it's important for the fans to get a feel for international club competition. Good international competition is always better than good domestic competition. A healthy and competitive EHL

can also make several players stay in Europe instead of going overseas.

Do you feel that the EHL should be a permanent league where clubs leave their domestic competition and only play in the EHL, or should it be more of soccer's Champions League style league where they compete in both?

- I don't think we are ready for a permanent league yet. According to me it should be more or less a Champions League style league.

How do you envision the 2006 Olympic hockey tournament in Turin, with or without NHL-participation?

- Honestly, I can live with both. But of course, after the outstanding tournament in Salt Lake City, I will do my best to have the NHL and NHLPA with us. I see that as my duty as the President of the IIHF. But if it doesn't work out, we will have a great tournament anyway, just like we had in Albertville 1992 and in Lillehammer 1994.

Continued on page 5

We're the champions of the world

All national (men's) champions from IIHF national associations



Australia: Adelaide Avalanche
Austria: EC Heraklith VSV
Belarus: Keramin Minsk
Belgium: Phantoms Deurne
Bosnia & H: Competition starts 02/03
Bulgaria: Slavia Sofia
Canada: Toronto Maple Leafs (highest ranked Canadian NHL-team)
Kootenay Ice (Memorial Cup Champions)
Le Garaga de Saint-George (Allan Cup Champions)

China: Harbin
Chinese Taipei: Husky
Croatia: KHL Medvescak Zagreb
Czech Republic: Sparta Praha
Denmark: Rungsted IK
Estonia: Vääk 494
Finland: Jokerit Helsinki
France: Reims
Germany: Kolner Haie
Great Britain: Sheffield Steelers
Hungary: Alba Volan
Iceland: Skautafélag Akureyri
Ireland: Dublin Flyers
Israel: HC Maalot
Italy: Milano Vipers
Japan: Kokudo Tokyo
Kazakhstan: Kazzinc-Torpedo
Korea: Halla Winia
Latvia: Liepajas Metalurgs
Lithuania: Garsu Pasaulis Vilnius
Luxembourg: Tornado Luxembourg
Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur Barracudas
Mexico: Distrito Federal I
Mongolia: Economical University
Netherlands: Tigers Amsterdam
New Zealand: Auckland
Norway: Frisk-Asker
Poland: Unia Oswiecim
Portugal: No competition 01-02
Romania: Steaua Bucuresti
Russia: Lokomotiv Yaroslavl
Singapore: Continental Wings
Slovakia: Slovan Bratislava
Slovenia: Olimpija Ljubljana
South Africa: AMA-Horney Pretoria
Spain: FC Barcelona
Sweden: Farjestads BK
Switzerland: HC Davos
Thailand: Chevron Canstar
Turkey: Ankara Spor Kulubu
Ukraine: HC Bercut
Utd Arab Emirates: Al Wahda Abu Dhabi
USA: Detroit Red Wings (Stanley Cup champions)
University of Minnesota (NCAA Champion)
Yugoslavia: Vojvodina Novi Sad



GREAT BRITAIN: Steelers celebrate their second consecutive championship



SWEDEN: Farjestad with golden helmets



SPAIN: And you thought FC Barcelona only played soccer...

ITALY:
Alessandro
Rotolo of
champions
Milano
Vipers



Chinese officials visit IIHF to discuss long range plans



Emerging hockey power: Four high ranked officials and one Olympic gold medalist visited the IIHF Zurich office on August 19 to discuss the development of ice hockey in China, which is the biggest emerging hockey market in the world. The capital city of Beijing will host the 2002 IIHF World Women Championship and Harbin is one of eight applicants to hold the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. From left: Ji Junfeng, Chinese Ice Hockey Federation, Zhu Chengyi, member of the Chinese Olympic Committee, Dave Fitzpatrick, IIHF Sports Director, Ms. Ye Caiyun, Vice President Chinese Ice Hockey Association, René Fasel, IIHF President, Yang A Yang, double gold medalist in Speed Saking at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, Jan-Ake Edvinsson, IIHF Gen. Secretary and Li Chunyuan, Vice President Chinese Ice Hockey Association.

GERMANY WANTS 2007 CHAMPIONSHIP: On August 20, 2002 the IIHF officially received the candidature from the German Ice Hockey Association to organize the 2007 IIHF World Championship. Other applicants for that year's tournament are Canada and Sweden. The allocation of the 2007 championship will be decided during the 2003 IIHF General Congress in Marbella, Spain. If Germany will not be awarded the 2007 championship, their bid will be applicable for 2008. The only other 2008 applicant right now is Switzerland.

IIHF News & Appointments

Gunda Bossel is the new secretary to Hannes Ederer, Deputy General Secretary and Director of Administration.

Gunda is 28 years old, finished business school in Baden in 1993 and since then worked in different sectors, mostly in the travel business. Gunda joined the IIHF on August 15th.



The official IIHF Yearbook 2002-2003 can be ordered now

A must for every hockey fan, a writer who is on the hockey beat, any national association office, or top level coach or manager. This comprehensive guide gives you information about every national member association within the IIHF family, final standings and other stats from all IIHF World Championships and from all national leagues all over the world. From the major leagues, you will find complete team-by-team statistics from the previous season, lists of all-time champions and other historical data. You can order your copy by sending an advance check payment to: IIHF, Brandschenkestrasse 50, 8002 Zurich, Switzerland (as of October 1). Price: USD 20.- (overseas), CHF 26.-



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Cesar W. Lüthi

IIHF mourns long time associate Cesar W. Lüthi

The long time partner of the International Ice Hockey Federation, **Cesar W. Lüthi** passed away early Thursday morning of 18 July 2002, in his home in Switzerland after a long period of illness. Cesar W. Lüthi was 71 years old.

"We have lost a great friend and an outstanding person", said IIHF President René Fasel. "The International Ice Hockey Federation owes Mr. Lüthi a lot".

Cesar W. Lüthi was born on September 6, 1930 in Wohlen, Switzerland. His early employments included being a managing director of Gloria, a company in the field of marketing and advertising. The very first time Lüthi was involved in board advertising business was to supply the advertising to the World Rowing Championship in Bled, Yugoslavia back in 1966.

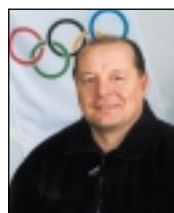
Six year later he founded his own company "Cesar W. Lüthi, Marketing and Sales Promotion" and rapidly pioneered the so-called rolling board advertising. A few years later CWL Telesport and Marketing AG was founded, and the inaugural contract with the IIHF was established in 1981 for the board advertising sales at the IIHF World Championship in Sweden in the same spring. The contract between CWL Telesport and Marketing AG and the IIHF was later extended to cover the television right sales as well. In 2000 Lüthi sold his company to KirchSport AG, the current rights holder of the IIHF World Championship television and advertising rights.

As an avid sport fan Lüthi soon became a familiar person in the international family of ice hockey. His contributions to the game of ice hockey was recognised by the IIHF when he was inducted to the IIHF Hall of Fame in 1998. Dr. h.c. Cesar W. Lüthi was a recipient of the Olympic Order and an honorary member of the International Ice Hockey Federation. Cesar will be missed by his wife Eva and two daughters.

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Boris Alexandrov, the Head Coach of the Kazakhstan national team died in a car accident on July 31, 2002, not far from the city of Ufa (Russia).

Alexandrov, 47, was on his way to Moscow when his car was involved in a head-on collision with an oncoming vehicle. He was a member of the Soviet gold medal team in the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck and represented the mighty CSKA Moscow in the 70s.



Boris Alexandrov

Aleksandrov scored the tying goal for CSKA Moscow in the 1975 New Year's Classic with the Montreal Canadiens. The 3-3-game is still considered as best ever played between two club teams.

From 1995 on, he was the head coach of the Torpedo Ust-Kamenogorsk elite team and the national team of Kazakhstan.

Alexandrov will be missed by his wife Zhanna and his two sons, Alan and Viktor, who both are hockey players.

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After a bitter six-year feud, the CSKA Moscow hockey club is back as one entity, but with a slightly different

name. In 1996, amid accusations between two rival groups, the club was split into two teams. One retained the original name while the other, which played in the lower division, took the name HC CSKA Moscow. HC was led by former national team coach, the legendary **Viktor Tichonov**.

Tichonov, 72, will again be the head coach of the merged club, which will play in the Russian Hockey League. CSKA won 32 national championships between 1948 and 1989. The club was relegated from the RHL after the 2001-2002-season while HC CSKA Moscow was promoted from the minor league. Czechs Dusan Salficky, Miloslav Guren and Michal Straka have all signed with CSKA for the upcoming season.



Never too old

One week after the merger, the relegated CSKA Moscow was dismantled. The team, which was supposed to play in the minor league, was recalled from a pre-season tournament in Nizhni Novgorod and the players were told that only five on the 30-man roster would be retained.

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Kjell Nilsson was elected as the new President of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association on June 15, 2002.

Nilsson, 59, replaces Rickard Fagerlund who decided not to run for a new term after 19 years at the helm of Swedish hockey.



New boss in Sweden

Nilsson has played in the Swedish league for AIK and Rogle and was selected on nine occasions for international games with *Tre Kronor*, the national team. After his playing career Nilsson worked as minor and junior coach and made a civil career with the Swedish armed forces.

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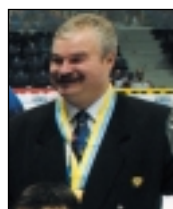
Dr. Kalt re-elected

Dr. Dieter Kalt was re-elected as President of the Austrian Ice Hockey Federation on June 22, 2002, for a four-year term.

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Vladimir Plyushev knows how to win world junior titles for Russia. Now he will have to prove that he can do it with the big boys as well. On August 7, 2002, the Russian Ice Hockey Federation announced that Plyushev is replacing Boris Michailov as Head Coach of the national team, the "Zbornaya".

The 47-year old Plyushev led Russia to gold at the 2001 IIHF World U18 Championship in Finland and at the 2002 World U20 Championship in Czech Republic. Plyushev played for CSKA Moscow as a junior and spent parts of his senior career at Dynamo Moscow. Apart from his assignments with the Russian junior program, Plyushev has been the assistant coach of major league club Ak Bars Kazan.



Vladimir Plyushev

Plyushev also has a background as an agent for the former KGB. "I worked for 13 years with the department for terrorism prevention" Plyushev told the Moscow based paper Sport-Express. Russian hockey

observers seem to agree that he is the right man for the job since he is on the same wavelength as the young crop of players who could represent Russia at the 2006 Olympics in Turin.

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While Plyushev goes from juniors to seniors, USA's **Lou Vairo** takes the opposite route. On July 19, 2002, USA Hockey named the 57-year old Vairo as Head Coach of the 2003 USA U20 national team, which will compete in the World U20 Championship in Canada (Halifax and Sydney, December 26, 2002 - January 5, 2003).

Vairo's coaching experience with the U.S. national junior team dates back to 1977, when he served as an assistant during the inaugural IIHF World U20 Championship in the former Czechoslovakia. He later guided the United States entry as head coach for four straight years, from 1979-82. In February Vairo served as an assistant coach of the silver medal-winning 2002 U.S. Olympic men's team at the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Vairo also coached Team USA at the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden.



Lou goes for gold

Team USA will be one of the favourites in Nova Scotia. The core of the U18 team which won the gold medal at the 2002 U18 World Championship in Slovakia, has graduated to Vairo's U20 squad.

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Anders Hedberg, the General Manager of the Swedish national team program for the last two years, is back in the NHL. On August 1, 2002, the Ottawa Senators announced that they have signed Hedberg for three years as Director of Player Personal.



Senator Hedberg

"I know the player market, I know hockey," Hedberg said. "It's a wonderful combination of desk work and live hockey."

Hedberg played seven years in the NHL and, before returning to Swedish hockey for two years, he held the job as an assistant general manager in the Toronto Maple Leaf organization.

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Johnny Misley has been named the Canadian Hockey Association's Vice-President, Hockey Operations, the CHA announced on August 1, 2002.

Since 1998, the position of "CHA Vice-President, Hockey position" (Tom Renney 1998-2000, Wayne Fleming 2000-2002) has included the position of Head Coach of Canada's National Men's Team. The Vice-President, Hockey Operations position that Misley has been named for, will not have a coaching component or capacity for any of Canada's National Teams.

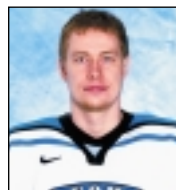
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Former Finnish star **Jari Gronstrand** has been appointed head coach of the Australian national team. The defender played 188 games in the NHL with 4 teams (Minnesota North Stars, NY Rangers, Quebec Nordiques and NY Islanders). He ended his playing career in France with Reims in 1997.

This year's crop of hopefuls

European players who have signed with NHL teams during the 2002 off-season

April 22, Tomas Plekanec	(CZE), 20, F.	From HC Kladno to Montreal Canadiens
May 8, Igor Radulov	(RUS), 20, F.	From St. Petersburg to Chicago Blackhawks
May 16, Henrik Zetterberg	(SWE), 22, F.	From Timrå IK to Detroit Red Wings
May 31, Filip Novak	(CZE), 20, D.	From Regina Pats to Florida Panthers
June 3, Rastislav Pavlikovsky	(SVK), 25, F.	From HV71 (SWE) to Minnesota Wild
June 3, Jonathan Hedstrom	(SWE), 25, F.	From Luleå to Anaheim Mighty Ducks
June 17, Alexander Svitov	(RUS), 19, F.	From Avangard Omsk to Tampa Bay
June 18, Alexei Smirnov	(RUS), 20, F.	From CSKA Moskva to Anaheim
June 18, Martin Samuelsson	(SWE), 20, F.	From Hammarby to Boston Bruins
June 26, Lasse Pirjeta	(FIN), 28, F.	From Karpat Oulu to Columbus Blue Jackets
June 28, Fredrik Sjöström	(SWE), 19, F.	From Frolunda (via Calgary, WHL) to Phoenix
July 2, Nils Ekman	(SWE), 26, F.	From Djurgården to NY Rangers
July 2, Tomi Pettinen	(FIN), 25, D.	From Ilves Tampere to NY Islanders
July 3, Petr Cajanek	(CZE), 26, F.	From HC Zlín to St. Louis Blues
July 3, Alexei Komarov	(RUS), 24, D.	From Spartak Moskva to Dallas Stars
July 3, Mattias Weinhandl	(SWE), 22, F.	From Modo to NY Islanders
July 10, Cristóbal Huet	(FRA), 26, G.	From Lugano (SUI) to Los Angeles Kings
July 10, Tom Koivisto	(FIN), 29, D.	From Jokerit Helsinki to St. Louis Blues
July 11, Martin Chabada	(CZE), 25, F.	From Sparta Praha to NY Islanders
July 11, Pauli Levokari	(FIN), 23, D.	From IFK Helsinki to Atlanta Thrashers
July 12, Christian Bäckman	(SWE), 22, D.	From Frolunda (SWE) to St. Louis Blues
July 13, Anton Kadeykin	(RUS), 18, D.	From Elektrostal to New Jersey Devils
July 13, Krisjanis Redlihs	(LAT), 21, D.	From Liepāja Rīga to New Jersey Devils
July 13, Matus Kostur	(SVK), 22, G.	From HKM Zvolen to New Jersey Devils
July 13, Rickard Wallin	(SWE), 22, F.	From Farjestad to Minnesota Wild
July 13, Mathias Johansson	(SWE), 28, F.	From Farjestad to Calgary Flames
July 13, Anton Volchenkov	(RUS), 20, D.	From Krylia Sovetov to Ottawa Senators
July 14, Kari Haakana	(FIN), 28, D.	From Jokerit to Edmonton Oilers
July 14, Kristian Antila	(FIN), 22, G.	From Assat Pori to Edmonton Oilers
July 15, Radoslav Hecl	(SVK), 28, D.	From Slovan Bratislava to Buffalo Sabres
July 15, Dennis Seidenberg	(GER), 21, D.	From Adler Mannheim to Philadelphia Flyers
July 15, Konstantin Koltsov	(BLR), 21, F.	From Neftekhimik Nizhnekamsk (RUS) to Pittsburgh
July 15, Vladimir Vujtek	(CZE), 30, F.	From HPK Hämeenlinna (FIN) to Pittsburgh Penguins
July 15, Alexander Frolov	(RUS), 20, F.	From Krylya Sovetov to LA Kings
July 15, Aleksei Shkotov	(RUS), 18, F.	From Elektrostal to St. Louis Blues
July 15, Martin Gerber	(SUI), 27, G.	From Farjestad (SWE) to Anaheim Mighty Ducks
July 15, Dmitri Bykov	(RUS), 25, D.	From AK Bars Kazan to Detroit Red Wings
July 15, Tony Martensson	(SWE), 22, F.	From Brynäs to Anaheim Mighty Ducks
July 15, Stanislav Chistov	(RUS), 19, F.	From Avangard Omsk to Anaheim Mighty Ducks
July 15, Jan Tabáček	(SVK), 22, D.	From Slovan Bratislava to Anaheim Mighty Ducks
July 15, Tony Salmelainen	(FIN), 21, F.	From Ilves Tampere to Edmonton Oilers
July 16, Pavel Rosa	(CZE), 25, F.	From Jokerit Helsinki (FIN) to Los Angeles Kings
July 19, Ivan Majesky	(SVK), 25, D.	From Ilves Tampere to Florida Panthers
July 23, Sergei Klyazmin	(RUS), 20, F.	From Dynamo M. (via Halifax, QMJHL) to Colorado
July 30, Richard Lintner	(SVK), 25, D.	From Modo (SWE) to NY Rangers



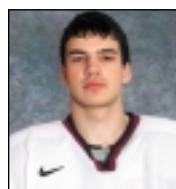
Pirjeta: From Finnish blue to Blue Jackets



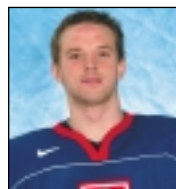
Zetterberg: Takes off with the Red Wings



Seidenberg: Takes a Flyer in Philly



Redlihs: Latvian becomes Devil



Lintner: Slovak hits Broadway

CONTINENTAL CUP 02-03

First Round

September 20 - 22

Group A

Barcelona, ESP
KHNL Zagreb, CRO
Riga 2000, LAT
Tilburg Trappers, NED

Group B

Amsterdam Tigers, NED
CH Jaca 2010, ESP
Kazzinc Torpedo, KAZ
Vojvodina Novi Sad, YUG

Group C

Acroni Jesenice, SLO
Medvescak, CRO
Progm Apicom, RUM
BB Ankara, TUR

Group D

Slavia Sofia, BUL
Crvena Zvezda, Beograd, YUG
Dunafer, HUN
HC Maalot, ISR

Group E

Alba Volan, HUN
HK Bled, SLO
Energija Elektrenai, LTU
Steaua Bucuresti, ROM

Second Round

October 18 - 20

Group F

HC Rouen, FRA
Ayr Scottish Eagles, GBR
Storhamar Dragons, NOR
Winner "A"

Group G

GKS Katowice, POL
EHC Linz, AUT
GMH 38 Grenoble, FRA
Winner "B"

Group H

Liepajas Metalurgs, LAT
Jukurit Mikkeli, FIN
Sokol Kiev, UKR
Winner "C"

Group I

Unia Oswiecim, POL
Khimvolokno-Mogilev, BLR
Winner "D"
Winner "E"

Third Round

November 22 - 24

Group J

Valerenga IF, NOR
Belfast Giants, GBR
Winner "F"
Winner "G"

Group K

HC Asiago, ITA
HC Keramin Minsk, BLR
HDD Olimpija Ljubljana, SLO
Winner "H"

Group L

Slovan Bratislava, SVK
VSV Villach, AUT
Bercut Kyiv, UKR
Winner "I"
■ Allocated organizer of group is marked in bold.

Top ranked Euro teams to play reshaped Continental Cup Super Final

The IIHF Continental Cup, Europe's prime club competition has adopted a new structure for the Final Round. Instead of a four-team playoff, the 2003 IIHF Continental Cup will have a one week-end (January 10-12) final stage with eight teams divided into two groups.

The Super Final group games will be played in Lugano, Switzerland and Milan, Italy with the Gold Medal Game scheduled for Lugano on January 12.

Together with the hosting clubs HC Lugano and HC Milano Vipers (last year's Continental Cup runners-up) the following teams are seeded directly to the finals: Lokomotiv Yaroslavl (Russian champions), Jokerit Helsinki (Finnish champions) and HC Davos (Swiss champions).

Other champion teams from European leagues will play for the remaining three spots among the top eight.

"We believe that this format will increase the quality and the prestige of the Continental Cup", says IIHF President René Fasel. "Several observers believe that Lokomotiv Yaroslavl is the best club team in Europe. This is the stage where they can prove it."

Former winners of the IIHF Continental Cup: 1997 Kosice, SVK, 1998 Ambri-Piotta, SUI, 1999 Ambri Piotta, SUI, 2000 ZSC Zurich Lions, SUI, 2001 ZSC Zurich, Lions.

Super Final Competition Format

Group M

HC Davos, SUI, HC Lugano, SUI, Lokomotiv Yaroslavl, RUS, Winner "J"
HC Lugano appointed organizer

Group N

HC Milano Vipers, ITA, Jokerit Helsinki, FIN, Winner "K", Winner "L".
HC Milano Vipers appointed organizer

January 10 (in Milan)

Game 1 HC Milano - Winner Pool "K" 16.30
 Game 2 Jokerit Helsinki - Winner Pool "L" 20.00

January 10 (in Lugano)

Game 3 HC Lugano - Winner Pool J
 Game 4 HC Davos - Lokomotiv Yaroslavl

January 11 (in Milan)

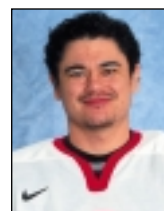
Game 5 Loser Game 1 - Loser Game 2 16.30
 Game 6 Winner Game 1 - Winner Game 2 20.00

January 11 (in Lugano)

Game 7 Loser Game 3 - Loser Game 4 16.30
 Game 8 Winner Game 3 - Winner Game 4 20.00

January 12 (tentative allocation of the games)

Game 9 (in Milan) Loser Game 5 - Loser Game 7 17.00 (Place 7 - 8)
 Game 10 (in Lugano) Winner Game 5 - Winner Game 7 TBA (Place 5 - 6)
 Game 11 (in Milan) Loser Game 6 - Loser Game 8 14.00 (Bronze Medal)
 Game 12 (in Lugano) Winner Game 6 - Winner Game 8 20.30 (Gold Medal)



Japanese Giant: Can newly recruited Ryan Kuwabara of Japan help the Belfast Giants to the CC-Super Final?



Referees: Quality over passport

Continued from page 1

Around 45 players left the European leagues for the NHL this off-season as opposed to 73 the year before. How do you comment that on decrease, do you think we see a trend?

- I am very pleased. The GM's of the NHL teams probably understand that they can not stock their

teams with too many Europeans. There are 300 Europeans playing there already. I hope that next year there will be even less players leaving. Despite the great education programs in Europe, I simply can not imagine that you can send over 50 highly qualified players every year. Some of the players leaving this year could hardly make it on to their European teams and some are even from lower divisions. I still feel that many players go over too soon. If you want to work on your skills, you would be better to do it in Europe than in the NHL.

This is really not on the IIHF agenda, but what are your thoughts regarding the possible labour conflict if the NHL and the NHLPA cannot agree on a new bargaining agreement before it expires in 2004?

- In the best interest of the game, I hope they'll find a way. But I prefer to mind our own business.

But can that have any ramifications on the international game and can a labour conflict affect the re-negotiations of the next IIHF-NHL agreement which also expires in 2004?

- Almost everything in the hockey world is intertwined, so of course it will affect us. Hockey will suffer. My simple philosophy is to always find the best possible solution. But as I said, our duties go beyond the NHL. Our program is the most important.

The whole world was watching the soccer World Cup earlier this summer?

"I am really happy that we are not as conservative as soccer"

Can hockey learn something from the global game?

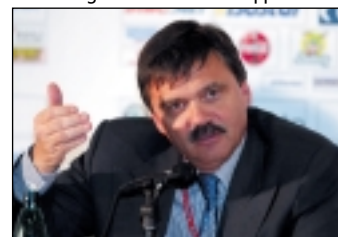
- I am a big sports fan and soccer at this level is great entertainment. We can always learn, but this World Cup left me with a feeling that we are much more progressive than soccer on some important issues. The World Cup proved that the best referee must officiate the game, regardless of his or her nationality. To start looking for referees from a neutral continent proved to be a bad idea. We had a Canadian referee doing the Canada-USA Olympic men's final. No one complained. He did a great job because he was the best. Competence and not your passport must be the bottom line. Watching the World Cup, I was also very pleased with us using the video replay for disputed goals.

Back to hockey. The IIHF is in a process of evaluating the World Championship format. What do you think will come out of it?

- The final decision will be made by Congress next year in Spain. Personally I feel we should stay with 16 teams and face the problems we have with the second round. We must find a way. But if we change, we must be sure we are changing for the better. Just changing for the sake of it confuses the fans.

We have great season coming up with the World U20 Championship in Canada, World Women's Championship in China and the Men's Senior's World Championship in Finland? What are your thoughts and your hopes?

- The first feeling I get is that we have a game with a great international appeal. I mean, first we go to Canada where Halifax already has sold out virtually every game, then we cross the globe and go over to China which is a phenomenal emerging hockey market, and then to Finland which holds the all time world championship attendance record from 1997 with over 500,000 fans. The Finns are really crazy about their hockey. All that makes me feel that we have the best game in the world.



Numbers game: Should stay with 16

It's been 30 years since Henderson scored THE GOAL

■ September 28, 2002 marks the 30-year anniversary of game 8 of the 1972 Summit Series between Team Canada and the Soviet Union, the most intriguing match-up in the history of hockey. Whatever one thinks of the series and of how it influenced the future of the game, this is probably the only thing we can be sure of - there will never be anything like it again.

This series had no official title at stake, no trophy and no medals. It boiled down to the most essential incentives and basic instincts - national pride and the desire to be the best. It was a head-on collision of two totally different sport traditions, hockey cultures and, this should never be underestimated, two vastly different political systems.

■ This mix created an atmosphere and flow of emotions maybe never before experienced in either hockey or any other team sports. This series, which started with game one in Montreal on September 2, 1972 and ended in Moscow 26 days later, was - to say the least - highly competitive.

Nothing describes the emotions better than the comments made several years later by Phil Esposito, Team Canada's MVP in that series: "It scares the hell out of me when I think about it now, but I was prepared to kill to win that series".

There were no killings, of course, but at least one premeditated attack with clear intent to injure. In game 6, the second in Moscow, Team Canada's assistant coach John Ferguson gave instructions to Bobby Clarke to do something about

Valeri Kharlamov, the Soviet star whom Team Canada simply couldn't contain. Clarke whacked Kharlamov with a vicious slash, breaking his ankle. The Soviet's where quick to learn and respond. Boris Michailov kicked Canadian defenseman Gary Bergman so hard that he bloodied his leg - through the shin pads.

■ But if you exclude the extremes, it was a series which



Photo: DENIS BRODEUR

Canada's biggest moment: Paul Henderson scores the winning 6-5 goal in game 8 of the '72 Series with 34 seconds left. Yvan Courmoyer hugs Henderson. No matter how many gold medals Canada wins in other competitions, for most Canadians nothing will ever match this defining moment. Goalie Vladislav Tretiak is on his back, Valeri Vasilyev (6), Vladimir Shadrin (19) and Yuri Liapkin (25) are too late.

was a thrill to every hockey fan, and the eight-game match-up definitely shaped the future of the game. North

Americans re-discovered the finer aspects of the game, things which were lost during the many years of international isolation. Team Canada found out the hard way that there was another way of playing the game than "bang-it-in-chase-the-damn-thing-and-shoot".

The Soviets learned too. Defensive positioning, using the boards as a sixth player, aggressiveness, charging the net, and face-off skills were standard Canadian qualities which the Soviet's later adopted.

Many observers feel that just as the 1958 Soccer World Cup marks the start of modern soccer, it was the 1972 Summit Series that was the beginning of modern, international hockey.

■ Despite being painfully ill-prepared and overconfident without reason, Team Canada overcame the initial 7-3-shocker in Montreal to slowly work themselves back into the series. But the Canadians were still in a position where they had to win all the three last games in Moscow to win the summit.

Amazingly, they did. 4-3, 3-2 and 6-5 - all three game winners scored by Paul Henderson and the last one 34 seconds before the end. The series was incredible, breathtaking, sometimes scary, but thrilling beyond belief and it left everybody breathless.

It's been thirty years now, but for those of us who saw those games, we will never forget. And we better not, because there will never

be anything like it. Ever.

SZYMON SZEMBERG

Montreal's Victoria Skating Rink -

From Medicine Hat to New York City. From Jaca in Spain to Lappeenranta, Finland. From Cape Town, South Africa to Adelaide in Australia. From Omsk in Russia to Ornskoldsvik, Sweden. All rinks all over the

world are 60 meters long because this is the distance between Drummond and Stanley, two Montreal streets, where they had to squeeze in a rink in the mid-1800s. This is the remarkable story about how the game of hockey was born.

By Andrew Podnieks

■ As a sport, hockey has a number of distinguishing features. It is contested on ice by players wearing skates. They use something called sticks to whack an object called a puck, and the purpose of the sport is for each of the two teams to try to put the puck into the other's goal.

A game of hockey is overseen by a referee who calls fouls based on a list of rules that govern play. Each game lasts a pre-determined period of time and is performed before spectators who come specifically to watch the playing of the game.

Until all of these criteria have been met, it is impossible to say that a game of hockey, as we today know it, has been played. Obviously, the above-mentioned features developed over a period of many years, but the start of this development can be traced to one date in particular, March 3, 1875, and one place - the Victoria Skating Rink in Montreal -- for that was the night the "game" of hockey moved indoors and started to develop into a "sport."

Previously, certain features of skating and hockey had been documented elsewhere and much earlier. We know, for instance, that even thousands of years ago pre-civilized Man made blades of some crude sort, affixed them to the under-sides of their boots, and glided along ice. We know from painting, most famously the Brueghels in the mid-1500s, that outdoor, winter parties held in northern Europe routinely featured people "skating" on frozen bodies of water.

■ It wasn't until the 19th century, in Canada, that anything formal developed from those skating parties and casual ice glidings. Long Pond, Nova Scotia and Windsor, Nova Scotia both rightfully claim that hurley and shinty were played in the early 1800s outdoors on ice, variations of the land games known to the Irish in previous times. And in 1843, a British army officer, Arthur Freeling, stationed in Kingston, Ontario, wrote in his diary that he "had great fun at hockey on the ice."

All of these events are vital to the genesis of the game in its most embryonic form, but on March 3, 1875, a notice in the Montreal Gazette (see beside) announced the playing of a game at the Victoria Rink that would become an historic starting point in hockey on several counts.

The announcement itself gave formal meaning to hockey as a sport. All previous references to hockey or any other stick-and-ball game on ice were informal and suggested it was considered a winter activity no different from snowshoeing or tobogganing or throwing snowballs. The Gazette notice clearly announces that players and public had to prepare for an event called hockey.

■ More important, this was the first recorded mention of a hockey game being played indoors. The wording of the notice assumes a familiarity with the term hockey, but the announcement also suggests that this was the first time the game had been played in the Rink. For the modern fan, it is impossible to consider hockey as a sport unless it is played within an enclosed or confined area. It is also tough to imagine today how radical a suggestion it must have been at the time for the players to convince the Rink's management to permit such a game!

The strip of land between Stanley and Drummond streets was where the Victoria Skating Rink was built in 1862. It quickly became one of the more fashionable places in the city where wealthy English Montrealers could skate and hold winter parties-Carnival nights, they were called -- on ice.

The Rink was used by the most distinguished members of society and featured skating balls that were as opulent as any party in a Montreal mansion. The Rink was illuminated by some 500 gas jets, and the rafters were adorned with glittering bunting and spinning glass globes that reflected the many streams of light from the jets. After fancy-dress balls, the Rink was best known for figure skating, and Montreal became the capital in Canada for that sport in its earliest days.

The Rink's ice surface was a rectangle instead of the usual oval of the outdoor rinks in the city. The area of this shape measured 202 feet by 80 feet, the distance from Stanley to Drummond streets, and almost the exact measurements of any standard North American hockey rink from that day to this!

■ Equally important was mention that the players would use "a flat circular piece of wood" rather than a ball, to ensure the safety of the patrons watching the game and the preservation of the beautiful glass around the interior of the Rink. This was, without a shadow of a doubt, the first reference to an object called a "puck"-- even before the word existed!

The Victoria Skating Rink featured a gallery area for spectators that was built only a foot above the ice surface and which could accommodate

some 1,500 people. It was conceived initially to allow those attending balls and parties to be near the ice though not necessarily on it, the ice becoming, in one sense, a dance floor. On March 3, 1875, the dancers became hockey players, and the crowd, rather than intermingling with the dancers as people would normally do at a party, became wholly observers to the on-ice proceedings. For the first time, a hockey game had "fans" in attendance: The only purpose for their being there was to watch the game.

■ This Montreal hockey match was no makeshift entertainment of one large group of men smacking a ball along frozen water for mere pleasure and diversion. This game featured two organized "teams" of nine men each ready to compete against each other, and both teams had captains. Each team defended a goal that was made by flags spaced eight feet apart, and in the Gazette the next day not only was there a review of the game but the score of the game was mentioned! Captain Creighton's team beat Captain Torrance's by two "games" (i.e., goals) to one. This was also, then, the first recorded score in a hockey competition of any sort.

Of course, even that historic hockey match was still in many ways a nascent form of today's game, but virtually every development of hockey took place in Montreal as a direct result of that Creighton vs. Torrance match. Within two years, teams had reduced in size to seven men a side. The Gazette published the first ever set of rules for hockey in its paper of February 27, 1877, just days after the first formal organization of a hockey "team" had been made by the McGill club. By 1879, again in Montreal, referees and umpires appeared, and the sport was on its way to becoming organized and league-oriented.

The great importance of Long Pond and Windsor, in Nova Scotia, and Kingston, in Ontario, to the development of the game cannot be denied and should not be ignored or demeaned. But, the birthplace of hockey as a sport is unquestionably the Victoria Skating Rink, that tiny plot of closed-in ice between Stanley and Drummond streets in the heart of Montreal where it all began.

VICTORIA RINK. --A game of Hockey will be played at the Victoria Skating Rink this evening, between two nines chosen from among the members. Good fun may be expected, as some of the players are reputed to be exceedingly expert at the game. Some fears have been expressed on the part of intending spectators that accidents were likely to occur through the ball flying about in too lively a manner, to the imminent danger of lookers on, but we understand that the game will be played with a flat circular piece of wood, thus preventing all danger of its leaving the surface of the ice. Subscribers will be admitted on presentation of their tickets.

THE FIRST HOCKEY PREVIEW: *This wonderful note appeared in the Montreal Gazette on March 3, 1875, announcing the historic game which would take place later that evening.*



this is where it all began in 1875



Photo: HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

IT'S HOCKEY, ALL RIGHT: The Victoria Skating Rink in the late 1800s and two Montreal teams square off in front of a bemused crowd. They played with teams of nine-a-side, the boards were not invented and the goal posts were made by flags. This is more or less how it looked like when Captain Creighton's McGill team beat Captain Torrance's Victoria team 2-1 on March 3, 1875 - the first organized game of hockey. There is no photo or a drawing depicting that game.



Photo: NOTMAN ARCHIVES & MCGILL UNIVERSITY

THE FIRST SHOT: This is the first known photo of a group of athletes who called themselves a hockey team and wore hockey uniforms. It is the 1881 McGill University Club and the photo is taken at the Crystal Palace Skating Rink in Montreal on February 28, 1881.



Photo: CHARLOTTA SZEMBERG

JUST WHERE THE RINK ONCE STOOD: A car rental centre is placed on the very spot where the Victoria Skating Rink once was. The building still has a shape of a smaller hockey arena. The photo is taken from Stanley Street. On the other side of the building is Drummond Street. The distance between those streets is approximately 60 metres, or 200 feet. The Victoria rink had thus to be confined within those limits. Ice hockey, as we know it today, was taking shape.

Andrew Podnieks, who contributed with this story specially for the IIHF News Release, is a Toronto-based hockey historian. He has written numerous books on hockey, most recently *Canadian Gold 2002: Making Hockey History* (Fenn Publishing) and *A Day in the Life of the Leafs* (HarperCollins). Podnieks is also frequently associated with the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.



IIHF Camp gives emerging region a huge boost

■ The first Asian Oceania Regional Hockey Development Camp was an outstanding success. Eleven member national associations (Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Mongolia, Singapore and Thailand) sent representatives to the camp held in Karuizawa, Japan from July 20 to 26.

Altogether, 68 players, 10 team coaches, 8 game officials, 29 national association coaching, officiating and Learn to Play instructors plus equipment managers, team managers, medical staff, IIHF Instructors and operational personnel participated in the seven day program.

■ IIHF Vice President and camp Chairman, Shoichi Tomita, had been a driving force behind the organization of the camp. Asian Oceania Committee members Ji Junfeng (CHN) and Chung Woon-ik (KOR) worked diligently with the committee Chairman in making this camp a reality. Masaru Seino and Yuko Teramae from the Japan Ice Hockey Federation assisted in the organisation of the camp and managed the daily operations.

The 147 attendees participated in a multi-program camp, instructed by IIHF program instructors using IIHF produced educational programs, promoting the message of Fair Play and Respect.

■ The game officials and national association referee instructors operated their program under the direction of IIHF instructors Bob Nadin (CAN), Jarmo Jalarvo (FIN) and Michinori Miyazaki (JPN).

The four teams managed their individual programs under the watchful eye of IIHF mentor coaches Lars Lisspers (SWE), Petr Misek (CZE), Timo Tuomi (FIN) and Rolf Altorfer (SUI). Ari Piispanen (FIN), IIHF player development instructor, supervised all of the teams during the on-ice program.

IIHF coaching program instructors Darryl Easson (GBR) and Learn to Play program manager Magnus Eriksson (IIHF), introduced the national association instructors from the eleven Asia and Oceania countries to their materials.

Behind the scenes, equipment managers Yutaka Kuribayashi (JPN) and Seung Jun Yang (KOR) worked to create a unique setting in which the players and staff



EASTERN DELIGHT: 68 players from 11 Asian-Oceania countries took part in the IIHF Development Camp in Karuizawa, Japan. The objective of the camp is to grow and develop ice hockey in the region.

members prepared comfortably for each game and practice.

"The idea of gathering participants from our region, educating them in the skills of our sport and returning them home to spread this new information is good for the broad based development of ice hockey that our region needs",

said Shoichi Tomita. "We trust that this experience will motivate the member countries to use our IIHF educational programs within their own country to continue to grow and develop our sport."

■ During the morning ice sessions the players were instructed and even tested on their skating

speed, puck control, agility and endurance skills under the supervision of the coaching staffs and mentor coaches. The coaching instructors' use of video analysis provided many of the players with the first glimpse of their performances on the ice.

The eight goalkeepers participated in a special on-ice session designed for the benefit of the national association coaching instructors and the Learn to Play instructors in camp. The session demonstrated the basic movements, various puck-stopping techniques and suggested drills to develop goalkeeping skills.

At the halfway point, the focus shifted to a day of activities targeted at team-building. National association instructors Jerome Raateland (NZL), Yasuo Fukuda (JPN), Fong Ip (HKG) and Peter Anderson (NZL) planned

a fitness challenge, which took place after a traditional Japanese musical warm-up lead by Michinori Miyazaki (JPN).

On their off afternoon, everyone was treated to a bus tour of the region. Following a stop to visit local shops and stores, the day finished off with a barbecue, which also featured live music from a local band.

■ Throughout the week, the IIHF Fair Play and Respect program was in the forefront of all activities, and camp participants voiced ideas and suggestions on how they can use the knowledge gained during the week to improve the operation of hockey once they returned home. They should be prepared to help their national associations promote domestic ice hockey programs and expand their grass root programs.

The closing banquet provided Shoichi Tomita a final opportunity to re-emphasize this message and encourage the camp attendees to use these two principles in all activities in life and not just in sport. The message of the partnership between the IIHF and the Asia and Oceania member countries was also reinforced.

■ The 2002 IIHF Asian Ocean Regional Hockey Development Camp attendees represent the future of ice hockey in this region. Judging from their performance and from their success, the future looks bright for the growth of hockey in this region of the world. It is now the responsibility of each country to use their new resources for the development of hockey within their country.



SIGN IN: Participants sign this IIHF hockey jersey for camp chairman Shoichi Tomita.



LEARNING BASICS: Future looks bright.

Committee: Stay with 16 teams and format

The IIHF Championship Structure Committee held a meeting in Helsinki, Finland on August 12. The main task for the meeting was to review the playing system of the IIHF World Championship.

The Committee (which is an advisory body to the IIHF council) discussed the following issues and gave its recommendations to each.

Any major changes to the statutes, bylaws and regulations must be approved at the 2003 IIHF General Congress. Any changes will be in effect at the earliest for the 2005 IIHF World Championship in Austria.

■ Number of teams

The Championship Structure Committee recommended that 16 teams is the appropriate number of participating teams in the IIHF World Championship and should not be changed. The Committee agreed that a 16 team championship showcases the very best that international hockey has to offer and also gives emerging hockey powers a chance to further develop their game. The steady decrease of lopsided scores clearly indicates increased parity within the top 16, which indicates that the format is suitable.

■ Number of venues

The Committee recommended that the IIHF World Championship games must be organised in a maximum of two arenas. Only two venues, and short distances between them, will help the teams, media, sponsors and local organizers. Only two venues will result in less travel and reduced costs, and it will be easier to create a World Championship atmosphere.

■ Playing format

Nine different playing formats were thoroughly discussed by the committee. After taking all the pros and cons into consideration, the Committee found that the current system should be kept, with minor change in the relegation round. The last place teams of the groups at each venue will play a best-of-two series to determine the relegated team. As before, two teams will be relegated.

■ Far East Qualifier

The free spot (vacancy) for the Far East Qualifier in the IIHF World Championship has not brought the expected development in either the quality of hockey or marketing in the region. The Committee also states that the current playing format of the relegation round creates an awkward and unfair competi-

tion among the teams who play to avoid relegation. The Committee recommends that the 2004 IIHF World Championship will be the last to which a Far East team can come on free quota. If the Far East team is not placed 14th or better in 2004, it will be relegated.

■ Number of players

The Committee recommended that the maximum number of players registered on the Official Game Sheet should be 18 skaters and 2 goalkeepers, as opposed to 20 skaters and 2 goalkeepers. The maximum number of registered players should stay at 23 (20 skaters plus 3 goalkeepers). The eight teams that advance to the final round may register an additional two players to form a maximal roster of 25 players. The Committee noted that the current rule, which allows teams to add up to five players in the latter stages of the championship, has not been fully utilised in recent championships.

■ Overtime regulations

The Committee recommends that all Sudden Victory Overtimes will be twenty minutes (as opposed to the current rule of a ten minute overtime in QF and SF) and that all overtimes will be played with 4-on-4 players.

■ Draw of groups for upcoming World Championship

The Committee agreed that a draw to form the groups to the upcoming championship should provide additional exposure and promotion for the IIHF World Championship. The procedure will be part of a broadcast event for all. The draw will be conducted after the Quarterfinals when the necessary seeding numbers of the teams are known.

The draw will be conducted in four rounds. In every round four teams will be allocated to the four groups A to D.

Round 1: teams ranked 1 - 4

Round 2: teams ranked 5 - 8

Round 3: teams ranked 9 - 12

Round 4: teams ranked 13 and 14, as well as the two promoted teams from World Championship Division I.

■ Olympic Qualification and Format

It is still too early to discuss the number of teams and the playing format for Turin 2006. These discussions will rely strongly on the decision by the NHL and NHLPA to make their players available. The deadline for their commitment has not been determined. However, the IIHF qualification system, for the 2006 Olympic Games will start in the 2003-2004 season to determine the participants by the February 2005 deadline.

Continued from page 11

Group E

Finland - Slovenia	14-2
Slovakia - Sweden	3-7
Finland - Slovakia	12-3
Slovenia - Sweden	2-7
Slovakia - Slovenia	13-4
Sweden - Finland	5-8

1 Finland	3	3	0	0	34:10	9
2 Sweden	3	2	0	1	19:13	6
3 Slovakia	3	1	0	2	19:23	3
4 Slovenia	3	0	0	3	8:34	0

Group F

Czech Republic - Germany	6-11
USA - Austria	8-2
USA - Czech Republic	3-5
Austria - Germany	3-16
Czech Republic - Austria	10-4
Germany - USA	5-4

1 Germany	3	3	0	0	32:13	9
2 Czech R	3	2	0	1	21:18	6
3 USA	3	1	0	2	15:12	3
4 Austria	3	0	0	3	9:34	0

Placing Game 5-6

Slovakia - USA	6-8
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Placing Game 7-8

Slovenia - Austria	8-5
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Semi Final

Finland - Czech Republic	6-3
Germany - Sweden	1-6

Bronze Medal Game

Germany - Czech Republic	9-6
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Gold Medal Game

Finland - Sweden	5-6
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Final Ranking

1 Sweden
2 Finland
3 Germany
4 Czech Republic
5 USA
6 Slovakia
7 Slovenia
8 Austria

IIHF Learn To Play Program is launched

The newest IIHF educational initiative, the Learn To Play Program, has now been launched on a global scale. After two years of development the program has been introduced to 47 member countries with the completion of the Vienna Seminar in June and the seminar during the recent Asian Oceania Hockey Development Camp in Karuizawa, Japan (see page 8).

The program, which uses a cross-ice format, targeted at teaching and developing the skills of hockey to our youngest players. It comes complete with step-by-step instruction manuals for leaders, administrators and instructors.

This program will allow member national associations to offer young athletes the opportunity to learn ice hockey skills at an early age, and to further develop the sport within their country.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of young boys and girls playing ice hockey at the entry level, while promoting the values of team sport, fair play and respect throughout the entire program.

Seminar in Vienna receives top marks from participants

■ The launch seminar of the IIHF Learn To Play in Vienna (June 13 - 16, 2002) was a splendid success. And it's not us saying that. Almost every one of the 47 participants from 30 countries expressed that feeling.

Here are some voices from the participants:

"The Learn To Play Seminar was a great success. Our six different personalities made it possible for all the delegates to relate to one of us during the weekend. The presentations were excellent and highly informative and enjoyable for everyone involved."

Darryl Easson, Great Britain

"This seminar was certainly the most interesting that I have attended. The logistics were perfect. The theory and on ice practical combination was just right. I hope that we will be able to attend more seminars like this to improve the Hockey 2000 program in our country."

Robert Gamper, Italy

"The seminar was very well organised. It gave me a 'head start' for my new job with the Dutch Ice Hockey Association



Back to school: Henk Hille, Netherlands, leads a group during the Learn To Play Seminar in Vienna.

and I enjoyed seeing so many hockey-crazed people who try to develop hockey all over the world."

Robbert van Wely, Netherlands

"I want to express our gratitude to the IIHF for creating and supporting the Learn To Play Program. In Austria, we have already had a huge increase in number of youth games being played as the ice rink capacity was virtually doubled by applying the cross ice system."

Ernst Gross, Austria

IIHF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2003	FINLAND, Helsinki, Tampere & Turku	26.04 - 11.05.03
2004	CZECH REPUBLIC, Prague & Ostrava	24.04 - 09.05.04
2005	AUSTRIA, Vienna & Innsbruck	TBA
2006	LATVIA	TBA
2007	APPLICANTS: CAN, GER, SWE	
2008	APPLICANTS: GER, SUI	

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

2003	HUNGARY, Budapest	15-22.04.03
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

2003	CROATIA, Zagreb	13-20.04.03
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

2003	KOREA, Seoul	05-12.04.03
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

2003	BULGARIA, Sofia	24-30.03.03
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II QUALIFICATION

2003	NEW ZEALAND, Auckland	1st week April
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - FAR EAST QUALIFICATION

2003	JAPAN, Aomori	01-08.02.03
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IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP

2003	CHINA, Beijing	03-09.04.03
2004	Canada, Halifax	28.03-04.04.04
2005	APPLICANTS: SWE	

IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I

2003	LATVIA, Ventspils	09-15.03.03
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IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II

2003	APPLICANTS: GBR	
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IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

2003	SLOVENIA, Maribor	25-31.03.03
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IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III QUALIFICATION

2003	APPLICANTS: TBA	
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP

2003	CANADA, Halifax & Sydney	26.12.02-05.01.03
2004	FINLAND, Helsinki, Espoo & Vanta	25.12.03-04.01.04
2005	APPLICANTS: USA	
2006	APPLICANTS: SUI	
2007	APPLICANTS: SWE	

IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

2003	KAZAKHSTAN, Almaty	27.12.02-2.1.03
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

2003	SLOVENIA, Bled	17-23.12.02
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

2003	ROMANIA, Mericera Ciuc	05-12.01.03
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

2003	YUGOSLAVIA, Novi Sad	05-12.01.03
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

2003	TURKEY, Izmit	21-26.01.03
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP

2003	RUSSIA, Yaroslavl	12-22.04.03
2004	APPLICANTS: BLR	
2005	APPLICANTS: CZE	
2006	APPLICANTS: SWE	

IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

2003	LATVIA, Ventspils	23-29.03.03
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

2003	FRANCE, Briançon	22-28.03.03
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

2003	ESTONIA, TBA	17-23.03.03
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

2003	YUGOSLAVIA, Belgrade	05-11.03.03
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group A

2003	MEXICO, Mexico City	01-07.03.03
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group B

2003	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, Sarajevo	06-09.02.03
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OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

2006	ITALY, Torino	TBA
2010	APPLICANTS: AND, AUT, BIH, CAN, CHN, ESP, KOR, SUI	

2002/2003 IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP

First Round	20-22.09.02
Second Round	18-20.10.02
Third Round	22-24.11.02
Super Final SWITZERLAND, Lugano & ITALY, Milan	10-12.01.03

NATIONAL TEAM BREAKS

1st Weekend of September	26.08.-01.09.02
2nd Weekend of November	04-10.11.02
3rd Weekend of December	09-15.12.02
2nd Weekend of February	03-09.02.03

IIHF OLDTIMERS WORLD CUP

2003	SLOVAKIA	26-29.03.03
2004	POLAND, Krynica	TBA

WINTER UNIVERSIADE

2003	ITALY, Tarvisio	16-26.01.03
2005	AUSTRIA, Innsbruck & Seefeld	12-22.01.05

IIHF CONGRESSES**SEMI-ANNUAL CONGRESS**

2002	ITALY, Sicily	12-14.09.02
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ANNUAL & GENERAL CONGRESS

2003	SPAIN, Marbella	01-08.06.03
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ANNUAL CONGRESS

2004	CZECH REPUBLIC	TBA
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IIHF SPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**COACH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

IIHF International Coaching Symposium: FINLAND	01-04.05.03
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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Ice Hockey 2000, Under 17 Development Camps:	TBA
Ice Hockey 2000, Under 16 Development Camps:	TBA
2003 IIHF Hockey Development Camp	TBA



Photo: Dave Sandford

On trax to Halifax. Russia will be the defending IIHF World U20 Champions going to Canada for a repeat of their victory in Pardubice, Czech Republic last season.

IIHF WORLD IN-LINE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Defending champs Finland couldn't hold back surging Swedes

All present agreed that it was the best in-line hockey game ever played in a World Championship.

Sweden beat the reigning champion and In-Line hockey superpower Finland 19 seconds into overtime in a sizzling final. Johan Larsson scored the game winner assisted by Matthias Wraak. Larsson was definitely the Man of the Match with two goals and two assists.

It was Sweden's first IIHF World In-Line Hockey Gold and also the first time the Swedes managed to beat Finland since the teams started to play each other in 1997.

It took until 11 minutes and 21 seconds before Sweden's Bjorn Ostlund opened the score. This was the signal for Finland to enter the game. At 13:16 Jussi Eloranta snapped the tie. Finland took command, which resulted in a 3-1 lead at half time after goals by Juha Myllymaa and Nemo Nokkosmaki. A power play goal by Jonas Bergman closed the gap. Finland, however, was not impressed and pulled away with two more goals by Miko Luukkonen and Kimmo Liskonen.

The Finns were confident with their 5-2 lead and wanted to consolidate the result. In the last quarter, "Tre Kronor" staged a remarkable comeback. Already after 48 seconds their efforts bore fruit. Again Bjorn Ostlund sent the puck past goalie Jarno Ekman. Two and half minutes later it was Johan Larsson who closed the gap to 5-4. The Finns were definitely losing their confidence.

The Swedes smelled the opportunity and killed all Finnish aspirations with 58 seconds left on the clock. Niclas Norlander scored the equaliser. In the dying seconds of the last quarter no goals were scored. With a 5-5 tie, for the first time in the short history of IIHF In-Line Hockey Championships, the final went into overtime.

Tension was in the air, but not for long. Again, Johan Larsson shattered all Finnish dreams of a third championship in succession. Within 19 seconds of the overtime the flying Swede scored the "golden goal".

"I am so happy that I can't find any words", said Tibor Gregor, the Swedish coach. "I can't believe that we won despite trailing by three goals going into the last period. We've had one of the best teams in the world for some years now, but it's first now that all the pie-

ces fell into the right place."

Sweden made very good use of some players who play professional ice hockey in the Swedish Elitserien. Forward Mattias Luukkonen (named to the All Star Team) and goaltender Henrik Lundqvist (led all tournament goalies in goals against average) represent Frolunda HC in the domestic top league.

Lundqvist was Sweden's goalie in the 2002 IIHF World U20 Championship in Czech Republic and is also a 2000 (seventh round) New York Rangers draft pick.



Super Goalie: Sweden's Henrik Lundqvist is also one of the best young ice hockey goalies in Sweden and a NY Rangers draft pick.

In the bronze medal game, Team Germany beat the third place team from last year, Czech Republic 9-6. This was Germany's first medal in an IIHF In-Line Hockey Championship.

World Championship Division I

Hungary beat rival Japan 9-6 in the finals. After a strong first half,

Hungary was already leading 4-0. This lead was sufficient for the Hungarian squad to grab the gold. New Zealand seized the bronze after defeating Great Britain, end result 9-7. The Brits could not turn around an 8-4 lead by team New Zealand at half time.

IIHF World Championship Directorate Awards.

World Championship:

Best Goalie: Jeff Reynaert (USA)

Best Forwards: Mattias Luukkonen (SWE), Udo Schmid (GER)

Best Defence: Niclas Norlander (SWE), Kimmo Lisko (FIN)

World Championship Division I

Best Goalie: Krisztian Budai (HUN)

Best Players: Yasuhiro Umeuchi (JPN), Nick Burton (GBR), Jon Astrop (NZL), Shinichi Takizawa (JPN)

Dr. Jorge Bastias Memorial Fair Play Cup:

World Championship: Team Sweden

World Championship Division I: Team Chile



In-Line Photos: **Kari Vatanen**

How Swede it was: There is hardly anything better for a Swede than to beat Finland in international competition. To stage a comeback, which saw the team overcome a 5-2 deficit, and to wrap it up in overtime makes it all even sweeter.

2002 IIHF World In-Line Championship

Group A

Brazil - Hungary	6- 8
Finland - Slovenia	14- 2
Hungary - Finland	2-16
Brazil - Slovenia	2-7
Finland - Brazil	24- 2
Slovenia - Hungary	12- 1

1 Finland	3	3	0	0	54: 6	9
2 Slovenia	3	2	0	1	21:17	6
3 Hungary	3	1	0	2	11:34	3
4 Brazil	3	0	0	3	10:39	0

Group B

Austria - New Zealand	18- 1
USA - Great Britain	19-0
New Zealand - USA	2-27
Austria - Great Britain	13- 1
Gr. Britain - New Zealand	5- 2
USA - Austria 8-2	

1 USA	3	3	0	0	54:4	9
2 Austria	3	2	0	1	33:10	6
3 Gr. Britain	3	1	0	2	6:34	3
4 N Zealand	3	0	0	3	5:50	0

Group C

Germany - Belgium	37- 1
Belgium - Czech Republic	6-26
Germany - Argentina	27-1
Argentina - Belgium	8- 7
Czech R - Germany	6-11
Czech R - Argentina	25- 2

1 Germany	3	3	0	0	75: 8	9
2 Czech R	3	2	0	1	57:19	6
3 Argentina	3	1	0	2	11:59	3
4 Belgium	3	0	0	3	14:71	0

Group D

Sweden - Chile	58- 0
Slovakia - Japan	9- 5
Chile - Slovakia	2-25
Sweden - Japan	14- 1
Japan - Chile	22-3
Slovakia - Sweden	3- 7

1 Sweden	3	3	0	0	79: 4	9
2 Slovakia	3	2	0	1	37:14	6
3 Japan	3	1	0	2	28:26	3
4 Chile	3	0	0	3	5:105	0

■ Continued on page 9

Different approach to life, the same love for hockey

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

■ It's been a season when a 27-year old hockey player was diagnosed with a deadly form of cancer called the Hodgkin's lymphoma in the first week of September 2001, when he fought through eight cycles of chemotherapy, when he sometimes felt so bad he could hardly walk, when he eventually answered to the treatment so well that he learned that the cancer was in remission in February, when he got back in shape so fast he played in a crucial NHL game on April 9, when he led his team in scoring in the playoffs, and when he married his girlfriend Hanna in July.

Saku Koivu, the Finnish captain of the Montreal Canadiens, sits outside a hockey rink in the northern part of Zurich, Switzerland and ponders over those 350 days, which forever changed his life. Almost a year has passed since Koivu fell sick on a flight from Amsterdam to Montreal on September 4.

■ He departed feeling great, a top athlete, one of the best hockey players in the world. He arrived eight hours later as a cancer patient.

"Yes, it's been quite a year", says Koivu after finishing another morning practise with the Swiss team Kloten Flyers, coached by Saku's mentor, Russian Vladimir Yurzinov.

"Ten months ago I could never have imagined that I would be back practising hard in August and preparing for another season. This past year will stay with me for the rest of my life. I appreciate and approach things differently than I did before and I see hockey in a different perspective. There are lots of bigger things in life than hockey."

"But at the same time, I am simply happy to be where I want to be, practising hockey. I feel great. My health is the main thing, regular monthly blood tests are now part of my routine, but hockey is what I want to do."

So badly in fact that he didn't want to wait until his NHL team opens training camp on September 10 in Montreal. He left his native Turku in Finland on August 11 to join Yurzinov's Kloten Flyers of the Swiss top league. Saku and IIHF Hall of Famer Yurzinov go way back to the early 90s when they were both with TPS Turku, the perennial Finnish powerhouse.

He is very well aware of the fact that he needs an edge after missing virtually the whole last season.

■ Koivu practises hard twice a day. The morning practise starts at 9.30 and goes until 11. The afternoon session is between 15.45 and 17.15. Between the workouts he runs in the woods with Marko Kiprusoff and Kimmo Rintanen, the Finnish stars on Kloten Flyers.



Photos: TOTO MARTI, Zurich

KNOWS ONLY ONE GEAR: While his teammates in Montreal still were swinging clubs on green courses, Saku Koivu went full speed in Switzerland, practising twice a day with the Kloten Flyers.

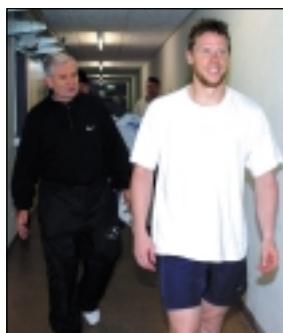
There is no better coach in the world to practise for if you want to get in shape than Yurzinov.

"He works very hard as a coach", says Koivu. "Yurzinov sees things differently from other coaches. He works on your technique, one-on-one situations, the transition game. The practises are very intense. We have a very warm relationship. I respect him highly."

"I felt that I needed this ice time to be in good shape when camp starts in Montreal. And then you never know what will happen with the NHL in 2004. If there will be a strike or a lockout, it's good to have checked out the Swiss league or any other place to see where you can play."

"If the same thing happens in the NHL as it did in 1994, this might be the place where I could play."

■ Because of an incredible amount of injuries (he has not played a full season since his rookie year in 95-96) Koivu has played so sporadically that it is hard to believe that he soon will be 28. The hockey world has simply not seen the best of him yet.



WARM RELATIONSHIP: Saku and mentor Vladimir Yurzinov.

During the Salt Lake City Olympics in February, he had other things on his mind than hockey but admits that it was a little hard to watch the tournament on TV. Especially the Finland - Canada quarter-final.

"Of course I wanted to have been there, but it was never an option. Playing there was really never on my mind."

■ How long do you plan to stay around, are the 2006 Olympics in Turin something you think about?

"If I am healthy, I will be at an age when I definitely will be able to compete and be in good shape. I can see myself playing after that as well, but I am pretty sure that I won't go on as long as Igor Larionov or Chris Chelios."

■ There are some hockey observers who feel that the highly unusual amount of injuries are due to

your playing a big man's game in small man's body. How would you comment on that?

"That's the way I have played all my life", says Koivu. "That's what has brought me to the NHL. Okay, maybe I don't have to go into every corner all the time. It could be a part of my problem, but almost all my injuries have occurred away from the action. I hope it's only been bad luck."

■ Let's say you have a season where you play all the games, the team does well, and you play with the best possible wingers - what is your potential under those circumstances?

"It's definitely much better than I have ever been able to show. I don't want to say any numbers, but I know I can play and compete with the very best."

But Koivu hints that a 80 - 90-point season in today's rather defensive NHL is within his potential.

■ How do you feel about the 2003 IIHF World Championships in Finland? Part of the tournament will be in your hometown Turku.

"My job is to take the Montreal Canadiens as far as I can in the playoffs. If I play in Finland next spring, it means that we have had an early exit and that we have failed. But if that is the case, no doubt I will come. Playing for the Finnish national team is a matter of pride for me and I really enjoy international hockey."

■ How would you compare Kloten's practises with Montreal's?

"They are totally different. Here everything is focused on improving individual skill. In the NHL you mostly practise on game situations. Many players here are skill wise far ahead of many NHLers, but North Americans are generally stronger physically, they have a better shot and a stronger mentality. That's why Canadians and Americans usually maintain a consistent level throughout the season while many Europeans are like roller coasters. If you blend the best qualities from each hockey culture, you probably get a very good player."

■ Which player today do you think is the best example of such a mix?

(After a lengthy pause) "Probably Peter Forsberg. Jaromir Jagr is maybe the perfect offensive player, but he does not have Peter's power game. Sergei Fedorov also has everything you would want from a hockey player."

■ Would you give Montreal General Manager André Savard the advice to trade for Mikko Koivu?

Saku laughs and says: "It's a dream to some day be able to play with your brother. But I think it's better if he can start somewhere else, establish himself as Mikko Koivu and not come here as Saku's brother, especially in Montreal with all the pressure. But later, sure."

Footnote: Mikko Koivu is 19, plays for TPS Turku and was drafted by the Minnesota Wild in the first round of the 2001 NHL Draft. Minnesota selected Mikko as number 6 overall. Montreal held the seventh pick...