

## The book of magic moments to add a new page



Photo: AL TIELEMANS, Courtesy of Sports Illustrated

**LIGHT MY FIRE!** Ice Hockey was bestowed the biggest honour in sport when the 1980 U.S. Olympic team was selected to light the cauldron at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. It was the first time the entire team was brought together after the "Miracle on Ice" in Lake Placid 22 years earlier, when the American collegians defeated the Soviet Union, the biggest upset in international ice hockey ever. Lake Placid 1980 tops our list (see pages 6-7) of the top 10 moments in Olympic ice hockey history.

## – as Torino 2006 has the potential be even better than Nagano and Salt Lake City

The ice hockey tournament at the Salt Lake City Olympics four years ago was an eye opener for a vast sports audience in North America and the world. "The best hockey ever displayed" was exposed to 2.1 milliard viewers in 160 countries as the coverage doubled from Nagano 1998.

### RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ ■ Torino 2006 gives us the next opportunity to showcase our sport to a projected world-wide TV-audience of 2.3 milliard viewers. As international hockey and the NHL have joined forces in stricter rule enforcement to promote the skillful players and the finer parts of our game we have another historic opportunity to present hockey as the fastest and most skilled team sport in the world.

Yes, I am excited and I am happy to admit that nothings brings out the child in me like the Olympic Winter Games. And we have two great ice hockey tournaments to look forward to. The men's tournament has the potential to be even better than both Nagano and Salt Lake City because we have a format which is easier to understand for fans, and is equal for all teams.

■ ■ The Olympic tournaments have an inner strength that goes beyond individual participation. Heroes are made in the Olympics, regardless of what merit you bring with you coming into the games and regardless of how your career looked afterwards.

The Herb Brooks-led group of collegians was virtually unknown when they arrived in

Lake Placid 26 years ago and none of the 1980 gold medalists ever became superstars, but their careers will always be measured by what they accomplished in the Olympics. Twenty-two years later that very team was bestowed the highest honor, lighting the Olympic torch in Salt Lake City 2002.

As much as we hope that Torino 2006 will deliver new magic, we realize that Lake Placid 1980 will be hard to beat in terms of miracles. After all, they don't happen too often. Of course, Lake Placid tops our list of Olympic magical moments (page 6-7.)

■ ■ Olympic heroes don't become bigger than Peter Forsberg in Lillehammer 1994 and Olympic miseries don't get any deeper than Paul Kariya's in the same gold medal game between Sweden and Canada. While Forsberg executed his penalty shot into immortality, Kariya's subsequent attempt was thwarted and Sweden won its first ever Olympic hockey gold.

Canadians from coast to coast were dancing in the streets in 2002 as their women's and men's teams won, stopping a 50-year gold medal draught for the men, and giving the women their first-ever Olympic gold.

■ ■ Whether you win or lose, you have to wait four years to get another shot at the biggest prize in sport. I can't wait for the XX Olympic Winter Games to begin.

René Fasel  
IIHF President

## No zero-tolerance, but stricter interpretations on restraining fouls will rule in Torino 2006



■ The IIHF is committed to its objective to create a playing environment where the best players are allowed to show their skills and be protected from infractions of players who use hooking, holding and interference as means to neutralize the skilled performers.

The stricter interpretation of the existing rules was implemented by the IIHF as of the 2005-2006-season and most major European hockey leagues have followed suit. An IIHF Policy Statement on stricter rule enforcement was presented by IIHF President René Fasel on November 16, 2005 on IIHF.com.

■ The new interpretations on all restraining fouls are outlined in two documents which have been circulated to all IIHF Member National Associations, all IIHF On-Ice Officials and to media through IIHF.com.

- 2006 IIHF Rule Emphasis Bulletin
- IIHF Officiating Standards (supplement to the above)

These two documents are the guidelines when determining the conformity in rule interpretation standards between the IIHF and the NHL on-ice officials who are assigned to the Turin Olympics.

## Your guide to Olympic hockey

■ The 2006 IIHF Olympic Media Guide has arrived just in time for the Games. The 186-page, full-color book is the definitive source for historical information about the ice hockey tournament at the Olympic Winter games.

The book features results from every hockey game at the Olympics in an extensive history section. For media members in Torino, the guide provides information on every team at the championship, including rosters, practice schedules and contacts. Both men's and women's results and records are included in the guide as well.



The guide will be available free of charge to all accredited media members attending the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

For individuals interested in purchasing a guide, please email [media@iihf.com](mailto:media@iihf.com) after the conclusion of the Olympics. Guides will be sold on an availability basis.

iceTimes is published bi-monthly.

### International Ice Hockey Federation

Brandschenkestrasse 50  
Postfach CH-8039 Zürich  
Switzerland

Phone +41.44.562.22.00  
Fax +41.44.562.22.29  
Email [office@iihf.com](mailto:office@iihf.com)

[www.iihf.com](http://www.iihf.com)



## Eleven time gold medallist Vladimir Petrov leads the IIHF Hall of Fame class of -06 to be inducted in Riga

IIHF President René Fasel and Walter L. Bush Jr., Chairman of the IIHF Hall of Fame Selection Committee announced on January 22 the names of the 2006 inductees into the IIHF Hall of Fame. There are six members of the Class of 2006 in two categories.

**Players:** Vladimir Petrov (RUS), Juhani Wahlsten (FIN), Kent Nilsson (SWE), Henryk Gruth (POL)

**Builders:** Shoichi Tomita (JPN), Anatoli Khorozov (UKR).

Also:

**Paul Loicq Award** (for special contribution to the IIHF and international hockey. Award named after Paul Loicq, IIHF President 1922-1947): Bo Tovland (SWE)

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on May 11, 2006 during the 70th IIHF World Championship in Riga, Latvia. The IIHF Hall of Fame was introduced in 1997 and now boasts 131 hockey greats from 22 nations.

*Short-bios:*

■ **Vladimir Petrov (RUS):** Centred one of the best forward lines of all-time, where he was flanked by Boris Mikhailov and Valeri Kharlamov, playing for the Soviet Union. Captured two Olympic gold medals (1972, 1976) and one silver (1980) as well as nine IIHF World Championship titles, two silver and one bronze. Scored 154 points in 102 IIHF World Championship games. Claimed 11 national titles with CSKA Moscow. In all, Petrov scored 370 goals and recorded 711 points in 596 league games.

■ **Juhani Wahlsten (FIN):** A mainstay on the Finnish national team in the 60s appearing in 115 games. In 1967, as the captain of the Finnish squad, he led the team to its first ever IIHF World Championship win over Czechoslovakia scoring two decisive goals. Led his club Ilves Tampere to a national championship in 1960.

■ **Kent Nilsson (SWE):** Known as 'Mr. Magic' by hockey fans, Nilsson appeared in three IIHF World Championships (earning a silver medal in 1990) and in three Canada Cups for Sweden. Spent the bulk of his NHL-career with the Flames organization (Atlanta 1979-

80 then Calgary until 1986) appearing in two All Star games. Won the Stanley Cup with Edmonton in 1987. Still leads all Swedes in the NHL with his 131 points from the 1980-81-season.

■ **Henryk Gruth (POL):** 11th on the all-time list of players with the most international games with 292 for Poland. The defensive stalwart, starred for Poland for 17 seasons and took part in 14 IIHF World Championships and four Olympic Winter Games 1980-1992. Was a member of the Polish 1976 world championship team which stunned the Soviet Union, 6-4, in one of the biggest upsets in international hockey.

■ **Shoichi Tomita (JPN):** Has contributed vastly to the world-wide development of ice hockey, especially in Asia. The success of the 1998 Olympics in Nagano can be attributed to Tomita's efforts. IIHF Vice-President since 1994. Recipient of the Olympic Order in 2002. As a player, Tomita was the goalkeeper of the Japanese national team in the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley as well as in the 1962 IIHF World Championship in Colorado Springs.

■ **Anatoli Khorozov (UKR):** Helped to build the Ukrainian ice hockey program in the 60s, while still under the domain of the Soviet Union. Khorozov, identified as "father" of ice hockey in Ukraine, was instrumental in starting numerous hockey schools throughout the country including in Kiev, Kharkov and Donetsk. He spent 35 years as President of the Ukrainian Ice Hockey Association.

*Paul Loicq Award:*

■ **Bo Tovland (SWE):** Permanent fixture as Team Manager of the Swedish national team throughout much of the 1980s and 1990s. Secretary General during the 1981, 1989 and the 1995 IIHF World Championships in Sweden and member of the Organizing Committee at the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden. Spent 20 years on the Executive Board of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association. Member of the IIHF Championship Evaluation Committee.

## Russian Superleague clubs dominate European cups

■ The Russian league made a clean sweep in the 2006 IIHF European club competitions, winning both the European Champions Cup (page 10) and the Continental Cup where Lada Togliatti finished on top of the four-team "Super Final".

Latvian champions HK Riga 2000 came in second, Switzerland's ZSC Lions of Zurich finished third and host Alba Volan from Szekesfehervar, Hungary was fourth.



Photo: ANDRAS WIRTH

**CONTINENTAL CHAMPS:** Lada Togliatti celebrates following the deciding game against the ZSC Lions of Zurich.



Lada defeated Riga, 4-1, Alba Volan, 4-3, and ZSC Lions, 1-0, in a tournament where they were never really threatened. The score against the Swiss looks narrow, but the boys from Togliatti had everything under control as a tie was enough for tournament win. There is no team in the world that is better at

■ If the European Champions Cup determines the best club in Europe, the Continental Cup is still a valuable indicator regarding the strength of the various European leagues. And with Dynamo winning the ECC and Lada Togliatti sweeping the CC with a perfect 3-0-0 record, few would dispute the position of the Russian league as the strongest in Europe.

protecting a 0-0 score in hockey than Lada, who has recorded 17 scoreless games in the Russian league since 1997-98.

■ Riga 2000 was the surprise team of the Continental Cup by claiming second place after defeating the ZSC Lions 5-4 in what was one of the best games of the cup and the best result by a Latvian club in recent years.



# After 21 years, Edvinsson exits with no regrets

*When Jan-Ake Edvinsson assumed the position of the General Secretary of the International Ice Hockey Federation in 1986, the entire staff consisted of himself and a part-time secretary. The annual budget was somewhere between three and four million Swiss francs.*

*When Edvinsson retires in September 2006, after 21-years as the chief executive officer of international hockey's governing body, he does that with this comfortable feeling that accompanies anyone who has played a major role in transforming a minor operation into something major.*

■ Today, the International Ice Hockey Federation has a staff of 25 full time employees from 14 countries and the annual budget can reach 50 million Swiss francs during an Olympic year. "There are many things about the IIHF today that make me happy," says Edvinsson who left his native Sweden in 1986 to take the position with the IIHF. "But I am especially proud of our multicultural staff. That's the way it should look at an international federation. I could not have imagined this development when I started 21 years ago."

Edvinsson began his career in ice hockey when he was named the General Secretary of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association in the 70s. His first major international assignment was the 1981 IIHF World Championship in Sweden. It was during this period he became acquainted with the late IIHF President Günther Sabetzki and the elderly General Secretary, Walter Wasservogel.

Because the 1981 event was a success and Edvinsson had the ambition to contribute on the international scene, it soon became quite evident that Sabetzki considered Jan-Ake a suitable successor to Wasservogel. Edvinsson started at the IIHF's Vienna office in November 1985, although he officially took over the General Secretary job on January 1, 1986.

"The IIHF at that time was an organization that was more interested in consolidating rather than expanding," recalls Edvinsson. "Organizing the annual World Championship and administrating international transfers was pretty much our job."

■ The IIHF started to develop in the 90s. The office moved to Switzerland and Zurich's Tödistrasse in 1991, but the first major milestone according to Edvinsson was the 1994 General Congress in Venice, when René Fasel was elected the new president and replaced the 79-year old Sabetzki, who had been at the helm of the organization for 19 years.

"This was the big turning point," says Edvinsson. "René

wanted to move the IIHF forward and he wasn't afraid to make financial commitments to make things happen. It was with René that the IIHF started to develop the marketing side and the entire sports organization with coaching clinics, training camps, referee development and other things."

■ It was during the same period in the mid-90s that the IIHF office moved again, now to the posh Parkring villa in Zürich's Enge district, a move that enabled the IIHF to recruit the staff the federation needed to meet its new goals.

relationship with the NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and things took off from there."

■ Edvinsson considers the relationship with the NHL as vital to the future of international ice hockey.

"There are many things which are important. The transfer agreement gives the IIHF clubs compensation for the players who leave to play in the NHL. The agreement also ensures that NHL-players participate in international competition, both the IIHF World Championships and the Olympics. The deal that made the NHL finally take a break for the 1998 Olympics in Nagano was another milestone for international hockey. This is very important for hockey fans from around the world, but especially important for European hockey fans who can see the departed players coming back and represent their national team in international events."

He is not only proud of the relationship with the NHL, but also the development of the women's side of the sport in the last decade.

■ "The introduction of women's hockey on the international agenda and especially in the Olympic program was a very important step for ice hockey as a sport. Communities and other investors can nowadays build rinks knowing that it's for both boys and girls."

Of course filling these shoes will be no easy task for Edvinsson's successor, like a man who hopes only the best for the future, he offers the next top man the following tips:

"It's is very important in this position to be able to co-operate with all kinds of people, especially with the representatives of all the member associations and with the council members. It is imperative to have a feeling for cultural differences as you are the chief executive person for a federation with 64 national members. Another very important quality is the ability to listen."

■ For 21 years, Jan-Ake Edvinsson has been doing just that. With no regrets he can retire at ease, knowing

that during his tenure, ice hockey has gone from being a marginal Olympic event to being the main attraction and the sport that sells most tickets at the Olympic Winter Games.

After devoting more than two decades to the international game, Edvinsson vows that he will now spend his focusing on more domestic issues, like his backhand return in tennis and the golf swing. If he has the same kind of success on those stages as he has had on the international ice hockey stage, then Roger Federer and Tiger Woods better watch out.



Photo: THOMAS FREYER

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** After this season, Jan-Ake Edvinsson will leave the house he helped to build.

Edvinsson, who is no stranger to answering tough questions about the future of ice hockey, even upon his retirement is looking ahead to what the game can achieve.

■ When asked about the single most important achievement during his tenure as General Secretary, Edvinsson points to the thing that could have a big impact on the future if international hockey

"Our relationship with the NHL," is his immediate reply. "When I started at the IIHF, we were two organizations who dealt with the same sport, but had very little co-operation. Again, it was René Fasel who started a good

# Canada's World Junior C

By Lucas Aykroyd  
Vancouver

**British Columbians have had plenty to cheer about lately. The West Coast city of two-million co-hosted arguably the most successful IIHF World Junior Championship in history with Kelowna and Kamloops from December 26-January 5.**

With Team Canada triumphing, the tournament set a new attendance record of 325,128, turned a profit of close to \$10 million CDN, and received its highest-ever average per-game TV viewership (1.66 million) on host broadcaster TSN.

To pick the best offerings from this spectacular 10-team showcase of U20 talent is difficult, but the following is a sample of some of the more memorable moments from Vancouver.

## Best Goal

Early in the third period of the Russia-USA semi-final, forward Nikolai Kulemin executed a spectacular end-to-end rush, cutting inside on the American defence and roofing a wrist shot over the glove of goalie Cory Schneider. That tally made it 2-1 Russia and proved to be the game-winner.

## Best Assist

It meant little overall, but it was a work of art. In the final Relegation Round game between Slovakia and Switzerland, Slovak blueliner Andrej Sekera delivered a perfect stretch pass, almost from his own goal line, that put Stanislav Lascek in a position to outwit a Swiss defender and cut the Swiss lead to 3-2. "It was an awesome pass," said Lascek. "I could maybe even have gotten a breakaway, but I was surprised that the pass was so good." The game ended in a tie.

## Best Bodychecker

Bang! Bang! Bang! Canadian defenseman Luc Bourdon did that more effectively and thunderously than anyone else, and the first-round pick of the Vancouver Canucks heard his first name chanted by the partisan crowd in a manner that recalled the early 80's heyday of lovable Canuck player Gary Lupul. With six points to boot, Bourdon looked like the second coming of Ed Jovanovski and was named a tournament all-star.

## Best Goal-Scoring Feat

When USA's Chris Bourque ventilated Norway for five goals in an 11-2 opening night thrashing, it recalled a similar feat by Vancouver Canuck captain Markus Naslund, whose five came in Sweden's 20-1 win over Japan in 1993.

## Best Force of Nature

It rained every day of the tournament in Vancouver, and the city nearly set a record for the most consecutive days of precipitation. But that's not what we're referring to. Just ask anyone who saw Russian captain Evgeni Malkin sliding deadly accurate passes, zinging powerful wrist shots, and accelerating with shocking ease past defenders. Malkin was deservedly named Best Forward and tournament MVP.

## Best Upset

Can a tie be called an upset? Sure, when it's an underrated Swiss squad holding the heavily favored Americans to a 2-2 draw. The USA never got its groove back after that December 30 result, failing to secure a bye to the semi-finals and only scoring seven goals in its remaining four games en route to a disappointing fourth-place finish.

## Best Villain

USA defenseman Jack Johnson laid a questionable hit on agitator Steve Downie with seconds left in Canada's 3-2 New Year's Eve win. Thereafter, the strapping University of Michigan product was booed by Canadian fans every time he touched the puck. But Johnson weathered the derision with a smile, and wound up cracking the Media All-Star Team.

## Best Prophecy of Greatness

Who knew the Great One had a sixth sense away from the ice? Apparently after Canada claimed gold with a 5-0 victory over Russia, Steve Downie revealed he'd spoken with Wayne Gretzky by phone before the game, and Gretzky predicted that if Downie played hard, the Peterborough Petes forward would notch the game winner. That prophecy came true when Downie came out from behind the Russian net and slid the puck under Anton Khudobin for a 1-0 lead with 2:37 left in the first period.

## Best Single Goaltending Performance

Outshot 53-25, Finland had no business beating Sweden in January 2's quarterfinals. But the acrobatic netminding of Tuukka Rask made all the difference for the Finns in this 1-0 overtime win.

## Best Young Martin Brodeur Impersonation

Canada's Justin Pogge looked uncannily like the legendary goalie best known for backstopping the New Jersey Devils to three Stanley Cups and Canada to the 2002 Olympic title. En route to gold, the 19-year-old showed off a Brodeur-like size, stance, puck handling ability, and cool, affable demeanor.



**CANADA'S CUP:** Canada captured its impressive 12th IIHF World Junior Championship title in front of a record crowd of fans and first-class hockey action. But for Team Canada, the ultimate prize was the gold medal.

## Best Show of Support for a Teammate:

After Latvia lost 3-1 to Russia, Martin Karsums was named the Player of the Game for the small Baltic nation. But the Latvian captain handed over his award to goalie Ugis Avotins, who faced 40 shots. "Without him, the score would have been 10-1 or something," said Karsums.

## Best Crowd Moment

The Canadian fans came out in force throughout the championship. Even more than 10,000 fans came to a New Year's Eve game between Finland and Switzerland - and stayed through the end of the game. The fans were rewarded for their loyalty when Team Canada skated into the gold medal game. The Canadian faithful in the GM Place set the tone of the gold-medal game with a deafening reception when Team Canada skated out on the ice and continued to serve as Canada's extra man, throwing the Russians off kilter and giving the eventual champs the push they needed to jump out to an early 2-0 lead. If ever there was such a thing as home ice advantage, January 5, 2006, demonstrated how strongly a crowd can influence a game.



# up Runneth Over



U20 Championship on home ice in Vancouver. The tournament had many highlights, including record attendance, top-notch late highlight came after a 5-0 win over Russia, when they took possession of the cup, as Justin Pogge demonstrates with a kiss.

## Best Quotes

"I like ears. I want them to look classy and as a team."

- Canada head coach Brent Sutter explains his decision to make his players get pre-tournament haircuts, a grooming philosophy other coaches might start emulating in light of Sutter's unbeaten record.

"It's tough. It's really tough. The Finnish team took the little, little chance they got. I'm proud of my team. I've been in the game for 27 years, and I've been with the [national] team for three years. This is maybe the toughest loss in my career."

- Swedish coach Torngny Bendelin, devastated after losing 1-0 to Finland in the quarterfinals.

**"I would tell the fans that if there's any tickets left, buy them."**

- U.S. Coach Walt Kyle when asked his opinion on the Russia-Canada gold medal game.

"Easily." - Russia's Evgeni Malkin predicts that his team will defeat Canada if it plays up to its capabilities, recalling a similar doomed prediction by Peter Forsberg in 1993.

"Canada is a beautiful country. Hockey is gigantic here. It was great to play in rinks like these. The only regret I have is not getting to play at GM Place." -Switzerland's Julien Sprunger had one of the best times of his life at the 2006 tournament.

"I would tell [Canadian fans] that if there's any tickets left, buy them. It's two very good teams, and my tickets are for sale. The Russian team is very dynamic and the Canadian team is very physical." -USA coach Walt Kyle shows class and a sense of humor after falling 5-1 to Russia in the semi-finals.

## U20 script seems the same since start of 21st century

■ It would seem that what was once one of the most unpredictable tournaments in the IIHF Championship arsenal, the World U20 Championship is now following a virtually unchanging script. But like all Hollywood movies, the thrill is in the journey, not the destination.

Since 2000, only five nations have earned one of 21 potential medals at the World Junior Championship. In that span three nations have struck gold twice, Canada, Russia and the Czech Republic, while Finland has a strangle hold on the bronze position, earning the third spot four times.

■ But what seems predictable on the final results page is hardly so during the championship. Consider that the perennial bronze medallists Finland were not even considered to vie for a medal this season, while Canada's southern neighbour, USA, was supposed to cruise through the competition and skate away with the gold.

All eyes that were supposed to be focused on the offensive output of Phil Kessel and Evgeni Malkin were instead fixated on the goaltender performances of Tuukka Rask and Justin Pogge.

Instead of a powerhouse upending the pre-tournament favorites, it was underdog Alpine nation of Switzerland which slayed the Goliath squad of USA with a 3-3 tie, which ultimately doomed the Americans.

■ If there's one thing that was reinforced at this year's World Championship-besides the rivalry between Canada and Russia-it was that even the most predictable World U20 Championship will never follow its pre-written script.

Even the familiar sight of Canada and Russia battling it out for U20 supremacy (the fourth time in five years) was unexpected. And of course, not many observers would have picked Canada to dominate the Russians, 5-0, in that final game, despite the fact the Canadians upended the Russians by five goals the previous year.

Even though Canada has the best track record at the World U20 Championship, with a record 12 gold medals at the event, there was still much stacked against the nation. Consider:

- It was the first back-to-back gold medal for the nation since heyday in the mid 90s when the country won five straight golds from 1993-97.
- The win restored Canada's advantage over Russia/Soviet Union in U20 gold medals games. Canada now holds a slim 6-5 lead in all-time meetings.
- It gave Canada only its third gold medal on home ice despite having hosted the event seven times. It was the country's first win on Canadian soil since 1995 when the nation defeated-you guessed it-Russia in the golden game in Alberta.

Photos: Jeff Vinnick

# Nothing beats 1980 as the big

■ The Olympics is where heroes are born and dreams are crushed. The *IIHF Ice Times* has selected the ten biggest moments in the colorful history of Olympic ice hockey. As lists of other experts would surely look different, few can dispute the legitimacy of Lake Placid '80 as the number one.

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

**1 Lake Placid 1980.** USA captain Mike Eruzione scores the winning goal at 10:00 of the third period against the Soviet Union. Team USA, comprised of college players, defeats the Soviet Union, 4-3, in what is considered the biggest upset in international hockey. It was the key game in USA's run for the gold medal, its first in 20 years. The Soviet Union had won the four previous Olympic ice hockey tournaments and they went on to win the next three. (1992 as CIS). Immediately following Lake Placid, the Soviet team stayed undefeated for almost five seasons in IIHF competition. Books were written and movies were made about this victory which is as close as one can get to a true miracle in athletics.

**2 Lillehammer 1994.** A 20-year old Peter Forsberg scores on a memorable penalty shot in the shoot-out and goaltender Tommy Salo makes the ensuing save on Paul Kariya's penalty shot to lead Sweden to its first ever Olympic gold medal as Sweden defeats Canada, 3-2, in the overtime final. Forsberg's "insane" fake-move on Canada's goalie Corey Hirsch -- something that most hockey players don't dare to try in practice -- became a stamp and a defining moment in Swedish sports lore.

**3 Nagano 1998.** Goaltender Dominik Hasek thwarts all five Canadian shooters in the penalty shootout in the semifinal as the Czech Republic eliminates Canada 2-1. The Czechs follow up by winning the gold medal game against Russia 1-0. Low scoring defenseman Petr Svoboda, who defected from Czechoslovakia 14 years earlier, scores the lone goal, his first and last for the national team. It was the Czech Republic's/Czechoslovakia's first Olympic gold in ice hockey.

**4 Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956.** Soviet Union defeats Canada 2-0 in the last game of the final round to win its first ever Olympic ice hockey gold in its first Olympic appearance, only two years after entering international competition at the 1954 IIHF World Championship in Stockholm. It marked the first time that Canada lost two games in one Olympic tournament as they were defeated by eventual silver medalist USA, 4-1, four days earlier. Vsevolod Bobrov, the first Soviet superstar, led all Olympic scorers with nine goals in seven games. The Soviet win marked a beginning of a new era in international hockey.

**5 Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936.** Great Britain defeats Canada 2-1 in one of the biggest upsets in Olympic hockey history and the early result eventually leads the Brits to the gold medal. Gerry Davey and Edgar Brenchley were the historic goal scorers for Great Britain. It was Canada's first defeat in an Olympic game and the first time since 1920 that Canada didn't win gold.

**6 Salt Lake City 2002.** Joe Sakic, the eventual Olympic MVP scores the winning goal (3-2) and also adds the clinching last goal as Canada defeats USA, 5-2, in the gold medal game to give Canada its first ice hockey gold in 50 years. Managing Director Wayne Gretzky celebrates in the stands and Canadians take to the streets as five decades of Olympic frustration comes to an end. Most players say that this was the best hockey they have ever been part of. It was USA's first Olympic loss on home ice.

**7 Nagano 1998.** USA defeats Canada 3-1 to win the first ever women's Olympic ice hockey tournament as one of the best and fiercest rivalries in all of international team sports hits the Olympic stage. Many traditional hockey fans, hesitant to embrace the women's game, change their minds as USA and Canada display a great performance of skill and speed. Sandra Whyte scores the clincher and has assists on the other U.S. goals.

**8 Albertville 1992.** "The team with no name, no flag and no national anthem" wins the Olympic ice hockey gold. CIS, or the Commonwealth of Independent States, defeats Canada, 3-1, in the gold medal game, the last time coach Viktor Tikhonov leads a national team to a first-place finish. Tikhonov calls it "my biggest success" at the press-conference as his squad did not have the star appeal of the former Soviet teams. The IIHF later credited the gold medal to Russia.

**9 Squaw Valley 1960.** USA goaltender Jack McCartan plays the game of his life against the defending Olympic champion Soviet Union as the USA wins 3-2. McCartan & Co defeat Czechoslovakia, 9-4, the next day (Roger Christian scores five goals in the last period) to win the first ice hockey gold medal for the U.S. Bill Cleary,

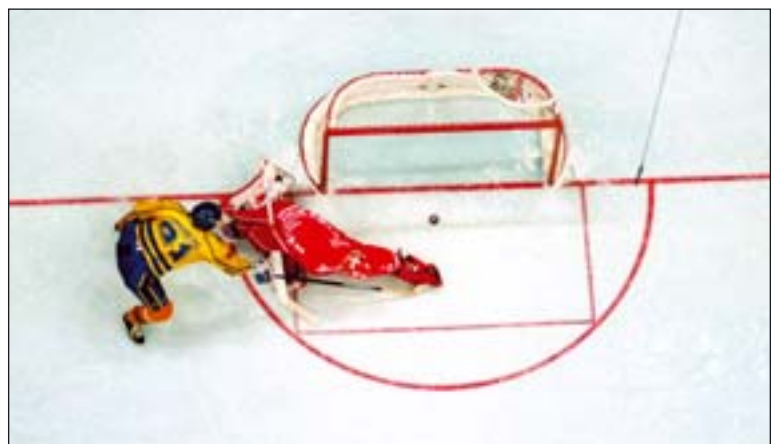


Photo: Al Behrman, AP

**HE HAD THE NERVE:** Peter Forsberg, only 20 in 1994, scores with a one-handed backhand in the penalty shoot-out against Canada's Corey Hirsch in Lillehammer. American photographer Al Behrman caught a great Olympic moment in one of best hockey photos ever.

who led the U.S.-team with seven goals and seven assists in seven games, had this comment 35 years later: "I wouldn't trade my chance to march in the Olympic parade of athletes for 100 Stanley Cups. And when it was over, we all went back to our lives. That's the way we wanted it."

**10 Salt Lake City 2002.** Raimo Helminen takes part in his sixth consecutive Olympic ice hockey tournament as the 38-year old Finnish forward becomes the first hockey player to reach that remarkable record. Two months later, Helminen breaks the record for most national team games. A record he still holds at 330.



# ggest Olympic moment



Photo: IOC Archives, Lausanne

**MIRACLES HAPPEN:** Substituted goalie Vladislav Tretiak (far left) and Alexander Skvortsov realize that the Big Red Machine has been defeated by a group of keen collegians in Lake Placid 1980.



Photo: IOC Archives, Lausanne

**VIKTOR'S LAST HURRAH:** The CCCP was gone from the jerseys in Albertville 1992, but coach Tikhonov's Russians played every bit as impressive as the old Soviet teams.



Photo: Dave Sandford

**LONG DROUGHT OVER:** Joe Sakic and Jarome Iginla (left) end Canada's 50-year long wait for an Olympic hockey gold in Salt Lake City '02.



Photo: IOC Archives, Lausanne

**PIONEERS:** The U.S. women became the first to be the best in Olympic ice hockey.



Photo: IOC Archives, Lausanne

**MIRACLE, Part I:** An unheralded U.S. team stunned both Canada and the Soviets in Squaw Valley.

## For the Brodeurs, Olympics in Italy is a matter of family pride



Photo: Denis Brodeur collection (left), Dave Sandford  
**FATHER & SON:** Denis Brodeur won an Olympic medal in Italy 50 years before his son Martin will try to accomplish the same.

By Andrew Podnieks

■ For both Denis and Martin Brodeur, a trip to Torino in February 2006 will be a return engagement of sorts, but in very different ways for both men. For the senior Brodeur, Denis, it's a return to a country from which he departed in 1956 with a bronze medal as one of the two goalies on the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen team that competed for Canada in Cortina in 1956.

For Martin, current and long-standing goalie of the New Jersey Devils, it's a return to the goal of Team Canada for which he won gold four years ago in Salt Lake City. For father and son, it is a family chance of a lifetime to spend an Olympics together.

■ Denis Brodeur shared the goaltending duties with Keith Woodall half a century ago, both men playing four games, both winning three times and losing once. Denis' loss came early in the medal round, a 4-1 defeat at the hands of the Americans. It turned out to be his last game in Cortina as Woodall played the final three games en route to a bronze medal.

■ Martin's experiences in Salt Lake in 2002 were just the opposite. He was on the bench for the opening game for Canada, an unpolished 5-2 loss to Sweden with Curtis Joseph in goal. Coach Pat Quinn started Brodeur the next game, a 3-2 win over Germany, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Martin played every minute the rest of the gold-medal way. In the dressing room after the 5-2 win over USA in the gold medal game at the E-Center, there was father Denis, camera in hand, to capture one of the proudest moment's of his life. Martin is back in goal for Canada in Torino, and Denis will be in the stands watching, hoping he can see his son after the final game of the 2006 Olympics with another gold medal around his neck and a bouquet of yellow roses in his hands.

■ Apart from goaltending, photography has been a big part of Denis Brodeur's life. As a Montreal native, Denis worked for many years as the official photographer of the storied Montreal Canadiens in the National Hockey League.

## XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES PREVIEW

## Finland and Sweden shoot for medal podium shake up

By Jenny Wiedeke

■ ■ ■ This is the third Olympic Winter Games that has included Women's Ice Hockey as an event. In the 12-year span since the Nagano Games, women's hockey has come a long way, yet still has a long way to come.

In that first Olympic women's tournament in Nagano, it was the Canada-USA show, with the United States grabbing the first historic gold medal. Salt Lake City was a virtual replay of 1998, only it was Canada earning the top spot over the U.S. After the early results, many were quick to point out that women's hockey was a two-team sport. Adding to the stigma was the fact that even every IIHF World Championship has been dominated by the two North American nations as no other team has claimed silver or gold.

But in the past few years, the Canadians and Americans haven't been cruising to lopsided wins over the rest of the globe. Most notably, the Nordic countries of Sweden and Finland have been able to apply pressure and compete for points. In fact if any nation will be able to knock the North American giants off their thrown, it is likely to be one of these two northern nations. Here, we state the case for why each nation could be able to at last crack the elusive top two:

## ■ ■ ■ Finland:

Finland has been the most often overlooked team in women's hockey. While the talk has always circled around Canada and the U.S., many people forget that it was the Finns who held a one-goal lead going into the third period semi-final game against the Canadians in Salt Lake, a mere 20 minutes away from the gold medal game.

■ ■ ■ Much like that semi-final game, which Canada came back to in with five goals in the third period, the Finns are always close, but can't seem to get over the hump in the big game.



**WHO WILL WIN THE RACE?** The Nordic nations Finland and Sweden are rivals with a similar cause: to knock Canada and the United States out of the top two Olympic medal positions.

Even in the most-recent women's tournament, a pre-Olympic test event in Torino in November, Finland lost to the U.S. by a slim 1-0 margin and fell to Canada only 3-1. In fact, throughout the various women's tournaments and exhibition games leading up to the 2006 Olympics, Finland has been competitive with the North Americans in virtually all its games. While the Finns dropped all four games against the U.S. in a November series, the average margin of loss was two goals.

Against neighbour Sweden, the results are a mixed bag. Sweden dominated in last World Championship, win-

ning the bronze by a 5-2 margin. However, more recently the Finns have been fighting back, skating to a lopsided 6-2 win at the Olympic test event in Torino.

## ■ ■ ■ Sweden:

What a difference four years makes. The last time Sweden was preparing to go to the Olympics, Swedish Olympic officials were reluctant to field at team fearing the country would be unable to be competitive. But Sweden's bronze medal in Salt Lake silenced the critics and allowed the team return home and implement a more rigid training and development program for its women.

"Anyone in the world can watch the Olympics," says Swedish head coach Peter Elander. "But you have to devote your life in order to become an Olympic athlete."

For the Swedish women's team, that sacrifice includes giving up their summers to train four to five times a week. It also includes a tough regimen of training camps. Overall, the Swedes have identified and tested close to 80 girls whom they consider to have Olympic potential. Gone are the days of a 'free pass' on the Olympic team as many hopes and dreams are dashed in Sweden when the final Olympic roster is named.

■ ■ ■ Interest in women's hockey in Sweden has dramatically increased the number of players. Before the bronze medal in 2002, there were just shy of 2,000 female players in the country, today, that number has increased to 3,000.

"We are developing and improving, there's no doubt," Elander says. "But the other teams are also continuing to improve, so it's tough to close the gap."

■ ■ ■ Sweden will bring one of the youngest teams to the Olympics, including 19-year-old goaltender Kim Martin, who is already playing in her second Olympics. Elander is busy teaching this younger generation that there are no limits-no matter who is on the other side of the bench.

"We've watched the movie 'Miracle on Ice' five times as a team already," Elander said. "Our team knows the story very well."

## All eyes on Turin's women rookies

Women's hockey is facing its first major hurdle as the stars that put the female game on the map are starting retiring—a big gap that is ready to be filled by up and coming stars.

While the urge for the older veterans to stay on for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics is strong, the familiar faces on the rosters are starting to dwindle. People are wondering if the three-time Olympic veterans have what it takes to return for a fourth Olympics in 2010. On the U.S. and Canadian rosters, only 10 players are returning for their third Olympics—a number that is sure to dwindle as another four year passes.

So who will take the place of the seasoned veterans? Below are a few of the most promising Olympic rookies for the four teams that have ever earned an Olympic medal.

**CANADA - MEGHAN AGOSTA**

To be named to the Canadian roster as a teenager is tough thing to do. But Acosta has not shrunk from the challenge is fast becoming known for her physical play. The Olympics will be the first national women's team experience for

Agosta, who was previously on Canada's U22 team.

**SWEDEN - ELIN HOLMLOV**

Holmlov is one of the most experienced Olympic rookies in Torino. She already has two World Championships under her belt and in 2004 was Sweden's leading scorer with two goals and four assists. Not bad, considering she was only 17 at the time. Who knows what the now-19-year old can accomplish in her first Olympics.

**FINLAND - SATU TUOMINEN**

"She is the complete package, a very skilled player." A big compliment, especially since it comes from rival Sweden head coach Peter Elander. The Olympics will be Tuominen's first major international tournament, but she has turned heads with her strong performance in the exhibition games.

**USA - SARAH PARSONS**

Parsons has the potential to be the next big offensive force for the U.S. At the last World Championship she tallied four points and despite being the youngest player on the Olympic roster, she ranked sixth overall in points on the team's pre-Olympic tour with 10 points in only 12 games.



XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES PREVIEW

# Cortina 1956 - the Olympics that changed hockey for ever

By Andrew Podnieks

■ The Torino Olympics in February 2006 marks the half century celebration of the last Italian Olympic Winter Games, held in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956. That year was a watershed in hockey, one that can be seen as the start of the modern era in the international game. For the first time since 1920, Canada lost two matches at those Olympics against foes which today remain its greatest rivals: the former Soviet Union and the neighbouring Americans. Their bronze medal finish, while admirable, was the country's worst showing in international history up until then.

■ Cortina marked the first Olympics for CCCP, but their stunning 2-0 victory on the final day of the tournament to clinch gold was not a surprise so much as an affirmation. The Soviets joined the IIHF World Championship two years earlier and whipped the Canadians 7-2 to claim gold in 1954 in Stockholm, Sweden. Embarrassed, the Canadians came back the following year and beat their new rivals 5-0 on the final day of the 1955 championship in Germany to reclaim gold they virtually owned for more than three decades. The win set up an Olympic showdown in Cortina, the first real test to Canada's status as the game's greatest hockey nation.

The 1956 results were not a shock except that they confirmed the Soviets' place as a superpower on ice. Their team that year featured the best the country could offer



Photo: IOC Archives, Lausanne

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD:** Canadians were on attack in Cortina 50-years ago, but goalie Nikolai Puchkov preserved a historical shutout. The Soviet Union won the decider, 2-0, in the first Olympic game between hockey's super powers.

-- stars such as Vsevolod Bobrov, Nikolai Sologubov, and Nikolai Puchkov -- and went through the tournament undefeated.

■ The Canadians, represented again by a club team, this time the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen, featured a lineup of players who almost entirely remained amateur throughout their careers, from goalie Keith Woodall to captain Jack MacKenzie and forward Don Rope. The Americans, too, were not an NHL group, but still the

names were very familiar to amateur and international hockey fans: Bill Cleary, Willard Ikola, John Mayasich, and Don Rigazio, all of whom played many years for USA.

■ The medal round series of games in 1956 featured six teams, the three aforementioned as well as Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and Germany. Other than Canada's two losses, the most meaningful game was the Soviet Union's 4-0 win over USA which, in the end, ensured a gold-silver finish for those nations (it was the only loss for USA in the medal round).

Sweden's *Tre Kronor* finished fourth and the Czechs fifth, but it was the medal standings that had tremendous influence over the history of the game. Soon after, Canada abandoned club representation for international tournaments and developed a National Team program that gave it renewed success and respectability. The Americans went on to win gold at the 1960 Olympics on home ice, and the Czechs developed an rivalry with the Soviets that was second

to none.

■ Few people today can recall that 1956 Italian Olympics with clarity, but those results paved the way for the modern game for virtually all of hockey's superpowers. The top five finishers in 1956 have remained consistently in those positions ever since.

## The Iron-man of the dressing rooms is going to his sixth Olympic tournament

■ There are no official records and statistics for equipment managers, but if there were, Anders Weiderstal would likely lead in all categories. The 51-year old equipment manager of the Swedish national team is preparing for his sixth consecutive Olympic Winter Games with the *Tre Kronor*. Since 1984, he has been on the Swedish bench for 687 national team games, five Olympic tournaments, 20 IIHF World Championships and has outlasted eight national team coaches.



MR. PUDDING

He has been a part of the best times in Swedish hockey history, like the Olympic gold in Lillehammer 1994 and four IIHF World Championships (1987, 1991, 1992 and 1998) and the worst, the defeat against Belarus in the quarterfinal of the 2002 Olympic in Salt Lake City.

"I have a passion for hockey and I consider myself privileged to be able to work with the best Swedish hockey players and with people who love what they are doing," says Anders. "I feel very proud because everyone who works with the national team is equally important."

■ Even though he is one of the most recognizable people in the international hockey community, very few know his name. If you ever call the office of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association, don't bother asking for Mr. Weiderstal. The chance is that you get a "huh?" as a reply. He is simply known by his nickname "Pudding" and even when people from the U.S. or Canada call, they ask for "Mr. Pudding".

"Pudding" is considered as an authority when it comes to running locker room operations with 23 international stars that are used to - perhaps even spoiled - with everything being prepared, from perfectly sharpened skates to Swedish coffee which must be on site regardless where a competition is taking place.

"You have to be dedicated to this job, be service minded and organized, almost to the extent of being pedantic," says Pudding. "You also need to be a good communicator in order to become part of the team."

■ He is looking forward to his sixth Olympics. "It's the same excitement every time. The Olympics are something very special. Earlier, it was an amateur tournament, but now with everyone being able to participate, it's even better."

He will never forget his first Olympic experience, Calgary 1988. "The opening ceremony was overwhelming and I remember that in the Olympic village my room was next to Ingemar Stenmark's. That was huge."

□ In an effort to boost business in Nairobi, Kenya, Panari Hotel manager Sigi Loeper built a hockey rink. The Solar Ice Rink is one of the few on the continent of Africa (there is a small rink in Cairo, Egypt and a IIHF-sized one in Johannesburg, South Africa). The \$820,000 arena is 15,000 square feet and is among the city's most popular attractions for foreigners. Loeper hopes to get enough equipment to form two hockey teams in the near future. The "Zamboni" consists of three hotel workers using a snow brush and brooms to clean the ice.

## Will the elite club grow?

■ Sixteen players have won the IIHF World Championship, the Olympic Ice Hockey tournament and the Stanley Cup and they make up the exclusive Triple Gold Club. The XX Olympic Winter Games is the next opportunity for the elite society to gain new members.

Here are some of the players who will join the club - if their team wins the gold in Torino 2006: CZE: Pavel Kubina, FIN: Jere Lehtinen, SWE: Nicklas Lidstrom, CAN: Kris Draper.

No USA-player can do it since the U.S. has not won the IIHF World Championship since 1933. Russia's Alexei Yashin has a World Championship title from 1993 but he would need both a gold in Turin and a Stanley Cup the coming spring to score the triple.

If Mats Sundin wins with Sweden in Turin, he just needs the Toronto Maple Leafs to win the Stanley Cup and he may join the club.

- Those sixteen players form the unique group that has won the IIHF World Championship, the Olympic Ice Hockey tournament and the Stanley Cup.
- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Tomas Jonsson (SWE)   | 6. Peter Forsberg (SWE)     |
| 2. Hakan Loob (SWE)      | 7. Vyacheslav Fetisov (RUS) |
| 3. Mats Naslund (SWE)    | 8. Igor Larionov (RUS)      |
| 4. Valeri Kamensky (RUS) | 9. Alexander Mogilny (RUS)  |
| 5. Alexei Gusarov (RUS)  | 10. Vladimir Malakhov (RUS) |
|                          | 11. Joe Sakic (CAN)         |
|                          | 12. Brendan Shanahan (CAN)  |
|                          | 13. Rob Blake (CAN)         |
|                          | 14. Scott Niedermayer (CAN) |
|                          | 15. Jaromir Jagr (CZE)      |
|                          | 16. Jiri Slegr (CZE)        |

# Dynamo's curse is over as Kärpät starts a sorry streak

■ Not only did Dynamo Moscow win the IIHF European Champions Cup, but they also chased away the curse that has been following the club for 16 years. After nine cup attempts and six gold medal game losses, Dynamo is finally on top of Europe.

Winning a major European title doesn't come easy and especially not if you are a fan of Dynamo Moscow. Since the club's first participation in a European cup final in 1990, the Moscow club has lost six finals (see separate box) in nine cup runs. At the end of the third period of the gold medal game against Finland's Kärpät Oulu, it looked like the jinx would continue to haunt them.

■ The score was 2-2 after two periods, but Dynamo jumped ahead 4-2 early in the third thanks to Mikhail Grabovski (his eighth point in three games!) and Leonid Kanareikin. Kärpät came back on Mika Pyöralä's and Viktor Ujčík's goals 77 seconds apart tied the game and forced overtime.

Just like in the 2005 ECC, the Russian champions (Avangard Omsk) and the Finnish champions (Kärpät) were deadlocked in crunch time, but this year there was no Jaromír Jágr who could end it with an open play goal in OT, so the game had to be decided in a penalty shootout.

■ Both goalies, Dynamo's Sergei Zvyagin and Kärpät's Nicklas Bäckström, stopped everything that was thrown at them along the ice in the shootout, so the trick was to put the puck high. As Vadim Shakhraichuk (Dynamo) and Kalle Sahlstedt (Kärpät) found the roof in the fourth shootout round, only Igor Mirnov succeeded doing the same in the fifth and Dynamo Moscow was finally the European champion by the smallest of margins.

As much joy as there was among the 10,900 spectators in the St. Petersburg Ice Palace, there was a huge collective sigh of relief. Curse, jinx, plague - call it what you want - it was suddenly history for Dynamo.



ECC Photos: KALLE PARKKINEN, Lehtikuva

**MAXIM KNOWS ECC:** *You want to win the IIHF European Champions Cup -- get Maxim Sushinsky. The slick Russian is the first to win two ECC trophies with two clubs while being named the MVP both times! Last year Maxim starred on the winning Avangard Omsk team and this season he won it with Dynamo Moscow. As captain, he was the first to lift the Silverstone trophy following the final.*

■ The victory must be attributed to coach Vladimir Krikunov who, just before the ECC, put together the line of Mikhail Grabovski centering nominated Olympians Maxim Sushinsky and Alexander Kharitonov. And what a success it was. Grabovski (4+4), Sushinsky (2+6) and Kharitonov (1+4) amassed a whopping 21 points in three games as the line finished one, two, three in the tournament scoring.

Krikunov, also national team coach of Russia, was certainly dreaming about taking the entire line to Turin, but the "problem" is that Grabovski (a 2006 draft pick of the Montreal Canadiens, by the way) is Belarusian.

■ Although Russian teams have won both the 2005 and the 2006 tournaments, Kärpät Oulu is the undisputed "Team ECC" so far. The Finns were the only returning club from the inaugural event and they again made it to the gold medal game and again lost to a Russian team that without any doubt enjoyed home ice advantage.

"It's tough right now," said Kärpät's club manager Juha Junno moments after the second final game defeat. "But we are determined to be back for the third time next year." To be able to, Kärpät must win an unprecedented third consecutive national championship this spring.

SYMON SZEMBERG  
St. Petersburg

#### Final 2006 ECC Ranking:

1. Dynamo Moscow (RUS)
2. Kärpät Oulu (FIN)
3. HC Davos (SUI)
4. Moeller-Pardubice (CZE)
5. Slovan Bratislava (SVK)
6. Frölunda Indians (SWE)

■ All results on page 11



ECC Photos: KALLE PARKKINEN, Lehtikuva

**THE BEGINNING OF THE END:** *Dynamo's forward Vadim Shakhraichuk was the first one to score after six consecutive blanks in the penalty shootout in the Gold Medal game. The Ukrainian paved the way for teammate Igor Mirnov to shoot high on Kärpät's goalie Nicklas Bäckström. And when Mirnov scored in the last round, it was all over. Bäckström has been on the losing side in OT in both 2005 and 2006.*

#### Dynamo's losing way to glory

■ *Dynamo Moscow has not succeeded in nine European cup attempts - six of them finals (in bold) - before they finally ended the drought on 8 January 2006.*

- 1991 **European Cup:** vs Djurgarden (SWE) 2-3
- 1992 **European Cup:** vs Djurgarden (SWE) 3-4 (semifinal)
- 1993 **European Cup:** vs Malmö (SWE) 3-4 (pen. shootout)
- 1994 **European Cup:** vs TPS Turku (FIN) 3-4
- 1996 **European Cup:** vs Kölner EC (GER) 1-4 (semifinal)
- 1997 **EHL:** vs TPS Turku (FIN) 2-5
- 1998 **EHL:** vs Feldkirch (AUT) 3-5
- 1999 **EHL:** vs Metallurg Magnitogorsk (RUS) 1-2 (OT)
- 2000 **EHL:** vs Nürnberg (GER) 1-2 (pen. shootout, qualif.)



■ The 2007 IIHF European Champions Cup will be played 11-14 January in St. Petersburg's Ice Palace

#### ALL STAR TEAM

**Goaltender:** Niklas Bäckström, Kärpät  
**Defenseman:** Brett Hauer, Davos  
**Defenseman:** Mikko Lehtonen, Kärpät  
**Forward:** Maxim Sushinsky, Dynamo  
**Forward:** Mikhail Grabovski, Dynamo  
**Forward:** Jari Viuhkola, Kärpät

#### DIRECTORATE AWARDS & MVP

**Goaltender:** Nicklas Bäckström, Kärpät  
**Defenseman:** Brett Hauer, Davos  
**Forward:** Mikhail Grabovski, Dynamo  
**MVP:** Maxim Sushinsky, Dynamo



## RESULTS SUMMARY

## IIHF World U20 Championship

Vancouver/Kelowna/Kamloops, CANADA Dec. 26 - Jan. 5

## Preliminary Round - Group A

Finland - Canada	1 - 5	(0-2, 0-2, 1-1)
Norway - United States	2-11	(0-3, 1-5, 1-3)
Switzerland - Norway	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Canada - Switzerland	4 - 3	(2-1, 2-1, 0-1)
United States - Finland	6 - 5	(3-2, 2-1, 1-2)
Norway - Canada	0 - 4	(0-1, 0-3, 0-0)
United States - Switzerland	2 - 2	(2-0, 0-0, 0-2)
Finland - Norway	9 - 1	(7-0, 1-1, 1-0)
Canada - United States	3 - 2	(2-1, 0-1, 1-0)
Switzerland - Finland	1 - 4	(0-1, 0-0, 1-3)

Canada*	4	4	0	0	16 - 6	8
United States	4	2	1	1	21-12	5
Finland	4	2	0	2	19-13	4
Switzerland	4	1	1	2	8 - 10	3
Norway	4	0	0	4	3 - 26	0

\*Canada qualified directly to semi-final

## Preliminary Round - Group B

Latvia - Czech Republic	1 - 5	(1-2, 0-3, 0-0)
Sweden - Russia	1 - 5	(1-2, 0-1, 0-2)
Slovakia - Latvia	7 - 4	(2-0, 4-3, 1-1)
Czech Republic - Sweden	2 - 3	(0-2, 1-1, 1-0)
Russia - Slovakia	6 - 2	(5-1, 0-1, 1-0)
Latvia - Russia	1 - 3	(0-2, 1-1, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Slovakia	5 - 3	(3-1, 1-0, 1-2)
Sweden - Latvia	10-2	(4-1, 3-0, 3-1)
Slovakia - Sweden	0 - 6	(0-2, 0-1, 0-3)
Russia - Czech Republic	7 - 2	(1-0, 1-0, 5-2)

Russia*	4	4	0	0	21 - 6	8
Sweden	4	3	0	1	20 - 9	6
Czech Republic	4	2	0	2	14-14	4
Slovakia	4	1	0	3	12-21	2
Latvia	4	0	0	4	8 - 25	0

\*Russia qualified directly to semi-final

## Relegation Round

Switzerland - Norway	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Slovakia - Latvia	7 - 4	(2-0, 4-3, 1-1)
Switzerland - Latvia	5 - 2	(1-0, 2-1, 2-1)
Slovakia - Norway	4 - 3	(1-1, 2-2, 1-0)
Latvia - Norway	4 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Switzerland - Slovakia	3 - 3	(2-1, 1-0, 0-2)

Switzerland	3	2	1	0	10 - 5	5
Slovakia	3	2	1	0	14-10	5
Latvia	3	1	0	2	10-12	2
Norway	3	0	0	3	3 - 10	0

Latvia &amp; Norway relegated to 2007 Division I U20 Championship

## Playoff Round

Sweden - Finland	0 - 1	(0-1, 0-0, 0-0) QF
United States - Czech Rep.	2 - 1	(2-1, 0-0, 0-0) QF
Canada - Finland	4 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 2-0) SF
Russia - United States	5 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 4-1) SF
Sweden - Czech Rep.	3 - 1	(0-0, 0-0, 3-1) 5-6 place
Finland - United States	4 - 2	(0-1, 2-0, 2-1) bronze
Russia - Canada	0 - 5	(0-2, 0-2, 0-1) gold

## Final Ranking

1. CAN, 2. RUS, 3. FIN, 4. USA, 5. SWE, 6. CZE, 7. SUI, 8. SVK, 9. LAT, 10. NOR

## Tournament Directorate

Best Goaltender: Tuukka Rask (FIN)  
Best Defenseman: Marc Staal (CAN)  
Best Forward: Evgeni Malkin (RUS)

## Tournament Media All-Star Team

Best Goaltender: Tuukka Rask (FIN)  
Best Defensemen: Luc Bourdon (CAN), Jack Johnson (USA)  
Best Forwards: Evgeni Malkin (RUS), Lauri Tukonen (FIN), Steve Downie (CAN)  
Tournament MVP: Evgeni Malkin (RUS)

## Individual Scoring

1. Phil Kessel	USA	7	1	10	11
2. Evgeni Malkin	RUS	6	4	6	10
3. Lauri Tukonen	FIN	7	3	7	10
4. Stanislav Lascek	SVK	6	6	3	9
5. Chris Bourque	USA	7	7	1	8
6. Nicklas Backstrom	SWE	6	4	3	7
7. Mathias Joggi	SUI	6	4	3	7
8. Bobby Ryan	USA	7	3	4	7
9. Blake Comeau	CAN	6	3	4	7
10. Marek Zagrapan	SVK	6	2	5	7
11. Alexei Emelin	RUS	6	2	5	7
12. Matthias Bierber	SUI	6	0	7	7

## IIHF World U20 Championship Div. I

## Group A

Bled, SLOVENIA December 11-17

Ukraine - Denmark	1 - 6	(0-4, 0-1, 1-1)
Japan - Germany	1 - 8	(1-4, 0-2, 0-2)
France - Slovenia	1 - 2	(0-1, 0-1, 1-0)
Germany - France	1 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Denmark - Japan	7 - 5	(1-1, 3-3, 3-1)
Slovenia - Ukraine	8 - 2	(2-1, 3-0, 3-1)
Japan - France	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-3, 0-0)
Germany - Ukraine	3 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 0-0)
Slovenia - Denmark	2 - 3	(2-3, 0-0, 0-0)
France - Ukraine	1 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 0-0)
Denmark - Germany	1 - 6	(0-2, 0-1, 1-3)
Slovenia - Japan	5 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Ukraine - Japan	6 - 4	(0-2, 4-0, 2-2)
Denmark - France	3 - 3	(2-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Germany - Slovenia	2 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 1-0)

Germany	5	5	0	0	20 - 2	10
Denmark	5	3	1	1	20-17	7
Slovenia	5	3	0	2	17 - 8	6
France	5	1	2	2	8 - 7	4
Ukraine	5	1	1	3	10-22	3
Japan	5	0	0	5	10-29	0

Germany promoted to 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship

Japan relegated to 2006 IIHF World Championship, Division II

## IIHF World U20 Championship Div. I

## Group B

Minsk, BELARUS December 12-18

Italy - Austria	2 - 2	(0-0, 1-0, 1-2)
Poland - Kazakhstan	1 - 6	(1-2, 0-3, 0-1)
Hungary - Belarus	0 - 3	(0-3, 0-0, 0-0)
Kazakhstan - Italy	3 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 1-0)
Austria - Hungary	2 - 2	(0-0, 0-2, 2-0)
Belarus - Poland	3 - 3	(3-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Hungary - Poland	1 - 1	(1-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Kazakhstan - Austria	3 - 1	(3-1, 0-0, 0-0)
Belarus - Italy	7 - 1	(2-0, 3-1, 2-0)
Kazakhstan - Hungary	7 - 1	(0-1, 3-0, 4-0)
Poland - Italy	1 - 4	(0-1, 0-3, 1-0)
Austria - Belarus	0 - 6	(0-1, 0-2, 0-3)
Italy - Hungary	7 - 2	(2-1, 4-1, 1-0)
Austria - Poland	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-1, 0-2)
Belarus - Kazakhstan	5 - 2	(2-0, 1-2, 2-0)

Belarus	5	4	1	0	24 - 6	9
Kazakhstan	5	4	0	1	21 - 8	8
Italy	5	2	1	2	14-15	5
Poland	5	1	2	2	9 - 14	4
Austria	5	0	2	3	5 - 16	2
Hungary	5	0	2	3	6 - 20	2

Belarus promoted to 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship

Hungary relegated to 2006 IIHF World Championship, Division II

## IIHF World U20 Championship Div. II

## Group A

Bucharest, ROMANIA December 12-18

Australia - Netherlands	2 - 7	(1-2, 1-3, 0-2)
New Zealand - Great Britain	0-18	(0-4, 0-9, 0-5)
Spain - Romania	0 - 6	(0-2, 0-3, 0-1)
Netherlands - New Zealand	19-0	(2-0, 9-0, 7-0)
Great Britain - Spain	9 - 1	(2-0, 4-0, 2-1)
Romania - Australia	8 - 2	(2-1, 5-1, 1-0)
Great Britain - Australia	15-1	(3-0, 8-1, 4-0)
New Zealand - Spain	2 - 7	(0-4, 1-1, 1-2)
Romania - Netherlands	2 - 2	(1-1, 1-0, 0-1)
Spain - Australia	7 - 6	(2-3, 2-1, 3-2)
Netherlands - Great Britain	0 - 4	(0-2, 0-0, 0-2)
Romania - New Zealand	14-0	(2-0, 5-0, 7-0)
Australia - New Zealand	6 - 0	(1-0, 3-0, 2-0)
Netherlands - Spain	10-0	(5-0, 4-0, 1-0)
Great Britain - Romania	7 - 1	(4-0, 1-0, 2-1)

Great Britain	5	5	0	0	53 - 3	10
Netherlands	5	3	1	1	38 - 8	7
Romania	5	3	1	1	31-11	7
Spain	5	2	0	3	15-33	4
Australia	5	1	0	4	17-37	2
New Zealand	5	0	0	5	2 - 64	0

Great Britain promoted to 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship, Division I

New Zealand relegated to 2006 IIHF World Championship, Division III

## IIHF World U20 Championship Div. II

## Group B

Belgrade, SERBIA &amp; MONTENEGRO January 10-16

Mexico - Estonia	1-18	(1-5, 0-5, 0-8)
China - Korea	5 - 4	(1-2, 1-2, 3-0)
Serbia & Mont. - Croatia	2 - 4	(1-1, 1-1, 0-2)
Estonia - China	11-1	(3-1, 1-0, 7-0)
Croatia - Mexico	5 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Korea - Serbia & Mont.	1 - 1	(0-0, 0-1, 1-0)
Korea - Croatia	5 - 3	(0-1, 3-2, 2-0)
Mexico - China	5 - 3	(2-1, 3-0, 0-2)
Estonia - Serbia & Mont.	7 - 1	(3-0, 4-0, 0-1)
Korea - Mexico	7 - 2	(3-0, 1-2, 3-0)
Croatia - Estonia	2 - 6	(1-1, 0-2, 1-3)
China - Serbia & Mont.	1 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 1-1)
Croatia - China	8 - 2	(2-1, 4-0, 2-1)
Estonia - Korea	4 - 3	(1-1, 2-2, 1-0)
Serbia & Mont. - Mexico	7 - 3	(2-0, 4-0, 1-3)

Estonia	5	5	0	0	46 - 8	10
Croatia	5	3	0	2	22-15	6
Korea	5	2	1	2	20-15	5
Serbia & Mont-	5	2	1	2	14-16	5
Mexico	5	1	0	4	11-40	2
China	5	1	0	4	12-31	2

Estonia promoted to 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship, Division I

China relegated to 2006 IIHF World Championship, Division III

## IIHF World U20 Championship Div. III

Elekrenai/Kaunas, LITHUANIA January 3-9

Armenia - Iceland	0-50	(0-19, 0-11, 0-20)
Turkey - Lithuania	0-16	(0-4, 0-3, 0-9)
Bulgaria - Armenia	21-2	(8-1, 6-0, 7-1)
Iceland - Turkey	16-1	(7-0, 2-1, 7-0)
Lithuania - Bulgaria	13-0	(3-0, 2-0, 8-0)
Armenia - Lithuania	1-47	(0-15, 0-15, 1-17)
Turkey - Armenia	28-3	(7-2, 9-0, 12-1)
Iceland - Bulgaria	11-0	(3-0, 6-0, 2-0)
Bulgaria - Turkey	5 - 6	(1-1, 2-2, 2-3)
Lithuania - Iceland	5 - 2	(1-1, 3-0, 1-1)

Lithuania	4	4	0	0	81 - 3	8
Iceland	4	3	0	1	79 - 6	6
Turkey	4	2	0	2	35-40	4
Bulgaria	4	1	0	3	26-32	2
Armenia	4	0	0	4	6-146	0

Lithuania promoted to 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship, Division II

## IIHF European Champions Cup

St. Petersburg, RUSSIA January 5-8

## Ivan Hlinka Division

Karpat - Davos	3 - 1	(1-0, 0-1, 2-0)
Davos - Frolunda	6 - 2	(2-0, 2-1, 2-1)
Frolunda - Karpat	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 0-1)

Karpat Oulu (FIN)	2	2	0	0	6 - 1	4
HC Davos (SUI)	2	1	0	1	7 - 5	2
Frolunda (SWE)	2	0	0	2	2 - 9	0

## Alexander Ragulin Division

Dynamo - Slovan	3 - 1	(2-0, 0-0, 1-1)				
Slovan - Pardubice	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-2, 0-0)				
Pardubice - Dynamo	1 - 5	(1-3, 0-0, 0-2)				
Dynamo Moscow (RUS)	2	2	0	0	8 - 2	4
Moeller-Pardubice (CZE)	2	1	0	1	3 - 5	2
Slovan Bratislava (SVK)	2	0	0	2	1 - 5	0

## Final Game

Dynamo - Karpat 5-4 (1-0, 1-2, 2-2, 0-0, 1-0)

## IIHF Continental Cup Super Final

Szekefahervar, HUNGARY January 13-15

Alba Volan - ZSC Lions	2 - 3	(1-1, 1-0, 0-2)
HK Riga 2000 - Lada Togliatti	1 - 4	(0-4, 0-0, 1-0)
Lada Togliatti - Alba Volan	4 - 3	(1-1, 1-1, 2-1)
ZSC Lions - HK Riga 2000	4 - 5	(1-2, 2-2, 1-1)
Alba Volan - HK Riga 2000	2 - 7	(1-3, 0-1, 1-3)
Lada Togliatti - ZSC Lions	1 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 1-0)

Lada Togliatti (RUS)	3	3	0	0	9 - 4	6
HK Riga 2000 (LAT)	3	2	0	1	13-10	4
ZSC Lions (SUI)	3	1	0	2	7 - 8	2
Alba Volan (HUN)	3	0	0	3	7 - 14	0

# 22 years after Sarajevo, Chelios is still chasing the elusive gold

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

■ ■ Chris Chelios, 44, will be the first player to participate in an Olympic ice hockey tournament 22 years after he played in his first, in Sarajevo 1984. The American defenseman, who also played in Nagano '98 and in Salt Lake City '02, will break the previous record held by Swiss Richard "Bibi" Torriani (St. Moritz 1928 & 1948). The Detroit Red Wing will, together with Keith Tkachuk, become the first U.S. hockey player to represent his country in four Olympics Winter Games.

The *IIHF Ice Times* checked in with Chris Chelios a few weeks prior to the opening ceremony,

**If anyone told you in Sarajevo that you would be an Olympian in 2006 at the age of 44, what would you have replied?**

I would say "crazy". Back then players didn't play into their 40s. No way I could have imagined that. There were times many years after Sarajevo, when I had different injury problems, that I couldn't have imagined that I would still be around for 2006. My career was just about over in Chicago some years ago, but I managed to come back. Of course I am proud of this, but there is a lot of luck involved too.

**So how about 2010 in Vancouver?**

Is there anything called the senior Olympics (laugh)? We'll see, I'd like to stay involved. Maybe by 2010 I'll be coaching.

**Have the new rule interpretations made it easier for a player like you to still excel on top level?**

The new game has made it easier for forwards, not defenseman. But I managed to adapt to this European style of hockey. It's a game where positioning is very important and with my strong skating I feel that I can play any game.

**You were named Best Defenseman in Salt Lake City by the tournament directorate four years ago and you also made it to the All Star Team, this at the age of 40. Many of those who cover hockey say that you are a better player in your 40s than you were 15 years ago. How has your game changed?**

When I broke in, I just took the puck and ran. I didn't have much defensive sense. My whole game has changed. In Salt Lake, we had great team chemistry and Gary Suter was a great defensive partner. It certainly helped.

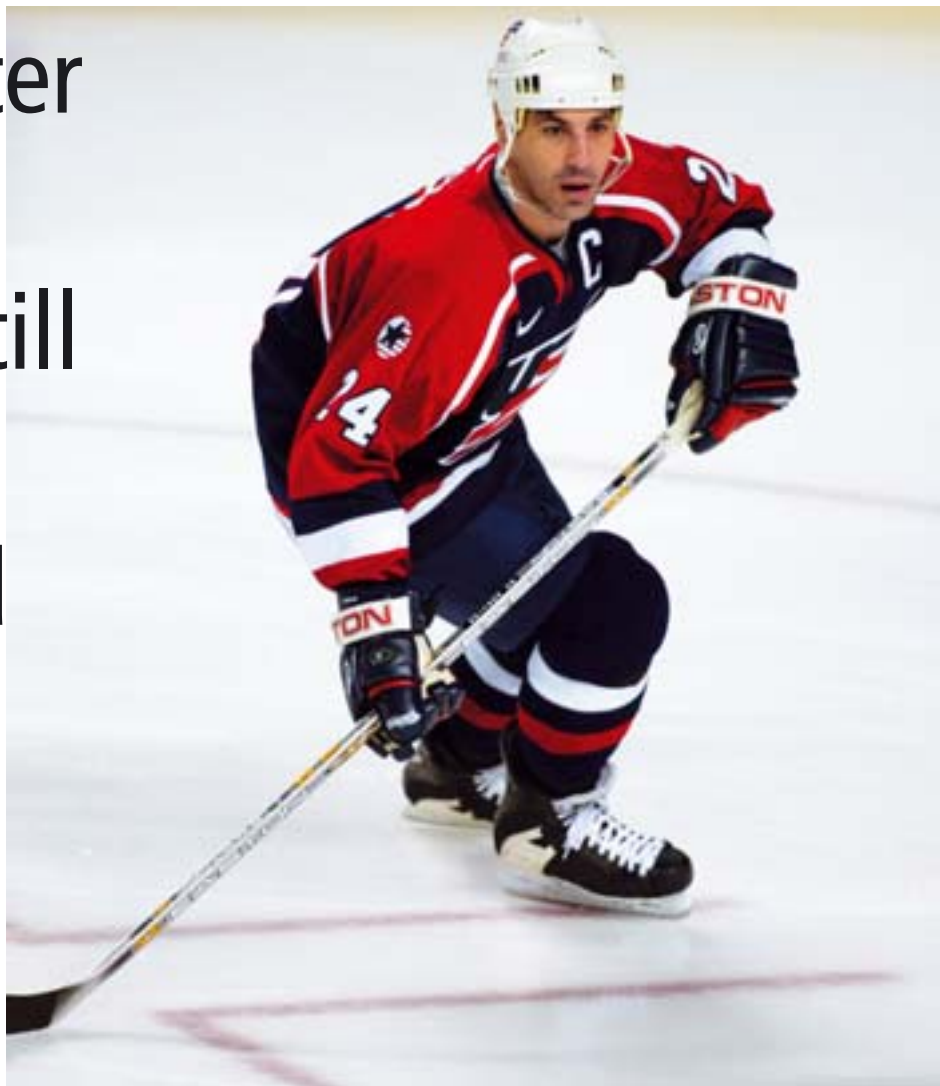


Photo: GERRY THOMAS

**CAPTAIN USA:** *Chris Chelios broke his leg in Sarajevo '84, both him and the team failed in Nagano '98, he was named Best Defenseman in Salt Lake City '02 but the team lost the gold medal game to Canada. Will Chelios become the oldest Olympic gold medallist in ice hockey in his fourth crack at the biggest prize in sports in Turin '06?*

**After Salt Lake City you were quoted as saying that you really like the international wide ice and that you'd like the red line to be taken away in the NHL. How has the new red line rule in the NHL changed the game?**

The game is obviously more open and it's more exciting for the fans. The hockey is better. The gap between the forwards and the defense is bigger and the mid-zone trap is less efficient that way.

**Are you tired of reporters and others making such an issue of your age?**

Yeah, it bothers me a little bit. But it's not only reporters. I am sure that my ice time would be different if I were younger. Maybe if I win the Olympic gold and the Stanley Cup after that, people will realize that age is just a number.

**What do you remember from Sarajevo?**

I remember that like it was yesterday. We had a bad start by losing to Canada and in the second game against Czechoslovakia I broke my leg. I continued to play, but I wasn't of much use to the team. It was very disappointing.

**What do you rank as your best Olympic memory?**

Definitely Salt Lake City. We had a very good team, but we were beaten by a team that was even better. There was no shame finishing second behind Canada. Many athletes world wide would kill for an Olympic medal of

any kind, and we won the silver. That was the best hockey I ever was involved in.

**What expectations do you have for Turin with a team which is much less experienced than the one you had four years ago?**

This team is not expected to win, but we have as good a chance as anyone else. We definitely have the skill. In a short tournament like this, we need some early momentum and a hot goalie.

**Footnote:** Sorry Chris, it's about age again. If Team USA wins a medal Chris Chelios will become the oldest hockey player in Olympic history to win a medal and the third oldest to participate. It's not likely Chelios will ever catch up to goalies Bela Ordody (Hungary) and Alfred Steinke (Germany). Both were 48 in St. Moritz 1928.

#### CHRIS CHELIOS

**Born:** January 25, 1962 in Chicago, IL, USA

■ ■ NHL-teams: Montreal (1984-1990), Chicago (1990-1999) and Detroit (1999-present).

■ ■ Previous Olympic experience: 1984 Sarajevo (7th), 1998 Nagano (6th), 2002 Salt Lake City (2nd).

■ ■ Named *Best Defenseman* and named to the All Star Team in 2002 Salt Lake City.

■ ■ Named NHL's *Best Defenseman* in 1989, 1993 and 1996. Has played in more than 1.600 NHL-games including playoffs.