

News Release

FAIR PLAY
AND RESPECT



Publisher: International Ice Hockey Federation, Editor-in-Chief: Jan-Ake Edvinsson
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March 2003 - Vol. 7 - No 1



Russia's Yuri Trubachev, who scored the U20 Championship winner, and Fedor Tyutin (left) celebrate the golden moment in Halifax following another final victory against Canada.

They struck **Gold** again



The most travelled goalie in the world keeps goals down, mileage up.
See page 12 for story



The most promising goalie in the world wins another major trophy.
See page 5 for story

"Village mentality" is the biggest obstacle in developing club hockey in Europe

The 2003 IIHF Continental Cup once again showed that European club competition has great potential and a bright future, providing that everyone contributes.

■ Potential? How about 7,000 fans showing up at the Forum in Milano for the quarter-final between the home town Vipera and Keramin Minsk from Belarus.

■ Bright future? The Gold Medal Game between Jokerit Helsinki and Lokomotiv Yaroslavl showed hockey fans what great match-ups could be created when club champions from the best hockey powers in Europe go against each other in a clash of different hockey styles and cultures.

This year's edition of the Continental Cup attracted champions from Finland, Russia, Switzerland, Slovakia, Italy, Belarus and the regular season winners of Great Britain. We saw teams which take part despite heavy schedules in the domestic leagues because they want to be part of developing a solid club competition in Europe.

Between games, I bumped into Arno Del Curto, the coach of Swiss champions HC Davos. On behalf of the IIHF and the Continental Cup organisation, I thanked him and the club for choosing to participate.

"Being national champion and the organizers of the Spengler Cup, this is an obligation for us", answered Del Curto.

This reply, of course, made me very happy. I wish more leagues and clubs would feel the same way. This edition of the Continental Cup was missing participation from the champions of the Czech Republic, Swedish and German leagues.

■ I am sure that they all had their reason's not to show up. One of them could be that they find the Continental Cup not prestigious enough. Well, if they had decided to come, the level of prestige would have increased immediately, and with all the top-ranked leagues represented, it would have been easier to attract marketing partners and sponsors, and make the whole adventure more appealing.

One of the things we are battling with are parochial attitudes, in other words the "village mentality" which exists to such a high degree in European club hockey. Many clubs in the highest ranked leagues feel that they are on top of the world if they beat their next-door neighbour. There is nothing better for the Kolner Haie than to beat Dusseldorf. Frolunda in Gothenburg are "world champions" if they defeat Farjestad, while Sparta Prague's joy knows no limits after a victory against Slavia Prague.

■ This is, on one hand, fully understandable because these are the bread-and-butter games of a long domestic season, but it is the task of the IIHF to broaden the horizons of the people who run the leagues and the clubs. If you are a national champion, that's great - but it's only the beginning. The real challenge lies in beating the best of the best. If you can't do that, you can at least learn how to bring your game to the next level.



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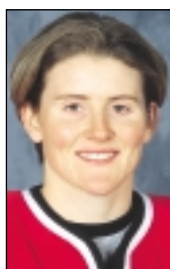
One of the most destructive characteristics of "village mentality" is the desire to keep secrets (coaching, tactics, practice methods etc.) within your



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

PROUD JOKER: Jokerit Helsinki captain Ville Peltonen proudly displays the magnificent Continental Cup plate after the Gold Medal overtime thriller against Lokomotiv Yaroslavl. European club hockey would be better off if more teams showed the same commitment as the Finnish and Russian champions.

own organization. If, instead, we bring all the accumulated knowledge out in an open forum, it will make our game so much better and we will all be winners.



Barrier breaker:
Hayley Wickenheiser

■ Canada's female super-star Hayley Wickenheiser has been making headlines after joining a third division team in Finland. As much as I admire the determination and the barrier breaking commitment of the multiple world champion and the MVP from the Salt Lake City Olympics, I am pretty sure that there is no future in mixed hockey.

There are several reasons why the IIHF does not want to promote mixed hockey. The most important is the protection of the athlete. Defensemen in hockey are often well over 100 kilos with gear and everything. I don't think it would be healthy for Hayley, or any other female player, to go into a corner with a player who is determined to deliver a hard check. Hockey is a tougher game than soccer, handball or basketball. You don't see girls playing in men's leagues in those sports.

Just like Mia Hamm is a world famous soccer player in her own right for her accomplishments in women's soccer, we want Hayley Wickenheiser to score 50 goals and set all kinds of records in a women's league and be a role model for young girls who want to play hockey.

■ We want girls to put up posters of Hayley Wickenheiser, Cammie Granato and Kim Martin because those players make women's hockey a great game and they should be idolized as stars in women's hockey where they belong and not as banged up, and maybe hurt, pioneers in a regional third-level men's league.

René Fasel
IIHF President



Photo: DAVE SANDFORD

THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN: *The Halifax Metro Centre turned into a madhouse during the IIHF World U20 Championship. Here, they give a rousing welcome to Canada and Russia as they arrive on the ice before the Gold Medal Game.*

242,173 - true hockey passion on display in Halifax

How does one describe the passion that surrounded the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championship in Halifax and Sydney, Canada?

Never mind the 242,173 fans that set a new World Juniors attendance record, or the 18 out of 31 games with over 10,000 spectators. Never mind the average minute audience of 3,446,000 viewers that watched the Canada vs Russia Gold Medal Game on TSN, or the third period peak from that game, which attracted 4,158,000 TV viewers - a TSN all-time high.

■ True hockey passion was witnessed the day before the most hyped junior hockey game in history when Germany and Belarus met at the Halifax Metro Centre in a game that meant virtually nothing. The two already relegated teams met in the placing game for position 9-10 on a Saturday night - in front of some 7,500 fans who showed up out of the 10,208 who had purchased a ticket for that game.

Not only were they there, as Germany ran up the score to 4-0, the fans were cheering every save by Belarus goalie Dzmitry Kamovich and, at the end of the game, both teams were given a rousing ovation as the great hockey fans in Halifax displayed true sportsmanship and passion for the game. Only in Canada.

■ Then came the Gold Medal Game on Sunday. It's difficult to compare games, but this Russia vs Canada encounter was probably even better than the final game between those two teams in Pardubice, Czech Republic one year ago. The most telling comment about the quality of the

show came in the intermission between the second and third period from a General Manager of another participating country, which, until just until recently, could compete with both the Russians and Canadians:

"It's hard to believe that our boys have played in the same tournament as those two teams".

■ Yes, Russia and Canada are right now clearly above the rest in junior hockey. Finland and USA are close, but only close. After those two, there is another gap and then you can pretty much lump Slovakia, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Sweden together, with the Swedes having the greatest difficulties in keeping up with the major powers.

The country which has produced super stars like Peter Forsberg, Mats Sundin, Markus Naslund, Borje Salming and Nicklas Lidstrom, obviously has serious problems within their development system.

Russia beat Canada 3-2 and, just like the 2002 team that defeated the Canadians 5-4 last year, the 2003 Russians were somewhat better at the fundamentals which are essential in international hockey; speed and passing skill. A team which can control the puck at high speed can very seldom be beaten. Add the Russians' size and toughness and it's nearly as perfect a hockey team as they possibly come.

■ Of course, it's easy when you have all this talent, but the Russians again showed that - at least on international level - you don't need any designated checking lines, defensive specialists or any kind of so called role players. When a national team coach has the privilege

of selecting an all-star team from many club teams, speed, skill and character are the only things that count. Four offensive lines? Sure, why not. Six rushing defenseman? No problem, as long as they know their way back.

■ This Russian team was a stark contrast to their senior team, which took silver at the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden by sticking to a very conservative and defensive style of hockey.

The Canadians also deserve plenty of credit. Each and every one of their games were highly entertaining, and the question is whether not the Canada vs USA semi-final reached the same entertainment level as the final. It was a game which gave you goose bumps.

■ One could easily notice that the ongoing debate (since the 1998 Olympics) about the skill factor in Canadian hockey left a mark on the selection process for this Junior Team Canada. It was the most skilled, fast, team oriented and exciting Canadian squad in the U20 Championship for some time. One Russian gold medalist's comments that Canada "just threw the puck at the net and tried to push it in" can be viewed as a misguided outburst of megalomania.

The players who put on such a spectacular show during the eleven days, will acquire more skill, more kilos and more experience which should make them better hockey players. Will they consequently be able to play an equally attractive brand of hockey as they did in Halifax and Sydney?

That remains to be seen.

"RINK" IS THERE: So now only the rest is missing. You can clearly see the shape of the hockey rink in Hala Sazka in Prague, the main venue of the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Czech Republic. The arena will have a capacity of 16,300 spectators for hockey.



Photo: HARALD GRIEBEL

16,300 fans will see the opening face-off here on April 24, 2004

■ Although you can see the shape of the hockey rink emerging among all the building material and cranes, it's still a little hard to believe that in mid-March 2004 this will be the site of the most advanced multi-purpose arena in Europe and the main venue for the 2004 IIHF World Championship (April 24 - May 09).

The Hala Sazka in the north-eastern part of Prague, Czech Republic will have a capacity of 16,300 (all seating) for ice hockey, making it the second largest in-

door arena ever to host an IIHF World Championship. The KolnArena in Cologne, Germany (site of the 2001 World Championship) has a capacity of 18,500.

■ It will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology which allows for more than 20 different arena configurations, providing the appropriate layout for every kind of event. Each one of the 16,300 seats will offer a perfect view of the ice rink. A gigantic eight-sided Jumbotron video scoreboard will serve the fans with

animations and replays.

■ You can stay fully updated with the progress of the Hala Sazka on www.halasazka.cz where a webcam provides minute-by-minute progress reports on its front page.

Czech Republic was initially scheduled to host the 2003 IIHF World Championship, but had to make a swap with Finland due to the difficulties with the arena construction in Prague.

Sarajevo welcomes international hockey after nineteen years

■ February 6, 2003 marked a great day for international ice hockey and the young hockey association of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This was the opening day of the 2003 IIHF World U18 Championship, Group B in the capital of Sarajevo and the grand re-opening of the Olympic Ice Stadium "Zetra", the site of the 1984 Olympic Ice Hockey tournament.

The arena, which 19 years ago hosted the top nations of Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Canada, Finland and USA, was destroyed during the Balkan war in the 90s as Bosna-Herzegovina and the city of Sarajevo suffered immensely.

■ Following the creation of an independent Bosnia-Herzegovina and the end of the war in 1995, things slowly got back to normal in this troubled region and in 2001 the country's ice hockey association

became the 61st member of the IIHF.

The first phase of the renovation of the beautifully situated Olympic arena was completed in 1997. This U18 championship was the first official international tournament in the rink since the Soviet Union, backstpped by the great Vladislav Tretiak, won eight straight games en route to its sixth Olympic hockey gold almost two decades ago.

■ This championship, which was played February 6 - 9, did not have the same star factor as the 1984 Olympics, but was again an exhibition of the development and the new frontiers of international hockey. The four teams, which had the goal to qualify to division II of the IIHF's U18 program, were Turkey, Israel, Iceland and the host Bosnia-Herzegovina.

■ Israel was heading to a surprise victory, but three players of the



BACK IN BUSINESS: The Olympic Ice Stadium "Zetra" was again able to stage an IIHF tournament, nineteen years after the 1984 Olympic ice hockey tournament.

Israeli team were found ineligible following a protest and an investigation after the team's second game. Both these games were forfeited. Iceland won the U18 championship ahead of Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Israel.

Iceland - Turkey 5 - 2, Israel - Bosnia-Herzegovina 0 - 5 (forfeit), Israel - Iceland 0 - 5 (forfeit), Turkey - Bosnia-Herzegovina 10 - 1, Turkey - Israel 4 - 5, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Iceland 2 - 9.

1 Iceland	3	3	0	0	19:4	6
2 Turkey	3	1	0	2	16:11	2
3 Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	1	0	2	8:19	2
4 Israel	3	1	0	2	5:14	2

■ Iceland promoted to 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship Div II.

Goalies shine as Jokerit grab Continental title

■ It came as no big surprise to anyone in international hockey that Jokerit Helsinki and Lokomotiv Yaroslavl met in the Gold Medal Game of the 2003 IIHF Continental Cup Super Final in Lugano on January 12, 2002. These were the two highest-ranked teams coming in to the top-8 finals.

The Russian champion picked up speed by defeating Swiss champs HC Davos 2-1 in the quarter-final and reached the final game after a splendid display which saw Lokomotiv beat hosts HC Lugano 6-3.

The Finnish powerhouse started out in Milano where they beat both Slovan Bratislava of Slovakia and Belarus Keramin Minsk by the same score, 5-2. (Check full results summary on page 11).

■ Larry Huras, the coach of Lugano, was very impressed after Lokomotiv's performance in the semi-final. "Lokomotiv is a team of NHL calibre", said Huras. "They are at least as good as Atlanta, Nashville or Columbus, maybe even better."

Before the final game, coach Huras also took the opportunity to take a swing at the Czech, Swedish and German leagues, which opted not to send any teams to Europe's prime club tournament.

"The team that wins the Continental Cup is the legitimate club champion of Europe", said Huras, a Canadian who has been playing and coaching in Europe since the 80s.

■ "If you don't show up, you don't count", said Huras visibly upset at absence of representation from the three highly ranked European leagues. "The Swedes have for some years had this attitude that they don't have to play for any club titles and they still call their league the best in Europe. Well, if their teams are so good, why don't they come here and prove it. You want to brag? Show up and play or shut up. In the long run, the Swedes and the Czechs will lose by isolating themselves."

The Gold Medal Game was every bit as spectacular as everyone was hoping for. The final score would have been 4-4 or 5-5 had not Kari Lehtonen and Egor Podomatski put on a world class performance in goaltending. Lehtonen, just in from Halifax and the IIHF World U20 Championship, made 37 saves but he was outperformed by Podomatski who turned away 40, several of them "can't miss" opportunities.

One power-play goal each in the opening period was all the

teams could squeeze by the hot masked men during 80 minutes of end-to-end action. Both teams really tried to win it before the Game Winning Shot competition (penalty shoot-out) but the goalies wouldn't let them. Jokerit had a 13-8 advantage in shots in the 20 minute overtime period.

■ The save of the day came at 14.08 in the extra session when Petri Paskalahti (who scored Jokerit's goal) found Devid Nemirovsky with a precise cross pass and Jokerit's Canadian winger had the entire far side open to put the game away, but Podomatski made a great sideways move to rob Nemirovsky.



The game was finally decided on the 17th Game Winning Shot when Jukka Voutilainen (who led the tournament in scoring with four goals and one assist in three games) put on a highlight deke on poor Podomatski, who was turned inside and out by the nifty Finn (check the excellent photo below), who finally ended the thriller by sliding the puck into the open side of the net.

■ Jokerit's weekend in Milan/Lugano ended with team captain Ville Peltonen receiving the Continental Cup plate, the team the CC gold medals and the club a cheque for 72,000 Swiss francs.

Although no official directorate awards were selected, the IIHF News Release "hands out" these unofficial nominations:

Best Goaltender: Egor Podomatski, Lokomotiv

Best Defenseman: Mika Stromberg, Jokerit

Best Forward: Jukka Voutilainen, Jokerit

□ **Jokerit to play Toronto in Helsinki.** The IIHF Continental Cup champions will play the NHL Toronto Maple Leafs as part of the three game *NHL Challenge 2003* on September 16 at the Hartwall Arena in Helsinki, Finland. The two other games will be played at the Globe Arena in Stockholm, Sweden where the Leafs play Swedish league power houses Djurgarden, Stockholm and Farjestad, Karlstad on September 18 and on September 19, respectively.



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

LOKOMOTIV 1-0. Yuri Butsayev gives Lokomotiv an early lead by shoving this power-play rebound past Kari Lehtonen.



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

JOKERIT 1-1: Petri Pakaslahti lifts the puck over an acrobatic Egor Podomatski to tie the Gold Medal Game up late in the first period.



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER: This magnificent move by Jukka Voutilainen was too much, even for Egor Podomatski. The Jokerit forward makes the Lokomotiv goalie lose his head before he slides the Continental Cup winner into the net. The puck is far left, at the back of the net.

Party spoilers

Russians break Canada's hockey hearts after another win on arch rival's home ice

Canada brings out the very best from Russian junior hockey players. Russia has captured the IIHF World U20 gold medals three times, and on every occasion the great Canadian archrival has been defeated in the final game, and every time by a single goal.

In both 1999 (Winnipeg, 3-2 on overtime) and 2003 (Halifax, 3-2) they have also been able to celebrate the wins in front of disappointed but appreciative home crowds.



BOWMAN

In 2002 in Pardubice, Czech Republic, Russia won 4-3 after Canadian leads of 2-0 and 3-1. This year, Canada enjoyed a 2-1 lead heading into the third period, but again the Russians were better performers in the crunch.

■ ■ The IIHF News Release asked Scotty Bowman and Anders Hedberg, two of the most respected hockey observers in the world today, about their assessment of the final game and the tournament as such. Bowman, the dean of hockey coaches, could finally visit an IIHF World U20 Championship after having won his record

breaking ninth Stanley Cup last spring, while Anders Hedberg is back in the player evaluation business after two years as the General Manager of the Swedish national team program.



HEDBERG

"Russia had the best team while Canada played with lots of emotion", said Bowman. "The Russians were also very solid in defence and applied a very good system. As a whole, it was a terrific tournament with lots of speed."

Hedberg chose to be somewhat more philosophical in his review:

"These U20 tournaments are a wonderful experience, especially when they are held in Canada. Only there you can create this interplay between the fans and players because the fans are so knowledgeable and so enthusiastic. There is lots of positive energy around such a tournament."

For Hedberg, Russia and Canada was the obvious pairing in the Gold Medal Game. "Those are the teams which showed all the best things in hockey; skill, creativity and the desire to always be an attacking force. It was beautiful to see."

Unlike Bowman, Hedberg has seen the most IIHF World U20 Championships in the past and he noticed a very positive improvement in the performance of the on-ice officials. "In earlier years, the standard could be very up-and-down. This time there was a better level of consistency and you could see that the referees understood the sole of the game. They didn't disrupt the game with bad calls, they allowed a good and clean body check but they called for obvious violations."

■ ■ The only thing which really disappointed Hedberg was the performance of his native Sweden. "It was obvious to all that the Swedish junior program has not been able to break the negative trend it has been experiencing for some years now. Swedish hockey is today paying the price for all the destructive and defensive tendencies which were adopted in the early 90s. Sweden finished eighth in Halifax and the gap to the top nations is really this wide."

Scotty Bowman liked the international rules and how they affect the game. "I would like the NHL to try the non-red line rule", said the man who coached over 2,000 NHL regular season games in his 35 years in major league hockey. "It speeds up the game



and makes it more difficult for the defensive teams to play the trap. I also like the tag-up offside rule which keeps the play going."

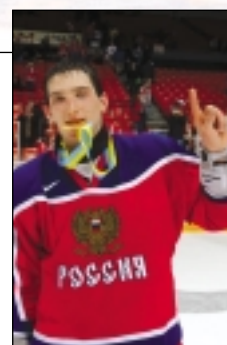
"Russia and Canada showed all the best things in hockey; skill, creativity and the desire always to be an attacking force. It was beautiful to see."

Anders Hedberg

■ ■ Bowman, who saw the games in the capacity of special consultant to the Detroit Red Wings, of course relished in the great performance of Russia's Igor Grigorenko, named "Best Forward" of the championship. The swift winger, who also won the tournament in scoring with six goals and four assists in six games, is a 2001 Detroit draft pick and another great selection by the Red Wings scouting staff.

Bowman also lists Czech Republic's forward Jiri Hudler (another Red Wings' draft "steal"), Finns Tuomo Ruutu (forward) and Joni Pitkanen (defenseman) and Canadian goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury as the players he liked the most.

■ ■ Anders Hedberg finally gives the main venue of the championship top marks. "Halifax was perfect for a championship like this. Everything was so close, all teams stayed in walking distance from the arena and the size of the arena was ideal. You had the whole championship virtually under one roof."



TASTES SO GOOD:
Future star Alexander Ovechkin savors victory.

IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL



ALL-TIME MEDAL STANDING

Country	G	S	B	T
Russia*	12	6	5	23
Canada	10	5	4	19
Czech R**	2	5	6	13
Sweden	1	6	4	11
Finland	2	4	4	10
USA	0	1	2	3
Slovakia	0	1	2	1
Switz'rl'nd	0	0	1	1

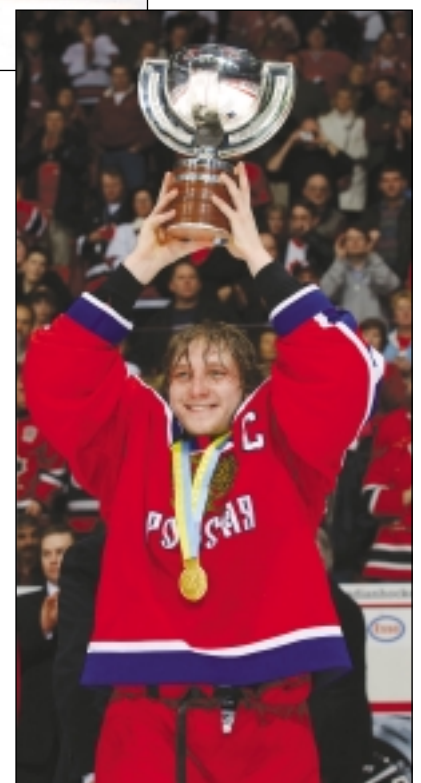
* Russia's total includes medals won by URS.

** Czech Republic's total includes medals won by Czechoslovakia.

■ See page 10 for summary of the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championship

Photos: DAVE SANDFORD

CELEBRATION AND DESPAIR. There is nothing sweeter for the Russians than to win a major hockey title against their arch rivals and on their home ice. Russian captain Yuri Trubachev (right), who also scored the game winning goal in the Gold Medal Game, hoists the new World Junior trophy while Canada's Pierre-Alexandre Paranteau hides his face in despair. Paranteau, one of his team's best forwards, assisted on the goal that gave Canada a 2-1 lead going into the third period, but the skilled Russians turned it around for their second consecutive world U20 title.



IIHF prepares to launch new Level II Coaching Program

■ The IIHF Coaching Committee created a special work group to complete the newest educational manual - the IIHF Level II Coaching Program.

Members of the work group are IIHF Coaching Instructors Darryl Easson, Lars Lipers, Petr Misek and Ari Piispanen. The project, which began three seasons ago, has developed slowly to ensure that the needs of the coach are fully outlined in the manual, which supplements the Level I program launched in the 1999/2000 season.

The new Level II program addresses a number of new issues including bench management, team building, harassment and abuse, developing hockey sense and yearly planning. Athlete health care issues, including safety and injury prevention and management, are also included in the manual intended for use by coaches throughout the world.

The new Coaching Level II Program will be launched during the 2003 IIHF Hockey Development Camp in July in Vierumäki, Finland. National associations are strongly encouraged to send their National Association Coaching Instructor to the weekend instructor seminar scheduled from July 6 to 12.

■ National associations will soon receive a National Association Coaching Instructor Information Form. This form should be completed and returned to the IIHF to provide information about the coaching instructor that will be attending the seminar. The program will be highly interactive and focus on the contents of Level II and on upgrading instructors' teaching skills for improved delivery of the materials in classrooms back home.

On-Ice Officials assignments for IIHF World Championships

2003 IIHF World Championship, Finland, April 26 - May 11

Referees:

Thomas Andersson	SWE
Nicolas Dutil	CAN
Timo Favorin	FIN
Peter Jonak	SVK
Danny Kurmann	SUI
Rick Looker	USA
Rob Matsuoka	CAN
Wilhelm Schimm	GER
Vladimir Sindler	CZE
Anatoli Zakharov	RUS

Linesmen:

Petr Blumel, CZE, Gregor Brodnicki, GER, Marco Coenen, NED, Valeri Gotsoulia, BLR, Antti Hamalainen, FIN, Ronni Jakobsen, DEN, Joacim Karlsson, SWE, Juha Kautto, FIN, Dean Laschowski, CAN, Ales Lesnjak, SLO, Michael Linke, SUI, Pavel Makarov, RUS, Pawel Meszynski, POL, Karol Popovic, SVK, Kevin Redding, USA, Anton Semionov, EST.

2003 IIHF World Women's Championship, China, April 3 - 4

Referees:

Angela Blasimann	SUI
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GETS THE CALL: Referee Danny Kurmann goes to Finland 2003.



FOCUSED GOALTENDERS: Instructor Danny Jurgens of Netherlands instructs Slovenian goaltender prospect Jure Verlic (left) and Austrian Fabian Weinhandl during the U16 IIHF Development Camp in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Development camps give participants new perspectives and ideas to pass on

■ The first week of February (5-9) saw the IIHF conduct four development camps as part of the sixth round of the IIHF Ice Hockey 2000 Program. For the first time the IIHF had presence in Scotland where one of the U16 camps was organized in Paisley. A second U16 camp took place in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

U17 camps were held in Kapfenberg, Austria and in Gjøvik, Norway. The camp in Gjøvik was organized at the Olympic Cavern Hall, the underground arena which was one of the venues during the 1994 Olympic Winter Games.

■ Participants were invited from eight European countries: Austria, France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Slovenia. Armenia, Belarus and Bulgaria sent observers to the camps.

Approximately 450 hockey enthusiasts, including players, officials, coaches, team staff and local organizers, took part.

Clive Swain, a youth team manager from Nottingham, Great Britain, attended the development camp in Norway.

"A camp like this gives everyone great and new per-

spectives", said Clive. "It allows our coaches to work alongside top coaches from other countries and when they return to Britain they are in a position to pass the message, like new ideas, new drills, to the coaches back home."

■ "It's very important for hockey people from the UK to attend these development camps because we are very much trapped in the 80s and how things were back then. In order to develop we need this new perspective on things. It's a refreshing change."

IIHF Council Member Murray Costello oversaw the U16 camp in Scotland.

■ "This is an area of Britain with a rich hockey tradition, but they have had nothing for 25 years", said Costello. "With this new rink in Paisley just outside Glasgow, many of the people who were involved in hockey in those days came back and were very excited. They were also very pleased to get an opportunity to host one the IIHF's development camps."

"I was told that immediately after the camp ended, they had 42 kids sign up for the Learn To Play Program, so it definitely was a success."

Anu Hirvonen	FIN
Aina Hove	NOR
Danyel Howard	USA
Henna Laitanen	FIN
Stephanie Normand	CAN

Linesmen:

Katja Bandlefsky, GER, Eeva Haapanen, FIN, Marina Konstantinova, RUS, Dai Liping, CHN, Yasuko Masuda, JPN, Kelli M. O'Brien, USA, Ilse Robben, NED, Kim Robichaud, CAN, Jana Zitkova, CZE.

2003 IIHF World U18 Championship, Russia, April 12 - 22

Referees:

Vyacheslav Bulanov	RUS
Jaroslav Havlik	CZE
Hannu Henriksson	FIN
Christer Larking	SWE
Paul Mariconda	USA
Marc Muylaert	CAN
Peter Orszag	SVK

Linesmen:

Peter Aleshin, RUS, Jaromir Blaha, CZE, Brent Gawlik, USA, Thomas Gemeinhardt, GER, Konstantin Gordenko, RUS, Indrek Linde, EST, Mikael Ljungqvist, SWE, Milan Masik, SVK, Torkel Saarnio, FIN, Andrei Vasko, BLR.

2003 IIHF World Championship Div I, Group A, Hungary, April 15 - 21.

Referees: Roland Aumuller, GER, Moray Hanson, GBR, Daniel Konc, SVK, Francois St. Laurent, CAN.

2003 IIHF World Championship Div I, Group B, Croatia, April 14 - 20.

Referees: Bradley Albers, USA, Martin Homola, CZE, Petri Kaislehto, FIN, Lars-Johan Ryhed, SWE.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

LATVIA: On December 18, 2002, the congress of the Latvian Ice Hockey Association re-elected Kirovs Lipmans as President for the coming five years.

IIHF and Vierumäki join forces in Hockey Centre of Excellence

The International Ice Hockey Federation, the Finnish Ice Hockey Association and the Vierumäki Sports Institute, a department of the Haaga Institute Polytechnic, have joined forces to create the International Ice Hockey Centre of Excellence, which will be based at the Vierumäki Sports Institute.

The goal of the International Ice Hockey Centre of Excellence, located in Heinola, 130 km north of Helsinki, is to combine research and sport development specifically targeted at ice hockey. Students enrolled in the Degree Programme in Sports and Leisure Management will specialize in ice hockey coaching.

■ The objectives of the Centre are to continually develop the game of ice hockey through research and education. The Centre will also create new educational materials, host international conferences, camps and tournaments, and promote ice hockey awareness.

As an integral part of their studies, students will be required to work at the centre where they will take part in projects designed by the partners, thereby enabling them to "learn by doing" in a practical working environment. They will also be responsible for providing research data upon which the IIHF can base decisions regarding the development of our sport.

■ The degree course is a three and a half year full-time undergraduate programme, and graduates will receive a Bachelor of Sports and Leisure degree upon graduation. The course will focus primarily on ice hockey coaching,

and the principle objective will be for students to gain an internationally recognised qualification that will allow them to work as a head coach, coach or sports instructor.

The aim of the programme is to prepare the student for employment in the competitive sports and leisure industry. The language of instruction is English, which will enable the student to work in an international environment.



COACHING FOR COACHES: The course will focus primarily on ice hockey coaching and the aim of the programme is to prepare the student for employment in sports and leisure industry.

The first two years of the course studies are based at Vierumäki. The final 18 months consists of on-the-job-training, additional seminars and a work placement, which can be in the student's home country or abroad.

Tuition is free, but students must pay for textbooks and course materials. Students can live on campus and the Institute offers a range of accommodation. Costs depend on the accommodation options (e.g. double room with meals, Monday to Friday, 370 Euro per month). Students are responsible for their own equipment and all travel expenses.

■ The facilities at Vierumäki are of the highest standard and include two indoor ice rinks, a 200 metre indoor athletics track, four squash courts, tennis courts, a fully equipped gym, swimming pool, two golf courses (18 hole and 9 hole) and several outdoor fields.

The graduates of this program will form a body of knowledgeable coaches and managers of hockey programs who have been educated in a full top-to-bottom approach to the game.

■ We are currently seeking young candidates interested in pursuing a career in ice hockey coaching and with a desire to be a part of an exciting new program that will help develop our sport by providing quality coaching and management of hockey operations.

Enrolment will be based on the applicant's prior education, involvement in the sports and leisure industry and coaching experience in ice hockey. Eligibility for higher education and a good command of English are required. Successful applicants will be invited for an interview and to take an entrance exam on June 16 and 17, 2003 at the Vierumäki Sports Institute.

Interested applications should con-

tact the Vierumäki Sports Institute's student affairs office at www.vierumaki.fi between April 1 and May 15, 2003.

■ The IIHF is confident that the new International Ice Hockey Centre of Excellence will provide many opportunities for quality research and that programs and resources will be developed for the improvement of our sport, while turning out well educated coaches and managers to help form a strong future for our sport.

Slovenia embraces the IIHF Learn To Play Program

This season, the Slovenian Ice Hockey Association followed the IIHF's Learn To Play Program for children under 10 in all of the country's seven clubs.

ICE HOCKEY 2000 REPORT: SLOVENIA

Every club organized one cross-ice tournament during the 2002-2003 season.

There were two tournaments in November, one in December, two in January, one in February and one is scheduled for March.

"The boys and girls are enjoying the program together with their parents and coaches, and we are sure that this is the right way to educate all youngsters in a proper spirit," says Matjaz Zargi, Ice Hockey 2000 representative for Slovenia.

U16 Team

This season the Slovenian U16 players participated in the national championship with seven teams, playing double round robin from September until the end of

December.

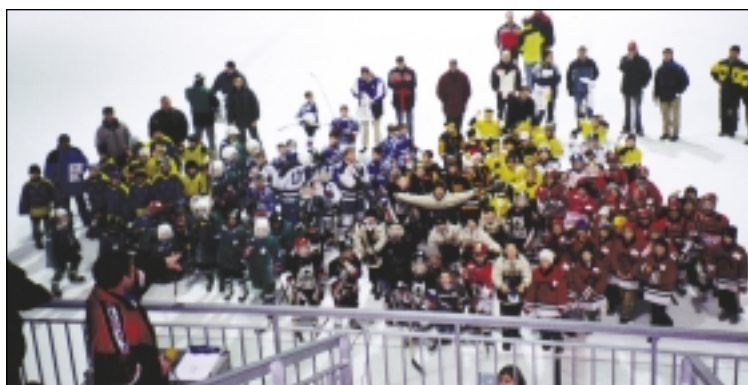
The playoffs, with all seven teams, continue until mid-March.

On the international stage, the U16 team has participated in two IIHF Development camps and they also participated in a tournament in Moscow, Russia.

U17 Team

The Slovenian U17 team has a very good program in addition to the national championship. In August 2002 there were five friendly games with Slovakian teams from their top junior league.

This season, the U17 team participated in two IIHF Development camps as well as three international



SLOVENIA'S HOCKEY FUTURE: Young participants at the Learn To Play camp in the capital Ljubljana in mid-December.

tournaments in Tilburg, the Netherlands, the Alpe Adria Games at Villach, Austria, and the European Youth Olympic Festival which was hosted by the Slovenian city of Bled.

The performance of the team has been above all expectations. The highlight was a 3-2 win over Sweden at the Youth Olympic Festival, a victory which gave Team Slovenia fifth place.

RESULTS SUMMARY

IIHF World U20 Championship

Halifax, Sydney, CANADA, 26 Dec. 02 - 05 Jan. 03

Group A (at Sydney)

Belarus - Switzerland	2 - 4	(1-2, 1-0, 0-2)
USA - Russia	1 - 5	(0-2, 1-2, 0-1)
Slovakia - Belarus	11 - 1	(3-1, 4-0, 4-0)
Switzerland - USA	1 - 3	(1-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Russia - Slovakia	4 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 2-0)
Belarus - Russia	1 - 5	(0-2, 1-2, 0-1)
USA - Belarus	8 - 2	(4-0, 3-1, 1-1)
Switzerland - Slovakia	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-2, 0-0)
Slovakia - USA	1 - 3	(1-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Russia - Switzerland	7 - 5	(2-1, 3-2, 2-2)

Russia	4	4	0	0	21 - 7	8
USA	4	3	0	1	15 - 9	6
Slovakia	4	2	0	2	15 - 8	4
Switzerland	4	1	0	3	10 - 15	2
Belarus	4	0	0	4	6 - 28	0

Group B (at Halifax)

Germany - Finland	0 - 4	(0-2, 0-0, 0-2)
Sweden - Canada	2 - 8	(0-2, 2-2, 0-4)
Czech Republic - Germany	3 - 0	(0-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Canada - Czech Republic	4 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Finland - Sweden	3 - 2	(1-0, 1-2, 1-0)
Germany - Canada	1 - 4	(1-0, 0-3, 0-1)
Sweden - Germany	7 - 2	(3-0, 3-1, 1-1)
Finland - Czech Republic	2 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 1-1)
Czech Republic - Sweden	3 - 1	(0-0, 1-1, 2-0)
Canada - Finland	5 - 3	(1-1, 3-2, 1-0)

Canada	4	4	0	0	21 - 6	8
Finland	4	2	1	1	12 - 9	5
Czech Rep.	4	2	1	1	8 - 7	5
Sweden	4	1	0	3	12 - 16	2
Germany	4	0	0	4	3 - 18	0

Relegation Round

Belarus - Switzerland	2 - 4	(1-2, 1-0, 0-2)
Sweden - Germany	7 - 2	(3-0, 3-1, 1-1)
Switzerland - Germany	6 - 2	(2-0, 3-2, 1-0)
Sweden - Belarus	5 - 4	(3-1, 0-2, 2-1)
Sweden - Switzerland	3 - 5	(1-2, 1-2, 1-1)
Germany - Belarus	4 - 0	(0-0, 2-0, 2-0)

Switzerland	3	3	0	0	15 - 7	6
Sweden	3	2	0	1	15 - 11	4
Germany	3	1	0	2	8 - 13	2
Belarus	3	0	0	3	6 - 13	0

Play-off Round

USA - Czech Republic	4 - 3	(2-0, 2-2, 0-1)	Quarterfinal
Finland - Slovakia	6 - 0	(3-0, 3-0, 0-0)	Quarterfinal
Russia - Finland	4 - 1	(1-1, 0-0, 3-0)	Semi Final
Canada - USA	3 - 2	(1-1, 1-0, 1-1)	Semi Final
Czech Rep - Slovakia	0 - 2	(0-1, 0-0, 0-1)	Placing 5-6
USA - Finland	2 - 3	(0-2, 0-1, 2-0)	Bronze Medal
Canada - Russia	2 - 3	(1-1, 1-0, 0-2)	Gold Medal

Individual scoring

1. GRIGORENKO, Igor	RUS	6	6	4	10
2. TRUBACHEV, Yuri	RUS	6	3	7	10
3. RUUTU, Tuomo	FIN	7	2	8	10
4. COLAIACOVO, Carlo	CAN	6	1	9	10
5. BARTSCHI, Patrik	SUI	6	6	4	10
6. PEREZHOGIN, Alexander	RUS	6	3	6	9
7. JOKINEN, Jussi	FIN	7	6	2	8
8. PARISE, Zach	USA	7	4	4	8
9. POLUSHIN, Alexander	RUS	6	2	6	8
10. TARATUKHIN, Andrei	RUS	6	2	6	8
11. OVECHKIN, Alexander	RUS	6	6	1	7
12. PARENTEAU, Pierre-A.	CAN	6	4	3	7
13. HUDLER, Jiri	CZE	6	3	4	7
14. KESLER, Ryan	USA	7	3	4	7
15. NILSSON, Robert	SWE	6	4	2	6
16. STEEN, Alexander	SWE	6	4	2	6
17. HIGGINS, Christopher	USA	7	3	3	6
18. WHITE, Ian	CAN	6	2	4	6
19. LAICH, Brooks	CAN	6	2	4	6
20. BERGENHEIM, Sean	FIN	7	2	4	6
21. PITKANEN, Joni	FIN	7	1	5	6
22. AMBUHL, Andreas	SUI	6	0	6	6
23. UPSHALL, Scottie	CAN	6	4	1	5
24. ROMY, Kevin	SUI	6	2	3	5
25. HAGOS, Yared	SWE	6	2	3	5

Championship All Star Team

Goalkeeper: Marc-Andre Fleury (CAN)

Defense: Joni Pitkanen (FIN) and Carlo Colaiacovo (CAN)

Forwards: Yuri Trubachev (RUS), Igor Grigorenko (RUS) and Scottie Upshall (CAN)

Championship MVP: Marc-Andre Fleury (CAN)

IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Marc-Andre Fleury (CAN)

Best Defenseman: Joni Pitkanen (FIN)

Best Forward: Igor Grigorenko (RUS)

Final Ranking: 1. RUS, 2. CAN, 3. FIN, 4. USA, 5. SVK, 6. CZE, 7. SUI, 8. SWE, 9. GER, 10. BLR.

Germany and Belarus relegated to the 2004 IIHF World U20 Division I. They will be replaced by Austria and Ukraine for the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship in Helsinki and Hameenlinna, Finland, 25 Dec. 2003 - 4 Jan. 2004.

IIHF World U20 Championship, Div I, Group A

Almaty, KAZAKSTAN 27 Dec. 02 - 02 Jan. 03

Croatia - France	1 - 10	(1-1, 0-4, 0-5)
Japan - Ukraine	1 - 3	(0-0, 0-1, 1-2)
Italy - Kazakhstan	2 - 4	(1-2, 0-0, 1-2)
France - Japan	2 - 4	(1-0, 0-1, 1-3)
Ukraine - Italy	3 - 1	(1-0, 1-0, 1-1)
Kazakhstan - Croatia	13 - 1	(5-1, 6-0, 2-0)
France - Italy	5 - 2	(1-1, 2-0, 2-1)
Croatia - Japan	1 - 9	(0-2, 1-3, 0-4)
Ukraine - Kazakhstan	3 - 3	(1-1, 0-0, 2-2)
Japan - Italy	4 - 2	(2-1, 0-0, 2-1)
Ukraine - Croatia	6 - 3	(1-1, 1-1, 4-1)
Kazakhstan - France	3 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 0-0)
Italy - Croatia	4 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 2-0)
France - Ukraine	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Kazakhstan - Japan	2 - 6	(1-3, 0-1, 1-2)

Ukraine	5	4	1	0	18 - 8	9
Japan	5	4	0	1	24 - 10	8
Kazakhstan	5	3	1	1	25 - 12	7
France	5	2	0	3	17 - 13	4
Italy	5	1	0	4	11 - 16	2
Croatia	5	0	0	5	6 - 42	0

Ukraine promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U20

Championship in Helsinki and Hameenlinna, Finland.

Individual scoring

1. DOMEKI, Masato	JPN	5	6	3	9
2. PLUGAREV, Mikhail	KAZ	5	5	4	9
3. ZLOBIN, Mikhail	KAZ	5	5	3	8
4. ISHIOKA, Bin	JPN	4	4	2	6
5. OLENCHENKO, Vladimir	KAZ	5	4	2	6
6. SAITO, Tetsuya	JPN	5	4	2	6
7. TARDIF, Luc	FRA	5	4	1	5
8. RYABTSEV, Denys	UKR	5	3	2	5
9. SATO, Sho	JPN	5	3	2	5
10. BUTOCHNOV, Anton	UKR	5	2	3	5

IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Hisashi Kanamaru (JPN)

Best Defenseman: Oleksandr Skorokhod (UKR)

Best Forward: Mikhail Zlobin (KAZ)

IIHF World U20 Championship, Div I, Group B

Bled, SLOVENIA 16 - 22 Dec. 02

Poland - Norway	3 - 6	(0-1, 2-2, 1-3)
Latvia - Austria	1 - 6	(0-4, 1-2, 0-0)
Denmark - Slovenia	2 - 2	(0-0, 2-2, 0-0)
Austria - Poland	9 - 1	(3-0, 2-0, 4-1)
Norway - Denmark	6 - 2	(1-2, 2-0, 3-0)
Slovenia - Latvia	5 - 3	(2-0, 2-1, 1-2)
Latvia - Poland	4 - 6	(0-0, 1-5, 3-1)
Austria - Denmark	6 - 2	(2-2, 4-0, 0-0)
Norway - Slovenia	0 - 4	(0-1, 0-3, 0-0)
Poland - Denmark	1 - 9	(0-2, 1-2, 0-5)
Norway - Latvia	1 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 0-1)
Slovenia - Austria	1 - 8	(0-1, 1-7, 0-0)
Denmark - Latvia	3 - 4	(0-2, 1-1, 2-1)
Slovenia - Poland	3 - 1	(0-0, 0-0, 3-1)
Austria - Norway	6 - 4	(4-2, 2-0, 0-2)

Austria	5	5	0	0	35 - 9	10
Slovenia	5	3	1	1	15 - 14	7
Norway	5	2	1	2	17 - 16	5
Latvia	5	1	1	3	13 - 21	3
Denmark	5	1	1	3	18 - 19	3
Poland	5	1	0	4	12 - 31	2

Austria promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship in Helsinki and Hameenlinna, Finland.

Individual scoring

1. SETZINGER, Oliver	AUT	5	6	9	15
2. VANEK, Thomas	AUT	5	9	4	13
3. NIELSEN, Frans Schmidt	DEN	5	3	7	10
4. KOCH, Thomas	AUT	5	2	6	8
5. HOLTET, Marius	NOR	5	4	3	7
6. BOE, Rene	NOR	5	3	4	7
7. WELSER, Daniel	AUT	5	4	2	6
8. HERZOG, Stefan	AUT	5	3	3	6
9. TOLLEFSEN, Ole Kristian	NOR	5	2	4	6
10. HEBAR, Andrej	SLO	5	2	4	6

Championship All Star Team

Goalkeeper: Robert Kristan (SLO)

Defense: Ole Kristian Tollefsen (NOR) and Metod Bevk (SLO)

Forwards: David Rodman (SLO), Thomas Vanek (AUT) and Frans Nielsen (DEN).

IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Walter Bartholomaeus (AUT)

Best Defenseman: Ole Kristian Tollefsen (NOR)

Best Forward: Oliver Setzinger (AUT)

IIHF World U20 Championship, Div II, Gr. A

Miercurea Ciuc, ROMANIA 06-12 Jan. 2003

South Africa - Lithuania	1 - 9	(1-2, 0-4, 0-3)
Romania - Estonia	1 - 13	(0-2, 1-5, 0-6)
Bulgaria - Great Britain	0 - 19	(0-6, 0-5, 0-8)
Lithuania - Bulgaria	7 - 2	(5-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Great Britain - Romania	9 - 1	(4-0, 2-0, 3-1)
Estonia - South Africa	17 - 4	(9-1, 6-1, 2-2)
Estonia - Lithuania	6 - 1	(1-0, 2-0, 3-1)
Great Britain - South Africa	21 - 0	(7-0, 9-0, 5-0)
Bulgaria - Romania	0 - 15	(0-6, 0-5, 0-4)
Romania - South Africa	8 - 1	(1-0, 4-1, 3-0)
Estonia - Bulgaria	21 - 0	(7-0, 8-0, 6-0)
Lithuania - Great Britain	1 - 13	(0-3, 0-5, 1-5)
South Africa - Bulgaria	6 - 3	(0-1, 4-2, 2-0)
Lithuania - Romania	3 - 9	(2-3, 1-2, 0-4)
Great Britain - Estonia	2 - 5	(1-4, 1-1, 0-0)

Estonia	5	5	0	0	62 - 8	10
Great Britain	5	4	0	1	64 - 7	8
Romania	5	3	0	2	34 - 26	6
Lithuania	5	2	0	3	21 - 31	4
South Africa	5	1	0	4	12 - 58	2
Bulgaria	5	0	0	5	5 - 68	0

Estonia promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division I.

Individual scoring

1. PETROV, Aleksandr	EST	5	16	10	26
2. KONOSEV, Denis	EST	5	11	13	24
3. RAZUMOVSKI, Roman	EST	5	3	18	21
4. WALLACE, Stephen	GBR	5	12	6	18
5. MYERS, Matthew	GBR	5	8	9	17

IIHF World U20 Championship, Div II, Gr. B

Novi Sad, YUGOSLAVIA 28 Dec. 2002 - 03 Jan. 2003

Iceland - Spain	4 - 4	(0-0, 2-2, 2-2)
Mexico - Hungary	2 - 6	(0-2, 2-2, 0-2)
Yugoslavia - Netherlands	4 - 5	(0-3, 1-1, 3-1)
Spain - Mexico	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Netherlands - Iceland	15 - 2	(0-1, 7-0, 8-1)
Hungary - Yugoslavia	10 - 3	(0-1, 3-2, 7-0)
Hungary - Iceland	15 - 4	(5-2, 3-0, 7-2)
Netherlands - Spain	8 - 0	(4-0, 1-0, 3-0)
Mexico - Yugoslavia	0 - 8	(0-3, 0-2, 0-3)
Netherlands - Mexico	5 - 1	(2-0, 1-0, 2-1)
Spain - Hungary	4 - 10	(3-2, 1-2, 0-6)
Yugoslavia - Iceland	8 - 5	(2-2, 2-2, 4-1)
Hungary - Netherlands	6 - 1	(3-0, 2-0, 1-1)
Iceland - Mexico	4 - 1	(2-0, 1-0, 1-1)
Spain - Yugoslavia	2 - 4	(0-1, 2-2, 0-1)

Hungary	5	5	0	0	47 - 14	10
Netherlands	5	4	0	1	34 - 13	8
Yugoslavia	5	3	0	2	27 - 22	6
Spain	5	1	1	3	12 - 26	3
Iceland	5	1	1	3	19 - 43	3
Mexico	5	0	0	5	4 - 25	0

Hungary promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division I.

RESULTS SUMMARY

Cont; IIHF World U20 Championship Div II, Group B

Individual scoring

1. BUGARSKI, Dejan	YUG	5	14	6	20
2. KOVACS, Csaba	HUN	5	12	6	18
3. KOVACEVIC, Marko	YUG	5	7	5	12
4. RAATS, Jimmy	NED	5	9	2	11
5. PAJIC, Dejan	YUG	5	2	9	11

IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Victor Boutrs Girgis (NED)**Best Defenseman:** Jesse van Rijswijk (NED)**Best Forward:** Csaba Kovacs (HUN)

IIHF World U20 Championship, Div III

Belgium - Australia	9 - 1	(4-0, 1-0, 4-1)
Korea - Luxembourg	17 - 0	(8-0, 3-0, 6-0)
Turkey - Belgium	4 - 7	(1-1, 1-5, 2-1)
Australia - Korea	1 - 10	(1-3, 0-4, 0-3)
Luxembourg - Turkey	1 - 14	(0-5, 1-3, 0-6)
Belgium - Luxembourg	14 - 0	(4-0, 5-0, 5-0)
Korea - Belgium	5 - 2	(4-0, 0-1, 1-1)
Australia - Turkey	3 - 6	(1-2, 2-1, 0-3)
Luxembourg - Australia	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Turkey - Korea	2 - 5	(0-2, 1-2, 1-1)

Korea	4	4	0	0	37 - 5	8
Belgium	4	3	0	1	32 - 10	6
Turkey	4	2	0	2	26 - 16	4
Australia	4	1	0	3	8 - 25	2
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	1 - 48	0

■ Korea is promoted to the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship Division II.

Individual scoring

1. CIPAK, Sami Cangiz	TUR	4	9	3	12
2. VEN DE WELDE, Jeroen	BEL	4	7	4	11
3. DE CEULAER, Kenny	BEL	4	5	6	11
4. MORGAN, Vincent	BEL	4	3	6	9
5. EROGLU, Onur	TUR	4	5	3	8

IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Michel Welter (LUX)**Best Defenseman:** Kim Dong Yup (KOR)**Best Forward:** Cangiz Ciplak (TUR)

IIHF 2003 Continental Cup Super Final

Lugano, SUI & Milan, ITA, 10 - 12 January, 2003

Quarter-finals:

Jokerit Helsinki - Slovan Bratislava	5 - 2	(1-1, 2-0, 2-1)
Milano Vipers - Keramin-Minsk	3 - 4	(1-0, 1-1, 1-2, 0-0, 0-1)
HC Davos - Lokomotiv Yaroslavl	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 0-1)
HC Lugano - Belfast Giants	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)

Semi-finals:

Jokerit Helsinki - Keramin-Minsk	5 - 2	(2-0, 2-2, 1-0)
HC Lugano - Lokomotiv Yaroslavl	3 - 6	(2-2, 1-3, 0-1)

Placing games:

HC Davos - Belfast Giants	2 - 4	(0-1, 1-1, 1-2)
Milano Vipers - Slovan Bratislava	1 - 6	(0-0, 0-2, 1-4)
HC Davos - Milano Vipers	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Slovan Bratislava - Belfast Giants	4 - 3	(2-1, 2-1, 0-1)

Bronze Medal Game:

HC Lugano - HC Keramin-Minsk	5 - 0	(4-0, 0-0, 1-0)
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Gold Medal Game

Lokomotiv Y. - Jokerit Helsinki	1 - 2	(1-1, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-1)
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Final Ranking:

1. Jokerit Helsinki	FIN
2. Lokomotiv Yaroslavl	RUS
3. HC Lugano	SUI
4. HC Keramin-Minsk	BLR
5. Slovan Bratislava	SVK
6. Belfast Giants	GBR
7. HC Davos	SUI
8. Milano Vipers	ITA

Individual scoring

1. VOUTILAINEN, Jukka	JOK	3	4	1	5
2. NUMMELIN, Petteri	LUG	3	0	5	5
3. PELTONEN, Ville	JOK	3	1	3	4
4. AALTO, Antti	JOK	3	1	3	4
5. RATAJ, Igor	SLO	3	3	0	3
6. LAZO, Miroslav	BRA	3	3	0	3
7. MANELUK, Mike	LUG	3	3	0	3

IIHF-move
is now
complete

■ The moving process from Parkring 11 to Brandschenkenstrasse 50, which started in November, was completed in mid-January when the brand new office building of the International Ice Hockey Federation was ready for takeover. The distance between the two Zurich streets is only about 350 metres, but the difference for the IIHF is huge. The space of the ever-expanding offices of the federation was doubled.

■ The General Secretary's department, the President and the Financial Manager will work out of the Landolt Villa which also will be used for council meetings and official receptions. The beautiful heritage-protected house from the mid-1700s, which once belonged to the wine producing Landolt family, has been fully renovated and brought back to its former glory.

The adjacent state-of-the art office building is the home of administration, sport development and the marketing department.

"This is a big step for the IIHF and something which reflects the growth of our organization", says General Secretary Jan-Ake Edvinsson who has been with the federation since 1985 when the IIHF had their headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

■ "When we moved from Vienna to Zurich's Todistrasse in 1991, we had a small office and four staff members", remembers Edvinsson. "Eventually we also outgrew our offices at Parkring. It was a beautiful building but without expansion potential. So this two-building option in the same area of Zurich was the one which was most appealing for us."

"With this new office building, the IIHF moves into a

new era", says IIHF President René Fasel.

"Our premises meet the requirements of

operating a modern office of a world governing sports body and it also reflects the prestige of a federation which governs one of the most popular Olympic team sports".

■ There is still lot of polishing to do here and there before the last construction worker will be able to leave the site sometime late this spring. The IIHF office has a staff of 21 people.



Photos: KEN INAGAKI

NEW HOME: The IIHF premises represent a blend of heritage and state-of-the-art. The staff of 21 employees is divided between the Landolt Villa (left) and the brand new office building (below).



Fujita & friends demolish China

■ Japan never gave China a chance in a single game qualification on February 4 for the remaining 16th spot at the 2003 IIHF World Championship in Finland (April 26 - May 11). Japan removed all doubt of their advancement early into the game and finally destroyed China 15 - 0 (5-0, 6-0, 4-0).

The game was played as a part of the Asian Winter Games at the Niida Indoor Rink in Hachinohe City, Japan. The game was attended by 1,788 wildly cheering local fans, who didn't have to wait long to see where the game was heading. Japan scored five goals in the first period, four of them on power-play.

■ Japan tallied six times in seven minutes in the second period to blow the game away. It was a surprisingly high score considering that Japan beat China 3-1 in their qualification game last year and 5-3 in the 2001 qualification.

The heroes of the game were Kiyoshi Fujita, who scored twice and assisted seven times for Japan, and his

line-mates Taro Nihei with a hat-trick and two assists, as well as Ryan Kubawara, with two goals and three assists. The line thus totalled 19 points in the game.

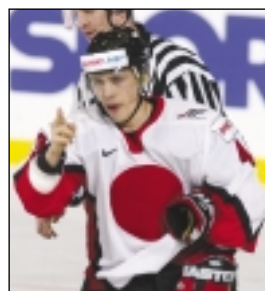
Fujita, who had a point in each of his team's first six goals, was also Japan's best scorer in the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden where he had three goals and as many assists in six games.

Winning goalkeeper Jiro Nihei faced only nine shots, while his Chinese colleague Hua Geng made 53 saves on 68 shots.

■ Japan has taken part in the top group of the IIHF World Championship every year since 1998, after winning the Far East Qualification in each of those years. The Far East Qualification

will be played for the last time in 2004, as the special status of the Asian teams comes to an end.

Japan will now join 2002 World Champion Slovakia, Germany and Ukraine in Group A in Helsinki at the 2003 IIHF World Championship.



TOP GUN: Kiyoshi Fujita had nine points against China.

Alex collects air miles like no other

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

■ Don't talk to Alex Westlund about tough road trips. The 27-year old American goaltender plays for Amur Khabarovsk of the Russian Professional League. Look at the map and you'll realize that there is no other hockey team in the world that travels more than Westlund's Amur.

Khabarovsk, with a population of about 700,000, is 9,000 kilometres east of St. Petersburg, the most western of Russia's major cities. It's an eight hours flight to the capital Moscow, where Amur travels to play CSKA, Dynamo, Soviet Wings and Spartak. The closest away game is at Novosibirsk, which is only four flight hours away. Khabarovsk is in the same time zone as Japan, and located just on the Chinese border.

When not on the road, Alex is 15 hours ahead of Central European Time and 21 hours ahead of Flemington, New Jersey, the place Alex calls home.

Alex Westlund lives in three places: the rink, the apartment-hotel and the airplane. He is not sure where he spends most time because after counting up to 300 hours airtime sometime last fall, he just lost the track.

■ "This is a unique experience", says Alex to the IIHF over a phone line as crisp as if he were standing in a room next door. "This schedule is as demanding as it could be. The sleeping patterns are ridiculous and the mental fatigue is very tough. You have to battle mentally all the time, to tell yourself that you are not tired. Luckily, I have no problem sleeping on flights."

If this isn't enough, Khabarovsk is a cold place during the bulk of the hockey season. Minus 30 is a pretty much normal winter temperature.

"When the wind is not blowing, it's really cold but not unbearable", says Westlund. "When it is blowing, you don't want to be outside all that long."

So this American college kid is complaining because he can't stand the rigours of in the Russian league?

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

■ "If I had passed on this opportunity, I would have regretted it for the rest of my life", said Alex. "If they want me back next season, I'll be back. We are paid very well to do this job. Money is good in this league and we are well taken care of."

As of now, there is no reason why Amur Khabarovsk, a club owned by a gold mining company, wouldn't want him back. When this story went to press in mid-February, Westlund had played in 40 of Amur's 41 games (no other goalie in the league is even close to the workload) with an excellent goals against average of 2.12, a save percentage of 92.70 and five shut-outs. He is one of the reasons why Amur, an average team, is in the playoff race.

At the February break, the sports paper "Sport-



Photo: Amur Khabarovsk PR Dept.

AN AMERICAN IN Khabarovsk: Alex Westlund is the most travelled goaltender in hockey. Unfortunately, he cannot use all the air miles he has been piling up.



Graphic: Digitaltype

WORLD'S END? Well, almost. You can hardly get farther east than Khabarovsk in the biggest country in the world. Amur must pass through eight time zones to get to an away game in St. Petersburg. Distance: over 9,000 kilometers. **Inserted:** Club logo of Amur. "Au" stands for "Aurum" (Gold) while "Pt" is "Platinum". The club is owned by a mine which excavates these metals. Money is not a problem at Amur.

Express" had Westlund ranked as the league's fifth best player and the best foreigner.

After graduating from Yale University in 1999, Westlund had been toiling in the North American minor leagues for four seasons, in the ECHL, AHL and IHL, without being close to a NHL contract. During the 1999-2000 season Alex was the number five goalie on the Nashville Predators depth chart.

■ During the 2001-2002 season, Alex had a Russian teammate on the ECHL Cincinnati Cyclones, Yevgeni Pavlov. One day Pavlov asked if Alex could imagine playing in the Russian league. Alex was sure that he was joking. But at the end of February 2002, he got a call at midnight from someone who spoke broken English and asked Alex if he wanted to play for a team

called Amur Khabarovsk.

"I still had a tough time believing that this was serious", said Alex. "But I gave this guy my agent's number and they worked out a deal. The only two things I really knew about Khabarovsk was that they have great caviar and that it's way over at the Chinese border."

After a 17-hour trip from New York via Seoul, South Korea, Alex arrived in Khabarovsk on July 5, 2002, on a very hot and humid day. What seemed as a joke just five months earlier was suddenly reality.

Today, Alex Westlund is an expert on Russian domestic flights. And, no, he cannot give you any horror stories about Aeroflot.

"I have not heard anything negative about Aeroflot domestic flights, most likely because it was probably in Russian. But I feel secure, I think. If I were ever worried about flying, this might be the worst team to play for, but these thoughts never really pop into my head."

■ The schedule in the 18-team RHL is also as demanding as it could be. Unlike NHL teams, which sometimes go on six- or seven-game road trips in order to reduce coast-to-coast flights, the Russian league has its teams rotate in a system where two home games are followed by two away games, and so on. But since Christmas, Amur has been on a one-home-one-away rotation, which probably is the most grueling schedule for any team, in any sport in the world.

"The only good thing about the schedule is that there are no back-to-back games", says Alex. "This gives you some time to recover".

Another struggle are flights to smaller cities. Most of the time the team first has to go to Moscow to catch a connecting flight. Alex tells this story about an away game just before Christmas against Molot-Priklamy, in the city of Perm:

"First we flew for eight hours to Moscow and checked out all our equipment there. The flight to Perm was delayed several hours and by 3.30 in the morning it still wouldn't take off. So we took a bus to a hotel to catch some sleep and after a few hours at the hotel, it was back to the airport and we finally boarded the plane for a one and a half hour flight to Perm. The whole trip took 24 hours."

"If we used travel as an excuse, we wouldn't win a game all season", says Alex. "I have always thought that when teams think they are tired, they begin to make excuses. I think it is more a question of being mentally tough and no matter how physically tired you might be, you have to convince yourself you are not and then play your hardest".