

News Release

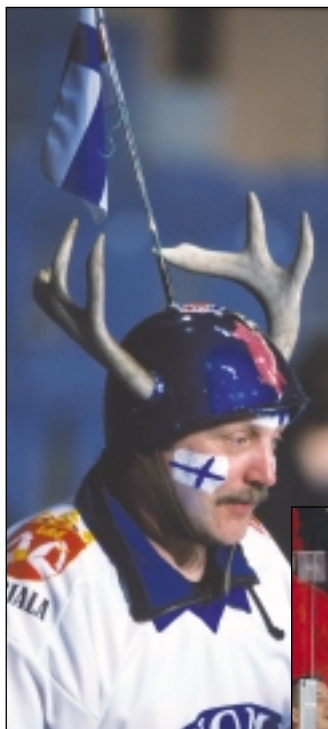
FAIR PLAY
AND RESPECT



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Hockey fans are the best in the world



Photos: Jukka Rautio, Dave Sanford

POP QUIZ: LOYALTY IS...

(Clockwise) **A.** Dressing up as the Moose Man to lift Finland to victory. **B.** Traveling over 1,000 kilometers in the Latvian Love Bug for a game. **C.** Wearing every piece of red clothing in the closet to make Canada feel at home or... **D.** All of the above.

But agents push game's limits with questionable advice

It's about the best and the worst in hockey. Fans and unscrupulous player agents.

Year in and year out hockey fans are the best in the world. Just like fans following any other team sport, they invest a lot, sometimes more than they can afford, and their only reward is seeing their team play and hopefully win.

But something tells me that hockey fans are more passionate and more committed than others, and they never disgrace their sport.

I cannot recall the last time I heard about riots during a hockey game or fans demolishing a train or parts of a city. Hockey is a fast and tough sport but because justice is almost always served on the ice, the fans leave the game satisfied and without aggression.

Our sport is changing rapidly with new state-of-the-art arenas replacing old rinks. This is good because our fans deserve modern facilities, a place where you can take your family for an enjoyable night out.

■ But we must remember that there is balance that needs to be maintained bet-

ween the hard-core fans and the corporate supporters. Corporate sponsorship is indispensable in today's pro-sports, but the sponsors don't want to fund events without atmosphere. A great atmosphere is created by the die-hard fans, who are more apt to attend games as long as the ticket prices stay affordable, something which corporate sponsorship makes possible. It is a give-and-take relationship that is becoming increasingly important among all sports.

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

We must also listen very closely to what the fans are saying about the entertainment level of our game. They can live with their team losing, but they won't come back if the game gets boring. And without fans, we don't have any hockey.

■ If the fans are the most admirable people in our sport, player agents are on the other side of the spectrum. Fans are the ones who are the prime investors and get no monetary reward in return, agents are just the opposite. They give little to the game, but their profit is substantial. It is important to point out that, just in any profession, there are good and bad agents.

Unfortunately, the bad ones do a lot of damage. This is evident when you study the results of the "guidance" many NHL-drafted Europeans players are receiving when evaluating their career options.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 1

■ Many players, with various degrees of NHL potential, are hurried into signing professional contracts regardless of whether they are ready for the giant leap or not. In many interviews I have been very clear; we are happy for every player who can live his dream and secure his financial future by playing in the NHL.

But because many players are lured into signing a contract before they are ready (skill and maturity wise), they end up in the minor leagues, which in many cases is detrimental to their careers. During the last three-year period (2001-2003), which coincides with the now-expired transfer agreement between the IIHF, the NHL and the NHLPA, 161 players from the European leagues have signed NHL-contracts.

■ IIHF research shows that only 48 of those players (not even 30 percent) were on the NHL teams' opening night rosters in the first week of October. This is a terribly poor record for scouts, agents and also for team managements.

Well over 100 players, who would be stars or contributing players in the European leagues, are on their way to becoming career minor leaguers. Some have already returned with eroded skills, and shaken confidence. Most come back to Europe as lesser players.

Had the agents in many of those cases been scrupulous advisors, they would have told their clients to wait and continue working on their skills in their home environment until they were more mature. Everyone involved would have profited from the patient approach, but the agent is generally very keen on cashing on his commission.

■ The latest trend is even more devastating. This season, 35 junior players have left the Czech Republic and Slovakia to play major junior in Canada, many of them advised to do so by their agents.

History shows that very few Europeans become impact players in the NHL after taking the route via a minor league or major junior.

There are many examples, here just are two that back up my theory.

□ Finland's Jani Rita was a forward headed for stardom when he dominated the 2000 IIHF World U20 Championship, scoring eight goals in seven games and being selected to the All Star Team. Six months earlier he was Edmonton's first selection in the 1999 draft. He left home too early and Jani has now begun his third year in the American Hockey League, again being sent down at the start of the season.

□ Czech Pavel Brendl won the 2000 IIHF World U20 Championship in scoring and was named the Best Forward in the tournament. His selection as fourth overall by the New York Rangers in the 1999 draft reflected his potential. But Brendl was advised to play in the Canadian junior league system for three seasons and chose that ahead of developing his skills in the top Czech pro league. His development has levelled off dramatically and he is still in the minors.

■ Luckily, there are some refreshing exceptions. Nikolai Zherdev, selected fourth overall in the 2003 draft by Columbus, decided to stay at CSKA Moscow to refine his already splendid skill under coach Viktor Tikhonov. The NHL, Columbus, the fans, and eventually the Russian national team, will all be winners because of this decision, which will produce a player that will play to his full potential at the highest level possible.

Rene Fasel
IIHF President

Pioneers: German Beate Grupp (left) and Doris Högne from Sweden wrote international hockey history when they became members of the IIHF Council. This photo was taken on the eve of their election at the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Hersonissos, Crete on September 18.



Photo: Thomas Freyer

Grupp and Högne break the last barrier

The IIHF added two female members to its Council for the first time since the federation was founded in 1908.

■ Beate Grupp from Germany and Swede Doris Högne became the first-ever female members of the IIHF Council after they were approved by the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress on September 18 in Crete.

The pair will serve on the IIHF council for the 2003-2008 term. They are the first females named to the IIHF governing body in its 95-year history.

The current council, consisting of 11 members was appointed earlier this year at the IIHF General Congress in Marbella, Spain. At the same time, the congress approved a statute to include a minimum of two females on the council.

■ The addition of Grupp and Högne brings the total number of council members to 13 for the first time in IIHF history. Both Grupp and Högne were nominated by their national associations after the IIHF issued an invitation to all of its member national associations for nominations for the two historic positions.

Both bring impressive hockey-resumes to their posts. Högne has been the chairman of several Swedish leagues and associations and Grupp most recently was the team physician of the German women's national team.

Beate Grupp Biography:

Dr. Grupp, born on April 5, 1965 in Geislingen, Germany, has served as the team doctor of Germany's national women's team since 1998. She is the youngest member of the current IIHF Council. Dr. Grupp started practicing medicine in 1992, and in 1995 went on to earn her degree with a Sports Medicine emphasis.

Currently, she works in Geislingen with her private practice where she focuses on physical therapy, sports medicine and orthopedics. She speaks English, French and German.

Doris Högne Biography:

Högne, a Flen, Sweden native who was born on July 4, 1955, has served on many ice hockey boards, including the election board of the Swedish Ice Hockey Federation, the regional board of the East Sweden Association, the district board of Stockholm Ice Hockey and the board of the local IFK Salem hockey club. She also served as the chairman of all of those boards.

Högne received her Master of Law from the University of Stockholm in 1978 and spent much of her professional career involved in Sweden's judicial system serving as a junior judge, the chief superintendent of the Swedish Police Force in the county of Sörmland, the manager of ministry of justice and most recently as the Deputy Director General for the prison and probations administration in Sweden.

Russia wins battle for IIHF's top event in 2007

Russia won the three-way battle for the rights to host the 2007 IIHF World Championship.

■ Russia beat out two other nations, Germany and Sweden, for the privilege to host the 2007 event. The host nation was announced following a vote by the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Greece.

Russia won by a landslide 66 votes, to Germany's 16 and Sweden's 11. Canada withdrew its bid prior to the voting and deferred its bid to 2008. Austria will host the 2005 championship (Vienna and Innsbruck) and Latvia will present the tournament in 2006.

■ Russia has hosted the IIHF World Championship once (in 2000 in St. Petersburg) since the former Soviet Union dissolved. The former Soviet Union hosted the World Championship four times and has a total of 34 World Championship medals, including 22 gold. Russia's candidate cities for 2007 are St. Petersburg and Moscow. The Russian Ice Hockey Association will select one of the cities at a later date.

■ If the World Championship is in St. Petersburg, it will be held at the same 12,500 seat Ice Hall Palace as the 2000 World Championship. Moscow will build a new arena if it is named the host city. The last time

Moscow hosted the championship was in 1986.

Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden are applying to organize the World Championship in 2008, the IIHF's centennial year: The 2008 allocation will be decided during the IIHF Congress in Prague, May 6-8, 2004.

■ During the same congress session, Canada was awarded the 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship while the 2007 "World Juniors" went to Sweden. Sites for these two championships will be named later.



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Olympic format takes shape



The IIHF announced the basics of the format, which will be used for the 2006 Olympic ice hockey tournament. The format was presented at the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in September.

Men's tournament

- The men's tournament will be played with 12 teams. The final format regarding groupings and play-offs is still to be determined.
- The men's tournament will be a one-stage tournament where all teams enter the competition at the same time. There will be no qualification round like in Nagano 1998 and in Salt Lake City 2002. (14 men's teams took part in 1998 and 2002).
- The top eight ranked teams following the 2004 IIHF World Championship, determined by the IIHF World Ranking system, will be automatically qualified to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. (See more on page 6-7).
- The host team, Italy, will be placed directly into the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.
- The remaining three teams will be determined through Olympic Qualification Tournaments.
- The final Olympic qualifications will be concluded by February 2005 and the 12 teams competing in Turin 2006 will be known by then.
- This basic format will stay regardless of NHL players' participation in Turin 2006.



TIGHT RACE: Russia (5th ranked) and Sweden (4th ranked) fight a hard battle for automatic entry to the women's Olympic tournament. The top four ranked nations following the 2004 World Women's Championship in Canada will qualify directly to Turin 2006. (See ranking on page 8.)

Women's tournament

- The Women's Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament will have the same format as it had in Salt Lake City 2002.
- Eight teams will be seeded into groups of four, playing a round-robin series. The two top teams from each group will be promoted to the semi-final, played according to the standard cross-over format.
- The top four ranked teams following the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Canada, determined by the IIHF World Ranking system, will automatically be qualified to the 2006 Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament.
- The host team Italy will be placed directly into the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.
- The remaining three teams will be determined through Olympic Qualification Tournaments.
- The final Olympic qualifications will be concluded by February 2005 and the eight teams competing in Turin 2006 will be known by then.

International & Association News

Team Canada visits Hungary after a 57-year break

- Team Canada will play a friendly game in Hungary on February 3, 2004 against the Hungarian national team. It will be the first time in 57 years that a Canadian national squad will play an official game in Hungary. Canada beat Hungary 1-0 last time the countries met on Hungarian ice on January 10th, 1937.
- Team Canada has played just three times in Hungary. On January 27, 1934, the teams skated to a goalless draw. Canada won 7-0 the next day. The Canadian team will be comprised of Canadians playing professional hockey in Europe.
- Since the 7,000-seat Budapest Sport Arena will be hosting the European Figure Skating Championship in February, the Hungarian Ice Hockey Federation must select an alternative venue. The options: Debrecen Fonix-Hall (5000-seat), Budapest AstraZeneca Arena (3500), Szekesfehervar (3500), Dunaujvaros (3500)

Dave King, 56, returns to the international scene

- IIHF Hall of Famer Dave King will return to coach Team Canada at the Deutschland Cup in Hannover, Germany on November 7 - 9. The 56-year old King has over 30 years of coaching experience. He led Team Canada in the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Olympic Winter Games and also Japan in Nagano in 1998. The silver medal in Albertville 1992 was his greatest success. King also coached the Canadian entries in the IIHF World Championship from 1987 to 1992, capturing silver medals in 1989 and 1991.
- In the 90s, Dave King was an NHL-coach in Calgary, Montreal and Columbus. He was inducted to the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2001. Dave King is presently head coach of the Hamburg Freezers in the German DEL-league.
- The reigning World Champion Canada will announce the coaching staff for the 2004 IIHF World Championship in April of 2004.



KING OF CANADA: Is back in business.

Italy names Goulet new Sports Director of hockey program

- Michel Bernard Goulet was named Sports Director of Italy's national team program (senior, junior and women). Goulet was the head coach of the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees men's hockey team for 13 seasons. He was a three-time winner of the OUA Coach of the Year Award and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Italian ice hockey program.
- For two years Goulet was a scout for the NHL Washington Capitals. He has served as president of the NCAA Hockey Coaches Association and recently as the president of the Ontario University Athletics Hockey Coaches Association.
- While playing hockey at the University of New Hampshire Goulet received a bachelor of science. He also has a Master's in Education from Ohio University where he served as a graduate assistant with the hockey team. After earning his degree, Goulet continued his hockey career with the Toledo Hornets of the IHL before becoming a coach.
- Goulet will also oversee the coaching development program in Italy.

Car crash kills Atlanta player Snyder and injures 2003 Worlds star Heatley

- A tragic car accident in the United States claimed the life of one NHL player and could end the season of another.
- Canadians Dan Snyder and Dany Heatley were involved in a one-car accident just outside of Atlanta on September 30. Snyder, an undrafted player who earned a spot on the Atlanta Thrasher's roster last season, sustained a skull fracture in the accident and never regained consciousness before dying in the hospital six days later. Heatley, who was driving the car, suffered multiple injuries, including a season-ending tear of two knee ligaments and a broken jaw.
- Snyder was a center who had 10 goals and four assists in 36 games for Atlanta last season. He had surgery on his ankle in September before the start of training camp and was expected to start the season on the injured list. Snyder signed with the Thrashers as a free agent in 1999 after playing four seasons of junior hockey for Owen Sound in the OHL.
- Heatley is the gap-toothed leader of the Thrashers, a 22-year-old with both toughness and great skill with the puck. Last season, he scored a team-record 41 goals and was MVP of the All-Star game. Most recently, he was a member of Team Canada which captured the gold medal at the 2003 IIHF World Championship, scoring seven goals and adding three assists. Heatley, who was also named to the tournament All Star Team, faces legal charges as a result of the accident.

Belgian and Dutch clubs launch a joint venture championship

- The Netherlands and the Belgian Ice Hockey Associations have reached an agreement on a joint club competition named "The Cup of the Low Lands".
- After a first double round with home and away games for the Belgian Cup among the Belgian teams (with the final 10th January 2004 in Hasselt), a new competition will be played from the end of November 2003 through February 2004 featuring a single round with home and away games between the five Belgian Honorary Division teams and the five Dutch Superliga clubs. A direct final between the 1st and 2nd placed teams will follow this competition.
- The five competing Belgian teams are: Phantoms Deurne, HYC Herentals, Olympia Heist-op-den-Berg, IHC Leuven and White Caps Turnhout. The five Dutch teams are: Amsterdam, Heerenveen, Tilburg, Nijmegen and Geleen.

Enver Hansen is the new Executive Director of Danish hockey

- The Danish Ice Hockey Association has strengthened its organisation following its success at the last IIHF World Championships. Enver Hansen has been hired on as new Executive Director. Mr. Hansen joins the association from a partner position in a Copenhagen law firm and replaces Bent Nielsen as the administrative head of the association.
- Svend Stilling also joins the association as a full-time equipment manager. Mr. Hansen and Mr. Stilling become the fifth and sixth full-time employees of the Danish Ice Hockey Association, joining Kim Pedersen (administrative head of the sports department), Finn Christensen (administrative assistant), Mikael Lundstrom (national team coach) and Stefan Bergkvist (youth national teams coach) in the association office.

Lights, Camera, Action! Miracle

By Lucas Aykroyd

It's the afternoon of June 5, 2003. A heat wave grips Vancouver, Canada. This is a long way from the cold, crisp, intense atmosphere at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics, where the USA achieved its 4-3 "Miracle on Ice" victory over the favored Soviet Union.

■ But at the PNE Agrodome, near the Pacific Coliseum where the Vancouver Canucks used to play, a recreation of one of the IIHF's greatest hockey tournaments is underway. Walk into the old 3,260-seat arena and the smell of fresh paint greets you. The interior has received the 1980 red-and-blue color scheme, with Olympic logos everywhere plus merchandise booths and national flags high above the stands. Fans pack the seats, and banners exhort: "Jim Craig--The Puck Stops Here" and "America: The Best in Hockey."

Even more striking is the scene on the ice, where today hockey players in Czechoslovakian jerseys featuring names like Stastny, Novy and Frycer are reenacting a scene from a preliminary round game versus the USA. It all looks authentic, from the Czech goalie's puffy chest protector to the bushy haircuts on Team USA.

■ The reason for this recreation, of course, is the forthcoming movie "Miracle" from Walt Disney Pictures, which will hit theaters in early 2004. Mostly shot in Vancouver from March through early July, it also includes exterior mockups of Lake Placid filmed north in Rossland. Starring Kurt Russell ("Tango & Cash," "Stargate") as USA coach Herb Brooks and Noah Emmerich ("The Truman Show") as general manager Craig Patrick, the film traces the entire journey of the college kids who came together to stage this improbable upset.

Yes, the entire journey. You want insight into the American team-building process? Or snapshots from the 7-2 USA win over Romania? How about the 10-3 walloping the Soviets inflicted on the Americans in pre-tournament play at Madison Square Garden? It's all here, down to the minutest detail.

■ Perhaps the best evidence of this film's commitment to authenticity is the painstaking effort that went into its casting process.

"The philosophy going into this was that I wanted to hire hockey players and teach them how to act, as opposed to teaching actors how to play hockey," says director Gavin O'Connor, who consulted with Team USA members like Mike Eruzione and Jack O'Callahan.

Mark Ellis of ReelSports Solutions, a company that specializes in staging sports scenes in movies, elaborates on this unprecedented approach: "We went out to six different cities: Boston, Minnesota, New York, Vancouver, Toronto, and

Chicago. We did auditions and casting calls. If you passed the tryouts and could skate, then you had a chance to read in front of the director. We saw thousands of kids for 16 roles on Team USA."

Meanwhile, Kurt Russell spent three months working on his skating to ensure he would do justice to his on-ice portrayal of the late Herb Brooks, who tragically died in a car accident on August 11.

Russell was fitted for a prosthetic nose to increase his resemblance to Brooks, and he spent time speaking with Brooks and watching videos to capture the coach's mannerisms.



DISNEY MAGIC MAKES A MIRACLE. The Disney portrayal of the 1980 US Miracle on Ice in the movie titled 'Miracle' is so realistic team of Hollywood actors celebrates the famous victory. Insert: The real 1980 US Olympic Team celebrates the win over the Soviet

e on Ice hits the big screen

Photo: Courtesy of IOC Olympic Archives



■ One of the principal hockey advisors on the film is Ryan Walter, a Stanley Cup champion with the 1986 Montreal Canadiens and Team Canada member at three senior IIHF World Championships (1979, 1981, 1982). At first, Walter thought this would just take a couple of days per week, but his involvement escalated to the point where he was invited to portray the referee in the climactic USA-Soviet game.

"This is going to be the best hockey movie ever," Walter states. "I think the hockey world is going to love the movie." He points out that several former pros snagged on-ice roles, including 1990 Conn Smythe Trophy winner Bill Ranford, who portrays Jim Craig, Sasha Lakovic, Todd Harkins, and others from the minor league and junior ranks.

■ Walter has been impressed with Vancouver lawyer Roger Watts, who portrays Russian goaltending legend Vladislav Tretiak: "Roger has given up his practice for a while to be Tretiak. He apparently became a goaltender because he loved Tretiak so much. And now he gets to play him!"

The hockey advisors watched hours of original footage from the 1980 Olympics plus the HBO documentary "Do You Believe in Miracles?" to capture the little nuances in the big games. "It's one of our goals to make sure that the plays we develop for the Russian game have a Russian feel," says Walter. "So it's a lot less north-and-south, and a lot more east-and-west, a lot more regroup, the European flavor back then." One highlight is an exact recreation of the last two minutes of the USA-Soviet game.

■ O'Connor insists he didn't want to make a "hockey movie," just as he didn't want to overemphasize the Cold War tensions that plagued the world in 1980: "I wanted it to be a character study of the man Herb Brooks, who in a way put his family on the shelf to chase his dream." But like the rest of his creative team, he also wants the original Team USA members to walk out of the theater saying: "They got it right."

■ If "Miracle" can achieve that lofty goal, that'll be a cinematic miracle in itself.

Photo: COURTESY OF DISNEY AND BUENA VISTA PICTURES

that it's tough to tell the Hollywood version from the real thing. Above, Kurt Russell plays the role of the late Herb Brooks as a Union 23 years ago.

■ But it wasn't only Team USA that received such close attention to detail. "When we got up here to Vancouver, we did another casting call to get players to portray the European opponents," says Ellis. "We interviewed over 1500 people in two days, and we went through a four-day tryout period, where we made cuts every 30 minutes. By the end, we had our top 65 players from this area. Finally, we started dividing them into the proper teams. Then we went through a six-week training camp, where we'd practice with the Soviets Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and then on Tuesday and Thursday we'd meet with the Czechs and Swedes. On Saturday we'd meet with the others. So for six weeks, we'd have our opponents trying to learn the choreographed plays, studying film, doing research, trying to make this as authentic as possible."

New IIHF World Ranking System

Points earned Interval

<u>World Championship</u>		
1	1200	40
2	1160	40
3	1120	20
4	1100	40
5	1060	20
6	1040	20
7	1020	20
8	1000	40
9	960	20
10	940	20
11	920	20
12	900	20
13	880	20
14	860	20
15	840	20
16	820	20
<u>Division I A & I B</u>		
17	800	20
18	780	20
19	760	20
20	740	20
21	720	20
22	700	20
23	680	20
24	660	20
25	640	20
26	620	20
27	600	20
28	580	20
<u>Division II A & II B</u>		
29	560	20
30	540	20
31	520	20
32	500	20
33	480	20
34	460	20
35	440	20
36	420	20
37	400	20
38	380	20
39	360	20
40	340	20
<u>Division III</u>		
41	320	20
42	300	20
43	280	20
44	260	20
45	240	20
46	220	20
47	200	20
48	180	20
49	160	20
50	140	20

Introducing the IIHF World Ranking for both men's and women's national teams - a true and fair reflection of the teams' performance in international hockey.

■ The IIHF World Ranking awards points based on the final positions in the last four IIHF World Championships and in the last Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament. The current 2003 IIHF World Men's Ranking is thus based on the performance at the 2003, 2002, 2001 and the 2000 World Championship and at the 2002 Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament. (See page 8 for the 2003 IIHF World Women's Ranking).

"The introduction of a World Ranking has been in the IIHF's pipeline for quite some time and we are very happy that we could finally agree on a formula which is simple to understand, very logical and very fair because it reflects the long-term quality of all national hockey programs and their commitment to international hockey," said IIHF President René Fasel after the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Crete approved the ranking system on September 20.

It is the first time that the IIHF has introduced a ranking, which reflects the long-term quality of the countries' national team programs.

■ To enable the ranking to accurately reflect current form, the greatest importance is given to results of the last years' competition. To a lesser degree, attention is also paid to results from previous years. The system uses a four-year cycle as the points earned in one year decline by 25 percent each year for the next three years, and in the fifth year, results are dropped from the calculation altogether.

For example, the value of a gold medal will decrease in value over 5 years as follows:

Year 1: 100% value -- 1200 points
 Year 2: 75% value -- 900 points
 Year 3: 50% value -- 600 points
 Year 4: 25% value -- 300 points
 Year 5: No value

■ Points awarded for all positions within the IIHF Championship Program (from World Pool down to Division III) are listed in the left column on this page. On the bottom part of the page you can follow some various examples of how the points decline by 25 percent each year. So, for example, the 880 points



RANKING REFLECTS STATUS: It is no coincidence that Canada and Sweden made a sprawling save off a shot by Canada's Steven Reinprecht when the Gold Medal Game of the 2003 IIHF World Championship and confirmed their status as champions.

earned by Austria in the 2000 World Championship, a decline of 220 in the 2003 World Ranking, a decline of 220 points.

On the same note, the 1100 points which Canada earned for their fourth place finish in the 2002 Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament, 25 percent are deducted -- valued at 825 points.

The 2003 IIHF World Men's Ranking is in effect from September 20, 2003.

■ "We were looking at what other sports organizations have done. FIFA has done something similar in terms of a ranking system. It would be a much fairer solution in terms of how we organize our championships we organize." "Another good reason to have a ranking system is to provide a fairer reflection of the long-term quality of the national teams."

A FOUR-YEAR CYCLE: HOW THE POINTS DECLINE

WS 2003: 100 %				WS 2002: 75 %				OL 2002: 50 %	
Nat	finish	points	value	Nat	finish	points	value	Nat	finish
AUT	10th	940	940	AUT	12th	900	675	AUT	10th
BLR	14th	860	860	BLR	17th	800	600	BLR	14th
CAN	1st	1200	1200	CAN	6th	1040	780	CAN	1st
DEN	11th	920	920	DEN	18th	780	585	DEN	11th
GER	6th	1040	1040	GER	8th	1000	750	GER	6th
RUS	7th	1020	1020	RUS	2nd	1160	870	RUS	7th
SWE	2nd	1160	1160	SWE	3rd	1120	840	SWE	2nd
USA	13th	880	880	USA	7th	1020	765	USA	13th

em puts teams in their place



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO, Europhoto

are ranked as number 1 and 2 in the IIHF World Ranking. The teams met in the top status in the hockey world today. Here, Sweden's goaltender Tommy Salo teams faced each other in the Preliminary Round game in Turku during the 2003

Championships to determine the groupings. For the 2004 championship in the Czech Republic, the US team, for example, will have Finland and Slovakia in the same group, while Canada will have Switzerland, Austria and France."

"If you consider the quality of the teams, you see that the groups are unbalanced and that our previous ranking didn't really reflect the strength of the teams. The new IIHF World Rankings will be fairer, which includes the Olympics too."

"Also, we're planning to start the Super Six Challenge Cup with the top European clubs in January 2005. Then we have to figure out, who are the Super Six? Yet another good reason to have this ranking system."

■ The World Ranking will further promote the IIHF's total world championship structure as the ranking includes all teams participating in the federation's program. The ranking will be a continuous reminder that the IIHF World Championship includes around 45 nations and not only 16, which is a common misconception among media and fans.

Before each World Championship, a Pre-Championship Report will be released in which the values of the previous seasons are already reduced according to the above-described procedure and where only the points of the upcoming competition need to be added to get the IIHF World Ranking for the year.

■ The IIHF Semi-Annual Congress also approved a basic 12-team format for the men's 2006 Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament in Turin, meaning that the eight top teams in the IIHF World Ranking following the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Czech Republic will get a direct entry to Turin 2006.

The new ranking system will add extra excitement for the 2004 World Championship as seventh ranked USA, eighth ranked Germany and ninth ranked Switzerland will fight for the two spots which guarantee automatic entry to the 2006 Olympics.

The team which doesn't make the Olympic cut, will get another chance via the Final Olympic Qualification in February 2005. (See more on page 3.)

CURRENT MEN'S RANKING

03 Rank	Country	Points	02 Rank
1	CAN	3685	3
2	SWE	3610	4
3	CZE	3560	1
4	FIN	3525	2
5	SVK	3480	7
6	RUS	3480	6
7	USA	3330	5
8	GER	3240	9
9	SUI	3135	8
10	LAT	3060	10
11	UKR	3010	12
12	AUT	2970	13
13	BLR	2955	11
14	DEN	2665	19
15	JPN	2605	17
16	SLO	2595	20
17	ITA	2585	14
18	FRA	2575	16
19	POL	2550	18
20	NOR	2535	15
21	KAZ	2480	21
22	HUN	2255	23
23	GBR	2230	22
24	EST	2135	25
25	NED	2135	24
26	ROM	1965	26
27	LTU	1885	28
28	CHN	1805	27
29	YUG	1685	30
30	BUL	1550	29
31	CRO	1545	31
32	KOR	1420	32
33	BEL	1240	35
34	ESP	1230	33
35	ISR	1110	34
36	AUS	1080	36
37	RSA	990	37
38	ISL	930	38
39	MEX	820	40
40	NZL	800	39
41	PRK	680	43
42	LUX	635	42
43	TUR	625	41

ampionship after four years are worth e by 75 percent.

Belarus were awarded with after apic Winter Games, are today -- when

the column on the right hand side.

ports federations do", explains René in soccer for many years. We thought it of representation at the various

is for the random draw at the World

NEW WORLD RANKING SYSTEM AFFECTS EIGHT DIFFERENT TEAMS

YMPICS 2002: 75 %			WS 2001: 50 %			WS 2000: 25 %				TOTAL			
<u>finish</u>	<u>points</u>	<u>value</u>	<u>Nat</u>	<u>finish</u>	<u>points</u>	<u>value</u>	<u>Nat</u>	<u>finish</u>	<u>points</u>	<u>value</u>	<u>Nat</u>	<u>finish</u>	<u>total</u>
12th	900	675	AUT	11th	920	460	AUT	13th	880	220	AUT	12th	2970
4th	1100	825	BLR	14th	860	430	BLR	9th	960	240	BLR	13th	2955
1st	1200	900	CAN	5th	1060	530	CAN	4th	1110	275	CAN	1st	3685
15th	840	630	DEN	22nd	700	350	DEN	21st	720	180	DEN	14th	2665
8th	1000	750	GER	8th	1000	500	GER	17th	800	200	GER	8th	3240
3rd	1120	840	RUS	6th	1040	520	RUS	11th	920	230	RUS	6th	3480
5th	1060	795	SWE	3rd	1120	560	SWE	7th	1020	255	SWE	2nd	3610
2nd	1160	870	USA	4th	1110	550	USA	5th	1060	265	USA	7th	3330

IIHF WORLD WOMEN'S RANKING

03 Rank	Country	Points
1	CAN	1800
2	USA	1740
3	FIN	1655
4	SWE	1625
5	RUS	1620
6	GER	1565
7	CHN	1545
8	KAZ	1490
9	SUI	1435
10	JPN	1425
11	CZE	670
12	FRA	660
13	PRK	650
14	NOR	650
15	LAT	645
16	DEN	635
17	SVK	595
18	ITA	585
19	NED	570
20	GBR	560
21	BEL	535
22	AUS	530
23	RSA	505
24	HUN	505
25	ROM	320
26	SLO	310

NOTE: Since the 2003 IIHF World Women's Championship program was incomplete due to the cancellation of the World Championship in Beijing, China because of the SARS epidemic, the complete championship program from that year is eliminated from the ranking, as approved by congress. The 2003 IIHF World Women's Ranking is thus based on the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the 2001 and the 2000 IIHF World Championships.

IIHF Super Six club championship on schedule for launch in February 2005

Representatives from Europe's top seven ice hockey nations, along with the IIHF and its marketing partner Infront Sport & Media, met in Zurich on October 10 to discuss the launch of the IIHF Super Six, a competition between the club champions from the top six ranked countries in Europe.

Officials representing the national associations and leagues of Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Sweden and Slovakia were at the meeting.

"This was a very positive meeting where all the participating countries were committed to the project," said IIHF Director of Special Projects, Federico Saviozzi. "It would see the champions from the top six countries play for European club supremacy in January 2005."

"Some concerns were solved in a very constructive way, but there are still some unresolved topics to be addressed before we can sign a three-year contract which would officially get the IIHF Super Six underway."

"Following this meeting we are nevertheless confident that this project is heading in the right direction and that it is on schedule," said Federico Saviozzi.

The details in the planned IIHF Super Six club competition:

When: The second week of January, starting in 2005.

Who: The champion clubs from Europe's top ranked countries, as determined by the recently introduced IIHF World Ranking.

Selection: The invitational system will be identified as "5+1", meaning that the national club champions of the top five ranked European nations - plus one other national champion, which can offer optimal organizing and hosting conditions.

Format: The six teams will be seeded into two groups of three, playing a round robin series. The winners of the two groups will play the Gold Medal Game.

Consequently, the IIHF World Ranking following the 2004 IIHF World Championship in the Czech Republic will determine the top six European countries. If the IIHF Super Six will start in January 2005 as planned, the national champions of the 2003-2004 season will be invited to the inaugural IIHF Super Six.

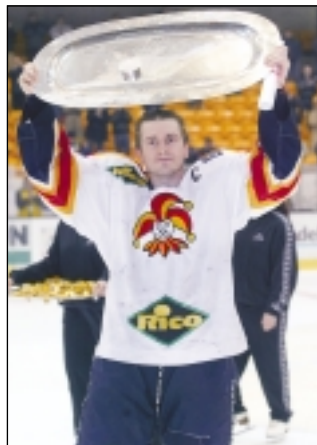


Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO

TOP OF EUROPE: Finnish giants Jokerit should be one of the clubs vying for the new European club honours. Captain Ville Peltonen (now with Swiss champions Lugano) hoists trophy after the 2003 Continental Cup victory.

Prize money: Will be determined upon the signing of the above mentioned contract between the national association/leagues, the IIHF and Infront & Sports Media.

See pages 6-7 for the current standings of the IIHF World Ranking. The ranking of the North American countries will be disregarded in this respect.

Documenting hockey history is a life assignment for Nordmark

1. Best game of all time?

Game two of the 1987 Canada Cup finals when Canada beat the Soviets 6-5 in overtime. But the Soviets 8-1 win over Canada in the 1981 Canada Cup final was the most impressive display by one team.

2. Best club/national team of all time?

CSKA Moscow and the Soviet national team during the 70s and the first half of the 80s.

3. Best player of all time?

Peter Forsberg or Wayne Gretzky.

4. Who would you choose for your starting six "Dream Team"?

Goal: Vladimir Dzurilla (TCH), defensemen: Borje Salming (SWE) and Alexander Ragulin (URS), forwards: Peter Forsberg (SWE), Mats Sundin (SWE) and Valeri Kharlamov (URS).

5. How did you become a hockey historian?

It started after the 1968 Olympic hockey tournament in Grenoble. What probably triggered my interest was the fact that so little was ever published about the historical development of the game in various countries, especially about the lesser hockey nations. My research has given me many friends worldwide and I

They're the bookworms of the hockey world, and proud of it. They can rattle off any hockey statistic at the drop of a hat and are perhaps the most important link to hockey's colourful past. Throughout this season we will tap into the minds of some of the top hockey historians around the world and ask them about the past, present and future of the game. This month, we feature the Swedish hockey historian Birger Nordmark, 44. In his other life, Birger is an accountant in Stockholm.

MEET THE HOCKEY HISTORIAN: Birger Nordmark (SWE)

have also realized that documenting international hockey history is a life assignment.

6. Best piece of trivia you know?

Who was the first goaltender in a World Championship or Olympics to wear a face mask?*

7. Best part about hockey?

The pace and the intensity.

8. Best rule change in the last 20 years?

The elimination of the red line and thus allowing the two-line pass.

9. Most impressive individual accomplishment?

Borje Salming's display for Team Sweden during the 1976 inaugural Canada Cup tournament where he totally dominated games against the USA, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. The standing ovation that Salming received at the Maple Leaf Gardens prior to the game against Canada is a landmark in Swedish hockey history. In some games during the tournament he virtually played non-stop.



10. The most impressive team accomplishment?

Team USA's heroic accomplishment as they won Olympic gold in Lake Placid in 1980.



* The first goalie to wear a facemask in international competition was Japan's Teiji Honma (left) in the 1936 Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Birger Nordmark is born in Lulea, Sweden in 1959. He has done extensive research about international hockey before 1945, Olympic hockey history, and also about the game in South Africa and in Australia.

IIHF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2004	CZECH REPUBLIC, Prague & Ostrava	24.04 - 09.05.04
2005	AUSTRIA, Vienna & Innsbruck	30.04 - 15.05.05
2006	LATVIA, Riga	TBA
2007	RUSSIA, Moscow & St Petersburg	TBA
2008	APPLICANTS: CAN, FRA, GER, SWE, SUI	

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

2004	NORWAY, Oslo	12-18.04.04
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

2004	POLAND, Gdansk	12-18.04.04
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

2004	SPAIN, Jaca	12-18.04.04
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

2004	LITHUANIA, Elektrenai	12-18.04.04
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IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

2004	ICELAND, Reykjavik	16-21.03.04
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IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP

2004	CANADA, Halifax	30.03-06.04.04
2005	SWEDEN, Linköping & Norrköping	03-10.04.05

IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I

2004	LATVIA, Riga	14-20.03.04
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IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II

2004	ITALY, Vipiteno	14-20.03.04
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IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

2004	SLOVENIA, Maribor	21-27.03.04
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP

2004	FINLAND, Helsinki & Hämeenlinna	26.12.03-05.01.04
2005	USA, Grand Forks & Thief River Falls	25.12.04-04.01.05
2006	CANADA	TBA
2007	SWEDEN	TBA
2008	APPLICANTS: SUI	

IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

2004	GERMANY, Berlin	14-20.12.03
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

2004	FRANCE, Briançon	13-19.12.03
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

2004	POLAND, Sosnowiec	28.12.03-03.01.04
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

2004	LITHUANIA, Kaunas & Elektrenai	05-11.01.04
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IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

2004	BULGARIA, Sofia	05-11.01.04
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP

2004	BELARUS, Minsk	08-18.04.04
2005	CZECH REPUBLIC, Ceske Budejovice & Plzen	14-24.04.05
2006	APPLICANTS: SWE	

IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A

2004	AUSTRIA, Amstetten	27.03-02.04.04
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B

2004	ITALY, Asiago	29.03-04.04.04
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A

2004	HUNGARY, Debrecen	28.03-03.04.04
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B

2004	LITHUANIA, Kaunas & Elektrenai	01-07.03.04
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IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III

2004	BULGARIA, Sofia	06-14.03.04
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OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

2006	ITALY, Turin	10-26.02.06
2010	CANADA, Vancouver	February 2010

MEN'S QUALIFICATION PROGRAM:

MEN'S FINAL OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT - GROUP A, B, C		
2005	TBA	10-13.02.05

MEN'S OLYMPIC PRE-QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT - GROUP D, E, F

2005	TBA	11-14.11.04
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MEN'S OLYMPIC REGIONAL QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT - GROUP G*, H*, J*

2005	TBA	02-05.09.04
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Note: * - If necessary

WOMEN'S QUALIFICATION PROGRAM:

WOMEN'S FINAL OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT - GROUP A, B, C

2005	TBA	11-14.11.04
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WOMEN'S OLYMPIC PRE-QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT - GROUP D*, E*, F*

2005	TBA	02-05.09.04
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IIHF IN-LINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

IIHF IN-LINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2004	TBA	11-18.07.04
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IIHF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

2003/2004 IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP

First Round	26-28.09.03
Second Round	17-19.10.03
Third Round: DENMARK, Herning, AUSTRIA, Linz	21-23.11.03
Final: BELARUS, Gomel	08-11.01.04

NATIONAL TEAM BREAKS

2003-2004 SEASON

1st International Break	September 1 to 7, 2003
2nd International Break	November 3 to 9, 2003
3rd International Break	December 15 to 21, 2003
4th International Break	February 2 to 8, 2004

2004-2005 SEASON

1st International Break	August 30 to Sept. 5, 2004
2nd International Break	November 8 to 14, 2004
3rd International Break	December 13 to 19, 2004
4th International Break	February 7 to 13, 2005

OTHER INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

WINTER UNIVERSIADE

2005 AUSTRIA, Innsbruck & Seefeld	12-22.01.05
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IIHF CONGRESSES

ANNUAL CONGRESS

2004 CZECH REPUBLIC, Prague	06-08.05.04
2005 AUSTRIA, Vienna	TBA

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGRESS

2004 TURKEY, Belek	23-25.09.04
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IIHF SPORT DEVELOPMENT PROG

IIHF WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CAMP

2004 FINLAND, Vierumaki	05-10.07.04
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IIHF DEVELOPMENT CAMP

2005 FINLAND, Vierumaki	03-09.07.05
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SO, WE MEET AGAIN: The United States and Canada will get a chance to renew their rivalry at the 2004 Women's World Championship after a two-year hiatus. The last time the teams met was at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City where Canada captured the gold. Pictured here are Hayley Wickenheiser of Canada and Karyn Bye of the United States.

Four Kiwis teach and learn in Asia

■ At the beginning of the summer, Richard McCutcheon, Stephan Speck, Dale Harrop and Jonathon Watts never thought that they would be teaching players in Thailand how to play hockey, but in late July, the four players from New Zealand all received a phone call that would give them the opportunity of a lifetime.

Officials from the International Ice Hockey Federation were holding an Asian Development Camp in Chaing Mai, Thailand with young players from Chinese Taipei, India, Thailand,, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand all looking to learn more about the sport they love. For the first time in their young hockey careers, the New Zealand players were thrust into the role of mentor as 'Demonstrator Players', a unique position for the players from the non-traditional hockey country.

As soon as the New Zealand players arrived in Thailand, they realized that the 30+ temperature was just one of the many small things that was different about hockey in Asia.

"I was surprised to see some of the players wearing jeans under their hockey gear," Speck said after the camp. "One player intrigued me by wearing his turban under his helmet."

■ The New Zealand players were each put onto one of the four teams at the camp. The mentors soon found themselves immersed with 17 Asian teammates all looking to them to be the leader on and off the ice.

"My first practice with the Green Team, which we named Green Tea, was very hard considering how hot it was," Harrop said. "But even tougher was participating in a Green Tea drinking competition...the results weren't pretty."

"I laughed watching Dale try to drink all that Green Tea," Speck said. "I think he is put off the stuff for life."

One thing the players were definitely not put off from was the opportunity to teach.

"I came away with a feeling that every individual at the camp had gotten at least 50 percent better," McCutcheon said. "It was definitely a worthwhile trip and I hope that all the players at the camp continue to carry on with their hockey."

■ Speck agreed saying, "I feel privileged to have been a part of the camp. I met new friends and it was a great learning experience."

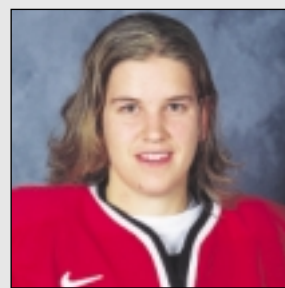


DESTINATION: THAILAND: Four New Zealand Demonstrator Players pose with IIHF Vice President Shoichi Tomita at the end of the Asian Camp.

WOMEN'S GOALTENDING SPECIAL



Photo: Courtesy of Andrew Dobrowsky, McGill



PLAYING WITH THE BOYS: Canadian Kim St. Pierre became the first female to play for the McGill Redmen in its 128-year history.

Pair of Kims pioneering new trails on opposite sides of the Atlantic

By: John Meagher
Originally published in the Montreal Gazette

It took 128 years for a female with enough talent and courage to don the sweater of the oldest men's hockey team in the world.

■ Kim St-Pierre, the goalie who backstopped Canada to the Olympic gold medal in Salt Lake City in 2002, is trying out the McGill Redmen, a team that was born in 1877, back when women didn't even have the right to vote in Canada, let alone skate in a league of their own.

The 24-year-old goaltender from Châteauguay, Quebec, who can now add pioneer to her impressive hockey résumé, became the first female to play for the Redmen with a pair of preseason appearances in Nova Scotia on the weekend October 3 -5.

■ In her men's debut on Friday, October 3 against Saint Mary's University in Halifax, St-Pierre played the second half of the game, allowing two goals on 11 shots. In her second appearance, the following day against Acadia, she played the first half of the game and yielded seven goals on 20 shots in a 9-8 overtime loss. In just over 60 minutes of work, the kinesiology senior student gave up nine goals on 31 shots for a goals-against average of 8.85 and a save percentage of .710.

Last year with the McGill Martlets women's team, St-Pierre led the nation with a 0.40 goals-against average and .983 save percentage.

■ St-Pierre said many of the shots that eluded her last weekend were deflections, screens and lucky bounces. "I just have to put that second game behind me and move on," she said.

St-Pierre is adjusting to the quicker men's game, where players are obviously bigger and stronger. "It's a much more physical game, even for the goalie," she said.

■ With three goalies still in the Redmen camp -- down from an original group of 10 -- St-Pierre's chances are better than even she'll make the team. Those odds, of course, depend on whether coach Martin Raymond carries two or three goalies.

"I haven't decided that yet," said Raymond, who prefers a goaltending tandem, but might opt for a three-player rotation. "It has to be a win-win situation for everyone," the coach said of naming St-Pierre to the team. "Kim is a likeable, solid girl. She's very determined to do well, but we have to do what's best for the team. We'll see."

■ The decision whether St-Pierre will stay with the Redmen was to be taken in late October.

St-Pierre, who showered in a private dressing room and roomed with the team's female physiotherapist last weekend, enjoyed the 14-hour bus ride to Nova Scotia with Les Boys.

"It was a great way to get to know the players," she said. "Being on a bus with 24 guys is a lot of fun."

■ The first female hockey team at McGill was formed in 1894. The women played in skirts and men were not allowed to watch.



EXTRA, EXTRA: Read about the second Kim making waves in net on page 12.

Coaches in North Korea go back to school

■ Players from New Zealand aren't the only ones who were expanding their hockey horizons in Asia this summer.

The IIHF also hosted a coaching clinic in North Korea for 35 coaches. The coaches went through Level I and Level II courses during the eight-day clinic in September.

"It was good for the coaches to get this help from the IIHF and be a more direct part of the IIHF family," said Darryl

Easson, an instructor from Great Britain. "They had a very good base. What we did was update their knowledge."

■ The coaches were on the ice for four sessions each day. Most were professionals and former national players.

"Their biggest obstacle as a hockey nation is the finances," Easson said. "But they had a good level of play and most importantly a good spirit."

RESULTS SUMMARY

Continental Cup 2002-2003

First Round (26 -28 September)

Group A - Novi Sad, Serbia & Montenegro

Miercurea Ciuc - KHL Zagreb	2:3
Vojvodina - Slavia Sofia	5:1
Slavia Sofia - Miercurea Ciuc	0:17
KHL Zagreb - Vojvodina	8:4
KHL Zagreb- Slavia Sofia	13:2
Vojvodina - Miercurea Ciuc	2:4

1. KHL Zagreb (CRO)	3	3	0	0	24 - 8	6
2. Miercurea Ciuc (ROM)	3	2	0	1	23 - 5	4
3. HK Vojvodina (SCG)	3	1	0	2	11 - 13	2
4. Slavia Sofia (BUL)	3	0	0	3	3 - 35	0

■ KHL Zagreb promoted to Second Round tournament Group F in Oswiecim (POL).

Group B - Amiens, France

Odense IK - Slavia Ljubljana	3:1
Steaua Bucharest - Gothiques Amiens	4:12
Odense IK - Steaua Bucharest	7:0
Gothiques Amiens - Slavia Ljubljana	6:0
Slavia Ljubljana - Steaua Bucharest	2:4
Gothiques Amiens - Odense IK	5:4

1. Gothiques Amiens (FRA)	3	3	0	0	23 - 8	6
2. Odense IK (DEN)	3	2	0	1	14 - 6	4
3. Steaua Bucharest (SCG)	3	1	0	2	8 - 21	2
4. Slavia Ljubljana (SLO)	3	0	0	3	3 - 13	0

■ Gothiques Amiens promoted to second round tournament Group G in Rouen (FRA).

Group C - Barcelona, Spain

CH Jaca - Amsterdam	5:16
FC Barcelona - Phantoms Deurne	4:4
Amsterdam - Phantoms Deurne	14:0
FC Barcelona - CH Jaca	3:5
Phantoms Deurne - CH Jaca	8:3
Amsterdam - FC Barcelona	23:2

1. Amsterdam (NED)	3	3	0	0	53 - 7	6
2. Phantoms Deurne (BEL)	3	1	1	1	12 - 21	3
3. CH Jaca (ESP)	3	1	0	2	13 - 27	2
4. FC Barcelona (ESP)	3	0	1	2	9 - 32	1

■ Amsterdam Bulldogs promoted to second round tournament Group G in Rouen (FRA).

Group D - Zagreb, Croatia

Dunafer SE - Levski Sofia	8:0
Medvescak Zagreb - HC Maalot	23:0
HC Maalot - Dunafer SE	1:25
Levski Sofia - Medvescak Zagreb	0:9
Levski Sofia - HC Maalot	6:3
Medvescak Zagreb - Dunafer SE	1:4

1. Dunafer SE (HUN)	3	3	0	0	37 - 2	6
2. Medvescak (CRO)	3	2	0	1	33 - 4	4
3. Levski Sofia (BUL)	3	1	0	2	6 - 20	2
4. HC Maalot (ISR)	3	0	0	3	4 - 54	0

■ Dunafer promoted to second round tournament Group H in Székesfehérvár (HUN).

Group E - Riga, Latvia

Stoczniowiec Gdansk - Kazakhmys	0:0
HK Riga 2000 - Energija Elektrenai	13:3
Kazakhmys - Energija Elektrenai	3:1
Stoczniowiec Gdansk - HK Riga	3:7
Energija Elektrenai - Stoczniowiec	3:5
HK Riga 2000 - Kazakhmys	2:2

1. HK Riga 2000 (LAT)	3	2	1	0	22 - 8	5
2. Kazakhmys (KAZ)	3	1	2	0	5 - 3	4
3. Stoczniowiec (POL)	3	1	1	1	8 - 10	3
4. Energija Elektrenai (LTU)	3	0	0	3	7 - 21	0

■ HK Riga 2000 promoted to second round tournament Group I in Zvolen (SVK)

Second Round (17 -19 October)

Group F (at Oswiecim, Poland)

Milano Vipers (ITA)
Unia Oswiecim (POL)
Liepajas Metalurgs (LAT)
KHL Zagreb (CRO)

Group G (at Rouen, France)

Rouen (FRA)
HC Asiago (ITA)
Gothiques Amiens (FRA)
Amsterdam (NED)

Group H (at Szekesfehervar, Hungary)

Alba Volan (HUN)
Olimpija Ljubljana (SLO)
Torpedo Kazzinc (KAZ)
Dunafer Dunaujvaros (HUN)

Group I at (Zvolen, Slovakia)

Jukurit Mikkeli (FIN)
Sokol Kiev (UKR)
HKM Zvolen (SVK)
HK Riga (LAT)

■ Third Round, 21 - 23 November

■ Super Final, 8-11 January, 2003 at Gomel, BLR

Ceska Pojistovna Cup

Helsinki, Finland & Pardubice, Czech Republic 4- 7 September

Finland - Sweden	3:2
Russia - Czech Republic	1:2
Sweden - Russia	1:0
Czech Republic - Finland	1:3
Finland - Russia	3:6
Czech Republic - Sweden	1:2

Finland	3	2	0	1	0	9 - 9	6
Sweden	3	1	1	1	1	5 - 4	5
Russia	3	1	1	1	0	7 - 6	4
Czech R.	3	0	2	1	1	4 - 6	3

Individual scoring

1. Toni Soderholm, FIN	3	2	1	3
2. Aleksander Ovechkin, RUS	3	1	2	3
3. Alexei Badyukov, RUS	3	2	0	2
4. Tomi Kallio, FIN	3	2	0	2
5. Petr Prucha, CZE	3	2	0	2
6. Maxim Sushinsky, RUS	3	2	0	0
7. Dmitry Bykov, RUS	3	1	1	2
8. Johan Davidson, SWE	3	1	1	2
9. Daniel Rudslatt, SWE	3	1	1	2

Directorate Awards

Goalkeeper: Henrik Lundqvist, Sweden
Defenceman: Tuukka Mäntylä, Finland
Forward: Petr Pruca, Czech Republic

Four Nations U20

Tjumen, Russia 6 - 8 September

Czech Republic - Sweden	1:2
Russia - Finland	7:3
Finland - Czech Republic	2:3
Sweden - Russia	1:3
Sweden - Finland	3:4
Russia - Czech Republic	3:2

Russia	3	3	0	0	13 - 6	6
Czech R	3	1	1	1	6 - 7	3
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6 - 8	3
Finland	3	1	0	2	8 - 13	2

Individual scoring

1. Ilja Malyushkin, RUS	3	1	3	4
1. Petri Kontiola, FIN	3	1	3	4
3. Nicklas Danielsson, SWE	3	3	0	3
4. Grigori Shafigullin, RUS	3	2	1	3
4. Yuri Ermolin, RUS	3	2	1	3
4. Vili Mustonen, FIN	3	2	1	3
7. Evgeni Tunik, RUS	3	1	2	3
8. Dimitri Pestunov, RUS	3	2	0	2
8. Evgeni Isakov, RUS	3	2	0	2
8. Pasi Salonen, FIN	3	2	0	2

Japan wins Far East Qualifying game

Team Japan brothers Taro and Jiro Nihei played a big role in Japan's 4-1 victory over Korea in the Far East Qualifying game in Tokyo on Sept. 6.

Taro Nihei, a forward, contributed to every Japan goal, getting two goals and two assists. His goaltender brother, Jiro Nihei, allowed only one Korean goal in victory, which came 15:10 into the game. With the win, Japan became the 16th, and final team, to qualify for the 2004 IIHF World Championship in the Czech Republic (April 24 - May 9).

In the 68th IIHF World Championship, Japan will play in Group C in Ostrava together with Sweden, Russia and Denmark. Three teams from each group will qualify for the second round while the last-place team will play relegation games.

Korea surprisingly took a 1-0 lead after Dong-Hwan Song scored, but Japan got the equalizer just 27 seconds later when Hiroki Chiba struck. Junichi Takahashi gave the home team a 2-1 lead midway through the second period and Nihei put all things beyond doubt with a pair of goals 38 seconds apart with six minutes left in the game.

Japan out-shot Korea 39-15. It was the first game for the newly appointed Canadian coach of Team Japan, **Glen Williamson**, who will now focus on preparing the Japanese team for the upcoming world championship.

The special status of the Far East Qualifying team comes to an end after the 2004 IIHF World Championship. Since 1998, the Far East Qualifying team has had a direct entry to the IIHF World Championship. This means that, if Japan finishes 15th or 16th in Czech Republic 2004, the team will be relegated to the Division I Championship.

Japan vs. Korea Scoring Summary:

Japan 1 1 2 - 4

Korea 1 0 0 - 1

First Period Scoring: 0-1, KOR, Song (H. Kim) 15:10; 1-1, JPN, Chiba (T. Nihei, Isojima) 15:37

Second Period Scoring: 2-1, JPN, Masuko (T. Nihei, Osiro) 33:57

Third Period Scoring: 3-1, JPN, T. Nihei (Isojima)

53:06; 4-1, JPN, T. Nihei (Satoh) 53:44

Goaltender Saves: JPN, J. Nihei (15-14); KOR, S.B. Kim (39-35)

World Cup of Hockey plans for US take shape

The 2004 World Cup of Hockey (Aug. 30-Sept. 14) is beginning to take shape for at least one of the participating nations. USA Hockey announced that its 10-day training camp will be held from August 20-30 in Columbus, Ohio at Nationwide Arena, home of the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets.

In addition to daily training sessions, the U.S. will play three exhibition games in preparation for the tournament. Nationwide Arena will host two Team USA pre-tournament games against other North American Pool teams. Practice times, pre-tournament game dates and opponents will be announced later.



IT'S IN HER GENES: *Kim Martin's father Flemming is a goaltending coach while her 24-year old brother Kristoffer plays minor-pro for the Berlin Capitals in Germany. Kim, who proudly sports her Olympic credentials above, stops USA's star forward Cammi Granato in the 2002 Olympic semi-final (left). Sweden lost 4-0, but if we believe Kim, the Tre Kronor should do better in Turin 2006.*

Photos: DAVE SANDFORD, IIHF

Martin is the jewel in Sweden's crowns

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

Kim Martin was not old enough to drive a car, vote, or order a drink when she was named to the Swedish women's national team for the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. But that didn't deter the 15-year-old, whose sensational goaltending led Sweden to an Olympic bronze medal.

Now at the age of 17, she still can't drive, vote or drink, but she wants to establish herself as the best goaltender in the world at the 2004 IIHF World Women's Championship in Halifax.

"Those two years have gone by so fast. Sometimes it seems that the bronze medal game against Finland took place just a couple of days ago", says Kim.

■ Kim Martin posted a 1.67 goals against average in Salt Lake City, including the 2-1 victory over Finland in the bronze game, the first time ever Sweden beat Finland in a championship game and also the first time Sweden won a medal in women's hockey.

"That was probably not the best game I've played, but definitely the biggest. You always get more shots when you play Canada or the USA but to win an Olympic medal was by far the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

Kim and the Swedish team had more to worry about than just the opposition on their way to success. Despite qualifying for Salt Lake City, the Swedish Olympic Committee did not want to send the women to the Olympics saying that the team was simply not good enough to represent Sweden on the world scene, and had virtually no chance of winning a medal.

■ One can imagine the mixed feelings of the members of the Swedish OC at the Peaks Arena in Provo where they saw Kim Martin and her teammates write Swedish women's hockey history.

"It was a great feeling to prove them wrong," said

Kim. "And the reception we got back home was almost too much."

■ Today she faces the same problems as Canada's Hayley Wickenheiser and some other top women's hockey players - the women leagues are not competitive enough for them. Kim has virtually left her regular team, AIK Stockholm, and for the second consecutive season she plays with the rival club Hammarby and their Junior B (Under-18) team.

"This is my main objective, to stay in men's hockey for as long as I can. In that respect (playing for a men's team in the Finnish second league) Hayley is a great role model for all of us. She shows that a girl can do it. And her job is more difficult than mine. A goaltender does not have to get involved in any body contact out there."

■ But just like Wickenheiser is a trail blazer in Finland, Kim Martin is intent on being a barrier breaker in Sweden. She has not given up on her dream to one day play in the Swedish Elitserien, the top men's pro league.

"Before I had the dream to play in the NHL, but I realize how difficult that would be. But I am keeping my focus on the Elitserien."

Martin has still two years left in secondary school, but she has already received an overwhelming 18 scholarship offers from US colleges. Among the schools, which would like to see her on their rosters are Harvard, Yale, University of Wisconsin, University of Ohio and Dartmouth.

"To go and play college hockey in the USA is definitely an option I will consider."

■ Last spring Kim was getting ready for the 2003 IIHF World Championship in China when she tore a ligament in her knee, an injury which would make her miss the grand opportunity to reaffirm her status as

one of the top goaltenders in the world.

In a twist of fate, Kim's whole team missed the championship as it was cancelled due to the outbreak of the SARS epidemic.

"I had a strange feeling about that", says Kim. "I felt bad for everyone in women's hockey because we don't get to play big tournaments that often. I especially felt sorry for our team which had already travelled to China and they were in top shape. I am sure that we lost a medal when the championship was cancelled, but on the other hand I was a little happy that I didn't miss anything."

■ The medal hunt will have to wait for this coming April and the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Halifax, Canada.

"I am really looking forward to it. To play a major championship in Canada will be something very special and we will not just try to win a medal. It's time to seriously challenge Canada and the USA for the two first positions."

Yes, she is full of confidence but, at the same time, she acknowledges the strong position of the North American teams.

"Canada and the USA have more female players than the rest of the hockey world and Canada has almost more girls playing hockey than Sweden has boys playing the game. No wonder they are first and second in every tournament."

"But I hope that we can give them a hard time in Halifax and that definitely should be the case in the 2006 Olympics in Turin. And by 2010 in Vancouver we will be on the same level."

■ In 2010, Kim Martin will be a 24-year old veteran of women's international hockey. And maybe, just maybe, a historic barrier breaker in the Swedish Elitserien.