

News Release



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Photo: Dave Sandford, IIHF

AT A CROSSROADS: The IIHF World U20 Championship has become a stepping stone to a successful hockey career. But after coming together for ten days over the holidays, players part ways and go in different directions to reach their hockey potential. Above, Canada's Marc-André Fleury and Finland's Kari Lehtonen - the two best young goalies in the world today - part ways following a game during last year's U20 World Championship. Since then, Fleury has become the starter in Pittsburgh as a rookie, while Lehtonen is still waiting for his NHL chance in Atlanta's farm system.

Nothing beats this for pure joy and entertainment

In all hockey countries, except Canada, the IIHF World U20 Championship is still the best-kept secret in hockey. The passion, which is generated during the "World Juniors", is unparalleled.

■ I was privileged to be part of the 27th IIHF World U20 Championship one year ago in Halifax, on Canada's east coast, and the experience ranks among the best hockey events of my life. That championship set a new attendance record for the world juniors with 231,392 spectators. 18 out of 31 games drew crowds over 10,000 fans. The Gold Medal game between Canada and Russia attracted an all-time high peak of 4,158,000 TV viewers on TSN.

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

The championship in Canada has become a major Christmas event and something which is as standard during the festive season as turkey and presents. As this is being written, ten Canadian cities are fervently pleading their cases to Hockey Canada to be the one to get the opportunity to host the 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship. Organizers in London, Ontario have already started to sell ticket packages for games with no teams and no guarantees.

And this is still more than two years away.

■ As we approach the 28th IIHF World U20 Championship in Finland, the only word I can find to describe it is: Passion. I have tried to analyse why this tournament has become such a success, and my conclusion is that its excitement is contagious for everyone involved.

□ Fans - they see hockey as it should be played. They see very little of destructive and defensive tactics since these players know only two gears: Fast and faster.

□ Players - they are dying to be part of this show and you'll not find any player with an excuse for not representing his country, despite the fact there is not a single penny to be made.

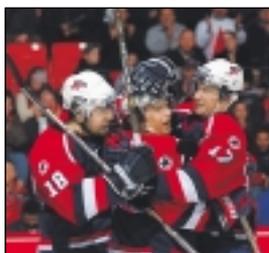
□ Coaches - who are excited to coach players who still listen and give 100 percent in every shift.

This is obviously also a phenomenal opportunity for scouts and managers because they know that they will watch tomorrow's stars today, all under one roof. If you look at the centre spread of this issue of the IIHF News Release, you'll realize that virtually every star player in every professional league in the hockey world has used the World Juniors as a stepping-stone.

Continued on next page

Continued from page one:

■ ■ There is also a special sense of desperate urgency attached to this championship. In any senior tournament, whether it's the World Championship or the Olympics, there is always a "next time" opportunity. As far as this tournament is concerned, players and coaches usually get one good shot at winning the U20 gold medal.



USA: It could be their year.

After the "graduation" to a senior career, your chance is gone. Great players like Wayne Gretzky, Dominik Hasek, Peter Forsberg and Jaromir Jagr have won virtually everything, but never the World Juniors.

The upcoming tournament in Helsinki and Hameenlinna has the potential to be one of the most exciting ever. Defending champion Russia will feature the amazing Alexander Ovechkin while last season's runner-up Canada might introduce the 16-year old whiz-kid Sidney Crosby.

■ ■ Host Finland, bronze medallists in Halifax, are preparing themselves like no other U20 national team ever has done for a world junior championship. On pages six and seven we feature the Finns who have played against senior pro teams since September to get in top shape for the prestigious event on home ice.

USA brings virtually the same team which won the IIHF World U18 Championship two years ago and some observers say that this may be Team USA's best chance ever to win gold. Don't forget the Czech Republic, Sweden and Slovakia, who are also bringing in competitive teams.

■ ■ One very encouraging trend is the growing number of potential stars from countries which are not likely to compete for a medal. Austria's Thomas Vanek, who is also featured in this issue, is a very good example of how the game continues to grow internationally.

The upcoming World U20 Championship in Finland will be the last to be held in Europe until 2007 when Sweden returns as host. Next year we go to Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA and in 2006 the world juniors return to Canada.

■ ■ There is only one thing that I would like to see changed with the U20 World Championship: That it will no longer be the best kept secret in hockey, but rather the most anticipated hockey event of the holiday season.

René Fasel
IIHF President



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Finland retires Jari Kurri's number 17 jersey

■ ■ The Finnish Ice Hockey Association officially retired Jari Kurri's number 17 jersey before the Karjala Cup game between Finland and the Czech Republic on November 8 in Kurri's hometown Helsinki.

The former all-star forward and one of the best pure goal scorers of the modern hockey era was celebrated by 11,300 fans at the Hartwall Arena. Kurri, accompanied by his family, received a standing ovation as his jersey number was hoisted to the rafters. IIHF President René Fasel was on the ice for the ceremony, which was a part of the 75-year anniversary celebrations of the Finnish Ice Hockey Association.

It is believed to be the second national hockey team jersey to be retired after Helmut Balderis' number 19 on the Latvian national team.

■ ■ Jari Kurri, a member of the Finnish Ice Hockey Hall of Fame since 1998, is also a member of the IIHF Hall of Fame (inducted 2000) and in 2001 he became one of only five Europeans to be inducted to the player's category of the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

Kurri is considered as one of the best Europeans ever to play in the NHL, having spent vast portions of his career in North America. He left the Finnish league at the age of 19 in 1980 and quickly established himself



Photo: DENIS HEIMONEN
UP, UP AND AWAY: Jari Kurri's number 17 hits the rafters of the Hartwall Arena.

as a super sniper on the spectacular Edmonton Oilers team, scoring 32 goals and adding 43 assists in his rookie season 1980-1981.

He went on to win five Stanley Cups with the Oilers, making 1984-1985 his banner season when the slick Finn, in a telepathic co-operation with Wayne Gretzky, amassed 71 goals and 64 assists for 135 points.

■ ■ Kurri represented Finland on 115 occasions (51 goals and 48 assists) and he played in four IIHF World Championships, two Olympic Winter Games (1980 in Lake Placid and 1998 in Nagano), three Canada Cups and also in the 1996 World Cup of Hockey.

He finished his 17-year NHL career with the Colorado Avalanche following the 1997-1998 season. Including the playoffs, Kurri scored 707 goals and added 924 assists in 1451 games.

■ ■ Today, Kurri is an assistant coach on the Finnish national team and he is also a member of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes Commission (since 2002) and of the Coordination for the XX Olympic Winter Games, Turin 2006 Commission.

Jari Kurri's jersey number is also one of the four retired by the Edmonton Oilers.

2006 Olympic hockey arenas are taking shape



Photo: KIMMO LEINONEN
SLOWLY BUT SURELY: The main Olympic hockey arena will be Palasport Olimpico (above). So far only the arena walls have been erected. The construction of the smaller arena, Esposizioni (left), has come further.

■ ■ IIHF representatives visited Turin in mid-November to inspect the construction sites of the two ice hockey venues for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

The main hockey arena will be the new, state-of-the-art 12,500-seat Palasport Olimpico. Both the women's and the men's finals as well as all semi-final and bronze medal games will be played in the arena, which is located just beside the Stadio Comunale, where the opening and closing ceremonies will take place.

■ ■ The second venue is the Esposizioni, which will seat approximately 6,000 fans. It is an existing sports arena which will be entirely refurbished.

While the Palasport will be of two kilometres distance from the Olympic Village, the Esposizioni will have a distance five kms from the village.

As usual, the ice hockey tournament will last the entire duration of the Olympic games, which is 16 days. According to preliminary plans, the women's tournament will start on February 11 (the day after the opening ceremony) and end with the Gold Medal Game on February 20.

■ ■ The men's tournament is scheduled to start on February 15 with the Gold Medal Game to be played on February 26, the final day of the Turin Olympics.

Class of 2004 inducted to IIHF Hall of Fame

IIHF President Rene Fasel and Walter L. Bush Jr., Chairman of the IIHF Hall of Fame Selection Committee announced the names of the 2004 inductees into the IIHF Hall of Fame.

There are 12 members of the Class of 2004 including four in the builder's category (Mike Buckna, Ladislav Horsky, Tsutomu Kawabuchi, Miro Subrt) six in the player's category (Rudi Ball, Vitaly Davydov, Lou Nanne, Ronald Pettersson, Nikolai Sologubov, Frantisek Tikal) and two in the referee category (Ove Dahlberg, Yuri Karandin).

Check IIHF.com for complete bios of the inductees. The Hall of Fame induction and ceremony will be held during the 2004 World Championship in Prague. The exact date will be announced later. The IIHF Hall of Fame was introduced in 1997 and now boasts 119 hockey greats from 20 different nations.

Short Bios:

■ **Mike Buckna (CAN):** Known as the "Father of Czech Hockey". Was both a coach and the Director of the Czech National Hockey Association during its rise to prominence during the late 40s. He coached the Czechs to their first-ever World Championship in 1947.

■ **Ladislav Horsky (SVK):** A fixture in Czechoslovakian hockey. Coached in Czechoslovakia for 18 seasons including spending 10 with Slovan Bratislava. Was also in Germany for three seasons. Ended his coaching career at the University of Wisconsin.

■ **Tsutomu Kawabuchi (JPN):** Is a hockey innovator in Japan. Helped organize the first-ever Asian Oceanic Championships and was largely responsible for making women's ice hockey an official Olympic event at the 1998 Nagano Games. Helped build the Iwakuragumi Club into one of the best in Japan after both playing and coaching there for nearly 20 years.

■ **Miro Subrt (CZE):** Subrt is the longest serving high ranked official in the hockey world. The numbers tell the story: he has been an IIHF Vice President since 1966 and has been involved with hockey since 1953. He has been an IIHF Tournament Chairman in over 70 events and taken part in 12 Winter Olympics.

■ **Rudi Ball (GER):** Ball's playing career spanned from 1928 to 1952, during which he won the German Championship 8 times (1928-1944) and participated for Germany in the 1932 and 1936 Olympic Winter Games and in four World Championships, 1930-1938. Ball passed away in 1975.

■ **Vitaly Davydov (RUS):** Davydov played only for Dynamo Moscow during his entire career, totalling 548 games from 1957-1973. He suited up for the Soviet Union national team in 196 national team games, winning nine IIHF World Championships and three Olympic golds. He also coached Dynamo Moscow and Russian junior national teams.

■ **Lou Nanne (USA):** Nanne started his career with USA Hockey as the 1968 Olympic Team Captain. He also served as captain of the 1975 and 1977 U.S. Men's national teams. He was named general manager of the U.S. teams on several occasions. Nanne played 11 seasons with the Minnesota North Stars totalling 239 points and was eventually named the team's GM.

■ **Ronald Pettersson (SWE):** Pettersson played for 16 seasons in Sweden, winning two national titles. He also starred in 10 IIHF World Championships capturing two gold, three silver, and two bronze medals. His three Olympics (1956, 1960, 1964) left him with one silver medal. Overall, he played 252

games for the national team, which still ranks third today.

■ **Nikolai Sologubov (RUS):** Nikolai Sologubov did not get involved in organized ice hockey until he was 25, when played for the CSKA Moscow. He played for the Soviet Union at six IIHF World Championship, winning a medal every time. He also won two Olympic gold medals.

■ **Frantisek Tikal (CZE):** Tikal played in 370 games, scoring 80 goals in Czechoslovak league. He also played in the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Winter Games and in the IIHF World Championships 1957-1960 and 1963-1967, winning six medals (two silver, four bronze) at the IIHF World Championships and an Olympic bronze. Regarded as one of the best defensemen of his era.

■ **Ove Dahlberg (SWE):** Dahlberg is considered to be the best Swedish referee ever. The secret to his success was his background as a player, which included two games with the Swedish national team in 1954. Dahlberg also refereed soccer (World Cup qualifying games). Was always selected to officiate difficult games.

■ **Yuri Karandin (RUS):** Karandin's 27-year career as a game official spans 268 international games and an amazing 876 games within the USSR national championship. He participated in 10 World Senior Championships, two World U20 and one U18 European Championship. Karandin represented his nation during the 1982 and 1984 Olympic Winter Games.



THANKS: Subrt is given the Olympic Order by Jacques Rogge in 2002.

If you train them, they will come: The IIHF recently held a workshop in Zurich to teach its result managers how to properly utilize and input data into the new Hydra system. Ten results managers from around the globe took part in the training session. The 10 managers will be assigned work at most of the IIHF championship events to operate online statistics, which will be available to fans beginning with the U20 World Championships in December.



Photo: HANNES EDERER

Association News

■ **The IIHF** would like to remind all member associations that are participating in World Championship events this season to use the CD-ROM, which was sent in November. It contains all of the IIHF electronic documents (team entry long list, player entry, official game sheet, game officials assignment, under-aged player release and team composition form) for the events. The electronic forms can also be found at www.iihf.com/hydra.

■ **NORWAY:** The Norwegian Ice Hockey Association has extended their agreement with Sponsor Partner AS. The marketing company will assist the association with sponsor and advertising contracts. The parties have agreed on a three-year agreement, which expires on June 1, 2006.

■ **HUNGARY:** Hungary's surprise 4-2 win over Slovakia at the European Ice Hockey Challenge in Budapest on November 6 was of historical proportions. It was Hungary's first win over their neighbours since the first ever meeting between the two countries in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, on February 20, 1941. It was not an official international game since Slovakia, of course, didn't exist as an independent country back then, but the team was made up of Slovak players.

■ **LATVIA:** The Latvian Ice Hockey Association announced that the site of the 2004 IIHF World Women's Championship Division I (March 15 - 21, 2004) will be Ventspils and not Riga, as originally announced.

■ **USA:** USA Hockey named Larry Pleau as General Manager of both the US men's national team at the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Czech Republic and the defending-champion team at the 2004 World Cup of Hockey in September. Pleau, a former USA national team player, currently serves as Senior Vice President and General Manager for the NHL St. Louis Blues. The announcement was made on November 19.

■ **CANADA:** Hockey Canada announced on November 20 that Jim Nill will lead Team Canada at the 2004 IIHF World Championship in the Czech Republic as the team's General Manager and Don Maloney will serve as the Assistant General Manager. Nill, the Assistant GM of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings, and Maloney, Vice-president of Player Personnel and Assistant GM of the NHL's New York Rangers, were both involved with last year's gold medal winning World Championship team in Finland. Nill held the position of Team Canada's Director of Player Personnel, while Maloney was the team's Assistant General Manager.

IIHF News & Appointments

Darryl Easson is the newest addition to the IIHF Staff joining as Sport Development Manager of Youth Hockey, assuming the same position which was previously held by Magnus Eriksson. Easson has extensive experience in ice hockey and with the IIHF after working as a Technical Director for Ice Hockey UK for several years. He has also played a key role in the IIHF Development Camps, serving as a coach and instructor in past years. Easson will begin his duties in Zurich on December 1.





barnstorm (bärn'störm') *v.* To travel about the countryside presenting plays, lecturing or making political speeches. In Finland barnstorming now includes playing ice hockey.

Barnstorming gives Finns edge

By Jenny Wiedeke

■ ■ Move over Rolling Stones, the Finnish U20 Team is making a tour of their country that puts any rock tour to shame.

Since the start of the season, Team Finland has had the IIHF U20 World Championship on its mind. The U20 Championship will be in Finland for a record fifth time and the nation is fresh off of hosting one of the most successful IIHF Men's World Championships ever. But the Finnish U20 team does not want to walk away from the World Championship empty handed like it's senior team did in May, so they started what could be called Operation: Barnstorming.

"We've always wanted a way to work with our U20 team throughout the season and hosting the Championship this season presented us with that chance," said Timo Backman, Team Finland's Manager.

■ ■ What the Finns did was groundbreaking and depending on the results, may be used as a model for other nations that want to give their junior players more opportunity to play together. Finland sent its U20 team on tour. When the U20 World Championship rolls around in December, Team Finland will have played 12 games against Finnish Division I League teams.

As of press time with only one game in the tour remaining, Finland held a record of 5-0-6, earning wins against Salamat, FPS, Hermes, Sport and Ahmat. The team's most impressive performance came against FPS, when it earned a 4-0, shutout victory. Finland has come on strong recently, winning its last three games.

"It was such a new thing the first two games, we had no experience," Defenseman Kevin Kantee said. "We would gather just two hours before a game and with each new team came a new situation. But after a few games, I think we all got used to it."

The team's early struggles in the win-loss column didn't phase the Finnish staff.

"We aren't playing these teams to win the games," Backman said. "We're playing these teams for experience so they will make us better, and able to win the games in December. Although winning is always a nice bonus."

Indeed, the Finnish U20 Team has been pushed by the

more experienced players in the professional ranks

"The games are tougher when you play against professionals," forward Lennart Petrell said. "The players are a bit stronger and tougher than any U20 team."

Each loss presents the team with a learning experience and the rare wins give the Finns confidence that no pre-game pep talk can match.

"The tougher games are the best part of this tour," Kantee said. "They make the players more ready for the championship. You can't compare junior games to the senior games we're playing. It's two different levels."

FIN U20 Barnstorming Tour 2003

21/9	K-Vantaa - FIN U20	5-1
22/9	HC Salamat - FIN U20	4-5 OT
28/9	Haukat - FIN U20	3-1
5/10	Hokki - FIN U20	4-1
6/10	KalPa - FIN U20	6-0
19/10	FPS - FIN U20	0-4
26/10	TuTo - FIN U20	3-0
3/11	Jukurit - FIN U20	5-2
16/11	Ahmat - FIN U20	2-5
23/11	Hermes - FIN U20	1-2 OT
24/11	Sport - FIN U20	1-6
7/12	KooKoo - FIN U20	After deadline

FIN U20 record: 5 wins 6 losses, goals 27-34

The Finnish coaching staff is also using the tour to get a look at as many players as possible, making it virtually impossible for any unknown player to slip through the cracks. For example Petrell has never played in a Finnish jersey before this fall, so far, he has played in six games during the tour.

"I'm both nervous and excited before I play each game," Petrell said. "I know that I must give it my best all the time because it is such an

honour to play for Finland."

On the other end of the experience spectrum is Kantee, who was a sixth-round draft pick of the Chicago Blackhawks and is one of the natural leaders of the Finnish team.

"If I'm a leader out on the ice it's not because I've been drafted," Kantee said. "I want to be a leader because of my skills and the games I've played in the top league."

■ ■ Thus far Team Finland has played 66 players (7 goaltenders, 24 defensemen and 35 forwards) on its barnstorming tour. Of the 66 players, 16 had never put on a Finnish national team jersey before suiting up this fall. Finland is also keeping it eye on the future, as 22 of the players were born in 1985 or later and will be eligible for next year's U20 World Championship

"It's good that the coaches are using a lot of players," Petrell said. "When the World Championship arrives, we will have played with almost every player because the coaches have tried just about every line combination possible. It gives us all experience with each other."

■ ■ It is believed that this is most extensive pre-tour-



nament preparation that any nation has ever embarked upon for the U20 World Championship. Finland's efforts can only be matched by the United States' National Team Development Program, which brings together U17 and U18 teams for an entire season in preparation for the U18 World Championship.

"This year I think we can confidently say that our coaches have had a good chance to evaluate all of the potential players for the U20's," Backman said. "They have left no stone unturned."

The tour has been both a blessing and a curse for selecting the final team that will play in Helsinki and Hameenlinna.

DID YOU KNOW? *The host nation has only won the U20 World Championship four times in 27 years. The last time was Finland in Helsinki in 1998. The others were 1983-Soviet Union (Leningrad), 1991-Canada (Saskatoon) and 1995-Canada (Alberta).*



Photo: DAVE SANDFORD

FINNISH FINISH FIRST?: Year-in and year-out Finland is among the medal favourites in the IIHF World U20 Championships, displaying an exciting style of hockey. Just like when Juho Lehtisalo and Jesse Niinimaki celebrate a goal against Canada in last year's championship in Halifax. This season, with the tournament at home, Finland wants to go all the way, preparing like no other national junior team ever has. By getting the edge over their rivals, the Finns want to avoid heartbreaking ends like the one in 2001, when the Lions of Suomi lost the Gold Medal game to the Czechs by 2-1. Finland's star Mikko Koivu (insert photo) is devastated following the defeat.

■ "We're giving the player's a chance to determine their own fate to make the team, rather than depending on past seasons or word of mouth," Backman said. "But I think it's going to be tough to make the final cuts because there have been so many players that have had solid performances in these games."

In addition to the 12 barnstorming games, Finland also hosted a Four Nations tournament during the November International break. The team finished in third place, after losing 6-5 in a shootout against the Czech Republic and 4-1 against Russia. But that just added fuel to the Finn's determination

"There's no doubt that this year will be one of the most competitive U20 World Championships ever," Backman said. "It's becoming harder and harder each year for any given country to earn a medal. This is why it is important to test new methods to improve hockey in our nation."

■ Finland has long blazed the trail in player development. It has the one-of-a-kind Viermauki Sports Institute, which serves as a home base for all Finnish national teams. The dedication to the development has paid off. Finland won two consecutive gold medals at the U18 World Championship (1999-2000) and has earned four medals in the last six years at the U20 .

Finland had several players named to the All-Star or Directorate team at the U20 World Championship in the last five years, including standouts Joni Pitkanen (2003), Kari Lehtonen (2002) and Olli Jokinen (1998).

"These pre-tournament games are a great opportunity for all of the players," Backman said. "And hopefully it helps keep us one step ahead of our competition."

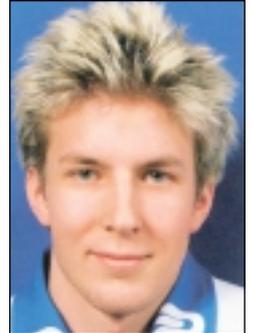
■ A rolling stone gathers no moss, and neither does a barnstorming Finnish U20 team.

DID YOU KNOW? *There was only one time, in 1987 in Czechoslovakia, when both Canada and Russia/Soviet Union failed to earn a medal. Neither team medalled because they were both disqualified after a brawl during the final game of the championship, with Canada leading 4-2, midway through the game. The Canadians needed two more goals to overtake Finland on goals differential. When the tournament directorate disqualified the brawlers, Finland was automatically world champion.*

Name the team and Kevin will play

■ So many people claim Finnish player Kevin Kantee as their own, that it's getting confusing for the hulking defenseman to figure out just where he belongs.

On the surface, it seems simple. Kantee is a Finnish player for the powerhouse Jokerit Helsinki, who was drafted by Chicago in the sixth round of the 2002 NHL Entry Draft. But dig a little deeper and things get confusing.



IDAHO HO, HO: Kevin Kantee hopes Santa brings him a gold medal.

■ Kantee was not born on Finnish soil, but rather thousands of miles to the west, in sleepy Idaho Falls, Idaho. His Finnish parents were living in America at the time of Kantee's arrival. But don't look for Kantee to be singing the *Star Spangled Banner* and donning a red, white and blue uniform anytime soon.

"I really have no memory of America," Kantee said. "We moved when I was about one, so all I have are pictures from when we were there."

■ Kantee moved back to hockey-rich Finland with his family and was soon a fixture in the Jokerit Club. Kantee has played for several levels within the Jokerit, working his way up from Junior C to Junior B and Junior A. This season, Kantee has made yet another leap within the club, splitting time between the Junior A team and the men's senior team. Most times, Kantee doesn't even know which team he will be playing with the next day.

"It's a little crazy right now," Kantee admits. "Right now I call the coaches in the morning to see where I'm heading that night. The only sure thing is I practice with the men's team."

■ But even Kantee's sure thing isn't so sure anymore. Since the start of the Finnish U20 team tour, Kantee has been called into action to practice and play for yet another squad.

"The tour is good, but some weeks when you add in your own team's games to the Finnish schedule it becomes tough mentally and physically," Kantee said.

So far this season, Kantee has played about ten games with the Jokerit Junior A team, about 10 with the men's senior team and another five with the Finnish U20 Team.

Even playing in the World Junior Championship is not a sure thing for Kantee.

"The coaches haven't named anyone yet, but I know what I can do, and I hope to get to the championship," Kantee said. "But nothing is certain yet."

■ One thing that is certain in Kevin Kantee's life: He knows that he is at home on the ice, no matter what team he suits up with.

DIRECTORATE AWARDS 1991-03

The IIHF Directorate Award is given to the top player in each position at every IIHF World Championship. Each team at the championship gets one vote for each Directorate Award.

- 2003**
 Best Goalkeeper - Marc-André Fleury (CAN)
 Best Defenseman - Joni Pitkanen (FIN)
 Best Forward - Igor Grigorenko (RUS)
- 2002**
 Best Goalkeeper - Kari Lehtonen (FIN)
 Best Defenseman - Igor Knyazev (RUS)
 Best Forward - Mike Cammalleri (CAN)
- 2001**
 Best Goalkeeper - Tomas Duba (CZE)
 Best Defenseman - Rostislav Klesla (CZE)
 Best Forward - Pavel Brendl (CZE)
- 2000**
 Best Goalkeeper - Rick DiPietro (USA)
 Best Defenseman - Alexander Ryazantsev (RUS)
 Best Forward - Milan Kraft (CZE)
- 1999**
 Best Goalkeeper - Roberto Luongo (CAN)
 Best Defenseman - Vitali Vishnevski (RUS)
 Best Forward - Maxim Afinogenov (RUS)
- 1998**
 Best Goalkeeper - David Aebischer (SUI)
 Best Defenseman - Pavel Skrbek (CZE)
 Best Forward - Olli Jokinen (FIN)
- 1997**
 Best Goalkeeper - Marc Denis (CAN)
 Best Defenseman - Joseph Corvo (USA)
 Best Forward - Alexei Morozov (RUS)
- 1996**
 Best Goalkeeper - José Théodore (CAN)
 Best Defenseman - Mattias Ohlund (CAN)
 Best Forward - Jarome Iginla (CAN)
- 1995**
 Best Goalkeeper - Evgeny Tarasov (RUS)
 Best Defenseman - Bryan McCabe (CAN)
 Best Forward - Marty Murray (CAN)
- 1994**
 Best Goalkeeper - Jamie Storr (CAN)
 Best Defenseman - Kenny Jonsson (SWE)
 Best Forward - Niklas Sundstrom (SWE)
- 1993**
 Best Goalkeeper - Manny Legace (CAN)
 Best Defenseman - Janne Gronvall (FIN)
 Best Forward - Peter Forsberg (SWE)
- 1992**
 Best Goalkeeper - Mike Dunham (USA)
 Best Defenseman - Darius Kasparaitis (SWE)
 Best Forward - Michael Nylander (SWE)
- 1991**
 Best Goalkeeper - Pauli Jaks (SUI)
 Best Defenseman - Jiri Slegler (TCH)
 Best Forward - Eric Lindros (CAN)

Where are t

See how the All Stars from the last fi

Throughout the years, the IIHF World U20 Championship has been a "coming out party" for future hockey stars. The IIHF takes a look back at some of the All-Star players that have graced the ice through the years and catches up with the last five seasons of All-Star Teams as selected by media. Some have gone on to become household names, while others have disappeared into obscurity. For better or worse, here's what the stars from the last five years are up to.



Pitkanen

2003:

(G) Marc-André Fleury (CAN) - First overall draft pick plays for the Pittsburgh Penguins at the age of 20.

(D) Carlo Colaiacovo (CAN) - First year defenseman who was among the final cuts from Toronto's roster.

(D) Joni Pitkanen (FIN) - Rookie Finn already an anchor of Philadelphia Flyers defense.

(F) Yuri Trubachev (RUS) - An impact player on Severstal Cherepovets in the Russian league.

(F) Igor Grigorenko (RUS) - Recuperating from life-threatening injuries sustained in a car crash, Detroit bound.

(F) Scottie Upshall (CAN) - The future of the Nashville Predators is now in the big leagues after maturing in the AHL.

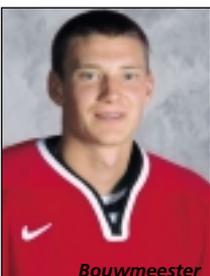
2002:

(G) Pascal Leclaire (CAN) - A Columbus prospect, learns trade the tough way in the AHL.

(D) Igor Knyazev (RUS) - Future man in Phoenix polishes his skills in Springfield

(D) Jay Bouwmeester (CAN) - Canada's anchor defenseman for Turin 2006 and beyond.

(F) Marek Svatos (SVK) - Colorado rookie has had a bad string of injuries.



Bouwmeester

(F) Stanislav Chistov (RUS) - A second-year winger is developing nicely in Anaheim.

(F) Mike Cammalleri (CAN) - Has a bright future playing under coach Andy Murray in Los Angeles.

2001:

(G) Ari Ahonen (FIN) - Seems stuck in Albany (AHL) while Brodeur is the man in New Jersey.

(D) Rostislav Klesla (CZE) - One of the best young defensemen in the NHL. Plays with the Columbus Blue Jackets.

(D) Tuukka Mantyla (FIN) - Plays professionally in the Swedish league, and has the potential to sign with L.A. in the future.

(F) Jani Rita (FIN) - A huge prospect who went to Edmonton too early, and has yet to establish himself on the NHL squad.

(F) Jason Spezza (CAN) - A first round selection who has finally blossomed in Ottawa after biding his time on the farm.

(F) Pavel Brendl (CZE) - Ill-advised super talent chose Canadian junior path and now seems lost in the minors.



Klesla



BEFORE THE BIG TIME: World U20 fans knew a made a name for himself with the Colorado Aval

THE IIHF ALL-TIME U20 WORLD



Dominik Hasek
 Czechoslovakia 1983
 Goaltender

Perhaps the greatest international goaltender of the post-Tretiak era. Won a silver medal in his only World U20 appearance in 1983 and followed up with an amazing NHL-career which saw him being named MVP twice and Best Goaltender six times. Won Olympic gold in 1998.



Vyacheslav Fetisov
 Soviet Union 1977, 1978
 Defenseman

Won the Best Defenseman honours in both the 1977 and the 1978 World U20 Championships and went on to have a stellar international career with seven IIHF World Championship gold medals and two Olympic gold medals. He is one of only five European players inducted in the Hockey Hall of Fame.



Niklas Lidstrom
 Sweden 1990
 Defenseman

Finished fifth in his only World U20 outing, but won IIHF World Championship gold with Sweden the following year. Ranks today as the best defenseman in the world following three consecutive Norris Trophies (NHL's Best Defenseman Award) and six consecutive NHL First All Star Team nominations.

They now?

How the U20 Championships are doing

Research: Szymon Szemberg

2000:

(G) Rick DiPietro (USA) - First-ever no. 1 goalie draft pick has had a long road to reach the Islanders.

(D) Alexander Ryazantsev (RUS) - An impact blueliner for Russian giant Lokomotiv Yaroslavl.

(D) Matthieu Biron (CAN) - After being traded twice, has maybe found his home in Florida.



DiPietro (R)

(F) Alexei Tereschenko (RUS) - Still developing at Dynamo Moscow, alongside Alexander Ovechkin.

(F) Evgeny Muratov (RUS) - A solid offensive contributor for Neftkhimik in Russian league.

(F) Milan Kraft (CZE) - Looking desperately to find his niche in Pittsburgh. Is currently a spare player.

1999:

(G) Roberto Luongo (CAN) - The number one man for the Florida Panthers.

(D) Brian Campbell (CAN) - Bounces back and forth between Buffalo and Rochester.

(D) Vitali Vishnevski (RUS) - An integral part of Anaheim's defensive corps.

(F) Maxim Balmochnykh (RUS) - See 1998. Second rounder (ANA) who never caught fire.

(F) Daniel Tkaczuk (CAN) - Cut by St. Louis, awaiting new chance.

(F) Brian Gionta (USA) - The little US forward beat NHL odds by joining Devils in Cup heaven.



Vishnevski



Hedin

1998:

(G) David Aebischer (SUI) - Finally out of Roy's shadow, and number one with the Colorado Avalanche.

(D) Andrei Markov (RUS) - The best offensive defenseman for the Montreal Canadiens.

(D) Pierre Hedin (SWE) - Had nothing more to prove in Sweden, he is now testing the NHL waters in the Toronto system.

(F) Eero Somervuori (FIN) - Made his way to the NHL in Tampa Bay after a successful career in Finland.

(F) Olli Jokinen (FIN) - From draft bust to first line centre for the Florida Panthers.

(F) Maxim Balmochnykh (RUS) - A great career probably wasted. Has one last (?) chance with Albany in the AHL.

DID YOU KNOW? *Despite being only 16 years old, Wayne Gretzky was named to the tournament all-star team the only time he played in the U20 World Championship in 1978.*

DIRECTORATE AWARDS 1977-90

1990

Best Goalkeeper - Stéphane Fiset (CAN)
Best Defenseman - Alexander Godnyuk (URS)
Best Forward - Robert Reichel (TCH)

1989

Best Goalkeeper - Aleksei Ivashkin (URS)
Best Defenseman - Ricard Persson (SWE)
Best Forward - Pavel Bure (URS)

1988

Best Goalkeeper - Jimmy Waite (CAN)
Best Defenseman - Teppo Numminen (FIN)
Best Forward - Alexander Mogilny (URS)

1987

Best Goalkeeper - Markus Ketterer (FIN)
Best Defenseman - Calle Johansson (SWE)
Best Forward - Robert Kron (TCH)

1986

Best Goalkeeper - Evgeny Belosheykin (URS)
Best Defenseman - Mikhail Tatarinov (URS)
Best Forward - Jim Sandlak (CAN)

1985

Best Goalkeeper - Craig Billington (CAN)
Best Defenseman - Vesa Salo (FIN)
Best Forward - Michal Pivonka (TCH)

1984

Best Goalkeeper - Allan Perry (USA)
Best Defenseman - Alexei Gusarov (USSR)
Best Forward - Raimo Helminen (FIN)

1983

Best Goalkeeper - Dominik Hasek (TCH)
Best Defenseman - Ilya Byakin (URS)
Best Forward - Tomas Sandstrom (SWE)

1982

Best Goalkeeper - Mike Moffat (CAN)
Best Defenseman - Gord Kluzak (CAN)
Best Forward - Petri Skriko (FIN)

1981

Best Goalkeeper - Lars Eriksson (SWE)
Best Defenseman - Miroslav Horava (TCH)
Best Forward - Patrick Sundstrom (SWE)

1980

Best Goalkeeper - Jari Paavola (FIN)
Best Defenseman - Reijo Ruotsalainen (FIN)
Best Forward - Vladimir Krutov (URS)

1979

Best Goalkeeper - Pelle Lindbergh (SWE)
Best Defenseman - Alexei Kasatonov (URS)
Best Forward - Vladimir Krutov (URS)

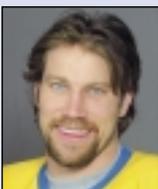
1978

Best Goalkeeper - Alexander Tyzhnykh (URS)
Best Defenseman - Vyacheslav Fetisov (URS)
Best Forward - Wayne Gretzky (CAN)

1977

Best Goalkeeper - Jan Hrabak (TCH)
Best Defenseman - Vyacheslav Fetisov (URS)
Best Forward - Dale McCourt (CAN)

CHAMPIONSHIP ALL-STAR TEAM



Peter Forsberg
Sweden 1992, 1993
Forward

Broke all possible World U20 individual records, but never won gold until he left the junior stage. Led Sweden to an Olympic gold medal in 1994 and IIHF World Championship in 1992 and 1998. Is widely recognized as the most complete hockey player in the world today. NHL's MVP and scoring champion in 2002-2003.



Wayne Gretzky
Canada 1978
Forward

Dominated the 1978 World U20 as a 16-year old. The rest is hockey history.



Jaromir Jagr
Czechoslovakia 1990
Forward

A bronze medal and second place in scoring in 1990 is Jagr's world junior resume, but his career took off later. Became the first European to win the NHL in scoring in 1995 and went on to win four more NHL scoring titles, along with a league MVP award in 1999, an Olympic gold medal in 1998 and two Stanley Cups, in 1991 and 1992.



Germany and Belarus are favourites for quick return to the World U20 top pool

U20 Division I, Group A (Berlin, GER, Dec 14-20)

Germany has everything going for it at this year's Division I World U20 Championship. Home ice, a fully loaded team and the motivation to move back to the top division. Last year, Germany finished ninth at the U20 World Championship and was sent packing along with tenth-place finisher, Belarus. Germany has long been on the verge of cracking into the elite group of top teams and last year's loss was a blow to its program. But this year's team is evidence of just how talented German players have become and how close Germany is to becoming a regular in the top division at all IIHF Championships.

Three of the returning players from last year's German U20 World Championship team were drafted by NHL teams. Goaltender **Patrick Ehelechner** was a 5th round selection of San Jose, big defenseman **Alexander Sulzer** was a third round selection of Nashville and **Kai Hospelt** was a 7th round selection of San Jose and was named the Top Forward at last year's Div. I World U18 Championship. But it won't be a cakewalk for the Germans to rule in Berlin, standing in the team's way is a very talented Denmark squad, which upset Germany at the U18 Div. I World Championship last year, 4-3, ultimately keeping Germany out of the top Division for yet another year. The Div. I A Group is also loaded with talent courtesy of teams from Kazakhstan, Slovenia and Latvia.

U20 Division I, Group B (Briançon, FRA, Dec. 13-19)



Montreal prospect Andrei Kastsitsyn will lead Belarus juniors.

Belarus had a mixed bag last with its junior hockey. It's U18 team finished in eighth place at the U18 World Championship, just enough to keep it in the top division, while its U20 team finished a disappointing 10th at the U20 World Championship. Now those players from the surviving U18 team will make their way to this year's U20 Championship and hope to work their magic to promote Belarus up to the top division. Belarus will undoubtedly

rely on the one-two punch of forwards **Andrei Kastsitsyn** and **Kanstantsin Zakharov**.

Kastsitsyn made history by becoming the first-ever Belarus first rounder in the NHL-draft being picked 10th overall by Montreal last summer. He was also second in scoring at the U18 World Championship with six goals and nine assists. Zakharov was a third round selection of St. Louis. The biggest obstacle for Belarus will be host France, which finished an underachieving fourth at last year's Div. I U20 World Championship after being in the top division in 2002. France and Belarus have an interesting history at the U20 World championship. In 2002, the teams met in the Relegation Round and Belarus needed a lengthy shootout in the final game to earn the right to stay in the top division. France was sent down to Div. I and has struggled ever since. France will be looking for redemption when it gets another shot at Belarus.

DID YOU KNOW? Last year's total attendance in Halifax and Sydney of 231,393 was an all-time best for the IIHF World U20 Championship.



Photo: IIHF and U. MINNESOTA (insert)

AUSTRIAN DELIGHT: Thomas Vanek became the highest NHL-drafted Austrian when the Buffalo Sabres selected the Graz born left winger fifth overall last summer. Now Vanek will lead the Austrian juniors in the IIHF World U20 Championship in Finland.

Vanek is proof that not only the Big 7 can develop great hockey talent

Thomas Vanek and the word "first" just seem to go hand in hand.

The Austrian forward was a first round draft pick of the Buffalo Sabres last year, becoming the first-ever Austrian to be taken in the first round of the NHL Draft. He was also the first-ever Austrian to play for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers and win back-to-back National Championships-also a first for an Austrian.

Now, Vanek is turning his attention, and his first-rate skills, to the 2004 IIHF U20 World Championship where Austria will play in the top division for the first time ever.

"Our goal right now is just to still be in the top division when the championship is over," Vanek said. "It's a really competitive field this year, so that in itself will be a challenge."

But Vanek has never been a player to shrink away from challenges. The son of Czech parents who moved to Austria two years before he was born, Vanek spent his childhood watching his father play professional hockey in Austria, and playing against older kids to help improve his surging skills.

"When I was 14, I was playing against players that were between 16 and 18 years old which definitely helped my development," Vanek said.

Vanek soon made his way to the United States where he played three seasons for the United States Hockey League's Sioux Falls Stampede. From there, he moved on to the University of Minnesota, a team that until recently was comprised of only Minnesota-born players.

"The tradition before was always to have Minnesota players at Minnesota," Vanek said. "But I think Coach (Don Lucia) brought in a new tradition and a new era and it just happened that I was part of it."

Vanek also hopes to be part of new era in Austrian hockey. Despite being a winter sports nation, Austria has lagged behind the last two decades in hockey, something Vanek would like to see change.

"Football has ruled Austria for so many years. I think that people are finally turning more to hockey because there are some great new facilities and the professional teams have done a great job of marketing," Vanek said.

Austria making its way up to the top division of the U20 World Championship is just the first step for the alp nation.

"I think that the U20 Championship will be a great chance for some of the guys to be seen on an international stage and maybe get their own chance to come over to North America," Vanek said.

The U20 World Championship could prove to be crucial in developing a strong player pool for the 2005 World Championship, which Austria will host. The event should be huge stepping-stone for the country, and potentially Vanek.

"I've never been on a national team or an Olympic team, so my first goal would be just to make the team in 2005 and then take it from there," Vanek said.

Look for Vanek to make those national teams, after all there's a first time for everything.



IIHF World U20 Championship records wait to be shattered

DID YOU KNOW?

A potential game-tying goal during the gold medal game between Sweden and the Soviet Union in 1989 in Anchorage was disallowed because there were two pucks on the ice. It was eventually discovered that the second puck had inadvertently dropped out of Soviet player Sergei Fedorov's pants.

ALL TIME IIHF WORLD U20 STANDINGS

Country	Yrs.	Games	Wins	Ties	Losses	GF	GA	Pts.	Gold	Slv.	Brz.
URS/RUS	27	171	136	12	33	998	419	284	12	6	5
CAN	27	179	120	21	38	924	471	261	10	5	4
SWE	27	181	102	13	66	840	535	217	1	6	4
FIN	27	180	100	16	64	841	568	216	2	4	4
TCH/CZE	27	180	97	21	61	846	553	215	2	5	6
USA	27	179	79	9	91	743	727	167	0	1	2
SUI	17	112	23	6	83	268	680	52	0	0	1
SVK	8	61	21	7	24	154	147	49	0	0	1
GER	20	129	20	3	106	297	816	43	0	0	0
KAZ	4	25	4	2	20	49	140	10	0	0	0
POL	6	41	2	2	37	69	361	6	0	0	0
NOR	5	33	3	0	30	66	297	6	0	0	0
UKR	3	20	3	0	17	34	83	6	0	0	0
BLR	4	24	2	2	20	45	142	6	0	0	0
FRA	1	6	1	0	5	6	42	2	0	0	0
AUT	1	5	0	0	5	9	67	0	0	0	0
JPN	1	7	0	0	7	9	83	0	0	0	0

WANTS TO REWRITE

BOOKS: *Russia's Alexander Ovechkin (centre), the most prolific junior since Ilya Kovalchuk, is probably keen on setting some new individual scoring records in his second U20 championship.*

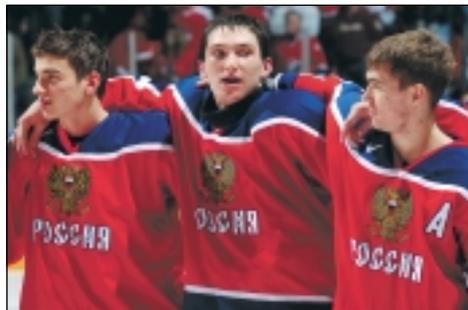


Photo: DAVE SANDFORD

IIHF World U20 Championship
All-Time Record Book

All Time Leading Scorers:

	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Peter Forsberg (SWE)	14	10	32	42
2. Robert Reichel (TCH)	21	18	22	40
3. Pavel Bure (URS)	21	27	12	39
4. Alex Mogilny (URS)	21	18	17	35
5. Esa Tikkanen (FIN)	21	17	18	35
6. Vladimir Ruzicka (TCH)	19	25	9	34
7. Markus Naslund (SWE)	14	21	13	34
8. N. Sundstrom (SWE)	21	18	15	33
9. Esa Keskinen (FIN)	14	10	22	32
10. Eric Lindros (CAN)	21	12	19	31

All-Time Goal Scorers:

1. Pavel Bure (URS)	27 goals	1989-91
2. Vladimir Ruzicka (TCH)	25 goals	1981-83
3. Markus Naslund (SWE)	21 goals	1992-93
4. Robert Reichel (TCH)	18 goals	1988-90
4. Petr Rosol (TCH)	18 goals	1982-84

All-Time Assist Leaders:

1. Peter Forsberg (SWE)	32 assists	1992-93
2. Robert Reichel (TCH)	22 assists	1988-90
2. Esa Keskinen (FIN)	22 assists	1984-85
4. Eric Lindros (CAN)	19 assists	1990-92
5. Esa Tikkanen (FIN)	18 assists	1983-85
5. Raimo Helminen (FIN)	18 assists	1983-83

Single Season Points Leaders:

	PTS	G	A
1. Peter Forsberg (SWE)	31	7	24
2. Markus Naslund (SWE)	24	13	11
2. Raimo Helminen (FIN)	24	11	13
4. Robert Reichel (TCH)	21	11	10
5. Vladimir Ruzicka (TCH)	20	12	8

Single Season Goal Leaders:

1. Markus Naslund (SWE)	13 goals	1993
2. Pavel Bure (URS)	12 goals	1991
2. Vladimir Ruzicka (TCH)	12 goals	1983
4. Several tied with 11		

Single Season Assists Leaders:

1. Peter Forsberg (SWE)	24 assists	1993
2. Doug Weight (USA)	14 assists	1991
2. Esa Keskinen (FIN)	14 assists	1985
4. Jaromir Jagr (TCH)	13 assists	1990
4. Raimo Helminen (FIN)	13 assists	1984

IIHF World U20 Championships

Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Venue
1974*	Soviet Union	Finland	Canada	Leningrad URS
1975*	Soviet Union	Canada	Sweden	Winnipeg/Brandon CAN
1976*	Soviet Union	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Turku FIN
1977	Soviet Union	Canada	Czechoslovakia	B. Bystrica/Zvolen TCH
1978	Soviet Union	Sweden	Canada	Montreal CAN
1979	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Karlstad SWE
1980	Soviet Union	Finland	Sweden	Helsinki FIN
1981	Sweden	Finland	Soviet Union	Fussen FRG
1982	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Finland	Minnesota USA
1983	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Canada	Leningrad URS
1984	Soviet Union	Finland	Czechoslovakia	Norrkoping/Nykoping SWE
1985	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Soviet Union	Helsinki/Turku FIN
1986	Soviet Union	Canada	USA	Hamilton CAN
1987**	Finland	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Piestany TCH
1988	Canada	Soviet Union	Finland	Moscow URS
1989	Soviet Union	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Anchorage USA
1990	Canada	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Helsinki/Turku FIN
1991	Canada	Soviet Union	Czechoslovakia	Saskatoon CAN
1992	Soviet Union***	Sweden	USA	Fussen/Kaufbeuren GER
1993	Canada	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Gavle SWE
1994	Canada	Sweden	Russia	Ostrava/Frydek Mistek CZE
1995	Canada	Russia	Sweden	Alberta CAN
1996	Canada	Sweden	Russia	Boston USA
1997	Canada	USA	Russia	Geneva/Morges SUI
1998	Finland	Russia	Switzerland	Helsinki/Hameenlinna FIN
1999	Russia	Canada	Slovakia	Winnipeg CAN
2000	Czech Republic	Russia	Canada	Skelleftea/Umea SWE
2001	Czech Republic	Finland	Canada	Moscow/Podolsk RUS
2002	Russia	Canada	Finland	Pardubice/Hradec Kralove CZE
2003	Russia	Canada	Finland	Halifax/Sydney CAN

* The three first championships were unofficial.

** Canada and Soviet Union were disqualified following a bench clearing brawl on the final day.

*** The 1992 championship was won by the Soviet Union although the country ceased to exist midway through the tournament and was succeeded by the Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS.

Note: Canada was represented by junior club teams 1974-1981 except for 1978.

RESULTS SUMMARY

Continental Cup 2003/2004

Second Round (17 - 19 October)

Group F - Oswiecim, Poland

Milano - Liepajas Metalurgs	2 : 4
KHL Zagreb - Unia Oswiecim	1 : 13*
KHL Zagreb - Milano	2 : 6*
Unia Oswiecim - Liepajas Metalurgs	5 : 2
Liepajas Metalurgs - KHL Zagreb	21 : 4*
Unia Oswiecim - Milano	3 : 3

* Note, KHL Zagreb forfeits all three games from the second round

1. Unia Oswiecim	3	2	1	0	21 - 6	5
2. Liepajas Metalurgs	3	2	0	1	27 - 11	4
3. Milano	3	1	1	1	11 - 9	3
4. KHL Zagreb	3	0	0	3	7 - 40	0

■ Unia Oswiecim (POL) promoted to third round tournament

Group G - Rouen, France

Amiens - HC Asiago	3 : 2
Amsterdam - Rouen	0 : 0
HC Asiago - Amsterdam	0 : 6
Rouen - Amiens	4 : 2
Amsterdam - Amiens	2 : 3
Asiago - Rouen	0 : 4

1. Rouen	3	2	1	0	8 - 2	5
2. Amiens	3	2	0	1	8 - 8	4
3. Amsterdam	3	1	1	1	8 - 3	3
4. Asiago	3	0	0	3	2 - 13	0

■ Rouen (FRA) promoted to third round tournament Pool J

Group H - Alba Volan, Hungary

Olimpija Ljubljana - Torpedo	1 : 6
Alba Volan - Dunaferr	5 : 1
Dunaferr - Olimpija Ljubljana	1 : 1
Torpedo - Alba Volan	2 : 2
Alba Volan - Olimpija Ljubljana	2 : 0
Torpedo - Dunaferr	5 : 4

* Note Torpedo wins the group based on goals scored (13).

1. Torpedo	3	2	1	0	13 - 7	5
2. Alba Volan	3	2	1	0	9 - 3	5
3. Dunaferr	3	0	1	2	6 - 11	1
4. Olimpija	3	0	1	2	2 - 9	1

■ Torpedo (KAZ) promoted to third round tournament Group K.

Group I - Zvolen, Slovakia

Jukurit Mikkeli - Sokol Kiev	2 : 1
Riga 2000 - Zvolen	0 : 2
Riga 2000 - Jukurit Mikkeli	1 : 1
Zvolen - Sokol Kiev	0 : 4
Sokol Kiev - Riga 2000	7 : 2
Zvolen - Jukurit Mikkeli	0 : 5

1. Jukurit Mikkeli	3	2	1	0	8 - 2	5
2. Sokol Kiev	3	2	0	1	12 - 4	4
3. Zvolen	3	1	0	2	2 - 9	2
4. Riga 2000	3	0	1	2	3 - 10	1

■ Jukurit Mikkeli (FIN) promoted to third round tournament Group L

Third Round (22 - 24 November)

Group J - Herning, Denmark

Valerenga - Unia Oswiecim	1 : 1
Rouen - Herning	1 : 4
Rouen - Valerenga	6 : 1
Herning - Unia Oswiecim	1 : 3
Unia Oswiecim - Rouen	3 : 7
Herning - Valerenga	1 : 3

1. Rouen	3	2	0	1	14 - 8	4
2. Unia Oswiecim	3	1	1	1	7 - 9	3
3. Valerenga	3	1	1	1	5 - 8	3
4. Herning	3	1	0	2	6 - 7	2

Group K - Linz, Austria

Jukurit Mikkeli - Keramin Minsk	1 : 4
Black Wings Linz - Torpedo Kazzinc	1 : 1
Black Wings Linz - Jukurit Mikkeli	3 : 2
Keramin Minsk - Torpedo Kazzinc	1 : 1
Torpedo Kazzinc - Jukurit Mikkeli	7 : 3
Keramin Minsk - Black Wings Linz	3 : 1

1. Minsk	3	2	1	0	8 - 3	5
2. Kazzinc	3	1	2	0	9 - 5	4
3. Black Wings Linz	3	1	1	1	5 - 6	3
4. Mikkeli	3	0	0	3	6 - 14	0

■ Rouen Dragons (FRA) and Keramin Minsk (BLR) advance to the Super Final. Rouen faces Lugano (SUI) and Gomel (BLR) in Group M. Minsk plays Severstal Cherepovets (RUS), Slovan Bratislava (SVK) in Group N.

Karjala Cup

Helsinki, Finland 6 - 9 November

Sweden - Czech Republic	1:2 ps
Finland - Russia	3:2
Russia - Sweden	2:0
Czech Republic - Finland	1:5
Finland - Sweden	4:1
Russia - Czech Republic	2:3

	GP	W	OW	OL	L	Goals	Pts
1. Finland	3	3	0	0	0	12 - 4	9
2. Czech R.	3	0	2	0	1	6 - 8	4
3. Russia	3	1	0	1	1	6 - 6	4
4. Sweden	3	0	0	1	2	2 - 8	1

Tournament All Star Team

Goalkeeper: Fredrik Norrena (FIN).

Defense: Petteri Nummelin (FIN) and Marko Tuulola (FIN).

Forwards: Maxim Sushinsky (RUS), Jarkko Immonen (FIN) and Ville Peltonen (FIN).

Deutschland Cup

Hannover, Germany 7 - 9 November

Switzerland - Canada	5:3
Germany - USA	1:2
Germany - Switzerland	4:1
USA - Canada	4:1
Germany - Canada	1:2
Switzerland - USA	0:1

1. USA	3	3	0	0	7 - 2	6
2. Switzerland	3	2	0	1	6 - 8	4
3. Germany	3	1	0	2	6 - 5	2
4. Canada	3	0	0	3	6 - 10	0

Women's Four Nations Tournament

Skovde, Skara & Tibro, Sweden 5-9 November

Sweden - Canada	1:6
USA - Finland	8:0
Sweden - Finland	2:1 ot
Canada - USA	0:2
USA - Sweden	5:1
Finland - Canada	1:4
Finland - Sweden	3:2 Bronze medal
USA - Canada	2:1 Gold medal

1. USA	4	4	0	0	17 - 2	8
2. Canada	4	2	0	2	11 - 4	4
3. Finland	4	1	0	3	5 - 15	4
4. Sweden	4	1	0	3	6 - 15	4

Four Nations U20

Mikkeli, Finland 7-9 November

Sweden - Russia	3:4 ps
Finland - Czech Republic	5:6 ps
Czech Republic - Sweden	4:1
Russia - Finland	4:1
Russia - Czech Republic	0:3
Finland - Sweden	4:0

1. Czech R.	3	3	0	0	13 - 6	6
2. Russia	3	1	1	1	8 - 7	3
3. Finland	3	1	0	2	10 - 10	2
4. Sweden	3	0	0	3	4 - 12	0

Four Nations U20

Hamar, Norway 7 - 9 November

Slovakia - Norway	3:2 ps
Germany - Switzerland	2:1 ot
Slovakia - Germany	4:3 ps
Norway - Switzerland:	3:0
Norway - Germany	2:6
Switzerland - Slovakia	0:1

Standing

1. Slovakia	3	3	0	0	8 - 5	6
2. Germany	3	2	0	1	11 - 7	4
3. Switzerland	3	1	0	2	7 - 6	2
4. Norway	3	0	0	3	7 - 15	0

U18 Four Nations Tournament

Huttwil, Switzerland 6 - 9 November

USA - Finland	3:4
Switzerland - Sweden	1:5
Sweden - USA	2:4
Finland - Switzerland	2:1
Sweden - Finland	2:3
Switzerland - USA	3:5

Standing

1. Finland	3	3	0	0	9 - 6	6
2. United States	3	2	0	1	12 - 9	4
3. Sweden	3	1	0	2	9 - 8	2
4. Switzerland	3	0	0	3	5 - 12	0

U18 Four Nations Tournament

Prievidza, Slovakia 7 - 9 November

Slovakia - Germany	2:3
Czech Republic - Russia	3:3
Germany - Russia	1:2
Czech Republic - Slovakia	2:4
Slovakia - Russia	2:11
Germany - Czech Republic	3:4

Standing

1. Russia	3	2	1	0	16 - 6	5
2. Czech R.	3	1	1	1	9 - 10	3
3. Germany	3	1	0	2	7 - 8	2
4. Slovakia	3	1	0	2	8 - 16	2

U17 Four Nations Tournament

Magnitogorsk, Russia 7 - 9 November

USA - Slovakia	10:3
Russia - Switzerland	4:1
Russia - USA	3:4
Slovakia - Switzerland	7:3
USA - Switzerland	6:2
Slovakia - Russia	1:7

Standing

1. United States	3	3	0	0	20 - 8	6
2. Russia	3	2	0	1	14 - 6	4
3. Slovakia	3	1	0	2	11 - 20	2
4. Switzerland	3	0	0	3	6 - 17	0

Euro Hockey Challenge

Odense, Denmark 7 - 9 November

Latvia - Poland	4:2	Denmark - Norway	4:2
Norway - Latvia	5:2	Poland - Denmark	4:4
Denmark - Latvia	1:0	Norway - Poland	7:1

Standing

1. Denmark	3	2	1	0	9 - 6	5
2. Norway	3	2	0	1	14 - 5	4
3. Latvia	3	1	0	2	6 - 8	2
4. Poland	3	0	1	2	7 - 15	1

Briancon, France 7 - 9 November

Austria - Italy	1:1	France - Slovenia	5:2
Austria - Slovenia	2:0	France - Italy	3:0
Italy - Slovenia	4:1	France - Austria	3:0

Standing

1. France	3	3	0	0	11 - 2	6
2. Italy	3	1	1	1	5 - 5	3
3. Austria	3	1	1	1	3 - 4	3
4. Slovenia	3	0	0	3	3 - 11	0

Budapest, Hungary 7 - 10 November

Slovakia - Hungary	2:4	Croatia - Belarus	2:8
Hungary - Netherlands	3:3	Ukraine - Croatia	7:0
Netherlands - Slovakia	0:11	Belarus - Ukraine	4:3

Gold Medal Game:	Belarus - Hungary	6:3
Bronze Medal Game:	Slovakia - Ukraine	6:3
5th place game:	Netherlands - Croatia	5:0

2004 IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL



Is this Crosby kid for real? The experts say "yes"

■■ Here we go again. Last season the whole hockey community was raving about Russia's Aleksander Ovechkin and now the man of the moment is Sidney Crosby.

The Canadian sensation could join an elite list that includes Wayne Gretzky, Eric Lindros, Jason Spezza and Jay Bouwmeester by taking part in an IIHF World U20 Championship at the age of 16.

Sidney Crosby, who is in his first season with the Rimouski Oceanic of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, was born on August 7, 1987. Officially, the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship in Finland is for players born 1984.

■■ There are reasons for the hype that surrounds the young man from Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia. In his rookie season as a junior player, Crosby was leading (as of December 1) the QMJHL in scoring with 27 goals and 40 assists for 67 points in 29 games.

Crosby was 18 points ahead of the player who was second in scoring.

These are numbers in the same category as the ones that Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux put up when they were juniors.

■■ When this was written, Hockey Canada had not announced their roster for the 2004 IIHF World Juniors but most observers who covered his development said that it would be very difficult for the officials to not select the high scoring talent.

"If he is good enough, he should be on the team, whether he is 16," said Wayne Gretzky who has seen Crosby play this season. "I hope he makes it. People in this

country will be excited to see him make it as a 16-year-old but he has to deserve it to make it. Right now he looks like he is deserving."

■■ Canadian hockey writer Alan Adams, who has covered most of the international championships (both junior and senior) in the last decade, says this about Crosby:

"Sidney Crosby has the extra gift. Like Gretzky and Lemieux, he possesses instincts beyond his years. He sees the ice and anticipates the play like the two superstars. He is a rare find."

"Crosby has tremendous speed and he competes as hard as anybody playing any level of the game anywhere in the world and has a locomotive drive to win at all costs. That willingness to compete is the underlying factor with him."

Adams sees Crosby as part Gretzky, part Lemieux and part Peter Forsberg.

■■ With Aleksander Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby in the same U20 Championship, the fans in Helsinki and Hameenlinna should be the big winners.



CROSBY:
The Next One?

□□ All-Star teams from the three major Canadian junior leagues played a series of six exhibition games against the Russian junior seleects in November as a tune up for the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship in Finland. Results: OHL-Russia 7-1 and 4-0. QMJHL-Russia 2-3 and 6-3. WHL-Russia 4-1 and 7-1.

2004 IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP SUPER FINAL

Peltonen aims for second straight title - but with new team



■■ Following the IIHF Continental Cup third round weekend on November 21-23, the stage is now set for the 2004 Super Final which will take place in the Belarus city of

Gomel, approximately 300 km south-east of the capital Minsk.

French champion Rouen Dragons and Keramin Minsk of Belarus both won their respective third round groups which produced the following two Super Final groups:

Group M: HC Lugano (SUI), HC Gomel (BLR), Rouen Dragons (FRA)

Group N: Severstal Cherepovets (RUS), Slovan Bratislava (SVK), Keramin Minsk (BLR).

Rouen was the team which had to overcome the biggest obstacles in reaching the Final Six, as they started their journey in the second round of the Continental Cup in October when they defeated Amiens (FRA), Amsterdam (NED) and HC Asiago (ITA).

■■ Rouen had a rocky start in the third round as they lost 4-1 to the Danish host Herning, but the French staged a great comeback and won the group by defeating Valerenga (NOR) 6-1 and Unia Oswiecim (POL) 7-3.

Keramin Minsk had a smoother ride in Linz, Austria where they dropped one point to Torpedo Kazinc (KAZ) after playing them to 1-1 draw, but wins against hosting Black Wings Linz, 3-1, and Jukurit Mikkeli, 4-1, secured promotion to the Super Final.

(See complete results on page 10).

■■ A short introduction of the Super Final teams:

GROUP M

HC Lugano: Swiss champion 2003 and again a top team in the Swiss Nationalliga A this season. Ville Peltonen, the Finn who captained Jokerit Helsinki to the Super Final victory last season, is arguably



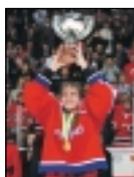
PELTONEN

Lugano's best player. Countryman Petteri Nummelin led the Swiss league in scoring last season - as defenseman. Canadian Mike Maneluk is another scoring machine.

Rouen Dragons: An international roster with five Finns, three Canadians and one Swede. Canadian goaltender Eric Raymond is the backbone while French internationals Maurice Rozenthal and Arnaud Briand are productive forwards. Daniel Carlsson (SWE) and Steven Low (CAN) are high-scoring defensemen. Former French national Franck Pajonkowski is the successful coach.

GROUP N

Severstal Cherepovets: The runner-up of the Russian league last season has had a rough season so far and was placed 12th in the 16 team league as of late November. 20-year old forward Yuri Trubachev, who was the captain of Russia's gold medal team in the 2003 IIHF World U20 Championship, will be the most interesting to watch. Captain Sergei Gusev anchors the defence while Canadian goalie Jamie Ram is the lonely foreigner.



TRUBACHEV

Slovan Bratislava: The reigning Slovak champions are second in the league but way behind leaders Dukla Trencin. Veteran forward Zdeno Ciger is still the most reliable player together with forward Branislav Janos. 18-year old Jaroslav Halak was named Best Goaltender at the 2003 IIHF World U18 Championship and is the goalie of the future in Slovakia. Slovan finished fifth in last season's Continental Cup.



Keramin Minsk: Vladimir Kopat, the defenseman who scored the sensational game winner for Belarus against Sweden in the quarterfinal of the 2002 Olympics, is just one of several Belarus internationals on the team. Forwards Andrei Gusov (five points) and Andrei Mikhaliou (three goals) led Keramin in the successful third round campaign in Linz. Dmitri Dudik is another very efficient attacker with national team experience.

IIHF Continental Cup Super Final in Gomel, Belarus		
January 8		
Keramin Minsk - Slovan Bratislava (N)		15.00
Rouen Dragons - HC Gomel (M)		18.30
January 9		
Severstal Cherepovets - Keramin Minsk (N)		15.00
HC Lugano - Rouen Dragons (M)		18.30
January 10		
Slovan Bratislava - Severstal Cherepovets (N)		15.00
HC Gomel - HC Lugano (M)		18.30
January 11		
M3 - N3	Placing game 5-6	11.00
M2 - N2	Bronze Medal game	15.00
M1 - N1	Gold Medal game	18.30



Photos: JAN SUKUP

IT'S A FAMILY BUSINESS: Coach Mike Eaves (insert photo) returns to the boys he led to the IIHF U18 Gold Medal in Slovakia two years ago. And one of the boys will be his very own -- son Patrick Eaves who was an impact player on the historic 2002 U18 team. In the large photo, Patrick (left) celebrates one of USA's many goals during the successful 2002 under-18 campaign.

The Eaves' goal is another family gold

By Jenny Wiedeke, IIHF

■ ■ A hockey team is a family.

In Mike Eaves' case, his family is his hockey team... literally.

■ ■ Mike Eaves was the mastermind behind the United States' most unlikely gold medal since the 1980 Olympic "Miracle on Ice". Eaves was the head coach of the USA team that captured the gold medal at the 2002 IIHF World U18 Championship in Slovakia in dramatic fashion in the final moments of the final game against Russia.

That was USA's first IIHF World Championship title in any category in 69 years.

Most of the team that captured the gold in 2002 will be reunited for the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship in Finland, ready to take on the challenge of creating magic for a second time.

While the team is facing that challenge, Eaves will have the challenge of coaching his son, Patrick, a leading forward for Boston College, on the team.

"I coached Patrick for an entire year during that 2002 season and I promised my wife Beth I would never do it again," Eaves' joked.

■ ■ But that promise will soon have to be broken. Hockey is a way of life in the Eaves' family. There's first-born Ben (born -82), who was a 2001 fourth round NHL draft pick of Pittsburgh and who plays for Boston College. Ben was also a standout for Team USA at the 2002

IIHF World U20 Championship in the Czech Republic.

Second-born Patrick (born -84) was selected in the first round (29th overall) of the NHL draft last summer by Ottawa. He missed last year's World U20 Championship with an injury, but hopes to make his debut this season. While the two brothers seem to have mirror careers, they have differing playing styles, just ask their dad.

"Ben and Patrick couldn't be more opposite both on and off the ice," Eaves said. "Ben is quiet away from the ice and more of a subtle player, while Patrick is an outgoing, energetic, in-your-face player."

■ ■ Eaves' son's accomplishments are nearly living up to his own. Mike was a collegiate player at the University of Wisconsin, an NHL player for eight years with the Minnesota North Stars and Calgary Flames and a coach at the NHL, national and collegiate level. Most recently, Eaves was asked to take over the head coaching duties for his former university where he

is busy rebuilding the team.

"I think some people look at my resume and are horrified by the number of moves that we've made along the way," Eaves said. "But through it all I had the support of my family and I think we are all better for all of the experiences that we had."

One of those experiences was moving his family to Finland for a year while he coached IFK Helsinki in the Finnish Elite League during the 1996-1997-season.

"Nothing teaches you more in life than getting outside of your comfort zone," Eaves said. "That year in Finland was such a great learning experience for all of us."

■ ■ Now, Eaves will return to his home of one year to try to strike gold for a second time with a team that he is as close to as his own family.

"There was something special about that team in Slovakia that was unlike any other team I have ever coached," Eaves said. "I'm so excited to get back together with them and go for another medal. At first it will seem like a big reunion, but after that first night we'll be all business."

Two years after winning the gold medal, Eaves finds himself in a giant déjà vu. Coaching virtually the same team under the same circumstances in yet another IIHF Championship event.

■ ■ "There are just so many parallels to the U20 and U18 World Championships," Eaves said. "You have a core of amateur players that are so proud to put on the USA jersey. This year we don't have the advantage of being able to sneak up on other teams like we did in 2002, but that will motivate this team even more."

And what about coaching Patrick for a second time?

"I think since it's only for three weeks it will be fine--at least that's what I keep telling my wife!"

DID YOU KNOW? The USA is one of six nations that has participated in all 27 IIHF U20 World Championships (Finland, Sweden, USSR/Russia, Canada and Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic are the others). Despite its long history, the North American nation has only earned three medals (one silver, two bronze).