

# News Release



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Photo: Jukka Rautila, Europhoto

**PUSHING FOR PRIME POSITION IN PRAGUE:** *The Czechs will do everything to restore their old Prague-magic from 1947, 1972 and 1985 when they became IIHF World Champions on home ice. In the process, they'll have to defeat the defending IIHF World Champion Canada, who is on top of the IIHF World Ranking coming into Prague. Above, Anson Carter, who scored the dramatic overtime Gold Medal winner last year against Sweden, tries to stay in possession by screening Czech defenseman Pavel Kolarik in the semi-final game in 2003. The Canadians are no strangers to success in Prague, winning gold in the Czech capital in 1938 and 1959.*

## Can the Czechs check Canada off the throne?

**The 68th IIHF World Championship in the Czech Republic has the potential to be the best tournament ever. Record championship crowds are expected to come to the most modern arena in the world as the teams go for medals, ranking positions and a 2006 Olympic berth. And all this in one of the most beautiful and historic cities in Europe.**

**RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL**

■ Having the privilege to go Prague in spring is usually enough to make you tremble with anticipation. For us ice hockey fans it gets even better as we will also be part of the 17,000-seat Sazka Arena inauguration in an IIHF World Championship, which will be the first where the recently introduced IIHF World Ranking will come into full effect. (See more on ranking on page 5.)

The ranking will not only determine which top eight teams following the 2004 World Championship will be directly qualified for Turin 2006, but it will also establish the seeding for the Austria 2005, making every single game important, as vital ranking points for the future are at stake.

■ In January already we received indications that the attendance record of from

Finland 1997 could be broken as the Czech organizers set their sight on 600,000 tickets for the games in Prague and Ostrava.

■ When the puck is dropped for the first game in the Sazka Arena, it will mark a record ninth time that the IIHF World Championship is played in the wonderful city at the Vltava River. "Golden Prague" becomes thus the unofficial capital of the IIHF World Championship, having hosted the tournament in 1933, 1938, 1947, 1959, 1972, 1978, 1985 and 1992.



**Up for grabs:**  
*The 2004 IIHF Gold Medal.*

The host nation has won on three of those occasions, while Canada, the defending IIHF World Champions and current ranking leaders, have gone all the way in Prague twice. Those two teams are definitely among the gold medal favourites, but I cannot recall the last time when the list of gold medal hopefuls was so long with credible entries.

■ A Russian team with Viktor Tikhonov back on the bench certainly doesn't go to Prague to finish second. Only an overtime goal separated Sweden from the gold medal in Helsinki in 2003 and the Finns are dying to redeem themselves after the massive collapse against Sweden in the quarter-final last season. The Slovaks are playing virtually on home ice while Team USA, with the Olympic qualification in mind, simply has to improve from its 13th place finish from last year.

Continued on next page

Continued from page one:

■ The ever-improving Germans, who lost to eventual gold winners Canada on an overtime goal in the quarter-final in Finland, could finally be ready to make it to the final-four. The fan support that the Germans will enjoy in Prague, by the way, will be huge. We have eight teams who are legitimate contenders for the semi-final, a scenario which will make the playoff round a real nail-biter.

And who will pull off "a Denmark" this year? Maybe the Danes again, or are newcomers Kazakhstan or France able to score a major upset against one of the established hockey powers?

As the President of the International Ice Hockey Federation I want to extend my warmest regards to all ice hockey fans and welcome you to the 68th IIHF World Championship.

**René Fasel**  
IIHF President

## Modified overtime regulations in CZE 2004

■ Except for the Gold Medal game, all overtime periods of the 2004 IIHF World Championship (Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Bronze Medal game) will be ten minutes and will end when the ten minutes has expired or when a goal is scored. The teams will start immediately after a 3-minute break. The teams will remain on the ice. The teams will not change ends.

(In the 2003 IIHF World Championship a 20-minute overtime was tested for all playoff games and the IIHF Council decided to return to the previous overtime rules as stated above, partly due to scheduling reasons.)

■ For the Gold Medal game, the overtime period will remain at twenty minutes. In the Gold Medal game, the teams will start the overtime period after a 15-minute intermission. The ice will be re-surfaced during the intermission. The teams will change ends. The puck will be faced off at centre ice.

■ If a game is still tied following an overtime period, the game will be decided by Game Winning Shot competition ("penalty shoot-out").

In all play-off round games teams will skate 4-on-4.

□ Canada is the most frequent participant in prolonged international games, having played in 17 overtime games since 1976 (World Championships, Olympics, Canada Cup and World Cup). Canada has a 50 % success rate in "penalty shoot-outs" (3-3) while it has a remarkable 73 % success rate (8-3) in games decided by a "sudden-death" goal. In Finland 2003 Canada won both the quarter-final and the Gold Medal game in overtime.



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## Draw for Austria 2005 set for Innsbruck on May 12



Photo: Europhoto

**WHO FOR VIENNA, WHO TO INNSBRUCK?: This will be decided on May 12 in the Tirolean capital.**

■ The draw for the four groups for the 2005 IIHF World Championship in Austria will be held at 13.00 on May 12 at hotel Hilton in Innsbruck. This will mark the first time that the 16 teams in the draw will be seeded according to the recently introduced IIHF World Ranking. See more on World Ranking on page 5. The draw will be live on IHWC.net.



In Finland 2003, the year the draw was introduced, the teams were seeded according to their final placing in the recently concluded IIHF World Championship.

■ The 69th IIHF World Championship in Austria will be played in Vienna and Innsbruck on April 30 - May 15, 2005.

## Top Euro hockey nations to launch IIHF Super Six

■ The representatives of the top seven European national associations and leagues agreed on a final draft of a contract that would see IIHF Super Six club competition being launched in January 2005.

The representatives of the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland expressed commitment to sign off the three-year contract (2005 - 2007) around April 15.

Tentative dates for the 2005 IIHF Super Six are January 13 - 16. Organizer is to be announced later.

■ Eligible to participate in the IIHF Super Six are the five top ranked national champion club teams according to the IIHF World Ranking. Additionally, the IIHF shall be entitled to appoint a sixth national champion from any European country listed on the IIHF Ranking that can offer optimal organizing and hosting conditions.

The IIHF will officially announce details about the IIHF Super Six during the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Prague.

## Canada, Germany and Sweden in race for 2008

■ The IIHF Congress in Prague (May 6 - 8) will vote to allocate the 2008 and the 2009 IIHF World Championships. Canada, Germany and Sweden are applicants to organize the 2008 tournament, which will be part of the IIHF's 100-year anniversary celebrations.

If Germany and Sweden don't get the 2008 championship, they will likely extend their application to 2009 and for that race they will be joined by Switzerland.

Canada has never hosted the IIHF World Championship. Germany hosted the tournament last time in 2001, Sweden in 2002 while Switzerland was the organizer in 1998.

■ Canada (Montreal and Winnipeg) was appointed organizer in 1970, but the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) withdrew due to a disagreement with the IIHF over amateur regulations at that time and the championship went to Stockholm, Sweden. 1962 in Colorado Springs, USA was the only time when the IIHF's banner tournament was held in North America.

## René Fasel awarded France's Legion of Honour

■ IIHF president René Fasel was awarded the Legion of Honour by French President Jacques Chirac at a ceremony at the Palais de l'Elysee in Paris on January 30.

The Legion of Honour is the highest award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipient. Fasel is native of Fribourg, Switzerland.

"This is a great honour for me to receive this award," Fasel said. "This is one of the greatest moments of my life."

■ Fasel was recognized for his numerous years of service to both ice hockey and his work with the International Olympic Committee. Most recently, Fasel was appointed to oversee the 2010 Vancouver Olympics as the Chairman of the Coordination Committee.

Members of the Legion of Honour are appointed for life. In peacetime, twenty years of distinguished military or civilian service are required for admission to the Order. Candidates are nominated by the various



Photo: RUDY FASEL

**FROM PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT: Jacques Chirac poses with René Fasel and family following the award ceremony at Palais de l'Elysee in Paris on January 30.**

Ministers, who submit their names to the Grand Chancellor. He in turn presents them to the President of the Republic.

The award was started in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.

# Eight straight - women's world belongs to Canada



World Women Photos: DAVE SANDFORD & JEFF VINNICK



With files from Canadian Press

■ The Canadian women's hockey team rose to the occasion.

The team did not want to spoil the party in Halifax by having its reign in the women's world hockey championships end on home ice in front of a deafening, sellout crowd at the Metro Centre.

So the Canadian team won its eighth world title with a 2-0 win over the United States.

"I don't know of too many teams in this country who have won eight championships in a row," said Haley Wickenheiser, the poster women of female hockey.

"It's not easy at all to go out there and play in front of these kinds of crowds and there's the pressure to continue the streak. This team just finds a way to do it all the time."

■ Canada had mediocre performances in two games heading into the final, including a 3-1 loss to the U.S. in the round robin that put an end to the Canadian team's perfect 37-0 record in this tournament. But the players' confidence remained high.

"You could tell there was that special feeling," head coach Karen Hughes said. "Everybody knew what they had to do."

Wickenheiser scored in the second period and defenceman Delaney Collins pounced on an opportunity in the third period to score for Canada.

The storied rivalry between the Canadian and U.S. women extended another chapter. The two countries have met in every final since the IIHF World Women Championship started in 1990.

■ After the game, Canadian captain Cassie Campbell clutched the new IIHF women's world trophy. Her voice cracked and she smelled of champagne after a few celebratory soakings in the dressing room.

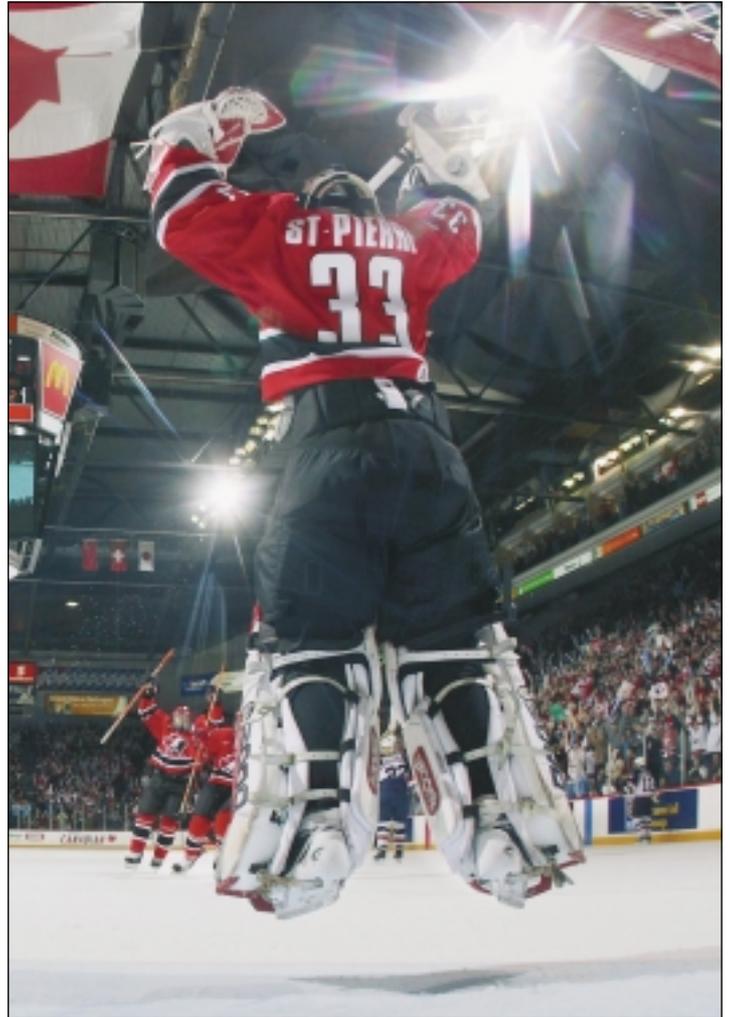
"It's one of the greatest things that's ever happened in sports I think," she said. "Eight championships in a row and some of those games have gone into overtime. It's just incredible."

The Americans were undermanned with injured forwards Krissy Wendell and Shelley Looney out of the lineup. And captain Cammi Granato was used sparingly because of an injured knee.

Canadian goaltender Kim St. Pierre bounced back from her rough outing against the U.S. in the 3-1 round robin loss with a solid game, particularly in the third period when the Americans had a run of power plays. She stopped all 26 shots she faced for a shutout.

■ Halifax set an attendance record for the women's event of 94,001. That beats the previous mark of 66,783 set at the 1997 Women's World Championships in Kitchener, Ontario.

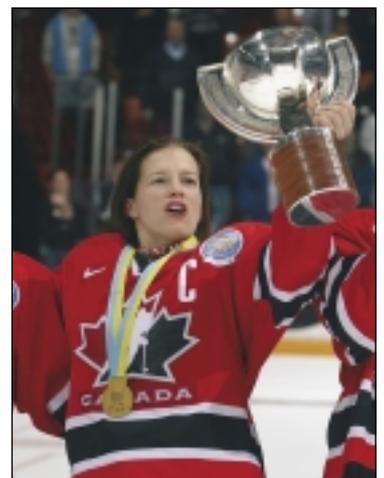
**SALT LAKE FORGOTTEN:** Finland again is Nr. 3 in the women's hockey world after defeating Sweden 3-2 in the bronze medal game. The loss to rival Sweden in the 2002 Olympics can finally be put into oblivion.



**STREAK ALIVE:** Canadian goaltender Kim St-Pierre takes a leap of joy as the final siren sounds in Halifax and Canada wins its eighth consecutive IIHF World Women Gold Medal. St-Pierre shut-out the US in the final and was named Best Goaltender by the tournament directorate.

**Small photo, top, left:** Canadian team celebrates following the gold medal ceremony at the Metro Centre. The golden streak which started in 1990 is alive and well.

**Photo, right:** Canadian captain Cassie Campbell sports the gold medal and hoists the IIHF World Women Championship trophy.



**IIHF Directorate Awards**

**Goaltender:** Kim St-Pierre (CAN)

**Defenseman:** Angela Ruggiero (USA)

**Forward:** Jayna Hefford (CAN)

**Tournament All-Star Team**

**Goaltender:** Pam Dreyer (USA)

**Defenseman:** Angela Ruggiero (USA)

**Defenseman:** Gunilla Anderson (SWE)

**Forward:** Jennifer Botterill (CAN)

**Forward:** Natalie Darwitz (USA)

**Forward:** Jayna Hefford (CAN)

**MVP:** Jennifer Botterill (CAN)

# Home Ice <sup>dis</sup> advantage: Fact or Fiction?

*Home ice advantage? Not in the IIHF World Championship for the last 17 years anyway. Since the "Big Red Machine" of the Soviet Union swept through the 1986 IIHF World Championship undefeated in nine games while outscoring the opposition 50-15, the tournament has not been kind to hosting nations with gold medal ambitions. In fact, no host has won since 1986.*

*Follow us through this medley of crushed expectations for the home teams of the World Championships:*

**1989.** The brand new Globe Arena in Stockholm welcomed the 53rd IIHF World Championship with the Tre Kronor as one of the heavy favourites, but the pressure became too much. The Swedes lost all games in the four-team playoff series and finished a disappointing fourth. The Soviets won ten straight games and the gold.



**A SOUR FINNISH:** *The Finnish national team may go down in history as suffering the most devastating home ice loss ever at an IIHF World Championship. After holding a commanding 5-1 lead against Sweden in the Quarterfinal Round, the Finns gave up four goals in front of a sold out Hartwall Arena crowd and was knocked out of the championship by their rivals in a 6-5 loss.*



**A FEW QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:** *(above) The entire Russian national team was forced to face the press (and the music) after finishing a less-than-stellar 11th at the World Championship in St. Petersburg. It was one of the worst finishes ever by a host nation and a disappointment of monumental proportions for a Russian team that came with one of the strongest rosters to that year's championship.*

**THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN:** *(right) Not only did Sweden have to suffer the indignity of losing on home ice in 2002, but the hosts lost to underdogs Slovakia, in overtime during the semi-final game. Slovakia stunned the hockey world and more specifically the entire nation of Sweden with the 3-2 win.*



**1991.** Finland was hosting the hockey world in the newly built Elysee Arena in Turku and the Finns had a great team. On paper. The team led by Teemu Selanne, Jari Kurri, Christian Ruuttu and Esa Keskinen didn't even make to the playoff-round. The fifth place finish was a very unsatisfactory outcome. That the Mats Sundin-led Swedes won gold made this even more difficult to digest the Finnish fans.

**1992.** Prague, and pressure was big on the Czechoslovak players to repeat home-ice victory from 1985. Things looked good until the semi-final against Finland, when the home team managed only a 2-2 tie and the Finns won the game on a penalty-shootout. Czechoslovakia, for the last time before becoming the Czech Republic, regrouped for the bronze game and defeated Switzerland for third place. Sweden won its second consecutive gold.

**1995.** Back to the Globe Arena in Stockholm where Sweden was odds-on favourites to finally win its first hoc-

key gold on home ice. But it was Finland that walked away with its first ever gold medal after defeating it arch-rival, 4-1, in the final game.

**1997.** Helsinki again and the Finns were determined to break their home ice jinx in the new and beautiful Hartwall Arena with another star studded team that included Saku Koivu, Ville Peltonen, Olli Jokinen, Raimo Helminen and Petteri Nummelin. Once again, a poor fifth place finish, while Canada defeated Sweden in the best-of-three final.

**2000.** A monumental crash by Russia in St. Petersburg. The best Russian team assembled in the post-Soviet era lost to USA, Switzerland, Latvia and Belarus and finished 11th, the worst finish ever by a favourite team in the IIHF World Championship. The Czechs beat Slovaks in the gold medal game.

**2002.** Just a couple of months after the incredible Olympic quarter-final loss to Belarus, the Swedes had a

great opportunity to redeem themselves on home ice Gothenburg in a championship labelled as "The Revenge of the Nation". It wasn't to be. Slovaks spoiled the party by beating Sweden in a penalty shoot-out in the semi-final. The young nation went on to beat Russia in the gold medal game.

**2003.** This will forever be remembered as The Meltdown in Helsinki. Finns were up 5-1 midway through the quarter-final against rivals Sweden, only to lose 6-5 in one of the most memorable World Championship games ever. Finland finished fifth again on home ice. Canada defeated Sweden in the gold medal game.

The home teams also failed to go all the way at the Olympic Games in 1998 and 2002. Canada failed in Calgary (1988) while the U.S. could not keep their perfect Olympic home record intact in Salt Lake City.

The record shows, if you go for gold in international ice hockey, you better make it on someone else's rink.

# A new twist to the plot: IIHF's World Ranking

Teams play for more than medals as seedings for Austria 2005 and the 2006 Olympics are at stake

The introduction of the IIHF World Ranking was approved by the IIHF congress in September 2003 and the 68th World Championship will be the first time when the ranking will have an impact.

■ It is the first time that the IIHF has introduced a ranking formula, which calculates the national team's performances over a four-year cycle.

IIHF President René Fasel said upon the introduction of the world ranking;

"We are very satisfied 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 team programs within the IIHF and their commitment to international hockey."

■ Now, the IIHF News Release answers the most frequently asked questions about the IIHF World Ranking.

**Q: How is the World Ranking calculated?**

A: It's very simple. The system uses a four-year cycle with points awarded for all positions within the entire IIHF World Championship program from the last four years. This includes the last four IIHF World Championships (from top division down to division III) and the last Olympic ice hockey tournament (including all the qualification stages).

The points earned in one championship 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 over the course of five years as follows:

<b>Year 1:</b>	(2003 Finland)	100% value - 1200 points
<b>Year 2:</b>	(2002 Sweden)	75% value - 900 points
	(2002 Olympics)	75% value - 900 points
<b>Year 3:</b>	(2001 Germany)	50% value - 600 points
<b>Year 4:</b>	(2000 Russia)	25% value - 300 points.
<b>Year 5:</b>	(1999 Norway)	No value

**Q: What is the 2004 Pre-tournament report as opposed to the 2003 World Ranking?**

A: It is a tool to make it easier for everyone involved (teams, fans, media) to calculate and eventually establish the 2004 World Ranking following the World Championship in Czech Republic. In the Pre-tournament report, the points from what will become year 5 (2000 World Championship in Russia) are already taken away while the points from year 4, year 3 and year 2 are accordingly devalued by 25 percent.

For example, the Czechs' 2004 Pre-tournament points are at 2135. If they grab gold in Prague, they will get 1200 fresh points to be added to 2135 for a total of 3335.

**Q: How will the IIHF World Ranking be used as a means to determine future championship seeding?**

A: The World Ranking will be used to determine which teams will get an automatic berth into the 2006 Olympics in Turin. As is clearly shown in the ranking standings to the right, the top eight teams following the 2004 World Championship, will be qualified directly to Turin. The World Ranking will also be used to determine the seeding tiers for the draw for the 2005 World Championship in Austria. Teams ranked 1-4 in the 2004 World Ranking will be in one bowl, teams ranked 5-8 in the next, teams ranked 9-12 in the third and teams ranked 13-16 in the last one.

**Q: What if teams end up with the same amount of points?**

A: The team with the higher position in the 2004 World Championship will get the higher ranking-number.

■ For more information on the IIHF World Ranking, go to this link: [www.iihf.com/hockey/worldranking/worldranking.htm](http://www.iihf.com/hockey/worldranking/worldranking.htm)

**OLYMPIC CHASE:**

USA and the Swiss could be involved in a fierce battle for the eighth ranking position which guarantees automatic entry to Turin 2006. Switzerland will do everything to interfere with American Olympic interests just as Marcel Jenni did with USA's Marty Reasoner in Finland 2003.



**IIHF WORLD RANKING**

2003	Country	Points	04 Pre-tourn.
1	CAN	3685	2285 (1)
2	SWE	3610	2240 (2)
3	CZE	3560	2165 (3)
4	FIN	3525	2155 (5)
5	SVK	3480	2135 (6)
6	RUS	3480	2165 (4)
7	USA	3330	2025 (8)
8	GER	3240	2030 (7)
----- top eight qualify directly for 06 Olympics -----			
9	SUI	3135	1920 (9)
10	LAT	3060	1870 (10)
11	UKR	3010	1860 (11)
12	AUT	2970	1835 (12)
13	BLR	2955	1810 (13)
14	DEN	2665	1675 (14)
15	JPN	2605	1600 (16)
16	SLO	2595	1620 (15)
17	ITA	2585	1555 (19)
18	FRA	2575	1580 (17)
19	POL	2550	1575 (18)
20	NOR	2535	1525 (21)
21	KAZ	2480	1530 (20)
22	HUN	2255	1400 (22)
23	GBR	2230	1350 (23)
24	EST	2135	1315 (24)
25	NED	2135	1315 (25)
26	ROM	1965	1225 (26)
27	LTU	1885	1160 (27)
28	CHN	1805	1090 (28)
29	SCG	1685	1045 (29)
30	BUL	1550	955 (30)
31	CRO	1545	925 (31)
32	KOR	1420	855 (32)
33	BEL	1240	765 (33)
34	ESP	1230	730 (34)
35	ISR	1110	655 (35)
36	AUS	1080	645 (36)
37	RSA	990	590 (37)
38	ISL	930	555 (38)
39	MEX	820	490 (40)
40	NZL	800	470 (41)
41	PRK	680	490 (39)
42	LUX	635	395 (42)
43	TUR	625	390 (43)
44	ARM	0	0
44	IRL	0	0

**Points earned**

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

# Ode to Prague and its IIHF Wo

For Berenson, Prague became "Golden" already in 1959



BERENSON

■ ■ Gordon "Red" Berenson was only 19 when the Belville McFarlands asked him to go to Prague and represent Canada at the 1959 IIHF World Championship. He came back with a gold medal and the scoring title. "I have always had soft spot in my heart for the city and the country", says Berenson 45 years later.

"The Red Baron" went on to have a splendid 16-year professional career and he is in his 20th consecutive season as coach for the NCAA University of Michigan, but he will never forget the ten days in March 1959. It was the first time he was overseas and it was obviously his first contact with international hockey.

"That was an overwhelming experience for me. I was a student at the University of Michigan and was picked up by the McFarlands at Christmas time and suddenly in March I was behind the Iron Curtain playing the world championship as the youngest kid on our team against players I have never heard of."

"But it was a real competitive tournament with the Czechoslovaks, the Soviets and the Swedes having very good teams. I will never forget when I was in the stands watching Czechoslovakia against the Soviet Union and the noise level was unbelievable, you couldn't hear yourself talk."

A young Berenson could see already in 1959 how European hockey was progressing.

"I saw players who could have played in the NHL already at that time", says "Red". "For some reason I remember the Swedes the best. They had a great centre in Nisse Nilsson and two steady defensemen, (Lasse) Bjorn and (Roland) Stoltz. I also remember the great Soviet defenseman (Nikolai) Sologubov. He was the Russian Doug Harvey."

■ ■ Berenson scored a tournament-high nine goals as the Allan Cup champions Belville lost only one game in Prague (to the hosts 5-3) but still needed goal difference to win gold ahead of the surging Soviets.

"I recall that our 3-1-win against the Russians was the key game of the championship", says Berenson.

Thirteen years later, after already having played eleven seasons in the NHL and having won one Stanley Cup (with Montreal in 1965), Berenson was drafted for international duty again. This time it was no amateur Canadian entry that called for his services, but the NHL-stocked Team Canada, which was preparing for the 1972 "Series of the Century" against the Soviets.

"I was one of the few on our team who had played against the Soviets and I knew what to expect. Unfortunately, not many of the guys listened to me."



Photo: HOCKEY HALL OF FAME, Toronto

**THE FLYING MCFARLANDS:** A 19-year old Red Berenson lines up with Team Canada before the start of the 1959 IIHF World Championship in Prague. Berenson (also insert) is third from right in the back row.



The rest is hockey history. Team Canada won the eight game series by the narrowest of margins as

Berenson, in a limited role, played in only two games. Ironically, after finishing the series in Moscow on September 28, Team Canada-72 had one last game to play, an exhibition contest in Prague against the reigning world champion Czechoslovakia.

But Berenson opted not to go back to the city, that he saw for the first time in 1959.

"Some players had a choice of going to Prague or to travel right back to re-join the training camps of our NHL teams and I chose to report to the Detroit camp. I was playing with the Red Wings then. I regret that today. It would have been good to see all the changes and relive some memories."

■ ■ After his retirement in 1978, Berenson went into coaching and in 1984 he returned to his school to take over the struggling hockey program at University of Michigan. He directed Michigan to the 1996 and 1998 NCAA National championships - the eighth and ninth in school history - and has put together a 499-118-41 (.790) record over the last 13 seasons which stands as the winningest mark in NCAA Division I ice hockey during that time.

The former Canadian national team player has become a coaching icon in U.S. college hockey.

"My international experience has helped me a lot in my coaching career", says Berenson. "At Michigan we stress skill development, skating and working on your leg strength during the off-ice season."

■ ■ No other NCAA-program has developed so many players who have gone on to play in the IIHF World U20 Championship and later in pro-hockey than Michigan. Goaltender Al Montoya, who backstopped USA to its first ever World U20 title in Finland last January, is the latest talent to come out of Berenson's

"star factory" in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The list also includes great prospects like Dwight Helminen, Eric Nystrom, Jeff Tambellini, Mike Cammalleri, Mike Komisarek and reigning IIHF World Champion Mike Comrie.

Berenson remains a big fan of international hockey and he says that the IIHF did "the right thing" when it adopted the old NCAA-rule which allows the two line pass.

"I have said from day one to take out the red line. It makes for a better passing game with less congestion in the neutral zone. The Salt Lake City Olympics proved that this was a good decision. The hockey in the Olympics was excellent."

## Other Kings of Prague

**1933: Winthrop "Ding" Palmer, USA.**

■ Feat: Scored nine goals in five games and led Team USA to its first IIHF gold medal.

**1938: John Coulter, Canada.**

■ Feat: Goalie had three shut-outs and allowed six goals in seven games en route to world title.

**1947: Vladimir Zabrodsky, Czechoslovakia.**

■ Feat: Scored 29 goals in seven games as the hosts won their first world title on home ice.

**1985: Jiri Sejba, Czechoslovakia.**

■ Feat: Scored hat-trick against Canada in final game, Czechs won 5-3 and the gold medals.

**1992: Mats Sundin, Sweden.**

■ Feat: Only 21, kept his team alive in early stages and carried it all the way to final victory vs Finland.



Czechs celebrate 1985 victory

# World Championship heroes



"V" AS IN VICTORY: Will Viktor bring back glory to Russian hockey?

## Tikhonov is back were it all started 26 years ago

■ As the Czechoslovaks dominated the international scene in the mid-70s - winning the IIHF World Championship both in 1976 and 1977 - Soviet hockey was in a shaky state. Coach Boris Kulagin failed to deliver gold for two consecutive years and he, of course, had to go after the bronze medal in Vienna 1977.

It was for the 1978 world championship in Prague that the Soviet Ice Hockey Association named the 48-year old Viktor Tikhonov as new coach of "The Big Red Machine". The Czechs were everyone's favourites to grab their third consecutive gold and no one was really surprised when the CSSR-team defeated the Soviets 6-4 in the first game between the only teams that really competed for the gold in the championship.

■ It came down to the decisive game between the fierce rivals on May 14, the last day of the championship. The defending World Champions could afford to tie the game and win gold, while the Soviets had to win. Tikhonov showed great tactical skills as his team frustrated the home favourites and the 14,088 fans in Sportovni Hala with a defensive game plan, which the Czechs never seemed to understand.

Helmut Balderis, Vladimir Petrov and Vladimir Golikov scored one goal in each period and it didn't matter when Ivan Hlinka finally beat Vladimir Tretiak midway through the last period.

This was Viktor Tikhonov's first international success and that would later be followed by seven more IIHF gold medals, three Olympic golds and one Canada Cup victory. When Tikhonov retired from the international game at the age of 64 following the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer (Russia 4th), no one would have thought that he would ever return at this level.

■ But in the summer of 2003, the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia shocked the hockey world by naming the 73-year old Tikhonov as the new coach of the national team. Tikhonov, who will be 74 on June 4, told the *IIHF News Release* last September that he will bring back some of the values which were prevalent during the golden era of Soviet ice hockey:

"Those players who want to play for our team have to follow the rules of the Russian national team. Not the rules of the German team, not the rules of the Swedish or Canadian team, but the rules of our team. When you come to play for our team, you have to follow the discipline which is the same for all. There will be no special treatment."

■ Viktor Tikhonov has also stated that he will only select those Russian NHLers who are 100 percent motivated to play for the national team. The old fox has signed a contract through the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin.

## Prague stood still as Holik crushed Soviet dreams of ten-in-a-row

■ The Czech Republic experienced unprecedented success between 1996 and 2001 when the national team won four IIHF World Championships and the gold medal at the Nagano Olympics. One can also add the double gold at the 2000 and the 2001 IIHF World U20 Championship to the splendid period.

But despite all this, there will be nothing like the 1972 IIHF World Championship in Prague when Jaroslav Holik scored the goal which many Czech hockey fans still consider to be every bit as important as Petr Svoboda's Olympic gold medal winner in Nagano 26 years later.

Just like the USA needed the 1980 Olympic "Miracle on Ice" to boost national morale in sombre times, the situation was similar in Czechoslovakia in the early 70s. As the 39th IIHF World Championships started in Prague, it was only four years after the Warsaw-pact invasion of Czechoslovakia and the capital city in particular in 1968.

■ Also in pure hockey terms, times were not good. The Czechoslovak national team defeated the Soviets in the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble, did it twice in the 1969 IIHF World Championship in Sweden and also in the 1971 IIHF World Championship in Switzerland, but untimely losses to the nemesis Sweden in those tournaments prevented the erratic Czechoslovaks from going all the way.

Going into the 1972 World Championship, Czechoslovakia hadn't won IIHF gold since 1949.

This time the Swedes were easily disposed off, but the Soviets were determined extend their gold medal winning streak to ten years, having won everything between 1963 and 1971. The home team dominated the first game between



HOLY HOLIK: The Czechs will never forget his 1972 heroics in Sportovni Hala.

the two European powers on April 12, leading 2-0 and 3-1, but the Soviets rallied for a 3-3 tie.

■ The second game, on April 20, was to be the decider. In front of the over-capacity crowd of 14,389 fans in the Sportovni Hala, Vaclav Nedomansky and Richard Farda again gave the CSSR-team an early 2-0-cushion. But a bad mistake by the sometimes over-emotional and unpredictable Jaroslav Holik helped the Soviets to narrow the lead early in the second period.

Midway through the game, Jaroslav Holik - who had come back from a two-year suspension for his anti-Soviet statements - found himself on a partial two-on-one break and everyone expected Holik to find the open man. But the older of the Holik brothers took the shot himself, from the between the circles.

■ Vladislav Tretiak in the Soviet net had no chance. Valeri Kharlamov scored to make it 3-2, but the boisterous crowd, and Jiri Holecsek's goaltending, carried their heroes to victory.

Jaroslav, always wearing his number 5 jersey on the national team, finished the tournament with 8 goals and 7 assists in 10 games and was the inspirational leader of the team.

Holik rejoined the national team program in the late 90s and coached the Czech U20 team to gold medals in 2000 and 2001.

Jaroslav, 62, now resides in the city of Jihlava.

■ Jaroslav's son, Robert (NY Rangers), played for Czech Republic in the 1990 and the 1991 IIHF World Championship and also in the 1996 World Cup. "Bobby", who also wore nr. 5 early in his career, has since then acquired U.S. citizenship and has declined any calls to play for his country of birth.



Photo: JAROSLAV SKALA

CZECH THEM OUT: The 1972 heroes salute the fans after the gold medal ceremony in Prague.

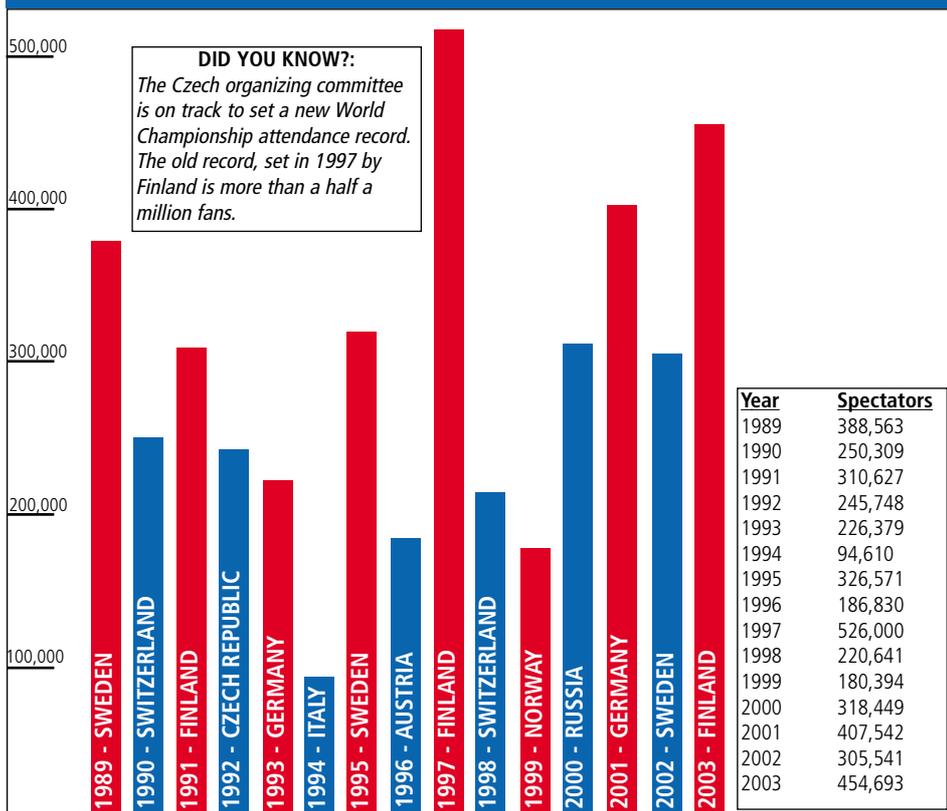
# For the Record: World Championship records ready to be broken

## ALL TIME IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Top Division sorted by points

Country	Years	Games	Wins	Ties	Losses	Points	GF	GA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
TCH/CZE	63	503	324	45	134	693	2344	1160	10	12	19	41
CAN	57	432	302	29	101	633	2391	907	22	10	9	41
SWE	62	499	288	51	160	627	2127	1338	7	17	14	38
URS/RUS	46	381	299	28	54	626	2282	732	23	8	5	36
USA	55	417	188	36	193	412	1643	1607	2	9	4	15
FIN	50	415	167	47	201	381	1413	1631	1	5	1	7
FRG/GER	50	382	114	40	228	268	988	1701	0	1	2	3
SUI	38	252	89	19	144	197	845	1122	0	1	8	9
POL	30	218	45	16	157	106	495	1226	0	0	0	0
AUT	26	153	44	13	96	101	374	671	0	0	2	2
ITA	23	139	37	21	81	95	329	685	0	0	0	0
GBR	15	91	44	4	43	92	298	360	1	2	2	5
NOR	24	148	33	10	105	76	356	746	0	0	0	0
SVK	8	59	31	7	21	69	202	151	1	1	1	3
DDR	14	119	27	10	82	64	277	653	0	1	0	1
LAT	12	67	25	5	37	55	181	222	0	0	0	0
FRA	20	97	24	2	71	50	185	444	0	0	0	0
HUN	11	62	16	7	39	39	113	176	0	0	0	0
BLR	5	30	14	2	14	30	73	86	0	0	0	0
ROM	10	60	13	1	46	27	125	372	0	0	0	0
JPN	12	59	10	5	44	25	164	395	0	0	0	0
YUG	3	19	8	2	9	18	68	131	0	0	0	0
UKR	5	27	7	1	19	15	55	109	0	0	0	0
BEL	12	43	6	1	36	13	83	418	0	0	0	0
SLO	2	12	3	1	8	7	27	63	0	0	0	0
NED	4	22	2	0	20	4	34	156	0	0	0	0
DEN	2	9	1	1	7	3	17	107	0	0	0	0
LIT	1	4	1	0	3	2	3	33	0	0	0	0
KAZ	1	3	0	0	3	0	6	19	0	0	0	0
AUS	1	6	0	0	6	0	10	87	0	0	0	0

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ATTENDANCE (SINCE 1989)



## IIHF World Championship All-Time Record Book

### Most World Championships (top pool)

- Jiri Holik TCH 14 (1964-1977)
- Sven Tumba (Johansson) SWE 14 (1952-1966)
- Lasse Oksanen FIN 13 (1964-1977)
- Dieter Hegen FRG 13 (1982-1998)
- Ronald Pettersson SWE 13 (1955-1967)
- Vladislav Tretiak URS 13 (1970-1983)
- Udo Kiessling FRG 13 (1973-1991, 1974, 1975)

### Most World Championship games

- Jiri Holik TCH 123
- Lasse Oksanen FIN 117
- Vladislav Tretiak URS 117
- Oldrich Machac TCH 113
- Udo Kiessling FRG 109

### Most World Championship points

- Boris Mikhailov URS 169
- Valeri Kharlamov URS 159
- Alexander Maltsev URS 156
- Vladimir Petrov URS 154
- Sven Tumba SWE 127

### Most World Championship medals

- 13 medals - Vladislav Tretiak, URS 10G 2S 1B
- 12 medals - Alexander Ragulin, URS 10G 1S 1B
- 12 medals - Alexander Maltsev, URS 9G 2S 1B
- 12 medals - Vladimir Petrov, URS 9G 2S 1B
- 10 medals - Vitaly Davydov, URS 9G 1S
- 10 medals - Vyacheslav Starshinov, URS 9G 1B

2004 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL

# World Ranking will determine groups in Turin

The IIHF Council decided during its meeting on March 23 in Zurich that both men's and women's groups for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy (February 10 - 26) will be based upon the 2004 IIHF World Ranking.

The men's 2004 IIHF World Ranking will be determined immediately following the conclusion of the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Czech Republic (April 26 - May 9) while the women's 2004 IIHF World Ranking was established immediately following the 2004 IIHF World Women Championship in Canada (March 30 - April 6).

### Men's Olympic Preliminary Round Groups:

The following formula will be used in determining the men's Olympic Preliminary Round Groups (12 teams):

<b>Group A:</b>	<b>Group B:</b>	
Team ranked 1	Team ranked 2	
Team ranked 4	Team ranked 3	
Team ranked 5	Team ranked 6	
Team ranked 8	Team ranked 7	
----- to quarter-final		
Team ranked 9	Team ranked 10	
Italy ranked 12	Team ranked 11	

See page 5 for the current 2003 IIHF World Men's Ranking.

□ The top eight ranked teams in the 2004 IIHF World Ranking will get an automatic entry to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Host Italy (pre-determined ranking 12) will get a direct entry to the Preliminary Round while the remaining three teams will be determined following the Olympic Qualification Tournaments in February 2005.

### Women's Olympic Preliminary Round Groups:

The following formula will be used in determining the women's Olympic Preliminary Round Groups (8 teams):

<b>Group A:</b>	<b>Group B:</b>	
Team ranked 1	Team ranked 2	
Team ranked 4	Team ranked 3	
----- to semi-final		
Team ranked 5	Team ranked 6	
Italy ranked 8	Team ranked 7	

Check the IIHF.com for the current IIHF World Women's Ranking following the 2004 IIHF World Championship in Canada.

□ The top four ranked teams in the 2004 IIHF World Women's Ranking will get an automatic entry to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Host Italy (pre-determined ranking 8) will get a direct entry to the Preliminary Round while the remaining three teams will be determined following the Olympic Qualification Tournaments in November 2004.



## IHWC.net is your best source to Czech Republic 2004

■ The IHWC.net has, within only four years, established itself as one of the biggest and best annual sport event websites in the world.

The traffic of the official website of the IIHF World Championship reached a new all time high during last year's championship in Finland.

Approximately 19 million page impressions were recorded during the 16 days as the 2003 event exceeded the figures from Sweden 2002 and Germany 2001 by 300 percent.

■ At peak hours more than 120,000 users were online simultaneously, checking the live scoring, game and team statistics, game stories or enjoying interactive features such as the message board or sending in questions to one of the players. The IHWC.net viewers spent on average approximately 20 minutes surfing the site.

The editorial crew with Lucas Aykroyd, Andrew Podnieks, John Sanful and Peter Westermarck will again provide the hockey fans around the world with high quality journalism; features, previews, game stories, interviews and news while a newly assembled rotation of international experts will deliver insightful and thought provoking daily columns. The site also holds a Photo Gallery with images from every game.

## Great Britain's junior program is on a roll

■ Great Britain's Under-18 and Under-20 national teams experienced unprecedented success earning promotions at both this year's IIHF U18 and U20 Division II tournaments after finishing with similar 5-0-0 records at the championships.

This year's success has been a long time in the making as Great Britain has slowly been improving its junior teams. Last year, it's U20 team came close to earning the promotion from Division II, taking home silver.

■ The recent improvement can be attributed to several things, an increase in interest in the sport of hockey in Great Britain and better, more educated coaches. Great Britain was also one of the first nations to join the IIHF's Hockey 2000 Project, which gave youth

players a chance to participate in different development camps. This year's U20 team featured players that were a part of the first class from the IIHF Hockey 2000 Project and the roster virtually reads like an alumni list from that first year of campers.

At each tournament all of Great Britain's top scorers were Development Camp alumni. One of Britain's rising stars, Leigh Jameison, was a defenseman for the golden U20 team, will most likely represent Great Britain at the World Championship and was recently named as one of Britain's top professional players.

■ The gradual improvement at the junior ranks could be a sign of good things to come and can only help the surging nation to continue to focus on moving its national teams up the IIHF Championship ladder.

## SC Bern tops European attendance "Top 20" for third consecutive year



■ SC Bern of the Swiss Nationalliga A is the undisputed leader in European league attendance figures for the third consecutive year. Bern, which has increased its average figures in each of the three previous seasons, is the first European club to reach the 13,000 mark since the IIHF started to collect the European club numbers four years ago.

Bern is followed by two clubs from the German DEL-league, Kölner Haie (Cologne) and the Hamburg Freezers, while Sweden's Frölunda (Göteborg) held on to their fourth spot. Numbers in brackets indicate position from last season, while the last number is the percentage of arena capacity.

### Best attendance in European leagues 2003-2004

1. (1) SC Bern	(SUI)	13,034	79,8%
2. (2) Kölner Haie	(GER)	12,887	69,6%
3. (3) Hamburg Freezers	(GER)	11,351	88,9%



GOOD DRAW: Swedish Frölunda.

4. (4) Frölunda, Göteborg	(SWE)	10,942	90,8%
5. (5) Jokerit, Helsinki	(FIN)	9,093	66,5%
6. (6) Lokomotiv Yaroslavl	(RUS)	8,824	97,5%
7. (10) HC Pardubice	(CZE)	8,200	88,2%
8. (8) Färjestad, Karlstad	(SWE)	7,839	96,1%
9. (9) TPS Turku	(FIN)	7,705	65,2%
10. (7) ZSC Lions, Zurich	(SUI)	7,615	66,2%
11. (11) Djurgarden, Stockholm	(SWE)	7,404	
12. (X) Amur Khabarovsk	(RUS)	7,100	
13. (12) HIFK Helsinki	(FIN)	6,624	
14. (14) Düsseldorf Metro Stars	(GER)	6,512	
15. (19) Frankfurt Lions	(GER)	6,156	
16. (15) HV 71, Jönköping	(SWE)	6,117	
17. (16) Karpat, Oulu	(FIN)	6,081	
18. (13) HC Plzen	(CZE)	5,881	
19. (X) Nürnberg Ice Tigers	(GER)	5,591	
20. (18) HC Lausanne	(SUI)	5,518	



CROWDED HOUSE: The Kölner Haie have an average of 12,887 fans in the grand KölnArena.

RESULTS SUMMARY

**IIHF World Women Championship**

Halifax & Dartmouth, CANADA, 30 Mar 2004 - 06 Apr. 2004

**Preliminary Round**

**Group A** (in Halifax)

China - Canada	0 - 11	(0-4, 0-3, 0-4)
Germany - China	4 - 2	(0-1, 1-1, 3-0)
Canada - Germany	13 - 0	(8-0, 3-0, 2-0)

Canada	2	2	0	0	24	-	4
Germany	2	1	0	1	4	-	15
China	2	0	0	2	2	-	15

**Group B** (in Halifax)

Switzerland - USA	1 - 9	(1-1, 0-4, 0-4)
Russia - Switzerland	2 - 1	(1-0, 1-0, 0-1)
USA - Russia	8 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 4-0)

USA	2	2	0	0	17	-	1
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	-	9
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	1	-	11

**Group C** (in Dartmouth)

Japan - Sweden	2 - 8	(0-2, 2-4, 0-2)
Finland - Japan	1 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Sweden - Finland	2 - 2	(2-0, 0-1, 0-1)

Sweden	2	1	1	0	10	-	4
Finland	2	1	1	0	3	-	2
Japan	2	0	0	2	2	-	9

**Group D** (in Halifax)

Canada - USA	1 - 3	(1-2, 0-1, 0-0)
Sweden - Canada	1 - 7	(1-0, 0-4, 0-3)
USA - Sweden	9 - 2	(3-1, 1-1, 5-0)

USA	2	2	0	0	12	-	3
Canada	2	1	0	1	8	-	4
Sweden	2	0	0	2	3	-	16

**Group E** (in Halifax)

Germany - Russia	2 - 4	(0-1, 2-2, 0-1)
Finland - Germany	4 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Russia - Finland	1 - 2	(1-0, 0-2, 0-0)

Finland	2	2	0	0	6	-	1
Russia	2	1	0	1	5	-	4
Germany	2	0	0	2	2	-	8

**Group F** (in Halifax)

China - Switzerland	6 - 3	(2-1, 3-1, 1-1)
Japan - China	2 - 5	(0-2, 0-1, 2-2)
Switzerland - Japan	4 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 3-0)

China	2	2	0	0	11	-	5
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	7	-	9
Japan	2	0	0	2	2	-	9

**Finals** (in Halifax)

Bronze Medal Game		
Finland - Sweden	3 - 2	(1-0, 1-0, 1-1)
Gold Medal Game		
USA - Canada	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-1, 0-1)

**Individual scoring**

1. BOTTERILL Jennifer	CAN	5	3	8	11
2. DARWITZ Natalie	USA	5	7	3	10
2. HEFFORD Jayna	CAN	5	7	3	10
4. OUELLETTE Caroline	CAN	5	3	6	9
5. WENDELL Krissy	USA	4	4	3	7
6. GOYETTE Danielle	CAN	5	2	5	7
6. RUGGIERO Angela	USA	5	2	5	7
8. PIPER Cherie	CAN	5	1	6	7
9. POTTER Jenny	USA	5	3	3	6
10. HOLMLOV Elin	SWE	5	2	4	6

■ Japan and Switzerland relegated to the 2004 IIHF World Women U20 Division I. Kazakhstan is promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Women Championship.

**IIHF Directorate Awards**

**Goaltender:** Kim St-Pierre (CAN)  
**Defenseman:** Angela Ruggiero (USA)  
**Forward:** Jayna Hefford (CAN)

**IIHF World Women Championship, Div I**

Ventspils, LATVIA 14-20 March 2004

Norway - France	3 - 3	(1-2, 2-0, 0-1)
Latvia - Czech Republic	1 - 4	(0-1, 1-3, 0-0)
DPR Korea - Kazakhstan	1 - 4	(0-0, 1-4, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Norway	4 - 3	(2-2, 0-0, 2-1)

France - DPR Korea	6 - 0	(3-0, 3-0, 0-0)
Kazakhstan - Latvia	3 - 3	(0-3, 1-0, 2-0)
Kazakhstan - Norway	1 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Czech Republic - France	3 - 3	(1-1, 1-1, 1-1)
DPR Korea - Latvia	1 - 4	(0-0, 0-1, 1-3)
France - Kazakhstan	0 - 4	(0-2, 0-0, 0-2)
Czech Republic - DPR Korea	8 - 1	(0-1, 6-0, 2-0)
Latvia - Norway	7 - 5	(4-0, 2-3, 3-3)
Norway - DPR Korea	7 - 2	(2-0, 3-1, 2-1)
France - Latvia	2 - 3	(1-0, 1-1, 0-2)
Kazakhstan - Czech Republic	3 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 1-0)

Kazakhstan	5	4	1	0	15	-	4
Czech Republic	5	3	1	1	19	-	11
Latvia	5	3	1	1	18	-	15
France	5	1	2	2	14	-	13
Norway	5	1	1	3	18	-	17
DPR Korea	5	0	0	5	5	-	29

■ Kazakhstan promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Women Championship. Norway & DPR Korea relegated to 2005 Div. II.

**Individual scoring**

1. ASK Hege	NOR	5	5	3	8
2. KOKA Iveta	LAT	5	2	6	8
3. DUCHAMP Christine	FRA	5	4	2	6
3. FIALOVA Drahomira	CZE	5	4	2	6
3. HOLESOVA Eva	CZE	5	4	2	6
3. KRALOVA Zuzana	CZE	5	4	2	6
7. ALEXEYEV Lyubov	KAZ	5	3	3	6
8. GECAMILJONE Inese	LAT	5	5	0	5
9. MARTINSEN Helene	NOR	5	4	1	5
9. POTAPOVA Olga	KAZ	5	4	1	5

**IIHF World Women Championship, Div II**

Vipiteno-Sterzing, ITALY 14 - 20 March. 2004

Netherlands- Slovakia	1 - 5	(0-0, 1-3, 0-2)
Great Britain - Denmark	2 - 3	(0-1, 2-1, 0-1)
Australia - Italy	0 - 7	(0-2, 0-4, 0-1)
Denmark - Netherlands	4 - 1	(1-0, 1-0, 2-1)
Slovakia - Australia	8 - 1	(2-0, 3-1, 3-0)
Italy - Great Britain	10 - 2	(2-1, 3-1, 5-0)
Denmark - Australia	10 - 0	(1-0, 5-0, 4-0)
Great Britain - Netherlands	0 - 1	(0-1, 0-0, 0-0)
Slovakia - Italy	1 - 2	(1-1, 0-1, 0-0)
Netherlands - Australia	5 - 1	(2-0, 0-1, 3-0)
Slovakia - Great Britain	11 - 0	(4-0, 3-0, 4-0)
Italy - Denmark	1 - 4	(0-1, 0-2, 1-1)
Denmark - Slovakia	3 - 3	(0-0, 1-2, 2-1)
Australia - Great Britain	4 - 2	(1-0, 0-0, 3-2)
Italy - Netherlands	4 - 0	(10-, 2-0, 1-0)

Denmark	5	4	1	0	24	-	7
Italy	5	4	0	1	24	-	7
Slovakia	5	3	1	1	28	-	7
Netherlands	5	2	0	3	8	-	14
Australia	5	1	0	4	6	-	32
Great Britain	5	0	0	5	6	-	29

■ Denmark promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Women Div. I Championship. Australia & Gr. Britain relegated to 2005 Div. III.

**Individual scoring**

1. BONA Nicole	ITA	5	3	9	12
2. LEITNER Maria Michela	ITA	5	7	4	11
3. PERRY Tine	DEN	5	5	5	10
4. HENRIKSEN Marie	DEN	5	3	7	10
5. LUND Sofie	DEN	5	8	1	9
6. FLORIAN Sabina	ITA	5	6	1	7
7. VELICKOVA Martina	SVK	5	5	2	7
8. MORAVCIKOVA Zuzana	SVK	5	4	2	6
9. BABONYOVA Natalie	SVK	5	3	3	6
10. OLAUSSON Maria	DEN	5	5	0	5

**IIHF World Women Championship, Div III**

Maribor, SLOVENIA 21- 28 March 2004

Austria - Hungary	8 - 1	(2-0, 1-0, 5-1)
Korea - Belgium	1 - 2	(0-0, 0-1, 1-1)
Romania - Slovenia	0 - 5	(0-1, 0-1, 0-3)
Belgium - Austria	1 - 10	(0-5, 1-3, 0-2)
Hungary - Romania	3 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 3-0)
Slovenia - Korea	10 - 1	(1-1, 5-0, 4-0)
Romania - Korea	4 - 3	(0-0, 1-1, 3-1)
Belgium - Hungary	3 - 4	(1-1, 1-2, 1-1)
Slovenia - Austria	1 - 3	(0-1, 1-1, 0-1)
Belgium - Romania	6 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 3-0)
Korea - Austria	1 - 10	(1-2, 0-4, 0-4)
Hungary - Slovenia	3 - 8	(0-4, 3-0, 0-2)

Hungary - Korea	4 - 1	(2-1, 1-0, 1-0)
Austria - Romania	4 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 2-0)
Slovenia - Belgium	4 - 1	(1-0, 1-1, 2-0)

Austria	5	5	0	0	35	-	4
Slovenia	5	4	0	1	28	-	8
Hungary	5	3	0	2	15	-	20
Belgium	5	2	0	3	13	-	19
Romania	5	1	0	4	4	-	21
Korea	5	0	0	5	7	-	30

■ Austria promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Women Championship Division II.

**Individual scoring**

1. ROSAR Jasmina	SLO	5	11	6	17
2. PREZELJ Ina	SLO	5	9	8	17
3. ALTMANN Denise	AUT	5	6	5	11
4. SCHWARZLER Eva Maria	AUT	5	6	3	9
5. PREN Pia	SLO	5	4	3	7

**IIHF World Championship, Div III**

Reykjavik, ICELAND 16-21 March 2004

Iceland - Mexico	3 - 8	(2-2, 1-4, 0-2)
Turkey - Iceland	5 - 7	(2-5, 1-1, 2-1)
Armenia - Ireland	1 - 15	(1-3, 0-5, 0-7)
Mexico - Turkey	2 - 3	(0-1, 1-0, 1-2)
Iceland - Armenia	30 - 0	(13-0, 13-0, 4-0)
Ireland - Iceland	1 - 7	(1-1, 0-6, 0-0)
Turkey - Ireland	7 - 4	(2-1, 4-0, 1-3)
Mexico - Armenia	17 - 0	(3-0, 9-0, 5-0)
Armenia - Turkey	1 - 11	(0-7, 1-3, 0-1)
Iceland - Mexico	2 - 2	(1-1, 0-0, 1-1)

Iceland	4	3	1	0	46	-	8
Turkey	4	3	0	1	26	-	14
Mexico	4	2	1	1	29	-	8
Ireland	4	1	0	3	23	-	23
Armenia	4	0	0	4	2	-	73

■ Iceland & Turkey are promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Championship Division II.

**Individual scoring**

1. MAGNUSON Jonas	ISL	4	10	2	12
2. ROBERTS Juan Pablo	MEX	4	3	8	11
3. JONSSON Ingvar	ISL	4	5	5	10
4. GISLASON Jon	ISL	4	3	7	10
5. MCCORMICK Clark	ISL	4	1	9	10
6. EROGLU Onur	TUR	4	6	3	9
7. CIPLAK Cengiz	TUR	4	5	3	8
8. JUROVICH Lawrence	IRL	4	4	4	8
8. RUNARSSON Runar	ISL	4	4	4	8
10. HEIMISSON Dadi	ISL	4	2	6	8

**IIHF World U18 Championship, Div I, Gr. A**

Amstetten, AUSTRIA 27 March - 2 April 2004

Latvia - Poland	5 - 2	(2-0, 1-0, 2-2)
Romania - Switzerland	1 - 12	(0-2, 0-4, 1-6)
Austria - Slovenia	2 - 7	(1-3, 0-1, 1-3)
Slovenia - Romania	6 - 1	(3-1, 0-1, 1-3)
Switzerland - Latvia	6 - 2	(4-0, 1-1, 1-1)
Poland - Austria	3 - 4	(2-0, 0-3, 1-1)
Romania - Latvia	0 - 14	(0-1, 0-7, 0-4)
Poland - Slovenia	1 - 2	(1-0, 0-1, 0-1)
Switzerland - Austria	4 - 1	(0-1, 3-0, 1-0)
Poland - Romania	2 - 2	(1-0, 1-1, 0-1)
Slovenia - Switzerland	2 - 6	(1-1, 1-1, 0-4)
Latvia - Austria	3 - 6	(0-1, 0-2, 3-3)
Switzerland - Poland	7 - 4	(2-1, 2-2, 3-1)
Slovenia - Latvia	3 - 3	(0-1, 2-1, 1-1)
Austria - Romania	8 - 1	(1-1, 3-0, 4-0)

Switzerland	5	5	0	0	35	-	10

**RESULTS SUMMARY**

**IIHF World U18 Championship, Div I, Gr. B**

Asiago, ITALY 29 March - 4 April 2004

France - Germany	5 - 2	(2-0, 1-0, 2-2)
Korea - Kazakhstan	2 - 2	(1-0, 0-0, 1-2)
Japan - Italy	2 - 1	(2-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Kazakhstan - France	3 - 2	(0-2, 3-0, 0-0)
Germany - Japan	11 - 4	(3-2, 2-1, 6-1)
Italy - Korea	5 - 1	(3-0, 1-1, 1-0)
Kazakhstan - Japan	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 0-1)
Korea - France	2 - 7	(1-4, 1-1, 0-2)
Germany - Italy	7 - 1	(4-1, 1-0, 2-0)
France - Japan	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-1, 0-1)
Germany - Korea	8 - 2	(2-2, 3-0, 3-0)
Italy - Kazakhstan	3 - 2	(0-0, 2-0, 1-2)
Kazakhstan - Germany	4 - 10	(0-2, 2-3, 2-5)
Japan - Korea	4 - 1	(0-0, 2-1, 2-0)
Italy - France	4 - 4	(3-0, 0-4, 1-0)

Germany	5	5	0	0	38	-	12	10
Japan	5	4	0	1	14	-	14	8
Italy	5	2	1	2	14	-	16	5
Kazakhstan	5	1	1	3	12	-	19	3
France	5	1	1	3	14	-	13	3
Korea	5	0	1	4	8	-	26	1

■ Germany is promoted to the 2005 IIHF World U18 Championship. Korea is relegated to U18 Division II.

**Individual scoring**

1. PIETTA Daniel	GER	5	8	3	11
2. PIELLEIER Thomas	GER	5	8	2	10
3. SCHLAGER Phillip	GER	5	2	8	10
4. SCHIETZOLD Andre	GER	5	4	5	9
5. GOGULLA Philip	GER	5	2	5	7
6. GAWLIK Christoph	GER	5	2	4	6
7. BORDYUG Andrei	KAZ	5	3	2	5
7. SCHOBEL Mats	GER	5	3	2	5
7. MULLER Moritz	GER	5	3	2	5
10. SAAL Anton	GER	5	2	3	5

**IIHF World U18 Championship, Div II, Gr. A**

Debrecen, HUNGARY 28 March - 3 April 2004

Iceland - Ukraine	0 - 21	(0-8, 0-7, 0-6)
Spain - Netherlands	6 - 9	(3-3, 1-3, 2-3)
Belgium - Hungary	3 - 13	(1-4, 1-5, 1-4)
Netherlands - Iceland	11 - 1	(6-0, 1-0, 4-1)
Ukraine - Belgium	14 - 2	(4-1, 3-0, 7-1)
Hungary - Spain	8 - 1	(1-1, 2-0, 5-0)
Ukraine - Spain	11 - 2	(3-1, 5-1, 3-0)
Iceland - Belgium	4 - 3	(2-1, 1-0, 1-2)
Hungary - Netherlands	5 - 5	(1-0, 2-3, 2-2)
Belgium - Spain	3 - 3	(2-0, 0-2, 1-1)
Netherlands - Ukraine	1 - 11	(0-4, 1-2, 0-5)
Hungary - Iceland	13 - 4	(4-2, 3-2, 6-0)
Netherlands - Belgium	15 - 1	(9-0, 3-1, 3-0)
Spain - Iceland	9 - 5	(2-4, 4-1, 3-0)
Ukraine - Hungary	5 - 2	(3-0, 1-1, 1-1)

Ukraine	5	5	0	0	62	-	7	10
Hungary	5	3	1	1	41	-	18	7
Netherlands	5	3	1	1	41	-	24	7
Spain	5	1	1	3	21	-	36	3
Iceland	5	1	0	4	14	-	57	2
Belgium	5	0	1	4	12	-	49	2

■ Ukraine is promoted to the 2005 IIHF World U18 Division I Championship. Belgium is relegated to U18 Division III.

**Individual scoring**

1. YEGOROV Yegor	UKR	5	6	12	18
2. BORYSENKO Pavlo	UKR	5	11	4	15
3. RAMOUL Akim	NED	5	9	5	14
4. SZAJBERT Patrik	HUN	5	6	8	14
5. VOYTSEKHVSKY Oleksi	UKR	5	9	4	13
6. FEKTI Balint	HUN	5	5	6	11
7. VAN BENTEM Alan	NED	5	9	1	10
8. PEREZ Desiderio	ESP	5	7	3	10
9. BRUIJSTEN Kevin	NED	5	6	4	10
9. KRIVDA Roman	UKR	5	6	4	10
9. OLIYNYK Ivan	UKR	5	6	4	10

**IIHF World 18 Championship, Div II, Gr. B**

Elektrėnai & Kaunas, LITHUANIA 1-7 March 2004

Australia - Great Britain	0 - 14	(0-5, 0-3, 0-6)
Serbia & Mont. - Estonia	0 - 10	(0-3, 0-5, 0-2)

Lithuania - Croatia	1 - 4	(1-3, 0-0, 0-1)
Great Britain - Serbia & Mont.	5 - 3	(1-0, 2-1, 2-2)
Estonia - Lithuania	4 - 2	(2-0, 2-0, 0-2)
Croatia - Australia	6 - 0	(1-0, 3-0, 2-0)
Estonia - Croatia	5 - 1	(1-0, 2-0, 2-1)
Australia - Serbia & Mont.	2 - 5	(0-1, 2-3, 0-1)
Great Britain - Lithuania	2 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 1-1)
Croatia - Great Britain	1 - 7	(0-1, 0-4, 1-2)
Estonia - Australia	15 - 1	(6-1, 2-0, 7-1)
Serbia & Mont. - Lithuania	3 - 4	(1-2, 1-0, 1-2)
Croatia - Serbia & Mont.	5 - 1	(1-0, 1-1, 3-0)
Great Britain - Estonia	2 - 1	(0-0, 0-0, 2-1)
Lithuania - Australia	2 - 2	(2-1, 0-1, 0-0)

Great Britain	5	5	0	0	30	-	6	10
Estonia	5	4	0	1	35	-	6	8
Croatia	5	3	0	2	17	-	14	6
Lithuania	5	1	1	3	10	-	15	3
Serbia & Mont.	5	1	0	4	12	-	26	2
Australia	5	0	1	4	5	-	42	1

■ Great Britain promoted to the 2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Division I. Australia relegated to Div. III

**Individual scoring**

1. CARLON Tom	GBR	5	10	4	14
2. POLOZOV Aleksandr	EST	5	6	7	13
3. KUZMIN Ivan	EST	5	3	9	12
4. KAIIDAS Aleksandr	EST	5	8	3	11
5. NEKRASSOV Anton	EST	4	7	4	11
6. RICHARDSON Mark	GBR	5	2	8	10
7. KAZLAUSKAS Deividas	LTU	5	5	2	7
8. TSEGOTOV Ilja	EST	5	4	3	7
9. SVAROGIN Filip	EST	5	1	6	7
10. WATT Nicky	GBR	5	6	0	6

**IIHF World U18 Championship, Div III**

Sofia, BULAGRIA 06-14 March 2004

Bulgaria - New Zealand	1 - 4	(0-0, 0-2, 1-2)
Mexico - Israel	10 - 0	(2-0, 5-0, 3-0)
Turkey - Bosnia & Herzgovina	7 - 3	(4-0, 3-1, 0-2)
New Zealand - South Africa	2 - 2	(0-1, 1-0, 1-1)
Israel - South Africa	1 - 7	(0-2, 1-3, 0-2)
Bosnia & Herzgovina - Mexico	1 - 10	(0-1, 0-2, 1-7)
South Africa - Israel	6 - 4	(5-1, 0-1, 1-2)
Turkey - New Zealand	0 - 8	(0-1, 0-3, 0-4)
Bulgaria - Bosnia & Herzgovina	7 - 2	(5-1, 1-1, 1-0)
New Zealand - Mexico	0 - 2	(0-1, 0-1, 0-0)
Israel - Turkey	4 - 1	(2-0, 2-1, 0-0)
Bosnia & Herzgovina - S. Africa	0 - 14	(0-4, 0-2, 0-8)
Israel - New Zealand	1 - 3	(0-0, 1-1, 0-2)
South Africa - Turkey	10 - 1	(2-0, 5-0, 3-1)
Bulgaria - Mexico	1 - 6	(0-4, 0-1, 1-1)
New Zealand - Bosnia & Herz.	11 - 0	(5-0, 1-0, 5-0)
Turkey - Bulgaria	3 - 6	(0-3, 1-1, 2-2)
Mexico - South Africa	4 - 2	(0-1, 2-0, 2-1)
Bosnia & Herzgovina - Israel	1 - 5	(0-1, 2-0, 2-1)
Mexico - Turkey	9 - 0	(3-0, 3-0, 3-0)
South Africa - Bulgaria	6 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0)

Mexico	6	6	0	0	41	-	4	12
South Africa	6	4	1	1	40	-	11	9
New Zealand	6	4	1	1	28	-	6	9
Bulgaria	6	3	0	3	22	-	22	6
Israel	6	2	0	4	15	-	28	4
Turkey	6	1	0	5	12	-	40	2
Bosnia & Herzgovina	6	0	0	6	7	-	54	0

■ Mexico and South Africa are promoted to the 2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Division II.

**Individual scoring**

1. GLENNIE Eduardo	MEX	6	13	7	20
2. KELLO Christofer	MEX	6	12	7	19
3. CORNFORTH Matthew	RSA	6	8	6	14
4. GENIS Johann	RSA	6	6	8	14
5. ASHWORTH Ian	RSA	6	6	7	13
6. ZAMIR Omar	ISR	6	11	1	12
7. SIERRA Santiago	MEX	6	4	8	12
8. BOYADJIEV Martin	BUL	6	10	1	11
9. RAMOS Martin	MEX	6	6	5	11
10. ARGYLE Hayden	NZL	6	7	2	9

# Same Ice - Different Sport

■ Hungarian defenseman Zita Gebora traded in her sequins for sticks.

The former figure skater made the rare transition from twirling gracefully around the ice rink to defending the crease and patrolling the blueline.

The jump may seem like a quantum leap to some, but for Gebora it was just a matter of timing and fate that helped her make the transition from figure skating to hockey.

Not that the transition was easy.

"Figure skating is more of an artistic sport and hockey is a very technical sport," Gebora said. "The most important things in ice hockey are the power and of course good teammates."

Gebora was one of the most successful Hungarian figure skaters, earning a fourth-place finish at the Junior World Championship and 17th place in the Senior European Championship and missed participating in the Olympics by a very slim margin. But when Gebora's pairs partner Andras Visontai retired in 2002, Gebora couldn't stay far away from the ice.

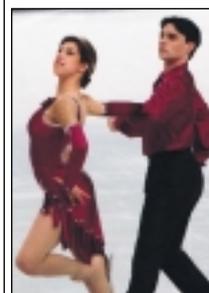
First she started working at the nation's biggest outdoor rink in Budapest teaching children how to skate, but her competitive spirit soon took over again and she was looking for a way to stay active and competitive. One of her future teammates saw her skating and convinced her to come to practice with her club team, Ferencvaros.

■ Gebora was a natural and within one year was asked to join the Hungarian national team. Most recently she earned a bronze medal at the 2004 IIHF Division III World Women's Championship as a defenseman for Team Hungary.

"Originally I started playing because I missed the ice so much," Gebora said. "But now I am enjoying the teamwork and being around the team and am focused on getting Hungary up to the Division II level."

Gebora may be the first woman to make such a big jump in ice sports, but hopes that she can set an example, which others will want to follow. While she cherishes her memories as a figure skater, the rookie defenseman is eager to reach her ice hockey goals.

"I have no regrets about my choice to start ice hockey," Gebora said. "I would like to get better every year and continue to learn about this sport."



**THEN:** Zita Gebora with her pairs partner, Andras Visontai, during a competition.



**& NOW:** Zita Gebora with her teammates proudly leaves the ice with a bronze medal.

# A dream come true: **JAGR** is back in Czech

By John Sanful

■ ■ NEW YORK (Special to IIHF): As the chapter on another regular season closes, a new page is open at the 2004 IIHF World Championships in the Czech Republic for New York Rangers forward Jaromir Jagr. Jagr, perhaps the greatest Czech to ever play in the NHL, will represent his country's national team, performing in front of home fans in Prague's Sazka Arena.

There is obvious excitement about the upcoming tournament -- and Jagr's availability to the Czech team -- so much that organizers have already sold out most games and there is a strong possibility of perhaps exceeding the attendance record set in Finland 1997.

"It is different than years before because it is in my home country," said Jagr of performing in front of the home crowd. "Fans are thinking about the tournament and there is also big pressure on the team to do well."

■ ■ At 31, Jagr has done almost everything in an illustrious career that saw the boy from Kladno take the hockey world by storm. Jagr has earned personal and team accolades on a professional level but with a victory at home, he would become the first Czech player to join the Triple Gold Club (World Championship, Olympic gold and Stanley Cup).

The only one of the three that has eluded Jagr is an IIHF World Championship gold. (See chart below.)

Even after winning two Stanley Cups ('91 and '92) and an Olympic gold medal ('98), Jagr thinks the World Championship gold may be the most elusive of all.

"When the Czech Republic was winning gold medals in the World Championships (three consecutive golds 1999-2001) I was in the NHL playoffs and did not have a chance to play on those great teams. It's not easy to win the World Championships. Even if you have a good team there is no guarantee you will win; I think if you have a good team you have a better chance to win the Stanley Cup than the World Championship because it depends on so many things, including if the goalie is hot. One little mistake or one big save can change the whole tournament."

That was exactly the case at the the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden, the last time Jagr represented the Czech Republic. Coming in as three-time defending champion, the Czechs lost in a quarterfinals shocker to Russia, ending a string of three straight gold medals.



Photo: CITY PRESS, Berlin

**NEEDS TO BRING HIS "A" GAME:** After being a force in the Czech's run for gold in the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, super star Jaromir Jagr missed the medal podium in both the 2002 IIHF World Championship and in the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. "JJ" definitely wants to be on top of his game in front of the Prague fans.

■ ■ The 2004 IIHF World Championship is a big moment in Czech hockey history. The Czechs will attempt to do something they've not done since 1985: Win a gold medal on home ice. Czechoslovakia beat Canada that year at home to win the gold. But even as the Czech program was influential throughout the 80's, Jagr's attention -- from a hockey

standpoint -- was fixed elsewhere.

"When I was a kid my favorite team was Finland, to be honest. I don't know why, maybe because they were always underdogs. I had a Finland flag that my mother made for me. I remember players like Jari Kurri, Petri Skriko and all those guys. I was a kid and I picked my favorite team and followed them because I was crazy about the Finns."

In addition to his love of all things Finnish, Jagr grew up idolizing a player who would be an important part of his development when he arrived in North America; that player was Mario Lemieux.

"Growing up I followed Mario Lemieux because he was my favorite player," said Jagr about the influential player in his career. "When I saw him I thought that is how I want to play. And because he was so strong and so good in dominating a game, I said that is the way I want to be."

After being drafted fifth overall by the Penguins in 1990 Jagr had the opportunity to play with his idol and, as they say, the rest is history.

"It was huge (being selected by Pittsburgh); sometimes you just don't know what is going to happen in your life, what you wish for could possibly happen, and then when it does what an amazing story."

■ ■ Now as the international hockey community fixes its eyes on Prague and Ostrava, the Czechs will inevitably try putting together an impressive roster of domestic and NHL based stars. While Jagr could be the highest profile name in the tournament, there will likely be other important skaters competing for the Czech

Republic. With that in mind, a keen eye will be kept on North American happenings as to who will be available.

"There are so many Czech skaters who will be in the Stanley Cup playoffs but hopefully teammates like (Karel) Rachunek will be there."

■ ■ Beyond the 2004 IIHF World Championships, Jagr potentially has another opportunity to represent his country at this summer's World Cup. The 2006 Olympics is also within sight but that depends, of course, on an agreement being laid out to allow for NHL participation.

"(Being a part of the Olympics) depends on whether or not they're going to play hockey; I am not sure."

### Will Jagr join The Club?

■ The Triple Gold Club is the unique group of players who have won the IIHF World Championship, the Olympic gold medal and the Stanley Cup. Jagr could join the gang on May 9.

■ At present, there are 13 players who make up this exclusive company. The year indicates when they completed the triple.

- 1. Tomas Jonsson (SWE), 1994. 2. Hakan Loob (SWE), 1994. 3. Mats Naslund (SWE), 1994. 4. Valeri Kamenski (RUS), 1996. 5. Alexei Gusarov (RUS), 1996. 6. Peter Forsberg (SWE), 1996. 7. Vyacheslav Fetisov (RUS), 1997. 8. Igor Larionov (RUS), 1997. 9. Alexander Mogilny (RUS), 2000. 10. Vladimir Malakhov (RUS), 2000. 11. Joe Sakic (CAN), 2002. 12. Brendan Shanahan (CAN), 2002. 13. Rob Blake (CAN), 2002.

**ELUSIVE ITEM:**  
The only trophy missing in Jagr's collection.



### The Jagr File

**Born:** February 15, 1972 in Kladno, Czechoslovakia.

■ Played for Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic in the 1990, 1994 and 2002 IIHF World Championship and in the 1998 and 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

■ Also played in the 1991 Canada Cup and in the 1996 World Cup of Hockey.

■ Became the first European player to lead the NHL in scoring in 1995, thus winning the Art Ross Trophy.

■ Has won the Art Ross Trophy five times. Only Wayne Gretzky (10), Mario Lemieux (6) and Gordie Howe (6) have won it on more occasions.

■ In 1999, Jagr became the third European player, after Sergei Federov in 1994 and Dominik Hasek in 1997 & 1998 to win the Hart Trophy as the NHL's Most Valuable Player.