

News Release

FAIR PLAY
AND RESPECT



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There is nothing like the sweet taste of gold

Back in the April issue of this publication, I wrote that the 2004 IIHF World Championship in the Czech Republic had the potential to be the best tournament ever. It proved to be a correct assumption. 552,097 spectators in Prague and Ostrava made this a festival which we will never forget.

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ ■ For some years now we have been contemplating whether the record of 526,172 fans from Finland 1997 would ever be broken. And, finally, seven years later, the IIHF World Championship has a new attendance record. More than 25,000 spectators surpassed the previous mark.

Our new record figure of 552,097 means that an average of almost 10,000 spectators (9,859 to be exact) attended the 56 games of the 68th IIHF World Championship. This is a remarkable number and a testimony to the passion for our game in the Czech Republic. This was the ninth time that an IIHF World Championship was hosted in Prague, which now definitely deserves to be called the unofficial capital of the tournament.

■ ■ All this wouldn't have been possible if not for the Sazka Arena, which must rank among the top three or four ice hockey venues in the world today. The 17,300 seat state-of-the-art arena was everything we were hoping for in terms of spectator comfort as well as facilitating the needs of teams and officials. It was well worth waiting for.

This was also a landmark tournament for Canada. On May 7, the IIHF Congress in Prague allocated the 2008 IIHF World Championship to Quebec City and Halifax. It will be the first time ever that the IIHF's showcase tournament will be played in the motherland of ice hockey and it will coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the IIHF.

The Canadians managed to carry the momentum over to the ice two days later as Canada won its 23rd IIHF World Championship gold medal. Again, just like one year ago in Finland, they did it by defeating Sweden in the final game. Also this victory carried historic consequence. Canada is now even with Soviet Union/Russia in the gold medal count, both at 23. Winning in both 2003 and 2004 was also Canada's first back-to-back victory since 1958-1959.

■ ■ This was the first year when the recently introduced IIHF World Ranking had an impact on the world championship and we can already see that it has brought good things to our game. The draw for Austria 2005, which was carried out in Innsbruck on May 12, was based on the 2004 IIHF World Ranking and it presented Vienna and Innsbruck next year with four very well balanced groups.

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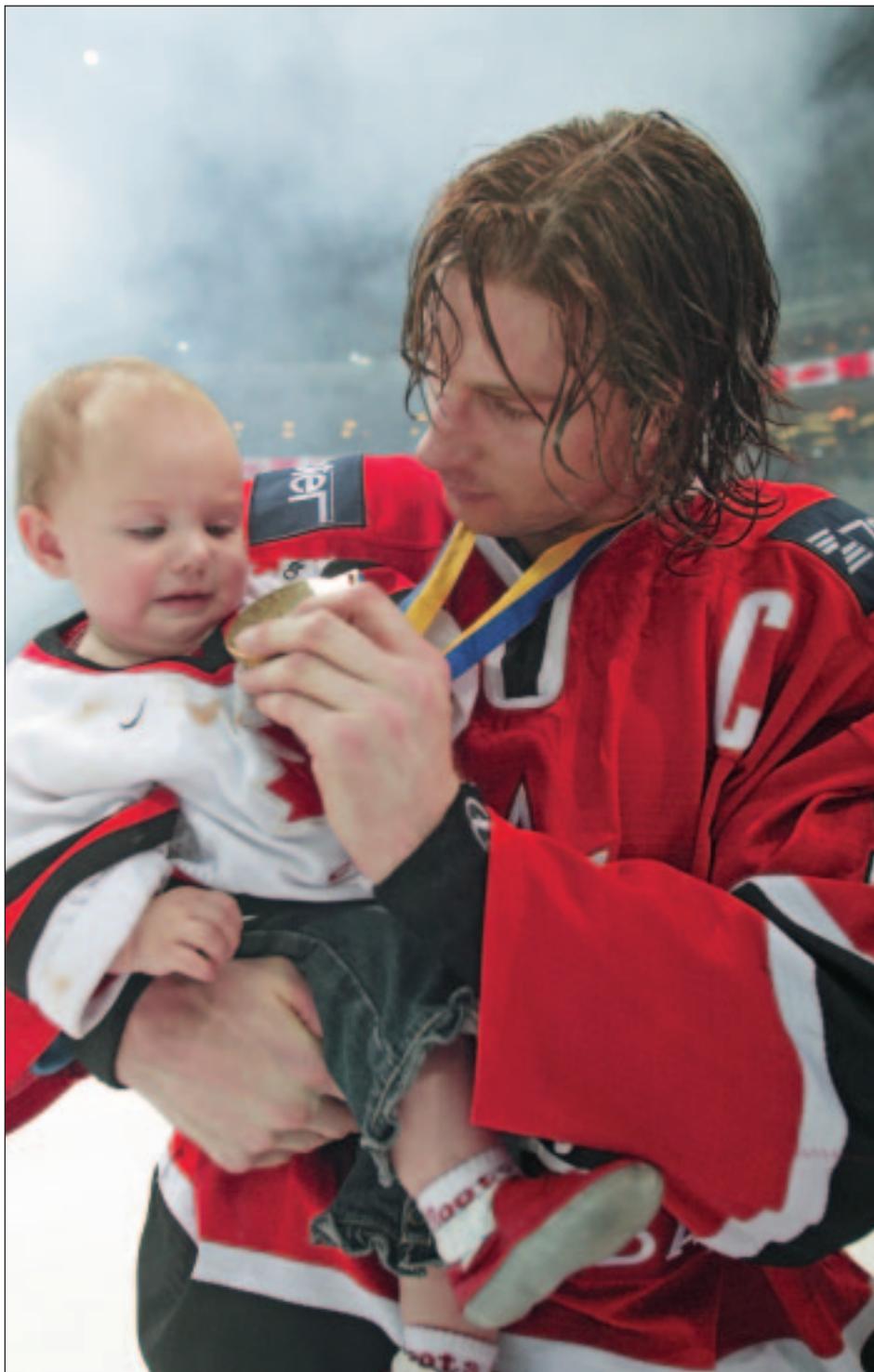


Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO, Europhoto

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS GOLD: Ryan Smyth is "Captain Canada" and the player who best personifies Canada's commitment to international hockey. This was Smyth's sixth consecutive IIHF World Championship, his fourth as captain, and it was the second time he led the team to the gold medal. Smyth also won gold in the 2002 Olympics as well as in the 1995 IIHF World U20 Championship. He also brought his team back into the game by scoring Canada's first goal as Sweden jumped to a 2-0 lead. Here, Smyth cherishes the golden moment with Isabella Smyth, 10 months.

Continued from page one:

There is also no doubt that the eight teams, which received an automatic entry to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, are the best eight teams over the course of the last four years and fully deserve the berth. Again, the ranking was a fair tool in establishing this very important seeding and also the groups in Turin. (See page 5)

As we begin with the qualifying groups this coming autumn, we are definitely closing in on Turin 2006. The question, which is most frequently asked, is about the NHL-players' participation.

This is the official IIHF position on this matter:

- The IIHF does not close any doors at any time to anyone who wishes to participate in the ultimate sports event.
- There is no deadline for participation as far as the IIHF is concerned. The team longlists must be submitted to the NOC's on October 24, 2005 while the IIHF requires the game roster 24 hours before the first game.
- The IIHF supports the desire and ambition of every national member association to be able to select the best team possible for Turin 2006.

René Fasel
IIHF President

300 Europeans in the NHL

European content in the NHL set a new record during the 2003-04 season, a year in which the NHL also set a record for players appearing during one season. There were an incredible 1,018 men who played in at least one NHL game during the 2003-04 regular season, and a record 300 of those were recruited from Europe.

It is the first time that the number of Europeans in the NHL has reached the 300-man plateau.

By comparison, the 2002-03 season saw 984 players appear in the NHL, of which 293 were European. The percentage translates to a marginal decline of European content, from 29.9% in '02-'03 to 29.5% in '03-'04.

The Czech Republic again leads all European nations with 76 players, followed by Russia with 64 and Sweden with 53. Finland (37 players) and Slovakia (35) are the other major European producers of hockey talent. The remaining Euros come from Germany, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Austria, Switzerland, Belarus, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and France.

Development from 2000:

- 2000-2001: 280 Europeans
- 2001-2002: 293 Europeans
- 2002-2003: 293 Europeans
- 2003-2004: 300 Europeans



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IIHF to celebrate its centennial year in Canada in 2008

The historic decision was made on May 7, 2004 as the IIHF Congress in Prague, Czech Republic officially allocated the 2008 IIHF World Championship to Canada.

It marks the first time that the men's IIHF World Championship will be staged in Canada. 2008 will also mark the 100-year anniversary of the International Ice Hockey Federation and the championship will be part of the IIHF's centennial celebration.

The Canadian bid of Quebec City and Halifax did not face any competition as the German and Swedish delegations withdrew their bids for the 2008 IIHF World Championship at the calendar meeting the day before and fully acknowledged their support for Canada's bid.

At the same session, Switzerland (Zurich and Berne) was awarded the 2009 IIHF World Championship, while Sweden was appointed as stand-by organiser for the 2006 IIHF World Championship if Latvia isn't able to fulfil its arena obligations. The Congress gave Latvia until July 1, 2004 to provide guarantees for a new arena in the capital Riga.

"Going to Canada presents us with a unique opportunity to showcase the international game to the most devoted hockey fans in the world", said René Fasel. "The fans in Canada have shown great interest and passion for international hockey in recent years and I am happy for them as well. They deserve to host the IIHF World Championship."



Photo: JANI RAJAMÄKI, Europhoto

MISSION 2008 ACCOMPLISHED: The men who brought the the 2008 IIHF World Championship to Quebec City and Halifax pose together with IIHF President René Fasel at Prague's Hilton Hotel where the historic decision was taken on May 7. From left: Fred MacGillivray, chairmen of the Halifax OC, Bob Nicholson, President of Hockey Canada, René Fasel, Allan Matthews, Hockey Canada Chairman of the Board, Mark Sparrow, chairman of the Quebec City OC, Sheldon Lanchbery, Hockey Canada International Director.

"The IIHF was founded in 1908 in Paris, France and hundred years later we will be going to Quebec City which was founded by the French in 1608", said René Fasel. "There is great symbolism to this historic coincidence as we will be able to participate in the 400-year anniversary of a city which shaped the history of North America."

The venues for the 72nd IIHF World Championship in 2008 will be the 15,000 seat Pepsi Colisee in Quebec City and the 10,500 seat Halifax Metro Centre, both with North American sized rinks.

Legend Hlinka Czechs back



IVAN THE GREAT: World Cup will be the first big test for Hlinka.

Ivan Hlinka, 54, is back as head coach of the Czech national team after four years. Hlinka, who was named the best Czech player of all time by TISSOT at a ceremony in Prague during the 2004 IIHF World Championship, led the Czech Republic to the Olympic gold medal in Nagano in 1998 and also to the gold in the 1999 IIHF World Championship in Norway.

Hlinka replaced Slavomir Lener immediately following the world championship in Prague and the World Cup of Hockey 2004 (August 30 - September 14) will be his first major assignment on the job. Hlinka played

256 games for the Czechoslovak national team while capturing three IIHF World Championship gold medals: 1972, 1976 and 1977. Hlinka played in the 1972 (bronze) and 1976 (silver) Olympic Winter Games and took also part in the 1976 inaugural Canada Cup.

Hlinka joined the NHL Vancouver Canucks in 1981 and he became the first European to coach in the NHL when he led the Pittsburgh Penguins during the 2000-2001 season. Hlinka, who was the General Manager of the Czech Olympic team in Salt Lake City in 2002, was inducted to the IIHF Hall of Fame the same year. He also spent time coaching Avangard Omsk of the Russian League (2002-2003).

The new record: 552,097

Attendance for the 68th IIHF World Championship in Prague and Ostrava, Czech Republic broke all previous records. For the 56 games, total attendance was 552,097 at the Sazka Arena in Prague and the CEZ Arena in Ostrava. The average of nearly 10,000 spectators a game is a remarkable testament to the popularity of the tournament in this country. The top tournament attendance records are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Czech Republic | 2004 - 552,097 |
| 2. Finland | 1997 - 526,172 |
| 3. Finland | 2003 - 454,693 |
| 4. Germany | 2001 - 407,000 |
| 5. Sweden | 1989 - 388,000 |
| 6. Sweden | 1995 - 325,571 |
| 7. Russia | 2000 - 318,449 |
| 8. Finland | 1991 - 310,627 |
| 9. Sweden | 2002 - 305,541 |

IIHF Association News

GERMANY: IIHF Council member, Dr. Hans Dobida (AUT), has been inducted to the German Ice Hockey Hall of Fame in the builders' category. Former NHL-star Uwe Krupp and goaltender Klaus Merk were the player inductees while Josef Golonka was inducted into the coaches' category. Also long-time referee Hans Böhm was honoured. The induction ceremonies will take place on July 9 in Augsburg, Germany. Dobida, who has been an IIHF council member since 1986, has for many years acted as patron of the German Ice Hockey Museum.

FRANCE: Mr. Didier Gailhaguet, President of the French Ice Sports Federation since 1998, has resigned effective 5 May 2004. Mr. Marc Faujanet, President of the Federation Council, will be Acting President for the interim until a new President has been appointed.



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO, Europhoto

SECOND BEST: Sweden is the most consistent international hockey power with 12 medals since 1991. On many occasions though, Sweden comes in as number two. Here, Canada's Steve Staios outskates Sweden's Niklas Andersson. Tre Kronor have lost finals to Canada in 1997, 2003 and in 2004.

Canada vs Sweden becomes a tradition - but not a one to Tre Kronor's liking

These events in Prague and Ostrava re-wrote IIHF World Championship history:

■ Czech Republic 2004 set a new attendance record for the IIHF World Championship: 552,097.

□□ The gold medal was Canada's 23rd in the history of the IIHF World Championship, which means that Canada is now even with Soviet Union/Russia.

■ Canada has now a total of 42 medals since 1920, thus leaving Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic behind with 41.

□□ It marked the first time since 1958 (Whitby Dunlops) and 1959 (Belleville McFarlands) that Canada has won back-to-back gold medals.

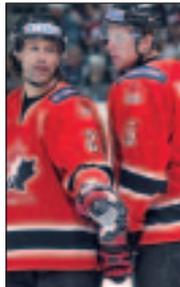
■ By winning the bronze medal, USA became the only nation, which has medalled in every IIHF category in 2004; gold in U20, silver in World Women's, silver in U18 and bronze in Men's Senior.

□□ By winning the gold medal, Canada's defenseman Scott Niedermayer became the only 14th player, and fourth Canadian, in hockey history to join the Triple Gold Club for players who have won the IIHF World Championship, the Olympic ice hockey gold medal and the Stanley Cup.

■ Canada vs Sweden in the gold medal game marked the first gold medal back-to-back re-match since the IIHF introduced the play-off format in the IIHF World Championships and Olympics in 1992/1993. Canada and Sweden also met in the final game of the 2003 IIHF World Championship in Finland.

□□ This was the fourth time that Canada and Sweden met in a gold medal game in a decade. Sweden won the Olympic final in Lillehammer in 1994, but Canada has been successful in the 1997 (best-of-three), 2003 and 2004 IIHF World Championships.

■ Dany Heatley became the first gold medalist at an IIHF World Championship also to be nominated to the All Star Team, to be named the championship MVP, to receive the Best Forward Directorate Award and to win the championship in scoring. A truly unique sweep. (The IIHF introduced the MVP award in 1999.)



SCORED BIG: Scott Niedermayer and Dany Heatley boosted their resumes in Prague.

□□ Defenseman Andy Roach (USA) became the first player to score game winning goals in two penalty shoot-outs in one IIHF World Championship. Roach did it in the QF win over Czech Republic (3-2) and in the bronze medal game against Slovakia (1-0).

■ Since the Soviet Union medal domination ended in 1990, Sweden has been the most persistent medal hunter with 12 IIHF World Championship medals since 1991 (three gold medals, five silver and four bronze). No other country has reached ten medals during that period.

□□ Not since 1986 (Soviet Union in Moscow) has a hosting nation won gold at an IIHF World Championship.

■ Scott and Rob Niedermayer are the first brothers to play on the same IIHF World Championship gold medal winning team since the Makarov brothers (Sergei & Nikolai) won it for the Soviet Union in 1981 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Record numbers for IHWC.NET



■ As the internet becomes more and more popular, IHWC.NET is playing an increasingly important role at the IIHF World Championship.

This year, the official website of the IIHF World Championship which was introduced in 2000, again had a record setting campaign. At peak hours around 135,000 different users logged on to receive the latest information from the World Championship. The site had 1.9 million visits.

This is again a substantial increase from the previous year. The IHWC.NET has increased its viewership every year since 2000.

The average visit length was almost 18 minutes. Multiplied by the number of visits, this results in over 360,000 hours that users spent on IHWC.NET. The site registered over 66 million page views.

■ IHWC.NET has been the official website of the World Championship for the last four years. The IIHF decided to launch IHWC.NET to give fans a better look at the World Championship. Every year during the three weeks of the championship, IIHF.com is essentially shut down and all news travels through the IHWC.NET.

Gold medal game scored new highs on TV3 and TSN

■ The 68th IIHF World Championship scored some new highs also as far as TV-attendance is concerned.

■ Swedish broadcaster TV3 recorded a third period peak of 2,406,000 viewers during the Canada vs Sweden gold medal game, an all time-high for all programs included for the station. The average attendance for the whole game was 2,105,000. That's in a country of 9 million people.

■ Also TSN in Canada recorded a new IIHF World Championship record as 1,1 Canadians watched their team's come from behind victory against Sweden.

■ In Finland, 1,1 million hockey fans were glued to the TV-sets for the Finland vs Canada quarterfinal which means that more than one-fifth of the population were dejected as Dany Heatley scored for Canada in overtime. Almost as many (1,075 million) followed the Finland-Sweden rivalry in the qualifying round and an impressive 852,000 tuned in to follow the gold medal game without Finnish participation.

2004 ALL-STAR TEAM (as selected by media)



Goalie: Henrik Lundqvist, SWE



Defense: Zdeno Chara, SVK



Defense: Dick Tarnstrom, SWE



Forward: Ville Peltonen, FIN



Forward: Jaromir Jagr, CZE



Forward, MVP: Dany Heatley, CAN

2004 DIRECTORATE BEST PLAYER AWARDS



Goalie: Ty Conklin, USA



Defense: Zdeno Chara, SVK



Forward: Dany Heatley, CAN



Photo: MIKKO JÄRVINEN, Europhoto

552,097. That's the new magic number in the history of the IIHF World Championships. That number of spectators, amassed in Prague's Sazka Arena (photo) and Ostrava's CEZ Arena, is the new championship record, surpassing the number from Finland 1997 by more than 25,000.

The great little moments that make up a great world championship

Preliminary Round

Game 1. Austria's Dieter Kalt scores the first goal of the tournament, against France, just nine seconds from the drop of the puck to start the 68th IIHF World Championship

Game 7. Ivo Ruthemann records six points in La Suisse's 6-0 rout of the French. Later, two of his points are revoked, but his four points is still a tournament high.

Game 9. Austria stuns Canada by jumping out to a 2-0 lead and holding on for a 2-2 tie against the gold medalists from 2003.

Game 14. USA and Slovakia play to a 3-3 tie, all three of USA's goals bouncing off a Slovak player and into the net, but also the first indication that the US has "something cooking".

Game 16. Austria surrenders a 4-1 lead to start the third period as Switzerland scores a goal in the final minute to tie the game 4-4.

Game 17. Japan's Nobuhiro Sugawara scores an own goal, Denmark's fourth of the game, and then falls to the ice in horror at the realization. Denmark wins the game 4-3 and Japan is later relegated to Division I for 2005. Now the trivia question: Which Danish player was given credit for the goal? Answer: Bo Andersen.

Qualifying Round

Game 35. Trailing Russia 2-1 after two periods, the USA rallies for a tremendous 3-2 win, a game in which goalie Mike Dunham called the turning point of the tournament for the Americans.

Game 39. Canada defeats Germany 6-1, marking the first time German goalie Olaf Kölzig has played internationally against his adopted country.

Game 43. Finland defeats Russia 4-0, knocking the Russians out of the quarter-finals and sending them reeling to a 10th place finish

Game 44. The undefeated hosts from the Czech Republic soundly defeat Canada 6-2, Canada's first loss since the 2002 IIHF World Championship.

Relegation Round

Game 25. France loses to the Kazakhs 5-0, the fourth successive game of the championship that the team has failed to score a goal.

Game 36. Ukraine beats France 6-2, but Benoit Bachelet finally scores France's first goal of the tournament, in the first period of the team's fifth game.

Game 46. France's 2-2 tie with Japan confirms the demotion of France for the 2005 IIHF World Championship.

Playoffs

Game 50. Little-known American forward Andy Roach makes a sensational move on goalie Tomas Vokoun in the penalty shoot-out to give the USA a stunning 3-2 win over the undefeated hosts.

Game 51. Dany Heatley scores in overtime on an unbelievable slapshot over the shoulder of Mika Noronen to give Canada a 5-4 win over Finland.

Game 53. Shawn Horcoff scores a controversial goal in the third period to give Canada a 2-1 win over Slovakia and send the country to its second consecutive gold-medal game.

Game 55. Andy Roach and the US strike again in a penalty shoot-out, this time against Slovakia to win bronze. Roach becomes the first player to score two penalty shoot-out game winners in two different games in one IIHF World Championship

Game 56. Heatey sparks a four-goal rally that sees Canada overcome a 3-1 deficit and beat Sweden 5-3 to lead Canada to its second straight gold medal victory over Tre Kronor, the first back-to-back golds by Canada since 1958 and 1959.

Andrew Podnieks

New Men's & Women's IHF World Ranking

■ The 2004 IHF World Championships have come to a close, which means for the first time ever, the IHF World Ranking, which was started prior to this year's championships, was updated to reflect the standings at the end of April.

Men's 2004 Ranking

POS	Country	Points	03 POS
1	CAN	3485	1
2	SWE	3400	2
3	SVK	3235	5
4	CZE	3225	3
5	FIN	3195	4
6	USA	3145	7
7	RUS	3105	6
8	GER	2990	8
9	SUI	2920	9
10	LAT	2900	10
11	AUT	2755	12
12	UKR	2720	11
13	BLR	2590	13
14	DEN	2575	14
15	JPN	2440	15
16	SLO	2420	16
17	KAZ	2410	21
18	FRA	2400	18
19	ITA	2315	17
20	POL	2295	19
21	NOR	2265	20
22	HUN	2060	22
23	NED	2015	25
24	EST	1995	24
25	GBR	1990	23
26	ROM	1845	26
27	LTU	1720	27
28	CHN	1630	28
29	SCG	1565	29
30	KOR	1455	32
31	CRO	1425	31
32	BUL	1375	30
33	BEL	1345	33
34	ESP	1170	34
35	AUS	1125	36
36	ISR	1035	35
37	PRK	950	41
38	RSA	930	37
39	ISL	875	38
40	NZL	870	40
41	MEX	770	39
42	LUX	755	42
43	TUR	690	43
44	IRL	260	--
45	ARM	240	--

The World Ranking is a tool to reflect the long-term quality of the countries' national team program. It is based on awarding points for the final positions in the last four IHF World Championships and in the last Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament. The 2004 IHF World Ranking is based on the performance at the 2004, 2003, 2002, and 2001 World Championships and the 2002 Olympics.

■ This year's biggest mover in the top ten on the men's side was Slovakia, which jumped from fifth to third place. Kazakhstan was also a big mover, jumping four spots from 21 to 17. In the top 16, USA and Austria were the only other teams to improve their positions, moving up one spot each.

In the women's ranking, there was very little movement overall, especially in the top ten, where the only change was Switzerland, which moved from ninth to eighth place, trading places with Kazakhstan.

Women's 2004 Ranking

POS	Country	Points	03 POS
1	CAN	3000	1
2	USA	2900	2
3	FIN	2775	3
4	SWE	2725	4
5	RUS	2680	5
6	GER	2605	6
7	CHN	2565	7
8	SUI	2435	9
9	KAZ	2430	8
10	JPN	2405	10
11	CZE	1590	11
12	LAT	1545	15
13	FRA	1540	12
14	NOR	1510	14
15	PRK	1490	13
16	DEN	1455	16
17	ITA	1385	18
18	SVK	1375	17
19	NED	1330	19
20	GBR	1280	20
21	AUS	1270	22
22	BEL	1175	21
23	HUN	1165	24
24	SLO	990	26
25	ROM	940	25
26	AUT	700	--
27	KOR	600	--
28	RSA	505	23

2005 Austria draw provides rivalries galore

■ Fate was on the side of geographical rivalries at the draw held in Innsbruck on May 12 to determine the preliminary round groups at the 69th IHF World Championship in Austria (Vienna and Innsbruck, April 30 – May 15, 2005).

In the early stages there are some key match-ups and solid rivalries as Sweden and Finland both landed in Innsbruck's Group C, while USA and Canada will also be in Innsbruck in Group B. In Vienna, Group D has the rivalry between Switzerland and Germany to look forward to, while in the A Group Russia, and Slovakia will provide fans with a key game early in the championship. Host Austria will have its hands full as it will join Russia and Slovakia in the A Group along with Belarus.



DRAW: IHF President Rene Fasel, Austrian 800 meter track champion Stephanie Graf and Austrian Ice Hockey President Dieter Kalt at the Austria 2005 draw.

The preliminary round groups for the 2005 IHF World Championship:

Group A (Vienna)	Group B (Innsbruck)	Group C (Innsbruck)	Group D (Vienna)
Slovakia	Canada	Sweden	Czech Rep.
Russia	USA	Finland	Germany
Austria	Latvia	Ukraine	Switzerland
Belarus	Slovenia	Denmark	Kazakhstan

■ Austria, which had the option to seed two teams before the draw, selected to seed Slovakia in Vienna, and defending champion, Canada, was placed in Innsbruck.

The draw continued with the teams of Bowl 4 being drawn into the four groups. The same procedure was applied for the Groups 3, 2 and 1 until all 16 teams were slotted in four groups, A, B, C and D. The playing schedule will be determined later.

2006 Turin Olympic Groups

At the conclusion of the 2004 IHF World Championship, the playing groups for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Italy were finalized. Several nations will also play in qualification tournaments. Below are the Turin groups and the qualifying groups:

Men's Olympic Group A Canada Czech Republic Finland Germany Qualifier Italy	Group C Austria Ukraine Kazakhstan Qualifier	Women's Olympic Group A Canada Sweden Qualifier Italy
Men's Olympic Group B Sweden Slovakia USA Russia Qualifier Qualifier	Men's Preliminary Olympic Qualification Groups: (Nov. 11-14, 2004) Group A <u>France</u> Estonia Romania Bulgaria	Women's Olympic Group B USA Finland Qualifier Qualifier
Men's Final Olympic Qualification Groups: (Feb. 10-13, 2005) Group A <u>Switzerland</u> Demark Japan Qualifier	Group B <u>Poland</u> Netherlands Lithuania Croatia	Women's Qualification Groups: (Nov. 11-14, 2004) Group A <u>Russia</u> Japan Czech Republic
Group B <u>Latvia</u> Belarus Slovenia Qualifier	Group C <u>Norway</u> Hungary China Serbia & Montenegro	Group B <u>Germany</u> Kazakhstan Latvia Romania
		Group C <u>China</u> Switzerland France Norway

* underline denotes hosting team

* underline denotes hosting team

23

- the magic number of e

■ ■ As Canada celebrates its 23rd IHF World Championship gold medal and also sits comfortably on top in the IHF World Ranking, it's worth reminding that Canada's involvement in international ice hockey has not always been a smooth running operation. Canadian hockey historian Andrew Podnieks recalls the ups and downs of the country's status in the global hockey community.

By Andrew Podnieks

■ ■ How appropriate that two days before Canada won the 2004 IHF World Championship at the Sazka Arena in Prague that the mother country of hockey was awarded the 2008 showcase championship of the International Ice Hockey Federation. It was a timely coupling of events and has many levels of meaning to international hockey.

Recall that Canada was awarded the 1970 IHF World Championship, Montreal and Winnipeg being the host cities. But the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) withdrew Canada from all international hockey competition because of a dispute revolving around the use of semi-pro players.

The CAHA wanted to be allowed to use about half a dozen semi-professional players at the championship in 1970, a wish that the international hockey community refused to allow. Canada had fared increasingly poorly at the IHF World Championships and Olympics in the 1960s because it was sending its pure amateur players to these events to compete against the mature adult men from the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, countries that insisted they had no professional players.

Today, there are no amateurs anymore in the premier international tournaments, and every country can send whomever it wants to any of these prestigious events.

■ ■ But the CAHA's decision to withdraw began a series of events that allowed for today's all-professional tournaments. Out of that withdrawal came the monumental 1972 Summit Series between the Soviet Union and Canada, today seen as the start of the modern era of ice hockey. It was the first step in aligning the two "worlds" of ice hockey.

Nonetheless, not much changed for a number of years, until Günther Sabetzki became the new president of the IHF in 1975 and made as his first priority to get Canada back into the international fold. To that end, he supported the all-pro Canada Cup tournament in 1976, on condition that Canada re-enter the IHF World Championships, professional players and all, the following year.

■ ■ When Canada played at the 1977 event (for the first time since 1969), the showing was a sportive and a public relations disaster. The NHL players who went to Vienna to represent Canada had no idea what to expect and how the international game had developed. Many on the team had never played internationally, or in Europe, before. Canada regressed to violence and came home shamed and scorned for their behavior. It even became an issue in the Canadian parliament.

It took a long time for the CAHA (now Hockey Canada) to learn how to recruit players for the IHF World Championships, asking them to fly halfway across the world after their season has ended in failure, to play more hockey after a grueling 80-game season. But by the early 1990s, the international hockey scene was so strong that players wanted to come—they didn't have to

be coerced. The watershed moment came in 1994 when Canada won gold at the IHF World Championship, its first since 1961, and on the heels of a fantastic silver at the Lillehammer Olympics where the Canadians lost to Sweden in one of the most dramatic shootouts in IHF history.

■ ■ Today, there are no Canadian brawls. The days of "the ugly Canadian" belong to the past. The coaches and players have all had so much international experience, from U18 to U20, to Olympics and the IHF World Championships, that they are familiar with the refereeing and the rules and the fans and style of play. They realize the stakes are high and that they can be competitive in any tournament they enter if they play a disciplined game.

Today, they play with skill and speed. Canada defeated Sweden 5-3 in the gold medal game in 2004 with the poetic abilities of Dany Heatley leading the way, the same young man who led Canada to the victory in Finland 2003. The speed and skill of Joe Sakic and Paul Kariya led Canada to its first Olympic gold medal in 50 years in Salt Lake City in 2002.

This is truly a golden age for Canadian hockey. The men and women are currently both Olympic and World Champions and both are on top of the IHF World Ranking, leading by a substantial margin.

■ ■ After some dark years of isolation and, later, difficult transition to the style of international hockey, Canada is back on top of the hockey world. Albeit knowing perfectly well that there are no final victories in sport, Canada won't relinquish that position voluntarily.

It will be up to the other hockey powers to bring them down.



Heatley's agony, miraculous recovery and golden finish

■ ■ Dany Heatley began the 2003-04 season by attending the funeral of a friend who was passenger in a car he slammed into a wall. After making a miraculous recovery -- physically and emotionally -- Heatley ended his season doing something no one has ever done in an IHF World Championship history: he won the gold medal, led the tournament in goals and scoring points, was named tournament MVP, earned a Directorate Best Forward Award, and was named to the Championship All-Star team.

There were several key moments for Canada during the championship to which Heatley brought inspired play and timely scoring. For example, in the team's first game, it was Heatley who scored the tying goal in a sluggish 2-2 tie with Austria to avoid losing to the skiing nation for the first time ever. He scored two goals in Canada's 3-1 win over Switzerland, and against Germany, the toughest test of the Preliminary Round, he scored two goals and an assist in the first period to get Canada on the road to a 6-1 victory.

■ ■ In the quarter-final against Finland, Heatley scored a goal and an assist to bring Canada back into a game it trailed 2-0 and 3-1, and in overtime he blew a wicked slapshot over the shoulder of Mika Noronen to give Canada a thrilling extra-period 5-4 win and advance the team to the semi-final.

In the gold-medal game, Heatley took a brilliant lob pass from Scott Niedermayer and scored to bring Canada to 3-2 against Sweden, and in the first minute of the third period he set up the tying goal by Jay Bouwmeester. It was another dominating game for "Heater", who raised the level of his game at exactly the moment when Canada needed it the most. Five honours for Heatley in Prague -- a world champion if ever there was one.

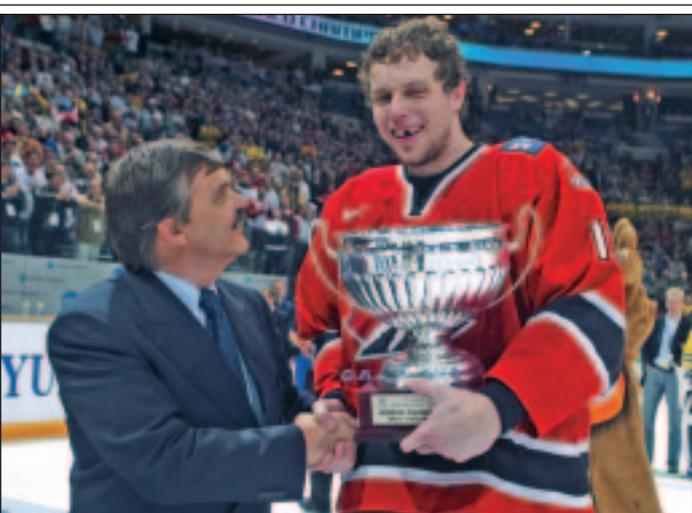
ANDREW PODNIEKS

excellence for Canadian hockey



Photo: JUKKA RAUTIO, Europhoto

FAMILIAR ENDING: Team Canada members celebrating with the IIHF World Championship Trophy is a common sight in the world of international hockey nowadays. This time around even the kids of some of the players took part in the traditional photo. Steve Staios (front row, far left), Matt Cooke (22) and captain Ryan Smyth (right of trophy) are joined by their children.



HOT "HEATER": Dany Heatley is presented the MVP Trophy by René Fasel.

OT HERO: Heatley after scoring his overtime goal against Finland in the quarterfinal.



Overtime is Canada's favourite time

■ ■ ■ When Dany Heatley scored Canada's overtime goal against Finland in the quarter-final, he took the Canadian overtime record in international hockey to a new high. No other country has participated in so many overtime and penalty shoot-out games as Canada, with such a tremendous record.

■ ■ ■ Canada is the most frequent participant in prolonged international games, having played in 18 overtime games since 1976 (IIHF 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 75 % success rate (9-3) in games decided by a "sudden-death" goal.

■ ■ ■ In Finland 2003 Canada won both the quarter-final (Eric Brewer) and the Gold Medal game (Anson Carter) in overtime. Go to this link (pdf file) for a complete list of all overtimes and penalty shoot-outs in international hockey: www.iihf.com/archive/Overtimes.pdf

2004 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTO GALLERY

Photos: Mikko Järvinen, Pekka Mononen, Jukka Rautio and Jani Rajamäki



OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM: Canada's Shawn Horcoff's and France's Sebastien Bordeleau face-off during the preliminary round. The two team's paths never crossed again as Canada took home the gold, while France finished in 16th place.

APRIL SHOWERS: Swedish goaltender Henrik Lundqvist keeps his eye, and his glove, on the puck despite getting a shower from USA's Ryan Malone



ALL DRESSED UP, NOWHERE TO GO: Russia's superstars Ilya Kovalchuk, Oleg Tverdovsky, Alexander Ovechkin, Alexei Yashin and Vladimir Antipov couldn't provide a spark for their team, which didn't make the quarterfinals.



A SUMMIT MEETING: Canada captain Ryan Smyth shakes hands with Swedish star Peter Forsberg after Canada won its second consecutive gold medal against the Swedes. It is the first time since the IIHF adopted the new championship format that the gold medal game was a rematch from the previous year.



PUT ME IN COACH: Switzerland's Valentin Wirz watches the action from the bench while goaltender Martin Gerber waits for the action to return to his end of the ice.



BRONZE BUMMER: After losing to Canada the previous day, Slovakian goaltender, Jan Lasak, reacts to losing in a shootout against the Americans in the bronze medal game.



THE EVOLUTION OF A GOAL: Sweden's P.J. Axelsson shows that scoring a goal can be as easy as 1-2-3. Left, Axelsson shoots; middle, he scores; right, let the good times roll.

Russia's U18 team back on top



A BIRD, A PLANE, A WORLD CHAMPION: Team Russia takes a flying leap after returning to its gold medal greatness at the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship in Minsk.

■ ■ It doesn't get any closer than this.

In the gold medal game of the 2004 IIHF World U18 Championship, Russia held on to precious 3-2 lead in a hard-fought battle against the United States in Minsk, Belarus to claim its first gold medal at the event since 2001.

Russia had a 3-1 lead in the final 10 minutes before the United States scored to cut the lead in half. Then in the final moments, the United States scored again, but the goal was disallowed, allowing the Russians to take their place back at the top of the junior hockey world.

For Russia, the journey back to the top of the podium wasn't an easy one. After winning the gold medal in 2001, the Russians suffered a heart-breaking last minute loss in the final game against the Americans in 2002, settling for silver. Last year, the Russians topped the U.S., but it was in the bronze medal game.

■ ■ Coming so close to gold the last two seasons gave this year's Russia squad a decidedly hungry attitude and advantage. Gone were the superstar names like Alexander Ovechkin from the roster, but present were a group of 17 year-olds who had learned by watching previous teams to take nothing for granted until the final whistle blows.

Russia started the tournament in a difficult preliminary round group that saw five ties. Russia was a part of two of those ties, but came out on top of the group with a 2-2-0 record, earning the precious bye to the semi-final game.

■ ■ Russia got to take a swing at defending champion, Canada in the semi-final game and easily skated to a 5-2 win after jumping out to an early 3-1 lead at the end of the first period.

The finals pitted Russia against its second North American opponent in as many games. The teams had an even back-and-forth battle until Russia took command early in the third period quick back-to-back goals.

But this time, when the United States mounted its comeback, as it did in Piastany, Slovakia, two years ago, the Russians would not be denied. Czech Republic beat Canada 3-2 in the game for the bronze medal.

Bouncing Back: Slovenia and Belarus earn promotions

■ ■ Whoever said *the best things come to those who wait* have never met the national hockey teams of Slovenia and Belarus, which after just one season at the Division I level, each earned promotions back to the top division of the IIHF World Championship.

The squads were mirror images of each other in Oslo, Norway, where Belarus won the Division I, Group A Championship, and in Gdansk, Poland, where Slovenia cruised to victory at the Division I, Group B Championship.

■ ■ From the first puck drop in Gdansk, it was clear that the Slovenian team was heads and shoulders above the rest of the field and was on a very clear mission to reclaim its place among the world's top 16 hockey nations.

Simply put, Slovenia dominated, earning a perfect 5-0-0 record and giving up only five goals in five games, while scoring 33. Only second-place Italy and third-place Poland were able to give the Slovenians a "close" game. Italy lost, 4-0, while host Poland lost 4-1.

For Poland, the third-place finish was a bit of a disappointment as the nation was hoping to at least vie for the promotion in the final game of the championship. Instead, an early loss against Italy virtually sealed the Pole's fate in Division I for another season.

Italy was also hoping to squelch any doubters about their automatic 2006 Olympic berth, by earning a promotion rightfully, but the strong Slovenians put an end to their hopes as well.

■ ■ In Norway, things were not as clear cut. Of course, it was clear that Belarus brought a talented that included the two tournament leading scorers, Andrei Skabelka and Alexei Kalyuzhny. And Belarus, much like Slovenia, was on a mission to spend no more than five games at the Division I level.

However, standing in Belarus' way was an equally hungry Norway team that had its heart broken the previous year by upstart France in the Division I Championship. The Norwegians, buoyed by its home ice advantage were on the same mission to move up to the top division for the first time since 2001.

The teams did everything in their power to set up the dream final game between two undefeated squads. Both had hiccups along the way courtesy of Great Britain, which tied Norway, 4-4, and skated to a 5-4 loss against Belarus.

But both survived the other games with relative ease and met in the final game in front of a sold out arena to determine who would move up to the top division.



SUPER SLOVENIANS: Slovenia spent only one year at the Division I championship after earning a perfect 5-0-0 record and a promotion to the top.

■ ■ The first two periods lived up to expectations as the squads were tied at two at the end of the first period. Belarus took a 3-2 lead at the end of the second, but waited until the third period to remove all doubt as Ruslan Skalei and Skabelka put the game out reach with a pair of third-period goals.

The wins in Gdansk and Oslo gave both teams the chance to try their hand with the top 16 for the second time in three years. Meanwhile, Belgium and Korea will hope to do some bouncing of their own as both were relegated to Division II after finishing in last place.



BRIGHT BELARUS Belarus battled its way back to the top division of the IIHF Men's World Championship after a thrilling final-game showdown against Norway. Belarus will join Slovenia in Austria for the 2005 IIHF World Championship.

RESULTS SUMMARY

IIHF World Championship Div I, Gr. A

Oslo, NORWAY, 12-18 April 2004

Belgium - Belarus	0 - 10	(0-2, 0-0, 0-8)
Great Britain - Hungary	3 - 5	(1-1, 0-1, 2-3)
Netherlands - Norway	0 - 8	(0-2, 0-1, 0-5)
Hungary - Belgium	6 - 4	(3-2, 1-2, 2-0)
Belarus - Netherlands	7 - 2	(3-1, 1-1, 3-0)
Norway - Great Britain	4 - 4	(1-2, 0-1, 3-1)
Belarus - Great Britain	5 - 4	(2-0, 2-2, 1-2)
Belgium - Netherlands	2 - 11	(0-3, 0-5, 2-3)
Norway - Hungary	6 - 4	(2-3, 0-0, 4-1)
Netherlands - Great Britain	4 - 1	(0-0, 2-0, 2-1)
Hungary - Belarus	1 - 7	(1-2, 0-1, 0-4)
Norway - Belgium	11 - 1	(2-0, 6-0, 3-1)
Great Britain - Belgium	6 - 0	(4-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Hungary - Netherlands	4 - 4	(2-1, 1-1, 1-2)
Belarus - Norway	5 - 2	(2-2, 1-0, 2-0)

Belarus	5	5	0	0	34 - 9	10
Norway	5	3	1	1	31 - 14	7
Netherlands	5	2	1	2	21 - 22	5
Hungary	5	2	1	2	20 - 24	5
Great Britain	5	1	1	3	18 - 18	3
Belgium	5	0	0	5	7 - 44	0

■ Belarus promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Championship. Belgium relegated to 2005 Division II.

IIHF World Championship Div I, Gr. B

Gdansk, POLAND, 12-18 April 2004

Romania - Estonia	3 - 6	(2-3, 0-0, 1-3)
Korea - Slovenia	2 - 10	(0-4, 1-4, 1-2)
Italy - Poland	4 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Estonia - Korea	11 - 0	(3-0, 2-0, 6-0)
Slovenia - Italy	4 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 0-0)
Poland - Romania	9 - 0	(2-0, 3-0, 4-0)
Slovenia - Romania	8 - 0	(1-0, 3-0, 4-0)
Korea - Italy	1 - 7	(1-0, 0-3, 0-1)
Poland - Estonia	6 - 6	(3-2, 1-1, 2-3)
Italy - Romania	8 - 1	(2-1, 2-0, 4-0)
Estonia - Slovenia	2 - 7	(0-4, 1-2, 1-1)
Poland - Korea	9 - 0	(4-0, 4-0, 1-0)
Romania - Korea	5 - 4	(0-0, 0-1, 5-3)
Estonia - Italy	1 - 7	(0-4, 1-2, 0-1)
Slovenia - Poland	4 - 1	(2-0, 2-0, 0-1)

Slovenia	5	5	0	0	33 - 5	10
Italy	5	4	0	1	26 - 7	8
Poland	5	2	1	2	25 - 14	5
Estonia	5	2	1	2	26 - 23	5
Romania	5	1	0	4	9 - 35	2
Korea	5	0	0	5	7 - 42	0

■ Slovenia promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Championship. Korea relegated to 2005 Division II.

IIHF World Championship Div II, Gr. A

Jaca, SPAIN, 12-18 April 2004

Australia - China	6 - 5	(1-2, 5-1, 0-2)
Luxembourg - Croatia	0 - 11	(0-3, 0-3, 0-5)
Israel - Spain	0 - 8	(0-1, 0-2, 0-5)
Croatia - Australia	8 - 2	(2-1, 5-0, 1-1)
China - Australia	5 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 2-0)
Spain - Luxembourg	16 - 0	(7-0, 3-0, 6-0)
Croatia - Israel	7 - 0	(1-0, 5-0, 1-0)
Luxembourg - Australia	0 - 22	(0-5, 0-7, 0-10)
China - Spain	6 - 1	(3-0, 3-1, 0-0)
China - Luxembourg	19 - 3	(9-2, 7-0, 3-1)
Australia - Israel	6 - 1	(2-2, 3-0, 2-0)
Spain - Croatia	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 0-0)
Israel - Luxembourg	2 - 2	(2-0, 0-0, 0-2)
Croatia - China	3 - 4	(2-0, 1-1, 0-3)
Spain - Australia	0 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 0-0)

China	5	4	0	1	39 - 13	8
Croatia	5	4	0	1	32 - 6	8
Australia	5	3	1	1	40 - 18	7
Spain	5	2	1	2	29 - 13	5
Israel	5	0	1	4	3 - 28	1
Luxembourg	5	0	1	4	5 - 70	1

■ China promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Championship Div. I. Luxembourg relegated to 2005 Division III.

IIHF World Championship Div II, Gr. B

Elektrėnai, LITHUANIA, 12-18 April 2004

South Africa - Bulgaria	2 - 5	(1-2, 0-3, 1-0)
DPR Korea - Serbia & Mont.	2 - 7	(0-2, 1-3, 1-2)

New Zealand - Lithuania	2 - 21	(0-11, 2-4, 0-6)
Serbia & Mont. - South Africa	16 - 3	(5-0, 5-2, 6-1)
Bulgaria - New Zealand	11 - 3	(3-2, 3-0, 5-1)
Lithuania - DPR Korea	9 - 0	(4-0, 3-0, 2-0)
New Zealand - DPR Korea	2 - 7	(1-3, 1-1, 0-3)
Serbia & Mont. - Bulgaria	9 - 2	(2-0, 2-1, 4-1)
Lithuania - South Africa	16 - 1	(6-0, 7-1, 3-0)
Serbia & Mont. - New Zealand	20 - 2	(2-1, 8-1, 10-0)
DPR Korea - South Africa	7 - 1	(3-1, 2-0, 2-0)
Bulgaria - Lithuania	1 - 10	(0-3, 1-4, 0-3)
South Africa - New Zealand	2 - 4	(2-1, 0-0, 0-3)
Bulgaria - DPR Korea	1 - 6	(1-1, 0-4, 0-1)
Lithuania - Serbia & Mont.	14 - 3	(3-0, 4-2, 7-1)

Lithuania	5	5	0	0	70 - 7	10
Serbia & Mont.	5	4	0	1	55 - 23	8
DPR Korea	5	3	0	2	22 - 20	6
Bulgaria	5	2	0	3	20 - 30	4
New Zealand	5	1	0	4	13 - 61	2
South Africa	5	0	0	5	9 - 48	0

■ Lithuania promoted to the 2005 IIHF World Championship Division I. South Africa relegated to 2005 Division III.

IIHF World U18 Championship

Minsk, BELARUS 8-18 April 2004

Preliminary Round, Group A

Denmark - USA	2 - 5	(0-0, 1-3, 1-2)
Sweden - Canada	0 - 5	(0-1, 0-1, 0-3)
Belarus - Denmark	1 - 4	(0-1, 1-2, 0-1)
USA - Sweden	6 - 2	(3-0, 3-1, 0-1)
Canada - Belarus	7 - 2	(3-1, 2-1, 2-0)
Denmark - Canada	1 - 2	(1-1, 0-1, 0-0)
Sweden - Denmark	2 - 1	(0-0, 1-0, 1-1)
USA - Belarus	9 - 0	(2-0, 4-0, 3-0)
Canada - USA	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-0, 0-2)
Belarus - Sweden	0 - 4	(0-2, 0-0, 0-2)

Preliminary Round, Group A, Standings

USA	4	4	0	0	22 - 5	8
Canada	4	3	0	1	15 - 5	6
Sweden	4	2	0	2	8 - 12	4
Denmark	4	1	0	3	8 - 10	2
Belarus	4	0	0	4	2 - 24	0

Preliminary Round, Group B

Norway - Russia	4 - 8	(1-2, 1-3, 2-3)
Czech Republic - Slovakia	1 - 1	(0-0, 1-0, 0-1)
Finland - Norway	9 - 0	(1-0, 4-0, 4-0)
Russia - Czech Republic	1 - 1	(0-0, 1-0, 0-1)
Slovakia - Finland	2 - 2	(0-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Norway - Slovakia	2 - 8	(0-2, 1-2, 1-4)
Czech Republic - Norway	7 - 0	(4-0, 1-0, 2-0)
Russia - Finland	5 - 2	(2-0, 0-1, 3-1)
Finland - Czech Republic	1 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 0-1)
Slovakia - Russia	2 - 2	(2-0, 0-1, 0-1)

Preliminary Round, Group B, Standings

Russia	4	2	2	0	16 - 9	6
Czech Republic	4	1	3	0	10 - 3	5
Slovakia	4	1	3	0	13 - 7	5
Finland	4	1	2	1	14 - 8	4
Norway	4	0	0	4	6 - 32	0

Relegation Round

Belarus - Denmark	1 - 4	(0-1, 1-2, 0-1)
Finland - Norway	9 - 0	(1-0, 4-0, 4-0)
Denmark - Norway	7 - 4	(3-1, 0-1, 4-2)
Finland - Belarus	5 - 2	(2-1, 2-0, 1-1)
Denmark - Finland	1 - 4	(1-2, 0-1, 0-1)
Belarus - Norway	4 - 3	(0-1, 1-1, 3-1)

Relegation Round, Standings

Finland	3	3	0	0	18 - 3	6
Denmark	3	2	0	1	12 - 9	4
Belarus	3	1	0	2	7 - 12	2
Norway	3	0	0	3	7 - 20	0

Quarterfinals

Canada - Slovakia	3 - 1	(2-0, 0-1, 1-0)
Czech Republic - Sweden	5 - 1	(1-1, 2-0, 2-0)

Semifinals

USA - Czech Republic	3 - 2	(1-0, 2-2, 0-0)
Russia - Canada	5 - 2	(3-1, 1-0, 1-1)

Placement Game 5-6

Slovakia - Sweden	4 - 5	(2-2, 1-2, 1-1)
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Bronze Medal Game

Czech Republic - Canada	3 - 2	(1-0, 1-2, 1-0)
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Gold Medal Game

USA - Russia	2 - 3	(1-0, 0-1, 1-2)
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Final Standings:

1. Russia	6. Slovakia
2. USA	7. Finland
3. Czech Republic	8. Denmark
4. Canada	9. Belarus
5. Sweden	10. Norway

■ Belarus and Norway relegated to 2005 World U18 Div. I.

Individual scoring

1. VOLOSCHENKO Roman	RUS	6	5	6	11
1. KORPIKOSKI Lauri	FIN	6	5	6	11
1. NOKELAINEN Petteri	FIN	6	5	6	11
1. TUKONEN Lauri	FIN	6	5	6	11
5. KESSEL Phil	USA	6	7	3	10
6. REGIN Peter	DEN	6	5	4	9
7. TOMANEC Roman	SVK	6	7	1	8
8. MALKIN Evgeni	RUS	6	4	4	8
8. ZAGRAPAN Marek	SVK	6	4	4	8
10. MADSEN Morten	DEN	6	3	5	8

IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: Marek Schwarz (CZE)

Best Defensesman: Zach Jones (USA)

Best Forward: Evgeni Malkin (RUS)

IIHF World Championship

Ostrava & Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC 24 April - 9 May 2004

Preliminary Round, Group A

Latvia - Czech Republic	1 - 3	(0-3, 0-0, 1-0)
Germany - Kazakhstan	4 - 2	(0-0, 2-1, 2-1)
Germany - Latvia	1 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Kazakhstan	7 - 0	(5-0, 0-0, 2-0)
Kazakhstan - Latvia	1 - 3	(0-0, 1-0, 0-3)
Czech Republic - Germany	5 - 1	(1-0, 0-1, 4-0)

Preliminary Round, Group A, Standings

Czech Republic	3	3	0	0	15 - 2	6
Latvia	3	1	1	1	5 - 5	3
Germany	3	1	1	1	6 - 8	3
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3	3 - 14	0

Preliminary Round, Group B

Slovakia - Ukraine	2 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Finland - USA	4 - 2	(0-2, 2-0, 0-2)
Finland - Ukraine	5 - 1	(2-1, 1-0, 2-0)
USA - Slovakia	3 - 3	(0-1, 3-2, 0-0)
Ukraine - USA	1 - 7	(0-3, 0-2, 1-2)
Slovakia - Finland	5 - 2	(2-1, 1-1, 2-0)

Preliminary Round, Group B, Standings

Slovakia	3	2	1	0	10 - 5	5
Finland	3	2	0	1	11 - 8	4
USA	3	1	1	1	12 - 8	3
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	2 - 14	0

Preliminary Round, Group C

Denmark - Sweden	1 - 5	(1-2, 0-1, 0-2)
Russia - Denmark	6 - 2	(2-0, 2-2, 2-0)
Sweden - Japan	5 - 1	(2-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Japan - Denmark	3 - 4	(2-2, 1-1, 0-1)
Sweden - Russia	3 - 2	(1-0, 0-2, 2-0)
Russia - Japan	6 - 1	(4-1, 1-0, 1-0)

Preliminary Round, Group C, Standings

Sweden	3	3	0	0	13 - 4	6
Russia	3	2	0	1	14 - 6	4
Denmark	3	1	0	2	7 - 14	2
Japan	3	0	0	3	5 - 15	0

Preliminary Round, Group D

France - Austria	0 - 6	(0-2, 0-1, 0-3)
Switzerland - France	6 - 0	(0-0, 4-0, 2-0)
Austria - Canada	2 - 2	(1-0, 1-0, 0-2)
Canada - France	3 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 0-0)
Switzerland - Austria	4 - 4	(0-0, 1-4, 3-0)
Canada - Switzerland	3 - 1	(0-0, 2-0, 1-1)

Preliminary Round, Group D, Standings

Canada	3	2	1	0	8 - 3	5
Austria	3	1	2	0	12 - 6	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	11 - 7	3
France	3	0	0	3	0 - 15	0

RESULTS SUMMARY

Relegation Round

Kazakhstan - France	5 - 0	(2-0, 3-0, 0-0)
Ukraine - Japan	2 - 2	(0-0, 1-0, 1-2)
Japan - Kazakhstan	3 - 5	(2-1, 0-3, 1-1)
Ukraine - France	6 - 2	(2-1, 0-0, 4-1)
Kazakhstan - Ukraine	2 - 2	(1-1, 0-0, 1-1)
France - Japan	2 - 2	(0-2, 2-0, 0-0)

Relegation Round, Standings

Kazakhstan	3	2	1	0	12 - 5	5
Ukraine	3	1	2	0	10 - 6	4
Japan	3	0	2	1	7 - 9	2
France	3	0	1	2	4 - 13	1

Qualification Round, Group E

Latvia - Czech Republic	1 - 3	(0-3, 0-0, 1-0)
Austria - Canada	2 - 2	(1-0, 1-0, 0-2)
Switzerland - Austria	4 - 4	(0-0, 1-4, 3-0)
Canada - Switzerland	3 - 1	(0-0, 2-0, 1-1)
Germany - Latvia	1 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Germany	5 - 1	(1-0, 0-1, 4-0)
Canada - Latvia	2 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Austria	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Latvia - Switzerland	1 - 1	(0-0, 0-0, 1-1)
Austria - Germany	1 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 1-1)
Switzerland - Czech Republic	1 - 3	(0-0, 1-2, 0-1)
Canada - Germany	6 - 1	(3-0, 2-1, 1-0)
Latvia - Austria	5 - 2	(0-1, 3-1, 2-0)
Czech Republic - Canada	6 - 2	(2-0, 1-1, 3-1)
Germany - Switzerland	0 - 1	(0-0, 0-1, 0-0)

Qualification Round, Group E, Standings

Czech Republic	5	5	0	0	19 - 5	10
Canada	5	3	1	1	15 - 10	7
Latvia	5	1	2	2	8 - 9	4
Switzerland	5	1	2	2	8 - 11	4
Germany	5	1	1	3	6 - 14	3
Austria	5	0	2	3	9 - 16	2

Qualification Round, Group F

Finland - USA	4 - 2	(0-2, 2-0, 0-2)
USA - Slovakia	3 - 3	(0-1, 3-2, 0-0)
Slovakia - Finland	5 - 2	(2-1, 1-1, 2-0)
Denmark - Sweden	1 - 5	(1-2, 0-1, 0-2)
Russia - Denmark	6 - 2	(2-0, 2-2, 2-0)
Sweden - Russia	3 - 2	(1-0, 0-2, 2-0)
Sweden - Finland	1 - 1	(0-0, 0-1, 1-0)
Slovakia - Russia	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Finland - Denmark	6 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Russia - USA	2 - 3	(0-1, 2-0, 0-2)
Denmark - Slovakia	0 - 8	(0-3, 0-4, 0-1)
Sweden - USA	3 - 1	(1-0, 0-1, 2-0)
Finland - Russia	4 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 3-0)
Slovakia - Sweden	0 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 0-0)
USA - Denmark	8 - 3	(4-3, 4-0, 0-0)

Qualification Round, Group F, Standings

Slovakia	5	3	2	0	18 - 5	8
Sweden	5	3	2	0	12 - 5	8
Finland	5	3	1	1	17 - 8	7
USA	5	2	1	2	17 - 15	5
Russia	5	1	0	4	10 - 14	2
Denmark	5	0	0	5	6 - 33	0

Quarterfinals

Sweden - Latvia	4 - 1	(3-0, 0-0, 1-1)
Czech Republic - USA	2 - 3	(0-0, 2-1, 0-1, 0-0, 0-1)
Canada - Finland	5 - 4	(0-2, 3-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Slovakia - Switzerland	3 - 1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)

Semifinals

Slovakia - Canada	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 0-1)
USA - Sweden	2 - 3	(0-2, 1-1, 1-0)

Bronze Medal Game

Slovakia - USA	0 - 1	(0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-1)
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Gold Medal Game

Sweden - Canada	3 - 5	(2-1, 1-2, 0-2)
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Final Standings

1. Canada	5. Czech Rep.	9. Germany	13. Kazakhstan
2. Sweden	6. Finland	10. Russia	14. Ukraine
3. USA	7. Latvia	11. Austria	15. Japan
4. Slovakia	8. Switzerland	12. Denmark	16. France

■ Japan and France relegated to 2005 Division I.

Leading Scorers

1. HEATLEY Dany	CAN	9	8	3	11
2. PELTONEN Ville	FIN	7	4	6	10
3. JAGR Jaromir	CZE	7	5	4	9
3. RUCINSKY Martin	CZE	7	5	4	9
5. JOKINEN Olli	FIN	7	5	3	8
5. PARK Richard	USA	9	5	3	8
7. DEMITRA Pavol	SVK	9	4	4	8
7. SATAN Miroslav	SVK	9	4	4	8
9. BRIERE Danny	CAN	9	2	6	8
10. HORCOFF Shawn	CAN	9	3	4	7
10. PROSPAL Vaclav	CZE	7	3	4	7

IIHF Directorate Awards

Best Goalkeeper: CONKLIN, Ty (USA)
Best Defenseman: TARNSTROM, Dick (SWE)
Best Forward: HEATLEY, Dany (CAN)

Media All-Stars

Goalkeeper: LUNDQVIST, Henrik (SWE)
Defensemen: TARNSTROM, Dick (SWE), CHARA, Zdeno (SVK)
Forwards: HEATLEY, Dany (CAN), JAGR, Jaromir (CZE), PELTONEN, Ville (FIN)
Championship MVP: HEATLEY, Dany (CAN)

Denmark and Germany soaring high

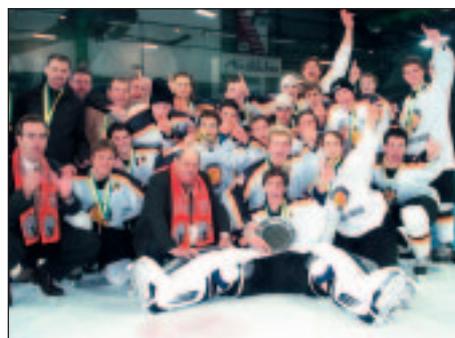
■ ■ There's no taking Denmark and Germany for granted any more. After struggling in past year, both programs showed in 2004 that they are committed to having the next big hockey programs in the world.

Both nations had unparalleled success last season in particular, earning three promotions between the two countries.

For Denmark, the initial wave started with a single game at the 2003 IIHF World Championship when it beat the United States during the preliminary round. That game enabled the men's national team to avoid relegation and return to the top division this year in Slovakia.

■ ■ Armed with confidence and hundreds of fans, the Danes had success again in the Czech Republic, this time earning the right to stay in the top group with a 4-3 win against Japan.

The success on the men's level translated into success at the women's level as well, where the Danish team earned a promotion to Division I after earning a 4-1-0 record at the Division II World Championship. The Danish U18 team also followed the lead in its first year



GOING UP: Germany earned a promotion at both the U20 (pictured) and U18 championships this season.

in the top division. With an upset win over host Belarus, they too will stay at the top level.

■ ■ In Germany's case, it was a matter of getting all of its younger teams to the same level as its men's squad. This year, Germany succeeded, earning promotions for both its U18 and U20 teams to the top division. Ironically, it was Denmark which finished in second place at the U20 Championship behind Germany.

Where in the World: List of host nations for 2005 IIHF Championships

The IIHF Congress voted to allocate the following IIHF Championships to the following countries and cities:

2005 IIHF World Championship Div. I, Gr. A
 Budapest, HUNGARY, April 17-23

2005 IIHF World Championship Div. I, Gr. B
 Eindhoven, NETHERLANDS, April 17-23

2005 IIHF World Championship Div. II, Gr. A
 Zagreb, CROATIA, April 10-16

2005 IIHF World Championship Div. II, Gr. B
 Belgrade, SERBIA & MONTENEGRO, April 4-10

2005 IIHF World Championship Division III
 Mexico City, MEXICO, March 7-13

2005 IIHF World Women Championship
 Linköping & Norrköping, SWEDEN, April 2-9

2005 IIHF World Women Championship Div. I
 SWITZERLAND (venue TBD), Dates TBA

2005 IIHF World Women Championship Div. II
 Vipiteno, ITALY, March 13-19

2005 IIHF World Women Championship Div. III
 Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA, March 3-9

2005 IIHF World Women Championship Div. IV
 Dunedin, NEW ZEALAND, March 25-28

2005 IIHF World U20 Championship
 Grand Forks & Thief River Falls, USA, Dec. 25-Jan. 12

2005 IIHF World U20 Championship Div. I, Gr. A
 Sheffield, GREAT BRITAIN, December 13-19

2005 IIHF World U20 Championship Div. I, Gr. B
 Narva, ESTONIA, December 13-19

2005 IIHF World U20 Championship Div. II, Gr. A
 Bucharest, ROMANIA, January 3-9

2005 IIHF World U20 Championship Div. II, Grp B
 Puigcerda, SPAIN, December 13-19

2005 IIHF World U20 Championship Div. III:
 Mexico City, MEXICO, January 10-16

2005 IIHF World U18 Championship
 Ceske Budejovice & Plzen, CZECH REP, April 14-24

2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. I, Gr A
 Bled or Ljubljana, SLOVENIA, April 3-9

2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. I, Gr B
 Sosnowiec, POLAND, April 2-8

2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. II, Grp A
 Kohtla-Järve, ESTONIA, March 14-20

2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. II, Gr A
 Bucharest, ROMANIA, March 21-27

2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. III, Grp A
 Sofia, BULGARIA, March 7-13

2005 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. III, Qualification
 Ankara, TURKEY, February 18-20

■ ■ See page 5 for the 2004 and 2005 Olympic qualification tournaments.



HE TOOK HIM LEFT:
Andy Roach scores the Bronze Medal winner against Slovakia's Jan Lasak with a great backhand shot. The puck hit the goalcam and had to be reviewed by the video judge.



The shoot-out expert

HE TOOK HIM RIGHT:
Roach put the Sazka Arena into total silence and the Czech Republic into a national trauma with this deft move below.

Photos: JUKKA RAUTIO (above), MIKKO JÄRVINEN (right)

Nobody does it more dandy than Andy

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

■ ■ As USA's Andy Roach skated towards the Czech goalkeeper Tomas Vokoun, he knew exactly which move he would choose. Roach was selected as the fifth and last US shooter in the quarter-final penalty shoot-out in the 2004 IIHF World Championship and he had just seen four Czechs miss their penalty shots, and so did four of his teammates.

When Roach skated out to prepare for his shot, Jaromir Jagr was just leaving the ice after having missed the Czech's fourth opportunity to take a lead in the scoreless shoot-out. The last thing the American defenceman had on his mind was the fact that NHL-megastar Jagr makes more money in one year than Roach will ever make during his entire career.

The 31-year old defenceman has taken around 25 penalty shots for Adler Mannheim in the German DEL, a league which decides tied regular season games with shoot-outs.

"After seeing all those players miss their shots, I didn't feel much pressure", says Andy to the *IIHF News Release* from his summer home in Scottsdale, Arizona. "I was pretty relaxed and after having studied goalie Vokoun during the shoot-out, I knew which move I'd take. I have three or four favourite moves which are pretty solid. As a small defenceman you need to have some offensive skill", explains Andy who played forward until he was 18.

■ ■ ■ When Roach - who shoots right - was three or four meters in front of Vokoun, he almost stopped as he executed to perfection his backhand-to-forehand move, something very few players dare to do in a high-pressure situation like this and when the ice is rough. The Czech goalie went for the backhand fake and Roach could slide the puck into a virtually empty net. "I was so happy, but I didn't show too much emotion

as I skated back to our bench", recalls Andy. "The Czechs had still one shot left."

■ ■ ■ But the Olympic gold medallist and three-time IIHF World Champion Jiri Dopita was also thwarted by US goalkeeper Ty Conklin. One of the biggest upsets in the modern history of the IIHF World Championships was a fact. The heavily favoured Czechs, who had won at least a medal in each of the eight previous world championships held on home ice, were out. Team USA, which finished 13th in Finland 2003, was going to the semi-final.

"Not until the next morning did we fully realize what we had done", says Andy. "We saw all the headlines in the papers and we understood how much this meant to the Czech people."

The US team lost the semi-final to Sweden, 3-2, but the team was determined to leave the Czech Republic with a medal. "Our management made a good job all the way in telling us what was at stake. In the beginning we were totally focused on trying to avoid the relegation round. Then there was the issue of the Olympic cut for 2006. When both those things were being taken care of, we were focused on medals. They told us that the US had won just two medals in 40 years in the world championship, so we definitely went after some hardware."

■ ■ ■ The Bronze Medal game was scoreless after regulation and the 10-minute overtime period and, for the second time in three games, Team USA faced a penalty shoot-out. This time around though, players scored. When Roach came as his teams' number three, Matt Cullen and Chris Drury had already scored for the Americans, while Marian Hossa and Miroslav Satan were successful for Slovakia.

Now, Andy Roach had changed his game plan as he



was facing goalie Jan Lasak.

"I was sure that he saw my move against Vokoun so I didn't want to repeat that. Instead I went for the backhand move."

■ ■ ■ Roach made Lasak go down and then lifted a nifty backhand just under the crossbar. Another beauty. The photo on this page shows that the puck hit the goal camera, which made the puck bounce out very quickly, so fast that the shot had to be reviewed by the video goal judge.

"I knew that the puck was in", said Andy. "There was no doubt in my mind".

The Slovaks would not score another goal in the shoot-out and while Eric Westrum sealed the US victory with yet another penalty shot, it is Roach's goal which eventually counted as the game winning goal.

■ ■ ■ This means that Andy Roach became the first player in IIHF World Championship history to score two game winning penalty shots in one tournament, something he was not aware of until so told by the IIHF.

"The world championship is the most fun I have ever had in my career, probably the three best weeks of my hockey life. I don't know if I will have the opportunity to do this again so I will always remember this experience."

"I hope that this might open the eyes of hockey people in general that players who are non NHLers can also play the game on this level", says Andy who has never even been to a NHL-team training camp.

But if Andy Roach will be in Austria 2005, he knows that the goalies will be ready for his tricks.