

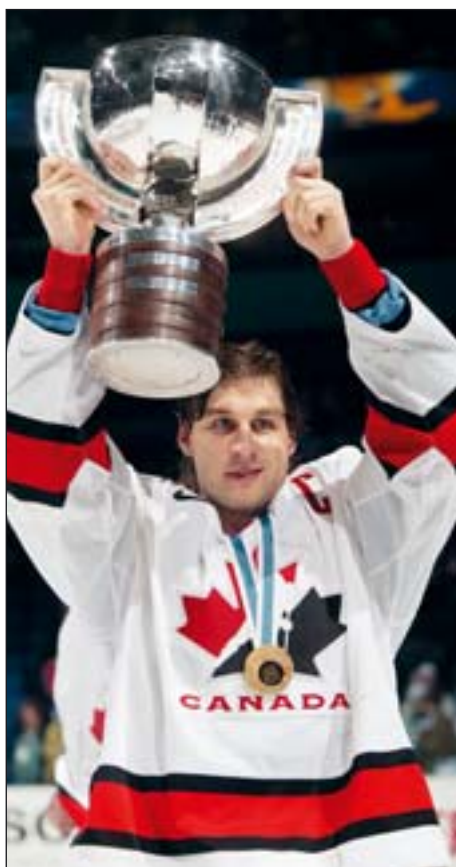
News Release



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Is Goldsmith Smyth good for another hoist?



2003 HELSINKI: "Captain Canada" Ryan Smyth gets acquainted with the IIHF World Championship Cup and gold medal following the thrilling overtime win over Sweden.



2004 PRAGUE: Ryan "Goldsmith" looks more relaxed after the second consecutive win, this one following a come-from-behind victory, again against Sweden.



2005 VIENNA: If Canada succeeds with a triple, or if another captain than Ryan Smyth will hoist the silver trophy, will be known on May 15.

Photos: JUKKA RAUTIO, Europhoto

It's difficult to remember a tournament so open and without any clear-cut favourites as the one we are about to witness in Vienna and Innsbruck. The 69th IIHF World Championship has at least seven teams with potential for the gold medal.

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ ■ There were times when the IIHF World Championship was a three-team battle between the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Sweden. In the 19 tournaments between 1963 and 1982, these three nations won medals in 13 out of them. On the other six occasions Canada broke the European bloc, each time getting a bronze medal.

It's a totally different business to be a bookmaker nowadays. Since the new world order in international ice hockey began in the early 90s, our world championship has seen six different nations winning the gold medal. Of the "Top 7" hockey countries, only USA has not won during this period.

■ ■ We are back in one of the most exciting and storied cities in the world. Very few places are able to offer the magnificent blend of history, architecture, music and theatre that can be found in Vienna. Innsbruck, picturesque capital of Tyrol, is one of only three cities, which have held the Olympic Winter Games twice.

It is the fifth time the IIHF World Championship returns to the Austrian capital and on the three last occasions things with historic consequence happened. The 1977

event marked Canada's return to international hockey after a seven-year absence. Sweden won its first gold medal in a quarter of a century in 1987 and the Czech Republic won its first-ever IIHF World Championship in 1996.

■ ■ There are many sub-plots as the hockey world gathers in Austria. Canada will try to win its third consecutive world championship gold for the first time since 1950-1952. The Czechs, who traditionally have always performed well in Vienna, have not won a medal since their three-in-a-row 1999-2001 and they badly want revenge for last year's failure at home in Prague.

The Swedes have a new coach in Bengt-Ake Gustafsson, the same man who as a player led the *Tre Kronor* to the gold in Vienna 18 years ago. Sweden, with a remarkably consistent world championship record, have not won since 1998. Finland will try to prove that their participation in the World Cup final in Toronto last fall was no coincidence and the Slovaks are virtually playing at home. The capital Bratislava just a half an hour's car drive from Vienna.

■ ■ Both Russia and the U.S. have the possibility to put together stronger teams than in the past. Russia, with all their talent, has been a constant underachiever since they last won gold in 1993. Only the silver in 2002 was an exception.

I think that everyone agrees that the country's seventh position in the IIHF World Ranking does not correspond to Russia's potential. Will this be the year when the Russian Bear wakes up?

Continued on next page

Continued from page one:

■ The 2005 IIHF World Championship will, on top of all that, start the positioning for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin. The 2002 Olympic hockey tournament in Salt Lake City was an eye-opener for many North American fans and also players.

Players are excited to take part and fans want to watch the international game. Apart from the exciting brand of hockey, it's a matter of national pride.

"The phone call you get to play for your country, is the greatest phone call you can get in hockey."

This was a comment from Wayne Gretzky in late March, when the defending World and Olympic champion Canada started its preparations for Austria 2005.

Many will be eager for that phone call leading up to the thrilling period of hockey we have in front of us.

René Fasel
IIHF President

IIHF's historic document

■ The 2005 IIHF World Championship Media Guide is an historical ice hockey document. For the first time names of all players who have participated in the IIHF World Championship since 1930 are documented, together with every single score and every standing.

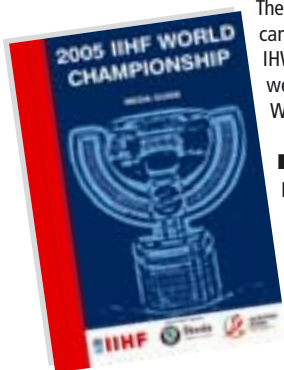
The guide furthermore includes the complete list of all IIHF member national associations and addresses, individual records from the history of the IIHF World Championship, complete list of all international overtime and "shootout" games, a listing of IIHF-NHL rule differences and everything you need to know about the IIHF World Ranking and the system behind it.

■ Together with trivia bits from the splendid history of hockey's top international event, this is "must-have" publication for the true hockey fan.

The 84-page guide obviously targets the media which is assigned to Austria 2005, but there is a limited amount of copies which can be obtained by others.

The 2005 Media Guide can be purchased on IHWNET, the official website of the IIHF World Championship.

■ The price is 15 Euro, excluding shipment charges.



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Four nations want 2010 World Championship

■ The national ice hockey associations of Belarus, Germany, Slovakia and Sweden are bidding for the 2010 IIHF World Championship. The IIHF Annual Congress which will be held in Vienna, Austria on May 12-15, 2005 during the 69th IIHF World Championship.

The congress, which consists of the IIHF's 63 member associations, will vote to determine the successful applicant. The decision will fall on either May 13 or May 14.

The summary of the bids:

■ **Belarus:** New arenas are planned for the capital of Minsk and the second venue, Zhodino (50 km from Minsk). The Minsk arena would hold a capacity of 13.000 spectators, while 7.000 is planned for the Zhodino arena. Belarus is first-time applicant.

■ **Germany:** The German bid has Cologne as the main venue, where the 18.500 KölnArena is the biggest hockey stadium in Europe. The SAP Arena in

Mannheim, the second venue which will hold 14.000 fans, will be finished in August 2005.

Germany has hosted the IIHF World Championship six times. Cologne was one of the hosting cities in 2001, the last time the championship was held in the country.

■ **Slovakia:** The new minimum-12.000 seat arena in the capital Bratislava will be the main venue, while second venue Kosice plans to totally refurbish the existing arena to hold 9.500 fans. This is the first time Slovakia applies for the IIHF World Championship.

■ **Sweden:** The Globe Arena (13.850) in Stockholm and the Cloetta Center (8.500) in Linköping (or Malmö, new arena is planned in the southern city) are the venues in the Swedish bid.

Linköping is a one hour and 15 minute drive from the capital Stockholm. Sweden has hosted the championship nine times, last in 2002. The Globe Arena has been the main venue during the 1989 and the 1995 IIHF World Championships.

IIHF puts away 500,000 for insurance premiums

■ The insurance for NHL players participating the 2005 IIHF World Championship in Austria has been an issue which has received much exposure in media leading up to the event.

This is how the insurance procedure will work as proposed by the IIHF Insurance Committee and approved by the IIHF council:

■ This season the IIHF has budgeted CHF 500,000 to subsidize the payment of accidental death and disability insurance provided for the NHL players under contract with an NHL club participating in the 2005 IIHF World Championship.

The following conditions apply:

The IIHF will pay a total premium subsidy up to a maximum amount of CHF 500,000 for accidental death and disability insurance for NHL contracted players. The IIHF does not subsidize players whose NHL contracts have expired.

Where an insurance premium higher than CHF 5,000 is requested for a player participating in the World Championship, the national association who has nominated the player shall be responsible to pay the excess balance of the premium.

The sum of CHF 5,000 covers the insurance premium for the vast majority of NHL players who come to the IIHF World Championship. Problems with high insurance premiums occur when a player has a high-end NHL salary combined with many years left on the contract.

■ In the 2004 IIHF World Championship in the Czech Republic, 52 percent of the total insurance costs were generated by five players (7 percent). The premium for the player with the highest salary, combined with most years left on the NHL contract, cost over 285.000 USD (= CHF 341.000).

For all other (non-NHL contracted) players, it remains the obligation of the member national association to cover the insurance as stipulated in IIHF Bylaw 407.

Draw for the 70th World Championship on April 17

■ The draw, which will determine the four groups at the 2006 IIHF World Championship in Latvia, will be held in Riga, Latvia on May 17 at 14.00. The 16 teams will be seeded according to the IIHF World Ranking which will be established immediately following the Gold Medal game in Vienna on May 15.



Teams ranked 1-4 will be in the first seeding group, teams 5-8 in the second tier, teams 9-12 in the third and teams ranked 13-16 will be in the last seeding group.

■ The 70th IIHF World Championship in Riga will be played 6-21 May, 2006.

Association News

AUSTRIA: The Austrian Ice Hockey Association announced that Canadian-born **Michael Stewart** will play for his adopted country at the 2005 IIHF World Championship. Stewart, a Michigan State University graduate, has played for Villach SV in the Austrian league since 2001 and he received his Austrian citizenship in March.

CANADA: The Vancouver 2010 organizing committee (VANOC) has announced the hiring of **Denis Hainault** as the new Sport Manager for Ice Hockey for the Olympic Winter Games in 2010. Hainault, who has been the Director, High Performance for Hockey Canada, will also work as technical advisor for the 2006 IIHF World U20 Championship in Vancouver as well as with the 2008 IIHF World Championship organizing committee in Quebec City and Halifax.

ROMANIA: **Bodan Dima**, a 28-year old forward playing for Dinamo Bucuresti, has been suspended for life by the Romanian Ice Hockey Association. The suspension came after Dima attacked the referee several times during a game against Progyrm Gheorghieni.

RUSSIA: WADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency, has appointed former Soviet and Russian national team star **Vyacheslav Fetisov** to chair the WADA new Athlete's Committee. Fetisov is the Minister of Sport in Russia.



Oh Say Can You See: *The Americans savor the view and the tune as the American flag was hoisted while the national anthem played during the award ceremony in Sweden.*

THE IIHF WOMEN'S WORLD RANKING TOP 20

Rank	Country	Points	Change
1	CAN	2960	-
2	USA	2940	-
3	FIN	2765	-
4	SWE	2760	-
5	GER	2625	+1
6	RUS	2625	-1
7	CHN	2575	-
8	KAZ	2455	+1
9	SUI	2430	-1
10	JPN	2380	-
11	CZE	1840	-
12	FRA	1780	+1
13	LAT	1750	-1
14	DEN	1700	+2
15	NOR	1695	-1
16	PRK	1635	-1
17	ITA	1610	-
18	SVK	1585	-
19	NED	1505	-
20	GBR	1425	+1

USA upgrades from silver to gold

By Szymon Szemberg

■ ■ It took the U.S. women nine tries, but they finally reached their goal and captured gold at the IIHF World Women's Championship.

Not only did USA defeat Canada (1-0) for the first time in a World Women's Championship gold medal game, they also denied their fiercest rival a historic ninth consecutive championship, which would have tied the Canadians with the Soviet men's teams 1963-1971.

In an ironic twist, the Canadian women still made history, becoming the first team since 1931 not to concede an open play goal during an entire top pool IIHF World Championship. The USA-Canada final ended scoreless after regulation time and the 20-minute overtime period. The Americans were the clearly cooler team in the Game Winning Shot competition, putting three penalty shots past Canadian goaltender Kim St. Pierre while the U.S. allowed only one goal in the shootout.

It was only fitting that championship MVP, Krissy Wendell, was the one who scored one the decisive penalty shot.

"To finally win a world championship," said an overwhelmed Angela Ruggiero. "It took our program fifteen years to do that, but the longer the wait the sweeter the taste."

■ ■ U.S. captain Cammi Granato, the only player to have played in all nine championships, was able to end her run of silver. "It's been a long time coming and it's a historic moment for USA Hockey," Granato said.

It was a bitter loss for Team Canada.

"You don't give up a goal for five games or in overtime and you still don't win," Canadian head coach Melody Davidson said. "I don't know when that happens very often. It hurts. It hurts a lot and that's going to be there until we get the chance to win again."

■ ■ By succeeding in the women's world championship, the U.S. became only the second nation (after Canada) to take the 'Grand IIHF Quadruple', winning gold in all four major IIHF World Championship categories, Men's (1933), Women's (2005), U20 (2004), U18 (2002).

■ ■ It was a Championship where historic streaks came to an end. Sweden won a championship bronze medal for the first time, as Finland lost a bronze medal game against the Swedes for the first time.

Finland seemed to have things fully under control, leading, 2-1, after two periods, but Sweden bounced back with four goals in the last period to win the historic medal for the Swedish women's program.

Other milestones included:

- Germany's fifth place was the best ever for the nation.
- Kazakhstan managed to avoid relegation from the top pool for the first time ever by finishing seventh, while Russia was relegated for the first time ever to Division I



Silver and Gold: *With the gold medal won, there only smiles on Angela Ruggiero (left) Cammi Granato (center) and Jenny Potter's faces as they hoist the silver IIHF World Championship trophy.*

PLAYER AWARDS

DIRECTORATE AWARDS

Best Goalkeeper:
Chanda Gunn, USA

Best Defenseman:
Angela Ruggiero, USA

Best Forward:
Jayna Hefford, CAN

Championship MVP:
Krissy Wendell, USA

MEDIA ALL-STAR TEAM

Goalkeeper:
Natalya Trunova, KAZ

Defensemen:
Angela Ruggiero, USA
Cheryl Pounder, CAN

Forwards:
Krissy Wendell, USA
Hayley Wickenheiser, CAN
Maria Rooth, SWE



A Medal Moment: *Sweden's Emilie O'Konor puts the rebound under the pads of Finnish goaltender Anna-Kaisa Piironen for the winning goal (3-2) in the bronze medal game.*

Innsbruck brims with Olympic memories

■ The 2005 IIHF World Championship returns to a historic hockey rink. The Innsbruck Olympic Centre was the site of the 1964 and 1976 Olympic ice hockey tournaments and no team has better memories from Tyrolean capital than the Soviet Union.

The Soviets didn't lose a single game in those two Olympic tournaments, sweeping the opposition in twelve straight games while accumulating a 94-21 goal differential.

■ Given their unblemished record there, the Russians would probably have liked to play in Innsbruck this year, but all their preliminary round games are in Vienna. Depending on the results in Qualification (second) Round, they could be coming back to Innsbruck for a quarter-final match-up.

The new nations, Latvia, Slovenia and Ukraine will be

playing official championship games for the first time in Innsbruck, while the established hockey powers Canada and Sweden are returning to the rink for the first time in 41 years.

■ Neither the Canadians nor the Swedes went to the 1976 Olympics. Canada left international hockey six years earlier after a dispute with the IIHF over amateur rules, while Sweden declared their players as semi-professionals in the mid-70s and didn't go either.

■ The Olympic Ice Centre is fully renovated and has a capacity of 7,140 seats for the 2005 IIHF World Championship. This photo is from the Austria-USA game at Winter



Photo: UNIVERSIADE PHOTO SERVICE

SPIRIT OF '64 & '76: The refurbished Olympic arena has 7,140 seats.

Universiade in January as a capacity crowd attended the game.



AUSSIE STALWART: Glen Foll participated in his 15th IIHF World Championship (Division II in Zagreb, Croatia) for Australia this spring, 14 of them as captain.

Foll is the Aussie marathon man

■ Australian Glen Foll, 43, is one of the unsung heroes of the IIHF World Championship program. This season, he took part in his 15th IIHF World Championship when he again captained Australia, this time in the Division II, Group A championship in Zagreb, Croatia.

In this world championship, far away from the limelight and glory of Austria 2005, the Aussies competed with Bulgaria, Korea, New Zealand, Turkey and host Croatia. Foll was wearing the "C" for the 14th time.

"I wasn't the captain in my first pool

C world championship in 1989 and the only championships I have missed was in 1996 when my son was born," says Glen.

■ Foll's achievement means that the Australian defenseman has surpassed Czechoslovakia's Jiri Holik (1964-1977) and Sweden's Sven Tumba-Johansson (1952-1966) who are the only players with 14 appearances in the top pool of the IIHF World Championship. Foll is now tied with Japan's Toshiyuki Sakai who had fifteen appearances 1985-2002, divided between the top pool and Division I (B-pool).

■ Is Mexico the new emerging hockey power in North America? It probably will take some time before the national team of Mexico can compete with Canada or the USA, but the first step was taken in mid-March when the national team swept through the IIHF World Championship Division III in Mexico City. Mexico earned a promotion to Division II next season after defeating Luxembourg, 2-0, South Africa, 4-2, Armenia, 48-0 and Ireland, 6-1. It was the first time Mexico has won an IIHF World Championship event. The team definitely has potential as 16 players were born in the 80s and many of them around 85-87. 19-year old **Adrian Cervantes** led all championship scorers with 17 goals and 10 assists in four games.

2006 Riga Arena construction on schedule



Photo: KIMMO LEINONEN, IIHF

COMING ALONG NICELY: The Riga Arena starts to take shape. The photo was taken on March 23 during the IIHF site visit of the Latvian capital. Capacity will be 11,000.

■ The main site of the 2006 IIHF World Championship in Riga, Latvia will be ready in February 2006, three months prior to the 70th IIHF World Championship, May 6 - 21, 2006.

The Riga Arena will have 10,300 seats and an additional 700 standing room. The arena will feature modern facilities with club seating, private suites, restaurants and bars.

It will be the first time that Latvia will host the IIHF's flagship event. Riga, a city of 800,000 inhabitants, has a history that dates back to 1201.

■ The second venue will be the Skonto Arena, an already existing event venue, which will be reconstructed to a hockey arena for 6,700 spectators. The distance between Riga Arena and Skonto is a mere 700 metres.

Team Belarus' surprise pick: Canadian Hanlon

■ Belarus surprised the hockey world by announcing that Canadian, and former NHL-goaltender Glen Hanlon, will be head coach of Team Belarus in Austria 2005.

Belarus, which has held 13th place in the IIHF World Ranking for the past two years, finished in first at last year's IIHF World Championship Division 1 in Norway, but released coach Mikhail Zakharov following the team's failure to qualify for the 2006 Olympics in Turin.

Belarus led 4-2 in the decisive qualifying game against Latvia in Riga in February, but three goals in a span of just over two minutes spoiled Belarus'

chances of repeating the fourth place performance from Salt Lake City in 2002.

"It's going to be a lot of work and a lot of fun," Hanlon said. "I am really looking forward to it." Hanlon, a native of Brandon, Manitoba, was named the NHL Washington Capitals head coach Dec. 10, 2003, after serving as an assistant coach for two seasons.

■ Hanlon, 48, has previous international coaching experience, serving as an assistant for the Canadian national team at the 1998 IIHF World Championships in Switzerland.

One Year Later: Ranking System keeps things in order

■ ■ Last year the International Ice Hockey Federation introduced its World Ranking System for both the Men's and women's World Championships and for the first time ever there was a measuring stick in place to gauge the team's on a four-year cycle and determine where among the world's elite teams each belonged.

In just a year's time, the World Ranking has become a key tool in the international hockey world. It's most important contribution in the last season involved the qualification process for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino. Since the ice hockey tournament will cut back from 16 to 12 teams at the upcoming Olympics, a fair and balanced system needed to be in place to ensure that the best teams were represented.

■ ■ Enter the World Ranking System, which gave the first eight teams an automatic berth to the Olympics. The remaining teams went through a qualification process - also determined by their World Ranking. The Pre-Qualification Tournament winners moved onto the Final Qualification Tournaments. The top-seeded teams hosted each tournament and, again the ranking system played a part in the grouping of each tournament. In the end, it was ninth-ranked Switzerland, 10th-ranked Latvia and surprise entry, 17th-ranked Kazakhstan making it to the Olympics. And Kazakhstan will be rewarded with its Olympic berth with more points after its Olympic appearance.

On the World Championship stage the World Ranking also played a key role at last year's World Championship. If the United States would have faltered at the 2004 championship, it could have been forced to go through the qualification process for the Olympics. Instead, the U.S. was rewarded for its bronze-medal effort and was able to secure sixth place in the World Ranking.

Note also how both Canada and Sweden, mainstays on the medal podium in the last several years each hold down top two spots, meaning the points awarded truly are reflective of a team's performance during the four-year cycle.

Below is a brief explanation of how the World Ranking System works:

■ ■ The IIHF World Ranking is based on awarding points for the final positions in the last four IIHF World Championships and in the last Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament. The 2004 IIHF World Ranking is thus based on the performance at the 2004, 2003, 2002 and the 2001 World Championship and at the 2002 Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament.

The team that wins the IIHF World Championship gold medal or the Olympic gold medal receives 1200 points. In general, there is a 20-point scale between two ranked positions. As an exception, there is a 40-point interval between gold and silver, silver and bronze, 4th and 5th position and between 8th and 9th position in the top division. This gives teams a bonus for reaching the quarter-finals, the semi-finals, etc.

The bonus formula can be changed with any alterations to the playing format.

■ ■ To enable the ranking to accurately reflect current form, the greatest importance is given to results of the last years' competition. To a lesser degree, attention is also paid to results from previous years. The system uses a four-year cycle as the points earned in one year decline linearly within the next 3 years and in the 5th year results are dropped from the calculation altogether.

Example: Value of the gold medal

Year 1: 100% value -- 1200 points

Year 2: 75% value -- 900 points

Year 3: 50% value -- 600 points

Year 4: 25% value -- 300 points

Year 5: 0% value -- 0 points

The IIHF World Ranking will be released following each IIHF World Championship and the Olympic Ice Hockey Tournament.

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

CURRENT IIHF WORLD RANKING

'04 Rank	Country	Total Pts	'05 Pre-Tourn
1	Canada	3485	2060 (1)
2	Sweden	3400	1995 (2)
3	Slovakia	3235	1905 (3)
4	Czech Republic	3225	1865 (4)
5	Finland	3195	1845 (5)
6	United States	3145	1825 (6)
7	Russia	3105	1785 (7)
8	Germany	2990	1740 (8)
9	Switzerland	2920	1715 (10)
10	Latvia	2900	1610 (9)
11	Austria	2755	1570 (11)
12	Ukraine	2720	1540 (12)
13	Belarus	2590	1490 (14)
14	Denmark	2575	1540 (13)
15	Japan	2440	1430 (16)
16	Slovenia	2420	1415 (17)
17	Kazakhstan	2410	1435 (15)
18	France	2400	1410 (18)
19	Italy	2315	1320 (20)
20	Poland	2295	1325 (19)
21	Norway	2265	1305 (21)
22	Hungary	2060	1200 (22)
23	Netherlands	2015	1185 (23)
24	Estonia	1995	1180 (24)
25	Great Britain	1990	1140 (25)
26	Romania	1845	1085 (26)
27	Lithuania	1720	1000 (27)
28	China	1630	935 (28)
29	Serbia & Mont.	1565	920 (29)
30	Korea	1455	880 (30)
31	Croatia	1425	830 (32)
32	Bulgaria	1375	795 (33)
33	Belgium	1345	835 (31)
34	Spain	1170	690 (34)
35	Australia	1125	675 (35)
36	Israel	1035	600 (37)
37	PRK	950	645 (36)
38	South Africa	930	545 (38)
39	Iceland	875	515 (40)
40	New Zealand	870	530 (39)
41	Mexico	770	455 (43)
42	Luxembourg	755	505 (41)
43	Turkey	690	455 (42)
44	Ireland	260	195 (44)
45	Armenia	240	180 (44)

POINTS EARNED

Top Division	
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	
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	
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

In the 2005 IIHF Pre-Championship Report the values of the 2004, 2003 and 2002 championships are already reduced by 25% compared to the 2004 final ranking. The 2001 Championship has been dropped altogether. Only the points earned from the 2005 World Championship need to be added to get the 2005 IIHF World Ranking.

Varied victories in Vienna's volu

The goal that ended Sweden's 25 years of agony **1987**

■ The 1987 IIHF World Championship in Vienna was a unique event. It was marred by the "Sikora-case" (see sidebar) and saw the defending champion Soviet Union lose the gold, despite not losing a single game, while Sweden won its first gold medal in 25 years - after losing three games (against Czechoslovakia, Finland and the Soviet Union).

The format then had the eight participants play a preliminary single round robin, with the four top teams qualifying for another four-team single round robin where all teams started from scratch.

The Soviets, who had lost only two games in the previous seven IIHF World Championships including the 1984 Olympics, swept through the preliminaries with a perfect 7-0-0 record, outscoring the opposition, 48-12.

■ But coach Viktor Tikhonov's team didn't perform well in the clutch. They could only manage a scoreless tie in the first game against Canada, putting them in a virtual must-win situation against the Swedes two days later.

Vladimir Krutov gave the Soviets a 2-1 lead midway through the third period and they seemed to be in full control as the game was approaching the last two minutes. What followed has been described as the best goal ever scored in the IIHF World Championship.

■ Sweden's 2-2-equalizer has all the criteria that make an unforgettable moment:

1. It was a beauty from the beginning of the action until the puck crossed the goal line.
2. It was history breaking.
3. It was scored against the toughest possible opposition.
4. It was scored in the dying moments of a crucial game.
5. It proved to be a World Championship decider.

As the game clock in the Wiener Stadthalle approached 18:30, the Swedish captain Bengt-Ake Gustafsson received the puck from defenseman Anders Eldebrink in their own zone. Gustafsson, by the Swedish coach Tommy Sandlin described as his "dream-player" skated from his own zone up the middle, puckhandling around a couple of checking Soviets.

Inside the blueline, he turned and made a drop pass to Tommy Albelin, the other Swedish defenseman, who crossed the puck from his right point position to winger Hakan Loob, who was standing to the left of the Soviet goal.

■ When Loob was checked by defenseman Alexei Kasatonov, he made an amazing turn-around backhand pass that surprised the entire Soviet defence, including the goaltender. The puck went straight to Tomas



Photo: BILDBYRAN, HASSLEHOLM

HOW SWEDEN IT WAS: Tomas Sandstrom finishes off what could be the greatest goal action in the history of the IIHF World Championships. Goalie Evgeni Belosheykin tossed his stick in pure desperation, Alexei Kasatonov can't believe what is happening while Vladimir Krutov is a passive bystander. Sweden - Soviet Union 2-2.

Sandstrom, the other winger, who had pinched in deep into the zone and was standing to the right of the net. With the Soviet defence collapsed around Loob, Sandstrom could almost effortlessly chip the puck into the deserted net. All five Swedish players on the ice had touched the puck before it crossed the line.

Despite not getting an assist on the play, it was Gustafsson who was the architect of the goal. He created the havoc in the Soviet "super-bloc" by cutting deep into their territory.

Gustafsson, who today is the head coach of Team Sweden (see interview on page 12) has very special memories from this goal.

"Swedish television shows it a couple of times a year and I have to admit it's a nice goal," says Bengt-Ake. "But what strikes me most when I watch it is the Soviets' desperation after the goal is scored. The goalie throws his stick and gloves in despair, while Kasatonov looks like he cannot believe what he sees. It was so strange for me to see the players who always used to hammer us by big margins show this kind of reaction. Because usually they never showed emotion."

■ Sweden's good fortunes continued as they got the opportunity to play a Canadian team with nothing to play for on the last day, resulting in a 9-0 trouncing. The Soviets regrouped and defeated the Czech Republic 2-1 in the very last game, but Sweden got away with their first IIHF World Championship gold medal in a quarter of a century due to a superior goal

Sikora-case was the nightmare of Vienna 1987



SIKORA. He came, was disqualified and left.

■ The 1987 IIHF World Championship in Vienna is remembered as much for Sweden's victory as for the "Sikora-case".

Miroslav Sikora was representing West Germany until the Finnish team -- after a loss to Sikora's German team -- filed a protest. The Finns had evidence that Sikora had ten years earlier played in an IIHF World U20 Championship for his native Poland - a breach of IIHF's eligibility regulations at that time.

■ When the championship directorate decided to deprive the West Germans of its points the team had won with the Polish-German player, they took the case to a Vienna court. In an unprecedented event, the district court of Vienna overruled the decision of the championship directorate, who had to adjust the standing according to the court's decision.

But Miroslav Sikora was disqualified and his career as a West German national team player ended after four games in Vienna.

1967

■ The Soviet Union was halfway through their nine-in-a-row streak when Vienna organized the IIHF World Championship for the first time in 1967. The Soviets swept through the championship with a 7-0-0-record and 58-9 in goal differential, but this was also the first and last time "The Big Red

Machine" would win gold in the Austrian capital. Sweden took silver after defeating Canada 6-0, which at that time was Sweden's biggest win over a Canadian national team. Canada was still good enough for bronze, which would be the last time Father Bauer's Team Canada would get a medal at an IIHF World Championship.

umous Worlds history



Canada's return was not what the fans had expected

■ After a seven-year absence, which included as many IIHF World Championships and two Olympic games, Canada was back in international hockey for the 1977 tournament in Vienna. The expectations were high.

European hockey fans hadn't seen Team Canada perform in the IIHF World Championships since 1969 in Sweden. After that, the relationship between the Canadian hockey authorities and the IIHF went sour over the issue of amateur or professional players.

Team Canada was coming with a team that included the Esposito brothers, Tony and Phil, and other established NHL-veterans like defensemen Carol Vadnais, Dallas Smith and Phil Russel and forwards Rod Gilbert, Ron Ellis, Pierre Larouche, Jean Pronovost - and Wilf Paiement.

■ Canada's showing was a sportive and a public relations disaster. The 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.



PAIEMENT. He didn't bring that smirk to Vienna

Canada regressed to violence and came home shamed and scorned for their behaviour. It even became an issue in the Canadian parliament.

Canada lost both their games to the Soviet Union by scores of 11-1 and 8-1, but they rebounded nicely in the four-team medal round where the Canadians defeated Sweden, 7-0 and the eventual world champions Czechoslovakia, 8-2. But few took notice. The damage was done. No one had ever witnessed a world championship team play in such an undisciplined way as the 1977 Team Canada did.

And no one had ever seen a player like Wilf Paiement, who did his best to mar the reputation of Canadian hockey for several years to come.

■ This tournament was very different from the usual "Soviets-sweep-them-all" championships of the 60s and 70s. In a unique turn of events during the long era of the Soviet Union domination, Sweden won both games against "The Big Red Machine", but still failed to win gold.

1977

Thanks to Canada's unexpected 8-2 drubbing of the Czechoslovaks on the last day, the Soviets could still win gold. All they needed was a point against Sweden in the final game of the championship. But two Swedes played the games of their lives. Forward Roland Eriksson scored a historic hat-trick in Sweden's 3-1 win, while goalie Goran Hogosta would never again have a performance like this.

The Czechoslovak players, who had all but relinquished any thoughts about the gold medal, were world champions again. Sweden got the silver, while the Soviet Union had to settle with bronze - the worst result during the dominant era 1963-1990.

■ What made Eriksson's feat unique? The Swedish forward from Leksand became one of only two players to score three goals on goaltender Vladislav Tretiak in a World Championship game. Eriksson is also the only one to do so in a winning contest. US-player Buzz Schneider scored three goals on Tretiak in 1975, but the Soviets won that game 10-5.

It was five years before Schneider would again score on Tretiak in Lake Placid, but in 1980, it mattered.

Prochazka's goal was the start of the Czech era

1996

■ As the teams came in to Vienna for the 60th IIHF World Championship in 1996, it was anybody's guess who would win the medals. The Soviet Union and its superiority was no more, and a new Europe as well as a new world order in hockey was taking shape.

Russia won the 1993 IIHF World Championship, Canada took its first world title in 33 years in 1994 and Finland got its first-ever world championship gold medal in 1995. There were no clear-cut favourites.

USA's 3-2 win over Sweden was the only real surprise of the quarterfinals. Canada defeated defending world champion Finland, 3-1, while Russia and the Czech Republic easily handled Italy and Germany respectively.

■ The Czech vs. US semi-final was no contest (5-0), but the other, a Russia vs. Canada classic, was a thriller. The teams were tied, 2-2, after regulation time and a ten-minute overtime. It took fourteen penalty shoot-outs before Yanic Perreault finally won it for Canada.

The gold medal game pitted the Czech Republic against Canada, the first time since the IIHF in 1992 adopted a playoff system leading up to a winner-takes-all final.



Photo: BILDBYRAN, HASSLEHOLM

CZECHS LIKE VIENNA: In four IIHF World Championships in the Austrian capital, the central European nation has won two gold medals. In 1977 as Czechoslovakia and in 1996 as Czech Republic. Here, coach Ludek Bukac (back) celebrates as the clock winds down in the gold medal game against Canada. This was the nation's first world championship as Czech Republic.

Again, Canada seemed bound to play to a 2-2 deadlock at the end of regulation. But with 19 seconds left Martin Prochazka scored for the Czechs, avoiding the overtime and the gold medal for the Czechs.

Canadian coach Tom Renney tried to get a late power play and requested a measurement of defenseman Stanislav Neckar's stick, but the German referee Gerhard Müller found nothing wrong with the blade, forcing Canada to play shorthanded.

Jiri Kucera scored an empty netter for the 4-2 win.

■ It was the Czech Republic's first gold medal after the separation from Slovakia and it started the most successful period in the nation's hockey history. The Czechs went on to win the 1998 Olympic gold in Nagano and sweep a triple in world championship gold medals: 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Canada rebounded immediately with gold in Helsinki one year later.

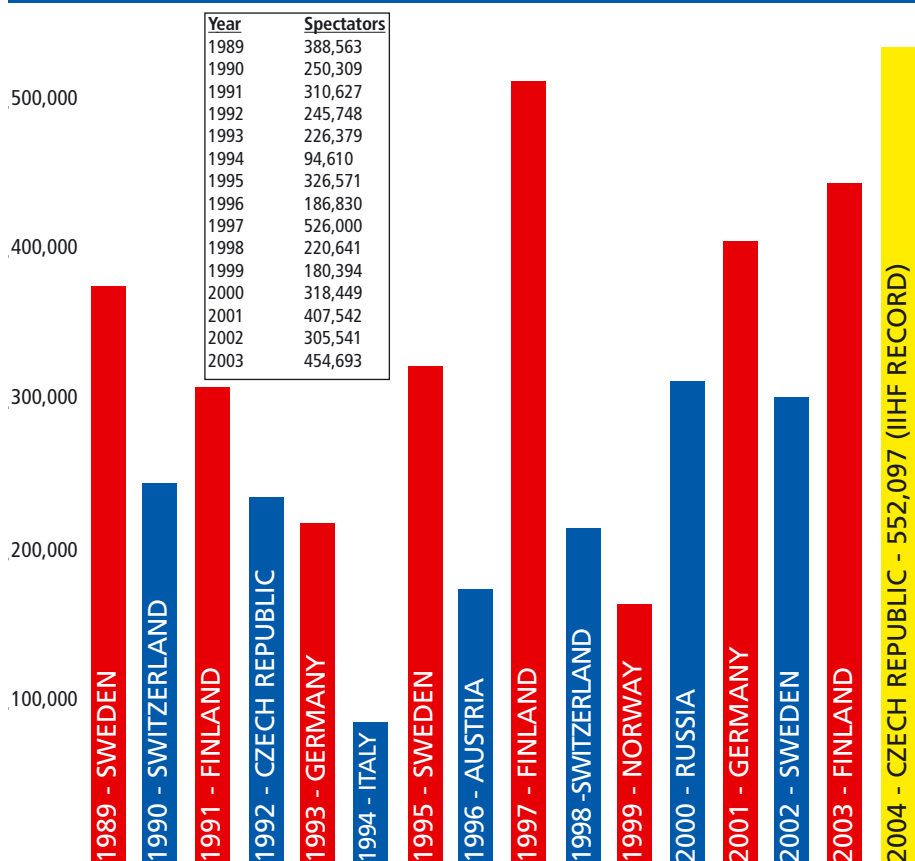
Where does your team stand in the IIHF Record Book?

ALL-TIME IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Top Division Sorted by Points

Country	Years	Games	Wins	Ties	Losses	Points	Goals for	Goals against	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
TCH/CZE	64	510	330	45	135	705	2372	1168	10	12	19	41
CAN	58	441	309	30	102	648	2421	925	23	10	9	42
SWE	63	506	294	53	161	640	2154	1352	7	18	14	39
URS/RUS	47	387	301	28	58	630	2298	747	23	8	5	36
USA	56	426	193	37	196	423	1673	1628	2	9	5	16
FIN	51	422	171	48	203	390	1439	1645	1	5	1	7
FRG/GER	51	388	116	41	231	273	998	1717	0	1	2	3
SUI	39	259	91	21	147	203	860	1136	0	1	8	9
POL	30	218	45	16	157	106	495	1226	0	0	0	0
AUT	27	159	45	15	99	105	389	687	0	0	0	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
SVK	9	68	36	9	23	81	226	160	1	1	1	3
NOR	24	148	33	10	105	76	356	746	0	0	0	0
DDR	14	119	27	10	82	64	277	653	0	1	0	1
LAT	13	74	27	7	40	61	193	236	0	0	0	0
FRA	21	103	24	3	76	51	189	472	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	13	65	10	7	48	27	176	419	0	0	0	0
UKR	6	33	8	3	22	19	67	129	0	0	0	0
YUG	3	19	8	2	9	18	68	131	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
DEN	3	15	2	1	12	5	27	143	0	0	0	0
KAZ	2	9	2	1	6	5	21	38	0	0	0	0
NED	4	22	2	0	20	4	34	156	0	0	0	0
LIT	1	4	1	0	3	0	3	33	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)

1. Jiri Holik	14	TCH	1964-77
1. Sven Tumba	14	SWE	1952-77
3. Lasse Oksanen	13	FIN	1964-77
3. Dieter Hegen	13	FRG	1982-98
3. Ronald Pettersson	13	SWE	1955-67
3. Vladislav Tretiak	13	URS	1970-83
3. Udo Kiessling	13	FRG	1973-91

Most World Championship Games

1. Jiri Holik	CZE	123 games
2. Lasse Oksanen	FIN	117 games
2. Vladislav Tretiak	URS	117 games
4. Oldrich Machac	TCH	113 games
5. Udo Kiessling	FRG	109 games

Most World Championship Points

1. Boris Mikhailov	URS	169 points
2. Valeri Kharlamov	URS	159 points
3. Alexander Maltsev	URS	156 points
4. Vladimir Petrov	URS	154 points
5. Sven Tumba	SWE	127 points

Most World Championship Medals

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

Switzerland's SC Bern king of European Attendance

■ The defending Swiss champion SC Bern set a new all-time attendance record for a club team in Europe for the 2004-2005 season. SC Bern recorded an average of 15,360 fans in 22 home games in the 16,771 Bern Arena, to top all European clubs for a fourth consecutive year. The Swiss league plays a 44-game schedule.

It was the first time the 15,000-barrier was broken in European club hockey. SC Bern surpassed the old record set last year by an more than 2,000 fans per game. The club recorded an average of 13,034 in 2003-2004.

■ The impressive increase is surprising considering that the 03-04 champion SC Bern struggled for much of the season. The club clinched the eighth and final playoff spot on the last day of the regular season. However,

the team had a strong playoff showing, eliminating first-place HC Lugano in five games in the first round.

The annual IIHF count of Europe's Top-25 clubs shows that the ranking among the top eight clubs has not changed from last season. The average of 11,676 recorded by Frölunda HC (Gothenburg) is an all-time record for the Swedish Elitserien, as the club has been filling the 12,044-seat Scandinavium arena for a capacity rate of 96.9 percent. The club sold out 16 out of 25 home games. The Swedish league plays a 50-game season.

■ Russian Lokomotiv Yaroslavl has the best capacity rate of the top ten clubs with 98,9 percent at the 9,046-seat Arena-2000.

Best attendance in European hockey leagues 2004-2005
The numbers are as follows: This season's attendance rank (last season's attendance rank) team name, team country, attendance average, percent of capacity

1. (1)	SC Bern	SUI	15'360	91,6%
2. (2)	Koln	GER	12'235	66,1%
3. (3)	Hamburg	GER	11'883	92,8%
4. (4)	Frölunda	SWE	11'676	96,9%
5. (5)	Jokerit	FIN	9'636	70,5%
6. (6)	Lokomotiv	RUS	8'941	98,9%
7. (7)	Pardubice	CZE	8'770	94,8%
8. (8)	Färjestad	SWE	7'956	96,4%
9. (x)	Linköping	SWE	7'703	90,6%
10. (x)	Slavia Prague	CZE	7'696	44,4%
11. (11)	Djurgarden	SWE	7'391	53,3%
12. (9)	TPS Turku	FIN	7'230	
13. (13)	HIFK Helsinki	FIN	7'007	
14. (16)	HV71	SWE	6'993	
15. (x)	Metallurg Nov.*	RUS	6'700	
16. (x)	Sibir Nov.*	RUS	6'700	
17. (15)	Frankfurt	GER	6'419	
18. (18)	HC Plzen	CZE	6'128	
19. (14)	DEG Stars	GER	5'962	
20. (x)	Sparta Prague	CZE	5'953	
21. (20)	Lausanne	SUI	5'932	
22. (17)	Karpat Oulu	FIN	5'892	
23. (23)	Timra IK	SWE	5'480	
24. (22)	Ilves Tampere	FIN	5'394	
25. (x)	HC Kladno	CZE	5'374	

* Figures for Metallurg Novokuznetsk and Sibir Novosibirsk are estimated.



Sitting Around the Campfire: SC Bern fans came out by the thousands to support Bern this season, and glowed with pride to be named the top fans again.

1987-born players proving to be a first-class, class

■ If the class of 1987-born players is any indication, the future of hockey is very bright.

At this year's IIHF U20 World Championship, there were nine 1987-born players and nearly all made a bold statement among older peers. Now most of the young U20 veterans suited up for their nations again at the U18 World Championship. Here are just a few of the young names that will soon be on the tip of the hockey world's tongue:

■ Sidney Crosby -

More has been written about the young Canadian sensation than many seasoned NHL veterans. At the tender age of 15, many in the Canadian media dubbed him the 'Next Great One'. Now, at the age of 17, Crosby has two U20 World Championships under his belt and a first overall draft selection all but sealed up. This year, Crosby's line produced



early half of Canada's offense in his team's gold-medal effort at the U20s. Alone, Crosby had six goals and three assists for an overwhelming nine points as one of youngest players at the championship. Crosby plays the regular season in the Quebec Major Junior League with Rimouski, where he sells out opposing team venues and creates a buzz wherever he goes.

■ **Phil Kessel** - For a little while at the U20 World Championship, it looked like only one player would be able to steal Sidney Crosby's thunder, and that was his 1987-born North American counterpart, Phil Kessel. Kessel was well known in North American circles prior to the championship, but he opened the world's eyes with his four goals and two assists on home ice with the United States team. The low-key Kessel shys away from the spotlight, and has played the last two seasons with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program. He announced that he will play at the University level next season with Minnesota. Scouts have one more chance this season to size Kessel up in international competition at the U18 championship in the Czech Republic.



■ **Anze Kopitar** - While Kopitar's Slovenian team wasn't at the top division of the U20 World Championship, Kopitar is still one of the 1987-born stars. No matter what division he plays in, it's impossible to leave Kopitar off the list of top prospects. 'Amazing Anze' is expected to be the highest European player drafted, when there's an NHL draft for this group. He already has two U20 Championships under his belt, including an impressive 13-point performance at this year's Division I U20s. He also stole the show at last year's U18 Championship with six goals and two assists. Kopitar, who plays professionally in Sweden with Sodertalje, netted 11 points this year's U18 Division I and is expected to be on the men's roster in an upcoming season.

■ Sjarhei Kastsitsyn -

The name Kastsitsyn in Belarus is like the name Gretzky in Canada. In this name, Belarus sees its future. First came brother Andrei, who a teammate of Sjarhei at this year's U20s in the U.S. While Andrei has been the big name, Sjarhei is quietly making a name for himself. At last year's U18s, he was



one of the bright spots on a Belarus team that got relegated, getting one goal and three assists, which led the team. He was rewarded with his strong performance with a spot on the U20 team, where he failed to register a point, but gained valuable experience. Another few year's on the junior circuit and with HC Gomel and the Kastsitsyn's could be a lethal one-two-punch for the Belarus Men's national team.

■ **Leonardo Genoni & Reto Berra** - The pair of Swiss goaltenders may not be at the level of big name goalies from other nations, but they are a key to Switzerland's success on the junior stage for the next few seasons. Switzerland has been straddling Division I and the top level recently, but some consistency could come its way thanks to this duo. Genoni and Berra play within the same organization during season (junior teams with the Zurich Lions). Genoni has the slight edge as he was named to the Swiss U20 team as the back-up goalie, and also was the back-up for Zurich during their playoff run in the Swiss A League. But Berra is not far behind, logging serious ice time this season with an amazing 96 games played. Whoever is the starter in the next few years makes little difference as both have strong futures.

IIHF World Women Championship

Linköping & Norrköping, SWEDEN April 2-9, 2005

Preliminary Round - Group A

Sweden - Russia	3 - 1	(0-0, 2-1, 1-0)
Canada - Kazakhstan	13-0	(4-0, 6-0, 3-0)
Russia - Canada	0-12	(0-1, 0-4, 0-7)
Sweden - Kazakhstan	5 - 1	(0-0, 0-0, 5-1)
Kazakhstan - Russia	2 - 2	(1-1, 0-1, 1-0)
Canada - Sweden	10-0	(3-0, 4-0, 3-0)

Canada	3	3	0	0	35	-	6
Sweden	3	2	0	1	8	-	4
Russia	3	0	1	2	3	-	17
Kazakhstan	3	0	1	2	3	-	20

Preliminary Round - Group B

USA - China	8 - 2	(4-1, 2-0, 2-1)
Finland - Germany	5 - 1	(3-0, 2-0, 0-1)
Germany - USA	0 - 7	(0-5, 0-1, 0-1)
Finland - China	5 - 1	(0-0, 4-1, 1-0)
China - Germany	3 - 3	(1-1, 0-2, 2-0)
USA - Finland	8 - 1	(2-0, 3-0, 3-1)

United States	3	3	0	0	23	-	3
Finland	3	2	0	1	11	-	10
Ukraine	3	0	1	2	6	-	16
Poland	3	0	1	2	4	-	15

5th-place Game

China - Kazakhstan 3 - 0 (1-0, 1-0, 1-0)

7th-place Game (Relegation Game)

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

Semi-Final Round

Canada - Finland 3 - 0 (0-0, 2-0, 1-0)
USA - Sweden 4 - 1 (0-1, 3-0, 1-0)

Bronze Medal Game

Finland - Sweden 2 - 5 (1-1, 1-0, 0-4)

Gold Medal Game

Canada - USA 0 - 1 (0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-1)GWS

Final Ranking

- United States
- Canada
- Sweden
- Finland
- China
- Kazakhstan
- Germany
- Russia

Russia relegated to 2006 IIHF World Women Championship Division I

Directorate Team:

- Best Goalkeeper: Chanda Gunn, USA
- Best Defenseman: Angela Ruggiero, USA
- Best Forward: Jayna Hefford, CAN

Media All-Star Team:

- Goaltender: Natalya Trunova, KAZ
- Defensemen: Angela Ruggiero, USA; Cheryl Pounder, CAN
- Forwards: Krissy Wendell, USA; Hayley Wickenheiser, CAN; Maria Rooth, SWE

IIHF World Women Championship Div. I

Romanshorn, SWITZERLAND March 27-April 4, 2005

France - Czech Republic	2 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 1-1)
Denmark - Switzerland	0-11	(0-5, 0-3, 0-3)
Latvia - Japan	1 - 5	(1-0, 0-1, 0-4)
Czech Republic - Denmark	4 - 2	(1-1, 2-0, 1-1)
Japan - France	5 - 1	(0-1, 4-0, 1-0)
Switzerland - Latvia	5 - 2	(1-0, 2-0, 2-2)
Denmark - Latvia	9 - 4	(5-1, 1-2, 3-1)
Japan - Czech Republic	1 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Switzerland - France	7 - 2	(2-2, 3-0, 2-0)
Latvia - France	4 - 6	(1-2, 2-3, 1-1)
Czech Republic - Switzerland	1 - 3	(0-2, 1-0, 0-1)
Japan - Denmark	5 - 3	(3-1, 0-1, 2-1)
Czech Republic - Latvia	6 - 1	(2-0, 2-0, 2-1)
France - Denmark	7 - 1	(2-0, 3-1, 2-0)
Switzerland - Japan	3 - 2	(1-0, 1-1, 1-1)

Switzerland	5	5	0	0	29	-	7
Japan	5	4	0	1	18	-	8
Czech Republic	5	2	1	2	13	-	9
France	5	2	1	2	18	-	19
Denmark	5	1	0	4	15	-	31
Latvia	5	0	0	5	12	-	31

Switzerland promoted to 2006 IIHF World Women Championship
Latvia Relegated to 2006 IIHF World Womens Championship Div. II

IIHF World Women Championship Div. II

Asiago, ITALY March 13-19, 2005

Slovakia - PRK	2 - 1	(0-0, 1-0, 1-1)
Austria - Norway	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Netherlands - Italy	0 - 5	(0-4, 0-0, 0-1)
Norways - Slovakia	2 - 3	(1-0, 0-3, 1-0)
PRK - Netherlands	6 - 0	(1-0, 3-0, 2-0)
Italy - Austria	6 - 1	(1-0, 1-0, 4-1)
Norway - Netherlands	7 - 1	(3-1, 2-0, 2-0)
Austria - Slovakia	1 - 8	(0-0, 0-5, 1-3)
PRK - Italy	1 - 6	(0-2, 1-2, 0-2)
Slovakia - Netherlands	3 - 2	(2-0, 0-0, 1-2)
PRK - Austria	4 - 3	(1-0, 1-2, 2-1)
Italy - Norway	2 - 5	(0-3, 1-1, 1-1)
Norway - PRK	4 - 0	(0-0, 3-0, 1-0)
Netherlands - Austria	3 - 5	(1-2, 1-2, 1-1)
Italy - Slovakia	2 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 0-0)

Norway	5	4	0	1	21	-	6
Italy	5	4	0	1	21	-	7
Slovakia	5	4	0	1	16	-	8
PRK	5	2	0	3	12	-	15
Austria	5	1	0	4	10	-	24
Netherlands	5	0	0	5	6	-	26

Norway promoted to 2006 IIHF World Women Championship Div. I
Netherlands Relegated to 2006 IIHF World Womens Championship Div. III

IIHF World Women Championship Div. III

Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA March 3-9, 2005

Hungary - Great Britain	0 - 5	(0-2, 0-0, 0-3)
Belgium - Slovenia	0 - 6	(0-3, 0-1, 0-1)
South Africa - Australia	1 - 11	(1-4, 0-3, 0-4)
Great Britain - Belgium	11 - 0	(5-0, 3-0, 3-0)
Australia - Hungary	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-3, 0-0)
Slovenia - South Africa	19 - 2	(6-0, 6-1, 7-1)
Australia - Belgium	1 - 1	(0-0, 1-0, 0-1)
Great Britain - Slovenia	1 - 4	(0-0, 1-1, 0-3)
South Africa - Hungary	1 - 9	(0-2, 1-4, 0-3)
Slovenia - Australia	7 - 1	(2-1, 4-0, 1-0)
Hungary - Belgium	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-0, 0-3)
Great Britain - South Africa	19 - 0	(5-0, 4-0, 10-0)
Slovenia - Hungary	5 - 4	(2-4, 2-0, 1-0)
Australia - Great Britain	2 - 6	(2-1, 0-3, 0-2)
Belgium - South Africa	3 - 2	(0-0, 2-1, 1-1)

Slovenia	5	5	0	0	41	-	8
Great Britain	5	4	0	1	42	-	6
Belgium	5	2	1	2	7	-	20
Hungary	5	2	0	3	16	-	14
Australia	5	1	1	3	15	-	18
South Africa	5	0	0	5	6	-	61

Slovenia promoted to 2006 IIHF World Women Championship Division II
South Africa Relegated to 2006 IIHF World Women Championship Div. IV

IIHF World Women Championship Div. IV

Dunedin, NEW ZEALAND April 1-4, 2005

New Zealand - Romania	3 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 0-0)
Korea - Iceland	2 - 8	(3-0, 4-0, 1-2)
Romania - Iceland	2 - 0	(0-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Korea - New Zealand	5 - 2	(2-0, 2-1, 1-1)
Romania - Korea	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 0-1)
Iceland - New Zealand	4 - 4	(1-3, 0-0, 3-1)

Korea	3	3	0	0	15	-	5
New Zealand	3	1	1	1	9	-	9
Romania	3	1	0	2	3	-	5
Iceland	3	0	1	2	6	-	14

Korea promoted to 2006 IIHF World Women Championship Division III

IIHF World Championship Div. III

Mexico City, MEXICO March 7-13, 2005

Armenia - South Africa	1-33	(0-11, 0-14, 1-8)
Mexico - Luxembourg	2 - 0	(2-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Ireland - Armenia	23-1	(9-0, 5-0, 9-1)
Luxembourg - Ireland	8 - 4	(2-0, 3-0, 3-4)
South Africa - Mexico	2 - 4	(1-2, 0-0, 1-2)
Luxembourg - Armenia	38-3	(9-2, 12-0, 17-1)
Ireland - South Africa	4 - 5	(1-0, 0-2, 3-3)
Armenia - Mexico	0-48	(0-13, 0-18, 0-17)
South Africa - Luxembourg	7 - 3	(3-0, 2-2, 2-1)
Mexico - Ireland	6 - 1	(0-0, 4-0, 2-1)

Mexico	4	4	0	0	60	-	3
South Africa	4	3	0	1	47	-	12
Muxembourg	4	2	0	2	49	-	16
Ireland	4	1	0	3	32	-	20
Armenia	4	0	0	4	5	-	142

Mexico & South Africa promoted to 2006 IIHF World Championship Div. II

IIHF World U18 Championship Div. I Group A

Maribor, SLOVENIA April 3-9, 2005

Great Britain - Belarus	0 - 5	(forfeit)
France - Austria	4 - 1	(1-0, 3-1, 0-0)
Kazakhstan - Slovenia	3 - 5	(1-1, 0-3, 2-1)
Austria - Great Britain	5 - 4	(1-2, 0-0, 4-2)
Belarus - Kazakhstan	3 - 2	(1-0, 0-0, 2-2)
Slovenia - France	4 - 1	(3-1, 0-0, 1-0)
Belarus - France	2 - 3	(0-0, 0-3, 2-0)
Great Britain - Kazakhstan	2 - 4	(1-0, 1-2, 0-2)
Slovenia - Austria	3 - 4	(2-0, 1-2, 0-2)
Kazakhstan - France	4 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 3-0)
Austria - Belarus	2 - 8	(0-1, 0-3, 2-4)
Slovenia - Great Britain	7 - 1	(2-1, 2-0, 3-0)
Austria - Kazakhstan	3 - 6	(1-2, 1-3, 1-1)
France - Great Britain	2 - 3	(0-1, 1-1, 1-1)
Belarus - Slovenia	5 - 3	(2-0, 2-2, 1-1)

Belarus	5	4	0	1	23	-	10
Slovenia	5	3	0	2	22	-	14
Kazakhstan	5	3	0	2	19	-	14
France	5	2	0	3	11	-	14
Austria	5	2	0	3	15	-	25
Great Britain	5	1	0	4	10	-	23

Belarus promoted to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship
Netherlands Relegated to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. II

IIHF World U18 Championship Div. I Group B

Sosnowiec, POLAND April 2-8, 2005

Latvia - Japan	3 - 2	(0-1, 3-1, 0-0)
Ukraine - Norway	5 - 1	(2-0, 2-0, 1-1)
Poland - Italy	3 - 3	(1-1, 0-0, 2-2)
Norway - Latvia	2 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 1-0)
Italy - Ukraine	3 - 4	(1-1, 2-0, 0-3)
Japan - Poland	4 - 6	(1-3, 1-2, 2-1)
Japan - Italy	2 - 2	(0-0, 1-1, 1-1)
Ukraine - Latvia	2 - 3	(1-0, 0-3, 0-0)
Norway - Poland	7 - 0	(4-0, 1-0, 2-0)
Japan - Ukraine	2 - 1	(0-0, 2-0, 0-1)
Italy - Norway	2 - 3	(0-1, 0-0, 2-2)
Latvia - Poland	2 - 3	(2-0, 0-2, 0-1)
Norway - Japan	5 - 2	(0-1, 4-0, 1-1)
Italy - Latvia	4 - 5	(2-1, 2-1, 0-3)
Poland - Ukraine	3 - 4	(0-0, 1-1, 2-3)

Norway	5	4	0	1	18	-	10
Latvia	5	3	0	2	14	-	13
Ukraine	5	3	0	2	16	-	12
Poland	5	2	1	2	15	-	20
Japan	5	1	1	3	12	-	17
Italy	5	0	2	3	14	-	17

Norway promoted to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship
South Africa Relegated to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. II

IIHF World Championship Div. II Group B

Belgrade, SERBIA & MONTENEGRO April 4-10, 2005

Israel - Korea	4 - 4	(0-0, 2-1, 2-3)
Iceland - Belgium	3 - 4	(1-2, 1-1, 1-1)
Spain - Serbia & Mont.	0 - 6	(0-2, 0-1, 0-3)
Belgium - Spain	2 - 1	(1-0, 0-1, 1-0)
Iceland - Korea	3 - 2	(1-2, 1-0, 1-0)
Serbia & Mont. - Israel	1 - 5	(0-2, 1-1, 0-2)
Spain - Iceland	5 - 2	(0-1, 2-0, 3-1)
Belgium - Israel	4 - 7	(2-4, 1-2, 1-1)
Serbia & Mont. - Korea	7 - 1	(1-0, 4-0, 2-1)
Korea - Belgium	3 - 1	(0-0, 1-0, 2-1)
Spain - Israel	0 - 1	(0-0, 0-0, 0-1)
Iceland - Serbia & Mont.	2 - 11	(0-6, 2-3, 0-2)
Israel - Iceland	4 - 2	(0-0, 0-2, 2-2)
Korea - Spain	4 - 2	(2-2, 0-0, 2-0)
Belgium - Serbia & Mont.	2 - 5	(2-2, 0-2, 0-1)

Israel	5	4	1	0	21	-	11
Serbia & Mont.	5	4	0	1	30	-	10
Korea	5	2	1	2	14	-	17
Belgium	5	2	0	3	13	-	19
Spain	5	1	0	4	8	-	15
Iceland	5	1	0	4	12	-	26

Israel promoted to 2006 IIHF World Championship Div. I
Iceland Relegated to 2006 IIHF World Championship Div. III

RESULTS SUMMARY

IIHF World 18 Championship Div. II Group. A

Kohla-Jarve, ESTONIA March 14-20, 2005

South Africa - Korea	0-22	(0-10, 0-4, 0-8)
Spain - Estonia	3-6	(0-1, 2-3, 1-2)
Serbia & Mont. - Netherlands	0-8	(0-1, 0-3, 0-4)
Korea - Spain	8-1	(2-1, 1-0, 5-0)
Netherlands - South Africa	11-1	(9-1, 0-0, 2-0)
Estonia - Serbia & Mont.	3-2	(2-0, 0-1, 1-1)
Netherlands - Korea	2-11	(0-4, 2-5, 0-2)
Estonia - South Africa	11-3	(3-1, 6-2, 2-0)
Spain - Serbia & Mont.	6-5	(2-0, 1-3, 3-2)
South Africa - Spain	4-6	(2-3, 1-1, 1-2)
Korea - Serbia & Mont.	3-2	(1-0, 1-1, 1-1)
Estonia - Netherlands	3-2	(1-0, 1-1, 1-1)
Serbia & Mont. - S. Africa	12-0	(6-0, 4-0, 2-0)
Netherlands - Spain	7-0	(1-0, 3-0, 3-0)
Korea - Estonia	7-2	(1-0, 3-2, 3-0)

Korea	5	5	0	0	51	-	7	10
Estonia	5	4	0	1	25	-	17	8
Netherlands	5	3	0	2	30	-	15	6
Spain	5	2	0	3	16	-	30	4
Serbia & Mont.	5	1	0	4	21	-	20	2
South Africa	5	0	0	5	8	-	62	0

*Korea promoted to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. I
South Africa relegated to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. III*

IIHF World 18 Championship Div. II Group. B

Bucharest, ROMANIA March 21-27, 2005

Iceland - Croatia	2-6	(1-0, 0-3, 1-3)
Lithuania - Hungary	3-8	(1-3, 1-5, 1-0)
Mexico - Romania	3-0	(2-0, 0-0, 1-0)
Hungary - Iceland	7-2	(2-1, 5-0, 0-1)
Croatia - Mexico	5-1	(2-1, 1-0, 2-0)
Romania - Lithuania	3-8	(0-4, 1-3, 2-1)
Mexico - Lithuania	3-5	(0-2, 3-1, 0-2)
Hungary - Croatia	5-1	(1-0, 1-0, 3-1)
Romania - Iceland	1-10	(1-6, 0-2, 0-2)
Hungary - Mexico	13-0	(6-0, 3-0, 4-0)
Lithuania - Iceland	7-2	(0-1, 2-0, 5-1)
Croatia - Romania	2-2	(0-0, 2-1, 0-1)
Croatia - Lithuania	3-8	(1-2, 1-3, 1-3)
Iceland - Mexico	3-8	(2-2, 1-3, 0-3)
Romania - Hungary	2-7	(0-3, 0-4, 2-0)

Hungary	5	5	0	0	40	-	8	10
Lithuania	5	4	0	1	31	-	19	8
Croatia	5	2	1	2	17	-	18	5
Mexico	5	2	0	3	15	-	26	4
Iceland	5	1	0	4	19	-	29	2
Romania	5	0	1	4	8	-	30	1

*Hungary promoted to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. I
Romania relegated to 2006 IIHF World U18 Championship Div. III*

IIHF World 18 Championship Div. III

Sofia, BULGARIA, March 7-13, 2005

Israel - New Zealand	7-2	(4-0, 1-1, 2-1)
Bulgaria - Australia	2-13	(1-4, 1-1, 0-8)
Turkey - Belgium	0-11	(0-2, 0-7, 0-2)
Belgium - Bulgaria	11-1	(4-0, 4-1, 3-0)
Australia - Israel	7-2	(1-1, 3-1, 3-0)
New Zealand - Turkey	11-0	(5-0, 2-0, 4-0)
Belgium - Israel	5-2	(1-2, 2-0, 1-1)
Australia - New Zealand	4-1	(1-0, 2-0, 1-1)
Turkey - Bulgaria	6-2	(2-0, 1-0, 3-2)
New Zealand - Belgium	1-6	(0-1, 1-0, 5-0)
Bulgaria - Israel	1-16	(1-4, 0-5, 0-7)
Australia - Turkey	18-0	(5-0, 7-0, 6-0)
Belgium - Australia	1-4	(0-2, 0-1, 1-1)
New Zealand - Bulgaria	7-0	(1-0, 2-0, 4-0)
Israel - Turkey	9-0	(3-0, 2-0, 4-0)

Australia	5	5	0	0	46	-	6	10
Belgium	5	4	0	1	34	-	8	8
Israel	5	3	0	2	36	-	15	6
New Zealand	5	2	0	3	22	-	17	4
Turkey	5	1	0	4	6	-	51	2
Bulgaria	5	0	0	5	6	-	53	0

Australia & Belgium promoted to 2006 World 18 Championship Div. II

IIHF World U18 Division III Qualification

Ankara, TURKEY February 18-20, 2005

Round Robin								
Turkey - Armenia	15-1	(6-0, 6-1, 3-0)						
Armenia - Bosnia & Herz.	3-12	(0-3, 3-5, 0-4)						
Bosnia & Herz. - Turkey	3-6	(1-3, 1-2, 1-1)						

Turkey	2	2	0	0	21	-	4	4
Bosnia & Herz.	2	1	0	1	15	-	9	2
Armenia	2	0	0	2	4	-	27	0

Turkey qualified to play in 2005 U18 Division III Championship

Israel into Division I

■ Israel, the middle-eastern country with one rink, has earned promotion to Division I of the IIHF World Championship after winning the gold medal at the Division II Group B World Championship in Belgrade.

The win is one of the biggest sensations that international ice hockey has ever seen. The team, coached by Canadian Jean Perron, who led the Montreal Canadiens to the Stanley Cup in 1986, defeated Iceland, 4-2, on Sunday, April 10 to clinch the division win. Israel's recreational, college and minor league players can now look forward to facing division I team made up largely of full-time professional players. Israeli standouts were goalie Evgeny Gussin, who allowed 11 goals in five games, and forward Oren Eisenman, who had nine goals - three of them game winners.

Asian Hockey League crowns first champion

■ Kokudo Tokyo became the first champions of the newly formed Asian Hockey League after defeating regular season champion Nippon Paper Cranes in four games in the best-of-five final series between the Japanese teams.

Kokudo won the deciding game, 5-2, in Tokyo on March 27. The Paper Cranes took the first game, 2-0, but Kokudo bounced back with 2-1 and 6-4 victories before they clinched the championship with a third consecutive win.

The eight teams from four nations played a 42-game schedule with Nippon Paper Cranes winning the league ahead of Kokudo. Russia's Golden Amur Khabarovsk were third, followed by Oji Hockey (JPN), Anyang Halla Winia (KOR), Nikko Icebucks (JPN), Harbin (CHN) and Qiqihar (CHN).

■ Nippon Paper Cranes' Darcy Mitani became the first scoring champion of the new league, netting 25 goals and adding 44 assists for 69 points in 42 games.

IHWC.net ready to inform the world from Austria

■ For the fifth consecutive year, the International Ice Hockey Federation website will take on a new look look when the World Championship begins.

IHWC.net, the official website for the World Championship has established itself as one of the most informative and successful event-based websites in international sports.

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

■ Approximately 1.9 visits were recorded during the 16 days of the World Championship, exceeding the figures from the record setting tournament in Finland the pervious year. On peak day, more than 137,000 users were online simultaneously, spending an average of approximately 17 minutes surfing the site.

The reason for the increased interest is clear. IHWC.net offers everything that fans of the World Championship want and expect.

Every game has 'Real Time' live scores and statistics that fans can follow from home. Following each game, player and team statistics are updated.

Beyond the numbers, IHWC.com offers quality journalism, that gives readers a glimpse behind the scenes of the World Championships. Daily previews and game

recaps are just the tip of the iceberg, as the site also offers in-depth features, interviews, news and columns.

The site also has a Photo Gallery with images from every game and the popular message board that allows fans to talk about their favorite team's performance. The numerous features of the site include:

□ Key Matchup: Periodic feature capturing the essence of a game through a particular player rivalry

□ In the Spotlight: Exclusive www.IHWC.net player interviews with the stars of the World Championship.

□ Power Rankings: An analysis by www.IHWC.net's editors of each country's performance to date.

□ Q & A with a Star: Exclusive interview sessions with the great stars of the current World Championship

□ IHWC Global Experts: Columns, editorials, and more from reporters around the world who converge on the World Championship every year.

□ Championship Rules: Refresh your memory regarding tournament format, tiebreak, overtime, and shootout procedures.

□ IIHF World Ranking: A complete and up-to-date graph showing everything

you need to know about the ranking of the top 44 hockey nations, their achievements in 2005, and their current World Ranking. As well, find the calculation of the World Ranking system.

□ Message Boards: See what fans from around the world are saying about their favourite players and teams - and the players and teams they are not so fond of, either!

□ IHWC Poll: A periodic installment created for interactive use by IHWC.net readers.

□ IHWC Scoreboard: To see the statistical progress of all games as they are being played, click to the relevant game for scores and summaries.



A smile of a winner? Swedes surely hope so

By Szymon Szemberg

■ ■ Bengt-Ake

Gustafsson has taken over the reigns over one of the most successful national teams in modern times. Sweden's famous Tre Kronor is in fact the most thriving and consistent of all men's national teams in the span of the last fifteen years. Since 1992, Sweden has won three IIHF World Championship gold medals, six silver and four bronze. In this one and a half decade the Swedes have thirteen "final-four" appearances, having missed the semi-final in only 1996 and 2000.

Add Sweden's second position in the IIHF World Ranking and no country is even close to this impressive world championship consistency. Still, media and the fans are not happy - and Gustafsson feels that the pressure is on. To win gold in Austria.

"Unfortunately, our fans mainly remember and have very strong feelings about our recent failures in big games," says Bengt-Ake who replaced Hardy Nilsson on January 24, 2005 on the hottest seat in Swedish sport. "The games which hurt the most is the Olympic loss to Belarus in Salt Lake City, the two consecutive gold medal defeats against Canada and the bad loss (6-1, ed. note) to the Czech Republic in the World Cup. And everyone in Swedish hockey is constantly reminded about those games. And that we really have an impressive resume in international hockey doesn't seem to matter a lot."

■ ■ Do you find it strange?

"Well, it's a little bit unfair and also disrespectful towards the other nations. I mean, there are seven very competitive teams in international hockey today and they also want to win each and every tournament. I understand that our media and fans want us to win, but it's unfortunate that the big picture is often being forgotten."

■ ■ Can you explain why Sweden is so consistent, but also why the Tre Kronor has had a hard time winning the big games in recent years?

"Despite being a small country, we have an impressive depth in our player pool. This is the main reason why Swedish national teams have been so consistent and hard to beat in the world championships. The losses? As we can be very satisfied with our depth, we tend to lack the winning touch quality, this something extra you need to decide the outcome in a big game. Instead, we have stumbled on the goal line."



Photos: CITY-PRESS, BERLIN

WILL HE ALSO LAUGH ON MAY 15? *Albeit a strong and consistent record in the IIHF World Championship in the last fifteen years, Sweden's last gold medal dates back to 1998. After two consecutive gold medal game defeats to Canada, the Swedish hockey fans hope that former "Golden Boy" Gustafsson has a better touch than former coach Hardy Nilsson.*

■ ■ Your predecessor Hardy Nilsson introduced the "torpedo-style" but it was torpedoed after the infamous Belarus-game in Salt Lake. What will be the Tre Kronor trademark under Bengt-Ake Gustafsson?



VERSATILE CENTRE: *Gustafsson wants his centres to assume the same kind of key role that he had himself in the Swedish national team in the 80s. Here, Bengt-Ake is seen backchecking against Canada during the 1987 IIHF World Championship in Vienna, when Sweden won the gold.*

"We will return to the traditional style of Swedish hockey and the style which is used by most clubs in our league. It will be a system where the centre has a versatile role in a two-one-two scheme, the same basic approach which gave Sweden big success in the late 80s and the early 90s."

■ ■ So that means that you want your centres to play just like you played for Tre Kronor in the 80s?

"Yes, pretty much so. The centre must assume a big defensive responsibility and be the natural link between defence and offence."

■ ■ How will the new and unique premises with the NHL-lockout affect your job for Austria 2005?

"It will be very different from how coaches and management usually have to work. We will be able to play four exhibition games with the team which more or less will be the world championship team. We won't have to monitor the Stanley Cup playoffs for late additions. The whole preparation process will be so much easier."

■ ■ Which young Swedish player do you predict to have a coming-out party in Austria?

"Henrik Lundqvist, our goaltender. Lot has been written about the poor state of Swedish goal-

tending and he is our solution. Henrik is our next great goalie. He has all the qualities that it takes to make it big."

■ ■ Not many Swedish fans know about your five-year stint as an assistant coach for Team Switzerland which included five IIHF World Championships (98-02) and also the Salt Lake City Olympics. How important is that experience now that you are head coach of Team Sweden?

"It's incredibly valuable. I have played in many international tournaments but being a coach is so different. After working for five years with coach Ralph Krueger I know how things work behind the scenes. It was a very learning process."

The difference, though, is that with Sweden, Gustafsson has to win. Or else.

Bengt-Ake Gustafsson
Born: March 23, 1958 in Karlskoga, Sweden.
IIHF World Champion: 1987, 1991. (Silver 1981, Bronze 1979)
National team games: 117 (Including 1992 Olympics and two Canada Cups, 1984, 1987)
Other honours: 661 games (205 goals, 378 assists) for the NHL Washington Capitals 1979-1989. Led Austrian club VEU Feldkirch to the European Hockey League championship in 1998. Inducted to the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2003.
Coaching career: Langnau (SUI) 1999-2002. Färjestads BK (SWE) 2002-2005. Led Färjestad to Swedish championship in 2002. Asst. coach for Team Switzerland 1998-2002, including five IIHF World Championship and the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.
Trivia: Played one season for the Edmonton Oilers in the WHA in 1978.