

News Release

FAIR PLAY
AND RESPECT



Publisher: International Ice Hockey Federation, **Editor-in-Chief:** Jan-Ake Edvinsson
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December 2002 - Vol. 6 - No 6

The game is vital - not the coaches' job

Coaches who mainly stress defence and officials who don't enforce rules are the two biggest dangers to our game.

I remember watching a game between Sweden and Switzerland at the 2000 IIHF World Championship in Russia. The game ended 1-1 and, from my point of view, it was a terrible performance, a show of "anti-hockey" featuring two strictly defensive teams, and the entertainment factor was very low, to say the least.

■ I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the coaches of the teams congratulate each other for a good game afterwards. I told them honestly how I felt about the game.

The following years were very positive for international hockey. The permitted two-line pass opened the game, gave the creative players more freedom, and the hurry-up face off speeded up the game. The 2002 Olympic hockey tournament at Salt Lake City showed the entire hockey world how great this game is when skilful players are given a positive environment to excel in.

The Olympic hockey tournament - by many observers described as the best hockey ever played - was the reason why, some months later, the NHL decided to diligently enforce all obstruction rules starting this season. The reports from the first part of their season have been all but positive.

■ While the NHL seems to have grabbed the momentum from Salt Lake City, the pendulum is again swinging the other way in the European leagues. Lot's of what I have seen during this season reminds me of the depressing Sweden vs Switzerland game in St. Petersburg.

Too many coaches are instructing their teams too defend their own blue line and wait for the opposing team to come at them, thus reducing the risks of the long outlet pass. The idea behind allowing the two-line pass gets lost. We are back to the dire days of the mid-zone traps, hookings, holdings, interferences and all kinds of illegal obstructions.

This is something that the IIHF will not hesitate to address. First of all we must change



Photos: IIHF Archives

FROM WORLD JUNIORS TO WORLD BEATERS. Great talents will become great players as long as they are allowed to excel their skills and not be confined to defensive systems. On top: Henrik Zetterberg, Sweden. Portraits: Marian Gaborik, Slovakia and Jarome Iginla, Canada. Below: Aleksander Ovechkin, Russia. Zetterberg (1999), Gaborik (2000) and Iginla (1996) are former World Junior stars. Ovechkin is projected as the "Next One" and should be the toast of Halifax 2003.

the attitude of the coaches. Their job is to keep the players fit and motivated. They are not entitled to hijack a beautiful and entertaining game for the simple purpose of just keeping their jobs. Let the players play!

■ I perfectly understand that coaches need to win in order to keep their jobs. But what will their jobs be worth once the fans have abandoned the arenas? We have just started the process and we will relentlessly pursue our goals which we truly believe are in the best interests of hockey.

The other side of this will be even stricter rule enforcement (just like the NHL) or even rule changes. The National Basketball Association (NBA) benefited tremendously many years ago by not allowing the teams to play the static zone defence. It was a bold move. Hockey is a different game from basketball, but we can still make changes, which can have profound impact on the game, especially on how teams set up their defence.

■ We will not be afraid to experiment with ideas like four-on-four hockey, reducing the mid zone and thus increasing the offensive and defensive zones, or taking away the blue lines altogether. This is how it works in the IIHF World In-Line Championship and the show they put on last summer in Germany was highly entertaining.

The issue of goaltending equipment must also be closely monitored. Just take a look at a goaltender in a photo or TV footage from a game 15 or 20 years ago and compare them with today's goaltenders, which look like those Michelin-figures one can see on trucks. Every piece of equip-

ment, including the jersey, seems to be out of proportion.

■ We are approaching one of the highlights of the hockey season - the IIHF World U20 Championship, which this time will be played in Halifax and Sydney, Canada. The wonderful thing about these tournaments, is that not even coaches are able to sabotage the good show we are in for. Those 18 and 19 year olds know only one gear - fast forward. Don't miss the opportunity to see these kids. This could be the last time they are allowed to express their creative skills before they are forged into a system only a coach can appreciate.

René Fasel
IIHF President

Europe's top 8 battle for continental supremacy

LOKOMOTIV YAROSLAVL

RUS

League: Professional Hockey League (Russia).

2001-2002: Champions.

Current position: First (as of Dec. 9).

National champion: Two times.

Coach: Vladimir Vujtek, CZE.

Key players, defence: Denis Grebeshkov, Aleksander Guskov, Martin Strbak (CZE).

Key players, offence: Andrei Kovalenko, Sergei Nemchinov, Anton But, Vladimir Antipov.

Goalie: Solid veteran Yegor Podomatski. Backup Andrei Malkov seldom sees any action.

By the way: Lokomotiv is the best drawing team in the Russian league averaging 9.000 spectators.



HCJ MILANO VIPERS

ITA

League: Serie A (Italy).

2001-2002: Champions.

Current position: Second (as of Dec 9).

National champion: Once, 2001-2002.

Coach: Adolf Insam.

Key players, defence: Leo Insam, Rob Cowie (GBR), Justin Peca (CAN), Slava Uvayev (RUS).

Key players, offence: Mario Chittaroni, Scott Beattie, Patrice Lefebvre (CAN).

Goalie: No. 1 Jason Muzzatti should get the calls, but Gianluca Canei can play.

By the way: Justin Peca is the cousin of NHL star Michael Peca of the N.Y. Islanders.

JOKERIT HELSINKI

FIN

League: SM-Liiga (Finland).

2001-2002: Champions.

Current position: First (as of Dec. 9).

National champion: Six times.

Coach: Raimo Summanen.

Key players, defence: Mika Stromberg, Ari Vallin, Antti-Jussi Niemi.

Key players, offence: Ville Peltonen, Antti Aalto, Jukka Voutilainen.

Goalie: Sensational 19-year old Kari Lehtonen, if he makes it back in time from the World U20 in Canada. Backup Markus Helanen isn't used very often.

By the way: Jokerit were European Hockey League Champions in 1995 and 1996.

SLOVAN BRATISLAVA

SVK

League: ST Extraliga (SVK)

2001-2002: Champion.

Current position: Fourth (as of Dec 9).

National champion: Three times.

Coach: Julius Supler

Key players, defence: Josef Mrena, Vladimir Vlk, Michal Safarik.

Key players, offence: Igor Rataj, Jan Lipiansky, Richard Kapus.

Goalie: Pavol Rybar plays virtually every game. Backup Jozef Andrejka is just that.

By the way: Forward Zdeno Ciger, 33, returned to club in November. Ciger had not played since leaving Tampa Bay (NHL) after last season. Forward Lubomir Hurtaj left for Czech club Plzen in November.

HC DAVOS

SUI

League: Nationalliga A (Switzerland).

2001-2002: Champions.

Current position: Second (as of Dec 9).

National champion: 26 times.

Coach: Arno Del Curto

Key players, defence: Marc Gianola, Ralph Ott, Michael Kress.

Key players, offence: Lonny Bohonos (CAN), Kevin Miller (USA), Reto von Arx, Michel Riesen.

Goalie: Swiss international Lars Weibel. It's safe to say that backup Jonas Hiller won't see any action as long as HCD is in contention.

By the way: HC Davos is the organizer of the Spengler Cup, the oldest invitational club tournament in Europe.

HC LUGANO

SUI

League: Nationalliga A (Switzerland).

2001-2002: Second in regular season, lost to Zurich in semi-final.

Current position: Fourth (as of Dec 9).

National champion: Five times, last time in 1999.

Coach: Larry Huras, CAN.

Key players, defence: Petteri Nummelin (FIN), Patrick Sutter, Mark Astley, (SUI/CAN).

Key players, offence: Mike Maneluk (CAN), Adrian Wichser, J-J Aeschlimann, Flavien Conne.

Goalie: Inconsistent Ronnie Rueger. But David Gislomberti will only see action if Lugano is out of it early.

By the way: Coach Larry Huras, who led rivals Zurich to Swiss championship in 2001, replaced Jim Koleff on November 14. Lugano won nine straight games upon Huras' arrival.

BELFAST GIANTS

GBR

League: Ice Hockey Sekonda League, ISL (GBR)

2001-2002: Won regular season, flopped in play-offs.

Current position: Third (as of Dec 9).

National champion: -

Coach: David Whistle, CAN

Key players, defence: Curt Bowen (CAN), Robby Sandrock (CAN).

Key players, offence: Paxton Schulte (CAN), Rod Stevens (CAN), Kevin Riehl (CAN).

Goalie: First stringer Ryan Bach has been injured, but British born Colin Ryder has done a great job since stepping in and he carried the club into the CC Super Final.

By the way: All skaters on the Giants are Canadian-born. Club is in only third year of existence. Averaged over 6.000 fans in its first two seasons.

HC KERAMIN MINSK

BLR

League: Belarus Championship and EEHL.

2001-2002: Champion in BLR, third in EEHL.

Current position: Second in BLR, 4th in EEHL.

National champion: Once, last season.

Coach: Evgeny Lebedev.

Key players, defence: Andrei Bashko, Uladzimir Svita, Sjarhei Paklin.

Key players, offence: Dmitry Dudik, Dmitry Ausiannikau, Valery Yormolau.

Goalie: Leonid Grishukevich. Alexandr Zarudnyi is sure to back him up.

By the way: Keramin Minsk plays in two leagues, the national Belarus championship and the Eastern European Hockey League (EEHL) which features teams from Belarus, Latvia and Ukraine. Forward Dmitry Dudik is the only one on the team who played for the BLR team at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

Super Final Competition Format

Group M (at Lugano)

HC Davos, SUI
HC Lugano, SUI
Lokomotiv Yaroslavl, RUS
Belfast Giants, GBR

Group N (at Milan)

HCJ Milano Vipers, ITA
Jokerit Helsinki, FIN
Keramin Minsk, BLR
Slovan Bratislava, SVK

Follow every game LIVE! and get the total stats package on IIHF.com

January 10 (in Milan)

Game 1 Jokerit Helsinki - Slovan Bratislava 17.00
Game 2 HCJ Milano - HC Keramin Minsk 20.30

January 10 (in Lugano)

Game 3 HC Davos - Lokomotiv Yaroslavl 17.00
Game 4 HC Lugano - Belfast Giants 20.30

January 11 (in Milan)

Game 5 Loser Game 1 - Loser Game 2 17.00
Game 6 Winner Game 1 - Winner Game 2 20.30

January 11 (in Lugano)

Game 7 Loser Game 3 - Loser Game 4 17.00
Game 8 Winner Game 3 - Winner Game 4 20.30

January 12 (tentative allocation of the games)

Game 9 (in Milano) Loser Game 5 - Loser Game 7 11.00 (Place 7 - 8)
Game 10 (in Lugano) Winner Game 5 - Winner Game 7 17.00 (Place 5 - 6)
Game 11 (in Milano) Loser Game 6 - Loser Game 8 14.30 (Bronze Medal)
Game 12 (in Lugano) Winner Game 6 - Winner Game 8 20.30 (Gold Medal)

IIHF News & Appointments

Ken Inagaki, 29, is the latest addition to the IIHF.



His position as the IT Development Manager is to refine the IIHF IT solutions, including the statistics, accreditation and internet systems. In addition, he will assist in the day-to-day issues concerning IT operations within the federation.

Inagaki has worked as results manager for numerous international competitions spanning several sports. Highlights include overseeing the ice hockey results system for both the Nagano 1998 and Salt Lake City 2002 Olympics. Prior to arriving in Zurich he was working in Athens, Greece for the 2004 summer games, focusing on systems integration. Inagaki is originally from Toronto, Canada but has also lived in Japan, USA, and Greece, and now calls Switzerland home.



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Dump & Chase from the World of Hockey

On-ice accident causes Korean hockey player's death

A tragic accident occurred on Tuesday, November 19, 2002 as a 21-year old player died after he attempted to block a shot in a game in the major Korean hockey league, played in Chuncheon, Korea.

Defenseman **Seung Ho Choi** of the Kwang-woon University team apparently attempted to block a shot with his body in a league game against the Dongwon Dreams late in the second period and the puck hit the chest, close to the heart area.

According to a report from the Korean Ice Hockey Association (KIHA) to the IIHF, the player's tongue curled in the direction of the throat when the referee immediately stopped the game and examined the player.

Immediate emergency care was taken by the medical staff of the Dongwon team and the staff of the Kwang-woon U. team before the ambulance arrived to the arena. The efforts were in vain as the life of player could not be saved. He was dead upon arrival to the hospital.

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The Finnish Ice Hockey Association announced on November 20 that **Raimo Summanen**, 40, will be taking over as head coach of the Finnish national team when Hannu Aravirta's contract expires after the 2003 IIHF World Championship in Finland. Summanen is the current coach of national club champion Jokerit Helsinki. As a player, Summanen won the IIHF World Championship gold medal in 1995 and also the Stanley Cup with the Edmonton Oilers in 1984, his rookie year in the NHL where he played for five seasons (Edmonton and Vancouver) before returning to Finland. Summanen represented Finland in five IIHF World Championships, two Olympics (1984 and 1992) and two Canada Cup tournaments (1987 and 1991). The Finnish association also announced that Helsinki and Hämeenlinna will be sites for the 2004 IIHF World U20 Championship.

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The 2002-2003 IIHF Championship Program will see 23 different world championships being held this season with 152 teams playing 396 games.

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The 76th Spengler Cup - the oldest invitational tournament in Europe - will feature the following teams this year: host and last year's winner HC Davos (SUI), Kölner Haie (GER), Sparta Prague (CZE), TPS Turku (FIN) and Team Canada. The dates: December 26 - 31. Official website with news, rosters and scores: www.spenglercup.ch

The tournament drew 82, 390 spectators last year for an average of 7,490 fans per game.

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We know that Sweden's **Ulf Sterner** was the first European trained player in the NHL (four games for the NY Rangers 1964-1965) but, as we know now, he was not the first European in the league.

Actually not even the first Swede. The excellent website www.LostHockey.com tells a wonderful story about **Gus Forslund** who played for the NHL Ottawa Senators during the 1932-1933 season. Gus, who was born in Umea, Sweden in 1906 and moved to Canada with his parents at



Gus was the first Swede

the age of three, played 48 games for the Senators that season, scoring four goals and adding nine assists. That was his only season in the NHL.

On August 4th 1962, at the age of 56, Gus suffered a blood clot and passed away in Geraldton, Ontario. He is buried in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The photo of Gus Forslund in an Ottawa Senators uniform is the only existing hockey shot of the first Swede in the NHL.



Photo: SZLH

TROPHY IS PERFECT NOW: IIHF President René Fasel and IIHF General Secretary Jan-Ake Edvinsson visited Slovakia in mid-November to present the reigning IIHF World Champions with silver name plaques to be put on the World Championship Trophy. President of the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation, Juraj Siroky (centre) and General Secretary, Igor Nemecek oversee the proceedings. Names of players and coaching staff are engraved on the plaques.

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Canada is now an official applicant for the 2007 IIHF World Championship. If Canada is awarded the championship it will be the first time the pinnacle tournament of the IIHF will be organized in the birthplace of ice hockey. Some news reports said that it is the first time that Canada was applying for the world championship, but that is not correct. Canada applied for, and was awarded, the 1970 IIHF World Championship (to be split between Winnipeg and Montreal) but Canada withdrew from international competition after the 1969 championship and the 1970 tournament had to be relocated to Sweden.

Other applicants for 2007 are Sweden and Germany.

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When Team Germany played against Canada in an exhibition game on November 6 at Cologne, prior to the Deutschland Cup, it marked the 1,000th official national team game of Germany. The Germans lost 4-3 in front of 18,387 fans at the KolnArena. The first ever national team game dates back to January 18, 1910 when Germany lost 1-0 in their opener of the IIHF European Championship at Les Avants, Switzerland.

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On November 6, the board of directors of Spartak Moscow (Ilya Kovalchuk's last Russian club) had enough. The team was going nowhere but down in the 18 team Russian Pro Hockey League. With only two teams behind Spartak, the board fired the entire front office led by president **Boris Mayorov** and also head coach **Fedor Kanareykin**. Former national team star **Sergei Shepelev** was appointed new head coach. Many remember Shepelev as the one who scored a hat trick in Soviet Union's 8-1 trouncing of Team Canada at the Montreal Forum in the final of the 1981 Canada Cup.

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Finland set what could be a world record in national team players used in one season. During the 2001-2002 campaign the Finnish senior national team iced 103 players; 93 skaters and 10 goaltenders.

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Czech defenseman **Jiri Slegr** has almost tried it all. He has seen the bottom of the NHL (Atlanta Thrashers), the top (winning the 2002 Stanley Cup with the Detroit Red Wings) and he has now gone to Siberia. In mid-November the Olympic gold medalist from Nagano 1998, signed with Avangard Omsk of the Russian Pro Hockey League, thus boosting the Czech contingent at Omsk to five. Slegr joins forwards Pavel Patera, Martin Prochazka and Tomas Vlasak, as well head coach Ivan Hlinka.

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Just a few days after the Manchester Storm went into liquidation, the Scottish Eagles of Glasgow were forced to take the same route in the second week of November. **Bob Zeller**, managing director of the Scottish Eagles, had to admit defeat and close the club down, only weeks after their inaugural game in their new home, The Braehead Arena in Glasgow. Crowds were low, and many established Eagles fans did not follow the team after their move from Ayr. Zeller, who had played a big part in the management of the Belfast Giants franchise, was obviously unable to create the same success story in the football loving city of Glasgow. There are only five teams left in the ISL league after the liquidation of the Manchester Storm and the Scottish Eagles.

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October 20, 2002 marked a historic day for Swiss hockey. Two Swiss goaltenders faced each other for the first time in a NHL game when Anaheim played Colorado. The 28 year old rookie **Martin Gerber** (Anaheim) defeated Colorado's **David Aebischer** 3-2. Gerber was solid making 22 saves in his first NHL start.

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Central European goalies are apparently hot commodity in the NHL. On October 15, 2002, **Reinhard Divis** became the first Austrian to play a full NHL game when he stopped 23 shots in leading the St. Louis Blues to a 2-1 victory over Carolina.



Boys in a man's world - doing just fine

JIRI HUDLER, CZE

■ In maybe a year or so, Jiri Hudler, the diminutive centre from HC Vsetin, Czech Republic, will be the answer to this question:

Who was the steal of the 2002 NHL Entry Draft?

Jiri Hudler was omitted for 57 selections before the Detroit Red Wings picked him as 58th overall with their first selection late in the second round. Detroit didn't have a pick in the first round.

■ Many observers outside the NHL establishment shook their heads. How could a world class junior who scored 46 points (15 goals and 31 assists) in the Czech major league as a 17 year old in the 2001-2002 season, and who played in both in the IIHF World U18 as well as in the IIHF World U20 Championships, be overlooked 57 times?

The answer is: 178 cm and 76 kilos (or 5'9" and 176 lbs).

With many NHL team's decision makers still infatuated with size, Jiri Hudler was considered "too small" to be a top pick, despite his outstanding skills and impeccable credentials.



Photo: JAN SUKUP

LITTLE BIG MAN : Jiri Hudler's size is his asset, not a shortcoming.

■ The irony of it all is that a team that really didn't need to become much stronger and which didn't have a pick in the first round, potentially found themselves with a player who should be much better than most of the 57 drafted ahead of him. Call that the champion's luck.

The Red Wings scouting staff must be waking up with a smile on their faces every morning this season. In 1999 they drafted the less than medium sized Swedish forward Henrik Zetterberg in the seventh round, 210th overall. Today, Zetterberg (Sweden's stand-out in the 2000 IIHF World U20 Championship) is one of the early Rookie of

Year candidates in the NHL and a potential star.

■ "I think that our organization is not as focused on size as the average NHL club", says Red Wings' Swedish scout Hakan Andersson who has been evaluating European talent for Detroit since 1990. "We couldn't believe when Hudler was available as number 58, it was like pennies from heaven. To be honest, I think that Hudler is better than Pierre-Marc Bouchard whom Minnesota took eighth overall. We believe that Jiri can become a Larionov-type playmaking centre."

Hudler's development is even more staggering than Zetterberg's. In late November he took over the lead in the individual scoring of the Czech major league, one of the top three leagues in Europe. The 18 year old had a fabulous week in which he scored a hat trick against Trinec and than had two goals and two assists at Havirov. He had 19 goals and 27 assists for 46 points in 30 games entering December. Hello, we're talking about a boy in a man's league!

■ Jiri Hudler was also involved in a major controversy in Czech hockey a week earlier, during the mid-November international break. Jaroslav Holik, the coach of the national junior team, selected Hudler for the Four Nation's U20 tournament in Pardubice, but Slavomir Lener, who is in charge of the senior's national team, nixed that selection because he wanted the youngster for the Karjala Cup, the senior tournament played in Finland.

Holik, the former Czechoslovak great and father of NY Rangers' Bobby, went public with his displeasure and said that he would not select Hudler for the World Juniors in Canada. It was an empty threat, of course.

■ In the 1979 IIHF World U20 Championship, Sweden's Thomas Steen was named to the tournament All Star team. The stylish centre went on to have a splendid senior career, taking part in three IIHF World Championships, two Canada Cups, and 1,006 games in 14 seasons for the NHL Winnipeg Jets. Steen is the only Swedish player to have his jersey retired by an NHL team.



ALEXANDER STEEN, SWE

At the end of Thomas' third season in Winnipeg, son Alexander was born in that city on March 1, 1984. On June 22, 2002 Thomas, a pro scout for the Minnesota Wild, was sitting at the club's draft table at the Air Canada Centre when the Toronto Maple Leafs announced that they were selecting his son as the Leaf's first round choice, 24th overall.

■ "It was a great feeling", says Thomas. "I was really happy for Alexander because I know how much effort he has put in to it. I think Toronto will be happy with that selection."

Alexander Steen made his big league debut last season with Frolunda of the Swedish Elite League at the age of 17. He played 26 games in the regular season and added ten games - and also his first major league goal - in the playoffs. The same spring he captained Team Sweden in the IIHF U18 World Championship in Slovakia where he had eight points in as many games. This year Alexander takes a regular shift for

Frolunda and he is one of the reasons why the club on top of the Swedish league.

■ Thomas admits that he sees a lot of himself in Alexander. "He has basically the same fundamentals as I had, good technique and the ability to read the play", says Thomas. "But he is much more committed at his age than I ever was and I didn't have

the upper body strength that he has." Thomas will be in Halifax performing dual roles; to scout players for Minnesota and to cheer for Sweden and Alexander. "I played in three World Juniors and those were great tournaments and great memories for me. Despite of what happened in the last game of the 1979 tournament."

Sweden played the Soviet Union in the final game at Karlstad and, in the beginning of the third period, Thomas scored his third goal of the game to give Sweden a 5-4 lead. At that point, Sweden were world champions, they could even afford a tie. But the Soviets scored two more and added an empty netter. Sweden finished only third. Thomas hopes that Alexander's team will have better luck.

FOOTNOTE: Team Sweden has also another Canadian born junior: 18 year old Robert Nilsson, born in Calgary. He is the son of former NHL star Kent Nilsson.

PATRIK BÄRTSCHI, SUI

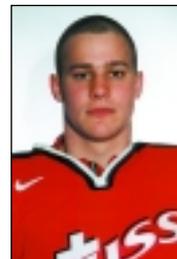
TOBIAS STEPHAN, SUI

■ Which club is the best producer of junior hockey talent today? The answer might very well be the Kloten Flyers of the Swiss Nationalliga A. When Swiss U20 coach Jakob Kölliker selected his preliminary roster for the IIHF World U20 Championship, the list of invitees included nine (!) players from Kloten. One of the main reasons is legendary Russian coach Vladimir Yurzinov, who is performing the same kind of magic at Kloten as he did in Finland and TPS Turku some years ago. Yursinov, who is an IIHF Hall of Famer, is considered by many observers as the best coaching instructor in the hockey world.

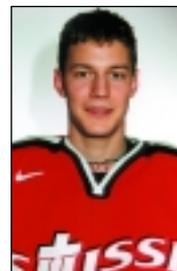
■ If Switzerland is to continue its successful run in the World Juniors, a lot will depend on the Kloten duo Tobias Stephan and Patrik Bärtschi, both 18. Stephan could very well be the best goalie in the highly competitive Swiss major league. "He is much better than David Aebischer was when he was 18 and Martin Gerber played in an amateur league at that age", says Swiss hockey writer Klaus Zaugg, comparing them with the two Swiss goalies in the NHL.

"At this young age Stephan is already a team leader and a big reason why Kloten is a top team. He is big, he covers a lot of net and he is not as overactive as many young goalies are. Stephan had the task of replacing legend Reto Pavoni at Kloten and from day one no one missed Pavoni. That says a lot."

■ In a league where foreigners traditionally score and the domestic players back check, team mate Patrik Bärtschi is as unique as a Swiss sniper. As of December 9, Bärtschi had 14 goals and 13 assists in 30 games, making him the second best Swiss goal scorer in the league. Despite his inexperience of senior hockey, Bärtschi sees lots of ice time and is often on the first line. Both were drafted in 2002: Stephan in the second round (34th overall) by Dallas, while Pittsburgh grabbed Bärtschi in the seventh round (202nd overall).



Bärtschi



Stephan

IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL



Photo: DAVE SANDFORD

ARTEM GOT'EM IN WINNIPEG: Artem Chubarov scores the overtime winner for Russia against Canada in the 1999 IIHF World U20 Championship in Winnipeg. Goaltender Chris Luongo is beaten and Kyle Calder arrives too late. This is still the only time an overtime goal has decided an IIHF World U20 Championship Gold Medal Game.

■■■■ The first three World U20 Championships (1974 - 1976) were unofficial tournaments. Canada sent club teams or mixed squads to the first eight tournaments, except in 1978 when the World Juniors were held in Montreal. The Peterborough Petes represented Canada in 1974, the WCHL All Stars had the honour in 1975, the Sherbrooke Beavers in 1976, the St. Catherine Fincups in 1977, the New Westminster Bruins in 1979, Peterborough again in 1980, and the Cornwall Royals became the last club entry to represent the maple leaf in the IIHF World U20 Championship in 1981.

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□□□ Canada (Sherbrooke) lost to Sweden 17-1 in the second round of the 1976 championship. That was Sweden's only win of the tournament. They finished last, while the Beavers recovered from the massacre and took the silver medals.

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■■■■ A 16-year old kid by the name of Wayne Gretzky made the Canadian team for the 1978 World Juniors in Montreal. Gretzky (born in 1961) was named to the tournament All Star Team despite facing players born in 1958-1959. Vyacheslav Fetisov, Mats Naslund and Anton Stastny were three other future stars who were named all stars.

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□□□ Sweden became the first team to beat the Soviet Union in a U20 championship game. After the Soviets' 22-0 run between 1974 and 1978, the Mats Naslund led Swedes defeated the Soviets 6-3 at Quebec City in a preliminary round game of the 1978 tournament. The Soviet Union bounced back, beating the Swedes 5-2 in the Gold Medal Game at the Montreal Forum.

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■■■■ Swedish forward Thomas Steen was named to the 1979 World Junior All Star Team in Sweden. Twenty four years later, his Winnipeg-born son Alexander (2002 Toronto first round draft choice) will play for Sweden in Halifax. See story on page 4.

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□□□ Sweden, one of the most frequent producers of hockey talent in the world, has won only one World Juniors gold, in 1981 in Germany. The Swedish team was led by the Sundstrom twins, Peter and Patrik.

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■■■■ Canada managed its first win against the early

dominants of international junior hockey in 1982 in Winnipeg. The Canadians demolished the Soviet Union 7-0 and went on to win its first IIHF World U20 gold medal. One of the Canadian players on that team is still active in the NHL today, defenseman James Patrick of the Buffalo Sabres.

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□□□ The United States were not a factor in the early World Juniors despite pretty good teams. The 1985 US team, for example, included names like Mike Richter, Brian Leetch, Eric Weinrich, Craig Janney and Scott Young. The Americans finished sixth out of eight teams.

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■■■■ The 1987 championship in Czechoslovakia will forever be remembered by the infamous brawl in Piestany on January 4, after which both Canada and the Soviet Union were disqualified from the tournament. Canada was leading 4-2 midway through the game and needed a win by a five goal margin to claim gold. Sergei Fedorov, Vladimir Konstantinov and Alexander Mogilny were some of the players on the Soviet team, while Brendan Shanahan, Theo Fleury and Pierre Turgeon skated for Canada. Finland went on to win its first ever U20 gold medal.

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□□□ The Soviets were leading the gold medal game of the 1989 tournament in Anchorage 3-2 when the Swedes scored what they saw as the tying goal, which would have given them first place. The goal was disallowed because there were two pucks on the ice. The other puck was hidden by the Soviet Union's Sergei Fedorov, in his pants!

x x x

■■■■ The 1990 championship in Finland proved again that teams - not individual stars - win championships. Czechoslovakia boasted a line with Robert Holik, Robert Reichel and Jaromir Jagr. The Soviet Union had a lineup which included Pavel Bure, Andrei Kovalenko, Dmitri Yushkevich, Alexei Zhamnov and Sergei Zubov. Sweden came with Nicklas Lidstrom and Mats Sundin, while the US brought Tony Amonte, Ted Drury, Bill Guerin and Bryan Smolinski.

But Canada won gold with a team where the best players were Dave Chyzowski, Mike Needham, Stu Barnes, Dwayne Norris and Wes Walz.

x x x

□□□ The 1992 championship in Germany will always

be remembered as the one where the players on the eventual gold medal team came in to the tournament as Soviets and ended up as citizens of the Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS. As of January 1, with still four days to go of the championship, the Soviet Union officially ceased to exist. The Soviet flag at the arena was lowered, but the team continued to use their CCCP jerseys. The IIHF decided that the team would still be identified as Soviet Union.

x x x

■■■■ Swedes Peter Forsberg (7 goals and 24 assists) and Markus Naslund (13 goals and 11 assists) totally dominated the 1993 championship in Sweden. But Canada, with Paul Kariya, beat the Swedes 5-4 and snatched the gold medals. The tournament All Star Team featured the forward line of Forsberg, Naslund and Kariya.

x x x

□□□ Because of the NHL lockout, all U20 NHLers were available in the 1995 championship in Alberta, most notably Ryan Smyth, Alexandre Daigle, Jason Allison and Jeff Friesen.

x x x

■■■■ Only after 20 years of World U20 Championships did the US finally make an impact in the 1997 tournament in Switzerland. The Amerks reached the final against Canada, but lost 2-0. The silver medal is still the only one that the United States have captured in the World U20.

x x x

□□□ With players like Alex Tanguay, Vincent Lecavalier, Eric Brewer, Roberto Luongo and Jesse Wallin, Canada finished eighth at the 1998 championship in Finland. The home team, led by Niklas Hagman, Olli Jokinen and Niko Kapanen, beat Russia 2-1 in the final.

x x x

■■■■ Russia won its first World U20 gold medal in the 1999 championship in Winnipeg. Artem Chubarov scored the overtime winner (3-2) in the Gold Medal Game against host Canada.

x x x

□□□ The Czech Republic signed on to the list of U20 winners in 2000 in Sweden by defeating Russia in the final. The World Juniors, a championship which usually emphasizes speed and offence, witnessed a scoreless Gold Medal Game. The Czechs won the gold on Game Winning Shots (shootout).

x x x

■■■■ The Gold Medal Game in the 2002 championship in Pardubice is believed to be the best ever final game played in the tournament history. Canada led 2-0 and 3-1, Russia came back to take a 4-3 lead, Canada tied it up before Anton Volchenko scored the 5-4 winner in the third period.



■ More World U20 coverage on page 11 where you can read about the 19 year old goalie who a proscout said will be better than Patrick Roy.

■ In the previous issue of the IIHF News Release we featured the 17 year old Russian whiz-kid Alexander Ovechkin. The exclusive interview can be found on this link: www.iihf.com/feature/ovechkin.htm





The coming out party...

Where kids learn

By Alan Adams

There's no other tournament like it on the international calendar, the IIHF World U20 Championship that is.

Starting December 26, the best junior-aged players from ten countries will compete in the pressure-packed championship that is being staged in Halifax and Sydney on Canada's East coast province of Nova Scotia. The gold medal game is January 5.

■ ■ ■ What makes the IIHF World U20 Championship a must-see event stems from the fact that it is hockey's ultimate coming-out party. The World Juniors provides fans the first glimpse of future international hockey stars.

Team Canada's roster in this championship has included Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Boston's Joe Thornton, Paul Kariya of Anaheim, Joe Sakic of Colorado, Trevor Linden of Vancouver, Jarome Iginla of Calgary, Theo Fleury of Chicago, Owen Nolan of San Jose, Jose Theodore of Montreal, Eric Lindros of the New York Rangers, Philadelphia's Eric Desjardins and Atlanta's Dany Heatley to mention a scant few.

The American alumnus includes Brian Leetch and Tom Poti of the Rangers, Tony Amonte of Phoenix, Keith Tkachuk and Doug Weight of the St. Louis Blues, Mike Modano of Dallas and Philadelphia's John LeClair.

Peter Forsberg of the Colorado Avalanche and Montreal's Saku Koivu are only two of the Who's Who of international players who showcased their talent at the World Juniors. Others include NHL stars such as Jaromir Jagr of Washington, Markus Naslund of Vancouver, Pavel Bure of the New York Rangers, Alexander Mogilny of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Detroit's Sergei Fedorov, Mats Sundin of the Maple Leafs, Mattias Ohlund of Vancouver, Igor Larionov of Detroit, Teppo Numminen of Vancouver and Marian Gaborik of Minnesota, along with Ilya Kovalchuk of Atlanta.

"It's a great tournament," says Vancouver Canucks general manager Brian Burke. "Most of the players who excel in the NHL have played in it. It's a chance for the juniors to step up in a best-on-best event. It's a good test."

It's best-on-best hockey in a pressure-cooker.

■ ■ ■ "I think it is important for any elite athlete to be able to compete and play against the best athletes in whatever sport they are in," says New York Rangers General Manager Glen Sather. "The opportunity for hockey players to grade themselves, to figure out how good they are, and to figure out how good we are, to compare our coaching techniques to others, I think it is important."

"For a junior player to go play against the best in the world it is an opportunity for him to plan and an opportunity for Canadians to see their own players and how they are developing," continues Sather.

For the players who proudly wear their country's colors on the international stage, a trip to the World Juniors means so many new experiences. They're united with so many people they've never met before, or even had celebrated battles in league play, and they are usually a long ways from home in a foreign land at a time usually reserved for family.

They all have fond memories.

"It was really important for me because I was playing Connecticut high school hockey and I had not even played against college-aged competition and those were the guys that were mostly on my team," recalls Brian Leetch, who played in 1984, 1985 and 1986. "It was fantastic. It was strange being away from home for the holidays for three years, but it was first time really traveling with a bunch of guys my age."

■ ■ ■ "I think it is something that at the end of the day, when hockey is over, looking back at my career, I will never forget it," adds Toronto goalie Trevor Kidd, who played in the 1992 tournament in Germany.

"I think you will always remember it. Junior hockey back home is not followed by big crowds and then you come to the world juniors and it is really big," says Mikael Renberg of the Maple Leafs. He played for Sweden when his homeland played host



to the tournament in 1994.

"Anytime you get to represent your country it is huge honor and when I played, it was really best on best," says Paul Kariya, who played in 1992 and 1993, tournaments which produced epic battles between him and Sweden's Peter Forsberg.

"I have awesome memories. There is always pressure when you put the jersey on and it is gold or nothing. It is great when you win and tough when you lose."

Nobody really knew about Toronto Maple Leaf Nik Antropov until he showcased his talents on the world junior stage for Kazakhstan in 1998 in Finland and 1999 in Winnipeg.

"It was a big experience for me. It was a chance to show the scouts what I had. It was real good fun," says Antropov, who parlayed his world junior experience into being a first-round NHL draft pick by the Toronto Maple Leafs.

■ ■ ■ The IIHF World U20 Championship has always fueled passions in Canada, perhaps more than anywhere in the world. Hockey is Canada's game, or used to be, and it sears the national ego when we don't mine gold.

Hockey is a touchstone of Canadian life. Hockey is more than a sport for Canadians; it is part of the country's soul. "I can't think of too many other countries that have the same passion for a sport as Canada has for hockey," Wayne Gretzky said last year prior to the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. "Brazil for soccer maybe."

The World Juniors definitely has its place in the Canadian hockey psyche.



■ Alan Adams is a Toronto based freelance hockey writer who has covered most of the IIHF World U20 Championships in recent years. This story is exclusively written for the IIHF News Release.

Moscow tournament was one of them.

The '87 tournament was held in what was then Czechoslovakia and going into the final day of the round-robin competition, Canada was in contention for gold and a win over the Soviets would have clinched the title. But passions slopped over the bowl and both Canada and Russia were disqualified after a brawl.

■■ The stage was set for Moscow and when Canada played the Soviets on New Years' Day. A packed crowd of 18,000 saw the Canadians shock the Russians, beating them 3-1. The hero was goalie Jimmy Waite, who stoned the Russians for 31 minutes after Canada took the 3-1 lead.

The 1991 tournament in Saskatoon is one which has found its way into world junior lore, that is if you are a Canadian. The hero was defenceman John Slaney, whose only goal of the tournament, late in the third period, beat the Russians 3-2 and clinched a world title.



Photo: DAVE SANDFORD

AIRBORNE. Russia's Alexander Polushin tried this unorthodox maneuver in the 2002 IIHF World U20 Championship gold medal game against Canada in Pardubice. Canadians Dan Hamhuis (5) and Jarret Stoll (16) could not contain neither the player nor the team. Russia won a great final game 5-4, by many considered as the best game ever in the 29 year history of the IIHF World U20 Championship.

The players and coaches share two things in common: hockey and the desire to win a medal.

■■ The inaugural IIHF World U20 Championship was held in 1974. Canada's first world junior gold came in 1982. Over the next 16 years, Canadians mined gold a total of 10 times, including an unprecedented run of five straight world titles starting in 1993. In that 16-year run, the Canadians juniors only missed the medal podium a total of four times and no other country has come close to matching that success.

Philadelphia coach Ken Hitchcock rates his '88 world junior gold medal in Moscow alongside his 2002 Olympic gold medal in Salt Lake City, where he was an assistant coach on Team Canada, and the 1999 Stanley Cup as head coach of the Dallas Stars.

"It is a hard tournament to win," says Hitchcock, "and the experience in Salt Lake was a lot like Moscow.

"In Salt Lake, we were literally shut out of the world. We were in the Olympic bubble and we lived in the Olympic bubble. In Moscow we did not have a clue what was going on and we grew together as a team. We were just playing hockey, and there was some great hockey."

Over the years the World Juniors has produced some memorable moments, and the

The '95 championship in Red Deer, Alta., gave Canadian fans the chance to see a true National Junior Dream Team. With NHL arenas dark because of a labor dispute, the Canadian Hockey Association was able to recruit junior-aged players who would have been usually plying their wares in the NHL. The Dream Team included Alexandre Daigle, Marty Murray, Wade Redden, Jeff Friesen and Jason Allison.

When it comes to talent, the 1993 team was one of the best ever, and it included Paul Kariya, Martin Lapointe, Chris Pronger, Jason Smith, Adrian Aucoin and goalie Manny Legace, whose 50-plus save performance against Saku Koivu and Finland was one of the finest displays of netminding in world junior history. The Swedes iced a powerful team on their home soil and an unknown forward by the name of Peter Forsberg set a world junior scoring record, with 31 points in 7 games.

■■ "It's a coming out party," says Hitchcock of the throngs of juniors who played on this world stage and then went on to outstanding senior careers. "For these kids, it is their first experience on the world stage and it is a really different learning experience. A lot of the players on their respective national junior teams go on to become key players on their club teams."

That's why the IIHF World U20 Championship is a must-see tournament, either live or on television.

Vienna Declaration - stepping stone for development of female game officials

■ At the 2002 IIHF Referee-in-Chief Seminar held in Vienna, Austria, the IIHF Referee Committee members, Referee Supervisors and national association Referees-in-Chief discussed a concern common to all: the recruitment and development of female game officials.

The prime goal was to create a long-term plan for the global development of female officiating. The basic element of the plan involved a collective approach by national associations and the IIHF. The plan also required a commitment from each member to improve the support, education and availability of programs within their national association. This initiative also called for suggested recruitment methods, incentives plus expanded opportunities for female referees and linesmen.

A number of suggestions and recommendations were made for consideration by the IIHF Referee Committee:

- To develop a long-range multi-faceted development program.
- To determine the seasonal competition opportunities for female game officials.
- To include quality assignments at all levels.
- To assign to more domestic competitions.
- To assign to more international competitions.
- To assign to more championship competitions.
- To assign to more men's games within national associations.
- To coordinate scheduling of development camp programs.
- To develop European club competition to provide IIHF supervision opportunities.

■ The Referees-in-Chief symbolically committed to the program in the Vienna by signing the "Female Game Officials Declaration". The declaration is displayed in the IIHF office for all to see.

Working under the recommendations made in Vienna, the IIHF Referee Committee drafted a long-term plan, which is based on the support of all clubs and leagues within each country and by the IIHF.

This plan represents the first step in the global efforts to develop female game officials. It's open-concept format is designed to supplement the operation of national camps and special officiating opportunities that may be proposed by the respective Referees-in-Chief.

■ Since the plan's inception, a number of camps have been held. The Finnish Ice Hockey Association operated its Female Game Officials Camp in Pajulahti, Finland from August 16 to 18 with 16 female game officials, including two from Sweden. Sandra Dombrowski, IIHF Referee Supervisor and Instructor, plus Finnish Officiating Instructors Jari Hotanen, Jouko Palmula and Tuula Keronen were on hand to supply the instruction. Germany's National Association Referee Instructors Heini Schmid, Michael Strobl, and Klaus Stöger plus Manuela Gröger, IIHF Referee Supervisor, operated a camp in Füssen, Germany on September 6 to 8 with 12 game officials from Germany and six from Switzerland. The format was similar to camps operated last season in Japan and Czech Republic for the development of female referees and linesmen.

■ Recently, the IIHF, in cooperation with the Canadian Hockey Association, held an intense ten day program for two IIHF licensed female referees. Anu Hirvonen from Finland and Aina Hove from Norway, officiated games in southern Ontario and at the Four Nations Cup, a women's international invitational tournament held in Kitchener, Ontario. IIHF Referee



STRIKE A POSE: Game Officials Anu Hirvonen (FIN) and Aina Hove (NOR) take a time-out during the Women's Four Nation's in Kitchener, Canada in November. IIHF has now launched a program for global development of female game officials.

Supervisor and Instructor Bob Nadin worked with them to assess their performance while in Canada.

■ Five female game officials from Austria, Germany and Italy were integrated into the camp program during the recent Ice Hockey 2000 Under 16 Development Camp in Vipiteno, Italy, under the direction of IIHF Referee Supervisor and Instructor Sandra Dombrowski and Renato Tortelli, FISG Officiating Instructor.

■ The female game officials development initiative has started to take shape as member national associations join in the effort to help develop female officiating throughout the world.

Asian development program designed until 2007

■ The IIHF Asian Oceania Committee, under the direction of Chairman Shoichi Tomita, has been working with the national associations of Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Mongolia, Singapore and Thailand to develop a long-term program to grow the sport at the grass roots level in this region.

At the 2002 IIHF Annual Congress, the World Under 18 Championship Structure was reorganised, which opened the way for a concentrated development plan to be created for these six developing national associations and, at that time, the Asian and Oceania national associations collectively met to discuss their options for future development.

■ The technical representatives from these national associations met during the 2002 IIHF Asian Oceania Regional Development Camp in Karuizawa, Japan, to explore ideas for the expansion of this initiative into a long-term plan.

As a result, a workshop was held to commit the members to this long term development program and to design the seasonal details for its operation.

The proposed program will target building a strong

base of participants for the growth of the program in each country. The program will focus on players under the age of 16 years of age, plus coaches and game officials. The program is designed to reduce the travel costs and distances for the participants.

■ The goal of the Asian Development Program is to hold two five-day camps each season with three national associations at each camp. IIHF Coaching Instructors and IIHF Referee Instructors will be assigned to work with the team coaches and game officials.

Following each camp, national association coaching and officiating clinics will be held under the supervision of IIHF Instructors. Modified club team games will also be organised following each camp to provide a competitive component, and a promotional component was outlined as well. The goal is to increase overall participation within each of the six national associations by ten percent each season.

■ The program is scheduled to resume in August 2003 and operate through the 2006/2007 seasons.



IIHF GOES ORIENTAL: Participants of the development camp in Cheng Mai, Thailand.

New IIHF Rules on net

■ The membership approved the 2002/2006 IIHF Rules at the 2002 IIHF Annual Congress. The new rules are now available on the IIHF web site at www.iihf.com.

In order for game officials everywhere to knowledgeably officiate games using the IIHF rules, national associations are encouraged to translate the new rule book into their own language. The rule book has already been translated into some languages, and national associations should contact the IIHF office to determine if a translated version already exists in their language. Upon completion of the translation, a grant of CHF 3000 will be made available to national associations to cover translation costs.

The association must present a copy of the translated and printed rulebook when making application for the assistance. Please discuss your project with Konstantin Komissarov, Sport Development Manager, Officiating, prior to undertaking any translation work.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

BELGIUM: New e-mail address to the Belgium Ice Hockey Association: kbjif.frbhg@skynet.be
In-Line: inlinehockeybelgium@skynet.be

First crop of LTP Instructors named

■ The IIHF recently named the first six IIHF Learn to Play Instructors to assist in the global launch of the IIHF's newest program. They are Junnu Kataja, Henk Hille, Birger Aaserud, Dmitri Milukov, Magnus Hävelid, and Kevin McLaughlin. The IIHF would like to express its thanks to the national associations of Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden and USA for providing their best instructors for the program.

■ The instructors met for the first time in mid November in Sweden to become acquainted with the global operation of the program, and to preview program development, design new materials and discuss their role as national association mentors for the complete implementation of the program within a country.



GANG OF SIX: IIHF Learn To Play instructors, from left: Kevin McLaughlin, Junnu Kataja, Henk Hille, Dmitri Milukov, Birger Aaserud and Magnus Hävelid. Back: IIHF Sport Development Manager Magnus Eriksson.

■ National associations launching this program are encouraged to contact Magnus Eriksson, Sport Development Manager, Youth Hockey, at the IIHF office to discuss program ideas.

IIHF Camp looks for top coaching and ref talent

■ The IIHF will accept applications from national associations for team coaches, referees and linesmen for the 2003 IIHF Hockey Development Camp to be held July 6 to 12, 2003 in Viriemi, Finland. Application forms for the 24 team coach, eight Referee and 16 Linesmen positions have been distributed to each IIHF member national association.

The national associations should consider coaches who possess the following characteristics:

- Minimum Level I coaching certification within the national association.
- Must be currently active within the a league and/or participating in the national team program within the national association.
- Must be able to coach, as a minimum, within the national association's under 16 national team program.
- Must be a good role model for other coaches.
- Must demonstrate fair play and respect.
- Must demonstrate good leadership skills.
- Must have a commitment to the national association's coach development program.
- Must be able to speak and understand English well.

■ Game officials being considered by the national associations should possess the following characteristics:

- Referee's age - 20 to 27 years old.
- Linesmen's age - 18 to 24 years old.
- IIHF licensed game official preferred.
- Must be a good prospect and have a future as a game official.
- Must be a good role model.
- Must be self-confident.
- Must be able to speak and understand English well.
- Must be in good physical condition.
- Must possess good skating skills.
- Must have a good knowledge of ice hockey rules.

National associations are asked to consider candidates with these traits who are working within your programs and who would benefit from the experience.

■ Applications must be received by the IIHF office on or before February 15, 2003. The IIHF Referee Committee and IIHF Coaching Committee will review all applications and the IIHF office will advise the national associations of their selection.

Netherlands build on their great skating tradition

■ The Netherlands Ice Hockey Association believes that joining the IIHF Ice Hockey 2000 Project in 2001 was a huge step for ice hockey in the Netherlands. Both the Learn To Play (LTP) Program for U10 players and the Hockey Development Camps (HDC's) for U17's and U16's, will be major assets in developing young Dutch players. To build on the experience from the world's best ice hockey countries, and to learn from the other Ice Hockey 2000 countries, is like a dream come true.

REPORT: NETHERLANDS

■ In the 2001-2002 season, the Netherlands participated in four HDC's with U17's in France and Norway and U16's in Great Britain and Germany. Players, referees, coaches and other team staff all came home with a unique ice hockey experience. Their stories and enthusiasm helped create a whole new atmosphere in the Dutch ice hockey community. This atmosphere can be seen in the 100 percent turnout for practices by national junior teams. In fact, the clubs have started to provide extra on-ice practices for their youth teams. It is also an atmosphere in which the three ice hockey academies (in Groningen, Nijmegen and Tilburg) that were founded in the 2000-2001 season, can come to maturity. At these academies, kids between the ages of 12 and 18 combine their high school with a program of extra ice hockey practices.

■ During the 2002-2003 season, which will be the second year that the Netherlands will participate in the Ice Hockey 2000 Project, two HDC's will be held in Eindhoven. In the beginning of November, U17 players, staff and referees from France, Great Britain, Norway and, of course, the Netherlands, experienced their HDC at the site that successfully hosted world championships over the years. In February 2003, U16's, staff and referees from Austria, France, the Netherlands and Slovenia will also be welcomed there.

■ During this current season, a full implementation of the LTP Program will take place. The Netherlands has a long tradition of playing on smaller ice surfaces with both U10's and U8's. In the late 1980's, the "Björn Ligan" concept, complete with promotional material, was imported from Sweden. During any given season, an U10 or U8 team will participate in an average of 14 (three team) tournaments.

■ However, what has been missing until now was good lesson material and structured instruction of the coaches (leaders) working with these children during practices. By the beginning of December, six of the 13 youth clubs will have held their first LTP Seminar, where lesson manual were introduced and leaders were made familiar with the LTP playing and practice concept. The other youth clubs will follow shortly.



Photo: JOEP MEIJSEN

FLYING DUTCHMEN: We all know that the Dutch can skate. Just by adding some scoring power, as shown here from the Development Camp in Eindhoven in October, Netherlands should soon be an emerging hockey power.

RESULTS SUMMARY

Continental Cup 2001/2002

Second Round (21 -23 September)

Group F - Rouen, France

Scottish Eagles - Storhamar	2:1
HC Rouen - Riga 2000	5:1
Storhamar - Riga 2000	2:1
Scottish Eagles - HC Rouen	6:2
Riga 2000 - Scottish Eagles	DNP (due to poor ice condition)
HC Rouen - Storhamar	DNP (due to poor ice condition)

1. Scottish Eagles (GBR)	2	2	0	0	8 - 3	4
2. HC Rouen (FRA)	2	1	0	1	7 - 7	2
3. Storhamar (NOR)	2	1	0	1	3 - 3	2
4. Riga 2000 (LAT)	2	0	0	2	2 - 7	0

■ Scottish Eagles promoted to third round tournament Group J in Belfast (GBR).

Group G - Linz, Austria

GMH Grenoble - Torpedo Kazzinc	2:7
EC Linz - GKS Katowice	6:0
GKS Katowice - GMH Grenoble	3:6
Torpedo Kazzinc - EC Linz	2:4
EC Linz - GMH Grenoble	6:4
GKS Katowice - Torpedo Kazzinc	1:7

1. EC Linz (AUT)	3	3	0	0	16 - 6	6
2. Torpedo Kazzinc (KAZ)	3	2	0	1	16 - 7	4
3. GMH Grenoble (FRA)	3	1	0	2	12 - 16	2
4. GKS Katowice (POL)	3	0	0	3	4 - 19	0

■ EZ Linz (AUT) promoted to third round tournament Pool J in Belfast (GBR).

Group H - Liepaja, Latvia

Jukurit Mikkeli - Neman Grodno	2:1
Liepajas Metalurgs - Acroni Jesenice	1:2
Acroni Jesenice - Jukurit Mikkeli	1:3
Neman Grodno - Liepajas Metalurgs	2:1
Neman Grodno - Acroni Jesenice	3:2
Liepajas Metalurgs - Jukurit Mikkeli	3:1

1. Jukurit Mikkeli (FIN)	3	2	0	1	6 - 5	4
2. Neman Grodno (BLR)	3	2	0	1	6 - 5	4
3. Acroni Jesenice (SLO)	3	1	0	2	5 - 7	2
4. Liepajas Metalurgs (LAT)	3	1	0	2	5 - 5	2

■ Jukurit Mikkeli (FIN) promoted to third round tournament Group K in Asiago (ITA).

Group I - Oswiecim, Poland

Dunaferr SE - Khimvolokno-Mogilev	4:4
Alba Volan - Unia Oswiecim	5:1
Alba Volan - Dunaferr SE	4:8
Unia Oswiecim - Khimvol.-Mogilev	6:4
Khimvolokno-Mogilev - Alba Volan	1:4
Unia Oswiecim - Dunaferr SE	2:2

1. Dunaferr SE (HUN)	3	1	2	0	14 - 10	4
2. Alba Volan (HUN)	3	2	0	1	13 - 10	4
3. Unia Oswiecim (POL)	3	1	1	1	9 - 11	3
4. Khimvol.-Mogilev (BLR)	3	0	1	2	9 - 14	1

■ Dunaferr SE (HUN) promoted to third round tournament Group L in Bratislava (SVK).

Third Round (22 -24 November)

Group J - Belfast, Great Britain

Rouen Les Dragons - EC Linz	4:4
Belfast Giants - Valerengen IF	3:0
EC Linz - Valerengen IF	3:1
Rouen Les Dragons - Belfast Giants	0:8
Valerengen IF - Rouen Les Dragons	5:1
Belfast Giants - EC Linz	5:3

1. Belfast Giants (GBR)	3	3	0	0	16 - 3	6
2. EC Linz (AUT)	3	1	1	1	10 - 10	3
3. Valerengen (NOR)	3	1	0	2	6 - 7	2
4. Rouen HE (FRA)	3	0	1	2	5 - 17	0

■ Belfast Giants (GBR) promoted to Super Final tournament Group M in Lugano (SUI) and Milan (ITA)

Group K - Asiago, Italy

Olimpija Ljubljana - Jukurit Mikkeli	1:4
Keramin Minsk - HC Asiago	3:3
Jukurit Mikkeli - Keramin Minsk	3:5
HC Asiago - Olimpija Ljubljana	3:2
Keramin Minsk - Olimpija Ljubljana	3:2
HC Asiago - Jukurit Mikkeli	1:2

1. Keramin Minsk (BLR)	3	2	1	0	11 - 8	5
2. Jukurit Mikkeli (FIN)	3	2	0	1	9 - 7	4
3. HC Asiago (ITA)	3	1	1	1	7 - 7	3
4. Olimpija Ljubljana(SLO)	3	0	0	3	5 - 10	0

■ Keramin Minsk (BLR) promoted to Super Final tournament Group N in Lugano (SUI) and Milan (ITA)

Group L - Bratislava, Slovakia

EHC Heraklith - Sokol Kiev	2:6
Slovan Bratislava - Dunaferr	6:2
Dunaferr - EHC Heraklith	3:3
Slovan Bratislava - Sokol Kiev	6:2
Sokol Kiev - Dunaferr	4:4
EHC Heraklith - Slovan Bratislava	2:2

1. Slovan Bratislava (SVK)	3	2	1	0	14 - 6	5
2. Sokol Kiev (UKR)	3	1	1	1	12 - 12	3
3. Dunaferr (HUN)	3	0	2	1	9 - 13	2
4. EHC Heraklith (AUT)	3	0	2	1	7 - 11	2

■ Slovan Bratislava (SVK) promoted to Super Final tournament Group N in Lugano (SUI) and Milan (ITA)

Karjala Cup

Helsinki, Finland 7 - 10 November

Czech Republic - Sweden	5:2 (at Pardubice, CZE)
Finland - Russia	5:0
Sweden - Russia	3:1
Czech Republic - Finland	0:2
Russia - Czech Republic	4:3OT
Finland - Sweden	5:3

Finland	3	3	0	0	12 - 3	6
Czech R.	3	1	1	1	8 - 8	4
Sweden	3	1	0	2	8 - 11	3
Russia	3	0	1	2	5 - 11	2

Individual scoring

1. Petteri Nummelin, FIN	3	0	5	5
2. Kimmo Rintanen, FIN	3	0	5	5
3. Tommi Santala, FIN	3	3	0	3
4. Radek Duda, CZE	3	2	1	3
5. Josef Beranek, CZE	3	1	2	3
6. Sergei Zinovyev, RUS	2	2	0	2
7. Ville Peltonen, FIN	3	2	0	2
8. Niklas Nordgren, SWE	3	2	0	2

Tournament All Star Team

Goalkeeper: Kari Lehtonen (FIN).

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

Forwards: Radek Duda (CZE), Kimmo Rintanen (FIN) and Ville Peltonen (FIN).

Deutschland Cup

Hannover, Germany 8 - 10 November

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

Canada	3	3	0	0	9 - 2	9
USA	3	2	0	1	4 - 3	6
Germany	3	1	0	2	5 - 6	3
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	3 - 10	0

Individual scoring

1. Todd Hlushko, CAN	3	2	2	4
2. Peter Sarno, CAN	3	0	3	3
3. Shawn Anderson, CAN	3	1	1	2
3. David Nemirovsky, CAN	3	1	1	2
3. Chris Tancill, USA	3	1	1	2
6. Stefan Ustorf, GER	3	1	1	2

Four Nations U20

Pardubice, Czech Republic 8 - 10 November

Finland - Russia	5:6OT
Sweden - Czech R.	2:3
Sweden - Finland	2:3
Czech Republic - Russia	3:5
Russia - Sweden	4:3
Czech R. - Finland	2:7

Russia	3	3	0	0	15 - 11	6
Finland	3	2	0	1	15 - 10	4
Czech R.	3	1	0	2	8 - 14	2
Sweden	3	0	0	3	7 - 10	0

Individual scoring

1. Tuomo Ruutu, FIN	3	5	2	7
2. Alexander Ovechkin, RUS	3	2	4	6
3. Mikko Koivu, FIN	3	1	5	6
4. Yuri Trubachev, RUS	3	4	1	5
5. Henrik Junntunen, FIN	3	3	2	5
6. Alexander Polushin, RUS	3	2	2	4
7. Jussi Timonen, FIN	3	1	3	4

Best player nominations

Goalie: Martin Falter, CZE. Defenseman: Joni Pitkanen, FIN.

Forward: Yuri Trubachev, RUS.

Four Nations U20

Füssen, Germany 8 - 10 November

Slovakia - Switzerland	1:4
Germany - Norway	4:1
Norway - Slovakia	1:4
Germany - Switzerland	1:2
Switzerland - Norway	5:0
Germany - Slovakia	1:6

Switzerland	3	3	0	0	11 - 2	6
Slovakia	3	2	0	1	11 - 6	4
Germany	3	1	0	2	6 - 9	2
Norway	3	0	0	3	2 - 13	0

Individual scoring

1. Rastislav Spirko, SVK	3	2	4	6
2. Cyrill Buhler, SUI	3	3	1	4
3. Martin Sagat, SVK	3	2	2	4
4. Ivan Kolozvary, SVK	3	1	3	4

Four Nations U18

Prievidza, Slovakia 7 - 10 November

Czech R. - Russia	3:7
Slovakia - Germany	1:1
Russia - Germany	10:2
Slovakia - Czech R.	1:3
Germany - Czech R.	0:4
Slovakia - Russia	2:5

Standing

1. Russia	3	3	0	0	22 - 7	6
2. Czech R.	3	2	0	1	10 - 8	4
3. Slovakia	3	0	1	2	4 - 9	1
4. Germany	3	0	1	2	3 - 15	1

Four Nations U18

Marsta, Sweden 8 - 10 November

Switzerland - USA	2:3
Sweden - Finland	6:7
USA - Finland	4:2
Switzerland - Sweden	3:0
Finland - Switzerland	2:4
Sweden - USA	3:4

Standing

1. USA	3	3	0	0	11 - 7	6
2. Switzerland	3	2	0	1	9 - 5	4
3. Finland	3	1	0	2	11 - 14	2
4. Sweden	3	0	0	3	9 - 14	0

Individual scoring

1. Roman Wick, SUI	3	3	1	4
2. Antonio Rizzello, SUI	3	3	1	4
3. T.J. Hensick, USA	3	2	2	4
4. Niklas Johansson, SWE	3	2	2	4
5. Valtteri Tenkanen, FIN	3	0	4	4

RESULTS SUMMARY

Women's Four Nations

Kitchener, Canada 6 - 11 November

Finland - Sweden	2:2
Canada - USA	7:0
USA - Finland	3:1
Sweden - Canada	5:1
USA - Sweden	12:2
Canada - Finland	3:1
1. Canada	3 3 0 0 15 - 2 6
2. USA	3 2 0 1 15 - 10 4
3. Finland	3 0 1 2 4 - 8 1
4. Sweden	3 0 1 2 5 - 19 1

Gold Medal Game: Canada - USA 4:2

Bronze Medal Game: Finland - Sweden 5:0

Individual scoring

1. Cammi Granato, USA	3 5 3 8
2. Krissy Wendell, USA	3 2 6 8
3. Hayley Wickenheiser, CAN	3 4 1 5
4. Cassie Campbell, CAN	3 1 3 4
5. Therese Brisson, CAN	3 1 3 4
6. Natalie Darwitz, USA	3 0 4 4
7. Riikka Nieminen-Valila, FIN	3 2 2 4

Euro Ice Hockey Challenge

Szekesfehervar, Dunajvaros, Hungary 8 - 11 November

Hungary - Ukraine	0:5
Great Britain - Slovenia	1:4
Slovenia - Hungary	2:2
Ukraine - Great Britain	4:0
Slovenia - Ukraine	0:5
Hungary - Great Britain	0:2

Standing

1. Belarus	3 3 0 0 14 - 0 6
2. Slovenia	3 1 1 1 6 - 8 3
3. Great Britain	3 1 0 2 3 - 8 2
4. Hungary	3 0 1 2 2 - 9 1

Oslo, Norway 8 - 11 November

Belarus - Austria	2:3
Norway - Poland	2:5
Poland - Belarus	4:5
Austria - Norway	3:5
Poland - Austria	1:3
Norway - Belarus	1:5

Standing

1. Austria	3 2 0 1 9 - 8 6
2. Belarus	3 2 0 1 12 - 8 4
3. Poland	3 1 0 2 10 - 15 2
4. Norway	3 1 0 2 6 - 10 2

Mulhouse, Belfort, France 8 - 11 November

Latvia - Denmark	2:3
France - Italy	3:4
Italy - Denmark	2:3
France - Latvia	5:5
France - Denmark	1:1
Latvia - Italy	6:3

Standings

1. Denmark	3 2 1 0 7 - 5 5
2. Latvia	3 1 1 1 13 - 11 3
3. Italy	3 1 0 2 9 - 12 2
4. France	3 0 2 1 9 - 10 2

Individual scoring

1. Dmitri Khrystich, UKR	6 5 3 8
2. Roman Salnikov, UKR	3 5 1 6
3. Sergei Zadzialionav, BLR	6 3 3 6
4. Tomaz Razingar, SLO	6 3 3 6
5. Vitalijs Galuzo, LAT	6 3 3 6
6. Valeri Shiryayev, UKR	3 0 6 6
7. Richard Nygard, NOR	6 5 0 5
8. Nicolas Monberg, DEN	6 4 1 5
9. Francois Rozenenthal, FRA	6 3 2 5
10. Sergejs Senins, LAT	6 2 3 5
11. Aleksandrs Macijevskis, LAT	6 2 3 5
12. Mads Hansen, NOR	6 1 4 5
13. Adrian Parzyszek, POL	6 1 4 5
14. Jeff Hoad, GBR	3 3 1 4
15. Andrei Kastsitsyn, BLR	6 3 1 4

He is so good, this Kari, it's scary

■ The assessment is as simple as amazing: 19 year old Kari Lehtonen is already the best goaltender in Europe. "Definitely", says Goran Stubb, the IIHF Hall of Famer and Director of European Scouting. "I cannot see any one who would be better".

Peter Mahovich, one of the 1972 Team Canada greats and pro scout for the Atlanta Thrashers, goes one step further in this quote in the Montreal Gazette: "I've always said Patrick Roy is the best goaltender I've ever seen. This kid is going to be better", said Mahovich after watching Lehtonen play for Finland in the Karjala Cup in November. In a tournament for seasoned pros, Lehtonen had two shut-outs in three games, posted a 1.13 GAA and a save percentage of 94.00. And yes, Kari was named the tournament's best goalie.

■ Mahovich is one happy scout today.

His Atlanta drafted Lehtonen as number two overall in the 2002 NHL Entry Draft. Never has a goalie from Europe been drafted higher and only once has a goalie been selected number one overall: Rick DiPietro, USA, in 2000.

The last season has been truly unbelievable for the youngster, whom Goran Stubb calls the "crown jewel" among the splendid goaltenders coming out of Finland in recent years. At the start of the 2001-2002 season he was the backup for Canadian Jamie Ram but, midway through the season, the staff at Jokerit Helsinki realized that Lehtonen is the man. In the 23 regular season games he had a 1.79 GAA and that sunk to

1.73 in the 11 games Kari played in the playoffs, leading Jokerit to the championship.

■ Kari led Finland to a bronze medal at the 2002

IIHF World U20 Championship in Czech Republic and was named Best Goaltender of the tournament. At the end of the season he was selected for the national senior team for the 2002 IIHF World Championship in Sweden, but he didn't play.

Then came the draft in Toronto, which confirmed Lehtonen's status as the best young goaltender in the world, and this season he is establishing himself as the best goalie in Europe. When this is being written, Lehtonen has played 26 games in the Finnish league with a GAA of 1.47 and a 94.92 save percentage.

"It's very difficult to score three goals in one game against him", says Goran Stubb. "He has size, he is mobile, he reads the game very well, and he has great confidence without getting cocky".

■ He should be an attraction at the World Juniors in Halifax and, if nothing unexpected happens, Lehtonen will be Finland's number one goalie at the 2003 IIHF World Championship in his native Helsinki.

"And he is far too good to play in a minor league", says Stubb. "If Atlanta decides to bring him over next season, Kari is good enough for the NHL."



BRIGHT FUTURE: "Will be better than Roy."

IIHF World U20 Championships

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

* The three first championships were unofficial.

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

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

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

This Parise's claim to fame is different

By Szymon Szemberg, IIHF

■ Although Jean-Paul Parise played 13 seasons in the NHL, his name will forever be a reminder of the infamous slashing attempt towards referee Josef Kompalla in game 8 of the 1972 Summit Series between Team Canada and the Soviet Union.

But is likely that in the future the name Parise will give hockey fans a totally different ring. Zach Parise, the 18-year old son of J-P, will be starring on the USA entry at the IIHF World U20 Championship in Canada.

"He has the potential to be much better than me", admits J-P for the IIHF News Release. "Zach definitely has more talent than I ever had. He is a skilled, hard working centre with a great passion for the game. I just had the passion."

Although J-P's assessment of his own qualities is not entirely correct, he is right about his son's potential. People who closely follow international hockey on all levels, know that Parise junior ranks among the best 18 year old hockey players in the world. He showed that already last season when he collected seven goals and three assists in eight games during the 2002 IIHF World U18 Championship in Slovakia and led the team to only the second IIHF World Championship gold medal in the history of USA Hockey.

■ The last and only IIHF gold was captured 69 years earlier when the senior team triumphed at the 1933 IIHF World Championship in Prague.

Zach Parise was not only one of the best players of the tournament, he scored the unforgettable tournament winner in the last game of the tournament against Russia, 58 seconds before the end.

A short replay of the drama: the Americans were leading 2-1 going into the final minute, but that was not enough. USA, Russia and the Czechs were involved in a triangle drama in the round robin tournament and Team USA had to beat the Russians by two goals to claim gold.

"Coach Mike Eaves took a time-out and told us that we can leave the goalie in and go for the silver or pull him and go for the gold, but if they scored to tie it up we would only get bronze. Everyone said that we want the gold medal."

"I was very excited to be picked as one of the players who would be on the ice. I remember going by full speed on the left side and after cutting towards the net I put the puck under the goalie. After that... everything was just a blur. This was the best experience of my life."

It was even sweeter for Zach knowing that Jean-Paul and mother Donna were present in the ice rink in



Photo: JAN SUKUP

ZACH ON TRACK: Parise Jr's joy knew no limits when he scored the 2002 IIHF World U18 Championship winner against Russia with 58 seconds remaining of the tournament. It was USA Hockey's first ever IIHF junior gold. Zach and his class of -84's will go for a repeat in Canada where the Parises have their roots.



Photo: IIHF Archives

DAD'S WHACK: Well, almost. Jean-Paul Parise restrained himself at the last moment during this infamous incident during the 1972 Summit Series. Zach has the entire series on DVD and says that J-P was a much better player than he was given credit for.

Piestany, Slovakia sharing the experience with him.

"To have the opportunity to be sitting there in this rink and to see your own son scoring a world championship winning goal... there is no greater feeling in the world", says J-P Parise.

■ Having a former hockey star for a father can be a burden for young hockey players. Media loves to draw comparisons and there is definitely this extra pressure. But Zach says that he has never felt any of that, especially not from J-P.

"He let us try everything", says Zach, and he also speaks for his two year elder brother Jordan. "We played baseball, golf and hockey and he wouldn't pressure us to do anything. But I guess hockey is in our genes."

Jean-Paul coached Zach for four seasons at Shattuck-

St. Mary's Prep School in Minnesota, before Parise junior opted for college hockey and the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux, where he is now in his freshman year.

■ It didn't take long for Zach to make an impact in the college ranks. In his North Dakota debut Zach recorded a hat trick and an assist as the Fighting Sioux beat Canisius 8-0. As if to prove the four-point outing was not a fluke, Parise turned in another one (two goals and two assists this time) as North Dakota defeated strong Michigan.

Zach explains why he took the college route, as opposed to junior hockey in his father's native Canada:

"My ambition is to play pro hockey", says Zach. "But if you can't make it, it's great to have good education to fall back on. Junior hockey was never really an option. I believe that college hockey is just as good as development for a pro career."

■ Irony has it that the two best teams from last year's IIHF World U18 Championship in Slovakia will meet in the first game on December 26 at Sydney. Just like the USA, the Russians will ice several players who have graduated from the U18 to the U20 team (among them the incredibly talented and promising 17 year old Aleksander Ovechkin) and that should be a great match-up.

"They will come out fierce", projects Zach. "They were bitter after the loss in Slovakia. But we have enough talent on our team to be able to pull off the same thing again."

American hockey heroes

Winthrop "Ding" Palmer

Feat: Scored nine goals in five games and led Team USA to the 1933 IIHF World Championship gold medal in Prague.

Jack McCartan

Feat: Goaltender led Team USA to a 7-0 record at the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley giving the Americans their first Olympic hockey gold. Outstanding in key wins against Canada (2-1) and the Soviet Union (3-2).

Mike Eruzione

Feat: Scored the winning goal (4-3) against the Soviet Union in the "Miracle On Ice" game at the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid. USA won its second Olympic gold.

Tony Amonte

Feat: Scored game winner against Canada in Montreal in game 3 of the 1996 World Cup of Hockey giving USA its first international hockey victory in 16 years.

Sandra Whyte

Feat: Assisted on two goals and scored the third one in USA's 3-1 win in the Gold Medal Game against Canada in the 1998 Olympic inaugural women's hockey tournament at Nagano.

Zach Parise

Feat: Scored dramatic tournament winner against Russia with 58 seconds remaining of the final game of the 2002 IIHF World U18 Championship at Piestany, Slovakia thus giving USA Hockey its first IIHF gold medal in 69 years.