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Canada strikes gold World Championship recap All set for Women's Worlds

HHF



From the IIHF President

Looking forward

By René Fasel

Dear ice hockey family, as always, I hope this message finds you well and in good health.

Looking back at the past season, I am pleased to say that despite many challenges and obstacles we were able to achieve our objectives of bringing back IIHF tournaments, and in the process gain new insights into organizing events under the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After successfully operating a tournament bubble at the end of 2020 during the World Junior Championship, the IIHF applied the best practices learned in Edmonton to the organization of the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship and the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship.

The results were very encouraging, with zero reported cases in both events and all games played.

In Riga in particular, the IIHF together with the local organizing committee was able to establish a clean bubble for 16 teams with players coming from all over the world to compete in 64 games over three weeks. As with the World Juniors and the U18s, we were able to achieve our goal of playing all games and awarding medals at the end. Congratulations to Canada for securing gold at both the U18 and World Championship tournaments.

The lessons learned in Edmonton, Frisco & Plano, and Riga means that we now have a comprehensive roadmap to bring back the complete World Championship program for 2021/22.

This was the objective of the 2021 IIHF Annual Congress, where we took the first major step forward and established tournament hosts and dates for the upcoming season. We don't have to wait too long until we get to drop the puck once again, as the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship kicks off this week in Calgary, followed by the final round of the Men's Olympic Qualification tournaments at the end of August in Latvia, Norway, and Slovakia. Good luck to all the teams and the tournament organizers in all these events.

It will be challenging, as we know that CO-VID-19 is not over. The IIHF will be ready to support all tournament organizers in their preparations and the IIHF office is always available to provide information and guidance as we get ready for 2021/22.

It is important to remain positive, be thorough in planning and execution of your respective events, and always to stay in communication with participating teams and IIHF representatives.

The next major milestone ahead of the upcoming season will be the 2021 IIHF General Congress this September. After a year's delay due to the pandemic, the IIHF members will elect a new Council and a new President. This will be my last Congress as acting IIHF President, and I am looking forward to meeting with vou all one final time.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all of you for the support and great memories during my time as IIHF President. As you know, I always refer to the IIHF and its membership as an ice hockey family because no matter where we come from, we are brought together by a united love for our sport, which creates strong relationships that will last a lifetime.

I wish you all good luck in your preparations and look forward to seeing you in person.



News and Notes

2025 IIHF ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The Swedish Ice Hockey Association announced that it has selected Stockholm to serve as host city and main venue for the 2025 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, set to be co-hosted by Sweden and Denmark.

Stockholm will be joined by Herning which will serve as the Danish co-host venue for the tournament.

Sweden's capital will host one eight-team group, two guarter-final games, as well as the semi-final and medal rounds. Herning will host another eight-team group during the preliminary round, together with the two other quarter-final games.



Both cities have played host to IIHF World Championships in the last few years, with Herning most recently hosting the 2018 tournament together with Copenhagen, and Stockholm cohosting with Helsinki in 2012 and 2013.

The Swedish Ice Hockey Association carried out an in-depth evaluation process to find out which one of Sweden's cities held the best conditions to host the tournament. After an intensive and thorough selection process, the choice came down to Stockholm.

2022 IIHF ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has released the groups and game schedule for the 2022 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

The groups for Tampere and Helsinki are based on the World Ranking taking into consideration organizational wishes by the 2022 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Organizing Committee.

Host Finland will play Team USA, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Latvia, Norway, Belarus and Great Britain in Group B in Tampere where the new Tampere Deck Arena will serve as main venue for the event.

Helsinki will host Group A that includes defending

champion Canada, the ROC team, Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Indonesia and Switzerland, Slovakia, Denmark, Kazakhstan Italv. and Italy.

MEDAL DESIGN CHOSEN

The winner of the prize medal design competition for the 2022 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Tampere and Helsinki has been announced. The winning design for the medal is designed by Pauli Maronen, who incorporated a theme with Tampere's new Deck Arena and a hockey player behind the medal.

The design competition for the prize medals of the 2022 IIHF World Championship was opened in January 2021 to the general public. The competition created widespread interest and a total of about 70 medal proposals were received. The international competition saw proposals coming from Finland, Estonia, Great Britain, New Zealand, Russia, Belarus, Canada,







The winner was a medal designed by Finn Pauli Maronen. The unique design of the medal and strong references to the sport itself attracted instant attention. The theme of the medal is the Tampere Deck Arena, which will be completed in December and will serve as the main arena for the 2022 IIHF WM.

2021 IIHF WORLD RANKING

The best two teams at the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship are also the best two teams in the 2021 IIHF Men's World Ranking. New world champion Canada defended first place while silver medallist Finland overtook Russia for second place.

The United States and Germany both went up two spots and come in fourth and fifth place respectively. For Germany it's the highest placement since the introduction of the World Ranking that takes into consideration the results for the World Championships and Olympics of the last four years.

The Czech Republic (6th) lost one spot while Sweden moved down from fourth to seventh place. Kazakhstan (13th) and Great Britain (16th) both moved up three spots following their performance in Riga.

For many teams outside of the top division there haven't been IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship tournaments for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic that caused tournament cancellations. For a fairer ranking and point distribution, the IIHF Council decided that the points for 2021 in case of tournament cancellations are given according to the ranking position of each team in the 2021 Pre-Championship Report – taking into consideration the results in 2018, 2019 and 2020 – rather than by seeding as in the past.

The same rule will also be applied for the 2021 IIHF Women's World Ranking that will be determined with the conclusion of the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Calgary, Canada.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW IIHF WORLD RANKING

CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE

After a one-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Champions Hockey League with the top teams from the European leagues taking part in the CHL will be back in August.

The 32 clubs were drawn into eight groups of four by Swiss women's national team player Lara Stalder. CHL Chairman Peter Zahner and CHL CEO Martin Baumann.

The Champions Hockey League season will start on 26 August and the group stage with six games for each team will end on 13 October with the top-two teams of each group advancing to the knockout stage that will end with the final game on 1 March 2022.

The 32 clubs come together from 13 leagues and 14 different countries.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW DRAW AND GROUPS

CANADA

Hockey Canada announced that **Dave Cameron** will take the reins as head coach of Canada's National Junior replacing Andre Team, Tourigny. through the 2021-22 season, culminating with the

2022 IIHF World Junior Championship in Edmonton and Red Deer, Alta., in December and January.

Cameron was named head coach of the Ottawa 67's of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) earlier on Wednesday. He spent the last three seasons as head coach of the Vienna Capitals of ICE Hockey League, and previously spent two seasons as an assistant coach with the NHL's Calgary Flames (201618) and five seasons with the Ottawa Senators (2011-16) as head coach and assistant.

Internationally, he has won three medals at the IIHF World Junior Championship, winning silver as head coach in 2011, and gold and silver as an assistant coach in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

GERMANY

Ice Hockey The German Association has named Thomas Schadler as new head coach of the German women's national team that will compete at the 2021 IIHF



Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in late August in Canada.

Schadler was signed for the new season to The 53-year-old was a long-time national replace Christian Kunast, who has moved team player of Latvia. He first joined the from behind the bench to serve as sports international stage at the 1988 World Juniors with the Soviet U20 national team and as director for the organization. Franziska Busch, who was the interim head coach, adult represented independent Latvia that will continue her work with the U18 women's moved its way up from the lower divisions national team. in the early 90s until Vitolins' first top-level senior World Championship in 1997. He Schadler, 53, had previously been involved in played six top-level Worlds and was Latvia's coaching U16 to U18 men's national teams captain at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

for the German Ice Hockey Association In 2005 he finished his professional career including several IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship participations. and turned to coaching, first at amateur level

The German women's national team will soon have important months ahead as it will not only play at the Women's Worlds in less than three months but also in the Final Olympic Qualification in November 2021 to battle for a ticket to Beijing 2022.

LATVIA

The Latvian Hockey Federation named Harijs Vitolins new head coach of the Latvian men's national team.



Vitolins succeeds Bob Hartley,

who had coached the team for five years but won't be able to continue due to his commitment and busy schedule with KHL club Avangard Omsk.

in Switzerland where he was playing the later part of his career and later as assistant coach for KHL teams in Moscow and St. Petersburg, most recently for Spartak Moscow during the past two seasons.

He also worked as an assistant coach for the Latvian national team between 2004 and 2011 and later assisted Oleg Znarok at the Russian national team between 2014 and 2018. He became the first foreign head coach of the Russian national team when he replaced suspended Znarok in the final of the 2014 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship winning gold. As an assistant coach he was also part of the Olympic Athletes from Russia team that won gold at the 2018 Olympics.

LITHUANIA

Arunas Aleinikovas has been named new head coach of the Lithuanian men's national team.



The 42-year-old is the first domestic coach in 11 years to work as head coach of the men's national team and replaces Daniel Lacroix.

The native of Elektrenai has represented Lithuania in 13 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship tournaments as a goaltender and has been working as a goaltending coach and assistant coach with the national team since 2013. During the past years he has worked at club level with Neman Grodno of the Belarusian Extraliga.

UKRAINE

The Council of the Ice Hockey Federation of Ukraine has selected Vadym Shakhraichuk as new head coach of the Ukrainian national team.

Shakhraichuk, 46, has represented Ukraine in 15 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship tournaments (including 8 in the top division) and in the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. At club level he started his career with Sokil Kyiv before playing abroad in Russia and Germany.

He retired in 2013 in the Ukrainian league. With Lokomotiv Yaroslavl (2002) and Dynamo Moscow (2005) he won two Russian championships.

As a coach he worked for the Generals Kyiv and for the past three seasons for Dunarea Galati in Romania.

USA

USA Hockey officially named Mike Sullivan (right, top) the head coach of its Olympic men's team and **Joel Johnson** (right, bottom) the head coach of its Olympic women's team. It's the first time in these roles for both men. The 2022 Olympic men's and women's hockey tournaments will take February.





In the 2017-18 season, Johnson served as place in Beijing, China in head coach of the U.S. Under-22 Women's Select Team at the 2018 U22 Series vs. Sullivan, 53, is well-versed in international Canada in Calgary and led Team USA to a three-game sweep. He made his debut competition. He served as an assistant coach with the U.S. Women's National Team as an under Peter Laviolette at the 2006 Olympics (eighth place), the head coach at the 2007 assistant coach in 2018-19 and helped guide IIHF World Championship (fifth place), and the U.S. to its fourth straight Women's Four an assistant coach under John Tortorella at Nations Cup that season, as well as the gold both the 2008 Worlds (sixth place) and the medal at the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's 2016 World Cup of Hockey (seventh place). World Championship in Espoo, Finland.

Sullivan also played in two IIHF tournaments. Johnson finished his 16th season on the He had two assists for the 1988 World Junior University of Minnesota bench as associate team in Moscow and a goal and two assists head coach in 2020-21. He has helped guide for the 1997 Worlds team in Finland. In the the Golden Gophers to six national titles NHL, Sullivan totalled 136 points in 709 (2000, 2004, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016). aames for four clubs. Prior to his time at Minnesota, he spent six seasons (2004-10) coaching at Bethel Johnson has been a long-time contributor to University.

the U.S. women's program, including guiding



the U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team to four straight gold medals (2015-18) as head coach at the IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship.

He was named interim head coach of the senior women's national team after Bob Corkum stepped down, and will guide the team at the upcoming 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Calgary, Canada.

Obituaries

KENT ANGUS

Kent Angus, a much loved and admired member of the IIHF family for nearly a quarter century, passed away in Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto on 24 April, at the

age of 68. He is survived by his lifetime partner, Donna, a brother Brian, and a step-daughter, Keri. He is predeceased by a son, Matthew, from an earlier marriage.

Angus received the Paul Loicg Award in 2012 at the IIHF's Hall of Fame Ceremony in Helsinki. For over 20 years he headed Nike's jersey program that provided uniforms for IIHF events.

Kent was born in Toronto and studied business administration and management at Sheridan College from 1970 until 1972. His father was a pilot for Air Canada, and Kent also earned his pilot's license. He worked in the terminal for Air Canada at Pearson airport in Toronto, and that is how his relationship with the IIHF began.

In the early 1990s, former IIHF Sport Director Dave Fitzpatrick worked with the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (Hockey Canada today) and travelled with the National Junior Team every Christmas for the World Junior Championship. Angus helped arrange the last-minute details for the Team Canada entourage, and as such he got to know John Pickett, who represented one of the corporate partners that supported the National Team Program at the time.

When Nike became brand supplier for the IIHF, Pickett needed someone operational who knew about hockey and thought of Angus. It was estimated that during his time coordinating with the IIHF, Angus oversaw the making of more than 75,000 jerseys.

It wasn't just his work at events that was appreciated. Angus worked year-round with the involved IIHF member national associations to ensure the designs and colours, fonts, nameplates, and every detail that goes into each sweater was just perfect and to each country's satisfaction.

Indeed, Angus had retired in early 2019 to enjoy life and spend more time with Donna at their home in Markham and at their cottage on the French River in Ontario. However, a loss of peripheral vision, which didn't seem like much at first, soon revealed a pinched optic nerve by a blood vessel in his brain. Surgery revealed more complications, and he was placed into an induced coma for three weeks. After waking and being alert for a few days, his condition worsened and he passed away.

MURRAY DOWEY

Murray Dowey, the last surviving member of Canada's historic gold-medal 1948 Olympic hockey team, died on 26 May in Toronto. He was 95.



Dowey represented Canada only once in international competition, but he made it count. On October 15, 1947, the CAHA decided to send a team to the 1948 Olympics in St. Moritz, and the RCAF Flyers volunteered to be the nation's representatives.

Once the Games began, the team was unbeatable. Dowey recorded five shutouts in eight games and allowed only five goals, his 0.62 goals-against average and shutouts both Olympics records to this day. The team won seven of eight games to win gold, the only small blemish a scoreless tie with the 1947 World Champion Czechoslovakians.

The native of Fussen was a member of the Ger-Dowey made Olympics history in a quirky way as man Hockey Hall of Fame as a long-time player well. In the third period of the team's first game, and head coach of West Germany. a 3-1 win over Sweden, he caught the puck with his glove to make a save and then threw the Egen spent his entire club career as a forward with EV Fussen where he was involved in 13 of puck forward. This is not allowed, and he was assessed a two-minute minor penalty at 19:52. the club's 16 national championships. Rules at the time required the goalie to serve his own penalty, so Dowey skated to the penalty He represented the Federal Republic of Germabox and handed his glove and blocker to deny in 99 international games scoring 72 goals







fenceman Andre Laperriere, who played the last eight seconds in goal! It's the only time in Canada's Olympic history that a goalie served his own penalty.

After the Olympics and more exhibition games touring, Dowey returned home and resumed his business career with the Toronto Transit Commission. He worked for the company for 44 years, retiring in 1986 as the superintendent of administration. The RCAF Flyers were hailed as heroes for their winning efforts, and the team was later inducted into several Halls of Fame in Canada.

MARKUS EGEN

German ice hockey is mourning the death of long-time national team player and coach Markus Egen, who passed away on 28 May at the age of 93.



including three Olympic Winter Games and four World Championships between 1952 and 1960. He was the captain and scoring leader of the 1959 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship with nine goals and four points and won World Championship silver in 1953. At the 1954 Worlds in Stockholm he was third in goal scoring with ten markers.

Among the best forwards in Germany, toward the end of his career he switched to player-coach at Fussen and after retiring in 1960 he was coaching Fussen and for a short period Kaufbeuren for over 20 years. For several years he was also a coach of West Germany's national and returned to the Olympic and World Championship stage in this function.

TONY ESPOSITO

Tony Esposito, perhaps the greatest right-hand catching goalie of all time, passed away on 10 August at age 78 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He is sur-

vived by older brother, Phil, and together they make up the most famous brother combination in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

Esposito played for Michigan Tech in the NCAA in the early 1960s leading the Huskies to an NCAA championship in 1965. Esposito later signed with Montreal. In all, he played 13 games for the Canadiens during the 1968-69 regular season and was a backup throughout the playoffs. Montreal won the Stanley Cup that year, but in the summer the team exposed him in the intra-league draft and Chicago claimed him. Esposito spend the remaining 15 years of his career with the Hawks.

His first season with Chicago set a modern-day shutout record with 15 in 63 games, and he won the Vezina and Calder Trophies with a 2.17 goals-against average. A year later, he led the Hawks to the Stanley Cup finals, where they were defeated by Montreal. Esposito also went to the Cup finals in 1973, losing again to Montreal, and won the Vezina again in 1972 and 1974.

In 1972, Esposito was named to Team Canada for the Summit Series, playing four games, with a 2-1-1 record. Esposito played for Canada again at the 1977 World Championship. Having spent all of his playing days in the U.S., he became a naturalized citizen and played for the Americans at the 1981 Canada Cup.

In retirement, he was the GM of the Pittsburgh Penguins briefly and later a scout for the Tampa Bay Lightning under GM and brother, Phil. Tonv's number 35 was later retired by the Hawks. and he was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988.

MIROSLAV FRYCER

Miroslav Frycer, a star on both sides of the Atlantic in league and international play, died on 27 April, in the Czech Republic at age 61.

Frycer grew up in Ostrava and started his pro career playing for the local team, Vitkovice, in 1977. He made the Czechoslovak national team for the 1978 and 1979 IIHF World Junior Championships, winning a silver medal in 1979.

Frycer also played at the 1979 and 1981 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships, winning an-Park, who both worked as police detectives, were killed in a car other silver and a bronze, as well as the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid. But in 1981 he and his accident in San Ysidro, California on 4 June when they were struck by a vehicle family defected to Canada to start a new life in driving the wrong way. the NHL.

The 33-year-old was a former player and He had made arrangements to play with the Quebec Nordiques. After an impressive start, worked as coach and referee. She officiated in he was acquired by the Maple Leafs at the three IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship (2015, 2016, 2019), was assigned to trade deadline in 1982, scoring 24 goals in 59 the bronze medal game twice and also officigames with the two teams in his rookie season. It was with the Leafs that he spent most of his ated games in lower divisions and the Olympic Qualification. NHL career, some six and a half years. He led the Leafs in scoring in 1985/86 with a career Huntley-Park was assigned to officiate in the best 32 goals and 75 points.

In 1985, Frycer became the first Czech player to appear in the NHL All-Star Game, and on 8









January 1986, he was the first Czech to score four goals in a game, during a wild 11-9 win over Edmonton.

He played briefly with Detroit and Edmonton, before finishing his career in Germany and Italy. Soon after retiring he turned to coaching, mostly in the Czech Republic and Italy, winning a championship with Merano in the Italian league. He became head coach in Znoimo in 2017.

JAMIE HUNTLEY-PARK

American referee Jamie Huntley-Park and her husband Ryan



2021 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Canada and was a candidate for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

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MATISS KIVLENIEKS

Matiss Kivlenieks, the Latvian goalie who led his team to an historic 2-0 win over Canada on the first day of the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Riga, has

passed away suddenly in Novi, Michigan on 4 July. He was only 24 years old.

Following an autopsy, it was confirmed that Kivlenieks died of chest trauma from an errant fireworks mortar blast in what authorities described as a tragic accident during Fourth of July celebrations.

Kivlenieks, who played for the NHL's Columbus Blue jackets, was living in the U.S. this summer in preparation for the upcoming NHL season.

On home ice just a few months ago, Kivlenieks stopped all 38 shots Canada sent his way in Latvia's World Championship opening game on 21 May, 2021. It was Latvia's first ever win over Canada in IIHF history.

In all, he played four games at the World Championship with an impressive 2.18 goals-against average. It was his first time representing his country at the top level, although he was the third goalie at both the 2013 WM18 and the 2018 World Championship. He also played at the U20 in Division I-A in 2015 and 2016.

Kivlenieks wanted to play in the NHL and moved to the U.S. as a young teen to help realize those dreams. He was never drafted, though, but he didn't give up. The Blue Jackets signed him to a contract as he worked his way up through a variety of pro leagues, from the NAHL to USHL, ECHL, and AHL.

On January 19, 2020, Kivlenieks made his NHL debut, stopping 31 of 32 shots in a 2-1 road win against the New York Rangers. He played in six games that year and two more this past season.

STEFAN CHOMAKOV

Former Bulgarian national team defenceman, coach and BIHF General Secretary Stefan Chomakov passed away on 26 July at age 83.

Chomakov started playing in 1952 with the army club CDNA Sofia. He graduated from the University of Forestry and was honorary lecturer for ice hockey at the National Sports Academy. When he was studying at the university, Chomakov played for Akademik Sofia. Then he joined Cherveno zname Sofia and played for Metallurg Pernik. Later he went back to the already united team CSKA Cherveno zname (later CSKA Septemvriisko zname), where he finished his playing career.

a move to WS Moscow. There, he won three Chomakov was on the team when Bulgaria Soviet championships (1951-53) before the made its debut in the Ice Hockey World Chamteam was merged into CSKA. Shuvalov was an pionships at the 30th edition in Stockholm 1963. obvious pick for the national team as it made He started his coaching career with the CSKA its World Championship debut in Stockholm in Septemvriisko Zname Junior team, then the men's team and later was the head coach of Ak-1954. There, he helped the Soviets win gold at ademik Sofia. He was also the national coach of the first attempt, a feat repeated two years later the Bulgarian national team for the 1983 Winter when the USSR made its Olympic debut in Cor-Universiade in Sofia and head coach for a tourtina d'Ampezzo. nament in Hungary. He even had few games as **YEVGENI PUPKOV** a hockey referee in the national championships. During the late '80s and in the '90s Chomakov Former Kazakh national team was the General Secretary of the Bulgarian Ice player Yevgeni Pupkov passed Hockey Federation. He made huge efforts for the away on 24 July at age 45. His survival of hockey in Bulgaria, using his talent to club HK Almaty confirmed that communicate and engage people for the cause. Pupkov died from the effects of a Covid-19 infection. **VIKTOR SHUVALOV**

Viktor Shuvalov, the last survivor from the pioneering Soviet teams of the 1950s, has passed away at the age of 97 on 19 April. He passed away in Moscow due to complications with a COVID-19 infection.

Shuvalov, born in 1923 in a village in what is now Mordovia, first took to the ice in Chelyabinsk. In 1947 he began playing for the city's bandy team, Dzerzhinets, but after the success of the inaugural Soviet Ice Hockey championship in 1946/47, the club adopted the puck game. Shuvalov followed suit and made a big enough impact to get









Pupkov went through the hockey school of Ust-Kamenogorsk in Kazakhstan where he also debuted in senior hockey before moving to Russia. For Torpedo Ust-Kamenogorsk, Metallurg Novokuznetsk, SKA St. Petersburg, Amur Khabarovsk, Lada Togliatti, Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg and Khimik Voskresensk he played 525 games as a defenceman at the top-level in Russia (Superliga/KHL). He represented Kazakhstan at several occasions including the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin and the 2006 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Riga. He was also recently appointed assistant coach of HK Almaty.

IIHF Election

Candidates named

Five presidential hopefuls announced

By Martin Merk



With the 2021 IIHF Semi-Annual Congress set to elect a new IIHF Council for a five-year term in September, all candidate nominations have now been submitted.

Under the revised governance structure and new IIHF Statutes & Bylaws, the new Council will consist of 14 voting members including:

-President.

- -Senior Vice-President (new)
- -Three Regional Vice-Presidents -Nine other members.

Of these 14 members, at least two must be male and at least two must be female.

CLICK TO VIEW LIST OF CANDIDATES



The IIHF Council is the IIHF's executive body. The term of the next Council terms runs for five years from 2021 to 2026.

Nomination Process

Each Full MNA in good standing was able to nominate one candidate to each of the four Council positions: President, Senior Vice-President, Regional Vice-President, and Council Member.

The MNA can put forward the same candidate for each position or a different candidate for each position.

Before the final list of nominations is confirmed and in accordance with IIHF Statute 15.2.1 and 18.2.1 respectively, all candidates have been vetted by an external auditing company and have been approved to stand for election.

Delegates from the IIHF member national associations will vote on 25 September 2021 in St. Petersburg, Russia, Current IIHF President René Fasel will not stand for re-election after having led the IIHF from 1994 to 2021.

The five nominated presidential candidates are in alphabetical order: Henrik Bach Nielsen (Denmark), Petr Briza (Czech Republic), Sergej Gontcharov (Belarus), Franz Reindl (Germany) Luc Tardif (France).

Nomination Requirements

In order to be eligible for nomination a Council



Candidate must fulfill the following criteria:

-Cannot be a paid employee of an IIHF Commercial partner or a competitor of an IIHF Commercial partner

-Must declare any equity ownership interest in an IIHF Commercial partner and/or an IIHF Commercial partner's competitor

-Must have had their 25th or later birthday and their 73rd or earlier birthday in the appointment year

-Must not have committed a crime or other action that violates the IIHF Code of Conduct

-Must have minimum of five years ice hockey experience (business and/or operations)

Each of the candidates have been nominated by their respective IIHF member national association that holds voting rights at the 2021 IIHF Semi-Annual Congress. The various IIHF Council positions will be up for election in the order below. While it is possible to be nominated for more than one position, a person can only be elected to one of these positions.

Congress will also elect two Auditors, the Disciplinary Board, Appeal Board and Ethics Board.

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Women's Worlds set to launch

First World Championship since 2019 ready to kick off in Calgary

By Andrew Podnieks





It has been a long wait for teams and fans alike to see the world's top female hockey players get back on the ice and compete in an international tournament.

The 2020 Women's World Championship was cancelled because of COVID-19, and the 2021 edition scheduled for April was also cancelled, at the last minute, because of an outbreak in Nova Scotia.

But the IIHF and Hockey Canada have moved the venue from Halifax to Calgary, and the new dates are 20-31 August. Fingers crossed, organizers are taking the necessary precautions and expect the women to finally play their first IIHF tournament since the 2019 Women's Worlds in Espoo, Finland.

Here are the teams competing and what to look for (in order of 2019 finish).

United States

The Americans won gold in 2019, albeit after a favourable goalie interference video review in overtime of the gold-medal game against Finland. In the end, Alex Rigsby outduelled Noora Raty in goal and Annie Pankowski scored the shootout winner, giving the U.S. their fifth straight gold. They will be led again in 2021 by their



Team USA has been on a gold medal hot streak and the Womens' Worlds, collecting their fifth straight trophy in 2019.

great duo of Hilary Knight and captain Kenda-Il Coyne Schofield. Knight has led the WW in scoring in three of the last four years, and she is on the cusp of two incredible records. Her 43 career WW goals in only one behind the all-time leader, Cammi Granato, and Knight's 74 points is 12 behind leader Hayley Wickenheiser.

Finland

In the last Women's Worlds, the Finns played in their first ever gold-medal game after defeating

Canada by a 4-2 score in the semi-finals. Goalie Noora Raty was the hero as Canada outshot the Finns, 45-19. But without Raty in Calgary, Finland will rely heavily on Meeri Raisanen, who was the number-one goalie at the 2015 and 2016 Women's Worlds when Raty did not play. In all, Raisanen has played at four WW with a record of 7-0-6 in 16 games, and she was the backup at the 2018 Olympics. The other superstar to follow is captain and defender Jenni Hiirikoski, the most fluid skater in the women's game.

Canada

The Canadians have been craving a chance to make amends for their semi-finals loss to Finland two years ago and are champing at the bit. Hard to believe, but their last WW gold was back in 2012 when Wickenheiser was the captain and Dan Church the coach. This year, it will be Marie-Philip Poulin and Rebecca Johnston leading the offence and Troy Ryan will be behind the bench both in Calgary and at the Beijing Olympics in February 2022.



ROC

Although the Russians beat Switzerland, 3-0, in the 2019 guarter-finals, they lost to the U.S. 8-0 in the semis and 7-0 to Canada in the bronze-medal game. More worrisome, they scored only six goals in seven games, and highlighting their worries on offence is the fact that they have only 30 goals in their last 24 WW games. Nevertheless, their World Ranking of 4 puts ROC

among the medal contenders again in 2021 as they hope to add to the three WW bronze medals from 2016, 2013, and 2001.

Switzerland

The Swiss failed to win a game at the 2019 Women's Worlds, yet they have one of the most dynamic players in the game in Alina Muller. Although only 23, it feels like she has been around forever, having played the last two Olympics as well as the last four Women's Worlds. The team has had a tough time since the retirement of goalie Florence Schelling after the Pyeong-Chang Olympics, but Muller needs help from the likes of Lara Stalder, Evelina Raselli, Phoebe Staenz, and Rahel Enzler among others if the team is to have success in Calgary.



Czech Republic

The Czechs are playing in the top level for the fourth straight year thanks to a sixth-place finish in 2019. They won four of five games in the second tier of the preliminary round two years ago, and they even held a 1-0 lead on Finland early in the second period of the guarter-finals before losing, 3-1. The Czechs are a team on the rise, and they will definitely be looking to improve on their showing two years ago. Alena Mills, Klara Hymlarova, and Tereza Vanisova all came out of the WW18 program and are developing into fine players for the Czechs.

Germany

The Germans won twice in five games two years ago to finish 7th overall after losing to Canada, 5-0, in the guarters. They scored only seven goals but also allowed only 13 behind the solid goaltending of Jennifer Harss, who will be 34 by the time the Women's Worlds starts in Calgary. She has been with the national team since 2005 and has played in eight WW tournaments and two Olympics. Along with Julia Zorn, they have been the lynchpins of the German program.

Japan

Competing in their ninth Women's Worlds, Japan is buoyed by having won two games in 2019 for the first time in the team's history. That result enabled them to qualify for the playoffs where they lost to the U.S. by a very respectable 4-0 score. Their modest goal will be to make the guarter-finals again, a tough assignment given the quality of competition



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WER

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Canada reclaims world title

Overtime thriller caps Riga tournament full of surprises

By Lucas Aykroyd







From the pandemic bubble to the varied rosters, the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship was arguably the most unusual in hockey history.

But as usual, we've identified 10 important lessons from the tournament, which Latvia hosted for the second time.

1–Never count Canada out

Hollywood would have rejected this script as implausible. Canada lost its first three Worlds games for the first time ever, falling 2-0 to Latvia, 5-1 to the U.S., and 3-1 to Germany. Coach Gerard Gallant's unheralded squad then started winning, but still needed Germany and Latvia to complete their last group stage game in regulation just to make the playoffs.

The Canadians defied the odds by beating the ROC team 2-1 in overtime in the guarter-finals, the U.S. 4-2 in the semi-finals, and defending champion Finland 3-2 in overtime in the gold medal game. Tournament MVP Andrew Mangiapane, scoring leader Connor Brown, and captain Adam Henrique sparked this miraculous comeback in Canada's first title run since 2016.



After starting with a historic loss to hosts Latvia and an 0-3 start in the preliminary round, Canada rebounded to win it all

2–Finland's formula is almost perfect

Despite featuring 14 newcomers and just eight returnees from 2019, coach Jukka Jalonen's team almost mirrored the Bratislava title-winners.

Leading scorer Anton Lundell was, like Kaapo Kakko, a teen who recorded seven points. The workmanlike Finnish defence, this time headlined by Olli Maatta, helped limit opponents to just 14 goals. And starter Jussi Olkinuora, like Kevin Lankinen, provided worldclass goaltending. However, the relentlessly disciplined Finns, who never lost in regulation. fell just one goal short of repeating as champs for the first time ever. They'll be back.

3-America's drought defies explanation Where Patrick Kane, Jack Eichel, and Johnny Gaudreau couldn't succeed in 2019, this year's less-renowned U.S. team nearly did. Driven by a creative, productive top line with Jason Robertson, Trevor Moore, and Conor Garland, plus Cal Petersen's heroics in net, the Americans authored a seven-game winning streak after a 2-1 opening loss to Finland. Their final 35-14 goal difference was the tournament's best.

Still, the U.S.'s semi-final loss to Canada was their tenth since the IIHF adopted the playoff system in 1992 - with zero wins. Topping Germany for bronze provided consolation,



but it's baffling that the nation that supplies more than 25 percent of NHLers hasn't won the Worlds since 1933.

4–Germans know how to sacrifice

When Moritz Seider and Korbinian Holzer both cracked the 2021 tournament all-star team, it marked the first time both all-star D-men have been Germans. That said, coach Toni Soderholm's entire team committed to tight defence. Gritty forwards like Tom Kuhnhackl and Nicolas Krammer blocked shots no matter how painful it got.

As the Germans' scoring steadily declined after the opening 9-4 romp over Italy, their willingness to play hard to the end in tight games proved critical, especially in their 3-2 guarter-final shootout win over archrival Switzerland. It portends more final-four appearances.



5–Upsets are a way of life now

The first three days in Riga saw underdogs defeating top nations for the first time ever. On Day One. Matiss Kivlenieks earned a 38-save shutout when Latvia shocked Canada 2-0. Nicklas Jensen's hat trick helped Denmark edge Sweden 4-3 on Day Two. German Nesterov scored the third-period winner in Belarus's 1-0 upset of Sweden on Day Three.

Later, Liam Kirk - who'd tie Mangiapane for the goals lead (seven) - scored twice as Great Britain defeated Belarus 4-3 for its first regulation-time Worlds win since 1962. It all illustrated the increasing parity in international hockey.

6-Russians remain risky to rely on

Soviet hockey legends like Vyacheslav Fetisov and Vyacheslav Anisin predicted the ROC team would eliminate the lightly regarded Canadians en route to gold.

The KHL-heavy ROC team had topped Group A with 17 points. Yet they suffered their first quarter-final disaster of this decade, evoking bleak memories of the 2013 and 2018 Worlds and 2010 and 2014 Olympics. Russian talent has succumbed to opposition tactics and discipline.

7–Sweden's depth isn't endless

If Sweden's 5-4 quarter-final OT loss to Finland in 2019 was shocking, missing the quarter-finals in 2021 for the first time in history was a nightmare. Tre Kronor's ninth-place finish was its worst in 84 years. Swedish media lobbied to have rookie head coach Johan Garpenlov fired.

Yet realistically, Garpenlov lacked the superstars, like the Sedin twins and Victor Hedman, who led the Swedes to their last three titles (2013, 2017, 2018). When no Swede finishes in the top 30 scorers, it shows this traditional medal contender has to ice a deeper roster to compete.

8–Czechs, Slovaks not guite there yet

On 20 May 2012, Slovakia settled for the silver medal with a 6-2 final loss to Russia, while the Czechs nipped host Finland 3-2 for bronze.

Neither part of the former Czechoslovakia has medaled since then. 2021 looked promising. The Czechs logged five straight wins after a tough start, while Slovakia, which upset the Russians 3-1, cracked its first guarter-final since 2013. Yet both nations failed to advance, and will continue to miss the podium until they consistently produce more young talent.

9-Leaning on imports is hit or miss

Kazakhstan exceeded expectations in Riga, edging Latvia and Finland in shootouts and finishing tenth. Naturalized players like defencemen Darren Dietz, who led these Worlds with 26:16 of ice time per game, and Viktor

Svedberg, who had four points, played a huge role.

Conversely, Belarus stumbled to fifteenth place, and coach Mikhail Zakharov criticized the preparations of his imports, such as forwards Geoff Platt and Shane Prince. It highlighted the challenges of building cohesive lower-echelon rosters, especially in a season disrupted by CO-VID-19.

10–Hosting is hard but rewarding

Latvia, though disappointed to finish eleventh on home ice, deserves huge congratulations for pulling off a safe, successful Worlds - with no positive COVID-19 tests - in a bubble. The host nation's patience was rewarded when fans were allowed in the stands at the end. The global hockey family is eager to reunite fully at the 2022 Worlds in Tampere and Helsinki.







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Video Highlights: 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship



Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship

All-Star Team/MVP

Jussi Olkinuora, G, FIN

Moritz Seider, D, GER Korbinian Holzer, D, GER

Connor Garland, F, USA Liam Kirk, F, GBR Andrew Mangiapane, F, CAN (MVP)

Directorate Best Forward



Peter Cehlarik



8GP, 5G, 6A, 11P, +5

The Boston Bruins' 2013 third round draft pick, Cehlarik elected to play for Leksands IF in Sweden this season. From there he went to the World Championship and became one of Slovakia's top offensive weapons, guiding his team to the playoffs and earning Top Forward honours.

Directorate Best Defenceman, All-Star



Moritz Seider



10GP, 0G, 5A, 5P, -3

Seider continued his development into one of Gemrany's premier blueline talents with a strong performance in Riga. The 20-year-old played the second-most minutes on the team, registering five assists and helping Germany into a final four appearance for the first time ever.



Directorate Best Goalkeeper



Cal Petersen



10GP, 5W, 1.29GAA, 95.34SVS%, 2SO Petersen was a strong catalyst for USA's 2021 bronze medal-winning campaign. He helped the States put up seven straight victories on the way to the semi-finals, posting a tournament-leading five wins and two shutouts. Against Germany, he stopped 33 of 34 shots to win bronze.

Canada wins U18s

Rally to defeat Russia for gold in Texas

By Andrew Podnieks & Lucas Aykroyd



Brennan Othmann and Logan Stankoven scored early and late in the second period to break a 2-2 tie and send Canada to a 5-3 gold-medal victory over Russia.

The win gives Canada gold for the first time at the U18 since 2013 when they beat Russia, 8-0, while the Russians are still looking for their first victory since 2007.

Connor Bedard, at 15 years of age, became the youngest gold medallist in U18 history. He had a goal and assist while captain Shane Wright led the way with two goals and an assist. Matvei Michkov had a goal and two assists for Russia and led all scorers with 16 points in the tournament.

Canada fought back from 1-0 and 2-1 deficits in the first to make it a 2-2 tie after 20 minutes before turning on the jets in the middle 20 minutes. It was the first time Canada trailed all tournament.



Canada won its first U18 gold medal in eight years, with Russia getting silver and Sweden going home with bronze.

"We scored the first goal every previous game, which is a great thing because you have a pretty good chance of winning the game," coach Dave Barr said. "But we talked about it during the first intermission, about being behind and playing from behind, that we don't change our game. It's going to happen against a good team. We just did what we had to do to work our way back in the game."

In the end, Canada won all seven games in regulation, scored 51 goals, and allowed only 12. But there was a moment early in the event when Barr felt things changed and the team Despite home ice advantage, the U.S. saw its tournament-record medal streak end at 16 vears. Coach Dan Muse's team fell short in a 5-2 guarter-final loss to the Swedes. It was definitely no reflection on the excellent organization and hospitality of the host Texans. The biggest victory of all was that no positive COVID-19 tests were reported at this tournament. Masking, social distancing, hand hygiene, quarantine, living a bubble life and other protocols paid off.

learned how to become a champion. In the bronze medal game, Sweden grabbed a two-goal first-period lead and pounded Finland 8-0. Isak Rosen led the attack with a pair of goals and netminder Carl Lindbom posted a 35-save shutout. "It's an amazing feeling, winning a medal," said Swedish captain Liam Dower Nilsson. "It



means a lot for the team and the country of Sweden."

This was a strong two-way effort by coach Anders Eriksen's team, which got goals from seven different players. The Swedes bounced back big-time after an 8-1 semi-final loss to Canada, which also hammered them 12-1 in the group stage. Disregarding those games however, and the Swedes won their other five games by an aggregate of 28-4.

The U18s featured great performances from several bright prospects. At just 15-yearsold, Connor Bedard, equalled Connor Mc-David's Canadian points record (14) with endless highlight-reel plays. And Russian scoring champ and MVP Matvei Michkov, 16, racked up 12 goals - trailing only Alexander Ovechkin and Cole Caufield (14) - and 16 points.

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August 2021 / Vol. 25, No. 2

Video Highlights: 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 **World Championship**



Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship

All-Star Team/MVP

Sergei Ivanov, G, RUS

Aleksei Heimosalmi, D, FIN Brandt Clarke, D, CAN

Connor Bedard, F, CAN Matvei Michkov, F, RUS Samu Tuomaala, F, FIN

Directorate Best Forward, All-Star



Matvei Michkov

8GP, 12G, 4A, 16P, +7

Matvei Michkov came into the international scene with a gold medal at the 2020 Youth Olympic Games. Playing in his first IIHF event a year later, the 16-year-old sniper won the scoring race with 12 goals - the most goals ever scored by a Russian and the second-highest single-tournament total in history – and 16 points.

Directorate Best Defenceman, All-Star



Aleksi Heimosalmi

10GP, 2G, 6A, 8P, +3

Finland continues to churn out top defensive talents, and Heimosalmi looks to be the next star to man the Lions blue line. The Assat Pori product registered eight points in ten games to lead all U18 defecemen in scoring, and marked himself as a strong two-way player with room to get even better.



Directorate Best Goalkeeper



Benjamin Gaudreau 🖊



5GP, 5W, 2.20GAA, 91.91SVS%

As a 16-year-old, Guadreau displayed calmness and poise leading Canda from between the pipes at the 2021 U18s. He played in only five games and didn't register a shutout, but was nevertheless tremendously impactful in each game he played, including the gold medal finale where he stopped 31 of 34 shots against Russia.

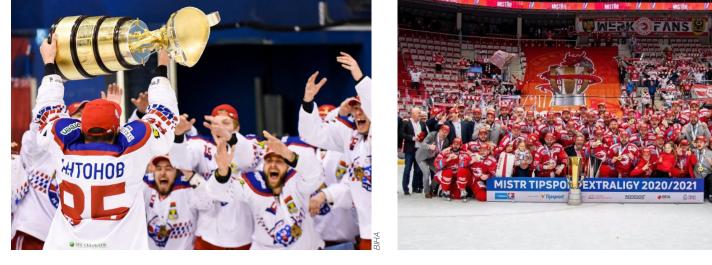
League roundup

Club results from around the world

ALPS HOCKEY LEAGUE - Olimpija Ljubljana won the best-of-five series against Asiago Hockey from Italy in a 3-0 sweep, with the third victory being the only one not to go to overtime.

This is now Liubliana's second title in a row and the second in three years, with the 2019/20 playoffs being cancelled due to the worldwide pandemic as with most other leagues. The champions featured six of the playoffs' top 10 scorers, with all six clipping at over a point-pergame pace. Captain Ziga Pance led all scorers with nine goals and 15 points.

The AlpsHL can continue to look at the myriad of teams it features throughout Austria, Italy, and Slovenia and be proud of what's been accomplished over five seasons. In addition, the league was able to get through this season with a simple 30 game schedule in which every team played every other team once at home and once on the road. The teams also made it through the season despite the attendance restrictions forced upon them by the Corona pandemic and will now hope that things are back to normal by the fall.



BELARUS – Yunost Minsk (above) is celebrating its 10th Belarusian championship success after sweeping Gomel in the final of this year's President's Cup. The series concluded in Gomel when Sergei Drozd snapped a 3-3 tie deep into the second period of overtime.

Yunost's path to the final began with topping the regular season table. Despite this, the club parted company with head coach Alexander Makritski in January, with Yevgeni Yesaulov stepping up to replace him.

CZECH REPUBLIC – For the third time in the last 10 years, Ocelari Trinec is the champion of the Czech Extraliga following a 3-0 victory over Bili Tygri Liberec in Game 5 of the finals.

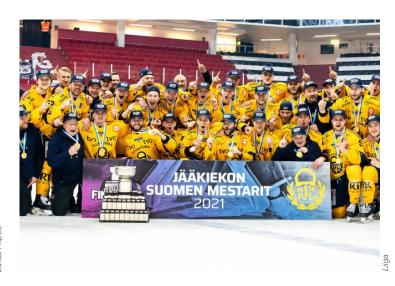
Goaltender Ondrej Kacetl, on loan from Kometa Brno, made 23 saves to record his sixth shutout of the playoffs to set a new Extraliga record and was named playoff MVP.

Eetu Koivistoinen, who won the post-season DENMARK - Rungsted (above) had won scoring title with 6 goals and 15 points in 11 the Danish league regular season in a fairly games, was awarded the Jari Kurri Trophy as comfortable fashion, sailed through the guarterthe playoffs MVP. finals and semi-finals losing just one game, and led the final series 3-0. They lost Games 4 and 5, The victory was hard-earned. In January, head coach Pekka Virta became ill with Covid-19, and a 2-1 lead in Game 6 as the Aalborg Pirates clawed their way back into the fight. But just 40 and spent almost 50 days in the hospital, and seconds into overtime, Mattias Persson passed almost 30 of those in the ICU, with assistants the puck from the point to Shane Hanna on the Erik Hamalainen and Jarkko Kauvosaari taking right circle, who beat George Sorensen in the over the team. Pirates net with a one-timer to crown Rungsted Virta returned to coaching in early April, first as the champions.

FINLAND - Lukko Rauma (top right) did what it had set out to do, and what was expected of







the team, and won the Finnish championship in 2021. It was the club's second title and the first since 1963.

sitting in the stands, but in the final series, he returned to the bench with a nasal cannula that delivered deliver supplemental oxygen to him.



GERMANY - Eisbaren Berlin (above) claimed their record-setting eighth DEL title, jumping ahead of the Adler Mannheim for the most ever by any one team.

It's some time since the DEL has concluded its season with a champion other than the Red Bull Munich or Mannheim, but this year's final pitted Eisbaren Berlin against a very upstart Wolfsburg Grizzlys. The two teams went the distance with Berlin winning out in Game 3. Considering the dark clouds hanging over hockey Germany in the fall, the league was nonetheless able to conduct a full and truly fascinating regular season that, featured a great deal of parity and jostling for playoff entry all the way to the last day of the regular season.

ICEHL - Known as the EBEL from 2003 to 2020, the Austrian-based ICE Hockey League



has now reigned in its 2020/21 champion, and its first since the league changed its name and chief sponsor this past summer. ICEHL actually stands for International Central European Hockey League and now once again consisted of teams from no less than four different countries.

This new champion is none other than the hallowed Austrian club from Klagenfurt (above), the KAC, which is now Austria's champion for the 30th time since the first title was awarded in 1923. It's also its seventh title this century and technically its second in a row after having been the 2019 EBEL champions before the pandemic put an end to the 2020 playoffs before they took place.

ITALY - Asiago Hockey has won the Italian championship for the sixth time in the past

eleven years after beating Ritten Sport in won Kazakhstan's national championship. In the best-of-three final for the "scudetto". 2012, the club moved to Russia's VHL, where It's the seventh championship for the club, it reached three finals and won two of them. exactly 20 years after winning the first title in KONTINENTAL HOCKEY LEAGUE - Latvia 2001. While Ritten had won four consecutive championships between 2016 and 2019, this head coach Bob Hartley added a Gagarin is now the second straight title for Asiago. Cup to his Stanley Cup after guiding Avangard Omsk (above) to the KHL title.

KAZAKHSTAN - Saryarka Karaganda (above) won the first ever Pro Hokei Ligasy trophy in The "Hawks" wrapped up a 4-2 victory over Kazakhstan, coming out on top at the end of CSKA Moscow in a final series full of intrigue the first season for the newly branded national thanks to a Sergei Tolchinski goal late in the first period. That was enough for a 1-0 win on the championship. night and an end to a 17-year wait for Avangard The club, which returned from the Russian to add to its 2004 Russian Superliga triumph.

second-tier league VHL in the summer, This was the first Gagarin Cup final to be played defeated Arlan Kokshetau 4-2 in the grand final after coming second in the regular season. since 2019, with last year's edition cancelled due to the pandemic. And it was a rematch of It's the first time since 2010 that Saryarka has that 2019 campaign, which CSKA won 4-0.









LATVIA – This season seven teams competed for the Latvian championship title in the country's top league Optibet Hockey Liga with HK Olimp/Venta 2002 (above) taking first place.

The final series opened in Zemgale/LLU's home city Jelgava with two games and surprisingly Olimp/Venta 2002 took two wins, 3-1 and 4-1, to bring series back to their home ice in the Riga suburb of Pinki for the next two games.

There it became clear that this year there is going to be no match for Olimp/Venta 2002, who continued the dominate on their home ice beating Zemgale/LLU 3-1 and 5-1 to a 4-0 sweep in the series to become the new champions of Latvia.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE - The Tampa Bay Lightning (above) earned their second straight Stanley Cup with a 1-0 win over the Montreal Canadiens in Game Five of the Finals.

Coach Jon Cooper's club was full value for the third Stanley Cup in franchise history. The Lightning, who first won in 2004, are just the second team in the 21st century to capture backto-back Cups since the Pittsburgh Penguins (2016, 2017). Ultra-resilient and skilled, they now boast a streak of 15 straight playoff wins following a loss over the last two post-seasons.

Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevski became the first European goalie ever to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. The Russian netminder's 22-save shutout was his league-leading fifth of the 2021 playoffs, and four of them came in series clinchers.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE - The Boston Pride (above) defeated the Minnesota Whitecaps, 4-3, Saturday night to win the 2021 Isobel Cup. The win brought to an end a short and difficult season for the NWHL, and Boston became the first twotime winner of the trophy.

Boston captain and MVP Jillian Dempsey is the only player still on that first championship team from 2016 and is now the NWHL's only two-time winner.

The semi-finals and finals were televised across the United States on NBCSN in prime time with an all-female broadcast crew.





SWITZERLAND – EV Zug (above) dominated the Swiss National League from the beginning until the end to win the second championship in club history after 1998.

Zug also became the first champion in 23 years outside of the "glorious four" as during more than two decades SC Bern, HC Davos, HC Lugano and the ZSC Lions Zurich had split up the titles among themselves.

Zug entered the post season as oddson favourite after having won the regular season with a 27-point cushion. A threegame sweep of runners-up Geneve-Servette sealed the title.

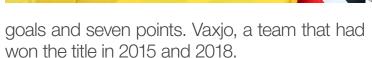


SLOVAKIA - In the battle for the Vladimir Dzurilla Cup in the Slovak Extraliga this year, new champion HKM Zvolen (above) won the final series against Poprad 4-1. Although Zvolen won the series 4-1, every game was so close.

Except the third one, where Poprad beat their opponent 7-4. But the fifth game went completely the other way for Poprad to clinch the championship for Zvolen.

SWEDEN - The Vaxjo Lakers took the club's third Swedish championship when they beat Rogle Angelholm in five games in the final and they did it simply by finding ways to win.

Pontus Holmberg won the scoring race with seven goals and 14 points in 14 games averaging under 17 minutes a game. He was on the score sheet in all five games of the final, notching five



They also had Viktor Fasth (above), the league's best goalie, who dominated all statistical categories during the regular season. And they had Sam Hallam, who's been behind the bench since 2013 and had a proven track record of winning. He had also managed to put a stop on the downward trend Vaxjo had been on, after a tenth-place finish in 2020 when the SHL playoffs were cancelled due to the pandemic, and a seventh-place finish and a guarter-final loss the season before.

In 1999, Vaxjo played in Division 4 in Sweden, and got promoted to the SHL in 2011. Since then, they've played in three SHL finals and have won them all.

UKRAINE – In a season that began way back JAPAN - The Oji Eagles (above) of the Asia League Ice Hockey have clinched the Japan on 14 September 2019 finally came to an end on Cup. Seiji Takahashi scored with just over a 20 October 2020 - in overtime in game seven. minute left in overtime as the Eagles beat the And, 13 months and five days after beginning its campaign, HK Kremenchuk won the Ukrainian Nikko IceBucks 4-3 on March 20 to wrap up the title. Hockey League for the first time. Team captain Nikolai Kiselyov got the all-important goal, The team based in Tomakomai on Japan's snapping a 2-2 tie to convert a power play. The northernmost island of Hokkaido has won playoffs originally started on 1 September after the Japan League 13 times, the All-Japan a break of over five months but after three days Championship 36 times and the Asia League the season had to be interrupted again due to 2 times, by far the most successful record in COVID-19 cases among several teams.

Japanese professional ice hockey.

HC Donbass (above) won the Ukrainian The Japan Cup was contested among Japan's championship for the eighth time after sweeping five professional ice hockey teams this year as Sokil Kyiv in this year's final. An overtime goal from Nikolai Kazakovtsev snapped a 3-3 tie travel restrictions due to Covid-19 prevented teams from Korea and Russia from taking part in the fourth game to kill off Sokil's hopes of in the Asia League's regular season. crowning a return to competitive action with a first national title since 2010.







Gallery



Canada's Nick Paul (left) celebrates with Connor Brown after scoring the golden goal to win the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.





Injured captain Justin Abdelkader with his USA teammates after winning bronze in Riga.



Captain Adam Henrique awards the gold to his teammates at the medal ceremony

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Latvia celebrates after scoring a goal on the way to an opening day upset of Canada on home ice in Riga.



Kazakhstan recorded its first-ever victory against Finland at the World Championship in a preliminary round shootout upset.





German forward Marcel Noebels scores the game-winning goal in the shootout against Switzerland in the quarter-final.



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Canada's Shane Wright is showered with water bottles after a win in the gold medal game against Russia at the 2021 IIHF U18 World Championship

Belarus upset Switzerland in the preliminary round, its first top division appearance since 2016.





Gallant gold

Canada head coach reflects on '21 Worlds

By Andrew Podnieks

Canada has won more medals in international hockey than any other nation, so on the surface it is no surprise to see that the team wearing the maple leafe jerseys won gold again at the World Championship in Riga.

But in truth this win was markedly different than any previous one.

On a team without superstars, Canada become the first team to start 0-3 and win gold and also the first team to win gold despite losing four times (in ten games). Coach Gerard Gallant looks back at his own time as a player and his historic coaching in Riga.

Your only IIHF event as a player was at the 1989 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship. What do you recall about that experience?

I had a great time. It was my only tournament, but I would have played any time they asked. It was in Stockholm and we went to the finals



In hist first stint as head coach of Team Canada, Gallant (second from left) led the team from a 0-3 start to a gold medal.

and lost to a good Russian team. But I have nothing but great memories. Hockey Canada treated us great. Dave King was the coach. It was a special memory.

How did this assignment for Riga come?

Because of the nature of the season, it wasn't

likely they were going to get an NHL coach to go over, and I had the time. I also knew Roberto Luongo from Florida and Shane Doan, and as soon as they asked, I said yes.

There was no reluctance. I knew it would be different with guarantine and all of that, but I didn't hesitate.

The team got off to a poor start, a start not typical for Canada. How did you keep an even keel?

I know a lot of people were worried because they saw we were 0-3, but we didn't see it that way. We didn't play an exhibition game, and we had only two practises.

But even in the first game against Latvia, I thought we dominated. I knew it was just a matter of time, but we talked about needing to run the table after that, and we almost did except for that overtime loss to Finland. And we got a little help as well, but I was more and more confident as we went along.

Part of the amazing turnaround was when Andrew Mangiapane came out of quarantine for the fourth game. What did he bring to the team?

When Mangiapane came in he gave us another dimension and more depth, and he scored right away, which really helped our confidence.

But I felt all along there were six teams that could win the gold medal, so it wasn't like there was one great team. Finland was the last champions, and Russia had a good team. So did the U.S. You saw how they were playing. We were

right there in that group, and we were confident we could get the job done. And we had no superstars, just players who wanted to be there and who played their hearts out.

Did playing under "bubble"-like circumstances make it more difficult or easier to coach?

I think the situation made it easier because we were together a lot. We ate our meals together, got to know each other. There was nothing much else to do, and that helped to create good team chemistry.

One of the great stories for the team was the development of 18-year-old Owen Power, who will be drafted in July. How did you see his play evolve?

If you rank a player from 1 to 10 and figure an 18-year-old kid is a 5, he played like a 9 1/2, so it was just incredible what we saw in that week. And that's from not knowing the kid. I had never seen him skate until our first day of practise.

He was just outstanding. It was just great to see. And his personality! He's just a great, quiet kid who comes to the rink and smiles and has fun. If there's a better player in the draft than him, he's going to be a hell of a player.



Following the gold medal victory, Gallant received an offer to become head coach of the NHL's New York Rangers.

Given all COVID-19 precautions, what were the celebrations like after winning gold?

We went back to the hotel. That's all we could do. We went to the top floor and had a great meal and a few drinks. That was about it. We left early the next morning, too.

I think everyone was tired. It wasn't a typical lebration, but it was a lot of high-fiving and fu

Was your first time coaching Team Canada in an IIHF World Championship all you thought it would be?

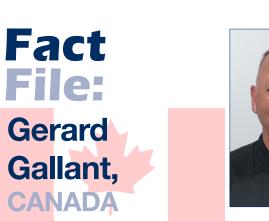
I knew it was going to be fun when I went. I knew from my previous experience in '07 with



Andy Murray [as his assistant]. I loved it. Hockey Canada treats you A-1, and the tournament is a lot of fun. It was everything and more, especially the way we won that tournament.

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At 0-3 we're just trying to get to the medal round, but once we got going and everything went the way we wanted, and the way the guys played, they just showed a lot of heart. It was a special moment.





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- Born: 2 September 1963 in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Played for Canada at 1989 IIHF World Championship, winning silver
- Won gold at 2007 IIHF World Championship as assistance coach
 - Reached Stanley Cup finals as head coach of NHL's Vegas Golden Nights in inaugural season

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Coming

2021 IIHF Women's World Championship CANADA, Calgary 20.-31.08.2021

Olympic Winter Games Men's Final Qualification

Group D SLOVAKIA, Bratislava 26.-29.08.2021

Group E LATVIA, Riga 26.-29.08.2021

Group F NORWAY, Oslo 26.-29.08.2021

2021 IIHF General Congress RUSSIA, St. Petersburg 23.-25.09.2021

Click here for 2021/22 IIHF tournament list



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